AUGUST 21, 2015

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

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Let's keep Alabama's Education Trust Fund special

As most of you know, the State of Alabama has two budgets, the General Fund and the Education Trust Fund. There has been a lot of talk about combining both budgets to create one unified budget. Alabama is only one of three states that maintain separate budgets. The Education Trust Fund funds education for K-12, two year colleges and universities. The General Fund provides operational dollars for all other functions of state government, including law enforcement, mental health, prisons and other agencies.

Prior to Republican leadership, the Education Trust Fund budget entered into proration one out of every three years, forcing schools, teachers and students to suffer devastating mid-year budget cuts. The very first bill the Republican majority passed in 2011 was the Proration Prevention Act. The bill has been effective, and not one budget since its passage has been prorated. In other words, forced cuts have not been made due to our conservative budgeting policies. This law has allowed legislators and educators the stability to budget and maintain funding for critical programs important for our children.

Revenues for the Education Trust Fund primarily come from state income and sales taxes which are considered growth streams of revenue that increase as our economy expands. The General Fund is supported by property and other miscellaneous taxes, not considered to be growth taxes. For example, when was the last time you saw an increase in your property taxes? This simplified explanation demonstrates the difference in our state budgets.

Some profess we must combine these budgets to provide more funding for the general fund budget, creating a unified budget for our state. Some say two budgets are an antiquated way for our state to operate, others say we are behind times, that we must free up education "earmarks" for use where they are needed relative to general expenses of government.

Hold on. When was the last time you took something good, combined it with something not so good and came out with a better product? It never happened. If you are interested in educating Alabama children and the future of our state, how can someone in good conscience make a case for combining the budgets?

Instead of looking at the budgets as if we are "behind the times," let's look at the Education Trust Fund Budget as special. Let's maintain a separate budget that commits its existence to education, to our children, educators, parents and everybody that depends on schools. As legislators, we have a responsibility to invest in our children. I believe the Education Trust Fund should remain separate and demonstrate to the citizens of the great state of Alabama that our children are special and deserve no less.

If budgets are combined, our message is that our children and their education are not worth prioritizing.

Alan Harper of Northport represents Alabama House of Representatives District 16, which includes part of Tuscaloosa and Pickens counties.
Kasich is the most qualified candidate

He brings experience where Alabama needs it most

And then there were 18. Recently, Ohio Gov. John Kasich became the 16th Republican candidate to launch a 2016 presidential campaign. But with an unscripted, freewheeling emotional speech at his alma mater, Ohio State University, Kasich made a statement that he is not just another number.

For starters, he may have the best resume of the field. He is a very popular two-term governor of a swing state—a state the Republicans have to win to take back the White House. He is a former nine-term house member who chaired the prestigious House Budget Committee where he was the lead architect of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act and he also served as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee. For good measure he hosted a very popular Fox News show for five years.

Elected to the U.S. House at just 30 years old, after having become the youngest state senator in Ohio history, Kasich developed a reputation as a budget and deficit hawk in Washington, a stance that is sorely needed at this pivotal time. After leaving Congress, he went into the private sector and spent several years at Lehman Brothers.
In his return to politics in the 2010 Ohio governor's race, he defeated an incumbent Democrat and in doing so inherited an $8 billion budget hole. Through his stewardship Kasich produced a surplus while overseeing tax cuts greater than any state in the country; all this during his first term.

In his reelection in 2014, which he won with 68 percent of the vote—a number that LeBron James would have trouble matching—Kasich was able to expand his support among groups that Republicans have struggled to win over at the national level, winning 60 percent of women, 59 percent of moderates and 26 percent of African-Americans.

"It's our job and our mission as human beings, as children of God to lift people from the shadows," he said during his 45-minute announcement speech. Creating jobs "is our highest moral purpose." Empathy, he said, is critical to governing. "I would ask you to think, put yourself in the shoes of another person. We're so quick to make judgment. Don't walk so fast."

During his speech, Kasich showed a welcome dose of authenticity, something that could help set him apart. Kasich embraced his status as an underdog in the large field and pitched himself as a compassionate policy guy who wants to tackle both the debt and social issues such as drug abuse.

He has been underestimated many times before, Kasich may just be in the right place at the right time.

Editor's note: On Tuesday Governor Robert Bentley endorsed John Kasich for the Republican nomination.
‘Food fight’ could spoil space program progress

SLS budget boost may eat into other missions' funding, force work to halt next summer

Lee Roop
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America's space program is making "great progress," "very good progress" and "significant progress," according to panelists discussing the "Resurgence of Human Spaceflight" at the Space and Missile Defense Symposium in Huntsville.

Unfortunately, a Washington squabble over money is threatening to turn that progress into a "food fight," in the words of one expert.

As it stands now, a planned budget boost for the Space Launch System or SLS — one of the programs discussed by the panel — could mean a funding cut and possible shutdown for commercial crew, the other program represented on the panel.

How do you deal with budgetary uncertainty like that?

"We're program managers, that's what we do," panelist Paul Marshall said afterward. He works in the office managing NASA's Orion spaceship program.

"The federal budget is a very big challenge," Marshall acknowledged.

"We have to plan strategies to be able to meter or regulate, if you will, industry activities."

Changing Powerpoints

What that means is the panel's Powerpoint slides of future plans could be changing. All of the programs represented Wednesday — SLS, the Orion spaceship that rides on top, and Boeing's commercial crew spaceship — are already into assembly. NASA test-fired an SLS engine Thursday, and Orion flew in December. Boeing is opening a capsule assembly this year at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and capsule hardware is already there.

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SLS likely to benefit from money-shifting

NASA
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The cloud on the horizon came last week when NASA Administrator Charles Bolden Jr. told Congress that commercial crew, the space agency's plan to use spaceships built by Boeing and SpaceX to get astronauts to the International Space Station, is threatened by fiscal year 2016 congressional budgets. Both companies' programs will "likely run out" of money and grind to a halt next summer if funding is finalized as now planned, Bolden said. One beneficiary of Congress's money-shifting is the Space Launch System being developed in Huntsville. Congress seems determined to keep SLS moving toward a first launch now planned in 2018, and SLS manager and panelist Chris Crumbly showed slides of successively larger — and more expensive — versions NASA plans for future missions.

"We're not moving too quickly into things we don't need and can't use yet," Crumbly said of the rockets in his illustrations, "but as the requirements drive us, the capability will be there."

Challenge is finding the money

The challenge is finding the money for those rockets while also building the smaller American spaceship to take astronauts to the space station and pursuing NASA's other missions involving Earth science and deep space research. Engineers and scientists from the companies at the Huntsville conference believe both SLS and commercial crew are needed. America doesn't get humans to Mars or probes to deep space quickly without SLS or something like it, and the country needs commercial crew or something like it to get the most out of a space station that has already cost nearly $100 billion.

"It becomes a food fight," one manager said, "and what needs to happen is for NASA to get more."
NEW AUTO PARTS SUPPLIER 
BRINGS 650 JOBS

Other area component suppliers face uncertain future

By Patrick Rupinski
Business Editor

An automotive parts manufacturer will build a $153.9 million plant in Tuscaloosa County that would employ more than 650 people.

Samvardhana Motherson Group (SMG) announced Thursday that the 700,000-square-foot plant will make auto bumpers, door panels and other plastic components for auto interiors for Mercedes-Benz starting in 2018.

The plant will be built in the Cedar Cove Technology Park in Cottondale. That industrial park is a few miles south of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International's (MBUSI) auto assembly plant in Vance.

The plant will operate as SMP Automotive Systems Alabama Inc. and should be ready for full production by mid-2018, said Andreas Heuser, SMG's head of corporate office for Europe and Americas.

The company will begin site preparation shortly and plans to start plant construction in January 2016. Heuser said construction will take about a year and in 2017, machinery and equipment will be installed and full-scale training of workers will begin. Auto makers, like Mercedes, generally give suppliers about a year after a plant is built to install equipment, train workers and begin.

NEW PARTS SUPPLIER

• Construction starts January 2016.
• Training, machinery installation begins in 2017.
• Ready for full production mid-2018.
• Worker training will be provided at Shelton State and the University of Alabama.
• New plant leaves other suppliers' futures uncertain.

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JOBS

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workers and assure that the finished product meets the auto maker's standards, he said.

SMG already has started screening managers within its operations for key posts like plant manager, human resource director and purchasing director. The company will announce later when it will start hiring plant workers, he said. Some workers will be trained at SMG plants in Germany. The company will also use Shelton State Community College and the University of Alabama to find and train workers.

SMG decided to build the plant here after receiving a contract to make the parts for MBUSI.

“For many years, we have followed Daimler (Mercedes’ parent company) by providing solutions to them,” Heuser said. That relationship resulted in discussions to make auto components for the German auto maker’s sole plant in the United States.

Mercedes wanted the plant near MBUSI because its sequenced production system requires parts to arrive as they are needed for assembly.

Being close to MBUSI was important, but Heuser said it also considered sites outside Tuscaloosa County. In the end, it chose the Cottondale site not only for its proximity to MBUSI but because it felt a sense of hospitality and a welcoming to Tuscaloosa that made it feel at home, he said.

Although the plant’s opening is more than two years off, the announcement is positive news following a summer that has seen some major job losses in Tuscaloosa and Jefferson counties.

On Monday, U.S. Steel announced that it will close its steel mill at Fairfield Works in Jefferson County, permanently laying off around 1,100 workers. And in July, Hoover-based Walter Energy Inc. filed for bankruptcy reorganization and said it would lay off more than 550 workers at its Jim Walter Resources coal mines in Tuscaloosa County.

The construction industry will see a boost in employment as the plant is built, although many of those workers might be from outside Tuscaloosa County.

The 650 projected workers that SMG ultimately will employ here also should be a plus, but the net jobs gain will be several hundred less than that number.

That’s because much of the production that SMG will do for Mercedes is now being done by other area automotive suppliers, whose future here is uncertain. Among them is Johnson Controls, which employs several hundred people in Tuscaloosa.

A knowledgeable source told The Tuscaloosa News that some jobs likely will be lost at the companies that did not get their contracts renewed, but the net gain in jobs with SMG coming here will be more than 400.

When asked about the future of MBUSI auto suppliers that likely will lose contracts, MBUSI President Jason Hoff said Mercedes does not discuss its contractual relationships with suppliers or the awarding of contracts.

“We are excited that there will be more than 650 jobs and $150 million investment being made here,” he said.

Hoff, who has been spent most of his career at MBUSI, said SMG represents one of the largest auto-supplier investments and biggest job creators in the county’s auto supplier network during his time here.

Gov. Robert Bentley officially announced SMG was coming to Tuscaloosa County on Thursday morning during a ceremony at the state Capitol. On Thursday afternoon, the company formally unveiled its plans at the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority meeting, held at the Embassy Suites ballroom in downtown Tuscaloosa.

Before the announcement, the TCIDA board granted SMG a total of $8,940,310 in tax abatements. The abatements include non-school-related property taxes during a 16-year period and sales and use taxes that will be incurred during plant construction. The authority also agreed to sell SMG 95 acres in the industrial park. The authority has a long-term option on the land from Westervelt Co. so the land will be sold at less than its current market value.

Dara Longgrear, TCIDA’s executive director, said the authority will release details of the land sale after the purchase agreement is finalized.

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Mercedes supplier SMP to open $150M facility in Tuscaloosa, creating 650 jobs

By: Bryan Davis

Alabama has landed another auto supplier that will bring over 600 new jobs to Tuscaloosa County.

Samvardhana Motherson Group, a Mercedes-Benz supplier, plans to invest $150 million in a new manufacturing facility in Tuscaloosa, creating 650 jobs by the fourth year of operation, a report from the Department of Commerce's Made in Alabama website confirmed.

The 700,000-square-foot facility will be located in the Cedar Cove Technology Park, less than four miles from the Mercedes-Benz manufacturing facility.

"SMP will benefit from the Tuscaloosa region’s reliable labor force and be supported by a successful and continuously improving workforce development and training network," said Dara Longgrear, executive director of the Tuscaloosa Industrial Development Authority.

Construction on the site is set to begin before the end of 2015.

"We are very excited to finally establish a footprint in the Tuscaloosa region," said Vivek Chaand Sehgal, chairman of the Samvardhana Motherson Group (SMG). "The new plant will be a clear sign of a successful partnership with our customer and the state of Alabama."

The new facility will be called SMP Automotive Systems Alabama Inc. and will manufacture exterior and interior components for future models produced at the Mercedes plant in Vance, the report said.

"Alabama has a positive business climate and a skilled workforce that is second to none. We have worked hard to recruit well-paying jobs for the people of this state, and I am honored to see SMP expand to Alabama," Governor Bentley said. "In coming years, the company will provide 650 new jobs and produce even more products that are 'Made in Alabama.'"

While Alabama has expanded its economic development reach to the aerospace industry and its recent landing of the $600 million Google data center in Jackson County, the automotive sector continues to be the driver of most of the manufacturing development in the state.

According to Made in Alabama, more than $3.6 billion in investment has come from the automotive sector over the last three years. Last week, Kamtek announced a $530 million expansion in Birmingham, which will create 354 jobs upon completion.
Ex-Microsoft exec named head of CRI

Former Microsoft executive Andrea L. Taylor will be the new president and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the organization has confirmed.

Taylor last served as Director of Citizenship and Public Affairs, North America for Microsoft. In that role, she managed employee engagement, giving and strategic partnerships in the U.S. and Canada with donors, government entities and community-based organizations.

She will move to Birmingham from New York City and start her tenure at the BCRI on Sept. 8.

