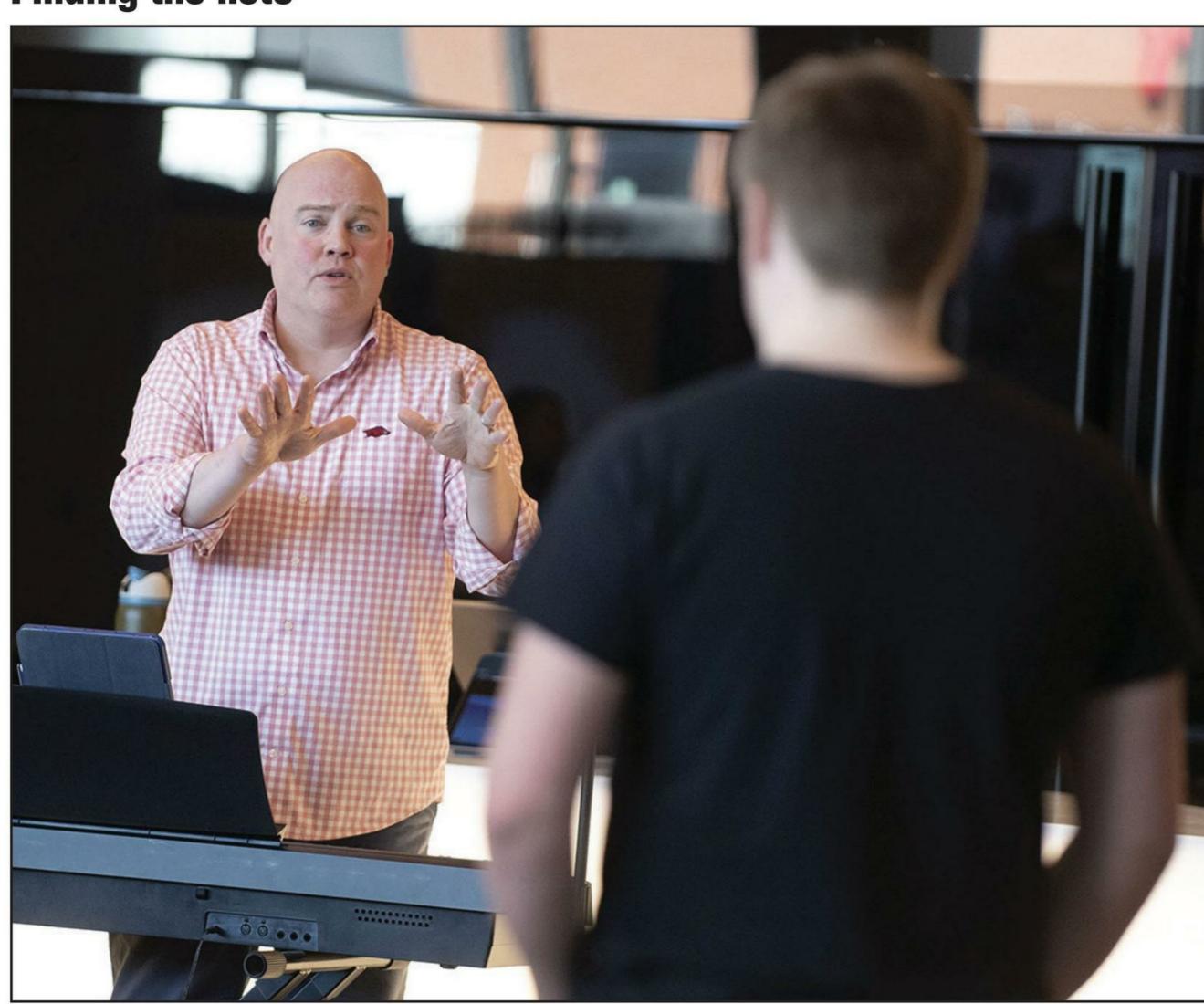
kansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR) - February 23, 2025 - page 14 February 23, 2025 | Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR) | Little Rock, Arkansas | Page 14

Finding the note



Jason Burrow leads a group of singers in the lobby of the Walton Arts Center in Fayettevile on Saturday while rehearsing for VoiceJam, the center's annual a cappella festival, which will be held April 4-6. The a cappella group was open to singers who are 12 and older of all backgrounds to make music together. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/J.T. Wampler)

