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FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

WEATHER



Today: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 9am, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 9am and 4pm. High near 90. Heat index values as high as 99. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 3am, then a slight chance of showers between 3am and 4am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



Tomorrow: A slight chance of showers between 7am and 1pm. Sunny, with a high near 96. Calm wind becoming west southwest around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tomorrow night: Mostly clear, with a low around 69. Calm wind.



Sunday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 97. Calm wind becoming south southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Community spotlight with Todd Autry

By BRANDI CURBO

"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

— William Wordsworth

This week's spotlight features Todd Autry. Todd was born in North Little Rock in 1973 and has resided in Batesville for 46 years. He is a 1991 graduate of Batesville High School, with two years of college at Arkansas State University (one year at UACCB). Todd is the owner of Autry's White River Furniture in downtown Batesville and he spent 17 years as a chemical operator at FutureFuel Chemical Company.

What has been your biggest professional achievement?

My biggest professional achievement is successfully continuing the family furniture business for the past 12 years.

See **AUTRY**, page A2



Submitted photo

Todd Autry is the owner of Autry's White River Furniture in downtown Batesville.

Library to host 9/11 Remembrance Exhibit

By BATESVILLE GUARD

The Independence County Library invites the community to visit a special 9/11 Remembrance Exhibit honoring the lives lost and the heroes who responded during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. The exhibit is courtesy of Ryan Harrington, exhibit creator and

informal educator, and offers visitors an opportunity to reflect on one of the most significant events in American history while Ryan himself was just 9 years old during 9/11.

The display includes a recreation of the Twin Towers, historical newspaper articles that covered the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and

a television playing the original CNN live news coverage from the morning of the attacks, an Honor Flag with the names of all of the individuals who lost their lives that horrific day, allowing visitors to experience the reporting as it unfolded that day.

See **LIBRARY**, page A5



Submitted photo

The Independence County Library invites the community to visit a special 9/11 Remembrance Exhibit honoring the lives lost and the heroes who responded during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.



Courtesy of Alan Bufford

The Arlington pictured here in the early 1900s.

The River Haunt Hotel opens Oct. 2

By BATESVILLE GUARD

Some secrets refuse to stay buried. This October, brave souls are invited to discover the nightmare waiting at the end of Main Street as The River Haunt Hotel opens its doors for the first time ever.

Every Friday and Saturday night, visitors can step beyond the fog and into a chilling immersive experience where history's ghosts never checked out.

The nightmare awakens every Friday and Saturday night in October, from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

The River Haunt is operated by the Batesville Downtown Foundation, which will hold a dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. Sept. 25. The hotel is located at 171 W. Main St., at the corner of lower Main Street and State Street.

According to principal organizer



Courtesy of Kenneth Wayne Rorie

The Marvin Hotel pictured here in the 1960s.

Suzanne Magouyrk, the River Haunt Hotel serves as a primary fundraiser for the Batesville Downtown Foundation and was created to bring big-city haunted attraction quality to the Batesville area. With Halloween now a

billion-dollar industry and America's second most popular holiday, today's thrill-seekers want an immersive, professionally curated scare experience.

See **HOTEL**, page A2

ASEA awards \$66,000 in scholarships

By BATESVILLE GUARD

The Arkansas State Employees Association awarded a record number of scholarships for 2026.

Sixty-six recipients received awards of \$1,000 each through ASEA's flagship program, which supports the educational advancement of ASEA members and their dependents.

"These scholarships help our members and their families keep moving forward, by assisting them in their pursuit of a higher education degree," John Bridges, ASEA executive director, said. "We're also proud that 99 percent of the funds stay in-state."

Since the implementation of the program in 2020, the association has awarded \$258,000 in scholarships. Recipients include active ASEA members and the eligible dependents of both active and retired members.

The 2026 recipients of an ASEA scholarship were: Allie Kindall, Valley View; Shanice Osler, Little Rock; Shalon Bogard, Little Rock; Ethan Brock, Conway; Maven Cauthen, Atkins; Reed Christensen, Cabot; Betty Cockran, McGehee; Braden Collins, Cabot; Adrian Conley, Conway; Mckyna Craig, Jonesboro; Kristin Creggett, Conway; Kaebriuna Ferrell, Jonesboro; Anna Fuls, Mountain View; Luke Gammel, Lonoke; Evan Garrett, Alexander;

See **ASEA**, page A3

BANK ANNOUNCES ADVANCEMENTS

By BATESVILLE GUARD

Reesor advances at First Community Bank

First Community Bank announced the promotion of Cameron Reesor to senior vice president, mortgage loan originator.

Since joining First Community Bank in 2016, Reesor has built a strong reputation for providing exceptional service and helping customers navigate one of life's most significant financial decisions. He began his career as a loan process-

or in the bank's mortgage department after gaining valuable experience as a part-time employee in the bank's special assets and facilities departments while attending college.



REESOR

he continues helping families throughout Arkansas achieve their homeownership goals through knowledgeable guidance

and personalized service.

"Receiving this promotion is truly an honor, and I'm grateful for the confidence First Community Bank has placed in me," said Reesor. "I'm proud to be part of an organization that invests in its employees and puts customers first. I look forward to continuing to build lasting relationships while helping families achieve their homeownership dreams for many years to come."

Amy Tuggle, senior vice president, mortgage production manager, said Reesor has earned the

respect of both his customers and fellow employees through his dedication and professionalism.

"Cameron's commitment to delivering an exceptional mortgage experience is evident in every customer interaction," Tuggle said. "He consistently demonstrates integrity, expertise and a genuine desire to help others, making him a tremendous asset to our mortgage team. This promotion is well deserved, and I'm excited to see his continued success."

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