



We break more news at



THURSDAY / SEPTEMBER 20 / 2007

2 MINUTE TIMES

Local

Sentencing is delayed for a former Decatur resident now living in South Carolina who was convicted Wednesday on a charge of child molestation. **B1**

Ticks are wiping out a local reindeer herd, which could make it a blue Christmas for their owner and area children. **B1**

State

Attorney General Troy King accuses district attorneys across Alabama of turning their backs on crime victims. **B1**

The Scottsboro City Council will consider the mayor's request for emergency roof repairs to the Scottsboro Goosepond Colony Civic Center. **B2**

Nation

Dan Rather files a \$70 million lawsuit against CBS and his former bosses, claiming they made him a "scapegoat" for a discredited story about President Bush's military service. **A3**

Manufacturers expect to ship more than 130 million doses of flu vaccine in the coming months. **A10**

World

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki says Blackwater security guards who protect U.S. diplomats in Iraq have been involved in at least seven serious incidents. **A3**

Iran's deputy air force commander warns that his nation has drawn up plans to bomb Israel if the Jewish state should attack. **A5**

Business

Dow +76.17
Nasdaq +14.82
S&P 500 +9.25

The Labor Department reports that consumer prices dipped by 0.1 percent in August, the first decline since October 2006. **F1**

Sports

Auburn's defense faces a unique challenge when New Mexico State coach Hal Mumme brings his aerial attack to Jordan-Hare Stadium. **D1**

Full weather, F4

Forecast: Sunny, dry.
High today: **86**
Low tonight: **57**

What's inside

Abby/C2
Bridge/C2
Business/F1
Classifieds/E1
Comics/C2
Crossword puzzles/C2, E4
Cryptoquote/C2
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Huntsville, Alabama
Vol. 98, No. 182, 40 pages
Contents © 2007, The Huntsville Times



Dave Dieter/Huntsville Times

Astronaut-teacher Barbara Morgan speaks Wednesday at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Astronaut-teacher offers lesson on choosing career

Morgan explains importance of math, picking job you enjoy

By SHELBY G. SPIRES
Times Aerospace Writer
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Want a cool job in the space program? Students who want that cool job need to keep studying math, work as a team, and understand why keeping up with the accurate time of day is important.

That was part of a message that NASA teacher-astronaut Barbara

Morgan delivered to students from across North Alabama and southern Tennessee Wednesday during a visit to Marshall Space Flight Center.

Morgan and space shuttle pilot Charlie Hobaugh came to Marshall to thank space center workers for supporting the Aug. 8 launch of Endeavour and the mission to the International Space Station.

Math skills are a must, and not just for the engineer and rocket scientists on the ground or the mission controllers in Houston "who get to do the fun part of mathematics," Morgan told 325 students and about 500 Marshall

workers gathered to see her and Hobaugh.

Using the shuttle's advanced robotic arm in conjunction with the space station's robotic arm to move equipment depends on a high degree of skill, Morgan said.

"The robotic arm is really geometry in action. You have to know the angles and the vectors and how that plays into its work, because the last thing you want to do is run into anything" on the shuttle or space station, Morgan told students. "There's no room for error

Please see **TEACHER** on A6

GUARD UNIT IS BACK FROM IRAQ



Robin Conn/Huntsville Times

Family and friends of members of the Alabama National Guard 1169th Engineering Group cheer and wave during Wednesday evening's welcome home ceremony.

1169th 'just glad to be home'

Engineering Group returns after months spent clearing bombs

By CHALLEN STEPHENS
Times Staff Writer
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Puanani Wright gave the second red rose to her fiancé's driver, the man she figures helped steer Master Sgt. Jimmy Nelms back to her.

The first rose went to Nelms himself, who returned Wednesday from Iraq aboard a bus with 30 local members of the 1169th Engineering Group. That Army National Guard unit, headquartered in Huntsville, first shipped overseas last October.

In Baghdad, the 1169th cleared

Please see **HOME** on A6



Robin Conn/Huntsville Times

Master Sgt. Thomas Emerson kisses his grandson, Ian Emerson, while holding new grandson Haze Emerson, who was born Aug. 1.

Bill to regulate amount of time in combat fails

Measure would have required equal shift in training, deployment

By ANNE FLAHERTY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Senate blocked legislation Wednesday that would have regulated the amount of time troops spent in combat, a blow for Democrats struggling to challenge President Bush's Iraq policies.

The 56-44 vote was four votes short

of reaching the 60 needed to cut off debate. It was the second time in as many months that the bill, sponsored by Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., was sidetracked. In July, a similar measure fell four votes short of advancing.

Failure of the bill was a sound defeat for Democrats, who have been unable to pass significant anti-war legislation since taking control of Congress in January. Webb's measure was seen as

Please see **BILL** on A6

Legislators say immigration panel hijacked

Sponsor says legislation was rewritten to suit business, industry

By BOB LOWRY
Times Staff Writer
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MONTGOMERY - A trio of legislators, including two Republicans, said Wednesday a commission to study illegal immigration in Alabama appears to have been hijacked by business and in-

dustry groups.

Sen. Scott Beason, R-Gardendale, who sponsored the legislation creating the Joint Interim Patriotic Immigration Commission, said his original bill was rewritten to accommodate business and industry.

"The folks who got together to run this commission, to make sure their people were on it, are the same folks who changed my resolution in the Legislature," he said. "I think its loaded pretty heavily for groups who apparently

somewhere in their groups hire illegals. "Their version of what's best for Alabama is what's best for them."

The second meeting of the commission turned testy Wednesday when members disagreed over whether the 21-member group should have public hearings around the state.

"As soon as you saw the opposition to public meetings, which was clear, that told me everything I needed to know," said Beason.

Commission Chairman Jay Reed, vice

president of the Associated Builders & Contractors, said that when his group sponsors job fairs, attendance is minimal. He called some of the claims about construction jobs being taken away from Alabamians a "myth."

"No one is coming and really saying, 'Please put me on a career path so I can get on top of a roof and sweat from about 6 a.m. until about 3 p.m.,'" he said. "No one wants to do these jobs. When we get

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