

THE ORIGINAL

# Alabaster

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I // NUMBER 10 // OCTOBER 2013

OCTOBER 5

VETERANS  
PARK



# Bark IN THE Park

**FRANK'S FURNITURE SPECIAL RED TAG SALE!  
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FOR BIG SAVINGS! SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS!!!**

# Alabaster

A Word from the  
Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



Long ago in a galaxy far away when I was in fourth grade, I got pneumonia and was out of school for six weeks.

During that time fell Halloween, and there was no way I could go out to trick or treat with my friends.

On Halloween my parents fixed me up a bed on the sofa in the living room so I could see the trick or treaters as they stopped by. We lived in a densely packed neighborhood with lots of families and there were lots of kids. I enjoyed seeing everyone in their costumes.

Toward the end of the evening my friends stopped by the house and dumped a bunch of candy on the cocktail table in front of me. They said they were sharing their candy with me since I couldn't go out with them.

I was touched by their generosity then and I am

still touched by it today. Who knew that a simple act of kindness and charity performed by fourth graders would create a positive memory that still makes a wonderful impression many years later?

Although they were sharing candy, the taste of the candy has long since faded, but the warm spirit of generosity and love that they shared lasts forever.

If you know a child that can't get out to trick or treat, please consider sharing with them. A few handfuls of candy mixed with love can warm a heart for a lifetime.

Halloween kicks off the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas following close behind.

Let's let the spirit of helping others become a key part of the holiday

season.

In this vein, the Salvation Army will be offering the Angel Tree program this year. If you need some help with Christmas, read our article on the program. If you can afford to help, many area churches offer opportunities to help kids on the Angel Tree list. Check it out.

Also, with the holidays coming up, you might be expecting guests and your furniture is looking ragged. The Alabaster Newsletter has partnered with Frank's Furniture to offer tremendous savings on furniture for your home. The Red Tag sale is for Alabaster Newsletter customers only so be sure and take the ad on page 7 with you to get the savings.

Have a Happy Halloween!



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# HAVE A FUN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN

Halloween is right around the corner, so it's a good time to think about making this year's holiday not only fun but also safe.

When it comes to trick-or-treating, the Alabaster Police Department recommends taking a common-sense approach to the activity. For example, Halloween costumes should incorporate bright colors to increase their visibility. Dark costumes, on the other hand, are discouraged. Witch costumes and ninjas are probably not the best options.

The department also recommends using flashlights and glow sticks to enhance your trick-or-treater's visibility. Another good option might be glow-in-the-dark stickers that can be fastened to the outside of a costume.

Of course, the best approach is to simply stick to areas and passages that are well-lit. That way, drivers and homeowners alike will be able to see the trick-

or-treaters coming. And children should always be accompanied by a trusted adult.

Unfortunately, the safety concerns don't end with the costumes. Parents should check out their children's candy before allowing them to eat it. Things to look for include choking hazards as well as products that might have been tampered with.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a Halloween health and safety page, featuring a list of suggestions for avoiding injury. Some of the suggestions are things people might not think about, like avoiding lit candles, which can present a fire hazard. It also reminds kids not to overindulge on sweets and to use safe costume accessories. Costume swords, for example, should be soft and flexible. To view the list, go to [www.cdc.gov/family/halloween](http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also suggests some safety tips on

its website ([www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)). One of the concerns it cautions people about is the use of decorative contact lenses. The site advises people not to wear decorative lenses unless they've been counseled by an eye care professional. It also advises children not to eat candy that hasn't been "commercially wrapped."

This year, Halloween falls on a Thursday, so drivers should be particularly cautious when they're out driving around town that night, particularly at dusk. The Alabaster Police Department will have plenty of patrols out for Halloween, but it also encourages people to report any suspicious behavior they might see. To report any mischief, call the Alabaster Police Department at 663-7401.



## ALABASTER POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN

- GO TRICK-OR-TREATING WITH A GROWN UP.
- VISIT ONLY NEIGHBORHOODS YOU KNOW.
- MAKE SURE YOUR COSTUME LETS YOU SEE, MOVE AND HEAR EASILY.
- WEAR A LIGHT-COLORED OR BRIGHT COSTUME SO DRIVERS CAN SEE YOU.
- PUT GLOW IN THE DARK STICKERS ON YOUR COSTUME.
- CARRY A FLASHLIGHT OR GLOW STICK.
- STAY IN AREAS THAT ARE WELL LIT.
- WATCH OUT FOR CARS!!
- HAVE YOUR PARENTS CHECK YOUR CANDY BEFORE YOU EAT IT.

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# Bark IN THE Park

at VETERANS PARK

## 'Bark in the Park' Oct. 5

Bark in the Park returns to Veterans Park this year for another exciting day of fabulous, furry fun. The popular canine celebration will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities will be held on the back field adjacent to Alabaster's Beneful Dream Dog Park.

Bark in the Park is produced each year by Shelby Humane Society in partnership with the City of Alabaster's Parks and Recreation Department. It features a variety of fun activities for both dogs and their owners, ranging from food and music to contests and inflatables.

One of the most popular activities is the Mutt Strut, a one-mile walk around Veterans Park to help raise funds for Shelby Humane Society. The cost to participate in the Mutt Strut is \$15 per adult. Participants can raise additional money by soliciting sponsors for the walk. Registration and sponsorship forms are available at the Shelby Humane Society website at [www.shelbyhumane.org](http://www.shelbyhumane.org).

According to Sara Shirley, the executive director of Shelby Humane Society, this year will feature photographers from Forget Me Not Photography. They'll be onsite taking pictures of people's pets. The prints will be available for \$5 each. For every \$5 purchase, \$4 will be donated to Shelby Humane Society.

"They'll print them onsite and let the people take them with them," said Shirley.

A number of pet-related vendors will also be on hand, selling everything from healthy pet treats to pet-care services. And the onsite vaccination and microchip clinic will be back as well.

Bark in the Park was first created in 2007, and it's been a great addition to Alabaster's fall recreational calendar. Pet owners and their dogs enjoy the day, and it also raises money to care for the homeless animals at Shelby Humane Society.

Guests are encouraged to bring their dogs out to the park to enjoy the day and make some new, furry friends. For people interested in getting a new pet, Shelby Humane Society is planning to bring a number of loveable dogs that are available for

adoption.

"We're hoping to have enough volunteers that the dogs will be out with 'Adopt Me' vests on walking around instead of in their cages," said Shirley.

This year, the Humane Society has also invited a number of other nonprofit rescue organizations to participate in the event and showcase their adoptable pets.

"We're all in this together," Shirley said.

For more information, visit Shelby Humane Society online at [Shelbyhumane.org](http://Shelbyhumane.org). The website includes sponsorship and vendor details, as well as applications. For questions, email [info@shelbyhumane.org](mailto:info@shelbyhumane.org). Residents can also contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 664-6840.



# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 6 - 12

This year, National Fire Prevention Week will be held Oct. 6-12. The annual safety campaign is conducted each fall by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which partners with local fire departments all across the country to promote fire safety.

This year's theme is "Prevent Kitchen Fires," which is an especially important topic to cover since more home fires start in the kitchen than any other part of the house.

cooking or using the stove's back burners if children are around. The NFPA also says it's important to stay in the kitchen whenever you're frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food. And it recommends cleaning the grease and food from burners and stovetops.

