

THE ORIGINAL

Alabaster

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II // NUMBER 9 // SEPTEMBER 2014



Warriors

Alabaster

A Word from the
Editor & Publisher, Ted Vodde



In high school I was in a basketball game of the student council versus the teachers/coaches. I remember when we were

dressing out, I asked the guys (it was an all boys school) how bad we were going to beat them. They looked at me and said, "Are you kidding? We're going to get creamed!" They weren't wrong. Once those coaches got the ball (and that happened quickly) they were off and running. They were beating us big time. They had a clock on the game, and by some inexplicable miracle in the final seconds of the game I got the ball. I was at mid court and I remem-

ber one of my teammates shouting at me, "Shoot!" I took a shot from mid court. At the second the ball left my hands time began to move in slow motion. It seemed to hang in the air forever and to my amazement, it went right into the basket for a score.

The crowd erupted, instantly jumping to their feet and cheering and stomping. We didn't win, but in that moment frozen in time it didn't matter. In that one moment I got to experience what it was like to be an athlete cheered by the crowd.

Like many students I had classes, homework, difficulties with parents and other relationships, a job and many other things on my mind. But in that

one crystallized moment, none of that mattered or existed. I had entered "the zone". It's a place where we all strive to be when we have focused on one thing.

That morning when I got up I didn't realize that I would be making a memory that would last the rest of my life. But like a lustrous string of pearls, there they are, these wonderful moments in life whose shine only gets better as times goes by.

As the football season begins this year, I salute all the young athletes as they seek their moment - their time in the zone. Good luck in the upcoming season. Find your moment. Go Warriors!



THE PERFECT PLACE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

"The Perfect Place" for your child to excel in:

- language
- cognitive learning
- independence
- curiosity
- decision-making
- cooperation
- persistence
- creativity and problem solving

CALL TODAY:
205.621.9097

Child Friendly Atmosphere

- Ages 3 weeks - 10 years
- Pre-K Classes
- After School Care
- Nightcare Services

Certified Teachers

- Patient
- Nurturing
- Highly motivated
- Eager to educate

105 Plaza Circle - Alabaster, AL 35007
Monday - Friday | 6:30am - 6:00pm

DAVID'S AUTO CLINIC, LLC

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
IN QUALITY CAR REPAIR**

**WE'VE MOVED!
WE'RE NOW AT
451 SOUTHGATE DRIVE
DOWN FROM
2 PESOS OFF 119
IN PELHAM**



- GENERAL REPAIRS
- TUNE-UPS • BRAKES
- AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE
- TIMING BELTS REPLACED
- BATTERIES & STARTERS
- ALL MAKES & MODELS

**Open Mon-Fri
7am-6pm**

**SAME GREAT SERVICE!
451 SOUTHGATE DRIVE
PELHAM, AL
402-2782**

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



The Alabaster Newsletter Published Monthly Editor & Publisher: Ted Vodde
 Contributors: John Brackin, Eric Starling, Sarah P. Jones
 Danny Doyle, Dawn South, David Frings
 We welcome your comments, suggestions & story ideas.
 Call 620-5505 and e-mail tedvodde@gmail.com
 Copyright© 2014 Mindstream Media, LLC

SALES TAX WEEKEND A BIG HIT

Alabaster shoppers were able to save a little extra money this month, as the state held its annual "Back to School" sales tax holiday on the weekend of Aug. 1-3.

The three-day sales tax holiday was originally created in 2006 to give parents and other shoppers the opportunity to buy certain items without the additional burden of state sales or use tax. In 2012, the City of Alabaster passed an ordinance waiving municipal sales tax on the same exempted items.

According to Nancy Dennis, the director of public relations with the Alabama Retail Association, retailers are saying good things about this year's shopping weekend.

"I've heard from some

retailers that it went really well," said Dennis.

According to Dennis, the actual sales numbers won't be available until October, as retailers report their August sales to the state in mid-September.

"The state doesn't report it until the first of October," said Dennis, "so we really won't have a true sense until later in the fall, but the retailers I've spoken with said they had a really good weekend."

With the local school calendar starting early this year, the tax-free holiday fell at a particularly good time for Alabaster shoppers. The holiday is held annually on the first full weekend in August, and this year, the Alabaster City Schools started back to school on Aug. 7.

"That's good because

people tend to do a lot of the buying for back-to-school one or two weeks out," said Dennis.

Each year, the holiday starts at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and ends at 12 midnight on Sunday.

"Friday and Saturday were really big days. I even talked to one retailer who said Sunday was their best day, so it varies from retailer to retailer," said Dennis. "But this weekend can be one of the biggest weekends, especially if they sell exclusively one of the items that are tax-free."

The items that are exempted for the holiday include traditional school items like school supplies and books. Clothing and computer supplies are also covered, which means it can be a good time for everyone to do some shop-



ping.

According to Dennis, the holiday hasn't negatively impacted the state's sales tax revenue either.

"Sales tax collections in the state have actually increased for the month of August every year that they've had the sales-tax holiday except for one, and that was at the height of the great recession," said Dennis. "So people buy taxed items. Not everything is covered under the tax holiday."

YOUR SMILE SAYS IT ALL

A beautiful smile projects confidence, well-being and a positive image. Call for a consultation Today!



NEW PATIENTS ARE WELCOME!

Thomas E. Dudney D.M.D. P.C.
Kari L. Bartlett D.M.D.
Aesthetic & General Dentistry

122 7th Avenue NE (behind Arby's) in Alabaster

T: 205-663-6545 F: 205.620-1568 E. tedudneydmd@aol.com

No representation is made that the quality of the dental services performed is greater than the quality of the dental services performed by other dentists.

LET US CATER YOUR NEXT EVENT!!

Family Meals To Go

Feed 4 Starting at **\$22.95**

Feed 6 Starting at **\$34.95**

Please Provide 30 Minutes Notice

\$5.00 OFF

ORDERS OF \$25* OR MORE

DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT

One coupon per order per table and coupon is not to be combined with any other offers or discounts.

*Pre-Tax Amount

Good thru September 30, 2014

Ask about our daily specials & catering menu.
21 Weatherly Club Drive @ Hwy 11 in Alabaster.
Open Mon-Sat. 10:30 am-9pm, Closed Sundays
www.JoesItalianOnline.com

663-4111



**ERNEST McCARTY
FORD
663-3831**

**COME SEE US DURING
THE GRAND OPENING
OF OUR NEW
SHOWROOM!!**

**COME CHECK
OUT OUR
GRAND
OPENING
SPECIALS!
*HOW ABOUT TOTAL
SAVINGS OF \$12,000*
ON 2014 F150 XLT
4X4 WITH THE 302A
PACKAGE!**

**ECOBOOST
ENGINE**

**SAVINGS OF \$12,000* ON 2014 FORD F150 (4360) XLT LOADED WITH
4X4, ECOBOOST ENGINE, CHROME, LEATHER, 302A PACKAGE
*MUST TRADE IN A '95 OR NEWER VEHICLE AND USE FORD CREDIT FINANCING**



**CHROME PKG.
& LEATHER**



**SAVE UP TO
25% OFF
THE COST OF A
2014 FORD
FOCUS***

***CHECK WITH US FOR DETAILS**

Come see why we earned the most coveted award for dealers from Ford - the President's Award.
Check out our inventory at WWW.ERNESTMCCARTY.COM or stop by and see us at 1471 Highway 31 South and call us at 663-3831.

**SHELBY
COUNTY'S ONLY
FORD DEALER
FOR OVER
30 YEARS!**



FOOTBALL TIME AT THS

The Thompson High School football team will be kicking things off early this year with its first game scheduled for Friday, Aug. 22, at Wetumpka High School.

In January, the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Central Board of Control voted to give teams the option of playing a non-region game that weekend, in place of the traditional jamboree. According to Thompson Head Coach Michael Montgomery, that's what most of the bigger schools have chosen to do.

"That's the jamboree week," said Montgomery. "You can opt to have a full game or you can opt to have a jamboree, and most of the larger schools are going to have a game."

For the coaches, that's meant getting the team ready earlier, but according to Montgomery, the Warriors have been up to the challenge.

"We're in full swing,"

Montgomery said in an Aug. 14 interview. "We're really looking forward to it. We've put in a lot of quality work."

According to Montgomery, the Warriors return a number of starters from last year's squad, including seven on offense and seven on defense. That includes senior quarterback Zach Brammer.

"He had a really good spring, and it's one of those things where he wants to be the best he can be," said Montgomery. "He had a solid season his rookie season, and I'm looking for him to improve on that and be a good leader for this ball club. He definitely has the tools to have a good year."

Montgomery also had praise for the rest of the seniors on the team.

"This senior class, even though they don't have a lot of numbers, they are willing and they're able," he said. "They look to lead and look to do their part."

For the state's largest schools, this is the first year to compete under the new 7A Classification. Thompson will be competing in Region 3, along with Hewitt-Trussville, Hoover, Mountain Brook, Oak Mountain, Spain Park, Tuscaloosa County and Vestavia Hills.

Last year, the Warriors finished 4-6 on the season, with a 31-16 victory over Pelham. This year, the Warriors travel to Pelham

the second week of the season for a road game on Friday, Aug. 29.

The Warriors' first home game will be Friday, Sept. 19 against Hoover, in the newly-renovated Larry Simmons Stadium. Currently, the stadium is in the process of getting a new turf field, and Montgomery said the team is looking forward to it.

"They're excited to get an opportunity to play out there," he said.

Thompson High School 2014 Varsity Football Schedule

8/22 @ Wetumpka

8/29 @ Pelham

9/5 @ Spain Park

9/12 @ Mountain Brook

9/19 Hoover

10/3 @ Vestavia

10/10 Hewitt-Trussville (HC)

10/17 @ Tuscaloosa County

10/24 Oak Mountain

10/30 Chelsea



GO WARRIORS!

FIGHTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE BY REP. APRIL WEAVER



Representative April Weaver

Drug overdose deaths in the United States have tripled since 1990, primarily due to increasing rates of prescription opioid painkiller abuse and misuse. I recently read an article related to information recently released by The Center for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the study, in 2012 Alabama was number one in painkiller prescribing in the nation, with 143 prescriptions per 100 people.

I think we will all agree we like to be number one in football, but this number one ranking is not an honor we proudly wear. Prescription painkiller overdose deaths are just the tip of the iceberg. In 2011, for every one death caused by a prescription painkiller, 25 emergency room visits for misusing or abusing opioid painkillers occurred, 105 people met the clinical criteria for opioid painkiller abuse or dependence, and 659 people

used such drugs without a medical reason. Nationally, four times more prescription painkillers were sold to pharmacies, hospitals, and doctors' offices in 2010 than in 1999. Once painkillers are prescribed and dispensed, many of these drugs are diverted to non-prescribed users. We face an issue of making sure the people with legitimate prescription needs continue to get treated appropriately while focusing on the abuse that is taking place in the current system.

In 2012, the Alabama Legislature passed a prescription drug abuse package of bills. I was proud to sponsor several of those bills. One focus of the 2012 bills was the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). PDMPs electronically track prescriptions for controlled substances using data submitted by pharmacies. When suspicious prescribing behavior is detected, these programs can notify certain entities or agencies of possible abuse.

