



# Alabaster

VOLUME I NUMBER 7

JULY 2013

# CELEBRATE AMERICA

**JUNE 29 @ VETERANS PARK**



# Alabaster

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



Congratulations to everyone on another successful CityFest. There were record-breaking crowds who came to be entertained and weren't disappointed. A lot of folks work very hard to make this a success and we want to thank them for their hard work. A special

shout-out goes to Regions Bank who is the event's primary sponsor. Maybe next year in addition to a footrace there will be a fun bike race on green bikes.

Kingwood Church once again working with the city will Celebrate America on Saturday, June 29th at Veterans Park. There's plenty to do, a lot of fun, and great fireworks. It's a great family event.

Happy Birthday to Belk Stores. The company is 125 years old and as part of their celebration, they helped with projects at Creek View Elementary school. It's a good job of reaching out to the

community.

Welcome aboard to Dr. L. Wayne Vickers as the Superintendent of the Alabaster School System. Speaking of school, Thompson High had its graduation and among the number was our contributor Caroline Vincent. She's written an interesting piece on the graduation which I think you will enjoy. We wish her and all the graduates the very best in their future endeavors.

One of the audio books I've checked out from our library is an interesting one from Alan Alda called "Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself." The book is a compendium of graduation speeches he's given over the years and the circumstances surrounding them. It's a moving tribute to American Optimism. It's a spirit

that fills everything we do. That American Optimism is what got us started in the first place. In 1776 we decided we had enough and wanted to take on what was the most powerful country in the world. And as Ben Franklin cautioned his colleagues, "We must all hang together or we'll all hang separately."

We won, and every year on the Fourth of July we celebrate the victory exactly as John Adams prescribed with celebrations and fireworks.

My favorite freedom is Freedom of Speech which is the freedom to say unpopular things. If you want to agree with the powers that be, you can stand on a soapbox outside any capital and you won't be interfered with. It's when you disagree that things get interesting, messy, but ultimately productive, at least in the USA.

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At its regularly-scheduled meeting on June 3, the Alabaster City Council voted to continue the public hearing on a proposed sidewalk ordinance for the city till July.

The public hearing is now scheduled to take place at the Council's reg-

ularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 1, at 7 p.m. in the Municipal Annex.

The motion to continue the hearing was made by Councilman Rick Walters and received unanimous support from the Council. Walters said that the

Council still had "some more work to do" on the issue, which pertains to sidewalk repair in the city.

In other news, the City Council voted to appoint Gary Wright to the Alabaster Water Board. In a roll-call vote, Wright received the four positive votes needed to earn the appointment.

"I would like to congratulate Mr. Gary Wright for his appointment to the water board," said Council President Scott Brakefield.

Walters said that the Council had three very good candidates for the position.

"I think it speaks volumes for the city when you get people willing to come forward and volunteer," said Walters.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Marty Handlon presented a mid-year snapshot of the City's budget to the

City Council.

"I know that you're aware that our budget relies on strong consumer spending, commercial and residential stability, also conservative fiscal activity. Our fiscal '13 budget is on track to be successful. We're on track to have a successful year," she told the Council.

To view City Council meeting minutes online, visit the City of Alabaster website ([cityofalabaster.com](http://cityofalabaster.com)) and click on the "Document Center" link under "Online Services." Approved minutes are posted along with meeting agendas and approved resolutions.

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# CELEBRATE AMERICA

The City of Alabaster and Kingwood Church are partnering together again this year to host the family-friendly Independence Day celebration, "Celebrate America."

The patriotic party will be held at Veterans Park on Saturday, June 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. It will feature a variety of fun activities, including a Kidzone, a movie on the big screen, food vendors, live music and of course, a spectacular fireworks show to finish off the night.

This year's event is scheduled to start later than in past years to avoid hot summer temperatures. The bands are scheduled to play from 7 to 8 p.m. The movie is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m., with the fireworks show scheduled for 9:45 p.m.

"The fireworks company we're using is Pyro Productions. This is the same one that does Thunder on the Mountain. We've used them the last three years for Celebrate America," said Benny Cunningham, the

education pastor at Kingwood. "It's a huge, professional fireworks show."

Cunningham said the City of Alabaster, and the Parks and Recreation Department in particular, has been a great partner for the event.

"We have good friendships with the City recreation department," said Cunningham. "The city manager, George Henry, has said they'd do whatever they can do to help strengthen the event."

Cunningham said most of the funding for the event comes from Kingwood, but the City does provide funding for the video-games truck, which is provided this year by Gaming Ride.

Celebrate America also features a variety of great food vendors, which will include Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Publix Deli, Little Italy's Pizza, Mi Pueblo Supermarket, Kona Ice, Zou's Kitchen and others.

"We also like the partnerships with local vendors," said Cunningham. "That's worked out really, really well."

Cunningham said they try to get a variety of different vendors, so people will have a good selection to choose from, whether it's hamburgers or barbecue or Mexican favorites.

Popular among families is the Kidzone, which features a variety of inflatables and carnival-type rides for the children. That area is designated for kids 11 years old and under, while the youth in the family can enjoy the games from Gaming Ride (video games, laser tag).

Kingwood encourages guests to bring their lawn chairs or blankets and of course, their appetites.

"Some folks will come out with their blankets and hang out the whole time, just make it a family evening out at the park. That's the ideal way to do it," said Cunningham.

As always, admission to the event is free. For more information, visit [www.kingwood-church.com](http://www.kingwood-church.com).

## JUNE 29TH @ VETS PARK



## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Alabaster City Board of Education elected its new officers for the year at a May 13 meeting in the Alabaster Municipal Annex.

Board member Adam Moseley was elected president in a 3-2 roll call vote and newly-appointed board member Derek Henderson was elected vice president.

Moseley, a former member of the Alabaster City Council, is a media specialist at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. He was nominated for the presidency by board member Linda Church. Previous President Ty Quarles was also nominated for the position by Dr. John Myrick.

According to Interim Superintendent Dr. Phil Hammonds, state law pro-

vides that the elections be held at the first regular meeting in May.

Henderson was sworn in to the school board at a ceremony held just before the May 13 meeting. He was appointed to the board on May 6 by the Alabaster City Council to fill the vacancy created when former President Dr. Melanie Shores retired in March.

Henderson is retired from State Farm Insurance and is a former president of the Thompson High School quarterback club. At the beginning of the meeting, he introduced himself to the crowd and expressed his gratitude for being chosen for the board.

"I'm very humbled and pleased to be with you," Henderson said. "I want to thank those who have contacted me, emailed me, text-messaged me. Thank you,

thank you, thank you."

Church nominated Henderson for the vice president position, saying she thought he should go ahead and "get his feet wet." He was subsequently elected to the seat in a unanimous 5-0 vote. There were no other nominees for the vice president position.

Hammonds expressed his appreciation for the leadership that Quarles provided during his tenure as board president.

"I publicly want to express my personal thanks to Mr. Quarles for all the guidance and support," said Hammonds.

In other business, the board approved supplements for a head nurse and two district testing coordinators, one for grades K-5 and another for grades 6-12. The nurse supplement is \$5,000, and the testing coordinators'

supplements are \$2,500 each.

