



BEEBE

NEWS

Your Hometown Newspaper



\$1.25

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God Isaiah 9:6-7

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Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025

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1 Section Beebe, Arkansas 72012

Christmas Road to Bethlehem

The Christmas Road to Bethlehem is now open for viewing through December 31. Bethlehem Road is 11 miles North of Lonoke and 11 miles South of Beebe on Hwy 31. The Christmas Road to Bethlehem is 2.5 miles of displays from the Book of Luke that tell the Christmas Story and end at the church with the Nativity Scene. The church is located at 2540 Bethlehem Road, Lonoke, AR. The "Road" started in 1987. The scenes are lit each night during December. There are three open houses planned.

Each open house starts at 7:00pm the nights of December 11, 12, and 13. There is also a candlelight service on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:00pm.

For more information contact Joanne Abshire at 501-438-2415 or Rickey Phillips at 501-454-0183.

MORGAN NICK FOUNDATION

Missing

Jacob Ray Goodwin



MISSING FROM: Mcrae, AR
MISSING DATE: 12.17.25 CURRENT AGE: 17
HEIGHT: 5' 4" WEIGHT: 220
RACE: White HAIR: Brown
EYES: Hazel GENDER: Male

Jacob has been missing from Mcrae, Arkansas 12/17/25. He has tattoos on his right shoulder. Please contact Mcrae PD if you have seen Jacob or if you have any information regarding his case.

Contact

Mcrae Police Department
(501) 726-3621

479.632.6382

#lovedwayshomes

morgannick.com

Beebe City Council Approves Re-Zone Ordinances; Purchasing Two Police Vehicles; 2026 Budget

The Beebe City Council met Monday night, Dec. 22nd for the last meeting of the year. Resolution 2025-06 was passed which adopts the budget for the year 2026.

The breakdown of the various departments with revenue and expenses are:

	Revenues	Expenses
Administration	\$5,517,500.00	\$1,209,775.26
Animal Control	\$13,971.00	\$196,142.12
Cemetery	\$3,000.00	\$46,500.00
District Court	\$401,800.00	\$446,433.70
Fire	\$851,942.00	\$1,312,381.00
Library	\$0.00	\$65,267.37
Park	\$179,800.00	\$662,011.99
Police	\$32,558.00	\$2,600,431.56
Sanitation	\$1,325,000.00	\$1,051,061.00
Other General Fund	\$0.00	\$300,600.00
Total General Fund	\$8,325,571.00	\$7,890,600.00
Street Fund	\$1,090,370.00	\$1,006,675.89
Overall Total	\$9,415,941.00	\$8,897,275.89

The council approved Ordinance 2025-17 - an ordinance to rezone property located at 505 N. Main St. (old Kinley estate) from R-1 to C-2. (see ord. on Pg. 4); and Ordinance 2025-18 - an ordinance to amend the zoning map for property located at the south end of Windwood Drive from R-1 to R-4 which would change the lots size from 9,000 s.f. to 6,500 s.f. This ordinance only applies to the zoning classification. The developer will have to bring drainage construction for the lots to the Planning and Zoning and then to the council for approval in the future.(The ordinance can be seen on Pg. 4 of this issue.)

Mayor Robertson said the property located at 505 N. Main was going to be a wedding venue and a bed and breakfast according to the developer.

Mayor Robertson also announced that he had heard from a representative from Ark. Dept of Transportation and they have accepted our

request for an overlay of Center Street before handing the ownership over to the city as well as they will pay to have our intersection at No. Main Street and Dewitt Henry with a new traffic light system which was itemized at \$5.5 million dollars.

The council approved the purchase of two new vehicles for the police department which had been budgeted in the 2026 budget. The vehicles are state bid and will be purchased from Red River Dodge. They are two Dodge Durangos at a price of \$84,600 - no outfitted for police.

There had been an ongoing controversy over street maintenance in the Apple Blossom subdivision which had not been properly dedicated to the city, according to Beebe's city attorney Randy Grice. He said despite the fact that the area has Beebe water and sewer does not mean that the city is responsible for the street maintenance.

Merry Christmas!!!!



Daniel Park with the beautiful Christmas lights.

Why the Manger Instead of a Mansion

Wrapped in rags
And laid in
A manger

It announces from
A humble birth
Come, you are
Worthy!

