

Alabaster

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 5

MAY 2013

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FUN.**

**Josh
Turner**

**ALABASTER
CITYFEST
2013**

JUNE 1

Alabaster

A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



Seems like I just put away the Christmas ornaments and now we're talking Summer. Time flies when you're having fun!

Speaking of fun, got any plans for Saturday, June 1st? How about a great concert under the stars with Country Star Josh Turner for free?

You're way ahead of me - it's CityFest time! June 1 at Municipal Park will find a bunch of kids activities and great music, all for free. The Alabaster Arts Council does a great job with this event which has grown to become one of the top festivals in the state. We also have a story on Atticus Avenue, a band that is excited this year as they have moved from the Day Stage to the Main Stage at CityFest. They've worked hard to make this happen.

Spring means gardening. What? You don't have a good patch of land on which to raise crops?

Not a problem! You do now at Limestone Park at the Community Garden where you can rent a plot and raise some vegetables. Let's face it, there is nothing like a vine-ripened tomato! We've got the details in this issue. Limestone Park is off Highway 31 where the radio controlled flying club has their field. We have more on it in this issue.

Spring means new beginnings and we had that with two ribbon cuttings. Mayor Handlon was on hand to help Legacy Credit Union and the new YMCA facility get started.

I got to spend some time with Legacy CEO Joe McGee. He shared some of the company's history and financial position very candidly. What a gracious gentleman! We welcome them to the city.

The YMCA dedicated its new wing, and it's a real asset to the city. I know where a lot of folks will be going this summer when temperatures rise and they need cooling off! What a great new pool.

The Albert L. Scott Library has decided that on "May the Fourth be with you Day" (May 4) they will have a Star Wars Celebration. Costumes, models, stories. Sounds like fun to me. Use the force, Luke!

Remember to patronize our advertisers and be sure to tell them "I saw it in the Alabaster Newsletter" It's important as **NO TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT THIS PUBLICATION.**

And we're always looking for story ideas as well so email me whatever you think our readers might want to see.

Summer beckons!



The Alabaster Newsletter Published Monthly Editor & Publisher: Ted Vodde

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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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ALABASTER SCHOOL BOARD LAUNCHES WEBSITE

At its April 8 meeting, the Alabaster City Board of Education announced the launch of its new website www.alabasterschools.org. Interim Superintendent Dr. Phil Hammonds said the new site would launch on Tuesday, April 9 at 9 a.m.

"I think you'll be pleased with it," said Hammonds. "It looks very professional."

According to Hammonds, the new site will feature job postings, plus links to the various Alabaster schools.

"There's a lot of information already on there. There will be more and more information each week as the district moves forward," he said.

Hammonds also announced the board's new twitter handle

(@AlabasterK12), which can be found at [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/AlabasterK12).

During the meeting, the board also approved two new job descriptions, which Hammonds said would be posted the next day. One was for a coordinator of federal programs, a position that Hammonds called "critical," and the other a revised description for an administrator of technology and information systems.

According to Hammonds, the IT position will include working with school principals to help implement new technologies, like smart boards.

The board also passed a resolution authorizing the admission of nonresident children of district employees to Alabaster schools.

"This will be a very positive step for our employees, so they can know there's a

process in place where their children can attend school in Alabaster," said Hammonds.

During the meeting, the board heard from DAY Program Executive Director Kathy Miller. The DAY Program is an educational and clinical program for at-risk youth in Shelby County. It's been in existence for over 30 years, providing vital services to students aged 13 to 18.

Also giving a presentation were Lacey Aman and Ashley Huck, who discussed plans for a possible after-school program for the new school district.

Board Attorney Carl Johnson gave an update on the search for a school superintendent, saying they'd received 16 applications from a diverse group of applicants. He recommended that the board start to

narrow the field to a reasonable number of finalists.

During the meeting's "Good Things Within Our Schools" segment, THS Band Director Jon Bubbett talked about the high school's jazz band as well as the need for new marching band uniforms. He said the program's raised over \$37,000 for new uniforms but is still considerably short of its goal.

Two band members were on hand to illustrate the need for new uniforms. One wore an original, 18-year-old uniform, while the other wore a modern, stylish, lightweight uniform.

The board also welcomed its new secretary, Maxine Burns, whose first day of work was that day.

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Alabaster Cityfest

Country star Josh Turner has been announced as the headline musical act for this year's Alabaster CityFest. The singer will take the main stage at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 at Municipal Park.

Turner, a distinctive singer with a deep and recognizable singing voice, has been piling up the hits since he first burst onto the scene with his debut country album "Long Black Train."

That album was released in 2003 and earned Turner one of his most popular hits with the album's inspirational title track, "Long Black Train." The song reached No. 13 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart and set the wheels of Turner's music career in motion.

His subsequent album "Your Man" yielded two No. 1 singles in the title track ("Your Man") and "Would You Go With Me." More hits followed for Turner on his next two releases "Everything is Fine" (2007) and "Haywire" (2010). With the release of his latest studio album, "Punching Bag," the train doesn't appear to be slowing down any time soon.

"Punching Bag," which was released last June, debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Country Albums chart. It's also produced the hit single "Time Is Love," which topped Billboard's

year-end country chart at the end of 2012.

The album includes a variety of traditional country sounds, ranging from up-tempo tunes to mellow introspection. According to Turner's website (joshturner.com), the ideas for the album started flowing when he was experiencing a particularly tough time in his life.

"I've learned that songs come to you in various ways, from all different angles," he's quoted as saying. "Nothing was going my way that day, and I felt like I was up against the world. When I got home, my wife Jennifer and I were talking about things that happened and I said, 'You know, I just feel like a punching bag, like life is beating me up.'"

Of the album's 11 tracks, Turner wrote eight of them. The hit "Time Is Love," however, was penned by Mark Nesler, Tony Martin and Tom Shapiro, veteran songwriters with multiple country hits to their credit.

A native of South Carolina, Turner attended Belmont University in Nashville and lives in Tennessee with his wife and three children. His newest single "Find Me A Baby" is available on iTunes.



Josh Turner



Michael Warren



Ed K - Formerly of LIVE

LOCAL BAND ATTICUS AVENUE MOVING ON UP

For local rock band Atticus Avenue, playing the Main Stage at CityFest is an exciting milestone on the band's climb to success. The past two years, the band has played the Day Stage at the festival, and they're hoping this year's increased exposure will be a sign of things to come.

