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PREP BASKETBALL

Mills, Fairview's Hartline making the move to Cullman High



AMBER HEMBREE

Nina Mills, left, and Mary Hartline, right, are joining the basketball coaching staff at Cullman High School.

» PAGE 5

TRAFFIC ALERT

I-65 mainline paving to begin Tuesday night

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Work on Interstate 65 from Exit 305 south to the Blount County line continues after a week's delay.

Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) North Regional Public Information Officer Seth Burkett said on Friday, "They lost a week between rain and Rock the South last week, but the contractor about finished with the ramps this week and is looking to begin paving the mainline, starting with the northbound inside lane, on Tuesday night or Wednesday night if weather permits."

Burkett said that once that work begins, motorists should expect delays due to single-lane closures between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday nights through Thursday nights, continuing for several weeks.

"The contractor is bringing in an additional crew to simultaneously pave the rest areas. The northbound rest area will be closed Monday morning thorough Friday afternoon. It will reopen for the weekend," he said.

Visiting judge promotes establishment of Veterans Court in Cullman County

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman VFW Post 2214's Thursday night speaker sat down with The Tribune on Friday to discuss in more detail some of her plans for helping veterans in Cullman County and hopefully the rest of the state.

Judge Michelle Thomason, on the bench for 12 years, is the presiding district judge in Baldwin County and is a specially appointed circuit judge due to most of her caseload involving family court cases.

Thomason founded the Baldwin County Veterans Court in 2014 and has been working with local judges to establish a Veterans Court in Cullman County as well.

Thomason is a candidate for the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and will be on the ballot July 17 in the primary run-off election. She talked about how her experience in Baldwin County has prepared for the position and how she started crossing paths with veterans in the court system.

"I'm in the runoff for the Court of Civil Appeals; I've been a judge in Baldwin County for 12 years where I do preside over the Veterans Court. I've been a specially appointed circuit court judge from the first day because the majority of what I handle are family court cases and criminal dockets so the combination of those two is where I've seen many veterans in my court system," Thomason said. "Seventy-five percent of my caseload is family court and as a practicing attorney for 11 years before I became a judge, the majority of my practice was family court and civil litigation, so I have handled for 24 years exactly the type of cases that the court of civil appeals handles. I'm the only candidate in the race that has- I'm the only candidate that's ever had- any civil trial experience or had any family court experience."

Thomason has been campaigning for her spot on the ballot as well as her spot on the bench.

"We're second on the ballet, but I always say we're first in experience," Thomason joked. "There's a little bit of an anomaly when folks around this state don't know who to vote for in a race and instead of not voting at all, they tend to vote for the first name on the ballot alphabetically. It doesn't take much analysis looking at the statewide results to see how that plays out, so you have to overcome that a little bit when you're not the first name on the ballot, but we're working hard to make sure it happens."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Baldwin County Presiding District Judge Michelle Thomason visited veterans in Cullman this week to talk about her mission to bring a Veterans Court to Cullman County.

It's been just more than four years since Thomason founded Baldwin County's Veterans Court, and she reflected on how the idea came about and what she did to get it started.

"About five or six years ago I began to see in my court, issues with veterans that were clearly related to their service to our country, and my hands were tied in terms of how I could deal with those issues as a judge. If I saw them in my criminal court I was limited to guilty or not guilty and jail time or probation. If I found them in my family court, there was very little I could do. So, I started doing some research to see if there was anything I could do proactively to help these veterans that were really struggling with issues like post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, addiction to pain medication, those types of issues."

Thomason continued, "I found that a judge in New York just a few years prior had started these Veterans Treatment Courts and so I contacted that court and began to do

» PAGE 6

City school board awards contracts for East, West Elementary roofs; personnel changes announced

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday morning, the Cullman City School Board approved recommendations from Stephen Ward & Associates, Inc. to award a contract to low bidder Porter Roofing Contractors, Inc. from Morrison, Tennessee for roof replacement at West Elementary School and to award a contract to low bidder Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. from Cullman for roof replacement at East Elementary School.

The schools' roofs, damaged in the March hail storm, were temporarily sealed last month to stop leaks until the end of the school year, when construction crews could come and make permanent repairs. The bid amounts and names of other bidders were not released, and no one with that information was available at the Central Office on Thursday afternoon or Friday.

The board also approved:

- 2018-19 Salary Schedules. These will be sent out to the Policy Review Committee and brought back to the board for consideration.
- HeadStart 2017-18 Supplemental Budget Application for a 2.6 percent cost of living allowance in the amount of $24,482
- consulting agreement between Cullman City Head Start and Essential Elements, LLC to provide technical and training services (Head Start Funds)
- Community Partnership Agreement between Head Start and Cullman County Library
- stipends to teachers at Cullman City Primary School for Coding Training (Title One Funds)
- stipends to teachers and support personnel at Cullman City Primary School for medication training (Central Office Funds)
- stipends to Amanda Turner and Anna Anderson to help develop and update Title One Plan and prepare for 2019 Advance ED monitoring
- a contract with Karla Rodriquez to help prepare for the 2018-19 school year and participate in recruitment activities (Head Start Funds)
- a contract with John Drake to provide necessary support, maintenance, updates, and operation needs for the CHS television production studio June 7 to Aug. 1, 2018 (Career Tech O&M Funds)
- a contract with Amy Gleaton to provide necessary support, scheduling, contacts, and operation needs for the CCS Work Based learning Program (i.e., Cooperative Edu-

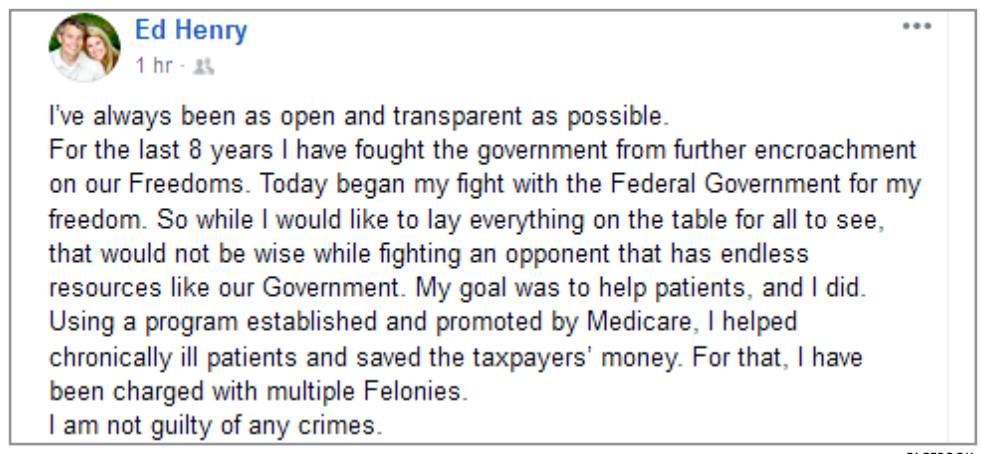
» PAGE 4

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Rep. Ed Henry charged, indicted in pill mill case

Rep. charged with giving kickbacks to doctor, health care fraud and money laundering

Doug Howard
U.S. Attorney Louis V. Franklin Sr., Middle District of Ala.



FACEBOOK

Rep. Ed Henry, R- Hartselle represents Alabama House District 9, which includes parts of Cullman, Marshall and Morgan Counties. He did not seek re-election to his seat in the June 5 Primary.

MONTGOMERY – On Thursday, June 7, 2018, Republican Alabama Rep. Ed Henry, 47, of Hartselle, was arrested on charges stemming from his role in a medical kickback scheme, announced United States Attorney Louis V. Franklin, Sr.

