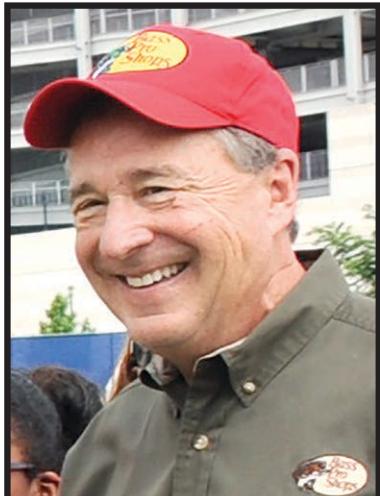


2020 Year in Review



Dunkin' Donuts coming to Harrison
page 17



Johnny Morris, CEO,
Bass Pro Shops,
purchases Dogpatch USA
page 16



Chuck & Crystal Osterhout, page 19

8 Years in Business



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HARRISON DAILY TIMES

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

The dawn of a new year is a great time to look ahead and make plans for the future, but it's also a great time to reflect on the previous 12 months.

The following are some notable events from 2020:

1. COVID-19 dominated 2020
2. \$18 fee for Nabors Landfill no longer collected
3. Chuck and Crystal Osterhout win \$1 million with Publishers Clearing House
4. Black Lives Matter protests remain peaceful
5. Bank robbers (Lead Hill Arvest Bank) sentenced to federal prison
6. Diamond City mayor recalled; new mayor sworn in
7. Johnny Morris buys Dogpatch
8. C&H Hog Farm in Mt. Judea closed
9. Harrison Junior High School sold to city
10. Alpena mayor not qualified, new mayor named

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Year in Review

JANUARY

► JANUARY 4

WORK MOVING ON JAIL ADDITION

Work has started on the addition to the Boone County Jail with Davis Construction in charge. Architect Byron Emas told the Boone County Quorum Court that bids were received from two contractors for the project. The low bid was from L.E. Davis Construction, Inc. of Harrison at \$1,756,041. The second was from Shields and Associates, Inc. of Little Rock at \$1,799,000.

The quorum court had appropriated \$1.5 million from the Jail Sales Tax Fund to meet Sheriff Mike Moore's request to add 10 isolation cells and a 25-bed barracks section.

The project was originally estimated to cost between \$1.37 million and \$1.5 million. That would be between \$350 and \$400 per square foot, the architect said. Based on the bids the cost per square foot would be about \$474.

Some reasons for costs to be higher than anticipated could be that tariffs raised prices for materials, or subcontractors had plenty of work at the time, Emas said.

But Justice of the Peace Bryan Snavely, chairman of the Jail Committee, encouraged the Finance and Budget Committee members to accept the low bid, appropriate the additional money and build the jail addition as planned, saying the jail is needed for the safety of the county's citizens. The project would then be capped by the \$1.75 million bid from Davis Construction.

► JANUARY 7

STATE ANNOUNCES HOG FARM CLOSURE

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Arkansas officials announced that the closure of a hog farm near the Buffalo River has been completed, months after striking a deal with the facility's owners.

Arkansas Parks, Heritage and Tourism Secretary Stacy Hurst announced that the terms of the state's agreement with the owners of C&H Hog Farms Inc. are complete. The shuttered hog farm's owners have received \$6.2 million in state and private funds that was held in escrow since last Augustust and the state in return now holds a conservation easement for the property.

Under the agreement, the state will be responsible for the closure of the waste ponds at the property. Waste from the hogs was stored in those ponds and later spread on approved pastureland. Environmentalists feared waste could leak into nearby Big Creek, a tributary of the Buffalo National River.

C&H had applied for renewal of its permit to operate the liquid animal waste management system, but the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality denied the permit in January 2018.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson in June announced the settlement with the 6,500-hog farm in Vendor, about 95 miles northwest of Little Rock, which had been the source of controversy since it was permitted several years ago. The Nature Conservancy provided \$1 million of the funding.

► JANUARY 15

FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK IN PROGRESS

ST. JOE — The Ozark Mountain School District has begun transitioning to a four-day school week that will begin at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The rural consolidated school district has campuses at St. Joe in Searcy County; Western Grove in Newton County and Bruno-Pratt in Marion County.

Superintendent Kerry Saylor reported the results from employee and student surveys, for which 70% of students and 89% of employees were in favor of the four-day week.

The three-day-weekend will be Saturday, Sunday and Monday. "No more Mondays," Saylor said.

Having Mondays off won't interfere with basketball games as they are

scheduled on Tuesday's and later in the week, he said.

Class days will go from eight periods per day to seven periods per day with each period being expanded to a full hour of instruction time. This will benefit classes that have laboratory sessions. Core classes will have 30 minutes more instruction time per week. Students riding buses will have to make adjustments, the superintendent admitted.

► JANUARY 16

GOVERNOR HONORS RUBY KATE CHITSEY

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson made a special stop at Hillcrest Nursing Home for a chance to meet with Ruby Kate Chitsey to honor her work on behalf of senior citizens.

Ruby Kate, 12, is the founder of Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents. She started the organization by visiting with nursing home residents and asking them what three things they would want if they had three wishes. Many of those residents have very little money and she thought they might ask for exorbitant gifts, but she soon found out they only wanted simple things.

She has since been nationally and even internationally honored for her efforts that have helped more than 1.5 million seniors.

Ruby Kate also has a board supporting her, including Sawyer Hartman, Leo Gaeta and her brother, Olive, all of whom are 10 years old.

Hutchinson presented Ruby Kate with a certificate of recognition and appreciation. The governor also gave Ruby Kate and her organization an envelope of money he said he had collected.

► JANUARY 18

NORTHARK GETS \$37,500 ARTS GRANT

North Arkansas College has announced the Northark Arts Initiative which will expand art offerings through the end of December 2020. The Initiative is funded by a grant from the Windgate Charitable Foundation and will unfold in three phases over the next several years, with the recent grant award supporting the Phase I.

According to Northark public relations and marketing director Micki Somers, Phase I, Cultivating Relationships, focuses on raising the visibility of the arts across disciplines and age groups, strengthening the creative arts community at Northark, incorporating the arts more fully into the curriculum, and integrating these programs into the wider community through community outreach.

Additionally, Phase I of the initiative will include a wide range of extra-curricular offerings for students, art classes for high school students throughout the region, presentations at Northark and at high schools, integrating the arts into other areas of study by building curriculum across disciplines, presenting art shows and competitions at Northark and cultivating relationships with other art resources in the region.

Phase II expands art programs established in Phase I while building interdisciplinary studies relating to the arts and increasing options for transfer credits to serve university transfer students.

Phase III adds degree programs in the art disciplines. This phase continues expanding studio art facilities and adds classes, developing a two-year Fine Arts degree and provides transfer classes for other art-related career paths such as art therapy and art conservation while also building education programs in fine craft disciplines such as blacksmithing, furniture design and ceramics.

► JANUARY 31

ARRESTS MADE IN BANK ROBBERY

LEAD HILL — Boone County Sheriff Mike Moore said a 29-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman were arrested in connection with the reported robbery of the Arvest Bank branch in Lead Hill. Moore said his office was notified of a robbery in progress at the bank. Witnesses said the suspects were seen leaving the area in a small silver four door car, unknown make and model.

Officers with the Boone County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas State Police and the Taney County (Missouri) Sheriff's Office located the suspect vehicle on Stonington Road near the Missouri state line. David Powers, 29, and Lori Stilley, 42, were taken into custody and all money stolen from the bank was located in the vehicle, Moore said.

The pair face charges of aggravated robbery and possession of metham-

"JANUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 4

"JANUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 3

phetamine.

► JANUARY 31

JUVENILES ARRESTED IN FATAL SHOOTING

Boone County Sheriff Mike Moore said two juvenile males were in custody in connection with a fatal shooting in the Omaha area.

Deputies arrived at the scene to find a deceased female subject, who wasn't identified, and two juvenile males inside the residence. Moore said the original information on the call was that a masked man shot the woman, but that information was later found to be completely unfounded.

Moore said the juveniles were the adopted children of the victim and they all lived in the residence.

Investigators are working in conjunction with the 14th Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office to determine what charges will be filed in this case.

► FEBRUARY 5

DOGPATCH SET TO BE AUCTIONED

Newton County Circuit Court has ordered the public auction of portions of lands at Marble Falls. Legal description of the property indicates it is part of what was formerly known as Dogpatch USA. The auction will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, on the steps of the Newton County Courthouse.

The sale comes upon the mortgage foreclosure civil action taken by plaintiffs Stewart Nance, John Pruitt Nance and Gregory Brent Baber against defendants Great American Spillproof Product, Inc., James Robertson and Susan Robertson and David "Shawn" Smith.

The plaintiffs are seeking to recover \$1,031,885.27 comprised of the principal amount sued upon, interest, attorney fees and costs in the sum of \$94,069.39 for its debt and damages.

Documents state the defendant executed a promissory note payable to the plaintiffs dated August 13, 2014, in the original principal amount of \$1 million, payable in monthly payments of \$6,599.56, beginning Sept. 13, 2014, until August 13, 2019, when a balloon payment for the entire unpaid principal and accrued interest shall be fully due and payable. The promissory note is past due and has been accruing interest at the rate of \$121.11 per day.

Year in Review

FEBRUARY

► FEBRUARY 4

NARMC, NURSE SUED OVER ER INCIDENT

A Jasper woman has filed a lawsuit against North Arkansas Regional Medical Center for negligence and a hospital nurse for allegedly sexually assaulting her at the hospital.

Leticia Cummings filed the suit against the hospital and 29-year-old Toby Olen Cordova regarding an incident alleged to have taken place about a year ago.

Cummings alleges that she was taken to NARMC by her husband, Larry, on February 1, 2019, to be treated for psychiatric symptoms and severe panic attacks.

The suit claims Cummings was "in a very fragile mental state" on arrival and placed in the care of Cordova. She was given antidepressants and sedatives and left in a room with her husband.

The suit said that after the drugs were administered, Cordova stepped out of the room and told another NARMC employee that he was going to administer an EKG, that he was going to "lift up her shirt, put some stickers on her breasts and ask her if she wants me to continue." The other employee allegedly asked him not to do what he threatened, but didn't immediately report it to a supervisor or police.

The suit alleges that Cordova went back in Cummings' room and asked

her husband to leave, then "fondled Leticia Cummings' breasts and forced her to place her hand on his exposed penis."

Cummings filed a complaint with Harrison Police regarding the incident. Online court records show he was charged with second-degree sexual assault in the case and is scheduled to appear for jury trial in late April 2020.

The suit alleges NARMC was negligent in not doing the appropriate background checks before hiring Cordova. Cummings maintains that a simple internet search would have turned up a 2011 incident.

In a statement, NARMC said neither Cordova or the other employee describe in the suit are still employed at the hospital.

► FEBRUARY 14

FORMER MAYOR'S CHARGES STAND; TRIAL SET

Jan Hudson, former Diamond City mayor, had asked Boone County Circuit Judge Gordon Webb to dismiss theft charges against her, but Webb ruled this week the charges will stand.

Hudson surrendered to Arkansas State Police in May 2018 on an arrest warrant for a single charge of theft of property, a class D felony. She was released the same day after posting \$1,500 bond, records show.

However, Nancy L. Mathis, Harrison lawyer representing Hudson, filed a motion to dismiss charges against Hudson in late September 2019. Her motion said formal charges were never filed against Hudson and the speedy trial statute had long since run.

According to an arrest affidavit by Arkansas State Police Special Agent Buster Rinks, a concerned citizen notified state police of suspicious spending by Hudson in June 2017. She had been the Diamond City Community Center Fund treasurer at the same time she was still mayor until Dec. 31, 2016.

An audit was requested and it showed Hudson had paid herself \$1,250 for cleaning the community center, all the while the fund had established and paid out \$400 a month to other individuals for cleaning, the affidavit said.

Auditors found a check written for \$500 out of the fund for a bass tournament entry fee, the affidavit said, along with \$1,400 paid for a truck Hudson transferred to her brother, who was also the one being paid for cleaning.

