

First Courthouse

Current Courthouse

## Sue Baker Roan known for hospitality during 20-year tenure in public office

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

Would anybody like a cup of coffee while you wait?

What about a doughnut to go with it?

Those were questions License Commissioner Sue Baker Roan would ask customers who waited to buy tags during her 20-year span in public office.

She was known for hospitality as an elected official.

Roan, 84, is retiring in January. She did not seek re-election during this year's election cycle.

Former Gov. Jim Folsom Jr. appointed her to the position in 1994 after former license commissioner Cleon Yates retired.

She recalled when she first entered the office.

"There was one rotted cabinet they kept tags in that fell off the wall," Roan said. "I got new cabinets built and installed, and I got computers for the office and remodeled the kitchen for employees to have a clean place to have their lunch. I also had benches put in the hallway outside the office for people to sit."

In addition, Roan relocated a Hartselle satellite office, that operated out of a grocery store, to Crestwood Shopping Center; and she opened the first satellite office in rural Morgan County inside the District 4 shop.

"My main goal was to provide great customer service for the public and be good to the employees in this office, and I believe I accomplished that," she said. When I saw people sick and couldn't stand in line I would go get chairs for them if there was no room on the benches. I just love helping people."

For decades Roan has been considered the most popular politician in the county, helping candidates who sought state offices. She is also popular statewide.

During a retirement reception at the courthouse last month former District Court Judge David Bibb portrayed Roan

Please see Roan, page 10



License Commissioner Sue Baker Roan chats with a friend during her retirement reception.

## Commissioners defeat contenders, take oaths for another four years

District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark and District 2 Commissioner Randy Vest plan to continue to work hard for Morgan County residents as each begins another four-year term on the County Commission.

Voters re-elected both men over opponents during June Republican primaries. They did not have Democratic opposition in the General Election. District Court Judge Charles Langham administered oaths

of office to them during a swearing-in ceremony on Nov. 12.

"We congratulate these commissioners on their re-election to office and look forward to serving another term with them," said County Commission Chairman Ray Long. "We have a wonderful working relationship, striving to do what's best for Morgan County and its residents."

Clark is serving his fifth term

and Vest began a second term. "I'm grateful for the vote of confidence the people of Morgan County gave me," Clark said. "I enjoy working with the commission to serve this county."

Vest noted that he is the first commissioner to be re-elected for a second term for District 2 since 1998 when the late Charles Sparkman won re-election.

Please see Oaths, page 12

## Morgan hires new director to head Parks/Recreation

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

Festivals and Ultimate Frisbee competition are just two of the ideas Sean Dailey has for increasing interest in Morgan County's district parks.

Before implementing any of his ideas he plans to go out into communities and ask residents for their input.

Dailey is the county's new Parks and Recreation Director.

"My number one goal is to have a safe environment on our playgrounds and ballfields, and to preserve and enhance what we have," Dailey said of county parks.

I want to be responsive to the community and their needs, while doing all I can to get the maximum usage to show off these parks."

He began his job with the county in October, and brought eight years of experience from Decatur Parks and Recreation. He was a supervisor and worked out of Fort Decatur Recreation Center and Jack Allen Sports Complex.

"We're proud to have Sean on board," said Chairman Ray Long. "We firmly believe that he will do a great job with the department. He interviewed well and he is definitely qualified for the position."

Please see Parks, page 3



Dailey



### INSIDE:

Helping veterans, page 3

Commissioner Stisher making Morgan County proud, page 8

# Commissioners, families celebrate another term



Left, District Court Judge Charles Langham administers the oath of office to District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark with his family ; and right the judge administers the oath to District 2 Commissioner Randy Vest with his family.



Commissioner Clark and his daughters.



Commissioner Vest and his daughters.



Chairman Ray Long (foreground) and others at the reception.

## *Walking a mile in her shoes*



The Crisis Center of North Alabama and Morgan County Domestic Violence Task Force held the annual Walk a mile in her Shoes at the courthouse in October with Chairman Ray Long, left, District Attorney Scott Anderson, center, and District Court Judge Charles Langham, right (red shoes) participating by wearing women's shoes.

