

Chamber CHATTER



"The Voice for Business & Community"

• ESTABLISHED 1949 •

April 2023 | Vol. 22, No. 4

Chamber News

Welcome "Baba Java Coffee at The Strand" to Montevallo !!



Photos by Tonia Mayton

616 Main Street, 205-882-1897 Operational Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-4pm & Sat 8am-4pm.

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT
THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2023



CAHABA FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

4 MAN SCRAMBLE

*Sponsorship & Registration Info -
montevallochamber@gmail.com*

or 205-665-1519

*includes greens fee, cart, "Two Free" Mulligans & lunch

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 19

"Elder Justice Center
of Alabama"

Guest Speaker -
Robyn James, Director



Parnell Library with networking at 11:30 am and lunch at noon, \$15 ea. RSVP by Mon., April 17 to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com. Catered by South Sweets

WELCOME NEW MONTEVALLO CHAMBER MEMBERS:

SouthState Bank, SBA loans,
tim.dollins@southstatebank.com

Montevallo ACE Hardware, 4004 Hwy 25
(coming soon)

Shelby County Physical Therapy, 101 Carrington Ln,
Ste. C, Calera, 205-621-3077

SPONSORED BY LUCKY'S FOODLAND



1st SATURDAY
APRIL FOOL'S DAY

BRIERFIELD MARKET DAYS

9am - 3pm / Brierfield Ironworks State Park

FREE DUMP DAY AT SHELBY COUNTY LANDFILL

Montevallo residents can take advantage of trucks on April 1st from 7am to 2pm to haul off unwanted items. Trucks will be available at Montevallo Recycling Center - 1120 Overland Rd.

2nd SUNDAY

UM STUDENT SHOW RECEPTION

12:30 - 2:30pm / The Nance Metz Gallery / Montevallo Presbyterian Ch, / 510 Shelby St.

3rd MONDAY

MONTEVALLO METHODIST PRESCHOOL

Registration begins / info call 205-665-1256 or email mmpreschool@yahoo.com

4th TUESDAY

IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION VIRTUAL MEETING

9:00am / email - impactmontevallo@gmail.com

7th FRIDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

8th SATURDAY

MONTEVALLO ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

10am / 11am - Egg Hunt / Orr Park
 Hosted by The Montevallo Park & Recreation Board

VALLO BACKYARD BBQ COOKOFF

1-5pm / \$5.00 ea. / Pecan Grove, Island St. / benefits The Montevallo Boys & Girls Club

ALABAMA PET PANTRY

Distribution of dog & cat food
 2-3pm / Shelby Emergency Assistance parking lot

9th SUNDAY

EASTER

13th THURSDAY

WASHINGTON UPDATE LUNCHEON

Speaker - Congressman Gary Palmer / 11am - 1pm / Lunch at 11:30am - \$35 each / RSVP by Mon April 10th to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com

12th WEDNESDAY

LOADS OF LOVE Free Laundry Day

2-6pm / SUDS 'R US, Montevallo / SEA & Beacon of Hope

13th - 16th THURS - SUN

"MOON OVER BUFFALO"

Montevallo Main Street Players, Parnell Library Theatre, For details, Visit Montevallo Main Street Players FB page or email montevallomainstreetplayers@gmail.com



15th SATURDAY

MONTEVALLO ARTS FEST

10am - 5pm / Orr Park

19th WEDNESDAY

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON

"Elder Justice Center of Alabama", Guest Speaker - Robyn James, Director / Parnell Library with networking at 11:30am and lunch at noon \$15. ea. RSVP by Mon April 17 to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com. Catered by Southern Sweets

20th THURSDAY

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cahaba Falls Country Club / call 205-665-1519 for sponsorship or registration

MONTEVALLO ONION SALE

Order deadline April 20th / call 205-665-1519 or email montevallochamber@gmail.com

22nd SATURDAY

SPRING FLING FAMILY FOOD TRUCK FEST

noon - 6pm / Free Activities, music & more / Pecan Grove, Island St., Montevallo

EARTH DAY

THE MISSION CONTINUES / Operation Plant it Forward Project

Volunteer Registration : 7-8am / George Dailey Park / Link - missioncontinues.org/event/details/?id=a118Z00000CKowP

25th TUESDAY

AL FOLK ARTIST- LONNIE MASKE RECEPTION

5:30pm / Art Gallery at Parnell Memorial Library

27th THURSDAY

MONTEVALLO JOB FAIR

4-7pm / Parnell Library / hosted by The Montevallo Rotary Club

28th FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE COVE

Owl's Cove Park / 6:30pm

29th SATURDAY

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

11am / Rolling Hills, Calera / for info and tickets contact Yvonne Green at 205-427-1997 / Hosted by the Just Believe Group & benefits the Alabama Kidney Foundation

MONTEVALLO RECYCLING CENTER
 will be CLOSED
 - early 2 pm on Sat. April 1st & ALL DAY Fri. April 7th & Sat. April 8th

- PLATINUM LEVEL**
 CITY OF MONTEVALLO
 MONTEVALLO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
- GOLD LEVEL**
 MONTEVALLO FAMILY DENTISTRY
 SLICE PIZZA & BREW
 TRUSTMARK BANK
 UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO
- SILVER LEVEL**
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 BRADFORD REAL ESTATE GROUP
 DIXIE DECORATIONS
 HEALTH SERVICES, INC.
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 ROCKCO FUNERAL HOME
 TEAM LEHMAN
- For additional information about how to become a Chamber Business Partner contact Chamber Director Adele Nelson (205) 665-1519

Lucky's FOODLAND instacart

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MONTEVALLO
Main Street
Memories

SERGEANT ROBERT FARRINGTON BRIDGE

by Clay Nordan
 Vice-president, Montevallo Historical Society
 (montevallo1817@gmail.com)

Depending on your perspective, it could be said that Main Street either begins or ends at the bridge that spans Shoal Creek just down the bluff from Montevallo City Hall. Photographic evidence exists that shows that a bridge of one sort or another has made life easier and drier here for human and animal travelers since the 1850's.

