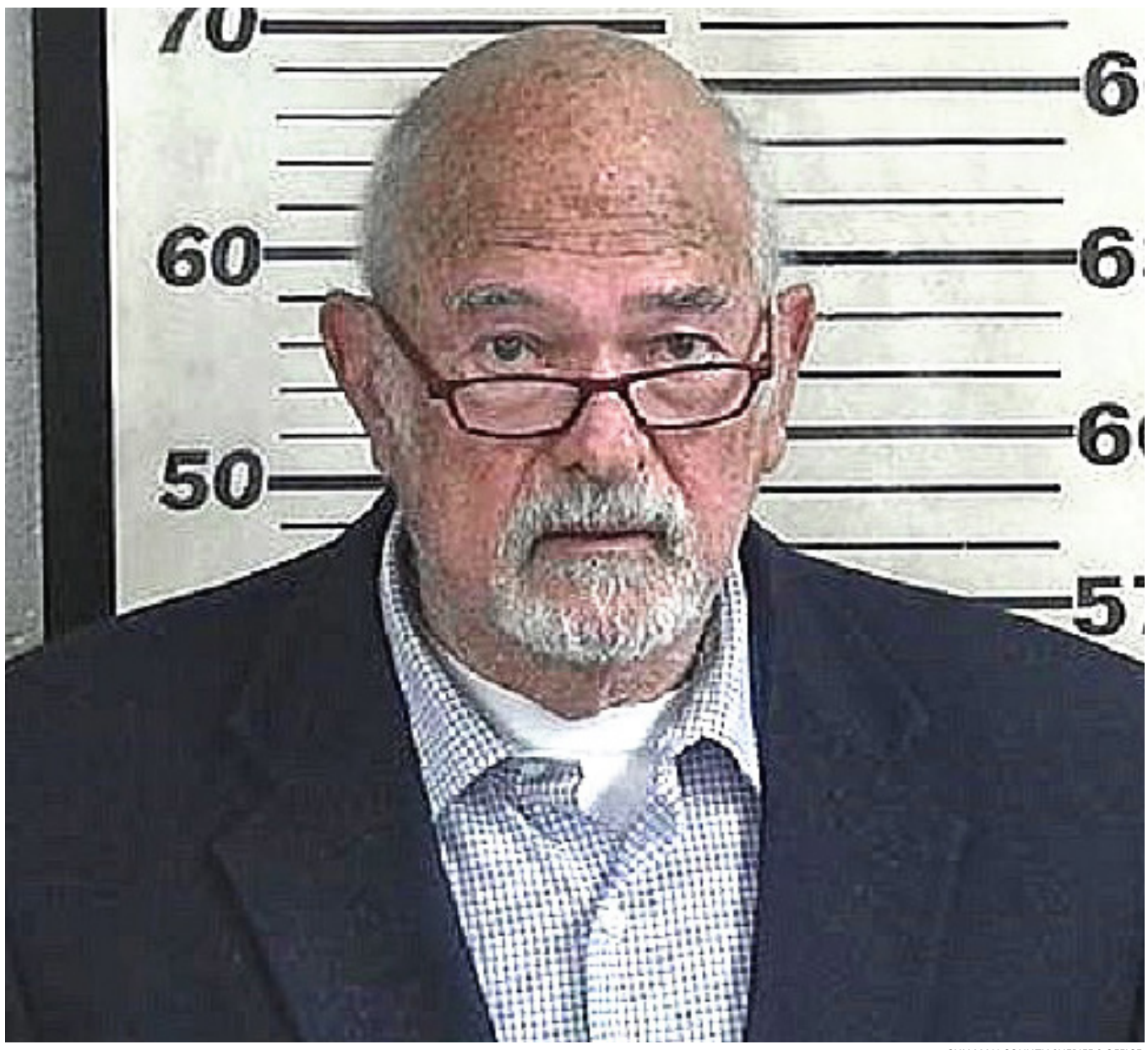
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The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | MARCH 6, 2018 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 28

# Cullman attorney Randy Hames charged with human trafficking



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

***Cullman attorney Randy Hames, shown here in his mugshot from Monday, March 5, 2018, has been charged with two counts of second-degree human trafficking.***

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN** – Local attorney Randy Allan Hames, 75, was arrested Monday and charged with two counts of second-degree human trafficking, a Class B felony. The new charges stem from the circumstances that led to Hames being arrested back on Feb. 22 for two counts of second-degree stalking and two counts of promoting prostitution, misdemeanor charges, said a spokesman for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

Hames was out on bond and practicing law inside the Cullman County Courthouse when he was arrested Monday. He has already made bond on the new charges. Bond was $15,000 property for each count of human trafficking.

Kayla Carreker and Tomeka Bartlett have accused Hames of requesting sex for rent payments. The two lived at Hames Trailer Park, owned by the accused. Carreker and Bartlett also accuse Hames of making crude sexual remarks to them.

The CCSO spokesman said the Cullman County District Attorney's Office decided to move forward with the human trafficking charges after reviewing the case and speaking with the victims and others. He said the warrant was issued Monday, and Hames was picked up in the courthouse.

**According to the Alabama Criminal Code, Section 13A-6-153:**

**(a)** A person commits the crime of human trafficking in the second degree if:

**(1)** A person knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture or engagement for the purpose of sexual servitude or labor servitude.

**(2)** A person knowingly recruits, entices, solicits, induces, harbors, transports, holds, restrains, provides, maintains, subjects, or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of labor servitude or sexual servitude.

**(3)** A corporation, or any other legal entity other than an individual, may be prosecuted for human trafficking in the second degree for an act or omission only if an agent of the corporation or entity performs the conduct which is an element of the crime while acting within the scope of his or her office or employment and on behalf of the corporation or entity, and the commission of the crime was either authorized, requested, commanded, performed, or within the scope of the person's employment on behalf of the corporation or entity or constituted a pattern of conduct that an agent of the corporation or entity knew or should have known was occurring.

**(4)** Any person who obstructs, or attempts to obstruct, or in any way interferes with or prevents the enforcement of this section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**(b)** Human trafficking in the second degree is a Class B felony.

