Welcome to the Banner

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

Bicentennial Banquet held at Governor’s Mansion
Gov. Kay Ivey pays a visit to a newly announced Bicentennial School
A Commemoration of Alabama’s Constitutions
Gulf Seafood Gala
Snead State to host Gerhart Music Festival
Judson College Symposium spotlights literary impact of alumnae
Wiregrass Quilt Show displays local talent

On this day in Alabama - October 24

Upcoming Events
Exhibitions
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Alabama has been a state for 200 years, and its people are stepping up to commemorate its bicentennial. We’re here to keep you up to date on events and programs throughout the state and help you tune in to the state’s diverse cultural and historic heritage.

To stay on top of everything that’s going on, check out our community calendar at ALABAMA200.org, and to get the full scoop, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Your participation helps us reach as many people as possible and is an easy and effective way to show pride for our state, from Bay Minette to Tuscaloosa, Huntsville to Old Cahawba, and the many other towns and communities joining in the celebration. Don’t miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate with us. Join the party!
Thursday, Oct. 17, Alabamians traveled to the Governor’s Mansion to celebrate a Taste through Time: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama Food, a signature Alabama 200 event. The evening was presented by author Trace Barnett. Barnett is the author of "Tracing Roots: A Modern Approach to Living Off the Land." Also presenting was Executive Chef of the State of Alabama Jim Smith and caterer Kathy G. & Co. of Birmingham.

The event celebrated 200 years of Alabama statehood with a culinary tour of Sweet Home Alabama through exquisitely prepared regional favorites that were prepared to evoke memories of our beloved people and places and showcasing Alabama’s vibrant contemporary food scene. The signature bicentennial commemoration event benefitted Friends of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion.

Economic developer and historian Nicole Jones attended with her daughter.

“Thank you to all who coordinated a beautiful evening in Montgomery. Chefs selected cuisine to represent all areas of our state,” Dr. Jones told the Alabama Political Reporter. “The dinner provided guests the opportunity to celebrate the Alabama Bicentennial as well as benefit historic preservation of the Governor’s Mansion. Historic buildings are a labor of love, and we value the Friends of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion for taking on this task.”

The special bicentennial event took place on the grounds of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion.
The event featured a culinary tour through every region of the state. Tickets were $50 each and were limited to just 200 places. Proceeds from ticket sales support the renovation of the governor’s mansion’s kitchen.

Kathy G & Company are a renowned Birmingham-based catering and event design firm.

Barnett and Kathy G created a menu that took diners from North Alabama white barbecue sauce to Gulf Coast seafood gumbo with iconic dishes like fried green tomatoes, Alabama black-eyed pea “caviar” and banana pudding moon pies in between.

“Our bicentennial year is a fabulous occasion to celebrate our state,” said Barnett.


“What says ‘Alabama’ more than the ingredients and dishes that are unique to our regions?” Barnett added.

“We are thrilled to be a part of the dinner and welcome the support it will give the mansion,” noted Stephen Brickley, president of the Friends of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion. “Our kitchen does not date from the founding of the state, but you might not know that if you saw it today! Proceeds from the event will go a long way toward helping with its renovation.”

The event was made possible with the generous support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama and Coca-Cola Bottling United, Inc., both long-time sponsors of ALABAMA 200, the official bicentennial commemoration.

The Friends of the Alabama Governor’s Mansion's goal is to collect, preserve, and interpret fine and decorative arts and furnishings in an historical setting appropriate for the Alabama Governor’s Mansion.

“A Taste Through Time” is just one of many events planned this fall that celebrate Alabama’s people, places and stories.

For the complete article please see https://www.alreporter.com/2019/10/21/bicentennial-banquet-held-at-governors-mansion/
Gov. Kay Ivey pays a visit to a newly announced Bicentennial School

From the article by Stephanie Poole on WCBL.com:

South Lamar High School has a new distinction. One that will link it to a special moment in Alabama History.

The school was selected as a 200 Alabama Bicentennial School.

In 2018, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey announced the 200 Alabama Bicentennial Schools. The goal is to get students involved in the history of their state, and the future of their communities.

On Monday, students at South Lamar school had something different to tell their parents when asked, “what happened at school today?” They had a special visitor on campus, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.

The Governor’s visit was part of the Alabama Bicentennial Schools, a program designed to bridge communities and show inclusion for everyone.

Principal Lisa Wright said becoming an Alabama Bicentennial School was competitive.

