

THE PELHAM

PATHWAY



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JUNE 2025

Pelham's News Magazine

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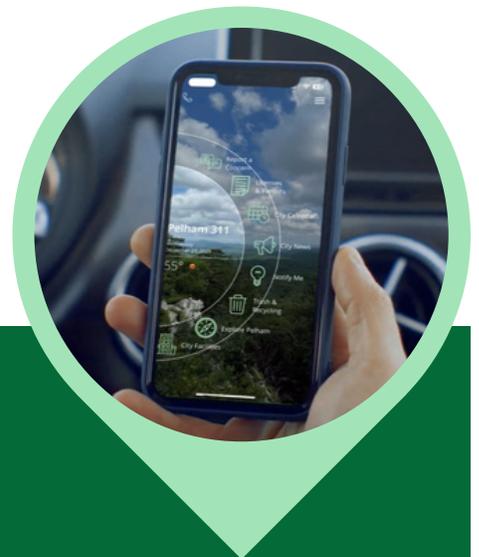
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PATHWAY



JUNE
2025

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04

Defined Destination

10

Meet the Chief

20

Farm to Pelham

24

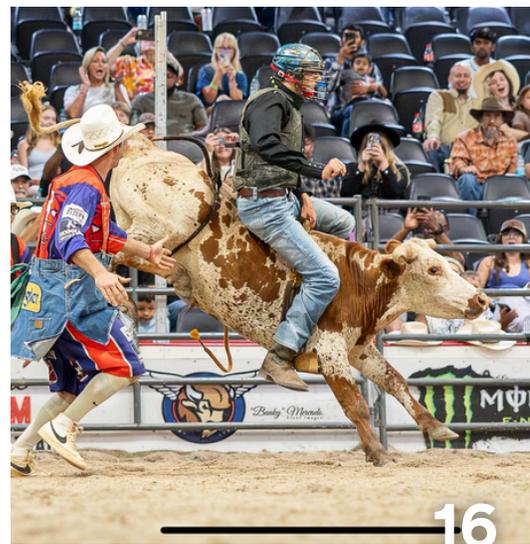
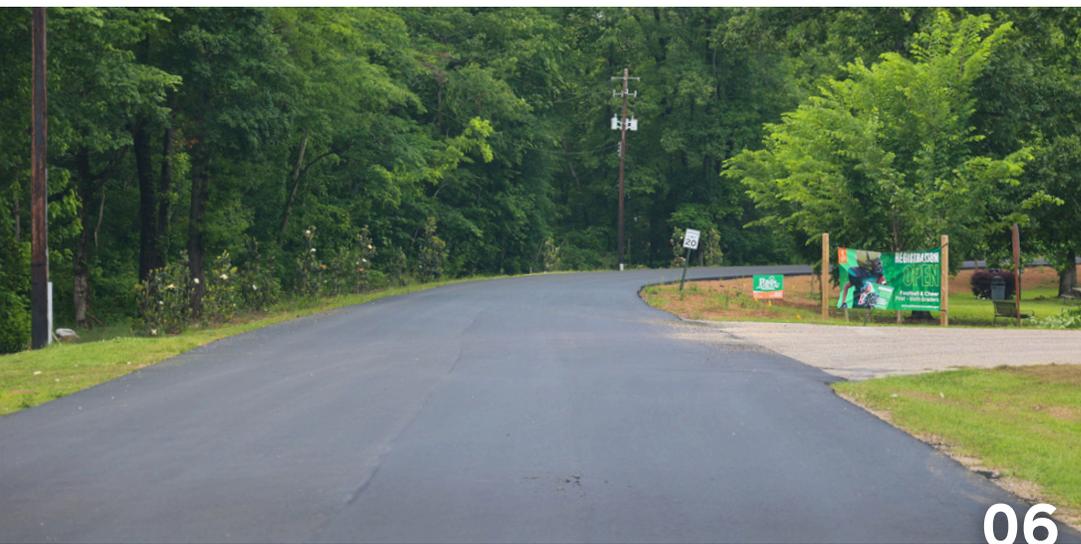
A Chance Encounter

32

Panther Pride

38

Activity Guide





DEFINED DESTINATION

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

The City of Pelham is preparing for a significant transformation—and it begins with the redevelopment of the former Oak Mountain Amphitheater site. As demolition of the amphitheater is underway and the City moves toward closing on the purchase of the property, we're laying the groundwork for a bold new vision for Pelham's entertainment district.

To help guide this vision, Pelham is launching a redevelopment charrette—a collaborative, multi-day planning workshop that brings together designers, city officials, business leaders, and community members to reimagine what this key area could become. The goal is to create a vibrant, walkable district that blends entertainment, dining, public space, and cultural experiences.

This kind of focused planning effort can be impactful, so we've chosen to bring experts to the table and invite the community to help shape what comes next.



What's a Charrette?

A charrette is an interactive, fast-paced planning process that results in a conceptual design or vision plan. Over the course of several days, a team of planners, architects, engineers, and economic development professionals will work side-by-side with Pelham stakeholders to explore potential development options for the property.

The charrette process is transparent and public-facing—open houses and input sessions will give residents and business owners the opportunity to weigh in. Your ideas and feedback will help guide the future character and uses of this district.

Why This Site Matters

The Oak Mountain Amphitheatre property is a gateway into our city and holds enormous potential for thoughtful redevelopment. Its location, visibility, and proximity to Pelham's Civic Complex & Ice Arena, Oak Mountain State Park, and I-65 make it ideal for a destination that enhances quality of life for residents and attracts visitors from across the region. We're not just filling space—we're building a place.

"We are not just filling space. We're building a place."

What Happens Next?

The charrette is currently being planned, and dates and details will be released soon. As we work through the design process, there will be multiple ways to get involved and make your voice heard.

Whether you're a nearby resident, a business owner, or someone who simply wants to see Pelham thrive, this is your chance to help shape the city's next great place.

Stay tuned for updates, including charrette dates, public input sessions, and opportunities to participate. Together, we're reimagining what's possible for Pelham.



City in Motion



Pelham is in the midst of a transformational season—one focused on practical improvements designed to elevate public spaces, mobility, recreation, and the city's overall appeal. From fresh pavement to brand-new pavilions and upgraded entrances into town, these capital projects demonstrate Pelham's ongoing investment in quality of life.

Paving Progress

Over the last three years, the City of Pelham has invested more than \$3 million in resurfacing neighborhood streets—an effort that reflects a strong, ongoing commitment to maintaining critical infrastructure. Guided by detailed condition assessments and traffic data, the resurfacing program targets streets with the greatest need while ensuring long-term cost savings and safer travel for residents.

The work began in April and is moving quickly. The following streets are on the list for 2025:

- Chandalar Drive & Office Park Circle
- Dalton Drive
- Hunters Trace
- Huntmaster Lane
- Red Fox Drive
- Fox Hound Trail
- Royal Chase Drive

- Royal Place
- Chase Drive
- Willow Bend Road
- Ryecroft Circle
- Canyon Park Drive
- Canyon Trail
- Canyon Park Place
- Canyon Park Circle
- Cambrian Ridge Drive
- Cambrian Ridge Trail
- Tecumseh Lane
- Tecumseh Trail

Residents are reminded not to park on the street during active paving.





New Places to Gather and Play

Two new pavilions are now complete at Pelham City Park. They offer shaded areas for birthday parties, family outings, and team gatherings. These spaces are already in use and reflect the community's growing demand for versatile outdoor facilities.

Across the street from the Recreation Center, a brand-new NHL Street™ Court is under construction. This dynamic new space is designed to give children and families a fresh way to get active and experience the fun and fast-paced game of street hockey. Whether you're a seasoned player or just picking up a stick for the first time, this court will be open to all, and it's part of Pelham's ongoing investment in recreational spaces.

While this surface is designed to support NHL Street Hockey, it is also suitable for roller hockey. The court will also be used for soccer programs for both children and adults. It is estimated to be complete by the end of the month.

Significant changes are also coming to the park's baseball & softball Complex, with a \$3.2 million renovation project set to elevate the entire game-day experience.

From upgraded training facilities to a more inviting entrance plaza, these enhancements are designed with players, families, and fans in mind.

The project includes six new covered batting cages—four at the front entrance and two between Fields 2 and 3—expanding practice space while improving convenience and accessibility. Existing cages will remain in use, giving athletes more opportunities to sharpen their skills.

