

# ALABAMA'S

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# HEALTH

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## Agencies cooperate to help protect against West Nile Virus in Alabama

**T**he Alabama Department of Public Health and local health officials are cooperating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and two dozen partners in Alabama to monitor for the potential invasion of West Nile Virus. Its first appearance in the United States was 1999 in New York City, where seven people died of viral encephalitis and dozens more were sickened.

"By last summer, West Nile Virus was detected in North Carolina, and it is reasonable to assume that it will enter Alabama during the next year," said Dr. Bill Johnston, state public health veterinarian. Migratory birds are suspected carriers and in the coming years, WNV is expected to spread rapidly across the United States, noted Johnston.

"WNV is unique to encephalitis viruses," Johnston said, "because it will kill many of the birds infected - especially crows and jays." Public health officials, along with extension, conservation, wildlife, university and agriculture cooperators, are focusing on testing dead birds and mosquitoes to determine if the virus is active in an area.

County health department environmental offices and county extension offices across Alabama are prepared to ship dead birds to laboratories to test for WNV and other encephalitis-causing viruses.

"We need the public's help in reporting dead crows and jays and getting them to the county agent or county health department so that we can detect the virus if it's present in the state," explained Ashley Rossi, wildlife biologist with USDA's Wildlife Services, who is coordinating the statewide surveillance program. Health officials caution residents to wear rubber gloves or insert their hand into a plastic bag when picking up dead birds.

The virus, which is transmitted to birds and to humans and other mammals like horses by mosquitoes, does not always cause illness. "In fact, for every person who becomes clinically ill, there are between 150 and 200 people infected that experience no symptoms," added Ms. Rossi.

The majority of people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will feel nothing, even if the virus is transmitted to them. Others may experience flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache and body aches, sometimes with skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Severe infections are marked by a variety of symptoms, including high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation and/or stupor, coma, tremors and convulsions, paralysis and rarely, death.

Mosquitoes will also be trapped by entomologists and tested for arboviruses each week at over 50 sites throughout Alabama. "We anticipate testing over 1,000 birds this year, and coupled with the efforts to monitor mosquitoes, if WNV enters Alabama, we will know it," Ms. Rossi declared.

Preventing infection by WNV is the same as other mosquito-borne diseases: Since mosquitoes must have standing water to breed, simply eliminate mosquito breeding sites and also reduce exposures to mosquito bites.

### Tips to reduce mosquito exposures

The state health department and CDC make these recommendations to reduce mosquito exposures:

- Empty all water from cans, jars, buckets, bottles and other unused containers
- Turn wheelbarrows, tubs, wading pools and boats upside

*Virus.....continued on page 2*

# Virus.....continued from page 1

- down or store them under cover
- Recycle or dispose of unused tires properly to prevent water from collecting in them
- Clean clogged roof gutters and repair leaky pipes and outside faucets so that water does not collect
- Change the water in bird baths, pet watering dishes, and flower pot/plant saucers twice weekly
- Fill tree holes with sand or mortar so that water does not collect in them
- Keep weeds, vines and grass trimmed, since mosquitoes use those shady areas as resting places
- Limit outside activities during the late evening, night time, and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most active
- Be sure that screens on doors and windows are in good repair so that mosquitoes can not enter
- Use mosquito repellents if you must be outside. Repellents containing the compound DEET are most effective; however, repellents with high concentrations of DEET (over 10 percent) should not be used on children. Follow label instructions carefully when using any insect repellent.
- Loose-fitting, light-colored long sleeves and long pants can afford added protection from mosquito bites
- Avoid aromatic cosmetics and dark clothing, which may help attract unwanted insects



Michelle Perdue, Auburn University entomologist, is shown setting a mosquito trap in order to collect mosquitoes to test for encephalitis viruses.

## Ralph W. Roberts

Former State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Ralph Winfred Roberts, age 90, died May 18 in Montgomery. Mr. Roberts served the department from Sept. 1, 1942, until his retirement Dec. 18, 1971.

### Alabama Department of Public Health

#### Mission

To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

#### Value Statement

The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public's health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring quality services.

# ALABAMA'S HEALTH

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Informational materials in alternative formats will be made available upon request..

