

Table of Contents

1. Timeline
2. Texts with Mayor Harold Copenhaver
3. Text from Mayor Harold Copenhaver Threatening to Cancel Revolution Soccer
4. Emails to Carol Duncan and Mayor Harold Copenhaver
5. Resignation Memos from Arkansas Revolution Board and Former Director
6. Finance Meeting Still Frame and Missing Minutes Excerpt
7. Danny Kapales Nomination for Tourism Award
8. Joe Mack Field Access Attempts
9. Statement from Premier Training Academy
10. Prior Council Email from Matt Modelevsky and Jerry Morgan

Timeline of events

February 14, 2023

Daniel Gary emailed Danny requesting visibility into the Arkansas Revolution financials, as we were under the impression a subaccount had been created, and we were trying to make a decision on hiring a full time director. Previous board members and directors had confided in us that they had serious concerns about Danny's financial statements and lack of transparency. Concerns with restricted funds (donated for specific uses) were raised. A morning coffee was scheduled, no documented follow up.

February 21, 2024

Daniel Gary went through the City of Jonesboro budget, attempting to identify any evidence that ARFC "Field Usage" fees were being received by the City of Jonesboro. No evidence found.

February 22, 2024

Daniel Gary emailed Danny Kapales looking for any visibility into the soccer budget for the city. First response indicating the City Stars is wholly independent from the City.

May 15, 2024

During a board meeting, Daniel Gary requested our teams be allowed to collect gate fees at our events as a fundraiser for the teams to help offset player costs for tournaments (this is a common practice among other clubs). Danny responds with a no. Daniel requested further clarification on why we can't be involved in that process, as baseball is responsible for their own collections. Danny responds that it will only be his people collecting the gate fees and it's not open for discussion. Matt M challenges that as board president, he can make that happen. Danny responds with "It's going to be my people collecting the gate fees because you all are just a sub-committee of the City Stars Board and I said that's how it's going to be".

May 16, 2024

Daniel Gary emails Danny Kapales asking for some clarification on the City Stars Board and its members as well as the line item in the city budget where Revolution's field usage fees could be found. Danny calls in response. See audio recording for the conversation. Essentially, field usage fees are a discretionary fund for City Stars, false names given as City Stars Board.

June 6, 2024

Daniel Gary emailed Danny asking for further clarification on City Stars board. Danny had named two

people - Trey McKee and Tina Cook - and both of them had denied having any association with the City Stars board. Daniel Gary requested a full list. Danny replied with a full list that did not include Tina Cook or Trey McKee. Instead it included

- Brandon Shrader - Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation at the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Amy Scott - Parks and Recreation Office Manager for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Aaron Holland - Youth Sports Coordinator and Pool Supervisor for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Stephen Davis - Soccer Coordinator for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Mark Nethercott - Program Coordinator for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- April Kennedy - Softball Coordinator for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Adam Larson - Urban Parks / Cemeteries Supervisor for the City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)
- Danny Kapales - Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Jonesboro
- Jarrod Stroud - East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging
- Octavis Mitchell - Concessions Manager for City of Jonesboro (Parks and Recreation)

A clear list of city employees who report Danny Kapales in their day to day activities.

June 7, 2024

Follow up email to Danny requesting clarification as to why he provided false names when asked for the City Stars board members. No response.

July 12, 2024

Matt Modelevsky meets with the mayor to disclose our concerns around Danny Kapales and ARFC financials. The mayor promises to look into this and get it right.

July 31, 2024

Matt M follows up with the mayor asking for an update. No answer

August 1, 2024

Matt M follows up with the mayor asking for an update. No answer.

August 6, 2024

Daniel Gary text the mayor requesting an update. Mayor finally responds to Matt asking for a meeting on August 8. See text messages

August 8, 2024

Matt met with Mayor to discuss.

August 13, 2024

Mayor commits to following up with Matt via text.

September 9, 2024

Call on September 9th between Mayor and Matt

September 18, 2024

Matt M text the mayor asking for a follow up on Revolution - specifically a separate bank account, field usage, city stars support, etc...

Multiple conversations took place here between Matt M and the city, but I don't have all the details for it

December 27, 2024

Matt M requests a meeting to discuss soccer with the Mayor

January 2, 2025

Matt re-sent the same message due to lack of response

January 8, 2025

Matt Modelevsky, Matt Daniel, Daniel Gary, Harold Copenhaver, Brian Richardson, Tony Thomas meet to discuss future of soccer including modeling our program after the Germantown Legends. This would involve ARFC taking over the Recreational Program as well as the competitive. City is very interested - "this is what we need to do". The city expressed that they would help with finances but requested we formalize a proposal and meet in two weeks. Based on the city's interest, ARFC hires Matt Daniel as our new executive director and Phil Woods as our new technical director.

January 31, 2025

Matt M requests a follow up meeting

Feburary 4, 2025

Matt re-sent the exact same message due to lack of response

February 5, 2025

Matt contacted the mayor again to firm up the meeting details

February 6, 2025

Matt Modelevsky, Matt Daniel, Daniel Gary, Harold Copenhaver, Brian Richardson, Tony Thomas, Steve Purtee meet. Proposal is delivered and gone through. Steve Purtee says "I looked at the ask and immediately lost interest". A placeholder number of \$500K to get everything up and running smoothly was in the proposal as a starting place for discussions. The proposal also included an economic impact study to offset the cost to the city. The mayor says this looks great, let us work on the financial side. I don't think we can do that amount, but we can figure something out.

February 6, 2025

Matt text the mayor after the meeting thanking him and confirming we had agreed to move forward to provide recreational and competitive soccer and activating Joe Mack to provide economic opportunities.

February 13, 2025

Matt reaches out to the mayor asking for an update. No response.

February 17, 2025

Matt reaches out to the mayor asking to get coffee and visit. No response.

February 18, 2025

Daniel Gary text the mayor requesting an update - no response. Matt reaches out to the mayor expressing concern that the mayor is not receiving his messages or responding. Mayor finally responds and agrees to have coffee.

February 21, 2025

Matt and Mayor met for coffee at Shadrach's on Hilltop. Mayor arrived 20 minutes late.

April 19, 2025

Daniel Gary text the mayor requesting an update and expresses the collective frustration from the board at the lack of communication or progress. Mayor responds then accidentally texts he is "about

to cancel revolution soccer".

April 22, 2025

Matt emailed the Germantown provider agreement to Carol Duncan following a conversation that had taken place between Matt, the Mayor, and Carol Duncan.

April 23, 2025

Carol Duncan responded to Matt and copied the Mayor and Brian Richardson.

April 24, 2025

Matt Modelevsky and Matt Daniel resign in frustration over the lack of progress and the mayor's text.

April 25, 2025

Matt responded to Carol's previous email announcing his resignation.

Danny Kapales, Jarrod Stroud, Brandon Shrader, Daniel Gary, and Phil Woods on a call. No mention of ongoing issues, just asking about tryouts. This is the first time any City Stars board members have been present in a call with an ARFC Board member. The purpose of the meeting is not clear. This call causes concern among the rest of the ARFC board, who are concerned Danny is attempting to hang any problems around our neck.

April 26, 2025

The ARFC board votes unanimously to resign. The announcement is sent out.

April 27, 2025

Daniel Gary and Harold Copenhaver meet at Gateway Sight & Sound. A deal is made - the city will hire Phil Woods as an employee, ARFC will be independent, the mayor will work with A&P to get us funding for two years to cover operational costs. In return, ARFC will host 4 tournaments a year beginning in 2026. The mayor will apologize to Matt M for his poor treatment. A handshake seals the deal.

April 28, 2025

Daniel Gary requests an update from the mayor. The offer is made for City Stars to hire Phil and Rev is split off into a separate entity. The mayor has not kept his end of the bargain. No A&P funding, no City position for Phil, no apology to Matt.

Carol responded to Matt's previous email and copied Harold and Brian Richardson.

April 29, 2025

Daniel Gary terminates discussions with the mayor as he cannot be trusted to keep his word. Danny Kapales states to Melanie Wilkey that Ron Teat set up the structure of City Stars keeping the "Field usage" fee. Ron Teat flat out denies this.

10:48

85

< 5

MC



Mayor

Jul 31, 2024 at 9:08 AM

Good morning-

I hope all is well, let me know when you have a few minutes to follow up on CityStars.

Thanks

Matt

Aug 1, 2024 at 1:29 PM

Good afternoon

I hope all is well, let me know when you have a few minutes to follow up on CityStars.

Thanks

Matt

Aug 6, 2024 at 4:23 PM

Thursday at 2 work for you

Good afternoon- can you do 3:30? I will be coming in from some out of town projects.



iMessage

That will work we can do a

< 5

MC

Mayor

Thanks

That will work we can do a phone call if that will help?

I'm glad to stop by if that works
Thank you

Ok

Thank you

Aug 13, 2024 at 9:31AM

Good morning- [REDACTED] is having a groundbreaking this Thursday at 2:00 for a new store to be constructed at the corner of [REDACTED] Road. I know it's outside the city limits but we would love to have you join us if you're available.

Aug 13, 2024 at 4:43PM

Thank you Matt, also I want to follow up with you on the other issue we discuss

Sounds great!

+

REDACTED

10:50

84%

< 6



Aug 28 Mayor 5 AM

Good morning, did our two new members for the Public Facilities Board get approved by the Council? Thank you, Matt

Sep 6, 2024 at 11:27 AM

Matt, great to see you last night. I appreciate everything you do. I understand you're interested in discussion on an indoor soccer facility. Do you have time on Monday to visit with me possibly in the afternoon?

I should later afternoon what time works for you?

Sep 9, 2024 at 6:59 AM

3pm?



I will try and make that work.

Sep 9, 2024 at 2:20 PM

Sorry but I won't make it back by 3, but if you want to give me a call when you have time that



MESSAGE

10:50

< 6

MC



Mayor)

Sorry, I'll make it back
by 3, but if you want to give me
a call when you have time that
works for me.

4?

You available for a call? I'm on
the road.

Sep 18, 2024 at 8:34 AM

Good morning do you have time
to visit about Revolution today?
Thanks

Sep 18, 2024 at 11:28 AM

I am already aware Brian and I
are visiting at lunch today on it

When you have a chance I
would like to follow up on the
bank account, field use, city
stars support, etc.

