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The Cullman Tribune

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MARY HOVATER/CHS BAND BOOSTERS/CHS "SOUTHERNER"

Cullman High School Bearcat Band members model the band's new uniforms.

Bearcat Band gets new uniforms

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – After years of fundraising including a hard push at the end to cover cost overruns, the Cullman High School Bearcat Band finally has its new uniforms. Members recently got to have their pictures made for the yearbook in a wardrobe that has that new-band smell.

Band Boosters President Mary Hovater wrote for the yearbook and shared with The Tribune:

"Eleven years ago, when the last band uniforms were purchased, the Cullman Band Boosters began setting aside money toward the purchase of new uniforms. After years of multiple exciting performances, the time came to purchase new uniforms for the students. The band, under the guidance of Mr. Smith and Mr. Teuscher, helped design the new uniforms.

"After » PAGE 4

CARING FOR KIDS

Cullman Caring for Kids director talks advocacy, seasonal food bank needs



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Caring for Kids Director Javon Daniel in the CCK food pantry

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Two years ago, an average of 550 families were receiving some type of service each month from Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK), but in the last year, that number has soared to more than 650 per month. Director Javon Daniel said that up to 100 new families enter the food program each month, creating an increasing burden on the agency's resources.

"Right now, we're holding our own," said Daniel, "but we distribute somewhere between 8 to 10 tons of food a month, and when you go through that much food, you're not » PAGE 6

Walter woman arrested for attempted murder of estranged husband



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Lee Ann Matanane

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN – A Walter woman was arrested on Saturday, March 10, charged with the attempted murder of her estranged husband. Lee Ann Matanane, 54, has been charged with two counts of attempted murder, one count of first-degree burglary and one count of second-degree assault.

According to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded on Saturday to an incident in the community of Berlin where one person was shot. The CCSO said that that morning, Matanane parked down the road from her estranged husband's residence, and she was dressed in all black. She allegedly forced her way inside the residence and upon entry shot her estranged husband in the upper chest area and struck a female victim in the head with the firearm. The CCSO said the victims fought Matanane and removed the firearm from her. After deputies arrived, they located Matanane and placed her under arrest.

"Domestic Incidents are among the most dangerous calls our deputies face," said Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I commend the work done by our deputies and investigators in this case."

Matanane is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $75,000 cash bond.

What is human trafficking?

Understanding human trafficking in Alabama: what the law says

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County saw its first two arrests for human trafficking last year, and recently added another defendant with multiple charges to that list. This last case has been the source of much discussion and debate over what constitutes human trafficking, with many people admitting to an assumption that the crime must involve kidnapping and transport to another country, a scenario often depicted in movies and on television.

While the Hollywood version is a form of trafficking, the definition actually covers a wider range of offenses. The Tribune took a look at the official Code of Alabama to understand exactly what constitutes human trafficking, then reviewed cases around the state.

Code of Alabama, Section 13A-6-151, definitions

(1) COERCION. Any of the following:

a. Causing or threatening to cause physical injury or mental suffering to any person, physically restraining or confining any person, or threatening to physically restrain or confine any person or otherwise causing the person performing or providing labor or services to believe that the person or another person will suffer physical injury or mental suffering.

b. Implementing any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in physical injury, mental suffering, or physical restraint of any person.

c. Destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or withholding from the person or another person, or threatening to destroy, conceal, » PAGE 7

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Cullman attorney Randy Hames charged with additional counts of human trafficking

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Local attorney Randy Allan Hames, 75, was arrested again, Saturday, March 10, and charged with additional counts of human trafficking, according to Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry. The charges are first-degree human trafficking and second-degree human trafficking. Gentry said Hames was booked on an $80,000 bond. He has already made bond and has been released.

Authorities have not confirmed whether Saturday's charges relate to the same victims whose accusations led to his arrest on March 5, when Hames was charged with two counts of second-degree human trafficking, a Class B felony.

The March 5 human trafficking 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.

Hames was out on bond and practicing law inside the Cullman County Courthouse when he was arrested March 5. He made bond that same day. 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.

A 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.

Local attorney Champ Crocker is representing an unknown number of alleged victims in a civil case against Hames.

What is human trafficking?

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

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

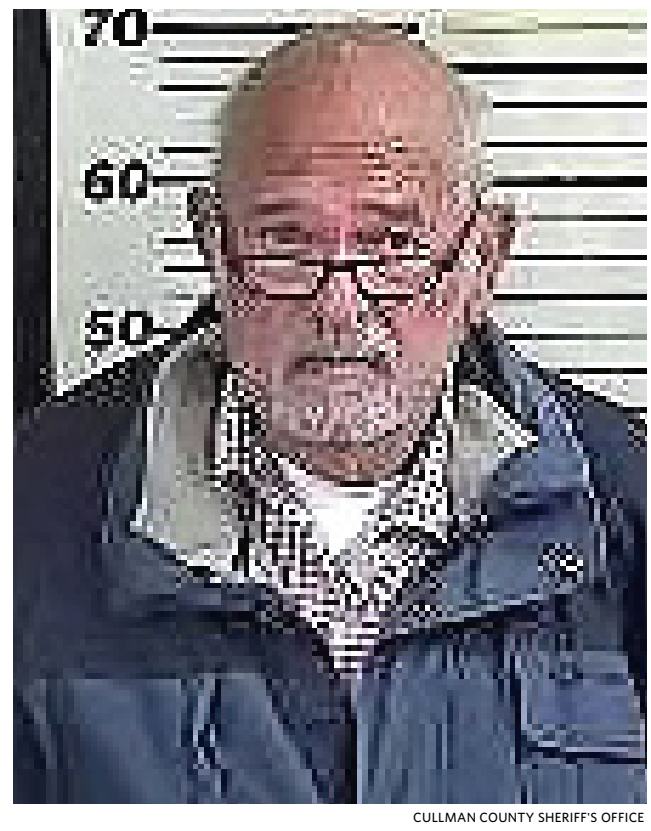
(1) A person knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture or engagement for the purpose of sexual servitude or labor servitude.

