

The Bartlett Express

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75 Cent

BPACC sponsors 'name the mother goose



Mother's day 'name the goose' contest inspired by 'super mom' goose that took
post at the entrance to BPACC.

by Julie Ray

*BPACC partners up with the Express for
contest in honor of Mother's Day*

by JULIE RAY
Express Editor

Mother's day this year is Sunday, May 13 and the Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center (BPACC) is honoring a very special mother.

The mother honored by BPACC, in fact, had front row seating at the Pickin' Picnic last weekend. The mother is a goose that might have performance aspirations for her goslings as she made her nest at the front entrance steps to BPACC.

"People could learn a lesson from that goose," said Ron Jewell, director of BPACC.

"She sits on those eggs twenty four-seven. She's a great mother. And the male goose, if he feels the mother and eggs are threatened, will really get after that threat."

A barrier of bright yellow police tape and wooden barricades protect the goose and her family. On second thought, the barricades might be protection for onlookers that venture too close from being chased and bitten by the protective male goose.

BPACC and the Bartlett Express are partnering for a 'name the mother goose' contest in honor of Mother's Day. To enter the contest, email name suggestions to

the editor of the Bartlett Express at Julie.ray@journalwest10.com by June 1. Ron Jewell will select the winning name on June 4. The winner will receive up to 8 tickets to the Missoula Children's Theatre production of Little Red Riding Hood on June 16. There will be two performances, one at 2:30 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m.

Can't think of a name? Perhaps visiting the mother goose for inspiration before Barefoot in the Park production may be in order. Barefoot in the Park by Neil Simon will run May 10-13 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityofbartlett.org and click the BPACC link.

Bartlett woman assists Antarctic research team

by JULIE RAY
Express Editor

Alex Eilers is a Bartlett resident, manager of education at the Pink Palace Museum, PolarTREC teacher and friend to the Antarctica Weddell seals.

All that might sound fairly normal until the Weddell seal friend description. Weddell seals live in the region surrounding Antarctica, and spend their time on sea ice and in the water.

The opportunity for the adventurous Bartlett resident came about through her education position at the Pink Palace and an application to be involved in the PolarTREC program.

Each year the National Science Board offers grant monies to fund research. Dr. Jenn Burns, a professor of biology at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, sent an application to the National Science Board for a grant to study the Weddell Seals in the Ross Sea located in

see **ANTARCTICA**, pg. 3

Barefootin' in the park



Dress rehearsal for the cast of Barefoot in the Park put the performers in character. From left, Rob Aymett as Paul, Emily Burnett as Corie, Robbie Phillips as Ethel Banks (Mother), John Reed as Harry Pepper (the telephone repairman), and Fred Harpell as Victor Valasco.

by Julie Ray

by JULIE RAY

Express Editor

Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center ends the season with Barefoot in the Park by Neil Simon. The Bartlett Express was at dress rehearsal to get a sneak peek at the mayhem about to unfold on stage May 10-13. Mayhem experienced up close and personal by

audience members

BPACC closes with Neil Simon's 'Barefoot in the Park'

What looks like very low scaffolding on stage is actually stadium style seating.

That is correct, the audience will be on stage with the performers. Seating will be limited for this production and early ticket purchases are recommended.

The director, Daniel L. Martin, cast and crew were delightfully chaotic, exhibiting the duality of

Neil Simon's
**Barefoot
in the Park**



courtesy of Alex Eilers

The Weddell seal team, from left to right, Patrick, Kim, Chris, Dr. Kim Burns and Alex Eilers are dressed for zero and below temperatures.

of the Tigers success this year. Seated, left to right, Whit Sloane (father), T.J. Sloane, Back row, left to right, Shane Jackson (asst. coach AHS), Chris Ring (Head Coach AHS)

ANTARCTICA, from pg. 1

Antarctica

Only twelve grants are awarded. Once Burns was awarded her grant, the next step was selecting a team to assist in the research study.

One informal educator each year is chosen to be a part of the research team. This year Ellers was that educator for the Weddell Seal project.

Once the research team is in Antarctica the task is to catch, tag and study individual seals. A Weddell Seal can weigh over 1000 pounds; so that the most obvious question is-how does one actually catch a Weddell seal?

"That is easy," says Ellers, "you just walk up to them!" Ellers explained that the seals have no natural enemy in their environment. Fear is a learned behavior and the seals have never had a reason to learn to fear humans.

Once the seal is captured, an exam is conducted and a small tag, which is a satellite-linked dive recorder, is attached to the fur of the seal and will transmit data showing where, how often, and how deep the seals are diving. A website to see the real time tracking can be viewed at www.seaturtle.org.