"Being on the Main Stage is extremely exciting," said drummer Brad Kuehner. "For us to be able to play in our hometown in front of the people we're going to run into all the time and give them an opportunity to see what we do, it's a really good thing for us."

The band consists of Alabaster residents Brad Kuehner (drums/vocals) and Billy Rigdon (bass/vocals), plus Stephen Wade (lead guitar/vocals) and Drew Kuehner (lead singer/guitar). Brad and Drew are brothers, though the band just officially got started in 2010.

"Really we formed Atticus Avenue in 2010," said Brad. "From '07 to 2010, we called ourselves Chasing Saturday and just played all cover songs.

As we started getting the key players in position, we started realizing we're in place now to actually do the stuff we love, which is writing our own stuff."

The band's current configuration came together about six months ago, with the addition of Wade on lead guitar. Brad said they had a number of different guitar players prior to that, but they knew they had their man when they first heard Stephen play.

"The kid walks in and he just blew us away," said Brad. "At the end of the first session, we were all like, if he's as committed as we are, this is our guy."

The rock-and-roll outfit has been a regular performer on the bar scene the past couple of years, but the band's aspirations aim higher than that.

"We spent about a full year last year doing a lot of the bar shows and cover shows and just playing the classic rock that we all love," said Brad.



(From L: Billy Rigdon, Brad Kuehner, Drew Kuehner, and Stephen Wade make up the band Atticus Avenue which will be moving to the main stage at CityFest this year.

Along the way, they've also been honing their originals, and they're hoping to get in the studio sometime in August.

"We're up to about twelve original songs we've written," he said. "We're looking to go to the studio and all that fun stuff real soon."

Brad said they call their sound fundamental Southern rock. It combines contemporary influences with rock classics, like the Rolling Stones.

"We want to make some-

thing that the old guy who loves the Stones can walk in and bob his head and listen to or the young kid who has no idea who Mick Jagger is can walk in and dance to," said Brad.

Atticus Avenue is scheduled to play the CityFest Main Stage at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. Find them online at www.atticusavenue.com.

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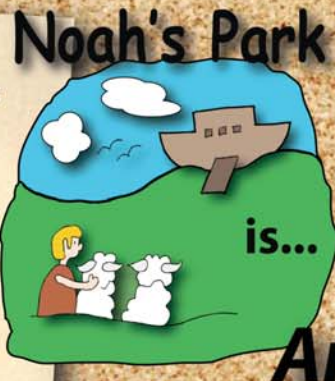
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--Mandy Piper, Online Review

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SOCCER SIGNING CEREMONY

Thompson High School Girls Soccer players Tatum Harless and Michaela Graber recently signed to play college soccer at the University of Montevallo. The two seniors celebrated the occasion on Feb. 18 with a signing ceremony in the Thompson cafeteria.

"It's a great honor for Thompson High School to have so many successful athletes," Head Coach Nathan Button said during the ceremony. "I would like to congratulate both of you on your success because it's not easy to get success. You have to earn it, and both of you have done that."

Both girls are key contributors on this year's successful Warrior team, which is currently ranked No. 7 in Class 6A with a record of 13-5-1.

Harless, a midfielder for

the Warriors, said she was especially thankful for the opportunity to play college soccer, after having to overcome two serious knee injuries. She tore an ACL in 2009 and then tore the ACL in her other leg in 2012.

"I tore my second ACL my junior year so it was harder for college coaches to recruit me when I couldn't play. That was the most important time," said Harless. "When I finally made a choice, it took a lot of stress off of me."

In 2011, Harless set the single-season Thompson record for assists with 16. Harless also played for Birmingham United Soccer (BUSA 95 Elite), which won the 2012 Alabama D1 Powerade State Cup Championship.

Graber, a forward for the Warriors, said she was happy with her decision to commit to the Falcons.



Tatum Harless & Family

"I've always grown up close to Montevallo, so I've known about it. I've been under some of their assistant coaches during club. They'd come and help out with some of our teams at Alabaster," said Graber. "This is definitely where God wants me."

In addition to Harless and Graber, the Montevallo Women's Soccer team will be getting a third Thompson Warrior in Sarah Allen, who's an invited walk-on. Allen is the goalkeeper for Thompson.



Michaela Graber & Family

Graber, who also played for Legends SC, said she was excited to be going to the same college team with people she knows.

"It makes it a little more comfortable," said Graber.

They'll be joined at Montevallo by other 2013 signees Abbey West (Vestavia Hills SC) and Kourtnee Hayward (Legends SC).

The Thompson High School Girls Soccer team's final regular-season game is April 22 at Spain Park High School.

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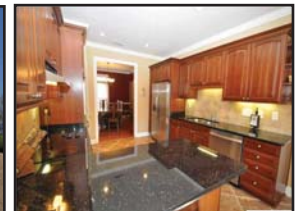
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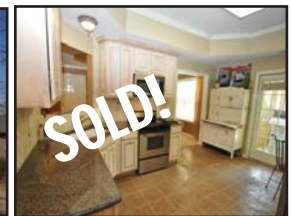
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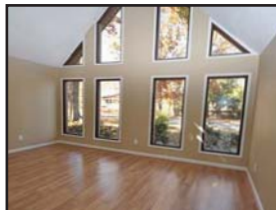
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Elizabeth A. Roland, Attorney at Law

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"We have a general practice," said Roland. "We prepare wills and other estate work; divorce, child support and custody; personal injury; business law; real estate closings and foreclosures; and criminal defense."

Roland is from the Florence/Sheffield area and got her start in the legal field while working for Gorman Jones, Robert Baker and Gene Hamby.

After graduating from Birmingham School of Law in 1990, Roland opened her first office in the Eastwood Mall area. She later moved her office to Clairmont Avenue across from the golf course. After moving to Helena in 1990, Roland decided to open a satellite office in Helena.



Elizabeth A. Roland can help you with all manner of legal matters, such as accidents, wills, divorce, and represent you at civil and criminal trials.

"I was so pleased with the Helena office that I closed the office on Clairmont Avenue," said Roland.

That was 11 years ago, and she has been practicing law in Helena since that time. According to Roland, it has been a good fit for both her and her clients.

