



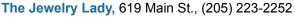


"The Voice for Business & Community"

December 2023 | Vol. 22, No. 12

-Chamber News











# ECEM



4th - 8th MON - FRI

#### **COLONIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH & TOUR**

\$40. per person/ call (205)665-3535 X 1031 American Village

5th TUESDAY

#### IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION VIRTUAL MEETING

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

7th THURSDAY

#### 2023 SHELBY COUNTY DIAMOND AWARDS

11:30am - 1pm / Grande Hall, Old Mill Square, Columbiana \$20. ea / RSVP by 12/5 205-663-4542

8th FRIDAY

**UM FALL GRADUATION** 

12th TUESDAY

#### **CHAMBER HOLIDAY COFFEENET**

8:30-9:30am / Indigo Cafe & Bar , 629 Main St. RSVP by 12/11 montevallochamber@gmail.com

14th THURSDAY

#### **CHAMBER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

5-7pm / Visit local participating businesses, collect tickets to WIN prizes and Chamber cash. No Purchase Necessary! Drawing - 7:30pm at Main St. Tavern / For more details visit Montevallo Chamber FB or call (205) 665-1519

14th - 17th THURS - SUN

#### "THE 24 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS"

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



14th THURSDAY

#### SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS HOLIDAY BREAK

begins at 1pm / 2nd semester starts Jan. 3, 2024

15th FRIDAY

#### **UM WINTER HOLIDAYS**

begins at 5pm and reopens Jan. 3, 2024

#### 16th SATURDAY SHELBY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HOLIDAY PANCAKE **BREAKFAST**

7:30-10am / Montevallo First Baptist Fellowship Hall / tickets \$8.00 ea. / info 205-665-1942

#### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

11am / Alabama National Cemetery / Hosted by the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery. For details visit - https://scalnc.org/programs-at-alnc

#### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

noon / Montevallo City Cemetery / Sponsored by the Montevallo Historical Society / details visit www.historicmontevallo.org

#### **PHOTOS WITH SANTA**

noon-4pm / Montevallo ACE / 4004 Hwy 25

#### ALABAMA PET PANTRY

2-3pm / SEA Parking Lot / 160 Shoshone Dr.

23rd SATURDAY

#### **PHOTOS WITH SANTA**

noon-4pm / Montevallo ACE / 4004 Hwy 25

25th MONDAY **CHRISTMAS** 

31tst SUNDAY

**NEW YEAR'S EVE** 

#### **No December Chamber Luncheon**

CHAMBER LUNCHEON - Jan 2024

Wednesday January 17, 2024 - "STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS". Guest Speaker - Mayor Rusty Nix - Annual Chamber Business Meeting/ Parnell / Networking 11:30 / Lunch noon, \$15. each / Luncheon Sponsor - Trustmark Bank

PLATINUM LEVEL
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TEAM LEHMAN

For additional information about how to become a Chamber Business Partner contact Chamber Director Adele Nelson (205) 665-1519





MONTEVALLO, AL 35115 205-665-5124 HIGHWAY



Main Street

Memories

#### **VICTORY AUTOS BUILDING**

by Clay Nordan Vice-president, Montevallo Historical Society

EVERYTHING HATS CAPES SHOES CLOAK'S, SUTTS. Williams. MAN. Overco Perfumes. Rain Coats Jewelry. Saddle Dry Goods, Timuare GLOYES, Groceries WE Necktie Tora. Furniture. SELL. OUR PRICES Are the Lowest in Town. H. C. & W. B. REYNOLDS. MONTEVALLO, . . ALA

he building commonly known today as the old Victory Auto building that stands on the northwest corner of Main and Shelby Streets got its start shortly after the end of the Civil War when former Confederate Captain Henry Clay Reynolds came to town and opened a general mercantile business. Together with his son, W.B. Reynolds, they thrived and grew to the point where they also had stores in West Blocton and

Centreville. Capt. Reynolds was the key promoter for locating the Alabama Girls Industrial School in Montevallo and became the school's first president in 1896 when Miss Julia Tutwiler withdrew her acceptance of the position at the last minute. The Reynolds also owned and published the local newspaper, the Montevallo News, at the time of the founding of AGIS.

An interesting capsule biography of the rich and colorful life of H.C. Reynolds appears in the June 2021 edition of Chamber Chatter. It can be found in pdf format at www.historicmontevallo.org under the "Chatter Contributions" tab for 2021.

After the Reynolds' business came to a close, the building became the home to Montevallo's first Ford automobile dealership, Reid Motor Co. in the 1920's. Since then, a variety of General Motors dealerships have followed in Reid's



footsteps. Among them were Montevallo Motor Co.; Ron Shafer Chevrolet; Carl Cannon Chevrolet; Ken Terry Chevrolet; Leach Pontiac GMC; and the most recent occupant, Victory Autos.

The building has been unoccupied since before 2019 when it was purchased by the City of Montevallo. Since then, no potential occupants have expressed any interest in moving in, so the city has developed a strategy that includes demolition of the building and replacing it with a much needed Main Street hotel. At this time, progress on the plan hinges on completing environmental impact studies and finalizing talks with a hotel management company.









## CARL CANNON CHEVROLET







Saturday, December 16, 2022 • 12:00 Noon

## **Montevallo City Cemetery**

Please Join Us for a Special Ceremony Honoring the Memory of nearly 400 Local Veterans Buried Here and to Lay Remembrance Wreaths on their Graves for the Holidays.

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".

