

THE ORIGINAL

Alabaster

NEWSLETTER

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2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR



CHRISTMAS PARADE PICTURES ON PAGE 5! CHECK THEM OUT!!

Alabaster

A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



In an episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" the Enterprise has found a ship adrift for 200 years with people on

board from the 20th century who were frozen until there was a cure for whatever disease they carried. A housewife and a business tycoon were the only two that could be rescued as the ship was damaged.

In one scene, the tycoon looks at Captain Picard and says something like "I have to get to Earth quickly. I have many holdings and a lot of capital. I know you wouldn't care as a life in the military doesn't pay well." Captain Picard

looks at him and says one of the more memorable lines uttered in the series, "You see, you'll find that in the 23rd Century it's not about what we have but who we are."

Isn't that great? It's not about what we have but who we are. What a great sentiment to take into the new year.

If you've studied Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, you'll see that "self-actualization" is the ultimate goal. That is the full functioning of the person making the most of their talents to the best of their ability.

Those are the kinds of thoughts you have when each new year begins. Let me make the most of my

time on Earth. No possession is more precious than the limited time we spend on Earth and how we interact with others, hopefully to the benefit of all.

Life is precious to be sure. A billion plus miles in every direction there is no known planet that can fully support life as Earth can. That's some valuable real estate.

Enjoy the new year with family and friends. Nourish your soul with the arts - read, write, paint, take a photograph, act, sing. As the song says, "Express yourself!"

From all of us here at the Original Alabaster Newsletter, have a Happy New Year!

WE'RE ALWAYS ONLINE AT WWW.ALABASTERNEWSLETTER.COM! CHECK IT OUT!



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CHAMBER OFFERING MONTGOMERY PREVIEW

The Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a meeting featuring Shelby County's state legislative delegates on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The 2014 State Legislative Session Preview is open to the public and will be held in the Chamber's Large Community Services Room at the County Services Building in Pelham.

The meeting, which will give residents a preview of the state's upcoming legislative session prior to its kickoff on Jan. 14, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will include a presentation portion from the delegates, followed by a question and answer session for attendees to ask questions.

The meeting is being

hosted by the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Work Group, which meets once a month as part of the group's ShelbyOne initiative.

"The work group thought, hey, our delegation members are about to go down to Montgomery on Jan. 14, that's when the next session convenes, so why we don't invite them to provide a quick preview that's available to anyone that wants to attend," said Kirk Mancer, president and CEO of the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. "Then if folks have questions on any specific legislation or in general as to what's going to occur down in Montgomery, give them the opportunity to ask those questions, too."

In addition to providing

informational opportunities, Mancer said the work group's role will eventually grow to include issue advocacy.

"We hope to be able to establish a situation where we would be able to take a position on an issue that's important to businesses," said Mancer. "The other role we want to fill is to provide information to our Chamber members and to the business community and the community as a whole."

As a part of that goal, Mancer said they plan to host candidate forums for elections relevant to local voters. The group won't be endorsing any specific candidates, he said, but it will give them an opportunity to share their views.

"One of the things we're going to be doing is

provide an opportunity for people to hear from either elected officials or those folks who are interested in serving in those roles," he said.

The County Services Building is located at 1301 County Services Drive in Pelham. The "Montgomery Preview" is free of charge, though seating is limited. Guests are encouraged to RSVP by Jan. 6 at info@shelbychamber.org. For more information, visit the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce at www.shelbychamber.org.

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PAINTBALL PARK HOLDS FIRST NIGHT SESSION

On Friday, Nov. 15, Central Alabama Paintball Park in Alabaster hosted its first-ever night session. The event saw dozens of paintball enthusiasts gather at the Alabaster sports facility to enjoy a night of paintball battle under the lights.

The park, which opened in January of 2013, recently installed lighting on one of its airball fields. Owner Will Lumpkin said they soon plan to add lights to the rest of the fields as well.

"We're going to try to do one Friday night session each month, and hopefully I'll be able to add lights to another field every month," said Lumpkin.

Central Alabama Paintball Park is located off U.S. 31 south of Saginaw Pipe. Lumpkin said he was inspired to open the park after travel-

ing around the country to other paintball facilities.

"I've been involved in the sport of paintball and the industry for almost ten years now," said Lumpkin. "I started traveling around the country as a player, playing competitively, and I wanted to provide a local place that was a very high-quality and safe facility so that people could enjoy the sport here locally."

