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CRIME

Charges upgraded to murder in Garden City elder abuse case

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – After an arrest last week on charges of elder abuse, Chandler Reese Knowles, 28, of Bremen was charged with felony murder Monday following the death of his alleged victim on Saturday.

According to a media release from the CCSO, on Friday, March 26 deputies responded to in the Garden City community after receiving reports of a possible assault. Working in conjunction with the local fire department and EMS, it said, deputies were able to locate the victim, who was transported to an area hospital for treatment of his injuries.

The CCSO said Knowles was arrested after an immediate investigation.

He was initially charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree robbery, second-degree assault and first-degree elder abuse.

The following » PAGE 7



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Chandler Reese Knowles

A blue ribbon cause

Cullman Caring for Kids prepares for Child Abuse Prevention Month



CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS

Volunteers Petrina and Leonard Slade from the Cullman Farm-City Committee help Cullman Caring for Kids Assistant Director Nancy Bryant make blue ribbons for April's observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. » PAGE 6

'This is not the time for a novice to head out on the water'

Cullman County Parks and Rec cautions boaters as Smith Lake remains above flood stage



COLEMAN CALLAN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rising water at Duncan Bridge Marina overtook the picnic area.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Recent storms and heavy rains have pushed Smith Lake well above flood stage and people are encouraged to use extreme caution if they decide to head out to the lake. Flooding and damage have also affected Sportsman Lake Park and Clarkson Covered Bridge.

Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Davenport reported that the waters at Smith Lake are currently at 518 feet, 7 inches.

"Full pool is 510 feet, so we are 8 feet, 7 inches above that," he said. "The Bassmaster Open had to be called off last weekend because everything was flooded. Some of the local guys are still using the ramp to go out and fish because apparently after a big rain like this, fish are really active, but there is nothing you can tie your boat off to. The ramps are still accessible, but the docks are not."

This type of flooding isn't unheard of, as Smith Lake's water level was higher than it is now after the 2015 Christmas flood.

The water is full of debris right now; Davenport compared the lake's water to "chocolate milk."

He added, "Personally, myself, I would be worried about it. You do see a lot of small stuff and there's a lot that has collected around our docks, at least what is still above the water."

There is a sign that explains that people should launch at their own risk and Davenport stressed that this is not the time for a novice to head out on the water.

"It is dangerous and there is a lot of debris. A lot of people may not realize that and think that today (Monday) is a sunny day and want to head out to the lake," Davenport said.

Davenport » PAGE 6

Jones Chapel VFD gets new gear

VFD gets 6 sets of turnout gear; 4 will go into action immediately



FACEBOOK

Funding for the new equiment was provided by a grant the department received at the end of 2020. » PAGE 6

BUSINESS

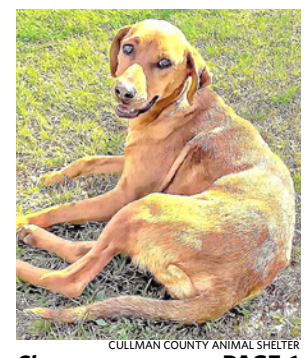
Jersey Mike's to donate all March 31 proceeds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation » PAGE 6

HEALTH

Cullman Regional launches online tool for scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments » PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Take life easy with Clara



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Clara » PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 25-28

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 25-28, 2021. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 25
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 S
- trespassing; CR 1343
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 31
- unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy.31

March 26
- trespassing; Hwy. 31
- attempt to elude law enforcement; CR 940
- harassment; CR 1107
- trespassing; Buettner Dr.
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 1670
- harassment; Main St. Arab
- domestic violence; CR 1343
- robbery; assault; Roland Johnson Pkwy.
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; 2nd St. SW Hanceville
- menacing; criminal mischief; CR 1106
- domestic violence; CR 421
- harassment; CR 1194
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 1339

March 27
- burglary; CR 1763
- domestic violence; CR 1120
- burglary; CR 1570
- illegal possession of prescription drugs; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1336
- theft of property; CR 1674
- harassment; CR 818
- domestic violence; CR 160
- menacing; assault; CR 832
- domestic violence; Chad Dr.
- domestic violence; CR 1282
- trespassing; CR 255
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; I-65 NB at 308mm

March 28
- menacing; reckless endangerment; Patton Dr.
- unlawful possession of controlled substance; CR 1212
- harassment; CR 1545
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 1339
- domestic violence; CR 1201
- domestic violence; CR 46
- theft of property; CR 1196
- domestic violence; CR 399
- domestic violence; CR 636

ARRESTS

March 26

Adcock, Casey Tyler; 26
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Gentry, Jessup Lee; 29
- Sex Offense-sodomy with a girl-strong arm (2 counts)

Hays, Jennifer Louise; 31
- Motion to revoke bond-assault-torture/willful abuse of child
- Motion to revoke bond-burglary-residence-no force
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- Motion to revoke bond-larceny-theft-theft of article from auto
- larceny/theft-theft-miscellaneous
- larceny/theft-theft-miscellaneous less than $500
- Motion to revoke bond-robbery-carjacking-injury or deadly weapon
- stolen vehicles-auto theft
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Johnson, James Richard; 53
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Knowles, Chandler Reece; 28
- unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- assault- aggravated assault-non family-strong arm
- assault- first-degree elder abuse and neglect
- robbery-street-strong arm

Stewart, Brian Wesley; 36
- criminal trespassing

Stewart, Shawn Robert; 42
- criminal trespassing

March 27

Austin, Elizabethanna Marie; 36
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Burney, Bradford Seth; 25
- assault-harassment (simple assault)

Franklin, Ginger Lovell; 48
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Hale, Joshua Scott; 27
- FTA- criminal mischief
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- second-degree possession of marijuana
- FTA- dangerous drug-synthetic narcotic possession

Ibarra, Ramior; 39
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- disorderly conduct

Mathis, Alan Bradley; 41
- public intoxication
- criminal trespassing

Moore, Tammy Rena; 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (2 counts)

Myrick, Brandi Michelle; 44
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Neely, Zachary Griffin; 40
- FTA- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle- no theft or damage (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (3 counts)
- FTA- driving while license suspended (2 counts)

Pearce, Troy Elijah; 32
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Ramsey, Shannon Marie; 43
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of tax-paid alcoholic beverages for private use

Ruatti, Bashir Pershing; 35
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (3 counts)
- FTA- flight/escape-escape fugitive from justice
- FTA- public intoxication

Underwood, William Charles; 30
- DUI (alcohol)

Vance, Robert Willis; 50
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

March 28

Clark, Randall Lee; 39
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Harbison, Stephen Loyd; 40
- FTA- possession of marijuana
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer
- FTA- criminal trespassing
- FTA- driving while license suspended (2 counts)

Mickle, Danny Joe; 63
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Pearson, Cody Blake; 36
- Sex Offense- possession of child pornography

Reaves, Jane Trella Conn; 47
- negotiating worthless instrument

Williams, Shayla Cheyenne; 26
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Wilson, Seth Russell-Robertson; 24
- assault-domestic-simple-assault-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 26
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $92
- third-degree domestic violence; person; Olive St. SW
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave SW