OUR TOWN

Little Rock notebook

JOSEPH FLAHERTY ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Panel OKs water renewal plan pact

Members of the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission on Wednesday voted to authorize a contract with Garver for up to \$495,000 for the firm to produce a 10-year asset renewal comprehensive plan.

on a rapid assessment of the Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority's assets that was conducted last fall, Les Price, the wastewater utility's director of engineering services, said during Wednesday's meeting, which was conducted

virtually. The planning work is expected to include site visits, to provide residents with an hog exhibit will be up from equipment evaluations, risk in-depth understanding of 10 a.m. to noon, according to scoring related to the likeli- the inner workings of their the zoo's website. hood and consequence of asset failures and the creation of a prioritized list of assets for "Residents Obtaining 10:30 a.m. at the great apes showing which need to be Community Knowledge." fixed soon and which can be

addressed later, Price said. authors will estimate proj- 31, according to the online tic, the zoo's website says.

LENA MIANO

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

ASMSA student

lands scholarship

Mathematics, Sciences and

the Arts senior Kelvin Or-

duna was awarded a \$20,000

college scholarship through

the Coca-Cola Scholars Pro-

gram, the school announced

The program, sponsored

on Friday.

date.

opment Institute.

service I have done to create

positive change in my com-

munity," Orduna said in the

school's news release. "I am

excited to join a network

or leaders and visionaries

who are just as committed

Mathematics, Sciences and

and offers a residential high

school experience for gifted

their communities."

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students.

Arkansas School for

capital expenditures over held on Mondays from 5:45 the next 10 years, according to 7:15 p.m. Participants must to Price.

"Right now, we anticipate ed for asset renewal over site. the next 10 years, and that is what this plan will help us with," he said.

The utility received statements of qualifications from Garver as well as four other firms. Internal capital costs of \$5,000 are expected to The plan will build up- bring the total budget associated with the planning effort to \$500,000, Price said.

R.O.C.K. Academy applications open

The city of Little Rock is accepting applications for the latest edition of R.O.C.K. Academy.

City government," the city's

Additionally, the plan's expected to start on March use balloons, beads or plas-

be 18 or older. about \$100 million (is) need- to apply, visit the city's web-

Zoo planning busy day for March 1

March 1 is scheduled to be a busy day at the Little Rock Zoo.

As part of one of the periodic recycling events hosted by the zoo, residents will be able to drop off old electronic devices, plastic containers, paper products and more in the east parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon.

To mark National Pig Day, visitors can attend a red river hog keeper chat at 9:30 a.m. or 1:45 p.m. An aware-The program is "tailored ness table at the red river

Additionally, a Mardi area. Guests are encouraged The upcoming edition to decorate strollers or pull of the six-week program is wagons but are asked not to

Rock Community Day, a quarterly program sponsored by Southern Bancorp For more information and during which residents of Little Rock who present an ID or utility bill can receive admission at the reduced price of \$2 per person. Parking is \$1.

Water authority gets legal officer

Deanna Ray has joined the Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority as its new chief legal officer.

A graduate of Baylor University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's William H. Bowen School of Law, Ray previously served as senior assistant district counsel and team lead for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Rock District, according to her bio on the

wastewater utility's website. She was introduced to website says. R.O.C.K. stands Gras parade will start at members of the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission during a virtual meeting on Wednesday.

Ray, 41, replaces Shannon Halijan, who had served as the utility's chief legal officer March 1 also is Little starting in September 2023.

ect costs and help plan for application. Sessions will be **Education notebook**

LISA schools join

LISA Academy Public Charter Schools have joined the 12th cohort of the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program, an education initiative in conjunction with nonprofit Digital Promise that connects schools and students with

technology. The 2025 group added to Verizon's program includes by the Coca-Cola Scholars 34 schools in Pennsylvania, Foundation, grants achieve-Texas, Illinois, California, ment-based scholarships to Oklahoma, Missouri, New high school seniors across Jersey and LISA Academy's the U.S. and has provided North Middle-High School, almost 7,000 students with West High School and West more than \$84 million, to Middle School.

