"For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" — Genesis 37:17

DOTHAN EAGLE

Cruise residents left stranded as company cites rising fuel costs

360º

Take a break

COMICS, PUZZLES AND MORE IN THE FUN & GAMES SECTION

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The BrightSide

DALE COUNTY WUW'S 'DINNER DOWNTOWN' A 'RECORD-BREAKER'

MICHELLE MANN, DOTHAN EAGLE

The Dale County Wiregrass United Way Committee's "Dinner Downtown" at the Farmers Market in Ozark raised a record-breaking $6,455 this year. Volunteers filled 180 dine-in or take-out plates with 200 pounds of barbecued brisket, baked beans, breadsticks, salads and a dessert. From left, are Les Perault, John Cawley, Walter Hill, Laura Thornton, Nicole Alvestad, Ben Baker, Mindy Colier and Holle Smith.

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OZARK — A "record-breaking" $6,455 was raised for the Wiregrass United Way during what is billed as Dale County's largest WUW fundraiser, said Heather Cohen, WUW Dale County Board chair.

She and WUW Dale County Campaign Chairman Ben Baker spearheaded the outdoor event last week during which 180 dine-in or take-out plates were filled with 200 pounds of barbecued brisket, baked beans, breadsticks, salads and dessert by an assembly line of volunteers at "Dinner Downtown" held at the Farmers Market in Ozark.

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The Ozark "Dinner Downtown" fundraiser was first held in 2019, said Cohen. It's been held annually since. "We partnered with the Ozark Area Chamber of Commerce and local farmers to offer an evening Farmers Market, with local farmers selling their goods," Cohen said.

Serving six counties

Founded in 1936, WUW serves 38 partner agencies in Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties and is governed by a board of trustees comprised of volunteers from each of those counties.

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Rehobeth selected for ALM Economic Development Academy

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REHOBETH — The Town of Rehobeth is one of 12 Alabama communities named to the Alabama League of Municipalities Economic Development Academy Class of 2027, said Rehobeth Mayor Kimberly Trotter.

The announcement was made during the ALM's annual graduation and awards ceremonies held at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile, Trotter said.

"The league had overwhelming interest in our Economic Development Academy this year," said ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran. "We are very pleased to have selected these 12 communities of various sizes, to take the next step in building their economic development and retention strategies."

The league created the academy in 2021 in partnership with the Alabama Community College System to help municipal officials understand the essential elements and phases of economic development, Cochran said. "Participating cities and towns work alongside peers from their region to prepare their communities for growth," he said.

"Participating communities may bring a team of up to seven people, including mayors, council members, city administrators, clerks, economic developers and local business leadership," Cochran said. "This program has not only grown over the past five years, but we have helped 49 communities recruit and retain business and industry."

Rehobeth's academy team will include Trotter, council members Lisa Jones and Jason Shiver, town clerk Tammy Watson and community members Misty Tyson and Hayden Camp, Trotter said.

Other municipalities selected for the Class of 2027 are Argo, Chickasaw, Fayette, Fort Deposit, Jasper, Mobile, Opp, Pinson, Selma and Tarrant, Cochran said.

Located along the U.S. 231 corridor in Houston County, Rehobeth was incorporated in 1996 and now has a population of some 2,200 residents, Trotter said. "Rehobeth is growing, and we want that growth to be intentional," she said. "Our schools and our neighborhoods are bringing new families here every year."

"This academy gives our home the tools to bring the businesses, jobs and

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Stock earns Certified Municipal Officer designation

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First term Dothan City Commissioner for District 4 Dave Stock received the Certified Municipal Officer designation at the recent Alabama League of Municipalities graduation ceremony after completing more than 40 hours of training in Alabama laws, municipal processes and procedures and best municipal practices, said City of Dothan Community Relations Officer Vincent Vincent.

"This training provides elected officials with the knowledge and resources to best support and represent their communities," Vincent said.

Vincent explained that in accordance with the Alabama Municipal Officers Training Act, which took effect Jan. 1 last year, all non-certified mayors and councilmembers are required to

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Alabama League of Municipalities Director Greg Cochran, left, congratulates Dothan City Commissioner for District 4 Dave Stock for earning the Certified Municipal Officer designation at the recent Alabama League of Municipalities graduation ceremony after completing more than 40 hours of training in Alabama laws, municipal processes and procedures and best municipal practices.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CITY OF DOTHAN

Weather
Afternooon shower
High: 79 **Low:** 63
Forecast: A8

Around the Wiregrass, an events calendar

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