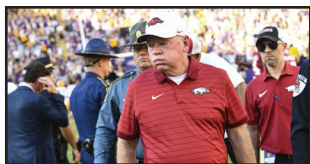


One man’s treasures

Deputy U.S. marshal displays service history in Little Rock. – Arkansas, 1B



What do I play for?

‘Frustrated’ Hogs search for motivation after hitting 2-8 this season. – Sports, 1C

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS’ NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **David Barklow**, who fled to South America in 2019 after a cold-case investigation linked him to a 2004 shooting death, was extradited from Peru to Chicago, police said, where he will face a first-degree murder charge.

■ **Silvio Almeida**, Brazil’s former human rights minister who was fired by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva after MeToo Brazil received complaints of sexual misconduct, has been formally accused by federal police, an officer said.

■ **Clarence Birkhead**, sheriff in Durham County, N.C., addressed concerns about immigration enforcement activities as U.S. Border Patrol agents arrived in Charlotte, saying, “My job is to keep this community safe.”

■ **Amir Rashid Ali** was arrested by India’s anti-terror investigating agency on suspicion of conspiring with a suicide bomber to carry out a deadly car blast after officials discovered the vehicle that exploded in New Delhi was registered to him, officials said.

■ **Calvin Duncan**, 62, a New Orleans man who spent three decades in prison before his murder conviction was vacated, was elected as the city’s chief criminal court record keeper with 68% of the vote and pledged to ensure fair treatment for all.

■ **Emily Norton**, executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association, said, “No amount of sewage is acceptable to be dumped in our beloved Charles River,” as the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority tabled a proposal to reclassify the Charles as a water body that allows for maximum sewage overflows.

■ **LaMonica McIver**, a U.S. representative from New Jersey who was charged with assaulting federal agents during a visit to an immigration detention center, had her request for the dismissal of criminal charges brought against her by the Trump administration denied by U.S. District Judge Jamel Semper.

■ **Jesse Agus Martinez**, a U.S. citizen residing in Mexico, has been indicted on a federal smuggling charge weeks after he was found with two heavily sedated orange-fronted parakeets in his trousers when he crossed the border from Mexico into Southern California, according to the U.S. attorney’s office.

■ **Diana Loginova**, an 18-year-old music student and street singer, received another 13 days in jail from a St. Petersburg, Russia, court, her third sentence for violating public order by performing anti-war songs.

Morning on the Ganges



Indian tourists feed Siberian gulls from a boat on the Ganges River in Varanasi, India, early Sunday morning. (AP/Rajesh Kumar Singh)

Guard troops pulled in Chicago, Portland

ERIC SCHMITT
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is withdrawing hundreds of National Guard soldiers from Chicago and Portland, Ore., just weeks after President Donald Trump ordered them there over the strenuous objections of state and local leaders, according to two U.S. officials.

Some 200 California National Guard troops who were sent to Portland and another 200 Texas National Guard members who were

BOVINO TOUTS N.C. immigration arrests. Page 7A.

sent to Chicago will return to their home states beginning as early as Sunday, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the deployments.

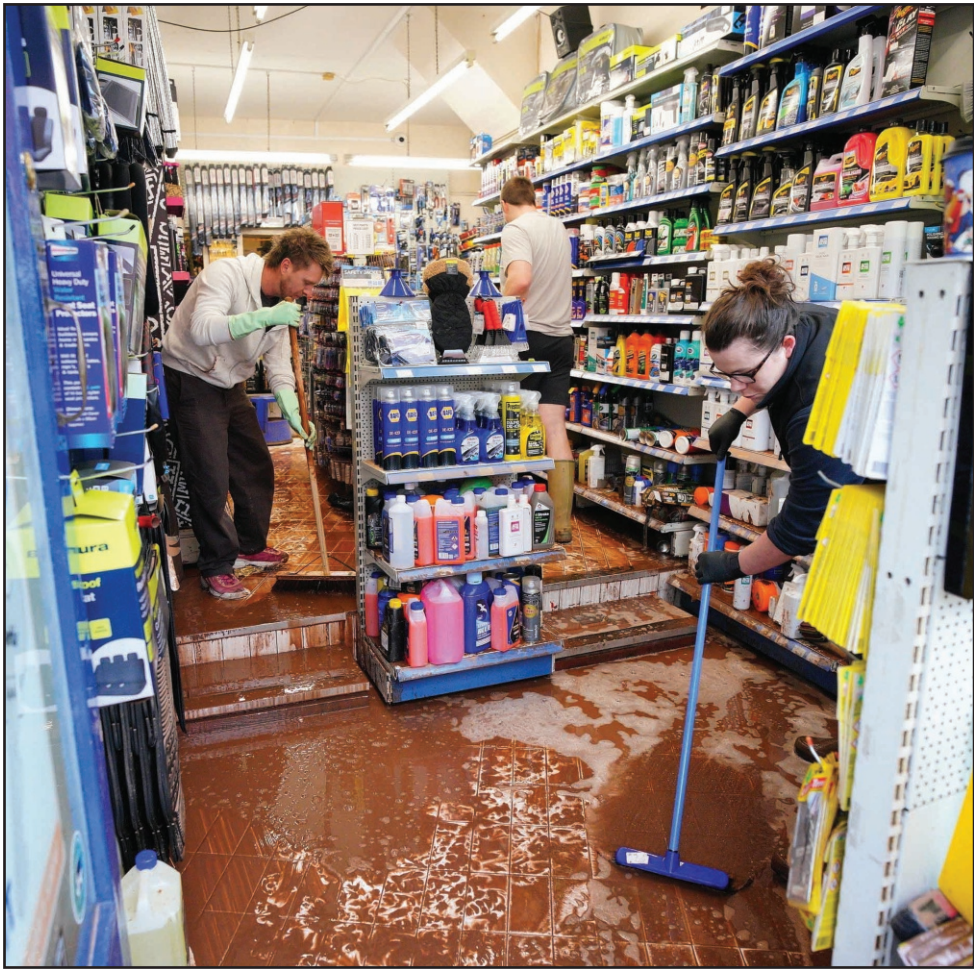
The federalized Guard troops arrived in those cities in early October but never deployed into the streets to assist federal law enforcement personnel and protect federal buildings, as the Trump administration envi-

