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NEWSLETTER

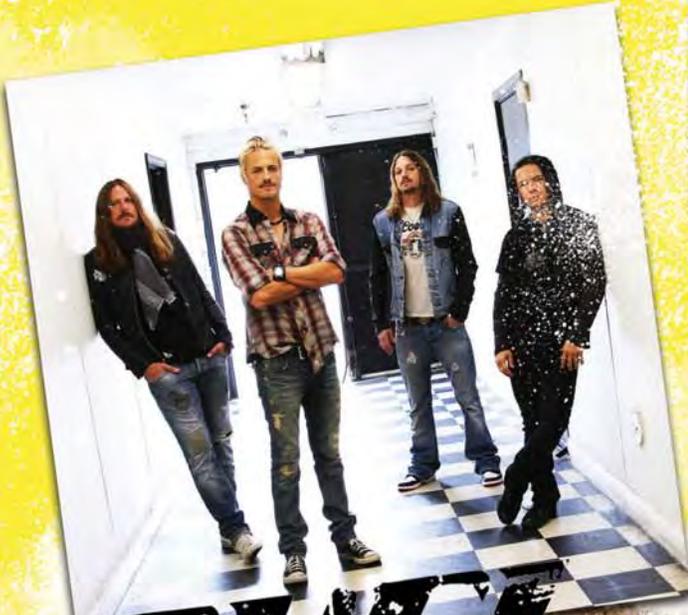
VOLUME II // NUMBER 6 // JUNE 2014

MUSIC ARTS FUN
OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
KIDS FEST CRUISE-IN
5K RUN FOOD MUSIC
MUSIC FUN

ALABASTER CITY FEST
12th annual 2014
PRESENTED BY  **REGIONS**

June 7, 2014
Alabaster Municipal Park

2 BLU & THE LUCKY STIFFS



PIEL



Rodney Atkins

Alabaster

A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



We had a great first meeting of the Shelby County Camera Club in April. Our ranks contain

people with all kinds of various equipment and interests with a real interest in good photography. It might be portraits like Arnold Newman or Josuf Karsh, nature like Ansel Adams or David Muench, Street photography like Rui Palha (if you get a chance check out his work on Flickr, he is a modern master working in Lisbon, Portugal whose work evokes Henri Cartier-Bresson). The club is dedi-

cated to having fun with photography. We'll be having a nature photography day at Oak Mountain State Park on Saturday, May 31st. We'll gather at the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center which has exhibits and a classroom; there David Frings will set up some bird feeders to attract wild birds and direct us to other spots of interest. Then we'll gather back to share the pictures we took. It'll be a lot of fun. We'll be talking about it more at our meeting on May 20th at 7pm at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit on Kent Dairy Road in Alabaster. We'll also be looking at a summer sparkler spectacu-

lar where we'll have a cookout and paint pictures with light using sparklers. If you're interested in photography or know someone who is, please tell them to stop by. Our members are all age groups and skill levels.

Thanks so much to the Alabaster Arts Council for giving us the opportunity to help them promote CityFest Sponsorships. It's a great event and something your business should be a part of. I hope June 7th will find you at Municipal Park enjoying music. June 3rd should find you at the polls voting in the primary. We've profiled the Sheriff Candidates for you in this issue.

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FUEL ON STAGE AT CITYFEST 7PM

Local fans of modern rock will be in for a treat on June 7 as the band Fuel will be performing at the Alabaster CityFest at Municipal Park. The band is scheduled to rock the main stage at 7 p.m. before headliner Rodney Atkins takes the stage at 9 p.m.

Fuel, which consists of members Brett Scallions (vocals), Brad Stewart (bass), Andy Andersson (guitar) and Shannon Boone (drums), dates back to the early '90s when its original lineup got together in Jackson, Tenn. Shortly after that, the group moved to Harrisburg, Penn., where they honed their craft playing local bars.

The band released its debut album, "Sunburn," in 1998, and most folks will recognize their hit song, "Shimmer," from that release.

The band's second album was the multi-plat-

inum selling record "Something Like Human" (2000), which featured the Top 40 hit "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)." That album made it to No. 17 on the Billboard 200, and their hit song was later performed on the TV show "American Idol" by contestant Chris Daughtry.

The band had another hit in 2003 with the single "Falls on Me" from the album "Natural Selections." Another album, "Angels & Devils," followed in 2007.

This summer, the band is promoting its latest album "Puppet Strings," which was released March 14, 2014 and topped the "Hard Rock Albums" chart on Billboard for the week of March 22.

"Puppet Strings" is the first Fuel album in ten years to be recorded with original front man Scallions. Scallions had

been away from the band for a period, participating in a number of other projects including touring with legendary musicians Ray Manzarek and Robby Krieger of the Doors.

Scallions co-wrote the songs on the new album with Andersson and Stewart, and according to Scallions it was a natural fit working with the two.

"We were simply trying to write the best songs we possibly could," he's quoted as saying on the band's website. "With Andy and Brad, I found the unity I'd always craved."



Following its performance in Alabaster, Fuel will continue its summer tour with stops in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Bay City, Mich., Indianapolis, Ind., Sioux City, Iowa, and others.

For more information, visit the band online at www.fuelrocks.com. The band is also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/fuelofficial](https://www.facebook.com/fuelofficial) and on Twitter (@fuelofficial).

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alabaster cityfest
 12th annual 2014
 PRESENTED BY REGIONS

June 7, 2014
 Alabaster Municipal Park

It's that time of year again, to enjoy a full day of fun at Alabaster's Municipal Park with family and friends from around the community. This year's 12th annual Alabaster CityFest presented by Regions is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, and it promises to be one of the best yet.

As always, there will be big-time musical acts headlining the event (modern rock act Fuel and country singer Rodney Atkins), but there's also plenty of fun to be had throughout the day as well.

For parents looking for an inexpensive way for their kids to have fun, there's no better spot than the ever-popular KidsFest area. Sponsored by Vic Smith CPA, the area features inflatables, arts and crafts, drum circles and more, and it opens first thing in the morning at 9 a.m.

Inside KidsFest, the KidsFest Stage will feature live entertainment,

including popular children's musician Jim Aycock. Aycock is a perennial favorite at KidsFest, and he'll be performing several times, on the hour, throughout the day. The KidsFest Stage will also host science and magic shows that promise some good, interactive entertainment.

For those interested in doing some shopping, CityFest always features an assortment of vendors selling their wares. This year's vendors will be selling everything from sports memorabilia and magnetic jewelry to handbags and children's books.

There will also be plenty of food vendors on hand, selling a variety of great-tasting treats, from Dippin' Dots and barbecue to funnel cakes and shaved ice.

Some of the scheduled vendors include Salon 5, Shelby Baptist Medical Center, Osborne Books, AmStar Theater, Uncle Dave's Kettle Korn, D&B Concession and the YMCA.

For fans of live music,
(CONT' ON PAGE 9)

LEGISLATIVE LINES CHANGE BY REP. APRIL WEAVER



Representative April Weaver

The Alabama Legislature recently concluded what many believe to be the most productive, successful, and reform-minded four-year term since Alabama became a state in 1819. From protecting personal liberties to reforming state government, I am proud to have served during a quadrennium that I believe historians will one day judge among the best.

One of our most important tasks was fighting job killing policies the federal government has repeatedly attempted to implement in Alabama, and by doing so, we lived up to our state motto of "We Dare Defend Our Rights." In spite of the federal government's desire to ignore the Second Amendment and levy limits on firearms, weapons, and ammunition, the Legislature was able to pass some of the strongest gun rights protections in the nation, which will ensure that honest, law-abiding Alabamians may continue to enjoy our long-standing pro-gun traditions.

The commonsense, conservative economic policies we adopted have begun to turn Alabama's economy in the right direction, and we have provided Gov. Robert Bentley and his

team with the targeted tax incentives and other tools that they need to recruit new jobs and opportunities to the state. Our emphasis on preparing the workforce to fill long-lasting, high-paying 21st Century jobs is expected to attract an entirely new employment sector and will keep us several steps ahead of our sister southeastern states in economic development.

