

THE VOICE OF MORGAN COUNTY



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MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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Giving offenders chances to get it right

Morgan Community Corrections soaring with more than 2,000 participants in programs

**By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director**

Over a 10-year span Morgan County Community Corrections has grown from 40 to more than 2,000 participants, who are given an opportunity to reverse illegal choices they made.

The community corrections staff has increased from three to 14 employees since the department's creation in 2006.

Based on those numbers alone, the alternative sentencing program is thriving under the leadership of Director Kim Thurston, who became head of the department in 2008.

Before Thurston became director the program was barely

surviving.

"I couldn't do it without the wonderful staff," Thurston said.

"We're in a steady rhythm, but it took a long time to get there. I don't want to ever

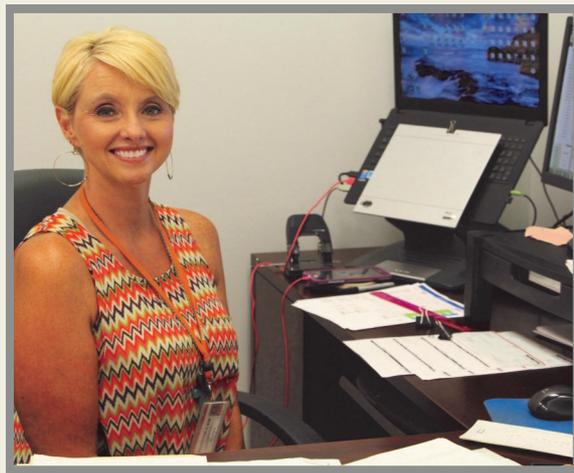
become stagnant in any way."

Thurston said the program got a boost through recent prison reform, which created Class-D felonies.

"It changes the way people are sentenced to our office," she explained. "Someone with a Class-D felony will not get prison time, they will have an opportunity to come to us. There are some who might have multiple convictions and a judge could send them to prison, or they could choose to send them to community corrections."

Community Corrections has several programs for

Please see Corrections, page 7



The corrections department has been successful under the leadership of Director Kim Thurston.

Chairman hits a home run in state leadership role

**By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director**

County Commission Chairman Ray Long knocked it out of the park and he has the bat with his name on it as proof.

As president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama Board of Directors, Long was a strong leader, getting state laws passed to help counties, and bringing about unity within the organization.

Long was unanimously elected president of ACCA last year and his term ended in August when he passed the gavel to his successor at the annual

Please see Chairman, page 4

INSIDE

State conservation meeting comes to Decatur, page 12



NARCOG celebrates 50 years, page 8

New county flood zone maps under review. Changes expected, page 10

Morgan Commission set to adopt balanced budget

**By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director**

The County Commission is set to adopt a level-funded, balanced budget before Sept. 30th, the last day of the current fiscal year.

Chairman Ray Long says there will be no tapping of reserve funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal budget.

"We're on track to pass a balanced budget that will be approximately the same as the current fiscal year," Long said. "We're not anticipating using any of our reserves, nor adding any capital projects. We're trying to hold what we've got and hope that the economy will turn out better. We asked all department heads

to present level-funding budgets and they did. Everyone turned in budgets that did not request any additional funding."

The deletion of the county's transportation department saved some money for the upcoming budget.

Please see Budget, page 3

FUTURE LEADERS OF MORGAN COUNTY

Somerville Baptist Pre-school students tour courthouse, ask questions

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

“I’m a hugger. Come here you!”

That’s what a Somerville Baptist Pre-School student told a tour guide as she, her fellow students and teachers were waiting to enter the courthouse in June.

It was amazing to see those children interacting with officials at the courthouse. Chairman Ray Long told them about county government, and they asked questions.

“Who are those people in the pictures on the wall?” a student asked. Long named each past commissioner to the group of 13 children.

Long gave them an opportunity to sit in the

commissioners’ chairs. They went in groups of five, with teachers having to complete the final group of three.

They loved it.

Their teachers Sheena Duggers and Donna Tankersly enjoyed seeing the children ask questions and courthouse officials were impressed. They are really bright kids.

Duggers said the children were learning about municipalities, elections and public officials. Also, she said they were learning about taxes.

Sales Tax Director Michelle Echols told them about her office and explained that the county tax collections go to school districts.

Duggers said they didn’t have any idea that

county tax collections benefited schools.

Later, when the children were visiting another county office, Duggers asked them what they had talked about earlier, and in unison they answered “taxes”.

Their final stop was in Circuit Judge Jennifer Howell’s courtroom where they got to pose as judges and jurors.

Judicial Assistant Lacey Johnson put a small judge’s robe on each child and allowed them to sit at Howell’s bench and tap the gavel. Also, they got to sit in the juror seats.

They got a kick out of that.

After leaving the courthouse the group went to tour City Hall.



Teacher Donna Tankersly

Each child and one of their teachers got a chance to put on a robe and sit on Circuit Judge Jennifer Howell’s bench. The children really enjoyed tapping the gavel. Some had something humorous to say as they did so.

