AUGUST 2, 2018

ARTICLES OF INTEREST
JULY 27, 2018 – AUGUST 2, 2018

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Political stunner: Davis indicted

Feds say he wielded clout hoping to enrich himself

Ivana Hrynkiw ihrynkiw@al.com

A federal indictment made public Wednesday accuses state Rep. Randy Davis, R-Daphne, of participating in a scheme to strong-arm Blue Cross Blue Shield into covering insulin treatments being offered by newly opened diabetes clinics in which he had a budding ownership stake.

Davis, 66, faces three federal charges: conspiracy, making a false statement, and violation of the travel act, the latter involving email communications that sought to promote the "carrying on of an unlawful activity."

Previously indicted in the same case are state Rep. Jack Williams, R-Vestavia Hills; lobbyist Marty Connors, former chairman of the state Republican Party; and G. Ford Gilbert, owner and CEO of California-based Trina Health, which operates diabetes treatment clinics across the world.

The case also involves state Rep. Mickey Hammon, R-Decatur, the former House majority leader, who last year pleaded guilty to devising a scheme to direct campaign dollars to pay his personal expenses.

SEE INDICTED, A6

Indicted

FROM A1

Davis appeared at the Montgomery federal courthouse Wednesday afternoon. Al Agricola, an attorney for Davis, said there would be no statement. Arraignment for Davis is scheduled for Aug. 8 in the courtroom of U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Coody.

In 2017, Davis, a four-term lawmaker, announced he would not seek re-election in House District 96. He planned to run for Baldwin County probate judge but later dropped those plans.

The 57-page indictment weaves a long, complex story, masking the identities of various players. Here's a short version: A person identified only by the initials C.B. wanted to open a Trina-affiliated clinic in Alabama. Needing more money, he recruited investors to join in. C.B. talked to Hammon, who shared the details of the clinic with Davis.

Davis, the indictment says, was interested and agreed to help look for investors.

The indictment says C.B. promised that whoever could recruit investors would be given a 5 percent ownership interest. In May 2014, the indictment says, Davis emailed C.B. that he hoped to "make millions on this deal."

As Davis sought out investors, according to the indictment, three Trina clinics got up and running in Alabama, in Fairhope, Foley and the Hoover area.

A big obstacle to success, however, was Blue Cross Blue Shield. It steadfastly refused to cover the costs of the new clinics' "outpatient intravenous insulin therapy," notably the "Artificial Pancreas Treatment." Such therapy had not passed muster with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which said it found no evidence that it improved patient outcomes.

These treatments were mainstays for Trina, and potentially very lucrative. Clinics that angled to maximize reimbursements could reap $600 from an insurer for a patient's three-hour session, according to the indictment.

The indictment says that Gilbert dangled incentives to Hammon and Davis to find a way to persuade Blue Cross to cover the insulin treatments, and to stop demanding that the new Trina clinic in Foley refund reimbursements.

See next page
Maryon P. Allen, 92, Who Became Senator Of Alabama After Husband's Sudden Death

By WILLIAM MCDONALD

Maryon Pittman Allen, who was appointed to fill her husband's seat in the United States Senate just days after his sudden death in 1978, died on Monday. She was 92 and was one of only two women ever to serve in that chamber from Alabama.

Her nephew Trip Pittman, an Alabama state senator, confirmed her death but did not say where she died. She lived in Birmingham, Ala.

Ms. Allen, who was 52 at the time, served in the Senate for five months, starting in June 1978, less than two weeks after her husband, Senator James B. Allen, a Democrat, died of a heart attack at 65.

She was appointed to fill the seat by Gov. George C. Wallace until a special election could be held to fill the remaining two years of her husband's term, his second in the Senate.

Ms. Allen, a newspaper journalist known for her blunt wit, was favored to win but soon found herself in a competitive race after being criticized for a number of unvarnished comments she made in a long profile in The Washington Post by the reporter Sally Quinn.

In the article, Ms. Allen suggested, for one thing, that the popular Wallace and his former wife, Cornelia — who had divorced the governor months earlier and was by then herself running for governor — were "bores."

"I think the Wallaces should shut up," Ms. Allen was quoted as saying. "It would be the Christian thing to do. Everybody in Alabama is getting awfully tired of seeing those old dirty sheets flapping around on Perry Street."

In a Democratic primary runoff that September, she lost to Donald Stewart, who went on to win in the special election in November. She left the Senate the day after the election.

But for Ms. Allen — who had no use for Governor Wallace, who had risen in Alabama politics as a fierce segregationist and was not seeking re-election — her defeat had a silver lining. By running for the Senate seat, she had prevented him from doing the same, since he could not run against his own appointee.

As she told The Associated Press in 1998, "I want it chiseled on my tombstone that this 5-foot-2 woman who weighs 110 pounds kept George Corley Wallace out of the Senate."

Maryon Pittman was born on Nov. 30, 1925, in Meridian, Miss., one of four children of John and Tellie (Cham) Pittman. She grew up in Birmingham, where her father had opened a tractor dealership.

She attended public schools and the University of Alabama. While in college, she married Joshua Mullins and had three children.

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Airports to receive $25M in grants for upgrades

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Local airports in Alabama will see improvements to their infrastructure through more than $25 million in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration.

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby said this week the grant will help 25 airports with improvements, new structures and safety advances. The Mobile Downtown Airport will receive the most with $7.08 million, while the Thomas C. Russell Field Airport in Alexander City will get the least with $94,500.

"These FAA grants support critical projects that aim to improve safety, security, and efficiency of airports across the state," Shelby said. "Airport infrastructure plays a vital role in economic growth.

See AIRPORTS, B2

AIRPORTS

From Page B1

and development in Alabama, and I look forward to the progress that will stem from these grants."

The grants are funded through the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and federal appropriations.

Shelby said airport infrastructure plays a vital role in economic growth and development in Alabama.

Many of the airports will improve their taxiways and erosion repair.

Headland Municipal Airport director Pete Crews told the Dothan Eagle that his airport will have a new taxiway from the grant.

He says the airport will be able to accommodate larger aircraft, including jets that can hold around 12 to 15 passengers.

The runway at Headland Municipal Airport serves as a taxiway for about 80 flights daily.

"It makes things difficult and much slower at the airport because every time we utilize the runway as a taxiway it has to be closed off from any other aircraft until it's cleared. And that's quite a process," Crews said.

Crews said a team of local engineers needed to be gathered to evaluate the land and draft a plan before applying for the grant.

He says the airport also had to relay their plan to construct the path.
Patient deaths prompt warning

Brookwood faces loss of Medicare, Medicaid funds

Amy Yurkanin ayurkanin@al.com

Two patient deaths and several mishaps at Brookwood Medical Center have prompted the second warning in less than three months from federal regulators who could revoke the hospital’s Medicare and Medicaid payments.

Federal regulators informed the hospital Thursday that payments from Medicare and Medicaid could end on Aug. 9.

The first warning from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services came after a patient died in the psychiatric department in April. The patient suffered a heart attack after being placed in restraints. Officials from CMS said the staff did not follow proper procedures for physically restraining a patient.

Officials from Brookwood Medical Center submitted a plan of correction and were approved to continue providing services to Medicare and Medicaid patients in May.

In a survey completed July 12, inspectors found more problems at Brookwood that provoked another warning from CMS. Two patient deaths, one severe injury and trauma from falls could have been prevented by following hospital procedures, inspectors found.

"The amount of the violations and the severity of the violations are shocking," said Tommy James, an attorney who has handled similar cases against hospitals. "These aren't minor deficiencies, all of these deficiencies could potentially lead to loss of life."

The survey also found that hospital staff failed to properly track patients' vital signs, putting them in danger of death or injury. One investigator discovered that no staff

SEE BROOKWOOD, A10
Brookwood

FROM A1

members, including nurses, entered a patient’s room for 10 hours in May.

Brookwood is a 645-bed, full-service hospital located in the Birmingham suburbs. It’s owned by Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare, a for-profit hospital chain.

“Brookwood Baptist Medical Center submitted a Plan of Correction to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid to address all findings identified in the recent survey completed on July 10, 2018,” read a statement from Brookwood spokesperson Laura Clarke. “We await CMS’ follow-up survey to validate the actions outlined in our Plan of Correction. Brookwood Baptist Medical Center takes patient safety very seriously and is committed to continuous improvement in quality measures and safety procedures.”

In January, a bipolar patient in a psychiatric program escaped the facility and jumped from a parking garage. The patient disappeared after she checked in for treatment, but before the first group therapy session. A review of the records showed that her husband called several times to check on her and warn staff she might try to leave, according to an inspection report. According to the report, staff failed to notice the patient had escaped and never tried to track her down.

A 35-year-old patient admitted in May nearly died after an extreme drop in blood pressure went untreated by hospital staff. The nurse did not notify the doctor of his decreasing pressure until the patient became unresponsive. The patient was placed on a ventilator and treated in intensive care for more than a week.

On June 10, a patient died after receiving a dose of pain medication for possible indigestion. The monitor indicated the patient’s pulse had stopped 15 minutes before a family member notified staff. The monitor technician failed to notice a decline in the patient’s heart rate before the heart stopped.

At least one other patient with diagnoses of psychosis and depression left the hospital in July and was found in the woods nearby.

“The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has determined that Brookwood Baptist Medical Center is not in compliance with the conditions of participation,” read the most recent notice from CMS. “The Medicare program will not make payment for hospital services to patients who are admitted after August 9, 2018.”

“The amount of the violations and the severity of the violations are shocking.”

Tommy James, an attorney who has handled similar cases against hospitals

Ambulances sit in the parking lot outside of the emergency room at Brookwood Medical Center, which was recently warned it might lose Medicaid and Medicare payments over patient safety issues. File
AUTOMOTIVE

Daimler changes won’t affect Mercedes plant

Alabama’s Mercedes-Benz plant in Tuscaloosa County is not expected to experience major changes from its parent company’s decision to split into three operating units, company officials said.

Mercedes-Benz parent company Daimler AG plans to split into three separate entities, with its car division, truck line and mobility services becoming independent units to respond faster to market changes.

The plan, which needs shareholder approval, could come about by 2020 and would position the automaker for the future with self-driving and electric vehicles, according to Bloomberg.

The move comes after slumping earnings, tariff threats and logistical problems followed a supplier fire that briefly shut down SUV production at Mercedes’ Tuscaloosa plant.

It’s not expected to bring major changes to Mercedes’ operations in Alabama. The company stated it has no plans for divestments. Daimler said challenges for the Mercedes division will ease toward the end of the year.

Mercedes-Benz is already making moves in the electric vehicle market that include Alabama. The company is spending $1 billion at its Tuscaloosa manufacturing plant, making SUVs for the company’s EQ electric brand. The project will also entail building a new 1 million-square-foot battery plant near the vehicle factory, making it the company’s fifth battery plant globally. — William Thornton
CASINOS TAKING SPORTS BETS

What Alabama gamblers need to know

Leada Gore lgore@al.com

Sports betting starts Wednesday in two Mississippi casinos.
So what does that mean for Alabama gamblers?

Around noon, simultaneous sports bets will be placed at two Mississippi casinos: the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi and the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica. A string of sports figures, including former Miami Hurricanes running back and 2-time NFL Pro Bowler Willis McGahee and oddsmaker Danny Sheridan, will place the initial bets. After that, the sports books will be open at those two casinos, with two more — IP Casino in Biloxi and Sam's Town in Tunica — scheduled to start taking wagers on athletic events later this month.

SEE GAMBLING, A6
Gambling

FROM A1

Isn't sports gambling illegal?
No, not any more.

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law banning sports betting. The ruling stemmed from a 2010 case filed by New Jersey, which was seeking to make sports betting legal at racetracks and casinos. Sports groups such as the NCAA, NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball opposed legalizing sports betting.

What happened after the ruling?

New Jersey moved quickly to bring sports betting to its casinos. Four Atlantic City casinos, along with two horse racing tracks, now offer on-site sports betting. Casino officials said they are working to expand their offerings to online betting as well, though it would be limited to people in the state.

In the first two weeks of sports betting at New Jersey's Borgata and Monmouth Park casinos, some $16.4 million in wagers were placed.

Delaware also legalized sports betting, with wagers placed at three casinos. And now Mississippi...

Outside of gambling-central Nevada, Mississippi becomes the third state to offer legal on-site sports betting. It is also the only Southern state to offer wagering on sports.

New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Connecticut are expected to soon offer sports betting.

Why now?

NFL preseason games start Aug. 2. Opening day for SEC football is Sept. 1 and the NFL regular season kicks off Sept. 6.

How much money are we talking about?
The American Gaming Association estimates sports fans wager about $150 billion illegally a year, including $41 billion on the Super Bowl alone. As much as $90 billion will be wagered on NFL and college football games this season, 98 percent of which will be placed illegally, AGA said.

Will sports gambling in Alabama?
Unlike a lottery, sports betting is not explicitly banned in the Alabama Constitution. To establish sports betting in Alabama, all it would take would be approval from the State Legislature, experts said.

A lottery, however, would require legislative and voter approval. Those efforts have failed in the past.

Not so fast...

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, the state's top law enforcement officer, told AL.com through a spokesperson he believed a constitutional amendment — meaning a vote of the people — would be required to implement sports betting in Alabama.

"It is our view that a constitutional amendment would be the only way to conclusively establish the legality of sports gambling," his spokesman, Mike Lewis, said.

Marshall has made his thoughts on the subject clear.

(The) "U.S. Supreme Court decision is not about whether sports gambling should be legal, but whether States should have the right to decide that question for themselves. In Alabama, sports gambling is already against the law and the Court ruling does not alter that fact."

What about the Poarch Creek?
The Poarch Band of Creek Indians operates three casinos in Alabama: Atmore, Wetumpka and Montgomery. Theoretically, the casinos could begin offering sports betting if it was legalized under tribal law.

"The choice rests with the tribes," said Will Green, senior director for strategic communications for the American Gaming Association.

For its part, the Poarch Creek haven't indicated if they plan to move ahead with sports betting, though Chair Stephanie Bryan said last year it was "very, very important" to "protect the integrity of Indian gaming."

What can sports bettors in Alabama do?
Do what Alabama gamblers have done for decades — head to Mississippi. There's no restriction on people traveling to the state to place a wager on sports but remember, the tax man is watching. Gambling winnings — no matter where they are won — will be taxed in Alabama.

