

As egg prices soared and pandemic isolation grew, many Americans moved from co-op to coop and [became chicken owners](#). But people with chickens in their backyards should think twice about giving them a peck.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is warning people to refrain from snuggling with backyard poultry, citing concerns that the chickens may be spreading salmonella.

[The CDC warned](#) that backyard poultry owners should take special precautions when handling their animals after 163 confirmed cases of salmonella were reported in 43 states. "Don't kiss or snuggle backyard poultry, and don't eat or drink around them. This can spread *Salmonella* germs to your mouth and make you sick," the public health agency said.

It's [not the first time](#) the CDC has had to remind bird lovers to love from a distance, but the growing numbers of owners do make it a bigger concern.

Children under 5 made up [a third of the cases](#) that have been recorded. But additional cases may have gone unreported since most people don't seek testing for the bacterial infection that can cause fever, stomach cramps and diarrhea.

Besides refraining from kissing chickens, the CDC also has this advice for backyard poultry owners:

- Frequently wash your hands after handling poultry.
- Keep the animals and supplies outside your house to prevent spreading germs inside.
- Be careful when handling eggs.
- Don't let kids younger than 5 touch chicks, ducklings or other backyard poultry. "Young children are more likely to get sick from germs like Salmonella," the agency says.

"Backyard poultry can carry *Salmonella* germs even if they look healthy and clean," the CDC adds. "These germs can easily spread in areas where they live and roam."

Rain Soybeans CC1

SKK/MEH

05/27/2021(ThursPM/FriAM)

While recent rainfall in Arkansas did cause some delays in soybean planting, the status of the crop could depend on where it's located. Last week's heavy rain, which primarily hit the western part of the state, still impacted other areas and was responsible for delays in harvesting some crops and pushed back the planting of others. Jeremy Ross, the extension agronomist for soybeans with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, says warmer dry weather in the beginning of soybean planting season greatly aided farmers, particularly in the southern part of the state.

NEWS06

:22

"...was delayed"

However, soybean farmers further north have not had as much luck. Ross says colder weather that followed by last week's rain means some have not even begun planting their crop. Despite the delays, he says when the weather is right, farmers are taking advantage of every opportunity to plant.

NEWS07

:19

"...planting season"

As for how the mid-April cold snap impacted soybeans, Ross says because most were already planted in the southern part of Arkansas, they should be fine, though growing rates could be slightly delayed.

Rain Soybeans CC2

SKK/MEH

05/27/2021(ThursPM/FriAM)

Heavy rainfall earlier this month, in addition to a spring cold snap, could cause some farmers to reconsider and possibly change what crops they plant this season. The combination damaged some crops that were close to harvest, like strawberries and other fruit crops, or in other cases prompted farmers to delay planting in the first place. While the final tallies won't be known until everything is planted, Jeremy Ross, extension agronomist for soybeans for the University of Arkansas Division of Arkansas, says there is the possibility for some farmers to switch to soybeans as opposed to other row crops.

NEWS08

:20

"...commodities planted"

Ross says another reason for an uptick in soybean acreage this year is the commodity price, which is higher than it was a year ago.

Recently-loosened restrictions on a controversial herbicide have been put on hold for now. KUAR's Daniel Breen explains.

News01

0:56

SOC

The Arkansas State Plant Board voted earlier this month to allow farmers to spray the herbicide dicamba until the end of June. It was a controversial move, since dicamba has been found to vaporize at higher temperatures, drifting off of cotton and soybean fields and causing damage to neighboring non-tolerant crops. But a recent court action puts the new rules on hold, and growers must, for now, adhere to last year's spraying cutoff of May 25th. The 16th Division of the Pulaski County Circuit Court earlier this week ruled to extend a temporary restraining order against the new dicamba rules until June 10th, when another hearing will be held. Another lawsuit challenging the new rules was also heard by the Pulaski County Circuit Court but no action was taken. The court order means growers won't be able to legally spray dicamba for about a two-week period, or perhaps longer if the court decides to extend the restraining order at the June 10th hearing. DJB KUAR News.

Media Panel CC1

SKK/MEH 05/26/2021

ThursAM

Civic engagement in media and what can be done to address misinformation and disinformation will be some topics addressed during an upcoming panel hosted by the Central Arkansas Library System. Tonight's (Thurs) discussion "Imagining Civic Media" is the third in the series "Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century." Sam Gill, president and CEO of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and one of the panelists, says while most traditional media sources like newspapers and television stations, recognize the roll they play in distributing information, that isn't necessarily the case for other media outlets.

NEWS07

:15

"...on the audience"

As to what he hopes attendees will take away from the conversation, Gill says he wants the conversation to be optimistic and creative regarding possible solutions to improve civic engagement in media.

NEWS08

:17

"...own assumptions"

Those interested in attending the virtual panel can register through the Central Arkansas Library System's website.

Media Panel CC2

SKK/MEH 05/26/2021

ThursAM

The next installment of a discussion series aims to reassess how social and digital media can change to better serve communities. "Imagining Civic Media," presented by the Central Arkansas Library System, will focus on how the distribution of media and content has impacted citizen engagement. It's the third event in their series "Our Common Purpose." Sam Gill, president and CEO of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, is a panelist for tonight's (Thurs) discussion. He says the idea of media literacy, while important, is not the only needed solution to combating misinformation and improving media engagement.

NEWS09

:

"...in balance"

The panel will take place virtually beginning tonight (Thurs) at 6 p.m. Those interested in attending can register free through the Central Arkansas Library System's website.

UA-Fulbright RE

MEH/ADG

5/26 (Wed PM & Thurs AM)

The family of former Senator J. William Fulbright is asking the University of Arkansas NOT to remove a statue of him from its Fayetteville campus. Fulbright's legacy is being reconsidered given his record supporting segregation and opposing civil rights in the 1950s and '60s. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports 34 members of Fulbright's family sent a letter to the UA Board of Trustees defending him as "an honorable man, great statesman and visionary educator." Last month, a university committee recommended removing his statue outside the Old Main building and that his name be removed from the university's arts and sciences college. No action has been taken at this point.

Oprah And Prince Harry On Mental Health, Therapy And Their New TV Series

- **After their two-hour CBS [interview in March](#), Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, have a new documentary series together on Apple TV+. It's called *The Me You Can't See*.**

• • • May 21, 2021 4:33 PM ET
Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



[Mary Louise Kelly](#)

[Twitter](#)

Elena Burnett and Courtney Dorning produced the audio of this story. Cyrena Touros adapted it for the web.

We've got a couple serious traffic issues that we need to share with you guys this morning.

First, DPS is working a single vehicle fatality crash involving an 18 wheeler on westbound Interstate 30 near the Texas rest area. That's probably going to cause delays on both the Interstate and St. Michael Drive for a good part of the morning - but definitely during the morning rush hour. You're gonna want to avoid this area for a while.

Also, all the rain we got overnight has caused some significant flooding issues on some roads. It's primarily the ones where we usually have problems after a lot of rain, such as W. 7th Street at the KCS Railroad underpass, 40th and Potomac, Summerhill at Galleria Oaks, etc. Several of these places now are barricaded to keep people from trying to drive through, but you might come across one with standing water that isn't. If you do, please turn around and find another way to get to wherever you're going. It might take you a couple minutes longer to get there, but that's better than finding yourself in a dangerous situation or messing up your vehicle. [08:11]

-From Texarkana Texas Police Department

Arkansas Symphony – 1

DM/SKK

5/25 TuePM/WedAM

The leadership of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is deciding what changes made during the pandemic might become permanent. CEO Christina Littlejohn says the organization is focusing on rebuilding the audience for performances and programming at the Robinson Center as well as being accessible for students and patrons who can't attend in person.

NEWS20 0:22 "...make that happen."

Littlejohn says donations from subscribers and the Paycheck Protection Program loan from the federal government allowed the organization to retain all full-time staff and musicians throughout the pandemic. The symphony's season ended last week with a socially-distanced concert attended by around 400 people.

Arkansas Symphony – 2

DM/SKK

5/25 TuePM/WedAM

The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is reflecting on a season of performances and programming impacted by the pandemic. Christina Littlejohn, the organization's CEO, says the musicians reached more people than ever before after moving classes and music programs online. She says the organization wants to continue that trend even though Covid restrictions are being lifted.

NEWS21 0:18 "...to hear us."

The symphony closed out their season last week with a concert at The Robinson Center with a limited audience. The performance center in Little Rock is following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which still recommend masks and six feet of distance between unvaccinated people in large, indoor gatherings.

Memorial Day 1

CDB/MEH

5/25/2021

With more Americans now vaccinated for COVID-19, a spike in travel is expected this Memorial Day weekend. It's traditionally one of the busiest travel holidays, but Triple A spokesperson, Nick Chabarría (Cha-Berry-Uh) says the company is anticipating highways will be especially busy this year.

News24

0:15

"...going by car."

Chabarría says many consider it to be more convenient to travel by car than plane due to health and safety guidelines that have been imposed. Triple A is projecting a 52% increase from last year in automobile travel. But drivers will find higher gas prices compared to recent years. Chabarría says currently the average price of gas in Arkansas is \$2.76 per gallon for unleaded gasoline, which is \$1.14 higher than this time last year.

Memorial Day 2

CDB/MEH

5/25/2021

As the pandemic seems to be subsiding, many Americans are preparing to travel this upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Triple A spokesperson Nick Chabarría (Cha-Berry-Uh) says the company is expecting a 52 percent increase in automobile travel compared to last year. But drivers will find higher gas prices.

News25

0:15

"...averages since 2014."

Chabarría says that Arkansas currently has the sixth cheapest statewide gas price average in the nation at \$2.76 per gallon for regular unleaded.

