Aim for Auburn in August

By Patrice Stewart
Kiwanis Kourier editor

The Kiwanis Club of Auburn invites Kiwanians from around Alabama to come to Auburn Aug. 18-20 for the 99th annual Alabama District Convention.

All convention activities — including about six big birds from the Southeastern Raptor Center that will be featured after dinner on Friday evening — will be held at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center, located at 241 S. College St., across the street from the Auburn University campus.

Dave Moore is serving as convention chairman and planning interesting speakers, while Mary Prather, club secretary, is assisting him with registration, meals and other areas.

Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond is planning educational sessions, and Governor Keith Graham will preside. Division 10 Lt. Governor Gerald Knight, one of the 90 members of Auburn Kiwanis, also has a part.

“We hope that every club can be represented,” said Prather. The Auburn club wants to share a bit of Auburn tradition with those attending the convention, and they are planning to have one of the eagles that flies over the stadium during Auburn football games featured Friday night, along with an assortment of birds of prey used to educate groups. For more on the Southeastern Raptor Center, see Page 3.

“This is going to be a good convention,” Prather said. “We love our town, and we are excited for other Kiwanians and guests to come here. There’s plenty to see and do during the Saturday afternoon free time — you can walk around campus and downtown to Toomer’s Corner and other sights and check out the shops, bookstores and Auburn souvenirs.”

Saturday will include breakfasts, meetings and education sessions, Interclub Luncheon and Governor’s Banquet. A non-denominational prayer breakfast will be Sunday morning.

Kiwanians can register and pay online (with a service fee) by going to the district website, alabama.kiwanis.org, for the convention link, or going directly to the convention registration.

Birds from the Southeastern Raptor Center will perform during the District Convention on Aug. 18-20.

(See AUBURN, Page 3)

Key Leader weekend helps students grow

By Jamie Brabston
Alabama Key Leader Administrator

The 2017 Alabama District Key Leader weekend, held at Camp ASCCA in Jackson’s Gap, Alabama, was an amazing success.

We had one of our biggest “classes” yet with almost 50 students from all over the state – from Huntsville to Mobile – and with a diverse range of backgrounds represented.

The April 21-23 Key Leader event was truly a remarkable experience for all of us (adults included).

(See KEY LEADER, Page 8)
Promoting Kiwanis isn’t self-flattery—it makes our work more effective

So far this year, we have looked at the Inspiration (the Formula) that makes us want to be a Kiwanian and the Impact we are making as we dedicate our time and resources to the children in our communities, our Alabama District and throughout the world.

Each pillar of the I-Plan is valuable to our organization. Some may be easier to explain or exemplify, while others may appear so simple or so complex that we get lost in understanding and communicating them.

At a quick glance, Image may seem to be a given in relation to each of the other pillars of the plan. It may seem that Image is a part of them and not an independent piece. However, Image is critical to the level that it also stands on its own.

How others see us

Image is how we present ourselves (Kiwanis), and it is how others see Kiwanis.

As we carry out the many different projects serving the children and youth in our communities and around the world, we must keep an eye on meeting our mission and fulfilling that mission with the highest standards.

We do great work — that is without question. In a time of increasing demands for our time and attention, it is difficult to effectively communicate all that we do. To that end, if we don’t promote ourselves, no one else will.

Make sure to promote

Promoting ourselves is not about flattery; it is about seeking to Inspire more of our friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to become Kiwanians and thus helping to grow stronger and make a greater Impact.

How we are viewed by those around us is equally as important. News and messaging in this age is more about what went wrong and not what went right. Too often a small misstep is all that we remember.

Although not my generation, I was taught and remember the Apollo moon landing and the words “one small step for man.” Had Neil Armstrong slipped as he set foot on the moon, we likely would remember that and not the dedication of the many who worked to achieve that marvel.

I am suggesting that we must guard every effort we make to be certain that what is remembered is the contribution to the lives of children everywhere.

We must always put our best foot forward to improve the lives of children ... energizing the dream that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved.

Wear the ‘K’

There are many ways to promote ourselves; one of the easiest ways is to wear our K. Wear it proudly! We should also engage in conversation with those with whom we come in contact.

If we embrace our Kiwanis family with enthusiasm, we should not only project a positive Image, but we just may Inspire a few non-Kiwanians who see and hear our talk and spark an interest in joining a club.

The ways to promote our Image are limited only by each of our imaginations.

So I ask these closing questions:

■ How do you see Kiwanis?
■ How do those you know see Kiwanis?
■ And finally, how do you communicate Kiwanis in ALL that you do?
Fred Dietze to visit Alabama as new KI counselor

M.A. “Fred” Dietze of Hudson, Wisconsin, will serve as Kiwanis International’s counselor to the Alabama District for 2017-18 and is looking forward to meeting Alabama Kiwanians at the District Convention in Auburn Aug. 18-20.

Dietze was elected to a three-year term as a trustee of Kiwanis International in June 2016 at the 101st Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto. He is the board counselor to the Indiana and Montana districts for 2016-17 and in the coming year will be the counselor for Key Club International, as well as the Alabama District.

A charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson for six years, he also belongs to the E. Wisconsin Upper Michigan Kiwanis Club. Previously, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Denison, Iowa, for three years, the Kiwanis Club of Sun Lakes, Arizona, for two years and the Kiwanis Club of River Falls, Wisconsin, for three years.

Dietze is a George F. Hixson Fellow and a Diamond Level Walter Zeller Fellow, holds Life Member status, and has been honored with the President’s Appreciation Award from the Kiwanis Club of Denison, 100 percent perfect attendance award, and the Circle K International Humanitarian of the Year Award.

