

**Ice makes a comeback**

Skaters at LR rink aren't always graceful but they're all smiles. — Arkansas, 1B



**The Black Friday push**

Retailers lining up electronics deals, slate of extras for shoppers. — Business, 1G

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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**In the news**

■ **Sen. Mitch McConnell** of Kentucky, the Republican leader in the Senate, called on Democrats to extend all of the Bush-era tax cuts that are scheduled to expire Dec. 31, saying in the GOP's weekly radio and Internet address that Americans "don't think we should be raising taxes on anybody, especially in the middle of a recession."

■ **The Rev. Cedric Miller**, 48, a New Jersey pastor who said Facebook was a "portal to infidelity" and told married church leaders to delete their accounts or resign, testified in a criminal case in 2003 that he had a three-way sexual relationship with his wife and a male church assistant, the *Asbury Park Press* of Neptune reported.

■ **Alan Garcia**, the Peruvian president, announced that Yale University has agreed to return thousands of artifacts taken away from the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu nearly a century ago.

■ **Michael Hunnicutt**, 20, was arrested in Atlanta over allegations that he gunned down Tavarus Erving, 18, because he believed Erving splattered his Mercedes with eggs in a Halloween prank.

■ **Sen. Debbie Stabenow**, D-Mich., whose state leads the nation in production of cherries and blueberries, will be the next chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, replacing Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, who lost her bid for re-election this year.

■ **Rep. Emanuel Cleaver**, a four-term Missouri congressman and Kansas City's former mayor, was elected chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a contingent of 42 House Democrats who all won re-election this month.

■ **Fidel Castro**, 84, told Cuban students that he is happy with the direction Cuba is taking under the leadership of his brother Raul, who has warned countrymen that the state can no longer afford to pay idle workers and must cut many subsidies that Cubans have come to expect.

■ **Marcello Dell'Utri**, a senator in Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party, dismissed as a "fairy tale" a Sicilian appeals court's ruling in June that he served as a kind of "mediator" between Mafia bosses and Berlusconi in the years before the premier entered politics.

■ **Dianne Wilkerson**, a Democratic former Massachusetts state senator and a native of Pine Bluff, Ark., who was captured on video stuffing bribe money into her sweater and bra, is looking at a potential four-year prison sentence, according to a sentencing memorandum filed in court by prosecutors.

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK**  
**Today** Mostly cloudy, breezy and warmer.  
**High** 71, with south winds at 5 to 15 mph.  
**Tonight** A chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms.  
**Low** 58.



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**UA 38, Miss. State 31**



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/JASON IVESTER

Arkansas running back Knile Davis scores the winning touchdown in the second overtime of Saturday night's game in Starkville, Miss. **Complete coverage, Sports, 1C.**

## NATO: Afghans get security reins in '14

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

LISBON, Portugal — NATO and Afghanistan agreed Saturday to the goal of a phased transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan government by the end of 2014, but acknowledged that allied forces would remain in Afghanistan in a support role well beyond that date.

And if Afghanistan has not made sufficient progress in managing its own security, NATO officials warned, 2014 was not a hard-and-fast deadline for the end of combat operations.

"We will stay after tran-

**OBAMA SEEKS** options for airport screenings. Page 14A.

**RUSSIA WEIGHS** participating in missile-shield plan. Page 15A.

sition in a supporting role," Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the secretary-general of NATO, said at a news conference Saturday after meeting with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. "President Karzai and I signed an agreement on a long-term partnership between NATO and Afghanistan that will endure beyond our combat mission."

NATO officials had previ-

ously said it was likely that tens of thousands of support troops would remain in Afghanistan past 2014 to provide training and other security guarantees to Kabul. But the statements by Rasmussen and other officials on Saturday were more definite.

Rasmussen said that the aim of the agreement signed Saturday was to hand security responsibility to Afghan forces by the end of 2014, and for foreign troops serving in the coalition, known as the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, to cease com-

See **NATO**, Page 14A

**SWEPT AWAY: THE ALBERT PIKE FLOOD**

## Campground turns into deadly trap

**After a day of fun, swimming, families awoken to chaos**

First in a series

CATHY FRYE  
 AND AMY UPSHAW  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

ALBERT PIKE RECREATION AREA — As the Little Missouri River churned through the campground, uprooting trees and carrying away RVs, Kerri Basinger turned to her husband Shane.

"I think this is it," she told him. "We're fixin' to die."

"No, we're not," Shane declared, his eyes reflecting a grim determination. "Don't scare the kids."

Only moments earlier, roused by their husbands from a deep sleep, Kerri and her best friend, Candace Smith, had grabbed their four young children and fled their

Wildwood RV.

The two families had made a run for the Smiths' Chevy pickup, hoping to escape floodwaters that seemed to grow higher with each frantic step. The truck started, but water gushed into the cab.

Now they huddled in the bed of the pickup, soaked and shivering. The swollen river roared, prompting the children to shriek in terror.

A surge of water slammed a red truck into the Chevy and pinned it against two trees. Seconds later, an RV crashed into the red pickup. Kerri could hear the people trapped inside, banging on the door and screaming in desperation.

See **FLOOD**, Page 6A



Special to the Democrat-Gazette

**The Smiths and Basingers** pose for a photo during their 2009 visit to the Albert Pike Recreation Area. The two families vacationed together there each summer. From left are Anthony, Candace and Joey Smith; Shane, Jady, Kinsley and Kerri Basinger. Not pictured is Katelynn Smith, then a baby, who stayed behind with her grandparents that year.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

## For state legislators, tax cuts top priority

As session nears, budget talk reigns

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

After hearing anti-tax activist Grover Norquist speak at a meeting of the Center-Right Coalition in downtown Little Rock, state Rep. Jon Woods and state Rep.-elect Justin Harris talked of their desire to enact tax cuts.

And they're not alone. The next legislative session is less than two months off, and tax-cut talk is all the rage — among Republicans and Democrats, the executive and legislative branches, talking about cuts aimed at helping a spectrum of people ranging from the poor struggling to put bread on their tables to the financially better-off making capital gains.

Woods has drafted legis-

lation to repeal the corporate franchise tax.

Harris wants to eliminate the capital gains tax.

The governor wants to lower the tax on groceries.

And other ideas are in the wind.

The backdrop for the talk is a state budget that, while growing overall, has been strapped for general revenue (derived mostly from the sales and income taxes) for a couple of years because an economy in recession has been slow to turn more vigorous.

And some of the tax-cut theories bank on expectations that cannot be proved at this time.

Woods, a Republican

See **TAX CUTS**, Page 15A

## Madagascar coup averted



AP/THEMBA HADEBE

A military officer stands guard Saturday outside an air force base in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Soldiers loyal to the country's government converged on the base where dissident officers involved in a coup attempt Wednesday were holed up. Gunfire broke out but the officers eventually surrendered without bloodshed, the prime minister said.

Article, 11A

## Pope says condoms not right, but ...

RACHEL DONADIO  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME — Pope Benedict XVI now says that condom use can be justified in some cases to help stop the spread of AIDS, the first Vatican exception to a long-held policy condemning condom use. The pope made the statement in a series of interviews with a German journalist, part of an effort to address some of the harshest criticisms of his papacy.

The pope made clear that he considered the use of condoms a last resort and not as a way to prevent conception. The example he gave of when they could be used, as translated from German into English, is in the case of male prostitutes.

Amid his defense of the church, Benedict also acknowledged some of the church's failings, such as sexual abuse by priests, which he calls "a volcano of filth" sent by the devil.

See **POPE**, Page 14A

## Moving memory-filled for Arkansans in D.C.

JANE FULLERTON  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Thanks to pink slips from voters, there's an unusually high demand for moving boxes on Capitol Hill this month.

Most of those headed for retirement, involuntary or

otherwise, are Democrats.

And the Natural State had more turnover than most.

"We're a delegation of six, and four of the positions are changing, so that's a significant impact for the people of Arkansas," said Democratic Rep. Vic Snyder, who did not

seek re-election. "It is a lot of turnover."

Come January, the state will have three new Republican House members — Rick Crawford filling Democrat Marion Berry's 1st District seat, Tim Griffin filling Snyder's 2nd District seat and

Steve Womack filling John Boozman's 3rd District seat — as well as a new Republican senator, Boozman, who will take over for Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln.

Only the state's two remaining Democratic members

See **MOVING**, Page 8A

Home delivery  
 378-3456

Outside Pulaski County  
 1-800-482-1121



# Flood

• Continued from Page 1A

Shane crawled across the red pickup and onto the trapped family's RV.

Kerri could see her husband only when flashes of lightning illuminated the terrifying scene: Shane, pounding and clawing at the roof, the people inside crying for help.

Kerri begged him to come back.

She admired her husband's courage, but at the same time, she worried that she wouldn't be able to hold onto both of their daughters if the water continued to rise.

"I'm not letting these people stay in here!" he yelled, and continued to beat his fists against the RV. When his efforts proved futile, Shane reluctantly retreated.

Kerri lifted her daughters — Jady, 8, and Kinsley, 6 — to the top of the pickup's toolbox. She grabbed the girls' beloved baby blankets and wrapped each one around their small, trembling shoulders.

"Something really bad is going to happen, and I'm so sorry," Kerri sobbed. "I'm so sorry. I love you so much."

A towering swell of water swallowed the Smiths' truck.

And as the turbulent water swept her away, Kerri held tight to her girls.

## ALWAYS TOGETHER

Less than 12 hours earlier, on June 10, the Basinger and Smith children had romped gleefully along the banks of the normally placid Little Missouri River. Dark clouds, pregnant with rain, hung low. But the looming promise of bad weather didn't diminish the children's enjoyment.

Jady, her face dotted with tiny freckles, wore a black two-piece decorated with peace signs; Kinsley a polka-dotted tankini.

The calm water barely reached Jady's waist. In most places, it lapped at the children's ankles, even those of the youngest two, Joey Smith, 5, and his sister, Katelynn, almost 3.

The Basinger and Smith children had grown up together, their devotion to one another a testament to their mothers' close friendship.

Katelynn, with her mop of curls, looked uncannily similar to Kinsley. She toddled after the older girl each weekend when the two families got together for cookouts. Joey, a madcap little tothead, considered Jady his best friend.

Kerri and Candace's friendship went back nine years. The women met at a dental practice, where Candace managed the office and Kerri worked the front desk.

Kerri married Shane in 2000. When Candace wed Anthony in 2003, Shane was part of the ceremony.

The two men had forged a strong friendship, despite their many differences.

Anthony favored crisply ironed preppy clothing, while Shane's usual attire consisted of Carhartt jeans and a cap.

Anthony appeared reserved at large gatherings, becoming jovial only when hanging out with small groups of people he knew well. Shane, on the other hand, relished his role as an outgoing prankster no matter the setting.

While the men didn't appear to have much in common, they shared a love for the outdoors and an intense devotion to family.

Anthony and Candace lived on a 358-acre cattle farm outside of Shreveport. Shane worked at the farm, but he and Kerri lived in town, where Shane held a second job at Intier Automotive.

In their free time, the men either fished or careened along trails on their Mule ATV. Sometimes, they told their wives they had to work on a fence, which meant they were heading to "The Man Spot." The little outdoor hideaway boasted a wooden spool, which served as a table, a couple of chairs and a stash of beer.

Shane and Anthony also both had sons from previous relationships. Tyler Basinger was 14; Austin Rachal, Anthony's son, was 13.

When the new babies started arriving, the two families relished their weekends together even more. Candace and Kerri loved watching their children grow and play together.

And every summer, the Basingers and Smiths vacationed together at the U.S.



Jady Basinger and Joey Smith, then ages 7 and 4, play in the Little Missouri River during their families' 2009 vacation at the Albert Pike Recreation Area. Jady and Joey, who referred to themselves as best friends, loved swimming in the docile river.

Forest Service's Albert Pike Recreation Area.

## A CHANGE OF PLANS

Cradled by the rugged Ouachita Mountains and bisected by the Little Missouri River, the 260-acre park and campground draws generations of families year after year.

Children spend hours at the swimming hole while their parents enjoy the soothing sounds of a lazy river and the solitude of a remote campsite.

The campground offers 54 campsites in four designated areas:

Loops A and B, which offer only tent or primitive campsites, are on the west side of the river. Loops C and D are upstream on the east side. Loop D's eight sites have electric and water hookups for RVs. Loop C, in the midst of a renovation that includes hookups for 12 RVs, has been closed for several months.

A trip to Albert Pike means truly getting away. Cell phones don't work there. Nor does the Internet. Weather radios became operable only within the past month.

Volunteer camp hosts, usually retired couples, are responsible for registering guests. The hosts answer campers' questions and report any problems to the district ranger's office in Glenwood, about 26 miles away.

The Smiths and Basingers usually didn't stay at the federal campgrounds, instead opting for the privately owned Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins, which straddles both sides of the river just south of the federal land.

Lowery's attracts many of the same families each year. Some take their RVs. Others own cabins there.

By day, the families swim and picnic together. At night, they gather on decks strung with ropes of festive lights or wander from cabin to cabin, illuminated by tall lamps placed on poles throughout the area.

The Basinger and Smith families pulled into Lowery's on Thursday afternoon, June 10. But the older boys wanted to sleep in a tent, and Lowery's didn't allow tent camping.

That meant moving the families to Loop D at the federal campground. Everyone felt a pang of disloyalty, but Jesse Lowery, who ran the RV park and liked hanging out with Shane and Anthony, told them not to worry. They could return the next day.

The families set up camp at Loop D's site No. 2.

While Kerri and Candace cooked dinner, Shane and Anthony took the kids swimming. After supper and showers, the children settled into the Wildwood RV, where they watched *Madagascar* and played video games.

As usual, the two mothers laid down with their excited brood, soothing them to sleep with whispers and lullabies.

The women then went back outside, but returned to the RV after Anthony found a large, ugly insect and teased Kerri with it.

"I'm going to bed," she said, knowing from experience that Anthony wasn't beyond putting bugs on her.



Go to [arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood](http://arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood) each day for videos narrated by survivors, additional unpublished photos and investigative reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PASTOR GRAIG COWART, who helped flood victims and their families, will be honored with a volunteer award. High Profile.

"Me too," Candace chimed in.

By the time the women crawled into their beds, it was 11 p.m. The men joined them soon after.

As Candace and Kerri slept deeply, the day's intermittent rain became a downpour.

Shane dozed fitfully. Thunderstorms made him nervous.

## GROWING DANGER

At the National Weather Service office in North Little Rock, forecaster John Lewis settled in front of a trio of computers when his shift began at 11 p.m.