A former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice may serve as the state's Redistricting Coordinator for the results of the 2020 census and subsequent redistricting efforts. During the first meeting of the Board of Apportionment today (Monday), Gov. Asa Hutchinson suggested former Chief Justice Betty Dickey serve in the redistricting position.

NEWS06**:22****“...same time”**

Hutchinson said some of the responsibilities of the coordinator include engaging in public meetings and gathering public comments concerning redistricting, as well as presenting the final maps that the committee establishes. Speaking on the role of the Redistricting Coordinator, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said for whoever got the position, it was important that they be “technologically savvy.”

NEWS07**:14****“...Justice Dickey”**

Though the committee did not vote to fill the position during the meeting, Hutchinson said he would reach out to Dickey about the salary parameters of the position and the board will schedule a future meeting to speak with her in “executive session.”

Arkansas Trucking Association President Shannon Newton met with federal officials on Thursday to discuss the closed Interstate-40 bridge. Newton told Content Partners Talk Business and Politics yesterday (on Sunday) that the Hernado DeSoto Bridge's closure is causing major gridlock in West Memphis.

She said officials discussed some short term solutions to help mitigate the closure's impact on the city while crews repair a fracture in one of the bridge's steel beams.

(NEWS 1 0:28 "...short term things we talked about")

Newton said that rerouting traffic to the I-55 bridge adds over 74 minutes to travel times, which costs the trucking industry at least \$2-point-4 million dollars per day. She said she felt confident saying that the bridge could reopen in "months", but still was not able to give a specific timeframe.

Federal officials met with Arkansas Trucking Association President Shannon Newton on Thursday about the closed Hernado DeSoto Bridge on Interstate 40. Newton told Content Partners Talk Business and Politics yesterday (on Sunday) that after speaking with them, she has a "definitive" answer for when the bridge can reopen...

(NEWS 2 0:23 "...an unknown to some degree.")

Newton said that the bridge's closure has also caused major gridlock to local traffic in West Memphis. She said that officials expressed commitment to finding short term solutions to help alleviate traffic while crews work to repair a fracture in one of the bridge's steel beams. Solutions ranged from additional funding to temporarily increasing capacity to the I-55 bridge.

Click it or Ticket-Arkansas RE

BT/MEH 5/24 (Mon PM/ Tues AM)

Arkansas State Police, starting this week, are participating in a national campaign to encourage drivers to wear a seatbelt. The department says troopers will be enforcing the federal "Click It or Ticket" campaign which will last through the Memorial Day holiday and end on June 6th.

State law requires all occupants in a vehicle to wear a seatbelt. Children under 6 weighing less than 60 pounds are also required to be in a child safety seat.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in 2019 more than 94-hundred people died in crashes in which they were not buckled up.

More than 100 years after the deadliest race massacre in Arkansas history, descendants of victims are calling for full pardons for their ancestors. The Elaine massacre of 1919 spurred violence that killed hundreds of people, and saw 122 Black Arkansans face criminal charges ranging from unlawful assembly to murder. Now, a group of descendants of the victims are petitioning the state for pardons for all 122 defendants. Lisa Hicks Gilbert leads the group and says only recently have Black Elaine residents felt safe enough to talk about the violence.

News01

0:18

“...generation to generation.”

Last Friday, Gilbert’s group submitted a signed omnibus pardon application for the victims to the state Department of Corrections. She says she hopes her efforts give confidence to her fellow descendants to speak the truth about their ancestors.

News02

0:09

“...share their stories.”

The Elaine massacre began on September 30, 1919, when a group of landowners opened fire on a meeting of Black sharecroppers who were attempting to organize for better pay and working conditions. A bill that would have created an Elaine Remembrance Week failed to pass the state legislature earlier this year.

Infant Mortality – 1

DM/

5/24 MonAM

Some health experts in Arkansas are hoping to see the state's infant mortality rate drop. This week on Talk Business and Politics, Ray Hanley, CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, said improving infant health was a specific goal of state's recently passed Medicaid expansion legislation known as ARHOME (ARE-home).

NEWS20 0:18 "...in maternal outcomes."

ARHOME, which replaced Arkansas Works, includes home visiting programs for some pregnant women and babies. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only seven other states in the country had higher infant mortality rates than Arkansas in 2019.

Infant Mortality – 2

DM/

5/24 MonAM

Arkansas's newest version of Medicaid expansion, ARHOME (ARE-home), includes home visits for some women with high-risk pregnancies. On Talk Business Politics and politics this week, the CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Ray Hanley, said the new programs are designed to reduce the state's high rate of infant mortality.

NEWS21 0:12 "...lifetime of issues."

According to the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, home visiting programs have been tested in the state and shown to be effective at improving infant health. ARHOME, passed by legislators earlier this year, will allow more such programs across the state. Arkansas consistently ranks among the state's with the highest infant mortality rates.

New beers become available in Texas all the time. Brews from the country's oldest brewery becoming available here — that happens just once.

In January, Yuengling – pronounced “ying-ling,” [announced](#) it would begin brewing and distributing beer in Texas. It's a big deal for the 192-year-old Pennsylvania brewery. Despite its long history, Yuengling is available only in 23 states — now including Texas. It's a staple of taps and coolers farther east, but largely unavailable elsewhere.

“One thing about Yuengling, it always had kind a cult beer reputation,” said Mark Noon, assistant professor of English at Bloomsburg University and the author of *Yuengling: A History of America's Oldest Brewery*.

“You'd often hear stories about people who would come to the east and into states where Yuengling was available and they would smuggle a beer in the back of their ... cars or SUVs,” he said.

In Texas, Yuengling's brewers will work out of the Molson Coors facility in Fort Worth. Yeast from the Pottsville Pennsylvania brewery, and the Yuengling family recipe book arrived there last week via armored car.

From [Texas Standard](#):

Health

Experts Weigh In On The CDC's Gamble That Fewer Masks Will Lead To More Vaccinations

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• • • May 19, 2021 4:30 PM ET
Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



[Yuki Noguchi](#)

MARY LOUISE KELLY, HOST:

People who are fully vaccinated can now safely shed their face masks in many situations. That is what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last week. In changing its rules, the CDC is making a tacit gamble that easing mask rules will inspire more people to get their shots, but will it? Or will many people just rip off their masks regardless of their vaccination status? NPR's Yuki Noguchi talked to people who study behavior about how they predict people will react.

The CDC's new mask guidelines are, at one level, a gamble: The removal of face masks will prompt more people to get vaccinated. But will it? Some behavioral economists weigh in with predictions.

On May 22nd, the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore with the grand opening slated for this Saturday morning at 11a.m. Throughout the day visitors can enjoy prepackaged food, giveaways and the chance to shop around.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore allows anyone in the community to come and shop for supplies for their homes, stores, and small projects by purchasing gently used and like new material that has been donated. The prices set for items in the store begin at 60% off for products that are almost like new, and go down as the grade of material does. All purchases go towards paying staff and helping build more houses in our community.

According to Mary Wormington, Director of Habitat for Humanity of Texarkana, this project was three years in the making. “When they hired me they asked me to get on the ground and build more homes.

Before I came on they were building one home every 12-18 months, and in the last three years that I’ve been here, we’ve built 5.

Our goal with the opening of the ReStore is to allow Habitat in the coming years to net a profit, to help build more and more homes in our area.

Emergency End 1

DJB

5/20/2021(ThursPM/FriAM)

Arkansas' current public health emergency will end in just over one week. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced today (Thurs) the state of emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic more than a year ago is set to end on May 30th. Hutchinson says the emergency can now end since rules surrounding telemedicine and business liability are now state law.

News01

0:21

“...public health responsibility.”

Hutchinson says the state is spending about \$8-and-a-half million dollars on new ad campaigns encouraging Arkansans to take the coronavirus vaccine, including one targeting minority communities. The governor also said all employees of Executive Branch state agencies who've gotten at least one vaccine are eligible for a \$100-dollar bonus.

News02

0:16

“...that are vaccinated.”

Hutchinson says the bonuses will cost the state about \$3.6 million dollars if 70% of the roughly 26-thousand eligible state employees get vaccinated. The governor says he's considering offering vaccination incentives to members of the general public as has been seen in other states.

TEXARKANA, Texas — In accordance with Gov. Greg Abbott's [Executive Order](#) that prohibits government entities in Texas from requiring or mandating mask wearing, Texas A&M University-Texarkana announced Wednesday that facial coverings will now be optional on campus.

"Facial coverings are now optional on the TAMUT campus," the university posted on social media. "Those not fully vaccinated are encouraged to continue to wear them."

AM-Texarkana also stated that it would host several vaccine clinics this summer.

Abbott's Executive Order begins on May 21. Local governments or officials that attempt to impose a mask mandate or impose a limitation inconsistent or conflicting with the Executive Order can be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000, according to a statement released by the governor.

"The Lone Star State continues to defeat COVID-19 through the use of widely-available vaccines, antibody therapeutic drugs, and safe practices utilized by Texans in our communities," Gov. Abbott said in the release. "Texans, not government, should decide their best health practices, which is why masks will not be mandated by public school districts or government entities.

Dems Bridge 1

DJB

5/19/2021(WedPM/ThursAM)

Arkansas Democrats are calling for new investment in the state's aging infrastructure as a nearly 50-year-old bridge over the Mississippi River remains closed for repairs. State and local Democratic officials held a news conference in West Memphis today (Wed), a little over one week since a damaged beam forced the closure of the Interstate 40 bridge. Democratic Party of Arkansas chair Michael John Gray says the state's infrastructure needs extend far beyond the river crossing.

News01

0:22

"...dangerous, frankly, bridges."