## Helping fellow veterans

# Flemons, West set up roadside info station in Morgan County

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

They patrolled borders during peace time and completed missions while dodging enemy fire overseas to serve this country.

Although their military occupations varied, all are American soldiers.

Many are out of military garb while others continue to protect and serve.

It's all about VETERANS, and what they need.

Being veterans themselves, Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialists Carl Flemons and Mike West are taking their services outside their office in Decatur. They have branched out into Morgan County to meet veterans to let them know about available assistance for various needs, mainly employment.

"We provide services to veterans for employment and we give them information on how they may obtain benefits," Flemons said. "Sometimes veterans tend to shy away from asking for help. Their thought is that they're war veterans and they're tough."

However, Flemons says because they have served this country they're entitled to certain benefits.

Flemons and West agreed that Alabama Career Center System at 1819 Bassett Drive is probably unknown to most veterans and that's why they plan to cast a tent at the District 4 shop at Cotaco each month as long as the weather permits.

The men started the outdoor service at the county shop in September.

"We put together a station outside and met several veterans that we talked with and gave information to," said West. "Veterans feel comfortable being personable when talking to other veterans."

Flemons served in the Air Force and West is an Army veteran.

In addition to helping veterans seek jobs and military benefits, Flemons and West occasionally provide transportation for them to certain appointments.

"Our main goal is to get them employed, but we will give help where we can," said Flemons.

If someone needs to be referred to the Veterans Affairs office at the courthouse, they send the person there, West said.

"Veterans deserve all benefits for which they are eligible," Flemons said. "Their service to this country is priceless." We are thankful to county officials for allowing us to set up shop at this county facility. By doing so they will help a lot of veterans get information that they may not have gotten otherwise. We look forward to meeting service members in the area to hopefully make a difference in their lives. We know there are many out there who are homeless and we can help."

For more information please call 256-355-0142.



**Tim West, left, and Carl Flemons, at the work station they organized outside District 4 Commissioner Greg Abercrombie's shop at Cotaco. Their goal is to meet veterans in the area who pass by or stop at the county shop and share information with them about employment opportunities and military benefits.**

## Parks

Continued from page 1

Dailey replaced Bruce Lackey, who retired recently.

During his employment with Decatur, Dailey spearheaded programs for youth, which included summer day camp at Fort Decatur Recreation Center in 2012 and the Youth Sports and Fitness program for children who were home-schooled in 2011. The last enrollment for the camp was 75 and the fitness program grew from 5 to 28, Dailey said.

Currently, county parks are mainly used for youth sports, and known for being well maintained.

"I have ideas outside the box for other activities such as festivals and sports events such as Lacrosse," Dailey said. "There are just so many things you can use the facilities for. Also, I'd like to get involved with the home-schooling community in the county either through a youth fitness program or some other program. It's such a big community and those are some of the things we could do."

Before Dailey's hiring each commissioner had staff to maintain the park in his respective district, but now park employees are working out of Parks and Recrea-

tion, Long explained.

The chairman is optimistic about the future of county parks.

"He (Dailey) seems like a very energetic person and he has a lot of great ideas about taking our parks to another level," Long said. I believe he is an asset to Morgan County and we look forward to seeing results from his enthusiasm."

Dailey received his MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He and his wife Leslie reside in Decatur and have two children, Olivia, 4 and Conner, 2. Dailey's office is in Hartselle.



**Chairman Ray Long reviews information for Parks and Recreation with the department's new director Sean Dailey.**

# United Way Silent Auction huge success

Morgan County employees and officials, along with a few outsiders placed bids and took home items donated by local and area businesses last month during the county's annual silent auction to benefit United Way.

Forty merchants contributed for the charitable event, which was a

success again this year.

A \$500 airline ticket voucher from Huntsville International Airport was a coveted item and at the end of the day it got the highest bid.

Kohl's Department Store was another major contributor, providing five employees to assist with the auction, and issuing a \$500 check on

behalf of the county to United Way of Morgan County.

