#### **Venezuelans turn to U.S.**

Economy in tailspin, more people now seek asylum, aid. - National, 4A





### **Creatures of habit**

Opossums are plentiful, productive and really odd. - Style, 1E

# Arkansas Democrat

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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### In the news

■ **Jeff Sessions**, the U.S. attorney general, said "nobody has a sense of humor anymore" after he drew backlash for seeming to dismiss the state of Hawaii as merely "an island in the Pacific" from which a judge "can issue an order that stops the president from what appears to be clearly his statutory and constitutional power" in this case Donald Trump and his immigration ban.

■ Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippine president, said he could be "50 times" more brutal than the Muslim militants who stage beheadings and that he could even "eat" the extremists if captured

■ Kuki Gallmann, the conservationist and Italian-born author known for her book I Dreamed of Africa, was shot in the stomach at her Kenyan ranch and airlifted for treatment after herders invaded in search of pasture to save their animals from drought, authorities said.

**■ Maryann Sternisha** said her husband, George, was finally able to fulfill his mother's wish of laying to rest the remains of his uncle, an Illinois sailor who died during the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

■ Algenon Marbley, a federal judge in Ohio, warned ex-treasure hunter Tommy Thompson that he could face another contempt-ofcourt charge if he doesn't reveal the location of 500 missing coins, which are valued at up to \$4 million and were minted from gold from the S.S. Central America, which sank in an 1857 hurricane.

**■ Brandon Blackstone**, 35, a Marine from North Texas, was sentenced to nearly two years in prison for receiving veterans benefits, including a house, by fraudulently claiming that he had been injured by an anti-tank mine in Iraq, court records show.

■ Daniel Fitzpatrick, a Belfast, Maine, police officer, had to lure two miniature goats into his squad car after he found the escapees, which eventually were picked up by their owner's daughter, snacking on cat food in a woman's garage.

■ Monica Evans of Bernards, N.J., is one of several residents who said they will miss their town's 600-yearold white oak tree — which town officials say was a picnic site for George Washington and has since served as a backdrop for thousands of photos — that will be cut

■ Jordan Patch, a zoo owner in Harpursville, N.Y., said money from ventures related to the live-streamed pregnancy and birth of a calf by April the giraffe would go toward the park, conservation efforts and a fund for children with unexpected medical bills.

### **WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK Today** Sunny. **High** 77. Northwest winds 5 mph. **Tonight** Clear. **Low** 52. South winds 5 mph.



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Supporters of far-right leader and French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen celebrate after exit-poll results of the first round of voting are announced at election day headquarters Sunday in

## French presidential race down to Macron, Le Pen

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

PARIS — Centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right populist Marine Le Pen advanced Sunday to a runoff in France's presidential election, shutting out the nation's two main political parties

French politicians on the left and right immediately urged voters to block Le Pen's path to power in the May 7 runoff, saying her nationalist anti-EU and anti-immigration politics would spell disaster for France.

"Extremism can only and setting up a showdown bring unhappiness and diviover France's participation in sion to France," defeated con-

servative candidate Francois Fillon said. "As such, there is no other choice than to vote against the extreme right."

The runoff sets up a battle between Macron's optimistic vision of a tolerant France and a united Europe with open borders, and Le Pen's "French-first" platform that calls for closed borders,

See FRANCE, Page 3A

# Arkansas set for new round of executions

### Official says Jones, Williams moved near death chamber

IOHN MORITZ ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Fellow death-penalty states watching Arkansas' try for an unprecedented number of lethal injections can take a tip from the results so

Carrying out any number of death sentences under court scrutiny is not a simple task.

far, legal scholars said.

A dizzying number of legal appeals have succeeded in halting half of Arkansas' planned eight-man execution schedule, though the state plans this week to go ahead with at least three more lethal injections, starting to-

After a federal judge on Friday declined to offer stays for Jack Jones Jr. and Marcel Williams, who are set to die at the Cummins prison unit tonight, their attorneys said they intended to appeal.

In preparation for their executions, both Williams and Jones have been moved to holding cells next to the death chamber at Cummins, a prisons spokesman said.

Arkansas' first execution in more than 11 years was completed at 11:56 p.m. Thursday, four minutes before Ledell Lee's death warrant expired. Three other executions set for last week were stayed.

Arkansas had planned to carry out double executions **CALIFORNIANS** debate deathpenalty status. Page 4A.

**EXECUTIONS** set tone for year's peace march. Page 1B.

last Monday and Thurs-

day. With stays and appeals mounting, the attorney general's office both evenings pursued one execution and allowed the second death warrant to expire.