March 27
- third-degree domestic violence; person; 2nd St. SW
- third-degree domestic violence; person; Hwy. 157
- fourth-degree theft of property; fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $197
- third-degree domestic violence; person; Childhaven Rd. NE

ARRESTS

March 26

Foxx, Stephanie A.; 49
- third-degree theft of property

Hays, Jennifer L.; 31
- FTA- attempt to elude
- FTA- reckless endangerment
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- insurance violation

Horsley, Joseph M.; 42
- fourth-degree theft of property

Ramsey, Byron C.; 39
- FTA- reckless endangerment
- FTA- attempt to elude
- FTA- DUI

March 27

Mathis, Alan B.; 41
- FTA- public intoxication (6 counts)
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Shedd, Corey T.; 27
- third-degree domestic violence

Weaver, Kevin L.; 49
- fourth-degree theft of lost property

Coots, Steven R.; 49
- FTA- fourth degree theft of property

Neely, Zachary G.; 40
- FTA- driving while license suspended (2 counts)
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (2 counts)

Clarke, Justin L.; 41
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance; second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia

Hooper, Johnnie W.; 65
- FTA- insurance violation

Ruatti, Bashir P.; 35
- fourth-degree theft of property
- third-degree criminal trespass (2 counts)
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (3 counts)
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespass
- FTA- false information to law enforcement

Austin, Elizabethanna M.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia

McFadden, Brandi N.; 34
- third-degree domestic violence

Childers, Joseph M.; 37
- third-degree domestic violence

March 28

Stringer, Kayla M.; 36
- FTA- DUI-controlled substance
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- improper lane usage

Bailey, Makayla S.; 20
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, March 26, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

Case details*
- Total confirmed cases in AL: 400,906 (+786 since March 26)
- Probable cases in AL: 113,713 (+253 since March 26)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 8,302 (+3 since March 26)
- Probable deaths in AL: 2,224
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,371 (+16 since March 26)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 2,985 (+1 since March 26)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 124 (+0 since March 26)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 62
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 39,091
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,087
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 138
- Total tested in Alabama: 2,400,934
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 6,702
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 127,785
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 350
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 47,545
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 315,743

* The ADPH Data and Surveillance Dashboard experienced some technical issues Tuesday, March 23. As a result, case counts reported Wednesday, March 24, 2021 are higher, as they contain data from both days.

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)
- Doses delivered to Alabama: 2,424,215
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 1,968,235
- Doses administered: 1,619,878
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,047,179
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 610,351
- Doses delivered to federal programs: 455,980

Alabamians in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c are now eligible to receive a vaccine.

View the Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan at: www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf

DAILY UPDATE FROM ADPH

National Guard COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic update

The Alabama National Guard (ALNG) will continue rotating through 24 rural counties to provide primary COVID-19 vaccinations for the next three weeks. On March 23, 641 vaccinations were given at the Covington County location and 433 vaccinations were given in Sumter County. Clinic information ordered by date of first dose can be found at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/ng-clinics.html. The website also includes flyers to promote each clinic and vaccination forms that can be reviewed and completed prior to receiving a vaccination. Persons are asked to check the link frequently as locations are subject to change due to inclement weather or unforeseen logistical issues.

Updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for schools

CDC guidance related to physical distancing in schools has recently changed. ADPH would like to remind the public that CDC's physical distancing guidance changes were based upon studies done with consistent and correct use of masks, along with additional recommendations for elementary, middle and high school age groups. CDC's definition of a close contact did not change and remains persons who have contact within less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. ADPH is updating its School Toolkit to include CDC guidance. Schools may assess their current situations and make decisions in the best interest of their students, teachers and staff.

At least 1 in 5 residents of 47 Alabama counties vaccinated

Twenty percent or more of the residents age 16 and older of 47 Alabama counties have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine to date. Successful public health efforts to achieve vaccine equity have resulted in higher vaccine uptake among African American residents of Black Belt counties. Counties where 20 percent or more of their residents have been vaccinated are as follows: Wilcox, Marengo, Perry, Conecuh, Clarke, Hale, Dallas, Lee, Tallapoosa, Sumter, Lowndes, Jefferson, Macon, Monroe, Houston, Colbert, Bullock, Clay, Henry, Lauderdale, Greene, Mobile, Baldwin, Chambers, Choctaw, Washington, Shelby, Lamar, Franklin, Cullman, Morgan, Crenshaw, Madison, Montgomery, Geneva, Fayette, Coosa, Pike, Etowah, Lawrence, Limestone, Tuscaloosa, Calhoun, Jackson, Butler, Marion and Escambia. Vaccines are one key to protecting the most vulnerable and helping stop the pandemic in Alabama. Supply remains an issue, as there is not yet enough vaccine available for everyone who would like to be vaccinated.

ADPH encourages the use of facial coverings after mandate ends April 9

Masks or other facial coverings will no longer be a mandate after April 9, but ADPH reminds everyone that masks remain one of the most successful tools to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Many businesses and healthcare facilities will continue to require facial coverings in their facilities. Hospitals and nursing homes are under federal guidance that supports the use of facial coverings, and we anticipate the requirement for facial coverings to remain in place at those facilities.

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HEALTH

ADMH highlights importance of IPS-Supported Employment Program

ADMH
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH), in partnership with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and community mental health centers, continue to highlight the significant role of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) – Supported Employment, with a third testimonial video showcasing the stability and emotional well-being that come with supported and lasting employment.

The objective of IPS is to support individuals living with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorder in leading balanced and rewarding lives and enhance the likelihood for long-term recovery.

Individuals in the IPS program receive holistic support, meaning they learn how to manage their personal and work lives, while developing coping skills in the work environment.

ADMH's third IPS video describes the connection and positive impact of improving the lives of both the individual and employer.

The video can be viewed on the ADMH YouTube channel at https://bit.ly/3danAWg.

"We have found that when we look at everyone individually and their challenges, because we've all got challenges, we are able to identify where we can work with them (employees) and retain people who would otherwise really not have a very good opportunity at a future, not just a job but at something they can work on and do better (at their job) and maybe make it their entire career," explained Cindy Porter, medical manager for the Shelby Humane Shelter.

The IPS program in Alabama to date has assisted 206 individuals in finding and/or retaining rewarding employment.

Many individuals have noted an improvement in their self-esteem, new friendships and increased structure and routines.

"I love my job because it's something I've always wanted to do.

"I love animals and I get to see them every day," said Priscilla Chapman, kennel technician, Shelby Humane Shelter.

"I don't consider what I do as something simple, but I feel as though I make a difference helping out, and I love the people that I work with."

Through IPS services, specialists and employers help individuals realize their strengths, goals and preferences rather than focusing on problems.

IPS provides long-term support while integrating vocational and mental health services to help individuals continue steady employment for years to come.

In fact, 10-year follow-up studies show that about half the people who receive IPS services are employees 10 years later.