The manger's birth To each one and all.
speaks
Of our Lord's glorious It reaches to the lowest
offer places
From that lowly Bethlehem stall
Savior, Lord, King.
Of great love and openness Melba Brackin

El Paso EH Club Christmas Party

The El Paso EH Club met on Monday, December 8, 2025, at the home of Tom and Judy Riley for our annual Christmas party. We met at 10:00 a.m. and enjoyed a delicious brunch, a variety of sweet breads and drinks. We had 20 ladies in attendance which is most likely a record. After the wonderful meal, we settled in the living room close to one of the many Christmas trees which adorn the home. Myrna Richardson presented the inspirational thought. Myrna had also purchased gifts for us to fight over. Everyone had such a good time and enjoyed the camaraderie so much.

The El Paso EH Club makes teaching dolls for Arkansas Children's Hospital year-round but deliver in June and December. Many of the ladies in this group also meet every Wednesday to knit hats for the children.

There are other ladies who help with this knitting project. We had 81 dolls and 90 knitted hats for the end of



year delivery for ACH. staff was so excited to receive the items and moved them to the proper areas quickly. Patty Crabbe delivered the dolls and hats on Friday, December 12th. The Hospital

Merry Christmas!!!

We're all aglow with happiness
and filled with gratitude too,
as we celebrate the holidays
with ones we cherish, like you!



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Important Phone Numbers

For Emergencies call 911
Most frequently called:
Beebe Police Dept. 501-882- 3365
White Co. Sheriff's Office 501-279-6279
Beebe Fire Dept. Call 911
Beebe Animal Control 501-858-9021
Crystal-Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988
Beebe City Hall 321 N. Elm 501- 882-6295
Beebe Water Dept. 501-882-6438
Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-482-5964
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988
Ark. Game & Fish 1-800-982-9262
Beebe Public Library- 882-3235
323 N. Elm, White County Health Dept., Beebe 882- 5128
Ark. Dept. of Revenue, Beebe 882-6777
Entergy Power Outage: 1-800-968- 8243
First Electric Co-op Power Outage: 1-888- 827-3322
Summit Energy(gas) 1-888-876- 5786



The following article is published in accordance with the wishes and in memory of Robert L. Kemp, former editor/publisher of The Beebe News.

by R.B. Thieme, Jr.

A catalog of available tapes and publications will be provided upon request by contacting R.B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 5139 West Alabama, Houston, TX 77056

Before you begin your Bible study, be sure that, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have named your known sins privately to God (1 John 1:9). You will then be in fellowship with God, under the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and ready to learn doctrine from the Word of God.

If you are an unbeliever, the issue is not naming your sins. The issue is faith in Christ: “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

Divine Good vs Human Good

Bible Doctrine, The Only Permanent Solution

Now here is the principle of the grass and flowers of the field (Isa. 40:6): HUMAN GOOD is like the flower of the field. All of these beautiful flowers are here for a moment, and then they are gone; they make a great impression at the moment, but they do not last. And that is what life is like. People are doing things which make an impression for the moment, but their works have all disappeared. Caesar made an impression, but it has gone. The greatest men in history have made an impression through their good, but it has vanished.

But you, as a believer in Jesus Christ, can today, tomorrow and the next day and the next, do things which will count for all eternity. Long after history books have been burned and destroyed and when all history is in its true divine light from the Word of God, the divine good of the believer will be made manifest. Yet you don’t have to wait until then - you can see it now; and you can make your life count!

You can make life count by being filled with the Spirit. You can mak your life count by getting doctrine into your human spirit; and then your production will last. Your giving will count, even if it is only half a penny. Your witnessing and your prayer will count. Your worship will be meaningful, because to be acceptable, worship must be in Spirit (filling) and in truth (doctrine)” (John 4:24).

Now ask yourself some questions. “Am I going to have the same old frustrations, the same old disappointments (whether it is Christmas or not)? Am I going to be hilarious for a couple of moments and then miserable? Am I going to rock along as I have in the past?” All your life as a believer you’ve been cranking out human good; you’ve been sincere, but your life isn’t meaningful.

I wonder, how many of you have a thrilling, adventurous and marvelous Christian life? Do you take your Christian life to business with you? Do you take it into your social life? Do you take it everywhere you go? There is only one way in which you can - and that is through doctrine taken in on a daily basis and transferred BY FAITH into the human spirit! This is the divine viewpoint. You can enjoy life or not, depending on whether you have the Word or not. Christmas can start today, and you can have Christmas all the way up to Christmas, ad infinitum, and have a meaningful and wonderful life. You can even throw New Year’s in for a little hilarity.

