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CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES
2026
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
1 – 5 PM
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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 153 • 50¢ PER COPY | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 136

JOIN US FOR
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SAT., DEC. 5, 2026
— 11 AM – 1 PM —
219 Second Ave. SE
Cullman
Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies with the Tribune crew!
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by our Tribune photographer or take your own!

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OBITUARIES

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WEATHER

70 47
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
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» PAGE 2



WALLACE STATE ATHLETICS

WSCC CROSS COUNTRY

Wallace State women finish 5th, men 9th at NJCAA Division II National Championships

» PAGE 4

County Commission approves airport hangar project, recognizes 5 retiring employees

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Commission approved several projects, grant applications and equipment purchases during its Tuesday, Nov. 17, meeting, including a multimillion-dollar hangar construction project at Cullman Regional Airport.

Commissioners approved awarding the Midfield hangar construction bid to Nearen Construction, the lowest bidder, for $2,185,677.65. The Commission also approved accepting a 50/50 matching grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for up to $1 million, contingent upon issuance of the grant, with a local match of $1,391,423.

The Commission also adopted Resolution 2026-07, approving reimbursement for a hangar construction project at the airport.

Five longtime county employees were recognized for their years of service as they prepare for retirement.

Those rec- » PAGE 7

Cullman Christkindlmarkt opens today, Nov. 19



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Christkindlmarkt will open Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The award-winning Cullman Christkindlmarkt opens today, Thursday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. at Depot Park. At 6 p.m., the Christmas pyramid will be lit, and the Cullman Community Band will perform at 8. Opening day ends at 9.

The Cullman Christkindlmarkt Christmas Parade will kick off at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20. It will begin at Second Avenue Southeast and Fifth Street Southeast and end at Depot Park. The Cullman Community Choir will perform at 7, and the tree lighting ceremony, hosted by James Spann, will take place at 8.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt will be open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, from Nov. 19-Dec. 6 (closed on Thanksgiving Day) and then run seven days a week from Dec. 10-23.

Get all the details at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Did you know...

Long before a 108-foot Ferris wheel rose over Depot Park, long before rows of red-roofed vendor huts filled downtown and long before visitors arrived from all 50 states, Cullman had another Christmas landmark along U.S. Highway 278 East.

For 44 years, from 1958 through 2002, a giant silver tree turned slowly inside the Basch family's picture window. Ralph Basch decorated it with hundreds of ornaments, glittering tinsel and a color wheel that washed the branches in changing light. Travelers heading into Cullman to shop could see it from the highway. Some slowed down. Some stopped. Some knocked on the family's door.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Preparations for the Cullman Christkindlmarkt were wrapping up Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026. The Christkindlmarkt opens today, Thursday, Nov. 19.

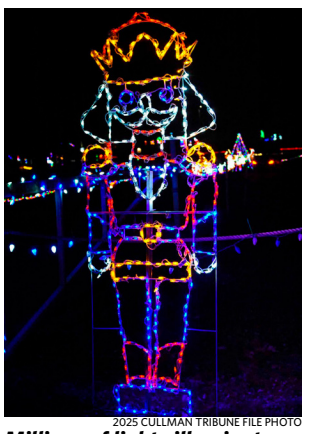
"People will » PAGE 5

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY
Your agents. Your neighbors. Your friends. For three generations.
80 YEARS
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

6 local veterans inducted into Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame » PAGE 4

Christmas at the Grotto returns today, Nov. 19 » PAGE 5

Sportsman Lake Park's Winter Wonderland returns for 24th season Nov. 20



2025 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Millions of lights illuminate Sportsman Lake Park for its annual Winter Wonderland event. » PAGE 4

America's Thrift Stores opens in Cullman just in time for Christmas » PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK
Mr. Dean Hall finds his place at your side



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Dean Hall » PAGE 3

Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 18

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 18, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Nov. 12

• harassment; person; Hwy. 157

Nov. 16

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $42; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Nov. 16-17

Higgins, Rachael N.; 37
• harassment

Cook, Michael S.; 50
• FTA – insurance violation
• FTA – driving without license

Cooley, Kenny W.; 38
• theft of property-4th degree

Smith, Jr., Kenneth W.; 50
• illegal possession of prescription drugs

Jones, Braxton C.; 25
• FTA – driving while suspended (2 counts)

Whisenant, Justin C.; 41
• theft of property-4th degree
• promoting prison contraband

Holt, Jacob A.; 42
• harassment

Dubberly, Jason C.; 47
• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Peak, Marilyn S.; 18
• minor in possession/consumption of alcoholic beverage

Moore, Zachery E.; 19
• DUI
• violation of probation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Hanceville invites community to spread Christmas cheer to nursing home residents

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The City of Hanceville is inviting residents to help spread a little extra Christmas cheer this holiday season through a community Christmas card collection benefiting local nursing home residents.

From now through Dec. 11, community members are encouraged to fill out Christmas cards with warm wishes, encouraging messages or simply a few kind words to brighten someone's holiday.

The cards will be delivered to residents at Hanceville Nursing and Rehab and Monarch Place before Christmas.

With Hanceville Nursing and Rehab having a capacity of 208 beds, there is plenty of opportunity for the community to come together and make the holidays a little brighter for local seniors. Residents are welcome to contribute multiple cards, helping spread Christmas cheer to as many people as possible.

Not sure what to write? A simple "Wishing you a Christmas filled with love and joy" or "Thinking of you this holiday season" can go a long way. Those looking to make their cards more personal might consider sharing a favorite Christmas memory, a treasured holiday tradition or a few words of encouragement.

Families are also encouraged to get children involved by adding colorful drawings, festive decorations or handwritten notes. Teachers, church groups and local organizations can turn the collection into a group activity, giving participants an opportunity to share kindness with their neighbors.

For some nursing home residents, the holidays can be a particularly lonely time, making small gestures of kindness all the more meaningful. Something as simple as receiving a handwritten card can serve as a reminder that someone in the community is thinking of them.

Whether it's one card or a handful, residents of all ages have an opportunity to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Completed cards can be dropped off in the designated collection box inside Hanceville City Hall, located at 112 Main Street SE in Hanceville. The city asks that cards preferably be left unsealed, as some recipients may have difficulty opening envelopes.

The deadline to submit Christmas cards is Friday, Dec. 11.

Hanceville approves $14K air ambulance membership agreement for residents

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The Hanceville City Council has approved a $14,253 annual agreement with AirMedCare Network, providing eligible city residents with financial protection against certain emergency air ambulance expenses.

The agreement establishes a municipal membership through AirMedCare Network, which includes Air Evac Lifeteam and other participating emergency air medical providers.

Under the contract, individuals residing within Hanceville city limits will receive membership benefits if they require a medically necessary emergency air transport by Air Evac Lifeteam or another participating AirMedCare Network provider, provided the transport originates within Cullman County.

The membership is designed to protect residents from potentially significant out-of-pocket expenses associated with emergency helicopter transportation.

For insured residents, AirMedCare Network may bill applicable insurance providers for the cost of transportation. Any remaining eligible expenses not covered by insurance or other available benefits are considered prepaid through the membership, meaning covered individuals would not be responsible for those additional costs.

