CAlabaster

OLUME II // NUMBER 7 // JULY 2014

celebrate anerica

SATURDAY / JUNE 28

Telerans Park

Alabaster A Word from the Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



The Fourth of July is America's birthday party and a fun way to celebrate is to study the founding

fathers. My favorite is Ben Franklin, successful businessman, inventor, scentist, and patriot. He was truly a Renaissance man.

He invented bifocals, the public library, fire department, lightning rods, the efficient wood stove heater and much more.

A lot of people don't know he was the first to discover weather patterns. He had "weather watchers" scattered throughout the colonies taking daily

weather readings and then mailing their reports to him. By compling the data, he discovered that weather moves from west to east. We take it for granted now, but it was a revelation then. He also discovered the Gulf Stream by taking readings of water temperature as he crossed the Atlantic to Europe.

In addition to being a printer, he wrote books and pamphlets. His "Autobiography" was a best seller in the colonies. You can download it for free from our library to an e-reader. It's a great read and is somewhat of a selfhelp book.

My favorite quote from Franklin was to his co-conspirators during the throes

of the revolution: "We must all hang together or we'll all hang separately." Let's don't forget Franklin also had a sense of humor. Another great quote of his is" "All things in Moderation, especially Moderation."

You can Celebrate America at Vets Park on June 28th thanks to Kingwood Church who sponsors this wonderful event with an assist from the city. And don't forget that right down the road is American Village with a celebration and fireworks on the Fourth of July. You might spend a moment at the national graveyard just past American Village and pay tribute to our fallen heroes.





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CELEBRATE AMERICA JUNE 28 AT VETS PARK

Alabaster residents can look forward to another fun day at the park this June as Kingwood Church partners with the City of Alabaster to present its annual "Celebrate America" event.

The patriotic party will be held at Veterans Park on Saturday, June 28, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. It's open to the public and admission is free.

"It's a good environment, good food," said Benny Cunningham, the education pastor at Kingwood. "We have people show up hours in advance just to get a good spot to hear the band and also be able to watch the fireworks. They'll set up their chairs, and it works out great."

Celebrate America is a family-friendly event featuring live music, great food, kids activities and a movie on the big screen. Highlighting the event is a fabulous fireworks show produced by Pyro Productions, the same company that does Thunder on the Mountain.

"What's really cool about the fireworks here is they're so close," said Cunningham. "They're right on top of you, which is great."

Celebrate America will feature a variety of food vendors providing plenty of tasty treats. Some of those already committed include Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, Kona Ice, Publix Deli, Mi Pueblo Supermarket, Little Italy's Pizza, Zou's Kitchen, Champy's, Steak 'n Shake and Chubb's Grub Station.

For the kids, a Kids Zone will feature plenty of fun activities to enjoy throughout the evening.

"Last year, we had a couple of rides as well as inflatables and other activi-

ties for children," said Cunningham.

The music is scheduled to run from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The fireworks show is expected to start sometime around 9:30 p.m.

"When the movie ends, we'll have a short break, and then the fireworks," he said.

According to Cunningham, most of the volunteers manning the event will come from Kingwood Church. He said they'll be there early setting up the Kids Zone and putting the stage

"It's probably 250 volunteers from Kingwood that make this happen," he said. "They'll be out there in their blue shirts."

According to Cunningham, parking will be available in a variety of areas at the park, including the parking lots, as well as the grass areas up front and



in the back.

"We work with the Alabaster Police Department traffic personnel on that," said Cunningham.

Last year, the Alabaster Police Department estimated the Celebrate America crowd at around 10,000 people. For more information, visit www.kingwoodchurch.com.

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ABASTER CITYFEST 2014 A BIG HIT OUTDOOR FESTIVAL KIDS FEST CRUISE-IN RUN FOOD MUSIC PRESENTED BY

Folks flocked to Municipal Park in Alabaster on Saturday, June 7, to enjoy Alabaster's 12th annual CityFest, presented by Regions.

The annual event, which is produced by the Alabaster Arts Council, drew a large number of families and guests to enjoy a variety of fun festival activities.

This year's event featured the ever-popular KidsFest area, sponsored by Vic Smith CPA. Kids and parents alike enjoyed the Lowe's Build and Grow Workshop, which was held under a large tent inside the KidsFest area.

There were also plenty of great tunes throughout the day, ranging from the country sounds of Sweet Tea to the smooth jazz of Take 7.

By all accounts, everyone seemed to be having a great time, from the kids to the various vendors.

"It's been going great," said Pamela Laurent, a realtor with Keller Williams Realty. "Weather's good. They've got a good flow of people coming through here. There are a lot of people."

Dr. Perry Harrison, who was there promoting her new chiropractic business (Central Alabâma Clinic of Chiropractic), said she was excited to be able to meet so many new people.

"It's going great," said Harrison. "There are lots of people out today, even though it's sweltering hot."

Harrison was there introducing her new business in Pelham and also providing free mini-massages.

As always, CityFest also featured a smorgasbord of great food vendors, along with a variety of interesting arts-and-crafts vendors, selling everything from hand-



made jewelry to boutique dresses.

"It's been going really good today," said Chrystal Ellis, co-owner of the online boutique Dress Code. "It's hot, bût we've had a lot of people come through and buy some of our clothes.