POLITICS

# Bussman talks current term, his hopes for next



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

***Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman is up for re-election this year. Bussman said his main accomplishments have been in economic development, infrastructure and education. If re-elected, he said his focus will be on education.***

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – As the 2018 campaign season gets into full swing, The Tribune spoke with Sen. Paul Bussman, R- Cullman, the incumbent candidate in Alabama Senate District 4, which includes Cullman County. Bussman took a few moments from his busy schedule in Montgomery to answer a few questions about what he's done in his time in office and what he hopes to accomplish in the future.

**What have you encountered or been working on that will affect Cullman County? Have your plans gone well, and how will what you're doing now translate into another term?**

"Over the last few years, I have been very successful in significant areas that have direct impact on this district. I have secured several million dollars in grant money for economic development, sewer system upgrades and infrastructure needs. Through relationships built with ALDOT (the Alabama Department of Transportation), I have been involved in acquiring tens of millions of dollars for road projects, bridge replacement projects and paving projects. Finding funding to expand our roads and build infrastructure will always be a need » PAGE 3

# Pet of the Week: help Jade find her forever home

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay introduces us to our Pet of the Week Jade, an adult shepherd/husky mix. She's laid back with a low energy level, and submissive.

Ruttkay related that Jade "floats ever so lightly on her leash, sits and gives you her paw... A little girl, maybe 4 years old, and her parents, stopped by the shelter. She walked up beside Jade, stretched out her small hand and touched Jade's withers. Jade sat down and delicately extended her paw. She embodies the nature of an undeniable canine companion."

Jade's adoption fee is $90, which includes her DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam by a veterinarian, spay, microchip, free 45-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

***Left to right: Jacky Lee Nunnelley, Tyler Mark Hankins, Alexander Douglas Quick***

# 3 local men arrested for multiple vehicle thefts

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN** – Three local men were arrested this week in connection to multiple vehicle thefts. The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) said Jacky Lee Nunnelley, 43, of Holly Pond; Tyler Mark Hankins, 23, of Fairview; and Alexander Douglas Quick, 23, of Cullman were each charged with first-degree theft of property.

Nunnelley and Hankins were also charged with first-degree receiving stolen property.

According to the CCSO, the investigation that led to the arrests began several weeks ago when a work truck was stolen from behind the old Piggly Wiggly at the construction site of the new Cullman Fire Rescue station on Alabama Highway 157.

During the investigation, said a statement from the CCSO, it was determined that the three suspects were involved in at least four vehicle thefts.

From there, all three suspects were located and arrested over the course of two days, Thursday, March 2 and Friday, March 3, 2018; the stolen vehicles were located and returned to the owners.

"I am thankful we were able to recover the stolen vehicles and get them back to the owners and also that these thieves are now sitting in jail where they belong," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would also like to thank the investigators who worked long hours on this case and were able catch these suspects."

The CCSO said additional charges may be pending as the investigation continues.

All three suspects are being held in the Cullman County Detention Center: Quick on a $10,000 property bond, and Nunnelley and Hankins each on a $20,000 property bond.

# 2 busted for selling meth in Cullman County

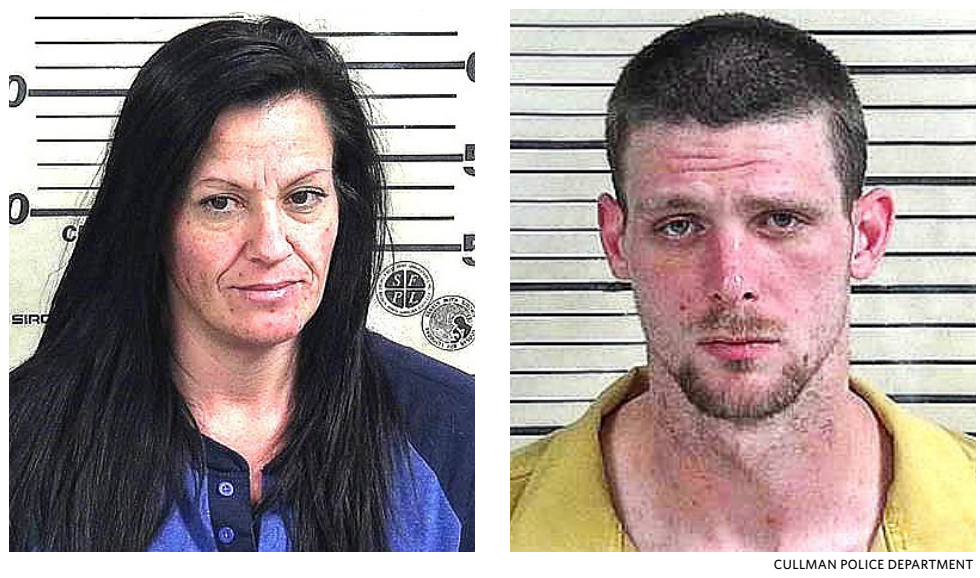
**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN** – The Cullman Police Department's Crime Suppression Unit (CSU) this week arrested two people for allegedly selling methamphetamine.

Tonya Monk Beasinger, 43, of Vinemont was arrested on Wednesday and charged with unlawful distribution of a controlled substance.

Beasinger, who was on probation at the time of her arrest, remains incarcerated in the Cullman County Detention Center as of Saturday afternoon.

On Tuesday, Steven Keith Graves, 29, of Cullman was arrested and charged with unlawful distribution of a controlled substance.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

***Tonya Monk Beasinger, left; Steven Keith Graves, right***

Out on bond at the time of his arrest, Graves also remains incarcerated in the Cullman County Detention Center as of Saturday afternoon.

# Cullman Regional to host 'Sleep Well, Stay Well' seminar March 15

**Mary Beth Sellers**
Cullman Regional

**CULLMAN** – Why is sleep so important to your overall health? In the short term, a lack of adequate sleep can affect judgment, mood, the ability to learn and retain information, and may increase the risk of serious accidents and injury.