All participating merchants gave quality merchandise from their inventory, and several local restaurants and stores provided breakfast and beverages for the event. We have acknowledged them all following this story.

"We can't thank them enough," said County Commission Chairman Ray Long. "We couldn't do this each year without them. We had a wonderful turnout of employees, who won bids and took home nice items that were donated. We look forward to the auction again next year."

Employees checked on bids they

had placed throughout the day and appeared to have fun doing so. Some would increase their bids while others waited closer to the cutoff time to place final offers.

Overall, it was a fun occasion, and it was all about giving to United Way to help others.

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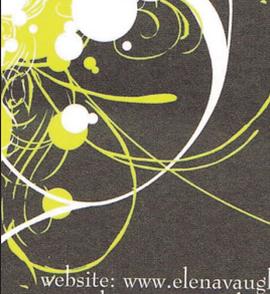
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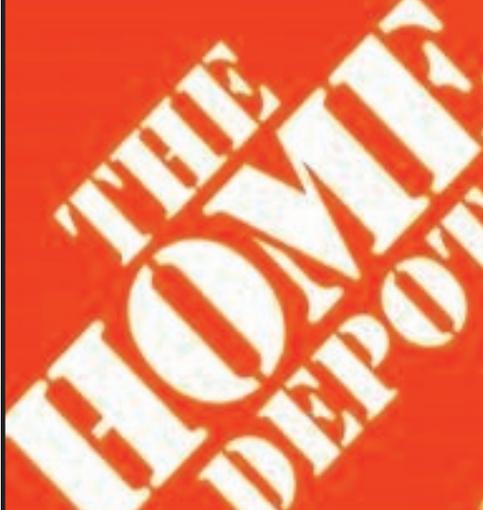
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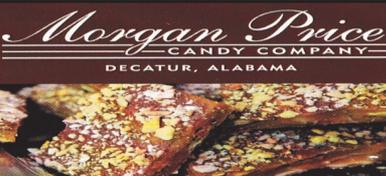
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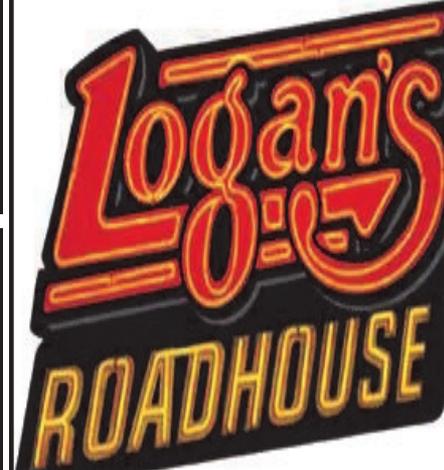
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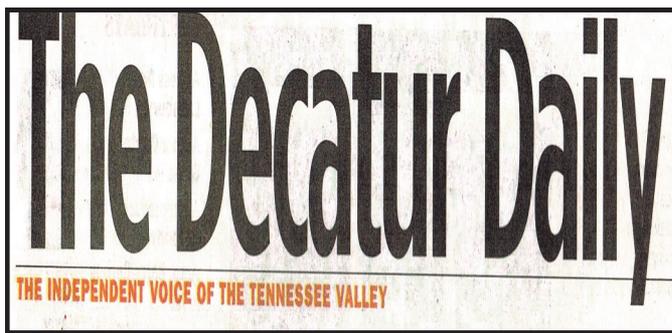
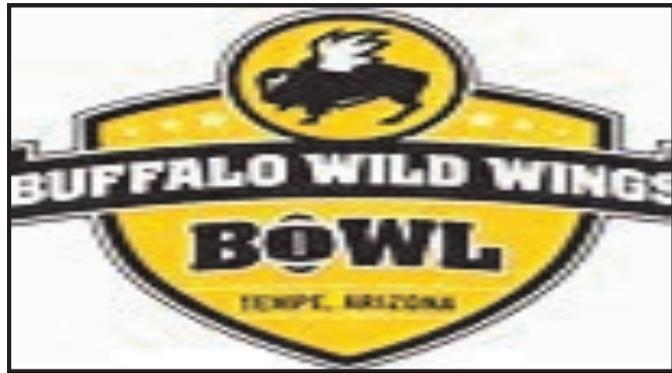
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# THANKS!