A local couple, Jurney and Rachel Black, were at CityFest with their "Little Red Photo Booth," which provides instant photos of people with a variety of fun props.

"This is our first time at CityFest as a vendor," said Jurney. "It's a new business. We started roughly a year ago. We saw one at a wedding down in Florida, so when we came back home, it got our wheels turning.

Highlighting CityFest were two rousing performances from the event's headline acts, Fuel and Rodney Atkins. Atkins is the singer of such big country hits like "Farmer's Daughter" and "Take a Back Road."

Congratulations once again to the Alabaster Arts Council and all the volunteers who helped to make this year's CityFest another great success!









MORE CITYFEST PHOTOS ON PAGE 17 AND IN THE ONLINE EDITION AT WWW.ALABASTERNEWSLETTER.COM! CHECK IT OUT! YOU MIGHT SEE YOURSELF!!









CELEBRATING INDEPE BY REP. APRIL WEAVER



Representative April Weaver

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the thirteen colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. For the past 238 years, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence. A statement from the Declaration of Independence reads, "We hold these truths to be

self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Îo me this statement sums up the core principles of what guides us as Americans. This statement has provided motivation for past generations to pursue their dreams. We must stand firm and protect our freedom for future generations. As we celebrate America's birthday, we celebrate our freedom. Our freedom that is just as important today as it was 238 years ago.

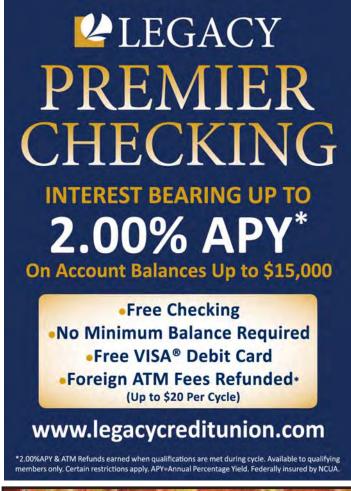
As we enjoy the fireworks and the festivities, I hope you will also remember the real reason why we celebrate and take a moment to thank those who have made great sacrifices to protect our freedom. The Fourth of July is

a time for celebrating patriotism and there are no greater patriots than those who have served our country.

From the patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War, to those serving our nation today, no one has done more to advance the cause of liberty than the members of our Armed Forces.

These brave men and women, as well as their families, make sacrifices every day in order to preserve the values that have guided our country over the past 238 years, and for that they deserve our most sincere appreciation.

I wish you a happy, safe and fun Fourth of July!







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ALABAMA UP TO THE CHALLENGES OF PRISON REFORM



Senator Cam Ward

Our state is at a crossroads when it comes to our prison system. People often ask me why I am so passionate about this issue. I say it is one of the biggest threats to our state's fiscal health. Our prison system is currently at 192% capacity, making it the most overcrowded system in the United States. Not only are they overcrowded, underfunded, not well respected, they are also under the serious threat of being taken over by the federal government, which will result in wholesale release of violent criminals. Any state that has had a federal takeover will tell you that it costs hundreds of millions of dollars to come out from under such a federal receivership. That is money Alabama simply does not

And it gets worse from there. There is not the political want or will to raise taxes, and this is not something we can build our way out of even if we did have the money. Our state is finally learning to live within its means in terms of the general fund budget, but that budget is getting eaten alive by two line items: Medicaid and Prisons.

We can argue until we are blue in the face about the pros and cons of Medicaid expansion, but we cannot just defund our prisons. And we cannot allow the worst of the worst criminals to potentially be released back onto our streets. These guys did some not terribly nice things to get into the system after all, and as a society we have decreed we don't want them hanging around with the freedom to do it again.

Let me be clear- this is not the politically popular issue to take on. We face some hard choices, but we are not the first states to go through this. One of the wonderful things about the modern world in 2014 is the availability of information and collaboration between governments on "best practices" for seemingly intractable problems.

Two states in particular represent the best and worst of how to go about prison reform: Texas and California. California ignored the problem for too long and failed to make good decisions. A federal judge eventually came in and said they had to release 10% of their prisoners across the board. Unfortunately that allowed

a whole host of terrible people to go free to commit heinous crimes.

Texas, on the other hand, combined sentencing reform with a stronger approach to community corrections, probation and drug rehabilitation. They avoided a federal takeover, but more importantly they avoided mass-releasing criminals across offender categories, and provided cheaper programs for those convicted of non-violent and drug related crimes.

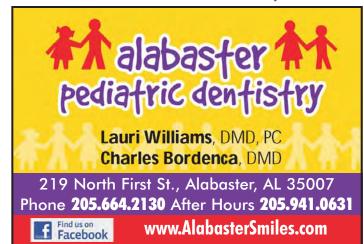
I have worked with both parties in the Legislature to bring in The Council of State Governments, a non-partisan group that helps states achieve best outcomes on long term projects such as sentencing and prison reforms. The Legislature has also impanelled a "Blue Ribbon Committee" of law enforcement officials, judges, and victim's rights



advocates to come up with recommendations on ways Alabama can attack this problem, save money and not release violent criminals back into our neighborhoods.

In the end, the Governor and the Legislature will have to summon the political will to pass legislation to solve this crisis. We can no longer ignore it. I believe that this is a problem that we can solve if we work together, because I believe in our state, I believe in our leaders, and more importantly, I believe in our people.