#### **CHRISTMAS TREE & WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY**

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched!
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- · Use a string of lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights and blow out candles before leaving home or going to bed.
- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the house or garage, or placed outside against the house.
- Choose holiday decorations that are flame retardant.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

nfpa.org/education

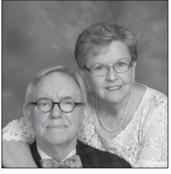




#### SUTTON RETIRES AFTER **16 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Dr. Terry Sutton, Pastor of Montevallo First Baptist Church tendered his Retirement Resignation as full time pastor of nearly 16 years recently.

He has been very successful in leading Montevallo First Baptist Church in numerical growth as well as giving direction to the enhancement of the church facilities.



Dr. Terry Sutton, and wife Kay

Sutton has been very active in the Montevallo Community including being a Pastor to many people of our community, as well as being the recipient of the Civic Leader Award, Rotarian of the Year Award, President of the Montevallo Rotarian Club, Member of the Board of Directors for the Shelby Emergency Assistance, Member of the Parnell Library Foundation Board of Directors and the recipient of the Scholarship Award to Leadership Shelby County from the City of Montevallo.

The Community is invited to a Retirement Reception scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17 from 2-4pm at MFBC.

of Alabama are welcomed.

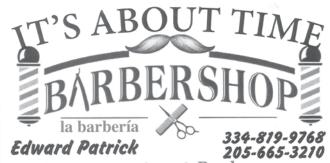
#### PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT **MONTEVALLO ACE**

Hardware On Saturday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 23 from noon - 4pm, the Montevallo ACE at 4004 Hwy 25, will be doing free Photos with Santa. ACE will also be handing out free hot chocolate and warm apple cider. Donations to Children's

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## DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH MILDRED ORR

by Nancy Wilstach, writer and retired journalist, Montevallo, Alabama

Although she started her life in Nashville, Tenn., and has lived on both coasts, Mildred Orr says that she has "always thought Montevallo was home."

Looking back at 98 years of living, she says: "I've been blessed . . . with both marriages and with good friends."

Her family moved to Birmingham when she was a girl, she said, and she wound up graduating from Ramsay High School in Birmingham. One of her best friends turned out truly to be a friend for life. Corinne Loy Miller was a classmate and, later, a neighbor in Montevallo's Arden subdivision.

Her first husband, Arthur Bolton, was a year ahead of her at Ramsay and went off to college at Auburn for a year until Uncle Sam came calling. Meanwhile, Mildred graduated from Ramsay, and Arthur wound up a Navy officer.

Oh, and they managed to get married in Miami before taking off for the West Coast.

"He wanted to be a pilot," she said. The Navy had other plans, deciding his presence was urgently needed with the Pacific Fleet headed to the Philippines. "He later learned to fly out at the (Shelby County) airport," she said.

After World War II ended, the couple got to spend a brief time in civilian life. Then came the Korean Conflict. Uncle Sam needed Arthur again.

This time, they were a family of three.

"Art was two years old, so he and I moved to Norfolk. And I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent in Norfolk," Mildred said. Arthur's duty this time was on the admiral's staff, she said, "and the admiral kept close to shore."

When the Korean Conflict calmed enough that the Navy let Arthur get back to civilian life, the young family headed back to Birmingham.

"He (Arthur) didn't want to go back to building, so he opened his own heating and plumbing business," she said. It turned out to be a success.

After Art had become a teen and was a student at John Carroll Catholic High School, Arthur's father had a stroke.

The family moved to Montevallo then to help with the elder Bolton's care. They bought a house on Meadow Drive in Arden subdivision.

"I was out in the yard one day, and someone came out of the next house and called out to me," Mildred said. "It was Corinne—right next door. She truly was a friend for life!" Although Mildred speaks with animation and enjoyment of her more than six decades in Montevallo, her life here has included times of heartbreak and grief.

Arthur died in 1990. Art graduated from Samford University and Washington and Lee Law School and practiced law in Philadelphia until he died of cancer in 1999, at age 50. Her second husband, Dr. Milton Orr, a dentist and former Mayor of Montevallo, died in 2002.

Mildred, however, focuses on the joyful memories. "I have faith, real faith, and, you know, it gets deeper as I get older. I speak to Him often every day."

She started going out with a family friend a year after Arthur's death, but she didn't regard it as a romantic relationship. Then, in 1993, Dr. Orr telephoned.

This was different, she said, smiling at the memories evoked.

When he asked her to marry him, "we had a problem—He was Methodist, and I am a Catholic!"

They solved their problem by having the (Methodist) Rev. Buddy Freeman perform their ceremony, with a subsequent blessing by a priest.

"From then on, we went to my church on Saturday night and his church on Sunday."

Montevallo has been blessed by both: Dr. Orr donated some of the land for what has become Orr Park, and Mildred donated Ebenezer Swamp to the University of Montevallo. It is now the Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve.





## NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

**2023 BELIEVE!** 

The Thrill of Hope, The Weary World Rejoices!

Maranatha The Night Lore use from

Live Nativity Production at Wilton Baptist Church 212 Selma St, Wilton, AL 35187 on December 8th & 9th - 6:00 - 9:00pm

Step back in time to Bethlehem 2000 years ago and join us for an unforgettable adventure this Christmas season.

Hands on family experience filled with goodies, love and laughter as you search for the baby Christ child. Spend a few moments hanging prayers on our tree, shopping in our marketplace, paying your taxes, and who knows what else will you find? A few items to take home, share some hot cocoa and cookies with us, discover the true meaning of that first Christmas long long ago.

You will want to make this a family tradition - no cost at all. Just a fun filled faith based evening with your family and friends and you will come to understand the true meaning of this Christmas season!