Continued next week.

Christmas Joy

By PastorSteve Ellison



We have many opportunities for despair. Civil society is hardly civil. Partisanship is at an all-time high. Cultural decline is rapid. We read regularly of terrorist attacks abroad. We know that even though they are only occasionally successful, these same terrorists are feverishly working to do on American soil what they are doing elsewhere. Prices outpace wages. Many have forgotten their responsibility to the poor. Many others have forgotten their responsibility to care for themselves. Many, if not most of us, deal with a friend or relative who is addicted to alcohol, prescription drugs, illegal drugs, pornography, gambling, etc. Racial distrust keeps many of us from being able to see issues rationally and thus solutions are not found. Large numbers in our society have difficulty functioning because of a struggle with depression. Crushing debt is crippling every level of government as well as families. The pressures of materialism surrounding Christmas and the pressures brought on by family gatherings and workplace holiday parties create much misery for those already in crisis because of the problems described above. But.... there is good news, no, rather great news!

Joy, which is infinitely better than comfort and happiness, is freely and readily available. The circumstances described above are not the problem. They are symptoms of the real problem. The real problem is separation from God. Mankind is created in the image of God and created for fellowship with God. Certainly, the image is marred and corrupted almost beyond recognition. Our sin has made the image of God in us virtually impossible to see. The aforementioned symptoms are indisputable evidence. Certainly the intended fellowship has been broken. In the most loving act imaginable, God has made a way for us to be restored to the relationship for which we were created. God the Father sent God the Son to earth to live among fallen creatures, to become one of them. God the Son willingly left His throne in heaven to be vilely mistreated by those He came to help. On the cross, Father and Son experienced exactly that which is mankind’s problem: separation and broken fellowship. The sinless, innocent Christ’s payment on the cross for our sin made it possible for us to be re-

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stored to right relationship with God, and thus the ability to have joy. King David, after repenting of multiple heinous sins, wrote: “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation” (Psalm 51:12, NASU).

So during this Christmas season as circumstances and pressures pile up on you, rather than succumb to despair why not respond with grace under pressure? Many around you are struggling to bear up under some very heavy weight. Your gracious behavior will be a fragrant aroma of life to many who desperately need it. (2 Cor. 2:14-16) But you may have the ability to do much, much more. Our traditions tell us to give gifts during this holiday season. If you know Christ as your Savior, you are in possession of the greatest gift of all, the gospel. Many around you are in desperate need of the good news that Jesus stands ready to forgive, reconcile, and restore. Because of the pressures of the Christmas season and because of the pressures already mentioned, many people are more ready to listen to a gospel presentation. The pressures they feel just may help them to see that they cannot face life alone, thus leading them to see that they will not be able to face death alone either. They need a Savior who will bring real joy now and eternity in heaven to boot. Please do not horde this most precious of all gifts. Share the love of the Savior they desperately need.

Rev. Steve Ellison passed away Feb. 15, 2022. We are running some of his columns from years past. We will miss him as will his many followers.

REACH

BEEBE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Keith Coker - Pastor
302 No. Main St. P O Box 247, Beebe, AR 72012
501-882-6427 www.fumcbb.org
Tiffany Jones - Youth Director
Ashley Angus- Children's Minister
Marla Walker - Mother's Day Out
Cathy Nance- Office Administrator

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Service WOW.....5:00 p.m.
2:42 Wednesday Night Classes.....6:00 p.m.

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Dec. 14 - Christmas Cantata during worship
Dec. 14 - Santa's Workshop 3pm-5pm
Dec. 21 - Blue Christmas Service - 6pm
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Beebe News

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State Capitol Week in Review

From Sen. Jonathan Dismang



December 19, 2025

Little Rock – The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is currently working on 230 active projects as of early October 2025, with a projected cost of \$2.4 billion. The department has been actively maintaining secondary highways across the state with about 500 miles of road planned to be preserved by the end of this year.

In September, six state projects were awarded \$31.1 million and two county projects were awarded \$700,000. During September bid-letting cycle, ARDOT received 28 bids from 22 different contractors. The department’s chief engineer for preconstruction highlighted three of those projects. One of those projects is the Interstate 540 and Arkansas 255 interchange in Sebastian County that was awarded \$3.4 million. It is expected to be completed by early 2027.

