Welcome to the Banner

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

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New Finale website al200finale.org

On this day in Alabama - November 21
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!
U.S. Rep. Martha Roby on the floor of the U.S. House Chamber

Roby honors the Alabama Bicentennial from U.S. House Chamber

From the article by Sean Ross on Yellowhammer.com:

U.S. Rep. Martha Roby (AL-02) on Tuesday joined Alabama’s entire U.S. House delegation in honoring the Yellowhammer State’s upcoming bicentennial anniversary on the chamber floor.

In a speech, Roby introduced H. Res. 711, which recognizes the incorporation of Alabama as the 22nd state in the Union on December 14, 1819.

Reps. Bradley Byrne (AL-01), Mike Rogers (AL-03), Robert Aderholt (AL-04), Mo Brooks (AL-05), Gary Palmer (AL-06) and Terri Sewell (AL-07) joined Roby in commemorating the historic milestone.

Roby’s remarks not only mentioned the marker of Alabama’s statehood but lauded its current progress. “This is a monumental occasion in our state’s history, and we are looking forward to joining Alabamians in a year full of memorable celebration and commemoration of the bicentennial,” she said. “Alabama is currently experiencing extreme economic development and job growth across the state, which makes this special time even more exciting for us all.”

This comes after it was announced on Friday that Alabama’s unemployment rate dipped
below 3% for the first time ever. The state has been breaking economic records consistently, with each month seemingly bringing even better news. The main focus now for the state's economy is workforce development efforts to increase Alabama’s pool of skilled workers.

Roby, who is not seeking reelection to a sixth term, concluded, “I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the people of Alabama as we celebrate the birthday and history of the beloved state we all call home.”

For the complete article please see https://yellowhammernews.com/roby-alabama-bicentennial-amplified-by-current-extreme-economic-development-and-job-growth/

**Exhibit pays tribute to state’s history**

From the article on EnewsCourier.com:

A traveling exhibit in celebration of Alabama’s bicentennial is now on display at the Alabama Center for the Arts, according to a press release.

Making Alabama: A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit will be available for viewing at the
center’s performing arts building through Saturday, Dec. 14. Times are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon Fridays. Admission is free.

The exhibit, a celebration of 200 years of statehood, is presented by the Alabama Humanities Foundation in partnership with the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. The exhibit has been on tour for 19 months, traveling to all 67 of Alabama’s counties.

“The exhibit features eight periods of history that defined Alabama as a state – decisions and turning points that shaped what the state would become and what it will be – all in an impressive display to retrace the state’s footsteps featuring people, places and cultures that are still Making Alabama,” according to the release. “The 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.”

Plans for the local exhibit and activities include a special exhibit of rarely seen unique artifacts and documents on loan from the Morgan County Archives, accompanied by narrative panels that tell the history of Morgan County.

For the complete article please see https://www.enewscourier.com/news/local_news/exhibit-pays-tribute-to-state-s-history/article_0fcff690-066b-11ea-85a4-b3eef9b9e151.html
Boaz’s Alabama Bicentennial committee unveils history hunt

From the article by Taylor Beck on SandMountainReprter.com:

To celebrate the Alabama’s 200th birthday while honoring the City of Boaz’s past, members of the bicentennial committee and the Boaz High School Fine Arts Club have put together the Boaz History Hunt.

With 30 iconic locations, bicentennial committee chairwoman Lindsey King said the hunt would be a fun way for all residents to search for and learn about the historic places of Boaz.

“It’s our hope as a committee that as the celebration year wraps up, families of all ages will take time and visit some of the places on the list and educate, reminisce and understand more of what made Boaz what it is today,” King said. “It’s similar to the PastPort issued by the state for the bicentennial, but the goal of this project is to realize the importance of knowing the history right where you live. It’s the best way to preserve our history. Anyone can read a textbook or search online, but until you visit these places in person, only then does it become real.”

“Some of the places might require some extra digging or researching, but our hope is that the students will interact with teachers, family members and older residents to ask questions about the places on the list,” King said. “The Facebook page (Boaz History Hunt) will also release hints periodically.”

Boaz Councilman and committee member Jeff Davis said in order to get younger people involved, there would be prizes given away to anyone 21 years old and under who visits at least 25 of the sites.

“There’s a lot more history here than people realize, and we just want to encourage people to get out and explore it,” Davis said. “Not only is it a lot of family fun, but you’re also learning about the City of Boaz — our home. When kids take a picture out in front of some of these places, it’s a big deal because you never know when they might be gone.”