Mississippi will get its cut, too. The state takes 3 percent of any gambling winnings at the time of payout.
UA sets Aug. 4 for football Fan Day

Autograph session will follow football practice

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

The University of Alabama football team will hold its annual Fan Day on Saturday, Aug. 4. The Crimson Tide will hold a two-hour open practice at Bryant-Denny Stadium starting at 2:30 p.m. Players and coaches will be available for autographs following practice on the field for 45 minutes beginning at approximately 4:45 p.m. Fans may enter the stadium beginning at 1:30 p.m. through gates 9 and 19 and watch the practice from the west side lower bowl, sections A-N. At 1 p.m., the first 150 fans in line at gate 25 (south field entrance) will receive numbered, color-coded wristbands for early entrance to the post-practice autograph signing. Those who receive wristbands will need to report to gate 25 at 4 p.m. to begin lining up for the autograph session.

See FAN DAY, A5

FAN DAY

From Page A1

Attendees will be limited to one item per person for autographs. No posed photographs will be permitted.

For security purposes, all items are subject to inspection upon entry for both the practice and autograph activities.

Concession vendors will walk through the stadium with items for sale, and concession stands on the west side field and mezzanine levels will be open.

Alabama merchandise will be sold and 3,000 autograph posters will be given away.

Fan Day parking will be available in the west ten Hoor area of campus, with two parking decks and surface lots open. Parking for persons with disabilities will be available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Communications Lot and Wallace Wade lots.

No special accommodations will be made for recreational vehicles on campus. All RVS should park at the Northington Lot near University Mall.

In case of inclement weather, the Fan Day activities will be moved to the Hank Crisp Indoor Practice Facility. Weather-related changes will be posted on the official Alabama athletics and football social media accounts.

Updates and other information can be found at www.rolltide.com.
Fan Day offers close look at team

Autograph session will follow open practice of ‘18 team

Staff report

The University of Alabama football team will hold its annual Fan Day this weekend. Here’s your guide to this year’s event:

• **When:** Saturday
• **What:** Open practice and post-practice autograph session
• **Where:** Bryant-Denny Stadium (autograph portion will move to Hank Crisp Indoor Practice Facility in case of inclement weather)
• **Time:** Practice starts at 2:30 p.m. and lasts about two hours. Autograph session scheduled to start at 4:45 p.m. and will last for 45 minutes
• **Admission:** Free
• **Enter:** Attendees may enter the stadium beginning at 1:30 p.m. at gates 9 and 19; at 1 p.m., the first 150 fans in line at gate 25 will receive numbered, color-coded wristbands for early entrance to the autograph session — those who receive wristbands will need to report to gate 25 at 4 p.m. to begin lining up for the autograph session
• **Where to watch practice:** Attendees can sit in the west side lower bowl, sections A-N
• **Limitations:** Attendees will be limited to one item per person; no posed photographs will be permitted
• **Concessions:** Alabama merchandise will be sold; concessionaires will walk through the stands with items for sale; concession stands on the west side field and mezzanine levels will be open; 3,000 autograph posters will be given away
• **Parking:** Two parking decks and surface lots in the ten Hoor area of campus will be open; parking for persons with disabilities will be on a first-come, first-served basis in the Communications Lot and Wallace Wade lots; no accommodations will be made for recreational vehicles on camps — RVs should park at the Northington Lot near University Mall
• **Updates and further information:** Go to www.rolltide.com; weather-related changes will be posted on official Alabama athletics and Alabama football social media accounts
New Saban deal another solid investment for UA

Cecil Hurt

The debate about Nick Saban's salary has probably been settled — on either side — for quite a time now. People who think Saban has been as wise a 10-year investment for the University of Alabama as a stack of Amazon preferred stock are more than happy that the head coach received a well-deserved extension.

The last line of resistance doesn't think of Saban's salary in terms of the compensation received by corporate CEO's (which is essentially what he is. They don't think of it in terms of sports celebrity salaries, although if Saban and Julio Jones go to lunch, Julio should pick up the tab.

On the other hand, there is a faction that wants to tie coaching salaries to compensation for student athletes. The fact is the schools that have multimillion-dollar football and basketball coaches — Alabama, Clemson, Texas A&M, Ohio State and the other elite outposts of intercollegiate sports — probably do have the resources to pay players in all sports, men's and women's. That doesn't mean every school can do it.

Until the NCAA agrees on a comprehensive plan, no progress is going to be made, even if you put an artificial ceiling on the pay of Saban, or Dabo Sweeney or Mike Krzyzewski. The schools that can do so are going to spend somewhere else because you want to invest in your future, whether on luxury facilities or coaching salaries or both.

People in Tuscaloosa see the Saban Effect on the university campus every day. Yes, there are other factors in the booming enrollment and higher admission standards. Branding is the name of the game, though, and UA uses the football brand to strong effect.

The most intriguing aspect of Friday afternoon's announcement of a contract extension for most UA observers wasn't the dollars. It was the years. Will Saban really be on the sidelines through 2025? He doesn't show any signs of slowing down and as long as he is given the resources to win, there is little need to look elsewhere. His health is good, and his family situation seems settled.

See HURT, C4
HURT

From Page C1

Was it entirely coincidental that the announcement was made at the beginning of a huge recruiting weekend? If you think that was random, you haven’t been following closely for the past 11 years. Everything connects to recruiting in some way. No one in college football recruits negatively — that is, if you ask them whether they do. But in the wake of Alabama’s success, somehow the talking point comes up for recruits, who have a little bird, one supposes, hinting to them that Saban might retire. What better way to counteract that “rumor” for the visitors to Alabama’s campus?

Even better, since recruiting is sometimes like five-dimensional chess, what more proactive way is there to speak to all those recruits who are heading to other campuses than to have a big ESPN story about how Saban has agreed to a lengthy extension? (ESPN does not stand for Eternal Saban Propaganda Network, no matter what you might hear on social media.) That’s the biggest evidence of all that Saban isn’t pondering retirement. Sure, cashing a big paycheck helps but Saban clearly deserves to be the highest-paid coach in the game. When you look closely, though, the real story is that he is still thinking, considering every angle, doing everything possible to stay ahead of the competition. For Alabama fans, that says more than all the dollars you can put in a contract.

Reach Cecil Hurt at
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or 205-722-0225.
ALABAMA FOOTBALL

Saban gets a raise, contract extension

New deal is worth more than $74 million and runs through 2025

John Zenor  Associated Press

Alabama coach Nick Saban still reigns supreme over college football — in national titles and annual pay.

The university announced a new eight-year deal Friday worth at least $74.4 million, which would appear to make Saban again college football’s highest-paid coach based on annual salary.

The agreement runs through the 2025 season, boosting his average annual pay to $9.3 million if he sticks around for the duration.

“Our family is thrilled to agree to a contract extension with the University of Alabama that will keep us in Tuscaloosa for the rest of our coaching career,” Saban said in a statement.

Saban gets a one-year extension with a sizable raise for the 66-year-old coach, who has led the Crimson Tide to five national championships over the past nine seasons.

Ohio State’s Urban Meyer is set to make at least $7.6 million this season. Texas A&M gave Jimbo Fisher a 10-year, $75 million deal. Both Auburn’s Gus Malzahn and Georgia’s Kirby Smart are scheduled to make $7 million annually under seven-year deals, and Michigan’s Jim Harbaugh also pulls in $7 million a year. Clemson’s Dabo Swinney falls just shy of that mark under his new deal.

Saban and fellow Alabama icon Bear Bryant are the only major college football coaches to win six national titles, including Saban’s 2003 BCS crown at LSU. Alabama is 125-14 over the past decade with five Southeastern Conference championships.

“We are so fortunate to have the best football coach in the country here at Alabama in coach Saban, and we are very pleased that he has agreed to another contract extension,” athletic director Greg Byrne said. “What this program has accomplished under him over the past decade is truly remarkable, and it goes well beyond the five national championships.

“There is obviously a very high expectation to succeed on the field; however, that expectation carries over into the classroom and the community, and it has shown in the number of graduates and hours of community service performed.”

Saban’s salary will increase to $7.5 million this season and go up by another $400,000 in each subsequent year. He also gets an $800,000 signing incentive this year and would receive the same amount for completing each of the next three seasons — 2019, 2020 and 2021.

He had received an eight-year deal worth at least $65 million in May 2017.

Then Saban claimed his fifth title with the Crimson Tide in January with a come-from-behind overtime win over Georgia, thanks to a halftime quarterback switch that paid off.

Saban was set to make at least $11.125 million last year, counting a $4 million signing bonus and a $400,000 completion bonus.

The new deal would put him up to $10.3 million in the final year.
Saban's contract sends a message

Joseph Goodman
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Paul Bryant coached until he was 69 years old.
Steve Spurrier made it to 70.
Nick Saban will be halfway through his current contract with Alabama when he passes those two legends and becomes the oldest coach in the history of the SEC.
Saban, who is 66 years old and 132-20 in 11 seasons at Alabama, extended his contract by one year on Friday to 2025. It sent a powerful message to coaches (and their recruits) throughout the SEC. The Tide's glorious ride isn't ending anytime soon, and the greatest coach in the history of college football will not be aging out of the sport's most demanding league.
Age got to Bryant.

Spurrier no longer wanted to put in the long hours required for success in the SEC.
It's clear at this point that beating Saban will be the only way to get him to retire. Good luck with that. He's 64-7 over the last five seasons, and one failed defensive drive away from winning three straight national championships.
Saban's Alabama is the favorite to win the championship again this season, and, at this point, his biggest problem every year is convincing stockpiled talent not to transfer. Saban's quarterback controversy this fall will be the envy of every other coach in the country.
If Auburn's starting quarterback goes down with an injury this season, the Tigers are done. If Alabama's starting quarterback gets knocked out, the backup has starred in a national championship.
To quote Mel Brooks, it's good to be the king.
Saban is so thoroughly dominating the SEC at this point, that only one current coach in the league has a victory against Alabama. Auburn's Gus Malzahn has two victories against Saban, including last year's Iron Bowl. For that big win, Auburn extended Malzahn's contract to 2024.
And now Saban has a contract through 2025.
Coincidence? Not a chance.
If Malzahn beats Saban two years in a row, Auburn might give him a lifetime contract. And Saban might still outlast him.
Saban has positioned himself for at least another decade at Alabama. That's not an exaggeration, and at SEC Media Days he mentioned coaching until his was 80.

SEE GOODMAN, B4
Goodman

FROM BJ

"Well, let me say this," Saban said in response to a question about coaching to 70 years old, "Mrs. Terry does not want me at home. I can tell you that. She doesn’t care if I’m 60, 70, or 80. So, she’s looking for something for me to do.

"Now, I really enjoy what I’m doing right now, and as long as I’m healthy and I can do it, I’m going to continue to do it, and not worry about any numbers, or what my age is or anything like that. But I would not want to be in the position where I ever rode the program down because I wasn’t capable of making a contribution that would be positive to the success of the program."

Bobby Bowden retired at 80, so it wouldn’t be unprecedented. Bowden called it quits not because of his age, but because Florida State fell into relative mediocrity. He finished with 377 wins after having 12 taken away by the NCAA. Saban has 223.

"So, I’m going to continue to do this for as long as I feel like I can make a positive contribution and as long as I feel healthy enough to do it," Saban reiterated at SEC Media Days, "and, you know, our noontime basketball team was undefeated again this year, so that’s always an indicator to me that I can make it through another season."

Saban’s basketball games include assistant coaches and staffers. The Don of College Football literally holds court in Tuscaloosa. For the foreseeable future, he’ll be holding the entire sport of college football hostage as well.

Joseph Goodman is a columnist for Alabama Media Group. He’s on Twitter @JoeGoodmanJr.
As the Tide Rolls, the Door Revolves

Rapid Turnover Often Signals Trouble, but Not for Nick Saban

By RAY GLIER

The start of the college football season is mere weeks away, and fans begging for Nick Saban's Alabama Crimson Tide to backslide do not have a lot to pin their hopes on.

The Crimson Tide have won five national championships since 2009 and they are expected to have their usual array of talent on both sides of the ball and special teams in 2018. There is something of a quarterback controversy between the junior Jalen Hurts, who led the team to the last two national championship games, and the sophomore Tua Tagovailoa, who rescued the team after halftime of last season's championship game against Georgia. It is a luxurious problem for Saban to solve.

There is this though: Saban has six new assistant coaches. Brent Key, an offensive line coach, is the only assistant in the same role as 2017. Saban also has a new offensive coordinator and new defensive coordinator. Running backs coach Burton Burns, the last remaining assistant coach from Saban's first Alabama staff, retired from coaching in January. Mike Locksley is Saban's seventh offensive coordinator at Alabama.

In this era of the college football coach as chief executive — fund-raiser, spokesman, visionary — staff turnover like this would be an impediment for some coaches, but not for Saban. He has managed similar situations before, cycling through 39 assistants since arriving at Alabama in 2007 while winning at an absurd pace (132-20). Perhaps it is because Saban has figured out how to be a different kind of leader — a very hands-on C.E.O.

Bobby Bowden, who was the head coach at Florida State for 34 years, said when he started to lose assistant coaches, F.S.U. went from national title contender to "above average." Chuck Amato became head coach at North Carolina State in 2000, Mark Richt, became the head coach at Georgia in 2001, and Bowden's longtime assistant, Jim Gladden, retired after the 2001 season. F.S.U. had no Top 10 finishes during Bowden's last seven seasons.

"All of them leaving took a piece out of the pie," Bowden said. "The worst we did was seven wins, but

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Turnover Is Not a Problem for Nick Saban

From First Sports Page

it was enough to get me fired, which goes back to the question of why doesn't the same thing happen with Saban?"

The answer, Saban's former assistants say, rests with his unchanging belief in big ideas like structure and consistency.

"Everything within the culture is clearly defined, your role, your job, and when somebody new comes in, Alabama just rolls out the playbook about what it takes to be successful coaching that position," said Geoff Collins, the head coach at Temple, who was Saban's first player personnel director at Alabama. "You stick with the process. There are no competing philosophies."

South Carolina head coach Will Muschamp, who was an assistant under Saban at Louisiana State from 2001-04, said Saban cultivates a vertical, top-down culture. "There is one message in that program," he said.

When offensive coordinator Major Applewhite left Alabama for Texas following the 2007 season, Collins said he and then-sports information director Jeff Purinton were instructed by Saban to put together a binder that listed attributes Saban wanted in an assistant coach. Using the guidelines, Collins and Purinton assembled a list of candidates for the binder. It included Jim McEwing, who was eventually hired and called plays for two Alabama national championship teams (2009, 2011).

"He knows what the right fit is for an assistant, but he also very good on trends and where things are headed and staying ahead and constantly evaluating people in the field," said McEwing, the wide receivers coach at Michigan. "When he does have turnover he is ahead of what he needs in the organization."

Saban hears complaints about his large ancillary staff — his "analysts" — but he employs so many, he said, to cultivate a pool of candidates to choose from when he has an opening. Mike Groh, the offensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles, was one of those analysts who became a full-time Alabama assistant coach.

