



Montgomery Advertiser

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SINCE 1829

INSIDE



The Montgomery Advertiser's Game Day section takes a look at today's college football matchups.

SUSPENSION

PSC manager on suspension

A Public Service Commission employee begins serving a 30-day suspension and will give up her state cellphone. **PAGE 1B**

GRAND OPENING

Business now back

Piedmont National reopens a year after a fire destroyed its former home. **PAGE 1B**

EASING DROUGHT

Moving water not easy

Ideas for transporting water from flooded areas to dry ones are often unrealistic. **PAGE 6A**

VOTER ID



Laws' impact discussed

Some critics say the legislation could suppress voter turnout. **PAGE 1B**

TERRORISM

Threat investigated

Officials are pursuing intelligence on a potential threat on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. **PAGE 5A**

ONLINE

REFLECTION



Cpl. David Brown, the Montgomery police officer injured in a motorcycle crash, looks at how his life has changed. Read the story on **PAGE 1B**. View video of Brown's homecoming at montgomeryadvertiser.com

TODAY'S FORECAST

High 87°, Low 57°

Mainly sunny

Complete forecast on 12A



Bridge	10C
Classified	9C
Comics	4B
Death Notices	11A
Horoscopes	10C
Lotteries	2B
Nation/World	8A
Puzzles	10C
Sudoku	5B

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Woman can sue in fetus death

The Associated Press

The Alabama Supreme Court ruled Friday a Birmingham-area woman can sue over the death of her unborn baby in a car wreck in 2007 even though the fetus couldn't have lived outside the womb, a decision that expands the rights of people to sue over the death of the unborn.

Twelve weeks pregnant at the time, April Mack of Bessemer was badly injured in a two-vehicle wreck and suffered a miscarriage later at a hospital. She filed a wrongful death lawsuit

against the drivers of the two vehicles, identified in court files as Thomas Carmack and Matthew Taul.

The suit was partially settled but a Jefferson County judge dismissed Mack's suit against Carmack last year, ruling she could not sue because her unborn child was not far enough along to live outside the womb.

The justices unanimously overturned that decision. In an unsigned opinion, they wrote that since Alabama's criminal laws allow authorities to prosecute offenders for harming fetuses before they are viable, the state's wrong-

ful death law governing civil lawsuits should use the same standard.

"It's a victory for the right-to-life movement," said John Stamps, a lawyer for Mack. "For some time the laws did not line up. The Supreme Court has now brought the civil law in line with the criminal law."

Mack and her fiance had paid Carmack to give them a ride to a store when Carmack pulled out in front of a vehicle driven by Taul, causing the crash, according to the decision. The woman suffered the miscarriage five days later.

Sept. 11 tribute



Students mark anniversary of tragic day

Above, students release balloons during Booker T. Washington Magnet High School's Sept. 11 observance on Friday. The school's concert and show band also performed during the event. At right, the school displays a sign reading "WE WILL NEVER FORGET." See a list of area Sept. 11 events on **Page 2A**. See more photos from the BTW event at montgomeryadvertiser.com.

PHOTOS BY MICKEY WELSH/ADVERTISER



BEATING DEATH

Wife: Husband fond of suspect

By Scott Johnson
sjohnson3@gannett.com

C.E. Dotson not only trusted his young neighbor, Anthony Haynes, he loved him, according to testimony by Dotson's wife.

Dotson believed in Haynes even after Dotson's .38-caliber revolver turned up missing, and even though the teen's aunt found the gun in the house she shared with Haynes and returned it to the couple, Dorothy Dotson testified.

Haynes

"(C.E. Dotson) said, 'I don't want to sign a warrant for him.' He loved (Haynes)," Dorothy Dotson said.

Now, the state is accusing the 16-year-old of beating his 91-year-old neighbor repeatedly on the head with a crowbar during a home invasion robbery, causing injuries that would kill World War II veteran C.E. Dotson 11 days later, according to autopsy results.

Haynes and Courtney Goines, both 16, face capital murder charges in Dotson's death. District Judge Jimmy Pool denied bond for both teens during a preliminary hearing Thursday.

Although Dotson had refused to press charges in the alleged gun theft, an incident

See SUSPECT, Page 2A

Obama gives stirring jobs speech, but some still skeptical

By Allen G. Breed

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Wilma Dillard took over her family's barbecue restaurant in 1997, after her father's death. But this spring — with her blue-collar customers cutting back, and the banks unwilling to extend the usual credit — she was forced to close the 58-year-old Durham eatery and lay off her dozen employees.

"I could hear my father telling me, 'Wilma, it's time for you to get out of the waters. The water's a little too rough for you right now,'" the 51-year-old former schoolteacher said. "Bring it into dock, and maybe it can sail again at a later day."

On Thursday, she and millions of other recession-weary Americans sat rapt before their televisions as President Barack Obama told Congress that later isn't soon enough.

"They need help," Obama said in pushing his nearly \$450

billion American Jobs Act. "And they need it now."

Dillard took heart; she proclaimed herself "inspired" by Obama's speech, and pleased to see Republicans applauding some of his comments. This economic crisis, she said, "shouldn't be settled at the ballot boxes."

Dillard is an optimist, unlike many others who watched Obama's speech. They hold all sorts of opinions about his proposals, but hovering over it all is skepticism that the ferocious partisanship of recent months can be overcome, and that anything will be done.

Marc Epstein liked what the president was saying. He just didn't care for the way he said it. Epstein, owner of Boston-



Obama



Wilma Dillard stands outside her family's barbecue restaurant in Durham, N.C., on Thursday. The family had to close the eatery after 58 years because of a drop in business and because banks were increasingly unwilling to lend money. ALLEN BREED/AP

based Milk Street Cafe, said he would have preferred something less "pugnacious."

Epstein, 53, opened his first "food hall" in Boston in 1981 and employs 65 people there. In

June, he used a loan guaranteed by the Small Business Administration to open a second location on Wall Street in New

See SPEECH, Page 2A

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