


FORECAST

TODAY SAT SUN

 81°/70° 82°/68° 85°/70°
 Complete forecast, A2

REGION



Central Fire adds truck to fleet
 Central Fire and Rescue has purchased a \$250,000 fire engine and officials hope the new addition will help with a variety of emergency calls. **B1**

LIFE



Specialized zoo tour
 People with dementia are often overlooked, but not on this outing. **D1**

NATION



Treasury: \$250 bill featuring Trump in the works
 Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Thursday that his department has prepared the design for a \$250 bill featuring President Donald Trump. **A3**

WEIRD NEWS

RFK Jr. posts video of himself wrangling snakes
 Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Tuesday posted a video of himself wrangling live snakes on the patio at Dr. Oz's Florida beach house.
 The health secretary grabbed the two or three hissing North American racer snakes in the corner of the deck as his TV star wife Cheryl Hines tried in vain to get him to stop.
 As RFK Jr. held the snakes by their tails, one of them bit him on the finger, prompting another shriek of dismay from the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star.
 Black racer snakes are not poisonous but can cause a pinprick sensation if they bite. They are common in the southern U.S.
 — *Tribune News Service*

YOUR OPINION

Thursday's question: Of the five teams from Alabama in the NCAA baseball tournament, how many will earn a Super Regional berth?
4: 2.7% **1:** 12.3%
3: 20.5% **None:** 13.7%
2: 50.7%
Today's Question: Who is to blame for higher gas and grocery prices?
 Vote at [TimesDaily.com](https://www.timesdaily.com)

Vol. 137 No. 128
 Celebrity news...A2 Sports.....C1
 Classified.....C4 Obituaries.....B2
 Comics.....D3 Opinion.....A4
 Crossword.....D4 Region.....B1
 Life.....D1 Weather.....A2



TIMES DAILY

FLORENCE ■ MUSCLE SHOALS ■ SHEFFIELD ■ TUSCUMBIA ■ NORTHWEST ALABAMA

COLLEGE SOFTBALL:
 Alabama wins WCWS opener. **C1**



Friday, May 29, 2026 [timesdaily.com](https://www.timesdaily.com) timesdaily @TimesDaily

FLORENCE

Videoboard speakers mark latest stadium step



A crane boom extends over Pine Street near the University of North Alabama as crews work Thursday to install speakers on the video scoreboard at the new Bank Independent Stadium in Florence. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]

By Bernie Delinski
 Staff Writer

FLORENCE — Assembly of the videoboard at Bobby Wallace Field at Bank Independent Stadium has begun and stadium chairback seats are set to be put into place at any time.

A crane began bringing in speakers to the videoboard Thursday and the project is expected to continue through Sunday.

Pine Street from W. Mattiel Street to the front of Flowers Hall on the campus of the University of North Alabama will remain closed until the work is completed.

Upcoming construction stages include work on the north end zone berm beginning in June and laying down the turf starting July 20, construction officials said.

Fite Building Company began construction on the \$53.367 million stadium in June 2024. The 10,000-seat

SEE STADIUM, A5



A detour arrow board directs traffic at the intersection of Irvine Avenue and North Pine Street near the University of North Alabama campus as Pine Street is closed Thursday in Florence to allow crews to install speakers on the video scoreboard at the new Bank Independent Stadium.



A crane is set up on Pine Street as workers on aerial lifts assemble the video scoreboard structure at the new Bank Independent Stadium on the University of North Alabama campus Thursday in Florence. Pine Street was closed to allow the crane to hoist speaker equipment for the scoreboard.

MONTGOMERY

Ivey pushes back special election deadline

By Claire Harrison
 Alabama Daily News

MONTGOMERY — Hours after Alabama asked the U.S. Supreme Court to allow the state to use a GOP-friendly congressional map struck down by a federal court, Gov. Kay Ivey pushed back a deadline related to the administration of the Aug. 11 special primary election.



Ivey
 When Ivey announced the special election earlier this month, she set May 29 as the deadline for Secretary of State

Wes Allen to certify with probate judges the list of opposed candidates on the ballot.

Ivey has now changed that deadline to June 3 — next Wednesday — in light of the ongoing legal fight over Alabama's congressional maps. The change puts pressure on an already tight turnaround to facilitate an election.

The deadline was moved "to further ensure the state remains in the best position should it receive a favorable ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court," a press release from Ivey's office said.

The release called the federal three-judge panel's Tuesday decision prohibiting the use of the map "shameful." The state has appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, asking that the case be resolved by June 1.

Justice Clarence Thomas responded to the appeal and requested that the plaintiffs respond by Monday at 4 p.m., six hours later than the deadline the state requested.

Unless the Supreme Court vacates the injunction, the state cannot use the 2023 map. That map eliminates a majority-minority district and would likely lead to Republicans gaining another seat in the House.

The special election was seemingly called based on the assumption that Alabama will be permitted to use the map, with some candidates switching races to account for the 2023 district lines. It's not clear what happens next if the Supreme Court upholds the lower court's decision.

Ivey said Alabama is committed to the redistricting fight and that she fully supports the appeal.

"I am hopeful the Supreme Court quickly gives Alabama a favorable response so we can move forward with the August 11 Special Primary Election using our 2023 congressional map," Ivey said. "We remain in close contact with the Secretary of State's Office and the Attorney General's Office as the appeal process plays out and as our elections approach us."

The window for candidates to qualify with their parties ended on Friday. The Aug. 11 special primary will only take place in Alabama's 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th congressional districts.

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