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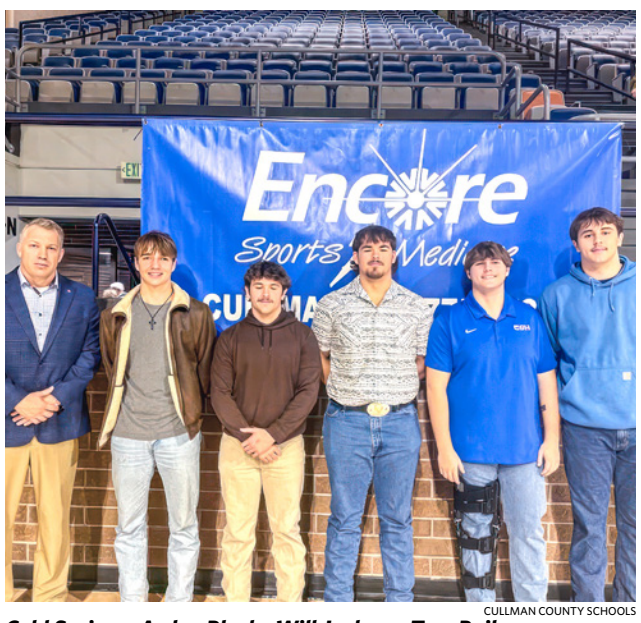
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**Cullman County Basketball Tournament: Cold Springs wins JV girls; West Point wins JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys**
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# 2025 All-County Football honors

*Cullman County Schools congratulates the following young men for earning All-County Football honors for the 2025 season.*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Cold Springs: Ayden Black , Will Jackson, Trey Bailey, Bailey Gann (OL/DL) and Breydon Hallmon*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Fairview: Ayden Batz, Colby Bentley, Rex Chandler (RB/LB), Alex Cruz, JoJo Ellis, Sebastian Garcia Braxton Kilpatrick, Avery Latham, Connor Scott, Evan Smith, Jace Stevens, Andrew Latham (Lineman of the Year), Kolt Redding (Offensive MVP), Jake Harper ( Overall MVP) and Coach George Redding (Coach of the Year)*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Good Hope: Kane Anderson, Tyler Byrd, Ross Clark, Brayden Cofer, Tristan Grund, Parker Johnson Hunter Miller, Tucker Screws, Cody Stevens, Karson Hollis, Carter Rutherford (Athlete of the Year), Mason Drake (Defensive MVP) and Coach Alan Scott (Coach of the Year)*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Hanceville: Hunter Black and Drake Bentley*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Holly Pond: Cade Allbright, Miguel Garcia, Boston Gibbs and Brayden Ivey*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*Vinemont: Dalton Bryan, Levi Burch, Gabriel Herrera, Brandon Johnson, Tucker Robinson and Roman Romero*



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

*West Point: Julio Fuentes, Ollie Howell, Rush Lamar, Bryant Moon, Christopher Skipper and Titan Thornton*

## Cornelius officially qualifies to run for Cullman County revenue commissioner



KENNETH CORNELIUS

*Kenneth Cornelius* » PAGE 2

## Aderholt announces $13.5M for St. Bernard Bridge, U.S. 278 improvements



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ADERHOLT

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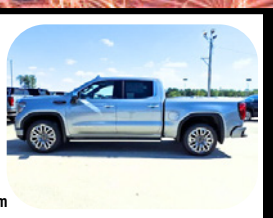
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 27, 2026

# Aderholt announces $13.5M for St. Bernard Bridge, U.S. 278 improvements

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama on Friday, Jan. 23, said he secured $13.5 million in federal funding for the U.S. Highway 278 St. Bernard Bridge replacement and supporting infrastructure project in Cullman, as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The funding will be used to replace the aging St. Bernard Bridge, widen roadway approaches and add pedestrian and biking lanes, significantly improving safety, traffic flow and connectivity for residents, businesses and visitors traveling through the Cullman area.

"This investment is about public safety, economic growth and preparing Cullman for the future," said Aderholt. "The St. Bernard Bridge is a critical transportation link, and this funding will allow the City to modernize the bridge and surrounding infrastructure to meet current and future needs. I was proud to advocate for this project and deliver these resources for Cullman."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said, "We are extremely grateful to Congressman Aderholt for securing this funding for the St. Bernard Bridge/US Hwy 278 widening project. This project has been at the top of the community priority list for years. It will improve safety, reduce congestion and support economic growth for our community. Congressman Aderholt's leadership and commitment to our region continues to make a real difference."




OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ADERHOLT

*Photo shows the bridge on U.S. Highway 278 East near St. Bernard.*

According to Aderholt's office, the St. Bernard Bridge project is one of several community-focused infrastructure investments he has secured for Alabama's 4th Congressional District through the FY26 appropriations process. In total, said his office, more than $56 million was included for local projects across the district.

The FY26 appropriations package has passed the House of Representatives and now heads to the U.S. Senate, where it is expected to receive final approval before being signed into law.

More: www.cullmantribune.com/2025/01/06/aderholt-city-of-cullman-awarded-20-3m-for-st-bernard-bridge-replacement-project

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# Aderholt announces $2.5M for Wallace State Community College affordable housing and childcare project

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama on Friday, Jan. 23, announced $2.5 million in federal funding for Wallace State Community College's Lions' Village project in Hanceville, as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The funding will support construction of a tiny home village featuring micro-dwellings designed for student families, along with an on-campus childcare facility.

"Wallace State plays a vital role in preparing Alabama's workforce and expanding opportunity for families across our region," said Aderholt.

"By investing in affordable housing and childcare on campus, this project helps ensure that student parents have the support they need to complete their education and build a better future. I was proud to support this initiative and deliver federal resources that will have a lasting impact on students and the community."

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics said, "At Wallace State, our mission is to remove every possible barrier to student success, and for many of our students, the two greatest hurdles are affordable housing and accessible childcare.

"This $2.5 million congressionally directed spending award for the Lions' Village project is a game-changer. By co-locating micro-homes designed for families with a state-of-the-art childcare facility right here on campus, we are creating a holistic support system that allows student parents to focus on their education without the constant worry of where they will live or who will care for their children. We are deeply grateful for this investment, which isn't just building structures — it's building a foundation for multi-generational success in our community."

According to Aderholt's office, the Wallace State Community College project is one of several community-focused investments he secured for Alabama's 4th Congressional District through the FY26 appropriations process. In total, his office said, more than $56 million was included for local projects across the district, strengthening education, workforce development, infrastructure and economic opportunity.

The FY26 appropriations package has passed the House of Representatives and now heads to the U.S. Senate, where it is expected to receive final approval before being signed into law.

# Local students named to Samford University fall 2025 Dean's List

**G. Allan Taylor**
Samford University

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — Samford University recognizes 2,575 students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.