In the long term, chronic sleep deprivation may lead to a host of health problems including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and even early mortality.

Join Dr. Mark Tafazoli, board-certified sleep specialist, as he discusses signs and symptoms of sleep deprivation.

Learn how these problems affect the body, signs you might have a sleep disorder and receive tips for getting adequate sleep.

The Sleep Well, Stay Well Seminar will be held on Thursday, March 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Colonel Cullmann Room, located in Professional Office Building 2 on the Cullman Regional Campus (1912 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

The cost of this lunch and learn program is $5 for Healthy Life members and $8 for others.

To reserve your spot, register online at www.cullmanregional.com or call 256-735-5600.

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**NO PHONE CALLS**

**Stop in office to fill out application**
**Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Mullins Body Shop, LLC**
**11042 US Hwy 31 South, Cullman, AL 35055**

**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby give to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2001 Lexus, Vin. #JTHBD182410015058.

This vehicle will be sold on April 20, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY**

**STATE OF ALABAMA**
**CULLMAN COUNTY** **CASE NO: AD-2018-017**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF A.B.L.
A MINOR CHILD.

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

TO: JUAN LOPEZ, OR ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY DUSTIN JAMES HOPSON, PETITIONER, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER DALYNDA PINEDA HOPSON, IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2018.

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

*MELVIN HASTING*
Attorney for Petitioner
407 2nd Avenue, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-736-2230

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY**

**STATE OF ALABAMA**
**CULLMAN COUNTY** **CASE NO: AD-2018-008**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF H.E.Q.
A MINOR CHILD.

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

TO: CORY FABIAN PATRICK QUESNEL

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY KENNETH NAIL, PETITIONER, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER SABRINA JANE SURRETT NAIL, IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2018.

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

*DAN WILLINGHAM*
Attorney for Petitioner
413 First Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

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**256-287-5500**

HANCEVILLE CLASS OF 1968
50th CLASS REUNION
DATE: June 2, 2018
PLACE: The Moody Center, Hanceville, Alabama
TIME: 1:00 PM
Please RSVP by April 30, 2018
You may join us on Facebook
"Hanceville High School Class of 1968 Reunion"
or contact
Harold Brown (256) 735-0120 or (256) 338-0531
or email: haroldbrown10@att.net

# Arrest report: March 2-4

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN** – Below are the arrests reported for March 2-4. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Barnett, Jonathan Wayne, 46**
• third-degree domestic violence

**Beard, William Joseph, 55**
• harassment

**Boone, Timothy Aaron, 23**
• FTA- altered/mutilated DL
• FTA- driving while suspended
• FTA- failure to signal

**Conrad, Jacob Samuel, 21**
• DUI- .08 BAC or greater

**Cooper, Joseph Dewayne, 34**
• FTA- driving while revoked

**Cribbs, Brandon Dale, 37**
• third-degree domestic violence

**Gunter, Roman Dewayne, 26**
• FTA- 20 days to register vehicle
• FTA- driving while suspended (2 counts)
• FTA- proof of liability insurance required

**Hollis, Robert Lee Jr., 40**
• FTA- nonsupport

**Hults, Guy, 32**
• possession of prescription medicine
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

**Jordan, Jade Moore, 23**
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

**Lee, Betty Brakefield, 68**
• defrauding secured creditors

**Long, Cameron, 39**
• negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

**Lopez-Hernandez, Arturo, 25**
• GJ- second-degree assault

**Lynn, Skyler Kade, 18**
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

**Marsh, Shana Melton, 27**
• third-degree assault (2 counts)
• third-degree domestic violence

**Nunnelley, Jacky Lee, 43**
• first-degree receiving stolen property

**Peak, Brian Derrick, 48**
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

**Pelt, Christine Inez, 40**
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

**Quick, Alexander Douglas, 23**
• first-degree theft of property

**Starks, Jeremy S., 37**
• FTA- improper taillights

**Sutton, Felicia Leann, 30**
• writ of arrest- child support

**Taylor, Calvin Heath, 29**
• FTA- first-degree criminal trespassing

**Willis, Lewis Franklin, 46**
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Pendleton Cory L., 44**
• harassment

**Box, Michael W. 19**
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

**Bryant, John C., 19**
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

**Bartlett Michael S., 40**
• harassment

**Hinkle, Kyndall A., 19**
• possession of drug paraphernalia

**Loyd, Erika R., 42**
• FTA- third-degree theft of property

**Gunter, Roman D., 26**
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- driving without a license

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No arrests reported.

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

# Bussman (from Front)

and priority.

"I am most proud of the fact that I have been able to help both the city and county every time they asked for assistance with their grant applications. In fact, I have likely secured more funds for the entire area than any previous legislator," said Bussmann.

"For the first time, all the schools in my district have benefitted from educational grant funds. Almost half a million dollars has been fairly distributed to schools throughout this district. These funds have provided much needed technology upgrades, facility upgrades and structural repairs that were currently not budgeted.

"I have also provided funding to replace WWII-era equipment at the Cullman Area Technology Academy. All the schools in the district have important needs. It is essential that their needs be heard and that all our schools get their fair share."

Bussman continued, "As far as legislation is concerned, I have been very influential in important areas that affect many citizens in my district. I was very instrumental in the passage of the autism bill to help our families that deal with autism. This autism legislation will provide treatment that could turn a non-responsive child into a college graduate. I was also very instrumental in the passage of legislation that allowed a woman to decide how and where to deliver her baby, a basic right for a woman.

"Education has been another area of intense involvement and I have stood alone in the Senate to make sure our K-12 and community colleges are treated fairly when budgets are determined. Making sure that K-12 and community colleges don't fall farther behind is a real concern in the present budgeting process.

"My plans and legislation for this session have gone extremely well. I have proposed 16 different pieces of legislation this session. Nine of those have been enacted into law, one is waiting for the governor's signature to be enacted into law, five have passed the Senate and moved on to the House for their action.

"So, all but one of the bills I have led have either been enacted into law or passed by my chamber, the Senate. I have been able to pass these bills because I clearly identify the needs and issues and successfully explain them to the body. I have also built great relationships with many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle."

