

Subject—Publicity Release for Wetumpka Impact Crater Events

**From-- The Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission
Marilee Tankersley, Publicity Chairman (334)567-4637**

Wetumpka Crater Lecture and Tours Set for February 25 – 27

The song, “Stars Fell on Alabama”, has long been associated with our State. In truth, one very large meteor made quite an impact, 85 million years ago, near the end of the “Age of Dinosaurs”. The greatest natural disaster in Alabama history happened in the area where the city of Wetumpka now sits.

First discovered in 1969, an astrobleme, meaning “star wound” was confirmed and registered in 1998 by Dr. David King Jr., Professor of Geology, Auburn University, as the Wetumpka Impact Crater. Because the location was covered by a shallow sea at the time of impact, scientists have declared it to be one of the “best preserved marine impact craters in the world”.

Each year the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission and City of Wetumpka sponsor several Crater events, a Thursday evening public lecture by Dr David King Jr., Friday school tours and Saturday public tours of the Crater.

Dr. King will conduct the free public lecture on the science of the Crater on February 25th at 7:00pm in the Wetumpka Civic Center, Main Street. This is an excellent opportunity to hear how scientists have proven the size and scope of the impact and get an update on Dr King’s most recent research related to the crater.

The Friday, February 26th tours will be open to a limited number of school students on a first reserved basis. Teachers can call Marilee Tankersley, (334)567-4637 for reservations and additional information.

On Saturday, February 27th, the Crater Tours will be one hour and a half each, starting at 8:30 am, with van transportation provided. The tour is divided into two parts, first, a video and orientation, followed by the van tour. Total cost of both parts of the tour including a guidebook is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children up to 12, accompanied by an adult. (Not recommended for very small children.) You can attend only the lecture and the charge is \$5, with children up to age 12, admitted free. Additional guidebooks can be purchased for \$5, if available.

Lectures begin at 8:30 am, 9:45 am, 11:00 am & 12:30 pm. The van tours will load immediately following the lecture. Van tour space is limited and must be reserved by February 19th. Participants need to meet at the Wetumpka Administrative Center on Main Street, 15 minutes prior to their tour time.

There is some walking on the tours. Reservations are only confirmed on payment of the fee.

For additional information and reservations (starting January 11th), contact Valencia at 567-5147 or e-mail vsmith@cityofwetumpka.com

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