Thanks

Oct 28, 2024 at 2:58 PM

Can I call you later?



ANSWER



10:50

84

< 6



Can I call you later?

Absolutely

Dec 27, 2024 at 4:56 PM

Good evening- if you have time next week for a call or visit let me know. I have another Public Facilities Board member leaving so I wanted to touch base with you about that.

Also, I have some exciting soccer ideas I like to run by you.

Jan 2, 2025 at 3:20 PM

Good evening- if you have time next week for a call or visit let me know. I have another Public Facilities Board member leaving so I wanted to touch base with you about that.

Also, I have some exciting soccer ideas I like to run by you.

Jan 22, 2025 at 10:41 AM

Good morning, I think Steve May has moved. Are you ready for me to reach out to see



IM Message



be Friday, 10th.

< 6

MC



Mayor
soccer ideas I like to run by you

Jan 22, 2025 at 10:41AM

Good morning. I think Steve May has moved. Are you ready for me to reach out to Joe Verser? Our next meeting will be February 10th.

Thanks

Jan 31, 2025 at 3:05 PM

Good afternoon- I wanted to tech out and see if we can schedule a follow up meeting about soccer. We have a more refined plan to look at.

Tue, Feb 4 at 1:16 PM

Good afternoon- I wanted to tech out and see if we can schedule a follow up meeting about soccer. We have a more refined plan to look at.

Tue, Feb 4 at 5:27 PM

Are you available Thursday afternoon early?



Message

10:50

84%

< 6

MC



Thu Mayor > 1 PM

Yes we are, let me know what time works best for you, thanks.

Wed, Feb 5 at 3:26 PM

Good afternoon- let me know when you have a time for tomorrow. Thanks

Thu, Feb 6 at 9:15 AM

How does 1:15 work for you?

2 work?

That will work, see you then.

Thu, Feb 6 at 4:10 PM

Thank you for making time today, sounds like we all want to provide the best experiences for our kids, the community, while we activate the economic impact opportunities of the park.

Let me know if you need anything, otherwise I look forward to hearing back from you.



iMessage



Good afternoon Mayor, I hope

< 6



The Mayor

Good afternoon Mayor, I hope all is well! I wanted to follow up with you on next steps for the soccer program.

Mon, Feb 17 at 8:41AM

Good morning– can just the two of us grab coffee this week? Thanks

Tue, Feb 18 at 8:24 AM

I am worried you are not getting these messages since I'm not getting a response. Is everything ok?

Wed, Apr 23 at 1:57 PM

I left you a voicemail this morning. I have not heard back from you regarding whether you all want to sit down with the Legends group or not. Please let me know as I would like to continue to prioritize the experience of our youth. That said, as we have spoken about on multiple occasion and now is confirmed, I understand that the entire ARFC Board intends to resign and there is a



Message

Statement of Resignation. Let me know today if you intend to

< 6

MC

**Mayor**

said, as we have spoken about on multiple occasion and now is confirmed, I understand that the entire ARFC Board intends to resign and there is a collective effort on a public statement of resignation. Let me know today if you intend to proceed with the Legends as a provider for programming and I will recommend the statement reflect that. If that isn't the case I am sure the statement will outline the collective concerns and frustrations of the group, including your text over the weekend that you intended to cancel the ARFC program.

Delivered

Thu, Apr 24 at 2:43 PM

Matt you know that was a miss statement as I explained! It is not my intent to cancel. I am in Minneapolis and will return tonight around 1am. I am available tomorrow for a meeting with you And the Legends programmer I can make it work after 11.



MESSAGE

100

11:34

78

< 6

HC

Harold



Jan 3, 2025 at 12:48 PM

Good afternoon - if you have time next week for a call or visit let me know. I have another Public Facilities Board member leaving so I wanted to touch base with you about that.

Also, I have some exciting soccer ideas I like to run by you.

I thought I sent you a text but I didn't. I apologize. Provide me a few times next week you are available so I can make it work.
Matt.

Jan 6, 2025 at 10:18 AM

Other than tomorrow I am pretty open for a call if that works for you.

Can we do in person
Wednesday 230?

Sounds great I will see you then!

Tue, Feb 18 at 9:55 AM



iMessage

870-558-8332, and I am

11:35

78

Unread 6 messages
Wednesday, Feb 18

< 6

HC

Harold



Tue, Feb 18 at 9:55 AM

I've texted you several times to
370-558-8332, and I am
worried you are not getting the
messages.

Let me know if you are not
receiving them. Thanks

Tue, Feb 18 at 12:18 PM

Ty you for sending this, I am
available to visit with you Friday
morning at 10. Let me know if
that works for you?

That works, you want to grab a
coffee somewhere?

Shadracks hilltop

Sounds good see you there

Fri, Feb 21 at 10:16 AM

Are you headed this way?

Tue, Feb 25 at 9:15 PM

+ m Message

houses
need to have a house for himself



To: [REDACTED]

Sat, Apr 19 at 5:38 PM

Good afternoon Mayor - I hate to text you on the weekend but after spending another afternoon out volunteering my time in service of the community and hundreds of kids and finding out we have still yet to receive a response from your office with regards to our request to improve the kids experience and help drive revenue to Jonesboro via tournaments and events at Joe Mack, I'm left with few options. At this point I am the only member of the board still committed to making this work, as the entire board feels disrespected for your office not even bothering to give us a response. We have all dedicated hundreds of hours (some of us thousands) to see soccer succeed, and we've done so with the hope that we could eventually provide a truly meaningful experience for the children of Jonesboro and have a positive economic impact on the city. I don't know if this message will have any impact on you, but I don't want to watch the last 12 years I've volunteered be for nothing. Please help - this whole thing is about to fall apart.

I plan to talk with Matt early next week, he and Brian talked Friday but we didn't have a chance to finalize possible options. We will be in touch with Matt early next week to try and finalize some decisions in a way that won't cripple the revolution program financially. Have a good Easter

Thank you for taking the time to respond. Have a happy Easter as well

U not about to cancel revolution soccer

Edited

Just kidding of course

Edited

I have been working with Steve Purtee on the finances to make it successful for all the programs

I wish you know how much we have spent in it as well it will work out Daniel if we work together

So sorry I have 9 kids in my yard Easter egg hunting. I am not about to cancel Revolution period. Is what I meant to say.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
To: Carol Duncan <cduncan@jonesboro.org>

Tue, Apr 22, 2025 at 3:45 PM

Carol:

Here is the Germantown Provider Agreement.

Thanks,

Matt

 **2021 Provider Agreement.pdf**
342K

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 4:49 PM

To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>

Cc: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Matt,

Thank you for sending this and taking the time to speak with us yesterday. I am sure the Mayor will be in touch with you or if you want to direct him to who will be replacing you, I am sure he will reach out to them. As of right now, all of this is under the City Stars program. As we discussed yesterday, that is not an entity that we control as a city, even though I understand the confusion both internally and with the public. As a city, we are looking at all ways we can help make this better for everyone. I am sure these discussions will be ongoing.

Carol

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. The information transmitted herein is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender and destroy all records of the transmission.

City of Jonesboro AR

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Matt Modelevsky <matmm@jksinc.net>

Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 3:53 PM

To: Carol Duncan <cduncan@jonesboro.org>, "Harold Copenhaver (hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org)"

<hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, "brichardson@jonesboro.org" <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Carol:

At this time, I have resigned from the Board. My top priority has been the experience of our youth by helping provide a platform to develop them as people and players through soccer. I am also acutely aware of the importance of sports tourism in our community and was working diligently to put the club in a position to host meaningful events for the City that would have been able to bring significant economic impact to the community.

Unfortunately, after approximately a year of talking with the City about our concerns with what I understand to be the structure of City Stars Booster Club, its relationship to the City, the multiple potential conflicts of interest as City Employees and City Stars Boosters members & functions appear to overlap, the lack of transparency in the funding, misrepresented line items on financial information that was provided, along with misrepresentations about the use of the funds, the counter programming, frustration of ARFC's ability to access facilities or put on events, etc. you are now indicating the administration has no control over City Stars.

I would find it surprising that the City is just understanding the relationship to City Stars. According to you and the Mayor on our call City Stars has been in existence since Mayor Brodell. It is more surprising when there have been numerous meetings over the last year where the concerns about the structure, relationship to the City, and lack of accuracy or transparency into the funding have been discussed at length. Furthermore, as I am sure you know the City employs several "program directors" for various sports, including soccer. I understand those individuals are paid by the City, use City facilities for their offices, use City vehicles, etc. all for an entity that you claim the City doesn't control.

In an effort to provide quality programming, transparency, and accuracy in all program aspects we proposed that ARFC become a separate entity to the administration. In order to operate, ARFC asked for funding from the City to ensure that the costs to the citizens of Jonesboro did not substantially increase.

Obviously as members of this community, and as volunteers, we were hopeful the City would also prioritize our youth and community instead we have been told for the last year the City was "looking into this" or "we're working on this" or "we're going to do this we just need to figure a couple of things out" which is clearly not true. This could have easily been avoided by timely responses and honest communication from the City. However, it became apparent to me that the administration had no intention to work with Revolution, address the concerns raised about City Stars, or even communicate a meaningful response.

Since we were modeling our proposal after the Germantown Legends program I suggested as a potential last option that the City discuss whether the Legends could provide programming to our City. Of course, I have warned, and I will reiterate here, that this will likely result in an increased cost for our citizens since the City is apparently not interested in supporting the program financially.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 11:00 AM

To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>, Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Matt,

Thank you for providing the history. I was not involved in the prior meetings that have occurred and have only recently been trying to catch up to where we are today. I did go through similar issues with baseball in the past, however. I know this is confusing to the public, as it is often confusing to staff. There was originally an agreement between the City and Jonesboro City Stars Booster Club, which provided for city employees to be on their board and work directly with their programming, among other things. That agreement was around 20 years ago. To my knowledge there has not been a formal agreement since that time. I believe it is important that an agreement is put in place that takes the confusion out of the program and provides transparency on the part of the City. What this agreement eventually looks like, is not something I get to decide as the City Attorney. However, I am happy to participate in future meetings and help draft the agreement in a form agreeable to all. Even with the disagreements, I believe everyone involved wants a successful, well-run recreational sports program for the children and families in the City of Jonesboro and surrounding communities.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Matt Modelevsky <matm@jksinc.net>

To: Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Cc: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 12:37 PM

Carol:

As has always been my priority, I am hopeful in this critical juncture that our elected officials will prioritize our youth, remove the barriers that exist (conflicts of interest, lack of transparency, misrepresentations of Parks Dept. and Admin, etc.), and provide our kids with an opportunity to have the programming they deserve.