These programs can curb inappropriate prescribing behavior and prevent patients from obtaining controlled substances from multiple providers. Legislatures in 49 states enacted laws to create PDMPs, and each state's program operates differently. Nationwide I believe the continued focus of

PDMPs will be:

- Encouraging interstate exchange of PDMP data by developing interoperability standards with neighboring states.
- Requiring real-time data reporting to make prescription information available to providers immediately after a drug has been dispensed.
- Requiring prescribers of controlled substances to participate in the PDMP.
- Allowing programs to generate and distribute routine reports to prescribers that track usage and prescribing rates.
- Encouraging PDMP data sharing among clinicians, licensure boards, law enforcement, Medicaid Program Integrity offices, researchers, etc., in appropriate circumstances.
- Ensuring that providers are knowledgeable about

the state's PDMP and other overdose prevention tools to increase participation.

Whether we want to admit it or not, prescription drug abuse is a huge issue for our state as well as Shelby County. Our law enforcement groups are working hard to address this growing issue. Our local take back programs are a great thing for our communities.

We are awaiting data that will show the effectiveness of the 2012 prescription drug abuse laws. Based on preliminary results, I believe the data will show the laws we have enacted have been successful however, this is an issue we must continue to address.

The deadline for tax return extensions is near. Don't wait! Make an appointment to come in and complete your taxes.

- Tax Return Preparation - Individual and Business
- Accounting/Bookkeeping service
- Small Business Consulting

Essential Solutions, Inc.

Cris Nelson, E.A.

Enrolled Agent

663-8686

The "Essential Solution" to all your accounting and tax needs.
138 5th Avenue N. in Alabaster

www.Essential-Solutions.biz



Southern Vintage Market

Home and Garden Decor







Come see our unique mix of old & new furnishings for home & garden. •Glassware
•Furniture•Linens•Yard Art & Decorations

8111 HWY 119 ALABASTER
1/2 Mile South of Publix
OPEN WED. - SAT. 10 - 5

903-0369

ARCA TEACHES KIDS ABOUT FLIGHT

This summer, the Alabaster Radio Control Association has been busy both at the flying field in Alabaster and away. One of the highlights of the season included participating in a summer camp for gifted students in Helena.

"We were invited by one of the Helena gifted teachers for a summer camp they were doing," said ARCA member Leslie Harrison. "We had six members to go over, and each member did a presentation of their airplane. Then the students built rubber band-powered airplanes, and they got to wind them up and fly them."

The group provided a similar program last year for students at Thompson

Intermediate School in Alabaster.

"Actually the teachers in Alabaster were the ones that told the teachers in Helena about us," said Harrison.

In addition to being avid hobbyists, ARCA members are in the unique position of being able to teach kids about aviation. Working with RC planes has given them a wealth of knowledge about the dynamics of flight. And providing the kids with a hands-on learning experience also makes learning fun.

According to Harrison, plans are for the group to return to Thompson Intermediate to present the program again this year.

This fall, the group will

also be holding one of its big club events, when it holds its annual family day for club members. The day is an opportunity for ARCA members to bring their families out to the park to introduce them to the hobby that they get to enjoy year-round.

"The wives and everybody come out," said Harrison. "It's just a fun day to fly and socialize with all of our friends and have a good time."

The event will take place at Limestone Park in Alabaster, where the club maintains its pavilion and RC airstrip. According to Harrison, club members will get there early to start hitting the skies.



"Depending on the weather, we'll be out there most of the day," said Harrison. "There will be some people there about seven o'clock, and then some of the other guys will come about lunchtime to eat. This will be the third or fourth year we've done it. It's just a good, family gathering."

For anyone interested in RC aviation, the group will also be holding its regular monthly meeting on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Mayhall Building Company A Full Service Construction Firm

- OVER 25 YRS EXPERIENCE
- LICENSED & INSURED
- NEW HOMES • REMODELING
- LOTS OF FLOOR PLANS TO CHOOSE FROM
- COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
- ROOFING & FOUNDATION
- ALL YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS

www.buildingbama.com

Located right here in Alabaster, AL 35007

Call today!
937-8607

ALL FRESH, ALL GOOD ALL THE TIME!



- BURGERS
- PO-BOYS
- HOAGIES
- TACOS • WINGS • NACHOS
- CHEESESTEAKS • FRIES

Special Chubbs Coupon
**FREE KIDS MEAL WITH
PURCHASE OF ONE
ADULT ENTREE**

Coupon good thru 9/30/14

Special Chubbs Coupon
**FREE KIDS MEAL WITH
PURCHASE OF ONE
ADULT ENTREE**

Coupon good thru 9/30/14

HELP FEED THE
PEOPLE - BRING 2
CANNED GOODS
FOR FOOD BANK &
GET A FREE DRINK.

CHUBBS

--GRUB STATION--

FEED THE PEOPLE

410 1st. St. next to Hallmark in the Southbrook Village

Open Mon-Thurs 10:30 - 8:30 pm, Fri. & Sat. 10:30 am - 9:30 pm

Like us on Facebook & Twitter or visit CHUBBSGRUB.COM

LET US CATER YOUR NEXT PARTY!

664-8696

COUPLE CREATES MEMORABLE BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

A local couple, DJ and Renea Dittenhoefer of Alabaster, recently announced the upcoming birth of their child with a creative video that's garnered over 14,000 views on YouTube.

The video, which is shot in the style of a Hollywood movie trailer, features their 3-year-old daughter, Bella Reese, in the starring role of Batgirl. During the video, she transforms into her secret identity and saves the day for a number of distressed residents, before ultimately deciding it's time she got a "side-kick."

"We wanted to do something a little bit different," said DJ Dittenhoefer, of the decision to do a creative announcement. "When it came time to tell our friends and family, we were like, hey we should make a video."

It was a natural choice, as DJ has video experience on film sets and works professionally as video director for Yellow Hammer News. He also happens to have the right equipment to make it look completely authentic. The camera he used to film the footage, for example, is the same type that's used in giant, blockbuster movies.

"It's actually the same camera that they used to

film 'The Hobbit' and the 'Spiderman' movies," said DJ. "It is super high-definition, basically a movie-quality camera."

In terms of the actual concept, DJ credits Bella Reese for providing the direction.

"It was her idea," he said. "She loves dressing up like Batgirl. She came up with some of the ideas. She wanted to fly, she wanted to save people, so we just kind of came up with the different ideas for things to do."

The response that the video has garnered speaks to how well it's done.

"We had no idea that many people would view it," said DJ. "We just wanted to do something fun and creative and show our friends and family. We had no idea that so many people would share it."

According to DJ, the video took a couple of weeks to complete and included green-screen technology to create some very impressive effects.



An Alabaster family created a unique video as a baby announcement featuring their Daughter Bella Reese. To view the video, go to YouTube.com and search "DJ Dittenhoefer," then click on the link for "BATGIRL in 4K."

"We figured if we're going to make a video, we might as well make it fun," he said.

To view the video, go to

YouTube.com and search "DJ Dittenhoefer," then click on the link for "BAT-GIRL in 4K."




Trading Ashes



Paint Parties • Custom Crafts
Photobooth Rental • Invitations
Pagent & Special Event Hairstyles

Leah Pinion www.tradingashes.com
205.368.4723




alabaster

pediatric dentistry

Lauri Williams, DMD, PC
Charles Bordenca, DMD

219 North First St., Alabaster, AL 35007
 Phone **205.664.2130** After Hours **205.941.0631**

Find us on  Facebook www.AlabasterSmiles.com



TIME TO TAILGATE!
FULL SERVICE SALON NEW! WE NOW OFFER MASSAGE THERAPY! MANICURES & PEDICURES VOTED "BEST OF THE BEST SALONS" IN SHELBY LIVING WALK-INS WELCOME!

Front Row (l-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

217A 1ST ST. N (HWY 31) NEXT TO THE OLD CITY HALL
 HOURS: TUES - FRI 9-7, SAT. 9-3 CLOSED SUNDAY

SALON 5

PREMIER HAIR STUDIO LLC
664-0053

DUNKIN' DONUTS PLANS MOVE TO THE CITY

Cam Ward, Director of the Alabaster Industrial Development Board, has verified that Alabaster will soon have its very own Dunkin Donuts franchise. The store will be located at the site of the old Taco Bell on Highway 31, adjacent to the Shelby Motor Lodge and across from Ernest McCarty Ford.

The old Taco Bell building has been vacant for a number of years so the Dunkin Donuts franchise will be a welcome addition along this high traffic corridor. This site is a prime location for people that travel north on Highway 31 on their way to work since it is on the east side of the road. This will allow residents to swing through the drive through and grab

donuts and coffee to sweeten that long drive into the office.

The developer plans to demolish the existing building and construct a new store in its place for the chain. The new building will be constructed such that the drive-through window is on the driver's side of the vehicle rather than that of the passenger side which is the case with the current building.

The developer has submitted design plans to the city and received approvals for setbacks and preliminary design from the Alabaster Planning and Zoning Board. This will be the second location for Dunkin in Shelby County. The first Dunkin Donuts is in Pelham at 480 Cahaba



Valley Rd.

Dunkin Donuts is known for their donuts as their names suggests, but they also serve an array of sandwiches to satisfy your taste buds any time of the day. You may begin your day with a breakfast sandwich of eggs, cheese, ham, or sausage, on a choice of Texas toast, English muffins, or bagels.

For lunch and dinner, Dunkin offers freshly-made bakery sandwiches with choices like grilled

chicken, ham and cheese, or maybe a turkey cheddar bacon combination. The chain offers a variety of cold, hot, and frozen drinks to top off the meal, which includes that legendary Dunkin Donuts coffee that will get your day off on the right foot. A detailed schedule for the construction and opening of the store has not been released yet but the time frame should be early to middle 2015.



WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN MAKING YOUR PROPERTY LOOK !

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- **Lawn maintenance** • **Landscape Installation** • **Pruning**
- **Pine Straw** • **Mulch** • **Pressure Washing and much more!**



10% OFF

YOUR FIRST VISIT

www.betterlawnandgardens.com

Call us for your free quote at
(205) 515-9467

jon@betterlawnandgardens.com



KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

THANKS ALABASTER FOR MAKING US # 1

We sell more in Alabaster than anyone. So why work with an agent from Vestavia, 280, or outside our area? We live & work right here in your neighborhood, so call the #1 Alabaster Team when you're serious about results. We're conveniently located in the Promenade between Walmart and Habaneros and are ready to serve you. Call one of us today!



Molly Ledbetter
541-3500



Kena Perkins
218-2695
kenaperkins.com



Tim Mitchell
305-8756
TimMitchellSells.com

NEW HOMES
\$280s - \$400s
Lake Forest
Sterling Gate
Maple Ridge
Call Tim Mitchell
305-8756



Lots for Sale \$30s - \$50s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



3BR/2BA Hoover \$130s
Molly Ledbetter 541-3500



5BR/3BA Shop 18 Acres \$525k
Kena Perkins 218-2695



4BR/2.5BA \$240s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4-5 BR NEW HOME \$330s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4BR/2.5BA \$230s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4BR/2BA \$140s
Molly Ledbetter 541-3500



4BR/2.5BA \$160s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



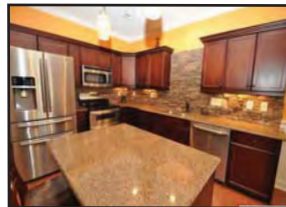
4BR/3BA \$220s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4BR/2BA \$150s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



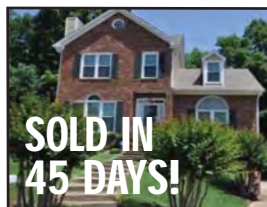
4BR/3BA \$214k
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4-5 BR/3BA \$190s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



5BR/3.5BA \$219k
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



3BR/2.5BA Hoover \$209k
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



Lakefront 4BR/3BA \$220s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



3BR/2BA \$120s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



5BR/3.5BA 1 Acre \$280s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



5BR/3BA \$260s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



3BR/2.5BA \$150s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



4-5 BR/3.5 BA \$290s
Tim Mitchell 305-8756



Call the #1 Alabaster Team & get it SOLD!