# Partners work to increase awareness of arthritis in Alabama

**A**rthritis is not a single disease that affects all individuals in the same manner, but it includes more than 100 diseases and conditions. Arthritis affects an estimated 740,000 Alabamians and costs about \$1.04 billion annually to treat. Persons aged 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of Alabama's population. With the aging of baby boomers, the impact of arthritis is expected to increase dramatically by the year 2020.

In Alabama, the arthritis problem is magnified by a high level of obesity and lack of leisure-time physical activity. The state also has a limited number of rehabilitation facilities and properly trained professionals in arthritis treatment, care, education and rehabilitation programs.

To address these issues, a statewide coalition dedicated to decreasing the burden of arthritis has been established and has held several meetings. The coalition has formulated a comprehensive arthritis control plan. This plan addresses persons with arthritis, family members and friends, and the health providers who provide arthritis-related services with an emphasis on rural and underserved populations.

Alabama's state plan focuses on treatment, mass communication, professional education, patient/family education, and surveillance/epidemiology and evaluation.

"These goals are concentrating on defining the burden of arthritis in the state by determining what existing databases are available relating to arthritis and the Alabama Arthritis Control Program is working to make arthritis data widely available to the public, health care professionals and the research community," explained Linda Austin, Arthritis Prevention Branch director.

"This plan is intended to help a wide spectrum of health professionals conduct arthritis awareness education and to make resources available to the public. The plan

focuses on access and information on therapeutic options to both patient and health care provider."

In order to provide increased awareness about arthritis and self management in a rural, low income, low literate and medically underserved area of Alabama, a community intervention project has been established in East Wilcox County and Camden. This is especially needed in this locale because of the limited availability of rehabilitation hospitals and rheumatologists in the western portion of the state.

Based on the outstanding activities of Alabama's arthritis program, Ms. Austin has been chosen chair elect of the Arthritis Council of the Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Directors. In this position, she will share Alabama's experiences with other arthritis programs in the country and help recommend to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention steps to improve the national Arthritis Action Program.

Ms. Austin said, "Arthritis has become one of our most pressing public health problems. By 2020 it is projected that 60 million persons may be affected by arthritis and that the activities of 11.6 million persons may be limited by the disease. Our goal is to improve this situation."

The Arthritis Prevention Branch has coordinated the efforts of those committed to reducing the burden of arthritis in Alabama. Cooperative partnerships have been established among the department, Alabama Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

For more information and to read the Alabama Arthritis State Plan, check the Alabama Department of Public Health website at [www.alapubhealth.org](http://www.alapubhealth.org). It is listed on the opening page as Alabama Arthritis Control Plan.

## ATSDR honors Cheryl Browder

**T**he Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recently presented a certificate of recognition to Cheryl Browder, health educator with the Division of Epidemiology.

The certificate was presented for her "significant contributions to public health through the 6078 Cooperative Agreement program by continuing the

health assessment, health studies, and health education program through additional roles and responsibilities."

She was cited especially for her work at the Solutia, American Brass and Capital City Plume sites in Alabama from October 1999 through December 2000.

## Nurse goes the extra mile

**C**arolyn Harvey, R.N., of the Division of Health Care Facilities, Bureau of Health Provider Services, was recognized for her assistance to the Easter Seals Central Alabama Rehabilitation Center. The center recently established a nurse aide training program with the assistance of the division.

In a letter of commendation, instructor Leslie Leonard Norred commented about Ms. Harvey's professional assistance, "On numerous occasions I

called her for answers, advice and clarification as I toiled with the curriculum and sought compliance for the directives. Her patience was exemplary, as was her commitment in assisting me with each step of the process. Ms. Harvey is an asset to your staff and its service to the public."

Elva O. Goldman, director of the Division of Health Care Facilities, said, "We value Carolyn's hard work and dedication to the division and like to hear positive responses from providers and the public alike."

## County health department observances draw attention to public health

**L**ocal health departments succeeded in promoting Public Health Week 2001 and in helping focus public attention on the contributions public health makes to our communities. At least 20 health departments sponsored activities during the week of April 2-8. Mobile County conducted numerous creative activities promoting public health during the entire month of April.

In towns and cities throughout the state, employees hung banners, sponsored blood drives, participated in health fairs, issued special invitations to elected officials, contacted the news media, accompanied crews on television news tapings, appeared on television and radio talk shows, provided local radio public service announcements, arranged for billboards, prepared displays, distributed flyers and participated in proclamation signings. This was also a time for some counties to recognize their employees.

