



October 2023 | Vol. 22, No. 10

-Chamber News



RIBBON CUTTING for Montevallo's first EV Charging Station at 550 Main Street - article on page 10



OCTOBER CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Wed. October 18: "UM HAPPENINGS"
Guest Speaker: Dr. Courtney Bentley,
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Parnell Library / 11:30am / Lunch -noon / \$15. ea
RSVP by Oct 16th to 205-665-1519 or
montevallochamber@gmail.com
Luncheon Sponsor- University of Montevallo



SPONSORED BY LUCKY'S FOODLAND



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



3rd TUESDAY

IMPACT MONTEVALLO COALITION VIRTUAL MEETING 9am / email - impactmontevallo@gmail.com for link

5th THURSDAY

2023 SHELBY COUNTY TOURISM & RECREATION ALL-STAR AWARDS

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

6th FRIDAY

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SIPSEY VALLEY at MHS / 7pm

7th SATURDAY

49th ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION PARADE

10am / Main Street to Orr Park / Public Safety Coalition

FREE DUMP DAY

7am - 2pm / Bring your trash to the Montevallo Recycle Center at 1120 Overland Road for a convenient drop-off or take it directly to the Shelby County Landfill - 4154 Hwy 70 Columbiana, AL.

9th MONDAY

NO SCHOOL / MES, MMS & MHS

Shelby County Schools Teacher Work Day

12th THURSDAY

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO FOUNDERS' DAY

EXIT HEART & HOME REALTY RIBBON CUTTING

10am / 440 Middle Street

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

at BIBB COUNTY / 7pm

14th SATURDAY

ALABAMA PET PANTRY

2 - 3pm / SEA parking lot / 160 Shoshone Dr.

16th MONDAY

MONTEVALLO PECAN SALE order deadline

\$13.- 1 lb. bag / 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail. com benefits the Montevallo Community Grant

17th TUESDAY

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

5:30-7:30pm Orr Park Pecan Grove - beside Parnell Library at 940 Island Street. "Join us to hang out with local first responders". Activities for the whole family. Public Safety Coalition

18th WEDNESDAY

MONTEVALLO CHAMBER LUNCHEON

"UM Happenings" / Guest Speaker: Dr. Courtney Bentley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs / Parnell Library / 11:30am Lunch - noon / \$15. ea. RSVP by Oct. 16th to 205-665-1519 or montevallochamber@gmail.com Luncheon Sponsor - University of Montevallo

20th FRIDAY MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL HOLT at MHS / 7pm / Homecoming

22nd SUNDAY
FALL RIVER FEST AT LIVING RIVER
8:30am - 7:30pm / Open to the Public
Outdoor Activities/ Lunch & Dinner provided / Info : LIVINGRIVER.ORG

24th TUESDAY

4th ANNUAL CHIEF'S CHALLENGE

5:30PM / MHS Football Stadium / Public Safety Coalition

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN at MHS / 7pm

28th SATURDAY MONTEVALLO ARTWALK - ARTSTALK

11am - 5pm / Downtown Montevallo

15th ANNUAL L&S FEST

8am - 5pm / Exhibitions, Prizes, Free Fish Fry & Chainsaw Carving / 4424 Hwy 25

28th & 29th SATURDAY & SUNDAY **HAUNTED TRAIL RIDE**Sat. 6pm - Midnight & Sun. 6pm - 9pm
\$10. per person / Shoal Creek Park, Montevallo Athletic Club

29th SUNDAY CRITTERS BY THE CREEK
1 - 4 pm / Orr Park, Montevallo Parks & Recreation Board

HOMETOWN HALLOWEEN

3:30 to 5:00 pm / Trick or Treat Downtown

FALL FESTIVAL

5-7pm / Montevallo First Baptist

HALLOWEEN

PLATINUM LEVEL

CITY OF MONTEVALLO MONTEVALLO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

GOLD LEVEL

MONTEVALLO FAMILY DENTISTRY SLICE PIZZA & BREW TRUSTMARK BANK UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO

SILVER LEVEL

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





205-665-5124 MONTEVALLO, AL 35115 HIGHWAY



Veterans representing their respective branches of service during the solemn ceremony of recognition in December 2022.

Wreath Laying Slated for December 16 at Montevallo City Cemetery

More than 300 veterans graves will be decorated with Remembrance Wreaths for the holidays.

The Montevallo Historical Society is once again sponsoring a "Wreaths Across America" wreath laying event to honor the service and sacrifice of local veterans who are buried in Montevallo City Cemetery. This will be the second year for the event at Montevallo Cemetery.

A little more than 300 veterans graves were decorated with live wreaths for the holiday season last year. Since then, more veterans graves have been identified and marked, so hopes are high that at least 375 wreaths will be purchased by families and the general public for distribution by volunteers on the day, December 16, that has been designated by Wreaths Across America to:

Remember the Fallen • Honor Those who Serve Teach our Children the Value of Freedom



14 members of the Cottingham family gathered on a cold day in 2022 to lay a wreath on the headstone of Airman Walter C. Cottingham, Jr.















Montevallo Historical Society

Opening the Portals of Our Heritage

Be Sure to Visit WWW.HISTORICMONTEVALLO.ORG

To Order your wreaths (\$17)
and Volunteer to Help out at the Cemetery
on December 16, 2023.

SAFETY-SPOT-



BE HALLOWEEN SAFE



Halloween Fire Safety Tips

- Costume: Stay away from long trailing fabric and make sure mask eye holes are large enough.
- Provide a flashlight or glow stick
- Use battery operated candles or glow sticks in jack-o-lanterns.
- Remember to keep exit clear of decorations
- Test smoke alarms
- Tell children to stay clear of an open flame
- Make sure children know an escape route if they are having a Halloween party with friends

Did you know?

- Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly 800 reported home fires each year. More than one-third of those fires were started by a candle.



