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WEATHER

71 45

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

MOSTLY SUNNY

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BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Vinemont earns first playoff win since 1993 as Good Hope, Cold Springs and Addison also advance

» PAGE 4

Celebrating our veterans



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration, which featured guest speaker Mike Durant, "Black Hawk Down" pilot and survivor of the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, took place Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at Cullman Regional Airport.



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

ICE detains Wallace State soccer players after Lincoln traffic stop



GOFUNDME

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Jacobs proclaims Nov. 17 Retired Teachers' Day in Cullman

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Irish Keener earns spot as Alabama 4-H State Ambassador representing Cullman County



CULLMAN COUNTY 4-H

Irish Keener

» PAGE 5

40th annual HO! HO! HO! Christmas Show coming Nov. 14

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Bagwell, Sawyer win senior crowns



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

2026 Ms. Senior Cullman County Belinda Bagwell, left; 2026 Ms. Super Senior Cullman County Bonnie Sawyer, right

» PAGE 6

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Good Hope wins 2 Cullman County youth football titles, Vinemont claims Pee-Wee championship

» PAGE 5

Bill Smith

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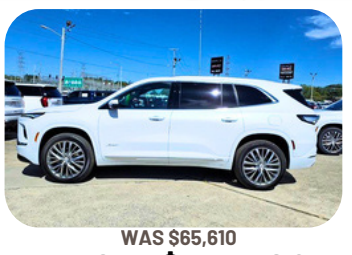
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 9

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 9, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
Nov. 5
• theft of property; CR 781

Nov. 6
• possession of controlled substances; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM 299
• theft of property; CR 1240
• harassment; CR 587
• harassing communications; CR 1269
• unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; US. 31
• harassing communications; CR 1354
• theft of property; CR 395

Nov. 7
• violation of protection order; CR 747
• burglary; CR 8
• disorderly conduct; Commercial St. NE
• unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 1735
• possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1343
• possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; US. 31
• possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1725
• domestic violence; Blountsville St. NE

Nov. 8
• trespassing; CR 1371
• reckless endangerment; CR 703

ARRESTS
Nov. 5-8
Burgett, Scotty L.; 55
• assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Cooper, Joseph D.; 43
• PROBATION REVOKED – possession of dangerous drugs

Corbin, Christopher L.; 55
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Doss, Jr., Robert L.; 50
• FTA – no seat belt

Drane, Anthony G.; 40
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Gean, Jr., Clifford W.; 30
• possession of methamphetamine
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc., of wine or alcohol generally

Holt, John D.; 56
• FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Jackson, Ethan N.; 21
• FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Johns, Rickey J.; 66
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Bama N.; 55
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Kreps, Steven J.; 34
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Langston, Summer A.; 29
• possession of methamphetamine
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Martz, Koltin C.; 25
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine
• possession of dangerous drugs

Moon, Angela L.; 58
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine
• FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Moreland, Terry W.; 48
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Nicolas, Amilcar M.; 37
• FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Parris, Ethan B.; 34
• FTA – theft from a motor vehicle-1st degree
• FTA – driving while license suspended
• FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
• FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone

Parris, Kaitlyn D.; 26
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
• FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)
• GJ – escape
• FTA – buying/receiving stolen property

Parson, Ellis D.; 53
• assault-domestic-harassment-family

Pugh, John R.; 36
• DUI (controlled substances)

Smelser, Jessica L.; 45
• theft-shoplifting, less than $500

Taylor, Sandra T.; 73
• damaged property-criminal mischief
• criminal trespass

Whitehead, Heath D.; 53
• PROBATION REVOKED – obscuring/defacing/removing vehicles identity

Whitmire, Jeffery S.; 49
• FTA – driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood
• FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Williams, Walter A.; 39
• FTA – assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Willingham, Kayla L.; 33
• possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Nov. 6
• theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $23,762
• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; 9th St. SW
• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $87; Olive St. SW

Nov. 7
• theft of property-1st degree; person; '03 Chev. S10; $1,500

ARRESTS
Nov. 6-8
Steele, Jonathan E.; 37
• FTA – public intoxication

Barnett III, Chesley A.; 85
• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Cooper, Joseph D.; 43
• reckless endangerment
• attempt to elude

Smith, Courtney J.; 20
• theft of property-4th degree

Barnett, Lisa M.; 47
• FTA – fail to register vehicle

Burney, Dusty L.; 48
• attempt to elude
• reckless endangerment
• possession of unlawful hemp product

Drane, Anthony G.; 40
• FTA – false information to law enforcement
• FTA – theft of property-4th degree (3 counts)

Partain, James A.; 60
• unlawful possession of controlled substances (4 counts)
• trafficking
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Champion, Chaney D.; 49
• DUI

Parris, Ethan B.; 34
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• FTA – driving without license (2 counts)

Bloom, Alexis M.; 29
• unlawful possession of controlled substances
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Show (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The 40th annual HO! HO! HO! Christmas Show will have an array of classic vehicles, motorcycles and all things in between on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Cullman Caring for Kids.

Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter said the event is held annually, rain or shine, in the nonprofit's parking lot.

"It was started 40 years ago by Burl Smith and Larry Harris and now it is held in memory of them," Sutter said. Their families continue to be the driving force that keeps the show going. All proceeds go to support the food bank here. I am not the most informed about cars, but you will see the best from the oldest to the new, Rat Rods and motorcycles. There are some very unique cars entered each year also."

Sutter said since he arrived at Cullman Caring for Kids, they have seen the total number of cars increase every year.

"If I remember correctly, we had right at 100 entered last year," Sutter said. "We do have a silent auction and always have some amazing items to bid on."

In 2024, around $10,000 was raised for Cullman Caring for Kids.

To enter the show, participants can pay $20 or donate a toy valued at $20. Awards will be presented to winners.

Vendors are $25/participant for a 10x10 spot.

For more information, visit www.Facebook.com/hohohochristmasshow.

For vendor questions, contact organizer Sonya Green at 256-200-4548.

Cullman Caring for Kids is located at 402 Arnold St. NE #W1, Cullman.

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Veterans Day

Veterans Day now has come
A day that should remind all of us
The reason we are free!!
Brave men and women who lived and died
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Freedom never comes easy and is never free
It must be earned and paid for by people like you and me!!

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So celebrate this great day!
Salute and give thanks
For those who are willing to serve and fight
To keep America free.

