



NWA Media/JASON IVESTER

Springdale Police Lt. Scott Lewis (from left) and Sgt. Robert Sanchez watch as Clarksville High School Assistant Principal Cheyne Dougan turns a corner into a classroom during an active-shooter training exercise on Thursday inside the high school. Faculty members were going through training with actors playing the roles of students and gunmen inside the school.

Reading, writing, reconnaissance

This fall, some of Clarksville schools' staff will be armed

BRENDA BERNET
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
CLARKSVILLE — In an instant, gunshots rang out from a classroom, followed by the sound of someone crying. The assistant principal drew his pistol and entered the hallway to see four children lying on the ground. Even though he knew it was a training exercise, Cheyne Dougan said his heart was racing. Dougan ran along a hall-

way to a classroom and looked in to see one child pointing a pistol at the temple of another child. Dougan fired several shots at the child gunman, an actor. "When you hear a gunshot, your adrenaline starts pumping," said Dougan, who works at Clarksville High School. "When you hear shots go off, that means people are dying."

Dougan is one of about 20 Clarksville School District

staff members training this summer to be armed security guards on campus. Each of the district's five campuses will have armed staff members this fall trained to respond if a gunman targets a school, as they have in mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, Columbine High School in Colorado and Virginia Tech University, Superintendent David Hopkins said. Some of the district's prin-

cipals, teachers, janitors and others will be carrying concealed pistols, he said.

A perpetrator, he explained, can kill numerous people within five minutes, often before police can arrive.

"The solution is you've got to respond in seconds," he said.

In training, Dougan has learned not to look at faces, but at hands, and to react quickly.

See **CLARKSVILLE**, Page 3B

Letters: Exxon used pending tactic for spill

Plan submitted in March adds extra response time

DEBRA HALE-SHELTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Exxon Mobil used a response plan not yet federally approved in the moments after the company's Pegasus pipeline ruptured in a Mayflower neighborhood and spilled more than 100,000 gallons of oil into it, a creek and a cove of Lake Conway, letters released Thursday show.

A company vice president said Exxon Mobil not only was right to use the plan, but was also required to do so.

Rather than rely on the plan that the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said it approved in 2009, Exxon Mobil Pipeline Co. followed one proposed earlier this year and awaiting agency approval, according to letters sent by the corporation and the administration to U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee.

Markey, who was recently elected to the Massachusetts Senate seat formerly held by Secretary of State John Kerry and who moves to that position Tuesday, contends the newer plan cost the company four extra minutes in

shutting down the pipeline after it ruptured March 29 between two homes in the Northwoods subdivision. An estimated 147,000 gallons of heavy crude flowed onto neighborhood, yards and a street and then into ditches, a creek and a cove of Lake Conway.

Markey asked the agency for a copy of the newer response plan, but an agency official replied that it would provide a copy after the plan was approved and that the agency expected its review to be complete by July 31.

"This lack of transparency is troubling," Eben Burnham-Snyder, a spokesman for Markey, said in an email Thursday.

"Exxon used an unapproved plan that pipeline regulators won't share because it isn't approved," he added. "And because it isn't approved, we can't learn why Exxon increased response times for a pipeline accident. This does not engender confidence in the process to protect people from additional spills."

The 2009 plan allowed for a 12-minute response time in a worst-case disaster, while the plan submitted in

See **EXXON**, Page 8B

E-Z Mart suspect guilty of murder

Jacksonville man gets 35-year term

JOHN LYNCH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
The third of four armed-robbery suspects has pleaded guilty to first-degree murder for participating in the September hold-up and slaying of a North Little Rock convenience store clerk and mother of two.

Thursday, in an appearance before Circuit Judge Barry Sims, Davion Lakeith Howard, barely a month past his 20th birthday, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in exchange for a 35-year sentence, deputy prosecutor Caroline Bednar said. The Jacksonville man will have to serve 24½ years before he is parole-eligible.

In September, Akiya Egeston, a month into her job as store clerk, rebuffed a robbery attempt by three masked gunmen at the E-Z Mart at 3600 MacArthur Drive. The three left empty-handed after Egeston wouldn't open the cash register for them and triggered the alarm. But one of the men — Jacobi Deandre Robinson — went back inside and shot the 29-year-old clerk to death. Police say he pulled the trigger twice, but the gun didn't fire the first time. He had to move the weapon's slide to shoot Egeston in the neck, killing her almost instantly, police said.

Robinson, 21, of Jacksonville accepted a 60-year sentence for first-degree murder and aggravated robbery in May, which will keep him behind bars until he is at least 63 years old.