Since you have expressed a desire to be more fully informed, I will provide some additional information. Immediately upon discovering the ARFC Board had been lied to for years on financial information provided by Danny Kapales, Board members informed the Mayor's office of the misrepresentations and asked the Mayor for help in understanding the accounting of City Stars Boosters Club, and for transparency moving forward. The Mayor repeatedly told Board Members that he would get to the bottom of the misrepresentations and we would find a solution that eliminated the conflicts, misrepresentations, and lack of transparency. However, after numerous follow-ups, and after months passed without any meaningful updates or clarity, the Board presented a preliminary proposal to the City (on January 8th) to remove all soccer programming from City Stars Booster Club, including the recreational programming, called "City Stars," and run all the soccer programming for the benefit of the our community.

Despite numerous requests, the ARFC Board had not been provided accurate or complete financials on the cost to run ARFC, much less the cost to run the City Stars soccer program. In spite of that, in an effort to find a positive resolution to the outstanding issues, a follow up proposal was presented to the Mayor's office that included a funding request to cover all projected costs, including salaries, coaches fees, City Stars jerseys, refs, etc.. As was discussed at length the request was a blind estimate of costs and would obviously need to be revised once the City and Board had more accurate financial information from City Stars Boosters Club. Moreover, these costs could obviously be offset by dues, events, etc. Subsequently, the Mayor told me they had reviewed the proposal, that it "looked good" that they (meaning the City) were moving forward with the proposal. The Mayor stated that he had spoken to Danny about the change, and that all he needed to do was visit with you to make sure the the City was covered legally. I asked about the budget and he said they were working on that piece and we would have follow up discussions. I again discussed the need to activate the park by having tournaments that generated economic impact for our community. The Mayor agreed that was a top priority. Following that meeting I was able to have lunch with a Tournament Director that put on the largest tournament in Jonesboro that anyone could remember in the spring of 2024, who previously worked for the Lobos organization in Memphis. He agreed to serve as our Tournament Director and would recruit teams in the region with the goal of surpassing 60 teams per tournament. He provided us with dates for the tournament in September, which were provided to the parks department in March. ARFC was informed a full meeting was required at the Parks Department to see if those dates could be reserved.

In the meantime, the Board continued to follow up with the Mayor's office, and was continuously told by the Mayor and his office they were working on the proposal that was presented. Unfortunately, there was never any meaningful response from the City on any aspect of the proposal including the structure, funding, facility use, etc. Ultimately, it became apparent that the Mayor's office had no intention of providing an actionable path that supported our kids through an independent, honest, transparent program and, in fact, he stated in text that he was going to cancel Revolution. It was at that moment, when it was clear no change was forthcoming that I felt compelled to resign.

I am surprised to hear there is a written agreement between the City and City Stars Boosters Club that provides for the numerous conflicts of interest, use of City facilities, employees, resources, etc. for the benefit of City Stars. Danny has previously stated that no such agreement was in existence. Since the Mayor repeatedly stated he spoke with Danny, the production of this 'agreement' would have gone a long way to clear up much of the confusion and apparent conflicts of interest, however, it was never mentioned at all by the Mayor or his office. As I recall on the call I had with you and the Mayor on Tuesday (April 22nd) you all claimed not much was known about the City Stars Boosters Board, who was on it, or how they were appointed. In fact, your email to me above appears to confirm that position. I am curious to now find out that you all appear to be intimately knowledgeable about the City Stars Boosters, and their

structure, as you worked through whatever issues the Baseball Boosters had. You all now even possess an 'agreement' with the City that was again not mentioned by you or the Mayor on our call.

I have lost all faith in our current Administration. The lies, misleading information, and changing story in an attempt to preserve City Stars Boosters, and/or avoid negative publicity is beyond the pale. I have lived in Jonesboro my entire life. I love the City, the people, and youth of our community. I have volunteered thousands of hours over the last 20 years on various Boards without a desire for credit or even a thank you. All I have ever asked for was that our elected officials put the community above their desire for power, greed, or public image.

I trust that the City Council, community stake holders, and parents in our community will stand together to demand our elected officials display the integrity, accountability, and transparency we all deserve.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 1:32 PM

To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>

Cc: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Matt,

Just to clarify, I researched and found the agreement from 2004 between the City and CSBC. That agreement was for a period of five years and expired without being renewed at the end of that time. To my knowledge there was never another agreement put in place, but many of the operations continued based upon that initial agreement. I found this agreement after our phone call last week. No one in that meeting was failing to mention an agreement that we knew about. Like I said in my previous email, I was doing research to get up to speed on where we are today, to the best of my ability. To that end, I believe it is important that the City work to formalize an agreement for the future, so that there is transparency and hopefully an end to the confusion. As I said in my previous email, I do not get to decide what that agreement looks like, but I am willing to participate in getting one in place when all the decisions have been made.

Board Resignation Memorandum

Arkansas Revolution Football Club

Date: April 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Arkansas Revolution players, parents, coaches, and supporters

From: The Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors

Subject: Board Resignation & Call to Action

Statement of Resignation

As a Board of volunteers, we have collectively worked to provide the youth of our community a quality soccer program where they can grow and develop as people and players individually and with their team. We recognize the sacrifices that each family makes, in time and money, to allow their player the opportunity to participate. In recognition of these sacrifices, we have made the centerpiece of our mission the “Player Experience.”

Our volunteer board is comprised of parents and professionals from several professional specialties, across nearly every city school district, and with an excellent diversity of opinion on how to manage effectively. Working together, we have committed our time, energy and our money to the ARFC program, rendering measurable results in program (more about this below). Our board volunteers have asked for nothing in return other than for a productive partnership from City officials which would empower continued improvements within our program and within our community.

To this end, we also are acutely aware of the potential positive economic impact that sports tourism can have on our community. As we worked to continue to improve the quality of our programming for our families, we have also worked to activate Joe Mack Park with tournaments and events which provide a tremendous economic impact to our community.

Unfortunately, under the current circumstances, which we will brief below, we are no longer in a position to achieve our goals. **Accordingly, effective immediately and with heavy hearts, every member of the Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors is stepping down.** We do so only after exhausting every reasonable avenue to correct ethical and governance failures that threaten the long-term health of the club.

Background

1. As best as we understand, ARFC falls under the umbrella of a non-profit organization named “City Stars Booster Club.” City Parks & Rec. Director, Danny Kapales serves on this Board, as well as Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Brandon Shrader.
2. ARFC has a separate Board and has been presented with separate “financial statements” from the Parks Director who has served as Treasurer for ARFC longer than any member of the current board.
3. As we understand it, the City of Jonesboro has City employees run various programs under the City Stars umbrella and uses City facilities and resources to operate these programs.
4. The Board was informed by the Mayor’s office that this structure has existed for many years. City Administration has also stated that City Stars is not an entity they control, despite the use of City facilities, employees, and resources to run the programming.
5. Joe Mack Campbell Park is a City owned park, maintained by the City for the use and benefit of the citizens.

Why we are resigning

1. **Club Expense Mislabeled as “Field Usage”**
 - For several years, **\$15,000 – \$30,000 of club money** was reported to the ARFC Board as being used for “*field usage*.”
 - A line-by-line review of the City of Jonesboro’s budget confirmed **no such field usage charges exist**. Stated another way, there does not appear to be any record of where this money went, as it was not paid to the city.
 - These transactions were inserted into club financial statements by our treasurer, who is also the City’s Parks & Recreation Director.
 - When pressed on what this charge was used for the Parks & Rec. Director stated this was a discretionary fund to be used for City Stars programs. However, the financial statements provided to the ARFC Board continued to list field usage.

- Further research revealed that this line item has appeared on financial statements through several iterations of the board, bringing the total into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- In 2024, ARFC Board Members documented the transactions and presented it to the Mayor's Office with a specific request for account separation and clarity. **To our knowledge**, Mayor Copenhaver's Office declined to take any action.

2. Preferential Treatment & Facility Access

- Parks & Recreation leadership gives favored programs first choice of fields, while imposing last-minute schedule changes and restrictions on Arkansas Revolution teams. Programs such as City Stars soccer and Red Wolf Football are identified as "preferred programs" and given priority access to facilities with no definition of how a program becomes preferred.

Active Counter-Programming

- City personnel—while representing both municipal interests and City Stars—have attempted to create competing leagues and events that directly overlap with Arkansas Revolution training and match schedules.

Solution Proposal by ARFC Board

To prevent any potential conflicts with City officials providing programming using City facilities for a non-city organization, and to provide transparency into the club in all aspects, the Board proposed to the City that ARFC become a separate non-profit entity. This would have enabled clarity of financial responsibility through the separation of accounts, would have enabled ARFC to execute a field use agreement with the City with clear rules of engagement around scheduling for practices and tournaments, and would have allowed ARFC to explore relationships throughout the soccer to accelerate the advancement of our program.

After initially expressing support, Mayor Copenhaver and his office simply stopped engaging and refused to move the plan forward. There have been chronic delays in responding to requests lasting for months on end. To date, we have received no explanation as to why the plans could or could not move forward, effectively locking the ARFC Board into a stalemate of indecision.

After being pressed again for a decision around any of these ideas after months of indecision this past week, Mayor Copenhaver inadvertently texted an ARFC board member **threatening that he was "about to cancel revolution soccer"**—a message that speaks volumes about the administration's

regard for our volunteers, coaches, our parents, and - most importantly - our more than 350 players.

