

FORECAST

TODAY

FRI

SAT

91°/70°

91°/67°

93°/71°

Complete forecast, A2

REGION

TIMES DAILY

FLORENCE ■ MUSCLE SHOALS ■ SHEFFIELD ■ TUSCUMBIA ■ NORTHWEST ALABAMA



Inside

Thursday, August 27, 2026

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Saddle Up for St. Jude raises record \$515K

The 30th annual Saddle Up for St. Jude Trail Ride raised a record \$515,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital this year, surpassing the event's previous record by \$100,000. **B1**

LIFE

Film-induced tourism

Iconic movie destinations are like crossing a boundary between fiction and reality. **D1**

SPORTS

Higgins, Mars Hill set to be on opposite sides

Darrell Higgins, after a decade of success at Mars Hill, will have a different perspective Friday. The first-year Russellville coach faces off with the Panthers for the first time. **C1**

WEIRD NEWS

Foreigners pack town for annual food fight

BUÑOL, Spain — Thousands of revelers — including many lured by a Bollywood film — descended on a small Spanish town on Wednesday for the annual La Tomatina food fight, where they painted Buñol red with tons of overripe tomatoes. Loaded trucks plodded through the crowd with people in their cargo beds throwing tomatoes at the revelers — who, in turn, hurled them at one another. Their white shirts soon turned pink and red while pop songs blasted from speakers. The messy melee took place for over an hour in the town, where buildings were covered with tarps ahead of the festivities. Held on the last Wednesday of August, the festival traces its origins to a food fight in 1945. La Tomatina became an annual tradition before Spanish dictator Gen. Francisco Franco banned it in the 1950s. Televised media attention in the 1980s helped turn the festival into a national event, and eventually, an international attraction.

— The Associated Press

YOUR OPINION

Wednesday's Question: Should Lake Ontario be renamed Lake America? **Yes:** 17.9% **No:** 82.1%

Today's Question: Should all cities, towns and counties which have Flock cameras in Alabama suspend their use? **Vote at TimesDaily.com**

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Celebrity news...A2
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Comics.....D2
Crossword.....D3
Life.....D1

Obituaries.....B2
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Region.....B1
Sports.....C1
Weather.....A2

DOLLY PARTON (1946-2026)

'100% pure good person'



Earl "Peanutt" Montgomery. [DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]

Locals react to singer's death

By Bernie Delinski
Staff Writer

Earl "Peanutt" Montgomery said the image Dolly Parton presented in public was the same one she truly had when she was away from the public eye. "I remember she was just a giggler," Montgomery said Wednesday while reminiscing about the many times he crossed paths with Parton, and the songs he wrote for her. "And she always was friendly, not stuck up at all. She was always a 100% pure good person." Parton died Tuesday at age 80. Montgomery played a role in her success with several songs he wrote that she went on to record either alone or as duets. "Four O Thirty Three" and "Where the Grass Won't Grow" are among them. Parton liked his song, "One of These Days" so much, she pitched it to Emmylou Harris, who recorded

it. Parton later recorded it, as well. Montgomery and his wife, Charlene, said she had the type of personality that made everyone in the room happy and comfortable. "She was always a cutup," Charlene said. "She'd say some of the darndest things you ever heard. She was always giggling and laughing, high-spirited and always done to earth. I never was around Dolly when she wasn't jolly. If you met her the first time it was like she had known you forever." Earl has written for numerous artists, including 73 songs for George Jones and 46 for Tammy Wynette. Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bob Dylan, George Jones and Tanya Tucker are among the list of singers who have recorded his songs. He said they all spoke highly of Parton, not just as a performer but as a person. Earl's talents helped him get to know a number of stars. He

said with a laugh that the two celebrities he was most thrilled to meet were Parton and Lassie. He vividly recalls Parton comforting him during a difficult flight they were on during a tour when he was new to the business and to flying. As Montgomery clutched the arm rest, Parton came over and took his hand. "She patted my hand and said, 'Peanutt don't you worry, it's going to be all right,'" he said. For Yvonne Rogers, the news of Parton's death brought back a memory nearly five decades old — a chance encounter with the country music icon during Rogers' very first semester as a nursing student at the University of North Alabama. Rogers, a Florence native, said she attended Parton's concert on campus in 1977. "I was not a country music lover at all, and I mostly listened to Fleetwood Mac and groups like that," she said. "But

you don't have to be a country music fan to like Dolly. She was always special." Still, Rogers said Parton's appeal reached well beyond typical genre lines, even in the singer's earlier years of stardom. As a broke college freshman, Rogers said the only reason she was able to attend the concert at all was because student tickets were inexpensive. The concert left a lasting impression, particularly Parton's habit of sharing the personal stories behind her songs — including "Coat of Many Colors," a memory that has stuck with Rogers for more than 45 years. "She always told the story about it," Rogers said. "It was really good. It really was." The night included an unexpected brush with Parton herself. As she and her friends were leaving, Rogers said she

SEE DOLLY, A5

TUSCUMBIA

Commissioners delay decision on Flock cameras

By Addi Broadfoot
Staff Writer

TUSCUMBIA — Colbert County commissioners chose not to make a decision Tuesday on a request to allow Flock cameras on county roads until County Attorney Edgar Black provides a legal recommendation. County Engineer Jeremy Robison brought up the issue after receiving a request for a utility permit for a Flock camera in the Littleville area. Robison said the

request is for a camera on Blue Road, which is under the county's jurisdiction but is not within the city limits of Littleville. He said the company involved has been pressing the county for a decision. "If it's something new," Robison said. "This is something different." Commissioner Tori Bailey said lawsuits involving Flock cameras are pending, signaling the need for caution before the county approves the request.

Commissioner Tyrus Mansell said he wanted commissioners to have a clear understanding of who can access information collected by the cameras, and what the cameras are capable of doing before taking action. Commission Chairman David Isom talked about how surveillance cameras can help the county. Isom pointed to an incident in his district involving a bridge that larger trucks were

SEE FLOCK, A5



Colbert County commissioners are awaiting a legal recommendation from their attorney regarding the placement of a Flock camera on county roads. [AP PHOTO/DAVID GOLDMAN, FILE]

CLASSIFIEDS

See More in Today's Classified Section

- Classifieds on the cover -

Russellville Utilities hiring Accounts Receivable /Billing Clerk
Apply in person at 721 Jackson Avenue S., Russellville, AL
Deadline to apply: Monday, August 31st, 2026

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The Moulton Advertiser has an immediate opening for a News Reporter/ Staff Writer
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West Lawrence Water Authority hiring GENERAL MANAGER
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