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Women's Tennis

Alabama women's tennis starts its season hosting Florida State, Georgia Tech and Northwestern in the Mal Moore Invitational.

8 Knitting

You don't need fancy tools to get your DIY on. Use our guide and knit with just your arms.

9 Workout Music

For many people, New Year's resolutions mean heading back to the gym with high hopes. Listen to our workout jams and find the inner strength to run that extra mile or finish that last set.



CW / Layton Dudley

Photo Illustration by
Shaune Angerer

VEGAS GETS WILDER

Local boxer to compete for heavyweight championship

By Elliott Propes | Staff Reporter

Tuscaloosa is, by all means, a football town. Anyone who has ever heard of the place knows that.

As a teenager, Deontay Wilder knew that as well. In 2004, he graduated from Central High School in Tuscaloosa as a multi-sport athlete. He had dreams of catching touchdowns in crimson end zones, but then life threw Wilder a twist—one only a man like Wilder could turn into something better.

Grades and financial issues prevented

Wilder from attending The University of Alabama. He decided to enroll at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa to play basketball and other sports.

Then, in 2005, his life changed forever when his first child, Najeya, was born. She was diagnosed with spina bifida, a birth defect that causes the bones of the

spine to form improperly around part of the spinal cord. For monetary reasons, Wilder had to give up his dream of collegiate sports.

"When I had her, I knew immediately I couldn't play sports," he said. "I couldn't even attend the school for

SEE WILDER PAGE 10



SCENE ON CAMPUS

Brookley Valencia, a junior majoring in public relations from Hoover, Alabama, catches up on her reading from Dianne Bragg's Mass Communication Law and Regulations class.

CW / Hanna Curlette

The Crimson White

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TODAY'S EVENTS

Art Exhibit

WHAT: Juvenile-in-Justice: Photographs by Richard Ross
WHEN: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Sarah Moody Gallery of Art

Art Exhibit

WHAT: Fishes of Alabama
WHEN: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
WHERE: Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center

Film Exhibit

WHAT: "Seek You" experimental film, video art and video installations
WHEN: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
WHERE: Sella-Granata Art Gallery

Tutoring

WHAT: Free Chemistry Tutoring
WHEN: 2-4 p.m.
WHERE: 310 Gorgas Library

Tutoring

WHAT: Free Economics Tutoring
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: 112 Osband Hall

Lecture

WHAT: Photographer Richard Ross
WHEN: 7-8 p.m.
WHERE: 205 Smith Hall

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Jack's reopens after renovation period

Jack's reopened the doors of its Hackberry Lane store last week after being closed for weeks due to renovations.

According to a Monday press release, renovations to the restaurant include increases in the amount of seating and bathroom capacity, a 75-inch TV screen, two 55-inch TV screens and

new decor focused on the Crimson Tide.

As of Jan. 8, Jack's has resumed normal business hours of operation, and will be hosting a re-opening ceremony for the Hackberry store at its location Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Compiled by Katie Shepherd

Alabama linebackers coach named LSU defensive coordinator

Alabama linebackers coach Kevin Steele was named the new defensive coordinator at LSU Tuesday night. He spent three nonconsecutive years at Alabama. In 2007 and 2008, he was the linebackers coach. Between 2009 and 2011, he was the defensive coordinator at Clemson. He returned in

2013 as the director of player personnel before returning to his position as linebackers coach in 2014.

Compiled by Kelly Ward

Alabama No. 4 in Coaches Poll, AP Poll

Alabama football finished its season ranked No. 4 in both the AP Poll and the USA Today Amway Coaches Poll. The Crimson Tide was ranked No. 1 in both polls prior to the 42-35 loss to Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl. The Buckeyes landed the top spot in both polls after beating Oregon 42-20 to claim

the national championship. Oregon finished No. 2 in both polls and TCU took the No. 3 spot.

Compiled by Kelly Ward

Sonic Frontiers presents first event in workshop series

Tonight The Grocery and Sonic Frontiers Team will host the first event of the first Sonic Frontiers Workshop Series. The Sonic Frontiers Concert series aims to bring musicians and artists to campus, but the workshop is designed to cultivate musicians and musical practices within the local Tuscaloosa community. The workshops are designed to be a combination of open rehearsal, music discussions, sounds workshops and sonic laboratory

projects. Sessions are going to be hosted by Andrew Raffo Dewar, Tim Feeney and Holland Hopson. The workshop will take place at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday each month at The Grocery, located at 900 Maine Avenue. The workshop is free, but \$1-10 donations are suggested.

Compiled by Rachel Brown

Black Warrior Film Festival to host 'Selma' screening

On Monday, Jan. 19, the Honors College and Black Warrior Film Festival are teaming up to present a free viewing of the the movie Selma, at the Cobb Theater in Tuscaloosa. There are 75 seats available, and students are able to gain access by

bringing their ACT cards. After the show, there will be a panel of professors and students available to answer questions.

Compiled by Rachel Brown

Tuscaloosa police precinct opens downtown

By Elizabeth Elkin | Contributing Writer

The Tuscaloosa Police Department opened a new precinct office in downtown Tuscaloosa Dec. 27 in order to spread its resources across Tuscaloosa.

The precinct is located inside the Alvin P. DuPont Municipal Court building on 6th Street. TPD spokesman Sgt. Brent Blankley, said the precinct will have a grand opening for the public.

“We are de-centralizing our police force so we’re not all in one location,” Blankley said. “The downtown precinct gives the University and the historic area a heavier police presence.”

The University’s Chief of Police Tim Summerlin, said the precinct will allow TPD to concentrate their resources in the area to the west of campus and in the downtown area, which will benefit the community.

“The assignment of officers to a static area will allow those officers to focus on the unique concerns of the campus, historic and downtown communities,” Summerlin said. “Having additional resources in such a heavily populated area is always a positive. A stronger police presence will enhance the safety of community members.”

Katie McComber, a

freshman majoring in business, said she was not aware a new precinct had been opened. She said she found the information comforting.

“I feel safer knowing that more police officers are in this area,” McComber said. “A lot happens downtown and on the Strip. I think this will help students feel more confident in their personal safety.”

Summerlin said UAPD and TPD work collaboratively to ensure the safety of students, whether on or off campus. He said UAPD will still retain officers in the area, but the collaboration in the area of the precinct will allow benefits for both departments.

“UAPD will still assign the same number of officers in the ‘fringe’ area, but the additional TPD officers assigned will allow for a stronger collaborative presence, reducing response times to incidents and creating a stronger deterrent effect,” he said. “This will also allow officers from both departments to engage community members and focus on positive community policing efforts.”

Blankley advised UA students and Tuscaloosa residents to continue to keep their own safety in mind at all times.

“As always, be aware of your surroundings,” Blankley said. “The downtown precinct is up and running. There’s an officer around the clock.”



The Tuscaloosa Police Department opened a new precinct office in downtown Tuscaloosa. CW / Hanna Curlette

Sitter service provides child care to student parents

By Mary-Margaret Schmidt | Contributing Writer

Sitters for Service is a program designed for student parents by the Graduate School and Graduate Parent Support at The University of Alabama. The program provides student parents at the University with free child care.

Many graduate student parents take advantage of the program to help continue their graduate studies while raising a child.

Sitters for Service hires sitters on a volunteer basis and students who are interested in participating can fill out an online application. If chosen to participate, sitters must take a CPR course followed by a parent orientation.

Cori Perdue, director of graduate school programs, said the program has proved to be successful.

“The spring program last year included 36 undergraduate sitters who consistently earned five-star ratings from the student parents for their sitting appointments,” she said.