► FEBRUARY 11

JUVENILE FACES MURDER CHARGE IN DOUBLE STABBING

Boone County Sheriff Mike Moore said a 14-year-old boy is facing murder and attempted murder charges in a stabbing incident last Friday morning.

According to Moore, deputies were dispatched to a residence on Edwin Mac Road regarding the stabbing incident.

Moore said deputies arrived on scene to find 16-year-old Cloud Knight suffered a single stab wound and his mother, Susan Knight, had been stabbed multiple times.

Deputies and EMS on scene attempted lifesaving measures for Cloud Knight, but he was later pronounced deceased, Moore said. Susan Knight was taken to Cox Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri, for treatment and was in "stable" condition.

Moore said Susan Knight's 14-year-old son is believed to be the sole suspect. He was being held Tuesday in a juvenile detention facility in Bentonville and faces first-degree murder and attempted murder charges.

► FEBRUARY 11

OPTIONS AIRED FOR CREEK/LAKE PLAN

The Harrison City Council has some options to consider before approving removal of the weir that forms Lake Harrison and recreating free-flowing Crooked Creek.

Last year the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and The Nature Conservancy conducted a survey and collected data for the analysis for the Crooked Creek project's conceptual plan. The partners shared the \$35,100 in costs for the analysis, AGFC assistant fisheries division chief Darrell Bowman said.

Joy Wasson of the Nature Conservancy said options include repairing and maintaining the weir and the lake over the foreseeable future; investigating the removal of the dam with the assistance of the partnership; or contracting the work to an outside engineering firm. The partnership shows to be

"FEBRUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 5

"FEBRUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 4

the best option to meet stated objectives due to combine expertise, shared costs, lower short-term and long-term expenses for maintenance and lower risks for drowning and dam failure. But it would be a long process, Wasson pointed out. Contracting an outside firm would have higher costs for the city because of all of the specialized contractors that would be involved, though the time for completion might be shorter.

Wasson explained the 30% design being proposed by the partnership will give city officials more accurate cost estimates. It also provides options that can be taken to the public for input. If it is decided to proceed, then the city could move forward with its plans for parks and trails to complement the overall design.

► FEBRUARY 17

MAN ARRESTED AFTER HAMPTON INN STANDOFF

Harrison Police say a Washington man was arrested after a disturbance and standoff with police at the Hampton Inn.

An HPD daily log shows a 911 dispatcher reported receiving more than one call from a male subject asking to speak to his uncle, his lawyer and the FBI. The dispatcher said the subject was also creating a disturbance at the motel front desk.

The man, later identified as Evan Michael Essig, 36, whose booking information shows a Bremerton, Washington, address, barricaded himself in an upper room of the Hampton Inn as the HPD's Special Operations Team responded with other officers.

HPD Captain Shane Reece said negotiators began trying to make contact with Essig, who refused to have any meaningful dialogue with negotiators or to come out of the room.

Reece said Essig set small fires in the room and set off the sprinkler system. Police applied for and received a search warrant for the room.

Team members were able to breech the door with a battering ram. The initial plan was to send a canine unit into the room, but Essig allegedly deployed a barrage of pepper spray as soon as the door cracked open. A Newton County deputy and canine unit suffered that pepper spray.

Reece said Essig had piled all furniture in the room against the door. Team members then used an alternate method to take the door down at the hinges.

Essig had broken a window in the room among the other substantial damage to the motel. When officers made entry, Essig then retreated to the bathroom, Reece said.

► FEBRUARY 17

WOMAN KILLED, FOUR HURT IN CRASH

GAITHER MOUNTAIN — Arkansas State Police say a woman from Clarksville was killed and four other individuals, two of whom were juveniles, were hurt in a one-vehicle wreck.

According to a report by Trooper Josh A. Valentin, Ludgerio Elizondo, 38, of Clarksville was northbound on state Highway 43 in a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox.

Fatima Moro, 32, and Veronica Moro, 55, both of Clarksville and two unidentified minors were passengers in the vehicle, the report said.

The report said the vehicle exited the eastbound side of the highway and struck a tree with the passenger side front.

Fatima Moro was killed in the crash, the report said, while the others in the vehicle suffered injuries and were taken by ambulance to North Arkansas Regional Medical Center.

► FEBRUARY 19

FORMAL BANK ROBBERY CHARGES FILED

Formal charges were filed against the man and woman suspected in the Jan. 30, 2020, robbery of the Arvest Bank branch in Lead Hill.

David Ray Powers, 28, was charged Tuesday as a habitual offender with aggravated robbery, possession of a defaced firearm, possession of firearms by certain persons and possession of methamphetamine, while Lori Jo Stilley, 41, was charged with accomplice to aggravated robbery, possession of a defaced firearm and possession of methamphetamine, online court records show. Both are from Marshfield, Missouri.

According to an arrest affidavit, a white male subject with some type

of paint on his face and arms entered the bank that afternoon and put a handwritten note on a bank employee's desk demanding money and stating he had a gun.

The employee then went to the drive through teller drawer and took money totaling \$1,387 — including two \$50 bills with recorded serial numbers known as "bait money" — in a bank bag. The suspect then took the bag and left the bank through the front door.

Boone County Sheriff's Investigator Sgt. Brent Jones obtained security surveillance snapshots of the suspect and of what appeared to be the suspect leaving the area in a vehicle parked outside the neighboring U.S. Post Office.

A search of the vehicle they were in turned up the \$1,387, including the bait money, and a pistol with the serial number obscured, the affidavit said. Methamphetamine was found on Stilley's person when she was taken to the Boone County Jail.

► FEBRUARY 26

DOGPATCH AUCTION POSTPONED

JASPER — A motion to cancel the foreclosure sale of the former Dogpatch USA property was filed Tuesday, February. 25, 2020, in Newton County Circuit Court.

Court filings show that the foreclosure sale was set for March 3, 2020, but circumstances have arisen which makes it in the interest of all parties that the date be cancelled, subject to reschedule by the plaintiff in order to attempt to obtain the highest and best price for the property.

Reports surfaced that the plaintiffs have found a buyer for the property.

The announced sale came upon the mortgage foreclosure civil action taken by plaintiffs Stewart Nance, John Pruitt Nance and Gregory Brent Baber against defendants Great American Spillproof Product, Inc., James Robertson and Susan Robertson, and David "Shawn" Smith.

The abandoned theme park is under contract to be sold to a "solid buyer," said Stewart Nance of Eureka Springs, one of the mortgage holders, told

"FEBRUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 6

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"FEBRUARY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 5

the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Tuesday.

Nance said he couldn't reveal the buyer's name, but said the foreclosure auction has been postponed for two months pending contract negotiations with the buyer.

► FEBRUARY 27

CHARGES FILED IN HAMPTON INN INCIDENT

Formal charges have been filed in connection with a barricaded subject at Hampton Inn on February 14, 2020, and damages to the motel are estimated at \$100,000 or more, online court records show.

Evan Michael Essig, 36, of Bremerton, Washington, was formally charged Tuesday with arson, resisting arrest, first-degree terroristic threatening, first-degree criminal mischief and two counts of second-degree battery regarding the Valentine's Day event.

According an arrest affidavit in the case shows a 911 dispatcher reported receiving more than one call from a male subject, later identified as Essig, asking to speak to his uncle, his lawyer and the FBI. About the same time, a motel employee also called stating Essig had set off the fire alarm in Room No. 305.

Officers responded and found that the hallway outside the room was flooded when the alarm was activated. They tried to make contact with Essig, but he allegedly told officers he would shoot and kill them if they tried to enter the room, the affidavit said.

Negotiations with Essig failed and officers used a battering ram to attempt entry into the room. When the door was cracked open, Essig allegedly used pepper spray on a Newton County deputy and canine unit.

Officers determined Essig had started a fire in a trash can. That activated the sprinkler system, causing damage to three floors of the motel. Management estimated damage to be in excess of \$100,000, the affidavit said.

► FEBRUARY 29

\$10,000 OK'D FOR CREEK STUDY

The Harrison City Council appropriated \$10,000 to begin the formal first phase of removing the low water dam forming Lake Harrison and returning Crooked Creek to its natural channel.

In April 2019, the Harrison City Council voted to allow the AGFC's Stream Team to develop a design proposing that the weir be removed and the creek be restored to a free-flowing stream. AGFC officials said technology has improved other means of stream barriers since the time when low head dams, such as the weir, were built.

Officials conducted discovery surveys for a conceptual plan of the creek and said the next step is entering into a 30% engineering and design study. By doing so the council will get an idea of the cost and what it will look like. Funding is currently available through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Passage program to meet most, if not all, the costs involved in removing the weir as well as the low-water bridge below it because it is also a barrier to fish migration.

AGFC and other state and federal agencies formed the Arkansas Stream Heritage Partnership to work together to deal with removing dangerous low head dams and at the same time improve recreation and tourism opportunities as well as restore the biological functions of streams.

Year in Review

MARCH

► MARCH 5

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING DISCUSSED

The need for a new public safety building was mentioned several times by the Harrison city department heads and Mayor Jerry Jackson at the Elected Leadership Coffee held last week at the JPH Center and sponsored by the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Jackson said he hoped to be able to break ground on the new building by June 2020. An architect has been working on the design and a local construction company was awarded the bid for the project.

A 0.5% public safety tax was approved by voters in 2014 and the city has been saving money for the project. It will be built on five acres of land the city owns at Industrial Park Road across from Ozark Crossing where a city ball field is located.

Police Chief Chris Graddy and Jackson spoke about the safety issues with confiscated materials and the closets the detectives are sandwiched in for makeshift offices. The front wall of the fire department is bolted on after the downtown explosion in 1979. The current City Hall was built in 1951 and the space and technology are not available to move forward.

► MARCH 7

JUDGE: \$18 FEE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

BERRYVILLE — A circuit judge ruled Friday afternoon, March 6, 2020, that the \$18 fee charged to property owners for the NABORS landfill debacle was unconstitutional, but it's not quite over yet.

Carroll County Circuit Judge Scott Jackson ruled in favor of the plaintiff in a lawsuit regarding the fee, but he did say the fee will continue to be collected until the matter is appealed.

The lawsuit is one of six filed in the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District, which consists of Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties. Carroll County was part of the district when the \$18 fee was first ordered.

The bulk of the lawsuits are the same, but the plaintiffs are individual residents of each county. Fayetteville lawyers Matt Bishop and Wendy Howerton filed all six suits. The plaintiff in Carroll County is Paul Summers.

The fee is collected on all business and residential property owners in the district to pay off the bad debt after the district voted to default on revenue bond payments in 2012. The bondholders' trustee — Bank of the Ozarks (now Bank OZK) — filed suit against the district to collect the principle amount of the bonds for those bondholders.

Pulaski County Judge Tim Fox accepted a receiver's report which recommended the \$18 fee. That created a stir and lawsuits were filed.

► MARCH 10

BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

Boone County Sheriff Mike Moore told the Boone County Quorum Court that he will resign effective April 5, 2020, to accept a position with the state Department of Finance and Administration.

Moore said he was a candidate for regulatory administrator of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, Arkansas Tobacco Control, the Medical Marijuana Commission and the Racing Commission.

Moore told the Daily Times he had been contacted a couple of weeks ago to see if he wanted to interview for the position. He agreed and got word this week that his appointment was approved.

The quorum court's Law Enforcement Committee will now meet to discuss the appointee who will complete Moore's term, which expires Dec. 31, 2022.

► MARCH 12

FIRST COVID-19 CASE IN ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas recorded its first case of the new coronavirus, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

The person is from Pine Bluff and is currently in isolation at a hospital, he said. The governor also declared a public health emergency because of COVID-19, which has infected more than 1,000 people in the U.S. and killed at least 30.

The patient had traveled out of state recently but had no known international travel, Hutchinson said. Dr. Nathaniel Smith, state secretary of health, said officials will monitor any potential contacts the person had but said there's no evidence at this point of the patient spreading it in Pine Bluff or elsewhere in the state.

► MARCH 14

GOVERNOR CLOSES ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson said that public K-12 schools will be required to close beginning at least Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through the remainder of the week in response to the growing outbreak of coronavirus

"MARCH" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 7

"MARCH" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 6

diagnoses.

