

All-Arkansas Preps basketball

Monk repeats as boys top player; Conway's Tolefree honored. — Sports, 1C



State's top tourist spots

LR, Spa City head list, but visitor growth at 11% in NW Arkansas. — Business, 1G

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **Snoop Dogg** will premiere a new series on his Merry Jane website, called *Planet Snoop*, based on his parodies of the *Planet Earth* documentary series, in which the rapper will provide commentary for nature videos.

■ **Jia Jia**, a Chinese writer detained by police at a Beijing airport earlier this month as part of an investigation into an anonymous online petition calling for Chinese President Xi Jinping's resignation, has been released, according to his lawyer.

■ **Larry Hale**, 48, using his metal detector on Florida's Daytona Beach, found a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ring that Dillon Sprole, 21, of Merritt Island said he accidentally left in a gas station bathroom in Orlando two years ago.

■ **Matthew Doyle**, 46, of south London, who was accused of "incitement of racial hatred" for anti-Muslim posts on Twitter after the bombings in Brussels, will not be summoned to court after police said they dropped the charges.

■ **Emily Arianna Warren**, 34, was arrested on two counts of desecration of the flag, vandalism and criminal trespassing after Tennessee State Park rangers reported that she took down the U.S. and Tennessee flags at Red Clay State Park and stomped on them.

■ **Derrick LaForest**, 33, of Pittsfield, Mass., pleaded innocent to reckless operation and vandalism after police say he pulled his car into a Taco Bell drive-thru after 1:30 a.m., got angry when he found out it was closed and sped off, only to lose control of his car and crash into a nearby building.

■ **Ayana Kelly**, whose dog Gucci disappeared from their home in San Antonio in 2013 before her family moved to Norfolk, Va., has been reunited with the American pit bull terrier after a Texas animal shelter tracked down the family based on the dog's micro-chip.

■ **Domonic Leuzzi**, 23, who taught at a Glen Allen, Va., academy that serves behaviorally disturbed students, faces charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor after police say he allowed students to smoke marijuana during his shop class.

■ **Petr Foucek**, a director from Velke Losiny, a Czech Republic village that's noted for its factory that crafts traditional handmade paper, said the mill has begun "something new" in a partnership with the Prague Zoo, allowing visitors to make their own paper using elephant dung.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly cloudy, chance of showers.
High 72, winds variable at 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight Mostly clear.
Low 41.

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AP/GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT

Mourners pay respects Saturday in central Brussels to the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

Belgians charge 3, ID 27 bombings victims

Solidarity rally canceled for lack of police

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

BRUSSELS — Belgian prosecutors announced Saturday that they have charged three men with terror offenses over the suicide attacks at the Brussels airport and subway system, and organizers of a solidarity rally canceled the event at the government's request because police were

spread too thinly to monitor it.

Belgium's federal crisis center said that as of late Saturday 27 of the 31 people killed in the attacks Tuesday had been identified.

A doctor who had served in Afghanistan said he and his colleagues have been shocked by the severity of the burns suffered by some of the wounded. The crisis cen-

ter on Saturday increased the number of wounded to 340.

Federal prosecutors said a man identified as Faycal C., who was arrested Thursday, has been charged with "involvement in a terrorist group, terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder."

Belgian media outlets say he is Faycal Cheffou, the man in the cream-colored vest
See **BRUSSELS**, Page 10A

Light in the darkness



AP/MINDAUGAS KULBIS

Worshippers attend an Easter vigil Mass on Saturday at the Cathedral-Basilica in Vilnius, Lithuania. At the Vatican, Pope Francis proclaimed Easter the "celebration of our hope" that transcends the darkness and fear in the world.
Article, 8A

Lawmakers hit road; nonprofits pick up the tab

Reports show expense-paid travel to Israel, China, Paris

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas' lawmakers accepted trips, financed by nonprofit groups, to China, Israel and France last year.

They said the trips — disclosed on their 2015 personal financial-disclosure reports filed with the secretary of state's office — were educational.

Several lawmakers reported they were paid by the Foundation for Excellence in Education, created by Jeb Bush when he was governor of Florida, to attend a conference in Denver last year.

