



The Decatur Daily

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FORECAST

TODAY SAT SUN

 87°/72° 89°/72° 90°/72°

Complete forecast, A2

COMING SUNDAY



Mayoral candidates talk top priorities

Decatur's mayoral candidates discuss their platforms and how they plan to accomplish specific goals as they campaign for the Aug. 23 municipal election.

RIVERFRONT



First-year teachers receive encouragement

Decatur City Schools welcomed more than 40 new educators into the system Thursday at First Baptist Church during the district's annual new teacher breakfast. C1

SPORTS

TV ratings prompt change in games

The College Football Playoff has abandoned a plan to play most of its semifinals on New Year's Eves after television ratings tumbled last year, moving the dates of future games to ensure they will be played either on a weekend or a holiday. B1

ONLINE

Firefighters assess damage from blaze

A fire Thursday morning damaged a 16-unit, two-story apartment building in Southwest Decatur and forced the evacuation of residents. Firefighters rescued one person from the fire at Summer Lodge Apartments on Spring Avenue. Story on C2 and photos at decaturdaily.com.

AREA DEATHS

Arlee Blankenship, Decatur
 Marion Gregory, Huntsville
 Perry Kine, Moulton
 Billy Bob Meadows, Toney
 Hosea Penrose, Decatur
 Shirley Staton, Athens
 Alton Tucker, Michigan
 Byron Ward, Decatur
 Death notices, obits, B4

AbbyD5 LotteriesB3
 BusinessB5 ObituariesB4
 ClassifiedC3 ReligionD1
 ComicsD4 RiverfrontC1
 CrosswordD5 SportsB1
 EditorialsA4 WeatherA2
 HoroscopeD5

Decatur, Alabama
 105th year, No. 155
 24 pages, 4 sections



ATLAS V

109th successful launch

Expert: ULA recovering from 'grim' outlook

By Evan Belanger
 Staff Writer

United Launch Alliance on Thursday celebrated its 109th successful launch, as one of its Atlas V rockets hoisted a classified payload into orbit for the National Reconnaissance Office.

The rocket was assembled at ULA's 850-employee plant in Decatur.

The launch comes as the company recovers from a precarious political situation and battles increasing competition from rival SpaceX.

"I think probably grim is a

good word to use for what things looked like a year ago," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst for the Lexington Institute and a consultant for Lockheed-Martin Corp., one of ULA's parent companies. Boeing is the other.

For years, ULA dominated the defense market, but SpaceX broke the monopoly, undercutting ULA launch prices by as much as 40 percent. ULA faced another challenge when Congress limited future use of Russian-made RD-180 rocket engines in response to political tensions with Russia.

SEE LAUNCH, A5



An Atlas V rocket built in Decatur by United Launch Alliance carries a National Reconnaissance Office satellite into orbit Thursday from Cape Canaveral, Florida. COURTESY PHOTO

A shoulder to lean on



JERONIMO NISA/DECATUR DAILY

First Response EMT Wendy Wright comforts 2-month-old Londyn Gilcrease after the car in which the infant was traveling was involved in a collision Thursday on Eighth Street Southwest.



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION DAY 4

Hillary Clinton: 'This is the moment'

Accepting nomination: Steady hand at a 'moment of reckoning'

By Julie Pace and Robert Furlow
 The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Promising Americans a steady hand, Hillary Clinton cast herself Thursday night as a unifier for divided times, steered for the challenges of a volatile world by decades in politics that have left some Americans skeptical that she understands their lives.

"I know that at a time when so much seems to be pulling us apart, it can be hard to imagine how we'll ever pull together again," Clinton said as she accepted the Democratic nomination, becoming the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party. "But I'm here to tell you tonight — progress is possible."

Clinton took the stage to roaring applause from flag-waving delegates. But her real audience



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton takes the the stage during the final day of the Democratic National Convention Thursday in Philadelphia. PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

was the millions of voters who may welcome her experience but question her character.

Clinton acknowledged those concerns briefly, saying "I get it that some people just don't know what to make of me." But her primary focus was

portraying herself as the only qualified candidate in a general election contest against Republican Donald Trump.

"Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis," she

SEE CLINTON, A5

DECATUR POLICE

Chief looks to expand personnel

Seeking to hire a crime analyst, social media specialist

By Bayne Hughes
 Staff Writer

Decatur Police Chief Nate Allen wants to create the positions of crime analyst and public information liaison in his department.

The Personnel Board signed off on his plan Thursday morning, but the City Council also must approve both positions.



Allen

Allen said he plans to fund the two positions with money remaining on some unfilled positions. Both positions will be filled with people who are not trained police officers.

The Personnel Board also voted to close this year's police officer recruitment register. Allen said he recently hired five officers, so he's not sure when he will open another application period.

SEE POLICE, A5

MORGAN COUNTY

Proposed budget has no pay raises

By Keith Clines
 Staff Writer

The lean budget for 2016-17 proposed by Morgan County Commission Chairman Ray Long on Thursday was not a surprise to commission members.

The proposed \$21.36 million general fund budget for the year beginning Oct. 1 contains no pay raises for county employees for the second consecutive year. Long's budget forecasts \$1,229 more in revenue than expenses.

Most departments will be level-funded, Long said.

"Everybody's going to pretty much have the same budget as this year," Long said.

This year's budget, adopted last year by the commission,

SEE BUDGET, A5