

## OUR TOWN

## North Little Rock notebook

JAKE SANDLIN  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

## RV park surpasses \$1 million revenue

North Little Rock's city-owned Downtown Riverside RV Park surpassed \$1 million in revenue last week since its opening in September 2008, the North Little Rock Visitors Bureau reported.

There have been 18,191 RVs whose owners have rented space at the RV park at 50 Riverfront Drive, just east of the Interstate 30 bridge, according to Visitor Center figures through July 28. The total number of occupancy days had been 52,498, with an average length of stay being 2.89 days.

Of the RV rentals, about 72 percent were from outside Arkansas.

Based on a formula used to compute that visitors spend \$140.32 per day multiplied by length of stay, the economic impact on Central Arkansas is figured at more than \$7.3 million in the park's almost six years, according to the Visitors Bureau.

"We are positively contributing to our city," Shelia Bullerwell, the RV park manager, said in a city news release. "Beyond spending the night, visitors to the park are seeing attractions and eating in local restaurants, and sharing those experiences with other potential visitors."

North Little Rock's City Council approved issuing bonds for up to \$200,000 to create the RV park on a vacant five acres of riverfront land that included installing fencing, electricity, water and sewer services to the property.

## City Council opts for outside review

A Virginia firm will conduct an independent analy-

sis of North Little Rock Fire Department response times and services, the City Council approved 6-0 last week.

The city hired Tri-Data Division, System Planning Corp. of Arlington, Va., to conduct the review for \$31,315. The company's proposal was the lowest cost of five submitted to the city during the summer.

Aldermen Maurice Taylor and Linda Robinson had requested the independent analysis this spring to answer complaints from residents on the city's far eastern end of their Ward 2 about the lack of a fire station in their area. The closest fire station is at U.S. 165 east of Interstate 440, which has been quoted by city officials as being 8½ minutes away to the farthest residential areas.

The North Little Rock Fire Department did an in-house study this summer, but Mayor Joe Smith told aldermen that it was up to them if they wanted to spend the extra money to have an outside review.

## Argenta to provide computer classes

Free adult computer classes will be offered Aug. 11 at the Argenta Branch of North Little Rock's William F. Laman Library.

Connect Arkansas, a private nonprofit organization, is a project from Arkansas Capital Corp. There will be two one-hour classes. Instruction will be at 1 p.m. for Introduction to Microsoft Word and 2 p.m. for Computer and Internet Frequently Asked Questions.

Classes are limited to five students each, and each student will be provided with a computer for the class. Registration is through the Argenta library at (501) 687-1061.

## Police beat

NIKKI WENTLING  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

## Police dog finds 4 bags of cocaine

A Little Rock man was arrested Friday when a police dog discovered drugs in his vehicle, according to an arrest report.

Police responded to Centennial Bank, 718 S. Broadway, to reports of an aggravated robbery in progress Friday at about 2 p.m. Witnesses said the suspect, whom police later identified as 36-year-old Andre Graves, was armed.

Officers caught up with Graves and searched his vehicle for weapons. They did not find any weapons; however, police did locate two digital scales, and a police dog discovered four baggies of crack cocaine in the car's console, according to an arrest report.

Graves was booked into the Pulaski County jail on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of cocaine with purpose to deliver — both Class C felonies.

His bail was set at \$16,000, and a parole hold was placed on his custody. He remained on the jail's roster Saturday night.

Graves was not charged in the reported aggravated robbery, and more information about that incident was not available Saturday.

## NLR man arrested in home TV theft

A North Little Rock man was arrested over accusations that he stole a television from a home and fled from police, according to an arrest report.

Police responded to re-

ports of a residential burglary at 1820 S. Main St. just after 8 a.m. Friday. When officers arrived, Terry McClendon, 25, fled on foot carrying a flatscreen television, police said. He was apprehended one block away.

McClendon was booked into Pulaski County jail on charges of residential burglary, theft of property and fleeing. His bail was set at \$27,000, and he had a parole hold placed on his custody. He remained on the jail's roster Saturday night.

## Officers spot meth, syringe in vehicle

A Jacksonville woman was arrested on felony drug charges Saturday after police purportedly found methamphetamine in her vehicle, according to an arrest report.

North Little Rock police stopped Tara Watts, 24, at 4401 Camp Robinson Road at 10:40 a.m. Saturday because her car had an expired license plate, police said. Officers arrested Watts after finding that she had an outstanding warrant.

During a search of her vehicle, officers found a syringe and meth, according to an arrest report.

Watts was booked into Pulaski County jail on possession of drug paraphernalia and a Schedule I controlled substance. Her bail was set at \$10,000, and she remained on the jail's roster Saturday night.

fied authorities that he never reached his destination.

Broadbent had left Searcy on Oct. 21 on a flight to Elk City, Okla.

The safety board report released Wednesday said the probable cause of the crash was the pilot's lack of weather planning and his continued flight into moderate to heavy rain that led to reduced visibility, which resulted in his failure to maintain clearance above trees in the area.

## Booking it



Kris Leavy, 11, flies down an inflatable slide Saturday during the annual Lamanpalooza at the William F. Laman Public Library's Argenta branch in North Little Rock. The event, which included a zip line and arts and crafts, celebrated the library's summer reading program.

## Tech

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Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, according to the state Department of Higher Education.

A fourth school, the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, offers similar training for educators as part of its doctorate in leadership studies program.

John Watson, Arkansas Tech's vice president for academic affairs, said the new program is targeted at different students than are existing programs.

