

SGA 3

As the legislative session ends, the CW examines this year's important events and policies

POLITICS 4

A CW columnist argues that populism is a dangerous ideology that should be rejected

THEATRE 7

Shelton State will host a production of Thornton Wilder's classic play, "Our Town"

BACK AGAIN



Alabama gymnastics begins preparations for its 36th consecutive national championship appearance

SEE PAGE 12

Photo CW / Sam MacDonald

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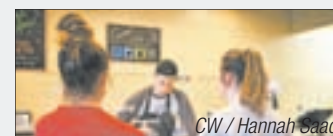
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CW / Hannah Saad

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CW / Scarlet VanMeter

9 SPORTS: The Alabama rowing team won nine out of ten races during its trip to Kansas City, Kansas last weekend.



Alabama Athletics

EVENTS THIS WEEK



CW / Caroline Japal

International Coffee Hour

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
WHERE: 121 B.B. Comer Hall

Free coffee, tea and snacks are available for students as they mingle at International Coffee Hour, which is hosted every Friday.

APRIL 13



CW / Hannah Saad

Women's Soccer Game

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: UA Soccer Complex

Go support the University of Alabama Women's soccer team as they take on UAB Friday night.

APRIL 13



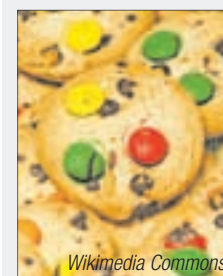
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Turnpike Troubadours Concert

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Druid City Music Hall

For country music lovers, Turnpike Troubadours are playing Friday night at Druid City Music Hall.

APRIL 13



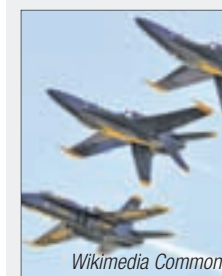
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Riverwood Spring Bazaar and Bake Sale

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: 501 Rice Valley Road North

Handmade items, such as soaps and greeting cards, are available at this bake sale Saturday.

APRIL 14



Wikimedia Commons

Tuscaloosa Regional Air Show

WHEN: 12-4 p.m.
WHERE: Tuscaloosa Regional Airport

Enjoy an afternoon out while the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels perform an air show at the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport.

APRIL 14-15

YEAR IN REVIEW

SGA sees violations, resignations, elections

By Jackson Fuentes | Contributing Writer

The 2017-2018 SGA legislative session has officially ended. Throughout the year, an entire Elections Board announced their resignation, two different presidents served the student body and the Senate continued to pass legislation. Here are a number of key policies and events that occurred throughout the year.

**UA ELECTIONS BOARD RESIGNS** (AUGUST 2017)

The University's entire SGA Elections Board resigned in August, citing "a blatant disregard and disrespect for the rules during our last election cycle." The board said SGA President Jared Hunter failed to comply with sanctions administered to him throughout his campaign. After sending its findings to the University's Office of Student Conduct, Hunter continued to serve as student body president, and the Elections Board said it does not believe the board to be a viable entity for ensuring fair elections.

**BILL B-03** (SEPTEMBER 2017)

Senator Clay Gaddis introduced a bill to improve procedural integrity on Sept. 14. The bill passed one week later and helped expedite the process for the Senate when voting, while simultaneously addressing procedures deemed improper by the Parliamentarian of the Senate. The bill found that "immediate consideration of a resolution requires a motion to 'Suspend the Rules,' which is a powerful procedure that should ideally be used only in odd circumstances." Consequently the bill changed the procedure so that it acted in better accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

**RESOLUTION R-03** (SEPTEMBER 2017)

Introduced by Senator Michael Smith to the Senate on Sept. 21, the resolution requesting The University of Alabama release records pertaining to campaign violations by Jared Hunter failed to pass. The resolution first argued that Jared Hunter's records ought not to be protected by FERPA. According to the resolution, Hunter waived his right to keep his records private when he filled out the 2017 Spring Candidacy Application. Smith, a junior majoring in economics and finance, said the SGA had an opportunity to promote transparency but failed to do so.

**RESOLUTION R-09** (NOVEMBER 2017)

Introduced by Senator Robert Pendley, a third-year law student, on Nov. 2, the resolution in support of working with University housing and residential communities and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to prevent opioid overdoses was passed by the Senate. The resolution encourages distributing the drug Naloxone to reverse the harmful effects of an overdose.

IX

ACT A-13 (NOVEMBER 2017)

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Act was introduced in the Senate on Nov. 9 and subsequently passed the following week. The act, which was hailed as one of the largest accomplishments during Hunter's term, acknowledged sexual assault as a growing problem on college campuses throughout the nation and contributed \$250 from the Senate to the SAFE center in order to help bring the center to Tuscaloosa.

**MOTION TO COMPEL** (NOVEMBER 2017)

The SGA released seemingly inconsistent results regarding the special Senate election on Nov. 15 after being forced to do so by the Student Judiciary. Ryan Truitt, a junior majoring in management information systems, filed a "Motion to Compel," urging the judicial branch of the SGA to release the ruling and requiring the Elections Board to claim full responsibility. In each of the special elections, more votes were cast than there were voters, resulting in 128 more votes than voters in the College of Education election and 53 more votes than voters present in the Graduate School election. Chairman of the Elections Board, Ethan Fialkow said that this occurred because students were given the chance to vote for multiple candidates.

**SGA PRESIDENT ARRESTED, RESIGNS** (JANUARY 2018)

SGA President Jared Hunter's presidency ended as it began – in violations. Hunter, a senior majoring in political science and economics, was arrested for driving under the influence on Jan. 21 after crashing head-on into a vehicle and resigned the following day. Before Hunter filed his resignation, Senator Robert Pendley told the Crimson White, "Everyone I have talked to does not consider Jared Hunter to be president anymore. It is only a matter of making it official."

