

Alabama CURRENTS

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World's Largest Peanut Boil

and Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival highlight Labor Day weekend in Luverne. See Page 7

Chambers of Commerce are valued partners

AMEA values the partnerships it has with chambers of commerce throughout its service territory. From Piedmont to Alexander City to Dothan to Fairhope, the 11 chambers of commerce within AMEA's service territory are voluntary organizations of business and professional people working together to build a healthy economy and to improve the community's quality of life. Your local chamber of commerce has the responsibility to promote the economic well-being and to advocate for a positive business environment.



Chamber members are businesses, organizations and individuals concerned with the socio-economic climate of the community. They have joined together because they know they stand a better chance of getting things done when they speak as one voice. Your chamber is a dynamic, living process because of its members working for the betterment of the community.

Chambers work to improve the community, observing these objectives:

- to help businesses grow and prosper;
- to increase job opportunities;
- to encourage orderly expansion/development of all segments;
- to contribute to the overall economic stability of the community;
- to encourage and promote the nation's private enterprise system of competitive marketing.

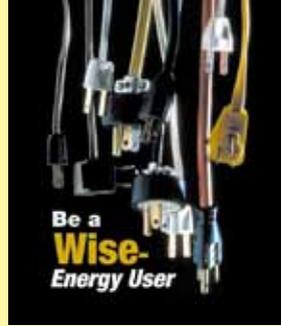
A chamber of commerce is an organization through which volunteer manpower works effectively to make a community, region, state, etc. a better place to live, work and play. It is a marshaling ground for civic endeavor and the community's department of progress.

Chambers of commerce work to strengthen businesses and build communities.

We applaud the efforts of our local chambers of commerce in promoting and helping build healthy, vibrant communities. We look forward to working with them on future endeavors, which showcase our 11 public power communities.

Lisa Miller

AMEA Manager of Communications and Marketing



Use appliances and electronics efficiently to save on your energy bill

Refrigerators, washers and televisions are staples of the American home. While we rely on these modern conveniences every day, appliances and electronics comprise more than 20 percent of the energy you use. You can reduce this expense by starving yourself, washing clothes by hand, or reading a book by candlelight. Or, consider an easier alternative – just use these devices as wisely and efficiently as possible.

Appliances

- Wash and dry only full loads of clothes (to use less energy per pound of laundry).
- Use cold water instead hot water, if possible, when washing clothes.
- Clean the lint filter in your dryer after every load to improve the unit's efficiency.
- Dry loads of clothes back-to-back to take advantage of the heat build-up in the dryer.
- Use dryer balls to lift and separate laundry items, allowing hot air to circulate more effectively and reducing drying time.
- Save the cleaning chores until after dark. Dishwashers, washers and dryers emit heat, raising the temperature in your home and increasing the operation of your air conditioner.
- Don't open the refrigerator door repeatedly and don't leave the refrigerator door open for an extended period of time. Every time your refrigerator opens, cool air escapes and must be replaced. If you've got an old fridge, replace it with an energy-efficient model.
- Use a cooking pan that best fits the burner. Copper-bottomed pots and pans heat up faster. Use lids to reduce cooking times.
- Use a microwave oven or toaster as an energy-efficient alternative to a conventional oven.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing any new appliance. High-efficiency models will result in savings throughout the life of that appliance.
- Check the EnergyGuide label when making a purchase. This label provides information on how much

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

Alabama CURRENTS

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On the Cover

The Crenshaw County Shrine Club and the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce are once again gearing up for another Labor Day weekend of great food, vendors, and yes, lots of boiled peanuts during the area's two huge events, the Annual "World's Largest Peanut Boil" and the Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival.

Travelers can plan their vacation routes through the intersection of U.S. Highway 331 and Highway 10 so they can stock up on several bags of hot, boiled peanuts beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 29. And on Saturday, Sept. 1, they can visit the Peanut Boil Festival on adjacent grounds.

The Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival will provide visitors with a host of vendors and exhibitors, as well as great food, entertainment, pageants and a 5K Fun Run/Walk.

Proceeds from the Peanut Boil Festival go to support the Chamber's scholarship program and other Chamber activities to increase awareness of Crenshaw County. All proceeds from the Annual Peanut Boil go to the Crenshaw County Shrine Club's General Fund.

For more information about the special events, see Page 7

(Photos courtesy of Regina Grayson; Carol Staller, Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce; and Michael Rodgers, The Luverne Journal)

AMEA honored for its culture of regulatory compliance and reliability

For over 30 years, AMEA has embraced a culture of regulatory compliance and reliability for its 11 Member cities/utilities and the customers they serve. Our mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve.

Recently, our efforts in this arena were recognized by the SERC Reliability Corporation. AMEA was presented with SERC's annual President's Award for our ongoing commitment to electric reliability excellence for the bulk power system.

The award, which was presented to AMEA at SERC's April Board of Directors meeting in Charlotte, NC, highlights our superior commitment to reliability performance and the quality standard set for SERC's members and Registered Entities. AMEA was selected for the award from 1,500 electric utilities, which includes AMEA, that are member partners of SERC.

Scott Henry, President and Chief Executive Officer of SERC, said, "AMEA's commitment to reliability excellence for the members it serves and participation in SERC are evidence for others that a small entity can be engaged in reliability activities and that mutual benefits can be derived from that participation."

SERC is a non-profit corporation responsible for promoting and improving the reliability, adequacy, and critical infrastructure of the bulk power supply system in all or portions of 16 central and southeastern states, including the areas served by AMEA.

Owners, operators, and users of the bulk power system in these 16 states cover an area of approximately 560,000 square miles and comprise what is

known as the SERC Region.

SERC serves as one of eight Regional Entities with delegated authority from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) for the purpose of proposing and enforcing reliability standards within the SERC Region.

SERC is divided geographically into five diverse sub-regions that are identified as Central, Delta, Gateway, Southeastern and VACAR. The regional entities and all members of NERC work to safeguard the reliability of the bulk power systems throughout North America.

Compliance starts at the top. AMEA can't afford not to be involved. For entities like AMEA, heavy involvement to influence the outcomes is extremely important and provides value greater than the cost of participation. Too often businesses view and treat regulatory compliance as a separate activity rather than understand how to incorporate compliance into their day-to-day business operations.

Understanding this commitment designates a shift in viewing regulatory compliance as the means to an end, another strategic component that helps deliver on the organization's overall

mission of seeing good governance and improved business operations.

Our efforts include having someone on staff who is responsible for regulatory compliance on behalf of our 11 Member cities/utilities. Regulatory compliance is also a Key Result Area within AMEA's Strategic Plan. This blueprint helps serve as a guide for our business operations and work plan.

Regulatory compliance is the key component to maintaining and improving the reliability of the electric transmission systems that all electric utilities depend on to deliver electric power and energy to their customers/owners. Reliability of the electric transmission system that AMEA utilizes to serve its Members is vital to AMEA's existence since AMEA does not own or operate any electric transmission facilities. Regulatory compliance is and will always be part of AMEA's business culture.

We are honored to be recognized among the best utilities in the SERC region for our commitment to regulatory compliance and reliability.