According to court documents, from 2015 through 2017, Henry was an owner of a health care company, MyPractice24, Inc. (MyPractice24). During some of that time, Henry also served as the company's chief executive officer (CEO). MyPractice24 provided non-face-to-face chronic care management services to Medicare beneficiaries who had two or more chronic conditions. The company did so pursuant to contracts into which it entered with primary care physicians. Under those contracts, the doctors would pay Henry's company to provide these chronic care management services to the doctors' patients, the company would provide the services, the doctors would bill Medicare for the services, and then the doctors would pay Henry's company a share of the reimbursements received from Medicare.

The indictment alleges that in 2016, Henry entered into an agreement with Dr. Gilberto Sanchez, a Montgomery physician who has subsequently pleaded guilty to drug distribution, health care fraud, and money laundering charges. Under that agreement, MyPractice24 would provide various kickbacks to Dr. Sanchez and his staff in return for the providers at Dr. Sanchez's practice referring Medicare beneficiaries to MyPractice24 for chronic care management services. Among the kickbacks provided were direct payments to a member of the staff, free chronic care management services, free medical billing services, and free clinical services unrelated to the provision of chronic care management services. Additionally, Henry assisted Dr. Sanchez in paying kickbacks to patients who enrolled in the chronic care management program. Dr. Sanchez paid these kickbacks by systematically waiving copays—copays which Medicare required Dr. Sanchez to collect.

The indictment charges Henry with one count of conspiring to pay kickbacks and to defraud the United States.

It then alleges six counts of paying unlawful kickbacks—each count is based on a different type of kickback Henry paid to Dr. Sanchez and those who worked at Dr. Sanchez's practice. Next, the indictment charges Henry with one count of conspiring to commit health care fraud and five counts of health care fraud. Those counts are based on Henry's assisting Dr. Sanchez in unlawfully waiving copay obligations and then failing to report the copay waivers to Medicare.

Last, the indictment alleges that Henry conspired to commit money laundering. The money laundering charge results from Henry's using the proceeds of health care fraud to make payments to Dr. Sanchez's staff members.

If convicted of the most serious offense, Henry faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, significant monetary penalties, asset forfeiture, and restitution.

An indictment merely alleges that crimes have been committed. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Inspector General, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Tactical Diversion Squad, and the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, the Montgomery Police Department, and the Opelika Police Department assisted in the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Jonathan S. Ross is prosecuting the case.

Arrest reports: June 6-7

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for June 6-7. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Blanton, Freda Joanne, 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Chambers, Jason Wayne, 35
- third-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument (8 counts)
- third-degree forgery (8 counts)

Gilland, Ciara Danielle, 25
- third-degree domestic violence
- illegal possession of prescription medicine

Jones, Clinton Mark, 29
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

McClendon, Temple Tim, 53
- third-degree criminal mischief
- harassment
- menacing
- fourth-degree theft of property

Thomas, Tammy Warden, 47
- unauthorized use of a vehicle

Wiley, Austin David Ray, 24
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas, Tammy W., 47
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving while suspended

Johnson, Mary B., 52
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- driving without a license

Jones, Jonathan R., 38
- FTA- resisting arrest
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- insurance violation

Moore, Christina J., 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wilhelm, David M., 24
- FTA- DUI- any substance

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Cook, Misty Lashay, 34
- FTA- tampering with a witness

Cummings, Madyson Brooke, 20
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Freeman, Marvin Rickey, 53
- probation revoked- first-degree theft of property

Grey, Jeremy Brian, 47
- court appearance

Jenkins, Donald Earl II, 19
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Mead, Jody Alan, 33
- court appearance

Oberle, Chad Jeremy, 38
- court appearance

Overton, Johnny Lee, 53
- probation revoked- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Sivley, Christopher Ray, 41
- nonsupport

Turner, Gregory Eugene, 51
- court appearance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sivley, Christopher R., 41
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Criscoe, James M., 30
- third-degree criminal trespassing

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

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

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
)
DAKOTA MARIE HINES,) CASE NO.: PC-2018-174
An incapacitated person)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDANSHIP

TO: TRACY HINES, BIOLOGICAL FATHER, MICHELLE COLLINS, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a hearing for Petition for Letters of Guardianship for DAKOTA MARIE HINES, filed by Kristen Edge, Social Service Worker for the Department of Human Resources, Petitioner, has been set for the 16th day of August, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. at the Cullman County Courthouse, Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055, before TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate.

DONE this 30th day of May, 2018.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for the Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE Suite 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
EDMUND A. TENBARGE,) CASE NO.: PC2018-165
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **WILLIAM J. TENBARGE,** as Executors/Administrators of the Estate of **EDMUND A. TENBARGE**, deceased, on the 21st day of May, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 21st day of May, 2018.

William J. Tenbarge
Executor/Administrator

Andria Richter
Attorney for the Petitioners
300 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-7757

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: **THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE**

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE



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Cullman Police make arrest in May Adelsheim Circle shooting

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

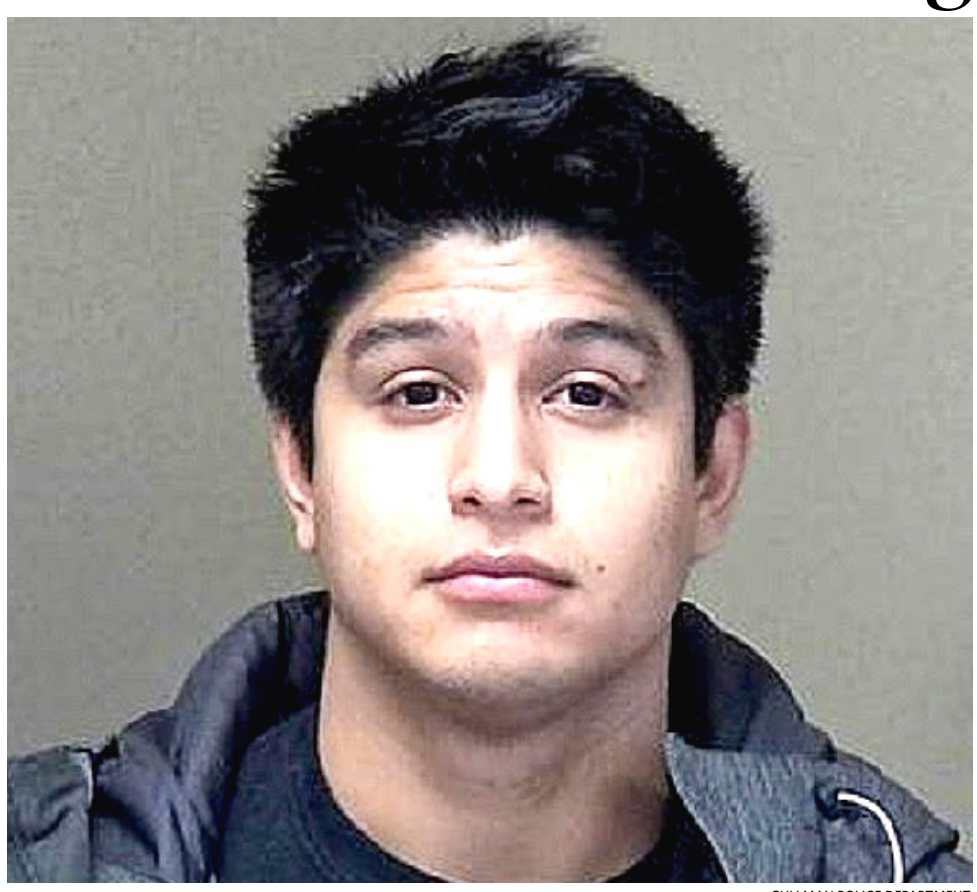
CULLMAN – The Cullman Police Department has made an arrest in the double shooting that occurred on May 3 at a residence on Adelsheim Circle Southwest. Jose Francisco Figueroa, 27, of Holly Pond has been charged with first-degree and second-degree assault.