Even though the office monitored weather for more than half of the counties in Arkansas, the overnight shift usually held little excitement.

But Lewis expected this night to be more harried.

He and other forecasters had been tracking a large, slow-moving storm system as it crossed Texas over the previous two days.

On June 9, the system ravaged parts of central Texas along the Guadalupe and Comal rivers. It dumped at least 10 inches of rain there, inundating packed campgrounds and flooding neighborhoods.

Flood alarms along the Guadalupe sounded as those waters rose, triggering evacuations of people camped along

the river's banks. Despite the evacuations and rescue efforts, one tourist drowned.

The next morning, the storm pounded the east Texas city of Tyler with 8 inches of rain before plodding toward Arkansas.

Recognizing the potential danger, the North Little Rock office issued two flash-flood watches on June 10 for the next day.

The first went out at 11:58 a.m. and warned of overnight showers. The forecaster on duty hoped that if he put a watch in effect before the noon news, more people would be aware of the possible danger.

The second watch went out at 10:06 p.m. and noted that the greatest chances of heavy rain were in the southwest and central part of the state.

Both watches covered 45 counties and lasted through Friday, June 11.

By the time Lewis arrived for work the night of June 10, it had been raining off and on for hours in southwest Arkansas.

Little happened during the first two hours of his shift.

Just after 1 a.m., however, Lewis noticed a thunderstorm and heavy lightning over Polk and Montgomery counties. As rain thrashed the area, Lewis grew concerned that the already saturated ground would lead to a flash flood.

At 1:57 a.m. he issued a flash-flood warning for portions of Garland, Pike, Polk and Montgomery counties, saying flash flooding was "likely." Of most concern were areas near the cities of Glenwood, Caddo Gap and Langley — the latter only about 8 miles uphill from the Albert Pike campgrounds.

Immediately, the warning was posted online, broadcast on weather radios and sent to all law enforcement agencies and emergency offices in the state.

Lewis then walked five steps to the microphone that connects the Weather Service to a statewide emergency ra-

dio network and issued the warning again, just in case people weren't paying attention the first time.

In years past, the Forest Service had notified campers of flooding dangers when it had advance warning and the alerts were issued during business hours. Its primary focus, however, was the threat of forest fires. Employees monitored the weather 24 hours a day only during dry spells. Severe weather or predicted flooding didn't prompt such vigilance.

So on June 10, when the National Weather Service issued the two flash-flood watches, District Ranger Gloria Chrismer didn't pay them much attention. She would later tell officials that she was not required to notify anyone about flood watches. The Weather Service issued them often, she would say, and they were usually of little consequence.

Even when the skies unleashed an unrelenting torrent, neither Chrismer nor any other employees with the Forest Service felt compelled to keep an eye on the worsening weather.

But in an office more than 100 miles away, Lewis and another North Little Rock forecaster hunkered down for the night with their radar and computers.

## 'WE'RE IN TROUBLE'

A few minutes after Lewis issued the warning, state police Sgt. Brady Gore awoke to the steady thrum of a downpour on the tin roof of his family's cabin near the Albert Pike campgrounds.

He had decided at the last minute to meet his wife, Gina, there. His grandparents had owned the cabin — which sat on Lowery land — since the 1960s, and Brady had spent every childhood summer there that he could remember.

*Man, it's really raining, he thought groggily. Bet the river is coming up a bit.*

• Continued on next page

## THE BASINGER FAMILY

They were camping with the Smiths at Loop D when the flooding occurred.



Kerri and Shane Basinger



Kyler (Shane's son from a previous marriage)



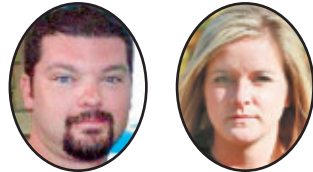
Jady, 8



Kinsley, 6

## THE SMITH FAMILY

With the Basingers at Loop D.



Anthony and Candace Smith



Austin Rachal (Anthony's son from a previous relationship)



Joey, 5



Katelynn, 2

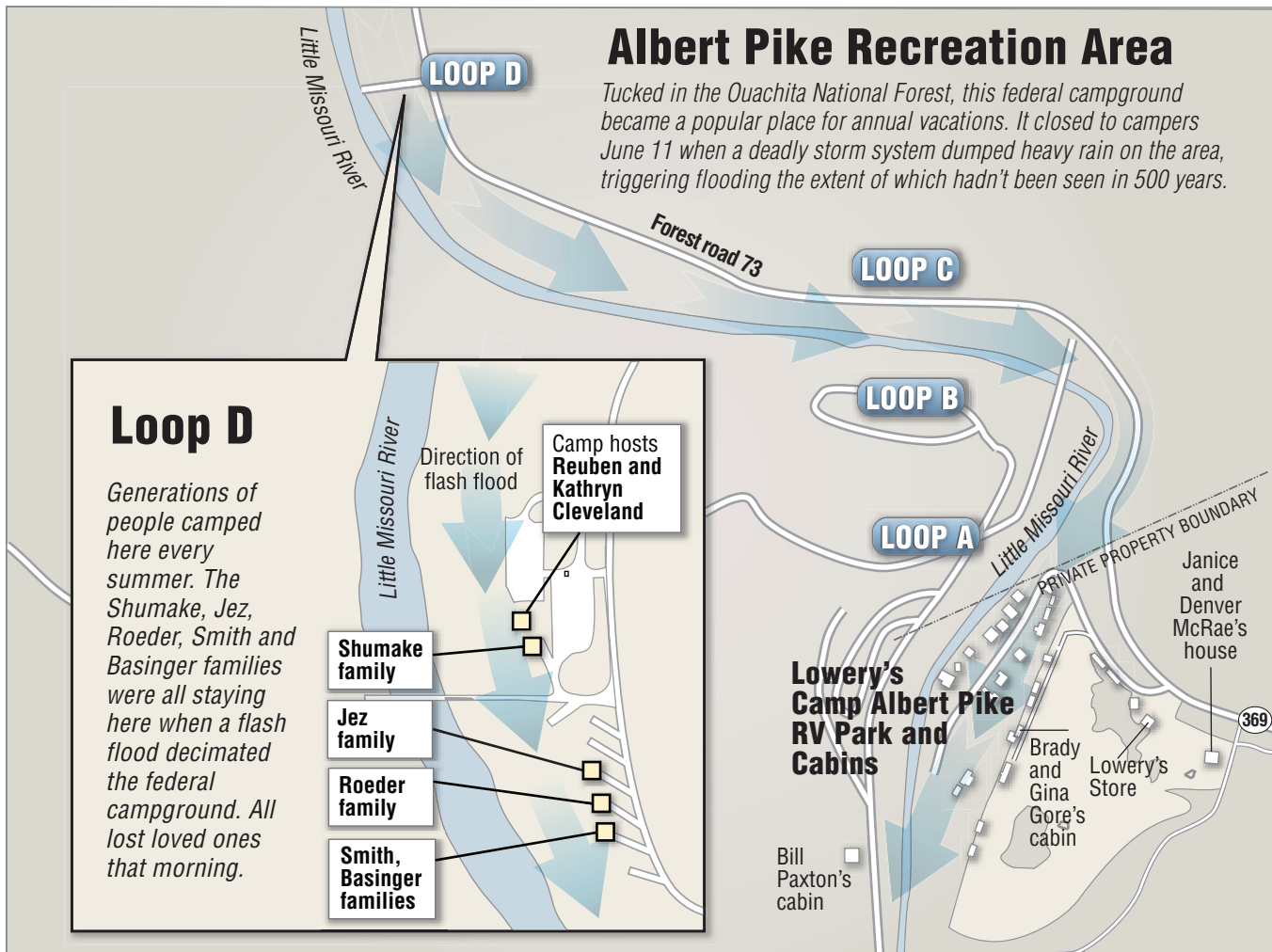


Brady and Gina Gore State trooper and his wife



Janice McRae Owner of Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette



● Continued from previous page

Brady had seen it rain that hard before, but he'd never known the river to significantly escape its banks.

Even the Lowerys, whose family has owned the property since President Rutherford B. Hayes signed their land grant in the late 1800s, had witnessed only one significant flood.

In 1968, heavy rain triggered a flash flood that washed away cabins. No one was injured or killed. Lowery family lore held that a big flood occurred about every 50 years.

Brady told himself he'd drive by the river to see how high it had gotten when he left for work in a few hours. Then he rolled over and fell back to sleep.

Bill Paxton, who owned a cabin at Lowery's, also woke about 2 a.m. He ventured out to move his truck and lawn mower to higher ground.

As he sloshed back to his cabin, water swirled around his calves. Bill figured he'd better keep an eye on the river level. He turned on his outside lights and put on a pot of coffee.

At that moment, a flood gauge about 8 miles downriver — the closest to the campground — marked the river level at 3.81 feet.

Back in North Little Rock, Lewis pulled a state atlas off the shelf and began studying the terrain near Langley, which was being pounded by the storm.

Immediately he noticed that several creeks and streams emptied into the Little Missouri just north of Albert Pike Recreation Area.

He also noticed that the river and campgrounds were in a valley, meaning water running off the mountains could contribute significantly to flooding.

Unbeknownst to forecasters, the river already was rising rapidly.

In 15 minutes, it had risen by nearly a foot.

At the Paxton cabin, Bill stood on his balcony with a cup of coffee. His cabin stilts were 8 feet tall, but Bill now wondered if he should have set the cabin a little higher.

#### CRISIS AT LOOP D

Reuben and Kathryn Cleveland, 70 and 78, were the volunteer camp hosts at Albert Pike. Nothing in their camp host instructions had prepared them for a raging river and terrified campers.

So when a group of people banged on the door of the Clevelands' 1985 Toyota motor home about 2:30 a.m., they weren't sure what to do.

"Call somebody!" a man yelled. "We're all gonna drown!"

The Clevelands had arrived May 24 at Albert Pike. Having worked as camp hosts before, they knew the drill:

Register campers as they arrive.

Call in problems to the Forest Service.

Keep the campsites clean and maintained.

But there was a lot the Clevelands didn't know, like the fact that Loop D sat in a 100-year flood plain. And that a number of flash floods had occurred over the years, one of them just three days



Janice McRae, a fifth-generation Lowery, stands in the cabin area of Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins. The land has belonged to the Lowery family since the late 1800s. The Smiths and Basingers normally stayed at Lowery's.

after Loop D opened in June 2004.

In the mid-90s, high water in what would become Loop D had trapped more than 40 Boy Scouts as they returned from hiking the Eagle Rock Loop Trail. After the Scouts were rescued, park employees assured a scoutmaster that they planned to put in a flood alarm system. Such a system was never installed.

Like many campers, the Clevelands were unaware of the area's tendency to flood. The Forest Service had never put up flash-flood warning signs, so threats of rain or storms went largely unheeded by visitors.

During their orientation, the Clevelands were given maps, an emergency phone list, registration envelopes, a first-aid kit and a telephone connected to a landline.

Because of the nonexistent cell-phone service, the Clevelands' landline would be their only means of communicating with the outside world.

Reuben and Kathryn had worked as camp hosts all over the country. Usually, rangers or park personnel remained close to campgrounds. At Albert Pike, however, the Ranger District Office was nearly a 40-minute drive away and closed at 5:30 p.m.

Rangers didn't patrol at night.

On weekends, a designated deputy from the Montgomery County sheriff's office made rounds at the campgrounds.

The Clevelands were unaware that the storms predicted for June 10 and 11 could cause flash flooding.

No Forest Service employees told them about the flood watches that had been issued. Even if someone had, it's unclear how much that would have helped.

The Ouachita National Forest didn't have an emergency plan or evacuation plan for such an occurrence.

So when people began beating on the door of the Clevelands' motor home, the couple panicked. The district office was closed, leaving them with no employees to turn to. Kathryn decided to



John Lewis, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, sits at the computers he relied on for information on the night heavy rainfall flooded the Albert Pike campgrounds.

#### ABOUT THIS SERIES

Reporters Cathy Frye and Amy Upshaw began conducting interviews for this series in the days following the June 11 flood. In all, they talked to more than 20 survivors, rescuers, relatives and others familiar with the flood.

The *Democrat-Gazette* used those interviews, visits to the ravaged campground and documents from the Arkansas State Police, the sheriff's offices in Montgomery and Pike counties, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service to re-create what happened on the morning of June 11.

The details about Kerri Basinger's and Candace Smith's time with their families were provided by the women themselves.

Information about the Forest Service reaction to weather

emergencies came from a federal review of the agency's response to the flood. District Ranger Gloria Chrismer declined to comment for this article.

When asked why the Forest Service didn't monitor the weather on the night of the flood or why no Forest Service employees told the campground's hosts about the flood watches and warnings, Forest Service spokesman Tracy Farley said, "Weather alerts are provided by the National Weather Service (NWS). Local emergency management agencies, generally at the county level, determine the need to evacuate an area covered by an NWS alert. The Forest Service does not have specific policy that covers weather alerts. Visitors are expected to be aware of the weather forecast for the area they are visiting."

call 911.

It was 2:38 a.m.

As she headed for the phone, Kathryn felt the motor home move.

"Get somebody out here in

a hurry!" she yelled to the 911 dispatcher. "We're all gonna drown!"

The dispatcher asked her to stay on the phone.

"We're already floating!"

Kathryn cried. "I'm hanging up."

#### A MAJOR SITUATION

Six minutes after the Clevelands' 911 call, at 2:44 a.m., Montgomery County deputies began heading toward Albert Pike.

Meanwhile, Bill Paxton still stood on his balcony, anxiously watching the water's rapid rise.

That's when RVs started floating by. Frightened, Bill called Lowery's owners Denver and Janice McRae, who slept soundly. The McRaes' home, while on Lowery land, sat well above the river and away from the cabins.

Bill went back out to the balcony. An RV appeared to be headed straight for his cabin. Bill could see people, illuminated by flashlights, inside.

The motor home hit a tree and became wedged against Bill's porch stairs.

An elderly man inside managed to wrest the door open 18 inches. He squeezed a 9-year-old girl through the narrow opening.

"Take my granddaughter," he begged Bill.

After Bill pulled the child to safety, the man and his wife escaped through the small opening just before the RV shifted and closed the door for good.

Everyone breathed a collective sigh of relief — until the furniture in Bill's cabin started floating.

Bill called the McRaes again.

"The water's coming in the house," he told them.

Janice called 911. She spoke to a Montgomery County dispatcher.

"Get the helicopters! Get ambulances!" she ordered. "We have a major situation here."

Because the Albert Pike area is so remote, the McRaes had cleared a portion of their property so that helicopters could land in the event of an emergency.

But the dispatcher said crews couldn't get a helicopter in until morning.