Doug Bennett
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Grace Episcopal Church cheeseballs will be ready for pick up Thursday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. You may enter the church on the Arnold Street side through the French doors under the breezeway between the church and the Arnold House. Let us take this opportunity to thank all of you who purchased cheeseballs enabling our Episcopal Church Women to contribute to many deserving organizations in our community. Together, we are making a difference one cheeseball at a time! Dianne Moyer, 256-734-2231

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. 11 – 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. 13 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Guest speaker Steven East.
- Saturday, Nov. 14 – 9-11 a.m. Free Thanksgiving to-go lunch
- Sunday, Nov. 15 – 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. 21 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank

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.
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Storytime
- Nov. 11, closed in honor of Veterans Day
- Nov. 18, Susan Melton reading "This is the Turkey" by Abby Levine
- Nov. 25, closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2, Children's author 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"
- Jan. 13, Cassy Holeyfield

More
- Saturday, Nov. 14, 10-11 a.m. Hanceville resident Charles Wilson will share his vintage postcard collection with us. He will have very old voting receipts, local vintage postcards, military postcards and postcards from around the world. Don't miss out on this one of a kind collection.
- Saturday, Nov. 21, 10-11 a.m. Adult book club
- Saturday, Dec. 19, 10-11 a.m. Adult book club
- Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-noon "Let it Shine Puppets" a local, in-demand puppet ministry, the best-kept secret in Hanceville
- Saturday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-noon We my have a surprise visitor!
- We have T-shirts for sale. Children's sizes are $15 and adult sizes are $20. Proceeds to assist the library's programs.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m. with The Williamsons from Oklahoma. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1863 or 256-590-1501. Everyone is invited.



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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Prewett's field goal lifts Good Hope past Fairfield 24-21 in double OT

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

FAIRFIELD, Ala. – Chase Prewett kicked the winning field goal in the second overtime Friday night, sending Good Hope to the second round of the Class 4A football playoffs with a 24-21 victory at Fairfield.

The Raiders intercepted a pass on Fairfield's final possession before Prewett broke the tie.

Good Hope led 7-0 at halftime. Parker Johnson ran 15 yards for a touchdown after the break, and the extra point extended the Raiders' lead to 14-0.

Fairfield returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, then tied the game on a touchdown pass and extra point. The teams finished regulation at 14-14.

Karson Hollis ran for a touchdown on Good Hope's first overtime possession.

The extra point put the Raiders ahead 21-14, but Fairfield answered with another touchdown pass and made the kick to force a second overtime.

This time the Raiders intercepted the pass, giving Good Hope a chance to win on Prewett's kick.

Good Hope improved to 8-3 after entering the playoffs as the third seed from Region 8. Fairfield, the Region 5 runner-up, finished 6-5.

Good Hope advances to face the winner of Deshler and Central-Clay County.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

McCay scores twice as Meek's season ends with 55-14 loss at Loachapoka

Jared Spears
jared@cullmantribune.com

LOACHAPOKA, Ala. – Evan McCay scored both of Meek's touchdowns Friday night, but Loachapoka built a 21-point first-quarter lead and defeated the Tigers 55-14 in the first round of the Class 1A playoffs. Meek finished 7-4, ending a five-game winning streak.

Loachapoka took the opening kickoff and capped a six-play drive with a touchdown pass off play action.

The Indians intercepted a pass on Meek's first possession and took over at their own 46-yard line.

Running back Lareaco Echols finished the ensuing drive with a touchdown run.

Meek punted on its next possession, and Loachapoka added its third touchdown before the first quarter ended.

Neither team scored in the second, leaving the Indians ahead 21-0 at halftime.

McCay, Meek's senior quarterback, ran for a touchdown early in the third quarter. The 2-point attempt failed, leaving the Tigers down 21-6.

Loachapoka scored on its next four possessions and led 48-6 entering the fourth.

McCay scored his second touchdown in the final quarter. Meek added the 2-point conversion, and Loachapoka scored 7 points in the period for the 55-14 final.

The Tigers earned the third seed in Region 7 with a 5-2 region record.

They beat Waterloo, Belgreen, Phillips and Red Bay before closing the regular season with a 38-28 win at Berry.

Loachapoka, the Region 6 runner-up, improved to 9-2 and advanced to the second round.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Roberts accounts for 6 touchdowns as Addison beats Fayetteville 55-13

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

ADDISON, Ala. – Elijah Roberts threw touchdown passes to three receivers and ran for three more scores Friday night as Addison defeated Fayetteville 55-13 in the first round of the Class 1A football playoffs.

The Bulldogs improved to 11-0.

Scout Flynn caught a 33-yard pass from Roberts for the opening touchdown. Conner Lane kicked the extra point, then intercepted a Fayetteville pass at the Wolves' 37-yard line.

Roberts finished the ensuing drive with a 15-yard touchdown run, and Lane's second extra point put Addison ahead 14-0.

Fayetteville returned the kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown but came up short on the 2-point attempt. Roberts answered with a 4-yard touchdown run.

Addison then stopped the Wolves on fourth down at their own 39. A completion to Judah Wilkins moved the Bulldogs to the 6, and Wilkins ran it in from there.

Lane caught a 34-yard touchdown pass from Roberts and kicked the extra point for a 35-6 lead.

Flynn intercepted a pass at the Addison 6, and the Bulldogs later recovered their own punt after it touched a Fayetteville player.

Roberts found Wilkins for a 25-yard touchdown, giving Wilkins both a rushing and a receiving score.

Zane Smith added a 1-yard touchdown run for another touchdown pass and made the kick to force a second overtime.

Flynn intercepted a pass at the Addison 6, and the Bulldogs later recovered their own punt after it touched a Fayetteville player.

Roberts found Wilkins for a 25-yard touchdown, giving Wilkins both a rushing and a receiving score.

Zane Smith added a 1-yard touchdown run for Addison. Fayetteville scored from a yard out before Roberts ran 24 yards for his third rushing touchdown.

Lane made 7 extra points, and neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

Fayetteville finished 3-8.

Addison advances to face Sulligent, which defeated Appalachian 44-26.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Vinemont holds off Central-Florence 16-8 for first playoff win since 1993

Ryan Guthery
Tribune Correspondant

FLORENCE, Ala. – Josh Rhodes ran for two touchdowns and Vinemont stopped Central-Florence on fourth down at the Eagles' 8-yard line with five minutes remaining Friday night.

The Eagles ran out the clock to secure a 16-8 victory over the Region 7 champion Wildcats in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs.

It was Vinemont's first postseason win since 1993. Head Coach Stephen Robinson was a sophomore on that team, which beat East Limestone 41-6 in the second round before losing 20-14 at Central-Florence the following week.

"I'm just proud to get a little bit of revenge for those guys and mostly for these guys," Robinson said. "Man, these seniors have worked so hard and our coaches have worked so hard."

Jaxon Marotz set up Vinemont's first touchdown late in the opening quarter when he recovered a fumble and returned it into Central-Florence territory.

Rhodes scored from a yard out, and Travis Speer ran in the 2-point conversion for an 8-0 lead.

Central-Florence tied the game with just under five minutes left in the first half.

Lucas Price scored on a 33-yard run, and Ja'kari Brown connected with Logan Pettus for the 2-point conversion.

Vinemont regained the lead on its next possession.

Rhodes scored on a 16-yard run with 1:30 remaining in the half, and Speer ran in his second conversion to make it 16-8.

Two plays later, Speer recovered a Central-Florence fumble. The Eagles took the eight-point lead into halftime.

The Wildcats drove inside the Vinemont 20 in each of the final two quarters. The Eagles stopped them on fourth down at the 17 in the third quarter.