In an interview Friday, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said it was not her intention to settle for one execution today.

"In those particular cases, we did not have the opportunity to appeal up to the Supreme Court," Rutledge said of the cases last week. "If there are rulings we can appeal to the Supreme Court, we will certainly do so."

Rutledge said there are "couple dozen attorneys" in her office working on the cases surrounding the exe-

Legal battles surrounding executions routinely stretch into the final hour, death-penalty experts told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and often result in last-minute stays.

"A scheduled execution always precipitates the defense attorneys throwing everything they can at every

See **EXECUTIONS**, Page 6A

### Budget chief touts tax plan as outline

### Mulvaney: Ideas set, but no bill ready

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The White House this week will offer "specific governing principles" for its tax plan along with indications of what new rates would be, but a complete proposal probably won't be ready until June, President Donald Trump's budget director said Sunday.

Trump on Saturday promised news about his tax plan this Wednesday, tweeting

that a "big tax reform and tax reduction will be announced," capitalizing some of the words for emphasis.

'I don't think anybody expects us to roll out bill language on Wednesday. In fact, we don't want to do that,' Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said on Fox News Sunday. "What you're going to see on Wednesday for the first time is, here's what our principles are, here are some

See TAX, Page 2A

### Celebrating birth of Rome



Ancient Roman enthusiasts parade Sunday near the Colosseum, Circus Maximus and the Roman Forum to celebrate the birth of Rome. Legend says Rome was founded by Romulus on April 21, 753 B.C., in an area surrounded by seven hills.

### Israeli marks Holocaust, tells of lessons learned

Netanyahu issues warning to enemies, criticizes world response to mass killings

IAN DEITCH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday warned enemies against testing his country, in remarks opening Israel's annual memorial day for the 6 million Jews systematically killed by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II.

Speaking at the main ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, Netanyahu said the lesson of the Holocaust is that "we must be able to defend ourselves by ourselves against all threats and any enemy.' He said that lesson guides him "every morning and every evening.'

Netanyahu said Israel has transformed itself into a strong nation with one of the "strongest defensive forces in the world," and he warned that "those that

See HOLOCAUST, Page 2A



People visit Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem on Sunday for Israel's Holocaust Re-

### LR man wrongly accused

### Posts brand him a slaying suspect

SCOTT CARROLL

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE Greg Holmes' cousin called and warned him that his phone was about to

"blow up."

It was about 9 p.m. on Dec. 22 and news had broken that authorities had arrested a man in the fatal shooting of 3-year-old Acen King in Little Rock. The U.S. Marshals Service, which had helped Little Rock police make the arrest, identified the suspect only as "Greg Holmes."

The agency did not provide a photo of the man, or his age, race or home address. Little Rock police did not immediately comment on the arrest.

As his cousin predicted, Greg Holmes' phone started ringing off the hook. Friends, family members and co-workers wanted to know how Holmes, a 42-year-old car salesman known for surprising people with homemade pies, could be accused of killing They weren't the only

ones who wanted to know That night, in the ab-

sence of other identifying information, numerous Facebook users searched "Greg Holmes" on the social networking website. Several found the Little Rock car salesman's profile and shared it alongside news reports. One person posted his phone number.

'Is this the same Greg See HOLMES, Page 3A



Police officers spray gas on demonstrators during a protest Sunday in Paris.

### **France**

 Continued from Page 1A tougher security, less immigration and dropping the shared euro currency to return to the French franc.

The absence in the runoff of candidates from either the mainstream left Socialists or the right-wing Republicans party — the two main political groups that have governed post-war France also marked a seismic shift in French politics. Macron, a 39-year-old investment banker, made the runoff on the back of a grassroots campaign without the support of a major political party.

With 90 percent of votes counted, the Interior Ministry said Macron had nearly 24 percent, giving him a slight cushion over Le Pen's 22 percent. Fillon, with just under 20 percent, was slightly ahead of the far-left's Jean-Luc Melenchon, who had 19 percent.

Melenchon late Sunday refused to concede defeat before the official count confirmed pollsters' projections, and he did not say how he would vote in the next round.

Socialist presidential candidate Benoit Hamon, who was far behind in Sunday's results, quickly conceded defeat. He was running to succeed Socialist President Francois Hollande, whose approval rating plummeted to 4 percent in November and who decided not to seek re-election.

Proclaiming that "the left is not dead," Hamon also urged supporters to back Macron.

