

# GOLD FOR GABBY

U.S. teen wins gymnastics' biggest prize. 1C.



CLOSE LOOK  
JSU coaches will keep attention on defense this fall. 1C.

# The Anniston Star

Friday, August 3, 2012

A home-owned newspaper

75 cents

## ANNISTON WARD 1 CANDIDATE FORUM

# Candidates' message resonates with residents

BY LAURA CAMPER  
lcamper@annistonstar.com

The fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church was filled to capacity Thursday night with residents eager to hear what candidates for office from Ward 1 had to say about Anniston. "I've been here all my life, was born and bred here, came up in the school system," said Ward 1 resident Kim Ware, an Anniston schoolteacher. "I saw it when it was thriving and it was great and I think it can be back that way again." Ware said she still isn't sure who she's voting for Aug. 28, but she loved

what she heard from the candidates — working together, cooperation, supporting the whole community and school system. That's what she believes will make Anniston great again, Ware said. Four candidates from Ward 1 attended the forum. Donna Ross and Ernest Washington are vying for the Ward 1 Board of Education seat; incumbent Jim Klinefelter is not running for re-election because a new ward map excludes him from the district. For the ward's City Council seat, Jay Jenkins is seeking re-election and Andy Hatley is hoping to unseat him.

All candidates favored similar ideals of working together, seeking common goals and mutual respect; the message resonated with the audience. "Ward mentality that exists within our city is as divisive as anything that goes on here," Jenkins responded to a question about how he might unify the city. "I also understand that I was elected to serve the entire city. If I refuse to serve anything but Ward 1, I might as well secede from the city and start our own city. It doesn't work." Even as he made that statement, applause broke out from the audience.



Stephen Gross/The Anniston Star  
A large crowd listens to Ward 1 candidates speak Thursday at First Presbyterian Church.

Please see FORUM I Page 5A

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

# Alabama to seek waiver from law

BY PHILLIP RAWLS  
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama will ask the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind law, which seeks to have all students performing at the proficient level for their grades in math and reading by 2014. Deputy State Superintendent Sherrill Parris said Thursday the state plans to submit the request by early September and expects an answer by December. She's optimistic Alabama will receive a waiver because more than half the states already have. Alabama is basing its request on the state's development of a student achievement plant that Alabama officials say is better than the 2001 federal law. Parris talked about the waiver application Thursday as the state prepares to release results on Aug. 9 about how many Alabama schools made adequate yearly progress

Please see NCLB I Page 5A

# Rising above rivalry

## New high school generates excitement in Clay County

BY LAURA JOHNSON  
ljohnson@annistonstar.com

CLAY COUNTY — Kathy Crenshaw said she spent the last 29 years of her teaching career in the same classroom at Lineville High School. She considered it home, but these days she isn't looking back with regret. Crenshaw is one of about 50 teachers who will move into classrooms at Central High School of Clay County in the next three weeks. The math teacher said she is so impressed by the new space that she is refinishing her old file cabinet before she brings it into her new classroom. "I think sometimes it's hard to change, but I think this change is going to be for the better," Crenshaw said. "Our old school was nice, but this is all newer and neater." Students attending band camp at the high school Thursday said they were overwhelmed by the new accommodations. They liked the automatic soap dispensers in the bathrooms and the café-style seating in the high school cafeteria.

Please see SCHOOL I Page 5A



Photos by Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star  
LEFT: A classroom at the new Central High School in Clay County is shown. ABOVE: The focal point of the new school is this monument in the central courtyard.



ONLINE SLIDESHOW | See more photos of the new school at annistonstar.com

# County 2nd-quarter home sales encouraging

BY PATRICK MCCRELESS  
pmccreless@annistonstar.com

The local housing market showed improvement in the last three months, but it's still not back to pre-recession levels. More Calhoun County homes were sold in the second quarter of 2012 than in the same period in each of the last three years, indicat-

ing consistent improvement in the market. However, a glut of foreclosures is still keeping the market from fully recovering from its downturn in 2007, experts say. "There is no question that the housing market is improving, it's been improving for a while," said Everett King of ERA King Real Estate in Anniston. "But until we get foreclosure inventory to

normal levels, we can't really measure the true state of the market." According to the Alabama Center for Real Estate, 279 homes were sold in Calhoun County in April, May and June — an increase from 255 homes sold in the same period last year. The amount of homes sold in the second quarter is also more than the 271 homes sold during the

same period in 2010 and the 220 sold in the second quarter of 2009. In contrast, before the recession hit in 2008, 383 homes were sold in the area during the second quarter of 2007 and 406 in the second quarter of 2006. Alabama had similar improvements in home sales

Please see SALES I Page 5A

## WEATHER, 10C



Peyton Howard, C.E. Hanna Elementary  
STORM CHANCE  
HIGH: 93 LOW: 72

## OBITUARIES, 4A

- Linda Mae Bachmann, Oxford
- Don Wayne Coleman, Arkansas
- Tammy Jean Crosson-Muth, Nebraska
- Tammie Denise Cunningham, Heflin
- Maurine Betty Steil Donley, Anniston
- Clara Jo Ervin, Heflin
- Gladys C. Forbes, Eastaboga
- Susan Boykin Harmon, Opelika
- Nobie Lee Lane, Wedowee
- Lewis Henry Moore, Roanoke
- Sam Richardson, Gadsden
- Lenell Simon, Anniston
- Hanah Denise Watson, Tennessee

## INDEX

- Classifieds . . . . . 6C
- Coffee Break . . . . . 10A
- Comics . . . . . 5C
- Crossword . . . . . 9C
- Editorial . . . . . 8A

Vol. 132, No. 216  
(USPS 026-440)



6 66000 11111 7

Extra Hours: Friday 8-10; Saturday 7-10; Sunday 10-9

Men's & Ladies' Nike Shoes  
Selected styles \$39.99 Kids \$29.99  
SIMPLY BETTER  
**MARTIN'S**  
FAMILY CLOTHING  
BTS Sale That's Not Taxing ~~TAX~~  
GET \$10 IN MARTIN'S MONEY  
FOR EVERY \$50 YOU SPEND Friday and Saturday, August 3-4, 2012  
Martin's Money Coupon redeemable August 10-11, 2012.