JULY 23, 2015

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Ted Cruz to deliver keynote at event

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner will be held Aug. 25

By Angel Coker
Staff Writer

In an effort to raise awareness of his presidential campaign among Republicans in Alabama, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas, will deliver the keynote address at the Tuscaloosa Republican Party's Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on Aug. 25.

The Lincoln-Reagan Dinner began in 2006 and has featured keynote speakers like Mitt Romney, a former Massachusetts governor and the GOP 2012 nominee, and Karl Rove, a political consultant and policy advisor who served as senior advisor to President George W. Bush.
The local Lincoln-Reagan Dinner also serves to recognize Republican leaders in the state. In the past, Gov. Robert Bentley and former U.S. Representative Spencer Bachus have been honored among others.

This year, Congressman Mo Brooks of Huntsville, who represents Alabama's fifth congressional district, will be honored. Brooks earned his law degree from the University of Alabama and once worked in the Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's Office.

"The purpose of the dinner is to raise money for the Tuscaloosa County Republican Party and increase awareness of conservative efforts of the Republican Party in Tuscaloosa County," said Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill.

The dinner will take place on August 25 at 7 p.m. in the North Zone of Bryant-Denny Stadium.

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**LINCOLN-REAGAN DINNER**

- **When:** Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.
- **Where:** In the North Zone of Bryant-Denny Stadium.
- **Cost:** Individual dinner tickets $100; tickets for photo with Ted Cruz $50.
- **More:** For tickets, contact Jim Zeanah at 205-345-8753 or tuscaloosagop@yahoo.com.
Individual tickets are $100. Tickets for a photo with Cruz, which will take place from 6-7 p.m., are $50.

Gold level sponsors who give $1,500 will receive 10 seats, 10 photo opportunity tickets and 10 tickets to the VIP reception, which will take place from 5-6 p.m.

Silver level sponsors who give $1,000 will receive 10 seats, six photo opportunity tickets and six tickets to the VIP reception.

All tickets must be purchased by Aug. 15. Contact Jim Zeanah at 205-345-8753 or tuscaloosagop@yahoo.com for tickets.

Merrill, who served as chairman of the dinner up until last year, said he was responsible for securing this year's speaker.

He said he thinks Cruz will highlight the policies of his presidential campaign and talk about the turmoil people with strong conservative values face today and how he believes the country can be improved.

Cruz officially announced he was running for the Republican nomination for president in March.

Cruz spent five years in private practice as a partner at one of the nation's largest law firms, where he led the firm's U.S. Supreme Court and national appellate litigation practice. He later became solicitor general of Texas, becoming the state's chief lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He has been a U.S. senator since 2013.
'Watchman' is right for the times

Provides a more realistic lens to view current events boiling beneath the surface

HAVING already been tipped off the Atticus wasn't the same Atticus, Jem was dead and Dill wasn't a major character, I read "Go Set a Watchman" with an eye for surprises that hadn't already been spoiled.

I found one nobody else would catch, because it was a purely personal thrill. In Chapter 7, when Jean Louise attends church with her family, the organist at Maycomb Methodist Church is named "Mrs. Clyde Haskins." I've lived in Alabama most of my life and rarely have known of a Haskins who wasn't part of my immediate family. I think there were four in the phone book in the Shoals, where I was raised, and only one of them wasn't an aunt or uncle. I once visited a friend in Ohio, and found an entire community there called Haskins and pages of them in the phone book, but none related to the thin Alabama branch from which I sprouted.

So having Harper Lee use my family name in her new book will now be a source of personal pride, though I laughed that she was the organist. All the Alabama Haskins' I know were raised Church of Christ, where we only raised our voices in praise to the Lord. The only instrument allowed was a pitch pipe.

Perhaps it is because I could picture my own family in its story that made "Go Set a Watchman" a page turner for me, just like "To Kill a Mockingbird" was in 10th grade English. I grew up in Sheffield and Tuscumbia, small Alabama towns about the size of Monroeville, and off the interstate by at least an hour. My folks did their best to raise me color blind, like Jean Louise, but that didn't stop me from hearing the "N" word a lot, and though the schools were integrated, most of the black families were segregated into one area of town we called "Baptist Bottom." I even stood across the street and watched in confusion in the late 70s as the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross just a few blocks from my house, in view of "Baptist Bottom." Some of my friends cheered it on. I just remember not really understanding why they would do that, and feeling guilty even watching.

Like many products of small Alabama towns, I can identify with Maycomb and Scout's naive ignorance of racial tension. I understand why she was so blindsided by it when she returned as an adult in "Watchman."

I can see why this new book wasn't released in the 1960s. It's a much more real and hard look at the relationships between white and black people back then. "Mockingbird," thanks to the rose-colored glasses through which Scout then viewed the world was a more comfortable, less threatening discussion about race for the time.

With the serious race relations issues in the headlines today, "Watchman" provides a more realistic literary lens through which we can view the issues that still boil under the surface, and sometimes boil over, in small town Alabama and big-city America.
Lee's 'Go Set a Watchman' sells over 1M copies

'Watchman' is fastest selling book in publisher's history

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK | Critics dismissed it as a rough draft for "To Kill a Mockingbird" and readers despaired over an aging, racist Atticus Finch.

But Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman" is still a million seller.

HarperCollins announced Monday that "Go Set a Watchman" in its combined print, electronic and audio formats has sold 1.1 million copies in the U.S. and Canada, a figure which includes first-week sales and months of pre-orders. The publisher stunned the world in February when it revealed that a second novel was coming from Lee, who had long insisted that "To Kill a Mockingbird" would be her only book.

HarperCollins, where authors have included Michael Crichton and Veronica Roth, is calling "Watchman" its fastest seller in history.

Other books have sold much faster: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," published in the U.S. by Scholastic in 2007, sold 8.3 million copies in its first 24 hours.

"Watchman" was released July 14 and as of early Monday remains at No. 1 on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com, with "Mockingbird" also in the top 10. HarperCollins has increased an initial print run of 2 million copies for "Watchman" to 3.3 million.

"Watchman" was completed before Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Mockingbird," but is set in the same Alabama community 20 years later. Critics and readers were startled to find the heroic Atticus of "Mockingbird" disparaging blacks and condemning the Supreme Court's decision to outlaw segregation in public schools.

Questions about the book arose almost immediately after HarperCollins announced it, with Lee scholars noting that "Watchman" was the work of a young and inexperienced author and friends and admirers of the 89-year-old author worrying that the book had been approved without her participation. State officials in Lee's native Alabama, where she resides in an assisted living facility, met with her and concluded she was alert and able to make decisions about "Watchman," which Lee's attorney, Tonja Carter, has said she discovered last year.
He was ‘an Alabama guy through and through’

BOB CARLTON
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Doug Layton, a Birmingham radio legend who had a part in a Beatles record-burning campaign in the 1960s and for nearly 30 years was in the broadcast booth for some of the University of Alabama’s classic football victories, died Wednesday night in his Vestavia Hills home.

Mr. Layton, who battled cancer for the past 2½ years, was 81.

In 1966, Mr. Layton and Tommy Charles, his radio partner at Birmingham station WAQY-AM, made international news when they encouraged listeners to burn their Beatles records in a public bonfire after John Lennon was quoted as saying the Beatles were more famous than Jesus.

Although no such bonfire was ever reported in Birmingham, Mr. Layton’s notoriety for his role in the ban-the-Beatles protest followed him throughout the remainder of his career, according to his wife, Villeta Layton.

“He would rather not talk about it,” Villeta Layton said this week. “He would roll his eyes (when he was asked about it). It was something that was said at the time, and it just ballooned. “When that anniversary comes up every year, they call him from the BBC to talk about it.

Layton, Page 8
Broadcasting career spanned stints of 6 Tide coaches

Layton

Continued from Page 1

"One year, they were going to fly him to England to be interviewed, but he didn't do it."

Later, as a color analyst and pregame host on Alabama football radio broadcasts from 1969 to 2001, Mr. Layton called some of the iconic games and moments in Crimson Tide football history, including Paul "Bear" Bryant's 315th career win in 1981 and Van Tiffin's 52-yard field goal to beat Auburn in the 1985 Iron Bowl.

Two of Mr. Layton's personal favorite games, his wife said, were the Tide's 1971 season-opening upset of Southern California, the game in which Bryant secretly unveiled the wishbone offense that would dominate a decade, and the Sugar Bowl thrashing of a brash Miami squad to capture the 1992 national championship.

"He loved Alabama so," Viletta Layton said. "It was his heart. When he found out that his cancer had spread, he said, 'If I could just make it to the (upcoming) Wisconsin game on Sept. 5. ... He loved to keep up with them. He loved to support them any way he could.'"

'An Alabama guy'

Jerry Duncan, who was part of the Alabama radio team with Mr. Layton for more than 20 years, said Mr. Layton's dry wit brought color and levity to the broadcasts.

Duncan recalled a particularly memorable moment before an Alabama-Tennessee game in Knoxville.

"I was down on the field and Doug and I were talking. And while we were talking, the handler of (Smokey) came out of the tunnel, Duncan said.

"And I said, 'Doug, down on the other end of the field, I see old Smokey coming out. And Doug said, 'Yeah, if I had my 30-aught-6, I could drop him from here.'"

