

Iran reaches verdict

Tehran doesn't reveal its decision on *Post* reporter. — International, 6A



Astros close in; Jays stay alive

Houston a game from clinching, while Toronto forces Game 4. — Sports, 1C

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ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Prince Nicolas Paul Gustaf**, who is the 4-month-old son of Sweden's Princess Madeleine and is sixth in line to the throne, was baptized in the chapel of Drottningholm Palace, near Stockholm.

■ **Khadga Prasad Oli**, 63, the leader of Nepal's Communist Party, was elected by fellow members of parliament as the first prime minister under the country's newly adopted constitution, which required the resignation of his predecessor, Su-shil Koirala.

■ **David Drumm**, 48, the former chief executive of Ireland's Anglo Irish Bank who stepped down in 2008 after it was disclosed that the bank's chairman had received \$115 million in hidden loans, was arrested in Massachusetts on an extradition warrant, according to the U.S. Marshals Service, which didn't specify what charges he faces.

■ **Wiz Khalifa**, the rapper whose real name is Cameron Jibril Thomaz, received a citation in Pittsburgh for urinating in public, police said.

■ **Alan Holmes**, an eighth-grader at Dexter McCarty Middle School in Gresham, Ore., was suspended for violating school dress code by wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the image of a gun, but told KATU-TV that he wanted to demonstrate patriotism with the shirt, which he said memorializes fallen soldiers.

■ **Gerald Howard Washington**, a Florida man, was charged in Tallahassee with criminal use of personal identification information and organized communications fraud, accused of holding fake job interviews and collecting urine samples from applicants as part of a plot to access their Social Security numbers and other personal data.

■ **Brad Jordan**, 44, the hip-hop artist known as Scarface, was honored for his musical achievements with the "I Am Hip Hop" award at the BET Hip Hop Awards in Atlanta, but was arrested shortly after on child support contempt charges.

■ **Kevin Hornbuckle** of Rohnert Park, Calif., was arrested on suspicion of possession and manufacture of a destructive device after maintenance workers at the Foxtail Golf Club found a homemade bomb on the 18th fairway, causing an evacuation of the clubhouse.

■ **Nadia Liu Spellman**, the owner of Dumpling Daughter in Weston, Mass., has sued two former employees and their current business partner, alleging the three stole her family's secret recipe for dumplings and opened a similar restaurant, Dumpling Girl, in Millbury.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mostly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms.
High 90.
Tonight Mostly cloudy in the evening, decreasing clouds overnight.
Low 54.



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Outside Pulaski County
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More violence in West Bank



An injured Palestinian demonstrator is helped during clashes at the Hawara checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday.
Article, 2A

Putin unyielding, Saudis soften stance on Assad

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday defended his air and cruise-missile strikes on terror targets in Syria as two Saudi Arabian officials softened their government's position on the fate of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Putin said Moscow's objective is to stabilize the Syrian government and create conditions for a political compromise.

"When a division of international terrorists stands

near the capital, then there is probably little desire for the Syrian government to negotiate, most likely feeling itself under siege in its own capital," he said in an interview broadcast Sunday on Russian state television.

Putin discussed the Syria campaign Sunday with Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Mohammed Bin Salman, who signaled a willingness to let Assad remain in power longer, while the foreign ministers of both nations met to consider the situation in Syria.

Putin's bombing campaign to support his ally Assad took

the U.S. and NATO by surprise and overshadowed a flurry of diplomatic discussions over how to tackle the conflict.

Now Russia is leading the diplomatic charge, with Putin meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bin Salman, who were in Sochi in southern Russia, site of a Formula 1 auto race. Putin again called for a political resolution emanating from Assad's government.

Critics of Russia's intervention have argued that
See SYRIA, Page 7A

Library, film fest ties strained

Emails show two staffs were at odds over office space

EMILY WALKENHORST
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Frustration between Little Rock Film Festival organizers and the Central Arkansas Library System resulted in the library canceling its agreement with the festival and evicting its organizers from its rent-free library office space a day before organizers

announced the festival's end.

About a month before that, festival organizers were still discussing forthcoming events with library officials, including next year's festival.

Communications from the Central Arkansas Library System regarding the festival that were obtained by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

through a Freedom of Information Act request show that the library was considering renegotiating the terms of its agreement with the festival at the end of July.

