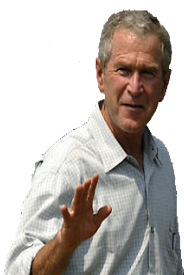


Bush In Arkansas

Former President speaks at Harding University.

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iPad's True Cost

Special apps boost price of Apple's device

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RED RIVER NEWS

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Sixteen players from the state of Arkansas enter.

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Advocacy group says Lee Creek among most endangered in U.S.

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Opposition to Employee Free-Choice Act

by MIKE WILLIMS news editor

U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln said on Monday she will not support the Employee Free-Choice Act in its current form, another major set back for the federal legislation aimed at making union organizing easier.

Lincoln, D-Ark., previously said he was undecided, but she did not think the legislation was

immediately necessary. "I cannot support that bill. I cannot support it in its current form," Lincoln said. "I may not have said that as clearly before, but I'm saying it now."

Hours after Lincoln's announcement, Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., released his own statement. Pryor has not said whether he is in favor of the legislation.

"This bill is not perfect and needs work. As currently written,

its dead," Pryor said. "I hope in the future there is room for labor and management to come together in legislation to work out their differences, but this current bill is not moving forward."

Lincoln's opposition came nearly two weeks after Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Penn., said he would oppose the legislation. Unions were hoping Specter might be the crucial 90th vote needed

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Sen. Lincoln at a conference speaking about her decision not to support the EFCA.



Tyson Foods and ConocoPhillips officials agree to work together and find safer resources for fuel.

ConocoPhillips, Tyson Alliance

by Winston Lewis staff reprotor

Oil company ConocoPhillips and Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat producer, said on Monday they are teaming up to produce and market diesel fuel for U.S. vehicles using beef, pork and poultry fat.

The companies said they have collaborated over the past year on ways to combine Tyson's expertise in protein chemistry and production with ConocoPhillips' processing and marketing knowledge, to introduce a renewable diesel fuel with lower carbon emissions

than conventional fuels. However, some renewable fuel advocates say ConocoPhillips will be able to take unfair advantage of a tax credit designed to create new refining capacity for clean-burning fuels, even though they will be using existing refineries.

Chairman and chief executive Jim Mulvahill said on Monday that ConocoPhillips plans to spend about \$100 million over several years to produce the fuel. The companies hope to introduce the fuel at gas stations in the Midwest in the fall of 2010.

Tyson president and CEO, Dick Bond,

Contiued on 3B

Federal Aid to Arkansas

by Steve Young copy editor

The Agriculture Department said on Monday that Arkansas and 11 other states will share nearly \$45 million in aid from the economic stimulus program to rehabilitate aging dams.

Oklahoma will receive \$14 million for several projects across the state, while Georgia will get over \$6 million. Texas will receive nearly \$5 million, while projects in Massachu-

setts, Virginia and West Virginia will be awarded more than \$4 million.

"Many dams and other important flood control structures across the country are in a race against time," Tom Bilsack the department secretary said. Bilsack estimated the funds would create about 1,000 jobs.

The federal aid is designed to revitalize rural communities and support deteriorating

Continued on 4B

A Missouri puppy mill



When authorities raided J.B.'s Precious Puppies, they discovered more than 200 dogs, crammed three or four to a cage, standing in their own feces. Some were so sick they were missing clumps of hair.

Immigrant Dies For America

Citizenship Awarded Post-mortem

by Dan Marino
staff repoter

A Mexican-born soldier, who died in combat in Iraq while awaiting American citizenship, has been buried in Tucson, Ariz. Pvt. Damian Lopez Rodriguez, 19, died “a national hero,” Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast of Fort Huachuca said at the funeral service Monday. A 2005 graduate of Tucson’s Pueblo High, Rodriguez was KIA in Baghdad on April 6 when his Humvee was

hit by a homemade bomb. An Army spokes-

“Like many soldiers, he believed he was making a difference.”

person said two other soldiers also died in the blast, Cpl. Ryan Scott Dallam, 24, of Norman, Okla., and Capt. Anthony Palermo, 26, of Brockton, Mass. Rodriguez, a native of Nogales, Mexico, was overseas with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Division, 2nd

Brigade Combat team, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

“Like many soldiers, he believed he was making a difference,” Fast said. “There is no greater cause than to give your life for your nation, and in this case your adopted nation.” President Bush signed an executive order in 2002 to speed up the naturalization process for immigrants who serve in the military during war time.



PAT TILLMAN/Red River News
A group of American immigrants stand at attention to swear an oath to the U.S. Army. There are over 65,000 immigrants currently serving in the Armed Force.