Gratitude & Closing

Over the past three years Arkansas Revolution has made measurable, player-focused progress. From day one, this Board set three clear objectives—transparent communication, stronger community, and a higher-quality playing experience. We delivered on those goals by **hiring the club's first full-time Executive Director and Technical Director, creating our first comprehensive player-development curriculum**, introducing TeamSnap, launching the Board Liaison program, funding USSF-license courses for our coaches, and building new initiatives such as the Development Academy and the 3v3 Strikers League, and leading the advocacy which resulted in two best-in-class turf fields being constructed at Joe Mack.

Our recent success has drawn interest from outside organizations, including the Germantown Legends—an ECNL/ECRL club that hopes to bring Arkansas Revolution under its umbrella. As our last act as the Board, and strictly out of due diligence, we facilitated an introduction and forwarded the Legends' proposal to Mayor Copenhaver's office for review. Although the partnership could open national-level pathways for our players, our preliminary analysis indicates it would significantly raise travel requirements and overall fees for ARFC families.

Watching our players grow—both on and off the pitch—has been an honor. We step away only because we cannot, in good conscience, serve under conditions that violate the trust placed in us by every Arkansas Revolution family.

Thank you for your passion, your countless volunteer hours, and the memories we share. Together, let's demand the transparency and fairness our players deserve and ensure Arkansas Revolution's mission continues stronger than ever.

What This Means for Members

- **Finish the Season:** Coaches and team managers are encouraged to complete the current season's schedule. Player development and enjoyment remain our highest priority.
- **Financial Records:** All club books are currently held by the Parks and Rec Director. Any questions or comments about the club's finances should be directed to their office at (870)933-4604.

- **Take Action:** We urge every parent, coach, and supporter to contact Mayor Copenhaver and demand transparency, accountability, and fair treatment for Arkansas Revolution. This can be done by calling (870)932-1052.
- **Moving Forward:** For information regarding the future of soccer in the City of Jonesboro, we encourage you to contact the City Parks and Rec department.

Respectfully,

The Outgoing Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors

jONEsboro

Good Afternoon, Club.

I was brought on in the early part of January to help move the club forward in a few areas and ultimately help build a more healthy and thriving process for the youth in our community through soccer and to do it expeditiously. Areas of focus were to have prompt, organized communication, policies and procedures that could blanket the club and its participants, both young and old, and cultivate relationships to grow the bandwidth and support of the soccer community in a positive and meaningful way.

Here are the reasons I agreed to do that:

- *I love trying to help make things better for anyone that asks, but specifically youth and even more so in athletics, character development and leadership.*
- *Soccer in our community affects somewhere between 10-20% of our community, and that is a large number for a way to be impactful. Our community needs competitive soccer.*
- *Our community needs a positive economic impact in a large way, and I deeply believe a contribution to this can be achieved through competitive soccer.*
- *We wanted to build infrastructure and systems that were sustainable, regardless of who was in charge, volunteering, and other roles.*
- *I had the time and willingness to give to try and make a lasting impact, not only for now but for generations to come.*

In an effort to be transparent, I think it is important to lay-out both what we have and have not been able to accomplish with the help of the Board and our various relationships throughout the Southeast over the last three and a half months.

- **Facilities**

- I have traveled all over the country for events in multiple sports, and Joe Mack can be one of the premier soccer complexes in NEA, Southeast Missouri, maybe in the state and on into Tennessee. In order to get events to Jonesboro, it needs to be a boutique experience, and I think Joe Mack can provide that experience.
- However, as you know, our grass playing surfaces need some pretty great attention. Fortunately, we have had the turf in the meantime. However, I was informed by the City that if there was a conflict in certain circumstances with youth football (was the specific example) that they had priority over us and the

turf was built for football. For certain, I wasn't aware of that, but it was good information to learn.

- I have asked about getting the fields mowed down to more of a soccer surface, typically somewhere between .5" - 1". I was informed the City didn't own a mower that mowed lower than 1.5".
- So, here is what we did. We leveraged personal relationships and found out the best in our region was Ladd's out of Memphis. They have a performance grass turf division and have experts in the field that include professional sport backgrounds and so forth. We brought them up, walked the grass at Joe Mack and got a quote.
- The quote that included fixing every grass surface (stripping it down and starting over) would be a six week process start to finish. That quote was for just under \$400,000. This includes 2 new mowers for the club. They wanted to start early May and it would be ready in time for Fall practice and playing seasons.
- We went and secured the funding through another entity, all \$400,000. However, we didn't want to accept the money without feeling comfortable that it was going to be managed and maintained properly. Otherwise, you are just spending bad money, and we feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility to be good stewards of the money.
- During our initial meeting in January, we also offered to oversee the maintenance of the facility, much like baseball boosters and other soccer programs around the mid-south. The yearly financial report shows a line item that we rent the facility for \$27,500 per year. Again, I'm not certain how that works or who writes that check to where.
- We did offer to lease the facility outright and take over scheduling to accommodate the needs of all programs that involve the turf and grass fields, so that we could ensure it be properly maintained and scheduled so the city could focus on the parks side of things.
- Lastly, we had initial discussions and progress towards a New Indoor Facility that would house 2 fields much like the turf. We feel pretty confident this could happen, and that project would cost somewhere between \$5-6 Million.

- **Programming & Events**

- City Stars is the primary youth sports programmer for the City. Although it may not be run through the City, at minimum, the City is certainly its caretaker.
- Events are a big deal for our community, and our City needs to be all in on competitive soccer for the sheer fact of numbers. We did research on economic impact, and what we found was that for each tournament of roughly 50 teams would equate to somewhere around \$500,000 per weekend (safe estimate). This would also save local families dollars spent on travel, food, and lodging that is being spent outside of the Jonesboro area. So, we reached out to a premier tournament director for the Mid-South that ran tournaments for years in Memphis and agreed to terms and dates for the Fall Tournament, got a game plan for Friendlies and the same idea for the Spring. That is an economic impact of

somewhere around \$2 Million for the city, a much needed boost, as most of us know. However, no one knows this better than our City's stakeholders.

Additionally, we got financial commitments to help us put on these events.

- We offered to take over all soccer programming for the City, most importantly Junior High Soccer. This is not a AAA or School sponsored sport. This is also run by the City. Its schedule conflicts with the competitive soccer season, and we feel we could solve a riddle of cross programming by adjusting its schedule so that kids that want to play both, competitive and school soccer, don't have to make a choice.
- We also offered to oversee City Stars and help their current staff to help provide a more meaningful and developmental foundation for the City, different in format, but under the same pretenses of our Development Academy that had more than 120 kids this Spring and over 100 kids in the Fall after being in existence for less than one year. While we didn't necessarily need or want this inheritance, we were willing to help and be good partners with the City and its current staff to help lighten their load.
- We also met with outside entities about putting on summer/winter clinics and camps to match Phil's programming plan for what he wanted the Player and Coach Development curriculum to look like.
- That leads to budgets and funding.

- **Budget**

- While I have operated many athletic budgets over the years, I don't know exactly how this particular budget process works within the framework of how the Club is set up.
- I believe Revolution is under the City Stars umbrella, and I don't know the accounting practices or how things get earmarked or accounted for. I don't know the umbrella for certain, but I'm sure someone more qualified in accounting and the City officials have that figured out.
- I do know we are not in charge of our budgetary accounting or purchases.
- I do know our staff and coaches' checks come from the City Stars Account, and I do believe the budget is controlled by City employees.
- I did ask these questions in an early January meeting to people of highest positions to get an understanding to help the Club be healthy and also to show that we were taking a serious approach to being a partner with the City. After over three months of waiting, I haven't been able to get those answers, so I'm not sure where that stands.
- It is my understanding the Board has been asking the City for clarity on this for some years now.
- I did not want to have any sort of budget meeting of the financial status of the Club without the understanding of its practices from those in place to show the process transparently.

- **Funding**

- Aside from the \$400,000 we had secured for the fields and the money for the events, we don't know what we don't know. Given we don't know the true operating budget, we made a proposal to the City to help us figure out how to fund a program with the ask of \$500,000 (a large portion they were already committing to the facility, programming, and staffing.) We showed the research and the safe estimate for the City to show \$2 Million of economic impact, so a profit for the City of \$1.5 Million per year. Again, they were already spending a portion of that money, we just wanted to have budgetary control of it. On January 8, we were told by the city to give them a couple of weeks. As of April 23, we don't have that answer.
- However, that didn't stop us from reaching out to other partners and securing funding to supplement, whatever the City would do, if anything. If we took over City Stars we needed a larger number, than if we didn't. It is all scalable. We relayed that our ask was rough, that we could need less or more, but without knowing the financial ins and outs, we weren't sure what the number needed to be.
- We got a supplemental funding plan, but without knowing what the City was willing to work with us on, we felt we would be accepting bad money again, and without control, we weren't confident in how the money would be earmarked.
- We also hired a Grant Writer and applied for \$20,000 to help provide scholarships and uniform supplements for underprivileged kids to be able to play soccer with the Club. I believe the findings of that grant will come in June.
- We had started contract negotiations with uniform companies to provide a point gathering system so we could provide warm-ups, backpacks and other types of equipment for both players and coaches.
- All of this was in an effort to not significantly raise dues and know where the money was going to be allocated and so forth.

- **Policies & Procedures**

- As you are aware, we have been working on policies and procedures to ensure the safety of the Club, its coaches, and the players.
- We were on a final draft type pathway when we learned of the USYS Roster Formation transition and started reaching out to coaches about what this could look like. We had only begun this process and hadn't reached out to everyone when this spiral of information ramped up.

- **USYS Roster Formation Plan**

- It was my recommendation that we start a soft pivot to prepare for the 2026-27 "School Year" calendar. Phil and I would meet several times per week to digest and dissect the best path forward for this.
- We found a process that would be a change that could provide a smoother transition for both the players and also being able to play in tournaments during the 2025-26 season, no matter if that tournament had gone to the new calendar or not. Along those same lines, it would align more players with similar

development paths, regardless of age, if that aligned with what the player wanted their journey to be.