The Alabaster location is just minutes from Interstate 65, making it easily accessible to those driving from Birmingham or even Montgomery. It also offers ample parking.

"It was a perfect site. I was looking for something that was convenient to both Birmingham and the Calera-Pelham-Alabaster area," said Lumpkin. "It's obvious to me that this part of town is a growing, booming side of town."

The complex features

five different fields, which are each enclosed by high-quality netting and feature different types of obstacles.

"They all accommodate different styles of play," said Lumpkin.

"We've got two airball fields, which are the inflatable bunkers that people may have seen on TV or online."

The other fields include one with large cable spools scattered about and another with buildings built to simulate a town environment. According to Lumpkin, the town field will be the next one to have lights installed.

The first night session started at 5 p.m. and went off as planned, despite rain earlier in the day.



There was some intense paintball action, along with free food and music over the sound system.

Central Alabama Paintball Park will be celebrating its one-year anniversary in January. Lumpkin said it's a family-friendly environment that welcomes church groups, birthday parties and even corporate outings. For more information, visit them online at [Facebook.com/CentralAlabamaPaintballPark](https://www.facebook.com/CentralAlabamaPaintballPark).



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ENERGY SUPPLY NEXT BIG ISSUE by Senator Cam Ward



Senator Cam Ward

I have the pleasure of serving as Vice Chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that states are The Laboratories of Democracy – the good ideas of governance come from the state level, and then are often adopted nationwide if proven to work. My expe-

rience with the NCSL Energy Task Force certainly bears this out.

This week as the Chairman of the Alabama Senate Energy Committee, I was in Washington, DC with colleagues from across the nation, working on a document regarding management and usage of America's energy supply. While sometimes these types of things tend to get off in the weeds of minutiae, there is much good news for our state and country when it comes to energy.

Alabama ranks 13th in Energy production, and has the highest percentage of "mix" in baseload production of any southeastern state. That's a fancy way of saying we're in the top 25% of energy producing states, and we get our energy from a diverse set of fuels: hydro-electric, nuclear, coal

and renewables. Each one of the industries creates jobs for our state, and each receives industry-specific tax incentives to ensure lower consumer costs, and higher worker retention rates.

What we do in Alabama has an effect on the national energy situation, just as what is done in North Dakota, Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma and even California has an effect on the national energy production picture. North Dakota has the Bakken Oil Fields, which has transformed their economy, and is altering the worldwide balance in oil production. Wyoming and other western states are producing more and cheaper coal and natural gas through a variety of new technologies. Oklahoma and North Texas are taking advantage of their wide-open spaces,

and are at the forefront of wind turbine production. Even "Governor Moonbeam" out in California has approved of legislation establishing a permitting system for hydraulic fracturing oil exploration.

Every bit of this is a boon not only to the United States' economic outlook, but also our foreign policy. In 5 years we will be a net energy producer, and exporter – something that has not happened in over 40 years. I am proud to represent our state on such a vital and cutting edge task-force that will have long-term policy indications for our country in the years to come. Energy production will be the next big issue to confront state governments, and Alabama needs to be a leader in this area.

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BAPTIST SHELBY HOSPITAL WINS HONORS

Shelby Baptist Medical Center in Alabaster has been in the spotlight recently for some well-earned accolades.

The hospital was one of the first in the nation to receive a new designation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield indicating both quality and cost-efficient cardiac care. The hospital recently received the new Blue Distinction Center+ designation as part of the Blue Distinction Centers program.

According to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association website (www.bcbs.com), Blue Distinction hospitals are those that have met "overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community." Those that received the additional Blue Distinction Center+ designation also met "cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable healthcare."

Shelby Baptist was

specifically recognized for its performance in the area of cardiac care. According to the website, Blue Distinction Centers+ for Cardiac Care are "20 percent more cost-efficient than non-designated hospitals for those same cardiac procedures."

Other Birmingham-area hospitals receiving the designation in the area of cardiac care were Princeton Baptist Medical Center, Brookwood Medical Center, St. Vincent's Birmingham and St. Vincent's East. To view the entire list, go to bcbs.com.

Baptist Health System was also recently honored for its Worksite Wellness Initiative, which was selected as a 2013 HealthCare Consumerism Superstar by the Institute for HealthCare Consumerism (IHCC). The program received the group's "Most Effective

Population Health Management" award.

According to the IHCC website (www.theihcc.com), the annual awards are "designed to recognize those who go above and beyond in executing Innovative Health and Benefit Management Programs or providing these solutions to organizations."