He was the 2011-12 governor of the Wisconsin-Uppermichigan District after serving as lieutenant governor for 2009-11 and club president in 2003-04. He is currently president of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson and club secretary for the E. Wisconsin Upper Michigan Kiwanis Club.

Dietze is also assistant district administrator for Key Club, administrator of the Key Club and Circle K Graduate Program, a Certified Club Leadership Education instructor and an Achieving Club Excellence trainer.

Dietze is a retired U.S. Army Major. He is also retired from a career in human resource management and development. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University and a master’s from Ball State University.

He is a member of the Town of Hudson Plan Commission and a former president of the Denison, Iowa, Chamber of Commerce.

Aside from Kiwanis, his hobbies are fishing, racquetball and traveling.

He and his wife, Nancy, have one son, Garrick.

Email news and photos of club projects to the Kiwanis Kourier, kiwaniskourier@gmail.com
99th Alabama District Convention

Kiwanis International Aug 18-20, 2017

Hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Auburn

The Hotel at Auburn University

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Make checks payable to the Kiwanis Club of Auburn and mail to P.O. Box 1982, Auburn, AL 36831. Want to pay online using a credit card? Secure, online registration available on District Website. alabama.kiwanis.org

Hotel Group Rate: Reserve your room directly through The Hotel at Auburn University by July 31 to receive a conference discount. Rate Code: Kiwanis $132

The Hotel at Auburn University, 241 South College Street, Auburn, AL 36830 (334) 821-8200

https://gc.synxis.com/?Hotel=75989&Group=170727KIWA&arrive=08/17/2017

Important: Persons attending the Interclub Luncheon must check in at the registration table at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the luncheon or forfeit their reservation.

Questions? Contact Mary Hoerlein Prather, 334-744-0009 or prathmh@auburn.edu

Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is July 15, 2017
Sexton’s service

Sexton, a former teacher, assistant principal and principal, has volunteered with Key Club since 1975, first as a faculty adviser and then as faculty adviser representative on the District Board of Advisers.

He became a zone chairman in 1982 and served in that post until 2011, when he was appointed assistant district administrator to Price. On April 1, he was appointed district administrator for Key Club when Price retired. No assistant has been named.

Sexton, a retired lieutenant colonel from the military, is now retired from work as a retail salesman and as vice president of contracts for Goodwill Industries in Montgomery. He attends Santuck Baptist Church.

You can reach Sexton by email at psexton@alabamakeyclub.org.

George Price, left, who just retired as District Key Club Administrator, and Paul Sexton, center, former assistant administrator who replaced Price, share Key Club information with Kiwanians at the Mid-winter Conference. (Photo by David Stewart)

The Price years

George Price was honored at the Key Club District Convention in March for his 50 years of service to the youth of Alabama. He started as a faculty adviser and then served as a Kiwanis zone chairman, assistant administrator and Key Club District Administrator.

“His love for Key Club and Kiwanis is unmeasurable. Through his dedication and long hours of service, Key Club membership has risen to over 8,300 students,” Sexton said.

“Through the years, Mr. Price has helped to develop leadership and character in many of our youth. He has always led by example,” said Sexton. “His knowledge, strength and insight will be missed. No one will be able to replace his total commitment, and we need to thank him for the foundation he has laid for future generations.”

Praise for Palys

Sexton praised Bob Palys, who was devoted to Key Club, as well as being a former educator, coach and referee.

“Bob Palys truly represented the Key Club motto, ‘Caring — our way of life.’ Bob loved working with students and always tried to help them become the person God wanted them to be. With a heart as big as the sky, he never saw a need that he didn’t try to help.”

Children’s Hospital in Birmingham was always on his mind, said Sexton. “He developed fundraising programs for Key Club. He traveled the state promoting Key Clubs and fundraising projects for Children’s Hospital. If you would like to honor Bob, donate money to Children’s Hospital of Alabama in Bob’s name.”

The Palys family had also established the Matt Palys Scholarship Fund in memory of a son who was involved in Key Club. Each year two scholarships are awarded at the Alabama District Convention.

Owen’s dedication

Longtime member Paula Owen, a teacher at Baldwin County High School, has retired from the board. She served as faculty adviser to Key Club and as a Key Club zone chair for years.

“She has been adult chair of our District Convention with great success, and the convention kept getting better,” said Sexton.

“She has given many years serving our Key Clubbers. Her dedication and love for our students was a big asset to our board. We will miss her,” he said.
Jen Spell of Spain Park High School in Hoover is serving as the Alabama Key Club Governor for 2017-18.

District Secretary is Carol Johnson from Northridge High School in Tuscaloosa.

Following are the 2017-18 lieutenant governors:

Division 1: Laura Crandall
Division 2: Julia Riedel
Division 3: Taylor Horton
Division 4: Serena Knelik
Division 5: Mary McCartney
Division 6: Keira Ross
Division 7: Sara Hively
Division 8: Hollen Terry
Division 9: Patrick Johnson
Division 10: Mikaila Oglesby
Division 11: Matt Reed
Division 12: Yousra Omer
Division 13: Andi Durham
Division 14: Hannah Yost
Division 15: Gracie Parker
Division 16: Kylie Parker
Division 17: Sam Maynard
Division 18: Makayla Coleman
Division 19: Hannah Giannini
Division 20: Daniel Cook


Key Club members around the state will again raise funds for Children’s Hospital of Birmingham, which serves children from every county. This year’s focus will be the Children’s Hospital Dialysis Center.

Key Clubbers are already looking forward to next year’s District Convention, scheduled for March 9-11, 2018, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Recently, some members have been busy making plans to attend the 2017 Key Club International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, July 5-9.