Instead, the library opted Sept. 29 to terminate the relationship altogether.

That decision followed the
See FESTIVAL, Page 5A

LR data: 1 in 4 chases by police ends in crash

City's officers logged 112 pursuits in '14

SCOTT CARROLL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

After a vehicle fleeing from Little Rock police crashed and struck two pedestrians last month, Chief Kenton Buckner, speaking to reporters, said it may have been 27 years since his department handled such a case.

Trendia Horton, 39, was jogging with her 18-year-old daughter, Nahtali, the afternoon of Sept. 15 when a man suspected of car theft driving a Nissan Maxima careened onto the sidewalk with an officer in pursuit. The Maxima struck the women, leaving Trendia Horton dead and Nahtali Horton in a coma.

A Roland man with fel-

ony theft convictions, Jordan Vandenberghe, 24, was charged with first-degree murder in the crash.

The human toll of the chase was out of the ordinary for the Police Department, Buckner said.

But the crash, according to police data, was not.

Department records show more than one in four police chases between 2009 and 2014 involved a crash. Fleeing suspects crashed in 26.3 percent of the 452 chases recorded in that time. Officers crashed in 5.7 percent of those chases.

The data, released to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* under the state's Freedom of
See CHASES, Page 8A

Funeral for Turkish blast victim



The brother of Sarigul Tuylu, 35, a mother of two who was killed in Saturday's bombing attacks in Ankara, Turkey, cries over her coffin during her funeral in Istanbul on Sunday.
Article, 6A

U.S. unlikely to lift benefits, analysts warn

Drop in gas prices a drag on cost-of-living measure

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — For the third time in 40 years, millions of Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees can expect no increase in benefits next year, economists say.

They can blame low gas prices.

By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is based on a government measure of inflation, which is being dragged down by lower prices at the pump.

The government is scheduled to announce the adjustment — or lack of one — on Thursday, when it releases the consumer price index for September. Inflation has been so low this year that economists say there is little chance the September numbers will produce a benefit increase for next year.

Prices have dropped from

a year ago, according to the inflation measure used for the adjustment.

"It's a very high probability that it will be zero," said economist Polina Vlasenko, a research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research. "Other prices — other than energy — would have to jump. It would have to be a very sizable increase that would be visible, and I don't think that's happened."

Congress enacted automatic increases for Social Security beneficiaries in 1975, when inflation was high and there was a lot of pressure to regularly raise benefits. Since then, increases have averaged 4 percent a year.

Only twice before, in 2010 and 2011, have there been no increases.

In all, the cost-of-living adjustment affects payments to more than 70 million

See BENEFITS, Page 7A



AP/EBRAHIM NOROOZI

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, speaks in an open session of the Iranian parliament in Tehran on Sunday while discussing a bill on Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Bill on nuke deal takes form in Iran

NASSER KARIMI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's parliament on Sunday approved an outline of a bill that would allow the government to implement the nuclear deal it reached with the U.S. and other world powers, the official IRNA news agency said.

Meanwhile, state TV announced that Iran had successfully test-fired a new long-range ballistic missile, the first such test since the

nuclear deal was reached in July.

The bill allows the government to withdraw from implementing the agreement if world powers do not lift sanctions, IRNA said. Final approval of the bill is expected later this week after further discussions.

The deal would curb Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of international sanctions. Western nations have long suspected
See IRAN, Page 7A

Chases

Continued from Page 1A

Information Act, also show the number of chases has increased in recent years.

Police logged 112 chases in 2014, higher than any of the previous five years and more than the number of chases in 2010 and 2011 combined.

The state's largest police department was on pace to record even more chases this year. Through June 30, the last date such data were available, officers had pursued suspects in vehicles on 59 occasions. The number of suspect crashes recorded halfway through the year, 18, is equal to the number of suspect crashes recorded in all of 2014.

Capt. Heath Helton, who analyzes pursuit statistics as commander of the Police Department's training division, had no explanation for the increase in chases.

"It's hard to say what the reasons might be for people to decide not to stop," he said. "The majority of the time, the majority are individuals who might have a traffic warrant or do not have a driver's license. Usually it's minor, misdemeanor stuff. And occasionally you have the aggravated robbery suspect or narcotics people throwing dope out of the window as they're going down the road. Pursuits are really interesting because it's hard to judge how they shift the way they do."

