

**Bielema keeping Hogs assistant**

Taver Johnson "excited" to stay and coach cornerbacks. — Sports, 1C



**Avis to buy Zipcar**

Rental-car giant to enter the growing car-sharing market. — Business, 1D

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

Copyright © 2013, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Printed at Little Rock • January 3, 2013

ArkansasOnline.com

58 Pages • 10 Sections \$1.00

**In the news**

■ **Ziauddin Yousufzai**, whose 15-year-old daughter, Malala, was shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating girls' education in Pakistan, has been appointed Pakistan's education attache in Birmingham, England, virtually guaranteeing the girl will remain in England where she has been recovering since October.

■ **Paige Cicardo**, 22, who Pennsylvania police said drove the wrong way on Interstate 81 for 18 miles, has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and reckless endangerment.

■ **President Barack Obama** is back in Hawaii vacationing with his family after the House passed legislation that avoids large income-tax increases for most Americans and delays for two months billions of dollars in across-the-board spending cuts that had been called a "fiscal cliff."

■ **Nicolas Ramirez**, 32, a Fort Worth drunken-driving enforcement officer, has been placed on restricted duty after his New Year's Day arrest in Westlake on a drunken-driving count.

■ **Hu Jia**, a Chinese activist, has urged the public to visit Liu Xia, the wife of imprisoned dissident Liu Xiaobo, to highlight that she has been under house arrest in Beijing since her husband, who himself is in prison, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, saying: "This should not be permitted to happen in a civilized society. To rescue Liu Xia is to rescue the right of all citizens."

■ **Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly**, a three-star Army general accused of bullying subordinates, has been permitted by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to retire without a demotion in rank, said a Pentagon spokesman.

■ **F. Lee Bailey**, 79, a longtime attorney who represented such high-profile clients as O.J. Simpson and Patty Hearst, but was later disbarred in Massachusetts and Florida for mishandling \$6 million worth of stock for a client, has seen his request to practice law in Maine denied by the Maine Board of Bar Examiners in a 5-4 decision.

**War and feet**



AP/ANDONI LUBACKI

**PLUS**  
Scan the photo above or go to [arkansasonline.com/videos](http://arkansasonline.com/videos)

A Syrian rebel takes a break Wednesday in Aleppo from heavy fighting that has closed the city's airport. Meanwhile, Navi Pillay, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, reported that more than 60,000 people have died in Syria's 22-month-old civil war. "The number of casualties is much higher than we expected and is truly shocking," Pillay said in a statement. *Article, 5A*

## Tax package restricts levy on incomes

But paycheck bite going up to pay for Social Security

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — While the tax package that Congress passed New Year's Day will protect 99 percent of Americans from an income tax increase, most of them will still end up paying more federal taxes in 2013.

That's because the legislation did nothing to prevent a temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax from expiring. In 2012, that 2-percentage-point cut in the payroll tax was worth about \$1,000 to a worker making \$50,000 a year. The Tax Policy Center,

**A LOOK** at average tax increase by income level. Page 2A.

**WALL STREET** responds with big gains. Page 1D.

a nonpartisan Washington research group, estimates that 77 percent of American households will face higher federal taxes in 2013 under the agreement negotiated between President Barack Obama and Senate Republicans. High-income families will feel the biggest tax increases, but many middle- and low-income families will pay higher taxes, too. See **TAXES**, Page 2A

## State's storm-damage costs at \$6.5 million and climbing

CLAUDIA LAUER  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Preliminary damage estimates have reached \$6.5 million from the 10 cities and counties that have declared disasters after the Christmas storm that blanketed parts of the state in more than a foot of snow and ice.

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management of-

officials said most municipalities and counties have not yet submitted cost estimates for the damage and extra staffing needs to deal with the storm's aftermath, so those costs are expected to grow substantially.

Officials in Little Rock, one of three areas in the state affected most by power failures and downed trees — along

with Malvern in Hot Spring County and Garland County — estimated their city's damage costs at \$3.3 million on Wednesday.