With five minutes left in the fourth, Central-Florence faced fourth-and-short at the 8.

Vinemont held the runner to no gain, then picked up first downs on the ground until the Eagles could take a knee.

After the game, Robinson was asked how his players had responded to their 29-28 loss to Hokes Bluff on Oct. 9.

"It hadn't been pretty every week since then, but tonight we played some really, really good football, man," he said.

Vinemont, the fourth seed from Region 6, improved to 7-4. Central-Florence finished 8-3.

The Eagles will face Fayette County in the second round after the Tigers defeated North Jackson 43-7.



BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vinemont secured a 16-8 victory over the Region 7 champion Wildcats in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs Friday night, Nov. 6, 2026. It was Vinemont's first postseason win since 1993.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Day scores with 27 seconds left to lift Cold Springs past Pisgah 42-34

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – Ethan Day ran 10 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 27 seconds left Friday night, then added the 2-point conversion as Cold Springs defeated Pisgah 42-34 in the first round of the Class 2A playoffs.

Day and quarterback Brandon Chasteen each ran for three touchdowns. Cold Springs trailed 26-20 entering the fourth quarter and scored on all three of its possessions in the period to advance to the second round.

Tucker Freeman's fourth-down sack ended Pisgah's opening drive.

Cooper Johnson, Day, Blake Phillips and Cason Alexander helped move Cold Springs to the 2-yard line, where Chasteen kept the ball for the opening touchdown.

The conversion failed, leaving Cold Springs ahead 6-0 with 5:26 left in the first quarter.

Pisgah converted twice on fourth down before tying the game on a 21-yard touchdown pass.

After the teams exchanged punts, Day broke free on fourth down for a 74-yard touchdown. Pisgah stopped the conversion, and Cold Springs led 12-6 with 5:31 remaining in the half.

A 3-yard touchdown pass pulled Pisgah even at 12.

Cold Springs threatened again before halftime as Alexander ran 17 yards to midfield and Chasteen completed passes of 13 yards to Eli Voce and 15 yards to Day.

Cold Springs reached the Pisgah 15, but the half ended with the score tied.

Pisgah took its first lead in the third quarter. After stopping Cold Springs on fourth down, Pisgah drove to the 4 on a 20-yard run and an 18-yard completion. A 1-yard touchdown run two plays later helped put Pisgah ahead 20-12.

Johnson and Jordan Garmon each ran for 12 yards on the ensuing drive. Chasteen scored from 21 yards out, and Johnson ran in the conversion to tie it at 20.

Pisgah answered on the second play of its next possession with a 46-yard touchdown run for a 26-20 lead.

Chasteen's 29-yard run and Johnson's 14-yard gain put Cold Springs at the 4. Chasteen scored his third touchdown on the next snap. The conversion came up short, leaving the teams tied at 26 with 10:40 remaining.

Voce intercepted a pass to give Cold Springs the ball at midfield. Alexander ran 43 yards down the right sideline, and Day scored from the 4 two plays later.

Chasteen added the conversion for a 34-26 lead with just over seven minutes left.

Pisgah tied it again with less than five minutes to play. A 31-yard completion set up a 25-yard touchdown run three plays later, and the conversion made it 34-34.

Phillips picked up a first down on the winning drive, and Johnson kept it alive with a fourth-down run.

From the Pisgah 33, Chasteen found Voce for 23 yards. Day scored on the next play and ran in the conversion.

Pisgah completed passes of 11 and 18 yards on its final possession before its last pass fell incomplete.

Day finished with 128 yards on 14 carries, and Chasteen rushed for 81 yards on nine attempts.

Alexander added 80 yards on nine carries, and Johnson had 77 yards on 17 carries.

Voce intercepted two passes, and Elijah Moore added a third interception for Cold Springs.

Cold Springs (10-1) will travel to Lexington on Friday, Nov. 13, for the second round.

The Golden Bears improved to 10-1 with a 28-21 victory over Ohatchee.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs defeated Pisgah 42-34 in the first round of the Class 2A playoffs Friday night, Nov. 6, 2026.

thanksgiving DINNER CHECKLIST

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Warehouse Discount Groceries	Warehouse Discount Groceries	Warehouse Discount Groceries
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4 DAY SALE
Thursday - Sunday
November 12-15, 2026



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Dozen
Grade A
88¢ Ea.



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$1.59 Lb.



CHICKEN WINGS
10 Lb. Box
Fully Cooked
$14.99 Ea.



MICHIGAN GROWN APPLES
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$1.99 Ea.



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McCORMICK CHILI SEASONING MIX
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Selected Varieties
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$2.99 Ea.



THAT'S SMART! VEGETABLE OIL
40 Oz.
4 for $9



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15 Oz.
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99¢ Ea.



BORDEN SHREDDED CHEESE
8 Oz. Pkg.
Selected Varieties
3 for $5



KINGSFORD LIGHTER FLUID
32 Oz.
$3.49 Ea.



BORDEN CHEESE SINGLES
16 Oz. Pkg.
American
2 for $4



SIMPLY DONE PARTY CUPS
100 Ct.
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KINGSFORD CHARCOAL
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thanksgiving DINNER CHECKLIST

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

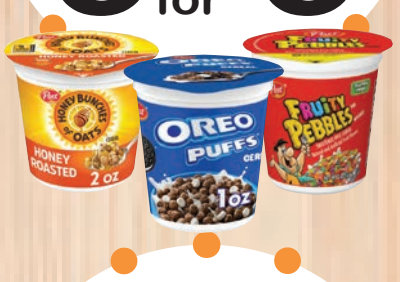
Warehouse Discount Groceries	Warehouse Discount Groceries	Warehouse Discount Groceries
5754 AL- Hwy 157 North Cullman, AL 35055 256•739•4310	1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL 35055 256•739•4380	780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL 35077 256•352•6245

4 DAY SALE
Thursday - Sunday
November 12-15, 2026



GENERAL MILLS LARGE SIZE CEREAL
14 Oz. Lucky Charms, 15 Oz. Honey Nut Cheerios, 16 Oz. Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Reese's Puffs or 12 Oz. Regular Cheerios
2 for $6

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$2.88 Ea.



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BRISTOL COOKED HAM
16 Oz. Can
$3.99 Ea.





HUNGRY JACK SYRUP
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



DIGIORNO PIZZA
14-29 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 Ea.

HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH DRESSING
24 Oz. Twin Pack
Squeeze Original
$7.99 Ea.





LUZIANNE TEA
Gallon Ready To Drink
Selected Varieties
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SHAWNEE BEST FLOUR OR CORN MEAL MIX
5 Lb. Bag
Self-Rising
4 for $9

SPARKLE OR ANGEL SOFT
6 Double Rolls Paper Towels or 12 Mega Rolls Bath Tissue
$7.99 Ea.





PILLSBURY BEST FLOUR
5 Lb. Bag
Selected Varieties
$2.99 Ea.



