

COVERING  
THE TIDE

Recent ASWA Hall of Fame inductee Kirk McNair has seen quite a bit in four decades of chronicling the Crimson Tide

Earning  
HONORS

Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame inducts area volunteer

## BID DAY

University of Alabama sorority pledges 41-51

IN TODAY'S PAPER  
COUPONS  
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In most areas

## The Tuscaloosa News

TUSCALOOSA, NORTHPORT, WEST ALABAMA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012 \$1.50

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## State officials wait and watch tropical storm

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY | Alabama residents should start monitoring the approach of Tropical Storm Isaac and begin making plans for what they would do if it strikes the state's coastline, officials said Saturday.

Gov. Robert Bentley announced he was canceling a trip to the Republican National Convention in Tampa so he can monitor preparations as the storm draws close to the United States.

The storm pushed into Cuba on Saturday and was headed northwest along the country's coast toward the Florida Keys. Florida Gov. Rick Scott

## INSIDE

■ Florida prepares for Isaac ahead of GOP convention; most events called off until Tuesday. | 6A

■ Tropical Storm Isaac leaves at least 3 dead in Haiti. | 6A

has declared a state of emergency while officials have asked vacationers to leave the Keys.

"I will not be leaving the state while there is a danger of a hurricane approaching our coast," Bentley said in a statement. "I am going to stay in Alabama and will continue to make sure

preparations and resources are in place. We will see our state through this storm until the danger has passed."

Emergency officials said more about the storm's path should be known after the National Weather Service releases its latest projections this afternoon.

Alabama Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Yasamie August said residents in the southern half of Alabama should start considering where they would go and what they would do if the storm gets close. At a minimum, they could face heavy wind and rain.

SEE STORM | 6A



Mike and Norma Minchew purchase plywood at Home Depot on Saturday in Foley to cover the windows of their Gulf Shores home as they prepare for Tropical Storm Isaac.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEIL ARMSTRONG |  
1930-2012

AP | NASA

The family of Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, says he died Saturday at age 82.

First man  
to walk on  
the moon  
dies at 82

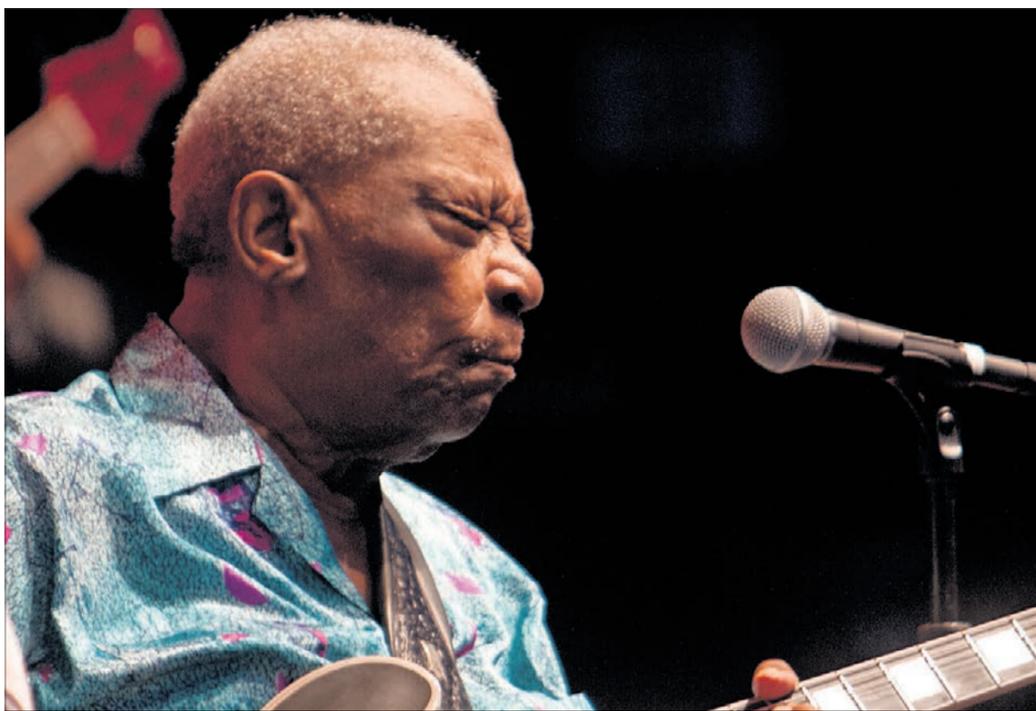
By Lisa Cornwell  
and Seth Borenstein  
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI | Neil Armstrong was a soft-spoken engineer who became a global hero when as a steely nerved pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with a small step onto the moon. The modest man, who had people on Earth entranced and awed from almost a quarter-million miles away, but credited others for the feat, died Saturday. He was 82.