Pulaski County emergency management personnel said Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives will be touring Little Rock and elsewhere in the county See **DAMAGE**, Page 6A

## Budget deal left farm bill intact

Direct payments get a reprieve

ALEX DANIELS  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — As part of the broad budget deal reached by Congress on the first day of the year, lawmakers extended billions of dollars worth of federal agriculture programs, including upfront payments that are made to farmers.

The extension, which keeps current agriculture policy in place until Oct. 1, retains "direct payments"

made to farmers before they grow crops. Direct payments, which total about \$5 billion a year, have long been targeted by members of both parties and were not included in legislation that passed in the Senate and cleared the House Agriculture Committee last year.

The previous farm bill that was signed into law in 2008 expired in October, and lawmakers have been unable See **FARM BILL**, Page 2A

## LR state senator is warned, fined \$500

Hutchinson filed own ethics report

MICHAEL R. WICKLINE  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Arkansas Ethics Commission gave state Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson a \$500 fine and a public letter of warning, saying he illegally converted campaign contributions into "personal income."

The money — \$2,700 — was deposited in 2010 into the account of Hutchinson's then girlfriend. At the time, Hutchinson was married to another woman, Stephanie Hutchinson, but the couple were separated, Hutchinson said.

The Republican lawmaker from Little Rock also violated state law by failing to accurately disclose these expenditures on campaign finance reports during the 2010 election cycle, and by failing to keep records of these expenditures, commission Director Graham Sloan said in a letter to Hutchinson dated Wednesday.

In 2012, Hutchinson filed a complaint against himself with the commission regarding the checks. He signed the settlement agreement Dec. 28.

The public letter of warning, dated Wednesday, was signed by commission See **ETHICS**, Page 6A

## GOP sets Sandy-aid votes after uproar



AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

**PLUS**  
Scan the photo or go to [arkansasonline.com/videos](http://arkansasonline.com/videos)

"We made our position clear" in a meeting with House Speaker John Boehner on storm aid for Sandy victims, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said Wednesday.

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

House Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor pledged to New Jersey and New York lawmakers that the House will pass a \$60 billion aid package for Hurricane Sandy victims after scrapping a vote Tuesday night.

Boehner told lawmakers the House will vote Friday on raising the government's borrowing authority by \$9 billion for flood insurance to enable it to continue paying damage claims, New York Republican Peter King of Long Island said. On Jan. 15, another \$51 billion will be voted on by the full House, he said.

The decision to allow a vote followed a chorus of

criticism from Northeastern lawmakers and Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Andrew Cuomo of New York. Christie called his fellow Republicans in Congress "know-nothings" and specifically blamed Boehner for the delay.

"What I watched last night was disappointing and disgusting to watch," Christie said Wednesday at a news briefing in Trenton. "We have been waiting six times longer than the victims of Katrina, and there's no end in sight. New Jersey and New Yorkers are tired of being treated like second-class citizens. We deserve better, and America deserves better."

Within 10 days of Hurricane Katrina's striking New Orleans and the Gulf Coast See **AID**, Page 3A

## Rolling against rebels



AP/BEN CURTIS

A convoy of soldiers from Chad rolls toward the Central African Republic city of Damara on Wednesday in support of government forces trying to stop a new rebel coalition's advance. Gen. Jean Felix Akaga, who heads the regional force known as FOMAC, says a push on Damara, just 45 miles north of the capital, would be "a declaration of war" on the 10 Central African states.

**PLUS**

This symbol indicates bonus content that you can view on your Apple or Android smart phone or iPad. Download the Plus Arkansas Democrat-Gazette app. Hold device over an image to activate video. Double tap the screen after video begins. Double tap again to end video.

**WEATHER**

**LITTLE ROCK**  
Today Mostly sunny.  
High 45, light northwest winds.  
Tonight Mostly clear, bitter cold.  
Low 23.



**INDEX**

Arkansas	1B	Police beat	8B
Business	1D	Sports	1C
Classifieds	1F	Stocks	3D
Comics	6E	Television	2E
Crossword	6E	Voices	7B
Deaths	2B	Weather	6D
Editorials	6B	Weekend	1E

Home delivery  
378-3456  
Outside Pulaski County  
1-800-482-1121