The board also approved job descriptions for a psychometrist, a gifted teacher and a coordinator of student services. Details about all current job postings can be found online at the Alabaster City Schools website - [www.alabasterschools.org](http://www.alabasterschools.org)



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...It feels like yesterday when Patrick and I, two new and nervous parents, put our little three-and-a-half-month old baby, Charlotte, into "The Baby Whisperer's" arms. **Miss Tara** and **Miss Marie** soon became like second moms to her. I will never forget Charlotte's first trip in the "Bye Bye Buggy"... or the number of bibs and outfits that had to be washed from her constant spitting up! Each room change was a milestone as Patrick and I quickly became impressed with her growth and progress as a toddler. Even though I was not ready for Charlotte to leave "Infant Row", who can resist **Miss Jessica's** sweet charm?! She made moving up to the Toddler rooms an easy transition. And then came **Miss Sam**...who doesn't love **Miss Sam**? (Especially when she helps potty train your child!) Charlotte learned so much...and had a blast doing it! We will remember **Miss Shea** for many, special reasons. She turned into more than a teacher while Charlotte was in her class...she is one of Charlotte's best friends! We never knew how influential **Miss Dana** could be until just recently. Charlotte grew tremendously during the 3's and we appreciate **Miss Dana** more than she knows! Graduating to the 4K building was the hardest of all (for me). Thank goodness for **Miss Page**! She took in Charlotte as her own and captivated her with fun experiments, crafts and activities. Charlotte's love for school GREW! And now, with just a couple of weeks left in school, **Miss Kim** has turned our now 5 year old, into a Kindergarten-ready, letter writing, book reading, word spelling GRADUATE! I'm not sure I can accurately express the gratitude we have for **Miss Kim** and ALL she has done for Charlotte this year. We cannot ignore poor **Mr. Drew**. Charlotte's doll head for experimenting with hair-do's! Charlotte is so attached to this sweet man, she became his 3<sup>rd</sup> leg!

During Charlotte's transition into 4K, our second daughter began her path through Noah's Park. Although she was not quite as young when she started, Audrey made her presence known. **Miss Yo Yo**, **Miss Amy**, **Miss Susan** and **Miss Gabby** understand what I mean! I know our little "Dragon Girl" will forever hold a special place in her heart for these sweet and patient teachers, as will we! I am grateful for the fact that we were able to laugh through most of Audrey's trials and tribulations! Patrick and I consider ourselves lucky to have such kind, generous and dedicated teachers take care of our girls. They even got the blessing of having some of the same teachers TWICE, **Miss Jessica** and **Miss Sam** being two! **Miss Sam** turned into "the teacher who lets me feed the fish" with Audrey. And what a great distraction this has become so I can sneak (RUN) out the door in the mornings! **Miss Gabby**, **Miss Jackie** and **Miss Candace** helped (as best as they could) Audrey develop her picky palate. She still loves her "squeezes" but at least she will eat a few other things as well. This is also due in large part to **Miss Jan's** good cooking! Thank you "Eat, Eat"! Currently, Audrey is in **Miss Kaysha's** room and what a blast she is having! She has learned so much these past few months and has quickly grown into a toddler. She will miss sweet cuddles and kisses from **Miss Olivia**! All of these lovely ladies have shown large amounts of patience and love to our "sweet" Audrey and we appreciate every bit of it!

No one has expressed more professionalism, understanding and generosity than **Miss M**! Patrick and I were impressed with her leadership from the beginning. She has been nothing but loving to our family. We cannot say thank you enough to everyone at Noah's Park and everything they have done for our family over the past 5 years! We are sad to leave, but confident knowing our girls have been in the BEST hands and ready for what the future holds. Thank you Noah's Park!",

Patrick and Katie Kellogg

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# Alabaster

PROFILE By Caroline Vincent

## THIS GRADUATION

From a National Merit Finalist, to a group of entrepreneurs starting their own business, to a wrestling team that has won the state title three years in a row, Thompson High School's senior class of 2013 is a diverse and accomplished one. There were 405 seniors graduating on May 21 and though the class is large, it acts as one unit. This class is one that helped raise thousands of dollars for a classmate in need, brought hundreds of students to a basketball game, and all the while maintaining academic excellence, earning countless scholarships

from colleges for this coming fall. Over the past four years, this class has endured many changes. Some major changes were made, such as Dr. Daniel Steele coming in as principal junior year. Others were evolutionary such as the changes in the head football coaching position every year.

Despite these differences, this group has adjusted with class, treating Dr. Steele with respect and supporting the football team no matter who the coach. This class has also had to deal with the loss of a fellow student this year. Support has been given by all to his family and friends, evidenced by the

number of students who attended his wake and funeral. That number does not even include the large number of people who wore purple to school in his honor.

Experiencing these circumstances has made me proud to be a member of the class of 2013. From seeing Jon Newman streak across the field, to having a water balloon fight at Veterans Park, this class has been with me to create special memories I will cherish forever. I cannot imagine being a part of any other group of seniors and I am proud to call these students my peers.

We have left our mark on this school, and I am glad it is a positive one. We got to be a part of history not only when we opened the time capsule from 1988, but also when we built a new sign, won championships, and raised thousands of dollars for good causes.



Recent Valedictorian THS Graduate Caroline Vincent

I now encourage my fellow seniors to continue to make their mark not only in this community, but also in areas beyond here. We are all moving on from high school and though we will never be together as a whole class again, we can always remember how every day was a great day to be a warrior.

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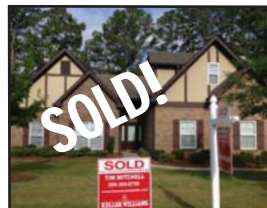
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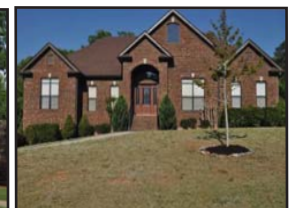
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## BUSINESS PROFILE

### SHELBY ORAL FACIAL SURGERY

For local patients in need of oral surgery, there's no need to travel to Birmingham these days to find an oral surgeon. Shelby Oral Facial Surgery, which opened in 2012, is conveniently located right here in Alabaster.

Dr. Joshua Everts and Dr. Ryan Livingston opened the practice last August after looking at potential communities around the state.

"We looked around the whole state of Alabama and found that Alabaster was really one of the growing, thriving communities, and we wanted to be a part of the community as it grows and has more health needs," said Everts. "We saw this as a good opportunity to help out."

The practice is located in the former physiotherapy building across from Buddy's Bar-B-Que on Highway 31.

"It's a great location," said Everts, "especially



Shelby Oral Facial Surgery (L-R): Josh Thompson, Dr. Ryan Livingston, Santana Edgil, Kristen Dykes, Nikoal Clark and Dr. Joshua Everts.

since we work at Shelby Baptist. For us to be able to go to the hospital and come back and not have to take a substantial time out of our day, to do that really helps out with how many patients we can see during the day."

The two doctors met during their Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery residency at UAB. According to Everts, the residency is a six-year program that follows four years of dental school and includes two years of medical school.