IPS Teams are located in three areas of our state. Participating providers include the following:

• AltaPointe Health (Mobile)

• Central Alabama Wellness (Chilton and Shelby counties)

• Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority (Montgomery)

To learn more about the ADMH IPS-Supported Employment Program, visit https://mh.alabama.gov/individual-placement-and-support/ or contact Denise Bern, IPS trainer and coordinator at 334-353-0006 or denise.bern@mh.alabama.gov.

To be connected in your area, contact one of the three community mental health centers offering the program. To learn more about the IPS, visit the IPS Employment Center at https://ipsworks.org/. To learn more about employment statewide, visit AlabamaWorks! at https://alabamaworks.com.

Items For Sale!

Special Edition Barbies - Millennium Princess and Pocahontas Winter Moon. Both still in box, in mint condition.

Hand blown Lenox Crystal glassware. Never used, excellent condition. Set of 4, black.

Royal Kent Bavarian Rose china. Set includes dinner plates, salad plates, soup bowls, platter, and creamer, but is missing sugar bowl and teacups. Barely used, in great condition.

Call or email for pricing and photos on all items.

(256) 590-7655

samanthavest2788@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

"Come to the Well" Community Women's Bible Study

• Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman

• Please wear a mask/face covering.

Baileyton Bargain Days

• First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park

• Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items

• A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted.

• Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous

The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD

• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman

• Prayer meetings-Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Come and pray with us or come to receive prayer.

• Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.

• Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd

• Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.

• Mondays-Fridays-Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do takeout meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.

• Sundays-9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Praise and Worship and message at 11 a.m.

• Wednesday, March 31 7 p.m. - Easter Revival. Communion and Foot washing. Everyone welcome!

• Saturday, April 3 2-5-p.m. - Easter Community Celebration. Free food, Easter Egg hunt, bouncy houses and games for children. Everyone invited!

• Saturday-April 17th 9 a.m.-1 p.m.-Lifesouth Blood Drive. Please donate blood and save a life!

Free Community Dinner at Center Hill Baptist Church

• 5-6 p.m.- The first Wednesday of every month we will be offering a Free Community Dinner. Church members, community members, neighbors and friends are welcome. This will be takeout only. Please message or comment with how many plates you will need to help us prepare enough food for everyone. RSVP at http://bit.ly/centerhill.

• 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077

Miércoles de Despensas

• 6-7 p.m. ler. miercoles del mes, En Su Tierra Cullman FUMC

• Despensas para la comunidad. No requiere ID. Entrega en su vehículo. Por favor use mascarilla.

Easter Healing Service

• April 2, 3, 4, 2021

• Healing Waters Ministries at 305 3rd Ave SW in Cullman, AL will host a Healing Revival on Friday, April 2nd at 7pm; Saturday, April 3rd at 7pm and Sunday, April 4th at 5:30pm.

• We are inviting everyone in the community, friends, family and those in need of a healing. Overflow parking in City Parking Deck. For more information contact Mary Sue Sanford at (334) 306-3921.

Annual Easter Bake Sale

• April 3, 2021

• The Holly Pond Homemakers Club will sponsor the annual Easter Bake Sale for the upkeep of the Holly Pond Cemetery on Saturday, April 3, 2021, beginning at 8:00 and ending at sell out.

• Location will be at Holly Pond Town Hall. Come early for better selection. Questions? Call Brenda at 256-531-3342 or Gladys at 256-338-1478.

Holly Pond Community Easter Egg Hunt

• Saturday, April 3 at 2 p.m. at Governor's Park

• Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets, but some baskets will be available for kids who do not have one of their own.

The American Hero Music Festival

• Saturday, April 24 at Camp Liberty, 15719 Alabama Highway 157 in the Battleground community west of West Point- Gates open at 9 a.m., with the show going from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

• The event will feature headliner Black Oak Arkansas along with Blackbird Anthem, Billy Don Burrs, Rowdy Johnson, Michelle Leigh, Mercy Shine, Dawn Rix, Dee Rock and Kris Rowdy, as well as speakers Billy Howell, Jr. (veteran of the Special Forces unit that was the subject of the 2018 film "12 Strong"), Navy Rear Admiral Kent David and Dan Robinson.

• Activities consist of an Airsoft shoot house, zip lines, food, vendors and giveaways, with the grand price being a Smith & Wesson M&P AR15 style rifle.

• Lodging available through Camp Liberty (cabins, camping/RV, and bunk rooms)

Get tickets at http://bit.ly/2NLka3a.

Alabama ends season in Sweet 16 with 88-78, OT loss to UCLA

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The No. 2-seed Alabama men's basketball team dropped a heartbreaker in overtime to No. 11 seed UCLA, 88-78, in the 2021 NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 Sunday night inside Hinkle Fieldhouse. With the loss, the Crimson Tide ended its historic season with a 26-7 overall record.

Alabama, ranked No. 5 in both the Associated Press and USA Today Top 25 polls, trailed by 11 at intermission but stormed back to take the lead midway through the second half. Trailing by three points in the final seconds, senior Alex Reese drilled a three-pointer to send the game into overtime. However, after holding the Bruins (21-9) to just 25 points through the entire second half, UCLA outscored Alabama 23-13 in the extra period to advance to the Elite Eight.

Guard Jahvon Quinerly led all scorers with 20 points off the bench, John Petty Jr. finished with 16 points, while Keon Ellis added 10 points and a game-high nine rebounds. The Crimson Tide's 26 victories tied the second-most wins in program history, while UA secured the program's first regular season Southeastern Conference championship since 2002, first SEC Tournament title since 1991 and first Sweet 16 appearance since 2004.

Coach Oats Postgame Comments

"I'm really proud of our team. First off, give a lot of credit to UCLA. I have a ton of respect for (UCLA head coach) Mick Cronin going back all the way to me being a high school coach. His teams are always tough, hard-nosed and well prepared and I thought they were certainly that tonight. We weren't good enough to beat them tonight. They hit a lot of tough shots and got stops when they needed to. They could've definitely folded after we had the momentum going into overtime but they didn't. They came out and punched us in the mouth to start overtime. As far as our guys go, it's been a historic season. I don't want to see them walk out of this locker room with their heads down. You could make the argument that this is one of the best if not the best team in Alabama program history. These seniors and what they've meant to this program. They didn't have to stick around and play for a guy that didn't recruit them. They didn't have to buy into what we were trying to sell. They did. I couldn't be happier for what we were able to give our five seniors this year. The guys that will be back, let's not forget this feeling. We were a lot better team than this. You have got to be great every night in March. It's a one-game elimination tournament and sometimes the best team doesn't always win. I'm really happy with the season, really proud of the guys and really disappointed with tonight."



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama's Jahvon Quinerly drives to the basket during the Crimson Tide's 88-78 loss to UCLA Sunday night.