**Local students named to the Dean's List include:**

- Anna Sularin of Arab, AL
- Hensley Elrod of Arab, AL
- Kate Maze of Arab, AL
- Emma Dodd of Bremen, AL
- Lauren Smith of Crane Hill, AL
- Brantley Drake of Crane Hill, AL
- Ava Fales of Cullman, AL
- Sarah Baughn of Cullman, AL
- Anna Burleson of Cullman, AL
- Olivia Williams of Cullman, AL
- Hilson Cole of Cullman, AL
- Bryant Simmons of Cullman, AL
- Gracie Lee of Hanceville, AL
- Lillie Morrow of Vinemont, AL
- Dayton Roberts of Addison, AL

Located in the Homewood suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, Samford is a leading Christian university offering undergraduate programs grounded in the liberal arts with an array of nationally recognized graduate and professional schools. Founded in 1841, Samford enrolls 6,324 students from 44 states, Puerto Rico and 16 countries in its 10 academic schools: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health. Samford is widely recognized as having one of the most beautiful campuses in America, featuring rolling hills, meticulously maintained grounds and Georgian-Colonial architecture. Samford fields 17 athletic teams that compete in the tradition-rich Southern Conference and boasts one of the highest scores in the nation for its 97% Graduation Success Rate among all NCAA Division I schools.

# Cornelius (from Front)

**Anabelle Howze**
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Kenneth Cornelius has officially qualified to run for Cullman County revenue commissioner as a Republican.

Cornelius announced his candidacy back in August.

Cornelius said his campaign will focus on three priorities.

First, efficiency. He said he will continue to operate the revenue office quickly and accurately. This will help ensure low wait times for all residents.

Second, he said, he plans to conduct proactive sessions to inform residents about exemptions and benefits they may qualify for.

Third is experience. He said he will apply over 30 years of business management experience and his knowledge of Cullman County government as parks and recreation director to save taxpayers money.

Cornelius said he waited until the last day of qualifying.

He said he wanted to dedicate as much time as possible to his role as parks and recreation director.

He said Alabama state law requires any County employee to take leave from their job while running for a county-elected position once they qualify. Alabama Code reads: "Any employee who shall desire to become a candidate for county office shall, upon qualifying for such office, take leave of absence without pay to campaign for such office. Upon winning any such election, the employee shall resign from his or her position of employment with the county."

Visit www.Corneliusforcullmanrevenue.com for more.

**Key dates**

- Primary Election: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
- Primary Runoff Election: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

# School Board (from Front)

**Anabelle Howze**
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Cullman City School Board at its last meeting recognized educators, approved contracts and reviewed personnel actions during its regular meeting.

During recognitions, the board honored new National Board Certified Teachers. Nicole Heptinstall, Loren Heatherly, Hannah Hunt and Tayler Davis received certifications in literacy, and Tasha Meyer earned certification as a library media specialist.

The board also proudly named Lacy Cameron of East Elementary School as Elementary Teacher of the Year and Michelle Greenlee of Cullman High School as Secondary Teacher of the Year.

The board approved an interagency agreement with WellStone Inc. to provide outpatient and crisis mental health treatment for students from January through July 2026. It also approved an independent contractor agreement with Howard Autism Learning Center LLC. This agreement supports school behavioral and educational programs through August 2026.

The consent agenda included the disposal of surplus music and art textbooks and obsolete handheld radios. The board also approved spring semester athletic and fine arts travel for Cullman High School students.

The board approved the retirement of Sharyn Hollingsworth, a teacher at West Elementary School. It also approved the conditional employment of Samuel Mazzara and Logan Young for special education roles. It approved coaching supplements, long-term substitute appointments and leaves of absence, as well as an Extended Day contract for Katie Smith.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 17, at 5 p.m. at East Elementary School.

# Agriplex (from Front)

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The North Alabama Agriplex announced it will welcome Alabama author Heather C. Morris for three separate classes.

On Friday, Feb. 13, Morris will meet with the Heritage Homeschool Elementary students from 9-11 a.m. The class, entitled "Trunk Goes Thunk with Heather Morris," will focus on her picture book, opposites in nature and exploring the wide world around us by using our five senses. The cost of the class is $15 per student with a maximum of $30 per family.

Also on Friday, Feb. 13, Morris will return to work with the Heritage Homeschool Secondary students from noon-2 p.m.

In "Science Meets Story with Heather Morris," she'll describe her years as a research scientist – from working with lab mice to designing experiments for the International Space Station – and explain how science and story fit together. The cost of the class is $15 per student with a maximum of $30 per family.

For the final lesson on Saturday, Feb. 14, the Agriplex invites children aged 5 and older to its Farm Kids Club class from 10-11:30 a.m. In celebration of Valentine's Day, Morris will teach "I LOVE Animals." For these students, she'll discuss working as a biologist, simple ways to study animals and how your love for something can lead to fun, different careers. The cost of the class is $10 per student with a maximum of $20 per family.

To register for these classes, visit www.agriplex.org. To preorder a personalized, signed copy of her picture book, visit www.snailonthewall.com/agriplex-heathermorris. Morris will bring the signed copies to your class.

Heather C. Morris writes books full of science, wonder, and imagination for kids of all ages. She is the author of six books and stories for kids, including her debut picture book "Trunk Goes Thunk!" (Gnome Road Publishing) and a ghost story in the "Haunted States of America Anthology" (Godwin Books/Macmillan). She is a member of SCBWI and the 12×12 picture book challenge community, and her short stories and poetry have appeared in multiple arts journals and anthologies.

Prior to writing full time, Morris obtained advanced degrees in biology and molecular microbiology.

She spent more than a decade working in NASA laboratories, designing experiments that flew on the International Space Station and conducting equipment tests in extreme environments. She is passionate about showing kids and adults alike that it is possible to pursue interests that may not seem related (like her background in laboratory science and her love for writing fiction).

When she' not reading, typing or working as the publishing assistant for Gnome Road Publishing, you'll find her hiking the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains with her husband, their three kids and their rescued border collie.

# Seasonal lifeguard positions open for summer 2026 in Hanceville

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — The City of Hanceville Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for seasonal lifeguards for the summer 2026 season, according to a recent announcement from the department.

The seasonal positions will run from Memorial Day Weekend through the start of the school year. Pre-season training and facility preparation are scheduled to begin in mid-May.

According to the department, lifeguards will be responsible for actively monitoring the pool area to ensure the safety of patrons, maintaining pool chemistry and cleanliness, performing routine upkeep of the pool deck, bathrooms and surrounding facilities and providing friendly, professional service to community members and visitors.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old and demonstrate a strong work ethic and positive attitude.

Applications must be picked up and submitted in person at Hanceville City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The City of Hanceville Parks and Recreation Department encourages those interested in serving the community while staying active to apply and be part of the team that helps make summer safe and enjoyable in Hanceville.




# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**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 Cullman County Museum. 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.

**Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD**
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Wednesday, Jan. 28 – 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 Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, Jan. 30 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, Feb. 1 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

**Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville**
Families are joining the library for fun and programs! 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.
• Wednesday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. Boxing class; dress for a workout
• Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. Spanish class
• Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. Storytime
• Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m. Storytime with Julie Eslinger
• Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m. Spanish class
• Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. North Alabama Agriplex storytime and book club
• Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hanceville Irish Festival and BOOK SALE

**Cullman Women's Health Forum**
• Saturday, Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek. Local nonprofit Lotus Health Inc. is hosting its inaugural Women's Health Forum with the generous support of our Gold Sponsors – Alabama Farmers Federation and First Federal Mortgage – along with other gracious sponsors/collaborators. Please join us as we connect with community/state leaders and health care professionals for a day focused on women's health, education, preventative screenings and local resources.
• We will open the Free Day Forum at 1p.m. with women's healthcare exhibitors hosted by The Venue at Cotton Creek (417 Third Ave. SW Cullman). We have a great itinerary of speakers on women's health and free women's health screenings.
• We are also honored to present Senate hopeful Jared Hudson (R), and Attorney General candidates Katherine Robertson (R) and Pamela Casey (R) for a live podcast. Topics will include trafficking and current legislation impacting women's health in Alabama. We are currently accepting exhibitors and welcome sponsors for this important day of education and dialog.
• Following our FREE day forum, we will gather for a Meet and Greet dinner.
• For more information and to purchase dinner tickets/sponsor or become an exhibitor please visit https://lotushealthinc.org/events/womens-health-forum. We look forward to meeting with you in our effort to improve women's health outcomes in the state of Alabama.

