





March 2023 | Vol. 22, No. 3

"The Voice for Business & Community"

-Chamber News

Welcome to Montevallo !



PAPA JOHNS, 3960 Hwy 25, 205-476-0050

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

"The ACE Way"

Guest Speakers - ACE Hardware Representatives Parnell Library with networking



at 11:30am and lunch at noon \$15 ea. RSVP by Mon., Mar. 13 to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com Catered by Southern Sweets Luncheon Sponsor -Montevallo ACE Hardware

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS -Brierfield State Park, 240 Furnace Pkwy, 205-665-1856 Melinda Nix, Individual



MONTEVALLO CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT THURSDAY APRIL 20,2023

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 OPENATION

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or 205-665-1519 *includes greens fee, cart, "Two Free" Mulligans & lunch

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

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3rd FRIDAY BABA JAVA COFFEE at THE STRAND RIBBON CUTTING 10am / 616 Main St.

10th FRIDAY MONTEVALLO SCHOOLS MES, MMS & MHS No School Teacher Workday

11th SATURDAY **ALABAMA PET PANTRY** Distribution of Dog & Cat Food 2-3pm / Shelby Emergency Assistance parking lot

12th SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

15th WEDNESDAY **MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON** "The ACE Way" Guest Speakers - ACE Hardware Representatives / Parnell Library with networking at 11:30am and lunch at noon \$15 ea. RSVP by Mon., Mar. 13 to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com Catered by Southern Sweets Luncheon Sponsor - Montevallo ACE Hardware

17th FRIDAY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

20th MONDAY SPRING BEGINS

Mar 27th - 31st MON - FRI SPRING BREAK Shelby County Schools & University of Montevallo

Coming in April

8th Montevallo Easter Egg Hunt 10am/Orr Pk 15th Montevallo Arts Fest 10am-5pm/Orr Pk 27th Montevallo Job Fair 4-7pm/ Parnell 28th Friday Nights at the Cove / 6:30pm 29th Farm Day 10am-2pm/ Orr Pk 29th Spring Fling Family Food Truck Fest noon - 6pm / Pecan Grove



Montevallo Vidalia Onion Sale

Taking orders for Vidalia Onions \$12.00 for a 10 lb. bag. Deadline to order April 20 with tentative delivery date of May 11th. To order contact the Montevallo Chamber at montevallochamber@gmail.com or 205-665-1519

PLATINUM LEVEL CITY OF MONTEVALLO MONTEVALLO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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ALFA - SHAWN PAYNE / MONTEVALLO BRADFORD REAL ESTATE GROUP DIXIE DECORATIONS HEALTH SERVICES, INC. REGIONS BANK ROCKCO FUNERAL HOME TEAM LEHMAN

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



540 Shelby Street Montevallo, AL 35115



www.historicmontevallo.org

HOTEL OR HISTORY? WITH YOUR HELP BOTH MAY BE POSSIBLE

Born in 1832 Henry Clay Reynolds, a Civil War veteran moved to Montevallo just after the war. Establishing a mercantile company on the corner of Main and Shelby Streets he plied his trade, built a house on Main Street and sired 10 children.

In 1896 he became the first president of the Girls Industrial School, now the University of Montevallo, was on the city council and was voted the mayor in 1904. His imposing home on Main Street was long ago destroyed for the construction of Whaley Shopping Center. A civic, educational and business leader during his life, his legacy remains in downtown Montevallo in the structure that he built before the turn of the 20th century. Now shrouded behind a metal canopy and plate glass windows of car dealerships begun in the 1920s the main structure of Captain Reynold's business still remains. It's waiting, once again to become a vital part of downtown.

The building, purchased by the City of Montevallo in 2019 now faces the wrecking ball. Though sought after to be purchased by entrepreneurs with plans to restore the building, the city council is considering demolishing the structure and **giving** the property to Cobblestone, a hotel chain.

In addition to the dire consequences of losing an historic structure on Main Street, there is another reason, it is felt that this location is not suitable for a hotel. Because of the property's past use as a car dealership where oil changes and paint jobs took place there are EPA (environmental protection agency) requirements that will forever remain with the property, that no daycare or apartments can ever be constructed but it seems that it's suitable for a hotel where people would sleep overnight and possibly have extended stays?

While a hotel is something that could benefit Montevallo, there may be a better alternative for a hotel site than destroying the face of our historic downtown and would not forevermore change the face of our downtown National Register Historic District.

It is the hope of the Montevallo Historical Society that the city leaders and the Cobblestone franchise will not move forward with their plans to destroy the face of our historic downtown and instead be sensitive to our past. We are asking that you contact your representative and the mayor's office to express your concern about the demolition of this historic structure. Once it is gone, it is gone forever and historic fabric once destroyed is impossible to replace. This is your opportunity to make a difference for our city's heritage.

Mayor Rusty Nix	Kenny Dukes, district 3
rnix@cityofmontevallo.com , 205-665-2555 x107	kdukes@cityofmontevallo.com, 205-902-5137
David King, district 1	Sonya Swords, district 4
dking@cityofmontevallo.com, 205-438-8484	sswords@cityofmontevallo.com, 205-641-3409
Lelia Mitchell, district 2	Martha Ann Eisenberg, district 5
Imitchell@cityofmontevallo.com, 205-602-1029	meisenberg@cityofmontevallo.com, 205-665-3050

SAFETY-SPOT-

Smoke Alarm Safety at Home SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan.

