

# OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

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## AUBURN APPROVES \$305M NORTH END ZONE PROJECT



COURTESY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

This rendering from the Auburn Board of Trustees meeting materials shows the planned North Endzone Multipurpose Events Center.

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The most expensive construction project in the history of not just Jordan-Hare Stadium but all of Auburn University is moving forward.

The Auburn Board of Trustees gave unanimous final project approval on Friday for the Jordan-Hare Stadium North Endzone

Multipurpose Events Center. The project is effectively phase 2 of a north end zone project that began with the north end zone scoreboard and covers an area that has been discussed by Auburn administration for more than a decade.

"I'm going to try and not be emotional about this.... This will be one of those moments where you can come back to this facility 20 years

from now and be happier about it," Auburn athletics director John Cohen said at the AUBOT meeting. "This is a moment for Auburn University, the university, not the athletic department but the entire university, and everything that encompasses. I couldn't be happier, more thrilled."

Please see EXPANSION, Page A2

This rendering shows the plaza will provide an elevated connection between the main concourse level of the north end zone addition and the second level of Petrie Hall, according to the memorandum from AU Facilities management.



## AUBURN FOOTBALL Auburn to add 3K premium seats at Jordan-Hare

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Auburn's plans for the north end zone of Jordan-Hare Stadium will not end outside of the stadium as some of the bleacher seating inside the stadium will be removed to build club seating.

The Auburn University Board of Trustees gave final project approval on Friday for the Jordan-Hare Stadium North Endzone Multipurpose Events Center, the most expensive construction project in AU's history. The majority of the project involves creating facilities and spaces that can be used year-round, as well as concession and bathroom options on game days, but there will also be more than 3,000 new premium seating and club experiences added in the project, AU said.

"We will be taking out some of the seats at the bottom ground level to create a field club, and then in the top corners and as we hit the top levels, as well," Jim Carroll, the vice president of AU Facilities Management, said at the AUBOT meeting Friday.

The new facility will be a seven-story, approximately 300,000 square-foot addition to the stadium with "new campus and gameday kitchens, flexible dining and concession venues, a multi-purpose hall and ballroom, intentionally flexible spaces for campus and gameday usage and new club and premium suites," according to the resolution in the board's meeting materials.

AU athletics announced the project, which it called Jordan-Hare North, after the approval from the AUBOT.

Auburn athletics director John Cohen confirmed that some longstanding ticket holders in the north end zone will be displaced by the installation of some premium seating. He said he did not have an exact number of seats that will be affected.

"We're going to put our arms around them and say, 'We're going to work with you, and we're going to find the right spot.' We know that this is going to be an inconvenience, and it's one of those, pardon-our-progress moments, but it's something that has to be done," Cohen said. "I feel like even those folks that are probably going to get displaced a little bit, will see the finished product and completely understand what we're trying to do."

Please see JORDAN-HARE, Page A2

## Phenix City schools went on lockdown after threat

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Two Phenix City schools went on lockdown after the district received an anonymous threat on Friday, according to Phenix City Schools.

On Friday morning, PCS said they received information that prompted the district and school leaders to take precautionary measures, including placing Phenix City Elementary School and Phenix City Intermediate School on lockdown.

PCS said at all times, the safety and security of their students and staff remain their top priority. They said that school administrators worked closely with the

Phenix City Police Department throughout the situation to ensure a coordinated and effective response.

"We are grateful for the strong collaboration and swift action of the Phenix City Police Department in support of our safety efforts," PCS said. "We also sincerely thank our parents and guardians for their continued trust and support of Phenix City Schools."

Phenix City police are continuing to investigate the source of the threat, and additional information will be shared, according to PCS.

The Opelika-Auburn News reached out to the Phenix City Police Department for comment.



STOCK PHOTO

Two Phenix City schools went on lockdown after the district received an anonymous threat on Friday, according to Phenix City Schools.

### Weather

Partly sunny and nice  
High 80 • Low 57  
Forecast • A8

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