However, the agreement includes an important exception for uninsured residents. Individuals without insurance at the time of transport may still be billed at the Medicare allowable rate rather than receiving the full financial protection available to insured members.

The membership does not guarantee that an air ambulance will be dispatched. Medical professionals determine whether emergency air transportation is necessary based on the patient's condition, and flights remain subject to aircraft availability, weather conditions and other operational considerations.

According to the agreement, patients requiring emergency air transportation will be taken to the closest appropriate medical facility based on their medical needs.

Residents also have the option to purchase an upgraded household membership that removes the municipal agreement's restrictions regarding pickup location and uninsured billing.

The upgraded membership is available for $55 annually per household, with a discounted $45 annual rate available to qualifying seniors age 60 and older.

The city's $14,253 agreement covers a one-year period, beginning once AirMedCare Network receives the signed agreement and payment. Both parties will evaluate the agreement for possible renewal at least 30 days before its expiration.

The program provides an additional layer of financial protection for Hanceville residents during medical emergencies, particularly in situations where rapid transportation to a hospital with specialized care is necessary.

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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
• Friday, Nov. 20 – 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. 21 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Nov. 22 – 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.

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. 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. 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 may 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.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
Nov. 19-Dec. 23 at Depot Park. See www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com for specific dates and times.

Christmas at the Grotto
Nov. 19-Dec. 27 at the Ave Maria Grotto. See www.avemariagrotto.com for specific dates and times.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting
Friday, Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Begins at Second Avenue Southeast and Fifth Street Southeast and ends at Depot Park. James Spann will host the tree lighting ceremony.

Town of South Vinemont Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont School lunchroom. Dine in or carry out one plate per person. For more information, contact Vinemont Town Hall at 256-737-5411 or info@townofsouthvinemont.com or visit www.facebook.com/townofsouthvinemont. Free.

City of Good Hope Community Thanksgiving Meal
Wednesday, Nov. 25, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or until food is gone, at the Good Hope High School lunchroom. Dine in or carry out. Call ahead for delivery inside city limits: 256-739-3757. Free.

Ebenezer Baptist Church Gospel Singing
Sunday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m. Carl Sanford & Born Again. 1242 Country Road 2245, Cullman.

Cullman County Senior Christmas Party
Cullman County residents age 55 and older have until Friday, Dec. 4, at 3:30 p.m. to reserve their spots at the annual Cullman County Senior Christmas Party. The party is Friday, Dec. 18, at the Cullman OmniPlex on Field of Miracles Drive. Doors open at 9 a.m. The party begins at 10. To reserve a spot, call the Cullman County Commission on Aging at 256-734-1241 and speak with a staff member. Leaving a voicemail does not reserve a spot. Only the Commission takes reservations.

Christmas in Baileyton Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Friday, Dec. 4, at the Baileyton Town Park, 390 Fire Station Road. Gates open at 4:30 p.m., and the ceremony begins at 6. Santa Claus himself will make a special guest appearance, and families are invited to bring their children to take pictures with him.

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Raffle Fundraiser
Saturday, Dec. 5, from 7-10 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center, 3309 U.S. Highway 278. Plates are by donation only, and every dollar helps Santa bring Christmas to children in the local community. Each plate includes pancakes, your choice of bacon or sausage and a drink.

St. Bernard Prep Christmas Concert
Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. in the Byre on the St. Bernard campus.

City of Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park
Saturday, Dec. 12. The parade steps off promptly at 11 a.m. from the Good Hope High School football field and travels down County Road 437 to Good Hope City Hall, where the celebration continues with Christmas in the Park at Municipal Park. Christmas in the Park has featured train rides, hayrides, bounce houses, a cookie house, ornament crafts and visits with Santa, along with free food provided by the city.

Mr. Dean Hall (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Mr. Dean Hall pays close attention to his person, and lately that habit has helped him learn something new. He's starting to pick up hand signals. Sometimes, though, he's content just to sit beside you.

Mr. Dean Hall, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, is a shepherd and husky mix available for adoption at the Cullman County Animal Shelter.

He's about 2 years old, has a medium energy level and loves being around people.

That easy focus could serve him well if a future adopter wants to explore therapy dog training. He could also be a good match for someone who enjoys teaching a dog new things and would welcome his quiet company afterward.

Because Mr. Dean Hall is already neutered, his adoption fee is reduced to $35. The fee includes vaccinations and microchipping.

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

Has Mr. Dean Hall already been adopted? Don't worry! Many more pets are waiting for their forever homes, and your perfect companion may be among them.

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BREATHE FREELY AT HOME! Central Boiler's Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR wood furnace eliminates indoor smoke for healthier living. Boilerworx Plus-serving Cullman and surrounding areas. Call 256-347-6832!

HAY FOR SALE, 4 x 5 rolls fertilized, mixed cow hay, baled this year. $25, we load for you. Sorry, no deliveries. Located in Vinemont.

GARAGE SALE-680 CR 804, Cullman. Bethsadia area. Friday 11/20 & Saturday 11/21, 8-4 P.M. Small Freezer, New/Used Tools, Yard equipment, Books, Alabama framed art and collectibles, Christmas décor, New cutting boards and more.

SERVICES

MYRA'S DECORATION FLOWERS is now open Thurs-Sat from 10am-5pm. Myra's is conveniently located on CR 1343 close to Vinemont Super Saver. With over 20 years experience we will create your custom arrangements with quality silk flowers. Prices range between $5.00-$48.00. Call or text 256-595-9748 to order. Come and let me save you money!

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AUTOMOTIVE

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The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
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Winter Wonderland (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The 24th annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display will open to vehicle traffic Friday, Nov. 20, at Sportsman Lake Park. One night earlier, on Thursday, Nov. 19, Run-Run-Rudolph will give participants the season's only opportunity to run, walk or stroll through the light route before cars begin making the trip.

Cullman County Parks and Recreation Marketing Coordinator Sara Morgan said they had over 12,000 cars come through last year. This year, she said, there will be around 2 million lights and "a few extra surprises."

"We add a few things every year to make it bigger and better and we expect to see more cars visiting this year," she said. "Be sure to follow us on Facebook for more updates and exciting details."

The cost is $10 per vehicle ($20 per bus).

In addition to the light display, guests can enjoy the Christmas train, horse and carriage rides, snow machine, photo booth with Santa, hot chocolate and more.

"After venturing through the lights, jump in line to see Santa and grab a picture," Morgan said. "Also be sure to check out the holiday concession stand for hot chocolate, cookies and milk, and even warm blankets for those cold nights on the Christmas train and horse and carriage ride.

"We love seeing the joy our event brings to everyone in and around the community. Also, we want to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors. We truly couldn't do this without your help. Your donation makes our event bigger and brighter every year."

Winter Wonderland is open 5-9 p.m. on these dates:

- Nov. 20-22, 27-29; Dec. 2-6, 9-23
- Please note, the last day to see Santa and for train rides is Dec. 23
- Special drive-through only dates are Dec. 26-27

Weather can also affect operations, particularly the train, carriage rides and other outdoor activities. Guests should check for same-day updates before traveling.

Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman.

