

# OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

**Former Auburn running back Tre Mason arrested**  
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### MOORES MILL ROAD BRIDGE

*"It's going to definitely be an enhancement to the south side of town."*

Alison Frazier,  
project engineer for the city of Auburn

# Project gets green light



KATHERINE HAAS/KHAAS@OANOW.COM

The Moors Mill Road Bridge will be replaced this year with a five-lane bridge with a railed-off, shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path.

## Auburn City Council approves agreement for long-awaited replacement

BY KATHERINE HAAS  
khaas@oanow.com

The replacement of one of Auburn's major bridges crossing over Interstate 85 has been seven years in the making, and officials expect that the start of construction in 2016 will mark the launch of a project that proves worth the wait.

The project will involve the replacement of the two-lane Moors Mill Road Bridge with a five-lane bridge, with a

railed-off, 8-foot, dedicated, shared-use path available to pedestrians and bicyclists. The path will connect with the existing path along Moors Mill Road and the nearby park on East University Drive.

According to Alison Frazier, project engineer with the city of Auburn, the city started the design process with a consultant for the bridge replacement in 2008. Securing funding for the project delayed it until recently.

Bids originally opened for the project in March 2015; however, bid results came in over budget, Frazier said.

"So we had to kind of revisit the plans and revisit our funding options toward the city's portion," she added. "They also did some redesign on the bridge to try to reduce the price."

The Auburn City Council approved an agreement Tuesday night with the Alabama Department of Transportation to construct the bridge

replacement and additional lanes via the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program. As per the agreement, the state will fund more than \$8 million of the estimated \$10.7 million total cost of the project, with the city of Auburn providing more than \$2 million and State Road & Bridge funding providing about \$120,000.

In addition, \$479,670 of the total cost will be funded via

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### National Merit Scholarship

# Opelika senior named a finalist

BY MEAGAN HURLEY  
mhurley@oanow.com

Opelika High School senior Kevin Lazenby recently was named a National Merit Scholarship Program finalist, joining an elite group of high school test-takers in the country.



Lazenby

Lazenby was recognized as a semi-finalist last fall and was selected as a finalist in February.

"It's satisfying to be recognized for something that I've worked so hard for. It's kind of a culmination, really, of 12 years of work, of all my school as it comes to an end. It's an honor," he said.

Lazenby explained how he was selected as a finalist.

"You sign up to take the PSAT as a junior, and if you get a good score compared with your peers, then in the fall of your senior year, you get a National Merit

See **LAZENBY**, Page 8A

# Local family invited to White House Easter event

BY LINDY OLLER  
loller@oanow.com

One Opelika family will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., this Easter, after receiving an invitation from U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., to take part in the White House Easter Egg Roll on March 28.

Raven Harvis; her husband Antione; and their two children, AJ, 7, and Genesis, 3, will celebrate Easter with 35,000 other guests at one of the largest events at the White House.

The invitation, Harvis said, came about through a conversation her mother had with Sessions.

"My mother has a lot of business relations, and she was able to have an opportunity to speak with Sen. Sessions," Harvis said. "She's been a supporter of his for quite a long time, so she gave

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### Nancy Reagan

# Former first lady dies at 94 in California

Former first lady Nancy Reagan kisses her husband's flag-draped casket before it is carried from the Capitol Rotunda in Washington on June 11, 2004. The widow of former President Ronald Reagan died Sunday at 94.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress, partial to designer gowns and pricey china, was widely dismissed as

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### Weather

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