The *Dothan Eagle* ran a series of articles each day of the week designed to educate the public about the wide range of services provided by the Houston County Health Department. Dr. Carole Samuelson, Jefferson County

health officer, delivered her annual report on the county's health. At that event State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson also discussed challenges facing public health. The Covington County Health Department described its many services to the *Andalusia Star News*.

An atmosphere of fun pervaded the Monroe County Health Department's open house. Two newspapers and one radio station covered the event in which booths were set up for family planning, hypertension and immunization. The dental health coordinator was costumed as a tooth, and the tobacco prevention coordinator performed puppet skits. "There's no place like home," was the theme of the home health promotion. Employees dressed like the characters in the Wizard of Oz and they were pictured in the *Monroe Journal*.

Letters to the editor were published and editorials praised public health, such as the Cullman County Health Department which was called "an asset to this community and deserving of recognition."

Alabama has one of the most active celebrations of Public Health Week in the nation.

## Retirees

**T**wo employees have retired effective June 1:

*Carol Parrish* - Health Care Facilities

*Alesha Steen* - Cleburne County Health Department

## Parents have misconceived notions about state laws and child safety

**N**ine out of ten parents believe that if they adhere to their state’s child passenger laws, they will be taking adequate steps to protect their children, according to a new survey by DaimlerChrysler Corp. However, no state law currently meets the standards universally recommended by safety experts.

The survey found that 96 percent of caregivers do not know the correct age at which a child no longer requires a child safety seat or booster seat. Ninety-three percent of parents say they are comfortable that they are using their child seats correctly. However, fewer than 20 percent of seats are usually correctly installed.

The survey also found that:

- \* 46 percent are unaware of the recommendation by national safety officials that parents should have child safety seats inspected to make sure they are properly installed and used
- \* 23 percent report they have actually had a professional child safety seat inspection
- \* 11 percent do not believe their state laws provides adequate protection

### Some states working toward improvement

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign recently released a report measuring child restraint laws in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Only California received an “A,” but many states have since taken steps to improve their child occupant protection laws (*H & V/SR*, Feb. 26, 2001).

California and Washington recently passed new laws requiring children to be in booster seats up to age 6 or 60 pounds. Arkansas, Georgia and New Mexico have also taken steps to improve their laws, according to SAFE KIDS. Georgia’s new law will require children age 4 and under to be restrained in an appropriate child safety seat. Among other provisions, New Mexico’s law will require all passengers age 17 and under to be restrained regardless of seating position. The Arkansas law will mandate that child passengers under age 15 be restrained in some manner regardless of seating position.

“Our success in Arkansas will hopefully inspire other state legislators to critically examine their child passenger safety laws and make improvements that will save children’s lives,” said Virginia Lancaster, Arkansas SAFE KIDS Coalition coordinator.

In contrast, some states, such as Ohio and New York, allow children as young as 3 to ride completely unrestrained in the back seat or to ride using safety belts rather than safety seats. Safety belts do not fit most children under age 8 and can actually cause serious injury to small children in a crash.

DaimlerChrysler’s survey was conducted through its *Fit for a Kid* free safety seat inspection service with assistance from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, visit the website [www.fitforakid.com](http://www.fitforakid.com).

### Many misuse booster seats

More than half of all booster seats are used incorrectly, according to researchers at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Shield booster seats are more than three times as likely to be misused as are belt-positioning booster seats.

Overall, 56 percent of the booster seats evaluated at car seat checkpoints demonstrated at least one form of misuse. Sixty-four percent of children using booster seats weigh less than 40 pounds, yet guidelines from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration call for children to remain in forward-facing car seats up to this weight.

Belt-positioning booster seats, which are the recommended variety, can only be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt. “Safety advocates recommend that families with older model cars equipped with lap-only seat belts have their car retrofitted with shoulder belts,” said Shannon Morris, the study’s leading author and project coordinator for the Partners for Child Passenger Safety Study at the hospital. “This would permit use of the safer, belt-positioning booster seats for children who have outgrown their convertible child safety seat.”