Beginning in the fall, all Now in its 37th year, the schools will be supplied with program recognized 150 stufree touchscreen Chromedents from a pool of over books for each student and 105,000 applicants who will teacher; internet access; travel to Atlanta in April to and science, technology, participate in the Coca-Cola Scholars Leadership Develschool also gets a technolo-"Being selected as a Cogy coach to provide profesca-Cola Scholar is an insional development support credible recognition of the

for educators. LISA Academy, a college garten through 12th grade support. across 13 schools in Arkansas, was the only district in of attorneys general in Texto transformative change in the state to be brought on as, Alaska, Alabama, Flori-Arkansas School for cohort.

the Arts, a University of District middle schools — Carolina, South Dakota, Arkansas System campus, former Cloverdale Middle, Utah and West Virginia who is located in Hot Springs Mabelvale Middle and Mann sued the federal department Magnet Middle — were cho- and its former secretary, sen to join the program in demanding injunctive relief son. 2019 and received free iPads and preventing the enforce-

and internet service.

Verizon's initiative has Verizon program to 8.5 million students enrolled in 660 middle and

AG clarifies filing of disability suit

high schools.

In two statements issued last week, Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin clarified that a lawsuit he joined in September against former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra seeks to overturn the Biden administration's expansion of what constitutes a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In May of 2024, the department added "gender dysphoria" to the definition "disability" under the engineering and mathemat- federal law which prohibits ics learning programs. Each discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, including K-12 schools. If institutions receiving fedpreparatory, STEM-focused eral funding violate Section charter school system which 504, the federal government serves students in kinder- may withdraw its financial

Griffin joined a coalition board for the program's 12th da, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Three Little Rock School Montana, Nebraska, South

ment of the new definition.

The 17 states have arcommitted over \$1 billion gued that the "final rule" is in digital equity resources unconstitutional and "federal law is clear that gender dysphoria is not a disability, and states cannot be forced to treat it as such in order to comply with Section 504," Griffin stated in a news re-

lease Monday. The need for clarification came after comments "in the media and online" claiming that the lawsuit was seeking to threaten Section 504 in its entirety, Griffin said in a second news release on Friday, stating that the lawsuit is only challenging the specific rule which categories gender dysphoria as a disability under the federal law, and not Section 504 on its face.

"Also, it deserves mention that the lawsuit is stayed pending review of the rule | • 25 Sheraton Dr., Little Rock School by the Trump administration," Griffin stated in news release Thursday. "I am confident the administration will soon abandon Biden's blatantly unlawful interpretation of Section 504, which was the basis of our lawsuit in the first place."

Births

BAPTIST HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER-LITTLE ROCK

Sarah and Evan Castleberry, Benton,

Samantha and Robert Pallone, Little Rock, son.

Amy and Blake Meyer, Little Rock, son. Feb. 12 Christy and Derick Houston, Little Rock,

UAMS MEDICAL CENTER

Feb. 13 Raven Harris and Glenrick Hill, North

Little Rock, son. Benton, son.

Mackenzie Ogles, Little Rock, daughter.

Feb. 18 Katelynn and Carl Richmond, Maumelle,

Other days

100 YEARS AGO Feb. 23, 1925

STUTTGART —A heavy rain storm with wind at about 11 o'clock this morning carried with it a little twister, which began with minor damages on the place of Homer Foster west of the town and came through in a southeasterly direction, wrecking several barns, lifting roofs off garages, uprooting trees, and culminating in ripping loose a portion of the tin siding on the O'Donnell-Dreager rice mill and lifting from their moorings two airplanes, belonging to Dr. K. E. Yoder, which had been left in the adjacent field.

50 YEARS AGO Feb. 23, 1975

■ A tornado careened through Little Rock and North Little Rock Saturday afternoon, killing one person and injuring at least 22 others. Scores of homes were demolished or heavily damaged along the line of the storm, which first touched down near Lawson Road just southwest of Little Rock and skipped its way northeastward to West Kiehl Avenue north of Sherwood in North Pulaski County. To prevent looting and to assist North Little Rock police, Governor Pryor ordered 35 National Guardsmen on duty and called in State Police from five counties.

25 YEARS AGO Feb. 23, 2000

■ Maumelle Police Chief Larry Bell resigned Monday, seeking to end a fourmonth investigation into sexual harassment complaints against him. City District of Arkansas.

Manager David Huseman accepted the resignation Tuesday and informed the city board of the decision that night. Bell was accused, among other things, of inappropriately touching female employees, pressing his body against one woman and engaging in an inappropriate conversation. Bell said Tuesday night that he is innocent and has a clear conscience. He said he hopes he will be remembered for his accomplishments as chief, not for the accusations against him.