“We had to apply for a grant, and it had to be a community project. We did the banners that are out in the front of the school and it has our South Lamar logo in the middle and
it has the Kennedy and Millport dates that they were open because we are a combination of two schools,” said Wright.

Students even dressed up as famous Alabamians who left a tremendous impact in the community, one student was dressed as Governor Ivey herself.

“To know that the history class came up with the project so it was an exciting moment for them. We won a $2,000 grant that made us an official Bicentennial School. We are just really proud that the governor chose us to come to especially being a Bicentennial School. We have been really excited that she was going to visit us, we never had a governor visit our school,” said Wright.

Student body president Herachio Washington said he’s thankful his school was chosen.

“That’s the first time the governor has visited a school in Lamar County and it was actually really humbling and really honoring,” said Washington. “I was proud to be able to be the one to shake her hand. It’s a really big accomplishment because for a lot of us, our whole families have come to school here. We just really take pride in our school because our school has a lot of things that many schools don’t have.”

“Getting to incorporate that into our school is such a proud accomplishment that we get to hold. High school and elementary have definitely been more incorporated throughout the years,” said government student ambassador Alex Trull.

Wright said she looks forward to students and educators working closer together on more activities for the school system.

“I hope in the future that it helps these kids put alot into some of the projects that we do and they can learn from them and what can come out of it. With Alabama being here 200 years, our kids need to know what Alabama was years ago and that has shaped our community,” said Wright.

The State of Alabama will celebrate its 200th Birthday on Dec. the 14.

For the complete article please see https://www.wcbi.com/governor-kay-ivey-pays-a-visit-to-a-newly-announced-bicentennial-school/
The Blackstone & Burke Center for Law & Liberty at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law announces “A Commemoration of Alabama’s Constitutions,” a symposium addressing the complex history of Alabama’s six constitutions. The event will take place, Oct. 30, from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., in Montgomery at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, located at 624 Washington Ave.

The event will feature seven sessions that include a variety of speakers with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Speakers will include:
Steve Murray (Director, Department of Archives and History)
Armand DeKeyser (Executive Director, Alabama Humanities Foundation)
Chief Justice Tom Parker (Alabama Supreme Court)
Allen Mendenhall (Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, Blackstone & Burke Center)
William H. Stewart (University of Alabama)
Richard Bailey (historian and author)
Steven Brown (Auburn University)
Scotty Kirkland (Department of Archives and History)
Volney Riser (University of West Alabama)
Chief Justice Brent E. Dickson (Indiana Supreme Court, retired)
Julian D. Butler (attorney, Alabama Humanities Foundation Board, Alabama Department of Archives and History Board)
J. Mills Thornton (University of Michigan)
Ashley Penhale (Alabama State Bar)
Susan Pace Hamill (University of Alabama)
Justice Tommy Bryan (Alabama Supreme Court)
Michael DeBoer (Faulkner University)
Timothy Lewis (Director, Alabama Supreme Court State Law Library)

All are welcome. The Alabama State Bar has approved this event for 6.5 hours of CLE credit.

Registration for the event is available at this link: https://law.faulkner.edu/events/a-commemorationof-alabamas-constitutions/. Box lunches will be limited to the first 80 registrants. For additional information, please contact Dr. Allen Mendenhall at amendenhall@faulkner.edu.

This event is cosponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, and the Alabama Humanities Foundation and will afford guests the opportunity to view the new exhibition We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents.
Gulf Seafood Gala

Join us for the third annual Gulf Seafood Gala on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Isle Dauphine Club! Enjoy locally sourced Gulf seafood prepared by Dority's, Pirates Bar & Grill, Islanders Restaurant & Bar, Jt's Sunset Grill, Waves DI, Island Rainbow, LLC, The Pelican Reef, and Catalina Seafood, and served in a relaxed atmosphere at the iconic Isle Dauphine. A full cash bar will be available. Live music and a silent auction of original art will round out a memorable Dauphin Island experience.

Admission is by pre-purchased ticket only. Tickets are on sale now at $50 each, and may be purchased online NOW at https://dauphinislandarts.networkforgood.com/events/14832-gulf-seafood-gala-2019 or at the Dauphin Island Gallery (the Lighthouse Building), 918A Bienville Boulevard. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sunday from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m.

Presenting sponsors for the Gala include Pirates Bar & Grill at the Isle Dauphine. Platinum sponsors include Greer's Markets and Mobile County Commission. Other sponsorships are available.

The Gulf Seafood Gala is endorsed by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission as an official Alabama 200 event.

