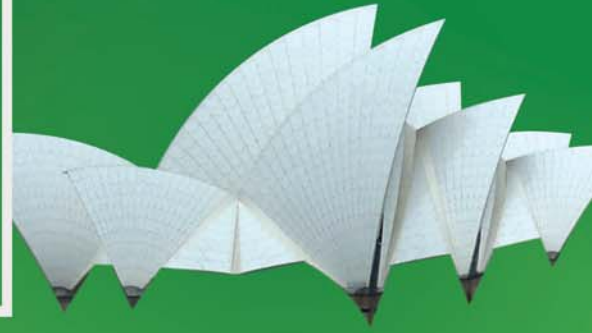


Alabaster

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2013



TAKIN' IT EASY DOWN UNDER



Alabaster

A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



Wow! What a great response we had to our Premiere Issue! Thanks so much to the new advertisers that have joined our family. They're critical as **NO TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER.**

It is an independent publication created by citizens of Alabaster for the citizens of Alabaster.

I also want to thank the folks that sent in story ideas. We really appreciate it!

A lot of people have asked former Mayor David Frings what he has been doing since the election, and you'll find some answers in this issue. He got the opportunity to go

on a wildlife trip to Australia, which for David is the trip of a lifetime. He took lots of photos and got to see the outback, Sydney, and dive the Great Barrier Reef.

Beginning next month David will begin a series of regular columns on nature and wildlife in Alabama which I know you will enjoy.

Congratulations to the new Fire Chief Jim Golden. His hard work and dedication are a real asset to the city, and I know he will maintain and surpass the traditions that the Fire Department has set for protecting the lives and property of our citizens.

You'll also read about Senator Cam Ward and Representative April Weaver beginning the new session of the Alabama Legislature and what issues they will be tackling.

Our profile this month is on Thompson High School Principal Dr. Daniel Steele. The piece is done by Ms. Caroline Vincent, the current Editor-in-Chief of

the THS Newspaper the TribeUne. We're proud to have her as a contributor.

Congratulations also to Ms. Cindy Hawkins, Executive Director of Kids First and the group's Third Annual Celebration of the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was a great event shared by many with good food and fellowship. Each year PBS plays the "I Have a Dream" speech that Dr. King gave on the mall in Washington, and it stands as one of the great examples of oratory of all time. He spoke from the heart and truly shared his dream, and we are all the better for it.

AL.Com has picked Alabaster as number five

in the state's top ten cities. That's no surprise to the folks that live here with our shopping, parks (for both people and animals) quality public safety protection, beautiful new senior center, plus the fact that there's low unemployment.

In March Easter comes as early as possible on March 31. You'll want to keep your eyes skyward as Cultivate Church has its second annual Easter Egg Drop on Saturday March 30th at the THS football stadium. You'll see an ad telling all about it in this issue. Happy Easter!

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We welcome your comments, suggestions & story ideas. Call 620-5505 & e-mail at tedvodde@gmail.com or tedvodde@alabasternewsletter.com

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Monday, Jan. 21, community members joined together at the Shelby County Instructional Services Center in Alabaster to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The event was hosted by Kids First Awareness Community Learning Center of Alabaster as a way to honor King and promote his legacy of service.

"We're here to celebrate Dr. King's birthday and encourage the community, to bring people together and uplift the community," said Kids First Executive Director Cindy Hawkins.

This is the third year that Kids First has hosted a Martin Luther King Jr.

event. Two years ago, the group dedicated a street off Highway 11 in his honor. It was the first of its kind in Shelby County.

This year's event featured a variety of games for the kids, plus ribs and hotdogs, live music and an informational display dedicated to healthy living.

"The Alabama Department of Public Health provided all the health information," said Hawkins. "They donated it to us and shipped it to us free of charge."

During the event, Kids First opened the gym for kids to play basketball, and there ended up being a large crowd enjoying the day. Even City of Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon joined in the fun, as she and



members of the Alabaster Fire Department participated in a special basketball game against the kids from Kids First.

"I want to give a big thanks to the Fire Department for coming out and volunteering today," said Handlon before the

game. "We're glad to be here."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day has been a federal holiday since 1983. In 1994, Congress also named it a Day of Service in recognition of King's commitment to service. In a 1968 sermon
(CONT ON PAGE 16)

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TAKIN' IT EASY DOWN UNDER

Alabaster FEATURE STORY



Former City of Alabaster Mayor David Frings took the trip of a lifetime recently as he traveled to Australia to experience the wildlife down under.

The director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center at Oak Mountain State Park, Frings made the trip with friend and travel guide Andrew Haffenden, who runs Nature Travel Specialists out of Dauphin Island, Ala.

"He's from Australia originally, and he asked if I would go with him," said Frings. "It was an opportunity for me to go around and sample the east coast of Australia from a nature perspective."

During the two-week adventure, Frings was able to see a variety of unusual habitats and species.

"We went out on the Great Barrier Reef one day," said Frings. "I don't dive but I snorkel, and we saw beautiful coral and different fish. We saw giant clams that are about three feet across."

Also in the north, they saw saltwater crocodiles on the Daintree River and a duckbilled platypus in the rainforest near Cairns.

"We went up into the mountains, the area they call the Tablelands," said Frings. "That's where I saw my first wild duckbilled platypus. They usually surface and go away immediately once they see you, but this one didn't seem to mind me being there. I just quietly walked down and shot pictures of him."

From there, they flew down to Brisbane, where they visited the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.

"It's the only place you can legally hold a koala," said Frings. "They feel kind of like wool."

A special highlight of the trip was the opportunity to visit Australia Zoo, home of legendary wildlife expert Steve Irwin, a.k.a. the Crocodile Hunter. Though Irwin passed away in 2006, the zoo continues his legacy of conservation today.

"I went to Australia Zoo, which was a lifetime dream I had," said Frings. "They have a little memorial there with a pair of his boots that had crocodile teeth holes in it."

Frings said the zoo is kept in pristine condition, from its manicured lawns to its clean cages.

"It was a beautiful place," said Frings. "I've probably been to 30 zoos around the world. It's hard to compare them, but it definitely tops the list as one of the best."

During his trip, Frings saw everything from kangaroos to kookaburras, but he also managed to experience a bit of the local culture. He toured the Opera House in Sydney and sampled the famous Australian sandwich spread, vegemite. He also said the Australian people were friendly and welcoming of Americans.