The bridge that handles a considerable amount of north- and south-bound motorized traffic today was completed and put into service in the mid-1930's.

In 1996, Staff Sgt. Robert L. Farrington Jr., of Brierfield, five miles south of Montevallo, was among the dead when an Air Force plane crashed near Dubrovnik, Croatia.

In the aftermath of Farrington's death, a number of concerned local citizens (led by Dr. Mike Mahan) and supported by city and county officials, sought to honor his service and memory by naming the bridge over Shoal Creek at the foot of Main Street the Sgt. Robert L. Farrington, Jr., Memorial Bridge. Thanks to the efforts of these individuals and groups, state approval for the request was soon to come.

The Farrington Bridge, as it was now known, closed for about a year in 2004 for a significant upgrade and expansion and was reopened to regular traffic in April of 2005. At that time a celebration that included a parade was put on by the city and a new sign, declaring its namesake, was installed.



After several years of effort to locate a photograph of Sgt. Farrington in his Air Force uniform, a Montevallo Main Street Veterans Banner was printed and installed in time for Veterans Day 2022. Appropriately, Farrington's banner was positioned at the foot of Main Street just below City Hall near the bridge over Shoal Creek that bears his name.

At the time of his death, Sgt. Farrington was stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany and was assigned to the 76th Airlift Squadron of the 86th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force.

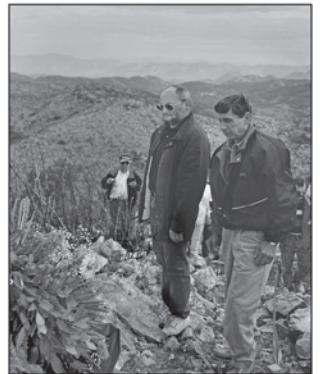
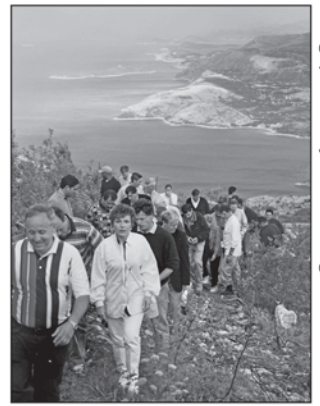
The 76th operated more than a dozen executive transport aircraft for distinguished visitor travel and Sgt. Farrington was in charge of coordinating in-flight amenities for dignitaries flying all over the world. He was in his 13th year of service in the Air Force.

A total of 35 passengers and crew perished in the crash. Among them was Ron Brown, Secretary of Commerce in President Bill Clinton's cabinet.

In August of 1996, Sgt. Farrington's father, Robert L. Farrington, Sr., received a letter from Michael Kantor, who President Clinton appointed to succeed Ron Brown as Secretary of Commerce. Secretary Kantor had recently completed the mission to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina begun by Secretary Brown. While there, Secretary Kantor and his traveling party climbed the mountain where the Air Force transport went down. They laid a wreath at the crash site and held a brief memorial service there in their memory.

In the letter to Mr. Farrington, Secretary Kantor quoted President Clinton, saying "They were a glowing testimonial to the power of individuals to improve their own lives and elevate the lives of others and make a better future for others". Secretary Kantor concluded by saying, "We climbed that mountain not just with the President's words in mind but with your wishes and cares in our hearts. Please be assured that the work that Robert, Secretary Brown, and the others began will be remembered through the ongoing pursuit of peace and healing and progress."

The body of Staff Sergeant Robert L. Farrington, Jr., was recovered from the site by the Air Force and sent home for burial. He rests in the family plot in the Montevallo City Cemetery.



(Top) A delegation from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, makes its way up a Croatian mountainside to the crash site of a U.S. Air Force transport plane in 1996. (Bottom) Mickey Kantor (right), who replaced Ron Brown as Secretary of Commerce following his death in the crash is joined by Croatian Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa in placing a memorial wreath on the site where the plane went down.

Photographs courtesy of Kevin Farrington.



540 Shelby Street
 Montevallo, AL 35115

WWW.HISTORICMONTEVALLO.ORG

MONTEVALLO MAIN STREET MEMORIES is adapted from the series, THROWBACK THURSDAY, a Montevallo Historical Society and Montevallo Main Street partnership started in 2018. Each installment revisits commercial and residential life on Main Street and in the downtown area in the early to mid-twentieth century. The series remains available online and may be viewed at www.historicmontevallo.org under "Local History".

SAFETY-SPOT

"COOKING SAFETY"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire away from the stovetop.
- If you have any doubt in fighting a small fire... JUST GET OUT!
- When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.



Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove.



RENT A RAISED BED FROM MONTEVALLO SEED-TO-TABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Montevallo Seed-to-Table Community Garden is a community and educational garden located at 160 Overland Road next to University Baptist Church. Members of the local community can rent a 4' X 8' raised bed plot for \$25 per season.

Some food grown and harvested is donated to the Alabama First 4K classes or Shelby Emergency Assistance. The Montevallo Community Garden is a non-profit encouraging sustainability in the Montevallo community. Anyone interested in participating in the garden can contact Hettie Wagner at hettiewagner@att.net.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SPONSORS LENTEN LUNCHESES

The Montevallo Area Ministerial Association has made the decision today to depart from our original Orr Park outdoor plan for our annual Lenten Lunch Speaker Series, and hold the events indoors at the Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. St Andrew's is located on Oak Street across the street from Montevallo High School.

