

## NEWSWORTHY

Notable locals, upcoming events

### 'BANKS & SHANE'S GEORGIA STAGE' BEGINS JULY 21

From staff reports

**MARIETTA** — Banks & Shane will present "Banks & Shane's Georgia Stage" with the inaugural performance July 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Strand Theatre.

In addition to the variety show format, the "Banks & Shane's Georgia Stage" concept was also inspired by the WVPR-produced "Mountain Stage" in West Virginia, which is broadcast nationally on more than 100 radio stations around the country.

In these first shows, **Banks Burgess** and **Paul Shane** will be teaming up with Grammy-nominated artists **The Claire Lynch Band** and Nashville's 2009 Chris Austin Songwriting Award winner **Wendy Newcomer**.

Tickets are now on sale. For more information, visit [www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The incorrect date was published on Tuesday on Page 1D.



### CIVIL WAR EXHIBITION AT MARIETTA/COBB MUSEUM OF ART

**MARIETTA** — The "Art, Artists and Artifacts of the Civil War" exhibition can be seen at the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art now through Sept. 11 in galleries 4-5.

The museum is commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The significance of art during the Civil War is noteworthy as the war occurred at a time when there was great change in the American culture and the role of the visual arts.

Items on display include a mask of **Abraham Lincoln's** face and a mold of his hands, several carbines, swords, canteens, a drum and art.

For more information, call (770) 528-1444 or visit [www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org](http://www.mariettacobbartmuseum.org).

### MARIETTA HOUSING AUTHORITY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**MARIETTA** — The Marietta Housing Authority Board of Commissioners awarded scholarships to 14 students receiving housing help. Awards totaled \$9,500.

Students receiving \$1,000 scholarships are **Mercedes Cambric**, Spelman College psychology student; **Janine Clark**, Chattahoochee Technical College nursing student; **Makeda Parker**, Kennesaw State University nursing student; and **Troy King Jr.**, recent McEachern High School graduate who plans to study biology or biomedical sciences at Oklahoma State.

Students receiving \$500 scholarships are **Carla Echols** and **Kionti Ross**, Chattahoochee Technical College early childhood education students; and **Kinesia Cato**, **Marquis Cook**, **Veromzhaye Densmore**, **Deion McCray**, **Lakeisha Parnell**, **Christy Richards**, **Karen Scott** and **Vilma Velazquez**.

For more information, contact Dr. **Liz Cole** at [lcole@mariettahousingauthority.org](mailto:lcole@mariettahousingauthority.org).



Photo special to the MDJ

From left are **Carla Echols**, Chattahoochee Technical College student; **Dr. Liz Cole**, mentor program coordinator with the Marietta Housing Authority; and **Mercedes Cambric**, Spelman College student.



Photos special to the MDJ

The Chef's Culinary Tour at the Pavilion in East Cobb on June 9 will benefit SafePath Children's Advocacy Center, an organization that provides services to victims of child abuse.

# Chefs unite for SafePath

Culinary tour to feature local chefs, raise money for nonprofit

By **Sally Litchfield** | MDJ Features Editor | [sallylit@bellsouth.net](mailto:sallylit@bellsouth.net)

**T**op chefs will be cooking for a cause on June 9 at the Chef's Culinary Tour at the Pavilion in East Cobb. The event benefits SafePath Children's Advocacy Center, a Cobb County organization that provides services to victims of child abuse.

Joining the effort are top chefs from several of Atlanta's and Marietta's acclaimed restaurants including **Two Urban Licks**, **ONE Midtown Kitchen**, **Parish**, **ROOM**, **Paper Mill Grill**, **Ritter's**, **Gabriel's Desserts**, **Henry's Louisiana Grill** and **Sam's BBQ**, event chair and emcee **Alex Reethof** said.

Reethof and his wife, **Lori**, have experienced firsthand the positive impact of SafePath. Reethof, who owns Reethof Hospitality, said years ago two of his children, along with about eight neighborhood children, took karate classes from an instructor who molested several children in the group.