Commissioners' Report

Work ongoing in all districts

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

Commissioners remain busy, completing road projects and beginning others.

Mowing grass, clearing rights-of-way and patching holes in the road are daily duties for each of the county's four districts.

"We're still cutting a lot of grass," said District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark. And the rain caused us to have a lot of hanging limbs, so we had to clear those. We've finished our paving and we are now looking to replace a bridge structure on West Morgan Road that's really narrow."

District 2 Commissioner Randy Vest said contractors are working on Vaughn Bridge Road, which will "be closed in the future for bridge replacement."

In addition, Vest said paving a parking lot and making a gymnasium handicap-accessible at Danville High School is finished. "We also completed our site prep for a pavilion at Sparkman School," Vest said.



Clark



Vest



Stisher



Abercrombie

District 3 Commissioner Don Stisher says several road projects have been completed in his district, which entailed widening and re-surfacing, and preparation for another project.

Work is underway on Culver Road leading to South Park. The work includes a new culvert, drainage

improvements, and widening the road way. Stisher's shop has also prepared the old district shop at Cole Spring to serve as a polling place in the November election. His shop employees continue to help schools with projects.

District 4 Commissioner Greg

Abercrombie's shop crew is busy cutting grass, patching potholes and he has a number of other maintenance projects underway. He plans to open the new senior citizen center at Lacey's Spring this fall.

Budget

Continued from page 1

The commission has approved the elimination of all MCATS staff since North Alabama Regional Council of Governments will take over county transportation. Long said the commission will give NARCOG a \$220,000 allotment for startup funding, which is lower than the \$300,000 to \$400,000 that financed MCATS.

"Overall, we'll have a good budget that we can live with," said Long. "We appreciate the cooperative spirit in all of our department heads, and we look forward to another good year."

The county's general fund will be about \$21.6 million and the overall budget will be approximately \$45 million. Both projections are about the same as the current fiscal general fund and overall budgets.



Left, a contractor is relocating utilities on Vaughn Bridge Road. Right, work on Culver Road is complete in District 3.

Televised County Commission meetings

You may watch County Commission meetings on Saturday on WYAM TV 51 in the 8 a.m. time slot. The commission meeting airs immediately after the Decatur City Council meeting. The commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. **Videographer Derrick Shull covers the meetings for the TV station.**

Employee working her way through the ranks of county government

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

Aunnah Ayers is moving up through the ranks of county government with zeal to do her best.

Aunnah's first job with the county was a dispatcher at Morgan County Area Transportation System.

She went to work at MCATS in October 2011 and transferred to the County Commission office in November 2015.

Initially, she worked as an administrative assistant in the office, but when a vacancy arose, she was promoted to share accounts payable

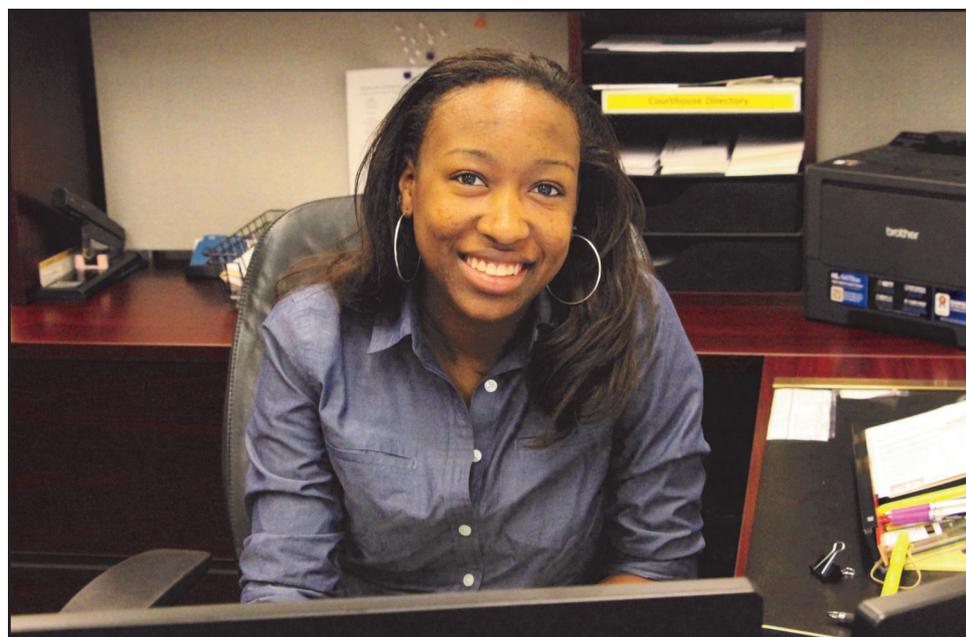
duties as a business services coordinator with another employee.

Aunnah, 27, says she likes her new job, but also enjoyed the other positions she's held.

"It's been a good change," she said. "There's something new every day. I'm getting to use some of the skills I have here."

In addition to accounts payable, Aunnah prepares commission meeting agendas.