In the broadcast booth, Mr. Layton worked alongside a trio of Crimson Tide play-by-play announcers — first John Forney, then Paul Kennedy and finally, Eli Gold — and his career spanned the coaching stints of Paul Bryant, Ray Perkins, Bill Curry,
Gene Stailling, Mike DeBose and Dennis Franchione.

"Traveling around with John Forney and Doug Layton was like traveling with two movie stars," Duncan said. "You go into an airport, and everybody recognized Doug Layton and John Forney.

"They were iconic," he added. "(Alabama) made a run in the 70s where they won over 100 games in 10 years, and I don't think that had ever been done before. And Doug and John were a huge part of that... They were the voice of Alabama football, at a period of time where Alabama, at that time, was at its greatest height."

After Mr. Layton retired from the Crimson Tide radio team following the 2001 football season, his wife said, he remained a Tide fan, but being in the press box all those years spoiled him.

"He sat in the stands one time after that, and it was kind of mucous," she said. "He said, 'I don't think I like this.' For 32 years, he had been in the press box. So they presented him with a lifetime pass at the press box. Since 2002, that's where we've been watching the games."

For 11 years, Mr. Layton also doubled as the radio play-by-play announcer for Alabama basketball games, and although football was his first love, he knew his basketball, too, former Tide basketball coach Wimp Sanderson said.

"He lived and died Alabama football, and to a lesser extent, he was very interested in basketball," Sanderson said. "He was an Alabama guy through and through."

After one particular down year on the court, Mr. Layton good-naturedly ribbed Sanderson in the locker room at Birmingham Country Club before a charity golf tournament.

"I was in one stall and he was in the other, and he said, 'Do you think you can teach them to dribble?'" Sanderson recalled.

Beginnings

Mr. Layton was born Douglas William Layton in Sylacauga in 1933, and he played football, baseball and basketball at S.B. Comer High School.

When he was 15, he got his start in radio hosting an afternoon show called "Digg ing with Doug" on his hometown station WMLS-AM.

After attending Jacksonville State University and serving in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Layton was on the radio in Montgomery before he came to Birmingham to be a disc jockey at Top Ten station WSGN-AM in 1960.

He subsequently teamed with Tommy Charles, first at WYDE-AM and then at WAQY-AM, where they launched their Beatles program.

"It's one of my fondest memories," recalled J. Willoughby, whose father, John Ed Willoughby, became Mr. Layton's radio partner years later.

"I was real young, 5 or 6 years old. I was such a Beatles fan even back then. I remember thinking it was mandatory that, if you lived in Birmingham, you had to go buy your Beatles records. And then my mom told me that was not the case, that I didn't have to go burn my Beatles records if I didn't want to."

Neither did Charles nor Mr. Layton. A city ordinance banned any such public burnings, Willoughby said.

"Doug said he could have made a fortune in all of the Beatles albums that people sent him to burn that they didn't really want," Willoughby said. "And Doug always liked the Beatles, too. He kind of went along with Tommy on that, as far as I could tell."

Nearly three decades later, after Charles died in 1996, Mr. Layton teamed with John Ed Willoughby, who also had been Charles' on-air partner, to co-host a morning radio show on WEBC-AM and later on WAPI-AM.

"They were on the radio together for nearly 20 years, and in more recent years, after retiring from their weekday morning routine, they continued to host a Saturday-morning sports-talk show on WFOX-AM and WYDE-PM."

A ham at heart, Mr. Layton also was something of a thespian, appearing in nearly a dozen plays and musicals for director Irving Stern at the Jewish Community Center and playing Big Jule alongside Joe Namath's Sky Madison in a summerfest production of "Guys and Dolls" in 1982.

Singing, though, was not necessarily Mr. Layton's strong suit.

"Doug has a nice voice, but he can't carry a tune," his wife said. "After one of his shows, the review came out in the newspaper, and they said there were eight beautiful voices and Doug Layton was funny."

A bygone era

Mr. Layton's death comes less than four months after his on-and-off-air buddy Willoughby died in March.

And with their passing, so, too, goes another link to Birmingham's past.

"It's a bygone era," said J. Willoughby, John Ed's son. "The thing about Dad and Doug's show, the one they did on Saturdays, it was just them. They didn't have a producer or anything. And it was no-holds barred.

"It was the last summation of just old-school, turn-the-mikes-on, let-the-phones-go Birmingham radio. It was just neighbors (talking). People felt comfortable hearing their voices."

Mr. Layton is survived by his wife of 53 years, Villes Layton; a daughter, Tyler Layton; a son, Doug Layton Jr.; two sisters, Debra Layton Brown; and a brother, James Dale Layton.
Doug Layton was a color analyst and pregame host for the Alabama Crimson Tide football games for 32 years and was the Tide basketball play-by-play announcer for 11 years. Layton died Wednesday at the age of 81.

Birmingham disc jockeys Tommy Charles, top, and Doug Layton of radio station WAQY rip Beatles album covers in 1966. The broadcasters started a "Ban the Beatles" campaign after John Lennon was quoted as saying his group is more popular than Jesus. (File)

Color analyst Doug Layton, left, was part of the popular Alabama Crimson Tide radio team that included play-by-play announcer John Forney and sideline reporter Jerry Duncan. (Courtesy/Layton family)
Former UA radio host Layton dies at age 81

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

The state of Alabama lost another broadcasting icon.

Doug Layton, a Birmingham radio host and former University of Alabama football color analyst and pre-game host, passed away in his home in Vestavia Hills on Wednesday night at the age of 81.

Layton is perhaps most well known in the state for his work on the Alabama football radio broadcasts, working alongside the likes of play-by-play broadcasters John Forney, Paul Kennedy and Eli Gold. His career included six Alabama coaches, including Paul W. "Bear" Bryant, Ray Perkins, Bill Curry, Gene Stallings, Mike DuBose and Dennis Franchione.

Current Alabama men's basketball play-by-play broadcaster and football sideline reporter Chris Stewart shadowed Layton early in his career.

"Stalked might be a more accurate description," Stewart quipped Thursday from SEC Media Days.

"When I was an undergrad at the University of Montevallo... Doug was kind enough to just let..."

See LAYTON I 2C
me kind of hang around," Stewart said. "He would let me sit, talk, listen. He would talk to me during breaks or before and after shows."

Many remember his sense of humor, always quick with a witty joke.

"He was a funny man," Stewart said. "He could deliver a line with a snap of a finger and was just awesome."

Layton's death is another blow to the state of Alabama's broadcasting family on the heels for Kenny Stabler's passing last week from colon cancer.

"It's been a rough week," Stewart said. "We knew Doug had been since, didn't know about Kenny, but two guys who were just legends.

"It's a sad time knowing that they're gone, but so many of us talked about both of them and we can't stop smiling because one story and one memory leads to another and virtually all of them are hilarious. And some of them I can share. Not all. But some of them.

"And that's part of what makes you extremely grateful that you had a chance to know those guys and be around them."

Reach Aaron Sutlles at aaron@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0229.
PAYING FOR TUITION

How many UA students seek sugar daddies?

MADISON UNDERWOOD
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As college tuition costs rise, it’s natural for students to find ways to pay for their books, classes or living expenses. And some of them have found it not through waiting tables or work-study programs, but through, ahem, arrangements.

That is, financial arrangements and relationships with older male and occasionally female suitors called sugar daddies or sugar mommas. A website called SeekingArrangement.com designed to facilitate those relationships offers two types of accounts: one for sugar daddies/mommas (“Pampers Sugar Babies in return for companionship”) and one for sugar babies (“Provides companionship in exchange for being pampered”).

“Members are able to form relationships on their own terms,” SeekingArrangement.com Public Relations Coordinator Ashleigh Stevens told AL.com in an email. “These arrangements are structured to fit the lifestyles of the men and women involved.”

According to that site, the University of Alabama is the eighth fastest growing university for “sugar baby” sign-ups (usually female, but occasionally male young people seeking financial and romantic arrangements with sugar daddies/mommas). Last year saw 210 Alabama students sign up for the service, which is free to sugar babies, but not for the sugar daddy/momma.

That’s up from 2012, when UA was the 19th fastest growing school for the site. That year, the site saw 96 female students sign up. Students make up 1.45 million of the site’s 4.5 million users. Of those 1.45 million students, 900,000 are in the U.S. Most — 73 percent — are undergraduate students. According to the site, the average allowance given to sugar babies is $3,000.

The finances it takes to further one’s education is far from being exclusively monetary,” said Brandon Wade, the CEO and founder of SeekingArrangement.com. “These generous men not only relieve the hardships of the financial aspect, but the additional burdens of stress and time it also brings. Those costs aren’t expressed in dollar signs.”

According to the site, there are more than 40,000 Alabamians signed up for the service. That includes 28,065 female and 5,306 male sugar babies, 6,066 sugar daddies, and 558 sugar mommies.

