

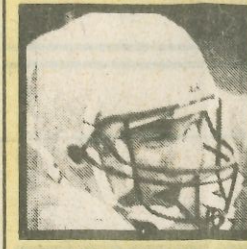
COMING TUESDAY: Coverage of Lukach rape trial.



## Hi-lites

Rayon now most used delicate fabric.

People and Events, page 3



## Scrimmage

Alpe finds areas for improvement in Food Game.

Sports, pages 7-8

# MALVERN

# Daily Record

35¢

75th Year No. 231

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1 Section 10 Pages

MONDAY

Local briefs

**MALVERN** — Tuesday, Aug. 27, is the last day to register and to be eligible to vote in the school elections, Sept. 17. For more information contact County Clerk Carole Burns at 332-2291.

**ARKADELPHIA** — Registration for the fall term at Henderson State University begins Tuesday, Aug. 27, in Womack Hall. Regular classes being Aug. 28.

## Henderson brings college courses to Ouachita

By DELEISA BAILEY  
Editor

A cooperative effort between Ouachita Technical College and Henderson State University will make college courses available to Hot Spring County students in Hot Spring County.

Connie Roberts, site director for Henderson at Ouachita, said, Henderson will be offering college-level courses at Ouachita for the next six years.

"We'll be administering the studies for the next six years, then Ouachita must stand on its own," Roberts said. At that time the college may apply for accreditation. In two years the

college may apply for an associates degree program.

"I would like us to be one of the first to apply for accreditation and one of the first to apply for the associate degree program," Roberts said.

The cooperative agreement came about after the technical college was formed July 1. An act of the 1991 General Assembly upgraded Ouachita and 13 other vocational-technical schools to technical college status.

The colleges offer vocational, technical and college courses in a two-year program.

The Department of Higher Education, which now governs Ouachita, selected Hen-

derson as the technical college's accrediting institution.

College-level courses offered at the state's 14 technical colleges must be accredited through institutions approved by the Department of Higher Education.

Roberts' job is to assist students, set up course schedules and coordinate registration.

Predominately the college course offerings will be at night, Roberts said. Among the courses being offered for the fall semester are freshman English, composition and math courses. Roberts said registration for the English and math courses require results of the ACT or ASSET exams. The test results are

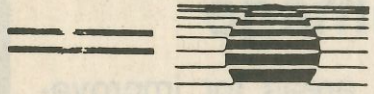
used for class placement.

The ACT exam is for recent high school graduates. The ASSET exam is for those who have been out of school for three years or more.

"These results are used for placement purposes," Roberts said. "They help us meet our standards, which are the same as Henderson's standards."

Other classes offered will be history, humanities and developmental courses. "We feel like we offering college courses which will appeal to a variety of students," Roberts said.

Please see **OUACHITA**, page 9



# NEWS DIGEST

## Obituaries

### George Witherspoon

George Theodore Witherspoon, 71 of Malvern died Saturday, Aug. 24, 1991 at the Hot Spring County Memorial Hospital. He was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, a World War II Army Air Force veteran and was retired from Reynolds Metals Co. Born in Marianna on Oct. 15, 1919, he was a life-long resident of Malvern.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred Witherspoon of Malvern; two sons, Gary Witherspoon and Richard Witherspoon, both of Malvern; two brothers, Charles Witherspoon of Magnet Cove and Lindsey Grimmer of Wheatley; one sister, Rosa Lee Vondron, West Helena; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The Rev. Richard Hamlin will officiate. Burial will be at Big Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Leonard Hughes, Thomas Crumby, Steve Adams, Murl Jordan, Glen Smith and Warren Bankson.

Honorary pallbearers are Larry Witherspoon, Harry Ritter and Bill

Robins.

Family visitation will be 7-8 p.m. today at Atkinson Funeral Home.

### Donald Price

Funeral services for Donald Price, 72, of Chalmette, La., formerly of Malvern, who died Friday, Aug. 23, 1991 were at 11:30 a.m. today (Monday, Aug. 26) at Big Creek Missionary Baptist Church. He was a Baptist.

Survivors are a daughter, Kathleen Pilet of Chalmette; a brother, Doyle Price of Hot Springs; four sisters, Ella Colvin of Sheridan, Zella Allen and Jeanette Collie, both of Malvern, and Lovie Stuckey of Siloam Springs; and two grandchildren.

### Ora Lee Cook

Ora Lee Cook, 72, of Malvern died Saturday, Aug. 24, 1991 at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. She was a retired teacher and a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Sheppard Street.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Johnson Funeral Home.



Missouri-Pacific depot in Malvern.

## Malvern depot nominated

Special to the Daily Record

LITTLE ROCK — Cathy Buford, director fo the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, announced today that the AHPP's State Review Board will consider nominating 40 properties across Arkansas — including the Missouri-

Railroad Depot, built in 1915, is a one-and-one-half story, brick-masonry freight and passenger depot "designed in the Mediterranean style that was the architectural idiom of choice for the railroad lines that traversed Arkansas during the early twentieth century, but especially for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad," the

## Weather

### Three-day forecast

Wednesday: Scattered thunder-showers. Highs 80s-90s. Lows 60s-70s.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 80s-90s. Lows 60s-70s.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs 80s-90s. Lows 60s-70s.

### Agriculture outlook

Low pressure, extending from west Tennessee to south Texas, will continue moving to the west.

Where precipitation occurs today through Tuesday, Rainfall amounts will average ¼ to ½ inch with local amounts to 1 inch. The drying potential will be low today and moderate Tuesday. Evaporation will average 0.10 inch today and 0.20 inch Tuesday. Lowest relative humidities will be 50 to 60 percent today and 45 to 55 percent Tuesday. Sunshine will average three to five hours today and six to eight hours Tuesday. Vegetation will be wet from rain in some areas this morning. Light dew tonight will dry off by 9 a.m. Tuesday.

### Cloudy skies prevail

A low pressure system from west Tennessee to south Texas is keeping skies cloudy over Arkansas. The

Patchy light rain began to develop over parts of east central and north-east Arkansas before midnight Sunday. Thunderstorms formed from central into northeast Arkansas a few hours later.

The thunderstorms were accompanied by frequent lightning and loud thunder, along with brief heavy downpours. More than 2 inches of rain fell at the National Weather Service office at the North Little Rock airport.

### Clouds, fog blanket nation

Low clouds and fog blanketed much of the nation early today but were expected to give way to sunny skies in most areas. Showers were likely in the West and the Southeast.

The heat wave in California was expected to break as a strong disturbance moved south from Canada, bringing showers to Oregon and Washington.

Heavy showers were predicted along the Southeast Coast, southern Appalachians and over the Tennessee Valley. Scattered showers also were likely over the Lower Mississippi Valley.

A few isolated thunderstorms



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# Ouachita

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**Continued from page 1**

The classes will be taught by Henderson faculty or adjuncts, Roberts said.

Registration will be today from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuition is \$20 per credit hour, not to exceed \$240 per semester. Books and class supplies are not included.

Roberts said she feels the cooperative program is a golden opportunity for Hot Spring County residents.

"We have the opportunity of a lifetime here, if they will take it. We can help recruit industry and business, especially with an associate degree in applied sciences," Roberts said.

"We want to work with industry and business. We want them to let us know what they want from us and we'll try to meet that need," Roberts said.

Thus far, Roberts said, response to the program has been good. "The folks coming over here to take classes are so excited. Some of the vo-tech students are going to take some college courses. It's very exciting."

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# NEWS DIGEST



Daily Record Photo—Allen

## Banks donate dollars

Mark Turner (left) and Ray Francis (right) each hand Hot Spring County Library Director Mary Cheatham a \$100 check intended to cover food costs for the Jack McCoy Toast & Roast sche-

duled for tonight at 7 p.m. at the Ouachita Technical College. Turner and Francis represent Malvern National Bank and the Bank of Malvern respectively.

# NEWS DIGEST



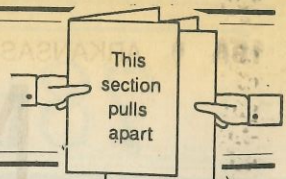
## Car donated

Daily Record Photo—Locke

Earl Clevenger (left), director of Ouachita Technical College, accepts the keys to a 1991 Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais from Rob Wilson, of Rob Wilson Motors. The car was donated by the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors through Rob Wilson Motors to be used by the college for train-

ing purposes in the automotive programs. Also pictured are Ruben Keisler (third from left), high school automotive instructor at the college and Adrian Ashley (right), post-secondary automotive instructor.

