

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Tupac Moseley**, 18, of Memphis, whose family members lost their home after his father died, overcame the uncertainty and stress of being homeless to earn a 4.3 GPA and graduate as valedictorian and plans to major in electrical engineering when he starts this fall at Tennessee State University.

■ **Mac McCutcheon**, the Republican speaker of the Alabama House, said the House floor is not "a professional wrestling ring" as he called on lawmakers to be more cordial and respectful a day after tempers flared in the chamber during debates over failed legislation and abortion.

■ **Nate Roman**, 44, of Marlborough, Mass., said he knew strangers had been in his home while he was at work but was surprised to find nothing taken and the house spotless, with freshly made beds, vacuumed rugs and even origami roses on the toilet-paper rolls.

■ **Anita Singleton**, who told a Slidell, La., police officer that her job as a Walmart cashier was a blessing even if she did have to walk 6 miles to work in the dark, now has her own car after Matt Bowers, a dealership owner, saw a story about Singleton and gave her a vehicle.

■ **Michael Bitnar**, sheriff of Chippewa County, Mich., posted "safety tips" on his department's Facebook page welcoming bird-watchers to the county but asking them not to leave their cars in the middle of a road while they take off on foot in pursuit of a feathered find.

■ **Alicyn De Santis**, 30, of Mankato, Minn., faces a child-neglect charge after police said she took her 6-month-old with her to a bar and became so intoxicated that she left the infant behind with drunken strangers when she departed to go to another bar.

■ **Michael Larson**, 37, of Memphis is accused of stealing a patrol car in Southaven, Miss., and crashing it into an elevated sidewalk before being arrested when he fled the scene on foot, police said.

■ **Pete Luke**, a sheriff's major in Hinds County, Miss., said a 50-year-old pilot escaped injury when the engine on his experimental aircraft failed as he prepared to land, causing the plane to clip a tree, hit a power line and crash to the ground, where it caught fire.

■ **Jeremy Stevens**, 36, was arrested on weapons and drug charges after police in Waterbury, Conn., said they spotted a white-handled pistol in his waistband that turned out to be a 3-D-printed plastic gun with a .22-caliber round in the chamber.

The wind, and then the rain



AP/JEFF ROBERSON

People pick up inside a storm-ravaged building Thursday in Jefferson City, Mo., after a large tornado tore a 3-mile long, mile-wide path across the city late Wednesday. About two dozen people were injured, while three people were killed elsewhere in Missouri by the storm system. Accompanying heavy rain is causing widespread flooding in several states, including Arkansas, where the Arkansas River is expected to cause "catastrophic flooding" in some areas. *Articles, 4A, 1B*

Tuition rises approved for most of UA System

EMILY WALKENHORST
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Tuition or fees will officially rise next year at nearly every University of Arkansas System campus after a board of trustees vote Thursday.

Trustees approved tuition and fee increases of less than 3% at four of the five four-year universities at its final meeting of the academic year, held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The vote comes after three other Arkansas public universities raised tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year, one year after all public colleges and universities froze tuition prices at the request of Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Southern Arkansas University trustees meet next Thursday and Arkansas State University System trustees meet June 6, the last of the two university systems to approve tuition increases.

Andrew Rogerson (right), University of Arkansas at Little Rock chancellor, gives a presentation Thursday during the UA board of trustees meeting at UALR. Rogerson thanked the trustees for their patience as his university deals with deficit and enrollment problems.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/THOMAS METTKE

Hutchinson. Southern Arkansas University trustees meet next Thursday and Arkansas State University System trustees meet June 6, the last of the two university systems to approve tuition increases.

University System trustees meet June 6, the last of the two university systems to approve tuition increases. See **TUITION**, Page 3A

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U.S. handing farmers \$16B in tariff relief

Program aims to ease harm from trade war with China

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday unveiled a new \$16 billion bailout for farmers hurt by China's tariffs.

The amount "is in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions," the Agriculture Department said in a statement.

The new program will make \$14.5 billion in direct payments to producers, channeled through the Commodity Credit Corp., a program that helps shore up American farmers by buying their crops. The payments will be made to agricultural producers for a wide range of products, from soybeans and cotton to chickpeas and cherries, in up to three tranches, beginning in late July or early August.