FASTEST GROWING SUGAR BABY SCHOOLS IN 2015

(Rank, University, Number of new sign-ups in 2014)
1. University of Texas, 425
2. Arizona State University, 403
3. New York University, 398
4. Kent State University, 387
5. Georgia State University, 376
6. University of Central Florida, 290
7. Indiana University, 240
8. University of Alabama, 210
9. Temple University, 204
10. University of California, Los Angeles, 199
11. Columbia University, 187
12. University of Michigan, 186
14. University of Minnesota, 179
15. Boston University, 178
16. Tulane University, 172
17. Penn State University, 163
18. Virginia Commonwealth University, 160
19. Louisiana Commonwealth University, 159
20. Florida State University, 158
TUSCALOOSA

XANAX SEIZURE

Narcotics agents in Tuscaloosa arrested a 22-year-old University of Alabama student accused of possessing massive amounts of the prescription anti-anxiety pill Xanax.

Sgt. Brent Blankley said agents with the West Alabama Narcotics Task Force conducted a monthlong investigation that eventually led to the doorstep of the alleged dealer, Ryan Patrick Jones.

Jones was arrested at a home on Meador Drive, close to the University of Alabama campus, where agents found more than 10,000 Xanax pills and 141 grams of marijuana. Jones was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first-degree possession of marijuana and selling drugs near a school.

Stephen Dethrage
Crews find another Civil War munition

Eleventh cannonball is unearthed near UA's Rowand-Johnson Hall

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

Work crews at the University of Alabama uncovered a cannonball on Friday near the site where a cache of 10 were discovered last month.

The crews discovered the Civil-War-era cannonball on Friday morning while installing wiring for lighting and irrigation systems in front of Rowand-Johnson Hall to the northwest of the Quad.

Employees were asked to leave the building, and the stretch of Stadium Drive in front of the hall was closed for about 45 minutes while explosive ordnance disposal technicians from the Tuscaloosa Police Department removed the cannonball, said Cathy Andreen, UA media relations director.

Like the previous cache, the cannonball will be returned to the university museums' collection if successfully defused, Andreen said.

The site was scanned with ground penetrating radar in June, but the cannonball discovered Friday went undetected. At the time, a pile of soil prevented the spot

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from being scanned, Andreen said.

The area was rescanned with a metal detector and ground-penetrating radar on Friday, but no further signs of buried shells were discovered, she said.

On Friday afternoon, a crew from UA’s Office of Archeological Research was scanning the area in front of Rowand-Johnson Hall with ground-penetrating radar along grid lines.

Virgil Beasley, a cultural resources investigator with the office and part of the team conducting the survey, was unsurprised the previous scan missed the cannonball.

“It would be probably very hard to detect that single cannonball if you weren’t expecting it,” he said.

Campus historians say the site near the Gorgas House was possibly a gun emplacement to defend the campus during the Civil War. Cannonballs could be either solid shot or shells which contained an explosive charge. Much of UA’s original antebellum campus, which was home to Confederate cadets, was burned by Union forces led by Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton in April 1865 during the last days of the war.

Beasley said the OAR crew found some evidence, such as packed earth, during its scan that supports the theory.

During the scan, the crew also found a linear metal signature — possibly an old pipe — buried about 6 feet below the surface, Beasley said.

No further updates were available about the cannonballs uncovered last month. Tuscaloosa Police Department explosive ordnance disposal technicians are maintaining the cannonballs in a secure explosives magazine, Sgt. Brent Blankley said at the time. The process of rendering the cannonballs inert will be undertaken by a qualified historian with experience in the field of Civil War munitions with assistance from the technicians, Blankley said.

Reach Ed Enoch at ed.enoch@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0209.
Bridge work continues on University Boulevard

Will not be finished in time to handle UA football game traffic

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

Efforts to replace the historic viaduct bridge on University Boulevard are ongoing, but state highway officials say the work will not be completed before the end of football season.

Brad Darden, preconstruction engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation’s West Central Region, said contractors currently are placing the form work for pouring the concrete deck that will serve as the riding surface of the bridge.

Work to ready this surface is expected to begin within the next two weeks, he said.

ALDOT said the $6.8 million bridge replacement project — $5 million of which is for construction alone — still is on pace for completion in December, meaning it likely will be impassible for the duration of the University of Alabama’s home games.

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While the state held off on dismantling the 70-year-old bridge until the 2014 season was over, its yearlong construction timetable has made such efforts impossible for this year.

Tuscaloosa city officials have had a detour in place since the work began last year.

Motorists can use 15th Street and Veterans Memorial Parkway by way of Kicker Road to reach Alberta, as well as Jack Warner Parkway to access Alberta via 25th Avenue.

ALDOT also has two lengthy detours with state-controlled highways around the project.

Motorists heading north will be directed to McFarland Boulevard, then to Skyland Boulevard and then back to University Boulevard in Cottondale.

Southbound motorists will be directed to Skyland Boulevard from Cottondale to McFarland Boulevard and then back to University Boulevard near DCH Regional Medical Center.

When the bridge project was originally unveiled in January 2011, ALDOT officials said the construction would be timed to begin and end outside of the college football season.

But the destructive tornado that struck April 27, 2011, affected some areas in the bridge replacement plan.

As a result, retaining walls that were proposed as a means to eliminate the need for rights-of-way while reducing underground utility relocation have been eliminated.

Now, there will be grassed slopes on the northeast, southeast and southwest ends of the bridge. The only retaining wall will be the one near the new Bryce Hospital.

The new bridge will have 11- to 12-foot lanes with a 10-foot sidewalk on the north side and a 5-foot sidewalk on the south side.

Plans also call for resurfacing University Boulevard between Seventh Avenue East and 21st Avenue East on both sides of the bridge, which crosses over Kicker Road and a portion of railroad tracks owned by Alabama Southern Railroad.

Reach Jason Morton at jason.morton@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0200.
Above the surface

Archaeology office curating items collected during TVA project

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

Researchers with the University of Alabama's Office of Archeological Research are in the middle of a project to rehabilitate a collection of tens of thousands of artifacts collected in Alabama during the 1930s and 1940s.

The work, which began in February, is a collaborative effort between the Tennessee Valley Authority, which owns the collection, and the university, which is curating it for the government-owned power company. The work is likely to last several years.

"TVA would like to see more academic research conducted with these collections, and improving the inventory of these artifacts and their condition will allow more students to easily access the data for this purpose," said Erin Pritchard, archaeological specialist with TVA's Natural Resource Planning & Programs, Reservoir Property & Resource Management.

The Office of Archaeological Research is putting the artifacts — many of which remain in the collection bags they arrived in from the field — in archival-quality bags and boxes and adding information tags per federal guidelines on curation, said Matt Gage, director of OAR. The information about the collection will be part

See next page
TVA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

of a searchable database that will be accessible to researchers, Gage said.

The collection includes 1,456 boxes and tens of thousands of pieces that span a 13,000-year time period of state history.

The artifacts, items from Native American life to European trade goods, were collected by archaeologists and researchers with TVA and UA with labor provided by the Works Projects Administration in the Guntersville, Wheeler and Pickwick reservoir basins in the 1930s and 1940s before the sites were inundated.

“They really were the first large scale excavations in Alabama. What they were finding was some of the most amazing materials,” Gage said.

The pieces received a preliminary analysis 70 years ago, but have predominantly remained in storage since then. The collection was moved to UA after World War II, Gage said.

“They have been trying to play catch up,” Gage said of TVA. “At this point, they are trying to make a concerted effort to really address these collections.”

As part of the rehabilitation, Gage said the researchers are also conducting a limited re-analysis of the material. The re-examination is yielding relationships and information about the region that went unrecognized during the preliminary study, Gage said.

“It is showing new relationships between the people across the region, cultural boundaries that we never recognized before,” Gage said. “For us, it is a fantastic opportunity.”

Gage used the example of vessels collected in Alabama that were typically made in the Yazoo River basin in Mississippi or from Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

By making the materials more accessible through the searchable database, Gage said the office hopes there will be more scholarship on the materials as a result.

“It is a heck of a lot easier when you have a database you can query,” Gage said.

The researchers working on the re-analysis are planning articles, and the office also hopes to generate a book out of the project, Gage said.

Reach Ed Enoch at ed.enoch@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0209.
UA professors study Alabama solar farm

Solar farm will promote economic growth

By Christian Elliott | Contributing Writer

A northern Alabama county is on its way to cheaper energy.

In May of 2015, UA professors Samuel Addy and Ahmad Ijaz wrote the study about the new $150 million solar energy farm that will be created within Lauderdale County, Alabama. The study, titled “Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Solar Energy Project in Lauderdale County, Alabama,” was prepared for Bradley Arant Bould Cummings LLP, a firm out of Birmingham who is a major player in the construction of the plant. Both Addy and Ijaz work in the Culverhouse College of Commerce. They were the business and economic minds of the project, which proved to be a time-consuming one.

"Depending on the project, it takes about 15 to 30 days [in order to create the study] because you have to build the models and everything, plus you can devote all your day to one project," Ijaz said.

Within the study, Addy and Ijaz laid out economic impacts that would be at hand with the construction and production of this project, including the output, earnings and employment. Summarizing the logistics of the project, the solar energy farm is planned on being in operation for 30 years, in which the project will produce $145.8 million in output. The project is also predicted to bring in nearly $24.5 million in earnings and will bring 437 new jobs to Lauderdale County.

The 80 MW solar energy plant, to be constructed on a 640-acre patch of land in Lauderdale County, is predicted to bring millions of dollars of economic benefits to the surrounding communities, including the local schools earning $3.8 million in taxes.

The U.S. is on pace to complete its one millionth solar installation in 2015 ...