CAT CAFÉ CAT FOOD
11 Lb. Bag
Seafood Essentials
$6.99 Ea.

SIMPLY DONE FOAM TRAYS
25 Ct.
Compartment With Lid
$3.99 Ea.





CHAMP DOG FOOD
12 Lb. Bag
$6.99 Ea.



McKENZIE'S CREAMED CORN
20 Oz. Golden or White or 16 Oz. Fried Corn
2 for $3

STOUFFER'S FAMILY SIZE ENTREES
32-40 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$6.99 Ea.





ORE-IDA FAST FOOD FRIES
4 Lb. Bag
Extra Crispy
$5.99 Ea.

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Beef
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40 Oz.
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SATSUMA ORANGES
First of the Season
2 Lb. Bag Georgia Grown
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Red or Black
California
$1.99 LB.



CAMPBELL'S CHUNKY SOUP
18-19 Oz.
Selected Varieties
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T-BONE STEAKS
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Family Pack
$10.99 LB.



GROUND ROUND
Fresh 85% Lean
Family Pack
$5.99 LB.



PRAIRIE FRESH PORK TENDERLOINS OR FILETS
18.4-22 Oz. Marinated
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



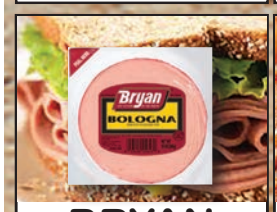
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS
Fresh
Family Pack
$1.19 LB.



JIMMY DEAN SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
$3.79 EA.



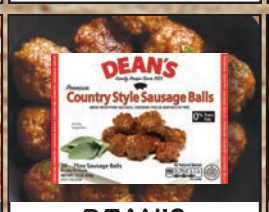
BRYAN JUICY JUMBOS
15 Oz.
2 for $4



BRYAN BOLOGNA
12 Oz.
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2 for $5



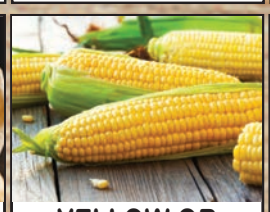
OSCAR MAYER BACON
16 Oz.
Original or Thick
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DEAN'S SAUSAGE BALLS
20 Ct.
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RUSSET POTATOES
U.S. #1 Jumbo
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YELLOW OR BI-COLOR CORN
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JUMBO SWEET ONIONS
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$5.99 EA.



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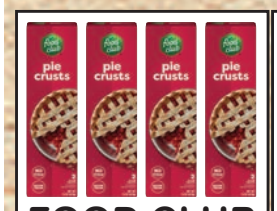
PARKAY MARGARINE
1 Lb.
Quarters
2 for $4



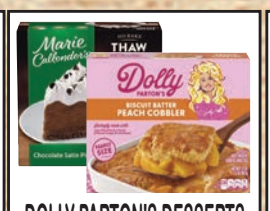
COUNTRY CROCK SPREAD
45 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB CRESCENT ROLLS
8 Ct.
Selected Varieties
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FOOD CLUB PIE CRUSTS
2 Ct., 15 Oz.
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$2.99 EA.



DOLLY PARTON'S DESSERTS OR MARIE CALLENDER'S PIES
21-40 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB WHIPPED TOPPING
8 Oz.
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FOOD CLUB PIE CRUSTS
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2 Pk., 16 Oz. Deep Dish Frozen
2 for $7



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12 Ct. Classic Butter or
Southern Buttermilk
$4.99 EA.



HOT POCKETS
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Selected Varieties
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NEW YORK BAKERY GARLIC TOAST
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Bread Sticks
2 for $6



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Selected Varieties
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11-20 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB APPLE JUICE
or Cider
64 Oz.
2 for $5



FOOD CLUB SOUPS
10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
89¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB HOMESTYLE GRAVY
12 Oz. Jar
Selected Varieties
$1.79 EA.



FOOD CLUB STUFFING MIX
6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



FOOD CLUB MACARONI & CHEESE DINNER
5-7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
69¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB BROTH
32 Oz.
Chicken or Beef
2 for $3



DEL MONTE VEGETABLES
14-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



BETTY CROCKER CASSEROLE POTATOES
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2 for $3



BUMBLE BEE TUNA
2 Oz. Pouch or 3-5 Oz.
Can Selected Varieties
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FOOD CLUB RELISH
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Sweet or Dill
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FOOD CLUB PICKLES
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or Chocolate Cookie
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Regular or Mini
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12 Oz. Cans
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TOSTITOS CANTINA CHIPS
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GOLDEN FLAKE OR UTZ SNACKS
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BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
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Selected Varieties
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Cans or Bottles
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Deli Sliced
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Selected Varieties
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J. SKINNER CINNAMON ROLLS
22 Oz.
Family Size
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CAFÉ VALLEY MINI MUFFINS
24 Ct. Blueberry
or Banana Nut
$7.89 EA.

FRESH FRIED CHICKEN
Bone-In
8-Piece
$8.99 EA.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Swidecki sisters finish 1, 2 as Cold Springs wins fourth straight state title

Jared Spears, Noah Galilee
The Cullman Tribune

OAKVILLE, Ala. - Cold Springs seventh grader Gemma Swidecki won the Class 1A-2A girls cross-country championship Saturday, Nov. 7, and her older sister Reese, last year's champion, finished second.

Their one-two finish at Oakville Indian Mounds Park helped the Eagles win their fourth consecutive state title.

Gemma covered the 5-kilometer course in a personal-best 18 minutes, 51.2 seconds.

Reese, a freshman, finished in 19 minutes, 27.4 seconds. Kynzlie Myrex gave Cold Springs a third runner in the top seven, and all five Eagles who counted toward the team score finished in the top 17.

Cold Springs won with 36 points to Sand Rock's 55.

Sand Rock reversed the order in the boys race, winning with 80 points. Cold Springs took second with 88, six points ahead of Pleasant Valley.

Cullman's boys placed fourth and its girls sixth in Class 5A.

Vinemont put a runner in the top 10 of each Class 3A race, and the Holly Pond girls finished 10th as a team.

In all, 56 runners from nine Cullman County schools recorded finishes.

Class 1A-2A

Myrex finished seventh in 21 minutes, 9.6 seconds. Claire Hancock took 11th in 21 minutes, 20.1 seconds and Allison Rice placed 17th in 21 minutes, 47 seconds to complete the scoring for the Cold Springs girls. Ally Mavers followed in 20th (21m 54.7s), Lila Cates in 47th (23m 15.5s), Leslie Jones in 51st (23m 24.1s) and Blair Belcher in 102nd (25m 45.6s).

Seniors Logan Perdue and Carson Rice both ran personal bests for the Cold Springs boys. Perdue placed eighth in 17 minutes, 18.4 seconds and Rice took 11th in 17 minutes, 25.6 seconds. Samuel Hunt was 21st (18m 02.5s), Caleb Dill 34th (18m 32.7s) and James Baggett 42nd (18m 43.9s).

