



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**2022 District Conversion Public
Charter School Application**

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy

Name of Proposed Charter

Initial Application - Deadline July 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

X Final Application - Deadline September 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications will not be accepted after this time.

Any application that is substantially incomplete will not be forwarded to the authorizer for consideration. An application will be considered substantially incomplete if it does not provide enough information to enable staff at the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a meaningful review.

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-683-5312**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Proposed Charter:	Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy
School District:	Rivercrest School District
Superintendent:	Michael H. Cox
Superintendent Phone:	870-655-0806
Superintendent Email:	mike.cox@smccolts.com
Primary Contact for Application:	Shantele Raper
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1. Describe the public hearing which was held for the purpose of assessing support for the establishment of this public charter school. Include the number of attendees and the feedback and/or public comments that were received.

The Rivercrest School District held a virtual public hearing on June 30, at 11:00 am via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy.

The number of participants was very limited. Local news outlets were also a part of the Zoom.

Comments included: "We see it as a positive to help students have more choices"
"There are several teachers in our school with various backgrounds that could support something like this charter"
"This would help with issues of behavior and attendance."

In addition, a faculty and staff meeting was held for comment, discussion and support. 11 participants were in attendance with overwhelming support for charter addition.

In an effort to provide additional opportunities for community input, an additional public meeting was held on parent teacher conference night, August 11th. Parents visited and accessed materials and handouts. The feedback was:

"If it is good for our kids, we want it"
"I wondered why we did not have a charter when the high school was started"

2. Describe the educational need for the charter. Include quantitative data related to academic achievement.

Rivercrest School District is a consolidated school district located in southern Mississippi County and consisting of over 300 square miles. RSD lies in a rural portion of the Arkansas Delta. The district has a population of approximately 1200 students from the preschool through twelfth grade. The uniqueness of RSD is reflected by the diversity of communities it serves. Mississippi County contains 476,502 acres of farmland. Of those acres 98% is used as cropland. According to United States Census data, 41.75% of the residents in Mississippi County are employed in fields related to agriculture, farming, production, and related fields. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy intends to focus on preparing students to make informed choices for high school pathways provided by The Academies at Rivercrest High School. Students will be provided exploratory and Tier I courses in trades and skills that are in high demand for employment opportunities in the region.

Of our current population in the Rivercrest School District, 72% are considered economically disadvantaged (ESEA), and 25.7% of all Mississippi County residents live in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau)

The 2021 School Report for Rivercrest High School shows that RHS was below the state

average in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The letter grade for RHS dropped from a C to a D in 2019. Further investigation into the data shows cohort groups are also performing below state averages.

Rivercrest 7th-12th grade students struggle with many of the same problems that exist in many Mississippi Delta schools. Student engagement, remediation rates, test scores, attendance, graduation rates, college readiness, college completion rates, and postsecondary remediation rates are concerns held by parents, teachers, students, community members, and other stakeholders. In order to address these concerns, Rivercrest School District has partnered with Solution Tree to sustain Professional Learning Communities within our buildings. The current needs assessments provides a solid foundation of strengths for our secondary buildings, including the PLC process, a strong partnership with Arkansas Northeastern College for concurrent credits, support and guidance offered from Crowley's Ridge Educational Cooperative, the school board, and a dedicated staff to the academies. Currently we find our jr high students would benefit from the same process being implemented in The Academies at Rivercrest High School. A pure Freshman Academy is in place with grade level PLCs to nurture and support our students in their journey into high school. We find our students not on track to graduate are a direct result of loss of credits in 9th and 10th grade. In addition, behavior and attendance is also a hindrance to our graduation rate.

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will allow us to transition the academy process into our 7th and 8th grade, bringing a 7th-12th grade cohesiveness to our secondary building. Rivercrest secondary students begin their journey with concurrent credits very early in their high school. In 2022, 14% of our seniors completed an associate degree or Certificate of General Studies by high school graduation. Although impressive, our students need a parallel career path to further their plans into post-secondary. Our desire is to prepare students for Freshman Academy by implementing the following instructional practices.

- Career Exploratory classes in 7th grade
- Tier I CTE courses and Algebra I in 8th Grade
- Social and Emotional Learning in 7th and 8th Grade
- Healthy Lifestyles in 7th and 8th Grade

This will allow for students to have exposure to different career pathways and SEL support for decision making to provide a solid foundation moving into high school. The high school course credits will allow for more students to be CTE concentrators and completers in addition to their concurrent college credits.

In reviewing data for attendance, grades and behavior, we find our jr high building has the lowest attendance rate and the highest behavior infraction rates in our district. In 7th-8th grade, 3% of our students are identified as At Risk in Smart Data. Jr high students have an average of 13% of assignments missing. Our special populations show the highest number of office referrals with 26% Special Education and 39% African American students with office discipline referrals.

The need for an individualized learning opportunity for students is evident. Rivercrest School District is rich in alumni teachers, parental support and engaged students; however, a system of traditional classroom instruction, course offerings and support systems is currently hindering the further success of our students. The proposed charter school would provide a catapult to innovation to support students outside of the traditional expectations.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Grades to be Offered	7-8	7-8	7-8	7-8	7-8
Enrollment Cap	250	250	250	250	250

3. What type of educational model will the school follow?

- Traditional
- 100% Virtual
- College Prep
- Credit Recovery/ALE

- Other:

4. Provide the mission statement of the proposed charter school:

The mission of the Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students to support their social, emotional, health, career exploratory and academic needs as they transition to high school.

5. Provide a list and brief description of the programmatic features that the school will implement in order to accomplish the mission.

Social - Emotional Learning

In order to give students at Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy skills to be self-aware, self-managing, responsible decision makers, and to have appropriate relationships, various features will be available through the proposed charter. SEL practices and programs will be embedded throughout our regular curriculum, such as G.U.I.D.E. For Life, the Walking Classroom, "Habits of Mind" toolkit, and scheduled "brain break" times where students will be able to utilize outdoor centers to encourage exploration. Course offerings using middle school SEL curriculum such as Second Step, Guide for Life, or Changing Perspectives will also be available. Additional programs will also be required for any student with a behavior management plan or in our Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) facility.

Career Exploration

RJHS Prep Academy, under the proposed charter, would allow students in the 8th grade to explore pathways made available through Academies at Rivercrest High School. Currently, students are not introduced to these survey classes until the 9th grade, which may put students at a disadvantage. Eighth grade students could choose from Survey of Agriculture,

Survey of Family and Consumer Science, Survey of Business, or a Level I JROTC or EAST course so that entering Academies freshmen can begin their chosen Tier II course OR choose a different career pathway. Prep Academy students would also be given additional career exploration opportunities such as volunteering, job shadowing, and collaboration with local professionals. Career Development will be offered in 7th grade and begin our Student Success Plan process.

Innovation in Academics

Using assessment data such as NWEA, ACT Aspire, and STAR, along with expertise from partners at Solution Tree, we will provide targeted intervention and enrichment opportunities for students to help them be successful in core areas. Teacher training will be made available on data tracking, student goal setting, and effective strategies for enrichment and intervention. To provide a personalized learning pathway, with accelerated learning based on individual needs, we will use a scheduling program such as FlexiSched to advance our current work in creating a streamlined intervention process. Once mastery is shown in deficient skills, our grade-level PLC teams will identify and determine appropriate supplemental enrichment opportunities for each student. FlexiSCHED is a simple program and back-end database that tracks and maintains attendance records of where students go for targeted intervention periods or high-engagement enrichment periods. It is designed to be "flexible" so schools can fit it into their own school culture and philosophy. FlexiSCHED links students to their default teachers and those default teachers schedule the students to attend either an intervention period if they need the extra time and support or an enrichment offering if they are in good standing.

We will provide outdoor learning spaces, supplemental physical education, and other exciting enrichment opportunities for our students.

The charter would allow our vested teachers and administrators support individual student needs based on what they know and learn about our students. We want a two fold approach to our Jr High. 1) Continuing to nurture and support much like their elementary needs, including providing more physical activity and SEL as they transition from a 6th grade recess. 3) Begin supporting their graduation plans with Tier I CTE courses.

Our students jump quickly from an elementary student to a college focus. On average 10% of our students have a plan for an associate degree by graduation. The parallel career focus is an area of deficiency. The innovation with our charter would allow us to provide a career focus earlier in a student's course work schedule.

Sample 8th Grade Student Schedule

TIME	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:45-9:10	1 - Math	4 - English	2 - Science	3 - History
9:12-9:55	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>	<i>ROTATION / Grade Level PLC</i>	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>
9:55-10:10	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>
10:12-11:10	CREST/SEL/CTE Exploration	CREST/ Dyslexia	FOCUS/SEL/CTE	Focus / Dyslexia
11:12-11:55	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>
12:00-1:10	2 - Science	3 - History	1 - Math	4 - English
1:12-2:25	3 - History	1 - Math	4 - English	2 - Science
2:27-3:45	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES

<u>Rotation:</u> Computer Science, PE, Health, Reading	<u>Electives:</u> Survey of Agriculture Survey of Business FACS JROTC Band Art Athletics EAST Automation and Robotics	
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Sample 7th Grade Student Schedule

TIME	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:45-9:10	1 - Math	4 - English	2 - Science	3 - History
9:12-9:55	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>	<i>ROTATION / Grade Level PLC</i>	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>	<i>ROTATION / Prep</i>
9:55-10:10	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>	<i>Healthy Lifestyle Brunch</i>
10:12-11:10	CREST/SEL/Career Development	CREST/ Dyslexia	FOCUS/SEL/CTE	Focus / Dyslexia
11:12-11:55	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>	<i>LUNCH / ACTIVITY</i>
12:00-1:10	2 - Science	3 - History	1 - Math	4 - English
1:12-2:25	3 - History	1 - Math	4 - English	2 - Science
2:27-3:45	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES	ATHLETICS / ELECTIVES

<u>Rotation:</u> <u>Career Development</u> <u>PE</u> <u>Health</u> <u>Career Development</u>	<u>Electives:</u> <u>Band</u> <u>Art</u> <u>Athletics</u> <u>CTE Exploratory</u>	
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SAMPLE SCHEDULE

45004500	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5 HS	Period 5 JrHigh	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8
7th ELA	ELA	CREST TIME	ELA 7	Honors ELA 7	Lunch	7th Grade PREP	Honors ELA 7	ELA 7	ELA 7
8th ELA	Honors ELA 8	CREST TIME	ELA 8	ELA 8	Lunch	ELA 8	8th Grade PREP	ELA 8	Honors ELA 8
Library	Jr High Dyslexia	Jr High Dyslexia	PREP	Library Services	Lunch	Rotation	Rotation	Reading	Reading
Dyslexia Services	Academic Reading 419130	Jr High Dyslexia	Academic Reading 419130	PREP	Academic Reading	Lunch	Jr High Dyslexia	Academic Reading	Jr High Dyslexia
7th Science	Science 7	CREST TIME	Honors Science 7	Science 7	Lunch	7th Grade PREP	Science 7	Honors Science 7	Science 7
8th Science	Science 8	CREST TIME	Honors Science 8	Science 8	Lunch	Honors Science 8	8th Grade PREP	Science 8	Science 8
7th Math	Math 7	CREST TIME	Math 7	Math 7	Lunch	7th Grade PREP	Math 7	Math 7	Math 7
8th Math	Math 8	CREST TIME	Math 8	Math 8	Lunch	Math 8	8th Grade PREP	Math 8	Athletics
7th SS	Honors Geography	CREST TIME	Geography	Geography	Lunch	7th Grade PREP	Geography	Geography	Athletics
8th SS	US/Ark History	CREST TIME	US/Ark History	Honors US/Ark History	Lunch	US/Ark History	8th Grade PREP	Honors US/Ark History	US/Ark History
Music	6th Grade	Crest Time	Jr High Band	SR HIGH BAND	EAST	Lunch	EAST	Music Lab	PREP
Music	6th Grade	Crest Time	Jr High Band	SR HIGH BAND	Music Lab	Lunch	AP Music Theory	EAST	PREP
Art	Art History/Art Appreciation	Crest Time	Art History/Art Appreciation	10th Grade PREP	Lunch	7th Grade Wheel Class	8th Grade Wheel Class	Art 1	Art 1
CTE	Computer Science	CREST TIME	Computer Science	Computer Science	Lunch	7th Grade PREP	Computer Science	Computer Science	Computer Science
CTE	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics	CREST TIME	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics	XX	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics	8th Grade PREP	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics	Career Dev/ Auto & Robotics
CTE	Food Nutrition and Safety 493110	Career Readiness 493900 C&C Readiness 493880	PREP	FACS 493080	Child Growth & Development 493020	Lunch	FACS	FACS	Child Growth & Development 493020
CTE	Plant Science 491340	Career Readiness 493900 C&C Readiness 493880	Survey of Ag 491150	Survey of Ag	PREP	Lunch	Animal Science 491180	Survey of Agri	Agribusiness Management 491030
CTE	EAST 560010,20,30	Career Readiness 493900 C&C Readiness 493880	PREP	Intro to Supply Chain 492770	Career Practicum WBL FACS 490680 Business 490640	Lunch	Career Practicum WBL	Career Practicum WBL	EAST
CTE	7th Grade Girls Basketball	Career Readiness 493900 C&C Readiness 493880	Survey of Business 492120	Survey of Business	PREP	Lunch	Survey of Business	Jr. High Girls Basketball 999814	HS Girls Basketball 999811
CTE	JROTC II, III, IV	Administration	PREP	Jr High JROTC	JROTC II, III, IV	Lunch	JROTC I	JROTC I 495790	JROTC II, III, IV

