

Back to back

Dodgers force extra innings, repeat as champions. — Sports, 1C



It's all in the coins

Shire Post Mint's Tarot campaign exceeds funding goal. — Business, 1G

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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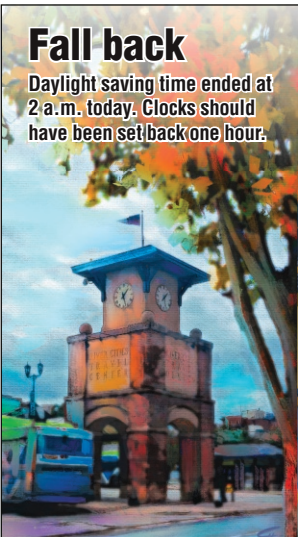
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Fall back

Daylight saving time ended at 2 a.m. today. Clocks should have been set back one hour.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/CARRIE HILL

In the news

■ **Jacob Beatty** said he and his bride, Nicole Bond, “were both kind of looking for an excuse to get married and this opportunity presented itself” to exchange vows on Halloween inside the former jail in Delaware County, Ohio.

■ **Cecil Brockman**, a Democratic state representative of High Point, N.C., resigned and said he is “currently unable to fulfill my duty and service to my constituents” after being accused by authorities of sex crimes involving a 15-year-old.

■ **Georgi Filipov** and Kiril Milushev, Bulgarians who acknowledged their role in spray-painting blood-red hands on Paris’ Holocaust Memorial as part of what authorities say was a paid destabilization strategy by Russia, were sentenced to two years in prison.

■ **Geno Marconi**, director of the New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbors, was fined \$2,000 and forced to resign from his job for sharing confidential boating and motor vehicle records after pleading guilty in a deal with prosecutors.

■ **Felipe Hernandez**, a former police officer in Las Cruces, N.M., was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the 2023 shooting death of a 45-year-old woman who struck him with her open car door as she backed up and tried to leave a housing complex.

■ **Ayanna Harrison**, executive director of support operations for public schools in Alexandria, Va., was replaced by the district’s chief of staff after administrators learned via an Alexandria Times report that she started another full-time job at a charter school district in Atlanta, officials said.

■ **Estella Patterson**, former police chief in Raleigh, N.C., is now “the first female police chief in Charlotte’s history,” as she was hired to lead the force in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area by City Manager Marcus Jones, an announcement on X states.

Bulldogs 38, Razorbacks 35



Arkansas tight end Jaden Platt (83) completes a pass during the second quarter at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville. Complete coverage, Sports, 1C. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/Charlie Kaijo)

Filing set to open for 2026 hopefuls

Top offices, seats sought in election

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Amid a federal government shutdown, the filing period for Arkansas candidates for the U.S. Senate seat held by Tom Cotton, the state’s four congressional seats and its seven constitutional offices — including that held by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders — will begin Monday.

Monday will also mark the beginning of the filing period for candidates for 100 state representative seats, 17 state Senate seats, two state Supreme Court seats and two Court of Appeals sets, as well as for 28 prosecutor and 108 circuit judge posts.

The party filing period will begin at noon Monday and end at noon Nov. 12 at the state Capitol, with no candidate filing on Veterans Day on Nov. 11, according to the secretary of state’s office.

The period for nonpartisan judicial candidates to pay their filing fees and file their political practices pledge begins at 3 p.m. Monday and ends the same time on Nov. 12, with no candidate filing on Nov. 11, according to the secretary of state’s office.

Secretary of State Cole Jester said Thursday that “we are excited (and) we are ready” for the filing period.

“We predict no problem,” Jester said.

See **FILINGS**, Page 9A

Furloughed workers face benefits hurdles

JONATHAN MATTISE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of workers are trying to get approved for unemployment compensation to help cover essentials such as food and mortgage payments while they’re on unpaid furlough from federal government jobs.

For more than two weeks now during the government shutdown, Imelda Avila-Thomas, a furloughed federal employee, has been trying in vain to access aid for her family.