Another defendant, Maclin Daimon Rogers, 20, of Little Rock, was also sentenced to 35 years after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in May. See **E-Z MART**, Page 8B

Salvaging computers



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK MCFARLAND

Dominic Watada blows the dust off one of the computer hard drives he salvaged from the older computers being replaced at the main branch of the William F. Laman Public Library System in North Little Rock on Thursday. The library is installing 60 new computers, and 50 of those will be in its LINC Center, which library members can use.

HUD gives extension to PB

City must reply to misused-grant findings by Sept. 11

JOHN WORTHEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
PINE BLUFF — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has granted Pine Bluff a 60-day extension to respond to findings of a review the agency conducted earlier this year of the city's Economic and Community Development Department.

In June, HUD issued findings of that review, which revealed the city must reimburse more than \$199,000 in "improperly spent" community development block grants and HOME program funds.

Additionally, the city could also have to reimburse the federal government \$279,000

if proper documentation isn't provided to account for the money, according to the review.

HOME is the largest federal block grant given to state and local governments designed to create affordable housing for low-income households. Community development block grants are designed to help communities improve quality of life in urban areas.

To pay back the money, the city can cut a check to HUD from a pot of nonfederal dollars or it can opt to have its 2013 community development block grant funds reduced by the amount owed.

Pine Bluff received more than \$539,000 in community

development block grants in 2012 and more than \$233,000 in HOME funds, according to HUD officials.

Patricia Campbell, a Freedom of Information Act liaison for HUD, said that such extensions are common and that they are designed primarily to allow for "extensive research" a city must do to rebut reviews.

"There was a reasonable basis to grant [Pine Bluff] an extension," Campbell said.

Pine Bluff's deadline to respond to HUD is now Sept. 11.

Larry Matthews, interim director of the Pine Bluff Economic and Community Development Department,

See **HUD**, Page 8B

UA reorganizes Advancement Division after budget deficit

TERESA MOSS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville officials declined to answer questions Thursday about a restructuring of the University Advancement Division after issuing a news release about the changes.

The restructuring, described as "significant," comes a year after the division finished fiscal 2012,

which ended June 30, 2012, with an estimated \$3.37 million deficit.

The discovery of the deficit led to the demotion of the division's budget officer, Joy Sharp, and to UA Chancellor G. David Gearhart's decision not to retain former Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Brad Choate.

Eleven employees were promoted as part of the re-

structuring in the vice chancellor's office and the Development, Special Events and Constituent Relations departments, the release said.

Steve Voorhies, manager of media relations, said the restructuring was done for efficiency purposes and not driven by budget matters. He also said no one in the division was able to answer a list of questions from the

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette about the restructuring until Monday.

Questions that went unanswered included whether the restructuring increased or decreased the Advancement Division's spending, whether the division had an increase or decrease in employees, and how the division plans to balance its budget.

Chris Wyrick, who was

named vice chancellor for University Advancement this spring, did not respond to a message for comment. A receptionist in Wyrick's office said Thursday that he would work with Voorhies to answer questions. But Voorhies said later that no one from the division would be able to answer questions.

The news release did out-

See **BUDGET**, Page 3B

Man claims brutal force in Saline County jail suit

CHELSEA BOOZER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Anthony Westbrook was beaten, choked, had his teeth knocked out and was strapped to a chair for at least eight hours in the Saline County jail, he alleged in a lawsuit filed Thursday.

The lawsuit, filed in Saline County Circuit Court, details what Westbrook's attorney, James Swindoll of Little Rock, calls "torturous" conditions that he says are routine treatment at the jail in Benton. The complaint names as defendants the jail, Sheriff Bruce Pennington, former jailer Calvin Reed and several jailers whose names are unknown. When told of the lawsuit Thursday afternoon, Penning-

ton said he had not yet seen it but disputed its characterizations of the jail.

"First and foremost my staff follows policy and procedure. The thing about it is, everything is videoed back there and all the staff knows that. So they're not blatantly just going to abuse someone just because they were maybe cursed at or something of that nature," Pennington said. "Also, anytime force is used, we document that use-of-force and it's looked into."

The use-of-force report detailing Westbrook being put in the jail's restraint chair May 8, 2011, doesn't match what Westbrook says occurred and See **JAIL**, Page 8B

Forest Park athletic pavilion



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Ryan Thompson (left) and Patrick Reed (right), both with Nabholz Construction, guide one of the final trusses into place at a new, multiuse athletic pavilion under construction at Forest Park Elementary School on Thursday morning.