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FORECAST

TODAY **SAT** **SUN**
68°/48° 74°/56° 62°/57°
Complete forecast, **A2**

RIVERFRONT



Alabama prisons under spotlight

Family members of people incarcerated in Alabama prisons packed a Wednesday meeting of the Legislative Prison Committee and then held a rally on the steps of the Capitol. **C1**

West Decatur reopens after HVAC incident

West Decatur Elementary School plans to reopen Friday after smoke from a seized-up motor in a heating and air conditioning unit led to canceled classes Thursday, a school official said. **C1**

NATION



Trump demolishes entire East Wing

The entire White House East Wing has been demolished as President Donald Trump moves forward with construction of a ballroom, Associated Press photos on Thursday showed. **A3**

Dinosaur mummies unwrap prehistory

Researchers have unearthed a spooky pair of dinosaur mummies that seem to have been preserved in an unexpected way. **C3**

BUSINESS

Canada to boost non-US exports

Prime Minister Mark Carney set a goal for Canada to double its non-U.S. exports in the next decade, saying American tariffs are causing a chill in investment. **D6**

AREA DEATHS

Bobby Brothers, Decatur
Kenneth Jones, Danville
Brenda Lee, Hartselle
Death notices, obits, **B5**

AbbyD5
BusinessD6
ClassifiedC4
ComicsD4
Crossword.....D5
EditorialsA4
HoroscopeD5
Obituaries.....B5
Religion.....D1
RiverfrontC1
SportsB1
WeatherA2

Decatur, Alabama
114th year, No. 207
24 pages, 4 sections



CLASSIFIEDS
See More in Today's Classified Section

- Classifieds on the cover -

Newman's Tree Service, Inc.
Trimming, topping, removal. Insured, 24-Hour Emergency Storm Work
256-734-2101

- Classifieds on the cover -

Now Hiring: Advertising Assistant in Decatur, Alabama

See ad in today's classifieds for more information

- Classifieds on the cover -

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10 of 11 years voted Best of the Best
Location, Location, Location
256-350-4545

- Classifieds on the cover -

To Place Your Front Page Classified ad,
Call Gina O'Kelley at 256-740-5816
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Wesley Acres in Decatur, AL is seeking a Full-Time Maintenance Worker
Contact **Kelly Sanders** 256-355-8281

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Local hospitals face higher costs

By **GraciAnn Goodin**
Staff Writer

As the government shutdown stretches beyond three weeks, healthcare subsidies remain a focal point. The Huntsville Hospital Health System expects its uncompensated care to increase by \$10-to-\$15 million in 2026 if these subsidies expire.

Affordable Care Act premium tax credits were enhanced in 2021. Enrollment in Marketplace health insurance, through



Howard

healthcare.gov, grew from 11 million to over 24 million with this enhancement, according to an analysis by KFF. The enhanced credits are set to expire at the end of 2025 unless renewed by Congress.

Democrats have demanded that the ACA enhanced tax credits be extended before open enrollment starts on Nov. 1.

Republicans have refused to discuss the issue until the government is reopened.

KFF, a nonprofit healthcare research organization, estimates that around 130,000 people in Alabama could become uninsured due to the ACA credits expiring. More uninsured people can mean more uncompensated care for hospitals and doctors' offices.

"As a not-for-profit health system, all of our revenues are reinvested in our local

communities to continue to meet the local healthcare demands," said Huntsville Hospital Health System Director of Marketing and PR Jamie Gilliam. "Uncompensated care costs add additional financial burden to a reimbursement environment that is already strained. The more of these costs that are absorbed, the greater the impact to the safety net services we provide."