- The last known obstacle to overcome could be the uniforms. We didn't want the Club parents to have to pay for just one year of uniforms and then have to have an additional cost the following year.
- If we pivoted to the new format now, I committed to the Board that I would go find the money for a smaller scale of duplicate numbers the following year, no matter the cost of \$1,000-\$30,000 so those parents were out no additional cost. As you can tell, people are willing to help and the money can be found.
- As I have relayed, we are certain there would be kinks and blind spots to address in this transition, but ultimately would put each team at a competitive advantage and be proactive towards that advantage moving forward.
- Everyone is aware of our try-out dates and that we need to ensure coaches are in place for possible roster and age changes.
- While not official, I believe the Board was in support of this transition timing.

- **Player Pathway & College Recruiting Exposure**

- With player pathway and recruiting, we had begun discussions with larger clubs about a pathway to ECNL or ECNL-RL guest play opportunities for those players that wanted to pursue college soccer at a level that we don't currently have.
- Finally, I started reaching out all over the country to some college contacts about what it would look like to have an ID/Showcase Camp for kids, where it was run by some college coaches right here in Jonesboro.

So, there you have it. We were able to raise just under \$1 Million in agreements (\$400,000 roughly as a one time), the balance on a yearly basis, and arranged for events to come to Jonesboro that will have both impact and reduce cost for area families and so forth. However, no contracts have been signed, no paperwork, just handshakes and ideas of what can make a lasting impact. We could not get comfortable with accepting money without knowing it would be well managed, facilities maintained and programmed properly for our community.

That's what we have been working on since January and making some significant progress, but we have reached a stalemate. I was hired to be a catalyst, a spark that comes from friction, and I know there have been some changes that have caused that, but our heart has been in the right place.

By no means do I speak for the Board and their conversations or interactions, but I can say I have become uncomfortable with the mixed message responses or the lack thereof from those in positions of authority, and it just doesn't fit with things that I personally would like to align with philosophically. After agreeing to their timeline, there has been more than enough grace period for me.

Maybe this will be the nudge that helps or maybe not. However, with no contracts signed, it

gives the City the ability to pursue their investment at the highest level both financially and in infrastructure. My hope is it is even higher than the numbers and commitments listed above.

The City has had this under their umbrella (or at least the caretaker) for a long time now, and I trust our City's elected officials and leaders have a plan to significantly increase their level of investment for competitive soccer. What is clear is that the City's level of commitment has the greatest impact for our youth and economically for the community, especially when this thing is on the verge of exploding into something on a much larger scale.

That being said, we have run out of time on my watch, and I am stepping aside and getting out of the way of the City's vision and their prolonged timeline. Hopefully, the next person up can get the deal across the goaline.

I would like to thank the Board for letting me help to this point, specifically Laura Heuck for handling the registration and paperwork logistics. I would like to thank Phil Woods for his expertise in multiple meetings per week that we didn't necessarily understand how much was needed when we accepted our positions. Finally, a huge tip of the hat to Matt Modelevsky, spending hour upon hour, day after day, over every single detail we needed to address.

In the interim, the Board has agreed that any technical soccer related questions should be directed to Phil, who will continue with the Club at least until the end of the Spring Season. Hopefully, the City's plan for soccer moving forward comes soon. All other questions should be directed to the Board.

I keep thinking of one of my favorite acronyms as I write this email and I think it speaks volumes to all parties involved...

PRIDE & GUTS

Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort & Genuine Urge To Succeed

I will return to the sidelines, as a supporter and dad, cheering, encouraging, and trying to empower your kids just as much as I do for mine if we are ever on the same field.

Continue to #RevUp.

AGAIN, jONEsboro

ENJOY YOUR DASH.

Matt



would give her doesn't, he justumps it all back into the accounting itself. He simplifies that for the accounting purposes. He just simplifies it. And that's what she saw was the simplified forms, but she was able to compare that to the deposit sheets. So, every sheet that's signed off on also has an attached deposit slip, so it has a comparable signed off sheet, broken down numbers and a deposit slip from the bank. Everything attached together. So, everything's dated, compared, signed off on, and that was all provided. Councilmember David McClain said, and like you said, the gate workers are paid from 1099. I get a check, you don't give me cash. Director Danny Kapales said, correct. There is, and I think you referenced that and I want to clarify. There is employees that's with other departments that have officiated for many, many years. Not just with us but with schools, with things of that sorts. They do that as a part-time job outside, and they do work with us as well. But all of them get paid through a check, and they do it outside of their normal hours of working for the city. They do it in the evenings and weekends on the other job as a secondary job. But that is something that they do, but that is completely a separate item and everybody's paid by

From: Emma L. Cottingham <ECottingham@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Fw: 2025 Arkansas Delta Awards Submission – Tourism Person of the Year (Danny Kapales)
To: Danny Kapales <DKapales@jonesboro.org>; Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>;
Donna Malone <DMalone@jonesboro.org>; Lynette Hirsch <LHirsch@jonesboro.org>
Sent: October 31, 2025 5:58 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: ArkansasDeltaAwardsNominationForm_2025Submission-TourismPersonofTheYear.docx, Danny
Kapales - ADBW - 2025 Tourism Person of the Year.pdf

It's all sent over. Fingers Crossed!



[Book time with Emma L. Cottingham](#)

From: Emma L. Cottingham <ECottingham@jonesboro.org>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:50 PM
To: roloughlin@astate.edu <roloughlin@astate.edu>
Subject: 2025 Arkansas Delta Awards Submission – Tourism Person of the Year (Danny Kapales)

Hello Ruth,

Please find attached the completed nomination form and full submission for the 2025 Arkansas Delta Byways Awards.

This nomination recognizes Danny Kapales, Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Jonesboro, for his outstanding leadership and lasting contributions to tourism, recreation, and community development throughout the Delta region.

Attachments:

1. Completed Nomination Form – Tourism Person of the Year
2. Full Submission with Supporting Details (PDF)

I wasn't sure what format you prefer for submissions, so if you need these files in another format, I'm happy to provide them right away. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything else you need or any additional details I can provide to support the review.

Thank you so much for your time, your attention to detail, and all the hard work you put into coordinating these awards each year — it truly means a lot to all of us in the community.

Best regards,
Emma Cottingham
Digital Media Specialist

City of Jonesboro, Arkansas
ecottingham@jonesboro.org | 870-926-5330



Emma Cottingham

MEDIA SPECIALIST

870-926-5330

ECOTTINGHAM@JONESBORO.GOV

WWW.JONESBORO.ORG

300 S. CHURCH STREET
JONESBORO AR 72401

Book time with Emma L. Cottingham

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY. The information transmitted herein is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender and destroy all records of the transmission.

City of Jonesboro AR

24th



Annual

Arkansas Delta Awards

Nomination Form

Deadline for Submission is October 31, 2025

1. **Hospitality Award** – Given to a restaurant, lodging facility or other business, community or organization that has demonstrated true hospitality in the Delta region.
2. **Entrepreneur Award** – Given to an individual or small business that has made a significant contribution to expanding tourism opportunities in the Arkansas Delta Region.
3. **Tourism Support/Promotional Award** – Given to a business, organization or group that has contributed significantly to the promotion of tourism in the Arkansas Delta Byways region.
4. **Festival/Event of the Year Award** – Given to a festival or event that celebrates the uniqueness of the Delta, their community or local history and promotes tourism in the Arkansas Delta Byways.
5. **Boot Strap Award** – Given to an individual, organization or community that has achieved significant success “on a shoestring” having limited means to work with, either in resources or finances.
6. **Cultural Heritage Award** – Given to an organization, community or business that best interprets and promotes the cultural heritage of the Arkansas Delta Byways region.
7. **Tourism Person of the Year Award** – Given to an individual who has contributed significantly to the enhancement of tourism in the Arkansas Delta Byways region.

Please submit all information on the attached sheet to the Arkansas Delta Byways Tourism Association awards committee. Please copy as many sheets as needed for your nominations. Attach additional pages justifying why your organization, community, individual, etc., should win the award. Please include photographs, newspaper articles and other items that support your nomination. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS,

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
BECOME PROPERTY OF ARKANSAS DELTA BYWAYS.**



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS OCTOBER 31, 2025

Nomination Form

Category: Tourism Person of the Year Award

Nominee: Danny Kapales, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Jonesboro, AR

Address 300. S. Church Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

County: Craighead County Nominee Phone Number 870-933-4604

Email: dkapales@jonesboro.org

Reason this nomination should win: Please see attached pages

Nominated by: Emma Cottingham Email: ECottingham@Jonesboro.org



Nomination for Tourism Person of the Year

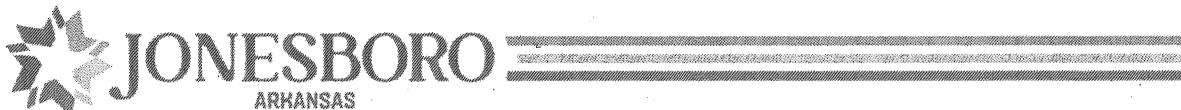
Nominee: Danny Kapales
Title: Director of Parks & Recreation
City of Jonesboro, Arkansas
Phone: 870-933-4604
Email: dkapales@jonesboro.org
County: Craighead County
Nominated By: Emma Cottingham
Email: ECottingham@Jonesboro.org

For more than two decades, Danny Kapales has shaped Jonesboro's Parks & Recreation Department into a cornerstone of community life and regional tourism. Beginning part-time in 2002 and promoted to Director in 2018, he now directly oversees more than 1,200 acres of land — 26 parks, 5 community centers, and 4 cemeteries, and all the associated programming of park events — welcoming residents and visitors from across the Arkansas Delta Byways. Under his leadership, Jonesboro's parks have become economic drivers and tourism pillars, supporting tournaments, inclusive programs, and destination events that attract thousands each year.

Under his leadership, Jonesboro's parks have become both economic engines and tourism pillars, supporting tournaments, inclusive programs, and destination events that attract thousands each year. Danny's commitment to collaboration extends to partners such as Arkansas State University, the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, City Water & Light, the Advertising & Promotion Commission, United Way of Northeast Arkansas and Arkansas Delta Byways, strengthening the link between recreation, tourism, and economic vitality throughout Northeast Arkansas.

