

Leader Board

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OPINION | 4A

Mystery of the Christmas thingy still unsolved.

Depression recovery program set in Nashville

The Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program will begin in Nashville with a free orientation Monday, Jan. 30, from 7-9 p.m. at the Nashville Fire Department.

The eight-week program will be held each Monday at 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 6 at the fire department.

The cost is \$205 with discounts for more than one person.

Participants will learn to identify depression and anxiety and their causes, improve emotional intelligence, enhance energy levels and mood, overcome depression and/or anxiety, eat for optimal brain function, manage stress without distress, live above loss, improve brain function, defeat depression and anxiety through right thinking, and achieve peak mental performance.

For more information, call Jonathan Baylon at 870-584-2442.

Cheer camp to be held next month at Nashville

The Nashville High School cheerleaders will conduct their first ever Elite Cheer Camp Jan. 22, 23 and 25. Participants will work on elite jumps, band dances, motions, sign usage and stunting technique.

On Friday Jan. 26, camp participants will be granted free admission to the Nashville/Prescott basketball games where they will sit in the student section at Scrapper Arena and help cheer on the Scrapers as well as perform during halftime of the girls and boys games.

This camp is for students grades 4-6 only. The cheerleaders are attempting to reach out to girls who may be interested in trying out for cheerleader in the near future, giving them an opportunity to be evaluated and critiqued on their cheerleading skills by the back-to-back 4A state champions.

Registration forms and the \$30 camp fee are due Jan. 18.

Inside the News-Leader

Obituaries, 2A
Early Files, 3A
Opinion, 4A
Trends, B
Classifieds, 7B



News-Leader photo/LOUIE GRAVES

PLACING THE FOOTBRIDGE. Workers lower a 75-ft. single-piece footbridge into place over Dodson Creek Thursday, Dec. 21.

Footbridge set over Dodson Creek

By Louie Graves
News-Leader staff

Nashville's 75-ft. single-piece footbridge was put into place over Dodson Creek Thursday morning, Dec. 21, by a tall crane and a skilled crew.

The bridge, part of a state grant sidewalk project along North Mt. Pleasant Drive, is dull brown in color.

Nashville Public Works Director Larry Dunaway said Thursday that he originally thought the bridge would be painted.

Instead, he said, he was told that the material was made to rust and form its own protective cover.

"If we get enough calls we may end up painting it, though," he said.

The walking deck of the bridge is five feet wide, and the currently-uncovered rippled steel base will be covered with concrete.

The approach to the bridge on both sides will be a gradual slope with no steps.

The construction company will return to do that work probably in early January, the public works director said.

Eventually, concrete sidewalks will connect the high school on the north all the way south to the intersection of South Fourth and Dodson Streets; much of that already exists.

Another sidewalk will connect westerly to the city park, although that route is not yet determined.

Part of the Mt. Pleasant project will be to adjust utilities and to streamline the troublesome intersection of North Mt. Pleasant and W. Leslie Streets.

North Mt. Pleasant was blocked for a little more than an hour, Thursday morning, while the tall crane dropped the six-ton brown span into place.

NHS looks at college, career program with local focus

By John R. Schirmer
News-Leader staff

Nashville High School officials are considering a college and career readiness program to begin during the 2018-19 academic year.

Principal Tate Gordon said the program will be designed to help students who aren't going to college prepare for their careers after high school.

Earlier in the year, Gordon and others from the district attended a meeting in Little Rock where career programs were discussed. They've also met with the Arkansas Department of Education.

"We do a good job of preparing students for college," Gordon said. "We're lacking in preparing those students who aren't going to a four-year school. We want to try to put something in place to help those students."

Act 867 of the 2017 Arkansas General Assembly allows schools to have flexible student attendance. The law repeals the mandatory attendance seat time for schools and allows students the opportunity to receive credit for online coursework and work they do off site.

"At NHS, we are focusing on creating personal and academic success for each student, because we recognize that not every student will pursue a degree from a four-year college or university," Gordon said.

"Many seniors are taking electives to fill their regular school day seat time. Absenteeism can be an issue with many students, and many tend to have low grades in these elective courses simply because they do not see the need to put forth the effort" if they don't need the credit to meet the required 28 credits to graduate, according to Gordon.

"By eliminating some of the required seat time, we believe students will be less likely to have attendance problems or likely be in danger of becoming a high school drop out and will know they are participating in a program that is relevant to their future goals."

NHS has "a very strong program with UA Cossatot in regard to concurrent credit and career/tech courses," Gordon said. "We also have a list of job shadowing and job internship opportunities available within our district for those who may not have transportation available or those who are interested in areas we have available."

Some of those areas include technology assistant, job shadowing elementary and primary teachers for those desiring a career in elementary education, job shadowing maintenance department or bus shop mechanic for those interested in the maintenance or mechanic field, Gordon said.

An informal poll last week of sophomores and juniors showed considerable interest in pursuing internships, working during the school day, taking college classes on another campus and volunteering in the community, Gordon said.

A career program would be supervised by a teacher on campus.

"If students aren't fulfilling their re-

See Career • Page 5A

Business leaders work with students on interview skills

Representatives of local businesses and industries worked with the Social Media class at Nashville High School last week to help students prepare for and participate in interviews.

Students developed social media campaigns for the businesses. "They worked one-on-one with people in the community," teacher Terri McJunkins said. "They went through the interview process" and participated in interviews at the end of the fall semester.

Those conducting the interviews included Kristie Skinner of Husqvarna, Jonathan Turner, Tyson of Nashville; Logan Webster of Tyson Foods via Zoom teleconference; Julie Rhodes, University of Arkansas Cossatot; Gail Hearnberger, Trendsetters; and Tate Gordon and Patricia Stinson of NHS.

Students were placed into groups of three and rotated among the different firms, spending 10 minutes with each person.

The top seven students included Alyssa Rather, Rykia Swift, Shun Childress, Leslie Lingo, Hunter Burton, Shayla Miller and Olivia Herzog.

The spring semester class will undergo a similar process.

The annual FBLA scholarship will be presented to the overall winner.



News-Leader photo/TERRI MCJUNKINS

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. Julie Rhodes (upper right) of the University of Arkansas Cossatot works students in the Nashville High School Social Media class during an interviewing session which ended the fall semester last week. Students were placed into groups of three and rotated among representatives of local businesses, industries and other entities. They worked on interviews and heard tips from the community guests.



Obituaries

Ralph Earl Byers

Ralph Earl Byers, 69, of Mineral Springs, Ark., died Monday, Dec. 18, 2017 at his home. He was born Dec. 13, 1948, in Hope, Ark., to the late Herbert C. Byers and Ann Stone Thomas. He was a member of Central Baptist Church in Mineral Springs.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Delagene Boyette Byers; and a brother, Phil Byers.

Survivors include: two sons, Blake and Brock Byers, both of Mineral Springs; a brother, David C. Byers of Mesa, Ariz.; and two sisters, Virginia Byers Page of Keithville, La., and Deborah Thomas Marcum of Emmett, Ark.

Graveside services were 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017, at Mineral Springs Cemetery preceded by visitation.

Send the family a sympathy message to Nashville Funeral Home on Facebook.

Ruth Bryant

Ruth Bryant, 85 of Fort Smith, Ark., died Monday, Dec. 18, 2017.

She was born Dec. 3, 1932 in Waterloo, Iowa, the daughter of the late Henry and Ruth Elizabeth Roberts O'Brink.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Thomas O'Brink; a sister, Sue Lee Bugg; two daughters, Wayna Elder and Karen Lindsey; and a stepson, John L. Bryant, Jr.

Survivors include: her husband, John L. Bryant of Fort Smith; a daughter, Elizabeth Scott of Ft. Smith; two stepdaughters, Jan Hearnberger of El Dorado and Doris Pursell of Tulsa, Okla.; a sister, Mary Shaffer of Portugal; also grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Bingen-Ozan Cemetery in Bingen with Bro. Al Terrell officiating. Under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Online at latimerfuneralhome.com.

Donna Jean Boyea McCullough

Donna Jean Boyea McCullough, 74, a resident of Dierks, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017.

She was born Aug. 20, 1943, in Howard County, the daughter of Joy Reed Boyea and the late Chester Boyea.

She was a security guard for Poulan in Nashville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Joe McCullough; two brothers, Larry Boyea and Terry Boyea; a son, Wayne Hartness, and an infant son.

Survivors include: her mother; a daughter, Brenda Dixon; three sons, Ray and Brenda Hartness, and Timmy Hartness, all of Nashville, and Harry and Cindy Shaffer of Texarkana, Ark.; a sister, Brenda Wincher of Hot Springs; also grandchildren

and great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017, at Biggs Chapel Cemetery with Richard Leach officiating. Arrangements were by Wilkerson Funeral Home in Dierks.

Visitation was 6-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, at the funeral home in Dierks.

Online at wilkersonfuneralhomes.com.

Philip Wayne Gills

Philip Wayne Gills, 66, of Murfreesboro, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, at his home. He was born Nov. 27, 1951, in Shreveport, La., to Nobie Muriel Mills Gills and the late John Wayne Gills.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Gail Castleberry.

Survivors include: a son, Tye Gills; a daughter, Jana Morris and husband, Jason; two brothers, Gary Gills and Lewis Gills; a sister, Suzanne Montgomery; and a grandchild.

Visitation will be 1 p.m. until service time on Thursday, Dec. 28, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville. A memorial service will be held afterward beginning at 2 p.m. at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville with Bro. Al Terrell officiating.

Online sympathy messages at latimerfuneralhome.com.



Linda Stinson

Linda Stinson, 69, of Nashville, Ark., died Dec. 21, 2017, in a Texarkana hospital.

Mrs. Stinson was born Aug. 24, 1948, in Texarkana, Texas, to Lester and Nelle Foster. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Gene Stinson, Sr.

Survivors include: two sons, David Bayless of Texarkana, Texas, and Carl Stuart of Nashville, Ark.; two stepsons, Gene Stinson and wife, Patricia, of Nashville, Ark., and John Stinson of De Queen, Ark.; one brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Patsy Foster of Texarkana, Texas, and one sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Sonny Heatherly of Mineral Springs, Ark., as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be

held for Gene, Sr., and Linda Stinson at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6, at Sardis Cemetery, near Ozan, Ark., with Bro. Jimmy Dale officiating. Cremation for Mrs. Stinson was arranged by Nashville Funeral Home in Nashville, Arkansas.

Henry Wallace Handley

Henry Wallace Handley, 83, of Nashville, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2017 at his home in Nashville. Services are pending with Nashville Funeral Home.



Florence Evelyn Ross

Florence Evelyn Ross, age 85, of Bingen, Ark., passed away on Monday, Dec. 25, 2017. She died peacefully with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren at her home in Bingen.

She was born on Nov. 21, 1932, the daughter of the late Cecil Ned and Florence Hedrick Jones.

She was of the Baptist faith; she was born into a family of 10 children and was the fourth child.

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Clarence "Jug" Ross; four brothers, Winfor Lee (Bud) Jones, C.C. Jones, Paul Jones, and Bill Jones; two sisters, Nina Ruth Jones Rush, and Annie Lou Jones Stueart.

Survivors include: two sons, Charles Ross of Nashville, Ark., Michael Ross and wife Shelly of Nashville, Ark.; a daughter, Lynn Ross of Nashville, Ark.; grandchildren Brandon Ross, Monica Rosenbaum, Cole Ross, Clay Ross, Kersty Lybrand, and Braden Ross; great-grandchildren, Justice, Haley, Kaley, Hayden, Carson, Landen, and Brae; three brothers, Joe Edward Jones of Lake Jackson, Texas, George Jones of Dardanelle, Ark., and Ronnie Jones of Conway, Ark.

Visitation will be 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 28, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 29, at Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville, with burial to follow in Ozan Cemetery at Bingen.

You may send an online sympathy message at latimerfuneralhome.com.

Fighting 9th round in cancer battle Support from Arkansans continues to help kids defy survival odds

By Becky McCauley
Arkansas Children's Hospital

Seven-year-old Keagan Provost has been fighting a devastating illness most of his life. This Arkansas boy has faced 70 surgeries, as well as hundreds of chemotherapy treatments at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

But Keagan is unstoppable, as anyone who has met him will attest. A superhero himself, this Batman megafan continues to astound his parents, his doctors and everyone he meets.

Keagan's journey with cancer began when he was 13 months old when he started wobbling when he walked. At first, his mom Robin Burklow wasn't worried. Toddlers wobble, after all. But when Keagan began to vomit frequently, she made an appointment with his pediatrician, who diagnosed an ear infection and prescribed medicine. But Keagan didn't get better.

When he became dehydrated, Robin took Keagan to the local emergency room. The doctor gave him fluids and said he could go home. But Robin's intuition told her there was something seriously wrong. Thankfully, the doctors listened.

Robin and Keagan were living in New York state at the time. Keagan was transported by ambulance to a nearby children's hospital, where he was stabilized and given a battery of tests. Robin was horrified when an MRI showed a baseball-sized mass in his tiny brain.

Robin's precious baby boy had cancer.

Keagan underwent an 11-hour surgery to remove the tumor. Doctors told Robin he would never talk. Never walk. Never even move.

"Essentially, they told me to be prepared to take him home and love him as much as I could until he passed away," Robin said.

But after a week-long coma, Keagan stirred and the unexpected began happening. He was moving. His left eye was lazy, and he couldn't move his left arm or leg, but it was progress.

When Robin cradled Keagan, she held onto his right side to encourage him to use his left. Two months later, Keagan began to crawl.

