



# The Decatur Daily

50 CENTS  
**THURSDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

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THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY SINCE 1912

## Decatur welcome to Garth cemetery

### Family not opposed to making donation

By Deangelo McDaniel  
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If the city of Decatur wants the historic Garth Cemetery on Danville Road Southwest, family members say they are willing to donate it.

"I think that would be great," Robert Garth said about the possibility of city officials maintaining the cemetery.



**Jesse W. Garth**  
City founder buried in cemetery

Garth, who is the great-great-grand-son of Jesse Winston Garth, resides in Pensacola, Fla.

His father, Winston Garth, has the deed to the remaining 20-acre tract that was once part of one of the largest plantations in Morgan County. The cemetery comprises less than an acre and has dedicated access from Danville Road. It is overgrown.

### \$10,000 study of sites

On Monday, the council authorized Mayor Don Kyle to accept a \$10,000 grant from the Alabama Historical Commission to conduct a study of historical sites in Southwest Decatur.

Kyle said he isn't sure if the Garth Cemetery is included in the study area, but he believes the city should do what it can to acquire the property because of its historical value.

Melinda Dunn, who works at the Old State Bank building, presented the grant proposal to the council, but she was not available to comment.

"Hopefully, we can make this happen," Kyle said, about acquiring the property.

The cemetery is the burial site of Jesse Winston Garth, a War of 1812 veteran and one of Decatur's founding fathers.

Garth, Isaac Lane, McKinney Holderness, George Peck and Dr. Henry Rhodes were the first directors of Decatur Land Co., which laid out the city's streets.

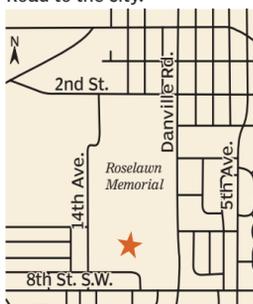
Unlike the others, Garth remained in the area.

By July 1818, Jesse Winston Garth had recorded almost 1,500 acres in Morgan County. An 1837 survey map shows his home is the only structure within miles of Decatur.