Born and reared in Decatur, she is the daughter of Ron and Carolyn Ayers. She has two younger sisters, Amelia and Andrea.



Aunnah Ayers

She was home-schooled and graduated high school in 2007 under the banner of Calvary Assembly Christian School.

She attended Calhoun Community College.

Commission Chairman Ray Long says Aunnah is an excellent fit for the office.

"She's an asset to our team," Long said. "She's doing a great job and we're glad to have her."

Chairman

Continued from page 1

convention.

The association honored Long with gifts, which included a baseball bat with the inscription "Slugger Ray Long" on it, a framed picture and plaques. One of the plaques showed the laws he spearheaded for passage. The bills include police jurisdiction reform, cost of housing juveniles, sellers use tax remittance, and seven others.

"I had a good year," he said. "We got 10 pieces of legislation passed and that's the most that's been passed in recent history. When I was running for the position one of the things I ran on was establishing unity within the organization. I asked the people to sit together as commissioners, not as Democrats or Republicans. I saw them come together. I didn't see that division that was there initially, and that's one of the things I am most

proud of."

Also, Long said ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield and the staff are top notch.

"We enjoyed working with them, getting to see how they work to make sure counties' needs are met," he said. "Sonny Brasfield was named in the top ten among lobbyists by Yellowhammer News, but to me he's the best. He's number one. It was a great year and I was proud to represent Morgan County in the state leadership capacity."

Brasfield described Long as a pacesetter in the leadership position.

"Ray Long is the type of leader that inspires his colleagues to reach higher, simply by his own enthusiasm and the way he carries himself," Brasfield said. "During his tenure as president the association adopted a 5-year strategic plan, which includes a number of initiatives designed to ensure county leaders are prepared to provide their



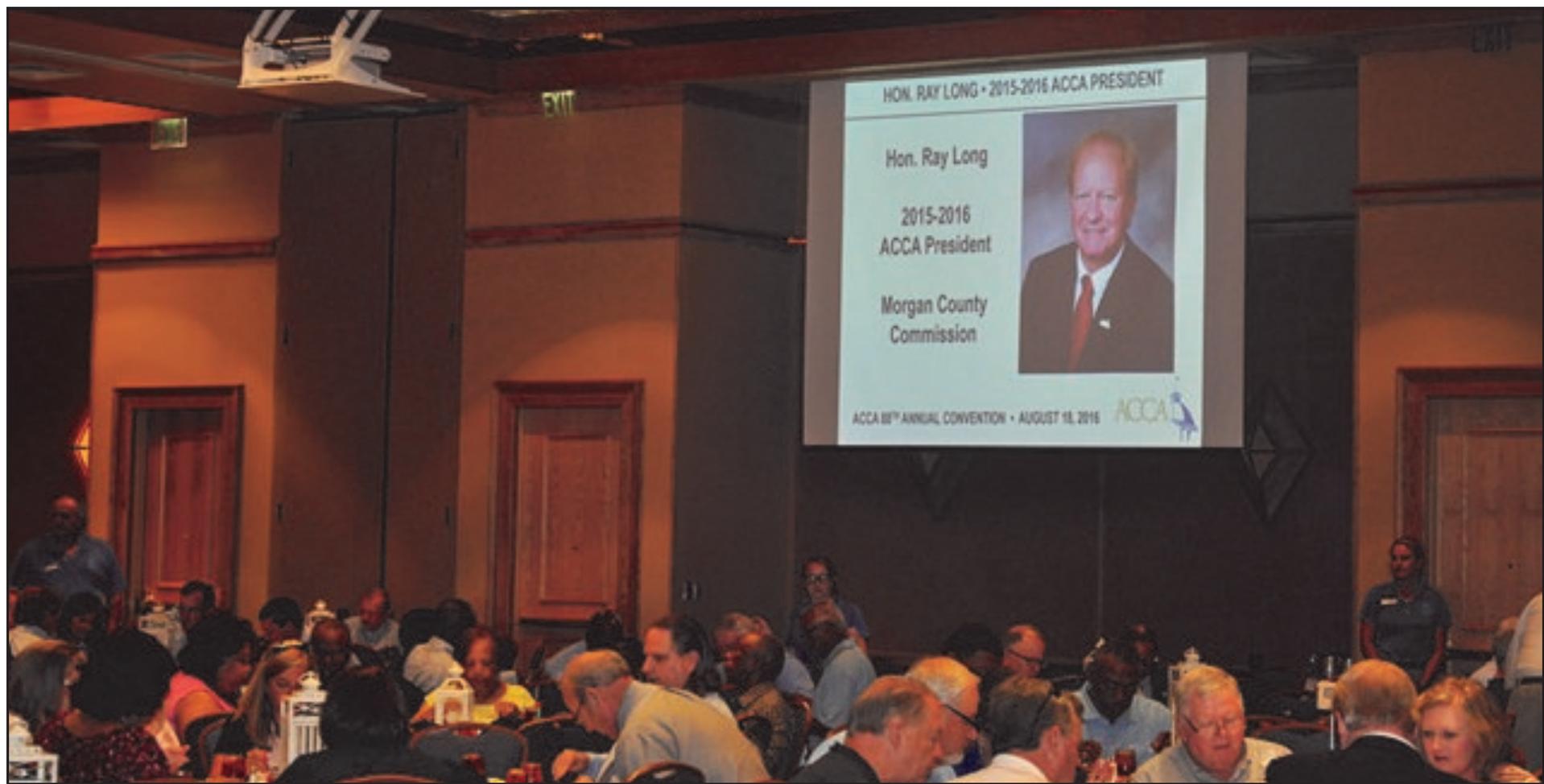
Long with all of his awards for serving as president of the ACCA Board of Directors.