In addition to volunteer sitter applications, Sitters for Service also reviews

SITTERS FOR SERVICE

- Spring 2014 included **36** undergraduate sitters who consistently earned **5 star** ratings from student parents
- Next parent orientation is **Jan. 18**
- Interested parents are allowed **30** hours a semester of child care

CW / Belle Newby

applications for parents to be a part of the program. Parents can then attend an orientation in order to meet and choose a babysitter who is best fitted for their children. The next parent orientation will occur Jan. 18.

Jennifer Humber, president of Sitters for Service, is not only a parent of two children but a graduate student herself. She said Sitters for Service is an extremely valuable resource for her.

“Being a full time student and a parent is almost a game, having to juggle

life,” she said. “Sitters for Service has been an amazing program that students sacrifice their time for.”

Interested parents are allowed 30 hours of child care each semester. Community service is rewarded to the flexible volunteer babysitters through the University’s volunteer website, Service Learning Pro.

“I could not take care of my kids and go to school without Sitters for Service,” Humber said. “It is a blessing to me and my husband that we can both

sometimes have a break. He works so much and needs time to go to the gym and I need my time to go to class.”

Sitters for Service allows Humber’s family to balance work, school, kids and down time of their own.

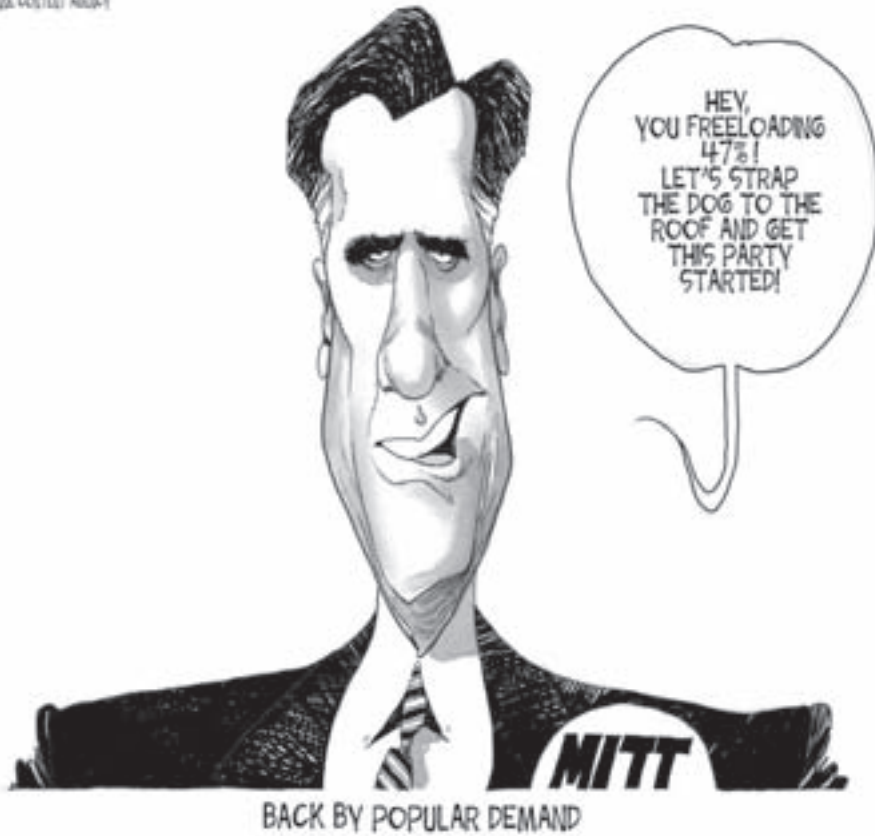
“I always call [my sitter] if I need someone to watch the kids,” she said. “Since the sitters are students as well, we always understand if they’re busy – Sitters for Service is flexible. With the kids that the program has, I could easily call up any of them because they’re great kids.”

Weiwei Zhang, a graduate student who uses Sitters for Service, said the program is an asset to her life.

“As a graduate student parent, I have to balance the time between studying and taking care of my child,” she said. “I have benefited a lot from this service since we have been in the program. My family utilized this resource a lot.”

Sitters for Service has additional information on the Source website, Get on Board Day in the fall and the Graduate Parent Support website. The application for students and also parents is found on the GPS website.

SHENEMAN THREE-GOULST ARDNY



Tribune News Service

COLUMN | **TERRORISM**

Terrorism should not transform daily lives



JOHN DAVID Thompson
Staff Columnist

The recent events in Paris have sparked inspiring actions throughout the world, especially in Paris, to defend what we consider one of our basic freedoms: the freedom of speech. However, one of the most alarming truths of the Charlie Hebdo attack is that the world is now seeing terrorists attack specific businesses and other entities, rather than nations, and we are in danger of letting the terrorists win.

Last year, the Guardians of Peace, a group with suspected ties to North Korea, hacked into Sony's network and leaked passwords and employee information before the release of "The Interview." The group ultimately threatened terrorist attacks against theaters that showed the film. Sony caved from the pressure of Guardians of Peace and only showed the movie after pressure came from President Obama.

In a December 2014 press conference, President Obama said, "I would have told them [Sony]: Do not get into the pattern in which you are intimidated." As Americans, we cannot let dictators and terrorist organizations threaten us or our businesses, nor can we let them dictate our decisions. The world is changing, and with it, so are our enemies. No longer are our enemies always nations. Unfortunately, they are increasingly becoming terrorist organizations who are controlling us.

The Department of Homeland Security's Budget for 2015 is \$60.9 billion. Keep in mind, the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2001, partly in response to the Sept. 11 attacks. The FBI's annual budget is \$8.1 billion. Finally, in 2010 the Department of Defense's Budget was \$575 billion, with \$80.1 billion being allocated to defense intelligence. That is a grand total of \$644 billion, with a large amount spent on anti-terrorist activities. Considering these numbers, plus the obvious and justifiable fear Americans have for terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, terrorists are having a huge impact on us.

We now live in an era in which we are forced to defend ourselves from such threats. These threats are strikingly different from those previous generations have had to fight. The rules of warfare are changing. Still, we must not let our daily lives be controlled by such dastardly organizations. Yes, it is imperative we take necessary precautions in defending ourselves, like the measures taken by the TSA at airports. Even that has become quite controversial and annoyingly time consuming. Unfortunately, we are forced to choose between privacy and security.

When threats from terrorist groups and dictators like Kim Jong-un begin to encroach upon and interrupt our daily lives, we must continue to live our lives to the fullest and not let them win. That is why it is so important that publications like Charlie Hebdo continue to print. In some ways, the most important way to not let terror reign is by continuing our daily lives, even if it means putting our lives at risk. It is the responsibility of all Americans to protect the liberties that so many of our predecessors fought and died to protect.

John David Thompson is a sophomore majoring in political science. His column runs biweekly.

COLUMN | **SMOKING**

Smoking ban on campus ineffective



VEL Lewis
Staff Columnist

Returning back to campus brought new excitements, a new year, new classes and a new smoking ban on campus. Effective Jan. 1, the ban states that smoking is prohibited in all locations and at all times. But while there seem to be fewer students smoking on campus, I have seen more than a few smokers not adhering to the policy. It is still prevalent outside of buildings and in the fingers of some as they walk to class.

We all know smoking can cause health-related issues in smokers and those around them, so the ban is a good idea. But if the University really cared about the health of the community, it would have instituted some form of punishment for students putting the health of themselves and others in danger.

Sure, there will always be people who break the rules and there is certainly no way to catch them all, but at what lengths will the University strive to uphold this ban? Currently there are no policies in place to enforce the ban, so why

is such a ban even in place? It was reported the lack of enforceable consequences allows for students to hold one another accountable in enforcing the ban. I do not think it should be assumed students will or should hold each other accountable for a policy such as this. The University needs to be the one to do that. Students should not have to walk up to a stranger smoking on campus and ask them to put their cigarette out. First of all, that is rude, especially if you have no authority. Second, the likelihood of the person actually obeying you is close to none.