"I'd rather hire somebody that I know as a person in terms of who they are, kind of character they have, kind of leadership they demonstrate, kind of teacher they can be, rather than having to go on somebody else's recommendation," Saban said, at the media event for the Southeastern Conference two weeks ago.

To vet new hires McEwing said, Saban finds coaches who already have relationships in certain areas of the country, which is important in recruiting.

"That's 100 percent part of the hiring process," McEwing said.

At SEC Media Days, Anfernee Jennings, a 2018 starting linebacker, was asked to assess the difference between 2017 defensive coordinator Jeremy Pruitt, and his replacement, Tosh Lupoi. "It's going to be much of the same thing, just a different person calling it." Jennings said.

To be sure, Alabama has other structural advantages that could cancel out the disadvantage of its sweeping staff overhaul. The Crimson Tide generally have more players than any other program in the SEC (53 draft picks the last six seasons, 15 in the first round). Also, the SEC has lost some of its finest coaches in the Saban era — Florida's Urban Meyer is now at Ohio State, South Carolina's Steve Spurrier is retired, L.S.U.'s Les Miles got fired after failing to match the big red rival. Their replacements have been no match for Saban so far.

In the last two years, impatient fans and boosters have forced school presidents to replace three coaches in the SEC's Western Division, who were not able to compete with Saban (Texas A&M's Kevin Sumlin, Arkansas' Bret Bielema and Miles). A fourth coach, Mississippi's Hugh Freeze, was fired for reasons related to trying to keep up with Alabama: N.C.A.A. recruiting violations.

Since 2012, every school in the SEC, besides Alabama, has replaced its head coach, which means those schools have their own staff turnover to manage.

Schools trying to compete with Saban invariably take a step back, attempting a big step forward, which is similar to what is happening in the N.F.L.'s A.F.C. East. Owners fire coaches failing to catch Saban's friend, Bill Belichick, who has coached the New England Patriots since 2000.

"That's one of the amazing things about Saban," Bowden said. "He doesn't just lose a good man, he loses good men, and I don't see any shortage of the number of quality players and how they play. I've tried to figure out why, why, why."
Saban agrees to contract extension

New deal for Crimson Tide coach runs through 2025, includes bonuses

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

Nick Saban has agreed to new terms that include a contract extension and a raise as the University of Alabama’s head coach, the school announced Friday. Saban’s agreement extends his term through the 2025 season and his compensation will increase $400,000 per year.

The new deal also includes an $800,000 bonus for signing (and retroactively for winning last season’s national championship), and future bonuses in the same amount for completing the 2019, 2020 and 2021 seasons.

Saban’s new compensation through the 2021 season will be $8.3 million per year, including the bonuses. Saban’s compensation was $11.132 million in 2017, making him the highest-paid coach in college football.

That included a signing bonus of $4 million for his previous extension last May.

“Our family is thrilled to agree to a contract extension with the University of Alabama that will keep us in Tuscaloosa for the rest of our coaching career,” Saban said in a statement. “For (my wife) Terry and me, the Tuscaloosa community and the state of Alabama have become home, and a place with deep roots for our entire family.

“We are very excited about the future, and this agreement allows us to continue to build on the success we have enjoyed at Alabama – both on and off the football field.”

Saban has coached the Crimson Tide to five national championships over the last nine years as well as five Southeastern Conference championships.

Alabama has won 125 games over the past decade. The 2018 season will be Saban’s 12th at UA.

“We are so fortunate to have the best football coach in the country here at Alabama in Coach Saban,” UA Director of Athletics Greg Byrne said in a statement, “and we are very pleased that he has agreed to another contract extension.

“What this program has accomplished under him over the past decade is truly remarkable, and it goes well beyond the five national championships. There is, obviously, a very high expectation to succeed on the field; however, that expectation carries over into the classroom and the community, and it has shown in the number of graduates and hours of community service performed.”

Saban’s players have excelled in the classroom over the last 11 years with a graduation progress rating of 984 that ranks second in the SEC and 11th among NCAA schools.

UA had 25 players compete in the national championship game last January who had already earned degrees.

“Nick and Terry Saban have been tremendous assets to our university, and we appreciate all they do to support our students and our community,” said UA President Stuart Bell.

“We are so fortunate to have them here, and we are grateful they will continue to invest their time and their talents here in Tuscaloosa.”

The agreement is subject to approval by the compensation committee of the UA board of trustees.
The night of the moths: Hundreds attend Tuscaloosa’s MothFest

By: Jessa Reid Bolling, Special to The Tuscaloosa News

More than 300 people visited the Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum in Tuscaloosa on Saturday night for MothFest, an event dedicated to teaching about insects that capped off National Moth Week.

Special light and bait stations were set up to attract moths and other nocturnal insects. Attendees at the free event were able to hold various insects, such as a Tamaulipan walking stick and Eastern Hercules beetles. Black and brown widow spiders were also on display, kept in clear containers for safe observation.

The more courageous of the MothFest attendees were encouraged to eat flavored crickets, either chocolate, taco or sour cream and onion flavored. Bugs weren’t the only item on the menu during the free family-friendly event: Food trucks from Local Roots, Local Churn Creamery and Cheese Louise provided more traditional fare.

In the past MothFest has been held at the Moundville Archaeological Museum, but organizers decided to move the event to the transportation museum, a more central location in town. The move seemed to have worked: Last year MothFest attracted about 80 guests compared to this year’s 300.

Kendra Abbott, a research associate at the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama who primarily studies dragonflies, has been involved with MothFest since it began three years ago. “I love doing outreach with insects because it’s the most biodiverse group of animals on the planet,” she said. “We usually have lots of bugs that kids can handle and hold, so they’re having fun and learning at the same time. A lot of people get kind of scared of insects, but most of them can’t harm you at all and they’re actually very beneficial to us. In fact, if insects went extinct, so would we. We need them, so it’s important not to think ‘Oh all insects are bad, I should spray around the house for every little thing.’ Most of them are doing a service for you, even in your own backyard. They’re very important to our existence, so we should know to love them and not fear them.”

Abbott and her husband, John, are both involved in entomology, the study of bugs, and nature photography, with both teaching insect photography classes as well. They are also working on a book about common insects of Texas, where they are from, as well as the Peterson Field Guide to North American insects. They both use their experiences to help educate people on how insects are helpful to the environment and that people shouldn’t be afraid of the bugs they encounter in nature.

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John Abbott, director of research and collections and chief curator at the UA Museum of Natural History, has also been involved with MothFest since it began three years ago. Organisms on earth.

- Scientists estimate there are 150,000 to more than 500,000 moth species.

- Their colors and patterns are either dazzling or so cryptic that they define camouflage. Shapes and sizes span the gamut from as small as a pinhead to as large as an adult’s hand.

- Most moths are nocturnal, and need to be sought at night to be seen. Others fly like butterflies during the day.

- Finding moths can be as simple as leaving a porch light on and checking it after dark. Serious moth aficionados use special lights and baits to attract them.

Source: www.nationalmothweek.org

John Abbott, director of research and collections and chief curator at the UA Museum of Natural History, has also been involved with MothFest since it began three years ago.

“I’m very passionate about insects and sharing what I’ve learned about them with people,” John Abbott said. “Insects are much more accessible than a lot of other things. We can’t have a fish without an aquarium or just a bird without a cage and whatnot, so it’s much easier to have a bunch of insects like this for people to interact with. They’re very convenient and there are more of them on the planet than any other group of animals. They impact our lives in many different ways, so they’re a really great tool to get people excited about natural history and ultimately museums.”
UA will receive $15M gift

Lockheed Martin chairwoman, husband make donation

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

A $15 million gift to the University of Alabama by Lockheed Martin Corp. President Marilyn A. Hewson and her husband, James, is the largest one-time financial contribution in the Capstone’s history.

“I am deeply thankful for the strong business education I received at the University of Alabama,” said Marilynn Hewson in a statement released by UA on Monday. “That education helped prepare me for many of the challenges and opportunities I’ve encountered throughout my career — from the day I joined the company as an industrial engineer to my current role as CEO.”

Hewson, chairwoman, president and CEO of the aerospace company, and her husband made the $15 million gift in Lockheed Martin stock to the Culverhouse College of Business, Vice President of Advancement Bob Pierce said.

While the university announced the gift on Monday, the plans for funds use by the college will be announced later this fall, Pierce said. The gift must be formally accepted by the University of Alabama System board of trustees, which is scheduled to meet again September.

Previous gifts by the alumni couple have supported the Marilynn Hewson Faculty Fellows Program in Data Analytics and Cyber Security, a high-tech Data Analytics and Cyber Security lab, and an endowed undergraduate scholarship and graduate assistantship.

Marilyn Hewson is a member of the Culverhouse College of Business Board of Visitors and the UA President’s Cabinet.

“This is a remarkable gift from a truly incredible, successful and compassionate couple,” UA President Stuart Bell said in a statement released Monday. “Their commitment to and ongoing support of our Culverhouse College of Business reflects a confidence in the important teaching, research and service we do every day.”
Lockheed CEO gives $15M to UA biz school

Anna Beahm  abeahm@al.com

Marilyn A. Hewson, chairman, president and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp., gave $15 million to the Culverhouse College of Business at the University of Alabama. The donation is the largest one-time financial contribution in university history, the university announced this week.

Last year, Hewson and her husband, James, made a $5 million commitment to the college to support the Marlllyn Hewson Faculty Fellows Program in Data Analytics and Cyber Security, a high-tech data analytics and cyber security lab and an endowed undergraduate scholarship and graduate assistantship.

The Hewsons both graduated from the University of Alabama. Marilyn Hewson earned two degrees from Alabama including a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s in economics. She is also a member of the Culverhouse College of Business Board of Visitors as well as a member of UA’s President’s Cabinet.

James Hewson holds a bachelor’s degree in communications.

“I am deeply thankful for the strong business education I received at the University of Alabama,” said Marlllyn Hewson. “That education helped prepare me for many of the challenges and opportunities I’ve encountered throughout my career, from the day I joined the company as an industrial engineer to my current role as CEO.”

The gift announcement comes the same day Marlllyn Hewson is being honored in New York City as the 2018 Chief Executive of the Year by Chief Executive magazine.

“This is a remarkable gift from a truly incredible, successful and compassionate couple,” said UA President Stuart R. Bell.

Hewson has been recognized as No. 3 on Fortune magazine’s “50 Most Powerful Women in Business” in 2017, a top-10 "Business Person of the Year" by Fortune and one of the “World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” by Forbes.

Lockheed Martin CEO Marlllyn Hewson and husband, James Hewson, on the field at Bryant Denny Stadium at the University of Alabama. University of Alabama
New $16M emergency operations center opens

The state-of-the-art facility is largest in the state

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

The first group of employees has moved into Tuscaloosa's new state-of-the-art Tuscaloosa County Emergency Operations Center.

Tuscaloosa County 911 call-takers have been working out of the $16 million facility for the last two weeks. Dispatchers with Tuscaloosa and Northport police and fire departments, University of Alabama Police, Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office and NorthStar paramedics will move in by the end of the year.

"It's currently the largest emergency operations center in the state of Alabama," said 911 Director Rod Coleman.

The building off Rose Boulevard is just under 20,000 square feet and will also house the office of Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency. Completion of the building, which broke ground in July 2016, is the result of more than 20 years of discussions about putting the same dispatchers under the same roof.

Following a model in use across the country and state, the move doesn’t consolidate operations, but rather "co-locates" the employees that all work for their respective agencies, Coleman said.

The method of operation is intended to solve the

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problem of callers being transferred multiple times between agencies and having to repeat their problems during emergencies. Call-takers are able to enter information into the computer system and have it show up, in real time, on the computer screens of the dispatchers who direct police, firefighters and paramedics to the scene.

The center was built to withstand any type of threat. The only window is on the front door, which is secure and not open to the public. There are 12-inch concrete walls and 14-inch concrete ceilings, and earth bermsing around three sides of the building to protect against high winds.

The EMA area of the building has conference rooms, bunkers in case workers need to stay overnight and a situation room. The area for call-takers and dispatchers includes a quiet room, with a couch and chairs that can be used if the nature of the job becomes overwhelming and someone needs to take a minute alone. Dispatcher call stations feature monitors and desktops that can be electronically raised or lowered, and adjustable fans that blow warm and cool air toward the desk.

There's also a full kitchen with several refrigerators, a range and a dining area. A 6,000-square-foot logistics building separate from the main facility can be used to store emergency supplies and includes more bunkers if overnight stays become necessary. RV hookups in the back parking lot can provide power, water and sewer access for the different police departments' mobile crime units.

Tuscaloosa County 911 used money collected from the state's 911 surcharge for phone customers to pay for the land and building. It's built on 13.1 acres purchased from Black Warrior Solid Waste Disposal Authority for $102,000.

The facility is at 7400 Richard M. Pierce Parkway, named after the first 911 and EMA director for Tuscaloosa County.
Proposal for Interstellar Mapping Probe Awarded $496 Million Grant by NASA

By: Special Release from UAH

A team of astrophysicists that includes Dr. Gary Zank, chair of the Department of Space Science and the director of the Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), has been awarded $496 million by NASA’s Solar Terrestrial Probes (STP) Program to fund the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) mission concept. In keeping with the priorities outlined in the National Research Council’s “Decadal Strategy for Solar and Space Physics,” the mission will seek to advance critical scientific objectives of understanding our home in the galaxy, contribute to the fundamental understanding of the Sun-Earth system, and produce secondary observations critical to space-weather related societal needs.

“It was a lot of work to put this together – only two or three other groups submitted a proposal,” says Dr. Zank. “Ours provided a more coherent link, per the call, in looking at the energization of plasma close to the Earth, in the distant heliosphere, and in the interstellar medium, and in providing a better picture of how all of these vastly separated regions are connected. By measuring both phenomena that originate locally and those that originate in extremely distant regions, from which it may take neutral particles to propagate for five or ten years prior to the measurements being made, we will be able to couple local and distant heliophysics, in a way that has never been done before.”

Along with Dr. Zank, the IMAP team comprises principal investigator Dr. David J. McComas of Princeton University, as well as numerous leading space scientists from both the U.S. and abroad. The mission is both a continuation and an expansion of earlier heliospheric mapping efforts made by the Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission and the Advanced Composition Explorer, as well as measurements gathered by the Cassini INCA instrument and Voyager I and II. In particular, it seeks to further explore a previously unpredicted phenomenon discovered by IBEX: a narrow ribbon of energetic neutral atom (ENA) emissions coming from the outer heliosphere whose evolution suggests that the heliosphere’s galactic interaction is more dynamical than anticipated.

