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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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Wallace State claims Southeast District championship on penalty kicks

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COURTS

Trial begins for Randall Hogan in Jeffery Wilhite disappearance case

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The murder trial of Randall Dewayne Hogan, 71, began Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Cullman County Circuit Court, more than six years after Vinemont resident Jeffery Glenn Wilhite disappeared from the West Point community.

Hogan is being tried under an April 2026 indictment charging him with murder, abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence. The charges are allegations, and Hogan is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The indictment accuses Hogan of killing Wilhite on or about April 2, 2020. It further alleges Hogan treated Wilhite's remains in a manner that would outrage ordinary family sensibilities » PAGE 3



2023/CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Randall Dewayne Hogan

Report: Alabama Sports Tourism generates more than $685M in economic impact



VISIT CULLMAN

Left to right are Cullman Sports, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson; Arden Crane; Cullman County Tourism Bureau Executive Director Harmony Heard Steed; Delaine Van Dyke; Tanya Arnold; and Sen. Garlan Gudger at the 2026 TEAMS Conference & Expo, held Oct. 26-29, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Tourism Department celebrated a milestone for the state's growing sports tourism industry as Sports Alabama unveiled a new brand and reported more than $685 million in economic impact generated by sporting events in 2025.

According to Sports Alabama's annual economic impact report, its 22 member destinations hosted 1,077 sporting events in 2025, generating more than $685 million in economic impact and approximately 759,000 hotel room nights. From youth tournaments and collegiate championships to national competitions and professional sporting events, sports tourism continues to attract visitors while supporting hotels, restaurants, attractions and businesses throughout the state.

"Sports tourism made an impact of over $1 billion in 2025, and that isn't just hotel rooms; it's gas stations, shops, restaurants, experiences, and opportunities to explore everything that makes Alabama great across all 67 counties," said Joel Lamp, president of Sports Alabama. "This year we welcomed the world to two of our global events: an international soccer match in Auburn featuring Argentina, who would go on to win the World Cup, as well as the Paracycling Road World Championships in Huntsville, bringing in over 500 of the top athletes."

"Sports tourism is an increasingly important part of Alabama's tourism economy, bringing visitors into communities of all sizes and creating opportunities that extend far beyond the sporting event itself," Glenda Allred, director of the Alabama Tourism Department, said last week. "These impressive numbers reflect the dedication of our tourism partners and the investments being made across the state. With Birmingham hosting the TEAMS Conference this week, we have an incredible opportunity to showcase Alabama's world-class facilities, Southern hospitality, and ability to host events on a national stage."

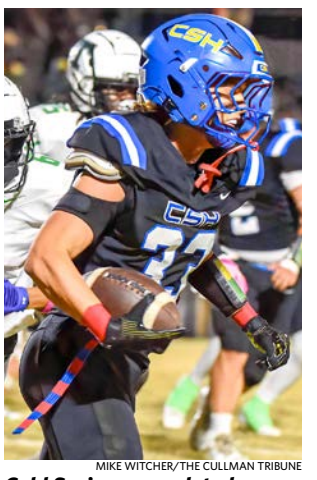
"As a lifelong resident, small business owner, and a senator of the State Capitol, I'm proud of the progress our state has made and continues to make, and sports have a lot to do with it," said Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman. "We are known for our passion and success in college football, but we are much more than that, because our passion is built on the support of our communities. It's the pride ingrained in our communities that makes the next great athlete."

Sports Ala- » PAGE 3



PREP FOOTBALL

Cold Springs finishes 9-1 as Cullman County teams close regular season



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs completed a nine-win regular season with a 57-20 victory over Tanner on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026. » PAGE 6

Crafting + Creating + Commemorating: Live Like Connor



CONTRIBUTED

Connor Strickland » PAGE 2

Cullman Community Theatre invites voices to bring Christmas magic to Christkindlmarkt » PAGE 8

EDITORIAL

Our news coverage is not for sale » PAGE 6



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 2

Staff Reports
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

Oct. 29 – Nov. 2

Ball, Johnna M.; 26
- harassing communications

Barnard, Logan M.; 29
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- DUI (alcohol)

Butler, Tabatha R.; 59
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Crutchfield, Chad T.; 45
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Dean, Jr., Danny G.; 44
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Fortenberry, Stephen B.; 41
- conservation-fish
- criminal trespass
- display of invalid insurance

Freeman, Rosanna M.; 38
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Hydrick, Emily T.; 29
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs

James, Jimmy H.; 53
- FTA – public intoxication

Lee, Johnny D.; 56
- theft-miscellaneous
- sex offense-adult sex offender – violation of homelessness restrictions
- sex offense-failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restrictions

Logan, Crystal F.; 41
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lovelady, Kenneth L.; 26
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Lucas, Donald F.; 58
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Nunnelley, Justin G.; 40
- possession of methamphetamine

Phillips, Jonathan M.; 42
- DUI (alcohol)
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Ritchie, Robin L.; 46
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – forgery-checks
- FTA – possessing forged instrument
- FTA – possessing of counterfeit object
- FTA – fraudulent use of credit/debit card
- FTA – identity theft
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous (2 counts)
- FTA – attempting to elude law enforcement officer

Sandlin, Johnathan D.; 49
- possession of dangerous drugs

Suarez-Orona, Josue; 22
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Thrasher, Andrea N.; 31
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – offering false instrument for record

Ullrich, John W.; 47
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Ward, Sammy J.; 48
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Williams, Jeremy O.; 40
- auto theft

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 27
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '04 Honda Motorcycle; $3,800; White Cir. SW

Oct. 29
- theft of property-4th degree; person; miscellaneous; $411; 1st Ave. SW

Oct. 30
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Hwy. 157
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '15 Cadillac; $2,500

Oct. 31
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '24 Nissan Kicks; $250; 2nd Ave. SW
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '18 Ford Expedition; $1,500; 2nd Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Irene Ln. SE

Nov. 1
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $123; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $9; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Oct. 30 – Nov. 2

Hydrick, Emily T.; 29
- unlawful possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Russell, Marisia M.; 50
- organized retail theft

Hampton, Brandney D.; 46
- organized retail theft

Nunnelley, Justin G.; 40
- FTA – DUI
- FTA – improper lane usage
- FTA – insurance violation

Wilkerson, Marla M.; 43
- DUI

Ball, Johnna M.; 26
- FTA – driving while suspended

Fortenberry, Stephen B.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – insurance violation

Humber, Ava M.; 22
- public intoxication

Basinger, Latonya N.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree

Alldredge, Jr., Cecil R.; 65
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Pilgrim, Danielle M.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

St. Bernard Prep launches podcast: 'The Benedictine Beat'

Staff Reports
Contributor



ST. BERNARD PREP

Conversations about history, language and the people behind one of Cullman's historic institutions are at the heart of "The Benedictine Beat," a new podcast from St. Bernard Preparatory School.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Conversations about history, language and the people behind one of Cullman's historic institutions are at the heart of "The Benedictine Beat," a new podcast from St. Bernard Preparatory School.

