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Riley says most of the package would go toward long-delayed improvements in K-12 education and shifting up a near-bankrupt state budget to avoid drastic cuts in law enforcement, corrections and basic social services. Benefits to Auburn University would be indirect, such as better-prepared students from Alabama high schools and reduced pressure for large budget cuts to higher education.

Auburn students, meanwhile, would gain from a tuition assistance program similar to the HOPE scholarships in Georgia.

Other than the possibility of increased funding for salaries and programs from more stable state education budgets, the package would impact Auburn faculty and staff the same as it would other Alabama residents. Those with the highest incomes would pay more, and many of those in the lowest pay grades would see their income taxes decrease.

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Nominations for AU Board positions may go to State Senate in September

Gov. Bob Riley says he expects the names of three nominees for seats on the AU Board of Trustees to go to the Alabama Senate during a special session in September.

If confirmed by the Senate during the special session, the nominees will take office immediately and will serve until January 2010.

A five-member selection committee headed by Sen. Bob Riley selected the nominees two weeks ago. The nominees are Sarah Newton, a Fayette elementary school principal; Charles E. Ball, Gadsden city planner; and Dwight Carlisle, state revenue commissioner.

If confirmed by the Senate, Newton will succeed Charles Glover of Cullman. The committee nominated Ball to succeed Sen. Loyd Benton of Fyffe, who is president pro temp of the Alabama Senate, and Carlisle to succeed Rep. Jack Venable of Tallapoosa. The board members whose terms expired last January will serve until the positions are filled or until January 2004, whichever comes first.

Ball, 42, was senior planner for the City of Auburn from 1992-99 before becoming city planner for Gadsden. He has a bachelor’s degree from Birm-

Magazine wins award in regional print, design competition

Auburn Magazine and Craftmaster Printers have been honored for the fourth consecutive year in a major regional print and design competition.

Auburn Magazine and its Auburn-based printer received an Award of Excellence from the Printing Industry Association of the South 2003 awards competition. Winners are selected on the basis of exceptional printing and graphic design. The association includes printers from across the region.

Since its inception in 1994, Auburn Magazine, published by the Auburn Alumni Association, has won 20 regional and national awards for content, design and print quality.

HR conducting training for next step in new online employment process

The Office of Human Resources will soon implement the next phase of an online employment process that will permit unit hiring managers and HR liaisons to submit recruitment and selection documents electronically, reducing paperwork for staff positions.

This will be the third and final stage in converting the entire employment process to a Web-based environment. The change will streamline the recruitment process and enable university staff with responsibilities in these areas to track the progress of their recruitments with just a few key strokes, said Angela Erlandson, system administrator in Human Resources.

Phase One began last November with conversion of the application process from paper to the new Web site. Units posting positions since then have been able to view their applications by accessing the system with unique user guest codes and passwords provided to them by the employment unit. Also, information justifying selection decisions is recorded electronically in the new system by the employment unit staff in conference with hiring supervisors and their liaisons. This information forms the basis for documentation required by Affirmative Action for jobs having affirmative action goals.

Phase Two began in February with a pilot group of HR liaisons using the system to submit the electronic forms to Human Resources and recording their justifications of selection decisions. Affirmative Action also reviewed and approved information documented in the system by these pilot liaisons via the Web site, Erlandson said.

Phase Three will be implemented on Oct. 1. Human Resources this month organized two training sessions for designated HR liaisons throughout campus. HR liaisons will work with the Director of Employment Services to arrange for training of the hiring managers within their units during September.

General Counsel Emeritus Tom Samford dies

Thomas D. Samford III, general counsel emeritus of Auburn University, died Aug. 8 at his home in Opelika after a lengthy illness. Interment was at Rosemere Cemetery in Opelika on Aug. 11.