CTE	PREP	Administration	JROTC I 495890	Jr High JROTC	JROTC II, III, IV	Lunch	JROTC I	JROTC I 495790	JROTC II, III, IV
PE/Health	10-12th Health/Recreational Sports	Crest Time	10-12th Health/Recreational Sports	7th Athletics	Lunch	8th Grade PE	9th Personal Fitness/Health	PREP	Athletics 999812
PE/Health	9th Grade Personal Fitness 485010 Health	Crest Time	9th Grade Personal Fitness/Health	7th Grade Football	Lunch	7th Grade Rotation Wheel	8th Grade Rotation Wheel	PREP	Athletics
PE/Health	Drivers Ed 690040	CREST TIME	7th Grade PE	7th Grade Basketball	Lunch	7th Grade PE Health Wheel	8th Grade PE Health Wheel	PREP	HS JH Boys Basketball JH 999813 HS 999810
PE/Health									JH Football 999813
Special Services	Critical Math 972300	Supplemental Support	Resource Support	Virtual Arkansas Algebra II	Resource Support	Lunch	Resource Support	Resource Support	PREP
Special Services	English Tuesday 9th Wednesday 7th Thursday XX Friday XXX	Supplemental Support	English Tuesday/Thursday 8th grade	English Tuesday/Thursday 8th grade	Critical English 972100	Lunch	Resource Support	Post Secondary Training	PREP
Special Services	Math 7	Supplemental Support	Math 8	Math 8	Math 8	Lunch	Math 7	Math 7	PREP
Special Services	xClass Wed, Thurs. Fri. Tues.	Resource Support	Math 7	Resource Support	Prep	Lunch	Resource Support	Xxxx T, TR, F/Ivey Wednesday	English 7

6. Describe a plan for school improvement that addresses how the conversion charter school will improve student learning and meet the state educational goals.

The proposed charter model will provide students with opportunities for academic and career exploration and an earlier access to their individual educational goals. The charter will also allow jr high students to be better prepared for the high school charter program with exposure to more occupational pathways for students to explore. In addition, the charter will provide for supplemental opportunities for students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students and minority students to gain experiences that will reduce the achievement gap. A comprehensive approach to learning will address academic skill deficits and provide a just in time approach to accelerate learning. A social and emotional learning opportunity will be in place to promote a healthy lifestyle, character education, and engagement in learning.

Rivercrest School District proposes comprehensive use of data in decision making, community partnerships, and the belief that every student can be successful. The current and future school improvement plans will address the needs of students through the following:

1. Outline of goals and expected outcomes based on aggregate and individual student needs.
2. Identify supports and interventions that will be provided to the students.
3. Identify professional development needs for staff members.
4. Define the timeline for monitoring and evaluating interventions for effectiveness.
5. Reflect and realign student goals

Simply stated:

- The charter school status would allow the Jr High to seamlessly flow into the already successful high school charter school.
 - Our high school students have a longstanding success with Arkansas Northeastern College incorporating concurrent credit into their high school path. We find our students are on track for a two year degree, but the parallel career pathway is not in place. The jr high charter process would provide a much easier schedule option to allow students to begin a pathway program earlier. Most of our high school students are fully embedded in completed course credits by 11th grade. The charter would allow students opportunities for individualized CTE pathways early in their high school career.
- The charter school status would allow for a 1.25 million dollar grant to purchase equipment, furniture, supplies and technology. The grant would be used to supplement social/emotional and healthy lifestyle resources, classroom technology, and updated furnishings.
- The charter school status would allow our already vested teachers an opportunity to teach our students a well-rounded curriculum to address all of their INDIVIDUAL needs.
 - Along with our success, we are also aware of the ongoing need to support our students in the middle school years. Allowing our teachers an opportunity to move outside the traditional daily schedule and address individual student needs will set a foundation to eliminate the issues our at-risk students face at the high school level. Our goal is to provide supports for student success as they enter the Freshman Academy

7. Describe how the licensed employees and parents of the students to be enrolled in the conversion public charter school will be involved in developing and implementing the school improvement plan and identifying performance criteria.

The school improvement plan will be evaluated at least annually to ensure that outcomes are still aligned with the vision and mission of the school, make changes and additions to academic programs, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the overall charter school. The evaluation will include the superintendent, federal programs coordinator, faculty members, students, parents/guardians, community members, and industry professionals to ensure that all perspectives are represented and considered. After the evaluation, the plan will be submitted to the school board to review and approve. It will also be posted on the district website for review by parents and community members.

8. Describe how the concerns of licensed employees and parents of students enrolled in the conversion charter school will be solicited and addressed in evaluating the effectiveness of the improvement plan.

Rivercrest School District possesses a strong foundation of employees and parents who are engaged in the school structure and open to successful options for our students. Parents and employees are solicited and invited to all stakeholder opportunities by social media, district website and invitations. Survey options are available to parents and teachers. District and school administrators provide for an open communication process to all for evaluating the effectiveness of all plans.

9. Establish performance criteria that will be used to measure the school’s progress in improving student learning and meeting or exceeding the state educational goals. The mission of the school should be reflected in the performance criteria.

Goal	Measuring Instrument
Increase the number of jr. high students completing a foundation course for CTE Program of Study,	Triand and/or Cognos Reports and Student Success Plans
Increase the number of jr high students completing a high school credit course	Triand and/or Cognos Reports and Student Success Plans
90% of students will meet growth goals in math, reading and science	Interim and State Assessment
Increase the percentage of jr high students scoring Ready and Exceeding on the state assessment Math, Science, and Literacy by 5% each year	State Assessment
Decrease the number of students at risk (Behavior, attendance, failing grades)	Smart Data

CURRICULUM

10. Will the school provide the required courses as outlined in the Standards for Accreditation and the 38 Required High School Course Offerings? If not, explain what changes will be made. What additional electives will be offered?

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will offer all courses outlined in the Standards of Accreditation for 7th-8th grade. Innovation in instruction will be addressed in fine arts, library media requirements, social/emotional/healthy learning and career and technical education. Survey of Ag Systems (491150), Survey of Business (492120), Family and Consumer Sciences (493080), Computer Science course and SEL/Healthy Living.

7th Grade:

- Math or Honors Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- English or Honors English
- CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
- Career Development/SEL
- Elective- Art, Band, Athletics, Keyboarding, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Career Exploration Class, PE/Health
- Elective-Art, Band, Athletics, Keyboarding, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Career Exploration Class, PE/Health

8th Grade:

- Math or Honors Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- English or Honors English
- CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
- Computer Science HS Credit
- Elective- Art, Band, Athletics, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Tier I CTE Course, Algebra I, PE/Health

High Quality Instructional materials include:

McGraw Hill- Reveal Math w/ALEKS supplement

McGraw Hill-Study Sync ELA

McGraw Hill-Inspire Science

McGraw Hill- Social Studies

Brainspring Structures

Project Lead the Way- Automation and Robotics

iCEV- Career and Technical Education

You Science- Career and Technical Education

Career Information System

NWEA MAP- Assessment

11. Describe the process that will be used to ensure all curriculum materials used in the educational program are aligned with the Arkansas Academic Standards?

The alignment of curriculum at Rivercrest School District falls within the scope of Professional Learning Communities. A team of lead teachers, instructional facilitator, and principal provide a regular schedule, structure, and protocols for the work of PLCs. The work of PLCs is supported by lead-teachers, building-level leadership, and district level leaders. Curriculum will be evaluated throughout the school year and at the conclusion of each school year to ensure that we are meeting our intended student learning outcomes. Curriculum revision and evaluation has been a key component of the PLC at Work process with Solution Tree.

STUDENT SERVICES

12. Describe how the school will provide guidance and counseling services for all students.

Currently, the 7th-8th grade has a .25 counselor and access to one career and college coach serving grades 7-12. In addition, a jr high ELA teacher, district administrator and business teacher are certified Career Service Providers. The district has 3 full-time counselors and a college and career coach. Students will be served through the school counselor located on the campus of Rivercrest Jr High. The career and college coach will work with students to develop Student Success Plans. The leadership team and administrators have been trained in National Career Academies.

13. Describe how the school will provide library media services for all students.

Students of the charter would be served and continue to have access to the media center located in the 7th/8th grade building.

14. Describe how the school will provide special education services for all students.

All students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will be provided special education services. Certified teachers will work with students individually, in small groups, and indirectly, as stated in their IEP. Students receiving special education services will continue to take state-mandated assessments. The Rivercrest School District will comply with all special education regulations. Current services are in compliance with all state and federal requirements and will continue with charter status. Rivercrest Jr High is fully embracing inclusive practices with a plan of services for all students.

15. Describe how the school will provide dyslexia screening and services for all students.

The current dyslexia protocols will continue into the proposed charter. Students will be served by a qualified dyslexia interventionist if, after screening, it is determined that the student displays tendencies of dyslexia.

16. Describe how the school will provide screening and instruction for English Language Learners.

The proposed charter will continue to utilize the ELPA21 portal for ELL screening, testing, and data. Using current resources and programs, the proposed charter will continue to provide English Language Learners with instruction in written and verbal communication so they may flourish both academically and socially. LPACs are developed with ELL coordinator, school counselor, principal and teachers.

17. Describe how the school will address the needs of gifted and talented students.

The proposed charter students will continue to receive gifted and talented services. Utilizing our personalized Student Success Plan process, currently identified GT students and students meeting the requirements for pre-honors classes, students will be placed in an honors course to prepare for future AP courses. Honors courses will require differentiation which includes options for rigorous pace, product or content. GT students' will be encouraged to participate in enrichment programs developed by the campus GT coordinator and participate in the accelerated course sequences. Utilizing students SSPs, the current gifted and talented instructor will coordinate all appropriate services.

18. Describe how food services will be provided for students.

Rivercrest School District participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) where all students in the district will be provided a breakfast and a lunch at no charge. At minimum, it will continue through the 2024- 2025 academic year. With 72% of the student population qualifying for free/reduced lunch programs, Rivercrest will continue to ensure all students, especially students from homes of poverty, have access to the nutrition programs on campus.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

19. Describe the student recruitment process and timeline that will provide an equal opportunity for all parents and students to learn about and apply for admission to the proposed public charter school.

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will remain the only source of instruction for students 7th-8th grades. Therefore, the school will enroll every eligible student who seeks admission, including students who enroll by legal transfer or school choice. The enrollment cap of 250 should provide ample room for all students seeking admission. If future growth nears the enrollment cap, Rivercrest School District would petition the state charter authorizer for an increase in the enrollment cap. If the petition is denied, Rivercrest would use a random number generator to determine simple random sampling. Siblings of currently enrolled students would be given priority. Students enrolling under school choice or legal transfer would be accepted according to the statutory provisions that govern those areas. Rivercrest School District gained 43 School Choice students and lost 3 students for 2022-2023 school year. We anticipate continued growth in the next few years. Rivercrest School District seeks to grow our student enrollment. Admission will not be denied.