# 78th General Assembly



## Fuel taxes bill ready for Clinton

Measure sets total at 18.5¢

BY JOE STUMPE  
Democrat Staff Writer

The House took care of a technical matter Thursday related to its approval of motor fuel tax increases earlier this week.

Even Rep. Gus Wingfield of Delight, a long-time opponent of the gasoline tax increase, changed his tune — to a variation on an old Johnny Cash song.

"I hear that train a comin'," Wingfield said. "It's coming 'round the bend. And I haven't voted for a tax increase since I don't know when."

"But today," Wingfield added, "that train has already run over me and gone on down the track."

House Bill 1200 by Rep. Bill Foster of England, which will increase the gasoline tax by 5 cents a gallon and the diesel tax by 2 cents, now goes to Gov. Bill Clinton, who has said he will sign it.

The House had to approve amendments to clarify that the new tax on gas and diesel will be 18.5 cents a gallon. (That doesn't include a temporary tax of 0.2 cents a gallon that raises money for cleaning underground tanks.)

The diesel tax, now 12.5 cents a gallon, will be raised 6

See GAS TAXES, Page 3

### At a glance

#### MAJOR BILLS

Here is the status of major bills of the 78th General Assembly:

- House Bill 1200 by Rep. Bill Foster of England, to increase the gasoline tax by 5 cents and the diesel tax by 2 cents for a highway road improvement program. The House passed the bill by a vote of 76-18 Tuesday and



Arkansas Democrat/David Hoge

**OLD HOME WEEK** — Gov. Bill Clinton (left) and former Gov. Orval Faubus chat on the floor of the House of Representatives during Former Member Day, a re-

union of former lawmakers and chief executives. Faubus teased Clinton about taking so many years to get his programs through the Legislature.

## House members reminisce on Former Member Day

BY JOE STUMPE  
Democrat Staff Writer

There was a lot of Arkansas history in the House on Thursday on Former Member Day.

Present were dozens of former representatives, half a dozen former House speakers and two ex-governors, Orval Faubus and Frank White.

Faubus, a Democrat, and White, a Republican, complimented current House members and Gov. Bill Clinton for measures approved this session.

"I had to wait to my second term to get all my programs

through," Faubus said. "It looks like Bill (Clinton) had to wait until his fifth (term), but you're doing quite well."

"I'm proud of what Bill Clinton's done during this session," White said. "I think it will have a great impact on the state of Arkansas."

The event set long-time lawmakers to reminiscing.

Rep. Charles Stewart of Fayetteville recalled the brass railing that used to line the House chamber's back wall.

Non-members could stand there, Stewart said, "and when we had a voice vote, everybody

voted."

Stewart also remembered the furor that followed the introduction of a bill outlawing nudist colonies.

"They had a problem figuring out which committee it would go in," Stewart said.

Finally it was assigned to the levees and drainage committee, "and it went down the drain," he said.

"The biggest change I can see is in the size of state government," said Rep. Jim Shaver of Wynne, who entered the House in 1955.

## Businesses back increase in taxes to help vo-techs

BY DAVID F. KERN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Corporate Arkansas took an unusual step Friday and came out in support of higher taxes.

Three of the state's top business leaders announced their organizations' support for a boost in corporate income taxes to pay for upgrading vocational-technical education.

The additional half-percent tax in corporate income of more than \$100,000 will raise an estimated \$11 million and boost the top corporate tax rate to 6.5 percent.

It will affect about 1,500 corporate taxpayers, who will pay an average of \$7,000 more each.

Ron Russell, a lobbyist for the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, said, "This is the first time our two organizations have endorsed legislation to raise the corporate income tax."

Archie Schaffer, executive director of the Arkansas Business Council, said his group has been supporting such an increase for the past three years.

"It's one of the most meaningful pieces of legislation since the 1983 educational standards," Schaffer said.

Don Allen, executive director of the Arkansas Poultry Federation, which also supports the tax increase, said vo-tech reform will lead to better employees and encourage more students to attend four-year colleges.

Before endorsing the tax hike, Russell said, "We studied the issue long and hard. I can cite you 100 reasons for someone to be opposed to this half-cent increase."

"But the more we studied

the issue, the clearer it became to us that of all the legislation passed in this legislative session, this could be the thing that has the most dynamic effect on the future of this state," Russell said.

He noted the state's companies are faced with 45 percent of their work force that is lacking in basic educational skills.

While they agreed to raise money needed for vo-tech programs, Russell and Allen said they opposed any further increase in corporate taxes to pay for an income tax rebate for low- and middle-income Arkansans.

Gov. Bill Clinton had hinted he might seek an additional half-percent corporate tax increase to fund the rebate and raise the corporate tax on income above \$100,000 to 7 percent.

Russell said the tax hike for vo-tech schools already makes Arkansas corporate taxes higher than neighboring states, and higher taxes would make the state less competitive.

Despite the strong support, the tax hike is just starting through the Legislature. The proposal, Senate Bill 166, is being reviewed by the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, but is expected to be considered by the full Senate as early as today.

The additional money will be used to pay for new vo-tech programs, contained in two legislative proposals, to convert vo-tech schools to technical colleges, technical institutes or comprehensive learning centers.

(Democrat Staff Writer Joe Stumpe contributed to this article.)

the Senate passed the bill and its Senate version, Senate Bill 96, by 32-3 on Wednesday. The House concurred in a Senate amendment Thursday to HB 1200 and the bill was sent to the governor. SB 96 by Sen. Jack Gibson of Dermott, remains in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

● House Bill 1447 by Rep. Bynum Gibson of Dermott establishes a regional solid waste management system. Approved by voice vote in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee last week after it was amended to exempt public utilities from collecting garbage fees for regional solid waste boards. The House concurred in the amendment by a vote of 62-21 Monday. The House could act on the measure today.

● SB 13 by Sen. Travis Miles of Fort Smith requiring mandatory use of seat belts. SB 13 approved by the Senate by 20-14 on Feb. 5 and was endorsed in House Public Transportation Committee on Tuesday. SB 13 remains on the House calendar.

● House Bill 1219 by Rep. Ernest Cunningham of Helena would require certain corporate tax records be open to public inspection. The House Revenue and Taxation Committee approved changes in HB 1219 which had been defeated last week by the House. The changes give the Department of Finance and Administration up to seven days to respond to requests for information about corporate taxes. The House passed the bill by a vote of 84-8. The House version and Senate Bill 47, the Senate version, are both in the Senate committee.

● Senate Bill 227 sponsored by Sen. Wayne Dowd of Texarkana was given a "do pass" recommendation last week by the Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill, now headed to the Senate, would reorganize the state Pollution Control and Ecology Commission. The Senate is expected to act on the bill Monday.

#### OTHER EVENTS

● The Senate approved legislation aimed at eliminating district-to-district disparities in teacher pay.

● The House Education Committee approved bills that would establish three tiers of high school diplomas and a statewide grading scale.

# Panel routing fight slows road fund bill

BY LARRY RHODES  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

House Bill 1355 is headed to the Senate Public Transportation Committee but the appropriate committee stop was debated for more than 35 minutes Thursday.

A parliamentary procedure fight erupted on the Senate floor after Sen. John Pagan of Little Rock had the bill moved from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee to Public Transportation.

Pagan, a freshman, argued that HB 1355 should be sent to Public Transportation while Sens. Jim Scott of Warren and Bud Canada of Hot Springs said the bill belonged in Revenue and Taxation.

Pagan, Scott and Canada are members of Revenue and Taxation. Canada is chairman of that committee.

HB 1355 would change the State Aid Road Fund to provide more than \$3 million in additional revenues for counties to spend on roads. That additional money would come to the counties as a result of the passage of increased motor fuel taxes.

Counties, under current law, receive \$13 million annually in state aid. The proposed change would appropriate to the counties a total equal to the revenue generated over a year by a 1-cent tax on gasoline. State highway officials have said that amount is about \$16.4 million.

The Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee has blocked at least four bills that Pagan has introduced this session. Among the proposed bills left hanging in the committee were a sales tax rebate for low-income Arkansans, repeal of the Manufacturer's Investment Tax Credit and another that would repeal the capital gains deduction.

The capital gains bill was killed before it could be debated.

"I can't support anything they (Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee) want to do," Pagan said. "I have had what I thought were some good bills and they blocked them all."