The decision was made based on the continuing decrease (average) in daily new cases of COVID-19 in Shelby County.

Lunch (food) will be "brown bag" (i.e., bring your own). This also includes beverage.

The schedule of speakers for the Lenten Lunches at noon on each of the Wednesdays are: Daniel Stallings, April 6 -- Judy Lee, and April 13 -- Sam Hamilton-Poore.

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IT'S ABOUT TIME

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Appointments through [Booksy.app](https://www.booksy.app)

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CENTRALA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Centrala Garden Club has had a very busy and productive year, and we still have the annual plant swap in April and picnic in May to go!

The club has made contributions to organizations, such as Wreaths Across America; has contributed supplies to Montevallo Methodist Preschool, the Boys and Girls Club, SEA food pantry, and University Baptist Church kindergarten; and furnished breakfast for Montevallo city workers in December. There will be more donations made toward the end of the year.

For the plant swap, members will bring plants from their own gardens to share with others. It's so much fun to see what turns up! There's always a good variety from which to choose. The swap will take place at the beautiful home and garden of Karen Willingham.

On May 2 we will gather for a covered dish dinner at Happy Hollow Farm. There's always a great variety there too. So many tasty dishes to try!

Centrala does not meet in June, July, and August, but will reconvene in September. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in September through November and January through May at 6:30 in the evening.

If you're interested in finding out more about the club, contact Deeleen Baker at deeleenbaker@aol.com

MONTEVALLO

JOB FAIR 2023



THURSDAY - APRIL 27

4 PM TO 7 PM

PARNELL LIBRARY

277 PARK DRIVE, MONTEVALLO

For Information Visit:
MontevalloRotaryClub.org



**MONTEVALLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOLF TOURNAMENT
CAHABA FALLS COUNTRY CLUB
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

REGISTRATION FORM

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
MARY LOU WILLIAMS
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Registration and Lunch begins at 11 a.m. • Shotgun Start start at 12:30 p.m.

Player 1: _____	HDCP or 18 Hole Score: _____
Player 2: _____	HDCP or 18 Hole Score: _____
Player 3: _____	HDCP or 18 Hole Score: _____
Player 4: _____	HDCP or 18 Hole Score: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to: **MONTEVALLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

MAIL registration form and payment to:

Montevallo Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 270, Montevallo, AL 35115
205-665-1519 Phone

Trophies will be awarded to:
1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams



**FORMAT:
4 Person Scramble**

Fee: \$70 Per Player
INCLUDES GREEN FEE,
CART, "TWO FREE"
MULLIGANS and LUNCH

TEAM LEHMAN PLANS 2ND BENEFIT DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Team Lehman SEA Benefit Golf Tournament will take place on Sat., May 13th at the University of Montevallo's Disc Golf course. The tournament will raise money to support Shelby Emergency Assistance in their efforts to provide services to people in our community. Last year, this event raised over \$9,000 in support of SEA.

Disc golf is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities and economic status making it a reflection of the diversity of people helped by SEA. The tournament will also showcase the beautiful University of Montevallo campus and the city of Montevallo. The tournament should draw around 100 players plus vendors and spectators.

We are asking businesses and individuals to sponsor this event to support this great charity and to provide a fun, family activity for our area.

Monetary sponsorships are available at various levels. All sponsors will be included in social media posts and in a tournament packet given to all players and vendors. Signage containing the names of sponsors will also be displayed on the course. Higher sponsorship levels will be given more visibility and mentions on social media. Chateau (\$250) and Mansion (\$500) level sponsors are also invited to set up a booth at the event.

Individual hole sponsorships are also available for \$50. There will be one sponsor per hole with a branded sign placed at the tee box. 18 individual hole sponsorships are available will probably sell quickly.

To become a sponsor, contact Cheryl Patton at 205-746-8721 or email patton@team-lehman.com. Checks can be made out to Team Lehman, 620 Valley St., Montevallo, AL 35115.



4074 Highway 25 - Montevallo, AL 35115

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Untold Stories

OF BLACK MONTEVALLO



Everybody's stories matter. It's not just a matter of nostalgia, it powers us into the present and the future. -- Barack Obama

REMEMBERING BLANCHE M. COGER

She poured her heart out into her students. That's what I was looking for. She poured her heart into her students. And she didn't see the color. -- Ethel Mae Thompson

Talk to people who attended Prentice HS, originally Montevallo Negro HS, and one name always comes up. Blanche M. Coger, a teacher of history who insisted on the highest standards for her students. She retired in 1974 after teaching for 44 years, the final four years at the desegregated Montevallo HS. In 1965 she was honored as Teacher of the Year for Shelby County. To this day her name is spoken with respect. "When B. M. Coger name come up . . . it's a good name," says Ethel Mae Thompson.



BLANCHE M. COGER
*Shelby County Teacher
of the Year for 1965*

The following remembrances come from a conversation between Ethel Mae Thompson and James Salter recorded by Kathy King in February 2023. Ethel Mae counts Mrs Coger as one of three teachers who changed her life. (The others were Mrs. Onnie Dell Fluker and Mrs. G. C. Massey.) James, who lived with and drove Mrs. Coger after her husband died, provides glimpses of her life away from the classroom. Here are some highlights of the conversation.

Ethel Mae remembers her as a "tough teacher, very. But she was loving. I mean she was just extremely demanding that we get an education. She didn't play. If you was in her room you just had to do your work." And if you didn't? "She would give us a paddling." (This was during the 60s and early 70s when parents still supported physical punishment -- paddlings, smacks with a ruler. Both Ethel Mae and James report that if you got paddled by Mrs. Coger, you could expect a beating at home. "If you got a whipping at school, by the time you got home you were gonna get another whipping," James confirmed.)

