

## Arkansas stocks slackers in '99

Index of 20 big companies registers increase of just 1.4%. — Business, 1G



## Nell Davis Frost looks back

Ex-schoolteacher witnessed how century developed. — High Profile, 1D

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

Copyright © 2000, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Inc.

Little Rock • Sunday, January 2, 2000

arkansasOnline® www.ardemgaz.com

424 PAGES 29 SECTIONS

\$1.25

## In the news

■ **Julia Amalia Christl**, daughter of Mark and Ligia Christl of Huntsville, Ala., was born at 12:01 a.m. New Year's Day, but the computer printing her mother's hospital bracelet listed her age as 100.

■ **Horace Higginbottom** of San Francisco, marching New Year's Eve with about a dozen members of the Ad Hoc Committee Against the New Millennium, said, "Growing up in the '60s and '70s, we were promised things like rocket cars, space travel, alien encounters ... android sex slaves. What do we get instead? They give us the lousy Internet, crummy e-commerce."

■ **President Fidel Castro** of Cuba and his government officially shunned millennium events, arguing that the new century and the new millennium won't start until one minute after midnight of Dec. 31, 2000.

■ **Leticia Delarosa**, 22, of Houston, who is seven months pregnant, was struck in the neck by a bullet that had been fired into the air on New Year's Eve but was listed in good condition at a hospital and the fetus was fine, police said.

■ **Gabriel Vergara Jr.**, 14, was hugging his aunt early Saturday in the yard of his Phoenix home when he was hit by a rifle bullet fired into the air by someone celebrating the new year, and doctors removed the slug from the base of his skull, about an inch above his spine.

■ **Prince Charles**, 51, heir to the British throne, welcomed 2000 with a New Year's message on BBC radio urging Britons to preserve tradition: "In this sense, the dawn of a new millennium should not be the excuse for a bonfire of the past, but a chance to rediscover the profound wisdom of those who have made the difficult journey through this life before us."

■ **William David King**, 15, of Danville, Ky., has paid for a new all-terrain vehicle and may buy a pickup next year — when he gets his license — with money he made selling about 500 birds from his business, Y2K Laying Hens, as a source of eggs in case grocery stores were beset by supply woes.

■ **John Koskinen**, chief of the White House's Y2K command center, had a series of "Celebrate the Century" stamps sent to him Friday night from Los Angeles, marked for noon delivery Saturday, to help prove that the nation glided into 2000 without any major computer glitches.

■ **Saliha Kurt** gave birth to a baby, still unnamed, in Berlin about 3 a.m. Saturday, giving the Turkish woman and her husband, Mesut, the right to claim German citizenship under a law that took effect at midnight Friday granting automatic citizenship to children born there of foreign parents.

■ **Todd Lubitsch**, 29, of Los Angeles said he and his girlfriend, Theresa Burkhart, changed party plans at the last minute and decided to spend New Year's Eve at a bus stop near the landmark Hollywood sign, and he explained: "Your grandkids are going to ask you, 'What were you doing in 2000?' I think it'd be so cool to say, 'I was at a bus stop.'"

### WEATHER

**Little Rock** Partly cloudy skies in the morning, then clouds will begin to increase late with chance of scattered showers this evening. Highs will be in the low 60s and lows will be in the upper 40s.

### INDEX

Arkansas	1B	High Profile	1D
Books	6J	Perspective	1J
Business	1G	Police beat	2B
Classifieds	1F	Sports	1C
Crossword	4J	Style	1E
Dear Abby	3D	Travel	1H
Deaths	6B	Voices	5J
Editorials	4J	Weather	8B

