



Online tag renewals start today

By ED HOWELL
Eagle Senior Writer

Only a week after he announced online tag renewals were coming in October, Probate Judge Rick Allison announced the service would start as of today, allowing for credit and debit card use for as little as \$5.50 extra over the cost of the tag.



Probate Judge Rick Allison

A \$3.50 processing fee for paying with credit or debit cards is being added to the \$2 postage fee currently used for mailing in check payments. "After many months of research look-

ing for the right company with a secured site to handle credit cards and check cards, Probate Judge Rick Allison has made the final step for renewing your tags online," Allison said in a statement he released Friday. "This is a feature that only a month ago could only be done in 10 of the 67 counties. Starting Oct. 1, 2006, in Walker County, you will be able to go online at www.renewyourtag.com and renew your license plate using a credit card or debit card."

Until now, customers have only been able to handle tag renewals in person or by mail. At the probate judge section of the county's Web site (www.walkercounty.com), customers obtain some information and are able to download business license application forms, state licensing requirements and motor vehicle registration forms, as well as go to some links

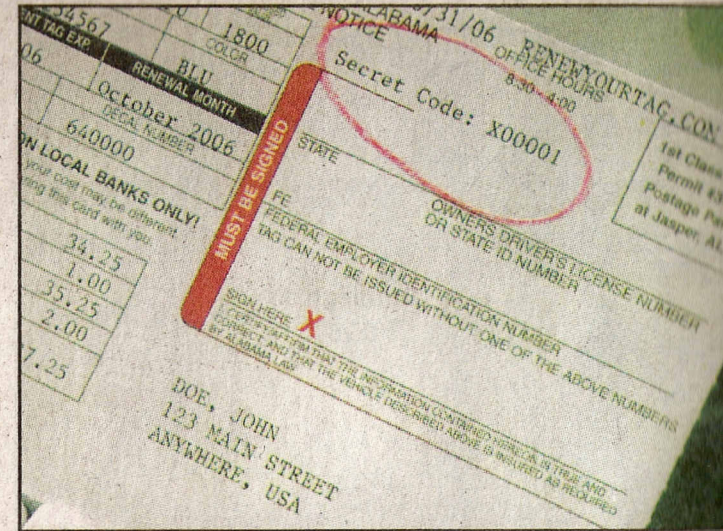
to some other related information.

Now, mailed post card renewal notices will be sent out with a reminder of the renewyourtag.com Web site and a secret numerical code for the customer to get into the Web site. Both will be in the upper right hand corner of the card.

"We are short-handed on staff, and are excited to be able to offer this on the Internet," Allison said. "My goal has always been to make the services in this office as convenient and pleasant as possible for our customers."

Using the secret code, which is issued for privacy issues, one can go online and order the tags, Allison said in the release. Once the order is processed, much like with current mail orders, the Probate Judge's Office will mail the cus-

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Daily Mountain Eagle - Ron Harrell

Tag renewal postcards will show in the upper right hand corner the Web site and secret code one will need to renew tags online.

County GOP fundraiser scheduled for Monday

A safer intersection?

Eldridge intersection

Black Democrats air concerns about Nov. 7 election

suspected al-Qaida in Iraq associated with any illegal activity. The al-Duraimi was our security forces in the area. The attacks against mosques during prayers.

Renewals

From A1

customer's tag and decal to the customer.

"If you transact your tag business online, you may pay with a credit card, check or debit card," the release said. "There will be a processing fee that will be charged by the company that processes the credit, debit cards or checks, in addition to the \$2 mail fee that is charged to mail your tags.

"The Internet fee is \$3.50 per tag purchase up to \$199.99, and any tag purchase of \$200 or more will be charged 3 percent of the total cost of the tag. The processing fee charged by the Internet provider has nothing to do with the county, state or this office. It comes directly from IMS, the Internet provider," the release said.

Those using the Internet will also get more leeway as far as time to pay, as they can wait until the last day of the renewal month at midnight for renewal. Allison warned in the release that it may still take a few days for IMS to process the payment before the tag can be processed.

"If you mail your tag renewals in to the Probate Office, they have to be

mailed no later than the 25th day of each renewal month," the release stated.

"We hope that adding the Internet service will make buying your tag more convenient for our customers. The process is very user friendly and has step-by-step instructions," the release said.

Renewyourtag.com lists only Alabama locations as offering the service: Blount County, Calhoun County, Lauderdale County, Madison County, Morgan County, Tuscaloosa County, and Walker County. Limestone County was listed as "coming soon."

The Web site said it offers renewals that "can be done in minutes" and adds, "All transactions are extremely secure and protected using 256 bit encryption." The site said it can also handle business license renewals online, although that service was not announced for Walker County by Allison's release.

The site was developed by IMS (Information Management Services), LLC., a Florence-based company which said it has provided technology-based services for over 20 years and calling itself a "consultative-based web develop-

ment company" with clients worldwide. The head of the company is Rudy Kaldi, who is described as a 20-year resident of the Shoals area.

Allison said at an event last weekend that IMS "had about eight license commissioners in the state that they were going with, and I'm the first probate judge he's taken on. There were only 10 counties out of the 67 that had the ability to renew your tags online."

He also said at the time he was concerned about identity theft using such a service.

"I think we're with the right company that that's not going to take place," Allison said.

Allison said Saturday except for a small one-time start-up fee, there will be no cost to the county to perform the new service.

Anyone wanting to offer comments or suggestions are encouraged to come by the Probate Judge's Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or to e-mail the office at www.walkerprobate@bellsouth.net.

Intersection

From A1

No public notification was given of the change. The *Daily Mountain Eagle* received word stand it," he said, adding he is worried this could cost lives in the process.

"That's one of those you kind of come up to, and if you're coming north on 12, it's tance from the intersection, said 113 accidents, 98 injuries