"As far as House Bill 1355 is concerned, I don't even know

See ROADS, Page 3

# Transportation panel supports setting \$5 fee for driving tests

BY WARD PINCUS  
Democrat Staff Writer

Arkansas driving tests, now free, would cost \$5 under a bill approved Thursday by the House Public Transportation Committee.

In other action Thursday, the committee:

● Rejected House Bill 1901, which would have made it easier for trucking companies to gain the right to haul in the state.

● Approved Senate Bill 355, which limits to 30 days the length a pre-trial driving permit would be valid for those charged with driving while intoxicated.

Senate Bill 300, by Sen. Jon Fitch of Hindsville (Madison County), was amended to charge the \$5 fee on the first three tests taken but not on subsequent tries.

The bill, which would raise \$294,720 annually if everybody passed the test the first time, is

designed to stop teenagers from taking the test several times without studying just to find out what's on the test, Fitch said.

HB 1901 would have made it easier for new trucking applicants to be certified to haul between points in Arkansas, said Rep. David Beatty of Lewisville, one of the bill's sponsors.

The state's larger trucking firms regularly object to applications by other haulers for authority to work in the state. Under current law, such objections can be grounds for denial of authority, Beatty said.

HB 1901 would limit the force such objections have to deny authority.

See TESTS, Page 3



Arkansas Democrat/David Hoge

**WAITING** — Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado looks at members of the House Education Committee during discussion of House Bill 1688, his proposal on diplomas.

# Diplomas at 3 levels, statewide grade scale get committee OK

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

Bills that would establish three tiers of high school diplomas and a statewide grading scale moved through the House Education Committee on Thursday.

The endorsement of House Bill 1688 by Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado came despite expressed concerns that such a proposal would stigmatize students who did not get the highest diploma, an "honors" one.

To garner an "honors" diploma, a high school graduate would have to earn a 2.0 grade point average in courses that prepare them for college. Those who graduate with less than 2.0 but pass an "exit" test would get a "standard" diploma. Those with less than a 2.0 and who do not pass the "exit" test would get a "basic" diploma.

But Rep. Tom Baker of Allica (Lawrence County), echo-

ing others, said that in giving students less than an "honors" diploma, he feared that "we're attaching a stigma to those folks that's going to follow them the rest of their lives."

The statewide grading scale, in House Bill 1006 — also by Mahony — would set an "A" at 93-100. Mahony said a uniform system is needed for the increased competition for scholarships. It is unfair for a person who earned an "A" with only a 90 percent grade competing with someone in another class who needed 93 or 95 percent to earn an "A," he said.

The committee also endorsed House Bill 1741 by Rep. Bill Townsend, which would allow non-certified public school employees to appeal a suspension or dismissal, essentially the same rights accorded teachers.

# Panel rejects bill increases for water tests

BY DON JOHNSON  
Democrat Staff Writer

A House committee Thursday rejected Senate Bill 226 that would allow water systems to increase their bills by 25 cents per meter to pay for more testing by the state Department of Health.

The House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee heard opposition to the bill from the Arkansas Municipal League, which suggested that general revenues be used to provide the income.

Under the amended federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Health Department would be required to test drinking water for more contaminants.

The department wanted to raise the fees it charges to water departments for testing and provided that the 25-cent-per-meter increase could be used for reimbursement for the additional charges.

The fees would have raised about \$1.7 million to pay for 36 new Health Department employees in the Bureau of Environmental Health Services.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, director of the Health Department, said the department will attempt to get the additional funding from general revenues.

If the department doesn't get the money, then the federal Environmental Protection Agency will take over the program and the testing costs will increase significantly, she said.

North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays said urban areas would be subsidizing the rural water systems under the bill. He said it amounted to "robbery" of urban areas.

His city's costs for testing water for contaminants would be \$120,000 a year under the bill. He estimated the city could do the testing for \$40,000 a year.

In other action, the committee also rejected a bill to increase fines from \$15 to \$100 a day for having a sewer system that doesn't meet Health Department regulations.

# 78th General Assembly

## Legislative digest



**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "The wiser and older heads tell me there is no way to get out on time. To get our business done, it just takes longer than 60 days." — Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado on when the session might end.



Arkansas Democrat/David Hoge

**ONCE OVER** — Rep. Tom Collier of Newport looks over a paper during the Thursday meeting of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

Article, Page 1

## Bill will make race tracks issue passes

A bill to make franchise holders of the state's two betting tracks responsible for issuing admission passes was endorsed by the House Rules Committee on Thursday.

Daily and season passes to enter Oaklawn Park, the thoroughbred racetrack in Hot Springs, and Southland Greyhound Park at West Memphis, now are distributed by the state Racing Commission.

But a recently issued attorney general's opinion has questioned the legality of the practice, predicting it would not stand a court challenge. The bill endorsed by the committee, House Bill 1850, would rectify that, Rep. Ben McGee of Marion (Crittenden County) said.

But Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado said he and other sponsors were trying to fix something that was not broke. "Let them take it to court," he said. Rep. Ted Mullenix of Percy (Garland County) said the problem was very real.

Turmoil has surrounding the issue of racing passes. Many legislators get a huge allotment of the 35,000 passes distributed every year and some claim they do not get enough. Bills and resolutions have been filed both to do away with the free passes and increase the allotment legislators get.

## Bill tightens regulations on solicitors

State laws regulating professional fund-raisers and solicitors need to be revised, Attorney General Winston Bryant said Thursday.

Bryant endorsed Senate Bill 554. The proposal, by Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern, was endorsed by the Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee and sent to

# PC&E controversy going to Senate

## 'Head-butting' expected over restructuring plans

BY DON JOHNSON  
AND DAVID KERN  
Democrat Staff Writers

A showdown may occur Monday in the Senate concerning the restructuring of the state Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

Gov. Bill Clinton, state environmentalists and conservationists are on one side in favor of Senate Bill 227. The powerful lobbyists of the Arkansas Poultry Federation and the Arkansas Farm Bureau are opposing any change in the commission.

"I don't know what's going to happen," Clinton said Thursday.

"It doesn't look like we can agree. It may come down to

head-butting," a Clinton spokesman said.

The bill, by Sen. Wayne Dowd of Texarkana, would restructure the commission to seven citizens appointed by the governor and directors of four state agencies. The agencies are the Game and Fish Commission, the Forestry Commission, the Department of Health and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

The panel is now made up of the directors of the Department of Health, Soil Conservation Commission, Game and Fish Commission, the Forestry Commission, the Geological Commission and the Oil and Gas Commission.

There also are five members of special interests appointed by the governor. They include agriculture, mining, local government and industry. A fifth appointee is a conservationist.

Sen. Bill Moore of El Dorado has an amendment to SB 227 that would add the directors of the state Oil and Gas Commission and the Geological Commission. The environmentalists oppose that amendment.

Chuck Cremeen, president of the Arkansans for Environmental Reform, said his group would oppose the bill if the amendment is attached.

He said Moore's amendment would keep on the commission

state geologist Norman F. "Bill" Williams, who Cremeen called "anti-environmentalist."

Several groups sent letters to senators Thursday asking them to support SB 227. Those groups included the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, the state chapter of the Sierra Club, the Arkansas and Central Arkansas Audubon Society.

Supporters of the bill may have lost one opponent in Charles Martin, lobbyist for the Federation of Water and Air Users.

Martin said Thursday his organization has taken a neutral position on the legislation. He said his group was still evaluating its position.

# Committee favors bill requiring details of PR fund spending

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

A bill requiring the state's top elected officials to document how they spend their public relations funds was approved by the Joint Budget Committee on Thursday.

The committee also endorsed a proposal that would allow legislators who live within 50 miles of the state Capitol to collect an additional \$250 in expense money in lieu of per diem and mileage.

The proposal was an amendment to Senate Bill 284, which sets requirements for how legislators will handle their expenses. Rep. Doug Wood of Sherwood proffered the amendment.

Endorsement of Senate Bill 97, the proposal on public relations funds, came only after the Joint Budget Committee

added an amendment that did not contain a provision allowing clothing expenses as a legitimate expense.

Some legislators said that if constitutional officers would have to account for their expense money, so too should the state's judges, who also receive a monthly expense account requiring no documentation.

"We're not treating everyone fairly," Rep. Bobby Newman of Smackover (Union County) said. Judges "don't list a doggone thing."

