

# The Decatur Daily

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## FORECAST

**TODAY**  **THU**  **FRI**   
**96°/76°** **93°/74°** **92°/75°**

Complete forecast, **A2**

## RIVERFRONT

### Farmers Market vendors frustrated

At least two vendors are not happy with having to start selling later in the morning at the Morgan County-Decatur Farmers Market, but the board said all vendors agreed to the later time at the beginning of the season. **B1**

### Swan Creek Park to get an upgrade

Plans are in the works for Swan Creek Park in Athens to be revitalized with new amenities, including pickleball courts and a Make-A-Way Field for special needs individuals. **B1**

### Lawyer: Police shot teenager in back

An independent autopsy determined that a teenager who was killed by an Alabama police officer last month was shot in the back, attorneys for his family said Tuesday. **B1**

## FOOD



### Time to roast some fresh okra

Decatur columnist Carol Cook Puckett notes that high summer at the farmers market can provide the most delicious fruits and vegetables for some of the best meals you will have all year long. **D1**

## NATION

### Republicans look to tweak Trump cuts

Senate Republicans worked Tuesday to slightly scale back President Donald Trump's request to cancel \$9.4 billion in previously approved spending as they tried to build momentum for the package before a key test vote. **A3**

## BUSINESS

### Inflation edges up as tariffs take a toll

Inflation rose last month to its highest level since February as President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs push up the cost of everything from groceries and clothes to furniture and appliances. **D6**

## AREA DEATHS

**Lisa Belmont**, Danville  
**Allen Dean**, Somerville  
**Terry Forsyth**, Trinity  
**Alison Gamble**, Decatur  
**Barbara Gamble**, Trinity  
**Roy Roberson**, Hartselle  
Death notices, obits, **B4**

Abby .....D5      Food .....D1  
Business .....D6      Horoscopes .....D5  
Classified .....C4      Obituaries .....B4  
Comics .....D4      Riverfront .....B1  
Crossword .....D5      Sports .....C1  
Editorials .....A4      Weather .....A2

Decatur, Alabama  
114th year, No. 121  
24 pages, 4 sections



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## LAWRENCE COUNTY

# Vet killed in WWI returns to family

## DNA match identifies remains

By **Wes Tomlinson**  
Staff Writer

MOULTON — More than 80 years after he was killed fighting Japanese troops in Burma, the body of Pvt. Mack Kidd will make its way from Nashville, through Decatur, to Moulton on Thursday escorted by members of American Legion Post 25 where they will lay him to rest beside his daughter

in a Lawrence County cemetery next week.

Kidd, 20, was fighting with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5307th Composite Unit, otherwise known as Merrill's Marauders, when he was killed during the latter part of the Siege of Myitkyina on July 12, 1944, during World War II. He left behind a wife and two infant children in West Virginia, including a daughter who was born seven months before his death.

According to his granddaughter, Melissa Cleghorn, Kidd was originally buried in a mass grave

in Myitkyina, before his remains were transferred to a cemetery in Kalaikunda, India, and later moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

It was there, in 2021, that officials began DNA testing and confirmed a match with Kidd's nephew, Ron Townsend.

His casket will fly from the Graves Registration Processing and Analysis Activity in Nebraska to Nashville International Airport and from there, be driven to



SEE VETERAN, A5

Kidd

## LOCAL RETAIL

# Tax-free weekend



**Electronic Express sales manager Briseyda Lopez says all laptops under \$750 are eligible for the back-to-school tax-free weekend.** [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

### Annual back-to-school event starts Friday

By **Erica Smith**  
Staff Writer

The back-to-school tax-free weekend will take place Friday through Sunday and feature a waiver of sales taxes on items like clothing, computers and books.

"I think it's a great opportunity for parents to save some money on school supplies that students will need going back to school," said Decatur City Schools Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Personnel Yvette Evans.

"It is especially helpful for parents who have multiple



Evans

students that will be starting back to school. It gives them a little bit of a break in terms of payments of certain items like school supplies and books and clothing; things that they will need to start the school year strong."

This year will be the 20th annual back-to-school sales tax holiday from the Alabama Department of Revenue. It begins July 18 at 12:01 a.m. and ends July 20 at midnight.

Local sales taxes may still apply in some areas, but most local municipalities — including Decatur, Athens,



Brown

Moulton, Madison and Huntsville — also waive local sales taxes.

"It's always great to be able to help parents afford many of the items that the students will need to go back to school," Evans said.

Evans said Decatur City Schools puts together school supply lists that can be found on its website, dcs.edu.

"We try to make sure that we keep that list at a certain amount, so we're not burdening families," she said.

SEE TAX-FREE, A3

## HUNTSVILLE

# Megabill secures NASA funds

By **Alex Angle**  
Alabama Daily News

WASHINGTON — Billions of dollars will flow to NASA projects that are key to Huntsville's space economy now that President Donald Trump has signed his big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts.



Britt

After funding for the Space Launch System and Orion capsule was in jeopardy from budget cuts in Trump's fiscal 2026 budget request, money for the programs is now secured for the next few years as part of Trump's "big, beautiful" bill. Separately, Senate appropriators, including Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., are also working to protect NASA funding agencywide for the 2026 fiscal year.

The federal spending plans come as the Trump administration seeks to downsize staffing at the space agency.

The Space Launch System, the heavy-lift launch vehicle that can send astronauts to the moon, will get \$4.1 billion for Artemis missions IV and V through 2029. The SLS is managed at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. In total, nearly \$10 billion is allocated for space funding, including Mars and Artemis missions and the Moon to Mars program.

"The Space Launch System is essential," U.S. Rep. Dale Strong, R-Huntsville, told

SEE NASA, A3

## CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

# Employees say watchdog is now toothless

By **Ken Sweet**  
AP Banking Reporter

NEW YORK — The lights are on at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau across the street from the White House, and employees still get paid. But in practice, the bureau has been mostly inoperable for nearly six months. CFPB employees say they essentially spend the workday sitting on their hands, forbidden from doing any work by directive from the White House.

The bureau is supposed to be helping oversee the nation's banks and financial

services companies and taking enforcement action in case of wrongdoing. During its 15-year existence, the CFPB has returned roughly \$21 billion to consumers who were cheated by financial services companies.

Instead, its main function now seems to be undoing the rule-making and law enforcement work that was done under previous administrations, including in President Donald Trump's first term.

One current employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the directive forbids staffers from speaking publicly

about their jobs, said outsiders would be amazed at how little work is being done. Employees are reluctant even to talk to one another, out of fear that a conversation between two employees would be considered a violation of the directive.

Another employee described the drastic shift in mission, from trying to protect consumers to doing nothing, as "quite demoralizing."

To gain an understanding of what is happening inside the CFPB, The Associated Press spoke with 10 current and former employees, as well as bankers and

policymakers who used to interact with the bureau nearly every day but now say their emails and voicemails go into a black hole. The agency's press office doesn't respond to emails.

The CFPB took a lighter approach to its mission in Trump's first term but continued to pursue enforcement actions. Under President Joe Biden, the agency took an expansive view of its authority, targeting profitable practices by banks such as overdraft and credit card late fees, as well as investigating companies

SEE WATCHDOG, A3