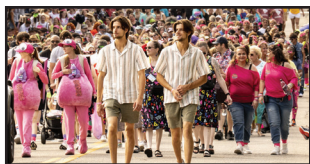


Battle won
Arkansas tabs Jackson starting QB. — Sports, 1C



Seeing double
What it's like to spend a weekend with more than 2,000 sets of twins. — Style, 1D

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Cyril Grueter**, an Oxford primateologist intrigued years ago by a zoo's gibbon that made a pet of a mouse in her enclosure, surveyed 427 cases of such behavior in 88 species, finding every primate has the tendency to keep pets, but not to human extremes.

■ **Prince Laurent** of Belgium has acknowledged paternity of Clément Vandekerckhove, 26 years after his birth to the then-single monarch and actor Wendy Van Wanten, in a decree that grants Vandekerckhove the title of prince but excludes him from the line of succession.

■ **Nathan Hochman** said he sent the wrong message and the district attorney will reduce charges against Daniel Flores for recording fellow Los Angeles officers' racially and sexually offensive conversations that led to their disciplinary hearings.

■ **Terrell Williams** is charged in a break-in at NASCAR racer Greg Biffle's Georgia home after Biffle, his wife and their two children died in a plane crash and police say they have recovered property stolen in the burglary.

■ **Will Naylor**, skipper of a yacht racing to circumnavigate the British Isles, radioed in with news of a stowaway, an exhausted barn owl that crash-landed on deck and whom the sailors named Little Reg, then Little Regina.

■ **Aina Akamu** remembered 93-year-old May Doi, one of two people killed on Hawaii's Big Island by Hurricane Lala, as a kindergarten teacher so much of a fixture that she had taught former students' grandchildren and who sometimes let children hold slumber parties in her classroom.

■ **Danielis Molina Cruz** said a friend was playing with rocks on Lake Mead's Boulder Beach when "he grabbed the jaw, and when he looked, he saw the teeth and everything," as the record-low reservoir near Las Vegas yielded another body, one of several over the past five years, though officials say there's no sign of foul play.

■ **Royal Cothrun** received a key to his hometown of Gilbert, Ariz., from City Council members after the 14-year-old stopped his bicycle ride to help a dementia sufferer walking to the grocery on a 100-degree day, called her family and waited with her 1½ hours until help came.

■ **Hwang Soo-kyung**, a pet fortune teller in South Korea, which has one of the world's lowest birth rates, said no client schedules just one tarot session "because once you start asking what your dog is thinking, you can't really stop."

Determined digits



A man tries to pull his opponent over the table during the traditional German finger-pulling (Fingerhakeln) championships in Pflug, Germany, on Sunday. (Reuters/Angelika Warmuth)

Iran: Support for US' sanctions is act of war

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

The new head of Iran's top security body warned Sunday that Tehran will see any country's support for new U.S. economic measures against the Islamic Republic as an "act of war," while Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of the stalled conflict.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday is expected to announce the new measures after the U.S. vowed to impose an "unprecedented" level of economic warfare

and isolation on a country that has lived for decades under sanctions. Also Monday, Pakistan's army chief is expected to visit Iran as mediators try to revive talks.

Meanwhile, attacks calmed on the Strait of Hormuz but posturing did not, as a recently created Iranian authority listed dozens of vessels it said will face restrictions on future transits.

The hard-line leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, issued his latest warning on X, with the comments quickly shared by Iranian state media.

It came a day after Rezaei's most extensive public comments since being named to the post this month.

"If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," he had told the state broadcaster in an interview that aired late Saturday. He said Iran would target other oil-shipping routes from the Persian Gulf — alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz.

Rezaei, a former Revolutionary Guard commander and military adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was part of

See **IRAN**, Page 6A



People react as they watch the Freedom 250 Grand Prix IndyCar series race on a screen in Washington on Sunday. (Reuters/Daniel Heuer)

Freedom 250 Grand Prix sees race cars roar through capital

COMPILED BY
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FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Washington hosted an IndyCar race through its streets Sunday, with President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump kicking off the Freedom 250 Grand Prix by leading a slow lap in the presidential limousine through the course. Soon after, the president waved the green flag to start the race and drivers began whipping through downtown, including a stretch along Pennsylv-

nia Avenue not too far from the White House.

