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Library board discusses proposed lease for new branch

JAMES LEIGH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

A draft of the proposed agreement for the Garland County Library to lease property from the Jessieville and Fountain Lake school districts has been sent to the districts to be approved by their school boards.

The proposed 50-year lease was drawn up by John Adams, the library's attorney, Garland County Library Executive Director Adam Webb told the library's board of trustees Monday afternoon.

"It was drafted based on a lease agreement that Jessieville and Fountain Lake have with CHI (St. Vincent) for the McAuley Center," he said, referring to the senior center located at the southeastern part of the property.

"John told me — and I'm sorry he couldn't be here today — our attorney, but this is standard kind of boilerplate stuff for the most part. The big takeaways are: we're asking for a 50-year lease for \$1,

at the end of which we would have the option of purchasing the land underneath the building. I don't know how much a 50-year-old library building is going to be worth at that time, but that is one difference that's in our lease agreement, that is not in the McAuley Center's lease agreement."

Webb noted the lease also requires the purchase of a title insurance policy to be shared among the three parties.

"Since it is such an expensive project that we would share with the other parties, the purchase of a title insurance policy that basically says, if, somewhere along the lines, it turns out that Jessieville and Fountain Lake didn't actually own the property, and the long lost cousin, sixth generation twice removed shows up and they have the deed. If we don't have that insurance, the building's theirs. So he wanted me to mention that to the board as well," he

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A sticker designed by an 8-year-old Garland County resident named Baylee will be available at polling locations across the county for next year's elections after being selected by the Garland County Election Commission. (Courtesy Garland County Library)



A sticker designed by a 10-year-old Garland County resident named Scout will be available only to voters at the Garland County Library for next year's elections after being selected by the Garland County Election Commission. (Courtesy Garland County Library)

Thanksgiving meals offered by multiple Hot Springs agencies, volunteer groups

GABRIEL BASS
AND JAMES LEIGH
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

There will be plenty of options for people looking for a free Thanksgiving meal today in Hot Springs.

The 10th annual Hot Springs Community Thanksgiving Potluck Meal will take place today at the Hot Springs Farmers and Artisans Market Pavilion, 121 Orange St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with food available to all attendees, as well as winter clothes and other supplies for those who need them.

James Whitten, who leads organizing for the meal each year, said the event has undergone a number of changes in name and structure over the years.

"I think last year I said it was the 10th, and I think I was wrong, and the reason was because I volunteered with someone else that year," Whitten said.

He noted all volunteers are welcome to help with the meal by bringing dishes or serving food, and he can sign off on community service hours for volunteers.

"I'm having a bunch of turkeys brought in," he said.

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Volunteers distribute food during the annual community Thanksgiving meal at the Hot Springs Farmers and Artisans Market in 2023. (Submitted photo)

Pearcy store employee arrested for allegedly giving customers unauthorized discounts

STEVEN MROSS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

The assistant store manager of a Pearcy variety store was arrested Friday on a felony theft charge stemming from allegations she gave out over \$1.8K in unauthorized discounts to "customers she knows personally."

Summer Dawn Womble, 34, who lists a Fernandez Lane address in Pearcy, was taken into custody at her residence around 10 a.m. on a warrant for theft of property over \$1,000, punishable by up to six years in prison.

Womble, who lists no prior criminal history, was released on a \$2,500 bond a few hours later with a Garland County District Court date to be set.

According to the probable cause affidavit, on Nov. 7, the general manager of the Dollar General, 6135 Airport Road, in Pearcy, filed a criminal report with Garland County Sheriff's investigators for an alleged theft of property.

Investigator Gavan Mason interviewed the manager.

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WOMBLE

National Guard members shot near the White House

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER AND GARY FIELDS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two West Virginia National Guard members who deployed to the nation's capital were shot Wednesday just blocks from the White House in a brazen act of violence that the mayor described as a targeted attack.

FBI Director Kash Patel and Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said the Guard members were hospitalized in critical condition.

The shooting unfolded as the presence of troops in the nation's capital and other cities around the country has been a flashpoint issue for months, fueling court fights and a broader public policy debate about the Trump administration's use of the military to combat what officials cast as an out-of-control crime problem.

Jeffrey Carroll, an executive assistant D.C. police chief, said investigators had no information on a motive. He said the assailant "came around the corner" and immediately started firing at the troops, citing video reviewed by investigators.

"This was a targeted shooting," Bowser said.

West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey initially said the troops had died, but later walked back the statement to say his office was "receiving conflicting reports" about their condition.

A suspect who was in custody also was shot and had wounds that were not believed to be life-threatening, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The Trump administration quickly ordered 500 more National Guard members to Washington following the shooting. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said President Donald Trump asked him to send the extra troops.

Nearly 2,200 troops currently are assigned to the

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CCMC seeks to address housing issues

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles discussing the rental market in Garland County.

GABRIEL BASS
THE SENTINEL-RECORD

Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic conducted another of its tenant certificate training classes in August as part of the organization's efforts to address poverty as a cause of ill health among its patients.

The class was designed to educate prospective tenants about their rights and responsibilities in the hope that will help them find and maintain housing, CCMC Executive Director Sallie Culbreth said.

Before the August class, Culbreth said, "We're going to be talking about how to understand a lease and what to know before you sign it," among other topics.

The course has "gotten very positive feedback" from landlords and tenants alike, she said, and has helped prospective tenants find apartments around town.

The program was established with support from the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation.

HSACF Executive Director Joyce



Sallie Culbreth, executive director of Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic, left, welcomes participants to August's tenant certificate training. (The Sentinel-Record/Gabriel Bass)

Whitfield said she thought the program was "a great idea and something that certainly was needed because affordable housing is such a huge issue in Hot Springs."

Whitfield said she attended the first session, and "what was amazing about it

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