constituents with the best possible services at the local level. This is just one example of Ray's long-term vision for county government.

Ray was also able to bring together county commissioners from all cor-

Please see Long, page 13

LONG PASSES THE PRESIDENT GAVEL AT ACCA ANNUAL CONVENTION



A huge crowd attended the 2016 convention. Long is on the big screen hanging down.



Left, Long's wife Regina laughs as he mixes a little comedy with a speech. Right, Long passes the gavel to Marshall County Commissioner Bill Strickland.

Morgan DA leads way to raise funds to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

District Attorney Scott Anderson is not only making a difference leading peers statewide in law enforcement, he has set precedent for charitable fundraising as president of the Alabama District Attorneys Association.

Each year the president of the association has an opportunity to choose a charity to be recipient of proceeds from the annual golf tournament, and Anderson, who holds the position, chose the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

“I chose it because my eight year old niece Ella Kate Anderson suffers with Cystic Fibrosis,” he said. “What’s interesting about her is that during the 2007 state legisla-

tive year, a bill was passed that required all infants born after Jan. 1, 2008 to be screened for CF. She was born April 23 of that year and was the first infant diagnosed with CF as a result of that act.”

CF is a genetic disease that affects a person’s lungs, pancreas, liver and makes it difficult for them to breathe and absorb nutrients, according to research.

“They can be in perfect condition one day and in the hospital the next,” Anderson said. “Ella Kate is a fighter and she fights this disease every day.”

A record was set from the association’s golf tournament held at Peninsula Golf Course in Orange Beach.

“With help of local businesses in



From left, District Attorney Scott Anderson, his niece Ella Kate, her parents, Shannon and Stan, Anderson’s brother, display an oversize replica of the check the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation received from the Alabama District Attorneys Association. The proceeds were from the association’s annual golf tournament for charity.

Morgan County and Orange Beach, as well as contributions from district attorneys across the state, we were able

to raise \$9,500,” Anderson said. “It was the most successful fundraiser the DAs have had in many years.”



Left, Chairman Ray Long, presents a 16-year service award to District 3 Commissioner Don Stisher, and right, Association of County Commissioners of Alabama Executive Director Sonny Brasfield presents an award to District 2 Commissioner Randy Vest for being a graduate of the 2016 Inaugural Practical Leadership and Networking group during the ACCA annual convention.

Corrections

Continued from page 1

offenders, including drug court, misdemeanor probation, electronic monitoring, pre-trial, court referral and work release.

In addition to providing services for the county, Thurston's department serves all municipalities with the exception of Decatur.

The completion rate is good.

"I would say that about 75% or 80% of our people complete various programs," said Thurston.

Some are given more than one chance.

Most of them have received three

or four chances.

"Especially the people with felonies," she said. "Even the people who are doing good have had hiccups along the way. We work through it with them. This program is not structured so that if a person messes up the first time they go to prison. We're here to correct that."

Circuit Court Judge Glenn Thompson, who also presides over the program's drug court, said Morgan Community Corrections should serve as a state model.

"The wonderful thing about community corrections is that it gives us, as sentencing judges, multiple

options," Thompson said. "Before community corrections came into being we only had two options: lock them up or put them on probation. We had so many people on probation that it hindered the effectiveness of our state probation officers, simply because of the numbers. They didn't have time to do anything other than meet with probationers once a month and hoped they didn't have any further run-ins with the law."

"Having community corrections takes some of that load away, and has allowed probation officers to be more effective in doing their job;

and it gives us the option to prescribe stricter supervision for defendants who would not be successful just on probation, yet, who didn't need to go to prison," he said. "It also allows us, prior to conviction, to release from jail certain defendants and keep closer watch on their activities, which allows them to be out on bond rather than sitting in jail waiting on trial."

In a nutshell, the judge says Morgan has a top notch corrections program that's working extremely well.

"I think our community corrections is a model that others should follow," Thompson said. "It would be hard to find two programs in the state that are alike, but ours gives us numerous options that allow us to design plans for different defendants that are likely to work for them individually. When it comes to sentencing, everyone's case is unique."

2016 ELECTIONS



Officials preparing for General Election, electronic poll books piloting in Morgan

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

Morgan officials are preparing for the General Election on Nov. 8th, and at least two polling places will have electronic poll books.