Sen. Nick Wilson of Pochontas suggested that the judges' expense money, be added to their salaries because it essentially is being claimed as income. He called that a "highly ethical way to handle it." No action was taken, however.

Many of the judges routinely collect \$359.43 monthly in expense money without documenting the expenses, according to records in state auditor's office.

The public relations money is received by the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general and land commissioner, plus the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives.

First appropriated in 1956, the funds — ranging from \$19,000 for the governor to \$10,000 for the two legislative positions — require no accounting now and simply have been used to supplement regular salaries, which are set by the state constitution.

# Clinton signs 3 spouse abuse bills into law

BY DAVID F. KERN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Gov. Bill Clinton signed three bills into law Thursday to guard women and children from domestic abuse and replace a 1989 law ruled unconstitutional by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

The proposals will allow women and children to stay in their homes safely and will help law enforcement officers do their jobs better, Clinton said.

The high court ruling in July 1990 that the previous domestic violence act was unconstitutional had a "stunning effect," the governor said.

The population of abuse shelters increased by as much as 30 percent because some men felt they had a license to abuse their spouses, Clinton said.

Join panel backs plan to halve



the Senate.

Bryant, who already sued two fund-raising groups since he took office in January, said he will be aggressive in prosecuting solicitation fraud.

"We are going to drive the sham operators out of business in Arkansas, and there are a number of them out there," Bryant said.

He said SB 554 requires professional fund-raising organizations to report how much money they made from each promotion and how much they gave to charitable organizations.

The measure also requires fund-raisers to keep the names and addresses of all contributors and to keep the money raised from each promotion in a separate bank account and not combine the funds with personal funds or with money from any other promotion.

## Handicapped get more parking spaces

Secretary of State Bill McCuen said Thursday that by Monday he will have added four handicapped parking spaces just south of the Capitol's tunnel entrance.

McCuen will have to relocate several spaces now reserved for constitutional officers and senators to make room for the handicapped parking spaces that will meet all federal size regulations.

McCuen made the decision based on recommendations received Thursday during a meeting of the state Capitol Parking Commission.

McCuen will leave in place two handicapped parking spaces now located north of the tunnel. Those spaces do not meet federal guidelines.

## Board OKs grant for medical clinic

The state Board of Finance approved a \$10,000 grant to the city of West Fork (Washington County) to fund the purchase of equipment for a medical clinic.

The board also approved a \$4,000 loan to the doctor who will occupy the clinic. The request was made by Rep. Jerry Hunton of Prairie Grove (Washington County).

## Wright wants Saturday PB election

The chairman of the state Democratic Party has asked the Jefferson County Democratic Committee to consider a Saturday election to replace the late Rep. Henry Wilkins III of Pine Bluff.

Betsey Wright said voter turnout would increase if the election were held on Saturday, rather than Tuesday.

She has asked Don Eilbott, chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Committee, to discuss the proposal with local party leaders and election workers.

Based on their recommendation, Wright said she will make suggestions to the governor's office on possible election dates.

## 2 disagree on time needed for session

Two key legislators disagree over how much time the 78th General Assembly will need to complete its business.

Sen. Max Howell of Jacksonville says the Legislature's hard work will result in a timely end to the scheduled 60-day session on March 15.

But Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado, president pro tem of the House, thinks more time will be needed.

"The wiser and older heads tell me there is no way to get out on time," he said. "To get our business done, it just takes longer than 60 days," Mahony said, but he wouldn't venture a guess as to the length of the overrun.

Mahony said the House is moving rapidly, but a few issues, such as vo-tech school appropriations, are delaying the work.

"We're still hung up on the changes in the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, but most everything else has been done," said Howell.

# part-time dog track employment

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

The Joint Budget Committee on Thursday endorsed a proposal halving the number of months part-time employees can work at Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis.

The committee had one provision from the proposal struck that would have required 50 percent of the employees to be members of a minority but left in wording to indicate that minority hiring at

the track would be monitored.

Rep. Ben McGee of Marion (Crittenden County), sponsor of the proposal, said all the track employees are white while 80 to 90 percent of the patrons are black.

McGee said the proposal halving the time employees could work would permit more people an opportunity to work at the track. With virtually year-round racing, the track employees are becoming full-time employees, even while holding other jobs. The em-

ployees include elected officials, McGee noted.

Also Thursday, the committee:

- Amended the appropriation for the Public Education Fund to permit increased spending of \$50 million in the first year of the biennium and \$100 million in the second year.

- The sponsor, Rep. Ed Thicksten of Alma (Crawford County), said the increased spending authority was needed to ensure that all the money earmarked for public education in growth money could be spent for those programs.

- Took no action on a \$2 million appropriation request by Attorney General Winston Bryant, who said the money was needed for attorney fees in court cases the state lost. Included was more than \$500,000 in fees expected to be requested by attorneys for Sen. Bill Lewellen of Marianna, who won a lawsuit for wrongful prosecution.

# Hogue drops G&FC funding efforts

Democrat Capitol Bureau

Rep. Bobby Hogue of Jonesboro said Thursday he won't pursue additional funding increases for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission during this legislative session.

Hogue sponsored House Bill 1784 that failed to pass the House on a 44-35 vote Tuesday. It needed 75 votes for passage.

Hogue said he believed the defeat of his bill was more of a vote against the Game and

Fish Commission than the legislation itself.

"I think just certain people have their petty gripes with the Game and Fish Commission. I think what we are doing is letting our little disagreements stand in the way of progress of a heck of a resource in our state," Hogue said.

He said a lot of money is spent in the state by hunters and fishermen.

Steve Wilson, Game and

Fish director, said the agency won't try for additional funding before the next session.

A constitutional amendment introduced by Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado would provide for a one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax increase for Game and Fish funding.

Scott Henderson, Game and Fish assistant director, said the agency faces a \$1 million shortfall in the next fiscal year.

# Mahony has designs on printing clerk's office, auditor says

BY OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK  
Democrat Staff Writer

State Auditor Julia Hughes Jones said a proposal to eliminate her printing clerk's office probably stems from a squabble for office space in the cramped state Capitol.

"He's interested in getting the space," she said Thursday, referring to Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado, who is preparing legislation to eliminate the office. "He's acting for

someone."

That someone, Jones said, most likely is Secretary of State Bill McCuen, who has wanted tiny room 006 since the printing clerk's office moved there in October.

"That's what it's all about," she said. "McCuen's mad because he wanted 006."

Both Mahony and McCuen on Thursday denied they coveted the room.

"That's the first I've heard

of it," Mahony said Thursday. Mahony said he simply thinks the money spent on the printing office could be better spent elsewhere.

"No hidden agendas," he said.

McCuen said Thursday he's never spoken with Mahony about the legislation and doesn't want the office.

"This is the first I know about a squabble," McCuen

into law are:

- Senate Bill 153, known as the Domestic Abuse Act of 1991.

- SB 154, which establishes the crime of violation of a protective court order.

- SB 155, which authorizes police to arrest someone for domestic abuse without a warrant.

All three measures were sponsored by Sens. Jay Bradford of Pine Bluff and Morril Harriman Jr. of Van Buren.

The three laws "will make a difference to thousands of children and women victims," Carolyn Layman, chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Crime, said.

Representatives of 34 groups worked to enact the new domestic violence laws, Clinton said.

"The drafters worked very hard to address concerns raised by the Supreme Court," Bill Rahn, executive director of the Arkansas Legal Services Support Center, said. "We can never be certain what the court will do with this one. Hopefully, it will pass constitutional muster."

Sue Landenwich, a representative of Advocates for Battered Women, said, "We are happy to be joining the other 49 states," which have similar legislation.

# Claims load, expenses prompt ESD to seek release of \$2 million

Democrat Staff

In the wake of a recent crunch of unemployment claims, Arkansas officials are looking to the federal government for an extra \$2 million to handle an overload of administrative expenses.

A committee of the Arkansas Employment Security Division voted Thursday morning

to call on the General Assembly to join other states in asking the federal government to release more money for operating expenses.

While there is plenty of money available to pay claims, Arkansas and other states are struggling to meet the administrative expenses that are needed to keep up with the de-

mand in claims.

The Arkansas Legislative Council of the Employment Security Advisory Council, a group of labor and management officials, voted unanimously Thursday morning to send a resolution on the issue to the Legislature. The resolution, similar to one other states are considering, would

be directed to the president and Congress.