**What will be the main focus of your next term, if you are re-elected? What do you hope to accomplish?**

"The main focus for the next term has to be education. Over the last few years it has become very clear to me that our schools lack leadership from the State Board of Education," said Bussman. "There is nobody at the state level that is respected enough to fight for K-12 and our community colleges. Locally, our school boards are fighting as hard as they can to address these concerns. But, needless to say, their time and resources are limited. I have found that K-12 and (Wallace State Community College) are at an extreme disadvantage when it comes to the budgeting process. Special interest groups have controlled the budgeting process in education for the last 4 years and during those years I have challenged that special interest. K-12 and community colleges have been cut by tens of millions of dollars over the last few years. I have fought and will continue to fight to bring that money back to K-12 and WSCC. Our children need and deserve better."

**The final word**

"When I decided to run for the Senate," said Bussman, "I promised the district that I would become part of their community. Whether it be Cullman, Moulton, Addison, Haleyville, Hamilton or Hackleburg, I promised to be so involved in their community (so) that they would know I cared for them.

"By traveling more than 13,000 miles per year in the district, I have been actively involved in attracting and securing new industry across this district. I have helped to prevent the closing of a hospital which would have been devastating for this district. I have gone to events, schools, businesses, churches and even funerals because that is what the people of my district deserve," Bussman shared.

"With all of the district working together, we have come a long way. There is always more work to be done and I intend to continue our forward movement over the next four years."

Bussman is being challenged for the District 4 Senate seat by Cullman businessman and Cullman City Council President Garlan Gudger. Both candidates have steered a diplomatic course to this point and have refrained from making any public comment about their opponent.

---

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

IN RE: The estate of )
MAVORENE M. HAMILTON, ) Case No. PC 2018-078
Deceased )

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of MAVORENE M. HAMILTON, deceased, has been filed by ANITA MARIE HAMILTON BURNS, on the 27th day of February, 2018, and a hearing for Summary Distribution has been set for the 23rd day of April, 2018, at 10:30 o'clock A.m. in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by the law or the same will be barred.

ANITA MARIE HAMILTON BURNS
Petitioner

**All claims must be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama**

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice **ONE TIME** and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE this the 1st day of March, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, Probate Judge

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PB ADT BK 48 PG 308 - 02/23/2018 08:28 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PETITION OF Quintana Ann Rainwater CASE NO: AD2018-011

FOR THE ADOPTION OF

J. T. M., MINOR.

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

**TO: TONEY MARTIN, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN FATHER OF J.T.M., A MINOR CHILD BORN TO SAMANTHA MARIE DOUTHIT RAINWATER.**

The Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Quintana Ann Rainwater. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with the Clerk of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, Post Office Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056.

DONE THIS 22nd DAY OF February, 2018.

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

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**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE**

Default having been made in the payment of the debt secured by that certain mortgage executed by Michael A. Hooper on August 4, 2015 and being recorded on August 4, 2015 in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama at Mtg. Book 1767, Page 306, B & R Meter Service, LLC, as Mortgagee, by reason of such default, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on March 27, 2018 during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

The East half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 9 South, Range 1 West. Containing 20 acres of land, more or less.

Conveyed subject to a right-of-way for a public road off of and across the South side of said parcel.

Address of Property: County Road 1763, Cullman, AL 35055

THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND EXCEPTIONS REFLECTED IN THE MORTGAGE AND THOSE CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SITUATED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO.

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

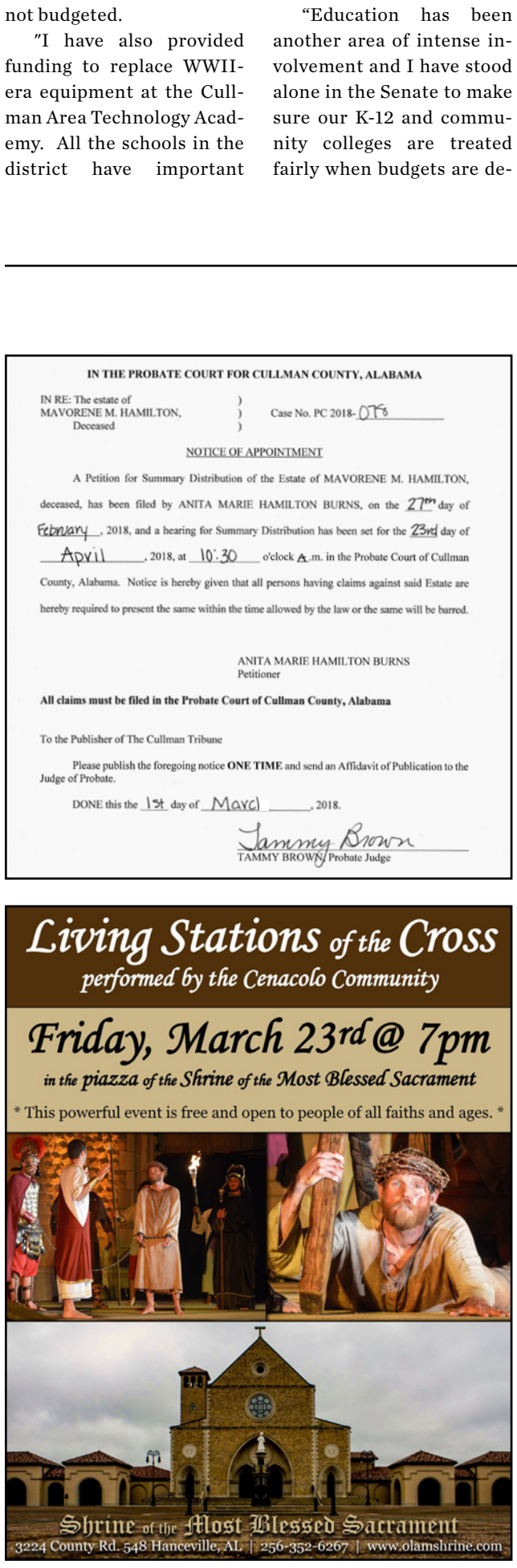
The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.