Samford served as general counsel to the university from 1961-95 and continued to assist on legal matters for AU until shortly before his death. The Opelika native represented AU in legal matters while maintaining a law practice in Opelika during much of his career. In his later years, he devoted most of his time to representing the university. He also served as a municipal judge in Opelika for more than two decades.

City agency, AU Nursing win award

The city’s Auburn Housing Authority has won a national award for a cooperative effort with the AU School of Nursing.

The city agency received the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ 2003 Merit Award for Program Innovation in Resident and Client Services, which recognizes outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the nation.

In the city housing authority’s program, “AHA & AU SON: Neighborhood Health Care Partners,” student nurses monitored by AU’s Outreach instructor Linda Byrd, provide weekly health care visits for Auburn’s senior citizens’ management and chronic condition management to low income families. The clinic rotates among four neighborhood sites bringing nursing care to residents.

AU Horticulture professor earns national award

Joe Eakes, a professor of horticulture at AU, has received the American Nursery and Landscape Association’s 2003 J.C. Chadwick Educator’s Award.

The award recognizes outstanding landscape horticulture instructors for teaching quality and effectiveness in motivating students.

Public Safety mails forms for hangtags

The Department of Public Safety began mailing vehicle registration forms for 2003-04 to faculty and staff last week.

The mailing, originally scheduled for the first week in August, was delayed by printing problems at the vendor’s plant in Arkansas, said David Vedder, manager of parking services at the Department of Public Safety.

With the current hangtags due to expire on Aug. 31, Vedder said Parking Services is encouraging faculty and staff to complete and return the forms quickly. “We hope that most people will return the forms within a week,” he said.

The 2003-04 hangtags will be good through the end of the new academic year, and DPS will start checking for expired hangtags on Sept. 1. “We may need to provide a little extra time for those university drivers while we are distributing the new hangtags,” Vedder said. “We encourage the drivers to get them distributed quickly,” Vedder said.

New faculty and staff face a greater hurdle than other employees because they must register their vehicles at the Dawson Building at the corner of Donahue and Thach. Thousands of students will also be in the area to register their vehicles.

Auburn Magazine and Craftmaster Printers have been honored for the fourth consecutive year in a major regional print and design competition.
Director says new look to Tiger Transit is more than skin deep

Tiger Transit, AU’s transit system, is starting the new academic year with a new look that David George, interim director of parking and transit services, says is more than skin deep.

“We have a new logo and new look to go with the improvements that Tiger Transit has been making since last January,” said George. “We made a commitment to provide reliable, timely transit service to Auburn students, and we have made great progress in meeting that commitment.

George said the shorter routes, briefer stops and quicker, more reliable service resulted in a 50 percent increase in ridership.

The Transportation Services office is working with Gnome Transportation to make sure that riders avoid long waits and arrive quickly at their destinations.

The transit system that greets students, faculty and staff for the 2003-04 academic year is nothing like the old system it replaced, said George. “Tiger Transit is more responsive to the needs of riders and much more reliable, and we wanted a logo that lets folks know this is different,” he said. “The new look is our way of saying that if you haven’t ridden the bus lately, you need to give it a try.”

Al Eillard of the Office of Communications and Marketing designed the logo. To the casual observer, the logo is simply an artistic arrangement of orange and blue arrows that convey motion. Discerning viewers will see the face of a tiger.

George said the logo will also appear on signs across campus to help riders identify bus stops. With the change of route and philosophy last January, riders should be able to catch a bus every few minutes and get to their destinations in seven to 10 minutes in most cases, he said.

In addition to the signs, the system has added a shelter at the Hill Dorms’ Terrell Dining Hall and is completing construction of a shelter at the system’s transit hub behind Haley Center. The central shelter will also feature a snack bar and a dispatcher’s office.

George said all the changes should be complete by Aug. 28, when Tiger Transit will celebrate the improvements with a ceremony at the new transit hub.

Veterinary Medicine residents earn board certification

Three clinical residents at the College of Veterinary Medicine recently earned board certification by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. They are Michele Cohen in oncology, Gared McCellum in ophthalmology, and Jodi Lurie in internal medicine.