"They're definitely a good ally to the U.S. and real friendly people," he said. "It was a good time."





THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

By Senator Cam Ward

As the Chairman of The Senate Judiciary Committee, one of my jobs is to evaluate legislation that helps strengthen our laws, balancing the equation with an eye toward our civil liberties and the size and scope of our government.

Coming into the 2013 session, my colleagues and I identified several areas of the law that need strengthening. We realized there was a problem with school bus trespass and safety even before the tragic and shocking events recently in Midland City, so there is legislation clarifying and strengthening the penalties against entering a school bus. Because of that tragedy, we are honoring

the heroic efforts of the bus driver and naming this the 'Charles "Chuck" Poland School Bus Safety Act.'

We are aware that there is a national debate on gun control, and we believe in the right to keep and bear arms as enshrined in our nation's Bill of Rights, and we filed legislation to ensure that right to Alabamians no matter how many executive orders the president signs, and unenforceable laws our Congress passes.

Recognizing that despite past efforts which have done a good job at cutting down on the manufacture of methamphetamine - such as tracking the purchase of and limiting the amounts allowed to purchase of base materials -

there is still a major problem with the hazard and cost of cleaning up a manufacturing site. Senator Whatley sponsored legislation to add the cost of clean up to the fines and punishments of those convicted of making meth.

We also have a serious prescription painkiller problem in our country - and Alabama is severely affected by this epidemic. In his state of the state address Gov. Robert Bentley proposed cracking down on illegitimate prescription selling pain management clinics while protecting the rights of doctors and the access to care required by patients. This legislation will also codify the crime of doctor shopping - wherein an addict goes to several

different doctors in the pursuit of numerous prescriptions. This legislation will be the first on our docket for next week's Senate Judiciary Committee meeting.

At this week's first meeting the committee also moved legislation establishing the crime of and punishment for Elder Abuse. Every day in Alabama, elderly citizens are abused, neglected, defrauded and intimidated by family members and caregivers whose job it is to take care of their health, well-being and financial needs. These crimes are not the ones that are splashed on the front pages of our newspapers, but they nonetheless affect a significant proportion of our population.


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Alabaster

PROFILE By Caroline Vincent

THIS PRINCIPAL DR. DANIEL STEELE

"It is a Great Day to be a Warrior!" Thompson High School Principal Dr. Daniel Steele is known for his positivity, which is exemplified by his famous catchphrase, "It's a great day to be a Warrior!" Steele's positive attitude comes from many sources, one being a Michael Jordan poster he has in his office with the caption "What are you rising above?"

"Positive energy is contagious," Steele says, "I want everyone to be excited and passionate about what they're doing."

Steele was born in Philadelphia and moved around a lot and went to a number of schools. He grew up in Georgia and went to Covenant College on Lookout Mountain. Steele majored in sociology at the beginning of his college career but quickly changed it to history when he realized he wanted to teach and coach. In his junior year, he met his wife Holly who brought him to Birmingham. They have three children, D.J. who is 14, William who is 12 and Elizabeth who is eight; all attend school in Vestavia.

When Steele is not running a school, he is preparing to run a marathon. He

participated in the Mercedes Marathon on February 16, a race of 26.2 miles. "I have not been working out like I should," he says, but he has been going on weekly long runs of up to 20 miles. "It is a good sense of accomplishment," he says. Steele wishes to be a model for his children and to show them how to "make sacrifices to reach a goal." He wants to demonstrate that anyone can "accomplish more than you thought possible."

Steele's educational career grew from teaching to becoming an assistant principal for 10 years, including one year at Thompson in 2006. These past two years, he has come back to Alabaster to play a role that he has always dreamed of.

"I wanted to lead and make an impact on a school," he says.

Steele loves his job as a principal for several reasons and breaks down his favorite parts into two categories: students and staff.

Not many people think the same way Steele does when he says, "I absolutely love teenagers," and he makes it a goal to "make a difference in their lives."

Steele says he is sur-

rounded by "great staff" and is very supportive of the school's teachers. "I understand that they are the ones who are in the classroom so I want to support them in everything they do."

The pressure is on the principal with the new formation of Alabaster City Schools, but he is excited more than worried.

"It is a unique opportunity to build something from the ground up," he comments. He says he looks forward to the new resources that will be available and the localization the new system will provide.

"People will run into board members at the grocery store. The superintendent will be able to come to

school functions."

Steele also believes local leaders will be "more efficient and more responsive" to the schools' needs.

As far as the transition goes, Steele trusts that it will be "seamless."

"We are going to continue doing what we do. I do not think experiences in the classroom will change."

Steele's impact on Thompson High School has definitely been a positive one. "I know it is corny," he admits about his famous catchphrase. However corny it is, that phrase has reshaped the attitude of Thompson High School.



Dr. Daniel Steele is Principal of Thompson High School

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CarCare is a family-owned business that offers its customers a friendly and comfortable experience. Mike started the business with his wife Jaimee after working for several years at a Honda dealership in Birmingham.

"We started in 1988," said Mike. "I used to work with a dealer for seven or eight years. Then I decided to go out on my own."

The business was located in a couple of other locations before they settled on their current location behind Publix.

"We got tired of renting," said Jaimee Barrett, "so we bought the property

up here."

This year, the company is celebrating its 25th year anniversary, which says a lot about the quality of the service it provides.

"This will be our 25th year," said Jaimee. "We started out as a Honda and Acura auto-repair specialist. The only

thing we've changed is we've added the Toyota and Lexus products as well. We've just been providing fast, friendly service in a family-style atmosphere."

The Barretts have lived in Alabaster for the past 28 years. Their three sons, Joey, Dylan and Coty, all graduated from Thompson High School.

"Our oldest son works for us," said Jaimee. "He came into CarCare in his junior year of high school. He went on to school and worked while he was here, so he's been here 11 years."

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"We usually post a lot of things on Facebook," said Jaimee. "There are always specials running on the website."

In March, for example, they're planning a drawing for a free car detail.

"We're going to be partnering with a local detailing shop to put that promo together," said Jaimee.

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SALVATION ARMY NEEDS ADDITIONAL FUNDS

The Salvation Army of Shelby County's Red Kettle campaign has ended, but that doesn't mean people can't still donate. This year's annual fundraising campaign fell short of its targeted goal, so there's still a vital need for additional funds for the organization.

