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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

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UA ATHLETICS

– SPORTS –

SWEET 16! Alabama advances to 2nd consecutive NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 with 72-61 win over No. 12 Grand Canyon
» PAGE 4

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CATA students donate 250 boxes of cereal boxes to Cullman Caring for Kids

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) has once again exemplified the spirit of community service with the remarkable success of its Spring Break Cereal Food Drive. Ending March 19, the initiative saw the collection of approximately 250 boxes of cereal for Cullman Caring for Kids, a local nonprofit dedicated to aiding families in need.

This year, following the success of a canned food collection in the previous year, the focus shifted to cereal, a choice that proved both practical and popular. CATA Principal and CTE Director Dr. Susan Patrick previously highlighted the appeal of cereal for young children for its ease of preparation and universal love among the young ones.

The cereal drive culminated in a creative event on the last day, when » PAGE 5



SARA KIRKPATRICK

CATA students load around 250 donated boxes of cereal for Cullman Caring for Kids, the result of a highly successful community cereal drive.

Purple Day and Ellie Mae's triumph over epilepsy



MAEGHAN LONG

Ellie Mae Long and one of her best friends, Raiden Day, wear their purple on Purple Day to spread awareness about epilepsy and the triumph of her journey.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — On March 26, Purple Day, Ellie Mae Long dawns her purple clothes as a testament to her resilience, hope and triumph over the long battle against epilepsy. Her journey from constant seizures to being seizure free is a beacon of hope for many in the epilepsy community grappling with this challenging condition.

Ellie Mae's battle with epilepsy began from her very first day of life, though it was months before » PAGE 8



MAEGHAN LONG

Ellie Mae Long, Maeghan Long, Stephen Long and little sister Gracie Abbot Long pose for a family picture, as Ellie Mae is now nearly three years seizure free.

ARCHERY

Vinemont sweeps county championships

» PAGE 8

Library board appoints new assistant director

» PAGE 6

Vinemont Easter in the Park an 'eggstravagant' affair



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Children rush to collect their eggs at the Vinemont Easter in the Park event, held Saturday, March 23. » PAGE 5

St. Bernard Abbey, Sacred Heart Church celebrating Holy Week



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

St. Bernard Prep faculty and students gather for the Stations of the Cross. » PAGE 6

ALL THE GREAT DEALS ARE FLYING AROUND AT BILL SMITH!

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 25

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 25, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 21

- harassment; violation of elder abuse; CR 569
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; tampering with physical evidence; CR 436

March 22

- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- assault; US. 31
- theft of property; CR 1336
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- burglary; Hwy. 278 E
- theft of property; CR 405
- theft of property; CR 1178

March 23

- domestic violence; attempting to elude law enforcement officer; CR 1126
- harassment; CR 723
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM305
- harassment; Hwy. 69 S
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 940
- attempting to elude law enforcement officer; resisting arrest; obstructing government operations; Hwy. 231
- theft of property; CR 437
- burglary; CR 1029
- domestic violence; Corley St.

March 24

- domestic violence; menacing; CR 907
- domestic violence; CR 437
- harassment; CR 1564
- harassment; Buettner Dr.
- home repair fraud; CR 874
- trafficking drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1141

ARRESTS

March 7-10

Ball, Brittney L.; 36
- FTA - homicide - manslaughter
- FTA - assault - child abuse - simple - family

Bennett, Jason S.; 52
- tampering with physical evidence

Bowens, Trevon L.; 24
- assault - domestic - simple assault - family

Bowles, Robert P.; 26
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (no theft or damage)
- burglary - residence - force
- criminal mischief - damage to private property

Brooks, Jacob W.; 37
- public intoxication

Carter, Kenneth S.; 42
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)

Clanton, Richard L.; 35
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Copen, Michael A. Jr.; 55
- GJ - theft - miscellaneous

Doss, Andy M.; 65
- attempting to elude a police officer
- assault - domestic - harassment - family
- PROBATION REVOKED - possession of dangerous drugs

Hill, Bradley A.; 44
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hitt, Bryan A.; 28
- PROBATION REVOKED - unlawful distribution of controlled substances (2 counts)
- PROBATION REVOKED - possession of dangerous drugs

Johnson, Jacob I.; 21
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Jordan, Devynn E.; 28
- attempting to elude a police officer
- resisting arrest
- obstruction - governmental operations
- public intoxication

King, Emily R.; 34
- driving under the influence (alcohol)

Layton, Ryan E.; 41
- assault - child abuse - simple - family

Mallard, Benjamin C.; 32
- assault - domestic - menacing - strong arm
- assault - domestic violence-3rd degree - criminal mischief-2nd degree

Moore, Tyler B.; 35
- assault - domestic - harassment - family
- criminal mischief

Noe, Grady T.; 29
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Owens, Timothy A.; 38
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Pilman, Sue J.; 38
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Quinn, Jesse C.; 50
- permitting dogs to run at large

Wren, Dalton T.; 30
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 22

- criminal mischief-1st degree; person; damage to '19 BMW; $4,000; Graveman Rd. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW
- leave the scene; person; damage to '07 Scion; $1,000; 3rd St. SE

March 23

- criminal mischief-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; damaged property; $20; Hwy. 157

March 24

- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; purse and contents
- Harassment; person; Ann St. NW

ARRESTS

March 22-24

Johnson, Jacob I.; 21
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Pace, Hunter L.; 25
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Bice, Macy N.; 25
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Brown, Jason W.; 42
- driving under the influence

Brooks, Jacob W.; 37
- driving under the influence

Fuller, Kennith M.; 22
- theft of property-4th degree

Carter, Kenneth S.; 42
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Jacobs proclaims Child Abuse Prevention Month in Cullman

Leanne West
leanne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — On Monday, March 25, 2024, Mayor Woody Jacobs proclaimed the month of April Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM) in the city of Cullman. The proclamation was presented to Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK) Executive Director Steven Sutter and Senior Director Javon Daniel. CCK is a local nonprofit with a mission to see that "no child will ever be abused, no child will go to bed hungry, no infants will ever be shaken in anger and the cycle of abuse will be stopped."

NCAPM is an opportunity to educate others and raise awareness about the importance of preventing child maltreatment. This initiative is rooted in communities working together to serve children and their families in meaningful, impactful ways that provide families with the support they need, especially during challenging times.

"This is a very important cause that we try to bring awareness to each year," said Jacobs. "We appreciate the work that Cullman Caring for Kids and other local agencies do to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse and to help victims and families."

The Alabama Department of Public Health lists child abuse and neglect as the No. 9 health concern. Rates have been increasing in recent years. In 2021, there were 26,116 reported cases of child abuse or neglect investigated in Alabama, and many cases that are never reported.

To make child abuse less likely to occur, we must invest in our community and our families. Each year, CCK, Brooks' Place, Cullman County CASA, DHR and other local agencies work to educate others about child maltreatment and raise awareness about the impact child abuse has on children and society.

Providing information about best practices that are known to build parental capacity through protective factors is key to helping families become more resilient. Protective factors are conditions or attributes that mitigate or eliminate maltreatment risk factors and can increase the health and well-being of children and families.

They give parents the tools they need to parent effectively, even under stress. Protective factors include nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child youth development, parental resilience, social connections and concrete supports for parents.