Hutchinson said, he has authorized public school superintendents to close campuses for on-site instruction. Then on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the closure of public schools statewide will be mandatory through the remainder of the coming week. Spring break will then follow and that will give staff at schools the chance to sanitize facilities to be prepared for the return to school afterward.

Hutchinson said Monday's closures will be up to local superintendents if their districts are prepared to close campuses. He added that can give parents a chance to make preparations for child care given the announcement on a Sunday afternoon.

Arkansas Department of Education secretary Johnny Key said some districts might be able to cancel classes beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, but some might need an additional day to allow parents to make arrangements. That would also allow teachers to prepare alternative method of instruction (AMI) packets or electronic devices to be sent home with students.

Key went on to say that many communities are readying for meal services to continue when classes are out, whether that be delivery of meals or the "grab-and-go" models in accordance with USDA policies.

► MARCH 14

NARMC RESTRICTS VISITORS

"Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our community and healthcare personnel, North Arkansas Regional Medical Center is restricting all visitors until further notice," the hospital announced.

"We take the health of our community and staff very seriously," COO and CNO Sammie Cribbs said. "Restricting visitors is one way we are trying to reduce the spread of viral illnesses. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause."

Special consideration will be given to obstetrics and individual patient needs on a case by case basis.

NARMC will continue to monitor this evolving situation and will evaluate our processes as we see how this situation impacts our community.

► MARCH 19

PURSUIT SUSPECT SUES POLICE FOR EXCESSIVE FORCE

A Springfield, Missouri, man arrested after a high-speed pursuit in September 2019 has filed a federal lawsuit against a Harrison Police officer alleging injuries from excessive force and a Boone County nurse for not providing medical care while he was in the Boone County Jail.

Christopher Carl Alberts filed the suit originally in November 2019, but the complaint was amended in December and the defendants were served with the suit earlier this month, online court records show.

Alberts is alleged to be the driver of a vehicle in a Sept. 20 pursuit that reached up to 100 mph on US 65 Bypass and Main Street.

A Harrison Police daily log shows Patrolman David Alkire initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle Alberts was driving at Highway 65 and Airport Road about 11:30 that night.

The driver fled on Airport Road, then onto Industrial Park Road, clocking speeds of about 100 mph at Goblin Drive and Forward Drive and sometimes in the wrong lane, the log shows.

The chase led southbound onto the Bypass still at high speeds. Police Chief Chris Graddy said the driver then turned onto Main Street at the south interchange.

At the bottom of Harrison Hill, the driver missed the curve and actually went into Minnie Harris Park, then came back out and onto Main Street before turning onto Lake Shore Drive heading west.

Graddy said the driver continued across South Pine Street and onto West South Avenue before Alkire applied pursuit intervention technique, or PIT, maneuver and the vehicle crashed out.

In the suit, Alberts alleges that police "repeatedly smashed my testicles," broke his foot, and slammed him head first to the ground and against a wall at the HPD, the suit says.

He alleges the injuries suffered during the arrest caused severe pain and resulted in blood in his stool and urine.

Aside from Alkire, Jody Woods, a nurse working at the Boone County Jail, has also been named as a defendant.

Albert claims he has been denied proper medical care and medication while incarcerated.

► MARCH 19

FOUR ARRESTED FOR PSYCHEDELIC MUSHROOMS

YELLVILLE — Marion County Sheriff Clinton Evans said four people were arrested this week in connection with psychedelic mushrooms.

Evans said Matthew R. Ribolzi, 31, and Ashley C. Marberry, 27, both of Flippin, face charges of possession of controlled substance, unlawful use of a communication device and possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to cultivate and grow.

Evans said Marion County investigators received information regarding illegal drug activity at the Flippin residence where Ribolzi and Marberry lived.

When investigators, along with Flippin Police, went to that residence Tuesday, Marberry allegedly told them that narcotics were in the bedroom, Evans said.

Marberry granted consent to search the residence and Investigators discovered a large box that contained 2.6 pounds of marijuana wax and 148 marijuana THC cartridges.

Marijuana wax is a concentrated form of THC, while THC cartridges are used in vaping devices.

Psilocybin mushroom spores, antibiotics, scales and material to package illegal narcotics were located inside as well, Evans said. Located inside the garage were multiple jars containing fungi that were labeled with different names and resembled a grow operation of psilocybin mushrooms.

► MARCH 21

BOONE VIRUS CASE POSSIBLY FROM TRAVEL

Arkansas Department of Health officials report the first patient with coronavirus in Boone County is possibly related to travel, but no other information was released.

Harrison Mayor Jerry Jackson and Boone County Judge Robert Hathaway announced in a joint statement Thursday night, March 19, 2020, the first positive case.

Jackson said no additional information was released and the identity of the patient was confidential.

► MARCH 25

2 COVID-19 DEATHS IN ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK — The first two deaths in Arkansas from COVID-19 were reported Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

The Associated Press reported that Faulkner County's deputy coroner said a 91-year-old man died Tuesday morning, March 24, 2020, at a Conway hospital from COVID-19.

State Health Secretary Dr. Nathaniel Smith said the other death was a patient in their 50s in the central Arkansas area.

Smith said one of the victims did have underlying health issues while the main risk factor in the other was age. Neither was known to be travel

"MARCH" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 8

57 Years in Business

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► MARCH 26

BOONE COUNTY CHIEF DEPUTY NAMED NEW SHERIFF

The Boone County Quorum Court met in special session Tuesday, March 24, 2020, and appointed Boone County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Tim Roberson to fulfill Sheriff Mike Moore's term.

Justices of the peace met in executive session for about 10 minutes before returning to open session to unanimously approve the appointment.

The other two candidates were former Boone County coroner and Harrison Police Chief Wayne Cone and Andrew Jones.

Moore earlier this month announced his resignation effective April 5 in order to take a position with the state Department of Finance and Administration as the regulatory administrator of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, Arkansas Tobacco Control, the Medical Marijuana Commission and the Racing Commission.

Year in Review

APRIL

► APRIL 2

TWO ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH MAN'S DEATH

YELLVILLE — A 19-year-old male subject and his 63-year-old father were arrested Tuesday in connection with the death of a Marion County man, Marion County Sheriff Clinton Evans said.

According to Evans, Marion County authorities received a 911 call from an individual who found a body while walking to check mail Thursday afternoon, March 26.

Deputies, investigators and Arkansas State Police responded and found the body lying beside a motorcycle in a field. Evans said the victim, later identified as 49-year-old Jerry Don Hensley, appeared to have suffered two gunshot wounds. The body was sent to the state Crime Lab to determine the exact cause of death.

Evans said Caleb W. Nance, 19, faces charges of first-degree murder, tampering with physical evidence and disorderly conduct with bond set at \$1,000,500.

Caleb's father, William Dean Nance, 63, faces charges of tampering with physical evidence, obstructing governmental operations and hindering apprehension or prosecution with bond set at \$50,000.

► APRIL 7

SCHOOLS OUT FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced Monday that public schools will be closed for on-site classes for the remainder of the current school year.

In mid-March, the governor ordered public schools closed for two weeks, then the date was extended to April 17.

While applauding students and teachers for the effort to keep up with schoolwork through alternate methods of instruction, or AMI, Hutchinson said the remainder of the school year will see on-site classes at public schools closed.

State Education Secretary Johnny Key said PBS television had made plans to broadcast AMI classes through April 17, along with a contingency to continue through May 1.

Key said that should give teachers and staff the opportunity to finish AMI packets ready for students for the rest of the year.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will begin work to help some school district increase internet connectivity for online educations as well, Key said.

Food service with meals delivered to students or the grab-and-go meals will continue as long as districts can follow Arkansas Department of Health directives geared toward limiting the number of people working together.

School seniors who were in good standing at the end of the third nine-week period will be eligible to graduate, but they will be expected to finish all necessary work under AMI, he said.

► APRIL 14

PACE INDUSTRIES SEEKS CHAPTER 11 PROTECTION

FAYETTEVILLE — The COVID-19 outbreak has led to a bankruptcy filing by one of the leading employers in Harrison.

Pace Industries, LLC announced that it has reached an agreement with its senior secured lenders on the terms of a comprehensive financial restructuring plan, which will deleverage the company's balance sheet. This agreement has support from 100% of the holders of its senior secured notes as well as its revolving credit facility lenders.

Upon implementation, this agreement will give the Company the financial foundation necessary to resume normal-course operations following the COVID-19 outbreak, realize the full benefit of its cost-savings initiatives and strategic investments recently executed, and continue to serve its customers as a leading fully-integrated provider of die cast aluminum, magnesium and zinc components, a press release said.

To effectuate the plan and facilitate these important changes to the company's capital structure, the company and its U.S. subsidiaries have initiated a voluntary prepackaged Chapter 11 process in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

The company's operations in Mexico are unaffected by the filings, although they will benefit long-term from the actions the parent company is taking to strengthen its financial position. The company's senior secured noteholders, along with its existing revolving credit lenders, will provide commitments for up to \$175 million in debtor-in-possession financing to help ensure that the company can meet its commitments during the process. Under the terms of the proposed prepackaged plan, the company will convert its existing senior secured notes into 100% of the equity in the reorganized company. As a result of its noteholder and lender support, the company expects to complete the process in the second quarter of 2020 – emerging as a financially stronger company that is well-positioned to succeed in the post-COVID-19 environment.

► APRIL 21

MAN ARRESTED AFTER SHOOTING

Boone County Sheriff Tim Roberson said a 31-year-old man wanted in connection with a shooting incident last week was arrested Saturday in Marion County.

A Harrison Police log shows Boone County authorities asked for officers to watch for 31-year-old Jamey Rogers, who had been involved in a shooting incident, fled the scene and was possibly still armed. That request was issued about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 15.

According to Roberson, Rogers had been in a disturbance with his estranged wife at an address on Horseshoe Bend Road in the northern part of Boone County late Tuesday night, April 14.

He said Rogers had left the residence, then returned and allegedly fired a shot at his estranged wife standing near a window inside the residence. Rogers again fled the area.

The sheriff said the woman was not hurt.

Roberson said Investigator Gene Atwell received information that Rogers was at a residence in Marion County on Saturday. With help from Marion County authorities, a search warrant was executed at that residence and Rogers was taken into custody, Roberson said. Investigators also recovered three firearms.

Records show Rogers faces charges of terroristic threat and felony with a firearm. Roberson said Rogers' bond was set at \$75,000 and he was still in custody Monday afternoon.

► APRIL 28

WOMAN FOUND DEAD AFTER STRUCTURE FIRE

A Harrison Police report shows a 46-year-old woman was found dead in a structure fire Sunday morning, April 26, 2020, at an apartment complex at 210 North Willow.

About 7:30 a.m. Sunday, April 26, 2020, a 911 dispatcher notified the Harrison Fire Department of the fire in the building just behind the Dollar

"APRIL" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 9

"APRIL" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 8

General store on West Rush Avenue.

A report by Harrison Patrolman Davy Peter said Apartment No. 1 in the complex was engulfed in flames, making it impossible for him to enter the building.

A witness told Peter that he was in the area and smelled smoke coming from the apartment of 46-year-old Amber West. He said he kicked in the door but couldn't get to West, who was still inside at the time.

Firefighters arrived on scene and removed West from the building. A deputy coroner pronounced her deceased at 7:42 a.m., the report said.

A Harrison Police detective was notified and arrived on scene as well.

Fire Chief Marc Lowery said the cause of the fire was undetermined, but the investigation was still underway.

Year in Review

MAY

► MAY 1

NARMC FACES \$5.1M LOSS FOR MARCH, APRIL

North Arkansas Regional Medical Center is looking at a \$5.1 million shortfall for the months of March and April.

The NARMC board of directors meet Tuesday, April 28, for their monthly meeting via Zoom software.

NARMC vice president and CFO Ken Pannell reported to the board that the hospital is taking actions to help with the shortfall.

"We have 33 furloughed employees and 10 taking unpaid leave of absence. An average of 49 are taking paid leave time off and other groups that are taking reduced hours or unpaid time off," Pannell said. "This is saving the hospital about \$284,000 a month."

