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FORECAST

TODAY **WED** **THU**
92°/70° **93°/71°** **90°/72°**
Complete forecast, **A2**

LOCAL



Jesse Owens Museum unveils new display

The Jesse Owens Museum and Park recently unveiled a new display full of unique artifacts about the historical figure. **A3**

NATION

Investigators probe Amazon's Miami crash

The five people killed when an Amazon cargo jet ran off a runway at Miami International Airport were all inside a van carrying seven people from a cleaning company, and an SUV hit outside of airport property, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday. **A7**

Poorest in US can't find housing

Mathew Davis, who lives in a homeless shelter in Austin, Texas, would love an apartment of his own. But with the little money he makes donating blood plasma, even a \$450-a-month tiny home with no running water and a communal bathroom would be a stretch. **A7**

WORLD

Party's over for crypto scammers

They pulled off one of the largest cryptocurrency thefts in U.S. history, duping a stranger out of bitcoin worth over \$240 million. They tried to hide their digital fingerprints, carrying out a sophisticated scheme to launder the proceeds. **A6**

BUSINESS

Venezuelans proud of their oil

Nothing has shaped what it means to be Venezuelan today more than oil. For more than 100 years, in good times and bad, Venezuelans' identity has been built around the belief that their country's bountiful oil resources belong to the people, not a government or a company. **B8**

AREA DEATHS

Troy Cannon, Decatur
Mary Ann Howse, Guntersville
Soloman Johnson, Hartselle
Helen Nesmith, Decatur
Elizabeth Prens, Decatur
Michael Strickland, Hartselle
Paul Sutton, Mount Hope
Dee Terry, Hillsboro
Lynsy Whitehead, Moulton
Robert Woods, Decatur
Death notices, obits, **A5**

Abby B5 Horoscopes..... B5
Business B8 In the Community..A8
Classified B6 Obituaries..... A5
Comics..... B4 Sports..... B1
Crossword..... B5 Weather..... A2
Editorials A4

Decatur, Alabama
115th year, No. 173
16 pages, 2 sections



PROPOSED DECATUR SUBDIVISION

Debate over entrances tabled

By Bayne Hughes
Staff Writer

The debate over whether a single entrance or two entrances are necessary in a planned Idlewind subdivision by former Building Director Jimmy Brothers remains unresolved. Brothers changed his preliminary plat of 41.17 acres off 3405 Danville Road S.W., just north of Chapel Hill Road subdivision to 134 homes with two access drives

on the recommendation of the Technical Review Commission. At its July 21 meeting, the Planning Commission approved this plat that Brothers and his partner, Arlington, Texas-based DR Horton, really don't want. They want a single entrance that would allow for 10 more homes, so he appealed to the Board of Zoning Adjustments for a variance. Planning Director Chad Bowman told Board of Zoning

Adjustments at its Aug. 25 meeting that the Planning Department staff "recommends denial" of Brothers' request because the city ordinance requires two access points for any subdivision with between 81 and 160 homes. But he later added that their denial recommendation is "based on the contingency of what the results are from the traffic study because it can actually let us know which scenario works best for the subdivision

as well as transportation along Danville Road." Bowman read Brothers' appeal letter, which argued this requirement for two entrances/exits would create "a hardship" in himself and the developer. The appeal says the requirement "would significantly detract from the marketability and aesthetic quality of the subdivision. The fact that this

SEE SUBDIVISION, A6

Charging enemy positions



Confederate troops charge Union positions during the reenactment of the Battle for Decatur at Point Mallard Park on Saturday. See more photos on page A8 and at decaturdaily.com. [JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY]

ALABAMA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

\$222M more sought for insurance

By Trisha Powell Crain
Alabama Daily News

BIRMINGHAM — Alabama's health insurance program for public education employees plans to ask lawmakers for about \$222 million in additional funding next year as rising health care costs continue to strain the program's finances. The Public Education Employees Health Insurance Program's Board of Control last Tuesday approved a request for just over \$1.5 billion in state funding for fiscal



Poole

2028, up from \$1.3 billion for fiscal 2027. If lawmakers approve the request, that would raise the employer contribution rate from \$1,048 to \$1,226 per active education employee per month. PEEHIP officials said there are about 104,000 active members. State Finance Director Bill Poole warned board members that PEEHIP's rising costs are colliding with a tightening



Orr

"We've had a remarkable run with the ability to contain costs for an extended period of time," Poole said. "But with inflationary costs of healthcare increasing, that's creating significant headwind."

state budget picture. "We see some converging pressure points," Poole said. SEE INSURANCE, A6

MORGAN SCHOOLS

Capital projects make for tight 2027 budget

By Jean Cole
Staff Writer

Morgan County Schools presented a balanced budget for fiscal 2027 that includes a 2% raise from the state for teachers and other employees but a tight margin in the general fund until some capital projects are complete.

Bob Hagood, chief financial officer of Morgan County Schools, told the seven-member school board Thursday he is expecting \$119,680,305 in projected revenue and \$128,680,582 in projected expenses for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Revenues are made up of 54% state, 39% local and 7% federal funds, according to a chart he provided. Hagood said of the total expenditures, only 3%, or \$4,142,995, will be spent on general administration services while 44%, or \$56,177,641, will be spent on instructional services for the school system and another 15%, or \$19,256,772, will be spent on instructional support services. In the general fund, budgeted expenses exceed revenue by \$9,456,875, Hagood said, using an overhead smart board to illustrate budget facts during the board's first budget hearing. Although expenses in the general fund exceeded revenue, he said there is about \$9,374,769



Holmes



Halbrooks



Turrentine

SEE SCHOOLS, A6

LABOR DAY

Midterm elections head to the home stretch

By Patrick Whittle and Bill Barrow
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Troy Jackson was a longtime labor activist and logger before he unexpectedly became the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Maine. On Monday, he returned to a union hall to tell workers they need to go to the polls this fall — to raise the minimum wage, expand family medical leave and show support for one another. "Labor Day has never been

just another holiday," Jackson told several hundred union members at a Southern Maine Labor Council event Monday in Portland. "Today, here with the people I've fought alongside for years, I want to make a pledge about exactly what I'm going to do in the United States Senate." Jackson, who became the nominee in a special convention in July, is trying to whip up support in a short period of time as he attempts to unseat longtime Republican Sen. Susan Collins in a race Democrats view as critical

to winning Senate control. He was among the candidates in key November races who spent Labor Day weekend stumping at festivals, union halls and parades as the midterms enter the final weeks with control of the House and Senate on the line. This year's campaigns already have been combative, busy and expensive, and they are expected to get even more so as a larger number of voters tune in ahead of the Nov. 3 general election. The first statewide mail ballots already went out, in North

Carolina, on Friday. Outside the Jackson event in Portland, Doug Born, a 64-year-old union stagehand from Westbrook, said Jackson's background as a logger and his longtime support of organized labor are reasons to support him. "I think he'd be the most working-class guy in the Senate. That appeals to me," Born said. "We need more union members in seats of power." Collins had no events

SEE ELECTIONS, A6

See More in Today's Classified Section

697821-1

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