



Brodie Johnson • Times-Herald

Children love getting their hands dirty whether it's playing with slime or playing in the dirt. Jenny Dearman, standing, and Dustin Dearman, seated right, enjoy watching, from left, Neely Guzman, Nolan Guzman and Oliver Dearman make slime this week during a program at the Forrest City Public Library.

FEES

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Capps said he recently worked on a \$250,000 project in Southaven, Miss., where the building permit cost about \$2,700.

"Over here, we would do the same thing for probably \$200," said Capps. "I don't think we're being out of line by raising our building permit fees. I am not saying we charge everything that other cities do, but other cities support their code enforcement with their permits and we do not. I think we could at least break even."

"We need to do something before we bleed to death for lack of action," said Mayor Larry Bryant. "We've been talking about this a long time and we need to try to move it along. We have the information."

"I know we have inspections being done. But, when you talk about these large building permits, are you saying we need to hire somebody to do the inspection who has the proper credentials?" asked councilman Marvin Metcalf.

"If the city does not have a person certified or qualified for that, then maybe get a master electrician or master plumber to review the plans and help us along so we'll at least have a professional looking at it," said Capps. "I don't want to set the fees so high to hurt anybody coming in here to build something new. I want to be less than what they expect to pay in other municipalities."

"We don't always have to be the lowest, but we don't have to be the highest either. We need to be somewhere in the game," said Bryant.

"Also, if the inspector has to make extra visits, the first one should be free, the second \$25 and the third \$50. All fees would

have to be paid before we issue a certificate of occupancy," Capps added. "Forrest City needs to improve on what it collects to help support the building code office."

Capps also said the city needs to require demolition permits as well as building permits.

"We need to set a minimum fee of \$25," he said. "That would give us the name, address and phone number of who did the demo so that if they don't clean up the area, we can contact them."

Bryant said the council also needs to "put teeth" in the city's ordinances to allow for followups.

"We have people who come in and put roofs on every weekend without permits," said Bryant. "I've been working with the police department to help us make sure that if these places don't have a sign up saying they have had the project inspected and have a permit then we need to close them down. We need to do whatever is necessary to make sure we don't have these fly-by-night people coming in, doing shoddy work and our citizens paying for that."

"Will there be consequences for the ones who do not follow the rules?" asked councilman Lowry Astin.

"I'm all open for consequences, both minimum and maximum," said Bryant. "We have a whole lot of things that people over the years have gotten comfortable with not having consequences and it shows up as blight in the city."

The council will need to adopt a new ordinance on permit costs once they agree on how much should be charged.

Bryant also presented the council with information regarding rates currently charged

for dumpster rentals and suggested those be adjusted.

The council took no action on that matter.

In other business, the council heard first reading of an ordinance to allow the city to share the operating costs for the 911 dispatch center, which is operated out of the St. Francis County Jail.

For 2023, the city's share is \$183,082.47.

Bryant read the ordinance, in the absence of the city attorney, explaining the city's portion is determined once all of the 911 revenue has been spent. After that, the city and county share the remaining costs.

"The previous administration had set aside \$20,000 a month. This is \$183,000 and should be less next year because they had to buy new equipment last year," said Bryant.

The council also agreed to pay the Arkansas Department of Transportation \$356,034.68 for street repairs. The state contributed \$300,000 toward the project through the street aid program.

Bryant said the project is included in this year's budget.

Bryant also reminded the council that the city-wide cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, from 8 a.m. until noon. Those wanting to participate may pick up supplies at city hall.

"Pass the word on to your neighbors and friends. It's easy to talk about how things are but all of us need to be involved to try to make it better ourselves," said Bryant.

The council also approved paying general bills of \$23,018.66, street bills of \$9,835.09, solid waste bills of \$36,855.80 and water bills of \$63,901.31.

Little Rock airport director dies following shootout with ATF, airport commissioner says

Bryan Malinowski, the executive director of Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport/Adams Field who was shot in the head by federal officers in a shootout Tuesday morning, has died, according to a statement from the airport.

"With a heavy heart, we announce the passing of our executive director Bryan Malinowski," said Bill Walker, chair of the Little Rock Municipal Airport Commission, according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. "Bryan was a 16-year employee of the airport. Under his leadership, our airport has experienced significant growth and success, expanding services and offerings to our community and state."

