

TIMES RECORD

TODAY IN BUSINESS

FACTORY OUTPUT STALLS PAGE 6C



TODAY IN NATION & WORLD

200-YEAR-OLD SHIP UNCOVERED AT GROUND ZERO

PAGE 8A

50¢

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CHILDHOOD HUNGER

Advocate: Address Poverty

GROUP LINKS OBESITY, HUNGER TO ROOT CAUSE

By Rob Moritz
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LITTLE ROCK — Tackling poverty among children in Arkansas is the way to address the state's high rankings in childhood obesity and hunger, the head of a child advocacy group said Thursday.

"Until we really make progress in fighting childhood poverty, there is only so much we're going to be able to do about child hunger and child obesity," Rich Huddleston, executive director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, told the Arkansas News Bureau.

Huddleston spoke after participating in a panel discussion at the Clinton School of Public Service on the two issues that affect about one-fourth of children in the state.

Recent reports, including one by Feeding America,

show that the hunger rate among Arkansas children is 25 percent, and the obesity rate is 20 percent.

"It's a huge problem and this problem has only gotten worse with the recent economic recession," Huddleston said. "In the long term, we really need to address the problem with poverty, it's a much tougher problem to address but that's where we need to focus our public policy."

Margaret Bogle, director of the Delta Nutrition Intervention Research Institute in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said in many of the Delta counties of east Arkansas, 50 percent of the school-age children are obese. Many of those children also live in poverty, she said.

Dan Christenson, senior staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, told a crowd of more

SEE **POVERTY** PAGE 3A

DIG IN



KAIA LARSEN • TIMES RECORD

Kaylie Shipman, 7, cools down with a coconut sno-cone from Just Chillin Shaved Ice during the heat of the day Thursday with her grandparents, Kenneth and Margaret Shipman.

Expert Details 'Booby Trap'

AGENT: GRENADE HARD TO FIND

By Rob Moritz
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LITTLE ROCK — A federal agent testified Thursday that an uncommon type of grenade used in the Korean and Vietnam wars was used in the 2009 bombing that critically injured the chairman of the Arkansas Medical Board.

"It's very difficult to find," Stephen Shelley, an explosive enforcement officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said about the MK3A2 hand grenade used in the bombing.

Shelley said the grenade was taped under a spare tire and leaned against the front bumper of Dr. Trent Pierce's vehicle.

The bomb expert described the device as a "booby trap."

His testimony came during the third day of testimony in the federal trial of Dr. Randeep Mann, who is accused of using a weapon of mass destruction against a person or property in the 2009 blast that critically injured Pierce in the driveway of his West Memphis home.

Mann also faces weapons charges in the case. His wife, Sangeeta, who faces obstruction charges, also is on trial.

When Pierce picked up a small tire that was leaning on the front bumper of his vehicle on the morning of Feb. 4, 2009, the grenade exploded, causing critical injuries to the doctor's face, arm and leg.

SEE **BOMBING** PAGE 3A



Mann

Alma Considering Business License, Fee

COUNCIL STUDIES \$25 ANNUAL CHARGE, \$5 FOR EVERY DAY OPEN

By Rusty Garrett
TIMES RECORD • RGARRETT@SWTIMES.COM

ALMA — The Alma City Council on Thursday introduced and then tabled an ordinance that would require

businesses operating in the city to secure a license.

Although the ordinance provides for an annual license fee of \$25 and \$5 for each day of operation, Councilman Manford Burris said

the license is not intended as a "money-making operation."

He said the proposal came through the Planning Commission with the intent of establishing a system for keeping track of "who is legally doing business" in Alma. Burris said the ordinance would also provide city code

officials access to businesses to ensure they are meeting fire and building codes.

Councilwoman Marsha Woolly suggested the council delay action on the measure so members could spend time examining the measure.

Woolly said she had concerns over implementation

of the ordinance. "We need to make sure all the businesses are treated the same," she said.

Councilman Eddie Wakefield agreed. He suggested conducting a study session, during which council members can compare the proposal

SEE **ALMA** PAGE 3A

Teacher Accused Of Sex With Student

By Amy Sherrill
TIMES RECORD • ASHERILL@SWTIMES.COM

A female Van Buren High School chemistry teacher who allegedly had sex with a male student has been arrested, a police spokesman said Thursday.

Christina Aileen Nixon, 24, of Alma was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of first-degree sexual assault.

Investigators learned Wednesday Nixon had been having an inappropriate relationship with the student that began just before Christmas via Facebook and phone texting.

"The communication would be inappropriate behavior outside the scope of what a teacher should have with a student," Grill said.

The boy told investigators Nixon flirted with him and told him he was cute. Nixon also gave the teenage boy a T-shirt on Valentine's Day,

according to a police report.

The two met a couple of times in Van Buren and talked, the boy and Nixon told investigators.

On one occasion in June, Nixon is suspected of having sex with the victim in a vehicle near the river in Van Buren.

Shortly after this incident, the communication/relationship stopped, police said.

Nixon told police it was the boy's idea to have sex.

According to the sexual assault state statute, a person who engages in sexual intercourse with a minor and is an employee in the victim's school or school district, a temporary

SEE **TEACHER** PAGE 3A



Nixon

GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS

Vatican Issues Clergy Abuse Rules

The Vatican issued long-anticipated rules Thursday dealing with clergy sex abuse, putting Catholic priests who molest the mentally ill or use child pornography in the same category as pedophile priests.

FULL STORY, 7A

Congress Passes Financial Overhaul

WASHINGTON — Congress on Thursday passed the stiffest restrictions on banks and Wall Street since the Great Depression, clamping down on lending practices and expanding consumer protections to prevent a repeat of the 2008 meltdown that knocked the economy to its knees.

FULL STORY, 8A

Gulf Coast Residents Warn Of Economic Impact Of Oil Spill

By John Lyon
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LITTLE ROCK — Despite being a landlocked state, Arkansas can expect a significant economic impact from the BP oil spill, a group of Gulf Coast residents said during a panel discussion here Thursday.

Seafood restaurants are among the many businesses being affected by the spill, restaurant owner Linda Schuch of St. Petersburg, Fla., said during the discussion at The Oyster Bar.

"If you could imagine not having oysters in this oyster bar, that's where we're at right now. It's a horrible feeling," she said.

SEE **IMPACT** PAGE 3A

BP HALTS OILS SPILL FOR NOW
PAGE 8A



JOHN LYON • ARKANSAS NEWS BUREAU

A jar of oily Gulf water from Grand Isle, La., sits in front of Episcopal Bishop Joe Morris Doss of New Orleans as he takes part Thursday in a panel discussion in Little Rock on the impact of the BP oil spill.



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WEATHER

94/76

40% Chance of Rain
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