**Cullman Area Chamber Foundation Mardi Gras Parade & Gumbo Cook-Off**
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. in the Art District (Fourth Street Southwest and Cotton Creek area). This family friendly event will feature a colorful Mardi Gras parade, followed by a gumbo cook-off showcasing teams competing for best gumbo and community pride. Attendees can enjoy delicious gumbo tastings, festive décor, live music and the vibrant energy of Mardi Gras right here in Cullman! Grab your beads, bring your friends and family and join us in the Art District.

**21st Annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner**
Monday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cullman. Dine in or carry out. The evening will feature chili prepared by Two Guys, grilled cheese sandwiches, handmade pottery bowls and a silent auction. Guests will also enjoy Southern gospel music by Brian Westbrook & the Misfits and Enell Baker. Ron Mosely Jr. of WKUL Radio 92.1 will serve as the special guest emcee. Each attendee receives a handcrafted bowl as a reminder of those facing empty bowls at home and the ongoing need for food assistance in the community. Benefits Cullman Caring for Kids. First United Methodist Church is located at 320 Third Ave. SE, Cullman. Tickets are $15 and are available at the church or Cullman Caring for Kids (402 Arnold St. NE, Suite W-1, Cullman).

**Holly Pond Lions Club Annual Beans and Greens Dinner**
Saturday, Feb. 21, from 4-7 p.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club building. Admission is by donation, with proceeds supporting community projects related to vision, hunger, diabetes, environment and childhood cancer. Additionally, we are collecting canned and nonperishable food items for the local food pantry. Donations can be dropped off at the pantry (located between town hall and the fire department) or brought to the dinner Feb. 21.

**Casino Night Benefiting Hope Horses**
Saturday, Feb. 28, from 6-10 p.m. at Cotton Creek, 417 Third Ave. SW in Cullman. Let's go all-in for a fun-filled casino night benefiting Hope Horses! Tickets are $100 and include dinner, drinks and starter chips! Hope Horses, Inc. is a nonprofit organization. All donations made payable to Hope Horses are tax deductible. For more information, please email us at krice@hopehorsesinc.com.

**Men of the Covenant Men's Conference**
• Sunday, March 1, from 5-7 p.m. at Seventh Street Baptist Church, 708 Seventh St. SW in Cullman. Men, you're invited to a powerful and timely gathering designed to strengthen your walk, sharpen your leadership and renew your commitment to Christ and your family.
• We are honored to welcome two dynamic speakers: Jason Simpson, north Alabama meteorologist and faithful deacon at Valleydale Church in Hoover; and Christopher Smith, longtime Men's Ministry Team Member at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville.
• This evening will be filled with strong biblical teaching, real-life encouragement, worship and authentic brotherhood. Our theme is rooted in the bold declaration of Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." - Joshua 24:15
• Whether you are a husband, father, grandfather, young professional or student, this conference is for you. Be challenged to lead your home with conviction, courage and commitment. Bring a friend. Bring your son. Bring your small group. Stand as a Man of the Covenant.
• Register at www.7thstreetba-12tist.com.

**Cullman County Master Gardners Native Azalea and Wildflower Sale**
Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fairgrounds at Sportsman Lake Park

**Cullman County Master Gardners Spring Plant Sale**
Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fairgrounds at Sportsman Lake Park







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**Sammy Confer - JV Sports Editor**
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**Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist**

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

# Ellis' all-around game pushes No. 2 Cold Springs to win the JV girls county championship 66-34 over no. 5 Holly Pond

**Lucas Gray**
lucas@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — In the first matchup of championship Friday, the no. 2 Cold Springs Lady Eagles took on no. 5 Holly Pond to finish the JV girls bracket. After a hot start Holly Pond made it interesting in the second, but Cold Springs' defense and the prolific scoring of Hagen Ellis led to the Lady Eagles pulling away in the second half. They'd go on to finish the game 66-34 to take the 2026 Cullman County JV girls championship.

The Lady Eagles came out on a tear, with scoring from four different players from all three levels of the court fueling a 15-0 start to the game. After the run that included a pair of layups from Ellis and three from beyond the arc from JJ Creel, Kalloway McKinnon and Joli Williams, the same grit that got fifth-seed Holly Pond to the championship came to light. Guards Dallas Mayfield and Bella Gambrill began rattling the Lady Eagles, picking off passes and going coast to coast for a pair of buckets to start a 12-1 run that would get the Lady Broncos to just a 16-12 deficit heading into the second.

Opening the second, Cold Springs' went into a hard press defense, hoping to hold off the comeback. Ellis, with active hands on defense, nabbed a steal, took it down the court and bounced it to Williams, who drained a three from the right wing. After an Ellis lay on the next possession, she poked out a Holly Pond pass and took it coast to coast for a lay to put Cold Springs up 23-12. Continuing the big quarter, Alabama Light scored on two straight possessions, then Zoe Miller traded buckets with Holly Pond's Lilly Allbright, with Cold Springs taking a 31-16 lead into halftime off the back of their five steal quarter.

Coming out of halftime, Cold Springs played determined basketball, with Ellis' seemingly endless energy on offense pushing them to a 15-1 run. Williams took the ball to the paint, stopped and bounced a dime to Ellis, who layed it in, then replicated the same play one possession after Ellis nailed a deep three. The All-Tournament guard would go on to score 13 points in a quarter that only saw seven scored by Holly Pond, and headed into the final frame with a strong 48-23 lead.

Holly Pond fought in the fourth, having their best offensive quarter since the end of the first, and saw Gambrill, Mallory Hartline and Lizzy Adams all hit threes. On the other end, however, Cold Springs was still rolling. With strong ball movement and action on the boards, the Lady Eagles scored 18 in the period. A fitting ending, Ellis put the final touches on the game with a pair of three-pointers, ending a 66-34 rout of Holly Pond and a chance to lifting the JV girls championship trophy.

Ellis led the game with 27 points, and added three rebounds, four assists and seven steals. Williams scored eight and dished out five assists. Miller ended the game with seven points, adding three boards and a steal.

For Holly Pond, Bella Gambrill led the team with 10 points and a trio of rebounds. Behind her, Mallory Hartline scored seven and grabbed four boards and had two assists.

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

# No. 1 West Point knocks off no. 3 Good Hope, 46-21, to take home JV boys county championship

**Sammy Confer**
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**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — The JV boys county champions would be decided on Championship Friday, as the top-seeded West Point Warriors faced off against the third-seeded Good Hope Raiders. Both defenses came to play to start out the game, and there were only five made baskets made the entire opening quarter. West Point, though, quickly flipped the switch in the second period, outscoring Good Hope, 17-2, to take a double-digit lead into the locker room. The Warriors added to their lead in the second half and continued to keep the Raiders at bay on defense, as they would go on to defeat Good Hope, 46-21, to win this year's county championship.