The journey will be inside and out (mostly outside) so we encourage you to dress for the weather so that you will be comfortable throughout. Wear good walking shoes, a warm and weatherproof hat, gloves and coat. Bring an umbrella if the forecast calls for rain.

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Make your reservations NOW via email at Imurdochburns@ yahoo.com . You can also post questions or comments on our facebook page (Wilton Baptist Church) or our Night in Bethlehem facebook page - please leave contact information so that we can get back with you!





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Vol 2, No. 12

Ed. note: This is the second in a series of Untold Stories that begin to remember the story of slavery in the Montevallo area. Each looks at some aspect of enslavement on the King plantation. Next month's instalment tells the story of Sukey, a woman enslaved by Edmund King who went to extraordinary lengths to keep the female side of her family whole.

#### II. REMEMBERING SLAVERY: HONORING THE NAMES

Our ancestors who made it out of slavery are as close as we have to superheroes. . . . Their names need to be said. We need to honor them. -- Peter Datcher, Harpersville family historian, on his enslaved ancestors

An inventory of Edmund King's assets shows that at the time of his death in 1863 he owned 28 persons of African descent. They are named in Will Book H, 16, housed in the Shelby County Museum & Archives. Children under the age of twenty accounted for half of the persons sold at a public sale. Most were purchased by King's white descendants.

Emancipation would come just two years later. These young people probably made it out of slavery. Further research will surely turn up important information about the lives and experiences of these members of the first-freed generation. For now, their names at least can be said.

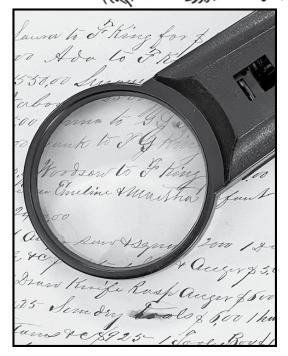
We have their names because King's executors compiled a detailed inventory of everything of value in his personal estate, from spoons to candles and table cloths, from ox carts to oxen to enslaved Africans.

These inventories make for painful reading. They display with repulsive clarity the brutality of the slavery system. Enslaved persons are listed by first name only, sex, and age right after financial assets and just before the livestock. You go directly from three-year-old Emeline ("Emeline F 3") to "3 Mules, 3 Horses. . . . " It hurts to see human beings treated as property along with spoons, table clothes, and livestock. These records evoke the trauma of enslaved families always in danger of being split apart. The risk of family separation was often at its highest when an owner died.

But they also offer glimpses of the ones who may have made it out of slavery. They are Datcher's "superheroes," and their names can now be honored.

Jim Doyle, 4, and Frizzie, 1, are the "youngest children" of Frank, 55, and Mary, 34. Their older siblings may have already been sold or perhaps gifted to King's sons and daughters when they received their "portion" at majority or marriage. Jim Doyle and Frizzie were purchased by Edmund's son, Frank Ragan King. He purchased three other children, for whom he paid \$5,000: Ada, 12, Woodson, 11, and Lora, 8. He lived his entire life in Montevallo, dying in 1884. The five children he is known to have enslaved probably came into freedom right here in Montevallo. Can some part of their stories be recovered?

The inventory of the assets of another of Edmund's sons, Nathaniel, provides names of others who probably lived to



"Simanthy and her two children Emeline & Martha Infant 10 days old." Will Book H, 16, p. 862

see emancipation. In 1863 Nathaniel owned "1 Negro man Alfred aged 35 years" valued at \$3000. (The same value was assigned to Nathaniel's carriage.) Six enslaved persons, ranging in age from 2 to 22, had previously been sent to Bienville Parish in New Orleans to be sold by Nathaniel's agent. Their stories are unknown but not their names: Aggy, 24, Tom, 22, Adam, 21, John Wily, 16, Jim, 4, Andrew 2.

Julia's "youngest children" -- Easter, 15, Ella, 2, and Georgiana, 1 -- were sold to Shelby King. He seems to have owned a cotton plantation near Montevallo around this time. Julia's descendants may still live in this area. Other young people sold for the benefit of King's heirs in 1863 include Henry, 19, Anderson, 12, Lucy, 15, Minerva, 14, Frank, 10, Fanny, 8.

A deeply sad story embedded in the bill of sale reveals a painful truth about the slavery system. Martha was just ten days old when she was sold along with her mother, Sammantha, and sister Emeline. At inventory time she was unborn. Imagine, if you can, what it would be like to deliver a daughter into the world with no hope of delivering her from enslavement.

They were born into slavery, these persons whose names can now be said. Their pain must not be forgotten. Estate records tell stories of the grief and loss of family separations, yes. But they also hold out the hope of recovering traces of the first generation to know freedom. Let us now begin to remember the lives of the newly freed.

Thanks are due to Bruce Cooper, research assistant at the Shelby County Museum & Archives, for help locating and interpreting Will Book inventories. Peter Datcher is quoted by E. Sparacino, "Saying their names: Museum's new index serves as tool for slave ancestry research," Shelby County Reporter, June 27, 2022. Submitted by Kathy King and Anitka Stewart Sims on behalf of the Montevallo Legacy Project. Contact us at MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com.



#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOODEN BOAT RACE WINNERS**

The 2023 Tinglewood Festival Wooden Boat Race Winners were recognized at the Montevallo Chamber Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on Wednesday November 15. Entries in the boat race are local organizations that serve our community.

The five winners each received prize money and a wooden trophy with the actual boat that won the race on top. Joe Williams presented the winners with their trophies.