"But it is taking additional staffing to operate the screening stations, the COVID-19 24-hour call center, a physician clinic call center, the drive through screenings and the incident command center. Those expenses add up to about \$241,000 a month," he said.

"We put together a projection based upon all the data currently available. Admissions will be 39.7% below prior year and surgeries will be 74.4% lower than prior year. Clinic visits are 65.5% below prior year. Obviously COVID-19 is having a significant impact on our volume," Pannell said.

The projected net revenue shortfall for April will be \$3.3 million. Adding March creates about a \$5.1 net revenue loss because of the volume decrease, Pannell said.

► MAY 2

WATER AUTHORITY, SOLAR COMPANY PARTNER

Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water Authority and Scenic Hill Solar are partnering to build a solar power plant to provide electricity to power approximately 90% of the authority's operations.

Scenic Hill Solar will build, own and operate the new 2.06 MW DC solar power plant and sell electricity to the authority under a long-term contract. The approximately \$3 million project will provide local jobs in a time of unprecedented economic contraction, save ratepayers over \$3 million over the next 28 years, provide greater property tax revenues for the community, establish the authority as a major contributor to improving the environment of The Natural State and provide some competition to monopoly electricity utilities.

By freeing up scarce budget dollars the solar power plant will also provide additional resources for the authority to maintain high quality, cost-effective service for its eighteen rural water association customers.

"This project will save us a significant amount of money using cutting edge technology while measurably improving our environmental stewardship," authority board chairman Andy Anderson said. "This project will serve as a model for the Ozarks region, and will protect our customers against future

rate increases. Ozark Mountain Water is dedicated to serving the north central Arkansas region with clean and reliable water. With this project we are committed to using clean electricity to deliver that water as well."

Scenic Hill Solar CEO Bill Halter congratulated Anderson and the board for launching the largest solar project in this part of the state.

► MAY 12

60% OF RESTAURANTS TO REMAIN CLOSED

The Economic Recovery Task Force met via conference call and internet software.

Convention and Visitors Bureau director Matt Bell reported, "Sixty percent of our restaurants will remain closed until Phase 2. The 33% occupancy rate really limits their profitability rate and they are just going to wait," Bell said. "I'm surprised to report that 47% are planning to be open for inside seating. Some national chains are waiting on corporate approval. I know that doesn't add up to 100%, but we're getting there."

Bell said, "I'll post a list of those restaurants later in the week, so we don't overwhelm them. There is quite a learning curve here and I know people are excited to get back inside, but we don't want to run into a disaster."

Bell also reported hotels and lodging businesses are accepting reservations, except from the areas deemed as "hot spots." "The authorities have the ability to add to that list of hotspots as needed. But they are so excited to begin to book reservations again," Bell said.

► MAY 23

ROTARY WONDER WILLA PARK OPENS

Lake Harrison officially has a new park open and ready for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

In 2018, the in-coming Rotary president Tiffany Watkins announced a bold goal" to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary. She proposed the idea of a park where all children could play despite any physical limitations.

At that time the equipment was expected to cost more than \$200,000. But that enormous amount didn't scare off the generosity of the community

"MAY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 10

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"MAY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 9

and donations immediately began to add up. Matching grants were applied for and community-wide fundraisers began.

Other area civic clubs also participated with their generous donations as well as groups and individuals. Donations were grouped into categories so everyone could participate at a comfortable level.

In June 2019, the Roger and Patty Harness Family Foundation made a \$50,000 diamond level donation to name the park after their granddaugther, Willa Crenshaw. "Wonder Willa" as everyone calls her was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 1 and had surgery in 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, which allowed her to be able to walk with a walker.

Willa is the dAugusthter of Beth and Mark Crenshaw. Beth said, "Willa was born at 27 weeks and weighed 1 pound and 12 ounces. So, she has been a fighter from the beginning. She has overcome so many obstacles to get this far, she's an inspiration to our family and so many others."

Before the ribbon cutting ceremony, Willa and her twin brother, Chief, braved the damp slide and play equipment to have some fun.

Watkins said Rotarians and members of the community raised \$144,000 for the project. The project received a \$201,000 matching grant from Arkansas State Parks and a \$50,000 grant from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Community Assistance Program.

Year in Review

JUNE

► JUNE 2

LANDLORDS OBJECT TO RENTAL PERMIT LAW

The Harrison City Council heard the first reading of an ordinance requiring landlords to get a permit for properties with three or more units, but not without considerable comment from property owners.

There is no charge for the permit, but it would require annual city inspection to meet with codes, especially after a woman died of smoke inhalation in a recent apartment fire and no working smoke detector was found in the unit.

Alderman Mitch Magness said the original proposal for the ordinance called for permits for properties with two or more units. However, there was some resistance at a previous meeting, so he moved to amend it to apply to three units or more.

Bobby Woods questioned the ordinance first. He asked what would be inspected and what action the city would take if the unit failed inspection.

Fire Chief Marc Lowery said they would check for working smoke detectors, electrical wiring problems and to see if windows and doors that should open are operable. Any unit that doesn't pass inspection would be met with violation of the fire prevention code and would depend on the severity of the violation.

Woods suggested that even though the current ordinance doesn't require a fee, a future council could amend it, adding a fee or including single-family units.

► JUNE 3

SCHOOL DISTRICTS GRANTED BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Arkansas State Board of Education recently approved a boundary change that will see some Ozark Mountain School District students incorporated into the Lead Hill School District.

The Ozark Mountain District is comprised of schools at St. Joe, Bruno-Pyatt and Western Grove. It was formed during the consolidation effort of the early 2000s.

But the district also contained some Marion County property across Bull Shoals Lake from the main part of the county, bordering Missouri.

The two districts petitioned the state board to allow those two pieces of land to be incorporated into the Lead Hill District because they don't border the Ozark Mountain District, but do, in part, border the Lead Hill District.

The board ordered that the two pieces of land north of the lake will be incorporated into the Lead Hill District and that the order would be filed with the Arkansas Secretary of State, the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office and the county clerk in Boone, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties.

Boone County election coordinator Beckie Benton recently told the Election Commission that Boone County is considered the domicile county for the Lead Hill District because the administration office is in Boone County.

As such, Benton said there will be no major change for the Boone County Clerk's Office because the Lead Hill District already contained property in Marion County and the clerk's offices routinely work together for elections in even-numbered years when the domicile county runs the election as part of the primary.

► JUNE 4

CITY AWARE OF PROTESTS; AUTHORITIES VIGILANT

Harrison Mayor Jerry Jackson said authorities have spoken with organizers of two protests scheduled in Harrison and are prepared to protect their rights to peacefully assemble.

Protests are ongoing nationwide in response to the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota, almost two weeks ago. Some have turned violent and authorities blame outside interests capitalizing on peaceful protesters' actions.

Jackson said one protest is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, June 4, 2020, on the square in downtown Harrison. The second will organize at 4 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2020, on the old junior high parking lot. The mayor anticipates that group will want to march to the downtown area.

► JUNE 4

PACE EMERGES FROM CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

FAYETTEVILLE — Pace Industries LLC of Fayetteville announced Tuesday, June 2, 2020, that it has emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and completed its financial restructuring plan.

The company, which handles aluminum, zinc and magnesium die casting, filed for bankruptcy April 13, estimating liabilities of between \$100 million and \$150 million. At the time, it said the move will "give the company the financial foundation necessary to resume normal-course operations following the COVID-19 outbreak."

In March 2020, the company idled operations in Harrison and Fayetteville, putting nearly 600 workers on the sidelines, as the economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak began to weigh on operations. In April 2020, the company said it was temporarily shutting its Muskegon, Michigan, plant for about six months and laying off about 450 people, according to Bloomberg Law.

The company said it had implemented its reorganization plan, which was confirmed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware on May 29, 2020. The company said it met all commitments to stakeholders throughout the Chapter 11 process.

The company said that, as part of its reorganization plan, it named Donald (Donnie) Hampton Jr. as chief executive officer, replacing former CEO Scott Bull, a 41-year veteran of the company who spent the last 12 years as chief executive. It also converted its existing senior secured notes into 100% of the equity of the reorganized company.

The company was founded in 1970 in Harrison and now has operations in eight states. It said its operations in Mexico were unaffected by the bankruptcy filing.

► JUNE 5

'WE WANT EQUAL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE'

About 125 people gathered Thursday evening, June 4, 2020, on the court park outside the Boone County Courthouse to peacefully protest the death of a black man in police custody.

George Floyd, 46, died during a police arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 25, 2020. His death sparked protests nationwide and it came to Harrison that night.

Daniella Scott of Harrison, who was a candidate for Harrison City Council in 2018, organized the protest. Walking with the aid of a cane, she arrived on the square about 7 p.m.

"JUNE" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 12

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"JUNE" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 10

Looking at the number of people who were part of the event, even she was surprised at the turnout.

There was a large police presence on the court park. Officers from the Boone County Sheriff's Office, Harrison Police Department, Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Highway Police and even the 14th Judicial Drug Task Force kept an eye on proceedings after social media rumors of organized protestors being bussed in from Little Rock and Chicago.

Groups of men and even individuals walked along the square carrying semiautomatic rifles and pistols. They said they were there to make sure no one involved in the protest took the opportunity to loot stores and create violence that has happened in larger protests in big cities.

As the crowd chanted "George Floyd" to motorists passing on Main Street, some drivers honked and offered encouragement. Mayor Jerry Jackson gave Scott a bullhorn so she could address the crowd.

Kevin Cheri, former superintendent of the Buffalo National River and a member of the local Task Force on Race Relations, surveyed the crowd that was larger than anticipated. A steady stream of traffic flowed past the square, probably more traffic than had been on Main Street as drivers honked and waved at the crowd.

Just after 7:30 p.m., the protestors were asked to drop to one knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds to signify the last moments of Floyd's life as an officer kneeled on his neck while he said he couldn't breathe.

As the protestors knelt in silence, even passing motorists stopped honking and yelling and the downtown that had been so noisy was strangely silent for a few minutes, at least until the protestors in unison began chanting, "I can't breathe."

► JUNE 6

DOGPATCH PROPERTY PURCHASED

MARBLE FALLS — Newton County records show the old Dogpatch USA theme park property has been sold to a Delaware-based corporation, but the organizers of the corporation have remained secret.

Records in the Newton County Clerk's Office show the park was sold May 29, 2020, to Down by the Falls, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, for \$1.12 million.

The deed was signed by "Judy Walker, Escrow Offices," and lists a Springfield, Missouri, address.

According to the Delaware Secretary of State's website, "The Corporation Trust Company" is the registered agent of Down by the Falls, LLC. It shows an address in Wilmington, Delaware.

A representative of the company told the Daily Times by phone that the company is the registered agent and no other information is public, so the actual owner of the corporation is not a matter of public record.

The park was set to be sold at auction March 3, 2020, after mortgage foreclosure civil action taken by plaintiffs Stewart Nance, John Pruitt Nance and Gregory Brent Baber against defendants Great American Spillproof Products, Inc., James Robertson and Susan Robertson and David "Shawn" Smith.

The plaintiffs were seeking to recover \$1,031,885.27 comprised of the principal amount sued upon, interest, attorney fees and costs in the sum of \$94,069.39 for its debt and damages.

► JUNE 17

OZARK MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATING BASKETBALL TEAMS

ST. JOE — While the outlook of the 2020-21 school year is still in the fog caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Ozark Mountain School District is clear that it will follow a four-day school week and that it is consolidating its junior and senior boys and girls basketball programs into a single program.

"We can do it," Superintendent Kerry Saylor in an interview following the March meeting of the Ozark Mountain School District Board of Education.

It was at that meeting that Saylor explained that in the spring was the time schools developed basketball schedules. He asked the board how it wanted him to proceed.

According to the minutes of that meeting, board member Travis Freeman

"JUNE" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 14

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"JUNE" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 12

asked Saylor if he felt he could make the current situation more financially feasible and alleviate the problem that exists when some years a team may not have enough players to practice and compete. Saylor said he would make every attempt to do this in a manner that would be fair to all three campuses and their communities. Freeman then made the motion that the board give Saylor the authority to make all decisions regarding this situation. The motion passed unanimously.