Rescuers, the dispatcher assured her, were on the way. But he didn't sound that concerned to Janice. After hanging up, she thought immediately of an elderly couple who owned a cabin that didn't sit on stilts.

She and Denver rushed toward the cabin. Water skimmed over the eaves. Janice's heart sank.

The couple, however, had fled to the Lowerys' store. They were safe.

#### 'GET OUT NOW'

By then, forecaster John Lewis had keyed in on the Albert Pike Recreation Area, guessing correctly that warm weather had drawn campers to the area for a long weekend.

He issued a flash-flood statement — an update to the earlier warning, which referred to Albert Pike specifically — and then began calling the sheriff's offices in the hardest-hit counties.

The Montgomery County dispatcher confirmed what Lewis suspected: Water had begun to inundate Albert Pike.

But the dispatcher seemed unalarmed, acting as though flooding at Albert Pike was normal.

If the dispatcher understood the severity of what was happening, he did not convey that to Lewis.

By 3 a.m., the Langley gauge recorded a water level of 9.87 feet — 4 feet higher than it had been 30 minutes earlier.

Within 15 minutes, the level increased nearly 3 more feet.

Creeks overflowed, blocking the roads leading to Albert Pike and preventing rescuers from getting any closer.

At 3:30 a.m., the gauge hit 13.91 feet.

That's when Sgt. Brady Gore and his wife, Gina, were jolted awake by someone pounding on their back door.

"Get up! Get out now!" a voice yelled. Profanities laced the command.

Gina shot up.

*Fire!* she thought.

When the Gores opened the door, they heard the rush of water. Two wet and disheveled strangers stood on the deck under the glow of the family's porch light, cussing and shouting.

"What is the *problem?*?" an irate Gina demanded of the two men. She wondered if she and Brady were about to be robbed.

One of the men pointed his flashlight at the deck.

"That's the problem," he said.

The Gores' cabin sat on a ridge, three rows back from the river, yet water lapped at the deck.

Gina screamed.

The couple dressed and ran out the front door, which faced away from the river. They ran for their cars, which they'd parked near their cabin.

The couple heard loud noises. *POP! BOOM!*

Brady turned toward the sound and saw the cabin just below his tear away from its foundation and float away.

Then an arc of electricity flashed below them.

And everything went black.

# To stay relevant, libraries opening doors to digital age

DAVID SARNO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Kathy DeGrego's T-shirt shows right away that she isn't an old-school librarian.

"Shhh," it says, "is a four-letter word."

That spirit of bookish defiance has guided the makeover of the suburban Denver library system where DeGrego works. Reference desks and study carrels have been replaced by rooms where kids can play Guitar Hero. Overdue book fines have been eliminated, and the arcane Dewey Decimal System has been scrapped in favor of bookstorelike sections organized by topic.

"It's very common for people to say, 'Why do I need a library when I've got a computer?'" said Pam Sandlian-Smith, director of the seven-branch Rangeview, Colo., Library District. "We have to reframe what the library means to the community."

In the struggle to stay relevant — and ultimately to stay open — libraries are reinventing themselves in ways unimaginable even a few years ago, preparing for a future in which most materials can be checked out and read from a

home computer, smart phone or electronic reading device.

University and public libraries are rushing to push as much material as they can onto the Web, so patrons can peruse genealogical records, historical maps or rare volumes without leaving home.

Many public libraries are also becoming digital activity centers, where in addition to books, visitors can find game rooms, computer clusters or Internet cafes. Collections of DVDs have swelled, as has the number of high-definition televisions.

Some traditional librarians worry that experiments aimed at making libraries more accessible could dumb them down.

"If you want to have game rooms and pingpong tables and God knows what — poker parties — fine, do it. But don't pretend it has anything to do with libraries," said Michael Gorman, a former president of the American Library Association. "The argument that all these young people would turn up to play video games and think, 'Oh by the way, I must borrow that book by Dostoyevsky' — it seems ludicrous to me."

Others argue that reinvention is a matter of survival in an age when Google has made the reference desk almost obsolete and printed books are beginning to look more like antique collectibles.

The average number of items checked out per visit by public library users dropped nearly 6 percent between 1997 and 2007, according to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Book checkouts at the New York Public Library alone plunged by 1 million volumes in the most recent fiscal year.

At the 540,000-square-foot Central Library in downtown Los Angeles — the largest public research library west of the Mississippi — few visitors wander the main floors where most of the building's 2 million books are kept. At wooden reading tables, only a few people sit paging through newspapers.

But down the escalator it's a different story. The 70-seat computer center is often packed as patrons read news, watch YouTube videos and scour the Web for jobs.

In the past fiscal year, the library system's patrons checked out 102,000 e-books,

more than twice as many as in the previous year. The number is on track to nearly double again in 2010.

Like regular books, e-books can be borrowed for a few weeks. Then the book deletes itself from the borrower's computer, e-reader or mobile phone.

E-book collections at U.S. libraries grew nearly 60 percent between 2005 and 2008, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. During the same period libraries' print collections grew less than 1 percent, though ink-on-paper works still make up 98 percent of U.S. libraries' holdings.

Digital technology is also allowing libraries to digitize large amounts of their collections, creating a virtual library accessible from any computer.

Libraries are leading the effort to scan centuries' worth of rare, unique and fragile materials as varied as medieval religious manuscripts and antique phone books — whatever they've kept in the basement.

Libraries are reluctant to digitize new best-sellers and other books still in copyright

— roughly anything published since 1923. But there remains a vast trove of classic books, government documents, historical papers and other material not covered by copyright that libraries can scan without fear of litigation. Many of these digital books and documents can be searched, read and even downloaded free.

Libraries have been building their digital collections by stocking electronic versions of century-old classics not covered by copyright and so-called back-catalog books unlikely to appeal to book pirates, including an array of "how-to" and other nonfiction titles. But when it comes to best-sellers, the digital cupboard is often bare.

Some in the library community worry that libraries could be wiped out by the same technological revolution that threatens video rental, music and bookstores, whose wares can now be downloaded in a fraction of the time it takes to drive three blocks and find a parking space.

In response, public libraries in particular are looking to become more like community centers.

At Rangeview in Colorado,

visitors can help cultivate the library's garden, take classes on how to use Facebook or attend *Harry Potter*-themed rock concerts on the library floor.

In Charlotte, N.C., the library district built a separate complex, the Imaginon, with digital equipment that children and teens can use to make blue-screen movies, stop-motion animations and rap songs.

Those who spent their childhood reading *Treasure Island* and *Ramona* in a quiet corner of the stacks may resist the idea that libraries could become frenetic workshops. But advocates say equipping libraries with tools for digital creation may be one way to help young people interact with history and literature in a familiar medium.

"That's how a culture reproduces itself," said Anne Balsamo, a professor of interactive media at the University of Southern California. "It doesn't just make things up willy-nilly, but it also takes time to look back and discover the ways things were done in the past. So yes to rap music and yes to turn-of-the-century poetry."

**Palestinian says no to talks**

Abbas won't negotiate without a halt to building in Jerusalem. — International, 6A



**Five in a row**

NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson wins another Sprint Cup title. — Sports, 1C



# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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**In the news**

■ **Abdullah bin Abdulaziz**, Saudi Arabia's king, is traveling to the U.S. for further medical checks and to receive treatment after examinations showed a slipped disc had caused a blood clot that put pressure on his nerves, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

■ **Brett Miller**, co-owner of the Padre Hotel in Bakersfield, Calif., apologized and offered a free stay and dinner to Hillary Martin after her honeymoon with husband Jason, who was on leave after finishing Marine Corps boot camp, went awry because the 18-year-olds were denied lodging under a hotel policy requiring guests to be 21 years old to get a room.

■ **Chris Bowen**, the Australian Immigration Minister, said protests won't change the result of the visa process for 10 men at the Christmas Island jail who sewed their lips together over delays in processing their refugee applications.

■ **Melissa Wagaman**, 33, of Hagerstown, Md., has been sentenced to five years in prison for breaking into her neighbor's house wearing only a bridal skirt and veil after testifying that cold medicine and marijuana made her hallucinate that she was getting married and that her mother was locked in the neighbor's basement.

■ **Jean-Pierre Bemba**, a former vice president of Democratic Republic of Congo, sees his trial start today at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, over the mass rape and murder of civilians by his followers in the Central African Republic in 2002 and 2003.

■ **Kenneth McAllister**, 33, was fired from the Citgo gas station where he worked in Homewood, Ill., for wearing a T-shirt on which he'd written "Say no to bongz" in protest of the store's decision to sell the devices often used to smoke marijuana.

■ **Natalie Yanish** drew the ace of clubs in a tie-breaker for a seat on the Kingsbury Grade General Improvement District board in Nevada to beat rival Robert McDowell under a state law that allows candidates to settle ties by drawing cards or flipping a coin.

■ **Thomas Steven Sanders**, a Mississippi man who was erroneously declared legally dead in 1994, has pleaded innocent in federal court to kidnapping a 12-year-old Las Vegas girl whose body was found by hunters in Louisiana.

■ **Christopher Gordon**, of Ontario, Canada, has been charged with fraud after reportedly faking terminal brain cancer and then organizing a fundraiser to bilk his friends and family out of \$2,900.

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK**  
**Today** Mostly cloudy skies, with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.  
**High** 73, with south winds at 10 to 20 mph.  
**Tonight** Showers and thunderstorms will be likely.  
**Low** 61.



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Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen pauses as he speaks to the media Sunday in Dublin about Ireland's request for financial aid.

## Irish ask, EU grants loan for bank bailout

LANDON THOMAS JR. THE NEW YORK TIMES  
 DUBLIN — Ireland re- lented Sunday and formally applied for a rescue package worth more than \$100 billion after months of trying to survive its financial crisis with austerity measures and strict budgetary planning.

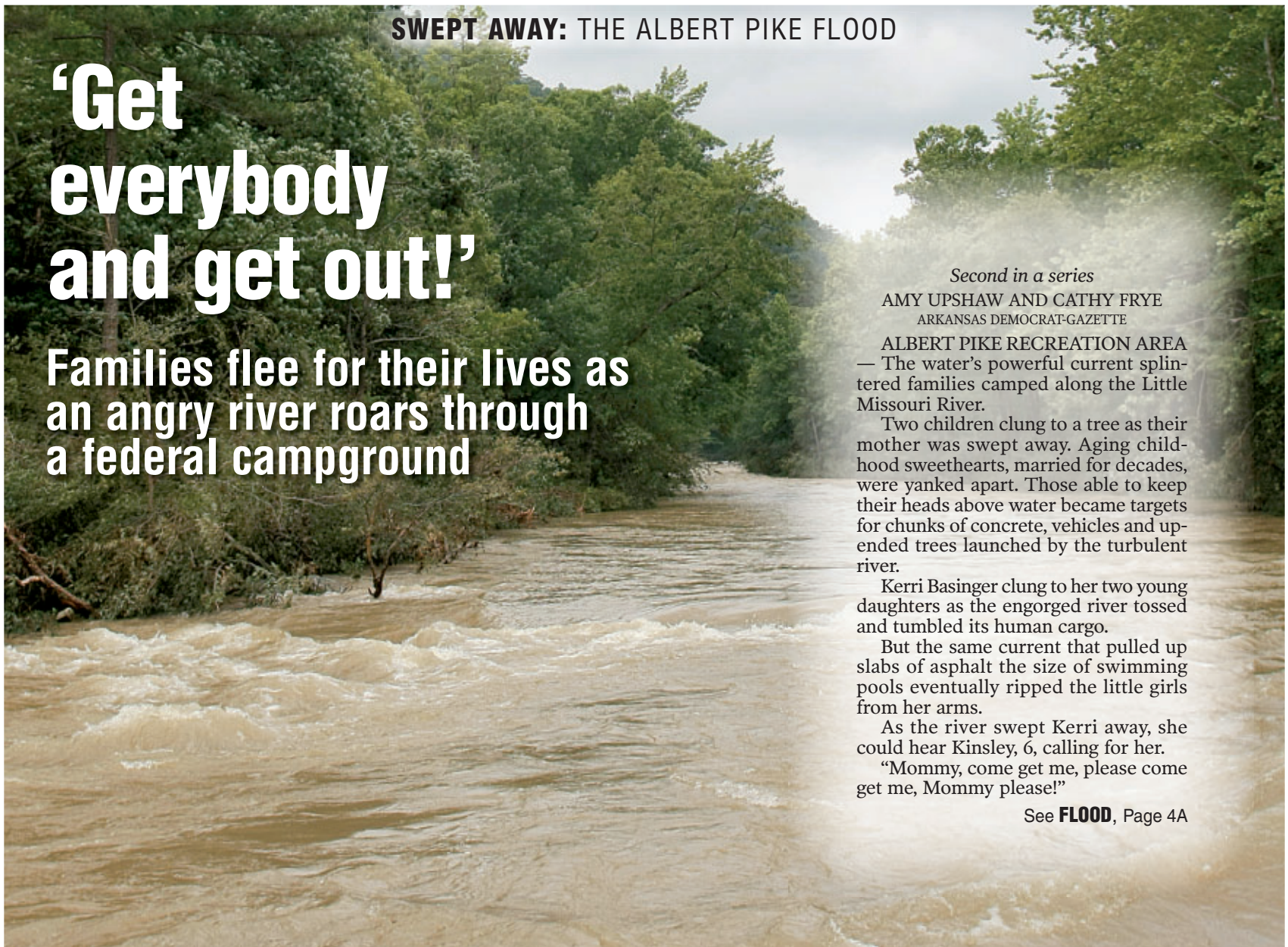
European Union officials, who had been pushing Ireland to accept help, quickly

agreed to the request, committing a staggering amount of money to an ailing member for the second time in six months.

The total amount of the package was not announced, but several officials said it would be between \$109 billion to \$123 billion. Last spring, the EU disbursed \$151 billion to Greece to save it from bankruptcy.

The loans were necessary in large part because of Ireland's faltering banking system, underscoring the extent to which ailing banks remain a threat to recovery two years after the crisis rippled through economies and forced banks around the world to accept bailouts.

Ireland's aid will come from a rescue mechanism See **IRELAND**, Page 2A



**SWEPT AWAY: THE ALBERT PIKE FLOOD**

## 'Get everybody and get out!'

### Families flee for their lives as an angry river roars through a federal campground

Second in a series

AMY UPSHAW AND CATHY FRYE  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

ALBERT PIKE RECREATION AREA — The water's powerful current splintered families camped along the Little Missouri River.

Two children clung to a tree as their mother was swept away. Aging childhood sweethearts, married for decades, were yanked apart. Those able to keep their heads above water became targets for chunks of concrete, vehicles and up-ended trees launched by the turbulent river.