Baptist Health System began its internal wellness program five years ago as a way of combating the rising health care costs of its 4,800 employees. Based on feedback from its employees, Baptist focused its efforts on cessation of smoking, exercise frequency and compliance with routine preventative checkups. As a result, tobacco use fell from 14.7 percent to 8.4, and primary diabetes claims fell 40 percent.

"Baptist Health is honored to be selected as a HealthCare Superstar," said Beth Francis, Baptist Health System vice president and chief human



resources officer. "A steadily increasing rate of employee participation and a data-driven approach have made it easier for us to identify health risks prevalent in our workforce and design specific outreach and educational programs to help our employees become healthier, feel better and reduce everyone's costs associated with chronic conditions."

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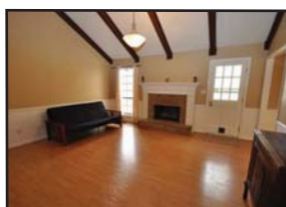
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BUSINESS PROFILE

SOUTHERN VINTAGE MARKET

For folks in search of that special piece of furniture or accessory to add to their home, Southern Vintage Market in Alabaster may have just the thing.

Southern Vintage Market is located conveniently off Highway 119 just south of Butler Road. It opened its doors on Nov. 1, though owner Mary Lee said she's been involved in vintage sales her whole life.

"We've actually been in this type of business our whole life. My mother was an antique appraiser, and I worked with her for over 30 years, handling estate sales," said Lee.

Lee previously ran a business called Special



Owners Walter and Mary Lee specialize in providing that special furniture or accessory for your home.

Occasions from the same location but decided to open Southern Vintage Market after attending an auction in Ensley with her husband Walter.

"There was a sale for Cotton's department store, which was going out of

business after 95 years. As a child, I remember going there, and Mother would buy our Easter outfits. It was a real nice store," said Mary. "So we went to the auction, and we bought a lot of stuff because it was so interesting."

One item in particular would end up playing an important role in their decision to open their own store. Mary said when she got there she spotted a long wooden display wall that she just had to have.

"When we got there, I saw this wall and I told my husband I wanted the wall. He said, well, they're not going to auction the wall. Well, they did. The very last thing they auctioned was the wall, and we got it," said Mary. "So then we had to figure out what to do with it. We had to bring it in here to store it, and I said, well let's just open our own shop. So that's kind of what pushed us into it."

The old Cotton's display is now situated against the interior left wall of Southern Vintage Market, and it makes the



perfect place to display dozens of interesting shelf items.

The merchandise at Southern Vintage Market includes a unique blend of old and new, vintage and refurbished. There are several great older pieces, though Mary is quick to point out it's not just antiques.

"I don't want an antiques store, because people feel like it's like a museum," she said. "I want a store with just good quality items at fair prices, new and old mixed."

Opening the store has been a good fit for the Lees, as they've always enjoyed buying and selling.

"This is truly what we love to do," said Mary.

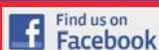


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ALABASTER COMPETITIVE SOCCER CLUB GETS NEW COACH

The Alabaster Competitive Soccer Club (ACSC) is pleased to announce that Shane Howard has agreed to be the new Director of Coaching. Howard, a native of Ireland, was a member of the Irish National team and Irish Development team from U14 to U18 including games against European powerhouses Spain, France, and Holland.

He then went on to play collegiately for both Old Dominion University and the University of Montevallo where he graduated with a degree in Kinesiology with a focus in health promotion. He has been coaching with the club for the last two seasons.

Howard's duties will include overseeing the clubs coaching staff and developing an overall club soccer philosophy going

forward with an emphasis on player development. Another new addition the club has announced is the appointment of a new Technical Director, Floreal Pedraza. Pedraza, a native of Germany, was a member of the German National U16 team before going on to play collegiately at both Birmingham-Southern College and Georgia State University.

He played five years in Germany with FC Kickers Obertshausen and TGS Juegesheim, with whom he was also a coach and Assistant Athletic Director. Pedraza received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Birmingham-Southern College in 2006 and his Master's in Sport Management from Georgia State University in 2008.

He has his Soccer Coaching UEFA B-License and is currently serving as

an assistant coach with University of Montevallo Men's Soccer team. Pedraza will be responsible for implementing a program to improve and develop technically proficient players. Coach Flo, as he is called, stated, "My goal is to improve the technical ability of our players.