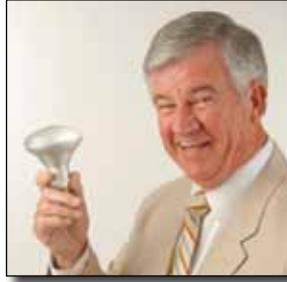
Fred D. Clark, Jr.
AMEA President & CEO



(L to R) Ray Phillips, AMEA Manager of Compliance and Special Projects, and Fred Clark, AMEA President & CEO, accept the SERC President's Award from Scott Henry, SERC President and Chief Executive Officer. The annual award recognizes exceptional reliability and compliance commitment.

Now it's hot

I am writing this article at 6:30 a.m. on a summer morning. My wife and I often get up early to read the newspaper, feed the birds, and have a casual breakfast together. About 30 minutes ago my wife said to me, "Hurry and look at the sunrise." Well I am an amateur watercolor artist, so I hurried to the east windows. I never cease to be amazed at the beauty of a sunrise or a sunset. As I looked at the constantly changing beautiful colors, the thought occurred to me that this sun which provided this beautiful early morning display would, in just a few hours, be making the day miserable with 100-degree heat. It will be uncomfortable and our AC unit will be running which means higher utility bills. It's the sun's fault, I thought. This experience this morning has led me to decide to write the next few articles using a few laws of science as relating to energy and its usage.



The first law is that all energy, as we know it, comes from the sun. Yes, that means all. There would be no oil, natural gas, coal, water, wind, wood, and of course no solar, without the sun.

The second law is that heat always moves toward cold. Actually, there is no such thing as cold; it is only absence of heat. Absolute zero means that there is not even one BTU of heat.

The third law is that moisture always moves toward dry. The second and third laws explain why your windows may "sweat" in the winter.

And the fourth law is that heat travels three ways. Those ways are conduction, convection, and radiation.

Well, it is now about noon, and between phone calls, I have given a great deal of thought about this subject. And as in times past, I have concluded that understanding energy efficiency is not terribly difficult if you understand these few principles and if you are not listening to someone who is trying to sell you something.

Let me give you an example of how much energy may be involved when the second law and the third law get together at the same time. You will recognize it immediately. A moist warm front from the Gulf of Mexico meets a dry cold front from the Rockies and total devastation may occur because the meeting formed a tornado. You must admit that a gigantic amount of energy was created from that meeting. Wouldn't it be neat if we could harness and store that energy for our use?

Well, when the interior of a house is warm and humid, but the exterior is cold and dry, there are actually energy forces being developed on the walls and ceiling of the house. The warm moist air is trying to force its way to the colder dryer air. Thank goodness the force is not nearly that of a tornado.

I believe that many of you will find the future articles interesting and helpful as we learn why we might have energy problems at our house, and more importantly, how to solve those problems using the laws of energy.

I am finishing this article as the sun is setting and it is beautiful. I am no longer mad at the sun, at least not until tomorrow. Stay cool and I will see you in September.

Doug Rye, an Arkansas architect, is known as the 'King of Caulk and Talk' and 'America's Energy Expert.' Doug has helped thousands of homeowners save money on their power bills. He hosts the popular "Home Remedies" radio talk program, which has been on the air for 15 years in 14 states. Doug speaks annually at American Institute of Architects meetings to hundreds of other architects on energy efficiency. He conducts over 150 energy-saving seminars per year all across the U.S. Have a question for Doug? Contact him at (501) 653-7931, or www.dougrye.com.

Be a Wise-Energy User

Continued from page 2

energy the appliance uses, compares energy use of similar products, and estimates annual operating costs.

Electronics

- Turn off the television whenever you leave the room.
- Unplug battery chargers for cell phones, digital cameras, MP3s, power tools or other gadgets when they are not being used. These energy vampires can quietly account for up to 10 percent of your monthly energy bill.
- Consider an ENERGY STAR® model when purchasing your next TV, DVD or home theater system. Qualified products use less energy without sacrificing quality or performance.
- Shut down your computer and monitor when you're not using them. Use a power strip/surge protector for these devices. Enable your computer's power down or sleep mode feature -- screen savers don't save energy.
- Plug bundled devices into the same power strip such as a TV and DVD player or a computer, monitor and printer. Then turn off the power strip when you're not using the devices.
- Use a laptop instead of your desktop computer, if possible, because it uses less energy.

Safety NEWS You CAN USE

★ WATTS NEW IN
LaFayette

Buy energy-efficient home appliances

Tips to prevent lightning from crossing your path

As the leading cause of weather-related personal injuries, lightning claims the lives of 100 people each year and injures another 300 across the nation. Lightning is electricity in the air, and it can jump from cloud to cloud or from a cloud to the ground. A lightning bolt is fast, traveling 300 miles-per-second. It can have up to 50 million volts of electricity, which would be enough to serve about 13,000 average-sized homes.

Here are some easy-to-remember precautionary tips that your public power utility suggests you keep in mind to prevent lightning from crossing your path:

- When lightning occurs, get inside a building or a fully enclosed vehicle. Keep away from windows and open doors. If you are caught outdoors, go to low ground and crouch down. If you are in a group, stay several yards apart from each other.
- Avoid standing near water, tall objects (such as trees or poles) and metal objects. Electrical current can easily travel through them and then to you.
- Stay out of the water. Never go swimming or boating during a storm. Electricity flows easily through water and also through you if you are in it.
- During severe storms, refrain from using electrical appliances or the telephone. Lightning can strike outside and follow the wires into your home. Also, protect with surge suppressors and unplug your computer and other sensitive electrical equipment to avoid damage caused by lightning surges.
- Avoid the shower, sink and bathtub. Lighting surges also can occur inside your home by traveling through your plumbing.
- Keep away from fallen power lines and treat them all as if they were energized and dangerous. If you are in an automobile that is hit by fallen wires, do not leave the vehicle. If you must leave because of a life-threatening situation, use extreme caution. Jump out and off with both feet at the same time so you are completely clear of the vehicle before you touch the ground. Never touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Sign up as soon as possible for a first aid/CPR class. Check with your local hospital's community education department or the American Red Cross for availability. Your knowledge could save a life.

The next time you go shopping for a new appliance you might be drawn to the one with the lowest price tag. Smart shoppers will go a step further and check out the operating costs over the life of the appliance. According to the U. S. Department of Energy, different models of refrigerators with the same storage space can vary noticeably in the amount of electricity they use. As a result, you may actually save money by buying the more expensive, yet more energy-efficient model.



Even if two models look the same from the outside, the features on the inside can make a big difference in your monthly utility bills. Most of the differences are in the motors, compressors, pumps, valves, gaskets and seals, or in electronic sensors.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance through the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label on the appliance. Some appliances may also feature the ENERGY STAR® logo, which means that the appliance uses considerably less energy than a similar model.

You can also make your present appliance more energy efficient by taking the following actions:

- Move your refrigerator away from the stove, dishwasher or heat vents. Vacuum the coils periodically to reduce dirt buildup. Check the doors for air leaks and defrost the freezer when more than a quarter-inch of ice builds up.
- Use pots that fit the size of your stove burners and use lids on your pots and pans so that you can cook foods at lower temperatures.
- Make sure that the water level on your washer is the correct setting for the amount of clothes you are washing.
- Clean your clothes dryer filters after each use.
- Wash clothes in cold or warm water when possible.
- Check to see that the temperature on your water heater is set to 120 degrees if you have a dishwasher. If you don't have a dishwasher, you may set your water heater at 110 degrees.