The government will also implement a \$1.4 billion

STOCK MARKET swoons as investors fear long standoff in trade dispute. Page 1D.

program to purchase surplus commodities affected by the trade war and distribute them to food banks, schools and other programs for the poor, as well as put another \$100 million toward developing new export markets for American farmers.

The financial support comes after the administration handed out \$12 billion in emergency relief for farmers last year, also funded through the Commodity Credit Corp. "China hasn't played by the rules for a long time and President Trump is standing up to them, sending the clear message that the United States will no longer tolerate their unfair trade practices, which include non-tariff trade barriers and the theft of intellectual property," Sonny Perdue, the agriculture secretary, said in a statement.

See **CHINA**, Page 2A

D.C. tussle pitting Democrats against president heats up

Pelosi questions fitness of Trump to remain in job; he calls her 'crazy'

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The rift between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats appeared to be widening Thursday, a day after he abruptly ended a meeting with them at the White House on infrastructure.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday openly questioned Trump's fitness to remain in office.

"I wish that his family or his staff would have an intervention for the good of the country," Pelosi said at her weekly news conference, adding



AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

Asked Thursday whether she's concerned about President Donald Trump's well-being, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi replied, "I am."

that she prays for him and the nation.

Trump responded by calling her "crazy."

"She's a mess," Trump

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WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mostly sunny and hot.
High 91, light south winds.
Tonight Clear and muggy.
Low 71.



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Mideast troop-move plans given to Trump

Force size unsure, defense chief says

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday presented proposals to the White House to send military reinforcements to the Middle East to beef up defenses against Iran as tensions heighten in the region. President Donald Trump, speaking to reporters before the meeting, said he was not convinced the troops were needed but would do whatever was necessary.

"We'll see what happens with Iran," said Trump. "I don't think we're going to need them, I really don't, but

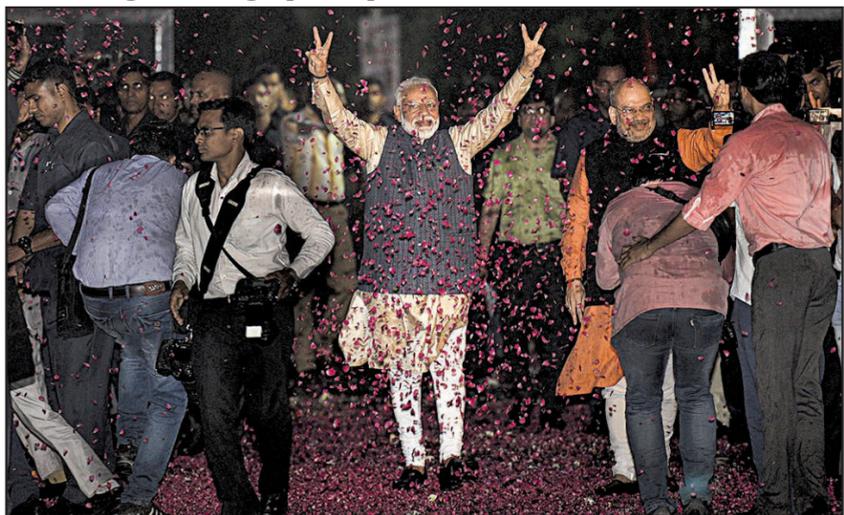
GERMAN ENVOY heads to Iran to push for sticking with the nuclear agreement. Page 6A.

we're going to have a meeting on it in about an hour. I would certainly send troops if we need them."

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters the Defense Department has not yet determined how many troops might be sent to reinforce the existing U.S. military presence in the region.

He disputed reports that the Pentagon was proposing to send up to 10,000 more troops. See **TROOPS**, Page 8A

Modi tightens grip on power



AP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India celebrates Thursday with fellow Bharatiya Janata Party members at their headquarters in New Delhi as the charismatic leader appeared on track to lead the ruling party to India's biggest re-election victory in decades. *Article, 8A*