

HEELS BOOT BLAZERS

5 THINGS TO WATCH

AU, UAB start spring practice



RB Mario Fannin

The Birmingham News

SPORTS | Section C

UA REACTION:
School says ruling was unfair

MELICK:
At least the BCS title still stands

Violations cost Tide 21 wins

Textbook ruling upheld; 2005-07 records changed

By DON KAUSLER JR. and JON SOLOMON
News staff writers

TUSCALOOSA — The NCAA's Division I Infractions Appeals Committee on Tuesday upheld an NCAA ruling that the University of Alabama must vacate 21 football victories from 2005, 2006 and part of 2007 because of rules violations.

Alabama President Robert Witt and Athletics Director Mal Moore expressed disappointment in the ruling, which concludes the case and means a 10-2 season in 2005 officially becomes 0-2,

THE PENALTIES

These are the penalties levied by the NCAA Committee on Infractions against the University of Alabama in June 2009. On Tuesday, an appeals committee upheld the vacation of wins and records.

- ▶ Public reprimand, \$43,900 fine.
- ▶ Three years' probation.
- ▶ Reopening of five-year repeat violator window.
- ▶ 21 football wins (2005-07) vacated.
- ▶ Individual records for 15 athletes in track and men's tennis (2005-07) vacated.

a 6-7 season in 2006 becomes 0-7, and a 7-6 season in 2007 becomes 2-6.

See NCAA | Page 5A

Riley ignores AG King's bingo orders

By CHARLES J. DEAN and KIM CHANDLER
News staff writers

A deadline ordering John Tyson Jr. to step aside as commander of Gov. Bob Riley's Task Force On Illegal Gambling passed Tuesday with Riley and Tyson defiantly ignoring the order by Attorney General Troy King.

Both Riley and Tyson also ignored King's order that all

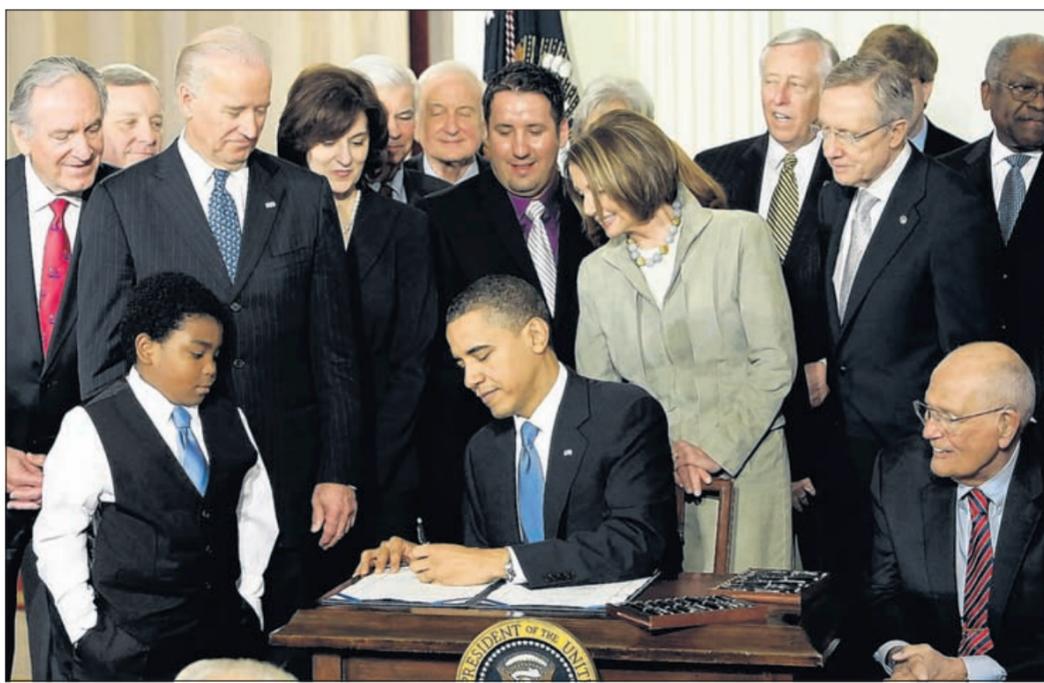
evidence gathered by the task force during the past 15 months be turned over to him.

In a late afternoon meeting with reporters in his office, Riley left little doubt what he thought of King's decision Monday to fire Tyson and assume command of the task force himself.

See GAMBLING | Page 4A

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL | THE NEW LAW

Health bill signed, but fight isn't over



Legislators, White House officials and guests look on as President Barack Obama signs the health care bill in the East Room of the White House on Tuesday. At left is 11-year-old Marcelas Owens of Seattle, whose uninsured mother died in 2007.

In Senate, GOP has one last chance to alter nearly \$1 trillion law

By SHAILAGH MURRAY and LORI MONTGOMERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hours after President Barack Obama signed sweeping health-care legislation into law Tuesday, the Senate began a debate on another piece of the package, giving Republicans one last chance to alter the bill before it begins to transform insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

GOP senators are aiming to gut the "fixes" package, a 150-page addendum to the new health-care law.

Claiming a historic triumph that could define his presidency, a jubilant Obama signed the massive, nearly \$1 trillion health care overhaul on Tuesday.

After more than a year of partisan struggle, Obama declared "a new season in America" as he sealed a victory denied to a line of presidents stretching back more than half a century. Democratic lawmakers cheered him on, giving the White House signing ceremony a rally-like atmosphere as they shouted and snapped photos with pocket cameras or cell phones.

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LEGAL DISPUTE: AG Troy King joins federal lawsuit. **3A**
STATE REACTION: Senate won't consider opt-out. **3A**
PUBLIC OPINION: Majority still skeptical of reform. **4A**
TAXING TANNING: Salons first to feel its effects. **6B**

Council OKs \$450,000 to Fed Cup, Grand Prix

By JOSEPH D. BRYANT
News staff writer

Two major sporting events coming to Birmingham next month — the Fed Cup tennis matches and the Indy Grand Prix at Barber Motorsports Park — will get more than \$450,000 in funding from the City Council.

The vote to grant the events city

money came after a lengthy debate that included objections from Council President Roderick Royal, who said the council needed a financial update from Mayor William Bell before committing to any major spending.

"The issue is, we have not had a report," Royal said. "We ought to see where we are."

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NEWS STAFF/JOE SONGER

A team of workers is erecting grandstands and other seating this week at Barber Motorsports Park for up to 5,000 fans for the Indy Grand Prix of Alabama in April.

U.S. CENSUS

Alabamians' trek to cities continues

By STAN DIEHL
News staff writer

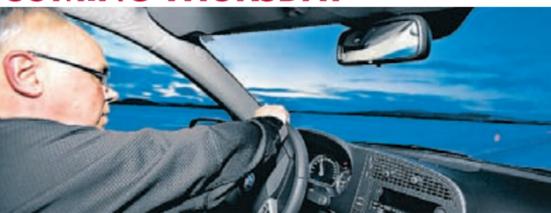
More than half the counties in Alabama have lost population in the past decade as the generations-long slow march from rural areas to cities continues, according to census data released Tuesday.

Populations in 34 counties in the state shrank from 2000 to 2009, according to annual population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Overall, the state population grew 5.9 percent over the same period, to 4.7 million. But rural counties, led by the impoverished Black Belt counties, shed residents.

Sumter County, which last year was home to 12,853 people, lost more than 13 percent of its population since 2000.

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COMING THURSDAY



Driver safety for senior citizens

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WEATHER

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