Many American players are athletic, even at the college level, but lack the technical skill to play the game at the highest level. I will work to develop soccer fundamentals and game understanding with the European style as a model for the club."

Howard has also stated, "I am really looking forward to getting more



involved with the club; it is a great organization with fantastic people involved. I think there is great potential here to grow more teams in the club, and I will strive to give the kids the best possible overall soccer experience. Our goal will be to develop players to play technical soccer with an objective of possession and strategic play.

Although winning is

(CON'T ON PAGE 16)

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(From Left) Yolanda Harrell, Kelly Wilson, Angie Baisden, owner Melissa (Missy) Campbell, Jasmine Smith, Cynthia Hicks, and Sharon Reeds.

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MAIN STREET MAKEOVER

At the Nov. 18 city council meeting, local resident and Cultivate Church member Randi Dicus presented the council with a proposal to clean up Main Street in downtown Alabaster.

The proposal, which was created as part of a community service project for Cultivate Church, calls for a community partnership to improve the look of the area through things like pressure washing windows and cutting the overgrown grass. Dicus said the clean-up could create a more inviting economic climate that might be attractive to new businesses.

Following her comments, Council President Scott Brakefield commended Dicus on the idea and suggested she follow up on the project with City officials.

"I'm sure that the mayor and city manager

can point you in the right direction," said Brakefield. "I think it's a great concept."

Dicus, who was previously a member of the City's Beautification Board, explained the concept further following the meeting.

"The proposal is to clean up and spruce up Main Street in Alabaster," she said. "Basically what we want to do is we want to be able to help these tenants paint the outside of the building or whatever needs to be done as part of a community service."

Cultivate Church, which has been meeting at Thompson High School, is in the process of relocating to a new building off Alabama 119.

At the city council meeting, Dicus said she wanted to speak with the City first, before contacting land owners in the area.

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- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.
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Left to Right — Joni Kiger, Cris Nelson, E.A., Kenyatta Ector, E.A., Charlie Poole, E.A.



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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 CLOSED:

January 1, 2014 New Years Day
January 20, 2014 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Library Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 28, 6 pm

LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

Downton Abbey Tea & Trivia - January 6, 2014. 6 pm - Think you know all there is to know about Downton Abbey? Come test your knowledge and maybe win a prize! Enjoy delicious snacks, teas, and see if you have what it takes to win! Registration is required, so please call 664-6822 to sign up.

Job Search Workshops - Join us as local expert Fabray Turner of Turner & Associates in Pelham leads the following workshops:

Job Searching Today - January 9, 10 am

Resume Writing Today - January 16, 10 am

Interviewing Today - January 23, 10 am

Networking Today - January 30, 10 am

Program takes place in the meeting room.

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

Wednesday, January 15, 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Pt. 1

Wednesday, January 29, 10 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Pt. 2

Library Book Group - Thursday, January 16, 2014. 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of "Cage of Stars" by Jacqueline Mitchard. Her Mormon community shattered by the brutal murders of her two younger sisters, Veronica Swan severs ties with her family years later in her inability to forgive their killer, a decision that causes her to discover profound truths about sin and compassion. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Cake & Culture - Sunday, January 19, 2014. 2 pm - Storyteller Dolores Hydock presents Money Talks! Stories of Cold Hard Cash. 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. Program takes place in the meeting room. Refreshments will be served.

Identity Theft - January 21, 2014. 11:00 am. Join us as Ruth Brock of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service discusses identity theft - the warning signs, how it happens, how to reduce your risk and the steps to take if you are a victim of identity theft. 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.

Free AARP Tax Help for Seniors - February through early April. Available by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the meeting room. Starting in January please call or come by the Albert L. Scott Library to sign up. 664-6822.

Friends of the Albert L. Scott Library

Friends of the Library Meeting - Monday, January 13, 6 pm
Looking for a good home for those books you no longer need? The Friends of the Library accepts donated books* to be sold at the semi-annual book sales. The funds raised go to special needs and projects at your library. *We accept fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and cookbooks, DVDs, CDs, and books on CD. We are unable to accept textbooks, reference books or magazines. Be a Friend! Membership applications are available at the Library desk and at www.cityofalabaster.com

LIBRARY KIDS ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, January 7 Lego League 6:00pm-6:45pm Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes. Children 6 years old and younger must be with an adult. Meets in the meeting room.