"All children deserve to grow up in safe environments with people who love them and care for them," said Jacobs. "It is my hope that by increasing awareness of child abuse and sharing ways everyone can become involved in preventing it, we will one day see child abuse rates decline in our community and throughout the world."

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT?

Alabama law defines child abuse and neglect (also referred to as child maltreatment) as follows:

- Child abuse: "...harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare which can occur through nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation."
- Child neglect: "...negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including the failure to provide adequate food, medical treatment, clothing or shelter."

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) defines child abuse and neglect as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of the parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation ... or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." More specifically, definitions include (from childwelfare.gov):

- Physical abuse: Nonaccidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent or caregiver including punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting, burning or otherwise causing physical harm
- Neglect: Failure of a parent or caregiver to provide for basic needs such as food or shelter, medical treatment, education needs or emotional needs.
- Sexual abuse: Activities by a parent or caregiver such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure or exploitation through prostitution or production of pornographic materials.
- Emotional (psychological) abuse: Pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This can include constant criticism, threats, rejection or the withholding of love, support or guidance.
- Abandonment: A child is considered abandoned when the parent's identity or whereabouts are unknown, the child has been left alone in circumstances where the child suffers serious harm, the child has been deserted with no regard for his or her health or safety, or the parent has failed to maintain contact with the child or provide reasonable support for a specified period of time.
- Parental substance use: Related circumstances include exposing a child to harm prenatally due to the mother's use of legal or illegal drugs or other substances; manufacturing methamphetamine in the presence of a child; selling, distributing or giving illegal drugs or alcohol to a child; or using a controlled substance that impairs the caregiver's ability to adequately care for the child.
- Human trafficking: Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining someone for a commercial sex act such as prostitution, pornography or stripping

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE MALTREATED EACH YEAR?

The Children's Bureau (CB) – an Office of the Administration for Children & Families (ACYF) administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – reports that in 2022 3,096,011 children received either an investigation response or alternative response at a rate of 42.4 children per 1,000 in the population. In the U.S. (including Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico), there were 558,899 victims of child abuse and neglect (7.7 victims per 1,000 children). An estimated 1,990 children died from abuse and neglect in 2022; 2.73 per 100,000 children.

Of those 5580899 child abuse and neglect cases:

- 74.3% involved neglect
- 17.0% involved physical abuse
- 10.6% involved sexual abuse
- 6.8% involved psychological maltreatment

Data also shows:

- Children younger than 1 have the highest rate of victimization at 22.2 per 1,000 children of the same age nationally
- The victimization rate of girls is 8.2 per 1,000 girls, which is higher than boys (7.1 per 1,000 boys)
- American-Indian or Alaska Native children have the highest rate of victimization at 14.3 per 1,000 children of the same race or ethnicity; black or African-American children have the second highest rate at 12.1 per 1,000 children of the same race or ethnicity

HOW DO I KNOW IF A CHILD IS BEING MALTREATED?

Signs that a child may be being abused or neglected may include:

General maltreatment:

- Exhibiting a sudden change in behavior or school performance
- Having difficulty concentrating not attributed to physical or psychological causes
- Lacking adult supervision
- Being watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen
- Being overly compliant, passive or withdrawn
- Seeming reluctant to be around a particular person
- Coming to school or other activities early, staying late and not wanting to go home
- Telling someone he/she is being maltreated

Physical abuse:

- Having unexplained injuries (burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, black eyes, etc.)
- Having fading bruises or other noticeable marks after an absence from school
- Seeming scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn or aggressive
- Seeming frightened of parents and protesting or crying when it's time to go home
- Showing changes in eating and sleeping habits
- Abusing animals or pets
- Shrinking at the approach of adults
- Reporting injuries by a parent or other adult caregiver

Neglect:

- Being frequently absent from school
- Begging or stealing food or money
- Being consistently dirty or having severe body odor
- Not receiving help for known physical or medical problems or lacking medical care (e.g., immunizations, dental care, glasses, etc.)
- Lacking sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abusing alcohol or other drugs
- Stating that there is no one at home to provide care

Sexual abuse:

- Having difficulty walking or sitting
- Experiencing bleeding, bruising, or swelling in the genitals
- Suddenly refusing to go to school
- Reporting nighttime bedwetting
- Experiencing a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrating bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becoming pregnant or contracting a sexually transmitted disease (especially if under 14)
- Running away from home
- Attaching very quickly to strangers or new adults
- Reporting sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

Emotional abuse:

- Showing extremes in behavior (overly compliant or demanding, extremely passive or aggressive, etc.)
- Being either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, etc.) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, head-banging, etc.)
- Exhibiting delays in physical or emotional development
- Showing signs of depression or suicidal thoughts
- Reporting an inability to develop emotional bonds with others

Signs that a parent or caregiver may be abusive or neglectful include:

- Showing little concern for, or indifference toward, the child and refusing to consider offers of help for the child's problems
- Denying the existence of problems at school or home, or blaming the child for those problems
- Asking teachers or caregivers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves.
- Seeing the child as entirely bad, worthless or burdensome
- Demanding a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve
- Looking primarily to the child for care, attention and satisfaction of emotional needs
- Constantly blaming, belittling, or berating the child
- Overtly rejecting the child
- Seeming apathetic or depressed
- Behaving irrationally or in a bizarre manner
- Abusing alcohol or other drugs
- Being unduly protective of the child or severely limiting the child's contact with other children, especially if the child is of the opposite sex
- Being secretive and isolated
- Being jealous or controlling with family members

HOW DO I REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

If you suspect a child is being harmed, reporting your suspicions may protect the child and get help for the family. If you suspect a child is being maltreated, contact your local Department of Human Resources or law enforcement agency. In Cullman County those numbers include:

- Cullman County DHR (256-737-5300)
- Cullman Police Department (256-734-1434)
- Cullman County Sheriff's Office (256-775-4700)
- Hanceville Police Department (256-352-9811)

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT CHILD MALTREATMENT?

The Childhelp Alabama Hotline - 1-800-4ACHILD (1-800-422.4453) – is staffed with professional crisis counselors with access to a huge database of emergency, social service, and support resources. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to children who are confused, parents who are in despair and need help, and adults (including mandatory reports) who are uncertain about the next best step when faced with questions related to child maltreatment. All calls to this hotline are anonymous.

Supportive communities can help build strong families which, in turn, can help lower the risk of child abuse and neglect. In Cullman we help build strong families by providing or supporting:

- Parks and recreational facilities that are safe, accessible, and inviting places for families
- Resources to help families in need access food, jobs, medical care and other resources
- Early education programs that are easily accessible and welcoming
- Safe, affordable housing available to all families
- Clean air and water

And the main thing that everyone can do – and the true purpose of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month – is to help parents obtain the knowledge, skills and resources they need to properly love and care for their children.

"Cullman is fortunate to have people and organizations who help children and families dealing with abuse and neglect," said Jacobs. "We appreciate them all!"

For more information on these agencies, you can visit them online at:

- Cullman Caring for Kids: www.cullmancaringforkids.com
- Child Advocacy Center (Brooks' Place): www.cullmancac.com
- Cullman County CASA: www.cullmancaringforkids.com/casa.html
- Cullman County DHR: dhr.alabama.gov

For more information about National Child Abuse Awareness Month visit www.childwelfare.com/preventionmonth.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Public Notice
Mt. Zion Cemetery: Please remove all ground flowers/decorations from graves at Mt. Zion Cemetery at Vinemont (Highway 31) for spring cleaning and mowing.

