

**Claims cost \$25 million**  
Marketers of 4 pills fined over false weight-loss assertions. — Business, 1D



**Bad bulls, big bucks**  
Professional riders take the bulls by the horns in competition. — Weekend

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

Copyright © 2007, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Printed at Little Rock • Friday, January 5, 2007

arkansasOnline.com

90 PAGES 10 SECTIONS

50¢

## In the news

■ **Former President Bush** underwent surgery to replace his right hip, the Mayo Clinic announced, adding that the 82-year-old traveled to Minnesota for the procedure after attending former President Ford's funeral in Washington.

■ **Wyclef Jean**, the 34-year-old hip-hop star, has been named a roving ambassador for Haiti, said Foreign Affairs Minister Reynald Clerisme, adding that he hopes the Haitian performer, who moved to the United States as a child, will boost the country's image as it struggles to restore stability after a violent rebellion in 2004.

■ **Michael Barnes**, an Australian state coroner, said that to prevent it from being made public, authorities gave the original video of *Crocodile Hunter* Steve Irwin's fatal encounter with a stingray to his wife, Terri, and destroyed all copies that had been made by police to assist with their investigation.

■ **Janet H. Lee**, 21, a Bryn Mawr College student wrongly jailed by Philadelphia police for three weeks in 2003 on drug charges after airport screeners found in her carry-on bags three condoms filled with a white powder that turned out to be flour, has settled her civil-rights case for \$180,000.

■ **Deval Patrick**, a 50-year-old Democrat who led the Justice Department's civil-rights division during the Clinton administration, has been sworn in as Massachusetts' 71st governor and is only the second black to be elected governor in U.S. history.

■ **Rocco Bove**, 24, a Nassau County, N.Y., prison officer, pleaded innocent to promoting contraband and unlawful possession of marijuana after police said he tried to smuggle the drug, stashed inside cans, to an inmate on Christmas Eve.

■ **Pope Benedict XVI** visited a Roman soup kitchen near the Colosseum to dedicate it to his predecessor, 14 years after Pope John Paul II went there to meet with the poor, and blessed a plaque that carried a quote from the speech John Paul gave during his 1992 visit: "The suffering man belongs to us all."

■ **Lt. Robert Brightman** said authorities were trying to identify a mysterious metallic object that crashed through the roof of a house in Freehold Township, N.J., after federal officials determined that the golf-ball-sized object, weighing nearly as much as a can of soup, wasn't from an aircraft, adding: "There's some great interest in what we have here."

■ **Douglas Canthabouly**, 18, pleaded innocent to a charge of first-degree murder in the shooting death of 17-year-old Samnang Kok at a Tacoma, Wash., high school, and court documents show that he declined to offer a motive, saying, "I don't want it in the news."

## WEATHER

**LITTLE ROCK**  
Today Mostly cloudy.  
High 61 with south winds at 5 to 15 mph.  
Tonight Mostly cloudy.  
Low 46.



## INDEX

Arkansas 1B	MovieStyle 1E
Business 1D	Police beat 2B
Classifieds 1C	Sports 1C
Comics 4E	Stocks 3D
Crossword 4E	Television 2E
Deaths 4B	Voices 7B
Editorials 6B	Weather 6D
Movies 6E	Weekend 1W

Home delivery

378-3456

Outside Pulaski County

1-800-482-1121



6 58333 00050 3



Reps. Nancy Pelosi and James Clyburn wave from the floor of the House of Representatives during the roll-call vote Thursday to elect a speaker of the House.

AP/SUSAN WALSH

## Democrats in; House quickly stiffens ethics

### Speaker Pelosi makes clear her party means business

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — Democrats took the gavels in Congress on Thursday for the first time in 12 years, pledging a new era of bipartisanship and quickly passing new ethics rules in the House.

"With the opening of the 110th Congress and the beginning of new Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, it's time to start moving America forward," said Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the new majority leader. "Guided by the spirit of bipartisanship, Democrats are ready to take this country in a new direction."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California took the speaker's gavel at 2:08 p.m. from Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the Republican leader, whom she defeated by a vote of 233-202, the margin of the new Democratic majority. The House floor and the packed galleries broke out in cheers

**PRYOR, ROSS** spotlighted as Congress convenes. Page 8A.

**PELOSI TAKES GAVEL** as House's first woman speaker. Page 9A.

when the vote was formally announced.

"This is an historic moment," Pelosi said in her first remarks as speaker of the 110th Congress. "It's an historic moment for the Congress. It's an historic moment for the women of America. It is a moment for which we have waited for over 200 years."