**BILL B-09 & 10** (JANUARY 2018)

Senator Robert Pendley re-introduced his failed 2016 bill to increase efficiency, accountability and oversight of the Student Government Association on Jan. 25, and it passed on Feb. 15. Pendley's bill gave permission for the creation of a Senate Ethics and Oversight Committee that would review projects exceeding a cost of \$700, hear ethical issues such as complaints against any SGA officer and issue penalties to Senate members for ethical infractions when necessary. The following week, Senator Harrison Adams introduced Bill B-10 to increase oversight and expand the office of the Attorney General to investigate "matters of ethical malfeasance by any SGA member," not making any mention of working with the Senate Ethics and Oversight Committee.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT C-02** (FEBRUARY 2018)

Senator Harrison Adams introduced Constitutional Amendment C-02, which advocated for SNAM forgiveness for students serving within the SGA. The amendment, which formerly required students to be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University before and during their term, now allows students in "mitigating circumstances" to request a review for of their violations in order to continue holding office.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT C-03** (FEBRUARY 2018)

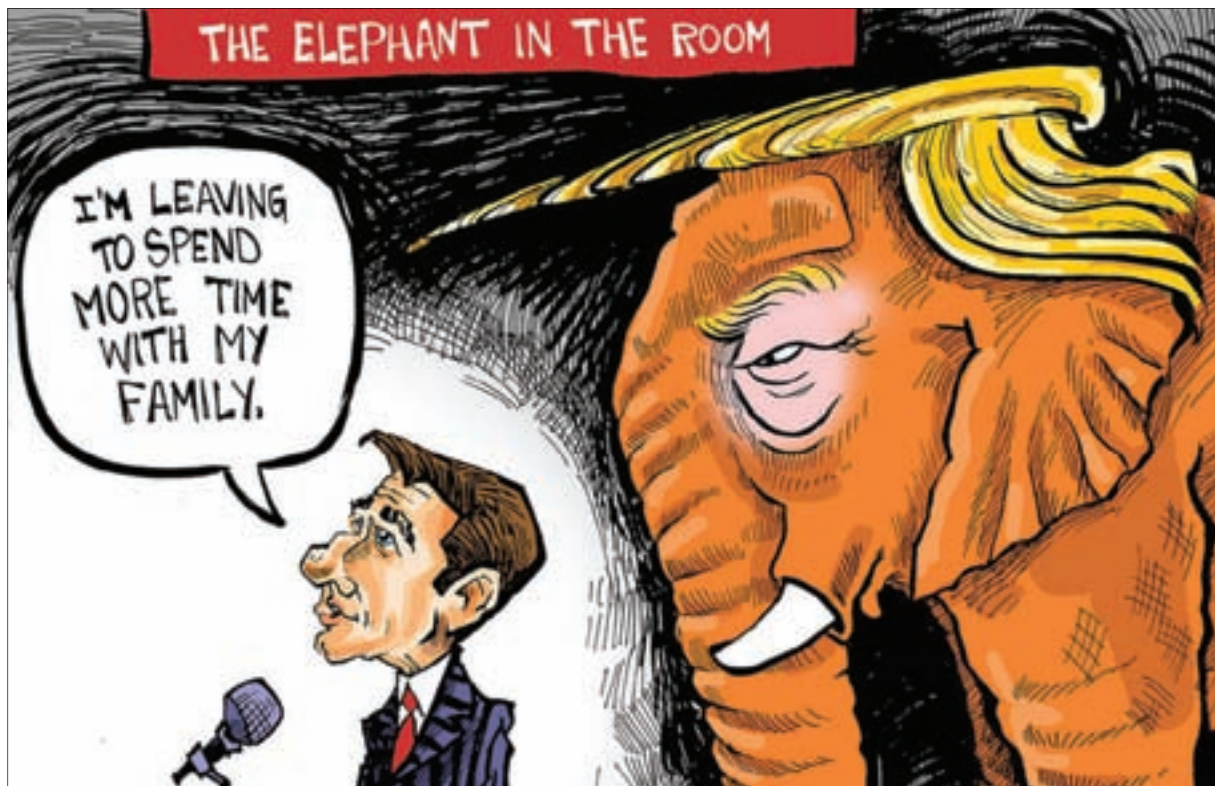
Senator Baily Martin, a junior majoring in international studies, political science and Spanish, and Chief Justice Ellie Bowers, a senior majoring in political science and history, fought against a 20-minute barrage of question on the Senate floor Feb. 8 before having one of the most controversial pieces of legislation of the year sent to the Oversight Committee. The amendment, which increases the number of Elections Board members from 6 to 12, was passed one week later with the added compromise that six members of the board be selected by a panel of outgoing SGA members and the rest be selected by the vice president of student life.

**ACT A-17** (FEBRUARY 2018)

On March 1, Senator Darby McQueen, a senior majoring in social work, introduced Act A-17 to establish a scholarship fund for Adapted Athletics. The act passed at the Senate's final meeting on March 29 and established the possibility for an Adapted Athletics scholarship by increasing student tuition by \$3 per semester, should the UA administration approve it.

**MCGIFFERT NAMED SGA PRESIDENT** (MARCH 2018)

After a weeklong campaign, on March 6, fewer than 30 percent of students on campus voted in the presidential election, eventually electing Price McGiffert as SGA President by a 40-point margin, defeating Amber Scales and Marissa Navarro. Scales finished with 23 percent of votes while Navarro finished with seven. McGiffert, a junior majoring in civil engineering, "was not supported by any certain organization at The University of Alabama." McGiffert took office April 3 and said he wants to serve the student body throughout his term with a transparent administration. "I want to be as accessible as I possibly can to every student," he said.



Tribune News Service

COLUMN | POLITICS

Populism is a dirty word in politics

Michael Smith | Staff Columnist

There are plenty of words in the political world that are meaningless or used to the extent that they lose their meaning. Some of these words have become innocuous, nearly harmless buzzwords in the analysis of our politics: stakeholder, grassroots, compromise and political capital.

Populism is not one of those words. While populism has seemingly become the political strategy every candidate and consultant is hitching their wagon to going into 2018 and 2020, populism as an intellectual pursuit is extremely dangerous. It is not a meaningless fluff word to be bandied about; populism is a threat we must consider seriously and reject outright.