MOVING TO THE FAST LANE WITH PANDA EXPRESS

Alabaster moves into a new dimension of fast food with the addition of Panda Express at the South Promenade. The new drive-through restaurant broke ground in early May and is on a fast track to complete the construction of this rapidly expanding restaurant franchise. Cam Ward, Director of the Alabaster Industrial Development Board, said that he did not have an exact date for the opening of the restaurant but thought that it should be opened by mid-summer. Ward said, "The chain has been listed as one of the fastest growing fast food chains in the United States for the last three years in a row." This will be the first Panda Express in the

Greater Birmingham metropolitan area. The chain currently has five locations in Alabama which include Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Prattville, Huntsville, and Madison. Panda Express has been in business for 30 years.

Panda Express has a well-developed website that lists extensive information on their menu. The site describes each dish and even allows the customer to rate their satisfaction with each item. The menu is extensive, including items that are chicken, beef, and seafood based. Some of the items on the menu are Shiitake Kale Chicken Breast, Sweetfire Chicken Breast, Honey Walnut Shrimp, and Beijing Beef. The online

menu also has lists of soups and appetizers. You can view the menu by going to www.pandaexpress.com. The site

for the Panda

Express is one of two out parcels that are being developed by Mr. Bill Leitner as part of the development deal that brought Dick's Sporting Goods to the South Promenade. The incentive package for the total recruitment deal is tied to the sales tax that is generated by the new

retailers. The almost two



million dollar incentive is scheduled to be paid over a ten year time frame and will not affect tax revenues that are slated for the Alabaster City School System. No plans for the remaining adjacent parcel have been released at this time.



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Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE

Oak Mountain Orthodontics

For folks in need of braces, Oak Mountain Orthodontics may be just the place. With two convenient locations, Oak Mountain Orthodontics offers quality orthodontic care in a friendly and wel-

coming environment.

Dr. Priscila Denny, who was recently awarded the 2014 Parents' Choice Award for Best Orthodontist, first opened Oak Mountain Orthodontics in 2006 in an office off Old Montgomery Highway.

We opened in February of 2006 here in Pelham," said Denny. "The satellite office in Helena we opened in June 2010."

For Denny, who is originally from Brazil, becoming an orthodontist was a lifelong dream. Several members of her family are also orthodontists, so she knew from a young age that she wanted to become





Dr. Priscila Denny was recently awarded the 2014 Parent's Choice Award for Best Orthodontist.

one as well.

"My whole family, they are dentists and orthodontists," said Denny. "My mom actually went after she already had us, so I was growing up and she was going to dental school. I told her, with three kids I have no idea how you made it. I knew when I was a little girl that I was going to go on that path.'

After moving to the United States in 1994 to marry her husband, Denny attended school at UAB. She graduated from dental school in 2001 and then completed a one-year, general practice residency followed by three years of

orthodontics. She said she decided to open her practice in Pelham because of the county's demograph-

"When we opened up, we just checked the demographics where they're growing the most, and everything at that point in 2005 pointed to Shelby County," said Denny. "This area, the vicinity of Pelham, Helena, Alabaster, it's a growing area. We do get a lot of patients from Helena and Alabaster."

At Oak Mountain Orthodontics, Denny offers braces as well as Invisalign, which is a way

to align teeth without the use of braces. And her patients include both children and adults.

"We have around 70 percent teenagers and 30 percent adults," said Denny.

This past May, Denny was honored with a Parents' Choice Award from Birmingham magazine and Alabama Baby & Child magazine.

"I was so excited," said Denny. "I have two kids, so I know how hard it is to trust someone else with your kids. So when someone who has kids, like me, trusts me to take care of their kids, that's a big thing for me.'

For more information, visit Oak Mountain Orthodontics online at Oakmountainorthodontics.com.





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SCHOOLS HOLD "POLICE OLYMPICS"

A group of local students was able to participate in the first-ever "Police Olympics" this year on Tuesday, May 20 at Larry Simmons Field.

Students from Candice Chenault's Thompson Intermediate School classes and Melanie Bales' Thompson Sixth-Grade Center classes competed in an Olympic-style event that featured a variety of activities inspired by Police Academy training.

"The Police Olympics was an event for kids who were working on setting goals," said Chenault.
"They went through regular training that would be like you were going through Police Academy. If they qualified by meeting their goals, then they got to compete."

Those who qualified

were able to participate in the big event as part of their own teams, which were divided by grade level.

"We had a fourth grade team, a fifth grade team, a sixth grade team, and the cool thing was we had a team of teachers that decided to compete against them, too," said Chenault.

According to Chenault, the activities the kids participated in included traditional exercises like sit-ups and pushups, as well as other fun activities.

"We did essentially what police officers will do in basic training in their final test," said Chenault. "So they had to do the most number of sit-ups and pushups they could do in thirty seconds. They had to do an agility course, which was everybody's

favorite."

The agility course required students to walk a beam, drag a police dummy, climb through a window and navigate a series of cones.

"They would go for the fastest times," said Chenault. "Most of our kids came in under thirty seconds on that. They had really worked their way up."

There was also an individual quarter-mile run and a team relay.

"It was a lot of fun," said Chenault. "The school came out and supported us. The Sixth-Grade Center choir came out and sang the National Anthem."

The event was planned in coordination with School Resource Officer Nat Parker of the Alabaster Police Department. According to Chenault, Parker was a huge asset to the project.

