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OCTOBER 2024

South HUNTSVILLE NEIGHBORS



Dylan, Emily (Holding Nolan)
and Greyson

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Photography

OCT 11

HAMR Fall Fest 2024

@Monte Sano State Park

Join HAMR and the local mountain bike community for a full weekend of Strava-based races, shuttles, demo bikes, group rides, GAMES, a mega RAFFLE, vendors, live music, food, swag, and MORE!

Time: 2pm

Contact: hamrhsv@gmail.com

For Details, Tickets and Pricing information: hamrhsv.com/fall-fest

The Purple xPeRIeNCE

@The Furniture Factory Bar and Grill - 619 Meridian St N, HSV 35801

Oct 11th. The Purple xPeRIeNCE make their way back to Furniture Factory for the Biggest party in town! This event is for audience members ages 21 and up only.

Patio opens at 6:30, DJ starts at 7pm, Band performs at 8:30

Tickets: \$25 online, \$30 day of the show
Table for 4 (with tickets): \$225, VIP Villa for 10 (with tickets) \$550

tickets.bestofhuntsville.com/events/the-purple-xperience-at-furniture-factory-downtown-10-11-2024



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OCT 12

**Rocket City Mustang Club's
8th Annual Fall Cruise-In**

@Johnny Gryll's II - 6125 University Dr NW #A6, HSV 35806

We invite you to join us for a fun and exciting benefit for Still Serving Veterans. Come out and show your support! Judging is open to ALL MAKES AND MODELS! There will be door prizes, and trophies for the Top 20 vehicles.

Time: 9am - 1pm

Registration is \$20 per vehicle.

rocketcitymustang.club/events.html

OCT 13

Pridefest 2024

@The Orion Amphitheater -

701 Amphitheater Dr NW, HSV 35806

Join us in making LGBTQIA+ History Month one to remember! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for music, performers, vendors, and a celebration of the unique spectrum and diversity that is our Rocket City Pride community.

Parking & Admission is FREE

Time: 12noon - 7pm

More Information: theorionhuntsville.com/event/rocket-city-pridefest

OCT 18-19

WhistleStop Festival 2024

@MidCity District -

5901 University Dr, HSV 35806

Are you ready for a foot-stompin', pig-chompin' good time?? Benefiting EarlyWorks Children's Museum, the 2024 WhistleStop Festival presented by i3 is BACK for two days at MidCity District with live music, BBQ, vendors, and more! Join us for the TASTIEST weekend in the South!

Questions: whistlestop@i3-corps.com

The Juicy Details: whistlestopweekend.com

OCT 18-20, 24-27

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

@VBC Playhouse -

700 Monroe St. SW, HSV 35801-5579

This fresh adaptation of L. Frank Baum's original novel draws inspiration from the timeless and beloved 1939 American classic film. Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre & Academy directors Nikkia Dollar & Stephen Tyler Davis' cast will take audiences of all ages over the rainbow to a glittery green land of infinite possibilities - paved with yellow bricks! Do you know the rest? Come see and find out!

Times, Tickets and Pricing:

fpcta.ludus.com/index.php?step=seats

More Info & Season Calendar:

fantasyplayhouse.org/season

OCT 19

Black Arts & Wine Festival

@Riverside Event Venue - 100 Old River Road, Laceys Spring, AL 35754

Black Arts & Wine Festival offers attendees a chance to experience visual art by Black creatives and sample wines and liquors from Black Brands! Shop with local vendors, vibe with our DJs and try dishes from popular food vendors.

Time: 2-6pm

Tickets: VIP - \$125,

General Admission - \$75

R.S.V.P. - blackartsandwinefestival.com

OCT 19-20

**3rd Annual Rocket City Toy
& Comic Expo**

@Jaycee's Building -

2180 Airport Road SW, HSV 35802

This year we've added a second day! 50+ Vendors for vintage and modern toys from most of your favorite lines, Golden Age to modern comics.

Saturday VIP Entry: 9-10am - \$10,

Regular Entry 10am-5pm, \$5; Sunday

10am-4pm, \$5 - Kids under 12yrs old

FREE Admission

Contact for more information:

rocketcitytoycomicexpo@gmail.com

facebook.com/RocketCityToyComicExpo

NOV 2

**9th Annual Rods and
Wheels Cruise-In**

@Ditto Landing (Kingston Pavilion area) - 293 Ditto Landing Rd SE, HSV 35803

Join us for the 9th Annual Rods and Wheels Cruise-In at Ditto Landing.

Food trucks on site. Door prizes (including cash!) for participants. Judging categories grouped by era, with separate category for motorcycles. FREE Parking & Admission for visitors!

Time: 10am - 2pm

Registration opens at 8:30am, Judging

starts at 10am, Awards announced at

1:45pm.

Registration \$20 per vehicle

dittoland.org/event/32/9th-annual-

rods-and-wheels-cruise-in



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amandacook@bestversionmedia.com.

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February 8	March
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HAPPY October!

October is here and with it comes cooler temperatures (usually) and the first CFB rankings. For those baseball fans it also brings on the World Series (or the Fall Classic as it was known as when we were growing up).

Our Feature Article this month is the Glass Family, Dylan, Emily and their 2 boys Greyson and Nolan. We know you will enjoy meeting them. We would like to thank Patsy Ducote, the head librarian at the new Bailey Cove Library for allowing us to use their facilities for our photo shoot. If you are new to South Huntsville or haven't had an opportunity to visit, it is a must see.



PHOTO BY MANDI COOK PHOTOGRAPHY

We would like to welcome Taste Temptations. David Riney and his Mom Suzanne are the owners. David is an accomplished chef who has relocated to Huntsville. His roots in Huntsville run deep as he is a graduate of Grissom. Their catering business is geared towards Weddings, Private Parties, Corporate Events and Private Chef. We know you will love their article.

Special congratulations to our sponsor We Rock The Spectrum. They were awarded the Arts and Recreation award at the Small Business Awards Dinner sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

As always, we ask that you visit our sponsors. They are all small businesses that are the lifeblood of our economy.

See you next month,
Suzanne and Bob

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Huntsville's Own Roadrunner Always Returns Home and This Year, So Does Microwave Dave Day

By The Microwave Dave Music Education Foundation, Photos by Dennis Keim

Dave Gallaher, aka Microwave Dave, has been a Huntsville staple for four decades, but this musical aficionado who plays weekly at places like The Nook and The Open Bottle is far more than just a local musician. Dave has appeared with music greats including Aretha Franklin, Reba McEntire, Buddy Guy and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Dave is such a fixture in the community that, in 2015, Microwave Dave Day was created in his honor and at which Dave received a key to the city. Held at A.M. Booth's Lumberyard, the event featured multiple musical acts, including the honoree himself. Microwave Dave Day has continued annually at other Huntsville venues since as the chief fundraiser for the Microwave Dave Music Education Foundation (MDMEF) a non-profit offering music education programs in North Alabama.

This year Microwave Dave Day will return "home" to The Lumberyard, which has been undergoing renovations. The 10th Annual Microwave Dave Day will serve as the official re-opening of the space on Sunday, October 13.

Dave's desire to become a musician came as a fourth grader while watching a Dixieland Jazz band perform at his elementary school. He was instantly entranced, launching his musical journey on ukulele, ultimately learning how to play more than 10 instruments. Guitar, however, has always been his mainstay. Currently, when Dave plays solo or with a band, you'll see him performing on a variety of guitars as well as on vocals.

With the impact of that fourth-grade day, the importance of music in schools has never been far from Dave's heart. Dave has played for school children since the 1970s, while later The Nukes regularly visited classrooms throughout Madison County. He continues to perform in multiple schools every year on behalf of the MDMEF and enjoys performing for children in various libraries during the W.C. Handy Music Festival, held annually in Muscle Shoals.

Born in Chicago and growing up in Texas and Atlanta, Dave landed in Huntsville in 1982 after serving in Vietnam and at Langley Air Force Base, studying at the Berklee School of Music, and working as a musician in Florida. It was in Huntsville that Dave became "Microwave Dave" after briefly sitting in at the Kaffeeklatsch. As the band leader was wrapping up, he couldn't remember his full name and said, "That was Dave, the Microwave."

The name stuck. In 1989, after being asked if he had a band that could perform live during a WLRH pledge drive, Dave assembled friend Rick Godfrey on bass and Mike Alexander on drums and Microwave Dave & The Nukes was born. The Nukes worked continuously into the pandemic years with Dave, Rick and James Irvin on drums.