The most common misuses in shield booster seats were not using a locking clip correctly or at all when needed (78 percent) *Safety seats.....continued on page 6*

and not tightly securing the shield booster seat to the vehicle (73 percent).

Belt-positioning booster seats are less likely to be misused because of their simplicity, the study noted. The most common misuse of these seats (14 percent) involved incorrect placement of the shoulder belt across the child's body.

The study was based on a sample of 227 parents who attended car seat checkpoints in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey between April 1997 and January 1999.

## Testimonials urge better booster seat use

On April 24, several safety advocates testified about child safety seats at the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs.

Judith Lee Stone, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, presented the following recommendations:

- \* All states should adopt booster seat laws.
- \* NHTSA should expand its child restraint standard to children who weigh up to 80 pounds.
- \* NHTSA should establish minimum requirements for booster seat performance/structural integrity.
- \* NHTSA should develop a child test dummy representative of a 10-year-old to test booster seats.
- \* NHTSA should upgrade the seat back strength standard to protect against injuries from front seats collapsing onto children in the rear seat.
- \* NHTSA and auto manufacturers should make built-in booster seats standard equipment on some models.
- \* Auto manufacturers should enhance safety for children in the rear seat.

According to L. Robert Shelton, NHTSA executive director, the agency is taking action to improve booster seat usage. For example, under the Transportation Recall Enhancement,

Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, NHTSA is considering whether to amend the standard to cover child restraints for children up to 80 pounds.

NHTSA is working with the Society of Automotive Engineers to build a 10-year-old child dummy. The agency is conducting a study on the use and effectiveness of booster seats.

In addition, NHTSA conducts compliance tests to ensure that standards are met and in 1998 sponsored a Blue Ribbon Panel of experts to recommend better ways to protect child passengers aged 4-6.

National Transportation Safety Board acting director Elaine Weinstein also testified at the hearing. "The safety board believes that children of all ages need to be properly restrained and should be covered by the states' child restraint and seat belt use laws," she said, noting that only three states (Washington, California and Arkansas) have enacted some form of booster seat law.

Weinstein testified that the back seat of vehicles should be designed with children in mind. She also noted that the board is concerned that adequate, affordable protection is not readily available for children transported in vehicles with lap-only belts in the back seat.

### Injury News

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 and Community Affairs

## Dallas County residents receive dental screenings

Free dental screening clinics were made available to children and adults in Selma during the week of April 30-May 4. This outreach effort was accomplished through cooperation among the Alabama National Guard, the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry, the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Dallas County Health Department. A total of 650 persons received the dental screenings.

Based on local screening results, income-based referrals for treatment were made to Lister Hill Clinic and Primary Care Clinic in Montgomery.

The Dental Health Fair was held in the tents behind the community center at GWC Homes, and personnel were on site to enroll county residents in ALL Kids Health Insurance Program for Children. ALL Kids covers dental services.

Ashvin Parikh, administrator for the Dallas County Health Department, said, "We do not normally have the chance to have free dental screenings in Selma. But the National Guard and UAB were good enough to come. I would also like to thank Dr. Williamson for his support."

Participating were Lt. Col. Pal Givens and other personnel, Alabama National Guard; Dr. John B. Thornton, UAB School of Dentistry; Dr. James H. Carter, Superintendent, Selma City Schools; Cheryl Ollinger, school health nurse; Robert Carter, Principal, East End School; Dixie Guice, Clarke School; Johnny Moss, Shirley Harrison and staff, Selma Housing Authority.

Among the many agency employees who participated were Knoxye Williams, Office of Children's Health

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# Radiation Control employees receive national recognition

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., has recognized three radiation physicists with the Office of Radiation Control for their outstanding achievements in the field of radiation protection.

This conference coordinates the drafting of rules that affect radiation control in the states. The mission of the conference is “to promote consistency in addressing and resolving radiation protection issues, to encourage high standards of quality in radiation protection programs, and to provide leadership in radiation safety and education.”

**Jim McNees** was honored for serving as conference treasurer for the past three years, overseeing a budget of \$1.3 million in federal grant funds from the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David Walter** was presented the James W. Miller Award for his outstanding leadership in the development of suggested state regulations in the area of nuclear

medicine. The Miller Award is presented annually to a single individual who has made a significant contribution in a specific area of radiological health. He is chairperson of the CRCPD Working Group charged with the development of these regulations.

