

Street art crackdown

State to follow federal program, evaluate road murals. — Arkansas, 1B



Job opening

Hogs look for starting defensive tackle to pair with returner Ball. — Sports, 1C

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In the news

■ **Vincent Derouand**, a prosecutor's spokesperson in Switzerland where speeders' wealth is a factor in determining traffic penalties, said a driver did not contest his \$110,000 fine for going 48 mph in a 31 mph zone.

■ **Jessica Dittmer**, a special agent in the FBI's Art Crime Team, said a receipt signed in 1527 by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés has been returned to Mexico where it was stolen from the national archives almost 40 years ago.

■ **Jane Francis** called it a reminder of the human stories embedded in South Pole science as the British Antarctic Survey director announced the remains of meteorologist Dennis Bell, along with his knife and wristwatch, were returned to his family more than 60 years after his fatal fall into a King George Island crevasse.

■ **Reiko Muto**, then 17, was one of many recently remembering on the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender and recalled only relief, saying, "The first thing that came to my mind was that now I could leave the lights on at night."

■ **Willy Chavarria** has apologized to the people of Mexico's Oaxaca state after members of the Zapotec Indigenous group accused him of culturally appropriating their traditional footwear when he designed a sandal with braided leather straps for Adidas, which has asked to make amends.

■ **Jorge Pulgar Salgado**, one of many in Seville, Spain, upset by what they see as an unseemly glamorous restoration of a 17th century Virgin Mary statue with longer eyelashes and a smokier gaze, said all he could say was, "Mother, what happened to you?"

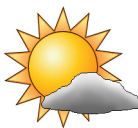
■ **Ethan Guo's** layover on a remote Chilean air base is in its second month as the U.S. teen trying for a world flight record instead had to resolve accusations that he'd filed a false flight plan and now faces questions about the airworthiness of his plane.

■ **Rene Ramos**, who helped renovate Miami's Freedom Tower, where Cuban arrivals once found medical care, English classes and their first peanut butter, said the museum is to remind people of "what immigrants can accomplish when they're given the opportunity."

■ **Payton Gendron** has asked for the dismissal of federal charges against him in a 2022 racially motivated attack that killed 10 Black victims in a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket because there were too many white people on the grand jury, an argument Judge Lawrence Vilardo called "a little incongruous."

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mostly sunny.
High 100.
Tonight Slight chance of thunderstorms then mostly clear.
Low 75.



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Amid the ruins



Villager Mateen Khan and his family members sit over the rubble of their damaged home on Sunday following Friday's flash floods in Pir Baba, an area of Buner district, in Pakistan's northwest. (AP/Muhammad Sajjad)

Article, 5A

Growing Israeli anger with war erupts in protest

Fear for hostages mounts

SAM METZ,
NATALIE MELZER
AND SAMY MAGDY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli protesters demanding a deal to free hostages in Gaza attempted to shut down the country Sunday in one of the largest and fiercest protests in 22 months of war. Organizers, representing the

VISITOR VISAS for Gaza residents halted. Page 3A.

families of hostages, asserted that hundreds of thousands of people took part.

Frustration is growing in Israel over plans for a new military offensive in some of Gaza's most populated areas. See **PROTEST**, Page 3A

Boozman: Bill offers help for farmers

ALEX THOMAS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
WASHINGTON — As congressional Republicans worked on their massive tax and spending package earlier this summer, much of the attention was on the proposed extension of the 2017 tax law and changes affecting Medicaid and nutrition assistance.

The **One Big, Beautiful Bill Act** — which President Donald Trump signed into law on July 4 — maintains the tax breaks, imposes a federal work requirement for Med-

icaid recipients, and places a cost share on states for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but it also delivers a significant update to agriculture programs.

Farmers and other producers called on Congress to authorize changes to existing agriculture programs in the lead-up to the 2018 farm bill's original expiration in September 2023. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have been unable to pass a new farm bill, and instead extended the stand-

ing law on two occasions.

"We could have tweaked the 2018 farm bill very easily several years ago," Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., explained.

