

Montgomery Advertiser

EAST MONTGOMERY

SECTION E

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YAHNIRA BACKUS

Fun for girls at Fashion Camp

The Shoppes at EastChase are offering their Fashion Camp again this summer. This is for girls 6 years to 12 years of age. It is designed for girls who have a passion for fashion and want to feel confident and comfortable. Area stores such as Justice for Girls, Dillard's, and Versona Accessories will share tips on how to accessorize, how to strike the right pose, entertaining, healthy living, and how to develop a unique style. Additionally, they will cover lights, camera, and more.

Each Fashion Camp is one day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There are various dates to choose from. They encourage parents to register online as soon as possible. Spots are limited. Registration can also be done at the Guest Services Office located next to Ware Jewelers. They are open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

There will be two separate age groups for the camps. Girls age 6-8 years will have the following dates to choose from: June 10, 11, 17, 18, July 8, 9, 15, 16. The dates for the girls age 9-12 years will be: June 12, 13, 19, 20, July 10, 11, 17, 18.

The cost is \$75 per child. It includes lunch, a \$25 gift card to the Shoppes at EastChase, a special gift, and a graduation certificate.

For more information call 279-6046 or visit www.theshoppesateastchase.com.

Summer cooking

Williams-Sonoma, 7252 Eastchase Parkway, offers classes that many may not know about. They are fun, informative, and free! The themes for June classes will be

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Sonia Crews-Foster is the owner of Florist Plus, a new business in east Montgomery. LLOYD GALLMAN/MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Florist Plus opens in east Montgomery

Full-service florist store owner plans to add tea and coffee bar

By Paul Sullivan
Special to East Montgomery

A longtime florist has big plans for her new business located behind Flip's restaurant in east Montgomery.

Sonia Crews-Foster, former operator of Garden Path Florist, opened Florist Plus on May 1 in the Sturbridge shopping center at 7938 Vaughn Road across from the Rave. Crews-Foster recently moved back to Montgomery to be closer

to a grandchild. She saw the former site of Covent Garden florist was vacant and the long-time designer decided to once again run a floral and gift shop serving east Montgomery.

"It's a full service florist, and we plan to add a tea and coffee bar," Crews-Foster said from the store. "We also will have edible fruit arrangements — fruits of all kinds. And more inventory is on the way in the coming weeks."

Crews-Foster has been working in the floral field for

more than two decades and saw the open storefront as an opportunity to use her gifts. "I'm creative, enjoy people and like working," she said, adding that the coffee and tea bars are a bid to make the 2,800 square foot store a gathering spot.

"I believe that a coffee and tea bar will make it more interesting, and I can sell coffee beans and tea in the gift baskets," she said. "This will help make Florist Plus more than just a floral shop."

Crews-Foster has three full-

time florists on staff and five total employees, including herself. She also sells loose flowers wholesale on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, she said. They are put in buckets of water and are ideal for those wanting large quantities of roses, daisies or other favorites. Florist Plus is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and can be found on the Web at www.floristplusmontgomery.com. The phone number is 277-9577.

AUM growing with cyber security

By Paul Sullivan
Special to East Montgomery

The demand for people prepared to work in the cyber security field is rising and Auburn University Montgomery is positioned to meet the need.

Joel Junker, an adjunct professor in AUM's Cybersystems and Information Security (CSIS) program, works in the industry and knows AUM CSIS students will receive the training they need. "Historically, people in the field have had an IT (information technology)

background," he said. "But not security credentials. Our graduates will have the capacity and background. A good education, background and knowledge are all essential."

Junker, who is vice president for security systems for DSD Laboratories in the Capital City, said the job market for graduates is promising. "The demand for graduates will only increase," he said. "The federal government is trying to hire thousands of security professionals in the next few years."

And work also will be found

in the private sector, he believes. "I find a lot of smaller companies have a part-time security person who has no formal training," he said. "If I looked at them from the view of a professional hacker - the companies are exposed."

Recent news reports have detailed hacking of U.S.-based private and public entities by foreign governments as well as by groups based in America.

"It's a serious thing and jobs are plentiful," said Mehmet Sahinoglu, CSIS program coordinator and director of AUM's In-

formatics Institute. "People are being hacked and are in jeopardy all the time. AUM is one of the few in the U.S. with a degree program in cyber security."

Sahinoglu said AUM's initiative has been modeled after a prestigious Carnegie Mellon program that began more than 20 years ago. A 2009 survey of leaders in the River Region information technology field helped lead to the jumpstart of AUM's effort. Sahinoglu be-

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Bellwood East wins BONDS Grant

Special to East Montgomery

Montgomery just got a face-lift along one of its busiest thoroughfares. Funded in part by a grant from the city's BONDS (Building Our Neighbors for Development and Success) program, the Bellwood East Homeowners Association recently renovated its entranceway on Vaughn Road between Bell Road and Taylor Road.

"We're tremendously proud of our neighborhood and this has been our biggest project yet

to maintain, and actually enhance, the beauty of our common areas," said Bellwood East Homeowners Association president Bob Ivey.

Mayor Todd Strange commented on the importance of the area saying, "Vaughn Road between Bell and Taylor is such a vital part of Montgomery, serving as an east-west connector between the Eastern Boulevard and Taylor Road retail districts, as well as the cultural and

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Bellwood East president Bob Ivey, left, BONDS director Regina Berry-Meadows and Bellwood East secretary Scott Lausman commemorate the renovated Vaughn Road entranceway of Bellwood East.

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