"The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is among the world's most iconic and important civil and human rights organizations," Taylor said. "I'm both excited and humbled by the opportunity to lead the next phase as we approach the 25th anniversary."

The BCRI was founded in 1992.

"Inclusive outreach worldwide is vital and in 2015 and beyond," she said. "I'm eager to harness and leverage technology to engage broader audiences. Every generation in society grapples with civil and human rights as a critical community priority."

Doug Jones, co-chair of the BCRI's search committee calls Taylor, a native of Massachusetts, "a gifted leader with a long and distinguished career around purpose and impact."
Freshman enrollment rate rises, Bell says

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

In a continuation of a decade-long trend, the University of Alabama president expects an increase in freshman enrollment for the fall semester that starts today.

During a UA Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday, President Stuart Bell estimated new student enrollment was “slightly up” for fall 2015 based on preliminary figures. Last year, the freshman class was 6,856. Bell estimated the freshman class had increased to create a more diverse student body.

“I will tell you it is the best thing to happen for Alabama students,” Bell said, adding UA still has the largest enrollment of in-state students among universities in Alabama.

Bell also used his comments to the senate to briefly touch on the state’s budget debates. State lawmakers, at odds on how to cover a shortfall in the Alabama General Fund, have yet to pass an operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Lawmakers passed an education budget in the spring during the 2015 regular session. However, the university continues to monitor the situation, Bell said, noting a history of cuts to higher education during tough budget years.

Bell told the faculty members the university community must be an effective communicator of the institution’s role and value to the state, whether it is preparing future professionals, research or economic development.

“Our role in that individually is to make sure we are messaging the public value of education. Why is this institution good for the state of Alabama?” Bell said.

Noting a need for effective communication internally and externally about the university’s mission, Bell said UA plans to hire a vice president of strategic communications, a new cabinet-level position. The university is advertising for the position and hopes to fill it by October, Bell said.

The university is looking for someone who has been a vice president before.

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BELL

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by a couple of hundred students this fall. A more definite count won’t be available until after the university completes its fall census, Bell said. UA typically releases its enrollment count in the first half of September. UA’s fall 2014 enrollment was 36,155 students.

The campus’ student body will remain roughly split between Alabama residents and students from outside the state, Bell said. While the university’s shift toward a state institution with a majority of its student body from outside state borders has been met with some skepticism, Bell argued the demographic change has been positive and helped

The communication role was previously handled within UA’s Division of Advancement, which oversees fundraising as well as university relations, but Bell said it was important enough to create a separate position. Bell called communications as part of a university’s development office an old model.

The vice president will oversee strategic communications, outreach, and marketing and branding for the university’s operation, according to the job advertisement.

UA is also searching for a vice president of advancement, Bell said. The university would like to fill the position within the next few weeks.
Alabama Alpha Phi video: To Greek women from Greek women

By: Guest Opinion

By Leigh Terry and Sarah Huff Moore. Leigh Terry is the Opinions Editor of the Crimson White. Sarah Huff Moore is the Lead Designer of the Crimson White. This editorial represents the views of both writers. The column originally appeared in the Crimson White.

We all know the names of the major Greek scandals of recent years. The University of Oklahoma Sigma Alpha Epsilon's racist chant. Georgia Tech Phi Kappa Tau's "luring your rapebait" email. The University of Maryland Delta Gamma's email. Insert your favorite Snapchat scandal here. And now, the Alpha Phi rush video scandal.

Or really, the scandal that wasn't. We have watched with increasing incredulity over the past two weeks as a light-hearted video geared towards recruiting new members into a sorority (one of many such videos that debuted last week) has become the object of ridicule, condescension, and censure by state and national media outlets and, as of today, their own university.

They and their video have been called "unempowering," "reductive and objectifying," "commodities," "bimbos," and "detrimental stereotypes and clichés."

While the trend of sorority recruitment videos is a national phenomenon, this video has attracted the critiques of the entire genre on its head simply because the presence of a star football player made it an object of interest beyond its normal campus sphere.

However, this video is substantively no different from any of the numerous videos, Instagram posts, and Tumblrs sororities now use to attract new members by highlighting their house's personality, interests, sisterly love, and, yes, beauty. If there is a legitimate question of whether or not these images are "reflective of UA's expectations for students to be responsible digital citizens," then this University's administration should address it directly with all sororities who share this same toolbox.

However, we believe that as of now, these criticisms are baseless as these women have done nothing of major consequence wrong.

They were not videoed participating in any illegal activities such as drugs or underage drinking. They did not volunteer to be in a Playboy centerfold, wave confederate flags, or sing offensive songs. Honestly, they were videoed looking like pretty college women having a fun day together. Since when is that a moral travesty?

Yes, from the frames we can see, it looks racially homogenous, but the entire sorority system has faced those issues and is still addressing them, with minority enrollment growing year over year. That issue has historic roots and to use this video as evidence of those problems has more to do with conjuring moral outrage than actually examining the rate of minority enrollment or considering the possibility that the women you see are just a small slice of this house's large membership.
We believe that it is respectable for young women to be videoed having fun, even if that fun is occasionally in bathing suits on dock or while giving each other piggyback rides or while blowing glitter. These women did not surrender their dignity, injure their career prospects, or teach men that it's o.k. to treat them as sexual objects by doing so. It is difficult to believe these are all actual criticisms that have been leveled at this organization over one light-hearted video.

It is also difficult to believe that these critiques are coming from women who identify as feminists. Feminists who have shoved a group of unsuspecting women into an undeserved spotlight and placed the weight of all womankind on their shoulders. As self-identified feminists ourselves, these writers scoff at the notion that this video has done any damage to women's rights or progress. All women have much bigger issues to contend with than this distraction.

As does this University. The Capstone and its Greek system face more challenges than can fit in one editorial. Sorority women having legal, harmless, sisterly fun with each other is not one of them. This University should not forget that many of the women it denounces today are the ones it depends upon to recruit the students of tomorrow and feed its unending growth.

To the women of Alpha Phi, we wish we were in a position to give you the apology you deserve or make the negative attention you never deserved go away sooner. Unfortunately, that is not in our power. However, we congratulate you on your most recent pledge class, thank you for your contributions to this university, and stand beside you. Greek women to Greek women.
UA sorority removes Internet video

Online critics say video objectified women, showed lack of diversity

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

A University of Alabama sorority has removed a recruitment video from the Internet after criticism over the video’s portrayal of women.

The video has drawn national attention, including a Monday morning segment on NBC’s “Today” show that said the video was removed after online criticism that the images objectified women and showed a lack of diversity at UA’s Alpha Phi-Beta Mu chapter.

“Today” reported that the video had 500,000 views on YouTube before it was taken down. The chapter also has taken down its Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr pages.

According to “Today,” a guest editorial posted on Al.com last week blasted the video. The piece, titled “Bama sorority video worse for women than Donald Trump,” argued that the recruitment video lacked diversity and reduced the young women to detrimental stereotypes of attractive party girls rather than choosing to emphasize more substantive aspects of a sorority and collegiate experience.

“It’s all so racially and aesthetically homogeneous and forced, so hyper-feminine, so reductive and objectifying, so Stepford Wives: College Edition. It’s all so ... unempowering,” wrote A.L. Bailey in the Al.com piece.

The UA chapter and the sorority’s national office could not be reached for comment.

The sorority chapter’s video is not extraordinary in its presentation. It is similar to videos by other Alpha Phi chapters and sororities, based on a comparison of the content, style and tone of a sample of sorority recruitment videos online.

UA released a statement in response to inquiries about the video.

“This video is not reflective of UA’s expectations for student organizations to be responsible digital citizens. It is important for student organizations to remember that what is posted on social media makes a difference, today and tomorrow, on how they are viewed and perceived,” said Deborah M. Lane, associate vice president for university relations, in a statement released by UA.

The university’s formal sorority recruitment for the Alpha Phi chapter and other members of the Alabama Panhellenic Association concluded last weekend with 2,261 women being offered bids.

The UA fraternity and sorority community has more than doubled in population over the past 10 years, comprising 30 percent of the student body.

In 2004, UA fraternity and sorority population totaled 3,702 students. It grew to more than 9,300 students in 2014.

It has been the largest fraternity and sorority community in the nation since 2011.

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Alabama Alpha Phi sorority video columnist A.L. Bailey reacts to uproar for the first time

By: Connor Sheets

A.L. Bailey, the AL.com guest columnist who wrote a mega-popular opinion piece last week about a University of Alabama sorority recruitment video, spoke out Tuesday about the controversial piece, the massive response it has received and her experience going viral in a wide-ranging discussion with AL.com.

The hour-long interview – Bailey's first since the column, titled "Bama sorority video worse for women than Donald Trump," was published on AL.com Friday morning – revealed that Bailey has been the target of hundreds of vile online comments and emailed insults, that she has been inundated with media requests, and that she never expected her piece to be so explosive.

In the days since the piece was published, the sorority video has been removed from YouTube and the University of Alabama has responded to the outcry by issuing an apology.

The column criticized a recently uploaded Alpha Phi sorority pitch YouTube video that Bailey argued was too heavily focused on the "beauty and bounce" of the sorority's members, rather than their intelligence, talent or other less superficial qualities. Bailey, a freelance writer and editor and mother of two daughters who lives in Hoover, suggested that the young women featured in the video "shouldn't completely sabotage" "feminist ideologies" by participating in their own objectification.

Bailey – who moved to Alabama from Cincinnati in 1998 – told AL.com that she did not intend to "shame" or "blame" the women in the video, saying that she only intended to ensure that young college students are aware of the way they are presenting themselves to the world.

She said that she has turned down requests for interviews from high-profile media outlets including Buzzfeed, the Today Show, Good Morning America and Inside Edition. But Bailey spoke to AL.com in hopes of reiterating her original message to Alabama readers, rather than allowing trolls and mudslingers to twist her words.

Below is a slightly edited and greatly condensed transcript of Bailey's Monday afternoon interview with AL.com:

AL.com: What's the experience been like overall? What's your takeaway as far as what it's like to go viral and having your name everywhere and all of that?

Bailey: It's not really anything I can put into words, but I did tell my daughter; she asked me the other day if I was famous, she asked me this last night, and I said 'not really – of course not.' But I said, 'I'm the kind of famous – I'm like a firework is famous, when it explodes in the sky and everyone is looking at it and ooh-ing and ahh-ing and then it fizzles out and no one remembers who that person was and what that firework was like.'

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And I would say it hasn’t changed anything as far as what I’ve been kind of doing the past few days, I still have to go to the grocery store and scrub my toilets as usual, but it just was a constant barrage of emails and people asking me for things or sending me links or, you know, mentions or whatever. So I’ve been tied to my email and my phone for several days now, and unable to really break away very well.

AL.com: How did you come up with the idea for the story? Did you just see the video, or how did it come up?

Bailey: I had seen some of those sorority recruitment videos before, like a year or two ago. My husband and I were talking about it and we can’t remember how we came across them. I know some people who have children old enough to be in college and who have joined sororities and those type of things, so I don’t know if it’s something I had been searching for at some point or if he came across it on one of those sports blogs. He seems to think that he had seen them before on sports blogs, because that’s where men go to talk about women apparently.

So I had seen them before and they stood out to me as slightly odd, I just had never seen anything like that before. I didn’t know it existed, I didn’t know that it was a thing. I saw it and I was immediately struck by its production value because it was better than the ones done in previous years, and like I said I was in TV and I have an idea about production value. And it just seemed so shameless in its self-promotion of the girls.

AL.com: After seeing it, how did you decide that this is something worth writing about?

Bailey: I wasn’t actively looking for anything, but this video, my husband happened to show it to me and I happened to have a sort of a gut reaction to it and it was one of those things I felt I had to write about in order to get it straight in my head and to know what I felt about it. And so I had seen it on Sunday or Monday, the 9th or the 10th and my kids didn’t go back to school until Thursday of last week I sat on it and just mulled it over for four, five days, whatever it was, and then on Thursday they went to school and I thought I need to get this out and so I did and I sent it off [to AL.com] that evening and said here’s this thing, if you want it fine and if you don’t then whatever, and they were gracious enough to take it.

I did not previously have an agenda to target anyone or sororities or girls or anything like that. I had no premeditated plan to ever talk about that subject in terms of sororities, at least. I have strong feelings on feminism and the way women are portrayed in the media, and raising young girls – I have two daughters – in this media-heavy society, things like that, and so that was why I had the gut reaction to this video that I had, because these are thoughts in my head already and this really played to that and I felt that I just had to get it out. So it wasn’t anything that I had planned to do or had any malice intended or anything like that.

AL.com: Have you heard a lot from people attacking the premise of your story or attacking you?

Bailey: I would say it depends on what I’m reading as to if they are for or against what I brought up. The AL.com comments are infamous around here as far as what I can tell, and I don’t know
that they are a good judge of people's feelings in the area. I think that they may be slanted
towards a male audience and, you know, I'm trying to be nice.

My husband has been, he has sort of been, especially initially on Friday and Saturday before it
really went crazy, he is sort of my filter, and as a reader he is always amused by AL.com
comments; that's the sort of thing that amuses him sometimes. And so he's been going through
them for me and picking out the real gems. So he had done that, he had been through all of my
comments through Saturday and sporadically since.

A lot of people just want to disagree with whatever it is, it doesn't matter what the article is, they
just want to disagree. And then there are the people who just attack you, they just make stuff up
about you as if they know you or they can see you or talk to you or whatever, it's like a 650-word
article and they have got you pegged. And then there all the people who were like, "oh, she's this,
she's terrible, she's this, she's that," and I'm like, well then you write the article. I just submitted
the article and they took it and maybe you can do that, too.

AL.com: How did Donald Trump come to be a part of the article? How was that wrapped in
there?