Since then Saylor has been working on a plan to further bring together the schools at St. Joe in Searcy County, Western Grove in Newton County and Bruno-Pyatt in Marion County. At the end of the season Saylor said he went back to the board and showed them the numbers of students who were on the teams and the numbers of students who were projected to play next year. They were very low for fielding basketball teams. Saylor first suggested combining the Bruno-Pyatt and St. Joe teams so at least there would be 10 players so they could practice 5 on 5.

Then the board agreed to consolidate all three programs so there would be a single team with enough players to complete the season.

Superintendent Kerry Saylor said he went to the board and showed them the numbers of students who were on the teams and the numbers of students who were projected to play next year. They were very low for fielding basketball teams. Saylor first suggested combining the Bruno-Pyatt and St. Joe teams so at least there would be 10 players so they could practice 5 on 5.

Last March the school board gave Saylor the authority to oversee consolidating the school district's three basketball programs at St. Joe in Searcy County, Western Grove in Newton County and Bruno-Pyatt in Marion County. Saylor said he had several discussions with Arkansas Activities Association officials to avoid violating league rules and guidelines.

Basketball will be assigned to the Western Grove campus, Saylor said. But to be fair, practice schedules will be rotated between campuses. One week the senior boys may be practicing at St. Joe and the senior girls will be practicing at Western Grove. The players will be transported between the campuses. Basketball games will rotate also. That does take away from having home court advantage, Saylor admitted. Tuesday night you may play at Western Grove and the next home game may be in St. Joe.

Saylor said the consolidation might affect the conference level in which the schools have traditionally competed in over the years. That hasn't happened yet.

► JULY 25

55 NEW CASES FRIDAY IN NEWTON

JASPER — Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Friday that there were an additional 55 positive COVID-19 cases reported in Newton County.

He said results indicate the patients in Newton County are demographically elderly, so state officials were trying to determine if the surge was in a nursing home situation.

A sign on the door of the Newton County Nursing Home said that three residents and two staff had tested positive for COVID-19.

According to the Arkansas Department of Human Services, the Newton

"JULY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 15

Year in Review

JULY

► JULY 8

OZARK MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE BEARS

WESTERN GROVE — The Ozark Mountain School District's new combined basketball team mascot has been selected. The district's Mascot Committee decided on Bears and the team's colors will be royal blue and gray.

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"JULY" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 14

County Nursing Home is licensed for 70 beds.

At a press briefing, Hutchinson was asked when the state could release information about COVID-19 cases in the nursing home and if the state Health Department has any special activity planned at the nursing home.

Hutchinson said that anytime there are positive cases in a nursing home, testing is enhanced. The Health Department has shown success in working with nursing home staff and local health officials.

Newton County health officer Dr. Jackie Dunn, who is also with Boston Mountain Rural Health, said the facility has been doing COVID-19 testing with rapid tests that give results with a short period of time.

► JULY 28

ANONYMOUS DONOR PAYS WATER BILLS

Thanks to an anonymous donor, most Harrison residential water customers who were facing disconnection for delinquent bills were spared.

When the Harrison City Council met, Luke Feighert, city chief financial officer, told council members that the city suspended disconnecting water customers for non-payment in April 2020, due in large part to potential financial hard times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, customers had been warned in June 2020 and again earlier this month that disconnections would begin again starting this week.

Feighert had estimated that there were as many of 500 water customers who could face disconnection, and that the amount owed was between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

But Mayor Jerry Jackson said he was contacted by a city resident who wanted to pay those overdue bills for residential customers.

So, the donor gave the city \$15,000 to cover those bills. Jackson said officials believe that amount will be enough to pay those past-due bills.

Year in Review

AUGUST

► AUGUST 1

JUDGES RULE FOR WASTE DISTRICT

Circuit judges in Baxter, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy County lawsuits have all struck down the writs of garnishment that plaintiffs filed against the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District in a lawsuit regarding the \$18 fee charged to property owners.

The fee is part of the receivership which was granted to devise a plan for repaying bondholders who invested money in what became the NABORS landfill fiasco. A fraction of proceeds from the fee would also go to the solid waste district to help defray costs of maintaining the landfill in northern Baxter County.

Fayetteville lawyers Matt Bishop and Wendy Howerton filed lawsuits challenging the fee as a tax or illegal exaction in all six counties in the district. Circuit judges in five of the counties agreed it was a tax, thus unconstitutional. The final case in Boone County is pending.

Money collected from the \$18 fee in 2018 and 2019 has been transmitted to Bank OZK as trustee for the bondholders and held in an account until all the cases have been resolved.

After that money was transferred into the registry of the Pulaski County Circuit Court, where the receivership and first lawsuit originated, Bishop and Howerton filed for writs of garnishment against the solid waste district, which froze the district's bank account.

That meant the district had no funds with which to pay bills and operate. District lawyer John Verkamp filed motions to quash the writs of garnishment. A hearing was held Thursday, July 23, 2020, before Circuit Judge David Laser, who was appointed to hear the cases in Baxter, Marion and Newton counties.

► AUGUST 1

MAYOR REFUTES VIDEO SLAMMING HARRISON

Harrison Mayor Jerry Jackson said in a statement that the subject matter of a video released on social media about Harrison does not accurately represent the town or even Boone County as a whole.

The video is about two minutes long and shows a male subject holding a Black Lives Matter sign, then being met with several harassing and possibly threatening comments from passersby.

Jackson said he and other people analyzed the video and its origins. He says the filmmakers spent three days recording in Harrison and were able to put together the two minutes of footage, even though they were in locations where an estimated 80,000 people would have passed in that time frame.

He feels the video was done solely for monetary gain.

"Many other southern towns and Harrison's distant past includes some well-documented racist acts of violence," the statement reads. "The town and our local race relations group have worked over many decades to overcome our history of racism and its lingering reputation."

Jackson said the filmmaker did not reach out to the local Task Force on Race Relations or the local Black Lives Matter group for comment for insight into the true nature of the people in the area.

Jackson said the city has been inundated with phone calls and messages, including "vague threats," from all over the country since the video was posted on social media, and other national media outlets have picked up on it.

► AUGUST 4

ZINC PROTEST GATHERS CROWD

ZINC — The city of Zinc was the location of a scheduled demonstration by Bridge the Gap, NWA Sunday, August 2, 2020.

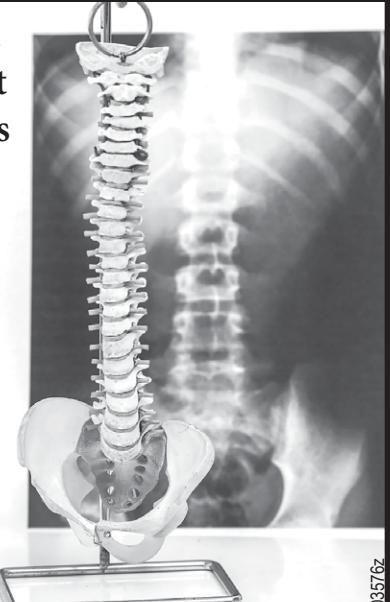
The group met in Harrison near the Fire Department before traveling to Zinc in groups. Local law enforcement estimated about 75 protestors were on site and around 100 counter-protestors were in view.

"AUGUST" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 16

42 Years in Business

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"AUGUST" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 15

This was the first event of its kind for the town of an estimated population of 108 residents.

Several law enforcement agencies were on hand to protect both citizens and protestors.

Boone County Sheriff Tim Roberson reported that there was no violence, although words were exchanged between the groups. He agreed that the event was somewhat historic.

Protestors left the tiny town as scheduled.

► AUGUST 5

JOHNNY MORRIS CONFIRMS PURCHASE OF OLD DOGPATCH USA PARK

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Noted conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris confirmed Tuesday, August. 4, 2020, that he was the buyer of the old Dogpatch USA theme park.

Specific plans for the property are still in the early planning stages, a press release said, but any future development is bound to be an extension of Morris' signature experiences that help families connect to nature and each other.

Records in the Newton County Clerk's Office show the park was sold May 29, 2020, to Down by the Falls, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, for \$1.12 million.

The deed was signed by "Judy Walker, Escrow Offices," and listed a Springfield address.

According to the Delaware Secretary of State's website, "The Corporation Trust Company" is the registered agent of Down by the Falls, LLC. It shows an address in Wilmington, Delaware.

A representative of the company told the Daily Times by phone in early June 2020 that the company is the registered agent and no other information is public, so the actual owner of the corporation was not a matter of public record.

Initially constructed in 1967, the property formally known as Dogpatch USA operated as a theme park featuring a trout farm, horseback rides, and various amusement rides and attractions. During the height of its popularity in the late 60s, the destination attracted 300,000 annual visitors but attendance gradually declined before closing in 1993. While there have been numerous owners, the site has been vacant for the past several years with many of the remaining structures in a dilapidated state.

The property's next chapter will be an ode to the heritage of the Ozarks and the abundant wildlife and natural beauty found there, the press release said. One top priority is restoration of the large natural spring and bringing back to life the renowned trout hatchery and many future fishing opportunities.

Morris and his team are evaluating which buildings can be salvaged and restored while beginning to clear debris and dilapidated structures.

All access to the property is currently restricted as restoration work is underway. Additional announcements and updates will be shared as plans come together.

► AUGUST 28

2 FACE CHARGES IN OMAHA SHOOTING

Boone County Sheriff Tim Roberson said that a 61-year-old woman faces a murder charge in connection with a shooting Monday morning, August. 24, 2020, in Omaha.

Roberson said his office was notified about 10 a.m. Monday, August. 24, 2020, of a one-vehicle wreck on College Street near the Omaha School. The caller said the driver was unresponsive.

About the same time, another caller reported a possible domestic assault at the Richard and Linda Lafee residence on College Street.

Deputies arrived on the crash scene and found the driver was Richard Lafee, 63. Roberson said it was discovered that Lafee had suffered numerous gunshot wounds and was deceased.

Deputies went to the Lafee residence where Linda Lafee said there had been a domestic disturbance in which a gunshot was fired, Roberson said. Lafee allegedly made statements to authorities implicating herself in the disturbance and her knowledge of the shooting.

Although she did not show any visible signs of injury, Linda Lafee was transported to Cox South in Springfield, Missouri, where she received treat-

ment for an undisclosed medical issue.

Officers also found that 55-year-old Michael Dean Watson was present in the home. Due to an outstanding warrant for Watson's arrest, he was taken into custody.

Through the course of the investigation, investigators believe that Linda Lafee unjustifiably shot her husband multiple times while in the home. Richard Lafee left the home in his vehicle in an apparent attempt to seek help, but succumbed to the gunshot wounds before he was able to get any medical assistance.

Statements that were received by investigators from Linda Lafee and Watson regarding their involvement in the incident were quickly discredited based on physical evidence and statements obtained, Roberson said.

Linda Lafee was released from Cox South Hospital and taken into custody by the Greene County Sheriff's Department on suspicion of first-degree murder. She was being held in the Greene County Jail awaiting extradition to Arkansas, records show.

Due to Watson's fabricated story to law enforcement and failure to provide help to the victim, he faces charges of felony hindering apprehension and was still being held Thursday afternoon in the Boone County Jail, records show.

► AUGUST 29

RACISM, HATE CRIME RESOLUTION PASSES

The Harrison City Council passed at its regular monthly meeting a resolution denouncing racism and encouraging the state General Assembly to introduce and pass comprehensive hate crime legislation. With members of the Boone County Quorum Court present in the council chambers, the resolution did not pass unanimously.

Council members Wayne Cone and Chris Headed voted "no" in the roll call vote. The quorum court is scheduled to vote on the same resolution at its next regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

Both the Harrison City Council's Resource and Policy Committee and the Boone County Quorum Court's Law Enforcement Committee agreed to language in the resolution a week ago.

At the meeting conducted by the Resource and Policy Committee, Cone presented his own prepared version of the joint resolution that he said some members of the public found vague.