A handful of others reported attending a conference in Florida, sponsored by the Foundation for Governmental Accountability, a nonprofit group critical

of the state's private-option Medicaid funds to purchase private health insurance for low-income Arkansans.

Lawmakers are required under state law to disclose each nongovernmental source of payment of their expenses for food, lodging, or travel, which bears a relationship to their office when they appear in their official capacity and the expenses exceed \$150.

"It is not a lobbyist-funded deal," Sen. Bryan King, R-Green Forest, said when asked about his trip to Florida paid by the Foundation for Government Accountability.

The nonprofit group "promotes better lives for
See **FREE TRIPS**, Page 10A

Sanders takes caucuses in Washington, Alaska

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont won the Washington state and Alaska caucuses on Saturday, two victories that give his campaign momentum heading into the Midwest and Northeast primaries next month.

HUCKABEE CAMPAIGN still has debts to pay. Page 12A.

TRUMP SUGGESTS he'd make Arab allies do more in fight against ISIS. Page 12A.

Democrats in Hawaii also voted Saturday in the last contest of March.

Washington, the largest prize of the day with 101 delegates in play, and Alaska, with 16 delegates, held caucuses, essentially local voting meetings in which Sanders has done well.

In Washington, with 93 percent of the votes counted by late Saturday, Sanders had won 23 delegates, and Hillary

Clinton had won eight. In Alaska, with all votes counted, Sanders had won 13, and Clinton had won three.

Hawaii Democrats were to award 25 delegates based on a "presidential preference poll," a hybrid event in which voters show up at a scheduled meeting, like a caucus, but vote by secret ballot, like a primary.

Republicans did not hold any contests Saturday. The next nominating battle for both parties will be the April 5 primaries in Wisconsin. After that, Democrats hold caucuses April 9 in Wyoming.

New York is expected to prove rewarding to Clinton, a former senator for the state,
See **CAUCUSES**, Page 12A

A TOUCH OF THE WEST
Sheriff's office going for a new look

Holladay pays out \$26,761 for cowboy hats for deputies

SCOTT CARROLL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Pulaski County sheriff's office has added cowboy hats to its uniforms, an accessory that Sheriff Doc Holladay said completes the outfit and gives deputies a more professional appearance.

Over the past four months, the sheriff's office purchased 120 Stetson felt hats at \$155 apiece, 142 Resistol straw hats at \$42.49 apiece and one hat cover for \$50.36, according to department invoices. The records were released under the state's Freedom of

Information Act. Altogether, the hats cost \$26,761.65.

That's 44 percent of the department's \$60,000 annual clothing and uniform budget, which covers the purchase of new uniforms, alterations and repairs for 140 sworn personnel. It's under a larger operations budget of \$10.5 million that includes building maintenance, phone and utility expenses.

"The money was available," Holladay said. "It's a part of what we provide to
See **HATS**, Page 13A

"I've been looking for something, a more professional look, to complete the uniform. And so we explored the possibilities, the options that were out there, and decided that this cowboy hat look was appropriate because they're styles that are most common in sheriff's departments around the country."
— PULASKI COUNTY SHERIFF DOC HOLLADAY



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Pulaski County Sheriff Doc Holladay puts on his county-issued \$155 Stetson in his office Thursday. On his desk is a Resistol hat.

2 colleges looking at UA System possibilities

AZIZA MUSA
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Two community colleges — the state's smallest and one of its largest — are taking a closer look at joining the University of Arkansas System.

Rich Mountain Community College in Mena and Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock have held fiercely to their independence for more than two decades. But, now, administrators and board members are considering what has never previously officially been on the table — a merger.

Colleges and universities nationwide are looking more and more at mergers as their state funding has declined, said Tom Harnisch, director of state relations and policy analysis
See **COLLEGES**, Page 11A

Washington news in brief

FRANK E. LOCKWOOD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Via sub, Womack visits Arctic camp

WASHINGTON — Lots of people travel south for spring break, but not Steve Womack.

