

Chamber CHATTER



"The Voice for Business & Community"

• ESTABLISHED 1949 •

September 2023 | Vol. 22, No. 9

Chamber News

FREE ADMISSION

ORR PARK
9AM - 5PM

SHAVINGS * SMOKE * SOUND

TINGLEWOOD Festival

MONTEVALLO * ALABAMA

FREE ADMISSION

SEPTEMBER 9
2023

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Alabama Wildlife Center • Petting Zoo
Balloon Guy • Music with Mr. Mac
Dr. Bob's Traveling Snake Show

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Ribbon Cutting

550 Main St. **Thursday September 14**
Montevallo **10am**

SEPTEMBER CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Wed., September 20 : " BACK TO SCHOOL"
Guest Speakers from Montevallo Elementary,
Montevallo Middle and Montevallo High /
Parnell Library / Networking 11:30am /
Lunch - noon \$15 ea /
RSVP by Mon., Sept. 18 to 205-665-1519 or
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SEPTEMBER



1st FRIDAY
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vs Shelby County at SCHS 7pm

4th MONDAY
LABOR DAY

5th TUESDAY
IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION VIRTUAL MEETING
9:00am / email - impactmontevallo@gmail.com for link

8th FRIDAY
MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
vs Hale County at HCHS 7pm

9th SATURDAY
5th Annual TINGLEWOOD FESTIVAL
All Woodworking Event
Orr Park / 9am to 5pm / Free Admission /
Chainsaw Carving Expo, Artist & Food Vendors,
Children's Area, Wooden Boat Race, Cars by the Creek,
Tractors in the Trees, Live Music ! tinglewoodfestival.com

CARS BY THE CREEK
21st Annual / Orr Park
9am registration / 9am - 3pm

ALABAMA PET PANTRY
2-3pm / Distribution of Dog & Cat Food
Shelby Emergency Assistance parking lot

LIONS SIGHT MOBILE EYE CLINIC
9am-1pm / SEA Parking lot / 205-665-1942

10th SUNDAY
GRANDPARENTS DAY

11th MONDAY
PATRIOT DAY / Remembrance of 9-11

14th THURSDAY
EV CHARGING STATION RIBBON CUTTING
10am / 550 Main St.

15th FRIDAY
MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
vs Dallas County at DCHS, 7pm

20th WEDNESDAY
MONTEVALLO CHAMBER MONTHLY LUNCHEON
"Back to School" Guest Speakers from Montevallo
Elementary, Montevallo Middle and Montevallo High.
Parnell Library / 11:30am / Lunch - noon / \$15. each
RSVP by Monday September 18th to 205-665-1519 or
montevallochamber@gmail.com / Caterer- Southern
Sweets / Luncheon Sponsor - Regions Bank

21st THURSDAY
THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE
MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre / 7:30pm

22ND FRIDAY
MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
vs West Blocton at MHS, 7pm

23rd SATURDAY
FIRST DAY OF FALL

THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE
MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre / 2pm and 7:30pm

24th SUNDAY
THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE
MMSP / Parnell Library Theatre / 2pm

"SOPHIE O'RILEY BURTON" ART EXHIBIT RECEPTION
The Nance Metz Gallery / 12-2pm / Montevallo
Presbyterian

29th FRIDAY
MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
vs Jemison High at MHS, 7pm

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Partner contact Chamber Director Adele Nelson (205) 665-1519



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The King House

1823 – 2023 at 200

Reprinted from *White Columns & Red Brick* by Lucille Griffith, Ph.D.
University of Montevallo Press, 1987



King House, erected in 1823, originally was the plantation home of Edmund King, a Virginian who came to Alabama by way of Georgia about 1817. Built of brick made from local clay and erected by Mr. King's own men, it was the most elegant home in Central Alabama and the first house in the area to have imported glass windows.

After Mr. King died (1863) and his children had scattered, the property passed into other hands. In 1908, the Alabama Girls Technical Institute (the forerunner of the University of Montevallo) purchased the house and 43.40 acres of land from Mrs. Frank Nabors for \$8,502.

The house has been called by various names: "The Mansion;" "Kingswood;" "Nabors Hall;" and "King House;" It has been a classroom building and office building, the infirmary, home economics "practice home;" a summer home for men students, and just be-



Alabama Girls Technical Institute students gather on the front porch of King House in 1908, the year the school purchased the house and 43 acres of surrounding land from the Nabors family.

Be sure to read a more extensive and detailed account of the 200th anniversary of the King House at www.historicmontevallo.org. You'll also find a slide show of color photos taken during the 1973-74 restoration by Dr. Mike Mahan.



JOIN TODAY!
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P.O. Box 411 • Montevallo, AL 35115
montevallo1817@gmail.com



King house as it looks today, 50 years after it was completely restored inside and out by preservation professionals.

fore renovation, the home of Financial Aid to Students.

Mrs. Golda Johnson, wife of former UM President Kermit Johnson, is chiefly responsible for the restoration to its present beauty. With the eventual backing of the Board of Trustees and a \$40,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the exterior was restored to its original appearance and the interior was renovated, using the same staircase, much of the original flooring and hardware, and some window glass. The architect for the renovation was Gene Jones of Evan Terry, Architects. Nicholas Holmes of Mobile was consultant and Lewis Mayson, supervisor of the actual work. Mr. Mayson says it is the best example of Federal Architecture in its part of Alabama.



In 1932 the Alabama Writers Conclave held a ceremony at which descendants of the King family placed a bronze tablet on the old house which points out its uniqueness as an historical landmark.