At the heart of the redesign is a new entrance plaza that blends form and function. Elevated materials like natural wood will create a welcoming aesthetic. At the same time, shaded seating, a modernized concession stand, and upgraded restrooms will turn the space into a central gathering point for the community.

Design work is underway now, with construction slated to begin in late 2025.

A Path Apart

Work on the next phase of the Pelham Greenway Trail is underway, marking another step forward in the City's vision to create a fully connected, pedestrian-friendly path through the heart of Pelham. Crews are grading the trail for future paving.

Once completed, this phase will extend the trail from Campus 124 to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena and the Canopy.



Additional Parking

A new parking lot is under construction at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. It will be located on the facility's west side and provide approximately 300 additional visitor spaces. This new parking area will significantly improve accessibility for skaters, coaches, and spectators needing entry to this side of the building. The parking lot will also feature curbing, landscape islands, lighting, and sidewalks connecting to the Greenway Trail and the Complex.

Curb Appeal

One of the most visible upgrades is at Pelham's northern gateway along US-31 at AL-261 and Valleydale Road. New welcome signage was installed, and landscaping and uplighting will follow soon. This sign is the first in a larger project to beautify the city's entrances. These improvements are designed to reflect Pelham's identity and make a strong first impression on visitors and newcomers alike. Another 'Welcome to Pelham' sign will soon be installed on CR-11 at the city's border with Chelsea.

Smarter Signals Ahead

Traffic management consistently ranks as one of Pelham residents' top concerns in the City's Citizen Survey, and the City is delivering solutions designed for long-term impact. In 2025, Pelham will install thermal imaging and video detection cameras at eleven key intersections, building on the 14 already upgraded. These high-tech systems replace outdated in-ground signal loops, reducing maintenance needs and streamlining traffic flow with smarter, real-time vehicle detection.

Mounted on streetlights, these thermal cameras trigger signal changes when they detect vehicles waiting in turn lanes or side streets—no need to cut into pavement for repairs. This \$500,000 investment is part of Pelham's broader participation in the Alabama Department of Transportation's Regional Traffic Operations Program and reflects the City's commitment to safer, more efficient roads. Installation is expected to begin in June 2025 and wrap up by August.



SETTING PRIORITIES

Citizen Survey Report

BY: GINA WOMACK

Pelham received the results of its second citizen survey earlier this spring, and the citizens ranked the City higher than the previous survey in 74 of the 88 areas assessed. The ETC Institute, which conducted the survey, is a national leader in citizen engagement surveys, with more than 3,000,000 persons surveyed since 2006 for more than 1,000 cities in 49 states.

The methodology uses lists to identify a respondent pool that matches the community's demographics instead of putting a survey online and making it available to everyone. That type of process typically results in responses from a very limited and similar demographic group.

The high points of the survey include:

- Residents have a positive perception of the City. 83% are satisfied with the overall quality of life in the City, with only 3% expressing dissatisfaction.
- Satisfaction with city services is higher in Pelham than in other communities and among the highest in the nation. The City rated 34% above the U.S. average and 29% above the Southeast regional average in the overall quality of services provided.
- Ratings increased in most areas since the 2022 survey. The most significant increases in satisfaction were in the quality of the stormwater runoff/management system, City recreational programs, and availability of cultural activities and the arts.

The overall priorities for improvement over the next two years are:

- The flow of traffic and congestion management
- Economic development
- Maintenance of city streets and facilities

"We are proud of all we have accomplished as a city and immensely grateful that our citizens recognize the work and experience the results in everyday interactions with us," said City Manager Gretchen DiFante. "Our citizens help us all become better. Our residents and business owners take pride in the city and want a city committed to smart growth, increased outdoor recreational opportunities, and the addition of more public gathering spaces and opportunities. They also feel safe in the city and appreciate the work accomplished on their behalf to keep the city safe."

DiFante also described how the city council will use the results to inform the budget priorities for the next two years when another survey will be completed. "We had a planning session on March 7, when council members reviewed the results and applied those to the budget prioritization for 2026," she said. "We have used the results from the 2022 survey to help make critical decisions over the past two years and will continue to do so, ensuring the voice of the citizen is present in the way we allocate city funds," DiFante added. You can access the full survey report on the City of Pelham website under the Government tab.



MEET THE CHIEF

Chief Ed Delmore shares his background, leadership philosophy, and vision for Pelham

Personal Background & Early Influences

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and was raised in that area.

Q: Did you always want to go into law enforcement, or did you consider other careers growing up?

A: I watched a television show with my dad called "Adam-12." It ran for seven seasons, beginning in 1968, and followed the duties of two Los Angeles Police Officers: Pete Malloy (Played by Martin Milner) and Jim Reed (Played by Kent McCord). I knew after I watched the first episode what I wanted to do.

Q: Who were your biggest role models or mentors as a young person?

A: My Dad would be the first without question. He attended the University of Notre Dame and later served in World War II in the South Pacific. As a child, I didn't realize the significance of his background or how it shaped him. To me, he was just my dad. I observed how he interacted with people and the kindness he showed in doing so. I guess I unconsciously began copying that.

Secondly, it was some of the police officers I began riding with as a police explorer scout, starting at the age of 15. I have regular contact with many of them to this day.

Q: What values were instilled in you early in life that still guide you today?

A: I was fortunate to be exposed to professional police officers in a well-regarded agency. They took pride in being persons of integrity and character. I strive to live and work according to those same principles.

Q: How has your family influenced your path?

A: I was fortunate to have parents who encouraged me to pursue my dream of being in law enforcement. And this isn't all that unusual; the Delmores have become pretty much a police family, i.e., my wife is a retired police officer, my brother is a retired police officer, our daughter and one of our sons are police officers.





On Law Enforcement

Q: How has your view of policing evolved over time?

A: It's become more professional and appropriately so. I've also seen the pendulum swing back and forth regarding support for law enforcement – or the lack of support. This has typically been associated with high-profile incidents, such as the September 11th attacks or the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles.

Q: What aspects of the job do you find most rewarding?

A: Working with the dedicated, consummate professionals like we have here at Pelham PD.

Q: What aspects have been most challenging?

A: Lately, it's been recruiting and retention. There are fewer people interested in law enforcement as a career compared to when I started. We really have to think outside the box in terms of how we recruit candidates and maintain an extremely high standard for the people we hire.



Career Journey

Q: What was your first job in law enforcement?

A: My first paid job in law enforcement was as a Dispatcher (Now called a Telecommunicator) in a suburb of St. Louis. I started this job on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift while I was still a senior in high school.

Q: Can you walk us through the path that led you to becoming a police chief?

A: Well, I went from being an explorer to dispatcher to a patrol officer and then served in an undercover narcotics agent role with the Illinois State Police. I was promoted out of that unit to return to patrol as a sergeant and watch commander. In 1996, I tested for the position of Assistant Chief. I held that position until 2005 when I accepted a chief's position in another suburban department.

Q: What pivotal moments in your career shaped your leadership style?

A: I was fortunate to have several mentors, People that I respected and who were kind enough to teach me. I also came from an agency that developed a reputation for creating police leaders, including several police chiefs. In addition, I learned early on that if there were things about my agency that needed to change, I was probably going to have to get promoted to be in a position to make those changes.

Leadership Philosophy

Q: How would you describe your leadership style?

A: Collaborative. I get input from all the various disciplines within the agency, the city, and the people we serve. After all that input, I try to make timely, well-thought-out decisions about how we move forward.

Q: What's the most important trait a police officer should have?

A: Integrity.

Q: What values do you want to see reflected in your department?

A: Character, integrity, professionalism, and compassion - all coupled with a strong work ethic.

Q: What's your approach to building trust within the department?

A: Open, honest, and transparent communication. I'm now in the process of meeting with every agency employee.