20. Describe the facility where the school will be located.

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will use the current facilities that house the current Rivercrest Jr High School. The facility is ADA accessible and provides the requirements for an approved facility.

WAIVERS

Complete the following tables indicating all sections of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code Annotated, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education rules, and the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts from which the public charter school seeks to be exempted in order to meet the goals of the school.

Waiver #1 Topic	Minutes Required in Non-Core Courses (art, music, keyboarding). Ability to blend 7th and 8th grade students in the Same Grade Level Course.
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-16-130 (b): General Provisions- Visual Art or Music Section: (b) A student enrolled in grade seven (7) or grade eight (8) shall participate in: (1) Visual arts instruction, appreciation, and application; or (2) Performing arts instruction, appreciation, and application.
Standard for Accreditation	1-A.1.2.5
ADE Rules	3.02
Rationale for Waiver	<p>The waiver request will not result in a reduction of Art or Music course offerings nor interrupt access for any student to take Art or Music if desired. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy has a strong art and music program with many students determining a path to fine arts as early as 6th grade. We will continue to offer Art and Music at all grade levels; however, we request the requirement that every 7th and 8th-grade student receive instruction in Art or Music be waived. In addition, K-6 students are provided a full technology curriculum with input technologies in place. If students are proficient in keyboarding, they will not be required to take the course. For example, if 8th grade students choose to take a CTE Tier I course in place of an Art class, we want them to do that without penalty. This waiver will allow the applicant to increase course offerings that will permit students a choice between Art or Music, athletics, support services and CTE offerings, ultimately leading directly to a CTE program of study at the high school level. The proposed charter is a small school, many teachers of elective courses are shared between middle school and high school campuses. Therefore, elective courses are often offered during the same period due to the limited number of elective teachers on campus. This waiver supports the charter goal of increasing the number of students who complete a foundational/entry level course offered through the high school charter. Currently our students are being asked to “give up” an interest or passion due to requirements. If students received support services, this further eliminates options. This waiver would allow parents and students to choose a course of interest. The grade level team would closely monitor students and allow movement if necessary.</p>

Waiver #2 Topic	Teacher Licensure
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-15-1004: Qualified Teachers in Every Public School Classroom 6-17-309: Employment and Assignment Certification Waiver 6-17-401: Teacher's License Requirement
Standard for Accreditation	4-D.1
ADE Rules	Section 7 only of Rules Governing Educator Licensure
Rationale for Waiver	The applicant is requesting this waiver in the event it becomes necessary to utilize an individual outside our current certified staff. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy needs this waiver in order to utilize an individual who possess outstanding credentials and/or work history but do not hold a valid Arkansas Teaching License. Any individual utilized in this manner will meet all other requirements, such as Highly Qualified Teacher status, criminal background checks, and Child Maltreatment Registry Checks. All teachers, including Special Education, will meet Arkansas Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements. This waiver may be used when no other option is available. This waiver will allow Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy students to take CTE and SEL/Health courses that might not otherwise be available in a traditional jr high school setting. The flexibility will also help meet the goals set in students' SSPs. This waiver will be used mostly (if not totally) for instruction of non-core courses. In the event the district employs a non-licensed expert to teach on campus, training will be provided for the non-licensed instructor to help them acclimate to the classroom setting. This waiver will help Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy meet the goal to increase the number of students who enter high school with Tier I CTE credits. Teachers who demonstrate quality instruction and document experience or course credits in a specific area will be utilized in core areas if absolutely necessary.

Waiver #3 Topic	Teaching Load
Arkansas Code Annotated	6-17-812: Teachers' Salaries Generally Compensation for Teaching More Than the Maximum Number of Students Permitted
Standard for Accreditation	1-A.5

ADE Rules	1.A.6
Rationale for Waiver	<p>The applicant is requesting this waiver to the extent it may be necessary to exceed the current limit for teachers. When considering growth anticipated through the new charter, without this waiver, Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will be forced to hire a new teacher mid-year. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy may utilize this waiver during the instruction year but will not use the waiver unless absolutely necessary. Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy will not exceed teacher load to more than 32 students per class period and not over 150 students per day in core classes.</p> <p>Waiver for class size in Physical Education if needed to hold larger classes for physical activity periodically. If one teacher can work through the students' physical course with 30-40 students, the other teacher could use the physical activity time to re-teach to learners who are not quite ready to move on with the rest of the class. This idea would be a response to our daily formative assessment. These students would still attend physical activity, but have time and a teacher to address their academic challenges first.</p>

Rivercrest Junior High School Conversion Charter Application Desegregation Analysis

The Rivercrest School District (Rivercrest) is submitting an application to convert its Junior High School (school) to a district conversion charter school. The school will be comprised of Grades 7-8, with a maximum enrollment of 250 students. As a district conversion charter school, the school may only enroll students who live within Rivercrest's boundaries, or lawfully transfer into the district. Rivercrest is contiguous to the following school districts: Armorel; Blytheville; East Poinsett County; Gosnell; Manila; Marion; Marked Tree, and Osceola. This analysis is provided to inform the decision making of the charter authorizer regarding the effect, if any, that the granting of a district conversion charter to Rivercrest would have on the efforts of Rivercrest and the above-listed contiguous school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools.

Rivercrest, in this analysis, has carefully reviewed the potential impact that the opening of its district conversion charter school would have upon its efforts and the efforts of the contiguous school districts to comply with court orders and statutory obligations to create and maintain a unitary system of desegregated public schools. In conducting its review, Rivercrest has found that none of the contiguous school districts listed above are under any court orders concerning their desegregation obligations, and are therefore unitary in all respects of their school operations. Rivercrest itself is not under any court order concerning its desegregation obligations.

According to last school year's third-quarter average daily membership enrollment figures as maintained by the DESE Data Center, Armorel had a student population of 414 students, of whom 85.19% were Caucasian and 8.25% were African-American. Blytheville had a student population of 1,604 students, of whom 80.5% were African-American and 13.35% were Caucasian. East Poinsett County had a student population of 560 students, of whom 77.5% were Caucasian and 11% were African-American. Gosnell had a student population of 1,158 students, of whom 64.78% were Caucasian and 21.56% were African-American. Manila had a student population of 1,008 students, of whom 94.47% were Caucasian and 4.24% were Hispanic. Marion had a student population of 3,736 students, of whom 54.93% were African-American and 33% were Caucasian. Marked Tree had a student population of 496 students, of whom 59.15% were Caucasian and 33% percent were African-American. Osceola had a student population of 992 students, of whom 85.15% were African-American and 7.78% were Caucasian. Rivercrest's student population was 1,025 students, of whom 62.72% were Caucasian and 26% were African-American. Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 also requires that Rivercrest's operation of the charter school will not serve to hamper, delay or in any manner negatively affect the desegregation efforts of a public school district or districts within the state. Rivercrest's careful review of the relevant statutes affecting the contiguous school districts, and the student populations of such districts, shows that such negative effect is not present here.

In conclusion, Rivercrest submits that upon the basis of its review, no statutory or other impediments concerning the creation and operation of desegregated public schools prohibit the State's charter school authorizer from granting its application to convert its Junior High School into a conversion charter school.



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

June 21, 2022

Dr. Kiffany Pride
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Learning Services
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Slot #3
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Dr. Pride:

I am writing to express my full support for the Rivercrest Junior High School's Conversion Charter School application for the 2022-2023 school year. The opportunity to align academics with a state-of-the-art and proven charter for the school is an amazing plan to follow through on, because it will improve the lives of our students.

If the charter is approved, the school district will be able to provide vital resources to students and the community. It has been brought to my attention that the Rivercrest School District (RSD) is collaborating with small businesses, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, and institutions of higher education, so the students can gain experience and properly prepare for their future by being aware of existing and future opportunities.

Hence, I will continue to work with the RSD on innovative learning experiences to improve the lives of our students. I am respectfully asking that every consideration be given to the application.

Sincerely,

Monte Hodges
State Representative
District 55

MH/prs

REPRESENTATIVE

Monte Hodges
P. O. Box 773
Blytheville, Arkansas 72316-0773

870-763-4443 Business
870-763-1322 Residence
870-762-5312 FAX
monte.hodges@shcglobal.net

DISTRICT 55

Counties:
Part Mississippi
Part Crittenden

COMMITTEES:

Revenue and Taxation
Income Taxes--Personal and Corporate
Subcommittee

Insurance and Commerce
Vice Chairperson,
Financial Institutions Subcommittee

Alternate,
Joint Committee on Advanced
Communications and Information
Technology

Alternate,
Joint Committee on Energy

Joint Budget

CITY OF WILSON
WILSON, ARKANSAS 72395

BRETON BELL
MAYOR

LINDA DAWSON
RECORDER/TREASURER

June 20, 2022

Charter Authorizing Panel
Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Panel Members,

The City of Wilson is submitting this letter of support for Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy's application for a Jr. High conversion charter school. The Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy will be a great vehicle for Rivercrest School District to achieve this goal and better serve their students and community.

Charter approval would help Rivercrest School District prepare students for career success through personalized hands on training opportunities. The goal of the charter is to expand the middle school curriculum, to allow students to begin exploring future career choices. This charter will align with the current high school charter programs offered. Therefore, the students will enter high school with a goal and plan that will set students on a pathway to success. By partnering with local intuitions, business and industries, Rivercrest School District will provide diverse pathways to meet the interest of students as well as the workforce needs of the community.

This is a definite win/win for the Rivercrest School District and their students as well as the community. The City of Wilson is pleased to be a part of this great effort.

With all of that in mind, we respectfully request that the Charter Authorizing Panel approve Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy's application.

Thank you,



Becton Bell, Mayor
City of Wilson

Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy

Conversion Charter School
Proposed for 2023-2024 School Year

What is a conversion charter school?

A conversion charter school is a public school converted to a public charter school. Conversion schools can only draw students from within the school district's boundaries.

Why a conversion charter school?

A conversion charter school allows a district to provide an innovative approach to meeting student needs outside of the standards. In addition, a charter allows the junior high school eligibility to a \$1,250,000.000 grant through APSRC.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students to support their social, emotional, health, career exploratory and academic needs as they transition to high school.

Rationale

As the sole feeder into The Academies of Rivercrest High School, the Junior High School is in a unique position to help with the challenges faced by many high schools. Currently, those challenges include:

- Social and emotional wellness,
- Graduation rates,
- Preparing for readiness in career and college,
- Creating self-sustained and independent citizens,
- Increasing overall academics, and
- Improving the overall standard of living in our community

Key Program Features

- Social/Emotional Learning & Healthy Lifestyles
- Career Exploration
- Innovations in Academics

Goals

1. Increase the number of jr. high students completing a foundation course for CTE Program of Study,
2. Increase the number of jr high students completing a high school credit course
3. Increase the number of jr high students meeting growth goals in math, reading and science
4. Increase the percentage of jr high students scoring Ready and Exceeding on the state assessment Math, Science, and Literacy by 5% each year
5. Decrease the number of students at risk (Behavior, attendance, failing grades)

Waiver

Minutes Required in Non-Core Courses (art, music, library and keyboarding).

Ability to Blend 7th and 8th grade students in the Same Grade Level Non Core Course.

Teacher's License Requirement

Class Size and Teaching Load

Media Center and Media Specialist

Fine Arts

Career Education (7th Grade Keyboarding/8th Grade Career Exploration)

Sample Student Schedule

- 7th Grade:
 - Math or Honors Math
 - English or Honors English
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
 - Career Development/Social and Emotional Learning/Healthy Lifestyles
 - Electives - Art, Band, Athletics, Keyboarding, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, Career Exploration Class, PE/Health

Sample Student Schedule

- 8th Grade:
 - Math or Honors Math
 - English or Honors English
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - CREST TIME- Flexible Intervention
 - Computer Science Required HS Credit
 - Electives- Art, Band, Athletics, Library, Dyslexia, Support Services, PE/Health,
 - Tier I CTE Course-
 - Survey of Ag Systems, Survey of Business, Family and Consumer Science, EAST, Algebra I

Keeping it Simple

The charter school status would allow the Jr High to seamlessly flow into the already successful high school charter school.