— Angela Garrone

The plan, which is a “Utility-Scale Solar Power” project, will be the first of its kind in the state of Alabama. Solar power is a reliable source of energy that is more environmental friendly and contains more stable fuel prices.

"The U.S. is on pace to complete its one millionth solar installation in 2015, and solar capacity is expected to double by the end of 2016—which will reduced carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to taking 10 million cars off the road or shutting down 12 coal-fired power plants," said Angela Garrone, a Southeast energy research attorney for The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

With the constant production of this type of solar energy plants nationwide, the amount of carbon emissions that are present will be reduced drastically.

The project is to begin construction in December and will likely be finished by the end of 2016. NextEra Energy Resources, an energy company, is aiming to wave taxes within Lauderdale County for the next 10 years, excluding school taxes.

"It would be a 10-year abatement of non educational taxes. After 10 years, it becomes fully taxable," said Chris Grissom, attorney for Bradley Arant Bould Cummings LLP.
BIRMINGHAM SHOULD PURSUE AN INNOVATION DEPOT 2.0

Like most major metros, Birmingham is trying to improve its status as an attractive place for startups and high-potential tech companies.

Fortunately, the Magic City has some unique assets to help it in that high-stakes competition.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is one, thanks to its research capabilities and status in the health care world.

Southern Research, a nonprofit working on some of the world's most complicated problems, is another.

One of the biggest pieces to Birmingham's startup scene, however, is Innovation Depot.

The incubator has received national acclaim, while growing and churning out successful businesses into the local economy.

One of the best things about the Depot is its culture. With dozens of companies in a range of interconnected industries, it serves as a veritable sounding board for the executives in its midst – allowing entrepreneurs both seasoned and new to bounce ideas off one another.

There's no place quite like it in Birmingham, but should there be?
We explored that question in last week's Cover Story, which laid out the case for an Innovation Depot 2.0 in Birmingham—a new landing place for the incubator's successful graduates that could create a similar startup-centric culture to the one found at the Depot.

Many local entrepreneurs say Birmingham needs a place like that, given the challenge of finding the types of flexible commercial real estate space a rapidly growing young company needs.

Finding those types of spaces in Birmingham is hard enough. Finding one with a Depot-like culture in the city's Entrepreneurial District is even more challenging.

A new landing spot could solve both of those common challenges for young Birmingham companies.

Fortunately, this is one case where Atlanta has laid out a nice road map for the Magic City to borrow.

There, an entrepreneur created Atlanta Tech Village, a space designed specifically for growing startups in mind. It has attracted companies from a range of industries and sparked the type of culture companies crave when they leave the Depot.

We would love to see a similar model happen in Birmingham, but it won't be easy or cheap.

Whether it's a developer, a successful CEO or a public-private endeavor, someone is going to have to take the lead on creating a new landing spot for Birmingham's entrepreneurs.

It should be the business community, because we have the most to gain from turning Birmingham into a haven for startups.

By creating a place for early stage companies to further their growth, we'll be creating major contributors to the economy—and making it more likely they'll stay in town.

It could also help our efforts to lure more young, high-potential companies to the region and increase our marketability to startups and entrepreneurs.

More importantly, not every city has a facility like an Innovation Depot 2.0—even though some do. In a decade or two, it's likely many more will.

We should take action now and be a leader, rather than a follower.
BIRMINGHAM

Some UAB faculty get hefty doses of drug company money

Medical school receives more than $12 million

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The medical school at UAB received more than $12 million from drug and device companies for research last year, along with $1.3 million in general payments, which can include everything from free textbooks to grants and royalties.

Dr. Richard Whitley, for example, holds an endowed chair in pediatrics at the UAB School of Medicine, faculty appointments in six centers, prestigious posts with the federal government and the past-presidency of an eminent infectious diseases society. He also earned about $500,000 last year as a paid member of the board of directors for Gilead Sciences Inc., a pharmaceutical company that developed antiviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

University administrators approve and encourage some collaboration with drug and device companies. But similar arrangements at other medical schools have raised concerns about the autonomy and integrity of medical education. Dr. Marcia Angell, former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, has urged medical schools to cut all ties to drug and device companies. An Association of American Medical Colleges task force looked at the issue in 2008.

"Over recent decades, medical schools and teaching hospitals have become increasingly dependent on industry support of their core educational missions," authors wrote in an association report. "This reliance raises concerns because such support, including gifts, can influence the objectivity and integrity of academic teaching, learning, and practice, thereby calling into question the commitment of academia and industry together to promote the public's interest by fostering the most cost-effective, evidence-based medical care possible."
Faculty required to disclose payments

UAB

Continued from Page 1

Administrators at UAB say industry funding can be a critical source of support for scientific research. Last year, the medical school received about $221 million from the National Institutes of Health for research, compared to just $12 million from drug and device companies. Still, funds from pharmaceutical companies can be critical in an era of declining federal support for medical research, said Richard Marchase, vice president for research and economic development at UAB.

“We are very dedicated to doing the kinds of work that will allow us to get pharmaceuticals into the hands of our patients,” Marchase said. “An important way to do that is to form cooperative relationships with various pharmaceutical companies.”

Tamiflu study

An example is a study of Tamiflu funded by the drug company Roche at several sites around the country, including UAB, that led to its approval for emergency use in children under 2, Whitley said.

Marchase said the university does not allow drug companies to exert influence on the outcomes of research studies, and that the school maintains the right to publish unfavorable results.

One example is a drug called Pleconaril, developed by ViroPharma, which was tested as a treatment for newborn sepsis.

“It didn’t work,” Whitley said. “And we published it as a negative study.”

Whitley said he has used his position at Gilead to match researchers with funding. The company helped fund a pilot study for a breast cancer treatment after Whitley introduced the researcher to people at the company. Gilead is going to put more money into a follow-up study, Whitley said.

Full disclosure

Faculty members at UAB must receive approval for all outside employment and relationships with drug and device companies. They file disclosure forms with the university detailing all payments.

Whitley isn’t the only faculty member who received big payments from drug companies. Dr. Jeffrey Curtis in the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology received almost $314,000 from Pfizer for consulting, which was paid to the university.

Dr. Richard J. Whitley of the Bevill Biomed Research Building at UAB earned about $500,000 last year as a paid member of the board of directors for Gilead Sciences Inc., a pharmaceutical company that developed antiviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. (File)

“I’ve gone out of my way to make sure I’m not doing research for the pharmaceutical companies.”

DR. RICHARD J. WHITLEY
UAB RESEARCHER

Whitley said he plans to use the money he receives from Gilead to endow a faculty chair in his parents’ name.

“I think we need to teach people at this institution how to interact with drug companies so everything is totally transparent,” Whitley said. “For patients, for colleagues, for administrators and to the community.”

Physicians at UAB who have relationships with device and drug companies cannot prescribe medications from affiliated companies to patients, Whitley said. If a patient needs a drug that a doctor has received funding to research or promote, he would need to seek a prescription from another provider.

Whitley cannot be involved in any research at UAB funded by Gilead.

“Our message to our faculty has been, ‘Hey, these relationships are not illegal, they are not prohibited,’” said Brian Bates, chief compliance officer at UAB Health System. “In fact, right in our policy it says that external activity is encouraged. Why? Because we have thought leaders. It’s the way you go about it. We want to be transparent.”

Recent policy changes

In recent years, the school has changed its policies on drug and device companies. Several years ago, the American Medical Students Association gave UAB a D for its policies on conflict of interest. Since school tightened requirements and enacted rules restricting companies’ access to campus, that grade has risen to an A.

Whitley said his research is not driven by the needs of drug companies.

“I’ve gone out of my way to make sure I’m not doing research for the pharmaceutical companies,” Whitley said. “So I have a basic research lab that looks at the ways herpes simplex can kill tumor cells in the brain.”

He is also working on a large study of investigational treatments for SARS, MERS and Ebola.

“And it will not be developed by the pharmaceutical industry, because the pharmaceutical industry has no interest in Ebola, MERS and SARS,” he said.
HEALTH CARE

In hospitals, is July the cruelest month?

It's when new residents start jobs, and more medical mistakes could occur.

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July is an exciting time of year for thousands of aspiring doctors who start on-the-job training at the beginning of the month, but some research suggests it can be a dangerous time to be a patient.

The July effect is a rumored rise in medical mistakes that coincides with the influx of new residents. In Britain, residents start in August, which has been called the "killing season" because mortality rates rise by 6 to 8 percent.

Research on the July effect has been mixed, with some studies showing an increase in medical mistakes and others showing no difference.

In 2011, Dr. John Q. Young, a psychiatrist and residency director at the School of Medicine at Hofstra University, led a review of all the research on the July effect. His research showed that overall, mortality goes up and efficiency goes down at teaching hospitals.

"We found support that mortality goes up and length of stay goes up," Young said. "What we don't know is the magnitude of the effect."

But at UAB, researchers found no difference in mortality rates in July compared to other months, according to spokesman Bob Shepard.

The annual rite of medical education — when first-year residents begin on-the-job training and more senior residents gain more responsibility — is a process unique to medicine. Economists have studied other types of turnover, such as changes that occur when presidential administrations change, but none of them compare to the annual influx of new residents in July, Young said.