Kerri Basinger clung to her two young daughters as the engorged river tossed and tumbled its human cargo.

But the same current that pulled up slabs of asphalt the size of swimming pools eventually ripped the little girls from her arms.

As the river swept Kerri away, she could hear Kinsley, 6, calling for her.

"Mommy, come get me, please come get me, Mommy please!"

See **FLOOD**, Page 4A

According to a gauge about 8 miles south of the Albert Pike Recreation Area, the Little Missouri River rose to 23.39 feet on June 11. By early 2012, hydrologists hope to determine how high the water got at the campground.

## Taliban vow to force NATO out by 2014

They won't wait for handoff to Afghans

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE  
 PRESS SERVICES

KABUL — The Taliban on Sunday vowed to force the U.S.-led coalition to abandon Afghanistan before a 2014 date set by the alliance for handing over security responsibility to its allied Afghan forces.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a message e-mailed to the media that NATO will be unable to establish a stable government in Afghanistan by that date. He did not mention an offer from President Hamid Karzai for peace talks and eventual reconciliation — an offer rejected by the hard-line Taliban leadership.

Meanwhile, the watchdog panel charged with rooting out fraud in Afghanistan's re-

cent parliamentary election disqualified 19 candidates Sunday who had been announced as winners in September preliminary results.

During a weekend summit in Lisbon, Portugal, NATO leaders agreed to begin handing off security responsibility to Afghan security forces in early 2011, with a full transition targeted for the end of 2014. No timetable was set for the gradual transition of Afghanistan's 34 provinces to Afghan control, and some foreign troops are expected to remain in combat roles after 2014, although most will be in training roles.

Mujahid said the Taliban "will not remain silent even for a single night until and unless the goal of complete See **NATO**, Page 5A



AP/ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO

U.S. soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division control a street from the roof of the police station in West Now Ruzi village in Afghanistan's Panjwai district.

## Arsenal layoffs a big blow to region

JOHN WORTHEN  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WHITE HALL — The economically stressed Arkansas Delta faces yet another financial blow with the coming layoff of 1,100 workers at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Officials across southeast Arkansas are scrambling to prevent the losses from negatively affecting the area's economy.

An arsenal spokesman said that the impact could be as much as \$100 million, mostly in lost property and sales taxes if the workers are forced out of the region to find jobs.

Everyone involved is taking steps to help the affected workers, but no one is sure yet what will happen.

The arsenal announced last week that operations at the disposal complex, which was built inside arsenal grounds in 2002, were completed on Nov. 12, and that the layoffs will be phased over about a two-year period, ending in or before early 2013.

About 30 workers were laid off Thursday.

The facility is currently See **ARSENAL**, Page 2A

## N. Korea enriching uranium, scientist says

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE  
 PRESS SERVICES

SEOUL, South Korea — In secret and with remarkable speed, North Korea has built a new, highly sophisticated facility to enrich uranium, an American nuclear scientist said, raising fears that the North is ramping up its atomic program despite international pressure.

The scientist, Siegfried Hecker, said in a report

posted Saturday that he was taken during a recent trip to the North's main Yongbyon atomic complex to a small industrial-scale uranium-enrichment facility. It had 2,000 recently completed centrifuges, he said, and the North told him it was producing low-enriched uranium meant for a new reactor. He described his first glimpse of the new centrifuges as "stunning."

Hecker, a former director

of the U.S. Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory who is regularly given rare glimpses of the North's secretive nuclear program, acknowledged that it was not clear what North Korea stood to gain by showing him the formerly secret area.

The revelation could be designed to strengthen the North Korean government as it looks to transfer power from leader Kim Jong Il

to a young, unproven son. As Washington and others tighten sanctions, unveiling the centrifuges could also be an attempt by Pyongyang to force a resumption of stalled international nuclear disarmament-for-aid talks.

President Barack Obama's administration has shunned direct negotiations with the North after Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests last See **KOREA**, Page 5A



6 38333 00050 5

# Flood

• Continued from Page 1A

"I can't!" Kerri yelled even as she tried feverishly to reach Kinsley.

"Mommy!"  
Through the darkness, Kerri saw her oldest daughter, Jady, 8, go by, frantically dog-paddling as she struggled against the current, too far away for her mom to save her.

"Keep your head above the water, baby!" Kerri screamed. "Keep your head above the water!"

Again and again, Kerri swallowed water, choked, gasped for air. She became entangled in her pajamas until the current tore her clothes away. Debris pummeled her. Unknown objects banged repeatedly into her head.

*Broken bones. I've gotta have broken bones.*

How strange, she thought, that she felt no pain.

Kerri grabbed at trees, but the branches kept breaking. And then the river would push her down, down, down into its murky depths.

*This is it, she told herself, echoing in her mind the words she'd said to her husband only minutes before the floodwaters consumed them.*

Then, she popped back up to the surface.

*Are you kidding me? If I'm gonna die, let me go now.*

## FATALLY FLAWED

The Basinger family camped by the Little Missouri River every summer, along with their friends, Anthony and Candace Smith, and their children.

Usually, they stayed at Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins, owned by Janice and Denver McRae. They liked the camaraderie that permeated the place.

But on June 10, when the two families arrived at Lowery's, they'd made an impulsive decision to spend their first night at a nearby federal campsite in the Albert Pike Recreation Area's Loop D. The couples' teenage sons wanted to sleep in a tent, and Lowery's didn't allow tent camping.

The Basinger clan consisted of Kerri; her husband, Shane; his son from a previous marriage, Kyler, 14; and Kerri and Shane's two daughters — Jady and Kinsley.

The Smith family consisted of Anthony and Candace; Anthony's son from a previous relationship, Austin, 13; and the couple's two younger children — Joey, 5, and Katelynn, who was about to turn 3.

Austin had brought along his friend Brady Pate, 15.

That night, the three teens bunked down in their tent at Loop D's camper No. 2. The adults and younger children slept in a Wildwood RV.

But neither the Smith and Basinger families — nor any other family there that night — should have been in RVs.

Nearly ten years earlier, when the U.S. Forest Service began making plans to allow camping at Loop D, a soil specialist advised longtime District Ranger James Watson to build only primitive and tent camping spots there because Loop D was in a 100-year flood plain. The specialist worried that RV-camping would disturb the terrain.

"Things such as electricity, water and sewer hookups should not be planned," the specialist said in a letter to Watson.

He also strongly recommended that flash-flood hazard signs be placed there.

But Watson pushed forward with plans to include electricity and water hookups at the new Loop D campsites.

He didn't include the soil specialist's warnings in his environmental reports about the expansion.

A review team appointed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate the flood would conclude that Watson intentionally disregarded the scientist's recommendations "because he wanted the sites to be developed rather than primitive in nature."

Watson did this, investigators would say, because he wanted to meet perceived public expectations for the popular campground.

There also were problems with a hydrologist's elevation reading, which led to confusion about where the flood line was.

The district ranger also failed to tell architects and engineers working on the



Brady Gore, now a state police lieutenant, and his wife, Gina, walk past the fallen utility pole that Kerri Basinger clung to when floodwaters carried her from the federal campground to Lowery's Camp Albert Pike. The Gores' cabin is in the background.



Kinsley Basinger, then five, paddles a float in the Little Missouri River during a 2009 vacation at the Albert Pike campgrounds.

project that Loop D routinely flooded at least a couple of times a year. As a result, no special precautions were taken to elevate or move campsites to make them safer.

Shane Basinger knew none of this, but he still felt uneasy as a thunderstorm hovered over the campground after his family went to bed. He woke repeatedly to check on the weather.

Though there had been Forest Service employees at the campground that day, neither Shane nor any of the other campers had been told of two flash-flood watches — and later, a flash-flood warning — that had been issued for the area.

As the storm continued, Shane grew increasingly worried. He got up, telling Kerri, "I'm fixin' to tell the boys to get out of the tent."

He gave them a choice: The RV or Anthony's pickup. The boys chose the truck. Most of the other tent campers staying at Loops A and B just across the river also abandoned camp.

Their nylon shelters had proved too flimsy for the weather.

After Shane returned to the RV, Anthony went outside to check on the teenagers.

Water swirled around his ankles.

He ran back to the RV and flung open the door.

"Get everybody and get out!" he yelled.

Kerri and Candace gathered their children and stumbled outside in their pajamas. By the time they got to Anthony's pickup, water covered their knees.

The river gushed into the cab, forcing the two families to seek shelter in the pickup's bed.

There was nowhere else to go.

## A RIVER UNLEASHED

At first, trees and debris served as small dams, restraining the river. But when those blockages dislodged, the Little Missouri surged forward.

The result was a mountain tsunami, one that seemed to devour Loop D in one greedy gulp.

As the river consumed the campground, some people awakened only after their temporary homes began floating. Several found themselves trapped by doors and windows they could no longer open.

The water coursed over Anthony's pickup, washing the two families away.

Like Kerri, Candace became separated from her children. The current slammed her into one tree, then another.

Cars and RVs passed her

eyed residents to head for higher ground.

By the time they made it to Brady and Gina Gore's cabin on the ridge above the river, the raging water had submerged some of the cabins below.

The Gores, who had parked on high ground behind their cabin, made it out just in time to see an arc of electricity streak below them. Then the power failed.

Despite the inky blackness, they made their way to a small store uphill from the cabin where other cabin owners had gathered out front.

It was 3:45 a.m. The closest river gauge, about 8 miles south in the town of Langley, measured 15.66 feet.

The Little Missouri had risen nearly 6 feet in 45 minutes.

And it wasn't done.

The sodden group of survivors huddled together in the driving rain, fretting about whether the other cabin owners were safe.

Only later would they hear about a cabin owner across the river who ran through Lowery's RV park rousing sleeping campers. He crammed about 30 people into his cabin, which sat well above the river's reach.

Thanks to him, to the two young men up late drinking and to a series of small miracles, everyone at Lowery's — the cabin owners and families in RVs — made it out.

But a bend in the Little Missouri had turned Lowery's into a receptacle for the remnants of Loop D.

## 'DON'T LET GO'

Janice and Gina were the first to hear Kerri.

"Was that a scream?" one of them asked.

A second cry pierced the night. It sounded as if it came from one of the cabins below. Had they missed someone?

Brady Gore, a sergeant with the Arkansas State Police, ran for his patrol car. He'd driven it to the cabin because he had to work the next morning. After being awakened by Matt and J.D., Brady had driven the car up



to the store. Now he hopped back in, following the two young men as they ran toward the screams.

When Brady pulled up, he joined Matt, J.D. and several other survivors standing on a hill, maybe 40 yards from the window that had become Kerri's fragile lifeline.

Water coursed between them. *We can't reach her. It's impossible.*

"Hang on! Hang on!" the cluster of spectators yelled over and over again.

That's what Kerri needed to hear at that moment. She would come to think of the men as her angels.

Brady ran back to his patrol car, turned his spotlight on Kerri and then picked up his police radio.

The dispatcher wrote down Brady's 4 a.m. message: *Camping at Albert Pike and the water is rising, people are on their cars and campers — they need assistance because the water is still rising and all he has is his radio — someone is in the river calling for help.*

By that time, the water at the Langley gauge had hit 17.70 feet. Fifteen minutes later, 18.98 feet.

At 4:30 a.m., the gauge marked 20.57 feet. It would finally peak an hour later at 23.39 feet.

Kerri held onto the window, her battered body dangling in the water.

"Don't let go!" a voice called out.

"Don't let go!" a second voice yelled.

A piece of floating furniture inside the cabin smashed into Kerri's curled fingers. Pain

• Continued on next page

## THE BASINGER FAMILY

They were camping with the Smiths at Loop D when the flooding occurred.



Kerri and Shane Basinger



Kyler (Shane's son from a previous marriage)



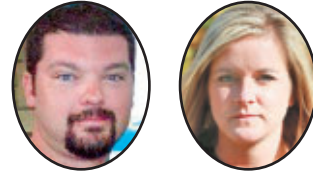
Jady, 8



Kinsley, 6

## THE SMITH FAMILY

With the Basingers at Loop D.



Anthony and Candace Smith



Austin Rachal (Anthony's son from a previous relationship)



Joey, 5



Katelynn, 2

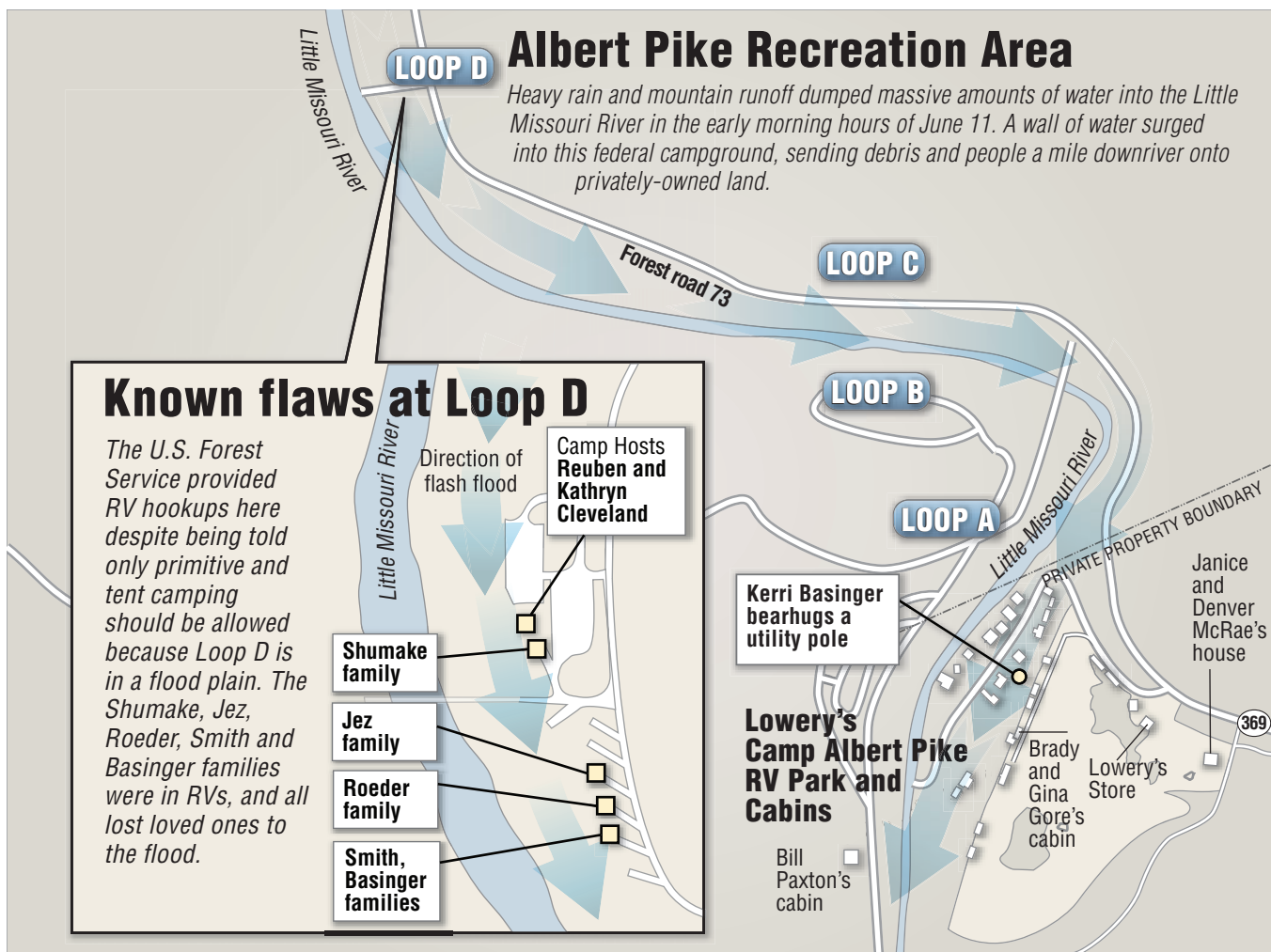


Brady and Gina Gore State trooper and his wife



Janice McRae Owner of Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette





Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**The river flooded even cabins on stilts** in the pre-dawn hours of June 11. Some people fled before the water level peaked. Those who stayed in their cabins described floating furniture and fears that they would have to chop through their roofs to escape.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**After the flood**, Bill Paxton climbs up to his cabin at the Lowery's camp. Behind him is the RV that slammed into the cabin in the early morning on June 11. Bill pulled an elderly couple and their granddaughter through the RV's partially open door and onto his balcony.