In addition to physical development, Danny's leadership has earned statewide recognition for excellence in planning and programming. In 2024 alone, the department achieved multiple honors:

- 2024 Trail of the Year (Natural Surface) – Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association, for Craighead Forest Park
- 2024 Tourism Program of the Year – Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association, for the African American Cultural Center at E. Boone Watson Community Center
- 2024 Planning Award: Plan of the Year (Population 30,000+) – Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association, for the Health Accelerator within the Jonesboro Parks Master Plan
- 2024 Sports Management Program of the Year – Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association, for the Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex
- 2024 Trendsetter City of the Year – Diversity & Inclusion Award – Arkansas Municipal League, recognizing Project SEARCH, Project CARE, the Social Determinants of Health Study, and the Communications Board at Miracle League Park



These honors underscore Danny's success in aligning recreation, tourism, and cultural storytelling into a unified vision for the Delta Byways region.

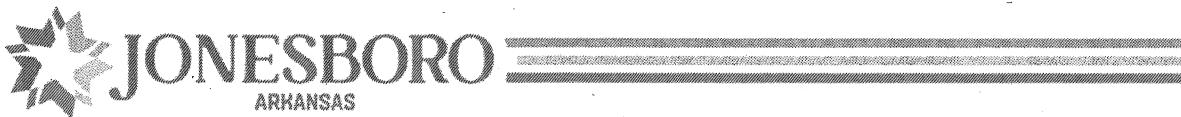
Under Danny's leadership, Jonesboro Parks & Recreation plays an essential role in more than 20 downtown and citywide events each year, from large-scale festivals and athletic showcases to cultural celebrations and holiday parades. The department's involvement extends far beyond setup and cleanup. His team provides logistical support, stage and electrical coordination, waste management, safety barricades, beautification, and ground restoration for every major event that brings residents and visitors together in the heart of Jonesboro.

Each festival is unique — some celebrate art and culture, others highlight local food, music, or heritage — but all share a common thread: they rely on Parks & Recreation's hands-on expertise to transform public spaces into vibrant, welcoming venues. In 2024, those events generated measurable returns for Jonesboro's tourism economy. According to Advertising & Promotion tax reports, prepared food and hospitality revenues climbed steadily throughout the year, reflecting strong visitor spending tied to festivals, tournaments, and cultural gatherings. Major draws like the Great American Eclipse, Downtown BBQ & Music Fest, Local Fest, Pride, and the Arkansas Governor's Conference on Tourism filled hotels, restaurants, and storefronts citywide—contributing to more than \$5 million in total tourism-related revenue. During the conference, statewide tourism professionals experienced firsthand the diversity of Jonesboro's recreation scene, from bike rides through Craighead Forest Park to target practice at the Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex—both shining examples of how the city blends outdoor adventure with hospitality. This growth underscored what Danny Kapales, and his team have long demonstrated: that community events aren't just celebrations; they're economic engines that sustain local businesses, showcase Jonesboro's hospitality, and strengthen its standing as the premier tourism hub of the Arkansas Delta.

Jonesboro has long been recognized as the hub of Northeast Arkansas — a city where recreation, community, and tourism converge. Under Danny Kapales's leadership, the Parks & Recreation Department has turned Jonesboro's public spaces into regional destinations that draw visitors from across the state and beyond. From tournaments and trail races to family gatherings and weekend getaways, Jonesboro's parks have become the heartbeat of regional tourism.

In 2025, Danny expanded Jonesboro's tourism infrastructure with the launch of the Park Ranger Program — the first full-time initiative of its kind, in Arkansas. Developed in alignment with the City's Master Parks Plan and operating under the Code Enforcement Division, the program positions Rangers as both safety ambassadors and community stewards across every park and downtown event. Their presence ensures that every visitor — from families at Craighead Forest Park to festivalgoers on Main Street — experiences Jonesboro as both welcoming and secure.

Rangers receive comprehensive training in public safety, emergency response, and local park education, enabling them to assist visitors, support event logistics, and protect city assets. The program strengthens Jonesboro's Destination 100K vision, demonstrating that safety and hospitality are inseparable pillars of sustainable tourism. With the Park Ranger Program, Jonesboro has set a



new statewide benchmark for how recreation, culture, and public trust come together to create a city visitors remember for all the right reasons.

At the center of this impact is Joe Mack Campbell Park, a nationally recognized complex that hosts both baseball and soccer tournaments throughout the year. The Jonesboro Baseball Boosters alone bring in more than 200 teams each season, filling hotels and restaurants citywide. The park is also home to travel soccer programs that bring in college, high school, and junior high teams from across the region for practices, scrimmages, and tournaments. It also supports football (flag and tackle), rugby, and track events — welcoming athletes of all ages from across the state. Recently, the park welcomed 700+ athletes from 27 schools during the 5A East and 4A-3 Conference cross-country meets, further cementing its reputation as one of Arkansas's premier sports tourism facilities.

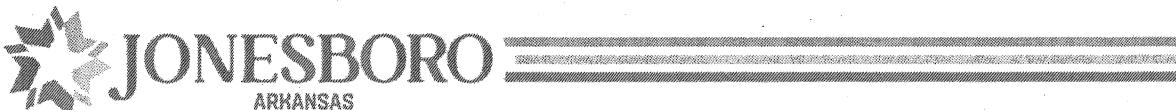
Nearby, the Southside Softball Complex hosts roughly 20 tournaments annually, drawing 30 to 75 teams per event and boosting the economy with every weekend of play. Beyond tournaments, Southside serves as the home base for 32 junior high softball teams that utilize the complex at least three days a week. Sanctioned through USA Softball, these events showcase Jonesboro's high-quality facilities and hospitality — keeping athletes and spectators returning year after year.

Recreation in Jonesboro extends far beyond athletic competition. Craighead Forest Park, which is home to the 2024 Arkansas Trail of the Year, is a year-round attraction for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. Its expanded trail system, upgraded playgrounds, and newly installed energy-efficient lighting have made it one of the most visited outdoor destinations in the Delta Byways region. The park also serves as host to the NICA Mountain Biking Series, bringing in more than 300 student-athletes and their families from across the state for race weekends that fill local hotels and restaurants.

Equally impactful is Miracle League Park, a statewide model for inclusive recreation and one of Jonesboro's proudest achievements. Its design and programming — including initiatives like Project SEARCH and Project CARE — have made it a destination for families from throughout Arkansas who seek accessible play and community connection. These efforts helped earn Jonesboro the 2024 Trendsetter City Diversity & Inclusion Award, highlighting the city's leadership in accessible tourism and recreation.

Meanwhile, the Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex continues to expand its influence as one of the largest outdoor recreation destinations in the region. Since opening in 2021, the complex has welcomed more than 20,000 visitors, thrown over 865,000 clay pigeons, and attracted nearly 3,000 memberships. Youth tournaments and regional shoots bring hundreds of competitors and spectators to the city each year, further diversifying Jonesboro's tourism portfolio.

In 2024, Jonesboro introduced another tourism amenity with the opening of The Bark Park — a 30,000-square-foot facility featuring separate play areas for large and small dogs, shaded seating, and agility features designed for year-round use. With 68% of U.S. households owning pets and nearly one-third of travelers now bringing their dogs along on trips, this new addition strengthens Jonesboro's reputation as a pet-friendly destination for families, RV travelers, and tournament guests.



Looking toward the future, Danny Kapales spearheaded the Jonesboro Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which engaged more than 1,200 residents through surveys and focus groups to envision the city's next decade of recreational growth. That vision secured the largest parks grant in Jonesboro's history — a \$1 million Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program award, matched by \$1.1 million in city funds and \$100,000 from the Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro — to create the new Northeast Jonesboro Community Park.

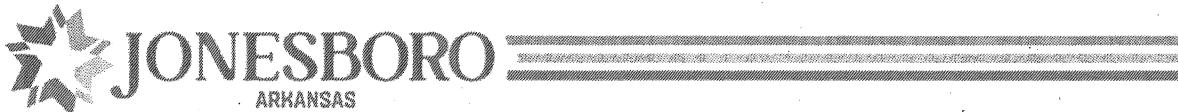
Breaking ground in 2026, this 13-acre park will feature a universal adventure playground, walking and biking trails, tennis and pickleball courts, a dog park, and multiuse fields surrounded by ample greenspace. More than just another park, EPIC Park will be a tourism gateway for an underserved area of the city — designed for accessibility, family fun, and community celebration.

From family reunions and weddings to field trips and tournaments, people from across Northeast Arkansas travel to Jonesboro's parks to create memories. Whether they're camping at Craighead Forest, competing at Joe Mack Campbell, celebrating at Miracle League, or walking their dogs at Bark Park, visitors experience the very spirit of Jonesboro — a city that's Always Moving, and the undeniable recreational hub of the Delta Byways region.

Allen Park has become one of Jonesboro's most inclusive and family-friendly recreation destinations following its 2025 renovation. The park's all-new ADA-accessible playground and modern splash pad ensure that everyone — residents and visitors alike — can enjoy outdoor play without barriers. With nearly one-fourth of nearby residents living with a disability, Allen Park reflects Jonesboro's commitment to accessibility and wellness while serving as a tourism asset that welcomes families of all ages and abilities. Parker Park followed suit in 2024 with the unveiling of its new zero-entry community pool and ADA-accessible playground — transforming the park into one of the city's top summer attractions. The improvements make Parker Park a true destination for family fun, local events, and travelers seeking safe, inclusive recreation.

Located on Nettleton Avenue, the Jonesboro Youth Center and adjacent Jonesboro Pool Center form one of the city's most versatile indoor-outdoor recreation hubs. The Youth Center's upgrades include an indoor turf field, a full-sized basketball and volleyball court, and a community room available for events or rentals — making it ideal for tournaments, training, or family gatherings. Next door, the Pool Center offers a competition-level swimming facility capable of hosting youth meets and aquatic events that draw participants from around the region. Together, these two facilities provide year-round recreation for residents and visitors, solidifying Jonesboro's reputation as the regional hub for youth sports and active tourism in Northeast Arkansas.