Campus security officers could issue Student Non-Academic Misconduct citations to smokers not complying with the ban, but I question why this was not an option when the smoking ban was created. It does seem petty and childish for campus security officers to force students to put away their cigarettes, but if SNAMs can be given for other offenses related to breaking University policies, then they could be used for this.

Taking this issue from the other side, maybe the lack of punishment

is a way for the University to dodge flaring tempers. When the ban was first announced, there was a lot of applause, but just as much outrage. Without wanting to push any more buttons, I can see why some form of enforcement may not have been initially agreed upon. Giving out punishments so soon after the ban could be seen as unfair and even controlling.

That said, I just do not see the purpose of this type of ban – a ban put in place with seemingly no consequences.

If the intention of this ban was to discourage smoking, then it has failed. If the intention was to prove the University's seriousness on getting students to quit smoking, then it has failed. Is the ban a great idea and does it have the potential to make positive change? Yes. I suggest that the University go back and reevaluate the ban they have passed. It needs to be decided how the ban will be enforced to ensure the goal a healthy University community is met.

Vel Lewis is a junior majoring in political science and public relations. Her column runs biweekly.

Currently there are no policies in place to enforce the ban, so why is such a ban even in place?

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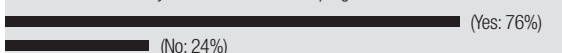
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WE WELCOME YOUR OPINIONS

Letters to the editor must contain fewer than 300 words and guest columns fewer than 500. Send submissions to letters@cw.ua.edu. Submissions must include the author's name, year, major and daytime phone

number. Phone numbers are for verification and will not be published. Students should also include their year in school and major. The Crimson White reserves the right to edit all guest columns and letters to the editor.

Last Week's Poll: Do you think UAB's football program should continue?



This Week's Poll: Do you think the smoking ban will be enforced?
cw.ua.edu

COLUMN | LGBT

Gender education should be discussed, respected in school systems



MARY CATHERINE
Connors
Staff Columnist

A solemn Jeffrey Tambor took the stage Sunday night at the Golden Globe Awards. He received his new award for “Best Actor in a TV Series: Musical or Comedy” and offered a sincere message of thanks to the night’s audience. The show he stars in, “Transparent,” also received an award for “Best Comedy TV Series”. The series, centered on the life of a transgender parent and the struggle for openness and acceptance, is a notable stride in the LGBT community.

The show’s award and efforts are commendable, and the only regret is “Transparent” didn’t come into the eyes of American television sooner. Television is a powerful tool and has the capability to shape cultural norms and introduce new ways of thinking to its audience.

But the success and celebration of the television series comes at a time of marked sadness in the community.

It’s hard to understand the time we live in when a transgender-centered television series is being honored at one of the most prestigious award shows in American cinema, yet transgender people still suffer an appalling level of discrimination and inequality. According to the Williams Institute, 41 percent of trans-identifying people have attempted suicide. Among those suffering was Leelah Alcorn, a teenager whose story is unfortunately too common.

Leelah, born Joshua, was a 17-year-old. She committed suicide recently after her parents denied her to request to formally identify as a female Leelah left a note on Tumblr that shook the world. It’s a letter not telling, but begging people to fight for equality. It’s a battle that belongs to everyone, because winning the war means less suffering and greater acceptance, qualities that are indispensable to human life.

“Either I live the rest of my life as a lonely man who wishes he were a woman or I live my life as a lonelier woman who hates herself,” Leelah said in her letter. The fact that Leelah found herself faced with choosing the lesser of two evils effectively summarizes the struggle and hardship that

apparently more than 41 percent of transgender people face.

Leelah’s story spread like fire through social media and the news circuit. But I wonder at the amount of people who were actually aware of her struggle, aware of her issue and aware of what words like transgender and cisgender actually meant when they read her story. As Leelah continued in her letter, “When I was 14 I learned what transgender meant and cried of happiness. After 10 years of confusion I finally understood who I was.”

The fact that Leelah wasn’t familiar with the term transgender before the age of 14 underlines a failure in our education system and hits at the heart of the LGBT equality issue. It’s time for schools to educate students about all sexual orientations and gender identifications. As a result, students will be able to better understand and properly relate to fellow students and the world around them. Vocabulary words like transgender shouldn’t be unspoken in schools. Instead, they should be

defined and explained in the classroom at an early age.

Children are taught what boy and girl means before they go to preschool. They receive basic health education in elementary or middle school. And now, they should be taught what the words lesbian, gay, bisexual and other words previously avoided like the plague mean. These words, regardless of personal belief, exist in the world. They are words that are not bad or explicit. They are real, living and breathing possibly in the next desk over.

“Transparent” is a step, but a baby one. We must look below the surface to educate youth about modern human rights issues. In the meantime, Jeffrey Tambor was rightly celebrated. He shows it is possible to adopt a struggle that’s not ‘technically’ your own.

Mary Catherine Connors is a sophomore majoring in mathematics and economics. Her column runs biweekly.

Vocabulary words like transgender shouldn't be unspoken in schools.

Here, you're on the **A**-team.

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Kayla Fields, Advertising & PR graduate student.

Frustrated with your current immunization process? Med+Pass has a solution!

Student Health Centers around the country are using a paper-based immunization process.

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DID YOU KNOW?
Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases recently occurred at Ohio State, Princeton, and UC Santa Barbara.

Fed up with the wave of immunization forms in the summer?

MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER

THE WAVE: It's estimated that 70% of immunization forms are received in the month of August.

Streamline and automate your current immunization process with Med+Pass!

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Graphic Courtesy of Hallett Ogburn

UA alumni launch medical startup at Auburn University

By Sirui Shao | Contributing Writer

Three Alabama alumni developed a product which automates and digitizes the collection and verification of medical data, including immunization information, from incoming college students. The product, Med+Pass, launched at Auburn this week.

Med+Pass Health, LLC is an IT health care startup company based out of Nashville, Tennessee, founded by alumni Hallett Ogburn, CEO; Jim Wills, president and CFO; and Kevin Bond, adviser. A conversation with former UA Student Health Center Director John Maxwell helped Ogburn come up with the idea for the company.

"The cloud-hosted software is a service program that automates and digitizes the college immunization verification process," Ogburn said. "We initially came up with the idea after speaking with John Maxwell. He told us about the painful process of verifying incoming student immunization records, he also advised that it was a problem for schools across the country."

Ogburn said a majority of schools require proof of vaccination from incoming students as part of the admission process. Paper-based processes for student immunization verification is costly and requires manual collection of forms in multiple formats, manual verification and often manual data entry into other systems of record. The forms are typically received and reviewed in a small window of time and most students tend to wait until the

last minute. Because of these issues, many larger schools are unable to verify all student immunization records before the first day of school.

Med+Pass Health, LLC struggled early on because of a lack of funding and difficulty obtaining early adopters for the program. Because of this, they were unable to develop the platform and hire contractors to build the initial prototype.

They eventually landed a five year contract with Auburn University Medical Clinic. The clinic launched the platform Jan. 12. All incoming students

will be using Med+Pass to provide medical, insurance and immunization data for the school.

"We have several more ideas to add useful features and functionality in the future," Ogburn said.

"We are committed to solving problems at student health centers in order to promote a healthier student body."

Ariel Doran, a University of Alabama graduate, was the project manager for the spring 2014 Med+Pass team. Her role in the organization included serving as liaison between Med+Pass and the team by facilitating meetings and managing expectations and other in-depth roles.

Doran said her experience with the Med+Pass was

valuable. She said she was able to develop her leadership skills while working with the startup.

"It was a fantastic learning experience for me," she said. "It was an exciting and unique experience for the team to be able to work with a startup like Med+Pass. The team was able to have a lot more client interaction than they normally would on a project."