For the complete article please see http://www.sandmountainreporter.com/free_share/article_996700d4-07e1-11ea-8343-a3fb033f0ea2.html
PVHS to present ‘Pinson Notables: An Alabama Bicentennial Event’

From the article by Crystal McGough on TrussvilleTribune.com:

The students and staff of Pinson Valley High School, along with the Pinson Historical Society and Pinson Public Library, will be presenting “Pinson Notables: An Alabama Bicentennial Event” in the Rock School Center Auditorium on Monday, Nov. 25.

When Alabama Governor Kay Ivey named PVHS one of 21 Bicentennial Schools of Excellence this past year, the school received a $5,000 grant to support a student-led project representing their community.

The students interviewed the people of Pinson and gathered information on Pinson’s history, famous and infamous figures, memories, and even local recipes. The information they gathered was collected into a keepsake book, which also included illustrations from the PVHS art students.

The project has been led by Jennifer Moore, an English teacher at the high school. Theater teacher John Bailey and culinary teacher Jane Houchins, as well as Pinson Historical Society’s Stanley Moss, have also had significant roles in bringing about the “Pinson Notables” event. The Pinson Public Library, led by director Allison Scanlan, is providing the space for the event and serving as the “public arm” for outreach to the community.

“The Pinson Notables event is an opportunity for students and local residents to learn more about Pinson’s diverse and creative history,” Scanlan said. “Stanley Moss (of the Pinson Historical Society) came up with the idea to have showcase and feature some of
the famous (and infamous) people who are from the Pinson area. Stanley has written over 30 vignettes about notable Pinson people. Everything began with Stanley writing the vignettes and he’s put so much research and thought into each one of them.”

While the Historical Society has been gathering props for the demonstrations, PVHS theater teacher John Bailey has been organizing student actors to portray the characters and bring their stories to life. There will be several stations set up in the auditorium, including, but not limited to, musicians, beauty queens, ghosts and physicians.

“Guests will have the opportunity to visit each station and witness a brief performance from each character,” Scanlan said. “It’s a fantastic chance for everyone to learn more about the area’s history. Guests will see some familiar faces, hear familiar stories and also learn something new!”

Additionally, PVHS culinary teacher Jane Houchins and her students have been in charge of snacks and drinks for the event, while Moore and Scanlan have been developing a plan to organize the performances and the flow of their guests. Moore’s students will act as guides during the event, as well.

“This event is a true collaboration with everyone bringing something different to make an event larger than just individual organizations,” Scanlan said.

There will be two times offered on Nov. 25 for guests to attend Pinson Notables: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. There is no cost and registration is not required.

“Pinson is the city of Pride and Progress, and I hope that our residents will take pride in all of the effort put into this event by students … and also take pride in the history of the area!” Scanlan said. “I personally have learned so much during this process; Pinson has had so much going on through the years.”

For the complete article please see [https://www.trussvilletribune.com/2019/11/19/pvhs-to-present-pinson-notables-an-alabama-bicentennial-event/](https://www.trussvilletribune.com/2019/11/19/pvhs-to-present-pinson-notables-an-alabama-bicentennial-event/)
WMS celebrated Alabama's Bicentennial with trip to Montgomery

From the article on TheRandolphLeader.com:
On Nov. 5 Wedowee Middle School (Grades 4-6) traveled by charter bus to Montgomery, where State Rep. Robert Fincher welcomed the group to the State Capitol. While there, the group toured the Capitol Building, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Governor's Mansion and Old Alabama Town.

During a presentation in Old Alabama Town, the group learned one of the first newspapers published in Wedowee was called The American Eagle, a weekly paper published by W.H. Burton between 1854-1857. While on tour at the Governor's Mansion, they learned renovations made to the fireplace were completed by Pierce Meadows, a Randolph County native. During the tour, students enjoyed picnic lunches in many different venues around Montgomery.

Leon Cortez, a fourth-grade student, commented, "I feel like I should have been born in the 18th Century. I enjoyed seeing the old town dioramas in the Archives Museum. I would like to build one of those."

Fourth-grade student Hunter Williams said, "My favorite place was the Capitol rotunda. The guide told us all about the people painted on the wall."

"My favorite part of the field trip," said fifth-grade student Jacob Cook, "was visiting
the shotgun house in Old Alabama Town. There I learned that people used newspaper on the walls to keep out the cold air."

Jocelyn Velazquez, a fifth-grade student, remarked, "Seeing the sunroom in the Governor's Mansion was lovely. There were pictures of Governor Ivey's dog, Missy."

Sixth-grade student Autumn Taylor said, "Visiting the Governor's Mansion was my favorite part of the field trip. The Infinity Mirrors were beautiful!"

Sixth-grader Kirsten Waldon stated, "Old Alabama Town was my favorite part. I liked visiting the old school house. It was interesting to learn that putting a girl's bonnet on a boy's head was punishment."