Instead, it's like subbing out a quarter of the players with rookies in the last quarter of a football game, and switching the positions of all the remaining players except the quarterback — who is the attending physician. In that scenario, mistakes are bound to happen, Young said.

Dr. Craig Hoesley, associate dean for undergraduate medical education at UAB, said first-year residents receive intensive supervision.

"None of them are jettisoned off to practice independently on their own," he said.

Residents’ shifts lightened

The studies that found an increase in medical mistakes in July included data from years before the federal government limited resident work hours in 2003. It's possible the long shifts that preceded those changes could have caused an increase in medical errors, Hoesley said.

"This notion of the July effect may have been a real thing," Hoesley said. "But it may be a little overblown."

The mortality studies don't account for other changes in July, including the fact that patients may be on vacation and more active than usual. The July 4th holiday may also lead to more serious injuries that send patients to the hospital.

Young said many medical schools have changed policies to reduce errors in July by subjecting new residents to boot camps and increased supervision.

At UAB, extensive training

Hoesley said orientation for new residents at UAB lasts several days and includes extensive training on hospital policies and technology. Once first-year residents start on the ward, they join a team that may include senior residents, fellows who have completed residency and an attending physician. Senior residents and attending physicians collaborate on and approve any treatment plan developed by a resident, he said.

"Graduate medical education is much more structured today than it was 10 or 15 years ago," Hoesley said.

Still, first-year residents must adjust to a new role where they work as part of a treatment team, not as students trying to earn a certain grade.

"It's a really big transition from student to doctor," Young said.

Hoesley said medical students at UAB spend a lot of time in hospitals before they graduate medical school, and that they make that transition with plenty of support.

"They're never in the hospital by themselves," Hoesley said. "We don't leave them on their own to care for patients."
Three Alabama hospitals highly ranked by U.S. News and World Report

By Amy Yurkanin

U.S. News and World Report honored three Alabama medical centers in its annual list of best hospitals.

The nationally-ranked University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham received top honors in the state, followed by Huntsville Hospital and Decatur Morgan Hospital, which are both regionally ranked.

The magazine did not rank any other hospitals in the state.

UAB Hospital is nationally ranked in six adult specialties: Rheumatology, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Nephrology, Gynecology, Orthopedics and Urology. The Birmingham hospital is highly-ranked in five other specialties. It's also the biggest Alabama hospital on the list with more than 1,000 beds.

Huntsville Hospital was ranked as high-performing in three areas: The treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, heart failure and heart bypass surgery. That hospital has 835 beds.

Decatur Morgan Hospital also serves patients in North Alabama, but is significantly smaller than the other hospitals on the list, with just 132 beds. The hospital received a rating of high-performing for its treatment of heart failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The process for identifying the best hospitals includes doctor surveys, measures of patient outcomes and an analysis of hospital staffing and technology.
Brilliant Open by UAB's Dunne could teach Ray Watts a lesson in positive PR

Hope Ray Watts watched the British Open on ESPN during the third and fourth rounds Sunday and Monday. Hope the UAB president noticed a few things.

Like how many times the announcers mentioned that Paul Dunne, the first amateur to be tied for the lead after three rounds at The Open since Bobby Jones, played his college golf at UAB.

And how many times the cameras captured that Blaze the Dragon logo on the cap of UAB golf coach Alan Murray, who caddied for Dunne.

You could say that kind of positive international publicity for the university is priceless, but you'd be wrong.

You can put a price on it.

ESPN business reporter Darren Rovell reported that, according to Apex MG Analytics, Under Armour received about $1.725 million of TV ad time on Sunday alone because Dunne was decked out in that company's golf clothing.

Every time the cameras showed Dunne before, during and after a shot, viewers saw the UA logo on his hat and his pullover.

It's the reason companies such as Under Armour and Nike slap their logos all over college and professional athletes. It's advertising.

In this case, it was free advertising because Dunne is still an amateur.

Blaze the Dragon on the hat of his coach/caddy wasn't quite as prominent and the UAB mentions weren't quite as plentiful as shots of the unavoidable UA logos, but Watts no doubt would faint at what it would cost to buy the kind of publicity Dunne earned for UAB at St. Andrew's.

UAB hasn't gotten this kind of positive publicity from its golf program since another alum, Graeme McDowell, won the 2010 U.S. Open. McDowell gave Dunne and UAB a shout-out on Twitter after the third round.

UAB hasn't gotten this kind of positive publicity from its athletics department since Jerod Haase and his basketball Blazers upset Iowa State in March in the NCAA Tournament.

Dunne didn't complete the Cinderella story and win the British Open, but his inspiring performance should be another lesson to Watts.

You can hire all the PR firms you want to try to make some of your more dubious decisions look better, but there's a better way to shine a positive light on the school you were hired to lead.

Hire the right coaches, give them what they need to succeed and let them sign the right student-athletes.

Murray, Haase, Bill Clark and the rest can take it from there.
UAB football to return to field in 2017

Fundraising pledges just trickling in, but supporters not worried

SARY ESWICK AND JOHN TILTY
AL.COM

UAB football is finally free — the Blazers will return in 2017, the university announced Tuesday, ending a seven-month saga that placed President Ray Watts, coach Bill Clark and program supporters in the national spotlight.

Also, rifle will resume in 2015 with coed participation, and bowling will return in 2016. The news is expected to add momentum to UAB's continued, albeit slow-paced, fundraising efforts that include plans for a new facilities.

"I want to thank the Blazer Nation," Clark said. "The love and support from UAB fans has been incredible. Please don't stop. We still have a lot to do and we need all of you. Go Blazers!"

Said former UAB offensive lineman Daniel Anousheh, who was forced to transfer to Coastal Carolina to continue his college football career: "It's awesome for school and the city."

Blazers football will be immediately eligible for a Conference USA championship as well as bowl-eligible, the NCAA informed UAB. The program, under Clark, will continue recruiting players, as well as signing coaches and support staff in preparation for a Division I schedule as a full member of the conference.

UAB actually added its first new player Friday night since Watts announced plans June 1 to reinstate the program. Memphis offensive lineman Tyler Jones is transferring to UAB, a source confirmed to AL.com. He redshirted during his only year at Memphis. The 6-foot-5, 290-pound offensive lineman from Albertville High School picked Memphis over UAB and Troy in 2014. He was rated a three-star prospect and No. 57 player in Alabama in 2014, according to 247Composite.

It's big news for Clark and his bare-bones staff as they try to rebuild a program decimated by transfers.
Plans for facilities upgrade part of fundraising effort

UAB

Continued from Page 1

The majority of players from Clark's 2014 team that went 6-6 either graduated or transferred.

Clark, under contract through the 2016 season, has spearheaded contingency plans for football's return. However, he still wants a long-term deal because he believes it will help recruiting by demonstrating stability in the program.

Fundraising efforts

In December, UAB became the first major college football program to shut down since Pacific in 1995. Watts said he discontinued the program because of a lack of sustainability, a move that left Birmingham's largest college without football. The decision ignited a dormant fan base in a football-crazed state, leading to more than $17.2 million in pledges of private support.

Only $28,000 of that has actually been given to the program, according to a source close to the athletics department. That shouldn't be cause for concern, though, says former football player Justin Craft, who led fundraising efforts to reinstate football.

"I collected the pledges and the vast majority, and the big dollars, are all five-year pledges and all due at the end of the year," Craft said.

Brad Hardekopf, UAB's associate athletics director handling the fundraising, says initial pledge payments range from this June to December 2016, and the school will send out reminders to donors. At this point, Hardekopf has "no reason to be concerned with donors not fulfilling their pledges toward this effort."

The majority of the pledges were made contingent upon the return of UAB football.

UAB is also seeking an additional $13 million of private funds to cover costs associated with a return Clark has deemed, "doing it the right way."

These improvements are highlighted by a facility makeover, aimed to rival comparable schools in the competition for recruits.

Moving forward

Royal Cup Coffee chief executive emeritus Hatton Smith, who leads the facilities fundraising efforts, believes everything is moving forward in a positive way. He says major donations are usually paid out over five years, and most people don't pay right after making a commitment. He made a six-figure commitment for football's return and plans to make his first payment sometime this fall.

Smith said the UAB Athletics Campaign Committee has raised $2.5 million for facilities and were still on
schedule to raise the money. He believes it'll be a year-long process to raise the necessary funds.

"There may be some concerns that people drum up because they don't hear things, but I don't have any concerns," Smith said. "I've got two jobs, one is Royal Cup and the other is UAB. I, along with the other volunteers, see this as a great gift to the city."

Smith was part of a group of prominent Birmingham businessmen who assured Watts that the operating deficit would be covered. Because of that premise, Smith says if anyone should be concerned about pledges coming in, it should be him, but he's not worried. He's encouraged by what he's seen, including the school making football facilities a top priority of the athletics portion of The Campaign for UAB fundraising effort.
UAH Professor John Kvach discusses the Confederate Flag controversy

By Staff

Professor John Kvach teaches Southern History, specifically the Civil War and Reconstruction, at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. This week he dropped by WHNT News 19 to give his expert perspective on a controversial issue.

For years there has been a controversy surrounding many southerners’ nostalgia for the Confederate Flag and the reasons the south seceded. One of the most hotly argued reasons is that the south seceded for states’ rights, but many scholars and the vast majority of historians would say the reason the Civil War was fought was because southerners wanted to maintain slavery.