Dave brings a collection of guitars to every gig, and that typically includes a cigar box guitar. He started playing in 2001, after he saw Richard Johnston win the solo act at the International Blues Challenge playing a unique cigar box guitar with a broom handle neck made by John Lowe. Dave was so intrigued that he bought his own "Lowebow," adding it to his rotation.

Shortly thereafter, Huntsville had its first Cigar Box Guitar Festival, where Dave, among others, performed at Lowe Mill. The event has had many organizers and performers over the years, but Dave has been a fixture at every event. In 2021, Jeff and Tara Mello stepped in as the Festival organizers, after purchasing The Cigar Box Guitar Store, located at Lowe Mill, from the Nickel family.

At the 20th annual Festival this past May, Dave shared the stage with Debbie Bond, "Radiator" Rick on keyboard and drummer Darrell Tibbs. The band wowed the crowd, including on "I'm a Roadrunner, Honey," The Nukes version that became a hit in Europe, resulting in the band touring Europe four times during 1996.

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The Mellos have shifted the Festival's focus to showcase the wide variety of genres that can be played on cigar box guitar and to raise money for music education. This year they raised \$6,300, which was split evenly to MDMEF and Arts Huntsville's Creative Launchpad.

The 10th Annual Microwave Dave Day will be held at The Lumberyard on October 13, 3:00-9:00 pm with 50 local musicians on three stages. It continues to serve as the main fundraiser for the MDMEF to fund its Concerts in the Classroom and the Danny Hall Music Scholarship.



For Concerts in the Classroom, local musicians create lesson plans based on academic standards, and then become teachers for a day, mixing music performance with learning. Each program concludes with an open discussion, giving youngsters the opportunity to ask questions and interact individually.

The Danny Hall Music Scholarship provides one year of music lessons for aspiring young musicians. Applicants complete a form and provide one letter of recommendation to be entered into a random drawing each quarter.

Visit MicrowaveDaveMEF.org for info about the event, as well as Concerts in the Classroom and to submit applications for the Danny Hall Music Scholarship. Dave's show schedule is posted weekly at Facebook.com/MDandNukes

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The HSO At 70

By Curtis Lindsay, General Manager,
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra

Photos Courtesy of HSO



For several years now, Huntsville's historic Five Points neighborhood has hosted a delightful "PorchFest" each May – homeowners lend their verandas and lawns to present live music by local artists. But did you know that this springtime showcase shares something in common with the origins of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra in the 1950s?

Indeed, among the early organizers and members of the orchestra were rocket scientists and engineers who also happened to be talented classical musicians. They sometimes gathered on their porches to serenade our shady Southern streets with the melodies of Haydn and Mozart.

To further develop this pool of talent, the HSO was first incorporated in 1954-55 as a community orchestra founded by cellist Alvin Dreger and conductor Arthur Fraser. Its debut performance was a Christmas-themed concert presented at Huntsville High School, which remained the group's performing home for some time thereafter.

In 2024-25, the HSO celebrates seventy years of nonstop music making. Today, based in the 2,000-seat Mark C. Smith Concert Hall of the Von Braun Center, it is a fully professional ensemble under the baton of internationally acclaimed conductor and composer Gregory Vajda. While some of the musicians are locals, many regularly commute to Huntsville to perform with the orchestra – some from as far away as California and New York. Auditions for vacancies are quite competitive and are advertised nationally, drawing top-notch, conservatory-trained candidates.

The HSO offers two major concert runs each season: a Classical Series spotlighting the great masterworks, and a Pops Series which provides lighter musical entertainment across a variety of popular genres. Tickets to these performances are available by means of individual purchase as well as series subscription. There are also chamber music concerts and pop-up performances around town



throughout the season, and even a spectacular FREE Family concert each year, open to the entire community at no charge.

"There's no magic quite like the thrill of a live orchestra in concert," says Melissa Jones, "and Huntsville's hometown symphony is remarkable. More Huntsvillians should be aware of just how much this group does. It's everything from the great Beethoven symphonies and epic choral performances to music from hit movies. There is something for absolutely everyone." Jones, a Huntsville native and Monte Sano resident, is a longtime fan of the HSO and works part-time as an assistant in the orchestra's music library and production departments.

Dan Halcomb, another Huntsville native with deep roots in the area, has served as the orchestra's CEO since 2008. "The HSO thrives on the basis of a dynamic relationship with the community," he relates. "We're led by a hard-working Board of local business leaders and volunteers. We're tirelessly supported by wonderful sister organizations like the HSO Guild and the HSO Foundation, as well as private and corporate sponsors and advertisers, city, state, and federal funders, and of course thousands of concertgoing patrons. We're fortunate to be at the center of a city which cares so passionately about the arts – and the HSO is dedicated to bringing world-class music and music education not only to the concert hall stage, but to the underserved in our community."

"We're proud of our heritage and our history, but I think our seventy most promising years are ahead of us still," Halcomb adds.

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An Open Letter from YOUR United Way – Greatest Community Needs: How Will We Respond?

By Cathy Miller, Community Impact Director, United Way of Madison County



United Way of
Madison County

uwmadisoncounty.org

“Community and our neighbors who live here are important to our local United Way,” says CEO and President, Daniel Kasambira. “And every resident is the reason we stand today ready to serve. We are in the business of transforming lives and providing help with a unique model. We convene the community to bring solutions that work and draw people together to realize a greater good than any of us can do alone. It does not matter where you live – you are part of our quality of life.”

As part of United Way’s dedication as an essential, listening, and active catalyst, they recently concluded a year-long study of the greatest local needs, working in partnership with a multi-disciplinary research team from Alabama A&M University. That report will be fully available to our community the end of September.

Here’s an initial glimpse of a few most significant issues that came out of the study and require us working together as never before:

- Continued preparation for the workforce within our education systems so more individuals are employment-ready in today’s Madison County, AL
- Diverse/Attainable Housing especially for our seniors, the workforce, and lower-income individuals
- Food insecurity
- Increased resources and services within the public schools and outside them in out-of-school time, and support programs for educators and children/youth
- Improved systems for sharing resources available to help and assisting the navigation of those systems
- Mental Health

United Way invites the community to read the complete report or a summary at www.uwmadisoncounty.org. No matter how you choose to share your talents and abilities (volunteering, committee and board service, or supporting our work financially), we all have an active role in the choice of what our future community will look like. Creative, solution-centered dialogue and, just as important, actionable strategic and innovative implementation, are next obvious steps. You can:

- Share study findings widely. Talk with your family, friends and neighbors about what you will do. Everyone has a stake.
- Help United Way bring together corporate groups, innovators, thought leaders, and a diverse group of public and private organizations in “never-before-seen” collective efforts, asking “what will it take?”
- Find your place in the answers, no matter how small – let United Way help you connect to those that are already part of the solution.

YOUR United Way of Madison County is proud to have served locally for over 80 years. Through a powerful mix of community generosity, understanding needs, and making strategic investments into programs and services that meet needs and achieve outcomes, YOUR United Way of Madison County is as we have for the last 81 years, creating a stronger, healthier, and more equitable Madison County.

“If we do not understand needs we face and how they touch each of our lives, no matter our situation, then we have no way to assure the future will be as bright and promising as our past has been,” continues Kasambira.

United Way looks forward to continuing our partnership with our community and working collaboratively to address the needs highlighted.

For more information or the start of a powerful conversation, contact 256-536-0745, visit www.uwmadisoncounty.org for resources and information, or to make a connection and deepen a relationship, designed to build community.

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I Remember Oscar Gutierrez, Owner - Bandito Burrito

By Mandi Cook as told to Bob Druckman,
Publisher - South Huntsville Neighbors

Photos by Mandi Cook

Mandi Cook is a longtime Huntsville resident who discovered Bandito Burrito as a teenager. She has many fond memories of Oscar, who passed away in May of this year. As Mandi says, "Bandito Burrito has a mystique about it. Go for the food - when you get there you'll discover why you really went."

I recently sat down with Mandi to talk about the days when she spent much of her time at Bandito Burrito's former location in Hampton Cove.

How did you get involved with Bandito Burrito?

I moved to Huntsville in 1993 from a small town and was just trying to find my footing. I found that there were very few venues for young people to hang out. My parents were also pretty strict, so my options for socialization were limited. I started going to Gorin's Ice Cream Shop and J Gregory's Pizzeria to see shows.

Around that time, Bandito Burrito opened a location in Hampton Cove. I had several friends who had jobs at the original Bandito on Governor's Drive, and also went to school with several of Oscar's children.

What was it about Bandito and Oscar that kept you going back?

The appeal of Bandito Burrito for me was always the sense of community and belonging that hit you as soon as you walked through the door. Oscar fostered that sense of community and managed to bring together people from all different walks of life.