Unlike those other missions, however, IMAP combines 10 state-of-the-art measurement capabilities intended to produce new observations of ENAs from the heliospheric boundary region over an extended energy range and with enhanced sensitivity, and spatial and energy resolution. “We’ll make significant advances in that area over previous instrumentation,” says Dr. Zank, estimating that IMAP will show a 100-fold improvement over IBEX’s capabilities. The mission will also be able to produce high-sensitivity observations of other interstellar matter that traverses the heliosphere into the inner solar system, as well as other measurements required to monitor the solar wind, which then shapes the dynamics and structure of the outer heliosheath.

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"This is the one place in the universe that we can make detailed measurements of a local star—our sun—to discover how it behaves and interacts with the interstellar medium," he says.
"There's no way in the next thousand years that we can study anywhere else like this in situ—a telescope can only give a very limited sense of the interaction of a star with its local interstellar medium, and one that is often attenuated by the interstellar medium between the telescope and the star."

The spacecraft that will carry IMAP is set to launch in 2024, but this initial phase is dedicated to designing and beginning to build the instruments. As the team’s theory lead, Dr. Zank has been heavily involved in and has led much of the coordination of the underlying science that the instruments will explore. “You start with the big science goals and then you continue down to how a specific instrument or set of instruments will answer those science questions,” he says.
The team will then continue to develop the mission science as launch approaches, ensuring that all of NASA’s key decision points are passed successfully for the mission. “It is incumbent upon us to make the right measurements to determine answers to the primary questions to be answered by IMAP,” he says. “After all, why else would you put almost $500 million into a mission?”

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and a recipient of the International Space Science Institute’s 2017 Johannes Geiss Fellowship, Dr. Zank is the principal investigator on an initiative to develop new predictive plasma-surface interaction technologies for the nation’s aerospace, manufacturing, energy, environment, and agricultural sectors. Entitled “Connecting the Plasma Universe to Plasma Technology in Alabama: The Science and Technology of Low-Temperature Plasma,” the project is funded by a $20 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
Alabama Communication Association conference at UAH teaches how to spot fake news

By: Rebecca Petit

A conference at the University of Alabama in Huntsville is educating the public, on how to think critically in the age of fake news.

The Alabama Communication Association (ACA) conference discussed everything from the role social media plays in society to political rhetoric.

"Journalism is definitely under attack, right now, there's no doubt about that and I think it's important to defend the institution, it's a key institution important to the survival and health of our democratic way of life," said Dr. Michael Hogan, the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric at The Pennsylvania State University.

Today when media is being critiqued as the enemy, it's important to distinguish real news from fake. That was one of the topics discussed at the ACA conference.

"What we try to do is to is equip students to understand the distinction between fake news and real news and what the standards of journalism are, that are important to uphold," Hogan explained.

Dr. John Saunders said we must prepare students to become critical consumers of news, as everyday citizens.

"The number one thing that anyone can teach students is critical thinking. Not what to think but how to think. How to ask questions and to ask better questions," said Dr. John Saunders, UAH communication lecturer.

What questions should citizens be asking in the age of fake news?

"About the news, about the quality of it. Where did it come from? Where is it being posted? Who is the intended audience for it?" Saunders explained.

"Be concerned with the credibility of sources, question what they hear and investigate on their own," Hogan added. Conference organizers said it's imperative to re-emphasize critical thinking skills in the educational system. "There's been a heavy emphasize on science and technology education in recent years of course, and I think we've come to neglect some of these important skills that are essential to the health of our democratic society and our way of life," said Hogan.

This is the eighth year the ACA conference has been held, but it's the first time UAH has hosted it.
UAH gets distinguished research security award

By: Ray Garner

The University of Alabama in Huntsville has been chosen by the Defense Security Service (DSS) to receive the 2018 James S. Cogswell Outstanding Industrial Security Achievement Award.

Nationwide, only 39 organizations were selected for the 2018 award from a population of approximately 13,300 cleared facilities that are subject to recurring assessment.

UAH is the only institution of higher learning in the nation to be chosen by the DSS for the 2018 award.

“This recognition from one of the nation’s leading agencies providing oversight for America’s security operations is quite an accomplishment for UAH and our team of security professionals,” said UAH President Robert Altenkirch. “This award is indicative of the investment and dedication of a lot of individuals on our campus and we’re pleased their efforts are being recognized.”

“The Cogswell award represents the best of the best and the winning security programs stand as models for others to emulate,” said UAH Security Administrator Denise Spiller. “The award is presented to organizations that have significantly contributed to industrial security, as well as national security.”

The award criterion focuses on principles of industrial security excellence. Factors include establishing and maintaining a security program that far exceeds the basic National Industrial Security Program requirements, and providing leadership to other cleared facilities in establishing best practices while maintaining the highest standards for security.

The Cogswell Award selection process is rigorous, according to Spiller.

A DSS industrial security representative may only nominate facilities that have at a minimum two consecutive superior industrial security review ratings, and which show a sustained degree of excellence and innovation in their overall security program management, implementation and oversight. The nomination is based on the overall facility security program, senior management support, security vulnerability assessments, security education and awareness, facility security officer and security staff level of experience. Once nominated the DSS field chief’s approval is required. It is then sent to DSS headquarters where 56 agencies review the nominations.

The Cogswell Award is given for outstanding achievement in matters related exclusively to a facility’s security program. DSS makes the final selections.

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The award was established in 1966 in honor of the late Air Force Col. James S. Cogswell, the first chief of industrial security within the Department of Defense. Cogswell was responsible for developing the basic principles of the Industrial Security Program, which includes an emphasis on the partnership between industry and government to protect classified information. This partnership ultimately ensures the greatest protection for the U.S. warfighter and our nation’s classified information.

About

The Defense Security Service

The Defense Security Service (DSS) strengthens national security at home and abroad through security oversight and education operations. DSS oversees the protection of U.S. and foreign classified information and technologies in the hands of cleared industry under the National Industrial Security Program by providing professional risk management services. As functional manager for the Department of Defense (DoD), DSS provides security education, training, certification, and professional development for DoD and for other U.S. Government personnel, contractor employees, and representatives of foreign governments.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is a doctoral-granting, “high research activity” institution with more than 9,000 students. The campus is among U.S. News & World Report’s Tier 1 national universities. UAH is the anchor tenant in Cummings Research Park, the second largest research park in the United States.
Doubts dominate stadium meeting

USA deal takes public pummeling

Lawrence Specker lspecker@al.com

"I feel that if South Alabama wants to buy them a stadium, South Alabama should fund it."

No single remark could sum up a community meeting held Monday night to discuss the future of Mobile's Ladd-Peebles Stadium: It was a lively and at times raucous affair that kept Mayor Sandy Stimpson on the hot seat for nearly two hours. Plenty of people, including Stimpson himself, had plenty to say.

But if you had to distill it to one core message, that remark from senior citizen Frances Thomas seemed to capture the sentiment shared by most of the people in the room.

SEE STADIUM, A6
Stadium: USA asking city, county to help pay for new facility

FROM A1

The University of South Alabama, which has been playing home football games at the venerable Ladd-Peebles, wants to build a $70 million stadium on its campus in west Mobile. University leaders are asking the city and county to chip in; President Tony Waldrop has said that without public funding, USA can't afford to build the stadium in time for the 2020 season.

A letter of intent from Stimpson to the City Council proposes an arrangement under which the city would pay USA $500,000 a year for 20 years, and USA would give the city a lump sum of $2.5 million to help redo the Ladd property.

The Mobile County Commission is waiting to see what the city does before it considers any contribution. The city, meanwhile, is waiting on a City Council vote. And for three weeks now, the council had waited on Monday's meeting, called by District 2 Councilman Levon Manzie.

How the meeting might influence the council's vote remains to be seen. But it clearly provided a lot of food for thought.

Some key takeaways:

Monday's meeting had been pitched as a forum for the Maysville community, which in Mobile shorthand meant a chance for the mostly black residents of the lower-income streets nearby and south of the stadium to speak up. But the audience was racially diverse, reflecting makeup of the overall area around the stadium. Also, several speakers made a point of saying that while they didn't live in the area, they had grown up there or otherwise had ties to the stadium, or to Williamson High School (where the meeting was held). And they seemed to be united in a hearty skepticism of awarding public funding for a USA stadium.

Stimpson had to know going in that he'd encounter a tough crowd. He faced that challenge squarely, listening diligently and maintaining a calm demeanor throughout.

He stated his case as he'd argued it from the beginning: Buying into the university's stadium could save the city millions, compared to keeping up 70-year-old Ladd, and a downsized Ladd could be more accessible to the community around it.

No Monday, that argument did not fly. Not an inch.

USA wasn't represented at the meeting. Waldrop had said that USA leaders would attend to answer questions as needed. On Monday night, however, Stimpson said he'd advised them not to come. "To me, it really wasn't South Alabama's responsibility to be here tonight," he said. "It's really about Ladd-Peebles, not about USA."

In hindsight, that probably was a good call. However benevolent the intentions behind USA's promise of a $2.5 million gift for Ladd's redevelopment, it has been perceived in some quarters that the Stimpson administration has already decided what ought to happen to Ladd and what ought to replace it.

Manzie has said the conflation of separate issues — the building of USA's new stadium and the future of Mobile's old one — has created a "monster" in that it makes people think USA's stadium is a direct threat to Ladd and the community around it.

At Monday night's meeting, that monster could have gone toe to toe with Godzilla.

Despite Stimpson's repeated assurances that the city has no predetermined plan for Ladd, and won't draft one without extensive community input, it was clear that deep distrust surrounds the issue. Those who turned out Monday wanted to see Ladd preserved, improved and remain a home to the Senior Bowl and other major events. They'd prefer to see the city spend $10 million on Ladd, rather than give it to USA.

There's a Catch-22 at play. Based on audience comments, the Ladd community believes that the administration has a plan in hand for the stadium's destruction and redevelopment, regardless of Stimpson's assurances. Yet several speakers also said that the community needs to see a plan for Ladd before it can buy into a $10 million deal for USA. In other words, if the city has a plan that's a problem and if doesn't have a plan that's also a problem.
Council likely to delay stadium vote

Lawrence Specker  lspecker@al.com

City funding for a University of South Alabama stadium wasn't on the Mobile City Council's agenda Tuesday, but it was the subject of extensive, often pained discussion — and the upshot was that a decision seemed to be getting further away, not closer.

"My name is Levon Manzie and I survived the meeting last night," said the council's District 2 representative, to laughter, at the start of the council's preliminary organizational session. He was referring to a contentious community meeting held Monday evening as a chance for residents of the Maysville community around Ladd-Peebles Stadium to talk about that venue's future. He was glad to see Mayor Sandy Stimpson had survived as well, he said.

The city is weighing whether to contribute $10 million over 20 years to USA's stadium. The idea, pitched by Stimpson, is that major events such as the Senior Bowl could move to the new venue and the aging Ladd-Peebles could be downsized into something more suited to high school and recreational use, freeing the city from relentlessly expensive maintenance. Under the deal, USA would give $2.5 million back to the city for Ladd's redevelopment.

Ladd defenders question why the city should commit $10 million to a USA project when the money could be spent on the city's own asset. It's complicated political question for the council, and it didn't get any simpler on Tuesday.

Stimpson said he'd heard a couple of things loud and clear at the community meeting. "There were a lot of emotionally charged comments," he said. "To sum it up, those in attendance want Ladd to stay like it is. Further, they do not want the city to contribute to the construction of the stadium at USA."

But keeping Ladd like it is won't be cheap, Stimpson said. He then threw down a gauntlet: If the council rejects his plan, it'll have to figure out where to find the Ladd dollars.

"My challenge to you is to come up with what will take $2.25 million per year for maintenance for the next five years," he said.

Similarly, he challenged Ladd's community supporters to "reach out, bring to us a solution." Stimpson said, "There's been nothing else put on the table to solve this problem."

A revitalization of Ladd will far exceed $10 million, he said.

"We can't kick this can down the road any longer," Stimpson said. "We have all the facts and information we need from a financial standpoint. We know what's at risk. And so I hope that in your collaborative thinking that you will come back and make a recommendation on a pathway forward that the community can embrace, that the administration can embrace and that we can all support."

But to not do anything and to vote no on the proposed letter of agreement with South Alabama is kicking the can down the road," Stimpson introduced Jim Nagy, executive director of the Reese's Senior Bowl, who offered a clear answer to a question that's popped up repeatedly in the discussion. Yes, he said, when USA has a stadium — whether that's in two years with city support or in a few more years without it — the Senior Bowl will move there, even if Ladd-Peebles remains available.

Whether the USA stadium is smaller than Ladd isn't an issue, he said: The key thing is that the campus location will allow for a bigger overall event than the "landlocked" Ladd location.

Later in the meeting, city Finance Director Paul Wesch weighed in with another point. In 2017, he said, Ladd-Peebles had an operating income of about $1 million. But the lion's share of that was from rental, parking and concession revenue related to USA Jaguars home games, the Senior Bowl and the Dollar General Bowl. Wesch said that when USA eventually builds its own stadium and takes those games away, Ladd stands to begin running annual deficits of a half-million dollars or more.

"That's very enlightening," said Councilwoman Kess Rich. "Very, very good information. I think what it tells me is that our city can't have two large stadiums."

Rich went on to say that a clear plan for Ladd has to be developed. She wondered if a carefully designed bond issue could open the way for the city to redevelop Ladd while still supporting USA.

Councilman Fred Richardson, who has said he won't vote for the destruction of Ladd, nevertheless seemed to favor city support for the USA stadium. He said the USA stadium likely would generate so much economic impact for the city that it would more than recoup its $500,000-per-year commitment.

As of Tuesday, the council appeared unlikely to vote on the USA proposal on July 31.

Councilman C.J. Small said that he felt there needed to be more community involvement in developing a plan for Ladd, and that would take more time.

To that, Councilman Joel Davies offered his take: If the city declines to support a USA stadium now, he said, USA will eventually build one anyway. Ladd will then lose most of its revenue-generating games. "I believe the political reality at that point is, it's going to be very difficult for the City Council — whoever is on the City Council at that point — to muster five votes around spending millions of dollars a year on a 40,000-seat, 75-year-old stadium that hosts high-school football games," he said.

Davies said, "I think the least likely outcome is that things are going to continue, as they are currently today, indefinitely."
'FINDER’S FEES’
A statement from U.S. Attorney Louis Franklin Sr. of Birmingham picks up the story:

"During 2014 and 2015, Davis tried to recruit investors to Trina Health and, as a result of doing so, he received finder’s fees. After Trina Health encountered difficulties with the health insurance companies, Davis attempted to lobby the insurance company to change its position," the statement says.

Then, says the statement, "Gilbert came up with a plan to push a bill through the Alabama Legislature’s 2016 session that would require the insurer to cover the treatments."

Gilbert, says the statement, "gave things of value" to Hammon to work behind the scenes to push the bill, and hired Connors to act as a lobbyist on behalf of the bill. Gilbert also hatched a campaign named "BlueGate" — of which Davis was aware — to try to swing public opinion and to bring legal pressure in the form of a complaint filed in Baldwin County Circuit Court.