Bailey: First of all I want to say that that headline has been attributed to me, but I did not write
that headline. I don't know who writes the headlines there. I did not submit it with a headline. I
didn't know if I was supposed to or if I was not supposed to, so I just didn't. So I did not write
that particular headline; I didn't write that and I don't know who did.

But I will say when it first posted I didn't completely agree with the headline, and not that I didn't
agree with it, but I just didn't like the wording of it so much. Because I don't think that the
sorority is worst for women than Donald Trump. I don't think that Donald Trump is bad for
women I think he's bad to women. So he's neither here nor there when it comes to women
themselves, but he's not particularly kind to them. So, yeah, I didn't particular enjoy the wording
of it, though I suspect that the word was a wise move and I think that it probably helped the
article. It was not what I would've written per se, but then again if I had written it perhaps it
wouldn't have gotten as much attention, I don't know.

That being said, as far as mentioning Donald Trump in the actual article, in the two or three days
before I wrote the article, all that was talked about was the Donald Trump-Megyn Kelly
exchange at the debate and then his continued exchange on Twitter, so that was just fresh on my
mind, thinking about him and the words he used to describe her and other women, and I was just
thinking about sexist people in general, misogynists, and I just felt like this video feeds into that
perspective. It's an easy, easy target for those types of people, and that's was what was
disheartening for me.

People have over and over again in the comments or in some of the other articles that have been
posted have said, "why is she so offended by this?" Everyone's offended by something, that's the
new catchphrase these days: you know, "every day there's something new to be offended about." I'm
not offended by the video. I was disappointed by the portrayals they chose for themselves in
the video. I was disappointed in how they chose to make their first impressions on people. I was
not offended by the video. I'm not an easily offended person, I can't really think of the last time I was truly offended by anything, it's just not really a word in my vocabulary.

I'm not offended by the video; I'm not offended by anything like that, so I took issue with people saying that. Just because I'm talking about it doesn't mean I'm offended by it. I am constantly amazed at the ability for people to read words that aren't there. There are a lot of people thinking I'm saying something that I'm really not. Perhaps that's a failure of my own writing, perhaps that's a failure of length constraints, but, you know, I just find it very interesting some of the things people are assuming about what I'm saying, when I didn't actually say that.

**AL.com:** Why do you think this became such a hot topic and touched such a nerve with people? What do you think made it so popular?

**Bailey:** You know, that's a very good question and I suppose that every time something goes viral they ask that question and I don't know that anybody can ever, these days, explain it or figure it out. You know, it's amazing what some of these things are that we find so discussable, I guess, you know, these things that light a fire under people. I think in this particular one, probably mentioning Trump didn't hurt because it's tied into something recent and something that's already on people's minds and something that people were already discussing, but I think more than that it was probably, I don't know. This, I guess, was a bit of a perfect storm because it had a video attached to it that certainly appealed to a certain audience and repelled another, and I would hope that part of it — I mean, I don't know — but I would hope that any part of what I wrote or said made people think more than usual. That may be too hopeful but when I write something like that, it's to get an idea or a viewpoint that is different from what I am hearing in my community maybe in front of people who wouldn't have thought that or wouldn't have considered it.

Here in Alabama, we're in a very conservative area and a lot of people think the same things and have similar experiences of things, like sororities or colleges or football teams or what have you, and they don't get a lot of varied viewpoints, and they don't get a lot of exposure to well-thought-out arguments that they maybe hadn't heard before. But I don't know that that answers the question. I have no idea.

It's a very bizarre thing. It was just a weird one, who knows. I never would have expected it. It wasn't my intention, certainly when I wrote it. My intention, like I said, was to get a viewpoint that maybe someone wasn't considering when they saw this in front of their face, and make them think.

I didn't think that it would go so far as to have the video removed or to have the university make a statement on it. I think if they hadn't removed the video and the university hadn't made a statement on it, it wouldn't have gotten as big as it did, but because there was a reaction from them, that was what was reported on a lot of the time, in a lot of the articles, so I think that was a big part of it as well. I think they did the right thing in making a statement and the sorority was probably wise to remove the video. I get why they did it, and it probably was the best move for them, to protect the girls if nothing else.

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AL.com: Do you think maybe that it focused attention on them? Do you feel like maybe it wouldn't have been such a big deal if it was just left as "some person didn't like this video?"

Bailey: Exactly, that's kind of been the funny thing. My friend who has been supportive of my writing in general, and of this, she kept reading my articles and seeing the Today Show and whatever it was, and they would say, "critics are slamming this video," and she was thinking "it's not really critics, it's just my best friend." And I'm just little old me over here who happened to have an opinion about it. And in my piece there wasn't a call to action, I did not ask for the video to be removed. I didn't ask for the girls to cover up. I didn't even ask the girls to change their ways or their girly behavior or anything like that. That's all fine by me, everybody was like, "well, that's their right to do that," and yes, that is their right to do that, that's absolutely right.

I was very careful in my wording to never insult the girls and to never try to directly shame them in any way. My concern, and my disappointment was just how they presented themselves and how we as women – not just these girls – need to consider how we present ourselves to the world and what ramifications that can have now and in the future. If they think that that's the best way to portray themselves, then more power to them. But I want to make sure they thought about it first. Don't just do it out of habit or conformity or because everybody else is doing it. Think about it, consider the possibilities, and make sure that that's exactly how you want to be portrayed. They gave us a first impression, and that was the one they chose, and if that's the first impression they are most comfortable with, then that is fantastic.

AL.com: What are some of the worst things people have said to you since you published the article (either via email, online comments or otherwise)?

Bailey: They run the gamut of one of two things: like, "oh, somebody didn't get a bid." I am far removed, at this point, from the college life, and it was not something that was of interest to me when I was in college, and it wasn't a big part of my college experience – the Greek system. So the whole argument that I didn't get a bid is silly. The other one was, "somebody is, like, an old, dried-up, thick-ankled hag." Somebody called me not only a prude but a prune.

As far as what's the worst thing I have seen: I found it amusing and sad throughout the process, how accurately these commenting men were proving my point through their comments. Every single disgusting, sexist, misogynist, crude comment against me – which there were many – and the women in the video proved my point, that if this is the first impression you're going to make on someone, understand that this is the kind of reaction you might get. And if you're comfortable with that, fine, and if not, maybe think about it in the future.

So there were many comments that didn't speak to the discussion, they simply went straight to how I must look or something sexual, which had nothing to do with what I was talking about, it had nothing to do with the validity of my writing. So I just thought it was very telling.

AL.com: From here, are you planning to do more stories on women's issues, are you just going to find the next story that comes along that interests you or are you trying to parlay this into something? What's your plan?
Bailey: This one fell into my lap and I hadn't been planning it or anything, it was just something I reacted to. I would say in the future women's issues are definitely something I think about quite a lot because I am a "feminazi libturd" according to some of these comments. They come up with some real gems.

But as far as the topics, I don't know, there's no telling. If a new story comes along or something happens to me experience-wise, that's usually when I'm compelled to write something. I don't have a schedule for writing anything. I don't have a master plan. If anything came of this that would be great, but it's not my intention. I don't have anything planned topic-wise there are certain topics that I am drawn to but whether I write them or not it depends on if I have a certain experience or if something makes me react in that way.

AL.com: After this whole conversation, what do you hope will be the one takeaway people take away from this whole experience?

Bailey: Like I said, my whole goal when I write something is to make people think. You know, if someone, if any one person read my article and thought about the situation differently than they had before, or put more thought into it than they had before, then I'm happy. So as far as a takeaway from it, it would just be to think things through and to think about topics you haven't before or think about them in different ways and listen to voices that are different than your own, and consider them. No one's telling anybody what to do, but listen to voices that are different from your own. If anyone looked at the article and said, "hmm, I hadn't thought about it like that," that's good enough for me.
Greek letters as tall as some of the women holding them were followed by screams loud enough to leave spectators wishing they had brought ear plugs.

The letters led packs of women clutching brown envelopes and running in high heels from Bryant-Denny Stadium down the middle of the crowded sidewalks lining Sorority Row.

Family, friends, fraternity brothers and sorority sisters greeted them with gifts, flowers and hugs at their new sorority houses.

A total of 2,261 of the 2,442 women participating in fall recruitment this year accepted bids to join sororities at the University of Alabama bid day on Saturday.

"We are very proud of our sororities and their commitment to providing a positive and enthusiastic welcome to our newest students," David Grady, vice president of Student Affairs, said in a news release Saturday.

The number of new students joining sororities this year increased from last year. A total of 2,054 women accepted bids last fall.

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The number of minorities joining sororities increased, too, after the university's predominantly white Greek system came under scrutiny in 2013 when the student newspaper, The Crimson White, reported that alumnae had interfered with votes for black recruits because of their race.

Last year, 190 new members were minorities, including 21 women who self-identified as black. According to a release from the university, 214 new members were minorities, including 25 women who self-identified as black, showing an increase of nearly 13 percent.

The UA Greek community has more than doubled in population over the past 10 years, comprising 30 percent of the student body.

In 2004, the Greek population — including sororities and fraternities — totaled 3,702 students. It grew to more than 9,300 students in 2014.

It has been the largest Greek community in the nation since 2011.

Lori Stumpf, from St. Louis, Mo., said her daughter fell in love with UA's Greek community during a campus visit earlier this year.

Her daughter chose to join a sorority because she wanted a family while away from home.

But Stumpf said she did some research and found that the UA all-sorority GPA is higher than the all-women's GPA, and she liked those statistics.

“When I researched these sororities, it said they have times where they have to study, and they have a certain amount of hours each week. They can work together, and upperclassmen can help the underclassmen if they have any questions,” Stumpf said.

“I just like the idea that she will have somebody to help her because we’re eight hours away.”

The Greek community also gets involved in philanthropy projects, raising money for local nonprofits, but, if asked, the majority of people say joining a sorority is socially beneficial.

Sue Dwyer, from Magnolia Springs, said her daughter wanted to automatically be part of a group when she arrived at UA.

“I think she’s going to have instant friends here on campus, and I think she’s going to have lifelong bonds with these girls,” Dwyer said.

Grady said the week of recruitment is a good time to meet new friends and get involved on campus.

“The fraternity and sorority community at UA provides multiple opportunities for students to become leaders and engage members of their communities, now and for a lifetime,” Grady said.

Peyton Stanley, an upcoming junior member of Alpha Chi Omega, said being part of a sorority has pushed her to be involved in the UA community more than if she had chosen to forego the option.

“It’s just a great experience. You grow so much. You become better than you were,” she said.
GUEST COLUMN

Bama sorority video worse for women than Trump

Remember all those bikini-clad, sashaying, glitter-blowing, and spontaneous piggyback-riding days of college? Me either. But according to a new video, it's a whirlwind of glitter and girl-on-girl piggyback rides at the University of Alabama's Alpha Phi house.

No, it's not a slick Playboy Playmate or Girls Gone Wild video. It's a sorority recruiting tool gaining on 500,000 views in its first week on YouTube.

It's a parade of white girls and blonde hair dye, coordinated clothing, bikinis and Daisy Dukes, glitter and kisses, bouncing bodies, euphoric hand-holding and hugging, gratuitous booty shots, and matching aviator sunglasses. It's all so racially and aesthetically homogeneous and forced, so hyper-feminine, so reductive and objectifying, so Stepford Wives: College Edition. It's all so ... unempowering.

Are they recruiting a diverse and talented group of young women embarking on a college education? Upon first or even fifth glance, probably not. Hormonal college-aged guys? Most assuredly yes. Older, male YouTube creepers? A resounding yes.

Like the many other videos of its ilk found online for sororities far and wide, it's supposed to work as a sales tool to draw in potential new members (PNMs). But unlike many other videos, Alpha Phi's video stands out in the "beauty and bounce" category and in its production value. Yes, sororities are known for being pretty and flirty; they aren't bastions of feminist ideologies. But perhaps they shouldn't completely sabotage them either.

Just last week during the GOP debate Megyn Kelly of Fox News called out Donald Trump for dismissing women with misogynous insults. Mere hours later, he proved her point by taking to Twitter to call her a "bimbo." He also proved the point that women, in 2015, must still work diligently to be taken seriously. The continued fight for equal pay, the prevalence of women not being in charge of their own health-care issues, and the ever-increasing number of women who are still coming out against Bill Cosby after decades of fearful silence show that we are not yet taken seriously.
Meanwhile, these young women, with all their flouncing and hair-flipping, are making it so terribly difficult for anyone to take them seriously, now or in the future. The video lacks any mention of core ideals or service and philanthropy efforts. It lacks substance but boasts bodies. It's the kind of thing that subconsciously educates young men on how to perceive, and subsequently treat, women in their lives. It's the kind of thing I never want my young daughters to see or emulate.

To the incoming PNMs, this video has a clear sales pitch: beauty, sexuality, and a specific look above all. They're selling themselves on looks alone, as a commodity. Sadly, commodities don't tend to command much respect.

So who is buying what they're selling? Men, from Donald Trump on down to fraternity pledges, are buying it over and over again with devastating results.

The Alpha Phi house, grandiose and imposing, can accommodate 72 young women. That's 72 women who surely must be worth more than their appearances and who can ask themselves if the messages they're sending are the best and most accurate depictions of who they are.

That's 72 women who will potentially launch careers on the merit of their education and work among men who were once the frat brothers watching their video.

And that's 72 women who will want to be taken seriously rather than be called bimbos by those male coworkers.

That's 72 women who could be a united front for empowerment, not poster children for detrimental stereotypes and clichés.