We have worked hard to put our state's fiscal house in order. By basing our education budgets on a 15-year rolling average rather than unreliable, finger-in-the-wind revenue predictions, we were able to pass a string of consecutive proration-free spending plans that made classroom needs the highest priority.

We even took steps to reduce taxes by providing the Department of Revenue with the authority to suspend levies that cost more to collect than they bring in, and changes we made to the way state sales taxes are collect will bring a measure of relief to small business owners across the state. Business-minded efficiencies and consolidations that we have implemented are also expected to save taxpayers approximately \$1 billion over the next several years and shrink the size of state government faster than 47 other states.

In order to protect taxpayer dollars from abuse by those we are trying to help, lawmakers approved a wide-ranging series of welfare reform measures that will require applicants to apply for at least three jobs before receiving benefits. It will also require drug-testing for some welfare recipients and prohibits welfare dollars from

being spent on alcohol or tobacco or used in places like strip clubs and gambling facilities.

Our ethics laws, considered among the weakest in the nation four years ago, literally went from "worst to first" as we enacted some of the toughest ethics and anti-corruption requirements in the United States. The State Ethics Commission, Alabama's watchdog agency against corruption, saw its budget increase, and we passed laws awarding subpoena power to its investigators. Dramatic restrictions on lobbyist influence were put in place, and a new law will prohibit public officials from resigning their offices and immediately beginning to lobby. Because of these reforms and other monumental

changes made in the way state government conducts business, I am convinced that our children, our grandchildren, and their children after them will one day look back at these four years and say, "That was the point that Alabama turned a corner. That was the point where conservative beliefs and Alabama values began making a real and positive difference in our lives."

And with even more left to accomplish, we are not done yet. I am optimistic about the next four years. In 2015, the legislature will have many new faces and I am ready to roll up my sleeves and continue the work for the people of District 49! Thank you for allowing me to represent you.

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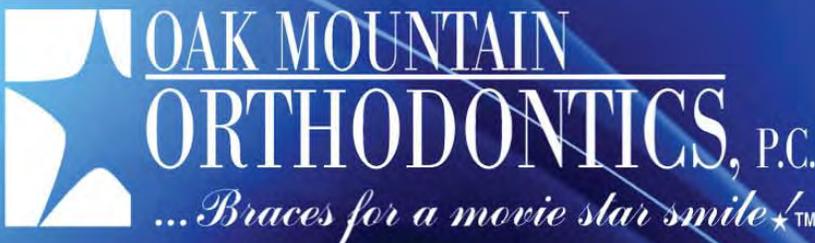


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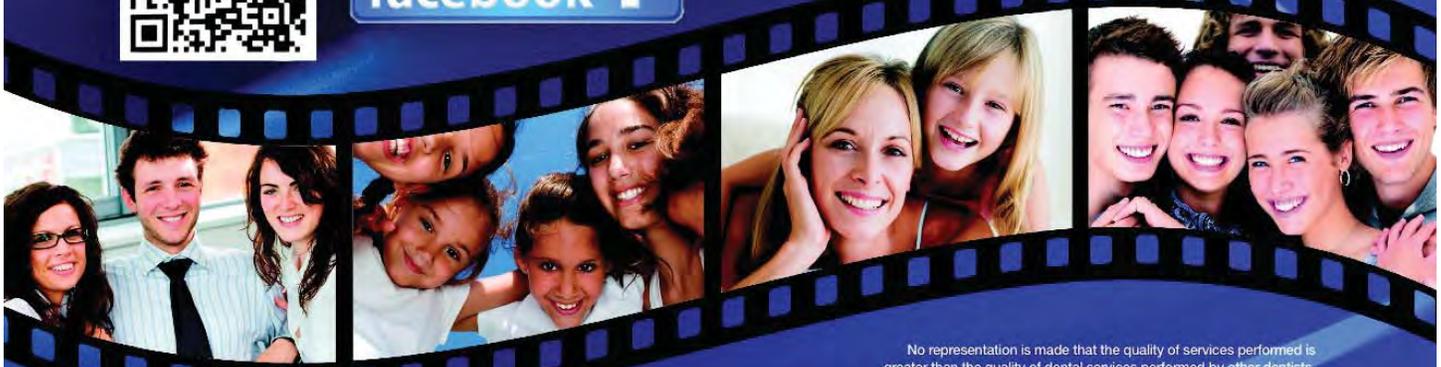
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END OF SESSION RECAP: THE GOOD & NOT-SO-GOOD



Senator Cam Ward

The 2014 Session of the Alabama Legislature is now over and what started off as an uneventful session ended as anything but. Every year, not just election years, it is the expressed intent of the leadership in both houses of the Alabama Legislature to "do the people's work and go home." And many times, not just election years, we get bogged down in procedural machinations and yes, instances of principled disagreements slow-

ing the process down.

At the beginning of this session, I laid out my priorities as follows: Passing a revision of The Alabama Open Meetings Act, passing Judicial Re-Allocation and passing meaningful energy legislation that would help Alabama's energy providers and job creators stay open for business.

Of the 30 legislative items I sponsored, most were considered government reform measures. This included bills that freed companies and the State Department of Labor from filing outmoded and unneeded paperwork, reduced the level of EPA regulation of stormwater drainage, protected Alabama citizens from financial fraud, and even set up a "blue ribbon panel" of law enforcement and victim's advocates on tackling our prison overcrowding problem.

And on the last day of the session, just before we adjourned Sine Die, we were able to pass a Judicial Recusal bill that I sponsored that streamlines the rules for when judges have to step down from overhearing a case. It protects our legal system's integrity and prevents companies or attorneys from even the perception of purchasing.

As in most years, not every legislative priority I had was a success. We were stymied in our attempts to pass a 2% pay raise for teachers and we were unable to pass a pro-business bill to stop lawsuit lending from which is practice of charging extremely high interest rates on money loaned to accident victims, which in turn prevents the victim from recovering the full value of their judgment and creates a domino effect of higher costs for our courts and legal fees. In the end,

despite months of negotiations, we even came up seconds short of passing my Open Meetings Act bill that would have brought more transparency to all levels of government.

I will have the chance to fight for these bills and more another day, and would like to thank you again for the honor of serving you in the Alabama State Senate. I had a successful session and am optimistic about the next four years. I am truly grateful to my family, the wonderful people in my district, and the support staff in the legislature who helped make my service possible.

In 2015, the legislature will have many new fresh faces, ready to bring their agendas and do the work of the people of Alabama. I look forward to working with those new members as well as those who return. It is always a rewarding and challenging experience.

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CITYFEST 5K RUN JUNE 7

Local runners can get their CityFest Saturday off to a good start this year with a 5K race that will take participants through some of Alabaster's loveliest neighborhoods.

The second-annual Alabaster CityFest 5K will be held on Saturday, June 7, starting at 8 a.m. The race route will begin near Larry Simmons Stadium in Alabaster and wind through the neighborhoods off Thompson Road before returning to the football field for the finish.

Early packet pickup is scheduled for Friday, June 6 at the Thompson Intermediate School gym. Those who pre-register are guaranteed to receive a T-shirt. Late registration will be held from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. on the morning of the race at the Thompson High School baseball field.

Awards will be given according to different age groups: Masters, Grand Masters, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and over 70.

Advance registration is available online at Active.com. To register, simply search "Alabaster CityFest 5K" and click on the "Register Now" button.

Early registration cost is \$25 for adults (18 years and older), \$15 for high school or middle school students (ages 12 to 17) and \$10 for children (ages 11 and under).

The event is open to all ages. Race results will be posted online at TrakShak.com and other sites. For more information, go to www.alabastercityfest.com.

CITYFEST IS ALL DAY FUN

(CONT FROM PAGE 5)

CityFest will be serving up a full-day's worth of great listening, starting at 9 a.m. with Divine Destiny on the Day Stage. Local gospel singer Sanchez Tanniehill will perform at 10 a.m., followed by Elvis impersonator Terry Padgett, who puts on a fun, family-friendly show.