According to the indictment, Davis worked vigorously to support and advance the bill.

'DESIRE TO HELP’
At one point, according to the indictment, a fellow lawmaker inquired about Davis’ motivations, to which Davis replied that he was motivated by "only a desire to help the diabetic patients" in his House district.

As political jockeying intensified, according to the indictment, Davis said he might be willing to sponsor a bill to disband Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state’s dominant health insurer.

Davis first won his House seat in 2002. At the time, he was public relations coordinator for the Baldwin County school system. The district is unusual in that it reaches westward out of Baldwin County to take in portions of Mobile County.

A longtime educator, Davis earlier held teaching and administrative posts in the Mobile County schools, with stops at Clark Middle in Chickasaw, and at Azalea Middle and Murphy High in Mobile. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Mobile and the University of South Alabama.

Both as an educator and lawmaker, Davis has been known for his musicianship. As a gifted trumpeter, his stirring renditions of Taps are often heard at Baldwin area patriotic events.

He has also been involved in church music ministries, both in Chickasaw and Spanish Fort. And he served a stint at resident conductor of the Baldwin Pops Band.

Williams’ lawyer expresses confidence

The lawyer for state Rep. Jack Williams, R-Vestavia Hills, said he doesn’t expect Williams to go to trial on charges that he took part in an alleged conspiracy scheme with state Rep. Randy Davis, R-Daphne, and others.

A grand jury indicted Williams in April, but Williams was not named in a newer indictment issued this week in the case.

"All I can say is that we are in the process of resolving the previous indictment. And I would think it will be resolved within the next few weeks," said Jake Watson, who is leading Williams’ defense.

Watson said he could not be more specific. Asked if he expects the charges to be dropped, Watson said, "I expect it to be resolved in a manner that is favorable to the government and to Mr. Williams."

Efforts to reach the U.S. Attorney’s Office for a response were not immediately successful. — Mike Cason
Tide's Harris, Davis on Walter Camp watch list

Staff report

Alabama running back Damien Harris and defensive lineman Raekwon Davis have been named to the 2018 Walter Camp Award watch list, announced by the Walter Camp Foundation Friday morning.

Harris and Davis are among 50 players nationwide on the list. The award is given annually to the most outstanding player in college football as judged by the Walter Camp Foundation. Derrick Henry is the only Alabama player to have won the award, doing so in 2015.

Harris led the Crimson Tide in rushing yards in 2016 and 2017, amassing at least 1,000 yards in each season. This is the third preseason watch list for Harris this summer, having also been named to the watch lists for the Maxwell (best all-around player) and Doak Walker (top running back) Awards.

Davis led the team with 8.5 sacks as a true sophomore, adding with 45 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, a fumble return and his first career interception in the national championship game. Davis also featured on the watch lists for the Chuck Bednarik Award and Nagurski Trophy, each given to the best defensive player in college football, earlier this month.

The winner will be announced before the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show in December.
Crimson concerns

Here are five issues Alabama will address entering fall camp

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

Even defending national champions have questions to answer going into the next season. That’s what fall camp is for in college football.

Not even Nick Saban, the game’s top coach, knows how things will play out in the next few weeks after the Alabama Crimson Tide opens practice Friday. UA will have competition at every position, and will have to develop crucial depth and figure out which players to focus going into the Sept. 1 season opener against Louisville in Orlando.

Here are five key issues Alabama will address in fall camp:

1. Secondary

Minkah Fitzpatrick is gone to the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League. Also departed are the other top five players in the defensive backfield from last year’s championship run: Ronnie Harrison and Anthony Averett were also drafted, with Tony Brown and Levi Wallace signing as free agents; Hootie Jones graduated but was not drafted.

That leaves Alabama with no starter returning at either cornerback or safety spot, nor at the nickel or dime positions. In short, everything is up for grabs.

Alabama opens the season against a Bobby Petrino-powered Louisville passing game, faces pass-happy Arkansas State a week later and then opens SEC play against Ole Miss, which also likes to attack through the air.

Close roster-watchers may be familiar with Trevon Diggs and Deionte Thompson, who saw playing time last season at corner and safety, respectively. After that, get ready to learn some new names: junior college transfer Najee Harris and highly-touted freshman Patrick Surtain are among the candidates to make an immediate impact.

2. Kicking game

JK Scott, a four-year weapon, is now punting for the Green Bay Packers. Andy Pappanastos, who made 18 of 25 field goal attempts in 2017, graduated. Alabama will need to find replacements at both crucial positions.

Two freshmen handled the vast majority of the chores in the A-Day Game in the spring; redshirt freshman Joseph Bulovas went 5 for 7 on field goals with a long of 49 yards and handled kickoff duties, while Skyler DeLong averaged 39.4 yards on 10 punts.

3. Running back rotation

Talent abounds in a backfield that has two-time 1,000-yard rusher Damien Harris at the helm with Najee Harris, Joshua Jacobs and Brian Robinson Jr. all capable of playing important roles.

The UA coaching staff has to sort out the amount of touches to give each, and in what situations or what order.

Damien Harris is proven and dependable and knows how to move the chains. Najee Harris is both powerful and explosive, with perhaps the best
CONCERNS

From Page C1

breakaway ability, Jacobs is a whiz on screen passes and other plays that get the ball in his hands in open space. Robinson, a Hillcrest High School product, is a bruiser who could be ideal in short-yardage situations.

Last year's distribution among the running backs was democratic, with near-equal shares at times. It's hard to split carries among four backs, so there will be competition to stay near the front of the line. How and when each will be utilized, especially early in the season, is something that will be largely settled over the next few weeks.

4. Wide receivers

For much of Saban's tenure, Alabama has had a go-to, big-game receiver. There was Julio Jones. Then there was Amari Cooper. Then came Calvin Ridley.

There's no heir apparent after Ridley's departure to the NFL. No returning wideout averaged more than one catch per game.

Jerry Jeudy averaged nearly 19 yards per catch as a freshman last year, and fellow rookie Henry Ruggs III averaged slightly more while hauling in six touchdowns among his 12 receptions. That's a good start, and there are plenty of other talented candidates.

It remains to be seen if another superstar will emerge in 2018, or if the receptions will be more evenly spread among the receivers.

5. Quarterback

Oh yeah, those guys.

There's Jalen Hurts, a two-year starter with 25 victories under his belt, and Tua Tagovailoa, the second-half star of the national championship game.

One will take the first snap in the first game, and Saban will have the final say as to who that will be — but Alabama's coach has hinted at finding a playing role for both, which would create nightmares for defensive coordinators who have to prepare for two different and capable talents.

The preseason will give Alabama's offensive braintrust time to assess both candidates and formulate a plan to settle the question of which one starts, or whether Alabama will utilize more of a two-quarterback system.

Reach Tommy Deas at tommy@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0224.
Eleven UA players named to football award watch lists

Staff report

Eleven Alabama football players have been named to at least one preseason watch list for 13 national college football awards this summer.

The players selected are quarterbacks Jalen Hurts and Tua Tagovailoa, running back Damien Harris, tight end Hale Hentges, offensive linemen Jonah Williams and Ross Pierschbacher, defensive lineman Raekwon Davis, defensive back/returner Trevon Diggs and linebackers Anfernee Jennings, Mack Wilson and Dylan Moses.

Harris (Maxwell, Doak Walker, Walter Camp), Davis (Bednarik, Nagurski, Walter Camp) and Jennings (Bednarik, Butkus, Lott) lead the team with three selections each.

Here is a look at the watch lists to which Alabama players have been selected:

**Bednarik Award (Defensive Player of the Year):** Raekwon Davis, Anfernee Jennings, Mack Wilson

**Butkus Award (Outstanding Linebacker):** Anfernee Jennings, Dylan Moses, Mack Wilson

**Walter Camp Award (Player of the Year):** Raekwon Davis, Damien Harris

**Paul Hornung Award (Most Versatile Player):** Trevon Diggs

**Mackey Award (Outstanding Tight End):** Hale Hentges

**Maxwell Award (Player of the Year):** Damien Harris, Jalen Hurts, Tua Tagovailoa

**Bronko Nagurski Trophy (Defensive Player of the Year):** Raekwon Davis

**Davey O'Brien Award (Quarterback of the Year):** Jalen Hurts

**Outland Trophy (Outstanding Interior Lineman):** Ross Pierschbacher, Jonah Williams

**Rimington Trophy (Outstanding Center):** Ross Pierschbacher

**Doak Walker Award (Outstanding Running Back):** Damien Harris

**Wuerffel Trophy (Outstanding Player in the Community):** Hale Hentges

**Lott IMPACT Trophy (Defender Who Best Embodies Integrity, Maturity, Performance, Academics, Community, Tenacity):** Anfernee Jennings
The case for Tua Tagovailoa:
Hawaiian’s performance in second half of title game should begin, end debate

John Talty  jtalty@al.com

It’s not hyperbole to say the Tua vs. Jalen debate is the biggest college football storyline headed into fall camp.

But as fun as it will be to debate the merits of both over the next month — we’ll do plenty of it — it’s really not much of a debate on who should be Alabama’s starter when it opens the season against Louisville.

All you need to do is put the second half of the 2018 national championship game against Georgia on a loop to know who will win the starting job.

There isn’t a ton of evidence that Tua Tagovailoa should be Alabama’s starter this season, but unfortunately for Jalen Hurts, the little evidence we do have is incredibly compelling.

Tagovailoa, as a true freshman, delivered one of the most incredible moments in college football history. Alabama finally has a cool nickname for a big game as Tagovailoa created the “2nd-and-26” memorabilia cottage industry.

The Hawaiian left-hander led a second-half comeback over the Bulldogs that his counterpart, Hurts, was incapable of orchestrating. It wasn’t just that beautiful 41-yard touchdown pass to DeVonta Smith that delivered the Crimson Tide its second title in the last three years. It was the way Alabama’s talented youngsters — Smith, Najee Harris and Alex Leatherwood, to name three — rallied around Tagovailoa as the Tide fought back from a 13-point halftime deficit.

SEE TALTY, B3
Talty: Tagovailoa proves he’s the real deal

Alabama played with a different energy in the second half, offensive coordinator Brian Daboll opened up the playbook, and the Tide’s future never looked brighter.

It was the best title game performance from a quarterback in the Saban era at Alabama, and Tagovailoa only had a half. Now just imagine what he can do over the course of an entire season with extra experience and coaching.

To be fair, Hurts is a very good college player who would make a lot of opposing coaches happy should he leave Alabama. My colleague Joe Goodman makes a compelling case for why Hurts should be the starter. He’s a good teammate, he handled his second-half title game benching with the utmost class and, lest we forget, has a 26-2 record as a starter. You can easily make the argument he’s a top five SEC quarterback — he won SEC Offensive Player of the Year his freshman season — but he happens to be on the same team as one who has the potential to be the SEC’s best.

Whereas Hurts has well-known passing limitations, Tagovailoa has “as unique of a release combined with arm strength that I’ve ever seen. It’s Aaron Rodgers-esque, if not better,” according to former NFL quarterback Trent Dilfer.

While Hurts is the perfect guy to lead an Alabama offense that slowly squeezes the life out of its opponent, Tagovailoa can deliver big plays at a moment’s notice. And with a totally rebuilt defensive secondary and new defensive coordinator, Tosh Lupoi, who has never called plays before, Alabama could need some big play magic this season. Tagovailoa is the better-suited quarterback to capitalize on Alabama’s young but talented wide receiver trio of Smith, Jerry Jeudy and Henry Ruggs.

Picking Tagovailoa as the starter isn’t absent of risk. He appears to be more prone to commit turnovers than Hurts — sloppy practice performances is one reason he didn’t unseat Jalen until the title game, which is an easy way to land in Saban’s doghouse. He has courted attention much more than Hurts has to this point, which could create problems down the road. He’s also thrown all of 77 collegiate passes — one less than Auburn’s Jeremy Johnson had thrown before the Heisman Trophy hype cranked up, and we all know how that played out.

But for now, just keep focusing on what happened Jan. 8 at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Remember the moxie and charisma Tagovailoa had leading the comeback win over a very talented Georgia squad. Remember how giddy you felt that night trying to wrap your head around how Alabama pulled it off.

Tagovailoa isn’t just the future of Alabama football, he’s the present. That will be on full display next month in Orlando, Florida, when Tua rightfully takes the first snap.

John Talty is the sports editor for Alabama Media Group. You can follow him on Twitter @JTalty.
The case for Jalen Hurts:
With 26 victories before his junior year,
Texan is one of Tide's all-time greats

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Joe Namath was Alabama's starting quarterback for three seasons, and during that time the Crimson Tide won 29 games — and a mythical national championship.

AJ McCarron won 36 games as a starter over three seasons and quarterbacked two BCS national championships.

Jalen Hurts has won 26 games before his junior season and led Alabama to two College Football Playoff national championship games. He is, by all accounting, one of the best quarterbacks in the history of Alabama football. In a season of transitions for Alabama offensively and defensively, Nick Saban can't afford to leave that kind of experience on the bench.

Fall camp opens for Saban and Alabama on Friday, and all sentient life in the universe will be watching the quarterback competition between sophomore Tua Tagovailoa and junior Jalen Hurts. For the next month, it will be the biggest story in college football. There can be only one, to quote the greatest 1980s fantasy-action movie not named "Predator," "Terminator" or "Aliens."

To give the hype train a proper sending off from the station, AL.com sports editor John Talty and myself are picking sides. Talty is Team Tagovailoa, and I'm Team Hurts. It's like picking between Captain America and Iron Man. Captain America (Hurts) is the leader this free world needs. Iron Man (Tagovailoa) is the creative genius whose inventions and panache save the world in the end.

SEE GOODMAN, B3

See Next Page
Goodman: Hurts again should take the reins

FROM B1

It's a tough choice.
Team Hurts isn't here to argue which player is a more talented passer. Tagovailoa might have the edge there based on, you know, one of the greatest throws in the history of college football. But one historic throw doesn't mean Tagovailoa is the best quarterback to lead Alabama into the 2018 regular season.

No, that player is Hurts, who brings invaluable experience and leadership to the table at a time when those are the most valuable things for this Alabama team.

This is a unique time for Alabama. Saban had to replace both of his coordinators following the national championship against Georgia. The team lost a record 12 players to the NFL draft, including one of the greatest team leaders in the history of Alabama football, safety Minkah Fitzpatrick.

Hurts is the natural person to fill that void for Alabama, and to deny him that important role now could be detrimental to the development of this team. Hurts cannot be the leader Alabama needs if he's on the sideline with a clipboard. He is 26-2 as a starting quarterback, and that type of leadership has to be on the field.

