

From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: djones@bentonvillek12.org
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:59:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Jones,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

The Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will be a non-profit charter school, and will be the first charter school in Arkansas managed by BASIS Educational Group (BASIS.ed). BASIS.ed currently manages non-profit charter schools in Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington D.C. BASIS.ed managed schools are not only top performing among public schools in the United States, but the tuition-free schools are routinely ranked well above some of the most expensive and well-regarded private schools in the U.S. and abroad.

While the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will share the same commitment to academic excellence and accelerated study as the BASIS Charter Schools, the program and the curriculum of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will be designed specifically for the students of Northwest Arkansas. In grades 5-8, Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will meet students where they are, placing them in a middle school program that – with hard work and dedication from students, families, teachers, and staff – will prepare them for a high school curriculum that is not only an AP-for-All environment, but rich with core classes in seminar discussions in primary text, logic, research methods, systems thinking and decision science.

BASIS.ed has a strong history of helping students get into and succeed at the finest colleges and universities in the country, and future graduates at Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies will be prepared to be leaders and knowledge workers, among the very best on the global stage. We invite you to attend our Public Hearing and information session on Saturday, May 13 at 10:00 AM. Please see our website <https://schoolforadvancedstudies.org> for registration information.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the academic success of all the students of Northwest Arkansas.

Best Regards,
DeAnna

DeAnna Rowe
Executive Director
Arkansas Schools for Advanced Studies, Inc.

BASIS Charter Schools, Inc.
7975 N Hayden Road, Suite C240
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
☎ 480.248.9077

M 602.526.8685

<http://basisschools.org/>



From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: "swatkins@decatursd.com"
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:59:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Watkins,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Pruitt,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: tdepaola@gentrypioneers.com
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:58:00 PM

Dear Superintendent DePaola,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:58:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Childress,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: jwarren@1hsd.org
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:02:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Warren,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: kmartin@pearidgek12.com
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:00:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Martin,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: jeff.perry@rpsar.net
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:00:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Perry,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: wigginsj@gosiloam.com
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Wiggins,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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From: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
To: jcleveland@sdale.org
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:00 PM

Dear Superintendent Cleveland,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas School for Advanced Studies, as its sponsoring entity, we are writing to inform you of our intent to apply for an open-enrollment public charter school with a targeted location in Bentonville, AR and within the boundaries of the Bentonville School District.

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<http://basisschools.org/>



From: [Maribel Childress](#)
To: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
Subject: Read: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023 6:18:04 PM

Your message

To:
Subject: Read: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2023 1:18:03 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
was read on Sunday, April 30, 2023 1:17:57 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik.

From: [Jeff Perry](#)
To: [DeAnna Rowe](#)
Subject: Read: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:35:19 AM

Your message

To:
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 4:35:18 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik
was read on Monday, May 1, 2023 4:35:08 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik.

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: djones@bentonvillek12.org
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:59:51 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
djones@bentonvillek12.org (djones@bentonvillek12.org) <mailto:djones@bentonvillek12.org>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: swatkins@decatursd.com
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:59:27 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
swatkins@decatursd.com (swatkins@decatursd.com) <mailto:swatkins@decatursd.com>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:52 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us (bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us) <<mailto:bryan.pruitt@es.k12.ar.us>>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: tdepaola@gentrypioneers.com
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:59:01 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
tdepaola@gentrypioneers.com (tdepaola@gentrypioneers.com) <mailto:tdepaola@gentrypioneers.com>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:58:38 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net (maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net) <mailto:maribel.childress@gravetteschools.net>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: jwarren@1hsd.org
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:02:11 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
jwarren@1hsd.org (jwarren@1hsd.org) <mailto:jwarren@1hsd.org>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: kmartin@pearidgek12.com
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:00:18 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
kmartin@pearidgek12.com (kmartin@pearidgek12.com) <mailto:kmartin@pearidgek12.com>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: jeff.perry@rpsar.net
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:16:23 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
jeff.perry@rpsar.net (jeff.perry@rpsar.net) <mailto:jeff.perry@rpsar.net>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: wigginsj@gosiloam.com
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:34 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
wigginsj@gosiloam.com (wigginsj@gosiloam.com) <mailto:wigginsj@gosiloam.com>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

From: [Microsoft Outlook](#)
To: jcleland@sdale.org
Subject: Relayed: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:01:08 PM
Attachments: [Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing.msg](#)