"We made just over \$123,000," said Lt. Jamie Leonard. "Our goal was \$165,000. What that means is we have to look at places where we had planned to spend, and we have to make changes."

According to Leonard, every Salvation Army sets its budget in the spring and makes necessary changes following Christmas, when it's able to evaluate the year's fundraising. With donations down for the year, the Salvation Army of Shelby County will likely have to cut back in certain areas.

"Unfortunately, the most consistent spending that the Salvation Army does is in direct service to the community. So that means we're still going to be able to serve but not at the capacity we intended," said Leonard.

Fortunately, the outstanding participation in this year's Angel Tree program meant that the Salvation Army didn't have to use any of its budgetary funds to provide for un-adopted Angels.

"Angel Tree went wonderfully. We helped 626 children, and all of those children were completely taken care of by the community," said Leonard.

Leonard said the community has also been generous with its canned donations.

"We've also had people consistently bringing us canned goods for our food

pantry," she said.

With Red Kettle donations down, the group is hoping to make up for it with additional financial donations this spring. To donate, people can mail a check directly to the Salvation Army of Shelby County or go to the Salvation Army website and donate online. Checks should be sent to the Salvation Army of Shelby County, P.O. Box 309, Alabaster, AL 35007.

"Make sure that it's noted for the Salvation Army of Shelby County," said Leonard.

To donate online, go to Salvationarmyusa.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab. To specify a donation for Alabaster, click on the "Customize Your Gift" link.

"There are lots of options," said Leonard. "It can be a one-time gift or a monthly donation."



DOING THE MOST GOODSM

People can also stop by the Salvation Army in Alabaster to donate in person or discuss donation options. The Salvation Army of Shelby County is located at 108 Plaza Circle. For more information, call 663-7105.

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GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD



Troop 993 of Alabaster, Alabama recently completed their Girl Scout Silver Award. For the past year the girls have organized and individually led many different crafting lessons at Riverchase Village Retirement Community in Hoover. In December, the girls hosted a talent show and Christmas party for the residents. Each girl performed a different talent which included ballet, playing piano, guitar, and oboe. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout cadette can earn. **The girls from left to right are: Jamie Loren Howell, Leah Warman, Sarah Messer and Tabitha Lawler. All are 8th graders at Thompson Middle School.**

SPELLING BEE CHALLENGE

Evangel Classical Christian School seventh-grader Grant Cotton placed second at the Shelby County Spelling Bee on Jan. 25. The event was held at the Shelby County Board of Education Central Office.

"It's quite an accomplishment," said Sheri Garrett, who coordinates the school-wide spelling bee at Evangel. "He won second place out of everybody in Shelby County. We're proud of him."

The county spelling bee pits champion spellers from both public and private schools in Shelby County against one another. The first place finisher, eighth-grader Elizabeth Matta of Our Lady of the Valley School, will advance to the state spelling bee, scheduled for March 9 at Oak Mountain High School.

According to Garrett, Cotton qualified for the county bee by defeating the other top spellers at Evangel in a school-wide bee.

"The middle school students are the ones who compete, so from the sixth grade, seventh grade and eighth grade, the top three



Evangel Seventh Grader Grant Cotton placed Second overall in the Shelby County Spelling Bee.

spellers from each one come together and they have a bee that really simulates the Shelby County bee here at the school," said Garrett. "It's a big deal. They have the spellers sit in front of the audience and compete in front of everyone."

The winner of the Alabama Spelling Bee represents the state of Alabama in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This year's national competition is scheduled for May 26-June 1 in Washington, D.C.

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ALBERT L. SCOTT LIBRARY

MARCH 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.

Library Board Meeting - Tuesday, March 26, 2013. 6 pm

Closed Dates - March 29 - 31.

Easter Holidays

MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

Mobile Device Workshop - Computers, Tablets, and Smartphones: Your Questions Answered! - Thursday, March 14, 2013. 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Join us as Bob Fitzgerald of Personal Computer Consulting in Alabaster offers a FREE workshop where experienced techs will answer your questions about your mobile electronic devices. Troubleshooting, how-to, and consulting provided. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Library Book Group - Thursday, March 21, 2013. 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Discovering the symbolic meanings of flowers while languishing in the foster-care system, eighteen-year-old Victoria is hired by a florist when her talent for helping others is discovered, a situation that leads her to confront a painful secret from her past. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Adult Computer Classes - Call or come by to sign up. 664-6822.
Wednesday, March 6, 2013. 10 am - Microsoft Excel I
Wednesday, March 20, 2013. 10 am - Microsoft Excel II

Positive Maturity A.W.A.R.E. Workshops
March 6, 2013. 10 am. - Orientation Workshop
March 13, 2013. 10 am. - Interviewing Skills Workshop
March 20, 2013. 10 am. - Networking Workshop
March 27, 2013. 10 am. - Resume Workshop

Free AARP Tax Help for Seniors February through early April. Available by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call or come by the Albert L. Scott Library to sign up. 664-6822.

MARCH KIDS ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, March 5 Lego League 6:00pm-6:45pm Kids of all ages can come play with Legos of all sizes! Meets in the meeting room. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult.

Friday, March 15 American Girls 4:00pm Girls seven years old and older can sign up and explore Samantha's world with or without a doll. Meets in the meeting room.

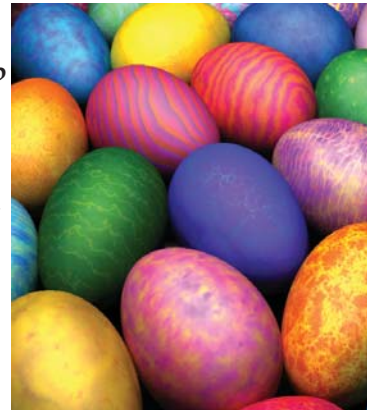
Tuesday, March 19 Alabaster Book Blasters Keats 6:00pm Session 3 is called "Happy Birthday, Mr. Keats!" Children 6 years old and older can sign up to explore Jennie's Hat by Ezra Jack Keats, make a cute craft, and have a yummy snack. Children may come even if they missed the first two sessions. The program is funded exclusively by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. Meets in the meeting room. Children six years old must be with an adult.