The second project was a contract awarding \$19.2 million to replace a bridge along U.S. 67 in Clark County. The bridge goes over the Caddo River. Clark County, in partnership with the Transportation Department, will provide funds to construct a shared-use path on the west side of the new bridge along U.S. 67. The third project highlighted; a \$2.2 million contract was awarded to alleviate traffic congestion at the U.S. 70 and University Avenue intersection. The project will include upgraded traffic signal equipment, roadway lighting and will be repaved with new markings. Metroplan of Central Arkansas is contributing \$600,000 and the city of Little Rock is providing the cost to replace signal equipment.

A new pavement preservation program for 2026 is in

the works featuring 29 highway projects totaling \$170 million; 21 of which will be pavement preservation projects.

One major part of the Transportation Department’s work is maintaining state roadways. According to Jared Wiley, the department’s director, “maintenance is 75% or 80% of the department’s budget.” ARDOT divides the state into 10 districts, and the statewide maintenance preservation program is about \$15 million, divided by \$1.5 million per district. According to Steve Frisbee, assistant chief engineer for maintenance, “last year with the \$1.5 million the districts were able to chip seal over 416 miles of state highways and place over 225,000 tons of asphalt for leveling and patching.” In 2025, 340 miles of road will be sealed, 145 will be leveled, and 24 miles will be both sealed and leveled.

In 2024, Arkansas was one of the first states to install wrong-way detection sensors primarily on Interstate 40, 55, and 555 to try and curb the number of wrong-way collisions in the state. While traveling in the wrong direction is not frequent, it often results in fatalities. Wrong-way detection systems include vehicle sensors, television cameras, illuminators, hardware controllers, warning devices and communications equipment that notify motorists if they are traveling in the wrong directions. If the sensors detect a motorist traveling in the wrong direction, LED lights will flash to notify the motorist of their mistake. There is also an alarm that will be sent to the ARDOT Traffic Management Center so crews can report and track the motorist.

From State Representative Jim Wooten



The Arkansas Legislative Council and ALC subcommittees spent much of the week examining state finances and providing agency oversight. Members began with an update on state revenue, learning that year-to-date gross general revenue collections stand at approximately \$3.31 billion. That total is about \$58.9 million, or 1.8 percent, higher than collections at the same point last fiscal year, providing a cautiously encouraging view of the state’s financial outlook. The Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee also received an update on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and SNAP programs, which play a key role in helping Arkansas families meet basic needs while working toward greater stability. On Monday, Department of Human Services officials briefed lawmakers on the outlook for TANF subgrants. DHS said several nonprofit organizations may be given more time to spend remaining funds, but the amount of future federal allocations remains uncertain. These subgrants support services such as housing assistance and youth programs.

The council approved a range of temporary appropriations to support public health initiatives, higher education grants, state police equipment, driver’s license operations, and emergency management activities. Members also cleared multiple federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act requests focused on disaster preparedness, hazard mitigation, and strengthening community resilience statewide.

In addition, lawmakers approved several personnel actions, allowing new positions to be created across multiple agencies. These included positions within the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor and Licensing through the Office of Personnel Management growth pool, as well as new roles for the Department of Military through the surrender pool.

Taken together, the week’s agenda highlighted the careful balancing act lawmakers continue to navigate as they work to maintain fiscal discipline while supporting essential programs and planning for Arkansas’ long-term needs.



Friends,
Housing costs are squeezing families across central Arkansas. Home prices are up, and rent is up. Starter homes are harder to find. And for too many hardworking Arkansans, buying a home feels farther out of reach than ever.

That did not happen by accident. Years of bad federal policy, excessive regulation, and reckless Washington spending under the Biden administration drove inflation higher and made it harder and more expensive to build homes.

Higher costs, fewer homes, and more red tape were a brutal combination for Arkansas families. When construction slows and supply dries up, prices go up. Families pay more every month, and the American Dream slips further away.

As Chairman of the House

Financial Services Committee, one of my top priorities is tackling the challenges facing builders and homebuyers in Arkansas. That is why my committee advanced the Housing for the 21st Century Act with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The Housing for the 21st Century Act takes on outdated federal housing rules that drove up costs and stalled new construction. It focuses on expanding real housing options so Arkansans can afford to rent, buy, and build again.

Here is how the Housing for the 21st Century Act helps Arkansans:

Modernizes federal housing programs to reflect current construction methods and consumer needs.