1ST PLACE Boys & Girls Club of Montevallo



2ND PLACE Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery



3RD PLACE Montevallo Main Street Players



4TH PLACE Montevallo Chamber of Commerce



5TH PLACE Montevallo Athletic Club



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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 all is well and that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed time spent with family, friends and, of course, all of the delicious food. I know I did!



**RUSTY NIX, MAYOR** 

Whew!!! The end of October and the month of November was very busy for the City of Montevallo. Events were scheduled just about every weekend AND during the week. On November 2nd, Team Lehman and Montevallo Main Street sponsored an event that was new to me. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a multi-day holiday that involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have passed away.

The holiday is widely observed in Mexico and in other places, especially among those of Mexican Heritage. Montevallo's event saw about 600 attendees. I'm looking forward to next year's event to be even bigger and better. Thanks again to Montevallo Main Street and Team Lehman for bringing this event to our town.

Merry Christmas Montevallo! This is the time of year that our town transforms into a lovely Christmas Village. Our downtown streetscape transforms into a picture-perfect Hallmark Christmas card. Visitors are always quick to praise how beautiful our town is at Christmas. The magical transformation of the town is possible due to the hard work of Kirk Hamby's Street crew and Montevallo Main Street. So, when you see them working in town, be sure to give them a thank you. Kind words go a long way.

Business owners, please don't forget the Christmas Window Decorating Competition! The store front windows were beautiful last year and I can't wait to see how they look this year. Winners of the contest will be announced at the tree lighting ceremony.

Don't forget the Tree Lighting and the Christmas Parade coming up on November 30th. The Christmas Tree Lighting starts at 5:30 p.m. and the parade starts at 6:00 p.m. Last year's event was the largest attended Christmas parade the city has recorded. There were over 100 entries in the parade and we hope this year's parade is even bigger and better. Also, when you are out and about in downtown, don't forget to look for the hidden Elf. If you find it, bring it to City Hall to receive a prize.

Christmas is the season of giving and Montevallo has always been a giving community. Our citizens care for one another so I would like to ask everyone to make it a point to check in on your family, friends and neighbors this holiday season. Shelby Emergency Assistance (SEA) is a great asset to have in our community to assist with the needs of Shelby County residents during the holiday season and

throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact SEA at (205) 665-1942 if you are in need of assistance.

The city is looking forward to the Highway 25 sidewalk project getting underway. It's been three long years in the making but this project is finally about to get started. The Moore's Crossroads project is also coming along and I'm anxious for this plan to get underway. The completion of the work on this project will transform the entrance into the city and will help to bring new development in the northern gateway corridor.

Remember, when you are out this holiday season looking to pick up that special gift, please shop at our local merchants first. They truly depend on your patronage.

Never forget that Jesus is the reason for the celebration of the season. Scripture states, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

God bless our nation, our state, and our City of Montevallo. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

## Weddings, Quinceañeras, & Much More! **Event Photography** Pricing Rose VIP A VIP B · 2 Photographers 2 Photographers

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#### **BOSTON TEA PARTY 250TH ANNIVERSARY**

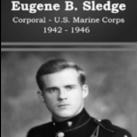
On December 16, 2023, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party! In 1773, the East India Company's warehouses in London were filled with millions of pounds of tea they could not sell because the Colonists discovered that they could buy tea from smugglers at a lower price. To help the East India Company, King George III and the British Parliament passed the Tea Act, which:

- 1. Added a tax of three pence per pound (about \$3.00 today) on tea.
- 2. Required the tax be paid when it was unloaded in the Colonies.
- 3. Named the East India Company as the only company allowed to sell tea in the Colonies.

The Colonists were outraged by the tax and, once again, protested "No Taxation Without Representation!" They felt the Tea Act was another way King George was trying to control the Colonies. Why, they thought, should the British be able to tell them what tea they could buy and who they could buy it from? Colonists in Boston promised that East India Company tea would never be allowed into their city!

Near the end of 1773, three ships carrying tea from England arrived in Boston harbor. Nearly 7,000 colonists gathered in Boston's Old South Meeting House to protest the Tea Act. Some had used soot and red clay to paint their faces to disguise themselves as members of the Mohawk tribe. In the 1770s, the Mohawks were a symbol of freedom and liberty in the colonies and the Sons of Liberty felt this "disguise" would represent their cause.

60 colonists boarded the ships and men dumped 342 chests (45 tons) of tea into Boston harbor. The tea destroyed that night would be worth over \$1 million dollars in today's currency!







### Veterans' Banner Program

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## UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO OPENS NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART MOUNTAIN BIKING COURSE

Shelby County Reporter

A new state-of-the-art mountain biking facility has officially opened at the University of Montevallo following a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 26. The ribbon cutting ceremony brought together city, county and university officials as they celebrated the new facility, which pairs well to Oak Mountain State Park's mountain bike offerings as more of a racing course on what used to be the city's golf course.

"The Mountain biking course road was a collaboration between Shelby County and the University of Montevallo," said Scott Dillard, executive vice president of advancement, government relations and strategic initiatives at the University of Montevallo. "The university had an old golf course, near the university lake, that had really run its course in terms of how many people would play it and that sort of thing."

UM decided that rather than maintain the golf course, it would make more sense to convert it into a mountain biking course. They accomplished this by ceasing maintenance on the golf course, and allowing local wildlife to retake the land. "You'd be surprised how quick nature takes over," Dillard said. "Within a few weeks, natural vegetation was already returning, but it took us about a year to get the pass cut and have it back to where it was more of a natural area."

The mountain biking course will feature trails for collegiate and club competitions as well as a trail that will be open to the public for recreational use.

