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# The Daily Citizen

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 *Serving Searcy and White County, Ark., since 1854* TheDailyCitizen.com

## White County Circuit Court

**Who:** Robert E. Hurd, of Searcy  
**Charge:** Two counts of first-degree attempted murder, a class A felony  
**Status:** Pre-trial scheduled for Dec. 4 at 9 a.m.

## Son 'just started shooting'

Mother one of victims of alleged murder attempt

BY ALLY RANDOLPH

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 A Searcy juvenile charged with two counts of first-degree attempted murder has been scheduled to appear for pretrial in White County Circuit Court if his case is not transferred to juvenile court.

Robert E. Hurd, who appeared in court Tuesday on the class A felony charges, is alleged

Please see **SHOOTING** | 3A

## Arkansas Court of Appeals

**Who:** Robert M. Powell, 46, of Searcy  
**What:** Granted 45-day extension for filing brief of appeal  
**Appealing:** Conviction for video voyeurism, class D felony; three-year sentence in Arkansas Department of Correction

## Second extension granted

Ex-camp director's attorney given to Dec. 13 to file appeal brief

BY ALLY RANDOLPH

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 The former director of Camp Wyldewood convicted of video voyeurism has been given another extension to file a brief for his appeal of his conviction and three-year sentence.



**Powell**

White County Circuit Judge Robert Edwards sentenced Robert M. Powell, 46, of Searcy to six years in the Arkansas Department of Correction — three years for class C felony distributing, view-

Please see **APPEAL** | 7A

## Saving through co-opt funding

### Less A&P revenue being used to promote reality show

BY GREG GEARY

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 Co-opt funding has allowed less advertising and promotions tax revenue to be used to promote Season 4 of the online reality show "Small Business Revolution — Main Street," which features Searcy.

"We have been steadily working with the Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Tourism Association on co-opt

funding for a portion of the Searcy A&P marketing efforts," said Mat Faulkner, the president of Think Idea Studio who spearheaded the effort for Searcy to win the competition to be featured on the show. "The Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce contacted Think Idea Studio with a possibility of pursuing co-op funds from GFL/LRRITA as regional tourism marketing as long as the

### Small Business Revolution — Main Street

**What:** A&P revenue for promoting series saved through co-opt funding  
**With:** Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Tourism Association  
**Amount:** \$8,000 from 80/20 grant

messaging met state standards of promoting tourism to the region from outside of the GFL/LRRITA counties."

Originally, the Searcy Advertising and Tourism Promotion

Please see **FUNDING** | 7A



Ally Randolph/arandolph@thedailycitizen.com

After being asked for assistance earlier this year, the Churches of Christ International Relief/Life Resources International warehouse at 1006 N. First St. in Judsonia sent out a container of humanitarian aid last week to be shipped to Port Toamasina, Madagascar. The container was filled with 40 hospital beds, linens, clothing and many other commodities to be distributed in Madagascar at the Hospital Center De Soavinandriana.

## Organization sends first shipment of aid to Madagascar

Life Resources International now has helped 26 third-world countries

BY ALLY RANDOLPH

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 Having assisted 25 third-world countries by sending needed resources, Life Resources International loaded its first shipment to Madagascar at Port Toamasina last Wednesday, bumping that number up to 26, according to volunteer David Lawyer.

Madagascar "has suffered a number of catastrophic events which have exacerbated the island's impoverished situation," according to a news release from the nonprofit, located at 1006 N. First St. in Judsonia.

"We were contacted and asked to assist in sending medical furnishings and other critically needed commodities to offer relief for those struggling with life's miseries," the release said.

The island's biggest needs, according to Lawyer, were hospital beds and clothes. "So we're sending 42 hospital beds and all the clothes we can fit on there," he said.

The warehouse has about 14 regular volunteers, Lawyer said. About 10 showed up Oct. 30 to help with the shipment to Madagascar.

Lawyer said that, in the middle of November, the organiza-



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tion will be sending two containers to Guinea. "We've never sent one there before either."

Countries such as Madagascar and Guinea "don't have anything," Lawyer said. "A hospital bed to them is a mat on the floor. If they want to bathe, they've got to go home and bathe. If they want food, their family has to bring it to them. That's a hospital."

Volunteers do prep work before the truck arrives to receive the load. According to volunteer David Lawyer, the organization, established in 2002, has assisted 26 countries. This was its first shipment to Madagascar, he said.

### Life Resources International

**What:** Loaded first shipment of resources to Madagascar  
**When:** Last Wednesday  
**Where:** 1006 N. First St. in Judsonia

Lawyer said that the warehouse volunteers have helped to improve conditions in many places, although, they "certainly haven't touched the hem of the garment on how many places that need them."