"Nat and I worked on this together, and we tried to create something that taught kids the importance of goal-setting but also taught a positive relationship with the police department and also embodied some of the great ideas of the Olympics," said Chenault. "It was a pretty neat day."

The event was so successful that Chenault said they intend to continue the tradition next year.

"There's no question in our mind that we want this to happen again," she said.

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CAMERA CLUB GATHERS AT OAK MOUNTAIN

About a dozen members of the newly formed Shelby County Camera Club took their first field trip to Oak Mountain State Park on May 31. Members were welcomed to the Interpretive Center by the director David Frings and treated to a presentation of his wildlife photography from the park.

During the presentation, members learned where to go in the park for wildlife photography as well as the best locations for landscape and scenery. After the presentation, the group was introduced to the viewing area for the wild bird feeding station at the center. Brightly colored gold finches, woodpeckers, and chipmunks went about their feeding activities as the members

tried their hand at getting that perfect shot.

The group then visited the Alabama Wildlife Center, which is located adjacent to the Interpretive Center where they were welcomed by Jay Eubanks and his wife. Jay is the director of education for the rehabilitation center and was kind enough to setup three of their education birds for a photo opportunity.

The members got up close and personal with a Mississippi Kite, an American Kestrel, and a rare Merlin. All three of these birds came to the Wildlife Center with injuries too severe for them to be released back to the wild. These education birds allowed the photographers to get close up



Members of the Shelby County Camera Club got a photo opp session with rare raptors, such as the Mississippi Kite and American Kestrel, courtesy of the Alabama Wildlife Center at Oak Mountain State Park.

shots that would have been extremely difficult in their natural environment.

The next club meetings will be June 17 and July 15 at 7:00 P.M. at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit located at 858 Kent Dairy Road in Alabaster.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in photography. The group will discuss venues for future field trips as well as the subject matter to be covered on the trips. For additional information, contact Ted Vodde at tedvodde@gmail.com.



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BBQ COMPETITION JULY 19

For any aspiring pitmasters out there, the Shelby County Arts Council is hosting a barbecue competition this July, and there's still time to get a team signed up.

The event, which is being billed as the Shelby County Shindig, will feature a fierce and fun competition for the title of "Best Ribs in Shelby County." The event will be held on Saturday, July 19, in the parking lot behind the Shelby County Arts Council in downtown Columbiana.

Teams will also compete for honors in the Chef's Choice category and Crowd Favorite, which is based on a blind vote from the public. The cost to register a barbecue team is \$250. Individual tasting tickets are \$10.

The contest is considered a non-sanctioned barbecue competition.

According to Sandra Annonio of the Shelby County Arts Council, there should be space for around 20 teams total to participate.

The Shelby County Shindig is being held as a joint fundraiser between the Shelby County Arts Council and the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce. To register a team, call the Shelby County Arts Council at 669-0044.

The public is also invited to come, and there will be a host of other fun things going on, including live music, facepainting for the kids and a variety of vendors selling their art.

For more information, visit the Shelby County Arts Council online at Shelbycountyartscouncil.com.





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LIBRARY CLOSED JULY 4TH Library Board Meeting – July 22, 6 pm

LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

Masterpiece Book Club – July 11, 2014. 2 pm. Join the Masterpiece Book Club as they discuss the timeless classic, Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Austen's comedy of manners--one of the most popular novels of all time--features splendidly civilized sparring between the proud Mr. Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet as they play out their spirited courtship in a series of 18-century drawing-room intrigues. For more information about this new book club, call 205-664-6822.

Library Book Group - July 17, 2014. 7 pm - Join us in our discussion of Love Anthony by Lisa Genova. From the award-winning New York Times-bestselling author of Still Alice comes a heartfelt novel about an accidental friendship that gives a grieving mother a priceless gift: the ability to understand the thoughts of her eight-year-old autistic son and make sense of his brief life. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Mobile Device Workshop -- July 24, 2014. 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Computers, tablets, and smartphones - your questions answered! Join us as Bob Fitzgerald of Personal Computer Consulting in Alabaster offers a FREE workshop where experienced techs will answer your questions about your mobile electronic devices. Troubleshooting, how-to, and consulting provided. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Book-in-a-Jar Contest – June 2nd – July 16th, 2014. Guess the titles of the shredded classic books in the jars. Stop by the Reference desk and the Adult Services desk to submit your entries. Drawings will be held on July 16th and prize winners will be notified July 17th.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Library Meeting - July 14, 2014. 6 pm

The Friends is a group of dedicated booklovers that wants everyone to know the benefits the library offers, and how members can increase its effectiveness. We have occasional fundraisers such as semi-annual book sales, and promotions in cooperation with local merchants to raise funds for special books and activities such as the Summer Reading Program and Programs for Adults. We also maintain several areas at the library where books can be purchased at bargain prices. These are books that have been donated, so here's an option for those books you no longer want in your private library. We accept fiction, non-fiction, hard cover and soft cover. We are unable to accept textbooks, reference books or magazines For as little as \$10 a year you can be a Friend and support the library. There are several levels of membership, and always opportunities for a few hours of volunteering. Membership forms are available at the Library or at http://www.cityofalabaster.com/friends-of-thelibrary/sp/81

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Alabaster's Reading Challenge Continues! Kids Continue to Fizz Boom Read and Spark a Reaction this Summer! A summer of exploring and reading continues for Alabaster's children of all ages at the Albert L. Scott Public Library where they are becoming reading champions. The children's slogan is Fizz Boom Read, and Spark a Reaction is the slogan for Young Adults (YAs) kids 11 years old to 18 years old. Adults can still register children for the Challenge. They'll receive a large goody bag as well as a summer activity calendar, a small gift, and more. Children can be registered any day between now and July 11. Kids pick a reading goal, check out and read our library books, and get prizes along the way to their goal. When they reach their goal, ending their challenge, they receive a certificate and can enter prize drawings. Children can read books themselves, listen to them read by someone else, or use one of our talking books.