Gray says he supports the bipartisan calls for bridge repairs to be included in President Biden's proposed \$1.9-trillion-dollar infrastructure package. Republicans including Arkansas U-S Congressman Rick Crawford have supported that effort, but have criticized Biden's plan for including funding for things like rural broadband and education.

Dems Bridge 2

DJB

5/19/2021(WedPM/ThursAM)

Officials with the Democratic Party of Arkansas say the closure of the Interstate 40 bridge over the Mississippi River underscores the need for more infrastructure funding. Democratic officials including state Sen. Keith Ingram and Rep. Deborah Ferguson held a news conference today (Wed) in West Memphis, where traffic continues to be backed up due to the bridge closure. Democratic Party chair Michael John Gray called for Republicans to support President Joe Biden's nearly \$2-trillion dollar infrastructure package, known as the American Jobs Plan.

News02

0:26

"...and appropriations passed."

Republicans, including Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Congressman Rick Crawford, have said they support new federal funding for roads and bridges, but that Biden's proposal is too broad. The I-40 bridge has been closed for just over one week after inspectors found a fracture in one of the nearly 50-year-old bridge's load-bearing beams. Preliminary repairs on the bridge are set to begin this week.

Green Book – 1

DM/

5/19

WedPM/ThurAM

The Negro Motorist Green Book—a traveling Smithsonian Institute exhibit—opens in Little Rock at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center tomorrow (Thursday). Courtney Bradford, curator for the cultural center, says Little Rock was chosen as the second stop for the national tour because 9th Street was once a black-owned business district.

NEWS20 0:20 “...the exhibit here.”

The Green Book was started in 1936 by Victor Green, a postman from Harlem, to help African Americans travel across the country safely by identifying businesses and sites. The free exhibit will be on display in Little Rock until August 1st. The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center is open to the public but will limit the numbers of in-person visitors due to the pandemic.

Green Book – 2

DM/

5/19

WedPM/ThurAM

The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock will open “The Negro Motorist Green Book” exhibit tomorrow (Thursday). The traveling exhibit is the first time a full Smithsonian exhibit will be on display in Arkansas, according to Courtney Bradford, the cultural center’s curator of collections. Bradford says The Green Book played a key role in African American history.

NEWS21 0:17 “...your safety net.”

Bradford says identifying black-owned businesses is still important today, but more for financial and cultural reasons than safety concerns. The exhibit is free and will be on display until August. The cultural center is open for in-person visits, but will limit the number of people allowed in each gallery at a time as a pandemic precaution.

DE QUEEN, Ark.—Drug Enforcement Administration agents served six search warrants at Lansdell Family Clinics and pharmacies Tuesday morning in connection with an investigation into prescription opioids, according to officials.

The clinics are located in Texarkana, De Queen, Lockesburg, and Dierks.

No arrests have been made.

Connie Overton, an agent with the diversion division of the DEA, said the investigation began in response to complaints.

"Search warrants were executed. We cannot give specific details but that will come at a later date," she said.

Agent Jared Harper, assistant special agent in charge of the DEA Little Rock office, commented on the scope of the investigation:

((((((((((((((((CUT 32 CES OUT EPIDEMIC))))))))))))))]]

The Sevier County Sheriffs Office, De Queen Police Department and Dierks Police Department were also at the scene along with local prosecutors. The U.S. Attorneys Office from the Western District of Arkansas will also be investigating.

Harper said investigators will be thorough.

"It's a big animal that we are trying to put our arms around. This poison is all over the state. We have to do everything we can. The opioid epidemic is real. One pill can kill."

The clinics and pharmacies were closed Tuesday.

The clinics should be open on Wednesday, Overton said.

Lansdell Clinics are primary and urgent care clinics.

Lansdell officials could not be immediately reached for comment BY THE Texarkana Gazette.

Audio was courtesy of the Teaxrkana Gazettes Lori Dunn

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson says safety is the top priority as repairs to the Interstate 40 bridge over the Mississippi River begin. Hutchinson joined officials in Memphis today (Tues) to brief reporters on the first stages of the repair process. Hutchinson said it's still too early to tell how long it will be until the bridge is reopened to cars and trucks.

News01

0:21

"...of that bridge."

The river crossing between West Memphis and Memphis was closed last week after a crack was discovered in one of the bridge's beams. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee echoed Gov. Hutchinson's concerns over the safety of the link between the two states.

News02

0:20

"...that it's safe."

This comes after Arkansas transportation officials announced yesterday (Mon) they've fired a bridge inspector who overlooked damage to the Interstate 40 bridge dating as far back as 2019. Water traffic under the bridge was reopened late last week, though officials say it could be months before travelers are allowed on the bridge again.

TEXARKANA, Ark. — During a meeting Monday, the city Board of Directors ended its six-week search for a new city manager with a unanimous vote to approve an employment contract for Jay Ellington, a Ruston, Louisiana, official who will assume his new duties June 1.

The hire comes after a quick-moving recruitment and interview process following the unexpected resignation of former City Manager Kenny Haskin on April 1.

Ellington has served as interim city manager in Corpus Christi, Texas, and as administrative/general services director in Ruston. His experience also includes stints as parks and recreation director in Manassas, Virginia, and Butte, Montana.

The Board also voted to name Finance Director TyRhonda Henderson interim city manager and transition leader for the remainder of May. Another vote amended the city budget to account for a \$75,000-plus expenditure needed to pay for Ellington's and Henderson's compensation.

Ward 2 Director Laney Harris cast the sole no vote on both measures, questioning Henderson's background and saying he felt the move was unnecessary because Interim City Manager David Haak could continue to work unpaid.

"I don't know that we really need a transition leader," Harris said.

Mayor Allen Brown countered that the "very unique situation" presented by the two Texarkanas' relationship justified the "minimal expense" of "helping the new city manager move forward."

Henderson's responsibility is to "be basically his (Ellington's) right-hand man" and "make the transition as easy and seamless as possible," she said after the meeting.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for June 7.

TEXARKANA — Heavy rains and storms in the forecast for today have led tournament officials to reschedule Harvest Regional Food Bank's Inaugural Drive Out Hunger Golf Tournament.

It will now be held Monday, May 24 at Northridge Country Club. All other tournament details remain the same.

"We have been watching the weather closely all week and knew this was going to be a difficult decision," says Camille Wrinkle, Harvest executive director. "Ultimately, we have to keep our players, volunteers and staff safe."

Check-in for teams begins at 10 a.m. May 24 and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Tee-off is at 1 p.m. and closing and awards with entertainment by Jake Gathright is at 6 p.m.

Last year was a record year for Harvest as they responded to the COVID-19 crisis, Wrinkle said. The food bank distributed a record 5.4 million pounds of food and it adjusted to meet the growing needs of the community by implementing large-scale mobile pantry distribution events, working with school districts to feed children while schools were closed, partnering with local fire and police departments to provide emergency food boxes and much more.

All proceeds from the tournament will provide critical support for Harvest's programs and operations. This event is especially vital for the food bank to fill the gap left by the second year of cancellations of its signature events including Wine and Jazz and Taste of Texarkana.

TEXARKANA — Bowie and Miller counties could see several more inches of rain this week, according to the National Weather Service in Shreveport. The NWS has issued a Flash Flood Watch through Thursday for all the area. Residents should be on the watch for rapidly rising waters as the ground is in a super saturated state in all areas

The weather pattern will bring moderate to heavy rainfall at times with widespread two to six inches anticipated and isolated higher amounts possible through Wednesday along Interstate 30.

Isolated strong to severe thunderstorms can not be ruled out, with damaging winds, hail, and brief heavy rainfall possible.

The hazardous weather outlook issued by the NWS is for Northeast Texas, Southwest Arkansas and Southeast Oklahoma.

Rain and widespread thunderstorms returned late on Sunday and the wet pattern is expected to continue through the rest of this week.

Rivers, lakes and bayous will respond with minor flooding and there will be isolated storms that may produce flash flooding with this slow moving activity. Isolated damaging winds also cannot be ruled out in any mid-Spring weather situations.

There is an 90% chance of showers and thunderstorms today and a 90% chance on Wednesday. 70% on Thursday and 40% on Friday with highs near 90 by the Weekend.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation has fired a bridge inspector who failed to notice damage on at least two separate occasions on a now-closed bridge over the Mississippi River. Department officials said they terminated the inspector today (Mon) over his failure to notice damage to the Interstate 40 Mississippi River bridge in September 2019 and September 2020. ARDOT director Lori Tudor says the department has contacted the F-B-I to determine whether criminal charges should be filed.

News01

0:25

“...in our process.”

The employee, whose name has not been released, allegedly did not perform a hands-on, inch-by-inch inspection of the 48-year-old bridge and did not notice a crack in one of the bridge’s load-bearing beams. A team of contractors found the crack last week, forcing the closure of the bridge. Tudor says the department has begun an internal investigation into supervisors and other members of the former inspector’s team.

News02

0:12

“...other negligence involved.”

Tudor says the department will conduct a re-inspection of every fracture-critical bridge that was inspected by the former employee. Department officials say they hope to select a contractor for the first phase of repairs to the I-40 bridge by this afternoon (Mon).

Black Owned 1

AB/SKK

5/17/21(MonPM & TuesAM)

Black-owned restaurants in Little Rock are participating in Black Restaurant Week's national "No Crumb Left Behind" campaign. According to a news release from the organization, the campaign aims to give black-owned culinary businesses exposure in their communities while helping them stay afloat as they recover from the coronavirus pandemic. Rod Cross, owner of Bundtz by Rod, says participating in this campaign will help attract more customers to his business.

News11

0:24

"...for everyone involved."