Although the Reethof's children were not the targets of the instructor, the east Cobb resident said, "Obviously we were devastated when we found out what happened."

SafePath, a nationally recognized organization, came immediately to work with the families and assisted in convicting the instructor. By offering a comprehensive, professional and child-friendly approach to allegations of child abuse, SafePath ensures a less traumatic, child-focused approach to child abuse cases. SafePath meets its mission by bringing together professionals from law enforcement, the district attorney's office, therapists, health care professions, Department of Family and Children Services and other agencies to work together as a collaborative team.

"(SafePath) helped us out immensely as a neighborhood. SafePath spoke with all the parents as well as the children and determined who possibly were the targets," Reethof said.

"(SafePath) did (the interviews) all on video, on tape, so that the children only had to say their story once, not over and over and over. They really

minimized the impact of sexual abuse for children," he explained.

Since experiencing the positive impact of SafePath, Reethof has donated his time to the nonprofit organization. "I look for things to devote my time and energy to that really have a good impact on our locale and I couldn't think of a better one than (SafePath). I couldn't see a better one than this," he said.

**Jinger Robins**, executive director of SafePath, said, "The economy has suffered terribly in the last two years, yet the children and families who benefit from SafePath's critical services are still in need. In fact, during tough economic times, instances of abuse increase. The Chef's Culinary Tour will help us raise funds to continue assisting abused children and reduce their trauma."

"It's an incredible service (SafePath) gives to our community to minimize abuse and to make the community aware of child abuse and how to see it, how to determine, how to handle it better. That is so profound," Reethof said.

"The Chef's Culinary Tour is sure to be the ultimate food social of the year," he continued. "People may not realize that SafePath is the organization that is there helping those victims of child abuse that we hear about on the news. The services they provide are vital to those families and our community. If you have a passion for food and fun, my hope is that you will join us in supporting SafePath and the work that they do."

Cocktails start at 6 p.m., with tasting of chef's culinary signatures at 7 p.m. For \$75 per individual, guests will interact with executive chefs and sample different tastes. The Chef's Culinary Tour will include dancing, featuring the music of local band **PRIME**. To purchase tickets, call (770) 801-3465.

For more information on SafePath, located at 736 Whitlock Ave., Suite 600, at the West Park Government Center, visit [www.supportsafepath.com](http://www.supportsafepath.com).



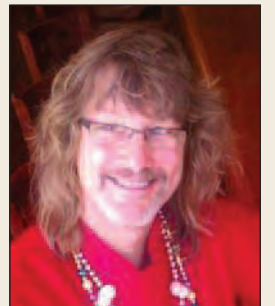
## FEATURED CHEFS



Event Chair:  
**Alex Reethof**,  
Reethof Hospitality



**Justin Balmes**,  
Harry's Farmers Market



**Henry Chandler**,  
Henry's Louisiana Grill



**Jordan Daniels**,  
Paper Mill Grill



**John Flagello**,  
Ritter's



**Johnnie Gabriel**,  
Gabriel's Desserts



**Sam Huff**,  
Sam's BBQ 1



**IN BLOOM:** Dk Gallery will be celebrating the changing of the seasons with its annual Landscape and Still Life show benefitting the Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society. Dk Gallery's First Friday show, today from 5 to 9 p.m., is 'A Painter's View.' It will feature renowned landscape and still-life artists **Cathryn Miles**, **Jim Greenwood**, **Libby Smart**, **Charles Emery Ross** and **Marie Turko Garcia**. Guests can meet the artists and listen to live jazz. Dk Gallery is located at 25 W. Park Square. Pieces on display include 'Trees Along the Water' by **Smart**, **far left**. **Douglas Frey**, author, and **Jim DiVital**, photographer, will also be on hand to sign copies of their book 'Marietta: The Gem City of Georgia,' a collection of local architecture and historical perspectives, **left**. For more information, call (770) 427-5377, email [dk@dkgallery.us](mailto:dk@dkgallery.us) or visit [www.dkgallery.us](http://www.dkgallery.us).