Montevallo Pecan Sale

Taking Orders for shelled pecan one-pound bag

\$13.00 each

Deadline to order <u>Oct 16th</u> with pick-up before Thanksgiving

Contact montevallochamber@gmail.com

or 205-665-1519 to order benefits the Montevallo Community Grant Fund



US POET LAUREATE ADA LIMÒN

The University of Montevallo Dancy Lecture Committee and the President's Office are delighted to announce that US Poet Laureate Ada Limón will deliver the 2023 Dancy Lecture at the UM Center for the Arts (900 Oak Street) on October 4th at 6:00 pm. The first Latina Poet Laureate, and the 24th Poet Laureate of the United States, Limón's term was recently renewed by the Librarian of Congress.

University of Montevallo Students presents CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE CLASSES FOR SENIORS

Come join us every Thursday 9:30 - 10:30am from Oct. 5 thru Nov. 16 at the Montevallo Senior Center 434 Vine St.



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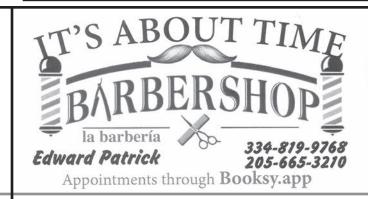
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CENTRALA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Centrala Garden Club reconvened on September 5, in the fellowship hall of the Montevallo Methodist Church. This was the first meeting of the 2023-2024 year. The program was Organic Pest Control given by Holly Parker. Members learned which materials can be used to treat insect infestation that are safe for pets and wildlife.

In October Karen Willingham of Valley Cottage Flowers will instruct on decorating pumpkins for holiday table decorations, and members will take home one of their own creations. Karen has given demonstrations before, and Centrala ladies always have fun working together and having a pretty centerpiece to show for their efforts.

One of the goals of Centrala Garden Club is to support local organizations by donating items to a designated place each month. At our meetings members bring items from a list generated by the organization to be sponsored, and these items are then delivered to them.

The club meets on the first Tuesday of the months of September through November and January through May, at 6:30 in the evening. We do take a break in December due to the busy Christmas season. The programs for this year will include a list of interesting and informative speakers, as well as hands-on projects.









277 Park Drive Montevallo, AL

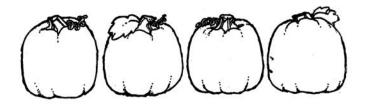
205-665-9207

LIBRARY RECEPTION

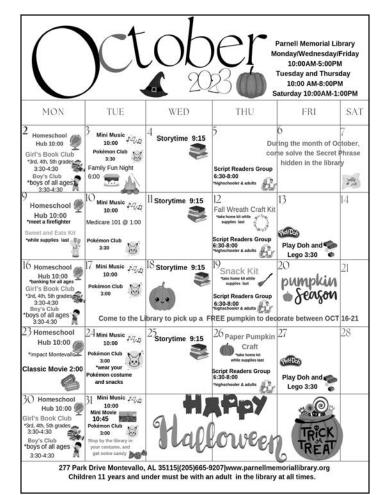
Parnell Memorial Library will host a reception to honor former library director Savannah Kitchens and introduce new director Marissa Wilson on Friday, October 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

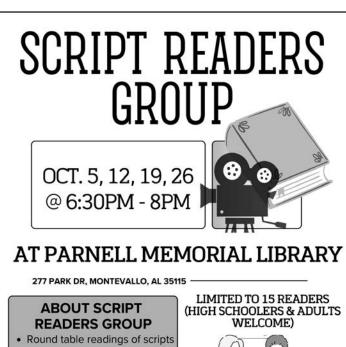
This event will provide an opportunity for everyone to thank Ms. Kitchens for her dedication to Parnell Memorial and to meet Ms. Wilson who has already begun making plans for the library's future.

Library patrons who are unable to attend are encouraged to leave cards at the library for Ms. Kitchens who created numerous library programs and activities for the citizens of Montevallo.









based on classic literature.

characters, themes, and more.Occasionally watch a movie

· Study scripts based on plot,

from the "Golden Age of Hollywood" based on one of

the works/scripts read.

RESERVE SPOT BY EMAIL AT MWILSON@SHELBYCOUNTY-AL.ORG



Vol 2, No. 10

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

-- Brent Leggs

This church is a community church, and everybody is somebody.

-- Rev. Dwight E. Dillard, pastor Ward Chapel AME Church, 1978-1988

"Everybody is Somebody": Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church

Members of Montevallo's Ward Chapel A.M.E Church, tucked behind city hall on West Street, are rightly proud of their rich history. Last year the church celebrated 150 years of service to the community. Ward Chapel is Montevallo's oldest historically Black church and one of the fifteen oldest A.M.E. churches in the state.

The Black church in Alabama "was at the heart of the community that blacks developed in slavery and in a segregated, racist society," writes Wilson Fallin in Uplifting the People. It was "the central self-help institution within the black community. Soon after the Civil War, blacks left white churches and formed their own congregations. . . Separate churches gave blacks an organization on which to build a stronger community."

Black Christians in Montevallo were eager to start building their own community even before the outbreak of the Civil War. The 1855 minutes of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South reported that membership of Montevallo Church for 1854 included "twenty-three colored members and eleven colored probationary members." They had withdrawn from what is now the First United Methodist Church of Montevallo.

The church known as Ward Chapel -- named for Bishop Thomas M. D. Ward -- was established in 1872. Its first pastor was the Rev. Jesse Brazier. A grandchild, writing in 1980, recalls him as an "A.M.E. preacher who traveled over the country riding a horse or in a buggy drawn by a horse, preaching in churches or in certain churches every Sunday."

The descendants of Jesse and Rachel Brazier still worship at the church they helped to found. "The Braziers have always been members here at Ward Chapel," says James Salter. "My mother [Polly Salter], my aunt [Onnie Dell Fluker], the rest of the family as well. So we're carrying on the Brazier legacy." Jesse and Rachel Brazier had six children. One of them, Nero, was a fairly prominent figure in town. He was the town miller, and local lore has it that he and his family lived downtown on Main Street.



Ward Chapel sometime after 1992, when the fellowship hall was added.