Bundtz by Rod is an online bakery that features about 32 different cake flavors. Cross says he makes every cake by himself and ships them all over the country so everyone can enjoy his work. The "No Crumb Left Behind" campaign will visit cities all over the United States. The last day for restaurants in Little Rock to participate is this Sunday.

Black Owned 2

AB

5/17/21(MonPM & TuesAM)

Black-owned food businesses in Little Rock are taking part in Black Restaurant Week's "No Crumb Left Behind" campaign. According to a news release from the organization, this campaign will give restaurants the opportunity to gain more exposure as they recover from the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. About six restaurants in the city are participating in this campaign so far. Rod Cross, the owner of Bundtz by Rod, says this will bring attention to his business and Black Restaurant Week as well.

News12

0:20

"...Rod as well."

Cross says the online bakery features 32 cake flavors that are shipped all over the country made by himself. The "No Crumb Left Behind" campaign is a nationwide food tour, and the last day for black-owned restaurants in Little Rock to participate is this Sunday.

Last week's shutdown of the I-40 bridge between Arkansas and Tennessee is drawing attention to federal infrastructure spending proposals. On Arkansas PBS this week, Mike Preston, the state's secretary of commerce, said President Biden's proposal—the American Jobs Plan—includes too many things not directly tied to traditional infrastructure.

NEWS20 0:22 “...of the future.”

According to a White House fact sheet, the American Jobs Plan includes an increase of \$115 billion dollars for modernizing roads and bridges. The plan commits similar amounts of funding to upgrade and build new public schools, and for providing safe drinking water to all communities by eliminating all lead pipes and service lines in the nation.

The American Jobs Act—President Biden's nearly \$2-trillion-dollar infrastructure spending proposal—is drawing criticism from Republicans for being too broad. This week on Arkansas PBS, state Republican Congressman Rick Crawford said last week's closing of the Interstate 40 bridge for safety reasons shows why his party favors a narrower definition.

NEWS21 0:15 “...ports and harbors.”

The American Jobs Plan would increase funding for roads and bridges by over \$100 billion dollars, but also includes funding for things like improvements to Veterans Affairs hospitals, wage increases for caregivers in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, and investments in medical research designed to prevent disruptions caused by future pandemics.

[CDC Criticized For Confusing Updated Mask Recommendation 6:55](#)

[Health](#)

CDC Criticized For Confusing Updated Mask Recommendation

- WERE YOU LIKE ME OUT AND ABOUT THIS WEEKEND, HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU SEE WITH OUT MASKS ON. Many Americans are baring their faces in public again, following the CDC recommendation that fully vaccinated people don't need them in most settings. OR DO THEY, THE GUIDANCE THAT CAME OUT LAST WEEK ARE CLEAR AS MUD.
-

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



[Allison Aubrey](#) JOINED RACHEL MARTIN ON THIS MORNINGS MORNING EDTION

DE QUEEN, Ark. — The Sevier County Hospital Board has hired an Arkansas native as its first CEO.

Lori House has been selected to head the new hospital starting June 1, said Board Chairman Steve Cole. House currently serves as Director of Revenue Cycle at Healthy Connections in Mena with 18 years of experience in medical administration.

House was chosen out of more than a dozen applicants for the CEO/Administrator Cole said.

As CEO, House will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative duties as construction proceeds on the new hospital and once it opens next spring.

The hospital, whose funding was approved by Sevier County voters through a 1% sales tax passed in October 2019, will be located on the east side of U.S. Highway 71, a few miles north of De Queen.

The hospital is expected to be about 42,000 square feet and includes an outpatient rehab facility. It should employ about 105 people.

The county's former hospital closed in 2019 after a series of financial setbacks.

TEXARKANA, Ark. — During a regular meeting Monday, the city Board of Directors will vote on approving an employment contract for Jay Ellington, the sole finalist to become the next city manager.

The city announced the vote Friday after a private morning meeting to discuss the contract's terms. Ellington has the Board's "full support," Mayor Allen Brown said.

Ellington has served as interim city manager in Corpus Christi, Texas, and as administrative/general services director in Ruston, Louisiana. His experience also includes stints as parks and recreation director in Manassas, Virginia, and Butte, Montana.

The vote will complete the hiring process begun April 1, when former City Manager Kenny Haskin resigned.

The Board will also consider purchasing a new pickup and related equipment for animal control officers.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m Monday at City Hall, 216 Walnut St. A live video stream will be available on the city's YouTube channel.

Road and river travel continues to be affected as the closure of the Interstate 40 bridge over the Mississippi River stretches on. The U-S Coast Guard reported 16 vessels towing 229 barges are unable to pass under the bridge, which connects West Memphis, Arkansas to Memphis, Tennessee. Arkansas Trucking Association president Shannon Newton says the economic impact of the closure could reach into the tens of millions of dollars.

News01

0:18

“...on the trucking industry.”

Transportation officials said repairs could take months after the bridge was closed Tuesday following the discovery of a crack in a steel beam during a routine inspection. Newton says the closure comes at an already stressful time for both consumers and the trucking industry.

News02

0:24

“...goods for consumers.”

Newton says trucks ferrying goods cross-country can choose alternate river crossings both north and south of Memphis, though trucks delivering goods to Arkansas will likely not be able to avoid congested traffic on the smaller Interstate 55 river bridge.

Judge Resignation RE

MEH/ADG 5/13 (Thurs PM & Fri AM)

(Judge's last name is pronounced like Karen, the girls name)

After an incident in a parking lot for the Benton County Courthouse, Circuit Judge Brad Karren has resigned as the administrative judge for the seven judges in the circuit. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports he voluntarily stepped down from the unpaid position yesterday (Wed) which oversees case assignments. He still remains a circuit judge. A video captured Karren two weeks ago angrily confronting the son of former Arkansas House Speaker Davy Carter for parking in his spot after 7 p.m. There are two conflicting signs in the lot. One says "Benton County employee parking only, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.," while another says "Reserved parking 24/7 violators towed." Carter posted a brief video of the incident on Twitter showing Karren, who was armed with a gun, throwing down his cane while yelling. The Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission is reviewing the incident.

LRSD COVID Bonus RE

MEH/ADG 5/13 (Thurs PM)

The Little Rock School Board is expected to vote this (Thurs) evening on whether to give district employees a one-time bonus for working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports the proposal would give \$11 dollars a day of "additional compensation" over the past year. In a letter asking the board to support the proposal, Superintendent Michael Poore said employees have been on the front-lines either providing a meaningful education or ensuring buildings were were clean and safe for students and employees. The proposal would cost the district an estimated \$7.1 million dollars. For most teachers with a 190-day contract, the compensation would provide nearly \$21-hundred dollars. The meeting begins at 5:30.

Vaccine-Kids 1

MEH/NPR 5/13 (Thurs PM & Fri AM)

Arkansas Health Secretary Jose Romero is touting the decision to allow more kids to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Romero also serves as chair of the independent advisory committee that recommended to the CDC that children between the ages of 12 and 15 get the Pfizer vaccine. In an interview today (Thurs) on NPR's "Morning Edition" he said it will help the overall population.

News15 0:24 "...in this country."

Romero's committee also approved allowing kids to get regular vaccines like measles or HPV at the same time as COVID vaccinations. He said many children are behind on their shots because of the restriction.

[Health](#)

CDC Says 12 To 15 Year Olds Can Start Getting Vaccinated Right Away

NPR's Rachel Martin talks to pediatrician Jose Romero Arkansas department of health, and chair of the independent advisory committee that recommended to the CDC that children ages 12 to 15 get the Pfizer vaccine.

COPYRIGHT TEXARKANA GAZETTE

Chattanooga-based Covenant Transport Group will close down its Southern Refrigerated Transport terminal in Texarkana, Arkansas, on May 1, and shift operations to three sites in Tennessee.

About 150 jobs at the Texarkana site will be permanently eliminated, while hundreds of professional truck-driving and non-driving jobs will relocate to Covenant sites in either Chattanooga, Nashville, or Greenville, Tennessee.

"This action, while regrettable and extremely painful to many in our enterprise and especially to those directly impacted, is necessary to focus our staffing and capital towards our targeted business units and to lower overhead costs," wrote Chairman and Chief Executive Officer David R. Parker in a statement.

Covenant will continue to [provide solo-driven refrigerated transport from the three Tennessee locations](#), Parker wrote in the statement.

"The enterprise has detailed plans in place with the objective of continuing to deliver outstanding service for our customers and support our professional driving force from these locations."

Southern Refrigerated Transport was the fifth-largest employer in Texarkana in 2019, with 1,115 employees, according to the website for the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce. The 150 employees whose roles will be eliminated will be provided severance and health insurance support, according to the statement from Parker.

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Local foster care support organization For the Sake of One has been awarded a grant of more than \$14,000 from the Texas Bar Foundation.

For the Sake of One plans to use the grant to fund renovation of its supervised visitation center, a safe environment where social workers oversee visits between parents and children.

"The center has not been updated in years and desperately needs some care to offer families the best environment in which to visit. We are honored to be selected as a recipient of this grant and are excited about how it will benefit our community," Executive Director Angela Coston said.

The grant will pay for replacing old carpet with vinyl plank flooring, updating furniture to ensure it can be disinfected, and buying games and art supplies to encourage positive interaction between parents and children.

For the Sake of One is a nonprofit whose mission is to advocate for the foster care community in Texarkana and the surrounding areas.

It does so through five key areas: maintaining the Blessing Boutique — where supplies are available at no cost — for foster, kinship and biological families; encouraging caseworkers; supporting biological parents; recruiting new foster families; and supporting current foster and adoptive families.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$22 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, it is the nation's largest charitably funded bar foundation.