The short podcast invites listeners from Cullman and surrounding communities to get to know the school's teachers, staff, coaches and others through relaxed, personal conversations. Each episode explores their backgrounds and interests, with topics that reach beyond campus life.

The first episode features James Griffin, a history teacher at St. Bernard who also works as a lawyer. The conversation covers his background, how history and law connect and why studying the past helps us understand human nature.

The second episode features Brother Damien Jackson, O.S.B., a Latin teacher at St. Bernard. It explores how language, monastic life and Benedictine traditions can offer lessons that extend beyond the classroom.

Listeners do not need a connection to St. Bernard to enjoy the series. Whether they are interested in history, curious about life at a boarding school or simply enjoy hearing people's stories, "The Benedictine Beat" offers an opportunity to learn more about their neighbors.

Founded in 1891, St. Bernard Preparatory School is a Catholic college-preparatory day and boarding school for students in grades seven through 12. The school follows the Benedictine tradition and emphasizes academic excellence, personal growth, faith and community.

Future episodes will introduce more members of the school community, sharing the experiences and perspectives they bring to their work and daily lives.

Episodes of "The Benedictine Beat" are available at www.stbernardprep.com/the-benedictine-beat.

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Connor (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

Longtime Cullman County residents John and Jill Strickland experienced the unthinkable when they lost their college-aged son, Cullman High graduate Connor, 21, in a tragic car accident in 2016.

From the loss of his life, a legacy of wood-working was created in AHugandILoveYou Woodcrafts & More – Jill said it's grief therapy for her and her husband.

"We have always enjoyed crafting and woodworking, but only did so for making gifts or items for our home," Jill said. "Our children Connor and Audrey were our biggest supporters. Connor especially encouraged us to sell our items, but we always resisted."

After Connor passed, John and Jill decided to honor him with a scholarship in his memory created by Jill's co-workers at Wallace State Community College, where she taught.

"We turned to our crafting and woodworking as therapy to deal with our grief," Jill said. "We then decided to sell items with the proceeds going to Connor's scholarship."

They were not able to see Connor graduate college (he was a junior at UAH when he died), but thanks to the love, generosity and support of so many, they get to see two students each year reach their educational goals through Connor's scholarship.

"What started as grief therapy 10 years ago is now a creative outlet that gives back to the community by supporting education," Jill said. "The Future Foundation at Wallace State Community College that oversees the scholarships does a great job connecting us with scholarship recipients and gives us opportunities to get to know the students each year. Many of the students still communicate with us today and have shared the desire to contribute or create a scholarship for future support of a student as their own way of giving back."

The name AHugandILoveYou came from her late son, whom Jill said was a big teddy bear of a young man.

"He was a hugger and was generous with his 'I love yous,'" Jill said. "He never left without giving those he loved a hug and saying, 'I love you.' That's who Connor was. It's a simple reminder that none of us are promised tomorrow. We don't use it in order to gain sympathy or invoke reactions, but simply to honor Connor's memory. Imagine how much better the world could be if we were all more generous with our hugs and love."

Although wood-working is one of the main focuses of the business, Jill said one of her favorite things to do is painting barn quilts.

"We were honored to be asked to create a barn quilt and a stand for a local business (Sew Blessed in Dodge City)," Jill said. "We also love the swing varieties we offer: single-seat tree swings, porch swings and our favorite: bed swings. What we love is helping clients create a special place at their home for relaxation and connection – something that was always important to Connor and to us. The last couple of years, our bestsellers have been bread boards, charcuterie boards and serving trays that can be engraved."

John shared that Connor was a helper, the kind of person who would lend a hand without any reservations.

"He was an Eagle Scout (the highest ranking one can achieve in Boy Scouts) and he truly upheld the 12 points of the Scout Law: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent," John said.

"He believed everyone deserved to be treated fairly and justly. Once as a little boy, we had friends who had sold their house and were moving – this was happening during Christmas time. Connor heard them mention that they weren't going to have a Christmas tree (simply for logistics and ease during the transition)," he continued. "That upset Connor that they would not have a tree, so he convinced us to take him to CVS to buy a small, decorated tree for that family. Connor couldn't stand to see people going without. He also never hesitated to stand up for what was right, even if it was an uncomfortable or unpopular stance. He was a leader in Scouting, in his high school band and amongst his friends in college. I believe I can honestly say his friends all knew he could be counted on. In fact, we are so blessed to remain in contact with his friends and they all will gather at our house around the time of his passing and birthday every year. We are so grateful for them all."



CONTRIBUTED

AHugandILoveYou Woodcrafts & More is run by John and Jill Strickland as a kind of grief therapy after losing their son Connor in 2016.

Jill shared that although they would give anything to have Connor back, they are proud that his legacy and light still shine through at his scholarship at Wallace State.

"We intend to always keep our business small and side hustle focused on giving back to the community in the way of supporting students," Jill said. "Connor's scholarship is now endowed, which allows us to also support local Boy Scouts and his high school band, which were two things that were very important to him and us."

For more information or inquiries, visit www.instagram.com/ahugandiloveyou_woodcrafts or email JohnWJill@bellsouth.net.

A simple way to honor Connor daily?

"One of his pet peeves was shopping carts left out in parking lots," Jill said. "He would often go pick up every one of them and put them in their proper place. If you'd like to honor Connor, put up any empty buggies you see."

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Hogan (from Front)

and removed or concealed physical evidence connected to the alleged killing.

Wilhite was 59 when he disappeared. Authorities have said his remains have not been recovered.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office investigation continued for more than three years before the case was first presented to a grand jury.

Sheriff Matt Gentry and Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker announced Hogan's original murder charge during a Nov. 1, 2023, press conference.

Hogan had been arrested Oct. 30, 2023, following the first grand jury indictment. Gentry and Crocker declined to answer detailed questions during the announcement, citing the ongoing investigation and the need to protect the prosecution.

The original prosecution did not reach trial. Shortly before a scheduled November 2025 trial, the State dismissed the murder case without prejudice after what prosecutors described as newly discovered evidence.

A dismissal without prejudice allowed the State to present the case again.

Hogan's bond had previously been revoked in May 2025 following a contested hearing before Circuit Judge Emily N. Johnston. Crocker said prosecutors sought the revocation after Hogan was arrested on a new allegation while awaiting trial.

A Cullman County grand jury returned the current indictment April 13, 2026. Unlike the earlier prosecution, the new indictment included abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence in addition to murder.

Following an April 21 hearing, the circuit court ordered Hogan held without bond under Aniah's Law. Crocker announced the ruling the following day.

Aniah's Law permits Alabama courts to deny bail before trial for defendants charged with certain violent offenses when prosecutors satisfy the legal requirements for detention. A no-bond order is not a finding of guilt.

The active trial concerns the April 2026 indictment. It is separate from the 2023 murder case the State dismissed before trial.

The Tribune will continue following the trial and report the prosecution's evidence, the defense response, court rulings and the jury's decision.