Wednesday, March 27 The BIG Event: Hippity-Hoppity Story Time! 10:15am-11am

How EGG-citing! Young children accompanied by an adult can come for fun with "Miss Spring" and the Easter Bunny! Visit with the Easter Bunny and get a bunny-worthy goody bag! Don't forget your camera to take photos! The fun is in the meeting room. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult.

Thursday, March 28 Dyeing to Color Eggs Workshop 6:15pm

EGG-traordinary Fun! \$3.00 per half-dozen eggs. Please sign up and pay in advance by March 25. Make checks out to the library. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult. Great family fun! Meets in the meeting room.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Be a Friend! The Friends is a group of dedicated booklovers that wants everyone to know the benefits the library offers, and how members can increase its effectiveness.

We have occasional fundraisers such as semi-annual book sales, and promotions in cooperation with local merchants to raise funds for special books and activities such as the Summer Reading Program and the Storyline for Children.

We also maintain several areas at the library where books can be purchased at bargain prices. These are books that have been donated, so here's an option for those books you no longer want in your private library.

For as little as \$10 a year you can be a Friend and support the library. There are several levels of membership, and always opportunities for a few hours of volunteering.

Be a Friend! Application forms are available at the Library or at www.cityofalabaster.com/friends-of-the-library/



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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

(CON'T FROM PAGE 3)

called "The Drum Major Instinct," King said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

Members of the Psi Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a service organization based in Alabaster, were on hand to offer their services to the event.

"We are here volunteering for the Martin Luther King Day of Service," said Chapter President Glenda Bland. "It's a

part of one of our international programs that we're performing. So we are here to help out



with the activities at the event. I know we have all types of games and activities for the kids in the community."

According to Hawkins, members of the Lovelady Center in Birmingham were also at the event. Hawkins said she appreciated the participation of everyone

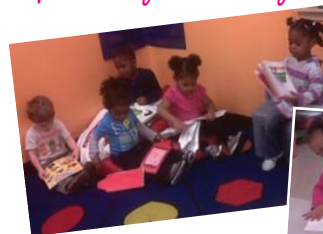
who came out to make the day a success.

"It's a group effort," said Hawkins. "I couldn't do what I do without the volunteers. I thank all of them."



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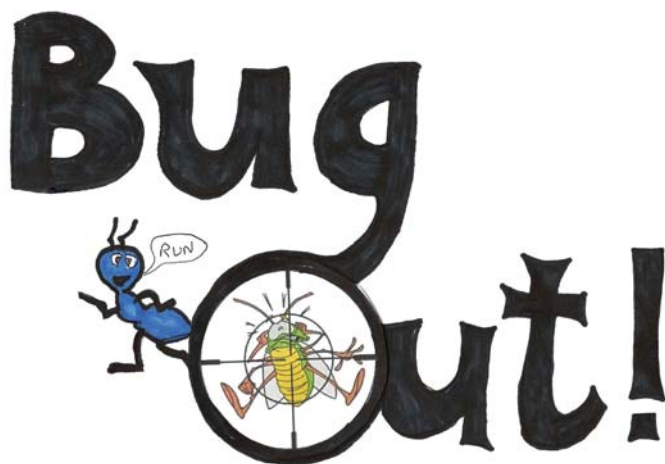
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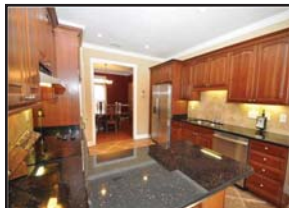
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Alabaster

Parks & Rec Dept., 100 Depot St. 664-6840 www.alabasterparks.org

START SMART BASEBALL

Registration for Start Smart Baseball will begin on March 4 at 8:00 am at the Depot and will close out once 20 children have registered, or at 5:00 pm on March 15, whichever comes first.

The program is designed for 3 and 4 year olds as of April 1, 2013. It is a six week program with emphasis on fundamentals. The program wraps up with a game and party. Start Smart will be held on Tuesdays beginning April 2. Registration is \$85.00. For more information, please contact Tim Hamm at 664-6840 or thamm@cityofalabaster.com. Registration must be done in person at our office.

Spring Baseball & Girls' Softball

Practice began for Spring Baseball and Softball on February 25. Baseball and Softball season begins on April 1. Opening Day and pictures will be on April 6. Mark your calendars and plan on showing your support for our youth.

YOUTH SOCCER

Soccer practices began on February 18 at Municipal Park. Soccer season will begin on March 30. Please come out and show your support for your favorite Soccer team.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Adult Softball registration begins on March 1 and ends at 5:00 pm on March 28. Five leagues will be offered: Open Coed, Coed Church, Open Rec., Open Competitive, and Men's Church. Anyone interested in entering a team should go online at www.alabasterparks.org or register at the Depot Monday thru Friday between 8 am and 5 pm. Teams may begin practicing once their entry fee has been paid. Leagues will begin play in May. For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com.

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CITY NAMED ONE OF STATE'S BEST

In a recent listing of the state's very best cities, AL.com named Alabaster the No. 5 best city in the state. Compiled by Birmingham News columnist John Archibald, the list groups the state's top ten cities in a gallery dubbed "The ultimate hot list: Bama's best cities."

Speaking of Alabaster, Archibald writes, "Alabaster has gone from a sleepy little town to a full-scale destination, with booming retail and what is perhaps the state's most celebrated dog park. Social and economic rankings are largely good."

On the downside, he notes the lengthy commute time necessary for Alabaster residents working in Birmingham.

Using a variety of quality-of-life criteria, the story attempts to answer the question, "What is the best place to live in Alabama?" "We used 22 different

measures," writes Archibald, "from FBI crime reports, health data from government sources and insurers, the U.S. Census and state departments of education, among others. We used data compiled over the years by the Birmingham News. We looked at money and parks, tax rates, unemployment and commute times. We factored in access to art and entertainment. We looked at dog parks and diversity."

Counting down from ten, the other cities in the list included Auburn, Athens, Homewood, Daphne, Pelham, Hoover, Vestavia, Madison, and Mountain Brook, which came in at No. 1. Explaining Mountain Brook's place atop the list Archibald cites its high median income (\$130,941), extensive insurance coverage, quality schools, and low commute times.

"It is, on top of all that, a walkable community with distinct local shopping districts," Archibald writes.