According to his certificate of merit, “Although the development of suggested state regulations in this area always comes with considerable controversy, and is often very frustrating, Mr. Walter persisted through this controversy and guided the SR-6 Working Group (Use of Radionuclides in the Healing Arts) in the development of suggested state regulations that are parallel to federal nuclear medicine regulations. These suggested state regulations are extremely valuable to state radiological health programs for the uniform development of nuclear medicine requirements nationwide.

“In addition to the development of the nuclear

*Radiation.....continued on page 8*



Pictured are David Turberville, Jim McNees and David Walter.

# Dallas.....continued from page 6

insurance; Ruth Underwood, area administrator for Public Health Areas 7 and 9; Jeanne Sewell, area nursing director; Debbie Thomasson, director of Public Health Nursing; Jessica Hardy, assistant nursing director; Sherry Goode, Oral Health, Bureau of Family Health Services; Linda Walker, area social work director; Debbie Jones, area clerical director; Denise Pope, area nutrition director; Fran Childers, nursing supervisor; and the staff of Dallas County Health Department.



Children and adults participated in dental screenings under the tents in Dallas County. Shown at left is Ashvin Parikh, assistant area administrator.

## Radiation.....continued from page 7

medicine suggested state regulations, Mr. Walter provided the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with comments that resulted in significant improvement in its nuclear medicine regulations.”

**David Turberville** received two awards. He was recognized with the Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection for his outstanding leadership of the CRCPD Suggested State Regulations for Control of Radiation SR-7 working group. This working group addresses radiation safety requirements for industrial radiographic operations and wireline services.

His certificate of merit stated that as chairman, “Mr. Turberville is especially recognized for his unique approach of accomplishing his charges using modern technology, and for his focus on timeliness in producing a product. His use of an on-line computer/telephone approach in accomplishing the working groups tasks, in lieu of a face-to-face meeting, has set a new standard for efficiency and effectiveness.”

The board also recognized Turberville with the Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection for serving as an advisor of the Committee on Resource Recovery and Radioactivity. This group made recommendations on Department of Transportation exemptions regarding the discovery of unwanted radioactive material while in shipment.

This conference is composed of radiological health professionals from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico and representatives of several federal agencies. This national organization was founded in Montgomery in 1968.

## Overcoming health disparities – one woman’s personal objective

**T**his past March, the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease within the Alabama Department of Public Health announced the release of new health objectives concerning Alabamians in a document titled: *Healthy Alabama 2010*. This document stirred up a lot of interest from the media, organizations and private citizens. It also got my attention. One phrase in particular contained within the document struck a nerve in me. That phrase is health disparity.

*What does health disparity mean anyway? A disparity*

## Health walk for state employees encourages physical activity

**A**pproximately 800 state employees gathered on May 16, 2001, one hot Friday afternoon to participate in the National Employees Health and Fitness Day.

Participants gathered on Washington Street to walk, run or jog around the state’s Capitol for their health, fitness and enjoyment.

Gov. Don Siegelman commended state employees for participating in the event, and he emphasized the importance of health and fitness.

All employees at the fitness walk were awarded a ribbon and refreshments were served at the finish line.

Nurses also were on hand from the HealthWatch Program to give blood pressure and osteoporosis screenings. Employees also received a relaxing 5-minute massage from the Montgomery School of Massage. Prize drawings were given out at the end of the event.

The walk was presented by the Worksite Wellness Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Governor’s Commission on Physical Fitness in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Education, Blue Ridge Mountain Water, Coca-Cola Company and the Montgomery School of Massage.

*By Geraldine Rose Daniels*

is something that is different, unequal or something that has a gap. For instance, if you make \$20,000 a year and I make \$10,000 a year, there is a disparity or difference in our income because you make more than I do. Disparities can exist in all areas of life such as finance, education, race, socioeconomic status and yes, health!

*You might be tempted to ask why I care about a health disparity? Well, while editing this document for the bureau, I realized that there was something in it about me, Health disparities.....continued on page 9*



# Health disparities.....continued from page 9

my family, some friends, and other people I know. I was one of the health disparities discussed within the borders of this 20-page report.