Locally, the Alabaster Fire and Rescue Service will be using the month of October to educate the city's schoolchildren about fire safety. Each



of its year-round effort to prevent fires. Residents can call any fire station and request a free smoke alarm, which they'll be happy to come out and install.

Fire Prevention Week is one of the longest-running public health observances in the country. It dates back to the 1920s when it was launched to commemorate

the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Between 2007 and 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of over 150,000 cooking-related fires per year, which resulted in 400 deaths and over 5,000 injuries.

For more information, visit the NFPA online at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 6-12, 2013**  
**PREVENT KITCHEN FIRES**  
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According to the NFPA, two out of every five home fires begin in the kitchen, and most of these are the result of unattended cooking. To avoid home fires and home-fire injuries, the NFPA recommends a few simple tips, like wearing tight-fitting sleeves when

year, the department visits all of the schools in the area and teaches the students the basics of keeping themselves and their families safe at home.

The department also maintains a free smoke-alarm program for residents, which is a big part

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# HUNGRY HOWIES OFFERS LOVE, HOPE, AND PIZZA

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For the third year in a row, all Hungry Howie's Pizza locations in the U.S. will be participating in the Love, Hope & Pizza fundraising campaign.

Throughout October, all LARGE pizzas will be served in bright pink boxes with the breast cancer awareness ribbon instead of the classic yellow boxes. For every LARGE pizza purchased, Hungry Howie's will make a donation to the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF), one of the most highly recognized and respected breast cancer charities in the world.

Their programs help save lives through breast cancer awareness

campaigns, early detection methods and cancer research. Founder/CEO of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Janelle Hail, who is a 32-year breast cancer survivor says, "NBCF values Hungry Howie's partnership in sharing our mission of helping women now by providing free mammograms, education, support and early detection services. Together we can make a difference in women's lives and offer them hope".

In addition, pink wrist bands will be sold for \$1 each with the entire amount donated to the Foundation. Last year, Hungry Howie's locations nationwide donated over \$275,000 to help fight breast cancer. So...order the pizza that makes a difference



during October. It's LOVE, HOPE & PIZZA all month at Hungry Howie's.

"As a community, we can help to heal the lives of patients and their loved ones. Together, we can face the challenge of breast cancer and make a difference," states Jennifer Hearn,

President of Hungry Howie's Pizza, Inc.

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# FALL FEST OCTOBER 26 AT BUCK CREEK PARK

Alabaster residents can look forward to another fun festival this month as the City of Alabaster hosts its fifth-annual Fall Fest. The Fall Fest is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take place on the Buck Creek Trail behind the Alabaster Senior Center.

Parking for the event is available at both the Senior Center and Buck Creek Park. For those who park at the park, shuttles will be running throughout the event carrying guests up and down the trail. Also it's just a short walk up the trail to the picnic pavilion for those who want to experience the Buck Creek Trail by foot.

The Fall Fest was created in 2009 to celebrate the City of Alabaster and help introduce locals to the Buck Creek Trail. Since then, it's grown into a fun,

family event in a unique setting amidst one of the city's most treasured green spaces. Last year, the event drew approximately 2,000 people.

Each year, the festival features a variety of arts-and-crafts vendors, selling everything from children's books and blankets to handmade jewelry and scarves. One year a local caricaturist was on hand creating whimsical caricatures right on the spot.

With Halloween being right around the corner, the Fall Fest is also a perfect way for the kids to get into the Halloween spirit. The event features a "Trick or Treat" trail with plenty of sweet treats for the children.

The event also features live music by the local band 2BLU and the Lucky Stiffs, who've been a part of the event since the



beginning.

"It's become a bit of a tradition," said lead singer Bruce Andrews. "For me, it's one of my favorite things we do, because it's in the daytime and it's good, family fun."

The Fall Fest is a great opportunity for people who have never walked the Buck Creek Trail to get a taste of what it's like. The trail runs along Buck Creek from Buck Creek Park to Warrior Park and is a good way to

enjoy nature, right in the heart of the city.

"Alabaster gets to hang out as a community, and then every year new people get to discover that trail-head back there," said Andrews.

For more information about the festival, including vendor details, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 664-6840.

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Dr. Moody is currently Associate Professor of Otolaryngology and Director of

Nasal and Sinus Disorders at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Virginia and attended medical school at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. He completed his surgical internship and ENT residency at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Dr. Moody has also been very active in community service and medical mission trips. Since graduating medical school, he has served as part of multiple surgical/medical mission trips to developing areas such as Honduras, Nepal, Moldova, China, and Kenya.

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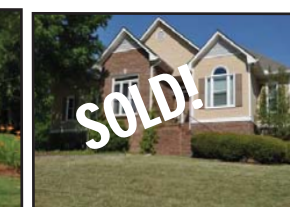
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# Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE

## COLONEL'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY

For anyone interested in new upholstery for their automobile, there's an excellent option located right here in Alabaster. Colonel's Custom Upholstery on Fulton Springs Road provides everything from basic repairs to high-end custom upholstery services.

"For the most part, we're a repair shop. We do automotive repairs for interiors. That's the biggest part of my business," said owner Chris Bellow. "But when it comes down to it, the thing that I like is the custom side of it."

Bellow first got interested in upholstery as a student at VC Tech in Pelham. He took a variety



(From L) Owner Chris Bellow and Hunt Ray with a '57 Chevy they recently reupholstered

of coursework at the school, but it was the upholstery class that really struck a chord.

"I went through the auto body and the paint classes at VC Tech. I also did suspensions," said Bellow. "The last class I took was the upholstery class, and that one kind of caught me."

As someone who'd been to a

lot of car shows and was interested in cars, he felt like upholstery was an area where he could make an impact.

"I would go to car shows and you'd see paint jobs and suspensions and all those things on cars, but you'd see a lot of stock interiors," said Bellow. "I have a creative side and wanted to be able to show that and do a little something different instead of the same old, everyday stock interiors."

After graduating in 2007, Bellow started doing jobs around the area to further develop his craft.

"I'd pick up little things to hone my skills," said Bellow, "headliner jobs and things like that. From there, I opened up my first shop right down the road off 31 and stayed there for about a year or so."

Now located beside Impatient Creations (the

custom auto shop), he's in the ideal spot.

"It's kind of one-stop shopping," said Bellow.

In terms of services, Colonel's Custom Upholstery can do everything from carpets and seating to trim panels and visors. They also do boats and motorcycles and even convertible tops.

"One of the main things people tell me they didn't realize we did is convertible tops," said Bellow. "We do a lot of them."

As for their custom work, Bellow said he likes to create a classic, timeless look with their interiors.

"I don't want to do anything that's going to be dated," he said. "The things that we do, I like to think, are timeless."

Colonel's is open Monday through Friday, starting at 7 a.m. For more information, visit Colonel's Custom Upholstery online at [www.sewcustomized.com](http://www.sewcustomized.com).



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# SCHOOL BOARD OKS WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

At its regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, Sept. 9, the Alabaster School Board approved a writer-in-residence program for the Alabaster City Schools for the current school year.

Under the program, writer Rick Shelton will provide writing instruction for both teachers and students alike across the entire school system. He'll model instruction strategies that teachers can adapt and give students the opportunity to learn writing skills directly from a published author.