As one of Jonesboro's most iconic landmarks, the Earl Bell Community Center combines historic charm with modern recreation — a rare blend that sets it apart as both a community treasure and a tourism attraction. Originally constructed in 1936 through the Works Progress Administration, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a living connection to Jonesboro's cultural heritage. Named after Olympic pole vaulter Earl Bell, a Jonesboro native, the center features a full-sized gymnasium, tennis courts, dance rooms, meeting spaces, and even a rock-climbing wall — making it a destination for both history enthusiasts and recreation seekers. Its



distinctive Art Deco architecture, Olympic namesake, and active programming make the Earl Bell Center a true embodiment of Jonesboro's tourism identity — where heritage meets activity, and history stays alive through community use.

Visitor feedback consistently praises the Parks & Recreation Department for its attention to detail, exceptional cleanliness, and friendly staff — all hallmarks of the Southern hospitality that define Jonesboro's identity within the Arkansas Delta Byways. These qualities turn a simple park visit into a memorable experience, encouraging travelers to return and share their positive impressions.

Under Danny Kapales's leadership, Jonesboro's Park system has become a catalyst for regional tourism and economic vitality. Through investment in inclusive recreation, beautification, and trail connectivity, the city's parks now serve as both community gathering spaces and visitor destinations, strengthening Jonesboro's reputation as a place people don't just live — but love to visit.

Yet Danny also understands that tourism in the Delta is about more than recreation — it's about heritage and storytelling. The Parks & Recreation Department plays a vital role in preserving that legacy through its stewardship of the E. Boone Watson African American Cultural Center, a site that celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Craighead County's African American community.

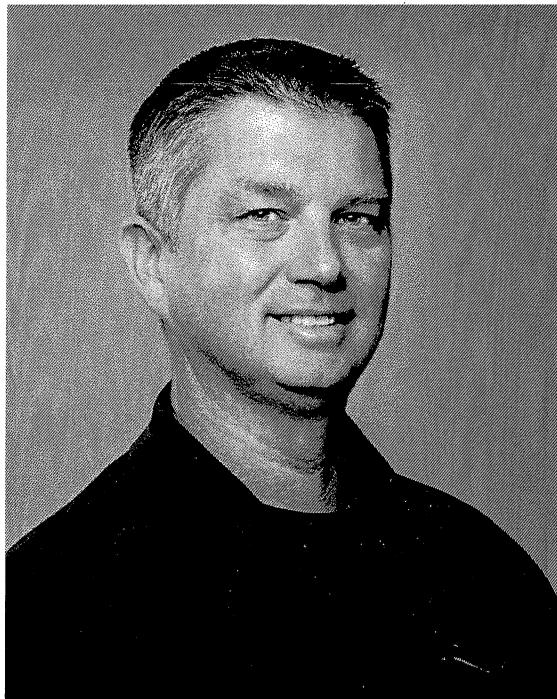
In 2024, Danny and his team collaborated with the Jonesboro Police Department and city leaders to dedicate a new museum exhibit honoring African American officers who have served the city with distinction. The framed composite, accepted by Danny and Building Coordinator Roger McKinney, now hangs proudly within the Cultural Center as a tribute to representation, diversity, and community leadership. This partnership underscores Danny's belief that cultural tourism is essential to Jonesboro's story — that visitors should not only see the city's parks but also feel its history and humanity. By intertwining recreation with storytelling, Jonesboro invites travelers to experience the soul of the Delta — where every park, trail, and cultural site tells part of the region's shared journey.

Danny Kapales' legacy in Jonesboro Parks & Recreation can be seen — and felt — in every corner of the city. Having learned under the guidance of former directors Jason Wilkie and the late Jeff Owens, he carries forward their vision of elevating Jonesboro's parks while shaping his own path rooted in inclusion, accessibility, and meaning.

That belief — that every space should have purpose and heart — has guided his leadership from restoring historic green spaces to creating fully inclusive playgrounds that welcome every generation. The Miracle League Park, Rotary Centennial Park, and future projects on the northeast side all reflect that principle: they are not just playgrounds, but reflections of a community that values connection, dignity, and belonging. Jonesboro's parks have evolved into true gathering places that serve both residents and visitors — places where grandparents in wheelchairs can play alongside grandchildren, and where families from neighboring towns come not only to enjoy the parks, but to dine, shop, and experience Jonesboro's local culture. His work bridges quality of life and economic development, transforming recreation into a catalyst for tourism and community pride.



Danny's legacy is defined not by ownership, but by inclusion. Through his leadership, Jonesboro's parks have become more than green spaces — they are living landmarks of the Arkansas Delta, inviting people from across the nation to connect, to belong, and to leave their mark. Every visitor, from the smallest child to the most seasoned traveler, can see a piece of themselves reflected in the city's story — a story that continues to grow, just like the parks he has helped shape for generations to come.



11:35

6:16

86

< 8



Steven



iMessage

Apr 14, 2024 at 6:51 AM

Good morning- reminder we
have a jr game against
Batesville tomorrow at Joe
Mack at 7:30

Apr 14, 2024 at 1:25 PM

Who is this?

Matt Modelevsky

Read 4/14/24

Fri, Dec 12 at 1:03 PM

Good afternoon-

I am needing to access a field
at Joe Mack Monday, Tuesday,
and Thursday each week for
soccer practice. Can you please
let me know what field(s) are
available?

Thank you

Matt Modelevsky

Is this for next season or right

+

iMessage

Right now Joe Mack is leased

11:35

6:21

86

< 8

SD

Steven



Is this for next season or right now?

Right now Joe Mack is leased out to Christmas at the Park so I can't put anybody out there. They won't even allow me to have people out there earlier in the day at the moment.

Starting in January will be great.

I'll get with everyone and see what I can do or find for you. What group or teams would this be for?

This is Arkansas Legends

Today 10:50 AM

Good morning- touching base to see about field space.

Still waiting for leadership to figure out the opening of the park. It'll be closed for January. It's usually closed until March but they are trying to work the r's on

+ c. iMessage

now!

11:35

6:29

86

Right now

Starting Christmas at the Park on 1
< 8 **SD** 
nobody we
won't even allow to
have people out **Steven** or in
the day at the m...

Starting in January will be great.

I'll get with everyone and see
what I can do or find for you.
What group or teams would this
be for?

This is Arkansas Legends

Today 10:50 AM

Good morning- touching base
to see about field space.

Still waiting for leadership to
figure out the opening of the
park. It'll be closed for January.
It's usually closed until March
but they are trying to work the
plan on when it can open to the
public.

Has there been any other use of
the park since the Christmas
lights went up? I know the turf
is there.

Delivered



iMessage

figure out the opening of the

8:18 8:34

8:34

62

it's 11/20/16 11:45 AM

< 7 You are trying to do this
when it can't be done. SD
public.

Steven

Has there been any other use of
the park since the Christmas
lights went up? I know the turf
is there.

Tue, Dec 23 at 12:07 PM

Just had the OTP program out
this past weekend. They set up
a contract with Danny for that
program.

Christmas at the park has the
facility reserved until February.
That gives them time to clean
up their lights. They do not
want people in the park until
they are done and parks want
to avoid having the public in the
park to avoid any potential
damages to the lights.

Once I'm told when we can
allow practices I will let you
know.

Please forward me a copy of
the contract to

mattm@jksinc.net

+ iMessage

access to any contracts that

5:04

69%

You'd have to get that from
minimum city hall. I don't know
< 3 to any one SD

formed.

SD

Steven

Ok thank you

Today 1:38 PM

Steven: I would like access to a
turf field at Joe Mack starting
next week on Monday, Tuesday,
and Thursday from 5:30-7:00.
Will I be permitted access?
Please respond today.

Today 4:59 PM

**Joe Mack is closed until
February 2nd to all practices.**
Christmas at the park is still
working on picking up their
stuff. That's coming from
leadership.

Who is Leadership?

Names and contact numbers
please

Jim Sterns 870 933 4604

Edited

Thank you

Delivered



iMessage



Access to Joe Mack

Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
To: jestearns@jonesboro.org

Thu, Jan 8, 2026 at 6:55 PM

Jim:

I have requested field access at Joe Mack and was directed to you. Specifically, I have requested a turf field on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30-7:00 beginning next week. Please let me know by tomorrow at noon if my request will be granted. If not, please state the reasons why.

Thank you,

Access to Joe Mack

Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>
To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>

Fri, Jan 9, 2026 at 5:07 PM

Mr. Modelevsky,

We are looking forward to a great 2026 at all our facilities. As you are aware, I am new to Parks and rely heavily on the input from my team in planning and usage of our facilities. I have met with the Joe Mack Campbell park supervisor and with my soccer coordinator for their input.

We are waiting for Christmas Attractions, LLC (Sartin Services Lawncare inc.) to completely remove their Christmas light and storage containers. As part of our partnership with them we give them three to four weeks after the light display ends to gather their equipment.

I have been informed by my team we traditionally open JMCP after February 1 to allow for the above to take place and for the grounds crew to inspect and plan any field rehabbing that need to be done.

We will open up JMCP for reservations online on February 2.

We have several first come first serve alternate practice spaces at University Heights Lion club (Northside), the Youth center, Allen Park until we make JMCP available. If you prefer to reserve practice space at another location, Miles Park reservation can be made by calling the park office.

Make the Most of Today!

Jim Stearns, MS

Assistant Director Parks and Recreation

jestearns@jonesboroar.gov

Office 870-933-4604

Cell 870-253-7832

From: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 6:56 PM
To: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroAR.gov>

Access to Joe Mack

Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
To: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>
Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>

Sat, Jan 10, 2026 at 11:44 AM

Jim:

I appreciate the response but I know that Joe Mack is currently being used by others and has been since the lights have been up at the park. Just like the other members of the public using the park I would like access on the same terms. If there is some other basis for denying me access let me know, otherwise please confirm my requested use.

I need to know asap as I have a group of 12 & 13 year old girls who simply want to practice and I want them to have the same opportunities as other people in our community.

Sincerely,

Matt Modelevsky

Access to Joe Mack

Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>
To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>

Sat, Jan 10, 2026 at 5:53 PM

Matt

I have confirmed with my staff and there are none and have been no reservations for practices at JMCP since the light displays were put into place. And there have been no reservations granted since the conclusion of the lights at the park ended. The only exception was a verbal agreement Danny made with the Olympic development organization for a Sunday. We honored that verbal agreement because it was the right thing to do.