For the latest schedule, prices and closure information, follow Sportsman Lake Park at www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyParks, visit www.cullmancountyparks.com or call 256-734-3052.



2025 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Millions of lights illuminate Sportsman Lake Park for its annual Winter Wonderland event.

Veterans (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The new class was inducted into the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026. The event took place at Loft 212.

This year's inductees are:

- U.S. Army Specialist Joey Collier, Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth M. Kreps, Vietnam
- Retired U.S. Army Col. Don Fallin, Desert Storm, GWOT OIF, Operation Enduring Freedom
- U.S. Army Air Corps Staff Sgt. Clyde A. Pollard (posthumous), World War II
- Retired U.S. Army First Sgt. Eugene M. Turner, Vietnam
- U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Larry E. Powell, Vietnam

Fallin, who is the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame committee lead, said they were excited this year by the attendance at the dinner and ceremony.

"We were able to honor our local veterans and their families, many members of the VFW, the American Legion and the DAV," he said. "This was largely in part through the support of many local business leaders and sponsors exceeding 240 guests, 65 more than in attendance last year."

Fallin said the mission of the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame is to recognize and pay tribute to local veterans who honorably served our country, displayed great character and continued a lifetime of service to our county, our state and its residents.

"One of my favorite moments of the night was the ability to continue to recognize the previous inductees as well as honoring four previous inductees that have passed since their induction into the Hall of Fame," Fallin said. "Next would be the camaraderie of all local veterans, hearing their stories and being able to share their stories with their families and friends. When I spoke to Larry (Powell) at the event to congratulate him, he stated, 'I was just a machine gunner in Vietnam.' The modesty and humbleness he and many of the others displayed was so honorable."

Fallin said he was humbled himself to be recognized this year as part of the Hall of Fame.

"I feel there are many in our community that are still out there and we on the committee need your help to find these folks and honor them in the upcoming years," Fallin said. "Anyone who wants to support our event or the veterans in our country can reach out to any of the three organizations - VFW Post 2214, American Legion Post 4 or DAV Post 101."

For more information, contact Fallin at 910-308-4197 or donald.fallin@gmail.com, or VFW Commander Brian Monk at Commandervfwpost2214@outlook.com.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The new class was inducted into the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026. They are, left to right, U.S. Army Specialist Joey Collier, retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth M. Kreps, retired U.S. Army Col. Don Fallin, U.S. Army Air Corps Staff Sgt. Clyde A. Pollard (posthumous, received by his daughter), retired U.S. Army First Sgt. Eugene M. Turner and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Larry E. Powell

Championships (from Front)

Russell Frye
Wallace State Sports Information

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State's men's and women's cross country teams closed out their seasons with top-10 finishes at the NJCAA Division II National Championships on Saturday, Nov. 14, at John Hunt Park in Huntsville.

The third-ranked Lady Lions finished fifth overall in the 41-team women's field, while the men placed ninth out of 47 teams.

Sophomore Brookelyn Morgan led the women's team with a sixth-place finish to earn NJCAA All-American honors for the second consecutive season.

The Lady Lions finished with 210 points in the 5K race. Mesa Community College captured the national championship with 15 points, followed by Pima Community College (104), Des Moines Area Community College (144) and Cowley College (169).

Morgan completed the 5K course in 18:41.4 to lead Wallace State. Sophomore Hanna Sheffield followed with a time of 19:46.0, while freshman Joy McBride finished in 19:56.4.

Freshman Anna Pezent crossed the finish line in 20:06.6, followed by freshman Paizley Whitlow in 20:12.8 to round out the Lady Lions' five scoring runners.

The fifth-place finish capped a season in which Wallace State captured its ninth consecutive Alabama Community College Conference championship.

For Morgan, the national championship race marked the conclusion of a decorated two-year career at Wallace State.

The sophomore leaves the program as a two-time NJCAA All-American, two-time ACCC individual champion and two-time ACCC Runner of the Year. She also earned National Female Athlete of the Week honors three times during her career, including twice this season.

Prior to Saturday's championship races, Morgan was recognized as the Central Region Runner of the Year.

Wallace State head coach Tony Crider, who was named the Central Region Coach of the Year for both men's and women's cross country, reflected on Morgan's accomplishments.

"I feel so honored to have had Brookelyn for the last two seasons," Crider said. "I have loved watching her progression."

On the men's side, Wallace State totaled 323 points in the 8K race to finish ninth nationally, just two points ahead of 10th-place Heartland Community College.

Freshman Dawson McCollum led the Lions with a 40th-place finish, completing the 8K course in a season-best 26:11.3.

Sophomore Rene Moreno followed in 61st place with a time of 26:38.1, while freshman Jeremy Brayden Chandler finished 67th in 26:41.6.

Freshman Hudson Williams placed 80th with a time of 26:52.5, and freshman Gabe Knox rounded out Wallace State's five scoring runners with an 89th-place finish in 27:00.4.

The ninth-place national finish capped a season of progress for the Lions, who also claimed their ninth consecutive ACCC championship earlier this fall.

Both teams entered the national championships coming off conference titles won on the same John Hunt Park course two weeks earlier.

Crider expressed appreciation for the work his athletes and coaching staff put into the season.

"Super proud of all the hard work and dedication we've had through the fall," Crider said. "Time sure has flown by. Seems like these kids just arrive and then they're gone. I'm really super proud of the ones that's moving on to the universities. That's always the goal."

Crider also credited his assistant coaches for their contributions throughout the season.

"My assistant coaches have done a fantastic job too," Crider said. "We will reset for a week then start getting ready for indoor and outdoor track."

With the cross country season complete, Wallace State will now turn its attention to the upcoming indoor and outdoor track seasons.



Grotto (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - When twilight settles over St. Bernard Abbey, the miniature basilicas, churches, castles and biblical scenes of Ave Maria Grotto will once again emerge beneath the warm glow of Christmas lights.

The eighth annual Christmas at the Grotto will open Thursday, Nov. 19, and continue on selected dates through Sunday, Dec. 27.

Lights will come on at 5 p.m. each event day, giving visitors the rare opportunity to walk through Brother Joseph Zoettl's life's work after dark.

This year's expanded calendar includes 27 dates over more than five weeks, with extended daytime and evening hours. The schedule begins with four nights before Thanksgiving, resumes Thanksgiving weekend and becomes a daily event from Dec. 10-23. Two final nights will follow Christmas.

The official 2026 dates are:

- Nov. 19-22
- Nov. 27-29
- Dec. 3-6
- Dec. 10-23
- Dec. 26-27

On scheduled event dates, Ave Maria Grotto will be open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-9 p.m. Sunday. The holiday lights will be turned on at 5 p.m.

The centerpiece of the season will be a special Christmas weekend Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12. Both evenings are scheduled to include Santa Claus, live music and entertainment, food trucks and horse-drawn wagon rides. Wagon rides will cost an additional $7.

Admission to Christmas at the Grotto is:

- Adults: $12
- Seniors: $10
- Military members, veterans and first responders: $9
- Teens ages 13-17: $10
- Children ages 5-12: $9
- Children 4 and younger: free

Christmas at the Grotto began in 2019, the same year Roger Steele became director of the Grotto.

