

## Something new at the fair



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Jean Toland hangs scarves on a display board Wednesday at the Clark County Fair in Arkadelphia as she and other volunteers prepare for the public's first viewing in the arts and craft building.

## Foes on sales of alcohol file ethics claims

### Reports on contributions, expenses called incomplete

CLAUDIA LAUER  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Supporters and opponents of a proposed constitutional amendment to allow statewide alcohol sales have both filed complaints about each other's bookkeeping with the Arkansas Ethics Commission.

The Families First Foundation, Keep Independence Dry and Safe, and the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission on Tuesday afternoon alleging that the ballot-question committee Let Arkansas Decide, the major sponsor of the alcohol amendment, had failed to re-

port promised contributions or loans in its Aug. 15 financial report.

Let Arkansas Decide filed a complaint of its own against the alcohol sales opposition group They Win, You Lose Committee on July 2.

Commission Director Graham Sloan said the agency does not comment on complaints or say if they're being investigated. Sloan said the commission generally receives an increased number of complaints in the months leading up to an election but does not have a provision that allows those complaints about election matters to be

See **ALCOHOL**, Page 8B

## LR board hopefuls to debate 4 director races on tap Saturday

CHELSEA BOOZER  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Little Rock Board of Directors candidates face off against one another Saturday in the first organized debate ahead of the Nov. 4 election.

The Coalition of Greater Little Rock Neighborhoods is hosting the candidate forum at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the boardroom on the second floor of City Hall at 500 W. Markham St. The public is invited to attend. The segment will be recorded by city staff members and broadcast several times on the city's public access channel before early voting begins Oct. 20.

Kathy Wells, president of the coalition, said the audience will have an opportunity to submit questions and that candidates will get to question each other at the close of the event.

Four Little Rock races are contested: Wards 1, 2, 3 and 6. Mayor Mark Stodola and Wards 5 and 7 incumbents are unopposed. Other

See **BOARD**, Page 3B

## Chasing Wyoming



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

Maggie Burton (left) watches her friend Isabell Hebert find the state of Wyoming on a globe in 10 seconds or less at the Little Rock School District display during the United Way's campaign kickoff at Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little Rock on Wednesday.

## Runway's plane catcher at LR airport out-of-date

NOEL OMAN  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A structure designed to stop aircraft overruns that was installed at the state's largest airport after the crash of American Airlines Flight 1420 in 1999 is at the end of its useful life and is scheduled to be removed.

The Federal Aviation Administration no longer considers the arresting system necessary because Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport/Adams Field later added a 1,000-foot-long safety area at the north end of Runway 22L/4R, according to airport officials.

Ron Mathieu, the air-

port's executive director, said Wednesday that he had asked the federal agency to help replace the system, but his request was rejected because the safety area is considered the industry standard. The safety structure designed to stop aircraft overruns is required only when a nonstandard safety area exists, he said.

"But I felt we needed to do both," he said at a meeting Wednesday of the Little Rock Municipal Airport Commission's lease committee.

Mathieu left open the possibility that the commission could pay for a new arresting system, something that Commissioner Tom Schueck said

he likely will propose later.

"Seeing the history we have there, I possibly will recommend that," Schueck said in an interview after the meeting, referring to the Flight 1420 crash. "Why wouldn't you do that? How many lives could you save?"

On the night of June 1, 1999, the pilot and 10 passengers died after the regularly scheduled flight between Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Clinton National overshot the runway while landing during a thunderstorm.

The other crew members and 105 passengers received

See **AIRPORT**, Page 3B

## Legislators back proposals on human trafficking

SPENCER WILLEMS  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Legislators backed proposals for greater education, training, and coordination among social-service providers and law enforcement agencies Wednesday morning.

The 19 proposals, submitted by the attorney general's 40-member Task Force for the Prevention of Human

Trafficking back in August, also called for more funding, especially for services provided to victims, and would leave officials from the attorney general's office to coordinate trafficking calls with the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

In a joint hearing of the state House and Senate committees whose focus is children and youth, Sen. Bart Hester, R-Cave Springs, said that the Legislature should continue its efforts to strengthen state and local responses to an issue that experts say has been long-lasting but that has received heightened attention from lawmakers only in the past few years.