"We will be piloting electronic poll books at a couple of our polling places," said Probate Judge Greg Cain. "They will be iPads, and voters will

scan their photo ID, and their name will pop up for verification. A receipt will print out for them to take to the table to get their ballot. It's supposed to speed up the voter process by 75%."

The Secretary of State is implementing the pilot program across the state in counties where officials agree to participate, Cain said.

"I have not decided which two polling places will have the poll books," he said.

Cain said he believes Morgan will have a high voter turnout.

"I don't think it will be record setting, but I think it will be a heavy turnout," Cain said. "More than

Please see Elections, page 13

About

The Voice of Morgan County

The Voice of Morgan County is published quarterly and mailed to 46,000 homes. It is a product of the County Commission and no portion of it may be re-produced. This is the fourth edition of the fourth volume.

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Please be sure to view community videos on our website by going to www.co.morgan.al.us There, click on county departments, then select Communications/Community Relations and click on multimedia.



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Rx cards still available

The Morgan County Commission still has free Rx discount cards for county residents. Collectively, the cards have resulted in more than \$200,000 in savings for people who have used them.

To get your card please go to our website: www.co.morgan.al.us and click on Coast to Coast to request one. We will mail it to you. There are no eligibility requirements.

Celebrating 50 years of helping people

NARCOG brought services to county residents that improved quality of life

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

Fifty years ago an organization formed in Decatur with a vision to improve the quality of life for residents in Morgan, Lawrence and Cullman counties.

Today, North Alabama Regional Council of Governments has been successful in reaching and exceeding goals to make life better for the people it serves.

NARCOG hosted a celebration luncheon at Doubletree by Hilton-Decatur Riverside, and held open house at its Jackson Street Southeast facility in July to commemorate the 50-year mark.

The organization formed in April 1966 as North Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development

Commission.

Its first location was at Decatur City Hall and the first meeting was held April 7, 1966. In 1996 NARCOG moved to the current facility.

The agency's services increased with population growth throughout the years and in 1976 NARCOG ramped up its offerings, adding aging programs to planning and development.

Currently, the agency serves about 40 individuals 55 and older through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Older workers are paired with employment training opportunities in local government and non-profit agencies. Nutrition programs are established at 23 senior citizen centers, and approximately 200,000 meals will be provided for seniors this fiscal year. More than half of



NARCOG Executive Director Jeff Pruitt, left, and Transportation Planner Robby Cantrell., who will become director of the new transit system for the agency.

these meals are for homebound residents in NARCOG's coverage area.

"We strive every day to meet the needs of individuals who are aging or disabled by connecting them to programs and services to assist

them," said Outreach Coordinator Cissy Pearson. "If we cannot provide what they need, we refer them to other resources that may be able to help."

Please see Celebration, page 10

Pilgrimage tour expected to draw huge crowd Oct. 7,8

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

The Pilgrimage to Decatur is expected to lure hundreds of tourists here this fall for a full schedule of events that will showcase Morgan County's historical treasures.

The two-day event, October 7-8 is sponsored by the Alabama Historical Association, and Morgan County Archivist John Allison is one of the organizers.

Allison, former District Court Judge David Breland, Melinda Dunn and the Convention and Visitors Bureau are helping coordinate the event.

"We are proud to host the 2016 AHA Fall Pilgrimage to Decatur," Allison said. "This is a



Allison

chance for us to meet and create ties with history lovers from around the state. It gives us an opportunity to show off the amazing transformation of historic downtown Decatur, and to discuss with others how preserving our history can act as an engine for economic development."

Dr. Jeff Jakeman, president of the association, encouraged members to attend in an AHA recent publication.

"I know that a drive to our state's

northern border is quite a trek for many of our members, but I encourage you to make the journey and attend the pilgrimage," Jakeman wrote. "If you have never visited Decatur, this lovely town on the banks of the Tennessee River will delight you."

He stated in his message that AHA has held annual meetings twice in

Please see Pilgrimage, page 12

The celebration



Above , left, a celebration luncheon at Doubletree by Hilton-Decatur Riverfront. Right, Commissioner Randy Vest, Chairman Ray Long, NARCOG Director Jeff Pruitt and Congressman Mo Brooks. Below, left, NARCOG 's Cissy Pearson shows off display that represents the agency's 50-year s of existence during open house in July. Left, a guest at open house looks through past news articles about NARCOG.



NARCOG poised to take over Morgan transportation service

Celebration

Continued from page 8

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

After Oct. 1 you should see a new name on the county's transportation building, and new tenants will have moved in.

North Alabama Regional Council of Governments will begin to run Morgan County Area Transportation System.

The County Commission adopted a resolution in May giving Chairman Ray Long authorization to designate NARCOG as the local agency for public transportation in

the county. The resolution authorized NARCOG's board of directors to apply for funding for the program through the Alabama Department of Transportation as well as funding from other sources.

The commission's move to get rid of MCATS stemmed from the program becoming costly over a period of time. Allocations from the general fund reached as high as \$414,000, Long said.