At 1 p.m. on the Day Stage, Keith Beard (solo acoustic) is scheduled to perform, followed by local couple Jamie and Charissa Cole (acoustic pop).

The Main Stage gets cranked up at 2:30 p.m. with Sweet Tea, followed by Take 7 (jazz), Embers in Ashes (Christian), Atticus Avenue (Southern rock) and 2BLU and the Lucky Stiffs (blues). Then at 7 p.m., headliner Fuel takes the stage, leading up to



Rodney Atkins at 9 p.m.

Alabaster CityFest, which is produced by the Alabaster Arts Council, continues to provide a fun and safe atmosphere for families to enjoy. And best of all, thanks to the event's many sponsors, it continues to be free. For more information, go to www.alabastercityfest.com.



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Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE

Charter Funeral Home & Crematory

Charter Funeral Home and Crematory on Highway 31 has been serving families in Shelby County since 1997. Conveniently located just south of Alabaster, Charter Funeral Home offers traditional funeral services as well as cremation.

"We opened this facility May 14, 1997," said co-owner Bill Grant. "We started a cremation business in an office in Vestavia. We started doing business April 22, 1995, and then we started looking for a place to build a crematory and a funeral home."

According to Grant, they decided on their current Saginaw-based location based on its pleasant, rural setting, as well as the demographics of Shelby County. At the time, they felt that the area was underserved for funeral homes.

The business also had



Casket Samples



The Charter Funeral Home group is ready to help with final planning. Standing: Larry Gilliland, Joey Dupriest, owner Bill Grant, seated are Lauriann Loveless & owner Norma Grant. Not pictured are Ed Burdet and Scott Grant.

the distinction of having an on-site crematory. To this day, it remains the only on-site crematory in Shelby County.

"When we started, we put in a crematory. The cremation business was about a six-county draw. There were two crematories in Jefferson County at the time, and none in Shelby County," said Grant. "That sustained us till we developed a reputation in the funeral business."

Charter Funeral Home is situated on a pastoral piece of land just south of Limestone Park. The facility features a quaint chapel that can seat up to 140 people, as

well as two parlors. It also includes a showroom, housing a wide variety of sample caskets and urns, and an embalming room.

In terms of funeral services, Charter Funeral Home can provide a visitation service, a memorial or tribute service and a traditional graveside service. It also offers essential, basic services like embalming, dressing and casketing, and transfer of remains to the funeral home.

For veterans, they also offer an affordable funeral service with burial at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

"The services we offer for that cost much less because the National Cemetery is going to provide the gravesite, the marker, the opening and closing, and the outer burial container," said Grant. "So basically you're able to save veterans a lot of money. The cemetery is the best-maintained in the state."

Co-owner Larry Gilliland, licensed embalmer and funeral director, echoed Grant's views on the cemetery, calling it "a beautiful place."

According to Grant, the honors provided are commensurate with the veteran's time in service.

"Usually you get at least two people and a bugle. Most of the time three show up," said Grant. "If you're Congressional Medal of Honor or certain officer rank, you get the full 21-man contingent."

For more information on funeral services or cremation, visit Charter Funeral Home and Crematory online at Charterfuneral.com.



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15TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY A HIT

On Saturday, April 12, residents came out in droves to enjoy the city's 15th annual family block party. The family-friendly event was held at the Shelby Instructional Services Building off Highway 31.

"It was absolutely wonderful," said organizer Cindy Hawkins. "We had about 350 people come out."

Hawkins, who is also the director of Kids First Awareness Community Learning Center in Alabaster, originally created the event to give kids in the community something fun to do.

"In 1999, with some caring friends, we got together and we started doing this annual event that we're

doing now, to give the kids something positive to do once a year, and we would invite city leaders, teachers and pastors to come out," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said she was inspired to do something for the kids in the community since there weren't many events at the time aimed at children.

"There were other people doing things, but it wasn't really targeting the kids. It was mostly targeting the adults. So we decided to do something for the kids. That's why we made it a family block party," she said.

Hawkins' involvement with the block party eventually led to her participation in Kids First, which is a community center for

children located off Simmsville Road. Kids First has become an important part of the community, helping at-risk kids develop through after-school and summer programs.

This year's block party featured a variety of fun activities, including basketball in the gym, live music, a game truck and a teaching vehicle called the Choice Bus.

"The Choice Bus is a half school bus, half jailhouse, and it says to make good choices," said Hawkins.

There were also a number of dignitaries in attendance for the event, including Alabaster City Schools Superintendent Dr. Wayne Vickers and Alabama State

Board of Education member Stephanie Bell. City of Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon was also in attendance.

"It was so much fun," said Hawkins. "It was just a great day for the community to come together."

The event started at 10 a.m. and finished about 2:30 p.m. Hawkins said she looks forward to hosting the event for many more years.

"Anytime you can bring people together and have something that's safe and fun and everybody can participate, that's the main thing," said Hawkins. "It was just a fun, family-day event."

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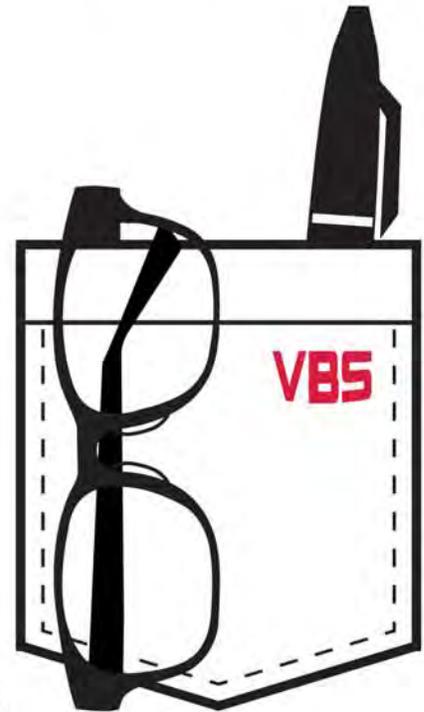


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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Every Wednesday 10:15 am Outreach Stories at area daycares
 3:30 pm Tunes & Tales for all ages in the meeting room

1st Thursday 1:00 pm Friends of Library Bookmenders
Every Friday 10:30 am Toddler Tales (2s, 3s) 10:30 in the meeting room. Children must be with an adult.

LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

Book-in-a-Jar Contest - June 2nd - July 16th, 2014. Guess the titles of the shredded classic books in the jars. Stop by the Reference desk and the Adult Services desk to submit your entries. Drawings will be held on July 16th and prize winners will be notified July 17th.

Masterpiece Book Club - Friday, June 6, 2014, 2 pm. Join this new daytime book club as we explore the classics of literature with Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express. Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of his fellow passengers must be the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer before the murderer decides to strike again. Program takes place in the meeting room. For more information about this new book club, call 205-664-6822.

Library Book Group - Thursday, June 19, 2014, 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of "The Casual Vacancy" by J.K. Rowling. What lies behind the facade of Pagford is a town at war. The empty seat on the town's council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has yet seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity, and unexpected revelations? Program takes place in the meeting room. For more information call 205-664-6822.

Job Search Workshops will resume in August on Wednesday mornings at 11:30 am.

Adult Computer Classes will resume in August on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am.

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CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE KICKS OFF!



Kids Can Fizz Boom Read and Spark a Reaction this Summer! A summer of exploring and reading is in store for Alabaster's children of all ages at the Albert L. Scott Public Library where they can become reading champions. The overall theme is science encompassing animals, aviation, chemistry, and more! The children's slogan is Fizz Boom Read. Their kick off is on Monday, June 2. The day will feature two shows by comic magician Russell Davis: one at 10:30 a.m. and another at 3:30 p.m. Adults can register children, newborn to 10 years old, for the challenge before or after either show. They'll receive a large goody bag as well as a summer activity calendar, a small gift, and more. Children can be registered any day between June 2 and July 11. Kids pick a reading goal, check out and read our library books, and get prizes along the way to their goal. When they reach their goal, ending their challenge, they receive a certificate and can enter prize drawings. Children can read books themselves, listen to them read by someone else, or use one of our talking books.