Calling All Young Singers!
Cullman Community Young Singers (CCYS) is looking for YOU! All young singers (ages 8-15) are invited to join us on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:45 at the Little House at Art Park, 1031 Second St. SW in Cullman. No auditions, just come for a fun afternoon of learning music from pop to classical styles. We will rehearse and prepare to perform at a variety of events in and around the Cullman community. Bring your friends- we will have music and everything you need to get started! For more information, text or email Miss Cindy at 256-338-4404, cindypass22@gmail.com. CCYS is sponsored by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism.

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) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Wednesday, March 27 – "I AM the Bread of Life" message by Jeff Gilliland at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Free pizza for children at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Guy Sunter 727-215-9092 for pickup.
• Thursday, March 28 – "No Ordinary Thursday" message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 7 p.m.
• Friday, March 29 - "I AM Barabbas" message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 7 p.m.
• Friday, March 29 - 5:45 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45. Small group starts at 6:30. Childcare provided!
• Saturday, March 30 - Community Easter Celebration from noon-3 p.m.! Inflatables, Easter egg hunt, food and fun!
• Sunday, March 31 - Prayer - Join Teresa at 9:15 a.m. in the prayer room to pray for our church, nation and those who need healing, salvation or deliverance.
• Sunday, March 31 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and "He is Risen!" message by Pastor Bobby at 11.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at Cullman Housing Authority Community Center (1545 Vine Circle SW, Cullman, AL 35055). The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Serenity AlAnon Meetings
The Cullman Serenity AlAnon group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The AlAnon family groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. For more information, call 256-708-6645, 850-323-0490 or 256-734-2231.

Master's Hand Food Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Grace Café Reopening!
Enjoy a free lunch with no strings attached, 11:30-12:30 every fourth Wednesday. On March 27, join Cullman's professionals, retirees, office workers, craftsmen and unemployed for a BBQ chicken plate, homemade desserts and singing with the Arnold Street Band. Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman.

Fairview Lions Club Spring Fling and Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show
Saturday, April 6, at Randall Shedd Community Park on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. We will have a car show, vendors, games, music and bouncy houses. Registration is $20 and will begin at 8 a.m. with awards to be given out at 1 p.m. Vendor spots are $10 a spot, payable the day of the event. Must be set up by 9 a.m. Food vendors are encouraged to join us. Please register by March 28. Food vendor spots are $50. For more information, please contact Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Revival
We will be having our spring revival the week of April 7. Services will be Sunday, April 7, at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, April 8-10 at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Brother Jared Dixon. Everyone is invited. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, April 8, at the Golden Corral Buffet. The guest speaker will be Stephanie Childers. She is the executive director of the United Way of Cullman County. Dutch lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting beginning at noon. Members and nonmembers are welcome.

Rummage Sale
Friday, April 12, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m.-noon at Trinity Lutheran Church, 505 Commercial St., Hanceville.

Extension educators bringing awareness to vaping impact on teens

Justin Miller
ACES

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Across the country, people are becoming more aware of the impact that vaping can have on teens. In fact, Utah lawmakers recently proposed a bill that would ban the sale of most flavored electronic cigarette products, in hopes of reducing the number of teen users. Alabama Cooperative Extension System educators are doing their part to bring awareness to this issue.

Through Alabama Extension's Escape Vapes, teenagers, parents and other adults learn more about the health risks associated with vaping. Adrienne Duke-Marks, a Human Sciences Extension specialist, said it is important that parents and other adults know the dangers of vaping and how to talk to teens about them.

"Parents should talk to their children about vaping early on," Duke-Marks said. "More importantly, they should help them understand that there is flavored nicotine in those devices, which can cause addiction. There have been many social media accounts dedicated to documenting young people detoxing from vaping. It is more challenging than most people anticipate, so, it is best not to start."

Understanding vaping
Escape Vapes offers four in-person workshops. The "Escape Vapes: Empowering Adults" workshop is designed for parents, guardians and adults who work with teens. According to Duke-Marks, who is also an associate professor in the Auburn University College of Human Sciences, this workshop teaches parents about recognizing devices, the nicotine found in the devices, ways that vaping impacts physical and mental health and other important topics. Those interested in scheduling a workshop in their community can contact their area's Alabama Extension human sciences regional agent. Each agent's contact information is available in the website directory at www.aces.edu.

In addition to the workshops, Alabama Extension has many online resources for parents, guardians and other adults. These resources cover a variety of vaping-related topics including health risks, costs, general e-cigarette information and how to talk to teens. This year, Extension professionals added several new publications to these resources: the Helping Parents Understand Vaping series. Duke-Marks said this series is designed to educate parents on important topics related to vaping.

"This series is really geared to cover multiple issues that parents may be dealing with or have questions about," Duke-Marks said. "For example, we have a publication dedicated to assisting parents as they help their child quit. We also have one that focuses on ways to protect young children from accidental poisonings from vaping devices that may belong to babysitters or older teen siblings."

More information
For more information on these workshops and resources, visit the Escape Vapes Programs and Resources web page at www.aces.edu. You can also contact the human sciences regional agent in your area for information about Escape Vapes.

A-1 Battery Sales
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 26, 2024

SWEET 16! Alabama advances to 2nd consecutive NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 with 72-61 win over No. 12 Grand Canyon

Steven Gonzalez
UA Athletics

SPOKANE, Wash. – The No. 4 seed Alabama men's basketball team used a late run and clutch baskets down the stretch to advance past a stubborn 12th-seeded Grand Canyon squad, 72-61, in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Round of 32 Sunday night. With the win, the Crimson Tide advances to its 10th Sweet 16 in school history, and the third time in the last four years under head coach Nate Oats.

The victory didn't come easy, as the Lopes fought back from a 10-point second half deficit to take a 58-55 lead with 6:03 left to play. From that point on, the Crimson Tide dominated, outscoring GCU 17-3 the rest of the way, including 10-straight points to secure the win.

Mark Sears led the way with a double-double, accounting for 26 points and 12 rebounds to go along with six assists and three steals. Ryan Griffen added 13 points, all coming in the first half, with Aaron Estrada adding eight points,10 rebounds, six assists and four steals.

Head Coach Nate Oats Postgame Comments

"Character win, I think. We had a chance, could have folded, had a lot of things that didn't go our way, a lot of foul trouble. They lived at the free-throw line. Our guys started to show a little frustration and I thought we pulled it together and showed a lot of mental toughness. We've been using the word next a lot lately, next play, just go to the next play, like, forget about the call that didn't go your way, forget about the turnover, forget about the offensive possession where you missed or your teammate missed. It doesn't matter, just play hard on defense. This is one of our best defensive games of the year. We fouled too much, they shot 37 free throws, we obviously benefited from them not shooting it great at the line, but when we didn't foul, we got pretty good stops. Tyon Grant-Foster is the real deal. But he scored 29, went to the free-throw line 16 times and took 22 shots.

"So, we're playing next Thursday. There's only going to be 16 left. I think our non-conference schedule got us ready for this. Four teams in the non-conference are all in the Sweet 16 and we lost to all four, but I thought we got better from it. So, our defense is getting better as the year goes on. This might have been our best defensive performance of the year."

