

**Israel makes a move**

Officials declare Gaza 'hostile' before Rice arrives in Mideast for talks. — International, 8A



**Confounding concussions**

Medical personnel tighten reins on players with brain-bruising injuries. — Sports, 1C

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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Printed at Little Rock • Thursday, September 20, 2007 ArkansasOnline.com 92 Pages 9 Sections 50¢

**In the news**

■ **Dan Rather**, 75, the long-time anchorman of the CBS *Evening News* who replaced Walter Cronkite in 1981 and manned the desk until March 9, 2005, has filed a lawsuit in a Manhattan court against CBS, accusing the network of making him a "scapegoat" for a now-discredited story about President Bush's National Guard service.

■ **Buzz Aldrin**, 77, has put on the auction block a handwritten card containing a Bible verse that the Apollo 11 astronaut read privately in 1969 during a lunar Holy Communion service, one of 43 moon-trip items consigned to Dallas' Heritage Auction Galleries by Aldrin.

■ **Vinson Filyaw**, 37, a South Carolina man who admitted kidnapping a 14-year-old girl, raping her and holding her for more than a week in an underground bunker before the teen sent a text message to her mother through his cell phone, has been sentenced to 421 years in prison.

■ **Betty Perry**, a 70-year-old who was arrested in a dispute over her brown lawn, pleaded innocent in Orem, Utah, to resisting arrest and failing to maintain her landscaping.

■ **Robin Roberts**, 46, the co-host of ABC's *Good Morning America* who had surgery last month for breast cancer, is scheduled to begin chemotherapy, she said on the show, adding, "Part of the reason I am coming forward is in case you tune in and it looks like Kojak is sitting next to Diane [Sawyer], you'll understand why."

■ **Pope Benedict XVI** plans to travel to the United States in the spring to address the United Nations, the Vatican has announced, adding that other possible U.S. stops haven't yet been confirmed.

■ **Daniel Biechele**, 30, the former tour manager for the heavy-metal band Great White, whose pyrotechnics ignited a nightclub blaze in Rhode Island that killed 100 people, has been granted parole and will be released in March after serving less than half of his four-year sentence.

■ **Robert Esper**, 66, of Winnemucca, Nev., was uninjured when the truck he was driving overturned near Huntley, Mont., releasing a "couple thousand" bees from the 465 beehives he was hauling, state police said, adding that Esper was ticketed and accused of careless driving.

■ **Trevor Michael Karney**, 27, who lied about not being a passenger in the high-speed crash of a \$1.5 million Ferrari in California in order to give driver Bo Stefan Eriksson a cover story, has been sentenced to 30 days in jail for giving police false information.

■ **Zsa Zsa Gabor**, the 90-year-old actress who has remained partially paralyzed from a 2002 car accident, was recovering at a Los Angeles hospital after undergoing surgery for infections in her legs, her husband said.

**Lebanese lawmaker assassinated**



Lebanese soldiers guard the scene of a bomb attack Wednesday in a Christian neighborhood of Beirut. An anti-Syria lawmaker and six other people were killed in the blast, which came days before the start of voting on Lebanon's next president. Article, 7A

## 39th told to get ready, but then funding gets iffy

Oct. 1 start of in-state training up in air till federal brass decide

BY AMY SCHLESING  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Although a letter sent this week to 39th Infantry Brigade soldiers said funding had been secured to make them full-time soldiers Oct. 1, the \$53 million required and the entire training plan remain uncertain, leaving soldiers, families and employers in limbo.

The letter, signed by Col. Kendall Penn, brigade commander, and dated Sept. 13, details the training plan, which would place soldiers on orders under the governor's control for the three months leading up to the brigade's January federal mobilization. The activation would be funded with federal dollars even though the brigade would be under the state's authority.

When the brigade mobilizes in January for deployment to Iraq, it will shift to federal orders, falling under the control of the president just as the active-duty Army does.

Under the plan, soldiers would train at their home armories from Oct. 1 to the Jan. 1 federal mobilization.

**BILL TO ASSURE** more rest time for troops between combat tours blocked in Senate. Page 9A.

"With the assistance of the Governor of Arkansas and the Adjutant General's office the [brigade] has procured sufficient funding to put all soldiers on Active Duty for Training orders to cover the entire period of the train-up," Penn wrote in the two-page letter. "... It is a mandatory call to active duty under Arkansas law."