BACKGROUND: www.cullmantribune.com/tag/randall-hogan

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Welti Cemetery will be participating in the Wreaths Across American event honoring our deceased veterans. If you know of a deceased veteran buried at Welti whose grave does not have a military marker, please contact Gary Reid at 256-339-7236 by Dec. 1, 2026.

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
• Wednesday, Nov. 4 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup.
• Friday, Nov. 6 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Guest speaker Steven East.
• Saturday, Nov. 7 – 8 a.m. Men's breakfast; 10:30 a.m. Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, Nov. 8 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 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.
• Saturday, Nov. 14 – 9-11 a.m. (Pick up) Free community Thanksgiving meal

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.
• Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mud Creek Festival and BIG BOOK SALE
• Wednesday, Nov. 11, Closed in honor of Veterans Day
• 10 a.m. Storytime
• Nov. 18, Susan Melton
• Nov. 25, Closed for Thanksgiving
• Dec. 2, Dorenda Doyle as Mrs. Claus!
• Dec. 9, Anita Whitlock
• Dec. 16, Kerri with Cullman 4-H
• Dec. 23 and 30, No program
• Jan. 6, Beth Ellis will read "The After Christmas Tree"
• We have T-shirts for sale. Children's sizes are $15 and adult sizes are $20. Proceeds to assist the library's programs.
• 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.

Church Food Bazaar
Friday Nov. 6, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Hwy. 31 North, next to the Cullman Area Technology Academy in Vinemont). Baked goods for sale. Lunch from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Carry-outs available. 205-908-8271 or 256-338-1959. Proceeds benefit the Mt. Zion UMW (women's group).

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Nov 7, from 6-9 a.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee or juice by eat-in or takeout for a donation. The proceeds will benefit the HP Lions Club project fund and the food pantry located between town hall and the fire department. Come join us! Everyone is welcome. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cullman Veterans Day Celebration
Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cullman Regional Airport. Hosted by the Cullman Elks Veterans Committee, the celebration will feature historic military aircraft, live demonstrations, military displays and opportunities to honor local veterans. Admission and parking are free, and the event will be held rain or shine. One of this year's new featured attractions will be a Messerschmitt ME-262. Additional historic aircraft scheduled to appear include a D-Day C-47 and a Royal Air Force Spitfire. This year's celebration will also feature retired Chief Warrant Officer Mike Durant, a former U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter pilot who was shot down during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia, an operation depicted in the film "Black Hawk Down."

16th Annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival
Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. along Commercial Street, centered at 106 Commercial St. NE, in downtown Hanceville. Street vendors, arts, crafts, food and fun for the whole family.

Cullman NARFE Chapter Meeting with Federal BCBS Representative
Monday, Nov. 9. This meeting will be held at the Cullman Golden Corral. Starting with a senior special Dutch lunch (11 a.m.) followed by the informative meeting. All interested parties are welcome and urged to attend!! 256-708-5326.

Impact (from Front)

bama's new brand, featuring the tagline "Where Champions Are Made," reflects the state's rich athletic heritage and growing reputation as a competitive sports destination. The refreshed identity brings together destinations across Alabama under a unified message while positioning the state for continued growth in the sports tourism industry.

The announcement coincided with the 2026 TEAMS Conference & Expo, held Oct. 26-29, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

For more information about Sports Alabama, visit SportsAlabama.org.

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WSCC SOCCER

Wallace State claims Southeast District championship on penalty kicks

Russell Frye
Wallace State Sports Information

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Wallace State men's soccer secured the NJCAA Division II Southeast District Championship and a national tournament berth Saturday, defeating host Patrick & Henry 6-5 in a penalty shootout after 110 scoreless minutes.

Goalkeeper Emrik Senécal stopped Patrick & Henry's sixth attempt to seal the championship for the No. 18 Lions, who converted all six of their kicks against the No. 19 Region 10 champions.

Eduardo Gutierrez, Jared Orellana, Juan Gazga, Wilson Nichols and Luis Orta converted Wallace State's first five attempts. Matti Stöcker delivered the Lions' sixth successful kick before Senécal's decisive save ended the shootout.

The teams remained scoreless through 90 minutes of regulation and two 10-minute extra periods. Wallace State had opportunities to end the match in extra time, but Patrick & Henry's goalkeeper kept the Lions off the scoreboard.

"We had a couple opportunities to win it in overtime, but their GK had some great saves," Wallace State head coach James Fee said.

Playing for the second time in as many days, the Lions found a way through another postseason test.

"Great win overall," Fee said. "Having to play back-to-back soccer games two days in a row is so difficult on the body, and the guys stood up to the challenge so well. We gritted it out and found a way to win in the end."

The district championship sends Wallace State to the national tournament in the program's second season under Fee, fulfilling a goal the team established last spring.

"Going to the national tournament in our second year as a program is a great accomplishment," Fee said. "We had set this goal for ourselves last spring after our first fall that we wanted to go and compete at the national tournament, and it was a great moment to see that goal reached. We are excited to showcase ourselves on the national stage and keep going."

The NJCAA Division II National Championship begins Nov. 15 at the Spencer Soccer Complex in Huntsville. Game times will be announced once the 12-team field is set.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State men's soccer secured the NJCAA Division II Southeast District Championship and a national tournament berth Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, defeating host Patrick & Henry 6-5 in a penalty shootout after 110 scoreless minutes.

WSCC CROSS COUNTRY

Wallace State men win 9th consecutive ACCC cross country championship

Russell Frye
Wallace State Sports Information

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State placed five runners in the top 10 to win its ninth consecutive ACCC men's cross country championship Friday at John Hunt Park.

Jaquavion Bryant led the Lions with a second-place finish in the 8K race, clocking 26:49.7. Wallace State finished with 33 points to secure its third conference championship under head coach Tony Crider. Shelton State was second with 62 points, followed by Southern Union with 67.

The championship followed a season in which Crider said the Lions had limited opportunities to race with a full lineup.

"We really hadn't been able to run a full men's team, a full race until October the first," Crider said. "So it's been very much a learning experience."

Wallace State's depth helped deliver the title. Dawson McCollum finished fifth in 27:10.2, followed by Hudson Williams in seventh at 27:25.0. Rene Moreno placed ninth in 27:31.4, and Evan Hallford completed the Lions' scoring five in 10th at 27:35.1.

Gabe Knox finished 14th in 27:58.1, while Carter Stephens placed 16th in 28:09.4.

Crider credited Moreno for his leadership and performance as the Lions leaned heavily on their younger runners.

"Rene's been a great leader and came on strong today," Crider said. "Give Rene all the kudos today for what he did."

Bryant's runner-up finish gave Wallace State its lowest individual score. He credited his teammates' confidence in him for helping him deliver.

"I put forth a lot of effort, a lot of hard work, and I just wanted to make my team proud because they know I can do a lot, and they believe in me more than I do myself," Bryant said.

For Bryant, contributing to the championship carried added meaning after he watched the previous season's team win while he was redshirting. He said that experience motivated him to play a part in extending the Lions' championship streak.