He also offered condolences to Malinowski's family and friends.

Malinowski, 53, was left brain dead after being injured in a

shootout with officers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives around 6 a.m. Tuesday.

He opened fire on the officers as they attempted to serve a search warrant at his home, located in West Little Rock at 4 Durance Court.

His older brother, Matthew Malinowski, said in an interview Wednesday that Bryan Malinowski had been shot "with a high-caliber round."

It is not yet known why the ATF was serving the warrant.

Malinowski had served as executive director of the airport since 2019.

Originally from Pennsylvania, he earned a bachelor's degree in aviation management from the Florida Institute of Technology and was a certified flight instructor,

according to his bio on the airport's website.

He joined the Little Rock airport in 2008 as the director of properties, planning and development after working for airports in Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania.

Malinowski went on to spend a decade as deputy executive director under then-Executive Director Ron Mathieu.

When Mathieu resigned in 2019 to take another job, Malinowski was named interim executive director.

"This is so very important to me," Malinowski said from the dais after receiving the nod, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported at the time. "As an aviation professional, I do realize all the hard work by the people that surround you are what make you. I hope to do the very best we can not to miss a beat."

The Airport Commission gave Malinowski the job on a permanent basis in November 2019.

Malinowski led the airport during the covid-19 pandemic, when air travel plummeted for a period of time.

His base annual salary was close to \$264,000, making him the highest-paid official working for the city of Little Rock or the city's quasi-independent entities.



Librarian's Log by Arlisa Harris, Librarian Forrest City Public Library



National Library Workers' Day is coming up in a few weeks, so now is a great time to introduce you to the wheels that make the library train move down the track – the dedicated staff of ladies at the Forrest City Public Library.

Marva Garrett, Sheila Gracey and René Ward, and yours truly are the team that supports all our library activities and services to our community.

Marva is our Library Aide and is the Swiss Army Knife of the staff. She helps everywhere, and since she spent 20 years at State Police, she works well in a multi-tasking environment. Her organizational skills are a big asset when we are sometimes shorthanded.

Sheila is our Youth Services Coordinator and, with eight grandkids and counting, it's no wonder she is good with kids. She is great at getting the kids involved with crafts and activities at our programs and events. She does our passport applications too (new and renewal). So, if you are looking to travel abroad for business or pleasure, stop by and let her help get you through the red tape.

René oversees our Circulation Services Coordinator, and she knows practically everybody and if she doesn't know you personally, she knows your people. Since she cooks for a lot of the locals who love her cooking, she's probably fed many of you.

René also does our genealogy research and if you give her enough information, she will help you reconnect that lost twig or branch of your family tree. Come by and visit her, she will make you feel right at home.

I am the director and sometimes I feel like I am directing a three-ring circus. I can really relate to the "best laid plans of mice and men" line by Scottish Poet Robert Burns because just when I have my day or week planned, I can often count on something happening that blows all that out of the water and I spend the rest of the day or week in triage mode.

Sometimes our Internet is down, we're unexpectedly short-staffed, or there are unscheduled drop-ins (I love seeing all of you but not everything has to go through me), or the Libby system is down, you name it and I just roll with the punches, and I love it. It keeps me sharp, and I am gratified by knowing that every day the information and services we provide help people find solutions to problems.

So, without further ado, let me introduce you to the staff of the Forrest City Public Library.

Marva Garrett

Background: I was born and raised in Forrest City. I worked for the St. Francis County Sheriff's Department for seven years and for the Arkansas State Police for 20 ½ years. I retired in 2019.

One of My Favorite Things About Working at the Library is: Meeting new people.

SFCHA

(Continued from Page 1) commissioners heard from SFCHA Director Tonya Jones regarding the need for commissioners to receive their certification credits to continue serving as members of the commission. The group also discussed the introduction of the family self sufficiency program and stated its intent to announce a HUD tenant meeting.

According to Jones, all current commissioners must attend a National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials meeting in North Little Rock in April to gain certifications to be a commissioner.

"The next training that is coming up is the NAHRO Spring Conference, which will be held in North Little Rock on April 15 and 16," said Jones. "The NAHRO Conference is for commissioners' certification credit. There are courses that you can take to get your certification. They did stress at the PHADA (Public Housing Authorities Directors Association) Conference that in order to be a board member, you should be certified. Now that we have that knowledge, we know our

The Question That Library Patrons Ask Me the Most: What new movies came in for the week?