She was especially strict with the girls. She wouldn't put up with short skirts or makeup in her classroom. Ethel Mae remembers one incident where a girl dared to come wearing red lipstick -- "when I say it was red, it was red" -- and when she didn't completely wipe it off herself, Mrs. Coger finished the job with a rag she kept close by. "You don't come in Mrs. Coger's room with no lipstick on."

She encouraged everyone. "She just wanted us to get that education. And she demanded that we do our work and that we could do it." "I don't have dumb students," she repeatedly insisted. "Without an education you can't get anywhere. But if you bust these books open and you get it up here [Ethel Mae gestures to her head], nobody can take it away."



James was in her 8th grade class in Montevallo HS in 1970, the first year of full integration. "She treated the black and the white the same in that class. She still had the paddle at the high school. So no matter what color you were, if you didn't bring your homework in or did your lesson, she wasn't gonna get up now from her desk. She would call you to her desk and you would get it." He chuckles, and Ethel adds, "she wouldn't do no chasing." James agrees: "No, she didn't get up from that desk. She had a ruler too. She would use that ruler. You would hold out your hand."

James got to know Mrs Coger as well as anyone in town in some ways. From the 10th grade until the start of his senior year in college -- he was a Business major at UM -- he spent much of his time at her house. After her husband died, she asked his parents if he could come stay with her at night. She wanted company. "And you know, I didn't have a say in it, because it was Mrs Coger."

He describes going "up the hill, past the Mason Hall, past Leon Harris's house, past Shiloh, to where Mr. Goldsmith lives now, that's where Mrs Coger lived." Every evening he walked over there, every morning he would return home and get ready to go to school.

Little did James know how living with Mrs Coger would advance his education. He learned how to make a bed -- with fitted sheets, no less. "Wow, this was a new experience for me." She put him to work in her garden, after a Mr. Johnson who lived in the community had dug it up. James would plant flowers and then the weeds came. "And she would sit there on the back porch while I'm back here pulling up the weeds." On Saturdays he would "clean house for her, vacuum and sweep the floor, dust, all of that. Mopped up the kitchen floor."

James would drive her to church in her green Dodge and all over Shelby county. "Turn here," she would say, "turn there." He never knew where they were going. The first time he drove her to Montgomery to visit her sister was a scary new experience: "I was so nervous gettin' on that interstate."

Mrs. Coger was hard and demanding. She struck fear in the hearts of some of her students but Ethel Mae and James agree that she inspired warm feelings as well. She earned her students' respect, white kids and black, and they all loved her. "That's the woman we're talking about. She poured her heart into her students. That's what I was looking for. She poured her heart into her students. And like James said she didn't see the color. You was just her student. And that meant a lot to her."

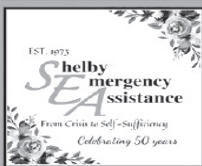
Submitted by Kathy King and Anitka Stewart Sims. Do you have a memory of Mrs Coger to share? Contact us at MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com. We want to hear your stories and welcome corrections of fact and interpretation.

S.E.A. Pantry Needs

Anything and everything helps. We are always accepting food items that go towards helping our community.

What we need most

1. Soup
2. Grits
3. Oatmeal
4. Non-sugar cereal
5. Powdered milk
6. Toilet paper
7. Paper towels
8. 3 in 1 body wash
9. Soap men/women
10. Razors
11. Shaving cream



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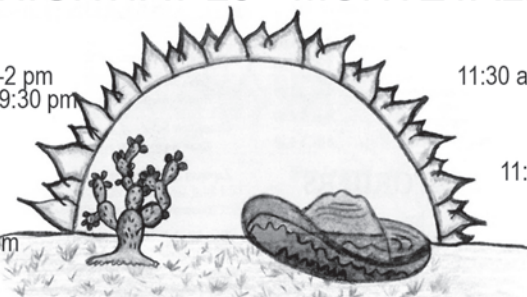
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 Dinner
 5 pm-10:30 pm

Saturday:
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Sunday:
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WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY NIGHTS (Dine-In Only)
Buy One Dinner A thru L or #16-66
 Get 2nd One 1/2 Price!

TUESDAY NIGHTS
Margarita Special from 5 to 9 pm
 Regular or Strawberry Margarita
 Small 16 oz. \$3.50 Medium 28 oz. \$5.50

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

THURSDAY NIGHTS from 5 to 9 pm
 All Domestic Beer, American or Mexican
\$2.25 EACH

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CITY OF MONTEVALLO NEWS

Mayor's Message...

Hello, Citizens of Montevallo!

I hope everyone is well and ready for the April line up of activities in town. The 2023 Spring calendar is loaded with exciting events!



RUSTY NIX, MAYOR

Montevallo Youth baseball, softball and soccer practice/games and travel ball tournaments have already begun. Please support our youth and be on the lookout for visitors in town for these sporting events.

The City of Montevallo Parks and Recreation Board will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Orr Park on Sat., April 8th. The event will begin at 10am and the egg hunt will start at 11am. You will enjoy games, contests, children's activities, the Balloon Man, the Egg Hunt and more. I even heard that the Easter Bunny may be there! See for yourself and bring the pets too!!

Sat., April 8th will also bring the inaugural Vallo Backyard BBQ Cookoff to town from 1 to 5pm. This event is a project created and organized by the UM, Spring 2023, Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Class. This event is designed to be fun, competitive, and family friendly, all while helping support, raise awareness and funds for the Boys and Girls Club of Montevallo. The BBQ Tasting will begin at 2pm, with the Awards and the Recognition Ceremony at 4:30pm. Activities will include a rock wall, bungee jumping, a bouncy house, games, a competitive relay race, a raffle, and the BBQ competition! Visitors to the Cookoff will be able to participate in activities and taste BBQ from all of the competing teams, and then determine winners through a popular vote. Admission for the general public will be \$5.00 but some activities will be at an extra charge.

