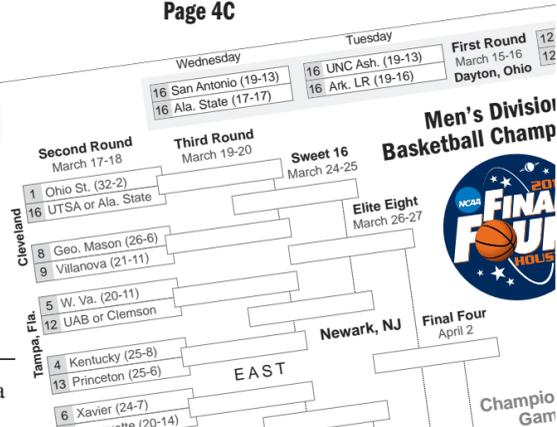


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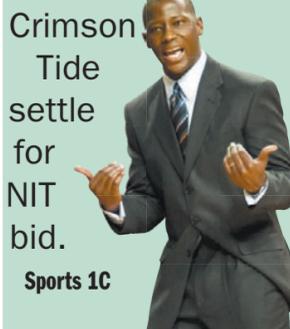


GIVING BACK



Program drives vets to hospital.
Region 1B

SNUBBED



Crimson Tide settle for NIT bid.
Sports 1C

MONKEY TROUBLE

Woman turns heads in court

AMHERST, Va. — A woman turned a few heads when she walked into a rural Virginia courthouse with a tiny monkey clad in a pink-and-white dress tucked in her bra. The woman brought the palm-sized marmoset to Amherst County Courthouse on Thursday for a hearing in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Officials apparently didn't notice the monkey until the woman went to an office to complete some paperwork. The woman said the marmoset is 7 weeks old and requires constant attention.

SPRING BACK?

iPhone clocks bungle time

NEW YORK — It's hard enough to get your bearings when the time changes twice a year. It's all but impossible when your phone starts playing tricks on you, too. Users of Apple's iPhone peppered Twitter and blogs with complaints Sunday when their phones bungled the one-hour "spring forward" to daylight savings time that went into effect overnight Saturday. One user complained of missing church, another of almost missing yoga. One called her iPhone stupid and several just asked for help. It turns out some users' phones fell back one hour instead of springing forward, making the time displayed on the iPhone two hours off. This is just the latest clock woe for Apple's iPhone. A clock glitch prevented alarms from sounding New Year's Day, causing slumbering revelers to oversleep. The devices also struggled to adjust to the end of daylight savings time in November.

ONLINE TODAY

Use our gasoline database to compare prices across the Shoals.



TimesDaily.com

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Sunday's question: Does government do a good job of providing public information?

Yes: 11.6%
No: 80.4%
Don't know: 8.0%

Today's question: What grade would you give the state Legislature's performance to date?
Vote daily online at: TimesDaily.com

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MONTGOMERY

School budgets in new era

Critics say new funding method will cease education progress

By M.J. Ellington
Montgomery Bureau

A concern that came up repeatedly during the Legislature's discussions about Alabama's new rolling reserve education budgeting formula is the limited options it leaves school systems recovering from proration. The Legislature passed Rep.

Greg Canfield's HB 57 on Thursday, days after it took up the measure. Gov. Robert Bentley, who signed the bill Friday, hailed the measure as a key tool for helping the state live within its means.

The budget Bentley submitted to the Legislature locks education spending at the level of the prorated 2011

budget: just more than \$5.3 billion. Canfield's law goes into effect in the 2012-13 school year that begins Oct. 1, 2012. The law bases the first rolling reserve budget on the prorated 2011 budget expected to continue for 2011-12. Under Canfield's formula, any growth in revenue the first two years would go to required repayment of the Rainy Day Fund proration prevention account and a capital projects fund.

Please see Education, Page 4A

"We haven't had supply money or bought textbooks in two years. We haven't bought buses in three years."

BILL VALENTINE
LAUDERDALE COUNTY
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

CRUISIN' the strip



Jim Hannon/TimesDaily

Chris McGuire stands by his car in downtown Russellville where he once cruised the strip. McGuire has created a Facebook event, "Bring Back the R'ville Strip!" to try to revive the fading pastime, even if just for one night.

Man wants to resurrect fading pastime

By Trevor Stokes
Staff Writer

RUSSELLVILLE
Chris McGuire was 15 when he first went cruising on the downtown strip in Russellville. His sister drove a fixed-up 1965 Chevy truck on Jackson Avenue on a Friday night years ago. The bumper-to-bumper traffic signified a way to socialize with kids across the region. Nostalgic for the good old days, McGuire now wants to bring back cruising, even if just for one day. "It was a different era of kids. I don't think

WANT TO GO?

- **What:** "Bring Back The R'ville Strip!" event
- **Where:** Downtown Russellville
- **When:** 9 p.m. May 28 to 2 a.m. May 29
- **Details:** Visit Facebook.com and search under the event title.

(the new ones) seen the history in it," said McGuire, who is now 25. "There's nowhere to do something like that anymore."

Cruising the main drag used to be a rite

of youth, an opportunity to show off your wheels, meet kids from rival schools and even get a phone number or two.

Russellville's Jackson Avenue became known around the region for its Friday and Saturday night cruising, a practice that faded about 2004.

Nationwide, cruising created a rite of passage beginning in the 1940s, said Amy Best, director of sociology at George Mason University and author of "Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars."

Please see Man, Page 4A

FLORENCE

Council seeking legislation for traffic cameras

By Robert Palmer
Staff Writer

The Florence City Council, at the urging of Police Chief Rick Singleton, is seeking local legislation that would allow cameras to be installed at traffic signals. Singleton has cited several national studies that show the cameras help law enforcement reduce crashes and injuries at intersections, but there are a number of studies that draw the opposite conclusion about traffic cameras. Studies published by the Virginia Transportation Research Council and the Florida Public Health Association show crashes and injuries at intersections where cameras are used to issue citations are significantly higher than at intersections without cameras. Some of the

Please see Council, Page 4A

SOMA, JAPAN

Second nuclear plant explodes

By Todd Pitman
Associated Press

Rescue workers used chain saws and hand picks Monday to dig out bodies in Japan's devastated coastal towns, as Asia's richest nation faced a growing humanitarian, nuclear and economic crisis in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Millions of people spent a third night without water, food or heating in near-freezing temperatures along the devastated northeastern coast. Also, the containment building of a second nuclear reactor exploded because of hydrogen buildup while the stock market plunged over the likelihood of huge losses by Japanese industries including big names such as Toyota and Honda.

More than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in Friday's twin tragedy that has caused unimaginable deprivation for people of this industrialized country that has not seen such hardships since World War II. In many areas there is no running water, no power and four- to five-hour waits for gasoline. People are suppressing hunger

Please see Death, Page 7A



Kyodo News/Associated Press

Unit 3 reactor of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is seen in 1999 in Okumamachi, Fukushima prefecture. Japan's chief cabinet secretary says a hydrogen explosion occurred at Unit 3 today. The blast was similar to an earlier one at a different unit of the facility.