The 3rd District U.S. representative headed north, spending last weekend on the USS Hartford, on the surface and roughly 750 feet below the polar ice cap.

The Republican from Rogers serves on the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, and he was part of a congressional delegation that traveled to the Arctic to observe Navy exercises.

The lawmakers slept on submarine bunks and visited a temporary camp that was drifting atop the frozen sea, Womack said.

U.S. Navy Ice Camp Sargo featured small, igloo-shaped buildings as well as a wooden outhouse, Womack said.

Its location changes as it drifts around the ocean.

“It’s an ever-changing environment. ... It’s constantly moving and to think that we landed an airplane on literally a piece of ice floating around in the Arctic is pretty incredible,” he said. “It’s one of the most fascinating things I’ve ever done.”

Warm clothes were essential; in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, the temperature dipped to 16 degrees below zero.

During their free time, submariners and some of the legislators ate dinner and watched a classic Cold War thriller — *The Hunt for Red October*.

TV calls on Cotton after terror attacks

U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton was in high demand last week

after the terrorist attacks in Brussels. The Dardanelle Republican appeared on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe* program and on CNN with Wolf Blitzer, where he fielded questions about Islamic radicalism.

The first-term senator also released a statement saying the U.S. must play a central role in the fight against Islamic extremism.

“The terrorists who are tearing apart the Islamic world have now shown repeatedly that they can and will strike at the heart of Europe and the West. We must turn this moment of anguish into a galvanizing event, one that steels the resolve of the United States and our allies to do what it takes to defeat radical Islamic jihadism. There are holes in our allies’ counterterror, counter-radicalization, and intelligence sharing capabilities. We must lead in helping to fill those holes. And we must finally execute a real strategy that brings the war to ISIS in Syria and Iraq, that puts America in the lead, and that destroys this civilizational cancer at its source,” it said.

Family Council head at pro-Israel affair

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee invited Arkansas Family Council Executive Director Jerry Cox to attend its annual policy conference, giving him the chance to stand with 18,000 other supporters of the Jewish state.

Cox was a panelist for a Monday breakout session titled “My Israel Story,” reflecting on his trip overseas last year.

He also attended a dinner along with roughly 300 other Christians who participated in the conference in Washing-

ton, D.C.

The three-day conference also was a key stop on this year’s campaign trail. Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton spoke Monday morning. The three Republican presidential candidates spoke later in the day.

All four received enthusiastic welcomes.

“I suppose that was the most impressive thing about it, the fact we were able to see so many presidential candidates and that so many presidential candidates thought it was worthy of their time,” Cox said.

Those sessions attracted thousands of people; roughly 40 showed up for Cox’s panel.

He gave Israel high marks, at the conference and later, during an interview.

“What I realized when I got to Israel is that Israel is much more than just another country. It’s the crossroads of history, it’s the crossroads of faith. It’s the crossroads of ... mankind,” he said.

A charitable organization affiliated with American Israel Public Affairs Committee paid for Cox’s trip, he said.

Although the committee is a predominantly Jewish organization, it is working to build alliances with people of other faiths.

“The nation of Israel has a huge number of supporters in the evangelical Christian community, and maybe not just evangelical Christians, but the Christian community as a whole,” Cox said. “If you believe the Bible, there’s something very special about Israel, there’s something very special about the Jewish people.”

Planning to visit the nation’s capital? Know something happening in Washington, D.C.? Contact Frank Lockwood at (202) 662-7690 or flockwood@arkansasonline.com.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

“I like the hat,” Pulaski County sheriff’s Deputy Ed Johnson says of his county-issued cowboy hats. “I wear one off-duty. It makes me feel better to put it on.”

Hats

• Continued from Page 1A

the deputies for their uniforms that’s not an expense to them. It’s one of those things that’s a required part of the uniform, and everyone had to go in and everyone had to have their head sized. Everyone had to participate. So it’s just utilizing part of our uniform budget to complete the uniform.”

The cowboy hats are optional while deputies are on patrol. But the hats, which the sheriff described as “proper, professional headgear,” are required, along with a tie, at ceremonial events such as funerals and awards banquets.