This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

B & R Meter Service, LLC, Mortgagee

Trent Lowry
GRIFFITH, LOWRY & MEHERG, LLC
Attorney for B & R Meter Service, LLC
409 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-0458
trent@griffithlowry.com

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-343

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RALPH MITCHELL, SR., DECEASED.**

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

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Julia McCaffrey on the 21st day of February 2017, 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.

Julia McCaffrey
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

## PREP BASEBALL

# Bearcats bruised on the road at Hartselle, 8-2

**Nick Griffin**
Tribune Correspondent



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***A swing and a miss during Saturday's Cullman at Hartselle game.***

**HARTSELLE** – The Cullman Bearcats suffered a tough loss on the road against the Hartselle Tigers Saturday afternoon. The 'Cats got out to a 1-0 lead in the top of the first on an RBI single from Grayson Taylor, but it was all Tigers from that point on.

Hartselle quickly tied the game with a score from third on a wild pitch and took a 2-1 lead later in the inning on a single into right field. Bearcats' starter Michael Myers went more than 40 pitches in the half inning and did not return after walking three and giving up the two runs to the Tigers.

After scoring in the first, Cullman's bats were kept quiet until the seventh. The 'Cats' lineup struck out a combined 12 times in the game and came up with just two hits, both of which came from Taylor. The Tigers took a commanding lead in the bottom of the fourth when they scored four runs to stretch their lead to 6-1. Cullman sent four more arms out to the mound after Myers, with Braxton Jones, Seth Gable, Tyler Nunnelley and Mason Davis all recording at least an inning.

The Tigers added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth on a double into left field that put them up comfortably 8-1 with three outs remaining for Cullman.

The Bearcats got on the board one more time when Peyton Colvard got home on a wild pitch in the top of the seventh, but it was too little too late as the 'Cats fell 8-2 in a disappointing performance that could pay dividends down the road in 2018.

The loss puts the Bearcats at 2-2 at this early point in the season; they will look to regroup and get their bats going when they travel to Helena on March 6.

# West Point band's 35th annual Stars and Stripes Rodeo funds the arts

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On Friday and Saturday evenings, the West Point High School band boosters hosted their annual Stars and Stripes Rodeo at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center.

Said West Point Band Director Ty Parker, "This is our West Point Warrior Band's 35th annual Stars and Stripes Rodeo. The band has been in charge of the rodeo for, obviously, 35 years. A few years ago, it kind of dipped down with attendance and overall profits from the past years, but this is our second year with our treasurer Josh Sellers in charge, and it's back to what it used to be: huge crowds, a great fun family atmosphere for this Cullman area and surrounding areas to come and enjoy a good indoor rodeo."

Sellers spent more three months planning the rodeo, securing sponsors and a new stock contractor for this year's event, along with riding herd on a small herd of student and adult volunteers.

His efforts paid off, with 106 riders, ropers, wrestlers and mutton busters (sheep riders as young as 2 years old. Yes, they really did!) signing up to compete. Saturday's crowd filled the stands, and Friday's attendance was also reported as high.

Said Sellers, "I just appreciate all the help and the hard work that my (band) parents have put in, and my students. Last night (Friday), we were trying to count down money when it was over, and I come out of the room and our bleachers was spotless. These kids really got in here and busted it last night and really, really cleaned up and showed out. I just want to thank them and thank the parents that stood behind me and the organization. And our band director (Parker) and our principal (Heith Yearwood). He come in here last night to support us. I really appreciate all them."

Young cowboys and cowgirls tried their hands at mutton busting, while older competitors vied for prize money and bragging rights in bareback and saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing, breakaway roping, calf roping, team roping and steer wrestling.

**It wouldn't be a rodeo without a pageant and a queen, and the Stars and Stripes Rodeo was no exception:**

- Tiny Miss West Point Rodeo - Makenna Deridder
- Petite Miss West Point Rodeo - Molly Caudle
- Little Miss West Point Rodeo - Caroline Wilson
- Junior Miss West Point Rodeo - Ellie Lorrance
- Senior Miss West Point Rodeo - Allie Clark
- Rachel Jackson of Jackson, Mississippi was named 2018 West Point Stars and Stripes Rodeo Queen.

**All about the arts**

West Point has a rapidly growing performing arts program, but the rodeo is specifically for the West Point Warrior Band and is the group's largest fundraising event. According to Parker, this year's proceeds will go toward the purchase of new band uniforms, paying off debts from the previous marching season and establishing a fund to prepare for the next marching season.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Three little cowboys look on at this weekend's Stars and Stripes Rodeo.***

Shared Parker, "We have so many students involved this year, that we're looking at possibly developing an arts wing at West Point. I found this out yesterday. It would have a small theater, a dance studio, an instrumental rehearsal room, all in the school building. So, we're trying to really add a space for the number of students we have involved in theater, instrumental music, visual art and in dance, too. We have over 200 students involved. We had 80 last year (Parker's first year), and now we have over 200."

West Point Theatre will be presenting "Beauty and the Beast" this Thursday through Sunday, March 8-11, and on April 26-29, Parker will be directing "Camp Rock," one of the state's first multi-high school theater productions with students from across the county system.

**"Beauty and the Beast"**
West Point Theatre exclusive
Mar. 8-11, 2018
Fairview High School, 841 Welcome Road, Fairview

**"Camp Rock"**
Countywide production sponsored by West Point Theatre and Fairview Theater Works
Apr. 26-29, 2018
Fairview High School, 841 Welcome Road, Fairview



# Cullman Lions' annual Fish and Ham Dinner a hit

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Lions and Leos form a meal assembly line in the Cullman Middle School lunchroom for Saturday's annual Fish and Ham Dinner.***

**CULLMAN** – Saturday was a beautiful day for a fish fry, and that's exactly what went down at Cullman Middle School. The Cullman Lions Club, with plenty of help from the Cullman Lioness Club and local high school Leo clubs, fired up the fryers for the Lions' annual Fish and Ham Dinner. The menu included a choice of Mississippi farm-raised catfish or ham, hush puppies made fresh onsite, baked potatoes, fresh-made coleslaw, drinks and desserts. It was a good day for folks to get out, and that they did; by noon, more than 350 patrons had already purchased meals, and both dine-in and drive-through lines were still growing.