Each office is independently owned & operated.





Alabaster BUSINESS PROFILE

ALABASTER AUTO SERVICE, LLC

For folks in need of auto repair service, Alabaster Auto Service LLC in Alabaster offers friendly service in a convenient Alabaster location.

Located on First Avenue West, beside the old Municipal Annex, they've been helping Alabaster residents in one form or another for over four decades.

According to Wayne Weathers, who coordinates outside sales for Alabaster Auto, the business was originally opened in 1970 by owner Jack Williams.

"He started this as a tire center in 1970," said Weathers.

Since then, the business has grown to include all manner of auto repair, and in fact, it's still growing today. According to Weathers, the business will be getting new signs during the month of August to help modernize the building's look.

"We're getting a facelift on the outside of the building, with better identification and better signage," said Weathers.

In terms of repair serv-



(L-R) Ricky Tidmore, Wayne Weathers, Joe Burdge, Cory Spangler, John Robinson and Scott Walker. Not pictured are Randal Fields, Ali Altimimi and Jack Williams

ices, Alabaster Auto Service can pretty much do it all, from filters and alignments to brakes and belts.

"We have two ASE-certified technicians, and we do primarily everything but paint and body work," said Weathers.

They also provide routine maintenance, like changing the oil. This summer, they ran a very competitive oil-change promotion that included a 22-point inspection and tire rotation.

In terms of tire replacement, they've got that covered as well, with all of the major brand name tires.

"From the tire stand-

point, we are an authorized Michelin, BFGoodrich, Uniroyal dealer. We're also an authorized Continental and General dealer," said Weathers. "We also sell Dunlop, Goodyear and Kelly-Springfield Tires too. So we've got all the major brands available to us from five different warehouses that we get twice a day delivery."

According to Weathers, ASE-certified technicians are required to stay up to date on the latest in auto repair.

"They have to go through some pretty strenuous tests annually, and it

covers just about all makes and models," said Weathers.

As one of Alabaster's oldest businesses, Alabaster Auto tries to maintain and nurture its important ties within the community. This year at Alabaster CityFest, for example, the company had a double booth, where it had a bean bag toss for the kids and a variety of giveaways.

Alabaster Auto Service LLC is owned by Jack Williams. The store manager is Ricky Tidmore. For more information, visit them online at www.alabaster-autoservice.com. The website frequently features coupons and specials and includes other information, like hours and service details.

**Alabaster
Auto
Service, LLC**
100 First Ave. W.
664-7311

HOME Handy Man

Rotten Wood Repairs • Decks • Fences • Trim Work
Basement Finish • Painting • Sheet Rock Repairs
Minor Electrical & Plumbing Repairs

Over 25 Years Experience

T.J. Lisenba - **540-3199**

WE'LL TACKLE YOUR CLEANING CHORES!

FOOTBALL SEASON MEANS GAMES, SCHOOL, PARTIES, BUT THE CLEANING CHORES KEEP PRESSING! NO PROBLEM! CALL IN THE SPECIAL TEAMS AT KLASSY KLEAN TO TACKLE YOUR CLEANING. PUT US IN, COACH, WE'RE READY TO WORK!

Lyn Edwards, Owner

685-9883

SEN. CAM WARD TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

Senator Ward was personally invited to testify about Alabama's prison reform efforts before The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations by Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA06)

"As a former Congressional staffer to Congressman Bachus, and a recruited candidate for Alabama's 6th Congressional District, it is an honor to get to testify before Congress," Ward said. "Furthermore, Alabama's acute prison problems should be solved at the state level, and I expressed our vision for addressing our needs, and to keeping the federal government from forcing our hands."

Ward testified on Tuesday, July 15, at 10am in Room 2141 of The Rayburn House Office Building. His written and oral testimony before the committee will be available on their website, and portions of it inserted into the congressional record.

"I don't consider myself an expert on this subject, but I have been studying it for a little while now, and I am confident that with the blue ribbon panel of experts we

have assembled we will find conservative, Alabama-based solutions to our prison issues," Ward said. "I am looking forward to not only informing the congressional committee about our efforts, but hearing the testimony of the assembled experts, and where relevant implementing their solutions."

Ward passed the bill creating the Alabama Joint Prison Reform Task Force during the 2014 Regular Session of The Alabama Legislature, and was named as Chairman by Gov. Robert Bentley in June.

22 states have previously participated in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Recently, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Mississippi have used this process to achieve reforms that should reduce their prison populations by 8-10%.

Ward's testimony stated: "To moderate the spiraling prison population growth and in response to crisis conditions, Alabama has utilized various alternatives such as work release, pre-trial diversion programs, supervised intensive restitution, community corrections programs, correctional incentive time (good time), parole, special release dockets, drug courts, and new prison construction. While Alabama's correc-



(From Left) Alabama State Senator Cam Ward, Rep. Jerry Madden of Texas and Secretary of Corrections Tom Wenzel of Pennsylvania. SENATOR WARD'S FULL TESTIMONY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB EDITION AT WWW.ALABASTERNEWSLETTER.COM

tional history is replete with efforts to alleviate overcrowding, these efforts have always had to compete with laws and practices geared to punish offenders more severely, including the Habitual Felony Offender Act, sentence enhancements, good time restrictions, parole minimum time-served

policies, and mandatory minimum sentences. The result of this balancing act is a complex set of laws, policies, and processes, each instituted over the past 30 years, to deal with the unique problem of the day."

Ward's testimony also stated: "Any future reform

(CONT ON PAGE 14)

AFFORDABLE SMALL ENGINE REPAIR IN ALABASTER



Quick Turnaround time • All Work Guaranteed • Tune-ups • Blades Sharpened • Carburetor Work • Pick up and delivery available • We sell used mowers too! Call Gary, a Navy Veteran, to help you today!!

CALL US 6 DAYS A WEEK MON - SAT

337-0725

Stephen R. Stricklin, DMD
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- New Patients Welcome
- Caring, Friendly Staff
- Professional Cleaning & Exams
- Tooth Colored Fillings



IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON! GO WARRIORS!

CARE CREDIT 12 MONTH - NO INTEREST FINANCING (If Approved)

Hrs: Mon & Wed 7-3 Tues & Thurs. 8-5
www.drstricklin.com
By appointment only. New Patients Welcome! Call today!

223 First Street North (Hwy 31)
Alabaster, Alabama 35007

663-6644

Chamber Golf Event Sept. 9

The Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 25th annual golf fundraiser on Tuesday, Sept. 9.



The "Golf Fore Education!" event will be held at Bent Brook Golf Club in Bessemer and will feature a four-person scramble format. Participants can register either as an individual (\$150 per player) or as a team (\$600 for a team of four). Fees include course and cart fee, plus two meals (breakfast and lunch), two drink tickets and all the contests.

Registration at the event begins at 8:15 a.m., with breakfast served at 8:30 a.m. The shotgun start begins at 9 a.m.

Funds raised by the event will go toward the Chamber's workforce development and education initiatives. Some of those programs include the

Chamber's "Keeping It Real" program and the new career awareness fair for this year's 10th graders.

Bent Brook Golf Club is located at 7900 Dickey Springs Rd. To get there, take Interstate 459 toward Tuscaloosa and take Exit 1 (Bessemer, McCalla). Cross back over the Interstate and then turn left on Bell Hill Road. At the fork, turn left onto Dickey Springs Road.

The title sponsor for this year's event is HealthSouth Lakeshore Rehabilitation Hospital. For more information, including information on possible sponsorship opportunities, visit the Greater Shelby County Chamber Commerce online at www.shelbychamber.org.

Make the Most of Your Money with a NO FEE BALANCE TRANSFER to a LEGACY VISA® and Save!

- Annual Percentage Rate as low as 8.90% APR* (consistently low rate not tied to a variable index)
- No Fee Balance Transfers**
- No Annual Fee
- No Minimum Finance Charge
- No Penalty APR
- No Cash Advance Fees
- 25 Day Grace Period on Purchases
- Manage Account Online/E-Statements Available
- Platinum Preferred VISA® Earns Points with



ScoreCard Rewards *** (Redeemable for Travel & Merchandise)

www.legacycreditunion.com



Available to qualifying members only. Certain restrictions apply.
 *Annual Percentage Rate (APR) between 8.90% and 12.90% based on your creditworthiness and card type. **Balance transfers not valid between existing Legacy Visa credit cards. ***ScoreCard points on Platinum Preferred Visa only.

SHEAR GRACE SALON

8919 Hwy 119, Alabaster, 35007 (205) 664-9888

CELEBRATE WITH US!



Please join us in celebrating the **GRAND EXPANSION** of Shear Grace Salon and Spa.

Be among the first to browse our new spacious addition, as well as our expanded services. Let us pamper you!

We will be hosting a Salon/Spa Sample Party **Saturday, Sept. 20th** 9a.m to 5 p.m. **FREE!!**

Everyone is welcome! We have something for everyone. Explore our new services, such as manicures, pedicures, make-up, skincare, facials and much more. Call us for more information or stop by and take a look around.



PERSONAL AUTO SERVICE

IT'S NOT JUST A REPAIR, IT'S A RELATIONSHIP®

SAME DAY SERVICE • Full Auto Repair Service. • ASE Certified • Tires • Batteries • Servicing All Makes & Models



Owner Jim Cipriano

FREE ALIGNMENT WITH PURCHASE OF 4 TIRES
 Most makes & models
 Offer good thru 9/30/14

LUBE, OIL, FILTER & TIRE ROTATION \$29.99 NO APPT. NEEDED
 Most makes & models Up to 5 qts. oil
 Offer good thru 9/30/14

10% OFF ANY REPAIR OVER \$100*
 * Labor Only. Offer good thru 9/30/14

PERSONAL AUTO SERVICE EXPRESS 9400 HWY 119, Alabaster, AL 35007
 Between Publix & the Post Office Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am- 5:30 pm.

621-2622

WARD TESTIFIES

(CONT' FROM PAGE 12)

efforts in the Alabama Corrections System must be data driven and not politically driven. We must begin to use the benefits of modern science and academic studies to help resolve the challenges that face all areas of the Criminal Justice System. In Alabama, recent improvements have been made and must continue. These reforms include improving the effectiveness of information sharing among all components of the criminal justice system; utilization of a risk-needs responsiveness model as the way to channel scarce program resources to those offenders who will benefit the most; and enhanced utilization of community corrections programs – diverting offenders from the costly confines of a correctional facility and offering an opportunity for rehabilita-

tion in their community with family and positive role models who support rehabilitation. In addition to these reforms, we must also understand the importance of correctional education and properly funding a proven method of lowering our recidivism rates.”

Ward spearheaded enlisting The Council of State Governments’ cost-free assistance via their Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Ward was also recently named to The Council of State Governments 21st Century Foundation Board of Trustees, which helps shape future program for state leaders throughout the nation.

“I am committed to finding conservative solutions on Alabama’s prison issues,” Ward said.



Albritton & Ardovino
FAMILY DENTISTRY



At Albritton & Ardovino Family Dentistry we are dedicated to providing a friendly, comfortable environment to treat your dental needs with an emphasis on a lifetime of prevention. We focus on developing honest, true relationships with our patients and their families. Our goal is to achieve the healthiest smile possible for each patient in our practice.