## Scenes from the silent auction



# More auction photos



*Morgan County officials and employees look over auction items and place bids.*



*Kohl's employees provided great assistance with the auction. The company issued a \$500 grant to United Way on behalf of Morgan County.*

## About

### *The Voice of Morgan County*

*The Voice of Morgan County* is published quarterly and mailed to 40,000 homes. It is a product of the County Commission and no portion of it may be reproduced. This is the first edition of the third volume.

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



## Making Morgan County proud

# Stisher elected first vice president of ATVG Board of Directors

Members of the Morgan County Commission represent their constituents well at state and national levels.

In October, District 3 Commissioner Don Stisher was elected first Vice President of the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments Board of Directors.

Stisher's election positions him to become president of the organization

in 2016.

"I am humbly grateful to have been chosen to serve in this capacity by my peers in this group," Stisher said. "I try to represent Morgan County in a positive light wherever I go at all times. I look forward to becoming president of ATVG, which will put me in a position to help our county and others as well."

Stisher is serving his third term on

the County Commission, and Chairman Ray Long said he enjoys working with him.

"We have a great commission, that



Stisher

works really well together and Don is a true team player," Long said. "We are equally proud of him for serving in this capacity on the ATVG Board."

Fellow commissioners are proud of Stisher, also. "I know Don will do a great job," said District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark.

Stisher and other members who were elected as officers will begin

their terms in January at the first meeting of the new year.

"We are pleased to have this strong team of officers assuming ATVG Board leadership," said Edmondson County, Kentucky Judge N.E. Reed, who chaired the nomination committee. "ATVG is poised to continue its growth as it represents local governments in seven states."

# Circuit Clerk combines circuit, district court offices for public convenience

## *Criminal, civil, family divisions planned*

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

Aiming to decrease public confusion about where to go for certain judicial business, Circuit Clerk Chris Priest has combined district and circuit court offices.

For months, Priest has had workers scanning case paper files that occupied massive space in the fourth floor office, and doing so created enough room to move district court employees to the fourth floor office.

"The circuit clerk offices used to be on floors one, three and four, and that confused a lot of people," Priest said. "Even when I was a practicing lawyer it was confusing about where to go for certain things. So, we have consolidated our district court office, which was on the first floor, with our fourth floor office. This creates a more user-friendly environment."

The move means that district criminal, small claims, district civil and traffic transactions or filings will be done in Priest's fourth floor office. Child support and juvenile on the third floor will remain there.

"Scanning for the third floor should be complete during the spring."

We are in the process of merging to

three divisions: criminal, civil and family," Priest said.

When the merger is completed the district and circuit court criminal cases will be handled under one division and so will district and circuit civil cases. All family-related, domestic, or child support matters will be handled in the family division. The circuit clerk's office handles child support filings and documents, but does not receive child support payments.

"I think the consolidation of offices benefits the public because they will know where to go and it benefits my office because we've had so many cuts," he said.

According to a state work force chart Morgan's circuit clerk's office should have 24 employees, but after state cuts that spanned several years, Priest has 10 employees on the state payroll.

"We fund four employees locally, but that still takes it to just 14, which is still a major loss of employees," Priest said. Combining the offices is good because we are cross training district and circuit employees to strengthen our work force."

Please see Circuit, page 9



*Circuit Clerk Chris Priest talks to an employee near the deputy clerk's office, to the left, and his office in the rear. The county's maintenance staff renovated the fourth floor office to accommodate the re-location of district court employees.*



*District court employees are now working in the fourth floor office which was made more spacious to combine district and circuit courts.*

## Circuit

Continued from page 8

The maintenance crew renovated the fourth floor office to include an office for Deputy Clerk Janell Conner, where priest's

original office was located.

They transformed a breakroom in back of the fourth floor office for Priest's new office. Other employees have work stations throughout the office.