sioned, because of legal challenges that continue to play out in the courts.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching and federal court orders putting a hold on the operational deployment of the Guard, top Pentagon officials decided last week to withdraw the out-of-state soldiers, at least for now, rather than have them continue to sit in a costly limbo separated from their families during the holiday season, one U.S. official said.

See **GUARD**, Page 7A

Flood damage in Wales



People clean up flood damage after the River Monnow burst its banks in Monmouth, southeast Wales, on Sunday. (AP/PA/Ben Birchall)

Trump signals talks possible as warship nears Venezuela

BEN FINLEY
AND CHRIS MEGERIAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.

— President Donald Trump said Sunday that the U.S. “may be having some discussions” with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, a potential diplomatic avenue as the U.S. further builds up its military presence near the South American country with the arrival of its most advanced aircraft carrier.

Trump didn’t offer details

TRUMP DEFENDS shift of counternarcotics in U.S. Page 6A.

about the possible discussions with Maduro, but he said “Venezuela would like to talk.”

The development comes as the Trump administration has carried out a series of military strikes against vessels suspected of transporting drugs. The arrival of the USS Gerald R. Ford and other warships, announced by the

Navy in a statement, marks a major moment in what the administration insists is a counterdrug operation but has been seen as an escalating pressure tactic against Maduro.

When asked Sunday what he meant when he said Maduro wants to talk, Trump simply said: “What does it mean? You tell me, I don’t know.

“I’ll talk to anybody,” he added a few moments later. See **WARSHIP**, Page 6A

Proposed rules for education accounts aired

Planned revisions include ban on use for team sports

JOSH SNYDER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Proposed rules changes to the Educational Freedom Account program, including a ban on the accounts’ use for team sports, are likely to spark several rounds of public comments in the coming days, Arkansas Department of Education officials predict.

A Russellville lawmaker who was one of the leading sponsors of the sweeping legislative package that created the accounts program said she and her co-sponsor were also in conversations with the Education Department and Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders’ office to ensure account funds that have been allowed for sports-related expenses aren’t “unintentionally (tied) up” in efforts to tighten the program.

The comment by Republican Sen. Breanne Davis came after the state Board of Education voted Thursday to



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release [the revisions](#) for a 30-day public comment period. Public comment began Saturday and will end Dec. 16, said department spokeswoman Rachel Starks. The department will host public comment hearings Dec. 2 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., while written comments can be sent to ADE.RulesComments@ade.arkansas.gov.

See **ACCOUNTS**, Page 3A

Economy continues to vex leaders of US

JOSH BOAK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s problems with fixing the high cost of living might be giving voters a feeling of déjà vu.

Just like the president who came before him, Trump is trying to sell the country on his plans to create factory

jobs. The Republican wants to lower prescription drug costs, as did former Democratic President Joe Biden. Both tried to shame companies for price increases.

Trump is even leaning on a message that echoes Biden’s claims in 2021 that elevated inflation is simply

See **ECONOMY**, Page 7A

Special election dates set for Districts 26, 70

DANIEL MCFADIN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a proclamation Sunday officially scheduling special elections for District 70’s state representative and District 26’s state senator on March 3.

The proclamation came two weeks after Sanders was ordered by Pulaski County Circuit Judge Shawn Johnson to move the District 70 special election [from June 9 to March 3](#).

That order, which the proclamation says was a “violation of state law,” was the result of lawsuits that were brought against Sanders and Secretary of State Cole Jester over concerns the election dates she chose to fill the two vacant seats were after the 2026 fiscal session,

meaning residents of the districts would not have representation in one of two chambers of the General Assembly during that time.

The fiscal session is set to begin in April.

The case Johnson ruled on was brought against Sanders and Jester by the Democratic Party of Arkansas and four residents of House District 70.

The former House District 70 representative, Carlton Wing, R-North Little Rock, resigned on Sept. 30 to lead Arkansas PBS.

“The court has ruled that I must set special election dates that would give overseas military members insufficient time to vote, violating Arkansas law and potentially

See **ELECTION**, Page 6A

Jubilee Mass



Pope Leo XIV waves to the faithful after a special Mass for the Jubilee of the Poor in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on Sunday. Video at arkansasonline.com/1117leo/. (AP/Gregorio Borgia)

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK

TODAY

TONIGHT

HIGH

LOW

69

64

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