"My clients say they like to work with someone local and convenient, so they don't have to drive downtown," she said. "I have been very fortunate during my years in Helena to have had great local

staff assist me. Currently Bob Van Loan is the office manager. Bob is a great help to me. He is the one that first meets the clients and makes them feel comfortable in our office."

At the heart of the practice, Roland said she tries to treat people as she would like to be treated.

"I try to be mindful of my time and their money. I realize that people contact an attorney when they have a problem and I try to listen and help them legally solve their problems with the least amount of stress," she said.

Roland and her husband David Lewis live in Pelham and have four children. In addition to her law practice, she is an active member of the community. She attends Hunter Street Baptist Church and is involved with the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and the Shelby One initiative. She is active in the Shelby Women's League, a group committed to improving the

lives of women who live or work in Shelby County. She is also president of the Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club. She invites anyone interested to visit Rotary, which meets every Thursday at noon at Shelby Baptist Medical Center.

"Our club is very active in the community," said Roland. "We're involved with Manna Charities, Children's Hospital, the DAY Program, the YMCA and many other community and international projects. Our fundraisers are a golf tournament in May and 'A Southern Christmas Bazaar' in November."

For more information, visit Elizabeth Roland online at www.elizabethroland.com.



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YMCA AND DAY PROGRAM HOLD RIBBON CUTTING

The Alabaster YMCA, in partnership with the DAY Program, celebrated the opening of their new building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, April 5.

During the ceremony, YMCA District Vice President Lane Vines expressed his appreciation to everyone who contributed to make the new facility a reality.

"I'd like to thank everyone that's had a hand in the fundraising effort and give special recognition to Neil Bailey and Alex Dudchock," said Vines. "They got behind the project and opened a lot of doors for me and for the team, and I'm grateful for that."

Stan Law, the new CEO of the Birmingham YMCA,

said that the new building will mean more opportunities for families in Alabaster.

"I recently joined the Birmingham Y family so the project that you see today was really on its final stages, but I quickly learned that the Alabaster Y served its community for many years, almost 30 years, with programs for children as well as swimming programs. So this is really a next step up in how the YMCA serves its community," Law said.

The new building, which was designed by TurnerBatson Architects, features a new entrance, two multi-purpose rooms, a half-court gym, and a swimming pool. It also houses the DAY Program on the second floor.

According to Law, the



new building will enable the Y to continue its mission of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

board of the Birmingham Metro YMCA, said he was especially happy about the partnerships that enabled the new building to be built.

"I am so proud of what we've been able to accomplish in partnership with our friends down here. The DAY Program is a great example of being able to work together," Mays said.

DAY Program Executive Director Kathy Miller said she was thrilled for the program to be housed in the new facility. The DAY Program serves at-risk

(CONT' ON PAGE 25)



"This facility is really about giving back to this community," Law said. Joe Mays, chair of the



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SCIENCE FAIR WINNER

Cailan Bevel, a 9th grade student at Thompson High School, was the 1st place winner in the senior division chemistry category at the Central Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair (CARSEF) held at UAB on Saturday, March 9, 2013. This win qualified him to compete at the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF) at UAH where he won 4th place sr. division in chemistry, and received a senior best in category award - chemistry, presented by Boeing. He also received a senior outstanding project award by Horizon Shipbuilding Industries. "To be a 9th grader and take 1st place in the senior division is a huge accomplishment. You should be very proud!", said Kevin Jarrett, who coordinates the CARSEF event at UAB.



Cailan's winning project is entitled "Investigation of Anti-Corrosive Agents for Aluminum". This is not the first time Cailan participated in this event; last year he took 3rd place at the CARSEF event and 1st place at the ASEF at the junior level in environmental sciences division.

Cailan really enjoys science and loves to participate in these events.

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MAY ACTIVITIES

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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 Tues.

May 28 6pm

Library Closed Mon. May 27 for Memorial Day

MAY ADULT PROGRAMS

American History Made Simple – Monday, May 6. 6:30 pm. This is the last class in our 4-week series that covers the highlights of American History in a way that makes sense! Our informal class time will connect the important points without getting lost in the details. This class is perfect for interested adults who wish they had not missed it the first time around.

Mobile Device Workshop – Thursday, May 9. 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Computers, Tablets, and Smartphones: Your Questions Answered! – 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, May 16 7 pm – Join us in our discussion of *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. Living with a foster family in Germany during World War II, a young girl struggles to survive her day-to-day trials through stealing anything she can get her hands on, but when she discovers the beauty of literature, she realizes that she has been blessed with a gift that must be shared with others, including the Jewish man hiding in the basement. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Adult Computer Classes – Call or come by to sign up. 664-6822.

Wednesday, May 1, 10 am – Microsoft Word I

Wednesday, May 15, 10 am – Microsoft Word II

Positive Maturity Job Workshops – Join us as A.W.A.R.E. volunteer Fabray Turner guides job seekers 50 and over through the process of returning to the workplace.

Wednesday, May 1, 10:15 am. Orientation Workshop

Wednesday, May 8, 10:15 am. Resume Workshop

Wednesday, May 15, 10:15 am. Interviewing Skills Workshop

Wednesday, May 22, 12:00 noon. Networking Workshop

Wednesday, May 29, 12:00 noon. Social Media Workshop

FRIENDS' SPRING BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library are announcing our Spring Book Sale Event May 17, 18, & 19. There will be 1000's of books - something for all interests and all ages. The bargain pricing is \$1.00 for Hardbacks - \$.50 for Paperbacks. No limit - buy all you want. We'll help you carry them to your car! Friday 5:00 – 7:00 pm is the Preview Sale for members. You can join at the door for as little as \$10. Be ahead of the crowd! Enjoy first choice! Saturday Sale hours are 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Sunday Fill-A-Bag hours are 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. We'll give you a bag to fill. For only \$5 you get everything you can pack into it. Funds from the sale benefit special Programs for the Library, such as children's and adults' activities and Storyline. For further information call Sarah B. Jones at 205-960-7582.

MAY KIDS ACTIVITIES

May the Fourth Comes to Library Special Star Wars Program Set to Blast off! On Saturday, May 4th there will be something for Star Wars fans of all ages during the day long event. **May the Fourth be with You!**



The day kicks off with Star Wars Story Time from

10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Children age 3 years old to 5 years old and their caregivers are invited to participate in intergalactic fun, action, and adventure! There will be stories, songs, a snack, and more.