- Exams & X-rays
- Cleanings
- Periodontal Care
- Fillings
- Crowns/Bridges
- Implant Crowns
- Full & Partial Dentures
- Root Canals
- Extractions
- Nitrous Oxide
- Whitening

**Call today to schedule an appointment!
205-664-7610**

www.aaFamilyDental.com
100 Colonial Promenade Pkwy Suite 400
Alabaster, AL 35007
Next to American Family Care



ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

08/30/14	vs. West Virginia TV	Atlanta, Georgia
09/06/14	vs. Florida Atlantic TV	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
09/13/14	vs. Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa
09/20/14	vs. Florida	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/04/14	at Ole Miss *	Oxford, Mississippi
10/11/14	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Arkansas
10/18/14	vs. Texas A&M	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
10/25/14	at Tennessee *	Knoxville, Tenn.
11/08/14	at LSU	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
11/15/14	vs. Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/22/14	vs. Western Carolina	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
11/29/14	vs. Auburn *	Tuscaloosa, Ala. TBA

AUBURN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	ARKANSAS AUBURN
Sept. 6	SAN JOSE STATE AUBURN
Sept. 13	** Open Date **
Sept. 20	at Kansas State Manhattan, KS
Sept. 27	LOUISIANA TECH AUBURN
Oct. 4	LSU AUBURN
Oct. 11	at Mississippi State Starkville, MS
Oct. 18	** Open Date **
Oct. 25	SOUTH CAROLINA AUBURN
Nov. 1	at Ole Miss Oxford, MS
Nov. 8	TEXAS A&M AUBURN
Nov. 15	at Georgia Athens, GA
Nov. 22	SAMFORD AUBURN
Nov. 29	at Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL

Use this coupon for a FREE Service Call with 3D Air Services, LLC

Ask us about our \$100.00 Referral Bonus!!

664-3501



Find us on Facebook

@3dairservices, LLC for monthly discounts and specials!



The Neighborhood Plumber

Open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
Emergency Serv. Avail.



**Don't Call a Stranger, Call Your Neighbor!
35 Years in Business!**

- Certified Backflow Testing & Installation
- Drain & Sewer Cleanin
- Experienced w/Lime & Pressure Problems
- Commercial and Residential

10% OFF!!!

(\$20 max discount given. Not to be combined with any other discounts or coupons.)

663-0612 24 Hours Emergency Service
www.theneighborhoodplumber.com



Find us on Facebook



ALABAMA STATE SENATE

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

DISTRICT NO. 14
BIBB, CHILTON, JEFFERSON
AND SHELBY COUNTIES

CAM WARD

POST OFFICE BOX 1749
ALABASTER, ALABAMA 35007
HOME 205/664-1066
DISTRICT OFFICE 205/620-6610
MONTGOMERY 334/242-7873
EMAIL: cam@camward.com
WEBSITE: www.camward.com

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY, *Chairman*
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, *Chairman*
FINANCE & TAXATION, GENERAL FUND
BUSINESS & LABOR
CONFIRMATIONS
HEALTH
LOCAL LEGISLATION NO. 2
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ALABAMA LAW INSTITUTE, *President*
AL PRISON REFORM TASK FORCE- *Chairman*

Opening Statement Regarding Prison Reform in the States

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss the challenges that both the state and federal corrections systems in the United States face today.

I am in a unique position because I come from a state that faces the most serious challenges of any state in the union with regard to our Corrections system. This problem however, presents my state with some opportunities to address our challenges with meaningful reform that has already taken root in Alabama. The State of Alabama faces a great crisis in our Department of Corrections. At 192% capacity, we are the most overcrowded prison system in the country.

Despite this high incarceration rate, Alabama still has the 8th highest violent crime rate in the United States. This ranking, as well as the high incarceration rate, is evidence that our current model is not working. In light of the *Plata* decision regarding California's Corrections system, it is estimated that in order for Alabama to achieve a Department of Corrections level of 137% capacity, we would need to spend an estimated \$600,000,000 on prison construction. This amount of spending would be fiscally irresponsible and represent over one-half of our entire General Fund Budget. Spending your way out of this problem is out of the question.

In addition to construction costs, other ideas besides "spending your way out of this problem" must be considered. Alabama currently spends

approximately \$42.50 a day per inmate, ranking us the lowest in the country on spending. Bringing Alabama's per-prisoner spending up to what Georgia or Florida spend per-prisoner would require a system-wide 20% increase in per-prisoner spending. Raising Alabama's per-prisoner spending to what Arizona spends would require an over 40% increase in per-prisoner spending.

The prison overcrowding crisis has resulted in a bipartisan effort to address criminal justice issues to ultimately improve public safety, hold offenders accountable for their criminal conduct, reduce recidivism, and determine where the State's limited resources can be best spent to accomplish these goals.

Alabama's criminal justice crisis is complex and deeply rooted and there are no silver bullets to cure all that ails the system. Retired Alabama Circuit Court Judge Joseph A. Colquitt recently summarized it best when he said, "It is vital we do not succumb to oversimplifying a complicated process and accepting easy answers. In this complicated area of law, solutions that sound simple are invariably based upon limited information or faulty assumptions."

While the situation appears bleak, the State of Alabama has been involved in dedicated reform efforts for well over a decade finding solutions to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the State's criminal justice system, most recently in the creation of the Alabama Prison Reform Task Force. This Task Force, created by Act 2014-11, was the result of a letter submitted by Governor Robert Bentley, Chief Justice Roy Moore, House of Representatives Speaker Mike Hubbard, Alabama Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh, Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner Kim Thomas and myself requesting the expertise of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Council of State Governments. Alabama was subsequently selected as a site to participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. In June of this year, Governor Bentley asked me to serve as the Chairman of this Task Force, which is comprised of 25 members from the public and private sector as well as all three branches of government. A special effort was made to include members from both political parties as well as inmate advocacy organizations and law enforcement.

22 states have previously participated in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Recently, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Mississippi have used this process to achieve reforms that should reduce their prison populations by 8-10%.

For decades, Alabama has grappled with a growing criminal justice system seemingly tugged in two different directions.

To moderate the spiraling prison population growth and in response to crisis conditions, Alabama has utilized various alternatives such as work release, pre-trial diversion programs, supervised intensive restitution, community corrections programs, correctional incentive time (good time), parole, special release dockets, drug courts, and new prison construction. While Alabama's correctional history is replete with efforts to alleviate overcrowding, these efforts have always had to compete with laws and practices geared to punish offenders more severely, including the Habitual Felony Offender Act, sentence enhancements, good time restrictions, parole minimum time-served policies, and mandatory minimum sentences. The result of this *balancing act* is a complex set of laws, policies, and processes, each instituted over the past 30 years, to deal with the unique problem of the day. (Alabama Sentencing Commission 2003 Report).

The State began to recognize the severe challenges our system faced in 2000 when the Alabama Legislature created the Alabama Sentencing Commission to review Alabama's existing sentencing structure, including all laws, policies, and practices. The Legislature further directed the Commission to provide recommendations on improvements to the State's criminal justice system on an annual basis. The Commission is a 21-member body comprised of representatives from the three branches of state government and other major stakeholders in the state's criminal justice system.

By the time the Commission was created, the entire criminal justice system was in need of comprehensive reform. Many believed the problems were too numerous and severe to resolve—an overcrowded prison system that had existed for years; county jails backlogged with state prisoners; a system lacking

truth-in-sentencing; confusing prison release policies; insufficient community based sentencing options; and a general fund that had no money to spare. The foundation for all recommendations and decisions made by the Commission has always been empirical evidence. The Commission established cooperative data sharing procedures with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Alabama Department of Corrections, Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center and the Alabama Community Corrections Association. These agreements allowed—for the first time in the state’s history—a comprehensive database to be created allowing for unprecedented insight into the state’s sentencing and correctional system. Applied Research Services (ARS), founded by Drs. Tammy Meredith and John Speir, was hired to help develop the Commission’s ability to collect, analyze, and interpret the immense amount of information.

Alabama recognized it could no longer afford to guess which policies would most effectively secure the safety of citizens but needed to join the ranks of states employing the use of empirically supported research to guide sentencing and criminal justice policy. In addition to not measuring what policies may or may not better protect public safety, the state did not have the ability to forecast or predict the impact of changes in sentencing laws and practices on criminal justice populations. ARS constructed, and the state still uses, one of the most accurate computerized correctional simulation models in the country. This tool allows the Commission to measure the impact of proposed laws or practices before implementation providing an essential tool for the development of an intelligent and carefully planned criminal justice system.

The major component of the Commission’s work has been the creation and recent modifications of the state’s Sentencing Standards (guidelines). One of the initial findings after reviewing years of statewide sentencing information was that sentencing practices varied immensely across the state. Even similarly situated offenders often received very different sentences (incarceration vs. community supervision and length of sentence). The Standards were developed to eliminate unwarranted sentencing disparity while maintaining meaningful

judicial discretion. The initial Sentencing Standards that went into effect October 1, 2006 were voluntary. After reviewing years of information, the Initial Voluntary Sentencing Standards were not followed to the extent that was hoped. In the 2012 Regular Session, the Alabama Legislature directed the Commission to make the necessary modifications to the Initial Voluntary Sentencing Standards to transition to Presumptive sentencing for drug and select property offenses beginning October 1, 2013. This has not been without political debate within the law enforcement community. I have worked closely with our District Attorneys to make sure these guidelines do not hinder the prosecution or settlement of cases. As I have said before, this reform effort will continue to be a work in progress and further changes may be necessary to the sentencing guidelines.

Alabama can greatly reduce its' overpopulation that depends solely on incarceration by using alternative sentencing programs. The problem is that Community Corrections programs that are currently in the state are not created by the state nor staffed by state employees. These programs can only be created by a county or non-profit agency pursuant to state law; however, they provide an essential service helping to alleviate state prison overcrowding by supervising felony offenders upon direction from courts and supervision of offenders leaving prison. Recognizing the state needed more community corrections programs and to make existing ones more efficient and effective, the Sentencing Commission recommended, and the Legislature later approved, the creation of a Division of Community Corrections within the ADOC with a full-time director and staff and an appropriation from the general fund budget earmarked for program implementation and operating costs. Out of the 67 counties in Alabama, there are 48 counties with a community corrections program and ADOC continues to coordinate with other counties to establish new programs.

Community Corrections Programs (CCP) offers a variety of services as alternative punishment options for judges to utilize to assist the state, counties and municipalities with crowding within incarceration facilities. The purpose of community corrections is to provide services that expand the options available for sentencing criminal defendants. By diverting low to medium-risk offenders from

prison, scarce prison space is available for the incarceration of violent and repeat offenders. Many offenders exhibit characteristics that are static and cannot be changed. However, dynamic factors such as poor work habits, criminal associates and lack of educational training can be impacted through targeted interventions. Offenders who display a range of actions that are correlated with criminal conduct respond well to such interventions.

To improve community corrections outcomes, the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) adopted evidenced based practices. In 2012, ADOC implemented a validated risk and needs assessment instrument known as the Alabama Risk Assessment System (ARAS) for community corrections offenders. The goal of the system is to provide assessment tools that are predictive of recidivism for offenders, which allow county programs to allocate critical resources to those offenders who have an increased risk of recidivating.

Additionally, ADOC developed and implemented a statewide Community Corrections Offender Contact/Supervision Matrix based on the principles in the Alabama Risk Assessment System. This matrix is an invaluable tool to assist programs in the allocating of critical resources to offenders based on risk levels identified in the risk and needs assessment.