At its core, populism is a doctrine that pits the “common people” against a set of corrupt elite. People want to envision that if only our political leaders sat down and focused on the people’s issues, they would eventually come to the “right” decision. Yet, the story goes, politicians choose not to reach this natural solution because of the influence of corrupt special interests, ideologically extreme party bases and a group of out-of-touch Washington elites.

But here’s the thing, there is never a “right” answer. It is completely legitimate for two people to agree on the same set of facts but arrive at different solutions. Most of the time, this isn’t corruption or undue influence, it is simply a difference of priorities, philosophies and preferences. And sometimes those decision-makers come to a good policy that simply isn’t popular.

There are policy questions that cannot be answered by simply following one’s gut or by checking their core principles. Most policy decisions require numbers, analysis, research and evidence that then, when matched with a set of priorities and principles, can be determined. But the idea that all of our problems can be solved by simply implementing the most popular ideas is ridiculous, and it completely ignores the nuance of policy making.

[Populism] emboldens some of the worst qualities within our society.

Despite all of this, however, populists continue to pop up all around the world as legitimate leaders. Many of these populists run as “strongman” leaders, willing to abandon established systems, break conventional norms, undermine bureaucratic operations and talk “like it is.” Worldwide, we have seen this mentality promote instability, recklessness and repression across dozens of countries.

It would be irresponsible to not also address right-wing populism, from Donald Trump’s animosity toward African-Americans, Hispanics and Muslims, to the racist fear mongering out of far-right populist European parties or the brutal regimes led by populists worldwide, like Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines.

But left-wing populism isn’t off the hook either. A constant focus on what the “common man” wants is frequently disconnected from what is best for marginalized communities. In the U.S., leftist populists created internment camps in the 1940s, perpetuated the “tough on crime” narrative in the 1990s and did nothing to stop the demonization of Muslims in the 2000s.

Meanwhile, cosmopolitanism provides some of our nation’s greatest policy, in the past and in the future. President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, not because the public demanded it (many southern Democrats despised it), but because it would eventually progress our country forward. Today, politicians have made the issue of immigration a fight between a border wall and deferred action for a small, yet popular group of immigrants in DACA recipients. Yet, policy that would actually help solve our immigration problem – comprehensive immigration reform – has been thrown in the waste bin, being seen as too technocratic, too elitist.

Cosmopolitanism represents some of the best trends we see worldwide, from multiculturalism to globalization to pluralism. Meanwhile, populism has been used to promote political norm-breaking, nationalism, authoritarianism and nativism. So, while “populism” may just seem like a harmless buzzword, never forget that its ideology emboldens some of the worst qualities within our society, and that progress in any form requires a rejection of populism and those who support it.

Michael Smith is a junior majoring in economics. His column runs biweekly.



TWITTER REACTIONS

What’s the number one thing a lawmaker should consider when creating policy? Tweet us your thoughts!

Chandler Gory

@chandlerygory

their constituents’ well-being and needs.

Emma Wilson

@thisisemmaw

Representing their constituents.

Reed

@ReedG055

The scope of who is affected by the policy, from who the policy is written for to even those who the policy doesn’t outright obviously affect, and how they’re affected.

tide man

@tiderolls16

The needs of the people duh!

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Finals week stress is vital to student success

Brett Hodges | Staff Columnist

With finals week quickly approaching, many students are feeling the pressure. All across campus, students are beginning their late night study sessions, final papers and favorite stress-relieving activities. All this activity can lead one to wonder, "Are finals and the stresses associated with them really that vital to our education?" The answer is quite simply, "Yes."

For most, final exams are a cumulative measure of what a student learned in a class over the course of the semester. Around this time, most students finally begin to learn the coursework that they glossed over earlier in the semester, in addition to reinforcing the information that they already know. This provides an important learning opportunity, compounded by the pressure to do well on upcoming exams.

If these exams weren't given, most students simply would not learn their course content.

Understandably, many students are stressed about this learning, but the simple reality is that if these exams weren't given, most students simply

would not learn their course content. Very few students truly go above and beyond to learn their coursework at the time it is taught. Many others instead opt to skip class. We are all guilty of skipping a class at one time or another, but this sort of chronic absenteeism greatly hurts students, especially when classes are missed for social purposes. Exams provide the necessary platform for these chronically absent students to catch up with their academic life.

This stress also provides a learning opportunity of the non-academic variety. In life, people are oftentimes forced to work in high-stress situations. No matter the career, at some point a deadline will be faced, and employees are expected to sacrifice their own personal time and sleep in order to complete the task given to them. These deadlines are usually met with harsh punishments if they are not completed on time. Finals week provides great practice for these real-world deadlines that all students will one day be forced to deal with.

College is not purely about learning course materials and being able to regurgitate memorized facts for a test. College is about learning and best preparing oneself for the real world. A week of intensive, forced learning provides a strong academic base for students while teaching students to deal with stress in a healthy manner, whatever that may be for the student.

Not only this, but finals week allows for one last week of studying before all worries of school are forgotten in the haze of summer. In all honesty, most students will likely forget a good amount of their course load within the first week of summer, but the precious bits of information retained are invaluable, and most likely would not be

learned in the first place if it wasn't for the stress of exams. In an ideal world, none of the information would be forgotten, but in a more realistic and pragmatic sense, some information learned is better than none.

A week of intensive, forced learning provides a strong academic base for students.

Final exams also provide professors a benchmark upon which to grade their students. These benchmarks are arbitrary but help to provide students with a goal. While most of us have yet to meet a professor that enjoys administering exams, the void left behind by a lack of exams would have to be filled with other homework assignments that would instead stress students over the course of an entire semester and make the jobs of professors harder.

So the time is now. It's time for students around campus to crack open their books, sharpen their pencils and get to studying. For many, this is our first full taste of adult life and freedom, and it is important that we don't forget that while finals are hard, they are a necessary evil that are only going to better us.

Brett Hodges is a freshman majoring in economics. His column runs biweekly.