The day continues with Reading Jedi Read-a-thon for kids ages 8 years old through teenagers. From 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. they are invited to read books in the library. Kids who read quietly the whole time get a prize. Suggested book genres are Star Wars, science, science fiction, and scientists' biographies.

There will be major fun in the afternoon when the main event launches in the meeting room. Star Wars Wonders will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for families with kids 6 years old and older. All kids must be with an adult. Activities will include:

Star Wars Show & Tell Guests can show off their Star Wars items. If a table is needed for display of several items please call or come by the library to speak with the youth services librarian in advance. •Star Wars Games•Star Wars Lego Station•Star Wars Creation Station•Light refreshments will be enjoyed in the Cantina Sign up is suggested, but not required and fans are encouraged to wear a costume if they like. Guests may receive a Star Wars mask while supplies last if they do not have a costume.

Lego League: Tuesday, May 7th @ 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes in the meeting room. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult.

Alabaster Book Blasters: Tuesday, May 14th @ 6:00 p.m. This, our last session, is called "Keats' Cat" we'll read and discuss the book *Hi Cat*, make a fun craft, and enjoy a cool treat! Kids 6 years old to 10 years old can sign up. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult. Meets in the meeting room.

Gear Up for the Summer Challenge: This month as school ends, children of all ages can gear up for the Summer Challenge that kicks off at the library in early June. This is when kids read our library books to earn prizes! For kids from birth to 10 years old the kickoff will be on Monday, June 3rd. That day will feature two shows by comic magician Russell Davis, one at 10:30 a.m. and another at 3:30 p.m. Parents may sign up their children for The Challenge before or after either show and receive a large goody bag for each child. The Young Adults (YAs), tweens and teens 11 to 18 years old, will have a separate kickoff on Tuesday, June 4th from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. that will include a craft and dessert. The Summer Challenge will include lots of entertaining and educational programs, prizes, and surprises. Look for details in the June edition of the Alabaster Newsletter and on the library's website. The 2013 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.

AIRBUS GROUNDBREAKING IMPORTANT FOR ALABAMA



Senator Cam Ward

Senator Cam Ward joined Gov. Robert Bentley, Lt. Gov.

Kay Ivey and state and Airbus officials for the ground breaking of the Airbus assembly facility at Brookley Field in Mobile today. Gov. Bentley is expected to sign Senate Bill 238, sponsored by Senator Ward and Representative Poole, The Alabama Commercial Aviation Business Improvement Act into law this week.

“Governor Bentley and Commerce Secretary Canfield have made job

creation their number one priority, and I am glad to do my small part to help in their vision,” Ward said of the legislation he sponsored with Rep. Bill Poole. “This will do so much to even the playing field with neighboring states to help attract Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers to Alabama. It is common sense business legislation like this that I have focused on during my time as Senate Judiciary Chairman.”

The Senate concurred with the House changes 32-0 just before the controversial Alabama Accountability Act was passed 3 weeks ago. It was signed into law with the sponsors and Airbus officials present.

“The Alabama Commercial Aviation Business Improvement Act

gives the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Airbus suppliers a better reason to locate in our state – thus providing more of our citizens the opportunity to show that Alabama is second to none in smart hardworking citizens seeking a better life for their families,” Ward said.

With Airbus in Mobile, Hyundai in Montgomery, Mercedes in Vance and the

defense industries in Huntsville and The Wiregrass, Alabama has built itself into a leader in the sophisticated manufacturing sector of the 21st Century.

“We will never stop looking for ways to improve the jobs climate and put Alabamians back to work,” Ward said.

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**Parks & Recreation will be closed May 27
in observance of Memorial Day.**

TRASH TO TREASURES

The Extravaganza will be held at Buck Creek Park on Saturday, May 18 from 8 am until 12 pm. Registration, both on-line and in person, will end on May 15 at 5 pm. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only. As soon as all 50 booths are reserved, registration will close out even if it's prior to May 15. The registration fee is \$10 which can be paid with cash, debit, Visa, or MasterCard. No checks accepted. The fee includes a 20x20 booth. You must provide your own table, chairs and canopy. Rain-out Date: May 25 (same time, same location).

ACCC SOFTBALL TOURNEY

The Alabama Community College Conference Fast Pitch Softball Tournament will be held at Veterans Park May 3 thru May 5. Alabaster will be hosting this event for the 8th year in a row. We are expecting large crowds so don't miss out on what's sure to be an exciting event. Games begin May 3 at 10 am. Tickets are \$10 per day or you may purchase a tournament pass for \$15. Children ages 6 and under will be admitted free as well as any youth Baseball or Softball player wearing their jersey.

ADULT SOFTBALL

The regular season for Adult Softball will begin on May 2. The 2013 season consist of 44 teams in four different leagues (Men's Church, Coed Church, Men's Open Rec, and Coed Open Rec). Games will be played on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights at Buck Creek Park.

FOOTBALL & CHEER

Registration should be available on-line beginning at 8 am on May 20 and ending at 2 pm on June 8. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from May 20 thru June 7. There will be one Saturday registration on June 8 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot. Cost will be \$160.00 (plus 10% for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks!

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Outdoor Rental Facilities: Several of our City Parks offer pavilions for rental use. With warm weather upon us, everyone is ready to visit the local parks for picnics, family reunions and Birthday parties. 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.



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ACCC SOFTBALL MAY 3-5

The Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) is returning to Alabaster again this year for its annual fast-pitch softball tournament. The state tournament is scheduled to begin on Friday, May 3 and run through Sunday, May 5. The tournament will take place at Veterans Park off Highway 119.

The winner of the ACCC tournament will represent the conference at the NJCAA Division I National Championship in St. George, Utah. The national tournament is scheduled for May 15-18.

In recent years, ACCC teams have done quite well at the national tournament. Wallace State-Hanceville in particular has made its mark on the national scene, winning the national title in 2008, finishing second in 2009 and 2010, and finishing third in last year's national

tournament.

This year, Wallace State-Hanceville has another powerful squad, as they're currently ranked No. 7 in the National Poll. The squad is led by sophomore pitchers BreeAnna Blevins and Lindsey DeFee and coached by ten-time ACCC coach of the year Jayne Clem.

The teams will be treated to a pre-tournament banquet on the Thursday before the tournament begins. That event will be held at Thompson Middle School.

This is the second year of a three-year contract to host the tournament. The tournament will return to Veterans Park at least through 2014.