The charter school status would allow for a 1.25 million dollar grant to purchase equipment, furniture, supplies and technology.

The charter school status would allow our already vested teachers an opportunity to teach our students a well-rounded curriculum to address all of their INDIVIDUAL needs.



Feedback Form

Rivercrest School District
 Jr High Charter Meeting
 June 16, 2022 1:30 pm



Name	Position	Signature
Brooke Brewer	5 th grade teacher	<i>Brooke Brewer</i>
David DiGregorio	Bus. Teacher	<i>David DiGregorio</i>
Jennifer Lewis	8 th grade English Teacher	<i>Jennifer Lewis</i>
Opal Loven	SpEd Parapro	<i>Opal Loven</i>
MERCEDITAS FELIZCO	Math Teacher	<i>Merceditas Felizco</i>
FRANCISCO FELIZCO	Math Aide	<i>Francisco Felizco</i>
<i>Bob Appel</i>	SpEd	<i>Bob Appel</i>
Jennifer Gurley	SpEd	<i>Jennifer Gurley</i>
Daylon Dainwater	High School Teacher	<i>Daylon Dainwater</i>
Bill Benjie	Principal	<i>Bill Benjie</i>
Heather Lucas	7 th grade English	<i>Heather Lucas</i>

Society

Proper hydration can reduce fatigue and improve endurance.

NEA title holders compete at state level



Miss Steel Capital Outstanding Teen, Shawna Whitehurst, won Alpha and Overall Evening Gown and On Stage Question at the Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen Competition during Tuesday, June 14 preliminary competition.



Northeast Arkansas Outstanding Teen Sophie Puckett was a Top Ten Finalist in the Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen pageant competition last week.



Baughn makes it to Top 10 - Miss Northeast Arkansas Izzy Baughn was a Top 10 Finalist in the Miss Arkansas Pageant held June 12-18 at the Robinson Performance Hall in Little Rock. Baughn also received a Legal Professional \$1,500 scholarship.



Miss Lights of the Delta Anna-Marie Wright was a Top 10 Finalist in the Miss Arkansas Pageant. She also received a Fine Arts Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. On Wednesday, June 15, she was the Overall Talent winner during the talent competition.



Miss Steel Capital Piper Stallings received an Education Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.



Headley to perform

Aaron Headley will be the featured performer Thursday, June 23 at the Music on the Patio at the Wilson Cafe in Wilson.

Headley, a country artist, will perform from 6-7:30 p.m.

PAW Patrol to appear

PAW Patrol Live@ "The Great Pirate Adventure" will be at the First National Bank Arena in Jonesboro Aug. 23 and 24.

It's Pirate Day in Adventure Bay and Ryder will need all paws on deck as he and the PAW Patrol discover a secret treasure map while on a mission to rescue Cap'n Turbot from a mysterious cavern. It's up to Chase, Marshal, Skye and all their heroic pirate pup friends to save the day and find the pirate treasure before Mayor Humdinger find its first.

Tickets are on sale now. Call 870-972-5870 or 870-972-2781 for tickets.

Wilson wine experience set

The next Wilson Wine Experience will take a trip to the southern hemisphere with a tasting of wines of Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

The Wilson Wine Experience - South American Wines will be held June 24 at the Wilson Cafe from 4-5 p.m.

Harshmans celebrate anniversary - Ed and Shirley Harshman, of Osceola, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary, June 23. The couple has one daughter, Pam Harshman, of Osceola. They have one grandson, Jason Harshman and two great-grandsons, Logan and Jagger. They recently celebrated their anniversary with a vacation in Hawaii.

"Live from the Cash Porch"

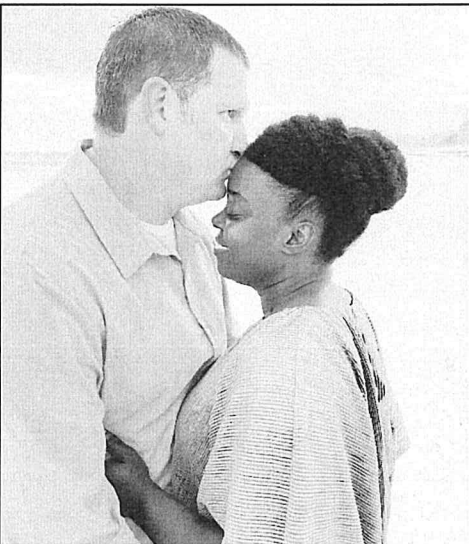
Historic Dyess Colony: Johnny Cash Boyhood Home, KASU public radio and the City of Wilson have announced a summer concert series for those desiring to pull up a chair and relax on a summer evening in the South.

The first installment in the concert series, "Live from the Cash Porch," will feature singer and songwriter Erin Enderlin.

Enderlin will perform in the admission-free series beginning at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

Those attending the Cash Porch event may bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy drinks and snacks available for purchase. Tents will be set up for shade.

The series will feature other artists on Saturdays, July 16 and Aug. 20.



Hoppers celebrate 20 years - Jonathan and Kristi Hopper, of Osceola, traveled to Destin Florida to celebrate their 20th Wedding Anniversary. Kristi is the executive director of Main Street Osceola.

LEGAL

Notice of Public Virtual Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application



The Rivercrest school district will hold a virtual public hearing on June 30, at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy. A direct link will be posted to the district website and social media to provide access to the online hearing. District Website www.Rivercrestcolls.org

WE HAVE LOW RENTS!

YOUR RENT WILL BE **NO HIGHER THAN**

- * 1 Bedroom - \$317
- * 2 Bedroom - \$398
- * 3 Bedroom - \$459
- * 4 Bedroom - \$506

YOU'LL GET....

- * Central Heat and Air
- * Washer and Dryer
- * Hookups
- * Grounds Professionally Maintained
- * Appliances Furnished
- * No Water, Sewer or Trash Bills
- * Full-time Maintenance and Repair Staff

APPLY TODAY AND GET **HALF OFF** YOUR FIRST FULL MONTH'S RENT!

OSCEOLA HOUSING AUTHORITY
870-563-6662



Osceola School District 2022-2023

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration is now open!
All returning Students must register!!
Parents can register their children
Monday-Thursday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.
at North Elementary

Children will NOT be able to register without the following documents:

Requirements for Pre-K

- Completed enrollment form
- Proof of family household income (One of the following)
 1. 2021 tax documents
 2. Check stubs (4 if paid weekly, 2 if paid bi-weekly, or 1 if paid monthly)
 3. A notarized statement of no income if applicable
- Up to date shot record (Immunizations)
- Copy of child's social security card
- Copy of child's birth certificate
- Health screening/ physical, this must be completed on the form provided in the enrollment package

Requirements for Kindergarten

- Birth Certificate (State Issued)
- Social Security Card
- Up-to-date Shot Record
- Up-to-date Physical

Please call 870-563-1155 with any questions. Applications are available at North Elementary.



1



Rivercrest School District



June 29 · 🌐

The Rivercrest School District will hold a virtual public hearing on June 30, at 11:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy.

Your input as parents , teachers and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.

Join via Zoom: bit.ly/RSD78charter



Opal Wyss Loven and 5 others

26 Shares



Like



Comment



Share

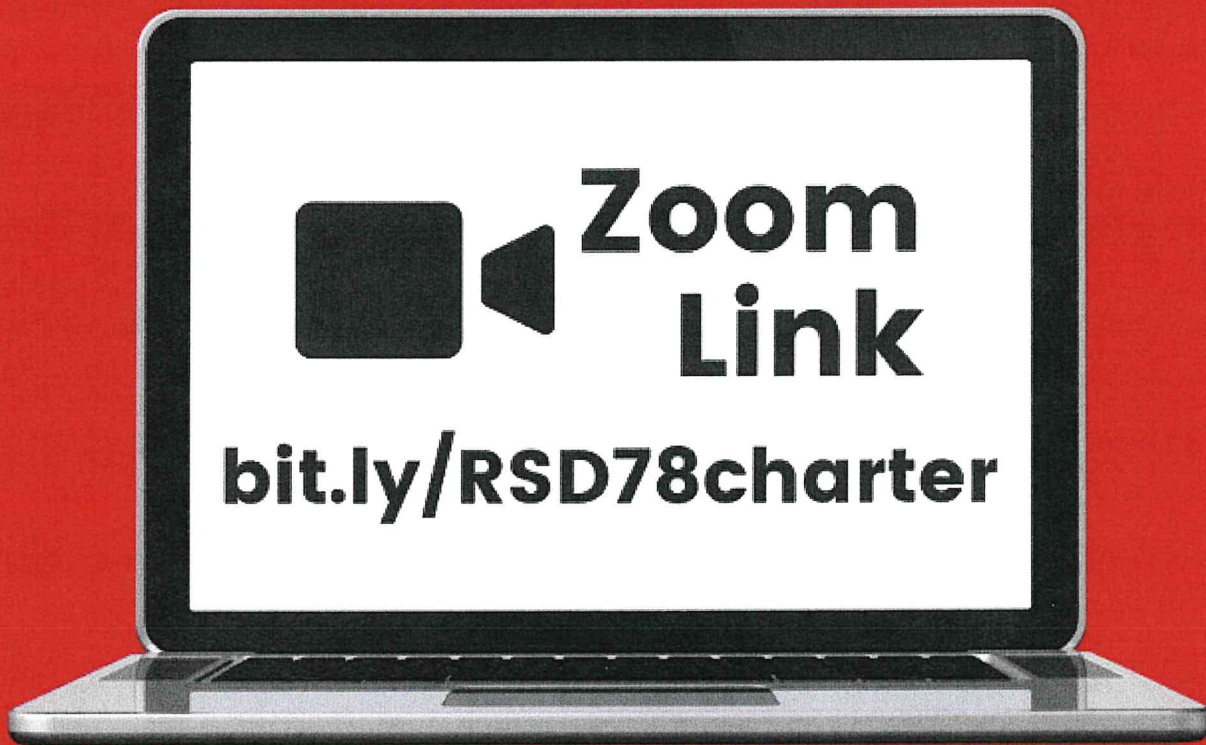


Write a comment...



VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Rivercrest School District
7th-8th Grade Charter School Application



JUNE 30, 2022 | 11:00 AM

For The Record...

"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America." -William J. Clinton

Sheriff's Dept. Intake Report...

Mississippi County Sheriff's Department intake report for June 20-26:
 Robert Gifford, 82, of Osceola, terrorist threatening second degree;
 Demetrios L. Hicks, 26, of Osceola, serve weekends;
 Eric Douglas Hollands, 28, of Wilson, aggravated assault;
 Ricky Lee Meadows, 53, of Osceola, possession of a controlled substance;

Robert Wayne Spencer III, 30, of Wilson, failure to appear, parole hold and hindering apprehension or prosecution;
 Torrance Nelmar Stewart, 20, of Osceola, commitment;
 Kimberly Denise Weaver, 50, of Dyess, financial identity fraud (eight counts);
 Kordarius White, 21, of Osceola, failure to appear (two counts).

Sheriff Cook warns citizens to lock their vehicle doors

There have been a rash of vehicle break-ins in Mississippi County, according to the Mississippi County Sheriff's Department.

The sheriff's department would like to remind the public to not be an easy target. "Do not leave valuables in plain sight and always lock vehicle doors."

New trooper assigned to county

Grant Pruitt, 21, is one of the 21 Arkansas State Police recruits who received their trooper commissions recently during a graduation ceremony in the rotunda of the state capitol. The graduates were among an initial field of 227 applicants who were tested and interviewed during 2021. On Jan. 23 this year, 38 recruits assembled at the state police training academy in Little Rock to form

Recruit Class 2022-A and began a rigorous 21-week-long training stint.

Pruitt will be assigned to Highway Patrol Division, Troop C, in Mississippi County. He is a graduate of Elkins High School.

The graduates received 1,160 hours of specialized instruction in the academy classrooms and through practical training exercises outside the classroom. The graduates

were sworn under oath as Arkansas State Troopers by North Little Rock District Judge Randy Morley.

Over the next month the new troopers will begin reporting to their respective assignments across the state. They will receive an additional five-nine weeks of instruction working alongside a Field Training Officer before being released.

