

# Saban: New recruiting rule 'ridiculous' - 1C

# Montgomery Advertiser

FRIDAY April 18, 2008 Montgomery Edition 50 cents

SINCE 1829

montgomeryadvertiser.com

# Senate remains at standstill

By Sebastian Kitchen  
skitchen@gannett.com



Related stories 1B

With only eight meeting days remaining in the current legislative session, some lawmakers are pessimistic that much progress will be made on key issues, such as ethics and tax reforms.

Legislators said important bills they have yet to pass deal with taking state sales tax off groceries, keeping federal stimulus checks from being taxed by the state and banning transfers between political action committees that serve to con-

ceal the source of contributions to candidates.

The Legislature meets for 30 days each regular session. The body concluded its 22nd meeting day Thursday.

The House has passed dozens of bills, but, as happened last year, those bills are becoming stalled in the Senate.

Last year, a coalition of Republican senators and a handful of Democratic allies held up legislation. This year, senators on both sides — the Democratic majority and the minority coalition — have used delaying tactics.

Currently, the Senate has been on the same bill, a local bill dealing with gambling in Macon County, for weeks.

Some senators have said the bill would expand gambling.

Other legislators have said the bill, which would create a three-member commission to oversee gambling in the county, is a local bill and would create a referendum for voters in that county to decide if they want the change. Currently, the sheriff oversees the industry in Macon County.

Sen. Quinton Ross, D-Montgomery, said he supports people in Macon County voting on their own local bill. He said he does not want a future situation in which other senators stop people in Montgomery County from voting on a local issue. Ross encouraged "local

courtesy" in asking his colleagues to approve the bill.

People on both sides have said the sponsor, Sen. Myron Penn, D-Union Springs, does not have the votes to pass the bill. So Penn has used stalling tactics on his own bill, hoping he eventually can find additional votes.

Even some members of Penn's own party have said the bill should be set aside for now to allow progress on other legislation. They said they told him they would bring it back up when the sponsor has the votes.

Sen. Parker Griffith, D-

Huntsville, said there is the potential for the Senate "not having anything done" and he is disappointed his Democratic colleagues will not allow the bill to be carried over.

"Sooner or later, the public is going to get sick and tired," he said.

Griffith, a freshman who is serving in his second year, said there has been little movement in the Senate during his first term.

Republican Sen. Larry Dixon of Montgomery, Ross and Griffith said they are hoping

Senate Page 7A



Contributed

This is an artist's rendering of the courtyard view of the proposed Pike Road School.

## Pike Road closes in on getting its own school

By Hilary Funk  
hfunk@gannett.com

The town of Pike Road is close to breaking ground on a new public school, said Mayor Gordon Stone.

Pike Road School, which Stone said will be the home of the Patriots, will be built at The Waters community on Marler Road.

Ed Welch and Dale Walker, developers and founders of The Waters, donated more than 40 acres for the project. They said a school always had been in the master plan for the community.

More than 100 people gath-



Stone

ered to hear Stone's announcement Thursday at a community gathering on what will be the site of the K-12 school, near the entrance to The Waters.

A timeline for building and opening the school likely will be announced in the fall, Stone said.

The mayor said the first stage of building could cost about \$20 million in today's dollars, but that it was too early to determine specific numbers.

Stone said the event was a long time coming.

"This is a milestone and a significant statement about our progress that we've made and the intensity that this project is going to have from this point forward," Stone said. "This kicks off a new stage of activity that now becomes a lot more aggressive."

The next stage is working with the U.S. Census Bureau to get certification of Pike Road's population numbers. The town needs to have an official population count of 5,000 to go further with the education plan.

School Page 7A

## Congressional panel wants Rove testimony in Siegelman case

By Doug Abrahms  
dabrahms@gns.gannett.com

WASHINGTON — A House Judiciary Committee investigating whether the Justice Department selectively prosecuted Democratic officials, including former Gov. Don Siegelman, has asked former White House adviser Karl Rove to testify.

The request came Thursday, the same day the committee issued a report saying extensive evidence shows that Washington officials, likely including Rove, influenced the decision to bring charges against Siegelman.

The report also stated that Justice Department officials ignored similar conduct by Republican politicians in Alabama, and cited other cases



Rove



Siegelman

brought against public officials in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

In a letter sent to Rove on Thursday, the committee said it had received testimony that Rove or his staff had played a role in shaping Justice Department prosecutions.

"Given the importance of these issues to the fair administration of justice in this country, your appearance to answer these charges is imperative,"

On the web  
@montgomeryadvertiser.com

Read the letter

the committee wrote.

