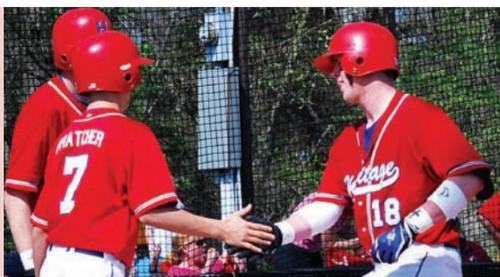


**Heritage Academy baseball will rely on pitching staff**

Sports, Page 1B



**Charlie Sheen tours Tuscaloosa**

Nation, Page 2A



# THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

## 'The red box without the red tape'



Carmen K. Sisson/Dispatch Staff

Local contractor Chan Davis leads a group of volunteers in prayer today in downtown Columbus before heading to Smithville to deliver donations for tornado relief. The group of friends have formed "North Mississippi Tornado Relief" to aid Monroe County residents affected by last Wednesday's EF5 tornado.

**SEVERE STORMS: Columbus contractor, moved to help in tornadoes' wake, creates charity movement**

BY CARMEN K. SISSON  
csisson@cdispach.com

They stood in the rain around the red donation box, eyes closed, hands clasped, praying for the people of Smithville, praying for direction as they attempt to help in whatever way they can. What started as a simple Facebook post has become a cohesive movement, and what started as an uneasy feeling has become a loud, clear calling to serve.

Local contractor Chan Davis said he was lying in his bed after Wednesday night's storms, his heart troubled by a feeling he couldn't name. He barely slept that night or the next. Finally, he asked

See SMITHVILLE, 6A

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

To donate items to North Mississippi Disaster Relief, bring them to the big red box on 4th Street South behind J. Broussard's, or call Chan Davis at 251-3557. The group also has a Facebook page at "North Mississippi Tornado Relief."



Rogelio V. Solis/AP

Smithville Baptist Church members comfort each other during services Sunday in tornado damaged Smithville.

## AG warns of fraud, price gouging

BY RYAN POE  
rpoe@cdispach.com

As victims of tornadoes last week try to reassemble their fragmented lives, state officials are asking people to be on the lookout for fraud and price gouging.

Attorney General Jim Hood, who recently toured the damage in Smithville, said reports of price gouging by tree cutters have already come in.

"It starts with the tree cutters, then the home fraud, then the con artists," Hood said.

To avoid being taken advantage of, Hood recommended that storm victims

See FRAUD, 6A

## County buys 857 acres for industry

**SUPERVISORS: With \$6.4 million purchase, aerospace Park grows to roughly 6,600 acres**

BY RYAN POE  
rpoe@cdispach.com

Clearing the way for industrial growth, Lowndes County supervisors agreed Monday to significantly expand the region's industrial aerospace park at a cost of \$6.4 million.

Supervisors voted unanimously Monday morning to buy 857 acres to the west of the Golden Triangle Regional Airport for \$7,500 per acre, which will be covered by a rural development loan approved by the state. The deal will also give Lowndes County control of another 701 acres for a total addition of 1,558 acres, which will increase the aerospace park by about 22 percent to roughly

See SUPES, 6A

## Severstal Columbus names new manager

BY RYAN POE  
rpoe@cdispach.com

Severstal North America has appointed 35-year industry veteran Wilbur A. Winland vice president and general manager of its Lowndes County steel plant.

The company announced the decision Monday, the same day its former plant Chief Executive Officer James Hrusovsky, 54, was named the new CEO of Essar Steel Algoma Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

Winland, lately of RG Steel, will replace interim vice president and general manager John Bell, who will resume his role as VP of operations at Severstal Columbus.

Severstal North America CEO Sergei Kuznetsov said he was

See SEVERSTAL, 6A

**Weather**



Shauntavia Robinson, second grade, West Lowndes

**Tonight: Partly cloudy, low 39**

**Tomorrow: Pleasant and warmer, high 70**

More weather, 2A



**Five Questions**

- 1 What N-word denotes a polite code of conduct for Internet users?
- 2 Who tools around in a phone booth larger on the inside that it is on the outside?
- 3 What future TV cop got into hot water with the law for recording the song "Cop Killer"?
- 4 What phrase summed up the Clinton administration's policy on gays in the military?
- 5 What platinum blonde entered the fashion spotlight after the death of her big brother?

Answers, 6B

**Calendar**

**Thursday**

**Gallery reception:** The Columbus Arts Council invites the public to a reception opening the Market Street Festival Juried Art Show, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Rosenzweig Arts Center, 501 Main St. For more information, contact the CAC at 662-328-2787.

**Friday and Saturday**

**Market Street Festival** in Columbus features more than 200 arts, crafts and food vendors, plus multiple music stages and fun activities. A Friday night concert on Main Street features a Michael

Jackson Tribute show with award-winning musicians from Los Angeles. Festivities conclude Saturday night with a concert at the Riverwalk featuring Cherry Lee Mewis and Super Chikan. For more information, visit columbusmainstreet.com, or contact Main Street Columbus at 662-328-6305.

**Thursday, May 12**

**The Columbus Girlchoir** presents its annual spring concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Arts Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church in Columbus. The concert is free and open to the public.

**Local Folks**



William Davis of Columbus is a local entrepreneur.