*Office of the President
Office of the Dean of Students
Student Government Association
will honor the memory of*

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College of Engineering*

*Alexandria 'Allie' Nathalia Brodie
College of Communication and Information Sciences*

*Travis Dale Brown
Culverhouse College of Commerce*

*Stephanie Haydee Cartagena Dunaway
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RISE WITH THE TIDE

Effective fundraisers offer incentives, percent of sales

By Camille Studebaker | Assistant News Editor

Going to a local restaurant, eating a good meal and seeing familiar faces make food fundraisers enjoyable for Baylee Clark. But getting other students to join in the fun and support a good cause has proven difficult.

Often, food fundraisers called “percentage nights” are held at restaurants on The Strip or in Midtown. Typically an organization partners with a restaurant and promotes the event. On a certain night, a percentage of an establishment’s revenue goes to the organization.

These fundraisers are common, but do they actually help groups raise money?

For Clark, a junior majoring in public relations and president of the Student Alumni Association, the past few food fundraisers at Panera, Jason’s Deli and MOOYAH did not go well. Clark said she doesn’t think they had many people from outside of the organization come.

“I mean you have to eat anyway, so I enjoy them,” Clark said.

We want to support the people that support us and the work that they’re out there doing as well.

- Peter Zimmer

Because of poor turnout at the Student Alumni Association’s last three percentage nights, Clark said she found in order to have a successful percentage night, they need to incentivize people to go. So, the organization decided to make the next percentage night on Friday at Chipotle a Greek point to bring in Greek members as well.

Pam Parham, MOOYAH local store marketing specialist, said successful percentage nights depend on the group. She said a host who is enthusiastic and gets organization members excited and shows up is more successful versus the organizations that aren’t as engaged.

MOOYAH’s donations vary. The organizations that really show up can make a couple hundred dollars, but the ones that don’t come can make \$10, Parham said.

“I also believe if you have a lot of fundraisers – these type of restaurant fundraisers – then they start to become wallpaper, but the ones that execute them really well or are, you know, marketing them well and promoting them on social media and

in meetings and really engaging with their people, those are the ones that show well,” she said.

Peter Zimmer, owner of Ajian Sushi, said they host a percentage night once every couple months and have been pretty successful.

His original setup was that if anyone who made a purchase and said they were with the organization holding the fundraiser, Ajian would donate 20 percent back to the group.

The problem was, he said, a lot of the people coming in did not know they were supposed to say they were supporting the fundraiser.

“There was sort of a communication error, and so we would do an event and we might have 44 people that said they were here for the fundraiser, but I would look at my sales and say, ‘Ok I know I did a lot more sales tonight than I generally do, so there had to have been more than that,’” he said.

To correct this, he told people setting up fundraisers moving forward that instead of donating 20 percent of sales from whoever says they are with the fundraiser, Zimmer now gives 10 percent of sales from everyone who comes in during the percentage night’s time frame. Ajian held one last weekend with Sigma Chi for Derby Days, and he said that generated about \$240 for the fraternity.

Zimmer said Ajian tried to take fundraising to the next level in February, creating a fundraiser called “Philanthropy February.”

Ajian had 21 different sororities and fraternities run a week-long contest, and organization members would go in and say who they were representing, and workers at Ajian had white boards to tally each representation. Ajian donated \$500 to the philanthropy of whoever showed the most tallies at the end of the week.

However, this did not end up being worthwhile for Ajian because they did not bring in enough customers for \$500 to be 10 percent of sales, which was Zimmer’s intention.

The UA Eventing team has done a couple of percentage nights in the past month, and the most beneficial one for the organization was at Pyros Fire Fresh Pizza. Because a percentage comes from sales from anyone who made it known that they were supporting the organization, Pyros made it easy for the Eventing Team to make money because they asked people at the counter if they wanted a percentage of their sales to go to the organization.

“They were just super helpful,” said Sammie O’Brien, a senior majoring in public relations and treasurer of the Eventing Team. “Most places don’t really care to advertise or let everyone else know that we’re having a percentage night, but at Pyros, everyone that came through the door, they were like, ‘Hey, do you want 15 percent to go to the Eventing Team’ yada, yada. The staff was just very nice and advertised it, and it was great.”



Ajian Sushi changed the way its percentage nights work to donate more money to organizations hosting the event. CW / Hannah Saad

The Eventing team raised around \$200 for new gear, which she said is a good motivator to bring people to the percentage night.

“It’s nice to, kind of like, give – it’s an incentive for everyone else to come,” she said. “Like ‘Hey, this is beneficial, come eat and you get to give to the team, and we get more gear and up-to-date gear,’ so it’s nice to kind of bring everyone together in an additional way besides riding horses.”

Regardless of a few mishaps, percentage nights are a way to advertise and get the community involved in fundraising.

“First and foremost, it gives us exposure, so it’s advertising for us,” Zimmer said. “When AJ [McCarron]

and I put this concept together, one of the things we both felt very strongly was using this format as a way to give back, and so we want to support the people that support us and the work that they’re out there doing as well.”

Parham said MOOYAH has been doing fundraising from the beginning.

“We have an 11-year-old brand, and we believe in community, and one of our mottos is ‘hometown, home team,’ and that’s a part of it,” she said. “And, we love to give back and you know it’s great getting new people, and it’s a way to get new people in, and if you haven’t been in in awhile, it’s great to get them back in, so it’s a win-win for us.”

How to fundraise for your student organization



The SGA Financial Affairs Committee has \$200,000 to allocate for student organizations. Applications are online.



Apply to host fundraising activities on the Quad during Gameday.



Organizations can apply for collaborative event grants from the Source for collective community outreach.



Student organizations can also reach out to local restaurants to host percentage nights.

Information courtesy of The SOURCE Financial Resources website.
 Graphics CW / Savannah Bullard

'Our Town' displays small town, everyday life

By Jared Ferguson | Contributing Writer

Small town life is artfully projected in "Our Town," the most recognizable play by American playwright Thornton Wilder.

The struggles and rewards of the play's seemingly ordinary characters will be on display this weekend as Shelton State Community College's theatre department puts on a production of the classic story.