What is leadership?
At Alabama, leadership means toughness and accountability. Saban demands both at all times, and there is no greater embodiment of those characteristics right now at Alabama than Hurts. He is the toughest player on the team, and he threw one interception last season.

At Alabama, that might be more valuable than 10 touchdowns.

Hurts led Alabama to back-to-back national championship games by making smart decisions and making plays when his team needed them. A small fraction of being a college quarterback is about making high-light throws, but it's not like Hurts is incapable of making them.

More often than not, he just chooses the wisest option. And the wisest option, always, is to defer to Alabama's defense. It's perennially one of the best in the country.

Putting your teammates in position to win games is the stuff of real leadership, and Hurts has done that since he arrived on campus.

Both quarterbacks can succeed at Alabama this season, but only one can start this season. You play the percentages, and take the calculated risk. Based on the past two seasons, the job is Hurts' to lose. He has always put the team first, and that's what quarterbacks at Alabama do.

If you need Iron Man to save the world in the end, then you make that call again.

According to Saban, Hurts says he's not transferring even if he doesn't win the position. Would Tua do the same? Probably so. And if Tagovailoa doesn't start, and transfers, and takes his little brother with him, then did you really want that type of selfishness on the team anyway?

Joseph Goodman is a columnist for Alabama Media Group. He's on Twitter @JoeGoodmanJr.
After long rehab work, former Alabama tennis player finds her groove on WTA tour

By James Ogletree
Special to The Tuscaloosa News

For the first year after her graduation five years ago, Alabama tennis alumna Alexa Guarachi battled shoulder injuries that delayed the onset of her pro career nearly a year. Once she recovered, she won nine International Tennis Federation titles in the next 16 months, leading to a career-high singles ranking of No. 347.

Two days after those rankings were released in late 2015, she reached to return a shot while practicing for a tournament in Waco, Texas. As she changed direction, she felt a pop in her right knee. She screamed, immediately suspecting the worst. Her fears were confirmed by an MRI: She had torn a ligament in her knee.

"I really thought my career was over then," Guarachi said. "... I was thinking then, 'What am I going to do with my life?'"

Thinking it over, she realized the rehab would be necessary to have a healthy life whether that included tennis or not. So, she reasoned, if she had to go through the rehab anyway, why not try to resurrect her career?

She walked with crutches and sported a brace that stretched from her ankle to her thigh for the first month. She was back on the court by the six-month mark.

The road to rehabilitation didn't come without bumps, however. Eager to regain tournament form, she worked herself too hard, causing her knee to swell and delaying her rehab two weeks.

Eleven months after the injury, she at last returned to competition. And returned to winning form.
The Fort Walton Beach, Florida, native has won 12 titles since returning from injury, but competing at Wimbledon this summer with her former Alabama teammate Erin Routliffe might trump all of them.

The duo was the last team to sneak into the qualifying draw. They beat the odds by not only winning two matches to qualify for the main draw before forcing a third set in a loss to the tournament's No. 3 seed and eventual champions earlier this month.

Instead of letting the grandeur of the tournament and the All-England Club overwhelm them, they played like they had nothing to lose, reminding each other they weren't even supposed to be there.

Guarachi's dream month continued last weekend when she won a doubles tournament in Switzerland, her first career title in the Women's Tennis Association, the highest level of the women's game. It was also the first WTA victory by any Alabama alum, and she became the first to ascend inside the top 100 in the world rankings. She is currently ranked 85th in doubles.

The hard work to recovery from the knee injury has given her a different perspective.

"It makes you think how quickly something that you love can be taken away and to not take it for granted," Guarachi said. "I don't ever get nervous anymore, because I'm just enjoying being out here and having this opportunity."

Guarachi's dream month continued last weekend when she won a doubles tournament in Switzerland, her first career title in the Women's Tennis Association, the highest level of the women's game. It was also the first WTA victory by any Alabama alum, and she became the first to ascend inside the top 100 in the world rankings. She is currently ranked 85th in doubles.
Former and current UA golfers play in the pros

Ian Thompson

It's hard to wrap one's head around how well University of Alabama golfer Kristen Gillman is playing right now.

Playing as an amateur, the soon-to-be junior fired a final round 67 on July 22 to win the Japan LPGA Tour's Century 21 Ladies' Tournament in Shiga, Japan.

Yes, I said win a professional event.

She shot 17-under-par (65-67-67-199) to win by four shots at the par-72, 6,518-yard Shiga Golf Course West Course. The Austin, Texas, native was one of three amateurs in the 109-player field.

The victory is the first for a Crimson Tide golfer in a professional event in UA head coach Mic Potter's tenure at the Capstone.

"Kristen's win in Japan is the crown jewel on top of what has already been an outstanding summer," Potter said following the tournament. "After going 5-0 at the Curtis Cup, and following that up with a dominating performance in the Palmer Cup, it's no surprise she's a factor in any event she enters."

She will be playing in the

See THOMPSON, C2
The Tuscaloosa News
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THOMPSON

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Aug. 6-12, at the Golf Club of Tennessee in Kingston, Tenn. Her UA teammates Lauren Stephenson and Jiwon Jeon are also in the field. No doubt, Gillman must be considered one of the favorites.

The Senior Open Championship

Last week saw the Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex played at the Home of Golf, St. Andrews. A stellar field of more than 50 stars convened at the Old Course, among them former Crimson Tide golfers Jerry Pate and Spike McRory.

I reached out to Pate before he teed off in his first round, with son Wesley, also a former UA golfer, caddying for him. "I have a lot of great memories from here at St. Andrews, especially during my days at the University of Alabama. We played here in 1972, '73 and '74 (The Crimson Tide used to take an annual trip to Scotland), and I played in the Walker Cup here in '75."

Spike McRory

It was a pleasant surprise when I saw McRory's name in the field.

He turned 50 a couple of months ago and this was his first start on PGA Tour Champions. What a place for his debut!

According to a PGA Tour Champions media official: "Spike gained entry this (last) week because this is his first year of eligibility and he won a PGA Tour event. Based on his (PGA Tour) career, he has very, very low status on Tour ... he'd only get starts through Monday qualifying or sponsor's exemptions."

Born and raised in Huntsville, where he still resides, he played for the Tide from 1987-91. He is long removed from regular professional golf, having made his living for a number of years in the financial services world.

He won the 2002 B.C. Open, a PGA Tour event. He also captured two Web.com Tour events in 2000 (known then as the Buy.com Tour), including the Tour Championship held at Highland Lakes in Dothan.

He has not played a full season on the PGA Tour since 2005, but it was great to see the always affable and upbeat McRory teeing it up again.

Jacob Harper wins the Alabama Open

Former Troy University golfer Jacob Harper of Valley started the final round of last week's Alabama Open presented by Yamaha Golf-Car Company five shots out of the lead, but fired a 9-under-par closing round 63 to take the title on the Senator Course at the Robert Trent Jones Trail at Capitol Hill in Prattville.

As deep as Harper's round was, it was still two-off Forrest Knight's final round 61 last year on his way to the same title. Harper shot rounds 68-70-63-201 to beat former State Junior champion Glenn Northcutt of Dothan by three.

Brandon Godwin of Montgomery finished third, with Jake Tucker of Seminole and Robert Smith of Cullman tied fourth.

Former UA golfer and Tuscaloosa resident Tyler Hitchner finished as low amateur on 4-under.

Ian Thompson has been writing about golf in Alabama for over 25 years. His weekly "Mr. Golf" column concentrates on golfers, golf events and people associated with the sport of interest to the Tuscaloosa and Birmingham areas. Reach him with story ideas at thompsononteesoff@gmail.com.
New UA rowing coach brings vision

Putryrae learned his work ethic from his dad and accountability from his boyhood paper route

By James Ogletree
Special to The Tuscaloosa News

The 2018-19 season will be the first in the history of Alabama rowing that the team will have a coach other than Larry Davis, who had coached the team from its inception in 2006 to his retirement in May.

Alabama athletics announced on June 15 that Glenn Putryrae, who led Gonzaga to top-20 finishes in the NCAA championships in five of the past six years, would be the program's next head coach.

"(Three) areas really stood out for us as we progressed through the interview process with Glenn," UA director of athletics Greg Byrne said in a statement announcing the hire. "Those were his passion, his work ethic and his vision and belief for the future of this program."

Passion

Putryrae did not start rowing until high school, and even then it was only because he failed to make the teams for other sports. But he found that it fit his physique and work ethic, so he rowed competitively through high school and for four years at the University of Washington.

At that point Putryrae had already decided he wanted to teach high-school English or social studies and coach rowing. As long as he got to teach, whether in the classroom or on the water, he was content.

He maintained the high-school plan for the next six years of graduate study and assistant coaching until he

See ROWING, C4

Glenn Putryrae is the new head coach of the Alabama rowing team. Putryrae led Gonzaga to top-20 finishes in the NCAA championships in five of the past six years. (PHOTO/ALABAMA ATHLETICS)
ROWING

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was offered his first full-time collegiate coaching job at Gonzaga in 1999.

"(I love) the idea of sharing something I know with somebody who doesn't know anything about it," Putryrae said. "I want to create an environment where passion (for rowing) is evident."

Work ethic

When Putryrae was a kid, his father started a sales business, displaying a work ethic that his son would adopt himself and later instill into his rowers. He believes teams take on the character of their coach and that he needs to demonstrate whatever traits he wants his team to acquire.

"I learned (from my dad) hard work is rewarded," Putryrae said. "And how can I ask that of my rowers if I don't model that myself?"

That circles back to another trait Putryrae considers a core value of his coaching style along with consistency and respect: accountability.

He said he learned accountability from handling a paper route as a boy. When customers called his boss complaining about where he threw their newspapers, his parents weren't there to bail him out. He had to apologize to them himself, in person, which he said prepared him to lead and motivate his rowers to take ownership of their own preparation.

Vision and belief

As soon as Byrne contacted Putryrae regarding Alabama's coaching vacancy and all the way through his arrival in Tuscaloosa, the coach felt believe in.

Byrne told him to ask for anything he felt like he needed and that the athletic department was willing to invest in the rowing program to help Putryrae lift it to greater heights.

Putryrae was present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new athletics dining facility, standing in front of the crowd with the likes of Byrne, football coach Nick Saban and UA president Stuart Bell. He said he never anticipated the support the University gives all its sports, from football down to less-publicized sports like rowing.

He was "in awe" at the resources available to Alabama rowing, including a boathouse at Manderson Landing, which he said only a few Division I teams have.

Putryrae said the teams he has previously coached have "nothing close" to the caliber of resources at his disposal in Tuscaloosa, which has him feeling optimistic about his staying power in his new position and the future potential of Alabama rowing.

"We have everything we need to be successful. Our only limitations are human capabilities," Putryrae said. "... This is my final stop (of my coaching career). If I can do the type of job I expect to be able to do, this will be my last stop."
UA gymnastics honored for academic performance

Staff report

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — The Alabama gymnastics team was one of two schools that finished among the top 10 both at the 2018 NCAA Championships and by team GPA, the Women’s Collegiate Gymnastics Association announced this week.

The Crimson Tide was also first among all NCAA Division I programs with 15 WCGA Scholastic All-Americans.

Alabama was one of just two schools to advance to the NCAA Championships semifinals (final 12) and post better than a 3.6 team GPA. Alabama’s team GPA also led the Southeastern Conference schools by more than a tenth of a point. The 2017-18 academic year marked the 13th year in a row that Crimson Tide gymnastics has posted a team GPA of 3.4 or better.

“The hard work and dedication that our ladies put into everything they do is evident in their performance in the classroom,” UA head coach Dana Duckworth said. “To have 15 gymnasts earn Scholastic All-America honors, the most among NCAA Division I schools, is an accomplishment to be truly proud. Couple that with having the highest team GPA in the SEC and to stand among the top two among schools that made it to the NCAA semifinals and it goes to show that at The University of Alabama, you can truly have it all.”

The Tide’s 15 Scholastic All-Americans ranks second all-time for Alabama, behind last year’s school record 19 and one better than the Tide’s 2011 and 2016 totals of 14. To be a Scholastic All-American, a gymnast must have a 3.5 or better GPA either for the previous academic year, or for their career. A total of 47 Tide gymnasts have earned 98 Scholastic All-America honors over the last six years.

The Crimson Tide’s 2017-18 Scholastic All-Americans include: Abigail Armbrecht, Mackenzie Brannan, Jenna Loeb and Winston all closed out their Alabama careers as four-year Scholastic All-Americans, while Armbrecht, Bresette, Giancroce and Guerra garnered the honor for the third time. Desch, Ernst and Mahoney earned their second Scholastic All-America nods while Dickson, Graber, Key and Klopfer received the accolade for the first time.

See GYMNASISTS, C4

GYMNASISTS

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Bresette, Madison
Desch, Kylie Dickson,
Peyton Ernst, Angelina
Giancroce, Lexi Graber,
Ariana Guerra, Nichole
Guerrero, Bailie Key,
Alonza Klopfer, Jennie
Loeb, Shea Mahoney and
Kiana Winston.

Brannan, Guerrero,
UA soccer coach cites talent, depth

Hart oversees team's first day of practice

By Cecil Hurt
Sports Editor

Given the current pattern, it is easy to understand why Alabama women's soccer head coach Wes Hart was excited for the team's first day of practice for the 2018 season on Wednesday.

Hart, who came to Alabama in 2015 after a successful stint at NCAA powerhouse Florida State, and has seen steady progress in each of his first three years. The Crimson Tide struggled in its initial campaign, finishing last in the Southeastern Conference but moved up to ninth place in the SEC in 2016 and broke through last year, earning an NCAA berth — the program’s first since 2011 — with a 12-7-1 regular season record that included a 1-0 win over No. 6 Florida State. Alabama lost to Clemson in the first round of NCAA play, but the excitement from the year, Hart says, has carried over.

"It absolutely does have an effect," Hart said prior to Wednesday’s practice. "Players want to be part of programs that are winning, making a little noise. It’s not just being in the (NCAA) Tournament. We had some big wins along the way.

"People can see the trend. We were able to recruit some very good players. Our camps were blowing up this summer with people wanting to play."

There will be areas that will require rebuilding, most notably in goal, where Kat Stratton was a standout last season, and in the midfield, where Celia Jimenez Delgado was an All-Region selection and an NWSL draft selection.

"I could go on and on about See SOCCER, C4

SOCRER

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Redshirt sophomore Alex Plavin is set to replace Stratton in goal.

“She had some experience last year,” Hart said. “She’s been tested.”

While Hart said the Crimson Tide “would like to focus a little more defensively” with a new goaltender, he planned to stay with an aggressive offensive style.

Junior midfielder Emma Welch, also an all-region selection, returns along with two other top scorers, Abbie Boswell and Casey Wertz.