(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.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cullman attorney Randy Hames, shown here in his mugshot from Saturday, March 10, 2018, has been charged with additional counts of human trafficking.

The Tribune reached out to Kathy Wilson, the chair of the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force for her thoughts. Here's what she had to say:

"Human trafficking is defined as modern day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. People often confuse trafficking with human smuggling, which involves movement of persons.

"These are not interchangeable terms. Smuggling is transportation-based and trafficking is exploitation-based. I wish the language could be changed to 'Human Exploitation.'"

About Hames' charges, Wilson said, "It appears his charges are using force or coercion to obtain some type sexual acts from his victims.

"Our society has been led to believe that human trafficking is based on the movie 'Taken,' which is just not true. (The CCHTT) encourages people to research and educate themselves as to the signs of human trafficking. We welcome concerned citizens to our meetings. Follow us on Facebook at Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force."

For more information, visit www.cullmansense.com/keyword/human-trafficking to see all of the articles The Tribune has published on human trafficking.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Left to right: Danny Tucker, Billy Warden and Allen Mickle

3 charged with trafficking meth

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CRANE HILL – A search warrant executed at a Crane Hill residence on Friday resulted in three men being charged with trafficking meth, according to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. Investigators, along with agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET), executed the warrant at the home of Danny Ray Tucker, 50, on County Road 335 in the Crane Hill community close to Miller Flats.

Agents allegedly recovered approximately 235.2 grams of methamphetamine and $4,566 in cash.

"I am glad these three are now behind bars and we were able to recover that much meth before it was able to make it into the community," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Along with Tucker, Billy Wayne Warden, 66, of Hayden and Allen Mickle, 46, also of Hayden, were arrested and charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

All three mean are being held at the Cullman County Detention Center, each on a $1 million bond.

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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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Alabama's January Unemployment Rate is 3.7%; Cullman County rate ticks up to 3.5 %

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey announced Monday morning that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate is 3.7 percent, down from December 2017's revised rate of 3.8 percent, and well below January 2017's rate of 5.5 percent. Cullman County's January rate is 3.5 percent, up from 2.8 percent in December. Last January's rate for Cullman County was 5.1 percent. Cullman County has the second lowest unemployment rate in the state for January, behind only Shelby County's, which is 3.0 percent.

Statewide, according to Ivey's office, January's rate represents 80,841 unemployed persons, compared to 82,378 in December and 120,788 in January 2017. 2,079,871 people were counted as employed, compared to 2,081,176 in December, and 2,057,886 in January 2017.

The previous record low unemployment rate measured 3.8 percent in December 2017, which also tied with October and November 2017 and with several months in 2007 (pre-recession in Alabama). The preliminary rates announced for both November and December 2017 were 3.5 percent. Following revisions, those rates are now 3.8 percent.

Each year, preliminary estimates released throughout the year by the states are revised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in a process known as "annual processing." Annual processing allows the BLS to align preliminary estimates with more concrete data as it becomes available at the end of the year. That can lead to some preliminary estimates being revised, as was the case with December 2017's unemployment rate.

"As we start a new year, we're pleased to announce that we're starting off with a new record low unemployment rate," said Ivey.

"Nearly 40,000 fewer people are counted as unemployed, also setting a new record low. We have been working hard for months to bring quality, high-paying jobs to Alabama, and we're putting our people back to work. We will continue this work in 2018, and we hope to maintain these fantastic numbers."

"It is not uncommon for preliminary rates to be adjusted as more precise data becomes available, especially around highly seasonal periods, such as the holidays," said Fitzgerald Washington, secretary of the Alabama Department of Labor. "Even with the adjustments, we are still in an extremely good place. It was recently announced that our yearly average unemployment rate in 2017 dropped more than any other state in the country. Our wage and salary employment continue to show yearly increases, and all 67 counties have experienced significant yearly drops in their unemployment rates, some as high as 4.9 percentage points."

ADOL information shows that, over the year, wage and salary employment increased 17,700, with gains in the leisure and hospitality sector (+6,000), the education and health services sector (+5,600), and the professional and business services sector (+4,800), among others.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 3.0 percent, Cullman County at 3.5 percent, and Marshall, Madison, Elmore, and Blount Counties at 3.6 percent. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 10.4 percent, Clarke County at 8.1 percent, and Lowndes County at 7.5 percent.

All 67 counties experienced yearly drops in their unemployment rates, ranging from 1.2 percentage points in Autauga County to 4.9 percentage points in Wilcox County.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are: Vestavia Hills at 2.5 percent, Homewood and Hoover at 2.8 percent, and Alabaster and Northport at 2.9 percent. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are: Prichard at 7.7 percent, Selma at 7.0 percent, and Anniston at 5.8 percent.