The Montevallo Arts Collaborative will host Montevallo Arts Fest in Orr Park on Sat., April 15th, 2023 from 10am to 5pm. This outdoor, family-friendly arts festival will have something for everyone to enjoy. Artists will fill Orr Park, located on the tree-lined banks of Shoal Creek, to display and sell their work, which ranges from fine arts to artisan works and fine crafts. In addition to works for sale, there will be artists on hand to demonstrate their craft throughout the day. Children will have the opportunity to make a piece of art at the children's art section. Festival food will be available from several food truck favorites. Live music will spice things up on the outdoor stage. Admission is free.

Other April events include: free County dump day – Sat., April 1st; the UM Big Event – Sat., April 8th; Montevallo Chamber Golf Tournament at Cahaba Falls Country Club - Thurs., April 20th; 2nd Annual Spring Fling Family Food Truck Festival - Sat., April 22nd; The Mission Continues" Operation Plant It Forward Project" at George Dailey Park – Sat., April 22nd; Montevallo Rotary Club Job Fair at Parnell Library – Thurs., April 27th, , Friday Nights at the Cove begins on Fri, April 28th and MHS Farm Day - Sat., April 29th;. The Chamber onion sale has begun and will going on through April 20th,

I am pleased to announce that the Grainger Community Counseling and Wellness Clinic at the Sims House (1045 Middle Street) is now open. The clinic offers free mental health services for individuals ages five and older. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must schedule an appointment to talk to a therapist beforehand at communitycounseling@montevallo.edu or by calling 205-665-6377. Childcare is also available during counseling sessions when scheduled in advance. It is great to have these services available to the citizens of our town and is free of charge. If one person can be saved from drug addiction or from harming themselves, it will be worth every penny that we have invested. The Clinic is a joint project with the Montevallo Development Cooperative District (MDCD).

Now, to the question of..... is the glass half full or half empty? I am aware of negative talk from a few citizens concerning the possibility of a hotel coming to our city. The city is in an economic position to where a hotel would thrive and we would begin reaping the benefits of a lodging tax. Montevallo is currently losing lodging tax dollars to neighboring cities. We are also losing sales tax revenue when visitors stay in other towns. With the addition of athletic events at the University of Montevallo, the new UM cycling program and course, travel ball tournaments, the National Cemetery, American Village and the numerous events in our town, Montevallo could support a hotel. Do you really think that a company would invest millions of dollars in a venture with the idea of failure? I do not think they would. Recently, at UM softball and baseball games, the visiting team brought a vast number of fans. In conversation with them, it was asked by several as to why Montevallo doesn't have a hotel. The visitors had to be told that, at this point, we do not have a hotel but that we hope to have one soon. The parents stated that they had to stay in Hoover because the few hotels close to town were fully booked. I am sure Hoover Mayor Frank Brocato loves collecting lodging and sales tax benefits that would come to Montevallo if we had a hotel. The hotel developer (Cobblestone Inns and Suites) specializes in bringing lodging to small college towns and has expressed willingness to work with the Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission to make sure the building blends in with our current downtown cityscape.

I would also like to address the situation we currently have in town related to claims against the previous city administration. A group of citizens are passing out (and illegally placing in U. S. Postal Service mail boxes) pages of accusations that are unsubstantiated rumors that have floated around this town for years. This administration has been very transparent with citizens and continues to broadcast meetings online so everyone can stay informed on city issues. I am not concerned with what the previous administration may or may not have done during their time in office. I choose to concentrate on what THIS administration can accomplish and to continue moving forward in the right direction.

Please remember to shop Montevallo first! Local business owners have made an investment in our community and our city sales tax dollars depend on you. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES
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MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL'S 1ST EVER WRESTLING STATE CHAMP

Shelby County Reporter

One year after sitting in the locker room heartbroken over a tiebreaker loss in the state championship, Montevallo High School wrestler Gavin Monk was back on Saturday, Feb. 18.

This time around, faced with a choice of redemption or heartbreak for a second year in a row, he delivered inside Huntsville's Von Braun Center. After spending the last year determined at redemption, putting in work on a daily basis, he jumped up emphatically after earning a 3-1 decision win over St. John Paul II's Jack Von Eschenbach.

It capped off a dominant run to the championship that saw Monk pick up three consecutive pins to earn his chance at redemption before closing out the 145-pound championship with the 3-1 decision to become the school's first state champion.

"Determination, grit, toughness, selflessness, poise, focus, leader, dependable and champion. That is Gavin Monk," head coach Garrett Langer said in congratulating his championship effort. "What an ending for this kid. One year ago, we sat in a locker room after a heartbreaking defeat in the state finals. All that moment did was motivate him even more."

It led him to not only bettering himself this season, but helping lead the team to a second straight area championship as well, leading the team with his drive.

"He's a true Bulldog at heart," Langer said. "He spent days, weeks and months of training in the MHS lunchroom and at



GAVIN MONK

Ironclad gym. Everything he did was for this moment. Today, it paid off. He beat the best, a returning state champ."

For Monk, he was appreciative of those who helped him reach the stage and get the shot at redemption. "I'm thankful for everyone who has helped me along the way," he said.