The first quarter saw both defenses stand out in a big way. An early steal by Julian Phillips led to a layup by Web Buchanan to give Good Hope the early lead, but later in the quarter, Colton Kimbril dropped in a floater to tie the game up at two. Phillips knocked down a floater, and Caleb Boles later added a driving layup to put the Raiders ahead, 6-2. A rebound and putback by Tripp Dingler cut it to 6-4 going into the second period.

Dingler split his free throws, and Tyce Thompson dropped in a floater from the left side to give West Point a 7-6 lead early in the second. Buchanan banked in a floater to give Good Hope the lead right back at 8-7. The trio of Dingler, Thompson, and Rush Lamar quickly got West Point going on both sides of the ball. Thompson and Lamar each knocked down a three, and Dingler got fouled after hitting a tough jumper and ended up completing the three-point play at the free throw line to put the Warriors ahead, 17-8. Thompson nailed a short jumper, and Dingler added two more from the charity stripe to stretch West Point's lead to 21-8 at the break. After the Buchanan basket, the Warriors outscored the Raiders, 14-0, the rest of the half to take the double-digit lead into the locker room.

Buchanan and Eli Drake each knocked in a floater to cut it to 21-12 early in the third. Thompson, though, answered right back with a three from the right wing to give West Point a 24-12 lead. Later in the quarter, a pair of free throws by Lamar and a basket down low by Levi Steadman widened the Warrior lead to 28-13 almost midway through the third. Dingler added two more baskets in the paint, and Lamar knocked down a short jumper from the left side to put West Point ahead, 34-17, going into the final quarter.

Buchanan drove to the basket and banked in a floater to make it a 34-19 game early in the fourth, but Thompson drained his third trey of the game, Jackson Reid scored five straight points, and Lamar and Dingler each added a basket in the paint to give the Warriors a commanding 46-19 lead. West Point kept a sizeable lead for the rest of the game, as they ended up knocking off Good Hope, 46-21, to take home this year's JV Boys county championship.

Dingler finished with 14 points for the Warriors. Thompson ended up with 13 points, and Lamar posted 10 points. For Good Hope, Buchanan finished with 13 points.

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

# No. 1 West Point holds off no. 3 Good Hope to secure county title with a 53-50 win

**Lucas Gray**
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**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — The no. 1 West Point Lady Warriors met no. 3 Good Hope in the Cullman County Basketball Tournament varsity girls championship on Friday afternoon. In a tournament that's been largely lacking in thrilling finishes, the Lady Raiders and Lady Warriors provided just that, with a close, tense game that went down to the final possession. With Good Hope missing the tying shot as the buzzer rang, the Lady Warriors clinched the county championship.

The first quarter showed signs of a great game, starting with a layup from West Point's Camryn Faulkner to start a back and forth period. Camryn Faulkner traded buckets with Good Hope's Sophie Konrad, who had a layup and a tough put back bucket through contact to tie the game at four. After a pair of free throws from Patton Fell put West Point up, Good Hope's Ella Gossett responded with a contested three from the corner. With a final punch back to end the first, the Warriors' Jaelyn Faulkner nailed a deep three to take a 9-7 lead into the second.

After a close first, the second quarter looked like a game that could potentially get away from Good Hope. The duo of Faulkners became a thorn in the Lady Raiders' sides, taking turns scoring baskets and picking off passes. With turnovers becoming an issue, Good Hope began playing tight, struggling with ball movement and getting open looks. The Faulkners, along with Laklin Shadix, scored all but three of West Point's 26-second quarter points, with the other three belonging to Kealie Harbison. The Lady Raiders' Ella Gossett played her best all-around game this tournament, securing the perimeter, but also finding the basket to keep Good Hope alive. She Scored three of the last four buckets for the Lady Raiders closing the first half, mitigating what was nearly a disastrous quarter for Good Hope. With a Gossett shot finding the net at the buzzer, West Point led 27-16 at halftime.

Feeling the squeeze of West Point's quick scoring ability, Good Hope came out firing, and hitting. After a pair of Jaelyn Faulkner free throws opened the half, Good Hope responded with a pair of Lucie Adam threes followed Ella Davis pickpocketing a ball handler and taking it coast to coast for a layup. The Warriors responded, with Kealie Harbison drilling a deep ball to keep the lead at double digits, leading 32-22. For number of minutes, the teams went back-to-back, with the Faulkners driving for lays, then Gossett and Davis finding the basket. With the game still at ten points, Good Hope's heater began. First, Gossett hit a deep three from the right elbow, and on the next possession, she drove and kicked it out to Lexi Marshall, who also hit from deep. After a Harbison lay, Gossett went to the line, hitting one. At the end of the third, Good Hope wasn't all the way back, but Gossett's ball movement and pair of buckets had brought them back to a 42-35 deficit, threatening to make a run.

The Raiders would stay hot from deep, opening the quarter with two threes from Adams and Konrad to make it just a three point game at 44-41. The Faulkners would take over once again, driving to the rim and inviting contact, which they often drew fouls on. The pair would shoot a combined 10 free throws in the period, hitting nine, and the only other score from the Warriors came on a Camryn Faulkner layup. Their affinity for driving inside coupled with Good Hope's desperation late led to foul trouble, with both Konrad and Adams having four fouls towards the end of the game. Adams used her strength to get inside, and put in a layup to make it just a 49-48 West Point lead, with the early signs of a comeback becoming reality. Jaelyn Faulkner would draw a foul and went to the line, hitting both free throws to go back up three. On an inbounds pass, Ella Davis wedged her way into the paint, finishing over two defenders to make it a one point game again at 51-50. On the inbound for West Point, a referee ruled that Harbison had stepped out, giving Good Hope a chance at the lead with 30.3 seconds to go. The Lady Raiders would go scoreless on the possession, and a pair of free throws from Camryn Faulkner made it, once again, a three point game, up 53-50. With six seconds to go, the Lady Raiders took their time, calling multiple timeouts to get a play. The play worked, with Gossett driving inside and kicking out to Adams, who would miss the shot, icing a West Point championship victory.

Leading the Lady Warriors was Camryn Faulkner with 18 points, two rebounds and an assist. Jaelyn, not far behind, scored 14, grabbed a rebound and dished out three assists. Shadix had a complete game, scoring eight, grabbing five boards, dishing out two assists and putting up one block and steal each.

For the Lady Raiders, Gossett led with 14 and grabbed two rebounds and assists. Konrad, who sat much of the fourth in foul trouble, put up 13 points, 10 rebounds, two assists and a steal. Scoring ten each were Adams and Davis. Davis put up 3 rebounds and a block, and Adams had four boards, an assist and a block.

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

# Strong second quarter, second half helps no. 2 West Point gets past no. 1 Cold Springs, 51-38, wins first county title since 2012

**Sammy Confer**
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**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — The 2026 Cullman County Basketball Tournament concluded with the varsity boys championship game between no. 1 Cold Springs and no. 2 West Point. It was a defensive battle to start out the contest, as it was tied after one. The Warriors' defense dominated the second quarter, holding the Eagles to just one field goal, as they took an eight-point lead into the locker room. West Point quickly stretched their lead to double digits in the third and took off from there, as they ended up defeating Cold Springs, 51-38, to take home their first county championship since 2012.