Team stats

- Mark Sears joined former UA great Mo Williams (2002) as the only players in school history to have at least 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in a NCAA Tournament game
- Sears collected his first double-double of the season and the sixth of his career
- Aaron Estrada grabbed double-digit rebounds for the third time this season and the fifth time in his career
- Alabama swatted a season-best nine shots, the most ever in an NCAA Tournament contest
- The Tide also collected 10 steals, and held the Lopes to 32 percent (18-56) and 10 percent (2-20) from beyond the arc
- Alabama's bench outscored Grand Canyon's reserves, 20-2
- UA finished with a 50-41 edge on the glass, including a 27-17 advantage in the second half alone
- The Lopes finished 23-37 (62.2 percent) from the charity stripe while the Tide was 16-22 (72.7 percent)



UA ATHLETICS

The Crimson Tide defeated Grand Canyon 72-61 Sunday night to advance to the Sweet 16.

First half

- Both teams started cold from the field as Alabama (2-12) and Grand Canyon (1-13) combined to shoot 3-25 over the opening seven-plus minutes
- The Tide held the lead for all but 57 seconds of the half
- With the game tied at 28-28, the Crimson Tide finished the half on a 10-2 run over the final 2:51 to take a 36-28 lead into the locker room
- Mark Sears (13) and Rylan Griffen (13) combined for 26 points and were 8-13 from the field and 5-9 from deep
- The Alabama defense was stellar, limiting the Lopes to 29 percent (9-31) from the field and 16.7 percent (2-9) from deep while collecting six blocks and four steals

Second half

- Alabama took a 10-point lead early in the second half after a Sears layup
- Grand Canyon went on a 12-3 run to turn a 52-46 deficit into a 58-55 lead with 6:03 left to play
- The Tide used a 17-3 run the rest of the way, which included eight consecutive points from reserve forward Mouhamed Dioubate
- UA finished the game on a 10-0 over the final 3:49 to result in the final score

Up next

- Alabama will take on No. 1 seed North Carolina Thursday, March 28, inside the Staples Center in Los Angeles
- The contest will tip off at approximately 8:30 p.m. CT (6:30 p.m. PT) and will be televised on CBS

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

Auburn's championship season ends with NCAA Tournament loss to Yale

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

SPOKANE, Wash. — All-American Johni Broome recorded his 14th double-double and fourth-seeded Auburn had a chance to advance with a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but 13th-seeded Yale upset the Tigers 78-76 in the NCAA Tournament Friday at Spokane Arena.

"Congratulate Yale on a great victory," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said. "We respected our opponent. We knew we'd have to play well to win. We did not take good care of the ball. We turned it over too much. They made big shots."

Trailing by three with 33.6 seconds to play, Johni Broome drew a foul and made both free throws to pull the Tigers within one at 75-74.

After Yale made a pair of free throws a second later to go ahead 77-74, Auburn missed a 3-point attempt and two tip-in tries, then fouled the Bulldogs.

Yale made one of two free throws with 13 seconds remaining, then K.D. Johnson raced to the other end, making a layup and drawing a foul to pull Auburn within two points with 9.4 to play.

Johnson missed the free throw but when both teams shared possession of the rebound, the arrow pointed to Auburn with 7.1 seconds to play.

Tre Donaldson drew a foul with 6.1 seconds remaining but missed both free throws.

Broome rebounded the second miss, but Yale blocked Jaylin Williams' shot. Johnson retrieved the loose ball but his 3-point attempt for the win bounced off the rim as the Bulldogs' celebrated their upset victory.

Broome led Auburn with 24 points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

"Johni had a great year," Pearl said. "Carried this team, particularly at the offensive end. We rely on him a great deal. He's one of the best centers in all of college basketball as an All-American."

Denver Jones scored 17 points, and Williams added 13 points and five rebounds.

Yale used a 10-0 run to overcome Auburn's seven-point halftime lead before the Tigers answered with their own 10-0 run. Jones' transition 3-pointer put the Tigers on top 53-46, forcing a Yale timeout with 13:23 to play, then Williams' jump hook gave Auburn a nine-point lead.

Facing a double-team, Broome found Chris Moore open for a corner 3-pointer to give Auburn a double-digit lead at 60-50 midway through the second half, but Yale outscored the Tigers 28-16 the rest of the way.

Yale capitalized on nine Auburn second-half turnovers to take a one-point lead on John Poulakidas' sixth 3-pointer to lead 73-72 with 2:10 to play.

Poulakidas led all scorers with 28 points on 10-of-15 shooting, including 6-for-9 on 3-pointers.

"That's the best basketball team we've beaten in Yale basketball history, as far as I'm concerned," said Yale coach James Jones.

Broome's 3-pointer gave Auburn an early 10-2 lead, but Yale took advantage of the ejection of Chad Baker-Mazara after a flagrant foul 3 minutes into the game and used a pair of 3-pointers in a five-second span during an 8-0 run to briefly lead before the Tigers regained control.

"To lose him in that situation was really disruptive to our team on both ends of the floor," Pearl said. "It had a huge impact on the game."

Auburn (27-8) made six-first half steals and turned nine Yale turnovers into 13 points. Williams' steal and slam broke an 18-18 tie.

Broome's steal and slam put the Tigers ahead 31-25. Broome nearly logged a double-double in the first half, totaling 13 points and nine rebounds.

Chaney Johnson ended the first half scoring by driving for a dunk, drawing a foul and making the free throw to give Auburn a 41-34 halftime lead.

Advancing to the round of 32, Yale (23-9) plays fifth-seeded San Diego State Sunday with the winner advancing to the Sweet 16 in Boston. The Aztecs defeated UAB 69-65 in Friday's first game.

"This team is very special," Williams said. "We always stuck together no matter what. These guys are going to be my best friends forever for the rest of my life."

Auburn fans comprised a small but vocal contingent among the 11,051 in attendance, shouting encouragement to the SEC Tournament champions.



ZACH BLAND/AU ATHLETICS

The Auburn Tigers fell to Yale in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament 78-76.

"Auburn had a historic year," Pearl said. "We got hot late. This team has done so many great things so I'm very proud of them. They made history. This is the fourth different team at Auburn that has won a championship in the past seven years. They represented Auburn really well."





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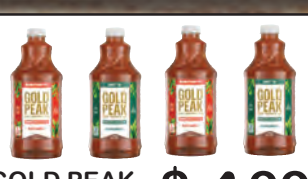


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Vinemont Easter in the Park an 'eggstravagant' affair

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Children rush to collect their eggs at the Vinemont Easter in the Park event, held Saturday, March 23.

VINEMONT, Ala. — The green of the Vinemont Community Center was bustling with excitement on Saturday, March 23, as the annual Easter event was underway. Attendees from the town and surrounding areas flooded the center on the sunny afternoon, itching for a little taste of springtime fun after the area's mercurial winter weather.

Sponsors (and their tents) lined the edges of the park, handing out goodies to each child who came through. Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene Church made children's days with mega-sized pixie sticks and large Swedish fish, while Vinemont Christian Church employed a Christ-themed bean bag toss to allow children to win a prize. State Farm Insurance Dallice Attaway-Jones and Huntsville Hospital Urgent Care were also sponsors, lending a helping hand to make the afternoon possible.