According to CPD Capt. of Investigation Becky Boyd, Figueroa was arrested Friday and remains in the Cullman County Detention Center.

The arrest stems from the double shooting that happened in the early morning hours of May 3; CPD Chief Kenny Culpepper said at the time that the shooting was believed to be part of a domestic incident.

Boyd said in a statement that morning, "On May (3) at approximately 1:15 a.m. (the) Cullman Police Department responded to a domestic violence call at 2061 Adelsheim Circle in the city of Cullman.

"Once on scene officers found two victims of a gunshot. Both victims were transported to Huntsville Hospital, one by ambulance and one by Air Evac. This is still an active investigation and no further information will be released at this time. Lt. Gene Bates is the lead investigator."



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jose Figueroa

Later that same day, Boyd identified the victims:

"Victims from this morning's shooting in the city of Cullman were Jody Duane Couch Jr, 25, of Hanceville and Jose Francisco Figueroa, 27, of Holly Pond," said CPD Capt. of Investigation Becky Boyd in a statement. "Both victims remain hospitalized in Huntsville Hospital, each with a single gunshot wound. Due to their condition, investigators have been unable to interview either victim. The case remains under investigation."

On Friday, Bates said, "People might be curious as to why Figueroa wasn't charged with attempted murder. After conducting the investigation into the shootings, and looking at all the facts, we sat down with the district attorney a few times and talked about it. We felt that the crime did not meet the definition of attempted murder because he did not go to the residence with the intent to kill Mr. Couch."

Bates did confirm that the shootings were "over a girl." No other details were given.

First-degree assault is a Class B felony and carries a two to 20-year sentence. Second-degree assault is a Class C felony and carries a possible sentence of one to 10 years.

Bates said that Couch will not face any charges in the case.

Jones Chapel man charged with selling meth

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cody Lemark Clay, 29, of Jones Chapel, was arrested on Tuesday, charged with two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance for allegedly selling methamphetamine, according to the Cullman Police Department.

The CPD said Clay was arrested by officers assigned to the Alabama Drug Enforcement Task Force and the CPD's Crime Suppression Unit.

Clay was booked in at the Cullman County Detention Center and has since made bond.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cody Clay

Cullman man being extradited from Virginia following manslaughter indictment

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – A local man was arrested in Virginia this week and will be extradited back to Cullman County to face charges of manslaughter. Brandon Adam Hamm, 33, of Cullman, was picked up from a job site in Virginia.

Hamm was indicted in May by a Cullman County grand jury in the death of Mortimer Jordan High School volleyball coach Kelsey Marie Treadaway, 31, of Kimberly.

Treadaway, the daughter of Alabama Rep. Allen Treadaway, R-Morris, was killed on Feb. 25 when the 2010 Toyota Camry she was driving was struck from behind by a 2007 Chevrolet pickup driven by Hamm, according to Alabama State Troopers.

Troopers said Hamm left the scene of the wreck and was later located and identified. Hamm, who was not injured in the crash, was charged at that time with felony leaving the scene of an accident and placed in the Cullman County Detention Center. He had since made bond and been released.

The investigation into the fatal wreck was conducted by State Troopers, but the Cullman County Sheriff's Office was tasked with bringing Hamm into custody following the indictment, according to Sheriff Matt Gentry, who said the CCSO brought the U.S. Marshals in to help when it was discovered that Hamm was not in Alabama.

"The U.S. Marshals picked him up in Virginia, and he's in jail up there," said Gentry.

"It could be six days, it could be a month and a half before he's extradited back here."

Gentry could not confirm whether Hamm had fled to Virginia to avoid facing charges, saying that it was a State Trooper investigation.

He did say he believed Hamm was working as a painter in the area. Keith Blankenship with the U.S. Marshals service did confirm to The Tribune's Birmingham news partner, WVTM13, that Hamm did flee to avoid being arrested; however, Hamm's family denies that allegation.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Feb. 2018 mug shot of Brandon Hamm

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Notice Of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice IN-N-OUT Self Storage, located at 106 13th Street, Cullman, Alabama 35055 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below occupants who are in default at an auction. The sale will occur or otherwise disposed as on online auction via www.storageauctions.com on June 26, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Brittani Hutchinson, **Unit #21** last known address: 1401 Logan Street, Southwest, Apartment D, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Veronica Newberry, **Unit #530** last known address: 44 County Road 833, Cullman, Alabama 35057.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY

CASE NO: AD-2018-038

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

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: NORMAN BLAKLEY WEST II, OR ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS THAT MAY BE THE FATHER OF S.B.W. DATE OF BIRTH BEING JUNE 28, 2006

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY THOMAS JOSEPH HUCKS, PETITIONER, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AMBER MUNCEY HUCKS, 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 9th DAY OF May, 2018.

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

MICHAEL L. THORNTON
Attorney for Petitioner
200 2nd Ave SE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 620-0007

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY

CASE NO: AD2018-050

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
P.H.
A MINOR CHILD. DOB: 9/29/2016

NOTICE OF PETITION OF ADOTION TO BE PUBLISHED
SHARLENE WHITNEY TWILLEY, MOTHER

TO: **JOSH HALE, Alleged Father, whereabouts unknown**
ANY OTHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN PERSON, WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL, ALLEGED OR PUTATIVE FATHER OF THE ABOVE MINOR CHILD.

YOU MUST ANSWER THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION FILED BY JOHNATHAN HALE AND SHAILYN HALE, WHICH WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA ON THE 1st DAY OF May, 2018, AND THAT SHOULD YOU CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION HEREIN WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE SAID PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SE, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

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.

DONE THIS 5th DAY OF May, 2018.

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

Attorney for Petitioners:
SHELBIE G. HANKEY
412 1st Ave. SE, Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055

STATE OF ALABAMA	*	IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY	*	CASE NO. PC 2018-206

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANCES SHOEMAKER WREN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Scott Calvin Wren on the 30th day of May, 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.

Scott Calvin Wren
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF	*	IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
RICHARD MICHAEL BUNIS, JR.,	*	CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
deceased.	*	CASE NO. PC2018-119

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Heather Marie Bunis, as Administratrix of the Estate of Richard Michael Bunis, Jr., deceased, on the 1st day of May, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Done this the 1st day of May, 2018

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorney for Administrator:
J. Bradley Wilson
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256/737-0740

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 9, 2018

Jessica McBrayer promoted to Wallace State's new women's basketball coach

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College announced the appointment of Jessica McBrayer as head women's basketball coach this week.

McBrayer, 29, takes over the permanent post after spending the 2017-2018 season as the interim women's coach. She guided Wallace State to a 23-8 record and to the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) semifinals.

McBrayer is a Hartselle graduate and former Wallace State Lady Lion.

"I couldn't be more excited. Wallace State is home and the place that gave me the opportunity to be a collegiate student-athlete. Wallace State was it for me out of high school, so for me to be able to come back to the program and offer an opportunity to other deserving females is special," McBrayer said. "It's hard to explain the emotions behind it other than knowing I'm beyond excited and humbled."

McBrayer played at Wallace State under Hall of Fame coach Larry Slater during the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 seasons after leading Hartselle High to the AHSAA Class 5A title game in 2007 during her senior year.