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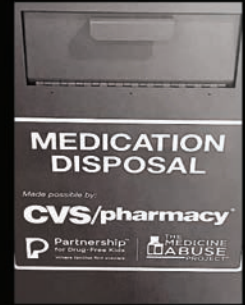
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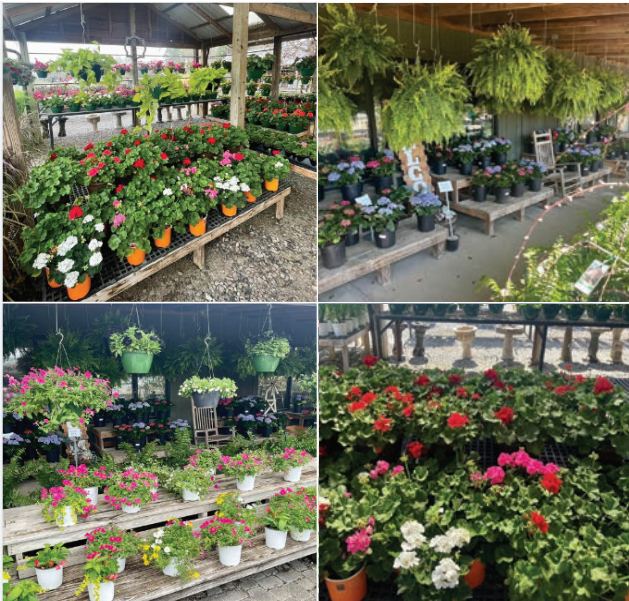
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REPLICA OF INDEPENDENCE HALL BEGINS

Submitted by Melanie Poole

On Washington's Birthday 2020, ground was broken for Phase I of a replica Independence Hall at the American Village in Montevallo. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey cut the ribbon at the new West Wing of Independence Hall on November 4, 2021. The West Wing is the first phase of a larger project to raise a replica of Independence Hall before the 250th birthday (or semiquincentennial) of the United States of America on July 4, 2026.



On February 28, 2023, the American Village broke ground for Phase II of the Independence Hall Project. The new building and its programs will dramatically increase the educational reach and impact of the American Village, in Alabama and throughout the Nation. When complete, Independence Hall will increase the capacity of the American Village to teach and inspire over 250,000 students, teachers and other visitors each year, focused on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights: America's Charters of Freedom.

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The West Wing of Independence Hall is comprised of an interactive, multi-media foyer and multi-sensory theatre. In the foyer, visitors are transported back to Boston on the eve of Paul Revere's Ride. A 104-seat theatre with 18' x 31' screen in the back half of the building shows the original film - *Choosing to Be an American People* - the story of British colonists in America, suffering under cruel military actions and crippling taxes forced on them by King George III and the British Parliament, collectively choosing to fight for the right to govern themselves, to create a new Nation, a United States of America.

The central tower, to be constructed in Phase II of the project, will include two floors of educational spaces. On the ground floor will be two a Talking Portrait Gallery and the Assembly Room. Visitors will be engaged in lively debate taking place among a cast of founders in the Talking Portrait Gallery. In the Assembly Room, they will be immersed in conversations that took place during the "Miracle of Philadelphia" when delegates debated the Declaration of Independence. The second floor will house the "Great Hall" classroom, as well as a gallery of important documents, a multi-media broadcast studio, and a media library with student work stations. This facility will support on-site and outreach education for hundreds of thousands of students and teachers.

CEO Alan B. Miller said, "We are incredibly excited to get underway with construction of Phase II of our Independence Hall immersive education experience and look forward to engaging citizens of all ages with an exciting journey through the turbulent and miraculous founding of the United States. We are eternally thankful for the efforts of all our friends and contributors who have helped make this a reality. "

National Day of Prayer Breakfast at The American Village

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH, 8:00 AM

This year's speaker: **Phyllis Hoffman DePiano**



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This year's speaker, Phyllis Hoffman DePiano, is the founder and chairman of the board of Hoffman Media, publishers of *Southern Lady*, *Tea Time*, *Cooking with Paula Deen*, *Victoria*, *Taste of the South*, *Southern Home*, and others.



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Mini Movie, Tues., April 4, 11am

Preschool Library Egg Hunt; Wed., April 5, 10am

Sweets & Eats Kit: Bunny Donuts; Wed., April 5, while supplies last

K-5 Library Egg Hunt; Thurs., April 6, 3:30pm

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Adult/Teen craft kit: seed packet magnets; Thurs., April 13, while supplies last

Classic Movie Monday; April 17, at 2pm, Parnell Library Theater. Call the library for a title.

Kid's Movie: Fri., April 21 at 2:00 pm. Call the library for a title.

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO OPENS GRAINGER COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CLINIC TO OFFER FREE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Shelby County Reporter

The new and free-to-the-public Grainger Community Counseling and Wellness Clinic is now open following a grand opening with ribbon cutting on Feb. 17 at Sims House on the University of Montevallo campus. At no cost to its clients, the clinic provides: -General therapy -Group therapy -Play therapy for children -Telemental health virtual counseling

The clinic is open to anyone who makes an appointment during its hours of Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Community members can find additional information and schedule an appointment online at montevallo.edu/community-counseling-clinic. Appointments can also be scheduled by phone at 205-665-6377. The clinic's address is 1045 Middle St., Montevallo, AL 35115. The clinic was made possible through a partnership between the clinic's namesakes Michael and Donna Grainger, who donated to fund the clinic, the University of Montevallo, the City of Montevallo and Shelby County, which is known as the Montevallo Development Cooperative District (MDCD). The clinic will provide free mental health care to Montevallo residents and other local communities.

Since the clinic is also a training facility for graduate students specializing in clinical mental health, school counseling and couples and family counseling, the 30- to 45-minute counseling sessions will be conducted by eight to ten students in UM's graduate counseling program who are in the final clinical phase of their education.