The report itself contains about 47 measurable objectives representative of the health needs of Alabamians. The purpose of the objectives is to provide information that can be used to increase the life expectancy and quality of life for Alabamians. *What does all this have to do with me, and maybe you?*

Well, health objective 1.3 is talking about me and a lot of other people in Alabama who are overweight. This objective aims to reduce to 20 percent or less the prevalence of being overweight (defined as a body mass index at or above 27.8 for men and 27.3 for women) among adults 18 and older.

*So, there it is!* The report wasn't telling me anything new about being overweight. I have been working diligently since December 1998 to overcome this problem. Sometimes, I falter and get off track but the goal is to keep on track. I've come a long way, but there is still much work and more pounds to lose. I won't lose the weight overnight. The pounds weren't gained overnight. They

were packed on my body, year by year, inch by inch. To help motivate me to lose the weight, I've used spiritual guidance, good nutrition, friends, co-workers, aerobic breathing, exercise, and the save-all phrase: "It's harder by the yard, but it's a cinch by the inch."

Now, the fact that one of my missions in life is to lose pounds and then maintain my goal weight doesn't mean that you won't see me eating a honey bun or candy bar sometime. But, it does mean that I am reducing bad habits and creating healthy habits that I can continue for a lifetime, not just one day. Wellness programs call this a lifestyle change. It's harder to do than just going on a diet which by the way means the foods you eat, not just eating a certain way for a while to lose weight.

Now, I have another life objective which is to help reduce the health disparity for overweight individuals in Alabama, to one less person, me! *Let's all work to reduce health disparities. Will you help me help Alabama become a healthier and thinner state?*

**We can do it together!**

*By Geraldine Rose Daniels*

## Youth posters, essays promote seat belt usage

**T**he Alabama Department of Public Health announces the winners in its Buckle-Up, Alabama! Traffic Safety Poster Contest and Essay Contest for 2001, events designed to promote consistent seat belt usage.

Winning posters will be published in an activity book distributed as a complement to Buckle-Up America Week, which is observed nationally in May. The poster contest consists of two levels. Each school held its own contest, selecting first place winners for each grade level from kindergarten through grade six. Then winning posters were sent to the state level for judging.

The essay contest is designed to promote consistent seat belt usage among middle and high school students. Each school held its own contest, selecting first place winners for each grade level from seventh through ninth grades. Then the winning essays were judged at the state level.

First and second place state-level winners were selected in both contests, with first place winners receiving

\$100 U.S. Government Savings Bonds and second place winners receiving \$50 bonds. Students receiving honorable mentions had their posters included in the activity book.

Awards are provided by several businesses and organizations committed to the safety of Alabama's children. These include the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, ALFA Insurance and Winn Dixie Supermarkets. The Alabama Department of Transportation, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama SAFE KIDS Coalition are also sponsors of the contest.

Students recognized in the poster competition are as follows:

### **Kindergarten**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| First:  | Knox, Mars Hill Bible School, Florence, Ala.            |
| Second: | Shakirah Muhammad, ABC Elementary School, Alberta, Ala. |

*Youth posters.....continued on page 10*

# Youth posters.....continued from page 9

## First Grade

- First: Randy Lee Smith, Fairview Elementary School, Cullman, Ala.
- Second: Bethany Bittinger, Daphne Elementary School, Daphne, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Jalen Kendrick, Glen Oaks Elementary School, Fairfield, Ala.  
Ansley King, Guntersville Elementary School, Guntersville, Ala.

## Second Grade

- First: Jenna Locklear, Barkley Bridge School, Hartselle, Ala.
- Second: Morgan Roberts, Fairview Elementary School, Cullman, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Cheney Williams, Guntersville Elementary School, Guntersville, Ala.  
Joseph Watters, Meadowview Elementary School, Selma, Ala.  
Jartavius Smith, Union Springs Elementary School, Union Springs, Ala.

## Third Grade

- First: Melvin Craig, Edgewood Elementary School, Selma, Ala.
- Second: Morgan Murphy, McBride Elementary School, Muscle Shoals, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Justin Bell, Glen Oaks Elementary School, Fairfield, Ala.  
Andrew Land, McCord Elementary School, Albertville, Ala.