The students had a blast and learned so much about Alabama. The entire school attended this wonderful field trip thanks to the support and trust of many people. Quoting Newberry Medal-winning author Christopher Paul Curtis, plans for the field trip began last spring "as a little seed and started growing and getting bigger and bigger." It grew into a "mighty maple" and now the group has so many people to thank for making it possible.

Wedowee Middle School's dedicated principal, Allan Robertson, placed much trust in the group as they embarked on this adventure, as well as the hardworking Child Nutrition Program workers who prepared delicious breakfasts and lunches for the trip. We cannot thank each of you enough.

Wedowee Elementary School's staff and Principal Logan Cofield were flexible with scheduling adjustments to allow for the group's departure. Wedowee Police Department officers Robbie Taylor, Madison Sparks and Matt Husk coordinated traffic during the group's departure and return. Greg Lipham printed the field trip shirts. Thanks also to the parents of our students for allowing them to participate in this educational experience. Special thanks go to Rep. Fincher and tour guides, Landmark Tours and Travel, for making the trip both educational and fun.

Finally, we'd like to thank the great people of Randolph County who supported us so generously. We received many donations from civic organizations, churches and private individuals to make sure every student in the school who wanted to attend this field trip could attend it. Your support proves again how wonderful it is to be part of Randolph County.
For the complete article please see https://www.therandolphleader.com/news/article_73bfd140-062d-11ea-be22-5fd757475f4e.html

From the article by Urainah Glidewell on NewsAegis.com:

The Alabama Community College System joins the state’s bicentennial efforts by leading a new volunteer initiative called Clean Home Alabama.

Students from 24 community colleges across the state chose local projects to clean up and give back to their communities. From Nov. 1-10, students, faculty and staff helped clean up rivers, pick up litter, and perform other service projects in their community.

Jefferson State Community College-Pell City Campus chose the Easterseals Community Health Clinic, Christian Love Pantry, and Community Action non-profit groups as their beneficiaries. Volunteers were asked to “Lend A Hand Make A Difference” to “spice up and provide a more welcoming exterior of the historic building which houses the nonprofit agencies Easterseals Clinic, Christian Love Pantry, and Community Action of
Central Alabama.”

Over 30 students and staff raked leaves, trimmed hedges, picked up debris and painted windows at the building all three non-profits call home at 205 Edwin Holladay Place in Pell City.

“It is welcoming on the inside and we want to reflect that on the outside,” said volunteer JSCC SGA member Donnett Franklin.

Fellow SGA member Taylor Ferrell said she volunteered to help make the clinic look better and help the community.

“These are all volunteers,” said JSCC Pell City Associate Dean Dr. Nicolas Kin, who was balanced on a ladder painting the window trim white.

Despite the chilly weather on Friday, the volunteers amassed a large pile of debris, cut limbs, hedge clippings and weeds. While there is still more painting to do on the building, the volunteers hope to continue the project and enlist the help of more in the community.

“This effort is not limited to the participation of Alabama’s community college students, faculty, and staff,” it states on the Alabama Community College System website. “Clean Home Alabama is a great opportunity for individuals and community organizations to join our effort to keep our home beautiful. We need your help to identify projects, donate materials, or simply volunteer to help with a project in your community.”

For the complete article please see https://www.newsaegis.com/community/community-college-volunteers-help-clean-home-alabama/article_59b81b9a-0704-11ea-adc2-675a8aedd106.html
4H History Seekers

“Back in Time” a tradition filled historical holiday celebration

The 4H History Seekers are back at it, and once again will present “Back in Time.”

Through our dinner theater event, we hope to bring awareness to our shared regional history and Alabama’s Bicentennial, as well as to lend support and visibility to The Lee County Historical Society. The 3rd year of Alabama’s three year bicentennial celebration (2017, 2018, 2019) is reserved for honoring our “events.” Guests attending our “Back in Time” evening of dining and entertainment will learn about some of the historic events that shaped the state we call home.

Special visitors attending that evening will help us tell these stories of significant events … Join President James Monroe as he describes his visit to Huntsville, and then his return back home to Washington where soon he signed the documents making Alabama a state. William and John Bartram will relate how a trial blazing, adventurous spirit led to a better understanding and documentation of Alabama’s rich natural resources, and the flora, fauna and native peoples of the region. Native American leader Timpoochee will share the events that impacted Creek populations. A local nurse, dedicated to tending the casualties of war, will tell her difficult tale of “The War between the States.” The exciting arrival of the railroad to communities and its noteworthy impact on commerce will be told by a newspaper reporter, train conductor, hobos and various merchants living and working all along the tracks and at depot stops. Judge Harper, his son and future daughter-in-law will describe founding “Sweet Auburn! Loveliest Village of the Plain,” while Drs. George Petrie, Charles Allen Cary and John Hodges Drake along with Julia Tutwiler, Willie Gertrude Little, Katherine C. Broun and Margaret Kate
Teague will share how higher education first started and became established in this area. The challenges of providing early childhood education to all of Alabama’s children will be demonstrated as we enter the classroom of two different, yet similar, country schoolhouses. George Washington Carver will help us celebrate the resilient forgiving spirit of a man whose commitment to bettering mankind resulted in an agricultural revolution benefitting those impoverished farmers of the South.