During the era of the push for civil rights, Ward Chapel contributed its share of community organizers and activists. Leon Harris, Sr, the famously outspoken leader of the local Suburban League, was one. In its heyday in the 1970s, the League worked to expand employment and educational opportunities here in town -- in the newly integrated high school, for example. Other activist members of the League from Ward Chapel include Mr. R. B. Burns, Anna Mayweather, and Ethel Mae Thompson. The League met at local Black churches, among them Montevallo's two downtown churches, Ward Chapel and Shiloh Missionary Baptist on Selma, Road, and kept their congregations informed of what was going on. The League also met at the Prince Hall affiliated lodge hall at 160 Commerce Street, affectionately known as the "Mason Hall."

James Salter reflects on what Ward Chapel meant to him as a boy and still means today. It is known as "an inviting church. Because, when people want to have a funeral and they weren't a member of a church or had gotten out of a church, the first church they would think about would be Ward Chapel." What made Ward Chapel so inviting? "It's the people. There's always been the families that have been a part of Ward Chapel and have always had that attitude, that welcoming attitude." The church has always "served the community trying to help other people. There have been, you know, people who are less fortunate who will always come and know that they could get help from Ward's Chapel."

The vital role played by Ward Chapel in our town is not an untold story within the Black community. But it is exciting to see that the significance of this historic church is gaining wider recognition. The city of Montevallo has taken steps to fund and maintain a plaque honoring the church as a historic site. Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church will soon take its place as a crucial stop on the Montevallo African American Heritage Trail.

Sources: Thanks are due especially to local historian James Salter and UM archivist Carey Heatherly. Much of this information comes from "Highlights and History of Ward Church A.M.E. Church," courtesy of Salter, supplemented by a recorded interview 29 August 2023. He also provided materials relating to the Brazier family and Mason Hall. Photograph courtesy of the University of Montevallo Archives. Submitted by Kathy King and Anitka Stewart on behalf of the Montevallo Legacy Project. Contact us at MontevalloLegacy@gmail.com.

FALL GARDEN MEET AND GREET

Join the Shelby County Master Gardeners at the Montevallo Seed to Table, 440 Overland Road on Sunday October 15th at 2:00pm Shelby County Master Gardeners will be on hand to give a few tips and answer your gardening questions. Open to all!



CRITTERS BY THE CREEK

Critters by the Creek will be held on Sunday, October 29th in Orr Park from 1pm to 4pm. Dress up your pet(s), step into your costume and play the day away! Humans and pets will enjoy children's activities, contests, photo booth, Pup-or-Treating, and more! Everyone loves Carl



Treating, and more! Everyone loves Carl the Balloon guy and Dr. Bob's travel reptile show! Come check them out!

The Montevallo Parks and Recreation board will be collecting donations at Critters by the Creek for our first ever *Holsombeck Pet Supply Drive* benefiting the Shelby County Humane Society. Wish list items include: Puppy Milk Replacement Formula, Kitten Milk Replacement Formula, Kitten Food (Dry), Adult Dog Food (Dry) (Purina DogChow or Proplan Adult), Puppy and Kitten Bottles, Dog Canned Food (Pate), Cat Canned Food (Pate), Puppy Canned Food, Kitten Canned Food, (Non-clumping) Clay Cat Litter, Pine Pallet Cat Litter, Puppy Pads, Dog Toys, and Plastic Kiddig Pools







Tuesday, October 17th 5:30 PM= 7:30 PM

ORR PARK-PECAN GROVE (940 ISLAND STREET)

Chief Jeremy Littleton has cordially invited you to attend Montevallo's National Night Out 2023. The purpose of this event is to foster and strengthen the relationship between the community and law enforcement, to establish connections with emergency responders, and to provide information about local resources. There will be various enjoyable and interactive activities available for children to partake in.

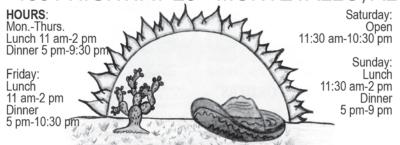




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•••••

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

TO-GO ORDERS!

CITY OF MONTEVALLO NEWS Mayor's Message...

Hello citizens of Montevallo!

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the cooler weather. I'm so glad that the triple digit temperatures and high heat index numbers are gone until next year. Fall is in the air and football season is finally here! The Montevallo



Bulldogs are off to a great start this RUSTY NIX, MAYOR season. Put on your orange and blue, come out and support the Bulldogs. I'm looking forward to seeing them play this fall. When planning your next college football party or tailgate, don't forget to pick up your snacks from our local grocery stores or restaurants. They have everything you should need.

The 5th Annual Tinglewood Festival was a smashing success. This year's event drew more than 8,000+ people to our town. This was the largest attendance in the history of Tinglewood. I would like to extend a huge thank you for all the hard work of those involved and to all the volunteers who spent hours preparing for and working the event. A special thanks to the 39 sponsors, 62 vendors and 16 food trucks. Without you, we couldn't pull this festival off each year. There were approximately 160 vehicles for Cars by the Creek, wood artisans galore, and amazing chainsaw artists in action. I was so impressed with the chainsaw artists that I purchased a sculpture for my office. I know how to run a chainsaw, but if I tried to make a sculpture, I would end up with a pile of sawdust and a bunch of scrap wood.

The paving project at Wadsworth Street is in its final stages. This project will add 12-15 new parking places plus correct some drainage issues that we had in that area. With the added parking, two spaces will be reserved for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station. Now, you can charge your vehicle and eat or shop at the Village on Valley.

The city is in the process of rebidding the Highway 25 sidewalk project. We received one bid on the last go around and that bid came in about \$250,000 over what the grant covered. Hopefully, this round of bids will come in at a more reasonable price.

The United Way of Central Alabama has begun construction on two pickleball courts and a pavilion overlooking the pond at Stephens Park. I am so thankful that United Way chose the City of Montevallo to build this facility and look forward to this project being completed. It is a much-needed addition to that park.