By purchasing energy-efficient appliances and using them properly, you can save each month on your energy bill.

For more energy-efficiency tips, visit www.energystar.gov.

★ WATTS NEW IN Luverne

Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival and Shriners' 'World's Largest Peanut Boil' planned for Labor Day weekend in Luverne

By Regina Grayson



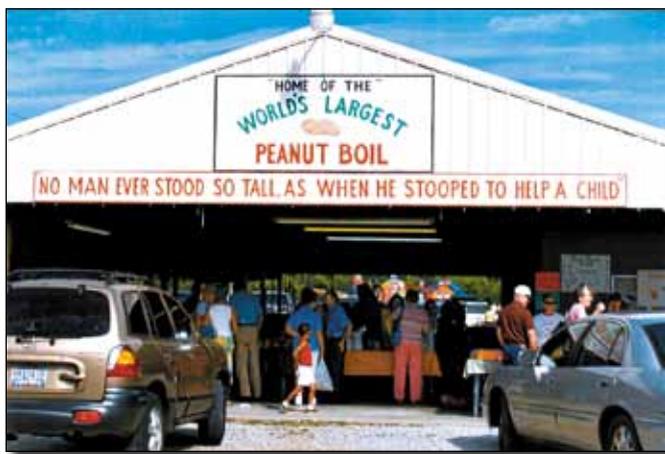
Luverne, Alabama, The Friendliest City in the South, comes alive during Labor Day weekend as the bumper-to-bumper beach traffic includes tags from almost every state across the nation. The hustle and bustle at this time of the year is all thanks to two huge events, the Crenshaw

County Shrine Club's Annual "World's Largest Peanut Boil", as well as the Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival, sponsored by the Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce.

Numerous travelers plan their vacation routes through the intersection of U.S. Highway 331 and Highway 10 so they can stock up on several bags of the steaming, salted goobers beginning on Wednesday before Labor Day weekend. And now travelers can visit the Peanut Boil Festival on Saturday on adjacent grounds.

Saturday, Sept. 1, is the day for the Third Annual Peanut Boil Festival, and visitors will find arts and craft vendors selling furniture, porch swings, clothing, lotions and candles, pictures and plaques, Auburn and Alabama items, leather goods, quilts, baskets, bird houses, jewelry and much more. For the kids, there will be a train, swing, sand art, face painting, slide, and moonwalk. In addition to the numerous arts and crafts, there are a number of other activities planned for that day including a 5K Fun Run/Walk, a beauty pageant featuring categories from birth to 15 years, a Peanut King category for boys up to 24 months, and a car and motorcycle show. The festival will also be filled with plenty of good food, sweet treats, and lots of great music and entertainment all day long, including the cheerleader squads from the four Crenshaw County schools. Mark your calendars now to travel to The Friendliest City in the South Labor Day weekend.

For more information about the Peanut Boil Festival, please visit www.peanut-boilfestival.com, and the Chamber's Facebook page at "Crenshaw County Chamber of Commerce", or call the Chamber of Commerce office at (334) 335-4468.



★ WATTS NEW IN Piedmont



Piedmont goes wireless

By Ben Singleton

Piedmont Power and Light employees have been busy at work the past couple of months helping to install Piedmont's new wireless system. Piedmont City Schools were one of 20 in the nation to be chosen to receive a FCC E-Rate Grant. This is a pilot program aimed at providing home wireless Internet access for school children in rural areas.

The wireless Internet mesh is covering a seven-square-mile area. This is a great help to local students considering Piedmont City Schools deployed a laptop initiative last year which provided students in grades 4th through 12th with a MacBook laptop. This program provides every student with free wireless Internet at home. Students that live outside of the coverage area will be receiving a wireless MiFi device to provide them with wireless Internet at home.

Piedmont Power and Light employees are responsible for installing a total of 216 wireless router devices to power poles to make this project work. They will also install some power poles in areas to accommodate some of these routers to complete the project.

The project is about two-thirds complete and is expected to be finished by the end of this summer.

WATTS NEW IN Fairhope



CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN FAIRHOPE



Plans are underway for another grand Fourth of July in Fairhope

Fairhope has a long tradition of bay front Fourth of July celebrations, dating back to the earliest days when men in straw hats strolled arm-in-arm with women dressed in their finest along the old pier while modestly dressed bathers waded into the waters of Mobile Bay. Not that many years ago, a greased pole was part of the celebration, with a prize going to the boy who could manage to climb all the way to the top. This year, the celebration will include music from the Baldwin Pops Band beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Henry George Park and a spectacular fireworks display at dusk at the Fairhope Municipal Pier and Park.

“The way we celebrate may have changed over the years, but one thing remains the same,” Kant said. “It’s a great day to celebrate the freedoms we have in this country and the wonderful life we have in Fairhope.”

Also, on Sunday, July 1, the City of Fairhope, in conjunction with the First Baptist Church of Fairhope, will offer a Freedom Celebration at the Fairhope Municipal Pier. The event will include a community choir, a salute to our military and military demonstrations. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. Participants should bring lawn chairs for seating.

For more information on Fourth of July events, call (251) 929-1466.



WATTS NEW IN **Lanett**

Longtime Fire Captain Kelly Meacham retires

By Jennie Gunnells

Kelly Meacham, Fire Captain, City of Lanett Fire/EMS Department, is retiring at a very young age. Of course, he began his longtime career as a volunteer fireman when he was 15 years old. From ages 15 to 18, he served as a volunteer.



*Fire Captain
Kelly Meacham*

“Back in those days, the fire chief allowed me and a couple of other high school boys to hang around the station and take part in a lot of fire activities,” Meacham said.

Meacham had found his calling. He loved it. He was in high school and gave up band in order to be a volunteer fireman.

Former Fire Chief Mack Sanders hired Kelly fulltime and Meacham says he will never forget that day. Chief Sanders called Meacham to his office and told him that he was going to give him a chance as a fulltime employee. It was June 28, 1979. His official first day on duty was July 3, 1979 and it started out with a business fire. Meacham thinks it is quite fitting that he would retire June 28, 2012.

There were many letters of commendation from Chief Sanders in Meacham's file.

In his first years, they were on duty for two and a half days and off for four and a half days. It was a good schedule, but it was changed to the standard 24-on and 48-off in the early 1980s.

Meacham is fairly sure that he has held almost every rank in the department: volunteer, firefighter, apparatus operator and captain. He was even the interim fire chief from Nov. 3, 2008 to March 2, 2009. Fire chief was a job

that Kelly always wanted, or thought he wanted. However, he learned that there is more work involved in the chief of today's fire department than anyone can imagine.

Meacham said he admires Fire/EMS Chief Johnny Allen and that Chief Allen is doing an outstanding job as chief of the department. He said fire service has changed dramatically since he began his career all those years ago.

Meacham has served as the coordinator of our volunteer firefighters, Public Safety and Education Officer and Training Officer for the department. The one role that he is most proud of is being able to call himself a member of the City of Lanett Fire and EMS Department.

Meacham said the City of Lanett has been very good to him over the years and he will miss working here tremendously. He will miss his co-workers, the employees at City Hall and the citizens that the Fire/EMS protects and serve.