Continued from previous page  
shot through her hands.

And Kerri let go. Once again, she was in the swirling, brown water. "There's a pole behind you! POLE!" everyone cried.

Kerri grabbed a wooden utility pole and bearhugged it. By then, the young mother felt certain that her daughters were forever lost to her. No way could two little girls have survived that awful, churning, debris-laden water.

Still, Kerri held on, hoping

her husband and stepson had made it. From the ridge, survivors hurtled words of encouragement.

As the water finally began to recede, Kerri heard renewed vigor in the shouts from above.

"Water's going down! You're going to be OK!"

J.D. did most of the yelling. He had the loudest voice.

"Ten more minutes!" he called. "Just 10 more minutes!"

Brady's wife, Gina, watched for rescuers. But 10 minutes

passed, and then another 10, and then another.

She turned to her husband in frustration.

"Where are they?" she demanded. "When are they coming?"

Brady, who knew from radio traffic that rescuers were stuck behind a rock-slide on the only road into the campground, grabbed Gina's face and locked eyes with her.

"They're not," he said.

And Gina realized they were on their own.

#### ABOUT THIS SERIES

Reporters Amy Upshaw and Cathy Frye began conducting interviews for this series in the days following the June 11 flood. In all, they talked to more than 20 survivors, rescuers, relatives and others familiar with the flood.

The *Democrat-Gazette* used those interviews, visits to the ravaged campground and documents from the Arkansas

State Police, the sheriff's offices in Montgomery and Pike counties, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service to re-create what happened that morning.

The details about Kerri Basinger's and Candace Smith's time with their families were provided by the women

themselves.

Information about the construction of Loop D came from a federal review of the Forest Service's response to the flood and handling of Loop D renovations. Retired District Ranger James Watson could not be found for comment. Attempts to reach him through his former employer also were unsuccessful.

## NATO

Continued from Page 1A  
freedom and the formation of an independent government is achieved. They will not wait for the time of implementation of a given decision or timetable of withdrawal."

NATO officials have said in Kabul that the transition will not necessarily mean troops will be withdrawn, but that they could be moved to regions where they are needed.

President Barack Obama has said a decision to withdraw would be conditional on the situation on the ground. In late 2009, Obama had spoken of starting a gradual pullout in July 2011.

Obama last year ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan to regain ground lost to the Taliban in the years after the U.S.-led invasion of the country one month after the al-Qaida attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The U.S. has the largest contingent — about 100,000 troops. Troops from other nations number about 40,000.

"In the past nine years, the invaders could not establish any system of governance in Kabul and they will never be able to do so in the future," Mujahid said, adding that until 2014 "various untoward and tragic events and battles will take place as a result of this meaningless, imposed and unwinnable war."

A coalition spokesman in Kabul said the surge in troops helped stop the Taliban's momentum in some regions and turn the tide in others.

"With additional forces and resources, we and our Afghan partners have been able to extend our influence to most key Afghan population centers," German Brig. Gen. Josef Blotz said. "Recent developments have shown that progress is possible. Our job now is to build on that progress to increase the momentum that has been achieved."

There was no mention in the Taliban's message of Karzai's effort to begin peace talks, a step supported by NATO. He recently formed a 70-member High Peace Council to find a political solution to the insurgency. The Taliban have threatened to kill any of their followers who talk to the government.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday on the CBS *Face the Nation* program that Karzai is "fully in support" of U.S. and NATO strategy in Afghanistan.

The Taliban message had a stridently nationalistic tone. The Taliban have recently been portraying the U.S. and NATO as neocolonialist powers occupying Afghanistan for material gain — an effort to broaden the appeal of the extremist movement.

Mujahid for the first time mentioned that the movement



**The war in Afghanistan**  
[arkansasonline.com/afghanwar/](http://arkansasonline.com/afghanwar/)

had drafted a comprehensive government policy for Afghanistan should they take control.

Meanwhile, it was not immediately clear if the disqualification of 19 parliamentary election winners would affect the power dynamic in the 249-seat lower house of the Afghan legislature. Most of the 2,500 candidates ran as independents.

The Sept. 18 vote is being watched carefully by Karzai's western allies for signs that the Afghan president is committed to reforming his corruption-ridden government.

The poll was the first since a fraud-marred presidential election last year nearly undermined the legitimacy of Karzai's government and pushed some NATO countries to threaten to pull troops and aid.

Rocket strikes and Taliban attacks on polling centers marked this year's voting day, and allegations of fraud have poured in since, with candidates alleging that high-level government officials tried to negotiate their supporters into office.

The candidates who were disqualified were taken from the race for a variety of reasons, including ballot-box stuffing, distributing fake voter cards and tampering with the results stored in ballot boxes, said Ahmad Zia Rafat, a commissioner who acts as spokesman for the group.

The Electoral Complaints Commission has forwarded those rulings to Afghan election officials so they can issue final poll results, Rafat said.

In fighting around Afghanistan, NATO says, international and Afghan forces killed about 20 insurgents — some of them key Taliban operatives — in a series of attacks over the weekend.

NATO said at least 10 were killed in an airstrike against a Taliban command center in the Kajaki district of Helmand, a southern province where most of the fighting is taking place.

Five others were killed in firefights with NATO forces in the district of Sangin. Most of the forces fighting in Sangin are U.S. Marines.

Another five were killed elsewhere, NATO said.

In nearby Kandahar province, meanwhile, a bomb blast killed three Afghan civilians in Shah Wali Kot district, NATO said.

Information for this article was contributed by Patrick Quinn and Heidi Vogt of *The Associated Press* and by Nicole Gaouette and Todd Shields of *Bloomberg News*.

## Korea

Continued from Page 1A  
year and in the wake of an international finding that a North Korean torpedo sank a South Korean warship in March, killing 46 sailors.

The U.S. State Department announced that the Obama administration's special envoy on North Korea planned to visit South Korea, Japan and China, where he will hold talks with his counterparts starting Sunday.

North Korea has shunned the disarmament talks, demanding the United Nations sanctions imposed for its two nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009 be lifted. Bosworth's trip is part of an effort to coordinate a response to the reports of the new plant, a senior Obama administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said uranium-enrichment activities would violate U.N. resolutions and agreements by North Korea over its nuclear program.

"From my perspective, it's North Korea continuing on a path which is destabilizing for the region. It confirms or validates the concern we've had for years about their enriching uranium," Mullen, the top U.S. military officer, said on CNN's State of the Union.

North Korea told Hecker it began construction on the centrifuges in April 2009 and finished only a few days before the scientist's Nov. 12 visit.

"Instead of seeing a few small cascades of centrifuges, which I believed to exist in North Korea, we saw a modern, clean centrifuge plant of more than a thousand centrifuges, all neatly aligned and plumbed below us," Hecker, a Stanford University professor, wrote.

Hecker described the control room as "astonishingly modern," writing that, unlike other North Korean facilities, it "would fit into any modern American processing facility."

The facilities appeared to be primarily for civilian nuclear power, not for North Korea's nuclear arsenal, Hecker said. He saw no evidence of continued plutonium production at Yongbyon. But, he said, the uranium-enrichment facilities "could be readily converted to produce highly enriched ura-



AP/LEE JIN-MAN

**U.S. nuclear envoy** Stephen Bosworth (right) is greeted by his South Korean counterpart Wi Sung-lac before their meeting today in Seoul, South Korea.



**Tensions between N., S. Korea**  
[arkansasonline.com/nkorea/](http://arkansasonline.com/nkorea/)

nium bomb fuel."

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he doesn't believe the facility is part of a peaceful nuclear energy program.

"I don't credit that at all," Gates said in Bolivia, where he is attending a regional defense conference.

The facility appears to be a uranium-enrichment facility, Gates said, and it could enable North Korea to build "a number" of nuclear devices beyond the handful it is presumed to have already assembled.

Mullen called North Korea "a very dangerous country." "I've been worried about North Korea and its potential nuclear capability for a long time," Mullen said on ABC's *This Week*.

"This certainly gives that potential real life, very visible life that we all ought to be very, very focused on."

Uranium enrichment would give the North a second way to make atomic bombs, in addition to its known plutonium-based program. At low levels, uranium can be used in power reactors, but at higher levels it can be used in nuclear bombs. Hecker's findings were first reported in *The New York Times*.

Bosworth's trip to Asia comes as new satellite images show construction under way

at Yongbyon. That, combined with reports from Hecker and another American expert who recently traveled to the atomic complex, appear to show that Pyongyang is keeping its pledge to build a nuclear power reactor.

North Korea vowed in March to build a light-water reactor using its own nuclear fuel. Hecker, and Jack Pritchard, a former U.S. envoy for negotiations with North Korea, have said that construction has begun.

Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the Seoul-based University of North Korean Studies, said the North's uranium disclosure is meant to force the United States back into nuclear negotiations.

The disclosure, Yang said, also is aimed at a domestic audience during the succession process. "The North wants to muster loyalty among military generals by showing them the North will continue to bolster its nuclear deterrent and uphold its military-first policy," Yang said.

Light-water reactors are ostensibly for civilian energy purposes, but such a power plant would give the North a reason to enrich uranium. While light-water reactors are considered less prone to misuse than heavy-water reactors, once the process of uranium enrichment is mastered, it is relatively easy to enrich further to weapons-grade levels.

Uranium can be enriched in relatively inconspicuous factories that are better able to evade spy satellite detection, U.S. and South Korean experts said. Uranium-based bombs

may also work without requiring test explosions like the two carried out by North Korea in 2006 and 2009 for plutonium-based weapons.

North Korea has not yet demonstrated the capability to refine bomb-making skills to the point that the devices could be attached to long-range missiles. That ability would be needed if the North ever intended to launch an attack far beyond its borders.

But North Korea exports \$100 million in weapons and missiles each year in violation of U.N. sanctions, according to a U.N. expert panel's report that said Iran and Syria may be among countries that received missiles.

The 75-page report, released Nov. 10, also cited evidence compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency, governments and news reports that North Korea is involved in "nuclear and ballistic missile related activities in certain other countries including Iran, Syria and Burma."

Gates warned that North Korea is developing new long-range missiles, and possibly a new mobile intercontinental ballistic missile.

"All of these programs are of great concern to every nation," Gates said.

Hecker said the North Koreans emphasized that the centrifuge facility was operating; although he couldn't verify that statement, he said "it was not inconsistent with what we saw."

"The only hope" for dealing with the North's nuclear program "appears to be engagement," he wrote, calling a military attack "out of the question" and more sanctions "likewise a dead end."

Many questions are still unanswered about North Korea's nuclear program, Hecker wrote, including whether the North is really pursuing nuclear electricity; whether it's abandoning plutonium production; how it got such sophisticated centrifuge technology; and why it's revealing the facilities now.

"One thing is certain," he said. "These revelations will cause a political firestorm."

Information for this article was contributed by Foster Klug, Hyung-jin Kim, Matthew Lee, Anne Gearan of *The Associated Press* and by Bomi Lim, Kyunghye Park, Bill Varner, Catherine Dodge and David Lerman of *Bloomberg News*.

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**Razorbacks in a rout**

Arkansas has no trouble topping Florida Gulf Coast. — Sports, 1C



**Bird of the day**

Turkey lore, turkey at the store, turkey that you pour. — Style, 1E

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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**In the news**

■ **Barbara Bush**, the wife of former President George H.W. Bush, said in an interview with CNN's Larry King that former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who is considering a presidential run in 2012, seems "very happy in Alaska" and added, "I hope she'll stay there."

■ **Richard Williamson**, a Catholic bishop from Britain, faces possible expulsion from his order for hiring a lawyer linked to the neo-Nazi movement to represent him in an appeal of a German incitement conviction for denying the Holocaust.

■ **Jonathan Lee**, a 13-year-old American boy campaigning to turn the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea into a peace park, and his mother were detained by Chinese police in Beijing for protesting near Tiananmen Square before the family departed for Seoul, South Korea.

■ **Asia Bibi**, a Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy against Islam is innocent, said Shahbaz Bhatti, a government minister investigating the case, who added he was hopeful she would be granted a pardon.

■ **Eres Gonzaga**, a Brazilian funeral director, said his funeral home in Governador Valadares has started streaming video of burials, Masses and funeral processions online in real time for those who can't go to the ceremonies, charging about \$60 an hour for the service.

■ **Giovanni Di Stefano**, a lawyer for Tariq Aziz, the longtime international face of Saddam Hussein's regime, said Aziz's defense team will ask for a presidential pardon instead of appealing his death sentence for the Saddam-era persecution of Shiite Muslim political parties.

■ **Cedric Miller**, a New Jersey pastor who called on church leaders to stop using Facebook, saying the website could lead to infidelity, has offered to step down over a past affair involving a three-way sexual relationship with his wife and a male church assistant.

