

Finding their fit

How will ex-Hogs suit their new NBA teams? — Sports, 1C



Homecoming concert

Amy Lee returns to Central Arkansas, bringing Evanescence with her. — Style, 1E

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In the news

■ **Nancy Chartrand**, spokeswoman for the Kansas City, Kan., police and its animal services division, said the Fourth of July, when pitbull mix Brisket was rescued from an abandoned well, was “probably his most unlucky day and his luckiest day at the same time because, had he not fallen in, he’d probably still be running around.”

■ **Carlos Pereda**, a 30-year-old purported high-ranking lieutenant of the Sinaloa cartel, was indicted in a U.S. court on multiple counts, including narcoterrorism, providing material to support terrorism and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, according to court documents.

■ **Fadel Shaker**, a Lebanese singer who spent months jailed awaiting a retrial on charges of belonging to an armed group and money laundering, paid \$5,500 for bail and was released after being questioned about an array of accusations, officials said.

■ **Francesca Gullo**, 28, said it’s unfortunate she’s can’t afford to live in her native New York City, “but I’m grateful that I have this option and that my parents are supportive” with her decision to relocate to Tennessee and live with them.

■ **Joachim Herrmann**, Bavaria’s state interior minister, said the 16-year-old Croatian national accused of wounding two 13-year-old girls at the Welfen high school in Schongau, Germany, received psychiatric treatment in the past.

■ **Wayne Hsiung**, founder of national animal welfare group Direct Action Everywhere, was among those charged with burglary on suspicion of participating in a break-in of a Wisconsin research facility that resulted in the removal of 22 beagles.

■ **Johannes M.**, a 41-year-old German physician, was sentenced to life in prison on charges of administering a lethal mixture of medications to 15 of his patients, 12 women and three men whose ages ranged from 25 to 94, who were under palliative care.

■ **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, president of Kazakhstan, can seek another term after the country’s top court ruled that his current tenure does not count under a referendum on the constitution that reset term limits for the office.

■ **Beatriz Ochoa**, regional head of advocacy for Latin America at the Norwegian Refugee Council, said in a statement she saw Venezuelan earthquake survivors housed in a temporary shelter “organizing themselves to keep common spaces clean.”

Tenuous ceasefire renews oil jitters

Unraveling risks rise in fuel prices

CATHY BUSSEWITZ AND MAE ANDERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK — The potential unraveling of a fragile truce between Iran and the United States renewed anxiety Wednesday over whether fuel prices would go back up if sustained fighting kept oil tankers from traveling through the Persian Gulf.

Oil prices rose to their highest point in weeks after President Donald Trump declared the U.S. ceasefire with Iran over, responding to Iranian attacks on commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz and on American military sites in other Gulf nations. Costlier crude oil could lead to costlier gas station fill-ups as drivers in many countries were getting a break from elevated prices brought on by the war.

“Tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has essentially stopped, which tells you more about risk perception right now than any statement from Washington or Tehran,” said Jorge Leon, head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy, in an email. “Oil markets reacted quickly to the renewed geopolitical risk.”

U.S. gasoline prices increased slightly Wednesday to an average of \$3.80 for a gallon of regular, up from \$3.79 the day before, but still well below the month-ago average of \$4.16, according to motor club federation AAA. The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in Arkansas was \$3.45 as of Wednesday afternoon.

Crude oil makes up the bulk of the price of gasoline, so when oil prices rise, gasoline eventually follows.

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US again fires against Iran



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference, flanked by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, at the NATO summit in Ankara, Turkey, on Wednesday. (AP/Emrah Gurel)

Ship attacks ended truce, Trump says

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States launched new airstrikes against Iran early Thursday, and Tehran responded by hitting Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar in cross-fire that again threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war in the Persian Gulf.

The strikes came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump said recent Iranian attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz signaled the end of the fragile ceasefire. The U.S. struck a variety of military sites and port facilities early Wednesday following Iran’s targeting of several merchant vessels off the coast of Oman, sparking Iranian fire then as well.