Conversely, the survey

also filtered information to determine the state's worst places to live, an unfortunate grouping topped by the City of Prichard (Mobile County), which has over 23 percent unemployment.

This isn't the first time that the City of Alabaster has been recognized as one of the best in the state. In 2009, BusinessWeek magazine named Alabaster the Best Affordable Suburb in Alabama. That same year, Money magazine included Alabaster in its 100 Best

Places to Live 2009. Additionally, in 2011 CNN-Money magazine included Shelby County, Ala., among a list of American counties with the highest job growth over the previous ten years.

The AL.com survey was limited to cities with populations larger than 20,000. To see the full story, go to <http://www.al.com> and search "Bama's best cities."



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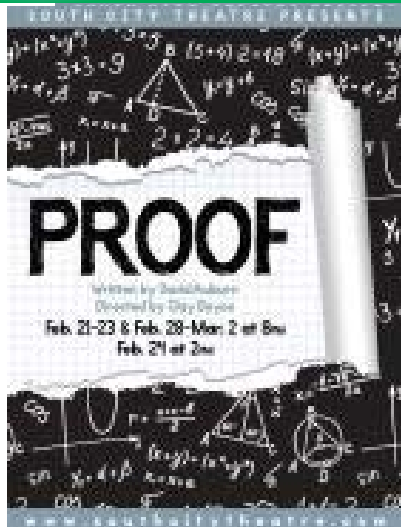
South City Theatre

presents "Proof"

"Proof" is a 2000 play by American playwright David Auburn. Premiered Off-Broadway in May 2000, it transferred to Broadway theater in October 2000. The production closed in January 2003 after a total of 917 performances.

The play won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play.

The play concerns Catherine, the daughter of Robert, a recently deceased mathematical genius in his fifties and professor at the University of Chicago, and her struggle with mathematical genius and mental illness. Catherine had cared for her father through a lengthy mental illness. Upon Robert's death, his ex-graduate student Hal discovers a paradigm-shifting proof about prime numbers in Robert's office. The title refers both to that proof and to the play's central question: Can Catherine prove the proof's authorship? Along with demonstrating the proof's authenticity, the daughter also finds herself in a relationship with 28-year-old Hal. Throughout, the play explores Catherine's fear of following in her father's footsteps, both mathemati-



cally and mentally and her desperate attempts to stay in control.

Evening Time: Feb 21, 8pm to Feb 23, 8pm
Feb 28, 8pm to Mar 2, 8pm
Matinee Time: Feb 24, 2 pm
 Performances are at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15. Student, senior and groups of 10 or more are \$12.

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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www.southcitytheatre.com on Twitter (@SouthCityTheatr)

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THS OPENS TIME CAPSULE

Students at Thompson High School were treated to a unique ceremony recently when a 25-year-old time capsule was opened at the school gymnasium.

The time capsule was created by Thompson High School students in the class of 1988 and had been stored inside a school wall ever since. A plaque indicating the time capsule said that it was to be opened in 25 years.

"It was in the wall that was sort of adjacent to our auditorium," said THS Principal Danny Steele. "The plaque was right across from our main office entrance."

During the program, members of the class of '88 opened the capsule to reveal a number of papers related to what was going on at the time, including class schedules and newspaper clippings.

"What characterized the class of 1988 here at Thompson High School were things like pride and commitment and passion," said Steele. "I told our students, those are the types of qualities that transcend generations."

Steele credited two current staff members for their contributions to the program.

"Michelle Holdbrooks and one of our school resource officers, John Kessler, were really instrumental in putting together a team of students and working on the program," he said. "They invited a lot of alumni back and people who were involved, staff members, former principals, former coaches. It was a great experience."

The time capsule will be returned to the wall this year, filled with items from current Thompson High School students.

KINGWOOD BBALL TOPS

Thanks to a work ethic established by second-year head coach Danny Davis, the Kingwood Christian Boys Basketball team was one of the state's best this year in the AISA.

"Our motto is we work hard, we don't give excuses," said Davis, and that motto certainly served them well throughout the season.

After losing their opening game on the road to Glenwood School, the Lions rebounded with 24 straight victories en route to a Final Four appearance in the AISA Class 3A State Tournament in Montgomery. The season also included three victories over Tuscaloosa Academy and a Class 3A Region 2 Championship.

"It's been truly delightful to see," said Davis.

According to Davis, his

coaching philosophy emphasizes an aggressive defense, usually running a full-court man-to-man.

"We try to cause a lot of problems for the other team, and then we try to capitalize on the mistakes that they make," he said. "Defense is the main thing."

Davis, who played his own high school basketball at Parker High School in Birmingham, credited his players' hard work for this season's results on the court.

"I think the reason I'm so happy is because they're happy," he said. "They're enjoying it. They're reaping the benefits of working hard."

On Feb. 8, the Lions defeated Macon East Academy 80-61 in the AISA 3A Elite Eight at Huntingdon College.



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MAYOR HANDLON MEETS WITH SMALL BIZ OWNERS

On Friday, Jan. 25, City of Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon held her first quarterly meeting with small business owners at the City's municipal annex.

In what Handlon called "the first of many meetings," the new mayor emphasized her commitment to open communication and the desire to help local businesses thrive.

"It's important for you to be successful for our community to be successful," Handlon told the crowd of gathered business owners. "We want to continue to grow and to help you be successful."

As a part of that effort, City Administrator George Henry introduced a plan to enhance the City's "Buy Alabaster First" initiative. Under the new initiative, local businesses will be

able to create free business profiles on the City's website.

"It's designed to help business owners get their message out," said Henry, who pointed out that Alabaster is the fourth largest city in the Birmingham metropolitan area.

As an example of the project, Henry showed attendees a new business profile established by Ernest McCarty Ford, which is already using the site to help promote its daily maintenance specials.

"Once we get people on here, the sky is the limit," said Henry.

Business owners can set up their own business profile by going to the City of Alabaster website (cityofalabaster.com) and clicking on the "Business Directory"

link on the homepage. From there, the "Claim My Business" icon will lead to an instructional video with extensive details on how to register. First-time users will be asked to create an account and agree to the site's terms and conditions.

Once their business is approved, business owners will be able to edit their profiles at any time. The profiles can include information like business descriptions, office hours, special promotions, contact information, and even job opportunities.