When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom.
 They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- -Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms that have strobe lights or bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms !



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CO.STARTERS

Want to start your first business, or change the direction of your existing business? You're invited to sign up for CO.STARTERS! CO.STARTERS Core is a three-month, cohort-based program that equips entrepreneurs of all kinds with the insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn business ideas into action.

Our Spring 2023 cohort will meet in-person at the University of Montevallo Michael E. Stephens College of Business, classroom 212. Classes will be held every week on Tuesdays from 6-9 PM, starting on April 4. Limited space is available. We are offering an introductory course fee of \$99 per entrepreneur. Learn more and apply for your spot at this link:

https://www.cityofmontevallo.com/CO.STARTERS.aspx



MONTEVALLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOIF TOURNAMENT CAHABA FALLS COUNTRY CLUB Thursday, April 20, 2023

TO BENEFIT THE MARY LOU WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FORMAT: 4 Person Scramble

Fee: \$70 Per Player

INCLUDES: GREEN FEE, CART,

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Registration and Lunch Shotgun Start a	•	
Player 1:	HDCP or 18 Hole Score:	
Player 2:		
Player 3:		
Player 4:	HDCP or 18 Hole Score:	
Contact Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		
Email: Make checks payable to: MONTEVALLO CH/ 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	





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

"Teaching ourselves how to rise the next day": Untold Stories from the Era of Bondage

The history of Africans in America is brutal, but we have made art out of pain, sustaining our spirits with sunbursts of beauty, teaching ourselves how to rise the next day. -- Tiya Miles, All That She Carried (12)

Stories from the era of bondage? Many people prefer not to think about the history of slavery in America, to say nothing of the way the slave system worked here in Shelby county. Understandably. The pain, grief, brutality, and inhumanity can seem too much to bear.

Still, we must. Enslaved persons of African descent have been a crucial part of Montevallo's history from the early pioneer days. Their experiences were long covered up by fantasies about " child-like contented slaves" and "faithful servants," however, and little is known about their actual experience. We need better stories -- real-life stories of everyday persons who, against almost impossible odds, found ways to live on their own terms, now and then, outside the brutalities of the system.

Take Jacob, for example. He heads a long line of Black preachers in our area who used the beauty of the Bible and its promise of deliverance to sustain the spirits of oppressed African Americans.

Jacob was owned by Edmund King, the wealthy farmer and slaveholder who, in 1823, used enslaved labor to build King House. The smallish plantation house still stands at the center of the UM campus. Its central place in the King plantation's slavery system is not often noted.

King family tradition has it that in 1817 Edmund removed his household from Georgia to Alabama territory. They traveled with "two covered wagons filled with family possessions, a family carriage, and fifteen slaves." Jacob was likely one of them. The fifteen walked the distance under the watchful eye of men on horseback who "checked frequently for any danger" (Johnson, *Kingswood*, 6). One of those dangers might have been the risk of runaway slaves.

Jacob was an early member of the oldest Baptist church in our county, Shoal Creek Baptist Church, a racially mixed church that from 1819 or 1820 worshipped at a meeting house at the NE corner of what is today Shoal Creek Park. Jacob's oratorical power and biblical knowledge must have been impressive. In 1822 the church's White leadership authorized him and another King "servant," Nelson, to "express their gift" once a month. No account of Jacob's preaching has survived, but it says something that in 1826 the leadership reaffirmed his authority to preach. His passing is registered in the church minutes for February 1832: "Jacob a member of the Church died this day."

If Jacob deserves recognition as one of our town's pioneers, Edmund and Susan Moss should be honored as enterprising members of the first-freed generation. Their amazing story, from the Civil War era, can be pieced together from papers filed in 1873 in the Southern Claims Commission. Edmund had applied for compensation for property losses he sustained in Montevallo during Wilson's Raid, nearly a decade earlier.

Edmund Moss was a skilled tanner owned by John Storrs until "the surrender." While still enslaved he shrewdly invested his time and money. "I worked at the tan yard, and for a good many years



No photograph of Susan Moss is known to exist. Susie King Taylor, pictured here, nursed wounded Union soldiers in the Civil War. The photo is from ca. 1902.

and for a good many years *photo is from ca. 1902.* I hired my time and had my master's tan yard under control. I bought a town lot in Montevallo for \$125 when [it was] cheap and afterwards when the railroad came through sold it for nine hundred and seventy-five dollars and all I made over my time [working for Storrs in the tannery], was mine to keep." By the mid-1840s he had saved enough to buy his wife Susan for \$250. (She too had belonged to Edmund King.) Freed from bondage, Susan Moss "kept a sort of confectionary and candy shop in Montevallo."

Susan is notable for her brief and perhaps unwelcome service nursing one of Wilson's raiders. She had no reason to love the Union troops encamped nearby. They basically sacked the Moss dairy and smoke house, making off with corn meal, molasses, sugar, honey, coffee, sacks of corn and flour. Edmund estimated their losses at \$226.25.