Parker said she expects many of their clients will seek one-on-one treatment for anxiety and depression, which is on the rise in Alabama and nationwide, and the clinic has some rather unique treatment options. "We have four therapy rooms – one is dedicated to play therapy, and one is dedicated to group therapy," she said. "The other two are for general therapy sessions. There are not too many places offering play therapy."

"Play therapy is a modality of counseling primarily used for children to help them process their feelings and emotions in a safe way using something that comes naturally for them. You use toys and other tangible things for them to help talk about how they're feeling. We use play because play is the language of kids."

Another unique feature of the clinic is its dedicated space for group counseling. There will be an ongoing group for grief and loss where people who've lost their spouse, children and/or parents can get the comfort and help they need. Telemental health counseling will be offered through a virtual video platform.

"Telemental health counseling is for people who can't make it into the center or don't live in the Montevallo area, have a lack of transportation or have a disability," Parker said. "This is for people who can't get counseling in a more traditional setting."



Childcare during counseling sessions is also available for those who need it if scheduled ahead of time.

"My hopes for the clinic are that it's a place of healing for people who are dealing with mental health challenges," Parker said. "That people come, feel supported and receive quality services that will improve the quality of their lives. Also, that our graduate students obtain excellent clinical experience that will prepare them for their careers in counseling."

Parker said the professional development opportunities afforded to graduate students at the University with the opening of the clinic continue to add to the prestige of a degree from UM.

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Gears – bikes that have indexed gears (one click on the gear selector moves to another gear ring) need to be adjusted periodically. If you are unable to select every combination of gearing on your bike (front and back gears) consider re-indexing/adjusting your derailleurs.

Cables – over time break and gear cables will stretch, wear out, and become dirty. Replacing your cables is an easy job that only takes a few minutes to have your bike feeling like new again.

Headset Bearings – this is the part where the front tire forks meet your bike frame (how you turn the bike). Mud and grime tend to build up in this bearing. Cleaning it by removing the front fork and handlebars and re-greasing this bearing will prolong the life of your bike.

Seat post – your seat post can fuse to the frame over time without annual maintenance. Mark the height on the post before loosening and removing the post (and saddle/bike seat) from the frame. Wipe old grime and grease from the frame and post. Re-grease the post before re-installing and adjusting the seat to the mark you made.

Accessories – look over your bike and see what else may be installed that you are no longer using or is broken/worn. It is easy to overlook a broken water bottle cage or a missing grip or torn handlebar tape on a regular basis. Take time now to replace or remove these extras.

Performing this tune-up twice a year will extend the life of your bicycle by many years. If you'd like to learn how to perform any or all of these tasks, join us for one of our bicycle maintenance events. We advertise our events on Facebook – visit vallocycle.org or contact vallocycle@gmail.com to sign up!

We are bringing it back!!

FARM DAY

Saturday April 29, 2023

Orr Park , Montevallo

10:00 AM-2:00 Pm

IT'S FREE

Activities

Kona Ice Petting Zoo Silent Auction
Tractor Show Bouncy House Face Painting
Craft Vendors Food Trucks

Contact mhsfarmday23@gmail.com for vendor, sponsors, tractor show, and silent auction forms!



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Sunday 8a-4p

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- ✓ Rotation ✓ Valve Stems ✓ Patch
- ✓ Change Over ✓ Mounting & Balance

MILITARY MOMENT

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



April is the month of the military child. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was responsible for establishing it in 1986, and the Department of Defense has honored his initiative ever since.

The month of April is an important one for children who have one or both parents serving in uniform; since its conception there have been an increasing number of awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing the needs of military children in all areas from coping with the deployment of parents to war zones to education of military dependents.

According to a report by the Department of Defense:

- Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 9/11.
- Nearly 80% of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.
- The average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterpart.

The military lifestyle is not easy and not just for the person wearing the uniform. We tend to thank the Veterans, but he or she is likely to have a spouse, children, parents, and siblings that are all affected by the needs of the United States Armed Forces. Children have no alternative but to

go along with choices their parents have made. Next time you see a Veteran with their family, especially their children, please don't hesitate to thank them for their sacrifices, as well. Most of these children have to grow up a bit faster than others and accept more responsibility due to their parent's service.

I am a child of a Vietnam Veteran and the scars it left behind after my father took off the uniform were tremendous. I am also raising a military child (both myself and my husband are Veterans). When his father was being deployed to Iraq several people, including family members, told our son to "take care of his mom and that now he was the man of the house while his dad was away." Our son was 4 years old at the time and though well meaning, it is a ridiculous idea. Please don't feel you must offer "words of wisdom" to these children, a simple thank you will go further than you might think.



Vendor info 205-665-1856



Catch us at Home!



OPPONENT	SPORT	DATE	TIME
Lander	Men's Lacrosse	April 1	12 p.m.
Miles	Baseball	April 4	2 p.m.
Alabama Huntsville	Women's Lacrosse	April 6	7 p.m.
Lee	Tennis	April 8	1 p.m.
Tuskegee	Baseball	April 12	2 p.m.
Auburn Montgomery	Tennis	April 12	1 p.m.
Delta State	Baseball	April 14	5 p.m.
Delta State (DH)	Baseball	April 15	1 p.m.
Shorter	Men's Lacrosse	April 15	1 p.m.
Delta State (DH)	Softball	April 15	2 p.m.
Delta State	Softball	April 16	12 p.m.
Mississippi College	Baseball	April 21	5 p.m.
Mississippi College (DH)	Baseball	April 22	12 p.m.
Mississippi College (DH)	Softball	April 22	1 p.m.
Young Harris	Men's Lacrosse/Women's Lacrosse	April 22	1 p.m./4 p.m.
Mississippi College	Softball	April 23	12 p.m.
Columbus State	Baseball	April 26	5 p.m.