Vinemont Councilwoman Sonya Copeland said, "We are thankful for the community coming together and having this event for South Vinemont.

"Several families expressed gratitude for the Town putting it together. We are looking forward to bigger and better things every year!"

The sun was shining and the breeze was blowing as the council members placed the stuffed eggs in in designated, age-appropriate "hunting zones," designated by colorful banners, ensuring that all children were able to participate in the festivities.

Hunting Easter eggs had the crowd drumming up an appetite. Local business The Butcher Meat Co. generously donated and smoked hundreds of hotdogs for the event, with the event sponsors and town council coming together to provide drinks, cookies and chips.

This year, the Town decided to branch out and make use of the newly renovated park. With the success of the town's inaugural Tinsel Trail over the Christmas holidays, it chose to hold a Bunny Trail: hand-painted and decorated wooden eggs are propped and on display around the perimeter of the park, each giving an opportunity and platform to showcase an individual, cause, team or organization.

Unlike the Tinsel Trail, the Bunny Trail was a judged competition, with the top three entrants winning a prize from the Town.

The community center's neighboring property, Jolley's Daycare, swept the competition and took home first place with its collection of three eggs, touting multicolored handprints from the children in their care.

Second place went to the Shops of Vinemont, one of the town's newest businesses, and their traditionally painted pastel eggs.

Third place was claimed by Shirley Arnett – her floral egg that recounted the Easter story moved the judges and enthralled the crowd.

Easter at Arrowhead a 'hopping' success

Cheyenne Sharp
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CRANE HILL, Ala. — Arrowhead RV Park is typically a destination known for its relaxed vibe and laid-back residents. The gravel lots looking over the lake were meant to be a serene retreat away from reality. On Saturday, March 23, the park, instead of its known and loved camper's paradise, was transformed into Easter Central, with egg hunts, inflatables and the Easter Bunny himself.

The event, a first for the park, was a soft opening and introduction to the recently renovated areas. The campground took advantage of the winter decline in tourism and travel and revitalized and renewed portions of the park and public access areas.

"Our restaurant and park are both being updated in so many ways, and we can't wait for all of our guests to enjoy them this spring and summer," Lisa Watts, an Arrowhead employee and one of the event organizers, said previously.

Speaking of the Easter event, she said, "With it being free, we do not make any profit. But we've worked hard on improvements to the park and want to share that with the public.

"It's taken a lot of time and money and needs to be utilized and enjoyed this year."

While the event shone a light on the renovated areas of the park, the community who gathered together to provide a fun afternoon and over 4,000 eggs was on display. The collective of campers, residents and park employees purchased, stuffed and ultimately secured expert-level hiding spots for each of the colorful tokens for the community's children to find and enjoy.

Vendors flocked to the first-time festival, showcasing their arts, goods and personal pieces; a few booths were set up just to show the beauty of the season, as well as the patrons who chose to stop in.

Nikita Braids was onsite outfitting the littlest of visitors with rainbow braids and bubble braid extensions; Southdown Acre Farms was present and perfectly placed with its goat milk soaps, lotions and balms.

At the end of the day, Watts was filled with gratitude for the groups and families who chose to spend their spring day at the park, becoming part of the Arrowhead family in the process.

"We had so much fun!" said Watts. "Thank you to all those who made it possible."



ARROWHEAD R.V. PARK

Crowds flocked to Arrowhead RV Park on Saturday, March 23, 2024, for the recreational park's inaugural Easter at Arrowhead event.

CATA (from Front)

the collected cereal boxes were arranged like dominoes and toppled over in a domino effect, adding a fun and memorable finale to the noble cause.

Sara Kirkpatrick, the organizer of the event at CATA, expressed her pride in the students' dedication and hard work, saying, "I was very proud of the Educator in Training students for working so hard to collect the cereal from all of the shops here at CATA daily.

"They really took charge and realized what a huge blessing this was going to be for needy members of our community.

"The student body here really showed out by how generous and kind they were by bringing in so many boxes of cereal."

The generosity did not go unnoticed. Steven Sutter, director of Cullman Caring for Kids, acknowledged the significant impact of the donation.

He emphasized that cereal is a high-demand item, particularly appreciated for its accessibility and favorability among children.

"Cereal is always a high-demand item. It's something we can never get enough of because it's such an appreciated item for kids, younger kids especially," he said, highlighting the value of such donations.

As the cereal boxes make their way to the families supported by Cullman Caring for Kids, the impact of this initiative will resonate far beyond the walls of CATA.

It stands as a testament to the power of community service in education and the significant difference students can make when they come together for a common cause.

The hope is that the success of this drive will inspire similar initiatives across Cullman, continuing the cycle of giving and support between local student bodies and the communities.



Library (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library Board at its meeting on Thursday, March 21, announced the hiring of Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore, who will start April 1.

According to Director Amber Thornton, Creekmore is "goal oriented, had experience in project and staff management and was already attending additional training in grant writing."

Creekmore's first months at the library will be spent training in library operations and knowledge.

Thornton said she had hoped to provide an update on the library's financial reports, but said she "has yet to receive or find a current financial report although she had reached out to the accounting firm."

A motion for Thornton to be added to the library's financial accounts as a signer and card carrier, in order to take care of the library's day-to-day operations, was approved.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System

The board also reviewed the need for a new bookmobile, as the current vehicle is badly damaged and in need of repairs. The board agreed to allocate the funds to acquire a new bookmobile to service the community.

Thornton asked the board for permission to begin the process of repairing/replacing the windows and bookshelves damaged in an August 2023 storm.

Funds would need to be released to purchase shelving to hold the nonfiction books currently held in storage. A motion was made and approved.

The next Cullman County Public Library Board meeting will be held April 18, at noon, in the special collections room of the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library.

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Holy Week (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Christians around the world are celebrating Holy Week, leading up to Easter Sunday. The solemnity of the time is visible in the Church of St. Bernard Abbey and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman. Crucifixes and images of saints are covered with violet cloth as Christians "fast" from the beauty and comfort of sacred images. Even the Abbey's huge 10-foot Great Cross is shrouded, its bright colors invisible throughout Lent until Easter.

Said Abbot Marcus Voss, O.S.B., leader of the monastery of about 20 Benedictine monks, "Holy Week begins with Passion (Palm) Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where, during the coming week, he would suffer, die and rise."

A letter from St. Bernard Abbey, shared by the abbey's Fr. Joel Martin, O.S.B. read, in part:

The Abbot explained that Holy Week continues through to the Easter Triduum, the Great Three Days beginning Holy Thursday Evening (March 28) and lasting through Easter Sunday Evening (March 31). On Holy Thursday evening the institution of the Massat, the event called The Lord's Supper, is celebrated, and the Abbot of the monastery washes the feet of twelve men in commemoration of Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet. Holy Thursday is sometimes called "Maundy Thursday" (from the Latin word "mandatum" or "command"), from Jesus' command made on this day that his followers are to love as He loves – demonstrated in the very act of washing feet. On Good Friday is remembered Jesus' perfect act of love: His suffering and death. In that connection the cross is honored with great solemnity. On Holy Saturday all keep watch with Jesus as He lies in the tomb until the darkness of Saturday evening. It is then that light pierces the darkness in the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil is the great celebration of Christ's resurrection and victory over death. The service begins in the dark (8 p.m. on Saturday night) when the "New Fire" is lit outside the Abbey Church. From that fire the Paschal (Easter) Candle, which symbolizes Christ, is lit and taken into the church, where the candles of all worshippers receive the flame from the "Light of Christ" (Paschal Candle), destroying darkness and flooding the church with light. Finally comes Easter Sunday morning and Easter Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Especially during these days the Catholic monks of St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman welcome guests to their worship, ancient rites in praise of God who suffered for the world.

