

TIMES DAILY

Florence • Muscle Shoals • Sheffield • Tusculumbia • Northwest Alabama

ON THE BLOCK

Sheffield's
Holiday Inn
up for
auction.

Region 1B



BAKING TIPS



Bread requires
no kneading.

Life 1C

WINS ERASED

Alabama denied
final appeal in
textbook
scandal.



Sports 1D

GLUTTONY, ANYONE?

Last Supper food supersized in art

Has even the Last Supper been
supersized?

The food in famous paintings of
the meal has grown by biblical
proportions during the last millen-
nium, researchers said Tuesday.

Using a computer, they compared
the size of the food to the size of
the heads in 52 paintings of Jesus
Christ and his disciples at their
final meal before his death.

If art imitates life, we're in
trouble, the researchers conclude.
The size of the main dish grew
69 percent; the size of the plate,
66 percent, and the bread, 23
percent, between the years 1000
and 2000.

The Bible says the Last Supper
took place on a Passover evening
but gives little detail on specific
foods besides bread and wine.



SOMETHING'S ROTTEN

Girl, 11, proud of smelly shoes

MONTPELIER, Vt. — An 11-year-
old from Connecticut has the most
disgusting shoes in America.

Trinette Robinson, of Bristol,
Conn., was crowned the winner of
the 35th annual National Odor-
Eaters Rotten Sneaker contest
Tuesday in Montpelier, Vt.

Her sneakers were judged the
most vile on the basis of their con-
dition and odor. She said she got
them dirty by playing hard in Girl
Scout Camp and doing community
walks for charity.

ONLINE TODAY

Learn how
to make
no-knead bread
with
Sherry Campbell.



TimesDaily.com/video

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Tuesday's question: Do you support
the health care overhaul?

Yes: 22.9%
No: 65.6%
Undecided: 11.5%

Today's question: Who is telling the
truth about the health care bill?

Vote daily online at: TimesDaily.com

Inside:

| | | | |
|-------------|----|------------|----|
| Classified | 4C | Opinion | 8A |
| Comics | 3C | Police | 3B |
| Crossword | 8C | Stocks | 7A |
| Day Planner | 4B | Television | 6A |
| Obituaries | 2B | Weather | 2A |

Vol. 121 No. 83
Copyright 2010
Tennessee Valley
Printing Co., Inc.
Home delivery:
(256) 740-5760



0 90994 07001 1

Protecting our schools



Jim Hannon/TimesDaily

School resource officer Donnie Aycock helps Logan Andrews from the car to the school entrance during morning traffic at Russellville Elementary School. School resource officers are part law enforcement and part mentor who are the first defense against violence.

Resource officers mentor kids about drug abuse, peer pressure

By Lisa Singleton-Rickman and Tom Smith
Of the TimesDaily

In the 30-plus years he's been in education,
Bill Griffin has worked alongside a school
resource officer for 16 of them.

Each school district has sworn police officers
who work in local schools, some even at the
elementary level. After recent news of school
violence close to home, there is a heightened
awareness of school safety among parents and
school officials. In February, a student at Dis-
covery Middle School in Madison was shot to
death by a classmate.

The response from local school resource
officers has been increased training. Officers
usually go through their training in the sum-
mer months. Florence officers have a minimum
of three training sessions per year.

"We try hard to keep them current," said
Florence police Sgt. Stephen Robertson, who
supervises the city's school resource officers,

Please see **Resource**, Page 3A



Daniel Giles/TimesDaily

Lauderdale County school resource officer
Reggie Gamble holds on while Lauderdale
County High School senior Andrew Davis
attempts to drive a golf cart while wearing
visual impairment goggles. Gamble directs
the Big Alcohol Mistake program aimed at
juniors and seniors before their proms.

WASHINGTON

Health care: Separating facts from myth

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press Writer

The tumultuous health care
debate that brought you death pan-
els and socialism has spun off a
catalog of popular myths that will
keep growing as President Barack
Obama and all sides battle toward
the midterm elections this fall.

At a White House signing cer-
emony Tuesday, Obama ventured
the hope that Americans on all sides
will judge the legislation for what it
actually says and does.

"When I sign this bill," he
declared, "all of the overheated rhet-

Inside

■ It's the law of the land: Presi-
dent Obama signs health care
overhaul bill, 4A

■ Alabama attorney general
joins lawsuit claiming health
care bill is unconstitutional, 4A

oric over reform will finally confront
the reality of reform."

Wishful thinking, Mr. President.
Facts are stubborn, the saying
goes. But myths about the legisla-

tion are likely to persist as well. And
a lot of people don't agree on which
is which.

"People have taken away from the
debate a number of beliefs about the
bill that are very difficult to shake
based on objective reports," said
Robert Blendon, a Harvard public
health professor who follows opin-
ion trends. "There is enough skepti-
cism out there that questions about
how it's going to help the country
are likely to continue."

Here's a look at some of the myths
and realities, from both sides of the
issue:

■ Obama has put the nation on a
slippery slope toward socialism.

Hello? Government's role in
health care has been steadily grow-
ing since Medicare and Medicaid
were established 45 years ago.
Even if Republicans were to take
control of Washington and repeal
this bill, government would still be
on track to pick up more than half
of the nation's health care tab by 2012,
according to a report in February
from Medicare.

"The Republican myth is that

Please see **Separating**, Page 4A

FLORENCE

Judge denies records request

By Robert Palmer
Staff Writer

A Lauderdale County Circuit judge has denied
a request by the TimesDaily to keep Coffee Health
Group from selling its assets until the public has a
chance to review documents related to the sale.

The TimesDaily and its parent company, Ten-
nessee Valley Printing, sought an injunction to
delay the sale until terms of the deal with a private
company are released.

Leslie Johnson, who is retired but was appoint-
ed to hear the case, entered the ruling Tuesday
morning, citing a clause in the state act that
governs public health care
authorities such as Coffee.

On the Net
See a copy of the ruling,
TimesDaily.com.

The clause,
contained in Act
22-21-316(c), states meetings of public health care
authority boards are not subject to Alabama's
Open Meetings Act ... "and other similar law,"
which by inference includes the Open Records
Act.

The ruling states the state Legislature granted
public health authorities, including Coffee, great-
er flexibility than other public entities.

"This, however, would not exempt governmen-
tal functions from the Open Records Act," John-
son wrote.

Yet, Johnson ruled that "the transaction in
question is an administrative or proprietary act
and therefore the requested records are not sub-
ject to the Open Records Act."

The Florence City Council and the Lauderdale
County Commission, which are the controlling
governmental bodies for Coffee Health Group,
voted earlier this month to approve the sale to
RegionalCare Hospital Partners, of Brentwood,
Tenn., though some members of the commission
and the council expressed reservations about the
lack of public access to the records.

Please see **Judge**, Page 3A

COLBERT COUNTY

CEO wants talks with Keller over possible purchase

By Russ Corey
Staff Writer

RegionalCare Hospital Partners CEO Marty
Rash asked Colbert County Commissioners on
Tuesday to encourage the Helen Keller Hospital
Board to hear his \$60 million offer to purchase
the hospital's assets.

Commissioners' reactions varied, but Commis-
sion Chairman Howard Keeton said he would ask
the Keller board's chairman if he would consider
meeting with Rash and hearing the offer.

RegionalCare already has signed a letter of

Please see **Hospital**, Page 3A