

# Alabaster

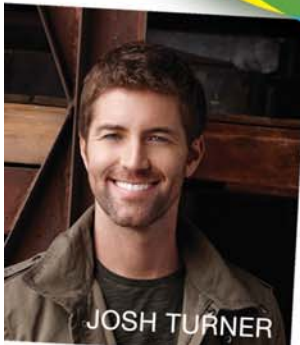
VOLUME I NUMBER 6

JUNE 2013

**FREE.  
FAMILY.  
FUN.**

# ALABASTER CITYFEST 2013

## JUNE 1



JOSH TURNER



MICHAEL WARREN



ED K (formerly of LIVE)



ATTICUS AVENUE



# Alabaster

## A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



The essence of civilization is an interconnected web of people, each contributing to the whole and each fulfilling their needs in their own unique way.

We have different needs at different times. We need to get dinner or have it brought in, get a

car or mower repaired, find a dentist, orthodontist, or oral surgeon, perhaps get a computer repaired, or buy a new car, daycare for your children, get an accountant to help you with your taxes, or hire a company to do repair to your home or build an addition, or buy a new home and sell your existing one, maybe you need a loan, or a plumber, to find unique gifts, a soccer club for your kids, a photo taken of your wedding or event, a hearing aid, or plants to decorate your yard. That's a lot of stuff and we don't all need those things at the same time. Our needs change

with each progressive stage in our lives.

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Each month, I see folks who say, "I read the newsletter cover to cover!" I always tell them they're not alone - that thousands of fellow citi-

zens are doing the same.

To this end we like to give folks something to read about what's going on in various aspects of the city operations and its citizens. To keep up this work, we rely on our wonderful advertisers because

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Thanks to our advertisers and you our wonderful readers for helping us as we move forward as an independent voice about what's happening in the city.

What's happening in June is CityFest, it's a great opportunity for fun and music that the Alabaster Arts Council should be proud of. Have fun this month, and if you need to buy something, you know where to look first. Onward to the fireworks!



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

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At the May 6 meeting of the Alabaster City Council, the City Council voted to continue a scheduled public hearing on a proposed sidewalk ordinance.

The public hearing is now scheduled to take place during the Council's regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 3.

Councilman Tommy Ryals cited concerns over the ordinance as it was currently written, and the

Council passed the motion to continue the hearing in a unanimous oral vote.

The ordinance, which addresses sidewalk maintenance in the City of Alabaster, will be discussed and refined at the Council's work session.

In other Council news, the Council voted to appoint Derek Henderson to the Alabaster Board of Education. The vote fell 4-3 in Henderson's favor, with the three other votes supporting nominee Jim

McClain. The third nominee was Eric Starling.

According to Council President Scott Brakefield, the vote was an indication of the strength of the candidates.

"You got to see something unique tonight. Not very often do we have a 4-3 vote, but I think it speaks to the quality of the candidates that we received for the Alabaster Board of Education," said Brakefield. "I applaud everybody that put their name out there."

The vacancy was created when former School Board President Dr. Melanie Shores retired in March. Additionally, Ty Quarles was reappointed to the Board of Education. His term will expire in June 2018.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Marty Handlon issued a pair of proclamations recognizing two of Alabaster's most active young leaders, in Eagle Scout Jonathan Joseph and

Thompson High School senior Joe Grice.

Handlon honored Joseph, a member of Boy Scout Troop 72, for achieving "the highest honor bestowed on a Scout, the Eagle Scout Award."

Grice was honored as being "an outstanding student leader at Thompson High School." Grice has been behind a number of fundraisers at Thompson, including an effort to support the school library and a campaign to replace an old wooden sign. He's also created a new apparel line with his brother and a friend called "Everything Southern."

Councilwoman Sophie Martin said it was exciting to see the leadership being demonstrated by so many of Alabaster's young people.

"If this is a sign of things to come, we're going to be in very good hands," said Martin.

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# A FULL DAY OF FUN!!

Of course everybody's excited about CityFest's musical headliners this year (former Live singer Ed Kowalczyk and country superstar Josh Turner), but Alabaster's most famous festival offers much more than a great concert.

For families looking for a fun and inexpensive day at the park, CityFest offers its KidsFest area. Starting at 9 a.m. kids can enjoy inflatables, arts and crafts, a drum circle and other fun children's activities that will run throughout the day.

Beginning at 10 a.m., popular children's musician Jim Aycock will be live on the KidsFest Stage performing his entertaining brand of children's songs. Aycock will perform several times during the day, starting each set at the top of the hour.

For those with a taste for shopping, CityFest's dozens of vendors will offer a variety of unique products at their booths throughout the day. This year's vendors will be selling everything from wooden furniture and leather goods to T-shirts and handbags.

There will also be plenty of food vendors on hand, selling tasty treats like funnel cakes, shaved ice, barbecue, homemade ice cream, hot dogs, donuts and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

The vendors also include a number of informational booths, provid-

ing guests with an opportunity to learn about a variety of different businesses and services.

To see a list of scheduled vendors, go to the CityFest website ([www.alabastercityfest.com](http://www.alabastercityfest.com)) and click on the "Vendors" tab. Among those listed for 2013 are Baptist Health Systems, Albert L. Scott Library and Lifeguard Ambulance Service, which will be doing blood-pressure checks.

Of course it wouldn't be a proper festival without music, and the Alabaster Arts Council has a full roster of acts scheduled throughout the day. Starting things off will be Divine Destiny on the Day Stage at 9 a.m., followed by local singer Sanchez Tannehill at 10 a.m.

At 11 a.m. Terry Padgett will be bringing his Elvis act back to the Day Stage for two hours of good ol' fashioned rock and roll. Last year, Padgett proved to be one of the more popular additions to the lineup, as he cranked out classic Elvis hits while dressed in full Elvis regalia.

Following Padgett will be the Final Fight at 1 p.m. and Crossroads Junction at 2 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., the Main Stage gets cranked up, starting with the Coyote Jack Band, followed by local band Atticus Avenue at 3:15 p.m. Leading up to the headline acts are Take 7 at 4 p.m., After Two Glasses at 5 p.m. and Michael Warren at 6 p.m.

So come out early and enjoy everything CityFest has to offer!



## JUNE 1

### MAIN STAGE

- 9 PM Josh Turner
- 7 PM Ed K formerly of LIVE
- 6 PM Michael Warren
- 5 PM After Two Glasses
- 4 PM Take 7
- 3:15 PM Atticus Avenue
- 2:30 PM Coyote Jack Band

### DAY STAGE

- 9AM Divine Destiny
- 10 AM Sanchez Tannehill
- 11 AM - 2 PM  
Terry Padgett as Elvis
- 2 PM Crossroads Junction
- 1 PM The Final Flight

[alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com)





## CLASSIC CAR CRUISE IN

Local car enthusiasts will have plenty to get their motors running this month as CityFest hosts its annual Cruise-In Car Show on Saturday, June 1 at Municipal Park.

The car show will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and feature a wide variety of unique vehicles, all on display for guests to check out and enjoy. Past vehicles have included high-end sports cars, antique pickup trucks and beautifully-customized paint jobs. The vehicle owners are also typically on-hand to answer any questions that people might have.