Shelby County Manager Chad Scroggins noted that the trails, coupled with Montevallo's new mountain biking team, should prove appealing to a new demographic of students interested in attending the university.

"Montevallo is one of our top partners," Scroggins said. "Anytime we can increase student enrollment through a partnership with them is something that we're looking at. In this case, the university can actually recruit their cycling teams because there's an asset and facility."

The course was developed through a partnership with Shelby County and the Discover Shelby tourism department and offers another venue for mountain biking enthusiasts in the Birmingham area, in addition to the trails at Oak Mountain State Park. There will be trials reserved for college and high school teams as well as places where non-affiliated and adult cyclists can ride trails.

"It really hits everything we're looking at, which is community involvement, but also growing that population of Montevallo students," Scroggins said. Scroggins noted that other places in the southeast region that have similar courses have had communities that have grown in both value and numbers based on having bike trail systems, especially in Arkansas. He went on to comment that Montevallo's new race course, unlike at Oak Mountain or other facilities in the Birmingham



He went on to comment that Montevallo's new race course, unlike at Oak Mountain or other facilities in the Birmingham area, is a true spectator race course, which adds something to the overall scene of competitive mountain biking in the area. "It's going to be a good training ground for the young folks; it's going to be good to see the high school teams have events there," Scroggins said. "We're going to see a lot of positives from that particular facility."

The goal is for the facility to have features such as a bike shop, washing area, storage and more to help make it a standout facility.





#### Living River Summer Camp is for all kids and teens



It's the holiday season, but we're thinking of Summer at Living River! We hope you'll consider Summer with us briefly, too. Take a moment to consider the children or teenagers in your life.

They could be your nieces or nephews, friends' children, neighbors, students, grandchildren, or your own children. Living River, located just 30 minutes east of Montevallo, offers an awesome Summer Camp experience for children and teenagers that's close by and cost-effective! And, our best registration price is between now and the end of the year.

Summer Camp at Living River is a time for swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, field games, hiking, crafts, and all of the Summer Camp fun that you can imagine. Uniquely, Living River is situated on 4.5 miles of the Cahaba River, one of the most biodiverse rivers in North America. And so, children and teenagers are exposed to environmental education during Summer Camp through nonprofit partners like the Cahaba River Society, Cahaba Riverkeeper, the Alabama Forestry Commission, and more!

## Living River Summer Camp 2024

				1			
Dates	Drop Off / Pick Up	Camp	Intended for Rising Grade	Early Bird Rate	Rate through 02/28/24	Rate through 04/30/24	Rate through 06/26/24
June 9-14	3 pm Sun./ noon Fri	Youth Mission Camp	7-Graduated Senior	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
June 17-21	3 pm Mon./ noon Fri.	Elementary Camp	K-6th	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
June 23-27	3 pm Sun./ noon Thurs.	Creative Camp	K-9th	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
June 28-30	3 pm Fri./ noon Sun.	You & Me Camp	4 yr. old-3rd	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300

Living River hosts the camping program for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Presbyterian Church (USA).

This year, we're offering a \$25 "bring a new-to-Living-River friend to camp" discount (no limit to number of friends).

Once your friend(s) have finished camp, your total discount will be applied to your remaining total owed or credited to you for next year's camp if you pay up front. Campers will be recognized and get a special water bottle sticker!

Find additional information about the discount and scholarships at <a href="mailto:livingriver.org">livingriver.org</a>.











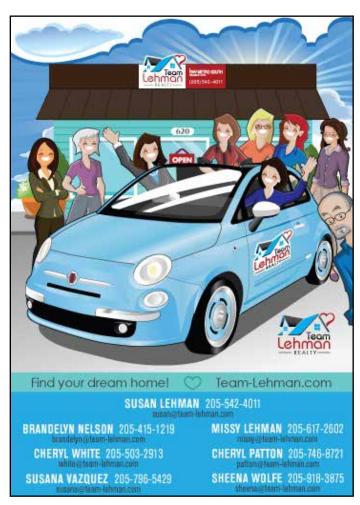
Living River is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our spiritual education for young people is centered around exploration, encouraging children and youth to know the stories of faith for themselves and ask questions about how God is at work in their own lives and the world.

At camp, children and teens build lifelong friendships, grow in self-confidence, and spend time unplugged from technology, immersed in nature.

Any camper who fills out an informational application will receive a half-off the base price scholarship, first come-first serve, and there is additional scholarship available through Living River for families who are in greater need. Living River wants to help remove any barrier between a kid or teenager and the experience of freedom and feeling at home at Summer Camp. Every child and teenager thrives when given the feeling of wonder and insight about the natural world they live in. Living River hopes you'll feel excited to give such a unique opportunity to the young people in your life this Summer. Please reach out to our staff with questions or an interest in visiting the property, and please visit our website, www.livingriver.org, for additional information!