Team Stats

- The back-and-forth contest vs. the Bruins featured 11 ties and eight lead changes
- Alabama's bench outscoring UCLA's reserves 37-18, 20 of which came from Quinerly
- Alabama finishes its season 26-7 overall and goes to 21-21 overall in its 21 NCAA Tournament appearances
- Alabama finished tied second overall for wins in program history, just one shy of the school-record 27, set by the 2001-02 team
- The Tide was outscored 23-13 in overtime with 11 of UCLA's points in the extra period coming from the free throw line (11-of-13)
- The 22 shot attempts from Quinerly were the most in his career and most by any UA player in a game this season
- Alabama shot 11-of-25 (44 percent) from the free throw line while the Bruins went 20-of-25 (80 percent) from the charity stripe including 11-of-13 in overtime

First Half

- UCLA drew two fouls on Herbert Jones in the first minute of the game and took an early 7-1 lead after the first four and a half minutes of play
- Alabama found its rhythm with a 14-0 run to take a 15-7 lead with 12:05 remaining in the opening stanza
- The Bruins responded with a 9-2 run to regain the 21-20 lead with 9:24 left in the first half
- After trading buckets, UCLA finished the opening stanza on a 15-2 run in the last six minutes to take the 40-29 lead into the locker room
- Quinerly led UA with 10 points off the bench in the first half

Second Half

- Alabama began the final 20 minutes with an 11-0 run highlighted by a John Petty Jr. dunk that tied the game 40-40 with 15:11 left in the second half
- UCLA used a 9-2 spurt to pull ahead 49-42 with 11:10 left in the second half, but Alabama answered right back with a 9-0 run capped by an emphatic dunk from Juwan Gary that gave the Tide the 51-49 advantage with 7:50 left to play
- The Bruins regained the lead but the Tide drew even at 56-56 with 5:23 to go before UCLA went ahead with a 4-0 spurt to go up 60-58 with 3:44 remaining
- The Tide held a 61-60 lead with 2:26 to play, but UCLA outscored UA 5-1 over the next 2:22 to take a 65-62 lead with four seconds left, setting up Reese's dramatic shot to close regulation

Overtime

- UCLA opened the extra period on a 7-0 run to take a 72-65 lead in the first minute of overtime
- Alabama cut it to 74-70 with 2:05 left to go, before the Bruins closed on a 7-0 run to seal the 88-78 victory

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook.

Auburn falls in doubleheader vs. Kentucky

George Nunnelley
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Auburn dropped Saturday's doubleheader vs. Kentucky, losing the day game 7-6 and falling in the series finale 6-4 Saturday at Plainsman Park.

"In our six conference games, we've been out pitched," head coach Butch Thompson said. "We've hit enough to hang in ball games, but we're still looking for that big one with some big hits. I really think we've scored enough to win a few games.

"We've got so much work to do, but we'll get right back after it," Thompson added. "We have eight more of these, and we signed up for 10 weeks. We'll continue to compete and figure things out."

Game One

Kentucky wasted no time in getting on the scoreboard with a three-run home run from T.J. Collett and solo homer from Coltyn Kessler in the top of the first.

However, Auburn answered with two runs in the home half. Kason Howell drove in the first run on a double to left, and another came in to score on a two-out fielding miscue by the Wildcats.

After surrendering the four-run first, Auburn starter Mason Barnett settled down to hold the Wildcats scoreless in the next four frames. Barnett went 5.1 innings and struck out eight without issuing a walk.

Kentucky extended its lead to 5-2 on a RBI double in the sixth, but Auburn drew to within one on a two-run homer from Howell in the home half. The long ball was Howell's second of the season and his career.

The Wildcats answered Auburn with a solo homer in the top of the seventh, but the Tigers drew even in the bottom of the eighth when Brody Moore came through with a two-out, two-RBI single down the right-field line. Moore fouled off three straight pitches to stay alive in the at-bat.

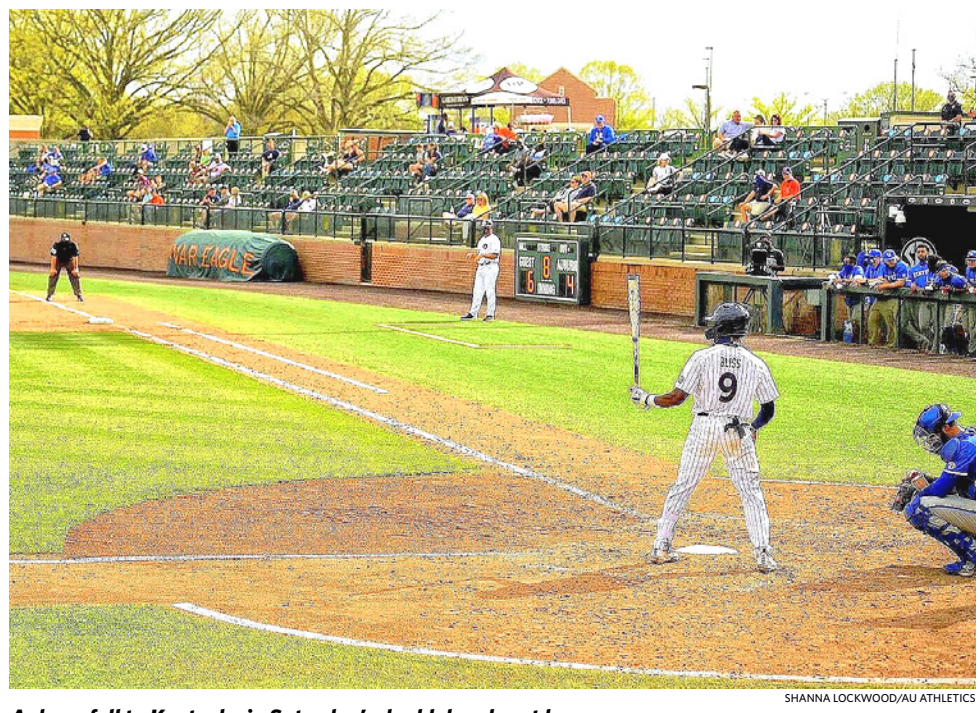
Again, though, Kentucky answered with a RBI single to reclaim the lead in the ninth. Auburn put the tying run in scoring position with one out in its last at-bat, but a strikeout and flyout ended the threat and game.

Game Two

Similar to earlier in the day, Kentucky jumped out to an early lead with two runs in the first and another in the second. The Wildcats collected five hits in the first two innings against Auburn starter Joseph Gonzalez and scored on a pair of RBI base knocks and a RBI double.

The Tigers cut the deficit to one on three straight two-out hits in the third. Judd Ward followed Ryan Bliss' single up the middle with a double to left right-center, and Rankin Woley drove them both in with a double to left-center.

Gonzalez retired eight of 10 batter from the second through fourth innings before the first two Kentucky hitters reached to make it 4-2 in the fifth and end his first SEC start. Carson Swilling entered in relief of Gonzalez and the Wildcats scored two more runs on a double play and RBI single.



SHANNA LOCKWOOD/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn fell to Kentucky in Saturday's doubleheader at home.

Judd Ward drove in a run to make it 6-3 in the bottom of the fifth, and the score remained there until Bliss hit a RBI single in the ninth, marking his fourth hit of the contest.

The Tigers one through three hitters in Bliss, Ward and Woley went 8-for-14 with two runs and four RBI in the nightcap.