For car owners that might want to participate in the car show, there's no fee to display a vehicle. Registration is required but it can be done onsite, on the day of the show. The first 50 registrants will receive a dash plaque.

For those that might want to print off a registration form beforehand, go to [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com) and click on the "Cruise In" link under the "Entertainment" tab. A printable version of the registration form is available from there.

This year's Cruise-In is sponsored by Ernest McCarty Ford of Alabaster. Last year, the car dealer had a number of new Fords on display as well.

Also back this year is the People's Choice Award. Visitors will be able to vote on their favorite car. And at 11 a.m. Elvis impersonator Terry Padgett will get things rockin' on the nearby Day Stage.

## CITYFEST 5K RUN JUNE 1



Local runners can get their CityFest Saturday started off right this year with the new CityFest 5K. In conjunction with the 11th Annual Alabaster CityFest, the Alabaster Arts Council will be holding a 5K run on Saturday, June 1, starting at 8 a.m.

This is the first year for the run, which will kick off a full

day of activities culminating in Josh Turner's appearance on the CityFest main stage at Municipal Park at 9 p.m.

The CityFest 5K will begin near Larry Simmons Stadium on Thompson

Road in Alabaster and is open to runners of all ages. Packet pickup and same-day registration will begin at 7 a.m. at the Thompson Intermediate School gym. The race route will wind through the neighborhoods off Thompson Road before finishing at Larry Simmons Stadium.

Participants in the 5K will receive a commemorative CityFest T-shirt. They're also eligible for a variety of awards for both overall winners and age-group winners: Masters, Grand Masters, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and over 70. The awards ceremony will be held at the intermediate school immediately following the race.

Advance registration is available online at [Active.com](http://Active.com). (Search "CityFest 5K.") Cost for the run is \$25. For more information, visit the CityFest website at [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com).

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# Alabaster

## PROFILE By Caroline Vincent

### THS LIBRARIANS

Reporting to the police station is not usually part of the job description of a librarian, but Thompson High School librarian Jennye Haddaway says, "When I was working in an elementary library, we had stuffed animals everywhere...and one summer a group of teenage boys...stole all my animals and the Alabaster police department had to call me up and I had to...identify the stolen goods."

Though not as extreme, the other librarians of THS have had some unique experiences of their own. Media specialist Greg Stone has helped with making the school wireless while Martha Catchings says, "Both my kids went through school here while I was here and that was fun."

These experiences have led to interaction with the students of Thompson High School, something all three librarians treasure. "I like older students. They have real problems and I like listening and helping," Catchings says. Stone comments, "I enjoy seeing students come in and out and

helping them find books and different things they need for class." Hadaway agrees and says, "I guess I wouldn't be in this profession if I didn't like to help people."

There is no question that they love their jobs, but not all of these librarians had this as their first career choice. Stone first worked as a history teacher for 12 years but says, "I was looking for something to do after my teaching career, and I thought I would retire and work in the library. But the library job just kind of came along and I took that."

Catchings worked 16 years in hospital management in Florida before moving back to Alabaster with her husband of 32 years, Charles, and their two children, Laura and Darrell. She began to work as a substitute teacher at Thompson Middle and High schools and then was offered a volunteer position. She wanted to be in the office of the high school but the school had other ideas, "They said 'Well how would you like to try the library?'" Catchings was reluctant at



Martha Catchings, Greg Stone and Jennye Hadaway enjoy working together at the Thompson High School library.

first but decided to take the job. "I didn't want anything full-time," she says, "but here I am full-time. It's just fun."

Hadaway differs from her coworkers in this area, as she studied for many years to be a librarian. As a senior in high school, she worked as a library aid and went on to receive her undergraduate degree in education at Auburn University and her Master's at UAB and then became certified to be a librarian. Since then, she has been married to Mike Hadaway, had two daughters, Jennifer Campisi and Jessica Holden, graduated from Auburn University and worked in libraries all around Birmingham, varying from elementary to high school.

Each librarian feels the love for children, as

Catchings and Hadaway are both recent grandmothers and Stone has a two-year-old son, Sam, with his wife of 13 years, April. There is no doubt this compassion for young people drives the librarians to be understanding and loving to the students who come through the Thompson library.

Being surrounded by books, each librarian has a different favorite among the many on the shelves. Stone claims "The Hobbit" as a lifetime love of his. Catchings and Hadaway say "Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers is their favorite. Hadaway also says "Where the Red Fern Grows" is a beloved book.

This group of librarians is a special one, making a largely positive impact on the lives of students at Thompson High School.



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## JOSH TURNER 9PM

Local country music fans are in for a treat this month as the City of Alabaster welcomes Josh Turner to town to headline the 11th Annual Alabaster CityFest.

The free festival, which is held annually at Municipal Park, features world-class music from some of the most popular artists around. Past acts have included the Fabulous Thunderbirds (2004), Foghat (2006), the Gin Blossoms (2007), Tracy Lawrence (2008), Travis Tritt (2010) and last year's headliner Lonestar.

Turner, one of country music's most interesting young voices, brings his smooth baritone and traditional sound to Alabaster

for a concert fans are sure to enjoy.

Turner first set the country music world abuzz when he made his debut at the Grand Ole Opry in 2001. Singing the song that would later become his first hit, "Long Black Train," Turner made such an impact that the crowd gave him multiple standing ovations. According to Opry.com, the moment has become something of a legend in Grand Ole Opry lore.

He subsequently released his first album, "Long Black Train," which set the rest of his music career in motion. The title track "Long Black Train" would reach No. 13 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart, while earning him legions of fans for his inspirational lyrics and traditional sound.

His next album "Your Man" (2006) took Turner's

career to another level, earning him his first No. 1 single in the song "Your Man." The song was later sung by "American Idol" contestant Scotty McCreery, who rode the song to victory in the tenth season of the hit Fox television show. Turner's album also hit No. 2 on the Billboard 200 and earned him two Grammy nominations.

In 2007, Turner released his third studio album "Everything is Fine." That album would reach gold record status, while producing the hit single "Firecracker." That same year, Turner was officially inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, making him one of the youngest members of the venerable country music organization.

Turner's latest album, "Punching Bag," was released in 2012, immediately hitting No. 1 on Billboard's Country Albums



**JOSH TURNER**

chart. The album also produced the hit single "Time Is Love," which topped Billboard's year-end country chart at the end of 2012.

Turner will take the stage at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. As always, Alabaster CityFest is a free event, so come on out to the park and enjoy a great country concert under the stars.

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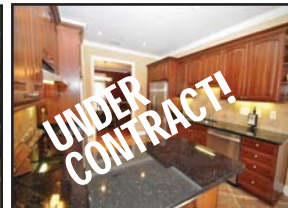
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# Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE



## NETWORX COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES

Conveniently located on Pelham Parkway, Networx Computers is a locally-owned technology company that can provide help to both the home computer user and the small to medium-sized business.

Owners Jason Askew and Marshall Lewis opened Networx in the fall of 2008, after working together previously for several years at another IT company in the area.

"This will be six years this Halloween," said Lewis.

According to Lewis, the idea was to take the lessons learned from their previous work experience and to improve upon them with their new company. Nearly six years in, the model seems to be working.