The price of admission is \$10 a day or \$15 for the tournament. For more information on ACCC Softball, visit the ACCC online at www.acccsports.org.



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SOCK DRIVE FOR SOLDIERS

The Thompson High School JROTC is holding a sock drive to collect socks for U.S. soldiers serving overseas. The drive will be held from April 29 to May 3.

The program has held the campaign before, but this year, it comes with a twist. They've challenged the Pelham High School JROTC to hold one as well, and the two will compete to see which one collects the most.

"I've been in contact with Pelham, because we're making it kind of a competition," said Cadet Lt. Col. Jayla Williams. "If we were to make it a competition between us and Pelham, it might get people more excited. It's one more thing for us to compete against each other for."

Williams said students will be asked to bring in socks in four different colors: white, black, tan or khaki green.

"After we collect them

for that week, we'll have them counted up and then we'll compare our numbers to the other school," said Williams.

The campaign is being held in partnership with the Blue Star Mothers of Alabama (Chapter One), which will pick up the socks once they're collected and ship them to soldiers deployed overseas.

According to Blue Star Mothers member Joyce Bulford, the organization has been doing "Socks for Soldiers" programs for several years now.

"I think 2010 was our first year," said Bulford. "The schools pick their own timing, and they do their own advertising within the school. Then we pick them up."

According to Bulford, they've shipped nearly 10,000 pairs of socks to American soldiers over the years.

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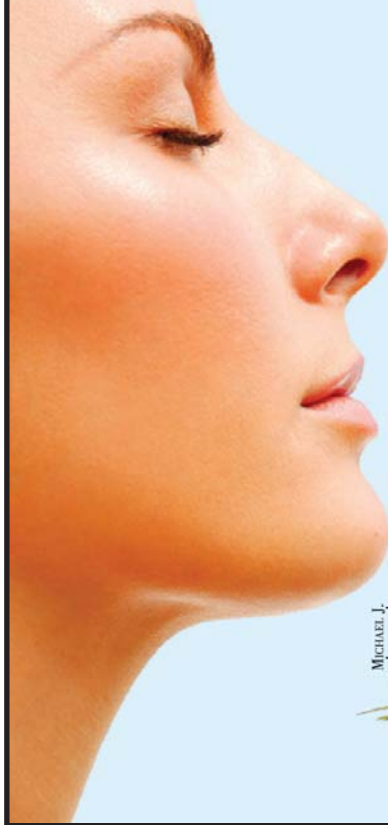
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LEGACY HOLDS GRAND OPENING

Legacy Community Federal Credit Union held a grand opening celebration on Thursday, April 4, for the new branch office in Alabaster. Despite rainy weather the event drew a large crowd, including a number of local radio stations plus the Thompson High School Cheerleaders.

"It's great. Even the weather cooperated to some degree here," said Legacy CEO Joe McGee. "We're thrilled to be here as part of the Alabaster community. I'm appreciative of everyone coming out today to be with us."

Legacy Credit Union has been serving residents in the Birmingham area since 1955. It originally opened as University Credit Union, serving members of the UAB community. It has since grown to include residents in seven counties across the Birmingham Metropolitan area. The Alabaster branch opened in February.

"We're a credit union.

The thing that's different about a credit union is we're a member-owned financial cooperative. We have no shareholders," said McGee. "And we are a community-based credit union. That's actually in our name, Legacy Community Federal Credit Union."

According to McGee, the company's earnings are returned back to its members in the form of lower interest rates on loans and lower service charges.

"Everything is focused on our members," he said. "It's a very member-centric organization."

The grand opening celebration featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, plus drawings for prizes like a Buffalo Wild Wings gift certificate and weekend passes to the Indy Grand Prix at Barber Motorsports Park. In the afternoon, guests could even get a ride in an actual Indy-style race car that



Mayor Marty Handlon celebrates the grand opening of Legacy Credit Union with Legacy executives Joe McGee, Glenn Bryan, Karene Stricklin, Rosalie Smith, Joel Barnett (with scissors), Brooke Morris and Michelle Arena.

stopped by Alabaster for the festivities. Representatives from AmStar Cinemas were also on hand, providing popcorn and cotton candy.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, McGee said that locating in Alabaster was a perfect choice, given the community's recent growth.

"We do our homework. We've seen the demographics. We've seen the growth," he said. "The opportunity presented

itself with the availability of the site here, and we just are thrilled to be a part of a growing community. We want to grow right along with it."

The new Alabaster Legacy is located at 810 Colonial Promenade Parkway. For more information, call 930-5000 or visit Legacy on the web at Legacycreditunion.com.

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COMMUNITY GARDEN TAKING ROOT

For anyone who's wanted to plant a garden but didn't have the room, the new Alabaster Community Garden has a great solution. For \$100 a year, residents can lease a 20-by-20 plot of land, where they can plant whatever vegetables they choose.

"Anybody that wants to get involved can lease one of those plots and plant what they want to," said local resident Robert Webb, who's spearheading the project.

The new community garden is located at the City of Alabaster's Limestone Park off Highway 31 south of Saginaw Pipe. The garden area itself is located to the left of the pond at Limestone Park and is divided into two distinct sections. Part of the land is dedicated to Manna Charities, an Alabaster-

based food bank that assists local families in need. The other area is divided into individual plots, which residents can lease and use for themselves.

"There's a 75-by-100 spot that's laid out for Manna," said Webb. "Everything that's zoned in that 75 foot by 100 goes directly back to Manna. Right beside it there's a 120-by-220 spot that's laid out in 20-foot plots. We lease those to individuals, and you plant what you want to."

Webb said he originally started the project last summer, though it just recently came together with the commitment of the land from the City of Alabaster.

"It's something that I've wanted to do for years and years, but I've never had the time to do it," he said. "It actually started last July. I got involved with a guy that used to have a community garden in Birmingham. I got



The Alabaster Community Garden at Limestone Park provides you with the space to grow great vegetables! Call to get your plot.

to helping him with his and I thought, hey, I can do this at home."

According to Webb, he's already plowed the soil at the garden, and water lines are supposed to be installed sometime in April, weather permitting. For his own plots, he said he's planning a variety of vegetables, including peas, butterbeans, okra, tomato, squash and corn.

"It's pretty much what my family will eat," he said.

