

Local & Region

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Section B

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Prayer suit says son shunned

basketball and has a few friends." Chandler said Jesse Chandler, who graduated. "He's been treat-

vice principal at Valley school, sued the state after actions which were sanctioned by school officials. Chandler's actions have occurred for years he has worked in the courtroom.

became concerned when he saw Jehovah's Witnesses sit in a school hallway and parents objected to class-

room religious activities such as prayer and Bible readings.

Chandler, a Unitarian, said his son was mocked by students at lunch and the family got hate mail, which has now stopped. "My child shouldn't have to listen to religious instruction in order to graduate," said Chandler.

Chandler hired the American Civil Liberties Union which sued the state. Judge DeMent agreed with Chandler last year and ordered the school system to stop promoting religious activities.

For different reasons, Gov. Fob James and Attorney General Bill Pryor appealed the ruling to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court. Please see PRAYER Page 4B



The Associated Press

Michael Chandler enters the Federal Building in Montgomery Thursday where the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hears oral arguments in the DeKalb County school prayer case.

UA wants tobacco research center on campus

By ROBERT DeWITT

Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA — The University of Alabama is asking the UA System Board of Trustees today to allow it to move a tobacco research center to the UA campus.

The Center of the Study of Tobacco and Society would be under the direction of Dr. Alan M. Blum within the College of Community Health Sciences.

Blum, recognized for his expertise in preventive medicine relating to tobacco use, was appointed to an endowed chair in the College of Community Health Sciences. He will be moving the center from its Houston, Texas headquarters. He has been on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston for the last 12 years.

The center was recognized in 1998 as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center. It will undertake joint projects and faculty exchanges with the World Health Organization. It is expected to attract visiting researchers, students and representatives from potential funding organizations to participate in research projects.

The center would have a budget of about \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year provided partly by UA and partly by grants from government and private foundations. Its purpose would be to study the "role and influence of tobacco" today and throughout history. Its components would be research, education, service and community outreach.

The center would be housed in the College of Community Health Sciences and would come under the supervision of the college's dean. But it would emphasize an "interdisciplinary approach" by involving faculty and students from law, business, sociology, anthropology, history and medicine.

Research would focus on the health and economic consequences of tobacco. Researchers would also delve into the role of private and government organizations

and proposed regulatory legislation. Research topics could include personal safety, lifestyle modifications for better health and studies on how well patients adhere to prescribed medical instructions.

The center would also have a two fold educational mission. First it would help educate health care professionals. Second, there would be a public education program that includes a school program and community outreach.

FORMER TEACHERS HONORED