The 3rd annual “Back in Time” Historical Holiday celebration will be held at Pioneer Park in Loachapoka on Dec. 14, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. For those true history buffs, this is the exact date 200 years ago that Alabama became the 22nd state of the Union. Traditional seasonal music will be provided by The Whistle Stop Pickers as guests gather and prepare to enter the time period between the late 1700s to the early 1900s.

Once escorted to their tables, costumed servers will provide a period appropriate multi-course meal within the historic buildings. Character actors and actresses will visit each table and provide up close and personal opportunities for guests to honor our famous events through these storytellers. Our own “Salvation Army Band and Choir” will conclude the evening with seasonal music and a just tribute to the faith that has historically sustained Alabama’s people. This evening of educational entertainment will provide our event participants a special glimpse “Back in Time.”

Back in Time” is endorsed by Alabama200, sponsored by The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and supported by The Red Clay Brewery. Tickets are $50.00 each with all proceeds considered donations to The Lee County Historical Society. To purchase tickets call The Lee County Historical Society at (334) 887-3007 or visit their website at https://www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org/. 
On December 14, there is only one place to be: Alabama's Capital City for the Grand Finale of Alabama's Bicentennial Commemoration.

Go to http://al200finale.org/ for more information on these and other events.
Boxer Petey Sarron was born in Birmingham. Known as the “Birmingham Bomber,” Sarron employed a quick and elusive fighting style to become the National Boxing Association Featherweight World Champion, a title he held for eighteen months. Sarron defeated several notable boxers of his time, including Benny Bass, Pinky Silverberg, and his rival Freddie Miller, with whom he had six fights. Sarron also represented the United States as a flyweight boxer at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris and retired from boxing with a known career record of 103-23-12. He was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

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. 21 – Bicentennial Birthday Celebration (Russellville)
The Franklin County and City of Russellville Bicentennial Committee will host the Grand Finale Celebration on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Event begins at 5:30pm with a historical marker unveiling at the Russellville City Hall, then a grand Birthday Celebration including dinner, entertainment and historical portrayals at the A.W. Todd Centre on Washington Street in downtown Russellville.

Dec. 5 – 200 Years of Alabama’s Music! (Fairhope)
Many great musicians hail from Alabama and have shared the music of Alabama with the world. Come experience 200 years of Alabama’s music history at Fairhope Public Library! Musicians will perform music genres such as blues, jazz, country, rock, and Sacred Harp which began in Alabama. The musicians will lead the audience in singing songs about Alabama! Free and open to the public.

Dec. 8 – Bicentennial Pioneer Holiday Homes Tour (McCalla)
The West Jefferson Co. Historical Society will celebrate with a Bicentennial Pioneer Holiday Homes Tour. There will be a Bicentennial historic marker dedication, blessing & ribbon-cutting of the new roof on the Sadler Pioneer House. Come and enjoy period decorations, music and refreshments.

Dec. 13 – "Music of the South" A Concert with Bobby Horton (Montgomery)
The Alabama 200th Birthday Celebration weekend will open with a special benefit concert with renowned musician and music historian Bobby Horton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec.13, at the Capri Theatre.

Horton, widely recognized as one of the country’s leading authorities of music from the Civil War period, will paint a musical portrait of life in Alabama from the earliest days of our statehood through the 1850s. Tickets are $12 for general seating and $10 for Capri members. They can be purchased here. Visit Capritheatre.org or Alabama200.org for more information.

Dec. 14 – Alabama 200 Birthday Celebration (Montgomery)
On December 14th, there is only one place to be: Alabama’s Capital City for the grand finale of Alabama’s three-year bicentennial commemoration. This is sure to be the state’s biggest birthday party—at least in our first 200 years!

Dec. 14 – Alabama Bicentennial Celebration in Old Alabama Town (Montgomery)
Join us in Old Alabama Town as we join the celebration of Alabama’s 200th

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

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**Exhibitions**

**We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents**
Nov. 3-Dec 31 – Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: Alabama Department of Archives & History

**Unframed Images: Photography from the collection of P. H. Polk**
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**
Nov. 3 - Dec. 12  Tuscaloosa Co., City: Tuscaloosa, Venue: Tuscaloosa Co. Public Library
Nov. 4 - Dec. 20  Washington Co., City: Chatom, Venue: Washington Co. Public Library
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