Webb said he's been working on the project with fellow green-thumbs Jamie Oliff, Tracy Coyne, Nanci Scarpulla and Mark Olis.

For more information about the garden, search "Alabaster Community Garden" on Facebook.com. Interested gardeners can also email Webb at AlabasterCommunityGarden@gmail.com or call 612-0839.



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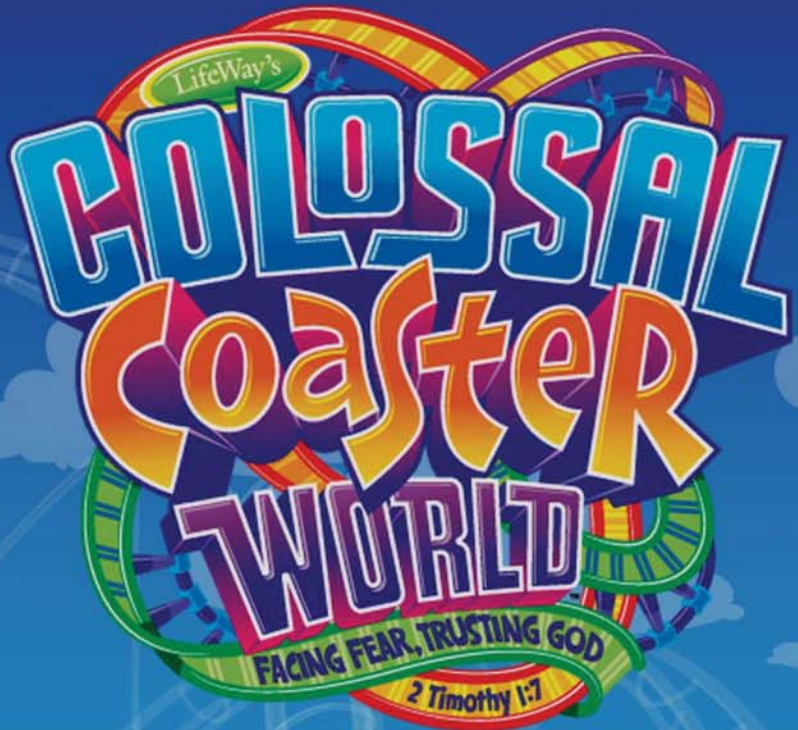
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FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

Local Boy Scouts recently helped the Alabaster Salvation Army restock the shelves of its food pantry. Troops from around Shelby County collected canned goods and other pantry items that will be used to feed families in need throughout the year.

The food drive was held Saturday, March 9. The annual event typically provides enough food to stock the pantry until at least the fall. Last year, pantry rations reached low levels just before Thanksgiving, and Salvation Army officials had to reach out to the community for additional donations.

This year, the various Boy Scout troops that participated dropped off non-perishable food items throughout the morning. Items ranged from pasta and rice to canned vegetables and soup.

Scoutmaster Dennis Rollins, with Boy Scout Troop 20 of the First Presbyterian Church of Alabaster, helped coordinate the event.

Terri Gregson, senior district executive with the Boy Scouts Shelby District, was also on hand. Gregson designed the patch ("Scouting For Food") that the Boys Scouts wore to commemorate the event.

A number of volunteers from The Station Church in Hoover were also on hand helping to organize food on the pantry shelves. DiAnna Wilson, who coordinated the group, said they were there as part of their "Service Saturday" outreach.

The Shelby County Salvation Army is located at 108 Plaza Circle. For more information, call 663-7105.

KELLER WILLIAMS AWARD



Tim Mitchell of Keller Williams Realty awarded Creek View Elementary teacher Ashley Williamson a \$300 grant for her kindergarten classroom on Thursday, April 4th. Tim has recently released a promotion at the school that provides grants directly to the teacher classrooms (or to a specific department) when a parent or staff member uses him to help buy or sell a home. This promotion is available to anyone in the community who has a local school connection or fundraiser they would like to support.

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YMCA GRAND OPENING

(CONT' FROM PAGE 12)

students in Shelby County.

"I am the most excited person here I truly believe," said Miller. "In the few short weeks that we've been here in this new facility, it is clear that this facility will help us make an even greater difference in the lives of these young people that we serve. It is a wonderful partnership."

The vision for the project came in large part from volunteer Neil Bailey, who's served both the YMCA and the DAY Program. He was instrumental in the original chase of the property as well as the partnership with the DAY Program and the vast fundraising effort needed to make the building a reality.

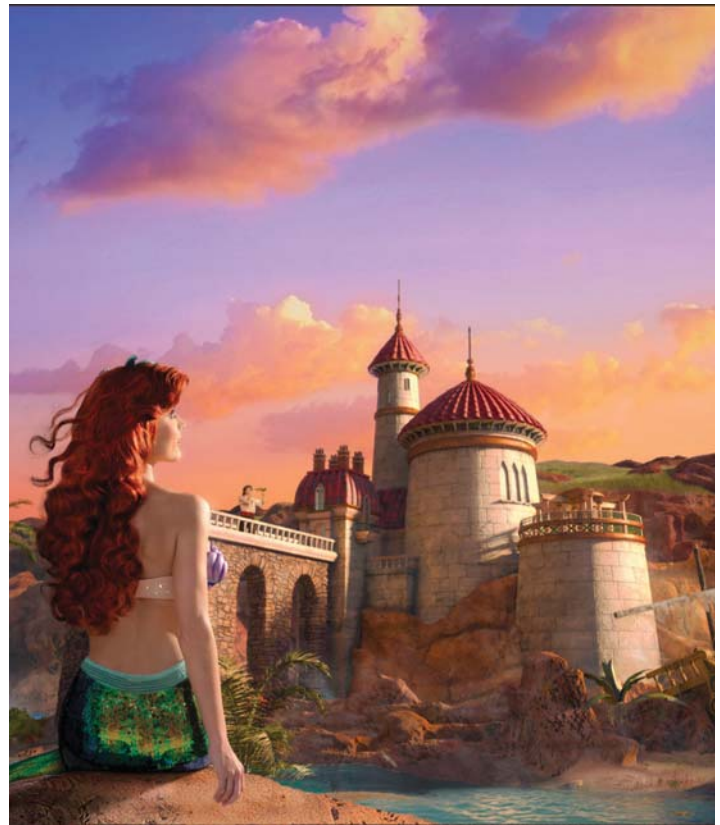
"Today I feel like a father whose wife has just given birth to twins," said Bailey, "the twins being the YMCA and the DAY Program."