"Our Town" tells the story of a relationship between two characters, George Gibbs and Emily Webb, within the fictional small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The play is unconventional in that its main character is the Stage Manager, a narrator who breaks theatre's imaginary fourth wall, often directly interacting with the audience as well as the other characters.

I think the special part of the show is that you can relate to every character.

- Kaitlyn Day

"On a larger scale, it is an examination of the ties that bind a small community together," said Michael Carr, the play's director and the theatre coordinator at Shelton State Community College. "Through the words and actions of the Stage Manager, he then takes the moments of everyday life and looks at them through a larger lens, the lens of time and the lens of history."

Patrick McCaffrey, a sophomore studying at Shelton State, portrays George in the show. In Act I of the play, life carries on unremarkably as the milkman makes his deliveries and George and Emily, still children, skip off to school.



Shelton State Community College is putting on a production of Thornton Wilder's classic play. CW / Caroline Japal

"George differs from me in a few ways, mostly in his interactions," McCaffrey said. "He can be a bit awkward here and there, and although he is genuine, he also can have ulterior motives, such as when he is talking to Emily, who he does grow attracted to, but at first, he is just trying to get help for his homework."

Throughout the course of the show, the plot gently thickens as characters grow and change. The Stage Manager leads the audience through both life and death. While the original "Our Town" script paints a picture of early 20th century life, the Shelton State production will take a slightly different approach.

"I do believe that there are many things in this play that happen in this play that I have not been exposed

to," McCaffrey said. "These things include weddings and funerals hap-

There is laughter, pain, and it is just something beautiful that truly makes you focus on the meaning of life.

- Kaitlyn Day

"You basically see her whole life go by, falling in love and, eventually, her death, and you really get to see her grow and affect the people around her," Day said. "I think the special part of the show is that you can relate to every character, but really for her, she goes into some pretty deep moments in this play that I had not really thought of before, so much so that you will probably see me cry on stage."

The play's title might suggest mundanity, but the cast hopes to create as much animation as possible within the small town story.

"This is a skillful group of actors, and also the play is written in such a way that everybody can identify with many moments, whether you are young, old or in between," Carr said. "We have tried hard to make it as inclusive a show as possible, with characters coming in from the aisles, and we have pushed the audience toward the stage. It is a fast moving play, and if you have a spare couple of hours, it is well worth the time to come see it."

Day forecasts that audience members will experience a wide array of emotions as they follow the lives of Grover's Corners' tight-knit community.

"This play is literally as the title suggests," Day said. "It is every town, our town. It is something that will take you on a roller coaster of emotions. There is laughter, pain, and it is just something beautiful that truly makes you focus on the meaning of life."

pening, pretty much happening within an hour's time, having to go between those emotions and feeling what the characters' drives and motivations are. We are working in a blurred line and it is most definitely a turn of the century, but we try to have a modernist approach - such as some of us having tattoos, and myself having long hair and earrings."

Kaitlyn Day, a freshman majoring in theatre at Shelton State, plays Emily, a character at the center of much emotion and drama.

PLAN TO GO

What: "Our Town"

When: Thursday, April 12 - Saturday April 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m.

Where: Bean-Brown Theatre, 9500 Old Greensboro Rd.

Cookies meet cream at Midtown dessert shop

By Logan Doctson | Staff Reporter

While working in film production and talent management in Los Angeles, Shane Stanger decided that he needed a career change.

Stanger and his childhood friend, Rob Robbins, left their jobs to follow a new career path of creating dessert treats.

Now, Stanger and Robbins will be bringing The Baked Bear to Tuscaloosa. The Baked Bear is a San Diego-based franchise with locations in various states like California, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, Maryland, Texas and South Carolina. Much like the Texas-based chain Whataburger did before its February opening, The Baked Bear is withholding an official opening date, but the custom ice cream sandwich shop is set to open in Tuscaloosa in the next few months.

"It all started with a local friend and developer introducing us to the project," said Stanger, co-founder and marketing and operations director of the Baked Bear. "We also already had some partners out there, so it was a perfect fit."

When prepping their first store, Stanger and Robbins came up with the title based on two factors.

"Baked' is for the freshly baked, homemade cookies, and 'bear' is for our polar bear mascot that represents

the cold ice cream," Stanger said.

While the physical location, which will be located in Midtown, has yet to open its doors, The Baked Bear (Tuscaloosa) Facebook page already has more than 5,000 likes.

"Our emphasis is on quality above everything," Stanger said. "We serve a high-end product that's always freshly baked and with the best ingredients around."

They serve ice cream sandwiches beyond the regular vanilla or chocolate kind.

- Gretchen Lee

To create their edible masterpieces, The Baked Bear uses natural ingredients like pure cane sugar and cream. Additionally, their ice cream includes natural flavors like real vanilla, cocoa, coffee, caramel and peppermint.

The Baked Bear's specialty is creating one-of-a-kind ice cream sandwiches held together by cookies, brownies or donuts while

implementing an array of toppings and layers. Cookie choices range from snickerdoodle and funfetti cake to oatmeal and cinnamon. Additionally, The Baked Bear offers 13 different ice cream flavors like salted caramel, mint chocolate chip and vanilla.

"I've had The Baked Bear once before in their San Francisco, California location," said Gretchen Lee, a junior majoring in marketing. "What sets them apart is that they serve ice cream sandwiches beyond the regular vanilla or chocolate kind."

An example of one of the many ice cream sandwiches The Baked Bear offers is a brownie and chocolate chip cookie sandwich with salted caramel fudge ice cream in the middle. However, The Baked Bear doesn't stop at cookies; they also serve other dessert treats like root beer floats and hot fudge sundaes.

"My favorite ice cream sandwich is one brownie, one red velvet cookie, with salted caramel fudge ice cream and heath bar topping," Stanger said.

The Baked Bear does not have an official opening date in Tuscaloosa yet, but it's projected to arrive at Midtown Village by the end of April or early

May. Additionally, The Baked Bear is looking to hire managers, assistant managers, bakers and team members before their opening.