The Crimson Tide opens its home season on Aug. 24 against Florida Gulf Coast.

Reach Cecil Hurt at cecil@tidesports.com or 205-722-0225.
High-Paying Trade Jobs Sit Empty, While High School Grads Line Up For University

By: Ashley Gross

Like most other American high school students, Garret Morgan had it drummed into him constantly: Go to college. Get a bachelor's degree.

"All through my life it was, 'if you don't go to college you're going to end up on the streets,' " Morgan said. "Everybody's so gung-ho about going to college."

So he tried it for a while. Then he quit and started training as an ironworker, which is what he is doing on a weekday morning in a nondescript high-ceilinged building with a concrete floor in an industrial park near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Morgan and several other men and women are dressed in work boots, hard hats and Carhartt's, clipped to safety harnesses with heavy wrenches hanging from their belts. They're being timed as they wrestle 600-pound I-beams into place.

Seattle is a forest of construction cranes, and employers are clamoring for skilled ironworkers. Morgan, who is 20, is already working on a job site when he isn't at the Pacific Northwest Ironworkers shop. He gets benefits, including a pension, from employers at the job sites where he is training. And he is earning $28.36 an hour, or more than $50,000 a year, which is almost certain to steadily increase.

As for his friends from high school, "they're still in college," he said with a wry grin. "Someday maybe they'll make as much as me."

Raising alarms

While a shortage of workers is pushing wages higher in the skilled trades, the financial return from a bachelor's degree is softening, even as the price — and the average debt into which it plunges students — keeps going up.

But high school graduates have been so effectively encouraged to get a bachelor's that high-paid jobs requiring shorter and less expensive training are going unfilled. This affects those students and also poses a real threat to the economy.

"Parents want success for their kids," said Mike Clifton, who teaches machining at the Lake Washington Institute of Technology, about 20 miles from Seattle. "They get stuck on [four-year bachelor's degrees], and they're not seeing the shortage there is in tradespeople until they hire a plumber and have to write a check."

In a new report, the Washington State Auditor found that good jobs in the skilled trades are going begging because students are being almost universally steered to bachelor's degrees.

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Among other things, the Washington auditor recommended that career guidance — including choices that require less than four years in college — start as early as the seventh grade.

"There is an emphasis on the four-year university track" in high schools, said Chris Cortines, who co-authored the report. Yet, nationwide, three out of 10 high school grads who go to four-year public universities haven't earned degrees within six years, according to the National Student Clearinghouse. At four-year private colleges, that number is more than 1 in 5.

"Being more aware of other types of options may be exactly what they need," Cortines said. In spite of a perception "that college is the sole path for everybody," he said, "when you look at the types of wages that apprenticeships and other career areas pay and the fact that you do not pay four years of tuition and you're paid while you learn, these other paths really need some additional consideration."

And it's not just in Washington state.

Seventy-percent of construction companies nationwide are having trouble finding qualified workers, according to the Associated General Contractors of America; in Washington, the proportion is 80 percent.

There are already more trade jobs like carpentry, electrical, plumbing, sheet-metal work and pipe-fitting than Washingtonians to fill them, the state auditor reports. Many pay more than the state's average annual wage of $54,000.

Construction, along with health care and personal care, will account for one-third of all new jobs through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. There will also be a need for new plumbers and new electricians. And, as politicians debate a massive overhaul of the nation's roads, bridges and airports, the U.S. Department of Education reports that there will be 68 percent more job openings in infrastructure-related fields in the next five years than there are people training to fill them.

"The economy is definitely pushing this issue to the forefront," said Amy Morrison Goings, president of the Lake Washington Institute of Technology, which educates students in these fields. "There isn't a day that goes by that a business doesn't contact the college and ask the faculty who's ready to go to work."

In all, some 30 million jobs in the United States that pay an average of $55,000 per year don't require bachelor's degrees, according to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce.

Yet the march to bachelor's degrees continues. And while people who get them are more likely to be employed and make more money than those who don't, that premium appears to be softening; their median earnings were lower in 2015, when adjusted for inflation, than in 2010.
"There's that perception of the bachelor's degree being the American dream, the best bang for your buck," said Kate Blosveren Kreamer, deputy executive director of Advance CTE, an association of state officials who work in career and technical education. "The challenge is that in many cases it's become the fallback. People are going to college without a plan, without a career in mind, because the mindset in high school is just, 'Go to college.' "

It's not that finding a job in the trades, or even manufacturing, means needing no education after high school. Most regulators and employers require certificates, certifications or associate degrees. But those cost less and take less time than earning a bachelor's degree. Tuition and fees for in-state students to attend a community or technical college in Washington State, for example, come to less than half the cost of a four-year public university, the state auditor points out, and less than a tenth of the price of attending a private four-year college.

People with career and technical educations are also more likely to be employed than their counterparts with academic credentials, the U.S. Department of Education reports, and significantly more likely to be working in their fields of study.

Young people don't seem to be getting that message. The proportion of high school students who earned three or more credits in occupational education — typically an indication that they're interested in careers in the skilled trades — has fallen from 1 in 4 in 1990 to 1 in 5 now, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Washington is not the only state devoting attention to this. California is spending $200 million to improve the delivery of career and technical education. Iowa community colleges and businesses are collaborating to increase the number of "work-related learning opportunities," including apprenticeships, job shadowing and internships. Tennessee has made its technical colleges free.

So severe are looming shortages of workers in the skilled trades in Michigan that Gov. Rick Snyder in February announced a $100 million proposal he likens to the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

At the federal level, there is bipartisan support for making Pell grants available for short-term job-training courses and not just university tuition. The Trump administration supports the idea.

For all the promises to improve vocational education, however, a principal federal source of money for it, called Tech-Prep, hasn't been funded since 2011. A quarter of states last year reduced their own funding for postsecondary career and technical education, according to the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education.

The branding issue

Money isn't the only issue, advocates for career and technical education say. An even bigger challenge is convincing parents that it leads to good jobs.
"They remember 'voc-ed' from when they were in high school, which is not necessarily what they aspire to for their own kids," Kreamer said.

The parents "are definitely harder to convince because there is that stigma of the six-pack-totin' ironworker," said Greg Christiansen, who runs the ironworkers training program. Added Kairie Pierce, apprenticeship and college director for the Washington State Labor Council of the AFL-CIO: "It sort of has this connotation of being a dirty job. 'It's hard work — I want something better for my son or daughter.'"

Of the $200 million that California is spending on vocational education, $6 million is going into a campaign to improve the way people regard it. The Lake Washington Institute of Technology changed its name from Lake Washington Technical College, said Goings, its president, to avoid being stereotyped as a vocational school.

These perceptions fuel the worry that, if students are urged as early as the seventh grade to consider the trades, then low-income, first-generation and ethnic and racial minority high school students will be channeled into blue-collar jobs while wealthier and white classmates are pushed by their parents to get bachelor's degrees.

"When CTE was vocational education, part of the reason we had a real disinvestment from the system was because we were tracking low-income and minority kids into these pathways," Kreamer said. "There is this tension between, do you want to focus on the people who would get the most benefit from these programs, and — is that tracking?"

In a quest for prestige and rankings, and to bolster real-estate values, high schools also like to emphasize the number of their graduates who go on to four-year colleges and universities.

Jessica Bruce followed that path, enrolling in community college after high school for one main reason: because she was recruited to play fast-pitch softball. "I was still trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life," she said.

Now, she's an apprentice ironworker, making $32.42 an hour, or more than $60,000 a year, while continuing her training. At 5-foot-2, "I can run with the big boys," she said, laughing.

As for whether anyone looks down on her for not having a bachelor's degree, Bruce doesn't particularly care.

"The misconception," she said, "is that we don't make as much money."

And then she laughed again.
NYU Beats $358M Retirement Fee Lawsuit

By: Carmen Castro-Pagan

New York University defeated a class action accusing it of violating federal benefits law by allowing imprudent, high fee investments in its employees’ retirement plans.

NYU is the first college to fight these claims at trial and have a federal court rule in its favor.

The ruling, issued July 31 by a federal judge in New York, is a defeat for more than 20,000 current and former NYU employees who won class certification in a lawsuit challenging the investment funds and fees associated with the school’s retirement plans. The case went to trial in April for eight days.

The workers alleged that NYU’s imprudence resulted in losses totaling more than $358 million. The plans had over $4.6 billion in combined assets.

While there were deficiencies in the process to select record-keeping vendors and certain investments, the workers didn’t show that NYU acted imprudently or that the plans suffered losses as a result, Judge Katherine B. Forrest of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, held July 31.

NYU is pleased with the outcome, John Beckman, NYU spokesman, told Bloomberg Law July 31 via email.

Forrest’s ruling will be of interest to other colleges also facing lawsuits challenging how they managed their retirement plans, including Columbia, Emory, Johns Hopkins, and Princeton. In the past year, the University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern scored early victories when judges granted their dismissal requests. The University of Chicago settled similar claims for $6.5 million earlier this year.

Processes OKd by Court

The NYU workers took to trial claims that the university imprudently managed the selection and monitoring of record-keeping vendors resulting in excessive fees, and that it failed to remove two allegedly imprudent investment funds.

Forrest highlighted the “lack of in-depth knowledge concerning the financial aspects of managing a multi-billion dollar pension” plan displayed by one of NYU’s plan committee members whose role was to manage the plans. Another committee member also appeared to be “similarly unfamiliar” with basic concepts relating to the plans, Forrest said.
While Forrest found the “level of involvement and seriousness” with which members treated their fiduciary duties “troubling,” she didn’t conclude that this rose to a level of failure to fulfill their obligations under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

NYU prudently managed its record-keepers, Forrest said. The university ran prudent request for proposal processes, was able to obtain lower fees for the plan when consolidation was impractical, and it consolidated services for one of the plans, she said.

The evidence also didn’t support the workers’ claim that the university was imprudent by failing to remove two funds that allegedly underperformed, Forrest said. The university closely monitored the performance of the investment alternatives offered in the plans, Forrest said.
Z-Lists, and Other Secrets of Harvard Admission

This article is by Anemona Hartocollis, Amy Harmon and Mitch Smith.

He had perfect scores — on his SAT, on three SAT subject tests and on nine Advanced Placement exams — and was ranked first in his high school class of 392. An admissions officer who reviewed his application to Harvard called him “the proverbial picket fence,” the embodiment of the American dream, saying, “Someone we’ll fight over w/ Princeton, I’d guess.”

But in the end, the student was wait-listed and did not get in.

Generations of high school students have applied to Harvard thinking that if they checked all the right boxes, they would be admitted.

But behind the curtain, Harvard’s much-feared admissions officers have a whole other set of boxes that few ambitious high school students and their parents know about — or could check even if they did. The officers speak a secret language — of “dockets,” “the lop list,” “tips,” “DE,” the “Z-list” and the “dean’s interest list” — and maintain a culling system in which factors like where applicants are from, whether their parents went to Harvard, how much money they have and how they fit the school’s goals for diversity may be just as important as scoring a perfect 1600 on the SAT.

This arcane selection process has been illuminated by a lawsuit accusing Harvard of violating federal civil rights law by using racial balancing to shape its admissions in a way that discriminates against Asian-Americans. Har-

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It also helps to secure a spot on the “dean’s interest list” or the “director’s interest list.” These lists are named for the dean and director of admissions, and include the names of candidates who are of interest to donors or have connections to Harvard, according to the court papers.

The final decisions are made by a committee of about 40 admissions officers over

Jess Bidgood contributed reporting, Alain Delaquérière, Katharine Q. Seelye and Doris Burke contributed research.

But Asians were an overlooked minority despite a long history of discrimination. As late as 1976, Harvard did not recognize them as a minority group and barred them from a freshman minority orientation banquet. They had a kind of neither-nor identity, denied both the solidarity of other students of color and the social standing of white people.

“There’s even a tendency to stay away from each other because you know how, in college, status and prestige are important,” said T.K. Chang, who was at Harvard in the mid-70s. Mr. Chang said he found his niche in The Harvard Lampoon, the campus humor magazine.

Since then the stakes in the admissions game have grown. About 40,000 students apply each year, and about 2,000 are admitted for some 1,600 seats in the freshman class. The chances of admission this year were under 5 percent. Of the 26,000 domestic applicants for the Class of 2019 (the lawsuit is not concerned with international students), about 3,500 had perfect SAT math scores, 2,700 had perfect SAT verbal scores, and more than 8,000 had straight As.

The sorting begins right away. The country is divided into about 20 geographic “dockets,” each of which is assigned to a subcommittee of admissions officers with intimate knowledge of that region and its high schools.

Generally two or three admissions officers, or “readers,” rate applications in five categories: academic, extracurricular, athletic, personal and “overall.” They also rate teachers’ and guidance counselors’ recommendations. And an alumni interviewer also rates the candidates.

Harvard says it also considers “tips,” or admissions advantages, for some applicants. The plaintiffs say the college gives tips to five groups: racial and ethnic minorities; legacies, or the children of Harvard or Radcliffe alumni; relatives of a Harvard donor; the children of staff or faculty members; and recruited athletes.

Whether Harvard gives a penalty — in effect, the opposite of a tip — to Asian-Americans goes to the heart of the current litigation. A 1990 report by the Education Department found that, while Harvard was not discriminating against Asian-Americans, it was not giving them a tip, either. A 2013 internal report by Harvard found that being Asian-American was negatively correlated with admission, as did an expert analysis for the plaintiffs. But using a different statistical approach, Harvard’s expert found a modest bump for two subgroups of Asian-Americans — women and applicants from California — belying, Harvard said, the overall claim of discrimination.

There are other ways to bolster one’s chances of admission, according to the court papers. Savvy alumni hope to gain an advantage for their children by volunteering for Harvard, perhaps by being an admissions interviewer.
two or three weeks in March. Meeting in a conference room, they argue over candidates who are “on the bubble” between admission and rejection.

In a deposition running hundreds of pages, William Fitzsimmons, who has been Harvard’s admissions dean since 1986, offered a rare look into the admissions office.

“What is the dean’s interest list?” a lawyer for the plaintiffs asked.

“The dean’s interest list is something that I would use to make certain that I’m aware of what eventually might happen to that application,” Mr. Fitzsimmons replied.

“And how would one go about getting on the dean’s interest list?” asked the lawyer, who was prone to calling it the “donor’s interest list,” in an apparent slip of the tongue.

After an objection from Harvard’s lawyer, Mr. Fitzsimmons replied: “In my recruiting process as I go out on the road, I might meet a person at one of the evening meetings, recruiting events, and think just on an impression that this is a person who, you know, might be of interest to the admissions committee. So I might put that person on my interest list.”

How about, the plaintiffs’ lawyer asked, “If a candidate is of interest to a donor to Harvard, is that something that might land them on the interest list?”