Vaccine Grants 1

DJB

5/12/2021(WedPM/ThursAM)

Arkansas will receive new funding to go toward vaccinating hard-to-reach populations for COVID-19. Teams at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will receive part of nearly \$30 million dollars in funding from the National Institutes of Health to help vaccine outreach to communities of color. Dr. Gary Gibbons, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the N-I-H, says the goal is to reach communities where they're at in order to combat vaccine hesitancy.

News01

0:23

“...in those communities.”

The funding comes from a second round of a program known as the N-I-H Community Engagement Alliance. Funding from the program will go toward establishing a new vaccine outreach team at UA Little Rock, as well as to an existing team operating from the university.

Vaccine Grants 2

DJB

5/12/2021(WedPM/ThursAM)

New funding from the federal government is available to help boost vaccination rates in Arkansas communities of color. An influx of \$29 million dollars from the National Institutes of Health will go toward the program operating in numerous states, including at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and U-A-M-S. Dr. Gary Gibbons, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood institute at the N-I-H, says the program's efforts have been mainly targeted at Black Americans.

News02

0:23

“...get a vaccine.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black Americans are nearly three times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than white Americans, with the death rate nearly double. Gibbons says the goal is to increase education about the vaccines while addressing misinformation or rumors, as well as identifying ways to best distribute vaccines to hard-to-reach communities.

TEXARKANA, Texas — A Red River County man appeared this week before a federal judge in Texarkana on a charge of transportation of child pornography.

A criminal complaint unsealed Tuesday in the Texarkana Division of the Eastern District of Texas alleges that James Thomas Tucker, of Bogata, Texas, used the application Kik Messenger to view and share images and video depicting the sexual abuse and exploitation of young children in May 2020.

An FBI investigation into Tucker began June 3 with a report regarding a Kik user made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The tip alerted authorities that four images and 20 videos had been uploaded to Kik that depicted the sexual abuse of prepubescent children.

FBI investigators identified email addresses, usernames and internet protocol addresses used to log in which have allegedly been connected to Tucker. The activity on Kik which involved the alleged child pornography occurred at IP addresses associated with a grocery store in Mount Pleasant, Texas, where Tucker allegedly worked in 2020 and with a church in Bogata he allegedly attended with his wife.

"The Kik activity associated with the church's IP address corresponds with the church's service times. In May 2020, Tucker's wife posted videos of the (church) to her Facebook page," the complaint states.

Tucker's home in Bogata was searched in December by the FBI. Two other adults and "several small children" were present when the search warrant was executed.

Tucker allegedly agreed to speak with investigators at the time of the search.

"After initially minimizing his usage of Kik, the defendant admitted that he had been using Kik to view child pornography and trade child pornography with other Kik users for about a year. The defendant said he liked to look at 'young stuff,'" the complaint states.

Bryant appointed Assistant Federal Public Defender Kenneth Hawk to represent Tucker.

TEXARKANA, Texas — The Collins Senior Center's kitchen will reopen Monday and begin again serving free lunches.

Beginning Monday, Texas residents age 60 or older can have a free meal at the center between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, regardless of their income. Menus are available upon request.

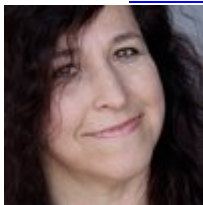
A number of activities are centered around lunch time. No membership is required, and most activities are free of charge. Activity calendars can be picked up at the center and are available by mail upon request.

(The Collins Senior Center is at 3000 Texas Blvd. For more information, call Gertrude Abby at 903-793-5545 or Eddie Aulds at 903-798-3979.)

Musician Hopes Song 'Cootie Shot' Will Help Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy

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• • • May 12, 2021 5:08 AM ET
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



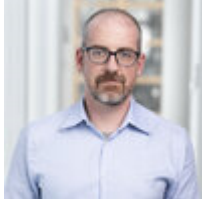
[Mandalit del Barco](#)

Children ages 12 to 15 have been approved to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Pierce Freelon, a children's musician, hopes to encourage more kids to get vaccinated with a new song: "Cootie Shot."

For Some Anti-Vaccine Advocates, Misinformation Is Part Of A Business

•

• • • May 12, 2021 5:08 AM ET
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



[Geoff Brumfiel](#)

Anti-vaccine advocates are using the COVID-19 pandemic to promote books, supplementals and services.

Rescue Plan 2A & 2B

AB/MEH

5/11/21(TuesPM & WedAM)

Governor Asa Hutchinson announced today (Tues) Arkansas will receive \$1.5 billion dollars in funding for the state government as part of the American Rescue Plan. At a press conference, he said a steering committee, made up of eight cabinet secretaries and three state lawmakers, will oversee the money. Larry Walther, director of the Department of Finance and Administration, said they will ensure funds are spent appropriately.

News13

0:22

“...here in Arkansas.”

Governor Hutchinson said the money could go to capital and infrastructure investments as well as other needs in the state. Meanwhile, the governor also announced Arkansans 12 and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

News 14

0:22

“...that very quickly.”

The state is planning to schedule mass vaccination clinics at schools to make sure every Arkansan has the opportunity to get vaccinated. The state reported six additional deaths today (Tues) from COVID-19. The Department of Health says there were no new hospitalizations, while the number of new cases increased by 233.

Advocates are speaking against what's been a record-breaking year for the number of anti-LGBTQ laws enacted in state legislatures nationwide. Representatives from the Human Rights Campaign spoke in a news conference today (Tues) about laws which have passed in numerous states, including Arkansas. H-R-C President Alphonso David said states have passed a record 18 bills his group identifies as harmful to L-G-B-T-Q people.

News01

0:24

"...seeking to address."

Some laws passed in Arkansas include a ban on transgender girls playing on girls' school sports teams, and a bill banning gender-affirming medical care for trans minors. David says the H-R-C and similar groups plan to challenge laws in Arkansas and other states in court, though no timeline has been set for court challenges.

Mississippi River Bridge RE

MEH

5/11 (Tues PM & Wed AM)

Interstate 40 has been shut down over the Mississippi River between Arkansas and Tennessee. The Arkansas Department of Transportation reports a routine inspection today (Tues) of the bridge crossing the river revealed a crack that required further investigation. The I-40 bridge will remain closed until further notice, with traffic being rerouted onto I-55 in Memphis and West Memphis. Transportation officials from the two states are looking at the bridge and say it won't be reopened until they're confident it's safe.

Rescue Plan 1A & 1B

AB/MEH

5/11/21(TuesPM & WedAM)

Governor Asa Hutchinson says Arkansas will receive \$1.5 billion dollars in funding for the state government as a result of the American Rescue Plan. At a press conference today (Tues), Hutchinson announced a 14-person steering committee will help manage the money for the state.

News11

0:23

“...a planned fashion.”

The committee will include eight cabinet officials and three members of the legislature. Hutchinson said because Arkansas’ economy has recovered, the state will get half the money soon, and the other half in about one or two years. The governor also said Arkansas -- like other states -- is lowering the age for who can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

News12

0:16

“...been previously approved.”

Hutchinson says there are over 300 clinics parents can choose from to get their child vaccinated. Meanwhile, the state reported six additional deaths today (Tues). The Department of Health says there were no new hospitalizations. The number of new cases increased by 233.

RICHMOND, British Columbia — Canadian company Paper Excellence on Tuesday announced plans to purchase all Domtar stock at a cost of about \$3 billion in what it calls "a strategic business combination."

Domtar's mill in Ashdown, Arkansas, as well as its other corporate and production locations, will continue to operate, according to a news release. Domtar management will also remain in place.

"After the transaction closes, Paper Excellence intends to continue the operations of Domtar as a stand-alone business entity," the release stated.

Paper Excellence will pay \$55.50 cash for each issued and outstanding share of Domtar stock.

The purchase price represents a premium of approximately 37% to Domtar's closing share price on May 3 and a premium of approximately 44% to the 30-day volume-weighted average price as of May 3, according to the companies.

The agreement has been unanimously approved by the Domtar Board of Directors. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2021, subject to Domtar shareholder approval, receipt of the required regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

FDA OKs Pfizer Shot For 12-15-Year-Olds. Vaccinations Will Start Soon

•

☐ ☐ ☐ **May 11, 2021 7:20 AM ET**
Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

[Rachel Martin](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Pien Huang](#)

The Food and Drug Administration has extended authorization for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include adolescents age 12-15. Those young people have missed months of school and time with friends.

TEXARKANA, Texas — A former teacher's aide sentenced to prison and probation by a jury for sexual misconduct with three male high school students was in court for formal sentencing Monday.

Ashlyn Faye Bell, 24, pleaded guilty in April to two counts of improper relationship between educator and student involving two 17-year-old boys and to two counts of sexual assault of a child involving a 16-year-old boy. A jury tasked with deciding Bell's punishment sentenced her to four years in prison on one count of sexual assault of a child and recommended terms of probation on the remaining three counts.

At a hearing Monday before District Judge John Tidwell sentenced Bell to ten years probation on the count of sexual assault of a child for which the jury recommended probation and two five-year terms of probation on the two counts of improper relationship between educator and student.

The probated terms and the prison term will run concurrently, Tidwell ordered.

The jury assessed fines totaling \$1,000 that Bell will be required to pay as a condition of probation. Tidwell ordered Bell to be supervised on a sex offender caseload once released from prison and she will be required to register as a sex offender.

Bell must update her sex offender registration at regular intervals and report any change in residence or employment to local authorities where she lives and works.

Bell is being held in the Bowie County jail until she can be transported to a unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

TEXARKANA, Texas — A DeKalb, Texas, woman accused of sexual misconduct with a teen girl pleaded not guilty Monday to four felony child sex abuse charges.