Crider praised Bryant's ability while also pointing to the work of the entire group.

"He's an unbelievable athlete," Crider said. "But we have a lot of kids that are just strong. They're built for running. They've worked hard."

Jeremy Brayden Chandler added a 17th-place finish in 28:27.8. Wilkes finished 25th in 29:08.8, and Silas Strickland placed 33rd in 29:44.4.

With his attention turning toward national competition, Bryant said his focus is on maintaining consistency and working with his teammates.

"Just do what I did today, or just be better," Bryant said. "Just keep it consistent. Get out of my head and work with the team."



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State placed five runners in the top 10 to win its ninth consecutive ACCC men's cross country championship Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at John Hunt Park.

WSCC CROSS COUNTRY

Morgan leads No. 3 Wallace State women to 9th straight ACCC championship

Russell Frye
Wallace State Sports Information

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Brookelyn Morgan led from start to finish, and No. 3 Wallace State placed four runners in the top five to win its ninth consecutive ACCC women's cross country championship Friday at John Hunt Park.

The Lady Lions finished with 23 points, followed by Calhoun with 84 and Gadsden State with 86. Shelton State placed fourth with 96 points, while Northeast Alabama finished fifth with 107.

Morgan earned Conference Runner of the Year honors after winning the 5K race in 19:12.8. The sophomore led a Wallace State sweep of the top three individual positions, with Hanna Sheffield finishing second in 20:12.1 and Joy McBride taking third in 20:18.9. Paizley Whitlow placed fifth in 20:49.8.

"It was a great race. It was a hot day, so that made it a little harder, and just pushing myself made it harder," Morgan said. "But I felt like it was a good, strong race. It was smooth and it was nice."

Head coach Tony Crider, who earned Conference Coach of the Year honors, emphasized discipline and running together in his instructions before the race.

For Morgan, the plan allowed her to adjust her effort as needed.

"I gave her kind of a race plan," Crider said. "I told her, 'If you feel like going, go. If you feel like backing off, back off.'"

For the rest of the group, Crider wanted his runners to stay close through the opening mile before separating.

"I told them before the race, 'I want you to pretend you're all in a hula hoop and you're running together, and let's try to stay that way for at least a mile,'" Crider said.

Anna Pezent completed Wallace State's scoring lineup, finishing 13th overall in 21:21.5. Lynley Grace Anderson followed in 14th at 21:27.7, and Rachael Matthews placed 15th in 21:42.1.

Payton Ridley finished 20th in 22:01.0, while Dorothy Salter took 22nd in 22:04.4.

Morgan credited the entire team for its part in securing the championship.

"I'm just so grateful to be a part of this team, and the girls are great," Morgan said. "It takes everybody to win a championship, and so it was definitely a good race for everybody, just pushing together and helping each other out."

The Lady Lions will return to John Hunt Park in two weeks for the NJCAA National Championship.

"My goal is to hopefully run like I did today and bring home a national championship for Wallace State," Morgan said.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State won its ninth consecutive ACCC women's cross country championship Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at John Hunt Park.

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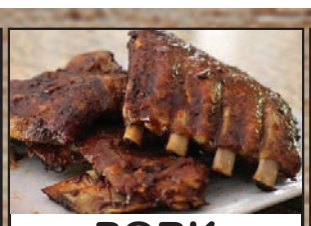


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Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics keynote speaker for Dallas Herring Lecture

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics has been selected as the keynote speaker for the prestigious Dallas Herring Lecture hosted by the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research at North Carolina State University. Karolewics will deliver her address, "The Value Agenda: A Systems Approach to Student Success," on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The Dallas Herring Lecture has historically featured keynote speakers from Aspen Prize-winning colleges and other leading institutions that have made a significant impact on student success. The lecture is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious speaking invitations a college president can receive.

Since arriving at Wallace State in 2003, Dr. Karolewics has led the college to national prominence, including recognition as one of the top three community colleges in the nation as a Rising Star finalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and as a Top 10 finalist for the 2027 Aspen Prize. Under her leadership, Wallace State has earned numerous distinctions, including designation as an Achieving the Dream Leader College; National Center of Excellence in Nursing and Cyber Defense; NC3 Leadership School; one of the top three Southern institutions for workforce development; an All-Steinway School; and a Military Friendly Institution.

Over the last two decades, Wallace State's student success rate has risen to exceed national averages, a testament to Dr. Karolewics' guiding goal that every graduate secures a good job and earns wages sufficient to support themselves and their families.

The Dallas Herring Lecture honors the legacy of W. Dallas Herring, whose visionary leadership and dedicated efforts led to the founding of North Carolina's community college system. The annual lecture brings together community college leaders from across the state and nation to reflect on the most pressing and emerging issues facing community colleges while exploring pathways forward.

The Dallas Herring Lecture is a free virtual event open to the public. Registration is available at: https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_080cVoED2gQ83eS?Q_CHL=qr.

Immediately following Dr. Karolewics' presentation, Stanly Community College President John Enamait and Achieving the Dream President and CEO Dr. Lenore Rodicio will join Audrey "AJ" Jaeger, Ph.D., Dallas Herring Professor at NC State's College of Education and executive director of the Belk Center, for a moderated fireside chat.

Wallace State will host a watch party at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Bailey Center. Faculty, staff, students and community members are invited to attend.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics will present "The Value Agenda: A Systems Approach to Student Success," on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at the Dallas Herring Lecture.

Cullman Today launches Grateful Giveaway countdown to Thanksgiving

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Today is counting down to Thanksgiving with its first Grateful Giveaway, and one lucky winner will take home a gift every household can use.

The countdown kicked off Sunday, Nov. 1, and runs daily on the Cullman Today Facebook page through Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26.

To enter, comment on any countdown post with a photo of what you're most grateful for, along with a few words about why.

There's no limit on entries, so you can enter as many times as you'd like.

If you'd rather keep your story private, you can send your photo and description to Cullman Today in a Facebook message instead.

The grand prize will be announced soon.

Follow Cullman Today and The Cullman Tribune on Facebook for updates as the countdown continues.

CPD hosts trunk or treat

The Cullman Police Department hosted its annual trunk or treat Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.

PHOTOS: GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE











EDITORIAL

Our news coverage is not for sale

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

After decades of reporting, I know many of the people whose names appear in our coverage. Remaining impartial when those relationships are involved can be difficult. It is also part of the job.

Knowing someone, doing business with them or respecting their work cannot determine which questions we ask or which facts we report.

Sometimes, people expect otherwise. A personal relationship, an advertising purchase or a position in government can come with an expectation of favorable treatment.

That expectation does not match how The Cullman Tribune operates.

Advertising supports our work. It does not purchase influence over our reporting. Buying an ad does not secure a favorable story, prevent an uncomfortable question or guarantee that an issue will go unreported.

Holding that line can make business difficult. The people who report, take photographs, record video, edit and handle the daily operations of The Tribune, Cullman Today and Tribune Weather Command deserve to be paid for their work. Producing reliable information takes time, money and people willing to do the job carefully.