According to School Board member Linda Church, the program is a great way for teachers to learn new teaching techniques that they can apply throughout the year.

"Students participate in lessons with him as the instructor and the teacher as an observer," said

Church on Sept. 10. "Once the lesson is completed, the teacher extends the learning for students and utilizes the instructional strategies and teaching skills observed. This is an effective way of providing job-embedded professional development for teachers and variety of instruction for students. We are fortunate to have this creative program in our schools."

The program reflects the growing emphasis on writing at both the state and national level and also suggests the new school system's commitment to new and innovative programming.

"With the renewed interest in writing instruction in the state, it is important that we give teachers and students the opportunity to interact with real writers like Rick Shelton," said Church.

Shelton has an impres-

sive résumé that includes an MFA in creative writing from the University of Alabama and a Master's degree in English language and literature from the University of Chicago. He's also the award-winning author of the children's book "Hoggle's Christmas" and the teaching guide "Write Where You Are!"

During the board meeting, School Superintendent Dr. Wayne Vickers voiced his support for the program, calling it an outstanding idea.

In other meeting news, the school board transferred ownership of a sewer pump station to the City of Alabaster. The station was acquired as part of the separation agreement from the Shelby County School System.

"We really don't need a



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sewer station under our control," School Board President Adam Moseley explained. "So that's good for us in the long run."

The board also approved two out-of-state field trips, one for Thompson Middle School and the other for Thompson High School. The school trips are for a performing arts workshop and a cross country meet.



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## NEW CITY HALL

The City of Alabaster's newest building is nearing completion as crews are currently putting the final touches on the landscaping outside the new City Hall.

The new municipal building sits adjacent to the Alabaster Senior Center on

Alabaster City Council.

At the Sept. 9 meeting of the Alabaster Board of Education, School Superintendent Dr. Wayne Vickers expressed his excitement for the new space.

"I want to thank the



the old Buck Creek mill property off Eleventh Avenue S.W.

The City of Alabaster owns approximately 20 acres of land at the site, which will now serve as the hub for the city's municipal government. Once completed, the new building will house the city's administrative offices, as well as the Department of Building Safety and the new Alabaster Board of Education.

It will also include a courtroom that will serve as both municipal court and a meeting place for the

City and this board for their leadership in providing a quality office area," said Vickers. "The upstairs of the city hall will be the new Alabaster City Board of Education home. It is a beautiful facility. It is an outstanding place."

According to City Manager George Henry, Alabaster employees should begin using the building by Sept. 23.

Once the City's administrative staff moves into the new building, the Alabaster Police Department will take over the top floor of the former City Hall off Highway 31.

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## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

### Every Wednesday

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

### 1st Thursday 1:00 pm

Friends of Library Bookmenders

### Every Friday 10:30 am

Toddler Tales (2s, 3s) 10:30 in the meeting room. Children must be with an adult.

## LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

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

Wednesday, October 2, 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 pt.1

Wednesday, October 16, 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 pt. 2

**Positive Maturity Job Search Workshops** - Join us as A.W.A.R.E. volunteer Denise Stamps guides job seekers 50 and over through the process of returning to the workplace. Programs take place in the meeting room.

Thursday, October 3, 10 am. Orientation Workshop

Thursday, October 10, 10 am. Resume Workshop

Thursday, October 17, 10 am. Interviewing Skills Workshop

Thursday, October 24, 10 am. Networking Workshop

Thursday, October 31, 10 am. Social Media Workshop

### Friends of the Library Meeting - Monday, October 14, 2013. 6 pm

**Library Book Group - Thursday, October 17, 2013. 7 pm** - Join us in our discussion of "Trail of Crumbs" by Kim Sunee. Traces the South Korean author's personal quest for identity and belonging after being abandoned at the age of three and subsequently adopted by a New Orleans couple in a non-Asian community. Program takes place in the meeting room.

**Cake & Culture - Sunday, October 20, 2013. 2 pm** - Join us as Judy Sheppard presents The Crucifixion of Gould Beech. He was once called radical and a Communist. Now he's called a visionary journalist. Hear about the recently uncovered letters and documents of Gould Beech, former newspaper editor and campaign manager for James "Big Jim" Folsom. This lecture is part of the Draughon Seminars in State and Local History, coordinated by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University and funded by the Kelly Mosley Endowment. Program takes place in the meeting room. Refreshments will be served.

**Couponing with Birmingham Bargain Mom - Thursday, Oct. 24, 6 pm** Join us as Birmingham Bargain Mom, Christie Dedman, dives into the world of couponing. Learn all the basics to save your household tons of money plus many more helpful tips to become bargain savvy. This program is brought to you by MakingCents - Resources to help your money grow and Smart investing@your library® series, a partnership between the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FALL BOOK SALE OCTOBER 11 - 13

The Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library are announcing our Fall Book Sale Event October 11, 12, 13, 1000's of books - something for all interests and all ages. Bargain pricing is \$1.00 for Hardbacks - \$.50 for Paperbacks. No limit - buy all you want. We'll help you carry them to your car! Friday 5:00 - 7:00 pm is the Preview Sale for members. You can join at the door for as little as \$10. Be ahead of the crowd! Enjoy first choice! Saturday Sale hours are 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Sunday Fill-A-Bag hours are 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. We'll give you a bag to fill. For only \$5 you get everything you can pack into it. Funds from the sale benefit special programs and activities for the Library

## LIBRARY KIDS ACTIVITIES

This month our programs **Pennies and Poetry, Bunny Money, and Homeschool Happening** are all about financial literacy. It is part of MakingCentsResources to help your money grow a Smart investing@your library® partnership between the American Library Association and FINRA Investor Education (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority). This grant project provides free, unbiased information to the community about financial literacy and personal finance. The Albert L. Scott Library is one of 15 select libraries in Birmingham, Jefferson and Shelby counties taking part in this grant this year. Our library's resources include new books for children and adults, DVDs, and more. The goal of the project is to empower library patrons to make smart financial decisions for long-term investing and day-to-day money matters.

**Poetry Alive! October 1, 6:15pm** Pennies and poetry are paired thanks to the lively antics of Poetry Alive! The high-energy performance and interactive workshop provides kids with an in-depth exploration of literary analysis and writing and speaking skills. Poetry Alive! is for elementary through middle school age children and caregivers. All children must be with an adult.

### Bunny Money at Toddler Tales October 4, 10:30am

Even the youngest children can learn about money and business. Miss Jennie will lead Toddler Tales by showing a simple way to introduce the concept of money to some of our youngest citizens. All children must be with an adult.

### Homeschool Happening! Moolah Monday: Money Matters and a Meal October 7, 11:00am-1:00pm

Homeschool students and their caregivers are invited to learn about money and business in Alabama. We'll welcome Thomas Bailey of Seacoast Publishing who will reveal the life and times of Alabama business historical leaders A.G. Gaston and Thomas Martin. Seacoast Publishing specializes in books about Alabama and has a series of Alabama biographies. We'll discuss money smarts and business ownership, enjoy lunch, and paint a ceramic piggy bank. Children in 1st grade through 12th grade can sign up. Children 6 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

**Lego League October 8, 4:00pm** Kids of all ages can come and play with Legos of all sizes and make new friends. Children 6 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

**Monster Makeover: Face Painting Workshop October 15, 6:00pm-7:30pm** This creative makeup activity will celebrate Teen Read Week: Seek the Unknown @ your library. Face painting expert Jennie Bunton will demonstrate fun and easy techniques to create monsters, zombies, vampires, fairies, and more. YAs, Young Adults 11 years old to 18 years, old can sign up for painting and snacks. No younger siblings, please.