Lucas Freeman finished 66th (19m 43.4s), Easton Freeman 83rd (20m 19.2s), Jacob Winfrey 136th (22m 25.2s), James Laurentius 154th (26m 02.5s) and Riley Adams 155th (26m 12.4s) for the Eagles.

Class 5A

Cullman seniors Henry Crocker and Avin Dempsey finished 2.5 seconds apart to lead the Bearcats. Crocker placed 10th in 15 minutes, 52.2 seconds and Dempsey took 13th in 15 minutes, 54.7 seconds. Cullman scored 129 points to finish fourth behind Mountain Brook (41), Homewood (48) and Florence (76).

Benjamin Stidham placed 29th (16m 26.2s), Mason Gobble 33rd (16m 36.1s) and Dawson Helton 58th (17m 24.5s) to round out Cullman's scoring five. Ripkin Oliver finished 90th (17m 59.7s), Jacob Dunn 116th (18m 30.0s) and Lincoln Medina 190th (19m 44.9s). Officials disqualified Thatcher Lucas for interference.

Freshman Madeline Stidham led the Cullman girls with a 10th-place finish in a personal-best 19 minutes, 1.4 seconds. The Bearcats finished sixth with 203 points. Addison Vogelaar placed 41st (20m 34.0s), Tinley Alldredge 51st (20m 53.9s), Aubree Lawrence 66th (21m 22.7s) and Khloe Nalley 77th (21m 37.4s).

Mabry Free finished 92nd (22m 05.0s), Victoria Waldrop 95th (22m 11.9s), Sophie Robinson 98th (22m 24.2s), Katie Richter 115th (22m 41.6s) and Avery Laney 132nd (23m 17.8s) for Cullman.

Class 3A

Vinemont freshman Aurelia Powell broke 20 minutes to finish fifth in the girls race in 19 minutes, 56.2 seconds. Teammate Brooklyn Yarbrough finished 60th (23m 50.5s). In the boys race, Anakin Powell took seventh in a personal-best 17 minutes, 12.2 seconds and Abram Powell finished 83rd (20m 03.5s).

Kynleigh Wood and Bella Gambrill finished 2.6 seconds apart to lead the Holly Pond girls to 10th with 311 points. Wood placed 40th (22m 59.7s) and Bella Gambrill took 41st (23m 02.3s). Addison Gambrill was 50th (23m 29.4s), Kyleigh Floyd 124th (27m 00.4s) and Joplin Grimes 149th (30m 28.9s). Eli Morrow represented Holly Pond in the boys race, placing 56th in 19 minutes, 20 seconds.

Class 4A

Good Hope senior Drake Nichols finished 13th in the boys race in a personal-best 16 minutes, 29.2 seconds. West Point's Lincoln Parker also ran a personal best, taking 57th in 18 minutes, 9.5 seconds.

Three-tenths of a second separated Good Hope's Jada Alsup and Fairview's Elliana Hunt in the girls race. Alsup placed 64th in 22 minutes, 34.6 seconds. Hunt was 65th in a personal-best 22 minutes, 34.9 seconds.

Private Single A

Cullman Christian seventh grader Meribelle Brock finished 92nd in a personal-best 24 minutes, 37 seconds. Senior teammate Elisabeth DeCicco crossed five seconds later in 93rd (24m 42.0s).

Calub Pruitt led the Cullman Christian boys in 79th with a personal-best 19 minutes, 36.7 seconds. Chasen Hampton placed 84th (19m 57.6s). St. Bernard's Jesus Sanchez finished 89th in a personal-best 20 minutes, 4.2 seconds.

Youth Football (from Front)

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. – All three Cullman County youth football championships ended in shutouts Saturday, Nov. 7, at Vinemont.

Good Hope beat Cold Springs 18-0 for the Fireplug title and Fairview 24-0 for the Wee-Wee title.

Vinemont capped the day with a 20-0 victory over Fairview in the Pee-Wee championship.

Fireplug championship
Good Hope 18, Cold Springs 0

Koleman Kimbrell scored twice for Good Hope, opening the scoring on a 4-yard run with 13 seconds left in the first quarter.

His 12-yard touchdown run in the second quarter gave the Raiders a 12-0 halftime lead.

Jack Schuman added the final touchdown from a yard out.

Wee-Wee championship
Good Hope 24, Fairview 0

Nine seconds into the second quarter, Bryant Moody broke a scoreless tie with a 14-yard touchdown pass to Travis Burditus.

Near the middle of the quarter, Noah Copeland broke several tackles and ran down the left sideline for a 79-yard touchdown, giving Good Hope a 12-0 halftime lead.

Izaiah Ibrahim scored on a 55-yard run in the third quarter.

Moody finished the scoring with a 68-yard run down the left sideline for Good Hope's third rushing touchdown of 55 yards or more.

Pee-Wee championship
Vinemont 20, Fairview 0

Walter Harris scored Vinemont's first two touchdowns and passed for a 2-point conversion.

After a scoreless first quarter, Harris capped a long drive with a 1-yard touchdown run to give the Eagles a 6-0 lead at halftime.

Harris scored from 2 yards out in the third quarter, then found KJ Cooley for the conversion to make it 14-0.

AJ Lee added a 3-yard touchdown run, and the Vinemont defense stopped Fairview once more to close out the championship.

Keener (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County 4-H member Irish Keener has been selected as a 2026-2027 Alabama 4-H State Ambassador, joining a group of 30 young leaders from 22 counties across the state chosen to represent Alabama 4-H.

The selection serves as a significant achievement for Keener, who will have opportunities to represent Cullman County while helping plan and participate in 4-H programs and leadership events at the county, regional and state levels.

According to Cullman County 4-H Extension Agent Kerri Roberts, earning a place in the State Ambassador Program is no small feat.

"The 4-H State Ambassador process is extremely competitive," Roberts explained. "Youth from across the state apply with a 4-H portfolio and interview with state office 4-H specialists at Auburn to be selected.

"Irish getting selected is just proof of her diligence and character. We are very proud to have her serving as Cullman County representative as state ambassador."

Diligence and character are just two of the many qualities that Roberts has witnessed firsthand through Keener's involvement in the Cullman County 4-H program.

"Irish is a step-in and do whatever is needed type of person," Roberts shared. "She is one of the oldest in her large military family. She has faced moving and now leadership on their family farm. It really helps her in any situation just to see what needs to be done and do it."

That natural leadership, Roberts said, has made Keener someone younger 4-H members can look up to.

"She is amazing with younger kids. They cling to her like the big sister that she is," Roberts said.

While Keener has been involved in a wide range of 4-H activities, including helping lead Cloverbuds programs for children ages 5-8, speaking at club meetings and assisting with Extension programs and office work, one area has become particularly important to her: dairy cattle.

"Irish's main 4-H project and her platform is dairy cows," Roberts explained. "She wanted to be an ambassador to advocate for and educate on dairy farms."

With that passion, Roberts said, Keener has made significant progress in her ability to show dairy cattle and has become a mentor to younger club members who are developing their own skills.

Now, through the State Ambassador Program, Keener will have the chance to take her skills and leadership experience beyond just Cullman County.