In San Antonio, Immediate Past Governor William Sims will be a candidate for Key Club International President, an office often won by “The Great Alabama District.”

His campaign in San Antonio will focus on the theme “Let’s Leave a Legacy.” Sims says Key Club International has much to be proud of, but there is more to accomplish through leadership, energy, growth, action, commitment and the involvement of everyone.

“Leaving a legacy means leaving something better than you found it. It means making your mark. A lasting impression,” says Sims. “Those who come after you start in a better place and enjoy even greater opportunity.”

There are two other candidates for president: Shree Balaji of the Texas-Oklahoma District and Audrey Dilgarde of the Rocky Mountain District.

William Sims, Alabama’s 2016-17 Key Club Governor, addresses Kiwanians at their Mid-winter Conference, where he was honored with a Barnett Fellow award. He will run for president of Key Club International in San Antonio in July. At right is Jen Spell, 2017-18 Key Club Governor.

It’s not too late to head to Paris for the 102nd Kiwanis International Convention July 13-16, 2017

Those making a late decision to attend can still register for the convention in Paris, where the three convention sessions plus educational sessions, exhibits and other events will be held at the Palais des Congrès de Paris.

The on-site registration fee is $440. Those planning to be voting delegates for their clubs also must complete a separate form, “Certificate of election of delegates and alternates.”

While convention signup online has closed, you can still register online for the convention hotels — the Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile and Le Meridien Etoile. They are adjacent to or across from the convention center and near major attractions and metro stops.

The opening and closing sessions of this joint convention will be shared with many Kiwanians from throughout Europe who will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the European Federation of Kiwanis.

Check for convention and hotel information and links to much more online at kiwanis.org/convention.

Recruit new club members, and volunteer to help with The Formula and I-Plan.
UAB’s Carroll is Circle K governor; UA’s Crofoot seeks CKI presidency

Governor Cody Carroll will be leading Circle K members in the Alabama District for 2017-18. A student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he was elected governor during the 2017 Circle K District Convention held Feb. 24-26 at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa. Carroll, from Boaz, is pursuing a degree in communication and public relations at UAB.

Other members of the 2017-2018 District Board include:
- Kathleins Napoles from the University of North Alabama, secretary/treasurer;
- Sam Sargent from the University of Alabama, communications officer;
- Valley Division Lt. Governor Brayan Patlan from the University of North Alabama;
- Champion Division Lt. Governor Aaron Fox from the University of Alabama;
- Capital Division Lt. Governor Yona Andrews from the University of Alabama at Birmingham;
- Gulf Division Lt. Governor Emily Benefield from the University of South Alabama.

Circle K members are making plans to attend the Circle K International Convention and Large Scale Service Project, which will take place July 5-9 at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas. More than 30 Circle K members and advisers are planning to attend the San Antonio convention — currently the second largest delegation.

They will be supporting Justin Crofoot, a current Circle K International Trustee from Alabama, who is running for governor for 2016-17. On Feb. 25, following the Alabama Kiwanis Mid-winter Conference in Prattville, Kiwanis Governor Keith Graham of Mobile, Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond of Birmingham and Kiwanis International Trustee John DeVilbiss of West Alexandria, Ohio, headed to the Circle K District Convention under way in Birmingham.

At the evening Circle K awards banquet, Fox was honored with an Alabama Kiwanis Barnett Fellow award from Governor Keith Graham in recognition of her year of service as Circle K governor. The Great Alabama District will have two candidates running for the highest offices during the July 5-8 conventions in San Antonio:
- Justin Crofoot, current Circle K International Trustee, will run for president of Circle K International. He attends the University of Alabama.
- William Sims, immediate past Key Club Governor, will run for president of Key Club International. He attends Homewood High School.

Plan now for your club to sponsor teens from your area at spring 2018 Key Leader Weekend
It may look like all fun and games, but these high school students are learning leadership skills. Plan now for your Kiwanis club to send one or more students to the 2018 Alabama Kiwanis Key Leader program next spring.

Key Leader
(From Page 1)

Key Leader was “AMAZEBALLS!” one Key Leader participant said in a thank-you note to volunteer leader Karla Moons.

This attendee went on to thank Karla (and Katrina Wooten) for allowing him to have this incredible experience by helping out financially (via their Kiwanis Club) and transporting him and other students from Mobile to Jackson’s Gap (Karla drove a 12-passenger van full of students and all of their luggage).

The student said, “I’m not going to stop pursuing my dreams of giving service to people, all thanks to this boost.”

Isn’t that awesome? As you can see, the Key Leader experience is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students from around the state to learn and grow as servant leaders, while having an amazing time and forming new friendships.

Our Key Leader adult team was outstanding this year. Mike and Carol Winstead returned, as did Keith Graham and Karla Moons. Katrina Wooten, another Kiwanian from the Azalea City club, also served this year. These awesome Kiwanians went above and beyond in giving their time, their passion and their generous spirit to our youth.

Mike and Carol’s daughter, Bridget, also served as a chaperone, and her daughter Autumn (as well as younger brother Zander) came all the way from Louisiana to join our group. They plan to attend again next year. All of the adult leaders agreed that they received great blessings from their service at Key Leader.

We also appreciate the time and enthusiasm of our amazing student facilitators – Key Club Lt. Governors Laura Crandall, Daniel Cook, CiYenna Slaughter, Bethany Farley, SaraBeth Orr and Mikaila Oglesby served, as well as Key Clubber David Christianson. These students exhibited true servant leadership, which often means letting others learn to lead as well. The students in their “neighborhoods” enjoyed these facilitators and were rewarded by the leadership of these outstanding young people.