■ **William Hatch** of Fruitland, N.M., has pleaded innocent to federal hate-crime charges after he and two other men were accused of branding a swastika on a mentally disabled Navajo man's arm, shaving a swastika on his head and writing "KKK" and "White Power" on him with markers.

■ **Paul Chambers**, a 27-year-old British man who was convicted of sending a menacing message for saying on Twitter that he would blow up an airport if his flight was delayed, will take his case to Britain's High Court in a test of the limits of free speech on the Internet, his lawyers said.

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK**  
**Today** Partly cloudy with morning thunderstorms.  
**High** 73, with south-southeast winds at 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tonight**  
 Chance of thunderstorms late.



**Low** 52.

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Home delivery  
**378-3456**  
 Outside Pulaski County  
**1-800-482-1121**



AP/HENG SINITH

**Cambodians are pushed** onto a bridge Monday, the last day of celebrations of a water festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

## Stampede kills 349 at Cambodia festival

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

**BANGKOK** — At least 349 people were killed and hundreds more were injured in a stampede at an annual water festival in Cambodia that the prime minister today called the nation's worst tragedy since the murderous Khmer Rouge regime more than three decades ago.

Witnesses in Phnom Penh, the capital, said the stampede

began Monday night when people panicked in a dense crowd on a small island close to the shore of the Bassac River.

Hundreds of people tried to escape over a short suspension bridge. Many died of suffocation or were crushed underfoot. Many drowned when they leapt from the suspension bridge into the water.

The night was filled with

the constant sound of sirens and, at the scene and in the hospital, with the wailing of people discovering dead friends or relatives.

"This is the biggest tragedy in more than 31 years since the Pol Pot regime," Prime Minister Hun Sen said in one of several television announcements through the night, referring to the mass killings of the Khmer Rouge. See **CAMBODIA**, Page 2A

**SWEPT AWAY: THE ALBERT PIKE FLOOD**

## Dawn reveals magnitude of loss

### Rescuers find survivors among devastation

Last in a series  
 CATHY FRYE AND AMY UPSHAW  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

**ALBERT PIKE RECREATION AREA** — Reuben and Kathryn Cleveland strained to keep their heads above water as the Little Missouri River gushed into their 1985 Toyota motor home parked at the federal campground.

"Lord, if it be thy will and we have to go, let us go together," Kathryn, 78, prayed aloud. "But please, spare the children."

That's all Kathryn could think about as the water rose — all those children she had seen playing in the campground hours earlier. *We've lived our lives, she thought. But those babies ...*

The Clevelands were volunteer hosts at the campground's Loop D. No one had warned them of the flash-flood watches and warning issued for the area June 10-11. They had no idea the Little Missouri was flooding at a level that hadn't been seen in more than 500 years.

Kathryn had barely managed to make a 911 call before the motor home began to float.

See **FLOOD**, Page 4A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**Candace Smith (left) and Kerri Basinger** walk along the Little Missouri River five months after surviving the June 11 flood at the Albert Pike Recreation Area.

## Boss over foster-care unit jailed in sex case

AMY UPSHAW  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A supervisor at the office that handles foster children and abuse/neglect cases in Polk County remained in jail Monday after authorities charged him with sexually assaulting a teenage girl in foster care and raping an adult female.

The state Department of Human Services fired Dustin Horn on Monday after learning of his Friday arrest, said Julie Munsell, a spokesman for the agency.

He had his first appearance in court Monday, and Circuit Judge J.W. Looney set bail at \$100,000.

Horn, 41, had been the supervisor of the Human Services Department's Children and Family Services Division office in Mena since August 2005 at a salary of \$49,934 a year.

Information about where he worked before that was unavailable Monday. The Human Services agency declined to release his resume until the 10 days Horn has to appeal his firing passes.

Prosecuting Attorney Tim Williamson said Monday afternoon that the rape charge — a Class Y felony that carries a penalty of 10 years. See **CASE**, Page 2A

## Bid for aid shakes Irish



AP/PETER MORRISON

An Irish army military police officer confronts a Sinn Fein protester who broke through the gates at government buildings Monday in Dublin, Ireland.

Article, 8A

## Taliban chief in peace talks a fake

U.S., Afghan officials unsure of impostor's relation to enemy

DEXTER FILKINS  
 AND CARLOTTA GALL  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES

**KABUL** — For months, the secret talks unfolding between Taliban and Afghan leaders to end the war appeared to be showing promise, if only because of the repeated appearance of a certain insurgent leader at one end of the table: Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Mansour, one of the most senior commanders in the Taliban movement.

But now, it turns out, Mansour was apparently not Mansour at all. U.S. and Afghan officials now say the Afghan man was an impostor and high-level discussions conducted with the assistance of NATO appear to have achieved little.

"It's not him," said a Western diplomat in Kabul intimately involved in the discussions. "And we gave him a lot of money." U.S. officials confirmed

Monday that they had given up hope that the Afghan was Mansour or even a member of the Taliban leadership.

NATO and Afghan officials said they held three meetings with the man, who traveled from across the border in Pakistan, where Taliban leaders have taken refuge.

The fake Taliban leader even met with President Hamid Karzai, having been flown to Kabul on a NATO aircraft. See **AFGHAN**, Page 6A

## Hospital at Level I in care

Children's among top trauma units

EVIE BLAD  
 ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Department of Health has designated Arkansas Children's Hospital a Level I trauma center and the first targeted toward pediatric patients.

The hospital is the third to be named a Level I — the most extensive classification — and the fourth to officially join the state's developing trauma system.

"We're extremely happy that these hospitals are coming on board at the level that they are," said Bill Temple, chief of the injury prevention and control branch of the state Department of Health.

"Since they offer the highest level of clinical care, the more Level Is and Level IIs you have around, the better the quality of care you have to offer traumatically injured around the state."

The Arkansas Trauma System will connect emergency medical services statewide with the goal of getting patients the specific care they need as quickly as possible after injuries resulting from gunshot wounds, fires and automobile accidents.

See **HOSPITAL**, Page 6A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**Kerri Basinger (left) embraces her best friend, Candace Smith,** as the two visit a tree into which their husbands carved both families' names, including those of all their children, during a 2009 vacation at the Albert Pike campgrounds.



**THE BASINGER FAMILY**  
They were camping with the Smiths at Loop D when the flooding occurred.

**Kerri and Shane Basinger**

**Kyler** (Shane's son from a previous marriage)

**Jadyn, 8**

**Kinsley, 6**

# Flood

• Continued from Page 1A

"I'm hanging up!" she'd shouted at the dispatcher, who wanted her to stay on the line.

The river tugged at the Clevelands' bobbing RV. Wedged against an iron-gate pole, it remained providentially moored to its campsite by a water hose.

A devout member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Kathryn recited passages from the Book of Mormon and sent fervent prayers up to God as the water grew deeper.

*This, she thought, is what it's like to look death in the face.*

## A SURREAL SIGHT

Dispatchers had radioed search-and-rescue teams about 3:30 a.m., after receiving at least two 911 calls from the Albert Pike campground.

Two people were standing on top of a camper with flashlights.

Veteran firefighter Roger York figured a couple had hooked up their RV, tried to cross a low-water bridge and got swept off.

That sort of thing had happened before. Usually rescuers made it to the campgrounds quickly, and no one got hurt.

This call had sounded no different. Roger, assistant chief for the Langley Volunteer Fire Department, sprang from his bed and hit the road within a matter of minutes.

When he reached Little Blocker Creek on Arkansas 84, Roger discovered 4 feet of water covering the road.

He could not cross.

Neither could U.S. Forest Service Patrol Capt. Jimmy Hicks and a handful of other rescuers from Montgomery and Pike counties.

Pounding, relentless rain had kept Jimmy to only 35 or 40 miles an hour as he headed from his home in Glenwood toward the campgrounds. As he approached Little Blocker Creek, Jimmy had tried to navigate his Ford Expedition through the water, but the nose of the large SUV veered slightly, making him worry that it would start floating.

So he backed up and waited. More than 30 minutes passed before the water receded enough for rescuers to continue on.

Roger met two more firefighters at the Langley Fire Department, just 6 miles from the Albert Pike Recreation Area.

Jimmy drove ahead. A caravan of vehicles snaked along Arkansas 369, weaving around fallen trees and boulders.

Ditches along either side of the road had turned into fast-moving channels of water. The rescuers made it around two mudslides by strapping their vehicles along the road's left guardrail.

Topping the hill closest to the campground, Jimmy spotted a third mudslide — and a tree — across the road. He put his Ford in four-wheel

drive and tried to press on. But the tree became lodged under his door.

Once again, rescuers found themselves blocked.

Jimmy grabbed an ax from the back of his vehicle and chopped away at the wood, creating an opening just wide enough for the caravan to pass through.

At 5:34 a.m., Jimmy made it to Loop D, the campground that had suffered the brunt of the Little Missouri's surging waters. Roger wasn't far behind him.

Glittering specks of light dotted the area.

*Fireflies,* Roger thought, bemused by the unexpected sight.

But as the caravan drew closer, he realized that the pretty sparkles came from flashlights dropped by fleeing campers when the water overtook them.

Screams echoed from the surrounding treetops.

A bleeding, barefoot man ran by.

"Debbie!" he yelled, preparing to leap into the fast-moving water separating him from several survivors stranded on a flood-created island.

"Debbie!" A firefighter grabbed him and pulled him away from the water.

Meanwhile, Reuben and Kathryn Cleveland pried open the door of their motor home. Dazed and injured campers wandered aimlessly.

Reuben took a moment to thank God. Then he approached Jimmy. He wanted to help.

The small group of rescuers was shaken by what they saw.

Surrounded by panicked survivors, debris and floodwaters, only then did they realized the magnitude of what had happened.

## A SOBERING THOUGHT

Downstream, at the privately owned Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins, Kerri Basinger clung to a partially submerged utility pole, her lifeline after being washed away from the federal campground.

A new channel of the Little Missouri surged between the frightened woman and a group of people standing on the ridge above. They urged her to hang on just a little longer.

One of the onlookers, state police Sgt. Brady Gore, discreetly pulled his wife, Gina, aside.

He wanted to know if she'd driven through the federal campground the day before.

"Yes," Gina replied. "How many people were over there?"

"A lot," Gina said, puzzled by her husband's sudden interest.

"Like how many?" Brady pressed.

"It was full." Gina didn't sit. Brady fell silent.

But she didn't get it. Like everyone else, she was focused on Kerri's plight. And Kerri, she figured, must have been sleeping in a cabin near the utility pole.



Go to [arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood](http://arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood) each day for videos narrated by survivors, additional unpublished photos and investigative reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

had only briefly crossed Gina's mind, and her worst imaginings involved wet and cold campers sitting on a mountainside, waiting impatiently for the water to go down.

Then she bumped into elderly Loretta Wiley whose cabin had been nearly submerged.

"I wish the sun would come up," Gina told her neighbor.

Loretta shook her head. "Oh, honey," she sighed. "When that sun comes up, it's going to be a whole lot worse."

## LETTING GO

Umpire-Athens volunteer firefighter Cohen Davis was among the first group of rescuers to arrive at Lowery's.

He took one long look at Kerri's precarious hold on that pole and put on a life jacket. He grabbed a second one for Kerri.

"You ain't going in," one of the onlookers told the 26-year-old firefighter. "You're crazy."

"I'm going in," Cohen declared.

Cohen didn't know what kind of injuries Kerri had suffered. If she passed out or let go of the pole, she was a dead woman. She would be no match for the current.

Cohen tied himself to utility lines strung between two

sweetgum trees. Then, hand-over-hand, above the water, he worked his way toward Kerri. When he reached her, she broke down.

"Are you hurt?" he asked. "My arm's broken," she sobbed.

Cohen could see Kerri's arm had a bad gash, but it wasn't broken.

"Where were you camped at?" he asked.

"Loop D," Kerri told him. Cohen was shocked.

Her campsite was nearly a mile away.

"Where's my two little girls and husband?" Kerri asked.

"I don't know," Cohen said, tying a rope around her.

Despite the rope and life jacket, Kerri refused to let go of the pole.

"I can't go across this," she whimpered.

"You have to trust us," he urged.

At that moment, in the distance, a man called for her.

"Kerri," she heard the voice say.

"That's my name," she told Cohen.

*There's someone else left,* she thought.

"Kerri. We're OK!" the voice called again.

With renewed hope, Kerri let go, allowing Cohen and the current to take her toward higher ground.

Rescuers rushed her to the hospital, where doctors determined that in addition to the deep gash, Kerri had suffered broken ribs and a concussion.

While there, Kerri learned that her husband and daughters were dead. Her stepson, Kyler, had survived.

In the days and weeks after the flood, Kerri would tell herself she must have imagined the voice calling her name.

Months later, she would ask Cohen about that moment.

He had heard the voice too.



As the water went down, Candace Smith, Kerri's best friend, gradually slid down the tree she'd managed to grab when the river swept her away.

Like Kerri, Candace had become separated from her husband, Anthony, and their two young children, Joey, 5, and Katelynn, almost 3.

For the longest time, she could hear only the rush of water. But as the roar faded and the sun began its rise, she heard voices.

They belonged to her stepson, Austin, 13; Kerri's stepson, Kyler, 14; and the boys' friend Brady Pate, 15.

Candace called out. Then she and the teenagers stood there, in the woods, waiting for the helicopters. That's what would happen in the movies, Candace thought. Surely they would hear them any minute now, or see them, plucking other survivors from the treetops.

But there was only silence.

Overwhelmed, Candace collapsed.

The three teenagers wandered away, with Kyler and Austin calling out for their dads.

"Do not leave!" Candace shrieked. "Come back!"

When the boys returned, they brought a survivor with them.

The boys left again. Came back with two more survivors.

Despite Candace's protests, they continued to search for their missing family members.

It was Austin who broke the news to Candace.

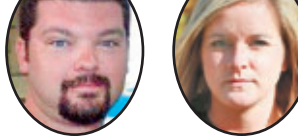
"I found Joey," he said. "Where?" she cried.

Austin simply shook his

• Continued on next page

## THE SMITH FAMILY

With the Basingers at Loop D.