"What it's evolved into is I handle most of the onsite work, and Jason kind of mans the headquarters here," said Lewis. "He steers the ship from



(From Left) Networx Computer Technologies owners Marshall Lewis and Jason Askew are ready to help you with computer support and repair.

here."

In terms of specific computer services, Networx combines a full range of computer-repair services with onsite IT assistance.

"The typical customer on my side is pretty much any home user," said Askew, "whether they have an infection, their Internet's not working, their wireless isn't working, they need data recovered. Sometimes they delete files, sometimes their computer just doesn't boot one morning and at

that point, they bring it here and we say, well, it's a hardware problem or a software problem."

Networx can handle laptop repairs, including broken screens or damaged DC power jacks.

"We're one of the only places in Birmingham that really does board-level work on laptops," said Lewis.

On the business side, Networx handles the full array of IT needs for a diverse group of clients.

"We do server maintenance, design, setup, we do offsite backup, remote support, all of your standard features that any IT company would provide," said Lewis. "A lot of what we do is software support."

One of the great features of the business is its accessibility. Networx is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they also encourage walk-ins.

"We like to keep the doors open," said Askew.

Networx is located on the second floor of Harvey's Square, the office building in front of Home Depot in Pelham. Both owners said that the proximity to Highway 31 has been a great benefit to the business.

"We've gotten a lot of exposure from our banner and people just sitting at the light, and of course Home Depot is a really good landmark," said Lewis.

For more information about Networx, visit them online at

www.networxinc.net. The company also maintains a Facebook page at Facebook.com. (Search "Networx Computer Technologies.")



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## DAY TRIPPING: MONTGOMERY BY SARAH B. JONES



A Day Trip to visitor-friendly Montgomery is an enjoyable way to absorb Alabama History with attractions that are varied and very accessible, and only about an hour away.

Start at the Visitor Center (Monday-Saturday) for information on local attractions and events and then take the Trolley for a narrated tour of downtown. We had a very knowledgeable and humorous driver. The Trolley runs Monday - Saturday, 9am - 4pm, and you can hop on and off all day.

The Alabama State Capitol Building is a very white, beautiful, Greek Revival building open Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm. Across the street are the First White House of the



Confederate White House

Confederacy and the State House. We enjoyed visiting all three.

Old Alabama Town is a living history 19th-century village covering about six blocks that features restored homes and other buildings. It's best to visit here Monday-Friday when the costumed interpreters answer questions and provide information. Also on the tour are the Rosa

Parks Library and Museum, Dexter Parsonage Museum, and The Hank Williams Museum

As a photographer, I'm very interested in old cemeteries, and I've made converts of my friends who have learned that there are many interesting headstones and sculptures. We

(CON'T ON PAGE 27)

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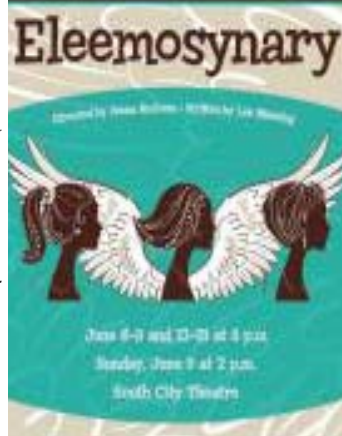


## A CLASSIC DRAMA

South City Theatre presents "ELEMOSYNARY" by Lee Blessing. Staged with utmost simplicity, using platforms and a few props, the play probes into the delicate relationship of three singular women: the grandmother, Dorothea, who has sought to assert her independence through strong-willed eccentricity; her brilliant daughter, Artie (Artemis), who has fled the stifling domination of her mother; and Artie's daughter, Echo, a child of exceptional intellect-and sensitivity-whom Artie has abandoned to an upbringing by Dorothea.

Evening Time: Jun 6, 8:00pm to Jun 8, 8:00pm 2013  
 Jun 13, 8:00pm to Jun 15, 8:00pm 2013  
 Matinee Time:  
 Jun 9, 2:00pm

The South City Studio Theatre 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. **Call 621-2128.**

[www.southcitytheatre.com](http://www.southcitytheatre.com) on

## KELLER WILLIAMS HOLDS REAL ESTATE SCHOOL

The local Keller Williams office, Keller Williams Realty Metro South, is holding a real estate school for local residents interested in getting into real estate. The classes are held two nights a week, on Monday and Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. They're held at the Keller Williams Colonial Promenade office.

"We've started a nighttime real estate school that we do for hiring new agents," said Keller Williams agent Tim Mitchell. "It's tied in with our Birmingham offices. Avery Yarborough runs the school out of Hoover, but we tie in with them and we do a simulcast so we can cover the Shelby County area down here."

According to Mitchell, the class includes an onsite instructor, but it's also linked to Hoover so that students can interact with Yarborough via a video feed.

"It's interactive," said

Mitchell. "It allows people in the area to not have to go to Hoover and have to fight the traffic."

The video feed is projected onto a large screen in the classroom, and a webcam captures the Alabaster students so they can ask questions at any time.

"If you want to be a licensed agent to sell real estate, then this is the first step working toward becoming a realtor," said Mitchell.

The length of the program is 8 to 12 weeks. It runs around \$324.

"That includes class and books and materials," said Mitchell.

Keller Williams Realty Metro South is located at 750 Colonial Promenade Parkway, beside Momma Goldberg's Deli. To find out more about the real estate classes, contact Keller Williams Realty at 605-1000.

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# Alabaster

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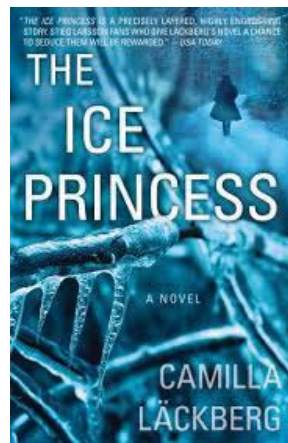
## JUNE ACTIVITIES

**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.

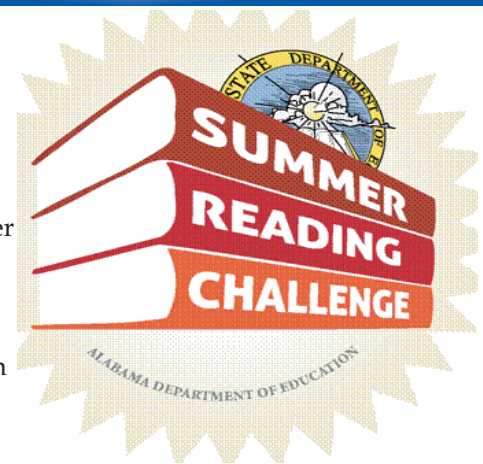
## LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

**Library Book Group - Thursday, June 20th 7 pm** – Join us in our discussion of “The Ice Princess” by Camilla Lackberg. After the sudden death of her parents, author Erica Falck returns to her childhood home in the small west coast community of Fjällbacka. When Alex Wijkner, one of Erica’s childhood friends, is found murdered, she is drawn into a web of deception, lies and hidden secrets. Something that happened 25 years earlier still casts its ugly shadow over Alex and the people around her. At first reluctantly, but then with ever growing curiosity, Erica decides to find out who is willing to take such drastic measures in order to prevent old truths from coming out. At the same time she has to deal with personal problems, a budding romance and the feeling that, at the age of 35, she doesn’t really know what she wants to do with her life... Program takes place in the meeting room.



## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

**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 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.



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SUPPORTS LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The mission of the Friends is to provide the library with the means to expand services. Our thanks to all of you who support the Friends through your membership, purchasing books from the Book Room and Book Sales, and participating in our other fund raising events. Here are some of the ways the Library patrons benefitted last year:

### Children’s Programs:

- Prizes for the Christmas Holiday Party giveaway bags.
- Halloween Party decorations, refreshments, door prizes, and Russell Davis Magic show.
- Gingerbread cookies and decorations for the Gingerbread House workshop.
- Kids first books for Outreach Book club and pizza for Book Club Finale.
- Santa and Mrs. Claus and carriage ride for Christmas Party
- Presenters and supplies for Gingerbread House, Easter bunny Huts, and dying to Color Workshops.
- Refreshments for Valentine and Easter programs and Storytimes

- Miss Day Lily Spring and Easter Bunny for Easter Program
- Refreshments for Teddy Bear Picnic

### Teens and Young Adults Programs:

- Summer Challenge prizes, decorations, snacks and refreshments. Kindle for door prize
- Teen Read Week refreshments, pizza, and door prizes

### Adults Programs

- Speaker for Titanic Program
  - Cake and culture Program refreshments and presenters Delores Hydock, storyteller
  - Six-Week Crochet Class
  - Cooking Class
  - Road Scholar from Alabama Humanities
- Thanks for being a Friend!**





## CURBING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE



Senator Cam Ward

The Alabama Senate Thursday granted final passage to a series of bills that will help combat the abuse of prescrip-

tion drugs. The three-bill package will enhance the tracking of prescriptions for opioids, painkillers and other commonly abused drugs, prevent "doctor shopping" and provide the State Medicaid Agency with tools to combat drug abuse among its patients. The bills now go to Governor Robert Bentley for his signature.

Senator Cam Ward (R-Alabaster), who sponsored the legislation in the Senate, said these are necessary tools for combating a dangerous and costly problem in the state of Alabama.

"We clearly have a

problem on our hands when statistics show that one out of five Americans have abused prescription drugs, and that more have died from painkiller overdoses than cocaine and heroin combined," Ward said. "Not only is this a dangerous trend, but estimates have shown that prescription drug abuse has cost us more than \$70 billion a year."

House Bill 150, sponsored by Representative Jim McClendon (R-Springville), allows physicians and up to two of their designated employees to access that Prescription Drug Monitoring Program database maintained by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The State Medicaid Agency would also be provided similar access. Since 2006, anyone prescribing controlled substances in Alabama has been required to report the dispensing of those drugs to the database and access to the system would allow

doctors to track past prescriptions given to their patients.

House Bill 151, sponsored by Representative April Weaver (R-Brierfield), allows for the regulation of pain management services in Alabama and provides the Board of Medical Examiners the authority to promulgate rules. In addition to requiring that pain management services could only be provided at locations owned by physicians or registered with the Secretary of State, the bill also provides for license suspension and disciplinary actions in the case of a public health danger.

House Bill 152, also sponsored by Weaver, allows law enforcement to effectively prosecute instances of "doctor shopping" in which patients visit a variety of physicians in order to obtain prescriptions for the same or similar controlled substances. The bill protects the doctor-patient relationship by clar-

ifying a patient would have to attempt to "deceptively" obtain multiple prescriptions over a "concurrent time period." Initial violations of the statute within HB152 would result in a Class A misdemeanor with a fourth conviction in a five-year period rising to a Class C felony.

Weaver stated, "A lot of work has been put into these bills over the past year and it's exciting to see them pass and come to fruition. Prescription drug abuse is on the rise and healthcare providers across the state can confirm that the cases are becoming more frequent. With passage of these commonsense bills, we can help prevent prescription drug abuse by addressing it at the point of prescribing, while also protecting patient confidentiality and preserving the rights of healthcare providers

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## NASA CONDUCTS WORKSHOP FOR KIDS FIRST

The Kids First Awareness 21st Century Community Learning Center had a very special day recently as both students and staff took part in a science workshop conducted by representatives from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

The event was held at the Shelby County Schools Instructional Services Center on Saturday, March 16. It was conducted by members of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center's Academic Affairs Office.

"It went great," said Kids First Director Cindy Hawkins. "The kids had a blast."

The project was part of NASA's Beginning Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) Students project, which is a

collection of hands-on activities that teach kids the Engineering Design Process (EDP). The design process includes six steps (ask, imagine, plan, create, experiment, improve) that the students use to solve problems.

Hawkins said she wanted the kids to be exposed to some new things and give them ideas about possible careers that might be available to them in the future.

"I try to always teach them something different, trying to keep their minds open to different stuff," said Hawkins. "We're trying to teach them things that are going to help them do better in life."

In the morning, Kids First staff members and volunteers were provided with professional development training, which they were then able to implement with

the students later that afternoon.

The activities included splitting the kids into teams and building lunar rovers out of common household supplies. According to Hawkins, the kids really got into the spirit of the day.

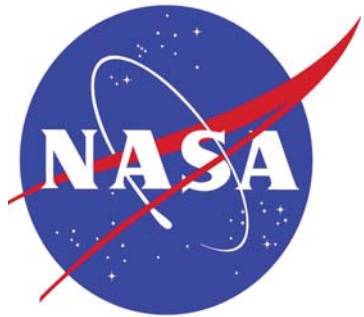
"They just jumped right into it," said Hawkins. "They broke them down into teams and showed them what they wanted them to do and they did it. It was just a fun day."

To prepare for the day, the kids spent the week before learning about NASA.

"That was NASA week," Hawkins said.

Dr. Anna McEwan of the University of Montevallo also participated in the event.

"We had four college students from the University of Montevallo, and we had a couple of high school kids



that came in and volunteered," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said she was also thankful to Shelby County Schools for allowing them the use of the Instructional Services building and parking lot.

The Marshall Space Flight Center is located in Huntsville, Ala. For more information about the flight center, visit [www.msfc.nasa.gov](http://www.msfc.nasa.gov). For information about Kids First, go to [kidsfirst123.com](http://kidsfirst123.com).

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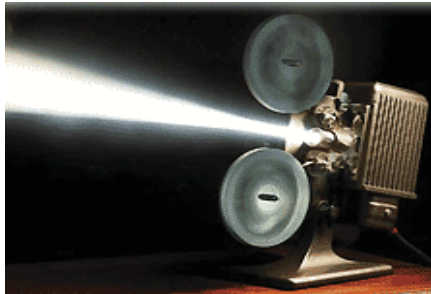
Parks & Rec Dept., 100 Depot St. 664-6840 [www.alabasterparks.org](http://www.alabasterparks.org)

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

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**

The movies are FREE so it makes for a fun, yet economical evening of entertainment for family and friends.

All you'll need to bring is a blanket or chair to sit on, and some snacks and drinks.



The movies will begin showing around dusk (usually 8:00).