## Fourth Grade

- First: Cody Woodall, Fairview Elementary School, Cullman, Ala.
- Second: Alex Yu, Mars Hill Bible School, Florence, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Dana Palombo, St. Bede School, Montgomery, Ala.  
Jessica Allen, Vernon Elementary School, Vernon, Ala.

Mary Margaret Philen, Marengo Academy, Linden, Ala.

## Fifth Grade

- First: Janet Plunkett, Fairview Elementary School, Cullman, Ala.
- Second: Emily Ford, Horizon Elementary School, Madison, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Ashley Tolbert, Merritt Elementary School, Midway, Ala.  
David Harris, Memorial Park Elementary School, Jasper, Ala.  
Fran Newsom, Madison County Elementary School, Huntsville, Ala.

## Sixth Grade

- First: Sydney Broadaway, Marengo Academy, Linden, Ala.
- Second: Sara Ortiz, Alabama Christian Academy, Montgomery, Ala.
- Honorable Mention:* Keiandra Turner, Merritt Elementary School, Midway, Ala.  
Alex Glass, Patrician Academy, Butler, Ala.  
Constance Brown, Monroe Academy, Monroeville, Ala.

Winners in the 2001 essay competition are as follows:

## Seventh Grade

- First: Ben Aslin, Montevallo Middle School, Montevallo, Ala.
- Second: Jessica Redmill, Bagley Jr. High School, Dora, Ala.

## Eighth Grade

- First: Jeanne Cosgrove, Geneva County High School, Hartford, Ala.
- Second: Desmond Hurt, Whitesburg Middle School, Huntsville, Ala.

## Ninth Grade

- First: Keith Gill, Geneva County High School, Hartford, Ala.

*Youth posters.....continued on page 11*

# Youth posters.....continued from page 10

Second: Dustin Herring, Geneva County High School, Hartford, Ala.

These activities are conducted in coordination with the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. For information about seat belt safety, please contact Lynn B. Williams, Injury Prevention Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, The RSA Tower, Suite 983, P. O. Box 303017, Montgomery, Ala. 36130-3017, telephone (334) 206-5539 or 1-800-252-1818, e-mail lwilliams@adph.state.al.us.

## Calendar of Events

**June 7** Alabama's Best Practices Conference, Scrushy Center, Birmingham. For more information contact Bonnie Perry, (334) 444-3111.



**June 13** Living with the Pain of Arthritis, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



**June 14** ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting, 3-4 p.m. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



**June 26** PHALCON Update, 3-4:30 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Patterson, (334) 206-5310.



**July 11** TB Update, Public Health Staff Development with UAB, 2-4 pm. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



**July 13** LIFEPLAN 2001, 12 noon-1 p.m. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



**July 17** South Central Public Health Leadership Institute. For more information contact Becky Hall, (504) 588-5398.

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**July 25** Social and Emotional Aspects of Illness, Home Health Aide Continuing Education. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 247-2664, extension 402.



**August 15** Colon Cancer, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



**August 24** LIFEPLAN 2001, 12 noon-1 p.m. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



**September 6** Alabama Department of Public Health Staff Meeting, 3-4 p.m. For more information contact Jim McVay, Dr.P.A., (334) 206-5600.



**September 11** Enhancing Partnerships Between State Health and State Education Departments, 12 noon-3 p.m. For more information contact Jack Hataway, M.D., (334) 206-5616.



**September 12** Hypertension and Stroke, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.



**September 19** Flu and Pneumonia, Home Health Aide Continuing Education, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Brenda Elliott, (334) 347-2664, extension 402.



**October 3** Alabama AIDS Symposium, 10-11:30 a.m., HIV/AIDS Update: AIDS Resistance Testing - Dr. Philip Kaiser; Neuropsychiatric Complications in HIV Disease-Dr. Sanjay Sharma. For more information contact Brenda Cummings, (334) 206-5364.



**October 4-5** 14th Annual Alabama AIDS Symposium, Civic Center, Montgomery. For more information contact Brenda Cummings, (334) 206-5364, or Tony Thompson, (334) 272-6666.



**October 5** Alabama AIDS Symposium, New Horizons-New Challenges: HIV/AIDS Community Planning Course, High School Educational Program, Jacksonville, Ala., 10-11:30 a.m. For more information contact Brenda Cummings, (334) 206-5364.



**October 10** Breast Cancer, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Fay Smith, (334) 206-5655.