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BUSINESS, 6A

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Alabama State gets largest donation in its history

Sarah Clifton
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Alabama State University received its biggest donation to date in its 158-year history from a single donor this month.

In what ASU President Dr. Quinton T. Ross Jr. described as a “defining moment in the history of Alabama State University” on Oct. 27, the university announced that it had received a \$38 million donation. That donation came from MacKenzie Scott, philanthropist and ex-wife of Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.

More inside

Who is Alabama State donor MacKenzie Scott? **2A**

“This is truly a pivotal moment in ASU’s history,” a statement from Ross shared to ASU’s Facebook states. “Ms. Scott’s generosity affirms Alabama State University’s reputation as a catalyst for excellence and innovation in higher education.”

This isn’t the first time Scott has donated a large sum of money to an HBCU. Maryland’s Morgan State University also received millions from Scott, as well as an organization dedicated to preserving Black historical sites, with each getting \$63 million and \$40 million respectively.

These unrestricted donations – which allow the organizations to utilize the money as they see fit – follow other large donations to the same two organizations from Scott in 2020.

“Your generosity represents an investment in our mission, our students, and our future,” Ross said on Facebook. “We didn’t know we were in your sights, but we are deeply honored that our work to move ASU forward has been recognized in such a profound way. This historic gift will empower generations to come.”

Sarah Clifton covers business for the Montgomery Advertiser. You can reach her at sclifton@montgomery-gannett.com or follow her on X @sarahgclifton. To support her work, please subscribe to the Montgomery Advertiser.



Morgan Wallen performs onstage for the 16th annual Darius and Friends St. Jude Benefit at Ryman Auditorium on June 2 in Nashville, Tennessee. JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Morgan Wallen is coming to Bryant-Denny Stadium

Concert on April 18 part of ‘Still the Problem’ tour

Mark Hughes Cobb
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Country star Morgan Wallen will play April 18, 2026, in the University of Alabama’s Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa.

An extension of his “Still the Problem” tour, visiting stadiums across the country, was announced with a new online site rollout on Oct. 30. The site lists 11 more cities he’ll visit in the U.S., playing 21 shows. Two more dates, June 26 and 27, were indicated, but blurred out, early in the morning. Tuscaloosa is thus far the only single-show visit listed.

Opening acts for the Bryant-Denny show will be Ella Langley, Vincent Mason and Zach John King, according to www.morganwallen.com.

Wallen is the best-selling country artist of the 21st century, holds several Billboard chart records and has won numerous awards.

Fans can register for “Still The Problem” presale tickets from now until 10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6. Presale codes allow for a maximum of six tickets, though receiving a presale code does not guarantee tickets; they will be on first-come, first-served basis. Presale tickets will go on sale Nov. 5.

Tickets go on sale starting at 10 a.m. Nov. 7, also on first-come, first-served basis. For registration issues, email register@aegpresents.com.

Sneedville, Tennessee-born singer-songwriter Wallen got his first big break

on the 2014 sixth season of NBC competition show “The Voice.” Though eliminated in the playoffs, he rode the TV spotlight into the studio, cutting EPs “Stand Alone” (2015) and “The Way I Talk” (2016) before his debut LP in 2018, “If I Know Me,” which went to No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums chart. It spent a record-breaking 114 weeks on the chart and sold triple platinum.

Followup albums “Dangerous: The Double Album” (2021), “One Thing at a Time” (2023), and “I’m the Problem” (2025) sold even better, selling multi-platinum, and topped out at No. 1.

He’s cut about two dozen singles, including No. 1 hits such as “Up Down,” “Whiskey Glasses,” “Chasin’ You,” “More Than My Hometown,” “7 Summers,” “Sand in My Boots,” “Wasted on You,” “You Proof,” “Thought You Should Know,” “Last Night,” “One

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Oldest city in Alabama was founded before statehood

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

With centuries of change, conflict and culture, Alabama’s history runs deep. The land that we now call the Yellowhammer State was originally home to Native tribes.

Alabama has shifted hands between Spain, France, Britain and the United States. Alabama became the 22nd state on Dec. 14, 1819, and the years that followed were shaped by agriculture, conflict over race and economics and a central role in the Civil War.

There’s one city that saw it all. Founded 117 years before Alabama became a

state, it’s the oldest city in Alabama.

What was the first city in Alabama?

Founded in 1702 by French colonist, Mobile is Alabama’s oldest city and one of the Gulf Coast’s earliest settlements. The original town was built on low ground just downstream from Fort Louis de la Louisiane. Brothers Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, both French Canadians, established the site to secure France’s claim over the vast Louisiana territory.

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Tugboats tow in the SS United States to dock at the port in Mobile on March 3. GREGG PACHKOWSKI/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL FILE

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