It fell to Susan to tend to the wounds of the badly injured soldier and his other bodily needs. She received neither pay nor compensation. Edmund tells the story: "We kept a soldier (wounded) at our house five or six days and fed and took care of him. . . The soldiers buried him, but we found the burying clothes, clean sheets, two of them. . . We made chicken soup, gruel, whatever the doctor said he should have and tended on him and fixed his wounds. He bled through a feather bed and almost spoiled it. He was wounded in the head and shoulders. The doctor knew my wife was a good nurse for sick people and the man was brought to our house by his directions." Told that \$27 would cover the expenses of tending to and properly burying the man, Edmund made a claim for that amount with slim hope of compensation. "You see a colored man didn't have much chance no how."

Jacob, Edmund Moss, Susan Moss. Like untold others these enslaved individuals of African descent were not *slaves* but *persons* robbed of their freedom. Their existence was harsh and filled with "not much chance no how." But they rose each day. This Untold Story honors their humanity.

Submitted by Kathy King and Anitka Stewart Sims.

Grateful acknowledgement is due to Marty Everse. Our reinterpretation of these lives draws heavily on research he conducted and wrote up for presentation by the Montevallo Historical Society in earlier Chamber Chatters. For background on the King family we relied on Golda W. Johnson, *The Lives and Times of Kingswood in Alabama, 1817-1890* (1976). Contact us at MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com. We want to hear your stories and welcome corrections of errors of fact or interpretation.



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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



CITY OF MONTEVALLO NEWS *Mayor's Message*...

Hello, citizens of Montevallo. I hope everyone is well. Can you believe that spring is just around the corner? It is time to get started on your flowerbeds, gardens and yards. Spring is one of my favorite seasons.....minus the pollen. This season of the year is all about renewal and new growth.



RUSTY NIX, MAYOR

As I have stated before, the timber industry refers to it as "When the sap starts to rise". When the trees start to bud, they pull extra moisture out of the soil which helps the forest floor start to dry. This is needed because of all the rainfall we have in the winter. Another great aspect of the Spring is that the fish start biting. I know that you anglers are ready to hit your favorite fishing spot and reel in that first catch of the year. Speaking of fishing...I would like to congratulate the University of Montevallo Fishing Team for winning their 3rd National Championship. Way to go fishing Falcons!

A few weeks ago, I was privileged to have the opportunity to speak to the 7th grade civics classes at Montevallo Middle School. We discussed state and local governments and the responsibilities of our elected officials. I was quite impressed with the student's questions after our discussion and with the orderly fashion that they dismissed and changed classes. Shout out to all the faculty and staff at MMS who are teaching our children such great manners.

The city has been in touch with ALDOT regarding the delay on the Highway 25 sidewalk project. We were told that the holdup is on their end, due to short staffing. ALDOT reported that they hope to finalize everything in a couple of weeks. If work gets back on track soon, the project should be completed by this Summer.

The city is also excited about major changes coming to Moore's Crossroads. Montevallo received almost \$2 million in grant money (ATRIP 2) for this project. The plan will allow for new turn lanes, traffic signals and for "dressing up" that intersection. The crossroads area is the gateway coming into Montevallo from the north and we need that intersection standing tall. The city is currently losing sales tax revenues to surrounding areas and a more welcoming entrance to our city will give us a greater chance for retail growth on the north end of town.

The Montevallo Historic Preservation Commission is currently involved in a project located at the first known church cemetery in Montevallo. A research team from The University of Alabama Museums, Office of Archaeological Research will be doing ground penetrating radar at Shoal Creek Park to determine how many graves are located on that site. The radar cannot tell us who is buried at the site but can give clear and concise boundaries of the cemetery for protection purposes. I would like to give a huge thank you to the Shoal Creek Park Foundation for funding this project.

Work on the Mahler House is about to resume. You may have noticed that fencing is going up around the house in

preparation for city workers to begin demolishing sheetrock inside of the house. With the sheetrock removed, we will determine the next steps on our journey to remodel the building for the purpose of housing a possible welcome center and office/storage space.

Stephens Park is getting ready to be in full swing with the 2023 baseball/softball season. Come out and enjoy some travel ball tournaments this spring and summer. You will be amazed at how many people and the amount of revenue that these types of tournaments bring to our town.

With pleasant weather on the horizon, community events will be popping up regularly in our city. The American Village 2023 Festival of Tulips began on Saturday, February 18th and will continue 7 days a week until the flowers stop blooming. Admission is \$5 and tulip bulbs are \$2 each. Mark your calendars for Montevallo Arts Fest. The festival will be held from 10 am – 5 pm on April 15th at Orr Park and will feature over 100 gifted artists and artisans. These are just two of the upcoming events scheduled for this Spring. Please stay up to date on all upcoming events by visiting the city's website, Facebook page or pick up a copy of the Chamber Chatter.

Please remember to shop Montevallo first! Local businesses and city sales tax dollars depend on you. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.