The City of Montevallo has quite a slate of events in the month of October. Each of these events bring visitors to our town to shop. October 7th is Montevallo's 49th Annual Fire Prevention Parade beginning at 10am. Last year, we had over 50 fire trucks participate. Don't forget your earplugs! After the parade, the trucks will be in Orr Park so everyone can get a closeup view of the trucks and ask questions. Please make sure to say hello to "Smokey the Bear".

October 7th is Free Dump Day at the Shelby County Landfill. Clean out your garage, yard and basement and bring your junk to the Montevallo Recycling Center to be hauled off. Dropoff hours will be from 7am - 2pm. The recycling center will close at 2pm on that day.

The University of Montevallo Founder's Day will be held on October 12th. This will be the 127th year for the university. Originally founded on October 12, 1896 as the Alabama Girls' Industrial School, UM has developed over the course of a century into the state's premier public liberal arts institution. The annual ceremony begins at 11am.

National Night Out will be held on October 17th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm in the Pecan Grove at Parnell Memorial Library. This annual event is a great way to strengthen policecommunity bonds, learn about local resources, fellowship with your neighbors and there will be many activities for children, including free food.

Montevallo's 4th Annual Chief's Challenge will be held on October 24th at 5:30pm. Montevallo's youth, educators and bus drivers will race members of our Police, Fire & Rescue Departments for fun prizes. This event is in celebration of a healthy drug-free lifestyle in honor of Red Ribbon Week. Challenges include a 1.5-mile color run, 25 sit-ups, 22 pushups, mannequin drag, and the famous tug of war. All citizens and community members are invited to come and cheer on all the participants.

Montevallo Art Stalk will be held on October 28th from 11am - 5pm on Main Street. Come out and support local artists and dress up in your favorite Halloween costume.

Critters by the Creek will be held on October 29th from 1pm - 4pm in Orr Park. Come out for a fun afternoon event. Don't forget to dress up your critter. This event is sponsored by the Montevallo Parks & Recreation Board.

Hometown Halloween will be held on October 31st from 3:30pm - 5pm in Downtown Montevallo. Children are invited to come out and Trick or Treat the merchants. This event provides a safe place for our children to celebrate the holiday.

Who said that there's nothing to do in Montevallo? Come out and support your community and participate in the many events offered this month. Let's have a safe and fun October!

I would like to close this month's newsletter by reminding everyone to shop Montevallo first. Business owners have invested in our city so please give them your support. Sales tax revenue is earned when you shop Montevallo and those dollars stay in the community. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.



MONTEVALLO SHOWS OFF NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION

Submitted by Josh Bean, Direct Communications

The City of Montevallo now has a public electric vehicle (EV) charging station available in the heart of its downtown business district.

Mayor Rusty Nix cut the ribbon at the charging station located at 550 Main St. – directly across from City Hall – during a ceremony on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

"This is such a wonderful day for our city," Nix said. "As we see more and more EVs on the road it's inevitable that more of them will make their way into our beautiful city. Whether those visitors are here for a University of Montevallo athletic event or to visit Orr Park or are just passing through, it's important to have public charging available for EV owners. It's another way for us to signal that downtown Montevallo is open for business."

Funding for the new charging station was provided by a grant from the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC) through its involvement in Alabama Partners for Clean Air. Drive Electric Alabama, a statewide education platform dedicated to improving the state through the adoption of electric vehicles, assisted with planning and promotion of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"These chargers are the type called Level 2, which are intended for an EV driver who plans to park and leave their car charging while they shop, eat, or visit one of Montevallo's

schools, parks or other attractions," said Michael Staley, president of the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

"EV sales are on the rise, but a lack of charging infrastructure is still a top reason people are apprehensive about driving an EV. It's great to be a part of this highly visible project in downtown Montevallo that is definitely helping close the gap."

The new charging station, which offers two plugs and can be expanded in the future, became operational in late July. "We've seen a steady stream of EV owners use it already, and they've expressed thanks to the city for providing this place to charge," Nix said.

The ACFC grant also funded construction of a separate EV charging station with two charging ports, which will be open soon, at Village on Valley, a cluster of businesses located at 1205 Ashville Road in Montevallo.

Nix also noted Montevallo's commitment to sustainability, evidenced by the city's recycling center that is extremely popular with residents.

"We clearly see the economic benefits of public EV charging, and we also acknowledge the ecological benefits, too," Nix said. "It's wonderful when a project can have multiple benefits for our residents and our community."





NEWS & HISTORY FROM THE FIREHOUSE

Submitted by Kay Goke

Montevallo is excited to host its 49th Fire Prevention Parade on Saturday October 7th at 10am. The parade will begin near Island St then proceed down Main Street along the same route as last year and end at Orr Park. The event will then continue in the park with vehicle displays, kid-friendly activities, food trucks, and more. Last year the parade encompassed 50 fire and emergency vehicles from around Central Alabama.

This year is special because it is our 1938 Peter Pirsch truck's 85thbirthday. The vintage fire truck is affectionately known as Little Red and was named after Chief Red Mahan who was over the department at the time it was procured. Little Red's last working fire took place in 1974 at the Reid House fire which used to be located behind Montevallo First Baptist Church. The vintage fire truck still sits inside of our station near Moore's Crossroads and is brought out for every parade.

The parade remains special for those members who have been on the department for decades and with the help of volunteers it occurs every year. Battalion Chief Bill Reid is perhaps our longest standing member (53 years to date) who is still on the department and often serves as a historian. Chief Reid's wife, Ms. Rita, had this to say about what the parade means to them, "Over the years watching our sons grow, learn and develop the skills and knowledge needed for their future as firefighter/paramedics... they went from riding with daddy on the fire truck to driving the fire truck to making firefighting their profession." In the early 90's the four Reid boys (three of which are now serving in leadership roles at area departments and one is retired) can be seen in many photographs repelling from a ladder truck on Main Street.



The Reid boys on parade day in the early 90's.