10 YEARS AGO Feb. 23, 2015

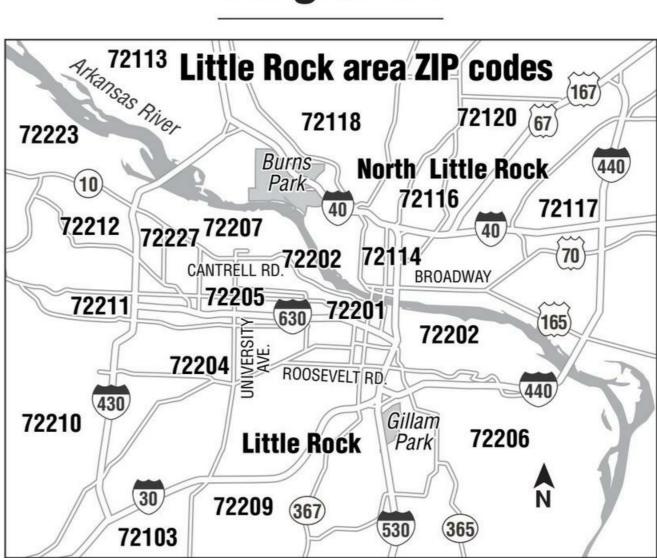
■ Several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are investigating a string of tractor-trailer break-ins and thefts of cargo in eastern Arkansas, including the mid-January theft of 102 firearms from an 18-wheeler parked alongside Interstate 55 in Mississippi County, court records show. Since late December, more than 80 tractor-trailers have been broken into in Crittenden, Mississippi and St. Francis counties, with at least 15 thefts occurring, according to court records. Authorities have arrested one person in connection with the break-ins and thefts. On Feb. 10, authorities arrested Curtis Earl Evans, 40, of Memphis, at a roadside parking area along I-55 in Turrell, and charged him with theft of goods from an interstate carrier shipment affecting interstate or foreign commerce, according to a criminal complaint filed Feb. 11 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern

Pet of the week



Apple Pie is a sweet little Lab terrier mix whose estimated DOB is Sept. 6, 2023. On Feb. 6 she weighed 34 pounds. She was found out on her own, so we don't have much information on her past. We do know that Apple Pie is as sweet as her name and loves to cuddle! She knows sit and is very smart and would really enjoy learning from and interacting with her new human companion. Come meet sweet Apple Pie today and give her the loving forever home that she deserves. For information on adopt ing Apple Pie from the Humane Society of Pulaski County, visit warmhearts.org.

Burglaries



The following burglaries are from reports collected from the Little Rock and North Little Rock police departments. The names listed are of those who reported a burglary and the dates are when the crime is believed to have taken place. Cammack Village data are not included.

Little Rock

 4504 Montclair Road, Amber Smith. 11:55 p.m. Feb. 14, propery value • 8921 Morris Manor Dr., Corey Click, 4:57 p.m. Feb. 18, property valued at

• 415 W. 18th St., Greg Angel, 2:52 p.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$400. **72209**

District, 10:25 a.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$5,000. 4715 Baseline Road, Erendira Vasquez, 2:14 p.m. Feb. 17, property valued at \$100. 4802 Terra Vista Cir., Apt. 1515, 12:08 a.m. Feb. 18, property valued at \$100. 3 Richsmith Lane, Adesuwa Izekor, 4:36 p.m. Feb. 20, property value unknown.

72210 • 12 Eagle Nest Ct., Lakesha Robinson 5:41 p.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$2,600.

Feb. 6

Little Rock, daughter. Jessica Flowers and Michael Lawrence.

Samantha Stoker and Chad Starr, Brooke Yancey and Christopher Ward,

 13600 Otter Creek Pkwy., Jasmine Bills, 12:41 a.m. Feb. 16, property valued at

11001 Maumelle Blvd., Chad Dennis. 2:19 p.m. Feb. 17, property valued at

North Little Rock

\$21,800.

72114 1719 N. Olive St., Clayton Shafer, 8:15 a.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$2,581. 605 E. 10th St., Rustic Heritage, 4 p.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$5,500. 1411 W. Long 17th St., Matthew Perez, 4:38 a.m. Feb. 17, property valued at 1723 Augusta St., Mid-South Home

Buyers, 10 a.m. Feb. 18, property valued

Arkansas Democrat Tax Gazette News

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