Thursday, January 9 On the Money: Avoiding College Sticker Shock 6:30pm-7:30pm Financial expert Ruth Brock will guide students and their parents through the maze of trying to finance a college education. It's not only for seniors and juniors but for younger high school students and parents so they don't let scholarship information slip by them. The program 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. Meets in the meeting room.

Friday, January 17 American Girls Club 4:00pm Girls 7 years old and older can sign up to learn about Kirsten's World. Come with or without a doll. Meets in the meeting room.



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LIBRARY ROOF REPAIRED

At its Nov. 18 meeting, the Alabaster City Council approved a resolution (No. 111813-A) authorizing repairs on the Albert L. Scott Library.

The resolution indicated the need for immediate repairs on the library roof, saying that "serious damage was present" and that a new leak had been discovered.

The passing of the resolution followed the rejection of an insurance claim, which was made on the City's insurer, Alabama Municipal Insurance Corp.

The resolution specifically authorized the hiring of Cool Tech Coatings LLC to "repair and replace the roof of the Albert L. Scott Library to be paid from capital funds." The cost of the project was \$29,000.

Council members voted 5-0 to approve the resolution in a roll call vote.

In other news, the coun-

cil approved a second resolution (No. 111813) authorizing the renewal of a franchise agreement with AT&T.

According to the resolution, AT&T is in the process of upgrading its telecommunications network, which will involve the use of the City's public rights of way. The upgrade involves "an integrated Internet Protocol enabled broadband platform of voice, data and video services, the video component of which AT&T Alabama asserts is a switched, two-way, point-to-point and interactive service."

To view both resolutions, go to the City of Alabaster website (www.cityofalabaster.com) and click on "City Council Resolutions & Ordinances" under the "Online Services" tab.

NEW SOCCER COACH

(CON'T FROM PAGE 12)

important, our objectives should not be to count wins and losses but player development. American soccer has in the past been about putting your fastest player up front and everybody else kick it to him, which works for lower levels of soccer but does not help when our players get to higher levels. We will work to develop every player on the team. By concentrating on skill development and team possession, we will improve the quality of soccer. We have already made huge steps in enlisting Floreal Pedraza as the club's Technical Director."

Leif Milliron, the outgoing Director of Coaching, added, "Since the club's formation, we have been trying to bring the best coaching possible into our area. We are proud of what we have accomplished so far with the help of all the soccer families

in Alabaster. Shane and Flo will continue to build on that and carry us forward towards our goal of being one of the best clubs in the state. I am excited that they will be working not only with my children but with all the players in our club."

Alabaster Competitive Soccer Club is a non-profit and educational organization. It is a member of the Alabama Soccer Association whose mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of Alabama's youth through the sport of soccer. The club is now forming boys and girls teams for U-10, U-11, U-12, and U-13 ages. Their website is www.alabastersoccer.org/ and email address is info@acscsoccer.org.

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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

BASKETBALL

Youth Basketball games took a break for the holidays; however, they will get back in full swing the first week of January.

COACHES NEEDED

Volunteer coaches are needed for Baseball, Girl's Softball, and Soccer. If you are interested in coaching, please fill out a coach's application and submit by January 17, 2014.

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.

SPRING SOCCER SIGNUP

Soccer registration will begin on Jan. 6 and run thru Jan. 17. You can register online at www.alabasterparks.org from 8 AM, Jan. 6 thru 5 PM, Jan. 17. You can register in person from 8 AM until 5 PM Monday thru Friday at the Depot (Parks & Recreation Office). **Saturday registration will be on Jan. 11 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Depot.** New players should bring a copy of their birth certificate with them. Leagues begin at age 4. Registration Fee: \$85 for U6/U8. \$105 for U9 & older. Non-residents: additional \$10 per child.

Spring Baseball/Softball Signup

Baseball/Softball registration will begin on Jan. 6 and run thru Jan. 17.

- You can register online at www.alabasterparks.org from 8 AM, Jan. 6 thru 5 PM, Jan. 17.
- You can register in person from 8 AM until 5 PM Monday thru Friday at the Depot (Parks & Recreation Office).
- Saturday registration will be on Jan. 11 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Alabaster Senior Center.
- New players should bring a copy of their birth certificate with them.
- Registration Fee: \$160 for 1st child; \$130 for 2nd child;

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Upcoming Legislative Agenda by Rep. April Weaver



Representative April Weaver

Over the past several months it has been my honor to work as a member of the Platform Committee for the House Republican Caucus. Our committee has worked diligently with House members to prepare the agenda for the upcoming 2014 session which begins on January 14. Last month, we unveiled the bills and initiatives included in the Republican Caucus' 2014

"Commonsense Conservative" legislative agenda.

