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State Champs!



JOHN WILD/THE VILLAGER

The Auburn High baseball team leaps into a dog pile after securing the final out to win the state championship

The Auburn High baseball team defeated Hoover last week in a thrilling game that went down to the last pitch to secure the program's fifth state title and second in four years.

After defeating the Buccaneers 9-2 in the opening game of the championship series, the Tigers dropped the second game to set up the deciding showdown. For more, go to Page A10.

Covid-19 vaccine clinic to close

Brian Woodham
Editor

East Alabama Medical Center has started winding down its Community Vaccine Clinic amid flagging demand for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Monday was the last day for new first-shot appointments to be scheduled, and EAMC plans to shutter the clinic for good on June 14 after all scheduled second doses of the Pfizer vaccine are administered. The clinic will now be open from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. The previously scheduled Saturday date for vaccinations on June 5 has been canceled.

"I personally want to thank our community for the support you have given us throughout this pandemic, and specifically for your support of the Community Vaccine Clinic," said Bruce Zartman, East Alabama Health's VP of Support Operations, in a news release. Zartman has overseen the clinic since day one. "We started giving vaccines to

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Lee County DHR looking for foster, adoptive parents

Madasyn Lee
Associate Editor

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to acknowledge and celebrate all those involved in helping children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections.

Over the last four years, the Haynes family of Beauregard has worked with the Lee County Department of Human Resources to provide foster care for more than a dozen children.

"We just felt like this is what God wanted us to do," Brandy Haynes said.

Foster parents provide temporary safe and caring homes, as well as stability and consistency for children who are in foster care. Children are placed in foster care when they are abused, neglected or cannot safely be cared for in their own home.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brandy and Jason Haynes adopted Alex and Maria in November 2019

In 2020, the Lee County Department of Human Resources provided foster care for 143 children. Of those, 18 were adopted by their foster parents.

The Haynes received their fostering license in 2017, the same year they began fostering two biological siblings, Alex and Maria.

Haynes had a feeling Alex and Maria would one day be hers as soon as she saw them.

She and her husband, Jason, adopted the duo in November 2019.

"I know it sounds corny, but I just knew," Haynes said. "We all clicked, and they felt like home."

Haynes stressed that you don't have to be "perfect" to be a foster parent.

If you're unsure about something or just need a shoulder to cry on, members of the foster parent community are always there to help.

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EAMC starting internal medicine residency program

Madasyn Lee
Associate Editor

East Alabama Medical Center has started an Internal Medicine Residency Program in hopes of attracting more doctors to the Auburn-Opelika community.

The 10 residents who are part of the

inaugural group hail from different parts of the state and country. They were selected on March 19 — National "Match Day" — and will begin orientation June 21, followed by clinical work starting July 1, according to a news release from EAMC.

Dr. Steven Presley, program director, said EAMC started the three-year program because Auburn-Opelika is one of the

fastest-growing regions in the state. Physicians are also more likely to stay and practice medicine in the area where they received their residency training.

"Our population is growing so we're in need of continuing to train and recruit more physicians," Presley said. "Our thought was that if we can go ahead and

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