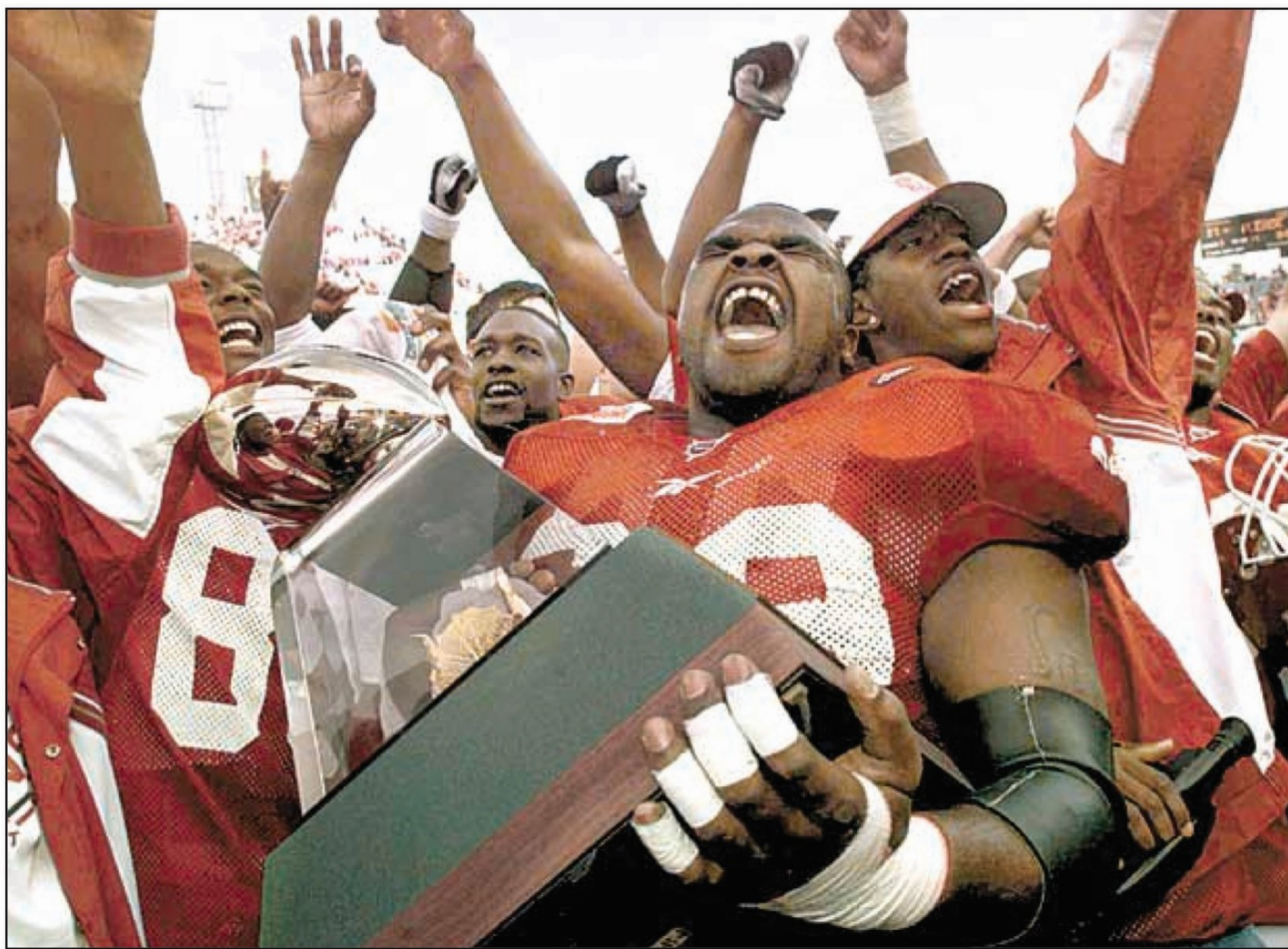
Home delivery  
378-3456

Outside Pulaski County  
1-800-482-1121



6 38333 00125 0

# Hogs gore 'Horns in Cotton Bowl



Arkansas offensive lineman Bobby Williams sings the Razorback Fight Song while holding the Cotton Bowl trophy in Dallas after Saturday's 27-6 victory over the University of Texas. The Razorbacks used a big-play offense and a stifling defense to take their first New Year's Day bowl victory since the 1978 Orange Bowl.

## 27-6 win ends postseason skid for Razorbacks

BY BOB HOLT  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

DALLAS — It's probably going to be a long time before Arkansas gets a more satisfying feeling than it had after Saturday's 27-6 victory over Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

From Arkansas' standpoint, what's better than opening 2000 by playing in its favorite bowl game against its most hated rival and winning by three touchdowns?

"This is the kind of thing you dream about, beating Texas in the Cotton Bowl," Razorbacks senior free safety Kenoy Kennedy said. "I can't think of a better way to end my college career."

"This is the best thing that could have happened to us," he said.

The Razorbacks used a swarming defense — which sacked Texas quarterbacks eight times and held the Longhorns to 185 total yards — and a big-play offense to win their first bowl game since 1985, when Arkansas beat Arizona State in the Holiday Bowl.

It also was the Razorbacks' first New Year's Day bowl victory since they beat Oklahoma 31-6 in the 1978 Orange Bowl.

See **HOGS**, Page 14A

# Y2K bug calamities — yawn, yawn

Arkansans experience very little out of the ordinary when 2000 date rolls around

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
AND PRESS SERVICES

Arkansans' run-ins with the Y2K computer bug remained few and far between the first day of the new year with occasional inconveniences arising instead of the catastrophes some had feared.

At Entergy's Arkansas Nuclear One power plant near Russellville, a computer error briefly slowed down passage through two entrances to the nuclear reactors.