Cone said he reacted negatively to the use of the word "tolerance" in the original resolution's title. "We have to have limits on what we said we would tolerate." He said stating that tolerating everything would allow people to do whatever they want and not face consequences. He also disliked the resolution's third paragraph which stated laws have the power to change human behavior.

In a compromise, the committee members agreed to omit the word tolerance from the document and removed the third paragraph.

Cone did not explain the reason for his no vote to the edited draft.

Head also let his feelings be known at the committee meeting that he did not favor enhanced sentencing that would come with state hate crime legislation, but he agreed with the remainder of the resolution. He repeated his stand on the resolution Thursday night along with his no vote.

Council member Heath Kirkpatrick voiced during the committee meeting that the resolution will not be enough. He said his fear is that this will not satisfy anybody. This will not make the race issue go away. Hate law legislation was resisted in the past, he said, because there is a belief the natural progression would end in hate speech laws. He gave the resolution his approval as an acknowledgement of solidarity throughout the community. He reaffirmed that conviction with his yes vote.

The roll call vote was taken with some council members present in chambers and others attending on-line, including committee chairman Bill Boswell. Boswell said both committees worked towards the compromise. It's not a perfect resolution, he said, but it is the resolution that takes a very positive and proper stand for Harrison and Boone County.

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Year in Review SEPTEMBER

► SEPTEMBER 2

36 COVID-19 CASES AT SOMERSET SENIOR LIVING

The Arkansas Department of Health announced that 36 people had tested positive for COVID-19 at a nursing home in Harrison, but that includes residents and staff.

The ADH reported that 15 residents and 21 staff members had tested positive for the coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 disease at Somerset Senior Living at Harrison, which had formerly been called Mount Vista.

The ADH website indicates the most recent case of a resident testing positive was Aug. 31, 2020, while the most recent diagnosis of a staff member was Aug. 25, 2020.

Somerset administrator Cathy Abatangle said the first positive case was reported in June 2020, so all residents and staff were tested after that.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services lists Somerset as a skilled nursing facility licensed for 90 beds.

Abatangle said that Somerset has 75 residents under normal circumstances, but with the COVID-19 diagnoses they were not currently accepting residents.

She went on to say that most patients and staff were asymptomatic.

► SEPTEMBER 4

CITY, COUNTY, CHAMBER HEADS UNITE ON ANTI-RACISM RESOLUTION

The Boone County Quorum Court, the Harrison City Council and the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce took joint action to formally denounce racism, hatred and bigotry, and encourage the Arkansas legislature to introduce and pass comprehensive hate crimes legislation.

County Judge Robert Hathaway, Mayor Jerry Jackson and Chamber president/CEO Bob Largent affixed their signatures to respective resolutions reflecting the recent actions by their elected entities. They gathered at 4:30 p.m. at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center at North Arkansas College. Other city, county and business leaders were on hand wearing face masks and observing social distancing to witness what Largent called a historic event.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who challenged the community at the chamber's annual meeting in January to lead the way on hate crime legislation, provided a statement thanking the leaders and the community for their actions.

Largent then read the resolution passed by the Boone County Quorum Court, the Harrison City Council, and the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce promoting inclusiveness and mutual respect; denouncing all forms of racism, hate, and bigotry; and encouraging the Arkansas legislature to introduce and pass comprehensive hate crimes legislation. Mayor Jackson then announced the next step will be to empower a nine-member panel composed of the quorum court's, city council's and chamber of commerce's respective constituents, to identify opportunities and develop initiatives that will promote local diversity and inclusion. Largent said this panel could begin its work before the end of September 2020.

► SEPTEMBER 22

NARMC, COXHEALTH IN COLLABORATION

North Arkansas Regional Medical Center and CoxHealth announced a new collaboration between the two hospitals.

"In the coming months, the health systems will jointly open a new medical facility in Harrison so residents can continue to receive exceptional primary care while increasing access to specialists close to home," a press release said.

When the project is completed, the building will house a variety of physician practices from both NARMC and CoxHealth. This venture will offer patients convenient access to complimentary services provided by both

health systems.

The facility will occupy the former Bear State Bank located at 1401 Highway 65 North. NARMC purchased the building and engaged CoxHealth to manage the renovations necessary to convert it to a medical office complex.

CoxHealth plans to expand the number of specialties it offers locally through the new facility, a press release said. These services will be determined in cooperation with NARMC leadership to better understand the community's needs. Additionally, CoxHealth Center Harrison, which opened in August 2020, will also relocate to the space.

It is anticipated the facility will be open by fall 2021.

Year in Review

OCTOBER

► OCTOBER 2

DUNKIN' COMING TO HARRISON

Formerly known as Dunkin Donuts, Harrison is getting a Dunkin'. The corporation is now calling the business just "Dunkin" because they are more focused on drinks. But not to worry; the donuts, too, will be there.

Owner Girish Patel and Justin Williams, his multi-util leader/director of operations, met with Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce officials on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, in the Claridge Conference Room.

Williams explained that Patel is part of a group that owns more than 80 Dunkin Donut businesses and some are the combo, Dunkin Donuts and Baskin Robbins, such as the one in Branson, Missouri.

The Harrison location will be a first of its kind. The half-acre of property purchased from Petromark, Inc. at the corner of Highway 65 North and Hester Drive will be the new location. The original gas station, convenience store and car wash will be leveled to the ground to make room for the 1,800 to 2,000 square feet structure.

Dunkin will have two drive-thru lanes with two windows. One for paying and one for order pick up. There will be seating indoors for about 15 people with comfortable couches in a modern design and new color scheme.

► OCTOBER 2

BANK ROBBERS PROSECUTED IN FEDERAL COURT

Charges against the Marshfield, Missouri, man and woman accused of robbing the Arvest Bank branch at Lead Hill in January 2020 were recently dropped because they were sentenced to federal prison time, online court records show.

David Ray Powers, 29, was charged in Boone County as a habitual offender with aggravated robbery, possession of a defaced firearm, possession of firearms by certain persons and possession of methamphetamine, while

"OCTOBER" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 18

83 Years in Business



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"OCTOBER" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 17

Lori Jo Stilley, 42, was charged with accomplice to aggravated robbery, possession of a defaced firearm and possession of methamphetamine, records show.

According to an arrest affidavit, a white male subject with some type of paint on his face and arms entered the bank Thursday afternoon, Jan. 30, 2020, and put a handwritten note on a bank employee's desk demanding money and stating he had a gun.

The employee then went to the drive through teller drawer and took money totaling \$1,387 — including two \$50 bills with recorded serial numbers known as "bait money" — in a bank bag. The suspect then took the bag and left the bank through the front door.

Court records show that both Powers and Stilley were charged in federal court with bank robbery, while Powers was also charged with felon in possession of firearm.

Powers was sentenced to 80 months in federal prison on robbery and 40 months in prison on the firearms charge with those sentences to run consecutively for a total of 120 months.

Stilley was sentenced to 41 months in prison. Both also face three years' probation each after they are released.

► OCTOBER 15

HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF WEED SEIZED

Three search warrants executed at three residences on Primrose Lane south of Harrison led to some arrests and what Boone County Sheriff Tim Roberson estimated to be hundreds of pounds of marijuana from one house.

Roberson said his department, the 14th Judicial Drug Task Force and Harrison Police Department worked together on the warrant execution.

BCSO Captain Bob King said investigators developed information about the presence of marijuana at the location off Highway 43 South in order to obtain the warrant.

Roberson said the marijuana hadn't been officially weighed by press time, but he used a past experience to make an estimate.

He recalled a time when Missouri Highway Patrol would place signs along Interstate 44 in Phelps County, Missouri, warning that a drug compliance checkpoint was a short distance up the highway.

The signs would be placed near an exit that didn't have a true outlet for big rigs and that's where the checkpoint actually was located.

Roberson said he was able to be involved in one of those checkpoints one day. He said officers there seized 324 pounds of marijuana and he estimated at least that much was taken from the house.

The HPD took a utility truck to the residence, but Roberson said it was to haul the confiscated weed back to the sheriff's office as evidence.

Roberson also said two male subjects were taken into custody at the time, but they were still being interviewed a press time and detectives were still trying to determine what charges they might face.

► OCTOBER 16

MAN GETS 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

FAYETTEVILLE — A 66-year-old Harrison man has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison after arranging a meeting with a 14-year-old girl who turned out to be an undercover police officer.

David Clay Fowlkes, First Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, announced that 66-year-old Wayne King, age 66, of Harrison was sentenced to 120 months in federal prison without the possibility of parole followed by 10 years of supervised release on one count of attempted enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

According to court records, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Northwest Arkansas Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, the Arkansas State Police and several local law enforcement agencies conducted a joint operation to target online sexual predators in Northwest Arkansas in September 2019.

As part of the operation, undercover law enforcement investigators placed multiple advertisements on various online websites and mobile applications representing themselves to be minors.

On Sept. 17, 2019, an individual who called himself Wayne (later identified as King) responded to a Craigslist advertisement and began emailing

and text messaging with an undercover law enforcement officer who was posing as a 14-year-old female.

Over the course of eight days, King exchanged several emails with the 14-year-old persona, in which he discussed performing sexual activities with the purported minor. King arranged a meeting with the purported girl for a sexual encounter and was arrested upon arriving at the predetermined meeting location.

King was indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2019 and entered a guilty plea in April 2020.

► OCTOBER 23

\$18 FEE NOT COLLECTED ON 2020 PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Online court records show a judge has ordered that the now-famed \$18 fee will no longer appear on property owners' future tax bills in Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy counties.

The fee is part of the receivership which was granted to devise a plan for repaying bondholders who invested money in what became the NABORS landfill fiasco. A fraction of proceeds from the fee would also go to the Ozark Mountain Solid Waste District to help defray costs of maintaining the landfill in northern Baxter County.

Circuit judges in Baxter, Carroll, Marion, Newton and Searcy County lawsuits challenging the fee have ruled the fee to be an illegal exaction or tax, thus unconstitutional.

But the original lawsuit filed against the solid waste district by Bank OZK was still open. It was filed in Pulaski County before Circuit Judge Tim Fox, who originally approved the \$18 fee.

After a hearing before Judge Fox on Aug. 11, solid waste district board chairman Fred Woehl and solid waste district attorney John Verkamp told board members that the court had ruled the \$18 fee is "gone." They said Fox verbally issued that order from the bench.

But Fox had never entered a formal court order regarding the fee. That changed Wednesday afternoon.

Proceeds from the fee collected on 2017 and 2018 property tax bills has been deposited in the registry of Fox's court. No decision has been made regarding who should get that money. Bondholders and the plaintiffs each say they deserve the funds.

The fee is still being collected on 2019 tax bills, paid this year. But there had been no court order regarding the fate of the fee on 2020 tax bills, which will be mailed out next year.

Fox signed an order Wednesday that said the fee shall cease to be collected for the 2020 tax year and in the future.

► OCTOBER 24

COUNCIL REFRAINS FROM PASSING 'FREEDOM' RESOLUTION

In a 5-3 vote, Harrison City Council failed to pass a resolution challenging the state's COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration and ensuing emergency directives state health secretary through the governor.

Instead, the majority of council members chose to follow the advice of their state senator to let the legislature review and make changes to the 1973 law that gives the governor broad powers in times of emergency.

City Council member Chris Head, who proposed the resolution to the Resources and Policy Committee earlier this month, voted for its adoption and received supporting votes from Heath Kirkpatrick and Wayne Cone. Voting no to the resolution were council members Bill Boswell, Mary Jean Creager, Mitch Magness, Linda DeWald and Joel Williams.

In part, the resolution states that the city "supports and strongly encourages an end to the inconsistent, harmful, and damaging directives and policies against the citizens, schools, and businesses of the City of Harrison Arkansas. We now implore the Governor of the State of Arkansas to restore a Representative Government of the people, by the people, and for the people by ending the practice of perpetually extending the state of emergency without direct legislative involvement and returning governing authority back to local and state elected officials."