The new name will be NARCOG Regional Transit Agency, but for short, the name will be NARCOG

Transit on buses, according to Executive Director Jeff Pruitt.

Robby Cantrell, who is a transportation planner at NARCOG will become director of the transit system, Pruitt said.

Long said the county will provide in-kind services to NARCOG by leasing the building to the agency for \$1 per year; and the county will still own the buses and will lease them to NARCOG until the vehicles are no longer in service.

The county will give NARCOG

Please see Transit, page 14

NARCOG provides counseling for Medicare and Medicaid recipients, and another program is designed to help small businesses. These are just some of the programs the agency offers, and soon it will have transportation under its umbrella.

"Our mission from the beginning has been to serve individuals and communities within our regional borders," said Executive Director Jeff Pruitt. "We have been successful for 50 years, but there is still work to be done. New opportunities are just around the corner for us to serve in a different way, through the regional transit program. This is just another way NARCOG continues to positively impact people and communities."

Updated flood zone maps for Morgan could add more than 400 properties

By Sheryl Marsh
Communications Director

New flood zone maps for Morgan County could add more than 400 properties to the regulated flood area, and could increase insurance premiums for some residents.

The County Commission adopted an ordinance for flood damage prevention in the county's rural areas to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program in 1991, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Municipalities within the county were responsible for creating individual plans, according to County Engineer Greg Bodley.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) are updated as funding becomes available and an update is currently underway, Bodley said.

He said a preliminary map presented by FEMA for Morgan shows 400 or more structures added to the flood area.

Some larger areas affected include Cave

Springs, Priceville, Iron Man south of Highway 36 and the Cotaco/Florette area. Other locations throughout the county will be affected as well, Bodley said.

Bodley explained that flood risks change over a period of time.

"Water flow and drainage patterns can change dramatically because of surface erosion, land use and natural forces," he stated. "The data available and runoff analysis models continue to improve. Some high risk areas previously identified using approximate methods are being updated with new, detailed information that reflects calculated flood elevation data. The intent of FIRM updates is to incorporate the new data into the maps, which should improve the flood risk determinations."

Detailed studies (AE zones):

Tennessee River: 39.6 miles

Flint Creek: 30.3 miles

Painter Branch: 4 miles

Limited detailed studies (AE & A zones):

Cotaco Creek: 31.7 miles

Crowdabout Creek: 13.8 miles

No Business Creek: 10 miles

West Flint Creek: 15.3 miles

Approximate studies: 231.5 miles (A Zone)

Currently, preliminary maps with changes are under review for accuracy and changes are anticipated. Changes should become effective in late 2017 or early 2018, according to Bodley, who says timeline could change.

Flood insurance

"If a property is mapped into the high-risk area and the owner has a mortgage through a federally regulated or insured lender, flood insurance will be required when the maps become effective. Lenders have the option to make the purchase of flood insurance a condition for their loans at any time," Bodley said. "Some lenders may institute

Continued on page 11

Flood

Continued from page 10

such requirements in advance of the maps becoming effective.”

“Property owners who obtain flood insurance before the new maps become effective, and main-