Brooks Fuller worked 2.1 scoreless innings with a pair of strikeouts in relief. Will Morrison recorded a pair of outs and Cam Hill pitched a perfect ninth inning with a strikeout.

Auburn continues SEC play by traveling to No. 2 Arkansas for a three-game series Thursday-Saturday.

Troy claims second-straight series victory with wild win over UCF

Andy Stubblefield
Troy Athletics

TROY, Ala. – Troy prevailed in a roller-coaster, eight-inning affair that included a two hour and 18-minute weather delay and a one hour fifth inning Sunday afternoon at Riddle-Pace Field. Behind a 16-hit output, the Trojans claimed their second consecutive series victory with a 14-12 win over the Knights.

Troy (13-10, 2-1 SBC) built an 11-1 lead before UCF (10-13) came roaring back to within 11-10, but a three-run fifth inning for the Trojans proved to be the difference.

Both head coaches agreed on a 5:30 p.m. drop-dead time, which meant that Marquez Oates' strikeout in the eighth inning with the Knights' winning run at the plate sealed the victory for the Trojans.

Six Trojans logged multi-hit games, highlighted by a career-best 3-for-4 day at the plate from Donovan Whibbs, as nine Trojans hit safely in the winning effort.

Clay Stearns homered as part of a 2-for-4 performance while Logan Cerny, Rigsby Mosley, Caleb Bartolero and Dalton Sinquefield all doubled in the contest.

Bay Witcher looked the best he has all season before the weather delay foiled his sixth start on the mound.

The sophomore righty was locked in as he struck out three and allowed only one hit in two innings.

Lance Johnson (1-0) was the pitcher of record for the Trojans after he went 2.2 innings and struck out four.

Witcher set the tone early with a pair of strikeouts as he sat the Knights down in order in the top of the first.

Troy batted around the order in the bottom half of the inning, plating six runs on seven hits, highlighted by a pair of doubles from Cerny and Sinquefield.

Cerny walked and stole second to open the second inning before Mosley ripped a double off the wall in dead center field to give Troy a 7-0 advantage just before the weather delay.

Out of the delay, Mosley scored on a Sinquefield groundout and Stearns went yard for the fourth time this season to give Troy a 9-0 lead.

The Trojans gained an 11-1 advantage until UCF climbed back into the ball game with a nine-run fifth inning to make it an 11-10 affair.

Troy loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom half of the inning and scrapped across three runs to extend its lead back to 14-10.

UCF added two more runs in the seventh to cut the deficit to 14-12 and sent the winning run to the plate in the eighth before Oates slammed the door shut to earn his second save of the season.

AJ Jones (2-2) hung the loss on the mound for UCF after allowing eight runs, six earned, on eight hits.

Quotable – Head Coach Mark Smartt

"I'm really proud of our team. It was a good series win against a good UCF team.

"We started early today to try and get ahead of the weather and when we restarted after the delay, the game was different.

"Wind was blowing in for the first couple of innings and then was blowing out after the weather came through.

"Give UCF credit, they were behind and came back to make it a really close game.

"We stayed the course, didn't relax, and were able to get a really important Sunday win."

Notable

- The Trojans won their second consecutive series, despite dropping the Friday night game against both Georgia Southern and UCF.
- Troy is averaging 12.3 hits/game over its last seven games. The Trojans have logged double digit hits in five of their last six contests.
- Donovan Whibbs recorded a career high in hits with a 3-for-4 afternoon. The second baseman also batted in two runs.
- Bay Witcher struck out three and allowed one hit in two innings before the weather delay halted his outing.
- Frederic tied a school record by scoring his 190th career run. Frederic is also the NCAA Division I active career runs leader.
- Dalton Sinquefield recorded the 20th multi-RBI game of his career.
- Nic Nolan finished the series 2-for-2 with an RBI as a pinch hitter.
- Rigsby Mosley recorded two hits in all three games of the series against UCF, bringing his career multi-hit game total to 61.
- Jesse Hall registered his fourth multi-hit game of the season with a 2-for-5, two-RBI performance in the series finale.
- Eight of Clay Stearns' 11 hits this season have gone for extra bases (3 2B, 1 3B, 4 HR).

Up Next

It's officially rivalry week for the Troy Trojans as they venture to Mobile for their first Sun Belt road series against South Alabama.

First pitch in the series-opener is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Eighth inning comeback secures 8-5 win over Middle Tennessee

Hailee Roe
UAB Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – A four-run eighth inning powered UAB baseball over Middle Tennessee, 8-5, Saturday at Young Memorial Field. The Blazers improve to 9-12, 2-1 CUSA and Middle Tennessee falls to 12-10, 1-2 CUSA.

The Green and Gold plated the first run of the game in the bottom of the first inning on a Colton Schultz groundout to score Chandler Simpson.

Middle Tennessee answered back in the top of the second with three runs on three hits to take the lead, 3-1.

Three singles in four batters brought the Blazers within one in the third. MT added runs in the fourth and fifth for the 5-2 advantage.

Simpson and Jess Davis executed the double steals to put runners in scoring position in the sixth. Zack Davis came up to the plate and hit a double to right field that brought in two runs and cut the Blue Raiders' lead to one, 5-4.

UAB saw four runs cross home in the home half of the eight. Simpson led off with a double, Schultz followed with a single and Zack Davis walk loaded the bases.

Pinch hitter Thomas Johnston drew a bases loaded walk to tie the game at five.

John Marc Mullins came up and singled through the right side to score two and take the lead. Darryl Buggs had a sacrifice bunt to score Johnston and close out the inning with the 8-5 lead.

Evan Ingram came in to pitch in the ninth with a three-run lead. Middle Tennessee loaded the bases with one out.

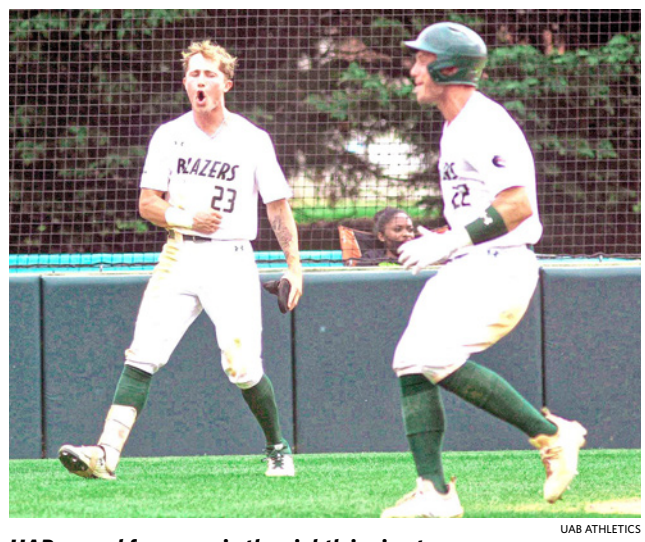
Ingram closed out the game with a strikeout and ground out to earn his first save of the season.