DAWSONS PUT 'SERVICE' INTO SERVICE STATION

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

Remember the "good old days" when you drove into a service station, pulled up to the pumps and said: "Fill 'er up, please, and check the oil"? If you had that experience in the last decade in Montevallo, then you were doing business with Stanley and Jo Dawson at the Citgo station on Main Street. Many local drivers ran an account there to keep their cars running between paydays.

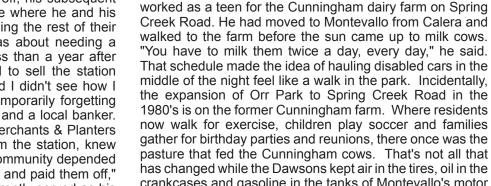
The Dawsons bought the station in 1985 from Franklin Lucas, for whom Stan had worked less than a year. "In 1973, I came to work at Watson Shell (now a convenience store at Valley and Middle streets) and ran the wrecker." Dawson recalled. "They taught me how to drive a wrecker." Although he went on to work at a factory in Calera, the skill of manipulating a wrecker is one that served the Dawsons well in years to come. After being laid off, his subsequent job search landed Dawson in the place where he and his wife Jo Dawson, would wind up spending the rest of their working life. When he talked to Lucas about needing a job, "he told me: `I can use you." Less than a year after hiring Dawson, Lucas said he wanted to sell the station "I didn't have any money, and I didn't see how I to him. could do it," Dawson said. He was temporarily forgetting the advantages of having a local bank and a local banker. The late Pat Kelly, then an owner of Merchants & Planters Bank on Main Street a few blocks from the station, knew Dawson and was well aware that the community depended on the Citgo station. "I had bought cars and paid them off," Dawson said. Those transactions apparently served as his credit check.

For more than 37 years, husband and wife worked and lived together. People marveled at how a marriage could thrive in such constant togetherness. "I just tell them that I always have the last word," Stan says with a slight smile. "I just say 'Yes, ma'am.' The pair got married at 17, and they now have two grown children. On May 25, 1970, Jo Dawson recalled: We got married at 5 in the afternoon, and I graduated at 7 that evening." In addition to working in the station which was open 12 hours a day for six days a week, Jo Dawson drove a school bus for 26 years.

The pumps are gone now as the Dawsons finish clearing out the station. There's not much left but the big desk beside the front windows, some battered chairs, a puzzling baggage cart possibly from a long-gone bus station and a lot of memories.

Nathan Stamps, a Montevallo Realtor, worked for the Dawsons when he was a teen: "An awesome boss. I can't think of a time when I ever had a conflict with Stanley or Jo." Stamps said that he learned the basics of car maintenance there, something which has come in handy over the years. "We used to get calls for bad batteries from the college, and I always wanted to make those runs."

One thing about the wrecker business that holds a special place in Jo's heart: "We have always had a wonderful relationship with the Montevallo Police." Before Stan became the go-to guy for everything from fixing a flat to hauling a car out of a ditch at midnight during a rainstorm, he



has changed while the Dawsons kept air in the tires, oil in the crankcases and gasoline in the tanks of Montevallo's motor vehicles. Sure, the Montevallo Post Office is still across Vine Street, but the opposite side of Main Street has almost completely changed. The blocks between Main and Middle is a strip of shops for everything from pizza to pedicures. Don Lovelady's hardware store has been supplanted by a variety store, and a McDonald's replaced a building that had housed a car dealership.

Soon the Montevallo vista will change yet again. The University of Montevallo has bought the Dawsons' station for the land on which it sits--directly adjacent to Dr. Wilson Fallin Jr. Hall (UMOM). In itself, Dr. Wilson Fallin Jr. Hall (UMOM) represents another change of scenery for Main Street. The building previously was an Alabama Power office.

The Dawsons will keep busy in retirement with their grandchildren and Stan's position as the pastor of Marvel Baptist Church in Bibb County.



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"The Voice for Business & Community"



Soup and Bingo



On Sat., Feb. 18th the Montevalo Park & Recreation Board hosted their first Soup & Bingo fo 2023 at the Montevallo Senior Center. All who attended devoured a good meal, enjoyed great friends and had a fantastic time!

Cookbook Fundraiser



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3/4	1:00	Jemison	Home	11:00
3/9	4:30	Vincent	Away	6:30
3/11	12:00	Central Coosa	Billingsley	
3/11	2:00	Billingsley	Billingsley	
3/14	4:30	Bibb County	Away	6:30
3/16	4:30	Chilton Count	yHome	6:30
3/21	4:30	Fultondale	Home	
3/23	4:30 DH	Fultondale	Away	
3/25	11:00	Hueytown	Hueytown	
3/25	1:00	Springville	Hueytown	
4/4	4:30	West Blocton	Away	6:30
4/6	4:30 DH	West Blocton	Home	
4/8	11:00	Calera	Away	
4/11	4:30	Oak Grove	Away	6:30
4/13	4:30 DH	Oak Grove	Home	
4/17	5:30	Chilton County	Away	
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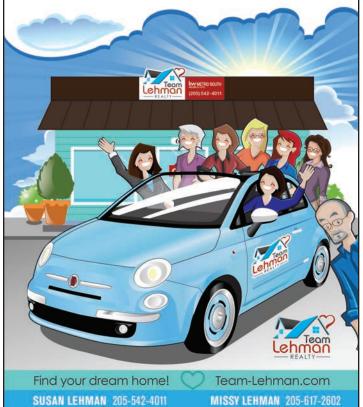
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MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SPONSORS LENTEN LUNCHES

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. March 9 -- Matthew Ingram, March 16 -- Brad Jantz, March 23 -- Kenny Dukes, March 30 -- Daniel Stallings, April 6 -- Judy Lee, and April 13 --Sam Hamilton-Poore.