He is leaving because he feels it's time to move on. He wants to spend more time with his wife, Contessa, and his children and do some traveling. Meacham and his wife have six children. They are Justin, Jessie, Michael, Bailey, Lauren and Tyler. Contessa received her degree in nursing and the

schedule she is on will allow them to be able to travel. They are excited and looking forward to this phase of their marriage.

I spoke with Contessa and she said her husband does a lot of work at their church, Saint John's Episcopal in West Point, GA. She said he cuts the grass and is very active in church activities.

One of his skills is carpentry. He built a beautiful table that is in the City of Lanett Fire/EMS Department. One of my memories is of Meacham and his shift building our Santa Claus House. He also enjoys working with metal and making art objects with metal.

Meacham has told Chief Allen and the members of his shift that when he leaves, he wants to walk out of here missing the people, the City of Lanett and the Fire/EMS Department. He does not want to leave disliking the place that he has called home for all of his adult life.

“It's going to be a tough adjustment retiring from the Fire/EMS Department, but I am looking forward to it,” he said. “People ask me what I am going to do when I retire and my answer is.....whatever my wife tells me to do.”

Good luck to Captain Meacham in his retirement from all of us at City of Lanett. He will be missed.

Area cities join forces to establish paddling course on Chattahoochee River

By Jennie Gunnells

The mission of the Chattahoochee Valley Blueway project is to establish a 52-mile paddling course on the Chattahoochee River that will create a host of activities between West Point Lake and Columbus, GA.

Recently, a meeting of the cities within the Greater Valley area was held in order to help make this vision a reality. The cities represented were the City of West Point, GA, the City of Lanett and the City of Valley.

Deborah Daniel, Acting City Manager/City Clerk, City of Lanett, and Jennie Gunnells, Human Resource Manager, City of Lanett, attended the meeting at West Point Depot. Debra A. Edelson, Senior Program Director, Georgia Office, along with Alan P. Long, Georgia Director of Philanthropy, The Trust for Public Land, conducted the meeting. Camilla Warren and David Egger of the Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta, also attended the meeting.

Ms. Edelson advised that the next step for the Chattahoochee Valley Blueway project is fundraising, including building a database of donor prospects.

“We are very excited about this opportunity for development on the Chattahoochee River,” said Mrs. Daniel.

WATTS NEW IN Dothan

A new customer for Dothan Utilities

By Richard Ash



As many of you know, construction has begun on the new Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. The college is located on the east side of Dothan on Cowarts Road and will have a large campus to include academic and administrative facilities, and dormitories.

For Dothan Utilities, this means an increase in the electrical load to our system. To accommodate growth, Dothan Utilities is planning a substantial upgrade of the power lines along Highway 84 East and Cowarts Road. Construction of these improvements is projected to begin within the next six months. In addition to accommodating the increased power demand, more service reliability will be in place for our existing Dothan Utilities customers.

As always, Dothan takes great pride in the progressive steps that are being taken across our City and we are pleased to inform our citizens that Dothan Utilities is prepared for each monumental stride.

WATTS NEW IN Alexander City

Alexander City takes soccer to a new level

By Tracy Kendrick

Alexander City is expected to start on a new soccer complex in August. The new complex will be located next to the pool in the old Russell sports complex. The soccer complex will eventually be home all Alex City Soccer. This includes all youth, middle school and high school soccer teams.

The new complex will consist of up to six youth fields. Two regulations fields with a grandstand are also included in the plans. Once completed, this will allow Alexander City to host youth tournaments. In the future, these tournaments will be a great source of additional revenue for Alexander City.

The completion of the soccer complex will take Alexander City to the next level in the sport of soccer. Building a complex like this one will take a lot of funds. Fundraising has already started for the complex.

Soccer is a growing sport and the new complex will be a great addition to Alexander City.



Future site of Alexander City Soccer Complex

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE IN ALEXANDER CITY:

Day Time (256) 409-2080, After Hours/Holidays – Call Police Dept. (256) 234-3421 Please do not call 911

WATTS NEW IN Opelika

Opelika sporting new looks and new services

By Jan Gunter

The City of Opelika is sporting some new looks and new services, which we're really excited about sharing with the public this summer.

Opelika Power Services (OPS) unveiled its new logo this past May. It was chosen by OPS employees, formerly Opelika Light & Power, in a department-wide vote. Employees chose to keep some elements of the old Light & Power logo, and incorporated those into a new design, which represents the addition of a fiber network that will enhance the department's traditional utility operations, while adding video, voice and data capabilities.

OPS has provided the City of Opelika with over 100 years of reliable electric service. With the addition of smart grid technology, the electric system will become even more effective and efficient while ensuring the delivery of modern broadband/triple play services to the Opelika community.



This new logo represents the ever-changing face of the City of Opelika – a strong, rich heritage and a city that is ready for economic growth and sustainability within a new infrastructure.

The City also launched a new City of Opelika App, which can be downloaded for free to iPhones, Android Phones and iPads through your device's App Store.

The City's App pages include:

- *About the City* – This gives you a very brief overview of the City of Opelika, which is similar to the information found on the front page of the City's website.
- *News* – This is general upcoming news and news happenings about City sponsored events / announcements the public might be interested in.
- *Calendar of Events* – This will give you dates on City-sponsored events and information about that event.
- *Alerts* – Alerts are similar to “push notifications”. A “New!” icon will appear whenever new information has been published. An example of an alert might include a traffic accident that has shutdown the interstate.
- *iReport* – If you ever notice something “amiss” while you're out, like a traffic light not working or a pothole in the road, then you can use this section to let us know, and we'll add it to our “to do” list.
- *Secret Witness Hotline* – We know it's not always easy to report crime. Some folks are afraid to give their names for fear of retribution, and others simply don't want to give their names for a number of other reasons. Whatever your reasons, the Opelika Police Department wants you to know you can remain anonymous and still let us know about it. Through this App, you can call the Secret Witness Phone number (334) 745-8665, or you can send an anonymous email to SWhotline@ci.opelika.al.us.
- *Photos* – This page (not yet complete) will capture the essence of all that the City of Opelika is.
- *Contact us Section* – This section will give the public quick and easy access to the phone numbers for the various departments and divisions within the City of Opelika. Please note: We have listed the phone numbers for the Opelika Police Department and the Opelika Fire Department, but these are non-emergency numbers! If you are in an emergency situation, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1.



We hope you will take the time to download the City of Opelika App for yourself and check us out. And once you have had this App for a while, please give us your feedback on how you like it and how you think we can improve it for public use. You can contact Jan Gunter at (334) 705-5136 or by email at jgunter@ci.opelika.al.us.



Riviera Utilities and AMEA announce scholarship winners

By David Horton

Riviera Utilities (RU) hosted a brief awards ceremony for the 2012 AMEA/RU scholarship recipients at its main office in Foley recently. Mike Dugger, General Manager, presented plaques and congratulated the seniors for their selection to receive the prestigious \$2,500 scholarship awards. This year's recipients were very well qualified and were top students in their respective schools. The recipients are Harold Lampkin, Spanish Fort High School; and Anna Raley and Tanner Shaw, Fairhope High School.