"I look forward to Coach McBrayer continuing the winning tradition at Wallace State. She knows what it takes to compete and, more importantly, to win," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "She is an exceptional role model and mentor to our female athletes, and I look forward to the Wallace State Lady Lions basketball team claiming a national title in the future under her leadership."

Before accepting the interim role at Wallace State, McBrayer served as the program's assistant coach for three seasons, including helping the Lady Lions make a NJCAA Division I national tournament appearance in 2014-2015.

"I'm excited for Jessica McBrayer. She did an excellent job for us in the interim period, and the players truly relate to her as well. She's done a great job recruiting," said Wallace State Director of Athletics Paul Bailey.

"It's fun to watch her coach and see her incorporate things she learned both at Hartselle and at Wallace State under coach (Larry) Slater. I expect big things down the road for coach McBrayer and her staff."

During the transition from McBrayer shifting from assistant to interim coach, Wallace State didn't miss a beat last season. The Lady Lions compiled an 11-1 record at home and surpassed the 20-win plateau for the sixth time in seven seasons. As a group, Wallace State allowed an average of only 59.9 points per game and was among the leaders in most offensive categories.

"When we had our first meeting, I wanted to make sure the players knew we weren't here to tread water. Our goal was to improve in every area, from preseason practices to the weight room.

"Looking back on the season, we improved in a lot of categories from shooting percentage to rebounding," McBrayer said. "It was tough for the sophomores to take on a new mindset, but they did it with flying colors, and I'll always be grateful for that."

During her playing career, McBrayer, a Wallace State and Athens State alum, had the urge to one day be a basketball coach. That desire kicked into a higher gear when she initially became an assistant coach with the Lady Lions.

McBrayer has been busy this offseason working to replace eight sophomores off last season's team, seeking to find players who can fit the mold and style she learned as a player both in high school and college.

"At Hartselle, we were always a solid program. We went to the state championship game and won big tournaments we weren't supposed to win. Under coach (Greg) Adams, I was taught to do things the right way and be focused on the fundamentals.

"When I got to play for coach Slater, that's when I learned how to be tougher and more of a fighter. He wanted us to have guts on the court and get after it. Both were recipes for success. I was extremely blessed to have two very different coaches growing up that put a lot of stock in me. I try to take a little bit from each one and mold that into what I'm trying to do for this program," McBrayer said. "I want us to be a gritty program. I want every player to give everything they've got. It doesn't mean you are the most talented or athletic person on the court, but the effort should always be there."

Wallace State will return five players next season under McBrayer, including Jada Golden, Channing Gafford and DeMaurea Moore.

Wallace State women's basketball has won six ACCC/Region 22 championships and made five appearances at the NJCAA Division I national tournament with the last being in 2015.

"We're taking the steps to get back to that championship level, and it's great to be a part of this winning tradition at Wallace State. You see coaches come and stay here for 10 to 20 years or more, and it's because it's a special place. If you ever coached, played or been a student here, you understand how special it is. Each program thrives on the overall success we have," McBrayer said.

McBrayer and her husband, Michael, live in Cullman. They have two daughters, Kinsey, 14, and Brantley, 7.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit www.athletics.wallacestate.edu.



WSCC

Jessica McBrayer, 29, has been named Wallace State's women's basketball coach this week. McBrayer led the Lady Lions to a 23-8 record and to the ACCC semifinals during the 2017-2018 season.

Cullman Swim Team off to strong start

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

JASPER – The Cullman Swim Team (CST) had several first-place finishers Tuesday at its meet in Jasper. The CST will compete in two meets per week over the next several weeks.

First place finishers at Jasper include:

- Lauren Windham: (8 and Under) 100 Yard IM, 25 Yard Freestyle and 25 Yard Breaststroke
- Sarah Woods: (9-10) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Aubrey Helms: (11-12) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Freestyle and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Ruby Hudson: (13-14) 100 Yard IM
- Claire Ogstad: (15-18) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Tate Tysinger: (6 and Under) 25 Yard Freestyle and 25 Yard Backstroke
- Georgia Dowdy: (6 and Under) 25 Yard Freestyle and 25 Yard Backstroke
- Madeline Dowdy: (7-8) 25 Yard Freestyle and 50 Yard Freestyle
- Carolina Haigh: (11-12) 50 Yard Freestyle
- Anna Page: (13-14) 50 Yard Freestyle
- Madison Clements: (13-14) 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Jonah Hilb: (15-18) 50 Yard Butterfly and 100 Freestyle
- Kelly Warren: (15-18) 50 Yard Butterfly
- Luke Johnson (11-12) 100 Freestyle
- Brody Schaefer: (13-14) 100 Yard Freestyle
- Marie Windham: (13-14) 100 Yard Freestyle
- Girls 8 and Under 100 Yard Medley Relay: Leah Hilb, Lauren Windham, Madeline Dowdy and Edie Hudson
- Girls (13-14) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Madison Clements, Marie Windham, Anna Page and Ruby Hudson
- Girls (7-8) 100 Yard Freestyle Relay Madeline Dowdy, Edie Hudson, Joyanna Borden and Lauren Windham
- Boys (11-12) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Aubrey Helms, Chase Duncan, Caden Hornsby and Luke Johnson
- Girls (13-14) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Anna Page, Marie Windham, Kyleigh Potter and Ruby Hudson
- Girls (15-18) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Jordan Windham, Kelly Warren, Hannah Ogstad and Claire Ogstad
- Girls (15-18) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Hannah Ogstad, Claire Ogstad, Kelly Warren and Jordan Windham

The CST is a summer league competitive swim and dive team offered through Cullman Parks and Recreation. Follow the team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Cullman-Swim-Team-1697470027009175.



JOEY DUNCAN/ TEAM PARENT

Swimmers prepare for a race on Tuesday in Jasper

Contracts (from Front)

cation Program) June 7 to Aug. 1, 2018 (Career Tech O&M Funds)

- a contract with Amber Hembree to provide counseling duties at East Elementary School during the summer of 2018 (General Fund)
- a contract with Jennifer Callahan to provide curriculum duties during the summer of 2018
- a contract with curriculum coach Erica Rutherford during the summer of 2018

Personnel Considerations

Resignations

- Kassandra Cox, instructional assistant at Cullman City Primary School, effective May 25, 2018
- Sarah Thompson, Early Morning EDP at CCPS, effective May 24, 2018
- Harris Crumbley, Early Morning EDP, effective May 24, 2018
- Lauren Harbison, Extended Day Program aide, effective May 24, 2018
- Ashlee Kuri, Extended Day Program aide, effective May 24, 2018
- Teri Weaver, English Language Arts teacher at Cullman High School, effective May 25, 2018

Transfers

- Blakely Burns, transfer from first-grade teacher at Cullman City Primary School to second-grade teacher at East Elementary School (JV18019)

Employments (conditional under the terms of the Child Protection Act of 1999 and Act, and pending certification, as applicable)

- Michael Fowlkes, Information Technology Manager, tentative beginning date of June 21, 2018
- Adam Connor McGee, Special Education teacher at Cullman Middle School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018
- Chloe Harbison, temporary Kindergarten teacher at Cullman City Primary School (to fill a leave of absence) tentatively beginning Aug. 2, 2018 through Dec. 19, 2018
- Ashton Laney, Extended Day Program aide at Cullman City Primary School, beginning Aug. 7, 2018
- Raegan Stephens, Extended Day Program aide at Cullman City Primary School, beginning Aug. 7, 2018
- Erica Veal, Head Start Disabilities Manager at Cullman City Primary School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018
- Crystal Sparks, instructional assistant at East Elementary School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018
- Nina Mills, instructional assistant at East Elementary School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018
- Mary Lauren Hartline, English Language Arts teacher at Cullman High School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018
- Tyler Pitzing, English Language Arts teacher at Cullman High School, beginning Aug. 2, 2018

Administrative Supplement

- Michelle Nix, CNP Manager at CHS, Level 1 Administrative Supplement for additional responsibilities of helping coordinate the new systemwide cycle menu effective for the 2018-19 school year

Supplement Resignation

- Teri Weaver, Junior Class Sponsor Supplement, effective May 25, 2018

Trips

The board granted permission for the East Elementary School Archery Team to compete in the NASP World Archery Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on June 9, 2018 and for the CHS Competition Dance Team to travel to Majestic Beach Resort in Panama City, Florida to participate in Panama City Beach Camps by Varsity June 7-11, 2018.