Key Leader would not have been successful without the dedication of the entire Alabama District leadership team, and all Alabama District clubs that helped spread the word about Key Leader, recruited students to attend and also provided financial support for participants. We also appreciate the support of the Key Club and the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation for generous scholarships which aided several students to attend who otherwise may not have been able to do so. Thank you all for your support.

We are currently looking at dates for Key Leader 2018, which will again be held at beautiful Camp ASCCA. As soon as we have confirmed the specific dates, we will spread the word.

Please consider joining the Key Leader team now to help us market and recruit emerging leaders in your community to make plans to attend Key Leader next spring.

We must continue this program, as it offers so many benefits to our youth, and we need the support of the entire Kiwanis family to provide this fabulous opportunity to our teens.

In case you’re still asking your-

(See LEADER, Page 10)
In memory of servant leaders

Kiwanians in the Alabama District recently mourned the loss of two past Kiwanis governors whose lives reflected their passion for service to children and teens.

Bob Palys, who completed his 2015-16 term as Kiwanis governor Sept. 30 and presented awards Feb. 24 during the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville (see Page 21), died March 25 at age 68. A longtime supporter and mentor for Key Clubs, he also worked tirelessly to raise funds for Children’s Hospital of Alabama.

Joe Dean, known for his interest in Young Child Priority One service projects and founding the Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental program, headed the Alabama District as governor in 1990-91. He died Feb. 11 at the age of 94.

Robert Michael ‘Bob’ Palys


Born April 13, 1948, in Buffalo, New York, he spent his adult life in the Cullman area, where he was an educator for more than 35 years and former owner of the Awards Palace. He was the Holly Pond Key Club adviser, as well as a member of the Alabama District Key Club Adult Board. He was a recipient of the Key of Honor, the highest award given by Key Club International.

He made it his life goal to help others. In association with the Alabama District Key Clubs, he raised over $1 million for Children’s Hospital of Alabama.

He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Cullman for 18 years, serving as club president and secretary and most recently as Alabama District Kiwanis Governor.

He coached and officiated for more than 20 years and was named to the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame.

He was predeceased by a son, Matt Palys; sister, Ceil Palys; and parents, Walter and Frances Pyc Palys.

He is survived by his wife, Melba Perry Palys; son Andy Palys and wife, Becky; grandchildren, James and Kaitlyn Palys; a brother, the Rev. Dan Palys; and many nieces, nephews and other family members.

Visititation was held March 26 from 5 until 9 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Services were held March 27 at 2 p.m. at Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with burial following in the adjoining cemetery.

The family requested that memorial donations be made to Children’s Hospital of Alabama in the name of Key Club.

Joseph Lowrie ‘Joe’ Dean

Joseph Lowrie “Joe” Dean passed away at home in Opelika on Feb. 11, 2017. He was 94.

He was born Oct. 27, 1922, in Opelika and became valedictorian of his class at Cliff High School, where he played trombone in the band. He later earned a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University).

His business career included running the family farm at Danway and more than 50 years working with his father and brother in A.B. Dean Agency, where he managed the business and was an independent insurance agent and a real estate broker for over 40 years. The last 20 years of his career, he owned and operated Joe Dean Agency.

“Mr. Joe,” as many called him, was a Life Scout who was honored with the Silver Beaver Award for his involvement in Scouting. For years he was leader of a Cub Scout Pack, and he also devoted many hours to helping Girl Scouts in Opelika. He was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Opelika.

He joined the Kiwanis Club of Opelika and served in most offices during more than 40 years in Kiwanis. He also was Division Lieutenant Governor, District Governor, and District Young Child Priority One chair and was twice honored as a Hixson Fellow.

Dean helped design a “Choosing Childcare” brochure that was distributed statewide to thousands of parents, as well as a Kiwanis statewide directory of agencies with services provided for children. He also served several years as chairman of the board for the Alabama Council on Child Abuse.

When his wife, Jean, died soon after he became Governor of Kiwanis, he devoted his energy and resources to starting a statewide organization in 1991 to help provide at-risk young children with books and volunteer readers. Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental has been recognized nationally several times and has provided 550,000 young children in

(See JOE DEAN, Page 10)

With sympathy

Other deaths in the Alabama District recently include:

◆ Jim McGee, 65, Florence, who died Feb. 3, 2017. He was the current president of the Kiwanis Club of Florence.

◆ Tish Hutchinson, 66, Gadsden, who died Feb. 2, 2017. She was a longtime Key Club volunteer and member of the Alabama District Adult Board for Key Club.

Have questions? Call the Kiwanis District Office in Birmingham at 205-945-1334
**2015-2016 Distinguished lieutenant governors**

The following Alabama District of Kiwanis lieutenant governors for 2015-16 were recognized for their outstanding work:

- Brandy Travers
- Robert Brown
- Armand St. Raymond
- Jonathan Dick
- Kimberly Collum
- Robert Lanoux
- Michael Fritz
- George McCleary
- Mark Kellerman

The Alabama District of Kiwanis Board and Bob Palys, who served as 2015-16 Kiwanis Governor, designed new criteria to determine “Distinguished” ratings for clubs and lieutenant governors.

To recognize outstanding clubs and lieutenant governors for 2015-16, they decided to use 11 individual criteria: Membership Growth, New Club Growth, Leadership Education, Conference Attendance, Local Community Service, Global Community Service, Service Leadership Programs, Service Leadership Support, Key Leader Support, District Support, and Alabama Foundation Support.