So, what exactly does an Alabama 4-H State Ambassador do?

Those selected as 4-H State Ambassadors serve as representatives of the organization, helping promote its programs and supporting events designed to develop leadership, communication and teamwork among young people.

"State ambassadors are tasked with helping county, regional and state programming," Roberts explained. "Irish will be a presenter at Midwinter in February. It is Alabama 4-H's premier leadership event for 14 to 18-year-olds. She is presenting on public speaking and debate.

"The ambassadors assist in planning all events at Midwinter and are a main reason many love to attend. Irish will also help at Cullman County Round Up and Northeast Alabama Regional Congress."

And with growth comes opportunity. From Roberts' perspective, Keener's selection is another step in her journey as a young leader, one whom she believes was already making a difference well before receiving the statewide recognition.

"She was already a leader, but I think 4-H has given her new areas to shine in," Roberts said. "Her selection in 4-H State Ambassadors is a message to other youth that if you want experiences in 4-H leadership, those opportunities are available and obtainable."

And as Keener prepares to take on her new role, Roberts is excited to see where this next chapter of her 4-H journey will take her.

"I hope Irish takes away memories of her 4-H experiences and knows that she has impacted others tremendously!" Roberts shared.



ASHLEY HALL
Irish Keener



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 10, 2026

‘Signs and Wonders’: The Link holds annual gala

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The Link hosted its annual fundraising gala last week. The “Signs and Wonders” Gala, took place Nov. 5, at Cotton Creek.

Executive Director Melissa Betts said attendance was up from last year, with 408 attendees compared to 364 in 2025.

“My favorite moment last night was truly seeing those lightbulb moments happen for some of my new staff people who have just begun to connect with us and partner with us,” Betts told The Tribune the next day. “You see, it’s hard to understand sometimes just with words exactly what we do with The Link, but when someone catches the vision and when they can see it and how it fits into that story they never turn away. From that you have someone who is connected for life because they want to serve others and love their neighbor.

“It’s what we’re called to do as Christians, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and when people see a way that they can do that that feels genuine to them. Why would they not want to come alongside you and serve? That’s my favorite part of this event because people find the way that they fit into the story and we see it time and time again with new people connecting with the mission of loving their neighbor.”

Betts was also honored and surprised with The Link’s Visionary Partnership Volunteer Award.

“I was completely shocked and so humbled that my staff and board would want to recognize my leadership and vision,” she said. “I knew going into this role at The Link that vision is what it would take in order for The Link to thrive in this community, and I truly believe that vision comes from the Lord. If you seek him for it, he will share it, and as a leader it’s our job to seek him.

“You know, the Bible tells us that without vision, people perish and there’s no doubt in my mind that if I didn’t have that God-given vision for leadership in this role that the services and programs that we do provide would not be as life-giving as they are because I’ve seen despair turned into hope. We have some big things on the horizon that I cannot wait to share about things that are going to better serve families in Cullman County for generations to come.”

The Signs and Wonders Gala served as the kick-off event for The Link’s end-of-year giving campaign. The goal was $100,000 for a jumpstart for some new things coming in 2027.

“It’s not too late for people to give toward the campaign over the next several weeks, and there are numerous ways that people can give,” Betts said. “To donate you can go through our website, or by check at our office.”

She said there are new ways to give this year, including donor-advised funds of stock and legacy plan giving.

“We also are working on the food rescue which is any food The Link doesn’t have to purchase. We rely on about 60,000 pounds right now a month of food rescue that comes in from many different sources in order to sustain our ability to serve over 1,000 families a month in the pantry. We currently have a $2,500 a month budget to purchase food and we would like to double that next year because when you’re serving over 1,000 families a month that’s less than $2.50 per family that you have to purchase. So that makes food rescue really important.

“We’ve been blessed for the last year and now going into 2027 to have a Miracles Connection member on our staff and their job is food rescue, partnering with local grocery stores, conducting food drives and finding farmers who supplied us with produce and protein.

”Feed America states that the typical food rescue donation equals about $1.90 per pound of food. So for example, last night in our ‘Canstruction Wall’ there were 1,073 cans that were donated by Bush Beans. That donation will be counted as food rescue because we didn’t pay for those beans. That equals a $2,038.70 donation, and next month, every family will have the choice of beans.

“We have a local farmer who donates beef on a regular basis. Last year he donated a quarter cow, each quarter. His beef sells at places like Whole Foods. That is a $5,000 donation at wholesale value. We are rescuing over $1.4 million in food this year.

”We are not providing people with moldy bread or items that are about to expire – families have the opportunity to shop for groceries just like you and I do. In order to sustain this type of buying and rescue power for the future, The Supper Club must grow this year.”

A special guest at the Signes and Wonders Gala was former Alabama First Lady Marsha Folsom.

Said Betts, “She helped champion the vision for Family Resource Centers across Alabama more than 30 years ago, and now Cullman is home to Alabama’s 28th accredited Family Resource Center. That designation represents so much more than a certificate. It’s a commitment to connecting families with the relationships, resources and opportunities they need to move from crisis to stability, strengthening and opportunity. To celebrate that milestone with someone who helped establish this vision was truly a full-circle moment.”

Find out more about The Link at www.linkingcullman.org.



VINCENT SWOPE/RENVISION MEDIA

The Link Executive Director Melissa Betts (front, center) with other award winners at the Signs and Wonders Gala on Nov. 5, 2026.

Awards given at the gala included:
Awards 2026

- Mission Partner Award: St. John’s evangelical protestant church
- Young Professional of the Year: Joshua Lawler and Shelby Creekmore
- Community Partner Award: Cullman County DHR
- Volunteer of the Year: Mim Belcher
- Legacy Impact Award: Maddie Shugarts
- Visionary Leadership Award: Melissa Betts

ICE (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Four days after Luis Orta-Santoro helped Wallace State Community College earn a spot in the national soccer tournament, Lincoln police arrested him and his twin brother, Carlos, during a traffic stop in Talladega County. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it took both players into custody the next day.

Talladega County Sheriff’s Office records list the arrests of Luis Alejandro Orta-Santoro and Carlos Alberto Orta-Santoro, both 19, at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Each county booking lists one entry, “HOLD FOR ICE,” and a Nov. 5 release from the county jail. Neither booking lists a traffic charge.

Their father, Carlos Enrique Orta Corredor, told WBRC the brothers were driving back to Wallace State after visiting their parents in Georgia.

He said an officer stopped them in Lincoln for allegedly rolling through a stop sign, asked for their licenses and had both young men step out of the vehicle.

They were handcuffed and spent the night in jail, he said.

Lincoln police signed a task force agreement with ICE on July 20, according to 287(g) Watch, which tracks the agency’s published agreements.

ICE says the program allows trained local officers to exercise limited immigration authority during routine police work under federal supervision.

The booking records do not say whether the officer who stopped the brothers was acting under that agreement.

In a Nov. 7 statement to WAFF, ICE spokesperson Melissa Egan said the brothers entered the United States legally from Venezuela on June 21, 2022, but stayed after their temporary permission expired.