Learning English To Find Jobs

Goodwill Industries Assist In Job search



RICARDO GONZALEZ/Red River News

In Gwinnett County American Immigrants are lining up to take English classes to better their employment opportunity.

by Tom Brady
staff reporter

Many Hispanic immigrants have trouble finding jobs and establishing their own businesses in America because they do not speak English, according to a three-year study of job training programs released Monday by Goodwill

Industries. The study found that immigrants are so focused on finding jobs that they skip other projects, like learning English, ultimately hurting their chances of finding good employment and, if they are in America illegally, taking the right steps toward naturalization. “The challenge, to

be able to move up, is English,” JoAnn McLean of Goodwill North Georgia said. The findings streamed from an effort to reach Latinos more effectively through the 164 Goodwill agencies nationwide that, with career programs, helped nearly one million job seekers last year.

Too Much Work To Sleep

How Much Sleep Does A College Student Need

by **Ronnie Lott**
staff reporter

It is an old, white alarm clock with digital readings and a sliver of a snooze button that never gets used. “Pretty ghetto,” is how its owner describes it.

It goes off each morning at 4:40, sounding something like, “whenk, whenk.” Then its colleagues kick in: The iPod across the room at 4:41 a.m., and the cell phone, in the bathroom, at 4:42.

When you are a San Clemente High School senior whose classes start before sunrise, clocks are not your friends; they are your prison guards ever marching you forward. They make every tick precious and betray you with short nights and long weeks.

But when you’re Eve Meyer — taking eight courses, six of them advanced, with A’s across the board — you don’t have a choice. This is what we have come to expect from students like Meyer, and it’s what she expects from herself.

Meyer wakes up at 4:40 a.m., for her 6:30 a.m., class. She walks her dogs, eats breakfast, finishes homework, and then leaves around 6 a.m. When she is early, she puts on makeup or sleeps in the school parking lot.

In order to get nine hours of sleep, the recommended amount by the National Sleep Foundation, she would have to go to bed at 7:40 p.m.



ROGER CRAIG/Red River News

High school student Eve Meyer is up early drinking coffee as she walks to zero period.

Realistically, she tries to be in bed at 9 p.m., although she rarely is.

In seventh grade, Meyers started thinking about getting into a good college. That was also the first year she took a “zero period,” a class that schools schedule before first period so students can take an extra class or an elective, such as marching band.

Each year, Meyer improved her academic résumé, increasing the load of advanced courses and taking on leadership positions in the music program.

During a tour of some East Coast schools last spring, she fell in love with Duke — the campus, the history and the region.

Meyer isn’t a morning person but, to try to get into Duke, she pushed

wake up, but later it hits you.” Meyer decided she

“I’d have to tell Duke I’m no longer orchestra president and there goes my extracurricular.”

herself to become one. She hasn’t slept regularly for six years.

When Meyer wakes up on Tuesday, it is still in a sense Monday. Tuesday’s paper hasn’t hit the driveway. The few cars on the road are more likely returning home than heading out.

“You know when you’re a kid and you’re going on a trip and your parents wake you up at 3 a.m.?” Meyer asked. “You’re fine when you

wanted to be a prosecutor after she won a case in a mock trial.

Because she wants to go to Duke, she’s on the advanced track of an International Baccalaureate, which gives her only two options for Latin American History: zero or fifth period. She could drop fifth period orchestra, but “I’d have to tell Duke I’m no longer orchestra president and there goes my extracurricular,”

Meyer said. “I’d lose those leadership credits, which would be bad.”

It’s not really a choice, she says, “not if you want to go to the best school.”

The best schools want more than the minimum of fine arts, so Meyer takes extra classes. They want more than the minimum two years of foreign language, so she has had four.

Otherwise, she’d drop zero period, read more for pleasure and watch more movies.

“I’d hang out more with my non-band friends,” Meyer said laughing, “I’d probably cultivate some non-band friends.”

This year Meyer’s the schedule has gotten worse. A reinterpretation of state laws moved the bells up by 15 minutes.

“I was very afraid when school started,” said her mom, Brenda Lepper. “They say driving tired is as bad as driving drunk. As a mom, you’re thinking ‘Did I just give her a shot of Jack Daniel’s and send her out to drive?’”

During each year of adolescence, teens sleep less. High school seniors average 6.9 hours per night.

Meyer’s friends guzzle Red Bull and coffee to stay alert and skip class to finish homework. About one-third of students take zero period.

Sleeping sleep makes teens irritable, impairs judgment in the short-term and leads to sleep

disorders in the long-term, according Marcel Hungs, director of the sleep disorder clinic at UCI.

Hungs said it makes sense to start school earlier for the administration, but for students it makes no sense at all.

School officials say the early start schedule is ingrained in the culture and makes after school jobs and sports possible.

