

ALABAMA'S

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Healthy Child Care Alabama strives to obtain successful outcomes for those caring for children

Healthy Child Care Alabama is a program developed to support people who take care of other people's children-whether it is a day care center, a home or if it is grandmother, aunt, uncle or friend who provides the care.

Healthy Child Care Alabama is a collaborative effort between the department and the Department of Human Resources. DHR funds it as a quality enhancement program. Eight nurse consultants who are registered nurses serve 40 counties by providing developmental, health and safety classes, coordinating community services for special needs children, identifying community resources to promote child health and safety and encouraging routine visits for children to their health care providers.

Sharis LeMay of the Women's and Children's Health Division of the Bureau of Family Health Services has coordinated the program for the past 10 months. Healthy Child Care Alabama was piloted with a program in Demopolis in 1996 and the program has grown gradually. During the past four years it has been very active in supporting children's caretakers.

Healthy Child Care Alabama was developed to accomplish the following goals:

- Promote health and safety, to prevent injuries, and the risk of illness in child care settings
- Encourage routine visits to the health care provider
- Encourage practices to promote greater brain development and good nutrition for good health and development
- Coordinate community services to make sure children have the medical care they need.

The program does many things including:

- Provides the services of a Nurse Health consultant to make visits to child care centers, homes and relative care providers or telephone consultation in targeted Alabama counties
- Provides on-site consultation and assessment of the health and safety risks in the child care setting when requested
- Assists in linking children, families and child care providers with community health resources and promotes preventive health and regular visits to primary health care provider
- Contributes to the professional development of child care providers through staff training and coordination of training with the Child Care Management Agency (such as CPR/First Aid and Child Care Curriculum)
- Provides parents, child care providers and community members with health and safety information and training such as playground safety, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, infection control and the prevention of the spread of illness in the child care environment or topics as requested
- Assists child care providers with the integration of children with special health care needs into the normal child care environment
- Provides information and support to child care providers and families in recognizing children with developmental delays and assists with referrals to Child Find or other community health services
- Advocacy to promote quality child care in the community

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Department employees receive ALPHA honors

The Alabama Public Health Association recently recognized persons from across the state who demonstrated exceptional merit during the past year in the field of public health. The following individuals were presented awards recently at the association's Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference at the Mobile Convention Center.

Linda Walker of Spanish Fort, retired health department employee, was selected as the recipient of the Virginia Kendrick Award. This prestigious award goes to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in public health.

Nominators said Ms. Walker has a long history of serving others and has provided sterling leadership and direction to the department as well as to the general community of Alabama. "This individual has a keen sense of vision who establishes lofty goals and objectives, keeps raising questions, thinking and reviewing to check and balance the innovative ideas and options to meet the new challenges constantly. This unique individual is a positive force who has contributed much to Alabama's search for health care coverage for all its citizens."

Ms. Walker represented public health on the Baldwin County Children Policy Council, helped organize the National Guard's Care Project in Area VII, and was an

organizer and supporter of the Bay Minette Free clinic and the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy project.

She further was described as "a great believer and supporter of a person's dignity and human worth" who "has truly given her 100 percent support to every effort in which she has participated."

The Guy M. Tate Award was presented to **Brenda Anderson** of Montgomery, staff accountant with the Office of Financial Services of the Alabama Department of Public Health. This award is presented annually to a public health employee, group or agency with 10 years or less service for contributions to public health beyond the job assignment which promote and protect public health in Alabama.

Nominators described Ms. Anderson as a person who always puts others first, does her best to accommodate people, and does her utmost for the programs she serves without seeking praise for herself. Her supporters described her as "patient, dedicated, has a strong work ethic."

Anita D. Lewis of Eutaw was presented the prestigious Frederick S. Wolf Award, which is given to an individual active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years. Ms. Lewis has been employed for more than 25 years with public health. She is described as "a good

ALPHA honors.....continued on page 3

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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<<http://www.adph.org>>

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

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listener, problem-solver and a truly caring person.” Ms. Lewis serves on the Advisory Board of the Greene County Boys and Girls Club, teaches Sunday School to children ages 3-6 years and works on several community projects. She is area clerical director for Public Health Area 3.

Jeanne Sewell of Monroeville, nursing director for Public Health Area 9, was presented the D.G. Gill Award. This award is given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama which is statewide in scope.