It was great to be an observer. I had friends from other schools that were in bands - Oscar let them play shows there. It allowed me to see my friends' talents, while they got to live out their dreams. Oscar encouraged them, he taught them how to be business owners and how to manage themselves in a DIY sort of way.

Oscar was a mentor to us. He would regularly dole out life advice to kids who were going through a hard time. He was a great judge of character, and gave the bands that played there a lot of leeway to be



Oscar's Friends and Family 1978



Mandi's Regular Meal

themselves. He loved music, and let all sorts of different bands play at the restaurant. He knew his crowd, but wasn't afraid to change things up musically.

His paternal nature extended to the kids who worked and hung out at Bandito Burrito. A lot of us didn't "fit in", or were having trouble at school or home. We were like his "lost kids," and he was always there to help us along with a smile and a kindly sarcastic word, and never let us go hungry.

We were his customers, but it felt like more than that - it felt like a chosen family.

You saw The Ramones there. What was that like?

That was really special. It's one thing to see high school bands, but The Ramones were clearly different. Since I spent a lot of time there I knew that The Ramones were appearing before the news spread too much. I went with my brother, and because we knew how packed it would be we made sure that we got there early.

For those who didn't know Oscar's influence, what would you tell them?

Oscar had a larger than life persona. He could get along with anyone -- as long as they behaved themselves. He was so friendly and welcoming to everyone, but at the same time he was always keenly aware of everything going on in the restaurant. He would not tolerate any nonsense, and was very protective of the close-knit community of people that had come together at Bandito.

It's hard to explain how it felt back then, but it was almost like he could look you in the eye and see right through you --see your best self, and help you become that person. That's just the kind of guy he was. He was truly a Huntsville legend.

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40th Mid-South Woodcarving Show and Competition - Nov 1st & 2nd

By Paul Freeman

The North Alabama Woodcarvers Association (NAWA) was created in 1981 to have a local carving club here in Huntsville Alabama. The Club will hold the 40th Mid-South Woodcarving Show and Competition on November 1st and 2nd, again at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road in Huntsville, Alabama. Show hours will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm on both Friday and Saturday. The show is free to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with woodcarvers, see award-winning carvings of many different types, view demonstrations from expert carvers, participate in the drawing for various tools, carved items, Christmas trees adorned with carved ornaments, and other woodcarving donations. Registration will be open for carving lessons which will begin in January 2025. At the 2023 Show in November, 39 individuals registered for classes.

Having been unavailable to have a show for four years due to COVID restrictions, the 2023 show came back strong and was a roaring success. Thirty-one booths with 26 participants displayed their handiwork of carvings, with many exhibitors offering their wares for sale. Prize carvings were proudly displayed. Fifty-three ribbons for a total monetary value of \$1,735 were awarded. Ribbons and monetary prizes were awarded for first, second and third-place winners in each twenty-six judging category in addition to Best-In-Show winners. Here are a few photos of winning carvings.

The 2024 Show and Competition will bring more carvers, real-time demonstrations of carving techniques, the opportunity to take home carving supplies, and much more. This year we expect 30 or more carvers displaying 200 or more carvings such as caricatures, animals, birds, Santas, bark houses, and other designs. There will be items for everyone, many available for purchase. Again, Bob Stadtlander Woodcarvings of Mantua, Ohio will provide vendor services.

At the show, you will have the opportunity to sign up for free carving classes which begin in January 2024. NAWA meets at The Oak Park Baptist Church on Cloys Avenue NE, Huntsville. Anyone who is interested is welcome to drop by and carve or just visit. If you are a beginner and interested in knowing more about the hobby, this is a good place for advice, assistance on a project, or just visiting with those who share similar interests. Our goal is to introduce the tools, safety, understanding of wood grain direction, and the different types of cuts used. Beginner classes are to help get you started. We use the word beginner loosely, some classes are more involved than others, but all are enjoyable and doable. Check out our website at www.nawawoodcarvers.org.

If you weren't sold on woodcarving before, you will be after you attend our show. Come on down, bring your family and friends to see all NAWA has to offer, you'll be glad you did.



1st Place - Best in Show by Bob Stadtlander



2nd Place - Best in Show by Phil Terry



Native American with Peace Pipe
by Lewis Waynick



The Three Stooges by Greg Guyette








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Meet Stacey Elliott -Sales Consultant Mercedes - Benz Of Huntsville

By Bob Druckman, Publisher *South Huntsville Neighbors*

Stacey is a proud Huntsville native, having attended Lee High School and graduating from Johnson High. He is a graduate of Alabama A&M University with a degree in Social Work. He is also the proud dad to his seven year old son, Sage.

He really came to the auto business almost by accident. "I was working at CUBIC and was laid off during the start of COVID. I started

as a Sales Consultant at VW and then was recruited to KIA. I love the business and am thrilled to be at Mercedes-Benz of Huntsville."

Stacey is a member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He has also been active in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Huntsville.

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Let's talk about your view of the sales process.

It's really important to me that I get to know the client. What do they need vs what they want. They will always get my best effort and attitude. I have spent many years in Customer Service and I totally understand this.

What would you like the readers of South Huntsville Neighbors to know about you?

I am a genuine, honest, and willing to serve my clients. I am also a great Dad to Sage - my life revolves around him.



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THRILLS & CHILLS: Spooky Season is HERE!

By Mandi Cook, Photo Provided by Hannah Riley

As autumn leaves fall and a chill creeps into the air, Huntsville has numerous opportunities for Halloween enthusiasts. From family-friendly events to spine-tingling theatrical attractions, our community offers a variety of ways to celebrate the spooky season.

First, Some Safety Tips:

1. Stick to well-lit areas and travel in groups when attending night-time events or haunted attractions.
2. If driving to events: designate a sober driver or use ride-sharing services, especially when attending adult Halloween parties.
3. At crowded events: establish a meeting point in case group members get separated. For families with children, consider writing your phone number on a wristband or inside their costume.

Now, here's your ultimate guide to Halloween events and haunted happenings in Huntsville.

Fright Lights by Rocket City Lasers

What: Halloween Laser Show (w/ optional 3D)

When: October 5, 12, 19, 26; 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Campus 805 AV Room

Details: (Not suitable for people with disorders triggered by flashing lights) This show is all ages, family friendly and played loud. Children under 8 yrs old, and adults sensitive to noise should bring & wear ear protection.

Tickets: \$10 plus tax
tickets.rocketcitylasers.com

Haunted Mansion Dinners

What: A sit-down dinner (incl. wine)

When: October 11, 17, 24-25; 6-8pm

Where: Burritt on the Mountain

Details: Don't miss this SPOOKTACULAR dinner at Dr. Burritt's chilling mansion. Visit the Fortune Teller for a few haunting surprises. Strange noises, creepy crawlies, ghostly visits, all part of the experience!

Tickets: \$90 per person
burrittonthemountain.com/haunted-mansion-dinners-at-burritt

Alabama Nightmare Pageant

What: Spooky Drag Pageant

When: October 18, doors open at 8pm, pageant starts at 9:30pm

Where: Maggie Meyers Irish Pub

Details: Watch as drag entertainers battle to the death to become the first annual Alabama Nightmare! Contestants should see Facebook for more details on how to register.

Tickets: \$10 at the door, ages 21 and up
facebook.com/events/357304940770437

Sleepy Hollow: A Musical Tale

What: Event by Around the Curtain Children's Theatre

When: October 18 & 19, 6-9pm

Where: The Studio Theatre - Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment

Details: This new musical puts a current spin on the classic story. On Halloween night, three modern-day children find themselves traveling back in time - arriving in Sleepy Hollow! You'll have to buy a ticket to find out what happens next!

Tickets: \$15 per person
our.show/atcsleepyhollow

Fall Festival

What: Free Family Event

When: October 26, 10am

Where: University Pickers-Huntsville

Details: Don't miss out on this fantastic family event that promises fun, food, and community spirit. Mark your calendars and share the news! We can't wait to celebrate with you!

universitypickers.com/events/fall-festival-2/

DoomsDay Haunted Attraction and Corn Maze

What: Haunted House

When: Fri-Sat only Oct 6-28th, Halloween, Nov 4

Where: 24952 US 72 Athens, AL 35613.

Details: Post-apocalyptic, war-torn haunted attraction, set in a world that has been cut off from civilization for nearly 70 years. There will be scare-actors - expect the unexpected, and get ready to be scared!

