

Monday, March 17, 2008

DOTHAN EAGLE

dothaneagle.com

Real people. Real news.

50 cents

Today: Sunny
Light wind

High 77°
Low 53°



Wild elephants facing extinction **5A**



'Boot camps' treat people with chronic pain **10A**



Georgia Bulldogs celebrate SEC title **1B**



Government will 'do what it takes'

Treasury secretary gives assurances on stabilizing markets

Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration will "do

what it takes" to stabilize chaotic markets and minimize the economic damage, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Sunday after a tumultuous week capped by the government rescue of a teetering investment bank.

All eyes now are on Wall Street as leading financial advisers prepared for a Mon-

day meeting with President Bush and the Federal Reserve weighs another deep interest rate cut Tuesday to stem even more deterioration.

Paulson, in a series of news show appearances, defended the Federal Reserve's extraordinary step Friday to provide emergency financing to one of Wall Street's most venerable

firms, Bear Stearns Cos. The central bank's intervention was "the right decision," he said.

The treasury chief sidestepped questions about what would have happened if the Fed had not ridden to the rescue, whether other firms are

See **MARKETS, 3A**



"The government is prepared to do what it takes to maintain the stability of our financial system. That's our priority."

Henry Paulson
U.S. treasury secretary

Lots of space to work



Associated Press

In this photo provided by NASA, astronaut Garrett Reisman, Expedition 16 flight engineer, uses a digital camera to expose a photo of his helmet visor during the mission's first scheduled session of extravehicular activity as construction and maintenance continue on the International Space Station. Also visible in the reflections in the visor are various components of the station, the docked Space Shuttle Endeavour and a blue and white portion of Earth. For more on the shuttle mission, see 3A.

Man dies from stab wounds

From staff reports

One of at least two men with multiple stab wounds was found dead from his injuries in front of the Daleville Police Department on Sunday evening.

Daleville Police Chief Ronnie Williamson said a man drove 46-year-old Calvin Lee Baker of Enterprise to the department for its ambulance service, but Baker was dead on arrival.

The man who drove with Baker ran from the scene, Williamson said.

The stabbing occurred at a residence on County Road 31 in Daleville.

Williamson said another man was found stabbed at the residence and taken to a local hospital. A motive had not been released as of 10:45 p.m. Sunday.

Baker's death is believed to be the third homicide in Daleville in five years

Upgrades for sewers, water, roads

Houston County can expect some of Branson's growing pains in dealing with visitors

Editor's note: Third in a three-part series

Debbie Ingram
dingram@dothaneagle.com

Infrastructure to accommodate Branson, Mo.'s, nearly 8 million annual visitors has created its share of problems for this small town.

Branson Public Information Director Jerry Adams said roads, water and sewers created challenges.

"We needed alternate routes to heavily traveled Highway 76," Adams said, referring to the northern part of town. "Motorists were bumper to bumper on Highway 76, which is lined with most of the theaters, restaurants and hotels."

See **BRANSON, 3A**

State chancellor fighting on familiar ground

Phillip Rawls
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama's two-year college chancellor, Bradley Byrne, is fighting the Alabama Education Association in a partisan battle over regulation of the junior college system, and the contest is taking place on what used to be Byrne's home field.

But Byrne may not have a home field advantage in a battle that is playing out alongside the ongoing federal investigation of corruption in the two-year college system and the subpoenaing of legislators to testify in that probe.

The Senate Education Committee plans to vote after Easter, possibly on March 26 or April 2, on legislation that would authorize

"This law is a power grab to stop us from further reforms and I can't stand by and let that happen."

Bradley Byrne

Alabama's two-year college chancellor

the Legislature to review — and reject — policies that the State Board of Education adopts for two-year colleges.

Byrne served as a Republican on the Senate Education Committee until he resigned from the Senate last May to become Alabama's postsecondary chancellor. Republican Gov. Bob Riley supported Byrne for the post when the state school board selected him.

Now, Byrne and Riley are portraying the Democrat-backed regulatory bill as an attempt to

stymie changes in a system where a former chancellor and a former state representative who worked for the system agreed to plead guilty.

"This law is a power grab to stop us from further reforms and I can't stand by and let that happen," Byrne said.

"It's a joke to think that the way to make something more ethical and accountable is to put legislators in charge of it," said Tara Hutchison, Riley's press secretary. AEA Executive Secretary Paul

Hubbert rejects criticism of the bill. "It's just another level of review," he said.

The bill is sponsored in the Senate by the Democratic majority leader, Zeb Little of Cullman. Little said the legislation would bring more transparency to the operation of Alabama's two-year colleges and expose some of the politics.

"Had you not been a Republican leader in the Senate, you would not have been considered as a candidate for chancellor," Little told Byrne when the Senate Education Committee held a public hearing on the bill Wednesday.

An identical bill sponsored by Rep. Tammy Irons, D-Florence, won approval in the House Education Policy Committee on Feb. 27 and awaits a vote in the House.

Parents, students favor reinstating drivers ed in Dale County

Ebony Horton
ehorton@dothaneagle.com

ARITON — Newly-turned 16-year-olds might be among the anxious mass of spring break drivers headed through the Wiregrass to the Florida beaches this week.

But Ariton High School sophomore Jasmine Bell is an exception. She is one of about 200 Dale County high school students of legal driving age who has yet to pay to take a drivers course at Carroll High School in Ozark this summer. She might be one of the few who refuse to get a license before getting the training.

Her school system in Dale County is one of only 14 in the state that does not offer the driving course to its students, according to the state Department of Education.

Jasmine said the course at Carroll costs at least \$100.

"I'm not prepared to get behind the wheel. Knowing a car is behind me on the highway freaks me out. But I wish at least I wouldn't have to pay all that money to another school system to learn how to drive," Jasmine said.

Dale County Superintendent Phillip Parker said the program was dismantled from the county schools in 2002 because of

the system's poor financial condition. His proposal to reinstate the course as an elective for next school year lacked enough school board votes last week to pass.

No state Department of Education funds are allotted for drivers education programs, but Parker said the system could pull \$55,000 for two retired educators to teach — plus the cost of a vehicle — from its \$3.4 million general fund.

Board member Don Williams, who abstained from voting for or against the program last week, said the school system

See **DRIVERS, 3A**

Schools systems in Alabama that do not have drivers education programs

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Anniston City | Lanett City |
| Calhoun County | Lowndes County |
| Cherokee County | Pickens County |
| Coffee County | Pike County |
| Covington County | Tallassee City |
| Dale County | Tuscaloosa City |
| Jacksonville City | Tuscaloosa County |

Source: Alabama State Department of Education

Subscribe to the DOTAN EAGLE

Call: (334) 677-0050
or (334) 792-3141



7 65161 70050 2

Want to SELL your auto NOW?

Only **\$24⁹⁹** and run it until it sells!

Call (334) 702-6060 or (800) 779-2557 and let us sell your auto TODAY!

Cars, Trucks, SUVs, Vans, Boats, Campers, Motorcycles

Dothan Eagle • dothaneagle.com • Enterprise Ledger • Jackson Co. Floridan • Wiregrass Aviator