Supporters described her as “a visionary, enthusiastic and tireless.” She “never gives up” and is constantly seeking support to improve her community for women, children and others. She has also accepted leadership roles with the Alabama Board of Nursing and served as the 2002 ALPHA president. Ms. Sewell has been a public health nurse since 1983 at the county and area levels.

Debbie Thomasson of Montgomery, director of the Nursing Unit in the Office of Professional and support Services, of Montgomery, was honored with the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence. The Myers Award was established in 1986 to recognize an individual, group or organization that, through excellence in their work, has made a significant impact upon some aspect of public health in Alabama.

Ms. Thomasson was described as “diligent and



ALPHA award winners shown (left to right) are Jeanne Sewell, Brenda Anderson, Debbie Thomasson, Linda Walker and Anita Lewis.

courageous” and one who has performed an excellent job in planning and implementing the clinical aspects of the smallpox vaccination program. Her nominators said she “did an outstanding job of educating the ADPH nurses

about the disease and the contraindications to the vaccination, developing clinic logistics and flow plans.” She takes on challenges with enthusiasm and commitment to ensure nurses “could get the job done safely and correctly.” Letters further stated, “This individual’s heart is dedicated to strengthening the public health nursing role for the constituents of Alabama and she sets the highest caliber of nursing practice for herself and for others to follow.”

It was also announced that **Ricky Lee Elliott** of Bradley is the recipient of the Ira L. Myers Scholarship to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is a community health developer and part-time public health environmentalist with the Escambia County Health Department who has more than 10 years’ public health experience. A graduate of the University of South Alabama in biology and earth science, he is pursuing a master’s degree in public health.



Myers Scholarship recipient Ricky Lee Elliott is shown with Jeanne Sewell.

Healthy Child Care.....continued from page 1

Ms. LeMay welcomed other professionals who have messages to deliver to the parents of children up to age 5 to contact her and other Healthy Child Care Alabama staff. “For example, if a new program needs to focus in on our age group we can help communicate their message to this audience.”

For more information about Healthy Child Care Alabama contact Sharis LeMay at 334-206-2965, e-mail at slemay@adph.state.al.us.

Anne M. Smith Award winners named

Two outstanding public health nurses have been presented the Anne M. Smith Award for Excellence in Public Health Nursing from the Alabama Department of Public Health. The award goes to nurses in the state who epitomize public health nursing at its finest, provide direct care, and have been employed with the Health Department for a minimum of five years.

The awards were presented by Debbie Thomasson, director of the Nursing Unit in the Office of Professional and Support Services April 24 at the Alabama Public Health Association meeting at the Mobile Convention Center.

Pam Williams, R.N., nurse coordinator of the Crenshaw County Health Department, was selected winner in the clinic category and Sandra Harris, home health supervisor in Marion County, was named the winner in the home care category.

Ms. Williams was first employed in 1992 as a nurse with the Barbour County Health Department, served as family planning/maternity coordinator in Henry County and was promoted to supervisor in Crenshaw County in 1995.

Her nominators stated, "Pam is a well-rounded public health nurse who is caring and enthusiastic about her clients, her community and the Public Health Department. She is well respected in her county and is an excellent representative for public health nursing. She goes above and beyond in the care of her clients and community." Nominators commented that Ms. Williams "must wear many hats on a daily basis" by providing all clinic services such as WIC, family planning, immunizations as well as staying abreast of administrative duties and ever-changing clinic protocols.

"When I think of nurses who epitomize public health nursing by caring for not just individuals, families, but also entire communities, I think of Pam. Remember the 'old days' when there was usually one nurse in a county who was seen as 'the county nurse'? In Crenshaw County there really still is a 'county nurse.'"

Another wrote, "Pam has an easy-going manner and



Pam Williams, R.N., receives the Anne M. Smith award for Excellence in the clinic category from AlPHA President Jim McVay, Dr.P.A. Sandra Harris, R.N., was the home health award recipient.

works well with her fellow employees and is genuinely concerned about 'her' clients."

One supporter said, "To me, Pam is the true picture of a public health nurse. She is caring and concerned for all of her patients. She is available for them by phone or office visit." She always has goodies whether it be a pencil, toothbrush or just a sticker for the children so that their experience at the health department is as pleasant as can be."