The attraction had been open for more than eight decades, but Brother Joseph's miniatures had never been presented as a full nighttime Christmas experience.

What began with only a few evenings grew each season as families returned and visitors discovered a holiday display built around contemplation as much as celebration.

Steele told The Cullman Tribune in 2022 that organizers saw an opportunity to offer something distinct among the area's growing collection of holiday attractions.

"We wanted to add a spiritual element to the Christmas season," Steele said.

That purpose remains central to the event. The lighting is intended to reveal the details of the Grotto after dark without overwhelming the art itself.

Music, pathways and carefully placed decorations invite guests to slow down, look closely and experience the park from a perspective unavailable during most of the year.

"Whether you're Christian or not, there's something here that brings peace," Steele told The Tribune in 2025.

That sense of peace is rooted in the unusual story of the place. Ave Maria Grotto occupies four acres of a former quarry on the grounds of St. Bernard Abbey, Alabama's only Benedictine monastery of men.

Brother Joseph, a Bavarian-born Benedictine monk, spent more than 50 years building more than 125 miniature structures representing sacred sites, famous buildings and scenes from around the world.

Using photographs, postcards, donated materials and his imagination, he recreated places such as St. Peter's Basilica and the holy sites of Jerusalem.



2022 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Lights will come on at 5 p.m. each event day, giving visitors the rare opportunity to walk through Brother Joseph Zoettl's life's work after dark.

The collection became widely known as "Little Jerusalem," and the present park opened in 1934.

The 2026 Christmas season also arrives as preservation work continues throughout the Grotto. St. Bernard Abbey and Ave Maria Grotto announced a two-year conservation project in 2024 intended to address every structure in the park.

The effort is supported by the Kohler Foundation, with treatment performed by the Williamstown + Atlanta Art Conservation Center.

In an April 2026 update, the Grotto reported that its model of St. Peter's Basilica had received major foundation and ornament repairs, cleaning and fresh paint. The park has remained open throughout the conservation work.

Know before you go

Ave Maria Grotto is located at 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE in Cullman. Christmas at the Grotto is an outdoor walking experience, so visitors should dress for the weather and check the attraction's official social media accounts for any schedule changes before traveling.

The Grotto's visitor information states that dogs are not allowed and that the park is not wheelchair accessible.

For the latest information, visit www.avemariagrotto.com, follow Ave Maria Grotto on Facebook or call 256-734-4110.

Christkindlmarkt (from Front)

remember this tree, and remember my dad, how meticulous he was, how much he loved Christmas," Basch's daughter Nancy Harrison said.

That tree was not a city attraction or a ticketed event. It was one family's Christmas greeting to everyone passing by. But it became a public memory. It is a fitting place to begin Cullman's Christmas story because the story has always depended less on any one decoration than on what people did around it: travel home, bring children, sing together, give to neighbors and pause long enough to share the light.

Tribune archive pages from Dec. 27, 1928, read almost like a map of people coming home. Cullman residents visited parents in Hanceville and Fairview. Relatives arrived by train and automobile from Birmingham, Nashville, Chattanooga, Akron and New Mexico. The same edition described trucks and cars leaving early on Christmas morning to distribute necessities, fruit, candy and dolls through the Community Chest, local churches and individual donors. The anonymous writer ended with a simple question.

"Now, isn't Cullman a good town to live in," the writer concluded.

Later clippings show the same pattern in different years. In 1945, with World War II just ended, the local columns recorded servicemen arriving home with discharges and furloughs as teachers prepared for an annual Christmas party. In 1951, Duck River Church invited everyone to its Christmas Eve program, families traded gifts at school gatherings and a former Cullman minister sent a card picturing his family reading the Christmas story. In 1962, the Berlin Sunshine Club gathered at Lorenz Restaurant to exchange gifts and sing carols while Cullman High's glee clubs performed Christmas music.

The details feel modest beside today's glowing skyline. They also reveal the foundation beneath it. Christmas in Cullman was a season of homecomings, worship, music, generosity and neighborly welcome before it became a tourism draw.

Cullman's German heritage runs even deeper. Bavarian native Col. Johann Gottfried Cullmann founded the city in 1873 as a settlement intended in part for German immigrants. In the early years, German was commonly heard in local stores and churches. That public identity was muted during World Wars I and II, then residents began deliberately recovering it during preparations for the city's centennial in the 1960s. Oktoberfest followed in 1977, and Cullman established a sister-city relationship with Frankweiler, Germany, in 1987.

By then, German heritage had become something Cullman did not merely preserve behind glass. It was cooked, sung, worn and celebrated. Christmas would eventually become one of its most visible expressions.

Cullman's modern downtown holiday celebration took shape before the Christkindlmarkt. In 2017, "Christmas in Cullman" brought a parade from the Busy Bee Cafe through the Warehouse District to Depot Park. Thousands gathered around a 41-foot tree, sang carols, listened to the Nativity story and watched artificial snow fall from its branches. The ingredients were already there: a public square, a shared story and a crowd eager to make a memory together.

Then came the Weihnachtspyramide.

The German Christmas pyramid arrived in 2019, handmade by Erzgebirgische Holzkunst Gahlenz in Germany. The original structure stood 30 feet tall on the Cullman County Museum grounds. Unlike its candle-powered tabletop ancestors, Cullman's version used a motor to turn six tiers of carved figures. Its scenes joined Old World Christmas imagery with local identity, from the Nativity and angels to nutcrackers, snowmen, first responders and Cullman's founder.

The structure has since grown to more than 40 feet. Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism bills it as the tallest Weihnachtspyramide in North America, a centerpiece tall enough to change the city's skyline and familiar enough to feel like it has always belonged there.

Mayor Woody Jacobs had been thinking about a local German market after visiting one in Chicago. Once the pyramid was built, he told The Tribune in 2019, the timing felt unavoidable.

"When the Christmas Pyramid was constructed, I thought, 'This has to happen now!' So, we're starting small and growing into it," Jacobs said.

The city's first trial Christkindlmarkt followed in November 2019 as a one-day open-air market at the Festhalle alongside the parade and tree lighting. COVID-19 disrupted public celebrations in 2020, but the market returned in 2021 as a two-day German-themed event in and around the Warehouse District. It expanded to three days in 2022.

The decisive leap came in 2023. A renovated Depot Park gave the market room for more than 40 vendors, an outdoor ice rink, a restored carousel, Santa's village and weeks rather than days of programming. What had started as a trial run became a destination season.

Growth since then has been swift. CPRST's Placer.ai estimates recorded about 360,000 total visits in 2024 and approximately 415,000 in 2025. The 2025 season produced a single-day high of about 45,000 visits. CPRST also reported guests from all 50 states and seven countries, with 80% of attendance coming from outside Cullman County.

The Alabama Tourism Department named the Cullman Christkindlmarkt its 2026 Event of the Year, a recognition of both its tourism reach and community impact. But CPRST Executive Director Nathan Anderson said the local purpose came first.

"The Cullman Christkindlmarkt was built first and foremost to create a special experience for our community during the holiday season," Anderson said.

That balance, local tradition at a scale large enough to draw the nation, defines the 2026 market.