Veterans Wreaths will be laid this year at Montevallo City Cemetery on December 16, 2023. Order your wreaths now for \$17 each at:

WWW.HISTORICMONTEVALLO.ORG



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**CARS BY THE CREEK WELCOMES TRACTORS
IN THE TREES TO THE TINGLEWOOD FESTIVAL**
by Clay Nordan

An interesting display of Antique Tractors will be on hand for the first time this year on Saturday, September 9th, to complement the excellent Cars by the Creek show that visitors have come to expect as a major feature of Montevallo's Tinglewood Festival.

The Alabama Chapter of International Harvester Collectors, a club for antique tractor collectors and enthusiasts (IH and Farmall), is making plans to bring an impressive selection of their showroom quality restored tractors for all to inspect and appreciate. Make sure that you and your kids get a selfie with one of these trusty heroes of the family farm from days gone by.

If you have an antique tractor that you would like to include with the Internationals, feel free to bring it to the Tinglewood Festival by 9am and a place will be found for you to set up and show it off. All makes and models are welcome.

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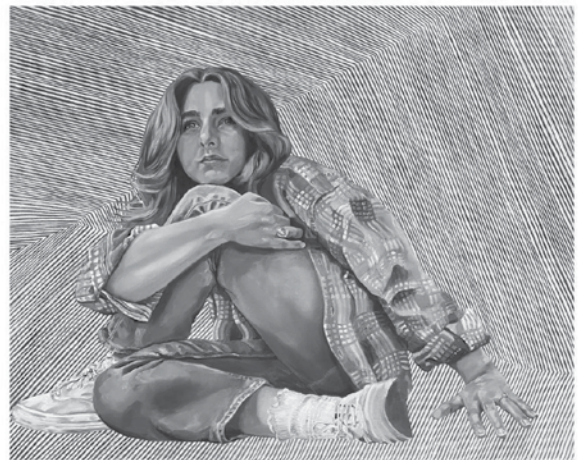


Sophie O'Riley Burton

featured at

**The Nance Metz Gallery
at
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September 24 12-2pm



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MONTEVALLO TO HOST 5TH ANNUAL TINGLEWOOD FESTIVAL

Alabama's premier, all-woodworking art festival will celebrate "Shavings, Smoke, and Sound" during its 5th year in Montevallo's Orr Park on September 9, 2023. This All Star Shelby County Tourism and Recreation Award winning event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Enjoy a uniquely Montevallo event with live chainsaw wood carving, woodworking artist vendors, Tim Tingle's Whittling Contest, and a wooden boat race. Festival-goers will find everything from knives, wooden bowls, vases, jewelry, and toys, to handcrafted furniture, bird houses, ornaments, and more! There will also be a classic car show – the 21st Annual Cars by the Creek – a variety of children's activities, and food vendors on site. New this year is a showcase of International Harvester antique tractors called "Tractors in the Trees".

Live music runs all day during the festival with a wide variety of styles. Musical acts include the Montevallo High School Jazz Band, Swanglish, The M-80s, The Chuck King Band, and Chase Stewart!

The chainsaw carving exhibition will include a panel of well-known artists: Heather Bailey of Alabaster, Alabama; Justin Bailey of Alabaster, Alabama; Corey Lancaster of Princeton, North Carolina; Dave Marshalek of Shelbyville, Tennessee; and Dayton Scoggins of Heidelberg, Mississippi. Artwork

created during the festival will be available for purchase. The fifteen freshly-completed sculptures will be available for a "Buy it now" price, and any remaining pieces will be auctioned off at 3 PM by Emcee "Dollar" Bill Lawson. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to local nonprofits Boys & Girls Club, Montevallo Athletic Club, and Shelby Emergency Assistance.

The 21st Annual Cars by the Creek car show welcomes all years, makes, and models of cars. Awards will be given to "Best of Decade," "Best of Show" for Cars and Trucks, and "Best 'Woodie.'" There will also be a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Children's activities will include a "make and take" art project, the "Balloon Guy," Dr. Bob's Traveling Snake Show, Alabama Wildlife Center, Music with Mr. Mac, inflatables courtesy of JAC's Rentals, a petting zoo, games courtesy of the Boys & Girls Club, and more.

Candlewood Suites Alabaster is the official hotel for the 2023 Tinglewood Festival. Call 205-620-0188 to inquire about special rates.

Tinglewood Festival is inspired by a special section of Orr Park, where local artist Tim Tingle has carved faces and creatures into the dead parts of living cedar trees since a fateful ice storm in 1993. The festival is organized by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Montevallo Main Street, and the Montevallo Arts Collaborative as a signature event for the City of Montevallo.

For more information, visit tinglewoodfestival.com, or visit the "Tinglewood Festival" Facebook Page.



Montevallo Pecan Sale

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Untold Stories

OF BLACK MONTEVALLO



Vol 2, No. 9

Telling the full story isn't just about acknowledging the hard parts. It's also about elevating and illuminating stories of black excellence and achievement that have never received their due.

-- Brent Leggs

HOW THE "LITTLE SCHOOL" GOT BUILT

The schoolhouse that once stood at the corner of Island and Bloch is an example of black excellence and achievement that has not received its due in the Montevallo community. This Untold Story continues the story of the "little school" begun in last month's "A Call to Action!"

The building itself, constructed perhaps in the early 1920s, was modest enough. It was a two-roomed clapboard structure like other such schoolhouses, nothing fancy, just a frame structure. But -- and here the story gets interesting -- it was built to bring a public education to black youngsters. A public education. This was huge! In the previous century it was against state law to teach people of color to read and write, and now the county was paying the salaries of its black teachers.