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:
jcleland@sdale.org (jcleland@sdale.org) <mailto:jcleland@sdale.org>
Subject: Announcement for Open-Enrollment Charter School and Notice of Public Hearing

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Huntsville, AR 72740

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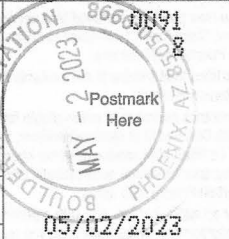
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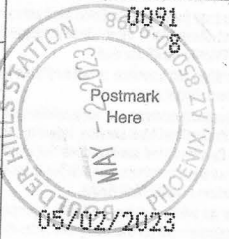
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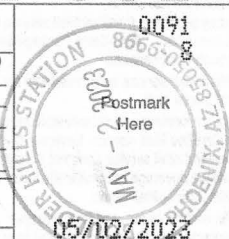
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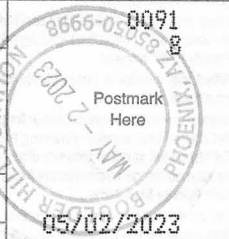
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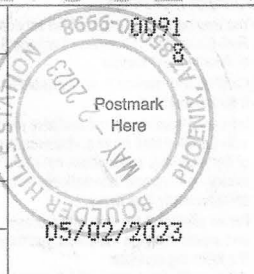
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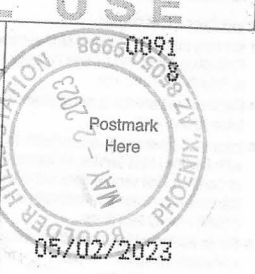
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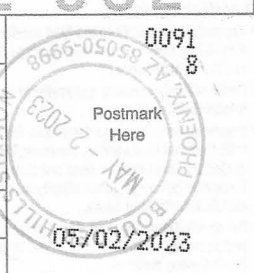
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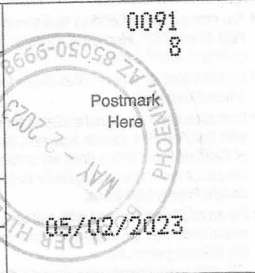
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Prairie Grove superintendent search down to 2 people

LYNN KUTTER
NWA DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

PRAIRIE GROVE — The School Board on Wednesday voted to interview two candidates for the superintendent position.

The board selected to interview Courtney Morawski, executive director of middle level education with the Bentonville School District, and Lance Campbell, assistant superintendent of secondary administration with Beaumont Independent School District in Beaumont, Texas.

Kenneth James, lead consultant with McPherson & Jacobson LLC, and Megan Duncan, a deputy superintendent with Fayetteville School District, presented four candidates out of 14 applications for the board to consider Wednesday. The board then retired to executive session for about 90

minutes to further discuss the candidates, along with viewing three-minute videos submitted by each.

The board hired McPherson & Jacobson at its Jan. 17 meeting to conduct the search for a superintendent after former Superintendent Reba Holmes took a leave of absence on Dec. 2 for the remainder of the school year and announced she would retire June 30.

The two finalists will be interviewed during the first week of May, and both will be on campus for a full day of interviews and planned activities, according to James.

In the morning, the candidates will spend an hour each with four stakeholder groups: students, classified employees, teachers and administrators. Each stakeholder group will provide the board with a one-page summary of what they consider the candidates' strengths and challenges, James said.

The finalists will receive a tour of school buildings, eat dinner with the board in the evening along with their spouses and end their day in a closed interview with the board.

Board President William Dick said all four top candidates were quality applicants, but "we felt like the two we picked shined a bit more and felt like they had a good fit. We'll see what transpires here in a few weeks."

Morawski has been with Bentonville since July 2021. She previously worked as principal and director of professional development with the Fort Smith School District for about five years, was an assistant principal and principal with the Judson Independent School District

in Live Oak, Texas, and an elementary and high school teacher with the Mansfield Independent School District in Mansfield, Texas.

Morawski has a bachelor's degree in language arts in the classroom from University of Texas, Arlington; a master's degree from University of Texas, Tyler; and a doctorate from Dallas Baptist University.

Her husband is Terry Morawski, superintendent for the Fort Smith School District.

