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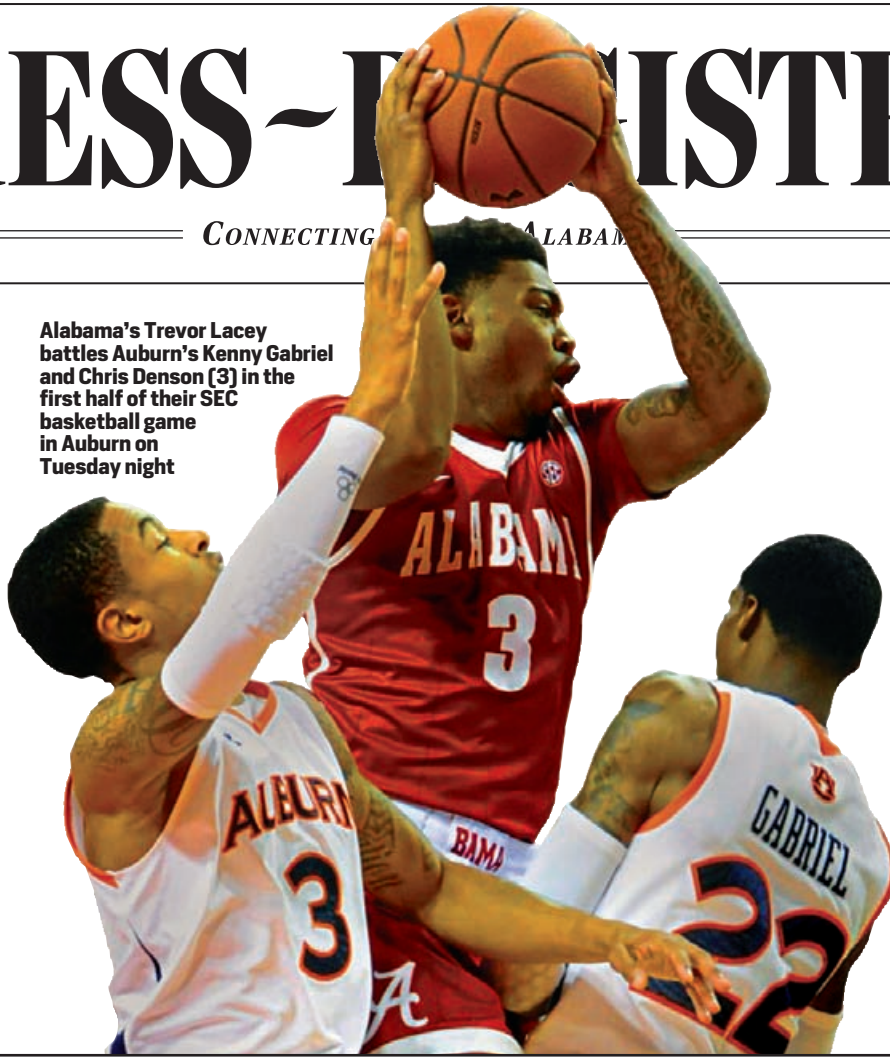
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
8
2012



'I'VE HAD A BLAST'

World Series MVP and former USA Jaguar David Freese pays a visit to Mobile for First Pitch banquet
SPORTS, PAGE 1B

Alabama's Trevor Lacey battles Auburn's Kenny Gabriel and Chris Denson (3) in the first half of their SEC basketball game in Auburn on Tuesday night



Bama 'bench presses' Auburn!

The Crimson Tide backups step up big in 68-50 road win over Tigers
SPORTS, PAGE 1B

STATE OF STATE

Bentley opposes any tax hikes

Governor also vows to reduce the size of government and see that state adheres to budgets

By **DAVID WHITE**
Birmingham News

MONTGOMERY — Gov. Robert Bentley in his State of the State speech Tuesday vowed to chop the size of government, oppose tax increases and make sure the state lives within its means in budgets he soon will propose for next year.

"The process of cutting, reducing and saving taxpayers money will never stop as long as I'm governor," Bentley said in his speech to lawmakers, Cabinet members and others, delivered on the first day of this year's regular session of the Legislature.