Egan said a pending application does not itself grant immigration status.

“All of their claims will be heard by an immigration judge, and they will receive due process,” Egan said.

The parents told WAFF their sons have pending asylum cases and work permits valid through 2030. U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services says asylum applicants may remain in the country while their cases are pending and may separately qualify for permission to work.

A work permit is not a ruling on an asylum claim. The Tribune has not reviewed the brothers’ immigration documents.

WBRC reported Nov. 6 that the brothers were being held at the Pickens County Detention Center in Carrollton.

Their mother, Reyna Santoro, told the station the family had retained attorneys and feared her sons would be moved to Louisiana.

“My appeal is for people to help us reach our representatives, our congressmen and senators,” Santoro told WBRC.

Carolina Orta, who identified herself as the brothers’ aunt, set a $20,000 goal on a public GoFundMe page to cover immigration attorneys’ fees and potential bond expenses for both nephews.

WAFF reported that the brothers’ Wallace State soccer coach praised their character and their work as student-athletes.

Carlos recorded a goal and an assist in a 5-0 win over East Mississippi Community College on Sept. 12, according to the National Junior College Athletic Association.

On Oct. 31, Luis converted one of Wallace State’s six penalty kicks in a shootout win over Patrick & Henry in Martinsville, Virginia, according to Wallace State Sports Information.

That win sent the Lions to the Division II national tournament, which opens Nov. 15 in Huntsville.

The Tribune reached out to Wallace State for comment, but the college declined at this time.

Crowns (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Belinda Bagwell was crowned 2026 Ms. Senior Cullman County, while Bonnie Sawyer took the 2026 Ms. Super Senior Cullman County Saturday, Nov. 7. The pageant was held in the Fairview High School auditorium.

The pageant was open to “super seniors,” aged 70-79 and “seniors,” aged 60-69.

Pageant Director Gidget Gregory said the sisterhood was definitely evident this year.

“It was actually overheard backstage, one saying, ‘I hope she wins,’” Gregory said. “They all loved the American theme, with the touch of Dolly Parton added to it.”

The ladies were scored in the categories of interview, fun fashion, active wear, evening gown and on-stage question.

“There were five ladies competing in the Ms. Senior Cullman County division and three ladies competing in the Ms. Super Senior Cullman County division,” Gregory said. “We are so excited for the things to come. We plan to rest a few days and then get back at again with prepping with the new queens for state.”

The pageant was founded by the late Betty Leeth Haynes. Gregory said after being crowned Ms. Senior Alabama in 1997, Haynes was inspired to give other ladies in Cullman County a similar opportunity. Thus the pageant and its awards were born.

“The ladies received help from the audience for the People’s Choice Award,” Gregory said Saturday. “Every dollar donated toward a contestant counts as a vote. Portions of the People’s Choice will be donated toward First Source for Women and LEAD. Nancy Moore won the People’s Choice Award, and we raised over $6,000 tonight for our community partners.”

Cullman County Commission on Aging Director Stephanie Lawson said Gregory and the Board did a phenomenal job.

“All the contestants worked hard and I believe their inner beauty only enhanced their physical beauty,” Lawson said. “I am already looking forward to next year. Also, congratulations to the winners Bonnie and Belinda.”

Bagwell and Sawyer will represent Cullman County at the Ms. Senior Alabama Pageant in June 2027.

Super Senior winners

- Winner: Bonnie Sawyer
- 1st Alternate: Becky Bussey
- 2nd Alternate: Dianne Johnson
- People’s Choice: Bonnie Sawyer
- Most Photogenic: Becky Bussey
- Ms. Congeniality: Becky Bussey

Senior winners

- Winner: Belinda Bagwell
- 1st Alternate: Carol Cline
- People’s Choice: Nancy Moore
- Most Photogenic: Belinda Bagwell
- Ms. Congeniality: Debbie Roberts

Find out more at Facebook/Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant.

LEGALS

Case# PC2026-378
PG MIN Book 248 Page:101
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/30/2026 4:02PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

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

Day (from Front)

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Mayor Woody Jacobs presented a proclamation on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, declaring Nov. 17, 2026, Retired Teachers' Day in the city of Cullman.

Retired educators Dr. Tomesa Smith, Susan Sellers, Lisa Hullett and Mary Ellen Pinion were present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Cullman Education Retirees Association (CERA).

The proclamation recognizes the important role public education has played in the growth, success and character of Cullman, as well as the dedicated educators who have helped shape generations of local residents. Throughout their careers, Cullman's teachers and education professionals have devoted countless hours to educating, encouraging and inspiring students, helping prepare them to become responsible residents, community leaders and productive members of society.

As stated in the proclamation, "The influence of these dedicated educators extends far beyond the classroom, as their guidance, compassion and commitment have helped prepare generations of Cullman's young people to become responsible citizens, community leaders and productive members of society."

During the presentation, Jacobs spent time talking with the retired educators about their experiences in education, their years of service and the many changes they have seen throughout their careers.

"We appreciate everything our retired teachers have done for our children and our community," said Jacobs. "Thank you for your years of dedication and service."

CERA is a local affiliate of the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA), which provides support, fellowship and advocacy for retired education professionals throughout Alabama.

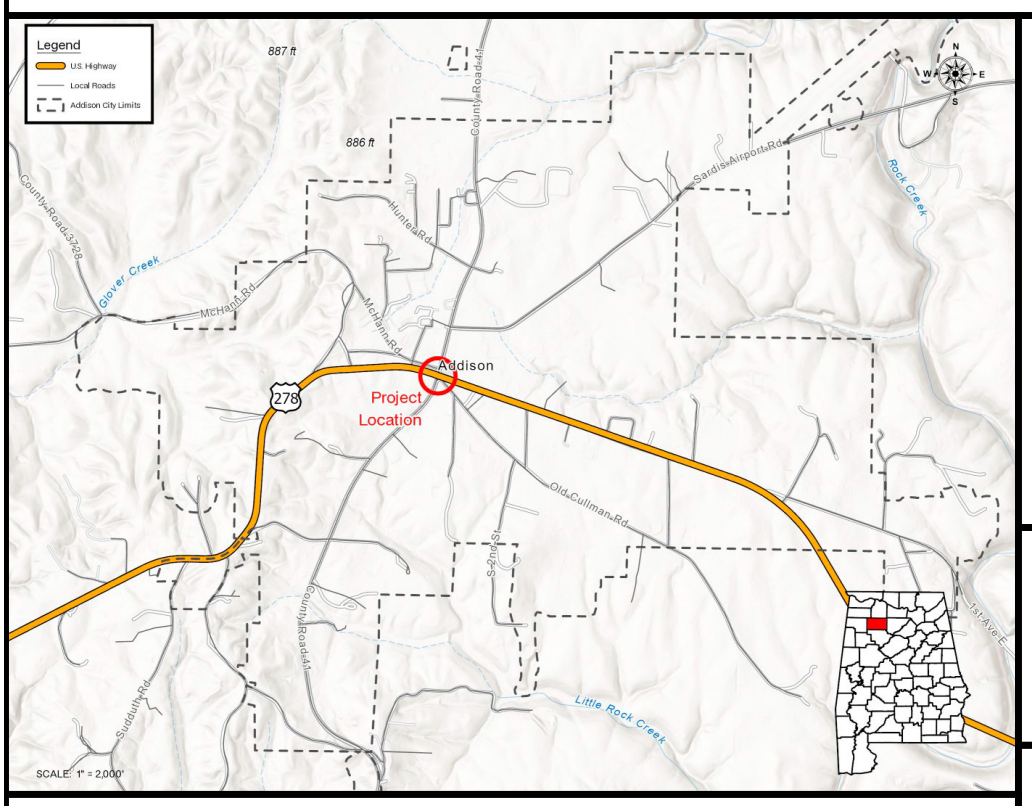
In recognition of Retired Teachers' Day on Nov. 17, the City of Cullman encourages everyone to take a moment to thank a retired teacher who made a difference in their life. Whether it was years ago or just recently, a simple thank-you is a meaningful way to let these educators know their hard work and dedication have not been forgotten.

