

# The Tuscaloosa News

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## Teams in Aliceville, Akron cope with deaths

By Alex Scarborough  
Sports Writer

High school coaches stress it all the time: A football team is a family. Players eat together, play together and pray together. They experience the joy of winning and the disappointment of defeat as one. They are brothers in arms, growing up playing a game they love, sharing a bond that endures.

Tonight, the Aliceville Yellow Jackets and Akron Rams will take the field while still mourning the loss of a brother, a teammate and a friend. Akron running back Kion Taylor and Aliceville linebacker Tremaine Jackson died over the weekend from injuries sustained in two separate car accidents. Taylor died on Oct. 14 and Jackson on Oct. 15. They were seniors set to graduate this spring.

Throughout the week, the two teams have tried to reconcile themselves with simple, heart-aching questions: How long do you wait for a teammate to walk through the locker room doors, knowing you'll never see him again? How long do you stare at his locker, his helmet, his jersey? How is your team a family when you've lost a brother?

Counselors and ministers have shuffled in and out of the teams' fieldhouses, doing their best to help along the grieving process. Akron principal Ruth Davis said grief counselors have encouraged students to express their feelings.

She said she remembers Taylor as a well-rounded child, one she wishes she could find in every student.

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## Mercedes will add 400 jobs to make new model in 2015

\$350M to be spent to prep automaker's Vance plant



STAFF PHOTO | DUSTY COMPTON

Gov. Robert Bentley, left, and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International president and CEO Markus Schafer announce a new vehicle at the company's plant in Vance on Thursday.

To see more photos from the Mercedes-Benz U.S. International announcement that it will begin production of a new vehicle in 2015, visit [www.tuscaloosaneews.com](http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com).

By Patrick Rupinski  
Staff Writer

VANCE | Mercedes-Benz will make a completely new model vehicle starting in early 2015 at its sprawling automotive assembly plant in Vance.

The German luxury automaker said Thursday afternoon that it will invest an additional \$350 million in the Vance plant to prepare for the new vehicle's production, which will be the fifth model that will be made at the plant, known as Mercedes-Benz U.S. International.

About 400 new jobs will be added when the model's production begins, although hiring won't start for several years.

The new model, which has not been given a name, also is expected to bring several thousand more jobs to manufacturers in the automotive parts industry. Those automotive suppliers tend to locate near the automotive plants they serve.

Markus Schaefer, MBUSI's president and CEO, said that, as a general rule, for every job Mercedes adds at its production plant, its au-

tomotive suppliers will create seven more jobs. The new model thus could bring 2,500 to 2,800 supplier jobs to the state, he said. The automotive suppliers that win the Mercedes' contracts for the new model will likely spend more than \$5 billion in new plants and equipment to serve MBUSI, he said.

Dara Longgrear, executive director of the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority, which recruits new industry to the county, said he thinks the Tuscaloosa area will get many of those automotive suppliers.

While production of the new model is several years off, Longgrear said he expects that some announcements by suppliers for the Mercedes C-Class sedan, which will begin production in Vance in 2014, could be made before the end of the year, with more C-Class suppliers announcing their plans in 2012. Suppliers for the new model will follow that.

Mercedes currently makes all of its M-Class and GL-Class sport utility vehicles and its R-Class cross-

### MERCEDES IN VANCE

■ **What's happening:** A fifth new model will be added to the plant's vehicle production starting in 2015.

■ **Why:** The new model will be one of 10 new models Mercedes will introduce worldwide during the next four years as part of its global growth strategy.

■ **Local investment:** An additional \$350 million will be spent to ready the Vance plant for the new, yet unnamed model, bringing Mercedes' total investment in Vance from 2010 through 2014 to \$2.4 billion.

■ **Employment:** Some 400 additional jobs will be created when the new model goes into production. That's on top of the 1,000 jobs that will be added when Mercedes starts C-Class production in Vance in 2014.

Source: Mercedes-Benz

over vehicles in Vance. The production of those vehicles will continue. Schaefer said Mercedes will be SEE BENZ | 9A

## Mayor passes on job at AEA

By Dana Beyerle  
Montgomery Bureau Chief

MONTGOMERY | Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox said Thursday he is flattered to be considered as a candidate for the Alabama Education Association's top job, but that he does not want it.

Maddox, a former AEA UniServ director, is in the middle of his second term as mayor.

"I have a lot of respect for the Alabama Education Association and I'm honored by being approached, but my home is in Tuscaloosa, my family is in Tuscaloosa," said Maddox, 38. "I have absolutely no intention to pursue it."

A high-ranking legislator who did not want to be identified said Maddox was heavily recruited to seek the position because it is believed that he can work with Democrats and Republicans in the Republican-dominated Legislature.

Maddox was UniServ director for Tuscaloosa from 1996-2001. UniServ directors provide professional assistance to AEA members at the local level. He was elected mayor of Tuscaloosa in 2005 and re-elected without opposition to the non-partisan position in 2009. Maddox said he plans to seek re-election in 2013.

An individual who is known to be seeking the position is former AEA president Anita Gibson, a current AEA vice president. She did not respond to a call for comment.

The AEA board has established a search committee to find candidates to replace AEA executive secretary Paul Hubbert and associate executive secretary Joe Reed. The two men announced their retirements last month. Hubbert, 75, later said he is taking dialysis three times a week and believes he does not have the stamina for another legislative session.

Reed said Thursday that he and Hubbert, who are advisers to the search committee, do not know who the applicants are. The application deadline is the end of October.

"We're going to go through the applications due the thirty-first of October and after that in November we SEE MADDOX | 9A



Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox said he is not interested in replacing AEA executive secretary Paul Hubbert.

**COMING SATURDAY**

**THE GENERAL AND THE BEAR**

LEGENDARY COACHES SHAPED RIVALRY COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**OCTOBER'S BIG GAME**

Bryant, Neyland impacted one of SEC's best rivalries

**UA PROTESTS**  
Students say recent protest is in response to racial incidents on campus. | 1B

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## Pulled from drain pipe, Gadhafi was shown no mercy

Libyan rebels inspect a storm drain where they claim Moammar Gadhafi was found wounded in Sirte, Libya, on Thursday. Gadhafi was killed Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



By Christopher Gillette and Kim Gamel  
The Associated Press

SIRTE, LIBYA | Dragged from hiding in a drainage pipe, a wounded Moammar Gadhafi raised his hands and begged revolutionary fighters: "Don't kill me, my sons." Within an hour, he was dead, but not before jubilant Libyans had vented decades of hatred by pulling the eccentric dictator's hair and parading his bloodied body on the hood of a truck.

The death Thursday of Gadhafi, two months after he was driven from power

### INSIDE

**OBITUARY:** Gadhafi was brutal and defiant to the end. | 8A

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and into hiding, decisively buries the nearly 42-year regime that had turned the oil-rich country into an international pariah and his own personal fiefdom.

SEE GADHAFI | 8A