**American Girls Club October 18, 4pm** Girls 7 years old and older can learn about Kaya and her world. Sign up and come with or without a doll.

**Costume Capers October 31, 4:15pm w/ Russell Davis magician** Children of all ages who appreciate magic and laughter may come in costume if they like to enjoy the wonders of comic magician Russell Davis. All children must be with an adult.

All programs are in the meeting room behind Caroline's Corner in the youth department.

## HOMECOMING PARADE 9/25

The new school system has hit the ground running this year, and it's bringing back an old tradition to help further the excitement, the annual homecoming parade.

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, the Alabaster City Schools will hold a homecoming celebration, starting with a system-wide homecoming parade at 6:30 p.m. It will be the first homecoming parade for Alabaster students in over 50 years.

The parade route will start at Thompson Middle School, proceed down Warrior Drive, turn right on Thompson Road, turn left on Highway 119 and end up at Larry Simmons Stadium.

The celebration will also feature a pep rally inside the stadium at 7:45 p.m.

According to the ACS announcement, the theme for the parade is

"Champions," in keeping with the new school system's motto "Champions of Our Future."

Participants in the parade will come from the Alabaster schools themselves, including school organizations and clubs, plus Thompson Youth Football/Cheerleading participants.

A list of the float and parade guidelines is available online at the Alabaster City Schools website [www.alabasterschools.org](http://www.alabasterschools.org).

Lineup for the parade will start at Thompson Middle School at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the Alabaster City Schools at 624-3105.

The Thompson High School football team plays its homecoming game against Shades Valley on Friday, Sept. 27. Kickoff for the game is 7 p.m.

## STUDENT FREE HOMEWORK HELPER

Homework Alabama is a wonderful educational resource available for free to all Alabamians. From 3:00pm to 10:00pm Sunday through Thursday, students from K3 all the way to Adult Learners can receive help from subject specialists. Math, Science, English, and Social Studies are all covered by the specialists.

Hosted through Tutor.com, Homework Alabama also has a Skills Center Resource Library that is available 24/7. The Skills Center has free practice tests for standardized tests, including the ACT, GED, and Civil Service Exams, electronic flash cards for hundreds of subjects at various grade levels, resume writing assistance, and many more exceptional resources that all available for free.

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From the Alabama Public Library Service Website: HomeworkAlabama is a statewide effort made possible by the State Library of Alabama (APLS) through local public libraries, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through their Library Services and Technology Act grant program as well as state funds appropriated by the State Legislature specifically for this program.

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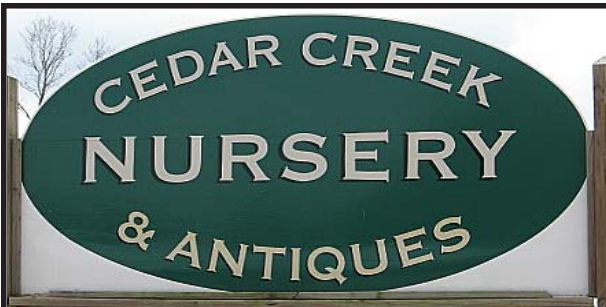
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## PARKS & REC OFFICE

The Parks and Recreation Office is located inside the Depot at 100 Depot Street, Alabaster Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8 am until 5 pm Phone: 205-664-6840 [www.alabasterparks.org](http://www.alabasterparks.org)

## BASKETBALL

Registration: The last day to register is Oct. 4 at the Depot. On-line registration will close at 5 pm on Oct. 4. Registration after Oct. 4 will incur a \$25 late fee if we have any spots remaining.

Cost: \$80.00 (\$10 additional fee for non-residents)

Open to: BOYS: Kindergarten through 9th grade ..... GIRLS: Kindergarten through 6th grade.

\*IMPORTANT:

- 9th graders who turned 15 before September 1, 2013 are not eligible.
- Kindergarteners have to turn 5 before September 1, 2013 to be eligible to play (no exceptions)



## BARK IN THE PARK OCT. 5

The 7th annual Bark in the Park will be held at Veterans Park (7305 Hwy. 119, Alabaster) from 9 AM until 2 PM on Oct. 5. This event is hosted by the City of Alabaster and the Shelby Humane Society. Admission is FREE for a fun filled day that celebrates the bond between people and their dogs. There will be music, food, vendors selling everything from dog bones to T-shirts, children's activities, dog contests, etc. There will also be adoption booths where you can find adorable pups looking for new homes. Please contact the Shelby Humane Society with any questions at 205-669-3916, extension 29 or [info@shelbyhumane.org](mailto:info@shelbyhumane.org).



## FALL SPORTS PROGRAMS

Our athletic fields are quite busy with Fall Sports underway. We currently have 1,100 participants in our youth programs which include Football, Cheer, Soccer, Girl's Softball, Baseball, and Start Smart Soccer. We also have a Fall Adult Softball program.

As always, our programs depend on volunteers who selflessly give of their time and experience to work with our youth. We would like to say "Thank You!" to each of you. You may be the one person who makes a difference in the life of a child.

## FALL FEST SAT. OCT. 26

FALL FEST AT BUCK CREEK on Saturday, Oct. 26

The 5th annual Fall Fest will be held at Buck Creek Trail from 9 AM until 3 PM with FREE admission. This will be a great family outing with live music, inflatables, Trick-or-Treat Trail, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, hay rides, etc. All activities will be located behind the Alabaster Senior Center. Parking will be available at Buck Creek Park with shuttles running to the trail. Vendor applications will be accepted thru 5 PM on Oct. 28. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sharon or Tim at 205-664-6840. 15'x15' booths available for \$25. No duplicate business vendors (i.e. Avon, Scentsy Candles, 31 Products, etc.) allowed.

## PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Outdoor Rental Facilities: Several of our City Parks offer pavilions for rental use. The best way to make sure your event happens at the location of your choice is to contact Parks & Recreation before our books are filled with reservations. Pavilions are available for use by permit only. There is a \$40 rental fee and an additional refundable \$40 deposit which must be paid before your reservation is complete.



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# SUPPORTING OUR CAREGIVERS

## by Rep. April Weaver



Representative April Weaver

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a forum with caregivers around the area to discuss gaps and barriers in respite care. Respite care provides temporary relief or a break for home caregivers who are providing care to loved ones with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Many of us will find ourselves as caregivers at some point in life.

The daily duties often take a toll on the whole family physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and financially. Many times caregivers have challenges with things many people take for granted such as making a quick trip to the grocery store, attending a church service or simply running an errand.

An estimated one in five adults is a caregiver for a family member or friend. An estimated 818,000 people in Alabama care at home for a loved

one with an illness or disability. Alabama caregivers save the state billions of dollars annually by providing over 783 million hours of unpaid care for their loved ones at home.