Those expenses are real. So is our responsibility to the public.

We value the businesses and organizations that advertise with us. Their support helps make our work possible. They deserve professional service and the advertising they purchase. Our readers deserve confidence that the news they receive has been judged on its merits.

An advertisement should be clearly identified as an advertisement. A press release should be evaluated for its news value. Neither should quietly become a way to purchase favorable treatment in our news coverage.

I also believe reliable local news should be accessible regardless of a person's income. People need to know what their government is doing, how public money is being spent and what is happening in their community. Their ability to stay informed should not depend on their financial standing.

Making that work financially is a challenge. It is one we must meet while protecting the independence that makes the reporting worth doing.

The same standard applies to officials in city, county and state government. Their positions warrant coverage when their actions affect the public. Their titles do not entitle them to control that coverage.

Independence carries obligations for us, too. We must check our facts, provide fair opportunities to respond and correct mistakes. Criticism of our reporting deserves consideration. We cannot demand accountability from others while refusing it ourselves.

Opinion belongs in an editorial such as this one. Our news reporting must be grounded in evidence and fairness.

Much of my life has gone into this work. I take the relationships seriously, but I also take seriously the trust readers place in us each day.

Our reporting will continue as we work to bring readers more information about the community we share.

The distinction should be clear to everyone who deals with us.

You can buy advertising space. You cannot buy our judgment.

Teams (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cold Springs completed a nine-win regular season with a 57-20 victory over Tanner on Thursday, Oct. 29, while Good Hope's loss at Scottsboro on Friday settled the Raiders into third place in their region.

Cullman, Fairview, Holly Pond and Hanceville closed their seasons with road losses Friday, Oct. 30. Vinemont had already completed its regular season and secured a playoff berth.

Cold Springs, Good Hope and Vinemont will represent Cullman County in the postseason.

Neighboring Addison and Meek also qualified, with Meek winning its fifth straight game on Friday and Addison entering the playoffs unbeaten. The first round begins Friday, Nov. 6.

Rankings referenced below reflect the Oct. 28 Alabama Sports Writers Association poll.

No. 10 Cold Springs 57, Tanner 20

Cooper Johnson rushed for 124 yards and three touchdowns on 17 carries as Cold Springs defeated Tanner on senior night Thursday, Oct. 29, in Bremen.

After falling behind 7-0, the Eagles scored 27 unanswered points before halftime. Johnson scored on runs of 1 and 11 yards, Cason Alexander added a 3-yard touchdown and Sam Hunt kicked a 30-yard field goal.

Tanner opened the second half with an 87-yard touchdown pass to cut the margin to 27-14. Johnson answered with another 1-yard touchdown run, and Ethan Day added the 2-point conversion for a 35-14 lead.

Lathan Shuford recovered a fumble before Day scored on a 3-yard run. Johnson recovered the ensuing kickoff, and Day added a 34-yard touchdown run to help extend the lead to 49-14.

Tanner scored again before Brandon Chasteen connected with Eli Voce for a 20-yard touchdown. Jay Andrews added the final 2-point conversion.

Day finished with 88 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Alexander added 59 yards and a score.

Chasteen completed five of nine passes for 71 yards and a touchdown, while Voce caught three passes for 33 yards and a score.

Cold Springs finished 9-1 overall and 6-1 in Class 2A, Region 5, securing a home playoff opener as the region's No. 2 seed.

No. 2 Scottsboro 49, Good Hope 14

Parker Johnson returned the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown just 10 seconds into the game, but Scottsboro answered with 35 consecutive points to defeat Good Hope.

The Raiders finished the regular season 7-3 overall and 6-2 in Class 4A, Region 8. Scottsboro completed a 10-0 regular season and won the region championship at 8-0.

After Johnson's return helped give Good Hope a 7-0 lead, Scottsboro tied the game on a 5-yard touchdown pass on fourth down.

An interception ended the Raiders' first offensive possession, and the Wildcats scored on a 44-yard touchdown pass on the next play to move ahead 14-7.

Scottsboro added a 2-yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 21-7. The Wildcats recovered a Good Hope fumble on the ensuing kickoff and scored on an 8-yard run two plays later. A 27-yard touchdown pass following another Raider punt made it 35-7.

Good Hope responded with its only offensive touchdown drive. Johnson connected with Ayden Young for gains of 20 and 24 yards, and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty helped move the Raiders closer.

Web Buchanan completed a 9-yard pass to Karson Hollis, and Johnson added a 3-yard completion on fourth down to keep the possession alive. Johnson then found Young for a 5-yard touchdown, cutting the deficit to 35-14.

Scottsboro answered with a 13-yard touchdown pass before halftime to take a 42-14 lead. The second half was played with a running clock, and the Wildcats completed the scoring on a 48-yard interception return in the fourth quarter.

Johnson completed 4 of 6 passes for 52 yards and a touchdown. Young caught three passes for 49 yards and a score.

Good Hope will enter the playoffs as the region's No. 3 seed.

West Morgan 35, Cullman 13

Cullman pulled within 8 points entering the fourth quarter, but two late touchdown runs by Kylen Stover helped West Morgan close out a 35-13 victory in Trinity.

The Bearcats finished 3-7 overall after completing Class 5A, Region 5 play at 2-5.

An early interception gave Cullman possession at West Morgan's 25-yard line. The Bearcats followed with a rushing touchdown, but the extra-point attempt failed, leaving them ahead 6-0.

Jabarie Wiggins answered with two rushing touchdowns for West Morgan, and Kolton Kritinar added both extra points to put the Rebels ahead 14-6.

Brantley Phillips connected with Will Smith for a second-quarter touchdown. Kritinar's extra point gave West Morgan a 21-6 halftime lead.

Cullman scored the only points of the third quarter when Wynn Shannon threw a touchdown pass to Nelson Hollingsworth. Ismael Esteban's extra point cut the deficit to 21-13.

Stover scored on a fourth-quarter run, and Kritinar's kick made it 28-13. Colby Jones then intercepted a Cullman pass before Stover added another rushing touchdown. Kritinar supplied the final extra point.

Wiggins and Stover finished with two rushing touchdowns apiece. West Morgan improved to 7-3, while Cullman's season ended after the Bearcats entered the game already eliminated from playoff contention.

Cherokee County 42, Fairview 14

Fairview answered Cherokee County twice in the first quarter, but the Warriors scored the final 28 points to defeat the Aggies in Centre.

Fairview finished 5-4 overall and 4-4 in Class 4A, Region 8.

Cherokee County capitalized on a Fairview turnover with a touchdown and successful extra point to take a 7-0 lead. Ayden Batz returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, helping the Aggies tie the game.

The Warriors regained the lead at 14-7 with 3:53 remaining in the first quarter. Easton Fitch answered with an 85-yard touchdown, and Fairview pulled even at 14 before the period ended.

