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Montgomery Advertiser

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Prayer vigil held in downtown Montgomery

Samuel Ella Williams, from left, Gussie Jackson Hoskins and Rosalyn Stokes take part in a prayer vigil at Court Square Fountain in downtown Montgomery, on Oct. 8. Nearly 50 people attended the vigil. PHOTOS BY MICKEY WELSH / ADVERTISER

Marty Roney
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

About 50 people gathered Wednesday evening, Oct. 8, for a prayer vigil at the Court Square Fountain in downtown Montgomery. The vigil included songs and prayers.

The gathering was held after a mass shooting in downtown Montgomery Saturday, Oct. 4. The shooting happened about 11:30 p.m. near the intersection of Bibb and Commerce streets.

Court Square is within sight of the shooting scene. There was a large group standing on the sidewalk on Bibb Street near a business when the incident started, Police Chief James Graboys said Oct 5.

Jeremiah Morris, 17, and Shalandia Williams, 43, both of Montgomery, were among those killed, police said. Twelve people were injured in the gunfire. Seven of the victims were under the age of 20 and the youngest was 16 years old, Graboys said.

Contact Montgomery Advertiser reporter Marty Roney at mroney@gannett.com. To support his work, please subscribe to the Montgomery Advertiser.

Attendees hold hands and sing during a prayer vigil held at Court Square Fountain in downtown Montgomery.

Candace McGown sings as a prayer vigil is held at Court Square Fountain in downtown Montgomery.

Rosalyn Stokes leads a prayer during a prayer vigil at Court Square Fountain in downtown Montgomery.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Leah Williams of JAGHS

Sarah Clifton
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

The results for the Montgomery Advertiser's latest Student of the Week poll are in, and now it's time to count the thousands of votes and announce the winning student.

Leah Williams, a sophomore at JAG High School, won this week's poll with 448 votes.

Leah has been described by her teachers as a student with an outstanding academic performance and dedication in the classroom who consistently maintains excellent grades. She sets a strong example for her peers through her work ethic, determination and positive attitude.

In addition to excelling academically, she also shines as a student-athlete on the volleyball team, demonstrating leadership, discipline and school spirit both on and off the court.

Congratulations, Leah! Student of the Week honors the hard work that high school students across the River Region put into their studies, their schools and their greater

See STUDENT, Page 2A

Alabama troops face pay delay amid shutdown

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the government shutdown enters its ninth day, military service members and civilian contractors face uncertainty over their upcoming paychecks.

Alabama, home to several major military installations including Redstone Arsenal and Maxwell Air Force Base, could see thousands of active-duty military members not receiving their paychecks because of Congress's financial impasse.

When must Congress reach an agreement for military members to receive their pay, and what actions can they take if they do not receive pay? Here's what to know.

Will Alabama military members get paid on Oct. 15?

Suppose the government shutdown is not resolved by Oct. 13. In that case, more than 1.3 million active-duty troops, National Guard members and Department of Defense civilians won't receive their scheduled paycheck on Oct. 15. Oct. 13 is the deadline to process payments for the troops.

See TROOPS, Page 2A

Saban crab named to honor coach

Gary Cosby Jr.
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nick Saban has a football field named in his honor. His foundation has a street named for it. The Saban name is prevalent across Tuscaloosa. Now, the man known as "the GOAT (the Greatest of All Time)," has been enshrined in the annals of paleontology with a prehistoric crab species named in his honor.

Adiel A. Klompmaker, curator of paleontology at the University of Alabama Museums, has discovered and named an extinct crab after the University of Alabama's legendary football coach. The small crab fossil was found in Lowndes County at a place that was once a coastal region about 65 million years ago. Klompmaker and colleagues named the species, *Costacopluma nicksabani*, but it can be called the Saban crab.

"These fossils were found in an area in Lowndes County over the last 15 years," Klompmaker said. "The second author on the paper, George Martin, has been collecting fossils there a couple of times a year for the past 15 years. I was there the last five years, collecting fossils alongside him. Over time, we collected hundreds and hundreds of fossils."

See CRAB, Page 2A

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