Alabama's Community Corrections Programs have experienced significant growth during the last 10 years. During the period from FY 2003-2013, the community corrections population grew by 548% - 503 offenders in FY 2003 to 3,261 offenders in FY 2013. In fiscal year 2003, there were 21 county community corrections program in Alabama; by FY 2013 there were 34 community corrections programs serving 45 counties. The growth during this period was 114% or an increase in 24 counties served. Currently, there are approximately 3,700 "otherwise prison bound" offenders being supervised in the community. The ADOC pays CCPs a monthly per diem for approximately 2,300 felony offenders.

One important factor to grow Community Corrections is to increase the number of counties who decide to organize a CCP and to provide a financial

incentive for CCPs to reach and surpass established goals to divert offenders who would otherwise be sitting in a prison bed.

Reading past reports of the Alabama Sentencing Commission reveals not only the debate regarding Corrections in my state but also future paths that may be taken if we have the political will. The 2003 report recommends that the state “provide a system of intermediate community-based punishment options allowing overnight incarceration as both a sentencing option and a re-entry option.” It continued, “On the front end, these facilities allow courts an additional sentencing option, placing non-violent offenders in the community to live in a penal facility and to work and pay for their incarceration, restitution, and family support. In addition, this type of facility can be used on the back end of a sentence of incarceration to require a gradual re-entry into the community for all incarcerated offenders who will be eventually released from prison back into the community.”

Any discussion about Alabama’s criminal justice system must include the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Nearly 53,000 felony offenders are on probation or parole supervision on any given day in Alabama. Fiscal constraints limiting the number of supervising officers have resulted in caseloads of nearly 200 offenders per officer, well above the nationally recognized standard of the desired caseload of 75 offenders or less per officer. Probation and parole officers have other duties other than offender supervision including preparation of presentence investigations, youthful offender investigations, sentencing standards worksheet preparation, victim location and notification, and collection of court ordered money.

The State cannot continue to crowd the prisons and we cannot expect to improve public safety by having unmanageable caseloads for probation and parole officers tasked with supervising nearly 53,000 felony offenders. There will likely have to be large shifts in the community supervision models employed in the state—both from staffing perspectives and how to best protect public safety by matching offenders with appropriate services that will decrease the likelihood of further criminal activity. The implementation and use of validated empirically based risk and needs assessment tools needs to be continued and expanded to

all segments of the criminal justice system to make best use of the resources allocated.

Any future reform efforts in the Alabama Corrections System must be data driven and not politically driven. We must begin to use the benefits of modern science and academic studies to help resolve the challenges that face all areas of the Criminal Justice System. In Alabama, recent improvements have been made and must continue. These reforms include improving the effectiveness of information sharing among all components of the criminal justice system; utilization of a risk-needs responsiveness model as the way to channel scarce program resources to those offenders who will benefit the most; and enhanced utilization of community corrections programs—diverting offenders from the costly confines of a correctional facility and offering an opportunity for rehabilitation in their community with family and positive role models who support rehabilitation. In addition to these reforms, we must also understand the importance of correctional education and properly funding a proven method of lowering our recidivism rates.

Corrections Systems in both Alabama and those under federal jurisdiction have a similar statistic in common. According to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) more than half of all prison and jail offenders have mental health (MH) problems. Specifically, 56.2% of state prison offenders have a mental health problem; 64.2% of local jail offenders have a mental health problem; (It should be noted that this is on a broader definition of mental health as opposed to those with serious and persistent mental illness SPMI) 74.1% of offenders with mental problems have a history of substance abuse (SA) or dependency; and 55.6% of offenders without mental problems have a history of substance abuse or dependency. It is clear that successful treatment of behavioral health disorders among offenders is a key component of addressing crime and recidivism rates. The method for addressing these problems has been successful in many parts of Alabama but have not been uniformly applied throughout the state leading to disjointed services. Providing a uniform, statewide system of Drug, Mental Health and Veterans Courts continues to be a goal for

others and myself in state government. It has a proven track record of greatly reducing the recidivism rate in the criminal justice system. While these alternative court procedures provide a valuable tool in reducing recidivism, they are not currently in place for every Alabama circuit. With a previously noted high level of drug addiction and mental health inmates, these courts offer a real opportunity for reducing future incarceration rates for non-violent offenders. We need to be proactive in expanding these programs throughout our state.

There are several other reform measures that continue to be studied in Alabama, but they need more support from the legislature. To better ensure access to and continuity of care for offenders, Alabama is creating the Alabama Secure Sharing Utility for Recidivism Elimination (ASSURE) information sharing portal. This innovative approach will allow authorized personnel from the Department of Corrections, Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Mental Health, community-based mental health and substance abuse providers to share treatment and supervision information for offenders.

The primary objectives of the initiative are to help offenders stay out of prison by allowing probation officers to monitor participation in court-ordered treatment programs. Secondly, it is important to ensure that offenders who go to prison receive the care they need by allowing intake and health care professionals to access treatment records from Mental Health hospitals and community mental health centers. Lastly, the objective is also to enable those who are leaving prison to receive speedy follow-up care within the community to improve the odds of their success in our communities. These objectives impact the safety of our neighborhoods and begin to favorably impact our recidivism rates.

The importance of funding these crucial information-sharing efforts, such as ASSURE, cannot be underestimated. These initiatives help lower costs by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the intake process for mental health and substance abuse service providers, mental health professionals, supervising probation and parole officers and our correctional professionals. Information sharing portals also enhance the continuity of care and reduce reliance on

emergency room services by referring people leaving correctional facilities to community-based mental health and substance use treatment services. More funding from both the state and federal government can help reduce overall constraints on state correctional systems by investing in these proven successful programs.

Our District Attorneys have also put forth many initiatives that have consistently been employed to reduce prison population. Among others, they have established adult drug courts and veteran's courts to deal with those drug offenders who would otherwise go to prison and to deal with the special needs of our veterans who were also most likely headed to prison. Their pretrial diversion programs have had a substantial impact on our system as well. Many thousands of non-violent, low-level offenders are kept out of the penitentiary system through all of these programs. Most cases are diverted after arrest and before grand jury thereby saving valuable court resources for those violent offenders who need to go to prison.

Evidence based programs must become the cornerstone of our criminal justice practices. The utilization of a needs responsiveness model is the way to channel scarce program resources to those offenders who will benefit the most. The Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) is being used in our community corrections programs throughout the state and recently within our correctional system. This evidence-based instrument is a strength-based risk and needs assessment designed to predict recidivism at different points in the criminal justice system. This instrument has been validated and normed for a corrections population. The use of the standardized assessment tool promotes the objective assessment of the risk of recidivism for offenders; its use improves communication with offenders and helps tailor treatment plans for the individual's identified need(s).

The ORAS interview guide is comprised of questions on a variety of criminogenic risk topics including criminal history, substance use, criminal peers, criminal thinking, employment and education, mental health, emotional control, personality, and residential stability.

The self-report instrument gathers information on criminal thinking, perspective taking, aggression, coping, empathy, emotionality, problem solving, and involvement in pro-social activities, financial stress, and employment. The ORAS tools will be used to target services for individuals assessed as moderate to high risk for recidivism. Use of the instruments will define the appropriate type, dosage and intensity of treatment and services both pre- and post-release for each program participant. The individualized reentry plan can incorporate the offender's risk and need level and identify which are the greatest criminogenic needs. These needs will be addressed in a targeted and systematic manner using interventions grounded in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

In 2007, the Alabama Sentencing Commission selected the ORAS Pre-Trial Assessment Tool for use with alternative sentencing programs. Community Corrections agencies are also utilizing the Community Supervision Tool, and ADOC will utilize the Prison Intake Tool at its receiving facilities and the Re-entry Tool through its Pre-release and Reentry Program within the facilities.

Key professionals, in state, county and local governments can use these models to develop individualized reentry plans to assist them as they transition from incarceration to the community. This uniform approach can provide consistent and sustained case planning and management out into the community.

While politically unpopular during tough budget times we must not forget the value of Correctional Education in Prison Reform. Being "Smart on Crime" suggests we work to rehabilitate those in custody. One important tool we have in our rehabilitation toolbox is correctional education that offers basic education, workforce training, and life skills necessary for success in our society. If we do not face the reality of this need, the chances that an incarcerated offender will be successful on the outside are bleak indeed. While some violent inmates will not and should not ever return to society where they are a threat to public safety, many inmates eventually do return to the community. Meanwhile, public opinion is generally averse to spending money on correctional education efforts and

instead advocates 'locking them up and throwing away the key.' In reality, locking them up and throwing away the key will not work—and has not worked.

According to statistics provided by the American Correctional Association and U.S. Bureau of Justice, some 95% of all offenders incarcerated today will ultimately be released back into society. This public opinion results in significant pressure, which leads decision-makers away from what is known about national practices regarding corrections. Consequently, not only is 'locking them up and throwing away the key' ineffective in making long-term change in offender behavior, it will not make Alabama citizens safer, and it is an economically unsustainable model. What do we know about the success of correctional education efforts?

It is well known and documented that education and skills training significantly reduce recidivism. A recent RAND research effort titled "How Effective is Correctional Education and Where Do We Go From Here?" reported that Correctional education improves offenders' chances of not returning to prison and their chances of post-release employment. It also found that offenders who participate in correctional education programs had 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who did not. This translates to a reduction in the risk of recidivating of 13 percentage points. Again, the goal of such basic education programs is to reduce recidivism and saving money for corrections system in the long run.

In conclusion, while Alabama has a serious challenge ahead in resolving our prison-overcrowding problem I believe that some of the alternative programs I mentioned today provide as a road map to a healthier system in the long run. Whether it is on the state or federal level, fixing corrections programs is not an easy or short-term task. There are some tough political choices that have to be made but fiscal constraints on our budgets and the obligation to maintain a constitutional system of corrections require that we start addressing this problem sooner rather than later.

Alabaster

ALBERT L. SCOTT

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.

Closed Dates - Monday, September 1, 2014. Labor Day.

LIBRARY ADULT ACTIVITIES

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

Wednesday, Sept. 3. 10:00 am - Basic Internet & Email

Wednesday, Sept. 10. 10:00 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Part 1

Wednesday, Sept. 17. 10:00 am - Microsoft Word 2007 Part 2

Yoga at the Library -- Starting September 4, 2014. 10:00 am. Join in for health & relaxation Thursday mornings in the meeting room. All levels of fitness welcome. For more information, call 664-6822.

Out of the Darkness: From Suicide Prevention to a Life Worth Living - Monday, September 8, 2014. 6:30 pm. Suicide is a growing issue across all populations in Alabama. Prevention and intervention are often discussed, but helping people understand the suicidal mind is less frequently talked about. This program, featuring internationally known expert Dr. Mary Bartlett, will focus on understanding the suicidal mind, reducing the risk of suicide, and identifying suicidal thoughts. The program will also cover how to build an alliance with the person in suicidal crisis, their family, and the community. Handouts will be provided.

Masterpiece Book Club - Friday, September 12, 2014. 2 pm. Join this new book club as we explore Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray makes a bargain to sell his soul in exchange for eternal youth and beauty. With his new found youth on his side, Dorian is drawn into a corrupt double life, where he is able to indulge his desires while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only Dorian's picture bears the traces of his decadence. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Couponing 101 - Saturday, September 13, 2014. 10:30 am. This FREE workshop will teach you the ins and outs of couponing. Allison Scanlan will discuss where to find coupons and the best ways to use them. Have coupons? Bring them to the workshop and see firsthand how couponing can save you money! Registration is required; please call 664-6822 to sign up.