## Senior Living



### *Power of Pink*

*Senior residents observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, holding an event at the Morgan County Senior Center at Union Hill. They wore pink and had refreshments in addition to their daily activities at the center.*

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# Roan

*"If anybody was seeking a state office they would go to see Sue for help. Sue was a 'king maker'.— Judge David Bibb*



## Continued from page 1

as a powerful public figure.

"If anybody was seeking a state office they would go to see Sue for help and there were many who did," said former District Court Judge David Bibb. "She and her husband, Bunyan would have receptions at their home for the candidates. Sue was a 'king maker'.

After her appointed term ended Roan went on to win subsequent elections with landslide victories. Her last election was in 2008 for the six-year term she is currently completing.

Roan has a strong will where her health is concerned. During her years in office she defeated cancer four

times as well as other major illnesses.

"Sometimes, I would come up here severely ill.—that's just how much I loved this job," she said.

Prior to becoming license commissioner Roan served on the elected Morgan County Board of Education for 12 years, becoming the first woman elected official in the county.

Rona Summerford, widow of the late District 3 Commissioner Joe Summerford, said Roan's departure will be noticeable.

"She's probably done more for people in Morgan County than anybody I know," Summerford said. "It wasn't just with running the tag office, but helping people in other

areas, like getting jobs for them. She has been a great elected official."

County Commission Chairman Ray Long said she's been a friend for years, and, "She's a good lady who has served the county well. She will be missed around the courthouse."

Roan has two children, Bonnie Prestwood and Bryan Roan, and three grandchildren.

"I am not just going to sit down," she said of retirement. "I am going to enjoy family and friends, and continue to be good to people who come across my path. God has been good to me and that's why I love being good to others."



*Chairman Ray Long presents Roan with a plaque from the county for her public service during a retirement reception last month. Right, former District Court Judge David Bibb was MC.*



*A crowd of at least 100 people came to wish Roan well on her retirement. She will leave office in January.*

## Over 100 attend official unveiling of Civil War exhibit at Archives

**By Sheryl Marsh  
Communications Director**

Morgan County Archives officials hosted unveiling of the Civil War exhibit to kick off a celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Decatur in October.

The event drew a crowd of about 100.

"I'm impressed and humble," said Archivist John Allison. It has taken a lot of time and effort to put this together, but I had nothing but support from all involved," Allison said.

He gave state Sen. Arthur Orr credit for helping secure funding for the exhibit and he lauded the County Commission for backing his efforts.

Orr complimented the work of Allison and Joel McWhorter, president of McComm Group, who designed and put the display together. The senator said a home was being sought for a Civil War exhibit, and he's grateful that the commission opened a door.

"I feel my role is chief beggar," said Orr. "You have to have the money for these things, and we didn't have money to build a facility. The County Commission allowed us to use the archives and it's a great place. If you know Ray (Chairman Long), he's always thinking about

how to help in situations for the betterment of Morgan County."

Long addressed the crowd and expressed appreciation for Orr's help.

"Morgan County could not have done any of this without Sen. Orr," Long said. "He's not just our state senator; he's the best senator in the state of Alabama."

In addition to Orr and the County Commission, funding and leadership for the exhibit came from the Alabama Department of Tourism, Alabama Mountains and Rivers and Valleys Resource Conservation/Development.

Allison said the exhibit is one that provides knowledge for those interested in local history.

"This exhibit gives the people of Morgan County an opportunity to learn about one of the most pivotal periods of history," Allison said. "Visitors to the facility will learn how local residents were affected by the events in the war at large and how events shaped the outcome of the conflict."

McWhorter said the project was challenging, but exciting to do.

"What an honor to have been a part of such



*Above, a crowd enjoys the Civil War exhibit. Below, Commissioner Randy Vest, Chairman Ray Long, Sen. Arthur Orr, John Allison and others cut the ceremonial ribbon.*

**Please see Civil War, page 11**

# Work in progress for another phase of SNAP

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

An ordinary swing surrounded by specially designed ones depicts the concept of the John Mark Stallings Special Needs Accessible Playground

in Hartselle.