Local consumers will be able to browse the profiles for information or sign up to receive email notifications on new specials. Henry said a mobile app is also being planned, and he encouraged businesses to provide feedback.

"This is not a static project," he said, noting that new categories and subcategories could be added to the business index.

Other speakers at the meeting included State Sen. Cam Ward, who is also the executive director of the City's Industrial Development Board, Environmental Services Director Glen McCord and Chief Revenue Examiner Rebecca Byrd.

Approximately 50 people attended the meeting.

To foster better communication between residents and City officials, Handlon encouraged those in attendance to take full advantage of the City website. An easy-to-use submission form is available via the "Report a Concern" link on the homepage.

"Don't hesitate to contact us," said Handlon.



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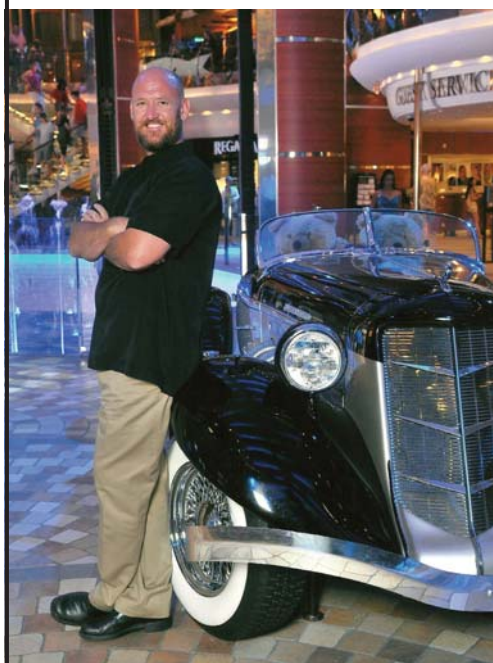
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Jacob's Corner

EVENT CENTER

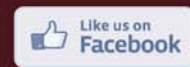


About Us

Jacob's Corner's simple elegance is a perfect backdrop for your special event. The stage is set for your event, whether you're having a wedding ceremony, reception, celebrating an anniversary, getting a year older, having a corporate meeting or just looking to get together with family and friends. Whatever the reason or the season, come celebrate with us!

In the center of all the festivities is our exquisite gazebo which combines the rustic charm of cedar wood with the intricate details of a Japanese pagoda. This elegant design is exceptional with a three tiered roof, and decorative finished posts. Ideal for weddings, celebrations, and photo opportunities.

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Alabaster

THS Softball Ready for Action

The Thompson High School softball program will have a busy March as they compete in a number of tournaments on the 2013 schedule.

March 1-2, the varsity team will compete in a tournament in Auburn, followed by tournaments in Wetumpka (March 8-9) and Vestavia (Liberty Park, March 29-30). The junior varsity is scheduled for two March tournaments of their own, as they travel to Pleasant Grove (March 8-9) and Anniston (White Plains Tournament, March 15-16).

According to Head Coach Jake Parker, this season offers some new faces on the schedule as Thompson is competing in

a new area.

"The old area was Pelham, Oak Mountain, and Hoover," said Parker. "Now we're with Prattville, Stanhope Elmore, and Wetumpka."

Parker said he expects the team to be competitive this year, despite having a younger roster.

"We're young, but some of our girls, even though they're young, they've played," said Parker. "Some of my juniors have been starting and playing since their ninth-grade year."

This year's team will field two seniors in Staci Roberson and Ashleigh Short. Both players have signed to play college softball, Roberson at Jefferson

Davis Community College and Short at Shelton State Community College.

Parker, who's in his fourth year as head coach, said he looks forward to some solid pitching this year as well.

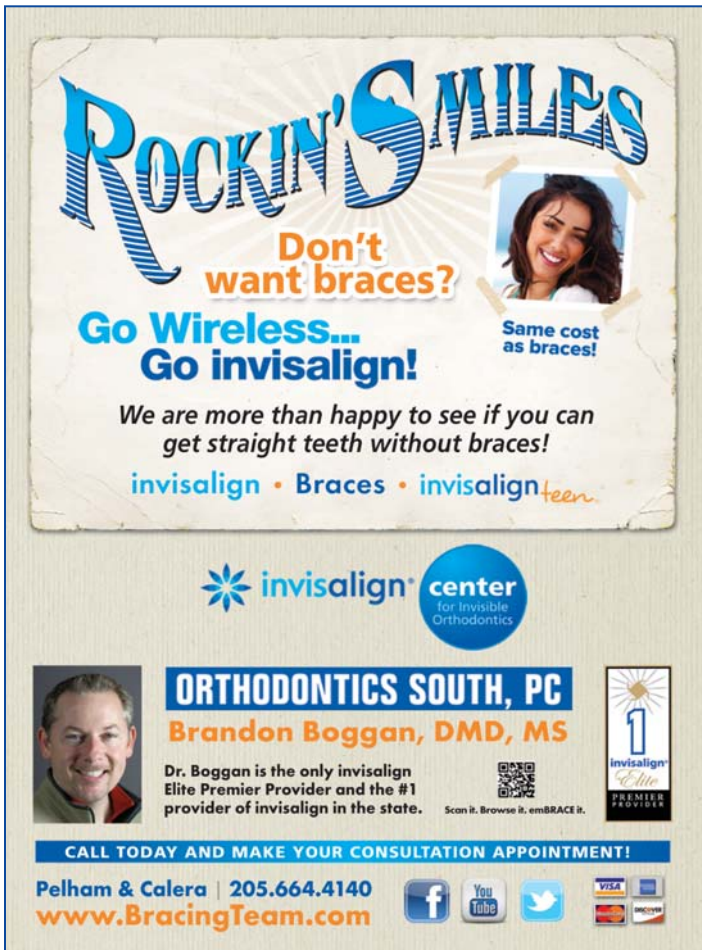
"We graduated our two senior pitchers last year, but we'll have one junior pitcher and two sophomore pitchers that should just fill in right away," said Parker. "If you have quality pitching you should do pretty well. We have quality pitching so I like our chances, but it all comes down to just playing and executing and doing your job."

Early season home games for both the varsity and junior varsity teams include matchups with Pelham (Feb.26), Prattville (March 12), Spain Park (March 13), and Hillcrest (March 14). Based on this year's organiza-

tion of the teams, the Prattville game is an area game.