The Cullman Christkindlmarkt will return to Depot Park Nov. 19-Dec. 23. It will be open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Beginning Dec. 10, the market will operate daily, with Sunday hours unchanged. It will be closed Thanksgiving Day. Admission and parking are free, while rides, food and merchandise are available for purchase.

The current market combines visual landmarks with the small pleasures that make a Christmas market linger in memory. CPRST says the 108-foot "Alpine of Alabama" is the state's largest Ferris wheel, and its outdoor skating rink is Alabama's largest. A rare double-decker carousel turns near the vendor huts. Children can ride the Christkindl Express, visit Kinderplatz and meet Santa, while Winterbahn offers alpine tubing. Artisan workshops feature glass, iron and copper work.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Inside the Festhalle, Käthe Wohlfahrt, the German family-owned Christmas retailer founded in 1964, offers a 3,500-square-foot shopping experience filled with nutcrackers and traditional decorations. Across the market, visitors find wooden crafts, ornaments and gifts alongside bratwurst, currywurst, flammkuchen, raclette, potato pancakes, roasted nuts, chimney cakes, hot chocolate and Glühwein.

At Depot Park's south entrance stands another bridge between Cullman and Germany, a walk-on Schwibbogen Christmas arch unveiled in 2025. It stands 20 feet, 4 inches tall and 47 feet, 5 inches wide. CPRST identifies it as the world's largest walk-on example. Built in Cullman with decorative figures crafted in Germany, the arch draws from a tradition that has symbolized light, hope and community since the 1700s.

The market's opening weekend carries forward one of Cullman's older civic traditions. The Christkindlmarkt Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 and travel seven blocks through downtown. The tree lighting will follow at 8 p.m. with music, fireworks and a new Christmas drone show.

For all the scale, the giving remains as important as the gathering.

The charitable program that grew from the 2025 market raised $60,923 for 14 local organizations through vendors, volunteers and other fundraisers. In 2026, the Christkind Season of Giving will spotlight local organizations that serve children. Visitors will be able to find participating vendor signs, visit the Charity Hut or use QR codes around the grounds.

It is a modern echo of those 1928 cars and trucks carrying food, candy and dolls to Cullman neighbors on Christmas morning. The platform is larger. The impulse is familiar.

The market is now the center of Cullman's Christmas calendar, but it is not the whole of it.

At St. Bernard Abbey, Christmas at the Grotto has placed lights around the more than 125 miniature structures created by Bavarian-born Benedictine monk Brother Joseph Zoettl. The event began in 2019 and gives families a quieter, more reflective way to experience one of Cullman's best-known attractions. At Sportsman Lake Park, the long-running Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display has turned a drive around the lake into a path through millions of lights, with a Christmas train, carriage rides, Santa and hot chocolate on select nights.

In 2025, CPRST, Cullman County Parks and Recreation and the Ave Maria Grotto connected those three destinations with a free shuttle. That collaboration showed how the attractions can work as a single holiday circuit while retaining their distinct characters: the market's bustle, the Grotto's reverence and Winter Wonderland's drive-through glow.

Beyond the three largest attractions, Christmas spreads through the county in school concerts, church cantatas, community meals, home light displays, charity drives and parades from Hanceville to Holly Pond and beyond.

Some traditions fill a downtown. Others fill a sanctuary, a gym or one family's front window. Together, they make the season feel less like a production delivered to Cullman and more like something Cullman builds together.

That may be the clearest line through nearly a century of newspaper clippings and the newest market plans. The scenery changes. The reason people gather does not.

Motorists once slowed on U.S. Highway 278 to see Ralph Basch's silver tree turning behind glass. Today, families cross state lines to stand beneath a German pyramid, circle the ice rink or watch Depot Park brighten at dusk. Yet the invitation is much the same.

Whether the light comes from a family window, a church candle, the miniature shrines at the Grotto or the towering pyramid above Depot Park, Christmas in Cullman still asks people to pause, look toward the light and come home to one another.

LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 55

REPLACING SECTION 183 - APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF

CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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

SECTION I.

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

SECTION II.

Section 183 Appointed Officers of the City of ***Chapter 2 Administration*** of the Code of Ordinances of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted

in its entirety and replaced with following:

Section 183 Appointed Officers of the City.

The following officers of the city, all of which have some level of authority over employees of the city, exercise some discretionary policy making authority, or a portion of their duties is the ability to discharge some portion of the sovereign power of the city, shall be

appointed by the majority of the city council:

1) Director of economic development.

2) Sanitation superintendent.

3) Street superintendent.

4) Director of utilities.

5) Garage superintendent.

6) Chief building official.

7) Director of risk management.

8) Director of information technology.

9) Right-of-way maintenance superintendent.

10) City engineer.

11) Director (operations) of parks and recreation.

12) Director (executive) of parks and recreation.

13) Director of human resources.

14) Court clerk.

15) 911 communications director.

16) Traffic engineer.

All officers set out in this section shall serve for a one-year term or until their successors are appointed by the city council. The mayor as chief executive officer of the city shall have general supervision of these officers. All officers must report to their designated committee chair, at least once per month, to keep the city council informed of the operations of their department. In addition to the normal duties of their respective departments, these officers shall set formal procedures for personal conduct of the employees within their departments not inconsistent with the policies set by the city council. Any person appointed to office in the city may, for cause, after a hearing, be removed by the appointing authority making the permanent appointment. The city council may remove, by a two-thirds vote of all those elected to the council, any appointed person for incompetency, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office and for conduct detrimental to the good order or discipline, including habitual neglect of duty. The mayor, after a hearing, may temporarily suspend or remove any officer, superintendent, chief, or department head in this section. The suspension or removal, if sustained by a two-thirds vote of the council, shall be final. The mayor may temporarily fill the vacancy of any office in this section until a permanent replacement is appointed by the majority of the city council. The mayor must report any such suspension and/or removal of any officer listed in this section to the city council in a timeframe that is considered reasonable and appropriate. Furthermore, the mayor must report the reasons for the suspension and/or removal to the city council at its next meeting. The suspension or removal of any officer listed in this section, if sustained by a majority vote of the city council, shall be final.

SECTION III. Severability Clause.

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

SECTION IV. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval, and publication as required by law. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 9th day of November, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 9th day of November 2026./s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. APPROVED this the 9th day of November, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor.

Recorded In Above ...
11/17/2026 1:53PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

RE: THE ESTATE OF)
LINDA MARIE MOOSE) CASE NO. PC 2026-406
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration on the Estate of LINDA MARIE MOOSE, deceased, Having been granted to ANDREW SMITH, on the 17th day of November, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of said County, notice is hereby given that all person having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

/s/ANDREW SMITH
Administrator

TO THE PUBLISHER: Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice for three (3) successive weeks. Send Proof of Publication to Tammy Brown, Probate Judge, 500 2nd AVE SW #10, Cullman , AL 35055.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed Bids for the construction of Project No. 285-R, Natural Gas Facilities Relocation, Section 1: The Shops at Kimberly will be received by the Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District, Owner, located at 321 Dana Road, Warrior, Alabama, until 2 P.M (local time) on Thursday, December 10, 2026, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The scope of work shall include the installation of the following approximate items of work and quantities of these items:

SECTION 1: 8" Steel Pipe (Open Trench), 906 L.F.; 2" PE Pipe, 1,320 L.F.; 8" Hot-Tap Connection (Line Stopper Fitting), 1 Each.; 2" PE to 2" PE Connections, 1 Each; 2" PE to 1-1/4" Connections, 1 Each; Cathodic Test Station, 1 Each and other miscellaneous necessary items.