One of the ways we can support our caregivers is to address the liability associated with unpaid volunteers who are willing to donate their time to help these families. In 2013, Senator Ward and I worked with local organizations to create a bill that addressed challenges for respite care volunteers.

The bill changes the Good Samaritan law to address unpaid volunteers who are providing respite care under the direction of the home caregiver. When passed, this bill should open up many more doors for faith based groups and other community groups to spend more time providing voluntary assistance to families in need.

I have prefiled this bill for the 2014 legislative session with high hopes that it will quickly pass both the House and Senate and be signed into law early next year. It is the right thing to do for our Alabama families who desperately need respite care.



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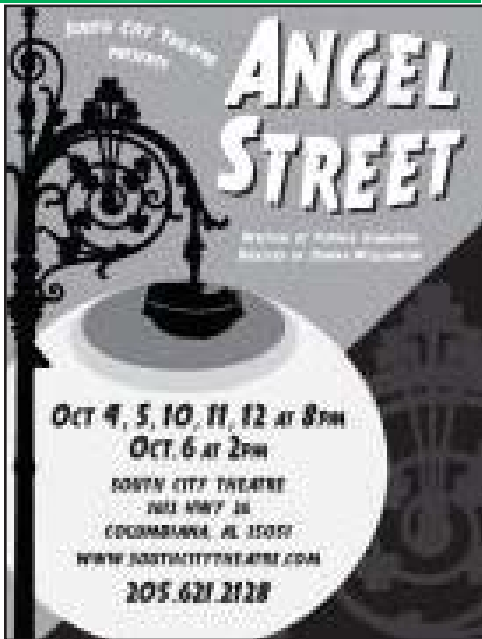
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## THRILLER OCTOBER 4-12

**South City Theatre** --the best "little" award-winning theatre in Alabama--offers a marriage of entertainment delights in their 2013-14 season. Artistic Director Sue Ellen Gerrells explains, "there's something old, something new, something borrowed and one acts, too!"

The season kicks off with a riveting psychological thriller under the direction of Donna Williamson. "ANGEL STREET", a mystery by Patrick Hamilton, gives us "something old". This gripping tale is a solid take on a film noir classic. Better known by its cinematic title "Gaslight," Angel Street is a shadowy psychodrama wrapped in a Victorian crime puzzle. Featuring Michael Wilbanks, Sheryl Tucker, Paige Blake, Candice Etrass, and Bill Nixon.

Performances are scheduled for October 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12 at 8 p.m. on October 6 @ 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general admission or \$12 seniors and students. Season tickets are a value at \$60 for one admission to each production. For more information or



to make reservations, go to [www.southcitytheatre.com](http://www.southcitytheatre.com) or call the box office at (205) 621-2126. 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. [www.southcitytheatre.com](http://www.southcitytheatre.com) on Twitter (@SouthCityTheatr)



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## SEEKING A SALES ASSOCIATE

The Original Alabaster Newsletter is seeking an experienced sales associate to help market the publication on a part-time basis to advertisers in the city and surrounding area. This 100% commissioned position will work with management and graphic artists to perform sales and service under regular deadlines. If you enjoy working with people, we'd enjoy meeting you. Send a cover letter & resume to [tedvodde@gmail.com](mailto:tedvodde@gmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you!

# WEBB LEADS TEAM USA TO BASEBALL GOLD

Former Kingwood Christian School baseball player Brooks Webb joined USA Baseball as director of the 15U National Team program in January, and the team has already won a gold medal in his first year.

Defeating Cuba 6-1 in the championship round of the Pan American Championships in August, the U.S. National Team clinched first place, securing a spot in the world championship tournament for next year.

"The top four teams qualify so we'll see those guys again next year," said Webb. "But we'll also see Japan and Korea and a lot of the Asian powers."

USA Baseball is the national governing body for amateur baseball in the United States. Each year, the U15 program assembles the top young baseball talent from around the country to represent the United States in either the Pan American games or the world cup. During this year's Pan American tournament, which was held in Barranquilla, Colombia, the U.S. team went undefeated at 8-0.

Webb, who graduated from Kingwood in 2007, joined USA Baseball after working in Mobile with IMG. He also played baseball at Birmingham-

Southern College, where he was a pitcher for the nationally-ranked Panthers.

"I've worked for USA fulltime since January," said Webb. "I was working with IMG in Mobile at the University of South Alabama. I was doing sports marketing. I was also coaching baseball at a high school and did some scouting down there."

According to Webb, his role with USA Baseball is comparable to being a GM for a Major League Baseball team.

"I oversee the team. I get to select the coaches and ultimately help to select the players," he said.

Being chosen for the team is a huge honor for the individual players, as they're literally selected from among thousands.

"We have two big selection events throughout the year," said Webb.

"Eventually we get to a group of 40, so we'll bring in 40 players to what we call National Team Trials. They'll compete for one of the final 20 spots."

Team trials are held at the organization's National Training Complex in Cary, N.C.

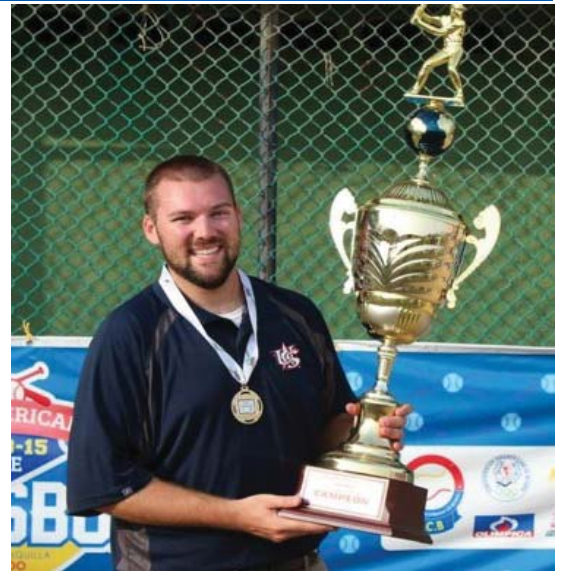
"We'll bring them here to Cary. They'll compete at the National Training Complex. Once you're

selected to come to trials, there's no cost to you for anything," said Webb.

For those who are selected for the team, getting to compete on the international stage is an experience unlike any other, Webb said.

"Any time you can represent your country on the field overseas, it's a pretty incredible thing," he said.

At this year's Pan American tournament, the U.S. team had to come



Brooks Webb with his First Place Team Trophy

from behind to defeat Panama 5-4 in the semifinal game. For more information on USA Baseball, visit [www.usabaseball.com](http://www.usabaseball.com).

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# APPLY FOR SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE OCT. 12

Local Salvation Army leaders are already getting ready for Christmas, and there are some important dates coming up in October.

As usual, the Salvation Army will be conducting its annual Angel Tree program during the holidays, and families who are interested in signing up to receive Christmas support will need to do so this month.

The times to apply are Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Applicants will need go to the Alabaster Salvation Army at 108 Plaza Circle to file their applications in person. According to Lt. Jamie Leonard, applicants will gather first in the Salvation Army chapel and then be directed to a smaller room to process their applications.

"We'll let people in until the chapel is full since that's our biggest seating area," said Leonard. "Once the

chapel's full, we'll lock the door. That helps us control getting everyone in and out. We'll go over the documents that people need to see if they have any questions, and then we'll have a smaller room where we'll have tables set up to process the applications."