Campbell has been in his current position since July 1. Previously, he was assistant chief of campus operations with the Irving Independent School District in Irving, Texas; executive director for secondary education with the Weatherford Independent School District in Weatherford, Texas; and

principal in the Burleson Independent School District in Burleson, Texas.

Campbell has a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from University of North Texas in Denton, a master's degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton and a doctorate in education from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

James told board members that in vetting the 14 applications, he and Duncan used the criteria identified by the board. Some things the board is seeking in a superintendent are integrity and high moral character, excellent people skills, and someone who understands budgeting, Arkansas school law and the Arkansas educational system.

The other top candidates recommended by James were Jonathan Warren, superin-

tendent of the Huntsville School District; and Don Sjoberg, recently retired superintendent of schools for Potomac Public Schools in Potomac, Okla.

Holmes' announcement of her retirement came two days after a controversial video on school security was shown to teachers during professional development time. The video used photos of Prairie Grove teachers or their children as victims in the shooting.

Pete Joeskes has served as interim superintendent since Holmes went on leave. The School District has about 2,200 students in prekindergarten through high school.

Lynn Kutter can be reached by email at lkutter@nwonline.com.

Bridge

Continued from Page 1B

length. About 90% of the concrete foundation work is done, he said.

The county maintains 100 bridges that are 20 feet or longer and must be inspected by the state. Some must be inspected every year and others every two years depending on the condition of the bridge, Beam said.

There are another 100 bridges and low-water crossings shorter than 20 feet in the county, Beam said.

The county ran into a snag on the Gooseberry project earlier this year. The county let bids for bridge beams in January but received no bidders. A second ask for bids was held last month. Superior Metal of Cassville, Mo., was awarded the bid. The beams will cost a little more than \$40,000, Beam said.

The beams will be manufactured at another site, then sent to Superior for further fabrication. They should get to the county in about eight weeks, he said.

"We will get started on finishing the bridge as soon as we receive the beams and hope to have it opened toward the end of July," he said.

When viewing the damage from last year's flooding, Justice of the Peace Joseph Bollinger said he's not surprised the bridge is still under repair.

The bridge is in Bollinger's District 7.

"Our Benton County Road Department are being very good stewards of our taxpayer dollars and are completing this project in house," Bollinger said. "They expect the repairs to be completed in July of this year."

Beam detailed the damage in a November letter to 85 residents who live near the bridge.

Several of the main load-carrying girder beams were compromised and the bridge deck was beyond repair, resulting in the bridge being unsafe for traffic. Beam recommended the bridge crossing remain closed to traffic until the design and construction is completed.

Construction started in November with improvements to the concrete abutments and wing walls.

Some of the repairs and improvements include replacing damaged main load-carrying girder beams with new structural steel girder beams, adding shear connectors to the beams to stiffen the bridge and distribute loads better, and adding supports between the beams to restrain them from lateral forces such as flowing floodwater and debris, according to the November letter.

The estimated cost for repairs is under \$100,000, Beam said.

Bollinger said members of the public have contacted him about the bridge.

"I assure them that this repair is a high priority for our Road Department, and they are working hard to ensure that this bridge is opened back up as safely and quickly as possible," he said.

Mike Jones can be reached by email at mjones@nwonline.com.

Making the cut



Ethan Howell with the Bentonville Parks and Recreation Department trims around one of the 180 sugar maple trees in Orchards Park on Thursday in Bentonville. Visit nwonline.com/photo for today's photo gallery. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/Spencer Tiry)

City announces road work

BENTONVILLE — The city announced road closings and work in a series of news releases Thursday.

North Walton Boulevard from Northwest Third Street to 308 N. Walton Blvd. will have the north curb lane closed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday for construction of new curb and gutter.

Southwest/Southeast Eighth Street between Southwest A Street and Southeast

C Street as well as South Main Street between Southwest/Southeast 10th Street and Southwest Sixth Street will be closed from 7 a.m. Saturday through noon Sunday for the installation of artwork by Thaden School students.

East Central Avenue at Southeast Moberly Lane will shift the east lanes to allow room for road construction. The lane shift began Thursday and continues through 5 p.m. Aug. 31.

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Plea

Continued from Page 1B

to other states as part of his job, Justin Eisele, his attorney, said during Machacek's first court appearance in the case on Dec. 27.