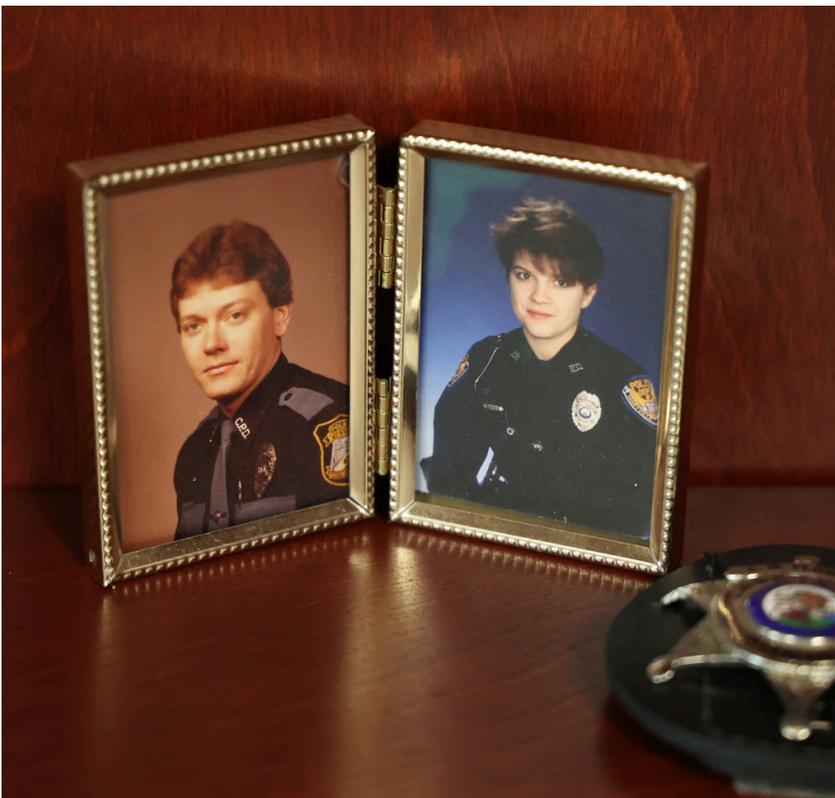
Community Engagement

Q: What role do you believe police should play in the community beyond law enforcement?

A: Our role is so much more than just enforcement. A big part of what we do involves getting to know our community members and understanding what they expect from us.

Q: How do you plan to connect with Pelham residents?

A: I spend a lot of time out in the community, striking up conversations and asking questions about how we're doing. My most recent example was several conversations at a Bulls Hockey playoff game.



"This is not only a great place to work but also a great place to live. The quality of life here is second to none, in my opinion."

Q: Do you want to launch or expand any specific community initiatives or programs?

A: Yes. On our radar right now is benchmarking what some other agencies have done to increase our outreach and trust with our immigrant community. It's a work in progress.

Q: How can the community help support its police department?

A: We already enjoy tremendous support from the community. That became obvious to me in the first few days I spent here. Pelham Officers in uniform are almost always thanked for their service to the community. That small gesture goes a long way.

Why Pelham?

Q: What made Pelham stand out to you?

A: I fell in love with this community when I was asked to consult on the selection of a police chief for Pelham, which resulted in the hiring of Chief Sugg. This is not only a great place to work, but it's also a great place to live. The quality of life here is second to none, in my opinion.

Q: What do you admire about this city and its people?

A: It's evident that our people are civic-minded and look for ways to cooperate, collaborate, and improve the good things we have and do here.

Q: How has the welcome to Pelham been so far?

A: Everyone, without exception, has been very kind and helpful.

Q: What are your first impressions of the community and the department?

A: I'm happy to see that the community is supportive of us and that we are well-regarded.

Q: What do you hope your legacy will be in Pelham?

A: That our agency is considered among the finest, most professional agencies in the country.

Something Random

Q: What's one thing most people would be surprised to learn about you?

A: My oldest Son has done some acting. He got a role and is in a scene with Nicholas Cage in the movie "USS Indianapolis – Men of Courage." He got me a part as an extra and ended up in some courtroom scenes with Cage.

Q: What are your favorite books, movies, or music that inspire you?

A: Anything by Joseph Wambaugh





SPINNING SUCCESS

Pelham's Krystin Godfrey Takes Her Shot on "Wheel of Fortune"

BY: GINA WOMACK

Pelham resident Krystin Godfrey always loved the iconic "Wheel of Fortune" game show. She grew up watching the program and had a knack for puzzle-solving when she played along. As a mother of four, entrepreneur, blogger, and full-time multitasker, Krystin isn't the kind of person who lets opportunities pass her by.

"I've always been a huge fan," she said. "Growing up, we watched Wheel of Fortune every night. I always thought, 'I could do that.' Krystin even joked with her family about her talent, good-naturedly bragging that she's 'the best puzzle solver you've ever met.' "Like, I'm legit," she would say. Her husband, Phillip, realized Krystin's passion for puzzle-solving and encouraged her to audition.

It took two auditions, the first in 2022. Krystin made it through multiple rounds but never received the final call. Undeterred, she reapplied in October 2024. This time, things moved quickly.

"I had interviews in November and December, got my tape date the same month, and filmed at the end of January," she recalled. The episode aired on March 7, 2025.

At the time of the taping, Krystin was wrapping up a work trip in Dallas. Instead of heading home, she flew to Los Angeles to tape the show at Sony Studios. It was a whirlwind experience. "You feel like a celebrity for the day," she said. "Hair and makeup in the morning, bonding with other contestants, and being part of something I grew up watching- it was surreal."

But while the excitement was real, so were the challenges. Krystin battled the infamous Wheel, landing on "Bankrupt" three times and losing her chance at the Million Dollar Wedge. "When they say it's you against the wheel, they mean it!" she laughed.

*Photo Credit:
Sony Pictures Television
Photographer; Eric McCandless*

Even so, she walked away with \$4,000 and memories to last a lifetime. "It was 20 minutes of work for an unforgettable experience and a trip to L.A. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

The experience taught her a few things, including the importance of giving herself grace. "I'm really competitive, so I was a little bummed at first," she admitted. "But then I reminded myself, I did something really cool. I got on the show, won some money, and made my kids proud."

Back in Pelham, her appearance was big news among family and friends. "My five and six-year-olds told everyone at the grocery store. They thought I was a celebrity. And honestly, for a minute, I felt like one!"

Krystin's appearance on Wheel of Fortune is just one chapter in a much bigger story. She's also the voice behind the popular lifestyle and family blog "Growing Up Godfrey," which she launched six years ago during a season of stay-at-home parenting.

"I needed an outlet," she said. "I had two kids under two at the time, plus a ten-year-old. I started blogging about family life, travel, and parenting hacks. My husband encouraged me, and the blog just took off."

Her content resonated with moms nationwide, especially those trying to balance motherhood and working from home. She began collaborating with brands and tourism boards, turning family vacations into hosted work trips to Disney, Universal Studios, and Sandestin.



"We go hard the first day to get all the content," she explained. "Then we relax and enjoy the rest of the trip. It works for us."

While she shares glimpses of family life, Krystin is intentional about privacy. "A couple of years ago, we wiped all our kids' names from the blog and stopped posting on their actual birthdays," she said. "It's about finding a balance."

In addition to blogging, Krystin and her husband own multiple businesses. "I'm always down to trying something that lets me work from home, travel, and be with my family," she said. That entrepreneurial spirit led the Godfreys to move to Pelham in 2020. "We wanted a community that felt family-focused, with great schools that weren't too big," she said. Pelham had the perfect balance."

The Godfreys have embraced their new hometown wholeheartedly. They frequent the Pelham Public Library, Creekside BBQ, Half Shell Oyster House, and the City's splash pad and playgrounds. "We love supporting local businesses," she said. "Pelham is a great place to live and raise a family."

Krystin's advice for anyone dreaming of trying something new, whether it's a game show, blog, or business venture? "Just do it," she said. "Apply. Audition. Start the blog. You never know what it might turn into. You don't have to follow the traditional path. I'm living proof of that."

As for what's next? Krystin isn't ruling out another game show appearance. "I think I'm on a game show kick now. Maybe Jeopardy! one day."

On a more reflective note, Krystin added her desire and motivation to pursue God's purpose. "I spent many years playing small and thinking small, but this opportunity has taught me that there is so much more. I'm going for everything God has for me in this next season. The limit does not exist!"

With her energy, drive, and can-do attitude, you wouldn't bet against her.