Robin and Keagan soon moved back to Arkansas, during this stretch, where they would have the emotional support of family. Little did Robin know, she would need her family more than she ever dreamed.

Keagan's cancer, called ependymoma, usually occurs in the brain. "When they remove this type of tumor, it's like blowing on a dandelion," Robin explains. "There is a strong possibility it will spread."

Unfortunately, right before his 3rd birthday, Kea-



Keagan Provost, age 7

gan's cancer came back, and his battle started again, this time with the help of Arkansas Children's Hospital, part of the state's only pediatric health care system.

Over the last six years, the cancer has returned nine times in Keagan's brain and spine. He has undergone more than 70 surgeries and hundreds of chemotherapy and radiation treatments with a team of neurology and oncology experts who are nationally renowned.

During this journey, Keagan's heart stopped beating three times. He has been placed on a ventilator during several crises, and years of medication have damaged his hearing, an unfortunate side effect of several cancer-killing drugs.

In spite of all this, Keagan is a bright, curious, energetic boy. The scars that criss-cross

his head and his bright-orange hearing aids are the only visible signs this amazing little boy is in a constant fight for his life.

Keagan continues, day after day, week after week, year after year, to defy the odds. Robin is so grateful for the support of Arkansans who make gifts to Arkansas Children's Hospital to help babies like hers.

"You really don't know how much of a difference your generosity makes," she said. "Your support makes a dark situation a lot brighter."

Too many kids will spend the holidays battling cancer and other illnesses. You can help change the story for kids like Keagan. Support these families and their care by calling 800-880-7491 or visit <http://giving.arkchildrens.org/donate-now-marcom>.



Survivor of 70 surgeries

Card of Thanks

The family of April Merkle would like to thank everyone for the tremendous outpouring of love and support shown to us during our loss. Your prayers, words of comfort, visits, cards, food, floral arrangements and memorial donations are appreciated more than we can adequately express. We would also like to thank the staff of Howard Memorial Hospital, Elite Home Health and Howard County Ambulance Service for their compassionate care of April during her illness.

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Jamie, Alicia and Crimson Lovewell
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THE CECIL "BIRDDOG" HARRIS MEMORIAL
EARLY FILES

Tales from Howard County's history reprinted in honor of longtime staff historian and photographer, Cecil Harris.
September 19, 1938 - December 15, 2012

Compiled by Patsy Young

119 years ago: 1898
Christmas with its balmy, spring-like weather was ushered in by a Xmas tree which proved a source of enjoyment to all who participated. Music was furnished by Mrs. John Likes, assisted by a choir of good singers and Santa Claus smiled profusely on the happy throne.

Whoever saw such weather in December? Last Wednesday at noon the thermometer registered 82 degrees in the shade.

This has been a remarkably quiet Christmas. There has been less drunkenness than at any Christmas in the memory of the proverbial oldest inhabitant. We are proud of this distinction.

(Adv.) The OKLAHOMA SALOON is headquarters for fine wines, liquors, and cigars. Everything at rock bottom prices. Joe Brook is at the bar and will attend to your wants in a polite manner. New Nashville, Arkansas.

101 years ago: 1916
The work on the Dierks mill site is progressing nicely. They report about 200 acres now cleaned off except the stumps.

It is understood that the contractors will begin the

first of the year. Plans have been made to have a pipeline run from Dierks to caves on the Saline River to supply Dierks with water. They will begin blasting stumps again the first.

The mountain people north of Dierks report that there are many wild turkeys in the hills and plenty of deer.

On Friday evening about 7 o'clock, Gantt Price was returning to Centre Point from Dierks, when about one mile out, his team became frightened at some hogs and ran away, throwing Mr. Price from the wagon, breaking his arm and shoulder. The wagon ran over his head bruising it badly. He is getting along as well as can be expected. He lives one mile East of Centre Point.

(Adv.) Sickly children need White's Cream Vermifuge. It not only destroys worms but it acts as a strengthening tonic in the stomach and bowels. Sold at Rector Drug Store.

66 years ago: 1951
Howard County Training School Wildcat Basketball teams won their opening games of the season, defeating Childress High teams. The scores were 26-20 in the

senior boys' game and 11-10 in the senior girls' game.

Charles Hughes of Saratoga is one of several athletes from this area who will play basketball this season with the Henderson Reddies, coached by L. J. Van Horn. Hughes is a junior. Others from this area are Ronald Whisenhunt, Bobby Reese and Glynn Self of Kirby.

At least three servicemen from this area were listed among the names of 200 Arkansans identified by the Pentagon from a list of war prisoners.

The three include: Sfc. Roy D. Martin, 25th division, son of Mrs. Emma Martin, Dierks, Pvt. John W. Medlin, 2nd division, son of E. D. Medlin, Route 2, Mena and Pfc. Frank J. Rea, 25th division, son of Mrs. Lizzie Fisher, Route 1, Lockesburg.

36 years ago: 1981
Country singer Glen Campbell, one of Arkansas's homegrown superstars returned last Friday to spend the Christmas Holidays with his family.

Home for Campbell is Billstown, Arkansas, a small community approximately nine miles southeast of Murfreesboro, where his parents, Wes and Carrie live.

Dierks justice of the peace resigns; search underway for replacement

The resignation of Dierks District Justice of the Peace Gary Welch, last week, was effectively immediately, and County Judge Kevin Smith is taking steps to fill the vacant seat on the quorum

court. "I've got two or three names under consideration, and I will go to the governor to have someone appointed." The new JP will serve

out the remaining year on Welch's term. Welch was a first term JP, elected as a Republican.

He unseated veteran Democrat Cotton Cothren on the court.

Public Record of Howard County

Items which were filed or recorded in the Howard County, Ark., courthouse during the period of Dec. 13-20, 2017:

Marriage Licenses
Dec. 13. Shawn Kevin Collier, 38, Nashville, and Madison Page Evans, 21, Nashville.

Domestic Relations Court
DR17-152, Dec. 13. Samantha Upton vs. Dylon Fincher. Domestic abuse.

DR17-153, Dec. 19. Torin Block vs. Laniece Block. Divorce.

Civil Court
No new civil cases filed since CV17-122 on Dec. 11.

Criminal Court
CR17-183 thru CR17-186, Dec. 19. State of Arkansas vs. Donald Chipps, 32, black male, 316 Bishop, Apt. #6, Nashville; three class D felony charges -- possession of Schedule VI controlled substance with purpose of delivery; possession of drug

paraphernalia; and felon in possession of firearm; a class B felony, maintaining a drug premises.

CR17-187, Dec. 19. State of Arkansas vs. Anthony Stewart, 48, black male, Nashville; furnishing prohibited articles, class C felony.

Land Transactions
Quitclaim Deed
Dec. 18. Michael Jamison; to Misty Jamison; Lots 3, 4 & 7, Block 3, Ridgeway Addition, Town of Nashville.

Redemption Deeds
Dec. 15. State of Arkansas; to Alice Amis Mack, Hamden, Conn.; 130 ac. in S12 T9S R29W; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$816.33.

Dec. 15. State of Arkansas; to Alice Amis Mack, Hamden, Conn.; 40 ac. in S11 T9S R29W; delinquent taxes and penalties of \$302.75.

Warranty Deeds
Dec. 15. James Franklin Brown and wife, Darbie Brown; to James Ryan Stuck-

ey; part of Lot 1, all of Lots 2-3; Block 1; Summit Addition, Town of Nashville. \$4,000.

Dec. 15. (Corrected, Special) John W. Hendrix Corporation; to Bedwell Estates LLC; 64.5 ac. in S36 T8S R29W.

Dec. 15. Kenneth Williams; to Milton Jefferson and Gloria Marie Jefferson, husband and wife; Lot 2, Block 3, Kay's Addition, City of Nashville. \$52,500.

Dec. 18. Tim Jones, aka Timothy D. Jones and Jeri Jones, aka Jeri G. Jones, husband and wife; to Timothy D. Jones and Jeri G. Jones, Co-Trustees of the Jones Family Revocable Trust; property in S26, S33, S34, S35, S36; T8S, T10S; R27W, R28W.

Dec. 19. Billy Lambert and wife, Kristi Lambert; to Gary Sirmon and wife, Mary Dee Sirmon; Lots 10 thru 12, Block 6, Holly Addition, Town of Dierks. \$4,000.

Guilty plea taken; sentence set during session of criminal court

One guilty plea was taken Wednesday, Dec. 20, and the defendant was sentenced to time in the Arkansas Department of Correction.

On the bench for the regular day of criminal court here was Judge Tom Cooper.

Jeffrey Jackson, 37, white male, Nashville, pleaded guilty to a class C felony charge of delivery of meth or cocaine. He was sentenced to eight years in the ADC with four years suspended.

Two defendants pleaded

not guilty and were given dates for trials and pretrial motions.

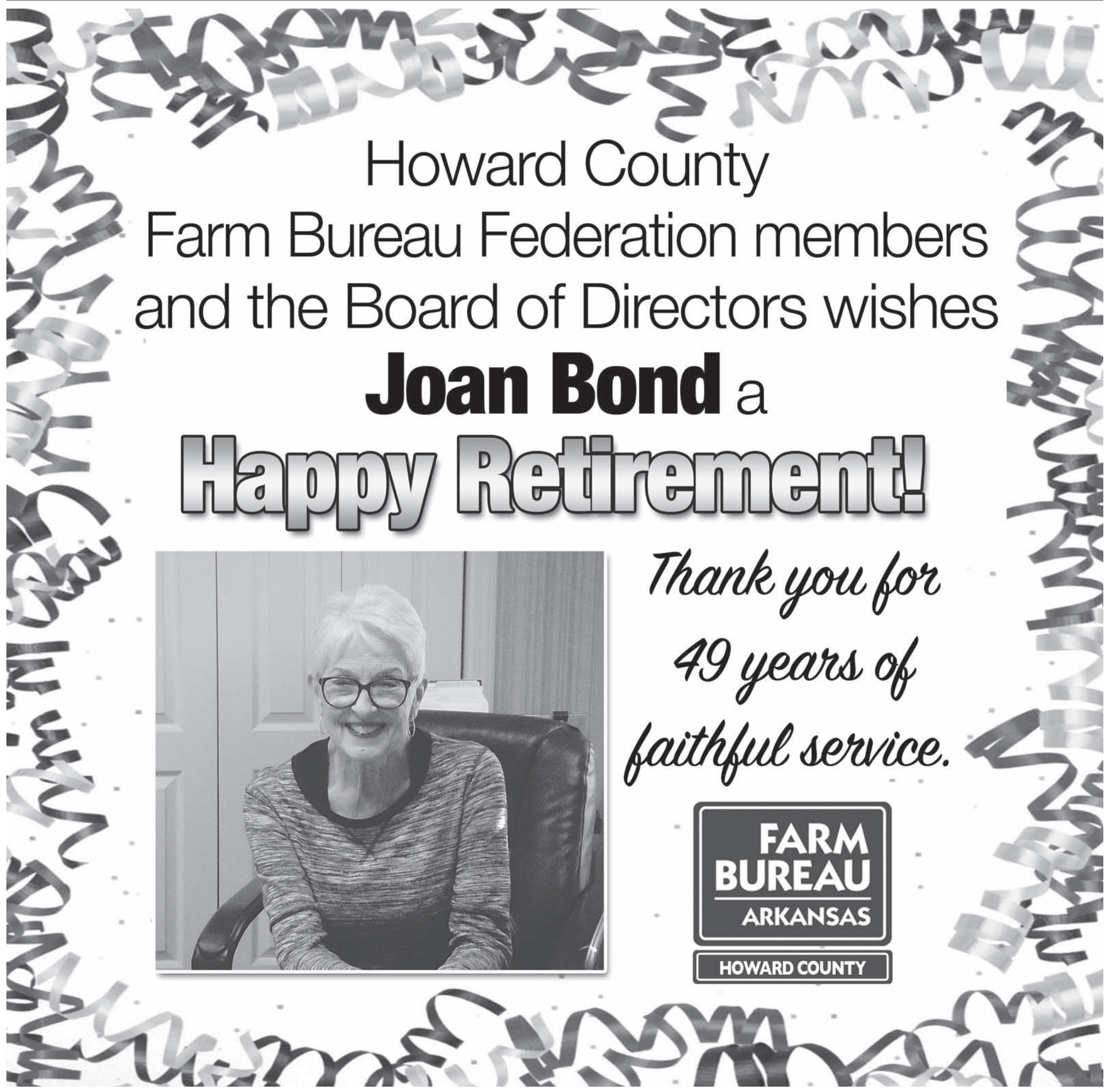
One of the defendants was charged with multiple crimes. Donald Chipps, 32, black male, 316 Bishop, Apt. 6, Nashville, is charged with separate offenses of maintaining a drug premises, possession of Schedule VI controlled substance with purpose of delivery, possession of drug paraphernalia, and felon in possession of a firearm -- all class B or D fel-

onies. He will be represented by the public defender. Pre-trial motions will be heard Feb. 28, and a trial date of March 13 was set.

A not guilty plea was also given by Anthony Stewart, 48, black male, Nashville, charged with furnishing prohibited articles, a class C felony.

This charge is most frequently seen when a jail inmate is caught trying to smuggle contraband into the jail.

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Joan Bond a

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Point of view

Christmas wreath Lights work, don't work in Yule thingy mystery

CHRISTMAS MYSTERY. Sometime soon after Thanksgiving, I reached blindly under the guest bedroom bed to bring out the Absolutely Perfect Artificial Christmas Wreath which had resided in that very place since the day after New Year's Day of 2017. I was grateful, as usual, that nothing bit my grasping hand.