For more information, send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org.
Snead State to host Gerhart Music Festival

From the article on *GadsdenTimes.com*:
The 47th annual Gerhart Music Festival at Snead State Community College will kick off on Oct. 24 and conclude Oct. 27, featuring performances by the Gerhart musicians and local youth musicians.

Festival performances begin with the Gerhart Youth Concert at 6 p.m. on Oct. 24 in Fielder Auditorium. The Gerhart musicians — Michael Davis, violin; Jeffrey Cohen, pian; Bion Tsang, cello; and Wayne Roden, viola — will be joined by the Boaz Intermediate School Honor Choir, under the direction of Miriam Richey.

The closing Gerhart Concert at 2 p.m. on Oct. 27 will feature selections performed by the Gerhart musicians, such as music by composers Ludwig van Beethoven and Robert Schumann. The concert also will be held in Fielder Auditorium.

Both the youth concert on Oct. 24 and the Oct. 27 performance will pay tribute to Beethoven’s 250th birth year as well as Alabama’s Bicentennial.

Other activities to be held during this year’s festival include a performance for Snead State’s Convocation class, a performance for Corley Elementary School students and a Master Class.

Snead State’s Fine Arts Program chair, Dr. Barbara Hudson, also will lead an Alexander Technique Seminar at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 26 in the Maze Music Building as part of the festival. The Alexander Technique Seminar is open to anyone, not just those with an interest in music.

The Alexander Technique is a mind and body self-care technique that helps restore the body’s upright and breathing reflexes. It is taught with verbal instruction and gentle hands-on contact to help people rediscover their natural coordination as well as alleviate pain related to misdirected physical energy and muscle misuse/overuse. People who practice Alexander Technique principles in their daily lives have experienced a reduction in blood pressure, a reduction in breathing difficulties, improvement in the functioning of the digestive system and reduced stress on the heart muscle. Anyone interested in the seminar may contact Hudson at barbara.hudson@snead.edu.

All Gerhart Music Festival concerts will take place in the Administration Building on the Boaz campus and are free to attendees. This year’s festival is available in part
because of many local sponsors as well as a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts & the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, visit snead.edu/gerhart

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**Judson College Symposium spotlights literary impact of alumnae**

From the article by George McDonald on AlabamaNews.net:

Judson College hosted a symposium on campus Wednesday — to celebrate the contribution it’s alumnae have made to literature.

The event featured the works and accomplishments of five former Judson College students — who went on to become successful authors.

Organizers say the symposium also highlighted the impact Judson alumni — have had on literature. They say the college has produced more than 100 published authors — over it’s 181 year history.

“The five today are unique in their field. In a time that women did not really have the vote but certainly tell us what they thought and these thoughts are very powerful and very meaningful,” said event chairman Carol May.

The symposium was endorsed and partially funded by a grant from the Alabama...
Bicentennial Commission.

Judson College is a private Christian college for women located in Marion.

For the complete article please see https://www.alabamanews.net/2019/10/23/judson-college-authors-symposium-spotlights-literary-impact-of-alumnae/

Wiregrass Quilt Show displays local talent

From the article by Anna Knapp on WTVY.com:

Alabama is turning 200 and with that age comes years of history. As part of the Bicentennial celebration, Landmark Park is displaying dozens of quilts.

Every quilt is unique. Some hand stitched others machine sewn but all of them have one thing in common - a creator with a story.

Loretta Tullis makes quilts for her grandchildren and proud to show them off.

"Each of the other four grandchildren's quilts have been here," said Tullis, featured Quilter.

This one, the final quilt to appear at Landmark Park's Alabama Bicentennial Quilt Show. It's for her grandson Luke.

“So to begin with, I put an insect in each one. So if my grandson gets the quilt and he
decides to look in the center, he will find insects.”

It's design is Pine Burr, patterned on the state quilt.

"You cut them out and then you do the folding and then stitch them together."

It's made to look like a pinecone. With the colors woven together for Luke who is fascinated by bugs.

"Insects, they are so brilliantly colored sometimes."

More than 150 patterns are on display.

"Alabama has a very large community of quilters. And that's something that's been going on for many, many, many years," said Betty Jones, Quilter.

Some made for warmth and others for art.

"If it's a new quilt. It will be history, because somebody will leave it behind for a family member," said Vickie Meadows, Quilter.

Quilters tell me their greatest gift - time and patience.

"I think you have to love it. I have my mother in law who quoted quills to keep people warm. And that was her goal. And we move beyond that. Now quilts are more like an art form," said Meadows, "So much talent in here and there's so much work in here."

The quilts are in the activity barn at Landmark Park.

