

PRE-INDEPENDENCE DAY ■ FESTIVITIES

Fleetwood Mac Tribute to headline Kennesaw's Salute to America event

Staff reports

KENNESAW — The city of Kennesaw will host its annual pre-Independence Day celebration of freedom, music and fireworks on Sunday, July 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. in downtown Kennesaw. Admission to the event is free.

This year's event will feature two stages of live music, festive street entertainment, food vendors and kid's activities. The evening will be capped off with a brilliant fireworks finale at 9:30 p.m.

On the Main Street stage from 7 to 9:30 p.m., The Blast Band, an Atlanta-based party band, will perform tunes spanning from golden oldies to the latest Top 40 songs. From 6 to 7 p.m. on the feature stage in Depot Park, the 80ators will perform one hit wonders and chartbusters from the 1980s. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., TUSK — The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute will cover hits from one of the world's top-selling bands, including "The Chain," "Landslide," "Rhiannon" and "Go Your Own Way."

A six-foot rectangular table located in front of

the Depot Stage can be reserved for \$75. Each table seats six persons (chairs are included). With the exception of reserved tables near the Depot Stage, all seating will be general admission, so bring a blanket or comfortable low-back chairs.

In addition to street vendor and sponsor booths, attractions will include free and pay-to-play inflatable amusements and mechanical rides. A wide selection of entrees, cold beverages and snacks will be available for purchase. Attendees may bring picnic baskets or coolers. Grills will not be allowed.

Possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages is not permitted. Kennesaw city parks are "Breathe Easy Zones;" tobacco products, smoking and e-cigarettes are prohibited in Depot Park. ATM machines will be available for convenient cash withdrawals. The event may be canceled or postponed due to inclement weather conditions.

For more information and to reserve a table, visit kennesawjuly3.com or call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at 770-422-9714.



Featured at Kennesaw's annual pre-Independence Day celebration from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. will be musical guest TUSK — The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute, covering hits from one of the world's top-selling bands, including 'The Chain,' 'Landslide,' 'Rhiannon' and 'Go Your Own Way.' This year's event will include two stages of live music, and admission to the event is free. / Special to the MDJ

NEW YORK CITY ■ COMPETITION

ON WITH THE SHOW

Shuler Award winners hit the NYC stage for National High School Music Theatre Awards

By Katy Ruth Camp
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It's "New York, New York" this week for Marietta High School rising senior Shelbea Owen as she prepares to compete in the 8th annual National High School Musical Theatre Awards/JimmyTM Awards competition in New York City. The awards program takes place Monday night, June 27.

Owen, who won the 2016 Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards — Shuler Hensley Award in February in the leading actress category, will perform on Broadway's Minskoff Theatre stage for a panel of judges made up of Broadway's finest actors, casting agents and directors.

"It is such an honor to travel to New York this week and to work with some of Broadway's top professionals at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. This opportunity means so much to me as I pursue my dreams of being a Broadway performer," Owen said.

Owen won the Shuler Award for leading actress for her role as Tracy Turnblad in Marietta High School's production of "Hairspray." The Shuler Awards are held annually to recognize outstanding high school musical theater in Georgia and are presented by the ArtsBridge Foundation at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center.

Owen traveled to New York earlier this week with ArtsBridge



Above: Marietta High School rising senior Shelbea Owen, left, and Will Davis, a recent graduate of Buford High School, are preparing to compete in the eighth annual National High School Musical Theatre Awards/JimmyTM Awards competition in New York City. Left: ArtsBridge Foundation Arts Education and Outreach Director Natalie Barrow, left, traveled to New York earlier this week with Owen and Davis. The awards program takes place Monday night. / Special to the MDJ

AWARDS, 4C

COLUMNIST ■ SALLY LITCHFIELD

Wounded Warriors honored at fifth annual Golf Outing

Marietta Country Club partnered with Net Work Ministries' Friday Morning Men's Group to host The fifth annual Wounded Warriors Golf Outing on June 17 at Marietta Country Club.



Litchfield

The purpose of the event was to provide an enjoyable day of golf to honor the Wounded

Warriors and the sacrifices they and their families have made in defense of the freedoms we all enjoy.

Fundraising is not part of the event. The outing is held annually on the Friday closest to Flag Day.

There were twenty male and female Wounded Warriors in attendance. The format was an 18-hole scramble format with foursomes comprised of two Warriors and two members from the two host organizations. A continental breakfast and a wonderful Marietta Country Club buffet lunch, along with gifts and prizes, were provided to the Wounded Warriors.

A highlight of the day



Marietta Country Club partnered with Net Work Ministries' Friday Morning Men's Group to host The fifth annual Wounded Warriors Golf Outing on June 17 at Marietta Country Club. There were twenty male and female Wounded Warriors in attendance. / Special to the MDJ

was when each participant received a cold Blizzard donated by Vic Tobler's Dairy Queen restaurant. The treats were gratefully received, as it was a very hot morning on the golf course.