During the Challenge there are entertainers, a science book club, crafts, and other activities. The Summer Challenge ends with a Fizz Boom Finale on Wednesday, July 16. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. There will be a show Science: Magic in Your Own Backyard at 10:15 a.m. with Tommy Johns plus surprises. The goal of the Summer Challenge is to encourage children to read for pleasure when they are not in school. Parents and other caregivers are invited to participate and help pre-literate children enjoy books and develop a love of reading. The 2014 Summer Reading Program is supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Alabama Public Library Service.

We would like to thank our sponsors, to date: AmStar 14-Alabaster, Arby's, Bike Link, Birmingham Barons Baseball, Chick-fil-A, DeSoto Caverns Park, Dairy Queen, Friends of the Albert L. Scott Public Library, Oak Mountain Lanes, Parent Teacher Store (Hoover), Red Mountain Park, the UPS Store (Pelham), and Whataburger.

Highlights of July's activities are below. Details at www.cityofalabaster.com and on the program calendar given out at registration. Programs are in the meeting room unless otherwise indicated on the calendar, website, and/or signs.

July 1 Lego League 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes

July 1 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. Ages 8 years old to 11 years old (Continued from June)

July 1 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Ages 12 years old to 15 years old (Continued from June)

July 3 Glad Scientist Club 10:30 a.m.

July 3 YA Only Story Sparks: Creative Writing Workshop with bestselling author K. B. Hoyle 4:00 p.m.

July 7 Glad Scientist Club 4:00 p.m.

July 8 Lego League 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Kids of all ages can play with Legos of all sizes

July 8 Drama Workshop 6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. Ages 8 years old to 11 years old (Continued from June)

July 8 Drama Workshop 7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Ages 12 years old to 15 years old (Continued from June)

July 10 Glad Scientist Club 10:30 a.m.

July 10 YA Only Boys vs. Girls Minute to Win It Challenge 4 p.m.

July 14 Critter Tales: Frog and Toad are Friends 10:30 a.m.

July 14 Radical Reactions with the McWane Science Center 4 p.m.

July 15 Lego League 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

July 15 Drama Showcase Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m.

July 15 Drama Showcase 7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

July 16 Fizz Boom Finale Science: Magic in Your Own Backyard Show with Tommy Johns 10:15 a.m.

SUMMER KIDS' FLICKS AT AMSTAR THEATER

For local families in search of some cool, summer fun, AmStar 14 Cinema in Alabaster is offering its "Summer Kids' Flicks" movie series through the end of July.

The popular program features a variety of family-friendly movies that are shown twice a week at a very affordable price.

"It's \$3.50 per person," said AmStar General Manager Justin Poole.
"That includes the movie, the popcorn and the drink. It's for any ages.
Everyone's invited to come out."

According to Poole, the price is the same for adults, and they also get a free box of popcorn and a soda. The movies, which are all rated either G or PG, are shown at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays. The movies include previously-screened children's movies that are sure to be a hit with the youngsters.

The schedule for July includes "The Muppets Take Manhattan" (July 1-2), "Walking With Dinosaurs" (July 8-9), "Despicable Me" (July 15-16), "Despicable Me 2" (July 22-23) and "Turbo" (July 29-30).

"It'll run through the month of July," said Poole. "Basically the last week of July will be our last days for the summer movie series."

The movie series kicked off this summer on May 27 with "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted." According to Poole, it's been a big hit this summer with the kids.

"It's going well," he

said. "We've had lots of kids. Yesterday I think we had over 300 folks."

In terms of the number of screening rooms the theatre uses, they typically open two screening rooms and then add more as needed.

"We start with two screening rooms, one for the day cares and one for the parents that are bringing in their families," said Poole. "Based on attendance we add as we go."

Poole said attendance will continue to grow throughout the summer.

"As the summer goes, more kids come out," he said. "It'll pick up through the summer until the last couple of weeks, that's when it slows back down as everybody is getting geared back up for school."

According to Poole,

AmStar has been holding the summer movie series since 2008. In fact, it's been so successful over the years that it was even maintained after the company's purchase by Southern Theatres.

"It's something we've done every summer. I think Alabaster started it in '08," he said. "It's a great program. It's a good communi-

ty program."

AmStar 14 Cinema is located at 820 Colonial Promenade Parkway. The box office opens at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays prior to the movies. AmStar is managed by Southern Theatres LLC.



