

**HISTORIC LOW**

Rate on 30-year mortgages falls to lowest point ever. **5A.**

# FINAL FOCUS

Valley Cubs keeping eyes on last 3 region games. **1B.**



# The Anniston Star

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CALHOUN COUNTY

## WARRANT SWEEP NETS 46 ARRESTS



Trent Penny/The Anniston Star

District Attorney Brian McVeigh, flanked by local law enforcement officials at the Calhoun County Courthouse, announces arrests made Thursday during an outstanding warrants sweep.

**BY CAMERON STEELE**  
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A recent commitment to curbing gang violence in Calhoun County led to the arrests of at least 46 people in a Thursday morning warrants roundup, police officials said.

Calhoun County District Attorney Brian McVeigh announced those initial arrests in a noon press conference and said later the number had risen although he didn't know by how much.

Anniston police Chief Layton McGrady said some of the people arrested Thursday were known or suspected criminal gang members. But officials were tight-lipped

about who exactly those gang suspects were or whether they were tied to the Taliban Clan or YNTO, two groups McVeigh specifically mentioned in September as being criminal gangs.

The impromptu conference called by the district attorney Thursday lasted only about 30 seconds as McVeigh offered a short statement about the 6 a.m. roundup. He said the multi-agency warrants sweep was the beginning of a "street-level operation" to address concerns about gang activity in Hobson City and in Norwood Homes, a public housing project in Anniston.

In September, McVeigh described the Taliban Clan as a

gang with about 100 members who operated out of Norwood Homes. YNTO, the district attorney told The Star then, has around 25 members based in Constantine Homes in Anniston and in Hobson City.

But McVeigh and other officials were mum Thursday about whether these specific groups were in any way related to the roundup and the arrests it yielded.

A survey of 32 arrest reports provided to The Star by the Sheriff's Office and Anniston police — the two lead agencies in the roundup — show the majority of suspects were arrested in Anniston, one was

Please see SWEEP | Page 7A

## Will immigration law cost the state millions in tax revenue?

**BY TIM LOCKETTE**  
tlockette@annistonstar.com

**THE CLAIM:** In a column in Sunday's Anniston Star, Wendy Sefsaf, communications director for the D.C.-based American Immigration Council, argued that Alabama's new immigration bill would "inflict greater economic damage on Alabama" by driving away new business and depriving the state of revenue from taxes paid by undocumented immigrants. Specifically, Sefsaf wrote that Alabama's undocumented workers pay \$130 million yearly in state and local taxes, and that similar laws in other states "have had a chilling effect on business."

**SUMMARY:** It's pretty clear that, despite their under-the-radar status, illegal immigrants pay taxes in Alabama — but like all

Please see FACTS | Page 5A

## President prods Congress on jobs

Obama: 'The economy needs a jolt'



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press

### HIGHLIGHTS OF OBAMA'S SPEECH

- Obama supports Senate Democrats' plan to tax millionaires to pay for jobs bill.
- The tax, which would take effect in 2013, would raise \$452.8 billion over 10 years.
- About 317,000 people — less than 1 percent of taxpayers, would be subject to the surtax.

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 2A

## Improvement in Honda's sales a boon for Calhoun County

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 3A



Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

Looting at McClellan's starship area has been just one of the problems reported at the former fort since late September.

## The best defense

Authorities scramble to keep vandals away from McClellan

**BY LAURA CAMPER**  
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Members of the grounds crew at McClellan never know what they'll find when they go to work.

They spend hours in areas where few people venture and some, said Robin Scott, executive director of the McClellan Development Authority, "have caught people in the process of just hauling stuff out of old dilapidated buildings."

While the board members of the authority look at the former fort's buildings and see potential growth, thieves see them as targets housing copper and other metals.

Theft and vandalism have been a problem at McClellan for years because its empty buildings and isolated roads provide privacy for the offenders to do their work, police and authority officials said.

"It's random," Scott said. "It's sporadic, but it happens."

At Auburn's Canine Detection Research Institute at McClellan, John Pearce, the associate director, said thieves have stolen copper from the air-conditioning units overnight. The

Please see McCLELLAN | Page 7A

### WEATHER, 12A



Jake Rogers, Church of the Good Shepherd  
**SUNNY**  
HIGH: 80 LOW: 53

### OBITUARIES, 6A

**Craig Antonio Archie**, Munford  
**Carl Bester**, Talladega  
**Carvodic Michelle Davis**, Anniston  
**Floye E. Luke "Flo" Davis**, Anniston  
**Helen Virginia "Mama Helen" Estes**, Piedmont  
**Edward J. Grinnage Jr.**, Oxford  
**Elida Marie Utter Mathews**, Oxford  
**Dexter McAllister**, Anniston  
**Marvin E. (Bob) McClellan**, Ashland  
**Gary Deran "Ran" Montgomery**, Anniston  
**William L. "Buck" Nixon**, Talladega  
**Gordon Dennis Roper**, Webster's Chapel  
**Alice Wade Siglar**, Anniston  
**Marie P. Tucker**, Sylacauga

### INDEX

Classifieds . . . . . 8B  
Coffee Break . . . . . 12A  
Comics . . . . . 7B  
Editorial . . . . . 10A  
Lottery . . . . . 2A

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