"During that time, he

and I really got a chance to know each other and work well with each other," said Everts. "We figured it'd be a great opportunity for the two of us to work together."

Shelby Oral Facial Surgery treats a variety of different issues, ranging from wisdom teeth extraction and dental implants to sleep apnea and facial trauma.

"We are a dental specialty so our primary source of referrals is dentists. A lot of the things we do revolve around the teeth or the jaws," said Everts.

They also do correction of facial deformities and screenings for oral cancer.

Most of the surgeries are performed onsite, though they may also work at the hospital for procedures that require overnight stay.

Geographically, their patients come from all over central Alabama.

"We get patients from as far south as Montgomery and as far north as north Birmingham," said Livingston.

Since opening the practice last year, the doctors said it's been going well.

"I'd say it's exceeded expectations," said Livingston. "I think there was a need in the community, and the community has certainly embraced us."

Shelby Oral Facial Surgery is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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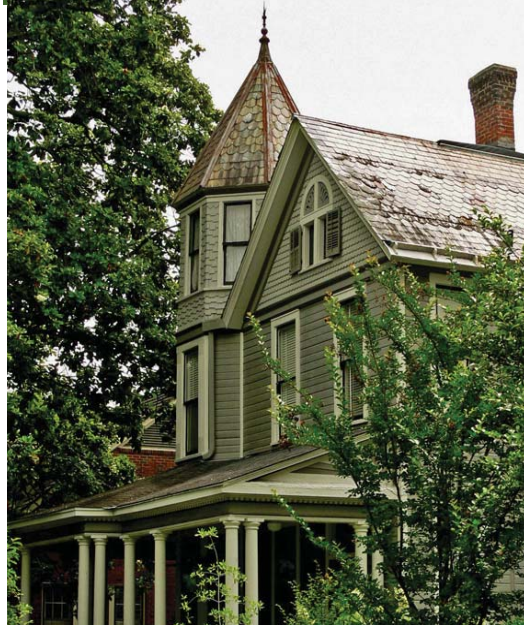
One of the most pleasant benefits of our day trips is meeting interesting people who are friendly, and eager to tell about their interests and projects. One day in Huntsville we met some ladies from Decatur who gave us some surprising information. Decatur has Alabama's largest concentration of Victorian, Craftsman, and Bungalow houses from the 1880's and the turn of the century. They are affectionately referred to as "the Painted Ladies" (the houses, not the ladies we met!)



has interesting information about many of the houses. There is no access to the houses as they are private residences.

Alabama's first licensed female architect, designed the stone structures in the park that were built by the WPA in the 1930's. In 1941 the park was named in memory of Franklin Delano

(CON'T ON PAGE 27)



Previously, all I knew about Decatur was Mallard Point's Wave Pool and Hot Air Balloons! We picked up the comprehensive Walking Tour brochure at the Visitors' Center and walked Old Decatur and Albany. Each neighborhood can easily be seen in an hour or less and there is plenty of parking available. The brochure

Nearby Delano Park was founded in 1887 and Carolyn Cortner Smith,


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## A HELPING HAND

Lt. Brian Leonard of the Alabaster Salvation Army has been deployed to Oklahoma to assist with relief efforts for the victims of the state's recent tornadoes.

In May, the state was struck by a spate of damaging tornadoes that included two EF5 tornadoes and devastated the community of Moore, a suburb of Oklahoma City. One of the tornadoes, which hit near El Reno, Okla., was over 2.5 miles wide and was accompanied by severe flash flooding.



# DOING THE MOST GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

According to Brian Wallace, the director of public relations for the Birmingham Salvation Army, officers from other regions are often called upon to provide disaster support.

"Normally when some kind of crisis happens in another division, they try to tap a completely different division so that the people in that area can continue doing their regular work," said Wallace. "This particular disaster, because it has gotten so big and is affecting so many people, pretty much every division is being tapped."

Wallace said the officers will be in charge of disaster management, overseeing the donation warehouses and other important tasks. The

current deployment term is for two weeks.

"It's high stress. It's a lot of hours, so the idea is to relieve them," said Wallace. "It used to be every seven days, but right now, for this disaster it's going to be for every two weeks."

Lt. Leonard is the only officer from the Birmingham area being deployed on this trip, though he'll be joined by others from around Alabama.

"They pick people with a lot of experience," said Wallace. "Brian has a ton of experience dealing with disasters. Both of his parents are Salvation Army officers. They headed up one of the bigger territories in the U.S. for a long time so he grew up being a part of that. He's very familiar with it. He knows what he's doing."

For people wanting to help, the Salvation Army is accepting monetary donations that can be used to help affected families meet critical needs. To donate online, go to

[Birmingham.salvationarmy.org](http://Birmingham.salvationarmy.org), where a donation link has been set up on the homepage. People can also call 1-800-SAL-ARMY to make a donation.

According to the Birmingham Salvation Army, a \$100 donation can "feed a family of four for four days." It can also provide drinking water and cleaning supplies, like brooms and mops and buckets.

"We can take the money and buy the specific needs for people," said Wallace. "We can get what they need specifically."



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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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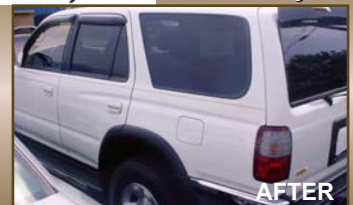
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# Alabaster

## ALBERT L. SCOTT LIBRARY

### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

**Every Wednesday**  
10:15 am Outreach Stories at area daycares  
3:30 pm Tunes & Tales for all ages in the meeting room  
**1st Thursday** 1:00 pm  
Friends of Library Bookmenders

**Every Friday** 10:30 am  
Toddler Tales (2s, 3s) 10:30 in the meeting room.  
**LIBRARY CLOSED JULY 4TH**  
**LIBRARY BOARD MTG**  
**Tues. July 23 @ 6 PM**

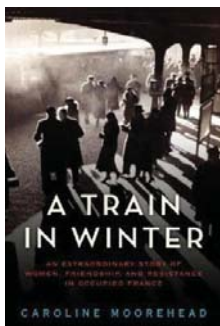
### LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Friends of the Library Meeting - Monday, July 8, 2013. 6 pm

**Library Book Group - Thursday, July 18, 2013. 7 pm** - Join us in our discussion of *A Train in Winter* by Caroline Moorehead. Combines original sources, archival research, and personal interviews to relate the story of 230 women of the French Resistance who were captured and imprisoned by the Gestapo outside of Paris before being transported to Auschwitz. Program takes place in the meeting room.

**Cake & Culture - Sunday, July 21, 2013. 2 pm** - Join us as Alabama author Rhett Barbaree discusses his book *Thank God for Boll Weevils*.

Program takes place in the meeting room. Refreshments will be served.



### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Spring Book Sale was a huge success. Our thanks go out to all who support the Friends and the Library. We appreciate everyone who is a member, volunteers who worked at the sale, Sepco for printing, and all who came to shop! We are excited to announce our newest corporate partner - **Joe's Italian Restaurant.**

**July 15th will be Friends' Day at Joe's and a portion of the day's lunch and dinner proceeds will be donated to the Friends. You know you always crave some wonderful Italian food, and the 15th is a great day for it! What a tasty way to support our Library!**



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### KIDS' SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

**July 2013 Programs: The Summer Challenge Continues**  
Kids Dig into Reading and Go Beneath the Surface! A summer of reading and digging continues for Alabaster's children of all ages at the Albert L. Scott Public Library where they can become reading champions. Adults can still register children until July 12 for the Challenge. Kids pick a reading goal, check out and read our library books, and get prizes along the way to their goal. When they reach their goal, they receive a certificate and can enter prize drawings. The theme for children newborn to 10 years old is Dig into Reading and the theme for youngsters 11 years old to 18 years old is Beneath the Surface.

The Summer Challenge ends with a Fun Finale on Wednesday, July 17 starting at 10:00 a.m. The highlight of the finale is a performance by Cowboy Bruce Brannen and there will also be face painting and lots of surprises.

The goal of the Summer Challenge is to encourage children to read for pleasure when they are not in school. Parents and other caregivers are invited to participate and help pre-literate children enjoy books and develop a love of reading. The 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.

The library would like to thank business sponsors, to date: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AmStar Stadium Movie Theater (Alabaster), Arby's (Alabaster), Bike Link, Bud's Best Cookies, Friends of the Library, Make Good Choices, Oak Mountain Lanes, Parent Teacher Store (Hoover), UPS Store (Pelham), Walmart (Alabaster).

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR JULY:

- July 1 McWane Science Center Rocks & Minerals 10:30 a.m.
- July 2 Lego League 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- July 2 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 11 years old (must have signed up in June)
- July 2 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. Ages 12 to 15 years old (must have signed up in June)
- July 8 McWane Science Center Diggin' Dinos 10:30 a.m.
- July 9 Lego League 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- July 9 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 11 years old (must have signed up in June)
- July 9 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. Ages 12 to 15 years old (must have signed up in June)
- July 16 Lego League 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- July 16 Drama Showcase 6:00 p.m. all participants rehearse; 7:00 p.m. is Showtime
- July 17 **Summer Challenge Super Finale! 10:00 a.m.**  
All summer Challengers are invited to our free finale starring Cowboy Bruce Brannen! Come dressed as your favorite character.
- July 23 Lego League 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes
- July 30 Lego League 4:00 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes

Children under six years old must be with an adult. All programs are in the meeting room.



# SCHOOL BOARD CELEBRATES "GOOD THINGS"

For the "Good Things in Our Schools" segment of its May 13 meeting, the Alabaster City Board of Education honored a number of local achievers from Alabaster schools.

First up were a group of bus drivers who performed well in the recent Shelby County School Bus Road-e-o. The competition features a variety of driving challenges, and four of the top-ten finishers came from Alabaster schools: Steve Cutler (1st place, Thompson Intermediate), Butch Roberson (4th place, Creek View), Nancy Massey (9th place, THS) and Ricky Roper (10th place, THS).

"There's no more important job in the school district than that of a bus driver," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Phil Hammonds. "We want you to know how much we appreciate you and how proud we are of your performance."

Next up were a group of Thompson High School students who were recently honored as Branch Youth Volunteers of the Year by the Greater Birmingham YMCA: Madison Bierman (Alabaster YMCA), Victoria Johnson (Greystone YMCA) and Brittney Bell (Pelham

YMCA).

"These are students who go above and beyond," said Alabaster YMCA Executive Director Rhonda Elmore. "They serve more, they reach out more and they want to be there."

Also during the segment, Tracy Edwards, a PE teacher at Meadow View Elementary, discussed her school's "Fuel Up to Play 60" program. The national program is designed to promote wellness and nutrition among students. The students most recently went fishing at Oak Mountain State Park.

"It was just a really fun day to encourage outdoor activities and nutrition with their families," said Edwards.

Peggy Kent, secretary at Thompson High School, was recognized at the meeting for being named the Shelby County School District's Secretary of the Year.

"She's what we call the cornerstone of our school," said THS Principal Dr. Danny Steele. "She is often-times the first face people see when they come in. She is always so pleasant and so kind and so helpful."

Kim Bice, the reading coach at Creek View Elementary, was recognized for being named the Central Reading Council's Outstanding Reading

Teacher for 2012-2013.

"We're very fortunate to have Kim with us at Creek View," said Creek View Assistant Principal Mandy Wesson. "She spends many long hours at school to make sure that things are accomplished and that students have success. She's there to support our teachers every day."

The Thompson High School math teams were also recognized for their success at the Shelby County Math Tournament in April. And the Thompson High School Air Force JROTC was honored for receiving the Distinguished Unit Award with Merit. It was the only unit in the state to win the award.

Lastly, a local charitable organization, Vineyard Family Services, presented a short video about its stu-

dent food program "Backpack Buddies." The program provides snacks for eligible students to take home with them over the weekend.

Since the Alabaster school board began recognizing members of the community at its monthly meetings, the size of the audience has grown substantially. The increase has led the board to move its meetings from the Senior Center to the City's Municipal Annex.

"We outgrew the Senior Center," said Hammonds, "and I see that as a very positive sign within our community."

The school board still holds its work sessions at the Alabaster Senior Center. For more information, visit the Alabaster City Schools website at [www.alabasterschools.org](http://www.alabasterschools.org).



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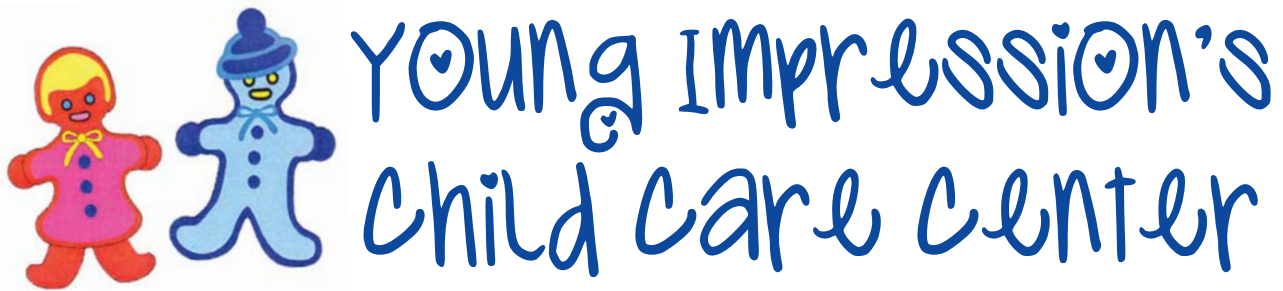
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**Parks & Recreation will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day.**

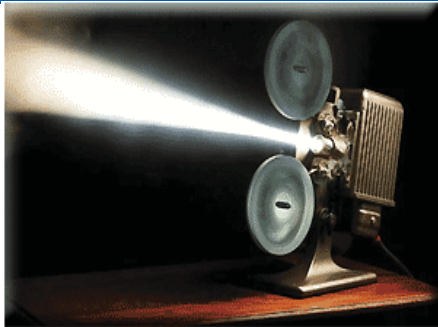
## PARKS & REC OFFICE

The Parks and Recreation Office is located inside the Depot at 100 Depot Street, Alabaster  
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## 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).  
July 12 - "Hotel Transylvania" - PG (91 minutes)  
July 26 - "Wreck-It Ralph" - PG (108 minutes)  
August 9 - "Happy Feet Two" - PG (100 minutes)

## GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Fall registration should be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 29 and ending at 5pm on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 29 thru August 9. •Girl's Softball is available for ages 5 thru 14. •Cost will be \$80 (plus \$10 for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks! •For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or [mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com).

## ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration should be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 22 and ending at 5 pm on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 22 thru August 9. •Two leagues will be offered: Men's and Coed. •Registration is for teams (not individuals). •For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or [mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com).

## Thanks to Moultrie Feeder

The City would like to thank Moultrie Feeder for donating 4 game cameras and cases to help monitor our parks' playgrounds.

## FALL SOCCER

Registration should be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 8 and ending at 2 pm on July 20. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 8 thru July 19. There will be one Saturday registration on July 20 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot. •Cost will be \$105 for U9 and up, and \$85 for U6/U8 (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.



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# SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS



Thompson High School students collecting "Socks for Soldiers" are (L-R) Eric Lawrence, Christopher Bellow, Jayla Williams, Taizha Thompson, Lydia Griffin, Gabby Lagapa and Katelyn Thomas.

Thompson High School's Air Force JROTC held a "Socks for Soldiers" drive in May to collect socks for soldiers serving overseas.

During the weeklong drive, the program managed to collect some 800 pairs of socks. The figure was the most of any school that held a sock drive this year in the area.

Working in partnership with the local Blue Star Mothers organization, area schools have been collecting socks for U.S. soldiers for the past three years. According to Blue Star Mothers member Joyce Bulford, socks are one of the most-requested items by soldiers serving overseas.

Other schools participating this year included Thompson Middle School (117 pairs of socks), Creek View Elementary School (351 pairs), Thompson

Sixth-Grade Center (387 pairs), Evangel Christian (34 pairs) and Helena Intermediate (296 pairs).

The total number of socks collected for the year was 1,985. In all, the Blue Star Mothers of Alabama have managed to collect a total of 11,005 pairs of socks to send to American soldiers deployed overseas.

In addition to the "Socks for Soldiers" drive, the Thompson JROTC conducted a canned-food drive this year for the Salvation Army. Members also contributed 1,400 hours of community service and worked with the Alabaster Senior Center for a senior dance.

"We have 122 cadets in the program, and 1,400 service hours, that's over ten hours per student," said Lt. Col. Douglas Crabb during a May Board of Education meeting. "We're very proud of our cadets."



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## Weaver Seeks Re-Election

Republican April Weaver announced today she will seek reelection for the Alabama House of Representatives - District 49. Under the new House district lines, District 49 encompasses southwestern Shelby County (including parts of the cities of Alabaster and Montevallo), most of Bibb County and the northeastern corner of Chilton County (including the city of Jemison). Representative Weaver was first elected to represent House District 49 in 2010.

During her tenure in the Alabama House of Representatives, Weaver has been an advocate for conservative values. In 2010, as a freshman legislator, she sponsored and passed the small business health insurance tax credit law. In subsequent years, she has sponsored and co-sponsored many bills that support Alabama businesses, economic development, pro life values, military and conservative values. During the past session, Representative Weaver was the sponsor of the Red Tape Reduction Act which was recently signed in to law. Over the past year, she has also been an instrumental member of the task force to address prescription drug abuse at both the state and national levels. During the 2013 legislative session, she sponsored laws to address prescription drug abuse and those bills were recently signed in to law by Governor Bentley.

As a member of the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, she has been a strong advocate for voters and businesses of District 49. An active community leader, Weaver is a graduate of Leadership Shelby County, a past board member for the University of Montevallo Student Affairs Department, a past Advisory Board Member for the Baptist Health System Congregational Health Program, and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. Weaver has been recognized for her outstanding professional and community leadership. She was selected as a member of Birmingham Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40" list of young professionals and as "Alabama Young Career Woman of the Year". In 2011, she received the BCA Advocate for Progress Award and in 2011

and 2012 she was chosen as Outstanding Legislator of the Year by the ASNA.

During her tenure in the legislature, she has served as Vice Chair of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation, Chair of the Environmental Issues Subcommittee, and the Health, Small Business and Commerce, and Sunset Committees, and Energy Council. Governor Bentley recently appointed her to her 4th term on the State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) where she serves as Chair of the Home Health Committee and Vice Chair of the FED Subcommittee. She is a member of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Board of Trustees and a former member of the Alabama Child Death Review Board.

Weaver began her health-care administration career almost twenty years ago at Bibb Medical Center (BMC) after she received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1993. While maintaining her job at BMC, she returned to college and became a registered nurse in 1997. She joined Brookwood Medical Center in 1999, quickly rising to the rank of Director of Public, Community and Government Relations. She joined Shelby Baptist Medical Center in 2002 where she presently serves as the Director of Business Development and a member of the executive team. She completed her MBA in 2006 and subsequently completed coursework as a Legal Nurse Consultant.

"I am excited to announce my candidacy for reelection to the Alabama House of Representatives," said Weaver. "As a life long resident of District 49, my goal is to continue to be a proactive representative of the people of the area. I was born and raised a Republican, and I will continue to be a strong, conservative voice for the voters of this district if reelected. Every day I am in Montgomery, I will fight to ensure that the conservative values and principles we share are reflected in every piece of legislation that is sent to the Governor's desk."

Weaver is married to Dr. Darrel Weaver. They are members of Westwood Baptist Church in Alabaster.

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# BELK CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Belk Department Store marks 125 years of business this year, and the Alabaster store recently held a special event to celebrate.

"We had a celebration for our customers to let them know we're celebrating 125 years," said Valerie Sanner, sales team manager at the Alabaster Belk.

For the May 29 event, the store gave out gift cards to the first 100 customers and sent out special invitations to the store's 50 most elite customers. Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon spoke at the event, along with Belk Store Manager Lauren Stricklin. Local gospel singer Sanchez Tanniehill also gave a live performance.

"We had a really good turnout," said Sanner.

The store also recognized two associates for their dedicated service to the company, in Jeffrey Robinson and Judy Karvonen.

"Between the two of them, they have over 60 years in the company," said Sanner.

Alabama Crown donated bottled water for the event.

"They were kind enough to donate bottled water to us for our event," said Sanner.

Belk was first founded in 1888 by William Henry Belk in Monroe, N.C. The company is still family-owned to this day and is also still headquartered in North Carolina.

In 2010, the company introduced a new corporate brand identity, with the tagline "Modern. Southern. Style." There are over 300 Belk stores around the South, from Texas to West Virginia.

The company has also made efforts to reinvest in the communities where it's located. This year, Belk in Alabaster partnered with Hands on Birmingham to help Creek View Elementary.