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"The Voice for Business & Community"



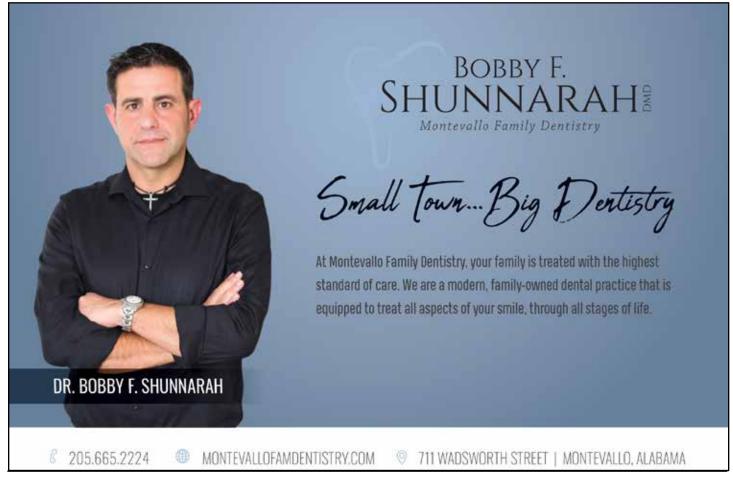


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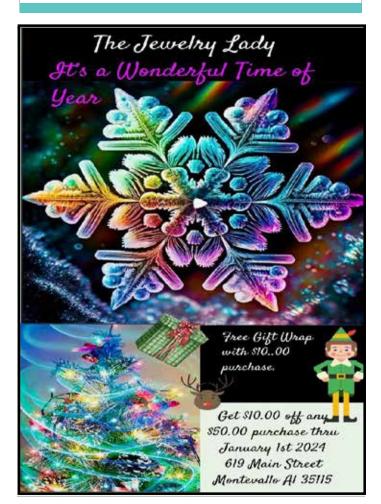
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info contact montevallochamber@gmail.com



Dec. 7 Tues. 11:30am - 1pm Diamond Awards

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8:30 - 9:30am

Chamber Holiday

CoffeeNET

RSVP by Mon.12/11

205-665-1519 montevallochamber@gmail.com

5-7pm
Chamber Christmas
Open House
Downtown Montevallo

Downtown Montevallo Montevallo Chamber Facebook page for details





#### TION VETERANS YOU ARE INVITED TO LUNCH!

The American Legion invites you to lunch on January 6, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room/ patio area at the Parnell Memorial Library, 277 Park Drive, Montevallo. There is no charge for lunch and no RSVP required. Veterans, spouses, children, and grandchildren are encouraged to attend!

#### **AREA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION PLANS SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

The Montevallo Area Ministerial Association (aka MAMA: Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic and United Methodist churches) will hold a special service, titled: A Blue Christmas, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 925 Plowman St., Montevallo, on December 17 at 3 p.m. Preaching at the service will be Rev. Samuel Hamilton-Poore of Montevallo Presbyterian Church.



All are welcome. With the excitement of Christmas, we often put aside those feelings of loss that are with us but hidden during this celebratory time. Come to a guiet service of candlelight and prayer to acknowledge those we miss during the holidays.

## 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, 6:00 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, Elder Justice Center, 4804 Hwy 25, Montévallo

#### **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 disturbed 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

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FA **2023 CO.STARTERS GRADUATES**



(Itor) Natalee Perkins, Veronica Peoples, Patti Simpson, and Jasmine Smith.

For more information about the program email Montevallo Main Street at mainstreet@cityofmontevallo.com



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OPPONENT	SPORT	DATE	TIME
Shorter	Women's Basketball	Dec. 1	5:30 p.m.
Shorter	Men's Basketball	Dec. 1	7:30 p.m.
Lee	Women's Basketball	Dec. 3	2 p.m.
Lee	Men's Basketball	Dec. 3	4 p.m.
West Georgia	Women's Basketball	Dec. 15	5:30 p.m.
West Georgia	Men's Basketball	Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.
Huntingdon	Men's Basketball	Dec. 19	5 p.m.
Union	Women's Basketball	Dec. 31	2 p.m.
Union	Men's Basketball	Dec. 31	4 p.m.

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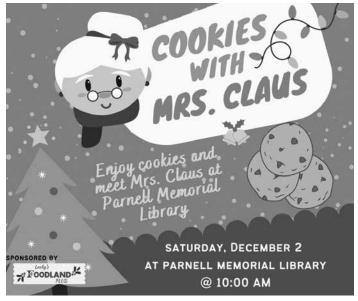
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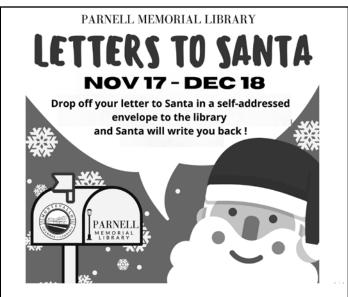
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## FROM THE SEED-TO-TABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Alabama Cooperative Extension Service at www.ACES.edu



Raised bed gardens offer several advantages over conventional garden plots:

- Raised bed gardens can help maximize all available space and are typically smaller than traditional gardens, making them a more convenient option in areas with limited space.
- Raised bed gardens can be used as a solution for areas with poor and rocky soil or sloped terrains.
- Beds are usually filled with high-quality soil mixes that have large amounts of organic matter, which improves drainage and may increase yields.
- Soil raised above ground-level tends to drain better and warm up much quicker in the spring, thus allowing for faster seed germination and transplant growth.
- Higher soil levels and improved soil quality offers better access, less maintenance, and easier harvest.
- Dense planting techniques result in higher production per square foot of garden and help reduce weed seed germination.

- Raised bed gardens can be entered and maintained soon after rains or irrigation without compacting soils.
- No expensive power cultivation equipment is needed.

Plots are still available at the garden on Overland Road next to University Baptist Church. Email Kate Vogel at kvogelashfield@aol.com.





On behalf of Team Lehman, we would like to thank all of our sponsors for your generous support. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to host a hugely successful first annual Dia de los Muertos right here in Montevallo.

