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Council to consider pair of rezonings

SUN STAFF REPORT

JONESBORO — City council members will begin consideration of two commercial rezoning proposals on Tuesday. The Metropolitan Area Planning Commission this week voted to recommend approval of both. The council will hear the first of three required readings of an

ordinance proposed by Wescott Enterprises, LLC, to rezone 1.55 acres at 5618 S. Caraway Road from R-1 to C-3 general commercial. The wooded property also has frontage on Stadium Boulevard. The proposal carries a limited use overlay to exclude RV parks. Wes Thornton, a co-owner of the land, agreed to the RV restriction because of concerns raised by

neighboring residents. The council will also hear the first reading of an ordinance proposed by Cornerstone United Methodist Church to rezone 2.83 acres at 1916 Disciple Drive, off of East Johnson Avenue (U.S. 49) from R-1 single family residential to C-4 Neighborhood Commercial. The land is adjacent to the church's worship campus. The council will hear the final

reading and vote on a proposed ordinance to abandon a portion of street right of way for undeveloped Harlan Cove, north of Jonathon Drive, at the request of Fisher & Arnold Engineering. Among resolutions on the agenda is a proposal to waive competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of three half-ton four-wheel-drive Chevrolet Silverado pickups from Superi-

or Automotive Group of Siloam Springs. The trucks will cost \$39,910 each, and weren't available through the state bid package, Brian Richardson, Mayor Harold Copenhaver's chief administrative officer, said. Another resolution would declare an "exceptional situation" and approve a \$43,553 contract

See **COUNCIL**, page A3

UMC pastor asks court to block subpoena

By **KEITH INMAN**
Sun Staff Writer

JONESBORO — A minister who says he's not a party in a lawsuit over church property in Jonesboro wants a judge to quash a subpoena that demands he provide information that "would take a few weeks if not months," to gather. Lawyers representing the Rev. Jayphen "Jay" Clark, an executive pastor at Pulaske Heights United Methodist Church, filed the request Friday in Craighead County Circuit Court. First United Methodist Church of Jonesboro filed a Quiet Title action on Dec. 19, seeking a temporary injunction to prevent the Arkansas Conference from seizing the church's real estate. The Arkansas Conference, which is the state governing body for the Christian denomination, suspended Senior Pastor John Miles and recorded a lien on church property claiming a "trust" and declaring "exigent circumstances." That was in reaction to a Dec. 15 meeting in which local church members voted 629-9 to disaffiliate from the denomination. The Jonesboro congregation also voted in August to disaffiliate, with more than 1,300 members of the congregation casting ballots. The Arkansas Conference denied the request. Court files show state Methodist leaders weren't served with notice of the lawsuit until Monday, and they haven't responded to the court action. They have until the end of this month to respond. Rev. Clark, though, has responded to the subpoena he received. "In this case, Rev. Clark is being asked to comb through 'all communications,'" attorneys Thomas

See **SUBPOENA**, page A3

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny, with a high near 43.

\$2



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED



Nena Zimmer / The Sun

St. Bernards Healthcare Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Barry Tedder presents a lecture on proposed medical research into cardiovascular disease on Friday morning at St. Bernards' 2023 Research Day in the hospital's Community Room, located at 225 East Washington Ave. in Jonesboro. The event highlighted current and proposed medical research on topics such as electrophysiology, cardiovascular disease, cancer, infectious disease and pediatrics.

JHS claims top prize in Stock Market Game



BRUDEN



KUETER

By **NENA ZIMMER**
Sun Staff Writer

JONESBORO — Of the over five thousand Arkansas students statewide that participated in the personal finance competition known as The Stock Market Game during the fall 2022 semester, the Academies at Jonesboro High School took home the top prize as the overall first place state winner. According to a press release from Economics Arkansas,

the Stock Market Game is an investment simulation facilitated nationwide by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Foundation. Economics Arkansas also facilitates the game statewide and is a nonprofit educational organization that trains educators on how to incorporate economic and personal finance concepts into the PreK-12 classroom. The game challenges students in grades 4-12 to grow

a hypothetical \$100,000 portfolio over the course of each fall and spring semester or the whole school year. Academies at Jonesboro High School Vocational & Virtual Learning Teacher Allyson Goodin was the advisor for the winning team, which consisted of Matthew Kueter and Landen Bruden, who recorded a net balance of \$167,623.89. Goodin said that the

See **GAME**, page A3

Guns, drugs, rape alleged

By **JOE SCHRATZ**
Sun Staff Writer

JONESBORO — On Thursday, Antonio Reggins, 33, was sentenced to three years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for possession of cocaine less than two grams. The resident of the 1000 block of Rains Street also was given a three-year suspended sentence for the Jan. 16, 2019, arrest. On Friday, Reggins and Faith Burgess, 20, of Jonesboro, were both charged by District Judge David Boling with simultaneous possession of drugs and firearms, possession of methamphetamine or cocaine with the purpose to deliver, possession of fentanyl with the purpose to deliver, maintaining a drug residence and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and possession marijuana with the purpose to deliver. Boling found probable cause to charge the pair after reading the probable cause affidavit, which said a probation search on Wednesday was conducted on a residence in the 1000 block of Rains Street.

There officers with the 2nd Judicial Drug Task Force found a cellophane bag containing 41 suspected fentanyl pills, bags containing small quantities of marijuana, 8.1 grams of methamphetamine and a loaded 9 mm Taurus handgun underneath the cushion of a chair in the bedroom, the affidavit said. Reggins is also a felon and the residence is within 510 feet from the International Studies magnet school. Boling set Reggins bond at \$150,000 and Burgess' bond at \$50,000. Both are to appear at Craighead County Circuit Court on Feb. 17. In a separate case, officers

See **INCIDENTS**, page A3