Our agenda earned its label because each of these bills are commonsense measures that represent the conservative beliefs and principles that we embrace. They continue the record of fundamental reforms, constitutional rights protections, and pro-business, job growth initiatives that have been the focus of the Legislature for the past four years. It also reflects our deep commitment to social issues like protecting unborn life and preserving personal religious and moral freedoms from federal mandates. I am confident that the bills in our 'Commonsense Conservative' agenda will secure quick approval when brought up for consideration on the House floor.

This year, business owners will receive immediate tax relief and will find their filing process made dramatically easier through the agenda's Small Business Tax Relief Act and the Business Tax Streamlining Act. Working with Governor Bentley and the Department of Revenue, the

agenda's Tax Elimination Act, will dissolve taxes that cost more to collect than they take in. The Alabama Taxpayer Audit Protection Act will ensure that the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of individuals for audit based upon political beliefs cannot occur on the state government level, and the Taxpayer Bill of Rights will make the tax appeals process more balanced and fair for business and individuals alike.


The Revolving Door Act being proposed has also garnered widespread support from House Republicans and will prevent lawmakers from lobbying either legislative body for at least two years after leaving office.

The agenda also includes the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act, which prevents healthcare professionals from being forced to provide services that violate their conscience and moral beliefs, and an Adoption Tax Credit that will help provide more Alabama children with secure and loving homes.

State employees, officials, and education workers will receive clear cut and codified immunity from being sued while acting in their official capacity with passage of the Statutory Immunity for Teachers and State Employees Act.

Economic development and job creation remains the major focus and the details surrounding a major Workforce Development Initiative also included in the agenda will be announced soon.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you in the Alabama House of Representatives. It is my honor and privilege to serve!



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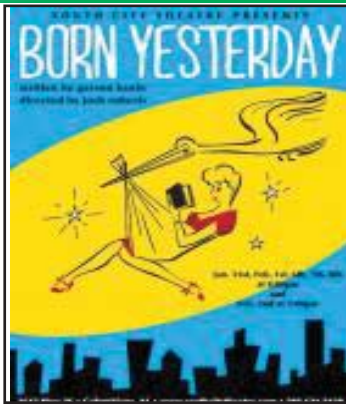
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COMEDY JAN. 31 - FEB. 8

South City Theatre presents "Born Yesterday" by Garson Kanin. Jan 31, Feb 1, Feb 6, to Feb 8, at 8 PM. Matinee Time: Feb 2, 2:00pm An uncouth, corrupt rich junk dealer, Harry Brock, brings his showgirl mistress Billie Dawn with him to Washington, D.C. When Billie's ignorance becomes a liability to Brock's business dealings, he hires a journalist, Paul Verrall, to educate his girlfriend. In the process of learning, Billie Dawn realizes how corrupt Harry is and begins interfering with his plans to bribe a Congressman into passing legislation that would allow Brock's business to make more money with hilarious results.



tion or to make reservations, go to www.southcitytheatre.com or call the box office at (205) 621-2126.

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 on Twitter

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 informa-

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GIRL SCOUTS EARN SILVER AWARD

Members of Girl Scout Troop 182 of Alabaster recently completed work on their Silver Award project and were approved to receive the award at a statewide ceremony in March.

Troop members Salem Gaddis, Savana Young and Sonya Wynn devoted over 150 hours apiece to the project, which they completed in July.

"I think they all did an excellent job," said Troop Leader Raylene Gaddis.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the second-highest award a Girl Scout can receive, just below the Gold Award. The award is earned by completing a community service project that allows the Scouts to demonstrate their leadership and organizational skills. It can be earned individually or as a team.

According to Raylene

Gaddis, the Scouts of Troop 182 decided on a music-education program for their project.

"What they decided to do back in the seventh grade was begin to earn money for underprivileged children to be able to learn a music skill and also provide for them the instrument," she said. "That was a lofty idea, but it was very well planned out by them."

The girls raised money from a variety of sources and were able to purchase 84 flutophones for their project.

"They earned several hundred dollars to buy each child from the Boys and Girls Clubs that are in second grade and third grade a flutophone," said Raylene Gaddis.

In addition to purchasing the instruments, they developed and implemented a two-week educational

program, which they held at the Parnell Memorial Library at the University of Montevallo. The students came from Montevallo, Clanton and Verbena.

