



# The biggest SEC media days questions for Auburn football

SPORTS, 1B

# Montgomery Advertiser

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025 | MONTGOMERYADVERTISER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# Schools chief outlines 100-day plan

**Alex Gladden**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Montgomery school board met for its monthly meeting July 8. The members reviewed policy changes, and Superintendent Zickeyous Byrd outlined his 100-day plan. Byrd said he will continue tours of the district's schools when they are back in session. The first day of classes in Montgomery Public Schools is set for Aug. 5.



Byrd

He also plans to hold town hall meetings in each board member's district. He is adding and repurposing several administrative positions. Byrd said he also plans to recruit experienced teachers to mentor newer teachers. Byrd said his staff is researching ways to monetarily support employee incentive programs.

Byrd announced that the district received \$400,000 in federal moneys for special education improvements. Of this money, half will go to Dalraida Elementary School and the other half will go to Vaughn Road Elementary School. The district is the only in the state to receive money for two schools. "This exceptional accomplishment, it reflects the strength and the quality of our proposal and the vision for an inclusive environment," Bryd said. Chief Academic Officer Gregory King

said the district created the literacy target action plan. The goal is to improve reading test scores for grades K-3. Much of the plan focuses on supporting teachers and encouraging principals to guide them in instruction. The hope is to counter low test scores. Alex Gladden is the Montgomery Advertiser's education reporter. She can be reached at agladden@gannett.com or on X @gladlyalex. To support her work, please subscribe to the Montgomery Advertiser.

# Business growth continues in Prattville



An empty bank building at the interseption of Fairview Avenue and McQueen Smith Road is being renovated to house a new bank in Prattville. PHOTOS BY MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER

# City aims to boost river access

Montgomery residents asked to take survey

**Alex Gladden**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Advocates for river access are surveying Montgomerians to determine what kind of access they would like to the Alabama River. The Alabama Rivers Alliance, a statewide network dedicated to protecting waterways, established the Friends of the Alabama River to empower Montgomery residents to advocate for the health of the Alabama River and promote access to it, said Cindy Lowry, the executive director of the Alabama Rivers Alliance. The Montgomery City Council is also paying for a river region community engagement fellow with the organization. "We have this wonderful river. ... Other cities are figuring out how to get people engaged with their water and to use it as an asset both for outdoor recreation quality of life, and birding, and paddling, and all these other things," Montgomery City Councilman Andrew Szymanski said. "And then you go to our river, and it's fairly unused. "So, kind of the goal from my side was to figure out ways that we can unlock the river's potential as a key component as our city." The survey marks the first step into this foray. The city and the organization will use the survey's results to determine plans for future development along the river.

See RIVER, Page 2A

# Renovations, construction focus on Fairview Avenue

**Marty Roney**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

More business growth is coming to one of Prattville's main retail corridors. Fairview Avenue has been the site of a series of projects over the past two to three years with everything from tire stores, to Starbucks, to restaurants, to a large Baptist church campus being developed along the thoroughfare. The most recent burst of activity is centered on the Fairview Avenue and

McQueen Smith Road intersection.

## First South Farm Credit

A closed bank building at the intersection is being renovated. The building was vacant pre-Covid.

## OBGYN of Prattville

A practice fronting Fairview Avenue is being built next to East Memorial

See PRATTVILLE, Page 2A



Site preparation is being done for an OBGYN Practice on July 2 on Fairview Avenue in Prattville.

# Meta donates \$20,000 for robotics at city schools

**Alex Gladden**  
Montgomery Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Meta has donated \$20,000 to support robotics at Montgomery Public Schools for the next year, the school sys-

tem announced July 11. "Meta's generous support is truly a game changer," Superintendent Zickeyous Byrd said. The money will go toward equipment

See META, Page 2A



Community Development Regional Manager for Meta Henry Thornton presents a check for \$20,000 to Superintendent Zickeyous Byrd on July 11. The money will support robotics equipment and training in city schools. JAKE CRANDALL/ADVERTISER

## Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to montgomeryadvertiser.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 198 | No. 165  
Subscribe 877-424-0007  
Since 1829  
©2025

\$2.50