Tickets: Prices and deals available online
doomsdayhaunt.com



Spooky Season Movie Series - Nightmare Before Christmas

What: Free Family Event

When: November 20, 11am - 1pm

Where: North Huntsville Public Library Meeting Room

Details: Dress up as your favorite character from the movie (or wear another spooky-themed costume!) - yes, there will be prizes! Snacks and play along trivia game as you watch. Parental supervision required for all children as this film is rated PG.

events.hmcpl.org/event/2024-11-23/spooky-season-movie-series

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Bluegrass & BBQ Festival

Come experience great music and tasty BBQ in a beautiful setting. The Sixth Annual Bluegrass & BBQ Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 at Southside Park. Sponsored by South Huntsville Main Association and Madison County District 5, this family friendly event will feature four popular bluegrass bands – The Becky Buller Band, Ancient Tones, and The Grasstronauts, and Jim & Inge Wood- from 1 pm until 7 pm. Bring your lawn chairs and come hungry as food trucks will be on site. There is no admission charge for this event.

Becky Buller is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter from St. James, Minn., who has traversed the globe over performing bluegrass music to underwrite her insatiable songwriting habit.

Becky has written songs for three Grammy award-winning albums. Becky is the recipient of 10 IBMA awards, including the 2016 Fiddler and Female Vocalist. She has made multiple guest appearances on WSM's Grand Ole Opry and tours extensively with the Becky Buller Band. Becky has released seven albums. Distance And Time, her third album for the Dark Shadow Recording label, was a nominee for the 2021 IBMA Album award.

Ancient Tones is a traditional regional bluegrass band from this area. This band is loaded with talent. The band includes Sharon Bounds on fiddle, and has won multiple State fiddle titles in several states. On guitar and lead vocals is Adam Duke from Cullman, AL. On solo

By Phil Riddick County Commissioner-District 5

guitar is Allen Tolbert, a recognized name among guitar flat pickers in Alabama. Rick Rorex is from Huntsville and is one of the regions finest bluegrass musicians on the mandolin. Finishing out the band is Todd Freeman from Roanoke, AL on bass and Weston Stewart, a national banjo champion, from Anderson, AL.


The Grasstronauts is a progressive bluegrass band formed of local Huntsvillians. The Grasstronauts play traditional bluegrass tunes but they also play an extensive list of more modern songs not thought of as bluegrass. The group takes a wide range of Americana, Rock and Folk Rock and converts it with conventional bluegrass instruments for a very different bluegrass sound. Some examples of artists covered are The Beatles, Coldplay, The Civil Wars, Jason Isbell, Steely Dan, Crosby, Stills and Nash and the Punch Brothers. James Parker on guitar is the lead singer, Huntsville bass icon Nick Walker on bass, Ben Davis of Tangled Strings Studios on Mandolin and vocals, Russ Holder on Dobro and Vocals and Phil Riddick on Banjo.

Jim Wood holds fifteen state championship titles on fiddle and mandolin (including five times the Tennessee State Fiddle Champion) and the Berry C. Williams Memorial Award, and he was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award by Governor Ned McWherter for his work in preserving the traditions of Tennessee. He has published nine instructional videos with Homespun Tapes (Hal Leonard) and the Murphy Method (Mel Bay) and writes a regular column for Fiddler Magazine. He and his wife Inge have over 50 titles between them and both teach and play around the area.

This festival showcases all the South Huntsville and Southside Park have to offer. Whether you are taking a stroll on the Al-dridge Creek Greenway or giving your dog some exercise at the dog park, stop in and enjoy the music in the shadows of the foothills to the east. Kids will enjoy the playground while adults enjoy the music, and there are even disc golf and archery areas. You may even see South Huntsville residents' roller blading, skateboarding and hula hooping!

Mark your calendars and make plans to enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening at Bluegrass & BBQ at Southside Park (16159 Chaney Thompson Road SE, Huntsville 32803) on Saturday, October 12 from 1-7 pm.

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Bluegrass & BBQ

**Festival Returns to Southside Park
on October 12th, 1pm-7pm**

The South Huntsville Main Business Association and County Commissioner Phil Riddick are excited to announce the return of the Bluegrass & BBQ Festival on October 12th, from 1pm-7pm at Southside Park. This FREE community event offers a day filled with toe-tapping bluegrass music, delicious barbecue, and fun for the whole family.

Commissioner Phil Riddick shares, "We are again very excited about the event this year. We will be changing the format slightly to improve the listening experience with four bands instead of three and starting a little bit earlier. This is always a great event and as usual will be a wonderful way to spend a fall Saturday afternoon with the family and enjoy some great Bluegrass music."

Mark your calendars for October 12th and join us at Southside Park on Chaney Thompson Road for a memorable day of music, food, and community spirit. Enjoy performances from The Becky Buller Band, the Grassstronauts, Ancient Tones, and Jim & Inge Wood. The first band kicks off at 1pm, with the final band taking the stage at 5:30pm.




By Madison Roberts,
Executive Director,
South Huntsville Main
Business Association

In addition to the fantastic music, local food trucks will be on-site, serving a variety of mouthwatering dishes to satisfy every craving. Bring your picnic blanket or chair and enjoy a delightful afternoon in South Huntsville!

Don't miss this FREE event—perfect for families, friends, and music lovers.


For more information, please contact:
info@southhuntsvillemain.org





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The Wonderful Wizard of Oz A Fantasy Playhouse Special

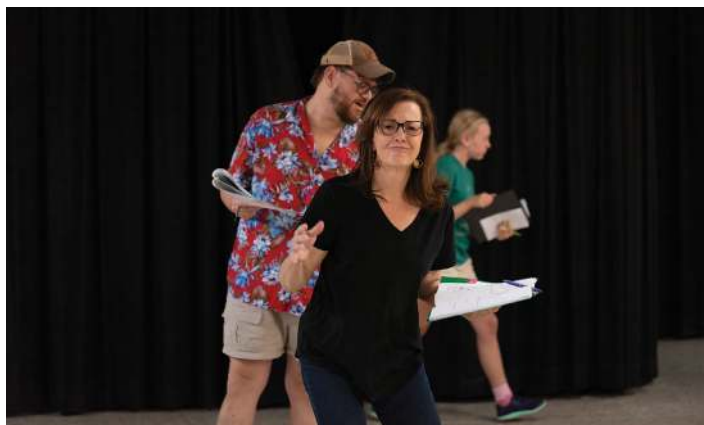
By The Team at Fantasy Playhouse

Photos provided by FPCTA

Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Huntsville anymore... Follow the yellow brick road to the Von Braun Center Playhouse this October for Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater & Academy's (FPCTA) world premiere adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*!

This modern adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* features an ensemble of over 40 cast members including the classic characters such as Dorothy and Glinda, and introducing new Ozians such as Roz of Oz and Ozzie Ozzball. On stage, audiences will be delighted by the larger than life screen projections depicting the gorgeous landscapes of Oz, intricate set designs, colorful costumes, and exciting dance numbers!

Artistic Director and playwright Stephen Tyler Davis had a vision for what a modern retelling of L. Frank Baum's literary classic would look like for a modern audience, "I wanted to stay true to the classic MGM movie moments, pull in a little quirkiness from Baum's original, but also tie in a relevant twist for today's families. Dorothy finds a green glowing pocket watch, and she just can't get her face out of the screen. (Even in the midst of a twister!) I was able



to tie a connection to the distractions of screen time on our personal devices with the idea of being present- in the here and now- which gives a whole new meaning to 'no place like home.' Dorothy has to go on an adventure in Oz to truly understand what it means to be present, never to take the people in her Kansas reality for granted again. It's a message that is old and new, but still sparkling with the classic magic of Oz."

Driven by its mission of providing high-quality, accessible theater for all, FPCTA prioritizes making constant improvements to its theatre programming season after season. Its 64th season is no different. This volunteer driven labor of love focuses on the creative process and artistry that highlights local talent in the North Alabama community. FPCTA's 64th season features brand new scripts, elaborate costumes, magical scenery, and new technology to wow audiences.

Animated projects, special effects, original musical compositions and thrilling dance numbers will be featured throughout the entire season. Huntsville local Matt Warren, video/projection designer for Space Monkeys! The Adventure of Baker & Able, returns to the creative team with bright and colorful landscapes that will transport you to the colorful land of Oz and beyond. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* will also feature original compositions by Stacy Morris inspired by the iconic moments from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Munchkins, flying monkeys, and poppies can all be found on this journey, but a new twist in the Emerald City will have the entire audience 'Voguing' along to the glittery green pulse of Oz.

See you in Oz this October! *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* will be showing for TWO (2) weekends only – October 18-20 & 24-27, Thursday & Friday @ 7 p.m., Saturday & Sunday @ 1 p.m. & 6 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Playhouse in downtown Huntsville. You can purchase your tickets online at FantasyPlayhouse.org/Ticket-Information

For questions, please email BoxOffice@FantasyPlayhouse.com. If you need to purchase tickets over the phone or in-person, please call 256-539-6829.