It was the battle of the defenses to start out the game, as neither team scored a point for almost three minutes before a Cash Dickerson trey from the right corner gave Cold Springs the early lead. Breydon Hallmon followed that up with a rebound and a putback, then a steal by Ethan Day led to a layup by Ayden Black, as that put the Eagles ahead, 7-0.

That would be the last basket that Cold Springs would hit for a while. Graph Byram and Jaxon Shelton each drained a three to cut it to 7-6 with 2:46 remaining in the opening period.

Maddox Chapman hit a pair of free throws to tie the game up at eight going into the second.

Defense continued to dominate the game in the second quarter, except it would be West Point's defense that would dominate that side of the floor.

Shelton drove to the basket and laid it in to put the Warriors up, 10-9. On the next possession, Chapman collected a steal and took it coast-to-coast for the tough basket down low to give West Point a 12-9 lead early in the second period.

The Warriors' defense gave Cold Springs fits, as they didn't allow them to hit a field goal in a little over nine minutes. Wyatt Barker broke that up with a layup to make it a 14-11 game with less than three minutes to go in the first half. Chapman collected a pair of baskets in the paint to widen the Warrior lead to 18-11. Byram added two free throws to give West Point a 20-12 lead at the half.

Barker and Lindan Hill each collected a basket down low to cut it to 23-16 early in the third, but a rebound and putback by Chapman gave the Warriors a 25-16 lead.

After a Shelton jumper made it 27-16, Day drilled a three from the top of the key to trim it to eight at 27-19 almost midway through the third quarter.

Chapman continued to dominate down low, as he hit yet another basket in the paint. Later in the third, Chapman found Nolan Franklin down low for a layup to make it a 31-21 game. Kade Vincent drove to the basket and laid it in to give West Point a 33-21 lead.

A Day trey cut it to 33-24, but a pair of free throws by Shelton, coupled with another Chapman assist, this time to Shelton, made it 37-24. Ayden Ennis capped off the strong quarter for West Point with a trey from the left corner before the buzzer, as that put them ahead, 40-24, going into the fourth quarter.

The Warriors continued their dominating play on both sides of the floor. Shelton found Franklin down low for a basket not once, not twice, but three times in the fourth.

That was sandwiched around a Byram jumper, as that gave West Point a 49-28 lead. Vincent collected a steal and a basket to make it 51-30. Despite a late run by Cold Springs to cut it to 13, that wouldn't be nearly enough in the end, as the Warriors ended up collecting a 51-38 win over the Eagles to win the county title for the first time in 14 years.

Chapman led the way for West Point with 13 points. Shelton added 12 points, and Franklin ended up with 11 points. Day finished with 10 points for Cold Springs, and Black posted eight points.

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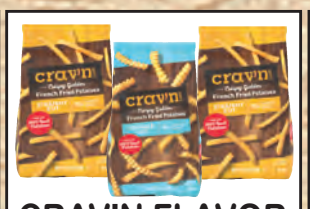
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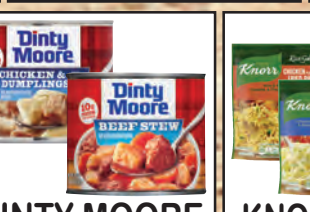
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# Alabama State Parks kicks off Junior Park Ranger Program

**David Rainer**
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

Alabama State Parks has developed a new program that encourages youngsters to join in the fun the State Parks System provides by becoming Junior Park Rangers.

The program is open to children of all ages, with activities designed especially for ages 5-12. Participation is free. Families, school groups and youth organizations are all welcome to join. If the youngsters have no prior outdoor experience, the Junior Park Ranger Program is a great place to start.

For kids who are accustomed to the outdoors, the program will expand their knowledge and appreciation of Alabama's natural wonders.

"Launching Alabama's first statewide Junior Park Ranger Program is a moment of deep pride and gratitude for our entire Parks team," said Renee Raney, Alabama State Parks' chief naturalist.

"This program opens the door for children and families to explore all 21 State Parks as outdoor classrooms, building curiosity, stewardship and lasting memories together. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in how we connect young people to Alabama's natural heritage."

To get started, go to www.alapark.com/JuniorParkRanger to download the "Junior Park Ranger Adventure Guide," which is also available at any State Park.

After completing the activities in the guide, participants share what they've learned with a Park Ranger at their nearest State Park.

Once that is done, the kids receive a Certificate of Achievement and a Junior Park Ranger badge.

"The Junior Park Ranger Program is designed to connect today's youngsters with the outdoors in a way that will keep them engaged with activities that include exploring Alabama's great State Parks," said State Parks Director Matthew Capps.

"This not only engages the kids, but family and friends will also see the enthusiasm these youngsters have for the program, which will encourage everyone to take advantage of these great resources at our State Parks."

The mantra for the program is "Learning happens on the trail!"

The program encourages the youngsters and families to swim, bike, paddle, fish or hike the more than 500 miles of trails in our State Parks, exposing the families to Alabama's great diversity of landscapes and animals like white-tailed deer, rabbits and squirrels.

The program's Passport Challenge encourages participants to visit all 21 parks.

Once a Junior Park Ranger, the youngsters are charged with a list of responsibilities that include showing respect for wildlife by observing from a distance and never feeding wild animals; leaving no trace by disposing of waste and not disturbing the natural features in the park; and staying safe by using established trails and durable surfaces for camping sites.

Raney said the reaction from children, parents and families has exceeded expectations.

"Children light up when they hold their activity guide, engage in the program and earn their badge," Raney said.

"We see pride glowing from their smiles from the moment they pledge to care for wildlife and leave no trace.

"Parents and grandparents often tell us they're pleased by how engaged their children are and how meaningful the experience feels for the whole family.

"What's especially heartwarming is the intergenerational aspect. Park guests, families and park staff are smiling during the Junior Park Ranger ceremony. Parents and children are planning their next adventure in another State Park. It's an inclusive experience that sparks curiosity, connection, inspiration and stewardship all at once."

The Junior Park Ranger Program enhances learning that is not available is your standard classroom setting.

She said teachers, homeschool families and youth organizations can also participate by using the booklet in the classroom or by scheduling guided Junior Park Ranger field trips led by our Park Naturalists.

The real-world activities align naturally with science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math, which make them a meaningful extension of classroom learning.

"Our State Parks truly serve as outdoor classrooms, and what makes the Junior Park Ranger experience even more meaningful is that families learn together," Raney said.

"Parents, grandparents and caregivers aren't just watching from the sidelines. They're exploring, asking questions and experiencing discovery alongside their children.

"Our Junior Park Ranger Program is special because it provides an opportunity for science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math (STEM/STREAM) to come to life in our State Parks.

"A lesson about ecosystems becomes a hike through a forest. A unit on geology becomes a hands-on exploration of caverns. Data collection turns into wildlife observation, journaling and discovery.

"The program is immersive, statewide, inclusive, free and available at all 21 Alabama State Parks, inviting families to deepen learning while building memories. Through adventure, curiosity and shared experiences, children discover that learning doesn't stop when school ends. It simply expands into the natural world."

Raney explains how families, educators and community groups can get involved and what they should expect when they participate.

"Getting involved is intentionally easy," she said.