Another stated, "Pam is active in so many areas of community life in Luverne, Crenshaw County and the surrounding area. I have personally known Pam for many years and can state with certainty that she is the most proficient, dedicated, fair-

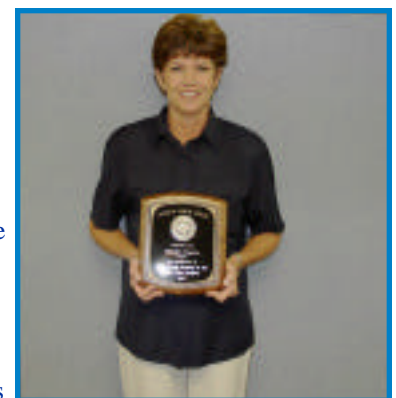
minded nursing professional I have ever met."

Ms. Williams organized a Breastfeeding shower for WIC mothers, participates in Family Day and other health fairs in Luverne, and is a member of various health committees and the local Rotary Club.

A patient said, "Pam does far more than just her job. I've never felt like a number in the health department. When Pam comes to the lobby to get the kids or me, she always greets us with a warm friendly smile."

Another supporter concluded, "Pam Williams is a public health nurse in the truest sense."

The recipient for home health, Sandra Harris, supervisor of the Marion County Home Health subunit, has been employed for the past 10 years with the health department as a visiting nurse, an admission nurse and as home health supervisor. Her nominators said, "First and foremost this nurse is a patient advocate. She is a mentor to her staff. She is the epitome of the term 'kindness,' and she is a professional."



Sandra Harris, R.N.

Smith award.....continued on page 5

Smith award.....continued from page 4

Her subunit recently received the honor of having the best adverse events outcome report in the state home care program. This recognition “reflects the quality of the program and their dedication to improving the lives of the home care patients she serves.”

A letter of support stated, “In nine years I have never heard a complaint that Sandra was unfair or was in any way not doing her job well.” Others praised her for her “kind voice and good ear” in communicating with patients. A letter of support stated, “In nine years I have never heard a complaint that Sandra was unfair or was in any way not doing her job well.” Others praised her for her “kind voice and good ear” in communicating with patients.

Sandra always thinks about others. A colleague said,

“She does whatever is needed for patients’ comfort/ease, including cooking a meal, sweeping the floor, folding a load of clothes, bathing a patient, in addition to her nursing duties.”

A letter of nomination stated, “Sandra is a very special person with a very sincere heart. Sandra is now supervisor of Marion County Home Health and does a great job handling any situation that arises be it patient or employee related. She is a very understanding person and works well with people.”

The person for whom this annual recognition is named, Anne M. Smith served as director of Public Health Nursing for the Alabama Department of Public Health from 1964 until 1984.

Alabama’s Health and Senior Services Departments partner to deliver exercise guides

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) through the Alabama Department of Public Health Nutrition and Physical Activity Unit, recently received exercise guide booklets and videos produced and provided by the National Institute on Aging.

The materials will be distributed to the 348 senior centers in Alabama. Emphasizing the importance of exercise to the health and well being of older people, these materials will offer seniors the opportunity to participate in exercises to improve or maintain endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility.

“It is very important to deliver health information such as the National Institute on Aging Exercise Guide into the hands of older people, and the Alabama Department of Senior Services has made this possible,” stated Richard Hodes, M.D., director of the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Mary.

“The Nutrition and Physical Activity Unit is extremely grateful to the National Institute on Aging for developing and providing these excellent educational materials,” voiced nutritionist Paul Hayes. “The exercises presented in the booklets and videos are safe, easy, and fun. The lives of most older persons can be enhanced by utilizing the NIA Exercise Guide. One of the many health benefits of these exercises is the protection from osteoporosis provided by weight bearing and muscle building exercise.”

“Staying physically active and exercising regularly can help prevent or delay some diseases and disabilities as people grow older,” added Anita Sanford, RN, physical

activity specialist.

Irene B. Collins, executive director of the Alabama Department of Senior Services, stated that she is very pleased that her agency is able to offer these high quality exercise instruction materials to Senior Services participants.

“Exercise combined with a healthy diet can significantly improve the quality of life of older adults,” stated Michelle Novak, a dietitian for ADSS. “These new videos and booklets will be a valuable resource for our senior center managers to use in promoting increased physical activity among senior center participants,” predicted Novak.

