

## Finding the note



Jason Burrow leads a group of singers in the lobby of the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville 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.

The plan will build upon 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, equipment evaluations, risk scoring related to the likelihood and consequence of asset failures and the creation of a prioritized list of assets showing which need to be fixed soon and which can be addressed later, Price said.

Additionally, the plan's authors will estimate project costs and help plan for

capital expenditures over the next 10 years, according to Price.

"Right now, we anticipate about \$100 million (is) needed for asset renewal over 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 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.

The program is "tailored to provide residents with an in-depth understanding of the inner workings of their City government," the city's website says. R.O.C.K. stands for "Residents Obtaining Community Knowledge."

The upcoming edition of the six-week program is expected to start on March 31, according to the online application. Sessions will be

held on Mondays from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. Participants must be 18 or older.

For more information and to apply, visit the city's [website](#).

### 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 awareness table at the red river hog exhibit will be up from 10 a.m. to noon, according to the zoo's website.

Additionally, a Mardi Gras parade will start at 10:30 a.m. at the great apes area. Guests are encouraged to decorate strollers or pull wagons but are asked not to use balloons, beads or plastic, the zoo's website says.

March 1 also is Little

Rock Community Day, a quarterly program sponsored by Southern Bancorp 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 members of the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission during a virtual meeting on Wednesday.

Ray, 41, replaces [Shannon Halijian](#), who had served as the utility's chief legal officer starting in September 2023.

## 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 four-month investigation into sexual harassment complaints against him. City

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**

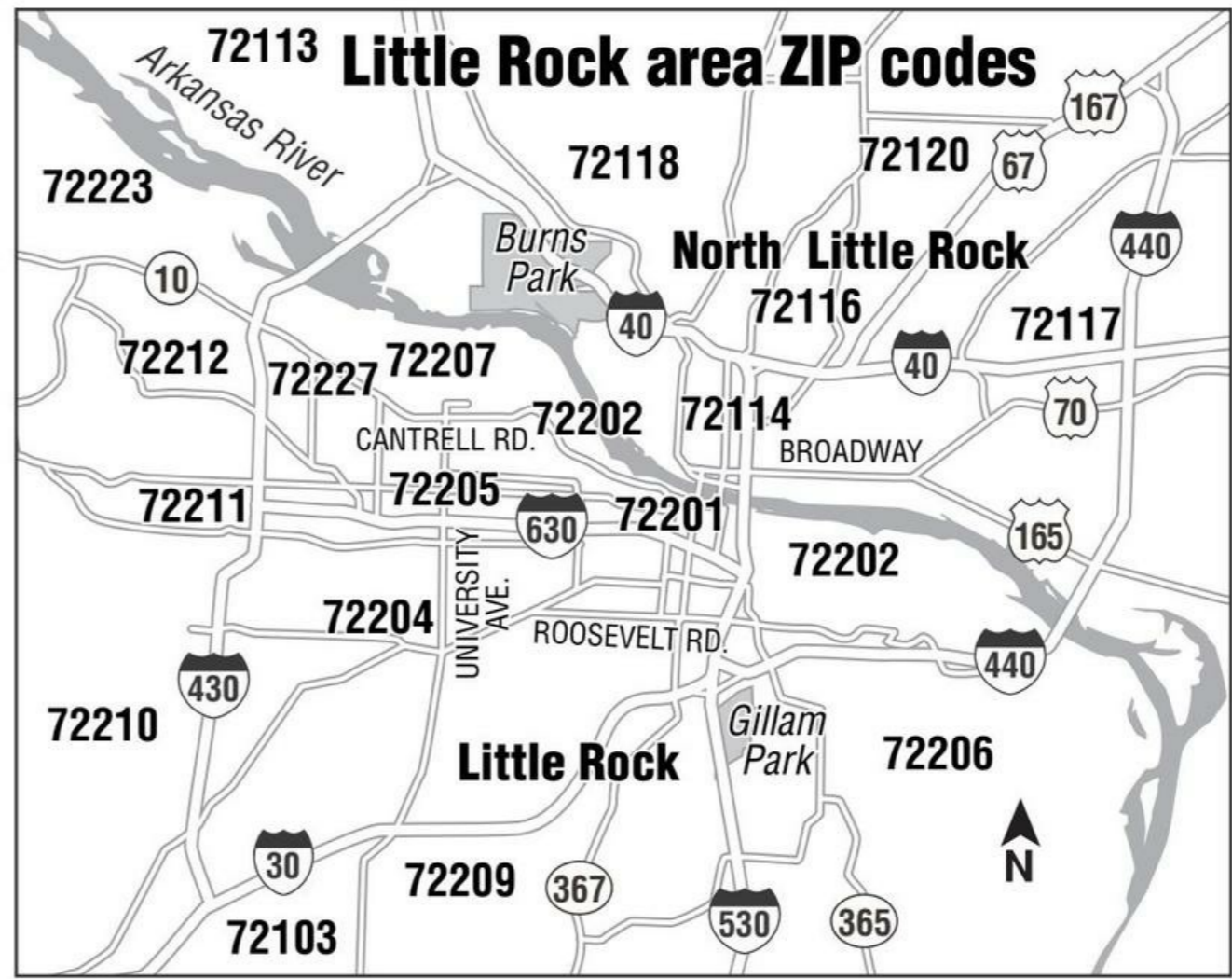
■ Several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are investigating a string of tractor-trailer break-ins and thefts of cargo in eastern Arkansas, including the mid-January theft of 102 firearms from an 18-wheeler parked alongside Interstate 55 in Mississippi County, court records show. Since 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 District of Arkansas.

## 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 adopting 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

**72204**  
• 4504 Montclair Road, Amber Smith, 11:55 p.m. Feb. 14, property value unknown.  
• 8921 Morris Manor Dr., Corey Click, 4:57 p.m. Feb. 18, property valued at \$600.  
**72206**  
• 415 W. 18th St., Greg Angel, 2:52 p.m. Feb. 14, property valued at \$400.  
**72209**  
• 25 Sheraton Dr., Little Rock School 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.  
**72103**  
• 3 Richsmith Lane, Adesuwa Izeakor, 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.

• 13600 Otter Creek Pkwy., Jasmine Bills, 12:41 a.m. Feb. 16, property valued at \$9,500.

### North Little Rock

**72113**  
• 11001 Maumelle Blvd., Chad Dennis, 2:19 p.m. Feb. 17, property valued at \$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 \$600.  
• 1723 Augusta St., Mid-South Home Buyers, 10 a.m. Feb. 18, property valued at \$40.

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