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M-F 6:30AM - 2PM SAT 8AM-2PM



After visiting American Village's Festival of Tulips, visit one of the participating businesses listed below for 20% off one item!

> Baba Java Coffee Blue Phrog Gallery Boho Tea Bar C's Cake and Coffee House DreFit

Falcon Art Supply Montevallo Nutrition Save My Cell Slice Pizza Montevallo The Soul Spot Wings

Offer valid only during the 2023 blooming season. Limit one per person per day. Discount offered at the discretion of each business. Hours of operation vary by business.

Named Excellence in Business Promotion Winner 2021 by Main Street Alabama

"The Voice for Business & Community"

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THE ELDER JUSTICE CENTER, MONTEVALLO, OFFERING ADULT DAY PROGRAM SERVICES

The Elder Justice Center of Alabama has available an Adult Day Center called "The Best Days". Best Days provides care and companionship for older adults who need social engagement and care during the day. Best Days is unique because it offers both social and clinical services so they can continue to thrive at home and in their community. Best Days has partnered with University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Nursing who provides the clinical support at the center. Best Days specializes in serving older adults with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Dementias, and younger adults who need mild or moderate levels of care.

Best Days also offers much-needed relief to family caregivers, allowing them to stay employed, handle personal business, or just relax while knowing their loved one is in a safe and fun environment. Family caregivers can also participate in support groups, caregiver education and training, and other activities while their loved one is having fun at Best Days.

At the Elder Justice Center of Alabama, our goal is to provide the "BEST DAYS" for your loved one! Reach out to the Elder Justice Center today and enroll your loved one in our Adult Day Center! The cost per day is \$20.00 which covers lunch, and snacks.

Please call Best Days to learn more information at 205-490-8448 or visit the website at www.elderjusticeal.org







277 Park Drive Montevallo, AL

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Every week, join us for:

Tuesdays at 10: Mini Music

Wednesdays at 9:15: Storytime with Mr. Mac

Thursdays at 6 pm: ESOL English Class

Special Events and Activities:

Adult/Teen craft kit: spring bookmarks; Thursday, Mar. 2, while supplies last

Kid Craft Kit: Bird Houses; Monday, Mar. 6, while supplies last

Mini Movie: Dr. Seuss! Tuesday, Mar. 7, 11 am

Family Fun Night: Dr. Seuss Birthday Party; Tuesday, Mar. 7, between 5 - 7 pm

Mini Movie: Dr. Seuss! Tuesday, Mar. 14 at 11 am

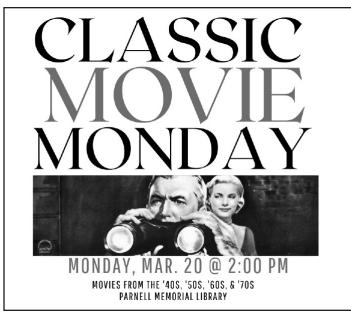
Toddler Craft: Cupcake Liner Birds; Wednesday, Mar. 15, while supplies last

Classic Movie Monday; Monday, Mar. 20, at 2 pm, Parnell Library Theater

Mini Movie: Dr. Seuss! Tuesday, Mar. 21, 11 am

Sweets & Eats Kit: Jello Rainbows; Monday, March. 27, while supplies last

Spring Break Movies featuring Dr. Seuss: Tuesday, Mar. 28, Thursday, Mar. 30, and Friday, Mar. 31, at 2:00 pm in the Parnell Library Theater



"The Voice for Business & Community"



"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.



MONTEVALLO'S CATHERINE LEGG

Shelby County Reporter

Describing the lasting impact the late Catherine Bridges Legg had on her community requires the use of words such as service, leadership and dedication. Legg, who died in early January at age 95, spent her life working for the good of Montevallo and her family, both of which she loved deeply.

Legg's adoration for Montevallo started soon after she and her family moved to the city when she was 12 years old. "She said she fell in love with Montevallo," said Tom Smitherman, one of Legg's four sons. "She loved Montevallo more than anybody that I've ever known, loving their community. It meant the world to her for Montevallo to look good, and she thought it was just the perfect place."

For many years, Legg worked at Alabama Refractory Clay Company, which mined clay in Montevallo and Calera to sell to steel mills. She started as a secretary, became manager and, eventually, bought the company, Smitherman said. In addition to establishing herself as a business owner, Legg was a church leader and an active community member. Her tireless work for the city of Montevallo reflected the care she had for her hometown. Legg served multiple terms on the Montevallo City Council, making even more connections with her fellow citizens, including Sharon Anderson. Anderson said she was appointed to fill Legg's seat on the City Council after she moved outside of the city limits and could no longer serve. Anderson, who went on to serve as Montevallo's mayor from 2004-2008, said she and Legg developed a close friendship. "She was the most civic-minded person I've ever known," Anderson said. "If you talked long enough with her in a conversation, it always turned to the city of Montevallo-how much she loved it, but also how she wanted to improve it to make it nice enough where people would want to come and live." Anderson described Legg as "funny and smart," and added, "She got the job done.