Arrest report: March 9-11

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for March 9-11. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brandmire, Jason Anthony, 38
- plea agreement- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Brooks, Jonathan Scott, 31
- attempting to elude
- resisting arrest
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Chaffin, Lowell Cowan, 86
- harassing communications

Farr, Larry Dean, 57
- FTA- third-degree receiving stolen property

Gilley, Colton Chase, 21
- public intoxication

Hames, Randy Allan, 75
- first-degree human trafficking
- second-degree human trafficking (3 counts)

Jones, Patrick Eric, 31
- plea agreement- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Kelley, Shane Wesley, 31
- second-degree bail jumping- attempting to elude
- second-degree bail jumping- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree bail jumping- reckless endangerment
- second-degree bail jumping-resisting arrest

Knight, Missy Louise, 27
- GJ- illegal possession or use of a credit or debit card

Landers, Steven Taft, 28
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Matanane, Lee Ann, 54
- attempted murder
- second-degree assault
- first-degree burglary

Mickle, Jimmy Allen, 46
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- trafficking in methamphetamine

Millwood Barion Mitchell Ray, 32
- FTA- fourth-degree receiving stolen property
- GJ- first-degree theft of property

Moore, Donnie Alan, 41
- FTA- second-degree criminal mischief

Morton, Jon Waylon, 28
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Oden, Jeannine Paquette Oaks, 50
- failure to signal turn
- failure to signal- improper lane change
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Pelps, Tyler Preston, 29
- FTA- driving without a license

Quick, Alexander Douglas, 23
- first-degree bail jumping- first-degree receiving stolen property

Sanford, Justin Blake, 28
- obstruction- using false ID
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Schwan, Sherry Annette, 48
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Self, Cody Lowell, 27
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- driving on wrong side of road
- improper turn
- obstruction- using false ID
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence

Sellman, Henry Ennis III, 35
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Swindoll, Sammi Lee, 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Teer, James Anderson, 22
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Tucker, Danny Ray, 50
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- trafficking in methamphetamine

Waldrop, Stacy Arlen, 45
- unlawful practice of law

Warden, Billy Wayne, 66
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- trafficking in methamphetamine

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Peek, Daniel W., 32
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Butler, Thomas A., 24
- fourth-degree theft of property

Oliver, Daniel M., 31
- public intoxication

Pinkerton, Derrick M. Jr., 29
- FTA- third-degree assault
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- insurance violation

Holland, Leslie H., 48
- DUI

Sellman, Henry E. III, 35
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- failure to register vehicle

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

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DATE: June 2, 2018
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PB WIL BK 85 PG 447 - 03/08/2018 09:53 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

ESTATE OF) CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

BETTY W. MAYO DECEASED,) **PROBATE COURT** PC 2017-353

Letters of Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to HAROLD GREGORY MAYO on the 8th day of March, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Harold Gregory Mayo
HAROLD GREGORY MAYO
Personal Representative/Executor

ANDRIA RICHTER, Attorney for the Estate
of BETTY W. MAYO, Deceased
300 First Avenue, SE, Ste. 104
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-7757

To: _____
Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB ADT BK 49 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

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

COMMUNITY NOTE

Pleasant View Singing

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church will have their regular third Sunday night singing on March 18th, at 6:00 p.m. with "The Fishermen." The church is located by U.S. Highway 278, approximately two miles East of Holly Pond on the left.

For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-4468.

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2018-083

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PRISCILLA MANN HODGE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Donna Hodge Jeffers on the 7th day of March, 2018, 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.

Donna Hodge Jeffers
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

Uniforms (from Front)

measurements were taken and a few revisions were made, the new uniform design was approved. At that point, the band directors gave DeMoulin Brothers Uniform Company permission to start sewing the new Cullman Bearcat Band uniforms. In the meantime, money for the uniforms had to be raised since the total cost of the new uniforms was $25,000.00 more than the boosters had collected over the 11-year time frame. The band and boosters worked hard to raise the extra money. Even our current seniors, who would never actually get to wear the uniforms on the field, contributed to the cause. Thankfully, with hard work and help from our community, the money was raised in time for the purchase to be completed. The new uniforms will be debuted on the field during the 2018 football season!"

She also added a personal note to The Tribune, saying, "This group of band students and boosters is amazing. They would do whatever it takes to make this program the best it can be."

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A roaring good time: West Point High's 'Beauty and the Beast'

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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Wardrobe (Jamie Myers), Cogsworth (Brendan Williamson), Chip (Parker Lawrence), Mrs. Potts (Kim Harbison) and Lumiere (Micah Coucke) get ready for dinner.

FAIRVIEW – This past week, West Point High School's Performing Arts Department (WPPA) put on Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," and took the show on the road to Fairview High School's high-grade auditorium. There they put on multiple shows between Thursday and Sunday, for student groups and the general public.

WPPA Director Ty Parker shared on Saturday, "We've had incredible crowds here to see the show. The community has graciously driven to Fairview to support the kids, and they've enjoyed the show. And I think they've realized what we can do with the facilities that are here, and I hope someday we can have those facilities at West Point as a theater department, an arts department. It's been amazing to watch the play come together, and watch the kids grown and transform as actors, performers, and singers, and soloists. It's been an incredible experience to see them grow like that."

He continued, "Working with Kim Harbison and Jimmy Harbison--they're actually Maurice and Mrs. Potts, and their daughter Riley played Chip, too--they've been an incredible help as faculty members at West Point, to put the play on. And we look forward to working together in the future as an arts department in, hopefully, our new arts wing that we're going to build, where we'll teach choir, theater, dance, instrumental music and visual art."

Parker had special kind words for Fairview High School.

"They've so graciously let us stay here and use their facilities, and Chris Gambrill, (Fairview's) principal, has been amazing to work with. They fed us breakfast Friday morning! They've just been incredible hosts."

Between Thursday and Sunday, WPPA put on shows at Fairview High School for students from all West Point schools, Good Hope High School and Good Hope Primary, the Child Development Center, Harmony School and Cold Springs schools.

Said Parker, "This theater's been packed several times. They've been bussing them across the county to see the production, and that has meant so much to me as a teacher, to see the other county schools come and support what we're doing at West Point. It's been incredible!"

After the show, The Tribune caught up with Micah Coucke, who had just given an appropriately over-the-top performance as the impetuous Lumiere.