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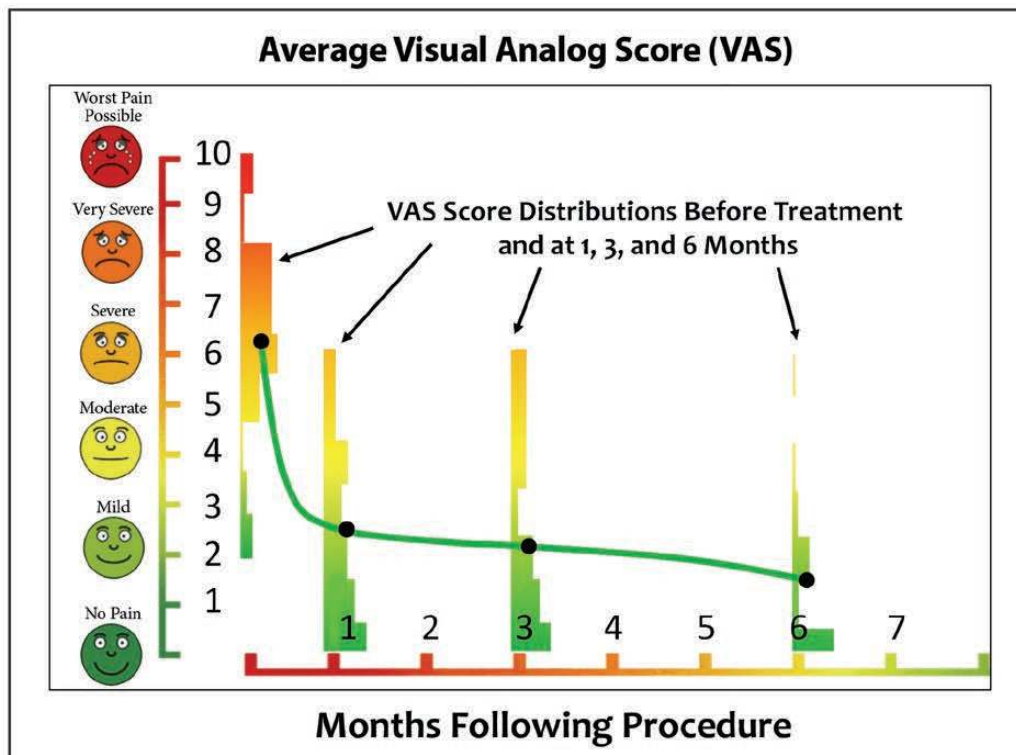
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Meet *the Glass Family*

By Dylan and Emily Glass
as told to Bob Druckman

Photos by Mandi Cook Photography

Dylan and Emily are passionate about what they do. They are parents of 2 boys and truly love being in Huntsville. They are avid athletes, and you can find them at many running events. Read on to learn more about them.

Where are you and your wife originally from? Tell us about your educations, and what type of work your wife does.

I am from Hazel Green, Alabama originally, and my wife, Emily, is from Jacksonville, Alabama. We met in my sophomore year of college at Jacksonville State University. She played volleyball in her first year of college at Southern Union Community College before transferring to Jacksonville State to finish out her education with a Bachelor's of Social Work. She is now a Professional Development Coordinator for AMSTI at UAH. I finished my undergraduate degree at Jacksonville State University and then went to the University of St. Augustine for my Doctorate of Physical Therapy. After completion of the program, we moved back to Huntsville to be close to family. We started Return 2 Sport PT & Performance in 2022.

Where did you and your wife meet?

Emily and I met on campus at JSU in 2012. I was in the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity and she was in the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and we met at the year's first social mixer. The rest is history!

If you could pick your ideal vacation spot, where would that be?

We have a family of four with two boys so we tend to keep it simple and close to home right now. Greyson is 4 and keeps us busily entertained. Nolan is 6 months old and growing fast! We like to go down to the gulf coast when we get the chance for a getaway.

How did you decide to pursue a career in Physical Therapy?

I went off to college, naturally, not knowing what I wanted to be when I grew up. I decided to start as Biology major so that I could go into any science/medical field once I decided. I played baseball in high school and rehabbed a torn labrum in my throwing shoulder through physical therapy. I remembered that it seemed like a really fun job, so I decided to pursue that further and found that it was the best career choice I could have made.





Your practice is pretty specialized, how did that come about?

My practice specializes in sports physical therapy, specifically with runners. I work with athletes in all sports, but my background is in baseball and running. I still play baseball and run competitively and I love being a part of the running community in Huntsville. I did not grow up a runner but actually started in college and fell in love with it. Being a sports PT, I get to focus on helping athletes and active people reach their goals on a day to day basis. Whether it's your first 5K or training for a 100 miler, our goal at R2S is to help you achieve your full potential without injury. We help people rehab from injury but we also work with people from a preventative standpoint. We try to exemplify our mission that states: Our mission is to keep you, THE ATHLETE, doing what you love, by improving movement quality, resolving pain and dysfunction, and providing you with the knowledge and understanding of how to take care of yourself and remain pain-free long term.

Tell us church affiliations, volunteer work and hobbies that the family have.

We attend Cove Church here in Hampton Cove. We like to volunteer with many different running community events. Whether we are running, volunteering, sponsoring, or helping organize events in the Huntsville community, you will see us out and about!

What is the family's perfect comfort food?

We tend to have pretty diverse taste buds and a picky eater (Greyson), but we try to eat healthy and don't eat out very often. A staple in our house lately is chicken enchiladas. We also like to make homemade pizzas.

If you and your wife could invite 3 people to dinner who would they be?

Emily's answers: Joanna Gaines for cooking and house decor ideas, Lionel Messi to show Greyson soccer moves, and Caitlyn Clark because she is the GOAT.

What would you like the readers of *South Huntsville Neighbors* to know about the Glass family?

We started Return 2 Sport PT as a small business looking to fill a void where traditional healthcare is lacking. There is little to no preventative medicine and proactive care in the current medical system in the US. We want to prioritize health and wellness and lead the community to live in a more active and healthy lifestyle. We pride ourselves in being the best and supporting our amazing community. We are a normal family raising two wonderful boys to grow up active, healthy, and more importantly great people.





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STEADY & STRONG EXPO

By Kim Davis, Steady For Life



All over Huntsville and Madison County, 5 days a week at 11 locations, friends and neighbors like you are making a difference in their health and well-being while having fun. Steady for Life, a charitable non-profit organization dedicated to providing the 'Building Blocks for Healthy, Graceful Aging,' is here to help!

On October 23, from 10-2pm, Steady for Life is hosting their 9th annual **Steady and Strong Expo** at the Sandra Moon Community Center, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd, south entrance (formerly Grissom High School). Attendance is free and includes a light lunch, but space is limited. Your RSVP will serve as your admission in order to ensure enough seating, materials, and food for all who attend. Make your reservation with the Sign-up Genius link at the end of the article.

This event includes some great opportunities for free health screenings, balance evaluations, Steady for Life class demonstrations, entertainment by the Rainbow Rhythm Band, and visits with our community booth vendors. In addition, we have several speakers who will address these timely topics:

- At 10:15, Jay Austin, Physical Therapist - will have an engaging session where we will explore the importance of strength and balance training, and how these practices (along with Steady for Life), can help us maintain an active, confident, and vibrant lifestyle well into our 90s. Even if you have experienced lower back pain, undergone knee or hip surgeries, or have minor aches and pains, Jay will discuss ways to continue doing the activities you love without limitations.



This summer while the Olympic games were being held, Steady for Life had their own GAME DAY. Lots of laughter, fun and movement was had by all.



Let's work together to fight the real enemy—sedentary living—and make every day a step toward better health and longevity.

- At 11:15, Dr. Rica McRoy, Optometrist – will present a session on the miraculous design of the eye. We will explore how this complex organ functions and the common challenges that arise over time. We will discuss prevalent eye conditions like cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration, as well as the visual difficulties that they cause in our balance and mobility. Also, we will share holistic strategies to optimize your vision and maintain eye health, helping you see better for years to come. Let's see better together!

- At 1:00 PM William Simmons, CPA – The upcoming Open Enrollment Season for Medicare Part D begins on October 7th and ends on December 15th for 2025. Driven by the new rules instituted for the Medicare Part D Plans for 2025, Medicare Beneficiaries will see several changes. Some of these changes include the out-of-pocket maximum for prescription copays as well as the elimination of the dreaded 'doughnut hole' Does this mean that everyone will see a reduction in their prescription costs? Will these changes truly lower your prescription costs or are there pitfalls that you need to avoid when choosing a plan? Join us as Mr. Simmons will discuss these changes and provide clarity to your questions. You will not want to miss this session.

