

Diary

News about local corporations:

— Reuters news service said Thursday that shares of **Commercial Metals Co.** were rising on chatter that it may be acquired by Nucor Corp. Both companies declined comment. A supposed purchase price of \$30 per share for CMC would be an improvement over the stock's current \$28.35, but well below the \$37 per share that CMC enjoyed a half-year ago.

— **Murphy Oil Corp.** will replace hurricane-damaged tanks at its Meraux, La., refinery, the company said in a press release. It will also make improvements at its Superior, Wis., refinery.

— **Albemarle Corporation** and Anthera Pharmaceuticals have announced an agreement that Albemarle will produce the active ingredient for Phase III clinical trials of Varepladib. The drug, still in development, has the potential to become a new, oral anti-inflammatory treatment aimed at the pre-existing conditions that lead to heart disease.

Dr. Jamie Brandon, Arkansas Archeological Survey archeologist stationed at SAU, spoke Thursday to the Magnolia Rotary Club on recent AAS projects:

— Magnetometers and ground-probing radar have spotted the remains of an ancient **Caddo Indian village** around Battle Mound on the south side of Spirit Lake in Lafayette County. This same technology may be used later this year to find the mass graves of casualties from the Civil War battle at Poison Springs in Ouachita County.

— The **FBI continues to probe the theft of Caddo pottery** from its storage place at SAU. An agent who specializes in art theft has recently been assigned to the case,

Brandon said.

— Archeologists will work on the **excavation of a Civil War-era home site** at Old Washington State Park during SAU's spring break. People who attend the Jonquil Festival will be able to observe the work.

— Work continues, slowly, to develop the **first floor of the Bruce Center at SAU into an archeological museum.**

Gasoline price check: Magnolia, range between \$2.88 and \$2.98.

The **Tanglewood-Old Oaks** area lost electrical service about 10 a.m. today.

One of our co-workers brought **Mardi Gras** beads for the staff today. Mardi Gras is Tuesday.

Caller wants **painted crosswalks on West Main Street** for West Side Kindergarten students.

The American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life will be Friday, April 11** at Panther Stadium. People interested in forming teams for the event that raises money for cancer research, education and programs are invited to call Janet Warren for information, 904-2258 or janetmwarren@att.net.

Monday is the last day to **vote early in the presidential primary** at the Columbia County Courthouse. Go to the County Clerk's Office.

The following inmate sentenced to the Arkansas Department of Correction from Columbia County became **parole-eligible** in February

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