

2 MINUTE
TIMES

Local

UAH's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute receives a **\$1 million endowment** to ensure the continuing support of the popular series. **B1**

The Madison City Council approves a **3 percent raise** for the mayor and council members beginning in 2009. **B2**

State

A man accused of being part of an **anti-government, anti-Mexican militia** pleads guilty to federal explosives and conspiracy charges. **B1**

A proposed **junk ordinance** for rural Jackson County fails to pass the County Commission. **B1**

Nation

A wildfire near Lake Tahoe forces hundreds of residents to **flee towering flames** that destroyed more than 200 buildings. **A8**

A judge rules that no pair of pants is worth \$54 million, **rejecting a lawsuit** that took a dry cleaner's promise of "Satisfaction Guaranteed" to its most litigious extreme. **A8**

World

A **suicide bomber** slips into a busy Baghdad hotel and blows himself up in the midst of a gathering of U.S.-allied tribal sheiks. **A2**

Afghanistan produced dramatically **more opium** in 2006, increasing its yield by nearly 50 percent, the U.N. says. **A7**

Business



Dow - 8.21
Nasdaq - 11.88
S&P 500 - 4.82

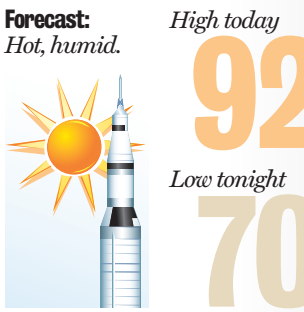
Sales of existing homes fall for a third straight month, dropping to the **lowest level in four years** as the median sales price declined for a record 10th consecutive month. **B6**

Sports

The pretrial hearing of a Stevenson man's **lawsuit against the NCAA** begins today. **C1**

Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and Serena Williams take victories as **Wimbledon gets under way**. **C1**

Full weather, C6



What's inside

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Board hires disciplinarian for Lee High

Assistant principal at Grissom 8 years is ex-football coach

By **CHALLENGE STEPHENS**

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The Huntsville school board Monday tapped a homegrown football coach and history teacher for the top spot at Lee High School.

Paul Parvin, assistant principal at Grissom High for eight years, will become the fifth principal at Lee in six years.



Paul Parvin

Please see **LEE** on **A3**

Delphi to close plant in 2009

Longtime worker praises union deal, but others uneasy

By **STEVE CAMPBELL**

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ATHENS - Delphi Corp. workers in Limestone County were given the news Monday that had long been feared: The plant will close in March 2009, according to the United Auto

In today's Times

■ Delphi workers call deal bit-tersweet. **B6**

Workers union.

The plant, which has until recently employed about 1,900 hourly workers, is set to be closed as part of a broad agreement among the UAW, Delphi and General Motors Corp., Del-



Carlton Crooks, left, says he'll retire, while Mike Love hopes to get a job at Saturn.



Bryan Bacon/Huntsville Times

Please see **DELPHI** on **A3**

Brazen metal thieves in for a big shock?

Offenders risk lives stealing copper from utility sites

By **NIKI DOYLE**

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Copper thieves have been risking their lives while breaking into Huntsville Utilities substations, where they have caused losses totaling more than \$100,000 in the last several weeks.

"It's difficult to understand why people would want to enter those places, considering the dangers," said Mike Cornett, utilities safety and security director. "It's an invisible killer. You don't see the electricity, and you don't notice it until it's too late."

Thieves have damaged substation fences and switch gears while stealing copper, he said. The damage estimate also includes time spent on investigations.

The high price and accessibility of copper make it a valuable and vulnerable target, said Sol Miller, chief administrative officer for Tennessee Valley Recycling. Copper is selling for about \$2.30 a pound in North Alabama, and thieves are stealing it from homes under construction, air-conditioning units, plumbing, substations, cell phone towers and even utility poles.

"When they start trying to remove copper off poles, that is a very easy way to get killed," said Bill Yell, spokesman for Huntsville Utilities. "They could pull that copper, and that could go into the power lines."

The Legislature took action this spring to try to curb the problem.

Gov. Bob Riley signed a bill into law June 14 to make it more difficult for thieves to trade scrap metal. The law requires buyers

Please see **THIEVES** on **A3**



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

This electrical substation off U.S. 431 near Hampton Cove has also been burglarized for copper.

Court's rulings show tilt to right

5-4 decisions limit students' speech, allow 'issue' ads

By **MARK SHERMAN**

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Presidential elections and judicial selections matter, the Supreme Court demonstrated Monday in a series of 5-4 rulings that underlined the court's move to the right.

President Bush filled two high court openings early in his second term with Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. They wrote the main opinions in rulings that relaxed rules on corporate and union political spending, limited students' speech and shielded the White House faith-based program from legal challenge.

Five justices - Roberts, Alito, Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas - formed the majority in each decision. The court's four liberals, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter and John Paul Stevens, dissented each time.

Kennedy, the only justice in

Please see **RULINGS** on **A3**

Guard plan stirs fears here

Mayor questions disaster response if 700 slots moved

By **SHELBY G. SPIRES**

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A National Guard reorganization plan could mean hundreds of North Alabama Guard troops have a longer drive for monthly drills, an Alabama National Guard spokesman in Montgomery said Monday.

Mayor Loretta Spencer said she plans to work with Gov. Bob Riley and the Guard on the plan that could move about 700 Guard slots out of North Alabama. However, she has concerns over the proposal.

"I'm concerned with what this could mean if there were a disaster or a tornado here in North Alabama with these units in the southern part of the state and all their equipment," she said Monday. "These are the units that would be needed to

Please see **GUARD** on **A3**