Sincere thanks to El Agave; Mainstreet Montevallo; Impact Montevallo; Vera Home Builders; Navarro's Fresh Market; Atlantic Bay Mortgage; Edwards Chevrolet; Treeline Forestry Mulching and Veronica's VIP Events



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SUBMITTED BY ARTHUR HERBERT

#### WHEN WANING DAYLIGHT

As winter settles in and the daylight hours dwindle, cycling enthusiasts face a unique set of challenges when it comes to evening rides. The end of daylight saving time marks a significant shift in the availability of natural light, making it essential for riders to adapt their routines to ensure their safety. Here we explore key considerations for cycling after the time change, offering tips and insights to help riders make the most of our waning daylight adventures.

Prioritize Visibility - One of the primary concerns when riding in the evening is visibility. As darkness descends earlier, it is crucial to enhance your visibility to both motorists and pedestrians. Invest in high-quality bike lights for the front and rear of your bicycle, ensuring a full charge before each ride. Keep in mind that Alabama State Law requires both front and rear reflectors on your bicycle – lights do not remove this requirement. Also, consider adding reflective elements to your clothing and gear, making you more conspicuous in low-light conditions. Adding tape to the many surfaces of your bike including inside of your rims, your frame seat stays, backpack, shoes, and rear of your saddle will dramatically increase its ability to reflect light into the eyeballs of motorists.

Can't You See – It is essential to ride with traffic flow because headlights are bright and riding against traffic can temporarily blind you and decrease your response time for evasive steering. Careful calibration of your headlight will ensure you can see and be seen. Aim your headlight at the ground about 10 feet ahead. Set your light for on low for low light conditions. Tail Lights should be set on a steady (or better yet RANDOM) strobe mode to help others see you. Keep any lights clear of your rear reflector for added visibility.

Choose Lighted Routes - Opt for well-lit routes with ample street lighting to maximize your visibility and reduce the risk of accidents. Familiarize yourself with the areas you plan to ride in, identifying well-lit paths and streets. Even in Montevallo, some routes may be better illuminated than others.

Dress Weather Aware - December evenings can bring chilly temperatures, so dressing appropriately is essential for both comfort and safety. Check the forecast for temperature, precipitation, and wind conditions, and adjust your riding plans accordingly. Wear layers to stay warm and choose clothing with reflective elements. Additionally, consider using bright and contrasting colors to enhance your visibility to others on the road. Be prepared for sudden weather changes and carry necessary gear, such as waterproof clothing, to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride. Eyewear can offer protection from wind and even rain. As the sun drops temperatures go down and the tears your eyes use to protect themselves can reduce your sight.

**Timing** - With daylight fading fast, it's crucial to plan your rides with consideration for the time. Start your rides earlier in the evening to take advantage of any remaining daylight, and be mindful of sunset times in your area. Planning your route and timing in advance will help you avoid being caught in complete darkness.

Cycling in waning light has its challenges, but with careful planning and consideration, riders can continue to enjoy their favorite activity safely. By following this guide, you can make the most of the waning daylight and continue pedaling through the winter months. Remember, safety should always be the top priority, so take the necessary precautions and embrace the unique beauty of low light cycling.

We welcome riders of all experience levels. ValloCycle is Alabama's oldest citywide bike share. For more information visit vallocycle.org or contact vallocycle@gmail.com

Happy Holidays!





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

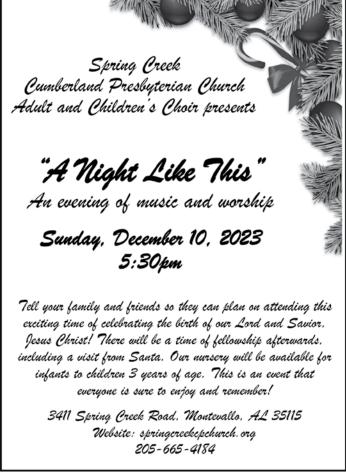
As I pondered this month's article, I wonder if the majority of us are thrilled 2023 is over, or was it a great year and you don't want to see it end? Without a doubt, it had many new changes; I would venture to say some were good and some not so much, which brings me to the word perspective. Each of us incorporates our own ideas, thoughts, prejudices, and past experiences into absolutely everything we touch, feel, and do. These things can change your world at the drop of a dime. As we adjust our every day lives to the changes that present themselves it feels like the right time to decide who we are or who we want to become. I do not doubt that our own self-reflection often changes, and it should with every new experience. I hope that all of us recognize changes that need to happen and we follow through with those choices.

As this year ends and we all begin to make our New Year's resolutions, wouldn't it be great to let go of our past hurts and mistakes? To love more? To seek out people, not like ourselves, but those that you can learn something new from? One of the things that I loved most about my time in the Navy was making friends from different places and coming together at the holidays. We experienced varied family traditions from cultures we had no experience with.

If you look around and everyone looks like you, acts like you, and thinks like you; how in the world will you ever learn anything new? The world is a big place; please don't limit vourself to your self- made possibilities.

I hope 2024 brings all of us the desire to do the work we need to do on ourselves before we judge others and the dedication to do the right thing, even when no one is watching. I wish you a year of possibilities, good health, and so much happiness that you have no choice but to share it with others.











#### SHOAL CREEK PARK FOUNDATION NEWS

Our most recent project was to fund the University of Alabama's Office of Archeological Research (OAR) to use ground penetrating radar (GPR) and soil compaction analysis to confirm the historic significance of the cemetery

at the park. The GPR survey has revealed the possibility of as many as 25 potential grave sites.