The Baked Bear's Facebook page will have updates on a final opening date, new desserts and much more.

"I've been following The Baked Bear's Facebook page for quite some time looking at all the ice cream sandwiches they have to offer," said Gigi Kingsmill, a sophomore majoring in metallurgical engineering. "I'll be one of their first customers when they open."



The Baked Bear brings ice cream sandwiches to sweet-seeking customers in Tuscaloosa. CW / Scarlet VanMeter

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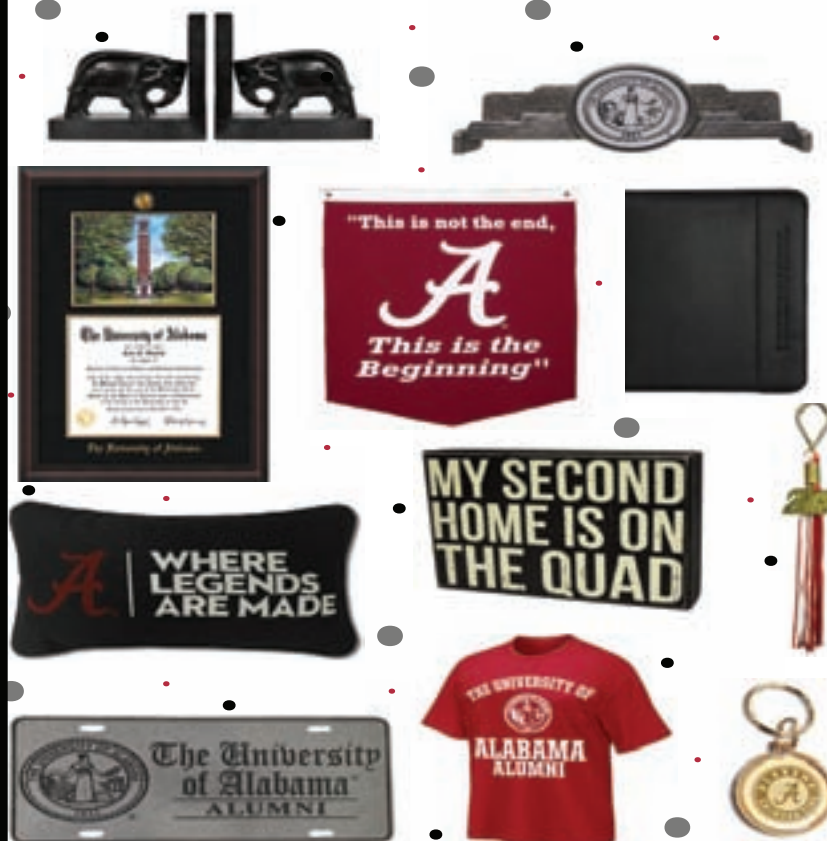
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Teamwork continues to lead rowing to success

By Ehsan Kassim | Staff Reporter

In less-than ideal weather in Kansas City, Kansas last weekend, the Alabama rowing team posted a strong performance, winning nine of ten races.

One boat in particular, the Second Varsity 4+ boat, posted the fastest overall time in each of its two Double Duel.



Alabama has two more races before the Big 12 Championship. Photo courtesy of Alabama Athletics

7:32.696 time, beating Kansas State by over 15 seconds.

"This is a chance for us to see where we are," Adams said. "As a team, how much we have progressed. Going up against these teams definitely had a challenge for us. Us going out there and showing what we got, it shows how much we are proving as a team each time we go out there."

In Adams' freshman season, Alabama finished sixth in the Big 12 conference tournament. Last year, Alabama finished fourth. If the team continues to improve this year and finishes in the top three, it would have a chance to qualify for its first ever NCAA Championship.

Teamwork is essential in rowing. Coach Larry Davis stresses "working as one" to his team in practices.

"If we don't do things together, the boat isn't going to move," Hamann said. "It's got to be moving as one."

The four rowers depend on the coxswain to help them move and make sure they stay focused. That is the responsibility of Gonzales on this boat.

As a freshman, she needs to get her elder teammates on the same page. Her job is to act as an extension of her coaches.

"It's like a really small, really annoying, always going to be there, always yelling at you coach," Gonzales said. "They always call me that, 'annoying.'"

They may call her annoying, but the importance of the coxswain isn't lost on any members of the boat.

"It's good when you're down in the boat and you want to know where you are," Fehr said. "You know that your coxswain is going to be there. It's good to have Izzie there and just tell us to keep going, kick our butt sometimes, but just get us to that finish line."

This weekend Alabama will head to Sacramento, California, for the Lake Natoma Invitational. The invitational will provide the Crimson Tide with another opportunity to see how much progress it's made this season.

California, Brown, Stanford, Notre Dame, Washington State, and Sacramento State will be among the teams Alabama faces this weekend.

"It's going to be good to see other boats that are not in our conference," Adams said. "To see how close we are as a team [to the NCAA tournament] and to see how much progress we've made. We've strived all year to get to where we are, and it's awesome to see how much we've changed."

The weather in California is going to be a lot warmer and a lot less windy, but the experience of winning last week in less than ideal circumstances should help Alabama.

"I think we even surprised ourselves this [past] weekend," Diffley said. "We went out there and really went after it. I think we are ready for this weekend."

And of course, the race will help Alabama prepare for its biggest challenge, the Big 12 Championships May 12-13.

"It's going to be tough, but I think this race will prepare us for what the Big 12 Championships is going to look like," Adams said. "I think we are ready and are excited."

If we don't do things together, the boat isn't going to move.

- Keilani Hamann

In the first race, the crew made up of freshman coxswain Izzie Gonzales, sophomore Kylie Diffley, junior Cheyenne Adams, sophomore Keilani Hamann and junior Lauren Fehr posted a 7:42.319, besting Kansas by seven seconds. In the second race, it posted a

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Soccer team tries new formation

By Johnathan Anderson | Contributing Writer

Alabama's soccer team will have a different look next year in several key areas. Coach Wes Hart has made some big changes going into this spring season that appear to be paying off.