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Year in Review

NOVEMBER

► NOVEMBER 3

HARRISON MAN WINS \$1M FROM PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE

Howie Guja with the PCH Prize Patrol and a camera crew were in Harrison to deliver a \$1 million prize to Chuck and his wife, Crystal, at their home in the northern part of Newton County.

Guja explained that Osterhout has been entering the PCH Giveaway for a long time. Most people enter by playing games on pch.com and they accumulate tokens, Guja said.

Chuck had built up almost two billion tokens. Guja said Chuck had the most tokens he's seen a prize winner accumulate in the six years he's been working for the Prize Patrol. Other winners with 200 million would be almost unusual.

Guja and crew stopped at Harrison Flower & Gift, where owner Ohmer Dyal had created a bouquet of roses to be presented to Chuck, along with an oversized check for \$1 million.

Guja and crew loaded up flowers and balloons and headed south for the Osterhout residence in the very northern edge of Newton County on Boat Mountain Road.

As they arrived on the road near the residence, Guja and crew got out and started the walk up to find Chuck. As luck would have it, Chuck was working outside. The group moved up the driveway and he walked out to meet them.

Guja said Saturday was Super Prize Day. A major prize was going to be awarded and people all over the country were looking out their windows hoping to see the Prize Patrol.

He handed Chuck the oversized check and he looked at it with what appeared to be at least some skepticism. Crystal was visiting her parents in Hasty at the time the Prize Patrol arrived. Guja asked Chuck if Crystal knew he had entered the sweepstakes. They had no immediate plans for a special celebration at the time. Chuck will return to work Monday as a forklift driver at WestRock in Harrison for the next week, until he takes two weeks of prescheduled vacation to go to deer camp with family members.

► NOVEMBER 5

DIAMOND CITY CITY COUNCIL LIMITS MAYOR'S POWERS

DIAMOND CITY — The Diamond City City Council met Wednesday morning and afternoon to take care of matters following the recall of Mayor Linda Miracle.

About 76% of voters in Diamond City voted in favor of recalling Miracle. Arkansas law states that if voters approve a recall, the office is considered vacant when election results are certified, which will be Friday, Nov. 13, 2020.

City government at Diamond City has been contentious since Miracle took office in January 2019. The city council had voted to limit her powers and access to city bank accounts, but she vetoed that action. Miracle even sued most members of the city council in 2019 alleging a meeting held that year was illegal.

Council member Cristy Olcott told the Daily Times that the council met in special session and voted to dissolve two resolutions from 2019 that gave Miracle access to city bank accounts and the power to contract with utility companies and service providers on the city's behalf.

In order for that to become officials, the minutes of the morning's meeting must be approved and submitted to the bank. The council planned to approve those minutes in the afternoon meeting.

The agenda for the afternoon meeting showed the council would face a resolution adding Olcott and Tina Jackson, city recorder, as personnel to contract with service providers and contractors. Another resolution would remove former Alderman Don Bennett, who Olcott said suffered health

problems and lives in another state, as an authorized check signer and add Jackson in his place.

Olcott explained that Jackson is the next in line to act as mayor, which she did at, at least until the council has its next regular meeting.

A special election could be called to replace Miracle or the council could elect someone to the position to finish out the term, which ends Dec. 31, 2022, Olcott said.

► NOVEMBER 10

MARSHALL POLICE CHIEF OUT AFTER HATE-FILLED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

MARSHALL — Marshall Police Chief Lang Holland has resigned amid hate-filled social media posts asking fellow Trump supporters to "hang" Democrats in response to the apparent defeat of the president's reelection bid.

Holland posted the comments on the parler.com website, which describes itself thus: "Speak freely and express yourself openly, without fear of being 'deplatformed' for your views. Engage with real people, not bots. Parler is people and privacy-focused, and gives you the tools you need to curate your Parler experience."

The posts appear to be published after media networks began calling the election in favor of former Vice President Joe Biden. One said:

"When this is over and Trump is president for 4 more years. Do not go to sleep. Do not forget what these Marxist Democrat b—ds have tried to do. When you see one in public get in their face do not give them any peace. Throw water on them at restaurants. Push them off sidewalks. Never let them forget they are traitors and have no right to live in this Republic after what they have done."

Another went even further. "Hang all these Marxist Democrats now," the post said. "The FBI and CIA are Marxist organizations

Marshall Mayor Kevin Elliott released a statement Saturday saying Marshall is a welcoming municipality and does not espouse Holland's views.

"The Marshall community does not in any way support or condone bullying or threats of violence to anyone of any political persuasion!" the statement said. "We condemn it!"

The statement said Holland agreed to resign Saturday and he is no longer employed by the city.

► NOVEMBER 20

BOARD TAKES JUNIOR HIGH OFFER FROM CITY

The Harrison School Board met remotely and voted to accept an offer from the city of Harrison regarding ownership of the old junior high just hours before the Harrison City Council was set to meet on the matter.

Board president Mitch Magness, who is also a city council member, opened the meeting and explained the purpose.

He said voters in 2014 approved a property tax millage increase to build a new facility to replace the old junior high. Once construction was complete in 2017, students were moved from the junior high and what was then Central Elementary to new facilities on Goblin Drive.

That left the old junior high vacant, but the district was still by law required

"NOVEMBER" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. pg 20



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"NOVEMBER" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 19

to maintain the complex of buildings. Even with best efforts from staff trying to cut costs as much as possible, that price tag was still just under \$9,000 a month.

The board had asked Superintendent Dr. Stewart Pratt to either repurpose the buildings or sell them, but no district use was identified. Any financial matters regarding the complex had to go through Pratt.

Pratt said the property was appraised at \$1.8 million during the 2018-19 school year. The district also filed with the facilities division of the Arkansas Department of Education its intent to transfer or liquidate the property.

Following ADE protocols, the district was then notified that it could dispose of the property as the district saw fit while still being in the best interest of the district and its taxpayers.

Pratt said the district then sought proposals and received one from the city of Harrison. He then recommended the board approve the transfer of the property to the city under terms outlined in an agreement.

Magness explained that his discussions with state education officials indicated they would rather see unused school property repurposed for public use. If ownership is transferred to the city, the property would benefit district patrons as well as other members of the community.

The \$50,000 fee the city offered the district would actually only cover costs to the district for future use of parts of the property.

The board unanimously approved Pratt's recommendation. Magness said that gave Pratt the authority to reach out to the city council Thursday night and report back to the board afterward.

► NOVEMBER 22

PARKS MOVED UNDER CITY COUNCIL CONTROL

The Harrison City Council met in regular session and concluded action bringing the city's Parks and Recreation under direct control of the city.

The second and third final reading of the ordinance dissolving the Harrison Parks and Recreation Commission and creating the Parks and Recreation Department and the position of a department head, was adopted after months of discussion and planning.

The ordinance calls for the department head (the director) to be appointed by the mayor.

Language in this portion of the ordinance raised a concern by council member Wayne Cone. The ordinance needed clarification that the director (as worded in a section of the ordinance) is the department head. He also questioned who hires and fires the department head under the ordinance's language.

The ordinance reads that it is contemplated that the mayor will consult with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should the mayor wish to remove the department head, ensuring that the Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding the same is considered.

The city has several department heads and if this ordinance is passed it is going to show favor to this department head, Cone said. This department head is going to have a committee of people behind him that is going to set him above the rest of the department heads who don't have that committee pulling for them, Cone said.

The mayor is the one and only one who hires and fires department heads, Cone continued.

Parks department head Chuck Eddington said that he wasn't hired by the mayor, rather it was by the Parks and Recreation Commission. He said that since the ordinance changes how the department is managed, he felt the language was added to make him feel comfortable, though he said he knows he could be fired tomorrow.



Year in Review

DECEMBER

► DECEMBER 4

NEW MAYOR AT DIAMOND CITY

Officials say Jaime Neussner was sworn in as new mayor at Diamond City at a meeting held Wednesday night, Dec. 2, 2020.

Linda Miracle, the former mayor, had been elected in 2018. She had been at odds with the city council concerning meetings, and some citizens attending city council meetings had called for her resignation.

Residents circulated a petition on a referendum to recall Miracle in a special election held during the 2020 General Election in November. Almost 76% of voters in Diamond City voted in favor of the recall.

A special city council meeting was called for Nov. 10, 2020, but not enough council members were present to constitute a quorum, so it actually became a town meeting to determine how to choose a new mayor. There was talk of holding a special election or allowing the council to elect a new mayor to complete Miracle's term.

Nuessner said he grew up in Diamond City. He said he learned to bob apples in the Diamond City Community Center when there were festivals for Halloween and Christmas. He performed in three talent shows in that building.

He wants to see festivals and events like that again. He wants to see events where children can get together with the older citizens and learn to socialize in other ways than on social media.

► DECEMBER 9

WOMAN DIES AFTER HOUSE FIRE NEAR YARDELLE

YARDELLE — Newton County authorities say a 41-year-old woman died after a house fire about 11:30 Monday morning.

Boone County 911 dispatched Harrison fire fighters to assist Western Grove fire fighters at the scene about 11:40 a.m. Monday, although they were turned around a few minutes later.

Newton County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Greg Harris said the call was dispatched as a person trapped in a burning house near Yardelle.

Harris said Twana Breedlove, 41, was trapped in the house. Her family members were on scene prior to fire fighters. The house was fully involved in flame when fire fighters arrived.

He said they were able to get Breedlove's body out of the house. Witnesses on scene said emergency responders attempted CPR, but Breedlove did not survive.

Harris said the cause of the fire was still under investigation, but it didn't immediately appear suspicious. He also said Breedlove's death didn't appear to be suspicious. She had been in and out of the hospital several times in recent weeks.

► DECEMBER 9

HARPS RELOCATING TO OZARK CROSSING

There will be something new in the Ozark Crossing mall next fall.

Harps Food Stores, Inc. announced Tuesday the existing Harps Food Store, formerly Country Mart, at 611 Highway 62-65 North Bypass to be relocated in the former JCPenney building in Ozark Crossing at 814 U.S. Highway 65 North in Harrison.

The brand new 37,000 square foot Harps store will offer residents of Harrison and the surrounding community, a large variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, along with Harps Black Angus beef,

all natural pork and poultry; delicious deli and signature bakery products as well as well-stocked grocery, health and beauty care, dairy and frozen departments. The existing pharmacy will also relocate to the new store. Construction will begin soon with an anticipated grand opening in fall 2021.

Harps is a 100% employee-owned company which operates 114 stores

"DECEMBER" cont. from pg 20

in four states including Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. Harps is the largest employee owned company in the state of Arkansas. Harps was founded by Harvard and Floy Harp in Springdale, in 1930. Since then, the company has grown to employ over 5,500 associates, a press release said.

► DECEMBER 19

HEALTHCARE WORKERS FIRST FOR VACCINES

North Arkansas Regional Medical Center officials anticipate receiving a limited supply of the first-ever COVID-19 vaccines, but they will be administered according to Arkansas Health Department directive.

NARMC President and CEO Vince Leist and Josh Bright, PharmD, vice president of operations, explained how the procedure will work.

Leist said NARMC has been involved in getting the Pfizer/ BioNTech vaccine from the first reports that it was being considered by the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use authorization, or EUA.

The Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued an algorithm for use in identifying the people who will be first for vaccination — front-line healthcare workers.

Bright said that the hospital expected an allocation of 330 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. That's not enough to inoculate all NARMC employees, so the hospital has been prioritizing the employees who need it the most based on the ADH directive.

The Pfizer vaccine requires ultra-low temperature storage of negative 70 degree Celsius. NARMC has obtained a freezer that can handle that temperature and can store tens of thousands of doses if necessary.

► DECEMBER 23

WATER RATE INCREASE APPROVED

The Harrison City Council meeting last week passed ordinances raising the price customers will pay for sanitation services and water in 2021.

Based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor's documentation for the period through November 2020, the CPI rate increase is 3.8% and would be applied to both residential and commercial rates. Kevin Gardner, with Orion Waste Solutions, said this rate change equates to an 87-cent increase per household per month. For the regular base service customer, the price will go from the current \$22.82 per month to \$23.69. For low volume customers the price per month will go from the current \$21.34 up to \$22.15. He reminded the committee members last year's CPI increase was 0%.