"We're excited to see the new competition," said Parker. "The winner of the area will host the area tournament and then the top two teams from that will go to a regional tournament. Softball is all about the tournaments."

In April, the varsity will participate in tournaments at Pelham (April 12-13) and Hoover (April 26-27). The JV goes to Hoover for a tournament April 12-13. The area tournament is scheduled for May 2-3.



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LOCAL ATHLETES SIGN WITH COLLEGES

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, national signing day for high school football players, Thompson High School senior Anthony Barganier signed his national letter of intent to play football at the University of West Alabama.

Barganier played on the defensive line for the Warriors, providing a disruptive force along the edge. A ceremony was held at the Thompson High School lunchroom to celebrate the occasion.

"Anthony has been one of the hardest-working young men that I've ever had," said Head Football Coach Michael Montgomery. "He comes to work every day with a wonderful attitude. He's a student of the game. He really enjoys the camaraderie of the team."

Montgomery said he expects that passion for the game to carry over in college.

"He's soft-spoken, but really he has a hardnosed

mentality. I think he's going to do well. He'll have the opportunity to develop and really perform well for UWA," said Montgomery.

According to the UWA Athletics website (uwaathletics.com), Barganier racked up over 60 tackles his senior season at Thompson, including six sacks and 17 tackles for loss.

"I can't wait till I get to West Alabama and try my best to start my freshman year," said Barganier.

That same day, Thompson High School softball player Staci Roberson signed to play softball at Jefferson Davis Community College. Roberson is an infielder with the Warriors and one of the team's top defensive players.

"She's one of those players you can count on on defense," said Head Softball Coach Jake Parker. "I don't grade fielding percentage, but if I did she'd probably have a 99 percent fielding

percentage. Every ball hit to her, she's always going to make the play. That's one reason Jefferson Davis looked at her is because she's so solid on defense."

According to Parker, Roberson has played both third base and shortstop for the Warriors. This year he expects her to play shortstop.

"She has all the intangibles," said Parker. "She's a great kid, great in the classroom, great character, comes from a great family. She's just a pleasure to coach."

The two signing ceremonies were held simultaneously in the Thompson High School lunchroom. Family members, friends, and teammates crowded in to enjoy the food and festivities. City of Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon was also on hand.



Anthony Barganier (center, red hat) on national signing day, Feb. 6, joined by mother & father Yoko & Anthony Brown. They are congratulated by Mayor Handlon.



THS softball player Staci Roberson with her parents Edie & Dale on national signing day.

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[WHAT]

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THE RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT

By REPRESENTATIVE APRIL WEAVER

As the 2013 regular legislative session began on February 5, I had the privilege of introducing and sponsoring a bill that I consider the businessman's best friend, and the bureaucrat's worst nightmare. The bill passed committee on February 6, and I hope by the time this column is published it will have passed the House and will be on its way to the Senate!

Called the Red Tape Reduction Act, the measure is designed to unburden businesses of all sizes from needless and inefficient government bureaucracy and regulation. I was led to sponsor the bill after several business owners in my district complained that satisfying

bureaucratic government red tape requirements eats up countless man hours, produces numerous compliance costs and takes their attention away from their main objective - keeping the doors open and providing jobs right here at home.

State government should concentrate on giving business owners the tools they need to remain successful instead of finding ways to suffocate them under the weight of needless government oversight and mounds of monotonous paperwork.

Under the provisions of my bill, any agency proposing a rule that might have an adverse effect on business must file a Business Economic Impact Statement with the Joint Committee on Administrative Regulation

Review prior to its adoption. The Joint Committee, which is comprised of both House and Senate members, is authorized to reject implementation of new regulations based upon their impact on businesses.

In addition to limiting new regulations, the legislation requires all existing rules to be reviewed every five years in order to determine whether they should be amended, rescinded or remain unchanged.

My bill is a major piece of the House Republican Caucus' 2013 "We Dare Defend Our Rights" Legislative Agenda, a slate of bills intended to fight against the expansion of government on all levels. It is written to oppose many of the ultra-liberal proposals that are trying to be implemented on the federal level. I invite you to review

the complete agenda by visiting www.alhousegop.com/we-daredefend on the Internet.

By approving the Republican legislative agenda and continuing to push for commonsense, conservative reforms, we can put Alabama firmly on the path to prosperity and bring an increasing business-like approach to the way government is run in Montgomery.

Respectfully,
Representative
April Weaver

Alabama House of
Representatives

House District 49

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CITY SCHOOL BOARD HONORS ACHIEVERS

At its February meeting, the Alabaster School Board recognized a number of local achievers from area schools, including both faculty members and students.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Phil Hammonds said he hoped the recognition period would become a regular part of future school board meetings.

A group of faculty members were recognized for being honored at the recent University of Montevallo College of Education Recognition Dinner. Crystal Lamar, an English teacher at Thompson High School, was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Traditional Education. Rachea Simms, the principal at Meadow View Elementary School, received the Lifetime Commitment to Teaching Award. Susie Turner, a

first-grade teacher at Creek View Elementary School, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award in Elementary Education.

"You don't get these types of accolades by accident," said Thompson High School Principal Dr. Danny Steele. "It's only because you're awesome at what you do in the classroom."

Creek View Principal Brent Byars said that Creek View was lucky to have Turner as a teacher.

"She's very hard working," Byars said. "You drive by our school on Sunday afternoon, you'll see her red car there I promise you."

Four Thompson High School students were recognized for their accomplishments in Debbie Penhale's Education and Training program. The students participated in two different competitions and their winning entries earned them a trip to Montgomery to be honored

by the State Board of Education.

Katie Richardson and Karla Contreras won for their lesson plan/video entry, while Erika Kulp and Darian Hurst won for their display project.

"I'm really proud of them," said Penhale.

Finally, a number of Thompson Middle School students were recognized for recent victories in both athletics and academics. The eighth-grade Boys Basketball team was honored for their Metro Tournament Championship. The eighth-grade Scholar's Bowl team was honored for their victory in the county tournament.

The seventh-grade Scholar's Bowl team was recognized for its second place finish in the county tournament.

"It has been a very good month for Thompson Middle School," said TMS Principal Jeff Atkins.

During the meeting, the

school board also approved a recommendation for a short-term office location on Highway 119, with the contract to be finalized later. Hammonds said he currently has a temporary office at the City of Alabaster's Parks and Recreation Depot.