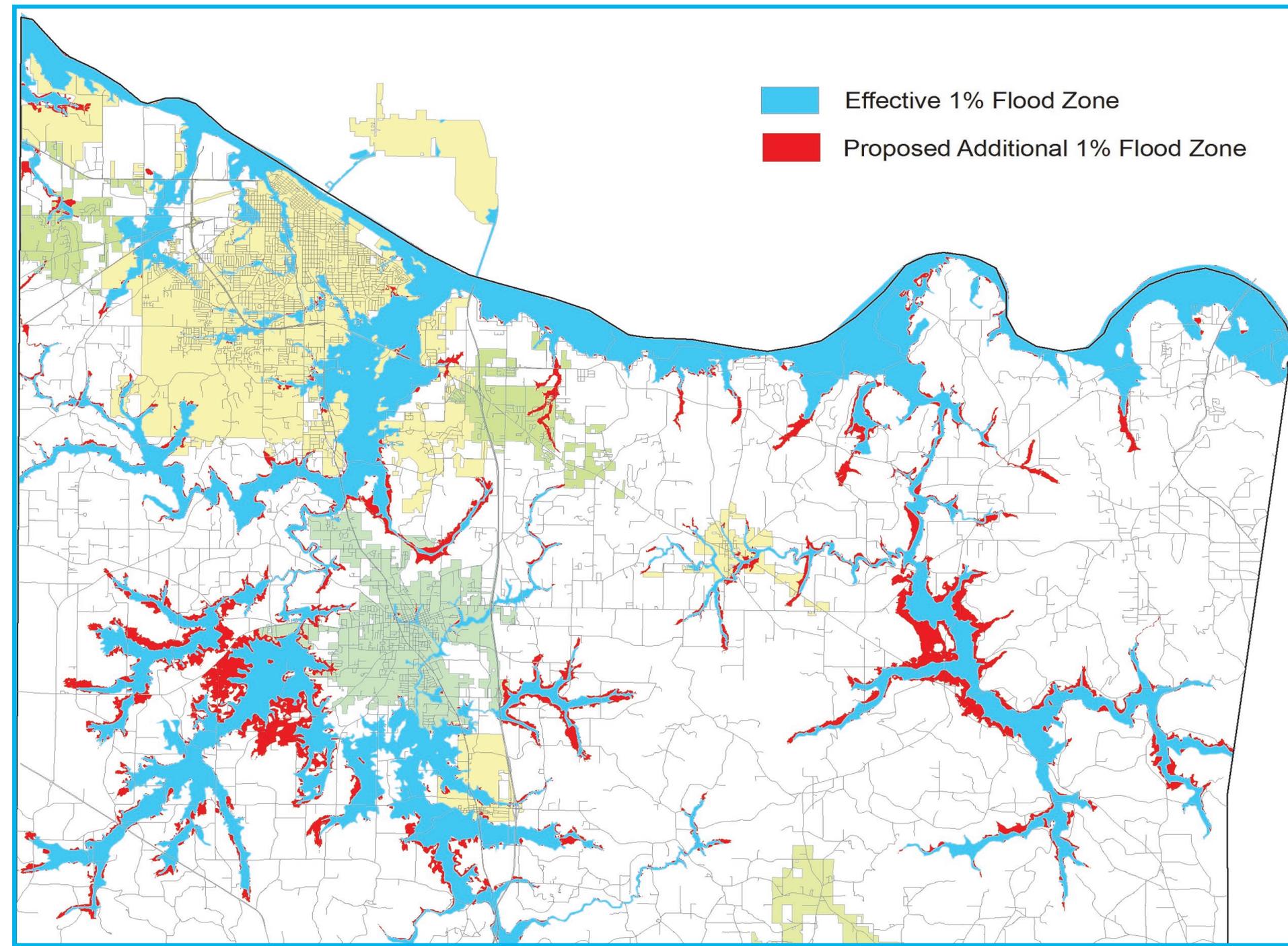
tain it, may be able to benefit from NFIP’s grandfathering insurance rating system and pay a lower premium, he added. “Property owners should contact their insurance agent for more information.”

*It should be noted that FIRM maps are for in-

surance rating purposes, and are not a guarantee of actual site conditions during flood type events. Some areas that are not mapped as flood prone areas may flood and vice versa.

The engineering department may be reached at 256-773-5297.

Map of potential flood zone coverage



Morgan hosts state meeting at Turner–Surles Community Center

District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark a state leader

The Alabama Association of Conservation Districts held its annual supervisors meeting in Morgan County this year at Turner-Surles Community Center in Decatur.

District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark is chairman of the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District and is active in the state organization.

“We rotate the meeting each year and this year we hosted it,” Clark said. “We have a fine group of people in the organi-

zation, who work diligently to conserve natural resources. We are glad to have them here in Morgan County this year.”

Commission Chairman Ray Long welcomed the group, and Clark recognized special guests.

After going through a lengthy agenda, which included updates from various officers and representatives, lunch was served at the center and was followed by an awards ceremony.



Counter clockwise, District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark, Billy Abercrombie and Chairman Ray Long listen to one of the speakers at the annual state meeting. They are joined at the table by other Soil and Water members.

Pilgrimage

Continued from page 8

Decatur, in 1952 and 1971.

Allison served on a state committee that chose the Decatur Pilgrimage for this year’s annual event.

The pilgrimage will begin Friday at the Princess Theatre of Performing Arts starting at 4:30 p.m. It will end on Saturday with tours of several historic sites, including Decatur First United Methodist Church located on Canal Street in Old Historic Decatur.

FRIDAY PANEL AND RECEPTION 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

”Preservation and Redevelopment:
The Decatur Story”

Princess Theatre, 112 Second Avenue Northeast

Decatur’s remarkable downtown transformation will be the subject of this panel discussion moderated by Senator Arthur Orr. Panelists include:

- Rick Paler, Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority Director
- David Breland, DDRA Board Member and Historic Resources Director, City of Decatur
- Shirley Hammond, American Society of Interior Design and early leader in Decatur’s historic preservation movement
- Dr. Wylheme Ragland, retired minister, Kings Memorial United Methodist Church

- Barbara Kelly, Albany District and Friends of Delano Park
- Peggy Allen Towns, local historian and author

dining guide will be provided at the reception.

Reception 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Princess Theatre Lobby

The Princess Theatre is a 677-seat performing arts venue in Decatur, Alabama. Originally built in 1887 as a livery stable, the building was transformed into a silent film and vaudeville playhouse in 1919. In 1941 the theatre received its art deco redesign that remains today and features a brilliantly lit neon marquee. In 1978, the city of Decatur purchased The Princess after it closed as a movie house. Following a \$750,000 renovation, the stage was again opened as the premier performing arts venue for the Decatur area.

Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the many wonderful options in Decatur’s historic downtown. A downtown

Saturday events

DECATUR FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
805 Canal Street NE
Decatur, AL 35601

9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Book Sales
Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m.