Library Book Group - Thursday, September 18, 2014. 7:00 pm. Join us in our discussion of *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* by Maggie O'Farrell. A gothic, intricate tale of family secrets, lost lives, and the freedom brought by truth, *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* is a haunting look into one woman's tragic past. Program takes place in the meeting room.

Patsy Tidwell - Saturday, September 20, 2014. 10:30 am. Join us as local cookbook author and former owner of the Red Geranium restaurant dishes on all that is fabulous about Southern cooking. Cookbooks will be available for purchase. Program takes place in the meeting room.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Library Card Sign up Month-September is National Library Card Sign up Month and children who get their first library card at our library will also get a surprise. They must be with their parent or legal guardian who must bring their proof of Shelby County residency identification. This does not apply to replacement cards. The library card will be ready in about five minutes after filling out a short form.

Programs:

- Tuesday September 16 Lego League 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Kids can come play with Legos of all sizes and make new friends at the same time. Meets in the meeting room.

- Thursday September 25 Pete the Cat Book Club 4:00 p.m. Boys and girls 5 years old to 8 years old can join in the fun of cool cats, reading, and more during our meeting. Please sign up at the circulation desk. Meets in the meeting room. Children age 6 and younger must be with an adult.

- Friday September 26 American Girls Club 4:00 p.m. Girls age 7 years old and older can come learn about Laney and her world! Come with or without a doll. Please sign up at the circulation desk. Meets in the meeting room. Summer Challenge Wraps Up!

A summer of science-inspired exploring and reading is over for Alabaster's children of all ages at the Albert L. Scott Public Library where they became reading champions. 750 youngsters signed up for the program. The children's slogan was Fizz Boom Read and Spark a Reaction was the slogan for Young Adults (YAs) kids 11 years old to 18 years old. Youngsters picked personal reading goals, checked out and read library books, and earned prizes for reading. When they reached their goal they received a certificate.

During the Challenge there were entertainers, a science book club, crafts, a concert, a puppet show, and other activities. The Summer Challenge ended with a Fizz Boom Finale. 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: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AmStar Cinemas 14-Alabaster, Arby's, Bike Link, Birmingham Barons Baseball, Chick-fil-A, Dairy Queen, DeSoto Caverns Park, Dynamic Education Adventures, Friends of the Albert L. Scott Public Library, Logan's Roadhouse, Oak Mountain Lanes, Parent Teacher Store, Red Mountain Park, the UPS Store (Pelham), and Whataburger.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Save the Date...

Fall Book Sale October 3 - 5

Be a Friend! www.cityofalabaster.com or ask at the desk

MOBILE DEVICE WORKSHOP

Mobile Device Workshop for Adults-Thursday, Sept. 25. 6:00 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.

ALABASTER HOSTS CROSSFIT COMPETITION

CrossFit Alabaster, in partnership with the Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department, hosted the second-annual Dirty South Games this year at Veterans Park in Alabaster.

The two-day athletic competition was held on Saturday, Aug. 3, and Sunday, Aug. 4, and drew approximately 500 participants to the event.

"I really feel like it was a great success," said CrossFit Alabaster owner Leigh Hulsey. "About 500 people participated. We had people from Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and of course, lots of different areas from Alabama."

Like last year, the event was divided into individual competitions, which were held on Saturday,

and team competitions, which were held on Sunday. The teams consisted of four people, including two men and two women. The event also featured "Rx" divisions (advanced) and "Scaled" divisions (intermediate), along with a "Masters" category for participants over 40 years of age.

"This was our first year to have cash prizes for the people who won our Rx division," said Hulsey. "That's the highest division. Basically in CrossFit, there's Rx or scaled. Rx means you did what was prescribed. Then we modify that for the scaled division."

CrossFit is an exercise program that features workouts called WODs, short for Workout of the Day. The Dirty Games

included four WODs on Saturday and four WODs on Sunday. The team WODs included a variety of exercises, including dead lifts, box jumps, handstand pushups and more.

Despite the number of participants and all the activity, Hulsey said this year's competition went well.

"It flowed beautifully," she said. "It went really, really well. We had a lot of good feedback."

In addition to the competition, the event also featured a variety of different vendors, including a food vendor providing healthy lunches. Hulsey said she was pleased with this year's increased participation from vendors.

"We had a lot more apparel vendors," she said. Hulsey also credited the

City's Parks and Recreation department for helping to support the games and the volunteers from CrossFit Alabaster for helping staff the event.

"They are incredible people," said Hulsey. "They stayed out there for 12 hours a day in the heat, just doing anything that needed to be done."

According to Hulsey, CrossFit competitions are listed online on a website called The Garage Games www.thegaragegames.com.

"People know to go to the Garage Games website to look for local competitions," she said. "You go there and you just pull up your region."

For more information on CrossFit Alabaster, visit the gym online at Crossfitalabaster.com.

Network  **Data Dilemma?**
computer technologies



Let us help you make smart data decisions!

-Affordable & Quick -

- Virus Removal
- Data Recovery
- PC/Laptop

In Front Of Home Depot in Pelham 588-5860

SC SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC

205-369-2841

Your Home Improvement Specialist

**Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Home Repairs • Carpentry
Plumbing Electrical • Drywall
Room Additions • Remodels
Painting • Decks • Basements**

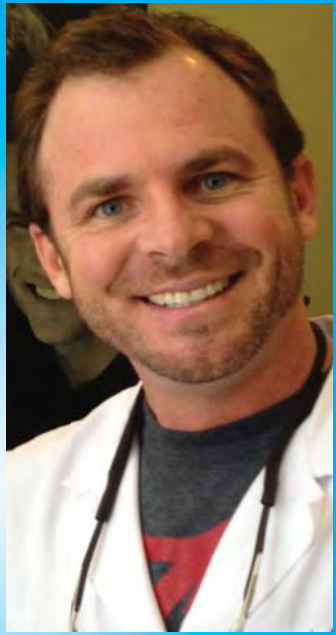
10% OFF labor maximum \$200
With this coupon.
Not valid with other offers or prior services.
Offer expires 9/30/14 Discount not to exceed \$200.00

LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR



A BRIGHTER SMILE FOR LIFE... ONLY \$99

Call for Details. Restrictions apply.




Dr. Scott A. Anderson, DMD

Anderson Dental

100 SOUTH COLONIAL DRIVE, SUITE 400
NEXT TO PANERA BREAD ALABASTER AT COLONIAL PROMENADE SOUTH.

205-664-1166



ROTARY DONATES VAN TO BACKPACK BUDDIES

The Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club recently presented a local, nutritional program called "Backpack Buddies" with a new van to assist with their deliveries. The presentation was held on Thursday, July 24 at Shelby Baptist Medical Center, where the Rotary Club holds its weekly meetings.

"It was wonderful," said Elizabeth Roland, a Helena attorney and long-time member of the local Rotary Club. "We were really thrilled with the whole thing."

Backpack Buddies is a program that provides food for schoolchildren in Shelby County who are at risk for food insecurity. The program, which is part of Vineyard Family Services, gives selected kids easy-to-fix foods that they can take home with them on weekends. The items might include pop-

top meals, juice boxes, granola bars, fruit cups and other nutritious items.

The Rotary Club was able to raise the money for the van through an annual fundraiser that it holds each November.

"We have a Christmas bazaar every November called 'A Southern Christmas Bazaar,'" said Roland. "We'll be putting that on again this year at the Pelham Civic Complex, and that was where the funds came from."

The Christmas bazaar features a variety of merchants selling Christmas-related items, ranging from clothing and collectibles to decorations and more. This year, the shopping event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday,



The Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club presented a new van to a local nutritional program called Backpack Buddies to help provide food to schoolchildren who are at risk for food insecurity.

Nov. 2, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Roland said that the Backpack Buddies program represented a good fit for how the Rotary Club wanted to use its funds.

"We had said we'd use them for nutrition and education, those types of things in the community, and we just felt like that would be a great fit for nutrition for sure," said Roland. "We knew what a good program they had."

They were driving around in their own personal vehicles delivering all the items."

For more information on the Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club, visit them online at Rotarysouthernchristmas.com. To learn more about the Backpack Buddies program, go to Vfsdads.com/backpack-buddies. They can also be found on Facebook by searching "VFS Charity."

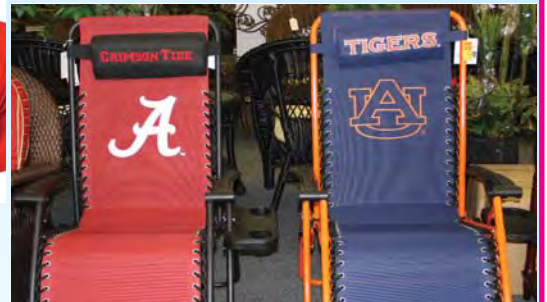


COLLEGIATE RIBBON
2 1/2" x 10 yds ROLL
SEVERAL STYLES
\$4.99 & UP

GET READY FOR FOOTBALL!!



ALABAMA & AUBURN T-SHIRTS
SPECIAL PURCHASE
REG. \$19.99 TO \$24.99
YOUR CHOICE \$14.99 EACH



ALABAMA & AUBURN
ZERO GRAVITY CHAISE LOUNGES
REGULAR \$149.99 SALE \$99.99

ALABAMA & AUBURN WREATHS
READY MADE \$49.99 & UP
OR WE HAVE ALL THE MERCHANDISE
YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN!



DECOR MESH
21" X 10 YDS. ROLL
REG. \$9.99
SALE \$4.99

ALABAMA & AUBURN
PILLOWS & CHAIR CUSHIONS!

HOME ACCENTS SPECIAL COUPON!

SAVE 25% OFF

ANY ONE REGULARLY PRICED ITEM
OFFER EXPIRES 9/13/14
EXCLUDES SALE, CLEARANCE, & PREVIOUS PURCHASES
CAN NOT BE USED WITH OTHER COUPONS.

HOME ACCENTS
YOUR HOME DECOR SUPERSTORE!

2750 PELHAM PARKWAY, PELHAM, AL
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM, CLOSED SUNDAY



621-2039



Alabaster

Parks & Rec Dept., 100 Depot St. 664-6840 www.alabasterparks.org

FALL FEST REGISTRATION

Registration: Sept. 22 thru Oct. 17 - weekdays only from 8 am until 5 pm at the Depot. Cost: \$30.00 for 15x15 booth. (You provide your own table and chairs.) Fall Fest will be on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 am until 3 pm on Buck Creek Trail.

BASKETBALL

Walk-in Registration: Sept. 15 thru Oct. 3 - weekdays only from 8 am until 5 pm at the Depot. On-line Registration: Sept. 15 at 8 am thru Oct. 4 at 2 pm. Cost: \$85.00 (10% additional fee for non-residents) Open to: **BOYS:** Kindergarten through 9th grade **GIRLS:** Kindergarten through 6th grade.
 *IMPORTANT: •9th graders who turned 15 before September 1, 2014 are not eligible. •Kindergarteners have to turn 5 before September 1, 2014 to be eligible to play (no exceptions).

FALL SOFTBALL

Practices will probably begin the week of Sept. 2. Games should begin around Sept. 15, and conclude at the end of Oct.

FOOTBALL/CHEER

We have around 355 children combined in both programs.
 •Games will start on Sept. 2, and run through the end of October. •All home games are played at Buck Creek Park located at 701 Sixth Ave. S.W. All games are played on weeknights with game times beginning at 6 pm. •Football Picture Day is set for Saturday, Sept. 6, at the THS football stadium off of Thompson Road. •Cheer Picture Day is set for Sunday, Sept. 7, at Buck Creek Park. •We look forward to seeing you at the park this season as you show your support for the future Warrior football players and cheerleaders.