His implementation of a new three-back system has seen great success so far, with Alabama maintaining the midfield for larger portions of the game and really controlling the tempo.

We never want to discredit any of our opponents. We approach every game the same way, stick to our own game plan.

- Tori Gann

"We solidified a really consistent back three," goalkeeper Alex Plavin said. "That's why we've been so strong defensively and not given up many opportunities for the opposing team."

The formation change has worked to this point in the spring. The Crimson Tide is undefeated, posting a 2-0-1 record with the lone draw coming against Clemson on March 3. The two wins came in convincing style, as Alabama kept two clean sheets in its 2-0 defeat of Memphis to open the season, along with the 3-0 thrashing of Alabama's in-state rival, Samford.

For Plavin, this spring season has served as a time for the team to adjust to having her between the sticks. Taking over for the graduating Kat Stratton, Plavin has made a number of impressive saves already and is rapidly gaining the trust of those around her. Her remaining a constant voice in the back will be crucial to the defensive success of Alabama going forward.

Many of the returning players have begun to find their own rhythm as the season has progressed, with Taylor Morgan and Christina Maartensson effectively dominating the midfield. Freshman forward Lily Truong has also gotten off to a terrific start this campaign, illustrating the depth to which this team can play.

The spring season is about experimentation and getting younger players some collegiate minutes under the belts, but this spring has offered a different opportunity: a chance to get key players back on the field that have been sidelined due to injury.

Tori Gann, a rising senior midfielder,

sat out the entirety of her junior season with a torn ACL. She has been using this spring season to test her fitness and to gain a bit of trust back in her knee as well as understand her role in this new formation. She has been putting extra time into her study in the film room, but putting that knowledge to the test has been critical to her rehabilitation from her devastating injury last summer.

Given Hart's new three-back formation, and Gann's position as an outside midfielder, she is asked to put even more strain on her knee than the average player, often making 80-yard sprints upwards of 20 times per half.

Though the minutes mean more than the results in the spring, Hart and the Crimson Tide will hope to remain undefeated as they welcome UAB to town on Friday night. UAB is a team that presents a singular challenge. It too is in the midst of a formation overhaul.

"Every spring game is a surprise," senior forward Abbie Boswell said. "UAB's style of play is so different from anyone we've played so far."

The Blazers finished their 2017 season with a 13-4-3 record, losing out to Florida Atlantic University in the Conference USA Championship. This is a team that is capable of pressuring the Crimson Tide and pouring on goals if Alabama doesn't show up from the start.

"We never want to discredit any of our opponents," Gann said. "We approach every game the same way, stick to our own game plan."

Gann said Hart is a coach that emphasizes that his players never underestimate, but certainly never overestimate any of their opponents. This game should provide a terrific test of the adaptability of Hart's squad as well as prepare for the final big game of the spring season, a road trip to Tallahassee to take on Florida State.

Every spring game is a surprise.

- Abbie Boswell

"They're definitely a force to be reckoned with," said Plavin. "It's a really great opportunity to see how we adapt to their new style of play."



Alabama is 2-0-1 with two games left to play in the spring season.

CW / Hannah Saad
Photo illustration CW / Sumona Gupta

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PLAN TO GO

WHAT: Soccer vs. UAB

WHEN: April 13, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Alabama

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- ACROSS**
- 1 In addition to
 - 9 Like racist or sexist jokes
 - 14 Small country in Europe
 - 20 Kellogg's cereal
 - 21 As thin as —
 - 22 Gotten up from bed
 - 23 Certain Burgundy fruit
 - 25 Small
 - 26 Regular: Abbr.
 - 27 Bulling yell
 - 28 W-2 expert
 - 29 Belfast's county
 - 30 Cheesy Italian dish
 - 36 First emperor of Brazil
 - 39 Pigeon's call
 - 40 Airline serving Oslo
 - 41 Honshu coin
 - 42 Annual Calgary or Rochester celebration
 - 47 Suffix with 119-Across
 - 50 Jackie's #2
 - 51 Texter's "Thon again ..."
 - 52 "— penny, pick it up ..."
 - 54 Still-life fruit
 - 58 Sam of "The Piano"
 - 60 Very shy sort
 - 65 Ending for cyan
 - 67 British rocker
 - Brian
 - 68 Most indigent
 - 69 Have too much of, for short
 - 72 The 1890s' nickname
 - 77 See 71-Down
 - 78 Any of 12 pontiffs
 - 80 Two-base hit: Abbr.
 - 81 That gal
 - 83 What playing kids "go round"
 - 88 Expand upon
 - 92 Not as daff
 - 93 Hairy twin in the Bible
 - 94 Garr of film
 - 96 "Ni-i-ice!"
 - 97 — -do-well (idle person)
 - 99 Suspect in Clue
 - 104 Charade
 - 107 — Fridays (restaurant)
 - 109 Wriggling fish
 - 110 Post-teens
 - 111 1951 Alec Guinness comedy
 - 118 Left fielder
 - Minnie
 - 119 Tearful
 - 120 Tear's place
 - 121 Zero in
 - 124 Ink-squirting creatures
 - 125 Whoopi Goldberg film that's apt for this puzzle
 - 131 Israeli money
 - 132 "St. — Fire"
 - 133 Least quiet
 - 134 Albanian city
 - 135 Jr.-year exams
 - 136 Singers Frank and Nancy
 - 10 NHL's Bobby
 - 11 Civil rights org.
 - 12 Robert Browning's "— Passes"
 - 13 Unlogs
 - 14 Ill feeling
 - 15 Circular gasket fitting
 - 16 Old crime boss Frank
 - 17 In error
 - 18 Dion of song
 - 19 Like a single-person band
 - 24 Do a spit-take, say
 - 30 Noted period
 - 31 Peter out, as a trail
 - 32 Present
 - 33 "— will not!" (firm refusal)
 - 34 "Mazel —!"
 - 35 Made do
 - 36 Intend (to)
 - 37 Ireland, to the Irish
 - 38 Ovid's 552 goddess
 - 43 Dawn
 - 44 "Be quiet!"
 - 45 Invite
 - 46 Maui garland
 - 48 Verbalized
 - 49 No longer edible
 - 53 City of central Sicily
 - 55 Appeal
 - 56 For fear that
 - 57 Kin of -kin
 - 59 Tackles, e.g.
 - 61 Gun, as an engine
 - 62 Suffix with opal
 - 63 Tropical tern
 - 64 Signs made by winners
 - 66 Runner Zatopek
 - 69 Chooses
 - 70 Qatari capital
 - 71 With 77-Across, not closing early, as a store
 - 73 Inn in France
 - 74 Employs
 - 75 Taper off
 - 76 Gulgater of "The Killers"
 - 79 Unblemished
 - 82 Flattop, e.g.
 - 84 Sharp knock sci-fi play
 - 85 Karel Capek
 - 86 Aves.
 - 87 "For — a jolly ..."
 - 89 Voodoo —
 - 90 Hype up
 - 91 Measures of resistance
 - 95 Gallivant
 - 98 French "Presto!"
 - 100 Atop, in odes
 - 101 Jewish cry of disgust
 - 102 Architect Saarinen
 - 103 Alehouse
 - 104 Maximally
 - 105 Overly stylish
 - 106 Person camping out, often
 - 108 Foot part
 - 112 "Don't! — gift horse in the mouth"
 - 113 Quaking tree
 - 114 Writer Roald and actress Arlene
 - 115 Stalk swelling
 - 116 City south of Dijon
 - 117 "Vive —!" (French cry)
 - 121 Imitator
 - 122 Rick Blaine's love, in film
 - 123 Citi Field baseballers
 - 126 Folding bed
 - 127 Old spy org.
 - 128 Lapel insert
 - 129 D.C.'s land
 - 130 Slowing, in music: Abbr.