A Weddell seal search on the website may be required as the site is primarily a sea turtle tracking program, though other animals are tracked through the site, such as bald eagles, alligators and, of course, seals.

For more information about this project, please join Alex Ellers and Dr. Jenn Burns at the Pink Palace MAX theatre, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Q & A at 7:30. Ellers also has a detailed journal posted at <http://www.polarrec.com/expeditions/weddell-seals-in-the-055-524>.



MONDAY	
Chicken Nuggets w/ Roll, Hot Pocket, Entree Salad, Seasoned Green Peas, Baby Carrots w/ Dip, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit Cup, *Milk	
TUESDAY	
Fish Strips w/ Mushy Potatoes, BBQ Sandwich, Entree Salad, Slow, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit Cup, *Milk	
WEDNESDAY	
Baked Chicken w/ Roll, Cheese Slices w/ Marinara, Entree Salad, *Veggie Salad, Turnip Greens, Whipped Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit Cup, *Milk	
THURSDAY	
Quesadilla w/ Salsa, Hamburger, Entree Salad, Oven Baked Potatoes, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit Cup, *Milk	
FRIDAY	
Pizza / Cheese Pizza, Deli Sandwich, Entree Salad, Garden Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Fresh Fruit, Chilled Fruit Cup, *Milk	

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SCHOOLS IN TRANSITION

Suburbs pushing vote on Aug. 2

Municipal referendums once scheduled for today delayed

By CLAY BAILEY
bailey@commercialappeal.com

Today was supposed to be the day suburban voters went to the polls to decide if they wanted to start their own school districts.

Instead, outlying governments are preparing once again to rush through ordinances to allow school and local sales tax referendums on the ballot in August.

The timetable accelerated a bit Wednesday afternoon when Gov. Bill Haslam signed legislation allowing the suburbs to hold votes associated with the school systems and funding this year.

The legislation, passed in the final days of the General Assembly's session, will kick-start a whirlwind of public hearings, multiple readings of ordinances and deliberations in order to pass the enabling ordinances by the end of the month.

An approval process that normally takes as much as a month will be compressed into about 21 days as Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, Lakeland and Millington strive to meet a June 1 deadline to give notice to the Election Commission to include the referendums on the Aug. 2 ballot.

Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald said earlier this week that if Haslam signed before next week, the suburb could move quicker than the current special meetings tentatively set for May 16, 22 and 31. McDonald said Wednesday afternoon that he will consider moving the dates after studying the matter today.

"The reason we have to wait so long is because you have to give 15 days notice under our ordinance for the public hearing," McDonald said. "That's what pushed us to the very edge."

The six Shelby County suburbs are hoping
Please see **VOTE, B2**

Security for schools stirs controversy

Transition planning team rejects handing issue to Sheriff's Office

By JANE ROBERTS
roberts@commercialappeal.com

Who will oversee school security in the consolidated Shelby County Schools district

Juvenile Court racial bias not a myth

AT NEARLY EVERY turn, black children are treated more harshly than white children by Juvenile Court simply because they're black.

This isn't an opinion. This isn't a suspicion. The U.S. Department of Justice has declared this to be fact.

We know this to be true thanks to the dogged efforts of Shelby County Commissioner Henri Brooks. It was her 2007 complaint that spurred the recent investigation by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Brooks, a former state representative, admits that her choice of words often isn't optimal and her approach tends to grate. And Brooks, who is black, has drawn the ire of some white county commissioners, who



WENDI C. THOMAS

allow themselves to be distracted by her style, thus ignoring the substance of what she's said.

But when it comes to disparate treatment at Juvenile Court, Brooks was right.

Don't expect her critics to apologize. She surely doesn't.

The former Juvenile Court employee can declare victory in this battle, but the war is far from over.

"I'm concerned about the reforms ... especially in light of the fact that Judge Person has said he doesn't agree with the Justice Department's findings," Brooks said

Wednesday.

"If he doesn't agree with those findings, that kind of says to me that he's not going to be inclined to put any reforms in place."

Unfortunately, yet again, Brooks' concerns are valid.

"It's a subjective finding," Judge Curtis Person said late last month when the report was released.

Except it wasn't subjective at all. Read the 66-page report, examine the statistical analysis and the proof is crystal clear.

"I don't think race enters into the decision-making in Juvenile Court," he has said.

Except the Justice Department has concluded that unequivocally, it does.