FALL BASEBALL

The program is scheduled to begin on Sept. 9. It will run for 6 weeks.

START SMART SOCCER

One hour sessions will be held each Tuesday night from 6:00 until 7:00 pm beginning Sept. 2 and ending on Oct. 7. The sessions will be held at Depot Field (located at 100 Depot Street outside of the Parks and Recreation office). The program will conclude with a scrimmage and party on Oct. 11 at 10:00 am at Depot Field.

DIESEL UNLIMITED

TRUCK AND AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
FLEET SERVICES WELCOME

**CALL US FOR
BACK TO SCHOOL
SPECIALS!!**

Find us on Facebook

Open Mon-Fri 8-5

We offer you a FULL SERVICE SHOP:

- Maintenance•Engine
- Brakes •A/C •Tires
- Scan Diagnostic
- FORD • CHEVY
- DODGE • HINO

Owners Adam & Rikki Lowery

663-5677

www.dieselsunlimited.com

BARK IN THE PARK

Bark in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 am until 2 pm. It will be held at Veterans Park, 7305 Hwy. 119, Alabaster. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on lots of fun. There will be food, music, inflatables, vendors selling everything from dog bones to t-shirts, dog contests, etc.

FALL SOCCER

Games are scheduled to begin on Sept. 13 at Municipal Park located at 500 Warrior Drive between TMS and THS. Pictures are scheduled for Sept. 21.

PAVILIONS FOR RENT

Outdoor Rental Facilities: Several of our City Parks offer pavilions for events such as picnics, family reunions and birthday parties. The best way to make sure your event happens at the location of your choice is to contact Parks & Recreation before our books are filled with reservations. Pavilions are available for use by permit only. There is a \$40 rental fee (no checks accepted) and an additional refundable \$40 deposit (cash or check only) which must be paid before your reservation is complete. Note: Inflatables, charcoal grills, and piñatas are not allowed in any of the City parks. Please see our web site for a complete list of rules. All open picnic tables (those not under a covering) are available free of charge on a first come, first served basis.

**PICKETT
CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Remodeling and Restoration
- Vinyl, Fiber Cement, and Wood Siding
- Custom Decks
- Basement Finishing
- Interior and Exterior Repairs
- Patios and Pergolas
- Roofing
- Tile, Hardwood, and Carpet
- Brick, Stone, and Concrete
- Room Additions, Garages, and Carports
- All types of Fences
- Bathroom and Kitchen Remodeling
- Pressure Washing and Painting
- Energy Efficient Windows and Doors
- Screened Porches and Sunrooms
- Electrical and Plumbing

Visit us at our showroom
at 8101 Highway 119 in Alabaster

PickettConstruct.com

620-1798

Licensed & Insured
Over 30 Years Experience

KIDS FIRST PLANNING A BUSY FALL SEASON

This fall, Kids First Awareness 21st Century Community Learning Center in Alabaster is planning a number of great activities for the children at the center.

One new program they're kicking off in October is called "Homework Buddies." The program aims to partner community leaders with school kids at the center in a mentoring-type relationship.

According to Executive Director Cindy Hawkins, the mentors will meet with the kids at the center and help them with their homework. Then at the end of the school year, everyone will celebrate at the annual block party.

"We've never done this

program before," said Hawkins. "I've thought about it. Someone was asking me about the Backpack Buddies, and I said it sure would be nice to have a Homework Buddy."

According to Hawkins, the mentors will be required to ask the kids three questions.

"They have to ask them three things: what you're doing in school, what you're doing at home and what you're doing to help around the center," said Hawkins. "Those are the three questions they have to ask."

Another activity the kids will be doing this year will combine the arts and technology. Last year, they created a rap song called "Be Cool Stay in School,"

and this year, they'll be making a video to go with the song.

"We're going to take that song and we're going to make a video," said Hawkins. "We're going to add a dance to it."

The center is also planning a program for older kids to help them prepare for life after high school.

"We're also starting a college and career program. That's helping kids get ready for college or to find a job after they graduate," said Hawkins. "If they're graduating this year but not going to college, we'll try to help them find a job. But if they want to go to college, starting in October, we'll help them with the ACT test and making sure their grades

are up, whatever we have to do to help them get in college."

To help with all the activities, Cadence Bank recently gave the center a \$1,000 grant to be applied toward the purchase of new technology.

"They just wanted to be able to do something good to help the kids," said Hawkins. "I was just tickled pink."

Kids First is located off Simmsville Road in Alabaster. For more information, visit Kids First online at Kidsfirst123.com.



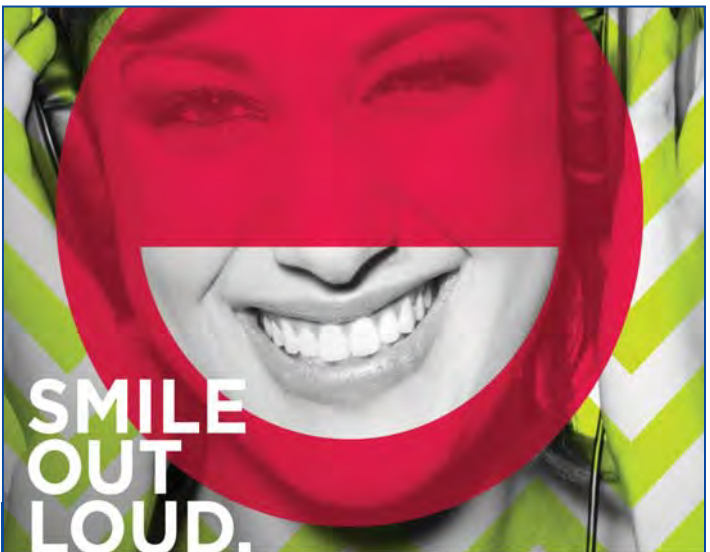
**Davis & Son
Lawn Care**

- Mowing & Grooming
- Core Aeration
- Leaf Removal
- Weed Control & Fertilization
- Pruning •FREE Estimates
- References Available
- Satisfaction Guaranteed



621-9716

email: davisandson@hotmail.com



SMILE
OUT
LOUD.



Buck's Pizza

PIZZA • WINGS • STROMBOLIS
STIX • SALADS • SANDWICHES

WE DELIVER
SUMMER
FUN!
CALL NOW &
SAVE!!


20% OFF DELIVERY

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT OF \$15
Can't be combined with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/14 • BUCK'S PIZZA CALL 358-3391


251 Buck Creek Plaza across from the Post Office on Hwy 119.
DELIVERY/DINE IN/CARRYOUT **358-3391**

BRACES +
INVISALIGN +
INVISALIGN TEEN

as low as **\$99 A MONTH**
No down payment options available.



Brandon Boggan, DMD, MS
 205.664.4140
OrthoSouth.com
 PELHAM + CALERA



Chilling Drama Oct. 3 -11

South City Theatre presents **WAIT UNTIL DARK** by Frederick Knott – JJ Marrs, Director

WAIT UNTIL DARK

October 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 at SCT (also tours to Homewood Library)

An apartment in 1960's becomes the site of theater's most terrifying game of cat and mouse. Desperate to reclaim a mysterious doll stuffed with illegal drugs, a con man lays a trap to ensnare a blind woman.

With the help of his criminal sidekicks and a few clever disguises, he spins a tale to fool the innocent and unsuspecting woman. But when the doll can't be found, the situation spirals out of control.

From the author of DIAL "M" FOR MURDER, WAIT UNTIL DARK proves that what you can't see can most definitely hurt you! 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
@SouthCityTheatr

GRAHAM & ASSOCIATES, CPAS
Serving Shelby County for 25 years!

For **Businesses & Individuals** in Shelby County, We offer:
Experience • Professionalism • Courtesy
Consultants for...

- ✓ Peachtree
- ✓ Tax Preparation
- ✓ Quickbooks
- ✓ Accounting
- ✓ Bookkeeping

"We Are Experts In Tax Consultation, Planning, and Preparation!"



Seated: Denise Graham, CPA, Accountant; Steve Emerson, CPA
Standing: Sally Truxal, Delight Davis, Angel Johnson
Not Shown: Roy Hadaway

Located one block South of Ernest McCarty Ford (across Hwy 31).
663-6673
DGRAHAM@GRAHAMANDASSOC.NET

Windows • Siding • Doors



205 • 965 • 1510

"10 Reasons..." to give Paul a Call!

- Licensed & Insured
- VSI Certified Installer
- BBB A+ Rating (Zero Complaints)
- EPA Certified Lead Renovator
- Factory Certified Craneboard Siding Installer
- Lifetime Workmanship Warranty
- Deal Directly with the Owner the Entire Project
- No Sub-Contractor Labor
- Lifetime of the Home Warranty (the only one!)
- No Hidden Cost Guarantee



Windows & Siding




Entry Doors



Paul Roberson, is a life long Shelby County resident. He has been in business since 1994. "Get big company security WITHOUT big company prices. Absolutely the BEST job at the BEST price." ~ Paul

Don't just take our word for it... go to our website and see what your neighbors have to say!
find out more... @

www.robersonvinylexteriors.com




COLONEL'S
CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
205.706.0573

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE!

Owner Chris Bellow will help you with • Seating • Carpet
• Trim Panels • Headliners • Convertible & Vinyl Tops • Auto • Marine
• Motorcycle • Repairs - Custom & Restoration
1998 Fulton Springs Road in Alabaster. • Call 706-0573!

CHAMBER HELPING SMALL BUSINESS

The Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce has launched a pair of new programs that could be helpful to small business owners in the area.

The first is a mentorship program that gives small business owners a chance to interact each month with a seasoned entrepreneur.

According to GSCCC President Kirk Mancer, the idea behind the program is that it will give small business owners a chance to ask questions of someone who's walked that same path before, in a confidential, one-on-one setting. The program, which was launched in June, is already starting to grow, he said.

"We had three appointments in our first mentor-

ship session in June, and we've already booked up for the meeting time in July," said Mancer. "We've got another one we're starting to fill up for August."

Mancer said you don't have to be a member of the Chamber to participate in the mentorship program. The appointments are for approximately 30 to 45 minutes, and the program is meant to be ongoing. That same day, participants will be able to attend a Go & Grow workshop.

"Whether they come to that one-on-one appointment meeting or not, they'll have an opportunity to attend that workshop on a specific issue that's of importance to small businesses," said Mancer.

A second program that's designed to help

small businesses is the new Entrepreneur Roundtable. The idea behind that program is to give small business owners a regular group of business people to discuss issues with on a monthly basis. According to Mancer, it could be valuable to a business that's too small to have a board of directors, for example.

"They get together once a month, and they discuss opportunities and challenges amongst themselves in essence for the price of breakfast or lunch," said Mancer.

Participation in the Entrepreneur Roundtable does require Chamber membership, though the mentorship program does not. Mancer said the first "roundtable" has been

formed, and if more people are interested, another can be created.

Both programs are part of the Chamber's 2014 Business Plan, which can be found online at www.shelbychamber.org. They're also an extension of the Chamber's ShelbyOne initiative, which includes Business Support and Development among its aims.

The Chamber also has two publications that might be helpful to business owners or those thinking of starting a business. One is the "Small Business Guide" and the other is "How to Develop a Business Plan."

For more information on various Chamber programs, call 663-4542.



Maui Jim
S U N G L A S S E S

"We've got the largest selection of Maui Jim Sunglasses in the county. Protect your eyes in style!!"