Battalion Chief Alan Blackmon, who has served on the department for 46 years, had this to say about the parade, "The parade has always been an event that people of all ages enjoy. For many young children, it plants a desire to be a firefighter when they grow up." His son, Ryan, got his start at Montevallo. He went on to join Calera Fire where he still works todayand rides on a truck in the parade each year. Meanwhile, Chief Blackmon carries on here in Montevallo alongside his son-in-law Assistant Chief Jason Picklesimer. Chief Picklesimer is married to Chief Blackmon's daughter, Anna. The pair met in our Fire Explorer Program in the 90's and have been together ever since. Battalion Chief Blackmon's nephew, Brad Davis, is our Fire Chief.



Then Fire Explorers Anna Blackmon and Jason Picklesimer on parade day 1994.

Ryan Blackmon riding in a Calera engine with his son on parade day 2022.



Firefighter Shannon Blackburn is another example of a family legacy at the department. His father served on the department and Shannon started as a Fire Explorer in 1986. Currently, Shannon serves alongside his three sons at Montevallo (two of which are also employed at other area departments) and heads up our Explorer Program.



The Blackburns on parade day 2022

Needless to say, the fire service runs deep for the families that hold Montevallo in a special place in their hearts. The legacies that have gone on for generations at Montevallo Fire are what continue to make this place special and help us function like a big family, those legacies were documented at our parade each year and continue on. Our fire family loves hosting the community to showcase what it's all about. We hope you'll join us in our 49th year making memories with the parade!







Taking care of each other is what community is all about.

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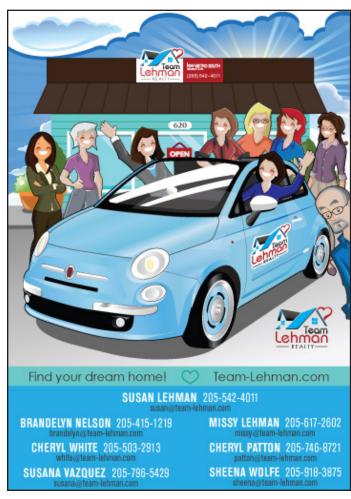
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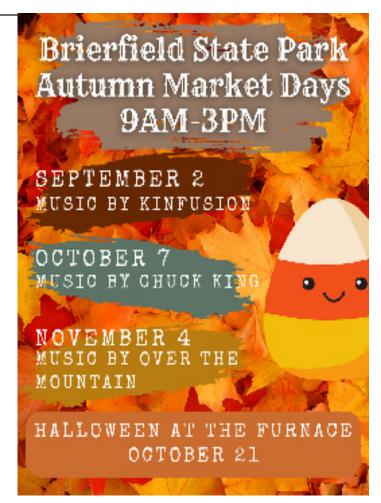
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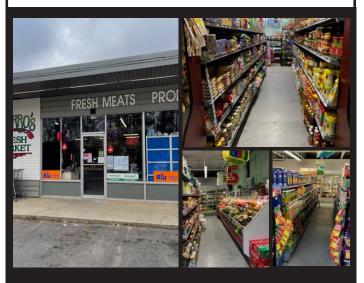








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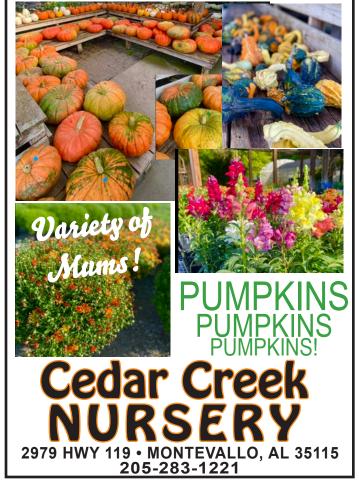
















Featured Carlist
JENNY CASH
Hoover, AL

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8:30 am Coffee and Juice by the River

8:30 am Fishing at the Lake with a Lesson from Fly Fishing Alabama

9:00 am Fossil Walk with Alabama Paleontological Society

Signup at livingriver.org ahead of time.

10:00 am Guided Outdoor Activities for all ages

Archery, labrynth, nature photography

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Worship

2:30 pm Citizen Scientist Workshop, Pumpkin Trail, and Guided Hike

4:00 pm Live Music

5:00 pm Learn about the Cahaba

6:00 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Closing Campfire

All Day

From the very start of the morning, all are welcome to fellowship and explore around Living River. Guides and maps will make clear where and when you can sit awhile or participate in an activity!

Craft Fair Bring your own kayak or canoe Bounce House

Hiking Scavenger Hunt

Games and crafts

MONTEVALLO'S FIRST TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT TO HIGHLIGHT CAREERS IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Submitted by Shelby County Reporter

As a child, Kay Goke never thought being a firefighter was an option for her. Now, Goke is on a mission to make sure children see people like her and know they can be anything they want to be, including a firefighter. Sign up for The Shelby County Reporter's free newsl

"Growing up, I never saw a female firefighter, ever," Goke said. "I never knew that it was even an option." Goke has a military background and eventually started working in the financial industry, where she still works in a full-time capacity. She joined Montevallo Fire in July 2021. Recently, Goke and a local author named Cori Heath were introduced through a mutual friend who happens to be a Montevallo police officer. They quickly realized how much they had in common. "We instantly connected due to our shared life goals of empowering children to fearlessly pursue their dreams," Heath said. "As someone who has always challenged stereotypes, particularly as a woman, my passion lies in empowering all children to embrace their God-given talents and pursue their dreams."

Goke said Heath gave a copy of her children's book, "Kate Saves the Day," to her and asked if Goke would answer a few questions about her experiences. Heath shared Goke's responses and a picture of her standing next to a fire truck, holding the book. "My aspiration is for anyone who reads 'Kate Saves the Day,' whether they are parents, teachers or children themselves, to be reminded of the unique purpose each of us holds in life," Heath said. "I want to encourage kids to embrace their calling and chase their dreams fearlessly."

