

The Anniston Star

Friday, April 18, 2008

A home-owned newspaper

50 cents

annistonstar.com
Check out the Your Scene photo gallery

POLITICS, 8A



STIRRING IT UP
Barack Obama says presidential debate focused on 'gotcha.'

REGION, 1B



LESSONS LEARNED
Students study effects of Anniston's PCB contamination.

REGION, 3B

TAX RELIEF
Riley opposes grocery tax removal bill; Folsom says he will support it.

BUSINESS, 1D

HELP WANTED
Economy sends signals of more weakness to come.

OBITUARIES, 5B

- Fred S. Baker, Piedmont
- Ajay Marcus Blake II, Weaver
- Flora Mae Crim, Talladega
- Mattie L. Hill, Ohatchee
- James D. "Jimmy" Luker, Morris
- James Arthur Roberts Jr. (Big Jim), Anniston
- Mackenzie Lynn Smith, Piedmont
- Betty Spurling, Talladega

INDEX

Calendar	2B
Comics	7C
Community	4B
Editorial	6A
Lottery	2B
Movies	3C
Stocks	2D

WEATHER, 6B



Breanna Turner, White Plains Elementary

MOSTLY SUNNY

HIGH: 76 LOW: 52

Vol. 128, No. 109

(USPS 026-440)



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Meehan a semi-finalist for Valdosta State job

BY DAN WHISENHUNT

dwhisenhunt@annistonstar.com

Jacksonville State University President Bill Meehan is being considered for the top job at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga.

He will interview there at the end of the month.

If Valdosta State offers Meehan the job, it will be the end of a lengthy career at JSU. He started

as a biology instructor there in the 1970s. It's also where he received his undergraduate and master's degrees.

Meehan said a search firm hired by the school approached him about the job in March. He had an initial interview Sunday in Atlanta.

Meehan told JSU trustees about the job during a closed session of Monday's board meeting.

Though Meehan has turned down other offers

Please see MEEHAN I Page 5A



Kevin Qualls/Anniston Star file photo

Jacksonville State University President Dr. Bill Meehan confirmed Thursday that he is a semi-finalist for the top job at Valdosta State University.

POPE TO ADDRESS U.N. TODAY



Gerald Herbert/Associated Press

Pope Benedict XVI reacts to the crowd Thursday at the conclusion of a Papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington. Today he becomes only the third pope to address the United Nations General Assembly, an institution where his church enjoys an unusual — and sometimes controversial — status. For story, see Page 2A.



Andy Johns/The Anniston Star

Former Alabama governor visits Clay County

Ex-governor John Patterson recounts tales of corruption and gangsters for Ashland audience.

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 1B

ONLINE EXTRA | Click on this story at annistonstar.com to hear an excerpt of Patterson's speech

Panel asks Rove to testify about Siegelman

BY BEN EVANS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee on Thursday asked former White House adviser Karl Rove to testify about claims that he influenced a federal corruption case against former Democratic Gov. Don Siegelman of Alabama.

The panel also called on the Justice Department's inspector general to investigate allegations that political motivations drove the Siegelman case and several other federal prosecutions during the Bush administration.

Issuing a lengthy report on possible "selective prosecution," the committee cited cases against Pennsylvania corner Cyril Wecht and Wisconsin state procurement official Georgia Thompson as other examples that are ripe for review.

Like the Siegelman prosecution, both cases had political undercurrents, with critics saying they were engineered by White House-appointed prosecutors to hurt Democrats during election season. A judge recently declared a mistrial in the Wecht case, and a conviction against Thompson was overturned last year.

Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich., accused Attorney General Michael Mukasey of not taking the allegations seriously and of blocking congressional requests for documents. Conyers said the evidence presented thus far threatens to undermine public faith in the judicial system.

"The Justice Department has simply

Please see ROVE I Page 5A



ROVE



SIEGELMAN

Mental stress among military veterans

More than 30 percent of U.S. troops who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars suffer from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder or experienced a traumatic brain injury.

Percentage with mental health condition

No disorder 69.3%

Mental health condition only* 11.2%

TBI only 12.2%

Mental health condition** 7.3%

*PTSD or depression, no traumatic brain injury ** PTSD or depression and traumatic brain injury

SOURCE: RAND Corporation

Top 5 barriers to seeking mental health care

Medication has too many side effects 45%

Could harm career 44

Could be denied a security clearance 44

Family and friends would be more helpful 39

Co-workers would have less confidence in me if they found out 38

AP

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 2A