\$48,000 left in fund for Osceola Courthouse

By REVIS BLAYLOCK
 NEA Town Courier
 Mississippi County Justice Michael White opened the finance meeting on Monday giving an overall review. He said reports show at 42 percent of the year all departments are below or within budget. He commended the department heads for a good job calling the fund balances healthy.

He also informed the committee the county had received the second round, \$3.9 million, from the Revenue Replacement fund. There is \$1.9 million left in the fund for the Blytheville Courthouse project and \$48,000 in the Osceola Courthouse project. A discussion was held, but no action was taken, on closing out the employee incentive funds established for workers who took the Covid-19 vaccination. Finance Director Kelli Jones said only two people this year had participated. There is about \$21,000 left in the account.

It was decided to take no action at this time. Justice Molly Jackson and Judge John Alan Nelson gave an update on the Blytheville Courthouse project. There are several items to be completed but it is getting closer.

The first wedding was held there on the outside grounds.

"It was a beautiful day and a beautiful wedding," Judge Nelson said.

The committee approved the purchase of office equipment for the veterans' office in the amount of \$3,000. Also approved was \$4,500 to upgrade equipment in the judge's office for three computers and two monitors and an update for three computers in the judge's office.

The county received a notice that rent will go from \$300 to \$400 a month for the public defender's office.

Judge Nelson gave an update on the farmland survey of the 311.6 acres for the leveling project. He said the acreage totals to 138,831 yards. A ballpark figure, if it is in line with the industrial standards, will be about \$1.80 a cubic yard which does not include fuel charges or irrigation.

The committee agreed to allow Judge Nelson to move forward and award the contract at his discretion.

The committee agreed to have Tom Henry, public relations director, look at a surplus fire truck for the upgrading of the sound equipment used to video meetings. More people are watching the meetings but

have complained that the sound quality is not good. It has been a year since county officials had discussed signs for bicycle paths.

Judge Nelson said he had talked to ARDOT, explaining the history but was turned down but it was agreed to continue to look for information and right-of-ways.

"If there is even one death prevented, it will be worth it," Judge Nelson said.

The county juvenile department will receive \$30,000. Five officers qualify for \$5,000 and two for \$2,500. A short discussion was held asking if the county or the individuals will be responsible for taxes and retirement. It was decided to move it to the full court and get more information from the state.

Judge Nelson said the appropriations for the state and federal lobbyists have been beneficial. All three representatives, Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Tom Cotton and Congressman Rick Crawford, have signed a letter of support for the county to be considered for a surplus fire truck for the Blytheville aeroplex. He said on the state level they are looking at help with infrastructure for smaller

Keiser Fire Dept. receives Wildfire Suppression Kits

The Keiser Fire Department was one of many volunteer fire department receiving wildfire suppression kits. The Rural Fire Protection program, managed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division, received \$279,562.45 as part of the 2021 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant from the United States Forest Service to purchase and distribute 87 Wildfire Suppression Kits to rural volunteer fire departments.

The kits include equipment and gear necessary for the safe suppression of wildfires and have been delivered to the volunteer fire department.

Volunteer fire departments are the primary partner to Forestry crews in wildfire response and suppression but often need the specialized equipment and gear necessary for safe wildfire suppression. Since 2014, 579 volunteer fire departments have received Wildfire Suppression Kits through the Rural Fire Protection program. Kits distributed this year include lightweight wildfire-resistant coveralls and gloves, hand rakes, back-pack water pumps, and leaf blowers.

The application period for next year's Wildfire Protection Kit program is expected to start in August of 2022. Fire Departments can expect to receive notification in the mail, or can find an application online at agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/rural-fire-protection-program when the application period opens. Fire Departments may contact Kathryn Mahan-Hooten at Kathryn.Mahan@agriculture.arkansas.gov or (501) 679-3183 with questions regarding the application.

Wanted suspect apprehended

A Manila woman, who had eluded law enforcement officers for more than a month, has been apprehended.

Heather Hitchcock, 34, of Manila, was first arrested on June 9 on an outstanding felony warrant. Handcuffed behind her back and placed in the passenger rear seat of Manila Officer Keith Hill's patrol vehicle, Hitchcock somehow managed to steal the police car.

Driving away from the scene, she abandoned the patrol vehicle about a mile down the road, approximately 20 yards from her residence.

Officers from Manila Police Department, Mississippi County Sheriff's Department, Leachville Police Department, Arkansas State Police and Arkansas Game and Fish responded and assisted with the search for Hitchcock. Flir and night vision were utilized, but Hitchcock evaded capture.

At the time the vehicle was stolen, Officer Hill was retrieving a case he had witnessed Hitchcock throwing from her vehicle. Inside the case was a loaded Cobra 380 pistol (five rounds), used methamphetamine pipe, small amounts of marijuana, eight diazepam pills, 15 rounds of 380 ammunition and \$130 in U.S. currency.

On June 23, the Mississippi County Sheriff's Department, Arkansas Probation and Parole and Osceola Drug Task Force Officers received information that Heather Hitchcock was hiding out at a residence on Mallard Lake Road in Manila.

Upon arrival, family members told officers they had not seen Hitchcock since



Heather Hitchcock

earlier in the day. Sgt. Justin Hooten, Cpl Austin Griffin, and Osceola DTF Officer Colby Newell then approached an old bait shop building on the property where they found the door rigged closed using a bicycle lock cable. When officers pulled on the door, it opened slightly then suddenly slammed shut.

Officers forced the door open and discovered Hitchcock hid under a blanket just inside the door. She was taken into custody without incident.

A probation search was then conducted and approximately two grams of methamphetamine was located in the small room where Hitchcock was staying.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE

Smith Auto Sales and Towing will be conducting a public sale of the following unclaimed vehicles:

- 2008 Nissan Altima (black), VIN:1N4BL1E8BN514110
- 2010 Acura RDX (gray), VIN:5J8TB1H29AA00769q
- 1997 Honda Accord (black), VIN:1HGEJ7121V12370

This sale will be conducted Friday, July 15, 2022 at 12 p.m. at Smith Auto Sales and Towing, located at 1340 West Keiser Avenue, Osceola, AR 72370. Phone number (870) 563-2303.

Notice of Public Virtual Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application

The Rivercrest school district will hold a virtual public hearing on June 30, at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy. A direct link will be posted to the district website and social media to provide access to the online hearing. District Website www.Rivercrest.colts.org

INVITATION FOR BID

The Government of Mississippi County, Arkansas is accepting bids to put to grade 311.56 acres of farmland at .05 fall, with levee roads, at a property located approximately 2 miles NW of Luxora, Arkansas. The property is located in Section 6, Township 13N, Range 11E. Cut yards (138,821.58), fill yards (75,304.462), total yards per acre (445,569) and export (44,691). A complete cut sheet may be obtained from the County Judge's Office upon request.

Bid opening will be Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the County Judge's Office located at 822 W. Plantation Road, Burdette, AR 72321. 870-763-3212 BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE NO LATER THAN 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022. Mississippi County reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

PUBLIC MEETING INVITATION

The Town of Etowah invites its citizens and other interested persons to a public meeting in City Hall, 4670 West State Highway 136, Etowah, Arkansas, 72428 on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify potential outdoor park and recreation needs and priorities. Following the identification process, city officials will select those priorities and submit a FUN Park Grant application to the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism's Outdoor Recreation Grants Program. **Ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and special interest groups are encouraged to attend and participate.**

For those unable to attend the meeting, you may phone 870-531-2340. Written comments may be submitted to P.O. Box 113, Etowah, Arkansas. 72428-0113.



PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS

GIBSON & THOMAS
 Attorneys At Law
 Mike Gibson
 Jeremy Thomas
 317 West Hale
 Osceola, AR 72370
 563-3700

CHARLES A. "CHUCK" BANKS
 Attorney At Law
 100 Morgan Keegan Dr.
 Little Rock, AR 72202
 1-800-246-8700

RALPH "WIN" WILSON, III
 Attorney at Law
 Hope, Trice, O'Dwyer
 & Wilson, P.A.
 211 Spring Street
 Little Rock, AR 72201
 (501) 372-4144



Rivercrest School District

July 18 · 🌐

...

The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

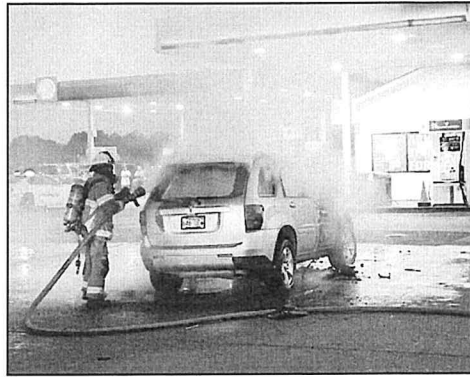
PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss the conversion
charter school application for
Rivercrest Junior High

Thursday, August 11
5:30pm - RJHS Library



The City of Osceola recently had four new SkyCops installed. The SkyCops were installed at the corner of Lee and Pearl, Bard and Third, Parkway and Childress, and on Semmes Avenue near the city shops and fire station.



Car catches fire - The Osceola Fire Department responded to a call of a vehicle on fire Saturday, July 9 at 8:33 p.m. The fire was at West Keiser Avenue near Milans Mini Mart. Upon arrival units found a vehicle fully involved. The blaze was quickly extinguished with no injuries report.

Cattle producers invited to webinar focuses on drought

Experts with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will host a free webinar July 21 to offer guidance to Arkansas cattle producers struggling with drought. The free webinar will be offered 6-8 p.m. July 21 via Zoom at the Northeast Research and Extension Center in Keiser or can be watched online where registration is required at this link <https://bit.ly/drought-webinar>.

If you have more questions please contact Ethan Brown at the Mississippi County Extension Office 870-563-0236.

Drought-related topics will include:

- Livestock economics - James Mitchell, livestock economist;
- Forage management - John Jennings, forage agronomist;
- Beef management - Daniel Rivera, director of the Southwest Research and Extension Center;
- Fall armyworm and stem maggot control - Kelly Loftin, entomologist;
- Farm and farm family stress - Britney Schrick, family life specialist.

Insurance appropriation moves to county finance committee

By REVIS BLAYLOCK
NEA Town Courier

The Mississippi County insurance committee voted to recommend to the finance committee and the full court an appropriation for insurance coverage on the renovated Blytheville Courthouse.

Moving in has begun and the contractors insurance will expire. The county will resume the coverage.

Chair Justice Reggie Cullom opened the meeting with members discussing moving forward with coverage utilizing the Association of Arkansas Counties Risk Management Fund. The cost of coverage for the remainder

of the year is \$40,520.55 which will insure the building and the contents. Coverage amount is \$27,000,000 on the building and \$3,000,000 on the contents.

ACC works with 72 counties across the state. They are not an insurance company but work on behalf of the counties.

Justice Cullom said as they move forward in making all insurance decisions they will need to know the cost and the quality.

"I'd rather pay more and know the buildings are covered," Justice Cullom said.

Justice Cullom said he will begin to do the research on insurance starting locally. He said they want to make sure the county buildings, equipment and employees are all protected.

Supplies collected for foster children

Tools for Back to School is a drive to collect supplies to benefit foster children throughout Mississippi County. This is the 15th year that Farmers Bank & Trust has held the Tools for Back to School drive.

There are more than 150 children currently in foster homes in the community. Most needed items are hand sanitizer, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, backpacks and 3-ring binders. Anyone interested in helping may drop the supplies off at any Farmers Bank location.

Anyone who would rather make a monetary donation can contact Sharon Quast at Farmers Bank (870) 763-8101. Farmers Bank employees will purchase items. Any business or church group who would like to help with donations may contact Quast for more details. Farmers Bank locations include Blytheville, Gosnell, Manila and Wilson.

Sheriff's Dept. Intake Report

Mississippi County Sheriff's Department recently released the intake report for July 10-16:

Dustin W. Beatty, 31, of Luxora, domestic battery third degree;

Scott Collums, 34, of Dyess, failure to appear;

Alexis A. Harrell, 25, of Osceola, endangering welfare of a minor in the first degree (three counts);

Demetrios L. Hicks, 26, of Osceola, serve weekends;

Michael Jobe, 45, of Dyess, failure to appear;

Larry D. Mosley, 68, of Luxora, public intoxication;

Logan Chandler Rollins, 24, of Osceola, fleeing in vehicle, unauthorized use of a vehicle, driving while suspended/revoked/canceled-non DWI, criminal use of prohibited weapon and failure to appear;

Kevin Dwayne Womack, 43, of Osceola, criminal trespass on land.