Harold B. Lampkin, the son of James and Martha Lampkin, plans attend Auburn University and work toward a degree in Pre-Medicine and Chemical Engineering. He is a member of Project Outreach, French Club and French Honor Society. He is vice president of the National Honor Society. Lampkin participated in Alabama Boys State in 2011 and is a graduate of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. His volunteer work includes youth volunteer with Spanish Fort United Methodist Church, Prodissee Pantry volunteer and Team Fox for Parkinson's Research volunteer.

Anna C. Raley, the daughter of Alice Raley of Fairhope, will attend Huntingdon College in Montgomery and major in History. She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, vice president of the National Honor Society, a representative on the Student Government Association, a member of the Academic Letter Club, senior captain of the varsity basketball team and soccer team. Raley participated in Alabama Girls State and Alabama Youth Summit. She is an Alabama Girls State Good Citizen Award recipient and a National Honor Society of High Schools Scholar. Raley is a Life Teen member and an Altar Server.

Tanner M. Shaw is the son of Joseph and Melinda Shaw of Loxley. He plans to major in Business/Accounting. Shaw is a member of the Key Club, Academic Letter Club, Model United Nations, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Teen Tutors and Spanish Club. He is a Mitchell Scholar recipient, Loxley Optimist Club Oratorical winner and State Optimist Club Oratorical Contest winner. His volunteer work includes the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, tutoring, self-initiated charity car wash for Project Kid, Fairhope After-School Program and Community Clean Up.

The scholarship students are selected based on their grades, ACT or SAT scores, financial need, community involvement and work experience. The applications for the students are judged by an independent panel of Montgomery area college guidance personnel.

"We are very proud to be able to assist in the future of our young people by presenting scholarships," said Dugger. "I am really impressed with the caliber of students that are selected



(L to R): Tanner M. Shaw, Anna C. Raley and Harold B. Lampkin pose with Mike Dugger, General Manager, Riviera Utilities, after receiving their scholarship plaques.

each year and how much they do in their schools and communities. The students this year, in my mind, are some of the best and brightest in their respective schools. It is our hope that they will go on to become productive and hard working citizens in our community. There is no doubt in my mind that they will be special students and worth watching as they make their way in building a career."

AMEA and its Member cities/utilities have provided scholarship assistance since 1992. To be eligible for the AMEA scholarship or technical school scholarship, a student's family must receive electric service from a Member's electric utility (Riviera Utilities) and the student must attend an Alabama college or university.

Robert M. Davis Scholarship awarded

By David Horton

Michael Scarpuzzi, a senior at Foley High School, is the recipient of the 2012 Robert M. (Bob) Davis Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded in honor of Bob Davis, who served 27 years on the Riviera Board of Directors.

Michael said he was shocked, surprised and awed at being the recipient of this award. "I was caught off guard. I am really looking forward to college and getting a degree in computer science. I hope to do research one day on any physics-type project. My interests are focused on math and physics and things about our universe. It is my goal to research constellations, black holes, and other interesting projects of that nature. I am very appreciative and honored to receive this scholarship and thank Mr. Davis and Riviera Utilities."



Michael Scarpuzzi receives the Robert M. (Bob) Davis scholarship plaque.

The City of Sylacauga introduces new public safety officials

By Darrol Russell and
Deborah Rogers

Sylacauga's new fire chief, Matt Missildine, assumed his responsibilities on Dec. 12, 2011.

"We had been without a fire chief for nearly a year," said Mayor Sam Wright. After interviewing many candidates, the council chose Matt Missildine to fill the position after Chief Tommy Abrams retired in early 2011.

"Matt Missildine brought a lot of passion into the prospect as our new chief and has hit the ground running. Chief Missildine has really come on board and is part of the City of Sylacauga," said Mayor Wright. He now lives here, and more importantly, he is a God fearing man who takes his job very seriously. He has taken control of the fire department, and I know he will be an asset to the City of Sylacauga and our citizens. His agenda seems pretty full, however I think that is by design as he works to accomplish his goal for the fire department.

One goal that Chief Missildine has is to establish a local training center for the department. The training center would require six to eight acres with access to water service. He has also applied for a Fire Prevention Grant to purchase a "mobile house" to be used for fire prevention demonstrations at our local schools.

Sylacauga's new police chief, Chris Carden, was transitioned from interim police chief in May. The previous chief, Louis Zook, resigned to take a position with the Alabama Attorney General's office.

"If I've ever seen a young man that had a true calling to be part of the Sylacauga Police Department it is Chief Chris Carden," said Mayor Wright. "He is following in the footsteps of his

grandfather and father. Chief Carden has been in the police department for 18 years. He takes his job very seriously and I have no doubt he will do an outstanding job for the citizens of Sylacauga."

"Chief Carden has worked his way up through the ranks and has been involved in every aspect of police work," Mayor Wright added. "Chief Carden is not a 9 to 5 kind of chief, and I appreciate his strong work ethic as much as anything. Chief Carden brings everything good into this position. He will also continue to work to gain more knowledge of the duties and responsibilities as our new police chief. When Chief Carden was named interim police chief, it appeared that everything in the world was thrown in his direction. He handled each matter very professionally and saw each as a challenge to wrap up as soon as possible. To say he was baptized under fire is putting it mildly."

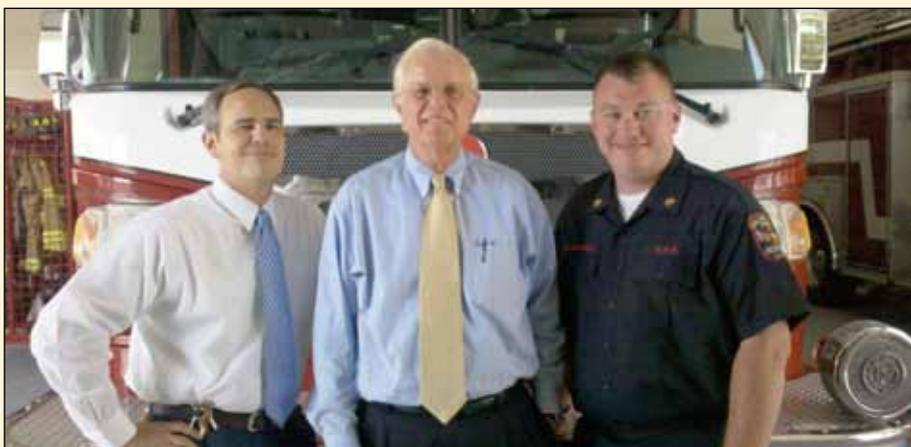
Chief Carden is seeking to partner with the state in Project Lifesaver. The Project Lifesaver program would be offered to adults and children with cog-

nitive conditions such as Alzheimer's and Autism. The program would issue to those that enroll a personalized wristband which would emit a tracking signal. To join the program, he must initially come up with \$1,000 and will need to find additional funding within the community. Another of the chief's goals was to increase the Firearm Training Unit by two people, which he has already accomplished.

Both department chiefs are reviewing policies and regulations as well as making recommendations for updates to their departments. Chief Carden has enlisted the aid of an attorney with the Alabama League of Municipalities to review policies and offer suggestions.

Chief Missildine and Chief Carden share the same objective...to create a good working partnership between their departments, working together as First Responders.