Siegelman was convicted of corruption in 2006, but last month was released from prison on bond following an appeals court ruling. The court said that Siegelman's appeal raised substantial questions that could result in a new trial or overturning the verdict.

Rove's attorney said on a cable TV show earlier this month that Rove would be willing to testify, the committee said.

But Robert Luskin, Rove's attorney, denied that he had suggested his client would tes-

Testimony Page 7A

## Parts supplier opens new plant in Tallassee

Hanil USA already is planning its next expansion

By Cosby Woodruff  
cwoodruff@gannett.com

TALLASSEE — Hanil USA, a Hyundai Tier 1 supplier, hardly had the doors open on its new building before the company was talking of expanding again.

Hanil makes fluid lines — for brakes, fuel and power steering — for Hyundai's Santa Fe and Sonata. The company will provide the same parts to Kia when that car company opens its plant in West Point, Ga.

The plant Hanil opened Thursday, at 54,000 square feet, only will hold the company until it starts making Kia parts. When that happens, Hanil will need more space, but the company doesn't know yet how much more it will need.

It also will need more workers. Hanil employs 92 now, according to company president Tony Kwon. That number will grow to more than 120 before the first Kia part leaves the plant late next year.

Kwon, on Thursday, reflected on how quickly Hanil USA grew from its humble start. The company almost didn't even get started in Alabama, he said.

Hanil negotiated with a different central Alabama location, only to have the contract fall apart at the last minute, Kwon said. That left Hanil with only weeks to find a new site and set up for construction before Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama expected its first parts.

Kwon said HMMA even threatened to pull the contract if Hanil didn't find a location quickly.

Faced with that threat, Kwon started the company in a 10,000-square-foot rented space in Tallassee with only a handful of workers.

Hyundai ordered a second product line, and Hanil added workers.

Kia announced it was coming to Georgia, and Hanil decided it would need more space — and lots of it — if it was going to supply that plant.

Hanil has a 40-year history of supplying Kia and Hyundai worldwide.

Rich Koplasky, president of Hanil's corporate parent TI Automotive, said his company



David Bundy Advertiser

Employee Cora Lewis works Thursday during the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of Hanil USA, a parts supplier for Hyundai and soon for Kia Motors, in Tallassee.



@montgomeryadvertiser.com

"We make the car go," he said. "We make the car stop." Machinery made tubes for both the Sonata and Santa Fe. Only a few workers attended the Santa Fe machine, but employees crowded around the Sonata machines.

Parts for the Sonata require much more hands-on labor, Swan said.

Most workers, he said, can do at least two jobs. "Most of them are cross-trained," he said. "They can go wherever I need them to go."

Hanil runs two shifts a day, with employees working four 10-hour shifts per week. Overtime, if required, is on Friday.

Swan said products are shipped to order by HMMA, and soon Kia, in keeping with the just-in-time, just-in-sequence manufacturing process.

now has a relationship with most auto manufacturers.

"We make products for just about every auto maker everywhere in the world," he said.

At Hanil USA, workers use both automated machines and hands-on work to turn tubes into pipes for fuel and other fluids.

Darcy Swan, a Hanil worker who led a plant tour Thursday, said one machine could make up to 11 different parts. The machine bent and twisted straight tubes through a die process to make a specific tube.

Most of the tubing, he said, is for either brakes or fuel.

A Gannett Newspaper  
46 pages

Volume 181, Number 109  
© 2008 The Advertiser Co.

For home delivery  
877-424-0007  
Toll free



50¢

### INDEX

|                 |      |              |     |
|-----------------|------|--------------|-----|
| ABCs to ACTs    | 2D   | Jumble       | 2F  |
| Alabama         | 1B   | Metro        | 2A  |
| Annie's Mailbox | 4D   | My Life      | 1D  |
| Bridge          | 2F   | Movies       | 7D  |
| Business        | 6A   | Nation/World | 8B  |
| Classified      | 1F   | Obituaries   | 2B  |
| Comics          | 3D   | Sports       | 1C  |
| Crossword       | 2F   | Sudoku       | 7D  |
| Cryptoquote     | 2F   | TV listings  | 7D  |
| Editorial       | 6-7B | Weather      | 10A |
| Horoscope       | 2F   |              |     |

### WEATHER

78° Partly sunny

54° T-storm late

For more weather updates go online at montgomeryadvertiser.com

### CHECK IT OUT ONLINE

@ www.montgomeryadvertiser.com

Calling all moms!  
Join our online  
discussion groups

Data Central: Find  
crime reports, licenses,  
homicides and more

Diamonds,  
Diamonds,  
Diamonds \$2450  
1 Carat



Marquette's  
EXQUISITE JEWELRY  
334-270-0074  
Cornerstone at Vaughn & Taylor Road