Please see **WENDI, B2**

Just add ice

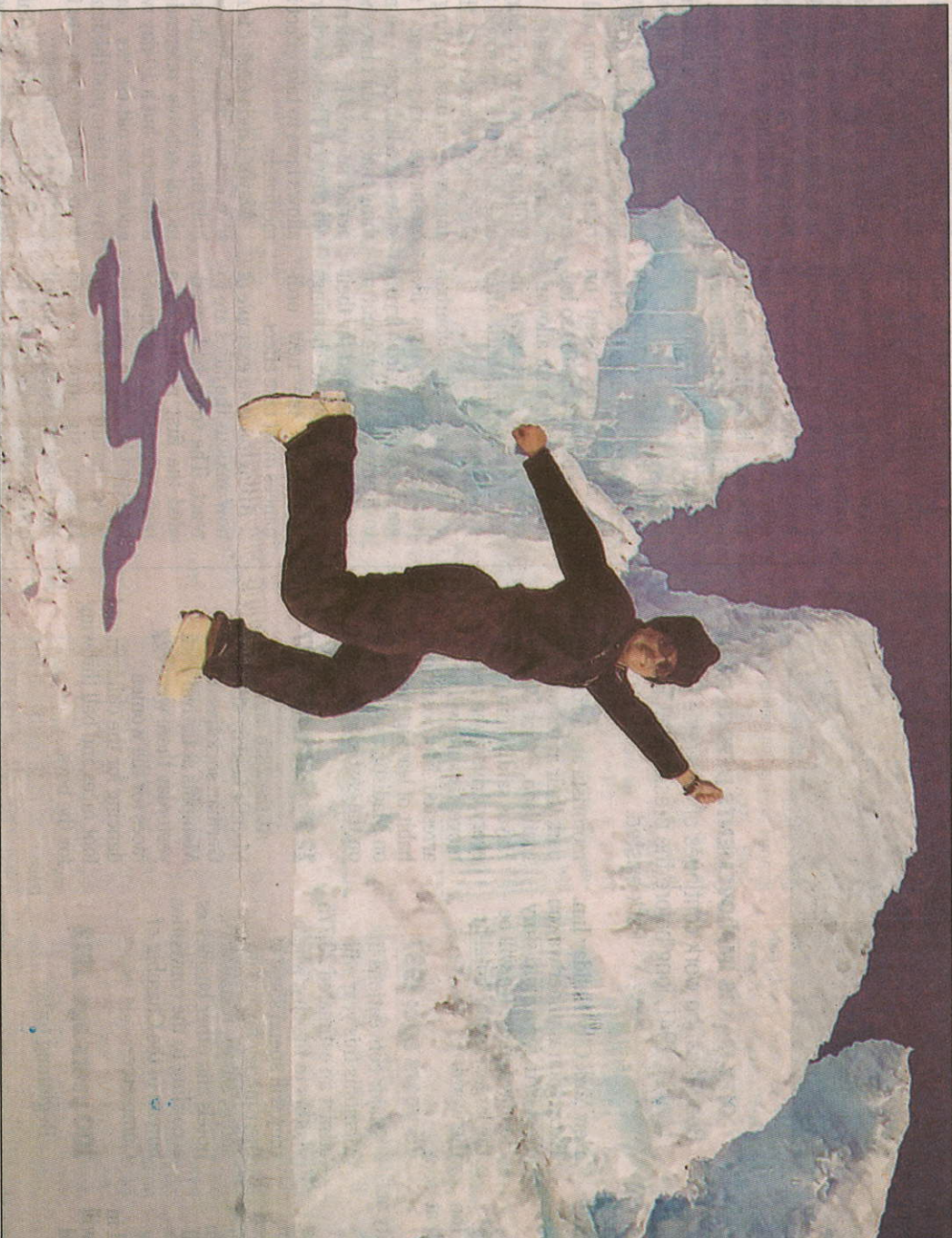


Photo courtesy PolarREC

Pink Palace education manager Alex Eilers kicks up her chilled heels in Antarctica as part of a group studying and tagging Weddell seals. Her trip began in January, which is the Antarctic summer, but snow and ice prevail.

Museum staffer chills in Antarctica

By LINDA A. MOORE / lmoore@commercialappeal.com

SIX WEEKS IN ANTARCTICA was one amazing experience after another for Alex Eilers, education manager at the Pink Palace Museum.

There was that first sight of the glaciers.

She learned cold-weather survival skills and what to do in a whiteout.

And she won't forget the first time she held in her lap the head of 500- to 1,000-pound Weddell seal.

"This is an apex predator, at the top of food chain. Only Antarctic killer whales top this," Eilers said.

"There's no way you can get that close to an animal like that. And then to look down and have this animal in your lap. It was unreal."

Eilers went to Antarctica in Jan-



Photo courtesy Alex Eilers

Weddell seals such as this one are not endangered and are not seen at zoos.

the science that's going on. We're going to throw in the personal aspects," Eilers said "It will be good

For 400th family, it's home

Photo courtesy Alex Eiler

An aerial photo shows McMurdo Station in Antarctica, where Alex Eilers helped research Weddell seals.

