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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

Fannie, Freddie deal could help some consumers, but not all

AT A GLANCE: GOVERNMENT SEIZES MORTGAGE GIANTS
THE ISSUES: The government is taking control of mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, resulting in new chief executives and changing the way they operate.
THE REASON: Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says the action is needed to stabilize the housing market and prevent the financial system from losing money on the mortgage market.
THE DEAL: The government will own the companies, but they will continue to operate as for-profit entities. The deal also includes a \$231 billion loan guarantee to help homeowners refinance their mortgages.
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Illinois death penalty in 'limbo'

Lawmaker panel could help decide fate of the issue

By Mike Siegel
QUAD-CITY TIMES
Served House

SPRINGFIELD — It's been 25 years since Illinois abandoned use of the electric chair, moving instead to lethal injection as a means to execute prisoners on death row.

In September 1983, then-Gov. Jim Thompson signed legislation to make the change. Since then, 12 Illinois inmates have been killed using the lethal cocktail of drugs rather than electricity.

At the time, lethal injection could have been sought as a more humane method of executing an inmate.

But today the capital punishment debate in Illinois revolves not around the method of execution, but instead about whether the death penalty should be used at all.

It's been more than nine years since the last execution in Illinois. Gov. George Ryan put a temporary stop to state executions, saying he was concerned the system was broken and innocent people could be put to death.

Now, however, prosecutors across the state can seek the death penalty. Some call the situation a sort of "legal limbo."

Fourteen inmates sit on death row at Pontiac Correctional Center, confined to their cells 23 hours a day.

"They're in the cells by themselves," said Illinois Department of Corrections spokesman Derek Schnapp.

But the moratorium on execution locally remains in place, mostly based on its assurance from Gov. Rod Blagojevich that he won't let executions happen until reforms are adopted.

The governor plans to keep the death penalty moratorium in place until he is confident there is no chance an innocent person will be put to death," Blagojevich spokesman Brian Williamson said.

Some reforms were adopted in 2004, but most of the talk since has been confined to a

FAMILY TRADITION HELPS BUDGET

Sharon Bailey prepares dinner for her family. As gasoline and food prices rise, the Baileys of Davenport are sticking to a family tradition of making big meals and putting aside leftovers for meals later.

Big meals, leftovers help residents save money

By Kurt Altemeyer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Triad and true and something new to have Bill and Sharon Bailey approach saving money.

As gasoline and food prices rise, the Baileys of Davenport are sticking to a family tradition of making big meals and putting aside leftovers for meals later.

Although they are empty-nesters, Sharon and she saves by buying in large amounts, especially getting some bulk items at a discount grocery store. On a recent evening, she cut up a pound ham purchased for \$15, serving part of it with scalloped potatoes. The rest two-thirds of the ham aside later in the week. Tomorrow

Gluba has a global vision for Davenport

Mayor: Use 'Sister Cities' to bring business to Q-C

By Terry Bracht
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba plans to jump start international economic development in Davenport using the city's decades-old Sister Cities Committee.

For years, the sister cities program has served as a vehicle for cultural exchanges and friendly visits between Davenport and residents in Germany, Brazil and Ireland.

While such "citizens diplomacy" should be lauded, more needs to be done to lure international business to Quad-City.

"A trading center has been established to help companies expand in Davenport," Gluba said. "It's been more of a cultural exchange, and I don't see that having a significant impact on us in terms of economic development."

To that end, Gluba appointed new members to the Sister Cities Committee with international business experience. In addition, he has asked Cynthia MacCortez — the city's new economic development program manager — to become a liaison to the committee, responsible for following up on potential new business leads.

MacCortez, who started work in Davenport in June after leaving her job as planner in Seattle, has hit the ground running. Combining through the minutes of visits by sister city ambassadors to Quad-City, Ireland, and Brazil, she found two potential leads.

A company in Ireland that

Ike closing in on Florida, New Orleans

Hurricane is on course to hit U.S. this week

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — With powerful Hurricane Ike on an uncertain course toward the Gulf of Mexico, many on these low-lying islands took a wait-and-see approach to evacuation orders Sunday, perhaps a harbinger of the attitudes to come from Louisiana and Texas residents returning from an emboldened evacuation and already showing signs of "hurricane fatigue."

IKK AND ENERGY

Efforts to bring in and get production back online in the Gulf of Mexico slowed Sunday as Hurricane Ike loomed, threatening the nation's energy complex. **Page B8**

Percentages show the crossing Cuba and skirting Key West by Tuesday on a trek to the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, slowly strengthening to perhaps Category 3 strength on its way to a landfall late in the week somewhere between the Florida

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