Friends of NRA to hold banquet

The Mississippi County Friends of NRA will hold its banquet Aug. 16 at the Holiday Inn 1121 East Main Street, Blytheville.

The banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Single tickets are \$50 and couple tickets are \$70. Table sponsorships begin at \$500.

For more information, call 870-532-7272 or 870-623-9091.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE

Smith Auto Sales and Towing will be conducting a public sale of the following unclaimed vehicles:

- 1996 Honda Accord, VIN:1HGCD5639TA269910
- 2003 Honda Pilot (white), VIN:2HFKF1655H569576
- 2004 Isuzu Ascender (black), VIN:4NUDS135742100724
- 2004 GMC Envoy (black), VIN:1GKDT13E642100159
- 2002 Mitsubishi Galant (white), VIN: 4A3A44G2E21015700
- 2000 Ford F150 (white), VIN: 1FTRX17L9YK407628
- 2008 Chrysler Sebring (black), VIN: 1C3LC46K78N255019
- 2005 Ford Focus (gray), VIN: 3FAF37N85R138603

This sale will be conducted Friday, August 5, 2022 at 12 p.m. at Smith Auto Sales and Towing, located at 1340 West Keiser Avenue, Osceola, AR 72370. Phone number (870) 563-2303.

Notice of Public Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application

The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS OSCEOLA DISTRICT CIVIL DIVISION

JM WILSON AKA JEFFERY WILSON PLAINTIFF

vs. CASE NO.: 470CV-2022-50

I SURRENDER, INC. AND ANY PERSON OR ANY ORGANIZATION CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, OR OWNERSHIP IN THE NORTH 137 1/2 FEET OF LOT 21 IN THE F.B. HALE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER

To: Any interested person, entity, organization or improvement district.

You are hereby notified that a Complaint to Confirm Tax Sale and Quiet Title has been filed regarding the following property:

The North 137 1/2 feet of Lot 21 in the F.B. Hale Addition to the City of Osceola, Arkansas, same being in the N 1/2 of the SE 1/4, Section 36, Township 13 North, Range 10 East, Osceola District of Mississippi County, Arkansas.

You are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this Warning Order and answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff. Upon failure of any interested party to do so, the Complaint filed herein will be deemed to be admitted, whereby the Defendant's face entry of judgment by default of be otherwise barred from asserting his or her interest.

Witness my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas on this 21st day of June 2022.

Leslie Mason, Circuit Clerk
Arcadia Thompson, D.C.

LEGALS

In the Circuit Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas Probate Division

In the Matter of the Estate Deceased: 47OPR-22-43 (TA of James Thomas

Name of Decedent: James Thomas

Last known address: 104 C Devonport Road, Shepherd's Bash, London, England W12 8NU

Date of death: April 25, 2022

On June 29, 2022, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distributee was filed with respect to the estate of James Thomas, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, under Arkansas Code Ann. § 28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or his or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate.

The name and address of the distributee is:

Toni Parker, 9815 NE 3rd St., Vancouver, WA 98664.

This notice first published the 14th day of July, 2022.

In the Circuit Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas Probate Division

In the Matter of the Estate of Rita Carol Cox

Deceased 47OPR-22-48

Name of decedent: Rita Carol Cox

Last known address: 287 S. Country Club Rd., Osceola, AR 72370

Date of Death: June 1, 2022

On July 18, 2022, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Rita Carol Cox, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or his or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate.

The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or distributee's attorney is:

Quilman Cox, Jr., 136 Randall, Blytheville, AR 72315 870-740-7715

This notice first published July 21, 2022.



The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



—RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC MEETING

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Sports

When compared to other world rivers, the Mississippi-Missouri River combination ranks fourth in length (3,710 miles) following the Nile (4,160 miles), the Amazon (4,000 miles), and the Yangtze Rivers (3,964 miles).

Basemore hired to lead Seminole boys basketball

By STEVE KNOX
Times Sports Editor

Former Lane College head basketball coach and Hughes High School alumnus Bryanth Basemore was approved to be hired as the new boys basketball program leader at Osceola High School.

Coach Basemore, who taught in the Memphis City School's last year, was one of nine persons to submit a resume for the Seminoles position. The school search committee narrowed the choices down to two and Coach Basemore was name recommended for hire by Superintendent Dr. Toriano Green.

Coach Basemore will oversee the entire boys program at Osceola High School and will also serve in the capacity of Dean

of Students. Coach Basemore replaces former head coach Vernon Wilson in both capacities.

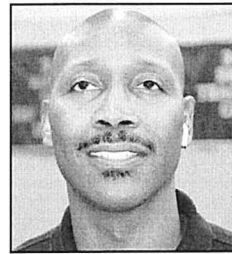
Coach Basemore said he is excited to be named the Seminoles head coach. "I am thrilled and I am grateful to the superintendent and administration for this opportunity." Basemore inherits a solid Seminole squad which won the 2021 Class 5A State Championship. Osceola also won the state title in 2019.

The new head coach played collegiately at Mississippi County Community College for two seasons, then at Fort Hayes State for two seasons before going overseas to the International Basketball Association. Basemore played and coached 10 seasons in the IBA.

Basemore would later return to the United States where he served as an assistant coach at Topeka (Kansas) West and Raytown (Mo.) South for three seasons.

In 2010 Basemore became as assistant coach at Lane College in Jackson, Tenn. The next season he was named the head coach and he remained in that position until 2021.

Coach Basemore believes in discipline and players knowing the fundamentals. "I think fundamentals are something that has been lost. I want my kids ready. My goal is to win games, but the most important thing is, after the season, being able to watch some of my seniors sign letters of intent to keep playing at the next level."



Bryanth Basemore

Junior Seminoles 2022 football schedule released

By STEVE KNOX
Times Sports Editor

The Osceola junior Seminoles have announced their 2022 football schedule which has a pair of non-conference and six Conference 3A-3 games. In a change from the past, all conference games will kickoff at 6:30 p.m. and seventh grade contests will begin at 5:30.

Osceola opens the season with a road contest at Class 4A Blytheville. The two teams will square off Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. Osceola's home opener is the following week (Sept. 8) when the Gosnell Junior Pirates come to Seminole Stadium for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Osceola opens conference play Sept.

15, at home, when the seventh grade Seminoles face Manila.

Osceola is on the road Sept. 22 at Corning and Piggott, Sept. 29. Once again the seventh grade and junior high squads will face the junior Bobcats and junior Mohawks.

Osceola returns home on Oct. 6 for the final home contest of the season when the seventh grade and junior Noles host Palestine-Wheatley.

After a bye-week, Osceola completes its season Oct. 20 on the road at Walnut Ridge when the seventh grade and junior high Noles face the junior Bobcats and on Oct. 27 at Hoxie against the seventh grade and junior Mustangs.



Track camp held - Track camp was held July 11-15 at the Rivercrest High School campus. The camp was offered by the Department of Community Education at Arkansas Northeastern College and registration fee was paid for by Big River Steel in Osceola. The camp was designed to develop strengths and skills which will allow athletes to excel in individuals event. The camp featured event-specific training. Campers were encouraged to explore field events, throwing, springs and mid-distance running.

Seminole to host Raiders

By STEVE KNOX
Times Sports Editor

The Osceola Seminoles will open the 2022 season hosting Class 5A Nettleton in the annual Arkansas Activities Association Benefit Game, Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. at Seminole Stadium.

Seminole head coach Jamie Carter's squad will be looking for consistency

after a 6-3 finish in 2021. The Seminoles will have some experienced players lining up in new positions and hope to improve upon last season.

The Raiders won 11 games last season, finishing with an 11-1 record. Nettleton's only blemish on its record was its second round, season ending playoff loss to Little Rock Christian.



LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application

The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.

Colts / JR Colts to face EPC

By STEVE KNOX
Times Sports Editor

The Rivercrest Junior Colts and Senior Colts will kickoff the 2022 season with a trip to East Pointsett County. The two Rivercrest squads will be squaring off against the Junior and Senior Warriors in the annual Arkansas Activities Association Benefit Game, Thursday, Aug. 18.

The two junior high teams will start things off at 5:30 p.m., followed by the two senior high groups at 6:30 p.m.

The senior Colts finished the 2021 season with a record of 8-3, losing in the second round of the

Class 4A Playoffs to Shiloh Christian.

Coach Brandon Powell's Warriors finished with a record of 5-7 in 2021, dropping a 35-22 decision at Clarendon in the third round of the Class 2A Playoffs.

Colts/Lady Colts schedule released by golf coach

Rivercrest High School Golf Coach TJ Carr has released the Colts/Lady Colts 2022 schedule. The squads opponents for each match will be determined at the time of play.

Rivercrest opens the season, Aug. 1 with a 8 a.m. match at Sage Meadows in Jonesboro. Aug. 10, RHS is in action at 4 p.m. at Osceola Municipal Golf Course.

Aug. 11 they have a 3 p.m. match at Blytheville Country Club. Aug. 15 the Colts have a Playday at Osceola beginning at 3 p.m. Aug. 22 the Colts are back at Osceola Municipal for 4 p.m. matches. RHS concludes its August schedule with an Aug. 28 Playday at Osceola at 3 p.m.

Rivercrest kicks off its September schedule with a 4 p.m. match at Osceola Municipal. Sept. 12 the Colts will travel to Turkey Mountain, site of the Class 5A state tournament to a round. The Girls District Tournament is Sept. 20 at Blytheville Country Club and the Boys District is Sept. 22, also a BCC.

The Colts conclude their 2022 schedule with state event, Sept. 26.

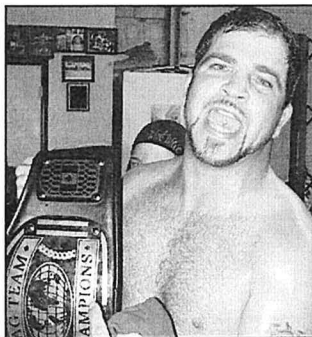
MCW Action -

Mid Southern Championship Wrestling Legacy continues out to see live professional wrestling Friday night 1094 West Keiser Avenue, Osceola Arkansas.

This week the action continues to heat up and the action packed card includes the MCW Heavy weight champion defending his belt against the giant Red Walker.

Also the LA Hustlers will defend their Tag Team Championship belts against Damien Wolfe and T3. Who will East Coast Bad Boy Serpent defend his Jr Weight Championship belt against? As well as several more action packed matches that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

You can log in to Osceola's mid southern championship wrestling page on



Harry Clapp a.k.a. "Serpent"

Facebook for details of front row tickets are available in advance by contacting us on Facebook or bell time for our first match is 8 p.m. VIP and

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS OSCEOLA DISTRICT CIVIL DIVISION

JM WILSON AKA JEFFERY WILSON PLAINTIFF
vs. CASE NO.: 470CV-2022-50

I SURRENDER, INC. AND ANY PERSON OR ANY ORGANIZATION CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, OR OWNERSHIP IN THE NORTH 137 1/2 FEET OF LOT 21 IN THE F.B. HALE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OSCEOLA, ARKANSAS DEFENDANT

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To: Any interested person, entity, organization or improvement district.

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You are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this Warning Order and answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff. Upon failure of any interested party to do so, the Complaint filed herein will be deemed to be admitted, whereby the Defendant's face entry of judgment by default of be otherwise barred from asserting his or her interest.

Witness my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas on this 21st day of June 2022.

Leslie Mason, Circuit Clerk
Arcadia Thompson, D.C.



The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss the conversion
charter school application for
Rivercrest Junior High

Thursday, August 11
5:30pm - RJHS Library

Keiser See & Spray™ Field Day scheduled

As weeds become more adept at evading control, researchers in Arkansas and elsewhere are testing whether machine learning can improve weed management and save farmers money.

Jason Norsworthy, distinguished professor of weed science with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, has been evaluating the combination of image recognition software and machine learning that comprises John Deere's See & Spray™ Ultimate system. Norsworthy will discuss his research and a demon-

stration of the See & Spray™ Ultimate will be provided during a field day set for Aug. 23 at the Northeast Research and Extension Center at Keiser.