“Yes, that’s absolutely the clearest way to put it. It’s what I tell my students when they take my Civil War classes,” said Professor Kvach. “The first thing they have to realize is yes, we can talk about states’ rights, we can talk about taxation. We can talk about all those things. But ultimately it’s state rights to do what? To own a human being. States’ rights to do what? To go back in and find a fugitive slave. For states’ rights argument to work you have to look at what the state’s righters were fighting for. Ultimately what you have to come to grips with is the Civil War was primarily about slavery.”

With all of the recent controversy surrounding the flag there are many different, strong opinions coming to the forefront. The big question on everyone’s mind is what did the flag really symbolize to southerners after the war?

“There’s two histories of the Confederate flag. There’s a 19th century, and a 20th century history. The 19th century history is a history of men coming home, and feeling nostalgic and proud of the flag they fought under. And I don’t begrudge anyone that feeling,” said Kvach. “The 20th century history of the Confederate flag is where you take the flag and corrupt an original meaning and background during the segregationist movement in the 1950’s and you begin to create a sense of rally round the flag for people who were supportive of intolerance and injustice. And so the 19th century history is truly about heritage. The 20th century history is truly about hate. These two histories of the Confederate flag are important to recognize, because history is rarely black and white, always and never, and most of the time you’re going to find that history is somewhere in the grey matter. And so is the Confederate flag all good? No. Is the Confederate flag all bad? No, and so what that means is the Confederate flag can be bad in the wrong place. It can be fine and good in another place, and so what I say is...take it down from public buildings. Take it away from places where every American citizen is using as a taxpayer as a citizen, and put it in museums...put in memorials, put it in cemeteries...and those places are absolutely appropriate and fine. I don’t think anyone would begrudge them the fact that a Confederate flag does belong in a cemetery where Confederate soldiers are buried.”
Dangerous Lightning: Staying safe during thunderstorms

By Lauren Jones

When thunder roars, go indoors is not just a catchy phrase. It is your best bet to stay safe during dangerous lightning. Yet each year, lightning kills an average of 49 people in the U.S. On average, lightning strikes kill one in every 10 people struck. The remaining victims are lucky to survive, but they often suffer from an array of long-term, often debilitating symptoms.

The U.S. is in the middle of its peak lightning months and as of July 22, 21 deaths have already been reported nationwide, three in Alabama alone.

Many of this year’s lightning victims, ranging from age 12 to 81, were simply enjoying typical summer activities - hiking, fishing, volleyball, camping - when they died.

The safest place to be during a thunderstorm, even when you hear a low distant rumble, is indoors. Even 'heat lightning,' which is really just lightning from a distant thunderstorm that is too far away or too obscured to see, can be just as dangerous as lightning from a storm you can see.

UAH professor and lightning physicist Dr. Phillip Bitzer says he has actually studied a strike where lightning actually started near Guntersville and came to ground somewhere around New Market - nearly 35 miles away.

Don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency, keep away from electrical equipment and wiring, and don’t take a bath or shower or use other plumbing during a storm. And be sure to stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder,

Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows.

If you are caught outdoors with no way to seek shelter indoors or in a car, there are some tips to minimize your risk of being struck: avoid open fields and the tops of hills. Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in the woods, stay near a lower stand of trees. Stay away from water, wet items and metal objects.

If you are in a group, spread out. This increases the chance for survivors who could come to the aid of any victims from a strike. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, are safe to touch, and need urgent medical attention. Lightning often causes heart attacks. Once you and the victim have moved to a safer location, if they don’t have a pulse, immediately performing CPR may prevent death.

Of course, if thunderstorms are in the forecast, have the WAFF weather app handy. It can alert you to impending severe weather. Plus, it can let you know if lightning is detected nearby your current location.
Huntsville, Madison County non-profits announce partnership

By Nick Sellers

Announcing a new strategic alliance at the United Way of Madison County in Huntsville on July 17, United Way CEO Clay Vandiver said the intent of the partnership is simple.

"What we're trying to do is transform lives," Vandiver said.

The collaboration directly involves the Heart of the Valley YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama. The two entities formally announced mutual affiliation of P.A.C.E. (Positive Attitude Changes Everything), a leadership camp for some 35 students attending Huntsville Junior High School.

"Together, we have the answers," Heart of the Valley CEO Jerry Courtney said at the announcement. "We're built as conveners."

Courtney and Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama president Patrick Wynn also outlined six key areas of focus during the partnership between the two organizations: aquatics safety/swim lessons, childcare services, summer camp/outdoor activities, healthy family initiative, P.A.C.E. and "closing the achievement gap."

The entities also announced positive collaborations between the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Huntsville City Schools in achieving their mission of serving those in need. Courtney said they soon plan to start identifying neighborhoods that need serving in Madison County.

"This partnership will allow our influence to become more prevalent in North Alabama, and create a blueprint for future collaborative efforts," Wynn stated in a press release handed out at the press conference.

The Heart of the Valley YMCA system, which includes the Hogan Family YMCA in Madison, served 35,204 people in 2014, including over 16,000 youths. Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama currently serves more than 5,000 youths among 10 centers in Madison, Limestone and Jackson counties.
Record Global Temperatures? Don't Get Too Heated Up

By Staff

Confusion: While leaders meet in the Vatican for a climate conference, talk of record high global temperatures will fuel hysteria. But there's truly nothing to see here.

Voices of the unreasonable screeched Tuesday across St. Peter's Square.

California Gov. Jerry Brown was the most colorful. He took the opportunity to call anyone who doesn't believe in man-made global warming as he does a "denier," which is also the pejorative used to describe those who say the Holocaust never happened. He also called those who don't conform to his way of thinking "troglodytes."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio joined the choir, suggesting that anyone who held a different view than his is insane, while the mayor of Kochi, India, said climate change is to blame for modern-day slavery.

As the faithful held their revival, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a report that said that the global temperature for the first half of the year hit a record high.

Apparently, NOAA is sure that land and sea surface temperatures through the end of June soared an entire 1.53 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average. That's the highest since record-keeping began in 1880, surpassing the previous high set in 2010, a year to remember.

Time to panic? No. Chip Knappenberger at the Cato Institute says the NOAA temperatures remain lower than the predictions produced by the global warming models.

In contrast to the NOAA report is the work of Roy Spencer at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He publishes a monthly global temperature report and his most recent — for June 2015 — shows that the global climate trend since Nov. 16, 1978, is a mere increase of 0.11 degrees Celsius per decade.

Now, back to that year to remember.

John Christy, Spencer's colleague at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, posted on July 1 that "with the tropical atmosphere responding to the El Nino Pacific Ocean warming event during the past few months, temperatures in the tropics rose to their second warmest anomaly for any month since the El Nino of 2010."

And what was the Los Angeles Times' top headline on its front page Tuesday, the day after NOAA published its findings for the first half of 2015?

"Hola, El Nino."

Just a coincidence? Spencer noted earlier in July a "strong warming in the tropics over the last two months, consistent with the strengthening El Nino in the Pacific."
Further undermining the NOAA record is scientist and statistician William M. Briggs, who tells us "these are not temperatures, but temperature reconstructions." Satellite data, which Spencer uses, "is to be preferred."

We could also bring up the relative irrelevance of the temperature "record" when none of the disasters predicted by those who have promoted the concept of man-made warming has occurred.

We might wonder out loud, as well, if maybe some other variable out of the many in our climate is behind the NOAA increase, if it were indeed accurate.

Quite clearly climate changes throughout Earth's history have been brought about by natural causes. If the temperature is rising, there's no reason to believe it's not natural.

Well, there is for those gathered at the Vatican. They need a man-made disaster to give them the cover they need to enact their man-subjugating policies.
Huntsville is 'Launch City' for startups: guest opinion

By John R. Whitman, co-author of "Understanding the Social Economy of the United States" (University of Toronto Press, 2015) and a Huntsville resident since August 2013.

In September 2013, the College of Business Administration at UAH re-booted the Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship Lab (ICE Lab) and created a veritable platform and an ethos for launching entrepreneurial startups across Huntsville in much the same way as Chad Emerson has brought downtown Huntsville to life beginning at about the same time.

The ICE Lab convened HOTCoffee (Huntsville Open Tech Coffee), a bi-weekly networking meeting of folks interested in entrepreneurship across the city that, 42 sessions to date, has had a strikingly fecund effect, encouraging and facilitating a range of new initiatives across town, from collaborating with Clinton Row and the VIBE Downtown, to igniting Rocket City Launch, Business Button, Accelerator Workshops, Business Plan Pitch Clinics, Rocket Hatch, Sip & Hatch, Will This Fly?, Co-starters, Rocket City Perk, the Huntsville Innovation Leadership Awards, and participating on Mayor Tommy Battle’s Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, not to mention contributing to many entrepreneurship engagements on the UAH campus and bringing the first Intellectual Property and Social Justice Seminar to Huntsville.

During this period the city at large has also seen the emergence of a revivified BizTech and new spaces open up for entrepreneurial startups to take root, including Wynnspace, Huntsville West, and Office Alliance in the AL.com building.