Cherokee County added 14 points in the second quarter to take a 28-14 halftime lead, then scored 14 more in the third. Neither team scored in the fourth.

Fairview had been eliminated before Friday's game. Guntersville's victory over Brewer the previous week secured a 5-3 region finish, and the Wildcats held the head-to-head tiebreaker over the Aggies.

Cherokee County finished the regular season 7-3 overall and 7-1 in the region, earning the No. 2 playoff seed.

Falkville 38, Holly Pond 6

Falkville built a 14-0 halftime lead and pulled away after the break to defeat Holly Pond in the season finale for both teams.

The Blue Devils scored 6 points in the first quarter and 8 in the second. Holly Pond scored its 6 points in the third, but Falkville added 16 during the period to extend the margin to 30-6.

Falkville supplied the final 8 points in the fourth quarter.

The Broncos finished 2-8 overall and 1-6 in Class 3A, Region 6. The loss was their seventh straight after a 2-1 start. Holly Pond's victories came against J.B. Pennington and Hanceville.

Falkville finished 5-5 overall and 3-4 in Class 2A, Region 7. Both teams had been eliminated from playoff contention before Friday.

Elkmont 48, Hanceville 8

Hanceville trailed 14-0 at halftime before Elkmont pulled away in the second half, leaving the Bulldogs with a winless 0-10 season.

Elkmont scored all seven of its touchdowns on the ground.

Two rushing touchdowns and successful extra points gave the Red Devils their halftime advantage. A 40-yard touchdown run and successful 2-point run extended the margin to 22-0 after the break.

Two more rushing touchdowns, each followed by an extra point, pushed the lead to 36-0. Another rushing score made it 42-0 after the kick failed.

Hanceville scored in the fourth quarter on a rushing touchdown and successful 2-point run, cutting the deficit to 42-8. Elkmont answered with a 30-yard touchdown run for the final points.

The Bulldogs finished 0-7 in Class 3A, Region 6. Elkmont closed at 2-8. Neither team qualified for the playoffs.

Meek 38, Berry 28

Meek scored 16 fourth-quarter points to hold off Berry and earn its fifth consecutive victory, finishing the regular season 7-3.

The Tigers led 22-14 at halftime, but Berry scored the only 6 points of the third quarter to cut the margin to 22-20.

Both teams added 8 points in the fourth, leaving Meek ahead 30-28. The Tigers added 8 more to build a 38-28 advantage and held the Wildcats scoreless the rest of the way.

The victory followed region wins over Waterloo, Belgreen, Phillips and Red Bay. Meek had already secured third place in Class 1A, Region 7 with a 5-2 region record and will open the playoffs on the road.

Berry finished the regular season 4-6 overall and 4-3 in Class 1A, Region 5. The nonregion result did not change either team's playoff position.

Teams off Friday

Vinemont had already completed its regular season at 6-4 overall and earned fourth place in Class 3A, Region 6 at 4-3.

West Point's season ended the previous week at 0-10 overall and 0-7 in Class 4A, Region 7.

Addison was also off Friday after finishing 10-0 overall and winning Class 1A, Region 7 at 7-0.

Sammy Confer and Jared Spears contributed reporting.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF TRACY ANDERSON DECICCO FOR THE ADOPTION OF BRIANA DAWN TAYLOR AN ADULT

CASE NO.: AD 2025-052

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: PAULA JOYCE DECICCO, BOILOGICAL MOTHER WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption of an Adult and Amended Petition for Adoption of an Adult* to adopt B.D.T. born on February 5, 1993, was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Tracy Anderson Decicco, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 9th DAY OF October, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Petitioner
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
TOMMY WADE BARNETT,
DECEASED.

CASE NO.: PC2026-378

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to SHANE BARNETT as Administrator of the Estate of TOMMY WADE BARNETT, deceased, on this the 30th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County.

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

SMITH & KILGO LAW, LLC
Dean R. Smith
Attorney for the Administrator
421 3rd Ave SE, Ste. 245
Cullman, AL 35055

To: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cullman, AL 35055

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
201 2nd Avenue NE 256.775.7203
Cullman, Alabama 35055 www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Zoning Board of Adjustments

On Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Zoning Board of Adjustments, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Variance request at 301 2nd Avenue NW for a sign

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

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

Melba Ann Talley, 88
Melba Ann Talley, 88, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Oct. 30, 2026. Born Aug. 8, 1938, in Cullman, Alabama, Melba was loved and cherished by those who knew her. A lifelong resident of Cullman, Melba attended Cullman High School and later worked at Cullman Products, where she took genuine pride in her work. Melba was married to Grady J. Talley, and together they enjoyed time spent camping and watching Alabama football. She was also a big Alan Jackson fan, and she especially loved spending time with her family—moments that mattered most to her and that she held close. Melba is preceded in death by her father and mother, Joe and Nancy "Bessie" Mauter; husband, Grady J. Talley; and sister, Ramona York. She is survived by her niece, Lisa Harkness (Bobby); great nieces, Delisa Lee (Gerry), and Jordan Harkness; great-great nephews, Zane Hendrix and John David Hendrix; and a host of loving extended family. A Celebration of Life Visitation was held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Nov. 2, 2026, from noon-1 p.m. A Graveside Committal Service will follow at Cullman City Cemetery.

Bobby Charles Brown, 88
Bobby Charles Brown of Cullman, age 88, passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 22, 2026, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife of 69 years Joyce Earl Brown; his sons Gregory C. Brown of Morris, Michael E. Brown of Cullman; grandchildren Lauren Brown (Amanda), Leila Motes (Matt), Levi Brown, Jackson Brown; great-granddaughter Charlotte Slay, great-grandson Thomas Slay, and coming soon great-granddaughter Maylee Motes. He is also survived by sisters: Dottie Kirkwood and Janice Beam, two brothers Wayne Brown (Celeste) and Dale Brown (Judy); and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Kenneth Brown and Rayburn Brown; and sister Sarah Ruth Brown. A lifelong resident of Cullman, Bobby was born on Nov. 7, 1937, to Cecil R. and Jessie L. Brown. He spent his life in agriculture having grown up on dairy farms in Cullman and Florida. He worked at Cullman Seed and Feed as manager and grain purchaser until 1977 when he went to Ingram Farms as purchasing agent. He retired from there in 2003. Bobby was instrumental in establishing the Alabama Feed and Grain Association and remained on the Board continuously for 18 years. During this period, he served as treasurer, secretary, vice-president, and president of the Association. The Association endowed a scholarship at Auburn University in honor of Bobby and his wife Joyce. Bobby was an ordained deacon at Bethsadia Baptist Church where he served for many years. Thereafter, he became an active member of Cullman First Baptist Church. For as long as he was able, he took great joy in visiting with the homebound and those in nursing homes. He and Joyce were avid travelers. They especially enjoyed adventure and cultural travel on six continents. Bobby was a passionate sportsman who enjoyed golf, hunting and fishing. The family will welcome visitors at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on November 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed immediately by a memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to First Baptist Church Building Fund.