As always, the wreath was ready to hang. It was already on the hook that goes over the top of the front door. It already had an extension cord held raggedly to the right length by a leftover trashbag cinch. The extension cord was already plugged into a timer which could be plugged into an outlet. The timer was already set for "on" between the hours of 4:30-10:30 p.m. (I am a tightwad and it is my sincere belief that there's no use running up the electric bill when only passing stray dogs will see the lighted Absolutely Perfect Artificial Christmas Wreath).

I hung the wreath, set the thingy to the correct time of day, and plugged the timer into the overhead electrical outlet.

And I waited until 4:30 to go to the front yard to bask in the glow of my lighted front door wreath.

But at 4:33 the wreath was still dark.

I checked again several times over the next few nights, but the wreath was always dark and I was too lazy to go out and check the thingy to see why it wasn't working. Probably some complicated electrical problem, I said, congratulating myself upon giving myself an excellent excuse for not trying to fix the wreath.

I even looked at the wreath during the daytime, just to make sure I didn't have AM and PM mixed up on the timer. I will admit to being a geezer, and that means sometimes AM and PM get mixed up.

Well, I muttered quietly to myself lest Santa hear, I'll just wait until I get home in two days and throw the danged thing away.

Late on Christmas Day when I rolled in from my stay at daughter's house, I was stunned to see that the wreath was lit.

I even went outside two hours later (but before 10:30) just to make sure my eyes weren't playing tricks.

No, the wreath was still wonderfully illuminated by about a hundred teeny white bulbs.

What fixed it, I wondered.

The only thing I could think of was how my late wife could fix things just by glaring. Jane could fix electric thingys, flashlights, tv remote controls and a lazy husband just by glaring. No words needed. She didn't need printed instructions, either.

So, I reasoned, some similarly talented and goodhearted woman must have driven past and glared at that wreath.

There was just one problem. Next morning when I drove to work I noted that the wreath was still on, needlessly wasting pennies worth of electricity. I shuddered to think how much higher my electric bill was gonna be if the wreath had worked every night while I was gone. Ten or eleven cents for sure.

Since it will be the day after New Years Day before I can take down the wreath, I'd sincerely appreciate if that woman would bless my household with another drive-by glaring.

Otherwise, my electric bill might be 16 or 18 cents higher.

Or, I could just throw the wreath away. I could use the extra space under the bed.

OUR TRADITION. Going back a decade or so, I've gone to midnight church services on Christmas Eve with my daughter and granddaughter. In that time we've celebrated at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Mau-melle. Some years at various Catholic churches in Little Rock. We went once to a small, old Catholic church in Marche, a community founded by Polish railroad workers just outside of North Little Rock. Some of the Christmas Carols were sung in Polish.

We went once to a Latin Rite mass at a Catholic church somewhere in North Little Rock.

Yep. Even the carols were sung in Latin. I tried my best.

This year we went to St. Andrew's Cathedral, downtown Little Rock. It was the first time for granddaughter to see that place.

The grand old church smelled heavily of incense and there were banks and banks of red poinsettias. The flowers were from Sunshine Acres Nursery in Nashville, Ark. The service was an unforgettable celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

Because there were so many people, I thought I'd see someone I knew.

Sure enough, I spotted Steve Harrelson, grandson of one of Nashville's iconic former citizens, Boyd Tackett. Boyd was a US Congressman, candidate for governor, and noted criminal defense attorney. Steve is a former state senator now practicing law in LR. He tried to act like he didn't know me.

THINGS I LEARNED from opening email: There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.

WORD GAMES. The twins: Bound and Determined. Don't get between the twins and their objective or you could be run over.

HE SAID: "Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." Goran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden

SHE SAID: "We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence ... We need silence to be able to touch souls." Mother Theresa

SWEET DREAMS, Baby

Mine Creek
Revelations

By
Louie Graves

LETTER

Highways around Nashville marred by trash

Dear Editor:
Why don't you write about all the trash along the highways around Nashville?

If there was a prize for the most trash around towns, Nashville

would be the winner.

God gave us this beautiful land. I wonder what He thinks about the way it's being treated.

Also, we've had a lot of service-men give their lives so that we

could continue living in peace. I wonder what they would think if they could see the lack of respect given to what they died for.

Barbara Canaday
Nashville

Tax cut for low income Arkansans makes lasting positive impact on state's economy

By Sen. Larry Teague

The past year has been eventful for state government, and the development that may have the most positive long-term impact for the Arkansas economy was passage by the legislature of a \$50 million-a-year tax cut for low income families.

Act 78 of 2017 will lower state income taxes for everyone whose income is less than \$21,000 a year. People whose annual incomes are below \$4,300 will be taken off the income tax rolls completely.

An analysis by the Bureau of Legislative Research estimates that Act 78 will reduce taxes for 1,346,415 Arkansas residents.

The legislature also eliminated state income taxes for retired veterans. Act 141 of 2017 exempts military retirement from state income taxes. About 29,000 Arkansas veterans served long enough to qualify for retirement benefits, and Act 141 will save them about \$13.4 million a year.

Both tax reductions are expected to improve the Arkansas economy in various ways. First, much of the tax savings will be spent on groceries, housing and necessities instead of going into

the state treasure. Secondly, state economists expect the tax cut for veterans to make Arkansas an attractive location for military retirees. If locations in Arkansas attract more veterans, those communities will benefit from their expertise and willingness to serve.

Act 465, also passed by the legislature earlier this year, exempts sales taxes for manufacturers when they purchase equipment for repairs and replacement of parts. It sunsets an existing tax incentive program known as InvestArk. The tax exemption will be phased in, beginning July 1, 2018.

The savings to manufacturers will begin accumulating in 2020, when the loss of InvestArk is more than offset by the sales tax exemption. In Fiscal Year 2020 the savings to manufacturers will be \$230,000, but they will increase rapidly and in 2023 will be more than \$12.3 million a year.

Because Arkansas had approved a medical marijuana amendment in November of 2016, the legislature had to create from scratch a totally new regulatory system. Lawmakers wanted to make sure that marijuana would be prescribed and sold handled

like a medication, and they also wanted to make sure that the amendment would not become a gateway allowing easier access to recreational use of illegal drugs.

In all, the legislature considered 51 bills and enacted 25 that implement aspects of the medical marijuana amendment. There will be 32 dispensaries and five growers that will open for business in 2018.

Act 191 of 2017 was a priority of business leaders because it clarifies the legal position of employers in civil lawsuits. Under the act, supervisors acting on their own are not considered employers. The legal result is that lawsuits against employers will not be pursued under the category of hate crimes. The act creates a one-year limit in which discrimination and retaliation suits can be filed against employers.

Act 734 of 2017 is another priority of business leaders. It lowers the base wage on which employers pay unemployment insurance taxes, from \$12,000 to \$10,000. The change will save Arkansas businesses about \$50 million a year. Act 734 also shortens from 20 to 16 weeks the length of time someone may receive unemployment insurance benefits.

SOUTHERN FRIED

Journey along scenic Highway 7

By Rex Nelson

The first thing I notice is that somebody shot the pelican.

We're standing on the edge of Arkansas Highway 7 on the Arkansas-Louisiana line near Lockhart, La., early on a cloudy Tuesday morning. The sign that welcomes visitors to Louisiana features the state bird, and some good ol' boy has filled the pelican's belly with buckshot. We speculate that the crime was committed by a disgruntled Arkansas Razorback fan following a football loss to LSU.

On this weekday morning, it's quiet on the state line.

We pull into the driveway of a house and get out of the car. If people are in the home, they don't bother to come out and check on us. Chickens roam free in the yard, and a rooster crows out back.

This is pine timber country. Having grown up in the Gulf Coastal Plain region of southwest Arkansas, I've long thought that the southwest and south-central parts of our state should have joined up long ago with north Louisiana and east Texas to form a state with Shreveport or Texarkana as the capital. There's not much difference — culturally, economically, socially — in southwest Arkansas, east Texas and north Louisiana.

I was raised at Arkadelphia, just a few blocks from Highway 7. The highway is an iconic route that runs from this point south of El Dorado and east of Junction City all the way to the shores of Bull Shoals Lake near the Missouri border at Diamond City in Boone County.

At one time or another, I've traversed every mile of this highway. But I've never done it all on consecutive days. That's the goal for David Stricklin of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Paul Austin of the Arkansas Humanities Council and me. In two days, we'll drive through four of the state's six distinct geographical areas — the Gulf Coastal Plain, the Ouachita Mountains, the Arkansas River Valley and the Ozark Mountains; everything but the Delta and

Crowley's Ridge.

We'll see more deer than we can count, several elk and a coyote along the way.

We'll tell stories, we'll eat well, we'll see the autumn leaves changing colors and we'll meet interesting people.

We'll come to appreciate both the beauty and the variety of Arkansas.

The excursion had begun the previous evening over dinner at the swank new Griffin Restaurant in downtown El Dorado's Murphy Arts District. Known simply as MAD, the arts and entertainment district is part of a broader effort to stem population loss in a county that has 15,000 fewer people now than it had in the 1930s.

Covering more than 1,000 square miles, Union County is the state's largest county geographically. About 90 percent of the county is forested, and almost a fourth of its residents live below the poverty line.

Like most of Arkansas, cotton was once king in Union County. There are no longer row crops here. They grow pine trees, chickens and cattle instead.

The oil and gas industry remains important, though it's not nearly the driver of the south Arkansas economy that it was in the 1920s after Dr. Samuel Busey's well erupted on Jan. 10, 1921, near El Dorado.

Historian Ben Johnson of Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia, with whom we had shared dinner at the Griffin, writes that there was "a thick column of oil that soiled clothes on wash lines a mile away. The rural market center was unprepared to become a boomtown. Hotels and rooming houses overflowed, and tent-covered cot spaces, restaurants and shops went up along South Washington Street.

"A newspaper reporter noted that a person walking along what became known as Hamburger Row could 'purchase almost anything from a pair of shoes to an auto, an interest in a drilling tract or have your fortune told.'"

Nearby Smackover also became a boomtown when oil was discovered there in July 1922. By 1925, there were 3,500 wells in the county pumping 69 million barrels of oil. Production declined considerably by the late 1930s.

Just across Cedar Street from the 1929 Rialto Theater in downtown El Dorado is a small park with displays chronicling the oil boom. One marker describes the cold afternoon when Busey, a physician and oil speculator, struck oil.

"The town would never be the same," the marker reads. "Church bells rang, the sawmill whistle sounded and people streamed out of town to see the oil spewing up through the 75-foot wooden derrick."

By 1925, El Dorado's population had grown from about 3,800 residents to almost 25,000.

Writing for the online Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, Kenneth Bridges describes the transformation of El Dorado: "The discovery well touched off a wave of speculators into the area seeking fame and fortune from oil. The state Legislature immediately sent an exploratory train from Little Rock for legislators to inspect the find. Oil production increased exponentially in a matter of months. In March 1921, Arkansas produced 28,000 barrels of oil to sell on the open market, which increased to 908,000 barrels by June. By 1922, 900 wells were in operation in the state. ... El Dorado became the epicenter of the oil boom. It changed from an isolated agricultural city to the oil capital of Arkansas. Twenty-two trains each day ran in and out of El Dorado to Little Rock and Shreveport."

It's as if a second oil boom is taking place in El Dorado these days. But this has nothing to do with the oil and gas industry, which has been depressed in recent years. Instead, it's about music, theater, art and even fine food and wine.

It's an audacious effort by the city's business leaders to reverse

See Highway • Page 5A

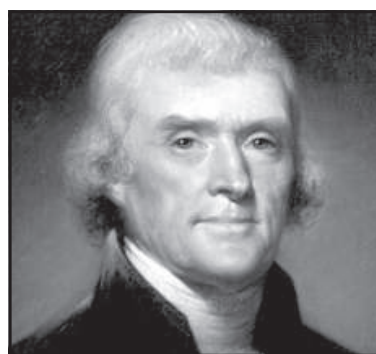
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Thomas Jefferson, 1787
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Highway

Continued from page 1A

a decades-long pattern of population decline.

The goal is to turn El Dorado into the arts and entertainment capital of a region that includes south Arkansas, north Louisiana, east Texas and even parts of west Mississippi.

Many consider it to be El Dorado's last, best chance to break out of the economic doldrums infecting so much of south Arkansas. El Dorado Festivals & Events Inc. is the organization charged with giving life to the vision of business leaders such as Madison Murphy and Claiborne Deming. Murphy, Deming and others have raised more than \$60 million already for a first phase of construction. By the time the second phase is completed, more than \$100 million will have been invested downtown.

The Griffin Building, constructed during the oil boom in 1928-29 to house a Ford dealership and a gas station, has been transformed into a fine-dining venue with an adjacent indoor performance hall that will hold more than 2,000 seated patrons.

An amphitheater next to the building will hold 8,000 people for outdoor concerts. Adjacent to it will be a two-acre children's playground and splash pad that will be open at no cost to the public.

The second phase of the project will transform the Rialto into an 850-seat hall for film festivals, touring productions and performances by the South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. A new lobby will connect the Rialto to the 1928 McWilliams Building, a former furniture store that will become an art gallery and host traveling exhibitions from around the world.

The three publicly traded companies headquartered in El Dorado — Murphy Oil Corp., Deltic Timber Corp. (which recently announced a merger with Potlatch Corp.) and Murphy USA Inc. — must compete for talent against firms with headquarters in Houston and other large metropolitan areas.