"I'm going to make a little circle in a nice, secure car, slightly slower than the ones we're going to witness, but we're going to have fun," Trump said in an interview on Fox shortly before the ride.

The open-wheel race, with cars whizzing past Washington's monuments at speeds approaching 200 mph, is the latest of Trump's celebrations this year to mark America's 250th birthday.

Trump's other events to mark the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence's signing have included a UFC fight on the White House lawn, military aircraft flyovers, a July Fourth fireworks show on the National Mall and a Great American State Fair that the president headlined after scores of '90s-era musical acts dropped out.

The events have all had a Trumpian flair, featuring ap-

See **RACE**, Page 6A

Data on NLR's use of cameras found wanting

Range of outcomes weren't tracked by police despite law

DANIEL McFADIN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The North Little Rock Police Department lacks publicly available data from this year showing the results of traffic stops that resulted from license plate reading cameras.

That's despite a 2025 state law that requires agencies to compile that data every six months for public consumption and to retain the information for 18 months.

License plate readers take pictures of passing vehicles and log their license plate numbers, comparing the captured information against so-called "hot lists" assembled by the agencies that operate them. North Little Rock [has bought cameras](#) from Flock Safety, one of the country's largest vendors of license plate readers, as well as the Memphis-based company SkyCop.

From January through June, license plate readers operated by the North Little Rock police recorded 49.5 million scans of plates. Of those, 241,872 produced an alert.

Potential reasons for the alert include a stolen plate, a stolen vehicle, a connection to a missing person or a suspect with a warrant.

The North Little Rock Police Department's "match outcome analysis" included no data on successful outcomes resulting from an alert, such as a prosecution or recovery of property, nor of cases cleared, according to a six-month practice and usage [data report](#) obtained by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

North Little Rock Police Sgt. Gary Jones, of the department's Real Time Crime

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War, drought, tariffs hitting world's wheat

Grain prices likely to increase further

SOMINI SENGUPTA
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Wheat is at the heart of the modern diet, and this year, it is facing an accumulation of modern dangers. The breadbaskets of the world are getting pummeled by drone strikes and devilish weather, nudging prices higher amid already soaring food costs in

the wake of the Iran war.

Heat and drought have diminished harvests in some of the biggest wheat-producing countries, including the United States, which is expected to have its worst wheat harvest in a half-century, spiking prices. Poor countries that agreed to buy

See **WHEAT**, Page 6A

School's closure leaves unanswered questions

JOSH SNYDER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Taylor Jordan said that, when she spotted a 200-pound pig and other barnyard animals "running around" inside Nova Roots Academy this summer, it worried her "a little bit."

Shortly after Jordan saw the swine — and chickens, and several ducks — the new microschool for special needs students in Hot Springs stopped offering summer programming. Less than a month before its inaugural fall classes were set to begin on Aug. 20, the school [shut its doors entirely](#). Donna and Greg Witte, the school's founders, told families in a July 28 email that Nova Roots would "cease opera-



This coverage was made possible by donations to the ADG Community Journalism Project.

tions" as of Aug. 1.

Then the couple disappeared, according to Jordan. "(Donna Witte) canceled the last two weeks and then we never heard anything from her after that," Jordan said. "And even personally, I was checking on her and she wasn't responding to me at all."

Nova Roots was intended to be an "inclusive microschool for neurodivergent & experiential learners," according to a document Jordan shared with the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3A

Strike in Gaza



People run for cover during an Israeli strike carried out after residents were warned to evacuate the area, in Al-Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip, on Sunday. (Reuters/Mahmoud Issa)

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
TODAY

TONIGHT

HIGH
86

LOW
74

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