The school was little but it belonged to a revolutionary school-building movement initiated by Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald in partnership with Tuskegee's Booker T. Washington. They saw rural schoolhouses as a means to lift black children and their descendants out of poverty. Schools built across the rural South in the 1920s and 1930s transformed African American lives and helped give rise to the civil rights movement.

The "little school" was not a Rosenwald school but it was conceived in the Rosenwald spirit. The structure was a local community effort -- planned, funded and doubtless erected by members of the black community. True, the teachers, including lead teacher Anna Peoples, were paid by the county. But other expenses fell to the families and their neighbors and fellow church members. We see an example in nearby Wilsonville. A 1929 article in Shelby County Reporter begins: "The colored people of Wilsonville are greatly interested in a plan to build a new three-room Rosenwald school. At an enthusiastic meeting held Sunday afternoon, it was reported that nearly \$300 had been raised and placed in the bank as a building fund. The amount was raised entirely by the colored people themselves" (14 Feb., p. 1).

The late John Lewis, Alabama-born maker of good trouble, recalls his own Rosenwald school in Pike County. "The teachers' salaries were paid by the county, the only government money that came in support of our school.

Everything else . . . our families provided." He pays tribute to the "parents and neighbors who helped to raise money to build our schools and then each year continued to reach deep to purchase school supplies."

Let us now pay tribute to the black folks in Montevallo who brought the "little school" on Island Street into being and sustained its operation. Some of their descendants are still living in our town. A transaction recently uncovered in the Shelby County archives, dated Sept. 8, 1952, reveals that the school property was owned by a Trust established for "the public schools for the Colored people of the Town of Montevallo." Seven trustees are named, and the family names are still well known in the area: John Dubose, Amos Nix, A. H. Frierson, J. E. Peoples, Tom Billingsley, David Nunn, and W.M. Pitts.



Children playing in rural schoolyard, ca. 1915-17.

They were all community leaders -- deacons in their church, officers in the local Masonic lodge -- and their names stand in for a nearly forgotten legacy of black excellence and achievement in Montevallo. We welcome any additional information that you can offer about this Trust and the families known to have been associated with it.

To stay informed about the community effort to honor the "little school," email [Montevallo Legacy@gmail.com](mailto:MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com). Submitted by Kathy King and Anitka Stewart Sims on behalf of the Montevallo Legacy Project.

Sources: Quotes from Brent Leggs and John Lewis are adapted from Andrew Feiler, *A Better Life for their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools That Changed America* (Athens: U GA Press, 2021). The Leggs quote is from the Afterward. Photo is from the digital collection of the AI Dept of Achives & History. The property transaction is recorded in the Recording Office of the Probate Court of Shelby County, Columbiana, vol. 155, p. 561.



Martha Eisenberg and Robert Hirt

THANK YOU NEIGHBORS!

by Robert Hirt

Note of thanks to all the gracious municipal neighbors who showed up to help in distributing 150 Community Food Bank boxes on July 27. A very special note of thanks goes out to District #5 Montevallo Councilwoman, Martha Eisenberg, who supplied the muscle and moral support to keep us going on a warm day. Thank you neighbors!

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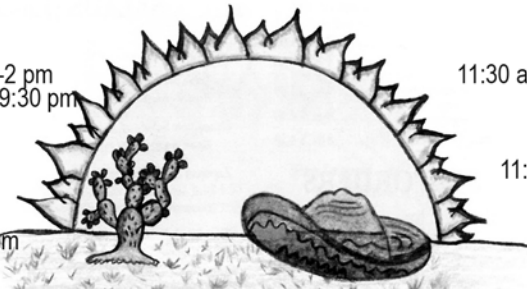
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Buy One Dinner A thru L Combination
 Get 2nd Dinner for \$2.50
 (NO SUBSTITUTIONS! DINE-IN ONLY)

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CITY OF MONTEVALLO NEWS

Mayor's Message...

September 2023

Hello citizens of Montevallo! I hope everyone is well. As I'm writing this article, the air temperature is 98 degrees with a heat index 113 degrees. That's summertime in Alabama!



RUSTY NIX, MAYOR

Please remember to stay hydrated when you are working or playing outdoors. Cooler weather is just around the corner and I know we can all use a break.

The Montevallo Farmers' Market has come to an end for 2023. The Farmers' Market has seen the largest crowds in its history. I can't wait to see everyone next year. Thank you to the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce for organizing the event and to Montevallo First Baptist Church for allowing the market to set up in their parking lot.

The Wadsworth Street Project is underway and should be complete by mid-September. This venture includes closing in, the dig by piping, from inlet to inlet. The piping will correct the erosion problem that is occurring in that area. Plus, it will create 14-16 new parking places for businesses in the Village on Valley area. Two of the parking places closest to Valley Street will be reserved for electric vehicle charging stations and will allow customers to charge their vehicles while shopping/dining in that area of town. This project is funded by the MDCD.

Our parks are staying very busy this summer. I have frequently stated that our parks are some of the most beautiful parks in the state of Alabama. Please remember that, when you are hiking on the trails at Shoal Creek Park or wading in the creek at Orr Park, you should be aware of wildlife in the area. Please be respectful of their habitat.

With the increased activity at Orr Park, the city is looking to secure a grant to build new restrooms across the creek. The grant will be a 50/50 match with the city's part coming from the MDCD. New restrooms will replace the older outdated facilities. When the current restrooms were built in 2005, city planners had no idea that the sport of soccer would grow to the size that it has become and that the current volume of people would use the park for soccer games. Thank you to Shelby County for allowing the city to use their portable restrooms until new ones can be constructed.