Book Recommendations: "The Little Engine That Could." It's a classic children's book about a tale of perseverance, optimism, and the power of positive thinking.

People May Be Surprised to Know About Me: I talk a lot.

I Wish I Had More Time To: Travel.

The Thing That Makes Me Laugh the Most: A good joke.

Sheila Gracey
Background: I have lived in Forrest City most of my life. I am a 1986 graduate of FCHS. I am married to Steve, and our children are Stacey Burgess, Shane Gracey, Scott Gracey and Hunter Miller. We have eight grandchildren: Carson, Brooklyn, Madison and Eden Burgess, Brayden, Ava, Levi and Paxton.

One of My Favorite Things About Working at the Library is: Meeting new people.

The Question That Library Patrons Ask Me the Most: Can I use the computer if I don't have a library card? (The answer is yes. You just need a photo ID)

Book Recommendations: I like "Chicken Soup for the Soul." They have inspirational stories about real life things.

People May Be Surprised to Know About Me: I love zoos! I like to visit the zoo any place I go.

I Wish I Had More Time To: Spend time with my kids and grandkids.

The Thing That Makes Me Laugh the Most: The funny things my grandkids say and do.

René Ward

Background: I was born and raised in Forrest City, I graduated from Lincoln Senior High School in 1969, attended University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, then AM&N, and EACC in Forrest City. I am the mother of four children, grandmother of eight and the great-grandmother of four. I attend St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church where I wear many hats. I have made a full circle of employment. My first job was in the library of the then Lincoln High School, General Industry, Forrest City High School Library, County Extension and now the Forrest City Public Library. I am a member of several Community Clubs as well as serving my eighth year on the Legal Aid of Arkansas Board.

One of My Favorite Things About Working at the Library is: I am a people person and I get to meet and serve a wide variety of people and personalities.

The Question That Library Patrons Ask Me the Most: Are my books overdue?

Book Recommendations: "The Pecan Man" showcases and dispels racial myths and teaches us that there is good and evil on both sides of the barrier.

People May Be Surprised to Know About Me: I am my worst critic.

I Wish I Had More Time To: To

supply the needy two hot meals a day.

The Thing That Makes Me Laugh the Most: The wisdom of the older generation mixed with their humor.

Arlisa Harris
I was born in California and worked at the County of Los Angeles Public Library from 1986 until I moved to Arkansas in 2000. I have a Master of Science in Library Science and certification in Digital Content Management. I am a graduate of the two-year leadership program through the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Research & Extension called LEADAR. I am a member of Class 18.

I have worked in libraries most of my adult life and feel a kinship with all things related to libraries.

One of My Favorite Things About Working at the Library is: When I first began working at a library, my favorite thing was helping library users find answers to their reference questions. With the onset of the Internet, what I enjoy now is figuring out how to provide services to the community that are useful and cost effective. I enjoy the challenge, most days, of making things happen with our limited resources.

The Question That Library Patrons Ask Me the Most: Besides the question, why did you move to Arkansas, the most asked question is are you guys hiring.

Book Recommendations: I think every child should read, "Oh, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss. The flow in this book is uplifting, encouraging and the underlying message is perseverance.

People May Be Surprised to Know About Me: I don't have a middle name. I asked my mother why this is so, and she told me that nothing sounded right. I think she was right, and I appreciate it even more when I must sign my legal name.

I Wish I Had More Time To: Travel. My travel bucket list is vast. If I had more time and money, I would love to see the world!

The Thing That Makes Me Laugh the Most: My husband John makes me laugh the most, due to our shared views in finding humor in the absurdity of people, rules and procedures that are nonsensical.

One thing you can count on about us is that we are always willing to go the extra mile to help our library users and visitors who have a need for information or assistance for everything from renewing passports to circulation to research and other services, and we have lots of good books for you to read.

And today, March 22, is National Goof Off Day! Why not celebrate by reading your favorite books, listening to soothing music, or re-watching a good goof off movie like "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

Until next time, happy reading and have a great weekend!



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LiveAuctionsTV Sale cattle listing available to view online March 29 at JohnsonCattleMarketing.com

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