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City of Cullman makes donation to American Legion Boys, Girls State programs

Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN – Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs on Thursday presented an appropriation check to the American Legion Cullman Post 4 and Auxiliary Unit 4 to help support the organization's Boys State and Girls State programs. On hand to accept the check were Don Reid (American Legion Cullman Post 4) and Becky Barnard and Diane Reid (American Legion Auxiliary Unit 4).

In appreciation for the City of Cullman's support of these programs, Jacobs and the City of Cullman were presented with a certificate of appreciation and recognition.

For more information on the American Legion or on the Boys State and Girls State programs, visit www.legion.org.



LEANNE WEST

Pictured, L-R: Becky Barnard, Diane Reid, Don Reid and Mayor Woody Jacobs

CWAC makes a splash with summer's first dive-in movie

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center (CWAC) on Thursday night kicked off its annual series of dive-in movies with Disney's "The Little Mermaid." The movie was the first of three planned poolside films, with the other two coming in July and August. The movies offer something for everyone; families with children (and Disney lovers in general) filled the pool area for Thursday night's selection.

Thrill seekers can dare to enter the water during a showing of "Jaws" on July 5. Then on Aug. 2, guests can enjoy "Finding Nemo."

Maddie Angle, one of the CWAC's head lifeguards, and Clay McAlpin, a lead lifeguard, both stated that it's incredibly important for parents to keep an eye on their children while at the pool, especially while it's dark.

"Anything could happen at any moment, no matter how good of a swimmer they are," Angle said.

McAlpin added, "It all happens extremely fast. Within the blink of an eye, anything can go down." Further swimming safety tips will come in a future article.

All films are free for CWAC members and $5 for non-members. They begin after sunset, around 8:45-9 p.m. More information about the upcoming movies can be found on the CWAC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CullmanWellnessAquaticCenter/.



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

People packed the pool for the first dive-in movie of the summer Thursday night.

Hartline (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman High School has added a couple of new faces to the Lady Bearcats Basketball coaching staff: former Fairview Lady Aggies Head Coach Mary Hartline is coming on as a varsity assistant and former Martin Methodist College player and assistant coach Nina Mills will join the staff as the junior varsity coach. As head coach at Fairview, Hartline led the Lady Aggies to an appearance in the Northwest Regional in three of the last four seasons and back-to-back Cullman County Tournament and 5A Area 12 Tournament wins the past two seasons.

Despite racking up so many wins at this point in her coaching career, Hartline is anxious to learn more about the job and continue improving her skills as a coach.

"After our season was over I had just been talking to a few people about this and that and the following year and somebody said that Coach (Josh) Hembree is looking for an assistant. So, I just texted him and it went from there and here we are," Hartline smiled. "Whenever I first started I went straight from coaching middle school for three years to coaching the varsity position and I had several mentors like Coach (Michael) Oldacre, but I never really got to work under somebody and that bothered me."

Hartline continued, "It turned out fine but I'm really looking forward to the coaching development that I'll get from working with a coach like Coach Hembree who has had such success in Georgia and has really done a great job with a large program at Cullman. So, I think that just bettering myself as a coach is really what I'm looking forward to the most and just being part of a team. I like working with other people, so it'll be a lot of pressure off to work with Coach Hembree and Nina and be able to work within a system and not have all the responsibility myself."

Hartline was just added to the Cullman High staff this week, but she's already gotten a chance to meet some of her new players and said she's excited to get to work with them this season.

"I've met several of the girls at this point and I'm super excited. I think he's got some older girls with good experience and then several talented players that are incoming ninth graders that I'm very impressed with and I think can develop into something," Hartline said. "We are a little small size-wise, but at Fairview until Abbi Taylor we were always small, so that's something that I'm accustomed to and that's not a big deal, but yeah I'm really impressed with the girls."

In the classroom, Hartline has similar motivations for making the move to Cullman High School: an opportunity to learn and gain professional experience with some of the best in her field.

"They have mentioned to me that I would probably get one section of AP Language, which is what I taught at Fairview, and at Cullman they have Jennifer Callahan who is a teacher that teaches other teachers how to teach AP," Hartline joked. "She's one of the top teachers in the state and she would get two sections and I would get one and we would work together directly. So again, just the professional development that I will get will lead to vast improvements in my teaching, getting to work with somebody like her. I've heard that I might get some ninth-grade classes as well which I'm excited about because I love the literature that goes with that, but mostly it's about getting a chance to work with someone who has been in the system for such a long time and has had so much success."

For Hartline, the opportunity is exciting and one she couldn't pass up, but it was tough for her to say goodbye to the school and community that she had grown close to over the years.

"Dr. (Susan) Patterson actually hired me at Fairview Middle School eight years ago and that was my first teaching job. She let me coach too, and then I just moved on up after a couple of years and went to the high school, but you talk about long-term relationships. Eight years' worth of relationships I've had with parents, community members and families, it's been the same people for eight years and that support and family atmosphere, which I'm sure I'll develop in Cullman as well, but just leaving the people and the relationships is tough," Hartline said.

"I was really torn because this group of kids coming up at Fairview is such a good little group and a young group. They won the Junior Varsity County Tournament last year, they only lost two games and that's why I had to pull kids to play varsity because of injuries at the beginning of the year, so they're a very talented group. I think that they will do really well so I hate to leave the people, but as far as my career goes, getting to work with top people in the field at a large school I thought was a good step for me. It's bitter-sweet, but I'm really excited."



United Way

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Friday, June 29th by noon

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 9, 2018

Cullman Regional celebrates Wound Care Awareness Week

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Currently 6.7 million people in the United States are living with chronic wounds. Due to the lack of awareness of advanced wound care, most of these people do not receive the treatment they need and deserve. Wound Care Awareness Week is dedicated to raising awareness of advanced wound care and its benefits for every patient living with chronic, non-healing wounds.

Symptoms of wound complications include:
• Increased redness around the wound
• Warm or red skin
• A red streak spreading from the wound
• An increase in wound drainage
• Pus or cloudy fluid draining from the wound
• A foul odor or abnormal smell
• An increase in pain
• Fever or chills
• Failure of a wound to close or make ample healing progress within 30 days

Cullman Regional's Wound Healing Center consists of 14 team members including specially-trained physicians, registered nurses, support staff and an HBO tech.

Patients of the Cullman Regional's Wound Healing Center receive the highest-quality chronic wound treatment available. Current advanced treatments available at Cullman Regional are hyperbaric oxygen therapy, total contact casting, negative pressure wound therapy, bio-engineered skin substitutions and advanced wound care dressings.

With a healing rate of 99 percent, the Cullman Regional Wound Healing Center takes pride in being an award winning wound care center with highly-trained professionals dedicated to providing the best wound care services to our community.

These services are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through Cullman Regional's Wound Healing Center.

No physician referral is required with most types of insurance.

For more information, visit www.cullmanregional.com or call 256-737-2980.