The principal services at the Benedictine Abbey will be:

- March 28 (Thursday) Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper at 4 p.m.
- March 29 (Friday) Good Friday – Passion of Christ 3 p.m., Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.
- March 30 (Sat.) – Easter Vigil, The great Easter Celebration 8 p.m.
- March 31 (Sun.) Easter Sunday – Mann 10:30 a.m., Vespers 5:30 p.m.

"For almost 2,000 years Christians have worshiped God in special services during these holiest of days, and we are privileged to do the same," said Abbot Marcus, "and we welcome all to join us."

Why the veils?

If you visit St. Bernard Abbey or Sacred Heart of Jesus Church before the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, you will see the crucifixes and icons covered in purple veils. The abbey's letter explained:

In the Church's tradition the veiling of crosses has several meanings: It is a "fasting" from sacred depictions which represent the Easter glory of salvation. Just as the Lenten fast concludes with the Easter feast, so too, fasting from the cross culminates in honoring the cross on which the sacrifice of Calvary was offered for the sins of the world on that first Good Friday. An important part of the Good Friday Liturgy is that honoring of the Cross, which includes its unveiling. Once the Cross has been unveiled, it is logical that all crosses would be unveiled so that they too might be honored by the faithful and remind all of the glory of the Holy Cross of Christ.

Likewise, a fasting from the wonderful images of the mysteries of faith and the saints in glory, ends at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night when all celebrate the victorious Christ, risen from the tomb.

Some writers explain that the veiling is to remind all of Jesus' humiliation and to imprint the image of the crucified Christ more deeply on minds and hearts. The veiling of crosses and images, making them "present" but "absent," draws attention to their importance and beauty – as wonderful objects that remind one of the gift of salvation and the communion of saints.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church liturgical schedule for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum

Tuesday, March 26

- 6:30 a.m.: Mass
- Noon: Mass
- 12:45-1:45 p.m.: Confessions
- 5:30 p.m.: Apologetics Class
- 6:15 p.m.: Novena of the Miraculous Medal
- 7:15-8:45 p.m.: Confessions - Fr. Patrick Egan and Fr. John O'Donnell will be available. If no confessions are heard for 30 minutes, Fr. Patrick and Fr. John will return to the Rectory; however, you can still go to confession, just ring the doorbell on the west side of the Rectory, the side that has the handicap ramp, and one of them will hear your confession in the Rectory.

Wednesday, March 27

- 6:30 a.m.: Mass
- Noon-1 p.m.: Confessions
- 5:30 p.m.: Mass
- 6:15-7:15 p.m.: Confessions
- 7:30-8:30 p.m.: Mass in Spanish

Holy Thursday, March 28

- 9 a.m.: Liturgical Rehearsal - Priests, Deacons, and Altar Servers
- Noon-1 p.m.: Confessions
- 7 p.m.: Mass of the Lord's Supper. This is the only Mass that can be celebrated on Holy Thursday. This Mass will conclude with a Eucharistic Procession around the Church ending with the placement of the Blessed Sacrament on the St. Joseph Altar
- Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: From the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper until midnight.
- 8:30-9:30 p.m.: Confessions
- 11:45 p.m.: Compline (Night prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours)
- Midnight: Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament signaling Christ descent into hell and the realm of the dead.

Good Friday, March 29

- 9 a.m.: Liturgical Rehearsal - Priests, Deacons, and Altar Servers
- 2:15 p.m.: Stations of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3 p.m.: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
- 7-8 p.m.: Confessions

Holy Saturday, March 30

- 9 a.m.: Liturgical Rehearsal for Easter Vigil - Priest, Deacons, Altar Servers and OCIA Elect
- 8 p.m.: Easter Vigil - Reception of the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Catechumens into the Church, including Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, March 31

- 9 a.m.: Mass
- 11:30 a.m.: Mass

Confessions may be scheduled with Fr. Patrick any time during regular office hours, Monday, March 25, through Wednesday, March 27. Confessions will not be heard on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. Adoration will not be held from midnight of Holy Thursday until after the 6:30 a.m. Mass on Monday, April 1, 2024.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

2008 Saturn Outlook, black, Vin.#5GZER33748J226391

If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752.

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, March 15th 2024 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Redstone Federal Credit Union
vs.
Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix
15510 U.S. Highway 278 W
Cullman, Alabama 35057-6114

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Chris Priest, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix, property, described as follows:

A tract or parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 10, Range 5 West being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said forty thence West 103 yards to point of beginning of land herein conveyed, thence South 90 yards to Cullman-Double Springs Highway, thence in a Northeasterly direction along said highway 250 feet, thence in a Northwesterly direction along said highway 250 feet, thence in a Northwesterly direction to a point on the North forty line which is 200 feet East of the point of beginning, thence West 200 feet to a point of beginning.

The above described property being that same property conveyed from Austin Jarrett to Chrisiopher Benton Nix and wife, Chelsea Nichole Nix dated October 5, 2013 and filed for record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama in Deed Book 623 at Page 939.

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Writ of Execution issued on or about 29 January 2024 in case CV-2019-900224 in the Circuit Court of Morgan County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 19 day of March, 2024.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry





SoS Allen warns Alabamians of 'misleading' election mailer

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Secretary of State Wes Allen is warning Alabama residents of a "misleading, unsolicited mass mailing of pre-filled voter registration forms targeting Alabama mailboxes." Allen said the mailer is not affiliated with the State of Alabama and has, in fact, been officially discouraged by the Office of the Secretary of State.

He said the Voter Participation Center and Center for Voter Information, the two groups operating the mass mailing, appear to be run by the same organization. They have communicated their intent to send at least two mass mailings of pre-filled voter registration forms to Alabama residents, beginning as early as this month. Allen said he has submitted written objections to their efforts, "due to the confusion they will create."

"On two occasions, this Office was contacted on behalf of Voter Participation Center and Center for Voter Information regarding a mailer they planned to send to Alabama citizens. In response, I strongly discouraged the group's plan to mass mail our citizens," Allen explained. "This type of targeted, partisan interference by out-of-state, third-party organizations is unnecessary, confusing and counterproductive."

In past election cycles, the Office of the Secretary of State has fielded complaints from concerned Alabama residents who received incorrect pre-filled voter registration forms similar to the ones being mailed by the Voter Participation Center and Center for Voter Information, Allen said.

"Alabama citizens can rest assured that the Alabama Secretary of State's office and local election officials are well-equipped to handle voter registration in Alabama. Trusted voter registration and election information can be found on the Secretary of State's official website," he said.

Eligible Alabama residents may register to vote online at www.AlabamaVotes.gov or mail a voter registration form to their local Board of Registrars.