The **Steady and Strong Expo** will also give you a chance to learn more about the many opportunities Steady for Life offers, including 56 classes each week (led by 16 qualified staff), special events throughout the year, and curated travel in the United States and abroad.

Our classes include something beneficial for everyone from basic balance and chair yoga to Pilates, strength training, gentle yoga, dance classes, and Rev It Up which combines balance work and



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STEADY & STRONG EXPO

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3. Scan QR code →

Space is Limited.



Kim Davis, Executive Director • Kim.Steadyforlife.org



cardio. The Executive Director, Kim Davis, organizes special events such as theatre tickets at discounts, educational seminars, and Pop-Up excursions to nearby attractions.

For those eager for a longer vacation, Steady for Life hosts 8 trips a year! Recent excursions included Mackinac Island, Niagara Falls, a train trek through the Canadian Rockies, a Viking cruise and much more.

If you are interested in learning about the 2025-2026 travel season, we invite you to the annual Travel Fair which will be November 14, at 2:00 pm at the Sandra Moon Community Center – South Entrance. Please use the TRAVEL TAB on our website www.steadyforlife.org to let us know you will be attending so that we will have enough seating. Here, you will also find information and details on classes offered, locations/schedules, and more.

Make your reservation with the Sign Up Genius link at the end of the article, visit our website www.steadyforlife.org or use the QR code attached to our ad.

STEADY & STRONG EXPO – Oct. 23, 2024 here
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BAAAE28AAFB6-51005804-steady>

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Hearing Health Matters: *BE AWARE and BE PREPARED*

By Anita Giles MS,
CCC-A Audiologist,
Physicians Hearing Center



Being aware means having knowledge and understanding about a situation. Awareness campaigns increase public visibility and education about problems. Knowledge empowers you to tackle the issue and be prepared to respond to it. Many public campaigns have been initiated but the two longest running campaigns have been related to fire safety and prevention. Historical events have been the impetus to prepare for and prevent future disasters.

October 8-10, 1871 The Great Chicago Fire began resulting in > 250 fatalities, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed >17,400 buildings, and burned 2000 acres of land. In commemoration of this disaster, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation in 1920, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week (FPW) has been observed during the week in which October 9 falls. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed FPW as a national observance promoting life-saving practices and home fire safety education.

October 8-10, 1871 The most devastating wildfire occurred in Northeast Wisconsin (Peshtigo Fire) claiming 1200+ lives, destroying 17 towns and 1.2 - 1.5 million acres of land. The fire was thought to have started as brush ignited while railroad workers

cleared land for tracks. However, WAR was the impetus to jump-start the Wildfire Prevention Campaign. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor is attacked. Spring, 1942, a Japanese submarine fires shells at a California oil facility close to the Los Padres National Forest. The Japanese military launched 9000 Fire balloons in the jet stream to cause wildfires, with an estimated 11% reaching the U.S. between November, 1944 and April, 1945. With Fire Fighters and able-bodied men serving in the military, concern arises about the protection of our natural resources.

On August 9, 1944, the creation of Smokey Bear was authorized by the Forest Service to be the symbol for forest fire prevention. In the Spring of 1950, a 3-month-old, 5 lb. Black bear cub with burned paws and hind legs was rescued from a burning tree in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico. He became "Smokey Bear...the living symbol of wildfire prevention and wildlife conservation". At his residence at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., he received so many letters that he was given his own zip code (20252) in 1964 by the US Postal Service.

In the 1940's, thousands of servicemen and women returned from WWII with significant hearing deficits, impacting their ability to com-



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municate. The U.S. government responded by establishing hearing rehabilitation programs to test, monitor, and treat hearing issues. The field of clinical audiology was developed to assist service members with hearing loss. October is also Audiology Awareness Month.

Your brain is designed to process alerting information from your five senses allowing you to be prepared to respond to potential danger. Of these senses, hearing is your first line of defense, on alert and guarding you 24 hours a day. There are no “earlids” to shut off the sense of hearing. What happens when your hearing diminishes? The ability to hear car horns, train signals, sirens and smoke alarms, etc. decreases. Directional information that keeps us from walking toward a dangerous situation is lost. When your brain’s ability to detect potential danger and keep you safe is compromised, loss of independence results. I have heard these words many times, “I can’t hear my blinker, alarm system, a knock on the door, my diabetic alert, the phone...”

Hearing loss typically develops first in the high frequency (2000 to 8000 Hertz) range of hearing. Most alerting devices (alarm clocks, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, weather monitors, etc.) signal using a high-pitch sound (usually 3100 Hz). Without hearing aids, a person with hearing loss or deafness may not be able to hear an alerting signal putting their lives at risk. Most residential fire fatalities occur between 11 PM - 7 AM. Since most people don’t sleep with their hearing aids on, they are more at risk if an emergency happens.

Fire Prevention Week Theme for 2024: “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!”™

Smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire. The best chance of escape is in the first two minutes after the alarm sounds. Will your smoke alarm alert you? Studies found that traditional alarms awaken only 56% of persons with hearing loss. Alerting devices designed for people with hearing loss are available and may use visual (flashing lights), vibrotactile (bed/pillow shakers), or auditory (louder/lower pitch) signals.

Being prepared first means a visit to an audiologist to have your hearing evaluated. With this information, you will be able to develop a safety plan and acquire appropriate devices to help you hear and keep you safe. Hearing loss is an invisible disability so a medical ID bracelet can alert first responders that you need accommodations. Keep your hearing aids and phone next to your bed for easy access. Sign up for emergency text alerts or register with a Smart 911 system. Smokey Bear would say “ONLY YOU can be prepared!”.



REFERENCES:

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Awareness is Key to ADHD



By Adilene Guzman, Community Outreach Coordinator, HAPPI Health

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects adults and children. Three of the most common signs of ADHD are inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. These three areas have many signs or symptoms, too, and each person, whether a child or adult, can experience one more than the other or a combination of them. For example, a child may need help staying on task at school, and an adult may find it hard to complete their work tasks if they are uninterested. It can also be challenging to get work done if you cannot seem to stay still or lack the energy to do so, all of which are signs of possible ADHD. It leaves us with the last symptom, impulsivity, which can mean anything from talking excessively and interrupting others while they are speaking to making decisions on a whim or out of a state of emotions.

Diagnosing whether a person has Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) involves a multi-step process. There are tests used to help identify signs of ADHD; these tests, alongside an evaluation from the provider, can help to determine a diagnosis. As many other issues, such as anxiety and depression, can exhibit similar symptoms, a professional healthcare provider will analyze all tests during a behavioral evaluation.



These tests include a T.O.V.A (Test of Variables of Attention), a computerized assessment tool for measuring attention, response time, and movement. There are also Vanderbilt Assessment Scales, which are forms that question the patient's ability to concentrate, start and complete tasks, and their mood. These forms are given to parents and teachers to get a full picture of what is happening at school and home.

Often, for children, first-time concerns arise from their teachers when a child is unable to sit and focus or may become a distraction to others in the class with their behavior, which becomes an uncontrollable pattern. Even when the child may be trying their hardest to behave, it can be challenging to do so. The school may then suggest the child get an evaluation. For adults diagnosed with ADHD in adulthood, it's most likely they experienced symptoms as a child but were never accurately diagnosed. This condition can sometimes be mistaken as a lack of discipline, an excuse for laziness, or even bad parenting, which is all myths and reasons why an adolescent or adult could not have known their thoughts and behavior were due to the underlying issues of having ADHD.

Another area of myths and misunderstandings is the treatment for the condition. Medication is used to control the symptoms and can benefit the patients. Most medications are classified as controlled substances, and some are not, so talking to your healthcare provider on this topic is ideal. There is also going the unmedicated route, which consists of behavioral therapy, brain training, lifestyle changes, nutrition, and training for parents. Ultimately, the use of medications and therapy together is often the most effective approach. At HAPPI Behavioral Health, our providers work closely with patients to determine the best treatment strategy for their needs.

We encourage everyone to learn more about ADHD, as understanding the condition is key to providing effective support and care.

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Huntsville Has a NEW Fresh Food Service Provider In Town!

