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FORECAST

TODAY	SAT	SUN
89°/72°	86°/69°	89°/64°
Complete forecast, A2		

RIVERFRONT

Limestone sheriff wants to add 12 employees

The Limestone County sheriff is seeking funding in the 2026 budget for 12 new law enforcement positions, citing public safety concerns and a desire to be more aggressive in fighting crime. **C1**

Man sentenced to 15 years for enticement

A man with a prior conviction in Cullman County for sexual abuse pleaded guilty Monday in Morgan County Circuit Court to enticing a child and received a 15-year split sentence, including three years in prison, according to District Attorney Scott Anderson. **C1**

NATION

Court throws out huge Trump penalty

A New York appeals court on Thursday threw out the massive financial penalty a state judge imposed on President Donald Trump, while narrowly upholding a finding he engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades. **A3**

Immigrant population shrinks in United States

For the first time in six decades, the number of immigrants living in the United States has dropped. **A3**

WORLD



Netanyahu to approve takeover of Gaza City

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday he will give final approval for the takeover of Gaza City while also restarting negotiations with Hamas aimed at returning all the remaining hostages and ending the war on Israel's terms. **C3**

BUSINESS

Walmart delivers solid financial results

Walmart Inc. powered through an uncertain economic environment and tariff concerns to deliver solid second-quarter financial results Thursday, showing it keeps pulling in shoppers and outpacing peers like Target. **D6**

AREA DEATHS

Jimmy Bolton, Hartselle
Jennifer Brasher, Hartselle
Helen Lorenz, Decatur
Bradley Reynolds, Decatur
Stephen Watkins, Decatur
Death notices, obits, **B5**

Abby	D5	Horoscope	D5
Business	D6	Obituaries	B5
Classified	C4	Religion	D1
Comics	D4	Riverfront	C1
Crossword	D5	Sports	B1
Editorials	A4	Weather	A2

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LOFTIS STEEL & ALUMINUM

Metals processor expanding

Nashville firm planning \$6.5M Decatur project

By Bayne Hughes
Staff Writer

Nashville, Tennessee-based Loftis Steel & Aluminum Inc. is planning a \$6.5 million expansion into Decatur near Interstate 65 in Limestone County. The company is leasing 55,000



Russell

square feet of the 300,000-square-foot building at 23366 Bibb Garrett Road No. 565 for a new steel manufacturing facility. Tom Russell, Loftis president and chief executive officer, told the Industrial Development Board of Decatur on Thursday that most of Loftis' business has been in Tennessee. He said they've done some

business in north Alabama but found that Nashville "is a little too far away" to adequately serve their Huntsville-area customers. He said he thinks their customers "will be more comfortable doing business with us because we're local," especially since they can deliver to them more frequently. He said his 20-year-old company is going "with a little different model" in Decatur than in Nashville.

Loftis does 20 different machine operations for jobs as

small as \$100 and as large as \$30,000 in Nashville, and the jobs in the Huntsville area will be larger and more consistent, Russell said.

"It will be tailored for what they're looking for — the more high-production jobs," Russell said. "With the equipment we're using, we'll have the ability to provide the service with high quality and consistency to our customers."

SEE PROCESSOR, A5

MORGAN COUNTY

Countdown to elections



Eva City Clerk Kimberly Cryer, left, asks Gregg Woodyard a question as he tests the voting machine with her and Assistant City Clerk Alex Baker, center, on Thursday. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

Voting machines tested ahead of municipal vote

By GraciAnn Goodin
Staff Writer

Voting tabular machines, recently criticized by President Donald Trump as "highly inaccurate," were tested Thursday in Decatur in preparation for Tuesday's municipal elections.

Morgan County uses DS200 ballot scanners from Election Systems & Software (ES&S). Each of the 34

DS200s scheduled to be used Tuesday in Morgan County municipalities were tested by ES&S Regional Sales Manager Gregg Woodyard, with testing confirmed by each municipality's clerk.

Voting machines have received attention this week after Trump took to social media to say he wants to get rid of mail-in voting and voting machines. In the post, he calls tabulators "Highly 'Inaccurate,' Very Expensive, and Seriously Controversial." In the same post Monday, he wrote that "... USING VOTING MACHINES THAT

ARE A COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISASTER, MUST END, NOW!!!"

ES&S and local election officials say the machines are accurate and secure.

"There are only two federal certification laboratories (for DS200s) in the United States," Woodyard said, explaining the security of the machines. "One is in Colorado. The other is in Huntsville, Alabama. They have to go through extensive federal testing to be certified by one of those two

SEE ELECTIONS, A5

ALABAMA EDUCATION

Lawmakers bring back familiar bills

Proposed legislation involves pronouns, national anthem

By Trisha Powell Crain
Alabama Daily News

Alabama lawmakers are busily bringing back bills for the 2026 legislative session that didn't make it to the finish line earlier this year. Nearly all of the first batch of education-related pre-filed bills are repeats from past sessions.

Many are focused on ongoing debates over what happens inside public schools, while others take on broader questions of safety, parental rights and health.



Allen

SB 5 – National anthem

Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, is again sponsoring a bill to require all K-12 schools to play the first stanza of the Star-Spangled Banner at least once a week during the school day. This is the seventh time Allen has filed some version of this bill. Last year's attempt made it the farthest yet, clearing a House committee before stalling in the final days of the session.

SB 4 — Religious instruction

Sen. Shay Shelnett, R-Trussville, has pre-filed Senate Bill 4

SEE LAWMAKERS, A5

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Major Russian attack hits an American factory

By Samya Kullab
and Illia Novikov
The Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a rare drone and missile attack on western Ukraine overnight, officials said Thursday, striking targets including an American-owned electronics plant and injecting further uncertainty into the U.S.-led efforts to end the three-year-old war.

The aerial assault on a part of Ukraine that has largely avoided such focused attacks was one of Russia's biggest this year and came amid Moscow's objections to key aspects of proposals that could end the fighting following Russia's February 2022 invasion

of its neighbor.

U.S. President Donald Trump discussed the war with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska last week before hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House on Monday.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the strikes targeted "enterprises of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex," including drone factories, storage depots, missile launch sites and areas where Ukrainian troops were gathered. Russia has repeatedly denied targeting civilian areas of Ukraine.

But in a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote that "the Russians practically burned down an American



President Donald Trump meets with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Aug. 15 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. At left is Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and second from right is Secretary of State Marco Rubio. [AP PHOTO/JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON]

SEE WAR, A5

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