According to Mayor Wright, "We have definitely hit a home run with our two new safety department chiefs. I have found that they both work together as a team and that is very important for the citizens of Sylacauga."



(L to R) Sylacauga Police Chief Chris Carden, Mayor Sam Wright and Fire Chief Matt Missildine.

Places to Go & Things to Do

Alexander City

July 1-31, Library Exhibit Series. Adelia M. Russell Library (AMRL) and Mamie's Place Children's Library (MPCL) offer varied books, DVDs, audios, public access computers, periodicals, newspapers, databases (including genealogy). At AMRL, our year-long Library Exhibit Series encompasses poetry readings, musical presentations and book signings. Special exhibits in the past have included the Smithsonian Exhibit, Vietnam Memorial Exhibit and Vintage Garments and Unique Quilt Displays. Instructional tours for classrooms and social clubs are available. Also, movies and games and art activities for various groups. Special events, author series and seasonal activities for the Children's Library. Emphasis on Summer Reading at MPCL with many fun and interesting programs. Check the library website or look for posters and advertisements or call for upcoming events at the libraries. Adelia M. Russell, (256) 329-6796; Mamie's Place, (256) 234-4644. Visit www.alexandercityonline.com/library.htm.

July 1-31, Sarah Carlisle Towery Art Show. Free year-long exhibit featuring art composed at colony retreats at Children's Harbor. Also included are select works of Sarah Carlisle Towery. Board of Education Building, 375 Lee Street, Alexander City. (256) 215-4251.

July 1-31, June and July Summer Reading Program. Adelia M. Russell Library and Mamie's Place Children's Library. Exhibits, poetry readings, book signings, heirloom quilts exhibits. Instructional tours for classroom and social clubs. Visit www.alexandercityonline.com/library.

July 4, Russell Marine's Annual 4th of July Boat Parade. Kowaliga Marina. Decorate your boat and join the patriotic crowd as boats of all sizes, shapes and decoration will 'parade' from Kowaliga Marina to Children's Harbor and back. Contact (256) 329-0835 or www.russelllandsonlakemartin.com.

July 4, Russell Lands Annual 4th of July Blast Music. Lake Martin Amphitheater. Begins at 6 p.m., fireworks at 9 p.m. Best seat in the house. 12th anniversary for Russell Lands' sponsorship of this treasured event. Gates open at 5 p.m. for the concert. Check out the boat parade and golf cart parades the same day. (256) 329-0835 or www.russelllandsonlakemartin.com.

July 7, Antique Car Cruise In. Car enthusiasts cruise into Arby's parking lot, Highway 280, the first Saturday of the month from April through October, beginning at 6 p.m. Enjoy the era of classic cars and classic music.

July 14, Alexander City Parks and Recreation Seniors Dance. Entertainer Buddy Broach and Band will be playing at the Activity Center at 6 p.m. Admission will be \$5. For more information, call (256) 329-2910.

July 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Football Camp, Omega Psi Phi. Free. Contact Hudson Hinton at <http://www.alexcitysportsfoundation.org/contact.php> and click on Orlando Wallace to sign up. Times approximate.

July 14, 2-7 p.m., Alex City Club Horse Show. Held at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Riding Arena. Open horse show in Halter, Gaited, English, Western and Timed Events. For more information, contact Pat Avery 256-234-2925 or www.achrc.com.

July 21, Alex City Lions Annual Charity Poker Run. Beginning at the Ridge Marina, ending at Sinclair's Restaurant. Contact (256) 212-1479 or www.russellmarine.net.

July 23 and 24, Third Alabama Non-Game Wildlife Conference. From ADCNR, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Focus on maintaining a healthy and diverse wildlife population at Auburn University School of Forestry. For more information, call (334) 242-3469.

July 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Wake and Surf Board Clinic. Small group instruction by experienced professionals at River North Marina. For more information, contact sgoslin@russelllands.com.

July 28, Russell Marine Aquapalooza. Kowaliga Bay. Water-only concert. Featuring The Charlie Daniels Band. Previous headliners include Alan Jackson, John Anderson, Troline, Brantley Gilbert, Sawyer Brown and more. One of the top 50 most-attend events in 2011. www.russellmarine.net, www.lmat.org or (256) 212-1479.

Alexander City Parks and Recreation Seniors-50+ Dance Nights. Every second Tuesday. For more information, call (256) 329-2910.

Alexander City Parks and Recreation Summer Day Camp. Camps opens on May 29 and will be open until school starts. Registration is going on now. For more information, please call (256) 329-6736.

Alexander City Parks and Recreation Swimming Pool Opens. For more information, please call (256) 329-6736.

MainStreet Farmer's Market, now through October. Call (256) 329-9127, or visit www.mainstreetac.org for more information.

Aug. 1-31, Library Exhibit Series. Adelia M. Russell Library (AMRL) and Mamie's Place Children's Library (MPCL) offer varied books, DVDs, audios, public access computers, periodicals, newspapers, databases (including genealogy). At AMRL, our year-long Library Exhibit Series encompasses poetry readings, musical presentations and book signings. Special exhibits in the past have included the Smithsonian Exhibit, Vietnam Memorial Exhibit and Vintage Garments and Unique Quilt Displays. Instructional tours for classrooms and social clubs are available. Also,

movies and games and art activities for various groups. Special events, author series and seasonal activities for the Children's Library. Emphasis on Summer Reading at MPCL with many fun and interesting programs. Check the library website or look for posters and advertisements or call for upcoming events at the libraries. Adelia M. Russell, (256) 329-6796; Mamie's Place, (256) 234-4644. Visit www.alexandercityonline.com/library.htm.

Aug. 1-31, Sarah Carlisle Towery Art Show. Free year-long exhibit featuring art composed at colony retreats at Children's Harbor. Also included are select works of Sarah Carlisle Towery. Board of Education Building, 375 Lee Street, Alexander City. (256) 215-4251.

Aug. 2-5, World's Largest Yard Sale. Starting at 7 a.m. on Aug. 2 and running through Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. Located from Gadsden to Michigan.

Aug. 4, 2-7 p.m., Alex City Club Horse Show. Held at the Charles E. Bailey Sportplex Riding Arena. Open horse show in Halter, Gaited, English, Western and Timed Events. For more information, contact Pat Avery at (256) 234-2925 or www.achrc.com.

Aug. 4, Antique Car Cruise In. Car enthusiasts cruise into Arby's parking lot, Highway 280, the first Saturday of the month from April through October, beginning at 6 p.m. Enjoy the era of classic cars and classic music.

Aug. 10-12, Alabama Ballers AAU Back to Skool Tournament. Begins at 9 a.m. Aug. 10 and runs until 3 p.m. on Aug. 12. Contact Orlando Wallace at www.alexcitysportsfoundation.org/contact. Times approximate.

Aug. 10, Alexander City Parks and Recreation Seniors Dance Night. Entertainer Buddy Broach and Band will be playing at the Activity Center at 6 p.m. Admission will be \$5. For more information, call (256) 329-2910.

Aug. 11, 2-7 p.m., East Alabama Horsemen's Association Youth Club Open Horse Show. Halter, Gaited, English, Western and Timed Events. www.achrc.com or (256) 234-2925.

Aug. 18, 6 p.m., MainStreet Alexander City Auction. Aliant Bank with art show and silent auction. Followed by live auction. (256) 329-9227 or www.mainstreetac.org.