- June 7 - "The Lorax" - PG (86 minutes)
- June 21 - "Madagascar 3" - PG (93 minutes)
- July 12 - "Hotel Transylvania" - PG (91 minutes)
- July 26 - "Wreck-It Ralph" - PG (108 minutes)
- August 9 - "Happy Feet Two" - PG (100 minutes)

**ADULT SOFTBALL**

The regular season for Adult Softball began on May 2. The 2013 season consists 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!

**PAVILIONS FOR RENT**

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.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 2013**

- June 3 - 7 FOOTBALL & CHEER Registration @ Depot (M-F ... 8 am - 5 pm)
- June 1 CITY FEST @ Municipal Park - 9 am until 11 pm [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com)
- June 7 MOVIES in the Park @ Veterans Park - 8 pm
- June 8 Saturday Registration for FOOTBALL & CHEER - 10 am until 2 pm @ Depot
- June 21 MOVIES in the Park @ Veterans Park - 8 pm
- June 29 CELEBRATE AMERICA @ Veterans Park - 4 pm until 11 pm

**July 2013**

- July 4 Independence Day - City Offices & Senior Center CLOSED
- July 8 - 19 Registration for Fall SOCCER - M-F ... 8 am until 5 pm @ Depot
- July 12 MOVIES in the Park @ Veterans Park - 8 pm
- July 20 Saturday Registration for SOCCER - 10 am until 2 pm @ Depot
- July 26 MOVIES in the Park @ Veterans Park - 8 pm
- July 29 - Aug. 9 Fall SOFTBALL (girls) Registration - M-F ... 8 am until 5 pm @ Depot
- July 22 - Aug. 9 Fall SOFTBALL (Adult) Registration - M-F ... 8 am until 5 pm @ Depot



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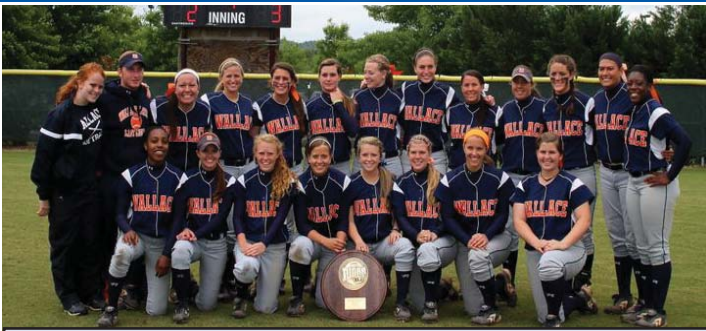
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## ACCC SOFTBALL A HIT



The Lady Lions of Wallace State - Hanceville won the recent ACCC Tournament held at Veterans Park

The City of Alabaster played host to the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Softball Tournament again this May, as twelve outstanding collegiate softball teams converged on Veterans Park to compete for the state championship.

The fast-pitch tournament ran from May 3 to May 6, with the finals being played on Monday due to inclement weather over the weekend. Saturday's scheduled games were pushed back to Sunday to allow the fields to dry following heavy rains on Friday night.

When it was all said and done, there was a familiar team left hoisting the crown in defending champion Wallace State-Hanceville. Wallace State-Hanceville defeated Shelton State 3-2 on Monday to earn the 2013 ACCC Softball Championship.

The two teams met previously in the tournament in one of the tournament's most exciting games. With a berth in the tournament finals on the line, Wallace State-Hanceville beat Shelton State 7-5 in a game that wasn't determined until Wallace State third baseman Kori Benson hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning. It was Benson's second homerun of the game.

Shelton State was able to set up the rematch by defeating Southern Union 5-2 in the loser's bracket to earn its spot in the tournament finals.

Perennial power Wallace State-Hanceville cruised through the first two rounds, outscoring its oppo-

nents by a combined total score of 20-0. Shelton State won its first two games in more dramatic fashion, beating Central Alabama in extra innings 1-0 before besting Faulkner State 9-6 on Sunday.

With the championship, the Lady Lions of Wallace State-Hanceville advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Championship tournament in St. George, Utah (May 15-18).

One of the conference's most decorated programs, Wallace State-Hanceville won the national title in 2008, placed second in 2009 and 2010, and finished third in last year's national tournament. In the most recent national poll, Wallace State-Hanceville was ranked No. 17 in the country.

This year's team was led by sophomore pitchers BreeAnna Blevins and Lindsey DeFee, who each won over 20 games this season on the mound. Entering the tournament, DeFee sported a 1.39 ERA, with Blevins not far behind at 1.56.

At the plate, the squad was led by Benson, who set the team's single-season homerun record during the regular season. Leftfielder Katie Gentle also hit two homeruns in the win over Southern Union.

For more information on ACCC Softball, visit the ACCC online at [www.acccsports.org](http://www.acccsports.org).



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# 1ST MEADOWVIEW SENIORS

Meadow View Elementary School recently celebrated a unique milestone in the school's history. This year, members of the school's very first kindergarten class are about to graduate from high school. In their honor, a reception was held in the school lunchroom at Meadow View on Wednesday, May 1.

According to organizer Melody Bailey, over 30 high school seniors gathered to reminisce about their time at Meadow View and spend time with teachers and parents. For those who are graduating from Thompson High School, Bailey noted that they also have a second distinction.

"They're the last senior class for Thompson as a Shelby County School," said Bailey. "So they were a first and a last."

The reception featured cake and hors d'oeuvres, and a slide show of yearbook pictures played in the background. During the reception, the seniors also received gifts donated from a variety of

local businesses.

"Everything was donated," said Bailey. "The food and the gifts were all provided by local businesses."

Businesses donating to the event included Frank's Produce, Central State Bank, Publix, AmStar 14, Arby's, Steak 'n Shake, Jim 'N Nick's, Sport Clips, Old Navy, Books-A-Million, Merle Norman, Starbucks, Olive Garden and LongHorn Steakhouse.

"They all got something," said Bailey. "Free meals to local restaurants, free haircuts, free movie passes. It was a big variety of things."

Bailey credited her daughter Deanna with coming up with the idea. Deanna was one of the members of Meadow View's first kindergarten class.

"I'd been thinking about it for a couple of years," said Deanna Bailey. "I thought it would be a neat idea to get everyone together."

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## SKATEBOARD CONTEST ROLLS ON AT THE VET

Veterans Skate Park in Alabaster recently played host to the seventh annual Pat Wachter Bowl Contest.

The contest was started in 2007 as the first pro skateboarding contest held in the state in over 15 years. The first year of the event, it was sponsored by World Cup Skateboarding and attracted legendary names like Christian Hosoi, Lance Mountain and Steve Steadham.

This year's version featured five different competitive divisions, including Open/Pro, Veterans, Women's, Intermediate and Beginners. Cash prizes were awarded in the Open/Pro, Veterans and Women's divisions.

Open/Pro division winners were Kaden Campbell, Jacob Wooten, Nick Wallace, Evan "Big E" Doherty, Brennan Campbell, Eli Reams, Brandon Yarborough and Drew Hoffman.

Winners in the Veterans

division included Jimmy Marcus, Dave Allen, David "Malachi" Smith, Jay Salillas, Scott Hughston, Will Boatwright, Mark Eddings, Andy Birdwell, Mike Chumley and Len Yarborough.