Spark a Reaction is the slogan for Young Adults (YAs), kids 11 years old to 18 years old. They will have their own kick off party on Tuesday, June 3 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They can register, get a swag bag, their program details, enjoy refreshments, socialize, and more.

During the Challenge there will be entertainers, puppet shows, live animals, a science book club, crafts, drama and other workshops, and other activities. Youth services librarian Frances Smith says that everything is free: 'F' is for fun, 'R' is for rewarding, and the double 'E' stands for entertaining and educational. The Summer Challenge ends with Fizz Boom Finale on Wednesday, July 16. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. There will be a show Science: Magic in Your Own Backyard Show at 10:15 a.m. with Tommy Johns and surprises.

The goal of the Summer Challenge is to encourage children to read for pleasure when they are not in school. Parents and other caregivers are invited to participate and help pre-literate children enjoy books and develop a love of reading. The 2014 Summer Reading Program is supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Alabama Public Library Service. We would like to thank our sponsors, to date: AmStar 14-Alabaster, Arby's, Bike Link, Birmingham Barons Baseball, Chick-fil-A, DeSoto Caverns Park, Dairy Queen, Friends of the Albert L. Scott Public Library, Oak Mountain Lanes, Parent Teacher Store (Hoover), Red Mountain Park, the UPS Store (Pelham), and Whataburger.

Highlights of June's Activities are below. Details at www.cityofalabaster.com and on the program calendar given out at registration. Programs are in the meeting room unless otherwise indicated on the calendar, website, and/or signs.

- June 2 Summer Challenge Kids' Fizz Boom Magic Kickoff 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- June 3 YA Only: Summer Challenge Spark a Reaction Kickoff Party 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Ages 11 years old and older
- June 5 Glad Scientist Club 10:30 a.m. Kids 7 years old and older can sign up
- June 5 YA Only: Spark a Creative Reaction 4:00 p.m. Ages 11 years old and older can sign up
- June 9 Animal Sounds with Creatures from the 4-H Club 10:30 a.m.
- June 9 Glad Scientist Club 4:00 p.m. Kids 7 years old and older can sign up
- June 10 Lego League 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- June 10 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 11 years old sign up for six weeks
- June 10 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. Ages 12 to 15 years old sign up for six weeks
- June 12 Southern Museum of Flight visits 10:30 a.m.
- June 12 YA Only: Iron Giant Percussion Concert and DIY Workshop 4:00 p.m. Ages 11 years old and older can sign up
- June 16 Be-at Your Best Drums 10:30 a.m.
- June 16 Miss Kit's Bubble School 4:00 p.m.
- June 17 Lego League 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- June 17 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 11 years old can sign up for six weeks
- June 17 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. Ages 12 to 15 years old can sign up for six weeks
- June 19 Maynard, Magic & Music 10:30 a.m.
- June 19 YA Only: Minute to Win It Challenge Ages 11 years old and older
- June 23 Walk About Puppets 10:30 a.m.
- June 23 Miss Frizzle and the Curious Chemistry Caper 2:00 p.m. for pre-K to grade 2 kids
- June 24 Lego League 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- June 24 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 11 years old sign up for six weeks
- June 24 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. Ages 12 to 15 years old sign up for six weeks
- June 26 Glad Scientist Club 10:30 a.m. Kids 7 years old and older can sign up
- June 26 YA Only: Be Smart, Food Art Workshop: Bento Basics 4:00 p.m. Ages 11 years old and older can sign up
- June 30 Princess Ballerina Robot Tea Party 4:00 p.m. 5 years old and older can sign up required.



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PEAVINE FALLS BY TED VODDE



PEAVINE FALLS

If you don't have time to run up to the Gadsden/Ft. Payne area and are able to hike, we do have a nice waterfall in our backyard at Oak Mountain State Park.

Follow the signs to the Peavine Falls parking lot but be prepared, you have to hike down into a grotto to view the falls and climbing on the rocks around the top of the falls is dangerous and not recommended. Wear good shoes.

That said, when there has been rain and the water levels are up, it is a beautiful falls. Peavine Branch flows from it and also offers opportunities for reflection and photography.

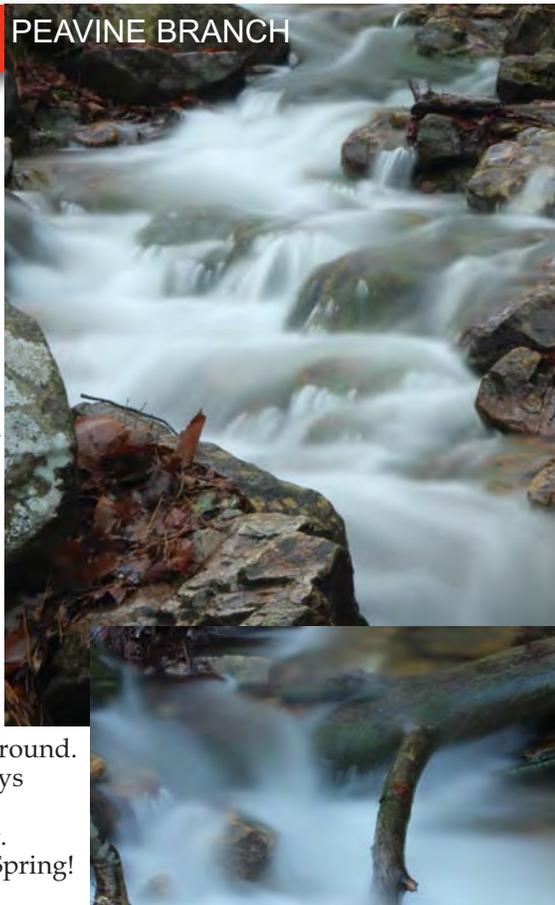
I have met a number of folks that have come to visit the Falls, some from out

of state.

One thing I always try to do as a kindness to travelers is to offer to take a group picture using their camera otherwise someone is left out of the photo.

"Selfies" are fine but with the closeup, you don't get the Falls in the background. People always seem to appreciate it. Let's enjoy Spring!

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RODNEY ATKINS HEADLINES CITYFEST

The Alabaster Arts Council has announced that Country Star Rodney Atkins will be the headliner at this year's CityFest to be held Saturday, June 7th at Municipal Park in Alabaster.

Rodney Atkins is as authentic as they come. Whether he's taking in a baseball game with son Elijah or entertaining thousands of fans with one of his many mega-hits, Atkins expresses a refreshing simplicity and sincerity that reflects the values he holds so dear: Putting family first, making the most of what you have, and staying true to yourself in a rapidly-changing world.

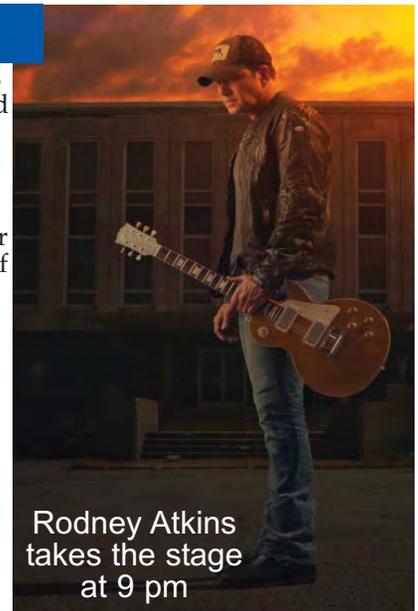
With his new single "Doin' It Right," which impacted radio stations nationwide in October, Rodney Atkins celebrates life's unexpected turns and uncertainties as the true

stepping stones of success. The song is the first release from Atkins' fifth studio album on Curb Records, due in stores early next year. His most recent album, Take A Back Road (produced by Ted Hewitt), yielded Atkins' sixth career No. 1 hit and fastest-rising single to date with the title track. "Take A Back Road," written by Luke Laird and Rhett Akins, was also named Song of the Year at the 2012 BMI Awards and marked Rodney's third Song of the Year win -- "Watching You" (2007 / Brian White) and "If You're Going Through Hell" (2006 / Sam and Annie Tate) also earned the title.

