



Partial lunar eclipse happening on Aug. 27

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The Tuscaloosa News

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DEFAMATION VERDICT NEW YORK TIMES

Kai Spears wins \$9.25M

Jennifer Lindahl
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Alabama jury has awarded former Alabama basketball player Kai Spears \$9.25 million after finding The New York Times defamed him by incorrectly linking him to the 2023 killing of Jamea Harris in Tuscaloosa.

The eight-person federal jury reached its verdict Thursday following a nine-day trial.

Spears sued the Times in 2023 after the

newspaper reported that he was a passenger in a vehicle involved in the shooting.

The report was wrong. The passenger was an Alabama basketball team member, not Spears.

The Times later corrected the story and acknowledged the error.

Why Kai Spears sued The New York Times

Spears was a walk-on for Alabama

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A memorial for Jamea Harris on Grace Street next to the Houndstooth is seen May 25, 2023. GARY COSBY JR./TUSCALOOSA NEWS VIA REUTERS CONNECT FILE PHOTO

Tuscaloosa Italian restaurant closes for renovations

Jasmine Hollie
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

DePalma's Italian Cafe in downtown Tuscaloosa has temporarily closed its doors for renovations.

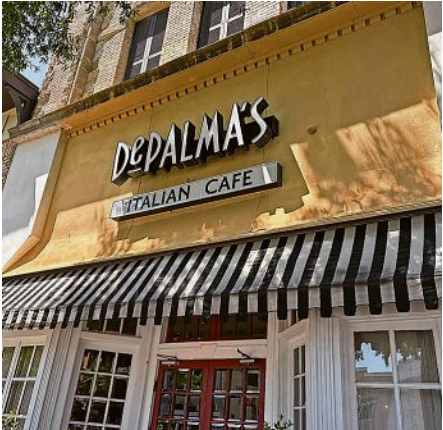
The restaurant, which opened more than 30 years ago at 2300 University Blvd., announced the temporary closure in a statement posted on its website, saying that the restaurant will be closed Aug. 15 through Aug. 31 for renovations ahead of the new school year and the busy month of September, which includes concerts, football games and other social gatherings in Tuscaloosa.

DePalma's statement reads:

"Please be advised that DePalmas will be CLOSED from August 15 to August 31 for minor renovations, preventive maintenance, and upkeep of the building and equipment. As we get ready for the new school year and September madness, we look forward to seeing you all very soon," the statement read.

Depalma's Italian Cafe has been a staple of downtown Tuscaloosa for nearly three decades, serving up favorites such as pizza, calzones, pasta dishes and its signature white-choco-

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DePalma's Italian Cafe, located at 2300 University Blvd. in downtown Tuscaloosa, is temporarily closed for renovations. The restaurant is expected to re-open in September.

KEN ROBERTS/TUSCALOOSA NEWS



The University of Alabama showed off the renovations to the President's Mansion with a media tour in Tuscaloosa on Aug. 18. An elevator was added, extensive work to restore the stucco on the exterior was done, and some minor work was done in the living spaces. PHOTOS BY GARY COSBY JR./TUSCALOOSA NEWS

Can you still take photos at the UA mansion?

Mark Hughes Cobb
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Right up front, there's a gate. But it's not closed.

Social media went mildly wild, as it will, when renovations to the University of Alabama President's Mansion included new fencing. Boo-birds feared the worst, thinking the fencing meant "Keep Out."

But it doesn't, said UA President Peter J. Mohler, who was able to move back into the 1841 Greek Revival-style mansion just a couple of weeks ago, following several months of work.

The gates are open, he said, and people can still take graduation or other photos on the rolling expanse of front lawn.

During overnight hours and some events, access will be restricted.

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