“What began as an idea to construct a special needs swing area has evolved into a comprehensive playground, conceived and designed to accommodate the estimated

2,500 special needs children as well as other children in Morgan County”, said Robert “Bob” Francis, manager of the project and a leader of the vision.

Work is under way on the

final phase of the project, which will be Playground B. District 3 Commissioner Don Stisher volunteered to help do the preparation work. A crew of his employees were there working last month.

“The County Commission does so much for residents. They’ve built and continue to build senior centers and they have played a tremendous role with SNAP, and we are thankful” Francis said.

District 2 employees did preparation work for the overall playground in 2007 and for Playground A and the main entrance in 2013.

Adjacent to Sparkman Civic Center, SNAP is the result of municipalities, the County Commission and others uniting to provide recreation for special needs children as well as other kids.

“It’s all inclusive,” said Francis. “The most important thing is the interaction of special needs children with typical children. One of our main interests was to provide a facility for schools, churches and other organizations to have for planned trips. I feel that when we get the comprehensive playground complet-

ed we’ll see more planned trips. We’ve already had a bus load to come from Albertville, and we’ve observed them come from Cullman and other parts of the North Alabama region.”

Named for the late son of former Alabama football coach Gene Stallings, SNAP’s spray park was named the best of its kind in America in 2011.

In addition to the aquatic feature, Playground A offers these sensory activities: sliding, spinning, swinging, climbing, social and tactile (touch).

“It is through engaging in these activities that physical and emotional needs are satisfied and inherent interaction promotes social skills,” Francis said.

Playground B will have a ramped, elevated and shaded play structure with 18 play features and seven free-standing features at ground level. All will be constructed on a colorful rubberized ‘safe fall’ surface.

While walking along an area graced with stones and plants stand out. One stone in particular grabs your at-

tention—bearing the name Reece Cosby.

“This is a project *The Decatur Daily* did in memory of (photojournalist) Gary Cosby’s son,” said Francis. “It’s remarkable and it’s called Reece Cosby Memorial Garden.”

Support from local governments as well as individual donors has been phenomenal.

“We have a great group of volunteers and all are important,” he said. “As with any organization you have those who take the lead and do more than their share.”

Pledged cash and in-kind donations total \$845,000 and another \$55,000 is needed to complete the current project by June 2015, Francis said.

Stisher said he’s more than elated to help with the project.

“This is truly an asset to our community,” Stisher said. “It’s something great for this area and others outside of Morgan County. We are proud to be a part of it.”

Please mail tax deductible donation to:  
**SNAP of Morgan County**  
**PO Box 512**  
**Hartselle, AL 35640**



