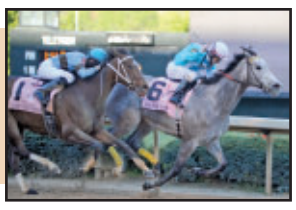
OAKLAWN
'On Fire' torches Apple Blossom field
SPORTS ■ PAGE 1B



NATION: Gun measures put moderate Senate Dems in bind **Page 9A**

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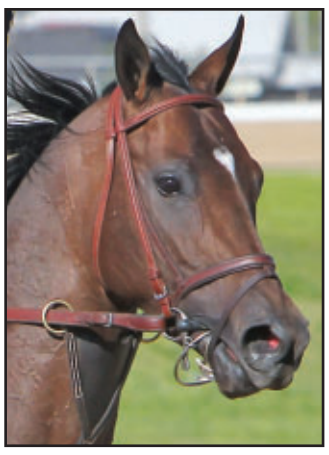
3. Divine Ambition



4. Falling Sky

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7. Texas Bling

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77th running of the ARKANSAS DERBY

Derby's charm grows with years

BOB WISENER
Sports editor

The United States was digging out of the Great Depression in 1936 when Oaklawn Park introduced what became its signature race, the Arkansas Derby. Total purse: $5,000.

In the year that President Richard Nixon opened the door to China, Oaklawn officials must have pinched themselves in making the 1972 Arkansas Derby the track's first $100,000 race.

Then and now, the Kentucky Derby represented horse racing's standard of excellence, and both the 1936 and 1972 Arkansas Derby winners ran respectably at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May – Holl Image placing eighth in a race won by Bold Venture and No Le Hace second to Riva Ridge, respectively.

How times have changed, and for the better.

The Arkansas Derby remains Oaklawn's marquee event, but since 2004 has carried a $1 million purse, equaling that of the richest North American Kentucky Derby prep race.

Oaklawn will distribute $100,000, matching the 1972 Arkansas Derby purse, in the first three races alone this afternoon on the closing day of a record season for local purse distribution. The 12 races, three graded stakes included, have total value of $2,182,000 – a tribute to additional revenue streams from Oaklawn's gam-

DERBY, PAGE 4A

Vote on 'private option' appropriation bill delayed

DON THOMASON
The Sentinel-Record

State Rep. Bruce Cozart, R-District 24, said Friday that a House vote on the appropriations bill to fund the "private option" for Medicaid has been postponed until Monday.

"Yesterday (Thursday) we voted on the bill and we're going to hold off on the appropriation until Monday to let people (legislators) go home and talk to their people and make sure everyone understands it and is OK with their (representative's) yes or no vote," Cozart said.

As of Friday afternoon, Cozart said he was still a "no" vote, adding that during his campaign he was a "no" and ran against Medicaid expansion.

"I ran against the form of health care because I believe it's not good for our country and is possibly going to bankrupt America.

"I still don't think our state can afford it in the long run. I just don't think it's a thing that is going to last. I want something that I believe can be for the people of the future and this doesn't look like a long-term possibility," he said.

MEDICAID, PAGE 7A

Walk of Fame to honor inductees

ALISON B. HARBOUR
The Sentinel-Record

Former Gov. Mike Huckabee and retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Hugh L. Mills Jr. are expected to be in the Spa City on Sunday for their induction into the Arkansas Walk of Fame.

Huckabee

The Walk of Fame honors persons who were born or lived in Arkansas, made a significant contribution in their fields, and are recognized nationally.

"This will be a tremendous event," says Tom Wilkins, Walk of Fame founder and president.

Mills

"The governor will be there, and Tony Orlando has accepted my invitation. They are close friends and I thought it would be a nice addition for this patriotic ceremony."

Doors open at 1 p.m. and the program begins at 2:30 p.m. at Five Star Theatre, 701 Central Ave., followed by unveiling the plaques across the street at Hill Wheat-

WALK, PAGE 3A

The Sentinel-Record/Beth Bright

ATTENTION TO DETAIL: Pat Mahoney of Pat's Tack Repair replaces a zipper on a leather rifle scabbard. Though most of Mahoney's business comes from repairing tack for the horsemen at Oaklawn Park, he repairs other leather goods for people in the community.

Behind the scenes

Love of working with horses keeps Webb, Mahoney coming back

BETH BRIGHT
The Sentinel-Record

Pat Mahoney has seen a lot of changes over the years repairing tack and working one-on-one with horsemen in the racing world.

Growing up, his father raised and trained horses, spending their winters in Hot Springs and their summers in Ohio and other racing circuits. It was in Ohio that he learned about leather work.

"To really get an idea, let's go back about 70

WORKING, PAGE 4A

Jurors seated; murder trial set to begin Tuesday

STEVEN MROSS
The Sentinel-Record

The last of 12 jurors was seated Friday in Garland County Circuit Court for the capital murder trial of a Pearcy man, which is now set to begin on Tuesday.

The final juror was seated at 3:30 p.m. Friday. Ten had been selected by the end of the day Thursday, and one was seated during deliberations Friday morning.

The trial of Randy William Gay, 54, who is accused in the May 10, 2011, shooting death of Connie Ann Snow, 49, of Hot Springs, is now set to begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Judge John Homer Wright and prosecutors noted it is expected to last through Friday, April 19, although it could go longer.

They will resume the selection process at 8:30 a.m. Monday to seat four alternate jurors, who would fill in if one of the 12 is unable to continue for some reason.

Wright's scheduled Monday arraignments will be held in Circuit Judge Marcia Hearnsberger's courtroom with Circuit Judge Lynn Williams presiding.

The state is seeking the death penalty in the case, and much of the questioning of potential jurors has centered around their ability to sentence someone to death should the evidence dictate.

At one point, Gay's attorney, Sky Tapp, told a potential juror, "This is a grave, grave case" and stressed "how critical and important and potentially stressful" a case it was going to be.

Other questions dealt with the juror's thoughts about the possibility of Gay not testifying and little or no evidence being presented by the defense and whether or not alcohol abuse is an excuse for wrongdoing.

The defense attorneys had 12 strikes or challenges they could use during the selection process and had

TRIAL, PAGE 4A

8 32116 00050 2

Weather

MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS IN THE LOW 70S. LOWS IN THE LOW 50S.

SUNRISE: 6:44 A.M.
SUNSET: 7:42 P.M.

MORE ON PAGE 2A

SUNDAY: HIGH 78° LOW 62°

MONDAY: HIGH 82° LOW 66°

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