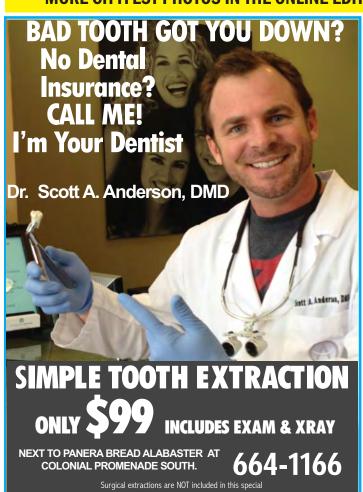




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The Episcopal Church of The Holy Spirit

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22-25

for children and adults. June 22nd there will be an inter-generational program—all are welcome. Registration required for chil-

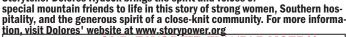
dren's program only email marybea@holyspirit-al.org June 23-25 6-8 pm. Children will blast off on a "Mission of God's Love." Adults will be "Telling the Story: God's and Ours."

DOLORES HYDOCK JUNE 23RD

A special guest for Adult VBS June 23rd 6-8 pm
"Footprint on the Sky: Memories of a Chandler Mountain
Spring" with storyteller Dolores Hydock.
Bonnets, bow-tie quilts, poke salad, tomato stakes, the

Bonnets, bow-tie quilts, poke salad, tomato stakes, the recipe for Scripture Cake, and an old-timey cure for hiccups – they're all part of this funny and touching portrait of an Alabama mountain community in the 1970's.

Storyteller Dolores Hydock Storyteller Dolores Hydock brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Dolores Hydock Brings the spirit and voices of Storyteller Brings the spirit and spi



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Songs Come join us for a night of great food and beverages, a silent auction and a fun show featuring a

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•Doors Open 5:30PM •Silent Auction

& Refreshments 6PM •Live Auction 6:30PM

Music Begins at 7PM Tickets are just

\$10 Adults, \$5.00 Kids for a great night of food, fun & bargains.

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am, Christian Education 9:30 am

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ONLINE REGISTRATION

We now offer a new and improved ONLINE registration for our sports. Please give it a try. It's available 24 hours a day for your convenience. Go to our website at www.alabasterparks.org for the online link.

GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Fall registration will be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 28 and ending at 12 am on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 28 thru August 8. Girl's Softball is available for ages 5 thru 12. Cost will be \$85 (plus 10% for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks! For more information, please contact Nik McCrimon at 664-6840 or nmccrimon@city-ofalabaster.com.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration will be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 21 and ending at 12 am on August 9. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 21 thru August 8. Two leagues will be offered: Men's and Coed. Registration is for teams (not individuals). For more information, please contact Morgan Lawley at 664-6840 or mnlawley@cityofalabaster.com.

CELEBRATE AMERICA

Celebrate America is a free fun event for the entire family at Veterans Park on Saturday, June 28. There will be food vendors, live music, inflatables, fireworks, etc.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

FREE movies at Veterans Park located at 7305 Hwy. 119 in Alabaster. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying the outdoors while watching an entertaining movie. The movies will begin showing around dusk (usually 8:00 pm). Bring a blanket or some chairs, snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic), and some bug repellant. Movie schedule: • July 11: Disney's "Monsters University" (104 minutes) rated G

- July 25: "The Lego Movie" (101 minutes) rated PG
- August 8: "Despicable Me 2" (98 minutes) rated PG
- August 15: "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2" (95 minutes) rated PG



CHEER CAMP

Cheer Camp for our youth cheerleaders will be held in the Thompson High School gym July 28 thru August 1 from 6 PM until 8 PM. This is a mandatory camp where the girls will learn cheers, chants, half-time dance, and jumps.

FALL SOCCER

Registration will be available on-line beginning at 8 am on July 7 and ending at 12:00 am on July 20. You can register in person at the Depot between 8 am and 5 pm, weekdays only from July 7 thru July 18. There will be one Saturday registration on July 19 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Depot. Cost will be \$110 for U9 and up, and \$90 for U6/U8 (plus 10% for non-residents). Cash, Visa, MasterCard accepted. NO Checks!

PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Several of our City Parks offer outdoor covered 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. Uncovered picnic tables are free to all on a first come, first served basis.



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LOCAL GIRLS HELP OUT CHARITY

Two local girls celebrated their birthdays recently, but rather than asking for the typical gifts, they decided to use the occasion to help out a local charity.

Abby Grace Walker and Maggie Jo O'Neal of Alabaster held a joint birthday party in May, and instead of asking for presents, they asked that their guests bring items of need for an Alabaster nonprofit organization, Sowers of Seed.

"These girls have a heart to serve," said Sowers of Seed Executive Director Lynn Coleman. "They're very selfless for kids their age."

According to Coleman, the pair helped raise money last year for a local family, and this year, they wanted to do something to help out the hungry.

"For their 12th birthday, they wanted to do something in the line of food and feeding those in need," said Coleman.

Sowers of Seed is a local nonprofit organization that conducts a summer lunch program for kids that qualify for free or reduced lunches at school. The program seemed like a good way for the girls to lend a helping hand.

"(Abby's) mom emailed me with the idea and wanted me to put together a needs list," said Coleman. "So I made it kid-friendly. We needed little, snack-size Ziploc bags and we needed sandwich-size Ziploc bags and brown paper bags. We could use some forks and spoons, so that went on the needs list."

Turns out the party guests went above and beyond, providing all kinds of donations for the group, including both cash donations and items from the list.

"They went and bought a case of brown paper bags," said Coleman, "so I have enough now to get us through the summer."