Having previously passed the qualifying examinations, they passed the certifying examinations earlier this year.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 20
• First day of classes for fall semester; 2003-04 academic year.

Monday, August 25
• Next AU Report.
• Seminar: “How to Apply for a Small Business Loan,” 152 Lowder Business Building, 6 p.m. Contact: Small Business Development Center, 844-4220.

Tuesday, August 26
• Special Meeting: University Faculty, 2:30 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium. Discussion of electronic voting in faculty elections.
• Public Address: Gov. Bob Riley, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium. Discussion of tax and accountability package in Sept. 9 state referendum.

Monday, September 1
• Labor Day holiday. No classes, offices closed. No AU Report.

Monday, September 8
• AU Report.

Tuesday, September 9
• Meeting: University Senate, 2 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
• Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.

Monday, September 15
• AU Report.

Tuesday, September 16
• Annual Fall Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.

ACES to present programs examining issues in referendum on tax changes

With Alabamians going to the polls on Sept. 9 to vote on a complex tax and accountability plan, the Agricultural Cooperative Extension System is producing a series of one-hour, satellite videoconferences to inform voters about the plan.

The program, “Proposed Tax Changes for Alabama — The Facts,” will air next week, with experts from Extension, AU’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the AU College of Agriculture providing an overview of the plan.

The first videoconference, “Session 1: Income Tax, Residential Property Tax and Accountability,” will air at noon Tuesday, Aug. 26, and will address the impact of the proposed new tax measures on income and residential taxes. The first session will also include an examination of the accountability provisions in the proposed plan.

ACES will also air Session 1 at 6:30 p.m. Thurs., Aug. 28.

The impact of the proposed plan on forestry and agricultural property will be the subject of the second videoconference, “Session 2: Forest and Ag Land Property Tax and Accountability.” That program will include a discussion of the accountability provisions outlined in the plan.

Session 2 will air at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, and again at noon on Thursday, Aug. 28.

All four telecasts will be downloaded at County Extension Offices, carried over the Auburn University cable system, Channel 17, and streamed electronically from the Extension System’s Web site, www.aces.edu

New residents must register by Aug. 29 to vote in referendum

For new residents and first-time voters in Alabama, the deadline for voter registration before the Sept. 9 referendum is Friday, Aug. 29.

To register, voters may register at the Voter Registration Office at the Lee County Courthouse, 215 South 9th St., Opelika.

Voter registration cards are also available at Auburn City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue. The completed forms must be mailed or delivered to the county office.

For local information on voter registration, contact the county office at 377-3630.

Information about the referendum and voter registration, including a downloadable, mail-in form, is also on the the Alabama Secretary of State’s Web site at www.sos.state.al.us/election/2003/
Interim head named for Raptor Center

Veterinary Professor Ron Montgomery has been appointed interim director of the Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center at Auburn.

Montgomery, who is also a surgeon in the Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Clinical Sciences, will oversee the day-to-day operation of the center.

In announcing the appointment, Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Boosinger said, “Dr. Montgomery’s leadership skills, expertise in surgery and background in avian medicine, will help us forward the Raptor Center back to full strength.”

As part of an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the SERRC has neither received nor released birds of prey since July 9 while veterinarians investigate the deaths of 12 birds in the center’s education collection. Veterinarians suspect that the organism Mycoplasma gallisepticum played a role in the deaths.

“Looking forward to working closely with the staff of the Raptor Center and the Fish and Wildlife Service,” Montgomery said, “this is an opportunity for us to move forward and focus on the center’s mission of health care for raptors and educate people about the fascinating world of birds of prey.”

Montgomery succeeds former Director Joe Shelnut. The interim director will work with Jill Heatley, the primary veterinarian for the SERRC, to provide care for the birds of prey at the center.