The field day opens at 9:30 a.m., with field tours going until 11:15 a.m. The action will head indoors for lunch and with a panel discussion and Q&A with Norsworthy; William Patzoldt, director of agronomy for Blue River Technology, which led the software development; a farmer familiar with the system; and a representative from John Deere.

The field tours include a

demonstration of the technology, tips for herbicide savings while maintaining effective control; effect of sensitivity settings on detection and spray application and the effectiveness of the See & Spray™ Ultimate weed control in cotton and soybean production.

Attendees are asked to register in advance. Pre-eligible registrants will be one of 10 people selected to ride in the cab of the See & Spray™ Ultimate sprayer following lunch. The registration deadline is Aug. 19.

available online.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aes.uada.edu>. Follow on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch. To learn more

about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>. Follow us on Twitter at @AgMArk. To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices.

LEGAL

Accepting Sealed Bids Buses

The Osceola School District will sell through sealed bids for three 77 passenger buses, 1996 International 2001 International and 2014 IC.

Bids must be received before 12 p.m. on August 18, 2022. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the Osceola School District Administration Office.

The buses are being sold as is and without warranty. All sales will be final. Buses can be seen as the Osceola School District Bus Compound located behind the Osceola School District Administration Building at 2750 W. Semmes Ave.

Address sealed bids to:
Toriano Green, Superintendent
Osceola School District
2750 W. Semmes Ave.
P. O. Box 528
Osceola, AR 72360



Notice of Public Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application



The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



Accepting Sealed Bids



The Osceola School District is taking sealed bids to replace shingles on the Administration Building, North Elementary and the Gym at Osceola Middle School.

Bids must be received before 12 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the Osceola School District Administration Office.

Address sealed bids to:
Richard Ford, Facilities Director
Osceola School District
2750 W. Semmes Ave.
P.O. Box 528
Osceola, AR 72370

NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Issue No. 2
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 93rd General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 8, 2022, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 2. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2021 Session by Representative Ray and filed as HDR 1005.

ISSUE NO. 2

Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to Refer Certain Measures Presented to Voters, to be Known as the "Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Initiative Reform Amendment"

Ballot Title
AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND BALLOT INITIATIVE REFORM AMENDMENT" CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF VOTES REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES PRESENTED TO VOTERS; REQUIRING THAT INITIATIVES PROPOSED UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, § 1, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, § 22, AND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 70, § 1, SHALL BE APPROVED WHEN RECEIVING AT LEAST SIXTY PERCENT (60%) OF THE VOTES CAST ON THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE OR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT; AND REQUIRING THAT A MEASURE SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM SHALL BE REPEALED IF THE MEASURE IS REJECTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING UPON THE MATTER.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit: SECTION 1. **TITLE. This amendment shall be known and may be cited as the "Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Initiative Reform Amendment"**

SECTION 2. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, titled "Majority", is amended to read as follows: **Majority. Approval. Any measure submitted to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority of at least sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast upon such measure—**

SECTION 3

In addition to the three amendments to the Constitution allowed pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a regular session thereof may propose an amendment to the Constitution to change the salaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Commissioner of State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of the General Assembly. If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time same shall be submitted to the electors of the State for approval or rejection. If a majority of at least sixty percent (60%) of the electors voting at such election adopt the amendment the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Only one amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this section.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read as follows: **Measuring Conflicts. If conflicting measures initiated or referred to the people shall be approved by a majority of at least sixty percent (60%) of the votes severally cast for and against the same at the same election, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law.**

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read as follows: **§ 22. Constitutional amendments.**

Either branch of the General Assembly, at a regular session thereof, may propose amendments to this Constitution; and if the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and

nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State, for approval or rejection, and if a majority of at least sixty percent (60%) of the electors voting at such election adopt such amendments, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. But no more than three amendments shall be proposed or submitted at the same time. They shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment separately.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 70, § 2, is amended to read as follows: **§ 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.**

SECTION 6

In addition to the three amendments to the Constitution allowed pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a regular session thereof may propose an amendment to the Constitution to change the salaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Commissioner of State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of the General Assembly. If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time same shall be submitted to the electors of the State for approval or rejection. If a majority of at least sixty percent (60%) of the electors voting at such election adopt the amendment the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Only one amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this section.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after January 1, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY 2022.

JOHN THURSTON
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Issue No. 1
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 93rd General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 8, 2022, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2021 Session by Senator B. Davis and filed as SIR 10.

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read as follows: **§ 5. Regular and fiscal sessions — Extraordinary sessions**

ISSUE NO. 1

Popular Name
A Constitutional Amendment to allow the General Assembly to Convene in Extraordinary Session Upon the Issuance of a Joint Written Proclamation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or Upon the Submission of a Written Proclamation Containing the Signatures of At Least Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the House of Representatives and At Least Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate Requesting that the General Assembly Convene in Extraordinary Session

Ballot Title
AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVOKE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT WRITTEN PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OR UPON THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVOKE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION; PROVIDING THAT NO BUSINESS OTHER THAN THE BUSINESS SET FORTH IN THE JOINT WRITTEN PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OR THE WRITTEN PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SHALL BE CONSIDERED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENED UNDER THIS

AMENDMENT; REQUIRING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH BY JOINT RULE DURING EACH REGULAR SESSION PROCEDURES FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UNDER THIS AMENDMENT; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT RESTRICT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO CONVOKE AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 6, § 19.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read as follows:

§ 5. Regular and fiscal sessions — Extraordinary sessions

(a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every year.
(b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to consider any bill or resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular session begins: (c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the fiscal session begins.
(2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.
(d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.
(e)(1) The General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session upon the: (A)(i) Issuance of a joint written proclamation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(ii) The joint written proclamation under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the purpose for which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session and the date on which the General Assembly shall convene; or (B)(i) Submission of a written

proclamation containing the signatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary session.
(ii) The written proclamation under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the purpose for which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.
(iii) Upon the submission of a written proclamation under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall specify a date on which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.

(2) No business other than the purpose set forth in the joint written proclamation under subdivision (c)(1)(A)(i) of this section or the written proclamation under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be considered at an extraordinary session under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section.
(3)(A) During each regular session, the General Assembly shall establish by joint rule procedures for an extraordinary session under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section.
(B) Joint rules established under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section may include without limitation:
(i) A limitation on the duration of an extraordinary session under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section.
(ii) The format and required content for a written proclamation requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary session under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section; and
(iii) A provision permitting the General Assembly, after having disposed of the purpose for which the extraordinary session was convened under subdivision (c)(1)(B)(i) of this section, to remain in session for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days if remaining in session is approved by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate and entered upon their journals.
(C) Rules established under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section may be amended by the General Assembly.
(4) This section does not restrict the authority of the Governor to convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly under Arkansas Constitution, Article 6, § 19.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after November 9, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY 2022.

JOHN THURSTON
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS



Rivercrest School District

August 8 · 🌐

...

The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



RIVERCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss the conversion
charter school application for
Rivercrest Junior High

Thursday, August 11
5:30pm - RJHS Library

Obituaries



The Rev. Curtis Lee Pointer Richmond

The Rev. Curtis Lee Pointer Richmond, 71, of Osceola, Ark., died Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, at South Mississippi County Medical Center in Osceola. Born Sept. 21, 1950, in Osceola, he was a US Navy veteran, a retired factory worker, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Blytheville, a member of Blytheville Ministerial Alliance, member of the Brotherhood and a member of Rosewald Reunited Alumni Organization. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry Richmond and Selener Arnold Brown; one son, Dextre Pointer; five brothers, Leslie Richmond, T.J. Richmond, James Richmond, Larry Richmond and Melvin Richmond; and four sisters, Dorothy Richmond, Juanita Richmond, June Taylor and Eveline Fite.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Pointer, of Osceola; one son, Demetrius Pointer (Shalonda), of Osceola; three daughters, Stefanie Bradley, Andrea Doss

(Brian) and Lavita Hill (Bobby Joe, Jr.), all of Osceola; three brothers, Willis Richmond, Bobby Richmond (Regina) and John Richmond (Minnie), of Benton Harbor, Mich.; two sisters, Betty Richmond and Artie Bell Jones, of Chicago, Ill.; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at Promise-land Church of God in Christ in Osceola.

Funeral services will follow at 10 a.m. Burial will be held in Whiteside Cemetery in Osceola with Pastor Anthony Burton officiating.

Wilson Funeral Home in Osceola is in charge of arrangements.

James Max Simpson

James Max Simpson, 69, died Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, at Flo & Phil Hospice House in Jonesboro, Ark. Born June 30, 1953, in Gilmore, Ark., he was a retired farmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Helen Kate Burks Simpson; one brother, Don Simpson; and two sisters, Peggy Longcar and Maggie Simpson.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Simpson, of Tyrnza, Ark.; two sons, Steven Davis, of Independence, Kan., and James Davis, of Truman, Ark.; two daughters, Patricia Davis, of Memphis, Tenn., and Rebecca Simpson, of Windfield, Ala.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, at Wilson Funeral Home in Tyrnza, Ark.

Funeral services will

follow at 1 p.m. with Bro. Gary Andrews officiating. Wilson Funeral Home in Tyrnza is in charge of services.

Tamara Lynn Ashburn

Tamara Lynn Ashburn, 58, of Joiner, Ark., died Friday, Aug. 5, 2022. Born Aug. 6, 1963, in Sacramento, Calif., she was a caretaker.

She was preceded in death by her father, Marvin Sharp; and one brother, Jimmy Hart.

She is survived by her mother, Wanda Kirk, of Irmo, S.C.; her husband, Mark Ashburn, of Joiner; two daughters, Calista Christensen, of Jonesboro, Ark., and Kiley Arnold, of Titusville, Fla.; one brother, Loren Kirk III, of Irmo; two sisters, Shelli Reed, of Pochontas, Ark., and Tracy Smith, of Jonesboro; and three grandchildren.

There will be a direct cremation.

Wilson Funeral Home in Osceola, Ark., is in charge of arrangements.

Flora Dean Ivy

Flora Dean Ivy, 92, of Wilson, Ark., died Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, in Manila, Ark. Born March 14, 1930, in Cordova, Ala., she worked as a dietician at Osceola Hospital for many years. She enjoyed gardening and flowers, children and animals always brought a smile to her face.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Hester Dunn; two sons, Ray White and Greg White; and five siblings.

She is survived by two daughters, Nadean Vaughn (Bill) and Charlene Rogers; one son, Al White (Clara); two stepsons, Terry Ivy

(Mary) and Pete Ivy; one stepdaughter, Cheryl Ivy; 18 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, at Roller-Swift Funeral Home in Osceola, Ark.

Graveside services followed at 2:30 p.m. in Bassett Cemetery.

Roller-Swift Funeral Home in Osceola is in charge of arrangements.

Kimberly Renee Finney

Kimberly Renee Finney, 61, of Joiner, Ark., died Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, at South Mississippi County Medical Center in Osceola. Born March 10, 1961, to Bonnie Jean Skelton Connell, in Blytheville, Ark., she was a homemaker.

She is survived by her cousins, Dorothy Pontious (Eugene), of Pacific, Mo., Joyce Pichon, of Abita Springs, La., Bonnie Swallows, of Hermann, Mo., Susan Niehaus, of Labadie, Mo., Pete Pontious, of Gray Summit, Mo., and Kelly Wallace, of Grand Junction, Colo.

There will be a cremation with a burial at a later date in Elmwood Cemetery in Blytheville.

Wilson Funeral Home in Osceola is in charge of arrangements.



Barbara Jeanette Anderson

Barbara Jeanette Anderson, 86, of Gosnell, Ark., died Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022. Born Oct. 14, 1935, she was a retired beautician and of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents, W.C. and Fannie Mae Davis, her husband, Eddie R. Anderson; one son, Eddie Ray Anderson; and three daughters, Cathy Hopper, Kimberly Anderson and Karolyn Goss.

