



# Given the boot

Marinelli, Crennel, Mangini out as NFL coaches | 4C

UA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UA opens  
Crimson Tide  
Holiday Classic  
with victory | 1C

# The Tuscaloosa News

TUSCALOOSA, NORTHPORT, WEST ALABAMA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2008 50¢

WWW.TUSCALOOSANEWS.COM

## Riley creates task force to investigate bingo

### Governor says electronic machines like those at Greentrack are illegal

By Dana Beyeler  
Montgomery Bureau Chief

MONTGOMERY | Gov. Bob Riley has established a task force to investigate gambling operations around the state, including electronic bingo machines like those in use at the Greentrack Entertainment Complex in Eutaw.



Should electronic bingo machines be illegal? Vote at [www.tuscaloosaneews.com](http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com)

Riley held a news conference at the Capitol on Monday to announce that retired Jefferson County District Attorney David Barber will head the Governor's Task Force on Illegal Gambling.

The task force circumvents Attorney General Troy King, who has determined that some electronic gambling machines are legal. Riley appointed King in 2004 but disagrees with his interpretation of Alabama's gambling laws. Riley contends that electronic bingo machines are disguised slot machines prohibited by state law. The issue is not the legality of bingo itself, but whether the game played on the electronic machines is legitimately bingo.

"If it looks like a slot machine, it sounds like bingo." — David Barber



David Barber, left, the new special prosecutor for the Governor's Task Force on Illegal Gambling, addresses a Capitol news conference as Gov. Bob Riley looks on.

PHOTO | ROBIN COOPER, ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### James Bevel | 1936-2008



STAFF PHOTOS | MICHAEL E. PALMER

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan speaks at the funeral of civil rights leader James Luther Bevel in Eutaw on Monday. At left is a drawing of Bevel and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Controversial civil rights leader buried in Eutaw

### Speakers says Bevel's good deeds transcended incest conviction

By Jason Morton  
Staff Writer

EUTAW | For Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, the civil rights achievements of the Rev. James Luther Bevel should stand apart from any transgressions in his personal life.

Farrakhan traveled to this rural West Alabama town Monday to eulogize Bevel, one of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s most trusted and influential advisers, who died Dec. 19 at age 72 of pancreatic cancer.

Bevel had lived here later in life, after he was found guilty of incest in Virginia for having sex more than a decade ago with a then-teenage daughter. He was convicted in April, but was released on bond in November while appealing his 15-year sentence.

Although no one, including Farrakhan, addressed the conviction by name during a memorial service at Greater Christ Temple Apostolic Church, the basis of Farrakhan's message was that all men sin and that the merits of their lives can only be fully realized after they are dead.

"I don't know nothing about James Bevel's personal life." — Rev. Bevel | 7A



A mourner holds a program with a picture of Bevel on the cover. Bevel was one of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s most trusted advisers.

## Tide suspends star lineman Andre Smith for Sugar Bowl



Alabama's Andre Smith scores a game-tying touchdown during the fourth quarter at the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., in December 2006.

### Tackle was being investigated over improper contact with a sports agent

By Christopher Walsh  
Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS | The University of Alabama football team will be without its most honored player when it faces No. 7 Utah on Friday night, as junior left tackle Andre Smith was suspended from the team and sent home.

#### INSIDE

■ Smith's career highlights | 7A

Although university officials had no comment on the reason for the suspension, The Tuscaloosa News has confirmed Smith was being investigated by the school regarding improper contact with a sports agent.

According to sources, that investigation involved phone records and a Smith family member. Alabama head coach Nick Saban issued a statement: "Andre Smith has been suspended from participating in the Sugar Bowl due to a violation of team rules and policies. The University of Alabama, the team and the football program are more important than any individual player. Everyone on our team depends on each other to be responsible and make good choices and decision relative to their actions." — Andre Smith has done outstanding work since he was drafted in 2007. — See Sports | 7A

## Tuscaloosa resident may be oldest man in nation

### Gerontologists dispute claim that artist is 112

By Desiree Hunter  
The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY | The weekend death of the nation's oldest man at 112 has put into question whether self-taught Alabama artist Frank Cal-

loway is also 112, as listed by Alabama officials, with a birth date that would now make him the oldest.

Top gerontologists dispute the age claim, citing a lack of a birth certificate or baptismal records and Calloway's youthful appearance.

Calloway gained wide notice this year for his murals drawn on long sheets of paper at the Alice M. Kidd Nursing Facility on the Bryce Hospital Campus in Northport. — See Obituary | 2A



Frank Calloway, a resident at the Alice M. Kidd Nursing Facility on the Bryce Hospital Campus, is shown in 2007.

STAFF PHOTO | DUSTY COMPTON



INSIDE: VOL. 190 | NO. 365 | 4 Sections  
Bridge 9C Crossword 9C Opinion 6A  
Business 4B Dear Abby 2D Sports 1C  
Classifieds 6B Movies 3D Television 5D  
Comics 4D Obituaries 2B Today 1D

DEAL ANNOUNCED  
U.S. government buys  
\$5 billion stake in  
GMAC. | 3A



High 66  
Low 35