County Manager Alex Dudchuck echoed the important role that partnerships played in the project, mentioning the Shelby County Board of Education, the Shelby County Commission and the Shelby County Community Health Foundation.

"It's about how people can come together that may have other areas of interest and motivation and requirements and still work through all that," said Dudchuck.

During the ceremony, Vines acknowledged a number of other people who played important roles in the project, including Rhonda Elmore, Kevin Gray, Mike Kent, TurnerBatson Architects, JohnsonKreis Construction, and construction management group CPM.

The YMCA also held an open house on Saturday, April 6. The Alabaster YMCA is located at 117 Plaza Circle. For more information, visit <http://www.ymcabham.org/alabaster>.



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RC PILOTS ENJOY FIRST ELECTRIC FUN FLY

Members of the Alabaster Radio Control Association enjoyed a great day of flying recently as they hosted the club's first-ever Electric Fun Fly.

The event, which was held at the club's Limestone Park facility, drew a good group of RC enthusiasts eager to fly their battery-powered planes.

"We had a good turnout," said event organizer Nick Neville. "We had people come from Ashville, Tuscaloosa and a couple from Calera."

The event was held on Saturday, April 6. It featured three fun competitions for the pilots to participate in.

"We had a bomb drop where you put a cup on the side of your plane and put a piece of hard candy in it and try to drop it on a spot on the runway," said Neville. "Then we had another one, which is the line landing, where you go up and kill your engine

and come down and try to land on a line on the runway."

Neville said the third event was more luck than skill as pilots flew their planes and attempted to guess the length of time their planes were in the air. Prizes were awarded to the top overall performers on the day, and a raffle was held for two RC planes.

"Everybody had a real good time," said Neville. "Two kids won the raffle. That's the best thing that can happen, because all us old guys, we've already got everything. We want to get the kids into it."

Neville said that electric planes are popular with RC pilots, and he wanted to create an event specifically for them. Other members said that electric planes are a good way for beginners to get involved with RC flying. Some of the planes are extremely light, and they can also save money on fuel costs.

In May, the club will



host a group of special-needs students from Thompson Intermediate School at the Alabaster flying field. According to ARCA member Leslie Harrison, they work with the students in April putting a plane together, and then in May, they bring them out to the park for a day of flying.

"This is at least our sixth

or seventh year that we've done the class," said Harrison. "In May, they come out to the field for a field trip. They'll actually get to fly with the help of one of our members."

For more information about the Alabaster RC Association, visit them online at www.alabaster-rc.org.

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May, 2013 27



BUSINESS FRIENDLY ALABASTER

By REPRESENTATIVE APRIL WEAVER

In a study called 2013 Building Business in Alabama: How Business Friendly Are Alabama's 50 Largest Cities, the Alabama Policy Institute (API) evaluated Alabama's Most Business Friendly cities. The API has collected data on Alabama's 50 most populous cities and ranked them based on criteria that both ensure business success and protect the entrepreneurial spirit. The four categories in which data are ranked are Economic Vitality, Business Tax Burden, Community Allure, and Transportation Infrastructure.

The City of Alabaster shined and came in overall as the 26th most business

friendly city in Alabama. Not surprisingly, Alabaster came in third in the state in the category of Community Allure Ranking. The factors that make up the Community Allure category count for a smaller percentage of the rankings than Business Tax Burden and Economic Vitality. Nevertheless, indicators such as the cost of living index, education performance, and crime rates all play a key role in any city's business climate. With its reasonable cost of living, safe neighborhoods, and good education system, Alabaster proudly claimed the third top spot in the state for this category.

When I ran for the

Legislature in 2010 on a pro-business and job creation platform, I promised to support our businesses and I have worked hard to follow through. I believe if you focus on shrinking the size of government, keeping taxes low, and eliminating burdensome regulations that businesses will succeed and create new jobs.

In an earlier column, I shared information about the Red Tape Reduction Act I'm sponsoring this year. At the time of writing, this bill has passed the Senate and is currently waiting to be signed by Governor Bentley. This measure was designed to unburden businesses of all

sizes from needless and inefficient government bureaucracy and regulation. I feel that rather than jumping through hoops to fill out needless paperwork and comply with inane government regulations, business owners should spend their time growing their companies, expanding opportunities and creating jobs, and this bill helps accomplish that goal. In short, my bill is the businessman's best friend and the bureaucrat's worst nightmare.

I am hopeful that before the next newsletter is printed, the Red Tape Reduction Act will become law and will be a huge win for Alabama businesses!

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LOCAL CUB SCOUT SPEAKS AT BSA LUNCHEON

Local Cub Scout Elijah Honeycutt recently had the honor of speaking at the Boy Scouts of America American Values Luncheon at the BJCC in Birmingham. The 7-year-old Alabaster resident was one of only a few Scouts selected to speak, so it was a distinct honor to be chosen for the event.

"He spoke in front of about 2,000 people, which was pretty cool for a 7-year-old," said his father Tony Honeycutt. "Included in the crowd were two Heisman winners, Pat Sullivan and Bo Jackson, and then the rest were mostly business members. So that was pretty impressive."

The annual luncheon serves as a fundraiser for the Boy Scouts Greater Alabama Council, and this year's guest speaker for the event was legendary two-sport athlete Bo Jackson.

According to Tony, Elijah was selected based on his performance in a recent fundraising project in which he raised the most money in his pack (Pack 394/Alabaster).

"Elijah has Asperger's, and he took one of their fundraisers this year, which was popcorn sales, and he kind of ran with it," said Tony. "The Scouts found out about the story behind it, and that's why they picked him to speak."

Elijah had another special moment during the luncheon when Jackson called him back up to the stage to talk with him.

"When Bo gets up there to speak, he calls Elijah back up to the stage and he kind of pulls Elijah to the side on the stage in front of all these people. He has a conversation with him and gives him something," said Tony.

Nobody could hear what Bo said or see what he gave him, and as it turns out,

they likely never will.

"During the conversation he told Elijah, hey, this is our little secret, don't tell anyone, and as Elijah was heading back to his seat, Bo reiterated that in front of everyone. Hey, Elijah this is our secret, you don't share it with anybody right? So Elijah looks back, gives him a nod, and he sits down," said Tony.