Margaret Cecelia 'Cedar' McBrayer, 71
Margaret Cecelia "Cedar" McBrayer, age 71, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Oct. 28, 2026. She was an incredible wife, mother, grandmother, G-Maw, sister, and friend. Her infectious smile, joyful spirit, and unwavering love for others will be deeply missed by all who had the blessing of knowing her. Cedar had a special way of leaving a beautiful impression on everyone she met, especially the countless students whose lives she touched throughout her years as an educator. She was blessed to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher, earning her bachelor's degree from Athens State University and her master's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Teaching was more than a profession to Cedar; it was a calling. She gave her students not only knowledge but also encouragement, kindness, patience, and love. Her influence extended far beyond the classroom, and the lives she touched will forever carry a piece of her. Throughout her life, Cedar displayed extraordinary strength, particularly through her lifelong battle with Crohn's disease. Even through the challenges and hardships she endured, she rarely, if ever, complained. She faced life with grace, courage, and a quiet strength that was an inspiration to those around her. Her life was a beautiful testimony to the goodness, faithfulness, and love of her Heavenly Father. She lived her faith, shared her blessings, and reminded those around her that love is best demonstrated through the way we treat others. Above all else, Cedar's greatest love was her family. Her love for her husband of 54 years, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren was unsurpassed. She gave her love freely, her smile generously, and her encouragement without hesitation. She had a way of making people feel special, valued, and loved. If you were loved by Cedar, you were truly blessed. Her family was her heart, and the memories, lessons, laughter, and unconditional love she leaves behind will be treasured for generations. Cedar's legacy is not measured only by the years she lived, but by the lives she touched, the love she shared, the faith she demonstrated, and the family she cherished. Though her earthly presence will be missed beyond words, the beautiful example she set will continue to live on in everyone fortunate enough to have known her. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Donnie W. McBrayer of 54 years; her parents, Margaret and Claude Easterwood; her parents-in-law, Willene and Peary McBrayer; her sister, Sue White; and her brothers, Charlie Easterwood and Jim Easterwood, brothers-in law, Ronnie McBrayer, Tim Rutledge, and Ronnie Patteson, sisters-in-law, Martha Easterwood, and Carol Easterwood, and nieces, Amy Easterwood and April Rutledge. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Candice and Jonathan Baty; her grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Ezekiel and Tiffanie (Blake) McBrayer; her grandson, Silas Baty; her great-grandson, Emilio McBrayer; and a soon-to-arrive great-granddaughter. She is also survived by her brother, Tom Easterwood, sister Iva Patterson, sisters-in-law, Genetta Easterwood, Jeanette (McBrayer) Hite, Karen (Tamer) McBrayer, and Helen (McBrayer) Rutledge, and brother-in-law, Ed White, along with numerous nieces and nephews. Though our hearts are broken by her absence, we find comfort knowing that Cedar is healed, whole, and rejoicing in the presence of her Heavenly Father. Her beautiful smile, generous heart, and unconditional love will never be forgotten. Until we meet again, Mom, Maw-Maw, G-Maw. You were loved beyond measure, and you will be missed beyond words.

Douglas Theodore Long, Jr., 91
Douglas Theodore Long Jr., 91, of Milledgeville, Georgia, passed away on Nov. 1, 2026. A visitation will be held at Williams Funeral Home in Milledgeville on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. A visitation with military honors will be held Friday, Nov. 6, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, 461 U.S. Highway 278 E, Cullman, AL, 35055. Interment will follow at Cullman City Cemetery. Born to Louise Sachs Long and Douglas Theodore Sr., Aug. 14, 1935, Doug lived a full and accomplished life marked by service, hard work, family, friendship, and a love of sports. Doug proudly served in the United States Air Force. Following his military service, he returned to Alabama, where he became a partner in All Risk Insurance Agency. A natural entrepreneur, Doug later continued his career as a budget analyst at Kings Bay Naval Base in St. Marys, Georgia before retiring. After retirement, Doug made his home in Milledgeville, Georgia, where he enjoyed playing golf and, perhaps just as much, Tuesday morning coffee with his friends. He had a lifelong love of sports, whether coaching, playing, or cheering on his favorite teams. A devoted Alabama Crimson Tide football fan, Doug proudly cheered on the Tide. Known for his quick wit and wonderful sense of humor, he had a way of bringing laughter to those around him and making even ordinary moments memorable. Doug is survived by his beloved wife, Susanne Long; his daughters, Karla Kincaid, Betsy Wakeman (Eric), and Amy Snipes (Ben); and his son, Roger Long. He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren, Jennifer Jackson (Cody), Kayce Kincaid, Matthew Wakeman, and Sarah Wakeman; his sisters Carrol DeSoto and Matthew Everett; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Louise and Douglas Theodore Long Sr., and his brother, Alfred Lawrence (Larry) Long. Doug will be remembered for his love of family, his friendships, his quick wit, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his lifelong passion for sports. His laughter, stories, and the memories he created will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Susan G. Karman or St. Jude Children's Hospital. Roll Tide, Doug. You will be forever loved and deeply missed.