When he's not in the studio working on new music, Rodney is working hard out on the road, connecting with loyal fans in cities across the country. He joined multi-platinum artist Darius Rucker for the

True Believers Tour this past summer and hosted the Third Annual "Music City Gives Back" concert in downtown Nashville on June 4, 2013, raising funds for Oklahoma tornado relief following the devastating storms that affected Moore, Shawnee and other Oklahoma communities. Atkins was joined by friends and fellow performers Jana Kramer, Justin Moore and Josh Thompson for the event.

In addition to the benefit concert, Rodney also hosted the inaugural "Rodney Atkins' America's Heroes Celebration" on Jekyll Island, GA the weekend of August 16 - 18. The military appreciation weekend included a beach party, festival games, family activities and live music capped off with Rodney's show on



Rodney Atkins takes the stage at 9 pm

Sunday night, dedicated to active duty and veterans of all military branches.

Atkins is an avid supporter of America's troops, having also completed his first-ever USO Tour through some of the most remote bases in Kuwait and Afghanistan in early 2012.



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FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

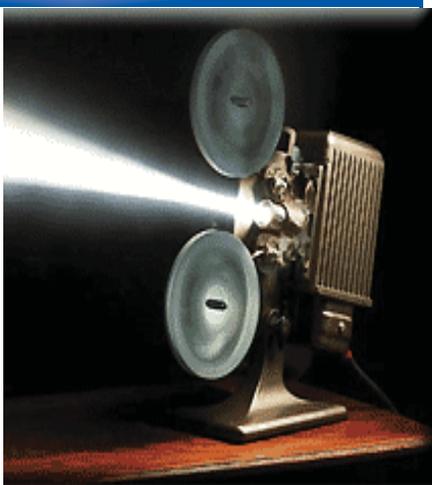
FOOTBALL REGISTRATION (this is a Full Contact sport!) Registration will end on Friday, June 6, at 5:00 pm. Registration is available on-line or in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only.

CHEER REGISTRATION

Registration will end on Friday, June 6, at 5:00 pm. Registration is available on-line or in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

FREE movies at Veterans Park located at 7305 Hwy. 119 in Alabaster. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying the outdoors while watching an entertaining movie. The movies will begin showing around dusk (usually 8:00 pm). Bring a blanket or some chairs, snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic), and some bug repellent.



Movie schedule:

- June 20: Disney's "Frozen" (108 minutes) - rated PG
- July 11: Disney's "Monsters University" (104 minutes) - rated G
- July 25: "The Lego Movie" (101 minutes) - rated PG
- August 8: "Despicable Me 2" (98 minutes) - rated PG
- August 15: "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2" (95 minutes) - rated PG

FLAG FOOTBALL SIGNUP

Registration will end on Friday, June 6, at 5:00 pm. Registration is available on-line or in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only.

CELEBRATE AMERICA

Celebrate America is a free fun event for the entire family at Veterans Park on Saturday, June 28. There will be food vendors, live music, inflatables, fireworks, etc.



PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Several of our City Parks offer outdoor covered pavilions for rental use. The best way to make sure your event happens at the location of your choice is to contact Parks & Recreation before our books are filled with reservations. Pavilions are available for use by permit only. There is a \$40 rental fee and an additional refundable \$40 deposit which must be paid before your reservation is complete. Uncovered picnic tables are free to all on a first come, first served basis.



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CLASSIC CAR CRUISE IN AT CITYFEST JUNE 7TH



CityFest organizers are once again providing car enthusiasts with a great opportunity to see some cool cars this year, as they present the 12th annual Alabaster CityFest Cruise-In Car Show.

Sponsored by Ernest McCarty Ford of Alabaster, the car show will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 7. The cars will be parked at the top of the hill beside Thompson Middle School,

where guests can check out some truly unique vehicles.

In past years, the show has featured a wide variety of interesting styles, ranging from antique pickups to classic sports cars. And many of the vehicles have been highly customized, including beautiful paint jobs and updated interiors.



Terry Padgett as Elvis will return!

For anyone interested in participating in the Cruise-In, there's no cost to enter, but onsite registration is required. To make regis-



tration easier, registration forms are available on the CityFest website (www.alabastercityfest.com). Participants can print the forms beforehand and bring them with them on the morning of the event.

The first 25 registrants will

receive an official CityFest T-shirt, and door prizes will be given out throughout the event.

The event also features the fun and interactive "People's Choice Awards," which allow visitors to vote on their favorite vehicles. Starting at 11 a.m., Elvis impersonator Terry Padgett will be rocking and rolling nearby on the Day Stage.



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COMEDY JUNE 13 - 21



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South City Theatre presents "The Dixie Swim Club". Evening Times: Jun 13, 8:00 pm to Jun 14, 8:00pm, Jun 19, 8:00 pm to Jun 21, 8:00 pm
Matinee Times: Jun 15, 2:00 pm

Ever wonder what goes on during a "Girls' Night Out"? Or even better a "Girls Weekend Out?" Make it a Southern girlfriends' weekend away from the stresses of family and jobs and you have a recipe for hilarity! The Dixie Swim Club, by "Golden Girls" writers Jesse Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten, follows five best friends' reunions over a span of 33 years.

These hilarious ladies spill their guts, laugh at one another's exploits, and nurture each other through life's troubles and joys. South City Theatre, 3612

Highway 26, Columbiana will present six performances of this laugh-a-minute comedy June 13-21, 2014 under the direction of Sue Ellen Gerrells, SCT Artistic Director. Tickets are \$15 General Admission or \$12 for students and seniors. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make reservations, go to www.southcitytheatre.com or call the box office at (205) 621-2128.

The new South City Theatre is located on County Road 26 approximately 3.5 miles past the Camp Branch Civic center. To get there, take Highway 31 south and simply turn left at County Road 26. The theatre will be on the right.

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CITY HOSTS ACCC SOFTBALL TOURNNEY

Over the weekend of May 3, the Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Softball Tournament.

Twelve of the state's top fast-pitch softball squads converged on Veterans Park to determine the conference champion as well as the Region 22 representative for the national junior-college tournament in St. George Utah.

The twelve teams included Wallace State-Hanceville (No. 1 seed North Division), Shelton State, Calhoun, Snead State, Southern Union (No. 1 seed Central Division), Central Alabama, Wallace-Dothan, Chattahoochee Valley, Faulkner State (No. 1 seed South Division), Alabama Southern, Jefferson Davis and Bishop State.

After three days of intense competition, Central Division winner Southern Union came out on top, defeating Shelton State 3-2 in the championship game on Sunday.

Southern Union, which brought a 20-plus game winning streak into the tournament, reached the championship round by

going undefeated in the main bracket. On Saturday, they defeated the defending national champions, Wallace State-Hanceville, 7-4 in an exciting, come-from-behind victory.

Shelton State emerged from the loser's bracket by defeating Wallace State-Hanceville 9 to 1 on Sunday in a semifinal matchup. Southern Union pitcher Carlie Sargent, who pitched in the championship game, was named tournament MVP after pitching all seven innings and holding Shelton State to just two late runs.

In recent years, the ACCC has produced some of the best softball among the junior college ranks nationally. Last year's winner, Wallace State-Hanceville, went on to win the national championship (the program's second national crown since 2008). Entering this year's tournament, the Lady Bison of Southern Union were ranked No. 12 in the country.

For fans unable to attend this year's event in person, games were streamed live online via JockJive.com.

The tournament ran from Friday, May 2 through Sunday, May 4. A banquet was held for the teams on Thursday, May 1 at



Thompson Middle School.