Luke Feighert, the city's chief financial officer, reminded the committee that it had discussed raising water rates above the CPI to help meet the minimum wage increase of \$11 an hour that becomes effective in 2021. He recommended a 5% increase.

The 3.2% is automatic, Feighert noted, so the increase would require council approval of 1.8% above the CPI.

Feighert also followed up with comments on the water rate increase. He said customers averaging 4,000 gallons of water a month would see their bills go up \$3.51 cents a month, including trash service. Customers using 6,000 gallons a month would see their bills go up \$4.58 a month.

Sports in 2020 adjusted to pandemic

Staff Report

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With a pandemic like no other, it was a sports season like no other.

Seasons were canceled, some were postponed and some played it on the fly. Perhaps the most important thing learned in this pandemic is that the rigid sports calendars became flexible.

Each different association tried to navigate the COVID-19 waters and many have succeeded with a successful completion of the season.

Three of the power five football conferences decided to play in the fall. The SEC, Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference all adjusted their schedules and played a season.

The Big 10 and the PAC 12 canceled the fall football season and opted for a spring schedule of competition. That was shortly lived and the colleges in the

two conferences had abbreviated seasons.

Arkansas, who sported a new coach in Sam Pittman, ended its conference losing streak and recorded a 3-7 mark after playing 10 SEC games.

Because of the season, all collegiate football teams were eligible for bowl competition. The Hogs were invited to the Texas Bowl in Houston to face TCU. The Horned Frogs had COVID concerns and did not play in the contest.

The NBA and NHL halted the season and then completed play late in the summer. Major League Baseball cut its season by 63 percent and had a World Series after playing 60 regular season games.

Sports changed in 2020, but sports was an important tool to the mental health of Americans when it returned.

► JANUARY

The cold months of the winter saw the finals in the North Arkansas senior tournaments. In a rarity, Valley Springs walked away with the championship in both the senior boys and senior girls contests.

Arkansas began SEC play with first year head coach Eric Musselman. It was a rollercoaster month for the Hogs.

Harrison Lady Goblins, Alpena Lady Leopards and both Valley Springs basketball teams are recognized in the Arkansas Sports Media High School Polls. The Lady Goblin crack the overall poll.

► FEBRUARY

The high school basketball season highlighted the sports pages.

District tournaments crowned champions with three area teams earning the championship hardware. Both Valley Springs teams and the Alpena girls all won titles. Harrison's girls and Berryville's boys each were runner-up in the 4A-1 District Tournament that was held in Prairie Grove.

There were 19 area teams that earned a trip to regional tournaments. A first round win in the regional tournament earns a state tournament bid.

Eight teams picked up wins in the tournament.

The same trio of Valley Springs boys and girls and the Alpena girls picked up regional tournament victories.

► MARCH

The month of March started off well in the sports world. State tournaments were buzzing along and college athletics were gearing up for March Madness.

North Arkansas College claimed a regional tournament championship over SAU-Tech and then defeated St. Louis Community College for a district title and a trip to the national tournament to be held in Port Huron, Mich.

Four of the eight high school teams in the state tournament made an early exit from the event. Bergman's boys, Kingston's boys and girls and Jasper's boys all lost first round contests.

Harrison's Lady Goblins got a first round bye in the state tournament after a second place finish in the regional tournament. Harrison lost to Pulaski Academy in the quarterfinals, 49-44.

Valley Springs' boys defeated Helena/West Helena Central, 78-63, in the first round. The team fell to Osceola in the quarterfinals, 62-54.

The Alpena's Lady Leopards made a trip to the semifinals. The squad opened the state tournament with a 55-47 win over Ouachita. Rural Special was the quarterfinal victim of the Lady Leopards, 62-57. Kirby sent the Lady Leopards home in the semifinals, 67-33.

Valley Springs' Lady Tigers roared through the Class 3A state tournament. Opening the event, the Lady Tigers defeated Fouke, 77-53. In the quarterfinals Lamar was the next team to be sent home by the Lady Tigers, 70-56. Mayflower was the semifinal opponent. Valley Springs won the contest, 46-43 to set up a state final appearance.

The Lady Tigers were set to play Mountain View in another tournament finals. Valley Springs had defeated the Lady Yellow Jackets by 31 in the district finals and three in the regional finals.

Scheduled to play on Friday the 13th, Valley Springs was the first Arkansas team to have the season suspended due to COVID-19.

Finals for Class 1A and 2A were completed on Thursday. The afternoon of the 12th it was announced that the games would be played at a later date.

The Arkansas Razorback basketball team was scheduled to play an SEC tournament game, but the event was suspended.

Professional associations also halted play for sporting events. The National Basketball Association and National Hockey League stopped play. Major League Baseball stopped spring training and later in the month halted the season.

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"SPORTS" YEAR IN REVIEW cont. from pg 21

The National Collegiate Athletic Association suspended March Madness and then later canceled the tournament completely.

Spring sports in the National Junior College Athletic Association, the NCAA and NAIA were halted and never resumed.

All high school sports in Arkansas were suspended.

► APRIL

As the COVID-19 virus continued to increase, the debate on finishing seasons continued.

The NJCAA had postponed its national basketball tournaments to April, but the association canceled the events ending Northark's hopes of a national title. Arkansas high school sports were canceled.

Debate loomed on about the conclusion of the professional seasons.

► MAY

Area sports began to creep back into the picture. American Legion baseball tryouts were conducted and the Ramsey Motor Company Wranglers were uniformed and ready to play.

► JUNE

While the Wranglers were on the field, there were no sports camps for area athletes to participate.

The NBA concluded its plan for continuing the season and the NHL was getting close to completion of its plan of attack for the season.

MLB was still bickering about play. The players union and the owners could not agree on a plan for the reintroduction of baseball.

► JULY

Arkansas high school athletes were allowed to return to practice. Teams could not participate in summer camps or 7-on-7 drills. Athletes had to wear mask unless they were involved in a drill. At the conclusion of the drill, masks had to be worn again. Players had to distance themselves by 6-foot.

Basketball players and volleyball players could not share balls. Players could not rebound other players misses in practice or retrieve a loose ball for any teammates.

Coaches had to become more creative with practices. Some used Zoom meetings to help the team plan an approach for the upcoming seasons. Coaches used technology to watch players do drills. Coaches found ways to correct shooting and ball handling errors.

The month of July saw a lot of movement in the world of professional sports.

"Bubble" became the buzz word of sports. The NBA brought more than 20 teams into an area of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. for the conclusion of the season.

Teams were not allowed to leave the facility until the team was eliminated for the season. The regular season was concluded and the playoffs began. The NBA had only one COVID-19 issue arise and that was after a player attended the funeral of a family member.

MLB owners and players threw together a deal for the season. Players returned to training on July 1 and the season began on July 23.

The season was reduced for the normal 162 games to 60 games for the 2020 season. MLB also reduced its reduced the number of rounds in the draft. The league dropped the rounds from 40 to five.

► AUGUST

High school athletes returned! Harrison opened its football on the road against Magnolia at Little Rock Christian Academy. Area volleyball teams cranked up the season as well.

Attendance at games found a new look. Fans were not allowed to sit close to each other unless they were family members. Every other row in the bleachers had to be left vacant and families had to have at least six foot separating them.

A transition to technology helped in ticket sales for schools. Tickets had to be purchased in advanced for sporting events.

Golf teams were found on the links competing.

The National Hockey League restarted its season in search for the Stanley Cup.

► SEPTEMBER

September brought high school football to Friday nights for five communities. One town had a different look to football.

Marshall began its quest into 8-Man football. The growing sport genre has bloomed into 16 teams in Arkansas this season. The Bobcats were one of

four teams in Class 4A and 3A that are playing the sport.

Opening the era of 8-Man, the Bobcats defeated Rose Bud in its first ever game.

COVID-19 cancelations were frequent in high school sports. The Goblins' first 5A-West football game was canceled. Harrison didn't waste anytime with the cancellation as the squad found another team that was available for that evening's festivities.

Harrison's Lady Goblins had another top three finish in golf. The Lady Goblins finished third in the Class 4A State Golf Meet.

The NHL crowned a new champion. The Tampa Bay Lightning defeated the Dallas Stars in six games.

► OCTOBER

Two area volleyball teams made a trip to the state volleyball tournament this season.

The Harrison Lady Goblins finished in the quarterfinals of the event. The Lady Goblins dropped a 3-0 set to Brookland.

Valley Springs was the other squad to earn a trip to state. The Lady Tigers fell to Charleston, 3-1.

Marshall was set to begin the large school playoffs of 8-Man football. However, COVID concerns for the squad forced the team to forfeits its match and end the season.

Arkansas football broke a long conference losing streak. The SEC played only a 10-game conference schedule and the Hogs defeated Mississippi State in their first game of the month to break their road conference losing streak. The squad later defeated Mississippi at home to break the home losing streak.

The conclusion to the longest running NBA season saw the Los Angeles Lakers win the championship. The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series as well.

► NOVEMBER

The regular season of high school football concluded with the Harrison Goblins earning its fourth straight conference title. It marked the second time in school history that the squad won four titles in a row.

This season due to COVID-19 concerns and game cancelations during the regular season in high school football, all participating schools were allowed to join the playoffs. Green Forest and Harrison were the only two teams to participate.

Green Forest was eliminated in the first round in an exciting game with Bald Knob.

Harrison received a first round bye and then started the playoffs in the second round. The day of the first contest, Harrison lost six starters due to COVID-19 concerns. The team found a way to defeat Camden-Fairview by a touchdown. Then the squad defeated White Hall in the quarterfinals on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Eight schools had a full cross country team to participate in the Arkansas Cross Country State Meet. The Kingston girls had the best finish of the Heart of the Ozarks schools. The Lady Yellow Jackets finished second in Class 1A. Harrison's girls were the third best finisher in Class 4A. The Berryville girls were 13th in the run.

Kingston's boys were fifth in Class 1A. Berryville's boys were seven in Class 4A and Green Forest's boys were eighth. The Green Forest girls recorded a top 10 finish in Class 3A at No. 10 while the Valley Springs boys were 13th in Class 3A.

► DECEMBER

Harrison played in December in high school football. The squad played Little Rock Christian in the semifinals of the Class 5A Football Playoffs.

Unfortunately for Harrison, the season came to a close as the Warriors defeated the Goblins, 52-28.

As the high school basketball season continued play, several squads missed contests due to COVID-19 exposure. Harrison's teams each had a long stretch without games.

There are no high school tournaments being played during the 2020-2021 season.

The NCAA lifted the rule on colleges having a .500 record to participate in a college football bowl game. The Razorbacks with their 3-7 mark were picked to play in the Texas Bowl against TCU. Just days before the bowl game that was to be played on New Year's Eve night, COVID-19 brought the Arkansas sports season to an end as the Horned Frogs had to cancel due to virus concerns.

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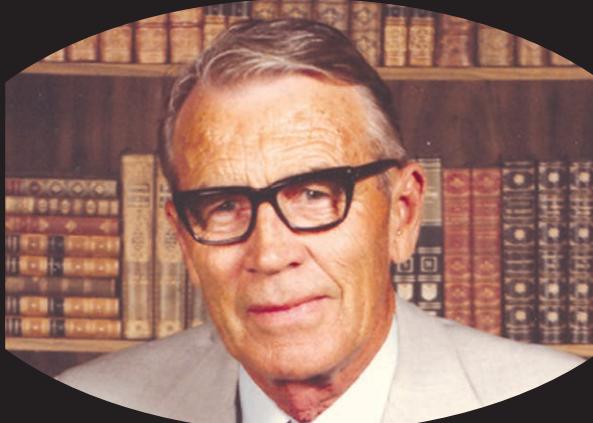
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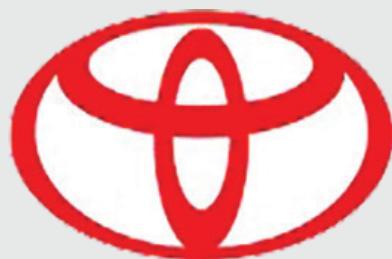
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