



Alabama women's basketball riding its best start into SEC play

SPORTS, 1B

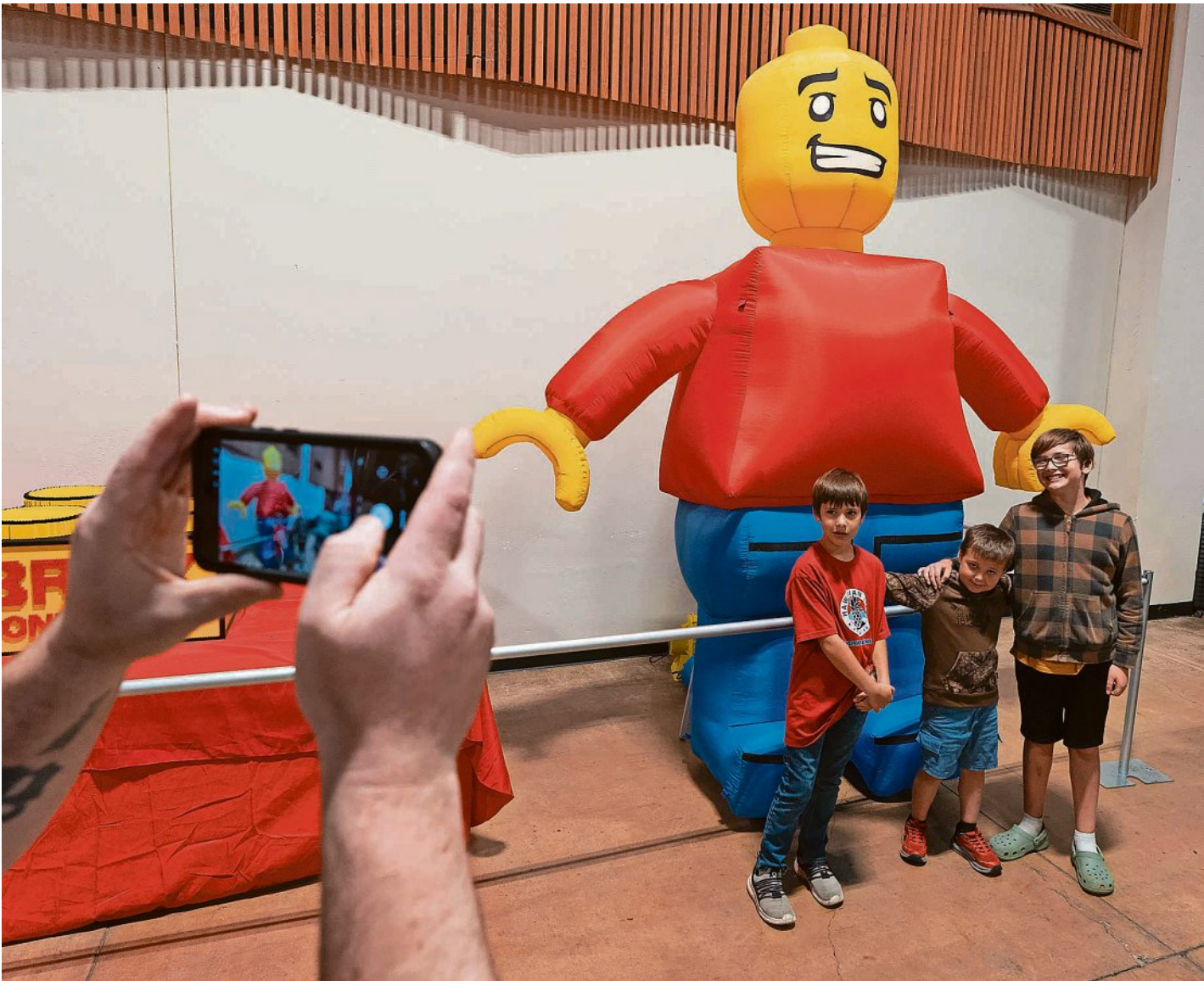
The Gadsden Times

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Building anticipation



LEGO fans pose for a photo with a giant LEGO minifigure at the Eugene Brick LEGO convention in Eugene, Oregon, on November 1. CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD

Montgomery's first LEGO Convention is coming in August

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

For years, LEGO fans in Montgomery have admired massive brick-built creations online or traveled out of town to experience them in person. Now, those towering builds and creative worlds are finally coming closer to home.

This summer, Montgomery is set to host its first-ever LEGO convention, a major brick-building event that will bring professional LEGO artists, immersive displays and hands-on creativity to the city.

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A guest explores LEGO figures at Indiana Comic Con 2025 on March 14 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. MICHELLE PEMBERTON/INDYSTAR

AL to see 128 UPS layoffs

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

UPS plans to lay off 128 workers in Montgomery, according to a state WARN notice filed Dec. 23.

The Alabama layoffs are part of a broader workforce reduction at UPS, which announced in October that it had cut 48,000 jobs nationwide across its management and operations divisions, as the company works to streamline costs.

Here's what we know.

Which UPS jobs were affected by layoffs?

In an Oct. 28 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, UPS said that about 34,000 of the eliminated positions came from its operational workforce, including drivers, while another 14,000 jobs were cut from management ranks during the nationwide reduction announced that month.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Dykes explained during the company's earnings call that operational cuts included full-time drivers who accepted voluntary buyouts, with about 90% of those employees leaving the company by Aug. 31.

Chief Executive Officer Carol Tomé described the effort as "the most significant strategic shift in our company's history," in a news release.

Earlier in 2025, UPS announced plans to lay off roughly 20,000 workers and close more than 70 facilities, citing new or increased tariffs and changes in economic conditions in the U.S. and internationally.

What to know about the Alabama layoff

According to the Alabama WARN listing, the Montgomery layoffs are scheduled to begin on Feb. 23. The notice, filed on December 23, did not specify whether the affected workers would be offered transfers or severance.

What is a WARN notice?

A WARN notice is an alert

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The trendiest pet names in Alabama are in, Rover reports

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Move over, Bella and Max, 2025's pets are showing some personality. Rover's latest naming report uncovers a wave of bold, whimsical, and unexpectedly adorable names sweeping the country, with Alabama chiming in with a fan-favorite of its own.

Rover's newly released Trending Pet Names of 2025 report combines more than a million new pet profiles with a survey of 1,000 pet parents to reveal how names are chosen. About one-third of owners already had a name in mind, but 45% pick a name based on their pet's personality or appearance.



Rover's newly released Trending Pet Names of 2025 report combines more than a million new pet profiles with a survey of 1,000 pet parents to reveal how names are chosen. GETTY IMAGES

While national trends show quirky, creative names rising, Alabama stands out for sticking closer to beloved, famil-

iar favorites.

Here is Alabama, and Rover's, most trending pet name for 2025.

What are the most popular pet names in Alabama in 2025?

In Alabama, pet parents are showing a mix of classic tastes and regional flair when naming their furry companions. According to Rover's 2025 report, Brodie is the top name for puppies in the state, while Jack reigns supreme among kittens.

What are the most popular pet names across the U.S. in 2025?

Across the U.S., pets are getting

names as bold and playful as their personalities. Rover's 2025 report shows trending puppy names like Elphie, Tsuki, Caesar and Mufasa skyrocketing in popularity, while kittens are being called Tater, Milton, Pricilla and Gatsby. From pop-culture nods to quirky and whimsical choices, today's pet names reveal a national appetite for creativity alongside timeless favorites like Luna and Charlie.

2025 pet names are getting creative

Pets aren't just classic names anymore, owners are thinking outside the

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