"Families can download the free Junior Ranger activity booklet online or pick one up at any Alabama State Park. Children complete age-appropriate activities during their visit, share what they've learned with a Park Ranger or Park Naturalist and earn an official Junior Park Ranger badge and Certificate of Achievement. No special equipment or prior outdoor experience is needed, just curiosity and a willingness to explore."

Again, Raney points out the program is designed for families and youngsters to make memories that will last a lifetime.

"Many discover that one visit sparks a desire to return, to try the Junior Park Ranger Passport Challenge, or even to plan an overnight stay," she said.

"Our hope is that every participant leaves feeling more connected, not only to nature and conservation but to each other and to Alabama's remarkable State Parks."

Raney said it took incredible teamwork by State Parks staff, employees and volunteers to make the Junior Park Ranger Program possible.

"We are deeply thankful for the support of our leadership team, park managers and dedicated statewide staff who believe in the power of education and outdoor experiences," she said.

"We're also grateful to the Alabama State Parks Foundation and the Bronco Wild Fund Grant through America's State Parks for investing in our children and our parks."

Raney said the goal of the program is to become a gateway to more youth pursuing outdoor recreation activities and conservation careers as well as stronger family connections, healthier lifestyles and a deeper appreciation of Alabama's natural heritage.

"If a single visit inspires a child to explore science, engineering, art or ecology, or encourages a family to turn a day trip into an overnight stay or a camping experience or leads them to explore other State Parks in Alabama and beyond, then we know we're building something that will last," she said.

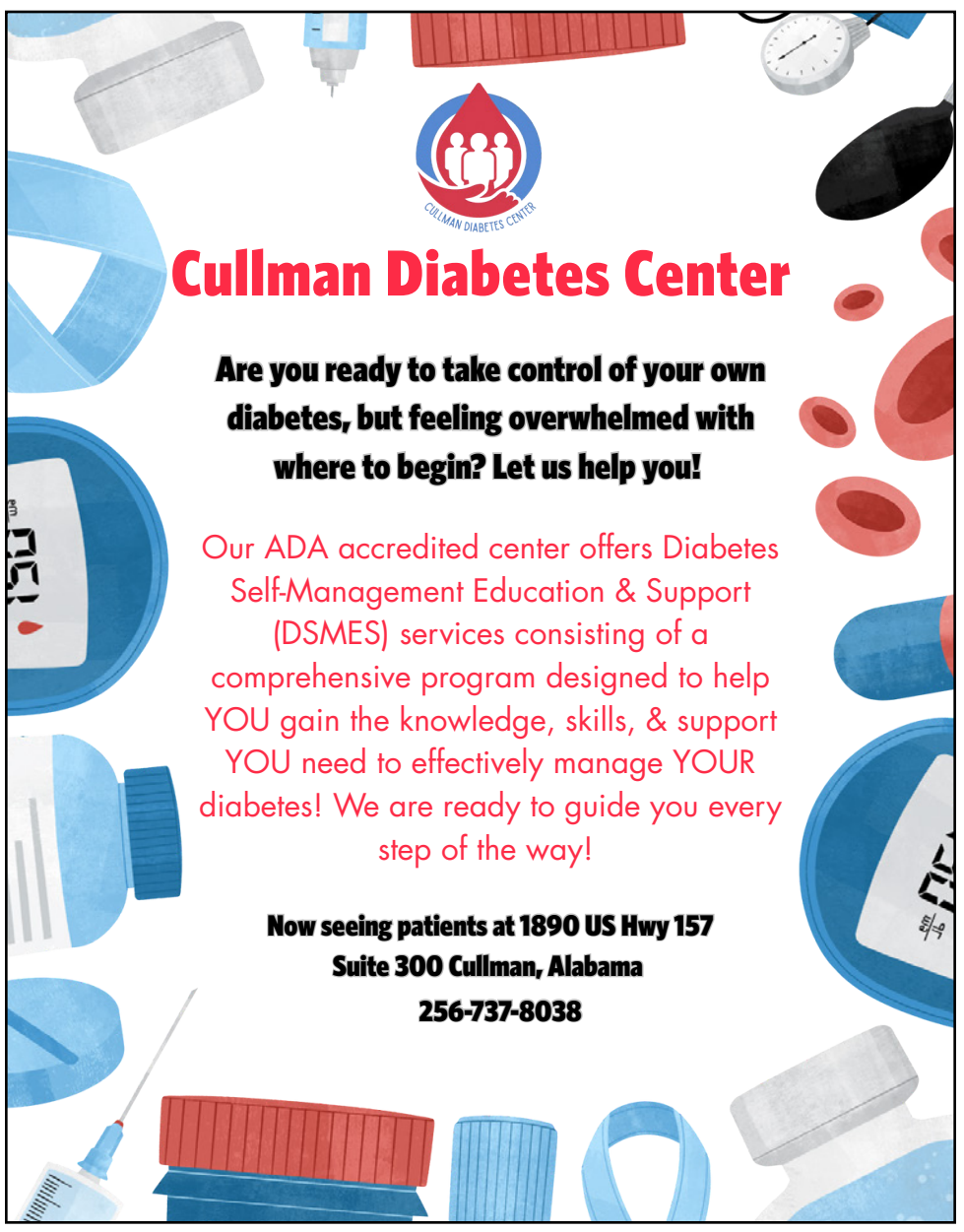
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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

***Oak Mountain State Park Ranger Alex Massey administers the pledge to become an official Junior Park Ranger.***






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

1992 Lexus SC300 VIN#JT8JZ31CON0006200

This vehicle will be sold on February 19, 2026 at 8:00 A.M. to pay storage and or repair fee. Located at 1161 Co.Rd.,1371,Vinemont, AL 35179. Contact 938-266-0106 for more info.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the Cullman County Commission, Cullman County Commission Office, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. to receive comment on closing a portion of County Road 1465, more particularly described as the following:

All portions of County Road 1465 crossing the property owned by Brock Miracle Egg LLC or Sheila Brock.

Which abutting property owners wish to vacate and abandon.

Cullman County Commission
Jeff Clemons, Chairman

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
TERRY D. KEY, * CASE NO PC 2025-363
Deceased. *

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL**

**TO: DEL ROBERTS a/k/a DALE ROBERTS, AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS**

*Petition for Probate of Will* filed by Dustin Key, Petitioner, through Attorney Matthew K. Carter for the Estate of Terry D. Key. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **12th day of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, 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 January, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Matthew K. Carter
Attorney at Law
413 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
* *
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-411

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN RICH, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED**
**BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Jimmy O'Neal Thomas on the 8th day of January, 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.

Jimmy O'Neal Thomas
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JUNE EVELYN JOHNSTON JONES, * CASE NO. PC2026- 040
DECEASED. *

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Kristen Johnston Jones Holmes as Personal Representative of the Estate of JUNE EVELYN JOHNSTON JONES, deceased, on the 23rd day January, 2026, 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.