Deming served from 1994-2008 as the president and chief executive officer of Murphy Oil. He has been the company's chairman since 2008. In January 2007, it was

announced that Murphy Oil had made a \$50 million commitment to create what's known as the El Dorado Promise. That program allows graduates of El Dorado High School to have their college tuition and fees paid.

I ask Deming, an erudite Tulane University graduate who began working as an attorney for Murphy Oil in 1979, if he's surprised that the El Dorado Promise, which is recognized as one of the best scholarship programs of its kind in the country, didn't do more to stop population loss.

"The fact that it didn't shows just how daunting the situation is in south Arkansas," he says. "Almost all of the Arkansas counties south of Interstate 40 are facing similar challenges."

Murphy quickly interjects: "I would hate to think where we would be now without the El Dorado Promise. It takes more than one thing to change long-term trends, however. You have to have a confluence of events."

Murphy is a former chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission and was the head of the Murphy Commission, which from 1996-99 studied ways to make Arkansas state government more efficient and accountable to the taxpayers. His interest in public policy was inherited from his father, the late Charles Murphy, who's considered to be among the state's greatest business and civic leaders of the 20th century.

Charles Murphy died in March 2002 at age 82.

"We started this effort five years ago with some ideas about how we could turn the economic situation around," Madison Murphy says. "What you see now is far different from our original concept. I don't know what it's going to look like five years from now, but this could be a catalyst for things we haven't even thought about yet."

Murphy would like to see more people living in downtown El Dorado. He's also convinced that the arts district will be enough to make a high-quality downtown boutique hotel — something along the lines of the Alluvian Hotel at Greenwood, Miss. — feasible.

"I regret that the hotel is

not already open," Murphy says. "But I believe it will happen."

Asked why arts and entertainment was the sector the business leaders decided to focus on, Murphy says bluntly: "Because we're not going to get the next Toyota plant."

He goes on to explain: "I see four drivers when it comes to attracting jobs. Those are education, infrastructure, tax rates and quality of life. Quality of life was our weakest link."

El Dorado's population decreased from 25,292 residents in the 1960 census to 18,884 in the 2010 census. Since that 2010 census, the city has taken additional steps to stop the bleeding. A \$43 million high school was constructed and numerous advanced placement courses were added to the high school curriculum. A conference center also was built downtown.

"We have a lot of white-collar jobs here because the three public companies are headquartered in El Dorado, and we have high-paying blue-collar jobs," Deming says. "So we have jobs. We also have the El Dorado Promise. And we're still losing population. So what do we do? We address those quality-of-life issues."

Murphy quotes Daniel Burnham, one of the country's most famous architects and urban planners in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Speaking about the design for the city of Chicago, Burnham said: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans, aim high."

"This is not a small plan," Murphy says of the effort to transform El Dorado into a four-state arts and entertainment magnet. "It's blood stirring."

Deming believes the attention the Murphy Arts District will bring to El Dorado could put it on the radar of everyone from young families to retired couples.

"The most appealing lifestyle in the country these days is the lifestyle of the small-town South," he says. "People here are friendly. It's easy to get around. This lifestyle is contagious. What we must do is be able to grow without losing that small-

town feel. This is already a wonderful place to live. We now have the opportunity to make it even better while attracting the attention of people across the country."

Murphy says those behind the Murphy Arts District aren't oblivious to the challenges they still face.

"We're not on an interstate highway," he says. "We don't have adequate air service. At least people in this region are willing to drive some distance for events."

Murphy says he and Deming are "like heat-seeking missiles on a fundraising mission."

There are still millions of dollars to be raised for the second phase. Almost \$9.5 million has come from a 1 percent city sales tax that was approved by voters in 2007 for economic development projects. Historic preservation tax credits also have helped. Gov. Asa Hutchinson committed \$5 million in state funds.

The focus is on what the visionaries behind MAD hope will be future growth. But they haven't forgotten the past. The state's oldest pool hall — Hill's Recreation Parlor, which has been in business since the oil boom days of the 1920s — will continue to operate right in the middle of the district. And a 110-foot oil derrick has been placed next to the Griffin Building, paying homage to the boom that first put El Dorado on the nation's radar screen.

Once more, El Dorado seeks to draw the nation's attention.

"The team we've assembled here makes me proud," Murphy says. "These folks are living it, breathing it, walking it, talking it, making it happen. We're going to succeed."

David, Paul and I cover the short distance from the state line to El Dorado quickly. I think about the Union County's history — the boom, the bust and the current attempts to spur growth.

"With the onset of World War II, Union County's industrial base attracted the attention of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Ben Johnson writes. "Entering a unique partnership with Lion Oil, the Corps supplied \$28 million for construction of the Ozark Ordnance Plant

to produce ammonium nitrate. The private company oversaw the operation of the plant and acquired it for a fraction of the construction costs at the end of the war. In 1983, the enterprise became El Dorado Chemical, which continued to make explosives as well as fertilizer.

"World War II encouraged dramatic growth in manufacturing, and state lawmakers authorized local communities to provide financial incentives to attract industry. Union County established one of the first industrial development organizations, enticing Jess Merkle to build a large-scale poultry processing plant that became the largest employer in El Dorado. Beginning in 1965, Great Lakes Corp. processed the underground brine into a variety of brominated products, including flame retardants.

"Despite the manufacturing expansion, Union County's population declined steadily after the war. Yet in the face of the loss of manufacturing jobs throughout the state in the 1990s, that sector held its own in the county. New glossy brochures and websites integrated tourism into the campaign to jolt the economy.

These new advertisements highlighted the refurbishment in the 1990s of El Dorado's downtown square into a historic district.

"Beginning early in the 20th century, the Army Corps of Engineers built and maintained a lock and dam system designed to boost navigation on the Ouachita River. Although the shipped tonnage failed to match local economic boosters' expectations, water-level management aided boating, hunting and fishing. The navigation project sustained the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, the world's largest green-tree reservoir. The pools at the dams on the river provided an alternative water source in the early 21st century to the underground Sparta Aquifer, depleted by decades of industrial consumption."

We reach El Dorado and detour a few blocks off the highway to get a cup of coffee at PJ's Coffee on the square.

It's time to head north on Highway 7 to Camden.

Career

Continued from page 1A

sponsibilities in the program, they'll be pulled back on campus," Gordon said. "This will be a benefit to our students and patrons in the community. It will let students see the type of work that's done and decide what they want to do."

If Nashville receives approval, next year's seniors will be the first to participate.

"We'll target a definite number of kids for an interview process. The first year we'll see how many sign up. We don't want 400 leaving after lunch."

The program will "give students the opportunity to work in areas they're thinking of going into or take additional college classes or job shadow."

Council looks at hourly raises

Most of the Dec. 19 meeting of the Nashville City Council was taken up with debate on a proposed modest hourly pay increase for the city's lowest-paid employees.

A proposal by Mayor Billy Ray Jones and Public Works Department Director Larry Dunaway would have given those employees a modest raise even in years when other city employees did not get a raise.

The proposal would have been a part of the city's personnel policy. There was enough objection around the council table that the mayor named council members Monica Clark, Matt Smith, Jimmie Lou Kirkpatrick and Carol Mitchell to a special committee to examine the suggestion. The committee will meet Jan. 9.

Jones said that most city employees opted for extra training which qualified them for higher pay raises. There are some who do not choose to pursue extra licenses or training, and their pay stays low. The proposed raise would have been only for city employees who make less than \$15 per hour.

Jones told the council that the radio station wished to record council meetings for replay on their website. There was no objection.

Visionaries play major role in revitalization of downtown El Dorado with goal of becoming arts, entertainment magnet

3 Temporary job openings David Habetz Farms in Ragley, LA 2/1/2018 to 11/15/2018. General worker needed for crawfish, rice, sorghum, soybean, wheat and cattle farm. Work includes tractor driving, field prep, water maint, fertilize, plant and harvest of crops. Field prep includes manual shovel work and hoeing of weeds, spot spray and gen farm labor. Help repair and maintain bins, buildings, equip, farm, fences, field, levees, ponds, properties, roads and shop. Load and unload. May operate motorized crawfish boat and/or walk/push boat. Crawfishing involves manually cutting up of fish bait, set traps, bait and check traps. Grade, wash, sack and ice crawfish for shipment, make and repair traps as needed. Pickup/deliver crawfish as required. May deliver crop to coolers or market. Worker must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs. M-F, some Sat/Sun, OT varies. Employees may be compensated above the stated hourly wage, this decision to pay above the prevailing hourly wage will be made by the employer, basing this decision on factors that include the individual recipient's performance and work history. Allergies to ragweed, goldenrod, insect spray and related chemicals and pesticides, etc. may affect workers' ability to perform the job. Employer may require post hire, random, upon suspicion or post accident drug testing, all at no cost to employee. Testing positive or failure to comply may result in immediate termination from employment. Job involves stooping, lifting and working outside in inclement weather. Must have 3 mo exp in similar position. All tools furnished at no cost. \$10.38 hourly, wage may change with AEW. Free housing provided for all workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence daily. Guaranteed ⅓ contract beginning with worker date of arrival. If applicable, Transp & subsistence exp to worksite provided/paid by employer by 50% of contract, rtn at completion of contract. Apply/Send resumes for this job at the nearest local SWA @ 700 South Elm, Hope, AR 71801 ph 870-777-3421 using LA JO#_753423_.. KC

6 Temporary job openings Dwight Hollier Farms in Jennings, LA 2/10/2018 to 11/30/2018. General worker needed for crawfish and rice farm. Work includes tractor driving, field prep, water maint, fertilize, plant and harvest of crops. Field prep includes manual shovel work and hoeing of weeds, spot spray and gen farm labor. Help repair and maintain bins, buildings, equip, farm, fences, field, levee, ponds, property, roads and shop. Load and unload. May operate motorized crawfish boat and/or walk/pushboat. Crawfishing involves manually cutting up of fish bait, set traps, bait and check traps. Grade, wash sack, and ice crawfish for shipment, make and repair traps as needed. Pickup/deliver crawfish as required. May deliver crop to coolers or market. Worker must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs. M-F, some Sat/Sun, OT varies. Employees may be compensated above the stated hourly wage, this decision to pay above the prevailing hourly wage will be made by the employer, basing this decision on factors that include the individual recipient's performance and work history. Allergies to ragweed, goldenrod, insect spray and related chemicals and pesticides, etc. may affect workers' ability to perform the job. Employer may require post hire, random, upon suspicion or post accident drug testing, all at no cost to employee. Testing positive or failure to comply may result in immediate termination from employment. Job involves stooping, lifting and working outside in inclement weather. Must have 3 mo exp in similar position. All tools furnished at no cost. \$10.38 hourly, wage may change with AEW. Free housing provided for all workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence daily. Guaranteed ⅓ contract beginning with worker date of arrival. If applicable, Transp & subsistence exp to worksite provided/paid by employer by 50% of contract, rtn at completion of contract. Apply/Send resumes for this job at the nearest local SWA @ 700 South Elm, Hope, AR 71801 ph 870-777-3421 using LA JO#_757065_.. KC

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SPORTS LEADERS
Players of the Week as selected by The Leader sports department

Area basketball teams

Area basketball teams are taking off for the Christmas holidays. They will return to their schedule of practice, tournaments and regular-season games within the next week. Many will participate in the Nashville Bankers Tournament coming up in the middle part of January.

This weekly feature sponsored by **McDonald's of Nashville**
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DRINKING & DRIVING IS A SLIPPERY ROAD

When you drink and drive, chances are you'll slip up behind the wheel. Stay safe this new year and year-round, act responsibly and find another way home if you've been drinking.

Have A Happy & Safe New Year
Howard County Sheriff
Bryan McJunkins



News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

ANNUNCIATION. The angel Gabriel (Kimberly Perez) tells Mary (Megan Worthen) that she will be the mother of Jesus during a scene from the First Baptist Church Christmas program "Just One Light" Dec. 10 in the church auditorium. The program included the FBC Christmas choir, Christmas orchestra and drama ministry. More photos may be found on page 7A.

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 —Luke 2:4-5

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

367

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of II Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

The Shunammite's Son

HAVING HEARD FROM GEHAZI THAT THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S DEAD SON HAS NOT BEEN REVIVED, ELISHA HASTENS ON TO THE WOMAN'S HOUSE, NOW...

...WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE HOUSE...

...ELISHA LETS NO ONE FOLLOW HIM...

...IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CHILD STILL LIES DEAD...

...AND THE PROPHET MOUNTS THE STEPS TO THE ROOM ON THE GARDEN WALL...

...NOW HE ENTERS THE DARKENED ROOM BY HIMSELF, TO FACE THIS GRIM SPECTRE OF DEATH!

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JOHN₂

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 Brent Thompson, Pastor
 www.myimmanuel.com
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:55 a.m.
 Worship (KMTB-fm) - 10:55 a.m.
 Worship - 6:00 p.m.
 Youth - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: AWANA - 5:30 p.m.
 Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.
 Youth - 6:30 p.m.

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 Worship 11:00 a.m. • Youth 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday evening service 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Charles Green, Pastor

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 (Corner of Main & Bishop)
845-3241
 Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
 Minister: Jim Pinson



Wise men and shepherds visit Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in a scene from the First Baptist Church Christmas program "Just One Light" Sunday, Dec. 10.



Jamie Wallace, Janalyn Revels and Allie Westbrook sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Dec. 10 at First Baptist Church.

'Just One Light'

News-Leader photos/JOHN R. SCHIRMER



Music minister Don Hall (center) directs the First Baptist choir and orchestra in their presentation of "Just One Light."



The FBC children's choir performs with the Christmas choir and orchestra during the finale of the church's Christmas program Dec. 10.