♦ ♦ ♦

On Thursday, June 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Zaxby's at 1420 Spring Road, Smyrna, 30080 will donate 10 percent of proceeds to Campbell High School's Todosporchava.

ZAXBY'S



Todosporchava, translating to "Everyone for Chava," is helping Chava Reyes, a Campbell High School student who was seriously injured

during a bubble soccer game. Funds will help defray medical expenses.

♦ ♦ ♦

On Thursday, June 23, at Marietta Cobb Museum of Art (30 Atlanta St. SE, Marietta 30060), Main Galleries, at 7 p.m., a lecture on Art, Coke and American History will be given by Dr. David Parker. Parker, professor of history, has been the Assistant Chair of the History Department at Kennesaw State University

since August 2009. He was an undergraduate at Duke University and went to graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Parker's dissertation, on Georgia writer Bill Arp (real name, Charles Henry Smith), was published by the University of Georgia Press. He has also written a book, Carpet Capital, on the American carpet industry. Recently, Parker has become interested

in old textbooks as a research topic. He teaches classes at KSU in Georgia History, the History of American Religion, the Gilded Age and Research Methods.

A \$5 donation is suggested.

Sally Litchfield is a longtime Marietta resident. She has written for the MDJ since October 2000. Send Sally news at sallylit@bellsouth.net. Call Sally at 770-425-8106.



Here comes the guide

Delta Community Credit Union offers ten financial tasks to take care of before tying the knot

Special to the MDJ

June has long been a favorite month for weddings, but a recent study found September is now the number one month for marriages. That's great news because it means, if you start right now, you still have time to take care of a most important task — and it's not choosing bridesmaid dresses or tasting cake.

The most important thing you can do before you get married is talk with your intended about your (soon to be shared) finances. So grab a pencil and take notes, because here comes "The Guide."

1. Put all your (credit) cards on the table

Literally, sit down together with a list of your debts and have a frank discussion about how much money you owe. Share credit reports, which are objective records of your financial history which show everything from missed loan payments to store credit cards you may have even forgotten you have. From a practical standpoint, reviewing credit reports gives you an early opportunity to correct errors or improve low scores before you get married (or before you apply for a first home mortgage). More importantly, reviewing credit reports is a good way to start a broader conversation about how you both handle money.

2. Clean up debt

Only about 57 percent of couples know their partners' credit scores before marriage. That's too bad because your partner's bad credit can affect your own, and at least one of you needs a good credit history to begin your life together. If your partner has debt, avoid opening a joint account, cosigning on a loan or adding your partner as an authorized user. Together, work out a plan to pay down any debt.

3. Create a budget

Figure out what you will owe, your combined income and what you will have left over each month. Develop a plan for paying bills and saving and spending money. Set a dollar amount that each of you can spend without having to discuss it with the other. Understanding your partner's financial philosophy now may save many arguments later.

4. List your priorities and goals

Write down what is important to you both. Do you want to own a home? Have children? Is it more important to save for the future, or travel around the world right now? Discuss what you want to work toward together. Over the years, your list may change along with your age, income or health, and that's okay. Talking about your priorities now will not only prevent surprises in the future, you may learn something new about your fiancé to fall in love with.

5. Get with the program

Use a bookkeeping program to help you stay on track. A personal financial management tool such as Finance-Works in the Delta Community Online Banking platform allows you to see, at a glance,

where your money is going. A PFM can take some of the emotion out of managing money so you can clearly track your spending and make adjustments as needed.

6. Manage your finances like a business

You wouldn't expect a coworker to do all the work on a team project, and your life partner shouldn't have to either. Share responsibility for bookkeeping, but divide tasks according to aptitude and interest. The partner who is more detail-oriented might do the budgeting and bill-paying.

The one more interested in investments might track your portfolio and research opportunities.

7. Put it in writing

Create or update your wills, and put in writing where your assets are and how you want them distributed. Once you're married, you can name your spouse as a beneficiary, the person who receives money and benefits if something happens to you. This applies to life insurance, 401(k) plans and any other benefits.

8. Consider a prenuptial agreement

While you're there anyway, ask your lawyer if you should consider a prenuptial agreement. If you were previously married, have children or have accumulated assets, a prenuptial contract may reduce future conflicts, protect separate property and support your estate plan.

9. Keep it real

Commit to keeping a monthly money "date" with your spouse. Don't wait for a big life event, like children or a new job, to discuss how you are progressing on your financial path.

10. Talk to a professional

You may have a professional wedding planner, and probably a professional photographer for your (one) big day. You should also consider a professional financial adviser to help you through the years that come afterward. An adviser can help you define shared goals, and develop a plan to reach them.

Too many of us have been raised to never discuss salaries, our net worth or how much money we owe. These are some of our deepest secrets we keep even from those we love the most. But it's important to get over the taboo of talking about money, especially before you commit to spend the rest of your life with someone. Whether you will be a June Bride or a September Spouse, it is a loving gesture that illustrates you're in this for the long haul.

