First egg hunt to hop into town this Saturday



Egg hunt season begins this Saturday with a Kids of the Community event on Cadillac Lane. Pictured is Chloe Ressel during Junior Auxiliary's egg hunt last year.

BY JAMES CLARK Editor for the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

Round up your basket and get ready to hunt. Easter egg season has arrived.

The 17th annual David Stalcup Egg Hunt kicks off the season with an event scheduled this Saturday, March 24, at Kids of the Community building at 681 Cadillac Lane. This hunt is only open to children in the Kids of the Community program or who live at McMinnville Housing Authority.

Other egg hunts are open to the public with at least four taking place the following Saturday, March 31.

The Standard has been made aware of the following egg hunts on March 31:

The city McMinnville is holding an evening egg hunt at the Jungle Jym. Ages 3 years and under will begin at 6 p.m., ages 4 to

6 will begin at 6:30 p.m., ages 7 to 10 will begin at 7 p.m., and ages 11 to 14 will begin at 7:30 p.m. It's suggested to bring a flashlight for the later hunts because it will be getting dark. Cost is \$2 in advance or \$3 right before the hunt.

• Junior Auxiliary is holding a Hopping into Health egg hunt beginning at 10 a.m. at Three Star Mall. The event is free and is a change from the longtime location of Hickory Elementary. Pictures with the Easter Bunny will be available.

• Bethel Hill Baptist Church in Centertown is holding a community egg hunt beginning at noon. The hunt is open to children 2-11 with age categories within that range. Evervone is welcome.

• Midway CIC's annual egg hunt starts at 10:30 a.m. Please bring dessert, chips or drink. Hotdogs will be provided. Be sure to bring a basket. No eggs required.

Teenage love leads to tragic shooting

GREAT MILLS, MD. **(AP)** — Tuesday's school shooting in southern Maryland that left the shooter dead and two students wounded increasingly appears to be the action of a lovesick teen.

Authorities Wednesday released additional details into the shooting at Great Mills High School in St. Mary's County.

Austin Rollins, 17, was killed after shooting a schoolmate, 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey. A school resource officer got there within a minute and fired a shot at Willey, but it's not yet clear whether Rollins was killed by the officer's bullet or took his own life.

A 14-year-old boy who was shot in the thigh during the encounter was released Wednesday from a hospital.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office said Wednesday that Rollins and the girl had been in a relationship that recently

The Glock handgun used in the shooting was legally owned by Rollins' father.

"All indications suggest the shooting was not a random act of violence," police said in a statement.

St. Mary's County Sheriff Tim Cameron said earlier a precise determination of Rollins' motive may be impossible now that he is dead.

Iaelvnn The girl, Willey, was still fighting for her life at the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center. A fundraising page to help Willey's family has raised more than \$54,000.

Hospital spokesman Michael Schwartzberg said in an email Wednesday night that she remained in critical condition.

Many local residents praised the school resource officer who responded, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill.

"He did a very, very good job," said Sharon Eglinton, manager of a cafe in nearby Leonardtown.

Eglinton, herself a Great Mills alumna, noted Rollins, was by all accounts a good student who had not shown any warning signs. She said she thinks the best way

to prevent future school shootings is to install metal detectors schools.

"I have no problem paying for it," she said. "If you can protect people getting on a plane with metal detectors, you can protect people in schools."

While investigators are still determining whether Rollins took his own life or was killed by the officer's bullet, Cameron credited Gaskill with preventing any more loss of life.

Cameron said Gaskill, a six-year veteran with SWAT team training, responded within a minute and fired his weapon simultaneously with a final shot fired by Rollins. officer The unharmed.

Prosecutors complicate opioid lawsuits, says AG

NASHVILLE (AP) — The Tennessee attorney general says lawsuits by local prosecutors over the opioid epidemic are complicating his efforts to reach a multi-state settlement with drug companies.

In response, the prosecutors, who represent about half of Tennessee's counties, say local communities lose out when lawsuits like theirs are rolled into one settlement.

In a letter last week, Attorney General Herbert Slatery told 14 Tennessee district attorneys general that their lawsuits impede his ability to prosecute, as his office leads a 40-state coalition investigating opioid manufacturers and distribu-

Slatery filed motions to

intervene in the three Tennessee lawsuits, claiming legal issues with the cases, the role of local prosecutors and their use of outside attorneys.

In a response letter Thursday, the district attorneys general wrote Slatery is attempting to undermine their litigation.

They noted that a 2007 settlement of 26 states and Washington, D.C., against Purdue Pharma yielded \$19.5 million, with Tennessee getting pennies on the dollar. Tennessee received \$400,000 for attorneys' fees for the district attorney's office, \$175,750 for the state general fund, and \$143,750 for consumer education projects to fund further investigations or litigation at the attorney general's discretion.

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Standard publisher Pat Zechman has been in the newspaper business for 50 years, the last 26 years as publisher/general manager of the Southern Standard. Zechman wants to give back to the community and the **Standard** alike and it has led her to creating the Publisher's Pics feature. This week's selections come from 1976. Look for more Publisher's Pics on the **Southern Standard** Facebook page.





COPPER OUTFIT --- In operation and with moonshine whisky trickling from condenser at left is this 150-gallon elaborate still broken up and confiscated by Sheriff Evereff Pearsall and deputies in remote mountains Saturday night. From left behind the still are Deputies

Tommy Powell, Jack Buckner and Gary Ware and Sheriff Pearsall. From left, still components include the condenser, thumper and pot, center foreground being fired-up furnace made of steel barrels.