Angels portrayed by members of the FBC drama ministry announce the birth of Jesus during "Just One Light."

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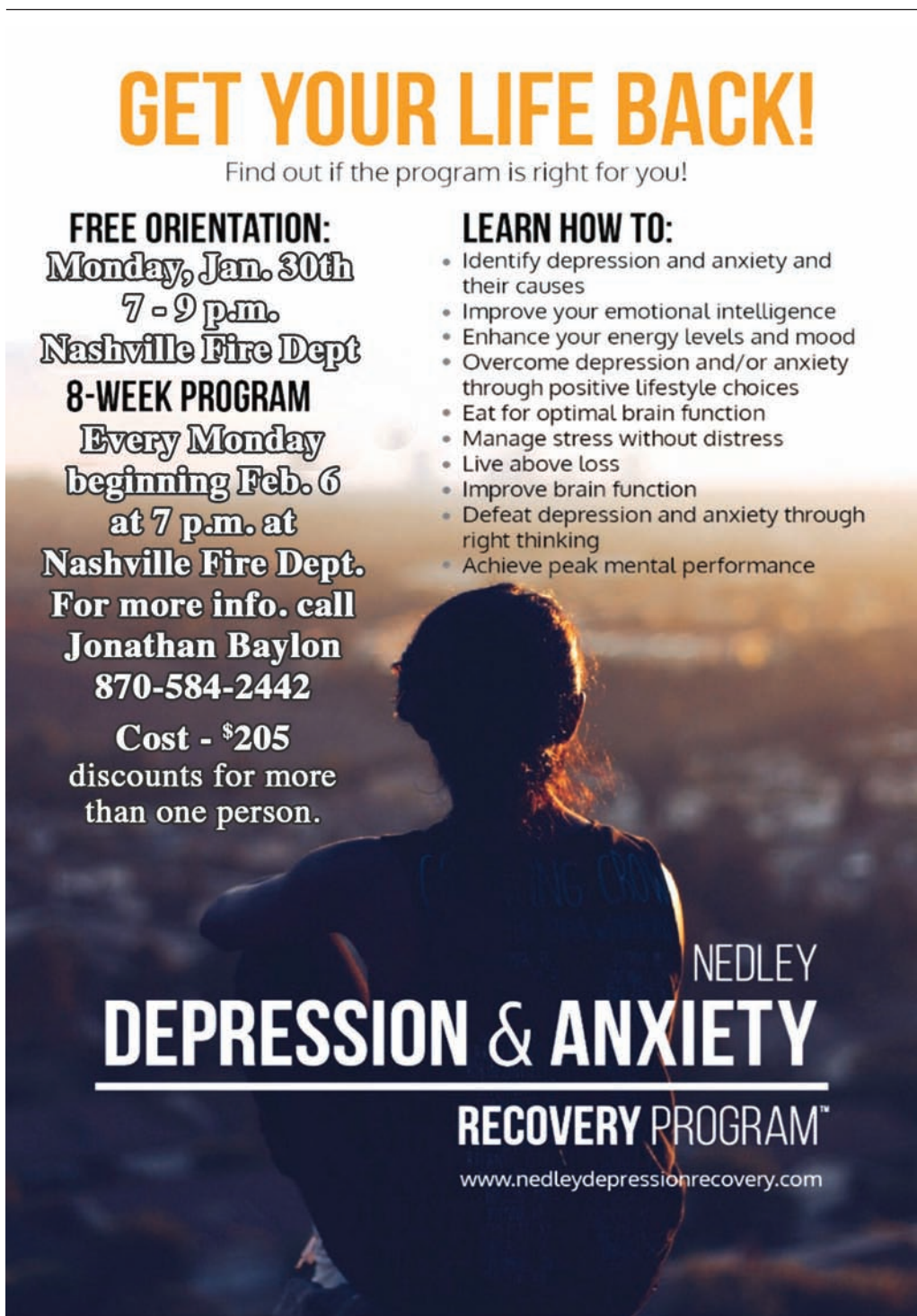
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News-Leader photo/JOHN R. SCHIRMER

COLLECTION FOR THE CALL. Students in Joanna Howard's first period sixth grade class at Nashville Elementary School recently collected, counted and sorted 186 pairs of pajamas from elementary students. They were given to the local chapter of The Call, an organization which supports local foster children and their foster families. The class includes (front row) Emilie Sartin, Kami Lewis, Landon Whisenhunt, Victor Rojas, Maddox Arnold, Jett Stephenson and Joanna Martin; (second row) Kaitlyn Williams, Kade Caldwell, Carter Hamilton, Brandon Jewell and Kyleigh Kuykendall; (back row) teacher Joy Freel, Principal Rick Rebsamen, Juleidy Valadares, Michelle Maldonado, Allie Littlefield, Maggie Loyd, Aubrey Carver, Jordan Scoggins, Lily Meras, Brianna Ester and Jodi King from The Call. Scholastic Book Clubs will match every new pair of pajamas with a new book for a needy child. Freel's homeroom collected 47 pair and won a hot chocolate and cookie party.



News-Leader photo/JODI KING

VISITING SANTA. Ginger Blue (right) helps Santa take the Christmas list from a child during The Call's Christmas event for foster children and families last week in Nashville.



News-Leader photo/TERRI MCJUNKINS

INTERVIEW SESSION. NHS senior Kianna McElroy visits Gail Hearnberger of Trendsetters during her Social Media class's final project last week.

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2010 CHEVROLET SILVERADO CREW	100k mi.....Z-71!.....	\$20,995

FIND NEW ROADS



RINGING UP SUPPORT. Several locals took their turns at the Salvation Army's red kettle in front of the Nashville Walmart over the Christmas holiday, including (above left) Nashville Police Officer Clint Tedford with Howard County Sheriff Bryan McJunkins and his five-year-old son, Kase; (above right) Nashville Mayor Billy Ray Jones and First Lady Sandra Jones; and (below right) Officer Tedford with fellow Nashville officer Tim Bowlin.

News-Leader photos/TERRICA HENDRIX & JOHN BALCH

AgDiscovery summer program for teens taking applications

Arkansas teens interested in a unique, two-week career exploration summer program away from home with other teens can help ensure their spot by filling out the AgDiscovery application packet, that is now online, and returning it as soon as possible, well ahead of the March 12 deadline, said Willie Columbus, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) AgDiscovery coordinator.

AgDiscovery is a residential career exploration

program for teens ages 14-17 that provides a first-hand look at many career paths in agricultural sciences.

Students spend two weeks on the campus of a host university and learn from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) professionals, university professors and scientists, including practicing entomologists, plant pathologists, wildlife biologists and veterinarians.

In Arkansas, UAPB will

host AgDiscovery teens June 9-22. Teens will participate in hands-on labs, workshops, field trips, and character and team building activities. Some of the field trips include the Little Rock Air Force Base to learn about wildlife management near airports; an overnight stay at the Heifer Ranch to explore agriculture and life in other countries; the Delta Rivers Nature Center for canoeing, archery and trail hiking; Martin Luther King Park to band geese; and tours of the

Arkansas Vet Tech School and the UAPB Aquaculture Research Station.

Application deadline is March 12. Although students submit their application packets directly to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), students select their host university.

There is no cost to attend AgDiscovery. Tuition, room and board, lab supplies, meals and activity fees are covered by APHIS.

Students are responsible for the cost of traveling to and from their host university campus.

Online application is the preferred method of application. Applications may be submitted online at www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery. See application packet details for guidelines on essay topic and letters of application, and then follow the steps to apply online.

Students also have the option of mailing their application packet directly

to APHIS, said Columbus. Emailed, faxed, or hand-delivered applications will not be accepted. Incomplete and those postmarked after the March 12 deadline will not be considered. If students have questions or need help, they can contact Columbus at (870) 575-7145 or columbusw@uapb.edu.

AgDiscovery is conducted by the USDA-APHIS in partnership with 22 colleges and universities throughout the nation, including Hawaii and the Virgin Islands.



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\$1.47	\$1.21	\$2.97 LB.	54¢	\$1.46	\$1.98
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Start 2018 in motion at state park near you

Hashtag your hike: #FirstDayHikes #ARstateparks

Make a New Year's resolution to your health and happiness by kicking off 2018 with an invigorating First Day Hike at an Arkansas state park near you. On Jan. 1, all 50 states will participate in the seventh annual national event that encourages everyone to celebrate the New Year with an outdoor exploration.

"So many people start the year with resolutions about improving health and fitness and seeking more authentic experiences," said Arkansas State Parks Chief of Interpretation and Program Services Kelly Farrell. "With our First Day Hikes you can put those good intentions right into action and turn goals into accomplishments on day one of 2018. Whether you join one of our scheduled guided hikes, or take your own self-guided trek on our 400+ miles of trails, we hope you enjoy being part of a nationwide celebration and that you're inspired to make visiting state parks a year-round habit."

"I've done it with my family for the past two years; I've really enjoyed taking my kids out to our parks. We try to hit as many we can on the first of January," said Arkansas State Parks Director Grady Spann. "We'll do one with an interpreter who takes us out on a trail, like last year we went to Woolly Hollow, and then after that we went on and hiked up Pinnacle on our own—all on the first of January. To keep that tradition going, we'll do it again this year and we're really looking forward to it."

Last year, 50 hikes were scheduled at 34 parks. Col-



lectively, 702 hikers (and 11 dogs) covered 1146.92 miles.

During the event, park rangers, interpreters and volunteers will share their knowledge of the state's unique natural and cultural features. You are encouraged to share your adventures on social media with #FirstDayHikes and #ARstateparks.

"America's State Parks provide havens for young and old alike to discover the tranquility and beauty of nature through outdoor recreation," National Association of State Park Directors Executive Director, Lewis Ledford said. "Hiking offers inspiring ways to improve your physical and mental health, while exploring beautiful public lands in

every state."

The First, First Day Hike

First Day Hikes originated more than 25 years ago. Last year, more than 62,000 people took part in guided hikes that covered over 114,165 miles (183,730 km) on 1,300 different hikes across the country.

Hike Safe

Hiking during the winter can be fun, as long as you follow cold-weather tips provided by the American Hiking Society. Just a few simple essentials include dressing in layers, wearing raingear, a hat and appropriate footwear and carrying food and water. Sunscreen and sunglasses may be necessary to prevent sunburn from the glare off of snow.

Lockesburg man takes plea deal in Sevier County teen rape case; Howard County charge dismissed

A Lockesburg man has accepted a plea bargain in Sevier County and was sentenced to 38 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction with five years suspended on a rape charge.

Barry Todd Smith, 38, who also had a Newhope address listed in court records, accepted the plea deal Dec. 14 after a jury had been picked for his trial for the rape of a 13-year-old female in June 2016.

As part of the plea deal,

a Howard County charge of rape against Smith, involving a teen boy, has been dismissed. Smith was also ordered to pay \$770 in Sevier County court fees and must register as a sex offender upon his release from prison.

In the Sevier County case involving the female victim,

a DNA match resulted in the charge against Smith.

Smith was charged in Howard County Sept. 29 for the alleged rape of a teen boy, who said Smith had forced him to have sexual intercourse during a stay at the Diamond Country Inn in Nashville.

Howard County District Court

Dec. 21, 2017

BF=Bond Forfeited

Howard County

Becerril-Hernandez, Melissa, 38, Murfreesboro, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$5,175 owed, committed to jail - suspended

Daniel, Rony, 31, Corinth, Texas, \$240 BF, speeding

Hendrix, Jerald N., 53, Nashville, guilty of reckless driving, fined \$345 and sentenced to five days in jail; guilty of fleeing, fined \$1640; guilty of DWI #2, fined \$1640, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI class; guilty of driving on suspended license, fined \$390 and sentenced to 10 days in jail; guilty of speeding, fined \$250; resisting arrest, under advisement for 30 days, fined \$890

Hill, Kevin, 50, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$1,315 owed, committed to jail

Trotter, Arlando J., 31, Grand Prairie, Texas, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$855

Wilson, Bailey Reed, 20, Fort Towson, Okla., \$225 BF, speeding

City of Nashville

Becerril-Hernandez, Melissa, 38, Murfreesboro, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$195; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$345

Billings, Misty P., 42, McCaskill, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$225

Casablanca, David, 36, Fort Worth, Texas, \$235 BF, speeding; \$195 Bf, no driver's license, fined \$195

Chippis, Donald R., 32,

Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$2,075 owed

Crawford, Latoya A., 32, Little Rock, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$345 and sentenced to two days in jail/community service

Dougan, Bryan L., 39, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$490 owed

Folkerts, Christina M., 31, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$390 and sentenced to three days in jail

Hill, James A., 63, Nashville, guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$345 and sentenced to two days of jail/community service; guilty of expired vehicle tags/no vehicle tags, fined \$185

Lansdell, Clint D., 44, Ashdown, \$210 BF, disregarding traffic control

May, Minuen, 70, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$745 owed

Ortiz, Miguel, 24, Hope, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$845 owed

Sears, Jessica, 28, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$395 owed

Sloan, Buc P., 32, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$445 owed

Smith, Mahli D., 18, McCaskill, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$390

Thompson, Amanda J., 30, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$390 and sentenced to three days in jail/community service

Thompson, Randall W., 28, Nashville, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$390 and sentenced to three days in jail/community service

Trotter, Arlando J., 31,

Grand Prairie, Texas, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,090, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI class

Walker, Demarcus S., 24, Nashville, guilty of endangering welfare of minor, fined \$440

City of Dierks

Linegar, Larry L., 68, Cad-

do, Okla., \$225 BF, speeding

City of Mineral Springs

Cogburn, Eric, 29, Norman, \$260 BF, speeding; \$245 BF, failure to appear

Franklin, Jennifer, 35, Conway, \$235 BF, speeding

Arkansas Forestry Commission

Cox, Brock K., 38, Nashville, \$220 BF, unlawful burning

Bench Trials

Howard County

Morgan, Charles W., 42, theft of property, under advisement for one year, fined \$490

City of Mineral Springs

Wiebe, Linda Pennier, 18, Honey Grove, Texas, guilty of speeding, fined \$250

Review Hearings

Howard County

Davis, Xavier L., 52, Nashville, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$725 owed, committed to jail/community service

Gurley, Dillion C., 19, Umpire, guilty of battery in third degree, fined \$2,009.10 and sentenced to 60 days in jail

City of Nashville

Burnett, Brad R., 30, McCaskill, guilty of non-payment of fines, \$6,1798 owed, committed to jail/community service

Hempstead County buys bank building, to move out of 1939 courthouse

Hempstead County has officially purchased the Farmers Bank & Trust building and plans are now underway to relocate the county's operations to the building by 2019.