This summer, Goke started working on plans for a new outreach event that she hopes will inspire young people to pursue their goals with an open mind and optimistic attitude. "We want all children to know that they can do anything they want," Goke said. "Your career options are not limited." To this end, Goke and her colleagues at the Montevallo Fire Department are partnering with Parnell Memorial Library and the entities that make up the Montevallo Public Safety Coalition—Montevallo Police Department, Impact Montevallo and Montevallo Main Street—to hold Montevallo's inaugural Touch-A-Truck & Read-A-Book: Empowering Dreams for Careers in Public Safety event featuring Heath's "Kate Saves the Day" book. The event,

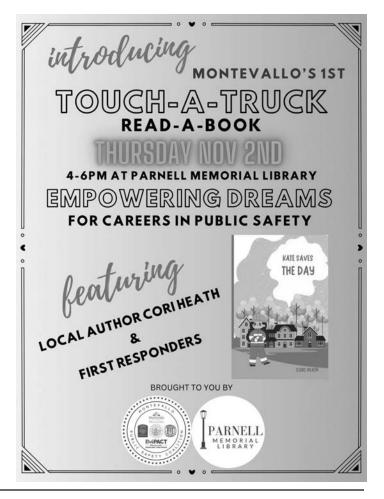
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which also will feature local first responders from Montevallo and surrounding communities, is set for Thursday, Nov. 2 from 4-6 p.m. at Parnell Memorial Library. Heath will be present at the Touch-A-Truck & Read-A-Book event, too. "I am incredibly thrilled to collaborate with our community's first responders and create awareness among our future community leaders and servants," Heath said.

"Kate Saves the Day" can be found on Amazon in Kindle and paperback formats: https://a.co/d/3eSKWII. Goke said any public safety agencies outside of Montevallo that would like to participate in the Touch-A-Truck & Read-A-Book event on Nov. 2 should contact her at firepio@cityofmontevallo.com.

Working with the fire department has been an unexpected blessing, Goke said, due in large part to the positive environment her fellow firefighters and the department's leadership have created. "This place is so special," Goke said, noting Montevallo's fire department consists mostly of volunteers. "They are people who are not being paid to be here because they love the town." Goke said she hopes her path to becoming involved with the fire service inspires anyone who wonders whether they should take a risk and follow their dreams. Her message, echoed by the story in Heath's book, is simple: "You can do it." "Whatever challenges that you face can be overcome," Goke said. "I know that I will never be the best firefighter/EMT, but maybe I will inspire someone that will. Whether that's a little boy or little girl, the sooner you figure out what your true passion is, the better off you're going to be."



DAY OF THE DEAD IN MONTEVALLO

Submitted by Team Lehman

The Day of the Dead, celebrated traditionally on November 1st and 2nd, has its origins in the ancient religious ceremonies of the Indigenous groups of Mexico. Before the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the area, these cultures had several ceremonies to say goodbye to the recently deceased. Nowadays, the Day of the Dead combines elements of both Catholic and Aztec traditions that help people remember their loved ones and celebrate their memory.

The Aztecs had different celebrations depending on how people died. For example, there were rituals for warriors who died in battle, people who drowned, pregnant women, babies, and those who died of natural causes. These rituals were celebrated every year, or in some cases, for the first four years after a person's death. Usually, they bathed the dead and dressed them elegantly. In Mexico, the Day of the Dead holiday is like a family reunion in which dead ancestors are the guests of honor. People decorate the graves of the deceased in cemeteries with flowers, papel picado, and candles. They also place altares in their homes with various elements such as marigold flowers, copal incense, and favorite items and foods of the deceased, among other things. UNESCO declared the Day of the Dead celebration an Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2008.

In an effort to share this wonderful tradition here at home, Team Lehman's Susana Vazquez is spearheading the planning efforts for Montevallo's first Day of the Dead Celebration, which will be held surrounding 620 Valley Street on Thursday, November 2nd from 5-9 p.m. The event is cosponsored by Montevallo Main Street, the Chamber, and other local organizations and businesses. The celebration will feature authentic foods, music, face painting, dance and more! Further details will be available as the date approaches. Please contact Susana at 205-796-5429 if you would become a sponsor of the event or otherwise be part of our celebration.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS EN MONTEVALLO

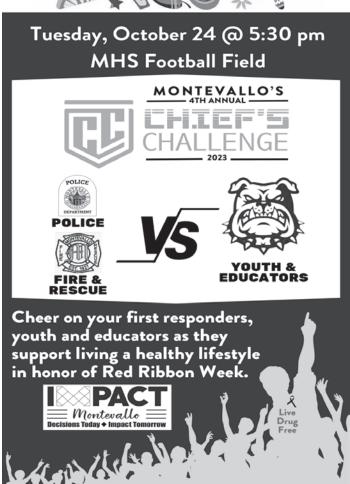
Submitted by Team Lehman

El Día de Muertos tradicionalmente celebrado en México los días 1 v 2 de noviembre tiene su origen en las antiguas celebraciones religiosas de los grupos indígenas de México. Antes de que los conquistadores españoles llegaran a la zona, estas culturas tenían varias ceremonias para despedir a los recién fallecidos. Hoy en día, el Día de Muertos combina elementos de las tradiciones católica y azteca que ayudan a las personas a recordar a sus seres queridos y a celebrar su memoria. Los aztecas tenían diferentes celebraciones dependiendo de cómo moría la gente; por ejemplo, los guerreros que murieron en batalla, las personas ahogadas, las mujeres embarazadas, los bebés y los que murieron por causas naturales. Algunos de esos rituales se celebraban todos los años o los primeros cuatro años después del fallecido. Por lo general, lavaban a los muertos y los vestían elegantemente. En México, esta festividad es una reunión familiar en la que los antepasados fallecidos son los invitados de honor. La gente adorna las tumbas de los difuntos en los cementerios con flores, papel picado y velas. Asimismo, colocan altares en sus casas con diversos elementos como la flor de cempazúchil, incienso,

cosas. La UNESCO declaró la celebración del Día de Muertos como Patrimonio Inmaterial de la Humanidad en 2008.