See related story, page 6

Payroll offers option for deposits

A limited number of extra copies of the AU Report are available for departments, schools, colleges and other units that agree to hold or forward copies for return, faculty or advisory board members.

For a unit to receive extra copies, a representative should notify the College of Agriculture Communications and Marketing of the unit’s interest in serving as their liaison to the AU Report’s editorial staff.

Get your copies of the AU Report on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. Additional copies will be ready for pickup at 2:30 p.m.

Association honors Poultry Science faculty for research, extension, success in recruiting

Faculty of the Poultry Science Department recently received honors at the annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association in Wisconsin.

The department received an undergraduate student recruiting team of Roger Lien, John Blake, Joseph Hess, Robert Voitle and Frank Dillman received the association’s Student Recruitment Award.

The association’s selection committee noted their success in bringing about an increased and stabilized student body at a challenging time for the agricultural disciplines.

Hess also received the American Feed Industry Award for his research and extension efforts in poultry nutrition. Also, the department’s S.F. Bilgili received the 2003 Poultry Products Research Award for improving broiler processing procedures and in recognition of his role as a leading international authority on broiler processing and products.
Where are they, Part III  
In the third installment of our series on campus landmarks, we challenge our readers to identify these six landmarks. These have graced campus for years but many people walk past them daily without noticing. How many can you identify? Answers are below at right. If you missed the two previous quizzes, they are on the AU Report Web site at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html. At the Web site, look under AU Report Archives for the July 21 and Aug. 4 issues.

Veterinarians say health concerns take priority over eagles’ flights

AU veterinary officials say health concerns will prevent either of Auburn's eagle icons from flying before home football games this fall.

The university retired its 14-year-old golden eagle, Tiger, at mid-season last year when arthritis hampered the bird’s ability to fly and navigate in less than ideal conditions. Tiger’s replacement, the younger bald eagle Spirit, is recovering from surgery, and both eagles have tested positive for Mycoplasma gallisepticum, an organism connected to an infectious disease outbreak that killed 12 birds this year at AU's Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

The organism was not the direct culprit in the deaths, but it opens the door for diseases that can kill birds.

"Even though Spirit and Tiger have tested positive, they are active and alert," said John Saidla, director of the AU veterinary teaching hospitals. "However, we are not letting any raptors in or out of the center right now."

"Spirit’s health has been up and down for several months after abdominal surgery for small rocks ingested," said Timothy Boosinger, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "It is in her best interest not to subject her to the stress which could cause more problems."

AU veterinarians say Mycoplasma gallisepticum is common in birds, but they note that raptors are now reacting to it differently from other birds.

Wild birds at the center that test negative for the organism will be released later, but those that test positive are being euthanized. Permanent educational birds housed at the center that test positive will remain isolated and undergo further diagnostic tests.

The College of Veterinary Medicine is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Health Laboratory to contain and study the outbreak, and veterinary officials say they hope to begin readmitting and releasing birds within six months. All birds of prey at the university are housed at the Raptor Center by permission of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center opened in the mid-1970s and annually treats about 500 birds of prey from more than 20 species.

AU Report starts weekly publication with this issue

Starting with this issue, look for delivery of the AU Report each week rather than bi-weekly during fall and spring semesters. The next issue will be Monday, Aug. 25.

The AU Report will go into campus mail for distribution each Monday except for weeks in which the university is closed for holidays and between semesters. Holidays for fall semester are Labor Day on Sept. 1 and Thanksgiving week on Nov. 24-29.

Publication dates for fall semester are Aug. 18, Aug. 25, each Monday from Sept. 8-Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8. Fall semester classes end on Dec. 10.

Publication will be suspended between semesters. In spring semester, issues will be published weekly except for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and spring break.

The AU Report will be published every two weeks during the summer.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each week’s mailing copy of this document is off campus addresses and university is printed by Communications & Marketing and not accepted billing for copies mailed by other units.

See related story, page 6