The cemetery served as a burial site for the Shoal Creek Baptist Church in the early 19th century. This church, which dates to 1817, was the first Baptist church in Shelby County. The graveyard represents, then, important aspects of the founding of Montevallo and the history of one of the most influential sects in the region. Last year it was listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

So where do we go from here? Members of the SCP Foundation would like to see the area preserved (from privet and other invasive vegetation) and recognized, perhaps with a single monument outside the bounds of the cemetery. In keeping with the setting, this might be a rough boulder with an inscribed brass plate or flattened facet.

Further investigation seems called for. We would like to know the exact location of this historic church. Another round of "ground truthing" may enable more precise identification of the number and location of burial sites.

Visitors are invited to come see the long-neglected graveyard for themselves. It is located in the northeast corner of the park, easily accessible via a short trail from the parking lot. They will find a number of roughhewn limestone rocks jutting out in patterns suggestive of burial sites and a single engraved headstone memorializing Elizabeth Lawler, who died in 1826. She was the mother of one of the early preachers.

For more information about Shoal Creek and the foundation, please go to our website: Shoalcreekparkfoundation.com. You can make contributions to the foundation online.



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#### **TOP TEN GIFTS FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS**

Submitted by Susan Lehman, Team Lehman

According to a recent survey paid for by Naughty or Nice Inc., an international firm specializing in holiday centric surveys, this year's recent homebuyers are hoping to be surprised with the following gifts this holiday season:

- 1) A DIY snowman kit complete with carrot noses, coal eyes, and festive accessories to embrace the winter spirit and create their own snowmen in the yard.
- 2) A gift certificate for "Elf on the Shelf" relocation services, to help new homeowners find creative new spots for their mischievous holiday elf to surprise their family each day.
- 3) "Reserved for Reindeer Parking Only" signs for the front yard, adding a playful touch and whimsical charm to their home's exterior during the festive season.
- 4) Santa's magic key for homeowners without chimneys, ensuring that Santa can easily access their home to deliver presents, making the magical experience come alive for their family.
- 5) Ugly Christmas sweater decorating kits complete with tacky decorations and festive flair, encouraging family and friends to embrace the holiday spirit in a playful and light-hearted way.
- 6) Santa's cookie recipe book featuring Santa's favorite cookie recipes and quirky baking tips to channel that inner pastry chef during the holidays.
- 7) Grinch-proofing services, including tips and tricks to protect their home from any potential holiday mischief-makers, ensuring a joyful and stress-free festive season.
- 8) An elf-sized door installation, sparking the imagination and adding a touch of whimsy to their living space during the holidays.
- 9) Special home decoration package that includes festive decorations, such as wreaths, garlands, and lights, for the new homeowners.
- 10) A voucher for chimney cleaning or inspection to ensure the safety and efficiency of their fireplaces in preparation of Santa's arrival.

On behalf of all of us at Team Lehman, we hope you'll find this list helpful as you finish out your holiday shopping list. Of course, if you still find yourself unable to find that perfect gift for that new homeowner on your list, there's always the ever-favorite, seasonal fruitcake. If nothing else, they make quite festive doorstops!

Happy Holidays

#### **ALABAMA PET PANTRY**

by Sheila Montgomery



The Alabama Pet Pantry was created to help those struggling people keep their pets at home during harder times. Starting in Pelham, AL, the pantry has served Jefferson and Shelby County since 2019. It was quickly noticed that patrons were travelling from Unincorporated Shelby County and Montevallo to receive services in Pelham. Partnering with Shelby Emergency Assistance to bring needed pet food to struggling households, the Montevallo Distribution was created. One Saturday a month from 2-3 pm, the Alabama Pet Pantry brings pet food for distribution- and Shelby Emergency Assistance graciously allows the use of their parking lot. (Special shout out to those people that live back in the neighborhood behind SEA- for their patience and tolerance of our long lines.)

From January thru October, 2023- the Alabama Pet Pantry has distributed over 13,500 pounds of pet food and 1128 cans of pet food – at the Montevallo distribution. Total food redistributed in Jefferson and Shelby county combined equals over 35,000 pounds/ 5300 cans so far this year. The Alabama Pet Pantry is committed to keeping your dollars and donations right here at home. Special thank you to the Montevallo Chamber of Commerce, Shelby Emergency Assistance- and all those who donated to help us make this possible.

\*\*\*You can find us on Facebook @ Pelham Pet Pantry (Shelby County) and Hueytown Community Pet Pantry (Jefferson County)

"Because LIFE happens to us ALL"

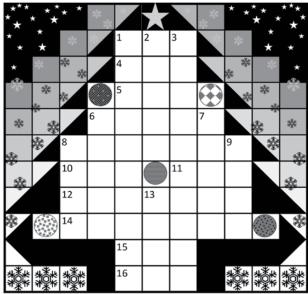


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## **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



Created by Mike Hardig

November Puzzle Solution										
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#### ACROSS

- 1. "...gave \_\_\_ only begotten Son" (John 3:16)
- 4. Man-mouse link
- 5. Office PC hookup
- 6. Ship of 1492
- 8. Shine brightly, like a star
- 10. "Hometown Proud" supermarket letters
- 11. Head covering in "Twas the Night Before Christmas"
- 12. Record of wages earned
- 14. They are often found hanging out around a manger
- 15. Old's opposite, in Germany
- Nintendo's Super

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Crosby and Astaire movie with the song "White Christmas"
- 2. Mideast native
- 3. Kris Kringle
- 6. Solstice celebrator
- 7. "Shake \_\_\_ Feather" (1967 R&B hit)
- Big name in TV talk
- 9. Omar of "House"
- 13. Captain Hook's sidekick

This month's puzzle is dedicated to Stefan Forrester, who inspired its creation with a challenge, and inspired me with his authenticity.







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