MORE THAN A RODEO

How Pelham's Kidz Outdoors Benefit Rodeo is Changing Lives—One Ride at a Time

BY: JENNI HODGES

The Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena is no stranger to having Bulls in the building, but on July 26th, it will once again welcome the real deal. National Kidz Outdoors has made the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena the home of the "Making a Difference for Kidz" Pro Rodeo. This event benefits the nonprofit dedicated to granting hunting and fishing adventures to children with terminal illnesses or special needs. In an outstanding first year, the Kidz Pro Rodeo attracted about 3,000 spectators and raised over \$53,000. At the end of the season, the Professional Cowboy Association (PCA) voted the event "Best Rodeo of the Year 2024."

"Right out of the gate, the Making a Difference for Kidz Rodeo became a top-tier event on the professional rodeo circuit and has quickly become known as a cowboy favorite," says Carol Clark, founder and CEO of National Kidz Outdoors.

"Because of their interactions with the kids in our program, the cowboys have really started to look forward to this event."

A Woman on a Mission

An avid outdoorswoman and excellent cook, Carol Clark has been in hunting lodges, either hunting or feeding hunters, for decades. She and her husband Rick were working in a lodge, he as a guide and Carol running the kitchen, when they first encountered the concept of combining their love of hunting with the mission of serving kids with critical medical conditions. "We had a hunt scheduled as a fundraiser for a hospital doing cancer research," remembers Rick. "They brought out a young man with cancer, and I called birds for him." Seeing this young man experience the joy of hunting despite his physical limitations was an emotional experience for everyone involved. But for the Clarks, it changed the trajectory of their entire lives. "On the way home, we stopped the car because we had tears running down our face," Carol says. "We knew this was our calling, and our lives were changed that day." Carol joined the organization that had brought the young man to experience the thrill of the hunt.



Still, as an experienced fundraiser, she felt herself becoming further removed from the children she so wished to serve. "After much prayer and thought," says Carol, "we started our own organization."

"Imagine if someone you love had limited time left, limited mobility, and funds were stretched too thin to make their dreams come true," says Rick. "They may never get the chance to feel that rush, see an animal in the wild, or complete their dream." Hoping to provide a resource for families facing that situation, Carol and Rick established Kidz Outdoors in 2013. Since then, more than 4,000 kids have participated in fundraising events, group hunts, and dream experiences like the Kidz Pro Rodeo.

But what began as a rodeo fundraiser, this second-year event is evolving into a powerful platform for storytelling, connection, and transformative moments for the kids the organization serves. When the rodeo gates swing open in the arena this summer, it won't just be for bull riding and barrel racing. It will be for something much bigger—a celebration of kids experiencing joy in the face of their challenges, a celebration of families telling their stories, and a celebration of unforgettable experiences that only happen when hearts are wide open.

More than 4,000 kids have participated in fundraising events, group hunts, and dream experiences since 2013.

A Steer Ride That Shook the Arena

Last year, during the Thursday night meet-and-greet before the rodeo, a father approached Rick with a heartfelt—and unexpected—question. His son Ty, a young man with developmental challenges, had one wish: to ride a bull.

Whether the question was asked jokingly or not is still up for debate, but one thing is sure: Rick, Carol, and the whole team at Kidz Outdoors have never received a request they haven't taken seriously! Riding a full-grown bull was obviously too dangerous, but rodeo director Dale Ray with 3R Rodeo Company and the Kidz Outdoors team weren't willing to walk away from the idea. They got creative. Instead of a bull, Ray suggested a steer—a calmer, more predictable, and far safer option for a rider with no experience. The arena erupted into shouts and cheers. The cowboys ran into the dirt ring, throwing their hats into the air.

All had tears streaming down their faces—something rare in the world of hardened professional cowboys. In that moment, the rodeo became more than just a fundraiser to support experiences. It had become an experience of its own.

Becoming TJ the Clown

That same night, another moment quietly formed in the background. At the meet-and-greet, a boy named Zach—a participant in the Kidz Outdoors program—had started to take an interest in the professional rodeo clown TJ, who was performing that weekend. "I want to be like him," Zach said.

It might have seemed like a passing comment to some, but not to the team at Kidz Outdoors—and certainly not to the bullfighter who heard him. The next night, bullfighter Zach Stephens was on the lookout for Zach. When he spotted him, he painted his face right there on the spot, helping him step into the role he admired so much.

"That night changed his life," said Rick. "For Zach, who has autism, it wasn't just an experience, he accepted his identity as a rodeo clown that night." In the following months, his fascination with TJ turned into laser-focused dedication. He wanted the exact clown costume—down to the shirt's color, the hat's shape, and the stage props TJ had used while performing at the Rodeo. At one point, his mother said he had an Amazon cart with over \$30,000 in gear saved as he searched for perfect matches.



Understanding the depth of Zach's passion, the Kidz Outdoors team once again sprang into action. They worked directly with TJ to gather the remaining pieces of the outfit and props. Kidz Outdoors paid for the items but wanted TJ to send the package. "It would mean so much more to Zach coming from TJ rather than me," said Carol. When the package arrived, Zach opened it while his mother filmed. "I got a package from my best friend," he exclaimed, before bursting into joyful tears.

From that day on, Zach was TJ the Clown. He wore the costume everywhere—from family gatherings to Thanksgiving dinner. But Rick and Carol weren't done yet. Zach had just discovered his dream to be a rodeo clown, and they wanted to do everything in their power to make it as unforgettable as possible.

The Dream that Kept Growing

As the rodeo season neared its close, Kidz Outdoors reached out to organizers of the Rodeo Finals in Mobile, sharing Zach's story. There was no hesitation. Zach was invited to perform at the finals, stepping into the arena as a spectator and a real rodeo clown. The crowd cheered as he stepped into the arena, and Zach beamed. At the night's end, over 200 people lined up to meet Zach and have their picture taken with their favorite Rodeo Clown. This summer, Zach and TJ will reunite in Pelham, taking to the arena again as a dynamic duo—a professional clown and a young man whose life was forever changed by a chance encounter.



A Rodeo with Heart

These are just two stories from one event put on by National Kidz Outdoors, and they're not outliers. They're the essence of the organization's mission and the lives it impacts.

On July 26, Rodeo fans will come for the excitement—the bucking broncs, the clowns, the fierce competition. Still, they'll leave with something much deeper: a glimpse into the powerful work of National Kidz Outdoors and the joy that comes when a community rallies behind its mission.

As the "Making a Difference for Kidz" Pro Rodeo returns to Pelham this summer, fans can expect more than just entertainment. There's impact, purpose, and the chance to change a child's life in every ticket purchased. This isn't just a rodeo; it's a mission. And it's one you don't want to miss.

The Kidz Outdoors Benefit Rodeo returns Friday and Saturday, July 25–26, with ticket prices starting at just \$15. Premium seats are \$35. Tickets are available online through Ticketmaster or in person at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena box office. To avoid paying Ticketmaster fees, you are encouraged to purchase your tickets directly at the box office.

Get your tickets today!



Farm to Pelham

A COFFEE STORY OF DIGNITY, INCLUSION, & IMPACT

BY: GINA WOMACK

In a quiet corner of Pelham, something extraordinary is brewing. Non-Fiction Coffee, a specialty coffee roaster tucked away in an industrial park, serves more than caffeine. They serve as a connection between consumers and producers, passion and purpose, people and possibility.

Founded by Lisa and Mike Herron, Non-Fiction Coffee has been roasting in Pelham since 2018. Its mission is as bold as its blends: roast with excellence, honor the people who grow the beans, and use the business as a platform for meaningful community impact. From the farms of Latin America and Africa to the capable hands of employees with special needs in Pelham, every step of the process is intentional. "Coffee can be a powerful tool for change," said Jeff Daniels, Director of Sales. "Our hope is that when someone drinks our coffee, they think first about the name on the bag: the producer who grew it."

Truth In a Name

The name "Non-Fiction" was chosen with care. It speaks to the company's commitment to truth, transparency, and storytelling. While many coffee companies sell a product, Non-Fiction sells a story. Each bag proudly lists the farmer's name, the growing region, and tasting notes developed in-house through a meticulous cupping process.

The minimalist branding is no accident either. "We don't want the attention on us," Jeff explained. "We want it on the people who make this coffee possible."

**The photos for this article were taken by Jonathan Powell and Phil Woodall of The Library Of*



Relationships That Matter

Non-Fiction sources coffee from small family farms in Guatemala, Peru, Honduras, Brazil, and parts of Africa. But it does more than buy beans. It builds relationships.