This year's featured speaker at the banquet was Lee Anne "Beanie" Ketcham, the former softball coach at Samford University and a former pitching coach for USA Women's Baseball Team. Ketcham was also a professional baseball player for the Colorado Silver Bullets, an all-women professional

baseball team coached by legendary pitcher Phil Neikro. In 2010, she was inducted into the Alabama Dixie Softball Hall of Fame.

The 2014 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national championship tournament was scheduled for May 14-17. For more information, visit the ACCC online at www.acccathletics.com.

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CITY FIGHTING PARENTAL ALIENATION

At the Alabaster City Council meeting on Monday, April 14, Mayor Marty Handlon proclaimed April 20-26 "Parental Alienation Prevention Week" and Friday, April 25 as "Parental Alienation Prevention Day."

According to Kenneth Paschal, who heads the Birmingham chapter of the Alabama Family Rights Association (ALFRA), parental alienation is a form of child abuse that occurs when one parent tries to turn their child against the other parent.

"It's hostile, aggressive parenting tactics, where one parent will attempt to alienate the child from the other parent and extended family," Paschal said in an April 11 interview. "A lot of times it occurs in high-conflict divorce or custody situations, those asymmetric

custody arrangements."

The campaign to promote awareness of the issue is called Bubbles of Love, and each year, it calls for people to blow soap bubbles in honor of Parental Alienation Prevention Day. One local event was scheduled for noon at the Alabaster Senior Center on April 25.

"One of the reasons we're working hard to bring awareness is because 40,000 kids each year are subject to custody arrangements in Alabama. We're exposing them to alienating behavior based on the asymmetric custody arrangements, so our goal is to take those 40,000 kids and teach them a simple message, that you should be extremely loved by both parents and their extended families," Paschal said.

When he first got involved with the campaign in 2010, Paschal said there were just a handful of participants. Since then, however, it's grown considerably.

"I joined the organization back in 2009, and I asked the board members, why don't we do something with this? This is a great opportunity to try to break the cycle. So in 2010, me and two waitresses, we blew the first bubbles in Alabama to try to bring awareness. From there, we've gone from three people to thousands of people around the state," he said.

According to Paschal, last year 44 different cities in Alabama participated in the awareness event, including the City of Alabaster. He hopes to have 67 participants this

year.

"Mayor Handlon has been very supportive," Paschal said. "She signed it last year also."

On the state level, Paschal said he expects the governor to participate as well.

"I'll be down in Montgomery on Wednesday speaking with the governor, and he's going to sign a statewide proclamation again," he said.

For more information about Parental Alienation Prevention Day, go to Facebook.com and search "Bubbles of Love Day - Alabama."

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ARCA READIES FOR CITYFEST FLIGHTS

Members of the Alabaster Radio Control Association will be at the 12th annual Alabaster CityFest on Saturday, June 7, displaying planes and interacting with the crowds.

"We'll be set up on the football field there by the middle school," said club member Leslie Harrison. "This will be our ninth year to participate in CityFest."

According to Harrison, CityFest is a great opportunity for people to be introduced to the club. They will be there all throughout the day with a variety of radio-control aircraft for people to see. Last year, he said they had the largest crowd ever in terms of participation.

"We'll be doing static display there with the bigger airplanes, and then we'll be flying the small electrics," he said.

To keep everyone fresh, the plan is for club members to man the event in shifts, said Harrison.

"We'll have two shifts," said Harrison. "About 12:00 to 1:00 is our transition time, when the next group comes in."

The club has been busy this spring hosting a variety of events at its Limestone Park airstrip, including the Senior Pattern Association contest, which was held on Saturday, April 26. The club welcomed radio-control pilots in from all across the South, including those from Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Florida.

The contest was the first of the 2014 season for the Senior Pattern Association, which specializes in vintage aircraft performing aerial acrobatics. The contest director for the event was club member Dave Phillips. According to Phillips, the planes used in SPA events are actually from the '60s and '70s.

The SPA contest was originally scheduled for two days but had to be cut short due to the weather. According to Harrison, it was still a great event.

"They actually had to cancel it on Sunday due to the weather, but Saturday was a great day," he said.

For anyone interested in attending one of the ARCA club meetings, they'll be holding them at the airfield



at Limestone Park during the summer. Meeting dates are June 14, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 6. Meeting times are at 10 a.m.

Harrison said it works out well for club members who usually take the opportunity to do some flying as well.

"They're there at 7:00 flying until the meeting starts," he said. "Then the meeting ends at 11:00 and they keep flying."

To learn more, stop by the ARCA display at CityFest and check out some cool, radio-control aircraft.



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CrossFit Alabaster Raises Money for Autism Research

On Saturday, April 12, CrossFit Alabaster hosted the third-annual "WODism for Autism" event at its CrossFit gym in Alabaster. The event brought CrossFit enthusiasts from all around the region together to help raise money to fight autism.

"We had a huge turnout," said CrossFit Alabaster owner Dawn South. "We had over 200 people this year. It was an great turnout!"

South was originally inspired to create the event by her son Taylor, who has autism. The idea was to have people raise money for the cause, much like a walkathon, but instead of walking, participants would be doing a special WOD, or Workout of the Day.

The WOD, which was named in honor of Taylor, included a five-second handstand hold, five ring pushups, five shoot-throughs, 15 air squats and a five-second hollow hold. To complete the workout, participants repeated the sequence over and over for ten minutes. According to South, it was the same workout that they used for the event last year.

The event was open to all age groups, with the younger participants starting things off in the morning.

"They do a scaled version of it, so if they can't do pushups, they would do pushups on their knees," said South. "Actually more of the kids can do the handstand hold than the adults."

In the past, proceeds have gone solely to the

Autism Society of Alabama, but this year they decided to add a second recipient to the event in an organization called Kulture City.

"This year it wasn't just the Autism Society we were donating to. We were also raising money for Kulture City, which is a new organization and they're doing some pretty cool stuff with the autism community," said South.

In all, WODism for Autism was able to raise \$12,000. In fact, the event was so successful that it ended up running longer than planned.

"It was supposed to have ended at 2:00, and people kept coming" said



South. "We ended up not stopping until around 3:00."

According to South, there were also prizes given out during the event. Some of the prizes included kettle bells for the best male and female performer and a mini iPad for the person who raised the most money.

CrossFit Alabaster is located at 100 Wellington Manor Court in Alabaster. For more information, go to Crossfitalabaster.com.



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CITY HOSTS SKATEBOARD CONTEST

On Saturday, April 26, Veterans Skate Park in Alabaster played host to the eighth-annual Pat Wachter Bowl Contest.

The contest, which was first held in 2007 in Alabaster, was named for Wachter, the first professional skateboarder from Alabama. In its inaugural year, it drew a number of legends from the skateboarding world, including Christian Hosoi, Lance Mountain and Steve Steadham. The next two years, the contest was held in Madison and Florence, but in 2010, it returned to Alabaster, where it's been held ever since.

This year, the contest featured participants in five different divisions, including Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced, Women's and Veterans.

On the day of the competition, the Andy Spinosi Award was presented to

Crys Worley of the A.Skate Foundation, a volunteer organization that teaches skateboarding to kids with autism. The Spinosi Award is presented each year to a person or group that helped promote the sport of skateboarding during the previous year.

The contest was emceed by Bacon Skateboards pro Tim Johnson. Johnson, who's been skateboarding since 1986, was also the guest judge for the event in 2012.

The judges for the contest were Eric Felts, Andrew Black and guest judge Ray Fennessey, a pro with Shipyard Skates. Before the competition, Fennessey was presented with a custom deck and a painting that was used to create the poster for the contest. In the original Pat Wachter Bowl Contest in 2007, Fennessey placed third in the Masters division behind Mountain

and Steadham.

The first-place winners for this year's contest were Luke Perrucci (age 10, Beginner Division), Morgan Chandler (age 12, Intermediate Division), Marley Myhre (age 9, Ladies Division), Scott Houg (Over 50/Veterans), Mike Morrison (Under 50/Veterans) and Nick Wallace (age 15, Advanced Division).