"It was so much fun! I just liked being able to perform at Fairview. It was one of, like, the great blessings, because a lot of us had never experienced it that much. But then, for them to give us the blessing to be able to perform on this stage and so many people come and see us, it was awesome!

"We had so much support this year, and I feel like we did so much better than last year. It was awesome! We had a little bit of improvement from last year, so we took on a bigger play. We decided, you know, that we were ready for the challenge."

Continued Coucke, "We're growing every year, and every year we're bringing in new people. That's why we do a lot of the shows for the younger kids, to just show them, hey, that we're serious about this, we want this program to grow and we want it to be better.

"And all these kids came, and they were like, 'Oh my gosh! This is just so amazing.' We had girls coming up to all of the guys and giving them hugs; all the guys asking, 'Was that really a kiss?' And we're like, 'I don't know' and things like that. They had so much of a blast, and we're just hoping that they'll be able to grow up, get older, and see that this is actually something they'll want to do."

Cast and crew

The show's cast included multiple actors for most of the roles.

- Belle - Leah Smith, Sara Hudson, Anna Armstrong
- The Beast/Prince - Colby Tyree, Carson Partain
- Gaston - Jaiden Philyaw, Joshua Couch
- LeFou - Joshua Couch, Tekoa Walker
- Cogsworth - Brendan Williamson, Judd Douglas
- Lumiere - Micah Coucke, Luke Sellers
- Mrs. Potts - Kim Harbison
- Chip - Rylee Harbison, Parker Lawrence
- Belle's Father Maurice - Jimmy Harbison
- Babette - Presley Palmer, Ashley Mann
- Wardrobe - Jamie Myers, Tamela James
- Asylum proprietor Monsieur D'Arque - Kellen Drinkard
- Silly Girls - Katie Coleman, CarrieAnn Douglas, Carly Wren, Anna Armstrong
- Townspeople/Ensemble - Annalyse Cole, Haley Hickok, Rylan Jones, Piper Lawrence, Victoria Leonard, Kylee Marks, CJ Patton, Sam Scott, Garrett Thrower, Jon Trammell, Beth Waldrop
- Danceline - Alexia Adair, Kelce Byram, Angel Carter, Kathryn Cleckler, Maddie Davis, Kaitlyn Harding, Breanna Hillburn, Taylor Jenkins, Ashley Mann, Macy Millsap
- Stage Crew - Gabriel Aufderhaar (stage manager), Katie Campbell, Logan Eady, Billy Ellis, Nathaniel Ferster, William Ferster, Alyssa Garrett, Lisette Hernandez, Michelle Herrick, Alexis Livingston, Kohler Lovett, Tyler Sinyard, Chris Smith, Caroline Thompson, Chris Waldrep, Lilly Whitesell, Alex Wood

WPPA's season isn't over! "Camp Rock" moves to the front burner

Shortly after the sets are struck and the costumes put away, WPPA will begin rehearsal for Disney's "Camp Rock," coming up in April. This production is unique in the history of Cullman County Schools' performing arts programs, with auditions having been open to students from all the county system high schools. Approximately 30 students have joined the cast.

Performances will take place on April 26-29 at Fairview High School.

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Kids (from Front)

going to be able to keep it. If we've got it, we give it out; we don't hold it back and hoard it. So, we go through a lot of food in just a very short time.

"We went (to the North Alabama Food Bank) a couple of weeks ago, and we brought back about 20,000 pounds. If I'm not mistaken, it was a little over $1,800 that we paid for it. We're in the process of ordering some cereal locally, because that's something we just can't get at the food bank. They have such a limited supply, so we have to buy that locally.

"We go (to the food bank) about once a month, but most of our donations come from individuals, churches. We do pick up five days a week from Wal-Mart--the south store--and Publix.

"And what they contribute, and what the community contributes, and what we're able to buy is how we get through the months."

According to Daniel, CCK has particular need right now for cereal. In the bank's food storage area, he pointed out two shelves of boxed cereals, and noted that the current stock would probably not last more than three days. As the season progresses toward the end of the school year, the need will increase for common kid foods like peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, canned ravioli and spaghetti, boxed pastas and pasta sauces. CCK is not picky, though; it will accept just about any food donation that comes its way.

"I learned a long time ago," said Daniel. "I'll take every can of green beans and corn, mixed vegetables, and early peas, and whatever. I'm not going to turn down any canned goods."

For all its reputation as a food supplier, CCK is not a hunger prevention agency. According to Daniel, "Our mission is to stop child abuse, to make people aware of child abuse . . . Anything that we can do to make people more aware of child abuse, and to help prevent child abuse, that's what we do."

So why all the food? Daniel explained that hungry children plus helpless parents equal a household full of anxiety and frustration, a formula for abuse. A simple bagful of nutrition can make a world of difference for a child.

Daniel took time to talk about two of CCK's other programs:

CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates

Trained personnel are assigned to specific cases by courts and conduct independent investigations into cases of abuse, to do whatever is in the child's best interest.

According to Daniel: "Volunteers, strictly volunteers, are trained, screened very thoroughly, and then after that is done, then they are sworn in by the District Court judges, and they become court officials on a case that they are assigned to. And their job, in those instances, is to do their own investigation to determine the facts about a particular case. And they are assigned to a case of a child who is in court for abuse or neglect, and they do their own investigation. And when they're finished with the investigation, they write a report to the judge; and in that report they state the facts that they learned during the investigation, and make recommendations to the judge, based on those facts.

"What we usually say is they become the eyes and ears for the judge, because the judge cannot get out and do that in every case. But, more importantly, I think, is that they become the voice for the child, because children have very little to say about custody cases and abuse cases.