Expands the use of manufactured and modular housing, which can be built faster and at lower cost while maintaining strong safety standards.

Reduces unnecessary federal red tape that slows down housing development and drives up prices.

Improves oversight and accountability at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

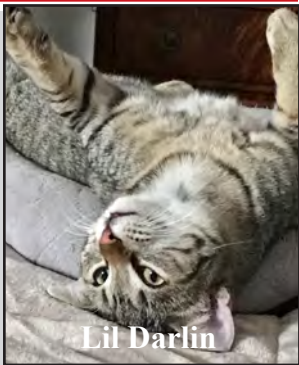
Strengthens protections for homeowners, renters, seniors, and veterans by ensuring housing programs are transparent and responsive. Encourages innovation and private investment to help increase housing supply in both urban and rural communities.

Affordable housing is about more than buildings. It is about lowering the cost of living, creating stability, and giving families a fair shot at homeownership. Fixing the damage done by years of overregulation is a necessary step toward making that possible again.

**AMERICA HAS A NEED FOR SPEED
TIME IS MONEY, AND WASHINGTON IS WASTING BOTH**

What's Left!

By Lee “Cat” McLane Editor/Publisher



I hope that you are having a good holiday time with family and friends. Our family got together last Sunday and the highlight of the evening was watching my great-nephew who just turned two years old. He was the hit of the evening. The great thing about a two year old is that you never know what they are going to do. We bought him a stuffed animal at Walmart - a koala that sings the “pickaboo” song and flaps his ears. It is adorable. Then when you

push a button on his paw, he says “Peekaboo and then there is a recording of a young baby laughing energetically. And - it sounds just like my great-nephew. So funny and cute!!!

I hope you find fun in the small things of this holiday season!

Merry Christmas!

Go to your happy and grateful place!

See you next year!



2026 NEW YEAR'S EVE GLOW PARTY FAVORS PARTY FAVORS VFW POST 7769 T-SHIRTS \$15 BEEBE FEATURING 90 proof Old No. 1 BRAND COUNTRY & WESTERN BREAKFAST \$30 SINGLE \$45 COUPLE DAY OF \$35 & \$50 Tickets available at the Post 1405 E. Center St Beebe, AR

For too long, slow and outdated federal permitting processes have driven up costs, delayed projects, and held back communities that are ready to grow. In fact, environmental impact studies alone delay major infrastructure projects by an average of 4.5 years, with 25 percent of projects delayed six years!

That is six years of higher costs, missed jobs, and communities left waiting. And that doesn’t even include other permitting delays. That is why I supported my friend and fellow Arkansan, Rep. Bruce Westerman’s SPEED Act. This common-sense, bipartisan bill simplifies and standardizes permitting regulations across federal agencies. It cuts through red tape so states, cities, and rural communities can build faster, spend smarter, and finally move critical infrastructure projects forward.

Rep. Westerman and I talked about the SPEED Act right after it passed the House.

CHAG SAMEACH!

Hanukkah is a time when Jewish people around the world reflect on hope, resilience, and the courage to stand against hatred. It is a reminder that even in dark moments, light endures.

That message felt especially important this week, after a heinous terrorist attack against the Jewish community during a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach in Australia.

As we send our prayers to the victims and their families, and as candles are lit this week, Martha and I wish everyone celebrating a joyous and meaningful Hanukkah.

May the Festival of Lights bring strength, comfort, and hope to Jewish families in Arkansas and around the world.

AMERICA 250: REMEMBERING VALLEY FORGE

December 19 marked the 248th anniversary of the Continental Army’s arrival at Valley Forge, one of the most difficult chapters of the American Revolution. Soldiers faced brutal conditions. Freezing temperatures, few rations, and rampant disease left many sick, weak, and exhausted. Yet they held the line, day after day, not for personal glory, but for the men standing beside them and the desire to be free.

Despite the circumstances, our brave forebears trained, rebuilt, and emerged stronger. They endured and persevered so the idea of America could survive its darkest winter.

"The March to Valley Forge, December 19, 1777," by William Brooke Thomas Trego (1883)

TOURS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING

Capitol Tours have resumed!

Now that the government is open again, my office can arrange tours of the Capitol and many other sights in Washington, D.C., on behalf of you and your family during your stay. Please note: White House tours will require Real IDs or other accepted ID, such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID.