"The instruction took place at the University of Montevallo. They had to contact the director there to ask for permission for that," said Raylene Gaddis. "They were awarded permission to use their auditorium for those two weeks."

The program consisted of two sessions a day, one for the second graders and one for the third graders. It culminated with a concert at the end for the parents.

"The first week they learned to breathe and learned where the notes were on a fingering chart on a piece of paper," said



Pictured are (L-R) Salem Gaddis, Savana Young and Sonya Wynn. (contributed by Raylene Gaddis)

Raylene Gaddis.

It turned out the project was a learning experience for everyone, including the Scouts.

"I think they were worn out by the first week, but it taught them perseverance. It taught them the ability to stick with it," Raylene Gaddis said.

At the end of the two weeks, the children were allowed to take the flutophones home with them to keep. For more information about Girl Scouting and the Silver Award, go to www.girlscouts.org.




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JANUARY SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Closed for Holidays. The Alabaster Senior Center will be closed on the following dates: •Wed., Jan. 1, New Year's Day & Mon., Jan. 20, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

January 2014 Exercise Class Fees There will be a \$2 cost per exercise class beginning in January. You will have the option to pay \$2 when you sign in for each class, or you will be able to purchase an exercise punch card – 10 classes for \$20. You will then need to bring cash or the punch card when you sign up for each class. We are continuing to grow and looking for ways to keep things simple and efficient. Thank you in advance for your willingness to grow with us!

Zumba Gold I

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 2 pm. A relatively high intensity, low-impact fitness class featuring Latin and World rhythms, and the same party flavor as regular Zumba. It results in a great cardio workout that is fun! Cost is \$2 per class.

NEW Zumba Gold II

Wednesdays, 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm. New to Zumba Gold? This is the perfect place to get started. Low intensity, low-impact dance/fitness class with an opportunity to break-down and learn basic Latin and World rhythms. Same party flavor and fun as Zumba I. Cost is \$2 per class.

Zumba Gold Toning

Fridays from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Join us for a dynamic class using lightweight resistance training. This class can help participants prevent age-related bone loss, increase muscle strength and definition, decrease body fat and improve mobility, posture, coordination and cognition. Cost is \$2 per class.

Arthritis Foundation

Exercise Program

Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Space is limited. Cost is \$2 per class.

Line dancing Thursdays.

Join us at 9:30 am for the intermediate class. Join us at 10:30 am for the beginner class. No experience necessary. Cost is \$2 per class.

NEW: Intergenerational Program "Making Memories"

Friday, Jan. 3, from 10 am – 12:00 pm. We are inviting our seniors and their grandchildren or great grandchildren (ages 3-12) to join in a special day together. We will have fun with a magician, create a nature craft, and a craft to take home. We will also enjoy pizza for lunch. Space is limited. Cost is \$8 for one senior and one child.

NEW: It's a TANGLED WORLD

Tuesdays – Jan 14, 21, 28, & Feb 4 from 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm. Join Jan Rogers for basic classes in creating ZEN-TANGLE© inspired pen and ink drawings. There are NO MISTAKES! Give up your fears and produce interesting new designs from your practice. This art form allows you to draw and RELAX at the same time. It's fun, and after four classes, you will draw like a pro. You will complete your own pattern for a new (insulated) coffee mug and at least one Valentine's card for a loved one. Cost is \$12 per person. Space is limited.

Civil Rights Museum and Lunch Thursday, Jan. 16.

Join us for a tour of the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham and lunch at Niki's West. We will be traveling on the 25 passenger bus. Cost is \$3 to hold your spot. Bring \$5 (cash) for the tour and \$10-\$12 for lunch. Space is limited.

Upcoming Book Club

Friday, January 24, at 10am.

Join us for our next class. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book. Sign up at the Senior Center.