While the numbers have shifted in recent years, the department's policy governing chases has not.

Officers must activate their emergency signals and be in a marked police vehicle. They are prohibited from ramming vehicles, using police cars to block road and forcing suspects off the road. Additionally, they are restricted from chasing a suspect whose identity is known and is wanted only for a traffic violation, misdemeanor or nonviolent felony.

Otherwise, a chase largely depends on the discretion of an officer and supervisor. The nine-page policy instructs them to consider traffic conditions, weather, surroundings and various other situational and environmental factors in determining whether "the necessity of apprehension is outweighed by the level of danger."

"One thing we always stress," Helton said, "especially when you talk about pursuits, we tell the officers to keep in your mind that you have no ability to dictate the outcome of that pursuit or the type of injury that occurs. That's the one thing. We try to minimize it the best we can, and we try to hone in on training that if it gets to a point that's too dangerous, it's not worth it."

Police recruits spend about 80 hours training behind the wheel. About 24 of those hours focus on a "full range" of exercises — driving through obstacle courses, emergency stopping and simulated chases.

By comparison, recruits receive more than 100 hours of firearms training; 80 hours of scenario-based training, such as responding to incidents of domestic violence; 40 hours of active shooter training and 20 hours of training in field sobriety tests.

Helton said pursuit training is unique in many ways.

"Police pursuits are probably one of the more challenging and dangerous aspects of the job, reason being that I can know my capabilities in a vehicle but I really don't know the abilities of the individual being pursued. And you worry about other people and civilians, and people who aren't paying attention ... You're constantly having to move your eyes and keep track of what's going, monitoring your traffic, monitoring your speed, and really determining what is the risk versus what is the benefit for me to continue with this pursuit," he said.

More often than not, at least during a two-year period analyzed by the *Democrat-Gazette*, officers have chosen to chase people suspected of minor offenses.

Pursuit reports from 2010 and 2011 show traffic stops, misdemeanors or "suspicious activity" listed as the "initial violation" in 62 percent of the 105 total chases in those years.

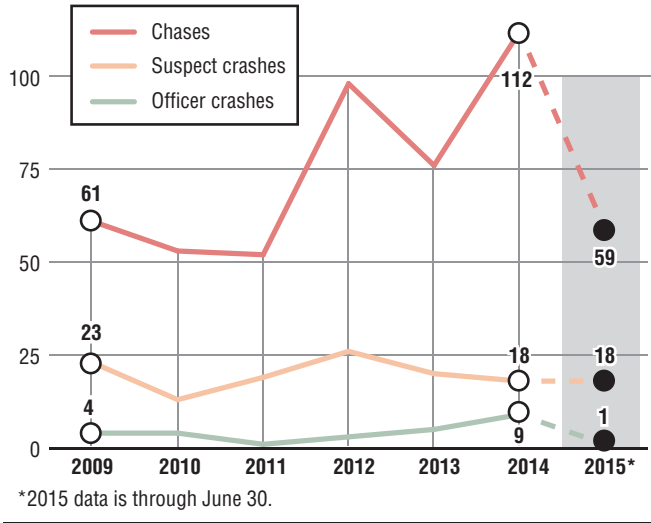
Nonviolent felonies were listed as the initial violation in 21 percent of the chases.

Violent felonies accounted for 13 percent.

Similar data for other years wasn't available, as the department stopped tracking initial violations, and nu-

Police chases

Through the first six months of 2015, the number of crashes involving suspects being pursued by Little Rock police have equaled the number for all of 2014. The department is also on pace for the most pursuits in the past six years.



SOURCE: Little Rock Police Department

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

merous other chase details, in 2012. Pursuit data prior to the period analyzed by the *Democrat-Gazette* were archived and not immediately available, according to Sgt. Cassandra Davis, who handles public records requests for the department.

Police incident reports obtained by the *Democrat-Gazette* this year show officers continue to chase those suspected of minor offenses.

On Sept. 27, according to one report, an officer began a pursuit on Chicot Road at Fairfield Drive — just north of where Trendia Horton was killed — after a man not wearing a seat belt refused to pull over.