Recent projections show that there is \$2.24 billion available in collected payroll taxes that could be sent to the states, the resolution notes. But the resolution claims the money is being held hostage to make the federal deficit look smaller.

# 78th General Assembly

## Senate approves teacher pay schedule

BY LARRY RHODES  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

A salary schedule for teachers that mandates a minimum salary of \$21,400 for a teacher with a bachelors degree and 14 years experience was approved in the Senate Thursday.

The legislation, which some officials claimed might be construed by teachers as undercutting their average \$4,000 raises approved earlier this legislative session, is now headed to the House of Representatives.

Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin of Benton is sponsor of Senate Bill 403 which was approved by a vote of 30-3.

Sens. Mike Beebe of Searcy, Allen Gordon of Morrilton and Steve Luelf of Mountain Home (Baxter County) voted against the measure.

"I'm concerned about the perception out there," Luelf said. "Morale out there among the teachers is great and we don't need to do anything to insert any uncertainty."

The bill is designed to eliminate the disparity in teacher's pay, Chaffin said. She noted, for instance, a difference in pay of as much as \$12,658 for teachers with a bachelors degrees and the same experience in Arkansas.

"This is the best piece of legislation I have ever offered

statewide," Chaffin said from the Senate well. ... "It has no impact on the amount of dollars that go to the respective school districts."

But the bill does mandate how 7.5 percent of the salary money schools get from the Educational Excellence Trust Fund and in Minimum Foundation Aid will be spent. However, if a district's salary schedule is in line with the minimum salary of \$16,000 for a first year teacher the bill would have no affect on them.

Sen. Jon Fitch of Hindsville (Madison County) said he has a "problem with the timing" of the bill.

"We just raised their salaries and some of them could be cut because of this," Fitch said. "How will you explain that?"

Information released by Chaffin indicates 96 districts across the state will not be affected by the bill and another 183 districts will have to spend less than 39 percent of the 7.5 percent of salary money to come into compliance.

Swifton (Jackson County) is the only district that will not be able to meet the schedule and will have to ask for a two-year waiver if the measure is approved.

Bookout of Jonesboro.

The owner of a Cabot construction company objected to House Bill 1530 by Rep. Travis Dowd of Texarkana, which would eliminate the bidding preference for in-state contractors.

"These out-of-state people who come in don't pay (state) taxes," said Kerry Caviness, owner of Freshour Construction. "We hire local people who also pay taxes."



FIX-IT MEN - House Parliamentarian Tim Massanelli and his assistant, Rush Turk, try to fix the House voting machine during the session Thursday.

## Tests

• Continued from Page 1

Opponents, which included the Arkansas Highway Commission, said the bill would allow interstate carriers not based in Arkansas to make profitable runs within the state and leave the less profitable, rural hauling needs to Arkansas-based carriers.

"For the carrier industry in Arkansas, the cost of business and the money generated is very close. If you start taking away on a selective basis the good moves ... without going to Booneville, (Arkansas haulers) will have the same overhead and less revenue," said Don Smith of Fort Smith, an attorney for several Arkansas trucking firms he declined to name.

## Roads

• Continued from Page 1

if I support it. They're just playing unfair even when the sponsor wants the bill elsewhere. They're trying to pull a fast one and kill it. Four people should not have that kind of power. This is still a democracy, isn't it?"

Pagan's motion to have the bill moved to Public Transportation from Revenue and Taxation was approved by a voice vote.

Fifteen minutes later, Canada asked that the vote be expunged. Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, who is president of the Senate, accepted the motion initially but later ruled that the motion "was not timely."

## Gas taxes

• Continued from Page 1

cents a gallon because of HB 1200 and House Bill 1233, which will raise it 4 cents as part of an agreement to end a lawsuit against the state over the weight-distance tax on large trucks.

Foster said he will probably also ask the House next week to approve Senate Bill 96, which is identical to the amended version of HB 1200.

"I have an idea that the governor, if that (SB 96) passes, will sign both bills," Foster

said.

Clinton could have technically made the tax increase go into effect in March by signing HB 1200 on Thursday, House Speaker John Lipton said.

However, Foster said employees of the state Department of Finance and Administration have told him it will take them until April to prepare to collect the tax.

In other business, an attempt to keep businesses with private landfills from having to pay new fees failed.

The fees would be part of House Bill 1447 by Rep. Bynum Gibson of Dermott.

## Bill eliminating bid preference for in-state contractors gets OK

BY OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK  
Democrat Staff Writer

A 5 percent bid preference Arkansas building contractors enjoy when competing for government contracts would be eliminated under a bill approved in committee Thursday.

Also Thursday, an agreement between Arkansas Electrical Cooperatives and the state's municipal utilities zipped through committee as Senate Bill 572 by Sen. Jerry

### Capitol talk

"I don't want that office. I love Julia Hughes Jones - write that down - I love Julia. People just blame things on me because I take it well." - Secretary of State Bill McCuen, about Auditor Julia Hughes Jones' suggestion that he and Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado want the auditor's printing clerk's office space.

"I think just certain people have their petty gripes with the Game and Fish Commission. I think what we are doing is letting our little disagreements stand in the way of progress of a heck of a resource in our state." - Rep. Bobby Hogue of

Jonesboro, on defeat of his bill for funding increases for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

"I had to wait to my second term to get all my programs through. It looks like Bill (Clinton) had to wait until his fifth (term), but you're doing quite well." - Former Governor Orval Faubus, reminiscing Thursday in the House during a visit for Former Member Day.

"This simply brings credibility to a diploma in Arkansas and it will say you have really done something." - Rep. Jodie Mahony, discussing his bill that would establish three tiers of high school diplomas.

### Legislative wrap-up

#### Tight security ends at state Capitol

Kuwait was liberated Wednesday by the United States and its allies.

The state Capitol was liberated Thursday by Secretary of State Bill McCuen.

"The war's over," he said after security personnel unplugged two metal detectors most visitors to the state Capitol had to pass through during much of the legislative session.

"This is in honor of a man who has caused me a lot of grief over the years in the Senate," Yates said.

Gibson smiled broadly as his colleagues gave a resounding "aye" to Yates' motion.

The resolution has no legal or binding effects on anyone.

"It's just an expression of the will of the Senate," said Hal Moody, the Senate secretary.

#### Mahony drops plan to cut top officers

# Tax exemption on gulf troops' pay gets nod

Democrat Capitol Bureau

For the second time this session, a House committee recommended Thursday exempting the service pay of Arkansas National Guardsmen and reservists serving in Operation Desert Shield from the state income tax.

There was no estimate given of the impact on state revenues. But Jim Pledger of the Department of Finance and Administration said the department was "fully support-

ive" of House Bill 1064 by Rep. Bobby Tullis of Mineral Springs (Howard County).

The bill was passed by the House earlier, but an amendment was put on it in the Senate to bring it into compliance with federal tax law.

The Revenue and Taxation Committee on Thursday also recommended approval of:

- HB 1906 by Rep. L.L. "Doc" Bryan of Russellville, would exempt mobile homes valued at less than \$10,000 from the sales tax. Currently, mobiles valued at less than \$2,000 are exempt.

- Senate Bill 11 by Sen. Travis Miles of Fort Smith would allow cities and counties to levy a sales tax of less than 1 cent.

- SB 187 by Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville would waive the property tax on mineral interests if the cost of collection exceeds the tax.

The Revenue Committee also put off until Tuesday consideration of three proposed tax breaks. They are: • HB 1832 by Rep. Tymothe Woolridge of Paragould would entitle a taxpayer who is supporting and caring for a permanently disabled spouse in his home to a \$500 state income tax credit.

- HB 1694 by Rep. Bob Fairchild of Fayetteville would exempt the assets of nationally affiliated charitable organizations from property taxes.

- HB 1720, also by Fairchild, would provide a tax credit for contributions to public and private institutions of higher learning in Arkansas.

# Bill would let retired city employees keep group health plans

Democrat Capitol Bureau

Municipal employees would be able to retain group insurance coverage after they retire, according to a bill given a favorable recommendation Thursday.

Senate Bill 427 is sponsored by Sen. Travis Miles of Fort Smith and was approved by

the Senate City, County and Local Affairs Committee.

SB 427 authorizes municipal employees to retain group hospitalization coverage. The retiree must pay 100 percent of the premium.

The bill was amended to note that the insurance pool for retired workers would have

to be separate from the active employees' pool if it would cause the premium for the employees still on the municipal payroll to increase.