For the complete article please see https://www.wtvy.com/content/news/Wiregrass-Quilt-Show-Displays-Local-Talent-563460181.html
Chief Justice George Washington Stone

October 24, 1811

Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court George Washington Stone was born in Virginia. Stone moved to Talladega County in 1834 and was first elected to the Supreme Court by the General Assembly in 1856. During his 28 years on the court, he wrote more than 2,400 opinions that extend through 60 volumes of the court’s official reports. His most influential opinions limited the use of self-defense in murder cases, setting a precedence that was later cited in rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court and continues to have relevance today. Stone played a vital role in the creation of the Alabama Bar Association and was inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame.

http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1281
Oct. 1-31 – Huntsville History Month (Huntsville)
Huntsville History Month is back for its second year, with a variety of history-centric events and

Oct. 30 – OLLI to host talk on Battle of Mobile Bay (Auburn)
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University hosts its Lunch & Lecture Series from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the auditorium of the Jule Collins Smith Museum. The program is on the Civil War’s Battle of Mobile Bay.

Oct. 30 – A Commemoration of Alabama's Constitutions (Montgomery)
The Blackstone & Burke Center for Law & Liberty at Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law announces “A Commemoration of Alabama’s Constitutions,” a symposium addressing the complex history of Alabama’s six constitutions. The event will feature seven sessions that include a variety of speakers with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Oct. 26 – Storytelling Festival (Lacey's Spring)
Free fun for the whole family from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Grave's Grocery. Activities include: live music, storytelling, pottery wheel, local Civil War history and s'more making. Olde Towne Queing Co. Food Truck will be on location.
Visit https://www.gravesgrocery.com/

Nov. 1-11 – Clean Home Alabama Initiative (State-wide)
Community college students, faculty and staff will serve alongside residents and members of several community organizations on Clean Home Alabama days for a number of beautification and litter pickup projects in Alabama’s counties. Several community organizations have already committed to projects.
Visit www.accs.edu/CleanHomeAL.

Nov. 2 – Butler County's Bicentennial Celebration (Greenville)
Celebrating Alabama's Bicentennial as well as 200 years of Butler County's existence, our celebration event will include: Center Stage, a flag ceremony, local history displays, local tours, a vintage auto show and children's hands on history discovery area.
Visit http://alabama200.org/events/butler-county-bicentennial-celebration

Nov. 3-Dec 31 – We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents (Montgomery)
Celebrate Alabama’s bicentennial with the documents that defined our state and shaped its history. All six of Alabama’s constitutions will be on view together in a special exhibition presented by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The exhibition will also highlight intensive conservation work recently completed on the constitutions and the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama’s separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. The ordinance will also be included in the exhibition. Visit https://www.wethepeoplealabama.org/

Nov. 6 – The Story of Alabama in Fourteen Foods (Dothan)
Wallace Community College Learning Resources Center Presents author, Emily Blejwas. Her new book, The Story of Alabama in Fourteen Foods explores well-known Alabama food traditions and reveals salient histories of the state in a new way. In this
book that is part history, part travelogue, and part cookbook, Blejwas pays homage to fourteen emblematic foods, dishes, and beverages, one per chapter, as a lens for exploring the diverse cultures and traditions of the state. Visit https://www.wallace.edu/

Nov. 6 & 7 – Teacher Professional Development Workshops on Alabama's Six Constitutions (Montgomery)
Featuring the Alabama Department of Archives and History's new bicentennial exhibition We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents, these day-long workshops for grades 3-12 teachers will delve into the history of Alabama's six constitutions and provide valuable tools and resources for incorporating them into your classroom curriculum. Visit http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=rmg54lcab&oeidk=a07egmle02j3eae74a2

Go to Alabama200.org/events for more information on these and other events.

Exhibitions

Unframed Images: Photography from the collection of P. H. Polk
Sept. 16 - Oct. 31 Madison Co., City: Huntsville, Venue: Alabama A&M University Library
Nov. 1 - Nov. 29 Dale Co., City: Dothan, Venue: Troy University Dothan Campus Library
Dec. 2 - 30 Jefferson Co., City: Birmingham, Venue: Springville Road Public Library

Alabama Justice: The cases and faces that changed a nation

Making Alabama: A Bicentennial traveling exhibit

Oct. 4 - Oct. 25 Etowah Co., City: Gadsden, Venue: Gadsden Museum of Art

Oct. 8 - Oct. 25  Walker Co., City: Jasper, Venue: Bankhead House and Heritage Center

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For other Bicentennial news related articles, click here.

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For a complete list of sponsors, click here.