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Crisis fix?

Stocks soar as White House promises to rescue banks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The stock market finally found reason to rally Thursday, and Congress promised quick action as the Bush administration prepared a plan to rescue banks from the bad debt at the heart of the worst crisis on Wall Street since the Great Depression.

Details of the plan were still being worked out, but Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson emerged from a nighttime meeting on Capitol Hill to say he hoped to have a solution "aimed right at the heart of this problem."

FIX, PAGE 6A



REBOUND: Specialist Gerard Petti, left, works with trader Edward Baumann Thursday on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rebounded Thursday from the previous session's massive rout, but investors braced for more instability in the financial system.

The Associated Press

Retailers push for sales tax holiday

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK - Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Dillard's Inc. and small retailers around Arkansas are pressing lawmakers to give consumers an annual sales tax holiday, a break that all but one of the surrounding states already offer.

A lobbyist for the Dillard's department store chain and the head of the state's retail merchants association told a legislative panel Thursday they support the state enacting an exemption on the sales tax at the beginning of the school year.

"We see an increase in our stores across the board on weekends when there is a sales tax holiday," Dean Elliott, the chain's director of governmental affairs, told the House and Senate Revenue and Tax committees. "By not having a sales

HOLIDAY, PAGE 6A

Local man sentenced for slaying

'07 shooting death nets 24 years in prison

BY STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

A local man who pleaded guilty Tuesday for the shooting death of his next-door neighbor last year was sentenced Thursday in Garland County Circuit Court after a two-day jury trial.

Randall Scott Bailey, 42, was originally charged with first-degree murder for the Aug. 28, 2007, death of Heath G. Robbins, 29, but opted to plead guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter, punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Bailey, who was previously convicted of a felony sexual abuse charge in 1998, also pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of a firearm by certain persons, a felony punishable by up to 20 years.

Deputy prosecutor Brendan Donahue said they felt this was one of those cases where it was best to let a jury decide the sentence so they heard testimony Wednesday and closing arguments Thursday.

The six-man, six-woman jury deliberated for about one hour and 45 minutes Thursday before recommending a sentence of eight years on the manslaughter charge and 16 years on the possession charge, with the sentences to run consecutively for a total of 24 years.

SENTENCE, PAGE 3A

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

With approximately 800 athletes representing 17 states, the Arkansas Senior Olympics got into full swing Thursday with events at several Garland County venues.

In the photo above, Milton Piper, 69, of Sherwood, left, and Tom Moxley, 82, of Bartlett, Tenn., compete in trap shooting at Mountain Valley Sportsman's Association.

In the photo at right, Michael Davidson (552) of Hot Springs leads the 1,500-meter racewalk at Holt Memorial Field at Hot Springs High School.

The annual competition for ages 50 and up continues through Sunday. See daily schedule on Page 4B.



The Sentinel-Record/Mara Kuhn

IT panel eyes new contracts

BY CHARLIE GOCIO
The Sentinel-Record

At the Thursday meeting of the Garland County Information Technology (IT) Committee, members agreed on two things: the county's computer problems won't be fixed overnight and it may be time to end the city-versus-county mentality that can get in the way of progress.

Formed to address growing complaints about the county's computing system, which is contracted to Professional Solutions Inc. (PSI), of Hot Springs, and uses IBM's AS/400 mid-range server, the committee has been assessing individual department needs and shopping around for a possible new contract.

"We're not going to do it (find a solution) tomorrow, because it's going to take a lot of time and a lot of money," said Chairman Larry Griffin, District

COMPUTERS, PAGE 6A

WORDS

FOR PEACE

Tracy Freeman helps Paula Zambrano spell "work with our neighbors" on the "Words for Peace" banner outside the Oaklawn Visual and Performing Arts School Thursday during the International Day of Peace observance.



The Sentinel-Record/Rachel Rodemann

HS Village golf courses hit hard by hurricanes

BY JEFF SMITH
The Sentinel-Record

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE - The Hot Springs Village Board of Directors prefaced its regular meeting Wednesday by hearing a report from the various department heads on storm damage in their respective areas and where the clean-up process stands.

Golf Director John Paul had the longest report, updating the board on the numerous trees that were blown down on the golf courses. The positive side was that nearly all of the trees blew down toward the course and not onto houses. Several were near misses with only a couple of houses being hit.

"On the golf courses, we are approaching 450 trees down for the two storms,

and I think the guys lost count. Ponce and Magellan were hit the hardest, and we had more trees down during the second storm because we had more wind," Paul said.

Temporary foot bridges have been put onto the back nine of Magellan, which received significant flood damage during Gustav.

"Our crews have done a good job. We did lose a bunch of big trees, but they

DAMAGES, PAGE 5A

Bush declares federal disaster in Arkansas

Page 2A

Some Ike victims may not be allowed to rebuild

Page 7A

Quote of the day
"There is no such thing as conversation. It is an illusion. There are intersecting monologues, that is all."
- Dame Rebecca West, Irish-born novelist (1892-1983).

Weather

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 80S. LOWS IN THE LOWER 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:58 A.M. SUNSET: 7:12 P.M.

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SATURDAY:

HIGH 80° LOW 60°

SUNDAY:

HIGH 82° LOW 60°

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