During filming, did any of them stop to think about what they'd be selling? Did they think they were selling a respectable set of sorority chapter ideals? Did they think they were selling the kind of sisterhood that looks out for all women? Or were they focused on having the hottest video in the popularity contest that is sorority recruitment? Were they satisfied with being perceived as selling a gorgeous party-girl, cookie-cutter commodity? Were they satisfied with being the commodity?

Most importantly, did they realize they are a group of young women blessed with potential who are selling themselves, and each other, short?
Advocate for pay equality to speak

UA will host Lilly Ledbetter on Aug. 29

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

Alabama native and gender-pay equality advocate Lilly Ledbetter will give a public lecture and take questions on Aug. 29 during the Blackburn Institute's annual symposium at the University of Alabama.

The leadership institute's two-day symposium will be Aug. 28-29 in the Ferguson Center. This symposium's theme will be "Courage in Alabama," which will be explored through discussions of topics including prison reform, education, and economic development. The symposium requires registration, but Ledbetter's talk in the Ferguson theater, which will conclude the event, is free and open to the public.

Ledbetter will give the Frank A. Nix Memorial Lecture at 3 p.m. Aug 29. The lecture is co-sponsored by the UA Panhellenic Council. Seating will begin at 2 p.m. and will be first come, first served. Her memoir, "Grace and Grit," will be available for sale, and Ledbetter will be available for to sign books immediately after her talk.

Ledbetter was also on the UA campus during the spring semes-

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PAY

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ter as a speaker during the in­
augural Culverhouse Leadership Diversity Competition.

She is the namesake of the
Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. She was the plaintiff in
Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire &
Rubber Co., filing suit against
the company because she was
paid less than her male co­
workers in the same job.

The case was initially de­
cided in her favor but the ver­
dict was successfully appealed
on the grounds her complaint
was made too late. President
Barack Obama signed into
law an amendment to the Civil
Rights Act of 1964 in 2009 to
make it easier to challenge un­
equal pay.
New medical center opens

UMC-Northport moves into Fitness One

By Lydia Seabol Avant
Staff Writer

The University Medical Center has opened a new Northport location at the Fitness One building at 1325 McFarland Blvd.

University Medical Center-Northport opened in July after the UMC-Warrior Family Medicine, which was in Fairfax Park in Tuscaloosa, closed in June. Patients and providers from UMC-Warrior Family Medicine moved to UMC-Northport.

Like the main UMC on the University of Alabama campus, UMC-Northport provides a range of care to the community, including preventive care and wellness exams to treatment for acute illness, accidents or chronic conditions.

The new location allows for more patients to be treated and for more resident physicians to practice, said Richard Streiffer, dean of the College of Community Health Sciences at the University of Alabama.

“It’s a more convenient location but it’s also considerably larger than where we were before,” Streiffer said. “It’s a bigger facility and bigger capacity for care.”

The additional medical residents at the new facility will train under the supervision of the CCHS faculty, he said. There are also some new services being added at the new office, including a clinical psychologist who will be based there, Streiffer said.

The center will hold a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday at 5 p.m. at University Medical Center-Northport, located in Suite 102 of the Fitness One building. There will be an

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Dr. H. Joseph Fritz is clinic director. He practices alongside doctors Ray Brignac, Jennifer Clem, Catherine Skinner and nurse practitioner Lisa Brashier. Resident physicians are Shawanda Agnew, Carrie Coxwell, Eric Frempong, Brianna Kendrick, Cheree Melton, Aisha Pitts, Efe Sahinoglu and Amy Wambolt, all of whom are part of The University of Alabama Family Medicine Residency. They also will see patients.

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Scientists study rising sea levels

UA researcher Julia Cherry and team develop low-cost marsh experiments

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

Getting reliable data on the effects of sea level rise in marshlands can be tricky.

Field research on marshes has been predominantly done in bathtub-type models, according to University of Alabama associate professor Julia Cherry. Mesocosms and other traditional containers offer lots of control for experiments with transplanted materials but are typically small and, because they are contained, can exclude potentially important biological factors present in the natural settings.

Cherry, a member of UA's New College and the department of biological sciences, and her fellow researchers wanted to conduct experiments in the marsh at a larger scale that provided control over water levels but also left the experiment open to the influx of organisms and other biological factors in the marsh.

To tackle the challenge, Cherry and her colleagues designed and built weirs, low-cost, three-sided enclosures placed along the marsh shoreline that allowed for the controlled simulation of the effect of rising sea level. The open end faces the shore.

"The power of this approach is it does allow you to get into the marsh," Cherry said.

This week, Cherry and co-authors George Ramseur Jr., of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Eric Sparks at Mississippi State University...

The team designed active and passive models. The passive models control the water volume based on the elevation of drainage valves. The active models include pumps to control the water level.

The teams' weirs are 2 meters by 3 meters, a dimension based on the size and type of marshland the team is studying, Cherry said.

"They could be much bigger than that; they are just based on the areas of our restored marsh," Cherry said.

The paper describes ways to scale up the weirs depending on research needs, Cherry said. She hopes the low-cost weirs constructed of plastic panels and off-the-shelf plumbing parts will become more common.

"Our goal is really to provide a template for others to work off of to improve their own experimental designs," Cherry said.

Prototyping the weirs was the preliminary step for the researchers' study of a wetland's ability to mitigate nutrient pollution under different conditions, including higher water levels. The experiment, titled "Exploring the Cost-effectiveness of Restored Marshes as Filters of Nutrient Pollution in a World of Rising Seas," is primarily funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative with additional funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northern Gulf Coastal Program. The two-year grant was for $371,099.

The predictions for sea level change vary depending on the model, but at the higher end, some researchers believe it could be as much as a meter, Cherry said.

The researchers are a couple of years into the experiment, Cherry said. The team is working at the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. The weirs are placed adjacent to control areas in restored marshes.

The team is measuring nitrogen removal by the marsh within the weirs and in the adjacent controls areas to compare the effects of inundation on nutrient removal. Cherry and the others are monitoring the composition of plant community, sediment accumulation, sediment characteristics and other aspects of water chemistry.

The data from the research could help shape future marsh and tidal wetland restoration and management strategies in the face of sea level rise, Cherry said.

The tidal wetlands serve a variety of roles including a natural barrier protecting against storm surge, an important wildlife habitat and systems that help capture pollution.

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State Trooper numbers at "critical levels"

By: Staff

Alabama State Troopers are working at less than half the recommended number of staff needed to patrol the roads, according to Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier.

"I am proud of our Alabama State Troopers," Collier said. "They diligently patrol all roadways in Alabama – state, federal, and county.

"We are operating at 42 percent of recommended staffing, according to a recent study by the University of Alabama's Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS), with only 418 State Troopers to cover Alabama roadways which is also substantially less than surrounding and similar-size states."

According to the press release, the Center for Advanced Public Safety found that Alabama should have a minimum of 1,016 troopers to patrol the roads.

"There is one county without an assigned State Trooper, four counties with one trooper and a dozen counties with only two troopers," the press release said.

Because of the shortage, troopers were called to work while off duty or after completing their shifts around 4,000 times in the first six months of 2015.

"With 874 more State Trooper-investigated crashes and 582 more injuries on Alabama roadways during the first six months of 2015, our State Troopers are spending the majority of their time reacting, opposed to proactively patrolling, resulting in more accidents and more injuries," Collier said. "During the regular and first Special Legislative Sessions of 2015, Legislators proposed cuts to state law enforcement that would be devastating to our already critically low staffing levels.

"Our agency simply cannot take another cut. We ask that the citizens of Alabama contact their Legislators and voice their opposition to further cuts that could result in the loss of more Alabama State Troopers."
University of Alabama students volunteered through UA Center for Service and Leadership’s Ripple Effect 2015. The students shown here, worked at Woodland Forrest Elementary School Tuesday. More than 250 students volunteered at 10 sites around town this year. The university said last year more than 26,000 students participated in more than 1 million hours of community service.

TOP: Kaitlin Ryan, left, a junior at the University of Alabama majoring in psychology, and Katie Lightfoot, a freshman majoring in chemical engineering at UA, take a bucket of weeds out of the garden.
RIGHT: A student is cleaning out a garden bed.
ABOVE: University of Alabama students Mary Shupard, a freshman majoring in criminal justice, and Jeff Blanchard, a sophomore majoring in history, clean out garden beds.

To see more photos of UA students volunteering at the Druid City Garden project at Woodland Forrest Elementary, visit www.tuscaloosanews.com.
UA theater department faculty member dies

Staff report

Jeffrey Tangeman, an assistant professor in the University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance, died Aug. 14 from an apparent heart attack in York, Penn.

Tangeman, 50, joined the UA faculty following the retirement of department founder Edmond Williams in 2013, to take over as head of the master of fine arts and undergraduate directing programs; he also led the stage management program. While here, Tangeman directed shows for the UA main stage season including "Picnic," "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike."

He was former producing artistic director of Black Box Productions, and artistic director for the New Play Developmental Series, both in New York City. He'd directed off and off-off Broadway, and regionally with companies such as the Source Theatre in Washington, D.C.; Nebraska Repertory Theatre in Lincoln, Neb.; The New Theatre in Miami; Huntington Repertory Theatre in Boston and Orpheus Theatre in Oneonta, N.Y.

Services are pending.
Building a foundation for UAB athletics

KEVIN SCARBINSKY
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A steering committee of UAB supporters is developing a foundation to provide sustained financial support for the school's reborn football program, AL.com has learned.

The foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that does not yet have a formal name, is being modeled after the Crimson Tide Foundation at Alabama and the Tigers Unlimited Foundation at Auburn — with one key distinction.

The UAB foundation, according to its executive summary obtained by AL.com, plans "to combine sports research and medicine and lead UAB in a 'one-of-a-kind' initiative that will have national impact and create a world-class competitive edge."

"For the City of Birmingham," the summary reads, "it will provide an economic impact by adding value through the research and medical areas of UAB and through the public support of nationally competitive sports programs. The football program is the primary revenue-generating sport and potentially the program of highest prestige for developing social impact in research and medical education."

UAB coach Bill Clark recently met with a small group of individuals who've committed to support the football program as part of the UAB Athletics Campaign Committee chaired by Royal Cup-Coffee CEO emeritus Hatton Smith. That larger fundraising committee's primary purpose, Smith has said, is to raise money to improve UAB's football facilities.

According to someone familiar with the meeting, Clark recommended to the smaller group that UAB build a multi-purpose training facility to serve all Blazer athletes by combining cutting-edge sports science and medicine in an interdisciplinary approach to performance, health and safety.

Clark's vision, the source said, is a world-class training center to give UAB football a recruiting and performance edge to rebuild the program to a new level of excellence and provide a national center for research and education. Clark told the group that the foundation is a critical part of his plan to change the culture of UAB football. Other sports would also benefit.

The foundation's steering committee already has put together proposed bylaws and articles of incorporation and could file the incorporation papers in a matter of days.

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Foundation would support athletics

UAB

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Typically, a college athletic foundation raises money for scholarships, facilities and operating expenses through an agreement with the university. A donation to the foundation makes an individual eligible for priority seating at the school's athletic events. The foundation has to comply with NCAA and SACS regulations.

Alabama's Crimson Tide Foundation was established in 2005, according to its website, "to help ensure that the University maintains the level of excellence expected by its supporters for years to come. Its purpose is to promote and encourage a continuing interest in, and loyalty to, the intercollegiate athletic programs at the University; to support the staff of the University's Department of Athletics in their efforts to coordinate, develop, maintain and improve a superior intercollegiate athletics program at the University."

Auburn's Tigers Unlimited Foundation calls itself "the keystone of Auburn Athletics." Its website says the foundation "is committed to making Auburn the preeminent athletics program in the nation. Our members, who are friends, alumni, and advocates of the university, recognize the value of intercollegiate athletics and enthusiastically participate in a variety of ways."

UAB is raising money to help pay for new and upgraded facilities, as well as to help cover the operating costs of restoring its football program, which is scheduled to return to the field in 2017. The new foundation would provide a central clearinghouse for the funds that are raised in that effort.

COUNCIL OKS $500K FOR UAB ATHLETICS

The Birmingham City Council on Tuesday approved $500,000 of funding for UAB football this fiscal year.

"It's important for the city to see that we are supporting UAB," Councilwoman Valerie Abbott said. "I'm not even a big football fan, but I will tell you that I believe trying to gut UAB and haul it down to Tuscaloosa is a bad idea for Birmingham."

Councilman Jay Roberson, a former athletics administrator, said after the vote that the council wants to make sure UAB athletics thrives.

"At the end of the day, we want to make sure we support UAB," Councilman Jay Roberson said after the vote. "We want to help support UAB athletics programs ... We want to make sure football is back a couple of years from now and that they get rifle and bowling back."

In May, the Birmingham City Council promised to contribute $2.5 million to UAB football over the next five years.

When the council unanimously approved a budget for fiscal year 2016, UAB football was missing from more than $400 million in spending. City officials said they had not anticipated that they would need to deliver on that pledge so soon.

A council committee voted last week to recommend that the full council approve a resolution allocating money from the sale of more than $500,000 worth of city property toward UAB football this fiscal year.

The city previously paid $250,000 each year for a block of UAB football tickets at Legion Field.

Kelsey Stein
Business leaders launch athletics campaign

BREND CHAMPLIN
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An all-star lineup of Birmingham's business leaders has stepped up to the forefoot as part of the UAB Athletics Campaign.

The public launch of the campaign, set to raise money for new facilities for every sport except soccer, which Townsend spoke following a presentation from athletics director Mark Ingram. Smith closed the presentation.

Ingram spoke of upgrades to facilities, but stressed the importance of them, citing softball’s five straight trips to the NCAA tournament after a new stadium and the men’s basketball team reaching the NCAs following locker room improvements.