HudsonAlpha has also been an active incubator of biotech startups, and their model should inspire similar launch-friendly resources for robotics, cyber security, energy, unmanned aerial systems, new space, weather, and other areas representing Huntsville innovation.

Huntsville's entrepreneurial bloom is not all high-tech, either. It includes the Greene Street Farmers Market, the arts and crafts explosion at Lowe Mill, the frothy craft brewery segment, and a variety of innovative fashion startups at Clinton Row and Lincoln Mill.

All this activity exemplifies the value of promoting home grown talent to create local jobs, keep wealth within the city, and promote exports elsewhere. What is more, businesses with CEOs
based here are less likely to move elsewhere and are more likely to directly contribute to the local quality of life for all.

Yet we can do more to promote local entrepreneurship and innovation. Each of the above activities could not have happened without a leader: Rob Adams, Chris Beaman, MT Bryan, Chad Emerson, Brandon Kruse, Bob Ludwig, Emily Mason, Larry Mason, Antonio Montoya, Vicki Morris, Sandy Patel, Victoria Pennington, Caron St. John, Daniel Tait, to name just a few.

But there are leaders on both the supply side and on the demand side. You can lead on the demand side: Buy local, procure local, invest local, hire local, and watch Launch City take off.
Huntsville celebrates having America’s top rocket engineer for 2015

By Lee Roop

Huntsville celebrated having America’s best rocket engineer Wednesday by proclaiming July 27 Dr. William Emrich Day. That is the day Emrich, an engineer at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, will receive the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 2015 Engineer of the Year award at a national meeting in Orlando.

Emrich was honored for his work in nuclear thermal rocket propulsion. He has built and runs a simulator at Marshall where engineers can perform non-nuclear tests on elements of potential nuclear rocket fuel. Experts including Emrich believe some type of high-thrust nuclear engine will be required to explore the vast distances of solar system.

"This is a day we get to celebrate somebody who's done something great for the world, the nation and for Huntsville," Mayor Tommy Battle said at the proclamation ceremony. The city thinks of itself as "a smart place," Battle said, and Emrich is an example of that.

"Bill, thank you for all that you've done ... that puts a new meaning into space exploration and going back into deep space where man should be," Battle said.

Emrich's simulator known as the Nuclear Thermal Rocket Element Environment Simulator (NTREES) reproduces conditions nuclear fuel would encounter in a nuclear engine. Radiation effects can’t be tested in the simulator, but potentially more important thermochemical effects of high temperatures and corrosive propellant flows can be.

To train young nuclear propulsion engineers, Emrich petitioned the University of Alabama in Huntsville to offer a course on the subject. He started the course at UAH and still teaches it. He has also written the first textbook on the subject since the 1950s.

"I actually wanted to work on nuclear rocket engines since I was a kid in high school," Emrich said. "That was when I first learned of the nuclear rocket work being done in the United States. This was back in the 1960s.... How great it is that I'm actually able to do what I wanted to do as a kid. How many people get to do that?"
Program offers military vets nursing training

University receives grant to help veterans get degrees, transition into civilian work

GREG GARRISON
GGARRISON@AL.COM

Samford University's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing will launch a program for veterans seeking a bachelor of science degree in nursing, with a $1,047,385 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration.

"It is our goal to create a program that helps bridge the gap between the military culture and today's professional nursing culture," said Stephanie Wynn, grant administrator and associate professor in the School of Nursing.

"Many veterans have significant health care training and experience that make them uniquely qualified to care for patients in the military. However, after leaving the military, without a degree, they are not allowed to care for civilians in the same capacity. Our program will afford these veterans the opportunity to transition into the civilian workforce while also giving credit for the valuable hands-on medical experience they already possess."

Veterans with prior health care experience and training may receive credit for some courses and will have the opportunity to take refresher courses as needed. School of Nursing faculty will receive training to teach veterans more effectively.

"In Alabama, registered nursing has been identified as one of the top 13 occupations classified as high demand based on growth rate, annual openings and wage criteria," Wynn said. "The number of job openings throughout the state is also expected to continue to grow, so the timing is perfect for a program like this."

Alabama has an estimated 398,343 veterans and the 6th largest Army National Guard in the United States.

Samford's program will admit honorably or generally discharged service members and reservists of the U.S. Armed Forces with prior health care training. The School of Nursing seeks to graduate 30 prepared veterans over the course of the three year grant. The first class of students will begin in summer 2016 and applications will be accepted starting in January.

"This grant presents an exciting opportunity for creative and meaningful programming for this important student group," said Eleanor V. Howell, dean of Samford's nursing school. "Our faculty are committed to serving these individuals and we look forward to their future success as students and registered nurses."

Earlier this year, masters programs in Samford's School of Nursing were ranked among the top in the country for veterans by U.S. News & World Report. Samford participates in the national Yellow Ribbon program that makes courses less costly for veterans and offers student support services designed to meet the needs of veterans.
Nursing school's $1M grant to aid veterans

Nursing is expected to provide a lot of good-paying jobs in the state of Alabama in coming years, and a new, federally funded program at Samford University is designed to help veterans with health care training or experience earn their degrees and pursue careers as registered nurses.

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing at Samford has received a three-year grant for a little more than $1 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund the program, the school announced Thursday.

"Many veterans have significant health care training and experience," said Stephanie Wynn, a grant administrator and associate professor in the Moffett School.

Without a nursing degree, however, those vets cannot use those skills to care for civilians, she said.

"Our program will afford these veterans the opportunity to transition into the civilian workforce while also giving credit for the valuable hands-on medical experience they already possess," Wynn said.

"It is our goal to create a program that helps bridge the gap between the military culture and today's professional nursing culture."

Samford's program will offer a curricular pathway tailored to each veteran, and students can pursue either a traditional or accelerated degree track.

The number of job openings in nursing in Alabama is growing and is expected to continue to do so, according to Wynn, who said, "The timing is perfect for a program like this."

Alabama has an estimated 396,343 veterans and the sixth-largest Army National Guard in the United States, according to Wynn. The Moffett School of Nursing seeks to graduate 30 veterans over the course of the grant, with the first group of students expected to begin school in the summer of 2016.

Applications will be accepted starting in January.

Samford participates in the federal Yellow Ribbon Program that makes courses less costly for veterans and offers vet-specific student-support services, according to the school.
Tuition to rise at 2-year colleges

Staff report

The board of trustees for Alabama's two-year college system approved a tuition increase for the fall during its meeting Wednesday.

Base tuition rates will increase by $2 to $115 per credit hour in the fall as part of an automatic annual increase for the Alabama Community College System's community and technical campuses, system Chancellor Mark Heinrich said.

The tuition rate for nonresident students would be $230 per credit hour.

The annual increase was established by the Alabama Board of Education in 2009 following successive years of proration.

In spring, the Legislature created a separate board of trustees for the two-year system.

The board supervising the system decides annually whether to continue with the scheduled increases, Director of Fiscal Services Jane Leatherwood said.

The tuition increase does not affect Marion Military Institute and the Alabama Technology Network.

The board also approved salary schedules for the upcoming fiscal year. There will be no major changes in the pay rates for the system's employees, Heinrich said, noting there are no pay raises scheduled for 2015-2016.
SEC moves ahead alone on tougher transfer rules

The Associated Press

HOOVER | The SEC has taken the high road when it comes to domestic violence, aiming to keep alleged abusers off their rosters even if it means they land in a rival league.

It's a rare move that could put the SEC, which won seven straight national titles from 2006-2012, at a competitive disadvantage in some cases. So far, no other conference has put a similar rule into effect.

SEC schools passed a rule in May barring the signing of any athlete disciplined for serious misconduct at another college stop. The new rule defines a serious offense as "sexual assault, domestic violence or other forms of sexual violence."

Domestic violence advocate Katherine Redmond Brown said she was surprised and pleased that it was the SEC, known for its "crazy good competition," that first took this step.

"The message was long overdue because the NCAA has stayed relatively silent on the issue for years," said Brown, founder of National Coalition Against Violent Athletes. "Basically it was up to the conferences and individual schools to do something.

"To be honest, I never expected that it would be the SEC that would be the first to draw this line."

It wasn't a coincidence that the SEC adopted the rule this year. Defensive lineman Jonathan Taylor was dismissed from Alabama after his arrest on a domestic violence charge a couple of months after signing. The woman in the case later recanted her story, but Taylor had already been kicked out of Georgia following a similar arrest.

Georgia proposed the new rule.

"That one was pretty cut and dry," said Bulldogs coach Mark Richt, adding that he wasn't the one making the call to propose the rule.

Alabama coach Nick Saban said he doesn't regret signing Taylor and that Taylor "didn't really get the kind of due process before he was judged as maybe any person should." He added, however, that Taylor was signed under a zero tolerance policy.

"But I do think that this is an emotional issue that's very, very complicated," Saban said. "It's against the law, and we respect the law, and we will continue to do things that respect the law.

See next page
"I think that ... we should be creating as many opportunities to try to solve this problem and use this as an opportunity to try to solve this problem with young people, male and female alike, because this is an issue across the board with any emotional relationship."

Beyond Taylor, the rule came after much-publicized domestic violence cases in the NFL, including Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice and Dallas defensive end Greg Hardy. Pro leagues across sports have grappled with the question of how to treat players who face domestic abuse allegations in the wake of the NFL cases.