More than 100 Lion, Lioness and Leo volunteers expected to sell between 1,600 and 1,700 plates through the course of the day. Though specific numbers were not available, the Lions expected to clear $12,000 or more after expenses. That money will go to support multiple projects in the Cullman area.

Outside by the fish and hushpuppy fryers, Cullman Lions Club Vice President Andrew Manning, one of Cullman's youngest Lions, shared, "It's just a great opportunity to serve the public, the people of Cullman, and to give back. I've been a lifelong citizen of the city, and it's been a great opportunity to give back and help folks in the community. And the Fish and Ham Dinner's just part of what we do to help give back. It's a good fundraiser for us and creates an opportunity for us to give that back into the community."

Cullman Lions Membership Committee Chair Frank Odell added, "These profits are used for community betterment. The Lions Club does a lot of things within the community and outside the community, but this money is just earmarked for local projects."

**The local charities, programs and other entities supported by the Cullman Lions include, among others:**

- Cullman Caring for Kids United Way Food Bank
- Good Samaritan Health Clinic
- Grace Episcopal Church's Grace Place
- Stiefelmeyer Park
- Field of Miracles
- Cullman Regional Foundation and renovations of Cullman Regional waiting rooms
- Hope Horses, Inc.
- Glasses and eye exams for low income families
- Sponsoring diabetic kids to go to Camp Seale Harris
- Sponsoring high school students to go to Troy University's youth leadership conference

The popularity of the Fish and Ham Dinner, especially in an election year, could be measured by the number of local leaders who came out for handshakes and hugs.

By lunchtime, County Commissioners Garry Marchman and Kerry Watson, Sheriff Matt Gentry, Judge Martha Williams, former representative and current gubernatorial candidate James Fields and Alabama House of Representatives candidate Alex Chaney had all dropped by for a hot meal and a little campaigning.

Odell concluded, "We're one of the largest Lions Clubs in the state. We have quite a good heritage and background: a lot of good community leaders. I think one of the secrets of Lions Club and the Lioness Club is that we really work together well.

"This is a great fundraising project, but it's also a time for us to bond and work together in one building as a group. We have a lot of different teams, and it always flows really, really well, so it's a good function for us. And then the people that come into the dining room, it's a little hospitality; so, we're kind of celebrating our Lions Club with the community.

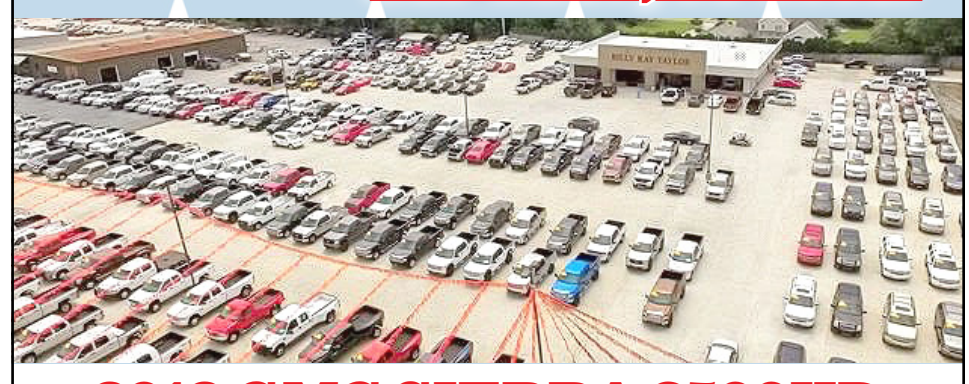
"Our motto is 'We Serve,' so we're very much project-oriented and team-oriented, and just trying to make a better community."

For more information on the Cullman Lions Club, visit www.cullmanlions.com.

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# State candidate Pate headlines Cullman GOP meeting; change of election results venue

**Nick Griffin**
Tribune Correspondent

**CULLMAN** – It's campaign season, which means the monthly Cullman County Republican Party breakfasts are even more popular than normal, and Saturday's was no exception. Judge Terri Willingham Thomas of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals kicked things with a brief statement, followed by Michelle Thomason who is running for a seat on the Court of Civil Appeals. Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown also made an announcement, saying that after receiving several requests, all 2018 election results will be counted and publicized at the Cullman Civic Center, instead of the Cullman County Courthouse.

Rich Anderson, candidate for Alabama's Court of Criminal Appeals and Alabama Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley also spoke for a few moments in the lead-up to Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry taking the podium. Gentry is running unopposed for re-election.

"Four years ago, when we ran for office we started with a mission and a vision, and our mission was to return the office of the sheriff back to the people, and that's something that I believe in. We live in the greatest county in the state of Alabama, and it's because of our citizens, but that mission has to be executed," Gentry said. "We've done that through our citizen's academy, through our firearms classes, we just finished conducting a relationship with 51 churches in our community to teach them how to make a safety plan for their church. We've taken over 500 people to the range, we are on our sixth citizen's academy class and there's no greater tool than law enforcement joining with the community, so you can show them what law enforcement is about, who we are, what we deal with day in, day out."

Gentry also touched on how Cullman's growth will affect his department and how they're planning ahead.

"Most people don't know, but we're projected to grow 15-20 percent by 2025. In law enforcement we have to prepare for that growth because when we grow there's economic stability, but there's also criminals that will come into the community, and that is a top priority for us in enforcing the law," Gentry said. "We have started our very first (Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy) for the sheriff's office. We take young leaders because guess what, our children are our most valuable resource. They are going to be the next leaders in our community, they're going to be the next people sitting in this room. We've graduated two classes and every class has grown over 50 percent. It is amazing to see these young leaders."