**Robert “Bob” Francis at the entrance of SNAP**



**This set at SNAP Playground A has a swing for everyone.**

## Civil War

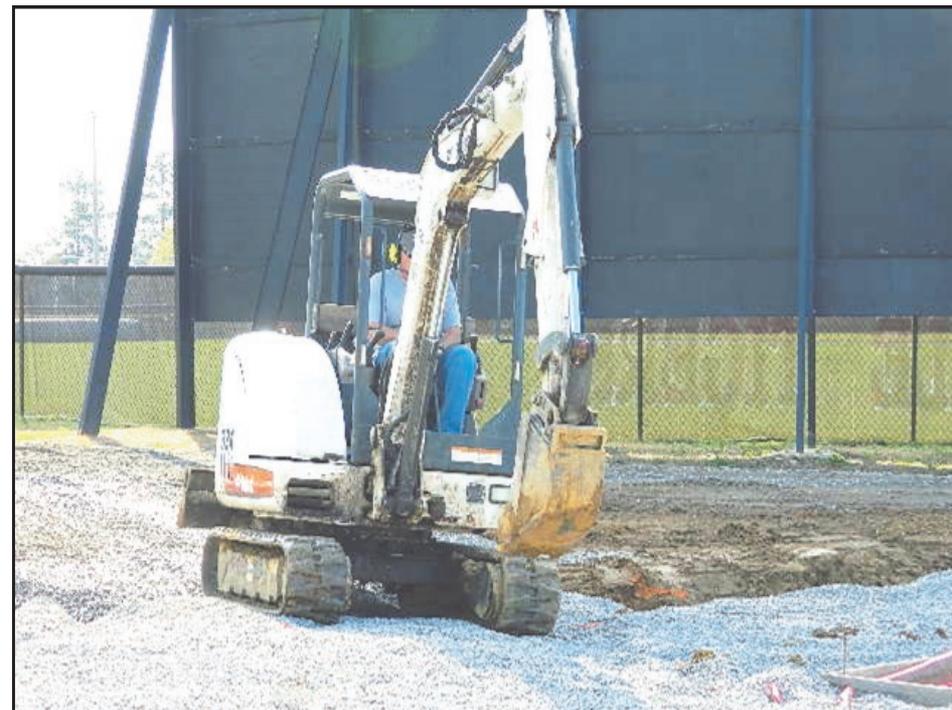
**Continued from page 10**

an impactful exhibit,” said McWhorter. “It was a challenge and a pleasure to research and compile and design a presentation that tells our ancestors’ story during those trying years. We hope

and trust that this exhibit is informative and meaningful to our community and its visitors.”

Five days of celebration followed the unveiling at the archives building. Activities included an encampment set up on the grounds of the Dan-

cy-Polk House, and tours of the historic house as well as the Old State Bank, Burleson House, Blue and Gray Museum, North Alabama Civil War Museum and archives. Many other events were held during the celebration, which concluded Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.



**A District 3 employee leveling the ground for the final phase of SNAP., which will be Playground B. The organization needs \$55,000 to complete this phase.**

# Commissioners prepared for wintry weather

By Sheryl Marsh  
**Communications Director**

Morgan County commissioners are prepared to deal with wintry road conditions while continuing to work on pending projects.

“We’ve got our salt spreaders put together and all our supplies in stock to deal with hazardous road conditions that come during the winter months,” said District 1 Commissioner Jeff Clark. “We’re running our tree trimming crew and other employees are working with the county school board on projects, which include building a new maintenance facility.”

District 3 Commissioner Don Stisher has several projects going on.

“We’re tearing down an old building that held some Falkville High’s classrooms, for them to renovate and add on to the original school, and we’ve been doing a lot of site work on the football field,” Stisher said. “We’ve also helped with projects for the school board’s maintenance department. We are also involved with preparation of the site for the Town of Eva to construct storm shelters.”

Stisher has a crew doing prep work for the final phase of the John Mark Stallings Special Needs Accessible Playground in Hartselle, also.

In addition, Stisher said he is providing assistance for waterline expansion for the Town of Falkville, and rebuilding a practice field for

Falkville High. A crew is also cleaning out ditches and cutting trees down during storms.

“Of course, we are prepared for keeping our roads passable during winter months,” Stisher said. “We have all of our equipment and supplies ready. On top of all that, I’ve been busy with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama getting legislation ready for when they convene in the spring.”

District 4 Commissioner Greg Abercrombie is in the process of building a second senior citizen center to replace a deteriorating facility in the Lacey’s spring community and he has other projects under way.



Stisher



Clark

Vest says he has projects planned and his shop is prepared to deal with wintry conditions as they arise.

District shops are open Monday through Thursday. Commissioners and employees work 10-hour days.



Vest



Abercrombie

“We’re tearing down a building at Lacey’s Spring School for them to build an agriculture facility, and we’re still working on finishing Brindlee Mountain Ball Park,” Abercrombie said. He added that his shop is equipped for winter weather. District 2 Commissioner Randy

## District 3 at work



District 3 employees prepare equipment for wintry weather.



A District 3 heavy equipment operator digs a trench for water lines in Falkville.



From left, Commissioner Jeff Clark, wife Annette, Saronda Vest and husband, Commissioner Rand Vest at reception after swearing-in ceremony.

## Oaths

Continued from page 1

“We are humbly grateful to the people for electing me to serve a second term, and we will work hard with the other commissioners to make Morgan County a great place to live and work, Vest said.