Kristen Johnston Jones Holmes

Gaynor L. St. John
Attorney for Personal Representative

ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3542

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of )
Carolyn Gail Barbee, ) Case No. PC 2025- 408
Deceased )

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Tonya Hancock as Personal Representative of the Estate of Carolyn Gail Barbee, deceased, on the 15th day of January, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Tonya Hancock
Personal Representative
Tonya Hancock

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

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

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JOHNNY ALLRED REEVES aka * CASE NO PC 2025-453
JOHNNY A. REEVES, *
Deceased. *

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL**
**(Self-Proved Will)**

**TO: JEANNIE WHITE, RACHEL WEST, RAVEN WEST, AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS**

*Petition for Probate of Will (Self-Proved Will)* filed by Roger Burnett, Joe Butera and Daphne W. Butera, Petitioners, through Attorney John Bahakel for the Estate of Johnny Alfred Reeves aka Johnny A. Reeves. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **19th day of March, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, 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 15th day of January, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

John Bahakel
Bahakel Law Offices
2131 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35234

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SHERRY LYNN CRISCOE, Deceased.** * **CASE NO.: PC 2025-456**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Christopher Shawn Alexander, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Sherry Lynn Criscoe, deceased, on the 12th day of January, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Christopher Shawn Alexander
Personal Representative

Joseph Callaway
MARSH, RICKARD, BRYAN
Attorney for Petitioner
2222 Arlington Avenue South, Suite 210
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE MATTER OF**
**JEWEL MCCARN HALL,** ) **CASE NO.: PC-2026-008**
**Deceased.**

Case# PC2026-008
PB WIL Book 135 Page 681
Recorded in Above Book and Page
01/22/2026 4:25PM
Tanny Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL**

**TO: TAMMY HALL EDMONDS, FAYE MCMILLEN and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES**

Please take notice that a *Petition for Probate of Will* has been filed by Daniel Mosley and Ashley Mosley, Petitioner, through Attorney, Shay Persall. A hearing has been scheduled **for the 12th day of March, 2026, at 10:30 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, Probate Office Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 22nd day of January, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
* *
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-400

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD MONROE HOLCOMBE, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED**
**BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Richard Warren Holcombe on the 8th day of January, 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.

Richard Warren Holcombe
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN THE MATTER OF** *
**K.F.N.,** * **CASE NO.: JU 23-108.05**
**a minor, DOB: 04-02-2013.** *

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING**

**BETHANY ELLEN RIGNEY aka BETHANY ELLEN SCREWS, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above referenced child born on April 2, 2013, by the 17 day of February, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.**

Done this the 6 day of January, 2025-2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

**Petitioner:**
**Cullman County Department of Human Resources**
**P. O. Box 990**
**1220 St. Joseph Street NW**
**Cullman, AL 35056**

**FILED IN OFFICE**
**JAN 06 2026**
**LISA McSWAIN**
**CIRCUIT COURT**
**CULLMAN COUNTY**

**Perry D. Knight**
**Attorney for Petitioner**
**412 First Avenue SE**
**Suite 101**
**Cullman, AL 35055**
**256-734-4090**

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
* *
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-302

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED**
**BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Bonnie Styles on the 15th day of January, 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.

Bonnie Styles
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

Case# PC2025-397
PB WIL Book 135 Page:435
Recorded in Above Book and Page
01/08/2026 10:47AM
Tanny Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
* *
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-397

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICKY WAYNE LEE, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED**
**BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Ricky Lee Durden on the 8th day of January, 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.

Ricky Lee Durden
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICKY ELDRID FROST, Deceased.** **CASE NO:** PC 2025-444

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration, were granted to **Brittany Hyde,** Personal Representative, of the Estate of **Ricky Eldrid Frost**, on 15th day January, 2026 by the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

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

Brittany Hyde
**BRITTANY HYDE,**
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to Bethany Ellison Malone, P.O. Box 740212, Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

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

OP-ED

# Continuing your resolutions

**Chasady Woods**
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Every year, people create New Year's resolutions. As the beginning of the year approaches these are goals commonly set to support their "New Year, new me" journey. There is excitement in making these promises to yourself, but many times it can discourage us when our focus starts to waver.

The issue with these resolutions is we often try to reinvent ourselves instead of improving. So when we start to stray from it we are disappointed. With that disappointment comes abandonment. The fire burns out almost as quickly as it was ignited. The fault is not in resolutions themselves, but the extent of them. If you're an antisocial night owl and set a resolution to become an early bird chatterbox, you probably won't have the best time sticking to it.

This tradition has grown in popularity with the emergence of time-based challenges like "75 Hard." While these aren't bad things to try, it has caused a ripple effect in individuals who don't see these as temporary challenges. No one should have to wake up at 5 a.m. every day, be the epitome of peak health and have a perfectly planned-out daily routine on day one.

Human beings do best with routine, but I, personally, think it's best to start small and simple. Gradually expose yourself to the routine. If you want to start waking up at 5 in the morning, wake up earlier and earlier every day for one week and ease into it.

If you struggle to do it, take a better look at your sleep routine. If you normally play on your phone before bed, that can stimulate you and disrupt your sleeping pattern. Start small and try reading a book before bed.

Do you want to lose weight this year or improve your overall health? Start by cutting out things like sugary beverages. Once you've cleared your kidneys and water doesn't taste like backwash, start cutting out junk foods and so on! It is a process and the success rate can differ from person to person.

The issue with resolutions isn't the resolution making itself! It's the idea that improving yourself means being an entirely different person. And also the idea that your resolution has to change or reset at the beginning of the year. Change happens with consistency! If you continue to make improvements to yourself, you will continue to see the fruits of your labor.

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OP-ED

# A good person

**Chasady Woods**
chasady@cullmantribune.com

I think some make themselves appear as a "good person," but what really defines us as that? Are you a good person because the good you do outweighs the bad? With that logic – are you a bad person because you do more bad things than you do anything else?

I don't think people are good or bad. I think we just are. To be human is to have faults and to also have admirable attributes. That is the nature of being human, but just like all things there has to be balance.

A group can host a free meal for a local community and some may sing praises about them. They applaud how they catered to those around them and they may even label them as saints. In the eyes of those people, they are good.

Others may see what they have done in the presence of cameras and publicity afterward. They may think that good things, if truly meant to be good for the sake of being good, don't need acknowledgement. Some say that if a "good" thing can't just be done and go unspoken, then it isn't a good thing.

However there are those who are just glad a good thing can be done, despite the intent. It all comes down to the eye of the beholder.

So if we are not in control of how people perceive us, why do we try so hard to alter their opinions of us? Are we that afraid to be at fault or to have insecurities? Is being human so difficult that we have to tip the scale one way or another to be defined as anything?

At the end of the day we all want to be loved and to be home with the people we care about.

And to be cared about in return. The people we love dearly see us for the good things and the bad things we do and love us anyway. It is their perception of us that matters, but mostly our own perception of ourselves.