Over another objection, Mr. Fitzsimmons replied, “It is possible.”

After an exchange running three fully blacked-out pages, Mr. Fitzsimmons explained that candidates on the dean’s list could receive a separate rating, in consultation with people connected to the alumni association and the development office, the chief fund-raising arm.

The plaintiffs’ lawyer asked, “And are you rating the applicant, or are you rating the level of interest that other people at the university have in this applicant’s admission prospect?”

Over an objection, Mr. Fitzsimmons replied, “The latter.”

But people on the dean’s list often have family who have been involved in the alumni association or scholarship or development work, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, so they know how hard it is to get into Harvard and apply only if they are strong candidates.

The plaintiffs’ lawyer asked whether the bigger the financial contribution from a donor, the more it would affect the development office’s rating of someone on the dean’s list related to that donor. “It would tend to go that way,” Mr. Fitzsimmons replied.

Court filings also explore Harvard’s little-known Z-list, a sort of back door to admissions.

Harvard is reticent about the Z-list, and much of the information pertaining to it in court papers has been redacted. The list consists of applicants who are borderline academically, the plaintiffs say, but whom Harvard wants to admit. They often have connections. They may be “Z-ed” (yes, a verb) off the wait-list, and are guaranteed admission on the condition that they defer for a year.

About 50 to 60 students a year were admitted through the Z-list for the Classes of 2014 to 2019. They were for the most part white, often legacies or students on the dean’s or director’s list, the plaintiffs say.

Chuck Hughes, an admissions officer at Harvard from 1995 to 2000, described a special review given to minority applicants while he was there.

Early in his tenure, he said, all competitive applicants had their files studied by at least two readers. He said some minority applicants would also have their file reviewed by a third reader who was considering the racial composition of the entire class.

“If there was uncertainty on a case in which there were candidates that might have represented minority interests—an Asian-American, an African-American, a Hispanic or a Native American candidate—those would be passed on to someone who was looking at the entire slate of candidates in that particular demographic pool,” Mr. Hughes said.

Mr. Hughes said that practice ended early in his time at Harvard.

But the court papers describe a continuing process called “a lop,” which the plaintiffs say is used to shape the demographic profile of the class.

As the admissions process winds down, the dean and the director of admissions review the pool of tentatively admitted students and decide how many need to be “ropped,” by having their status changed from “admit” to “waitlist” or “deny,” the court papers say.

The plaintiffs say that admissions officers then fine-tune the final class using a form that lists five pieces of information about the applicant; they give an example of a form that has spaces for the applicant’s name, LSN (lineage), ETH (ethnicity), ATH (athlete), and HFAI (financial aid).

Along the way, Mr. Fitzsimmons, the dean, consults what are called “ethnic stats,” which he defines as "any statistics that would give us a sense of where we are in the class regarding ethnicity at that mo-
ment." Ethnicity is one of many factors considered in a loP, Mr. Fitzsimmons said in his deposition.

In a response filed in court on Friday, Harvard said that all information in an application file is considered during the loP, and that topping is not used to control the racial makeup of the class.

The plaintiffs accuse Harvard of jiggering its selection process to create a remarkably stable racial profile from year to year. This year, it admitted a class that was almost 23 percent Asian-American; almost 16 percent African-American; and just over 12 percent Latino. The share of admitted students who are Asian-American has risen from 17.6 percent in 2009, and other minorities have gained in concert.

But if Harvard were race-blind, the plaintiffs say, its freshman class would be about 40 percent Asian-American, like the University of California, Berkeley, a public institution that has to abide by a state ban on racial preferences.

As to why the racial and ethnic breakdowns of incoming classes have stayed roughly consistent, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, "from one year to the next, you tend to have roughly the same number and then roughly the same quality from an area."

He added, "It is certainly not a goal of ours to limit ethnicity."

‘Stronger and Better’

The plaintiffs say that the personal rating — which considers an applicant’s character and personality — is the most insidious of Harvard’s admissions metrics. They say that Asian-Americans are routinely described as industrious and intelligent, but unexceptional and indistinguishable — characterizations that recall painful stereotypes for many people of Asian descent. (The applicant who was the "proverbial picket fence" was Asian-American.)

In the recently unredacted court filings, several Asian-American applicants were described in conspicuously similar terms. One was described as "busy and bright," but the "case will look like many others without late info." Another was "very busy" but "doesn’t go extra mile, thus she looks like many w/ this profile." Yet another was "bright & busy" but it was "a bit difficult to see what would hold him in during a lop."

One student was "so very bright but lacking a DE." The court papers say, stands for "distinguishing excellence." Another got a backhanded compliment: "hard worker," but "would she relax and have any fun?"

In Friday’s filing, Harvard countered with examples of its positive assessments of applicants of Nepalese, Tibetan, Vietnamese and Indian descent, who were described with words like "deserving," "fascinating" and "Tug for BG," an abbreviation for background. None of the examples the university gave appeared to be of applicants of Chinese or Korean background.

Mr. Hughes, the former Harvard admissions officer, who is now a college admissions consultant, said he warned students of the long odds of getting in for upper- and middle-class applicants, many of whom are white and Asian.

"You don’t have first-gen. You don’t have son of a police officer. You don’t have the immigrant story, or the poor immigrant story, that captivates private colleges and universities," Mr. Hughes said he told his clients. "So those kids just have to be stronger and better."

Other colleges are looking closely at the case. Ted O’Neill, a former dean of admissions at the University of Chicago, said it was easy enough to identify straight-A students who would continue to excel "in the normal terms" throughout their lives.

The hard part, he said, was finding the value in someone that others might not see. "It means passing up," he said. "It means making what looks like unusual choices."

Professor Khurana, the Harvard College dean, acknowledged that Harvard was not always perfect, but said it was trying to get its practices right.

"I have a great deal of humility knowing that some day history will judge us," Professor Khurana said. "I think that’s why we are constantly asking ourselves this question: How can we do better? How could we be better? What are we missing? Where are our blind spots?"
Ohio State needs to provide answers, quickly

The announcement that Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer was placed on paid administrative leave on Wednesday as the school investigates whether he did not act on information regarding fired assistant coach Zach Smith and his reported domestic abuse of his wife, Courtney, spread quickly around the college football world as soon as investigative reporter Brett McMurphy, in a stellar act of journalism, reported it.

There were hot takes and sizzling takes, much of the Internet’s legal advice (take it for what it is worth) and analysis. There were jokes — some inappropriate, others on target but fired at the wrong time. (I’ve done the same

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in the past, so no finger-pointing here.) There was speculation about what Ohio State would do to Meyer — the spectrum ranging from “nothing” to “termination.” There was all sorts of talk about how this might affect Ohio State’s 2018 season to whether it would prevent them from having a top five recruiting class. Peripheral issues, at best. For the most part, I tried to stay out of it.

Ever since the death of Holt basketball star Jalen Merriwether last February, when he was killed trying to protect his sister in a domestic violence situation, I have tried to keep in mind that, first, the victim is the first priority and that, second, it isn’t just that the cover-up, the excuse, the look in the other direction never helps. It merely allows the cycle to go on, sometimes with lethal results.

That didn’t happen in Courtney Smith’s case. That’s fortunate. But it could have.

I’m not saying Urban Meyer might not have had his reasons for doing what he did. My personal opinion is that they weren’t necessarily good reasons, but this situation — and a man’s career — shouldn’t come down to my opinion. It should come down to an impartial, transparent review of the facts by Ohio State. Better still, that review should not be done in-house, but by an independent investigator. If that review finds Meyer breached his responsibility — not his contract, but his inner responsibility — he should not be retained. All cases are different. Every major institution in 21st-century America, no matter how it prepares, may face this situation someday. It’s a pervasive problem. Preparation and education helps, but it doesn’t always prevent violence. If that awful day comes, response is critical.

Times have changed, and are still changing. Coaches, prominent coaches, have lost jobs. I’m not saying that this is directly equivalent to Joe Paterno at Penn State, or Art Briles at Baylor. Those were huge, shocking cases, but they probably came down to a simple fact: A coach convinced himself he was doing the right thing. One might compare Jonathan Taylor’s admission and quick dismissal from Alabama in 2015 but, while you may or may not agree with Nick Saban’s decision to sign Taylor, or the university’s decision to admit him — many people did not, and were vocal about it — there was never a step in the process that was hidden from view or taken without the knowledge of the UA administration. That doesn’t mean it was the right choice — events proved it was not — but it wasn’t Saban’s secret.

That’s the issue here now — not just what happened, but why was it kept quiet? Why did Meyer think he could determine what was best in 2015, or since then? If there are convincing answers, Ohio State should provide them quickly. Because at the moment, it’s difficult to think what those answers might be.

Reach Cecil Hurt at cecil@tidesports.com or 205-722-0225.
Ohio State Places Meyer On Leave Amid Inquiry

By MARC TRACY

Ohio State announced Wednesday evening that the head coach of its storied football team, Urban Meyer, was being put on paid administrative leave while the university investigates allegations that Meyer knew a longtime former assistant coach had been accused of domestic abuse in 2015.

Meyer, one of the most successful coaches of the past two decades, said last week that he had not heard of the domestic abuse accusations until they came to light in recent days, but a report has accused Meyer of having known about the accusations for far longer.

In a statement Wednesday released by the university, Meyer said he and athletic director Gene Smith agreed "that being on leave during this inquiry will facilitate its completion. This allows the team to conduct training camp with minimal distraction. I eagerly look forward to the resolution of this matter."

Ryan Day, a 39-year-old co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach who joined the program a year ago, will serve as acting head football coach, the statement said. There are two other coordinators, Greg Schiano and Kevin Wilson, who have experience as head coaches at major college programs.

The escalation to paid administrative leave for Meyer came after Brett McMurphy, an independent journalist who formerly covered college football for ESPN, published a report on Facebook in which Courtney Smith, the ex-wife of the former assistant coach Zach Smith, said Meyer’s wife had extensive knowledge of the abuse allegations. Courtney Smith’s story was backed up by text messages, according to the report.

The Meyer controversy is the latest sports-related scandal at a university under fire for whether it could have acted sooner to stop a former doctor whom more than 100 former students have accused of sexual abuse. The reported

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abuse took place for more than a decade stretching back from the mid-1990s. There is also a lawsuit stemming from a former assistant diving coach's sexual relationship with a 16-year-old diver in 2014.

Ohio State is one of college football's flagship programs. Meyer is one of just two active head coaches who has won multiple championships: two at Florida in the 2000s, and one at Ohio State after the 2014 season.

The Toledo native was hailed as a savior when he assumed the head coaching job in late 2011 as Ohio State emerged from an infamous scandal in which players had exchanged signed memorabilia for tattoos. The head coach at the time, Jim Tressel, lied about his knowledge of the infractions to N.C.A.A. investigators. Meyer's salary — $7.6 million after he signed an extension through 2022 earlier this year — is among the highest in the sport.

Meyer fired Zach Smith as wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator last week after McMurphy reported that Courtney Smith had filed a domestic violence protection order against him the previous Friday and that he had recently been charged with misdemeanor trespassing.

McMurphy reported that Zach Smith had also been the subject of criminal investigations for domestic violence, felonious assault and menacing by stalking stemming from two incidents in the fall of 2015. In 2009, Smith — then a graduate assistant under Meyer in Florida — was arrested as a result of accusations of aggravated battery on a pregnant victim. Public documents obtained by The New York Times confirm these reports.

At a news conference last week, Meyer said he had been aware of the 2009 incident. His wife, Shelley, and he attempted to help shepherd the young couple through it.

Meyer denied prior knowledge of the 2015 incidents, though. He said he had learned about the incidents through a text message the night before the news conference.

McMurphy's report Wednesday from Columbus, Ohio, included a text message exchange between Courtney Smith and Shelley Meyer discussing one of the alleged abuse incidents in 2015. In another text message exchange from that period, the wife of a longtime Urban Meyer assistant, Bri-

an Voltolini, currently an associate athletic director, told Courtney Smith that Meyer had confronted Zach Smith about the allegation.

Shelley Meyer persistently reached out to Courtney Smith about the allegation, according to Smith.

"All the wives knew," Smith told McMurphy, referring to the coaches' wives. "They all did. Every single one."

Courtney Smith also shared photos of her body, bruised and bloody — by Zach Smith, she said — with McMurphy and said she shared those photos with coaches' wives in 2014 and 2015.

McMurphy is a longtime college football reporter based in Tampa, Fla., who was let go by ESPN's in a mass layoff in the spring of 2017. In an interview Wednesday he said a noncompete clause in his contract has prohibited him from publishing stories on his beat for a rival outlet. So he has taken to releasing various reports via Twitter and Facebook.

He said his ESPN contract expires later this month, at which point he will join Stadium, a Chicago-based sports network. Later Wednesday, Stadium published an exclusive video interview with Courtney Smith.

"Shelley said she was going to have to tell Urban," Smith said in the video. She also said that Shelley Meyer never confirmed to her that she had told her husband about the allegations. Meyer is a registered nurse employed by Ohio State's College of Nursing, according to an Ohio State website.

The lawyers listed in a local court docket as having represented Zach Smith and Courtney Smith in the recent proceedings did not reply to requests for comment Wednesday. Last week, Zach Smith's lawyer, Bradley Koffel, said in The Columbus Dispatch that the recent trespassing charge stemmed from a misunderstanding related to when Smith was supposed to drop off their children as part of their custodial arrangement.

Smith has worked for Meyer since 2005, when he was a graduate assistant at Florida, and he played for him even before that, when Meyer was Bowling Green's coach. He is also a grandson of Earl Bruce, a former Ohio State coach whom Meyer has identified as a mentor.

The questions of who knew what, and when, about allegations of domestic abuse against an Ohio State athletics employee echo those raised in recent weeks about two other former university employees affiliated with athletics.

Last month, Ohio State announced that an independent investigation had uncovered more than 100 former students who said that Dr. Richard H. Strauss, a former university employee and team doctor, had sexually abused them. Three lawsuits have been filed by former athletes in several sports. They say that Strauss used his position as a university-designated medical professional to molest them and that several authority figures knew about it, including a former wrestling coach and former athletic director. Both have denied that they knew about the Strauss abuse.

That scandal has ensnared Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio, one of the most powerful elected Republican politicians in the country, who was an assistant wrestling coach for several years while Strauss was team doctor. Jordan has denied knowledge, and he has argued that accusers have been put up to fabricating stories by an unspecified "deep state."

A woman who as a teenager trained with the Ohio State University Diving Club said that a former assistant diving coach, Will Bohonyi, had engaged in an abusive relationship with her that was amplified because there was no safe way to report it. Ohio State has said it placed Bohonyi on administrative leave as soon as it learned about the relationship and later fired him.

Bohonyi has not commented since the woman, Eszter Pryor, last week spoke publically for the first time about her experience.