One of their longest partnerships is with the Perez family in Guatemala. Lisa Herron explained that Non-Fiction Coffee has supported the family by purchasing coffee and fundraising for infrastructure projects, such as a drying house, to improve the quality and consistency of their harvest. "Before they had the drying house, the family would spread the beans on tarps outside to dry in the sun. The only problem is that they live in a rainforest. They had to gather and move the beans indoors every time it rained. Now, with the covered open-sided drying house, the beans are protected. We've seen the coffee improve because the process and product have improved. Coffee is a one-season harvest, much like peaches in Chilton County. Once the peaches are gone, they're gone."

The relationship with the Perez family reached new depths when they visited the Non-Fiction Coffee roasting facility in 2023.

Wholesale partners gathered to hear firsthand how consistent, dignified sourcing had impacted the family's farm and community. That evening, they dined at Helen, a Birmingham restaurant serving Non-Fiction coffee. Chef Rob McDaniel incorporated the product into several dishes, including tiramisu and a seafood sauce. "They were amazed," Jeff recalled. "It was a full-circle moment to see their coffee used with such care in a setting that honors their work."

Craft and Care in Every Roast

Behind the scenes, each roast is fine-tuned through a cupping process guided by the Specialty Coffee Association's standards. The result is a coffee that tells a story and tastes exceptional. Head Roaster/Director of Operations Luke Sides and Jeff Daniels cup various coffees weekly to ensure consistency in the customers' experience.

Still, Non-Fiction's team knows that explaining the quality behind the slightly more expensive beans can be challenging. "When someone tastes it, really tastes it, you can see the shift," Jeff said. "They realize this is different." He likened it to biting into a sun-ripened tomato from a roadside stand after years of eating supermarket produce. "The difference isn't just in the flavor. It's in the care."

Work That Changes Lives

The company's commitment to people extends far beyond the farms. When building a workforce, Lisa and Mike Herron were inspired by their daughter, Ann Harper, who has special needs. They envisioned Non-Fiction Coffee as a place where everyone belongs and where people with special needs are given space to thrive. That vision became a reality through intentional hiring and flexible work roles accommodating individual abilities. "We adapt the job to the person, not the other way around," Lisa explained.

One shining example is employee Sarah Stewart, who began as a volunteer stamping coffee bags. Today, she independently manages the company's delivery operation with Piggly Wiggly. "She's in charge of taking inventory, invoicing, delivering products, and stocking shelves," said Lisa.

Sarah's coworkers all agree that she is a joy to be around. Jeff recalled a time when Sarah was on vacation, and he took an order from a customer. "The customer looked at me and said, 'Where's Sarah? We need our dose of joy!' That's when I realized how far her impact reaches, further validating what we're doing."

Another team member, Noah, has become a key part of the production process, gaining confidence and initiative with every shift. Plus, he stumps everyone with his movie trivia knowledge. "There are no limits placed on them here," Jeff said. "That's the environment Lisa created, and it makes us all better people."

Redefining Success

Unlike most businesses, Non-Fiction Coffee measures its growth not by revenue alone but by how much green coffee it can buy from producers and how many inclusive jobs it can create. "We believe you don't have to sacrifice quality for inclusion or vice versa," Jeff said. "You can do both. You have to care enough to try."

Though their coffee is shipped to cafés, restaurants, and customers nationwide, many Pelham residents still don't realize the company is based in their backyard. Jeff hopes to change that. "We'd love for more people in Pelham to know we're here, to come pick up their orders, or try a subscription," he said. They appear at local retailers like Smiley Brothers Specialty Foods, Piggly Wiggly, and Church Street Coffee & Books. They plan to become more present at some of Pelham's community events.

Non-Fiction Coffee is proof that business can be a force for good. It's where coffee connects continents, jobs create dignity, and a cup becomes a conversation. "We're just doing what we believe in," Jeff said. "And we're thankful that more people are starting to believe in us."

The next time you brew a pot, ask yourself, 'Who grew this?' 'Who roasted it?' If the answer is Non-Fiction, you're not just having coffee. You're part of something bigger.

Whether you're a seasoned coffee lover or want to support a mission-driven business, Non-Fiction Coffee makes it easy to get involved.

- Shop online at nonfictioncoffee.org
- Sign up for a subscription and have fresh-roasted coffee delivered to your door.
- Pick up your order locally at their Pelham facility: 402 Cahaba Valley Circle, Pelham, AL 35124
- Look for their products in area retailers such as Smiley Brothers Specialty Foods, Piggly Wiggly locations in the Birmingham metro area, Church Street Coffee & Books (Mountain Brook), and more.

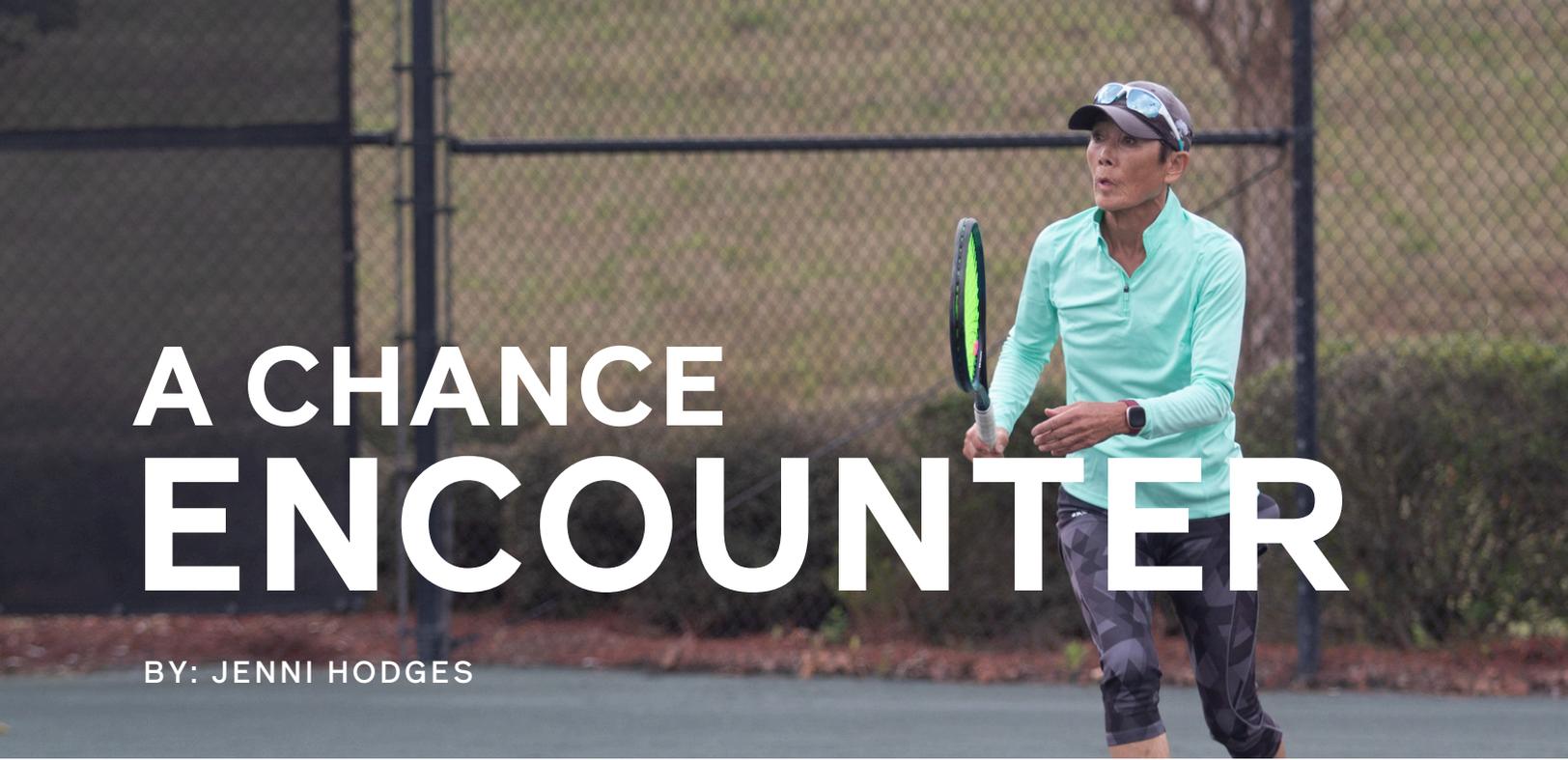




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“Coffee can be a powerful tool
for change.”