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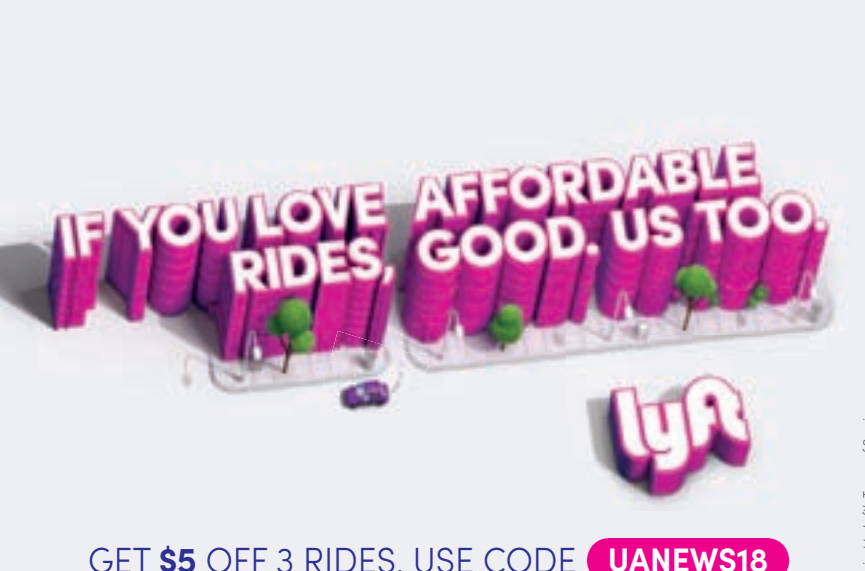
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Alabama will face LSU, Nebraska, UCLA and Arkansas on Friday, April 20, to decide the "super six."
CW / Sam MacDonald

BACK AT IT

Gymnastics starts championship prep

By Ben Stansell | Staff Reporter

Behind a season-high 49.35 on vault and a team score of 197.225, Alabama gymnastics claimed an NCAA-best 32nd Regional Title last Friday night in Coleman Coliseum.

With the victory, the Crimson Tide also punched its ticket to the National Championships on April 20 and 21 for the 36th consecutive season.

On the first day of the National Championships, 12 teams will vie to be one of the six teams, commonly known as the "super six," that gets a shot to compete for a title on the second day of competition. The 12 teams that compete on the first day will be divided into two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the night. Alabama is slated to square off against LSU, Nebraska, Georgia, UCLA and Arkansas at 1 p.m. The top three teams will advance.

When Alabama begins its quest for a seventh national title, it will be doing so in a familiar setting: Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis, where the Crimson Tide placed second in the SEC Championships less than a month ago.

"The familiarity is quite nice, to be able to just kind of have the lay of the land," coach Dana Duckworth said. "At the same time, I think that it's a new day, a new start. Everyone starts at zero, which makes it that much more exciting."

The venue will not be the only aspect of the National Championships that Alabama will be accustomed to. This year, a record six SEC teams (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Florida, Arkansas) advanced past the regional stage; as a result, Alabama has already faced half of the remaining field in the regular season. The Crimson Tide handled business against the Bulldogs, Wildcats and Razorbacks, but lost to the Tigers and Gators.

"I'm biased," Duckworth said. "I think that the SEC conference is the best gymnastics conference in the country. I think that the preparation we have

because every single week you have to show up, every single week you have to bring your best because there is no weak link in the SEC."

To senior Kiana Winston, the record number of conference foes that advanced to the SEC Championships will only heighten an atmosphere that she has become used to over the past several years.

"I know that at super six last year, and all of the years I've been there, someone always starts an SEC chant because there's so many there," Winston said. "Having six there will be so great because the SEC chant will be going and we'll be pumped."

I think that the SEC conference is the best gymnastics conference in the country.

- Dana Duckworth

In order for Alabama to claim a spot in the super six for the 24th time in the past 26 years, it will take the 'it' performance that the team has been chasing this entire season. Although the Crimson Tide appeared on the cusp of it at regionals, Duckworth expects even more at the NCAA Championships.

"I'm as excited about this postseason as I am for any postseason because they're a great team, they're going to be so ready," Duckworth said. "I hope they have the absolute best night of their season on day one and turn around and repeat that performance on day two, god willing."

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