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FORECAST

TODAY WED THU

90°/64° 90°/62° 92°/64°
Complete forecast, A2

LOCAL



Students celebrate Grandparents Day

A wake-up call on May 4, 2022, brought Adrian Gonzalez to the Grandparents Day lunch at West Decatur Elementary School on Friday. A3

NATION

DNA matches with Kirk shooting suspect

DNA on a towel wrapped around a rifle found near where conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated matched that of the 22-year-old accused in the killing, FBI Director Kash Patel said on Monday. A3

WORLD

Israel, US united after strike in Qatar

Israel and the United States showed a unified front on Monday in the face of growing international anger over Israel's airstrikes on Hamas leaders in Qatar and its intensifying bombardment of Gaza City. A6

BUSINESS

US, China agree to TikTok framework

A framework deal has been reached between China and the U.S. for the ownership of popular social video platform TikTok, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after weekend trade talks in Spain. B8

Trump wants to nix quarterly reports

President Donald Trump wants to do away with the quarterly earnings report. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said securities regulators should stop requiring companies to issue financial reports every three months and instead switch to a six-month reporting period. B8

AREA DEATHS

Rayden Bermingham, Cullman
Troy Hall, Danville
Glenn Hardin, Trinity
Kathy Jo Harrison, Town Creek
Jennie Howard, Decatur
Jerry Jacobs, Decatur
Nyoka Keenum, Decatur
Michael Love, Moulton
J.T. Montgomery, Lacey's Spring
LC Sears, Decatur
James Shouse, Decatur
Death notices, obits, A5

AbbyB5
BusinessB8
ClassifiedB6
ComicsB4
CrosswordB5
EditorialsA4
HoroscopesB5
In the Community A8
ObituariesA5
SportsB1
WeatherA2

Decatur, Alabama
114th year, No. 174
16 pages, 2 sections



INDUSTRY

Carpenter Technology to expand

By Erica Smith
Staff Writer

Carpenter Technology in Limestone County on U.S. 31 plans to invest \$354.25 million in a project that it said will yield 62 jobs over three years.

"They came down there in 2012 on a 231-acre site. And they came in that time with a \$500 million capital investment bringing in over 200 jobs," said

President and CEO of Limestone County Economic Development Association Bethany Shockney.

"Then again in 2018, they expanded across the street to the south. They renovated the Delphi plant, added an engineering project. ... That was a \$20 million investment for an



Shockney



Daly

engineering facility with over 50 jobs."

The company is involved in the manufacture of specialty metals, especially for the aerospace industry.

Shockney said they are coming back to the county now with news of a \$354.25 capital investment.

"This is for another 62 jobs minimum over a three-year period of time. That's a very conservative number of jobs to be added; they really think it will be more than that," she said. "Also, the state of Alabama has been very supportive of this. They've given a competitive incentive package as well for them at the state level. ... It will include a lot

SEE CARPENTER, A3

Aerial acrobatics



The Titan Aerobatic Team performs a maneuver during the North Alabama Airfest Saturday at Pryor Field. More photos at decaturdaily.com. [JUSTIN POWELL/ FOR THE DECATUR DAILY]

CHARLIE KIRK ASSASSINATION

Trump administration joins campaign to police speech

By Nicholas Riccardi
and Konstantin Toropin
The Associated Press

Vice President JD Vance on Monday jumped onto the conservative movement demanding consequences for those who have cheered Charlie Kirk's killing, calling on the public to turn in anyone who says distasteful things about the assassination of his friend and political ally.

"When you see someone celebrating Charlie's murder, call them out," Vance urged listeners on the slain activist's podcast Monday. "And hell, call their employer."

Vance's call also included a vow to target some of the biggest funders of liberal causes as conservatives stepped up their targeting of private individuals for their comments about the killing.

"The government involvement in this does inch this closer to looking like McCarthyism," said Adam Goldstein of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, referring to the 1950s campaign to root out communists that led to false allegations and ruined careers. "It was not a shining moment for free expression."

Republican-controlled states such as Florida, Oklahoma and Texas have launched investigations of teachers accused of inappropriate statements after last week's assassination. The U.S. military has invited members of the public to report those who "celebrate or mock" the killing and said some troops



Vance

have already been removed for their comments.

At the same time, the Trump administration has vowed to target what it contends is a "vast" liberal network that inspired the shooter, even as authorities maintain it appears he acted alone and the investigation is ongoing.

The campaign has broadened to include even those whose statements were critical of Kirk without celebrating his assassination.

The Washington Post fired Karen Attiah, an opinion columnist, for posts on the day of the shooting that lamented how "white America" was not ready to solve gun violence and that quoted Kirk denigrating the intelligence of prominent Black women such as Michelle Obama.

SEE TRUMP, A7

US SENATE

Britt joins push to sanction Russia

By Alex Angle
Alabama Daily News

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of U.S. senators, including Katie Britt of Alabama, wants to label Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism over its kidnapping of thousands of Ukrainian children.

Lawmakers are escalating pressure on Russia after Poland struck down Russian drones in its airspace during strikes on Ukraine last week. Poland described the airspace violation an "act of aggression."

Senate Republicans Lindsey Graham and Britt and Democrats Richard Blumenthal and Amy Klobuchar introduced legislation Thursday to add Russia to the list of countries deemed by the United States as sponsors of terrorism until they return the abducted children.

"We all need to be using every tool in our toolbox to bring these babies, to bring these children home," Britt said during a press conference introducing the bill. "It is clear that Putin will never do the right thing without being forced to, and now it's time to make that happen."

Currently, the U.S. has designated four countries as state sponsors of terrorism: Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria. The designation imposes severe sanctions on a country's economy and government.

During Thursday's press conference, Graham added Russia's



Britt



Graham

SEE BRITT, A7

LIMESTONE COUNTY

Defendants appear in court for human trafficking

By Wes Tomlinson
Staff Writer

ATHENS — After hearings, a Limestone County District Court on Monday ruled that two men caught in a human trafficking sting will be held without bond, one after prosecutors argued he would be deported and not face justice if bond were granted.

In each of several hearings

Monday, defendants faced charges that they messaged deputies acting as underage females and solicited them for sexual acts.

Decatur resident Stacey Jalen Diquan Lewis, 32, was one of 11 men caught in the sting. All



Lewis



Lopez-Salucio

were charged with first-degree human trafficking, traveling to meet a child for sex and electronic solicitation of a child. He sat in court on Monday wearing jail attire and was seated beside his attorney, Bruce Gardner of Huntsville. Limestone County

Assistant District Attorney Kristen Clemmons was the prosecutor for all the human trafficking cases that day.

The sting was part of Operation Summer Heat, an anti-human trafficking operation intended to target individuals who attempt to exploit children over the internet. The Sheriff's Office

SEE DEFENDANTS, A7



See More
in Today's
Classified
Section

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