According to Coleman, the donations will be a huge help to the organization, which is currently serving more than 100 kids a day in Alabaster. Last summer, the group served approximately 55 kids a day, so their numbers are significantly up since last year.

"We are now over a hundred. We're averaging sometimes 116 to 125 a day," said Coleman.

According to Coleman, the in-kind gifts they receive allow them to use their money to actually purchase food for the summer program.

"The in-kind gifts were even more than what was on the list," said Coleman. "Receiving in-kind gifts allows us to use the cash we have to go for food."

For more information on Sowers of Seed, visit them on Facebook by searching "Sowers of Seed, Inc."







COMEDY JUNE 13 - 21

South City Theatre presents "The Dixie Swim Club". Evening Times:

Jun 13, 8:00 pm to Jun 14, 8:00pm, Jun 19, 8:00 pm to Jun 21, 8:00 pm

Matinee Times: Jun 15, 2:00 pm
Ever wonder what goes on
during a "Girls' Night Out"? Or
even better a "Girls Weekend
Out?" Make it a Southern girlfriends' weekend away from the
stresses of family and jobs and
you have a recipe for hilarity!
The Dixie Swim Club, by
"Golden Girls" writers Jesse
Jones, Nicholas Hope, and
Jamie Wooten, follows five best
friends' reunions over a span of
33 years.

These hilarious ladies spill their guts, laugh at one another's exploits, and nurture each other through life's troubles and joys. South City Theatre, 3612 Highway 26, Columbiana will present six performances of this laugh-a-minute comedy June 13-21, 2014 under the direction of Sue Ellen Gerrells, SCT Artistic Director. Tickets



are \$15 General Admission or \$12 for students and seniors. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make reservations, go to www.southcitytheatre.com or call the box office at (205) 621-2128.

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
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Front Row (I-r): Aimee Maddox, Tracy Daniel, Lanee Weathers, Back Row:

Christine Bargman, Kathy Durrett, Debbie Lovelady, Mehgen Overton, Dawn Hill, Mandy Parker, Paula Smith, Annette Bullard

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Grace Christian Church 869 Highway 52, Helena AL Saturday, July 12 9:30 am Breakfast 10:00–10:59 am SPARC Team Event TO REGISTER Online: www.sparcsupport.org Call: 205.934.4462 Email: sparctraining@gmail.com

www.robersonvinylexteriors.com



LOCAL COMIC HOSTING RADIO SHOW

Alabaster-based comic Comedienne Joy, the Queen of Clean, is now bringing her fun brand of comedy to the local airwaves. As co-host of the Joe Lockett Show on WYDE, Comedienne Joy can be heard each week on the radio at 101.1 FM.

"The Joe Lockett Show has been on the air since February, and it's basically a battle of the sexes show with two ladies and one man, and the man gets beat up every day because women are always right," Joy joked in a recent interview.

The show airs each Saturday at 6 a.m. and features a fun and freewheeling format, in which the on-air personalities discuss a wide variety of topics.

"Our theme is love, hate or debate, because we like to talk about different adult topics that anybody can relate to. We either

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love it, we hate it or we just smack down debate it," said Joy.

The host of the show is Joe Lockett, and the third member of the group is cohost Melva Tate. Joy said the three worked together on a previous show before putting the Joe Lockett Show together.

"We worked together on another radio station. We'd been on that show for about six or seven months, and the station was bought out," she said.

After that, Lockett decided to create a new show that would be both fun and thought-provoking.

ing.

"It is phenomenal. We are now the No. 1 Saturday morning talk show," said Joy. "Even though we give him grief on the show, I have to give him mad props for the format and the template. There's not another show out there

that lets you talk about real life issues and lets you debate them."

Joy, for her part, keeps the show lively with her "Prodocious News" segment.

"I'm the comedienne, and I have that word 'prodocious,'" said Joy. "So I do Prodocious News. It's usually some of the news you don't find every day, but it's hilarious."

The show's conversation topics hit on a wide range of issues that are sure to inspire conversation around the breakfast table.

"Today we talked about is it okay for your mate to have single attractive friends," said Joy. To hear Comedienne

To hear Comedienne Joy on the Joe Locket Show, tune in Saturdays at 6 a.m. or listen to the



(L-R) Melva Tate, Joe Lockett & Comedienne Joy. Photo by Antonio Boswell.

replay on Sundays. The show can also be heard via the TuneIn Radio app.

Comedienne Joy is also available as a speaker for church or corporate events. To learn more, visit her on Facebook by searching "Comedienne Joy the Queen of Clean."





\$100.00 Referral Bonus!!

JULY SENIOR ACTIVITIES

NEW Creative Dance uses movement as a language to explore or express an idea. Let's explore some issues of aging as we learn the basics of creative movement. We'll learn to use the Elements of Dance to tell our stories and explore the concept of the relationship between dance and the well-being of mind, body and spirit. No prior dance experience is necessary. We'll build our dance vocabulary as we go! This will be a six week series with each week building on the week before, beginning on July 10 and ending on August 14. Six weeks - \$12. Head to Toe Fitness Class-Mondays from 1-2pm. Build muscular strength, increase your cardiovascular endurance and improve your balance, flexibility and range of motion as you have fun and move to the music! Do all this seated or standing.....it's your choice! This class will

incorporate the use of hand weights, resistance tubing, balls, etc. into an enjoyable exercise class that will help you manage your activities of everyday living with ease. So join us as we strengthen our body, mind and spirit, and support each other in the pursuit to make everyday a healthier day! \$2/class.