To locate an Alabama Senior Center near you, please contact the Alabama Department of Senior Services toll free at 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463).

Regular exercise and physical activity are very important to the health and abilities of older people. Growing older does not mean people have to lose their strength and ability to do everyday tasks and the things they enjoy doing. Almost all older adults, regardless of age or condition, can safely improve their health and independence through exercise and physical activity. And just about every older adult can safely do some form of physical activity at little or no cost.

By: Paul Hayes, MS, RD, LD and Michelle Novak, MS, RD, LD

Alabama observes National Women's Health Week

National Women's Health Week, May 11-17, celebrates the extraordinary progress in women's health and recognizes that more needs to be done to safeguard the health of women for generations to come. County health departments and private providers hosted events to encourage women to take simple positive steps toward healthier lifestyles.

Jessica Hardy, director of the Office of Women's in the Office of Professional and Support Services, received a proclamation of this week from Gov. Bob Riley.

The proclamation stated the following:

- Women from all walks of life and at every stage of life have unique health needs that should be addressed in their own right
- Keeping women healthy and safe and promoting awareness of women's health issues depends on partnerships with social, health and other services
- Women can promote health and prevent disease and illness by taking simple steps to improve their physical, mental, social and spiritual health
- Women's health remains a priority for families, communities and government, and our commitment to keeping women healthy is stronger than ever.

The activities of some of the county health departments are summarized here. Several local agencies planned and sponsored other special events.

Calhoun County

In honor of National Women's Health Week, the Calhoun County Health Department was featured on the local television station, the week was announced and patients were encouraged to call for same day or next day appointments. Public service announcements were sent to local radio stations and newspapers. Refreshments were served compliments of the staff to thank patients. A Plan first social worker provided cosmetic samples for the patients and door prizes were awarded, including visits to a local fitness center.

Cullman County

Local merchant donated tokens for free ice cream cones. A paper ribbon was attached encouraging women to treat themselves to better health and given to every woman that comes into the health department. A banner in the front of the clinic celebrated National Women's Check-up Day.

Dallas County

The Dallas County Health Department celebrated National Women's Health Week on May 12 with its first ever drive-thru clinic between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Participants didn't even need to leave their cars for this special clinic.

Services offered were blood pressure checks, tetanus booster shots, and pneumonia shots for those 65 or older or with a chronic illness. Information was also provided to participants on various services offered at the health department. A goodie bag was given to each participant. The bags contained a calendar, food planner, arthritis information, diabetes information, other items on women's health and information on services provided by the department. Refreshments were served. One hundred seventeen women took advantage of the Healthy Visit for You campaign.

Jackson County

The Jackson County Health Department celebrated National Women's Health Day by giving each woman a packet with a bookmark for checking breasts, a notepad and a carnation. One 58-year-old cried when she received her carnation. She said this was the first time she had ever received flowers.

Jefferson County

Women's Healthlink, the National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health at Cooper Green Hospital, screened and provided health information to 213 women on Women's Check-Up Day. The providers and assistants were sent thank you notes for making this event a success. This was done in collaboration with Jefferson County Department of Health.

Lawrence County

Lawrence County had a fun-filled day of activities. Free cosmetic samples were handed out to all patients and fingernail painting was offered to those who wished it. The volunteer made appointments for makeovers and stayed the entire day. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System set up posters with skin cancer prevention and radon information. Refreshments were available for patients in the lobby. About 15 door prizes were given away, with a drawing every hour. Everyone was given a goody bag full of pencils, pens, magnets, candy, coupons, notepads and calendars. Music was played in the waiting room. Thank you notes were mailed to local merchants who contributed to this wonderful day.

Marshall County

Patients were given the book "Every Woman-the Essential Guide for Healthy Living" from a local doctor's office. Women's health announcements were prepared for

Women's health.....continued on page 7

Tips offered for easing the transition to Lotus Word Pro for Microsoft Word users

Are you a person who is familiar with Microsoft Word and having a hard time using Lotus Word Pro? If so, we have the answer for you. Word Pro offers the ability to change menu formats to closely duplicate Microsoft Word. To access this formatting option select "**File - User Setup - Menu Customization...**" A dialog box will pop up which allows you to select formatting for your menu bar.

You can choose Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, AmiPro, Word Pro Light, or Word Pro (Standard). To change menu options to Word format, highlight "**Microsoft Word**" and click the "**Make Default**" button. Notice the "**Default menu set**" changes to "Microsoft Word."