Armstrong died following complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures, his family said in a statement. Armstrong had a bypass operation this month, according to NASA. His family didn't say where he died; he had lived in suburban Cincinnati.

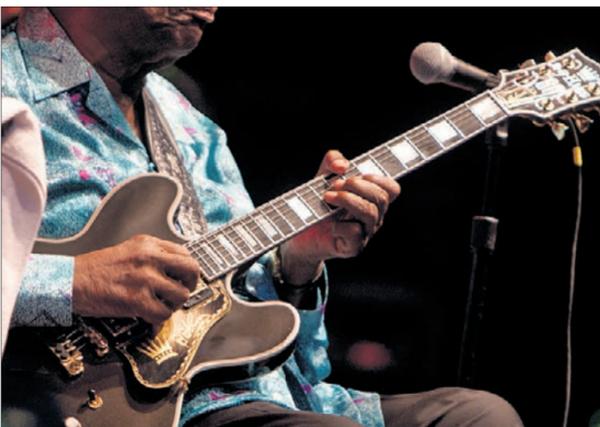
SEE MOON | 15A

## King of the blues



PHOTOS | STEWART GWIN

Legendary guitarist B.B. King performs Saturday night at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater. The 86-year-old Mississippi native and 15-time Grammy award winner was the opening act for the Tedeschi Trucks Band, led by the husband-and-wife duo of Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks, a longtime member of the Allman Brothers Band. The next show at the Amp will be Friday, featuring Chicago and Kool and the Gang.



ABOVE: B.B. King performs Saturday at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater.

RIGHT: Susan Tedeschi of the Tedeschi Trucks Band performs Saturday night.

Northport  
election  
blends old,  
new issues

By Lydia Seabol Avant  
Staff Writer

For Northport voters, Tuesday's municipal election may feel a little familiar.

Several of the candidates who ran in 2008 are running again, including four of the five candidates who ran for mayor: incumbent Mayor Bobby Herndon, former mayor Harvey Fretwell, former city councilman Robert Thomas and campaign veteran Frank Chandler.

## INSIDE

Northport mayor, City Council candidates tackle key topics in question-and-answer form. 10-12A

ELECTION  
TUESDAY

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday in Northport and other West Alabama municipalities.

Four of the City Council candidates also ran during the previous election, including incumbents Bart Harper, councilman for District 5; Steve Acker, councilman for District 4; Jay Logan, councilman for District 2; and Judy Hayes, who ran unsuccessfully for the District 1 seat in 2008.

One thing that is markedly different this election is that two of the council seats are being vacated, leaving room for newcomers. Current City Council veterans Steve Webb and William Tunnell, both elected in 2004 and 2008, have decided not to run for re-election.

There are also some new faces to the Northport races, including Jeff Thompson in District 1; Tyrone Alexander and Emanuel Jenkins in District 2; Chuck Gerdaud and Rodney Sullivan in District 3; Woodrow Washington in District 4 and Jeff...

SEE ELECTION | 6A



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**PAYING TRIBUTE TO TRIATHLETE**  
Athletes honor memory of Tuscaloosa trailblazer Alec Wheeler during Saturday competition at Lake Lurleen State Park. | 1B

**PATENT DEFENDED**  
Apple's \$1 billion verdict against Samsung's phone design may mean danger for other smartphone competitors. | 8A



High 91  
Low 68