Promoting Montevallo came naturally to Legg and made her a great fit for the job of Chamber of Commerce director, a position she approached with passion and creativity. "A lot of people in Montevallo would remember the persona she created for the Chamber Chatter, Sammy Squirrel," said Glenda Smitherman, Tom's wife. "She would give all the town news from the perspective of Sammy Squirrel. That became a fun thing for anyone to read." Legg also worked for the city as its zoning officer and in other capacities. "She served on many boards of the city during her many years of service to the city and as a citizen," Anderson said. "She was a great leader for those boards." According to Anderson, Legg helped write grants to secure funding for a new senior center and was instrumental in designing a new entranceway to Montevallo's Orr Park, complete with a gateway similar to one located on the University of Montevallo campus. Legg also founded a student leadership program called Leaders of Tomorrow at Montevallo Middle School. And, as if she were not busy enough, Legg wrote as a community columnist for the Shelby County Reporter for years.

Among her many roles, however, is one that Tom remembered more fondly than the others. "A lot of people

know about what she did in the community," he said. "What most people don't know is the kind of mother she was." Tom said Legg kept books for several companies and did tax returns for many individuals and companies. "During tax season from January to May every year when I was a young child, she'd come home from her regular job, fix us supper and then start working on income tax returns till 2 or 3 in the morning," Tom said. "She would get a couple hours of sleep, wake up and get us ready. She was just unbelievably intelligent and work-oriented. She was pretty remarkable."

In her later years, Glenda said Legg was known to walk her dog, Albert, around town regularly. "Everybody would always say something about seeing Catherine and her dog," Glenda said. "That was well into her 80s." She walked every day until she no longer could, Tom said. Each walk was just another chance to see the community she loved.



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AMERICAN VILLAGE FESTIVAL OF TULIPS

Submitted by Melanie Poole

In 2017 the American Village in Montevallo debuted a new seasonal spring event – **The Festival of Tulips.** Their field of 75,000 tulips created a lot of buzz and turned the heads of drivers as they passed the Highway 119 campus. During the Festival over 3,800 people visited the American Village, strolling through row after row of colorful blooms, taking photos, and picking flowers and bulbs to take home.

Each and every succeeding year, the *American Village Festival of Tulips* has grown, with visitation topping 7,000. Spring 2023 will mark the *7th annual Festival of Tulips*, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever! Stroll through a field of 100,000 tulips, in all the colors of the rainbow. Visitors may purchase both flower and bulb to plant at home, or display in a cut flower arrangement. Bring your family and friends and don't forget your camera. The tulips and the American Village's beautiful campus create a one-of-a-kind backdrop for photos.

More than sixty different varieties of tulips were planted at the American Village in early December 2022. Favorites such as Banja Luka (striped yellow/red), Gentle Giants (mixed pinks), Thanks and Praise (white and yellow mix) and Binary Fusion (peony-flowered red and yellow mix) are back for the 2023 Festival. New varieties making their first appearance include Orange Balloon (an extra-large orange tulip), Mellow Drama (a mix of pink, mauve and maroon) and Avignon (red with orange highlights). There are early, mid-season and late blooming varieties, so the tulip season lasts as long as possible. A typical season is 3-4 weeks. Tulips are a cool-weather flower, not bothered by cold or ice. But turn up the heat and they quickly fade. Early spring weather in Alabama is often fickle, and can vary from cold and icy to T-shirt warm.

The *Festival of Tulips* is NOW OPEN! Admission is \$5 and tulips, including the bulb, are \$2. The American Village will be open Monday-Saturday 10-4, and Sunday 12-4 as long as the flowers are in bloom (weather permitting).

When visiting the *Festival of Tulips* enter the front gate at the American Village and follow the signs to the parking lot directly beside the tulip field. You'll pay admission and pay for the tulips you pick at the field. To find out more information, visit the American Village's website, Facebook or Instagram pages.



"The Voice for Business & Community"



Festival runs Mon-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4 as long as the flowers are in bloom* Admission \$5. Tulips \$2.

*Please check the website, Facebook or Instagram pages for field conditions before your trip.

The American Village

3727 Hwy. 119, Montevallo, Alabama www.americanvillage.org • (205) 665-3535





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SPRING BREAK IS COMING UP FAST!

Submitted by Susan Lehman

Can't get away this year or just want to stay home and miss the crowds?

Maybe a Staycation is for you. A few projects can revamp your humble abode into a dream destination (shoes are optional). Here are ten easy tips to make your home feel like a five-star resort (Cabana Boys not included).

Hang a Hammock

A backyard hammock lets you rock at your leisure while catching up on your favorite magazines (ahem, that unread stack of This Old House), plow through your summer reading list, or get some much-deserved shut-eye. Just make sure you have two sturdy, healthy trees with enough distance apart.