The euro jumped 2 percent to more than \$1.09 after the initial results were announced. Macron has vowed to reinforce France's commitments to the EU and euro and opinion polls give him a big lead heading into the second round.

Le Pen faces the runoff as the underdog. She hopes to win over far-left and other voters angry at the global elite and distrustful of the untested Macron.

day rally in Henin-Beaumont, a northern French town hard hit by factory closures. She portrayed her duel with Macron as a battle between "patriots" and "wild deregulation" — warning of job losses straining resources at home voting cards." and "the free circulation of terrorists.

"What is at stake in this election is a referendum for or against lawless globalization," Le Pen told the cheering crowd. "Either you choose in favor of a total lack of rules, without borders, with unlawful competition, the free circulation of terrorists, or you make the choice of a France that protects.

"This is truly what is at stake," she said. "It is the survival of France.

Macron, winking at his cheering, flag-waving supporters at his election day headquarters in Paris, promised to be a president "who protects, who transforms and builds" if elected.

"You are the faces of French hope," he said. His wife, Brigitte, joined him on stage before his speech the only couple among the leading candidates to appear together Sunday night.

Sunday's vote came after a turbulent campaign. Hollande's most prominent Socialist successor lost to a primary challenger. So did the former center-right president, Nicolas Sarkozy. The early front-runner in the race, Fillon, sought a Margaret Thatcher-style overhaul of France's economy, but fell prey to a nepotism scandal.

Whoever wins on May 7 cannot count on the backing tries, citing Britain's vote to of France's political mainstream parties.

Even under a constitution that concentrates power in the president's hands, both Macron and Le Pen will need legislators in Parliament to pass laws and implement much of their programs. France will hold parliamentary elections in June, and neither Macron's En Marche! movement nor the National Front are expected to come close to a majority in the legislature still dominated by the traditional parties.

In Paris, protesters angry at Le Pen's advance scuffled with police. Officers fired tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Two people were injured Le Pen held her election and police detained three people as demonstrators burned cars, danced around bonfires and dodged riot police. At a peaceful protest by around 300 people at the Place de la Republique, some sang "No Marine and no Maoverseas, mass immigration cron!" and "Now burn your lande always only say yes to

### 'I WANT NOBODY'

Many voters on Sunday said they were opting for the least bad of an unpalatable range of options.

"I want nobody, and it's very complicated. I just don't want to see the extremes," said Emma Lacour, 42, who voted Sunday in the upscale Saint-Cloud suburb of Paris, where conservatives usually dominate. "I decided two minutes ago, and I'm not very happy," said Lacour, who was too dispirited to say who she picked as she walked out of the ornate 19th-century city hall that held the voting sta-

Mathilde Jullien, 23, was more hopeful, saying she is convinced Macron will beat Le Pen.

'He represents France's future, a future within Europe," she said. "He will win because he is able to unite people from the right and the left against the threat of the National Front and he proposes real solutions for France's economy.'

Sophie Girardeaus, 30, and her boyfriend said Hollande failed to deliver on one of his central promises from the 2012 election: to support French youths. But Girardeaus noted that France was also susceptible to the concerns seen in other counleave the EU and the U.S. vote to elect President Donald Trump.

"I hope that particularly left-wing voters will still come out to vote against the far-right populists," Girardeaus said.

In the Parisian suburb of Saint Denis, voters worried about the impact of terrorism

on the election. "If Le Pen makes it, everything will become worse for us. Then, the French will show their real faces. I don't think it is exaggerated to say that there would be violence," said Ginette Beljour, 40, who wanted to vote for Macron.

Standing in front of polling station in Villeneuve-la-Garenne, Le Pen supporter Stephane Debuigne, 29, said France needed a political leader who was capable of saying 'No' to the German chancellor or the European Union.

"People like Francois Hol-

them," he said. "France needs a politician who cares about the people who work and who will fix our immigration problem." In Henin-Beaumont,

where Le Pen held her rally, David and Linda Renard were hopeful that Le Pen could work to restore the franc. 'My salary was much

higher when we were on the franc," said David, 41, who said he worked in financial Linda Renard, 42, a nurse,

said she was not bothered by the history of the National Front as she cast her ballot.

Marine Le Pen "doesn't have the ideas of her father," she said, referring to Jean-Marie Le Pen, a convicted Holocaust denier who once referred to the Nazi gas chambers as a "detail of history," a remark that landed the National Front in the political wilderness for de-

Marine Le Pen "has changed immensely since the last election," Linda Renard said. "She's less blunt, more composed, and it's clear that she reflects very carefully on what she savs.'