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# Obituary Announcements: Jan. 24-26

**Alton Keith Garnett**
Mr. Alton Keith Garnett, 70, of Falkville passed away Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. No services are announced at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Garnett was born Sept. 25, 1955, to Alton B. Garnett and Hilda Mae Angle Garnett. He loved racing and really enjoyed watching his grandson race. He was an electrician for many years. He loved his family and his dog, Benji. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gary Joe Garnett; his sister, Pearlee Travis; and a daughter, Wanda Garnett. Survivors include his daughter, Alisha Speakman (Shannon Orr); brother, Frankie Garnett; sister, Kelley Thornton; grandchildren, Ethan Orr (Jessica), Trenton Orr; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Rodney William Marks**
Funeral services for Rodney William Marks, 52, of Logan, were held at noon on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in New Mt. Zion Cemetery, Bro. Shannon Caudle officiating. The family received friends at the funeral home from 11 a.m.-noon prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Rodney passed away Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at his residence. He was born Oct. 30, 1973, to Roger Dale and Dorothy Jean Hart Marks. He loved working outdoors and working on farm equipment. He loved riding his motorcycle. He was always smiling and happy and had a big heart. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hugh Lee and Arvie Lee Marks; father, Roger Marks; uncles, Larry Marks, Phillip Marks. Survivors include his mother, Dorothy Jean Marks; uncles, Marty Marks, Michael (Becky) Marks; aunt, Kathy (Jackie) Caudle; sister, Angela (Joseph) DeBoer; nieces, Alyssa and Emma DeBoer; nephew, Elijah DeBoer; a host of cousins, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Timothy Wayne Cosper**
Memorial service is incomplete at this time for Timothy Cosper, 70, of Falkville. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Cosper passed away Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at CRMC. He was born Nov. 12, 1955, to William Howard and Lula Mae Seckfort Cosper. He was a very talented painter and carpenter and took great pride in his work. He was an Alabama football fan and loved classic rock, especially Led Zeppelin. In his younger years he enjoyed water skiing. He loved his family very much. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Larry Cosper; and the mother of his children, Kathryn Mitchell. Survivors include his two daughters, Lindsay Schmale, Brittney Cosper (Emily King); three brothers, Tommy (Charlotte) Cosper, Frankie Cosper, Randy (Elizabeth) Cosper; sister, Linette Cosper; grandchildren, Caleb (Jacy) Schmale, Cohen Scott, Kylen King, Brodie Robertson; great-grandchildren, River Schmale, Mazie Schmale; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Stewart Victor Burden**
Stewart Victor Burden, 68, of Addison, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at his residence. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Stewart was born Oct. 22, 1957, to Hascal Doyle and Annie Myrle Hogan Burden. He was a heavy equipment operator, loved hunting and cooking, and he always wanted to feed everyone. He was a wonderful brother, husband, father and grandfather. He loved his family and friends. Stewart had a wonderful sense of humor and he loved his dog, Button. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother-in-law, Randy Barnes; and his nephew, Benjamin Barnes. Survivors include his wife, Renda Burden; sons, Isaac (Anna Kate) Lancaster, Caleb Gregory; daughter, Elizabeth (Adam) Richards; sisters, Patina Bright, Chiquita Barnes; grandchildren, Wesley Richards, Skylar Cleghorn, Jake Burden, Nicole St. John, Jordan Roberts and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Roger Dale Bowen, Sr. (updated)**
A Memorial Visitation for Roger Dale Bowen, Sr., age 69 of Vinemont, will be Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, from noon-1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bowen passed away on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, at Cullman Regional. Survivors include his son, Roger Dale Bowen, Jr. (Carolyn Shipe); significant other, Kathy Diane Culwell; stepson, Michael Calwell and stepdaughter, Kaylee Culwell; grandchildren, Destiny Bowen (Stephen Stamper), Kearstyn Sikora-Bowen (Ian), Jacob Shipe, Gabriel Bowen, Kyan Bowen and Greyson Bowen; grand grandchild, Slayde Stamper; sister, Christine Hale (Benny) and a host of nieces and nephews. Roger Dale Bowen Sr. was a man whose presence brought lightness, laughter and an easy calm wherever he went. Known for his steady, upbeat spirit, Roger had a rare ability to make people feel at ease, often with a joke, a grin or a perfectly timed laugh. Roger loved the simple joys of life. He found peace on the water while fishing, content with a rod in hand and time moving slowly. Music was another great love of his, especially singing karaoke, where he truly shined. Roger had a creative streak that showed in his favorite pastime of turning familiar songs into funny, made-up versions that never failed to bring laughter to those around him. He was a natural tinkerer who enjoyed working on small engines, always curious and always fixing or improving something. When he was not doing that, he could often be found riding his motorcycle, most notably his Honda Shadow, enjoying the freedom of the open road. Roger spent much of his career as a truck driver, primarily hauling gas. He took pride in his work and approached it with the same reliability and calm demeanor that defined the rest of his life. What people will remember most about Roger is his energy. He was almost always in a good mood, quick to joke, and genuinely loved to laugh. His humor was easy, his presence was calming and being around him brought a sense of comfort and peace. Roger Dale Bowen Sr. leaves behind memories filled with music, laughter and kindness. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

## FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

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Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

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

BOOK REVIEW

# 'Proving Ground' by Michael Connelly

**Cathy Lay Mayor**
Contributor

The Lincoln Lawyer is back with the eighth novel of the Mickey Haller (Lincoln Lawyer) series.

Mickey Haller is the half-brother of Harry Bosch, a Los Angeles homicide detective. The Harry Bosch series has 24 books. Harry met his father when he was an adult and is surprised to find out that he has a half-brother.

Mickey was 5 years old when they met and later follows his father's footsteps and becomes a defense attorney. Mickey's mother is from Mexico and Mickey spent much of his youth living in Mexico. Most of what Mickey knows about his father is from law books.

Mickey gets his nickname from his preference of working from the back of a Lincoln Town Car instead of an office.

Harry and Mickey's paths cross during the two series. The contrast between the two characters adds a lot of interest to the novels.

One of Michael Connelly's other characters, Jack McEvoy, is a reporter and is helping with a case in hopes of gathering material for a book about artificial intelligence.

Connelly often has his various characters in the same novel.

In "Proving Ground," Mickey has left criminal defense work and is now has turned to public interest litigation by filing a lawsuit against an AI company.

The novel addresses the new chat bot technology that does not have any safeguards for the young impressionable audience.

The chatbot, called Clair, was developed as a companion for lonely teens.

Aaron Colton murders his girlfriend Rebecca Randolph after she breaks up with him. The lawsuit alleges the chatbot encouraged Aaron to kill Rebecca.

The parents of both teens have filed a lawsuit against the company hoping for both a confession of wrongdoing and a financial award.

The company's founder Victor Wendt promises the stockholders that the case will go away quietly and he is determined to settle the case to avoid damage to the company's profits.

"Proving Ground" is a fast-paced legal drama and is full of suspense. Both legal teams use computer technology to spy on each other and try to hide evidence and potential witnesses. AI is a hot topic now.

The novel is well researched and full of information I was unaware of. The novel is very educational to those of us who are not up to date on AI.

It is obvious we need more safeguards in place to protect impressionable teens who might be depressed and/or lonely or be the victims of bullying.

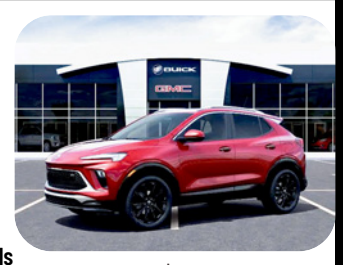
Michael Connelly is an American author of detective novels and other crime fiction. He is the bestselling author of 38 novels and one work of non-fiction. He has sold over 74 million copies worldwide and they have been translated into 40 languages. I have not read all 38 novels, but I have read at least 30 of them. I highly recommend his books.




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WAS $66,685
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2026 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate
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- 6.6L Duramax V8 Turbo Diesel Engine
- Alpine Umber Leather
- 16-Way Power Front Seats with Lumbar Adjust
- X31 Off-Road Package
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WAS $98,430
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- Heads-Up Display
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