By Suzanne and David Riney

Taste Temptations Catering provides high quality foods for local Huntsville and Madison County events. A 2011 Grissom High School graduate, as well as a graduate of The Culinary School in Birmingham, Chef David Riney, has over 10 years of experience in the food industry, most recently as the Sous Chef of Banquets and Events at The Country Club of Birmingham. He has experience preparing and presenting high-end food delicacies for events on a daily basis, and is very innovative in creating fresh flavorful food dishes catered to the customer. "We are bringing this expertise back to Huntsville to share with all of you!" says owner Suzanne Riney.

The Riney family first moved to Huntsville in 2006 when Suzanne Riney took a position with Boeing in Space and Missile Defense Systems. Susan Ozment sold the family on Huntsville, including their new home in Southeast Huntsville, and membership at Trinity United Methodist Church. Suzanne retired from a 40-year engineering career in May 2024 and immediately transitioned into owning and managing this new business venture with David. Now living in downtown Huntsville, clearly Suzanne was not ready for "Retirement"! She is also an Ambassador with the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and maintains her license as a Professional Engineer in AL.

The spark for Taste Temptations Catering began in February 2024 when David catered Susan Ozment's Mardi Gras party at her home as a personal Chef. Things then progressed from concept to reality, and David moved back to Huntsville in June. The company was formally established in July 2024.

"Thank you for the amazing job you did for my party. I don't think I have ever had so many compliments on the food at one of my parties. The hand sliced beef tenderloin was the best I ever had. It was spiced perfectly and so tender! The pimento cheese brown sugar bacon bites were heavenly. Lastly, the fruit tray was beautiful. You are so creative and knowledgeable. My guests raved about the food!" – Susan Ozment

Appealing displays and flavorful tastes are key features of Taste Temptations offerings. The target audience for Taste Temptations Catering is local Madison County and Huntsville, Alabama families, business owners, and commercial business venues with 15 to 200 employees, who want to celebrate with quality food. We bring the food to your home, business or venue, complete with tableware. In addition to Susan Ozment as the taste-tester, David has reunited with fellow Grissom High School classmates, that enjoy taste testing his new dishes. Our customers are of all ages who celebrate with fresh homemade food recipes.



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Hello there, my name is Austin Manhart, owner and operator of Rocket City Remediation LLC. We are a small Family owned, Veteran owned business local to Huntsville, Alabama. Rocket City Remediation LLC is a licensed and insured business.

As we lean into an uncertain 2025 with hesitation we want you to know that you do not need to hesitate about clean breathing. We pride ourselves by being the highest rated business of this kind on Angi, Google, Yelp and Home Advisor.

Together with my partners Calvin Jacobson and Stephanie Manhart we strive to provide honest and dependable work. We run on a hand shake and a smile. Our business specializes in Mold testing, treatment and removal. We are here for all your mold needs. Myself and Calvin have 10 years of experience combined guaranteeing you the best quality of work making us your go to local mold experts.

We use a 4 stage system that eliminates all types of mold and its spores. Living in Alabama we have a higher humidity which is perfect for mold to thrive. The spores move into the air space and can make you and your loved ones sick. So we have made it our job to provide better breathing and safer living for all who seek it. We spent what seems like ages working to figure out what Alabama needed and a dependable mold remediation company was the key. We have a growing family ourselves so we understand the importance of having a safe, clean living and work space.

We don't just stop inside though; we also treat crawl spaces, attics, HVAC ductwork and anywhere else this pesky mold, bacteria or fungus might grow. If your crawl-space is holding moisture or growing mold and fungus we can fix it with our 4 stage treatments and an encapsulation. We only use the best products to ensure the quality of our work.

The first step in our signature 4 stage remediation is MMR; this step is physically scrubbed on to remove the staining from any mold or fungus. The second stage is Onslaught; this chemical is a strong killer. It kills mold, fungus, bacteria and viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis, smallpox, COVID and many more. Our third stage is an antimicrobial sealant; this reseals the wood back to factory standards preventing future growth. The final stage is a Particulate cleaner; this grabs hold of any leftover particles left in the airspace and eliminates it. This system is proven to give the best possible results, but we don't just stop there. Do you need a drainage system so that the water no longer travels under your home causing the mold to grow? We can take care of that while we are there! Do you want to make sure the air in your home is clean and safe? With our Hydroxyl Ozone Generator we can make sure the air you and your loved ones breathe is safe and clean. We are the only company in the area that can offer this service and it's a great one in my book. The Hydroxyl Ozone Generator purifies the air removing mold spores, dust, dander and even viruses like COVID.

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Unraveling the Mysteries of a Sluggish Garage Door

By Tammy Warren, Co-Owner Overhead Door Company of Huntsville/North Alabama™

Today, we're tackling a common issue — slow-moving garage doors. Though it might seem minor, it can disrupt your routine and affect home security. Let's explore the causes and find practical solutions to get your door back on track.

The Common Culprits Behind a Garage Door Moving Slowly

A well-functioning garage door is essential for convenience and safety. Several factors can cause it to slow down. Here are some common issues and how to fix them.

Bent Track or Obstruction

Your garage door's tracks must be clear and aligned for smooth operation. Regularly inspect for blockages, dirt, or bends. Clean the tracks with a soft cloth, and for bent tracks, call a professional.

Lack of Lubrication

Garage doors have many moving parts that need lubrication to function efficiently. Use a high-quality, non-silicone lubricant on metal parts, but avoid plastic components. Remember, WD-40 is a solvent, not a lubricant.

Worn Out Springs

Torsion or extension springs are crucial for your garage door's operation. Over time, they weaken, slowing down the door. If you suspect worn-out springs, have a professional handle the replacement.

Damaged Rollers

Rollers guide your garage door along the tracks. Worn or damaged rollers can cause the door to drag. Regular inspections can help spot these issues early. For roller damage, consult a professional.

Misaligned Door Panels

To ensure smooth operation, ensure your garage door panels are correctly aligned. Close the door and inspect whether each panel is even and level. If you notice any crooked panels, it can slow down the door's movement.

Cold Weather

In colder months, lubricants can thicken, slowing down your garage door. Switching to a low-temperature lubricant can help.

Incorrect Switch Settings

Modern garage door openers often have adjustable speed settings. Check the speed setting in your owner's manual if your door is slow.

Power Source Issues

Inconsistent power delivery can affect your garage door openers speed. Test the outlet with another device. If there's an issue, consider calling an electrician.

Unbalanced Garage Door

An unbalanced garage door can slow its operation, putting extra strain on the opener and parts. Causes include broken springs, uneven tension, or worn components. This imbalance affects speed and can lead to further damage over time. It's essential to address balance issues promptly to maintain your garage door's efficiency and longevity.

Battery Backup or Dead Battery

A battery backup can slow your garage door during power outages. After power is restored, the opener might still run on the backup. Check the manual or consult a professional to switch back to the main power.

Motor Issues

The motor powers your garage door opener. Age, damaged components, or electrical issues can slow down its operation. If your motor shows signs of wear, it might be time for a replacement.

When to Call a Professional

While some garage door problems can be fixed at home, others require professional expertise. If your door is still slow after trying these fixes, it's time to call the experts. We are here for you!

Call for your free estimate - 256-772-3674

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Disclaimer: The information provided is for informational purposes only. Garage door repairs should be performed by professionals. Overhead Door Company of Huntsville/North Alabama™ disclaims any responsibility for injuries or damages resulting from reliance on this information.

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Work With A Local Lender

There is a question every home buyer should have the answer to:

Short Answer: YES! It is in your best interest as a home buyer (especially in a competitive market) to work with a *local* lender!

Long Answer: Let us explain...

• **Face to Face** - Choosing your lender is just as important as choosing your real estate agent. You should work with someone you trust, who you can meet in person, who can explain the process and who you can make an appointment with if you need to.

The fact that you can show up at their office also makes you more than a number in a corporate database. They want to go the extra mile and build a relationship.

• **Knowledge of the Market** - Local lenders have knowledge of the market you're buying in which means they understand local property values in the area and can truly know the market value of your home. Online lenders have no way of understanding the ins and outs of the city you're buying a home in because they haven't lived or worked in that area.

• **Reputation** - When you write an offer, you have to also submit your pre-approval letter which has your lender information on it. Because most agents understand the importance of working with a local lender, having an out of state lender on that pre-approval could make your offer look less appealing (especially if there are others you're competing with).

• **Relationships** - Not only is it important for you to establish trust with your lender, but they want to establish trust with us as the real estate team as well. A local lender has more of a vested interest in keeping the agent happy because they can tell other agents and clients about their *great experience* vs an online lender who isn't in a referral-based business.

• **Less Stress** - Local lenders will be easier to get ahold of whether you need something last minute or have a question you need answered.

We have a list of trusted local lenders we can refer you to! Do your research but shop local!