Construction on the Highway 25 sidewalk project will begin in the near future. This project will make walking on Highway 25 more pedestrian friendly, ADA compliant and will dress it up a bit. The sidewalks will run from Lucky's Foodland Plus to Pic 'n Sav. This project is funded by ALDOT and the MDCD.

The Tinglewood Festival/Cars by the Creek is just around the corner. Tinglewood Festival 2023 will be held on September 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Orr Park will be filled with antique cars/trucks, shavings, smoke, and sound. Come out and purchase products produced by Master Wood Craftsman or bid on chainsaw carvings. Don't forget to pick up lunch from one of our fine restaurants in town or one of the food trucks in the park. Tinglewood draws approximately 6,000 people to our town/park and it's FREE to the public.

Surveys are being prepared for the ATRPP2 grant for the Moore's Crossroads intersection. This Fall, bids will go out for the \$2.1 million grant to improve that area of town. The match for this grant will come from MDCD funds. Moore's Crossroads is the gateway from the north and we need this area standing tall and looking good. I can't wait for this project to begin!

Negotiations with Cobblestone Inns and Suites are still underway and moving forward. The hotel project will be an over nine-million-dollar development funded from outside investors. The hotel will bring thousands of tax dollars to the City of Montevallo and generate new business growth. The addition of a hotel to our downtown area is a no-brainer. I am looking forward to this project getting underway.

In closing, remember to shop Montevallo first. Business owners have invested in our city so please give them your support. Sales tax revenue is earned when you shop Montevallo, and those dollars stay in the community. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

Advertisement for Smitherman's Pharmacy featuring a mortar and pestle icon, the name 'Smitherman's Pharmacy' in cursive, and contact information: Ph. 205-665-2574 • Fax 205-665-0940, 703 Main Street • Montevallo, Alabama 35115.

Advertisement for W&S Lawn Care featuring an image of a riding lawn mower, the name 'W&S Lawn Care', 'William Smith, Owner and CEO', and contact information: Call or Text: (205)-914-3047 or (205) 913-0200, Fulfilling All of Your Lawn Care Needs!

Advertisement for L&S Small Engine Repair LLC featuring Husqvarna logos, the name 'L&S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR LLC', and contact information: 205-665-4526, 4424 Highway 25, MONTEVALLO, AL 35115; 205-438-6555, 2307 Pelham Pkwy, PELHAM, AL 35124.

DR. BOB'S TRAVELLING SNAKE SHOW

Submitted by the Shoal Creek Park Foundation

The Shoal Creek Park Foundation is sponsoring Dr. Bob's Travelling Snake Show at The Tinglewood Festival this year on September 9th! Dr. Bob will help you get informed about all things slithery! Live snakes (safely in cages!) will be on display along with tips on where you're likely to encounter them in the wild. Information about what to do in the very unlikely event that you do get bitten by a snake will be distributed on a handy flier. Be sure to stop by and see what all the buzz, I mean hiss, is about. In the meantime, here are some tips from the CDC:

In Case of a Snake Bite:

DO NOT do any of the following:

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it. NEVER handle a venomous snake, not even a dead one or its decapitated head.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten, get medical help right away.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife or cut it in any way.
- Do not try to suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller.
- Do not take pain relievers (such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen).
- Do not apply electric shock or folk therapies.



If other options are available, driving oneself to the hospital is not advised because people with snakebites can become dizzy or pass out.

DO Take these steps:

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible (dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services [EMS]). Anti-venom is the treatment for serious snake envenomation. The sooner anti-venom can be started, the sooner irreversible damage from venom can be stopped.
- Take a photograph of the snake from a safe distance if possible. Identifying the snake can help with treatment of the snakebite.
- Keep calm.
- Apply first aid while waiting for EMS staff to get you to the hospital.
- Lie or sit down with the bite in a neutral position of comfort.
- Remove rings and watches before swelling starts.
- Wash the bite with soap and water.
- Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.
- Mark the leading edge of tenderness/swelling on the skin and write the time alongside it.

If you'd like to volunteer or donate to Shoal Creek Park, contact Cheryl Patton at shoalcreekparkfoundation@gmail.com.

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NOVEMBER 4
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Chase Stewart.....3:30pm

Cars by the Creek.....9am - 3pm

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- Turn left onto Island St. and turn right onto Park Dr.

From Montgomery AL (taking I-65 North)

- Take Exit 228 Montevallo/Calera
- Turn left onto Hwy 25 S
- At 1st traffic light, turn left onto Hwy 31 S
- At 2nd traffic light, turn right onto Hwy 25 S (between CVS & Calera Intermediate School)
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- Go 0.2 miles - turn right onto Island St and right onto Park Dr.

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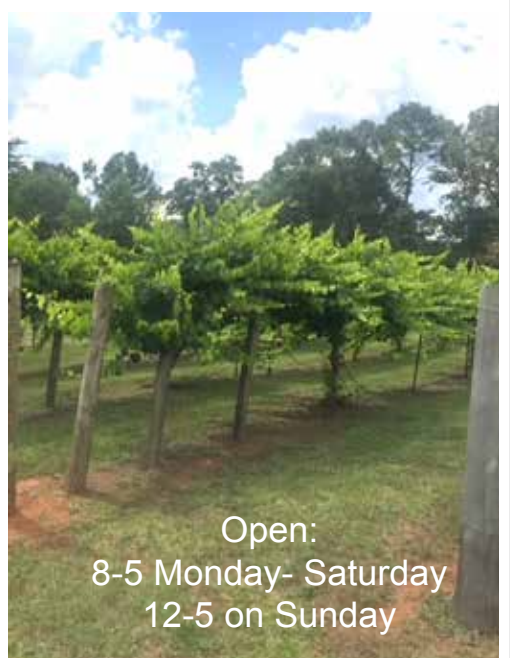
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UM PRESIDENT GIVES UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY

Shelby County Reporter

University of Montevallo President John Stewart III was the guest speaker at The Shelby County Chamber's August Community Luncheon and provided an update on Alabama's only public liberal arts college.