Earlier, on the other side of the Capitol dome, Vice President Dick Cheney, in his constitutional role as president of the Senate, swore in the members, including 10 new senators, only one of them a Republican, Bob Corker of Tennessee. A beaming Bill Clinton, accompanied by his daughter, Chelsea, and his

See **CONGRESS**, Page 9A

## Marion reportedly on list again for Toyota plant

BY DAVID SMITH  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

For the second time in four years, Toyota Motor Corp. is strongly considering Marion as a site for an automobile manufacturing plant, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The newspaper said Thursday that Toyota could announce as early as this month the site for its eighth North American

**2 PLANT CLOSURES** to cut about 300 jobs. Page 1D.

assembly plant. The other sites under consideration, the paper said, are Chattanooga, Tenn.; Alamo, Tenn.; and an unnamed site in North Carolina.

Toyota's new plant probably would produce the next-generation Toyota Highlander sport

utility vehicle and possibly a tall station wagon akin to the Chrysler Pacifica, the paper said. The new plant would begin production in 2009 and have capacity of 200,000 vehicles a year, the *Journal* reported.

Toyota chose San Antonio as the site of a truck manufacturing plant in 2003 after intensively studying the Marion site, which is near West Memphis. The \$1.3

billion San Antonio complex, which has 2,000 employees, began production in November.

"We are indeed studying whether we are going to possibly expand here in North America," said Daniel Sieger, a spokesman for Toyota in Erlanger, Ky. "We are looking at sites. However, as a matter of policy, we don't discuss where we are in the study, any sites we may have been

looking at or a timetable for a decision."

Toyota became the third-largest American auto manufacturer last year, bypassing DaimlerChrysler. Toyota had 15.4 percent of the U.S. market last year, behind General Motors at 24.6 percent and Ford at 17.5 percent.

Mitch Chandler, spokesman  
See **MARION**, Page 10A

## LA police's good guess: Suspect's at library

BY JAKE BLEED  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

When Little Rock police asked the Los Angeles County sheriff's office for help in finding a homicide suspect this week, deputies there knew exactly where to look.

They arrested Grover Evans Jr., 18, of Little Rock on Wednesday afternoon at the public library where they had sent him the day before when he told them he was looking for a job.

Evans is accused of walking into a Metropolitan National Bank branch at 10300 Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock on Dec. 23, shooting 25-year-old teller Jim Garison in the back and taking an undisclosed amount of cash. Witnesses said the gunman told the bank staff "Merry Christmas" as he fled. Garison of Little Rock died at a Little Rock hospital that night.

Little Rock authorities identified Evans as a suspect and issued a warrant for his arrest Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the day before the arrest warrant was issued, Evans was confronted twice in the city of La Canada Flintridge by deputies in Los Angeles County, who were investigating complaints that the teen was living in his car and loitering behind a local business, authorities said.

La Canada Flintridge is in the northern part of Los Angeles County, at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains.

The deputies ran Evans' name through the National

See **SUSPECT**, Page 7A

## Miers resigns



AP/ILM OTERO

Longtime presidential adviser and former U.S. Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers, shown in October 2005, submitted her resignation as White House counsel Thursday.

Article, 3A

## Huckabee takes back UAMS cash, shifts chunk to UCA, scolds Sugg

BY SETH BLOMELEY  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Gov. Mike Huckabee announced Thursday that he's "re-scinding the release" of money for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is sending it elsewhere instead.

He faulted University of Arkansas System President B. Alan Sugg, but a legislative leader said it appeared that Sugg was being used as "kind of a scapegoat."

Sugg said earlier this week that he thought it wise to satisfy legislators' concerns about the legality of Huckabee's funding approach before spending the money.

Huckabee said the money

would have gone to "noble and worthy projects" that would have saved many lives.

"But your reluctance to accept these funds due to a small number of legislative detractors makes it necessary to take this action," Huckabee wrote in a letter to Sugg.

Sen. Jim Argue, D-Little Rock, and other lawmakers said they were disappointed that Huckabee would make such a move. Huckabee leaves office Tuesday.

"It's a shame the governor ends on this angry, punitive note," Argue said.

Huckabee on Dec. 28 ordered that \$2 million in General Im-

provement Fund money be made available to the UA System. He said it was to be "used as seed money" for UAMS research.

His plan called for \$1 million to go toward building the UAMS cancer research center, which was announced earlier this year and is estimated to cost \$150 million.

The other \$1 million was to endow a faculty position named for Dr. Phillip Kern, a UAMS doctor who helped Huckabee lose weight. Interest on the endowment was to fund obesity and diabetes research.

But about \$1.2 million of that money was appropriated  
See **UAMS**, Page 8A



Shirley Withers mans the front desk Thursday at the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau office in west Little Rock.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/CHRIS DEAN

## Convention bureau unit not shut yet

BY C.S. MURPHY  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

City Director Dean Kumpuris told city leaders last week that the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau closed its west Little Rock office.

That was news to the people who work there, however. They were notified earlier this week that they should box up their belongings to move out by Jan. 22.

A member of the Advertising and Promotions Commission, which governs the bureau, owns an interest in the Pyramid Park office building, where the office is located.

Bureau leaders began renting the space in September 2005 without following local bidding laws or its own policy governing purchases  
See **OFFICE**, Page 10A