Court (from Front)

some training with them and learn about the process of what a Veterans Treatment Court is and how to start one. After going to the first national conference they put together, I came back and was able to get my court started in February of 2014. We've operated for almost four-and-a-half years and I have seen tremendous success in the program."

The Veterans Court system allows judges to help veterans in need of treatment in ways that they can't in more traditional court systems. Thomason said she has seen the system provide veterans with the help they need in a variety of ways.

"The way the court works is if a veteran is arrested, they're immediately assigned to the Veterans Court docket. They have to voluntarily come into the program and what the program is, is a diversion program. They come in and plead guilty to their charge, but I don't act on that guilty plea, I hold that plea and they voluntarily enter into a program where they commit to be with us for at least a year, sometimes because they need more treatment they stay in longer but it's a minimum of a year. During that year they agree to complete any treatment protocol that we ask them to complete, and that treatment is designed by doctors who evaluate them and determine exactly what they need," Thomason said.

"If it's addiction issues we find rehab facilities that know how to treat addiction specifically for veterans, if it's post traumatic stress we find group and individual counseling to give them the tools they need to deal with the issues related to their post-traumatic stress, therapy for military sexual trauma with women, whatever it is, we want them to get treatment. When they demonstrate a compliance with that treatment, then we graduate them at the conclusion and dismiss all their criminal charges so that they're able to get back into society in a productive way and in the place of honor in our community that they deserve to be in."

In an effort to get Veterans Courts set up all across the state, Thomason takes time to work with judges at conferences and works with some individually who reach out to her. Two local judges have been working with Thomason to try and bring the Veterans Court system to Cullman.

"I'm on a state task force and it is my goal to try to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in all the jurisdictions around the state so that it's available to all veterans. I train judges on how to start the courts at conferences and things like that, but I also talk to judges individually. So, when judges are interested in starting a court they often reach out to me and ask me to come and guide them through the process or at least give them some advice. (Cullman County Circuit) Judge Greg Nicholas has reached out to me over the last few months with a sincere desire to start a Veterans Court in Cullman County. There is another judge here, (Cullman County District Judge) Rusty Turner, who is a veteran himself and I believe has agreed to be the presiding judge over that court if we get started. Judge Nicholas has already talked with the sheriff and the district attorney and gotten them on board with the program, but he wanted my help in trying to pull it all together and in helping to engage another component in this court, and one of the most important components, the mentor program."

Thomason talked about her trip to the Cullman VFW Thursday night and how VFW members are an integral part in the system that she'd like to help bring to Cullman.

"What Judge Nicholas did was he set up a time when I could come and speak, which was last night, to the members of the VFW here in Cullman where I met Ken (Brown). I talked with those men and women about things they could do to help get this court started, and number one is just getting behind the program as a community and second is volunteering their time to be mentors in the program. There are lots of different treatment courts around the country- DUI courts, Mental Health Courts and Drug Courts- there are lots of diversion courts, but there's not one other than Veterans Court that has a mentor program. Nationally they believe that the mentor component of this program is the reason these courts are so much more successful than those other programs. Veterans Courts nationally run between a 90 and 93 percent success rate which means that less than 10 percent of veterans that graduate are ever in trouble with the law again. Those are amazing statistics."

Col. Ken Brown said that the crowd at the VFW Thursday night liked a lot about Thomason's ideas and is excited to start seeing more people get behind the cause.

"She got a great reception at the VFW last night; we've been working with Judge Nicholas for the past six or eight months talking about this. We've had a couple of meetings with him and we'll be meeting with him again here in the next couple of weeks with volunteers from the VFW that are willing to be trained in the mentor program," Brown said. "They bring people in from out of state and give us the training that we need to get into this, and there are plenty of guys here that really understand the need, and it's a band of brothers man, whatever we can do to help our brothers that's what we want to do."

Brown said he sees the need for a program like Thomason's in Cullman and gave some reasons why a Veterans Court may be more necessary than ever before.

"The VFW does a lot in the community. We do the flags on the highways on holidays and we put flags on the veterans' graves, we go see shut-in and sick veterans, we have Boy Scout programs and do a lot of veterans' funerals. We do a lot of things to help our fellow veterans, but you know the younger veterans coming home have had two or three combat tours, sometimes four combat tours. Unlike those of us from Vietnam that went over there for a year and came home. So, these people have been traumatized probably far more than the average veteran in the past and the younger members of our post now realize that a lot more. They're a lot more empathetic because they've been there, and they've done that, and they understand." Brown said.

"So, that whole band of brothers thing where some of those young people that really need this help can get it down at the VFW or can get it through programs like Judge Thomason's coming up with because people who have been through combat understand them and that's what they want. They want somebody backing them up, they want somebody that really knows what they've been through, and the average civilian, you can talk to them all day long, but they have no idea what you've been through. When she was talking to the guys last night I was looking at them rather than looking at her and you could see that the wheels were turning and that she was getting a lot of positive head nods and we've got some people at the VFW right now that are suffering from PTSD pretty badly. So, it's a big problem, we all understand it, we all want to help, and we probably want to help more than the average civilian does because we understand it a lot better," said Brown.

Thomason's long-term goal when it comes to Veterans Courts is to have a court accessible to everyone all across the state, and she believes that Cullman is a great place to continue that process, not only due to its high veteran population, but also as an example for other counties to learn from.

"I think this would be a wonderful place to make it happen because one of the biggest critiques we get about trying to set up all around the state, is 'Our county is too small, we don't have enough resources, we don't have enough veterans to support a court,' but Cullman is situated in an area where there is a huge number of veterans. It's my understanding that with a population of 88,000 there are 7,000 veterans here; that's huge, that's almost 10 percent," Thomason said. "So, it's an ideal place for a Veterans Court, but also, you're surrounded by smaller counties that don't have the resources to establish their own court, so to get this one established could really be a cornerstone court for the rest of the state in learning how to establish a jurisdictional court. We'll need some help from the legislature; there was a bill in the hopper last time that allowed counties to transfer their cases to other courts for this purpose. It did not get passed, it may need a little bit of tweaking, but it has to get passed, to allow us to transfer those cases or combine those jurisdictions so that we can get them all over the state."

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Obituary Announcements: June 9 - 10

Bobby Stewart, 55 of Falkville, passed away on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center after a short illness. Bobby loved tinkering with machinery and was always willing to help his family and friends in any way possible. He had a giving heart and lived a simple, no fuss life. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents: Raymond E. and Audry Wren Stewart and his brother, Donald Ray Stewart. He is survived by his brothers: Gary (Karen) Stewart and Raymond Stewart; sister, Barbara Sims; sister-in-law, Mary Stewart; a host of nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews and his best friend, Mitch Maddox. His family will receive friends on Friday, June 8, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. A graveside service will be at Mt. Zion Cemetery on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Funeral service for Peggy Jane Roberts, age 67 of Cullman, will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 11 a.m.; burial at Hamby Chapel. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Roberts passed away on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at Cullman Health Care Center. She was born August 30, 1950 in Florida to Carl and Lona Teichmiller. She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, William Roberts. Survivors include her sons; David (Jenny) Roberts, Daniel Roberts (Stacy Powell), and Timothy (Melanie) Roberts, brother, Gary Teichmiller, grandchildren; Lori, Seth, Carly, Levi, Colby, Madison, Noah, and Gabriel Roberts. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, June 8, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Dedrick William Bentley of Cullman passed away June 7, 2018 at 92. He was born November 27, 1925 to Bob and Eldora Finnel Bentley. He was a veteran of The United States Air Force. He accepted the Lord as his Savior and baptized on August 25, 1991. He is preceded in death by his wife Betty Joyce Chatham Bentley. Graveside services are Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Welti Cemetery. Survivors are 2 sons Randy (Barbara) Bentley, Rick Bentley, 1 brother Edward Bentley, 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Visitation is Saturday 9 a.m. until 10:30 at Moss Funeral Home.