Saturday morning's featured speaker was Rick Pate, who is running for Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries. Pate has been the mayor of Lowndesboro, Alabama since 1997 and is the owner and operator of Pate Landscape. He is the vice chairman of the Lowndes County Republican Party and serves on the ALGOP executive committee. Pate is involved with several organizations such as Rotary International, Associated General Contractors, Alabama Agribusiness Council, Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association and Alabama Wildlife Federation. He is a member of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of Alabama, and United Way of the River Region.

Pate used his time at the podium to make his case to Cullman's Republican voters but also acknowledged the quality of the people he has been sharing the campaign trail with.

"These are really good people running for office, I've gotten to know Terri and Michelle and Rich, but I haven't really met a person as we travel these same paths that I don't respect. Now I don't know what happens to them when they get elected, but as candidates they're awfully nice people and they're working awful hard and I don't think you can go wrong with almost any of them," Pate joked.

"I'm the mayor of a little town, I don't know if you have towns that are incorporated that are smaller than 107 (people), but I will brag on it. We've got a water system that has twice been voted the second-best tasting water in the state of Alabama. We've got a cash reserve of about $1.2 million, that works to more than $11,150 per citizen of the town, and you take our water system and our assets we probably carry about $40,000 in assets per citizen which tripled any other town in the state of Alabama," said Pate. "I tell my town council we operate under two rules. The first rule is you don't have to agree with me to be my friend and the second rule is that you don't have to be disagreeable to disagree. We don't vote unanimously on everything and we don't agree on everything, but I don't think I've ever heard a voice raised or anything said bitter, and when you come at it with the assumption that people are well-intentioned, you can get a lot accomplished."




NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Saturday morning's featured speaker was Rick Pate, who is running for Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries.***

The Cullman County Republican Party will hold its next meeting on April 7. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 before the meeting begins at 8. The guest speakers for next month's event will be Alabama Attorney General candidate Troy King and Alabama State Treasurer candidate John McMillan.

# *Obituary Announcements: March 5 - 6*

**Durk Dewayne Bennefield** passed away on Friday, March 2, 2018. He was born April 9, 1954 to Otis and Peggy Bennefield. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his significant other, Sheila Warren, daughters; Harlie Bennefield and Mary (Randy) Summerford, son, Matthew Bennefield, step son, Shane Graham, granddaughters; Katie Beth, and Ella, sister, Reda (J.R) Legg, nephews; Jody (Candie) Legg and Tim Legg, and a host of family and friends. No services will be held at this time. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home directing.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30)* **Charlotte Marguarite Wood** was born on January 21, 1948 in Detroit, Michigan to James and Irene Garrity becoming the third born of four children. She was a nurturer by heart. She loved her family, along with cooking, baking, sewing, and traveling. If you were fortunate, you had the pleasure of becoming one of her many "children by love" that she nurtured with food, words of wisdom and encouragement. Regardless of your encounter with Charlotte, it was one that left a forever stamp on your heart and soul. Charlotte leaves behind her husband, Billy Wood, and five loving daughters, Janna Wilson, Jeanette Oden, Jeanine Oden, Susan Holladay, and Elizabeth Mize. Her brother Patrick Garrity and his Wife Lynda, her late sister Johanna Amato and brother Michael Garrity. Along with 6 step children, 12 loving grandchildren, and 6 loving great grandchildren. As well as a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces/nephews and friends whom will forever remember her and the legacy she left behind. Funeral mass will be held at Sacred Heart on March 6, 2018 from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

**Funeral service for Reverend Vernon Edwin Willis**, 86 of Cullman, will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Chapel, with interment in Emeus Cemetery. Rev. Charles Dixon and Rev. Freddy Waldrop will be officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Rev. Willis was born September 6, 1931, to parents Robert Edgar and Zonie Ergle Willis. His hobbies were fishing, gardening, and he loved going to church and helping people. He loved the Lord and truly loved everyone. He went home to be with our Lord and Savior on March 3, 2018. Rev. Willis was ordained in 1957. He served as president of the Annual Conference for 18 years and Vice President of the Annual Conference for 10 years. He served as Vice President of the General Conference for 28 years and President of the First Congregational Methodist Churches for 32 years. He has preached all over the Southeastern states from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas. He organized Cullman First Congregational Methodist Church in 1973. Rev. Willis drove a school bus for 20 years with the Cullman County School System. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his beloved wife of 68 years, Bonnell Posey Willis; four children, Bonita (Jim) Peppers, Amy (David) Hale, Tim (Vanessa) Willis, Ronnie (Peggy) Willis; grandchildren, Kim (Jason) Hutcheson, Tonya (Nathan) Blackwood, Michele (Jason) Heaton, Robert Willis, Brittany (Kevin) Scott, Tyler Willis, Austin Willis, Wesley Hale, Terri (Joe) Welsh, Joey Cain, Nathan Cain; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Bro. Ryan Conger, Bro. Deon Black, Bro. Robert Scholl, Bro. Ed Cash, Bro. Keith Smith, Bro. Phillip Robertson, Bro Harold Hamrick, and Bro. Brandon Berry. Visitation will be 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday evening, March 6, 2018, at the funeral home.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Rock the South: lineup, security and Heritage Park

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Rock the South (RTS) will return to Cullman June 1-2 with an impressive lineup of stars. Headliners Thomas Rhett and Eric Church will be joined by classic country/southern rockers Hank Williams Jr. and the Marshall Tucker Band and some of the current generation's hottest names, as well as up-and-coming talent.

**The lineup, so far**
Lauren Alaina
Eric Church
Riley Green
Marshall Tucker Band
Thomas Rhett
Dylan Schneider
Upchurch
Hank Williams Jr.
Brett Young

**And there's more to come, as 46 Entertainment's RTS Event Coordinator Nathan Baugh told The Tribune:**
"We do have some exciting additions to announce over the next couple of weeks. As this event has become a great place for artists to play, we are excited to use Rock the South to develop younger talent, as well as have the major headliners like Eric Church and Thomas Rhett. More announcements will be coming soon as we finalize the earlier part of the lineup!"