She is survived by three daughters, Shirley Cavins, of Blytheville, Ark., Judi Davbitz (Charlie), of Midlothian, Texas, and Stacey Nix (Patrick), of Memphis, Tenn.; two sisters, Linda Brucks, of Gosnell, and Bonnie Goss, of Johnstown, N.Y.; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, in Elmwood Cemetery with Bro. Danny

Pankey officiating. Wilson Funeral Home in Blytheville was in charge of arrangements.

Bennie Masters, Jr.

Bennie Masters, Jr., 81, of Osceola, Ark., died Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, at Harris Healthcare in Osceola. Born Oct. 12, 1940, in Denwood, Ark., he was a retired farmer and a member of St. John Full Gospel in Osceola.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bennie and Carmella Bynum Masters, Sr.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys Masters, of Osceola; three sons, Jimmy Lee Masters, of Jacksonville, N.C., Ricky Lee Masters (Bertha), of Louisville, Texas, and Timmy Masters, of Dallas, Texas; one daughter, Jeanette L. Morris, of Little Rock, Ark.; and three grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at St. John Full Gospel Church in Osceola.

Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. at St. John Full Gospel in Osceola with Minister Ricky Masters officiating. Burial will be held in St. Mark Cemetery in Chelford.

Wilson Funeral Home in Osceola is in charge of arrangements.

St. Bernards Urgent Care opens at Manila Wagner Family Clinic

By REVIS BLAYLOCK

NEA Town Courier

A grand opening/ribbon cutting welcoming St. Bernards Urgent Care to Manila was held on Monday. The new urgent care facility is located at Wagner's Medical Clinic, 3644 West Highway 18 in Manila.

Mitchell Nail, media relations manager for St. Bernards Healthcare, welcomed everyone calling the event a big day for St. Bernards and a big day for Manila. He introduced John Leiblong, president of Doctors Health Group for St. Bernards Healthcare.

Leiblong thanked Dr. Wagner for partnering to bring the first extended urgent care of its kind to west Mississippi County. The Manila urgent care makes a total of five St. Bernards Urgent Care facilities to the area, two in Jonesboro, one in Paragould and one in Kennett, Mo.

Manila Urgent Care will be open until 9 p.m. each evening.

"Our partnership with Dr. Wagner and Manila go way back and we are excited to be here," Leiblong said.

Dr. Wagner expressed his appreciation to St. Bernards for allowing him to partner with them.

"This will bring more solid healthcare to the facility," Dr. Wagner said. "I'm here now, but this institution has been here since the 1800s. The main thing to remember is the citizens of Manila, Mississippi County and the surrounding communities will benefit. My hat is off to those who made this happen, Mr. Leiblong and Mr. Barber (CEO, St. Bernards). There were two meetings and here we are. I want to thank everyone. We are excited and as Senator Wallace says, it is a great day in Mississippi County."

Dr. Wagner said he is excited for the community and pleased to be working

with more physicians.

Senator Dave Wallace spoke briefly agreeing it is a great day for Mississippi County, St. Bernards, Dr. Wagner and especially for the people of the area.

Sen Wallace commended the Wagner family for giving so much to Manila and Buffalo Island.

"Dr. Wagner could go anywhere but he chose to come home to Manila," Senator Wallace said. "As big as this is for St. Bernards and Dr. Wagner, it is a big day for the folks from what we call Buffalo Island. I don't know why but it always seems people get sick after 5 p.m."

The late Mayor Wayne Wagner, a good friend, spent his life working for Manila and what we have right here."

Nail again thanked everyone for attending. St. Bernards Urgent Care at Wagner Medical Clinic was officially opened with a ribbon cutting.



St. Bernards Urgent Care was welcomed to Wagner Family Clinic in Manila with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left, are: Victoria Gamble, APRN; Cathy Huddleston, Manila City treasurer; Donnie Wagner, Manila City Council; John Leiblong, president of Doctors Health Group for St. Bernards Healthcare; Tommy Wagner, M.D.; Dave Wallace, State Senator; and Melanie Pickle, Director of Physician Practices.

Legals

Notice of Public Hearing for Rivercrest School District 7-8th Grade Charter School Application



The Rivercrest School District will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 pm in the Jr High School Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application for a Conversion Charter School which will be referred to as Rivercrest Jr High Prep Academy. Your input as parents, teachers, and community members is valued as we explore new opportunities for our students.



Accepting Sealed Bids



The Osceola School District is taking sealed bids to replace shingles on the Administration Building, North Elementary and the Gym at Osceola Middle School.

Bids must be received before 12 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the Osceola School District Administration Office.

Address sealed bids to:
Richard Ford, Facilities Director
Osceola School District
2750 W. Semmes Ave.
P.O. Box 528
Osceola, AR 72370

Accepting Sealed Bids Buses

The Osceola School District will sell through sealed bids for three 77 passenger buses, 1996 International 2001 International and 2014 IC.

Bids must be received before 12 p.m. on August 18, 2022. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the Osceola School District Administration Office.

The buses are being sold as is and without warranty. All sales will be final. Buses can be seen at the Osceola School District Bus Compound located behind the Osceola School District Administration Building at 2750 W. Semmes Ave.

Address sealed bids to:
Toriano Green, Superintendent
Osceola School District
2750 W. Semmes Ave.
P.O. Box 528
Osceola, AR 72360

ANC to offer Zumba/Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

The Department of Community Education at Arkansas Northeastern College will offer Zumba and Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays, Aug. 23-Sept. 22.

The class will be held from 5-6 p.m. in the aerobic room in the Wellness Center in Blytheville.

Stacey Walker will teach a class combining Zumba and Turbo Kick for a great all-around cardio workout to improve health

and flexibility. On Thursdays, Walker will teach Yoga.

The class fee is \$40. To register or for more information, call 870-563-3236.

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ADVERTISING INVOICE and STATEMENT

BILLED ACCOUNT NUMBER	BILLING DATE	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	STATEMENT NUMBER
143091	07/31/2022	\$225.00	1936765
BILLING PERIOD	TERMS OF PAYMENT	PAYMENT DUE	PAGE #
07/01/2022 - 07/31/2022	Net 30	08/30/2022	1 of 1
ADVERTISER NUMBER	ADVERTISER NAME		
143091	Rivercrest School District #57		
CURRENT	32-61 DAYS	62-92 DAYS	93 DAYS AND UP
\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Rivercrest School District #57
1700-A West State Hwy 14
Wilson, AR 72395

Account Summary

Previous Balance	\$386.88
Payments on Account	(\$386.88)
New Charges, Debits	\$225.00
Credit Adjustments	\$0.00
Finance Charges	\$0.00
Total Amount Due	\$225.00

DATE	NEWSPAPER REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION - OTHER COMMENTS / CHARGES	SAU SIZE BILLED UNITS	TIMES RUN RATE	NET AMOUNT
06/30/2022		Previous Balance			386.88
07/18/2022		Payment - Check (329986)			-386.88
07/07/2022	Ad #4994558 Order #1514609	Banner Ad Osceola Times	6 x 1 I 6 I	1	30.00
07/14/2022	Ad #4994559 Order #1514609	Banner Ad Osceola Times	6 x 1 I 6 I	1	30.00
07/21/2022	Ad #5087625 Order #1551295	Charter School Hearing Osceola Times	3 x 2.5 I 7.5 I	1	52.50
07/21/2022	Ad #4994560 Order #1514609	Banner Ad Osceola Times	6 x 1 I 6 I	1	30.00
07/28/2022	Ad #4994561 Order #1514609	Banner Ad Osceola Times	6 x 1 I 6 I	1	30.00
07/28/2022	Ad #5087626 Order #1551295	Charter School Hearing Osceola Times	3 x 2.5 I 7.5 I	1	52.50
07/31/2022		Balance Due			225.00

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BY:

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STATEMENT NUMBER	BILLING DATE	TERMS OF PAYMENT	PAYMENT DUE	ADVERTISER NUMBER	ADVERTISER NAME
1936765	07/31/2022	Net 30	08/30/2022	143091	Rivercrest School District #57

143091
Rivercrest School District #57
1700-A West State Hwy 14
Wilson, AR 72395

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143091	08/31/2022	\$682.50	1943236
BILLING PERIOD	TERMS OF PAYMENT	PAYMENT DUE	PAGE #
08/01/2022 - 08/31/2022	Net 30	09/29/2022	1 of 2
ADVERTISER NUMBER	ADVERTISER NAME		
143091	Rivercrest School District #57		
CURRENT	32-62 DAYS	63-92 DAYS	93 DAYS AND UP
\$682.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Rivercrest School District #57
1700-A West State Hwy 14
Wilson, AR 72395

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BY:

Account Summary	
Previous Balance	\$225.00
Payments on Account	(\$225.00)
New Charges, Debits	\$682.50
Credit Adjustments	\$0.00
Finance Charges	\$0.00
Total Amount Due	\$682.50

DATE	NEWSPAPER REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION - OTHER COMMENTS / CHARGES	SAU SIZE BILLED UNITS	TIMES RUN RATE	NET AMOUNT
07/31/2022		Previous Balance			225.00
08/15/2022		Payment - Check (330144)			-225.00
08/04/2022	Ad #5087627	Charter School Hearing	3 x 2.5 I	1	
	Order #1551295	Osceola Times	7.5 I		52.50
08/04/2022	Ad #4994562	Banner Ad	6 x 1 I	1	
	Order #1514609	Osceola Times	6 I		30.00
08/11/2022	Ad #4994563	Banner Ad	6 x 1 I	1	
	Order #1514609	Osceola Times	6 I		30.00
08/18/2022	Ad #4994564	Banner Ad	6 x 1 I	1	
	Order #1514609	Osceola Times	6 I		30.00
08/18/2022	Ad #5103736	Back to School	2 x 2 I	1	
	Order #1558306	Osceola Times	4 I		25.00
		Four Color			10.00
08/25/2022	Ad #4994565	Banner Ad	6 x 1 I	1	
	Order #1514609	Osceola Times	6 I		30.00
08/20/2022	Ad #5094201	Football Mag	2 x 10 I	1	

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SEP 07 2022
BY:
Hearings
2311
6540
MHC

Continued on page 2

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PAYMENT COUPON

STATEMENT NUMBER	BILLING DATE	TERMS OF PAYMENT	PAYMENT DUE	ADVERTISER NUMBER	ADVERTISER NAME
1943236	08/31/2022	Net 30	09/29/2022	143091	Rivercrest School District #57

143091
Rivercrest School District #57
1700-A West State Hwy 14
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INVOICE

DATE 9-9, 2022

Rivercrest School District #57

Account 143091

DESCRIPTION	BALANCE
7/21/22 - Charter School Hearing 3x25	\$52.50
7/28/22 - Charter School Hearing 3x25	\$52.50
8/4/22 - Charter School Hearing - 3x25	\$52.50

BALANCE DUE \$157.50

Rivercrest School District

Board of Education

Darrell Gist, President
Jon Williams President
Johnny Worshan, Secretary
Jo Booker
Mark Fincher
Calandra Kimbrough
Kevin Weathers



Michael Cox, Superintendent
Superintendent
1700 West State Hwy 14
Wilson, AR 72395

Phone 870-655-8633
Fax 870-655-8841

3/9/2022

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Learning Services
Four Capitol Mall, Mail Spot #3
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commissioner Key:

The Rivercrest School District is submitting this letter of intent for a proposed conversion public charter school.

District: Rivercrest School District

Contact Information:

Shantele Raper
1700 W State Hwy 14
Willson, AR 72395
870-655-0805
Shantele.raper@smccofits.com

Name of School to be converted to charter status: Rivercrest Junior High School

Name of proposed district conversion charter school: Rivercrest Prep Academy

Location of the proposed district conversion charter school: 1700 W State Hwy 14, Wilson, AR 72395

Grade levels to be served: 7th-8th Grade

Proposed student enrollment cap: 400 students

Description of the purpose of special emphasis of the proposed school: The Rivercrest School District proposes to establish a Jr-Mid Level conversion charter school, to increase opportunities to prepare students to be successful in high school and ultimately College and Career Ready. As a feeder school to The Academies at Rivercrest High School, the Rivercrest Prep Academy will offer students a personalized instructional pathway to high school. The proposed charter would allow us innovative opportunities to utilize health/wellness, social and emotional learning, and intervention/enrichment processes to better prepare our students for a pathway of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael H. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael H. Cox
Superintendent
Rivercrest School District