To be eligible for “Distinguished” consideration, a Kiwanis club had to successfully achieve a minimum of eight of the 11 criteria. Clubs were motivated to apply for “Distinguished” certification and/or the division lieutenant governor could recommend providing recognition.

Photos in this issue show those who attended the Feb. 24 awards dinner during the Mid-winter Conference and took home honors, as well as some plaques presented later at local club meetings.

Each honored club was to receive a Distinguished Kiwanis plaque, and its president and secretary were to receive pins for their “Distinguished” status.

**2015-2016 Distinguished Kiwanis Clubs**

The following Kiwanis Clubs have earned the recognition:

- **Huntsville**
- **Huntsville Golden K**
- **Metro Huntsville**
- **South Huntsville**
- **Cullman**
- **Decatur**
- **Florence**

Please “follow” Alabama Key Leader on Instagram to see more photos of our events.

For more information, or to find out how you can help, please visit www.key-leader.org or contact me at jamie.m.brabston@gmail.com (256-679-6341).

**Leader**

(From Page 8)

self “What is Key Leader?” ...

Key Leader is Kiwanis International’s service leadership program for students (eighth- through 12th-graders) and is a fun-filled weekend comprised of small and large group activities, interactive events, and presentations from a professional facilitator that focus on servant leadership.

It is an incredible opportunity for “emerging leaders” who need that extra push to become true leaders in their schools and communities.

**Joe Dean**

(From Page 9)

Alabama with over 1.5 million books.

After retiring in his early 80s, he continued to be a champion for children, speaking on their behalf and packing books for RIF distributions. He also enjoyed bird hunting around Danway and on trips to Argentina, as well as spending time with his dogs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sudie Robertson Dean and Augustus Baker Dean; his wife of 40-plus years, Jean Torbert Dean; and his brother, A.B. Dean Jr.

He is survived by his son, Joseph L. Dean Jr., and wife Kathy; his daughter, Cathy Dean Gafford, and husband Doug; his granddaughters, Jessica Dean and Meg Gafford Beard and husband Tom; his grandson, Joseph Dean III and wife Kim; and his great-grandchildren, Paxton Dean, Joseph Dean IV, Grady Dean and Luke Beard. Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 13 in Frederick-Dean Funeral Home and in the Trinity United Methodist Church sanctuary prior to the 11 a.m. funeral service Feb. 14. Burial followed at Rosemere Cemetery in Opelika.

Support your Alabama District and Kiwanis International foundations with donations
Vulcan Park renovation: Birmingham club marks its 100 years with service

On May 19 — the 100th anniversary of its charter — the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham helped break ground for the $4.66 million Kiwanis Centennial Park at Vulcan Park and Museum.

This updating and restoration at Vulcan Park, expected to be completed in December, will also include the addition of a multicolor light show on the statue.

The club’s 500-plus members are raising money and spearheading the effort as a gift to the community in recognition of the club’s 100th anniversary of service in Birmingham.

The group that meets weekly at the Harbert Center is proud to be the largest and one of the oldest Kiwanis clubs in the world.

“Supporting and strengthening our city has always been the mission of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham,” President Tom Thagard said. “Invigorating Vulcan’s role as the unifying symbol of Birmingham is fitting for our club’s Centennial Project. We hope that it will serve as a catalyst for renovation, rejuvenation and transformation for a new Birmingham.”

“Major public improvements are nothing new to the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham. We have a rich history of advancing the civic spirit and improving the infrastructure of our city,” Thagard added.

The Kiwanis Centennial Park Project, in cooperation with Vulcan Park and Museum and Freshwater Land Trust, will have three components.

The north side of Vulcan Park has been in significant disrepair, so the first component will reconnect Vulcan to downtown Birmingham physically. This will include landscaping the north side of the park, renovation of the lower piazza entrance and building steps for walking access from the north side to the statue itself. This municipal/event space will be known as Kiwanis Centennial Park.

The second component will be a 2-mile jogging and biking trail that will extend to Green Springs Highway.

(See BIRMINGHAM, Page 12)
Birmingham
(From Page 11)

and serve as the future hub for the planned 750 miles of Birmingham’s Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System.

The third component will be a dynamic, multi-colored light show designed by Schuler Shook and projected onto Vulcan each night to enhance and project the image of Birmingham’s icon. Vulcan Park and the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham have been tied together since the 1930s when the Kiwanis Club became the key driver behind the creation of Vulcan Park as a unifying symbol of the city’s can-do spirit.

“In addition to enhancing Vulcan’s prominence on the skyline, this visionary project will physically connect Vulcan as the central hub from which residents and tourists will access our cultural institutions and parks. As our community recognizes the significant and varied contributions of the Kiwanis Club in its 100-year history, Vulcan Park Foundation is extremely grateful for the club’s continued commitment to its legacy of transformative parks projects,” said Darlene Negrotto, president and CEO of Vulcan Park and Museum.

A critical aspect of the Kiwanis Centennial Project is the connection it will make between the Kiwanis Centennial Park/Vulcan Trail and many existing trails in Birmingham, Homewood and Mountain Brook. It will serve as the hub for the planned 750 miles of Birmingham’s Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System.

“Kiwanis’ Centennial Project enables us to be a better connected community. The trail connection from Vulcan Park to Green Springs Highway is the vital backbone of the Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System. We are so grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham for their vision and gift of a project that not only highlights our beloved Vulcan, but also gives us a way to be outdoors, together,” said Libba Vaughan, executive director of Freshwater Land Trust.

This type of large-scale public project harkens back to the 1920s when club members brought in the landscape design firm of the Olmsted Brothers, whose father (Frederick Law Olmsted) had designed New York’s Central Park, to create a comprehensive park system connecting the many neighborhoods of Birmingham. Many of those public green spaces — including Avondale Park, Linn Park, the Birmingham Zoo and Birmingham Botanical Gardens, to name but a few — still thrive today.

The anticipated look of Kiwanis Centennial Park.

Montgomery club funds puppy barn

Service Dogs Alabama held a ribbon-cutting for its new training facility on April 9. The puppy barn was made possible by a grant from the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery.

Clubs in Action

Kiwanians lead prayers

- Kiwanis Club of Montgomery member Billy Irvin was asked to lead the pre-race prayer at Talladega for the May 7 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series: GEICO 500.
- The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville sponsored its 29th annual Community Prayer Breakfast May 4 at the Jackson Center in Research Park. The speaker was Ben Mathes, founder of Rivers of the World, which tackles critical physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people living in remote areas.
Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is July 15, 2017

Mike Reinehr, 2016-2017 president of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, is center front with a big check made out to Children of the River Region. With him are representatives of the 21 charities helping children that received a total of $245,000 in grants.

**Fair helps Montgomery Kiwanis Club provide $245,000 in charitable grants**

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery makes sure children can have fun and also benefit in many different ways.

It is the third largest Kiwanis club in the world, and each October/November it sponsors the Alabama National Fair at Garrett Coliseum.

The Alabama National Fair began in 1954, and it is the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery’s annual fundraiser. While the fair generates great fun and entertainment for well over 100,000 visitors, it also generates charitable income for many area children’s charities.

The Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Foundation awarded $245,000 in grants to these charities on March 14, said Katie Main, executive director of the club.

These grants are a direct result of the Alabama National Fair, the Pete Peterson Trust (from a deceased member) and the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Foundation, she said.

This year, 21 non-profit recipients serving youth causes in the River Region will benefit from the grants.

The grants will benefit agencies such as AGAPE of Central Alabama, Common Ground Montgomery, House to House, Gift of Life Foundation, Brantwood Children’s Home, and Valiant Cross Academy.

Since 1955, the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery and its foundation have donated over $7 million to charity.

**Farm-City Awards**

During the Marion County Farm-City Awards Banquet, Hamilton Kiwanis Club President David Hall, center, presented the 2016 Farm-City Business Award to Mike Collins, left, and Wesley Gilmore of Sportees Inc. The event was held Nov. 17 at the Tombigbee Electric Community Room in Hamilton.

**Auburn club offers parking for football**

The Kiwanis Club of Auburn is now taking signups online for its season football parking fundraiser.

Sign up to reserve a spot at Auburn Bank — near Toomers Corner and less than a mile from Jordan-Hare Stadium.

The package includes seven home games. You can reserve and pay online by going to: auburnkiwanis.org/football-parking.
Girl wins Huntsville club-sponsored spelling bee, places 11th nationally

Kiwanis Club of Huntsville members were cheering for Erin Howard as she spelled her way into the top 15 in the televised Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 31 and June 1. The club sponsors the Madison County Spelling Bee each year, and Erin won the Feb. 7 event for the second year in a row. Thirty-three students from third through eighth grade participated, and Erin won with the word “declarative,” advancing to the state bee.

Then she won the state contest March 11 over 54 others, successfully spelling the word “Sikhism,” an Indian religion.

Second time at nationals

The Huntsville student, who will be in the seventh grade at Mountain Gap P-8 School this fall, made her second trip to the National Spelling Bee, where she tied for 11th place. She improved over her 2016 record, when she tied for 22nd.

In Washington, 285 students competed in the national bee this year. It was the word “Klydonograph,” an instrument that makes a photographic record of electric surges in power lines, that eliminated Erin from the competition.

Huntsville Kiwanis President Mike Roddy and newsletter editor Woody Grayson kept members informed about when and where to watch Erin in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which was televised on ESPN.

Susan McDougal, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville and its board of directors, has coordinated the Madison County spelling bee for 15 years. This is a way for her to volunteer for causes she believes in: children and education.

Supporting literacy

A graduate of Huntsville High School and Auburn University, McDougal is a certified travel agent and director of operations for Adventure Travel Agency, which also sponsors the county and state bees. Adventure Travel has sponsored the state bee for eight years, and McDougal believes it is important to support literacy.

Erin’s sponsor at the national spelling bee was Adventure Travel, and she and McDougal appeared on a Huntsville television program together May 19 to talk about the event. Erin says she studies spelling words for at least an hour every day, and even more as she nears a competition.

She thinks she would like to attend Harvard University and become a pediatrician.

For now, when she’s not spelling, Erin enjoys drawing, sketching and all types of art, plays both trombone and piano, writes short stories and loves to read, especially science fiction and fantasy.

Serving Ronald McDonald House

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort delivered and served dinner to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile April 5 and learned about its outreach and history. Help from organizations like Kiwanis clubs that donate meals allow residents to have a home-style meal while away from home to help their child recover from medical treatment. Members who donated their time to deliver and serve dinner were Beth Geiger, Ray Moore, John Napper, Chase Schmidt, Richard Geiger and Will Wilburn, who organized this service project. They found out they should be purchasing green “Shamrock Shakes” at McDonald’s around St. Patrick’s Day each year to help out; 25 cents from each sale is donated to the Ronald McDonald House Foundation.

Recruit new club members, and volunteer to help with The Formula and I-Plan
It’s not too late to plan to go to Kiwanis International Convention in Paris, July 13-16, 2017

By Bob Brown
Lt. Governor, Division 5, and Hoover Metro member

Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club held its annual cookout June 3 for children and counselors at Camp Smile-a-Mile at Children’s Harbor on Lake Martin.

Two dozen volunteers from the club were joined by Alabama District Governor Keith Graham and First Lady Dee Dee to prepare and serve a meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, cookies and soft drinks at a weekend camp for siblings of childhood cancer patients.

The Smile-a-Mile organization, in association with Children’s Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham, provides support for children with cancer and families in many ways, including several sessions of Camp Smile-a-Mile each summer.

The Hoover-Metro club considers the summer cookout to be one of the highlights of its service year.

“For nearly 20 years, Smile-a-Mile and the Hoover-Metro Kiwanis Club have worked together to provide hope for the families we serve,” said Smile-a-Mile Assistant Program Director Madison Monday.

“By providing a cookout meal each summer, Kiwanis allows us to devote more of our funds to providing more and better programs for our families.”

This event was Governor Graham’s first opportunity to participate with Camp Smile-a-Mile.

“Getting to experience the community outreach other clubs in the district are doing has been a huge blessing this year,” Graham said. “Camp Smile-a-Mile was especially exciting, as we saw children who needed encouragement and joy getting to spend the weekend having genuine fun — kids being kids!”

The Hoover Metro Kiwanis Club bought supplies and got to grilling recently as part of its service project to help Camp Smile-a-Mile. Along with members and guests, those helping out included Governor Keith Graham and wife, Dee Dee, wearing her “Kids Need Kiwanis” T-shirt in keeping with the new Kiwanis International marketing campaign, and Lt. Governor Bob Brown.
Valley speakers focus on needs

The Kiwanis Club of Valley has heard about all types of needs affecting children and youth from speakers at recent programs. Jonathan Herston, center, the new executive director of the Chambers County Circle of Care Center for Families, talked about his needs analysis to pinpoint any changes in families’ principal needs. During the same Wednesday noon meeting, Destiny McGhee, left, talked about her year as Key Club lieutenant governor for District 12. She said the Valley High School Key Club was accepting donations, as well as new or gently used shoes, for two projects to benefit people who live in third-world countries. At right is program chair Bethany Roughton. At another meeting, Pat and Jim Harriger talked about the Girls’ Ranch community garden program they are involved with and their hopes for a 6,000-square-foot garden for this second year, with volunteers welcome to help produce fresh vegetables. He quoted the motto of the Alabama Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches: “It’s easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women.”

Fishing fundraiser

Justin Crisler (left), president of the Kiwanis Club of West Huntsville, presents a check to WHNT television chief meteorologist and former Key Club member Jason Simpson to help with the “Castin’ ‘n’ Catchin’” fundraiser and honor his son Brody. As a newborn, Brody needed heart surgery at Children’s Hospital of Alabama. A fishing tournament fundraiser was held May 6 in Scottsboro to benefit the Pediatric & Congenital Heart Center at Children’s; more information about this fundraiser can be found at www.castinncatchin.org.

Governor inducts 3 members for Tuscaloosa club

Making a governor’s visit to Tuscaloosa recently was Alabama District Kiwanis Governor Keith Graham (left), who was accompanied by his wife, Dee Dee. While visiting the Tuscaloosa Kiwanis Club, Graham conducted the induction of the club’s three newest members: Tommy Smith, Jerry Giles and Brenda Guest.
The following article, “An Apple a Day,” featuring a project of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club, was written by Kimiko Martinez for Kiwanis use in March.

By Kimiko Martinez

It’s not unusual these days to see kids with their gazes glued to an iPad or smartphone screen. Technology makes for a great distraction on road trips, in restaurants and, as an Alabama Kiwanis club has learned, at the hospital.

After Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club member Justin Fincher’s encounter with a scared, screaming child, Children’s of Alabama — a pediatric health system — rolled out an iPad program at its Benjamin Russell hospital location to entertain and distract young patients who are going into surgery.

“I’m in the operating room getting things ready for surgery, and I notice this little kid crying on the table,” says Fincher, an integration engineer for surgical services at Children’s of Alabama. “People were trying to calm him down, trying to get his attention off of being separated from mom and dad. Finally, a nurse finds an iPhone, and he’s immediately distracted.

“And I’m thinking, ‘Why can’t we do this? We have 55-inch screens for the surgeons. Why can’t we play cartoons on those while we’re waiting?’”

Instead of playing cartoons on the operating room monitors, however, the hospital preloaded iPads with games and shows, which patients can enjoy until they fall asleep on the operating table.

Fincher remembers an instance in which staff was having a difficult time prepping an autistic patient for surgery.

“They were trying to give him an IV, and he wouldn’t come out from under the covers,” Fincher says. “I walked up with an iPad, and his arm immediately shot out from underneath the sheet.”

The iPad calmed him down and distracted him enough that the nurses could get the patient ready for surgery without resistance.

“Our goal with this is to reduce the number of children we have to give medicine to,” Fincher says. “And I know we’ve reduced that number with this program.”

When members of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club learned about the program and its popularity, they immediately wanted to help. The club’s $15,740 donation has allowed the program to expand by adding 10 iPads at Children’s South and 10 in the operating rooms of the Lowder Building.

The decision wasn’t difficult, says club president Jamie Brabston.

“It was a no-brainer. We just loved the idea.”

Monroeville memorial scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Monroeville May 16 recognized five area high school seniors awarded Jesse L. Blankenship Memorial Scholarships. They are, from left, Lake Higdon, Monroe Academy; Clay Tucker, Monroe Academy; Janice Blankenship; Cameron Dreadin, J. U. Blacksher High School; Maurice Woody Jr., Monroe County High School; and A. J. Wasden, Monroe Academy. During the club meeting, family members, school officials and other guests watched scholarships chairman Sam Schjott honor the students for their academic achievements. Janice Blankenship, center, is the widow of Jesse L. Blankenship, who was active on the local and district levels of Kiwanis for many years. Each year, county high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Kiwanis scholarship funds.
I-Plan emphasized at Mid-winter

Kiwanis International Trustee John DeVilbiss from West Alexandria, Ohio, (speaking, top right) was a guest of the Alabama District and spoke at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville. He is shown with District Governor Keith Graham and wife, Dee Dee, at the Feb. 24 and 25 events. The I-Plan — the Kiwanis International plan adopted to start us on our next 100 years of service to children and communities worldwide — was a major emphasis at the conference. The four components are Inspiration (membership and engagement), Impact (meaningful service), Image (how Kiwanis is perceived by others) and Investment (financial viability). (Photos above and at left by David Stewart)

Alabama Kiwanis Foundation President Russ Grimes and Cathy Dean Gafford, executive director of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental, explain program details during a Mid-winter Conference educational session. Other workshop photos are on following pages. (Photo by David Stewart)

Alaska Kiwanis Foundation President Russ Grimes, center, presented two of its J. Mercer Barnett Fellow awards at the Mid-winter Conference. Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond, left, was honored with this Barnett by his nephews, while the Alabama District presented one to 2016-17 Key Club Governor William Sims in recognition of his efforts. Circle K 2016-17 Governor Stephanie Fox (see Page 7) also received a Barnett. (Photo by David Stewart)

Joel Williams (left) of Troy, a past Alabama District Governor and past Kiwanis International Trustee, takes a moment during the Mid-winter Conference to share experiences with Governor-elect Armand St. Raymond of Birmingham, whose year as governor will begin Oct. 1. (Photo by David Stewart)
Plan now for your club to sponsor teens from your area at spring 2018 Key Leader Weekend
Deadline for the next edition of the online Kiwanis Kourier is July 15, 2017

Mid-winter Conference
Prattville
Feb. 24-25, 2017

Photos by David Stewart
Awards recognizing clubs and lieutenant governors achieving “Distinguished” status for the 2015-16 Kiwanis year were presented Feb. 24 during an awards dinner at the Mid-winter Conference in Prattville by Immediate Past Governor Bob Palys, who died just one month later. The large group photo shows many club presidents, secretaries or other representatives who accepted plaques for clubs. Palys also talked about the achievements of those who earned Distinguished Lieutenant Governor honors for 2015-16. Pictured are Kimberly Collum, George McCleary, Armand St. Raymond, Robert Lanoux, Bob Brown, and Paul England (representing Jonathan Dick). Not shown are Brandy Travers, Michael Fritz and Mark Kellerman. Smaller photos on this page include “Distinguished Club” representatives; some are shown with Palys, as is District Secretary Pat Manasco, bottom left. Palys created two special awards to recognize Manasco and Kourier Editor Patrice Stewart. (Patrice Stewart was traveling and thanks her brother-in-law, David Stewart, for making convention photos.)
Awards recognize Alabama clubs

Presentations of Distinguished Club awards for the 2015-16 year were made around Alabama in the weeks after the awards night during the Mid-winter Conference. Clockwise from the top: The Kiwanis Club of Helena was honored as a Distinguished Club for 2015-16, and Luther Jarmon, who served as president that year, received a pin in recognition. At a Capital City Kiwanis Club meeting in Montgomery, Division 9, Michael Fritz, left, was presented his Distinguished Lieutenant Governor award by Mike Winstead. Current Dadeville Kiwanis President Brenda Floyd accepted the award on behalf of the club at the Mid-winter Conference and then at a club meeting made a special presentation to 2015-16 President Doug Reid and Secretary Betty Hayes. Tuscaloosa club members Betty Whisenant and Robert Lanoux show their Distinguished Club and Distinguished Lieutenant Governor plaques. At the Kiwanis Club of Anniston, current president Brandon Freeman presented the plaque to 2015-16 president Don Ledford.

Foundation needs items for auction

Sometimes you’ll find a football autographed by a coach and team. You might go home with a week at a vacation condo, or a treasured keepsake. Books, art, collectibles, university memorabilia, event tickets, travel packages, gift certificates, sports items, gift baskets, children’s items such as dolls, and much more usually can be found at the District Convention fundraising auction, which this year will be held in Auburn Aug. 18-20.

Depending on the items, silent and sometimes live auctions will be held. Proceeds usually are shared by the Alabama Kiwanis Foundation and its signature project, Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

Kiwanians and clubs are asked to collect items for the auction. More information and acquisition/tax value forms will be available soon at jeandeanrif.org. Items can be brought to the convention or shipped to the RIF warehouse in Opelika.

Calendars available

Calendars for 2017 featuring photos of people reading to children are still available from Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

“See the Need to Read to a Child” is the second calendar developed as a fundraiser for Jean Dean RIF, and executive director Cathy Gafford would like all Kiwanians to order calendars. These calendars with many Kiwanians and Kiwanis service and information also are good gifts for clubs to give to weekly speakers. Gafford offers discounts off the $12 January price for clubs ordering in quantity and individuals ordering in the second half of the year.

Calendar sales help RIF buy books to send home with children after Kiwanians and other volunteers read to them in Head Starts and other classrooms. The 2016 calendar was produced as part of the 25-year anniversary of Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental.

Contact Gafford at jeandeanrif@gmail.com or 334-749-5631 for information and current prices, or check the calendar information at jeandeanrif.org, where calendars can be ordered and paid for with Paypal or credit cards.

Need club president, secretary and other officer training? See kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/learn.