"They're really trying to do a lot of grassroots events and trying to get involved in



As part of the celebration, Belk employees invested in the community by creating murals for Creek View Elementary

the communities," said Sanner. "Every store did a service project with a local school."

The project included a service day in which Belk associates built a picnic table and created murals for Creek View. The store also donated 125 books to the school.

"The murals were mainly to teach colors to the kids," said Sanner. "We did cool palettes. We did warm

palettes."

For the anniversary, some of the store's vendors created special limited-edition items. Mattel, for example, created a Barbie doll that's available exclusively at Belk.

To learn more, go to Anniversary.belk.com. Customers can also visit the store's Facebook page to participate in its "125 Days of Prizes."





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# MAYOR HOSTS SMALL BUSINESS MEETING

On Friday, May 10, City of Alabaster Mayor Marty Handlon held an informative meeting for small business owners at the Municipal Annex.

It was the second such meeting Handlon has hosted since becoming mayor in November. The quarterly meetings are a part of Handlon's effort to engage and assist small businesses in the community.

During the meeting, City Manager George Henry discussed the city's trade area, which can be viewed on the City website ([www.cityofalabaster.com](http://www.cityofalabaster.com)) by clicking on the "Business" tab. The area indicates the footprint from which the city draws customers to its businesses.

According to Henry, the Alabaster trade area draws heavily from south of the city and includes a popula-

tion of nearly 150,000. The trade area is an important factor in attracting new businesses to Alabaster.

One of the ways the municipal government is attempting to increase that footprint is through its use of a new smart phone app. The free app is part of the Buy Alabaster First initiative and works in conjunction with the Alabaster Business Directory on the City website.

"This is part of the vision the mayor had to increase trade area," said Henry.

Henry encouraged those in the audience who hadn't yet downloaded the app to their smart phones to do so during the meeting.

"Go ahead and start that download process," he suggested.

Alabaster Police Chief Curtis Rigney also spoke during the meeting, going

over a number of key ways that businesses can protect themselves from loss. When receiving payments by check or credit card, for example, Rigney advised businesses to require photo identification.

"Check the ID. Make sure it matches," said Rigney. "If you take these extra few seconds, it can save you some money in the long run."

If a business has an employee-theft problem, he advised business owners to go to the police department to file a report, to avoid tipping off the suspect. He also recommended limiting employee access to cash and changing locks and codes after an employee is let go.

"Try not to leave too much cash around, especially overnight," Rigney said.

When confronted with shoplifting, Rigney recommends being a "good witness." Take note of the sus-

pect's clothing and vehicle type, but don't attempt to stop them.

Other speakers at the event included Jay Carr, Rebecca Byrd, Fire Chief Jim Golden and Lt. Phil Harris.

Handlon encouraged residents to contact her via the City of Alabaster website, which has an easy-to-use feedback form. She noted that it's an easy way to communicate without having to make an appointment.

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# BUCK CREEK TRAIL TO EXPAND

Plans to expand the Buck Creek Trail in Alabaster were announced recently following the ribbon-cutting for the new Alabaster YMCA and DAY Program.

According to Shelby County Manager Alex Dudchok, tentative plans are in place to extend the trail from the Warrior Park trailhead to Thompson High School and the YMCA.

"The goal is to connect the current end of Buck Creek Trail all the way to this location," Dudchok told the crowd gathered at the YMCA.

The expansion would represent the next phase of development for the Buck Creek Trail. Buck Creek Trail currently runs from Buck Creek Park to Warrior Park, where it ends behind the Parks and Recreation Depot. It's approximately one mile in length.

According to Dudchok, the trail expansion would provide a valuable use for

cross country participants as well as students walking over from Warrior Park.

"That's exciting because we do not want dead ends. We want major projects on each end, like the school, like the YMCA, like the DAY Program," said Dudchok.

A construction project planned for Thompson Road will enable the trail expansion to move forward, when the bridge over Buck Creek is expanded.

"Due to it being expanded under new standards, it's going to give us the clearance underneath it that we see we have the opportunity to allow the trail to continue," Dudchok said.

The Buck Creek Trail has been a successful addition for the City of Alabaster, providing a valuable green space in the heart of the city. It provides additional opportunities for residents to get outside and exercise, while serving as



the annual location for the City's Fall Fest.

Dudchok said Shelby County hopes to partner with both the City of Alabaster and local legislators to make the expansion

a reality.

"We'll have to have partners to pull it off," he said. "We will hopefully have the next ribbon-cutting with that project."

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# CITYFEST IS A BIG HIT



Despite a less-than-ideal weather day, the 11th Annual Alabaster CityFest drew a large number of people to Municipal Park on June 1 for another great day of family fun and music.

The event featured two major musical acts in country star Josh Turner and alternative rock singer Ed Kowalczyk, formerly of Live.

“Even with the threat of weather, the crowd was tremendous,” said Alabaster Arts Council President Adam Moseley. “We had two interruptions from rain, but the crowd stayed and more showed up for the nighttime acts.”

According to Police Chief Curtis Rigney, the event drew an estimated 50,000 to 55,000 people.

“We want to thank all of our wonderful sponsors and the many volunteers who make this event happen,” said Moseley. “It would not be a success without them.”

This year’s CityFest featured a new 5K run, which kicked things off at 8 a.m. By all accounts, it was a great addition to CityFest,

attracting 109 participants for the early morning run.

“I am already planning for the second annual CityFest 5k for next year,” said race organizer Jamia Alexander-Williams. “I want to continue to grow and improve the race bigger and better each year.”

As usual, CityFest also featured a number of vendors selling and promoting a variety of products and services. Many of the vendors were from right here in Alabaster, including the YMCA, the Thompson High School Band, Alabaster Eye Care, AmStar Cinemas, Handcrafted Jewelry by Nancy, and Lauren Hood’s World of Dogs.

“It’s been going great,” said Virginia Aida with Lauren Hood’s World of Dogs, a unique dog-training facility in Alabaster. “The atmosphere is great. We love the music.”

The day also featured a sprawling KidsFest area, lots of food, a classic car cruise-in, the Alabaster RC Association, and popular Elvis impersonator Terry Padgett.

At the Alabaster City Council meeting on June 3, Mayor Marty Handlon expressed her appreciation to those who worked to make CityFest a success, particularly the many City employees who contributed.

“I felt safe and it went smooth,” she said. “There



were a lot of good times had by all.”

Councilwoman Sophie Martin expressed her gratitude as well.

“Thank you to all the City of Alabaster employees,” said Martin. “I don’t think there was one employee who did not in some way or form touch Alabaster CityFest, so thank you to everybody who worked so hard on that.”

Martin also encouraged

anyone who’s interested in serving to get involved with the Alabaster Arts Council, the volunteer organization responsible for producing CityFest.

“That’s a great board to be involved with,” said Martin. “It’s a fantastic group.”

For more information about CityFest or the Alabaster Arts Council, go to [Alabastercityfest.com](http://Alabastercityfest.com)

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# VICKERS TO LEAD SCHOOL SYSTEM

In May, the Alabaster Board of Education announced the hiring of Dr. Wayne Vickers as superintendent. Vickers is scheduled to assume the job on July 1, and he'll bring a wealth of experience to the position.