Leonard said applications will be processed in the order in which the applicants arrive.

"We'll give them numbers at the door," said Leonard. "On their way out, we'll give them their appointment time to pick up the gifts on Dec. 14. Once the chapel is empty, we'll let the next group in."

To apply for Christmas assistance, applicants will need to bring a photo ID (head of household), Social Security Cards (entire household), and birth certificates (for children 12 and under). Applicants will also need to bring proof of

income, proof of expenses, and proof of residency, e.g., a current utility bill and food stamps.

The Angel Tree program is a unique giving opportunity that enables local residents and businesses to support specific families in need during the holidays. Qualifying families are represented by paper angels, which are placed on Angel Trees around Birmingham so that they can be "adopted."

Details for the official kickoff event are still being worked out, but Leonard said the Angels should be available for adoption on Nov. 15.

According to Leonard, the Salvation Army will also be looking for people to help with Angel Tree registration, Angel Tree distribution, the Angel Tree warehouse, and of course, ringing the bells for



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the Red Kettle Campaign.

To receive a volunteer reservation form, contact the Salvation Army at 663-7105. Forms should be turned in by Nov. 1. The Alabaster Salvation Army is also on Twitter (@TSA\_Alabaster). You can also check at the Birmingham area web site at: [www.birminghamssalvationarmy.org](http://www.birminghamssalvationarmy.org)

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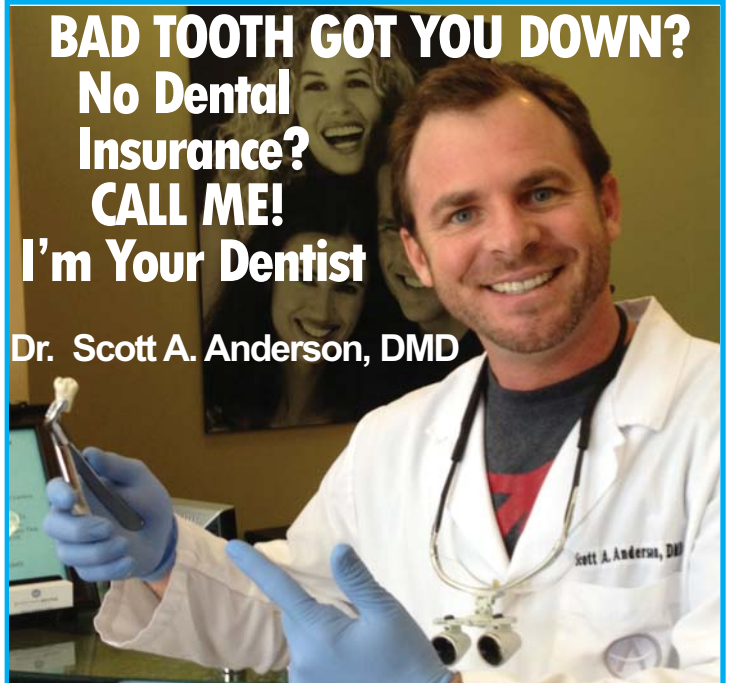
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## A BUSY SUMMER by Senator Cam Ward



Senator Cam Ward

Even though we are not in session it has still been a busy summer of Senate work. When our 1901 state constitution was ratified, that was intended to mean three days a week over a 105 day period spent in Montgomery. In today's world, it has come to mean "part of the time of every day."

I am certainly not complaining, as I love every minute of representing the people of our state as the

senator from District 14. What it does mean is that even when we are not in session, I continue to work hard to make sure your voice is heard and that we do what's right for the people of our state.

We all know that Highway 119 in Alabaster is in desperate need of widening and expansion. The road was not built to manage the traffic flow of our growing community. It is now a destination stop for traffic traveling north and south, along with the usual university and community drivers.

In July I was proud to join Governor Bentley and other local officials in announcing nearly \$10 million in ATRIP Bonds to help widen this road – getting the people of Alabaster and Montevallo moving, creating direct jobs to work on the

construction, and added opportunity via the ease of use created. This should greatly benefit our entire community.

Also this summer, Rep. Weaver and I joined the Governor again at a bill signing for a prescription drug abuse law we passed last session. It works with pharmacies, doctors and law enforcement to combat the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in our state. A few years ago we cracked down on methamphetamine manufacturing, and public health advocates tell us the prescription drug problem is even bigger. Hard to believe, but we are going to do what is needed to keep our children away from these dangerous narcotics while ensuring access to those who truly need them to

manage pain.

It was also a privilege to represent our state at The Southern Legislative Conference in Mobile last month as member of The Southern States Energy Board. I joined Gov. Bentley and Gov. Bryant of Mississippi in announcing an agreement between the two states to explore energy production in the tar sands areas near our coasts. I also addressed the board on behalf of the Legislature highlighting Alabama's diverse mix of energy infrastructure and jobs – the most diverse in the south-east!

All in all it has been a productive summer. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. I appreciate the opportunity to be your State Senator.

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# ANDREWS TO DIRECT SHELBY ARTS COUNCIL

Local artist and musician Bruce Andrews has been named the executive director of the Shelby County Arts Council.

The Arts Council, which is based in Columbiana, is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting the visual and performing arts in Shelby County. It was started in 2004 by Terri Sullivan and has since served over 8,000 people, providing a variety of classes, exhibits and concerts.

Andrews has been working with the arts council in a number of different roles for several years. He started off working as an art teacher, and he's also exhibited his work and performed in the performance venue with his band, 2BLU and the Lucky Stiffs.

"I had some involvement with the arts council as a musician and a

teacher," said Andrews. "The courses they did in the alternative school, I actually designed those courses for them."

Andrews brings a diverse résumé to the job and is seemingly a perfect fit for the position. As an artist, he recently had his own work exhibited at the gallery, alongside fellow folk artist Lennie Jones. As a musician, he's played the harmonica for over 30 years, and in 2010, he sang with Birmingham's Black Jacket Symphony in its performance of the Rolling Stones' "Let It Bleed" album.

"With regard to the performance venue I can bring some stuff to the table right out of the chute in terms of activities that will be culturally valuable to the community and bring in some cash flow to the Arts Council," he said.

According to Andrews, Arts and Education Director

Susan Gordon will be leaving at the end of September to pursue her own artwork. Gordon specializes in ceramics, and her work can be seen at the Art Alley gallery in Homewood.

"She's done a fantastic job," he said. "I don't want to quote-unquote do things my way. I want to figure out what she did and then add to it. And that's exactly what I intend to do."

The Shelby County Arts Council is located at 104 Mildred Street in Columbiana. Some of the council's arts-education classes have included oil painting, watercolors, pottery, jewelry-making, creative writing and music lessons for guitar, piano and even ukulele. The Arts Council's 5th Annual Juried Art Exhibit runs



Bruce Andrews performs with his band 2Blu and the Lucky Stiffs at the Alabaster Fall Festival

from Sept. 5 to Oct. 17.

For more information, go to [www.shelbycountycouncil.com](http://www.shelbycountycouncil.com).

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## 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 night-time 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.

## What to Do If You Haven't Filed Your 2012 Return

The deadline for filing your tax return is October 15th. The failure to file a federal tax return can be costly - whether you end up owing more or missing out on a refund.

