Welcome to the Banner

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Bringing you information on 200 years of statehood. Highlighting news and events celebrating Alabama.

Bicentennial Stories from Around the State

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Blanton’s single-barrel bourbon helps mark Alabama’s Bicentennial

BevNewsOnline.com

Ten Alabama ABC stores will be selling a special, commemorative, limited release Blanton’s single barrel bourbon in recognition of Alabama’s bicentennial celebration this year. Two single barrels of Blanton’s were hand selected for this limited release.

This special release will be available in a custom gift box depicting the state flag and historic imagery from Alabama’s 200-year history.
“Just like Buffalo Trace Distillery, Alabamians take great pride in their rich history and heritage,” said Mac Gipson, the Alabama ABC Board administrator. “The 200th anniversary of our state’s founding is another wonderful opportunity for Buffalo Trace and the Alabama ABC Board to collaborate on this one-of-a-kind commemorative release. Alabamians who enjoy Blanton’s or any of the other Buffalo Trace offerings will want to add this special 200th Anniversary release to their collection.”

Introduced in 1984 as the world’s first single-barrel bourbon, Blanton’s is aged in Warehouse H at Buffalo Trace Distillery where Colonel Albert B. Blanton used to handpick “honey barrels” when entertaining important guests. The unique sphere-shaped bottles are capped with characteristic horse and jockey bottle stoppers, each marked with a single letter that spells Blanton’s when aligned. When placed in order, the stoppers depict the different stages of Kentucky’s most famous horse race, the Derby, from beginning to end.

The stores in which the special release will be available are in Auburn, Cullman, Hoover, Muscle Shoals, Guntersville, Montgomery, Mobile, Dothan, Birmingham, and Tuscaloosa.

For the complete article please see http://www.bevnewsonline.com/blantons-single-barrel-bourbon-helps-mark-alabamas-bicentennial/
The 2019 Congressional Art Competition for high school students announced

DemopolisTimes.com

U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07) announced the 2019 Congressional Art Competition is now open to high school students from both public and private schools throughout the 7th Congressional District, as well as home-schooled high school students. The winner will receive free round-trip airfare for two to Washington, D.C. to attend an official reception honoring the winners from all the Congressional districts around the country. In addition, their artwork will be showcased in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

The theme for this year’s competition is “An Artistic Discovery: Celebrating Alabama’s 200th Birthday – Telling Our Story!”

To enter the contest, students must fill out and submit a Student Information & Release Form with their artwork by March 22. All high school students from the 7th Congressional District are encouraged to submit their artwork to any of the Congressmanwoman’s District offices.

Artwork entered into the contest may be up to 26” high X 26” wide X 4” deep (including the frame). For more information, please contact Sewell’s Birmingham office at (205) 254-1960 or visit her website to find the Student Release form and guidelines for the artwork.

As a proud product of Alabama’s rural Black Belt, Sewell has seen first-hand the talent that the district holds. Each year she is impressed with the outstanding submissions and is incredibly proud to have the winning artwork representing the 7th Congressional District in our nation’s Capitol.

For more information: https://www.demopolistimes.com/2019/03/07/sewell-announces-2019-congressional-art-competition-for-high-school-students/
Guntersville Museum to hold lecture on Alabama’s early musicians

As part of the Alabama Bicentennial Celebration and the year of Sharing our Stories, the Guntersville Museum will host Joyce Cauthen from the Alabama Humanities Foundation’s Road Scholar speaker’s bureau on Sunday, March 31, at 1 p.m.

Her lecture, Fiddlers, Banjo Players & Strawbeaters – Alabama’s First Pop Musicians will highlight the early fiddles of Alabama, the musicians who played them and the popularity of this music in their communities. Discussions will also surround the pivotal role played by African Americans in developing the music at the roots of today’s bluegrass and country music. Cauthen will demonstrate the use of the banjo, “straws” (a technique in which broom straws or knitting needles were beat on the strings as the fiddler played) and guitar in backing up the fiddle. Her talk will be made especially interesting by the presence of fiddler Jim Cauthen, who will demonstrate fiddle tunes that have been specifically mentioned in historical writings, slave narratives and early newspapers of Alabama.
The audience will hear musical styles and tunes that are seldom heard today and will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their perceptions of the differences in this music and the modern country music that are based upon it.

For the complete article please see http://www.sandmountainreporter.com/news/article_3848f922-4434-11e9-a966-5b207801e1f0.html

Couple enjoying traveling exhibit

**Our Bicentennial: Rogersville hosts state's traveling exhibit**

CourierJournal.net


This impressive display blends artistic collages, interactive computer tablets and an audio medley of song and spoken word to tell the story of Alabama – from becoming a territory to achieving statehood. It also conveys a message of hope in its presentation about the future.
The exhibit will travel to all 67 of Alabama’s counties. Four exhibits have been built and they will travel the state concurrently. This will allow all counties to experience this historic event for more than just a few days.