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott, one of the league’s most high-profile players, said it was a line that needed to be drawn.

"I'm not going to be shy to say that maybe you shouldn't play college football again with a domestic violence issue," Prescott said. "We shouldn't have things like that in this day and time. As men, we need to get better and get past it."

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier said it’s a no-brainer: "I've always had a rule as a coach that if you ever hit a girl, you're finished."

Spurrier isn't worried about risking a potential competitive disadvantage by implementing the rule. "I've heard some coaches say that. I guess potentially it could be a little bit. But the SEC has their rules, and we live by them."

The league is considering targeting other misbehavior since the transfer rule doesn't cover offenses like DUIs and drug-related arrests. New SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey is forming a working group this summer to look at the issue.

Sankey said the transfer rule is a starting point and shows "that there's a greater conversation to have."

“That doesn't predict more regulation or policy,” he said. “It just says that we need to understand how our campuses handle these issues, what are the problematic areas, what are the legal and legislative expectations and how we can share best practices. Are there other issues to look at? Sure."

Brown, meanwhile, is waiting to see if other conferences follow the SEC’s lead on domestic violence. She’s set to work with one SEC school, Tennessee, this summer talking to administrators and players about the issue.

“I think it's a tremendous step in the right direction,” she said. “I would like to see other conferences follow suit because I think it was widely publicized and all the conferences knew what was done but they haven't taken that same step. That to me is a little bit concerning.

"I think the SEC is exactly the right conference to have this emanating from."
Tide picked to win West, Tigers SEC

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

HOOVER | Don't look for logic in how voters at SEC Media Days handicap the 2015 conference football race.

The defending SEC champion University of Alabama was picked to win the Western Division in results released Thursday, but Auburn is the media's pick to win the league title.

Auburn got 108 first-place votes in SEC West voting, but fewer overall points than Alabama, which received 92 first-place votes in the division.

Alabama edged out the Tigers for first place in the division, with all seven teams receiving multiple first-place votes.

Auburn was picked to win the league championship, with Alabama second and Georgia third.

Georgia was the pick to win the SEC East by a wide margin. Tennessee was picked to finish second and Missouri third. South Carolina, Florida and Kentucky were all picked by one voter to win the division, with Vanderbilt not receiving a first-place vote.

The preseason All-SEC Team will be announced on Friday.
### SEC WEST

**First-place votes in parenthesis**

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### SEC EAST

**First-place votes in parenthesis**

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### SEC CHAMPION

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<td>Mississippi State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
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Give Nick Saban credit. He didn't have to go there. Not at SEC Media Days with local, regional and national media sitting in front of him and a national TV audience watching on the SEC Network.

The Alabama head football coach didn't have to support Gov. Robert Bentley's decision to have four Civil War Confederate flags — including the infamous battle flag — removed from the state Capitol grounds in June days after a white supremacist murdered nine black worshipers in a Charleston, S.C., church.

Saban could've avoided the issue by saying that he's a coach, not a politician, but instead of begging off, he stood up.

"My opinion is any time we have a symbol that represents something that is mean-spirited or doesn't represent equal rights for all people," Saban said, "I'm not for having that symbol represent anything that we're involved in."

Amen.

Give Hugh Freeze credit, too. The head football coach at the University of Mississippi didn't have to discuss his state's flag, which contains the Confederate battle flag in the upper left corner. He didn't have to urge his home state to change the flag because it contains a symbol that's "been associated with people that have meant some harm and ill will."

As Freeze said, "I'm not a political figure, nor do I want to be. I'm sure our governor and the Legislature will hear from the people. But in the world in which I live, if something is creating ill will in any way towards someone, it's difficult for me to support that."

And so the Mississippi native said this: "I think it's time that we move in a different direction with the state flag."

Amen again.

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier had spoken out years ago against the Confederate battle flag flying on the State House grounds there. At SEC Media Days, he applauded his state's governor "for setting the initiative to remove the
flag" in the wake of the Charleston killings.

"Obviously," Spurrier said, "all of us in college sports, we know the importance of equality, race relations, everybody getting along."

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey didn't wait to be asked about the subject. In his opening remarks Monday, he commended the administrations and coaches at SEC schools in South Carolina and Mississippi — "the states at the center of this debate" — because they "have all stated their desire for change."

Give credit to Sankey and Spurrier, too.

All of these men know that a significant percentage of their fan bases see the Confederate battle flag as a symbol of heritage, not hate, that many SEC football fans tend to downplay the fact that the rebel flag has been waved by everyone from secessionists to segregationists to white supremacists.

It would be easier for the commissioner and the coaches to leave that thorny discussion to the politicians and social commentators, but they understand that their words carry weight and this issue is too important to ignore.

As a whole, SEC Media Days 2015 was a rather placid event, devoid of any real football-related controversy. It should be remembered as a time when some of the most powerful voices in the conference dared defend their right to use their bully pulpit as a force for positive change beyond the football field.

It was the most encouraging example that, as Sankey said, quoting a Bob Dylan song, "The Times, They are A-changin'.”
Players pick Alabama’s Bryant-Denny as the toughest road environment in the conference

JOHN TALTY
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It’s not easy to go on the road and beat a Southeastern Conference school in its own stadium.

Nor is it easy to get SEC players to pick the toughest road environment they’ve faced in the conference, as AL.com learned last week at SEC Media Days.

AL.com posed the question to more than a dozen SEC players, but there was a lot of dodging and hedging when answering the question. Multiple players answered the question by naming a few schools rather than one.

When cutting through all of the non-answers, there was one school that stood out: Alabama.

Alabama’s Bryant-Denny Stadium narrowly edged out LSU’s Tiger Stadium and South Carolina’s Williams-Brice Stadium as the toughest road environment in the SEC in the player survey.

What makes Alabama stand out?

“Just having the whole crowd ‘Roll, Tide, Roll’ when that song (Sweet Home Alabama) comes on, and when they get a big play how loud they get,” said Ole Miss senior defensive back Mike Hilton. “It’s a fun atmosphere.”

Said Mississippi State senior defensive lineman Ryan Brown: “The fans make them crazy, the music and just the atmosphere of it is crazy.”

Georgia, Florida, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Texas A&M all also got at least one vote as the toughest road environment. The SEC schools without a mention from a player were Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Ole Miss, Missouri and Vanderbilt.

Mississippi State was a popular pick among the Vanderbilt contingent in Hoover: Both running back Ralph Webb and linebacker Nigel Bowden singled out Davis-Wade Stadium as the toughest in the SEC.

“Just having the whole crowd ‘Roll, Tide, Roll’ when that song (Sweet Home Alabama) comes on, and when they get a big play how loud they get. It’s a fun atmosphere.”

MIKE HILTON
OLE MISS SENIOR DEFENSIVE BACK

“The cowbells ... they actually get to you,” said Bowden. “The crowd knows how to get under your skin.”

South Carolina was the top option for Georgia offensive lineman John Theus. Multiple players mentioned how loud the stadium gets when “Sandstorm” is played.

“No matter what’s going on, they are loud and ready to go,” Theus said.

Missouri defensive back Kenya Dennis echoed that statement, saying the atmosphere at both South Carolina and Texas A&M caused “a lot of false starts with our offense.”

Some other player opinions:

“Tennessee is the loudest stadium I’ve been in,” said South Carolina linebacker Skai Moore.

“The loudest we faced was Georgia in 2013,” said Missouri offensive lineman Evan Boehm.

“I give all the credit to their fans and their faithful. It was loud during warmups and it got even louder during the games. It was crazy.”

“The toughest game was playing at Mississippi State,” said Vanderbilt running back Ralph Webb. “Those cowbells ringing, they are loud.”
Spreading HER WINGS

NCAA champion Burks to compete in long jump at the Pan AM Games

Staff report

TORONTO | University of Alabama track and field star Quanesha Burks will represent the United States at the Pan American Games when she competes in the long jump today.

This will be the second consecutive summer for Burks to take part in international competition after she finished second in the long jump at the 2014 United States Junior National Championships, earning a place on the U.S. 2014 World Junior Championships team.

"This is a tremendous honor for Quanesha to be able to jump against some of the world's best," UA coach Dan Waters said. "It is a continuation of her amazing season and the experience will be invaluable to her."

Burks, the 2015 NCAA outdoor long jump champion, capped off her 2015 sophomore season being named a semifinalist for the Bowerman Trophy, the highest individual honor in collegiate track and field. Her winning jump of 22 feet, 8 inches moved her to No. 8 on the all-time collegiate performers list in the event under all conditions. With wind conditions 2.6 meters per second keeping her NCAA mark for qualifying for records, it is the best all-conditions jump in school history.

The Hartselle native, who carries a career grade point average of 3.6, also won the SEC long jump title with a leap of 22-5.25 to claim a share of the ninth-best wind-legal jump in collegiate history. She went undefeated in 2015 outdoor finals, including wins at the LSU Invitational and the Alabama vs. Mississippi border Clash as well as the SEC, NCAA East Preliminary and NCAA Championships.

University of Alabama track and field junior Quanesha Burks, who won the NCAA championship in the long jump this past season, will compete in the Pan American Games. Qualifying for the long jump finals is today. The finals are Friday.

PHOTO: UA ATHLETICS