

6 STORY  
LINES

# A NIGHT AT THE TALLADEGA SHORT TRACK



Coming in this weekend's Star.

The start of region  
play offer intriguing  
matchups. 1C.

# The Anniston Star

Friday, September 3, 2021

A home-owned newspaper

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL COMMENTARY

### JSU flops, but UAB had plenty to do with that

**MONTGOMERY** — When UAB won the coin toss Wednesday night, Jacksonville State took the ball.

And, when the game official asked UAB what direction they wanted to kick off, one of the Blazers' captains simply said, "To the road," pointing toward a road you could see past one of the Cramton Bowl end zones.

Before the night ended, they pushed JSU out of the stadium and to the road, as well.

There's a difference between an FBS football team that's allowed to have 85 on scholarship, and an FCS team that can have 63, and that was obvious Wednesday.

On top of that, there's a difference



**Mark Edwards**  
Sports Editor

between UAB and any other Group-of-Five FBS team JSU could've scheduled.

The Gamecocks weren't going to beat UAB in their season-opening ESPN showdown Wednesday in Montgomery. This one should've belonged to the

Blazers, and it did 31-0.

Could the Gamecocks have put up a better fight? Yes.

If you're a JSU fan and you're mad about what you saw Wednesday night, do you have good reason? Sure.

Jacksonville State has played FBS schools before and made a good showing. Ask Auburn. Ask Florida State. Definitely ask Ole Miss.

Don't ask UAB.

The Gamecocks' offense has a veteran quarterback, a veteran corps of running backs, a veteran offensive line, and a veteran play-caller, and it wasn't fun for JSU faithful to watch that group get shut out for the first time in John Grass' eight years as head football coach.

The Gamecocks crossed the 50 only four times. The closest they got to the end zone was the UAB 36 before the final garbage-time drive reached

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JSU Photo

Jacksonville State wide receiver P.J. Wells after a play against UAB on Wednesday night.

## COVER STORY

### 'We continue to struggle'



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Kandi Williams, right, assistant vice president of nursing at Regional Medical Center in Anniston, and Bridgett Magouirk, director of occupational health and wellness at RMC, stand outside of the former Tenth Street School that is now being used as a clinic for COVID patients.

### Officials see multiple causes behind nursing shortage

**BY BILL WILSON**

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A shortage of nurses not only locally but across the nation has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic to the point where hospital staffs are struggling to manage the daily patient count.

The reasons for the dwindling number of nurses are multiple, according to Kandi Williams, assistant vice president of nursing at Regional Medical Center in Anniston.

First off, she said, "We've always have

had a nursing shortage because we don't have a lot of nursing programs putting out nurses. That was pre-pandemic. Now that the pandemic has started you've got a lot of different factors."

Secondly, "Nurses are becoming very tired and burned out and they're leaving the nursing profession altogether, because it is so much of a burden for them to carry taking care of these COVID patients," Williams said.

"But we continue to struggle to be able to get enough nurses to take care of our patients because our patient counts are increasing due to COVID as well as medi-

cal issues. We struggle day to day to make sure that we have the staff to take care of those patients," she said.

Williams noted that it's not a bed shortage, it's a personnel shortage. RMC was at capacity in its three COVID wards on Wednesday, forcing the staff to treat COVID patients in the emergency room.

"We have no more staffed beds to be able to put them in, so the overflow stays in the ER — that's why you show 10-plus COVID patients in the ER. If we had more staff we could accommodate more patients, but there's simply not enough

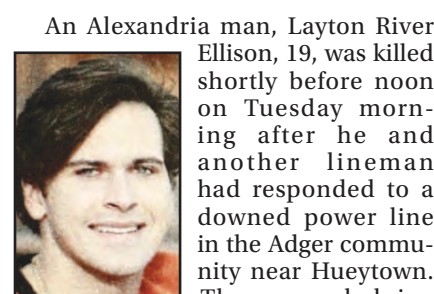
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## ALEXANDRIA

### Lineman dies while responding to storm damage

**BY SHERRY KUGHN**

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**ELLISON**

An Alexandria man, Layton River Ellison, 19, was killed shortly before noon on Tuesday morning after he and another lineman had responded to a downed power line in the Adger community near Hueytown. They were helping restore power after Hurricane Ida's winds

affected the Gulf and continued its path through Alabama.

Ellison was a well-known athlete at Alexandria High School in football and baseball, having played for the

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## ANNISTON

### Berman Museum closing to update exhibit halls

**BY BEN NUNNALLY**

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The Berman Museum will close for most of the next two months — but come back better than before, the Anniston Museums and Gardens announced recently.

The museum will be closed for construction starting this Tuesday through Oct. 7, then temporarily re-open for Fall Fest, before closing for another month

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## OBITUARIES, 6C

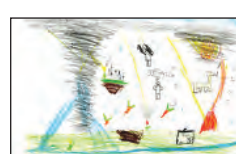
Harold Thomas Cheatham, Wellington  
Bobby Lee Cooley, Atlanta, Ga.  
Kerry S. Davis, Anniston  
Hampton Tecumseh Gaskins V, Upland, Calif.  
Chauncey Deon Hutchinson, Anniston

Celia R. Johnson, Gadsden  
Bobby Samuel Owens, Trussville  
Jonathan "Joe" Ragland, Anniston  
Sharon Ritter, Anniston  
Effie Ross, Anniston  
James "Jimmy" Smith, Anniston

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## WEATHER, 8C



**MOSTLY SUNNY**  
HIGH: 89 LOW: 64  
Lee Pritchett,  
Pleasant Valley Elem.

Wakefield's  
Labor Day  
Weekend  
**SALE**

**BOGO SHOES 50% OFF**  
Friday & Saturday Buy One Pair Get One Pair 50% Off\*  
In Our Shoe Department  
\*50% Off Pair Must Be Equal or Lesser Value. Excludes Advertised Sale Shoes, Birkenstock, Chacos, Crocs, ON CLOUD & HOKA Running Shoes, Uggs, \$10 and under shoes.

**Super Savings**  
Throughout the Store  
Today ~ Saturday  
Shop 10-6  
Monday ~ Saturday  
Closed Sunday and Labor Day