

Final Four set

Miami, San Diego State punch tickets with Elite Eight victories. — Sports, 1C



Worth the work

Pine Hollow full of natural beauty for Ozark Society bushwhack. — Style, 1D

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

Copyright © 2023, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Printed at Little Rock • March 27, 2023

ArkansasOnline.com

★ ★ 32 Pages • 5 Sections \$3.00

In the news

Sharon Weston Broome, mayor-president of Baton Rouge, wrote on Twitter that she extends her condolences to the families and colleagues of the BRPD officers who tragically lost their lives when their helicopter crashed into a sugarcane field.

Tomasz Kosowski, 44, of Tarpon Springs, Fla., was arrested on a first-degree murder charge in the disappearance of a lawyer from a firm that represents former co-workers the plastic surgeon has been suing.

Mauricio Macri, former president of Argentina, told voters in a YouTube video that he "will not be a candidate in the next election" and expressed confidence that they "will choose the person who best represents us."

Seth Beavers, 33, of Mount Sterling, Ill., was jailed without bond on an attempted murder charge after Okaloosa County, Fla., sheriff's investigators say the former Navy rescue swimmer attacked a security guard and tried to drown him in a pool.

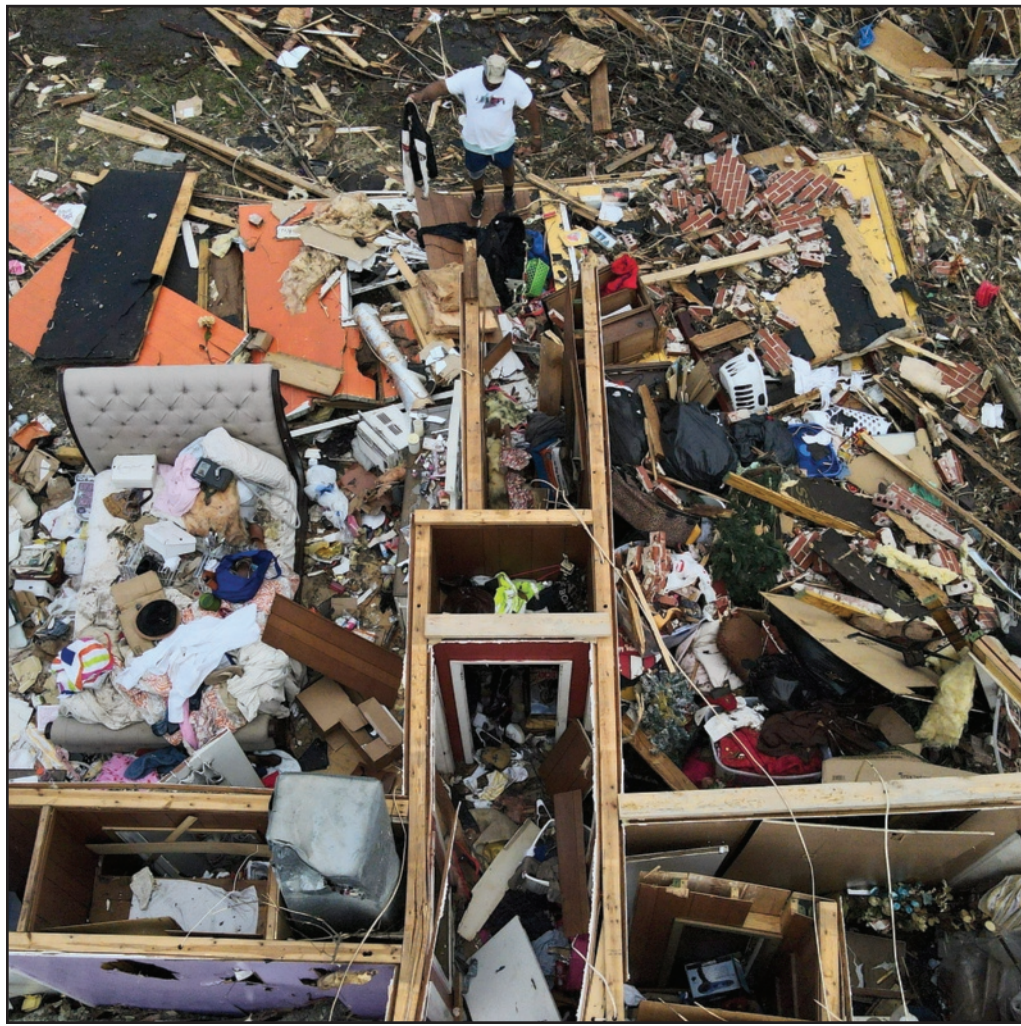
Ro Khanna, Democratic U.S. congressman of California, passed on a Senate run to succeed retiring Dianne Feinstein and said in a statement he looks "forward to fighting alongside [Rep.] Barbara Lee," whom he credits as "a personal hero and one of the reasons why I first ran for Congress at age 27 on an anti-war platform."

Barbara Ortiz Howard, a 70-year-old parishioner at the Cathedral of St. John's the Divine in Manhattan, said she felt the public apology for the Episcopal Diocese of New York's role in the slave trade "was powerful ... but this was a start."

Richard Strickland, Monroe County, Fla., airports director, said in a statement service was not interrupted at Key West International Airport when two Cuban migrants illegally landed a powered hang glider and "operations continue as normal."