Women's division winners were Hannah Chumley, Shayna Funderburk and Marley Myhre.

In the non-cash categories, Intermediate winners included Nick McRick, Will Gatewood, Trey Lowery and Jason Salillas. Beginner division winners were Harland Karkos, Lawson Miller, Preston Carey, Desmond Blair, Emilio Apariclo, Sasha Worley, Fallon Worley, Emmanuel Galvez and Christopher Tibbals.

Serving as guest judge for the contest this year was Donny Myhre. Tim Johnson was guest announcer.

The Pat Wachter Bowl Contest was named for Alabama's first pro skateboarder, Pat Wachter. It was moved to two other skateboarding locations in Alabama in 2008 and 2009 but returned to Alabaster in 2010, where it's been held ever since.

After its initial splash in 2007 as a World Cup Skateboarding event, the event has grown into one of the most popular skateboarding events in the state. Each year, skateboarders from around the country travel to Veterans Park to participate and enjoy the facilities.

Some of the sponsors for this year's event included Bacon Skateboards, Art of Skateboarding and the A.skate Foundation. Highlights from the event



can be seen on the contest's Facebook page. (Search "Pat Wachter Bowl Contest.")

Veterans Skate Park is located at the back of Veterans Park off Highway 119 in Alabaster. The park is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday. Fees to skate the park are \$1 per day on weekdays and \$2 per day on weekends. For more information, visit the City of Alabaster website at [cityofalabaster.com](http://cityofalabaster.com).

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Former Live front man Ed Kowalczyk will be bringing his new act to Alabaster this summer for the 2013 Alabaster CityFest. Performing on the Main Stage at 7 p.m., Kowalczyk will give alternative-rock fans a chance to see where his career has taken him since his departure from Live in 2009.

For nearly 20 years, Kowalczyk and Live partnered together to create iconic rock songs like "I Alone," "Lightning Crashes" and "Selling the Drama."

The Pennsylvania-based band first hit the scene in 1991 with its album "Mental Jewelry," which featured a number

## ED KOWALCZYK LIVE AT 7 PM

of memorable hits like "The Beauty of Gray," "Pain Lies on the Riverside" and "Operation Spirit (The Tyranny of Tradition)."

Their follow-up album, 1994's "Throwing Copper," reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and served as the soundtrack to countless college parties in the '90s. The album has gone on to sell over eight million copies worldwide, while helping to define alternative rock in the post-grunge era.

In 2004, the band released a greatest-hits album entitled "Awake: The Best of Live." The album featured many of the band's most notable hits, along with a remake of the Johnny Cash classic "I Walk the Line." The band first created the song for a Sun Records tribute album in 2001 ("Good Rockin' Tonight: The Legacy of Sun Records"), and their version was later covered by Chris Daughtry on the hit TV show "American Idol."

In 2009, lead singer Kowalczyk left Live, and he's now pursuing his own solo career. His first solo project was a full-length studio album entitled "Alive" (2010). He followed that up with an EP last year entitled "The

Garden." Both records feature a modern-rock sound with Kowalczyk's instantly-recognizable vocals. They also boast a more spiritual direction for his lyrics.

In a recent interview with The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.), Kowalczyk said he's happy with the direction his career is heading and has high hopes for a new album that's currently in the works.

"My personal life is amazing. I'm in sort of a renaissance of creativity and joy with my career that is a real breath of fresh air, to say the least," he told the newspaper. "My producer's been really good at arranging these songs to really bring that out, and I think fans are going to really like it."



A native of York, Pa., Kowalczyk now lives in Ridgefield, Conn. Following his Alabaster performance, he's scheduled for an acoustic tour of Europe in the fall.

Alabaster CityFest is Saturday, June 1 at Municipal Park. For more information, visit [alabastercityfest.com](http://alabastercityfest.com).

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Monday	June 3	7 – 8:30pm	Buck Creek Park	Monday	June 3	5:30 – 7pm	Buck Creek Park
Thursday	June 6	5:30 – 7pm	Buck Creek Park	Thursday	June 6	7 – 8:30pm	Buck Creek Park
U15 – U18 BOYS				U15 – U18 GIRLS			
Saturday	June 1	10:30 – 12pm	Buck Creek Park	Saturday	June 1	9 – 10:30am	Buck Creek Park
Monday	June 3	7 – 8:30pm	Buck Creek Park	Monday	June 3	5:30 – 7pm	Buck Creek Park
Thursday	June 6	5:30 – 7pm	Buck Creek Park	Thursday	June 6	7 – 8:30pm	Buck Creek Park

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**MAKEUP  
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All ages (boys and girls) Monday, June 10, 5:30 - 7pm at Buck Creek Park. Please contact the club by Thursday, June 6 if you plan to attend the makeup session.

**NOTE:**

**For schedule updates and cancellations check the club website.**



# SOCCER U11 WARRIORS VICTORIOUS!



Victorious at the Trussville United Classic

The Alabaster U11 warriors, a Park and Rec team, played in the Hoover Havoc tournament on April 19th, 20th, and 21st, where they swept the U11 Super Rec Division. For this tournament we had a full regular season roster that were able to attend, however after game one on Friday night we had one of our defensive players get injured, which forced us to pick up a replacement for him. The names of all the boys are as follows (includes the 1



replacement): Sy Garrett, Josh Howard, Nic Lowery, Durrell Russell, Morgan Clinton, Kevin Comi, Wilmar Gallegos, Ethan Landavazo, Axel Magallanes, David Perez, Lars Smallwood, Jahir Tena, and Jonathon Tenya, Evan McGuire Played on Saturday and Sunday for the injured Comi. Coaches: Andy Garrett and George Howard.

The Trussville United Classic, which is an annual tournament as well and

one we went into as the defending Champions in the same U11 Super Rec bracket from the 2012 season, was a tournament that provided the boys a much bigger challenge, both due to the weather as well as having 3 of our regular season players unable to play due to prior commitments.

However, with the wet conditions and the addition of 2 borrowed players from another Alabaster U11 Park and Recs team, the boys were able to maintain their focus

and come out victorious and crowned for the second year in a row as the U11 champions. The names of all the boys that played in the Trussville Tournament are as follows: Sy Garrett, Josh Howard, Nic Lowery, Wilmar Gallegos, Ethan Landavazo, Axel Magallanes, David Perez, Lars Smallwood, Jahir Tena, and Jonathon Tenya. Additions to Tournament Roster for Trussville were: Evan McGuire, Jeremy Espinoza, and Victor



Victory at the Hoover Havoc Tournament!

Rodriguez. Coaches: Andy Garrett and George Howard.

As for the regular season team, they are currently undefeated after playing 5 of their 8 games scheduled. Coach Howard and I (Coach Andy) couldn't be more proud of what this team has accomplished so far this sea-

son, and with only 3 regular season games remaining, we are hoping the best for the boys and that they end up with a dream season that each of them will remember for years to come!!



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## CROSSFIT ALABASTER RAISES MONEY FOR AUTISM

In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month in April, CrossFit Alabaster hosted a fundraiser on Saturday, April 13 to help raise money to fight autism.

According to owner Dawn South, the event went spectacularly. People came from all over to participate, and raised over \$17,000 for the Autism Society of Alabama.