The officer, Dalton Schisler, chased the suspect, later identified by police as Jim-

mon Hollins, 19, east through a residential area in which "pedestrians in the roadway had to run into the yards to avoid being hit," the report states.

Police said it appeared Hollins, who had prior drug convictions, threw marijuana from his window during the chase. He purportedly zigzagged through the neighborhood, with Schisler in pursuit, to an apartment complex. That's where, again, "pedestrians had to run out of the way to avoid from being struck," according to the report.

Hollins doubled back and weaved through the same residential streets before fleeing on foot and being apprehended, according to police. He was charged with felony fleeing and felony possession of drug paraphernalia.

Hollins was additionally cited for the violation that began the pursuit and sent pedestrians running— driving without a seat belt.

Like Hollins, Vandenberghe was a suspect in a non-violent crime when officer Zachary Hardman chased him Sept. 15 on Chicot Road. Police said that chase spanned less than a mile before Vandenberghe struck another vehicle, lost control and crashed into Trendia and Nahtali Horton.

Residents and members of the Horton family expressed anger at Vandenberghe, but they were also critical of the police decision to chase a man suspected only of theft. Additionally, witnesses of the crash accused Hardman of not activating his emergency lights.

Buckner said that information, as well as dashboard camera footage of the chase, will be eventually be released.

Police spokesman Lt. Steve McClanahan said the 28-second video is in the hands of prosecutors and Hardman has since returned to duty. No charges had been filed.

The International Association of Police Chiefs released a study in 2008 that showed more than 91 percent of police chases involved suspects in non-violent crimes. The data came from 7,737 chases at 56 police departments.

Reports from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over the past decade show one-third of those killed in police chases were bystanders, although the FBI has stated a lack of mandatory reporting by law enforcement agencies has affected the accuracy of that figure.

Southwest tech issues delay 450 departures

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines said hundreds of flights were delayed Sunday by technical issues that were forcing it to check in some customers manually at airports and causing long lines.

The Dallas-based company asked travelers to arrive at least two hours before their scheduled departures as the problems that began Sunday morning continued into the evening. It was also asking customers to use airport kiosks to print boarding passes and tags for luggage.

Representatives for Southwest did not say what caused the problem or how long it would take to resolve. Spokesman Brad Hawkins said there was "absolutely no indication now" that the problems were the result of hacking.

At Los Angeles International Airport earlier in the day, several dozen people crowded the Southwest terminal waiting to be issued handwritten tickets. By late afternoon, Southwest said that about 450 of the 3,600 flights scheduled for the day had been delayed.

E.J. Schultz, a reporter for *Advertising Age* who was taking a Southwest flight from Chicago's Midway International Airport, said the airline was telling people at the gate that travelers with paper boarding passes were fine. But those who had downloaded their tickets onto their mobile phones were told they

had to stand in line, he said.

Schultz said he didn't understand why Southwest didn't announce that people should print out their boarding passes at home before getting to the airport.

"If everyone had done that, it would've saved so much time," he said.

Schultz said there was a line of about 50 people at the Southwest gate. His flight took off roughly 15 minutes after its scheduled departure time of 4:30 p.m.

Emily Mitnick, who was flying to Detroit from Denver International Airport, said she missed her 10 a.m. flight even though she parked her car about 8 a.m. She estimated that about 1,000 people were in line at the check-in for a boarding pass. When she went downstairs to the curbside check-in, she said there were a couple hundred people in line there as well.

By the time she got in line to go through security, it was 10:15 a.m.

"The clock was ticking and the flight took off," said Mitnick, who was trying to get to Detroit through a different flight to Chicago.

In a statement, Southwest said it was still having "intermittent" technical issues on its website, mobile app and in its phone centers and airport check-in systems. It said that while it was working on the issues, workers at airports were helping customers with their itineraries.

Dillard's

FASHION FOCUS: faux leather

Kenneth Cole Reaction
Faux leather moto jacket. Black, chocolate & lipstick red, xs-xl. **\$79**

Cole Haan
Faux leather. Red, black, nutmeg, xs-xl. **\$99**

Bernardo
Faux leather. Black/beige, s-xl. **\$129**

Bernardo
Faux leather. Faded taupe, s-xl. **\$99**

Bernardo
Faux leather, knit hood. Grey sand, raw oatmeal, s-xl. **\$99**

Dillard's
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