Edward Williams, a white traffic officer who said he's been with the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department for 21 years, claimed in a lawsuit that leaders encouraged officers to meet illegal ticket quotas by racially profiling drivers in neighborhoods of color.

Elijah Pierick, Republican state representative of Hawaii, was barred from participating in a parade honoring a Native Hawaiian prince after he posted an Instagram video encouraging parents to contact a middle school principal for displaying what he called "a LGBTQ flag."



A man (top center) salvages a jacket Sunday as he looks over a home destroyed by a tornado in Rolling Fork, Miss. More photos at arkansasonline.com/327miss23/. (AP/Julio Cortez)

Help pouring into storm-hit Delta region

Mississippi recovery starts as other states are battered

MICHAEL GOLDBERG AND EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROLLING FORK, Miss. — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction for more than an hour across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late Friday. A man was also killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over

several times.

"Everything I can see is in some state of destruction," said Jarrod Kunze, who drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to help "in whatever capacity I'm needed."

Kunze was among volunteers working Sunday at a staging area, where bottled water and other supplies were being readied for distribution.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and

See STORMS, Page 6A

Building plans see progress at school

LR Central High to gain facilities

CYNTHIA HOWELL ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The planned addition of a three-story classroom building and an indoor practice field to the south side of Little Rock's historic Central High campus will not mar the grandeur of the main building, school system leaders have assured School Board members and others in recent weeks.

"The architects have done a fantastic job of celebrating the design of the original academic building at Central," Kevin Yarberry, the district's director of maintenance and operations, told the School Board about the design of a classroom addition that will replace a row of portable buildings.

"Now, obviously we're not using the same materials," Yarberry said about the new building. "Most of them are almost impossible to procure in today's time. But when you see the full presentation you will see a lot of nods to the [main] See CENTRAL, Page 6A



A worker puts out an oil spill containment boom March 31, 2013, in Lake Conway near Highway 89 in Mayflower as workers continue to clean up after the oil spill in the Northwoods subdivision. (Democrat-Gazette file photo)

Mayflower recalls oil spill decade ago

Worry lingers over pipeline restarting

WILL LANGHORNE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

MAYFLOWER — A decade after a pipeline rupture sent thousands of gallons of crude oil oozing through the Northwoods subdivision, the Mayflower neighborhood resembles any other quiet suburb.

Yards once blackened by oil are now green with grass. Homes that were evacuated shortly after the spill have cars parked in their driveways. Among the only visi-

ble reminders of the leak that upended the lives of dozens of residents are a couple of vacant plots that ring a cul-de-sac at the corner of the neighborhood closest to the pipeline.

On March 29, 2013, what was then known as the Pegasus pipeline split open, releasing more than 100,000 gallons of oil containing toxic compounds including benzene, a carcinogen. The spill prompted a monthslong See SPILL, Page 3A

Ukraine insists on U.N. session over Putin plan

Nuke sites in Belarus at issue

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine's government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said Russia "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

Further heightening tensions, an explosion deep inside Russia wounded three people Sunday. Russian authorities blamed a Ukrainian drone for the blast, which damaged residential buildings in a town just 110 miles south of Moscow.

Russia has said the plan to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus comes in response to the West's increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a TV interview that aired Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. decision last week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted



Ukrainian soldiers fire a mortar Sunday at Russian positions near Bakhmut in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. More photos at arkansasonline.com/ukrainemonth14/. (AP/Libkos)

RUSSIA LAUNCHES recruiting drive for Ukraine war. Page 2A.

uranium.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States. He noted that Washington has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

"We are doing what they See UKRAINE, Page 2A

WEATHER LITTLE ROCK Today Mostly sunny to partly cloudy. High 68. Tonight Isolated showers. Low 45.

INDEX Arkansas 1B Public notices 1E Classifieds 1E Sports 1C Crossword 4B Style 1D Editorials 4B Television 2D Obituaries 2B Voices 5B Police beat 6B Weather 6C

Home delivery (501) 378-3456 Outside Pulaski County 1-800-482-1121

Barcode with numbers 0 51497 3108 20

Advocates: Lift barriers to pretrial inmates' vote

GARY FIELDS AND MICHAEL TARM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — The most recent survey from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, released in December, showed that 451,400 of the 636,300 people held in jails across the country had not been convicted and thus should retain their right to vote.

Despite that, voting rights advocates say a "de facto disenfranchisement" exists because of mistakes over eligibility and the difficulties that detainees and prisoners face in registering or voting. Expanding jailhouse voting is one of the latest steps to combine voting rights with criminal justice changes.

Tykarri Skillon, 25, awaiting trial on a weapons

charge, is part of a group not always mentioned in discussions about voting disenfranchisement. People serving sentences for felony convictions lose their right to vote. Detainees awaiting trial or serving misdemeanor or sentences do retain that right, but face barriers to exercising it in many parts of the United States.

The Cook County jail in Chicago, with more than 5,500 inmates and detainees, is one of the largest such facilities in the nation. It is one of several lockups where voting rights advocates have worked with local election and jail officials to offer voting for those held there. The list includes jails in Denver; Harris County, Texas; Los Angeles County; and the See VOTING, Page 3A

Netanyahu move sparks protest



Israelis opposed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan set up bonfires and block a highway Sunday in Tel Aviv during a protest after the Israeli leader fired his defense minister. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant had called on Netanyahu to freeze the plan, citing deep divisions in the country and turmoil in the military. More photos at arkansasonline.com/327telaviv/. (AP/Oren Ziv)

Article, 5A