Jeff Daniels, Director of Sales



A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

BY: JENNI HODGES

The Pelham Racquet Club is a hub for tennis players worldwide to meet and play during tournament season. As a stop on the USTA national circuit, players arrive in Pelham, Alabama, to meet up with competitors. Most of them have met before, playing against one another in tournaments each season. Their stories intertwine as they chase tennis across the country, meeting up with old friends and making new ones at each stop.

Such was the case recently when a group of women from around the world all met at the Pelham Racquet Club to compete in the USTA National Women's Championships. The club was buzzing with conversation as players reunited with each other, catching up and sharing each new life event. The tennis community is a special one. Players compete with fierceness against one another on the court but come together like family when the match ends. On this particular day, a group of players congregated on the club terrace, watching other matches while casually chatting about life. For one player, though, what began as a casual conversation would spark a chain of events that would lead her, quite unexpectedly, back to a front porch in Alabama and into the arms of a family she hadn't seen in 25 years.

A Teenager's Journey to America

Hiko Fritz-Krockow grew up in a small town in Japan. She went to school and experienced life like every other child in her town until she learned about the American Field Service (AFS). This international student exchange program offers cultural exchange experiences for students worldwide. Many people who had completed the program described the experience as life-changing, giving them deeper global awareness and lifelong friendships. If selected, Hiko would spend a year living with a host family and attending high school in another country as a part of AFS's mission to foster global citizenship, cultural understanding, and lifelong connections between people of different cultures.

The year Hiko was eligible, 1,000 students applied for the AFS program. Fewer than 100 were selected to receive the scholarship. Hiko was one of them. At 17, she spoke very little English and had never boarded a plane, but she found herself packing her bags and boarding a flight to the United States.

Hiko was placed in a host home in central Alabama and enrolled in a local high school. Right away, she was fully immersed in a new culture, but the experience that would leave a lasting impression began a little rocky.

"I remember being very homesick," Hiko said. "I would cry every night." Her host siblings would tell their mom, "Hiko is crying again." Her host mother—whom Hiko came to lovingly call her "American mom"—would come sit quietly next to her and gently reassure her until the tears passed.

As she settled into life in another country, the sadness of being away from home eventually subsided and was replaced with an excitement to learn and experience new things. She played sports like basketball and volleyball and even joined the swim team. She worked on her English, but ironically, it was in America that a young Japanese student would fall in love with the German language. Even after completing the program and returning to Japan, she continued her German studies. She went on to university in Japan, majoring in German literature and philosophy, and eventually earned another scholarship to study abroad in Germany.

"I don't think I would have had the awareness to experience life and studies outside of Japan had I not had the opportunity to do so at a young age through AFS," Hiko said. "One year is so short but can weigh so heavily."

The decision she made as a teenager to experience a bigger world influenced the course of her life. New possibilities existed, and she discovered that being far from home wasn't as frightening as she had imagined. That foundational experience allowed her to study abroad again, marry a man from another culture, and move her young family from one side of the U.S. to another, with a return to Japan in between. Her exchange year helped her see the world in its fullness and realize there was no part of it unavailable to her.

A Global Sport for a Global Family

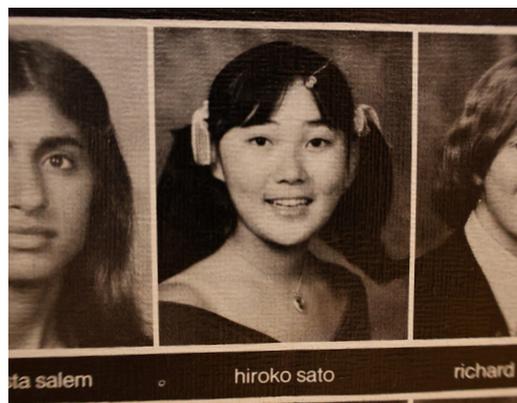
Hiko's children were born into this global mindset. Given tennis's international popularity, it's no wonder her family was drawn to the sport. Hiko's first daughter, Mariko, was born in Japan just before the family moved back to Germany; by four, she was already moving with her family to Washington, DC.

While living in Washington, Hiko was looking for a sport for her two children to participate in. She recalled the joy of playing tennis with her father in Japan. "My father was a professor at Nara University in Japan and played on the tennis courts there," she said. "I have great memories of hitting with him while I was pregnant with Mariko. He loved tennis. When he wasn't in his office, his students were told to look for him at the tennis courts."

With those memories in mind, she began driving her children back and forth to the courts to participate in lessons, school matches, and, eventually, a few tournaments.

Hiko had never seriously considered tennis. It was a fun activity for her, but a competitive sport for her children, who were both beginning to show promise in the sport. As she looked for more opportunities to grow their skills, she reached a realization.

"I saw a younger player—about nine—who was so good," she said. "I asked the girl's mother, 'How is she already so skilled?'" Hiko expected an answer about some new training routine or elite program to enroll in, but the answer was much simpler. "I hit with her 30 mins a day," the mother said. "They just get good at returning the ball after a while!" From then on, she started practicing with the girls, feeding her nine- and four-year-old the ball. Hiko discovered she got really good at returning the ball after a while!





At 45, Hiko began to play tennis seriously. She's now certified by the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) and has done everything from coaching to running a tennis company that organizes tennis events, tournaments, and clinics.

Both of Hiko's daughters, Mariko and Emmy, went on to play tennis competitively. Even at the pro level, Mariko is competing on the women's team to represent the U.S. at the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Masters World Team Championships in Turkey this March.

Back to the Present – Realizing Where You Are

Now in her 60s, living full-time in Colorado, Hiko still plays tennis competitively. She entered the USTA Women's National Singles and Doubles Tournament, which brought her to the Pelham Racquet Club. As the players chatted on the terrace after their matches, a familiar question was asked—the kind that often greets newcomers to the South: 'Is this your first time in Alabama?' Hiko chimed in, explaining that she had lived in Alabama for a year in high school. To visitors, the statement didn't mean much, but to Head Pro, Ryen Valentine, who knows you're never that far from the next town in Alabama, curiosity took over.

"Where did you live?" he asked. "Mountain Brook, I think," Hiko answered. Valentine quickly realized Hiko didn't know just how close she was to the home she lived in over 50 years ago.

Hiko had kept in touch with her host family at first through letters and then through email. As life moved on—children, jobs, moving around the globe—communication ceased, causing her to lose touch about 25 years ago. In the last email, her American Mother shared that she was dealing with some serious health issues. Hiko never received an update, leaving her to wonder what happened.

As if fate was working on her side, just weeks before the tournament in Alabama, Hiko stumbled on an old handwritten address book tucked away in a box in the back of a closet. It contained the address of her home during the exchange program. Standing in a tennis facility just 30 minutes away, that information became much more relevant. She and Valentine opened a map and began to search for the address, and she realized she was only a short drive from the house. "Surely they don't still live there after all these years," she thought, but this opportunity brought her too close to not finding out. She decided to hop in her rental car and find out.



Gripping the steering wheel tightly, she drove from Pelham to Mountain Brook. As she followed the GPS's directions, closer and closer, the streets became vaguely familiar. Then, there it was, the house she had lived in during her exchange year, almost exactly as she had remembered it. She walked shakily to the front door and knocked. After a moment, a face she didn't recognize came to the door. The woman's expression changed as Hiko apologized and explained her unexpected visit. She knew the former owners and had kept in touch. Hiko's host parents were alive and well, living just down the road. A quick phone call was made to see if they were home, and the new homeowner was taking Hiko just down the road, where they had moved.

The Reunion – A Moment 25 Years in the Making

Hiko's heart pounded as she stood on the front steps of the house where her American mother, whom she had lost touch with during a health crisis, now lived. The door opened, revealing a vibrant woman in her early nineties...her face full of love, amazement, and, most importantly, recognition. She, too, had often wondered about her Japanese daughter. The two embraced before words were exchanged, crying tears of joy. As all the thoughts and emotions stirred within Hiko, she looked at the woman and said, "What should I call you?" "I'm your mom," she replied.