It’s not the first time wide-brim hats have been part of the uniform. Decades ago, deputies wore campaign hats, headgear that Arkansas State Police troopers and, perhaps most famously, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police wear.

Pulaski County sheriff’s deputies in recent years have worn baseball caps with the sheriff’s office emblem on them, but there’s been no official hat for some time, according to Holladay.

It’s the third image revamp Holladay has made at the department since he was elected sheriff in 2006. The first was changing the uniform color from dark blue to tan.

“Everybody back then — us, Little Rock, North Little Rock, even court personnel at Little Rock municipal court — everybody was in blue,” he said. “You could stand on the street corner at Markham and Broadway with all four agencies represented, and unless you looked at the patch, you couldn’t tell who was whom. So we decided we needed our own identity.”

Holladay also changed the appearance of sheriff’s office

vehicles, switching paint and decals from white-with-blue stripes to black-and-gold.

He said the cowboy hats are probably his final department makeover.

“I’ve been looking for something, a more professional look, to complete the uniform. And so we explored the possibilities, the options that were out there, and decided that this cowboy hat look was appropriate because they’re styles that are most common in sheriff’s departments around the country,” he said.

In his office, the sheriff has several books on John Henry “Doc” Holliday, the famed American gambler and gunslinger whose nickname Holladay adopted.

Not all sheriffs share Holladay’s sentiment.

The sheriff in Sublette County, Wyo., banned cowboy hats and boots at the department last year, saying he wanted a more uniform and professional look for his deputies. At least one deputy resigned over the new dress code, according to reports.

In Texas — where cowboy hats have a long history and popularity with lawmen, and are part of the Texas Highway Patrol official uniform — the Bexar County sheriff’s office banned the hats for two decades. A new sheriff, elected in 2013, brought back the cowboy hats as an optional accessory.

The Pulaski County sheriff’s office bought its hats

from Cavender’s Western Outfitter and Crossroads Western Wear. Cavender’s advertises the Stetson cowboy hat as “the essence of the spirit of the West and an icon of everyday American lifestyle.”

Holladay said the hat’s association with the Old West wasn’t a factor in the purchase, though he does enjoy a good Western film — mostly Henry Fonda classics — and has an interest in the era.

In his office, the sheriff has several books on John Henry “Doc” Holliday, the famed American gambler and gunslinger whose nickname Holladay adopted. There are also framed photos of Holliday, alongside family portraits, election certificates and the sheriff’s collection of coffee mugs.

The sheriff’s cowboy hats, size 7½, had been placed below one of those Holliday photos during a recent interview.

Deputy Ed Johnson has been wearing the department-issued hats since January. He wears his own Resistol-brand hats at home, where he has five riding horses.

“I like the hat. I wear one off-duty. It makes me feel better to put it on,” said Johnson, a tall man with beard stubble and a slight Southern accent.

Johnson said that in southwest Pulaski County, where he patrols, many residents wear cowboy hats. He said his new work headgear has been well-received.

“Everybody so far has said they like it,” he said.

Holladay also said public feedback has been positive, but a deputy’s appearance is worth only so much.

“Even if you have your uniform, unless you talk to people professionally and treat people professionally, the hat, the uniform, all that, it doesn’t make a hill of beans,” he said.

How Arkansas’ congressional delegation voted

Here is how Arkansas’ U.S. senators and U.S. representatives voted on major roll call votes during the week that ended Friday.

KEY: ☒ FOR ☒ AGAINST ☐ NOT VOTING ☐ PASSED ☐ DEFEATED

HOUSE

☐ Curbs on Federal Trade Commission.

Passed 235-171, a GOP-drafted bill (HR2745) that would strip the Federal Trade Commission of its 102-year-old authority to use in-house administrative judges for determining whether proposed mergers and acquisitions violate antitrust laws. Under the bill, the FTC could pursue antitrust litigation only in federal courts rather than in both federal courts and its own administrative-law tribunals as is now the case. This would align FTC procedures with those at the Department of Justice, which uses only federal courts to adjudicate proposed mergers. The FTC and Justice Department are the two agencies that enforce federal antitrust laws. The bill was backed by business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which often see the Justice Department as easier to deal with in antitrust matters. The bill was opposed by groups such as the Consumers Union on grounds that it would weaken FTC defenses against monopolistic business practices. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, said: “As you go through a merger and you draw the short straw and end up in front of the FTC, you have got another spool of red tape [to] get rolled up in. I don’t think that is fair, and I don’t think the American people think that is fair.”