Board members also discussed possible dates for a regular work session before settling on the fourth Monday of each month.

The board also discussed plans to work with the City of Alabaster on the hiring of three additional SROs, or school resource officers, for Alabaster schools.

"Support being shown from the City is second to none," Hammonds said.

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JIM GOLDEN NAMED NEW FIRE CHIEF

At the Alabaster City Council meeting on Feb. 4, longtime Alabaster firefighter Jim Golden was sworn in as the City of Alabaster's new fire chief. Golden was appointed to the position after serving as interim fire chief while the search for a new chief was conducted. The City's previous Fire Chief Frank Matherson retired Nov. 1.

"It is an honor to be selected to lead Alabaster Fire and Rescue Service," Golden wrote in an email. "Our department is outstanding because of the members. I am excited to be given the opportunity to lead our team forward and build on the foundation previous Fire Chiefs John Cochran and Frank Matherson established."

Prior to serving as interim chief, Golden served as battalion chief with the department. He also served previously as an apparatus

operator and training coordinator. He's also worked with the Alabama Fire College, and in 2012, he was named Instructor of the Year.

"Each of my previous roles within our department has prepared me to serve as Alabaster's fire chief," Golden said. "Additionally, my experiences with the Alabama Fire College have broadened my fire service experience and helped equip me for this position."

In his time with the department, Golden was also twice honored as the department's Firefighter of the Year. In 2004, he received the award individually, and in 2005 he won it as part of a group of firefighters that traveled to Gulfport, Miss., to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Golden grew up in Pell City, where he volunteered with the local fire depart-

ment. Following high school, he worked for the fire department in Auburn.

Golden holds a bachelor's degree from Athens State University in public safety and health administration. He also holds a master's degree from Jacksonville State University in emergency management and a fire science degree.

Former Fire Chief Frank Matherson retired from the Alabaster Fire and Rescue Service at the end of October 2012. Matherson served with the Alabaster department for over 30 years, including the last nine as chief.

Golden said he was thankful for the opportunity to lead the department, as well as the support he's received over the years.

"I have been fortunate to be surrounded by quality people and have mentors to foster my development. I'm appreciative for all the support I've received, and I look



Jim Golden is the new Fire Chief for the City of Alabaster

forward to returning the favor to others going forward. I'm thankful to Mayor Handlon and the City Council for the confidence they have shown in me, and I am excited for our future," he said.

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SENIOR ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

Coffee and Donuts

Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 am. Mayor Handlon will be at the Senior Center. Come by and visit with her and enjoy light refreshments

Senior Spring Dance

Saturday, April 20 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Mark your calendars: The Annual Shelby County Senior Spring Dance will be held at the Thompson Middle School Cafeteria. Don't miss a great evening of fun, food, dancing and connecting with friends. Please call 663-1307 by April 5 to make your reservations.

A day in Cullman,

Alabama Thurs, April 18. A Motor coach trip to Ava Maria Grotto, Our Lady of the Angels Monastery and lunch at Stone Bridge Farms. You won't want to miss this fun trip! \$50 for the first 30 Alabaster Senior residents, and \$60 for all other Shelby County Seniors. Price includes: transportation, lunch, admission to tours and a few fun surprises. Space is

limited - stop by the Senior Center to sign up!

NEW Drumming Program

Tuesday, March 5 at 10 am. 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.

Cookout and Cards

Friday, March 8 from 4 pm - 8:30 pm. Join us for a fun evening of cards and a pot luck dinner. Bring a dish. The meat will be provided. Please sign up to reserve a spot.

Walking for Wellness -

Thursday, March 14 at 9:30 am. Join us to kick off our walking program. We will give the first 25 people a pedometer to help motivate them to walk more in 2013. Then join us every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 am to continue walking for wellness. Wear your tennis shoes, and meet at the new outdoor exercise equipment behind the Senior Center.

Zumba Gold

Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. This explosive exercise program is designed so that everyone can do it. You will see a variety of styles: Meringue, Salsa, Cha Cha, Cumbia, Belly Dance, Flamenco, Tango, and Rock and Roll rhythms. Zumba Gold guarantees you will have fun while you are getting a great workout.

Bingo at the Outlet Mall

Tuesday, March 12. We will travel to the Leeds Outlet Mall to play bingo and enjoy a little shopping. Great prizes will be given. Space is limited. \$1 reserves your spot.

Wii Bowling

Every Tuesday at 12 pm. Join us to Wii Bowl. All levels are welcome - just come and have some fun.

Crochet class

Every Wednesday at 9 am. Learn how to crochet; or, if you are experienced, stop by and fellowship with friends. You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

- Men's Social Group: 1st Monday of each month at 9 am
 - Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am
 - Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
 - Rook: Wednesdays at 9:00 am
 - Rummikub: Wednesdays at 9:30 am
 - Mexican Train Dominoes: Wednesdays at 10 am
 - Zumba Gold (exercise): Wednesdays at 1 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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Calendar of Events

- March 4 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
 - March 5 Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex
 - March 6 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex
 - March 11 Water Board 7 pm Annex
Parks & Rec Bldg. (The Depot)
 - March 12 Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex
 - March 13 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex*
 - March 14 Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.
 - March 18 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
 - March 19 Driving School 7 pm Annex
 - March 21 Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm
 - March 25 Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Senior Center
 - March 26 Library Board, 6pm Albert L Scott Library
Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex
 - March 27 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex
Sewer Committee 6 pm City Hall
 - March 29 Good Friday City Offices Closed
 - March 30 Cultivate Church Easter Egg Drop
THS Stadium 10am - Noon
- Municipal Annex located behind City Hall at 127 1st Street SW just across the RR track. The City Services Building is located in the Gardner House just down from the Depot.

~ March 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					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
31						

- Marty Handlon, Mayor
handlon@cityofalabaster.com
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- Sophie Martin, Ward 1
martin@cityofalabaster.com
358-8742
- Bob Hicks, Ward 2
hicks@cityofalabaster.com
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- Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3
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- Rick Walters, Ward 4
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- Russell Bedsole, Ward 5
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- Scott Brakefield, Ward 6
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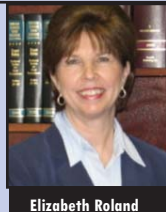
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