Click the "**Done**" button to save the change. A dialog

box may pop up warning of possible loss of some functions. Click on "**Yes.**" To convert the menu bar back to Word Pro format, you will need to go to Tools - Menu Customization.

Once the dialog box pops up, select "Word Pro (Standard)" and click the "**Make Default**" button. Then click the "**Done**" button. Your menu bar should be back in Word Pro format. Word Pro also offers a Microsoft Word SmartMaster that will also provide the menu in Microsoft Word format.

In addition, there is a feature under "**Help**" that allows you to search the help information with the same keywords that are used in Microsoft Word. To access this feature, go to "Help - Microsoft Word Menu Help..." and click on it.

Retirees

The following employees of the Alabama Department of Public Health retired effective June 1:

JoAnn Carlisle - Montgomery County Health Department

Richard Glass - Office of Radiation Control

Jennette Holcombe - Shelby County Health Department

Sylvia Jackson - Macon County Health Department

Bonnie Mothershed - Office of Financial Services

Julia Reagan - Lee County Health Department

Sally Smith - Division of Health Care Facilities

Women's health....continued from page 6

local newspapers and radio stations. Goody bags were given to patient.

Monroe County

In observance of the week, the Monroe County Health Department set up information booths in the clinic for women to browse as they received services. The information booths consisted of women's health-related pamphlets, including self-breast exam, pap smear education, nutrition, dental education, mammogram programs, Plan first and birth control information. The nurse practitioner was available on two days to perform physical examinations.

In memory of Dorothy Myers

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Foust Myers, wife of former State Health Officer Dr. Ira L. Myers, who died June 6 at her residence. Mrs Myers was 79.

Mrs. Myers is survived by her husband Ira Myers, M.D.; two sons, Grady Myers, environmental supervisor with the Montgomery County Health Department, and Stephen Myers; one daughter, Joanna Kingery (Mark); seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested memorials be made to Delraida Baptist Church, Baptist Hospice and the American Cancer Society.

Speaking of Retirement

Protect yourself from fraud

According to the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.org), Americans lose over \$1 billion to investment fraud each year. As investors have become more savvy, scams to trick them have consequently become more subtle and innovative. These seemingly legitimate deals can be presented via telephone, mail, advertisements and increasingly through the Internet.

Alabama Securities Commissioner Joe Borg, through the North American Securities Administrators Association (www.nasaa.org), offers these tips to avoid falling victim to investment fraud:

1. Check out the person touting the investment. Alabama law requires most securities and the people selling them to be registered with the state. Before investing, call the Alabama Securities Commission at 800-222-1253. Learn about any disciplinary history of the investment's promoter through the National Association of Securities Dealers at 800-289-9999 or at www.nasdr.com.
2. Beware of high-pressure tactics. Say no to any person who pressures you to make an immediate investment decision.
3. Exercise particular caution if you lack financial experience. Ask lots of questions and insist that the sales person explain the investment until you understand it.
4. Remember that good manners do not indicate personal integrity. Con artists are generally very polite, knowing that most people, especially senior citizens, equate honesty with integrity.
5. Watch out for sales people who prey on your fears. Swindlers commonly pitch their schemes as a way to eliminate your financial fears for the future.
6. Exercise particular caution if you are an older investor. The elderly, particularly older women, are a frequent target of scam artists.
7. Monitor your investments. Insist on regular written reports and look for signs of excessive or unauthorized trading of your account.
8. Look out for trouble when retrieving your principal or cashing out profits. If any person with whom you have invested stalls when you want to withdraw your money, you may have uncovered someone who is cheating you.
9. Report investment fraud immediately, despite any embarrassment or fear you may feel. If you suspect you have been victimized, report it to state regulators at once. The Alabama Securities Commission has information on how to report fraud and helpful links on its Web site at www.asc.state.al.us.
10. Beware of reload scams. To recoup their losses, victims sometimes invest in another scheme, or reload, in which the con artist promises to make good the original loss and offer new, higher returns. Often the result is only more losses.