A University of Alabama MIS team will help develop Android and iOS mobile apps this semester, which will be used by students to take pictures of completed immunization forms and automatically upload them

to their Med+Pass account. Additional features and functionality of the app for the school may be added under their assistance.

The app can be used to send push notifications to students to remind them to get a flu shot, attend flu shot

drives, update medical information or pay medical bills. It can also be used in an outbreak scenario to notify students and parents if an outbreak occurs on campus.

Ogburn said the team would also try to expand to the K-12 market, since there are similar requirements and problems that exist in schools outside of universities. He said their platform can easily scale to this market, as well as any institution that requires immunization verification.

We are committed to solving problems at student health centers in order to promote a healthier student body.

— Hallett Ogburn —

UA Theta Chi to compete with Auburn to raise funds for charity

By Mackenzie Ross | Contributing Writer

The members of Theta Chi Fraternity have started a campaign to raise money for the USO, the fraternity's national philanthropy. They are competing with Auburn University's Theta Chi chapter to see who can raise the most money.

"This is our first stab at trying to raise some serious money for them," said John Anderson, a senior majoring in finance and former president of Theta Chi. "I mean, they have centers all around the world, and they provide calling cards and PCs for Skype sessions for the troops so they can talk to their family because, you know, it's not free to be able to call your family from overseas."

The group hopes to raise \$10,000 over the next three months and make the

campaign an annual project. The fraternity that raises the most money will receive a trophy that will be passed to the winning team each year.

"I think that it's good because people will actually participate in it because it has to do with Auburn," said Mackenzie Peppers, a freshman majoring in nursing. "It's more convenient because you don't

have to go and donate money. You can just text, which, of course, is how everyone does everything now."

Annika Wulff, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, said she appreciates Theta Chi's support for the troops because her dad is in the military. She said the campaign has the potential to involve the whole campus, not just the

Greek community.

"The USO is an awesome organization," Anderson said. "I think they have 160 stations across the world. They're in Afghanistan and other places in the Middle East, and they're at basically every major airport. Their mission is to just lift the spirits of the troops and their families."

THETA CHI SUPPORTS THE USO

- The *USO* is dedicated to lifting spirits of the troops and their families.
- Goal to raise: **\$10,000** in three months
- To donate: text **USO TIDE** to **80888** which will add **\$5** to the next phone bill.

CW / Belle Newby

Photo exhibit showcases teenage prisoners

By Drew Pendleton | Contributing Writer

The Sarah Moody Gallery of Art begins the spring semester with the exhibit "Juvenile In Justice," featuring a lecture from the artist, Richard Ross, Wednesday.

The exhibit is six years in the making and contains over 1,000 images. Ross, a longtime photographer and professor at the University of California-Santa Barbara, will give a lecture about the exhibit, followed by a reception on Thursday night. The exhibit tackles the subject of teenage incarceration and the American prison system, which Moody Gallery Director William Dooley said is brought to the forefront through the photos on display.

"Youth incarceration is a subject most of us are aware of, but we know it from a distance," he said. "When you stand in front of [the photos,] it's somewhat moving to see the rawness of the conditions."

Showcasing color photographs featuring portraits of teenagers in prison, the exhibit – which was showcased in a 2012 book of the same title – started its run Jan. 8, and will run through Feb. 8. Vicki Rial,



The Sarah Moody Gallery of Art is hosting the exhibit "Juvenile In Justice," featuring a lecture from the artist, Richard Ross. Photo Courtesy of Richard Ross

the Gallery's exhibition coordinator, said the exhibit was booked because it shows a subject people may not know about.

"It's a very good start to the season," she said. "It'll bring more students in and get the conversation going. It's a shocking picture into the lives of these young people."

Dooley said the exhibit shows Ross's talent as a photographer.

"[Ross] is an exemplary photographer," he said. "In this exhibit he toys with the idea of beautiful photographs of a delicate subject, and the idea of those two forces colliding."

Rial said she anticipated the lecture would entail Ross's experience during the cross-country photo shoots, and his feelings as the shoot came together.

Dooley said that the exhibit is different from other exhibits the gallery has showcased.

"Lots of our exhibits don't lead with a social commentary," Dooley said. "Most of them deal with issues in contemporary art, personal expression and the inherent conditions of human beings. This piece has a social angle that sets it apart, and with the roles photos have taken now let us think about the issue differently."

Richard Ross's photo exhibit, "Juvenile-In Justice," will be on exhibit at the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art at the University of Alabama through Feb 8. Ross will also come to campus for a lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday in 205 Smith Hall, with a reception Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gallery. Admission to the exhibit – which is open during regular gallery hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. – is free and open to the public.

COLUMN | GAMING

'Halo 5' release on game horizon

By Matthew Wilson

In the distant future of the 26th century, cybernetically enhanced soldiers called Spartans battle against an alien race, the Covenant, for control of an artificial ring-shaped world. Such is the premise of the "Halo" first-person shooter video game series, which puts players in the role of Master Chief, an unstoppable warrior reminiscent of the Terminator.

Since the first game's release in 2001, the "Halo" series has revolutionized and popularized the first-person shooter genre. Many of today's modern shooters including "Call of Duty" and "Battlefield" have incorporated elements from "Halo." The series has become Xbox's flagship series and is often cited for the Xbox's success.

With "Halo 5" on the horizon later this year, Microsoft released "Halo: The Master Chief Collection" for the Xbox One last November.

This collection includes all four of the past Halo games, "Halo: Combat Evolved Anniversary Edition," "Halo 2," "Halo 3" and "Halo 4." "Halo 2," like its predecessor, will receive the anniversary treatment and be remastered with a better graphic resolution. Similarly, the collection includes the remastered version of the original game, "Halo: Combat Evolved."

With the first two installments receiving remastered graphics and the last installment released not long ago, "Halo 3" seems oddly left out. While the graphics seemed great at the time, the past seven years have marked significant advancements in the industry. The divide between "Halo 3" and the other games may seem jarring to some players.

Each of the games includes all the original features and multiplayer maps. For the first time since the original Xbox



"Halo" is a first-person shooter set in the 26th century. Amazon.com

Live shutdown, players are able to replay their favorite moments from the first two games. All the matchmaking and multiplayer features are separated by game, which may or may not create difficulty in finding an online game to play.

"Halo" has long relied on the notion of multiplayer and cooperative play. Even years later, it is one of the best first-person shooters to sit down and play with a friend. Being able to play through all four of the games' campaigns will appeal to many gamers' nostalgia and may even draw new ones toward the series.

With the promise of "Halo 5" soon, Microsoft has made a smart move by bringing almost all the "Halo" series under one console. With the rerelease, players can prepare and help shape the future of the "Halo" series. Whether "Halo 5" will live up to its hype is still a mystery, but Microsoft is looking into the series' past for the future.

COLUMN | FOOD



Taco Bell's new Crunchwrap Sliders are nothing to be excited about; overall, they taste exactly like everything else on the menu. CW / Katharine Buckley

Taco Bell slider trinity underwhelms

By Katharine Buckley

I'd do anything for the Tide. I'd pay an exuberant amount of money for a ticket to a losing game and a consolation scarf. I would sit through approximately 30 Taco Bell Crunchwrap Sliders commercials.

If you attended the semi-final game in New Orleans, you know the only thing more painful than the loss was the commercial rotation they played in the Superdome during breaks. Unfortunately, we are only human, and Taco Bell has proven to have some advertising geniuses on staff because only a few days after the game, I found myself in the Taco Bell drive-thru.

Let's get this out of the way: I'm not proud of my actions that night, but things happen. Things like eating BLT, Beefy Cheddar and Spicy Chicken Crunchwrap Sliders.