At the plate, Simpson led the Blazers with a 4-for-4 day with an RBI. Zack Davis and Mullins recorded two RBIs on day.

Sophomore Jess Davis extended his hitting streak to a team-high 14 games.

Game four of the series is scheduled for a 1 p.m. first pitch. Location for the game is TBD. Check the UAB baseball schedule page for all of the latest updates.

For more information on the UAB baseball team, follow @UAB_Baseball on Twitter and Instagram.



UAB ATHLETICS

UAB scored four runs in the eighth inning to come from behind and defeat Middle Tennessee 8-5.









In Memory of Calvin C. Key – 90th Birthday

Born on March 29, 1931
Died on December 1, 2018



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Jones Chapel (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

JONES CHAPEL, Ala. – Recently, the Jones Chapel Volunteer Fire Department purchased new turnout gear thanks to a grant the department received at the end of 2020.

The grant, combined with other grant funding, allowed the department to purchase six sets of turnout gear.

In a recent Facebook post, the department posted a photo with the caption, "These four sets will be placed in service this week.

"We are proud to be placing our firefighters in compliant gear!"

The Jones Chapel VFD praised the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) for providing the grant money for first four sets of gear, saying, "(The) CCCDC is truly a blessing to Cullman County volunteer fire departments."

Located in the western portion of Cullman County, Jones Chapel's department is staffed entirely of volunteers and is always looking for those wanting to make a difference in their community.

If interested, contact the Jones Chapel VFD at joneschapelfire@gmail.com.

Appointments (from Front)

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Regional recently launched a scheduling tool that allows community members to schedule their COVID-19 vaccine appointments online. Patients can access the tool at CullmanVaccine.com.

Appointment slots will open up five days before any available clinics based on Cullman Regional's current vaccine allocation.

Patients must have an appointment to receive a vaccine.

Cullman Regional is following the vaccine allocation plan outlined by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Access the allocation plan at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf. Everyone in phases 1a, 1b and 1c is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Information about additional vaccination locations is available on the ADPH website at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine.

Stay up-to-date on all of Cullman Regional's information regarding COVID-19 at www.CullmanRegional.com/covid19.

Clara (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay shares The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week:

Clara is a 1.75-2-year-old hound mix. She's a laid-back, low-to medium-energy pet with a great understanding of leash etiquette. She likes to stay close to her people and will focus on you when you're with her. Ruttkay calls her "such a fun little girl." Clara has the makings of a good companion, therapy, reading or hiking dog.

Clara's adoption fee is $100 which includes DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spaying, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax). Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior.

Several of the shelter's canine friends have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs. Please consider adopting, to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com. Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE.

Good news!

Ruttkay reported that recent Pets of the Week Quinton, Harper, Patches and Eric have all been adopted!

Thanks to the whole community for making forever homes a regular destination for our furry friends.

Jersey Mike's (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – March is the Month of Giving and this Wednesday, March 31, Cullman's Jersey Mike's Subs will be donating 100% of the day's sales to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Alabama.

Jersey Mike's Assistant Manager Nathaniel Coker said, "We don't get anything. It all goes to Make-A-Wish as part of our Day of Giving."

This is not the first year Jersey Mike's has participated in Month of Giving.

"Last year, I can't remember how much we made, but we made quite a lot for them," said Coker.

"It is something Jersey Mike's tries to do every year." In addition to donating all of Wednesday's sales to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the sub shop will have options of adding $1, $3 or $5 donations for those who choose to give more.

Throughout the month of March, customers will have the option to round up their totals to the nearest dollar amount, with the difference being donated to the foundation as well.

"We've done a couple of other things for other local charities like Cullman Caring for Kids.

"We've done partnerships with them before. As for this, every year Jersey Mike's chooses Make-A-Wish as their chosen charity," Coker added.

Jersey Mike's is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and located at 1850 Cherokee Ave. SW in Cullman.

Call-in and curbside pickup are also available.

Jersey Mike's hopes for a big crowd Wednesday and plans on having reinforcements come on-hand to help handle the increased customer volume.

Water (from Front)

said he has not received any reports from lake homeowners about their homes being flooded, but he has seen the water level approaching the doors of one home near Brothers on Smith Lake.

"I am not aware of any homeowners who have had to leave due to the flooding," he said.

Both generators at the dam are running, and Davenport said he is cautiously optimistic as the water level had dropped 1 inch as of Monday afternoon. There is more rain forecast for later in the week that could quickly reverse the progress being made to decrease the levels.

Smith Lake is not the only park that has experienced flooding. The employees of Sportsman Lake Park have had to retrieve paddle boats twice due to rising water.

Clarkson Covered Bridge, which was heavily damaged in 2015, has also sustained damage, said Davenport, who explained, "It got a lot of damage from the water coming through there. We're needing, probably in all the parks, 10-15 loads of gravel to get our parking lots and shoulders built back up."

Once the waters do recede, the real cleanup at the parks will begin.

"It's going to be embarrassing. Even when the water does get down, maybe a week for it to dry out before we get a machine in there to start cleaning up the excess driftwood left behind," said Davenport. "As soon the water recedes and we can get in there, we will start cleaning it up. Here it is spring, and we've got a disaster of a mess of driftwood out there."

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons was out Monday with the County's road department to assess all the damage to roads and parks.

He said of the levels at Smith Lake, "It should crest unless we get all these heavy rains Wednesday. Then, it will continue to rise. We hope and pray that we don't get much more rain."

Clemons was also unaware of any homes damaged by the water but acknowledged that more rain could certainly put some homes at risk.

"Supposedly we have a 70-80% chance Wednesday, but you just never know. That's going to make the lake, with all these streams running in, continue to rise," he warned.

As for rain amounts countywide, Clemons said, "Last year, we got a lot of rain, but we didn't have near the problem we have with the rains washing out the roads like we have this year. It's going to continue to happen. We haven't even gotten into April. Think about what might be in store for April."

He continued, "When you get 5 inches in about three hours, that normally results in some serious problems and that's what we've got. We got 6 inches the first time and we got about 5 inches Thursday, and that's why we've had so many problems with the roads flooding."

The chairman said he is hopeful that the rain expected later in the week will be far less that what is predicted. This past Sunday's early morning storms, while they did bring additional damage due to strong winds, produced lower rain totals due to the fast movement of the line.

"Hopefully, things will settle down soon. Our road department is working just nonstop right now. We got several reports of roads caving in, and that is due to all the rain that we've had. The dirt has to settle and when it settles it hardens up, but from the first event to the second, nothing has time to settle. It was just ruined," Clemons said. "Hopefully, we will have some good news to talk about soon."

Cause (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Most Cullmanites are familiar with the Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK) food pantry, a charitable program so active and successful that many people do not realize that the organization is responsible for other areas of service. As April approaches, CCK is preparing for a monthlong emphasis on its real mission: preventing violence against children.

"Our mission is child abuse prevention and awareness and has been since 1988," said CCK Assistant Director Nancy Bryant.

When asked what makes CCK unique, Bryant said, "The staff and the volunteers at CCK and how they work together to make a difference in the community for those who are in need. We bring awareness about child abuse; that is the reason we started and that is our mission.

