

Explosions rake Iraq

At least 55 die in attacks just days before elections — International, 9A



Writing wrongs

Literary Festival authors take quiz on state with mixed results. — Style, 1E

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In the news

■ **Noe Ramirez**, Mexico's former drug czar who was charged in 2008 with organized crime after he was accused of accepting \$450,000 to leak details of police operations against cartel members, was acquitted after a federal judge determined the main witness in the case lied and prosecutors might have fabricated evidence.

■ **Raymond Voet**, a Michigan judge whose smart phone disrupted a hearing in his own courtroom, has held himself in contempt and paid \$25 for the infraction.

■ **Fazil Say**, a classical pianist and composer who has played with the New York Philharmonic and Berlin Symphony orchestras, was convicted in Turkey and given a 10-month suspended sentence for inciting hatred and insulting Islam in several Twitter posts, which he said were meant to criticize the exploitation of religion for profit.

■ **Richard Lugar**, a former Republican U.S. senator from Indiana who finished his sixth term this year, is being knighted on orders from England's Queen Elizabeth II, joining a select list of Americans to receive the distinction, including Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

■ **Mirza Himayat Baig**, who has been linked to Pakistan-based Islamist rebel group Lashkar-e-Taiba, was convicted of murder and criminal conspiracy in a February 2010 bombing that killed 17 people at a popular bakery in western India.

■ **Dorothy Canfield**, an 84-year-old woman jailed on a theft charge, is now charged with solicitation to commit aggravated assault after she was accused of trying to hire a hit man to kill a Houston-area prosecutor and maim his boss.

■ **President Mahmoud Abbas** attended a ceremony to open a Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait City, becoming the first Palestinian leader hosted by Kuwait since ties were broken over the 1990 Iraq invasion of the Persian Gulf state.

■ **Curtis Gonzalez** of New Iberia, La., has been credited with saving Senny the Senegal parrot, which Gonzalez found on the side of a highway after a man stole it and two other birds from the privately owned Zoo of Acadiana and then fatally crashed after a police chase.

■ **President Idriss Deby** of Chad announced that his country's troops are pulling out of Mali three months after a French-led mission to oust al-Qaida-linked militants began.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Tonight Partly cloudy and warm.
High 79,
with south-southeast winds at 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight Partly cloudy.
Low 67.



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Bombs rip Boston



AP/The Boston Globe, JOHN TLUMACKI

PLUS
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A runner is helped up as people react to the first explosion as a second blast goes off (in background) at the 2013 Boston Marathon on Monday. The two explosions near the finish line killed three people and injured more than 100.

2 blasts kill 3, mangle crowds

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

BOSTON — Two bombs exploded in the packed streets near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday, killing three people and injuring more than 140 in a scene of shattered glass, bloodstained pavement and severed limbs, authorities said.

As many as two unexploded bombs were also found near the end of the 26.2-mile course as part of what appeared to be a well-coordinated attack, but they were safely disarmed, according to a senior U.S. intelligence official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because of the continuing investigation.

The Mandarin, Marriott and Lenox hotels were evacuated because of reports of suspicious packages, but no confirmed explosive devices had been found at those hotels.

President Barack Obama vowed that those responsible

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On the inside

POLICE in other large cities around the world step up security. Page 6A

RELATIVES AND friends frantically use phones and the Internet to learn the fate of runners. Page 7A

TWO HOURS before the explosions, the winners crossed the finish line. Page 1C

TIMES OF Arkansans who ran the race. Page 6C

LR racer finished just minutes ahead of blast

CATHY FRYE
AND CLAUDIA LAUER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The race clock showed 3:58:23 when Cortney Allison, 47, crossed the finish line at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

About 10 minutes later, as a weary and shivering Allison donned a pair of pants, she and other runners still in the finish chute heard — and felt — two consecutive booms.

Allison, who was near one of the buses waiting to pick up runners, looked up questioningly at a couple of

women already on her bus.

"Oh my goodness," one of them said.

"What can you see?" Allison asked.

"We just see a lot of smoke."

Someone standing nearby speculated: "Maybe it's a celebratory thing?"

At the four-hour mark? No way, Allison thought. She'd run the Boston Marathon the two previous years. She certainly would have remembered any celebratory booms that made the air vibrate.

Immediately, it seemed, See **ARKANSANS**, Page 7A



AP/CHARLES KRUPA

Medical workers aid injured people Monday at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon. Video footage showed an explosion off to the side, with some runners toppling over from the concussion.

Oil-pipeline rupture cut out, sent off

EVIE BLAD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

MAYFLOWER — Workers spent Monday removing a 52-foot segment of an Exxon Mobil pipeline that ruptured March 29 and spilled thousands of gallons of heavy crude oil into the yards, streets and ditches of the Northwoods subdivision, forcing the evacuation of its residents.

After stopping the flow of oil in the segments sur- See **OIL**, Page 5A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/
STEPHEN B. THORNTON

PLUS
Scan the photo or go to arkansasonline.com/videos

Exxon Mobil Pipeline Co. workers closely inspect part of a 22-foot long split in the Pegasus pipeline after its removal from the ground Monday in Mayflower.

Private-option bill falls 6 votes short

Today last chance to pass, Beebe says

SARAH D. WIRE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The 2013 Legislative session came to a standstill Monday when the House failed to pass an appropriations bill authorizing the state to spend federal funds to expand health care for the poor.

Gov. Mike Beebe said today is the last chance for lawmakers to pass House Bill 1219, which gives the Department of Human Services

authority to spend hundreds of millions of federal Medicaid dollars on a program that would allow a quarter of a million low-income Arkansans to pick government-subsidized private health-insurance plans.

The House voted 69-28 in favor of the bill but failed to meet the 75-vote threshold needed to approve an appropriation. All 48 Democrats See **MEDICAID**, Page 8A