Buster 'Pete' J.C. Hanes, 94
Funeral service for Buster 'Pete' J.C. Hanes, 94, of Falkville will be at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Minister Alton Bailey and Bro. Steve Rodgers officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 11-1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Hanes passed away Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026, at his residence. He was born Dec. 31, 1931, to Marion and Maggie Jane Morrison Hanes. He was a member of Vinemont Church of Christ. Pete loved playing music and played many instruments. He enjoyed karaoke, was a doll collector and also collected anything 'old'. He served his country in the U.S. Army and was a medic in the service. He was employed many years as an orderly in the local hospitals. He loved his family and will truly be missed. Pete was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Inez Marie Hanes. Those left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Sherri (Ronnie) Drake; son, Lamar Ray Hanes; grandchildren, Kevin Drake, Brian (Donna) Drake; great-grandchildren, Ashley (Austin) Hallmark, Zack (Destinie) Drake, Savannah Drake (Jax); great-great grandchildren, Karsyn, Lily, Lane, Wyatt, Macie, Zaylee; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Christine J. Gentry, 95
Christine J. Gentry, 95, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Oct. 30, 2026. Born April 28, 1931, Christine lived a life marked by steady devotion to home and family, and by a quiet strength that showed itself most clearly in the way she cared for others. Christine was, above all, a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She and her husband of 63 years, Leon James Gentry, worked side by side on their farm through sickness and health, sharing both the labor and the blessings that came from the land they loved. A humble, kind-hearted presence, Christine's love was often expressed in simple, faithful ways—especially through her cooking and her open table, where there was always room for company at mealtime. She and Leon shared the fruits of their work with others, and the warmth of that generosity will be remembered with gratitude. Christine is loved and greatly missed, and her family finds comfort in knowing she and Leon are together again. Christine was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Leon James Gentry; her parents, Jesse Johnson and Agnes Carter Collins; her brothers, Edward "Sonny" Collins and Ricky Collins; her sisters, Louise Basenberg and Linda McMinn; her special family, Ellon and Claude Johnson, Robert (Joy) Johnson, and Charles (Linda) Johnson. Survivors include her daughter, Gail (Danny) Miller; her sons, Ronald Gentry, Roger (Shelia) Gentry, and Randall (Paulette) Gentry; her brothers, Larry Collins, Jack (Sherry) Collins, and Tommy Collins; her sisters, Jean (Bill) Lawrence and Betty Collins; her special family, Becky Jagoe Gentry; her grandchildren, Matt (Susie) Gentry, Jeff Gentry, Chris Gentry, Jennifer Gentry, Preston (Caitlin) Miller, Tonya (James) Finch, Russell (Carolyn) Miller, Tyler (Katy) Gentry, and Macon Gentry; and her 19 great-grandchildren, Maiya Freeman, William Gentry, Walker Gentry, Olivia Gentry, Burk Gentry, Kate Gentry, Wilkes Gentry, Lula Gentry, Nash Gentry, Kyleigh Finch, Paisley Finch, Eli Gentry, Baylee Gentry, Teddy Miller, Henry Miller, Louisa Miller, Margaret Miller, Elizabeth Miller, and Andrew Miller; special friends, Margaret and Jerry Nickens, Joan and Ray Oaks, Bridgett Taylor, and many other beloved family and friends. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, from 1-2 p.m. A Celebration of Life will follow at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Nov. 4, 2026, beginning at 2 p.m. The family extends special thanks to Brandon Stripling, Laura Harris, and Lauren Smith; to Gentiva Hospice for years of care and compassion from loving nurses, aides, and staff; and to Woodland Village and staff—especially the East Hall nurses, med techs, and CNA's—for their loving care, for friendships made there, and for special friend, Marsha. Heartfelt appreciation is also offered to caregivers and friends while Christine was at home: Margaret, Bridgett, Kathy, Mary, and Karen. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Good Hope Baptist Church, your favorite charity, Good Hope Cemetery, or Gentiva Hospice.

Anelisa Douglas, 66
Memorial service for Anelisa Douglas, age 66 of Cullman, is Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Bro. Keith Whitley officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Anelisa was born on Oct. 16, 1960, to Wilford Lynn and Lillian Skipper Lynn. She passed away on Nov. 1, 2026. She is preceded in death by her parents; stepmother, Shirley Ann Lynn; sisters, Dorothy Jackson, Karen Young and Margaret Hebblethwaite; nephews, Daniel Young, Jason Lynn, Shannon Lynn, and Greg Mize. She is survived by daughter, Shawna (Micah) Douglas; sons, Thomas Kyle (Elizabeth) Douglas, and Nicholas (Erin) Douglas; brothers, Clarence Lynn, Ronald Lynn, Roger Lynn, and Albert Lynn; sisters, Sharon Bailey, and Mary Mize; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

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CULLMAN COMMUNITY THEATRE

Cullman Community Theatre carolers in Victorian dress gather in front of a festive daily Advent Calendar at the Cullman Christkindlmarkt.

Cullman Community Theatre invites voices to bring Christmas magic to Christkindlmarkt

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Picture it: twinkling lights strung across Depot Park, the scent of roasted nuts and warm cider drifting through the cold night air, and the soft glow of wooden huts dusted in holiday cheer. Then, just around the corner, a group of carolers in top hats and long Victorian skirts begins to sing.

It's like immersing yourself in a scene from a Hallmark Christmas movie. And this holiday season, in the heart of Cullman, you could be one of the voices.

Cullman Community Theatre is inviting singers of all ages to join its Christmas Caroling group, which will spread holiday cheer at the Cullman Christkindlmarkt this season.

"We're getting ready to spread some holiday cheer at the Cullman Christkindlmarkt, and we'd love to have you join us!" the theatre shared.

The group's next rehearsal is this Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Clark Street Theatre, the old church on the corner of Third Avenue Northeast and Clark Street Northeast, behind Cullman City Hall.

All ages are welcome. Carolers 13 and younger must be accompanied by a caroling adult.

The carolers are part of the theatre's Cullman Community Choir, launched in fall 2025 to bring local voices together to celebrate music and community. The choir performs at some of Cullman's favorite events throughout the year, including Oktoberfest, Christkindlmarkt and the Alabama Strawberry Festival, along with a special spring concert.

"Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love being part of a joyful sound, we'd love for you to join us," the theatre said when the choir formed.

Singers who would like to join the choir can fill out the sign-up form at https://tinyurl.com/4r5fyam4. The form asks for basic contact information, age and vocal part (soprano, alto, tenor, bass or "I'm not sure"), so there's no need to be an expert to sign up.

Few places are better suited for carolers than the Cullman Christkindlmarkt. Inspired by the traditional Christmas markets of Germany, the free festival transforms Depot Park into an Old World holiday village from Nov. 19 through Dec. 23.

Guests can glide across the ice-skating rink, ride Alabama's largest Ferris wheel, admire a towering Christmas pyramid and browse wooden huts filled with handcrafted gifts and German treats. Admission and parking are free.

What began in 2019 with eight wooden vendor huts has grown into a celebrated holiday tradition. The Christkindlmarkt was named the Alabama Tourism Department's 2026 Event of the Year, and this summer, Cullman was named a Top 25 finalist in Hallmark's Merriest Christmas Town contest.

Learn more at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Not much of a singer? Cullman Community Theatre has another way to step into the spotlight.

The theatre will hold auditions for "Dial M for Murder," its first-ever suspense thriller, on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Clark Street Theatre. The theatre is looking for adults ages 18 and older.

"Think you can handle a little suspense?" the theatre asked in announcing the auditions.

Prefer to work behind the curtain? The theatre is always looking for help with stage crew, set building and painting, sound, lighting, box office, hair, makeup and wardrobe. Those interested can fill out the behind-the-scenes interest form at https://tinyurl.com/2n-hz9cht.

For more information, follow Cullman Community Theatre on Facebook or contact Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism at 256-734-9157 or info@cullmanrecreation.org.



ENTERTAINMENT

Three Days Grace brings Alienation Tour to Huntsville

Ryan Cole, Riley Cole
Contributors

Original vocalist Adam Gontier shared the stage with fellow lead singer Matt Walst, revisiting a connection to Huntsville. In April 2023, Gontier surprised fans by joining his former bandmates for the final two songs of their set at the Von Braun Center. He officially returned to the band in 2024, with Walst continuing as a lead vocalist.

The Funeral Portrait opened the evening with theatrical staging and crowd interaction. I Prevail followed with a set blending metalcore and aggressive vocals, drawing headbanging fans and several crowd surfers.

Three Days Grace mixed familiar hits with newer material and shifted to acoustic arrangements for part of its performance. During that portion of the show, the band reflected on its early days playing music together around a campfire.



RYAN COLE AND RILEY COLE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Three Days Grace brought its Alienation Tour to The Orion Amphitheater Friday, Oct. 30, with supporting performances by The Funeral Portrait and I Prevail.