Hank Johnson, D-Ga., said a vote for the bill “is a vote for concentrated, private economic power. At a time of increased consolidation in key industries, we can’t afford more Republican attacks on government, which is what [this] is, plain and simple.” A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

- ☒ Rick Crawford (R)
- ☒ French Hill (R)
- ☒ Steve Womack (R)
- ☒ Bruce Westerman (R)

☐ Corporate mergers, rising drug costs.

Defeated 174-235, a Democratic motion to prevent HR2745 (above) from applying to proposed corporate mergers that would lead to unreasonable increases in the cost of prescription drugs. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, said “if Republicans won’t recognize how endangered so many Americans are by prescription price-gouging, we ought not to go backwards, and that is what I fear this bill would do.” Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said “because of Obamacare and government regulation, the cost of prescription drugs is going up. ... We definitely need to reform our health care system ... but that is not what this legislation is about today.” A yes vote was to adopt the Democratic motion.

- ☒ Crawford (R)

- ☒ Hill (R)
- ☒ Womack (R)
- ☒ Westerman (R)

☐ Border-security mandate on U.S. allies.

Passed 371-2, a bill (HR4314) that would require U.S. allies to either meet border-security standards set by the United States or lose any U.S. financial assistance they receive. The bill also would require the departments of State and Homeland Security to compile annual nation-by-nation scorecards on border security overseas. The members voting against the bill were Reps. Justin Amash, R-Mich., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., said: “Foreign-fighter movement” requires “improved border security around the world and better information sharing between governments.” No member spoke against the bill. A yes vote was to send the bill to the Senate.

- ☒ Crawford (R)
- ☒ Hill (R)
- ☒ Womack (R)
- ☒ Westerman (R)

SENATE

The Senate was in recess.

— VOTERAMA IN CONGRESS

Girl with bomb says she was abducted

EDWIN KINZEKA MOKI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — A teenager who surrendered before carrying out a suicide bombing attack in northern Cameroon has told authorities that she was one of the 276 girls abducted from a Nigerian boarding school by Islamic extremists nearly two years ago, authorities said Saturday.

If confirmed, the development would mark the first news of the missing Chibok girls in many months. It has long been feared that some are being used by their Boko Haram abductors to carry out such attacks given the growing number of young female suicide bombers.

The girl is about 15 years old and turned herself in before detonating her explosives, said Idrissou Yacoubou, the leader of a self-defense group in Limani, Cameroon.

“The girl looked tired, malnourished and psychologically tortured and could not give us more details about her stay in the forest and how her other mates were treated,” he said. Cameroon has ordered in-

vestigations to determine the authenticity of the 15-year-old’s declarations, said Midjiyawa Bakari, governor of the Far North region. Cameroonian authorities declined to identify her by name because she is a minor.

The office of Nigeria’s President Muhammadu Buhari and Nigeria’s military did not immediately respond to questions sent on a public holiday.

Authorities said Saturday that along with the 15-year-old, two other women emerged with explosive belts. One was arrested, and the other managed to flee back across the border into Nigeria.

In Chibok, a community leader said by telephone that the girl’s age could correspond to that of a 14-year-old who was the youngest among 276 girls abducted in the early hours of April 15, 2014, from a government boarding school. Dozens of the girls managed to escape on their own within hours, but 219 remain missing.

Information for this article was contributed by Haruna Umar of The Associated Press.

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Prices good in stores Monday, March 28 - Saturday, April 2, 2016. Prices good online Sunday, March 27 - Saturday, April 2, 2016. Some advertised items not available online. Sale subject to supply in stock. Selection and quantities may vary by store and do not apply to pre-reduced items.			
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