Kaylynn Nicole Garrett, 26, appeared for arraignment Monday before 202nd District Judge John Tidwell on two counts of sexual assault of a child and two counts of indecency with a child by contact. Assistant Public Defender Clayton Haas entered pleas of not guilty to all charges on Garrett's behalf.

If found guilty, Garrett faces two to 20 years on each count.

Garrett came to the attention of law enforcement the night of Feb. 24 when officers responded to a call at a home on Farm to Market Road 1840. A family member of Garrett's told deputies that Garrett had provided "Fireball" brand alcohol to the teen girl and touched the minor in a sexual and inappropriate way after she became intoxicated.

Garrett allegedly made a statement to the teen regarding plans for a subsequent sexual encounter. The police were called after the teen reportedly made an outcry to a family member of Garrett's.

Garrett was taken into custody that night.

The alleged victim in the case was interviewed at the Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center in early March. She allegedly disclosed that Garrett had engaged in sexual misconduct with her at the house in DeKalb in December and February.

Garrett was indicted last week.

She is being held in the Bowie County jail with bail set at \$150,000.

COVID-Mon RE

MEH

5/10 (Mon PM & Tues AM)

Arkansas reported three additional deaths today from COVID-19. There were also 76 new cases of people testing positive for the virus, while the overall number of active cases declined by 170 since yesterday (Sun). In a statement, Governor Asa Hutchinson called it “a good start to the week.”

Vaccination Efforts – 1

DM/

5/10 MonAM

Variants of the coronavirus that cause Covid-19 are causing concern among some health experts in the state. On Arkansas PBS this week, Dr. Jennifer Dillaha (dill-uh-hey), the director of immunizations for the Arkansas Department of Health, said getting people vaccinated is necessary to stop the virus from mutating.

NEWS20 0:17 “...development of variants.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, existing mutations of Covid-19 have allowed it to become more easily spread and impacted the severity of the disease it causes. Department of Health data shows that less than one of third of the state is fully immunized.

Vaccination Efforts – 2

DM/

5/10 MonAM

Health officials in Arkansas are looking for ways to get more of the population vaccinated against Covid-19. On Arkansas PBS this week, Ray Hanley, president and CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, said the medical providers are trying new strategies to reach the state’s unvaccinated population.

NEWS21 0:17 “...do some vaccinations.”

Governor Asa Hutchinson has said a reasonable goal for Arkansas is to get 50% percent of the state vaccinated in the next three months. Last week, President Biden said he wants to have 70% percent of American adults receive at least one dose of vaccine by the Fourth of July. Some states are offering incentives for getting vaccinated, like \$100 savings bonds or free beer.

Rebuild Tax - Voicer**DM/DJB/MEH 5/10/21 MonPM/Tue AM**

The Little Rock Board of Directors is scheduled to hold a specially-called meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) to decide whether to refer a tax proposal to voters. But the Coalition of Little Rock Neighborhoods is asking city leaders to delay making a decision. A press release from the coalition listed 20 questions that it says should be addressed first. KUAR's David Monteith has more about what the city is considering:

NEWS22 0:53**SOC**

Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. is asking the city's board of directors to approve an ordinance which would put a permanent one-cent sales tax increase before voters during a special election in July. If approved, the tax is estimated to generate \$53 million dollars annually. Those funds would be used to pay for the capital improvements laid out in the mayor's "Rebuild the Rock" proposal. During recent meetings, several city directors were reluctant to support the ordinance. Some argued the timing is poor, as federal pandemic relief funds from the American Rescue Plan are expected to be distributed soon and may cover similar infrastructure costs. Others argued the mayor's proposal didn't earmark enough for road repair or additional police officers. Last week the mayor presented a revised budget in an effort to address some concerns. If approved, the new tax would start being levied in January. David Monteith, KUAR News. In Little Rock, I'm David Monteith.

TEXARKANA, Ark. — Deciding to create a special revenue fund to collect about \$4 million in federal money will be the main subject addressed at 6 p.m. today at the Miller County Quorum Court meeting.

The justices of the peace, who will meet inside the Miller County Sheriff's Office Courtroom on East Street, will consider setting up the special fund to take the first \$4 million of what will ultimately be more than \$8.3 million designated for Miller County from American Rescue Plan Fund.

The money will be doled out directly from the U.S. Treasury Department in two separate portions, according to county documents released last week.

Although county hasn't officially received either of the two payments yet, the remaining \$4.3 million could be delivered by the end of this year, said Miller County Judge Cathy Harrison.

So far, county officials aren't quite sure what they can use the federal funds for, since the Treasury Department hasn't yet released any official finance guidelines for the county to follow, said Judge's Office administrative assistant Carla Jenkins.

A look at the American Rescue Plan's key elements website shows no particular fund designations to counties, however, Jenkins added the county will be able to use whatever money the county can get.

Presently, Jenkins said the county courthouse will need at least two more weeks of asbestos removal on the building's first, second and third floors as well as in the basement — all damaged by flooding after a winter storm in February.

Besides the flood damage, Harrison said the courthouse's boiler, radiators, individual window air conditioning units and other outdated climate control devices will need to be removed and replaced with modern systems, as recommended by the Little Rock-based McKinstry Energy Efficiency consulting firm.

In other business, the JPs will also consider approving a lease purchase plan to buy a road grader for the county road department.

Vaccination Efforts – 1

DM/

5/10 MonAM

Variants of the coronavirus that cause Covid-19 are causing concern among some health experts in the state. On Arkansas PBS this week, Dr. Jennifer Dillaha (dill-uh-hey), the director of immunizations for the Arkansas Department of Health, said getting people vaccinated is necessary to stop the virus from mutating.

NEWS20 0:17 “...development of variants.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, existing mutations of Covid-19 have allowed it to become more easily spread and impacted the severity of the disease it causes. Department of Health data shows that less than one of third of the state is fully immunized.

Vaccination Efforts – 2

DM/

5/10 MonAM

Health officials in Arkansas are looking for ways to get more of the population vaccinated against Covid-19. On Arkansas PBS this week, Ray Hanley, president and CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, said the medical providers are trying new strategies to reach the state’s unvaccinated population.

NEWS21 0:17 “...do some vaccinations.”

Governor Asa Hutchinson has said a reasonable goal for Arkansas is to get 50% percent of the state vaccinated in the next three months. Last week, President Biden said he wants to have 70% percent of American adults receive at least one dose of vaccine by the Fourth of July. Some states are offering incentives for getting vaccinated, like \$100 savings bonds or free beer.

WAKE VILLAGE, Texas — A local man has been arrested on a felony charge of online solicitation of a minor.

Wake Village Police Department officers arrested Jason Roberts, 39, Thursday afternoon in the 200 block of Redwater Road, according to a news release.

While conducting a separate investigation, Sgt. Todd Aultman was online using a clandestine social media account when he was contacted by Roberts, WVPD said.

Roberts believed Aultman was a 15-year-old girl and engaged in a conversation with him. Within hours, Roberts was asking to meet with the juvenile and engage in sexual acts, according to the news release.

The two arranged a meeting, and Roberts arrived as scheduled. He found officers waiting for him instead of the girl.

Police took Roberts into custody without incident and transported him to jail at the Bi-State Justice Building in Texarkana, where he awaits a bond. No other arrests are expected in this case.

Those with information relating to this crime are asked to call the Wake Village Police Department at 903-838-5580.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson is breaking with most in the national G-O-P by speaking against growing criticism of Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney. U-S House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy earlier this week signaled that Republicans were considering removing Cheney from her leadership position because of her criticism of former President Donald Trump's role in the January 6th insurrection at the U-S Capitol. Speaking on C-N-N yesterday (Wed), Hutchinson said the move could be seen as retaliation for Cheney's vote in favor of impeaching former President Trump.

News03

0:24

"...of January 6."

Hutchinson said the move would be needlessly divisive at a time when Republicans should be uniting ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. House members could vote to remove Cheney from her position as conference chair as soon as next week.

The White House is outlining what benefits individual states will get from President Biden's 1.8 trillion-dollar American Families Plan. KUAR's Daniel Breen explains what's at stake for Arkansas.

News01

1:26

SOC

First up is higher education – the plan promises at least two years of free community college, which in Arkansas costs an average of \$37-hundred dollars per year. It would also increase the Pell Grant for about 62-thousand students in the state, and provide grants to ten Minority-Serving Institutions in Arkansas. The plan also aims to provide universal pre-K, in which less than half of eligible kids are enrolled in Arkansas. Another 62-thousand students would be eligible for free school meals, and almost 300-thousand would get resources to purchase food during summer break. As for healthcare, the plan would extend premium reductions included in the last COVID-19 stimulus package, extending coverage to about 53-thousand uninsured Arkansans. Expanded tax credits in the plan could reduce child poverty in the state by 48%, and benefit about 173-thousand workers who don't have children. But in contrast to the benefits touted by the White House, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee railed against the plan while speaking with Fox News.

News02

0:09

“...the first place.”

Huckabee cited a recent study showing the American Families Plan could cost as much as \$700-million-dollars more than the \$1.8-trillion-dollar figure released by the Biden Administration. DJB KUAR News.

A bipartisan bill, passed and then signed by the governor in late April, creates a new incentive for filmmakers to move their productions to the Natural State.

Currently, Arkansas offers a rebate of up to 20% on all “qualified production costs in connection with the production of a state-certified film project.”

According to Kathryn Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Cinema Society, while that incentive, which the legislature passed in 2009, is helpful, it wasn’t funded, meaning the money comes from the governor’s Quick Action Closing, or rainy-day fund, which is not sustainable.

The new law, Act 797, keeps the current film rebate, but adds a tax credit incentive as an additional option, which Tucker says will allow the state to earn money from productions that wouldn’t have been based in Arkansas otherwise.