**Event security a priority**
Last year's Las Vegas concert mass shooting is weighing heavily on the minds of RTS event planners, and no one has forgotten the less serious problems that occurred during last year's weather delays. Event planners and the Cullman Police Department have taken a serious look at matters of security both inside and outside Heritage Park.

RTS Founder Shane Quick recently announced on Facebook that RTS would, for the first time, use metal detectors at its gates.

Said Baugh, "While we understand things can happen anywhere, we want to do everything we can to protect our attendees and artists.

"As another layer of protection, we are adding metal detectors to our entrances at Rock the South in 2018. Safety is of paramount priority to our team, and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to make Rock the South safe for all."

Police Chief Kenny Culpepper is working with the RTS staff to manage security in and around the park, using CPD and Cullman County Sheriff's Office resources.

He declined to release specific details of the plan, for security reasons, but shared that it would include an increased personnel presence in sensitive areas, an expanded park perimeter and even aerial surveillance of the event site.

"We've always felt comfortable with our interior security," said Culpepper. "In other words, (once) you go through the gate and you actually get into the grounds. We've always felt like we had a good presence, and that we were able to maintain security fairly well inside the perimeter. And that's going to be enhanced and increased this year with the metal detectors.

"The problem now is (if) you have an event that's out of the norm, and then you have to respond to it. So, the direction and guidance that we're getting now is to pay more attention to the exterior, the perimeter, which is what happened in Las Vegas. You had the shooter on the outside; he wasn't actually in the venue, he just had line of sight from a distance away," said Culpepper.

"So, we're putting in place some plans to, number one: try to prevent someone from doing something like that, and number two: to respond to it quickly, to limit it as much as possible if it does occur, because it's very difficult, you know, to completely stop something like that from outside the venue.

"The advantage we have is that we don't have high-rises and a lot of vantage points, but we do have a few areas of concern that we're working some contingency plans on."

The increased exterior security presence should not only be able to deter or respond to a crisis event like a shooter, but also to respond to issues at local businesses and other locations surrounding the park.

**Minimizing the impact on Heritage Park**

The expanded presence around the park perimeter will not only address security matters, but also allow the relocation of certain resources within the venue, to alter foot traffic patterns from previous years and protect areas that have tended to suffer more damage.

Said Baugh, "We have worked diligently with Cullman City Parks and Recreation to develop a plan that eliminates uses of certain pieces of the park, like the baseball fields, and helps give us more space for attendees to move about. We are excited to unveil that plan here in the next few weeks."

**Sponsors**
Sponsors of RTS 2018 include Pepsi, Mitch Smith Chevrolet, ABC 33/40, Allstate, Bestway Rent to Own, Budweiser, Cullman Savings Bank, CW 21 Television, Fireball Whisky, Firefly, Firestone Tires, I Heart Media, Marathon Petroleum Corp., Papa John's Pizza, Patrick Drake Associates, Priority Electric, Regions Bank, Timberline Homes, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Truckworx, Tunica MS and Tupelo.com.

For more information and updates leading up to RTS, visit www.rockthesouth.com or www.facebook.com/RockTheSouth.



ROCK THE SOUTH/FACEBOOK

***Thomas Rhett will be one of this year's headliners at Rock the South 2018.***

## LOCAL

# CWAC announces expanded hours

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN** – "In order to better serve our members, patrons and the community, the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC) will be expanding its hours of operation effective immediately," said a press release from Cullman Parks and Recreation on Monday.

CWAC's fitness center, walking track and basketball gym will be now be open Monday-Friday 4:30 a.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The indoor pool will be open Monday-Thursday 4:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday 4:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m.-6 p.m.

Childcare hours are now Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

"We hope these changes will allow for members and the community to utilize the facility more within their time schedules," said the release.

For more information on the CWAC, call 256-775-7946 or visit www.cullmanrecreation.org.

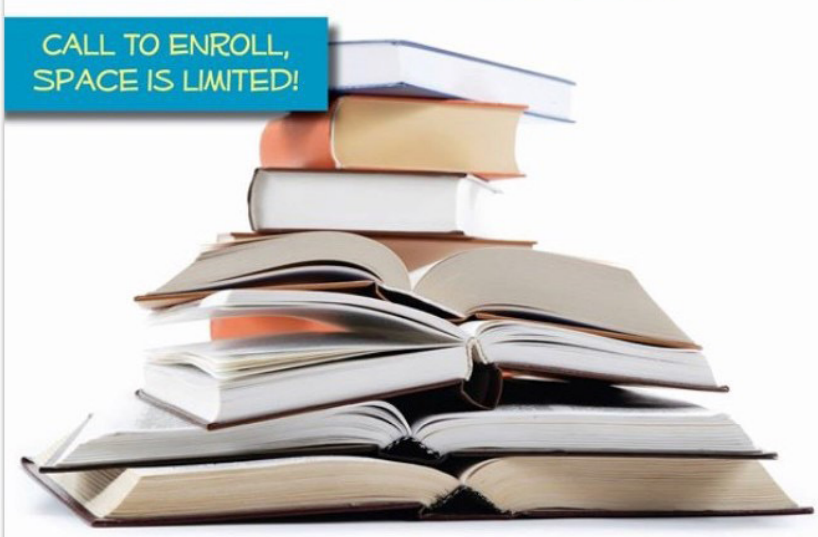



CWAC

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# Miss West Point and West Point Fair Queen



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***2018 West Point Fair Queen Pageant contestants, left to right: Lauren Garrett, Anna Grace Norris, 1st Alternate Abbi Adams and Fair Queen Caty Hoffpauir***




BILL PIPER

***Candra Cornelius was crowned Miss West Point on Saturday, March 3, 2018.***




BILL PIPER

***Caty Hoffpauir was crowned West Point Fair Queen on Friday, March 2, 2018.***



BILL PIPER

***2018 Miss West Point Pageant Top 5, left to right: Anna Norris, Happi Moore, Miss West Point Candra Cornelius, 1st Alternate Raven Gilliland and Victoria Bell***




BILL PIPER

***Victoria Bell was crowned Miss FCCLA and Beau Deven Jenkins crowned FCCLA Beau on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at West Point High School.***