En un esfuerzo por compartir esta maravillosa tradición aquí en casa, Susana Vázquez del Team Lehman está encabezando los esfuerzos de planificación para la primera celebración del Día de Muertos en Montevallo, que se llevará a cabo alrededor de 620 Valley Street el jueves 2 de noviembre de 5 a 9 p.m. El evento está copatrocinado por Montevallo Main Street, la Cámara y otras organizaciones y empresas locales. ¡La celebración contará con comidas auténticas, música, pintura de caras, baile y más! Más detalles estarán disponibles a medida que se acerque la fecha. Comuníquese con Susana al 205-796-5429 si desea convertirse en patrocinador del evento o ser parte de nuestra celebración.







Montevallo Main Street will host two Window Decorating Contests this upcoming holiday season!

Business owners are invited to decorate their own windows. In addition, student groups elementary through college are invited to decorate empty storefronts (registration required).



Windows will be judged at 4 pm on November 29, and winners will be announced at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 30. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 winners in each category.

For more information:

205-597-9322 | mainstreet@cityofmontevallo.com



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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

EVERY 2ND MONDAYMDCD Montevallo Development Cooperative District 1 p.m., Meets at City Hall

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Rotary Meeting, noon, City Hall

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

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

EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY 3RD SATURDAY MORNINGClothes 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



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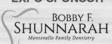








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SUBMITTED BY ARTHUR HERBERT

CARGO BELONGS IN A BAG

Bicycles are the most efficient form of transportation designed by humans – the calorie input to distance ratio wins every time. Most bikes do a wonderful job moving people, but what about your stuff? Every bike should have some type of bag to keep the essentials for travel. If cargo capacity is limiting your bicycle outings, follow these tips to enjoy biking with stuff:

Light Loads

o Pockets – can carry the essentials for traveling: spare inner tube, tire levers, multi tool, keys, wallet, and a pair of rubber gloves. You can use pockets on clothing and any bag you own.

o Seat Pack – will strap underneath your saddle and seat post to carry the essentials that you would rather not have in your pockets.

o Handlebar Bag – great for carrying and easily accessing a lighter load in front of your handlebars. Most have a clear pocket for your cellphone and many have a strap so you can wear the bag once you have arrived.

Medium Loads

o Frame Bag – straps directly to your frame. Depending on style, a frame bag fills the space between the frame tubes or sits on the top tube. Big enough to store your lunch or a change of clothes.

o Messenger Bag – one strap and a big pocket and worn across the body. These bags can be shifted to prevent sweating and easily access your stuff while riding. Since you will be carrying the weight on one shoulder, choose a wide/padded strap.

o Backpack – two straps and several pockets. Comfortable to wear, but will give your back a bath on longer rides on warmer Alabama days. Can also be fitted with a carabineer and latched to the side of a rear cargo rack (after securing the straps) or just bungeed on top of the rack itself – which solves the problem of carrying all the weight on your own shoulders.

o Basket – most attach above your front wheel (similar to the handlebar bag). Metal baskets come in a variety of finishes and mounting styles suitable for carrying medium loads and showing them off. Other types of baskets include wicker, rattan, wood, and plastic – most of these will not last as long or wear in the weather.

o Cargo Rack – can be relatively inexpensive and bolts to the frame of your bike over the rear (or front) wheel. You can strap anything from a set of paniers, trunk bags, or even a milk crate to this rack.

• Large Loads – can be challenging on a bicycle. A cargo trailer is a wonderful option. It is capable of holding larger bags and even children. Oversized loads can be awkward

on a bicycle – a friend once welded a short cylinder to his frame to help carry pipes for a plumbing project.

Just about anything is better than holding a bag in your hands or hanging it off your of your handlebars. Maneuverability and braking are limited and your focus is distracted by the need to keep the sack contents clean and clear of the wheels and gears. No matter what system you use, just make sure your load is secure and as low to the ground as possible – the lower the load, the easier it is to balance your bike.

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.

MONTEVALLO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
Oct. 6 SIPSEY VALLEY ()-()
Oct. 13@Bibb County ()-()
Oct. 20*HOLŤ ()-()
Oct. 27AMERICAN CHRISTIAN ()-()
Nov. 3**TARRANT ()-()
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MILITARY MOMENT

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



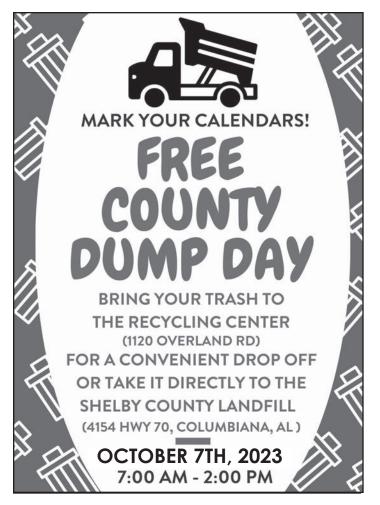
In the month of October, we recognize the United States Navy's birthday on October 13th and the Day of the Deployed on October 26th..

According to Navy.com, this branch of the military's mission is "To recruit, train, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence." It continues to state, "The sea is an incredible beast. It reaches impossible speeds, depths and distances. It cannot be beaten with the strongest fist, the sharpest knife or the fastest bullet. In America's Navy, water and salt flow through our veins in the same proportion as the sea. That mighty force is the lifeblood of the greatest Navy ever to sail upon it, slip beneath it or fly above it. It shapes Americans from every corner of the nation into Sailors with the courage to protect liberty back home. Bonding us with the commitment to serve with honor. The sea propels every one of our men and women to defeat or defend. To comfort or to awe. To victory or to the rescue. We are America's Navy. And we are all Forged by the Sea."

Pretty impressive, right? I am a proud US Navy Veteran and on October 13th I will take a moment to celebrate this great force and say a prayer for all the Sailors who have served with Honor and for those that continue to do so.