"Being from Arkansas, he does hunt — actually hunt," said Eisele. "So we ask the court, based on the unique circumstances of his case, his background, that the court not impose those two conditions."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Michael Dreher asked that both of those conditions remain in place.

"I don't foresee this being an egregious case at all," Dreher said. "But at the same time, notification is probably the least restrictive means by which pretrial services can stay informed as to where Mr. Machacek is traveling."

Dreher said he didn't know whether Machacek

Plea

owns any guns, but he felt that he should be required to abide by the conditions forbidding him to possess firearms until his case is resolved.

"I'm going to rule that both of those conditions stay in place," Upadhyaya said. "I don't think they are overly burdensome."

Machacek, who remains free on his own recognizance, is restricted to travel within the Western District of Arkansas without having to notify pretrial services, according to the order setting conditions of his pretrial release.

Machacek has yet to enter a plea in the case, based on the court docket.

The Capitol riot was an attempt by at least several people in the crowd to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and stop Congress from counting the electoral votes for Joe Biden's win over President Donald Trump.

Plea

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VS. HAAS HALL FAYETTEVILLE CLASS 6A
1:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M. CLASS 1A
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Poor maternal health ranking inspires film

ASHLEY SAVAGE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
 LITTLE ROCK — A documentary highlighting Arkansas' worst-in-the-nation maternal mortality rate premiered Wednesday night at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock.

Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the state in 2022 suffered 40.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, well above the national average of 32.9.

Maternal mortality is defined by the CDC as the death of a woman during pregnancy, at delivery or within one year postpartum.

Arkansas' Cinema Society hosted the premier of "Giving Birth in America: Arkansas" alongside the film's producer, Every Mother Counts, a global nonprofit working to raise awareness on how to better support mothers mentally and physically.



Panelist Sarita Hendrix (right center) speaks Wednesday as fellow panelists Dr. William Greenfield (left), Dr. Zenobia Harris (left center) and moderator Yuk Davis, manager of policy and advocacy for Every Mother Counts, listen after the screening of "Giving Birth in America: Arkansas" on Wednesday at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock. (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Thomas Metthe)

The Arkansas-centric film is the seventh piece to an ongoing project launched by the organization.

Every Mother Counts was founded in 2010 by American fashion model and maternal health advocate Christy Turlington Burns after she experienced her own child birth-related complications in 2003.

"I became a global maternal health advocate the day I became a mother," a note from Turlington Burns on the organization's website reads.

The group's latest documentary showcases the physical and social challenges that white women in the United States face during and after pregnancy.

Some of those challenges are lack of paid leave, lack of available providers, lack of

insurance coverage, lack of support, discrimination and lack of access to resources.

The film features the stories of three women and the mental health concerns and other challenges they navigated.

It also dissects the way the challenges affect women of color, specifically Black women, compared with others.

A page on the nonprofit's website notes that Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication than white women in the United States.

One scene Wednesday featured Sarita Hendrix's Ujima Maternity Network, which

was established to improve Black maternal and infant health in Arkansas.

Viewers watched as a group of Black women talked about how their pregnancy experiences and challenges differed while navigating discrimination in the health care system.

"I feel like hot trash on the side of the road on a hot Arkansas summer," said one mother when describing her experience with her health care providers.

Another added, "I wasn't being heard, I'm not comfortable and I feel like I'm being dismissed."

Other segments showcased Hendrix's work as a



Christy Turlington Burns introduces her film, "Giving Birth in America: Arkansas," at the Capital Hotel. (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Thomas Metthe)

certified doula.

A doula is someone hired to assist and support mothers during and/or after their pregnancies.

Co-founder of the Ujima Maternity Network, Hendrix explained how essential a doula can be for someone after delivery.

She can be seen in the film asking a range of questions from, "How has your recovery been for you?" to "How supported do you feel right now, and is there anything I can do for you?"

Hendrix also shared that she believes every mother should have access to a doula, noting that the help can cover anything from going to doctor

appointments with the mother to simply having an adult conversation with someone who spends most of their day with a baby.

Other aspects of the film shared a glimpse into the life of each mother and their quick return back to work and life.

"I feel like I returned to work a lot earlier, but I needed the money," said one mother in the film.

Another mother added, "My job does not offer maternity leave at all."

The inside look into each mother's life allowed viewers to see the way physical, financial and external stressors can quickly turn into a mental burden. According to the film, mental health conditions are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth worldwide.