"The other programs, as I understand, are much more broadly defined," he said. "Our graduates are going to be school administrators. That allows us to focus the coursework on precisely what they need to be good school administrators."

Cynthia Moten, associate

director for academic affairs at the state Higher Education Department, said her agency doesn't expect the new program to take students away from the existing ones.

Few Arkansas Tech graduates pursue doctorates at Arkansas colleges, she said. Most Arkansas Tech graduates interested in pursuing doctorates in educational leadership go to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, which has a partnership with the school.

"Those are the individuals who are expected, at least initially, to pursue the program," she said. "The fact that their students were not enrolling in existing programs, there would not be an adverse impact in the existing programs."

The Arkansas Tech program is also expected to draw different students because it will follow a more rigid structure. The nine-semester program, which includes summers, follows a guide of

classes that should be taken each semester.

"They know if they enter here, this is their program and that's what they're expected to follow, and we expect them to commit to this," Gunter said.

Students will be admitted to the school as part of a cohort, a group that will follow the program together. Moten said the other institutions don't have formal cohorts.

"Any student who is wanting to pursue a degree on their own at their own pace will go to one of the other institutions," Moten said.

Gunter said the school wants to admit a new cohort of students each year, which will provide flexibility to those who aren't able to keep up with the rigorous program.

"If something does happen and a person has to drop out, then they can enter with another cohort and pick up where they left off," she said.

Gunter and her colleagues

have been working to get this doctoral program since 2009.

Because this will be the first doctoral program for the university, it also had to undergo the process of changing its role and scope.

Proposals for the change in role and scope and the doctorate of educational leadership had to be approved by leaders at the school and state levels.

An external review committee made up of leaders of peer institutions in other states also reviewed Arkansas Tech's proposal and provided feedback.

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board gave final approval to both changes on July 25.

Gunter said she has already been getting calls from prospective students.

"It's an exciting time for Arkansas Tech," she said. "I know the students are very excited about the potential of being able to apply."

## Memorial

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that's the bulk of the traffic — the students coming here to train."

Getting the project off the ground wasn't easy.

Yeates took his idea to then-Mayor Patrick Hays in 2007.

The former mayor recommended that the North Little Rock City Council form a commission to create a veterans memorial but backed off from supporting the spot outside Yeates' bar and grill for a city project. During the early part of the memorial selection process, Yeates withdrew his site from consideration.

Yeates' project became the forerunner to the city-sponsored Veterans Memorial in Laman Plaza on the grounds of the William F. Laman Library, 2801 Orange St. Officials dedicated the memorial in November 2010.

"If I had known then what I know now about all of the politics and everything that surrounded it, I don't know if I'd do it," Yeates said. "But, after it's all over with now, I'm glad I did it."

City Alderman Debi Ross, who took over as chairman of the Veterans Commission after



A statue of a Desert Storm soldier is dedicated Saturday outside My Friend's Place bar and grill at Military and MacArthur drives in North Little Rock.

Yeates withdrew his proposal, recalled last week that North Little Rock leaders wanted to ensure a city-sponsored memorial be on a site best accessible to the public.

"I just think as far as large groups go, that was one of the concerns about it being there," Ross said. "At Laman Plaza, there was just more space. That was my understanding

when I took over."

But Ross said she is glad the city now has two sites to honor the military. The 20-by-20-foot site around the statue at My Friend's Place was accepted as public property by the City Council in August 2011 to allow public access on the business's otherwise private property.

"It's a great location," Ross said of the statue site near

Camp Robinson. "It looks really good. I'm happy about having it."

Yeates said that his project drew attention from out-of-state military personnel from across the United States who had been at Camp Robinson.

"And with the public access easement grant [by the city], the public can feel free to visit it anytime," he said.

## Separate car accidents kill 3 across Arkansas

NIKKI WENTLING  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Three people died in separate car accidents Friday and Saturday, according to Arkansas State Police.

The first accident occurred at 2:39 a.m. Friday in Prescott in Nevada County.

Jasmine Howard, 21, of Sherwood was driving north on U.S. 371 when she lost control of her Honda Accord while driving on a curve. The car left the road, crossed the adjacent Holly Street and went airborne, state police said. The Accord struck two trees and a house, and then caught fire.

Howard was pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger, 21-year-old Kierra Henderson of Sherwood, was taken to St. Michael hospital in Texarkana, Texas, with in-

juries. Her condition was unavailable Saturday.

According to an accident report, roads were wet at the time of the accident.

Later Friday morning, a 21-year-old from Alabama died in an accident near Monticello in Drew County.

Carly Avery of Hamilton, Ala., was driving east on U.S. 278 at 6:20 a.m. when she lost control at a curve and went into the westbound lanes. A Freightliner driving west struck her Scion, according to state police.

Avery was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Freightliner, 57-year-old Earl Robbins from Hampton, was not injured.

It was raining and roads were wet at the time of the accident, state police said.

On Saturday, one man died

and another was injured in a morning accident in Jackson County. The accident occurred at the intersection of Arkansas 145 and Jackson Road 620.

McCabe West, 36, of Wilfiford was heading west on Jackson Road 620 and drove into the path of Newport resident Kevin Wayne Slagley, 44, who was driving south on Arkansas 145.

West's car struck the front driver's side of Slagley's Chevrolet, and Slagley was ejected. He died at the scene.

West was taken to Harris Hospital in Newport and later

transported to UAMS Medical Center in Little Rock. His condition was unavailable Saturday evening.

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