Unlike other elected officials who take office in January, commissioners are sworn in before the first meeting in November in accordance with state law.

The commissioners echoed Long in saying the commission has a good working relationship with quality leadership from the chairman.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this commission,” said Clark, who is a veteran commissioner. “I hope it stays this way because we have really been able to get a lot accomplished under Ray’s leadership, and the commitment and team work of the commissioners.



### *Lights on!*

*Chairman Ray Long prides himself on serving the public and in doing so he looks for ways to make visits to the courthouse as convenient and safe as possible. In October he initiated getting Decatur Utilities to install flood lights on a poll on the north side of the courthouse to illuminate all paths leading to the second floor entrance.*

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# Giving blood with a smile

## *LIFESouth's Patriot Day, Iron Bowl blood drives lure donors*

The courthouse hosted the second annual Patriot Day and Bleed for your Team blood drives for LIFESouth Blood Centers on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> respectively, luring almost 99 donors collectively.

Among those donating was Woody Bond, 17, a JROTC commanding officer at Austin High School. The Bleed for your Team blood drive marked his first anniversary as a blood donor. His first time was last year at this particular blood drive at the courthouse, and his giving on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> brought his total donations to four.

His mother, Carla Bond is proud.

"Being a blood donor has added to the positive influence of the JROTC program for Woody and the LIFESouth folks are so friendly, fun and positive, Carla Bond said. "They make a perfect team for helping a young person mature into a positive and service-minded member of our community.

LIFESouth is grateful for all donors, no matter their age.

"We are charged with providing blood products for hospitals in North Alabama, including Decatur General, Athens-Limestone and the others, and that's why for the courthouse and businesses to host our blood drives is extremely important," said LIFESouth Donor Recruiter Cherry Hammonds. "We are able to get products out on the shelves before they're needed. Events like this at the courthouse are very productive, especially during the holidays when people are busy preparing and it takes so much time from their schedules."

Both blood drives were open to the public and in addition to courthouse employees, other people from the community climbed into donor seats to give.

During the Patriot Day drive 59 people donated at the courthouse and six contributed the day before at Morgan County Area Transportation System (MCATS) for a total of 65.

In exchange, they received T-shirts with graphics honoring law enforcement officers and other public emergency responders. They received other items, also.

The Bleed for your Team blood drive ties to the Iron Bowl and donors received an Alabama or Auburn T-shirt, along with other items.

LIFESouth collected blood from three donors at MCATS and 31 at the courthouse for a total of 34.

"Both blood drives are for a worthy cause and we're honored to be able to host them," said County Commission Chairman Ray Long. LIFESouth provides blood for our local hospitals to help save lives of those who need blood after being in an accident or for some other reason. We were happy to see huge turnouts for both events."

District Court Judge Charles Langham is a faithful donor, who gave blood each time.

"I believe in giving blood to provide for someone who needs it," said Langham. "You never know

when yours will save a life."

Hammond said she looks forward to next year.

"We are just elated with these events and most appreciative to the officials at the courthouse,

who allow us to have them here,"

Please see Giving, page 15

### *Patriot Day*



Left, Rebecca Whittle and Jamie Hawkins arrive at LIFESouth's blood mobile to donate blood during the Patriot Day event. Right, Assistant District Attorney Charles Elliott relaxes after giving a donation.



### *Bleeding for their team*



Morgan County District Judge Charles Langham, left, gives a thumbs-up as after giving blood. Right, Decatur Police Detective Jonathan Lowery relaxes after donating blood.





Woody Bond, forefront, celebrated his first anniversary as a blood donor at LIFESouth's "Bleed for your Team" blood drive at the courthouse in November.

## Giving

Continued from page 14

said Hammond. "We try to partner with communities to provide blood products. People might not think their family need it, but if they do it will be there for them. We're really lucky in this area to

have very gracious donors who help us keep the hospitals supplied."

As for Woody, he plans to keep giving.

"It's a good way to give to the community for people at some of the most critical times."

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*From the Morgan County Commission*

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