Plans and Specifications may be obtained in electronic form from Gas Meter Engineers, Inc., 689 Highway 36, Chelsea, AL 35043 (telephone 205-678-6210).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any or all informalities and technicalities therein. No Bidder will be allowed to withdraw his Bid, without Owner's consent, for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of actual bid opening.

Bidders must meet the "Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District – Approved Contractor Requirements" and submit required documentation with their bid.

Each Bidder shall be a licensed Contractor in accordance with the regulations of the State of Alabama and must include the license number, expiration date and classification on the outside of the sealed bid envelope.

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1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
SUSAN CLUXTON RIX, * CASE NO.: PC 2026-081
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration with Will Annexed (Cum Testamento Annexo) of said deceased having been granted to **Robert Cluxton** on the 4th day of November, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Court Judge of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within six months after the granting of Letters or within five months from the first publication of this notice, whichever is the latter to occur of the same will be barred.

Robert Cluxton
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
RONNIE SAMMIE LEE MARTIN, * CASE NO PC 2026-390
An alleged incapacitated person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP

TO: AMANDA TIDMORE, APRIL MARTIN, CRYSTAL MARTIN F/K/A/ CRYSTAL BERRY AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OF RONNIE SAMMIE LEE MARTIN

Verified Petition for Letters of Guardianship, filed by Chase Martin, Petitioner, through Attorney Annaleigh B. Holt has been scheduled for the **1st day of December, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 23rd day of October, 2026.

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

Recorded in Above Book and Page
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Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-229

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EUEL RAY METHVIN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Euel Ray Methvin, Jr. on the 17th day of November, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Euel Ray Methvin, Jr.
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CLARA JEAN BUCKELEW,
Deceased.

Case Number: PC2026-443

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Clara Jean Buckelew, Deceased

Letters Testamentary upon last will and testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 17th day of November, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Gaylon Buckelew
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

CITY OF HANCEVILLE, AL

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-AssignedOnPassage

AN AMMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 510 INCLUDING THE ZONING MAP

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

1. The public health, safety, morals, and general welfare requiring it under authority granted by Article 4, Sections 11-52-70 through 11-52-79, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended and the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hanceville, Alabama Ordinance No. 510, adopted the lst day of May 2006, as amended, and more particularly the Hanceville, Alabama zoning map as a part thereof, is hereby amended, changed, and modified as follows:

   (a) That the real estate being the property of Bales Property Management, LLC zoned R-1 Low Density Residential, located in Hanceville, Cullman County, Alabama, Parcel #23-04-20-0-001-005.003, PIN #90775 be rezoned to R-2 Medium Density Residential, described as follows, to-wit:

   A tract or parcel of land containing 7.89 acres of land, more or less, and being a part of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 20, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a found capped corner (Conn-17831) marking the northwest corner of said NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of said Section 20, having an Alabama state plane, west zone, NAD 83 coordinate value of N.1482804.33", E.2189468.97' and run thence South 00°28'28" East (bearing based on AL state plane, west zone, NAD 83 grid) and run along the accepted west line, a distance of 665.58 feet to a found 1" pipe marking the point of beginning; thence South 00°13'43" East a distance of 663.78 feet to the purported southwest corner of said quarter-quarter: thence South 89°54'22" E a distance of 358.66 feet to a found rebar: thence North 05°44'19" East a distance of 348.01 feet to a found capped corner (Conn- 17831); thence South 83°42'54" East a distance of 270.48 feet to a found capped corner (Conn-17831); thence North 00°24'29" West and run along the west line of the west half of said NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 a distance of 342.78 feet to a found capped corner (Conn-17831) marking the northeast corner of said west half; thence North 89°34'24" West a distance of 662.54 feet to the point of beginning.

   LESS AND EXCEPT all that part of the above described property that is within the right- of-way of College Drive.

   Description according to survey of Joseph E. Conn, III, AL Reg. no. 17831, dated January 4, 2025.

   Subject to the following:

   1. Transmission line easement conveyed to the United States of America recorded in Deed Book 518, Page 605 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

   2. Right of way for Hopewell Road.

   Subject to easements, set back lines, restrictions, covenants, mineral and mining rights and current taxes due.

2. That this Ordinance has been published once each week for two (2) successive weeks with the second being at least 15 days prior to passage, within the City of Hanceville, Alabama, and the publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim.

3. That a public hearing has been held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 10th day of December 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens had opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

4. That all notices as required by law were given by the City Clerk or their appointee concerning said public hearing.

5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans, and any other documents of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

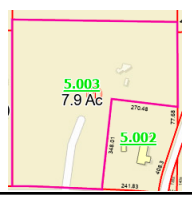
6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.

7. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above-described property is now zoned R-2 Medium Density Residential and that appropriate action be taken to change and modify the City Zoning Map to so reflect the said land as such.

8. This ordinance adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026 after its publication as required by law, including notice and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Nolan Bradford
Mayor

Attest: Teja McIntyre MMC, MCIS
City Clerk



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CHRISTOPHER WADE BOX,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900293.00**

KOREY ANNE NEBER,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Korey Anne Neber, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Christopher Wade Box's Divorce Complaint by January 4, 2027, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case number 25-DR-2026-900293.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 5th day of November, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

CULLMAN COUNTY POST-ELECTION AUDIT

November 3, 2026, General Election

Notice is hereby given that the Cullman County Probate Office will conduct a post-election audit of selected results from the November 3, 2026, General Election.

Date: Friday, December 4, 2026
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Cullman County Courthouse

Address: Large Courtroom 3rd Floor

500 2nd Avenue SW

Cullman, AL 35055

The audit will include the following precinct and race, selected by the Cullman County Canvassing Board:

Precinct: Bethsadia Fire Department

Race: Governor

The audit will be conducted pursuant to the Alabama Post-Election Audit Act to determine the accuracy of the originally reported election results.

Members of the public and accredited members of the media may observe. Duly appointed poll watchers may attend and observe in accordance with applicable law.

Tammy Brown

Judge of Probate

Cullman County, Alabama

Township of Colony, AL

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

PUBLIC ROAD PROJECT: Repairs to Fields Road ½ Mile Long

Owner: Township of Colony

65 Byars Road Hanceville, AL 35077

Project Manager: Mayor Jasmine Cole

Invitation to Bid Date: November, Monday 30, 2026

The Township of colony is accepting bid for the repair of Fields Road, approximately one half mile.

Key Details: A chip seal or bituminous aggregate application designed to seal, waterproof, and extend the service life of existing asphalt or county road surfaces.

Polymer Additive: Often incorporates a polymer-modified binder to improve elasticity, aggregate retention, and resistance to cracking or stripping under traffic and weather stress. Type "JG" treatment.