The bill is aimed at filling the gap older citizens have to cross to obtain health insurance after retirement. Some cities have such plans now.

## Legislative calendar



Here's a list of House and Senate meetings for today, the 47th day of the 78th General Assembly.

### HOUSE

8:30 a.m. — State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee, Room 151.

9 a.m. — Agriculture and Economic Development Committee, Room 138.

9 a.m. — Insurance and Commerce Committee, Room 149.

9:30 a.m. — City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Room 130.

9:30 a.m. — Aging and Legislative Affairs Committee, Room 328.

10 a.m. — House convenes.

### SENATE

8:30 a.m. — Judiciary Committee, Room 171.

9 a.m. — Public Transportation Committee, Room 272.

9 a.m. — Revenue and Taxation Committee, Old Supreme Court chamber.

9 a.m. — Education Committee, Room 309.

9:30 a.m. — Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, Room 272.

10 a.m. — Senate convenes.

### JOINT

8 a.m. — Joint Budget Committee, Room 171.

8 a.m. — Retirement and Social Security Programs Committee, Room 130.

the start of which virtually coincided with the beginning of the session, was declared ended by President Bush.

McCuen also said he was reopening the north and south entrances to the Capitol. And state employees, lobbyists and others who frequent the Capitol no longer will have to wear identification badges.

# Stretch of highway named for senator

The Senate adopted a resolution Thursday urging that U.S. 65 from Pine Bluff to the Louisiana line be designated the Sen. Jack Anderson Gibson Highway.

Sen. Joe Yates of Bentonville sponsored Senate Resolution 14, which was approved by a voice vote.

Gibson, of Boydel (Ashley County), sponsored a bill approved by the Senate this week that would raise fuel taxes. The money would be used to fund road improvements.

Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado on Thursday dropped his plan to eliminate the offices of several top elected officials through a constitutional amendment.

Mahony also amended the part of House Joint Resolution 1018 that deals with the salaries of constitutional officers.

The resolution now would set the salaries as follows: governor, \$60,000; lieutenant governor, \$29,000; attorney general, \$50,000; and secretary of state, land commissioner, treasurer and auditor, \$37,500.

Mahony originally wanted to eliminate the offices of lieutenant governor, auditor, treasurer and land commissioner.

Legislators would be paid \$10,000. The proposal also would allow the Legislature to increase officials' salaries on an annual basis, with a formula tied to inflation. Officials would not receive any other income from the state, other than legitimate expenses, other the plan.

# Legislative Voices

# UCA president doesn't comprehend English fluency bill

Add to the list of Absolutely Asinine Statements the one made by Dr. Win Thompson, president of the University of Central Arkansas, while testifying before a legislative committee against a bill to require Arkansas college professors to speak English.

His quote was paraphrased thusly in the newspaper:

"He said such a bill would send a 'terrible' signal to students that they should not have to put up with listening to someone who was not raised in 'Clark County.' "

Nope, Doc, it sends a comforting message to students that they are not going to have to struggle to understand a professor teaching a subject difficult to comprehend even if taught in precision English.

Thompson should worry more about his students and less about his faculty.

LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

John R. Starr



Of course if he concerned himself with students, he would be unique among Arkansas university heads.

★ ★ ★

So much bad legislation will come out of the 1991 General Assembly and so little good that we need to remark on the good bills, even when they are relatively insignificant.

House Bill 1573 by Rep. Wanda Northcutt of Stuttgart is a good bill that has passed both houses and is now ready for the governor's signature.

It eliminates long-time inequities in jury selection.

Until Northcutt's bill becomes law, the following folks are automatically excluded from jury service if they object to being inconvenienced:

Doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, pharmacists, veterinarians, members of the clergy, attorneys, other officers of courts, undertakers, embalmers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, military personnel, people over 65 and full-time licensed Christian Science practitioners.

Quite a list. It seems that anybody who ever asked to be excluded was granted his request.

Isn't it nice to know that Christian Science practitioners will now be subject to jury service just like the rest of us?

★ ★ ★

The latest report from the Committee to Monitor Nickel and Dime Tax and Fee Increases:

The Senate and the House Public Transportation Committee have approved Sen. Jon Fitch's bill to impose a \$5 fee for driver's license tests, with the money to be used to purchase cars for the Arkansas State Police. Until now, police cars have been bought from the agency's appropriation from general revenues.

Sen. Allen Gordon has introduced a bill to increase the annoying inspection fee on vehicles under 8,000 pounds from \$3.50 to \$5 with the revenue allocated to prison programs. The inspection tax should be repealed, not increased.

★ ★ ★

Latest report from the Committee to Monitor Tax Breaks

Granted by the Legislature:

The House passed and sent to the governor Sen. George Hopkins' bill to exempt Christmas trees from the sales tax.

★ ★ ★

Art (not as in smart) Givens has been in the Legislature for 20 years. He is not known as a producer of enlightened legislation, and every once in a while he comes up with one that makes no sense at all.

I wrote recently about the way he had inadvertently messed up the landlord-tenant bill. On the day I wrote that column, I was introduced to another Givens bill that would make it a crime for you to telephone your brother and offer to sell him the car that you can't afford to make the payments on unless you have first registered with the attorney general and paid a fee of up to

\$50.

I'm sure that's not what Givens intended to do, but that's what his bill says, as anyone who can read English will understand.

The key sentences in the bill are these:

1. No person shall solicit by telephone the sale of any service, property or commodity unless the person has registered with the attorney general's office.

2. The attorney general may charge a registration fee not to exceed \$50.

3. Anyone who solicits by telephone the sale of any service, property or commodity without having registered... shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not longer than one year or a \$10,000 fine, or both.

# The real McCoy



## Roasted rep.

(Above) State Rep. Lloyd George takes his turn at exposing the real Jack McCoy Tuesday night at a toast and roast to benefit the Hot Spring County Library and the Ouachita Technical College library. Others pictured include Dr. Phillip Nix, Betsy Wright, McCoy and Attorney General Winston Bryant. (Right) McCoy enjoys some roasting and toasting from friends.



Daily Record Photos—Bailey

## 'Toast and Roast' aids libraries

By DELEISA BAILEY  
Editor

A crowd of about 230 turned out at Ouachita Technical College Tuesday night to toast and roast one of Malvern's own, state Rep. Jack McCoy.

State and local officials were on hand to pitch barbs and praise at the representative and raise money for the Hot Spring County Library and Ouachita Technical College library.

Among those participating were state Rep. Lloyd George, who served as emcee for the evening; Attorney General Winston Bryant; Arkansas Democratic Party Chairperson Betsy Wright; state Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin; Republican National Committeeman Bob Leslie; Office of Emergency Services Director James Lee Witt; Malvern City Attorney Chris Williams and

The proceeds from the toast and roast will benefit the Hot Spring County Library summer children's programs and the Ouachita Technical College library. Tickets to the event were sold for \$10 each. HSC Head Librarian Mary Cheatham said 300 tickets to the event were sold and several donations were given.

McCoy also praised the efforts of the Hot Spring County Library. "A lot of the bad things I hear about education in Arkansas I believe," McCoy said. "We do get a lot of kids today who cannot read.

"But there is a program at the Hot Spring County Library that is helping to correct that problem. Hopefully, with your help and support, we will beat this problem in Hot Spring County," McCoy said.

Plans are to continue the toast and roast on an annual basis toasting a variety of local dignitaries, McCoy

# McCoy

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## Continued from page 1

"Through this maybe we can continue a very good and successful program at the Hot Spring County Library," McCoy said.

A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the Ouachita Technical College library, McCoy said. "The bill that created the technical college has no safety net, either we cross the wire and become a technical college or we lose our vo-tech school," McCoy said.

"That law calls for a great deal of community involvement. It will take community support. We must educate the community about the law in order to make it the success it needs to be," McCoy said.

Dr. Phillip Nix of the Hot Spring County Library Board of Governors thanked all who made donations of time and money to the toast and roast. Lynn Ferguson provided musical entertainment.

COMING TUESDAY: Coverage of Malvern City Council meeting.



Continued from page 1  
students have shown an interest in the college courses, but some have shown some anxiety. "But, we're working with the students and they're coming around," said Kesterson. "I feel next year we may have more participation from them in the courses."  
Clevenger said he is unsure what college courses will be offered in the spring. He said students will be surveyed about what courses they would like to see offered at Ouachita. Clevenger also said the school would like input from the community on courses of interest.  
To be eligible for college courses next semester, students must have completed the appropriate assessment test, either the ACT or the ASSET tests. Anyone interested may call the school for more information at 332-3658.