Aug. 18, 13th Annual Muster on the Tallapoosa. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. This event, the first in a series of Creek War bicentennial programs sponsored by Horseshoe Bend NMP, will focus on the year 1811. Topics will cover regional, national and international events. For further information, contact ov_jensen@nps.gov or (256) 234-7111. You can also visit www.nps.gov/hobe.

Aug. 20, 8-11 a.m., Basketball Camp. Basketball camp for children ages 11-18. BRHS girls basketball head coach Ron Rowe will host, along with Coach Latreshia Moon and the BRHS Varsity Girls BB coaching staff. Contact roweronald@hotmail.com for registration and information.

Aug. 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 1812. A bicentennial symposium focused on the year 1812 at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

Aug. 28, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Municipal Elections. Alexander City polling locations.

Dothan

Summer Day Camp. Landmark Park. Ages 4-11. Registration required. Download the schedule at www.landmarkpark.com. Camps run in July for one week.

Saturdays and Sundays in July, Discover Room Classroom. Classroom will open on Saturdays 10 a.m. - noon and 1-4 p.m., and on Sundays 2-5 p.m. Featuring a different aspect of science and nature. Hands-on learning and exploring. Free with paid admission. Sponsored by Wells Fargo.

July 4, Kiwanis Club of Dothan's Family 4th Celebration. Center Stage Alabama. Gates open at 2 p.m., with fireworks shortly after 9 p.m. Nationally-acclaimed country music sensation Shenandoah will perform on the amphitheater stage at 7:30 p.m. Free activities for children, as well as shopping with vendors and plenty of food available. Advance tickets \$5; at the gate it's \$10. Children 10 and under are free. For more information, go to www.Family4thCelebration.com, or call (334) 699-1475. Food vendor spaces already filled, but many merchandise/ crafts vendor spaces available.

July 7 and Aug. 4, 9:30 a.m., Wiregrass Woodturners. Open to the public, no experience necessary. Free with paid gate admission. Alabama Agricultural Museum. Held first Saturday of each month.

July 7 and Aug. 4, 1 p.m., Landmark Dulcimer Club Jam Session. Must have a mountain dulcimer, no experience necessary. Free with paid gate admission. Held first Saturday of each month.

July 8 and Aug. 12, 4 p.m., Reptile Feeding. Interpretive Center Classroom, Landmark Park. Watch park staff feed the snakes and learn why these animals are important to the environment. Free with paid gate admission. Held second Sunday of each month.

July 10, 17 and 24, 10 a.m. Animal Tales. Interpretive Center Auditorium, Landmark Park. Storytelling program for preschool age children. Registration required. Free with paid gate admission. Sponsored by Wells Fargo.

July 12, 7:30 p.m., Music by Moonlight. Landmark Park. Pack a picnic supper, bring the family and friends and enjoy an evening of great music by Troy University Dothan Community Band under the stars in a relaxed, informal setting. Call (334) 794-3452 for more information.

July 13, 20 and 27, 10 a.m. and noon, Animal Adventures. Interpretive Center Auditorium, Landmark Park. Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Free with paid gate admission. July 13, Butterflies and Moths; July 20, Let's Go Fishin'; July 27, What Came First (chickens and eggs). Sponsored by Wells Fargo.

July 1-27, Outdoor Alabama Photography Exhibit. Interpretive Center, Landmark Park. View the winning photos of *Outdoor Alabama* magazine's photography contest. Free with paid gate admission.

July 8, 15, 22 and 29, 3 p.m., Heritage Forums. Landmark Park. Programs about state and local history. Free with paid gate admission. Continuing Education/Professional Development Units will be offered. Sponsored by Wells Fargo. July 8, Dothan's Real Devil Make a Third; July 15, Exploring Big Mama Thornton: Blues Legend of the Wiregrass; July 22, Confederate Alabama Women and Religion; July 29, After Removal: The Creek Nation Today. Free with paid gate admission.

July 12, 7:30 p.m., Troy University Dothan Community Band Concert. Gazebo lawn. Bring a picnic and enjoy live music under the stars. Free admission.

Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m., Science on Saturdays. Programs for families about the magic of science. Sponsored by Wells Fargo. Aug. 4, Alabama Raptors; Aug. 11, Gems and Minerals; Aug. 18, Herbs 101; Aug. 25, Dog Training Basics. Free with paid gate admission.

Aug. 11, 5-9 p.m., Football Fest. Dothan Civic Center. There will be samples of tailgating foods and collegiate football merchandise for sale. There will be trivia contests and prizes, and the highlight of the evening is a keynote address from former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings at 7 p.m. General admission seating for the speech is just \$10. VIP reserved seating available, which includes a steak dinner and a meet and greet with Coach Stallings for \$100 to the first 250 people who sign-up. More information is available at www.wiregrassfootballfest.com, or by calling (334) 699-1475.

Calling All Photographers! In February of 2013, Landmark Park will be hosting a photo contest with the help of the Southeast Alabama Photography and Adventure Club. There will be several categories available for participants. Photos must have been taken in 2012 to be eligible for entry so make sure you pack your camera the next time you visit the park. More details coming soon.

Calling All Quilters! Mark your calendars for Landmark Park's Annual Quilt Show, Oct. 26-27. Antique and contemporary quilts may be entered in the juried show and special exhibit. More details coming soon.

Fairhope

June 30/July 7, Celebrate Independence Day in Downtown Fairhope. A week of activities celebrating July 4 in Fairhope. Stroll downtown and see historic downtown Fairhope decorated in red, white and blue. Look for special promotions and activities planned all over town. For additional information, call (251) 929-1466.

July 1, 6 p.m., Community Freedom Celebration. Fairhope Municipal Pier & Rose Garden. The celebration will include a community choir, children reciting passages for our most important historical documents and the color guard will present the colors. Representatives from each of the branches of the Armed Forces will be on hand. The Freedom Celebration is free and open to the public. For additional information, call (251) 929-1466.

July 4, 7:30 p.m., Fairhope's Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks Display. Henry George Park and Fairhope Municipal Pier. The Baldwin Pops Band Independence Day Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Henry George Park. A variety of patriotic music will be played before and during the fireworks display. The Fairhope fireworks display, coordinated by the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department, will begin at approximately 9 p.m. For more information, call (251) 929-1466.

July 5 and 12, 3-6 p.m., Fairhope's Outdoor Summer Market. Behind the Fairhope Public Library on Bancroft Street. The market will provide a wide variety of local produce, fruits, local honey, fresh cut flowers, plants, baked goods and more. There will be live entertainment at the market provided by local artist Daniel Dennis. The Fairhope Public Library will be providing a story time at 4 p.m. for children. For additional information, visit <http://fairhopelibrary.org/kids.htm> or call (251) 929-1466.

July 6 and Aug. 3, 6 p.m., First Friday Art Walk. Downtown Fairhope. Begins at the Eastern Shore Art Center. Visit art galleries throughout downtown Fairhope for great artwork, music and refreshments.

July 28, 2nd Annual Christmas in July. Downtown Fairhope. Christmas comes more than once a year in Fairhope. Merchants get into the holiday spirit early with bell ringer sales and special promotions throughout downtown. Stroll through the streets while listening to holiday music, enjoy refreshments, and take advantage of all that Fairhope has to offer on this very special day. For additional information, call (251) 929-1466.

