

City & Town

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Then & Now



Osceola awarded \$1.2 million jobs grant

The U.S. Commerce Department is awarding a \$1.2 million grant to Osceola so the city can build infrastructure to support a planned \$1.1 billion steel mill, the Associated Press has reported. The department's Economic Development Administration said the money will go toward water and sewer improvements needed for operation of the Big River Steel mill.

The mill will employ 545 full-time employees earning upward of \$75,000 per year, and 2,000 construction workers are to build the plant. Osceola is also getting a railroad tank car unloading facility, which is expected to bring in \$325 million in private investment.

Obituaries

JOE BIARD, 74, mayor of Batesville from 1995-2006, died April 9.

MATTHEW TANNER RUNDLE, 26, a Siloam Springs firefighter, died April 6.

LOYCE WOODROW TINKER, 91, a former mayor of Minturn, died Jan. 22.

New Argenta library branch opens in North Little Rock



North Little Rock's new Argenta Branch of the William F. Laman Public Library opened to the public on March 31. The new library is located at 420 Main Street in the city's old downtown post office. The \$4 million renovation created more than 10,000 square feet of space, which includes reading areas, meeting rooms, a large children's library section, and media center. Future plans for the new library include converting the back loading dock area to an outdoor event space in the warmer months.