

SELMA MAYOR UPSET WITH BRIDGE DANCERS 2A

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VICTORYLAND

Court gives deadline for response

Macon County officials are given until Monday to respond to Tyson's appeal to raid casino

By Bob Johnson
The Associated Press

The Alabama Supreme Court has given several Macon County officials until Monday afternoon to respond to the latest attempt by Gov. Bob Riley's gambling task force to get permission to raid Alabama's largest casino.

Task force commander John Tyson said Friday the Supreme Court appears to be taking his latest plea seriously for permission to raid the VictoryLand casino at Shorter, which has more than 6,000 electronic bingo machines.

An attorney for VictoryLand, Mark White of Birmingham, said casino officials and lawyers will spend the week-end weighing their options on what to do next, since it appears Tyson will eventually gain permission to raid the casino.

Asked if closing down the casino temporarily was one of the options be-

ing considered, White said, "We have not decided what to do. We are looking at a whole spectrum of possibilities. We are currently looking at all remedies and options."

Both major party candidates for governor, Republican Robert Bentley and Democrat Ron Sparks, have said one of their first actions as governor would be to dismantle the gambling task force. The new governor will take office Jan. 17.

During a hearing before Macon County Circuit Judge Tom Young on Monday, several attorneys for Macon

County officials referred to Riley as a "lame duck governor" with a "lame duck task force" and said he was running out of time in his efforts to shut down electronic bingo.

Tyson filed an emergency appeal Thursday night asking the Supreme Court to overturn an injunction by Young that has blocked a raid since March.

The Supreme Court informed attorneys in the case Friday that they have until 4 p.m. Monday to respond to Tyson's filing.

The latest round of action in Alaba-

ma's bingo battle came as a result of a lawsuit by Macon County District Attorney E. Paul Jones, Sheriff David Warren and other Macon officials saying Tyson should not be allowed to raid the casino without the permission of local officials. Young agreed with the local officials and had blocked a raid.

Last week the Supreme Court sided with Tyson, but court rules gave the local officials 18 days to file a request with the justices for reconsideration. Tyson asked Young for permission to go ahead and raid, but the judge refused, prompting Tyson's appeal to the Supreme Court.

Tax-free weekend begins

Shoppers start looking for deals on school supplies, clothes



Mickey Welsh Advertiser

Above, Sarah Jordan, center, and her daughter Lauren Welch, left, get help from Best Buy associate Ashley Harris, right, as they shop for a computer Friday, the first day of the tax-free weekend, in Prattville. Below, shoppers take advantage of tax-free bargains on school supplies at Office Depot in Montgomery.

By Scott Johnson
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Check list before heading out to shop 5A

school supplies," the 73-year-old said. "We usually do our grocery shopping on Saturday morning. But I don't want to be anywhere near a store on Saturday or Sunday, because I know how busy they are going to be."

In Montgomery, the turnout was steady but there didn't appear to be a particular rush at uniform and school supply stores Friday morning.

The tax-free weekend is the busiest time of the year for the Southern School Uniforms, said owner Rob Barranco, but the week



Julie Bennett Advertiser

TAX-FREE WEEKEND

- **When:** Now until midnight Sunday
- **Where:** Local retailers and businesses
- **Details:** State sales taxes on certain items will be waived, and many cities and counties also will waive their sales

taxes, including Montgomery, Autauga and Elmore counties, as well as Montgomery, Prattville, Millbrook, Wetumpka and Pike Road

■ **Information:** Visit www.alabamaretail.org

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Senate approves Chief Baylor as new US marshal

By Matt Okarmus
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Montgomery's police chief soon will be overseeing federal law enforcement efforts in 23 Alabama counties.

Arthur Baylor received the unanimous approval of the U.S. Senate on Thursday night to become the new U.S. marshal for the Middle District of Alabama.

Baylor was on vacation at the time of the announcement and had not received official notification Friday. In a statement made through Capt. Keith Barnett, a police spokesman, Baylor said the move was "bittersweet" because he would be leaving the Montgomery Police Department after 27 years of service.

President Barack Obama nominated Baylor to the position in April.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Bright recommended Baylor as U.S. marshal. In 2004, when Bright was mayor of Montgomery, he appointed Baylor as police chief.



Baylor

"He did his job well and will now provide for his district."

Baylor will be replacing Jesse Seroyer Jr., who was appointed by President George W. Bush as U.S. marshal for the Middle District in 2002.

The Middle District

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Reaching milestone

Woman to become Ala. Air National Guard's first female fighter pilot

By Jenn Rowell
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Pilot Sara Ferrero is flying almost every day and is nearing her destination — becoming the Alabama Air National Guard's first female fighter pilot.

Taking to the skies is something she always wanted to do, but it wasn't until she was 20 and attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando that she realized she really could.

Now she's about halfway through her undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. She'll be 28 at the end of the month. She's got two more training courses to complete after that.

Next fall, she'll be back in Alabama flying one of the F-16 Fighting Falcons with the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field.

"It's been something that I'd always wanted to do but just never really thought I could do it until I met somebody very encouraging," she said by phone from Columbus.

Once she got her private pilot's license, she heard about the



Contributed

Pilot Sara Ferrero will be in Alabama next fall flying one of the F-16 Fighting Falcons with the 100th Fighter Squadron.

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WEATHER



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