



WWW.DECATURDAILY.COM

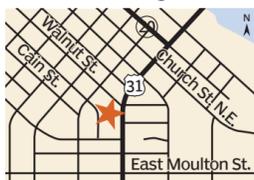
The Decatur Daily

RACK — 50 CENTS
HOME DELIVERY — 41 CENTS
WEDNESDAY
MAY 7, 2008

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY SINCE 1912

Car crash

A four-minute vehicle chase that reached more than 100 mph ended in death for a Rogersville man when he struck the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce building.



Daily map by Laura Taylor

Man killed when car hits building in police chase

By Paul Huggins
phuggins@decaturdaily.com
340-2395

Drugs or alcohol appear to be involved in the death of a Rogersville man who crashed his vehicle on Sixth Avenue Northeast after a high-speed police chase early Tuesday.

The victim, Quinton Brasco Watkins, 29, tried to elude Decatur police for four minutes and reached speeds above 100 mph before he lost control and slammed into the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce.

Officers found marijuana and cocaine in the vehicle, which wiped out all the landscaping on one side of the chamber office before striking a large concrete

Please see **Fatal**, page A4

NATION

Congress looks at steel pennies and nickels. A2



Nevada governor wants his mansion back and his wife out. A2



TODAY'S WEATHER, A2

High: 83 Low: 62
Partly cloudy and breezy.

AREA DEATHS

Elizabeth Burns, Decatur
Don Clemons, Athens
Jerald Harness, Meridianville
Wayne Heflin, Athens
Wallace Johnson, Decatur
Horace Nall, Atmore
Bobby Perry, Decatur
Willie Sharpley, Hartselle

INSIDE

Abby D6 Living D6
Area briefs B3 Lotteries B5
Bridge D5 Movies D3
Calendar D6 Obituaries B5
Classified C5 Riverfront B1
Comics D4 Sports C1
Crossword D5 Stocks A7
Editorials A8-9 Television D3
Food D1 Weather A2

Decatur, Alabama 97th year,
No. 72, 88 pages



Obama wins big in N.C., says nomination is close

Hillary, with narrow victory in Indiana primary, says 'it's full speed to the White House

By David Esposito and Liz Sidoti
Associated Press Writers

INDIANAPOLIS — Barack Obama swept to victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic

presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton eked out a win in Indiana as she struggled to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination.

Clinton and Obama both said the former first lady would win Indiana. Yet thousands of votes

were yet to be counted, principally in Lake County, a heavily black area not far from Obama's home city of Chicago.

She told supporters in Indianapolis, "Thanks to you, it's full speed to the White House," signaling her determination to

fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 15 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 99 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama winning 56 per-

Please see **Primary**, page A4

Buried in the wrong space at Decatur City Cemetery . . . and the plot thickens



Daily photos by Paul Huggins

The remains of George Erone Hill are exhumed from the wrong burial plot at Decatur City Cemetery on Tuesday for reburial in the correct location.

Family says burial plot tainted

By Paul Huggins
phuggins@decaturdaily.com
340-2395

George Erone Hill was laid in his final resting place for the second time Tuesday.

The 84-year-old had to be moved from the grave where he was buried March 27 because he had been placed in the

wrong plot. The plot at Decatur City Cemetery belonged to another Hill family, who discovered the mistake Saturday.

The error greatly upset the owners of the plot because they said the sacred spot has been tainted and is no longer usable.

"Who wants to be buried right here now?" asked Sabrina Kirby, whose parents, Billy and Mary Hill, bought six

spaces for the family in 1971 after their infant son died.

She compared it to sleeping in a hotel bed when the maid hasn't changed the linens from the previous occupants. Now the family doesn't know what to do.

"They don't want the used plot, but that would leave them one plot short for Kirby and her two siblings. They don't want to move to another sec-

tion with six plots because they don't want to move the body of Marty Shane Hill, the infant they buried there in 1971.

Moving a body after it's laid to rest can cause a "restless soul," Kirby said.

Her mother concluded, "We own it. We just can't use it."

Members of the George Hill family could not be reached for



Sabrina Kirby says the mistaken burial has created a dilemma for her family.

Please see **Plot**, page A4



Daily photo by Seth Burkett

Human remains found

A Huntsville police investigator carries evidence bags Tuesday from a woods near Interstate 565 about a mile inside Limestone County where human remains were found by a surveying crew. (Story, B3.)

Advocates say removal of food tax to help most

By M.J. Ellington
mjellington@decaturdaily.com
(334) 262-1104

MONTGOMERY — Supporters of a bill to remove the sales tax from groceries appealed to lawmakers Tuesday to let voters decide the issue in a referendum.

"I don't see how anyone can stand in the way of letting people vote on this issue," said Rep. John Knight, D-Montgomery, who sponsored the bill.

Knight joined other lawmakers and activists at a news conference calling for passage of a bill to repeal the sales tax on groceries. The bill also calls for removing the state income tax deduction for federal income tax to make up lost revenue.

Some lawmakers object to removing the deduction for federal income tax and seek compromise.

Republicans want to link the bill to passage of legislation returning property tax appraisals to every four years instead of every year.

Breakeven points for income tax with standard deduction

The breakeven point is the amount of income that determines whether your combined income and grocery sales tax would increase or decrease.

Single	\$39,000
Head of family - 1 child	\$66,000
Head of family - 2 children	\$80,000
Married filing joint - no children	\$78,000
Married filing joint - 1 child	\$97,500
Married filing joint - 2 children	\$109,300

SOURCE: LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE; ARISE CITIZENS' POLICY PROJECT
Daily chart by Laura Taylor

Knight said people pushing the link may not be doing taxpayers a favor during a time when property values are falling.

The fluctuation of property values may mean that if the appraisals did not take place again for four years, taxpayers could be locked into rates at an all-time high.

Please see **Tax**, page A4