"I will oppose any effort to raise taxes on Alabama families, and I will veto any tax increase," Bentley said.

Bentley vowed to propose legislation to consolidate some state agencies, but gave no details.

See Bentley Page 8A

INSIDE TODAY

Revising state's immigration law will be biggest challenge facing Legislature
GEORGE TALBOT/1C

Correction

A Sunday photo caption on Page 5C gave incorrect information about a Mardi Gras float and maskers in Saturday afternoon's parade downtown. Those maskers and the float, which depicted Mobile Mardi Gras legend Joe Cain, were part of the Bayport Parading Society procession.

STEVEN GREEN FUNERAL SERVICES SET TODAY

Can more be done for police families?

Mobile's pension has no special provision for officers who are killed in line of duty



Photos by **MIKE KITTRELL**/Staff Photographer

A police honor guard stands watch over the Honor Flag for slain officer Steven Green on Tuesday at Mobile police headquarters. A memorial book (below) has been placed in the lobby at police headquarters for the public to sign. It will be available from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. until Friday, after which it will be presented to Green's family.

By **ROBERT McCLENDON**
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Mobile City Council members on Tuesday uniformly expressed their respect for slain police Officer Steven Green, offering their thoughts and prayers to his wife, Valerie, and three children.

But Terry Lilley, chairman of the Mobile Police and Firefighters Pension Fund Board, told the council that it could do even more for the Green family, and any others who might face the same circumstances.

The pension fund rules, as currently written, have

See Can more Page 4A



Donations for Green family

Donations for the Steven Green family can be sent to the Mobile Police Law Enforcement Foundation at 2460 Government St., Mobile, AL 36606, or made at any branch of Community Bank and Mortgage.

Obama applauds Alabama students

President impressed with work of three Monroeville eighth-graders honored in White House Science Fair

By **GEORGE R. ALTMAN**
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WASHINGTON — Three Monroeville Junior High School students were honored as part of the White House Science Fair on Tuesday, getting the opportunity to meet the president, explain their robotics work and even hand him a stuffed animal — using the long, remote-controlled arm of one of the robots they designed and built.

Morgan Ard said she was shaking and "saying a little prayer that everything would go all right" as President Barack Obama approached their display. Robert Knight tried to stay calm and handle meeting with the president the same way that he handled robotics competitions in Alabama, he said. And when Titus Walker used a video game-style controller to maneuver the robot into position, pick up the bald eagle stuffed animal and lift it up to the president, the entire operation went flawlessly.

See Monroeville Page 4A



GEORGE ALTMAN/Press-Register

Monroeville Junior High School eighth-grader Morgan Ard explains her team's robotics work to President Barack Obama at the White House on Tuesday, as Obama takes a stuffed animal lifted up to him by a robot that was designed and built by Ard and classmates Robert Knight and Titus Walker.

Chinese plant brings needed jobs to state

A nearly \$200 million incentives deal helps bring Golden Dragon Copper to Wilcox County

By **MICHAEL TOMBERLIN**
Birmingham News

Nearly \$200 million in state and local incentives helped lure China's Golden Dragon Copper to

build a \$100 million copper tubing plant in Wilcox County and create up to 500 jobs in the Alabama county with the highest unemployment rate.

Golden Dragon Copper inked a deal Tuesday to build the plant in Pine Hill in Wilcox County, a year after it announced and then backed out plans for a similar project in neighboring Clarke County.

The plant will operate as GD Copper (USA) Inc., with initial plans to hire 300 workers in the first three years and the possibility of adding 200 more later.

AIDT, the state's worker training program, will handle hiring and training for the company. The Alabama Department of Transportation and local governments also committed to assisting with some site preparation, access and

infrastructure improvements.

GD Copper's investment and job creation qualifies for certain statutory incentives such as tax abatements the state gives to manufacturers, but Greg Canfield, director of the Alabama Development Office, said in an interview that Alabama committed to \$20 million in cash payments if GD

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Today 67°
Mostly sunny

Tonight 42°
Mostly clear

Complete Weather 6C