Organizers say AHF was a natural choice for coordinating the traveling exhibit with decades of experience through its partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit.

“Just like not everyone has the opportunity to view a Smithsonian exhibit in Washington, not everyone can make it to Montgomery to see Alabama Department of Archives and History’s unparalleled ‘Voices’ exhibit,” said AHF Executive Director Armand DeKeyser. “What we are putting together gives them that opportunity.”

For the complete article please see https://www.courierjournal.net/news/article_3943b1c2-3ec7-11e9-ab04-2b9690673748.html
Tour of Homes preparations underway in Wilcox Co.

AlabamaNews.com

Preparation is underway for the 2019 Tour of Homes in Wilcox County.

The Wilcox Historical Society is hosting the tour as part of the Alabama Bicentennial Celebration.

Organizers say this year’s Tour of Homes features 11 historical sites around the city of Camden.

Tour coordinator Elizabeth Reaves says eight of the sites on the tour are homes.

“One of the big attractions is Riverbend and the Capell-Huff House, as well as Old St. Mary’s Church which was recently turned back into a home. The people in town have never been inside the houses. They hear about them and it’s a chance for them to go in and get a one on one tour of the houses and get to see everything they’ve heard about,” she said.

Organizers say they use the event to showcase and preserve historic sites all over the county.

For more information about the tour call (334) 882-1538.

https://www.alabamanews.net/2019/03/08/tour-of-homes-preparations-underway-in-wilcox-co/
Students in Guntersville are learning history by living it

WHNT.com
Students in Guntersville are learning about their city's history in a unique program that takes them to places of the past.

"We applied for a grant with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission and our whole school system was awarded $4,000 to make this event come to life," said Chief Academic Officer Paige Raney.

"The State of Alabama came up with the idea to do 'pastports'," explained Guntersville High School teacher Tama Nunnelley, "We selected 20 places around the city that we felt were historic in some way and we wrote the history of the location, working with students to gather their story. Those students are going to be able to go around town and visit these locations and get a stamp in their pastport book."

"These bricks will be delivered to those businesses and organizations, and they'll be there for them and the students to see when they get their pastport book stamped," said Val Jones, another teacher at the high school.

Each destination tells a bit of Guntersville's history, from the Civil War to when the Tennessee Valley Authority created the lake. It's all part of a project this school year to make Guntersville's history come alive.

"One of the goals of the grant was to pass along to our kids the memories, the stories, and really a history of our people," Raney said.

For the complete article please see: https://whnt.com/2019/03/08/students-in-guntersville-are-learning-history-by-living-it/
March 14, 1995

The Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum opened to the public in Birmingham with 325 motorcycles on display. The vision of former racecar driver and dairy industrialist George Barber, the collection moved to a new, 740-acre location in Birmingham in 2003. The five-story, 144,000-square-foot museum displays over 1,400 motorcycles, the largest such collection in the world, and an array of various racecars. The site is also
home to a 2.3-mile, 16-turn racetrack used to host professional races, including the Honda Superbike Classic and the Grand-Am Cup. Barber was inducted into the American Motorcyclist Association Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2014.

http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1555

March 18-June 3 - Piedmont Historical Society: Sweet Home: Alabama History in Maps (Piedmont)
Discover things about Alabama that you may have not known and see maps of Alabama as it became a state.

March 23 - 200 Years of Alabama Roots - An Alabama Bicentennial Genealogy Event (Gadsden) Signature Event
Learn the advantages of creating a public family tree and how to deal with incorrect or unsubstantiated information. Explore how today’s technology allows us to search distant records and databases for family information. Learn how to navigate through family records and discover the people with whom they worked, prayed, fought, and married. Get tools and resources to take your research to the next level.

March 23 – Wilcox Historical Society Tour of Homes (Camden)
Tour historically significant structures and learn about the area’s rich history.

March 23-24 and 29-31 – Canebrake Homecoming (Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Sumter Counties)
Celebrate Alabama’s Bicentennial in the Canebrake. Tour rarely opened sites over two weekends, plus lots of extras.

March 30 - Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Bash (Tuscaloosa)
Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, St. Paul & the Broken Bones, and the Commodores will come to Tuscaloosa to celebrate the city’s 200th birthday with a free concert that will also feature the Blind Boys of Alabama and Moon Taxi. Hosted by the Tuscaloosa 200 Bicentennial Commission, the “Bicentennial Bash” will be held at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater.

April 11-13: Anabranch 2019 (Montgomery)
What was the one-day Alabama Book Festival will become Anabranch 2019, a three-day event that will include the book festival on Saturday in Old Alabama Town, along with workshops, special events and more.
Go to: alabama200.org/events for a list of 2019 events

Making Alabama:
A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit (near you)

Mar. 6-21  Coosa County, City: Rockford, Venue: Coosa E-911 Office

Mar. 8-21  Conecuh County, City: Evergreen, Venue: Evergreen-Conecuh Co. Public Library

Mar. 11-22  Barbour County, City: Clayton, Venue: Clayton City Hall

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