"It's just important that they know that they have somebody who, their only purpose is to be there for that child. We don't work for DHR; we don't work for the attorneys. We are there as volunteers to help that child to get into a safe, permanent home as soon as possible."

CCK/CASA just finished training eight new advocates, bringing the total to 18. The organization will gladly take more volunteers since, at any given time, around 40 area children will be involved in cases that fall within CASA's scope.

"Kids Matter"

Radio shows on Fridays (WKUL, 9:30 a.m.) and Sundays (WRJL, 3 p.m.) address child abuse prevention to a regional market of more than one million potential listeners. Some topics might be uncomfortable to talk about, but Daniel insists that no worthwhile subject is off the table if its discussion can help stop or prevent abuse.

Said Daniel, "Kids do matter, and what they think, and what they're experiencing, and what they're going through does matter. So what we try to do is we try to talk about children and family issues every week that will help those listeners to get as good information as we can possibly give them about a given situation or subject.

"I wouldn't say it's my favorite part, but it's way up on the list; because I like to talk! but it's very important. We're starting our 14th year of doing 'Kids Matter.'"

Community partners

Daniel began trying to list the various local businesses, industries and agencies that support what CCK does, but he became concerned that he would miss names from such a long list, so he simply concluded:

"This whole community--I don't want to single out anybody, because I'm afraid I'll leave somebody out--this whole community is the most wonderful place to live, and raise your children, and have a family, because this community really does seriously take care of its own. And that's awesome!"

Immediate needs at the CCK food bank

CCK has immediate need of cereal, especially kids' cereals. In the near future, the organization will need increased donations of peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, canned pasta and other popular kids' foods.

CCK, through partnerships with the North Alabama Food Bank, Publix and Wal-Mart, can purchase food items in bulk, in some cases for less than 10 cents per pound. If you want to help, but are uncertain about what food to donate, be assured that CCK can make your monetary donation go a long way.

For more information or to become involved, visit www.cullmancaringforkids.com or call 256-739-1111.

FREE tutoring available in Cullman County, Birmingham, and surrounding areas - now through March 31st! All subjects, grades 3-12. Space is limited so registration is required. Call 205-235-0580 for details!



Obituary Announcements: March 14

Doris Jeane Jones, 85, of Double Springs, entered into rest on March 9, 2018 at her home. Doris was born on August 23, 1932, in Double Springs, Alabama. She graduated from Winston County High School in 1949, and went on to graduate from Auburn University in 1953. Doris was a high school math teacher in Florida for over 25 years, where she earned the "Teacher of the Year" award at Merritt Island High School for 1985–1986 school year. After her retirement from teaching, Doris moved back to the Ashridge community. She attended First Baptist Church in Double Springs for 20 plus years, worked part time in the office, and volunteered for numerous activities. Doris enjoyed being a member of The Red Hat Society. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Double Springs where services will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Doris is survived by her son, Charles Lindsey, his wife Alyson and one grandson Eric Lindsey. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Molly Ann Lindsey; parents, Monroe and Belle Lyle Jones; sisters, Nell Watts, Lera Tidwell, and Inez Tucker; brothers, Sam Jones, Ray Jones, and Dee Jones.

Funeral services for Thomas Clinton Black, 54 of Walter, will be Wednesday March 14, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel, Sherman Bailey officiating. Interment with military honors will be at Duck River Cemetery. The family will be receiving friends at the funeral home on Tuesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. Mr. Black passed away on March 10, 2018 at his residence. He was born on March 25, 1963 in Cullman to Wyatt & Ruth Blankenship Black and is preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his mother, Ruth Black; daughters, Tayler Wooten, Marionna McDonald and Jamie Wadkins; son, Michael Wadkins; sisters, Sherry King and Sharon Black; brother, Robert Black; and four grandchildren.

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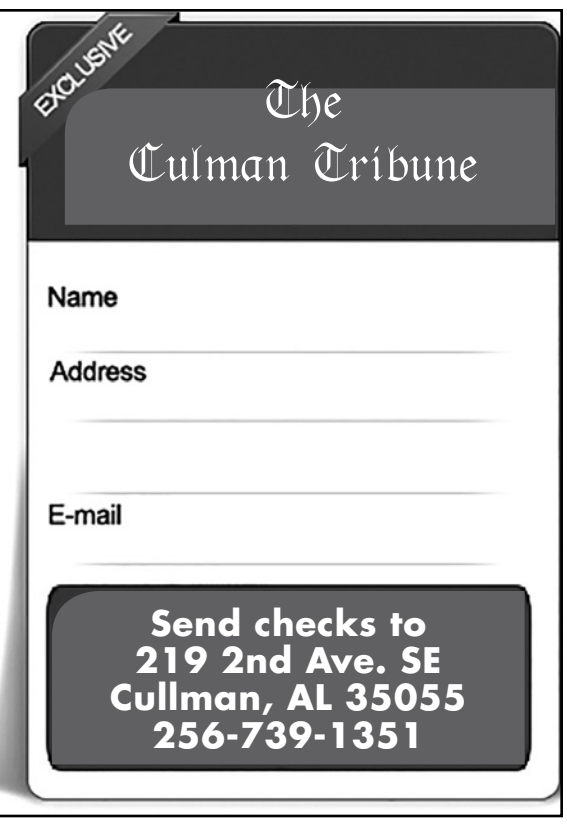
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Wallace State Choir to present 'Homeward Bound: The Story of the American Folk Song'

WSCC
Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Area residents will be able to step back in time through song as the Wallace State Community College Choir presents "Homeward Bound: The Story of the American Folk Song" on Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m., in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre.