If you and your loved ones are planning on visiting Washington, D.C. in the coming months, I recommend you reach out to my office to request tours as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about your visit to Washington, D.C., please call my D.C. office at (202) 225-2506.

Sincerely,

Representative French Hill

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Legal Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 17

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP WITH RESPONSE TO THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIFIED LAND AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF BEEBE, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, has, pursuant to the Beebe Zoning Code and other applicable law, conducted public hearings upon the requested amendment of the Zoning Map heretofore adopted by the City Council for the City of Beebe, Arkansas with respect to the hereinafter described lands; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, has, upon conclusion of the said public hearings, made a finding of fact that the amendment of the Zoning Map with respect to the hereinafter described lands is consistent with the purposes of the Zoning Code and the Plans adopted by said Planning Commission; and,

WHEREAS, upon the aforesaid finding of fact, the Planning Commission has recommended to the City Council that the new Zoning Map be amended with respect to said lands; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the requested zoning changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BEEBE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, be and are hereby amended for purposes of changing the Zoning Classification from R-1 to C-2 as to that real property located at 505 N Main St Beebe, White County, Arkansas, as described as follows:

A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: COMMENCING AT THE CENTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 8 AND RUN THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST ON HALF SECTION LINE OF SAID SECTION 8 FOR 300.00 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 38 SECONDS EAST 199.35 FEET, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST 355 FEET, THENCE NORTH 201.73 FEET AND THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST 355. FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. BEGINNING AT CORNER OF NORTH MAIN STREET AND OLIVE STREET IN J.S. SMITH'S ADDITION RUNNING NORTH ALONG NORTH MAIN STREET, ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX (146) FEET FOR POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH OLIVE STREET THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FEET (360), THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH NORTH MAIN STREET, TWO HUNDRED TWELVE FEET (212), THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH OLIVE STREET, THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FEET (360), THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH NORTH MAIN STREET, TWO HUNDRED TWELVE (212) FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN CENTER PART OF J.S. SMITH'S ADDITION WITH BUILDINGS THERE ON.

LESS AND EXCEPT

A PORTION OF THE J.S. SMITH ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF BEEBE, WHITE COUNTY, ARKANSAS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF OLIVE STREET AND THE WEST LINE OF MAIN STREET (BEING 12.5 FEET NORTH OF THE CENTER OF OLIVE STREET AND 20 FEET WEST OF THE CENTER OF MAIN STREET) AND THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 136.75 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST, 360.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 23.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 178.48 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 27 SECONDS EAST, 17.5 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 178.36 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST, 17.5 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 0.07 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

LESS AND EXCEPT

A PORTION OF THE J.S. SMITH ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF BEEBE, WHITE COUNTY, ARKANSAS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF OLIVE STREET AND THE WEST LINE OF MAIN STREET (BEING 12.5 FEET NORTH OF THE CENTER OF OLIVE STREET AND 20 FEET WEST OF THE CENTER OF MAIN STREET) AND THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 136.75 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST, 360.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 23.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 0.01 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

Emergency Clause. The regulation and preservation of property uses and values in accordance with a comprehensive plan and the continuing utilization of lands within the City of Beebe in accordance therewith being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare, an emergency is hereby declared, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of December, 2025.

MIKE ROBERTSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CAROL CRUMP-WESTERGREN, CITY CLERK-TREASURER

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP WITH RESPONSE TO THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIFIED LAND AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF BEEBE, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, has, pursuant to the Beebe Zoning Code and other applicable law, conducted public hearings upon the requested amendment of the Zoning Map heretofore adopted by the City Council for the City of Beebe, Arkansas with respect to the hereinafter described lands; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, has, upon conclusion of the said public hearings, made a finding of fact that the amendment of the Zoning Map with respect to the hereinafter described lands is consistent with the purposes of the Zoning Code and the Plans adopted by said Planning Commission; and,

WHEREAS, upon the aforesaid finding of fact, the Planning Commission has recommended to the City Council that the new Zoning Map be amended with respect to said lands; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the requested zoning changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BEEBE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map for the City of Beebe, Arkansas, be and are hereby amended for purposes of changing the Zoning Classification from R-1 to R-4 as to that real property located at the South end of Windwood Dr. Parcel #004-03973-002 Beebe, White County, Arkansas, as described as follows: Address or Physical Location:

Part of the Southwest Quarter, Section 18, T5N, R8W, Beebe, White County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 18; thence S 0214° 00' W 1342.68 feet; thence S 02 13' 3811W 1298.73 feet; thence S 12 20' 37" W 695.77 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing Southerly along said line, a distance of 252.51 feet; thence S 12 27' 3511W 726.02 feet to the North right of way of Union Pacific Railroad; thence S 562 30' 07" W along said right of way 809.94 feet; thence N 02 23' 01"E 517.47 feet; thence N 02 03' 14"E 915.40 feet; thence S 892 22' 23"E 695.54 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Emergency Clause. The regulation and preservation of property uses and values in accordance with a comprehensive plan and the continuing utilization of lands within the City of Beebe in accordance therewith being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare, an emergency is hereby declared, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of December, 2025.

MIKE ROBERTSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CAROL CRUMP-WESTERGREN, CITY CLERK-TREASURER



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Harding recognizes 2025 fall candidates for graduation
During Dec. 13 commencement

University honored 341 students representing 26 U.S. states and 11 countries

SEARCY, Ark. (Dec. 15, 2025) — Harding University held its fall commencement ceremony, honoring 341 candidates for graduation, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 in the University's George S. Benson Auditorium.

During commencement, the University recognized the accomplishments of students representing 26 U.S. states and 11 nations and territories, including Brazil, China, Italy and Nigeria. The University conferred 17 different degrees across its distinguished programs, demonstrating the academic success of all eight colleges. "Commencement is a time to recognize all our students have achieved and to encourage them as they step into a world that needs their talents," said Dr. Mike Williams, president of Harding University. "We look forward to seeing how they will carry forward the values learned at Harding and how they will enrich the communities and workforces they join."

The commencement address was given by Dr. Susan Kehl, who completes her tenure as dean of the Carr College of Nursing Dec. 31. A tireless advocate for the college, Dr. Kehl has guided the development of new academic programs and has helped the college successfully navigate Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation and approval processes with the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. She holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Harding, a Master of Science in nursing from Abilene Christian University and a Ph.D. in health studies from Texas Woman's University. She is also a Certified Nurse Edu-

cator and a licensed Registered Nurse.

Following the address,

Harding President Mike Williams recognized candidates as they were recom-

mended by the faculty for graduation.

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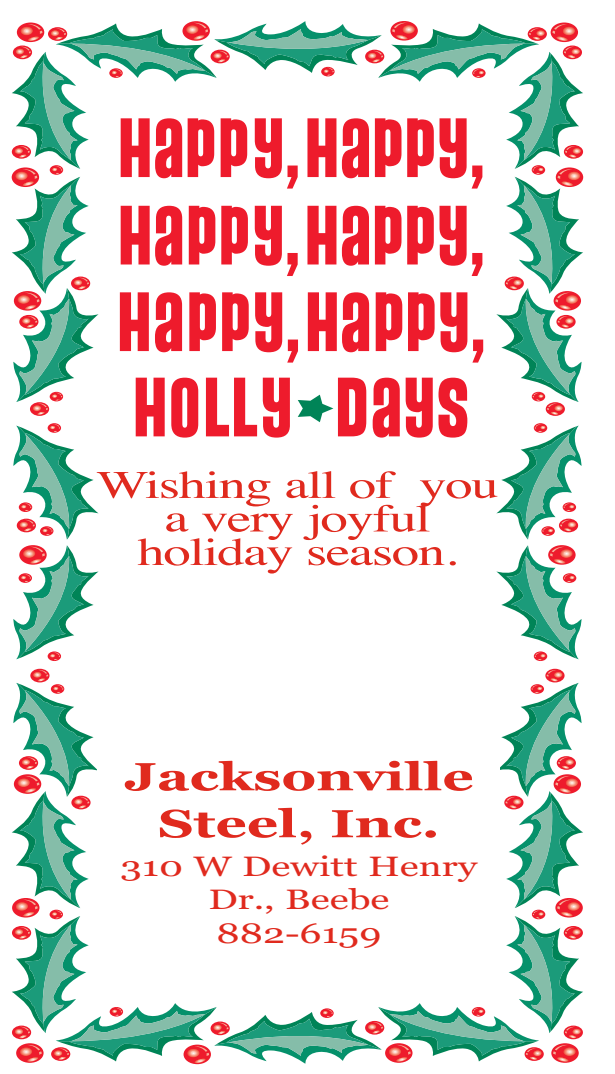
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Blanchard Springs Caverns' Early Story Lives on in Lyon College Archives