OFFICE OF ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE WES ALLEN

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen

Obituary Announcements: March 23-25

Ernest W. White, 90
Funeral service for Ernest William White, age 90, of Cullman, Alabama, is Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Ben White officiating. Family will welcome friends for visitation on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. and Thursday before the funeral service, from noon to 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be held at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. White was born to Herman White and Aggie Warren White on October 25, 1933. He passed from this life on March 25, 2024, at his residence He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Florene White; one son, David White. He is survived by his children, Debra Okinaka (Ryoji), Jimmy White (Prescy), Charlotte Martin (Roger), Brenda Clark (Jimmie), Gary White (Charlene), Jerry White, Pam Brown (Leon); sister, Bess Platen; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; friends and family. Mr. White was a proud veteran, serving in the United States Navy, United States Air Force, and the United States National Guard. He joined the Navy as a young 17-year old and served in the Korean War, on the Navy hospital ship, the USS Consolation. In addition to being a great patriot, he also previously served his community as Fire Chief and City Council Member for the Town of Good Hope. He was a servant to all and was tireless in his dedication to others. He was an avid Kentucky basketball fan and loved Alabama football, as well. But he would quickly tell you, his greatest enjoyment was his family, especially his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. He lived a long, beautiful, meaningful life and he will be missed greatly. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Bobby Gene Meherg, 84
Funeral Service for Bobby Gene Meherg, age 84 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Fairview with Dr. David Chambers officiating; burial at First Baptist Church of Fairview Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon - 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Fairview. Mr. Meherg passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at his residence. He was born Monday, Jan. 22, 1940, to Richard Lem Meherg and Lena Bell Meherg. He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Billie Jo Livingston, Faye Carr, Megnia Joan Terry; brother, James Meherg. Survivors include his wife Dura Meherg; daughter, Lisa (Marvin) Jones; sons Kevin (Lisa) Meherg and Mark Meherg; brother, John (Joy) Meherg, sister Becky (Arthur) Talley; grandchildren, Christina and Luke Meherg, Lauren Jones Masters, Ryan, Christopher and Andrew Jones, Isabella Jones Sahyouni, Savanna Meherg; 8 great grandchildren. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Karen Nicole Gay, 51
Funeral Service for Karen Gay, age 51, of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; with Samuel Tucker and Morris Helton officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Gay passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at her residence. She was born Jan. 25, 1973, to Hoyt Hutson and Anita Jones. She was dedicated to her home child care for 15 years. She was preceded in death by her father, Hoyt Hutson; and special angel Cyan. Survivors include her husband, Euel Gay; children, Elijah Allen Lindsey, Trey (Alyssa) Gay, Robbie (Kathy) Gay, and Hannah Nicole Gay; brother, Derrick Hutson; sister, Tammy Trussel, grandchildren, Damian Lindsey, Gavi Cox, Bree Gay, Caleb Landy, Elliana Gay, Oliver Gay; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Nelda Sue McClendon, 82
Funeral services for Nelda Sue McClendon, 82, of Hanceville will be 1p.m. Wednesday, March 27 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at New Prospect Cemetery in Hanceville. Reverend Randall Waldrep will be officiating services. Visitation for the public will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. McClendon was born on Oct. 14, 1941, to the late Ottis and Juanita Daniel-Wise in Walker County, Alabama. She passed away on March 24, 2024, at Woodland Village Nursing Home. Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Lanita Long and her husband Michael, LeAnn Waldrep and her husband Randall and Kenneth McClendon and his wife Tammy; grandchildren, Brandon McClendon and Alicia, Justin McClendon and Tiffany, Drew McClendon and Sarah, Tyler McClendon, Tanner Waldrep and Amanda, Jacob Waldrep, Caleb Long and Ashley and Colin Long and Crimson; great grandchildren, Caroline McClendon, Ivy McClendon, Lily McClendon, Blaze McClendon, Rayleigh Mae McClendon, Waylon McClendon, Scarlett Waldrep, Bryer Waldrep, Jaxon Long, Stetson Long and Cohen Long; sister-in-law, Elouise Hannah and her husband Charles. In addition to her parents, Mrs. McClendon was preceded in death by her loving husband, Kenneth O. McClendon; brothers, Bob Wise and Bill Wise; and Infant baby brother Wise. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the McClendon Family.

Johnnie Jwin Lindsey, 55
A graveside service for Johnnie Jwin Lindsey Jr., 55, of Hayden, Alabama will be 11 a.m. Thursday, March 28 at Good Hope Cemetery. Mr. Lindsey was born on Jan. 19, 1971, in Guntersville, Alabama to the late Johnnie Jwin Lindsey Sr. and Lorene (Dye) Beasley. He passed away on March 24, 2024, in Hayden, Alabama. Survivors include his wife, Jammie Lindsey; children, Brandy Salter, Alexis Anderson (Anthony), Austin Davis (Erica) and Kaleb Davis (Dinah); grandchildren, Grayson Anderson, Hannah Anderson, Haley Anderson, Anthony Anderson Jr., Carter Anderson, Gatlin Anderson, Axel Anderson, Ava Davis, Jaxson Davis and Rhylie Davis; and his brother, Jasper Lindsey. In addition to his parents, Mr. Lindsey was preceded in death by his brother, Sam Lindsey. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lindsey Family.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

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

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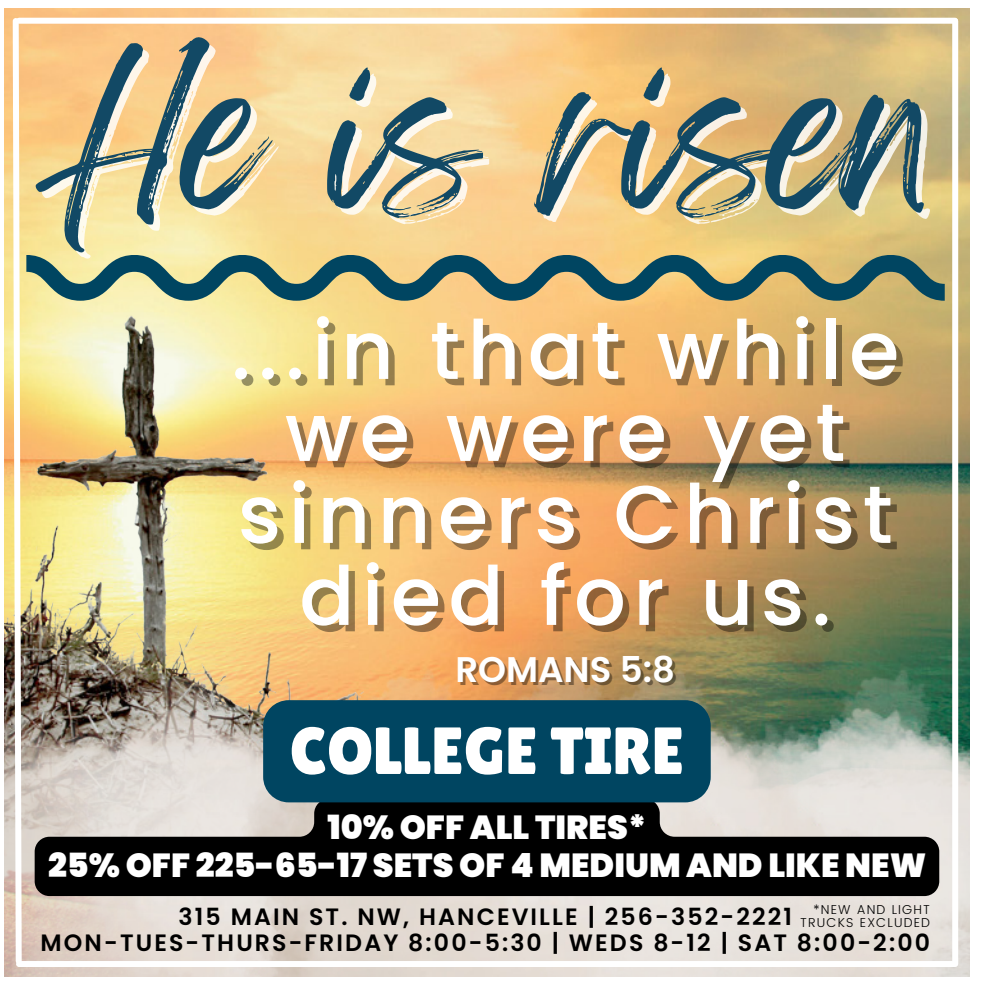
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ARCHERY