NEWS07

:26

“...first place”

“So a movie comes in and brings in \$40 of tax revenue. So then basically what the state is saying is, ‘Thank you for that \$40 of tax revenue, you don’t owe us \$30 of that later.’ So then the state is essentially still netting \$10 and it’s money that wasn’t there to begin with if the film hadn’t shot there in the first place,” Tucker said.

Under the law, the tax credit caps at four million dollars annually, and does not allow the state’s Economic Development Commission to approve applications for credits beyond that.

The law is slated to take effect in the summer, 90 days after the legislature began their long recess last week.

Filmmakers and producers in Arkansas hope a newly passed law creating a new tax credit for film productions in the state will bring greater opportunities for those in the film industry who want to work in Arkansas.

Act 797, in addition to keeping the current rebate program, also establishes a transferrable tax credit for productions in the state. The law also creates a new incentive for hiring and employing veterans to work on productions.

The new incentive is similar to tax credits offered in other states such as Georgia and Oklahoma.

Christina McLarty Arquette, a producer and board member of the Arkansas Cinema Society, spoke on how this new tax credit will help filmmakers wanting to film and produce their work in Arkansas.

NEWS08

:22

“...exciting to us”

“It streamlines a lot of things for filmmakers. It helps support filmmakers run and sustain and keep and grow jobs in Arkansas. When a film cuts production, it’s not just the actors and the cast. It’s all sorts of folks from hairdressers to electricians to carpenters and building sets. So this kind of halo effect of the amount of jobs it creates per production is really exciting to us,” Arquette said.

The bill had almost unanimous support from the legislature, passing 87-2 in the House and 33-0 in the Senate. It is set to take effect in the summer, 90 days after the legislature recessed last week.

A new Arkansas law passed by the legislature with little dissent and signed by the governor in April creates a new tax incentive for the film industry in Arkansas.

KUAR's Sarah Kellogg spoke with Kathryn Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Cinema Society and Christina McLarty Arquette, producer and board member of the Arkansas Cinema Society about the new credit and how they hope it will bring more film projects to the Natural State. Kathryn Tucker is the first interviewee to speak.

NEWS06

6:58

"...in the state"

That was Kathryn Tucker and Christina McLarty Arquette from the Arkansas Cinema Society speaking on a new law providing a tax credit for the film industry in Arkansas

COVID-Wed RE

MEH

5/5 (Wed PM & Thurs AM)

Just under 300 new cases of people testing positive for COVID-19 were reported today (Wed) in Arkansas. Active cases were up by about a hundred, with the Department of Health saying the total is now at 21-hundred-52. Two additional death were also reported – one confirmed from COVID-19, the other probable. Governor Asa Hutchinson said in a statement the numbers are similar to last week and a continuation of a trend seen for weeks with lower cases compared to the first few months of the year.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — It's not unusual for rocks and other debris to crash through a windshield and injure a driver or passenger —

A 71-year-old woman riding with her daughter on Florida's Interstate 95 suffered a gashed forehead Wednesday when an object smashed through the windshield of their car, striking her, the Daytona Beach News-Journal reports.

The daughter pulled over and got help from another motorist. According to a 911 recording

The gash drew a lot of blood, but the woman was not seriously hurt.

"I swear to God this lady has the worst luck of anything," the daughter told the 911 operator as she tended to her injured mother.

A man who had stopped to offer help to the two looked in the car and was surprised by what he found.

"There is a turtle in there," the man can be overheard saying.

"A turtle!" the daughter exclaimed. "An actual turtle?"

The turtle was likely crossing the interstate and got knocked into the air by another vehicle.

The turtle, on the other hand, had the best luck of anything — it just had a few scratches on its shell and was released back into the nearby woods, Port Orange police officer Andre Fleming said.

TEXARKANA, Texas — A man accused of waving an air pistol last month as he ran through a local hospital, pulling a fire alarm and knocking computers askew, had allegedly jumped from a moving car shortly before.

Donte Keshad Henderson, 24, allegedly caused Wadley Regional Medical Center hospital near downtown Texarkana to lock down with a possible active shooter after he entered through the emergency room doors the evening of April 25, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Henderson allegedly told police he was "running from people with firearms" and that "God had lied to him about being someone who was going to change the world."

Details about what may have triggered Henderson's alleged rampage came to light after a woman called police with information. She told officers she is a friend of Henderson's and was giving him a ride. Also in the car were her husband and 10-year-old son.

The woman reported that her husband showed Henderson a black "airsoft gun" that Henderson took from her husband. The woman said her husband then pulled out a red airsoft gun to show Henderson which led him to "freak out" and leap out of her car, with the black air pistol in his possession. The guns shoot pellets and are not genuine firearms.

The woman said she followed Henderson to the hospital and dropped off the backpack he'd left in her car at the ER entrance.

Henderson has been charged with a felony, false alarm or report of emergency, for allegedly pulling the hospital fire alarm. If convicted, Henderson faces six months to two years in a state jail or a term of probation.

A misdemeanor charge of interference with public duties is pending against Henderson as well.

Henderson is currently being held in the Bowie County jail with bails totaling \$35,000.

TEXARKANA — Family and friends of a severely injured toddler are trying to raise funds for his mother while she stays with the child in a Dallas hospital.

Blake, 2, was taken to a Dallas hospital on April 22. He remains in intensive care with a brain bleed, said his aunt Kaylee Ball.

Blake's mother Madison Ball is from Texarkana but Blake was with his stepfather in Dallas when he was injured, Ball said.

Kaylee Ball has started a GoFundMe account to help her sister with expenses.

"She isn't working because she is at the hospital with her baby boy. I know she will not ask for help because she is so independent but I will ask for her because I know she needs it," Kaylee Ball said.

To donate, visit the GoFundMe account on Kaylee Ball's Facebook page or at [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com).

A live event fundraiser for Blake and his family will be from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Smoke Point, a restaurant located at 5309 N. State Line Ave.

There will be a bake sale with money going to Blake's family and a portion of Smoke Point's sales will also go to the family, said Owner Brian Ogburn said.

The fundraiser is being organized by Smoke Point and Brothers Keepers Motorcycle Club.

"We wanted to put something together and help the family out," Ogburn said. "It hits a nerve when it's such a small child," he said.

Blake's stepfather, Charles Edwin Brooks Jr., 29, of Atlanta and Dallas, was arrested Monday in Dallas on a charge of injury to a child with intent to cause severe bodily injury and serious mental deficiency or impairment, according to law enforcement.

Gov 1-Revenue

MEH

5/04 (Tues PM & Wed AM)

Arkansas tax revenue continues coming in above forecast, with a state surplus growing for the fiscal year that ends next month. Governor Asa Hutchinson touted the latest revenue report today (Tues) as a strong indicator of the state economy.

News15 0:22 “...the latest extent.”

Net revenue for April totaled \$780 million dollars, which was \$242 million above the same month last year and nearly \$167 million more than was forecast. The fiscal year that began last July now totals nearly \$5.5 billion. That’s more than \$651 million more than the state reported at the same time a year ago.

Proposal Deferred – 1

DM/

5/4

Wed AM

The board of directors for the City of Little of Rock will wait another week to approve or deny a special election for a proposed sales tax increase. During yesterday's (Tuesday's) board meeting, Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. reviewed changes made to proposal based on feedback from board members.

NEWS20 0:19 "...to 73,750,000."

The mayor would like to put a permanent one-cent sales tax increase before the voters during a special election in July. Lack of support by the board has prevented a decision. The mayor said further changes to the proposal could be made before another special called meeting next Tuesday.

Proposal Deferred – 2

DM/

5/4

Wed AM

The decision of whether to hold a special election in July for a proposed sales tax increase in the city of Little Rock will wait at least another week. Yesterday (Tuesday), Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. deferred a vote to give the board members time to respond to changes made to the

NEWS21 0:08 "...community-oriented policing."

During last week's meeting, Vice Mayor Lance Hines said he would not support a proposal that did not include funding for community-oriented policing. The amounts proposed for funding for early childhood education and the zoo were decreased in the latest draft of the proposal. The board is scheduled to meet again next week to vote.

State agriculture regulators have again shifted the rules governing a controversial herbicide that has been blamed for widespread crop damage. Members of the Arkansas State Plant Board today (Mon) voted to change the cutoff date for spraying dicamba, which is used on genetically-modified cotton and soybeans, but has been blamed for thousands of complaints about damage to non-tolerant crops. It can now be sprayed legally in the state until the end of June, which is later than last year's May 25 cutoff. Dr. Dan Scheiman (SHY-men) with Audubon Arkansas said pro-dicamba farmers have systematically lobbied the Plant Board for looser regulations for years.

News01

0:22

"...who use dicamba."

Scheiman referenced a law passed by the legislature that now allows the governor and Senate to appoint Plant Board members, instead of industry groups. Crop consultant Tyler Hydrick spoke in favor of the later cutoff date, and against having more restrictive "buffer zones" around non-tolerant crops.

News02

0:12

"...absurd and asinine."

Members voted to require a quarter-mile buffer between fields sprayed with dicamba and non-tolerant crops, and a half-mile buffer for specialty and organic crops. Lawmakers will meet next week to finalize the rule change, which will then go to the governor for approval.

2021 Dicamba 2

DJB/MEH

5/3/21(MonPM/TuesAM)

Arkansas' agricultural regulatory agency has once again loosened restrictions on the controversial herbicide dicamba. The State Plant Board today (Mon) approved lengthening the cutoff date for spraying the chemical from May 25 to the end of June. That's despite research from the University of Arkansas showing the chemical can vaporize at higher temperatures, causing damage to non-tolerant plants. Harry Stephens, a farmer from Helena-West Helena, said cotton and soybean growers need the chemical to combat weeds that have become resistant to other herbicides.