Even as Macron and Le Pen advanced to the next round, the sheer uncertainty was a measure of the unmooring of French political "We've had two consecu-

tive presidents, Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande very different orientations, very different policies, but still we have the same economic problems," said Bruno Cautres, who studies voting behavior at the Center for Political Research at Sciences Po. "It has been one of the best arguments of Marine Le Pen: 'Why not me?"

Information for this article was contributed by John Leicester, Lori Hinnant, Elaine Ganley, Alex Turnbull, Chris den Hond, Angela Charlton, Raphael Satter, Samuel Petrequin, Nicolas Vaux-Montagny, Sylvie Corbet, Nadine Achoui-Lesage, Philippe Sotto and Brian Rohan of The Associated Press; by Michael Birnbaum, James McAuley, Rick Noack and Virgile Demoustier of The Washington Post; and by Helene Fouguet, Gregory Viscusi, Gaspard Sebag, Geraldine Amiel, Mark Deen, John Follain, Ania Nussbaum, Ben Sills, Fabio Benedetti-Valentini, David Goodman, Robert Williams, Stefania Spezzati and Andre Tartar of Bloomberg

### **Holmes**

 Continued from Page 1A Holmes that sells cars???" one

Facebook user wrote. Holmes said he soon received countless messages and phone calls, some of them threatening, from strangers who thought he had been arrested in Acen's killing.

Authorities had actualy arrested Gary Eugene Holmes, a 33-year-old felon, in the toddler's death. The U.S. Marshals Service had reported the wrong first name.

The agency named the real suspect about an hour later, and news outlets quickly updated stories on the arrest.

But for Greg Holmes, the mistake had already taken a

"It was horrible," he said.

#### A HIGH-INTEREST CASE

Acen King was killed the night of Dec. 17 in what Little Rock police described as

rage. The toddler was sleeping in the backseat of his grand-

an act of road

mother's car when a man reportedly got out of another



vehicle and opened fire. The case made headlines across the world.

Authorities offered a \$40,000 reward for information on the shooting. Elected officials and community leaders publicly demanded that the killer surrender. Word spread rapidly

across Twitter and Facebook after authorities arrested Greg Holmes" in the case. "Suspect: Greg Holmes of

Little Rock," one Facebook user wrote. "Betting Greg Holmes is

over his rage...for good," another person commented. After the arrest was reported, worldwide searches for "Acen King" increased 63

percent from a previous high recorded in the days after his killing, according to Google Trends. Google searches for "Greg Holmes," the name provided

by the U.S. Marshals Service, also reached an all-time high. Several of the car sales-

man's friends and colleagues, including Delnorte Chunn, 46, said they began receiving calls and messages from people who'd heard the news. Chunn said acquaintances in Atlanta and Dallas, some of whom he hadn't spoken to in a "pretty good while," called because they'd heard his friend of 16 years, the car salesman, was a suspect.

James Holloway, 44, who works with Greg Holmes, said several of his friends searched for the name on Facebook. Holloway said one of them found his colleague's profile, as numerous others

That friend wrote to Holloway: "Don't you know this guy? He's the one that got arrested in the road rage kill-

#### **SEEKING CLARIFICATION** Gary Eugene Holmes,

the man accused of killing Acen King, was booked in the Pulaski County jail on charges of capital murder and terroristic threatening at 10:57

p.m. on Dec. 22, according to the jail website.

Gary Holmes

name was still circulating online at the time, so he went on

Greg Holmes said his

Facebook Live, the website's video broadcast service, to set the record straight about who had been arrested.

His friends did the same. They spoke in his defense in several comment threads, responding to users who had called for "Greg Holmes" to be imprisoned for life, sexually assaulted or, as more than one Facebook user suggested, executed in the street and hung on public display.

This is NOT our Greg Holmes!!!! He is not this guy y'all know it," Tami Dick wrote. "He bakes pies for crying out loud!!!!"

Some people, seeking to correct other Facebook users, shared links to the real suspect's Facebook profile. Even after news outlets

fixed the mistake and online communities shared the real suspect's name, there was still confusion. One Facebook user wrote:

Gary Holmes or Greg Holmes? Contradiction...' Another person, in re-

sponse to a post identifying Gary Eugene Holmes as the suspect, wrote: "I think they said his real name was Greg. As the real suspect's name spread, several Facebook

posts mentioning "Greg Holmes" were deleted. But Greg Holmes said he still received strange phone calls and messages. Some-

times the person on the line quickly hung up. Other times they had something to say. Greg

Holmes last got one of those calls in March. He said he picked up the

phone and a man said, "I'm out of prison now, you baby

### **INTERNET SLEUTHS**

The U.S. Marshals Service named "Greg Holmes" as the man arrested

in Acen's killing, but it was Internet users who incorrectly linked Greg Holmes, the Little Rock car salesman, to the case. Greg Holmes It's not

the first instance of Internet

sleuthing gone wrong. In the days after the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, users of Reddit infa-

mously sought to find the men who committed the attack. Thousands of users examined photographs, shared news clips and combed social media accounts in search of the bombers. The crowd-sourced investigation, as some called it,

led Reddit users to wrongfully accuse several people in the attack before authorities named brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev as the bombers.