The other participants in the Advanced Division included, in order of finish, Jake Wooten (age 13), Eli Reams (age 17), Austin Gordon (age 17), Brennan Campbell (age 15) and Drew Hoffman (age 23).

This year, contestants in the event traveled from all over the country to participate in the contest. Among the states represented were



Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio and Alabama.

The day also featured a contest for "highest air," in which riders competed to see who could get the highest clearance above the rim of the bowl. Austin Gordon of Newnan, Ga., won the Highest Air Contest.

For more information on the Pat Wachter Bowl Contest, visit the contest website at Patwachterbowl.com.



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Four Candidates Running for Shelby County Top Cop Office

There are four candidates that are running for the office of Shelby County Sheriff in the Republican primary election that will be held on June 3rd. Let's meet the candidates so that we can cast an informed vote for this important official!

John Samaniego is the



John Samaniego

current Chief Deputy Sheriff for Shelby County and has more than 37 years of service in law enforcement. After graduating from the University of Alabama with an undergraduate degree emphasizing criminal justice, the Chief Deputy joined the Tuscaloosa Police Department and spent over twenty years of his twenty-five years working in narcotics investigations. He served as the Commander of the West Alabama Narcotics Task Force until he was promoted to the Assistant Chief of Police for the Tuscaloosa Police Department in 2001. Chief Deputy Samaniego earned a law degree from the

Birmingham School of Law in order to add another dimension to increase his knowledge and support his interest in the administration portion of law enforcement. He has an impressive resume which includes graduation from the FBI National Academy in 1994, DEA Drug Unit Commander in 1996, and the U. S. Secret Service Executive Protection training program in 2008. We asked John why he wanted to be Shelby County's "top cop". He replied that "he loves law enforcement and believes that he has the experience that can continue to move the Shelby County Sheriff's Department forward in the future." He said that under Sheriff Curry, he established community oriented policing. During our interview, he stated "my hands-on experience and knowledge of administrative policies and procedures positions me to provide services to the citizens by planning and managing the growth of the department". He said the challenges in the future for our county include school safety, a growing drug problem with heroin abuse, and matching the needs of the department in the fastest growing county with the

available resources.

Larry McDow wants to put his thirty years in law enforcement to use as Shelby County Sheriff if he is elected in the June 3rd Republican primary. He began his law enforcement career in 1973 with the Birmingham Police



Larry McDow

Department in the Ensley Precinct. During his fifteen year career with Birmingham, McDow was promoted to Sergeant and moved into the investigations division and later to

the Major Felony Squad. In later years, he worked in Internal Affairs as well as serving as Field Supervisor of the North and South Precincts. He left law enforcement in 1988 to pursue a longtime dream of owning a small business only to return to duty with the City of Pelham in 1999. During his fifteen year career with the Pelham PD, Larry has held positions in uniformed patrol and investigations. Officer McDow is a graduate of Jacksonville University which is located in Jacksonville, Alabama with a degree in law enforcement. When asked what he thought was important for a newly elected sheriff to handle, he replied, "school safety

(CONT ON PAGE 27)

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Four Candidates Running for Shelby County Top Cop Office

(CONT' ON PAGE 27)

and building a relationship between the Shelby County Commission and the Sheriff's Department".

Rick Needham wants to utilize his business skills in the operation of the Shelby County Sheriff's office if he



Rick Needham

is elected in the Republican primary on June 3rd. Rick is the owner of Resource Action Network Investigation Services, a company that he began in 1992. The company investigates insurance fraud for a variety of clients. He feels that the investigative skills he has developed operating this business will be valuable to the office of sheriff. Prior to engaging in private business, Rick Needham attended classes at the University of Southern Mississippi and Auburn University. He is a 1985 graduate of the Montgomery Police Academy and served from 1985 to 1987 with the Auburn Police Department. We asked Mr. Needham about the policies he would

support if he was elected Shelby County Sheriff. He said that he wants to be a "community sheriff" that engages the citizens. He would activate a "we the people" program that allows citizen involvement. Mr. Needham went on to say that he is a big supporter of the NRA and second amendment rights. He said that school safety is a top priority for him. He stated that the sheriff's position is administrative and that his years in the private business sector would position him to fulfill the duties of the office. Other programs that he said he would support or begin include Chaplain support for officers, a women's auxiliary program, prisoner's rehabilitation program, and a cadet program for youth. During our interview, Rick stressed that he would have an open door policy and strive for transparency. One way he would accomplish this is through town hall meetings that would allow the public to interact with deputies and other personnel.

Hoover Police Captain **Kip Cole** says that if he is elected, he will work to improve school safety and fight illegal drug activity. Cole has more than 31 years of experience and currently supervises Hoover Police Departments Special

Operations and Emergency Preparedness Bureau. He began his career in 1982 as a patrol officer for the Tuscumbia Police Department and joined the Florence Police Department in 1984, moving to the Hoover Police Department in 1986. In 2005, Cole was



Kip Cole

named the department's Executive Officer and managed the professional standards unit and police chief's special projects. He served as commander of the Field Operations Bureau from 2008 until 2010, which includes more than 100 officers in the

patrol and traffic divisions. In his current role, Kip Cole coordinates police operations for city-sponsored events such as the SEC Baseball Tournament and Regions Tradition Golf Tournament now held at Ross Bridge. His bureau also oversees departmental compliance with federal homeland security regulations and manages the recruiting, background investigation and hiring of new police officers and personnel. Cole earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from Faulkner University in Montgomery. He is also holds the honor of being a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

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09/13/14	vs. Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa
09/20/14	vs. Florida	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/04/14	at Ole Miss *	Oxford, Mississippi
10/11/14	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Arkansas
10/18/14	vs. Texas A&M	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/25/14	at Tennessee *	Knoxville, Tenn.
11/08/14	at LSU	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
11/15/14	vs. Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/22/14	vs. Western Carolina	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/29/14	vs. Auburn *	Tuscaloosa, Ala. TBA

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Sept. 20	at Kansas State Manhattan, KS
Sept. 27	LOUISIANA TECH AUBURN
Oct. 4	LSU AUBURN
Oct. 11	at Mississippi State Starkville, MS
Oct. 18	** Open Date **
Oct. 25	SOUTH CAROLINA AUBURN
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DAY TRIPPING BY SARAH B. JONES: COLUMBIANA

What do you think of when someone says "Columbiana"? Homestead Exemption? Taxes? The Courthouse? There is so much more to Columbiana including a treasure trove of history.

This all started with a teapot. A Shelby County resident, Charlotte Smith-Weaver, a sixth generation granddaughter of Martha Washington, inherited a collection of Washington family heirlooms. In the early 1980's she decided to sell and brought a teapot to Columbiana for appraisal. The appraiser recognized it as authentic and contacted Columbiana banker Karl Harrison who bought the collection to establish the Karl C. Harrison Museum of George Washington.

He later purchased another collection in Paducah, Kentucky, and combined with the earlier acquisition, this created the largest collection of Washington memorabilia outside of Mount Vernon. The life size bust of George is said to be his truest likeness as it was made from a Plaster of Paris life mask.

The collection includes Martha's Prayer Book printed in 1783, letters, a 207 piece set of Minton porcelain, jewelry, tools from George's survey kit, coin silver flatware, and much more. Of particular interest is a walnut game table with rosewood and tulip inlay that belonged to Bushrod Washington, who inherited Mount Vernon.

There are numerous paintings. Perhaps the most interesting ones were painted of Martha, George, and the two children by a painter who only knew how to paint one face. Needless to say, they definitely look like close relatives!

This is just a taste of the fascinating history preserved here.

Located in the old courthouse built in 1854 the Shelby County Historical Society Archives tell the story of Shelby County and the U.S. going back to 1790. The Museum collection features historical pieces from the Indian era through World War II. The old courtyard upstairs has been restored to its

original appearance. The marble Shelby County Courthouse was completed in 1908 and is an impressive building with interesting architecture. A number of years ago the attention of the town was held by a large swarm of honey bees that decided to live in one of the upstairs windows for several years. A resident said it looked like a "big, black basket-



The Shelby County Courthouse is the largest building downtown.

ball". The persistent bees were removed several times but kept returning. Maybe they wanted their day in court.