Bob Green's Alabaster Optical
and Hearing Aid Service

300 1st St. N. Hwy 31 S
Alabaster, Alabama
Mon-Fri 9 am - 5:30pm
663-2177



CHICO'S DETAIL SHOP
620-5615

ALL SIZES TIRES & WHEELS

We mount and balance all size tires and wheels. FEATURING FACTORY & AFTER-MARKET WHEELS. Plus Fiberglass Bed Covers • Wheels 15-28

• New Tires - All Brands & Sizes • Accessories, Clear Lights • Bumpers • Spoilers Roll Pans • Body Kits • Full Detailing, Windshields • Crash Parts • Tool Boxes & MUCH MORE!!

NOW OFFERING ALUMINUM WELDING & WHEEL REPAIR!
WE SELL & INSTALL LEVELING KITS!
UHAUL RENTALS!! WE FIX FLATS!

620-5615

WE KEEP OVER 1,000 TIRES IN STOCK!! CALL FOR SPECIALS!
Michelin, BF Goodrich, Firestone, Goodyear, Bridgestone, Hankook, Master Craft, Falken, Pirelli, Kumho, Nitto, Toyo, General, Delta, Road Max,
4X4 PARTS & TIRES!
• WE SELL & MOUNT FARM, ATV, LAWNCARE & BOBCAT TIRES!

8801 Hwy 119 S. in Alabaster
Hrs: 8:30am-6:30pm Mon-Sat-Se Habla Español



MICHAEL J. BOOEMAKER DMD
FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

GO WARRIORS!

\$99 Cleaning, exam & X-Rays for new patients only

\$79 for emergency exam & one X-Ray

ALL YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM A FAMILY DENTIST AND MORE...

- Cleaning • Exams & X-Rays • Periodontal Care
- White Fillings • Crowns/Bridges • Extractions • Root Canals
- Tapout Mouthguards • Nitrous Oxide • Zoom Whitening
- Full or Partial Dentures

PROVIDERS FOR SOUTHLAND, BCBS, UNITED HEALTHCARE & PRINCIPAL.
117 Buck Creek Plaza off Hwy 119

We make no representation that the quality of the dental services performed are better than those of any other dentist.

621-4007 CALL TODAY!

SEPTEMBER SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Day Trip to Atlanta, GA on Thursday, October 2- Located on 33 acres in the heart of historic Buckhead, the Atlanta History Center invites you to explore Georgia's past through award-winning exhibitions, two historic houses (the 1928 Swan House and 1860s Smith Family Farm), Centennial Olympic Games Museum, and 22 acres of historic gardens and trails.

First, we will experience a guided tour of one of the country's largest exhibitions on the Civil War. With over 1,500 Union and Confederate artifacts, including cannons, uniforms and flags you can experience the Civil War through the eyes of the soldiers and civilians.

Then you may independently tour a fabulous exhibit of Southern folk culture and traditions, and discover the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games museum as well as the Swan House and Smith Family Farm. Cost is \$25/person and includes transportation on the 25 passenger bus, admission to museums, homes, gardens and lunch. Note: there is walking on this trip and space is limited.

Couponing class- Monday, September 8 at 9:30am. If you want to save money by sharing couponing ideas, this class is for you. Bring any coupons and ideas that you have to share. We will look at current and upcoming coupon offers for all kinds of products.

Apple Orchard, Amish Bakery and Lunch in Cullman- Friday, September 12- we will travel to the Cullman area to an apple orchard for a tour and tasting of a variety

of apples. You can purchase apples and then enjoy lunch at the Old Cook Stove. We will make a quick stop at an Amish bakery. Cost is \$1 hold your spot. Bring \$12-15 for lunch and money to purchase apples. Space is limited.

Trussville Flea Market and McEnally's Mercantile outing- Thursday, September 18. Cost is \$1 to hold your spot. Bring \$10-12 for lunch. Space is limited.

Zentangle Inspired Beginner Workshop- Friday, September 26 from 12-3pm. Join Jan Rogers for basic classes in creating ZENTANGLE© 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 this workshop, you will draw like a pro. You will complete your own pattern for a new (insulated) coffee mug. Cost is \$15/person. All supplies are included. Space is limited.

AARP- Smart Driver Class- Tuesday, September 23 - 9am-3:30pm at the Senior Center. This is a 6 hour classroom refresher that can help the effects of aging on your driving and how you can adjust your driving. Cost is \$15.00/AARP member and \$20.00/AARP nonmember. Bring your own lunch. Make checks payable to AARP.

Fall Door Decoration- Monday, September 29 from 9:30-11:15. Cost is \$10/person and you must sign up ahead of time. Space is limited.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program- Wednesdays at 10am. Space is limited. \$2/class.
Zumba Gold I- Relatively high intensity, low-impact fitness class featuring Latin and World rhythms and the same party favor as regular **Zumba. A great cardio workout that is fun! Wednesdays 1-2pm.** Cost is \$2/class.

You won't want to miss all the activities at the Senior Center:
• **Timeless Treasures** (singing): Mondays 10 am
• **Head to Toe Fitness:** Mondays from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm
• **Wii Bowling:** Tuesdays at 12 pm
• **Rook:** Wednesdays at 9:00 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 - 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

Veterans

Funeral & Cremation Society

CELEBRATING LIFE



Providing
Dignified & Affordable Funeral Services & Cremation
For America's Heroes with Burial at the New
Veterans National Cemetery in Montevallo, Alabama
WE ARE THE ONLY ONSITE CREMATORY IN SHELBY COUNTY

Served By

Charter Funeral Home

CALL TODAY 621-0800

SOMETHING MISSING IN THE SKIES BY DAVID FRINGS



As fall approaches, we will begin to notice a change in the landscape. This is marked by subtle changes in the leaves that adorn our deciduous trees as we begin to see the first indications of the yellows, reds, and golden colors that will turn our hills into an artist's palette. It is also marked by the squirrels and chipmunks gathering nuts and seeds and an influx of butterflies and birds that are on their way to warmer wintering grounds.

One of these migrants may be a rare sight or even totally missing from the skies over Alabaster this year. The monarch butterfly has been making the trek from their wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico to their summer habitats in the United States for centuries. Due to several factors however, the monarch may be in the process of joining the ranks of creatures such as the Carolina parakeets, passenger pigeon, and ivory-billed woodpecker.

Scientists with monarchwatch.org have been tracking the migrating monarchs for years. In an interview with ecologist Orley Taylor by Yale Environment 360, Taylor said that a census of the monarchs in their wintering grounds in Mexico in 2013 revealed a 59% decrease in the population.

This decline is the lowest in years and may be the beginning of the end for the beloved monarch.

Taylor says this decline is due to several factors. First, mafia-like groups go into the wintering grounds with guns and illegally cut down a hectare of forest in one night with 15 or 20 trucks and then haul it all off before morning.

The Mexican government has put a stop to this but extensive damage has been done and smaller operations of illegal timbering may still exist. The second issue is that corporate farming operations for grain in our Western states have changed their weed control from plowing the furrows to eliminating the weeds to chemicals similar to RoundUp. This practice kills the valuable milkweeds which are the host plants of the monarch. No milkweed results in the absence of a suitable place for the monarch to lay its eggs and the caterpillars to feed.

While the population



The Monarch Butterfly

of monarchs is in trouble, all hope is not lost. You can have a direct positive impact by planting different species of milkweed in your gardens along with other plants that supply nectar. This will help sustain the monarchs as well as other butterflies. Sources for milkweed in the Alabaster area include Lowes and Myers Plants and Pottery. If you want to view monarchs and other butterflies on their fall migration, try visiting

Limestone Park, the open areas along the Buck Creek Trail, any of our open farmland pastures, and the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center's butterfly garden.

David Frings is an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Management and Director of the Oak Mountain Interpretive Center at Samford University located at Oak Mtn State Park



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

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

If you think your dog has laryngitis...

If you love Yoko Ono's singing...

If you don't know the difference between a yodeler and a mime...

YOU MAY NEED A HEARING AID! COME SEE US. WE'LL HELP YOU!

YOUR NEW KEY TO THE CITY!! ADVERTISE IN THE ORIGINAL ALABASTER NEWSLETTER

NO OTHER PRIVATE MEDIUM REACHES • EVERY HOUSEHOLD, • EVERY BUSINESS, • EVERY MONTH IN ALABASTER, THE LARGEST CITY IN SHELBY COUNTY. PLUS YOUR AD IS ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE WEB. REACH OVER 16,000 HOMES & BUSINESSES EACH MONTH WITH YOUR ADVERTISING MESSAGE. WE'LL CREATE YOUR AD AT NO ADDITIONAL COST PLUS NO CONTRACTS TO SIGN & ALL COLOR IS ALWAYS FREE PLUS FREE INTERNET EXPOSURE! The ONLY NEWSLETTER published by citizens of Alabaster for citizens of Alabaster. WWW.ALABASTERNEWSLETTER.COM Call Ted Vodde at 620-5505 or email tedvodde@gmail.com for information & rates.



300 1st St. N. Hwy 31 S Alabaster, Alabama

Mon-Fri 9 am - 5:30pm

663-2177

THE ORIGINAL
Alabaster
NEWSLETTER

MINDSTREAM MEDIA, LLC
P.O. BOX 2519
ALABASTER, AL 35007

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALABASTER, AL
PERMIT NO. 36

RESIDENT OR BOXHOLDER OR POSTAL PATRON

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 2, Water Board 7pm Chamber
Public Safety Committee 6pm Conference
- Sept. 3, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- Sept. 8, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Education 5:30 pm Chamber
- Sept. 9, Housing & Abatement Board 5:00 pm Conference
- Sept. 10, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
- Sept. 11, Finance Committee 5:30 pm Conference
- Sept. 16, Driving School, 7pm
- Sept. 18, Public Works Committee 5 pm Chamber
Economic Development Committee 5:30 pm Conf.
- Sept. 22, City Council Meeting 7 pm Chamber
Board of Adjustments 6:30 pm Conference
- Sept. 23, Planning & Zoning 7 pm Conference
- Sept. 24, Municipal Court 9 am & 2 pm Chamber
Sewer Committee 6 pm Chamber

- 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

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.

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**SHELBY COUNTY
CAMERA CLUB
MEETING
TUESDAY
SEPT. 16, 7PM
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
858 KENT DAIRY
ROAD IN
ALABASTER**

METRO MINI STORAGE TRUCK RENTAL

- 1st Month Free*
- FREE Moving Boxes*
- FREE Move-In Truck *
- Climate Controlled
- Up to 3 Months FREE Rent*

**NEED
MORE
SPACE?**

WE HAVE THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN!

CALERA-HWY 70 CALERA-HWY 31 PELHAM - HWY 119 PELHAM - HWY 31
668-4755 668-9950 985-9151 663-1250

www.metroministorage.com

*Call for details. Move-in Special - new customers only.

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

Elizabeth A. Roland Attorney at Law

We pledge to earn your trust by taking care of your legal matters in a prompt and professional manner with the utmost discretion.

- Accidents • Wills • Divorce
- Civil & Criminal Trials **Give us a call!**



Elizabeth Roland

www.elizabethroland.com

267 Village Parkway (Highway 95), Helena

620-1278

No representation is made that the quality of services to be performed is greater than the quality of services performed by other lawyers.



Owner Doug Melton

Master Technicians
Prompt, Courteous, Honest



Mon.- Fri. 7:30 A.M. 'TIL 5 P.M.



**Full Service Auto Repair
Domestic or Import
All Makes & Models
Specializing in
TOYOTA & LEXUS**

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

663-6088

www.meltonautomotive.com

718 Fulton Springs Rd. (Hwy 26)
Take Hwy 119 turn left at the light past the new Publix at White Stone Center.