Continued from page B1

Jim Weber/The Commercial Appea

Canida Williams cries for joy as she and her children, Brittany Williams, 14, Bradi Williams, 11, and Bryan Williams, 17, are welcomed Wednesday to their new home, the 400th built by Memphis Habitat. More than 480 Baptist Memorial Health Care employees helped build it.

Habitan site supervisor Jimmie Holmes said Williams was always the first one there and the last to leave, working from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. "She's been out here every day of the build," Holmes said. "We had to run her out who, because of credit or income — usually a combination of both — could not qualify for a conventional mortgage. It exists to make it possible for these families to build and buy their first homes," Hord said.

And as the plane approached Antarctica, Eliens, the "newbie" on the flight, asked to sit in the cockpit. "That was a real treat," she

Williams will celebrate another milestone Sunday when her oldest son, Bryan Williams, 17, graduates from Wooddale High School.

Before the team began

unteering her days at the Mid-South Food Bank, as well as working on her own home. That took about eight days to build.

present," he said. "My mom's always been strict, but she's been on us more since she started working on this house. She's always

"I had to take a moment and walk off by myself this morning," Williams said. "It's so surreal. It started with a foundation and now it's done."

— Christopher Whitten.
(901) 529-2355

"We were laughing at the beginning but quickly realized the point of the exercise," she said. They also learned how to

ride a snowmobile, find the seals and avoid falling through cracks in the ice.

— Linda A. Moore
(901) 529-2700

Northaven fire station opening ceremony set for Tuesday

These workshops aim to help taxpayers budget their money and make a plan to pay

Delinquent taxpayers get guidance on Saturday

These workshops aim to help taxpayers budget their money and make a plan to pay off their back taxes.

The program is open to any delinquent taxpayer, said Terica Lamb, manager of community outreach and financial empowerment.

county taxes they owe are invited to the next Project HOME Workshop on Saturday at the Ed Rice Community Center at 2907 N. Watkins in Frayser. The workshop is

Those who complete the workshop can enter into a payment plan that prevents the county from seizing and selling the property. For more information, call Lamb at (901) 432-4882.

Impact Baptist Church will lease the old fire station for an after-school program and community center, Shular wrote.

be followed by one-on-one meetings with the Shelby County Trustee's representatives

— *Compiled by Daniel Connolly*

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURES: THE SEQUEL

Alex Eilers, education manager at the Pink Palace Museum, will share her adventures in the Antarctic today from 6-8 p.m. at the Pink Palace Museum. The lecture is free. Eilers will be joined by researcher Dr. Jennifer Burns.

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The Ways and Wonders of the Weddell Seals

Presented by:

Alex Eilers

*PolarTREC Teacher &
Manager of Education
Pink Palace Museum*

Dr. Jennifer Burns

*Professor of Biology at
the University of Alaska
-Anchorage*

*A look at their
research with
Weddell Seals
aimed at the
interested
non-scientist*



Date: Friday, 11 May

Departure: 11:45 a.m.

Lunch & Lecture: Noon

**Location: Pink Palace
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2011-2012 Homeschool Students Programming

Greetings from Antarctica.

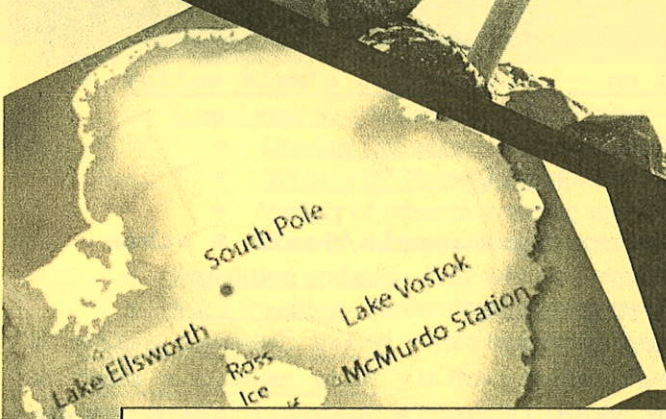
Dear Parents,

We invite your homeschooled student to join us on a grand adventure to learn about Earth's most extreme environment. Pink Palace Education Manager, Alex Eilers, is one of twelve US educators selected to join **PolarTREC**. During January and February 2012, she will travel to Antarctica to study Weddell seals from McMurdo Station. Our homeschoolers will prepare alongside her as she plans for this once in a lifetime journey and follow in her footsteps as she participates in this extraordinary research. To meet Alex and learn more about the **PolarTREC** project, go to

<http://www.polar trec.com/expeditions/weddell-seals-in-the-ross-sea>



Weddell seals



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