**Anthony and Candace Smith**



**Austin Rachal** (Anthony's son from a previous relationship)



**Joey, 5**



**Katelynn, 2**



**Brady and Gina Gore** State trooper and his wife



**Janice McRae** Owner of Lowery's Camp Albert Pike RV Park and Cabins

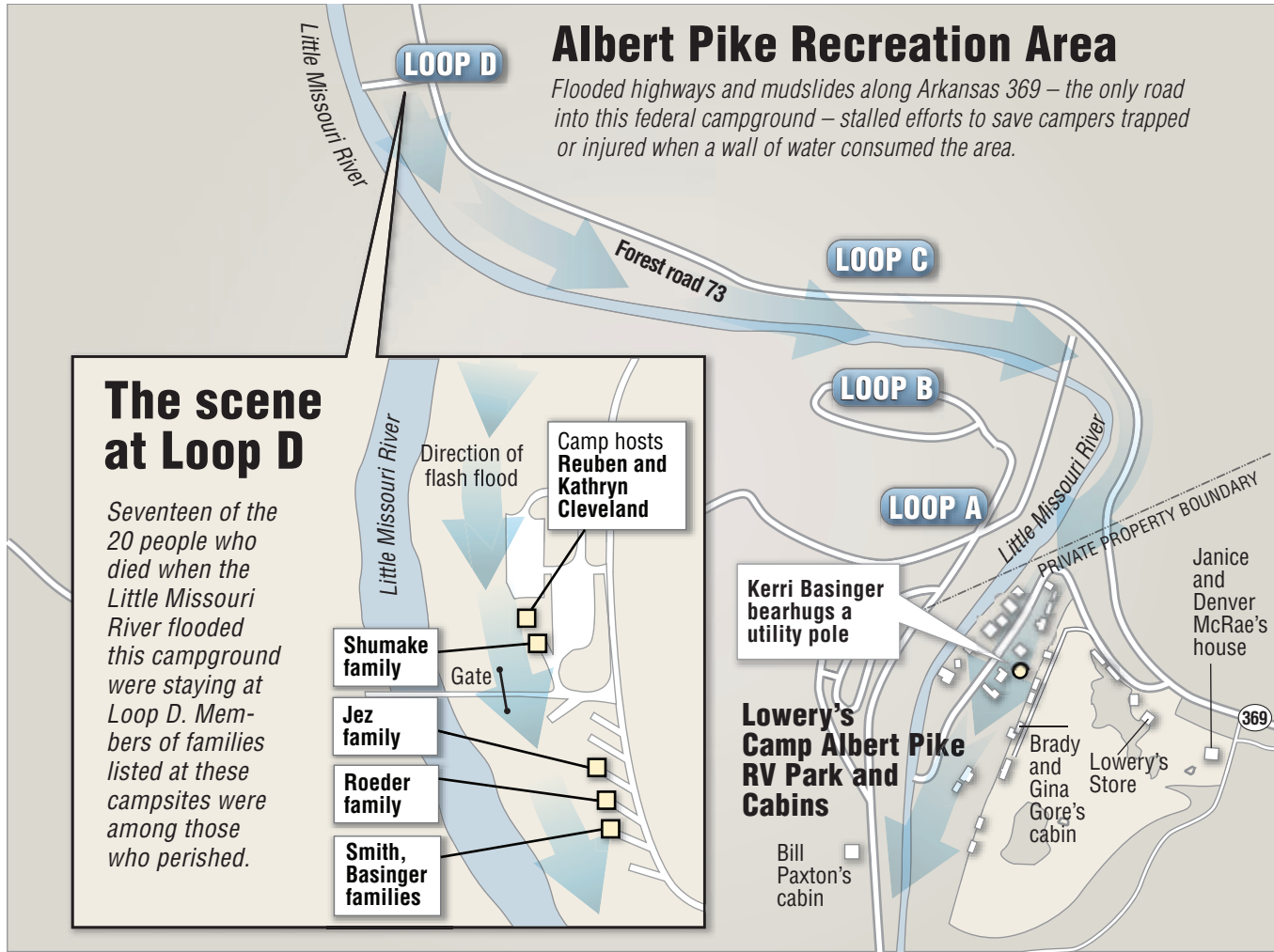


**Bill Paxton's cabin**



**Kerri Basinger** bearhugs a utility pole

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette







Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**John Lewis, a forecaster** for the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, spent the early morning of June 11 monitoring storms and growing increasingly alarmed about the weather conditions in the Albert Pike area. He called law enforcement dispatchers to make sure they knew about flash-flood warnings he had issued.

• Continued from previous page

head.  
“I know, baby,” Candace said. “I know. Just take me to him.”

Austin began walking. He stopped, then pointed toward the ground with his thumb.

“There’s my Joe Joe.”  
The little boy lay utterly still, this sprightly towhead who had once gleefully painted himself banana-yellow after getting into Candace’s craft supplies.

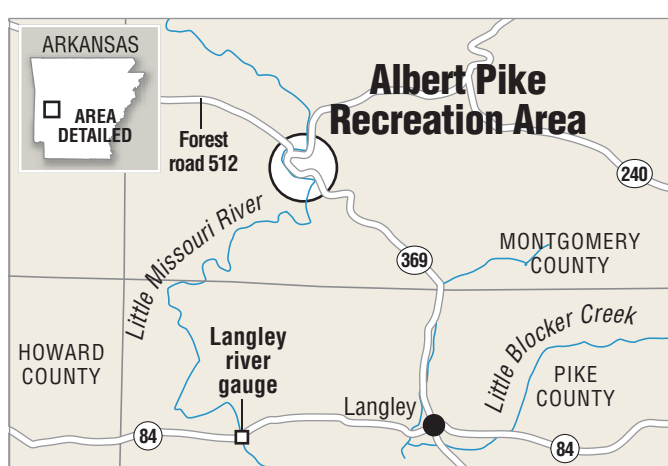
Katelynn’s body would be found later. The river had claimed her too.

For nearly an hour, Candace sat with Joey, disbelieving.

She heard shouts. On the other side of the water separating Candace from the rest of the campground, a group of rescuers waved and hollered. They wanted to come and get her.

“I’m not leaving my baby here!” Candace yelled.

“Ma’am, we gotta get you out!” one of the men replied.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

“I’m not leaving him.”  
A rescuer crossed over the rushing water by rope.

He pleaded with Candace to put on the life jacket. Still, she balked.

“I promise you, I will get your baby,” he said. “But we’ve got to get you out of here.”

As the volunteer firefighter helped pull her across the river, he made a confession: “I

just signed up to shoot a water hose. I never knew I’d have to do anything like this.”

#### ‘I KNEW IT’

National Weather Service forecaster John Lewis had spent the night tracking the storm system that caused flash flooding at Albert Pike.

In the days before, the system had triggered flooding along the Guadalupe and

Comal rivers in central Texas, killing one tourist.

Realizing this scenario could unfold in Arkansas, Lewis’ colleagues had issued two flash-flood watches on June 10.

But Forest Service employees never relayed news of the watches to the camp hosts or campers at Albert Pike. And the closest tower that would have carried the information to weather radios had fallen down nearly two years before.

Though the flood threat increased throughout the night, no one from the Forest Service had monitored the storm. So when Lewis issued a flash-flood warning for portions of Montgomery and three other counties just before 2 a.m., it went unheeded.

Over the next two hours, Lewis had called sheriff’s offices in those areas, including Montgomery County. Dispatchers there assured him they were aware of — and responding to — flooding at



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK McFARLAND

**Langley volunteer firefighter Roger York** was among the first rescuers who made it to Loop D. He and the others were shaken by the devastation.

#### ABOUT THIS SERIES

When the *Democrat-Gazette* approached Kerri Basinger and Candace Smith about participating in this series, they were reluctant.

Describing the events of that night was painful. But the two women agreed to a series of interviews, including one at Albert Pike Recreation Area, where they lost their husbands and young children.

In a letter to the newspaper, they explained their decision:

*This is our story, one of many that occurred that night, one that plays over and over again in our minds.*

*What could I have done differently, what could others have done differently?*

*Most of all, what can we change so that others don’t have to go through what we have?*

*How can we get our message out and understood?*

*We know our story is difficult to read, but imagine if it was yours. We believe our calling is to help others by telling our story and in doing so, prompting change in the Forestry system nationwide.*

Aside from interviews with Kerri and Candace, reporters

Cathy Frye and Amy Upshaw also interviewed more than 20 survivors, rescuers and others, including Janice McRae, now-Lt. Brady and Gina Gore, Roger York, Jimmy Hicks, Kathryn Cleveland, Cohen Davis and forecaster John Lewis.

They used those interviews, visits to the ravaged campground and documents from the Arkansas State Police, the sheriff’s offices in Montgomery and Pike counties, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service to re-create what happened that morning.

Frye and Upshaw also relied on documents to accurately describe the severity of the June 11 flood. A hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey determined that the flood was “greater than a 500-year flood event,” according to the documents released by the Agriculture Department.

In November, Frye and Upshaw saw the yellow butterflies mentioned in the story.

Albert Pike.

The Montgomery County dispatcher hadn’t seemed alarmed.

Neither he nor Lewis had any idea Loop D and large portions of Lowery’s now sat underwater and that campers were fighting for their lives.

Another forecaster working with Lewis had made one

last call to the Montgomery County sheriff’s office about 4:45 a.m.

The dispatcher described the same situation as before: flash flooding and some high-water rescues.

Not wanting to interfere, the forecasters didn’t call

• Continued on next page

## Victims of the flood

To see a video tribute to those killed in the flood, please visit [www.arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood](http://www.arkansasonline.com/albertpikeflood)



**SHANE EDWARD BASINGER**, 34, of Shreveport made his family — wife, Kerri, son Kyler, 14 and two daughters, Jady, 8, and Kinsley, 6 — the center of his life. He

worked at his friend Anthony Smith’s farm and at Intier Automotive. He spent his free time fishing, barbecuing and hunting. Shane was a Dallas Cowboys fan, the life of just about any social gathering and a daddy who doted on his little country girls.



**JADYN RHEA BASINGER**, 8, of Shreveport was born on Cinco de Mayo. She was her daddy Shane’s shadow, tagging at his heels whenever he was

outside. Jady loved putting on makeup and painting her nails, but shunned frilly clothes in favor of mismatched jeans and T-shirts, and her beloved boots. Her parents called her JJ.



**KINSLEY ANN BASINGER**, 6, of Shreveport was a St. Patrick’s Day baby. She was a sweet and quiet little girl who, like her sister, Jady, loved wearing boots.

She also adored hair bows. Kinsley still slept with her baby blanket, which had been patched and sewn back together so many times it was barely possible to make out its moons, stars and bears. Her nickname was Anny.



**JULIE FREEMAN**, 53, of Texarkana, Texas, lived next-door to her granddaughter, Kylee Sullivan. She loved shopping for and spoiling the little girl.

Julie also was her daughter Amanda Willis’ best friend and “the smartest woman alive.” She was a training coordinator for the Defense Logistics Agency and a member of Highland Park Baptist Church. She was married to Gerald Freeman.

**KADEN JEZ**, 3, of Foreman loved wearing yellow boots and helping his beloved Nana, Sheri Wade, paint. He shared his grandmother’s fondness for barrel-racing and rodeos. The minister of the Foreman Church of Christ, where Kaden attended church and Vacation Bible School, described the little boy as “the sunshine of everybody’s life,” according to the *Christian Chronicle*. He often left Sunday School singing “Jesus Loves Me.”

**LESLIE JEZ**, 23, of Foreman was a devoted mother to her son, Kaden, and the wife of Adam. Relatives say that walking into the Jez home evoked smiles because it brimmed with love. Leslie was a country girl who embraced a simple lifestyle, riding horses and camping, according to the *Texarkana Gazette*. She was close to earning a college degree in elementary education.



**DEBRA McMASTER**, 44, of Stamps taught geometry and algebra at Spring Hill High School near Hope. She left her career as a pharmacist because she felt she was called

to teach. Co-workers said that during the flood, Debra helped her husband place their daughters in a tree and then helped a mother and young child get to safety before being swept away herself.



**GAYBLE MOSS**, 7, of Texarkana, Texas, had just finished first grade at St. James Day School, where she was known for her sunny smile and helpful nature.

Relatives describe her as impish and always looking for her next adventure. She especially loved a trip to New York. She had been looking forward to camping at Albert Pike with her best friend, Kylee Sullivan.

**KAY ROEDER**, 69, of Luling, La., was born in Stamps, according to the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. Every summer, she spent two weeks at Albert Pike, a place she adored and



had visited since age 9. Kay was there with her son, Bruce, his wife, Debbie, and several other relatives on June 11. Kay, who retired as a maintenance administrative

assistant at Occidental Chemical, had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**BRUCE ROEDER**, 51, of Luling, La., had joined his mother, Kay, his wife, Debbie, and other relatives on an annual camping trip to Albert Pike. A family friend told the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* that Bruce woke up the morning of the flood and ushered many relatives uphill to safety. But when he turned back to get those who remained, the water was too high. He was the vice president of Aegis Construction Co. and the father of two.



**DEBBIE ROEDER**, 51, of Luling, La., was born in Oklahoma, according to the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. She was at Albert Pike with her husband, Bruce, her mother-in-law and several other relatives. She worked as a production planner for the Coca-Cola Co. in Louisiana. She and Bruce had two children.



**ERIC SULTZ**, 38, of Maud, Texas, was easygoing and a die-hard fan of the Oakland Raiders football team — a fondness he developed growing up in California. His identical twin brother described Eric as a role model for him and for Eric’s three children. “He was my mentor, and he showed me a lot of things,” his brother said. “He was a great guy.” Eric was camping for the first time at Albert Pike with his girlfriend, Sheri Wade, and her family.



**NICHOLAS SHUMAKE**, 8, of De Kalb, Texas, was a second-grader at James Bowie Elementary School and a member of Pinkham Memorial

Missionary Baptist Church. Family members called him “Nic” and described him as a little firecracker who loved spending time with his grandparents, Robert and Wilene Shumake. The three were camping at the time of the flood. Friends on R.I.P. Nicholas Shumake’s Facebook page describe a boy who offered hugs and smiles freely, both in school hallways and at church.



**ROBERT SHUMAKE**, 68, of De Kalb, Texas, was married to his childhood sweetheart, Wilene. The couple grew up in the nearby community of New Hope. He was a retired

leaderman in shipping and receiving at the Red River Army Depot, and a member of Pinkham Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. He and Wilene had been camping at Albert Pike for decades and loved taking their grandson, Nic, with them.



**WILENE SHUMAKE**, 67, was a retired accounting technician at the Red River Army Depot and a member of Pinkham Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. She was



married to Robert Shumake, her childhood sweetheart.  
**KYLEE SULLIVAN**, 6, of Texarkana, Texas, had just finished first grade with her best friend Gayble Moss, and couldn’t wait to vacation at Albert Pike with the girl she called her “sister.” Like Gayble, Kylee loved to sing and dance. She adopted only rescue animals as pets and doted on three dogs, two gerbils and 10 fish. Family members say she had a big heart.