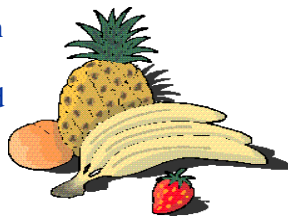
Prepared by the Communications staff of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. To have your questions answered in "Speaking of Retirement," please address them to Mike Pegues, Communications, Retirement Systems of Alabama, 135 South Union St., P. O. Box 302150, Montgomery, Ala. 36130-2150.

Follow summer food safety recommendations

Summer time is a very popular time for outside family functions such as picnics or cookouts. But it is also a very popular time for foodborne illnesses. Bacteria are located everywhere in the environment in places like water, air and soil. All bacteria needs is a place to live, eat and the right temperature to grow.

Bacteria grow quickly in warm surroundings, especially in foods between 90 degrees and 140 degrees Fahrenheit. So for this summer season the Alabama Department of Public Health offers these tips when it comes to food safety and planning outside events.

- * Always wash hands before and during the preparation of foods.
- * Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before they are eaten or cooked.
- * Use a separate cutting board and knife for meats and fruits/vegetables.
- * If a sauce is going to be used to marinate and baste, make a double recipe and use half of the recipe for basting and half for marinating. If some of the used marinade is to be set aside for dipping, then be sure to boil the marinade before serving.
- * When cooking meats make sure it gets to the correct temperature. Below is the USDA cooking temperature recommendations for consumers.

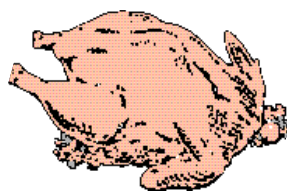


Ground Beef and Meat Mixtures

- * Beef, Pork, Veal, Lamb 160 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Turkey, Chicken 165 degrees Fahrenheit

Poultry

- * Chicken and Turkey (whole) 180 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Poultry breasts, roast 170 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Poultry thighs, wings 180 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Duck and Goose 180 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Stuffing (cooked alone or in bird) 165 degrees Fahrenheit
- * It is very important to use a food thermometer when cooking meat to make sure that it has reached the right temperature and is thoroughly finished cooking.
- * Do not use the same plate for uncooked and cooked



meat.

- * A cooler should be used to transport cold foods. It is important to remember to transport the cooler inside of an air-conditioned car, not in the trunk.
- * Be sure to use a separate cooler for food and drinks. There are two reasons why this is important. The first is that if food and drinks are stored in the same cooler, when the lid of the cooler is opened for drinks, the food does not remain at appropriate temperatures. The second reason is to prevent beverages from being contaminated by food products such as juices from raw meat.
- * Prepared food should not sit for more than two hours. When outdoors in warm weather the time should be reduced to one hour.
- * Leftovers should be stored in coolers of ice until they can be refrigerated. It is important to put leftovers in shallow containers so they will chill faster. Always remember a cooler filled with ice will stay colder longer than a cooler with only a little ice.

Following these simple recommendations could prevent foods from becoming contaminated and prevent illness. The food temperature “danger zone” is 40 - 140 degrees. This simply means that cold foods should remain below 40 degrees and hot foods should remain above 140 degrees. Be sure to throw out any foods that could possibly be contaminated or have reached an unsafe temperature. One simple rule to follow is “when in doubt, throw it out!”

PASS provides positive influence for teens

It started three years ago- a program to encourage and influence teens by making them feel a part of an “in crowd” that behaves responsibly. PASS, an acronym for Peers are Staying Straight, is rewarding teens in Autauga County for being drug and alcohol free and the results are a community of teen role models making their presence known.

“Most people feel that the majority of teens are using drugs, but the truth is they’re not,” said Martha Ellis, director of the PASS program. The programs goal is to reduce drug and alcohol use by 25 percent using peer pressure in a positive way. Children in the PASS program, with parental permission, agree to an initial drug screen and periodic random drug testing. In return they receive a free ID card that enables them to receive discounts at participating businesses throughout the county and to attend events for PASS members only.

“This is definitely a community project. We have over 60 businesses involved in this program as well as the school system and parents. The Alabama Department of Public Health was even gracious enough to provide all the materials and a photographer to make our ID cards,” said Ellis.

Students enter into the program in 7th grade and maintain their involvement until they complete 12th grade. Ten percent of the class is tested twice a year, in the spring and in the fall, by Drug Test Services, Inc. located in Montgomery. If a student tests positive both students and parents will be contacted privately by the school counselor and given appropriate rehabilitation and counseling information. It is then up

to the parents to pursue treatment for their child. After the teen completes counseling he or she is allowed to start the process over again and re-enter the program.