The county purchased the bank building for \$1.5 million in a deal finalized last week between Hempstead County Judge Haskell Morse, the Hempstead County Quorum Court and bank official Bruce Maloch. Coupled

with renovation costs, the bank building purchase will total more than \$3 million.

The building is located at 200 East Third Street in the downtown area of Hope.

The market value of the building makes the transaction equivalent to a \$3 million-dollar donation from Farmers Bank & Trust to Hempstead County to use as a courthouse.

The deal will move

Hempstead County's operations out of the current courthouse, which was built in 1939 and is in need of major renovations.

According to local news reports, Farmers Bank will continue to occupy the building under a lease agreement with the county for up to 1.5 years.

Farmers Bank & Trust plans to transition all offices located at East Third Street to a new location to be built across the street.

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Judge Yeargan's longtime court administrator to retire at year's end

Linda Ballard also served in Pike County clerk positions

By PJ Tracy

Murfreesboro Diamond

Linda Ballard, who has served as the Trial Court Administrator (TCA) for Circuit Judge Charles Yeargan in the 9th West Judicial District for the past 14 years is set to retire at year's end.

Family as well as co-workers past and present were present for a retirement party in Ballard's honor last Friday at the Pike County Courthouse. "I was very surprised, I was not expecting [a party], but it was a very pleasant surprise — I was overwhelmed with gratitude for all the people there and the outpouring of love and kindness. I am very grateful."

Ballard said the get-together wasn't supposed to occur -- she had previously told Yeargan she didn't want any fuss made over her. "She said absolutely not, but when I talked with her girls, they said she'd get over it," Yeargan quipped.

Prior to taking the TCA position, Ballard served as the Pike County Circuit and County Clerk for two years (2001-2002). She worked as a deputy in the same office for 14 years previous to that, beginning in 1987, under former clerk, Dian Henderson.

"I've never regretted my decision to come work for him, not for one minute," Ballard said of Yeargan. "I have loved this job, it has been wonderful, rewarding and fulfilling and I have been so grateful for the opportunities I have been given. I couldn't have asked for a better boss, it has been a joy, privilege and honor to work for Circuit Judge Charles Yeargan and be a part of his court staff for the past 14 years."

Ballard said she has also enjoyed working with all of the "good people," including attorneys in the 9th West District (Pike, Howard, Little River and Sevier counties), as well as attorneys throughout the state, for whom she would schedule and coordinate hearings, trials and managing case flow. In addition, she complimented the county and circuit clerks of the district, stating they have been "a pleasure" to work with, noting she has seen several changes in the offices over her time, but "they have been so willing to do whatever needed to be done to make our court system run smoothly."

She also mentioned court reporter Chren Kesterson, who Ballard said was a "joy" to work with.

Ballard said she will miss "the people and friendships I have developed over the years," but felt it was time to retire so as to enjoy family and her grandchildren



Murfreesboro Diamond photo/PJ TRACY

SO LONG. Judge Charles Yeargan hugs his longtime Trial Court Administrator Linda Ballard during her recent retirement party in Pike County.

(currently numbering five with one on the way) and to pursue hobbies she has not had time for.

"I'm 65, and I have my 30 years in with the retirement system, so I am vested, so I just decided it was time. I want time to spend with my grandkids, daughters and husband. But I have truly enjoyed working with and getting to know the people of Pike County and the 9th West Judicial District. It's just been a pleasure and I can't say enough about it. It's just time to move on to the next chapter ... I just want to have time to enjoy my retirement."

Ballard will be replaced by Lori Kelley in Yeargan's office after the New Year passes.

"It's a bittersweet day," Yeargan said at Ballard's party. "It's bitter for me and Chren [Kesterson] especially because we are going to miss you, but its also sweet to know that you have put all this hard work in and get to retire to keep grandkids more often. She's had a long career and done a great job."

He listed her best quality as well-organized, something every Circuit Judge needs.

Kesterson said Ballard had done a wonderful job for the office, quipping that she "kept all the lawyers from this district in line ... and let me tell you, that has been a job, to say the least. She was always a team player, ready to help in any way possible, and every time I walked into the office she had a smile on her face, unless she was mad at the lawyers. You deserve this ... and we are going to miss you."

Pike County Circuit Clerk Sabrina Williams spoke on behalf of herself and the other Clerks in attendance, and recited the following poem:

You started on this journey, so many years ago, and now it's time to leave behind dear friends you've come to know!

You sought Divine direction and a heart to do His will.

Your work became your passion, as you used your gifts and skills.

You set the highest standards for yourself and others too,

showing honor, pride and dignity-they saw the best in you!

A "rags to riches" story need not be your bottom line.

The priceless things we gain in life, often come from the Divine.

So don't waste one more minute "wishing" for things that might have been,

rather watch the seeds you planted grow, and feel His peace within.

I pray God keeps you safe and well, wherever you may turn,

surrounded by your loved ones, living out the dreams you've earned.

And in the quiet of your heart, may you hear God softly say...

"My good and faithful servant, I'm so proud of you this day!"

Circuit Judge Tom Cooper said that Ballard "makes you feel better about yourself just by being around her."

Ballard was presented with various gifts, including an inscribed plaque and clock set from her coworkers. A potluck style meal was provided.



TREE CITY. A willow oak was planted last Wednesday near the "Welcome to Delight, Arkansas" sign in memory of Glen Campbell. The tree, provided by the state Forestry Commission, was one of three trees planted in Delight as part of their Tree City USA program, which also included a northern red oak and a may-haw tree planted on sites along Railroad Street. Pictured is Chris Goodson, who has been Delight's Tree City program director since 2009 as well as a city alderman, along with AFC Ranger 1 Jacob Risner, who is the Tree City USA contact for Pike County.

Couple arrested at Glenwood motel sentenced to probation

Two defendants involved in a drug arrest at a Glenwood motel over the summer were sentenced Monday, Dec. 18 in Pike County Circuit Court.

Misty Marie Williamson, 31, of Glenwood and Cash Rayford Woods, 18, of Caddo Gap, both pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of a Schedule II controlled substance (Oxycodone) and were sentenced to five years of probation.

Woods was also sentenced to 90 days in the Community Correction

Center with seven days set aside for drug rehabilitation. Both were also fined \$1,500 plus court costs.

The pair were arrested June 6 at the Caddo River Motel where a search of their room turned up various drug paraphernalia and 13 Oxycodone pills.

A three-month-old female infant was staying in the room at the time of the arrests and was placed in the care of the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Also Monday, Bryon S.

Whisenhunt, 48, of Glenwood, pleaded "true" to violating the terms of his probation.

Whisenhunt was sentenced to four years in the Arkansas Department of Correction with two years suspended.

On Dec. 15, a Texarkana man was charged in Pike County with a felony violation of the Arkansas Hot Check Law.

Matt Looney, 24, is accused of writing a \$3,800 hot check in July to Self Creek Marina on Lake Greeson.

Three January dates set for new produce safety rule training sessions

Arkansas fruit and vegetable growers will have three opportunities in January to attend training to comply with the new produce safety rule under Food Safety Modernization Act.

The act, known as FSMA, is meant to strengthen safeguards in the U.S. food supply. The Cooperative Extension Service, part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, will be helping Arkansas farmers obtain needed

certification. The training is conducted by Amanda Perez, DrPh, assistant professor for Agriculture and Natural Resources, for the Division of Agriculture.

Training locations and dates are listed below. Participants must register in advance to attend one of these workshops. Visit the website for registration: www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety.

- Jan. 9 - Monticello at UA-Monticello

- Jan. 16 - Hope at SW Research and Extension Center

- Jan. 23 - Forrest City at Forrest City Civic Center

A survey is available to help producers and processors determine how their farms will be affected by the Produce Safety Rule. Visit the website to complete the survey or for more information about the Produce Safety Rule, www.uaex.edu/arkansas-produce-safety, or contact Amanda Perez at aperez@uaex.edu.

Chili cook-off to be part of bass tourney

The Arkansas Team Trail Bass Tournament will be held on Lake Greeson, Saturday, Jan. 13.

In conjunction with this bass tournament, the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Chili Cook-Off.

There will be no entry fee to enter the contest.

Cooking will begin at 8 a.m. at the swimming area near SWAHA landing and chili should be ready for

tasting and judging by 12 noon. Prizes to be awarded will be as follows: 1st Prize - \$500, 2nd Prize - \$250 and 3rd Prize - \$100.

There will be a Peoples Choice Award given.

The chamber is urging you to get your group together or get your chili pot out and enter this contest. Some ingredients may be pre-cooked prior to the commencement of the contest, but the chili must be

prepared using the entrant's own selected recipe and ingredients. Each entrant must cook a minimum of one gallon of chili (a regular crock-pot) and will be required to provide their own serving utensils and container for holding the chili.

To register in the contest, call the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce at (870) 285-3131 or (870) 845-9640; also e-mail murfreesboroar.chamber@gmail.com.

 The Dierks School District is accepting applications for a **1/2 time Paraprofessional** at the Elementary Campus. Contact person is Holly Cothren, 870-286-2191, PO Box 124, Dierks, AR 71833.

An application and other information about the position are available on the District's website: <http://www.dierksschools.org>

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Must be able to work in confined areas with widely varying temperature conditions.

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Murfreesboro, Mineral Springs teams to play in Caddo Hills Basketball Classic this week

The 2017 Caddo Hills Basketball Classic, which will feature the Murfreesboro and Mineral Springs senior boys and girls teams, takes place this week.

The complete schedule is as follows:
(Note - Caddo Hills' junior teams are also participating in the tournament)

Thursday, Dec. 28

11:00 Senior Boys

Cutter Morning Star vs Mt. Ida

12:15 Senior Girls

Cutter Morning Star vs Mt. Ida

1:30 Senior Boys

Caddo Hills vs Jessierville

2:45 Senior Girls

Caddo Hills vs Jessierville

4:00 Senior Boys

Mineral Springs vs Jessierville

5:15 Senior Girls

Mineral Springs vs Murfreesboro

6:30 Senior Boys

Caddo Hills vs Murfreesboro

Friday, Dec. 29

11:00 Senior Girls

Cutter M.S. vs Mineral Springs

12:15 Senior Boys

Cutter M.S. vs Mineral Springs

1:30 Junior Girls

Caddo Hills vs Jessierville

2:45 Senior Girls

Jessierville vs Murfreesboro

4:00 Senior Boys

Jessierville vs Murfreesboro

5:15 Junior Boys

Mt. Ida vs Caddo Hills

6:30 Senior Girls

Mt. Ida vs Caddo Hills

7:45 Senior Boys

Mt. Ida vs Caddo Hills



News-Leader photo/JOHN BALCH
DIERKS BANK HOLDS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY. First State Bank of Dierks hosted a customer appreciation day Dec. 20. Pictured are (from left) Bank CEO Gary Golden, Leah Pitchford, Gary T. Revels, Marc Jackson, Monica Allen, Jamie Terrell, Sheila Bearden, Blake Toys, Ethan White and Tim Pinkerton.

ANRC reminds poultry operators registration program starts Jan. 1

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and the Mine Creek Conservation District wants to remind all owners of Poultry Feeding Operations (PFOs) that the annual registration for PFO's begins Jan. 1, 2018 in accordance with the Arkansas Poultry Feeding Operations Registration Act (Act 1060 of 2003). Registration dates will run through March 31 and affect any PFO with 2,500 or more confined fowl.

The ANRC administers the registration program for the purpose of collecting information on the number and type of poultry, and practices of poultry feeding operations in the state. The program is designed to preserve Arkansas' economy and water quality through registration, training and research. The goal of this program is to reduce the overabundance of phosphorus and nitrogen that threaten our water resources, while minimizing the impact on fertilizer users.

Each poultry producer in

Howard County will register their operation through the Mine Creek Conservation District. There will be an annual ten dollar registration fee per operation payable to that district.

Under Arkansas law, persons in the state of Arkansas who own or operate Poultry Feeding Operations where 2,500 or more Poultry are housed or confined on any given day will be required to register annually with the Commission and pay a \$10 fee for each operation. Failure to do so will result in the following penalties:

First Offense: Written notice of Non Compliance with the Arkansas Poultry Registration Act.

Second Offense: You may be fined up to fifty dollars (\$50).

Third Offense: You may be fined up to five hundred dollars (\$500).

For more information about PFO registration contact the Mine Creek Conservation District at 101 S. Washington St. in Nashville 870-845-4121 Ext 3.

