

Bus fare increase on the table

Rock Region Metro directors weigh first price raise since 2009. — Arkansas, 1B



The price of confidence

Why golfers pay \$600 for zero-torque putters. — Style, 1D

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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In the news

■ **Cara Galloway**, the only member of the Iowa's Ottumwa City Council to oppose invocations as a show of respect for citizens' varied faiths, said her point was made when a member of the Satanic Temple opened a recent session with a call to "embrace the Luciferian impulse to eat of the tree of knowledge."

■ **Tracey Aliff**, a Tennessee supermarket baker, said she hadn't decided whether she'd watch a livestream of Nidal Hasan's firing squad, and added, "but if I had small children, I don't think I really would watch with them."

■ **William Morton**, 61, is charged in the 1985 slaying and sexual assault of Hillary Hellewell after Newport, R.I., police tailed Morton and his wife to a concert, took a water bottle he left on an empty seat and matched his DNA with that on the victim's pants.

■ **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** asked, "Who would do this?" after the bronze bust of her father, Robert F. Kennedy, was taken from the now-razed Washington, D.C., stadium that bore the late senator and slain presidential candidate's name.

■ **Opal Lee** celebrated her 100th birthday at the Fort Worth groundbreaking for the National Juneteenth Museum, the holiday for which she advocated national recognition, and said, "I'm so happy I could do a holy dance, and these old legs won't respond."

■ **Odis Jones** called Bruce Rodriguez a "deeply valued member of our Culver City-Bus team" as the California city manager and others mourned the 42-year-old driver and father of two boys who, prosecutors say, was shot to death by a passenger upset at missing his stop.

■ **Roger Marshall**, Kansas' U.S. senator who's been criticized for suing more than 700 patients over unpaid medical bills, has paid nearly double the almost \$700 he owed for cookies at his 2020 watch party after baker Holly Thomas complained.

■ **Katharina Kubrick**, director Stanley Kubrick's stepdaughter, said the ax swung by Jack Nicholson in "The Shining" and a glowing fake fetus from the end of "2001: A Space Odyssey" are among what's up for sale from his personal archive.

■ **Vakhtang Kipshidze**, a Russian Orthodox Church spokesman, denied reports that retreating Russian troops abandoned a reliquary bearing part of the right hand of Dmitry Donskoy, the prince who defeated the Mongols in 1380, on loan to the army as a morale booster.



An injured man collects some of his personal belongings in front of his house which was destroyed in a Russian strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. (AP/Andrii Marienko)

Trump touts 'energy ceasefire' for Ukraine

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an "energy ceasefire" in the 4½-year-old war, but he offered no details on it and Kyiv reported attacks by Moscow on energy sites after his statement.

Trump's brief social media post said only that the ceasefire took effect immediately, adding: "Do not break it!" Moscow did not immediately comment.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that while his country "welcomed" the announcement by Trump as "good news for everyone," Russia was still hitting energy infrastructure in Kyiv and in the city of Kharkiv.

"Unfortunately, Ukrainian skies have been infested with Russian 'shaheds' all day today," he said in an evening address, referring to drones launched by Moscow. "There have been glide bomb strikes and strikes on our energy

infrastructure too. A power plant in Kharkiv was attacked this evening."

The presidential office confirmed the Kharkiv attack came after Trump's ceasefire post.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine was "ready to refrain from striking Russian energy infrastructure — and we count on the same readiness from Russia."

Earlier, Zelenskyy had pushed back against U.S. pressure for a unilateral end

See **UKRAINE**, Page 2A

Rallies roil India's capital



Police detain a protester during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a protest in New Delhi on Sunday. (AP/Prabhat Mehrota)

Reported rapes triple at UA, rise at other state universities

TAREK ANTHONY NWA DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

FAYETTEVILLE — Just five of 19 rape cases reported last year at the University of Arkansas appeared in campus police records, and it is unclear whether any criminal charges resulted.