John W. Stewart

Stewart shared that the university has approximately 500 employees and that this year's budget is \$85 million. The University of Montevallo serves 2,600 students with half of them living on campus. In order to better accommodate its student population, the university also recently acquired two local apartment buildings rather than proceeding through the process of spending a significant amount of money on a dorm.

"This is what I'm really proud of and what I love to say when I'm around my colleagues at our big sister institutions—90 percent of our students are from Alabama," Stewart said. "About 85 percent of our students come from within 100 miles. I'm very proud to say that 84-85 percent, in a given year, stay in Alabama to set up housekeeping, work for your companies and live their lives locally."

Stewart shared that the university's biggest challenge is an incoming "enrollment cliff" in 2026 in which there will be 1.5 to 2 million fewer college age kids in the U.S. "Imagine if your company just all of a sudden, in a given time, say two or three years, had a 20 to 30 percent drop off in the number of clients you served," he said. "It's pretty scary right? And it scares us." Stewart explained that the enrollment cliff is a result of people having fewer kids during the 2008 financial crisis. Stewart said the university is also having to deal with rising costs thanks to inflation as well as maintaining its talented staff. "Inflation hurts us just like it hurts your companies," Stewart said. "Recruiting and retaining top talent—we have an incredibly talented staff at Montevallo but keeping them happy and keeping them on the team, as you know, is a challenge."

According to Stewart, 95 percent of UM students are on some form of financial aid. "Perhaps the biggest existential threat to our operation is funding scholarships," he said. "When you have that many needy kids wanting to improve their lives—they can do the work and they're smart, they're talented and they're full of promise—we have a moral obligation to make sure that they don't finish with lots of student loan debt." In order to deal with this, UM has to come up with an additional \$1 million in its budget each year to help fund scholarships and compete with other institutions. "Partnerships are a huge part of our success," he said. "Last year, we had a net increase of \$3 million in our financial position and that was because we were able to take care of our campus, recruit great kids and because we have great partnerships that help us sustain the operation. By far, when I travel around the country and talk to my colleagues and presidents at other schools—we have the best partnerships."

Stewart shared that the university has a \$35 million-dollar campaign, with \$19 million raised already, that will be officially announced during the university's annual Founders Day on Oct. 12. Stewart discussed the addition of nursing to the university's programs as well as its first ever doctoral program. He also mentioned the newer programs that the college has started in recent years like computer science, data analytics, hospitality and tourism, early childhood education, entrepreneurship tracks and managing the existing management and marketing programs.

UM has doubled its number of athletic programs with 23 Division II NCAA programs. UM has 550 student athletes from around the country and the world and the average GPA of those students is 3.34. This fall, the university will begin a men's wrestling program and acrobatics and tumbling will begin next fall. UM is also starting archery and trap and skeet shooting teams. Stewart shared that the university has been working on utilizing the old golf course for a new program. "I'm proud to tell you that we're putting the finishing touches on what will be the greatest mountain bike course between Snowshoe, West Virginia and the Rocky Mountains," he said. "I'm told that it's going to be the most spectator friendly venue, one of the best in the United States." Stewart spoke on UM's contributions to society and on its "raison d'etre," or reason to be. "We are in the workforce development business, we supply you with awesome teachers, social workers, pastors, psychologists, counselors, business people, entrepreneurs (and) finance people," he said.

Before closing, Stewart shared a few personal stories on UM graduates that show the humanity behind the statistics. One story involved a student by the name of Rebecca Koen, who came to UM as the valedictorian of Gardendale High School. She became valedictorian whilst living out of a car a majority of her senior year, without much family support and while raising her two little sisters. She was able to go to UM on a scholarship, majored in social work and got a master's degree after finishing later at the University of Alabama. She now runs a large nonprofit in Washington that helps homeless people with policy and she also served under the National Guard. "Those are the kinds of things that don't show up in statistics and we're very proud we're changing the world that way and that we bring people like that to Montevallo," he said.

Stewart ended his presentation by focusing on statistics regarding the cost and value of a college degree. According to Stewart, the average UM student finishes with about \$25,000 to \$27,000 in student loan debt which he compares to the cost of the average used car. He said a bachelor's degree, from a good four-year school, is worth \$2.8 million average, over a lifetime. Adults with a bachelor's degree earn \$1.2 million more in their lifetime. "The median return of a liberal arts college is nearly \$200,000 more than those of flagships for four years because so many people who run companies went to small schools and studied the liberal arts and we're really, really proud of that," he said. "We really are changing lives at the University of Montevallo."

DID YOU KNOW, STAGED HOMES SELL FASTER AND FOR MORE MONEY?

Submitted by Susan Lehman

On average, a house sells better when staged rather than empty. In fact, in 2022, 95% of staged homes sold in 11 days or less, which is 87% faster than non-staged homes. Plus, they sold for 17% more.

When you stage your home, furniture, decorations, and decor are optimized to make your home as attractive as possible. The goal is to make the space appear brighter, bigger, and overall better. The goal is to make home buyers feel joy and excitement when looking at your home and picture themselves living there.