NEW Strengthen, Stretch and Restore (30 min mat based exercise class) all participants will begin class seated on a mat on the floor. A variety of exercises will be performed on the mat with no need to get up and down during class. We will remain on the mat until the end of class. This class is designed to strengthen the body by incorporating lengthening exercises that use body weight, as well as fitness tools. Focus will be on stabilizing the body's core which is where all movement and balance begins. We will also

increase flexibility and range of motion while gently stretching all of the major muscle groups. We will also focus on correct breathing techniques, body awareness and relaxation, feeling refreshed and restored by the end of class. Classes will be held Mondays from 2:15-2:45pm. Cost is \$1/class. **Line dancing-** join us on Thursday for the 9:30am intermediate class or the 10:30 am beginner class. No experience necessary. Cost \$2/class.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program-

Wednesday at 10am. Space is limited. \$2/class.

Upcoming Book Club-join us on for our next class on Friday, July 25 at 10am. We will meet every 4th Friday to discuss the book and introduce a new book. Sign up at the senior center. You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:

•Timeless Treasures (singing): Mondays at 10 am

•Head to Toe Fitness: Mondays from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm

•Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 12 pm

•Rook: Wednesdays at 9 am •Arthritis Foundation

Exercise: Wednesdays at 10:00 am • Zumba Gold I (exercise):

Wednesdays at 1 pm
• Zumba Gold II (exercise for beginners):

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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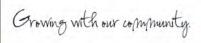
FREE Vein Screening

Wednesday, July 2 and Wednesday, July 16 5:00 pm

1022 First Street North, Suite 400 Alabaster, AL 35007

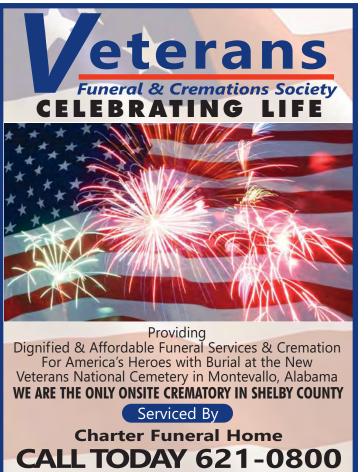
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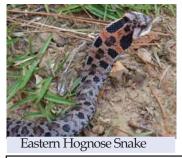


"I Don't Like Spiders & Snakes" PART 2 by David Frings



This month, we will continue with the discussion of snakes, focusing on the identification of the nonvenomous species. The vast majority of snakes found in Alabama are not venomous. Thirty-six of the forty-two recognized species of snakes in Alabama are not venomous and present no threat to humans.

So how do we recognize a nonvenomous snake? The primary manner is by the shape of the head, body, and pupil in the eye. As we discussed last month, the venomous snakes indigenous to Alabaster are pit vipers which all have a distinctive diamond-shaped head that distinguishes it from the body. The head of a nonvenomous snake is somewhat spade-shaped and



does not form a "neck" or taper at the point it attaches to the body. Many nonvenomous snakes will flatten or flare their head in response to a threat but cannot sustain this pose. The classic display is performed by the eastern hognose snake shown in the photograph. These great pretenders will actually roll over and play dead if their bluff does not work.

The bodies of most nonvenomous snakes are lean and slim as opposed



Banded Water Snake

to fat and stocky in the case of venomous species. The species of nonvenomous snakes come in all sizes. From the worm snake that typically reaches less than a foot in length to the black kingsnake that can reach almost five feet.

While the Kingsnake reaches an intimidating length, it is a great species to have around if you fear venomous snake species. A Kingsnake's favorite food is other snakes. They are capable of killing and eating other snakes such as rattlesnakes that are equal to their length. Unfortunately most of our

species of Kingsnakes are proposed to be listed as threatened due to habitat destruction and being killed by humans that do not understand their benefit

Other nonvenomous snakes that you may encounter in Alabaster include the gray rat snake, banded water snake, and the garter snake, .

Nonvenomous snakes have a round pupil that is very different in appearance to the elliptical shaped pupil for the venomous pit vipers. This shows up very clearly in the photograph of the gray rat snake.

I am sure that the majority of the readers do not want snakes in their yards, regardless of the presence or absence of venom. So how do we keep snakes away? Moth balls and other repellents just do not work. The best way is to maintain a well-groomed yard which



Grey Rat Snake

reduces areas for snakes to shelter. Second, do not leave pet food outdoors or other food items to attract rodents which are the favorite prey of most large snakes. Remove the food, water, and shelter and you will reduce the chance of encountering a snake.

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

- July 1, Water Board 7pm Chamber Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- July 2. Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- July 8, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00 pm Conference
- July 9, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- July 10, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- July 14, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber Board of Education 5:30 pm Chamber
- July 15, Driving School, 7pm
- July 17, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf.
- July 22, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
- July 23, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber Sewer Committee 6 pm Chamber
- July 28, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber Board of Adjustments 6:30 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.

JULY						
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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

SHELBY COUNTY CAMERA CLUB MEETING **TUESDAY JULY 15 7PM EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** 858 KENT DAIRY **ROAD IN ALABASTER**

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