Similar to Taco Bell's classic Crunchwraps, the sliders follow a formula of a soft tortilla filled with meat and various toppings folded into a disc-like shape. The difference is that the sliders are smaller in size, and the crunch comes from Fritos chips instead of a hard-shell tortilla. Due to its new listing and for reasons incomprehensible to me, the sliders haven't been ordered often at the local Tuscaloosa Taco Bell, so mine were all missing the integral crunchy component of Fritos.

The BLT flavor seems the most unusual for a fast-food Mexican chain, but it stays true to the classic combo of bacon, lettuce and tomato. The lettuce and tomato are the same lackluster ingredients they throw on top of any taco supreme, and the bacon tastes uncannily similar to bacon bits that have been picked over at a salad bar. These components are tossed with a creamy avocado ranch sauce that mostly tastes like plain mayo. The BLT is definitely the weakest of the slider trinity, so things only look up from there.

Beefy Cheddar is marginally better. The mysterious ground beef featured in most menu items is the main player here, mixed with nacho cheese sauce. This flavor could be bearable if doused with a few packets of fire sauce.

Finally, Spicy Chicken features shredded chicken and a chipotle sauce. Easily the standout of the group, Spicy Chicken has the best (read: least offensive) flavor, although it isn't all that spicy.

Overall, the new Crunchwrap sliders taste exactly like everything else on Taco Bell's menu. The best time to try these new dishes is likely during Taco Bell's patented late-night fourth meal time when most poor choices are made. As long as your expectations are low, you won't be disappointed.

Arm knitting novel trend for DIY projects

6 simple steps to arm knit a scarf

By Katie Bedrich | Contributing Writer

As temperatures continue to drop, a plethora of cold weather wear has started to appear on campus including the usual toboggans, gloves, sweaters and coats. In recent years, scarves have become a popular accessory for their ability to add a pop of color or fashionable flair to any outfit, casual or dressy. Rather than heading to the local mall to pick up a scarf or committing to learning to knit, arm knitting is an easy alternative that will leave you a few bucks and leave you with a one of a kind scarf to bundle up in on those blustery days. All you need to get started is a couple balls of yarn and a pair of scissors. Check out our six simple steps to create your own arm-knitted scarf.

Step 1

Make a slipknot and put it on your right arm – don't make it too tight. Pull the "tail" (the bottom string) around your thumb and the "working yarn" (the top string) between your pointer finger and your middle finger on your left hand.



Step 2

To "cast on" put your right hand under the tail around your thumb, then over the working yarn between your fingers, and then under the working yarn creating a loop.



Step 3

Pull the tail with your left hand until the knot is snug against your right wrist. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you have six "stitches" (loops) around your right arm, including the slipknot you started with.



Step 4

To begin knitting, pull out the working yarn with your left hand and pinch it with your right hand.



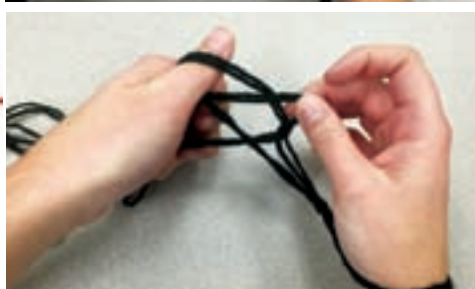
Step 5

Pull the top stitch over your right hand, creating a loop. Put your left hand through this loop and pull it until it is snug against your left wrist. Repeat this until all six stitches are moved from your right arm to your left.



Step 6

Repeat steps 1-5, knitting the stitches from arm to arm until your scarf is at the desired length.



CW / Katie Bedrich

UA Museums merges history with DIY crafts

By Katie Bedrich | Contributing Writer

PLAN TO GO

WHAT: Teach Yo Self - Arm Knitting
WHEN: Wednesday, 11 a.m.
WHERE: Gorgas House Museum

Arm knitting has quickly become the latest trend in the world of so-called "do it yourself" crafts. All a person needs is their arms and some yarn to knit creations ranging from scarves to blankets.

The fashion statement is making a comeback from its nineteenth century origins, this semester with an event in the Gorgas House Museum.

University of Alabama students can learn how to arm knit at the historic Gorgas House Museum on Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. This free event aims to teach students arm knitting while incorporating the history of the University of Alabama campus.

Education Outreach Coordinator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, Allie Sorlie, helped found the idea for the Teach Yo Self - Arm Knitting class as a way to get students into the university museums.

"Some students don't know that there are museums on campus," Sorlie said. "We really want to connect the history that's here with things that are tangible and can translate into real life."

In addition to her passion for history, Sorlie said she is an avid arm knitter and will be teaching the skill to students.

"I was looking around online one day when I found arm knitting, and that was it," she said. "Now I have arm-knitted everything all over my house! Anything you can knit, you can arm knit."

Sorlie said she wants to teach students how to knit because there is so much history behind the craft. If someone needed a scarf for a nineteenth century winter, she said, they would have to knit it themselves.

Museum Director of the Gorgas House, Lydia Ellington, also collaborated on the Teach Yo Self program that will likely continue throughout the semester.

"This is the first time we've done something like this," Ellington said. "This is kind of our trial run."

Students will get the chance to knit with just their arms while learning about the history of the Gorgas House, the oldest building on campus, having

been originally built in 1829 as the University's dining hall.

Ellington said this is one way to bridge a gap between today's society and the people of the past. She has spotted several students knitting around campus since forming the idea for the class.

"The physical aspect of it makes it a little more interesting than sitting with just two needles," Ellington said. "I like to think that anything, especially dealing with history, could become a trend again."

It takes 20 to 30 minutes to knit the trendy scarves students will be making at the event, but the class is being held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accommodate as many schedules as possible. Students can drop by the Gorgas House Museum anytime during the two hours and leave with their own arm-knitted creation and new knowledge about campus history.

In addition to the class, there are many online video tutorials available for beginner arm knitters. Allie Sorlie said she recommends Pinterest and Youtube for "Do It Yourself" projects.

"Anyone interested is welcome to contact me for an encore presentation as well," she said.

For students who enjoy the Teach Yo Self - Arm Knitting program, University of Alabama Museums are already planning another event for March. It will be held at the Museum of Natural History in Smith Hall. Students will again have the opportunity to learn a new skill, this time related to the work of state geologist Eugene Allen Smith, who is the namesake of the museum.

For more information about UA Museums' events, find them on Facebook or contact Lydia Ellington at rellington@ua.edu.

Songs to help you stick to your New Year's resolution

By Kinsey Haynes | Contributing Writer

Working out can be a dreadful task, especially if the workout is part of a New Year's Resolution. It is scientifically proven that listening to music makes you more productive, so make your New Year workout better with these songs.



Amazon.com

"I've Got Soul" - Hanson

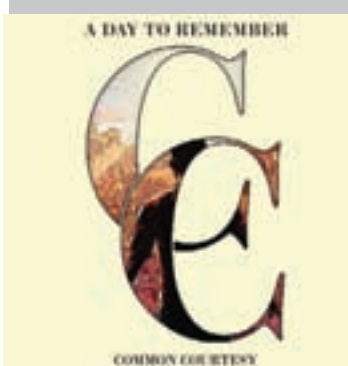
Gone are the days of MMBop. Say hello to Hanson, now in their 30s and still cranking out catchy dance songs. This song is great for when you are walking on a treadmill. Be careful not to dance too much as it may result in injury.



Amazon.com

"DOA" - Foo Fighters

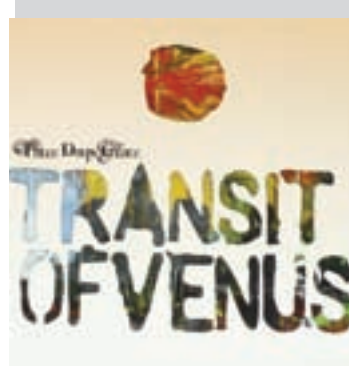
From their 2005 double-disc release, "In Your Honor," Dave Grohl and company play this hard rock treasure with poise. This is a good running song, starting out slow and building until you can reach maximum speed.



