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Albany airport pulls Noem video targeting Dems

Sites across U.S. blocking message, citing rules on political content

By Steve Hughes
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Albany International Airport removed a video of U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem blaming Congressional Democrats for the federal government shutdown. The airport pulled the video after first refusing to confirm its existence.

Democrats have been critical of the video and airports that are playing it, saying the video is an improper use of federal resources. Several other airports in New York, including Buffalo, Syracuse and Westchester, have said they would not play the video. Other major airports, including Charlotte, N.C., Cleveland, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Seattle and

Portland, Ore., have declined to play the recording, citing internal policies that bar political messaging or concerns that the video might violate state and federal laws that prohibit the use of public resources for political activity. Albany International Airport, like other airports around the country, is heavily reliant on See **NOEM**, A5



A video of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem blaming Democrats for the government shutdown was playing Tuesday at Albany International Airport's security gate. Will Waldron/Times Union

Early Halloween treat



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

Joelle Gifford, 11, picks out a Halloween costume under the watchful eye of her dad, Joseph Gifford, during a Halloween party for patients in the Camp Amedore room at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center on Tuesday. The hospital once again teamed up with Spirit Halloween's philanthropy, Spirit of Children, to host the event. Donations collected at Spirit Halloween stores directly support the hospital's Child Life program. Mathayus Montero, 5, left, leaves after picking a costume with his mother, Aida Negron.

Power grid fears fanned by operator

By Brendan J. Lyons
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The New York Independent System Operator, which manages the state's power grid, issued a new assessment on Tuesday that warns there may be "significant reliability shortfalls within the next 10 years." A second, short-term assessment issued by the grid operator also found that over the next five years there may be "reliability violations" in New York City and Long Island beginning next summer. Those problems are a result of power plant deactivations and also "increasing consumer demand and transmission limitations."

See **GRID**, A3



Oklahoma Governor's Office
The New York commercial drivers license shared by the governor of Oklahoma.

Feds: N.Y. wrong on immigrant's driver's license

By Dan Clark
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The federal government is accusing New York officials of falsely claiming that a commercial driver's license seized from a migrant during a truck stop checkpoint in Oklahoma last month was issued legally and under the correct name. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released new information about the man's New York license on Friday, several days after claims about its origin went viral on social See **LICENSE**, A4

Heating bills expected to rise this winter

By Ezra Bitterman
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — National Grid's natural gas customers will pay about \$13 a month more for home heating this winter, the energy company announced this week. The average monthly heating bill between November and next March will be around \$145 for natural gas us-

ers, roughly a 10% increase from last year. Many of those customers are already reeling from heat-wave driven increases in this year's summer electric bills. National Grid also started implementing higher rates last month after state regulators approved its three-year spending plan. The cost of electricity, which is being used to heat an increasing number of homes, isn't expected to significant-

ly rise over the winter, National Grid spokesman Patrick Stella said. The cost of fuel oil largely remains in line with the price of natural gas, according to Energy Information Administration data, so those customers could also see increases. Supply and delivery costs are the two main components of heating bills. Supply — the cost of the natural gas — See **HEATING**, A4

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