

The Courier

YOUR MESSENGER FOR THE
ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

4 PAGES • \$4



Photos submitted | The Courier

“Here’s a couple pictures from tonight,” Russellville Mayor Fred Teague posted at 4:25 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25, of a couple of Public Works department members. “This is a shift change at Public Works. This is some of the crew that’s been serving the community around the clock. And as always, the Russellville Fire Department and Police Department are ready at a moment’s notice. Thank you to Pope County 911 dispatch for always being available also.”

Russellville Mayor works double time during winter storm

By HANNAH BUTLER
hbutler@couriernews.com

“Guys, this is not your average snowstorm,” Russellville Mayor Fred Teague posted at 5:57 a.m. on Sunday with a picture of Waffle House buried in snow at 2408 North Arkansas Avenue, accompanied by the Arkansas Army National Guard. “We are not encouraging you to stay in for no reason at all.”

Yet, it seems Teague has been doing anything but staying indoors. Instead, his public mayoral Facebook page shows him on the frontlines of the snowstorm; serving as mayor, makeshift meteorologist, snowstorm mentor, special correspondent and chauffeur.

“God bless the USA and God bless everyone that is out across the United States helping and making a difference during this major winter weather event,” Teague wrote, noting the National Guard’s involvement in helping people on the interstate.

Since last Wednesday, Teague has been providing updates and reminding Russellville citizens about potential winter weather hazards, to bring outdoor pets inside and about the warming centers available at Dwight and Crawford Elementary Schools, which be open until the morning the Russellville School District announces school is back in session.

“Our crews are still working diligently,” Teague wrote last Thursday. “They



A Casey's employee walks into work early Sunday morning.



Early Monday morning, Teague shared, “It may just look like a sunrise picture. But this is the Hope that we’ve been looking for. Our crews have been working tirelessly to try to get ahead of this storm. We can only do so much with the equipment that we have. The sun coming up today will surely help us ... dig a little deeper in this compacted base.”

will continue working around the clock through the winter weather event. As always, 911, Police, Fire and EMS will continue to be

available to all citizens. The roads themselves are slippery, as well as the parking lots where you would have to exit your vehicle. Thank

you to all of the essential workers who always find a way to make it, no matter what the situation.”

He also praised essential workers, including those at St. Mary’s Regional Health System, employees at PDQs, Flying J, Pilot and other businesses across town, for their dedication to their jobs.

“They are doing the things that keep us running,” he said in a video statement last Thursday from the Public Works department.

Working closely with Public Works ensured that, even when the snow had stopped on Sunday, Teague once again stressed caution going out. At 3:46 a.m., he shared, “The roads are the worst they have been throughout the whole event. If you absolutely have to get out,

See **TEAGUE**, page A2

Northeast sees more snow from the tail end of a colossal winter storm, at least 18 deaths reported

By JEFF AMY
and RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

The U.S. workweek opened with yet more snow dumping on the Northeast under the tail end of a colossal winter storm that brought lingering misery to parts of the South, where freezing rain left hundreds of thousands shivering without electricity Monday. Authorities reported at least 18 weather-related deaths.

Deep snow – over a foot extending in a 1,300-mile swath from Arkansas to New England – halted traffic, canceled flights and triggered wide school closures Monday. Up to two feet were forecast in some of the harder-hit places.

There were more than 800,000 power outages in the nation on Monday morning, according to poweroutage.com. Most of them were in the South, where weekend blasts of freezing rain caused tree limbs and power lines to snap, inflicting crippling outages on northern Mississippi and parts of Tennessee.

Utility officials in New Albany, Mississippi, said some homes and businesses could be without electricity for at least a week. In nearby Oxford, where most residents and University of Mississippi students were without power Monday, Mayor Robyn Tannehill said on social media that so many trees, limbs and power lines

had fallen that “it looks like a tornado went down every street.”

“Apparently, the new status symbol in this town is having electricity,” said Marshall Ramsey, a University of Mississippi journalism professor whose family was running a generator at their Oxford home Monday to power a space heater and keep phones charged.

A pair of burly, falling tree branches damaged real estate agent Tim Phillips’ new garage, broke a window and cut off power to his home in Oxford. He said half of his neighbors had homes or vehicles damaged.

“It’s just one of those things that you try to prepare for,” Phillips said, “but this one was just unreal.”

The U.S. had more than 6,400 flight delays and cancellations nationwide Monday, according to flight tracker flightaware.com.

More light to moderate snow was forecast in New England through Monday evening.

New York City saw its snowiest day in years, with 11 inches falling on Central Park. Main roads throughout the city were largely clear Monday morning, but pedestrians had to plod through snow on some sidewalks and multiple subway lines with above-ground tracks saw delays.

See **WEATHER**, page A2

Closures for Tuesday, Jan. 27

By COURIER STAFF REPORTS

Several schools, government offices and courts across the River Valley will be closed or operating on modified schedules Tuesday, Jan. 27, due to continued icy conditions and hazardous roads.

Pope County District Court proceedings scheduled for Tuesday have been rescheduled. Court sessions originally set for 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Jan. 27 have been moved to March 3 at the same times. Trials scheduled for that date will also be rescheduled, with notices to be mailed.

The Pope County Courthouse and all administrative offices of Pope County government will remain closed Tuesday. Offices are expected to reopen with a delayed start at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28. Pope County EMS will continue normal emergency operations.

The City of Russellville will keep city offices closed Tuesday. CARDS trash ser-

vice is running two days behind schedule, with updates to be provided as conditions improve.

The City of Pottsville will also remain closed Tuesday while crews continue working to improve road conditions. City of Dardanelle offices will be closed as well.

Several area school districts have announced closures for Tuesday, including the Russellville School District, Pottsville School District, Lamar School District, Atkins School District, Hector Public Schools, Dover School District, Two Rivers School District, Danville Public Schools and the Dardanelle School District.

Arkansas Tech University campuses in Russellville and Ozark will operate virtually Tuesday to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff.

Residents are encouraged to continue monitoring official school district and government social media pages for updates as weather and road conditions evolve.

Dover chamber accepting Citizen of the Year nominations

By OLIVIA FROST
osnelson@couriernews.com

The Dover Area Chamber of Commerce has opened nominations for its annual Citizen of the Year award, an honor that recognizes individuals whose volunteer service and dedication have made an impact on the community.

Chamber Secretary Lisa Taylor said the award focuses on contributions made outside of a nominee’s reg-

ular job responsibilities and highlights those who often work quietly behind the scenes.

“We take a look back at the previous year and that nominee would be someone who has shown their dedication or service, volunteered in the community and just done something that is above and beyond,” she said.

Taylor said recognizing individuals in this way is especially important in a community like Dover.

“We have a lot of people who do things behind the scenes that are never seen,” she said. “You never know who does them or how they happen, just that they do happen. This gives the community an opportunity to bring those people forward and celebrate these unsung heroes.”

Anyone living in the Dover area is eligible to be nominated. Taylor said

See **CITIZEN**, page A2

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/courieronline

Index

News A2

Comics A3

Sports A4

www.couriernews.com

© 2026 Russellville Newspapers Inc.



Weather

Mostly Cloudy



34°

Obituaries

No obituaries