

# Happy Easter



# The Baxter Bulletin

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Norfolk names Layne to be superintendent



Chip Layne, second from left, has been named as the superintendent of the Norfolk Public School District. Pictured with Layne are, from left, his wife, Ashley; daughter Whitlee, and son Taylor.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Debbi Stanuch Special to Baxter Bulletin  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Norfolk School Board has selected Mammoth Spring Superintendent of Schools Chip Layne to lead the Norfolk School District, replacing retiring Superintendent Mike Seay. The announcement, made at Thursday night's special meeting of the school board, followed a six-week search following Seay's retirement announcement in February.

In a press release issued Thursday, Norfolk School Board President Levi Woods said, "Under the leadership of our outgoing Superintendent, Mr. Mike Seay, our principals, teachers, staff and students have worked tirelessly and continuously earned, as well as enjoyed, tremendous accolades. We look forward to having Chip Layne as our new leader so we can continue and grow the all-around success of the Norfolk School District."

Norfolk schools have been recognized at the state and national level for outstanding achieve-

ment, including the 2008 Arkansas Golden Apple, an annual award given to the top 10 schools in the state. Norfolk was ranked in the 2016 Best High Schools by U. S. News and in 2014 was awarded a National Blue Ribbon from the U. S. Department of Education. During the past two school years, Norfolk Schools earned an "A" from the Arkansas Department of Education.

The Norfolk School Board received 18 applications, primarily from Arkansas, according to Woods, who said five were interviewed. The selection was narrowed to three finalists; Layne; Norfolk Elementary School Principal Deanna Klaus, and Mountain Home High School Assistant Principal Steve Morris.

"They were all outstanding candidates," said Woods, "and the decision was difficult."

Financial prudence was a primary consideration of the board, according to Woods.

"Our district's taxpayers recently approved a

See LAYNE, Page 8A

## Medical marijuana sales set to begin in May

Hannah Grabenstein  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITTLE ROCK – Medical marijuana sales in Arkansas are set to begin around May 12 as cultivators plan to begin harvesting the plant in the coming days and regulators finish the approval process for the state's first dispensaries.

Department of Finance and Administration Spokesman Scott Hardin said the final decision for licensing Doctor's Orders RX in Hot Springs, which would be the state's first operational dispensary, will be made within the next two weeks. The dispensary has been inspected by both the Alcoholic Beverage Control, which regulates medical marijuana, and the fire marshal and is awaiting final approval.

Three of the five licensed cultivators have begun growing, Hardin said, with Bold Team in Cotton Plant expecting to have their first harvest ready to be sold by May 12. Bold Team's cultivators expect to have about 200 pounds of product dried and cured for an initial harvest, spokesman Robert Lercher says.

Two other cultivators, Natural State Medicinals Cultivation in White Hall and Osage Creek Cultivation in Berryville, have also begun growing, Hardin said, and both expect to have their first harvest by summer. Hardin said the final two cultivators have

See MARIJUANA, Page 9A



Medical marijuana sales in Arkansas are set to begin around May 12 as cultivators plan to begin harvesting the plant in the coming days and regulators finish the approval process for state's first dispensaries. JIM MONE/AP FILE

## MH man admits abusing children, will go to prison

Josh Dooley Baxter Bulletin  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 38-year-old Mountain Home man was sentenced to prison Thursday after he admitted to abusing his children and threatening to kill them while he was drunk and armed with a pistol, during an incident in June of last year.

Nathan Wesley Russell entered guilty pleas to charges of second-degree domestic battery, aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a minor. The plea bargain he accepted will see him spend seven years in prison.

Once released, he will spend another three years on probation, according to the agreement.

As Circuit Court Judge Gordon Webb read from the



Russell

affidavit and asked Russell if he had done the things he was accused of, Russell paused and seemed to have difficulty in admitting he had abused his children. He wiped his eyes more than once during the recitation of the facts.

### The abuse

Mountain Home police were called to Russell's home on June 14 last year for a man reported to drunk, armed and suicidal. Police went to the residence and knocked on the door.

Russell answered the door while holding a loaded .22 caliber pistol. Officers ordered him to drop the

weapon and he complied. However, when officers went to handcuff Russell, he resisted before they were able to take him into custody.

Upon investigating, officers discovered Russell had his four children for the evening. He began drinking and gave one of his children alcohol. That child had a BAC level almost twice the legal limit for driving.

At one point, one of the children got in trouble and Russell grabbed the child by the throat, lifted him off the floor and pinned him to the wall. A teenager shoved Russell off the younger child and Russell slapped the teen and punched a hole in the wall next to the teen's head.

Russell took out his pistol, pointed it and told the

See ABUSE, Page 9A



USA TODAY  
House Democrats issue subpoena for unredacted Mueller report. 1B

Weather  
High 63° ■ Low 42° Cloudy.  
Lake levels  
NORFORK: 556.42 ■ BULL SHOALS: 660.73

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10 AM KTLO Vendor Fair  
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3 PM Men's Health Panel