Also in downtown is the Shelby County Arts

Council offering art education programs for children and adults in painting, drawing, pottery, creative writing, music, and more, as well as visiting gallery exhibitions.



The Shelby County Archives has a wide variety of interesting exhibits.



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The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is an inclusive, welcoming community. We do our best to follow Christ's great commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. One way in which we do this is to make room for doubters, seekers, and the faithful. Another is to offer Rice and Beans to any who stop by on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11 am. We also enjoy sharing many programs with this wonderful community.
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A special guest for Adult VBS June 23rd 6-8 pm
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JUNE SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Hyundai Plant Tour/Lunch, Wednesday, June 11- we will tour the Hyundai plant in Montgomery. You will have a chance to see how cars are assembled and tested. We will eat lunch in the community. Cost is \$1 to hold your spot; and bring \$10-\$12 for lunch. Space is limited.

Montgomery Flea Market/Lunch, Tuesday, June 24- you can shop till you drop. This Montgomery flea market has 3 levels of booths. Note: lots of walking. You will also enjoy lunch at Fried Tomato Buffet. Cost is \$1 to hold your spot; and bring \$10-\$12 for lunch. Space is limited.

NEW Creative Dance uses movement as a language to explore or express an idea. Let's explore some issues of aging as we learn the basics of creative movement. We'll learn to use the Elements of Dance to tell our stories, and explore the concept of the relationship between dance and the well-being of mind, body and spirit. No prior dance experience is necessary. We'll build our dance vocabulary as we go! This will be a six week series with each week building on the week before, beginning on July 10 and ending on August 14. Six weeks - \$10. Sign up begins June 2. Space is limited!

NEW Head to Toe Fitness Class- Mondays from 1-2pm. Build muscular strength, increase your cardiovascular endurance, and improve your balance, flexibility and range of motion as you have fun and move to the music! Do all this seated or standing.....it's

your choice! This class will incorporate the use of hand weights, resistance tubing, balls, etc. into an enjoyable exercise class that will help you manage your activities of everyday living with ease. So join us as we strengthen our body, mind and spirit, and support each other in the pursuit to make everyday a healthier day! \$2/class.

NEW- It's a TANGLED WORLD- June 20 from 12-3pm. Join Jan Rogers for basic classes in creating ZENTANGLE© inspired pen and ink drawings. There are NO MISTAKES! Give up your fears and produce interesting new designs from your practice. This art form allows you to draw and RELAX at the same time. It will be a fun one day workshop where you will draw like a pro. You will complete your own pattern for a new (insulated) coffee mug. Cost is \$15/person. Space is limited.

Zumba Gold II (Beginners) - New to Zumba Gold? This is the perfect place to get started. Low intensity, low-impact dance/fitness class with an opportunity to break-down and learn basic Latin and World rhythms. Same party flavor and fun. Wednesday 2:15pm-3pm. \$2/class.

Line dancing- join us on Thursday for the 9:30am intermediate class or the 10:30am beginner class. No experience necessary. Cost \$2/class.

Drumming Program- join us on June 3 at 10am. No experience necessary but the benefits are endless. The benefits of drumming: improve your mood, increase circulation, and

improve focus, low impact exercise and creativity. No charge for this program.

Upcoming Book Club- join us on for our next class on Friday, June 27 at 10am.

We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book. Sign up at the Senior Center. You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

- Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays 10 am
- Head to Toe Fitness: Mondays from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm
- Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
- Rook: Wednesdays at 9:00 am
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise: Wednesdays at 10:00 am
- Zumba Gold I (exercise): Wednesdays at 1 pm

- Zumba Gold II (exercise for beginners): Wednesdays from 2:15 pm until 3:00 pm
- Beginner/Inter Line dancing: Thursdays at 9:30 am
- Beginner Line Dancing: Thursdays at 10:30 am
- Bridge: Thursdays from 12 pm until 3 pm
- Tempo exercise: Fridays at 10 am
- Zumba Gold Toning: Fridays from 1 pm until 2 pm

If you would like more information concerning Senior programs, please contact the Alabaster Senior Center at 205-663-1307 or awalters@cityofalabaster.com



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"I Don't Like Spiders & Snakes" by David Frings



Unlike most people and the title of the 1974 hit song by Jim Stafford, I do like spiders and snakes. Snakes probably evoke fear in more people than any other animal. This has caused us to receive numerous requests for information from our valuable readers. In response, we will do a two part series on snakes beginning with how to recognize a venomous snake. Let me begin by stating that



Timber Rattlesnake

unless you are an expert, you should leave all snakes alone. When snakes are threatened, they will bite to defend themselves.

The six species of venomous snakes in Alabama include the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake, Pygmy Rattlesnake, Eastern Copperhead, Cotton Mouth

Moccasin, and Eastern Coral Snake. Shelby County is not within the range of the diamondback rattlesnake or coral snake so it is not like you will encounter these in Alabaster. All of our venomous snakes with the exception of the coral



Eastern Copperhead

snake are classified as pit vipers due to the heat detecting pits located between the eye and nostril. The pit vipers are equipped with two long fangs which deliver hemotoxic venom from large glands located at the rear of the skull. The position of these glands gives these serpents that classic diamond-shaped head. Although non-venomous snakes can flatten their heads to closely resemble a venomous snake, the diamond-shaped head is probably the most notable characteristic for recognizing pit vipers from a safe distance. The pit viper also has a very plump or thick body as opposed to the slender body of most non-venomous snakes.

All three species of rat-

lesnakes will have rattles but some are reluctant to rattle when they are approached and instead choose to try to blend in and hide. Copperheads and cotton mouths do not have rattles but will vibrate their tails against dead leaves which produces similar sounds when they are agitated. Copperheads have a banded pattern of different shades of browns and copper. Cottonmouths may be dark brown to black or may have a banded pattern that is similar to a copperhead. The cotton mouth is going to frequent wet areas or bodies of water. And yes, a cotton mouth can bite under water since their main diet includes fish and frogs. I have included photographs of our three most common pit vipers in the Alabaster area. If you are



Cottonmouth/Moccasin

bitten by a snake, the safest thing to do is to get medical attention as soon as possible. You should remain as calm as possible to reduce to spread of venom by the blood stream. Bites are seldom fatal and many snakes do not inject their venom, but play it safe and let a medical professional call the shots.

David Frings is an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Management and Director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center Samford University located at Oak Mtn State Park



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If you didn't realize your alarm clock has been set for 3 am every morning for the last two years...

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Calendar of Events

- June 3, Water Board 7pm Chamber
Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- June 4, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- June 9, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Education 5:30 pm Chamber
- June 10, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Conference
- June 11, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- June 12, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- June 17, Driving School, 7pm
- June 19, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf.
- June 23, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Adjustments 6:30pm Conference
- June 24, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
- June 25, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
Sewer Committee 6 pm Chamber

Marty Handlon, Mayor
handlon@cityofalabaster.com
664-6800

Sophie Martin, Ward 1
martin@cityofalabaster.com
358-8742

Bob Hicks, Ward 2
hicks@cityofalabaster.com
663-1801

Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3
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621-0168

Rick Walters, Ward 4
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281-7394

Russell Bedsole, Ward 5
bedsole@cityofalabaster.com
663-6212

Scott Brakefield, Ward 6
brakefield@cityofalabaster.com
685-0302

Tommy Ryals, Ward 7
ryals@cityofalabaster.com
664-1301

George Henry,
City Manager and City Clerk
ghenry@cityofalabaster.com
664-6800

Meetings are now held in the new City Hall next to the Senior Center. Chamber refers to the large meeting chamber and conference refers to the conference room in the new facility. Questions about a meeting? Call 664-6800.

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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