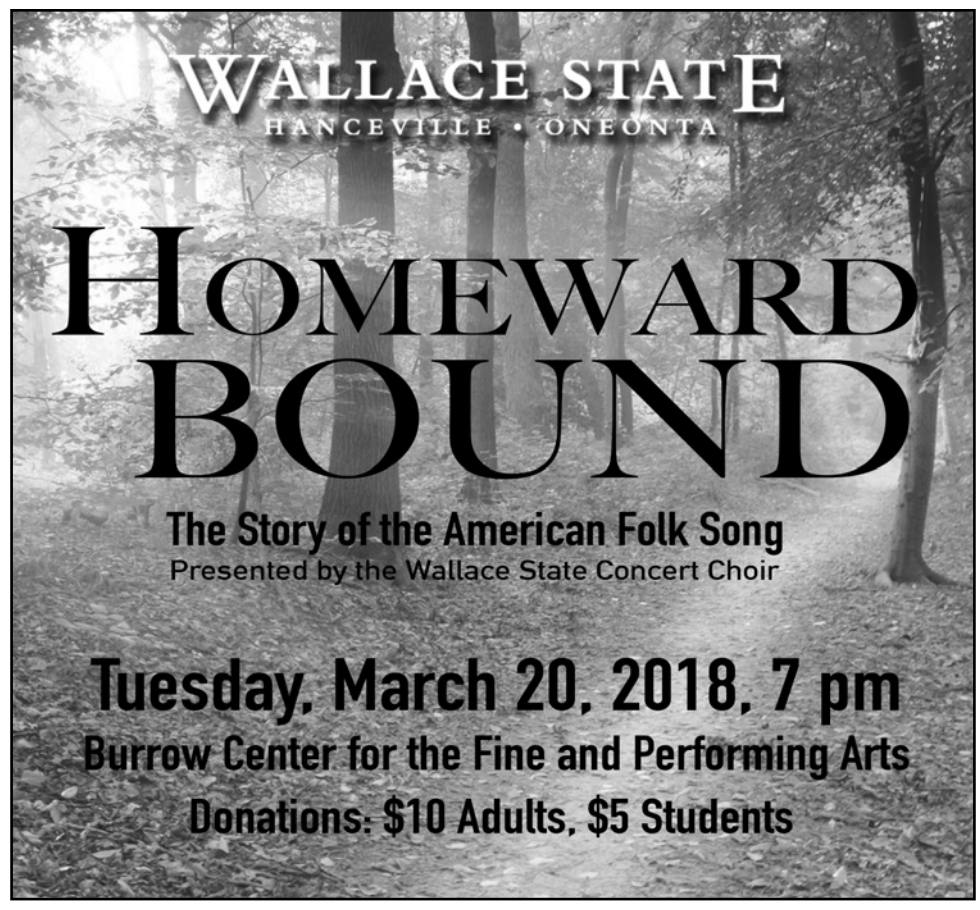
Concert Choir Director Tiffany Richter said the program will provide an overview of American folk tunes. "Songs like 'Shenandoah,' 'Deep River,' 'Down in the Valley,' etc., originating from the early years of American music, have offered comfort, pleasure and hope to people throughout the last four centuries of American life," Richter said.

Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 donation for students.

Tickets can be purchased or reserved in advance by contacting Stefany Keisler at 256-352-8277 or stefany.pate@wallacestate.edu.

The Wallace State Choir is made up of Wallace State students from all different programs across the campus. The choir accepts new students each semester; no auditions are required to join the group.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256-352-8000.



Trafficking (from Front)

remove, confiscate, or withhold from the person or another person, the person's or any person's actual or purported government records, immigration documents, identifying information, or personal or real property.

d. Exposing or threatening to expose any fact or information that if revealed would tend to subject a person to criminal prosecution, criminal or immigration proceedings, hatred, contempt, or ridicule.

e. Threatening to report the person or another person to immigration officials or to other law enforcement officials or otherwise blackmailing or extorting the person or another person.

f. Controlling a person's access to a controlled substance, as the term is defined in Section 20-2-2.

g. Rape or sodomy or threatened rape or sodomy of any person, as defined in Title 13A.

(2) DECEPTION. Any of the following:

a. Creating or confirming an impression of any existing fact or past event which is false and which the accused knows or believes to be false.

b. Exerting financial control over the person or another person by placing the person or another person under the actor's control as a security or payment of a debt, if the value of the services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined or the principal amount of the debt does not reasonably reflect the value of the items or services for which debt was incurred or by preventing a person from acquiring information pertinent to the disposition of the debt, referenced in this paragraph.

c. Promising benefits or the performance of services which the accused does not intend to be delivered. Evidence of failure to deliver benefits or perform services standing alone shall not be sufficient to authorize a conviction under this article.

d. Using any scheme, plan, or pattern, whether overt or subtle, intended to cause any person to believe that, if the person did not perform such labor, services, acts, or performances, the person or another person would suffer physical injury or mental suffering.

(3) LABOR SERVITUDE. Work or service of economic or financial value which is performed or provided by another person and is induced or obtained by coercion or deception.

(4) MENTAL SUFFERING. A high degree of mental pain or emotional disturbances, such as distress, anxiety, public humiliation, or psychosomatic physical symptoms. It is more than mere disappointment, anger, resentment, wounded pride, or embarrassment and must be a direct result of the crime of human trafficking.

(5) MINOR. A person under the age of 18.

(6) PHYSICAL INJURY. Impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.

(7) SEXUAL SERVITUDE. Any of the following:

a. Any sexual conduct as defined in subdivision (3) of Section 14-11-30, for which anything of value is directly or indirectly given, promised to, or received by any person, which conduct is induced or obtained by coercion or deception from a person.

b. Sexual conduct includes:

1. Sexually explicit performances, meaning an act or show intended to arouse, satisfy the sexual desires of, or appeal to the prurient interests of patrons or viewers, whether public or private, live, photographed, recorded, videotaped, or projected over the Internet.

