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Huge steam locomotive to pass through Arkadelphia, Clark County on Wednesday



UP's No. 3985 is the world's largest operating steam locomotive.

UP photo

By Donna Hillon
Siftings Herald

The world's largest operating steam locomotive will be chugging down the tracks through Clark County on Wednesday, Feb. 4, according to Union Pacific Railroad.

The railroad's No. 3985 is in Houston for the Super Bowl. While in Houston, it is on display at a rail station near the stadium.

On the way to Houston, the locomotive made stops in Kansas City, St. Louis and Pine Bluff.

On its return trip Wednesday, it is scheduled to make a stop in Hope at 11 a.m. to be refilled with water. The route to Little Rock, it will pass through Gurdon and Arkadelphia probably sometime between noon and 1 p.m.

A spokesman for Union Pacific said the loco-

motive will not stop in Arkadelphia, although it may slow a bit so that local residents may get a better look at the steaming behemoth.

The locomotive will spend all day Thursday in Little Rock and will be on display. It will continue its journey on Friday, making a refill stop in Russellville before spending Friday night in Van Buren. It will then continue on its way until it reaches its "home" station at Cheyenne.

The 3985 is an articulated locomotive with a hinged frame that allows it to negotiate curves. It is 122 feet long and weighs more than 1 million pounds. It has drive wheels that measure 6 feet in diameter and can reach a speed of up to 70 miles per hour.

When watching the engine go through a curve, the boiler can be seen moving out independently of the lower half of the engine as the rear half of the locomotive remains straight until its wheels and frame are

halfway through the curve.

The engine was built in 1943 for fast freight service and was retired in 1962, although it last operated in regular train service in 1957, the company's website states.

It was stored in the railroad's roundhouse in Cheyenne until 1975, when it was placed on display near the town's depot. In 1981, it was restored to running condition by UP employees.

The 3985 originally burned coal for power. In 1990, it was converted to oil.

It takes 25,000 gallons of water and nearly 6,000 gallons of oil to power. The boiler of the engine measures 94 inches in diameter and builds 280 pounds of pressure to power it.

The firebox measures 187 by 108 inches, with an evaporating surface measuring 500 square feet.

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Arnold comes home

Retired Supreme Court chief justice returns to practice law in town where he started

By Donna Hillon
Siftings Herald

Just call him "Dub."

That's what the retired chief justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court is saying these days.

W.H. "Dub" Arnold, 68, was elected to that office in 1996 and began serving his term in 1997. He retired from the post on Jan. 1, 2004, with five years left on his term. "I just felt it was time to slow down," he said.

Arnold was born and reared in Clark County. A graduate of Arkadelphia High School and Henderson State University, he received his law degree from Arkansas' law school in Little Rock in 1963 and returned to Arkadelphia to practice law.

"I was the youngest lawyer in town," Arnold said.

"Now I'm the oldest."

He still remembers the details of his first trial. "It was a fire loss. My client had a suit against an insurance company."

When asked if he won the case, Arnold quickly answered "Yes."

He and his wife, Earlene, married when he was attending Henderson and she was still a student at Arkadelphia High School.

After finishing law school, Arnold practiced law for just a year before being appointed deputy prosecuting attorney for Clark, Nevada, Hempstead and Miller counties. He served in that capacity for two terms, or eight years, before being appointed chairman of the Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission by Gov.



Siftings Herald / Steve Fellner

W.H. "Dub" Arnold has returned home to Arkadelphia to practice law, forming a partnership with a law firm.

Dale Bumpers.

After five years of that, "I returned home and practiced law," he said. Again, he only practiced law for about a year before he ran for, and won, the seat of municipal judge. He sat on the bench for 15 months before deciding to seek another office.

He ran for prosecuting attorney of Clark and Pike counties and won. He ended up serving in that office for 10 years, trying over 300 cases.

"I tried a lot of murder cases and drug cases. Those type cases have a lot of interest with the local people. They were very exciting to try," he said. "I remember those days."

Then he decided he wanted to sit on the bench again. This time, he ran for circuit and chancery judge. "I ran against a sitting judge," Arnold said.

Arnold won the race.

As a trial judge, he tried many criminal cases. "All the cases are important to someone," he said.

"Judges and lawyers need to remember to try those (the less exciting ones) just as seriously as any other case."

He sat on the circuit bench for six years before he ran for chief justice of the Supreme Court.

As chief justice, he heard many cases. Among his more

famous decisions was one in 2001 in which the court ruled that an unborn child that died during childbirth can be considered as a person in a wrongful death suit.

Late last year, he made a decision. "I decided it was time to come home."

Upon his retirement, the court issued a *per curiam* ruling regarding Arnold's service to the state on the court.

The ruling states Arnold has served "with distinction as a dedicated and thoughtful jurist."

His colleagues stated, "His ready wit and engaging exuberance have made him a companionable colleague and an effective ambassador for the judiciary to the legal profession, the legislature and the larger community."