The reunion continued for several hours. Hiko's American father returned home, still working at age 91. She also spoke by phone to all three of her American siblings. Hiko and her mother talked and shared photos. They reminisced about her time living with them, and Hiko was able to thank her for showing such care on those nights when she was a homesick teenager, missing her home and family.

Reflection

It's truly amazing how something as simple as a tennis tournament can bring the past and present together. A global sport where players form lifelong bonds, tennis continues to connect people across borders and decades.



On the tournament's final night, Hiko's family, including one of her siblings, gathered at a restaurant in Pelham to spend one more evening together. As they sat at a table at Oysters on the Half Shell, another group of women waved as they were being seated. "Those must be some of your tennis friends," her father said. "They are," she replied. He stood up, walked over to the table, and said, "Dinner is on me." A gesture of appreciation for the sport, the players, and the enduring connections they create over time.





Global Games, Local Stage

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

This summer, the Birmingham area will welcome thousands of elite first responders from around the globe as part of the 2025 World Police and Fire Games—an international event celebrating athleticism, camaraderie, and public service. While Birmingham is the official host city, Pelham will serve as the site of several major competitions, showcasing our city's exceptional venues and commitment to supporting world-class events.

From hockey at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena to triathlons and orienteering at Oak Mountain State Park and billiards at a local venue, Pelham is once again stepping up to support a global event with professionalism, energy, and community pride.

Admission is free to the public, offering a rare chance for locals and visitors to experience international competition up close, cheer on public safety heroes from around the world, and enjoy the vibrant spirit of the Games.

"Thankfully, as a City and an agency, we have experience hosting world-class events, and we've been provided with the resources to make those events safe," said Police Chief Ed Delmore. "The athletes and spectators can expect significant on-duty law enforcement presence during the events. It's not unusual for us and not an issue. We have enough resources to do both well."

Fire Chief Mike Reid added that careful planning and coordination will ensure a safe and memorable experience for all.

"We will devise Event Action Plans for all events hosted in our city to coordinate our safety and security efforts with the event staff, venue staff, and all public safety entities," he said. "The fire department will have staffing for normal operations and event staffing for each venue."

One of the most anticipated competitions is the hockey tournament, which will bring athletes and fans to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

"It's an exciting opportunity that showcases our facility's ability to accommodate world-class athletes while bringing the entire hockey community together under one roof," said Seth Greenberg, Executive Director of the Civic Complex. "We hope every visitor, whether competing on the ice or cheering from the stands, leaves the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena with a sense of excitement, community, and appreciation for the spirit of the Games. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, top-tier experience that reflects both the passion of the athletes and the pride of our local community."

Pelham's role in this international event is yet another example of the City's growing reputation as a destination for premier sports competitions and outdoor recreation.

This summer, come out and be part of the excitement. Cheer for the world's bravest athletes, enjoy free world-class competitions, and celebrate the unity and strength of the global first responder community—right here in Pelham.



COLOR

Your Summer

Each year, the Pelham Public Library's Summer Reading Program draws families from across the community with the promise of fun, learning, and fantastic prizes. With creative themes, engaging activities, and rewards for readers of all ages, it's easy to see why this program has become a summer staple. This year's theme, "Color Our World," adds an extra splash of vibrancy, inviting patrons to immerse themselves in a colorful season of reading and discovery. Library Director Mary Campbell, Library Supervisor Melanie Carden, and Library Supervisor Rebecca Thrasher Burchfield sat down with us to share all the exciting details.

WHAT CAN PATRONS EXPECT THIS YEAR?

This year's theme is "Color Our World," and it's for all age groups. Patrons can expect plenty of colorful, creative fun throughout the summer! As in years past, readers will track their reading using the BeanStack app and receive rewards along the way. Our goal is to keep things exciting and engaging so readers of all ages are motivated to participate.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

It's easy! Participants track their reading in the BeanStack app and earn rewards for reaching milestones. Kids and teens log the minutes they spend reading, while adults log the number of books they've read. Milestones unlock prizes like small rewards from our treasure chests, entries into weekly prize drawings, and chances to win grand prizes at the end of the summer.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM DATES?

The program kicks off on Tuesday, May 27, and runs through mid-July.

WHO CAN SIGN UP?

Everyone! The program is open to all ages. Even young children who aren't reading on their own yet can participate by having books read to them. Audiobooks count too, so don't forget to log those.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE SIGN UP?

Summer reading creates a lifelong connection to books and learning. It encourages kids, teens, and adults to read for enjoyment and keeps their minds engaged over the summer months. Plus, it's an excellent opportunity to explore all the library offers, not just in the summer, but all year.

WHAT PRIZES CAN PARTICIPANTS WIN?

Adults

For every three books checked out from adult fiction or nonfiction collections, readers can fill out an entry form for weekly prize drawings. Prizes include gift cards to local establishments such as Dunkin', Starbucks, and Subway. The grand prize is a \$100 Publix gift card.

Kids

Children earn small prizes from the library's treasure chest for each reading badge they collect. They'll also be entered into weekly prize drawings and a grand prize drawing for a new bicycle, donated by our friends at Bike Link in Hoover and Specialized Bikes. Other grand prizes include LEGO sets, small robotics kits, and more. Kids can earn bonus entries by attending Summer Reading events or completing our ongoing scavenger hunt in the Children's Department.

Teens

Teens earn rewards from the Teen Prize Drawer for each badge they earn in BeanStack. Weekly drawings offer gift cards, and those who read 1,000 minutes qualify for the grand prize drawing—a Bluetooth-capable record player and a gift card to start a vinyl collection.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAM SO POPULAR?

It's interactive, rewarding, and fun! Families enjoy the events, the activities, and of course—the prizes. It's also a great way to spend time together discussing books and learning. And during the hottest part of the year, the library is a cool place—literally and figuratively!

HOW DOES THE LIBRARY STAFF WORK TOGETHER ON THIS PROGRAM?

This is truly a team effort. We love seeing our regular patrons and the new faces who visit just for the summer. Many of our longtime visitors bring children or grandchildren to Summer Reading events, a tradition that brings families together.

HOW DOES THE LIBRARY BENEFIT FROM THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM?

The program enhances community engagement, promotes literacy, and enables more people to appreciate the value of the library. It also creates a lasting impression that connects people to reading and their local library in meaningful ways.



PANTHER PRIDE



Pelham in the Park Celebrates Connections and Community

Hundreds of students and families gathered for this year's Pelham in the Park event—a celebration of connection, community, and support for students in Pelham City Schools' English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The event brought together families, educators, and local resources in a welcoming environment designed to build relationships and ensure that every student feels supported and valued. It was a wonderful opportunity to build connections, celebrate our diverse school community, and share the support available to help every student thrive.



Pelham City Schools Contributions Support Student Preparedness Initiatives

The Pelham City Schools Foundation recently awarded a generous \$3,000 donation to each school in the district to support impactful student initiatives. These funds will enhance programs such as Career and Technical Education student participation in state and national competitions, leadership development opportunities, innovative STEM projects, and a mental health initiative focused on student well-being. Pelham City Schools is grateful for the Foundation's continued investment in students and its commitment to preparing them for success.

Pelham Students Honored with Character in Action Awards

Pelham City Schools is proud to recognize four exceptional students who were recently honored at the Character in Action Awards ceremony held at American Village. One student from each Pelham school was selected for consistently demonstrating values such as respect, responsibility, citizenship, self-discipline, friendship, fairness, perseverance, and courage.

Congratulations to Forster Hamby (Pelham Oaks Elementary), Emmy Robinson (Pelham Ridge Elementary), Zachary Orr (Pelham Park Middle School), and Kyle O'Neil (Pelham High School) on this well-deserved recognition. These students are shining examples of what it means to lead with character and integrity.

Pelham Educators and Students Recognized at Chamber Awards Luncheon

Pelham City Schools was proud to have outstanding educators from each school represent the district at The Shelby County Chamber's annual Student & Educator of the Year Awards luncheon. Honorees included Trey Clark (Pelham Park Middle School), Savannah Fisher (Pelham Ridge Elementary), Katie Travis (Pelham High School), and Jackson Vaughan (Pelham Oaks Elementary).

Congratulations to Savannah Fisher, who was named Elementary Educator of the Year!