Delta Community Credit Union is Georgia's largest credit union and serves metro Atlanta residents, including individuals, families and employees of organizations such as Delta Air Lines, Chick-fil-A, PetSmart, Aaron's and Nestle. As a not-for-profit, it gives back its earnings to its customers and their local communities. For more information, visit www.deltacommunitycu.com.



Harry Potter tour's a must on London trip

By Ross D. Franklin
Associated Press

LONDON — Every summer, our family vacations somewhere different. We've done theme parks, a classic road trip and the Caribbean. This year, with our son hitting his teens, we went international with 10 days in London. The planning was a team effort: My wife was in charge of the budget and activities schedule. I was in charge of airfare and hotel. Our son played consultant, voting yes or no.

We saved \$1,000 on airfare by taking connecting flights rather than flying direct. Then, using Booking.com, we spent hours researching hotels. The map icon interface was great: Pick a neighborhood, zoom in, click on the hotel. We wanted a Tube station within walking distance, but saved money by picking a one-bedroom with pullout couch over a two-room suite.

With flights and lodging booked, we moved on to the itinerary. Our son had two must-sees: the Imperial War Museum and Harry Potter studio tour. We bought advance tickets for Potter, two theater shows, a bike tour, the London Eye, several walking tours and a hop-on, hop-off bus. With rain jackets and electric converters packed, we were ready.

Our flights involved a series of unfortunate events, including plane trouble in Chicago, lost luggage on the way home and overhead drop-down screens on our trans-Atlantic leg instead of individual entertainment screens. We had to keep reminding ourselves, "but we saved \$1,000!" An expensive cab ride from airport to hotel marred our arrival in London. Next time we'll take the train from the airport.

But our hotel, Citadines South Kensington, did not disappoint. The location was ideal, four blocks from the Gloucester Road Tube station, with plenty of restaurants nearby. An Italian eatery, Da Mario,



Above: In this 2015 photo, tourists stroll along the Diagon Alley movie set at The Making of Harry Potter Warner Bros. Studios experience in London. Visitors can view props, costumes and sets, including Platform 9¾, the Night Bus, Harry's cubbyhole at Number 4 Privet Drive and a miniature Hogwarts campus. You can get filmed riding your very own Nimbus 2000, or pile the family into the Weasley invisible car for a group photo. Below: In this 2015 photo, a London City Cruises boat tours the River Thames past the Big Ben clock bell and Elizabeth Tower and the Houses of Parliament in London. / AP



became a favorite. We even knew somebody dining there our first night — the airport cabbie who'd charged a fortune.

We took the double-decker sightseeing bus on our first morning as a no-stress introduction to the city. Our bus passes included the Tower of London tour and a Thames River cruise. Big Ben, Parliament, 10 Downing Street and Westminster Abbey were a few minutes' walk apart. Cross the river and we were at the London Eye, getting a bird's-eye view of all we'd just seen.

With a teen who grew up reading Harry Potter, the Warner Bros. Studio Tour — The Making of Harry Potter was essential. We saw props, costumes and sets, including Platform 9¾, the Night Bus, Harry's cubbyhole at Number 4 Privet Drive and a miniature Hogwarts campus. You can get filmed riding your very own Nimbus 2000, or pile the family into the Weasley invisible car for a group photo. At the massive gift shop you can easily drop a few hundred quid. But skip the butter beer at the food court — oh, it's horrible.

AWARDS

From 1C

Foundation Arts Education and Outreach Director Natalie Barrow along with leading actor winner Will Davis, a recent graduate of Buford High School. Davis won the leading actor Shuler Award for his role as Dr. Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde in the school's production of "Jekyll & Hyde."

Owen and Davis are among 62 students representing 31 regional awards programs from across the U.S. These talented young women and men are participating in a weeklong theater intensive of coaching and rehearsals with industry professionals in preparation for a one-night-only showcase on Broadway where a panel of judges will crown the nation's top performers. Students will also receive opportunities for scholarships, professional advancement and other prizes.

"This week is filled with educational and inspirational opportunities for Will and Shelbea that will benefit them greatly as they continue to grow as performers," Barrow said. "Additionally, it provides me with an opportunity to network with my peers from across the country and to garner ideas for the Shuler Awards. I am filled with excitement and anticipation as we kick-off the 2017 Shuler Season in August!"

Applications for the 2017 Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards — Shuler Hensley Awards



Marietta High School rising senior Shelbea Owen, right, and Will Davis, a recent graduate of Buford High School, are preparing to compete in the eighth annual National High School Musical Theatre Awards/JimmyTM Awards competition in New York City. / Special to the MDJ

will be accepted starting on August 3 on a first come, first served basis. The 9th annual Shuler Awards will be presented on April 20, 2017 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

To learn more, visit

the National High School Musical Theatre Awards at www.nhsmta.com, the Shuler Hensley Awards at artsbridgega.org/shuler-awards and Arts-Bridge Foundation at artsbridgega.org.