However, You Need to Avoid These Home Staging Mistakes When Selling Your Home

If you're trying to sell your home and you want it to appeal to a wide range of potential buyers, knowing how to properly stage it is critical. When staging is done the right way, families can envision themselves living in your home and will jump at the opportunity to put in an offer. So, if you want to make your home stand out from the crowd while it's on the market, you should avoid these home staging mistakes.

Top 10 Home Staging Mistakes

1. Hanging Artwork Too High - You should always hang paintings, artwork, and other wall decorations at eye level. If you're taller or shorter than the average person and have your items hung accordingly, you should adjust them for staging.

2. Too Much Children's Clutter - Many home buyers have a family or want one in the future, but some do not. It's best to make your home appeal to everyone, so keep your kids' clutter to a minimum and make their bedrooms attractive.

3. Failure to Clean a Home Thoroughly - Cleaning your home thoroughly is essential before showing it. If it isn't up to buyers' standards, they'll immediately be turned off. Hiring a professional cleaning company is a good investment if you don't want to do the deep cleaning yourself.

4. Lack of Style - Indeed, you don't want your home to be filled with mementos or items that appeal only to you, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't have personality or style. Think of your property as a beautiful hotel. You want it to be neutral, yet stylish and appealing to a wide range of people.

5. Unpleasant Smells - Often, we become immune to the smells in our home, whether from pets, food, sprays, or perfumes. Newcomers will instantly notice an unpleasant odor, so it's important to neutralize the scent of your home before they walk in the door.

6. Too Much Furniture - Too much furniture in one space instantly makes the room feel cluttered and smaller. Having minimal furniture is the best way to make the space seem open and inviting while allowing buyers to envision what they can do with the area to make it their own.

7. Dark Paint Colors - Yes, dark paint colors can complement certain rooms in a home. However, they can easily make a space smaller and less appealing to guests. Try to keep paint neutral shades within the same palette throughout your home and keep a steady flow going.

8. Too Many or Lack of Focal Points - To make a room seem livable and organized, you should have one primary focal point. In a living room, it could be a fireplace or tv; in a kitchen, it could be an island; in a bedroom, it could be the bed or a large mirror. Pick one main focal point and set up and decorate the area centering around it.

9. Going Too Trendy - While it's crucial to impress buyers with your home's style, incorporating the latest and greatest interior trends isn't the best way. It's best to stick with a transitional style. Transitional styles allow you to bridge the gap between trendy and traditional so you can appeal to buyers from all walks of life.

10. Old Paint - Having dull, scratched, or outdated paint in your home can be an instant turnoff. Investing in a fresh coat of paint is the best way to make the house feel brand new. Plus, it will smell new, too!

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If you need help staging and selling your home, contact us and we can explain how we can offer you Staging Services at no additional cost when we list your house. With years of selling and staging experience, our agents have what it takes to get you the best offer in the shortest period of time. Call us today at 205-542-4011.

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Marissa Wilson

Marissa was born, raised, and still resides in Montevallo. She started working at Parnell Memorial Library in 2021 and has loved it ever since.

Marissa is super excited about serving the community as the new library director and welcomes everyone to stop by & say hi!

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Sept. 1	@Shelby County	(__)-(__)
Sept. 8	@Hale County	(__)-(__)
Sept. 15	@Dallas County	(__)-(__)
Sept. 22	WEST BLOCTON	(__)-(__)
Sept. 29	JEMISON	(__)-(__)
Oct. 6	SIPSEY VALLEY	(__)-(__)
Oct. 13	@Bibb County	(__)-(__)
Oct. 20*	HOLT	(__)-(__)
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HOW TO BIKE WITH YOUR DOG

Biking with your dog can be an enjoyable and healthy activity for both you and your furry friend. Biking together allows you to explore new places, provides exercise, and strengthens the bond between you and your canine companion. However, before hopping on your bike, follow these important steps to ensure a safe and comfortable ride: Veterinarian: Before engaging in any physical activity with your dog, it's important to consider your dog's health. A veterinarian can assess your dog's health, fitness level, and any specific concerns that may affect their ability to bike alongside you.

Consider your dog: Every dog is different, and you need to respect your dog's physical limitations. Certain breeds might not be able to keep up with your pace or endure long rides. Pay attention to signs of fatigue, overheating, or discomfort, and adjust your ride accordingly.

Equipment: Providing the right equipment is crucial for a successful biking experience with your dog. Start with a properly fitted dog harness that is comfortable and provides sufficient support. Avoid attaching a traditional leash directly to the bike, as sudden movements or tugs can lead to accidents. Instead, consider using a specially designed dog bike leash that stretches. Smaller and lighter breeds may enjoy riding in a front/rear mounted basket or a bike trailer. Just make sure to secure your pet from jumping out.

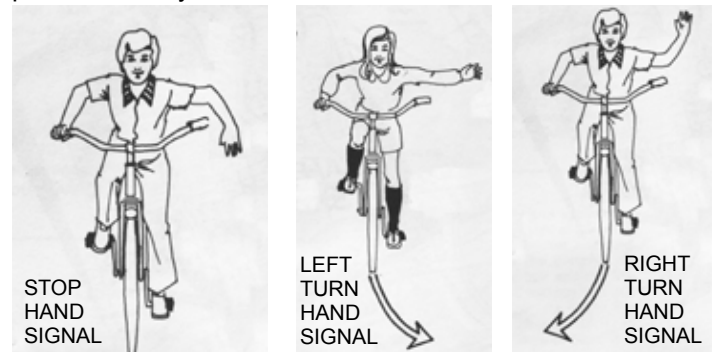
Training and socialization: Your dog needs to be comfortable with the bike and understand basic commands such as "heel," "stop," and "slow down." Practice walking your dog alongside the bike before attempting to ride. Gradually introduce them to the sounds and movements associated with cycling, and reward good behavior with treats and positive reinforcement.