Vickers, who grew up in Jefferson County, returns to the area from the Saraland City School System, where he currently serves as superintendent.

"I'm just real excited," Vickers said on June 7. "This community has so much to offer. We have a great opportunity here to do some great things."

In addition to serving as superintendent for Saraland, Vickers has served as superintendent for the Demopolis City Schools and served as principal at Hillcrest Middle School in Tuscaloosa. He

has also worked for the Kentucky Department of Education.

"I've had 23 years experience in public education," said Vickers. "I've been a high school, middle school and elementary school principal. The past six years I've been a superintendent."

Vickers is especially qualified to head up a new school system since Saraland underwent a similar separation from the Mobile County school district in 2008.

"Being in Saraland is great preparation for what Alabaster is about to go through," said Vickers. "I feel very fortunate to have had that experience."

With Vickers at the helm, the Saraland School District has achieved remarkable success in terms of both growth and academics.

"We've had a wonderful

run in Saraland," said Vickers. "Academically we're ranked 11th in the state out of 132 districts based on the Alabama Reading and Math Test."

As for Alabaster, Vickers said he hopes to take the good things that the system is inheriting and make them even better. He also hopes to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"That's what I want the parents of the students in the school system to know," he said. "We're going to work very hard to make this a seamless transition."

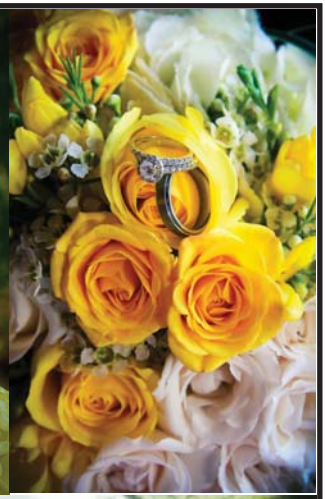
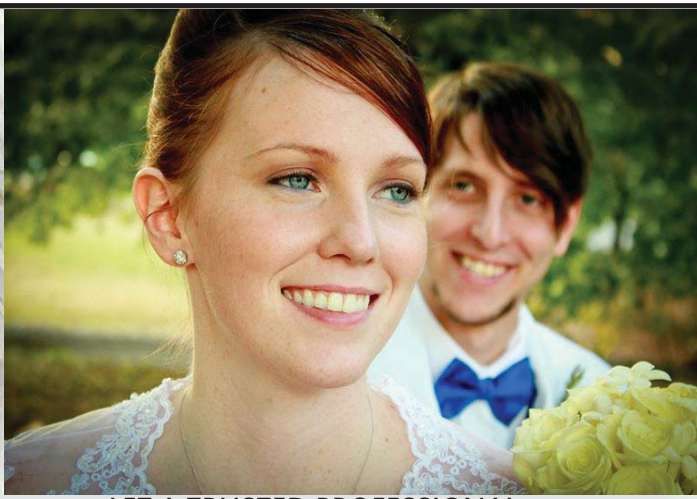
Dr. Phil Hammonds, who served capably as interim superintendent for Alabaster, stepped down at the end of May. Keri Johnson, the school system's coordinator of exceptional education, is serving as



**Dr. L. Wayne Vickers is the new Superintendent of the Alabaster School System**

interim superintendent for the month of June.

For more information, visit the Alabaster City Schools online at [Alabasterschools.org](http://Alabasterschools.org).



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# DAY TRIPPING: DECATUR BY SARAH B. JONES

(CON'T FROM PAGE 12)

Roosevelt's mother. The Rose Garden has massive areas of Snowflake Hydrangeas and Giant Hosta. We met an enthusiastic Park Volunteer and enjoyed an extensive history lesson about the park. Near Decatur is 38,000 acre

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. It was created in 1938 and is the first NWR on a multi-purpose reservoir providing habitat for migrating and wintering birds. Wheeler is the easternmost Refuge on the Mississippi Flyway and attracts thousands of water-



fowl each winter. There is a two story glass-enclosed Observation Building a short walk from the Visitor Center with spotting scopes for viewing. There is another Wildlife Observation Tower on the north side of the river on Beaver Dam Peninsula.

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destination even this time of the year. There are five nature trails that wind along various types of terrain offering a wide variety of wildlife and nature scenery.



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## WE DARED TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS by Representative April Weaver

Just before the 2013 regular session convened, House Republicans gathered in Montgomery to announce one of the most aggressive legislative agendas in modern Alabama history.

Titled the "We Dare Defend Our Rights" agenda after Alabama's official state motto, it contained several measures designed to insulate our state from attacks by the federal government, and it implemented much-needed and long-overdue government reforms. Fiscal responsibility, job creation, and maintaining Alabama's business-friendly, pro-growth environment also remained as prominent pillars in our legislative efforts.

Others questioned our ability to pass such sweeping reforms and protections in the face of unrelenting filibusters and the strong opposition of powerful special interest groups working to protect the broken status quo. Today, I am proud to say that we proved all of the critics and naysayers wrong.

The first agenda bill approved by the House was the "People's Trust Act," which keeps a Republican promise to repay \$437 million that referendum voters transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund to

buoy the state budget while cost-saving reforms begin to produce results. As a result of this legislation, every penny that was borrowed will be repaid in a structure and timely manner so the trust fund can remain sacrosanct.

In an effort to protect our Second Amendment rights that Alabamians hold dear, House Republicans approved the "Firearms Protection Act." If this amendment to our 1901 Constitution is approved by voters, Alabama will have among the strongest gun rights protections in the United States, and judges will be forced to strictly review any laws that may infringe upon your ability to own, use and enjoy firearms.

Likewise, an omnibus gun bill that we approved cements Alabama as a "right to carry" state and eases the ability for honest, law-abiding Alabamians to obtain and maintain conceal/carry permits for their firearms. It also awards blanket tort protections to business owners if employees keep guns locked in their vehicles while at work.

We also addressed the Medicaid program. With our reform legislation, providers will be paid based upon the results

they produce, and Medicaid recipients will be discouraged from using the emergency room like it has a revolving door.

We passed legal liability limits that open the door for suppliers of the \$600 million Airbus assembly plant in Mobile to locate in Alabama, which will bring thousands of new, high-paying jobs to our state. A strategic investment of several million dollars in Alabama's career technical training and legislation that dramatically reduces red tape requirements on businesses also reinforce our job creation efforts.

Responsible budgets that ensure Alabama lives within its means, fund essential state services, and meet the needs of both K-12 and higher education while providing a pay raise for educators marked additional high points for the

session.

If we had passed only the reforms, programs and legislation detailed above, this session would have been considered an unqualified success, but we accomplished so much more that space limitations do not allow me to detail. You can learn more about these and other successes by visiting the Alabama House Republican Caucus website at [www.alhouse-gop.com](http://www.alhouse-gop.com).

Over the last few months, House Republicans appropriated taxpayer dollars wisely, we implemented government reforms that have been needed for decades, and we dared to defend the rights of our fellow Alabamians. Given those accomplishments, it is no surprise that Gov. Robert Bentley recently labeled this recently adjourned legislative session as

## FOOTBALL SIGNING

Thompson High School football player John Thompson recently signed to play football at Point University in West Point, Ga. Thompson played defensive line for the Warriors.

