



Once-in-a-lifetime play

Ole Miss' deflected pass for a score against Tide was 'luck' | Sports 1C

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The Tuscaloosa News

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Fund set up to help injured student

UA student was hit while riding bicycle

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Donors have contributed more than \$13,000 to pay medical expenses for a University of Alabama student injured in a hit-and-run accident Saturday night.

Rod Rahimizadeh, 22, was seriously injured after being struck by an SUV at the intersection of Hargrove Road and Avalon Avenue at 11:46 p.m. Saturday. He had been watching the University of Alabama football game against the University of

Mississippi and was heading to a friend's home when he was hit.

The driver continued traveling east without stopping, authorities said. Rahimizadeh was taken to DCH Regional Medical Center and treated for life-threatening injuries.

When he regained consciousness in the hospital, he wrote a note saying that he has forgiven the driver who injured him, said friend Ish Pruitt.

"That just shows his gratitude for not only his life, but of the lives of people he



HOSPITALIZED

Rod Rahimizadeh, 22, was seriously injured after being struck by an SUV at the intersection of Hargrove Road and Avalon Avenue at 11:46 p.m. Saturday.

affects," Pruitt said. "He's such a grateful person and has a faith that other people can see."

Rahimizadeh remained hospitalized and was listed in fair condition Tuesday. SEE STUDENT | 7A

City wants towing firms to accept credit cards

Companies say proposal could wind up costing them

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

Motorists who find their vehicle has been towed from its parking spot will soon have a more convenient way of paying to get it back.

The Tuscaloosa City Council's public safety committee recommended law changes that will require tow truck operators to accept credit and debit cards. Right now, most do not accept that form of payment for a variety of reasons.

The committee also recommended that the towing companies be allowed to charge an additional \$5 fee to process the debit or credit card payments.

It's expected to take at least a month before the full City Council is ready to vote on the changes and enact them as law. This also gives towing companies time to install the necessary equipment.

But the change did not come without protest. The city of Tuscaloosa's non-consensual towing ordinance allows property owners to call towing companies

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■ Budget contains raises for employees.
■ Other City Council action.

SEE TOWING | 7A

Testimony: Kids saw gunman

Hearing held in kidnapping, murder case in Bibb County



STAFF PHOTO | STEPHANIE TAYLOR

Bibb County Sheriff's deputies lead John Barry Hubbard into the Bibb County Courthouse for a hearing on Tuesday.

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Kandi Murphy's children saw John Barry Hubbard walk through their backyard, armed with two guns, before he went inside and shot their mother to death, an investigator testified in court Tuesday.

Hubbard, 60, was in Bibb County District Court for a preliminary hearing held Tuesday morning. He is accused of kidnapping his ex-girlfriend after killing her sister at a home in the Eoline community on July 21. The highly publicized case sparked a massive manhunt across West Alabama until his arrest at the Travel Inn in Eutaw the following night.

"He had been in the woods behind the house for some time, waiting for a chance to approach without being seen," Alabama Law Enforcement Agency investigator David Ratliff said on the witness

John Barry Hubbard is accused of kidnapping his ex-girlfriend after killing her sister at a home in the Eoline community.

stand. But five children, including Kandi Murphy's, were in the backyard pool and told authorities that they saw him and later heard gunshots.

Tammy Murphy Carpenter also saw Hubbard firing the shots that killed her sister, Ratliff said. She had been in another room when she heard what he described as a commotion.

"She walked in and saw him standing over Kandi as he fired two shots," Ratliff said.

Murphy, 30, was shot four times. She was shot twice in the chest, once in her right forearm and once in her right thigh. The back of her skull was also frac-

tured. Murphy was able to call 911. She told the operator and Bibb County Sheriff's deputies who arrived at the house that Hubbard had shot her, Ratliff said. The children never went inside the house, he said.

The investigators believe that Hubbard hit Carpenter over the head and dragged her a couple hundred yards to his truck parked in the woods near the house. Investigators noted scuff marks in the entry hall and Carpenter's phone on the ground near the open front door when they arrived.

Ratliff said that Hubbard then drove to the Talladega National Forest, where he forced Carpenter to remove her clothing so she could not escape.

"She had more than 100 bug bites; it was obvious that she had been exposed to the elements," he testified. SEE HEARING | 7A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis waves from his car after arriving at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Tuesday for his first visit to the United States.

Pope Francis welcomed to U.S. by Obama, Biden

By Christi Parsons, Michael A. Memoli and Noah Bierman
Tribune Washington Bureau (TNS)

WASHINGTON | Pope Francis arrived from Cuba on Tuesday to start a six-day, three-city tour of America, his first official visit to a nation bitterly divided on global warming, income inequality and other contentious issues that the popular pontiff is likely to champion.

President Barack Obama and his family, as well as Vice President Joe Biden and his grandchildren, welcomed Francis with handshakes and an honor guard at the military's Joint Base Andrews, just outside the capital. A crowd of well-wishers chanted, "Ho ho! Hey hey! Welcome to the USA!"

The 78-year-old pope clutched his white skullcap, called a zucchetto, in his hand as a stiff wind whipped his white hair and cassock.

He and Obama conversed but did not speak to the crowd before Francis climbed into a modest Fiat sedan and, waving from the window, was driven off to spend the night at the Vatican's diplomatic mission, leaving

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