A panel held after the premier featured Dr. William Greenfield, Zenobia Harris

and Hendrix.

Greenfield is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UAMS. Harris is the executive director of the Arkansas Birthing Project.

Each of the three said awareness and conversations are key.

"We're having the conversation we talked about having years ago," Greenfield said.

Harris added, "It's about validating the moms, listening to the moms and helping them find solutions."

Hendrix said sometimes a lack of support is just as bad as a lack of resources. Help from community members can make the largest difference, she said.

Answering various questions and referring to the documentary, each speaker said fixing the issues in Arkansas requires having conversations and staying involved in what's happening with maternal health care in the state.

Cities, counties form planning committee focused on air base

PAIGE EICHORN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
 A group of central Arkansas counties and cities are forming a Little Rock Air Force Base Regional Planning Committee that officials say will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

Officials said the committee, made up of Austin, Cabot, Jacksonville, Marmelle, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Ward, Faulkner County, Lonoke County, Pulaski County and White County, will be a formal commitment among the cities and counties with land use and planning authority to work together to ensure development around the Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville is consistent with the base's mission.

This will be the first regional planning committee in the U.S. that local jurisdictions took the initiative to voluntarily form in order to promote local development around a military base, according to Pulaski County Judge Barry Hyde said the Department of Defense reached out to ask how the involved municipalities and counties would keep the Air Force base viable to them 50 years from now, "just like it is today."

"They pointed out things like where they've had to close bases, which is devastating to communities that grew up around them, like Jacksonville," said Hyde, who is the chief executive of Pulaski County government. "And usually it's because growth of the community has encroached right up to the fence of the base. And so as technology changes and industry changes, and they need to add something, they don't have any room or it becomes so dense, just planes taking off and landing

is so disruptive."

The Department of Defense provided the cost of consultants for a planning study to survey all the take-off, landing and crash zones.

Hyde said Pulaski County Attorney Adam Fogleman drew up all the legal documents and interlocal agreements for the past three years to get to where they are today.

"Without an attorney who was experienced enough and patient enough to work through this — [Fogleman] is respected enough in that community that he was able to work with them — we ended up with what I think is a very workable agreement."

Fogleman said that it is in the interest of all the communities involved to ensure the air base is successful and "remains part of this community" as it has since it opened.

The Little Rock Air Force Base, officially activated on Oct. 9, 1955, started out with 100 officers and 1,134 airmen, according to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Today, it has more than 5,000 active military personnel and is among

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Rainy day walk



Ellie Schaffer, a University of Arkansas student from Kansas City, Mo., walks beneath an umbrella Thursday between classes on the university campus in Fayetteville. Rain fell for much of the afternoon, and more rain is expected through early next week, according to the National Weather Service. Visit newsonline.com/photo for today's photo gallery. (NWA Democrat-Gazette/Andy Shupe)

Academy elects UA professor, architect

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Acclaimed architect Marlon Blackwell — a distinguished professor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville — has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Blackwell, 66, is founder and co-principal of Marlon Blackwell Architects, which is based in Fayetteville. Since 1992, he has taught at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at UA. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Other Arkansans who have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences over the years include Hillary and Bill Clinton for their work with the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea

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Clinton Foundation; Morris S. Arnold, senior judge on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, author and historian; and Peter S. Ungar, an anthropologist who teaches at UA and is the director of the university's Environmental Dynamics Program.

The academy is an organization that honors excellence and leadership and serves as an independent research center. The membership is made up of people across disciplines, professions and perspectives.

Nearly 270 members were elected in 2023 from academia, the arts, industry, policy, research and science. The newest members are grouped in 31 sections, and organized within five classes, in which they were elected.

This year's group includes music and artistic director Gustavo Dudamel of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; author and journalist Michael Lewis; songwriter, actor, director and producer Lin-Manuel Miranda; and author Zadie Smith.

Blackwell received the 2020 Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects and was named the 2020 Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year.

He was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2021. Michael Lewis, songwriter, actor, director and producer Lin-Manuel Miranda, and author Zadie Smith.

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Rioter

Continued from Page 1B
... video by a tipster who had served with him in the Marine Corps, according to the FBI.

The same tipster also provided the FBI with screenshots of a Facebook message that Machacek wrote confirming that he was inside the Capitol, the complaint stated.