Bids will be received in the Colony Town Hall until Monday, November 30, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Bid Documents". Inside the envelope should be a copy of the Contractors license, bid bond, itemized cost and work description.

Bid opening is set for Thursday, December 3rd at 12 pm (noon). Project to be completed by Friday, December 18, 2026.

Jasmine Cole, Mayor

Township of Colony

Commission (from Front)

ognized included outgoing Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham, who served 21 years with the Revenue Office; Candy Smith, who served 25 years with the Revenue Office; Susan Blackwood, who served 28 years with the Revenue Office; Charles Fulmer, who served 12 years with the Road Department; and Evon Fowler, who served 11 years with the Commission on Aging.

Together, the five employees represent 97 years of service to Cullman County.

In other business, the Commission approved two grant applications for the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The first authorizes EMA to apply for a $33,000 Alabama Mutual Aid System (AMAS) grant, while the second authorizes an application for a $12,000 State Mortuary Operations Response Team (SMORT) grant through the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Commissioners also approved the purchase of a Broce FMC470 Construction Sweeper for the Road Department from Cowin Equipment Company, Inc., for $111,438.

Additional approvals included $15,000 for mini golf turf replacement at Smith Lake and Sportsman Lake through RDK Contract and ratification of a $10,458 invoice from Trane for work at the Cullman County Detention Center.

The Commission also approved donating a surplus 2014 MV-1 van from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office to Restoring Women's Outreach.

Other surplus property approved for auction included two AM General M998 vehicles from the sheriff's office and six park model trailers from Stony Lonesome OHV Park.

Commissioners accepted a donation from Gerry Wooten involving a 1999 International dump truck valued at $15,000 for Cullman County Parks and Recreation, along with a donated 2015 Ford pickup from Alabama Forestry.

The Commission also:

- Authorized the chairman to sign an ADECA Sheriff's Advancement Amendment
- Appointed Chantelle Miner to the NARCOG Revolving Loan Fund Board for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2027, and ending Dec. 31, 2029
- Approved a revised preliminary plat for Country Cutoff Subdivision on County Road 1526, reducing the previously approved five lots to three
- Renewed a $323,067.72 maintenance bond for Ryan's View Subdivision in Commission District 4.
- Awarded the corrugated metal pipe bid to Fallin Farms
- Awarded the traffic signs bid to Traffic Signs, Inc.
- Awarded the motor oil, hydraulic oil, transmission fluid and grease bid to Truckworx Kenworth of Huntsville
- Extended the concrete bid with Brothers Concrete Supply and Ready Mix USA for one year
- Extended the emulsified asphalt bid with Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions for one year
- Extended the traffic striping bid with J.C. Cheek Contractors for one year
- Extended the corrugated plastic pipe bid with Bear Concrete Products Inc. and ADCO Pipe & Supply for one year, depending on availability and vicinity

The Commission also approved the minutes of its Nov. 11 organizational meeting, along with appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, requisitions and journal entries.

The next Cullman County Commission work session is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. in the Commission meeting room. The regular meeting will follow immediately afterward.

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

www.alabamapublichealth.gov/imm

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Obituary Announcements: Nov. 17-18

June Carol Asher, 78

June Carol Asher, age 78, of Decatur, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. Born on Dec. 19, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, June was the daughter of Raymond DeLong and Doris Waite DeLong. She was a faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Decatur since 1992 and was actively involved with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). June achieved the distinguished honor of earning the highest designation of Master Toastmaster through Toastmasters International. She was an avid animal lover and enjoyed spending time cross-stitching. She was preceded in death by her son, Bruce Asher, Jr.; her sister, Gloria; and her parents, Raymond and Doris DeLong. Survivors include her beloved husband, Bruce Asher, Sr.; her son, Raymond (Heather) Asher; grandchildren, Nikki Asher, Kody Asher, Ty Asher, Chad (Bailey) Asher, and Kali Asher (Jayse) Snead; four great-grandchildren, with another great-grandchild expected soon; and her sisters, Doris (John) Baitis and Dawn (Don) Richie. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, with Pastor Aaron Kretschmar officiating. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home assisting the family.

Danny J. O. Hogland, 71

A graveside service for Danny J. O. Hogland will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Bethany Cemetery in Crane Hill. Rev. Josh Hogland will officiate the service. Mr. Hogland was born Feb. 9, 1955, in Cullman, Alabama to Arlin J. O. and Beatrice Hogland. He passed away Nov. 16, 2026, at his residence in Cullman, Alabama. Survivors include his children, Jeremy Hogland, and Josh Hogland; grandchildren, Evan Zane Hogland, Brookley Marie Hogland, Blocher Jayce Owyn Hogland, and Braley Grayce Hogland. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rhonda Marie Hogland, and his parents, Arlin J. O. Hogland and Beatrice Hogland. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hogland family.

Sara Nettie Jean Clingan, 78

Sara Nettie Jean Clingan, 78, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Nov. 15, 2026. Born Sept. 7, 1948, Jean lived a life defined by steady faith, unwavering generosity, and a kind-hearted devotion to both people and animals. From early on, Jean's calling was rooted in care. She attended Wallace State Community College to pursue her Licensed Practical Nurse degree. Jean worked as an LPN for most of her life, bringing compassion and steadiness to the people who needed it most. Even after retirement, her desire to help never slowed—she went on to work as a Teaching Assistant at the Cullman County Child Development Center. True to her selfless nature, she continued giving her time after that role as well, volunteering at Sacred Heart School and stepping in wherever staff and children needed an extra hand. For 40 beautiful years, Jean was happily married to her husband, James Clingan. They found joy in the simple, meaningful things—riding motorcycles together and taking laid back beach vacations, content just to be in one another's company. Jean's generous spirit shone especially brightly in her love for animals. She would often pay adoption fees at various animal shelters to give pets a better chance at finding a loving home, and she regularly brought food, toys, and blankets to support their comfort and safety. That same tenderness extended beyond shelter walls, as she diligently fed the wild birds, ducks, and geese that frequented her backyard. Devoted to her church and community, she also carried a loyal enthusiasm as an avid Auburn Football fan. Jean is preceded in death by her husband, James Clingan; and brother, Robert "Bob" Baldwin. She is survived by her cousins, Annette Irons-Parker (Stephen), Pam Taylor (Jeff), and Wayne Baldwin; niece, Kimberly Baldwin-Brown (Matt); and great-niece Simone Baldwin Brown. She is also survived by her beloved cat, J.R. In memory of Jean's spirit of giving and her love for her community, in lieu of flowers please donate to the Cullman County Animal Shelter in the form of paying an adoption fee so a pet may find their forever home. The visitation for Jean Clingan will be held Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, beginning at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church; 217 Second St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. A rosary service will be held at 1:45 p.m. with a funeral mass to follow. Burial will take place at Cullman City Cemetery immediately following funeral services. Honorary pallbearers will be: Jim King, David Godsey, Jeffre Taylor, Stephen Parker, and Dewayne Goodwin.