Benefit account set up for ailing Mineral Springs student

There has been a benefit account set up at Diamond Bank for Chardajah Poindexter, in her mother's name Stacy Turner. Poindexter is a 10th-grader at Mineral Springs and is currently in Arkansas Children's Hospital receiving treatment for a brain tumor.

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Happy New Year! Let's Celebrate!

Yawn...I'm so worn out!

New Year's Day is a wonderful time. This first day of January and of the new year is a time to remember the past, to celebrate, and to hope for a happy, healthy future.

In the U.S., some people have parties or attend church services at midnight. Others go to Times Square in New York City to listen to music, enjoy the crowds and wait for the magical stroke of midnight.

In other countries people exchange gifts or open their homes to neighbors or visitors. Many people honor parents or relatives and try to pay all their debts so they will not owe anything at the start of the new year.

New Year's Day is a time to think back - and ahead!

I'm full of energy and ready for the new year!

List 2 things that you will remember about this year!

1. _____
2. _____

Now list 2 things you think will be important next year.

1. _____
2. _____

Read the clues to fill in the crossword:

1. hollow, metal objects that ring when struck
2. beginning, for the first time
3. pleasing sounds made by voices or instruments
4. to call on or stay with someone
5. present, something given
6. chart of the months, weeks and days of the year
7. promise or decision
8. raise glasses to drink in honor of a person or thing
9. aged, time gone by
10. people getting together to have a good time
11. to honor or praise something
12. instrument, makes a loud noise
13. condition of your body and mind
14. twelve o'clock at night
15. first month of the year

Midnight Fun! It's New Year's Eve! Help Star find her way to the clock and then to the fireworks!

New Year's Search

Everyone's having fun! Can you find and circle the "New Year" words below in the puzzle?

G V I S I T S P E W E B G W Q K P A U
X P U C H E E R S L T Z N G Z J H Y K
W X L Z J H Y E C Q S P A R A D E M U
K B P G Z C H I E M I V R D Q I F C D
R A S S C Q N E G P E T W J I A P K
E S F I R E C R A C K E R S L G T G U
A P F X E K M E M O R I E S Y M H Z Z
N W Y I O G R R B A B Y N E W Y E A R
K P A H R G O S V B H L T U U R R G N
R X Z G K S N P E A J E C U U T Y F
Y N Y R B R T Z K L N J G T L L I R O
G I E O A L D Q R S V U X V B M I I
Z U I H S E N D A S Z F G O P V E E E
D T T B R J K A H Y V U G Q S C E H Z

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horns cheers first day firecrackers Baby New Year

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NON GAME SPECIES like this fox could get more attention under new bill.

New conservation bill may mean renewed nationwide dedication to nongame, game species

Rumblings of a new conservation movement have been heard in the U.S. House of Representatives for months. Thanks to bipartisan support from Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has been introduced. The bill proposes to devote additional money to wildlife conservation throughout the U.S., using money from energy development on federally owned land.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Bill is the result of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources co-chaired by David Freudenthal, former governor of Wyoming, and John Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops.

If passed, the bill would dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. These funds would be used to implement State Wildlife Action plans, which have already identified about 12,000 species in greatest conservation need.

Species of greatest conservation need are characterized as animals that are rare, have declining populations or do not have enough life history or conservation status research available to determine if they should be classified as threatened or endangered. Through the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan, these species were identified so that steps could be taken to prevent them from becoming listed as federally threatened or endangered.

"In Arkansas, we have 377 species identified in this category," said Caroline Cone, chief of staff for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. "The plan calls for ways to help conserve these animals and habitats

they rely on, but this act will give us the funding to make the plan a reality."

In Arkansas, the bill could mean as much as \$13 million annually devoted to wildlife habitat restoration.

"Currently, we are able to devote about \$600,000 to species of greatest conservation need, so this would be a game changer," Cone said. "It would be as powerful for wildlife conservation as the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program has been."

The money to fund the conservation work would come from royalties, fees and bonuses paid to the federal government for development of energy and mineral resources on federal land. These fees already are collected by the federal government, and no new taxes or fees would be incurred to private companies or taxpayers.

AGFC Deputy Director Chris Colclasure agrees that the act will enable a shift toward wildlife and habitat management for all species.

"All of the states have been working to find a proactive solution to prevent any new species from being listed as threatened or endangered," Colclasure said. "This new legislation will enable us to put those plans into action and work with many more partners to promote game species as well as nongame species."

Colclasure stresses that the bill not only will benefit those "at-risk" species, but it also will pay huge benefits for hunters and anglers.

"Many of the species that would benefit share habitat with game species, such as quail, turkey and deer," Colclasure said. "Any actions we take to benefit one, should benefit many others."

To learn more about the act, visit www.ournatureUSA.com.



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Down On The Farm

It's Christmas time again in the city. Street lights, store windows, parties, jolly songs are being sung, tv and radio commercials are pronouncing its coming! Most of the attention centers around giving and receiving gifts, cards, trees, eggnog, turkey dressing, decorations and company coming. And in the midst of all this joyous chaos of celebration, someone is bound to remind us of the "real meaning" of Christmas; the birth of Jesus Christ.

It's understandable that we need reminding. We get so busy just being "busy" about earthly stuff that is comes between us and our Maker. It is especially true if our world circles around skyscrapers, big malls, traffic jams and 8 to 5 commitments.

Folks who live in the country have the opportunity to be a little closer to God. Not that they always take it, but the opportunity is there. We get to witness a brand new life begin. A baby calf, a litter of pigs, corn sprouting, apple blossoms, a staggering colt. Sometimes we get to help God create these miracles. He even allows us to take partial credit, but lest we get too cocky, He doesn't allow us to take it for granted. A hailstorm, a case of killer scours, or drought reminds us who's really responsible.

Because farm and ranch people have chosen to work directly with God, we get a closer look at life than most folks. We are not insulated from its precarious nature. Yet, in return we are exposed to the beautiful

sunrise, the smell of rain, the quiet snow and the satisfaction of saving a life now and then.

Christmas (not Xmas) honors the life and teachings of God come to earth. God went out on a limb sending His son. He took a chance that we'd believe enough in Him to believe in His son. I guess He expects us to believe in miracles. Maybe that's why most country people are church goin' Christians; we get to see His miracles on a regular basis.

I am sure God spends time in the city. He's there working in the shopping mall, the factories and the office buildings that speckle our wonderful nation. But I figger He must commute; 'cause I'll bet when He goes home for Christmas, He goes to the country.

Deadline for growers of greens Jan. 1

Growers of spring and fall greens have a Jan. 1 deadline to enroll in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The Jan. 1 deadline is earlier than deadlines for growers of most other crops, Dr. Henry English, head of the Small Farm Program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) said.

Crops with the Jan. 1 deadline include pecans, potatoes, onions and carrots.

At the time of enrollment, farmers must specify if they are signing up for spring or fall or both plantings. NAP provides financial assistance to growers of crops for which no crop insurance is available, when low yields occur or planting is prevented due to a natural disaster.

Dr. English reminds growers that with the Buy-Up coverage option, NAP coverage is now available at 50, 55, 60 and 65 percent of the farmer's expected production and 100 percent of the average market price. Previously, only the basic coverage of 50 percent of

the yield at 55 percent of the average market price was available.

Of importance to certain growers are NAP fee waivers and premium reductions, said Dr. English. Basic NAP coverage is now free to all farmers and ranchers who qualify as beginning, limited resource or targeted underserved, which now includes women, said Dr. English.

Farmers in these categories are also eligible for a 50 percent reduction in NAP buy-up coverage premiums, but farmers must certify

that status when they apply for coverage at their Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, said Dr. English.

If a loss occurs, Dr. English cautions growers to report it within 72 hours if harvest is complete or when damage is first apparent and to file a written notice within 15 calendar days. Producers should not destroy the crop until a loss adjuster inspects the loss.

"If producers plow under a crop before an inspection by an adjuster, they will be ineligible for compensation," said Dr. English.

The Dierks Municipal Building will be closed Monday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Jan. 1's trash route will run on Jan. 2.

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SHOP DIERKS ARKANSAS FIRST!



SPELLING BEE WINNERS. The following Nashville Elementary School students, pictured with Gifted and Talented Coordinator Kristi Cox (back right), won the school's spelling bee and have advanced to the Howard County Spelling Bee: Jamie Wallace, Ava Rager, Brady Dixon, Katherine Quintanilla, Rugar Harberson, Colton Melson, Kaden White, Madilyn Brinkman, Wilfred Boyer, Karrissa Ragland, Claire Hendry, James Mathis and Rylee Jackson.

Dicamba, record flooding top list of 2017 most impactful agri stories

2017 presented another tumultuous year for agriculture in Arkansas, from record flooding to pitched battles over the use of one of the most popular herbicides in the farming industry.

Despite wild swings in precipitation from summer into fall, the state also saw a record soybean yield, and both red banded stink bugs and fall armyworms made their presence known throughout Arkansas.

Based on an informal poll of agricultural reporters, agronomists and other experts throughout Arkansas, here are our top 10 (+1) Arkansas agricultural stories of 2017:

1. As reports of dicamba drift injury continue to grow, Arkansas state officials move to ban the sale and use of the herbicide throughout the state. While new varieties of dicamba-resistant soybeans and cotton became available to growers for the 2016 season, a new label for dicamba use did not immediately follow. While growers filed 32 official complaints of drift injury with the Arkansas State Plant Board in 2016, more than 50 were filed between January and June in 2017. In August, researchers with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture released findings that showed off-target drift in all formulations of dicamba they tested.

2. Record rainfall and flooding impacts more than 360,000 acres of Arkansas farmland, causing an estimated \$175 million in

crop losses. In early May, heavy rainfall and flooding brought on by swollen rivers swamped much of the farmland in the eastern and northeastern areas of Arkansas. Occasional heavy rainfall throughout the remainder of the spring and summer frustrated efforts to recover.

3. Two stories tied for third place in our informal poll:

Arkansas looks yet another record soybean yield, despite 2017's tumultuous weather. After all was said and done, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast a 175 million bushel harvest for Arkansas soybean growers, a 20 percent increase over 2016, with growers averaging 50 bushels per acre.

In May, the Chinese textile company Shandong Ruyi Technology Group announced plans to convert a former Sanyo television manufacturing facility in Forrest City into a mill that will produce cotton yarn. The plant will create about 800 jobs, according to press releases.

4. After the rains and flooding of the spring and summer, Arkansas forage producers faced one of the driest Septembers on record, and faced the possibility of a difficult start to 2018.

5. After a protracted effort to enact the Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly known as the Farm Bill, growers and others in the agricultural industry will likely have more changes to look forward to as Congress begins to assemble

the 2018 Farm Bill.

6. Despite a hard year for Arkansas forage, markets are strong for the state's cattle producers.

7. The state's timber industry continued to grow, even as timber market prices remained steady. Even a merger of two major timber industry producers was forecast to have little if any effect on the overall market.

8. Highland Pellet's wood pellet plant, which opened in Pine Bluff in late 2016, rolled into action. The plant, which employs more than 60

people directly, had been under development since 2014, according to press releases.

9. After a mild 2016-2017 winter, redbanded stink bugs enjoyed a geographical leg up on Arkansas growers, having overwintered well into the southern tier of the state's counties. Division of Agriculture entomologists called an emergency forum.

10. Fall armyworms also mounted an unbridled assault on crops and fields throughout the state, with early arrivals in rice fields and pastures.

Pike County cattlemen hold December meeting

The December Pike County Cattlemen's meeting featured a chili dinner hosted by Glenwood Equipment Company.

James Southall represented Glenwood Equipment Company and related the extensive line of equipment available to ranchers, farmers and homeowners.

He shared some of the lines of equipment offered including Massey Ferguson, Bobcat, Klaas, Kuhn, Kioti, AGCO, Deutz, and many

others. During this time, Southall also advised of financing programs available.

President Jeremy Allmon finished the meeting with a drawing for door prizes and to announce the next meeting date for Feb. 6.

Information about involvement with the Pike County Cattlemen's Association is available from Allmon, (870) 285-5475 or Stanley Rhodes, (870) 245-7800.

White Cliffs News

The Christmas celebration and family fellowship was a big success in the Cliffs. The families gathered and shared a prayer and meal together. I had several calls from families that enjoyed early family gathering and spent the afternoon visiting and catching up.

George Langum was taken to the hospital last week, and is in need of our fervent prayers. Ralph Richardson had a doctors appointment this week also. Prayers are requested for the Fern Scott family, who went home to be with the Lord on Saturday. Fern Scott was the sister to the Calvin family, who was my sister. Burial will be in the Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. Prayers are requested for the families that will be returning home from the holiday vacation. Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hendrix and Virginia Johnson had cookies and hot chocolate with me on Saturday.

We look forward to celebrating the New Year in a few days and thanking God for his mercy and blessings.

At the beginning of January 2017, I offered a challenge to our readers to join me in reading the Bible through. I am reporting that I am right on target and set to finish by the grace of God next week-



MARY CROSSLIN
Local Events Columnist

end. How about you? Call me if you got stuck with the task or had difficulties.

CHRISTIAN REFRESHER - LUKE 2:15-18 KJV

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

INSPIRATION: God is never in a hurry, but spends years with those he expects to greatly use. He never thinks the days of preparation too long or too dull.

- Mrs. Charles E. Cowman
Happy New Year!
LOVE IS THE KEY!