2. Commercial sex acts, meaning any sex act on account of which anything of value is given, promised to, or received, directly or indirectly, by any person.

3. Acts defined in subdivision (3) of Section 14-11-30.

(8) TRAFFICKING VICTIM.

Any person, including minors, subjected to labor servitude, sexual servitude, or involuntary servitude.

Code of Alabama, Section 13A-6-152, first-degree human trafficking

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

(1) He or she knowingly subjects another person to labor servitude or sexual servitude through use of coercion or deception.

(2) He or she knowingly obtains, recruits, entices, solicits, induces, threatens, isolates, harbors, holds, restrains, transports, provides, or maintains any minor for the purpose of causing a minor to engage in sexual servitude.

(3) For purposes of this section, it is not required that the defendant have knowledge of a minor victim's age, nor is reasonable mistake of age a defense to liability under this section.

(4) A corporation, or any other legal entity other than an individual, may be prosecuted for human trafficking in the first 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.

(5) 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 C felony.

(b) Human trafficking in the first degree is a Class A felony.

Code of Alabama, Section 13A-6-153, second-degree human trafficking

(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.

Alabama cases

All of the following cases ended with the conviction of the defendants. Alabama's first human trafficking law was passed only in 2010, so sufficient time has not passed for a large case history. At the end of each listing is an explanation of the case in language from the Alabama Code.

• November 2011 - Manuel Zelaya-Rodriguez was convicted on federal human trafficking charges after hiring a 15-year-old female illegal alien, who had been living in Auburn, to come to Auburn and work for him as a prostitute. She made contact with him first, hearing that he was a pimp, and offered her services. She had previously worked as a prostitute for her boyfriend in Atlanta but fled from him due to physical abuse. Zelaya-Rodriguez was arrested in 2009, before Alabama's law, so he was tried on federal charges.

• May 15, 2014 - In the first case prosecuted under Alabama law, Santiago Alonso was convicted of human trafficking and giving drugs to a minor, after a 17-year-old girl escaped from the Dothan hotel where he was holding her. The victim testified that she was held against her will and was forced to take drugs and work as a prostitute, being advertised on Backpage.com. Alonso knowingly subjected another person to sexual servitude through use of coercion; and he knowingly threatened, isolated, held, restrained, transported, and maintained a minor for the purpose of sexual servitude.

• Dec. 17, 2015 - Former Bibb County Sheriff's Deputy Ervin Heard was convicted of human trafficking, sex abuse, and unlawful imprisonment after accepting sex in exchange for overlooking traffic violations and minor drug offenses. One victim claimed that she felt he would harm if she did not comply, when he detained her after a traffic stop. Heard knowingly subject another person to sexual servitude through use of coercion, and he knowingly solicited, held, and restrained another person for the purpose of sexual servitude.

• June 22, 2017 - Kelandus Tarvares Consenta was convicted of second degree human trafficking after providing drugs, money, and shelter to a woman while requiring her to work for him as a prostitute. Consenta knowingly benefited financially from participation in a venture for the purpose of sexual servitude; and knowingly harbored, transported, held, and maintained another person for the purpose of sexual servitude.

• Feb. 9, 2018 - Michael Graham Lowe was convicted of sex trafficking of a minor and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of a minor, after delivering a minor to a Montgomery hotel to perform commercial sex acts. He advertised the victim on Backpage.com and used the money to purchase drugs. Lowe knowingly subjected another person to sexual servitude through use of coercion; and knowingly held, provided, and maintained a minor for the purpose of sexual servitude.

Cullman County cases

All three Cullman County cases are still pending. Defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty in court. Here we examine the formal charges and allegations, while offering no opinions on guilt or innocence.

• May 9, 2017 - Kenneth Loyd Woods, a previously registered sex offender, was arrested on two counts of first degree human trafficking along with electronic solicitation of a child, second degree rape, transmission of obscene material to a child, and enticing a child for immoral purposes. According to the complaint, he supplied alcohol and drugs to students at Fairview High School, then demanded payment from them in the form of sex acts. In the words of the law, Woods allegedly recruited, enticed, solicited, and induced a minor for the purpose of sexual servitude.

• Sept. 1, 2017 - Stefanie Nichole Weaver of Vinemont was arrested on one count of first degree human trafficking along with second-degree sodomy and facilitating the travel of a child for an unlawful sex act. According to the complaint, she met a minor on Facebook, travelled to Ohio to have sex with her, and brought her back to Alabama to continue their activities. The minor was reported in Ohio as a runaway. In the words of the law, Weaver allegedly obtained, recruited, enticed, solicited, induced, harbored, transported, and maintained a minor for the purpose of sexual servitude.

• March 5, 2018 - Cullman attorney Randy Hames was arrested on two counts of second degree human trafficking. According to the complaint, he requested rent payment from two female residents at a trailer park he owns in the form of sex. On Mar. 10, while out on bond, he was re-arrested on an unknown number of additional human trafficking charges, including at least one in the first degree. In the words of the law, Hames may have attempted to subject another person to sexual servitude through use of coercion and attempted to solicit another person for the purpose of sexual servitude.

For more information

To learn more about human trafficking:

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• in the United States, visit the Department of Justice website https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking.

• in Alabama, visit the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force website https://www.enditalabama.org.

• In the Cullman area, visit https://www.facebook.com/Cullman-County-Human-Trafficking-Task-Force-870585096352748/.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 13, 2018

‘Service above self’: Cullman Rotary holds annual auction

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansenes.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of Wallace State’s Rotoract Club set up the auction tables and helped out with various duties throughout the evening.