Stephanie Schulte, a University of Arkansas professor who studies the connection between technology and culture, said the relative anonymity of the Internet empowers people to spread such misinformation.

The norms in online spaces are different, in part because you're hidden behind a screen,"

That's a luxury that most lawmen don't have.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Kevin Sanders, who supervises the fugitive apprehension team that helped Little Rock police arrest Gary Eugene Holmes, said he didn't know how the names "Gary" and "Greg" got mixed up. The suspect's first and last

name are listed correctly in a court affidavit filed before the arrest. "Somewhere along the

way," Sanders said, "it just got relayed to us that his name was

### the country's language

Iceland at risk of losing its cultural heritage -EGILL BJARNASON

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REYKJAVIK, Iceland The Icelandic language, a unique dialect of Old Norse seen by many as a source of identity and pride, is being undermined by the widespread use of English, both for mass tourism and in the voice-controlled artificial intelligence devices coming into vogue.

Linguistics experts, studying the future of a language spoken by fewer than 400,000 people in an increasingly globalized world, wonder if this is the beginning of the end for the Icelandic tongue. Former President Vigdis

Finnbogadottir told The Associated Press that Iceland must take steps to protect its language. She is particularly concerned that programs be developed so the language can be easily used in digital hears teenagers speak English technology.

"Otherwise, Icelandic will end in the Latin bin," she warned.

Today, when an Icelander arrives at an office building and sees "Solarfri" posted, he needs no further explanation for the empty premises: The word means "when staff get an unexpected afternoon off to enjoy good weather." There are also words for

when the weather isn't so good. "Hundslappadrifa," for example, means "heavy snowfall with large flakes occurring in calm wind." Teachers fear the loss of those words and say they

are already sensing a change among students in the scope of their Icelandic vocabulary and reading comprehension. Anna Jonsdottir, a teach-

ing consultant, said she often

among themselves when she visits schools in Reykjavik, the capital. She said 15-year-old stu-

dents are no longer assigned a volume from "The Sagas of Icelanders," the medieval literature chronicling the early settlers of Iceland. Icelanders have long prided themselves of being able to fluently read the epic tales originally penned on calfskin Most high schools are also

waiting until senior year to read author Halldor Laxness, the 1955 winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, who rests in a small cemetery near his farm in West Iceland. A number of factors combine to make the future of the

Icelandic language uncertain.

Tourism has exploded in re-

cent years, becoming the

country's single biggest em-

Bank say one in two new jobs is being filled by foreign labor. That is increasing the use

of English as a universal communicator and diminishing the role of Icelandic, experts say. 'The less useful Icelandic becomes in people's daily life, the closer we as a nation get to

the threshold of giving up its use," said Eirikur Rognvaldsson, a language professor at the University of Iceland. He has embarked on a three-year study of 5,000 peo-

ple that will be the largest inquiry ever into the use of the language. "Preliminary studies suggest children at their first-lan-

guage acquisition are increasingly not exposed to enough Icelandic to foster a strong base for later years," he said. Asgeir Jonsson, an economfunding for an open-access da-

ics professor at the University

#### ployer, and analysts at Arion of Iceland, said that without a adapt Icelandic as a language unique language, Iceland could experience a brain drain, particularly among certain professions.

"A British town with a population the size of Iceland has far fewer scientists and artists, for example," he said. "They've simply moved to the metrop-

The problem is compounded because many new computer devices are designed to recognize English but they do not understand Icelandic.

"Not being able to speak Icelandic to voice-activated fridges, interactive robots and similar devices would be yet another lost field," Jonsson

tabase to help tech developers

Iceland's Ministry of Education estimates about \$8.8 million is needed for seed

option. Svandis Svavarsdottir, a

member of Iceland's parliament for the Left-Green Movement, said the government should not be weighing costs when the nation's cultural heritage is at stake. "If we wait, it may already

be too late," she said.