Decatur Morgan Hospital

SEE HOSPITALS, A5

MORGAN COUNTY ARCHIVES

90 years on duty



Cpl. Jason White, left, and Sgt. Andrew Alexander, center, find a picture of Sgt. Eric Smith, right, as they check out an old yearbook that is part of the temporary exhibit commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Alabama Highway Patrol at the Morgan County Archives on Monday. "I was still in high school!" said Alexander with a laugh. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

Temporary exhibit celebrates state trooper anniversary

By **GraciAnn Goodin**
Staff Writer

The Morgan County Archives opened a temporary exhibit honoring the 90-year anniversary of the Alabama Highway Patrol on Monday.

The exhibit will be on display through Oct. 31. It includes artifacts dating back to Highway Patrol's beginning in 1935 through more recent years. Many items came from the Decatur Highway Patrol Post.

"I think this is a good thing

for the citizens of Morgan County and beyond to come see the displays and the artifacts and realize the contributions of the state troopers over this period of time," said Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur. "... If they weren't there, we would notice in a negative way. It would not be good."

Orr signed a resolution earlier this month commemorating the Alabama Highway Patrol's 90th anniversary and commending it for its "history of excellence."

"They have a very important role in our state government and among law enforcement," Orr said. "We're grateful for all that

they do in that capacity."

Visitors can view old patches, pins, badges and other parts of the state trooper uniform from different years at the exhibit. It also includes a display of old guns, a collection of past commemorative photo albums from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Alabama Department of Public Safety, and more.

Sergeant Andrew Alexander, commander for the Decatur Highway Patrol Post, enjoys looking at the Highway Patrol's tradition that it still upholds today.

"I'd like for (visitors) to be

SEE ARCHIVES, A5

CAPITAL MURDER

Delp guilty in Hartselle man's death

By **Wes Tomlinson**
Staff Writer

After deliberating for less than an hour, a jury in Morgan County Circuit Court found Logan McKinley Delp guilty of two counts of capital murder in the shooting death of Hartselle resident Anthony Larry Sheppard at his house in 2020.



Delp

"We're happy for the family of Larry Sheppard that the jury returned a guilty verdict of capital murder," said Morgan County Chief Assistant District Attorney Garrick Vickery following the verdict. "This is a small step towards closure for the family, and we will continue to pursue justice for them as best we can."

Vickery said the only available sentence in this case is life without parole. He said sentencing will be Friday at 9 a.m.

Neither Sheppard's family nor others involved in the case were immediately available for comment.

Prosecutors told jurors Thursday in Morgan County Circuit Court that Delp fatally shot Sheppard at his house for payment from his daughter's mother with the intention of killing him, while the defense claimed he was deceived into thinking he was saving a girl from abuse and urged jurors to find him not guilty of capital murder.

Delp, 41, was charged in April 2021 with killing Sheppard, 41, on the morning of July 24, 2020, after investigators said he was paid

SEE MURDER, A5

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

States worry about how to fill the gap in food aid

By **Geoff Mulvihill**
The Associated Press

A federal food aid program that helps about one-eighth of Americans buy groceries stands to be paused Nov. 1 because of the government shutdown, and even some states that want to step in to fill the gap have found they can't.

Recipients of the food aid, food banks, states and advocates are bracing for a pause to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, payments at the end of next

week. Here's what to know.

Likely program will be paused

Lower-income families who qualify for SNAP receive debit cards loaded each month by the federal government that work only for groceries at participating stores and farmers markets. The average monthly benefit is \$187 per person. Most beneficiaries have incomes at or below the poverty level.

Time is running short to keep benefits flowing in November. Congress and President

Donald Trump could strike a deal to end the federal shutdown that started Oct. 1.

It's also possible that the federal government will allocate money for the program even if the shutdown continues. The liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that about \$5 billion is available in a contingency fund and is calling on the government to use that for partial benefits in November. It's not clear if that's being seriously discussed.

The USDA has not answered questions from The Associated

Press about whether those funds might be tapped.

States have also indicated that there could be a delay in benefits even if a deal is struck to fund SNAP for November.

States have limited ability to help

Officials from Alaska, New Mexico and North Dakota have said that they've considered using state money to keep the food aid flowing but fear a federal government directive may

SEE GAP, A5