Mr. Gregory Alan Sutherland, 52, of Haleyville passed away on Thursday, June 7, 2018. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home directing.

Betty Chandler, 89 of Irondale, formerly of Cullman, AL. passed away Thursday, June 7, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband, Grady H. Wiggins Jr.; daughter, Laurie Ann Hewell; grandson, Chandler Hewell; and her parents: Harvey and Iva Lou Chandler. Mrs. Wiggins is survived by sons: Grady Wiggins III (Barbara) and David C. Wiggins; son-in-law, Tony Hewell; grandchildren: Kaitlin M. Wiggins and Chelsea Swindle; and great grandchildren: Eli and Chandler Swindle. The family will receive friends on Sunday, June 10, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The graveside celebration of Mrs. Wiggins' life will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 10, 2018 at Cullman City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Memorial service for Clifton Merritt will be Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church. Mr. Merritt passed away Saturday, June 2, at his residence. Mr. Merritt was born November 14, 1946 in Maine to George and Lorena Merritt. He was an aircraft mechanic. He is preceded in death by his parents and a son, Dixon Merritt. He is survived by his wife, Kim Foshee Merritt, sons, Joshua Weitzman Merritt and Chris (Beth) Cooper, daughters, Kathleen (Danny) Campbell, Teresa Anne Wells, and Nicole (Justin) Obinger, grandchildren, MacKenzie, Dixon, Christian, Mason, Kali, Ty, Austin, Emylee, Garrett, TJ, Hannah, and Emily, great grandchildren, Swayze, Oliver, and one on the way, and a brother George D (Sheri) Merritt. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

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Cullman council awards $376K bid to renovate Heritage Park soccer field; work to begin next week

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Wednesday evening at a special called meeting, the Cullman City Council authorized Mayor Woody Jacobs to sign a $375,579 contract with low bidder Jerry L. Johnson & Associates, Inc. to renovate the main soccer field at Heritage Park. The project will be funded in part by contributions from Rock the South, and the city has submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for grant assistance to provide additional funding, based on damage done to Heritage Park by the March 19 hail storm. According to the mayor, the City will make up any additional need through local funds.

Rock the South is known to take a toll on Heritage Park's turf, for which RTS contributes substantial amounts annually to fund repairs; this year, however, due to planning and the covering of sensitive areas with plastic sheeting during pre-event rains, the impact of RTS was less than in previous years. This time around, it was the weather's turn to tromp through the park, denting metal roofs, breaking windows, and pock-marking turf with giant hailstones.

After the vote, Jacobs told The Tribune:
"We're thrilled that we're getting to be able to do this, after all the damage that the hail storm did to the fields. It was really unbelievable: it looked like you'd turned a herd of cows out. I mean, it was just so bad.

"FEMA people were here assessing damage and saw it. They couldn't believe how much damage there was. So we feel good that we're going to be able to get some assistance through FEMA and then some of our local money, and get the fields built, because when we built them, youth soccer hadn't evolved to what it is, so they weren't built the way we're using them now."

Several months ago, Cullman Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism (CP&R) staff discovered that the main soccer field had originally been designed and constructed as two separate tournament soccer fields with a low space between for drainage. (See www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/10/22/cpr-planning-drainage-redesigns-heritage-park-fields-other-areas) The coming project through Jerry L. Johnson & Associates will take up existing sod, raise the center of the field by more than a foot, and regrade the entire site. The result will be a field from which storm water drains to the perimeter in all directions, instead of having substantial water drainage to the center of the field (right where the sound and light control tower sits during RTS).

According to CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson, who came to answer council questions and witness the vote Wednesday evening, renovation is set to begin next week.

If the weather cooperates, the field should be graded, sodded and completed sometime in late July, weeks ahead of the start of the youth soccer season.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson's family came with him to hear the good news and hang with council members Wednesday night. Left to right: Councilman Andy Page, Council President Pro-tem Jenny Folsom, Councilman Clint Hollingsworth (holding one of Anderson's children), Nathan Anderson, Anderson's older son and Anderson's wife, Anna.

Anderson shared, "With this redesign, we'll have one linear crown down the length of the field, with the drainage going to the perimeters. So, mainly, every area that we'll be playing on it will be firm and drain well. If you were to put a similar RTS layout on it, it would mostly be in the safe zones, where it's designed to drain well.

"So we appreciate the council after the hail storm--again, we had significant damage just like we did after RTS--so it's nice to see the fields worked on and redesigned to be able to handle situations like that."

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1930
Joe H. Ray spent Sunday with friends in Falkville. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Ray are the proud parents of a little son. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Price are the proud parents of a little girl.

Kyle Turner, Goldie Edlemon and Lucille Brooks motored to Berlin on Sunday.

At Arkadelphia, Misses Regina Taylor and Virginia Crowder attended the play at the school on Thursday night. Lewis Dean was the escort of Miss Eunice Crozel, on Friday night.

Miss Velaria Strong and Clifford Dye were the Sunday guests of Misses Zelma and Fronia Self, of Welcome.

Miss Esther Perdue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Perdue, graduated this week from the Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She had high honors. The many friends of Miss Perdue wish for her much success as she enters the field of caring for the sick.

Mr. Nathan Smith was showing off his beans Monday to friends who visited his barbershop. The beans were grown back of his shop and pods measured six inches long.

Miss Frances McPherson was the Valedictorian of the Cullman High School Class of 1930. Salutatorian was Miss Margaret Hartwig. Fred Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Kelley graduated at Alabama Military Institute at Anniston. He was presented a beautiful sport model Chevrolet roadster for graduation from his parents.

Miss Christine Hembree was neither absent nor tardy during the seven years she attended Cullman City Schools. Miss Hembree also made excellent grades.

Norris Estes and Ludie House were the happy callers of Misses Hester and Flaye Crumbley, on Sunday at Holly Pond. Ulysses Shaw was the caller of Allene Watts, on Sunday. Curtis Reid was the escort of Miss Tessie Ellard, on Sunday night.

"When you know enough to know what you lack, you are in an excellent position to know what stands between you and happiness."

From The Files Of 1955
The Reverend Clayton Phillips has announced that the Logan Methodist Parsonage will be dedicated, on Sunday, June 5th.

API graduates from Cullman are: Charles Franklin Kinser, Junior, Billy Jack Eidson, Buford Monroe Gross, John Boyd McBrayer and Charles Ervin Bottcher. Howard Tucker, of Logan received a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Alabama graduates from the Cullman area are: James W. Tucker, William E. Rasco, Martha Sue Smith, Sidney R. Gibbs, Bette Louise Buettner, Gerald A. Davis and Doris E. Bush.

Cullman defeated Woodlawn in the state baseball players on Wednesday. The score was tied, 2 to 2 when Ralph Blalock hit a homerun. DeLane Hulsey was the winning pitcher. Other team members are Van McElroy, Brownie West, Jack Doss, Jimmie Knight, Billy Ray Johnson, Jimmie Hudson, Joe Miller, Frank Duke, Dale Cook and Darrell Owens.

Helen Walker and Delton Stidham were married on Saturday.

"The Plunderers," "Rose Marie," "Hell Below Zero," "Rear Window" and "Fighter Attack" were showing at the 31-Drive in Theatre.

From The Files Of 1905
There was not more than a third of a crop of strawberries this year.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Stinson was climbing a tree, caught a live telephone wire and was unable to turn loose. Neighbors soon rescued him without injury.