RELATED ARTICLES, Page 14-15A, 1B.

Manual backups worked fine and there was never a danger, Entergy spokesman Phil Fisher said. The automatic access was restored within minutes, he said.

"Once the condition was discovered, the fix was uploaded in about 15 minutes, and the feature was back in service," Fisher said. He was not sure how long the au-

tomatic access was off-line but said it could have been as long as a half-hour.

At the National Weather Service's North Little Rock office, a computer stamped the date "100" on an internal file containing river stage information.

"What it was doing apparently was adding 1 to 99 and coming up with a year of 100. We changed two lines of code and that was it," meteorologist Mike Thompson said.

"It was a trivial fix."

Bentonville-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, reported no problems with its big computer network as the new year arrived at the chain's numerous stores around the world.

Problems at other businesses proved minor.

At one E-Z Mart convenience store in west Little Rock, clerks said the lights and gas pumps went

See **2000**, Page 15A

**Vladimir Putin**

*Boris Yeltsin's sudden resignation Friday left Russia's prime minister as acting president*

**Born:** 1952

**Education:** Leningrad State Univ.

**Family:** Married, two children

**Career:** Joined KGB after college, worked in foreign intelligence, mostly in Germany

- **1990:** Joined staff of Anatoly Sobchak, progressive mayor of St. Petersburg
- **1994:** Deputy mayor
- **1998:** Sobchak defeated; moved to Moscow and took management posts in Yeltsin government
- **July 1998:** Head of federal security service (successor to KGB)
- **March 1999:** Became head of national Security Council
- **August 1999:** Appointed prime minister by Yeltsin and given broad executive powers; won wide public approval by ordering attack on rebels in Chechnya

SOURCES: AP, The Guardian, BBC, KRT Photo Service

Knight-Ridder/Tribune

## Putin pays visit to cheer troops in Chechnya

BY CELESTINE BOHLEN  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW — On his first full day as Russia's acting president, Vladimir Putin left before dawn to visit with Russian troops fighting in Chechnya.

While his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, spent his first day of retirement at a government country house outside Moscow, Putin and his wife, Lyudmila — he in a turtleneck sweater, she in pants and a sheepskin coat — spent what was left of the momentous New Year's holiday greeting Russian soldiers and handing out hunting knives as presidential souvenirs.

Besides offering the nation a

See **PUTIN**, Page 13A

## LR weather in '99 rivaled past as heat stunned city

BY MARK MINTON  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The old year, the second-warmest in Little Rock's history, bowed out Friday as the city extended its record streak of snowless days: 1,051 days — closing in on three years — without a measurable snowfall.

It ended as one of the driest years on record, too — except on Halloween, when a record 2 inches of rain dampened trick-or-treating. Friday the 13th seemed equally jinxed. On Aug. 13, a Friday, Little Rock's temperature reached 105, highest in a decade. The past year also set a record for tornadoes, with more than 100 tearing through Arkansas, including 56 on Jan. 21 alone, more than twice as many as the state usually sees in an entire year.

According to John MacLeod, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in North Little Rock, the average temperature for the year was 65.0 degrees. Only 1998 was hotter — 65.5.

In spite of that, MacLeod said, Little Rock's weather records do nothing to advance the case for global warming. The 1960s, '70s and '80s, easily Little Rock's coolest decades, balanced out the '90s, which rank behind the '30s as the second-warmest decade.

See **WEATHER**, Page 14A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

**Estella Griffin**, shown in this March 22, 1999, photo at her 108th birthday party in a Little Rock nursing home sharing a joke with Miss Arkansas Erin Wheatley, missed 2000 by

34 minutes when she died late Friday. Griffin, born the previous century, was the last Pulaski County resident to die in the 1900s.

## 108-year-old kept her spark to the end

Estella Griffin dies 34 minutes short of 2000, her loss felt at nursing home

BY ADAM WELSH  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

At 108 years old, Estella Griffin was a year from having lived in three separate centuries. A warm, sassy reminder of gentler days, she missed 2000 by a little more than half an hour, dying at 11:26 p.m. Friday. She was the last person to die in Pulaski County in the 1900s.

In the dining room at Briarwood Nursing Center on Little Rock's Rodney Parham Road, where several others successfully made the passage from birth in the late 1800s to life in 2000, she left tears and looks of worry behind. Many residents were awake by 7 a.m. Saturday, awaiting breakfast. One friend covered her face with a shaking hand and cried, in

part for a lost friend, but also for the sudden reminder of mortality; her husband is ill.

The eight or nine others at Briarwood who are over 100 are a stark contrast to the lively Griffin. She was known for her diet of peppermints and her arthritic, gnarled but surprisingly quick hands, which would reach out to

See **GRiffin**, Page 15A