



Wildcat, Lady Wildcat programs prepare to host soccer playoffs
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Enterprise students enjoy variety of music programs
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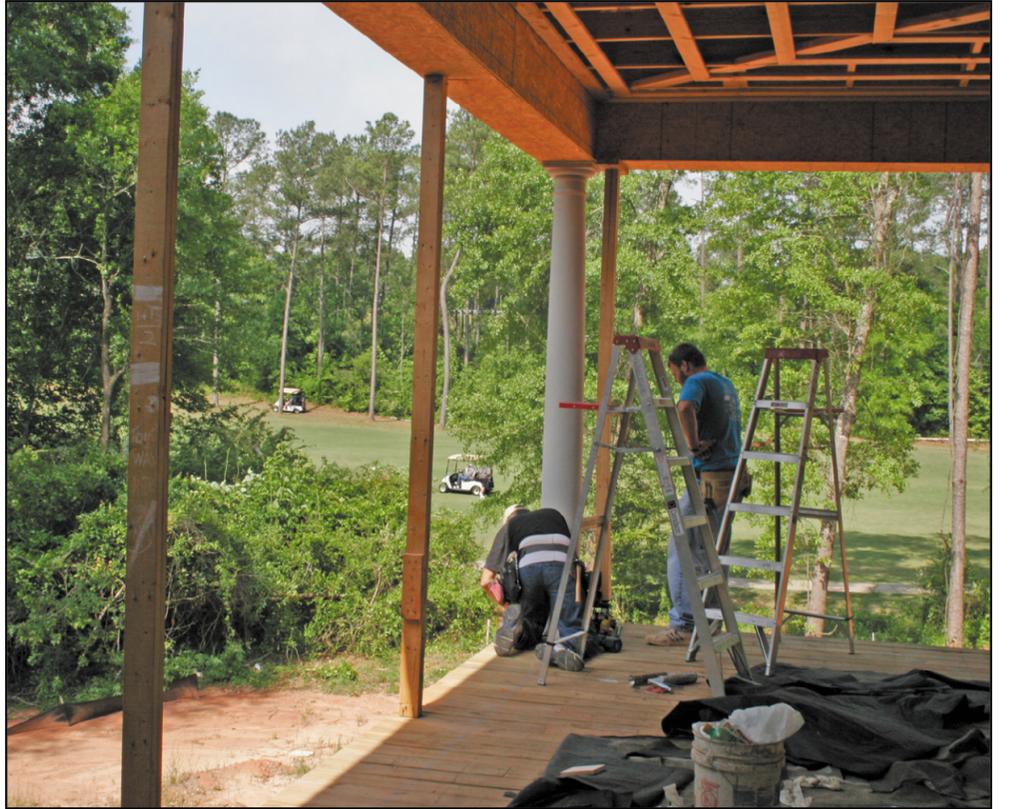
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Interior carpenters Larry Paul Fugit, kneeling, and Tommy Blisard, work to install decorative columns on the balcony of a new home at Tartan Pines, where the view includes golfers passing by on their carts as they enjoy a leisurely day on the course.

Through the Roof

City's housing market shows 'amazing' growth

BY KAY KIRKLAND
MANAGING EDITOR

They can't quite put their finger on it. Local developers and city officials don't believe any one factor has caused new homes to spring up all over Enterprise at a rate that they find nothing short of amazing.

The one thing that they can pinpoint, however, is that continuing construction activity and a flourishing housing market has the potential to send the city's growth rate through the roof.

Next week

The Sun will take a look at existing and future commercial growth and will explore how the city is preparing for increasing population and businesses.

"The last couple of years has been amazing," said Billy Cotter, a local developer for 32 years whose Century 21 Regency Realty sold more housing units than any other in Alabama last year.

Cotter's business alone sold 718 housing units, including new and existing homes and townhouses last year, and his is just one of several leading real estate

developers in the city.

Ronnie Gilley reported that Ronnie Gilley Properties generated \$150 million in 2005.

"It's a great market to be in and it's going to get



Ron and Mary Louise Snider, who came to Enterprise from Florida, relax in their back yard on a warm and beautiful Saturday morning.

better," Gilley said.

What's been happening in the housing market is enough to create lots of excitement, the developers agreed.

"Activity brings activity," Gilley said. "Enterprise is on the brink. It's an exciting time."

The local developers believe the evidence indicating that the housing market will remain healthy is Enterprise is as rock solid as the foundations being poured on the 353 new residential units that were permitted in the city last year.

Steven McCollough, engineer and city code enforcement officer, said 110 dwelling permits have been issued since January, which is one-third of the amount issued

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Construction industry hammers home economic benefits

BY KAY KIRKLAND
MANAGING EDITOR

Every time a motor grader pushes dirt around to level a lot or a carpenter hammers a nail into a 2x4, money is being generated in the local economy.

With the home and commercial construction business flourishing in the Enterprise area, so are the financial benefits of the activity.

Local developers said the construction industry is having a dramatic impact on the local economy.

Ronnie Gilley of Ronnie Gilley Properties estimates that the building industry is pumping more than \$300 million a year into the local

economy.

"When you gather it all together, just the activities in the building business, it's the biggest income-producing thing the city of Enterprise has," agreed Ross Cotter of Cotter Enterprises.

"It's putting an enormous amount of money into the economy," Billy Cotter, of Century 21 Regency Realty.

Billy Cotter, chairman of the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said the construction industry employs hundreds of people in all aspects of homebuilding. Many come in from other parts of the state and other states to

work on specific projects.

"They eat, they shop and buy gas," he said.

The industry generates dollars not only through labor but the purchase of materials.

Dale Townsend of Townsend Building Supply said businesses like his are enjoying the strong housing market.

"It's caused us to employ more people," Townsend said. "From a year ago, we're up three or four employees."

The strong housing market has ripple effect on businesses, he said,

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