"We've had an enormous turnout," said South during the event. "One hundred percent of the proceeds all go back to the Autism Society of Alabama, even our T-shirt sales. All of it goes."

According to South, the CrossFit community is a tight-knit group, so when they announced the event on Facebook, word spread quickly amongst other CrossFit gyms.

"They've come from Auburn and Gadsden and Trussville and Tuscaloosa," said South.

Most importantly, they were able to contribute a large amount of money to a worthwhile cause.

South, whose son Taylor has high-functioning autism, conceived of the fundraiser last year while working at a gym in Pelham. The idea was to create a fundraiser in the spirit of a walkathon, but for CrossFitters. She decided to have participants perform a specially-created Workout of the Day, or "WOD" as it's known in CrossFit parlance, throughout the day. Thus she dubbed the event "WODism for Autism."

This year's WOD was called "Taylor," as it was inspired by moves that he favors while working out.

It is a 10 minute workout that consist of a five-second handstand hold, five ring pushups, five shoot-throughs, 15 air squats and a five-second hollow hold.

"He likes gymnastic movements," said Dawn.

The workout was flexible enough to be performed by all levels of participants, including both younger kids and older CrossFitters.

"Everything is scalable," said Dawn. "The kids went first this morning, so instead of the ring pushups, they just did pushups."

The event also drew some high-caliber CrossFitters who were preparing for Regional competition in hopes of moving on to the CrossFit Games.

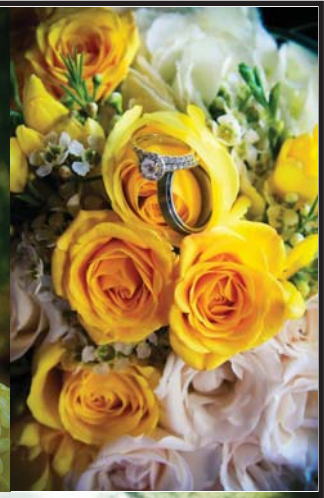
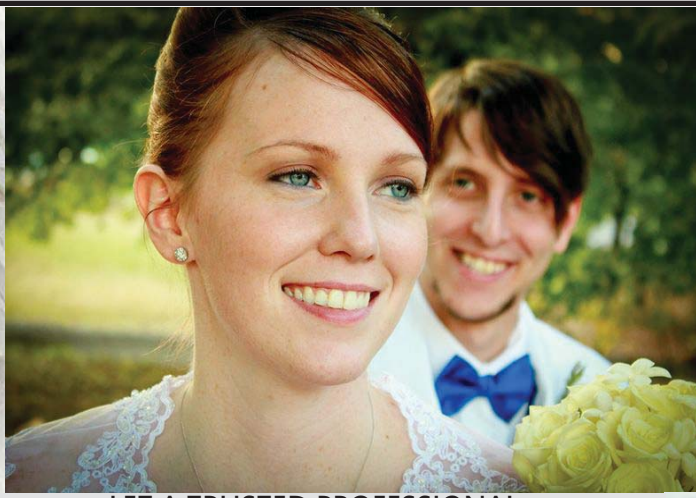
This year's WODism for Autism also featured an area for people to lift weights throughout the day,



plus T-shirt vendors and prizes for those who raised the most money.

To learn more about the event, visit [crossfitalabaster.com](http://crossfitalabaster.com).

An embedded video shows the CrossFitters in action from throughout the day. In the video, South said she hopes the event will eventually spread to other CrossFit gyms around the country.



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# DAY TRIPPING: MONTGOMERY BY SARAH B. JONES

(CON'T FROM PAGE 12) visited Greenwood and Oakwood.

In Greenwood is a very large, unusual monument with a bas relief sculpture of The Last Supper and also Governors' Circle where several are buried, including the Wallaces.

Oakwood was opened before the City of Montgomery was founded and there are numerous historic Alabamians buried there. There are beautiful sculptures and wrought iron fences. To get the most out of your visit to Oakwood, pick up the



HANK WILLIAMS' GRAVE

guidebook at Old Town.

The oldest section dates back to 1818, a year before Montgomery was a city. The history of the founding of the city is all here. There are areas and monuments honoring both Union and Confederate Civil War troops, and a beautifully landscaped area for English and French WWII airmen

lost while training at Maxwell and Gunter Air fields.

Another site that has many visitors is the plot for Hank and Audrey Williams. Among other recognizable names you will see are Chilton, Clanton, Tyler, and Dexter.



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## AMENDING THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW by

### Representative April Weaver

Over one million Alabamians have a disability or special health care need. Families providing continuous care for a loved one often need a break from their daily routine. Over the past year, I have had many discussions with local groups of volunteers and caregivers related to respite care. Respite care is temporary short-term relief for caregivers of individuals with special needs such as developmental and physical disabilities or other chronic illnesses that are related to health concerns.

After attending a local respite conference and listening to the concerns of caregivers, we decided to move forward and work on legislation to address this issue. My bill, HB149, and Senator Ward's companion bill, SB62, propose to amend the Code of Alabama (1975), the Good Samaritan Law, to include

any person who volunteers (without cost) to provide temporary care under the direction of the primary home caregiver for a person who has a disability or a chronic illness. Under this bill, a volunteer, who in good faith performs the care without charging for goods or services, may not be liable for civil damages as a result of any act or omission by the volunteer in rendering care, if the volunteer acts as a reasonable prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

At the time this column was written, HB 149 has passed the House and has moved to the Senate. Hopefully, we will continue to see progress on this bill so that our families in need of respite care will have more opportunities to receive volunteer support.

## SOCCER TOURNNEY WINNERS



Thompson JV Girls Win McGill Classic Soccer Tournament  
The Thompson High School Girls' Junior Varsity soccer team claimed the tournament championship at the McGill Classic tournament on March 16 in Daphne. Meghan Cottingham, Allison McCrimmon, and Anna Milliron were named to the All-Tournament team. Melanie Brannon was named Tournament MVP. Front Row (Left to Right): Meghan Cottingham, Emma Mayer, Melanie Brannon, Mardi Gornati, Kenzie Coggins, Lauren Talley, Juli Tatum, and Amari Graber Back Row (Left to Right): Coach Emily Morrow, Anna Milliron, Kelly Wanhatato, Gracie Blasing, Maddie Durham, Peyton Poe, Jessie Hardin, Leah Warman, Ashleigh Thomas, Allison McCrimmon, Marjorie Morgan, Mackenzie Andrews, and Randi Ford

## YMCA VOLS OF THE YEAR

Three Thompson High School students were recently recognized at the YMCA of Greater Birmingham's annual volunteer recognition event at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Madison Bierman (Alabaster YMCA), Victoria Johnson (Greystone YMCA) and Brittney Bell (Pelham YMCA) were all named Branch Youth Volunteers of the Year at the April 16 event.

The annual event is held to honor the noteworthy contributions of the adults and youth who volunteer at the various YMCA branches around Birmingham each year.

This year, there were nine different volunteers honored as Branch Youth Volunteers of the Year, and as it turned out, three of them happen to attend Thompson.

"They had a ceremony

and recognized the volunteers for 2012. They didn't realize until that day that three of the Volunteers of the Year were actually Thompson students," said Veda Johnson, Victoria's mother.

