



Couple marries after meeting in UA online class

The Tuscaloosa News

TUSCALOOSA, NORTHPORT, WEST ALABAMA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012 50¢

WWW.TUSCALOOSANEWS.COM

Panel delays entertainment districts for year

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | The city will not create entertainment districts for the 2012 college football season.

By a unanimous vote, the ad hoc entertainment district committee decided Thursday to wait until next year to determine whether the benefits of such a district would out-

weigh the potential liabilities.

A 2012 legislative act allows cities of a certain size to form entertainment districts where open beverage laws would be relaxed or suspended. That means patrons could leave bars and restaurants with open containers of alcohol and walk on public streets within those designated parts of the city.

Because of its size, Tuscaloosa is



Do you think entertainment districts are a good idea? Vote at www.tuscaloosanews.com.

allowed up to two such districts up to a half-square mile each. The act leaves the rules and regulations of the districts up to individual municipalities.

The committee, which met for

the first time last week, was created to decide whether the districts made sense in Tuscaloosa and what rules would govern them. The panel is made up of bar and business owners in Temerson Square and the Strip, where the districts were suggested, as well as representatives from City Hall, the University of Alabama and other

SEE DISTRICTS | 11A

New plan measures schools' progress

By Dana Beyerle
Montgomery Bureau Chief

MONTGOMERY | The Alabama Department of Education will jettison the Adequate Yearly Progress reports on public school performance in favor of a homegrown plan that emphasizes individual student performance and readiness for college or technical training.

Called Plan 2020, the state Department of Education is implementing it as the successor to the No Child Left Behind national assessment system.

The plan has four priorities: students, school systems, teachers and administrators and school support.

"I would describe it as radically groundbreaking," deputy state school Superintendent Sherrill Parris said Thursday during a briefing on Plan 2020, which will begin this month with a component emphasizing math skills. The new reading course of study will begin in August 2013.

Objectives starting this year will be to increase the high school graduation rate, improve student learning and achievement, close the learning gap and increase the number of students who are college- and career-ready.

SEE SCHOOLS | 11A

Saban charity to give \$415K



STAFF PHOTOS | MICHELLE LEPIANKA CARTER

Alabama head football coach Nick Saban speaks to a crowd during the annual Nick's Kids luncheon hosted at the Zone in Bryant-Denny Stadium on Thursday. The Nick's Kids Fund distributed more than \$415,000 to about 100 organizations dedicated to serving the needs of children in Alabama.

Annual luncheon details fund's activity on behalf of needy children

By Chase Goodbread
Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA | The Nick's Kids Fund, for 14 years the charity organization of University of Alabama football coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry, on Thursday distributed more than \$415,000 to more than 100 organizations dedicated to serving the needs of children in Alabama at its annual luncheon at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The figure represents the majority of the money generated by the fund during its fiscal year.

"We're really proud of what we're able to accomplish on a yearly basis for a lot of young people in the state of Alabama, as well as other places in the Southeast," Saban said. "Nick's Kids is really not about me. It's really about extending the legacy of what my dad tried to do to help young people, which my mother always wanted me to try to continue."

"No man stands as tall as when he stoops to help a child," that's

SEE CHARITY | 11A



Alabama football players, including AJ McCarron, left, sign autographs during the annual Nick's Kids luncheon hosted at the Zone in Bryant-Denny Stadium on Thursday.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kofi Annan, Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League for Syria, speaks at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday. Annan is stepping down as U.N. Arab League mediator in the 17-month-old Syria conflict at the end of the month, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon said.

Annan resigns as U.N.'s Syria envoy

By Rick Gladstone
N.Y. Times News Service

Frustrated by the seemingly intractable Syrian conflict, Kofi Annan announced his resignation on Thursday as the special peace envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League, throwing new doubts on whether a diplomatic solution is possible.

In an announcement tinged with bitterness and regret, Annan said he could no longer do the job, blaming his decision on what he described as Syrian government intransigence, increasing militance by Syrian rebels and the failure of a divided Security Council to rally forcefully behind his efforts.

"I accepted this task, which some called 'Mission Impossible,' for I believed it was a sacred duty to do whatever was in my power to help the Syrian people find a peaceful solution to this bloody conflict," Annan told reporters at a hastily organized news conference at the U.N.'s Geneva offices.

But, he said, "without serious, purposeful and

SEE SYRIA | 11A



INSIDE: VOL. 194 | NO. 216 | 5 Sections

Bridge 7E
Business 4B
Classifieds 1E
Crossword 7E
Opinion 10A
Sports 1C
IN TUSK
Comics 20D
Dear Abby 22D
Horoscope 23D
Movies 8D
Television 24D

GABRIELLE TAKES THE GOLD
16-year-old U.S. gymnast Gabrielle Douglas takes gold in Olympic women's gymnastics all-around competition. | 1C



High 93
Low 73