"Statewide there a probably 2,200 students in technical colleges and probably very few would ever have gone to college and that in and of itself is a success," said Clevenger.

# Ouachita

Rose, Magnet  
Friday

9

# MALVERN

# Daily Record

35¢

75th Year No. 241

Monday, September 9, 1991, Malvern, Arkansas

1 Section 10 Pages

MONDAY

### Local briefs

## Ouachita Tech posts increased enrollment

By CHRISTIE LOCKE  
Managing Editor

Increased enrollment is one benefit Ouachita Technical College has experienced since the school was transformed from vocational-technical status.

Earl Clevenger, director, said 121 students have enrolled in the first college level courses being offered at the school, and expects the number to increase next semester.

Ouachita is one of 14 new two-year technical colleges established by Act 1244 during the 1991 General Assembly. A one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on sales above \$100,000 will fund the improvements and restructuring of the vo-tech system.

Eleven college courses are being offered this semester at Ouachita through Henderson State University. The Department of Higher

Education selected HSU to be Ouachita's accrediting institution. College-level courses offered at the state's new technical colleges must be accredited by institutions approved by the Department of Higher Education.

Most of the college courses are offered at night, but two classes, freshman English A and composition, are offered during the day.

In addition to the college curriculum, the school is continuing to provide a full range of vocational-technical courses, said Clevenger. Ouachita has about 250 students enrolled in vocational-technical courses and 147 high school students enrolled in courses for a total enrollment of about 518 students.

According to Clevenger, enrollment in vocational-technical courses has been increasing the past three years. Last year, the school had 228 students in vocational-technical

courses.  
Clevenger said he hopes Ouachita will be able to offer an increased course offering at the college level next semester, including more class offerings during the day.

Vaughn Kesterson, admissions counselor at Ouachita, said the school had approximately 150 applicants for college courses. "Most were from Hot Spring County, but we had quite a bit of interest from Sheridan and the Benton area," said Kesterson. "I feel like there was more interest out there than what showed up."

"We've had a tremendous interest in the school from the community and students," said Clevenger. "All the teachers are excited about it and think our number next year may double."

Clevenger said the school is planning changes in the program to make college

courses more accessible to vocational-technical students by offering more during the day.

One of the biggest challenges facing the school, according to Clevenger, is new classroom space. Clevenger said the school may enter into a building plan within a year. "But certain plans can't be made until the board gets appointed," said Clevenger. "We need to add at least 10 classrooms to accommodate the growth."

A seven-member local board will be appointed by Gov. Bill Clinton to govern the operations of the school at the local level. Previously, Ouachita was governed by the state Vocational Education Board.

Kesterson said some vocational-technical

Please see OUACHITA, page 2

### Public meetings

**MALVERN** — Malvern Child Development Center will have family day at the center Tuesday, Sept. 10, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Sharon Allen of Ouachita Community Counseling.  
**MAGNET COVE** — Magnet Cove Elementary School will host an open house Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 7 to 8 p.m. A Chapter I parents meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Chapter I room. All parents are urged to attend.

**"I solemnly swear..."**

Thursday, October 17, 1991, Malvern, Arkansas

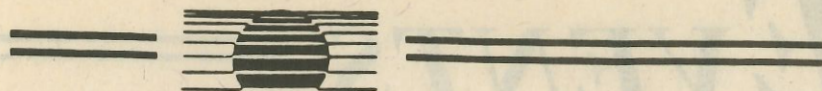


Daily Record Photo—Ross

## Taking the oath

Members of the Ouachita Technical College Board of Directors took the oath of office Wednesday afternoon. Circuit Judge John W. Cole administered the oath to the board members who will serve staggered seven-year terms. Pictured taking the oath from left to right are LaNoire

Dawkins Leeper of Arkadelphia; Jim Crossover of Malvern; George McClure Jr. of Malvern; Steve Faris of Malvern; Mary Cole of Sheridan and Bonnie Jean Stanley of Malvern. Not pictured is board member Dewey Stiles of Malvern.



## *Editorial*

# College-level courses benefit community

A new era in education in Hot Spring County began this week with the availability of college courses to all county residents.

A cooperative agreement between Ouachita Technical College and Henderson State University will make college-level courses available on the Ouachita campus beginning this semester.

The courses will be offered primarily at night and at the reasonable cost of \$20 per semester hour.

What makes the agreement such a great step is that it is the first step to permanent college-level education in Hot Spring County.

Henderson will be Ouachita's accrediting institution for the next six years, according to Henderson's site director Connie Roberts. After six years, Ouachita will have to seek accreditation and offer its own college-level courses.

The availability of college-level education benefits the community in a number of ways.

Most importantly the level of education across the county will rise with classes being readily accessible.

Also industry will be drawn to a community with post-secondary education available to its employees, especially when that education includes applied sciences and technology.

The availability of college-level courses is just one of the many benefits of the upgrading of Ouachita to technical college status. With community participation and cooperation, many other benefits should follow in the near future.

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**THAT'S OUR OPINION ...** We welcome yours! Mail your signed letters to EDITOR, Malvern Daily Record, P.O. Box 70, Malvern, AR 72104. We will be glad to print them in our Letters to the Editor. All letters will be published unless they contain potentially libelous material or profanity. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letters.

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# EVENTS

## Birthdays recognized



**Eula  
Fenter**  
*Senior Adult  
Center News*

Lois Henson visited her sister, Dyres Warner, in Waskom, Texas, and did some shopping in Marshall, Texas. Mrs. Warner returned home with her and has been a guest at the center all week.

D.L. and Yvonne Goodman were at the flea market at Pickles Gap. Mr. Goodman and quartet sang at a birthday celebration at Trinity Baptist.

Levin and Mable Price had as their guest at the center Marion Nichols from California.

Dorothy Polomsky, a longtime member of the Senior Adult Center, returned this week for a visit. Due to illness, she is making her home in Texarkana.

Willis and Catherine Spray had as their guest this week her sisters, Claudia Davis and Marlene Sanders from Arlington, Texas. They were also guests at the center.

The Glenwood Band from the Glenwood Senior Adult Center, entertained with music and singing Monday morning.

Wilodean Carver was a guest of Cloy and Eula Fenter at the center.

Joe and Lucille Pilcher recently visited in Mountain View and Petit Jean Mountain. They had a wonderful time.

Roy Robinson and his wife Zelda visited her sister and brother-in-law Frances and Joe Wells, in Farmersville, Mo. They are both ill.

Asa and Mildred Goodman

Guy and Emogene Nix visited Guy's nephew and his wife, Dewayne and Geraldine Nix, in Victoria, Texas. They also visited friends and relatives in Tomball, Wesloco and McAllen, Texas.

Ruth Tanner had Maxine Sanders as her guest at the Senior Adult Center.

Helen Willingham's daughter and son-in-law, Nina and Rick Skaggs and family, were her guests while in the process of moving to Arkadelphia. Mrs. Willingham and her son and grandson, Ray and Jeremy Bass, visited with Nina and Rick Skaggs. She also had as her other guest, her brother Glen Williams, from Fort Worth, Texas. The family all attended the Bass family reunion at the Holiday Inn and a family picnic at Lake DeGray.

Bertha Wiley had as her guests her children, Bobby Williams from Hampton, Va., Yvonne Burns and Jesse Goode from San Francisco, Calif. They attended their class reunion and their uncle Booker Gray's funeral.

Tom and Lillian Downs had as their guest her cousin, Dorothy Holiday and her daughter, Susan from North Little Rock.

A special birthday celebration was held Friday to recognize everyone who had a birthday during the month of August. This is done each month on the third Friday. A table is reserved for all the participants. Each person is served a decorated cupcake made and donated by Jane Keisler. The eldest and youngest are given a card and corsage or boutonniere. This week Hester Jenkins was the eldest woman and Rebecca Efird was the youngest. The eldest man was Earle Walker and the youngest was Daniel Crossno. Hester Jenkins was pre-

# 74-15 House vote OKs vo-tech restructuring

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

A bill dramatically restructuring the state's vocational-education system was on its way to the governor for his signature Tuesday.

Members of the House of Representatives pointedly questioned backers of Senate Bill 357, especially about where they are going to get the \$10 million to fund the program, but finally relented at the end of a long afternoon and approved the bill 74-15.