Amazon.com

"Stick and Bricks" - A Day To Remember

This song is just angry enough to encourage you to finish your workout. It is about proving people wrong. Play this song while you are exercising and silence the doubters when you stick to your resolution.



Amazon.com

"I Am Machine" - Three Days Grace

Their first single without former singer Adam Gontier, Three Days Grace has returned with their newest addition, Matt Walsh. This is a great song to listen to while lifting weights. It has just the right amount of energy to help you finish what you started.



Amazon.com

"Bad Romance" - Halestorm

Sometimes nostalgia kicks in and makes your workouts more fun. With this Lady Gaga cover, you are sure to be energetic and pumped throughout the workout. You can leave the gym feeling happy and in a better mood with energy to start over tomorrow.

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OF BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR
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YOU CAN AFFORD TO
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COLUMN | FASHION

Athleisure versatile for all activities

By Amber Phillips

Athleisure, the descriptive term for active wear designed to be appropriate for the streets, has become a major industry segment, beginning summer 2014. It may not come as a surprise to hear that InStyle has proclaimed athleisure to likely be a permanent change of direction in the industry.

In the past year, hundreds of ready-to-wear brands have started manufacturing active wear, while the preexisting active-wear companies try desperately to maintain garment functionality and follow current fashion trends. The prominence of athleisure is quite obvious amid college girls. Comfort is everything when buying clothes to wear to class, and the increased use of spandex has opened doors to acceptability of activewear for everyday wear. Yoga pants and stylish harem sweats have replaced jeans on college campuses nationwide. The ability to go directly to the gym from class increases daily productivity.

The athleisure trend suits guys as well. Menswear has shifted from traditional leisure clothes, such as jeans and brown shoes, toward gym attire and sneakers, giving guys the freedom to shoot a few hoops or go for an unplanned jog.

Old Navy, Foot Locker and Under Armour have seen elevated sales as a result of this style shift. These brands have taken note of color trends and consumer needs to create desirable active-wear garments within a reasonable price



Tribune News Service

point. Foot Locker specifically reacted to the trend by introducing sports bras and other apparel products. SIX:02 is Foot Locker's new yoga and running chain, open in 15 locations, the closest to Tuscaloosa being in Florida. When Old Navy's activewear department brought increased profit to GAP Inc., the company responded by opening Athleta stores to cater specifically to the active population. A quick look at broad industry sales backs up the trend's impact. Women's U.S. apparel sales rose only 1 percent in 12 months; however, activewear sales increased by 9 percent, yielding \$14.5 billion.

College life is fast-paced, so it is necessary to take advantage of every free second in each day. The athleisure trend has empowered students to be spontaneous about their activities. Having an outfit that can be worn from class to meetings and even to the gym in between is fashion gold. So continue the search for that perfect pair of yoga pants – it'll be worth it.

Wilder to battle Stiverne for boxing title in Vegas

WILDER FROM PAGE 1

education because I felt like I had to get out and get a job to support my daughter, Naieya. I felt like that meant more to me than anything. I didn't know what it took to take care of a child with spina bifida, but I knew that it would take money."

One day, a friend of Wilder's from Shelton State mentioned boxing as an option. Wilder was interested in the idea and said he knew professional boxers made some money, so he decided to give it a shot.

"When I walked into the gym, it was like one of those moments I was at the right place at the right time," Wilder said. "It was like that 'Hallelujah' music. I heard the bell, I heard the speed bag, I heard the bags thumping, the guys sparring. Just the environment of it, I just said, 'Yeah this is it.'"

Today, Wilder is training for a fight only boxing's best – names like Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Mike Tyson – have won. He is fighting for the title of WBC Heavyweight World Champion and will meet current holder Bermame Stiverne in the ring Jan. 17 at the MGM Grand's Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Wilder is coming into the fight with a professional record of 32-0. He is not just undefeated – each of his fights have ended in a knockout.

His last fight was against one of his good friends and fellow professional boxer, Malik Scott, last March in Puerto Rico. Wilder wasted no time before doing what he does. In 96 seconds, Scott was on the floor, knocked out.

Wilder said Scott is still a friend today. He traveled from Los Angeles on Nov. 24 to visit Wilder.

"We came up through the programs, built a relationship outside of boxing," Scott said. "Unfortunately we had to fight each other, but it was what it was. Before the fight we always said no matter what happens, we always going to have each other's back. So that's why I'm down here supporting him, giving him good energy. Because I want him to come into the Stiverne fight how he always comes in: in



Mayor Walter Maddox declared Saturday Jan. 17, the day of Wilder's fight, Deontay Wilder Day in Tuscaloosa.
CW / Layton Dudley

shape, mentally focused and just going in being the Bronze Bomber."

Wilder's coach, Jay Deas, calls him the Bronze Bomber because of Wilder's upstart performance in the Beijing Olympic Games. Wilder was invited to go as an amateur boxer in 2008 to represent the U.S. in the Olympics. Beijing was taken by surprise when a 23-year-old Wilder stole the show. Wilder won the bronze medal in the heavyweight division and is the only American to win a medal since 2004.

"That was a great experience, because no one thought that we could do it," Deas said. "No one thought that we could make it that far. Out of 296 boxers at the Olympic games, which is every boxer

in every weight class, Deontay was the least experienced in terms of fights. Deontay only had probably 30 fights total as a golden glove boxer. Everybody else had upwards to 100, 200, even 300 fights, so he was the baby of the whole group, but when it was all said and done, he was the only American to come out with a medal."

Deas has trained Wilder ever since the medalist decided to try on a pair of boxing gloves in 2006. Deas has a boxing ring inside of a storage unit in Northport. He has seen many people come through his small unit over the years, but none like Wilder, he said. Deas reflected back to the moment he realized Wilder was not like any other boxer who has

visited his ring.

"He was sparring a professional boxer, and this was when Deontay was probably three weeks in," Deas said. "He was sparring a professional boxer, and he hit the guy. I can't remember if he knocked him down or he just really rocked him real good, but I remember the pro boxer looked over and said, 'Keep him. Whatever you do keep him.'"

Wilder said he loves his coach and his hometown. He said he wants people from all over the world to one day come to the state of Alabama and to bring income and publicity to the place he loves.

"I tell people all the time that Tuscaloosa is definitely a magical place," he said. "Many people tried to draw me away from here after the Olympics and stuff like that, because they thought that they had more to offer. I stayed here. I set Tuscaloosa as my headquarters and my stomping grounds, and from that point on it's been nothing but greatness been happening. The people respect me and love me a lot more for just being here."

Now Wilder might have a chance to bring the publicity he was talking about. The fight he has a month from now will be the most important of his career, and Wilder said he can not wait. Stiverne is seven years older and has more experience, but he has six less wins and has a loss and a draw on his record. Wilder has an advantage in reach and height, standing five inches taller than Stiverne.

"I don't think nothing of him," Wilder said. "I really don't think nothing of him. That's my honest opinion. I just feel like it's going to be hard to beat a hungry fighter, which I am hungry. I am determined. One thing you can't take from me is when I come into fights. I come in to handle business."

Wilder has been training non-stop for the match. He said a lot is on the line and Stiverne does not have a chance. He said he has the world behind him.

"My body has been through so much. I've been sacrificing a lot. I still got kids. Sometimes I don't get to see them through training and stuff because Daddy is too tired," Wilder said. "I sacrifice so much for one night. Two months or so for one night, and I refuse to let a guy take that all from me. So he's in trouble."

COLUMN | BCS

Postseason formats not determinate of legitimacy

By Tyler Waldrep

As the final seconds ticked off of the clock a simple question began gaining traction on social media: How many years did the BCS get the national championship wrong?