City of Dierks Holiday and Trash Route Schedule

- **New Years Day: Jan. 1** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, Jan. 2
- **Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 15** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, Jan. 16
- **Presidents Day: Feb. 19** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, Feb. 20
- **Easter (Good Friday): Mar. 30** - Friday trash route will be picked up on Thursday, Mar. 29
- **Memorial Day: May 28** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, May 29
- **Independence Day: July 4** - Wednesday trash route will be picked up on Thursday, July 5
- **Labor Day: Sept. 3** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, Sept. 4
- **Columbus Day: Oct. 8** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Tuesday, Oct. 9
- **Veterans Day: Nov. 11** - Friday trash route will be picked up on Thursday, Nov. 8
- **Thanksgiving: Nov. 22 and 23** - Monday trash route will remain the same. Wednesday route will be picked up on Tuesday, Nov. 20. Friday route will be picked up on Wednesday, Nov. 21.
- **Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 and Christmas: Dec. 25** - Monday trash route will be picked up on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Wednesday route will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 27. Friday route will remain the same.

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3 Temporary job openings Robbie T. Gaspard in Lake Arthur, LA 1/15/2018 to 7/15/2018. General worker needed for crawfish, hay, rice, and cattle farm. Work includes tractor driving, field prep, water maint, fertilize, plant and harvest of crops. Field prep includes manual shovel work and hoeing of weeds, spot spray and gen farm labor. Help repair and maintain bins, buildings, equip, farm, fences, field, levees, ponds, properties, roads and shop. Load and unload. May operate motorized crawfish boat and/or walk/push boat. Crawfishing involves manually cutting up of fish bait, set traps, bait and check traps. Grade, wash, sack and ice crawfish for shipment, make and repair traps as needed. Pickup/deliver crawfish as required. May deliver crop to coolers or market. Worker must be able to lift/carry 50 lbs. M-F, some Sat/Sun, OT varies. Employees may be compensated above the stated hourly wage, this decision to pay above the prevailing hourly wage will be made by the employer, basing this decision on factors that include the individual recipient's performance and work history. Allergies to ragweed, goldenrod, insect spray and related chemicals and pesticides, etc. may affect workers' ability to perform the job. Employer may require post hire, random, upon suspicion or post accident drug testing, all at no cost to employee. Testing positive or failure to comply may result in immediate termination from employment. Job involves stooping, lifting and working outside in inclement weather. Must have 3 mo exp in similar position. All tools furnished at no cost. \$10.38 hourly, wage may change with AEW. Free housing provided for all workers who cannot reasonably return to their permanent residence daily. Guaranteed 3/4 contract beginning with worker date of arrival. If applicable, Transp & subsistence exp to worksite provided/paid by employer by 50% of contract, rtn at completion of contract. Apply/Send resumes for this job at the nearest local SWA @ 700 South Elm, Hope, AR 71801 ph 870-777-3421 using LA JO#755649. KC

2018

Happy New Year!

Thank you for letting us have the privilege to work with and serve you this past year.

Best Wishes in 2018!

Stavely and Associates

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Happy New Year from our sales staff
**Eddie Stavely, Kristin Stavely,
 Pam Kirby, Johnny Stone, Kirk Bell,
 Matt Smith, Ray Blakely,
 Brad Vines and Robbie Stavely**

Nashville News-Leader Classifieds

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WINDSHIELDS! WINDSHIELDS! CALL WINDSHIELDS PLUS. REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS ON ALL AUTOMOBILES OR SEMI TRUCKS. 870-451-4349. (tf)

MINI STORAGE IN MURFREESBORO. 870-845-6304. (gs:4-tf)

Mobile Home for Rent in Mineral Springs, Cottonshed Community, 2 BR, 2 BA. Myron Young, 870-845-6314. (pd. 25 - 28)

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR. Portable, light weight, like new, low \$ or perhaps free to senior, 888-442-3390. (WG:tf)

For Sale Firewood. 870-200-5879. (pd. 13 - 31)

CLOCK REPAIR & RESTORATION & some watches. Franklin Janes, 870-286-2525. (fj:tf)

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THE TERMINATOR PEST CONTROL. 870-557-1780. (43-tf)

HELP WANTED

3 - 11 and 11 - 7 LPN, and evening cook, nursing home experience preferred. No phone calls, apply in person. Heather Manor, 400 W. 23rd St., Hope. (HM: 24 - 26)

Sheet metal, duct installers needed, competitive pay benefits. Email resume to goffinc@aol.com or call 903-838-6923. (GI: 25, 26)

FOR RENT

Country Living: 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments. 5 miles from Nashville. Call 845-5520. (LR: tf)

250 sq. ft. office for rent. 215 N. 2nd St., Nashville. 845-5303. (IT: tf)

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One large 1 BR Apartment, \$325 plus deposit. 870-557-0535 or 845-5494. (LM:tf)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in pursuance of the authority and directions contained in the decretal order of the Circuit Court of Howard County, made and entered on the 27th day of November, 2017, in a certain cause (No. 31CV-17-58-1) then pending therein between United States of America, acting through The Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture vs. Shawrell Jefferson, the Past or Present Spouse (If Any) of Shawrell Jefferson, Deidra Jefferson, and the Tenants (If Any) of 120 Old Military Road, Mineral Springs, Arkansas, the undersigned, as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public venue to the highest bidder, inside the foyer of the main entrance of the Howard County Courthouse, 421 N. Main Street, Nashville, Arkansas in the County of Howard, within the hours prescribed by law for judicial sales, on the 11th day of January, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., the following described real estate situated in Howard County, Arkansas, to wit:

A tract of land being part of the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 in Section 15, Township 10 South, Range 8 West and also being part of the same tract as recorded in Book 396 page 269 in Howard County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the NW corner of the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 in Section 15, thence S01°30'08"W 460.88 feet to 1/2" pin for the Point of Beginning; Thence S88°31'44"E 243.79 feet to 1/2" pin; Thence 80°43'73"E 170.37 feet to P*K nail in Old Military Road; Thence along with Old Military Road as follows: S72°24'43"W 214.93 feet, S70°27'02"W 188.20 feet, S62°09'07"W 69.36 feet to spike; Thence N01°30'08"E 367.49 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.695 acres of land, more or less.

[the "Real Property"]. The common or street address is 120 Old Military Road, Mineral Springs, Arkansas 71851.

TERMS OF SALE: On a credit of three (3) months, the purchaser or purchasers and to execute a commercial corporate surety bond or bonds, approved by the Commissioner and counsel for the United States of America, acting through The Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture, as required by law and the order and decree of said Court in said case, with approved surety, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from date of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the premises sold to secure the payment of the purchase monies.

Given under my hand this 30th day of November, 2017. Angie Lewis, Commissioner

This sale is made subject to any and all stipulations made in the decretal Order field of records on November 27, 2017. The Commissioner does not warrant title, boundary lines, taxes and/or improvements if any, on this property in Howard County, Arkansas.

HILBURN, CALHOUN, HARPER PRUNISKI & CALHOUN, LTD.
 P.O. Box 5551
 North Little Rock, AR 72119
 (501) 372-0110
 By: Randy L. Grice
 Attorneys for United States of America, acting through The Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture (H,C,H,P&C:26)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALANZO LATHROP, DECEASED

67 PR-2017-71-1

Last known address of decedent: 1425 E. Peachtree Street Nashville, Ar 71852

Date of Death: September 7, 2017

The undersigned was appointed ADMINISTRATRIX of the estate of the above named decedent on the 13th day of December, 2017.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 20th day of December, 2017.

MARGARET ANN LATHROP ADMINISTRATRIX

LAURA LINDLY ATTORNEY FOR ESTATE
 310 W. De QUEEN AVENUE
 De QUEEN, AR 71832
 (870) 642-4462
 (LL: 25, 26)

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As the year comes to a close, we welcome the opportunity to extend our thanks to you, our customers. We hope the coming year brings good fortune to you and look forward to serving you in 2018.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SANDRA MAY WEST

PR-2017-69-2

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Last known address of decedent: 367 Silver Road, Mineral Springs, Arkansas.
 Date of Death: 10/1/2017

An instrument dated February 4, 2002 was on December 13, 2017, admitted to Probate as the Last Will of the above named decedent, and Adam West has been appointed Personal Representative thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. Provided that claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published the 27th day of December, 2017.

Jessica Steel Gunter
 Attorney for Estate
 219 North Main
 Nashville, AR 71852
 (870) 845-4532
 (JSG:26,27)

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10. 3.11 acres, great home site. All utilities available, great location near lake & river. Ready to build....	\$35,000
11. 3 BR, 2 BA log home with CH/A, wrap-around porch, double carport, and 30x40 shop all on 8.45 acres of beautiful Little Missouri River frontage.....	\$330,000
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BANK LOBBY PERFORMANCE. Nashville students of Jane Caldwell and Susan Goss made a stop by First State Bank in Nashville prior to their Christmas break to sing a few holiday songs in the bank's lobby.



Getting finances back on track

Christmas Day has come and gone. As you reflect upon all the memories and fun you had, you may start stressing about how much you spent! Before the holidays, everyone has great intentions of staying on track with finances and keeping spending under control.

However, it is super easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays and to overspend. While getting back on track can feel like a monumental task, it can be achieved – if you follow a plan.

Get back to basics. Try to get your day-to-day spending in check while you work out the rest of your finances.

Use cash instead of credit cards to buy things. Limit your purchases to needs instead of wants.

Create shopping lists for groceries and personal care items so you don't make impulse purchases.

Before you make any purchase, ask yourself if it's necessary. Sleep on it. If you really need it, you can always go back to buy it.

Track your spending (even pennies) to see where you might be able to cut back.

Make a list. Sit down and write out your financial stress points. Money problems can seem like those cartoon snowballs, rolling downhill, gathering speed and size, and making everyday financial transactions seem overwhelming. Instead, try to break your financial problem into two or three actionable steps – for example, you could aim to pay off credit card debt you incurred over the holidays? If so, make that plan and stick to it.

Revisit your household budget. If you have a household budget, look at it and update it. If you do not have a budget, now is a great time to make one. Use the information you have from tracking your spending to set up a household budget. Don't forget to take into account your regular bills, as well as those that happen every once in a while – haircuts, school supplies, birthdays.

Next, take a careful look at nonessential costs, including everything from entertainment to hobbies, and consider how much you want to spend. You may decide to change some of those nice-to-have items to tackle the bigger problems. See if you can free up some money to help put you back on track.

Use technology to help. Sometimes the stress of dealing with finances can be overwhelming, making it hard to get started and stay on track. Technology can be helpful. There are several apps available, free of charge, to help you. Consider mobile banking through your bank to monitor spending.

If you are trying to pay down credit card debt, you might try using automatic bill pay. If you're trying to build your savings, use automatic transfer to your savings account each month.

Make it a team effort. Explain to your family and friends that you are trying to stick to a budget. Your family needs to be on board. Stay home and watch a movie on TV or rent one instead of going to the movies.

Handle "slip ups". Mistakes happen. Recognize them and try to avoid making them again. Going to a dinner somewhere special for your anniversary makes sense. Going on a European shopping vacation because it's Tuesday doesn't make sense and it doesn't help you stay on track. If you splurge, see if you can set aside a little extra the next time you get paid. Get back on track to reach your final goal!

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service has many free resources that can help you develop a budget and stick to it. Contact me at the Howard County Extension Office for more information. You can call me at 870-845-7517, visit our office on the second floor of the courthouse, or check out our website at www.uaex.edu for more information!

Recipe of the Week

Here is a recipe to stretch your food dollar. It uses cabbage and ground beef - two inexpensive food items. It is easy to make and your family will love it! This recipe comes from USDA mixing bowl website. There are lots of low-cost, nutritious recipes. Check them out. If you want to learn basic cooking and meal preparation, contact me at the Extension Office. Classes are forming now!

Beef and Cabbage for Dinner Tonight

1 green cabbage head, washed, cut into bite-sized pieces; 1 med. onion, chopped; 1 lb. extra lean ground beef; Non-stick cooking spray; 1 tsp. garlic powder; ¼ tsp. black pepper; Salt to taste; Red pepper flakes to taste.

In a large skillet, cook the ground beef on medium heat until browned. Drain the fat. Remove beef to a bowl or plate.

Spray skillet with non-stick cooking spray. Cook onions on medium heat until soft. Add cabbage and cook until cabbage starts to turn brown. Stir the beef into the cabbage and onion mixture. Season with garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add red pepper flakes, if you like it spicy!

Yield: 4 servings

Nutrition Information per Serving: Calories – 246, Fat – 9 g, Sodium – 107 mg, Carbohydrates – 16 g, Fiber – 6 g, Protein – 25 g.

Jan. 15 deadline to sign up to be recognized during state's Vietnam War Commemoration event on March 29

Arkansas is celebrating Vietnam Veterans who served in the military between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975 with a Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. on March 29 at the Little Rock Capitol building.

Vietnam Veterans have until Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. to register online to be recognized at the ceremony by going to the Arkansas Department of Veteran Affairs website: www.veterans.arkansas.gov and selecting "Yes" at the pop-up or following the link for the event.

Veterans can also complete a paper registration by Jan. 12 with their county veteran service officer.

The registration is necessary to arrange for Vietnam Veteran Commemoration lapel pin which will be presented to the veterans after the ceremony by the veteran's state representative and other leaders.

Veterans not sure of who their county veteran service officer is can consult the ADVA website or call their county judge.

Area veteran service officers include:

Howard County
Milton Puryear
(870) 845-7536

Pike County
Freddie Clay
(870) 285-2249 or 285-2011

Hempstead County
Leon Prince
(870) 722-8028

Arkansas VA Regional Office
Hope
James Williams
(870) 777-0821



The following financial institutions will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.



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