The number of rape cases in 2025 more than tripled the total of six from a year earlier and more than doubled the nine documented in 2023, according to a campus security report released

Oct. 1 under the federal Clery Act. Seventeen rapes reported last year were listed as having occurred on campus.

Monica Holland, dean of students at UA, said the higher numbers might be the result of people feeling more comfortable reporting cases to the school.

"It is difficult to ascertain whether this is an increase in incidences or if we're talking about a community that feels confident in the campus, that

when it is reported that it will be responded to and that the university will continue to offer the support and resources that are needed for those impacted individuals," Holland said.

The university's Sexual and Relationship Violence Center did not respond to requests for comment. Operating under the school's Division of Student Affairs, the center provides victim advocacy, counseling and

See **UA**, Page 3A

Reasons sought for rise in infant coverage deficit

Parents' status, red tape eyed; reforms said not reflected yet

SARAH TRUE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The percentage of babies ages 0-1 without health insurance grew faster in Arkansas than in all but one other state from 2018 to 2024, according to sample data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey.

In 2018, Arkansas' uninsured rate among children younger than 2 years old was just 2.2%. By 2024 — the most recent year for which data is available — it had risen to 7.6%, the eighth-highest in the U.S. Only Delaware saw a greater increase over the same six-year period.

The two states are outliers. Forty states saw rates of uninsured babies either go down, stay constant, or increase by less than 2% from 2018 to 2024. The national average in 2024 was 5%, an increase of 0.9% from 2018.

Infant mortality in Arkansas was the second-highest in the nation in 2024, according to the U.S. Centers for Dis-



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ease Control and Prevention. A large body of research has established a link between infant mortality and insurance status, with uninsured infants facing significantly higher risk of death during their first year.

So why did the rate of Arkansas babies without health insurance [more than triple](#) in just six years?

Camille Richoux, health policy director at Arkansas

See **COVERAGE**, Page 3A

Plan to import Russian diesel faces GOP critics

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

President Donald Trump's announcement of a deal with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to import Russian diesel has drawn criticism from some Republicans running in the most competitive midterm races, as the party grasps for ways to contain

soaring energy prices.

The president announced the arrangement, which undercuts U.S. sanctions on Moscow, under pressure to rein in the surging price of diesel. The product's cost has climbed because of the war with Iran, which has clogged a vital oil-shipping

See **DIESEL**, Page 5A

WEATHER
LITTLE ROCK
TODAY TONIGHT
HIGH 92 LOW 68
INDEX
Arkansas 1B Public notices 1E
Classifieds 1E Sports 1C
Crossword 4D Style 1D
Editorials 4B Television 2D
Heloise 4D Voices 5B
Obituaries 2B Weather 8C
Home delivery (501) 378-3456
Outside Pulaski County 1-800-482-1121



Officials seeing increasing number of violent threats

NICK CORASANTINI THE NEW YORK TIMES

An investigation by The New York Times examining hundreds of records obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, court documents and law enforcement logs has found that, over a two-year period from 2024 to August of this year, thousands of violent threats inundated the lives of elected officials in unprecedented ways.

At least 44 governors, as well as their staff members and families, have been subjected to violent threats over the past two years, the Times' investigation found. That's also true of at least 70 of the nation's 100 senators, and at least 185 members of the House of Representatives — nearly half the body.

From state and local government to Congress, an unending river of violent threats is washing through the mailboxes, offices, voice-mail and texts of those who govern the nation. Thousands of public servants are living, working and, in the final weeks of election season, campaigning in a state of fear.

And it's getting worse, officeholders said in dozens of interviews.

Dozens of officials have fortified their homes, installed cameras and hired private security guards, often at their own expense. They've changed their daily routines, moved their children to new schools and grocery-shopped only at certain times and places. They've

See **THREATS**, Page 5A

Storm surge hits



A National Guard member stands in the spray of a wave as it hits the seawall, brought by the approaching Hurricane Simon, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on Sunday. (AP/Fernando Llano)

Article, 6A