# AROUND COBB

THROUGH THE LENS



## CHEF'S CULINARY TOUR



Staff/Jon-Michael Sullivan

The Chef's Culinary Tour was June 9 at the Pavilion in East Cobb. The event raised funds for SafePath Children's Advocacy Center. Above: From left, **Ginger Robins**, executive director of SafePath; **Alex Reethof**, event chair; **Stephanie Nelson**, the main sponsor and Coupon Mom; and **Ed Lee**, president of the board. Top right: **Lori Orzeck** of Marietta and **Tom Wasson** of Roswell. Right: Commissioner **JoAnn Birrell** and her husband, **Dave**.



LIFESTYLE / 1D  
**'CHEFTAINER'**  
 CHEF TURNS TALENTS INTO  
 FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT



the business of  
**ART**  
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# Marietta Daily Journal

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011

BREAKING NEWS 24/7 @ MDJONLINE.COM

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MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011



Special/Alex Reethof

Chef Alex Reethof, second from left, is the owner of Reethof Hospitality. He uses the culinary field as entertainment, teaching classes and team building for corporations. He also caters and plans events for his clients. The self-proclaimed 'Cheftainer' has landed him a new television series, 'Back to the Table,' airing on Food2Day. **Above:** Reethof poses with, from left, Jinger Robins, executive director of SafePath Children's Advocacy Center in Cobb County; Stephanie Nelson, Coupon Mom; and Ed Lee, president of the board of SafePath, at the 'Chef's Culinary Tour' on June 9 that benefitted the nonprofit organization.

Don't call him a chef. Alex Reethof is a ...

# 'Cheftainer'

Culinary expert uses talents to educate, entertain the audience

By Sally Litchfield | MDJ Features Editor | sallylitt@bellsouth.net

**C**hef Alex Reethof provides culinary instruction in a social atmosphere.

"I am a self-proclaimed 'Cheftainer,'" Reethof said. The owner of Reethof Hospitality, he uses the culinary field as entertainment, teaching classes and team building for corporations. Reethof also caters and plans events for his clients.

"Instead of people going to restaurants, they bring me to their meetings and I perform a show," he said. "It becomes a form of entertainment."

Reethof's French mother fostered his flair for the kitchen at an early age. He said, "I grew up cooking with her."

The east Cobb resident, who started working in the food industry at age 16 as a "pot washer," attended Penn State University. He earned a degree in food service and hotel administration and worked at a 5-star Marriott resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., after graduation.

"I decided I didn't know enough about kitchens to get into hotels," said Reethof, whose career as an executive chef took him to other fine-dining establishments across the U.S. including Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Sarasota, Fla. Reethof followed his wife, Lori, to the Atlanta area when she



Reethof claps alongside Justin Baimes, a contestant on '2011 Food Network Star' and specialist at Harry's Farmers Market in Marietta, at the fundraiser.

attended graduate school at Emory University. The couple settled in Marietta in 1985.

Reethof, later transitioning into restaurant technology, discovered his talent in "cheftaining" by chance. While acting as a volunteer coach for the Wheeler High School culinary team, he accompanied the team to the Metropolitan Cooking Show (featuring Food Network personalities Paula Deen, Guy Fieri, Tyler Florence and the Neelys) at the Cobb Galleria. The head chef asked him to substitute on stage for another chef.

"That (on stage presentation) kind of started it all," Reethof said. Following the

show, he accepted a job offer from Viking doing presentations for people and cooking camps. He said, "That's how I got in the cheftaining business."

Reethof's popularity as a 'cheftainer' has landed him a new television series, "Back to the Table," airing on Food2Day on Comcast cable in Fulton, Clayton and DeKalb counties. It will soon be broadcast to a national audience.

"I have too much fun up there (on stage)," Reethof said. To learn more about Chef Reethof, visit [www.reethofhospitality.com](http://www.reethofhospitality.com), [www.food2day.com](http://www.food2day.com) or search for him on YouTube.