On average, they send out about 25 containers each year with \$150,000 worth of goods, each container 40 by 9 by 8 feet. "And we fill it full of hospital beds."

Please see **AID** | 7A

## NEWS

## APPEAL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

ing or possessing matter depicting child sex and three years for class D felony video voyeurism — after finding him guilty at the defendant's bench trial Feb. 19.

Powell's sentence was reduced by three years in March, however, because a 20-year-old whose photos he manipulated into pornographic images realized she was 17 and not 16 at the time the pictures were taken.

After the child pornography charges were dropped, his attorney, Jonathan T. Lane, filed an appeal on Powell's behalf, and Powell has been out on appeal bond since then.

An amended notice of appeal was filed Sept. 12, with the deadline on the brief set for Oct. 22. However, a seven-day extension was granted by the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

On Oct. 29, the new deadline, another request for an extension was filed. "Due to counsel's trial schedule," the request stated, "counsel respectfully requests an additional forty-five

(45) days in which to file a brief in this matter." Lane wrote that the motion is not being made "for the purpose of delay."

The brief is now due Dec. 13.

Powell was charged with video voyeurism after he was discovered to have hidden a camera where an electrical outlet should be in a cabin at the Searcy Christian camp where he had been the executive director since 2007.

According to testimony at the bench trial, a husband and wife and their 10-year-old daughter were renting the nurse's cabin in April of last year.

The husband discovered the camera, which had been turned on all week and had captured all three of them in "various stages of undress."

They reported their finding to the White County Sheriff's Office, and Powell was fired by the camp in April 2018.

"My wife and I have had to go through a lot of counseling over it — pretty intensive counseling," the husband said. "I've had to have a few

hard conversations with my daughter about what happened, trying not to be too explicit about what happened."

Powell also received two child pornography charges because investigators found images of supposed "child erotica" as well as images of campers taken in front of a "green screen" so that he could manipulate them onto adult sexual images.

The 20-year-old testified that he had taken pictures of her face when she was 16 years old and manipulated them so that her face was inches away from a male sexual organ in the image.

"I remember at one point he had me eat a Snickers," she said. "I remember the day and I remember those pictures being taken. No, I didn't know he was going to do this."

However, after Powell's conviction on the charges, the 20-year-old "contacted us and told us that there was an issue and we want to recognize that while that does not change the nature of what was done to her photographs but

An amended notice of appeal was filed Sept. 12, with the deadline on the brief set for Oct. 22. However, a seven-day extension was granted by the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

the law itself cuts the age off at 17 which changed our ability to go forward with this," 17th Judicial District Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Norene Smith said.

Edwards said he was "compelled to re-sentence" Powell and commended the young woman for acknowledging her mistake.

Prosecuting Attorney Rebecca McCoy said that, if Powell loses his appeal, she expects that he will serve one-sixth of his sentence, but she "will object to any early release."

## AID

CONTINUED FROM 1A

tal equipment, office equipment, school equipment, whatever," Lawyer said.

"The most we've ever sent out in one year is about 60. About killed us," he said. "That's more than one a week. But that was during the Haiti earthquake and they really needed things, so we tried to help them as much as we could."

The organization is run out of an "old World War II warehouse," according to Lawyer. "The people who built this, they made footlockers for the Army, and that went on for a while. They went out of business, and the strawberry industry took them over," he said. That was followed by a furniture company. After that, the warehouse sat empty for six years.

Years ago, the owners of the warehouse made several great offers to Life Resources for the warehouse when the organization was in the market for one, Lawyer said, "but we didn't have any money. Period. Zero."

However, when a woman died who attended College Church of Christ, which runs the organization, her will stated that she wanted the nonprofit to take some

of her estate to buy the warehouse. "We've been here since 2002," Lawyer said.

During the first 10 years of the warehouse's operation, the government paid for the transportation of the containers.

"One of our past presidents came into office," Lawyer said. "He said, 'If you fill that container with \$150,000 worth of goods, and you do all the work, and you collect all the goods, and you load them into the container, and you give the government credit for it, and we pay \$5,000 to ship it — that's not a very good deal. So we're cutting the program. We're not going to support it anymore.'"

"So we had to go out after that and raise money from individuals and churches in about a five-state area to help us."

Ukraine Missions, several churches of Christ and individuals contributed to pay the shipping cost to Madagascar.

"This would not have been possible without our wonderful Christian friends in USA," said Rosine Ghawji, a representative from Madagascar.

"It's a very fulfilling work," Lawyer said.