Shot in the arm

The committee members have their own differences at UAB, but have all said they feel the return of UAB football will help provide an economic boost to Birmingham.

Mike Goodrich II, principal of First Avenue Ventures, said he has no connection to UAB other than having lived in Birmingham most of his life, and said he was affected by the pain caused from the original decision in December by UAB president Ray Watts to disband UAB football.

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UAB rallies to redo football the right way

Bill Clark was passionate. If the UAB football coach had asked the crowd at the UAB Alumni House to run through the outside wall, that room would now be a patio.

Jerod Haase was powerful. The UAB basketball coach delivered a strong and necessary message when he said the entire athletics department has arrived "at a defining moment."

Hatton Smith, the chair of the UAB Athletics Campaign, was a fire-and-brimstone-breathing dragon all his own.

But it was Marla Townsend who crystallized Tuesday's pep rally to kick off this fundraising campaign as she represented the school's Olympic sports. She represented to the max when she recognized Jim Hilyer and remembered Gene Bartow.

Hilyer, sitting in that room full of people whose passion has given UAB football a shot at new life, was UAB's first football coach. Bartow, the school's first basketball coach and its first athletics director, was the man who made Division I athletics on the Southside a reality.

It was nothing short of brilliance to stage this rally on what would've been Bartow's 85th birthday. Townsend properly noted the occasion because that man had a vision for UAB athletics that some people questioned and others flat-out opposed.

The opposition continues to this day. The Blazers still face cynics, skeptics and opponents, even within their own university system, as events of the past 10 months have made so painfully clear.

Events of the last week sounded another alarm.

When a letter signed by UAB President Ray Watts, AD Mark Ingram and Smith went out suggesting supporters of football's return accelerate their first pledge payments to Sept. 1, it didn't come out of the blue. A message has been relayed from the UAB administration to the leaders of the football fundraising efforts. To show they mean business, to demonstrate those pledges they've been collecting aren't empty promises, they need $2 million in the bank by the end of this month.

Says who? Or else what? No one seems able or willing to provide a definitive answer to those questions, but the people carrying the ball to bring back football have learned a valuable lesson. All conspiracies aren't theories. All trustees aren't trustworthy. All athletics departments in the UA System aren't created equal.

It's not lost on those UAB and Birmingham leaders that the next UA System Board of Trustees meeting is Sept. 16-17 in Tuscaloosa. So they started writing and soliciting checks.

Two insiders said they expect the insides said they expect to meet and exceed the $2 million by Sept. 1 "deadline."

The next step in this delicate process is creating a credible structure for this public-private partnership, a central clearinghouse where funds are solicited, collected and disbursed with confidence from the donors that the people in charge have the best interests of the athletics department, university and community at heart.

That's where the proposed UAB athletics foundation, as reported in Wednesday's edition of The Birmingham News and on AL.com, comes in. It's hard to find an athletics department, from Alabama to Auburn to Birmingham-Southern, that doesn't have one. Why shouldn't UAB?

The UAB foundation, championed by Clark and some heavy hitters in the local business community, would give the athletics department and the university "an opportunity to combine sports, research and medicine and lead UAB in a 'one-of-a-kind' initiative," according to the proposal's executive summary.

Concussion research. Helmet safety. Cutting-edge training and rehab techniques. The possibilities are endless. Not without jumping a few more ever-shifting hurdles, no doubt, but welcome to UAB. As Townsend said on the larger subject of taking the entire athletics department to a new level, "Today and this year will go down in history."

All because, in the spirit of Bartow, in the persons of Clark, Haase, Townsend and so many others, when they were knocked down Dec. 2, the people who care about UAB and Birmingham refused to stay down.
UAB

School asks football donors to speed up payments

UAB sent a letter to its supporters Friday asking them to send in their promised donations to help the football program earlier than planned. Instead of having the donors make their initial payments by Jan. 1, the letter asks them to make those payments by Sept. 1 — or 16 days from today. The letter was signed by UAB President Ray Watts, Athletics Director Mark Ingram, and Hatton Smith, the chair of the UAB Athletics Campaign Committee.

Kevin Scarbinsky

THE LETTER

To the UAB alumni, community and friends,

As we announced on June 1, unprecedented pledges of support from private individuals, corporations and government entities have enabled the university to work toward restoring our rifle, bowling and football programs.

We are firmly committed to this process and greatly appreciate the community’s support, because as we also announced, UAB’s substantial investment in Athletics cannot be increased but will be maintained.

We now are finalizing budgets for our upcoming year, which begins October 1. Prior to that date, we must have a balanced budget proposal for each part of the university, including Athletics.

We now must get pledge payments in hand. We are already working with many of our donors and supporters so we can cover the expenses associated with the restoration of the three sports on schedule. As indicated at the news conference in June, the necessary funding for these programs is critical to support multi-year commitments to our student athletes and coaches. We’d like to get ahead of the curve and stay there. Specifically, we request that donors make initial payments on their pledges by September 1, 2015. In addition, we will be seeking advance pledge payments on January 15, 2016, and July 1, 2016, for those who are able to help us stay ahead of the curve.
We are grateful for the City of Birmingham's efforts to move forward with honoring its commitment of $500,000 to support restoration of these programs at UAB. We will be asking the many municipalities that also passed resolutions of support last spring to join the City in making a financial commitment.

We have made good progress since June 1, working with Conference USA to ensure we remain in that competitive league and with the NCAA to nail down return dates for each sport's seasons, with rifle coming back this year, bowling next and football in 2017. We also are working on a contract with Coach Clark to ensure he continues leading our football team to winning seasons.

To continue this progress, the time is now. A member of the fundraising team will be or may already have reached out to those individuals who have made pledges. For those of you who have not yet made a contribution, please consider a gift. These pledges are above your current level of Blazer Boosters annual support. You may contact UAB Athletics at (205) 996-9969.

Your enthusiasm, loyalty, pride and support are what make this University great.

Go Blazers.
Hey, UAB, it's time to give Clark a new contract

Doubts about school's commitment to football will persist until it works up head coach with new long-term deal.

It's been 74 days since UAB announced it was taking steps to bring back its football program, but perhaps the most important step in that process has yet to be completed.

The school hasn't reached an agreement on a new contract with head coach Bill Clark.

According to people familiar with the process, the school has yet to make a concrete offer to Clark or his agents, Russ Campbell and Patrick Strong of Balch Sports, and there's been no reasonable explanation for the delay.

In a return text message Thursday, Campbell declined to discuss the state of the negotiations, pointing to his July 14 statement on the subject. The heart of that statement: "This will take some time; it always does. We trust that it will get done and get done the right way."

That statement is now 31 days old.

Clark is still working under the terms of his original contract, which means he's in the second year of a three-year deal. Common sense says it's critical to his ability to recruit both players and staff members that he receive a new contract that demonstrates in tangible terms the administration's commitment to bringing back the football program.

For some UAB supporters, who lived through the death of the program, it's starting to feel a bit like early November all over again.
New contract would show commitment

Scarbinsky
Continued from Page I

At that time, some of those supporters expressed concern the school was planning to kill its football program. The warning signs included the suspiciously short three-year length of Clark’s original deal, which wasn’t made public until deep into his first season, and the lack of any non-conference games scheduled beyond 2016.

Despite weak attempts by UAB President Ray Watts to calm those fears, they were realized Dec. 2 when he announced the elimination of football, rifle and bowling.

The school reversed field June 1, announcing it would bring back those sports. Clark wasn’t asked to attend the reinstatement press conference, but he later made it clear that he wanted to be the coach to bring the Blazers back.

There have been other positive developments since, from putting a 2017 restart date on football’s return to announcing the formation of the UAB Athletics Campaign Committee.

But nothing would soothe the suspicions of the fan base like extending Clark’s contract and putting it in writing.

Many UAB fans have an understandable lack of confidence in the administration, which has been both deceitful and disingenuous during the tumultuous last nine months, and don’t even get them started on the UA System Board of Trustees.

They appear to have taken a wait-and-see attitude toward new AD Mark Ingram, who hasn’t been on the job long enough to earn their full faith and trust. One measure of Ingram’s effectiveness will be his ability to put together a mutually-beneficial deal for Clark.

Ingram provided a statement on the negotiations Thursday to AL.com. The full statement reads: “We are working with the coach and his agents. We look forward to a winning future with Coach Clark and are working toward that goal. These discussions are confidential by nature so we won’t be commenting directly on the process.”

It would be a double dose of momentum for UAB football if Clark could stand up at Tuesday’s public kickoff of the UAB Athletics Campaign and tell the crowd he’s agreed to a new deal in principle. Until that announcement comes, there will be an undercurrent of doubt about whether the administration truly has its heart set on empowering Clark to restart football — and do it the right way.

UAB coach Bill Clark didn’t leave for a new job when the football program was disbanded. Now that football is back, nothing would soothe the suspicions of the fan base like extending Clark’s contract and putting it in writing. (File)
Sports World

With openings on ’18 schedule, Blazers would fit in quite nicely on the Plains

Instead of trying to revive a dead horse by suggesting for the 323rd time that the football team from the Tuscaloosa campus in the University of Alabama System should get off its high horse and play the team from the Birmingham campus, let’s find a live one.

Why doesn’t Auburn step up and schedule UAB? There’s no law against it, and there are plenty of reasons to make it happen.

It looks like Auburn AD Jay Jacobs still needs to line up some nonconference opponents for 2018, and that’s also the case for UAB AD Mark Ingram. That’ll be the second year back on the field for the Blazers, and it would give Bill Clark some time to fortify the roster and get beyond the inevitable growing pains of 2017.

Auburn clearly doesn’t mind playing in-state opponents. That’s been true in recent years with games against Samford and Alabama A&M, and the trend isn’t changing. The Tigers will open their doors to Jacksonville State on Sept. 12, and they’ll welcome back Alabama A&M in 2016.

That’s a nice gesture, and nothing against the Bulldogs, the Gamecocks and the other Bulldogs, but they’re all FCS schools. Sooner or later, the SEC may have to follow the FBS schools in this state outside the local SEC members.

You have South Alabama and Troy from the Sun Belt, neither of which has ever been given the opportunity to play Auburn, and you have UAB from Conference USA, which has.

Of course, 1996 was a long, long time ago. Terry Bowden was the Auburn coach. Watson Brown was the man at UAB. The Football Bowl Subdivision was still known as Division 1.

It was sporting of Auburn back then to welcome the Blazers to Jordan-Hare Stadium for UAB’s first Football Bowl Subdivision game to open that 1996 season. It would be even more neighborly now for Jacobs to extend an invitation to Ingram for the Blazers to re-visit the Plains.

After all, if Auburn is going to pay $1 million to Idaho, $1.2 million to Louisiana Monroe, $1.3 million to Arkansas State and $1.6 million to San Jose State in the coming years to see themselves in person on the new Aubietron, why not stroke one of those seven-figure, two-comma checks to an in-state program that really could use a financial boost?

Like Alabama, Auburn’s under no obligation to throw UAB a lot of bones, but there’s nothing preventing the Tigers from doing the right thing.

It makes sense that Auburn might want to wait for more tangible evidence that UAB is going to play football again. A lot of people are waiting for the school to get a new contract done with its head coach, which is the next step in the process.

But after that deal’s put to bed, Jacobs shouldn’t wait too long. Give Clark time to rebuild the UAB program the right way, and UAB 13, LSU 10 is sure to be replaced as the biggest win in program history. Now’s the time to schedule UAB as a guarantee game because it won’t be long before beating the Blazers is no guarantee.
UAB seeing green: Sustainability efforts lead to cleaner campus, $13.5 million savings

By: Dennis Pillion

On the ground at UAB's campus, it's easy to see the fruits of the school's sustainability efforts. Bike racks, recycling bins, and water bottle filling stations stand out all over campus. There are more green spaces and natural landscapes to capture storm water runoff better than pavement. But UAB's efforts to go green have also saved a lot of green.

Through energy efficiency measures, water-capture systems and other initiatives, the university has cut energy use by 10 percent and water use by 15 percent at both the campus and UAB Hospital, according to publications released by the school.

Those efforts alone represent an annual savings of more than $13.5 million in energy and water bills.

The on-campus steam plant that provides heat and instrument sterilization to 29 buildings on campus now runs off natural gas instead of the coal that fired the old Powell Steam Plant across from Railroad Park. The new plant also features a state-of-the-art condensate recovery system to maximize efficiency and save thousands in water costs by returning used steam as water back to the furnace.

When the Blazer basketball teams take the hardwood at Bartow Arena this year, they'll do so under brand new LED lights that are expected to provide better lighting and save $35,000 per year in electricity costs. UAB's energy management program engineering manager Matt Winslett, said the cost to run the old lights for an hour was about $7.50. The new lights cost about $1.50.

Systems installed to capture cold condensate across campus saved about 21 million gallons of water last year, Winslett said. Separate systems to pump groundwater from the basements of buildings saved another 25 million. That recaptured water is used in cooling towers from the central steam plant, saving about $200,000.

Julie Price, UAB's coordinator of sustainability, said Winslett is recognized as an expert in energy efficiency, and frequently speaks at other universities about projects at UAB.

"If I had to highlight the best sustainability program on campus, it would be energy management," Price said. "They are really ahead of their time in terms of looking at some of our older buildings and trying to make them a little leaner and function a little more efficiently."

Winslett said that the school is beginning to undertake a systematic examination of all 150 buildings on campus to look at ways each could be more efficient and which efforts could have the most bang for the buck.

See next page
Likewise, the UAB recycling program collects thousands of pounds of recyclables every year, while more or less breaking even on costs.