By Darin Windham,
Realtor, Keyfinders Group
RE/MAX Alliance



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It's Time To Turn The Heat On

By Thomas Tipton Talent Heating and Air Conditioning

Once again it's time to turn the heat on. When most people turn on their heat they have some anxiety. The smell of smoke fills up the house and it can even cause a smoke detector to go off. If you have gas you may even smell a little whiff of rotten eggs.

A Family Plan from Talent can help alleviate those concerns and help you be ready for that first cold day. When we come out for a heating tune up we are testing that system top to bottom, trying to find issues that might be a concern in the season, and offering solutions to keep you and your family warm and safe. One of the reasons you smell the burning is the dust burning off the heat kits or the heat exchanger. When your unit runs all spring and summer without ever getting hot inside lots of nasty dust and growth can build up and when everything gets hot this build up begins to burn off. One smell that people find new in the winter is dirty sock syndrome.

"Dirty sock syndrome" sounds made up, but it's not. Dirty sock syndrome comes from your indoor coil when it warms up. It is like taking your sock off then putting it in the oven just till it starts to steam and turning on a fan. Dirty sock syndrome doesn't go away either; it can keep coming back whenever a heat pump goes through defrost. The only way to treat this permanently is with a UV light and ozone generators. I cleaned coils and had the same problem the next day.



Units also have issues with intruders such as bugs in the first days of fall. When it starts to get cold, snakes, rats, and multitudes of bugs seek to take refuge in side heating units. I have found blowers full of nuts, wasp nests in exhaust, and ants in burners. These intrusions in your heating system can cause failures and safety concerns.

One of the biggest concerns for heating technicians is carbon monoxide poisoning. The main cause for carbon monoxide poison is improper operations and holes in the heat exchanger. One of the main focuses of any heating inspection should be checking for leaks in the heat exchanger where fumes encounter the airstream from the blower and go back in your home.

Proper mix of air to gas mixture can help prevent dangerous fumes and preserve the unit. Maintenance in the fall can help you avoid break down but it can help with your health. Often CO poisoning doesn't result in death but instead causes apathy and flu like symptoms.

Remember this fall check that you have CO detectors installed on all levels of your house and they are installed to manufacturer's instruction. Talent Heating and Air Conditioning will be doing free heat exchanger inspections of gas units and can offer one time tunes or if you're serious about protecting your unit and home.

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TRICKS AND TREATS FOR A HALLOWEEN BASH

Submitted by Erin Vander Weele

Hosting a Halloween party can seem daunting, but with creativity and careful planning, you can create a memorable evening. This guide will walk you through the steps for organizing a frighteningly fun Halloween get-together.

SET THE TONE WITH A THEME

The first step in planning your Halloween party is selecting a theme. While a classic horror night is always a hit, there are many themes to explore based on your interests. Ideas include a theme based on well-known movies like **Pirates of the Caribbean**, **Harry Potter**, **Hocus Pocus**, or **Beetlejuice**. Other ideas include a haunted mansion, a murder mystery, or a glow-in-the-dark theme. A chosen theme helps streamline your decoration and costume ideas and makes the preparation process much more manageable.

DECORATE TO FRIGHT AND DELIGHT

Once your theme is set, it's time to decorate. For a truly immersive experience, consider decorations that engage all senses, such as dim lighting, fog machines, and creepy soundtracks to add a mysterious ambiance. Let your chosen theme guide you with tableware and decoration selections. Other ideas include DIY graveyards, faux cobwebs, and projection lighting to create ghostly figures or ominous scenes on the walls. Thrift stores can be gold mines for unique and budget-friendly finds suitable for any Halloween theme.

CREATE A SPOOKY MENU

Your party menu can be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the planning process. Tailor your menu to fit your theme and include a mix of savory and sweet dishes. Brain-shaped Jell-O molds, mummified hot dogs wrapped in pastry, pumpkin-themed treats, and witches' hat cookies are always a hit. Remember, presentation is vital for a Halloween party, so even simple dishes can be made eerily appealing with creativity.

BREW BEWITCHING BEVERAGES

Create a signature cocktail for the event, like a "Vampire's Kiss" (a red fruity drink) or a "Witch's Brew" (a green, bubbly punch). For non-alcoholic options, consider serving creepy crawly punch made with gummy worms and dry ice for that smoking cauldron effect.

CURATE A SPINE-CHILLING PLAYLIST

Music is pivotal in setting the mood for your Halloween party. Mix classic hits like Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and Bobby Pickett's "Monster Mash" with themes from famous horror movies and atmospheric sounds like creaking doors, chilling howls, and ghostly whispers. Playlists are readily available on music streaming platforms, or you can create your own for a personalized touch.

CRAFT A NIGHT OF FUN

Lastly, plan for entertainment to keep your guests engaged. Classic Halloween games, horror movie trivia, pumpkin carving, bobbing for apples, a costume contest, or a scare-themed scavenger hunt can provide fun and laughter for everyone.

Overall, planning a Halloween party requires some creativity, organization, and a touch of eeriness. It's a chance to create an unforgettable experience where the planning process is just as enjoyable as the celebration.



Trick or Treat, Smell My Feet.....??

By Cheryl Knighten, Founder, Sozo Digital Media, LLC

Most of us know the rest of this sing-song phrase "Give Me Something Good to Eat!"

Children become excited when it comes to Halloween. Often this means that they are not paying close attention to what is occurring around them. From drivers who are focused on their children, to the potential danger of running and slipping on wet leaves on concrete - they are simply focused on filling their Jack-o-Lanterns!

There are hazards for both homeowners and trick-or-treaters during this season! Believe it or not, if a child falls on your sidewalk in front of your home, then you are liable. Their parents may decide to sue you for medical costs and 'pain and suffering'. The basic liability portion of your standard homeowners' insurance policy should cover your defense and payment of damages, including limited medical expenses. The more important factor here is what have you done to ensure that you are being proactive for both yourself and the children out on Halloween? Here are a few tips to help you avoid avoidable accidents that could be prevented.



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SAFETY TIPS FOR KEEPING TRICK-OR-TREATERS SAFE:

- Keep your outside lights on - this helps anyone trekking up your sidewalk and deters others from vandalizing your home.
- Make sure pathways are clear of debris and anything like broken pumpkin that can cause slip and falls! • Clear them away quickly.
- Only burn candles in safe locations or use battery operated ones!
- Ensure that your treats are safe for small children.
- Avoid truly frightening masks or costumes when greeting small children it's supposed to be fun!
- All motorists should drive slowly and with caution!
- Parents and chaperones should carry flashlights, and ensure that each child is still part of your group before leaving to go to the next home! Another great suggestion are glow sticks!
- Keep fog machines away from areas where people are walking. Visibility is important when people are walking up to your door.

Believe it or not.....Halloween can be a dangerous holiday. There is typically an increase on Halloween for the following types of injuries:

- Pumpkin Carving causes 55% of the overall injuries .
- 25% of injuries recorded on Halloween are from falling. Of those, falls occurred while trick-or-treating, hanging up or taking down decorations, or from tripping over costumes.
- Another 20% are miscellaneous issues such as: lacerations, ingestions, allergic reactions and rashes.

Sadly, there are 3 times as many pedestrian fatalities during Halloween as compared to every other night of the year - 23% of those are related to drunk driving.

Preventive measures are the best solution to avoiding injury or suffering a law suit due to oversight. First, double check your homeowner's policy to ensure that you have the best possible protection regardless of what happens. Second, follow the safety tips we have shared here to ensure a fun and safe time for the children in your home and neighborhood. Third, make a point to clean falling leaves from your sidewalks and driveways - if it has rained, the water on top of leaves can be as slick as ice!

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4 BED | 4 BATH | 7,773 SQ FT | \$2,995,000

This estate stands as a symbol of luxury in North Alabama, centrally located near Huntsville, Birmingham, and Cullman. It features 6 ponds, rolling pastures, a creek, timberland for hunting, and a private runway with two hangars. The home, designed by a Mrs. America contestant, also includes a heated pool, offering a blend of elegance, privacy, and unmatched amenities.

Historic Russell Estate in Alexander City

65 N CENTRAL AVENUE, ALEXANDER CITY, AL, 35010
6 BED | 6 BATH | 7,984 SQ FT | \$1,495,000

Known as the "house on the hill," this 1911 home was built by the prestigious Russell family and has been meticulously maintained ever since. The property, sitting on 10 acres, features spacious rooms, a great room balcony, and a unique second-floor sleeping porch. Historically rich and luxurious, it offers privacy while being a short drive from Lake Martin. Co-listed with Julia Upton, BHHS.



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