Foley

Aug. 2-5, 7-9 p.m., Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation 15th Annual Professional Rodeo. Pre-Rodeo activities are at the Foley Horse Arena starting at 7 p.m. The rodeo starts at 8 p.m. From bareback bronco riding, barrel racing to children's activities, the rodeo is fun for the whole family. The horse arena is just off Highway 59, south of South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. For more information, contact Reta Barnes, reta@jennifermoorefoundation.com

Macon County

July 28, 8th Annual W.L. Strain Charity Golf Tournament. Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Association, Inc. sponsors this golf tournament to raise funds for sickle cell clients and their families in Barbour, Bullock, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Macon, Pike and Russell counties. Enjoy 18 holes of golf at the Auburn Link at Mills Creek Golf Course in Auburn. Participation includes cart and green fees, lunch, door prizes and awards. Discounted cost of \$90 per player for registrations before July 13. For online registration, visit www.seasca.com. For more information, call (334) 727- 6120 or email spowell@seasca.com.

Aug. 24 and 25, All Macon County Day. Event celebrates Macon County including Tuskegee, Shorter, Franklin and Notasulga and the neighborhoods, organizations, agencies and institutions within these municipalities. Family-friendly activities make this an experience everyone can enjoy. For more information, contact Macon County Commission Chairman Louis Maxwell at (334) 727.5120, Ext. 4 or loumaxlou@yahoo.com.

Sept. 1 and 2, Golden Hawks of Tuskegee Annual Labor Day Fly-In. Moton Field Memorial Airport (Home of the Tuskegee Airmen). Event incorporates good, wholesome family fun including flying competition, patriotic sky diving, airplane rides, tours of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, FAA seminar/safety briefing, children's aircraft building workshop and food. For more information, contact John Hicks at (334) 727-5850.

Archaeology Site/Interpretive Center. This is a project in Macon County that is dedicated to finding artifacts left behind by Indians and pioneers who settled in or passed through Creek Stand and neighboring communities more than 200 years ago. At least three digs are planned for the summer of 2012. The Macon County Archaeology Project Interpretive Center is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 until 5 p.m. Inquiries should be directed to Shari Williams at (770) 843-1913 or wellberr@bellsouth.net.

Opelika

July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 3-6 p.m., Farmers Market at Courthouse Square.

July 3, 6:30 p.m., Annual Freedom Celebration. Opelika High School Football Practice Field. Buddy Blue and Skydivers, entertainment by Muse and our area's largest fireworks show at dark.

July 6, "First Friday" in downtown Opelika. Shops open until 8 p.m. Carriage rides.

July 12, 6-9 p.m., Sportsplex Family Swim Night. "Float Night." Parents and children under the age of 15 are welcome.

July 13, 7 p.m., Float-In Movie. Opelika Sportsplex and Aquatics Center. Bring your float and family.

July 17, 7-8 p.m., Summer Swing. Featuring John and the Connors. Free train rides and concessions begin at 6 p.m.

July 19, 6-9 p.m., Sportsplex Family Swim Night. "Popsicle Night." Parents and children under the age of 15 are welcome.

July 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Back to School Bash. Covington Recreation Center. Limited number of school supplies will be given away.

July 24, 7-8 p.m., Summer Swing. Featuring Muse. Free train rides and concessions begin at 6 p.m.

July 26-28, ARPA State Swim Meet. Swim teams from across the state will be in Opelika to compete.

July 31, 7-8 p.m., Summer Swing. Featuring Martha's Trouble. Free train rides and concessions begin at 6 p.m.

Aug. 2, 6-9 p.m., Sportsplex Family Swim Night. "Back to School Night." Parents and children under the age of 15 are welcome.

Aug. 3, "First Friday" in downtown Opelika. Shops open until 8 p.m. Carriage rides.

Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 3-6 p.m., Farmers Market at Courthouse Square.

Aug. 7, 7-8 p.m., Summer Swing. Featuring Route 66 for the Back to School Bash. Free train rides and concessions begin at 6 p.m.

Statewide

July 6-8, Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday. The Alabama Legislature passed and the Governor has signed Act No. 2012-256, creating an annual Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday by exempting certain "covered items" from the state sales and use tax during one weekend each year. A provision in this new law allows cities and counties to join the state and participate in the holiday by removing their own local sales and use taxes from the same items during the same weekend. To provide guidance to both retailers and consumers, the city and county listing will be updated as notification is received and a list of items will be available. Go to <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/WPSalesTaxHol.htm> for more information. *NOTE: Check with your city/county to see if they are participating in the event.*

Sylacauga

For the month of July, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will present "Old and New." A reception will be held on July 19 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

For the month of August, the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum will present a "Football Exposition." A reception will be held on Aug. 16 from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Sylacauga Farmers Market at Central Park. Each Friday, July through August. From 7:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. *Buy Fresh. Buy Local.*

WATTS NEW AT
**Utilities Board
of Tuskegee**

The Ridge: An archaeological dig site in Macon County

By Karin Hopkins

If the ground could talk in Creek Stand and neighboring communities, it would tell tales of Indians and pioneers who inhabited or passed through Macon County more than 200 years ago. Though their time is long gone, the treasures they left behind are just waiting to be discovered.

An archaeological dig site now makes it possible for modern day explorers to connect with this glorious past through found objects. The discovery process also includes scholarly material that can be perused inside the Macon County Archaeology Project Interpretive Center, which is the field office. This newly-established facility is located at 10735 Macon County Highway 10, between Tuskegee and Hurtsboro.

At the grand opening on May 27, the first visitors were awed by the artifacts and information, including family history shared by descendants of Creek Stand, Warrior Stand and Boromville settlers.

Records show that as traders, Indians, adventurers and soldiers moved across the South, they encountered a stretch in Alabama called The Ridge. It was a lush landscape and a welcome respite from the harsh conditions they previously endured. Impressed by the thick forests, cool creeks and gurgling streams, many chose to stay in this place of natural abundance. Today, the evidence of their time here is obscured beneath layers of soil and rocks. Students, historians,



Spear tips and other artifacts found on the property draw these visitors' attention.

tourists and others who participate in digging projects can exhume archaeological relics with the right guidance and supervision. At least three digs are planned for this coming summer.

Coordinating this enterprise is a labor of love for Shari Williams and a tribute to her Hubbard and Pace ancestors, slaves and free blacks who added another dimension to Creek Stand, Warrior Stand and Boromville when they settled here, purchased land and started families.

The recipient of a small Historic Preservation Grant awarded in October 2011 by the Alabama Historical Commission, Williams used these start-up funds to renovate and transform a house into the field office/interpretive center, curate artifacts already gathered, develop informational materials and launch the project. Her team included archaeological expert Dr. John Cottier, Macon County Commissioners, local historian Glenn Drummond, tourism advocate Noah Hopkins and acclaimed artist Ronald McDowell.

This is a fascinating experience, worth a trip from wherever you are for excavation or education that unearths buried history.

The Macon County Archaeology Project Interpretive Center is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 until 5 p.m. To donate or inquire, contact Shari Williams at (770) 843-1913 or wellberr@bellsouth.net.