Recycling coordinator Jon Paolone said the numbers fluctuate, but the program is more or less self-sustaining thanks to the avoidance of dumpster fees and the sale of recyclable material. For the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Paolone said the facility recycled 939,940 pounds of paper and cardboard alone.

At this summer's sold-out boxing match between Deontay Wilder and Eric Molina at Bartow Arena, UAB Facilities staff collected more than 864 pounds of aluminum cans, 400 pounds of cardboard and 75 pounds of plastic to be recycled in a single night.

UAB recently started accepting used ink and toner cartridges through the campus mail system, which it sells back to recycling companies. On-campus offices can simply re-box the empty cartridges and drop them off with the campus mail.

Beyond the obvious cost savings, Price said the sustainability efforts make for a better quality of life for UAB employees and students. New bike racks are going in across campus this summer. Students are given reusable water bottles at orientation and filling stations with cold, filtered water are available across campus.

The school's old Center for Nuclear Imaging Research is now a community garden, where faculty, staff and students grow tomatoes, gourds, okra, peppers and more.

"Our mission is just to make a more sustainable world so our children and grandchildren can have the same quality of life that we do," she said.

Price, who became UAB's first-ever sustainability coordinator in 2013, said that the program has had good success already, but it's time to take another measure of campus sustainability.

Price said the university will begin soon a standardized process called the STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) to measure how UAB compares to other schools around the world.

"When you're in a job like this, you could just kind of shotgun programs for 10 years and get good publicity and have fun and really make some good changes," Price said. "But we're really due at this point for some kind of way to measure ourselves against our peer institutions with a standard set of metrics."

Price said the STARS process would look at supply chains, resource use and other facets of sustainability. The evaluation period began this month and lasts a full year.

"From that, we hope to be a little more strategic in what programs and projects we put our efforts toward and our funding toward," Price said.
Bham startup puts cancer in crosshairs

Former Atherotech CEO Mike Mullen has been busy since he left the diagnostics firm in January.

Mullen, who was a recent candidate for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award, has launched CirculoGene Theranostics and raised $3 million in funding from local investors.

The company, which is aiming to expedite cancer diagnosis and treatment, already has nine employees and local researchers are optimistic that the company could be Birmingham’s latest biotech breakthrough.

CirculoGene Theranostics developed what Mullen said is a next generation biopsy for cancer patients.

By collecting small samples of blood through a finger prick, the company can identify known genes and mutations associated with certain tumors or cancers and develop a personalized report on the most effective targeted treatment, all within a week.

Mullen said that expedited process, which is also much more efficient and accurate than current methods, can save health systems significant amounts of time and money and is receiving a lot of attention from researchers at prestigious academic institutions.

"Previous blood drawing methods cost $40 to $50 per tube, but with the finger stick, it’s a very sensitive assay, and we’re picking up other mutations in a single drop that others aren’t," he said. "Doctors can see if there’s a targeted therapy for their cancer patients much quicker, and in the time patients are being treated now with other methods, the doctor can be looking to see if the first line of treatment is working. The turnaround time is very important."

Mullen said cancer drugs can cost up to $100,000 per month, so it’s important that patients are matched with the most effective drugs for treatment and are guided to the right clinical trials.

Although targeted treatment is nothing new in oncology, CirculoGene’s Chief Scientific Officer Chen-Hsiung Yeh said the increased accuracy of their tests drastically improves the current process.

"If you think of it like the Pentagon’s strategy to fighting ISIS with airstrikes, it’s very similar. It’s limiting the overall collateral damage," Yeh said. "Sometimes a patient doesn’t need chemotherapy, but more specific treatment, and that’s what our tests identify."

And local researchers are optimistic about CirculoGene. Dr. James Posey, associate professor of hematology and oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said he’s involved with a number of reports on CirculoGene’s work that should be published in three months.

"Their approach is one that others are pursuing, but the uniqueness of CirculoGene’s approach is the high sensitivity and specificity of the DNA sequencing," he said. "We’re interested in validating the research, but it could show that collecting blood in their tests is simpler, more convenient, faster and has a higher degree of precision."

Mullen said he’s confident once the research is published that CirculoGene will pick up even more steam and access a very untapped market. The market leader conducts about 12,000 samples per year, but CirculoGene can top 200,000 samples a year, Mullen said.

"We believe, to make this accessible to the oncology market, not only does the research and the product have to come along, but you have to make it so the insurance companies and the patients can afford to use it," he said.

Mullen expects to be generating revenue by the fall, and his only concern will be convincing the industry.

"It’s going to take time. The biggest challenge is that people won’t believe that we can do this, so what I would say is send us your smallest samples and see for yourself," Mullen said.
BHAM’S PHYSICAL THERAPY INDUSTRY POISED TO SOAR

BY ALAN ALEXANDER
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See next page
"Birmingham is one of the preeminent markets that people around the country look to for what happens in orthopedics. It's a highly, highly competitive market."

MATTHEW LEMAK, 
CEO of Lemak Health

\[\text{Raw text not legible or extractable.} \]
Lockheed Martin to add 100 jobs

Consolidation brings D.C. area lab to Huntsville

LOCKEY BERRY
LOCKERYB.COM

Lockheed Martin is bringing 100 high-paying jobs to Huntsville as it works to consolidate its Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications (C2BMC) program by mid-2016.

The global aerospace, defense, security and advanced technologies company said it will consolidate the C2BMC program, which has operations in Huntsville, Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Baltimore/Washington metro.

Rob Smith, vice president of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (C4ISR), said Lockheed is exiting the Baltimore/Washington area. Consolidating in Huntsville and Colorado Springs will result in significant cost savings from a facilities perspective, he added.

"It also makes a lot of sense from a customer perspective for us to have more of a presence here locally with the customer," he said. "... As we bring more skills and more capabilities here, it allows us to also execute additional business out of the Huntsville area, even business that's not with MDA (Missile Defense Agency).

Lockheed, which has 1,400 Huntsville employees, has already started the consolidation and expects the transition will be complete by June 2016. Smith said a small number of Baltimore/Washington area workers will transfer to Huntsville, while remaining employees will be moved to other programs within the company.

The full-time positions will include high-end engineering, program management and information technology jobs. You can search Lockheed's current Huntsville openings on its website.

"Part of the consolidation is we're going to be moving some of our labs that are in the Washington metro area into the Huntsville area," said JD Hammond, director of missile defense systems.

Smith said Lockheed has informed C2BMC employees in the Baltimore/Washington area about the news. The local division will operate at Lockheed's facility on Bradford Drive.

Lockheed said C2BMC is "the critical integrating command and control function that enables the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS)."
Lockheed
Continued from Page 1

"It provides the warfighter with a reliable, flexible, and real-time capability to plan, monitor, and manage the defense of the United States, its deployed forces, and friends and allies against ballistic missile threats," the company said.

The announcement was made Tuesday during the Space & Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville.

"We're very appreciative to Lockheed Martin for the confidence they've placed in the Huntsville area," Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. "... They are one of the premier companies in our area and have always been great corporate partners."
Kickstarter campaign underway to replace textbooks with search engine

By: Travis Leder

A Huntsville man is hoping to raise $250 thousand to help students transform the way they receive academic information.

Philip Kovacs, Ph.D., is seeking the money for his company Vastly -- an educational search engine which can provide free reading materials for users. Kovacs is using patent-pending technology licensed from UAH which will help students search websites for relevant information on a variety of academic topics.

"We are looking for $250,000 to move our prototype from beta to fully functioning, providing more accurate results and drawing on at least 50,000 websites," says Kovacs, who is a former UAH professor and the current vice president of education at Appleton Learning, an Inc. 5000 company, "We need an additional full-time senior programmer, as well as a full-time junior programmer, to make that happen. The additional funding will also help us build out the analytic platform."

The Vastly search engine is free for all users, and Kovacs believes it can do for the Internet what very few have ever done -- revolutionize the way we receive information.

"To understand this project, simply go to [the website] and enter 'Higgs Boson,'" Kovacs says, "The interactive concept map that you'll see is the start of the 'educational genome' for Higgs Boson. I believe that our concept map results will change the nature of search on the Internet."

Some schools have already experimented with the Vastly search engine, and Kovacs' team, which includes UAH assistant professor of English Ryan Weber, Ph.D., made improvements based on results from this series of pilot programs.

The goal is to begin sales in fall 2016.

There is a TedHuntsville talk where Kovacs discusses this concept in greater detail.
Iles launches Community Conversations

By: Staff

Popular novelist Greg Iles will appear at the first installment of Community Conversations, a quarterly series with popular authors sponsored by Huntsville Library Foundation.

Chan Auditorium on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus will host the inaugural session of Community Conversation on Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow the program.

“Huntsville Library Foundation promises an evening of lively conversation when Iles returns to town,” Laura McPhail said. McPhail recently accepted the position of Director of Public Relations for Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

“Mississippi novelist Greg Iles writes about racial injustice, corruption and family ties — fuel for conversation — in his new thriller, ‘The Bone Tree,’ McPhail said. “Iles will read from ‘The Bone Tree,’ the newly released second book in the ‘Natchez Burning’ trilogy.”

“Greg Iles created a world in this novel that many of us can relate to, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss the book’s themes with him,” Huntsville Library Foundation chairperson Christina Tabereaux said. “Greg’s book is the perfect choice to start our new Community Conversations series.”

Local moderators will facilitate a question-and-answer session with Iles. The session is designed to get people speaking with the author and with each other about the book’s themes.

Tickets to Community Conversations with Greg Iles are $25 for general admission. Students with a current ID will be admitted free.

Seating is limited so tickets will be sold first come, first served. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance online at store.hmcpl.org. All proceeds benefit Huntsville Library Foundation.

Founded in 1986, Huntsville Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that serves as a library advocate and acquires resources that enhance the library’s value to the community. This team of dedicated individuals works year-round to raise funds for the library’s 12 branches to better serve Madison County. (huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org)

- See more at: http://www.madisoncountyrecord.com/2015/08/18/iles-launches-community-conversations/#sthash.nhxcuHCh.dpuf
Gulf South Conference Adds Women's Lacrosse for 2016
By: Staff

The Gulf South Conference announced the addition of women's lacrosse to the 2015-16 list of sponsored sports, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville's program will compete within the league in its inaugural season in spring 2016.

"We are tremendously excited about our brand new women's lacrosse program being affiliated with the Gulf South Conference," said UAH Director of Athletics Dr. E. J. Brophy. "For our team to be able to compete for a conference championship right off the bat is a very important component and we are all looking forward to our inaugural season in women's lacrosse."

The GSC Presidents agreed to move forward with the addition of women's lacrosse at its annual business meeting this past June and the addition was made official when Montevallo and Young Harris signed on as affiliate members last week.

"Women's lacrosse has consistently been one of the fastest growing sports in the NCAA for a number of years and we are excited to provide championship and award opportunities for these student-athletes in the Gulf South Conference," GSC Commissioner Matt Wilson said. "Our Board of Directors believes this is a sport that makes sense for the GSC and I anticipate seeing more regional Division II programs in the next four or five years."

Four teams will make up the GSC's inaugural season with full members UAH and Shorter joining with UM and YHC. At least six teams are needed to conduct an official GSC championship, but the GSC will classify women's lacrosse as an "emerging sport" which allows its members to compete for an Invitational Championship until two more members are added to the mix. The addition of women's lacrosse ups the number of sponsored GSC sports to 17 following last Thursday's official announcement to add men's and women's track and field this year.

"I am so excited for the future of UAH women's lacrosse," head coach Gail Wallach said. "We're grateful to the GSC for providing our program the opportunity to compete in a nationally recognized athletic conference. This will create exposure and continue the growth of NCAA women's lacrosse."

The 2016 GSC Women's Lacrosse Invitational Championship will be held April 22, 24 on the campus of the No. 1 seeded team.
Scholarship students' info leaked

The University of South Alabama has corrected an issue that resulted in 80 scholarship students' personal information leaking on the Internet, according to USA spokesman Bob Lowry.

"Personal information contained on the applications included each scholarship applicant's name, address, phone number, date of birth, names of parents, high school grades and transcripts. Eleven of the 80 applications also included social security numbers on the transcripts," Lowry said.

The incident began in April and was discovered last month. "When the situation became known on July 16, the University promptly removed the documents from the server and requested the Internet search engines remove all cached copies of the documents," Lowry said. The university sent letters to all those affected, and offered one year of free identity protection services.

Cassie Fumero
Samford welcomes big freshman class

As Samford University freshmen Parrish Nichols, 18, and Jake Massey, 18, finished moving into Smith Hall on Friday morning, 2013 Samford graduate Allison Strickland walked past the new roommates as they stood in the hallway. "It's the first day of the best four years of your life!" she said, with all the spirit of a cheerleader.

Strickland, who works in Samford's alumni programs department, joined an army of staff members and church volunteers helping freshmen move in to the dormitories.

Nichols and Massey are among the more than 800 freshmen on campus this semester. That's the largest freshman class at Samford, surpassing the 755 freshmen who moved in during the fall of 2013.

That infusion of freshmen will push Samford to more than 5,000 students for the first time. The previous high was set last fall, with 4,933 students. Many incoming students cite the university's Baptist affiliation and faith-friendly atmosphere as one of the reasons for attending.

"Everything about the university suits who I am," said Massey, a graduate of Lake Norman (N.C.) Charter School. "It will allow me to keep growing in my faith."

Added Nichols, a Vestavia Hills High School graduate: "I fell in love with it. Everyone's so friendly. It's a beautiful campus."
Shelton State, developers vie for city's downtown lot

City leaders consider purchase offers of property by Wilhagan's

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

Tuscaloosa city leaders are considering three purchase proposals for a piece of downtown, city-owned property that could become an education center or mixed-use development, depending on which proposal is accepted.