Program
Sanctuary

“Decatur, Alabama - A Brief
History of the River City”

John Allison, Morgan County
Archivist

11:30 a.m.

Box Lunch
Fellowship Hall

12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Self-Guided Tours

- Old State Bank

Continued on page 14

Long

Continued from page 4

ners of this state to advocate for new investments in Alabama’s deteriorating infrastructure, particularly at the county level. For the first time in over two decades state and local leaders

are having serious dialogue about how to address this very challenging problem. There is no doubt that Ray’s leadership played a big part in the progress we’ve made over the last 12 months.”

Elections

Continued from page 7

likely there could be the wet/dry referendum for Hartselle on ballots, and that would drive the number of voters up.”

Morgan saw a large number of voters during the past two pres-

idential elections. In 2008 the county had 50,814 voters out of more than 60,000 go to the polls; and in 2012 records show that 49,579 voters cast ballots, which equated to 70%.

Currently, Morgan has 72,621 registered voters.

Morgan County American Legion Post 15 Sponsor of this publication



The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities.



American Legion Auxiliary
- World’s largest women’s patriotic service organization.



Sons of The American Legion
- Males of eligible parents or grandparents.



American Legion Riders
- Supporting schools, veterans, and service members.

-Meetings 7 PM – The 4th Monday Of Each Month
(Except 2nd Monday in May & December)

-Dancing Every Friday
Live Band and Dance Starts at 7 PM.

-BINGO Every Saturday
Guaranteed Thousands in Prizes Each Week.
Cards Go On Sale at 5 PM - Play Starts at 6 PM.

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Sponsor of this publication

Pilgrimage

Continued from page 8

- L & N Train Depot
- Morgan County Archives
- Blue and Gray Museum
- Burleson-Hinds-McEntire House
- Dancy Polk House
- 802 Bank Street – Loft Residences
- Fort Nash historic home
- First Missionary Baptist Church



The restored L&N railroad depot will be toured during the pilgrimage.

Transit

Continued from page 10

startup money, also.

“We plan to give them \$220,000 in monthly installments for 12 months,”

Long explained. “Our goal is to cut that amount each year as they go on their own.”

Pruitt is excited about acquiring transportation.

“We really feel good about it. We think in the long haul we can do a good job with it and serve the peo-

ple,” Pruitt said. “We think it’s a good marriage for us between the people we already serve, the elderly and those with disabilities, who have a need for transit service. We think it’s a good match.”

NARCOG will occupy the entire building that’s located on Second

Avenue Southeast. Currently, MCATS and the Commission on Aging, of which Debra Gardner is director, are in the facility. Gardner will remain director of Commission on Aging and the department will re-locate to county offices in Hartselle, Long said.



CIRCUIT CLERK CHRIS PRIEST

WHY HAVE A PASSPORT?

A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue or verify United States passports.



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Requirements for a passport

PHOTOGRAPHS:

You must submit ONE 2" X 2" color passport photo taken within the last six months. Photographs must meet U.S. government requirements, which are listed on their website.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP:

Expired passport issued to an adult or Naturalization Certificate (must be original) or Certified Copy of your Birth Certificate in the state in which you were born). Persons born in Alabama can go to any local Health Department to purchase a certified copy of their Birth Certificate. It will be issued at the time of purchase. If you were born in another state, you must contact that state's Division of Vital Statistics. There are several sites on the Internet that can assist you in this matter. Persons 15 and older, who held a prior passport, can use that Passport in lieu of the certified birth certificate. This instrument will be submitted with your application and returned within two weeks after receipt of your passport.

PASSPORT FEE:

Personal check, cashiers check or money order payable to U.S. Department of State. (cash not accepted). Fees can be combined for persons applying at the same time.

Book Fees:

\$110.00 16 years of age or older
\$80.00 15 years of age or younger

Card Fees:

\$30.00 16 years of age or older
\$15.00 15 years of age or younger

IMPORTANT:

If you are flying, a book is REQUIRED. The card is valid only for travel by car or ship. Be aware that any emergency requiring flight will require a passport book.

- Children 16 or 17 may appear with one parent or legal guardian to sign the application in the office.
- Children 15 and younger must appear with both parents or legal guardian to sign the application in the office.

EXECUTION FEE (Book and Card):

\$25.00 cash or check made payable to Chris Priest, Circuit Clerk.

IDENTIFICATION:

A State issued ID (i.e. Driver's License) or federally issued ID (i.e military) is required. We cannot accept privately issued forms of identification (i.e work badges). If you do not hold identification issued by the State of Alabama, you must present a second form of identification.

Passport Acceptance Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

You must arrive so that all transactions are completed by closing.

Chris Priest, Circuit Clerk
Morgan County Courthouse
302 Lee Street NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Phone 256-351-4790
chris.priest@alacourt.gov



Self-guided tours will be part of the AHA Pilgrimage to Decatur in October, and the county's archives facility, left, and the Fort Nash historic home in Old Decatur, right, are on the list for tours.



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