NEW: Watercolor Class

Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

All painting levels are welcome. Come learn how to paint with watercolor. \$25 for 4 classes each month and includes your paper. Must sign up. You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

- Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am
- Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm
- Rook: Wednesdays at 9:00 am

Arthritis Foundation

Exercise: Wednesdays at 10:00 am

• Zumba Gold I (exercise): Wednesdays at 1 pm

• Zumba Gold II (exercise): Wednesdays from 2:15 pm until 3:00 pm

• Beginner/Inter Line dancing: Thursdays at 9:30 am

• Beginner Line Dancing: Thursdays at 10:30 am

• Bridge: Thursdays from 12 pm until 3 pm

• Tempo exercise: Fridays at 10 am

• Zumba Gold Toning: Fridays from 1 pm until 2 pm

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



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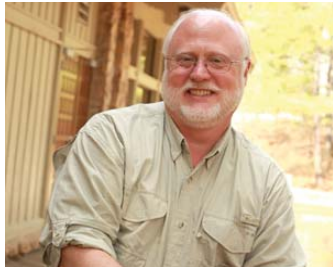
205-664-8404

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On the web at www.therapysouth.com

AN ARMORED MARAUDER by David Frings



Growing up in Alabama in the 1950's and 60's were much simpler times. As a child, we played outside every day it did not rain which brought me close to nature at a very early age. Our family took fun vacations to the beach each summer at Gulf Shores with cottages rather than high-rise condos. The beach and surrounding scrub added new adventures for a young boy finding shells, live sand dollars, and ghost crabs. My love for nature was also tweaked by the unusual forest, clad with draperies of gray hanging Spanish moss and unusual critters like armadillos. Armadillos fascinated me

so much that every time I saw one lying dead on the road, I always said "Daddy, I want one of those for a pet!" The response was quick, with a resounding NO!

During my childhood, the nine-banded armadillo was only seen in the area of Gulf Shores and Foley Alabama. These nocturnal marauders, which originally began their long journey from South America decades ago, have steadily migrated north reaching Indiana and Ohio today. Armadillos are a common sight and often unwelcome visitor to lawns around Alabaster. They live in burrows that they easily dig with their oversized claws. Even though these excavators have huge claws, they typically do not defend themselves even when cornered. Instead of using aggression to defend themselves, they choose to either run away or role into a ball relying of the tough outer shell for protection. And believe

me they are fast runners! I have only won a footrace twice with these guys that resulted in their capture and later release.

We seldom see live armadillos even though we have a very healthy population in the city. They sleep in their burrows approximately 16 hours a day, coming out to feed in the evening and early morning hours. They feed on insects, grubs, and worms, which is beneficial to the ecosystem but often is not appreciated by the homeowner with a manicured lawn. In their quest for food, armadillos constantly dig shallow holes in the turf to extract their prey. This leaves more divots in the lawn than the worst golfer. There is not much that can be done to make a hungry armadillo leave your lawn alone. If you are having problems with these guys and can locate the burrow, some recommend placing fragrant bars of bath soap or rags soaked in vinegar at



ARMADILLO

the entrance. Armadillos appear to have a keen sense of smell and are often repelled by strange odors. A highly manicured lawn can reduce the food supply and hiding places which will be less appealing to the armadillo.

Whether you like them or not these highly successful and adaptive mammals are probably here to stay.

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

- Jan. 1, CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS HOLIDAY
- Jan. 6, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
- Jan. 7, Water Board 7pm Chamber
Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- Jan. 8, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- Jan. 9, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- Jan. 13, Board of Education 6:00 pm Chamber
- Jan. 14, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00pm Conference
- Jan. 15, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
Sewer Committee 6 pm Chamber
- Jan. 16, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf
- Jan. 20, CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
- Jan. 21, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Driving School, 7pm
- Jan. 27, Board of Adjustments 6:30pm Conference
Library Board 6pm ALS Library
- Jan. 28, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
Meetings are now held in the new City Hall next to the Senior Center. Chamber refers to the large meeting chamber and conference refers to the conference room in the new facility. Questions about a meeting? Call 664-6800. A full 2013 Calendar is available for reference at www.cityofalabaster.com

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
664-6800

BUSINESS LICENSES DUE

It's that time of year again! Business owners should be receiving a Renewal Notice in the mail the first week in December for your City of Alabaster Business License. The license is due before January 31, 2014. There will be a 15% penalty to all licenses received after that date. If you have had a change of address for your business, please contact the office at 664-6844 or you may email them at revenue@cityofalabaster.com. Remember city offices are now at 1953 Municipal Way suite 101.



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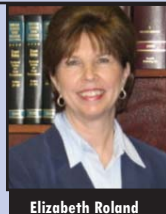
CITY DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS • Non-emergency Police matters 663-7401 • Animal Control 664-6761
• Personnel Dept 664-6838 • Code Enforcement 664-5907 • Revenue/Business License Dept 664-6844
• Alabaster Water Board 663-6155 • Garbage/recycling bins 664-6800 • Alabaster Parks & Recreation 664-6840

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