She kept asking questions and was ultimately sent a hyperlink to upload

FOOD BANK, church aid federal workers in LR. Page 1B.

proof-of-income documents, which she did last week. But Avila-Thomas, who works for the Department of Labor in San Antonio, said the system still deems her ineligible for benefits, saying it cannot verify her wages. She wonders whether someone who might be able to help her has also been furloughed.

A mother of a 12-year-old daughter and local union leader, Avila-Thomas is among the thousands of furloughed federal workers

trying to navigate the unemployment system — a sharp increase, but still a fraction of the 670,000-plus furloughed workforce, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center. The dollar amounts and length of benefits vary by state.

About 26,000 federal workers filed initial claims from Sept. 28 through Oct. 18, according to raw data published by the Department of Labor. Some 3,300 applied in the week that preceded the Oct. 1 shutdown start.

Furloughed workers have some factors to consider. For instance, if they receive back See **SHUTDOWN**, Page 8A

State lawmakers talk shutdown

Federal government’s funding lapse hits one-month mark



MUST Ministries delivers food to the public via a drive-thru service in Austell, Ga., on Saturday. (AP/Mike Stewart)

ALEX THOMAS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — The two wings of the U.S. Capitol have presented contrasting images of the nation’s legislative branch amid the federal government shutdown.

Senators have voted 13 times on the House of Representatives’ continuing resolution to fund the government through Nov. 21, and most Senate Republicans back the measure. That has not been enough to reach the 60 votes needed to advance.

On Sept. 19, the House approved the short-term spending bill largely along party lines. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has canceled floor votes and other actions since, arguing the Senate first needs to pass the measure funding the government.

Saturday marked one month of the shutdown. Many government agencies have been forced to furlough employees and halt nonessential programs. Air traffic controllers and other federal workers required to work have missed paychecks.

The federal Department See **CONGRESS**, Page 10A

Probe spotlights conditions of detainees

Investigation finds credible complaints of maltreatment at immigration sites

CLAUDIA LAUER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. Senate investigation has uncovered dozens of credible reports of medical neglect and poor conditions in immigration detention centers nationwide — with detainees denied insulin, left

without medical attention for days and forced to compete for clean water — raising scrutiny about how the government oversees its vast detention system.

The report released by Sen. Jon Ossoff, a Democrat from Georgia, is the second

in a series of inquiries examining reported human rights abuses in the immigration detention system. It builds on an August review that detailed mistreatment of children and pregnant women and draws from more than 500 reports of abuse and ne-

glect collected between January and August.

The latest findings document more than 80 credible cases of medical neglect and widespread complaints of inadequate food and water. Senate investigators say that See **CENTERS**, Page 9A

Penny shortage hitting businesses across US

KEN SWEET
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump’s decision to stop producing the penny earlier this year is starting to have real implications for the nation’s commerce. Merchants in multiple regions of the country have run out of pennies and are unable to produce exact change. Meanwhile, banks are unable to order fresh pennies and are rationing pennies for their customers.

One convenience store chain, Sheetz, got so desperate for pennies that it briefly ran a promotion offering a free soda to customers who bring in 100 pennies. Another retailer says the lack of pennies will end up costing it millions this year because

of the need to round down to avoid lawsuits.

“It’s a chunk of change,” said Dylan Jeon, senior director of government relations with the National Retail Federation.

The penny problem started in late summer and is only getting worse as the country heads into the holiday shopping season.

To be sure, not one retailer or bank has called for the penny to stick around. Pennies, especially in bulk, are heavy and are more often than not used exclusively to give customers change. But the abrupt decision to get rid of the penny has come with no guidance from the federal government. Many stores have been left pleading for See **PENNIES**, Page 10A

All Saints’ Day



A woman prays in front of the grave of her loved ones on All Saints’ Day, a Catholic holiday to honor saints and remember deceased relatives, at a municipal cemetery in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday. More photos at arkansasonline.com/112saints25/. (AP/Emilio Morenatti)

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK

TODAY

TONIGHT



HIGH
59

LOW
39

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