Get Involved!

Online and In-Person Public Involvement

Access Management at US-278 and CR-41

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is proposing improvements to the intersection of AL-74 (US-278) and CR-41 in the Town of Addison, Winston County, Alabama. Information about the project is available to the public for review and comment. Your comments may be provided by US mail, email, voicemail, or online as described below. Comments for the proposed project must be submitted by December 24, 2026.



Project Description

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection of AL-72 (US-278) and CR-41.

This project will improve safety and traffic flow by realigning Old US-278 to create a conventional four-leg intersection and implementing access management improvements along CR-41 and McHann Road.

Online Public Involvement

The virtual public involvement will be posted online by November 5, 2026.

In-Person Public Meeting

An informal meeting will be held:

Thursday, November 19, 2026
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Town of Addison Community Center
16391 County Road 41
Addison, AL 35540

Anyone with a disability requiring special assistance, should contact the Region office at the above address or call (205) 904-8663 at least ***two days in advance*** of the meeting. The meeting facilities are wheelchair accessible.

SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

Online Comment Form: www.ALDOTinvolved.com

Email: US278-Access@dot.state.al.us

Phone: **(205)462-2705** (***3 minute limit***)

Mail Comments to:

ALDOT– Fayette Area Office

Attn: Local Transportation Engineer

P.O. Box 990

Fayette, AL 35555

SCAN TO SHARE YOUR INPUT

aldotinvolved.com

Comments on the proposed project must to be submitted by December 24, 2026.

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 7-9

Mary Frances Putman Smith, 91
Graveside service for Mary Frances Putman Smith, 91, of Hanceville was at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 at Bethlehem East Cemetery, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Smith peacefully passed away surrounded by her family Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, at CRMC. She was born Dec. 11, 1934, to Carter Estes and Hazel Irene Johnston Putman. She was loved and will truly be missed. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Norman Eugene Myers, 75
Norman Eugene Myers was born in Auburn, Indiana, on June 9, 1951, to Lewis William Myers and Irene "Peggy" M. Yonally. He passed away on Oct. 22, 2026. He was the beloved husband of the late Deborah "Debbie" Myers, father of David Myers, and grandfather of Julien Chalkley. Norman spent part of his life in Florida before moving to Cullman, Alabama, after the birth of his son, David. It was there that he built a life for his family and opened his own photo development business, Photo Express. Norman took great pride in his work and loved helping people preserve their most precious memories. Through the photographs he developed, he became a small but meaningful part of countless family stories, milestones, and special moments. Norman believed in hard work, dedication, and taking pride in what you do. He encouraged David to dream big and reach for the stars. That same encouragement extended to the many young people who came into his life. Norman helped build one of the first BMX ramps in Cullman City, creating a place for young riders to pursue their passions. What began as a place to ride grew into something much more meaningful. Many young men came into Norman's life through BMX, and he welcomed them as family, leaving a lasting impression on a generation of young people. Those who knew Norman will remember his dry humor, quick wit, and unmistakable sarcasm. He had a personality all his own and a way of making an impression that wouldn't soon be forgotten. Norman will be remembered for his pride in his work, his encouragement of others, and the many lives he touched along the way. Though he is no longer here, the values he passed down, the relationships he built, and the memories he helped preserve will continue to be part of his legacy. He is survived by his son, David Myers; grandson, Julien Chalkley; sister, Sandra "Sandy" Herl; brother-in-law, Phillip Herl; nephews, Ronald "Ronnie" Herl and his wife, Amber, and Ricky Hess; and great-nephew, Joshua Hess. He spent his life helping others hold on to their memories, and in doing so, he created memories of his own that will never fade.

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Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130



CONTRIBUTED

Kerry Watson

OP-ED

Thank you, everyone

Kerry Watson
Conrtibutor

Serving as your District 1 Commissioner for the past three terms has been the greatest honor of my professional career. Twelve years ago, you placed your trust in me to represent Cullman County and I have woken up every single day determined to earn that trust.

When I look back at what we have accomplished together, I don't just see projects, paved roads or balanced budgets. I see the people behind them, our dedicated County employees who work tirelessly behind the scenes. I see my fellow Commissioners and other elected officials that I have shared countless hours of debate and teamwork. Most importantly I see the hardworking citizens of Cullman County who make this County the best place in Alabama to live and raise a family. We have worked through challenges, celebrated milestones and built a stronger foundation for the future of Cullman County.

Thank you to my family for their endless patience and support. Thank you to the County staff for making me look good more times than I can count. And thank you to the citizens of Cullman County for giving me the privilege to serve and represent you. While my time in this specific position is coming to an end, my love for this County and my commitment to its success will never fade.

God bless you all and God bless Cullman County.

Kerry Watson
Commissioner, District 1
Cullman County Commission



Hanceville holds 16th annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The 16th annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival took place Saturday, Nov. 7, in downtown Hanceville. The festival brought the full package of artisanal creations and other goods. Along the brick crosswalks families transitioned from one side of the street to the other for a look at the next booth.

On this autumn afternoon, the string lights between humble brick storefronts weren't the only thing connecting the town. The many goods and eccentric crafts provided the community with plenty of conversation. Attendees gazed at everything from gift baskets to gaming card collections.

Seasonal vendors displayed joyous gifts of holiday cheer with upcycled wood. Christmas trees made of wood planks gave a natural, Southern charm fitting for the upcoming holiday. One booth was lined with rustic red wagons and repurposed chests filled with pillows of careful stitching depicting stars and other seasonal comforts.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vendors lined the streets of Hanceville's historic downtown on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026.

The wind twisting through custom ornaments and other booths huddled along Commercial Street sounded nearby sleigh bells on a display rack. The ringing, barely audible against passing cars along the highway two blocks down, created a magical ambiance.

A sweet aroma filled the air – a small-town festival wouldn't be complete without sweet treats.