Doris McCroy Matheney, 88

Doris McCroy Matheney, 88, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Nov. 14, 2026. Born March 21, 1938, Doris lived with steady grace, most evident in the simple ways she cared for others—through freely given patience, a generous spirit, and a faith that quietly guided her days. Her life reflected an honest strength and a kind-hearted presence that comforted and encouraged those who knew her. For 54 years, Doris devoted herself to her work as a cosmetologist. In a profession built on trust and close conversation, she was known for steady hands and a steady heart that put people at ease. Through long years of service, she offered more than skill—she gave time, attention, and the sort of gentle reassurance that could lift a person's day. In these everyday moments, Doris proved to be an inspiration, not by seeking recognition, but by faithfully showing up with care and consistency. Doris was preceded in death by her husband, William A .Matheney; her mother, Savannah McCroy; her father, Walter E. McCroy; her sisters, Roselle McCroy Mark and Marie McCroy Loyd; her brothers, Ralph, Lee, Walter Jr, Douglas McCroy.; her Nephew, Scott Hunt; and her step-son Ronnie Rogers. Doris is survived by her sister, Ann McCroy Shaffer; and a host of nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews. Doris McCroy sister-in-law and Dorothy McCroy sister-in-law also survive. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Nov. 18, 2026, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service will follow at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Nov. 18, 2026, beginning at 2 p.m. Pastor Scott Sessions and Dennis Loyd will officiate. A Graveside Committal Service will take place at Cullman City Cemetery, Ninth St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Nov. 18, 2026. Pallbearers will be Robbie Walker, Hudson Leverett, Andrew Hamm, Matthew Shaffer, Larry McCroy, and Dakota Hunt.

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Collins Pruett attends Alfa Youth Leadership Conference



MARLEE JACKSON/ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

Cullman County student Collins Pruett attended the Alfa Youth Leadership Conference Nov. 9-10, at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana. The conference teaches students how to advocate for agriculture, identify their potential and step into leadership roles. The event is for ninth and 10th graders. Sponsors are Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Farmers Ag Foundation, Cullman County Farmers Federation, Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit. Pruett attends Fairview High School. From left are Alabama Farmers Federation's Matthew Durdin and Pruett.



Library to celebrate new Lowe's-funded playground with ribbon cutting Dec. 7

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Just a few weeks ago, it was a quiet patch of grass behind the library, dusted with fall leaves. Now, it's almost time to play.

The Cullman County Public Library will celebrate the grand opening of its new playground with a ribbon cutting alongside the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Monday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. at the main library, 200 Clark St. NE.

The event was rescheduled to the new date, Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore said.

The playground was made possible by a $50,000 Lowe's Community Impact Grant. The library was one of just 100 nonprofits across the country chosen for the grant in 2026.

The project transforms the library's back lawn into an outdoor space meant to give children a safe place to play, families a place to gather and patrons a peaceful place to read outdoors. Lowe's described the project as a playground and rock garden.

At its Oct. 22 meeting, the Cullman County Public Library Board approved paying Perfect Playground $17,425 for playground equipment, using funds from the Lowe's grant. Yearwood Construction also worked with the library on the project.

The playground opens as the library looks toward an even bigger future. Last month, the library launched Every Chapter Matters, a year-long capital campaign to help fund renovations and expansion of its main building, which opened in 1967. The library is working with Williams Blackstock Architects on the design.

For now, the next chapter begins out back, where the sound of children's laughter will soon join the turning of pages.

For more information, visit www.cullmanlib.org or call 256-734-2720.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Berlin Town Council meeting moved to Nov. 23 due to lack of quorum

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. – The Berlin Town Council's November meeting has been moved to Monday, Nov. 23, after a quorum was not present for the regularly scheduled meeting.

The council was set to meet Monday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall, but without a quorum, the meeting could not be called to order and no official business could be conducted, according to Town Clerk Keirstyn Montgomery.

The rescheduled regular meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall, 461 County Road 1615.

Items on the agenda for the Nov. 23 meeting include:

- Public comments
- Minutes of the Oct. 19 regular meeting
- Resolution No. 2026-004, adopting the 2026 Cullman County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The town's fiscal year 2025 audit
- A job opening at the Berlin Farmers Market
- E911 road sign allocation
- County Roads 1619, 1620 and 1624
- 2027 special events
- The council meeting schedule
- An executive session regarding pending litigation

The road and special events items follow up on discussions from the council's October meeting, when the town set aside $70,000 in its FY2027 budget for work on County Roads 1619 and 1620 and discussed bringing a community yard sale and a tractor show to the Berlin Farmers Market in 2027.

Council meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Berlin Town Hall at 256-736-3138 or clerk@berlinal.gov.

Thrift (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Store staff, Chamber ambassadors and community members cut the ribbon on America's Thrift Stores in Cullman Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026.

CULLMAN, Ala. – The racks were full, the balloons were up and the shopping carts were already rolling Wednesday morning as America's Thrift Stores officially opened its doors in Cullman.

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the new store at 1721 Second Ave. SW, Suite 1, with a ribbon cutting sponsored by Cullman Diabetes Center. Shoppers wasted no time, filling carts and lining up at the registers on opening day.

With Christmas just around the corner and many families watching every dollar, the new store offers a little breathing room for holiday budgets. Shelves and racks are stocked with clothing and accessories for adults and children, shoes, books, toys, kitchenware, home décor, furniture and one-of-a-kind finds.

"From clothing and accessories to home décor, furniture and unique finds, America's Thrift Stores offers shoppers the opportunity to find great deals while giving pre-loved items a second life!" the Chamber said.

The company says its stores organize clothing by category and size and add new merchandise to the sales floor every day, so no two trips are quite the same. Whether you're hunting for an ugly Christmas sweater, a stack of picture books for the grandkids or a cozy coat to get through the winter, there's a good chance something on the racks has your name on it.

Every visit also helps grant a wish. America's Thrift supports Make-A-Wish Alabama, which grants wishes for children with critical illnesses.

"For every pound of goods donated, we make a cash donation to Make-A-Wish Alabama," America's Thrift Stores CEO Chris Homewood said in the company's opening announcement.

Make-A-Wish Alabama identifies America's Thrift as its largest corporate partner, contributing more than $1 million each year to help grant wishes.

So when Cullman families clean out a closet before Christmas, those gently used coats, toys and dishes can do double duty, helping a neighbor find something they need and helping a child somewhere in Alabama find something to hope for.

The store fills the former Bargain Hunt space, next to Planet Fitness, and is America's Thrift's 22nd Alabama store and 37th location overall. The company, founded in 1984, sells donated secondhand clothing and household goods.

"Their commitment to affordable shopping, reuse and community impact makes them a great addition to Cullman's business community," the Chamber said. "We appreciate their investment in Cullman and look forward to seeing their continued success."

Chamber ambassadors on hand for the celebration included Luke Proctor of Higginbotham, Melissa Dew of Flourish of Cullman Inc., Gwen Parker of Cullman Elks Lodge No. 1609 and Katie McDonald of Shirley Quattlebaum State Farm Insurance. Visit Cullman sponsored the Chamber's ambassador program.

America's Thrift Stores is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, call 938-205-1852 or visit www.americasthrift.com, where you can also find donation guidelines and job openings.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE