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## Little Big Town to headline RiverFest

Little Big Town, a new Nashville favorite, will perform Saturday evening September 23 at 8:00 p.m. on the Cellular South music stage, as the headline entertainment during the 2006 Tallahatchie RiverFest in downtown New Albany.

"We are excited to have this very current and popular group headlining the 2006 Tallahatchie RiverFest," remarked festival co-coordinator Amanda Kent. "This group is a change for our festival from the older country music to the new and current country music."

Most widely known for their top ten hit, "Boondocks", Little Big Town is on the fast track to becoming one of Nashville's top new groups. The group has garnered several prestigious nominations recently, including a CMT Music Award nomination for *Group/Duo Video of the Year* and two nominations from the Academy of Country Music Awards for *Top New Duo or Vocal Group* and *Top Vocal Group* in 2006.

The group has toured with country favorites Keith Urban and Kenney Chesney. They have also opened for music legend John Mellancamp. In addition, their latest album *The Road to Here* was recently certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.

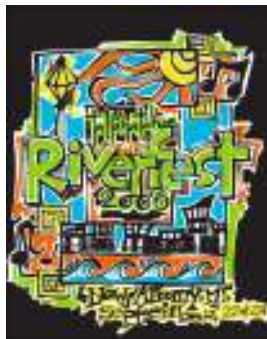


Little Big Town

The Little Big Town concert along with all RiverFest entertainment is free.

The Little Big Town concert along with all RiverFest entertainment is free. Concert goers are asked to come early and bring a lawn chair or blanket.

The Tallahatchie RiverFest is New Albany's annual Celebration of the Arts held around the Union County Courthouse in historic downtown New Albany and is coordinated by UCDA and many volunteers. For more information about the festival call 662-534-4354 or log on to [www.tallahatchieriverfest.com](http://www.tallahatchieriverfest.com).



## From the Executive Director

Recently, there has been significant media attention paid to Union County's population growth. According to official U.S. Census Bureau estimates, from 2000 to July 1, 2005, Union County's growth rate was 5.6%, highest in the Northeast Mississippi region. This compares to 2.7% growth for the state as a whole. During this timeframe, Union County's numerical growth was 15<sup>th</sup> best of Mississippi's 82 counties and 11<sup>th</sup> best in percentage growth. Those counties with higher growth rates were mostly in metro areas, around universities, or along the Gulf Coast (These numbers are pre-Katrina). Although this data was released in March, it escaped the media's attention until late June when the July 1, 2005 estimates for municipalities were released.

Many residents seemed to be surprised by this growth but it is not really "new" news; Union County's growth has been significant since the mid 1990s. As early as April 2000, I wrote a column for the UCDA newsletter concerning Union County's population growth. The *New Albany Gazette* reprinted this almost verbatim as a guest column on May 17, 2000. Again in July 2001, I addressed this issue in the UCDA newsletter and I have mentioned it in various speeches over the years. To summarize, Union County has had sustained population growth for at least 10 years. Many factors influence this growth but they can be summarized to the fact that Union County is a favorable place to live, work, operate a business, and raise a family. Union County's challenge now is to maintain our quality of life and to increase job and economic opportunities in the face of this increased population growth. UCDA is committed to working with local governments, businesses, schools, and the general public to meet this challenge.

## Feasibility Study to be conducted for business incubator

The Union County Development Association, the Union County Board of Supervisors and the City of New Albany recently agreed to the split the cost of conducting a feasibility study for a business incubator in Union County. Negotiations are underway with a consultant and the contract is expected to be finalized soon. Other nearby communities that have incubators are Corinth, with satellites in Ripley and Iuka; Oxford with satellites in Batesville and Grenada; and Tupelo.

## Northeast Community College News

After numerous delays, the Northeast Mississippi Community College expansion in New Albany is now back on track. The Northeast Board of Trustees has let a contract for the removal of asbestos in the existing unused buildings. Work is scheduled to begin in early July with a 90 day completion for the removal. The Union County Board of Supervisors will then demolish the buildings with their equipment. After the demolition, a contract will be let for any remaining removal and construction of a new building. The project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2007. Northeast staff are working on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process for the New Albany branch. Ongoing classes and operations will not be interrupted; the building currently in use will remain.



The Union County Development Association recently provided five outdoor literature display holders to the City of New Albany Sportsplex. Funding for the project was through a tourism promotion grant UCDA received from the City tourism tax dollars to promote New Albany. The holders, placed at points of interest around the Sportsplex, hold brochures UCDA has produced about the community and information from other groups. The purpose of having these brochure holders is to inform visitors at the Sportsplex about all there is to see and do while they are in New Albany.

# UCDA

## *Ambassadors*

about the association's recent activities.

The UCDA Ambassador's Club began this year. The club is designed to help promote UCDA, retain membership, and to help improve the experience for each and every partner of the Union County Development Association.

PHOTO to the RIGHT: Some of the members of the UCDA Ambassadors Club gather at the UCDA office to learn



## Regional workforce study released

On June 21, the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce unveiled the results of a regional workforce analysis. The study, covering 52 counties in the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas tri-state area, was designed to match the workforce with employer needs and to better position the region to compete in the global economy. The process included in-depth employer surveys, interviews with workers, and focus groups with community representatives as well as a review of statistical data.

The report identified several key assets as well as several key challenges the region needs to address. This is the second of three studies the Memphis Chamber is conducting; the first was an evaluation of megasites and the last will be an infrastructure analysis of the region. The results of these three studies will then be merged into a strategic economic development plan for the entire region around Memphis.



Looking for home grown vegetables,  
canned items, jellies and more?

Visit the New Albany/Union County  
Farmer's Market.

Every Wednesday

7:00 a.m. till Noon or all items sold

Union County Arena

Fairgrounds—Call 534-1916 for more information.