**ANTHONY KEITH SMITH**, 30, of Gloster, La., loved playing the guitar and singing with his wife, Candace, and children, Austin Rachal, 13, Joey, 5,

and Katelynn, almost 3. He worked on his family’s 358-acre farm and belonged to the Louisiana National Guard. Like his buddy, Shane Basinger, Anthony loved to fish, grill and roam country back roads around the farm. He was a New Orleans Saints fan.



**JOEY SMITH**, 5, of Gloster, La., was a daddy’s boy by day and mama’s boy by night. He looked up to his older brother, Austin. Joey loved playing T-ball but

announced at his kindergarten graduation that he wanted to be a football player when he grew up. His parents called him Joe Joe, but Joey chose a second nickname for himself: “J-dog.” He said it was his “cool” name.



**KATELYNN SMITH**, almost 3, of Gloster, La., was a country girl who adored tutus. Her favorite one was hot pink, and she wore it with everything. She loved

to sing with her daddy, Anthony, while he played his guitar. Her top two requests were “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” and “You Are My Sunshine,” which her mother, Candace, sang to her at bedtime. Everyone called her Katybug.



**SHERI WADE**, 43, of Ashdown was camping at Albert Pike with her family, including daughter, Leslie Jez, and her grandson, Kaden; and

Sheri’s boyfriend, Eric Sultz, Sheri, whom Kaden called “Nana,” loved rodeos and devoted much of her time to her family. Friend Cherie Trowler described her as, “a tough, free-spirited person with good morals.”

• Continued from previous page

again. When the sun rose at 6:04 a.m., Lewis was nearing the end of his shift.

He drove home to watch a little television so he could unwind before going to bed. Between bites of cereal, he flipped through the stations.

Lewis stopped on Channel 4 just long enough to see the breaking-news alert about an unfolding tragedy. As soon as the news anchor said "Albert Pike," Lewis' heart sank.

He picked up the phone and called his boss, John Robinson.

"I knew it. I knew this was going to happen," he told Robinson.

Lewis felt like nothing he'd done in the hours before dawn had made a difference. To a man in the business of saving lives, that was a devastating thought.

Months after the flood, he'd say "I would have liked to be the guy to drive down there with a bullhorn and wake those people up."

Co-workers and family reassured Lewis, telling him he had done everything he could to warn the campers.

But that morning, he couldn't be consoled.

And for the first time in his career, he cried.

★ ★ ★

For the next several hours, Candace and Austin sat on a bench outside the Lowery's store, waiting.

Surely Anthony, a rugged outdoorsman, had survived. Any minute, he'd saunter out of those woods.

Time crept.

Austin thought he heard his dad calling for him.



Special to the Democrat-Gazette

**For Candace and Kerri**, butterflies bring comfort.

"No, baby, I didn't hear that," Candace said.

The truth slid through her mind, unbidden.

*He's not coming back.*

"This is it," she finally said aloud. "This is all we have."

"No," her stepson protested. "Dad's coming."

"Austin, look at me," Candace ordered.

She struggled for composure, for the right words.

"It's just us."

★ ★ ★

Since the flood, Candace and Kerri have returned to Albert Pike many times.

In years past, when the two mothers walked these woods, they were followed by their rough-and-tumble brood.

Now it's the butterflies that tag at their heels.

The first time Candace and Kerri were able to laugh over memories of their children, one of the delicate insects danced above them.

When they sat at a picnic

table on a brisk November day, crying and aching over the loss of their little ones, yellow butterflies swirled around them.

And once, as the two friends stood before a makeshift memorial to their families, an orange-and-black butterfly landed on Kerri.

After a brief rest, it flitted to the wooden plaque and settled on the word "family."

The butterfly next skimmed a cluster of flowers before alighting on Candace.

When it returned to the plaque, it once again landed on "family."

For Candace and Kerri, that precision conveyed a simple message:

*We're still with you.*

**EPILOGUE**

*Twenty people died in the flood.*

*Eight were children.*

*All but three of the victims came from Loop D.*

*Like Kerri, Candace*

*lost her husband and two*

youngest children. Both of their stepsons survived.

*"It's a comfort knowing our babies are with their daddies, that they're not alone," Kerri says.*

*To this day, she and Candace struggle to understand why they were left behind. Their husbands were so much stronger than they were. Why didn't the men make it?*

*The two friends finally concluded that Shane and Anthony expended all of their energy helping others.*

*And now Kerri and Candace feel they must do the same.*

*They believe it's their responsibility to make sure Albert Pike, a beloved campground for generations of families, is made safe.*

*"We don't want Albert Pike to close forever," Candace says. "We want it to be opened for thousands of people to enjoy like our families did. We want what should have been done, done now."*

*After the flood, neither woman could imagine returning to the homes they once shared with their families.*

*So they are each staying with relatives until the house they plan to share is completed.*

*Janice, the owner of Lowery's, has closed her RV park for good. She says she would never sleep well again knowing people were camping there. She has commissioned a memorial for those who lost their lives.*

*The U.S. Forest Service hasn't decided whether Albert Pike will ever reopen to campers.*

**Four young victims**

**The Smith and Basinger families** each lost two children. Joey Smith, 5, (right) and his sister Katelynn, almost 3 (bottom left), grew up playing with the Basinger girls: Kinsley, 6, and Jady, 8. All looked forward to the annual Albert Pike vacation, where they romped along the river.



Special to the Democrat-Gazette

**Hospital**

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Now, patients in many parts of the state are taken to the nearest emergency room, even if they have severe injuries — including head wounds — that can't be treated at that facility.

Under the trauma system, patients will be routed directly to hospitals capable of treating their particular injuries.

Arkansas is among three states that don't yet have fully operational trauma systems.

Arkansas' injury-related mortality rate is 50 percent higher than the U.S. average, Health Department Director Paul Halverson has said. Organizers expect the trauma system to reduce injury-related deaths by at least 25 percent.

The system is funded by an increase in tobacco taxes that was signed into law in 2009, providing grants for training, hospital improvements and ambulance upgrades.

Eligible hospitals can seek one of four levels-of-care designations, with Level I being the most extensive and Level IV being the least demanding on a hospital's resources.

Level I and II trauma centers are the most clinically intensive, Temple said. The designations require them to staff doctors from various specialties around the clock.

Level I centers face additional requirements in the areas of research, community education and injury prevention.

"It's about getting every hospital to perform to its capacity," said Dr. Todd Maxson, trauma director at Children's



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

**Robyn Lemay** (left) and **Lawrence Smith**, both registered nurses, attend to a patient who had just been brought into a trauma treatment room in the emergency room Monday afternoon at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

and trauma consultant for the Health Department. "If you can get every hospital to perform to its capacity, then every citizen in the state has a safety net."

Arkansas Children's Hospital received the four-year designation after an extensive review by a three-member team of national trauma experts earlier this month. The team, assembled by the state Health Department, reviewed the hospital's emergency room, operating room, intensive care unit, blood bank, radiology and rehabilitation programs, Maxson said.

To prepare for its trauma system status, Children's hired two trauma directors and added nurse practitioners, care coordinators and operating

room staff.

The Pediatric Level I designation required special overview of the hospital's ability to factor the developmental needs of children — ranging from infants to teenagers — into their care, Maxson said.

The hospital, which already treats adults in the state's only burn unit, may be required to treat some adult trauma patients if other Level I centers exceed capacity in the case of equipment failure, staffing shortages or large-scale events, he said.

"If the patient needs exceeded our collective resources in the city, Children's would move beyond our pediatric-only status and take on other patients," Maxson said.

Trauma Nursing Director John Recicar said the hospital also provided additional training for its nurses and set up nationally recognized protocols for caring for children in emergency situations in preparation for the certification.

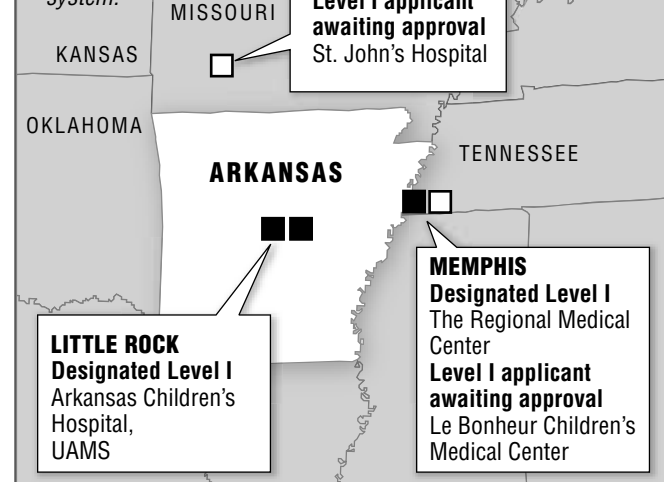
Arkansas Children's Hospital will seek in 2011 Level I certification from the American College of Surgeons after a voluntary review by the national organization.

"It's more prestigious, and it will show that we're functioning at a higher level even than the state is," Recicar said.

Gov. Mike Beebe announced in September the first three hospitals designated as trauma centers under the state's system. The University of Ar-

**Level I trauma centers**

The Arkansas Department of Health has certified three hospitals as level I trauma centers. Two others have applied for the designation, the most extensive under the state's developing trauma system, expected to be partially functional in 2011. In all, 86 hospitals in Arkansas could be a part of the new trauma system. Of those, 73 have requested designation as one of the four levels set out in Arkansas' trauma system.



SOURCE: Arkansas Department of Health Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

kansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock and the Regional Medical Center at Memphis were designated Level I centers, and Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff was granted a Level II designation.

Of 86 Arkansas hospitals that qualify to join the trauma system, 73 have applied for some level of designation, said Temple, the Health Department branch chief.

A centralized communications center will be operational in January, first assisting in patient transfers between hospitals and eventually linking emergency medical providers throughout the state after they purchase a new radio system.

Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services, a central Arkansas emergency medical services provider, will organize the trauma system's call center under a \$906,000 contract renewable for up to six years.

Participating hospitals will be required to update their status on a chart that shows their capabilities in various treatments, such as imaging and treating burns.

The color-coded system will allow facilities to note if doctors are on staff, if emergency rooms are at capacity and if equipment is functioning to aid in transport decisions, MEMS Director Jon Swanson told the Governor's Trauma Advisory Council in October.

**Ireland**

• Continued from Page 1A

economy" to "Irish consumers and Irish businesses. That has to be the primary focus of Irish banks."

The United Kingdom and Sweden may contribute bilateral loans, the EU said in a statement. Lenihan declined to say how big the package will be, saying that it will be less than \$136 billion. Goldman Sachs Chief European Economist Erik Nielsen said Sunday that the government needs \$88.5 billion to fund itself for the next three years and \$40.8 billion for the banks.

Talks will focus on the government's deficit-cutting plans and restructuring the banking system, the EU said in a statement. The deficit will total about a third of gross domestic product this year, including injections to banks.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in Berlin that "tough" conditions should be applied to the aid and that an increase in the corporate tax should be considered.

Irish banks may get immediate capital injections, Matthew Elderfield, the country's

**More information on the Web**  
A look at Europe's financial crisis  
arkansasonline.com/greece/

head of financial regulation, said in a speech Monday. The country's two biggest lenders need at least \$6.8 billion immediately, Ciaran Callaghan, an analyst with NCB Stockbrokers, wrote in a note to clients on Thursday.

Ireland nationalized Anglo Irish Bank Corp. in 2009 and is preparing to take a majority stake in Allied Irish Banks Plc, the second-largest bank.

The package for Ireland will total as much as 60 percent of gross domestic product, compared with 47 percent for Greece.

Cowen plans to announce the government's four-year budget plan this week and said an agreement with the EU and the IMF will come "in the next few weeks."

"The most important issue is the passing of this budget," Cowen, 50, told reporters. After that "it's my intention to seek a dissolution" of the government. When asked about

speculation he planned to resign, Cowen said he wanted to continue leading his Fianna Fail party.

Parliamentary support for Cowen evaporated Monday after the Green Party, his junior coalition partners, called for a January election and said he "misled" voters over the past two weeks. Two independent lawmakers have also said they may not support the budget, which is scheduled for Dec. 7.

Irish officials initially resisted pressure from the EU to take any aid, saying they were fully funded until the middle of 2011. European leaders sought to head off contagion from Ireland and reduce pressure on the European Central Bank to prop up the country's lenders by providing them with unlimited liquidity.

Cowen defended his reversal on the need for aid. "I don't accept I'm the bogeyman," he said. "Now circumstances have changed, we've changed our policies."

Activists from the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party stormed the entrance to Cowen's central Dublin office Monday and scuffled with police.

Officers clubbed and shoved back protesters with

their batons. One officer had a bloody cheek following the melee.

The bailout follows two years of budget cuts that failed to restore market confidence as the cost of shoring up the financial industry soared.

Lenihan canceled bond auctions for October and November and announced \$8.2 billion of austerity measures for 2011 on Nov. 4 in a bid to restore investor confidence. Those efforts failed after German Chancellor Angela Merkel triggered an investor exodus by saying bondholders should foot some of the bill in any future bailout.

Yields on bonds of Spain and Portugal have jumped amid concern that fallout from Ireland would spread. The extra yield that investors demand to hold Portuguese 10-year bonds instead of German bonds climbed to a record 484 basis points on Nov. 11.

"Speculative actions against Portugal and Spain are not justified, though it can't be excluded," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said Monday on RTL Luxembourg radio.

Information for this article was contributed by Shawn Pogatchnik of The Associated Press.

**Caribbean cruise sees drug arrest**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A suburban body shop owner accused of helping to run one of the largest drug smuggling organizations in the Caribbean was arrested Monday as he took a family vacation on a cruise ship.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents had been tracking Jorge Luis Figueroa Agosto as part of an investigation into the organization purportedly led by his older brother, Jose Figueroa Agosto, who was captured in July in Puerto Rico.

Federal agents fanned out across Puerto Rico on Monday seeking to arrest 17 purported members of the organization. But Luis Figueroa had boarded the Caribbean Princess with his wife, two children and in-laws before the operation began.

Agents waiting on board the ship arrested him without incident before the ship reached its first port of call in the U.S. Virgin Islands, said John Morton, director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Authorities simultaneously arrested 11 others sought in a federal indictment, and the rest were being sought.

Morton said it was a major blow to an organization that transported large amounts of South American cocaine in luxury boats from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico, where other groups sold it locally or sent it to the U.S. mainland through airport couriers and shipping containers.

"There are other drug-trafficking organizations but this is one of the biggest," Morton said.

Jorge Luis Figueroa was expected to be transferred back to Puerto Rico later Monday for arraignment.

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