The court cited Arnold's contributions to the construction of the Justice Building's west wing. He also "encouraged" the establishment of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society to "preserve and perpetuate the legacy of this institution," the court wrote.

"Chief Justice Arnold has been a tireless champion of the independence of the judiciary, yet his advocacy has

See Arnold, Page 2

Pushy peddlers provoke public; but group has license to sell

By Wendy Plyler
Siftings Herald

The days of the door-to-door salesman may be gone, but that has not stopped a group of merchants working the streets of Arkadelphia.

The city has received numerous complaints about the group's sales tactics. The salespeople are peddling a cleaning product and have been showing up at residences during late evening hours.

Shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, City Manager Barbara Coplen issued a statement instructing the city clerk to stop selling licenses for door-to-door sales, but the city board did not pass an ordinance or resolution to enforce her statement. Lack of board approval has not been a problem until this when a company's representative challenged the statement.

On Wednesday, a man from San Antonio, Texas, company visited Town Hall to obtain an itinerant vendor's license. Coplen said that prior to the man coming in on Wednesday, the city had encountered no problems when requests for licenses were turned down. She said the merchants usually decide to set up and sell their products on private property.

"I respect the gentleman," Coplen said. "He has a right to challenge (the rule), but people are very nervous and don't feel safe." The man and his group were issued a permit.

Adding the man and his crew were not behind the law, city personnel and board members began to receive complaints about them. City board member Don Hager said he received a call from a citizen

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County track hoe falls into creek; operator escapes

By Donna Hillon
Siftings Herald

A Clark County road department employee escaped injury Thursday while attempting to clear debris from the Terre Noire Creek with a track hoe. A bank gave way, sending the track hoe into the creek.

The operator escaped the large, tracked machine before it sank.

County workers were attempting to alleviate some of the burden on a bridge over the creek on Red Springs Road. The bridge has been closed since Tuesday morning because County Judge Ron Daniell declared it to be unsafe.

"The bridge is leaning," Daniell said, due to the bridge supports sinking into the ground.

Lewis Bledsoe, county road superintendent, explained that the debris has caused the bridge supports to be knocked off of their pilings, allowing them to sink on one side.

The one-lane wooden bridge, which is 110 feet long, is part of a school bus route for Gurdon schools and is a popular shortcut for loggers.

The judge said the bridge is closed to all traffic, for safety reasons.

County road department personnel were using the track hoe

to get some of the debris out of the creek.

"The bank caved in," Bledsoe said of the area under the track hoe.

A large tow truck was able to pull the track hoe out of the creek, he said.

The motor will have to see if the piece of machinery will still operate. "There was no damage to the hoe itself," Bledsoe said.

The concern is whether creek water got into the engine and mechanisms.

The motor will have to be drained, Bledsoe said, and then refilled with oil and fuel before they can see if it will run. "We're waiting on the insurance

adjuster to come out and look at it," Bledsoe said.

In the meantime, crews will continue to work on the bridge. "We'll keep it (the bridge) closed until it gets repaired," he said.

The crews will try to get the bridge's supports back onto its pilings, and then make any other structural repairs.

They will also see if more debris can be cleared out of the creek.

"We'll wait till Monday to see what we've got with it and decide what to do," he said.

Until then, the bridge will remain closed. "It will be closed for at least the weekend and part of next week."

JP Neal seeks re-election to seat

Albert Neal will seek re-election as justice of the peace in Clark County for District 4.

Neal is a native of Clark County, and "is very excited about being servant for the county I love dearly." Neal said he is grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve his county and district and would like to continue. He said he is committed to doing his best to help make Clark County to be the "best that it can be."

During his tenure on the quorum court, Neal has served on the Clark County equipment, personnel, reuse and ordinance committees. He is presently serving on the budget committee.

Being a committed member of Mt. Olive AME Church at Dalark,



Albert Neal

he serves as minister of music, Sunday school superintendent and chairman of the trustee board. Neal is retired from Reynolds Metals Co. and was employed by Group

Living Inc. for a number of years. He is vice-president of Men United and United for Youth Inc., and formerly served on the board of directors for CASA and Arkadelphia Parks and Recreation Commission. Neal is married to Gracie Newborn Neal and they reside at 107 South 15th St., Arkadelphia.

Have a news tip? Miss your paper? Call 246-5525

DEATHS

Tom C. McRae
See obituaries, P.2



Tonight

Partly cloudy, low in the 20s

Yesterday's high...50
Last night's low...32
24-hour rainfall...Trace
Total for month...5.12 inches
(Rainfall is measured each day at 9 a.m.)

Quachita River...5.8 feet
(flood stage in Arkadelphia is 17 feet)
DeGray Lake...404.1 feet
Sunset tonight...5:36 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow...7:09 a.m.



Tomorrow

Partly cloudy, high in the 40s

DEAD REMEMBER
Submit volunteer opportunities to the Siftings Herald. Call 246-5525.
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