Vinemont sweeps county championships







VHS, VMS, VES

Vinemont High School, left, (3,359), Vinemont Middle, middle, (3,281) and Vinemont Elementary, right, (3,073) each won their respective divisions at this year's Cullman County Championships Saturday. Individual champions: 1st - Mason McCury, Good Hope High (294), 1st - Avery Freeman, Fairview High (285), 1st - Thatcher Lucas, Cullman Middle (286), 1st - AnnaLee McRae, Vinemont Middle (281), 1st - Owen Robinson, Vinemont Elementary (273), 1st - Tillie Hankey, West Elementary (272)

Triumph (from Front)

the seizures she experienced were identified as such.

Her parents did not know at first what they were, but they quickly evolved into something much more dangerous.

Diagnosed with complex partial epilepsy at just 5 months old, Ellie Mae and her parents, Maeghan and Stephen Long, embarked on a daunting path filled with medication trials, countless doctor's visits and an array of medical tests, all in search of a solution that seemed elusive.

Numerous medications became the cadence of Ellie Mae's life, at one point becoming as many as three a day.

Despite their efforts, Ellie Mae's condition intensified, escalating from five to seven seizures daily to an overwhelming 52 in a single day.

Countless EEGs, PET scans, MRIs and other acronyms became their family compass, though they always seemed to lead them to a new dead end.

Ellie Mae's condition remained a mystery, one that would later be revealed within the folds of her young brain.

Desperation would lead them to what can only be considered as no mere coincidence, to the very doorstep of Stephen Long's cousin, Noah Hutson.

Hutson is an epilepsy research scientist based out of Phoenix, Arizona, with an extensive background in epilepsy treatment and research. Hutson would be the guiding factor in leading them to the place of Ellie Mae's miracle, the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

In May 2021, Ellie Mae and her family made the long trip to the Cleveland Clinic. More tests that had been so routine in Ellie Mae's life commenced in a search for as much information as they could pack in the week Ellie Mae was scheduled to be there.

Eventually, the conclusion was the same as the doctors had determined before. For them to take the next step of giving Ellie Mae the quality of life that they desperately sought, Ellie Mae would need to undergo a procedure that was extremely taxing on the brain and skull of a 3-year-old child.

After much prayer and a thousand what-ifs, Maeghan and Stephen Long would sign the papers slating Ellie Mae for the procedure on July 2, 2021.

The clinic proposed a daring procedure, an SEEG, or stereoelectroencephalography, that required venturing into Ellie Mae's brain to pinpoint the precise location of the seizures.

The procedure would require shaving the left side of Ellie Mae's head and drilling 20 holes in her skull to allow access for them to place the electrodes from the EEG onto the surface of her brain.

It would then become a waiting game, patiently waiting for a seizure to take place for the doctors to track it back to the source.

Before the SEEG could take place, Ellie Mae underwent an extensive MRI, one that took two hours to complete to ensure the doctors had planned the right routes for the electrodes to not hurt her during surgery.

In an emotional whirlwind, a discovery on the eve of her scheduled surgery turned their despair into hope.

"This is the day I'll never forget. Ellie and I were playing downstairs and I heard running footsteps.

"Stephen was running toward me with tears in his eyes on the phone with Noah. He just started screaming at me that they found the lesion! We were in complete shock.

"A tech looking over Ellie's MRI found something he followed on a hunch and it ended up being what they thought was the lesion hidden behind a fold in her brain," Maeghan Long shared, reflecting on the emotional moment that forever changed their lives.

Less than 24 hours before Ellie Mae would undergo the original surgery, a 26-year-old technician would find the lesion causing her seizures, where it had escaped doctors before.

"In less than 24 hours before that same surgery, Maeghan and Stephen Long would sign consent for a left frontal lobe craniotomy in hopes that the doctors could remove the spot found by that technician.

On the day of Ellie Mae's surgery, she awoke with a cough that threatened to complicate the surgery. Doctors gave the Longs a choice: move forward with the chance of a more difficult recovery or postpone and potentially miss this window of hope.

In a moment heavy with uncertainty, Stephen Long's decisive "Let's do it now" echoed the depth of their courage.

As Ellie Mae was wheeled away, the Longs spent an incalculable amount of time crying together, before they left to wait some more.

Five hours later, a call over the intercom shattered the tense atmosphere — the surgery was a success.

The lesion, once a mystery settling on her brain, was revealed as a tangible gray and rubbery mass, distinct from the healthy brain tissue surrounding it.

All of the pain, tears and long-winded what-ifs would end with the most hopeful set of words that every parent in this situation dreams of, "I think we were right. I think we got it all."

Within 48 hours, the Longs, with Miss Ellie Mae in tow, were headed home.

Today, Ellie Mae celebrates July 2 as a second birthday, the day that granted her a seizure-free life. In year one of that anniversary, Maeghan and Stephen Long took her to Disney, a place where she could be a princess among the many that she looked to as heroes in her life and journey.

"July 2 is a day that forever changed our lives, and we will be eternally grateful that God saw fit to put Noah, Cleveland, Redeeming Grace Church and so many others in our life," Maeghan Long said.

"My mom and nanny, who have both now passed, were Ellie's biggest fans.

"They prayed for her harder than anyone and loved her like no one else could.

"I'm so thankful they both saw her be seizure free and that my mom got to see her be medication free for a week before she passed. It's all they ever wanted."

The journey through epilepsy has empowered the Longs to reach out to others facing similar battles, sharing their story of hope and resilience.

Ellie Mae's experience underscores the unique nature of epilepsy and the ongoing struggles many families face.

In sharing their story, the Longs advocate for awareness and support for those affected by epilepsy, celebrating the victories while acknowledging the ongoing fight against this complex condition.

On March 26 of each year, Purple Day serves as a day of awareness for epilepsy and the many testimonies and struggles seen within that community.

The Longs challenge everyone in the community to wear their purple on that special day, to advocate for those in the midst of this hard journey.

Ellie Mae Long's testimony is a powerful reminder of the possibilities that lie in deep-rooted faith, medical innovation and community support.

It's a testament to the power of prayer, especially for those that come from grandparents with a desperate wish to see their grandchild seizure free.

Ellie Mae's story is a beacon of hope, demonstrating that even in the darkest of times, there is always a light to be found.