## Bobby Irvin resigns from UCDA Board of Directors

UCDA board member and Regions Bank President Bobby Irvin has resigned from his post on the board.

Bobby has been serving as a part-time pastor for Philadelphia Baptist Church. He is leaving Regions Bank and the UCDA Board to begin serving as the church's pastor full time.

UCDA would like to thank Bobby for his tireless dedication to the organization and wishes him well in his new position.



## Community Calendar

The events listed below are not necessarily UCDA sponsored events.

### Muffins at the Magnolia

Thursday, July 20, 2006  
(Muffins at the Magnolia will be the Third Thursday of every Month)  
Magnolia Civic Center  
127 Bankhead Street  
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  
The event is come and go.

For more information:  
Call 534-3438, 538-0014, or 534-4354.

Sponsored and Coordinated by:  
New Albany Main Street Association  
UNITE  
Union County Heritage Museum  
Union County Development Association



### New Albany/Union County Farmer's Market

The New Albany/Union County Farmer's Market



officially opened on June 28, 2006. The Farmer's Market will be open every Wednesday beginning at 7:00 a.m. and will officially close after November 29, 2006.

This year the Farmer's Market will be located at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Want to be a vendor at the market? Call 534-1916 for a list of rules and an application. Growers eligible to sell at the market are those living in the New Albany trade area that produce and sell their own homegrown fruits, vegetables, plants, processed and prepared fruit and vegetable items and homemade arts and crafts. The New Albany trade area is defined as Union County and those counties that border Union County.



### Rails to Trails Meeting

July 12, 2006  
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Muffins  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Heather Deutsch  
Director of Trail Development  
Rail Trail Conservancy  
Washington, D.C.

at the Union County Courthouse Courtroom

\*This meeting will be a public meeting for elected officials and all interested persons. Following this meeting, we will gather at McAlister's for a dutch-treat lunch. Anyone wishing to have further discussions with the presenter is encouraged to attend.

### Union County Fair and Livestock Show

July 28—August 5  
Rodeos, Mid South Fair  
Talent competitions,  
amusement rides,  
exhibits, Livestock  
show, Petting Zoo, Kids  
Day, nightly  
entertainment,  
International Events,  
Fairest of the Fair and more!  
Call 662-534-1916 for more information.



If you have an event you would like included, please email Amanda Kent at [amanda@ucda-newalbany.com](mailto:amanda@ucda-newalbany.com) or call 534-4354.

UCDA reserves the right to exclude any events deemed not appropriate for its newsletter.

# Muffins at the Magnolia



Friends gather in the Magnolia Room for coffee and muffins.

Muffins at the Magnolia, the first ever community wide networking opportunity, was recently held and it was a huge success!

An estimated 50 - 75 people gathered in the Magnolia Room at the Civic Center for coffee, muffins, and networking.

Special Thanks to Dan Skinner of High Point Coffee Roasters for providing the coffee, to Diane Tate of Diane Tate Designs at the Blue Rose for providing the flowers, and to Bankhead Flowers for providing the door prize.

Make plans now to attend the next "Muffins at the Magnolia" on Thursday, July 20th at the Magnolia Civic Center in historic Downtown New Albany from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

"Muffins at the Magnolia" is coordinated and sponsored by:

The New Albany Main Street Association, UNITE, Union County Heritage Museum, and the Union County Development Association. No formal program is planned, just time to visit among friends. Come and go, stay as little or as long as you would like.

## News & Events

# RiverFest to have "Best Seats in the House" contest



*Little Big Town*

Porter TV Furniture and Appliance and the Tallahatchie RiverFest have come together to give one lucky winner the "Best Seats In The House" for the Little Big Town concert on Saturday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. during the Tallahatchie RiverFest.

The winner will receive a sofa parked right in front of the RiverFest stage to have "The Best Seats in the House" and two Tallahatchie RiverFest t-shirts! Plus, the winner gets to keep the sofa!

The drawing will be held September 21, 2006 at Porter's and the sofa will be delivered to the festival. The winner is responsible for removal of the sofa AFTER the festival concert. Sofa CANNOT be removed until after the concert. Winning entry selection is final.

Questions? Call 662-534-4354. **Where to Register? Porter TV, Furniture and Appliance, the UCDA office (135 East Bankhead Street) or online at**

**[www.tallahatchieriverfest.com](http://www.tallahatchieriverfest.com)**.

See you at RiverFest, September 22 and 23, 2006!



*President, Mike Staten*

*Executive Director, Glenn Duckworth*

*Administrative Assistant, Nancy  
Moore*

*Tourism/Community Development  
Specialist, Amanda Kent*



For all the latest news and events, be sure to visit UCDA online at [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com) and the City of New Albany online at [www.visitnewalbany.com](http://www.visitnewalbany.com)!

## Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful purchases Litter Signage



Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful recently received a \$500 grant from the UNITE foundation to purchase anti litter signage.

“We are excited about these signs,” remarked KNAUCB Co-Coordinator Amanda Kent. “The goal of our program is to measurably reduce litter in our community through education and awareness. These signs are a small part of the awareness campaign we plan to continually implement.”

The 20 signs purchased will be placed strategically throughout the community. The committee hopes to receive additional funding in the future to purchase more signage. A photo of one of the signs is to the left.

Keep New Albany/Union County Beautiful would like to thank the UNITE foundation for making this project possible.

*UCDA's staff member Amanda Kent and the Main Street Manager, Vickie Duke, serve as Co-Coordinators for the program.*

Would you like to receive this newsletter and other community news and events via e-mail?

You can register online @ [www.ucda-newalbany.com](http://www.ucda-newalbany.com) or call the UCDA office (534-4354) with your email address.

