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Director of Preserve Arkansas Will Address White County Historical Society

The White County Historical Society (WCHS) will hold their monthly meeting at the Harding Place Retirement Community in Searcy on Monday, February 24, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Rachel Patton will talk about Preserve Arkansas's 2019 list of Most Endangered Places and give updates on the organization's efforts to save endangered historic places throughout the state since the list's inception twenty years ago. Patton is executive director of Preserve Arkansas, the only statewide nonprofit advocate for the preservation of Arkansas's historic

places. The Most Endangered Places list is announced annually and serves as an advocacy tool to increase awareness and conversations generate about saving the places that matter to Arkansans. The organization is currently accepting nominations for the 2020 Most Endangered Places List until March 6.

Rachel Patton is a native of northwest Arkansas and holds a Bachelor of Arts in History/Political Science from Arkansas Tech University, as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of

Arkansas. She has more than a decade of historic preservation experience. In July 2016, she became the executive director of Preserve Arkansas. Prior to this, Patton was preservation outreach coordinator for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. In addition to her work with Preserve Arkansas, she serves on the boards of Preservation Action, the Arkansas Historical Association, Pulaski County Historical Society, Arkansas Women's History Institute, and the Advisory Board for the Arkansas Tech University College of Arts and Humanities. She and her husband, Drue, live in North cember) at 7:00 p.m. at Little Rock's Argenta Historic District.

The White County Historical Society aims to preserve the county's rich and abundant history and make others aware of this heritage. The organization has met regularly since 1961. Projects of the Society include Pioneer Village, Smyrna Methodist Church, maintenance of a county cemetery list, as well as a Facebook page and website. Members of the public are always welcome at Society activities. Meetings take place on the fourth Monday of each month (except De-

Harding Place Retirement Community, 801 Benton Ave., Searcy. Contributions to the Society's annual publication, The Heritage, as well as to the quarterly newsletter are welcomed.

WCHS officers are Shelly Wyatt Churchwell, president; Will Walker, vice-president; Jessica Capps, secretary; and Elizabeth Heard, treasurer. Directors are Scott Akridge, Coy Benton, Glenn Mosenthin, and Bob Parish. For more information on the Society's activities, contact Shelly Wyatt Churchwell at (501)-278-

9700. History-minded persons are invited to join White County Historical Society and enjoy eleven informative programs, four newsletters, and a 100-page journal each year. Annual memberships are \$25 per household, payable to WCHS, P.O. Box 537, Searcy, AR 72145. The organization may also be contacted by email at wchs1962@gmail.com.

Visit www.Facebook.com/pages/ White-County-Historical-Society and the organization's website: www.argenweb/white.com.

Harding University hosts African American legislators historical exhibit

SEARCY, Ark., (Feb. 7, 2020) — The Harding University Brackett Library will be hosting Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893, a free traveling exhibit produced by the Arkansas State Archives and Black History Commission of Arkansas, Jan. 31-Feb. 26. The exhibit is free and open to the public and will be on display weekdays 7:45 a.m. - 11 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Sunday 1 - 11 p.m.

Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893 tells the story of the 85 African Americans who served in the Arkansas General Assembly during the

War, Arkansas adopted a new constitution in 1868 and its provisions for black Arkansas State Archives; to males included the right to encourage research in vote and hold public office. African American lawyers, merchants, ministers, educators, farmers and other professionals served in the Arkansas General Assembly. Photographs of 46 of lic schools. The BHCA the 85 legislators are an integral part of the display. Also featured is a complete listing of the legislators and a short history of post-Civil War and election law "reforms" that effectively ended African Americans election to legislative positions until the 1970s.

19th century. After the Civil History Commission of Arkansas is to collect black historical materials for the Arkansas black history; and to cooperate with the Arkansas Department of Education in the development of African American historical materials for use in pubproduces exhibits, hosts seminars, offers free educational material on African American history, and administers the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program to fund projects related to African American history in Arkansas.



Students Derek Yingling (L) and Troy Scott (R) viewing the Arkansas African American Legislators, 1868-1893 exhibit on display in Brackett Library.

PHOTO by Jeff Montgomery

The mission of the Black