The land, just east of Wilhagan's Grille & Tap Room at the intersection of Fourth Street and 22nd Avenue, is about a half-acre and recently was appraised at $286,000. It's now being used as a parking lot.

Representatives of Shelton State Community College, Allied Realty and Weaver Rentals on Tuesday made presentations to the City Council's Public Projects Committee on what each would do with the land should their bid be accepted.

The committee chose to take no action on the proposals. Instead, the panel will consider the proposals for two weeks before taking action on Aug. 25.

The committee's recommendation will then be presented to the full City Council for a vote.

The price of the bids will not be the sole factor in deciding who gets the land, according to the city attorney.

See LOT | 7A
Spaces in the controlled lot could be rented by the hour, the day or the month, Weaver said.

Once developed, the proposed building would hold 3,000-square-feet of retail space with six large, upscale loft rental units above. Weaver estimated the rental price at about $1,500-per-month for the 1,200-square-foot units.

"I feel like we've got a pretty good good history with making something that will fit well with the character of downtown," Weaver said.

Weaver Rentals has offered about $300,000 for the lot.

Allied Realty has offered the most — $325,000 — and plans to begin construction immediately, if granted the lot.

Clayton Hudson, president of Allied Realty, outlined his company's success with converting the former Kress building into a rehabilitated retail and living space as well as its recent awarding of a contract to purchase the city's former downtown fire station lot for a similar mixed-use project.

For the tract in question, Hudson said his company would construct a predominantly brick and glass building with 8,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor with five loft apartments — four two-bedroom and a one-bedroom — above.

Hudson said he drew inspiration from an out-of-state brewery that featured large, roll-up doors that can be opened when the weather is pleasant.

And the positioning of the building would put Tuscaloosa's setting sun behind the structure, allowing for comfortable usage during the late afternoon and evening hours.

"We realized there was more demand for a low-density, residential component and retail," Hudson said, noting that all the four rental units in the Kress building were filled within two weeks of offering them. "And it was a unique opportunity to implement all this glass into this structure."

Reach Jason Morton at jason.morton@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0200.
The new head of the Hilltop
HOW ED LEONARD PLANS TO FOLLOW THE GENERAL AS BSC PRESIDENT

ED LEONARD
Title: President of Birmingham-Southern College
Education: Bachelor's degree in philosophy from William Jewell College, master's degree in business from St. Louis University, doctorate degree in educational administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Career background: Leonard started his career working for his fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha before enrolling higher education. He first started as the director of multiple departments at Georgia College before joining Wilmington College as vice president for college advancement in 1996. In 2007, he became president of Bethany College in Kansas.

Hobbies: Raising his sons, 12-year-old Quade and 5-year-old Thomas, certainly my intent in the next few months to get around campus either individually or collectively. Certainly I'm familiar with Birmingham-Southern, but there's a lot I need to know so I need to listen so I can start peeling back the onion.

What's the biggest challenge to your job? I think it's continuing the work that the Gen. (Charles Krulak) did, and he did a wonderful job in the last four years. I think it's building on that. I'll say with modesty and humility that I'm a great choice to follow the general, because I think he and I share strong similarities. We are both student-centered and really enjoy interacting with students, so I will follow his lead in keeping Birmingham-Southern grounded in student-centeredness and building that student experience.

What would you be doing if you weren't a college president? The reason I was a philosophy major was because I was discerning a call to the ministry, but the bishop decided a person with a high level of competitiveness like myself surely couldn't be happy in the ministry. I disagreed. If I had the magic wand, I would probably be an Episcopal rector somewhere.

How would you describe your management style? I've always characterized my management style as a macromanager. Instinctively I deal with the big picture. That's just how I'm wired and I've had to learn to be more detail oriented and to surround myself with the right people. I want to have different personalities around me because then you get that 360 (degree) view on the best decision or best action to take. When it comes to hiring, you need to recruit to the opposite of your personality. I also believe in collaboration and consensus. Everybody needs a voice at the table.

What motivates you? I uncovered in college that I have a very high need to achieve. I'm a competitor, but I'm probably more competitive with myself than others. I was a competitive swimmer and so I always said don't compete against the person in the lane next to you, but with your time as it is on the clock. For me, it's the high need to achieve and being a competitor that drives me.

What's your vision for Birmingham-Southern? I believe that part of my job, through listening and facilitating, the vision will emerge over the next year and probably less time than that. I need to figure out where we want to be 20 years from now and well past my time here.

A vision and a strategy needs to reach beyond the current stewards of the place, because if theyouting us, it was the right vision. The vision that we ultimately want and the strategy we need to get there really starts at the identity and mission of Birmingham-Southern and finding out how that is lived out. I'm a huge believer in identity.

What areas of campus life will you focus on first? I think the reason I was hired was because of the success I've had growing enrollment and retention and in the area of fundraising, but that success is more of a byproduct. We need to look at what we are doing curricularly and co-curricularly, and all of that gets framed in what I call the student experience. And I think in contrast to a public university, what we can do is create an integrated, seamless curricular and co-curricular experience.

What is Birmingham-Southern's strongest asset? I would say the reputation. Certainly it's been tarnished, but I think it takes a lot more than what Birmingham-Southern has been through to really hurt it, and I think the general has done a wonderful job to shine it up and my intent is to get out there and finish that task. It's an incredible school.

Though he's only been on the job for a month, Birmingham-Southern College President Ed Leonard knows he has big shoes to fill. Leonard, who has held many leadership roles within higher education, will be taking the reins from Gen. Charles Krulak, who retired at the end of this past school year.

But Leonard said he's excited to continue working alongside Krulak, who isn't retiring in the traditional sense.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with (Krulak) and (fellow former BSC President) Neal Bette. I hope we will have developed a model of a sitting president and two former presidents that just doesn't exist in higher education," Leonard said. "They want to get back in the game. They know they aren't the coach, but they don't want to sit on the bench in an adviser role. They want to help really move Birmingham-Southern."

During his previous position as president of Bethany College, he significantly increased enrollment and retention rates while leading a $22 million fundraising campaign.

That leadership experience will be crucial for Birmingham-Southern, which is still recovering from its own financial woes.

We recently met with Leonard to hear more about his career, what motivates him and his approach to leading the private, liberal arts college.

What's the best advice you've ever received? In the context of my new job, it's to do a lot of listening and that's...
Athletes should get realistic treatment

Given the federal government's inclination to overreach, it was refreshing to see the National Labor Relations Board block college football players from forming a union.

Unfortunately, the NLRB stopped short of saying that college athletes are not employees, and union organizers took heart from the omission. The federal government's labor regulators offered a mealy-mouthed rationale about the chaos that could result from union and non-union teams sharing the playing field while having different standards for players. Of course, by not settling the issue definitively, the board left open the possibility for the chaos its members feared.

Athletes are no more employees than are students attending college on academic scholarships. They are rewarded with tuition, room and board and a few other trinkets for their athletic talents, just as students on academic scholarships are rewarded for their intellectual prowess. If athletes are receiving further remuneration from their schools (or the schools' boosters, for that matter) it is in violation of NCAA rules. And unless they are declaring their income and paying taxes on it, they aren't involved in a standard employment agreement.

While some might snicker at the idea that the free college education offered in return for playing is an athlete's reward, it is not inconsequential. Trivializing the privilege of walking out the door with a degree debt-free is an insult to every tuition-paying student and parent. Athletes who choose to waste the opportunity that ordinary students pay so dearly for have only themselves to blame if they don't make the most of it and wind up poor and uneducated.

See next page
Meanwhile, all this sickeningly sweet talk of amateurism has become annoying. The NCAA insists that athletes be treated like every other student, and universities crow about “student athletes.” But players in the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division 1A) aren’t like every other student, and NCAA amateurism regulations do more to ensure that than anything else. If universities were really as concerned about athletes’ academic success as their playing ability, athletic scholarships would be for four full years, not one year at a time.

It’s time for the NCAA to set aside its fiction that students who spend so much time and energy in their athletic pursuits that they can’t hold down a part-time job and study, too, are somehow supposed to be treated just like any other student. Many of its nit-picking amateurism rules should go.

Student football players with limited eligibility should not be on the university’s payroll, but they should have the full cost of attendance paid for and should be paid a reasonable stipend. The medical costs associated with injuries incurred while playing should be covered as long as they affect the athlete, as well.

Football Bowl Subdivision players inhabit a middle ground between amateurism and being employees. Colleges and the NCAA should deal with that reality realistically.
Alabama women's SEC basketball schedule finalized

Staff report

- The 2015-16 University of Alabama women's basketball schedule has been finalized. The league's SEC schedule was announced on the SEC Network Thursday.

  Alabama will play 16 regular-season SEC games, eight at home and eight on the road. Round-robin league play includes a single regular season game against 10 teams and a home and away series with Auburn and two rotating opponents that change annually. Those teams this season are Tennessee and Vanderbilt. Auburn is Alabama's permanent opponent. Alabama opens SEC play on Jan. 3 at home against LSU. The 2016 SEC tournament is March 2-6 in Jacksonville, Fla.

  Home season tickets can be purchased on RollTide.com.

### ALABAMA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2015-16 SEC SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>All Times Central</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
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<td>at Kentucky</td>
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<td>at Vanderbilt</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SEC Network+</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
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<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
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*Times TBA; dates may vary.*
ALABAMA BASKETBALL

Tide announces full 2016 schedule

Staff reports

The Alabama men’s basketball team will play home-and-home games against Auburn, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi State and South Carolina, the Southeastern Conference revealed Wednesday when it unveiled the 2016 men’s basketball composite league schedule.

The Crimson Tide has 18 games on its league slate in addition to a 12-game nonconference schedule, which was released in early August.


The Tide, which closes its nonconference schedule with four consecutive home games, plays two of its first three SEC games in Tuscaloosa. After opening the league slate at Ole Miss on Jan. 7, the Tide returns home to face Kentucky and South Carolina.

Alabama will then play six of its next 10 games on the road, beginning with a pair of road games at Vanderbilt and at Auburn. Other road contests include at South Carolina, at Mississippi State, at Florida, at LSU, at Kentucky and at Georgia.

Alabama’s home schedule includes LSU, Tennessee, Missouri, Texas A&M, Mississippi State, Auburn and Arkansas.

The SEC Network will televise the first three days of the SEC Basketball Tournament (March 9-13) from Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. The semifinals and championship game will be broadcast on ESPN.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Alabama at Dayton part of Tip-Off Marathon

Staff report

The University of Alabama will make its first appearance in ESPN's College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon when it plays at Dayton on Nov. 17. The Flyers and Crimson Tide will square off at noon on ESPN.

Defending national champion Duke and fellow Final Four participant Kentucky will meet in one game of the State Farm Champions Classic while Michigan State, which was also in the Final Four, faces Kansas in the other.

The doubleheader caps ESPN's eighth annual College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon which will feature 15 men's games and one women's — defending national champion Connecticut at Ohio State.

The marathon starts at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 16, with the women's game. It concludes with the doubleheader from Chicago's United Center, which starts at 6:30 p.m. Between the Chicago games, ESPN will show Georgetown at Maryland, the first time those local rivals have met since 2008.

The early morning matchups have Green Bay at East Tennessee State (5 a.m.), Stephen F. Austin at Northern Iowa (7 a.m.), and Valparaiso at Rhode Island (9 a.m.).

The Marathon's games, which commence every two hours, will be scattered across ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPNU.
Tide snags big-time recruit Ferguson for 2016

By Cecil Hurt
Sports Editor

When Avery Johnson took the University of Alabama men's basketball head coaching job in April, his top priority was recruiting — and the first 2016 recruit he visited was Terrance Ferguson in Dallas, Texas.

On Monday, that visit came full circle.

Ferguson, a 6-foot-7 wing who played last season at Prime Prep Academy in Dallas, committed to Alabama on Monday, choosing the Crimson Tide over perennial basketball powers like Kansas, Louisville, North Carolina and Baylor. He is the No. 11-ranked player nationally by both Rivals and ESPN.

"Coach Johnson is working to rebuild the program and I want to be a part of that," Ferguson said. "I had a great visit there (two weeks ago). I'm very happy with my decision."

One of four high school players who was chosen to play for the gold-medal winning USA Under-19 team in the FIBA U19 world championships, Ferguson is the first recruit to announce for the Crimson Tide's 2016 class. UA coaches cannot comment on recruits until after they sign in the November early signing period, but Johnson and assistant coaches Antoine Pettway and Scott Pospichal all made generically joyous statements on their Twitter account, including Johnson's "Buckle Up" catchphrase.

Ferguson played AAU basketball this summer for the Mo Williams Elite team and Williams — the former Alabama star now with the Cleveland Cavaliers — had high praise for the latest Crimson Tide commitment.

"Can I get a Roll Tide?" Williams said in an Instagram message to Ferguson. "My most loyal player ever in my program. Never played one game with a different program before joining MWA. And for you to resume your career at the best university in the world, I mean, come on now, it's Bama."

National recruiting analysts were quick to point out the impact that Ferguson could have for Alabama.

"Terrance is the wing that everyone is looking for; a big, long guy that is a big-time shooter, a big-time, open-floor athlete," said Eric Bossi, national basketball recruiting analyst for Rivals.com. "It's huge for Alabama."

"It was helpful that Coach Johnson had been around Dallas. He knew the people around Terrence and how to recruit him. But it isn't just that. Coaches think all the time that they are going to come in and get this big-time talent, but to pull it off, that's something different."

There has been speculation that Ferguson's commitment could help Alabama in its recruitment efforts with other blue-chip talent.