He will be joining a brand new program that had its first official season in 2012. The Skyhawks finished with a record of 2-7, competing with schools like Millsaps College, Faulkner University and Huntingdon College. The program scored its first-ever victory on Oct. 27 over the Apprentice School.

The Skyhawks are coached by former Auburn University All-American David Rocker. Rocker served as defensive line assistant coach for the 2012 season and was appointed to the head coach position in December.

Thompson is scheduled to report to Point in July.

Another THS player, Jesse Handlon, recently signed with Birmingham-Southern College to play football. Handlon played tight end for the Warriors



John Thompson has signed with Point University

in 2012, and he held a signing ceremony at Thompson High School to celebrate the occasion in May.

The Panthers are coached by Eddie Garfinkle, who coached the team to an impressive 7-3 record in 2012. Since taking over as head coach in 2008, Garfinkle has guided the Panthers to increasingly impressive records. Last season, the Panthers claimed a share of the conference title after defeating rival Millsaps 35-21 in the last game of the season.

Alabaster Police Department is conducting a search to find the night watchmen that served the city. The following names are: John Nabors, Cliff Brantley and Bart Oden. If you have any information or photographs, please contact Officer Dewey Webb at Alabaster Police Department 205-663-7401.





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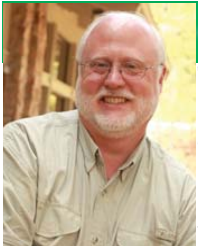
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# The Bald Eagle, Our National Symbol by David Frings



The bald eagle was chosen as our national symbol by con-

gress on June 20, 1782 because of its strength and majesty. Even though the bald eagle is revered as a strong bird, it almost succumbed to the challenges posed by a growing society as early as the 1920's. During the years leading up to the mid 1970's, eagle populations in the lower 48 states decreased due to habitat destruction, poaching, mercury contamination in their food chain, and lead combination from shot found in various water fowl. Widespread reports also pointed to the pesticide DDT as causing the demise of the eagle but some recent findings question the role played by this chemical. The use of DDT was banned in the United States on December 31, 1972 because it was thought to weaken the egg shells of birds such as the bald eagle and brown pelican. As it turns out, habitat destruction and indiscriminate taking (shooting) of the eagle appears to be the primary cause for the



decline in their populations.

In response to the decline of our national symbol, the federal government passed several acts and laws that protected the bird. Protecting legislation in the early years included the Lacey Act of 1900, Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. While these acts did reduce some of the eagle mortality, the population did not begin to recover until the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973 which protected both the bird and its critical habitat. The bald eagle is one of the success stories of the Endangered Species Act, being delisted (removed) as threatened or endangered on August 9, 2007. While the bald eagle has been delisted, it continues to be protected from hunting and harassment by federal laws.



Bald Eagle nest at Lake Purdy

As we approach our Independence Day celebration, the bald eagle has recovered to the point where there are now nesting pairs along most medium to large lakes in Alabama as well as many rivers such as the Cahaba. One pair is even nesting as close to Alabaster as Lake Purdy, which is located on Highway 119, about a mile east of Highway 280. Other nearby nesting areas

includes Mitchell and Lay Lakes to the southeast of Alabaster. If your plans include a trip to the lake for the holiday, look up to the blue sky above, you may just see a majestic eagle soaring in the skies made free by the brave Americans who have fought for our freedom over the centuries.

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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T.J. Lisenba - 540-3199



## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Celebrate Christmas in Alabama's Williamsburg-Mooresville, AL on Saturday, December 14.** Join us as we travel on a motor coach to Mooresville, AL - one of the smallest towns in Alabama. As featured in the

November/December 2012 issue of the "Southern Lady" magazine, Historic Mooresville puts on its holiday finery to celebrate the Christmas season. Bright, fresh greenery and red bows decorate street signs; wreaths, colorful fresh fruit and natural materials hang on the doors; and homes are decorated in the tradition of Christmas past. We will enjoy a progressive dinner and a walking tour through several of the beautifully decorated homes. You won't want to miss this special trip. Signups are early due to a limited number of tickets sold at this event. Stop by the Senior Center and sign up today. Cost is \$85 for the first 30 Alabaster senior residents, and \$95 for all other Shelby County seniors.

**Acrylic Painting Workshop - Wednesday, July 10 from 12pm-3pm.** This is a great class for beginner painters or someone that is interested in learning how to paint. Cost is

\$20/person and supplies are included. Space is limited. **NEW Multimedia art class-Monday, July 15 from 12-3pm.** Explore variations of media mixing. Learn new techniques, a creative way to use old ones, and to apply methods to produce new art. Prerequisite-must have taken a basic drawing class from Deanne prior to enrolling in this class. Space is limited. \$15/class.

**Christmas in July! Join us on a trip to Sir Stamp A Lot on Tuesday, July 23,** where we will use various stamping techniques to create 2-3 Christmas cards. We will also enjoy a nice meal in the community. Cost is \$8 to reserve your spot (includes the cost of creating 2-3 cards). Bring \$10-12 for lunch. Space is limited. Stop by to reserve your spot.

**NEW Book Club- join us on Friday, July 26 at 10am. We will be reading "Fried Green Tomatoes", by Fannie Flagg.** The first 10 people to sign up for the book club will receive their own copy of the book. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book. Special thanks to Harrison Regional Library for their donation.

**NEW Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program- Mondays at**

**12:15, and Wednesdays at 10am.** Space is limited. Encouraged donation of \$2/class.

**Line dancing on Thursdays:** Intermediate class begins at 9:30am and beginner class at 10:30am. Encouraged donation of \$2/class.

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

**Free Blood Pressure Checks on Tuesday, July 9 at 9:30am** with Comfort Care Hospice.

**Crochet class- join us every Wednesday at 9am** to learn how to crochet; or, if you are experienced, stop by and fellowship with friends.

**"Preserving Family Memories Through Scrapbooking" taught by C.D. McKinnon.**

**Monday, July 8 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 sup-

plies will be available to purchase.

You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

- Men's Social Group: 1st Monday of each month at 9 am
- Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am
- Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
- Rook: Wednesdays at 9:00 am
- Rummikub: Wednesdays at 9:30 am
- 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](mailto:awalters@cityofalabaster.com)

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# Calendar of Events

June 29 Celebrate America 7-10 pm Vets Park  
July 1, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex  
July 2, Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex  
July 4, CITY OFFICES CLOSED  
July 8, Water Board 7 pm Annex  
Parks & Rec Bldg. (The Depot)  
Board of Education 6:00 pm Senior Center  
July 10, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*  
Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex  
July 11, Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.  
July 15, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex  
July 16, Driving School 7 pm Annex  
July 18, Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex  
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm  
July 22, Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Senior Center  
July 23, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex  
Library Board 6pm ALS Library  
July 24, 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.

## RECYCLING CALENDAR

~ July 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Marty Handlon, Mayor**  
handlon@cityofalabaster.com  
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

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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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