BUS CRASH
Dreams dashed in fatal college tour bus crash
NATION ■ PAGE 4A

UNITED NATIONS
In a rare rebuke, US blocks Iran's envoy to United Nations
WORLD ■ PAGE 10A

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HUD probe reveals improper charges

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

A probe by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has revealed a pattern of non-compliance with federal regulations by the Hot Springs Housing Authority, including allegedly improper credit card charges for car washes and trips to liquor stores.

Alleged improper credit card expenses found by a HUD sampling of a limited number of credit card statements include charges to two different liquor stores totaling $130.02 in 2012 and 2013, a movie charge at Rio All Suites Hotel and Casino on Feb. 14, Tobacco Town on Feb. 10, four purchases from Apple iTunes, a $42.44 charge at Fast Track Car Wash in 2010, a total of 27 purchases at two other car washes, and 51 purchases at local restaurants, according to an April 10 letter from Johnny Wooley, director of the Little Rock HUD office to Al Carney, chairman of the housing authority's board of commissioners.

Wooley also said that $175,000 in Disaster Housing Assistance Payments can't be accounted for, and were apparently co-mingled with other housing authority accounts.

Federal agents executed a search warrant on the housing authority offices in late March and removed several boxes of documents.

Wooley said in the letter that HUD has "serious concerns about the leadership and management" of the Hot Springs Housing Authority, and has received numerous complaints in the last two years.

"Research into these complaints

HUD, PAGE 3A

Baer

78TH ARKANSAS DERBY

Oaklawn Park to close season with meet's biggest event

BOB WISENER
Sports editor

Dates change, but three Saturdays get circled on many calendars in Arkansas homes.

Starts of Razorback football and modern-gun deer seasons and the end of racing at Oaklawn Park generate excitement in all corners of the state. The University of Arkansas has played football longer than Oaklawn has existed and deer have roamed the woods even longer, yet crowds at Razorback games fluctuate in direct proportion to the team's success and some years the deer harvest is larger than in others.

The Arkansas Derby, on the other hand, remains something to see and Derby Day at Oaklawn a place to be seen. Competing against a Razorback football scrimmage, a record crowd today is unlikely, but at what other racetrack could anyone say that "only" 60,000 or so congregated on its biggest day?

The late Bob Holthus won his second Arkansas Derby in 2006 with Lawyer Ron before an Oaklawn record crowd of 72,484. A nine-time Oaklawn training champion who began saddling horses locally in the 1950s, Holthus said humbly that "it seemed like everyone in the grandstand wished me luck."

Oaklawn's richest race, worth $1 million, is also its oldest, inaugural winner Holl Image claiming $4,110 of the $5,000 purse in 1936. Today's 78th renewal (the race was not held in 1945 because of wartime restrictions) is worth $1 million, equaling the largest purse for a Kentucky Derby prep race. Oaklawn is one of the few racing centers that closes a season with its biggest event, its three-week spacing between the Arkansas Derby and Kentucky Derby paying off handsomely for the host track in terms of national prestige.

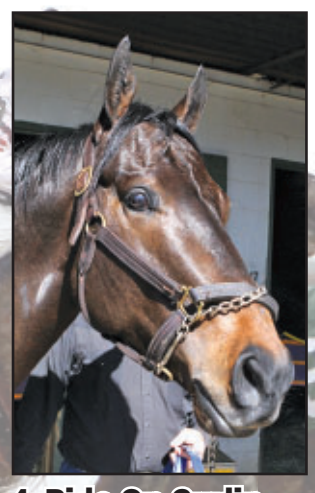
Other tracks have produced more recent Kentucky

DERBY, PAGE 5A

1. Danza

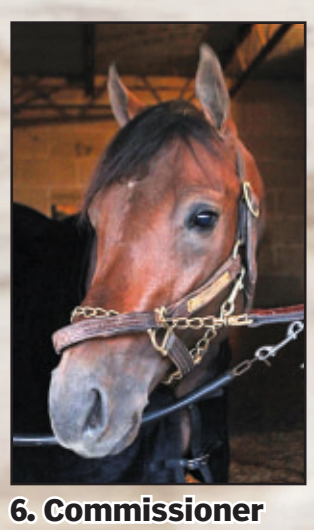
2. Knock Em Flat

3. Tapiture (9-5 favorite)



4. Ride On Curlin

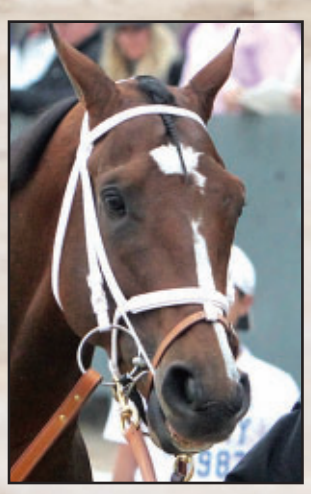
5. Thundergram



6. Commissioner

7. Conquest Titan

8. Bayern



9. Strong Mandate

Lakeside students visit Lake Ouachita

JAY BELL
The Sentinel-Record

About 300 Lakeside Middle School students, teachers and parents enjoyed a field trip to Lake Ouachita on Friday and took in educational programs from park rangers.

Sixth-grade students at Lakeside visited Lake Ouachita for the second straight year. The class took a field trip

STUDENTS, PAGE 5A

The Sentinel-Record/Richard Rasmussen

SNAKE LESSON: Lakeside Middle School sixth-grader Calvin Ward, right, touches a snake held by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Amy Shultz, left, during a program at Avery Recreation Area on Friday. About 300 students, teachers and parents visited Lake Ouachita on Friday. Ward's teacher Amy Simmons, back, took photographs during the event.

Congregation House of Israel to mark Passover

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

The Congregation House of Israel will observe Passover on Monday, what Rabbi Richard Chapin considers the greatest Jewish family holiday of the year.

"The Passover narrative is written for young people, and the Passover observance is both entertaining for them, but also a very serious reminder each year that as Israel was redeemed we have to be redeemed as well," Chapin said.

The festival commemorates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt as told in the Book of Exodus. God helps the Israelites escape from slavery, inflicting 10 plagues on the Egyptian people.

The slaughter of the Egyptian first-born children marks the final plague, after which the Pharaoh releases the enslaved Israelites. God told the Israelites to mark the doorways of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb, to which the An-

PASSOVER, PAGE 5A

8 32116 00050 2

Weather

PARTLY SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE HIGH 70S. LOWS IN THE MID 60S.

SUNRISE: 6:45 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:41 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

SUNDAY: HIGH 74° LOW 54°

MONDAY: HIGH 58° LOW 38°

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