"If you see blue ribbons tied around town during April, that's us. We are representing the blue for the bruises on the sweet and innocent babies who lost their life due to child abuse here in Alabama."

Last year, 21 children in Alabama lost their lives due to child abuse.

CCK Executive Director Javon Daniel said, "CCK is well known for its food bank, but we have many other programs that we operate from such a small building. Did you know that we have a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) program in which you can volunteer and be the voice for a child that is caught up in the court system?"

CCK's reputation as a food bank is well-earned; the organization distributes 8 to 10 tons of food per month to families in need. That being said, how does a child protection group get into the grocery business?

Daniel responded, "If you have a hungry 2- or 3-year-old child, there's no food in the house, and you have no idea where that food to feed that child is going to come from that child is crying, and they're grumpy and they're fussy. And if we can prevent one parent from being angry enough to strike that child, then the food bank has accomplished what we set out to do.

"It's a preventative, it's a proactive stance. And this happens a lot. Children are abused, especially younger children, when they're not happy, and the parents have gone to their wits' end and they just have to do something. We offer the alternative that, 'Hey, you can come in here and we can give you enough food to last you for several days, to help you past that point.'

"That one child may later wind up in the court system or in the DHR (Department of Human Resources) system. And if we can prevent that, that's what we're here for."

CCK'S OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDE

CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates

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

Daniel described CASA volunteers as "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."

"Kids Matter"

Radio shows on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays address child abuse prevention to a regional market of more than 1 million potential listeners. Some topics might be uncomfortable to discuss, 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. 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."

By the numbers

In 2020, CCK's client and other numbers dropped due to COVID shutdowns, but were still high.

- Families served: 6,054
- Individuals served: 11,608
- New families: 938
- Total food donated: 340,616 pounds
- Average monthly donation of food: 28,385 pounds
- Average amount of food given to each family per visit: 70 pounds
- Total food purchased in 2020: 150,000 pounds
- The CASA program served 93 children in the court system, with 27 volunteers.

Help for families, not just children

When parents know that they can care for their children, there is less tension in the household, so CCK serves whole families.

Daniel said, "Our name says Cullman Caring for Kids, and most just assume we help children. We actually help the elderly, and anyone who needs food."

"That is what we are here for," said CCK Administrative Assistant Tonja Grace. "In the wintertime, we give out coats, and all year we help those who need food, diapers, baby food, formula, etc. If we don't have it, we have the resources to point you in the right direction to get what you need. We also help with hygiene products and cleaning products and try to be there for those who could have lost everything in a house fire."

One of the staff's favorite things is the distribution of birthday bags.

"The entire staff gets excited when we are able to give these out," said Daniel. "When a client comes in and we pull their file, and a child has a birthday that month, they get a birthday bag. This bag includes a cake mix, cake icing, balloons, streamers, candles, party hats, party favors and a small gift. These bags would not be possible without Southside Baptist Church here in Cullman. They are a fine group of people who help us by keeping these bags stocked monthly."

Community partners share the load

Daniel told The Tribune, "We partner with several agencies on a local and a state level. Local offices include United Way, DHR, Brooks' Place, Margaret Jean Jones, Christmas Love Inc., the Cullman County Court System, and we also partner with the Alabama CASA program.

"We need the continued support from our local partners. We absolutely enjoy our partnerships here locally. Becky Goff, the executive director of United Way, has done a great job in supporting us and helping us to find the resources to help serve the community. Publix also plays a huge role in our operation as well.

"Publix donated food, back-to-school gift cards and monetary donations. Wal-Mart Distribution and the South-end Wal-Mart, well we couldn't function without these guys. During the pandemic, Wal-Mart Distribution had our backs. They made sure we were supplied with sanitizer, gloves, masks, etc. so that we could keep the doors open and continue to serve the community."

Get involved

CCK works hard to keep its food pantry stocked, and can always use monetary donations. If you are on the way to the grocery store and want to help, the pantry's high-volume items regularly include canned beans, especially other than green beans, canned vegetables, dried beans, cereal and rice. Donations can be dropped off at CCK's office, 402 Arnold St. NE, #W-1.

Many local churches, schools and businesses often sponsor canned good, cereal, winter coat and other drives to benefit CCK.

To get involved, visit www.cullmancaringforkids.com or www.Facebook.com/CullmanCaringForKids/ or call 256-739-1111.

Have a need? Reach out

Daniel said, "As people lost their jobs and the need for food increased, we saw the struggle firsthand. We don't want anyone to go hungry. Here at Cullman Caring for Kids, we don't want you to be afraid to ask for help. Everyone has a hard time every now and then, and we just want you to know we are here for you. If you don't need food and just need a friend to pray with you, well we can do that, too. Feel free to contact us here at CCK at 256-739-1111."

NATIONAL

NASA TV to air 1st U.S. commercial crew port relocation on Space Station

Josh Finch, Dan Huot
Contributors

HOUSTON – NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 astronauts aboard the International Space Station will mark another first for commercial spaceflight Monday, April 5, when the four astronauts will relocate the Crew Dragon spacecraft to prepare for the arrival of new crew members in late April and the upcoming delivery of new solar arrays this summer.

Live coverage will begin at 6 a.m. EDT on NASA Television, the NASA app, and the agency's website, www.nasa.gov/live.

NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, along with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Soichi Noguchi, will undock Crew Dragon Resilience from the forward port of the station's Harmony module at 6:29 a.m. and dock to the space-facing port at 7:15 a.m.

The relocation will free Harmony's forward port for the docking of Crew Dragon Endeavour, set to carry four crew members to the station on NASA's SpaceX Crew-2 mission. NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, JAXA astronaut Aki Hoshide and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Thomas Pesquet are scheduled to launch to the station Thursday, April 22, from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The Crew-1 astronauts will depart the station and return to Earth in late April or early May, leaving the space-facing port of Harmony vacant. A Dragon cargo spacecraft carrying several tons of supplies and the first set of new solar arrays for the space station is scheduled to launch this summer, and requires the space-facing port position to enable robotic extraction of the arrays from Dragon's trunk using Canadarm2.

This will be the first port relocation of a Crew Dragon spacecraft. NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission lifted off Nov. 15, 2020 and docked to the space station Nov. 16. The mission is the first of six certified crew missions NASA and SpaceX planned as a part of the agency's Commercial Crew Program.

Get breaking news, images and features from the space station on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.



NASA

The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft, with its nose cone open, is pictured docked to the Harmony module's forward international docking adapter. The International Space Station was orbiting 264 miles above southern Brazil when this photograph was taken.

Murder (from Front)

day, according to the CCSO, the victim passed away as a result of his injuries. Following the victim's death, Knowles was also charged with felony murder.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry stated, "We are deeply saddened by this tragic event and are praying for the victim's family as they continue to deal with this senseless crime.

"I am very proud of the immediate response by our deputies and investigators. They were quickly able to identify, locate and charge Knowles with these very serious crimes."

The investigation is ongoing.