There are several reasons taxpayers don't file their taxes. Perhaps they didn't know they were required to file. Maybe they just kept putting it off and simply forgot.

Whatever the reason, it's best to file the return as soon as possible. If you need help, even with a late return, we are ready to assist you.

Here are some things to consider:

- **Failure to File Penalty.** If you owe taxes, a delay in filing may result in a "failure to file" penalty, also known as the "late filing" penalty, and interest charges. The longer you delay, the more these charges grow.
- **Losing Your Refund.** There is no penalty for failure to file if you are due a refund. However, you cannot obtain a refund without filing a tax return. If you wait too long to file, you may risk losing the refund altogether. The deadline for claiming refunds is three years after the original due date.
- **Earned Income Tax Credit.** Individuals who are entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit must file their return to claim the credit even if they are not otherwise required to file.

Whether you must file a tax return depends on a number of factors, including your filing status, age, and gross income.

Still need to file a tax return for 2012 or before? Call us today. We can help you file your return and avoid additional fines and penalties.

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# NEW BOOK EXPLORES "HAUNTED SHELBY COUNTY"

Local author Kim Johnston has just published a new book called "Haunted Shelby County" that explores some of the county's most interesting haunts. The book features stories of unexplained phenomena from Harpersville to Helena, and it even includes a section on Alabaster.



Johnston said she first became interested in the subject after moving into her own home in 2008.

"I've been a Shelby County resident for about 12 years," said Johnston, "and when I purchased my first home and moved into it, some strange things started happening around my house. It was a newly built house and you don't think about new houses being haunted, but there were some unexplained things happening."

From there, she started

doing research into the subject and developed a real passion for the paranormal.

"I started helping other people who were going through the same thing," said Johnston. "I created my own team called the SCARE team. We're a paranormal research group, and as our fan base grew, the History Press found out about us and asked me if I would be interested in writing a book for them."

The book is the author's first, and she said she was thrilled when she first saw it in print.

"I was elated," she said. "The first thing I did was take a picture of it and post it up on Facebook."

According to Johnston, the book should appeal to those with an interest in history as much as the paranormal. Approximately three-fourths of each chapter is devoted to each area's background.

"Even if you don't like the paranormal or ghost stories, just the historical aspect of the book is what I'm hearing is a great read from people who already

have it," she said.

Alabaster residents in particular will find the section about the Buck Creek Mill of interest. The old mill was situated along Buck Creek in the heart of Siluria for years and was only recently torn down to make room for the new Senior Center. Johnston said the story about the mill was one of her favorites.

"The very last story in the book is about the old Buck Creek Mill. One day earlier this year I came over and I sat down with the seniors," she said. "They just told me so many stories, so all of those stories are in the book, about the history and their personal experiences."

The book's release is timely with Halloween just



Local Author Kim Johnston

around the corner. Johnston said she's planning to make a number of promotional appearances around the county in October, including at Books-A-Million in Alabaster on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. For more dates, go to [scareofal.com/newevents](http://scareofal.com/newevents). The book can also be purchased online at Amazon.com.



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# LOCAL TRIATHLETE WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Not even two years since her first competition, local triathlete McKenzie Hogue has already proven herself one of the best in the country for her age division.

The 12-year-old Alabaster resident recently won the prestigious Hy-Vee IronKids U.S. Championship in Des Moines, Iowa, where she competed against some of the nation's top young athletes.

"She started running triathlons last year, and at the end of the season we decided to travel to Alpharetta for a qualifying race for nationals," said Brittney Hogue, McKenzie's mother.

At the national event, McKenzie competed in the 12-year-old female division. The race consisted of a 300-meter swim, an eight-mile bike ride and a two-mile run.

"There were 76 in her

division," said Brittney. "There were 1,400 kids there from 35 states total, ages 5 to 15, so it was a huge event."

During the race, McKenzie set a personal best for the run, finishing that portion of the competition in 13:07.

"She loves the running," said Brittney. "I think the running's her favorite part of the triathlon."

According to Brittney, McKenzie was first encouraged to pursue triathlons by her soccer coach, Allen Lambert.

"Her soccer coach actually had run in some, and he said she would be great at this," said Brittney. "He knew she was on the swim team in the summer, and of course she loves to run at soccer."

It turned out to be a natural fit for McKenzie, as she started placing well in competitions right from the

beginning. In fact, the only thing that could slow her down this year was a flat tire on her bike.

McKenzie has also found a way to tie her sport in with some of the things she cares about locally. For each race, she raises money for a specific, local charity.

"Each of her races is run for a different charity," said Brittney. "I think she's raised around \$1,300 for each of the five charities, and we've still got one race left."

Making her racing success even more remarkable is the fact that she suffers from asthma, which she has to manage medically on a daily basis.

According to McKenzie,



Alabaster's McKenzie Hogue (center) won Gold as a top Tri-Athlete in National Competition

she hopes to use her success to encourage others. In fact, she's already inspired her father, Scott, to get involved as well. The two of them actually competed together recently in a triathlon at Oak Mountain State Park.

"I hope to inspire people of all ages to take a step in a new direction and be bold," said McKenzie. "Only God knows what you can accomplish."



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# Day Trippin' Alabama Veterans Memorial Park by Sarah B. Jones

Have you ever noticed the huge United States Flag flying across from Liberty Park on I-459? On the beautiful, wooded hill-top is the 21-acre Alabama Veterans Memorial Park.

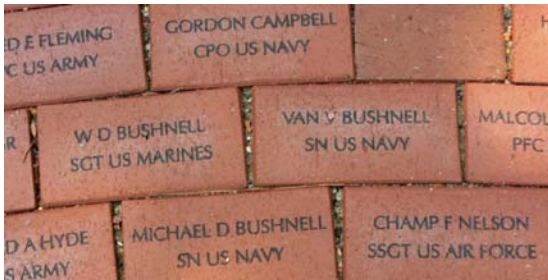
This is from the Foundation's website: "In the mid 1980's the dream to build this Memorial began with one person--one person who realized that throughout the 20th century thousands of Alabamians had served in wars and thousands of Alabama families had lost the ones they loved. Yet, for all they gave, we had given very little in return to show our gratitude. This one person voiced her

of a permanent memorial park to honor Alabama Veterans and to educate about war, peace and civic responsibility. This Park, dedicated in May 2001, will stand for all time as a tribute to the Alabamians who fought and came home, as well as those who died in the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries."

The easily accessible brick Memorial Trail leads first to a



The Regiment of Columns features cast images relating to Medal of Honor Recipients



The StepStones honor veterans and can be purchased on behalf of a family member

thoughts and quickly found other people who shared the same concern. Together, they formed the Alabama Veterans Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization which brought to life the dream



plaza where the 132-foot high flag is circled with StepStones dedicated to veterans.

These pavers can be purchased to honor veterans from any state, any time, and any branch of service. There are two dedication ceremonies annually to honor the veterans and allow family and friends to say a few words about their service.

The Trail then continues on to the Memorial Plaza displaying the flags of the services and the awe-inspiring Regiment of Columns. The 36 20-foot tall concrete columns display cast images of art, letters, and citations of Medal of Honor recipients. The images were created by artists statewide including those on the staff of the designer, award-winning GA Architecture Studio.

