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# The Huntsville Times

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## 2-minute Times

### Local

#### Record heat

This past spring was the warmest on record, and meteorologists say summer is shaping up to be the same. **A3**

#### Ag Commission race

The race to become the Republican nominee for Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture may be decided by rifle-wielding, tough-talking, third-place candidate Dale Peterson. **A3**

### State

#### Gambling & politics

Gambling interests spent at least \$4.1 million to back candidates in the June 1 primaries, campaign finance disclosures show. **A4**

### Nation & World

#### Senators speak out

Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham speak from the war zone to condemn GOP chair Michael Steele's comment that Afghanistan was a "war of Obama's choosing." **A9**

#### Park for sale?

Wyoming is trying to force the Interior Department to trade land, minerals or mineral royalties for 1,366 acres it owns within the Grand Teton National Park. **A9**

#### Petraeus takes over

"We are in this to win," Gen. David Petraeus says as he takes the reins of the Afghan war effort. **A11**

#### Biden's challenge

Vice President Joe Biden urges rival Iraqi politicians to end months of delays and select new leaders for their wobbly democracy. **A11**

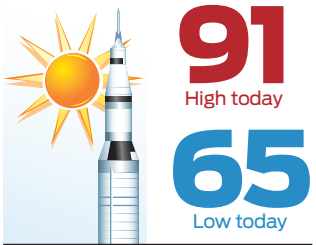
### Business

#### Blind drivers?

The National Federation of the Blind and Virginia Tech plan to demonstrate a prototype vehicle next year equipped with technology that helps a blind person drive a car independently. **B1**

### Weather

Forecast: Nice day.  
Full report, B4



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## Huntsville celebrates the Fourth



Dave Dieter/The Huntsville Times

Fireworks explode Sunday night above Bridge Street Town Centre during the July Fourth celebration.

# One big birthday party

## Crowds gather at Bridge Street to watch show

By Victoria Cumbow

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You're never too old for fireworks. Just ask 79-year-old Patricia Martin, who enjoyed the fireworks show at Bridge Street Sunday night. And if you ask 10-week-old Addison-Grace Whaley's mother, Tammy, you're never too young for them either.

"She loves them and loves being outside," Whaley said. "She saw (a fireworks show) last week and just stared and gazed at them." Hundreds of people gathered around the full lake at Bridge Street to watch the 20-minute fireworks show. Blankets were scattered and portable chairs littered the grass as families sipped on sodas and ate hot dogs, pizzas and snow cones.

Martin, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Russ and Denise Woodworth, drove from Prospect, Tenn., to enjoy the show. "We love Bridge Street and come once a month," said Russ Woodworth. "We can't pass this up." The Hunter family experienced their first Bridge Street fireworks

See **FOURTH** on **A6**

## Gator fans find real thing

### Neighborhood pond provides surprise for Madison couple

By Victoria Cumbow

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MADISON – When Linda Guyette and her husband, Andy, relocated to Alabama from Florida a year ago, someone told her Alabama didn't have alligators. She believed them until she saw one in the pond behind their Madison home last month. "My mother's husband saw it and said, 'Look, there's a gator out there,'" she said. "We got the binoculars, and sure enough, he was swimming in the pond."

Guyette and her husband, Andy, are no strangers to gators – having moved from Clearwater, Fla. – but she was surprised to see one so close to her new home. "I love living out here with nature," she said of the couple's home in the Reserve off of Edgewater Drive and Zeirdt Road.



Special to The Times

Fish and Wildlife officials trapped this alligator in a Madison lake.  
See **GATOR** on **A6**

## It's weekend wait for county arrests

### Paying bond can be big problem with absent magistrate

By Victoria Cumbow

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On a recent Friday afternoon, a man was arrested by Madison County authorities for failing to appear in court for fishing without a license. His bond would eventually be set at just \$42, but because it was Friday, and Monday happened to be a holiday, the man ended up staying in jail for more than three days, according to a Madison County jail employee.

The reason: The county's

magistrate only works from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"If it's a cash bond, they have to sit here until the court opens up," said Madison County Sheriff's Office Lt. Bill Hancock, a Madison County Jail supervisor. He said what happens with the fisherman happens frequently with small bonds such as "failure to appear" warrants related to traffic violations.

After an arrest, a bond is set and must be paid to either the city or county magistrate's office before the person is released from jail. Anyone arrested after 4 p.m., or on a

See **ARREST** on **A6**



Glenn Baeske/The Huntsville Times

Jeff Lapidus wants to open one of Alabama's first glass recycling businesses.

See **GLASS** on **A6**