True to his word, Elijah's kept the contents of their conversation secret, as well as the item that Bo gave him.

"Elijah refuses to share that information with anyone, even me and his mother," said Tony.

When they got home, Elijah put it in an envelope, and his parents stashed it away for safe-keeping.

"It's still sealed up," said Tony. "I have no clue what Bo gave him. His mother doesn't. No one does."

It turns out that Scouts are pretty good at keeping



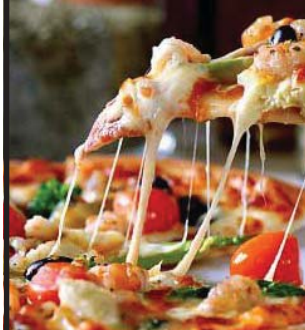
Cub Scout Elijah Honeycutt

promises.

Following the event, Tony said he couldn't have been prouder of his son.

"The biggest thing I was proud of was the fact that he stood up in front of 2,000 people and spoke," said Tony. "To have the courage to do that, that's what matters the most, and of course the whole deal with Bo Jackson was sort of like icing on the cake."

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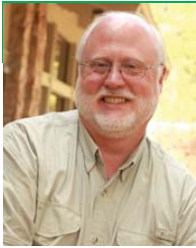
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CAHABA LILY FESTIVAL MAY 18TH by David Frings

All of the spring flowers and warm weather is enough to put anyone in the mood to get outdoors for some family fun and experience Alabama's natural heritage first hand. If you are looking for a low cost event that is only a short drive to the south, let me suggest this year's Cahaba Lily Festival just down the road with our neighbors in West Blocton. The Cahaba Lily, which is a type of spiderlily, is an aquatic plant that is found in special habitats of major river systems of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. The lily lives in portions of the rivers that are immediately above and below the fall line. These are areas of fast-flowing water due to the change in elevation of the terrain and

numerous rock layers and boulders that resist the flow. The lilies sprout from bulbs that take root between the rocks which also trap and hold the seeds that are produced each spring. Cahaba lilies begin to flower in the middle of May, reaching their peak in late May and early June. The lilies cover sections of the Cahaba River in a sea of snow white flowers and are a site to behold. The brilliance and sheer number of flowers give the illusion of drifts of snow in bands winding through the rapids along the river.

The City of West Blocton started the Cahaba River Festival almost twenty-four years ago in order to recognize this botanical gift from one of the last free-flowing rivers in Alabama. This year's festival, which is organized by the West Blocton Improvement Committee, is a free event

that will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The program will begin around 9:00 A.M. featuring talks from various nature and wildflower groups.

The highlight of the presentations is a talk on the Cahaba Lily by Dr. Larry Davenport of Samford University.



Larry has done most of the research on the lily and documented the lily's occurrence throughout Alabama. Lunch, which is also free, is served just before organized tours leave for an afternoon on the river. While the festival is free, donations will be accepted to help with the cost for the event.

The Cahaba River Society will offer \$15.00 canoe rentals for anyone that would like a closer look drifting down the Cahaba. The canoe rental will be between the hours of 1 and 3 P. M. the day of the festival and are on a first-come basis. The will also be a variety of vendors at the festival selling nature themed crafts. The festival events will begin at the Cahaba Lily Center located on Main Street in West Blocton. Additional festival information can be obtained at www.cahabalily.com/cahabalilyfestival/.

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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SENIOR ACTIVITIES FOR MAY

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Shelby County Annual Senior Picnic at Oak Mountain State Park Thursday, May 16 from 9 am - 1 pm. Don't miss this event: lunch, vendors, music, door prizes and much more. Please call the Center no later than May 1 to make your reservations.

Shop Till You Drop - Craft Show Tuesday, May 28 from 9 am - 12 pm. Come shop with us at the Center. Our seniors are very talented and want to share their art, crafts and much more. You won't want to miss this opportunity to purchase a few great things made with a lot of love.

Acrylic Painting Workshop Tuesday, May 14 from 12 pm - 3 pm. Beginner and experienced painters

are welcome. Class will focus on fundamentals of composition, color basics and a variety of methods of applying acrylic paint. Cost is \$20 per person, and supplies are included. Space is limited.

Line dancing Every Thursday. Intermediate class begins at 9:30 am and beginner class at 10:30 am. Encouraged donation of \$2 per class.

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

Basic Knitting Every Thursday at 10 am beginning in May. Join us for instruction in the basics of knitting. No charge but you must provide your own supplies. Space is limited.

Free Blood Pressure Checks Tuesday, May 14 at 9:30 am with Comfort Care Hospice.

Crochet class Every Wednesday at 9 am. Learn how to crochet; or, if you are experienced, stop by and fellowship with friends.

Gardening with Betty Every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. \$5 per class and includes all supplies. Must sign up ahead of time.

"Preserving Family Memories Through Scrapbooking" taught by C.D. McKinnon. Monday, May 13 from 12 pm - 3 pm. Ever wonder what to do with all of those shoeboxes full of pictures and "stuff" you saved? Join us for a scrapbooking crop and learn how to turn those treasured memories into beautiful scrapbooks that tell your family's story. In each class, you will learn a new technique to help you create beautiful family albums. Bring \$5 cash to each class. You will need to bring your own pictures and supplies. Some supplies will be available to purchase. Special thanks to the Weatherly Garden Club for their donation to continue the growth of our gardening program here at the Senior Center.

Wish List - Looking for an

Acrylic Instructor. Please call Alicia at 663-1307 or awalters@cityofalabaster.com if you are interested.

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 10 am
 - Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
 - Rook: Wednesdays at 9 am
 - Rummikub: Wednesdays at 9:30 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

- May 1 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex
- May 6 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- May 7 Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex
- May 8 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex*
- May 9 Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.
- May 13 Water Board 7 pm Annex
Parks & Rec Bldg. (The Depot)
Board of Education 6:00 pm Senior Center
- May 14 Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex
- May 16 Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm
- May 20 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Senior Center
- May 21 Driving School 7 pm Annex
- May 22 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex
Sewer Committee 6 pm City Hall
- May 27 CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY
- May 28 Library Board 6pm Albert L. Scott Library
Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex

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.

~ May 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	

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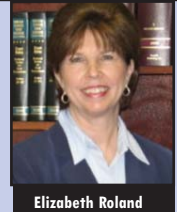
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