Choose safe routes: When biking with your dog, opt for safe and dog-friendly routes. Look for paths with minimal traffic, wide shoulders, and designated biking lanes. Avoid busy roads, crowded areas, and extreme weather conditions. Consider exploring local parks or trails that permit dogs, ensuring you comply with any rules or regulations in place. Start slow: Begin with short, low-intensity rides to allow your dog to gain exposure to this new experience. Gauge their comfort level, making sure they maintain a relaxed gait without signs of stress or fatigue. Over time, gradually increase the duration and intensity of your rides, taking breaks as needed to rest and hydrate.

Hydration and breaks: Dogs can become easily dehydrated, especially during physical activities. Carry water and a collapsible bowl for your dog to drink from during breaks. Stop regularly to allow your dog to rest, sniff around, and relieve themselves. Be mindful of their body language, as excessive panting, limping, or signs of distress may indicate it's time to take a longer break or end the ride.

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Surroundings: Stay alert and watch for potential hazards during your ride. Keep an eye out for other cyclists, pedestrians, wildlife, and any obstacles that could startle or pose a danger to your dog. Use hand signals to communicate your intentions to other riders or pedestrians, and always prioritize safety.



Biking with your dog is not only about exercise; it's about spending quality time together and enjoying the wonders of Montevallo. Take the time to appreciate the sights, sounds, and adventures you share with your furry companion. Capture the moments with photos or simply relish the joy of the journey. Remember, the safety and well-being of your dog should always be the top priority - by following these guidelines and being attentive to your dog's needs, you can create a rewarding and memorable biking experience for both of you. So, hop on your bike, leash up your dog, and embark on new adventures together!

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MILITARY MOMENT

Submitted by Traci Crenshaw, Director,
UM Office of Veteran & Military Affairs



September is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, and as such, we recognize the following observances:

- September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 4-10: National Suicide Prevention Week

Veterans die by suicide at a substantially higher rate than the general population. That is truer in Alabama, with a suicide rate for veterans that exceeds national figures. The first thing to know, if you are a Veteran and considering suicide, or are concerned that a loved one is considering suicide, you're urged to call: The Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, and Press 1. There are trained counselors and resources immediately available.

With the state ranking second nationally in this terrible category, the Alabama Legislature and the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs have authorized a new study committee to examine the problem and make recommendations on what Alabama can do to help. Dr. John Campbell, Director of Mental Health at the Birmingham VA, says, "The veteran population experiences about 20 percent higher suicide rates than the civilian population just in general. And, the South and Alabama, in particular, have a higher veteran rate than even the rest of the country."

"Suicide is a significant public health issue. The entire month of September carries a simple, potentially life-saving message: suicide is preventable," said Devereux's Director of Clinical and Professional Affairs, Megan Russell. It's a growing problem, and the numbers tell a shocking story. Every 40 seconds, someone takes their own life according to the World Health Organization (WHO). That's about 800,000 people worldwide every year — although some estimates put that number closer to 1 million. Suicide is the leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 29, and for every suicide that results in death, there are as many as 40 attempted suicides.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, depression and other brain disorders are leading risk factors of suicide, followed by alcohol and drug addiction.

Here are a few warning signs of suicide:

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and community
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior

Suicidal behaviors are a psychiatric emergency. They include:

- Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
- Giving away possessions
- Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
- Saying goodbye to friends and family

Research has found that 46% of people who die by suicide had a known mental health condition. Several other things may put a person at risk of suicide, including:

- A family history of suicide
- Substance use. Drugs can create mental highs and lows that worsen suicidal thoughts.
- Intoxication. More than 1 in 3 people who die from suicide are under the influence of alcohol at the time of death.
- Access to firearms
- A serious or chronic medical illness
- Gender. Although more women than men attempt suicide, men are nearly 4x more likely to die by suicide.
- A history of trauma or abuse
- Prolonged stress
- A recent tragedy or loss

Veteran or not, all of us need someone's help at some point in our lives. Please do not be afraid to reach out for help, for yourself or for someone else, who is suffering. Worst case scenario, you're mistaken and they didn't need your help. Best case, you help save someone's life, perhaps, even your own.



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City Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 5:30 p.m. Work Session

EVERY 2ND MONDAY

MDCD Montevallo Development Cooperative District
1 p.m., Meets at City Hall

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

Historical Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall

EVERY TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Study - Community Wide
10:00-11:00 am, Montevallo First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

EVERY TUESDAY

Montevallo Community Chorale
7:00 - 8:30pm, UM Davis Hall

EVERY WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

Aldrich Coal Mine Museum and Farrington Hall is OPEN
from 10 a.m. until 4 pm

EVERY THURSDAY

Rotary Meeting, noon, City Hall

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Montevallo Water & Sewer Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY MORNING

Clothes Giveaway, St. Andrews Episcopal Parish Hall
925 Plowman Street, Montevallo, 8 am-noon

Chamber Chatter is published monthly by the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 270 Montevallo, AL 35115. The Chamber Chatter is free and distributed to hundreds of locations each month. The Chamber reserves the right to restrict Chatter content. Advertising inquires may be made by emailing montevallochamber@gmail.com



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MEMBER FDIC



Councilwoman Leila Mitchell & Pastor Darrell Sammons

ALDRICH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 91 YEARS

Aldrich First Baptist Church was established on August 7, 1932 and is celebrating 91 years of service to the Lord and their community. Councilwoman Leila Mitchell awarded the church with a certificate of recognition stating, "The City of Montevallo is honored to recognize Aldrich First Baptist Church of Montevallo on this monumental event." The current pastor is Darrell Sammons and Deacons are Brothers Billy Mack Lee, Henry A. Emfinger, and Calvin P. (Skip) Stano.