But Thursday’s attacks appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least twice in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet headquarters. There was no

See **IRAN**, Page 5A

Flooding in China



Rescuers evacuate stranded teachers and students at Xijiang education park in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Maysak in Guigang City, southern China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on Wednesday. (AP/Xinhua/Zhou Hua)

Fired teacher sues Russellville district

Termination followed Kirk comment

DALE ELLIS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A teacher fired from the Russellville School District last year over a social media post is suing the district, asking to be reinstated and for unspecified damages.

On Wednesday, American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas filed a complaint in federal court on behalf of Joshua Chance Duncan, who was fired from the district despite receiving wide support from students and parents over a Facebook post following the murder of conservative activist Charlie

Kirk. Kirk, who co-founded Turning Point USA — a nonprofit organization that advocates for conservative politics on high school, college and university campuses — was shot and killed Sept. 10, 2025, during an event on a college campus in Utah.

About 7 p.m. that same evening, according to the complaint, Duncan posted a quote by Clarence Darrow on his private Facebook page, “I’ve never wished a man dead, but I’ve read some obituaries with great

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Senate hopeful says man came to home with weapon

RAFAEL ESCALERA MONTOTO
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A candidate for U.S. Senate said Wednesday that someone showed up at her home unannounced five days earlier with a weapon looking for a member of her campaign team.

“My husband turned the individual away who then left without further incident,” Hallie Shoffner wrote in a news release. “We are grateful that my family is safe and

appreciate the swift response of the Little Rock Police Department as they continue investigating what occurred.”

The incident happened Friday afternoon, Anna-Lee Pittman, a spokeswoman for Shoffner’s campaign, said. Shoffner herself was not at home, she added.

The man who arrived at Shoffner’s house in downtown Little Rock was armed with what appeared to be a “bladed weapon,” Pittman said, and was asking about a

specific campaign staffer. The man had no relation to the family or anybody on Shoffner’s staff, she said.

The campaign team has put additional security measures in place to protect Shoffner’s family and team, Pittman said.

Shoffner said in her statement that public service comes with “scrutiny, tough questions and passionate disagreement,” all of which she welcomes.

“But there is a line that

should never be crossed,” she said.

“Campaign events, town halls, community meetings, phone calls, and emails are the appropriate places to share concerns or disagreements, not showing up unannounced at someone’s home,” Shoffner added.

Several neighbors and staff at a nearby business told an Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reporter Wednesday that they had not heard of the incident or seen a man like the one

described.

Shoffner, a sixth-generation farmer and first-time political candidate, won Arkansas’ Democratic primary for U.S. Senate on March 3. She is matched up in November against two-term Republican incumbent Tom Cotton. The race also includes Libertarian candidate Jeff Wadlin.

Shoffner launched her Senate bid in July 2025, months after her family decided to close their 2,000-acre farm

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US to grant Ukraine licensing for Patriots

LORNE COOK, SEUNG MIN KIM AND SUZAN FRASER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA, Turkey — U.S. President Donald Trump said at a NATO summit Wednesday in Turkey that the U.S. will give Ukraine a license to make Patriot air defense systems to counter missile attacks from Russia in their more than four-year war, a huge coup for Kyiv, which has long requested the technology.

Allowing foreign manufacture of Patriots, which the U.S. had resisted, was a turnaround for Trump that mirrored his day at the NATO meeting: Upon arriving, he lashed out at European partners for resisting his efforts

to take control of Greenland and for not supporting his war in Iran. But by day’s end, he described a gathering of unity and “tremendous love,” and praised member nations on their progress in increasing their defense spending.

NATO’s European members plus Canada have scrambled to meet the alliance’s increased defense spending targets, which Trump has demanded as the U.S. draws down troops in Europe and insists the continent take more responsibility for its own security.

Trump had reopened old wounds among the 32

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Emergency responders inspect the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday. (Reuters/Sofia Gatilova)

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
TODAY
TONIGHT
HIGH 97
LOW 78

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