

# ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

May 29, 2013

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## **Charles Robinson Named Arkansas State Treasurer (KARK, Channel 4)**

Video available at [http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=667182](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=667182)

LITTLE ROCK, AR - A new Arkansas State Treasurer has been appointed by the governor.

Charles Robinson will fill the remainder of the seat once held by Martha Shoffner, who was elected to a four-year term in 2010.

"Charlie's name is synonymous with integrity in Arkansas government," Beebe said. "His long tenure of steady leadership is a big reason the Division of Legislative Audit has the sterling reputation it maintains today. I have no doubt that he will bring those same virtues to his tenure as Treasurer."

Robinson, 66, a native of Harrison, worked for 34 years in the Division of Legislative Audit, serving 28 years as the Legislative Auditor before retiring in 2007.

Shoffner stepped down from the office last week just days after being arrested on federal extortion charges. She's accused of accepting cash payments from an investment broker who handled some of the state's business through her office.

Robinson will hold the seat for the next year and a half, when Shoffner's term expires.

He will be sworn in at 1:00 this afternoon in the Arkansas Supreme Court chamber, and is not eligible to run for election as Treasurer.

Candace Martin, spokesperson for the Democratic Party of Arkansas, released the following statement after Governor Beebe's appointment to the Treasurer's Office:

"The most important priority for Arkansas Democrats is to restore the public trust in the Treasurer's Office, and Governor Beebe's appointment accomplished that goal. In 2014, we look forward to electing an Arkansas Democrat who will bring the same sense of fiscal responsibility to the Treasurer's office as Governor Beebe has brought to the entire state of Arkansas."

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## **Federal Spending Cuts Total Over \$18 Million for Arkansas Education (KARK, Channel 4)**

Video available at [http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=667322](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=667322)

LITTLE ROCK, AR -- The Natural State will have \$18.5 million less to spend on education after federal spending cuts.

The cuts went into effect on March 1, and according to the U.S. Department of Education, cuts to education programs in Arkansas total more than \$18 million.

Title 1 funding will take the biggest hit.

"There's an achievement gap between higher-income students and lower-income students. Title 1 funding is aimed at closing that gap, it's to get those disadvantaged kids to perform better," says Gerard Mathews, Communications Director for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

Special education and education for homeless youth programs are also on the chopping block.

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## **Charter School Coming to Texarkana this Fall (KARK, Channel 4)**

TEXARKANA, AR -- The Texarkana Arkansas School District (TASD) is moving forward with its first ever charter school.

TASD approved the facility in its board meeting last week.

The Washington Academy Charter School will open this fall with a student body of about 120.

"It shows that Texarkana, Arkansas is very conscious about education of students and so we're opening up a school that's different than any other," says incoming principal Terry Taylor.

The new charter school plans to offer ninth through 12th grade education and will have a class-size ratio of 10-to-1.

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## **School Districts Gear Up for School Choice Requests (KARK, Channel 4)**

Video available at [http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext/?nxd\\_id=666962](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=666962)

BAUXITE, AR -- The deadline to apply for school choice transfers is June 1. One central Arkansas school district is already feeling the effects of the revised law.

Bauxite school leaders said parents have been applying for school choice requests in record numbers. Previously, the law blocked some transfers if the child's race would disproportionately affect the requested school's enrollment.

Bauxite school leaders believe high test scores and small class sizes make them attractive.

"It's not necessarily they don't like the school district where they are. They just find we're a better fit for their kid," said school spokeswoman Kim Arnold.

Not all districts can participate in the school transfers due to federal desegregation court orders.

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### **School Choice 2013 deadline approaching (Northeast Town Crier)**

Pam Castor, Manila School District Superintendent, along with other school officials, is trying to stay updated on the official guidelines for School Choice 2013, a new bill passed by the Legislature.

"We recently received more information on School Choice 2013 which will expire in two years," Castor said. "The Legislature will address it again at the end of the two years. There are a lot of questions and the Arkansas Department of Education's legal department is reviewing everything on an individual basis and making a ruling."

Under the School Choice guidelines, students will be allowed to move from one district to another one time a year. Students will be allowed to return to their school of residence in the same year but not transfer to another school during the school year.

The School Choice is open to three percent a year of the school's student enrollment. Castor said siblings will count as only one transfer.

"Districts do not have to accept the students if it will cause a need for additional staff, space or additional programs," Castor said. "Forms must be filed by June 1 at schools, the residence school and the one the student plans to attend. Parents will be notified by Aug. 1 if the transfer has been accepted."

Before the new law, the transfers were accepted or rejected through a board to board transfer.

Castor said the board will need to pass a resolution to allow students to come in or leave the district if all stipulations are met through the School Choice 2013.

"As far as I know, Blytheville is the only school in the area that has filed for an exception to the School Choice 2013 due to a desegregation order.

Castor said applications for School Choice are available at the superintendent's office. The June 1 deadline is nearing.

"This will give parents the right, if they meet the criteria, to send their children to the school of their choice."

Castor said the Arkansas Athletic Association (AAA) has not changed the rules for sports eligibility. School Choice is the same as a move in. AAA allows for students in the ninth grade and under to be eligible to participate in sports without restrictions. Students moving into a new district or through the School Choice, in 10-12 grades, under the AAA rules, must wait a year to participate in sports.