The bill would convert at least 10 vo-techs to colleges offering courses that could be credited toward four-year degrees. The courses would be in addition to vo-tech programs.

SB 357, by Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton, would place the 10 technical colleges under the supervision of the state Board of Higher Education instead of the state

Board of Vocational Education and expand the Higher Education Board into two six-member panels.

Gov. Bill Clinton, who backs the bill, has said he hoped to fund the improvements with a combination of a half-percent increase in the corporate income tax and about \$10 million from the increase in the sales tax. The sales tax increase takes effect May 1.

Supporters of the bill said they needed to get it approved before they could get the business interests expected to benefit from the restructured system to support an increase in the corporate income tax.

"It's going to (help) people right now in our communities that don't have a chance of one hour of college credit," Rep. Ed Gilbert of Mountain Home (Baxter County) said.

## It's official now



Daily Record Photo—Ross

### OTC board cuts ribbon

New members of the Ouachita Technical College board helped in the ceremonial ribbon cutting held Tuesday to officially announce the school's transformation to a technical college from a vocational-technical school. Board member Bonnie Jean Stanley gets a grip on

the scissors while other board members and Chamber of Commerce representatives look on. The OTC board held its first organizational and orientation meeting following the ribbon cutting.

# Women join ranks in electronics

By MARK BIVENS  
Staff Writer

Ouachita Technical College electronics instructor Gary Ingles says the job placement rate for his students is nearly 90-percent — and that includes females. Yes, females in electronics.

Ingles said maybe some stigma has been attached to female electronic students. But things are changing.

“They’ve proven themselves (in the job market) and the opportunity is there,” Ingles said of female students entering the career field. “They’ve changed that stereotyped image.”

Ingles has three females in a class of 26 students. In his two years at the school, he’s had six female students.

“I haven’t had one (female) that didn’t finish,” Ingles said of the graduation rate. “They’ve had no problems finishing. They have as much aptitude as the males. I have some students that make straight A’s because they really work hard. It’s not a gender thing.”

Ingles called females in electronics “non-traditional students,” just as females would be in any other field generally dominated by males.

The field of electronics is changing as fast as those interested in careers in electronics. Ingles said no longer is an electronics students labeled as strictly a television repairman.

“I would say yes,” Ingles said of opportunities surfacing because



**Carmen Folks studies electronics.**

the market is changing. “The reason being technology. In the future, machines are going to be run by computers. Technology is growing a lot faster than technicians are. As long as that continues, there are going to be jobs. We’ve just

evolved where things are more electronic.”

Ingles said in this area, the entry level jobs in electronics average between \$7 and \$8 per hour. After

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# Women

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four or five years of experience, that rate increases to \$11 to \$12 per hour.

"Experience is a real plus," Ingles admitted. "I'm trying to place these people in entry level jobs. I don't know anyone with good skills in the field that couldn't get a job if they were trying to find one."

Ingles said electronics is consistently finding females more interested in the career.

"In my class, there's no jealousy or gender gap between students," Ingles said. "In my class there's not male and female students. They're all students. It's the same way in the workplace."

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atrol holds fundrais-

Events, page 3



## Football

Re-cap of Friday night gridiron wins.

Sports, pages 7-8

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## Stanley promotes opportunities

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the fifth in a series of articles featuring the recently appointed members of the board of Ouachita Technical College.*

By **RONNA ROSS**  
Society Editor

Bonnie Jean Stanley, new Ouachita Technical College board member, says she hopes adults as well as recent high school graduates will take advantage of OTC's curriculum.

"This can be the opportunity for adults earlier denied college attendance to work courses into their schedule where possible."

Stanley admits that she has "lots to learn" about the school, restructured from a vocational-technical school to a technical college. She says she hopes she can make a contribution toward making OTC "the best technical college in Arkansas."

She believes the availability of college courses will increase the number of students who attend post-secondary institutions.

"I really believe it will open up some opportunities," she added.

Stanley works part-time as bookkeeper for her husband, Fenton Stanley, a Malvern attorney. She is originally from the Lambert area near Bismarck.

She says she is grateful for the experience various jobs have allowed her. She spent three years as manager of a collection agency. Her nine years in county govern-



**Bonnie Jean Stanley, board member.**

ment was split between the county clerk and circuit clerk's office, four years as deputy county clerk and five as deputy circuit clerk.

She retired once about 15 years ago "which lasted for a very short time" then began assisting in her husband's office.

Stanley has been a member of

the Hot Spring County Historical Society since 1968. Active membership is her contribution toward helping preserve local history, she said.

Stanley and her husband have one daughter, Jean Anne Tabor, and two grandchildren, Stan and Julie.

# Crownover sees college benefits

November 1991

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the fourth in a series of articles featuring members of the recently appointed board of directors of Ouachita Technical College.

By RONNA ROSS

Society Editor

Jim Crownover recognizes the community and industrial benefits an area technical college can offer.

Crownover, recently appointed to serve on the Ouachita Technical College board, says OTC can be "a great benefit to Malvern and surrounding counties." He cited convenience for students and meeting the ever-changing needs of industry as his reasons.

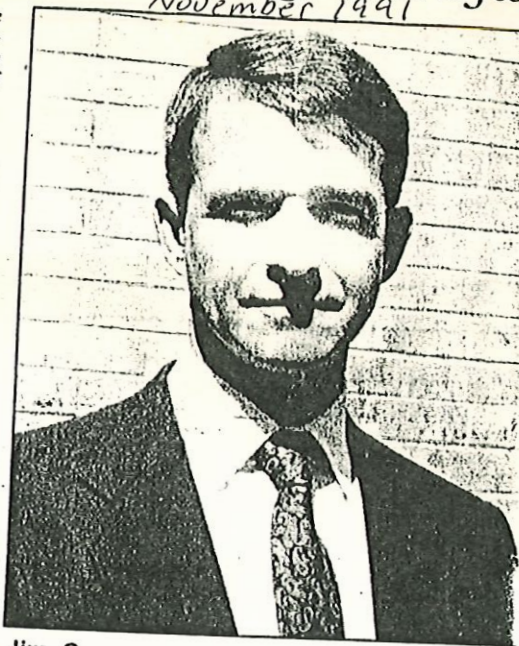
"Industrial needs change daily," he pointed out, adding that industry has become more technically-oriented than in the past.

Crownover said that while he has no specific changes in mind for the college in this beginning stage, he is sure some changes will have to be made for the college to meet accreditation requirements.

"We've got a big job cut out for us," he said of the new seven-member board. Since the board members are new, they must learn about the school and goals it must meet.

"It's a new direction for all of us to go," he said of the new board members and the administration of the school.

Crownover has lived most his life in Malvern. He is a Malvern



Jim Crownover, Ouachita board member.

High School graduate and received a B.S. degree and did some graduate work from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

After serving four years in the U.S. Army, Crownover remains a reservist today. He is materials manager for the Reynolds Rolling

Mill.

His wife, Marsha, was instructor at OTC until his appointment to the board. Crownover explained that she resigned a teaching slot, adhering to board policy, so he could serve on the board.

# Stiles: Vocational training important

November 5, 1991

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is one of a series of articles featuring members of the recently appointed board of Ouachita Technical College.

By RONNA ROSS

Society Editor

Continuing some vocational-technical training at the recently restructured Ouachita Technical College is important, says Dewey Stiles, a new board member at the college.

Stiles said he hopes some of the vocational-technical training of the school's previous days will continue under the new system. He said such training was good for both the community, by teaching trades, and industry, by supplying qualified workers.

"Ouachita Vo-Tech meant a lot to the community and to labor in that it's furnished a lot of good programs which resulted in good jobs for people," he said.

He called the two-year college "a good thing," adding that it will help younger students who do not wish to commit to a four-year college.

Stiles has personal experience in working with the community and with industry. A former Malvern alderman and state representative, Stiles was a 10-year employee of Reynold's Metals Company and an international representative for the United Steelworkers Union.



Dewey Stiles, Ouachita board member.

He was appointed by Gov. Bill Clinton to the position of director of the Department of Labor, serving in that capacity for four and one-half years.

He has remained active in politics, chairing the Hot Spring Coun-

ty Democratic Central Committee and the county election commission for 20 years.

He was born in Dallas County but moved to Malvern in 1939. He and his wife, Marcille, have one son and one daughter.