October 26th will mark the National Day of the Deployed. Military.com says "This day honors all service members who have been deployed in service to our country. It also acknowledges the sacrifices that military families make during deployment." The first National Day of the Deployed was observed in 2006, by 2012 every state in the US was observing it. If you're honoring those who have been deployed, it is recommended to post to social media including the #DayOfTheDeployed. If you're looking to support service members on this day of recognition, check with local veteran's service organizations for ideas and suggestions.

I was deployed to the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield and Storm. I am also the wife of an Army Colonel who has been deployed several times. I do not know which position (the one leaving or the staying behind) is tougher, I would venture to say both are incredibly difficult, challenging and not for the weak. Military members are taught to never leave a man (a service brother or sister) behind. I have been through a lot of difficulties in my life and at the very top of the most heartbreaking was when our 3-year-old son and I had to leave my husband standing on a curb waving goodbye to us, so that he could deploy to Iraq. Whether you are the one wearing the uniform or the one supporting them, deployments come at a very high price. One day a year doesn't seem like enough to remember and support those that pay this price.





SHOAL CREEK PARK - HOW IT HAPPENED

Submitted by Dee Woodham, SCPF Trail Committee Chair

"I want to leave the farm to the City," Miss Betty said to Gary.

"Miss Betty" was Elizabeth Mahler, the oldest and last surviving child of John and Elizabeth Mahler, and "the farm" was 167 acres of pristine farm and timber land, known as Shoal Creek Farm or "the Mahler Farm," nestled along Shoal Creek just outside Montevallo. "Gary" was long-time family friend Gary Muehlbauer, who with his wife Cristie, was driving Miss Betty back from her brother's funeral in 2013 when Miss Betty said, "I want to leave the farm to the City." Gary & Cristie were as excited as Miss Betty at the prospect, and they drove directly to Montevallo City Hall and tracked down Mayor Hollie Cost at Parnell Memorial Library. Hollie & Miss Betty spoke through the passenger car window about the possibility. All of these things ran through my mind when I was asked to write a brief summary of how Shoal Creek Park came to be.

Our memories of the specific details may vary, as is often the case with such a monumental gift, but everyone agrees that Miss Betty wanted the City to have Shoal Creek Farm because she loved it and wanted it to be loved by others. The depths of that love will remain evident at Shoal Creek Park for generations to come.

We all owe Miss Betty a huge debt for her incredible act of love and generosity. Having spent many hours with her talking about her memories of family, fun, and beauty at Shoal Creek Farm, I know that she would be most thrilled if we repaid that debt by visiting Shoal Creek Park often and enjoying the natural beauty that she gifted to us. Please go to Shoalcreekparkfoundation.com to donate and learn more.



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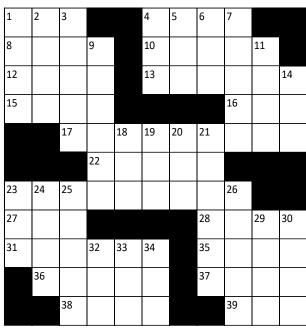


Catch us at Home!



OPPONENT	SPORT	DATE	TIME
Lee University	Volleyball	Oct. 3	6 p.m.
West Florida	Women's Soccer	Oct. 6	5 p.m.
West Florida	Men's Soccer	Oct. 6	7:30 p.m.
Intersquad	Swim	Oct. 7	9 a.m.
Spring Hill	Women's Soccer	Oct. 8	1 p.m.
Spring Hill	Men's Soccer	Oct. 8	3:30 p.m.
Union	Volleyball	Oct. 13	6 p.m.
Millsaps	Swim	Oct. 14	11 a.m.
Christian Brothers	Volleyball	Oct. 14	2 p.m.
Mississippi College	Women's Soccer	Oct. 27	5 p.m.
Mississippi College	Men's Soccer	Oct. 27	7:30 p.m.
Mississippi College	Volleyball	Oct. 28	2 p.m. Senior Day
Delta State	Women's Soccer	Oct. 29	1 p.m.
Delta State	Men's Soccer	Oct. 29	3:30 p.m.
Shorter	Volleyball	Oct. 31	6 p.m. Halloween

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Created by Mike Hardig

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		14 C	А	15 N	Υ	0	N		16 G	0
17 V		18 H	О	Е			19 S	20 T	Е	W
21 	22 R	Е		Т		23 O		24 E	R	R
25 S	Е	R	26 A			27 D	28 N	Α		Υ
29 O	N		30 T	31 R	32 A	D	Е	R		
33 R	Α	34 T	Т	Α	N		35 S	О	36 A	37 P
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	40 E	Т	С	Н				41 M	0	W

ACROSS

- CPR pro
- 4. Bakery offering
- 8. With 13-Across and 31-Across, Montevallo winner of Shelby Living's Best of the Best 2023 award for Best Casual Restaurant
- 10. Jewish holiday when the book of Esther is read
- 12. Apple variety
- 13. See 8-Across
- 15. "Ashes to Ashes" author Hoag
- 16. GPS suggestion
- 17. Banish
- 22. Boxer Ali
- 23. Carriers of heavy burdens?
- 27. Fury
- 28. Sicilian volcano
- 31. See 8-Across
- 35. Abound
- 36. Reduce to a pulp
- 37. Gleeful giggle
- 38. Ergo
- 39. Montevallo mayor Rusty



DOWN

- Radiate
- 2. One of the three bears
- 3. Italian's "I love you"
- 4. CD predecessors
- 5. Not at home
- 6. Timetable abbr.
- 7. Guy with a cooking show
- 9. Procedural spinoff starring LL Cool J
- 11. Retired UM art professor Ted AND a French city
- 14. Golf peg
- 18. Mai ___ (cocktail)
- 19. ___ Tin Tin
- 20. Pub order
- 21. "The Lord _____ for the strangers": Psalm 146
- 23. Command to Fido
- 24. Snare
- 25. Variety show
- 26. Dutch painter Jan
- 29. Radar's favorite pop
- 30. MasterCard alternative
- 32. Goof
- 33. Short rule?
- 34. "The Matrix" hero



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