When Ohio State beat Oregon in the national title game, the Buckeyes silenced their skeptics. They also raised questions about the legitimacy of previous national champions. Under the BCS format, the national championship game would have in all likelihood pitted Alabama versus Florida State. The national championship would have featured completely different teams. Under the BCS system Ohio State might not have even finished in the top five. Does

that put an asterisk next to all of the championships that were won under the BCS system?

In the excitement of the postseason it is easy to forget the postseason is a reward. Playing in the BCS Championship or the new semifinal games is something teams had to work hard for. The BCS was not perfect, but all of the teams that played under the system earned their way into the title game. If a team did not make the title game, it had only itself to blame. Either it lost one or more games or it played a weak schedule. The playoff system works the same way. The main difference is that now four teams can earn the chance to compete instead of just two. National championship berths still have to be

earned in the regular season.

The playoff, like the BCS system before it, has already failed to remove all doubt from the national championship. TCU supporters will be quick to point out that, in their minds, the best team did not even make the final four this year. The truth is someone will always feel left out. The playoff could expand to 32 teams and the 33rd would still feel like it deserved that last spot.

The point is, there is no perfect system. Nothing except maybe a 128-team round robin marathon would remove all doubt from the title game. The playoff offers more teams the opportunity to compete for titles but it in no way replaces the regular season, nor does it render previous national champions as illegitimate.



Ohio State celebrates their national championship win.
Tribune News Service

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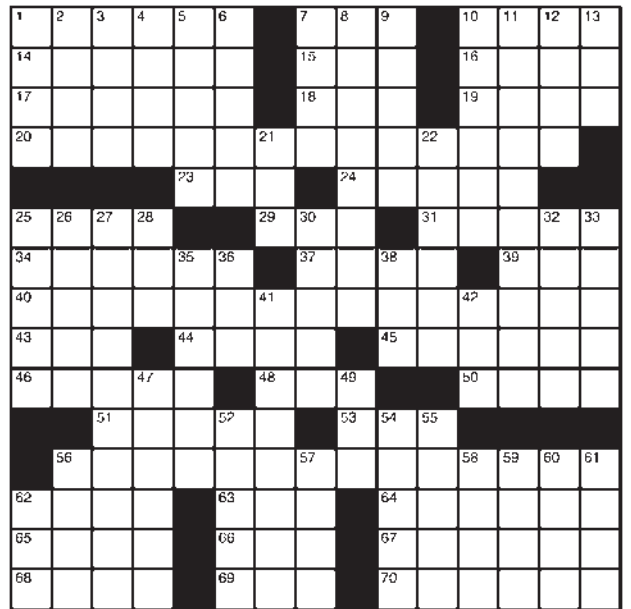
TODAY'S DIVERSIONS

ACROSS

- 1 Monday Night Football regular until 1983
7 Gobbled, as a turkey
10 Site with a "Buy It Now" option
14 Mecca's peninsula
15 In the bath
16 "___ Rock"
17 Hires a new crew for
18 Styled after
19 Shot up
20 Confounded British illumination?
23 Jamaican genre
24 Walkway material
25 Meter or liter
29 Med. plan option
31 "Twin Peaks" co-creator David
34 White House maiden name between Pierce and Welch
37 Dr. J hairstyle
39 Lone Ranger and Tonto, e.g.
40 Confounded British posies?
43 First ___
44 Horner's find
45 Have a strong desire (for)
46 Things to fulfill
48 It's on the streets
50 Flanders river
51 Vinegar vessel
53 Dangerous snake
56 Confounded British residences?
62 Actor Bean of "Game of Thrones"
63 Aegean ___
64 Give one's word
65 Stock options, e.g.
66 WWII intel agcy.
67 Look through partially open curtains, say
68 Round components
69 Vague degree
70 Flowed in circles

DOWN

- 1 Prep for a marathon, with "up"
2 N.L. Cy Young Award winner three years after Dwight
3 Nordic language
4 "Voice of Israel" author
5 Rory McIlroy's milieu
6 Big name in vision correction
7 Like an excited puppy's tail
8 Takes to task
9 Web business
10 San Francisco-to-Teaneck interstate
11 Round servers
12 Iowa State city
13 Swerve from a course
21 "I'll pass"
22 Clumsy sort
25 Cited
26 "Cross my heart"
27 "Bless my soul!"
28 Howe'er
30 Molten rock
32 Bend
33 Car wash employee, at times
35 Excites
36 Wire thickness unit



By Harald Horning

1/14/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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1/14/15

- 38 "Kidnapped" author's monogram
41 Most eccentric
42 Manner
47 Round components
49 Cloth remnant
52 HP competitor
54 Configure
55 Prepared for a shot
56 Texture
57 "I don't mind eels / Except as meals / And the way they feels" poet
58 Previously driven, say
59 TomKat's daughter
60 Lake at one end of the Niagara River
61 Final email step
62 Place for a pedi

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HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday (01/14/15). Practical actions lead to a status rise this year. Prepare a creative project for launch after 3/20. Finish old business between now and 4/8, when a new collaboration entices. Begin a most interesting partnership. Educational opportunities call to you after 10/13. Home and family require attention after 10/27. Compromise. Love and support each other. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Don't avoid responsibilities. Temptations and distractions abound. Focus on finances and stash away a surplus. Bright ideas center on material matters. A partner can get through where you can't. A long shot pays off. Publicize results.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Share inspiration with others. Get the whole group moving on a project. As collaborations spark, get promises on paper. Set workable deadlines. Determination looks good on you. A friend shares a valuable connection. Together you can move mountains.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Honest efforts pay off in dollars earned. Throw yourself into your work. Sign checks. Upgrade technology. Let somebody else speak for you while you're otherwise occupied. An important message finally arrives. Offer encouragement

and grow community support.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Unexpected collaborations form effortlessly. Friends teach you the rules. Set team goals. Someone from far away or in a book inspires you with a bright financial idea. Play the role you most love and have practiced. Talk about passion.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Get farther than expected on a domestic project. Organize closets, cabinets or the garage. Use what you've been saving. New knowledge proves profitable. Inspire others to action. Accept a challenge and move quickly for a nice benefit.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- The conversation takes an unexpected and fun turn. Get lost in romance. Word travels farther than imagined. Act decisively when opportunity presents. Follow a referral from a teammate. Share what you're learning with the group. Express your appreciation.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Check out an interesting suggestion or bright idea. There's more work arriving. You're earning extra points. Find another way to work smarter. Artistic flair replaces big bucks. Quick action leads to profits. Stash it and keep moving.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Your glass is more than half full. Go along with a

partner's crazy suggestion. Gather body, mind and spirit together and reduce stress. Clean, oil, and polish. Develop your physical strength. Update home technology. Make a commitment to yourself.

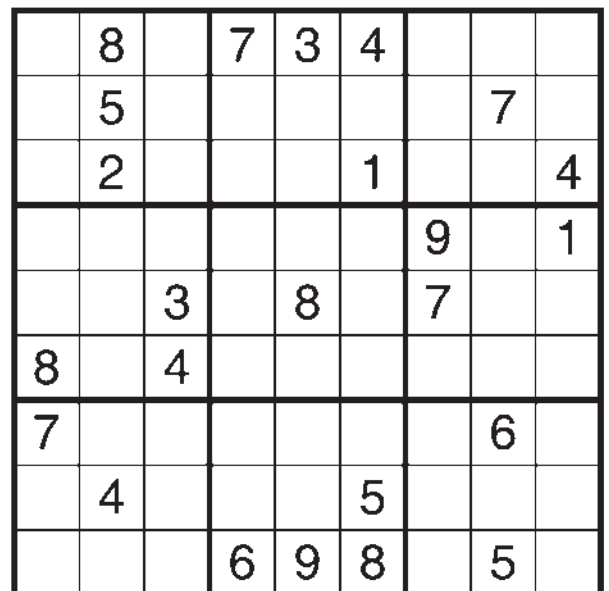
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Review options and make a choice. Go back to the manual if necessary. You can figure it out. Take time to make detailed plans and save time later. Confer with family. Launch when ready. Get what you've been promised.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- A study date can be very productive. Inspire action. Ask questions. Spike your presentation with enthusiasm. Develop alternate strategies. A brilliant insight shatters an illusion. Dig deeper. A friend's great idea needs polishing. Children surprise you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Make a career move now. Play the ace up your sleeve. Get deals in writing. Confer with family. Invest in efficiency so you can work quickly. Emotions drive your effort. Repay a debt. Take an opportunity to grow skills.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Inspire your circles with wit and wisdom. Quick action helps, too. You can do what's required. Unusual ideas are welcome. Word arrives from a private source. Share important information. Push boldly forward towards uncharted territory. Friends add sparkle.

