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PLUS: renowned musician DAVID LINDLEY playing at the Bama 10D

The Tuscaloosa News

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Images show Boston suspects

FBI seeks public's help identifying two men



Two images taken from surveillance video show men the FBI is calling suspect number 2, left, in white cap, and suspect number 1, right, in black cap, as they walk through the crowd before the explosions at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

By Denise Lavoie and Adam Geller
The Associated Press

BOSTON | Plucking a couple of faces in baseball caps out of a swarming crowd, the FBI zeroed in on two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and shared surveillance-camera images of them with the world Thursday in hopes the public will help hunt them down.

The somewhat blurry but detailed photos and video depict one young man in a dark cap and another in a white cap worn backward, each wearing backpacks and one walking behind the other on the sidewalk near the finish line as marathoners run by.

The man in the white hat was seen setting down a backpack at the site of the second explosion, said Richard DesLauriers, FBI agent in charge in Boston.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members of

SEE BOSTON | 7A

County taps Swinford to lead schools

By Jason Morton and Jamon Smith
Staff Writers

TUSCALOOSA | The Tuscaloosa County Board of Education unanimously chose Elizabeth Swinford of the Vicksburg Warren School District in Mississippi as its new superintendent Thursday during an early-morning meeting.

As a Puerto Rican, Swinford is the system's first minority superintendent and its second woman.

"I'm humbled and thrilled," Swinford said.

Swinford was one of five finalists for the position, which hasn't been filled with a full-time superintendent since Frank Costanzo retired March 1, 2012. Swinford was also a top-five finalist for superintendent of Lee County (Ala.) Schools.

She said she was en route to Lee County for an interview when she got a call from a Tuscaloosa County Schools official asking her to change direction and come to Tuscaloosa for her new job.

She said her husband's eardrums were possibly damaged from her screams of joy.

"I knew my heart was already here," Swinford said upon her 11:30 a.m. arrival at the county board of education's central office. "I withdrew my candidacy from Lee County because my heart was already here."

Board member Mark Nelson said Swinford was chosen because of her energy and passion



STAFF PHOTO | DUSTY COMPTON

Elizabeth Swinford was named the new superintendent of the Tuscaloosa County School System on Thursday.

for students. "We feel like she exemplified everything we needed in a superintendent," Nelson said.

Board members Joe Boteler and Gary Bonner said that all the superintendent finalists were exceptional, but what impressed them the most about Swinford was that she turned around four failing schools in Vicksburg. The four schools were on the verge of being taken over by the state.

"She did that in two years," Bonner said.

Swinford said she turned the schools around using a number of different methods, but chief

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A-Day bash kicks off Saturday



FILE PHOTO

University of Alabama White football team running back T.J. Yeldon runs into the end zone for a touchdown during last year's A-Day game at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa. Yeldon went on to have a breakout season for the Crimson Tide last season as it won a second consecutive BCS championship.

Staff report

TUSCALOOSA

If you've ever wanted to watch a Crimson Tide football game from a seat on the 50-yard line for free, you'll have a chance to do so at Saturday's annual A-Day Game.

But you'd better get there early because you might have about 80,000 other fans to compete with. Gates will open at 11 a.m. Saturday at Bryant-Denny Stadium for the University of Alabama's annual spring football game. No admission will be charged, so fans can pick their own seats for the 2 p.m. kickoff.

the traffic, don't worry, you can watch from the comfort of your own couch because the game will be televised live on ESPN2.

But if you're going to the game, here are a few tips to enhance your A-Day experience this weekend:

■ **Parking:** All public parking for A-Day will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Free parking will be available at UA east campus parking lots beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday. You can reserve a space at Lot A or at the Moody Music Building by going online at www.ua.gameday.com. Crimson Ride shuttles will begin running at 7 a.m. and continue until 1 hour

A-DAY GAME

- **What:** University of Alabama's annual spring football game
- **Where:** Bryant-Denny Stadium
- **When:** 2 p.m. kickoff; gates open at 11 a.m.
- **Admission:** Free
- **TV:** ESPN2

after the football game. The shuttles will be at the east campus RV lots, the paved lot at the soccer field and parking lots along Fifth Avenue.

Tuscaloosa Transit will offer shuttles from the downtown Intermodal Facility parking deck, 100 Sixth St., to the stadium

starting at 11 a.m. The cost to ride per trip is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for people 60 or older or those with disabilities and free for children 3 years old and younger. The buses will run until 1 hour after the game. No shuttles will be running from University Mall.

■ **Pre-game activities:** The Aaron's BCS national championship race car will be on display at 9 a.m. at the north end of the stadium.

Fan Experience photos will be taken beginning at 9 a.m. at Gate 3 outside the stadium.

Former UA offensive lineman D.J. Fluker will sign autographs from 10 a.m.-noon at

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Crews seek survivors after Texas explosion

By Nomaan Merchant and John L. Mone
The Associated Press

WEST, TEXAS | Rescuers searched the smoking remnants of a Texas farm town Thursday for survivors of a thunderous fertilizer plant explosion, gingerly checking smashed houses and apartments for anyone still trapped in debris while the community awaited word on the number of dead.

Initial reports put the fatalities as high as 15, but later in the day, authorities backed away from any estimate and refused to elaborate. More than 160 people were hurt.

A breathtaking band of destruction extended for blocks around the West Fertilizer Co. in the small community of West. The blast shook the ground with the strength of a small earthquake and crumpled dozens of homes, an apartment complex, a school and a nursing home. Its dull boom could be heard dozens of miles away from the town about 20 miles north of Waco.

Waco police Sgt. William Patrick Swanton described ongoing search-and-rescue efforts as "te-

dious and time-consuming," noting that crews had to shore up much of the wreckage before going in.

There was no indication the blast, which sent up a mushroom-shaped plume of smoke and left behind a crater, was anything other than an industrial accident, he said.

On Thursday evening, several hundred people packed St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in downtown West for a non-denominational church service. A victim relief services chaplain said prayers and hymns were offered in honor of blast victims.

The explosion was apparently touched off by a fire, but there was no indication what sparked the blaze. The company had been cited by regulators for what appeared to be minor safety and permitting violations over the past decade.

The Wednesday night explosion rained burning embers and debris down on terrified residents.

The landscape Thursday was wrapped in acrid smoke and strewn with the shattered remains of buildings, furniture

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