To date the PASS program has a 56 percent participation rate throughout the county and the program hopes to reach a goal of 75 percent participation.

In addition to the ID program there is also a Teen Court Program that provides an alternative to the juvenile court system and presides over misdemeanor cases. The juvenile appears before a peer court where teens serve as attorneys and jurors and local attorneys serve as judges. Offenders admit guilt and sentencing is handed out. In collaboration with juvenile probation officers, the offender is allowed to complete his sentence and then his record is closed. This is the first county in the state to have such a teen court system.

Also in partnership with the Autauga County School System, the PASS Program monitors truancy cases. Families with teens who are truant are provided support, counseling and assistance to ensure that the teen returns to school.

The PASS coalition has 60 adult and approximately 80 teen volunteer citizens who serve in PASS programs and other activities throughout the county.

“Recently youth coalition members worked hard on the smoke-free ordinance brought before the Prattville City Council. They surveyed people in the community for their opinions, spoke at the council meeting an helped put up billboards,” said



Director Martha Ellis displays the national award that the PASS program received.

Ellis.

PASS has been recognized nationally for the work that it has done in Autauga County. In 2002 the program received the Outstanding Coalition Award from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the principal national substance abuse prevention organization. Over 60 coalitions presented their proposals and the PASS program was one of the two organizations that were recognized. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquent Prevention also named PASS a Success Story in September 2002.

“The PASS Coalition is an excellent example of what a true community-based program can achieve. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Division has been pleased to provide mini-grant funding and support for their model ID program,” said Diane Beeson, director of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

“It has been a phenomenal experience and a wonderful privilege
PASS.....continued on page 11

Mobile County Health Department awarded Joint Commission accreditation

The Mobile County Health Department has achieved the Gold Seal of Approval for health care quality Home Care, Ambulatory Health Care, Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Services accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Joint Commission accreditation means the Mobile County Health Department has demonstrated compliance with national standards for patient safety and quality care.

“We seek accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to promote, improve and protect the health of Mobile County through safety and quality of care,” says Dr. Bernard Eichold, Health Officer of Mobile County Health Department. “We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence.”

The award of accreditation is for the three-year period ending March 27, 2006.

By STEPHANIE WOOD

Honoring our military service family

We are indebted to the following individuals who have been called to duty and are serving our country:

E8 MSG James A. Brooks (Jim), Public Health Environmentalist, Monroe County Health Department
Alabama Army National Guard

Lance Corporal Michael Douglas Sewell, U S Marine Corp., son of Jeanne Sewell Area 7 & 9 Nursing Director; and brother of Jamie Manning, CHIP

Lance Corporal Samuel Trenholm Gantt III (Trae), U S Marine Corp, son of Glenda Gantt, Life Care Supervisor for Monroe and Escambia County

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to work with this program and the partners that help support the program. We definitely do not do it alone. The mayor’s office, the sheriff’s office, the ABC Board and others have provided so much help. This staff just gets to be the center of several groups working together,” said Ellis.

To participate in the program students can contact the PASS office at 334-359-4900 to receive a consent form. For further information, please visit the PASS Web site at <http://pass-inc.net>.

By TAKENYA STOKES



June is National Safety Month.

Calendar of Events



June 18

Asking the Hard Questions: Skills for Client-Centered HIV Risk Assessment, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



June 23

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Current and Future Challenges for Health Care Providers, Physicians, Nurses and other clinic medical staff, 12 noon-1:30 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications Division, (334) 206-5618.



July 9

OSHA Infection Control Update, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Thomasson, (334) 206-5648.



July 10

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



July 16

Dealing with Difficult Behaviors, Home Health Aide and Home Attendant Continuing Education, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Janice McIntosh, (334) 347-2664, extension 400.



August 13

Ethics and Nursing, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Thomasson, (334) 206-5648.



August 15

Steps to Success in Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs: How to Determine Who is at Risk and Why (Module 1 of 3), 1-3 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.



August 20

Preconceptual Counseling, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Annie Vosel, (334) 206-2959.



September 17

HIV and Females, Public Health Staff Development, 2-4 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Thomasson, (334) 206-5648.



September 19

Steps to Success in Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs: Implementation, 1-3 p.m. For more information contact Video Communications, (334) 206-5618.