Felony murder is charged when a death occurs as a result of actions during the commission of another crime that was not necessarily intended to lead to the victim's death. Felony murder and elder abuse are both Class A felonies. If convicted, Knowles faces a minimum of 10 years in prison and could receive a life sentence.

Knowles has multiple prior arrests for possession of a controlled substance and previously pleaded guilty in a burglary case. At the time of the alleged crime last week, he was out on bond on a marijuana possession case following an arrest earlier this month.

LEGALS

PB WIL BK 101 PG 104 - 03/19/2021 03:23 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ESTATE OF
GEORGE ALBERT WARNKE, SR.
Deceased,
) CASE NO. PC PC2021-098

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to GEORGE A WARNKE, JR, Personal Representative of the Estate of GEORGE A WARNKE SR., deceased, on the 19th day of March, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that a; persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time by law; or the same will be barred.

Done this the 19th day of March, 2021.

GEORGE A WARNKE, JR
Personal Representative

Swore and subscribe before me this the 19th of March, 2021.

Andria Sims
Attorney for Petitioner
300 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, AL 35055

TO THE PUBLISHER OF : THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice 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
Cullman County, Alabama



Obituary Announcements: March 29

Sherry Diane Ponder, 71, of Hanceville
Graveside service for Sherry Diane Ponder, 71, of Hanceville will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at Ebenezer Cemetery, Rev. Paul Campbell and Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Ponder passed away Monday, March 29, 2021 at her residence. She was born June 22, 1949 to D. Burdett & Evelyn Emaline McKenzie Huey. Sherry loved working, loved flea markets and she never met a stranger. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband. M. Wayne Ponder; three sisters, Geraldine Brown, Kathy Lynn, Karen Esslinger; family and many friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

Joshua "Josh" Wayne Hampton, 46, of Danville
Joshua "Josh" Wayne Hampton, 46, of Danville, Alabama entered into rest on March 28, 2021 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Josh was born on August 5, 1974 in Jasper, Alabama and had a very humble and loving personality. He enjoyed working with wood and loved his family very much. He was a good husband and father and a very sweet son. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 11:30 p.m. until 1 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where services will be held at 1 p.m. Brother Kenny Sudduth will officiate. Burial will follow in Andrews Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Danville, Alabama. Josh is survived by his wife, Shannon Hampton; children: Ashley, Chase and Jesse; three grandchildren; his father, Jerry Hampton; his mother, Martha Knight (Eddie); a brother, Matt Hampton (Katie); two nephews; and a host of friends and family. He was preceded in death by an infant brother and sister and his grandparents, Moline & Brackin Hampton and Jody & Evie Wilkins. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Donald Gene Yates, 76, of Baileyton
Donald Gene Yates, age 76, of Baileyton, passed away on Sunday, March 28, 2021, at Glenwood Center in Florence, Alabama. He was born November 8, 1944, to John Taft Yates and Myrtle Yates. He was preceded in death by his son, Anthony Yates, and parents. Survivors include his daughter, Glendia Breaux; son, Kevin (Tara) Yates; and grandsons, Aden Yates and Mark Yates. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is directing.

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CCBOE approves facility upgrades, property transfers

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE), at a special called meeting March 25, approved multiple facility upgrades and set in motion the disposal of two former school buildings to their local communities.

Construction projects

- Vinemont High building flooring replacement contracted to Walker Brothers for $131,191.66
- Holly Pond Elementary library flooring replacement contracted to S & E Carpet & Vinyl for $12,756.33
- Vinemont Elementary library flooring replacement contracted to S & E Carpet & Vinyl for $14,865.88
- West Point Middle library flooring replacement contracted to S & E Carpet & Vinyl for $9,760.22
- West Point High hallway flooring replacement contracted to S & E Carpet & Vinyl for $3,653.28

Property transfers

The board approved the transfers of two schools and campuses no longer in use by the system:

- Old Battleground School property to be transferred to the Battleground School Historical Board
- Old Joppa School property to be transferred to the Joppa Historical Board

PERSONNEL NOTES

Resignations:

Retirements effective May 31, 2021

- James L. Alldredge, Bus Shop assistant, retirement
- Kaci Nicole McAfee, CDC speech language pathologist, resigned
- Irma S. Adcox, Cold Springs Elementary aide, retirement
- Sheila C. Welborn, Cold Springs Elementary teacher, retirement
- Vickie Dixon Pruett, Fairview Elementary teacher, retirement
- Karen R. Bagwell, Good Hope Elementary teacher, retirement
- Debra J. Scott, Good Hope High CNP Manager, retirement
- Cynthia Smith Stephens, Good Hope Middle teacher, retirement
- Deborah Baker Heaton, Good Hope Primary CNP Worker, retirement
- Gwendolyn J. Purifoy, Hanceville bus driver, retirement
- Jimmy Lynn Collins, Hanceville High Contract Principal, resigned
- Mitchell S. Morris, Holly Pond High teacher, retirement
- Angela F. Robinson, Homebound Part-time teacher, resigned
- John H. Burt, Vinemont bus driver, retirement
- Joell S. Chambers, Vinemont Elementary teacher, retirement
- Susan Speegle Cupp, Vinemont Elementary teacher, retirement

Leaves of absence:

- Kassey Vanessa Swann, Good Hope Primary custodian, 2/1/2021- 3/12/2021; correct ending date
- Paige Victoria Hamm, Fairview Middle sixth-grade math/history teacher, 3/22/2021- 5/28/2021

Voluntary transfer:

Donna Hale Aaron, from Vinemont High CNP worker to Vinemont High CNP assistant manager, to replace Brenda Welch

Appointments:

- Anita Ann Kelley, CDC behavior support assistant, to replace Carla Denning Story
- Ellen Louise Hogeland, Cold Springs Elementary temporary K-12 special education teacher, 2/23/2021-5/7/2021; correct beginning date
- Katelyn Elizabeth Castro, Hanceville High CNP worker, to replace Amie White
- Sylvia Duffie Edmondson, Hanceville High CNP worker, to replace Hannah Norman
- Diana Joy Sims, Holly Pond High CNP worker, to replace Wanda Lambert

Substitutes:

- Roy William Burgess, custodian
- Savanna Nycole Trammell, teacher

Non-faculty coaches:

- Michael Blake Mechaw, Fairview High varsity/JV softball
- Mark Allen Bell, Holly Pond High Baseball, volunteer
- Jonathan Kendall Baty, West Point Middle Archery, Volunteer

Contract/salary changes:

- Brandy King Lowe, custodian, Good Hope Middle, from 180 days/8 hours a day to 182 days/8 hours a day
- Michael Blake Mechaw, add sr. high softball Assistant, Fairview High (non-faculty)

Summer 2021 contract extensions:

- Larry Patrick Brock, assisting the principal, Good Hope Elementary, part-time as needed
- Amanda Swann, assisting the principal, Good Hope Elementary, part-time as needed

The CCBOE's next meeting will take place Thursday, April 15, 2021 in the central office board room, with a work session at 3:30 p.m. and meeting immediately following.

Bill Smith
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