BATESVILLE, Arkansas – As state leaders move toward designating Blanchard Springs Caverns as Arkansas's 53rd state park, a quieter but equally significant chapter of the caverns' history rests in a climate-controlled room inside Lyon

College's Mabree-Simpson Library in Batesville. Years before the state of Arkansas took steps to elevate Blanchard Springs Caverns toward state park status through a new memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Forest

Service, two local explorers were crawling through the darkness armed with curiosity, carbide lamps and hand-drawn maps. One of them, Batesville native Hail Bryant, would become a pioneer of northern Arkansas

spelunking. With his exploration partner Hugh Shell, Bryant spent the 1950s and 1960s charting the hidden caves that honeycomb the Ozarks. Their work led the first professional expedition to explore and map the caverns that later became known as Blanchard Springs Caverns, now one of the state's most visited natural wonders.

Bryant, who died in 2011 at age 83, was not only a trail-blazer in caving but also a life-long community leader. Born in Huff (Independence County) in 1927, he attended Batesville High School and studied at both Lyon College (then Arkansas College) and the University of Arkansas. A draftsman and business leader, he produced the blueprints for many homes built in the area, including the first all-electric home built in Arkansas.

He co-owned Bryant Lumber Company and helped develop numerous subdivisions around Batesville. An avid outdoorsman and amateur geologist, he explored hundreds of caves, collected Native American artifacts, fossils and geological specimens, and taught hunter safety for more than three decades.

Beginning in 1959, Bryant, his wife Fayé, Shell and others began exploring Blanchard Springs Caverns, then known as One-Half Mile Cave. Their mapping, photographing and careful documentation convinced the U.S. Forest Service to develop it as a tourist attraction.

Today, the Mabree-Simpson Library preserves Bryant's legacy in the Hail Bryant Collection, a trove of photographs, slides, maps, newspaper clippings and videotaped interviews documenting decades of cave discovery. The collection also includes cave inspection reports and Bryant and Shell's hand-drawn map of Half-Mile Cave. Nancy S. Griffith, retired archivist and special collections librarian at Lyon College, completed processing the collection in 1992. Kim Halpain and Judy Blackwell finalized detailed indexing and the website finding aid in 2002.

For some, the history preserved in the archives is also deeply personal.

Growing up in Batesville, we lived next door to Fayé, Hail and their son, Dale, for several years," said Skip Rutherford of Little Rock, a member of the Lyon College Board of Trustees. "I remember hearing Hail tell stories about

how magnificent these caverns were. I am grateful that Lyon College has preserved and documented his historic collection.

The reach of Bryant's work extended well beyond exploration and into scientific understanding, preservation and even Cold War-era civil defense planning.

"The cave inspection reports produced by Hail Bryant, Hugh Shell and their compatriots were an especially useful resource in my own cave research," said Dr. David Thomas, W.D. Bryan Professor of Biology and advisor for Cavers of the Batesville Region of Arkansas Grotto (COBRA Grotto) at Lyon College. "The group surveyed approximately 200 caves and mines in Arkansas to find out how many would be useful as fallout shelters. Keep in mind that this was right around the same time as the Cuban missile crisis."

"Fortunately, nuclear war did not happen, and most caves would have been poor shelters," Dr. Thomas said. "What did result was a much deeper understanding of caves in the region. I spent my 2010 sabbatical compiling and mapping those reports and preserving them in digital form. Thomas's digitized copies of Bryant and Shell's cave inspection files are housed on CD in the Mabree-Simpson Library at

Lyon.

That spirit of research and education continues today through Dr. Thomas and COBRA Grotto, an official chapter of the National Speleological Society that engages in scientific, recreational and educational caving throughout the Ozarks. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year in Room 16 of the Derby Center for Science and Mathematics at Lyon College. Meetings are open to the public.

As Arkansas moves toward formally establishing Blanchard Springs State Park, the Mabree-Simpson Library's archives serve as a reminder that the caverns' future is rooted in the curiosity and persistence of explorers who mapped its depths long before it became a tourist destination. The Hail Bryant Collection is open to researchers, students and the public. The full collection can be accessed online at <https://lyon.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16642coll2/search>, and the primary box of original materials is available for in-person study by appointment.

Researchers may request access to the physical collection by contacting Cassandra Meyer, resource sharing librarian, at Kassandra.Meyer1@Lyon.edu to schedule an appointment.



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