News03

0:18

"...of dicamba though."

Attorney Richard Mays, who represents farmers who've received crop damage from dicamba, said the rule change did not follow proper procedure, since it goes against the findings of numerous studies.

News04

0:20

"...changing these rules."

Plant Board members had originally considered an even later spraying cutoff date of July 30th for cotton, but ultimately decided on the end of June cutoff for both cotton and soybeans. The rules now go to state lawmakers for approval.

LITTLE ROCK – Governor Asa Hutchinson provided today's update on Arkansas's COVID-19 response.

In its Monday update, the Arkansas Department of Health reported 61 new cases; 1,939 active cases; 172 hospitalized, which is up 1 from Sunday; 29 on ventilators, which is up 3 from Sunday; deaths added today, 4, for a total of 5,747; a total of 336,166 cases; PCR tests, 1,307; antigen tests, 106.

The Health Department reported that the top counties for new cases are Benton, 11; Pulaski, 9; and Faulkner, 8.

Governor Hutchinson released the following statement on today's COVID-19 numbers:

“Today's report shows a higher level of vaccinations than this time last week. Thanks to everyone for doing your part. We are continuing to monitor new cases and variants across the state, but the best way to prevent the spread is by getting vaccinated. Get your shot today.”

The state is expected to finish the fiscal year with a surplus of over \$600 million dollars. On Talk Business and Politics this week, Mervin Jebaraj (jeh-burr-audge) an economist with the Center for Business and Economic Research at the UA Walton College of Business, said he hopes some of the surplus will be devoted to supporting renters in Arkansas who are still struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.

NEWS20 0:16 “...moratorium is lifted.”

Last year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued the ban on evictions to curb the spread of COVID-19. The federal moratorium is set to expire at the end of June. The CARES act, passed by congress over a year ago, offers legal protection to some renters in Arkansas.

Experts in Arkansas are predicting a drop in income for parts of the state in response to legislation passed this session. This week on Talk Business Politics and politics, economist Mervin Jebaraj (jeh-burr-audge) with the U of A Walton College of Business, said northwest Arkansas is expected to lose millions of dollars if collegiate baseball playoffs are moved outside the state.

NEWS21 0:21 “...outside the region.”

The NCAA superregionals are held annually to determine the eight teams that will compete in the College World Series. Last month the NCAA issued a statement supporting transgender athletes in response to legislation proposed in Arkansas and over 20 other states. In March Governor Asa Hutchinson signed a law banning transgender women and girls from participating in women’s sports. Sites for this year’s superregionals are set to be announced next week.

KUAF Queer Camp

JF/DM

5/3 - HOLD

Good Shepherd Lutheran church in northwest Arkansas is hosting a summer camp for LGBTQ youth and families in response to recent legislation. Jacqueline, from partner station KUAF in Fayetteville has more.

NEWS23 4:14 ABRUPT OUTCUE. "...in the south. I'm Jacqueline Froehlich."

Customers were outraged over an in-store advert in Truro grocery in England

Sainsbury's has been forced to apologize after customers in Cornwall complained it had used a photo

The image featured on an in-store advert for [Sainsbury's](#) bakery section at a branch in Truro.

But local customers were outraged and decided to complain

People in [Cornwall](#) serve this food differently than those in [Devon](#).

Cornwall argues one way while people across the border in Devon argue another way

Andreas Drosiadis, who runs the Mediterraneo Deli in Truro, posted a picture of the advert online with the caption: "How did this happen?"

The 48-year-old said: "England is a country with strong local traditions that shape our everyday life.

When his local newspaper tweeted about the story, it addressed Sainsbury's directly, writing: "Sainsbury's what's this?"

They also pointed out that according to Cornish tradition, this item only requires butter .

The cheek of it! Do you think this is acceptable?," they posted.

A Sainsbury's spokesperson quickly replied saying: "An imposter! Which store did you see this please? We'll have a word with them about this blasphemy!" Its Blasphemy

When they discovered the location of the advert, they added: "That'll never do at all Truro! I've logged some feedback to the

TEXARKANA, TEXAS — A Texas High School crossing guard received minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Summerhill Road about 8:15 a.m. Monday.

The 21-year-old crossing guard had stopped northbound traffic to let a GMC Yukon out of a business parking lot that is directly across the street from the high school, said Shawn Vaughn, spokesman for TTPD.

When the driver of the Yukon realized that traffic had stopped, he proceeded to turn left.

But an 18 wheeler was stopped in the outside northbound lane of Summerhill Road.

Preliminary information indicates the driver of the Yukon could not see the crossing guard while making the left turn because of the 18 wheeler.

The crossing guard was taken to CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital with what appeared to be only minor injuries. No citations were issued

Travelers Vaccine 1

AB/MEH 04/30/21 (FriPM & SatAM)

People who attend an Arkansas Travelers game next week will have the opportunity to get vaccinated for COVID-19. The Arkansas Medical Society will administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the Dickey-Stephens Park next Tuesday to those who are 16 and older. This comes after Governor Asa Hutchinson challenged the Department of Health and other organizations to make the vaccine accessible to areas that are harder to reach. Arkansas Medical Society spokesperson Laura Haywood says the event will inform people how vital it is to get a vaccine.

News11

0:25

“...to be good.”

Arkansas resumed administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week after reports of six women developing unusual blood clots after getting it. While Haywood understands some people are hesitant to get it, she says the physicians are confident the vaccine is safe and effective. The event starts Tuesday evening at 6:10 and people should bring a photo ID and health insurance cards to receive the vaccine.

Travelers Vaccine 2

AB/MEH 04/30/21 (FriPM & SatAM)

People attending the Arkansas Travelers baseball game next Tuesday will have the opportunity to get vaccinated for COVID-19. The Arkansas Medical Society will administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Dickey-Stephens Park to people 16 and older. After reports of people receiving unusual blood clots from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the state resumed administering it this week. Laura Haywood, a spokesperson for the Arkansas Medical Society, says the physicians are confident the vaccine is safe and effective.

News12

0:16

“...can ease those.”

People should bring their photo ID and health insurance cards to get the vaccine. The event starts Tuesday evening at 6:10.

TEXARKANA, Ark. — A new Texarkana non-profit is supporting local law enforcement with a golf tournament later this month.

Beyond the Badge Golf Tournament will start at 1 p.m. May 14 at New Haven Golf Club, 2321 Line Ferry Road. To register, contact New Haven at 870-774-5771.

The tournament is a four-man scramble. Entry fees are \$300 a team.

Prizes will be given for first, second and third place. There will also be long drive prizes, door prizes and a raffle.

The mission of Beyond the Badge is to support law enforcement officers and their families in Miller and Bowie counties.

Bredenberg's husband is a Texarkana, Texas, police officer and many of her friends are in law enforcement.

The golf tournament will be the group's first public event.

(For more information, call 903-417-5114 or email beyondthebadgetxk@gmail.com.)

Texarkana Main Street program recognized by national organization

TEXARKANA — Main Street Texarkana has just received formal recognition from the national Main Street organization. According to Main Street Texarkana Executive Director Ina McDowell, this process has to be done annually. "The Main Street national organization sets the pattern that the Main Street state and level organizations follow in their efforts to revitalize their downtowns," McDowell said. "We all follow a four point approach in our efforts, which we log and send to the state level organizations. They in turn send the recommendation to the national level."

Main Street Texarkana, being a bi-state organization, has to go through this process for both Texas and Arkansas. The four points evaluated include:

The organization's efforts in promoting downtown.

Demonstrations of the organization's structure and support.

Design, that is, that buildings downtown follow the national organization's recommendation for presentation of historic downtowns.

Economic vitality, encouraging retention and growth of business activity.

"To be a Main Street Community, we have to be accredited under this organization," McDowell said. "This puts in place a continuous formal procedure for downtown revitalization. We also continue to be eligible for grants and resources which are put towards downtown revitalization."

Texarkana held up throughout the challenges of 2020; downtown was no exception.

"We remained strong through last year," McDowell said. "We were very fortunate. Things look good for this year as well. Downtown Live was great, with people showing up despite the rain. That bodes well for the rest of the year."

Bougie's 'Requiem' finalist for national composition prize

TEXARKANA — Local conductor and music director Marc-Andre Bougie's 2020 pandemic project of a requiem mass is now a finalist for a national performing arts competition.

Bougie was announced Thursday as a finalist for the American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts by David Volosin Katz, the founder and chief judge.

Specifically, Bougie is a finalist for the professional division of the American Prize in Composition — Major Choral Works. He's one of 16 finalists for the honors.

Bougie is music director and conductor for the Texarkana Regional Chorale and associate professor of music at Texarkana College.

"I am thankful that the 'Requiem' will get national attention, and that this honor might further potential performances of it in various parts of the country. A composer's dream is always to have his/her music gain a life of its own, and for the music to be heard, felt and enjoyed by as many listeners as possible," Bougie said. "I'm looking forward to knowing about who the winner will be in these next few weeks, but in the meantime, I will keep on composing and working with student composers through my work at Texarkana College, and preparing for the Carnegie Hall premiere of the 'Requiem' in March 2022."

Bougie also serves as a board member of the Conductor's Guild and music director at Sacred Heart Catholic Church here in Texarkana.

The composer premiered the composition at Sacred Heart last summer as part of a Latin requiem mass. His requiem uses a solo soprano, solo baritone, flute, clarinet, French horn, trumpet, timpani and strings.

For Bougie, his passion for composing returned last year, he explained in a 2020 Gazette article, so he worked methodically on this composition.

Bougie said last year about composing the work, "I spent a lot of time this last spring, reading, meditating, praying, trying to make sense of this situation. The