



RANGERS RALLY

Texas breaks through in 9th inning to top St. Louis. 1B.

ELITE EIGHT
5 local volleyball teams advance to Pelham. 1B.

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Few Americans take immigrants' jobs in state

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL AND JAY REEVES
Associated Press

ONEONTA — Potato farmer Keith Smith saw most of his immigrant workers leave after Alabama's tough immigration law took effect, so he hired Americans. It hasn't worked out: Most

show up late, work slower than seasoned farm hands and are ready to call it a day after lunch or by midafternoon. Some quit after a single day.

In Alabama and other parts of the country, farmers must look beyond the nation's borders for labor because many Americans simply don't want the backbreak-

ing, low-paying jobs immigrants are willing to take. Politicians who support the law say over time more unemployed Americans will fill these jobs. They insist it's too early to consider the law a failure, yet numbers from the governor's office show only nominal interest.

"I've had people calling me

wanting to work," Smith said. "I haven't turned any of them down, but they're not any good. It's hard work, they just don't work like the Hispanics with experience."

Alabama passed its law in June and it was immediately challenged by the Obama administration as it has been in other states. Unlike those states' measures,

Alabama's law was left largely in place while challenges played out in court, frightening Hispanics and driving many of them away.

The agriculture industry suffered the most immediate impact. Farmers said they will have to downsize or let crops die on the

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Ready for racing?

NASCAR teams, fans begin arriving at Talladega Superspeedway Thursday for this weekend's Sprint Cup Good Sam Club 500



Photo courtesy of Talladega Superspeedway

Jimmie Johnson takes his Chevrolet around the track Thursday at Talladega Superspeedway as teams begin preparing for this weekend's Sprint Cup race.

COMPLETE COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 1B

Courthouse backlog worse after layoffs

BY CAMERON STEELE
csteele@annistonstar.com

A week, maybe two. That's all it used to take for three clerks responsible for all civil cases in Calhoun County District Court to send out the small claims checks owed to landlords, businesses, loan companies and banks across the state.

But now those individuals and businesses are waiting weeks and months longer to get their money as civil cases in district court pile up, Seventh Judicial Circuit Clerk Ted Hooks said.

Significant cuts to the state court system pared the workforce at the Calhoun County Courthouse from 25 down to 12 as of Sept. 1.

A few weeks before those layoffs took effect, Hooks announced the courthouse would close to the public on Fridays to help his employees stay current on paperwork and processing court cases.

Those Friday closings have helped a little, court officials said Thursday, but the paper backlog — especially among district civil cases — is still growing, and fast.

The remaining 12 clerks in circuit and district court have to focus on criminal cases, officials said. If they don't, they risk violating the constitutional rights of criminal suspects.

And the paper backlog in civil court isn't going

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Oxford Olive Garden to erect flag

BY PATRICK MCCRELESS
pmccreless@annistonstar.com

A U.S. flag could soon be hanging permanently outside the Oxford Olive Garden restaurant as part of the restaurant chain's apology to a local service club.

Marti Warren, immediate past president of Oxford Golden K Kiwanis,

said Thursday that Bill Holmes, senior vice president of Olive Garden, based in Orlando, Fla., had agreed to erect a flagpole outside the chain's Oxford location.

Olive Garden spokeswoman Heidi Schauer confirmed Thursday in an email to The Star that a flagpole would be erected.

"I can confirm that we will be

proudly flying an American flag outside the Oxford Olive Garden," Schauer said. "We don't have a timeline for completion yet, but a contractor has been to the restaurant, and we're finalizing plans for the installation."

The flagpole was the company's latest attempt to apologize after the

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Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Sallie Tolbert works on a huge backlog of cases in files stacked around her desk Thursday at the Calhoun County Courthouse.

WEATHER, 12A

Mallory Hill, Church of the Good Shepherd
SUNNY
HIGH: 62 LOW: 35

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James Tommy Howard, Choccolocco
Alice Rose Landham Jones, Jacksonville
Opal Slaton Lipham, Heflin
Brinda Kay Michael, Muscadine
Larry E. Orr Sr., Anniston
Patricia J. Poehler, Jacksonville
Annie Boone Prichard, Alexandria
Doris L. Robinson, Gadsden
Jean Hogan Valdes, Jacksonville
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World wonders what's next for Libya

Death of Moammar Gadhafi raises as many questions as answers

BY JONATHAN S. LANDAY
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — With the death Thursday of Moammar Gadhafi, Libya's de facto leaders now face the challenge of preserving the fragile unity they enjoyed while the deposed dictator was on the run as they begin transforming their war-battered nation into a democracy after 42 years of tyrannical one-man rule.

The task is daunting. The National Transitional Council, the top revolutionary authority, confronts a vast array of problems: bringing the rag-tag militias that ousted Gadhafi under control; recovering looted arms; halting revenge attacks on Gadhafi loyalists; caring for thousands of casualties; restoring oil production; repairing war damage; and keeping a lid on regional tensions and radical Islam.

At the same time, the self-appointed



Manu Brabo/Associated Press

Revolutionary fighters celebrate Thursday's capture of Sirte, Libya, and dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

group of former officials, academics, military officers and others, who are riven by personal and ideological differences, must proceed with an ambitious democratization plan. It includes holding Libya's first free elections within eight months of what is expected to be a declaration Saturday of "liberation" from Gadhafi's rule.

"The Libyan people now have a great

responsibility: to build an inclusive and tolerant and democratic Libya that stands as the ultimate rebuke to Gadhafi's dictatorship," President Barack Obama declared hours after a wounded Gadhafi was captured and likely killed by opposition forces after a nearly six-week siege of his hometown of Sirte.

Libya begins its new era with advantages over other former authoritarian-ruled states for which the period between civil war and the establishment of the first elected government is historically the most dangerous.

Libya's infrastructure remains relatively intact, some government offices continue functioning and where they don't, self-organized civic groups have taken over. There is little prospect of the sectarian or ethnic turmoil that convulsed Iraq. The National Transitional Council enjoys respect among Libya's 6.4 million people as well as international recognition, and it soon is expected to win access to some \$110 billion in assets frozen by sanctions on

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