Build a Fire Pit

DIY fire pit is perfect for roasting delicious marshmallows or singing "Kumbaya." A circular stone-walled pit dug into the ground lights up the yard, whether there's a fire blazing or not. And don't forget to stock up on chocolate and graham crackers; s'mores are a must.

Fix up your Outdoor Furniture

Making your outdoor furniture like new takes minimal effort. Try new mesh or vinyl straps or a fresh coat of paint to make sure your restored furniture looks and feels its best.

Cook Outside

Outdoor cooking is perfect for enjoying family time or for gathering a crowd. Another major plus is relieving your

indoor kitchen and the overall house of built-up heat coming from the oven and stove, a definite summer bummer. And then, eat outside!

Let the Games Begin

Everyone loves fun and games...hang a tire swing, set up a horseshoes pit, get a portable disc golf hole and let the bragging begin!

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing...

If you don't have a porch swing, get one. If you don't have a porch, get a free-standing swing. Everyone loves being a swinger!

Have a Screening Room (outdoors)...and a screened-in room

it's easy to screen in an existing porch, and keeping the no-see-ums away makes everyone more comfortable. And if you want to get fancy, you can get a digital projector and an inflatable screen for a surprisingly low price. Add in a Firestick and a decent WiFi system, and you can watch any movie or TV show you like in an outdoor venue!

And, finally, Nature will call

Refurbish your bathroom with outside entertaining in mind extra towels, a larger trashcan, a new color scheme—it's all worth addressing when the seasons change and more entertaining is going on.



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CYCLING FUN FACTS

Thinking about finally investing in a bike? Or perhaps you already own a bike, but want to ride more often? These fun facts may help tip the scales in favor of finally getting back in the saddle!

• Biking is 20 times cheaper than driving. AAA estimated the average annual cost of car ownership in 2016 was \$8,558. Transportation economist Todd Litman has estimated the annual cost of bike ownership to be \$100-300.

• The bicycle is the most efficient vehicle ever devised. A Worldwatch Institute study found that a bicycle needs only 35 calories per passenger mile, whereas a car expended 1,860 calories per passenger mile (one gallon of gas contains 31,000 calories). They also found that walking took over 100 calories for the same distance. Ducks, however, are more efficient, but we can't travel like ducks.

• **Bicycles save space.** Approximately 15 bicycles can park in the same space that one car takes.

• **Bicycle safety comes in numbers.** A 2003 study by P.L. Jacobsen concluded that when more people walk or bicycle, the less likely any of them are to be injured by motorists. In fact, research has shown that tripling the number of bike riders on the street cuts motorist-cyclist crashes in half.

• **Bikes don't actually need riders.** Amazingly, a bicycle can stay upright and self-correct its trajectory without a rider as long as it's moving at 8mph or faster.

• Cyclists are cool – it's a fact. A recent psychological study conducted by Mindlab found that people perceive cyclists as possessing a unique blend of intelligent generosity and the "cool" factor. Now there's a good reason to get on your bike!

ValloCycle is Alabama's oldest citywide bike share. For more information visit vallocycle.org, contact vallocycle@ gmail.com, or find us on Facebook.





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 ✓ Change Over ✓ Mounting & Balance

MILITARY MOMENT

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



Come on warm weather! This month we welcome another spring season, celebrate Women's History month and honor National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States. If you enjoy history, check out some of these pioneers in our U.S. Armed Forces:

Commander Darlene Iskra Lt. Kelly Flinn Lt. Kara Hultgreen

> NTEVALL FALCONS

- Dr. Mary E. Walker
- Ms. Annie G. Fox

These women and so many others like them, should have been taught in some sort of history class. However, I had not heard their names, or read their stories, until I took it upon myself to balance out the information I had been taught in school.

In addition to Women's History month, I also learned about **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**. According to museumofmilitaryhistory.com, "National Vietnam War

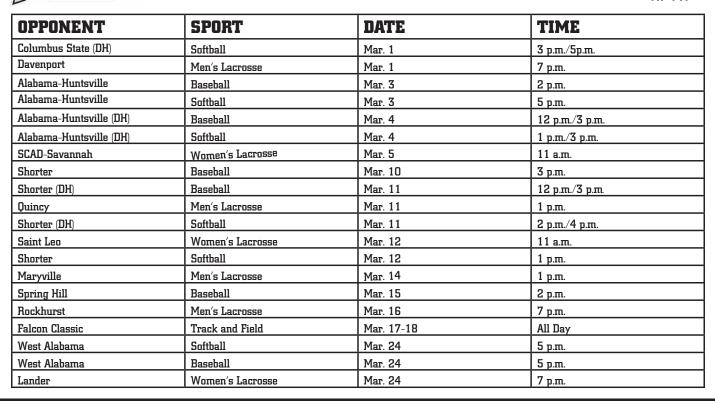
Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are 5 objectives with Vietnam Commemoration and the other four are:

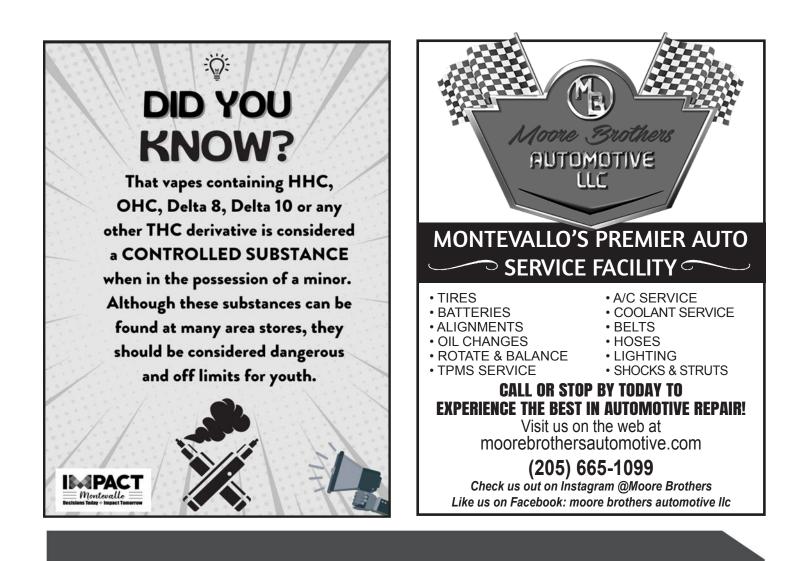
- Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war
- Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens
- Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war
- Recognize contributions by our Allies

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed on Monday, March 29, 2023. My father fought in the Vietnam War and ultimately lost his life from injuries sustained through his service. I wish my story was unique, but sadly it is not. If you know someone that served during this particularly harsh war, please take a minute on the 29th, to say thank you. Perhaps sit and listen to them, if they want to talk. Once these great men and women are gone, so will be the opportunity to learn from them.



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GIVING LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO IMPACT CHANGE

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Incorporated Alpha Phi Chapter Montevallo, Alabama gives locally and internationally.

Alpha Phi Chapter presented a check to Regions Bank President Mr. Ken Jones for \$300.00 in support of the Commissioner Dr. Earl Cunningham Bench project.

Alpha Pi Chapter also donated to Minister Jennifer Wright with Africa Relief Ministries going to Africa in February 2023 delivering laptops, professional backpacks, athletic equipment, teaching, and preaching in the surrounding villages. Alpha Pi Chapter is committed to making a difference in our youth and communities locally and abroad.

APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR THE 2023 MONTEVALLO ARTSFEST IS OPEN!

Montevallo ArtsFest 2023 will take place Saturday, April 15, from 10am to 5pm at Orr Park in Montevallo, AL Deadline to enter March 30, 2023. to apply link to https:// www.zapplication.org/eventinfo.php?ID=10752, visit the



Montevallo Arts Collaborative Facebook page or email montevalloarts@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

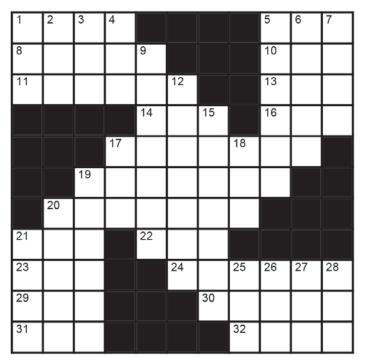
EVERY 3RD THURSDAY Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY Montevallo Water & Sewer Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

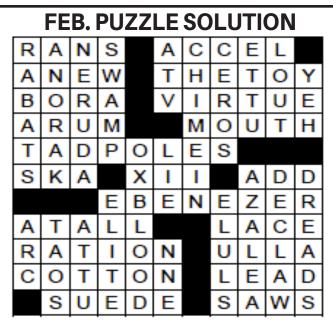
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY MORNING Clothes Giveaway, St. Andrews Episcopal Parish Hall 925 Plowman Street, Montevallo, 8 am-noon



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Created by Stefan Forrester





Ph. 205-665-2574 • Fax 205-665-0940 703 Main Street • Montevallo, Alabama 35115

Across

- 1. Heal (over)
- 5. Had lunch
- 8. Taxpayer's fear

10. Nth degree, academically?

11. Early antidepressant

13. Pirate's shoe tree?

14. Handle clumsily

16. Tell a whopper

17. More witty (remark)

19. Spring sights, hinted at by the shape of this grid

20. UM's Child Study Center is a local one

21. This is often 'unruly'

22. Pub order

23. Unagi, at a sushi restaurant

24. This an 99 more would get a ruble

29. "____too!", playground retort

30. Fake

31. Trip advisor?

32. Uptight, snooty person

Down

- 1. Drain strength
- 2. Stray dog, often
- 3. Foofaraw
- 4. Detergent brand

5. Ask a rival how they like these, when you outdo them

6. Not our, but _____

7. Advantage

9. What the bubbles in Boba Tea are made of

12. Where models strut their stuff

15. Know ____ one speaks (isknowledgeable)

17. What one does with one's trade

18. Pique condition?

19. Legendary

20. Opposite of talkers

21. Word after corn or before plan

25. Companion of Snap and Crackle

26. Flub27. Pixar pioneered this: Abbr.

28. It's tapped





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