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PRESS RELEASE

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**A CONVERSATION WITH JIM PEPLER:
REFLECTIONS ON THE SOUTHERN COURIER PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 12:00 AT THE ARCHIVES, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW AT 4:00 PM**

Montgomery, AL (1/26/17) – On **Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 12:00 pm**, the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) will host *A Conversation with Jim Pepler: Reflections on the Southern Courier Photograph Collection* in its Joseph M. Farley Alabama Power Auditorium. This presentation is in conjunction with the ADAH's current exhibition *A Paper for the People: The Jim Pepler Southern Courier Photograph Collection*.

Published in Montgomery from July 1965 to December 1968, the *Southern Courier* newspaper covered topics important to Alabama's African American residents, who were often ignored by the other media outlets. Operated by a young, biracial staff, the *Courier* published serious news, but it was also a platform for reader to share their views and experiences. In 1965, Philadelphia native Jim Pepler arrived in Montgomery as the new principal photographer and photo editor for the *Courier*. Over the next three years, Pepler and his camera had a front row seat to history in central Alabama and other parts of the South, documenting everything from individuals and events of national renown to grassroots civil rights efforts to local and domestic social life. From the *Courier*, Pepler went on to a 40-year career at *Newsday*. He currently resides in Saugerties, New York.

In 2009, Pepler donated 11,000 negatives taken during this tenure at the *Southern Courier* to the ADAH where they have since all been digitized and made available to the public online (www.digital.alabama.archives.gov).

On February 2 at 12:00 pm, Pepler will reflect on his time working for the *Southern Courier* during the transformative years of the 1960s, recalling events and stories of the people and places that he captured through his lens. The event will be moderated by ADAH Digital Assets Section Head Meredith McDonough.

Later that day, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, the public is invited to a reception with Jim Pepler at the ADAH. An exhibition of Pepler's photographs, *A Paper for the People: The Jim Pepler Southern Courier Photograph Collection*, is currently on display through early March at the ADAH.

For more information, call (334) 353-4689.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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