Mr. S.P. Daniel, of Holly Pond, is ill.

Mrs. H. Arnold and children, of Cullman visited Mrs. H. Rehling, on Sunday, at Gays Chapel.

Jesse Howell was thrown from his horse on Monday and broke his leg between the hip and the knee.

From The Files Of 1935
Bland Motor Company is the new Ford Dealer in Cullman, replacing Mattingly Motors Company.

Allen Gray, Birmingham Southern College student, is home for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Wise will leave tomorrow for three weeks in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dunlap, Mrs. Charles Watson and little Miss Jean Gunn left Wednesday for a motor trip through Georgia and Florida.

Mrs. Alfred Newman will leave Saturday for her home in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Racke.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Enjoying some of God's little summertime creatures

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



They looked like the tiny flames from birthday candles floating around all over my yard. Since my birthday is in the summer, as a child, I pretended my yard was my very own giant birthday cake. Actually, I wouldn't have had that many candles on my cake back then, but the number might be more appropriate for me these days! The lights appeared each evening, just as darkness began to creep up. Most of them hovered about four or five feet above the ground. They lit up for a few seconds and then went back out. We chased after them until it was so dark we couldn't find them once their lights went off.

Of course, as you already know, they were not really birthday candles. They were Lampyridae. Okay, okay, they are better known as fireflies, or lightning bugs, but I do like the scientific name because it starts with the word lamp and they have their own little lamps. These little winged beetles are a wonder of nature and a marvel of attraction to boys and girls. Quite honestly, I still enjoy seeing them.

Through their use of a chemically produced light called bioluminescence, during twilight they can easily be seen. Their light attracts mates, prey, and children.

Since those little flying bugs don't bite or sting, and their light doesn't burn you when touched, we loved to catch them. Since Mom canned vegetables back then, she always had plenty of empty glass mason jars. She didn't mind if I borrowed a couple of them to house my captured lightning bugs.

She didn't mind if I brought my jar full of light inside, but she always said, "You can't keep them in that jar long or they will die." She suggested I turn them loose, but I guess she meant outside. Mama was not impressed whatsoever with lightning bugs flying around inside our house at night, but I thought they were pretty cool. I usually managed to round up most of them, but occasionally, after all the lights went out, I discovered I had missed one or two.

Much has changed since those days of my childhood. Back then we played outside until it was so dark you couldn't see. Of course, there were no video or computer games, or Facebook. We played hide-and- go seek instead of Pokemon Go. Mama had a switch but it wasn't a Nintendo Switch. We had "a" television with a total of three channels, but we weren't allowed to sit in the house and watch television all day. We also had shoes, but we didn't wear them around the house or even out in the yard after the weather warmed up. We not only caught lightning bugs but June bugs as well. June bugs were large green beetles that flew. Compared to lightning bugs, they looked like B52s and they didn't light up. We didn't put them in a jar; we put them on the end of a long string. It was kind of like walking the dog on a lease, except we flew the bug on a string.

As I've gotten older, I don't see as many lightning bugs, or June bugs either, as I once did. That's because their numbers are declining, partly due to our overdevelopment. I miss seeing their light. Jesus said He was the light but he also said we are the light of the world. He said, "Let your lights so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." We are God's lightning bugs, if you will. Let's go shine.

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).

Poet's Corner

The Earthworm

By: Harry Martinson
1904-1978

Who really respects the earthworm,
the farmworker far under the grass in the soil.
He keeps the earth always changing.
He works entirely full of soil,
speechless with soil, and blind.

He is the underneath farmer,
the underground one,
where the fields are getting on
their harvest clothes.
Who really respects him,
this deep and calm earth-worker,
this deathless, gray, tiny farmer
in the planet's soil.

NOTE: Earthworms turn the soil, break down organic matter into things plants need and leave castings that serve as fertilizer. They are like free farm help.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
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Cullman Power Board celebrates Lineworker Appreciation Day

Nick Griffin
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CULLMAN – The Cullman Power Board's third annual Lineworker Appreciation Day was celebrated Thursday and a long list of speakers and recognitions, along with steaks provided by the Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen's Association, made this year's event another success.

Several guests also joined this year's event, including Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, Cullman Police Officer Cindy Rohrscheib, Cullman Power Board Chairman Dr. Wayne Fuller and Cullman First United Methodist Pastor Todd.

The invocation was given by Henderson, and Cullman Power Board General Manager Mike Manning got the recognitions started by awarding five linemen the Cullman Power Board Award of Excellence for their work in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Randall Gallion, Madison Pearson, Michael Ugarkovich, Blake Overton and Tyler Hancock each received a certificate.

This year's retirees were also recognized during the ceremony, several of which were in attendance: Gene Mayfield, Buddy Virgil Cochran, Jack Springer, Kevin Kirkwood, Andy Hoeing, Albert Michelfelder, Larry Ragsdale and Bob Hudson.

After awards and recognitions had been handed out, Fuller spoke briefly about his appreciation for the dangerous, important work that the linemen do.

"We're greatly appreciative of everything you do, I guess one of the main things that's preached to you, but safety is the biggest thing for you guys I'm sure. It doesn't take but one little mishap for something to go wrong and that's one of the main things that all of us need to keep in mind with all you guys," Fuller said.

"We appreciate what you do because we're sitting there thinking 'I wonder when the power is going to come back on,' but we know that you're getting out there in not very good weather sometimes taking care of it."

Gentry shared his admiration for the job that linemen do and how much it impacts people's lives.

"I think about the job you do, and I will tell you this, electricity scares me to death. I would much rather be shot at or have somebody punch me in the mouth or whatever than climb a poll and mess with electricity. I can remember being a young deputy out there and when power lines go down it was always a blessing to see you guys roll up and take care of us and protect people in the community," Gentry said. "Whether you realize it or not, what you do for the community goes above and beyond a blessing, because when you don't have power and some of the other things we have, people's lives are turned upside down. It really is like the good Lord said, you're bringing light to a bad situation and you do it without fear, without hesitation. It can be the worst storm in the world, and y'all are out there taking care of the citizens of this county."

Rohrscheib also serves as a tactical flight officer in the CPD's aviation unit and has worked directly with some of the linemen in multiple scenarios. She said she quickly found an appreciation for the work they do.

"One of the biggest things that comes to my mind when it comes to working with you guys and how much we do appreciate you, is when we have structure fires and we rely on you to come and cut the power to that structure. We've also had tac. team situations where we had a hostage or someone in the house threatening to set the house on fire or something like that and we needed you guys to come and cut the power," Rohrscheib said.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Five linemen received the Cullman Power Board Award of Excellence for their work in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. L-R: Michael Ugarkovich, Madison Pearson, Randall Gallia and Blake Overton. Not pictured: Tyler Hancock

"That's risky for you guys, too, because you're coming into a hostile environment that you're not even aware of and you're just willing to come and try to help us out, so we appreciate that very much and I want you guys to always know that you have an open communication with us."

Cullman Power Board Event Coordinator Beth Ann Chivers and Superintendent of Operations Wyatt Pettus both believe the annual event is a great opportunity to recognize efforts that oftentimes go unnoticed.

"I think it's really a great event, like Pastor (Todd) Henderson said, these guys go unrecognized and unappreciated the majority of the time because everything is working like it's supposed to," Pettus said. "And when stuff is not working, and lights are out, that's when we shine, and we get the appreciation so stuff like this really goes a long way to show everybody how much they are appreciated."

"It's really a great event for us to be able to recognize them for the work they do," Chivers said. "Our guys also go out and help the (Cullman Electric) Co-op, they've gone to Florida to help with Hurricane Irma, they just go above and beyond all the time."

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