"We're talking about an education, find a way to educate the victims, finding a way to educate law enforcement, and even finding a way to educate johns about the crimes they're doing," Hester said. "The capital investment ... is so minor compared to the effect we could do for the victims [of human trafficking]."

The state Human Trafficking Act passed in 2013 made the trafficking of persons a Class A felony and the act of trafficking juveniles a Class

Y felony.

It also made patronizing services of trafficked people, whether through labor or sexual services, a Class B felony, and in the case of minors, a Class A felony. The new law makes Arkansas one of the most proactive states in fighting human trafficking, according to the Polaris Project, a national group that

See **PROPOSALS**, Page 8B

## Baskin, long the chief of Laman Library, dies

### System head called step ahead of rest

JAKE SANDLIN  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Remembered as a visionary for libraries and for emphasizing community exposure to the arts and history, Jeff Baskin left his mark on North Little Rock and beyond, friends and colleagues said Wednesday.

Baskin, the executive director of North Little Rock's William F. Laman Library System for 27 years, died Tuesday night, less than eight weeks after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. He was 67.

As the library system's head, Baskin was at the forefront of projects that included doubling the size of the main library at 2801 Orange St., opening a downtown

Argenta branch library, then relocating that branch to the much larger, former U.S. post office building at 420 Main St. — a major renovation effort in which Baskin was very much hands-on.

Both libraries will close from noon to 4 p.m. today to allow library staff to attend Baskin's funeral, a library system spokesman said.

Early voting for the North Little Rock School Board election will also be suspended at the main library during

See **BASKIN**, Page 5B



Baskin

## Thea scholarship campaign



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

Paul Leopoulos talks about the Thea Foundation's college scholarship endowment campaign on Wednesday at the foundation's North Little Rock office, with a 2010 painting by V.L. Cox of his late daughter, Thea, nearby.

Article, 2B

## Exxon brief countered in spill suit

DEBRA HALE-SHELTON  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Exxon Mobil's petition to appeal a federal judge's decision granting class-action status to a Faulkner County couple's lawsuit over an oil spill in Mayflower should be denied, attorneys for the couple argued in a federal appeals court.

In the document filed in the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis earlier this week, the attorneys disputed Exxon Mobil's statement last month that a class-action case could put "undue pressure" on the company "to settle in the face of extreme costs and exposure."

See **SPILL**, Page 8B

<p>Hey Arkansas!</p> <h3>The Tax is On Us! Flooring SALE</h3> <p>You'll pay no sales tax ON EVERYTHING in our stores!</p> <p>PLUS Get incredible DEALS on first quality flooring!</p> <p>Sept 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> (Wed - Tues)</p>	<p>10% OFF</p> <p><b>BellaWood</b> PREFINISHED HARDWOOD FLOORING</p> <p>Coupon code: IOBELLA In Store Only.</p> <p><small>In-stock, discontinued, legacy, and clearance BellaWood flooring only. New orders between, Sept. 3-23, 2014.</small></p>	<p>The Fall Flooring Season is HERE! Why aren't you?!</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1st Quality Laminates from</td> <td>Prefinished American Cherry</td> <td>BellaWood Prefinished Hardwood from</td> </tr> <tr> <td>49¢<sub>sqft</sub></td> <td>\$1.59<sub>sqft</sub></td> <td>\$3.69<sub>sqft</sub></td> </tr> </table> <p>6 Freeway Dr, Little Rock, AR • (501) 588-4735</p> <p>We'll pay any portion of the sales tax not paid by the purchaser. Valid in Arkansas locations only. While supplies last. See store for details.</p>	1st Quality Laminates from	Prefinished American Cherry	BellaWood Prefinished Hardwood from	49¢ <sub>sqft</sub>	\$1.59 <sub>sqft</sub>	\$3.69 <sub>sqft</sub>
1st Quality Laminates from	Prefinished American Cherry	BellaWood Prefinished Hardwood from						
49¢ <sub>sqft</sub>	\$1.59 <sub>sqft</sub>	\$3.69 <sub>sqft</sub>						
<p>+12 Months Special Financing! On purchases of \$1,000 or more with your Lumber Liquidators credit card made from September 10-16, 2014. *Subject to credit approval. Minimum monthly payments required. See store for details.</p>								



