

Weather

Partly cloudy with showers and a few thunderstorms.

High: 92 Low: 73

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NORWAY HORROR

Reports: 80 killed in camp shooting, 7 in blast.

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Dick Salmon Murder

After 6 years, answers still elusive



The Saco gas station at the corner of Opelika and Dean roads in Auburn remains vacant six years after the unsolved killing of its 72-year-old owner, Dick Salmon.

BY ED ENOCH
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Jackie Salmon prays her husband was dead before he hit the floor of his gas station, that Dick Salmon's pain lasted seconds and not minutes as she rushed to the Saco station at the corner of Opelika and Dean roads, propelled by the dread something terrible had happened.

The couple's daughter, their only child and a doctor, offered the assurance the death was probably quick.

"I'm thankful," Jackie said. "If he had to go, I'm glad he went that way."

She doesn't want to believe

otherwise.

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Shot in the chest by an unknown assailant on July 22, 2005, 72-year-old Dick Salmon died in the small store he ran for more than 40 years.

Now, his Saco station stands vacant. Rust blisters the paint on the columns and rafters of the pavilion. Weeds grow in the seams of the concrete, and gas prices remain fixed at \$2.49.

Behind the store's glass front, the remnants of the business he loved are preserved. Dust powders the wooden desk, empty cigarette racks and oil filters in faded boxes that re-

main in the cramped office.

Salmon, who suffered from arthritis, had been robbed before — his life threatened, his wife said. But he refused to give up his business.

Jackie prays her husband's shooter will find God and that salvation will bring a confession in a case that has remained unsolved for six years. But she also hopes the shooter is punished, dying by lethal injection — or maybe a life behind bars with no chance of parole.

"Maybe I am a bad person for thinking like that, but I can't imagine someone doing that

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Alabama Unemployment

Jobless rate increases to 9.9 percent

Lee County unemployment up by full percentage point

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama's unemployment rate has risen for the third month to 9.9 percent.

Figures compiled by the state Department of Industrial Relations show that Alabama recorded its lowest rate of the year in March with 9.2 percent, and the rate has been going up since — to 9.3 percent in April, 9.6 percent in May and 9.9 percent for June.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday that Alabama's 0.3 percentage point increase tied Arkansas and Illinois for the nation's second-biggest increase in June. South Carolina led the nation at half a percentage point.

Lee County's unemployment rate also saw an increase. The DIR's figures show that Lee County unemployment rose in the month of June to 9.2 percent over May's unemployment figure of 8.1 percent.

In May, 5,407 Lee County residents were considered unemployed. That number rose to 6,186 in June while the civilian labor force went down.

June's figures are also an increase over the figures for the same month a year ago, when Lee County reported an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent in June 2010.

State Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees said Friday that June's statewide increase is due to hundreds of Alabamians still being unemployed because of the April tornadoes, an increase in the national unemployment rate and discouraged workers who had quit looking for jobs resuming their search.

The unemployed workers who stop looking for work don't get counted in Alabama's unemployment rate, but they do when they resume searching. Surtees said it's a positive economic sign when discouraged workers start looking for work again.

Statistics compiled by the Industrial Relations Department show 1.95 million Alabamians were working in June, an increase of more than 33,000 from January. But there were 213,975 looking for work, an increase of more than 50,000 from January.

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HIGH SCHOOL HALFTIME SHOWS



Kaelan Bradford, tenor drums, rehearses with the Auburn High School band on Thursday as it prepares for the upcoming school year.

STRIKE UP THE BANDS

BY KRISTEN LETSINGER
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Most high school students spent their hot, summer days off in the pool or indoors.

But not band students.

During the dog days of summer, local marching bands are getting ready for their fall shows by practicing out-

doors.

Auburn High School's 160-member band has already begun working toward perfecting its fall show based on the music of the early 1970s, said band director Rusty Logan.

During halftime at Auburn football games, attendees will hear music such as "Vehicle" by Ides of March, "Half-

Moon" by Fifth Dimension, "Where is the Love" by Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway, and "Don't Worry 'Bout a Thing" by Stevie Wonder.

"All the students seem to be excited about the music," Logan said of the show. "I have played the originals for

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Debt Showdown

Boehner, Obama trading blame in talks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner abruptly broke off talks with President Barack Obama Friday night on a deal to make major cuts in federal spending and avert a threatened government default, sending already uncertain compromise efforts into instant crisis.

Within minutes, an obviously peeved Obama virtually ordered congressional leaders to the White House Saturday morning for fresh negotiations on raising the nation's debt limit. "We've got to get it done. It is not an option not to do it," he declared.

For the first time since talks began, he declined to offer assurances, when asked, that

default would be avoided. Moments later, however, he said he was confident of that outcome.

At a rebuttal news conference of his own a short while later in the Capitol, Boehner said, "I want to be entirely clear, no one wants default on the full faith and credit of the United States government, and I'm convinced that we

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will not."

The two men offered sharply different accounts of the compromise efforts so far and who was at fault for the collapse.

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