"Because of inflation, that's what changed everything. The financial part of the farm bill became very expensive, and it was just always a challenge to come up with the dollars that we needed."

The Senate and House approved the One Big, Beautiful Bill Act without Democratic support. All six members of Arkansas' congressional del-

egation, who are Republicans, backed the measure.

Boozman, of Rogers, led the Senate effort drafting the agriculture and nutrition language of the legislative package. Boozman wields the gavel on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, which has jurisdiction over matters involving SNAP, as well as farms, livestock and rural development.

According to the **nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office**, the agriculture portion See **BOOZMAN**, Page 2A

Leaders plan unified front with Ukraine

International group to join Trump-Zelenskyy summit

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS
KYIV, Ukraine — European and NATO leaders announced Sunday they will join President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Washington to present a united front in talks with President Donald Trump on ending Russia's war in Ukraine and firming up U.S. security guarantees now on the negotiating table.

Leaders from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Finland are rallying around the Ukrainian president after his exclusion from Trump's summit Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Their pledge to be at Zelenskyy's side at the White House on Monday is an apparent effort to ensure the

UKRAINIANS CRITICAL after summit. Page 6A.

UKRAINE STRUGGLES to save wounded soldiers. Page 6A.

meeting goes better than the last one in February, when Trump berated Zelenskyy in a heated Oval Office encounter.

"The Europeans are very afraid of the Oval Office scene being repeated and so they want to support Mr. Zelenskyy to the hilt," said retired French Gen. Dominique Trinquand, a former head of France's military mission at the United Nations.

"It's a power struggle and a position of strength that See **UKRAINE**, Page 6A

Blast sees questions arise for US Steel

Debate revived on plant's future

MARC LEVY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
HARRISBURG, Pa. —

The fatal explosion last week at U.S. Steel's Pittsburgh-area coal-processing plant has revived debate about its future just as the iconic American company was emerging from a long period of uncertainty.

The fortunes of steel-making in the U.S. — along with profits, share prices and steel prices — have been buoyed by years of friendly administrations in Washington that slapped tariffs on foreign imports and bolstered the industry's anti-competitive trade cases against China.

Most recently, President Donald Trump's administration postponed new hazardous air pollution requirements for the nation's roughly dozen coke plants, like Clairton, and he approved U.S. Steel's nearly \$15 billion acquisition by Japanese steelmaker Nippon. See **STEEL**, Page 2A



People sit on the ground and cover their heads as a siren sounds a warning of incoming missiles fired from Yemen during a protest demanding the immediate release of hostages held by Hamas and calling for the Israeli government to reverse its decision to take over Gaza City and other areas in the Gaza Strip, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday. (AP/Maya Levin)

Officials debate rules on setting speed limits

JEFF McMURRAY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Some states — with a nudge from the federal government — are seeking to modify if not replace a widely accepted concept when setting guidelines for how local engineers should decide what speed limit to post.

The 85% rule suggests that a road's posted speed should be tied to the 15th-fastest vehicle out of every 100 traveling it in free-flowing traffic, rounded to the nearest 5 mph increment. The concept assumes that a road's safest speed is the one most vehicles travel — neither too high nor too low. If drivers think the speed limit should be raised, they can simply step on the gas and "vote

with their feet," as an old brochure from the Institute of Transportation Engineers once put it.

Rose Hammond pushed authorities for years to lower the 55 mph speed limit on a two-lane road that passes her assisted living community, a church, two schools and a busy park that hosts numerous youth sports leagues.

"What are you waiting for, somebody to get killed?" the 85-year-old chided officials in northwest Ohio, complaining that nothing was being done about the motorcycles that race by almost daily.

Amid growing public pressure, Sylvania Township asked county engineers in March to analyze whether Mitchaw Road's posted See **SPEED**, Page 3A

Indonesia Independence Day challenge



A participant reacts during a greased-pole climbing competition held to celebrate Indonesia's 80th Independence Day at Ancol Beach in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sunday. (AP/Tatan Syuflana)