

Election brings new leadership

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Sheriff Patrick Ray and County Mayor Tim Stribling have been returned to office while Randy Hale won his first term as road superintendent and Susan Martin was elected as the new circuit

court clerk. Meanwhile, Smithville alderman Josh Miller defeated incumbent mayor Jimmy Poss to become the city's next mayor, while the county commission has been turned upside down with new faces winning the day.

In the race for sheriff, Ray won handily, topping Democratic opponent Michael Agee by a count

of 3,650 to 963.

Meanwhile, incumbent County Mayor Tim Stribling, coming off a seven-vote win the Democratic Primary had more breathing room this time, beating Randy Paris by a count of 3,123 to 1,346.

The race of county road supervisor was much closer as Republican Randy Hale defeated Democrat Jimmy Sprague by a margin of 2,417 to 2,222.

Taking her first term as circuit court clerk, Susan Martin won handily over Nicole Wright, 2,940 to 1,540.

The race for Smithville city mayor ended up being close with Josh Miller getting 519 votes, topping incumbent Jimmy Poss who had 415 while Curtis Rust had 71 votes. Gayla Hendrix was returned to her aldermanic spot without opposition while Brandon J. Cox was elected to his first term as alderman without opposition.

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Strike up the band



Trumpet player Josh Moon marches the final song at band camp as the high school marching band readies for its season of halftime shows and contests.

Camp prepares DCHS squad for season

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Putting in countless hours of work for an eight-minute show. That's what the DeKalb County marching band did over the summer, putting in sweat equity to create the best show possible.

"All that work for just an eight-minute show," said director Tracy Luna. "Some people may think we are kind of crazy."

The 2018 band broke camp the week before school began after honing its

skills in both the band room and under the sweltering summer heat of the practice field.

"They have learned much and grown as part of the band," Luna said of the two-week band camp, noting he is fielding a young group that will not only be performing at half-time of Tiger games but will also be competing in contests across the state. "We have 36 kids marching, both high school and middle school and 14 of them are brand new marchers."

Luna noted that the band will continue cleaning up the show as the

competitive season arrives. "We travel competitively throughout the season in order to showcase," he said.

With the help of new assistant director Jonathan Owens, Luna is excited to present this year's show which features music from Phantom of the Opera.

"We are excited about what this year will bring for us, both in fellowship and competitively in the band world," Luna said.

Video highlights from the last day of band camp can be found at www.smithvillereview.com in the multimedia section.



Neither Mayor Jimmy Poss nor his son, Anthony, were in court Monday for arraignment. Their attorneys entered not guilty pleas on their behalf.

Poss, son enter not guilty pleas

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Mayor Jimmy Poss and his son Anthony entered not guilty pleas Monday morning to charges they stole from the city of Smithville when the mayor hired his son to maintain the municipal golf course with permission of the aldermanic council.

The not guilty pleas were entered in absence of the defendants, both of whom waived their right to appear, allowing their attorneys to announce their innocence. The defendants were both given Oct. 5 appearance dates by Circuit Court Judge Gary McKenzie and will remain free on their present bonds pending their scheduled court dates.

Mayor Poss was indicted on charges of theft over \$2,500 and official misconduct while his son was indicted on the charge of theft over \$2,500. The indictments came one week before election, an election the incumbent mayor lost to Alderman Josh Miller by 104 votes. The timing of the indictments brought allegations that the indictments were politically motivated and meant to turn the tide of the election. However, voting numbers showed Miller won both the early vote, which was basically completed before the indictments and Election Day voting which came after the indictments.

The indictments allege Mayor Poss violated the law when he hired his son to maintain the municipal golf course and swimming pool without telling the aldermanic council. Tony Poss was paid around \$8,000 over a six-month period during which no official work records were kept sparking allegations that work may not have been done. The city council censured the mayor for his actions but stopped short of demanding he pay back the money. The indictments against the mayor and his son come on the heels of a scathing state comptroller's report which criticized the outgoing mayor for his handling of the hiring and his violation of the city's nepotism policy.

The mayor's last day in office will be Aug. 31.

County keeps taxes steady

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No. New. Taxes. The DeKalb County commission, most members adopting their last budget while in office given the massive turnover prompted by Election Day this past week, accepted the budget for 2018-19 without raising property taxes.

The property tax rate remains steady at \$1.8335 per \$100 of assessed value after the county commission unanimously ratified the budget for the coming fiscal year. As a rule of thumb, each penny added to the property tax brings in \$46,658 if collections run on average.

The adoption came after a number of pre-budget meetings by the budget committee, culminating the document commissioners approved. In total, the budget is for \$42.9 million and includes monies from local, state and federal sources.



The county commission, most members meeting in budget session for their final time, kept taxes steady for the coming year.

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