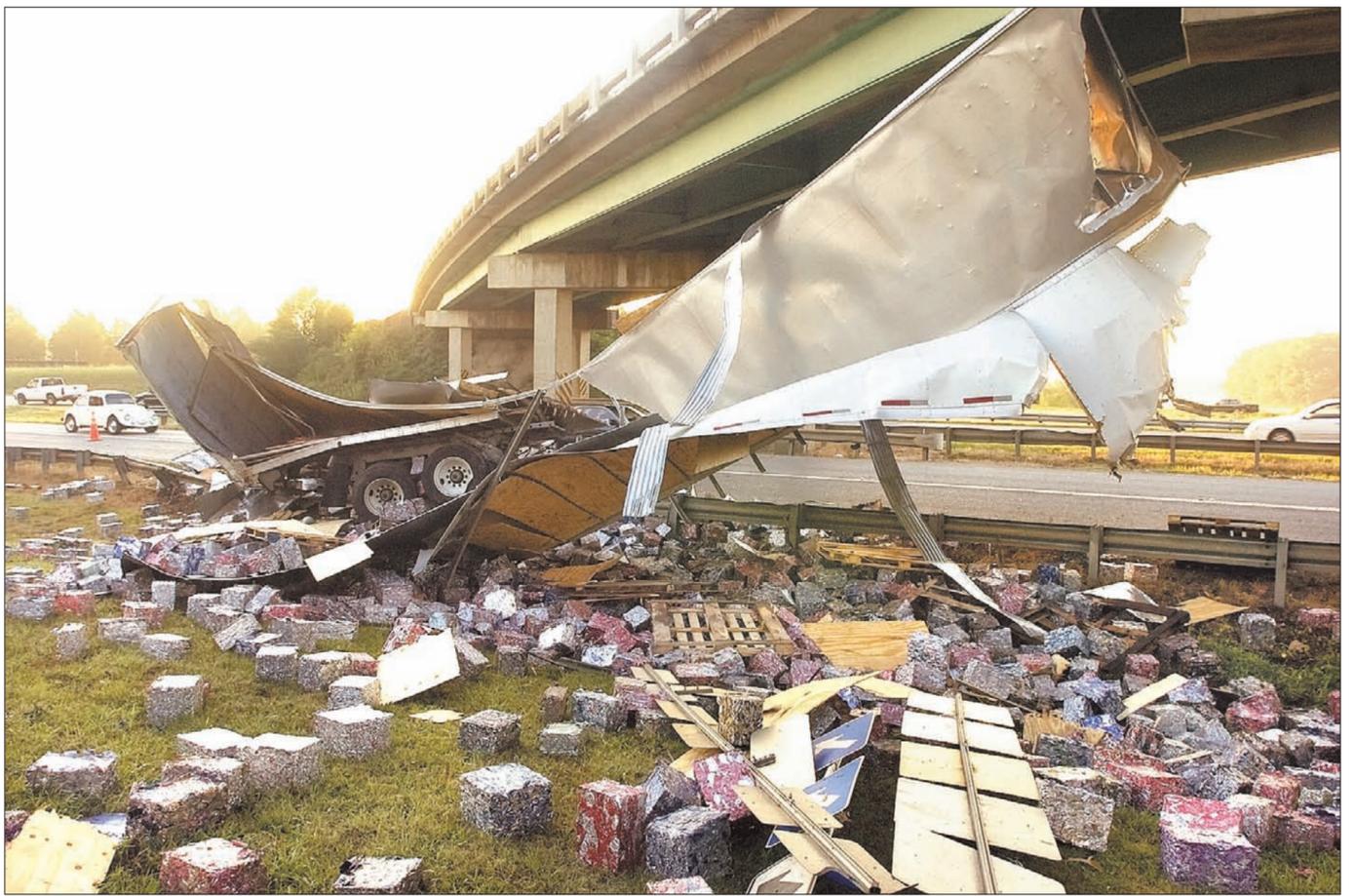
Please see **Cemetery**, page A8

### Historic cemetery

Jesse Winston Garth descendants said they are willing to donate the historic Garth Cemetery on Danville Road to the city.



Daily map by Laura Taylor



Daily photo by John Godbey

Aluminum cubes are strewn at the site of Wednesday's wreck, but nobody was hurt. More photos, A8.

## 'A dead-bang straight shot'

### Tractor trailer crashes on Ala.20-U.S. 31 bridge; scrap metal strewn, but nobody hurt

By Seth Burkett  
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An 18-wheeler wreck left its split trailer dangling from a bridge, strewn cubes of crushed aluminum into the roadway below early Wednesday.

No one, including the truck driver, suffered injuries in the 4 a.m. crash on Alabama 20 at U.S. 31, Decatur police said.

Police did not immediately identify the driver and said they had not determined what caused the truck to run head-on into railing of the curved overpass.

"The driver stated he didn't remember anything about the accident," said Lt. Frank DeButy, a police spokesman.

"It was a dead-bang straight shot," DeButy said. "He never turned the wheels, or if he did, the vehicle didn't turn. He went straight into the bridge railing. That vehicle never turned an

inch." DeButy said the trailer rotated around the tractor and skidded atop the railing, leaving it hanging precariously over traffic on U.S. 31.

The trailer broke and the portion extended over the railing fell, spilling the load of compressed scrap metal.

The back end of the trailer remained hanging from the part still on the overpass, looking as though it were on a hinge, DeButy said.

Traffic on U.S. 31 and Alabama 20 slowed considerably until about 9 a.m. while crews cleaned up the trailer and its load, DeButy said.



Daily photo by Brennen Smith

Dwight Jett, a lieutenant colonel with the 1169th Alabama National Guard Engineering Group, with his mother, Patty, and niece Olivia Farris on Wednesday at the National Guard Armory in Huntsville upon his return to Alabama after being deployed in Iraq.

## Jett returns from Iraq deployment

By Bayne Hughes  
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HUNTSVILLE — Dwight Jett Jr. joked with his wife, Karen, that he may not want back his seat on the Decatur City Board of Education. She shot back that she might not

give it back.

The two had reason to joke and laugh Wednesday as Lt. Col. Dwight Jett and Maj. James Pugh of Eva returned home from Iraq along with about 60 fellow members of the 1169th Engineering Group of the Alabama National Guard. They received a celebratory welcome at

Huntsville's National Guard Armory.

Jett had spent the past 13½ months dodging bullets and helping rebuild Iraq. Returning to the school board and re-opening his law practice may have to wait while Jett

Please see **Jett**, page A8

## Lab studying ways to build a Great Wall of America

By Sue Vorenberg  
Scripps Howard News Service

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Great Wall of China — about 4,163 miles of earth, stone, gravel and brick — was a miracle of engineering and construction for its time.

Maybe for all time.

That doesn't mean others won't try to do the Chinese one better.

Engineers at Sandia National Laboratories are studying ways to build massive barriers — a Great Wall of America, perhaps? — that will keep the nation more secure as border encroachment becomes more problematic and fraught with danger, and politics.

So far, however, they're sure of just one thing: there is no one-size-fits-all wall, says Brian Damkroger, a senior manager of the labs' border security and exploratory systems.

"The idea is to control the borders — that may be through a physical fence, that may be through a virtual fence with sensors and radar," Damkroger said. "How you approach controlling the border depends on lots of things."

Sandia's work is part of the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Border Initiative, which has a goal of securing both U.S. borders.

Alabama immigration commission meets, B1.

Please see **Wall**, page A8

### AREA DEATHS

Jerry Conrad, Decatur  
Robert Durham, Athens  
Vina Durnil, Hartselle  
Carol Hatfield, Decatur  
Harold Paape, Ardmore  
Margie Schoolcraft, Arab  
Richard Taylor Sr., Athens  
Larry West, Lacey's Spring

Death notices, obituaries, B5.



**High: 88 Low: 61**

Partly sunny with northeast winds around 10 mph. Mostly clear in the evening. Mostly cloudy Friday and Saturday.

### INSIDE

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Decatur, Alabama 96th year, No. 207, 60 pages

**'We need to rethink the influenza immunization season and encourage vaccination throughout the fall and winter for anyone wishing to be protected.'**

**Dr. Julie Gerberding**  
Head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Story, B6.)



### MILITARY

## Army tests GIs' brains

New program records how soldiers' brains work when healthy before sending them to Iraq, Afghanistan. A5