CULLMAN – The Cullman Rotary Club held its 45th annual fundraising auction Friday evening at the Cullman Civic Center. An average of around 175 Rotarians and local citizens have attended recent auctions, and this year’s attendance may have reached 200. The event is the club’s only fundraiser, and it raised more than $56,000 last year. This year’s numbers won’t be known for a little while, but Cullman Rotary Club President Perry Shields hopes to exceed the 2017 total.

“Cullman comes out and supports the Rotary,” said Shields. “I’ve been in Rotary nine years now; they come out and support the auction very well.

”Each year, we make more money that we get to put back into the community.”

The president went on to talk about what the funds raised by the auction will do.

“What we do with this is we help organizations within Cullman County and outside of Cullman County also, similar to CCCDD (Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled), The Link (of Cullman County), organizations that help other people, too.”

Fundraising Chairman Eli Howard added, “All the money that we raise stays here in Cullman, from this auction.

”It goes to support local projects . . . We obviously support The Link, Childhaven, Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Cullman Area Workforce Solutions, and we provide books to area school libraries and scholarships for high school seniors.”

In addition to local causes, all Rotary clubs contribute to the international organization’s common cause of polio eradication.

Since the organization’s first mission in 1979, during which vaccines were administered to children in the Philippines, the number of Polio cases around the world has dropped by more than 99 percent.

Friday evening, multiple rows of tables were covered in items for a silent auction, while higher-end items for a live auction lined tables at the front of the auditorium.

Live auction selections included firearms and ammunition, firepits and grills, gardening supplies, home spa supplies, watches and other jewelry, furniture and bedding, a bicycle, 32- and 60-inch televisions, landscape and lawn care tools, garage and household tools, various retail and restaurant gift certificates, golf packages, meat bundle packages, recreational passes, a guitar, house paint and even packages of authentic Cuban cigars.

The auction was an all-hands-on-deck event for the Cullman Rotary Club’s 66 members, along with food servers from The Link and 25 to 30 members of Wallace State’s Rotoract Club.

“Rotary is about service above self,” said Shields. “Rotarians are generally just business people in the area: owners of companies, owners of businesses, managers, whatnot. They give back; they give back to the community.”

When asked if there was something he wanted to be sure Cullman knew about his club, Howard responded, “There’s not just one thing. I mean Rotary is full of amazing people from Cullman that truly care about it and just want to help in any way possible. It’s not one thing; it’s all the things that Rotary does.”

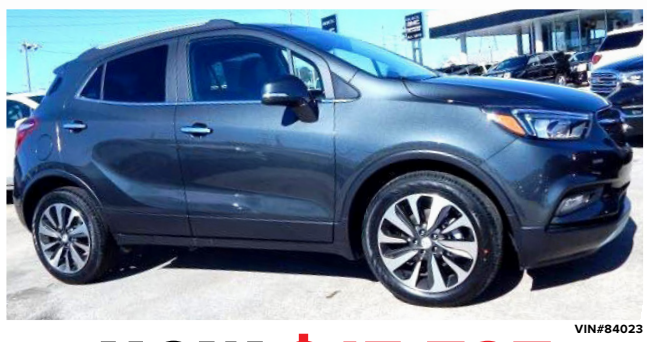
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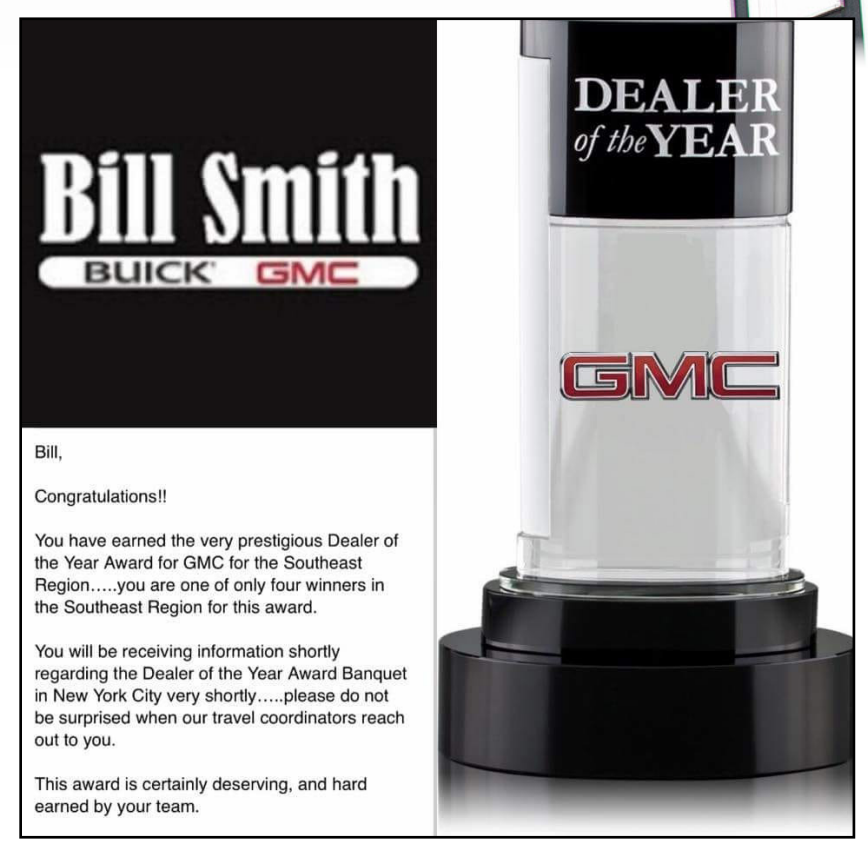
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