As a backdrop is a massive structure housing the Hall of Honor where

quotations from statesmen and the names of 11,000 killed in action are etched in the walls, including Alabama's 23 Medal of Honor Recipients. The

canopy of the Hall is suspended away from the walls to allow light to move across the names.

Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

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A Southern Christmas Bazaar is presented solely for the purpose of raising funds for the projects of the Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club focused on health, wellness & nutrition in Shelby County. Rotarian volunteers have put together what is

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# OCTOBER SENIOR ACTIVITIES

**Health Insurance Plans**  
**Wednesday, October 16 at 9:30 am.** Mark your Calendars: Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging SHIP representative will be here to discuss health insurance plans and changes during the open enrollment period. She will be available to speak one-on-one following her presentation. Sign up at the Senior Center.

**Book Club**  
**Friday, October 25 at 10 am.** We will be reading Murder Boogies with Elvis by Ann George. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book.

**NEW: Tai-yoga-lites Flow Class 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 1 pm.** Space is limited. This class will combine Tai Chi, Yoga

and Pilates. Come check out the new class. Encouraged donation of \$2 per class.

**Tai Chi Exercise Class**  
**Every Monday and Thursday (except 1st and 3rd Monday) at 1 pm.** Space is limited. Encouraged donation of \$2 per class.

**Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program**  
**Every Wednesday at 10 am.** Space is limited. Encouraged donation of \$2 per class.

**Antebellum Haunted Mansion Stories**  
**Thursday, October 31 at 10 am** at the Senior Center. Join us as Jim Phillips shares many of the haunted stories from around the Alabama area.

**Gardening with Betty**  
**Every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am.** On October 15, the class will replant all of the plants and hanging baskets around the center. Join us and go home with your own fall plant. \$5 per class and includes all supplies. Must sign up ahead of time.

**Men Only Outing**  
**Friday, October 18.** All men are welcome to join us for a tour of the Shelby County Iron Works Museum and lunch. Cost is \$1 to hold your spot.

**Free Blood Pressure Checks Tuesday, October 8 at 9:15 am.** Join us to have your blood pressure checked with Comfort Care Hospice.

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 9am
- 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)

**Friends of the Library**  
**Fall Book Sale**  
**October 11 - 13**  
**Albert L. Scott Library**

The Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library are announcing our Fall Book Sale Event October 11, 12, 13, 2013  
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Friday 5:00 - 7:00 pm is the Preview Sale for members. You can join at the door for as little as \$10. Be ahead of the crowd! Enjoy first choice!

Saturday Sale hours are 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Sunday Fill-A-Bag hours are 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. We'll give you a bag to fill. For only \$5 you get everything you can pack into it. Funds from the sale benefit special programs and activities for the Library


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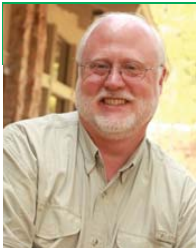
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## A CHANGE IS IN THE AIR by David Frings

As the seasons begin to change and fall approaches, we begin to

notice increases in the movement and activities of many species of wildlife. These changes can be a noticeable increase in the variety of migrating birds and butterflies, squirrels hurriedly gathering hickory nuts for the approaching winter, or an increase of spiders and their webs in the garden. The most notable spider webs in the late summer and fall are those from a group of spiders referred to as orb-weavers or garden spiders.

The name orb-weaver originates from the large round or orb-shaped webs produced by the various species in this interesting group of spiders. It was an orb-weaver that inspired the writing of "Charlotte's

Web" by E. B. White. These are the spiders that construct that hefty web across the path or sidewalk at head level causing us to quickly duck, spitting and sputtering as we clear the unwanted web from our face. Now the innocent orb-weaver is not trying to capture us for a quick snack but does position its web in a strategic location to capture fat juicy insects along forest and garden fly-ways.

Orb-weavers are a diverse group of large and often colorful spiders such as the marbled orb-weaver shown in the photograph. The females are large with a ball-shaped abdomen and small head. The males are much smaller and often go unnoticed by busy humans. Orb-weavers are not listed as dangerous to humans although all spiders have some type of venom to immobilize their prey. If they are confronted, they will usually make a quick

retreat to the edge of the web or into adjacent foliage. During the day, many such as the marbled orb-weaver stay hidden in a dead leaf that they have rolled into a tube located at the edge of the web. Being nocturnal, they emerge from the tube at night for a midnight snack.

The web of the orb-weaver is truly a work of art. You can capture this artwork on black construction paper by simply spraying the paper with a sticky aerosol hair spray or clear lacquer spray. Hold the paper parallel with the web, moving the paper laterally until it contacts the web. The web should transfer to the paper nicely. You may want to put some dry corn starch powder in a plastic ketchup squeeze bottle and



Orb Weaver Spider

use it to gently blow puffs of the white powder on the web prior to transferring the web to the black paper. This will make the web "pop" on the black background. Don't worry about the spider, it will simply make a new nest as soon as the sun goes down. Now you have great décor for that Halloween party of fall festival!

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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# Calendar of Events

- Oct. 2, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*  
Public Safety Committee 6pm Annex
- Oct. 7, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- Oct. 8, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Annex  
Water Board 7pm Annex
- Oct. 9, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Annex\*
- Oct. 10, Finance Committee 5:30 pm City Svcs. Bldg.
- Oct. 14, Board of Education 6:00 pm Senior Center
- Oct. 15, Driving School 7 pm Annex
- Oct. 17, Public Works Committee 5 pm Annex  
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm
- Oct. 21, City Council Meeting 7 pm Annex
- Oct. 28, Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Senior Center
- Oct. 22, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Annex
- Oct. 23, 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. Questions about a meeting? Call 664-6800. A full 2013 Calendar is available for reference at [www.cityofalabaster.com](http://www.cityofalabaster.com)

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](mailto:handlon@cityofalabaster.com)  
664-6800

Sophie Martin, Ward 1  
[martin@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:martin@cityofalabaster.com)  
358-8742

Bob Hicks, Ward 2  
[hicks@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:hicks@cityofalabaster.com)  
663-1801

Stacy Rakestraw, Ward 3  
[rakestraw@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:rakestraw@cityofalabaster.com)  
621-0168

Rick Walters, Ward 4  
[walters@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:walters@cityofalabaster.com)  
281-7394

Russell Bedsole, Ward 5  
[bedsole@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:bedsole@cityofalabaster.com)  
663-6212

Scott Brakefield, Ward 6  
[brakefield@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:brakefield@cityofalabaster.com)  
685-0302

Tommy Ryals, Ward 7  
[ryals@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:ryals@cityofalabaster.com)  
664-1301

George Henry,  
City Manager and  
City Clerk  
[ghenry@cityofalabaster.com](mailto:ghenry@cityofalabaster.com)  
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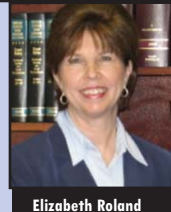
CITY DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS • Non-emergency Police matters 663-7401 • Animal Control 664-6761  
• Personnel Dept 664-6838 • Code Enforcement 664-5907 • Revenue/Business License Dept 664-6844  
• Alabaster Water Board 663-6155 • Garbage/recycling bins 664-6800 • Alabaster Parks & Recreation 664-6840

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