BOOK VENDING MACHINE AT MES



On Feb. 23 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new "Book Vending Machine" just installed at Montevallo Elementary School. The Parnell Memorial Library purchased this machine for MES with a grant from the Rural Library Fellowship, which is dedicated to helping improve reading scores in elementary schools in rural areas.

The machine – which looks and works exactly how you think! – is stocked with free books funded by the Parnell Memorial Library Foundation. Teachers reward kids with special tokens that can be used to select a book from the machine, and students get to keep the books.

This is a big grant and a big sponsorship from the Parnell Memorial Library Foundation, and it will have a big impact on the MES students!



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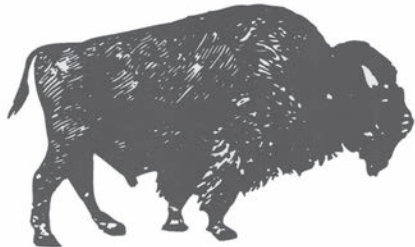
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MEMBER FDIC



**KEN LUDWIG'S
MOON OVER BUFFALO**

April 13th - 15th @ 7:30pm April 16th @ 2pm

Parnell Memorial Library Theatre
277 Park Dr. Montevallo, AL 35115

For ticket information -
visit MMSP FB page or email montevallomainstreetplayers@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PLEASE CONTACT INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR UPDATES.
Thank You!

EVERY 2ND & 4TH MONDAY

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, 6:0 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
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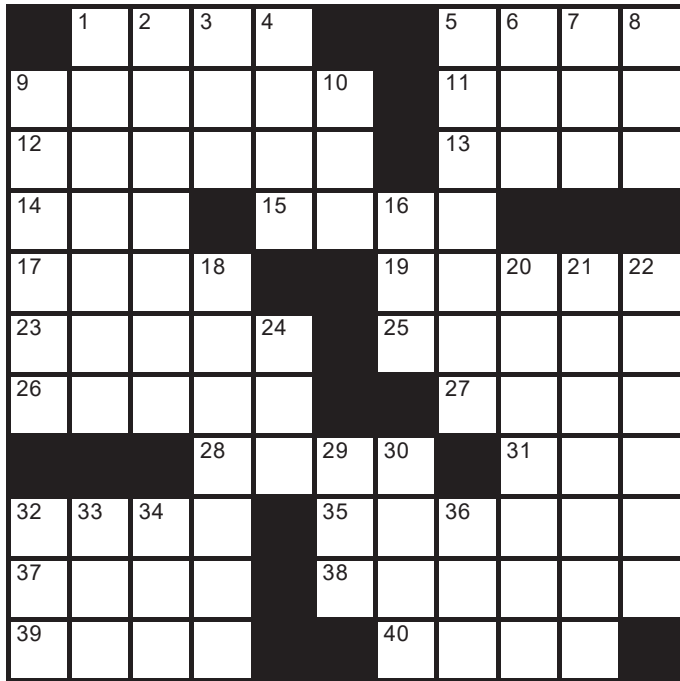
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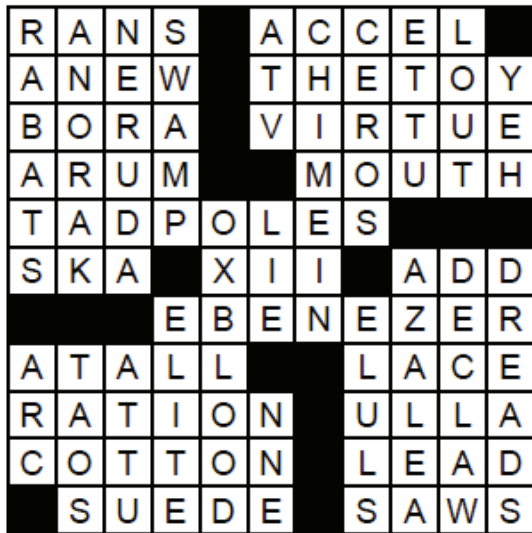
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Created by Stefan Forrester

MARCH PUZZLE SOLUTION



Across

1. Drive-___ lane
5. Eye color?
9. Complain
11. The river of the Pharoahs
12. Horn-___ eyeglasses have made a comeback
13. It's under a foot
14. Mimic
15. Extinct bird that was not very bright?
17. Tender
19. Combusting
23. Connect pipes, e.g.
25. Foals' mothers
26. Peninsula near 11-Across
27. Campus military org.
28. Dating couple
31. Gov't agency for medical research
32. Author of *James and the Giant Peach*
35. Wisconsin town
37. Burn soother

38. Tool that cuts wood with the grain

39. "So shines a good ___ in a weary world"

40. Check and ___

Down

1. From the sands of Iwo Jima, to the shores of ___

2. This can be inside the park?

3. Ingredient in a Pina Colada

4. Not new

5. Old adverb for "To the extent that"

6. Comes before Grande or de Janiero

7. Not well

8. I told you so!

9. Holds on to

10. Capital of medieval Japan

16. Beaver construction

18. Sent electronically

20. Someone who never says what they mean?

21. Two healthy eyes also contain two ___

22. Avoid

24. This x8 will get you a byte

29. Mess up

30. Cause grievous injury

32. Juncheonoree

33. Pub order

34. Weedkiller?

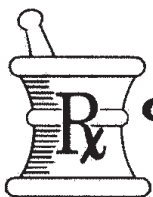
36. Popular professional around April 15th: Abbr.



Happy
Easter!

"Untold Stories of Black Montevallo"

compilation booklets are available at Parnell Library and Carmichael Library in Montevallo and the Shelby County Archives and Museum in Columbiana. Suggested donation of \$5.



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