September 2023 hello FALL

Parnell Memorial Library
 Monday/Wednesday/Friday
 10:00AM-5:00PM
 Tuesday and Thursday 10:00
 AM-8:00PM
 Saturday 10:00AM-1:00PM

LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH!

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Trees	29 Trees	30 During the month of September, stop by the library and for our NEW book character scavenger hunt	31 Pumpkin	1 Patriotic Lantern Craft Kit *while supplies last	2 Close d for Labor day
4 Closed for Labor day	5 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:00 Family Fun Night 6:00 PM Cheese Pizza National Cheese Pizza day	6 Storytime 9:15	7 Pumpkin	8 Pumpkin	9 Tingle wood Festiva l @ Orr Park
11 Homeschool Hub 10:00 *Meet the Mayor	12 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:00 Sweet and Eats Kit *while supplies last	13 Storytime 9:15	14 Pumpkin	15 National Play Doh Day! Stop By the 15th & 16th for a FREE play doh	16 Play Doh and Leggo 3:30
18 Homeschool Hub 10:00	19 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:00	20 Storytime 9:15	21 Pumpkin	22 Pumpkin	23 Pumpkin
25 Homeschool Hub 10:00 Classic Movie 2:00	26 Mini Music 10:00 Pokémon Club 3:00 Farmhouse Decor Craft Kit *while supplies last	27 Storytime 9:15	28 Pumpkin	29 Play Doh and Leggo 3:30	30 Play Doh and Leggo 3:30

277 Park Drive Montevallo, AL 35115 (205) 665-9207 www.parnellmemoriallibrary.org
 Children 11 years and under must be with an adult in the library at all times.



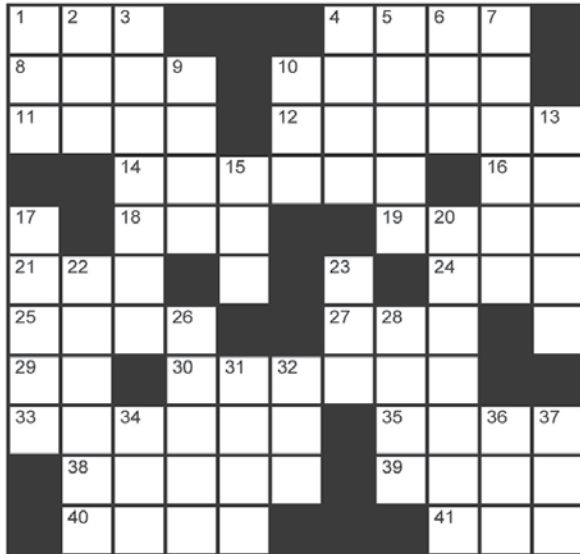
Catch us at Home!



OPPONENT	SPORT	DATE	TIME
North Georgia	Men's Soccer	Sept. 7	4 p.m.
West Alabama	Women's Soccer	Sept. 8	7 p.m.
Nova Southeastern	Women's Soccer	Sept. 10	1 p.m.
Full Moon Invitational	Golf	Sept. 11-12	8 a.m.
Newberry	Men's Soccer	Sept. 13	4 p.m.
West Georgia	Women's Soccer	Sept. 15	5 p.m.
Falcon Classic	Cross Country	Sept. 15	7:30 p.m.
Valdosta State	Women's Soccer	Sept. 17	1 p.m.
UAH - PACK THE SAC	Volleyball	Sept. 21	6 p.m.
West Alabama	Men's Soccer	Sept. 29	5 p.m.
Valdosta State	Volleyball	Sept. 29	6 p.m.
West Georgia	Volleyball	Sept. 30	2 p.m.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Chamber Chatter Crossword Puzzle



Created by Steve Forrester

Across

- 1 Clock at the Royal Observatory (abbr.)
- 4 Neither won nor lost
- 8 Mideast Petroleum Group (abbr.)
- 10 Fate
- 11 Resident of Bangkok
- 12 "What goes ____, comes ____."
- 14 Ravine
- 16 Green light
- 18 Gardening tool
- 19 Hearty soup
- 21 Anger
- 24 Make a mistake
- 25 Vaccines
- 27 Genetic code (abbr.)
- 29 "Turn__ the lights..."
- 30 Merchant
- 33 Wicker furniture
- 35 Hand washing aid
- 38 Dewy
- 39 Ancient Roman attire
- 40 Acid is often used to ____ glass
- 41 Cut the grass

Down

- 1 Received
- 2 Miles per hour (abbr.)
- 3 Instructor
- 4 Hawaiian tuber from which poi is made
- 5 Driver, woods, ____, and putter
- 6 Large, flightless bird
- 7 Peril
- 9 Italian 'aloha'
- 10 Sir __ (Knight of the Round Table)
- 13 Bride's property before marriage
- 15 Angler's need
- 17 Keeps the sun out of your eyes
- 20 Sophisticated place for lunch
- 22 Dub anew
- 23 Peculiar
- 26 Highest room in a house
- 28 Bird home
- 31 Ill-considered
- 32 Picnic spoiler
- 34 Little one
- 36 Times past
- 37 Animal foot

AUGUST PUZZLE SOLUTION



*With Great Thanks
and Loving Memory*

DR. STEFAN BRENT FORRESTER
December 8, 1969—July 15, 2023

Note - above is the first puzzle Stefan Forrester created for the Montevallo Chamber Chatter



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