SUDOKU



UA women's tennis hosts Mal Moore Invitational

By Kayla Montgomery | Staff Reporter

For the Alabama women's tennis team, 2014 was a record season. The team finished sixth in the nation and brought home an SEC Championship, as well as its first ever national championship when doubles pair Maya Jansen and Erin Routliffe beat their University of Georgia opponents.

All of that is in the past as the team, ranked eighth in pre-season polls, prepares to kick off spring competition. The Crimson Tide opens play this weekend when it hosts Florida State, Georgia Tech and Northwestern in the Mal Moore Invitational.

For Routliffe, though last spring was full of great memories, she said the time has come to put it in the back of her mind and focus on this year.

"I think the challenge is trying to realize that it's over and done with, even though it

was probably the greatest moment of my life," she said of her national championship victory. "I'll always remember it, but it's a new season now, and I have to focus on playing the best doubles that I can and the best singles that I can and being the best teammate for the team."

The focus on being the best possible teammate has become an integral part of Alabama's identity as a program, Routliffe said, as it has earned the reputation of being family, rather than simply a tennis team.

"We talk all the time about becoming closer as a team and playing more together because that helps," she said. "Our program is really known for that, for being a family, so I would say that's our main goal. For doubles, it's being aggressive, we always say try to be the most aggressive team on the doubles court. We all try to be the loudest out there as well."

This year's squad is led by captains Luicelena Perez and Emily Zabor, both of whom coach Jenny Mainz said have filled the role excellently, encompassing her motto for the season, "Do your job."

"I think they've really embraced the role as captain, and they both realize that the best leadership comes from within," she said. "They've both really risen to the occasion."

The team enters the spring off a mixed-result fall season, which Mainz said started slowly before finding its footing at the end with the Roberta Alison Fall Classic.

"There were probably several different contributing factors, but we started slow in the fall, and maybe just weren't completely prepared for it, and maybe not being excited about it," Mainz said. "However, that all being said, I was very encouraged with the last part of our fall season."



Senior Luicelena Perez is one of the women's tennis team's captains. UA Athletics

Swimming and diving team travels to Arena Grand Prix

By Nolan Imsande | Staff Reporter

Alabama's swimming and diving teams will be well represented at this week's Arena Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, which starts Thursday and finishes Saturday.

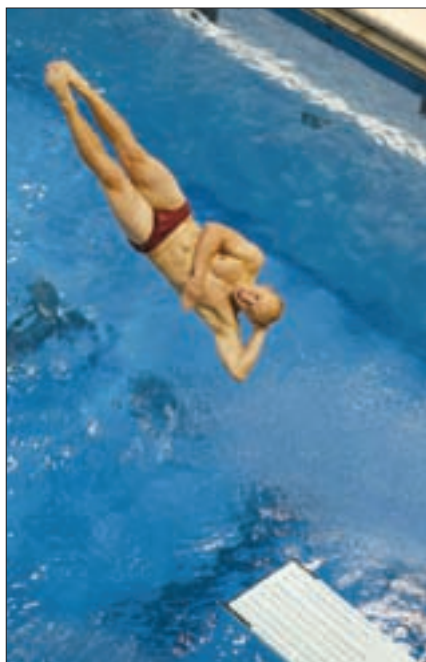
The Grand Prix, the second of six events in the 2014-15 Arena Pro Swim Series, will feature six different University of Alabama athletes all hailing from different countries. Anton McKee (Iceland), Kristian Gkolomeev (Greece), Brett Walsh (South Africa), Pavel Romanov (Russia), Emma Saunders (England) and Kaylin Burchell (USA) will all participate in the Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix will take place in "long course" 50-meter pools, which are the same size as the pools used in international events such as the World Championships and the Olympics as opposed to the "short course" 25-meter pools, in which NCAA events take place.

"We have two parallel things going on with our top athletes," coach Dennis Pursley said. "One is to do everything we can to prepare to be at our best in the upcoming NCAA championship competitions. At the same time, many of them are preparing to try to qualify for the opportunity to represent their respective countries in international competition."

Pursley said the selected athletes participating in this week's event don't need to be fully rested because the event will serve as more of a tune-up and an opportunity to get experience swimming in a larger pool. The actual qualifying meets for the international competitions will come later in the year.

"We do not want to deviate from or compromise our preparation for the other championship competitions



Selected athletes from the UA swimming and diving team will partake in the Arena Grand Prix, which will include long and short course swimming events.

UA Athletics

which will soon follow," he said.

This will serve as the second to last event for the participating athletes before they compete in the SEC Championships, which take place in Auburn in mid-February. The swimming and diving team's last full meet will take place Jan. 23, when it hosts the University of Cincinnati.

"We are continuing to close the gap between us and the top ranked teams in the country, that is our goal," Pursley said. "As long as we are improving and closing the gap that eventually we are going to be competing for those championship titles. I think this team has continued to progress this year. We are not probably where we ultimately want to be in any respect, yet, but we are getting closer and closer."

COLUMN | NFL



Originally ruled a catch, the play made by Dez Bryant (88) was overturned by official review. Tribune News Service

One call does not decide a game

By Terrin Waack

A National Football League game is 60 minutes. That's 60 minutes a team has to prove that it is better than its opponent. With those 60 minutes, there are a variety of plays that can be made. One play won't decide an entire game.

This past Sunday, the Dallas Cowboys took on the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field in the NFC Divisional Round. After falling to the Packers 26-21, the Cowboys' dream of making it to the Super Bowl died, and now the coaches and players must focus on the off-season.

The game was an intense one.

During the fourth quarter, Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo threw the football to Dez Bryant for a huge fourth-down conversion. After the play, Packers head coach Mike McCarthy challenged the call. To the shock of many Cowboys fans, the call was ruled an incompletion and overturned, giving the Packers the ball.

Bryant's face as the referee made the announcement was one many won't forget - pure shock.

When looking back on the play over and over again, it's clear the referee made the right decision, no matter how crucial that call was.

NFL head of officials Dean Blandino tweeted that afternoon, "Bryant going to the ground. By rule he must hold onto it throughout entire process of contacting the ground. He didn't so it is incomplete."

When told he hadn't maintained possession of the ball throughout, Bryant argued he was making a football move. He, like Blandino, also resorted to Twitter to express his feelings.

"As I went to the ground I rolled over and I tipped the ball to gain better control. We lost and I accept it but please change that rule," he tweeted Sunday night.

This isn't the first time this type of call has gained much attention.

Back in 2010, the same type of reversal call was made. With a potential game-winning touchdown, the completing the process rule was called against Calvin Johnson of the Detroit Lions. This call was also made by the same referee as Sunday, Gene Steratore.

A rule is a rule. The referee made the correct call and the outcome of the game was not determined by it. With there being 60 minutes in a game, there are an abundance of opportunities to make big plays.

But the catch is that players need to be sure to complete the plays the correct way or else they will be called out on it.