At the time the letter was written, state officials believed the funding was available because the National Guard Bureau promised to foot the bill.

Officials of the 1st Army and the Defense Department say the letter is premature, however, because they have not approved the extended training plan or the funding. The 1st Army oversees all mobilization training of Guard and Reserve units, and the Defense Department controls National Guard Bureau funding.

State, National Guard Bureau and 1st Army leaders are See **39TH**, Page 9A

## Parking violators' time up

It's the boot for those owing \$250 or more in fines

BY MATTHEW S.L. CATE  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Greg Slocum strode across Second Street in downtown Little Rock to his red Chevrolet pickup Wednesday after a traffic court appearance a few blocks away where he paid \$1,290 in parking fines.

He slid some pocket change into the nearby parking meter, but the first driver to come out from under the heel of Little Rock's new booting program declined to comment.

Hoping to stem the annual loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars, Arkansas' capital city is targeting drivers who've ignored more than \$250 in parking fines within a year.

Under the booting program, which began Wednesday, if any of those drivers get busted for a parking violation again before they settle their debts, the city will immobilize their vehicles with a bright orange steel clamp.

The tickets must be paid be-



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEVE KEESEE

**A federal security officer** who said he wasn't allowed to give his name checks out one of the first cars booted Wednesday in Little Rock in front of the federal courts building.

fore the boot is removed.

Including Slocum, three drivers got the boot Wednesday. Slocum of Little Rock and Crystal Cokeley of Mabelvale settled their overdue tickets be-

fore the end of the day. Cokeley paid \$1,160.

Jennifer Heimbaugh of Conway has a hearing today at 11:30 a.m. with Assistant City Man- See **BOOT**, Page 5A

## AT&T support center to create 175 LR jobs

Firm says Arkansas tops 2 other states

BY LAURA STEVENS  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

AT&T announced on Wednesday that it will establish an Internet subscriber support center in Little Rock that will create 175 jobs.

The company is getting the jobs back after outsourcing them to companies that took many of the jobs overseas, AT&T Arkansas President Ed Drilling said.

"Arkansas has a business climate that invites investment, and the Arkansans whom we employ are a great fit for these jobs because they are customer friendly and understand technology," Drilling said in a pre-

pared statement.

"These 175 new jobs could have gone anywhere in the country, and it is because of the visionary leadership of Gov. [Mike] Beebe, city leaders, the Chamber of Commerce and the Arkansas General Assembly that we are opening this new Internet subscriber support center."

The company narrowed the search to three states — the names of which Beebe said he wasn't allowed to reveal. Beebe said Arkansas won because of a team effort.

The state gave AT&T \$300,000 in economic infra- See **AT&T**, Page 10A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK MCFARLAND

**Gov. Mike Beebe** (left) appears Wednesday at the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce with Ed Drilling, president of AT&T Arkansas, who announced plans for an Internet subscriber support center in Little Rock.

## Toll revenue to leave state \$140 million short on Bella Vista Bypass

BY NOEL E. OMAN  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The quest to build the Bella Vista Bypass as a toll road has hit a ditch about \$140 million deep — much deeper than state highway officials originally projected.

The \$140 million chasm be-

tween what tolls would raise and the project's \$225 million cost — about \$14 million more than estimated more than a year ago — constitutes a sharp setback.

Highway officials see the projected toll road as a way to introduce Arkansans to another

financing tool in an era when states are grappling with billions of dollars in needs over what traditional revenue sources — mainly fuel taxes — generate.

They tried to put the setback in the best possible light but couldn't hide their unhappiness with the news, delivered at an

Arkansas Highway Commission meeting in Little Rock on Wednesday.

"It's difficult to look at these numbers today and see what we've got to deal with," the commission chairman, Jonathan Barnett of Silamo Springs, told his colleagues.

"We're all disappointed that the numbers didn't come out like we thought they would," said Dan Flowers, the director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

The Bella Vista Bypass would provide relief to the growing See **BYPASS**, Page 10A

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK**  
**Today** Mostly sunny and hot.  
**High** Low 90s with light and variable winds.  
**Tonight** Mostly clear and seasonably mild.  
**Low** Mid-60s.



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