Machacek and his attorney asked that the Sept. 7 sentencing hearing be held via Zoom, and the judge said that she would allow that if all parties agreed, but it was announced during the hearing that the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C., has been requesting that all defendants charged in the Jan. 6 riot be present in court for sentencing.

Special Agent George Handey of the FBI wrote in his report that he reviewed Capitol security video looking

for images of Machacek. He stated that he saw Machacek — who was wearing jeans, a tan coat and a camouflage baseball cap — enter through a window next to a Senate wing door and wander through the building.

"I compared images of this individual to the face on Brennan Cline Machacek's driver's license photo, and I believe they are the same person," Handey wrote.

Machacek was arrested Dec. 19 in Fayetteville, according to the FBI.

He has remained free on his own recognizance since his arrest.

The Jan. 6 riot was an attempt by some participants to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and prevent Congress from counting the electoral votes for then-President-elect Joe Biden in his victory over incumbent Donald Trump, according to the FBI.

Deputy

Continued from Page 1B
... GnuDI. She claims she endured several instances of abuse by GnuDI when they lived in Oregon and Arkansas. She claimed GnuDI threatened to kill her if she ever interfered with his career.

The orders prohibit GnuDI from having any type of contact with the women. Tracy M. Neal can be reached by email at tracy@nwonline.com or Twitter @NWAtracy.

Ruling reversed in tax dispute

WILL LANGHORNE
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Supreme Court on Thursday overturned a lower court ruling against a former state lawmaker in his dispute over how much in back taxes he owes the state.

The 6-1 order reverses a ruling granting summary judgment to the state Department of Finance and Administration against Mickey Gates, who was expelled from the state House of Representatives in 2019, and his wife. The case will return to Garland County Circuit Court, where Tyler DeWitt, lead attorney representing the Gateses, expects it will go to trial.

"It was the correct result," said DeWitt of the high court ruling during an interview Thursday. "The Gateses never had a meaningful opportunity to challenge the tax assessment by DFA."

The Finance and Administration Department does not comment on litigation it is involved in, said Scott Hardin, a spokesperson for the agency, in an emailed statement Thursday.

Gates was arrested in 2018 on charges of failing to pay taxes or file a tax return over a six-year period. The Arkansas State Police claimed the Republican representative from Hot Springs owed more than \$250,000 in back taxes, penalties and interest.

In the summer of 2019, Gates pleaded no contest to one count of failing to file a state income tax return or pay taxes. The plea allows Gates to avoid a finding of guilt if he satisfies the conditions of his six-year probation, which include paying \$74,789 in taxes, penalties and interest owed for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 tax years and filing returns for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 tax years.

The state House of Representatives voted 88-4 in October of 2019 to expel Gates after both Republicans and Democrats called on him to step down.

After adding the returns

Gates was required to provide as part of his plea, state officials initially determined he and his wife owed \$80,519 plus penalties and interest. The Gateses disputed that finding, contending the Finance and Administration Department incorrectly taxed legitimate business expenses associated with their corporation, Stonebridge Collection Inc., Justice Rhonda Wood wrote in the majority opinion.

The Gateses eventually admitted that some deducted expenses listed on the profit-and-loss statement of their business were personal expenses.

The Finance and Administration Department, however, could not define what constituted a legitimate business expense when asked to explain why it had excluded expenses that seemed to be business-related. State officials also sent the Gateses several tax-assessment letters in 2020 showing differing tax liability amounts. Between the total liability varied from \$21,677 up to \$54,187, according to the high court ruling.

After reaching an impasse, the Gateses sued the

department.

Special Judge Gary Arnold granted summary judgment for the department, ruling state officials had met the burden needed to prove Gates had earned income subject to state tax. Wood wrote that it is undisputed the Gateses had some taxable income based on their filed returns, but there is still a dispute over the amounts of their taxable income for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

"After reviewing the Gateses' income tax returns and 1099s, DFA computed net taxable incomes that were greater than what the Gateses had reported," wrote Wood. "DFA could be correct, but its figures throughout the audit never moving targets, and it never revealed its math to the Gateses, the circuit court, or this court on appeal."

Justice Robin Wynne dissented with the majority opinion, contending the Gateses are responsible for proving they are entitled to additional tax deductions beyond those allowed by state officials. Wynne also pointed to documentation that she said showed how the department calculated the amount of net taxable income.

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