"He certainly can't hurt," Bossi said. "He's well-liked among his classmates. He's played with USA Basketball and knows those guys. You never know, but there is no way you can view it as anything but a positive."

Reach Cecil Hurt at cecil@tidesports.com or 205-722-0225
Future of college athletics

Failed union bid won't stop reforms

By Ralph D. Russo
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. | With or without a union, more rights and benefits are coming for college athletes.

Whether the NCAA schools that compete in big-time athletics can provide enough to keep at bay more ominous threats to college sports remains to be seen. Even the failed attempt to unionize the Northwestern University football players could be viewed as progress for those still pushing reform.

"I certainly don't think this is the end of this type of discussion," said David Ridpath, a professor of sports administration at Ohio University and president-elect of the Drake Group, a watchdog group for college sports. "And certainly regardless of what happens, this has energized the athletes' rights movement for years to come."

The National Labor Relations Board on Monday blocked a historic bid by Northwestern football players to form the nation's first college athletes' union.

In a unanimous decision, the board said the prospect of union and nonunion teams in college could lead to different standards at schools — from how much money players receive to how much time they practice — and create competitive imbalances on the field.

The new ruling annuls a 2014 decision by a regional NLRB director in Chicago who said scholarship football players are employees under U.S. law and thus entitled to organize. But Monday's decision did not directly address the question of whether the players are employees, which allowed the organizers of the movement to claim it was only a setback and not a total defeat.

"The door's not closed," said Ramogi Huma, a former UCLA football player and executive director of the advocacy group, the National College Players Association.

In explaining its ruling, the board said the biggest factor was the NLRB's jurisdiction, which extends only to private schools such as Northwestern and Notre Dame. The board repeatedly cited the need for standardized rules and policies in sports. Collective bargaining rights for one team would disrupt that uniformity. Public universities are subject to state labor laws.

Huma and former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter, who became the face of the union movement, said the bid to unionize helped advance NCAA reforms such as extended long-term health coverage for athletes, guaranteed

See COLLEGE | 3A

See next page
guaranteed four-year scholarships and the removal of restrictions on meals for athletes. Starting this school year, universities can begin paying stipends worth several thousands of dollars to college athletes to cover cost-of-attendance expenses beyond tuition, books and room and board.

Many in college sports have been pushing these reforms for years.

"Some of the changes that have been adopted were items that were on the Southeastern Conference agenda before the unionization effort was identified," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey told The Associated Press by phone. "But certainly as we've dealt with the external issues, the litigation and this, it's increased awareness to the extent there is an interest or desire in sharing credit. OK, but we're going to continue to focus on how we improve the support for our student-athletes.

"That's really been our focus from the beginning of the conversation, probably going back to 2010 or so."

Conference leaders have said they would like to decrease the time demands on athletes, give them more flexibility when making the decision to turn professional and provide more continuing education and health care. Some administrators have suggested that compensating athletes for the use of their names, images and likenesses would be reasonable.

Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick told the AP he never felt unionization was a serious threat to college sports, especially compared to the legal challenges facing the NCAA and its member schools.

"We'll never know, but I would have thought it likely that if the ballots were ever opened we would have found out the unionization effort probably failed," he said.

Last year's ruling against the NCAA in the Ed O'Bannon case, which would allow schools to pay athletes thousands of dollars for the use of their likenesses, is in the process of being appealed. Another case working its way through the court system challenges the rights of schools to cap compensation at the cost of a scholarship. The NCAA and individual member schools are facing numerous lawsuits by former college athletes over treatment of concussions. There is also the possibility of congressional intervention in college sports.
College athletes' union blocked

Labor Board stops bid by Northwestern University players

By Michael Tarm
The Associated Press

CHICAGO | The National Labor Relations Board on Monday blocked a historic bid by Northwestern University football players to form the nation's first college athletes' union, dealing a blow to a labor movement that could have transformed amateur sports.

In a unanimous decision, the board said the prospect of union and nonunion teams in college could lead to different standards at different schools — from how much money players receive to how much time they practice — and create competitive imbalances on the field.

The new ruling annuls a 2014 decision by a regional NLRB director in Chicago who said scholarship football players are employees under U.S. law and thus entitled to organize. But Monday's decision did not directly address the question of whether the players are employees.

Some observers said the ruling effectively ends any chance to establish labor unions in college athletics.

See College | 5A
Under U.S. law, an employee is regarded as someone who receives compensation for a service and is under the direct control of managers.

The board seemed to leave open the possibility of taking up the unionization issue again if it involved other schools or if conditions change for Northwestern football.

But Meisburg said the way the ruling highlights the challenges of organizing sports at private and state schools means the board is unlikely to consider another union petition from a college team.

"I don't see those institutional problems going away," Meisburg said.

Northwestern became the focal point of the labor fight in January 2014, when Colter announced plans to form the first U.S. labor union for college athletes. He appeared at a news conference for the College Athletes Players Association.

Three months later, regional NLRB Director Peter Sung Ohr issued his decision, saying Northwestern football players should be able to unionize. A month later, players cast secret ballots on whether to unionize. Those ballots were sealed during the appeal and will now be destroyed without being counted.

While NLRB decisions sometimes split along party lines, the three Democrats and two Republicans on the board all agreed.

Under U.S. law, an employee is regarded as someone who receives compensation for a service and is under the direct control of managers. In Northwestern's case, Ohr concluded coaches are the equivalent of business managers and scholarships are a form of pay.

On Monday, Waters criticized the NLRB for sidestepping the most sensitive question: Are scholarship players employees?

"It's like they had a hot potato tossed into their laps, and they took a year and a half of deliberations and said, 'We're going to toss it back,'" he said.

The board's decision was welcomed by the NCAA, which has been fighting lawsuits from former athletes over everything from head injuries to revenue earned from their likenesses in video games.

In a statement, the Indianapolis-based NCAA portrayed the board's ruling as recognition that it's trying to improve conditions for athletes.

"This ruling allows us to continue to make progress ... without risking the instability to college sports that the NLRB recognized might occur," it said.

Northwestern's vice president for university relations, Alan Cubbage, also welcomed the ruling. And he applauded pro-union players "for bringing national attention to these important issues."

The NCAA recently cleared the way for the five biggest conferences, including the Big Ten, to add player stipends to help athletes defray some of their expenses.

Northwestern, the Big Ten and the NCAA all argued against the unionization effort, saying that lumping college athletes into the same category as factory workers would change amateur athletics for the worse.

The specific goals of pro-union players included guaranteeing coverage of sport-related medical expenses for current and former players and reducing head injuries.
As room and board fees rise, students seek cheaper housing

By Larry Gordon
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

LOS ANGELES | When he moves off campus this fall, University of California, Los Angeles junior Will Van Der Wey said, he will miss the variety of dining hall meals. His homemade sandwiches just aren't going to be as appealing. But even if his food options shrink, his budget won't.

After sharing dorm rooms for two years, he is moving to a two-bedroom apartment in the Westwood area that he said will offer the chance to live and eat more cheaply, and have more independence from university-controlled housing. With rent shared by three friends and lower food costs, he anticipates saving about $2,000 by next summer, even after having to buy some second-hand furniture and dishes, silverware and glasses.

"Given the cost of tuition, a lot of students are eager to look for ways to save money. If moving off campus is a cheaper alternative than the dorms, that alone is enough to justify the decision," said the biology major from San Jose.

SEE CAMPUS | 7A
Many students at public and private colleges across California and the nation are facing such decisions as the average costs of room and board are rising at rates double that of general inflation. Those higher living costs are increasing student debt and, experts say, leading students to enroll at commuter schools instead of out-of-town options that might be a better academic fit.

In California, housing and food costs on most campuses continue to rise without the public attention given to tuition hikes. After political maneuvering and student protests, in-state tuition for University of California and California State undergraduates won't increase for the next two years, continuing freezes implemented three years ago. But on-campus room and board can outweigh tuition at many of those schools.

In 2015-16, the average cost of UC undergraduates' on-campus residence with a full meal plan will be about $14,200, which is $1,000, or 7.6 percent, higher than in 2011, when tuition last went up. In the Cal State system, where a smaller share of students live on campus, those costs will be $12,535, up $1,928, or 18 percent, since 2011.

Room and board bills have been steadily increasing between 2.5 percent and 3 percent a year at many schools across the country, according to Tom Ellett, former president of the Association of College and University Housing Officers - International.

"Electricity goes up, water prices go up, union salaries go up and you have to worry about deferred maintenance," said Ellett, senior associate vice president of student affairs at New York University, where he helps oversee dorms. In addition, he said, costs are boosted by new dorm construction and amenities, such as gyms or kitchen upgrades, that colleges add to compete with other schools.

Living costs in Southern California tend to be high. For example, the national average cost of room and board at private four-year colleges was $11,188 last year, according to a College Board survey. This fall, costs for living in a double room with a meal plan for the full school year at the University of Southern California and Loyola Marymount University will be about $13,800,
and about $14,200 at Occidental College, according to published rates.

Room and board bills at UCLA have risen about 2 percent in each of the last two years, a pattern that will continue "for the foreseeable future," according to Peter Angelis, assistant vice chancellor for housing and hospitality services.

UCLA has been renovating many of its dormitories, and the financing for those current and future projects, along with regular operating expenses of dorms and dining halls, are reflected in students' bills, he said.

"I definitely sympathize about anything that puts additional pressure on a parent or a student paying their way through the university," Angelis said.

But because the state does not fund construction and operation of dorms, he said UCLA must prepare for the residential needs of students decades ahead of time. He also said that dorm inflation is modest compared with jumps in rents for private housing around Westwood.

Among their many options, UCLA students this year can pay $11,436 for a bed in a triple and a food plan providing 11 meals a week, or $14,090 for a double room and 19 meals a week. (UCLA estimates that a student can reduce costs by about $4,000 by living off campus in an apartment and, of course, can cut costs much lower by living with family.)

Tuition and basic fees at UCLA are estimated to be $13,251 this fall.

Financial aid at many colleges and universities can help cover tuition as well as room and board if students prove a qualifying need. But for those who don't get enough aid, living costs are "a real issue, a huge issue," said Sandy Baum, a research professor at George Washington University and college pricing expert who consults for the College Board.

The University of California, Berkeley is freezing most of its room and board charges this year after raising them about 3 percent last year. Its costs, at $14,388 for 2015-16, already are among the highest in the UC system, in part because its buildings include some of UC's oldest and need seismic retrofits and other renovations, officials said.

Because of limited supply, Berkeley students are not guaranteed a spot on campus after their first year; if they want to remain on campus after that, they must apply through a lottery system.
JULIAN BOND: 1940-2015

Leading voice for equality and justice dies at age 75

While still in his 20s, Julian Bond was already one of the most charismatic and best-known figures of the civil rights movement. Tall, strikingly handsome and a gifted orator, he won a Supreme Court challenge in 1966 to be seated in the Georgia Legislature. He remained an outspoken voice against discrimination for more than 50 years as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, chairman of the NAACP and a professor at American University and the University of Virginia.

Bond died Saturday in a hospital in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He was 75.

His wife, Pamela Horowitz, said he became ill while on vacation and died of complications from vascular disease.

A onetime student of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Bond became active in the civil rights movement in his teens. He was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the early 1960s and was on the front lines of civil rights battles in the South. His name was briefly placed in nomination for the vice presidency at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, though he was too young to assume the office.

For a time in the 1960s and 1970s, there was open talk that Bond could well be the nation’s first black president.

President Barack Obama hailed Bond as a hero and as a friend to the first family. “Justice and equality was the mission that spanned his life,” the president said. “Julian Bond helped change this country for the better. And what better way to be remembered than that.”

Horace Julian Bond was born Jan. 14, in Nashville.

His father, Horace Mann Bond, was an educator who became president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where Julian Bond spent his youth.

Guests in the family home during Bond’s childhood included Albert Einstein and Paul Robeson.

In 1960, Bond founded SNCC, which he described as the “stock troops” who helped spread the fervor of the civil right movement. As the communications director, he worked alongside the organization’s chairman, the Rev. John Lewis, D-Ga., who would become a political rival.

Bond first gained national acclaim in 1965, when he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as the nation’s first African-American to serve on college campuses, inspiring young people across the nation.

Bond was denied a seat from taking his seat in the House of Representatives. He launched a short-lived bid for the presidency in 1976 but would never hold a higher office.

In 1986, Bond ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in a bitter Democratic primary race against Lewis, his former SNCC colleague. Bond lost 52 to 48 percent.

Months after the election, Bond’s first wife accused him of using cocaine and claimed he was having an affair. She recanted, but Bond’s image was tarnished.

With his political career ended at 46, Bond prematurely became something of a grand old man of the civil rights era.

“I can’t live up to other people’s ambitions for me,” Bond said in 1987. “I’m really flattered when somebody tells me you should be this or you should be that. But I have to do what I have to do.”

From 1998 to 2010, Bond was board chairman of the NAACP. He spoke out against the policies of the administration of President George W. Bush and the tea party movement, which he repeatedly called “the Taliban wing of American politics.”

His first marriage ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Pamela Horowitz, a former legal counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center; five children from his first marriage; and eight grandchildren.

Bond remained outspoken. He was among the few veterans of the civil rights movement to draw a link between racial discrimination of the 1960s and the drive for marriage equality.

His wife, Pamela, was leaving the intensive care unit this weekend when a nurse stopped her.

“She told me, ‘I want you to know it was a privilege to take care of him,’ said Horowitz, her voice quavering. ‘She said, ‘As a gay American, I thought he was here. And for her to say that for her to be the last person who was with him, I thought it was a nice way to end.’”