Two Pelham High School students were also selected to represent PCS:

- Edwin Hernandez, Career Pathway Student
- Camdyn Martin, Academic Leader Student

Camdyn Martin was honored as the Academic Standout Student of the Year, a testament to her leadership and academic excellence.





CTE SPOTLIGHT

Career and Technical Education Program
Shines at Pelham High School

BY: NICOLE KNIGHT

Pelham High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs continue to grow, offering students practical opportunities to apply their skills in real-world settings. While the highlights below showcase recent accomplishments in specific areas, PHS offers a wide range of CTE pathways that prepare students for future careers in fields such as business, health sciences, engineering, and more. From technology and media to culinary arts, students are earning recognition at both the state and national levels.

Technology Student Association (TSA)

The PHS Technology Student Association had an impressive showing at this year's statewide conference. Students earned top recognition in various categories, including biotechnology design, forensic science, coding, podcasting, technology problem solving, prepared presentations, and robotics challenges.

In total, 27 students qualified to advance to the TSA National Conference, which will take place this summer in Nashville. Their hard work, innovation, and collaboration reflect the strength of the school's technology education programs.

SkillsUSA and Alabama Scholastic Press Association (ASPA)

Broadcast and yearbook students at PHS also earned top honors through SkillsUSA and ASPA. At the ASPA State Convention in Tuscaloosa, students competed against some of the most accomplished high school media programs in Alabama. Pelham earned multiple first-place awards in categories such as broadcast news, sports reporting, podcasting, and yearbook design. Both the overall broadcast and yearbook programs received Superior ratings, reflecting the continued quality of Pelham's student media.

Several students also qualified for the state-level SkillsUSA competition after excelling in a highly competitive district round. At the state competition in Mobile, students Baker Franklin, MaKenzie Lewis, Macaelan Thompson, and Owen Bentrup placed third in the state for Video News Production.

FCCLA and Culinary Arts

Pelham High School's culinary arts team, comprised of members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), also earned major recognition this year. Under the guidance of Chef Alex Arceo, Chef Dawn Hazlewood, and Chef Emily Roy, students prepared for the Alabama ProStart Invitational by developing and executing a full competition menu—including an appetizer, entrée, and dessert—while mastering essential industry skills such as recipe costing, safety and sanitation, plating design, and teamwork.

At the state competition in Orange Beach, the PHS culinary team placed first, earning the opportunity to advance to the national ProStart Invitational in Baltimore, where they competed against top teams from across the country.

These recent accomplishments across CTE programs reflect the dedication and talent of Pelham High School students, along with the strong support and guidance of the educators who help them grow. CTE continues to be an important part of the student experience at Pelham High School, preparing students for success in a wide range of career pathways.



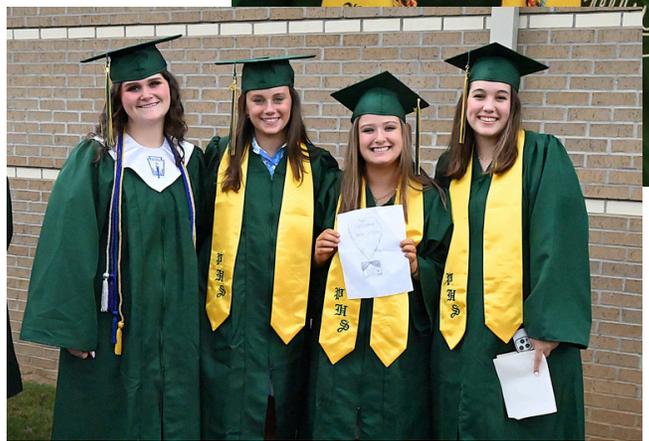


CONGRATS

CLASS

OF

2025





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US

PROUD





ACTIVITY GUIDE

JUNE 6 & JUNE 27
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Adult Red Ball Tennis

Whether you're brand new to the sport, looking to get back into the game, or want to enjoy a low-pressure evening with friends, Red Ball Tennis is for you. You don't need any prior experience; we'll provide all the equipment—only \$10. Food and snacks included. Sign up online & bring a friend!

JUNE 27
5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Junior Summer Nights

Parents, drop your kids off with us for a fun night at the racquet club. We'll play tennis, of course, but we'll also have board games, pizza, movies and other fun activities. The cost is \$20 per child. Open to ages 7 to 18.

JUNE 10 & JULY 8
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Youth Volleyball Clinics

Learn the fundamentals of both indoor and sand volleyball in this fun, fast-paced clinic led by Birmingham Beach Volleyball. Participants will split time between indoor and outdoor courts while building skills and confidence in both environments. Registration is required.

JUNE 13 & JULY 18
6:30 P.M. - FUN AND GAMES
8:00/8:15 P.M.- MOVIE

Movies Under the Stars

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and settle in for a movie under the stars on the giant inflatable screen at Pelham City Park. Come early to grab dinner from a food truck and enjoy a relaxed evening with family and friends. Admission is free.

JUNE 13

6:00 P.M.-GAME

7:00 P.M.-PIZZA & POPSICLES

Family Kickball Night

Gather the whole family for a fun-filled evening of friendly kickball competition at the Pelham Rec Center! Families will team up and face off against others in a lighthearted game, followed by pizza and popsicles for all participants. No experience is needed. Advance registration is required. Open to all ages. \$3 per family member.

JUNE 14

10:00 A.M.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Join the City of Pelham on Flag Day for a respectful and meaningful Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Pelham City Cemetery. The community is invited to bring worn or damaged American flags to retire with honor. Flags may be brought to the event or dropped off in advance at the Flag Retirement Box located at the Pelham Senior Center.

JUNE 21-23

Southern 12s L4

Pelham Racquet Club hosts the Southern 12s L4, a top USTA event for 12 & under players. This tournament offers rising juniors competitive match play and USTA ranking points. Come out and cheer on the next generation of tennis stars!



JULY 18

6:15 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Nerf Battle

Gear up for a Nerf battle at the Pelham Rec Center! Open to ages 8–12—bring your Nerf blaster and ammo (no gel pellets). Space is limited, and all children must be accompanied by a parent. Advance registration is required.

JULY 25

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Youth E-Sports Tournament Night

Join us every other month at the Pelham Rec Center for a fun, game-specific E-sports tournament! It's open to ages 8–13. Registration is required. The cost is \$3 per participant.

AUGUST 8

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Line Dance Social

Kick up your heels at the Pelham Senior Center! Enjoy a variety of favorite dances with walk-throughs before the music starts. Open to beginner, improver, and intermediate dancers. Light refreshments are provided. Ages 55+. \$5 per person. Space is limited.

AUGUST 9 - 11

6:15 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Alabama State Closed Jr.

Pelham Racquet Club hosts the Alabama State Closed Jr. Tournament, a premier USTA-sanctioned event for Alabama's top junior players. Open to in-state residents only, this tournament features singles and doubles across multiple age divisions, offering ranking points, competitive play, and a strong sense of community.



THIS SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

TUESDAYS THROUGH JULY 22
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

"The Artist's Way" Book Club

Reconnect with your inner artist in this 12-week guided journey through *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron. Led by local designer and creativity coach Brandy Lucas, each session offers supportive discussion, creative exercises, and inspiration for personal growth.

WEDNESDAYS
9:15 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. - 11:00
A.M.

Summer Storytime

Join Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Ashley for stories, songs, crafts, and snacks during this fun-filled preschool storytime at the Pelham Public Library. Storytime is part of the Color Our World Summer Reading Program.

THURSDAYS
6:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Summer PJ Storytime

Put on your favorite PJs and join Ms. Ashley for stories, crafts, and a snack at this cozy evening Storytime. Part of the Color Our World Summer Reading Program.

FRIDAYS
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Lego Brick Builders

Let your imagination soar with LEGO and block building in the Children's Department! Build solo or team up with friends to create something amazing. Part of the Color Our World Summer Reading Program.



Something awesome is happening every weekday at the library! From science to magic to art, there's something for everyone. Scan the QR code to see all the summer fun.





2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

AUGUST 26



Scan for a list of important dates
and other helpful information



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City of Pelham Summer Holidays

June 19 - Juneteenth

July 4 - Independence Day

September 1 - Labor Day

Some facilities may be closed or observe special hours.
Please follow our official social media accounts!