Each day of this week, Meyers has lost minutes. Monday, she was honored at a school board meeting as a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. Then she had to finish a 2,000-word essay about Lucrezia Borgia. At 2,230 words she gave up, lied about the word count on the paper and went to sleep at 9:20 p.m.

Tuesday, Meyers had band practice until 9 p.m. She went to bed at 10 p.m., slept through her alarms and woke at 5:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Meyers went to bed at 9:30 p.m., and on Thursday she was late waking up again.

“She won’t have to do this forever,” Meyer’s mom encourages. “In March, when she commits to a university, she can lapse into “senioritis.”

“There is no way I could do what she’s doing,” Brenda says. “My job as mom is just to be support staff.”

Georgia High School Holds First Integrated Prom

by **Ken Norton**
staff reporter

Turner County High School’s principal wanted to show he was behind the school’s first official integrated prom by putting \$5,000 of his discretionary fund into decorations and music for the event.

Donors from across the world are showing their support by pledging thousands of dollars to help make the dance a gala to remember.

The calls and donations came pouring in after a story last week

explored the decision by the senior class to throw the first integrated school-sponsored prom since the Civil Rights Era, school superintendent Ray Jordan said.

Last week a woman in Texas pledged to send \$1,500 and a check for \$500 has already arrived Jordan said. Among other donors, a military officer in Afghanistan told the school he was sending \$100 so four students can buy the \$25 tickets.

“The donations have come from all over,” Jordan said.

“We’re kind of in awe of all of this.”

The prom aims to end a tradition of segregation that began decades ago. For years, white students organized car washes and raffles to raise money for their own private prom, while black students did the same to throw a separate unofficial party.

The schools senior class officers met with principal Chad Stone at the start of the school year and lobbied for an official school-sponsored prom; Stone happily obliged.



BARRY SANDERS/Red River News

For the first time, the faces of students at the Turner County High School prom will be both white and black.

Beebe Names New Drug Czar

by Al Davis
staff reporter

Gov. Mike Beebe has appointed Fran Flener of Batesville as Arkansas drug director.

The Arkansas drug director oversees the Arkansas alcohol and drug programs and grants that are allocated to drug task forces in Arkansas.

Flener is currently the director of Program and Product Development for Health Resources of Arkansas Inc. Flener has also served on the Arkansas Health Services Commission for 12 years and five

years as executive director of the Delta Hills Health System Agency.

“With the increased growth and success of drug courts and other alternative-sentencing options, coordinating rehabilitation is now a more substantial component of the drug-directors position,” Beebe said. “Fran’s extensive leadership experience in drug-rehabilitation services and other healthcare issues will help our state in fighting drug abuse and finding solutions without continually over-crowding our prisons.”

Attorneys for Arkansas School-funding



MITCH LLEWELLYN OF FORT SMITH, attorney for the 14 school districts, argued the high court should rule for the schools because the state violated the state constitution by taking property tax money that should have gone to school districts and using it in general revenue.

KIETH JACKSON/Red River News

Heifer International Opens New Doors In Little Rock



JASON WILLIAMS/Red Reiver News

Participants in the opening day ceremony prepare for the big day. Heifer International will name the center after Polly Murphy and Christoph Keller Jr.

by Reggie Miller
staff reporter

Heifer International broke ground Monday on a new \$7.5 million education center, the second phase of the non-profit organizations planned expansion in

downtown Little Rock.

The center will be named after Polly Murphy and Christoph Keller Jr., whose families donated \$3.5 million to help fund it.

The ground-breaking included a blessing of the land by

Tibetan monks, along with remarks by relatives of the Murphy and Keller families.

The Little Rock based non-profit organization opened its headquarters last year next to the Clinton Presidential Center near the Arkan-

sas River. Along with the education center, Heifer plans to build a “global village” that depicts life in different areas of the world that Heifer works in.

Heifer International provides livestock to poor families.

Former Wal-Mart Worker Denies Allegations

by Phil Jackson
staff reporter

A fired Wal-Mart employee has filed court papers denying he provided company secrets to the news media.

Bruce Gabbard, who was fired by Wal-Mart last month, filed a brief notice in Benton County circuit court on Monday. The two paragraph filing notes that he will provide detailed information later.

On Friday, a judge granted a Wal-Mart’s request to take custody and make electronic copies of data on the computer’s hard drive and other storage devices that Gabbard used. Gabbard was ordered by a judge not to discuss company information

with reporters.

Gabbard was fired by Wal-Mart for allegedly recording a reporter’s phone calls and intercepting pager messages of other people, which is in violation of company policy.

The company turned the case over to the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, who is investigating whether any federal laws were broken.

After he was fired, Gabbard alleged that Wal-Mart had widespread surveillance operations against targets, including shareholders, critics, suppliers, the board of directors and employees. Wal-Mart has denied any wrong doing.