According to Veda, Victoria assisted with the five and six-year-old girls at the Greystone Y.

"She volunteered in 2011 and 2012," said Veda. "I was really proud of her."

The other six youth honorees were Tommy Kulkis (YMCA Hargis Retreat), Emily Ryan (Mountain Brook YMCA), Randal Grayson (Northeast YMCA), David King (Shades Valley YMCA), Garret Terwilliger (Trussville YMCA) and Bria Dozier (Western Area YMCA).

In the adult category, David Deloach was named the Branch Adult Volunteer of the Year for the Alabaster YMCA.



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## COUNCIL APPROVES DICK'S SPORTING GOODS PLAN

At its May 6 meeting, the Alabaster City Council voted unanimously to approve an economic development agreement with Highway 11/31 LLC.

The agreement paves the way for the developer to build a Dick's Sporting Goods store at Alabaster's Colonial Promenade Shopping Center. According to plans presented at the meeting, the 50,000-square-foot retail facility will be located beside Target in what is currently a Target parking lot.

Prior to the vote, the City Council held a public hearing on the matter. State Sen. Cam Ward, who also serves as the executive director of Alabaster's Industrial Development Board, spoke in favor of the agreement, saying it's good for the City of

Alabaster.

"The City of Alabaster puts out no money up front on this deal, and that's a good thing for us," Ward said. "It's only a revenue-sharing agreement on the backend."

Under the agreement, the City of Alabaster would return a portion of the sales tax generated at the store back to the developer over a ten-year period. Ward said the revenue-sharing agreement would be "equal to what the expenses are to bring them here."

The agreement does not apply to the one-percent sales tax used for the new school board.

"It's a win-win for Alabaster," Ward said. "We're going to get a very good facility to locate here."

Ward said that the City of Alabaster first began working with Dick's

## EVERY SEASON STARTS AT



Sporting Goods about locating in Alabaster over a year ago. He commended the work put in by all the different parties over that time, particularly the members of the City's building department.

"Once again, Alabaster has proven that the reason businesses want to locate here is not only because of the records we have with other retail establishments, but also because we have a very friendly business environment. And I think that the building staff shows that on a daily basis. Our city

manager, Mr. Henry, did that, and both this mayor and the former mayor and these council members did that," said Ward.

Bill Leitner, one of the owners of Highway 11/31 LLC, voiced his own excitement for the project, noting the store's ability to pull retail traffic from both Alabaster and the surrounding areas.

"This will be the one and only Dick's store under construction in the state of Alabama in 2013," said Leitner.

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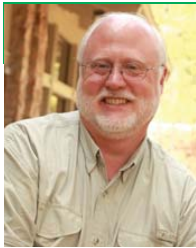


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## The Backyard Pond by David Frings

If you want to create a relaxing get away in your backyard, an aquatic garden may be your answer. An aquatic garden can be as simple as a fountain installed in a flower pot and sump to an elaborate in-ground pond with a liner. Your garden can focus on aquatic plants or beautiful koi that interact with the family at feeding time. Whether you use a preformed insert or a free-form liner for your pond, the steps are simple.

Choose a location that receives full sun at least half of the day and avoid areas with drainage issues. Excavate the soil from the foundation to match the size of your pond liner. Insure that the top edge of the hole is level all the way around or part of your liner will be exposed above the water line and spoil the natural look. If you are using a flexible liner, the material should be large enough to extend a minimum of 12 inches past the top of the excavation. In our rocky soil, pond padding is a great idea to

prevent rocks from punching holes in the liner. Used carpeting provides a great cushion for the pond liner



and is usually free for the asking. Just be sure that all of the carpet tacks have been removed.

Once the padding and liner are in place, fill the pond slowly, working the creases out from the pond center toward the edges and up the side, removing as many as possible. Install rocks around the edge of the pond to cover the liner, hold it in place, and give it a natural look. The addition of a waterfall not only adds those relaxing sound effects but also improves water quality and eliminates mosquitoes since they cannot complete their life cycle in flowing water. If the area is flat, create a mound of dirt to support the falls. Place pond

liner over the mound allowing the bottom end to extend into the pond to prevent leakage. Place the pump in the pond and run

water clarity. Be sure that all electrical equipment is approved for ponds and are attached to a ground fault breaker for safety.

The next stage is to add plants and fish. If you want to keep large koi, this may limit the addition of aquatic plants such as water lilies. Goldfish are compatible with most aquatic plants since they are smaller. Aquatic plants should include a variety of water lilies, horsetails, cattails, iris, and rushes. Surround your pond with plants that makes the pond project flow into other areas for a natural effect.

the hose from the pump to the top of the falls as you place the rocks. The height of the waterfall is dependent on the rating of the pump which is found on the pump packaging. You can add a biological sponge filter and UV light for increased

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



"If the local bowling alley calls to complain about the volume of your TV set...

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

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## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.

Don't miss our Craft Show on Tuesday, May 28 from 9am-12pm. We will have vendors selling all types of crafts, arts and much more. Come by and visit with us!

Many of you have heard that we have had some additions in our staff here at the center. We are pleased to announce that Melissa Moultrie will continue to work as our part time Nutrition coordinator and we have added Betty Elder as our part time program coordinator. Her first day was Monday, April 22. Welcome to our newest staff!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Motor coach bus trips:

September 17 – day trip to Atlanta- IKEA store

October 10 – LaGrange, GA- Explorations of Antiquity and Hills and Dales Estate.

(Working on a Christmas trip- more details to come) More info to come. Date to sign up for trips will be announced. Just mark your calendars and more trips to come!

**Membership:** Individuals age 55 and older living in Alabaster or Shelby County can join the Senior Center by completing necessary paperwork. There is no charge to be a member of the Senior Center; however, fees may be associated with certain trips, programs and activities.

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

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## Calendar of Events

- June 1 CityFest 9 am - 11 pm Municipal Park
- June 3 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- June 4 Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex
- June 5 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex
- June 10 Water Board 7 pm Annex  
Parks & Rec Bldg. (The Depot)  
Board of Education 6:00 pm Senior Center
- June 11 Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex
- June 12 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*
- June 13 Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.
- June 17 City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- June 18 Driving School 7 pm Annex
- June 20 Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex  
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm
- June 24 Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Senior Center
- June 25 Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex
- June 26 Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex  
Sewer Committee 6 pm City Hall  
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.

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

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

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

**Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3**  
rakestraw@cityofalabaster.com  
621-0168

**Rick Walters, Ward 4**  
walters@cityofalabaster.com  
281-7394

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

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

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

**George Henry, City Manager and City Clerk**  
ghenry@cityofalabaster.com  
664-6832

### RECYCLING CALENDAR

~ June 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						

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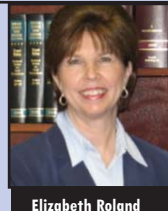
**CITY DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS** • Non-emergency Police matters 663-7401 • Animal Control 664-6761  
• Personnel Dept 664-6838 • Code Enforcement 664-5907 • Revenue/Business License Dept 664-6844  
• Alabaster Water Board 663-6155 • Garbage/recycling bins 664-6800 • Alabaster Parks & Recreation 664-6840

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