To accuse me of denying you access is insulting.

We will open JMCP up for reservations on February 2. You and your 12&13 year old girls are welcome to reserve Miles park if you need lights by calling the office during regular business hours. Or you are welcome to practice at the other parks I listed in the original email on a first come first serve basis.

Again, reservations will be available on February 2 for JMVP.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2026 11:44:30 AM
To: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroAR.gov>
Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroAR.gov>
Subject: Re: Access to Joe Mack

Access to Joe Mack

Matt Modelevsky <matm@jksinc.net>
To: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>
Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>

Sat, Jan 10, 2026 at 8:59 PM

Jim:

I am not accusing you of anything I am simply stating the facts. The parks department has advertised the Winter Soccer Programming which is hosted by Premier Training, which is an independent business. I know that not only are they provided access they are being paid \$17.50/per player. I know the programming is going on now and I know it is occurring at Joe Mack. The veiled distinction you make for 'reservations' through the system is disingenuous at best. I am asking for use and access.

I know the fields and the park have been used every day I have been by the park as I have taken pictures. I also know Revolution soccer has used the fields for spring tryouts and I know that I have been repeatedly told that Revolution is NOT part of the City. I have emails to that extent from the City Attorney where the Mayor and Brian were copied. I know that I am being treated differently and as an attorney I know that's in violation of my constitutional rights and the rights the young ladies I coach. I know that copying Brian on your response to my request for a field at Joe Mack (who works directly with the Mayor in administration) is highly unusual and clearly evidences the disparate treatment I am receiving. I also know that I will not allow my team and my girls to be denied access and treated differently. This will be my last attempt to try and get equal access to a public forum. Please advise as soon as possible of your decision.

Access to Joe Mack

Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 1:22 PM

To: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>, Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>

Matt, Jim,

I am catching up on this email chain - I will weigh in shortly after I gather some facts and give it a little thought. We want everyone to have fair usage of our facilities, we will not play favorites either way - we just want to make sure usage is fair, safe and sustainable.

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2026 8:59:00 PM

To: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroAR.gov>

Access to Joe Mack

Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>
To: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>
Cc: Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Brian:

I appreciate your message and I want to be clear I am asking only to be treated like other people who have been accessing Joe Mack, specifically in December and January. To that end, the Olympic Development Program was provided access to both turf fields on December 21st, at no cost. Revolution Soccer advertised spring tryouts January 5th-15th. Of course, given my prior experience with Revolution soccer I know they are provided virtually unlimited access at no charge. Moreover, there is Winter Soccer Programming that has been advertised by the Parks Department in conjunction with Premier Training and the advertised location is Joe Mack with dates including December 9, 11, 16, 18, and January 5, 8, 13, 15, 20, & 22 and Premier Training is being compensated \$17.50 per player. I have also made a number of trips to the park and each time I have been by the park is in use, including, but not limited to the soccer fields.

I have exchanged approximately 15 text messages, and now exchanged 7 emails all in an attempt to reserve a field at Joe Mack. I think the public use of the facility is great, it is what the park is intended for. However, at this point I fail to see why literally hundreds of people can access and use the park, with and without reservation, but I am being denied the ability to use a field to practice the girls I volunteer to coach.

I look forward to being provided fair and equal access to Joe Mack.

Sincerely,

January Turf Field Practice Opportunities – Joe Mack Campbell Park

Jim Stearns <jestearns@jonesboroar.gov>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:25 PM

To: "mattm@jksinc.net" <mattm@jksinc.net>, "revsoccer.info@gmail.com" <revsoccer.info@gmail.com>, "neasoccerclub@gmail.com" <neasoccerclub@gmail.com>, "870fc.bono@gmail.com" <870fc.bono@gmail.com>

Cc: Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboroar.gov>, Mike Donahue <MDonahue@jonesboroar.gov>, Stephen Davis <SDavis@jonesboroar.gov>

Good afternoon,

After meeting with the Joe Mack Campbell Park Supervisor and our Soccer Coordinator, we have determined that, due to the unusually favorable weather conditions this January, limited practice opportunities will be offered on the turf fields at Joe Mack Campbell Park.

Our objective is to provide fair and efficient access to facilities while maintaining field quality and supporting club programming.

We hope to have a new standard operation procedure in place by the beginning of February to standardize scheduling operations.

The following guidelines will be in effect immediately through the end of January:

- Practice will be permitted **only on the turf fields**.
- Reservations will be granted on a **first-come, first-served basis**.
- Clubs may reserve **up to a two-hour practice block** per reservation.
- The rental fee is **\$20 per hour**. Payment will be collected by park staff at the time of reservation.
- Reservations may be made by calling the park office at **870-933-4604**, beginning **after noon on Tuesday, January 13**.
- **No practice will be allowed on grass fields at this time.**

We appreciate your cooperation and adherence to these guidelines as we manage field availability during this period.

If you prefer grass for your practice, or if the turf field reservations fill up, we have 1st come 1st serve practice spaces available at the youth center, allen park, University Lions – Northside park. If you need lights for later practices, Miles park is available by reservation by call the park office as well.

Thank you, and we look forward to working together.

870.476.1105



Public Statement from Premiere Training Academy:

Providing clarity & transparency regarding the conclusion of our partnership with Revolution.

Starting from the beginning:

On April 24, 2025, an email was shared with club families by the then-president of the Revolution F.C. committee announcing his decision to resign after several months of effort to stabilize and improve club operations. That communication outlined work undertaken to strengthen governance, facilities, programming, financial sustainability, and long-term infrastructure, including securing outside funding, developing tournaments and programming with meaningful economic impact, and proposing solutions to improve facility maintenance and scheduling. Despite these efforts, the committee cited ongoing limitations related to authority, financial transparency, and decision-making under City oversight, noting that repeated requests for clarity around budgeting and operational control went unresolved and ultimately prevented responsible execution of long-term plans.

Two days later, on April 26, 2025, the entire Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors issued a formal memorandum announcing its collective resignation, citing unresolved ethical, governance, and transparency concerns. The memorandum reiterated years of work to improve the player experience, expand programming, and generate community and economic impact, while identifying continued challenges related to financial reporting, facility access, counter-programming conflicts, and stalled communication after proposing the creation of a separate nonprofit entity to ensure clarity and accountability. Concluding it could no longer fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities under those conditions, the board elected to step down in full.



potential separation from City Stars, communicating upcoming tryout dates, engaging with coaches to confirm alignment with the committee's direction, establishing a new Arkansas Revolution board, continuing the Development Academy, clarifying field usage and associated fees, and implementing a transparent financial structure. The committee also stated its intent to communicate with City Stars leadership and the Parks and Recreation Director regarding governance and field usage agreements, to add Arkansas Revolution representation to the City Stars board, and to host an open forum for families, coaches, and community members. These commitments were presented as necessary steps toward ensuring a stable plan for the Fall 2025 season and reassuring families that solutions were actively being pursued.

Plans forward:

We were disappointed to see the committee step down, but we understood their decision given the frustrations and concerns they had outlined above. In the last few months, several of those concerns began to surface publicly, including federal investigations that further underscored the instability surrounding the club's governance. We had been working with members of the previous committee on programs we believed could make a meaningful difference for both the club and the broader community. These programs were designed to create additional pathways for players to pursue higher levels of competition, provide greater access to high-quality training at a lower cost, and equip players with resources to continue developing their skills outside of structured training environments.

Following the announcement of the committee's resignation, we made the decision to move forward with launching our own independent club. We submitted all required documentation to the Arkansas Soccer Association and received approval for our own charter. As we began preparing for that launch and shared preliminary messaging publicly, the newly appointed committee reached out to our Director of Soccer to request a meeting. Initially, we declined, as we were prepared to proceed independently. However, after repeated and thoughtful encouragement from our Director of Soccer. He who believed it was important to listen in the interest of minimizing disruption for players and families, so we agreed to meet.

On May 6, we met with one committee member, whom we understood to be representing the entire committee. During that meeting, we discussed our concerns, the rationale behind starting our own club, and the broader challenges facing Revolution F.C. The conversation included the topic of a transition of Revolution F.C. to Premiere Training Academy after approximately one year. This proposal captured our attention, as it presented an opportunity to reduce disrupti



considering all aspects of the proposal, we ultimately agreed to move forward in good faith.

Getting to work:

The partnership initially started in a positive and productive manner, with weekly meetings focused on items such as tryout structure and coordination, post-tryout evaluation meetings, preseason camp creation and organization, the development of a Skills and Drills program, a technical coaching proposal, a planned friendlies tournament, and broader discussions about the future of the club. These conversations centered on initiatives we believed would provide meaningful advantages for players and families.

Approximately two months into the partnership, during a scheduled meeting, the topic of transitioning Revolution F.C. to Premiere Training Academy was raised. One committee member stated she did not understand the transition. We referenced prior discussions and asked the committee member we had been meeting with if this was the same transition that had been discussed and agreed upon. That committee member then asked the other committee members whether they shared that understanding, and they confirmed that they did. There was conversation around them wanting to know our plan for the future of the club, which include structure of leaderships, additional program available, and plans of development.

Following that meeting, there were meeting canceled. We were then informed that the proposed meeting times and dates no longer worked. We offered multiple alternative dates and times, but were not consistently accepted. We were later told that the committee members were not meeting regularly; however, decisions continued to be made without our inclusion or input. These decisions included appointing a Director of Coaching, canceling the planned friendlies tournament after we had already reached out to multiple clubs, and altering the proposed technical coaching structure. What had been discussed as technical coaches by age group under the direction of our Director of Soccer shifted to assigning assistant coaches to every team that did not already have one, increasing potential costs for families.

We reached out on multiple occasions seeking clarity on how we could continue to support the club and were repeatedly told that no assistance was needed. Over time, it became clear to us that the partnership was no longer centered on what was best for players and families, but rather on was a way for Revolution to save face by leveraging Premiere Training Academy's established reputation and standing within the soccer community. Our willingness to partner in good faith



working toward one united club:

We had also been in talks with another club in town about working together to transition them into Premiere Training Academy as well to make one big club where all the talents of North Eastern Arkansas can combine and give us the ability to look at ENCL pathways for the club and keep more players in this area. Having one united club in NorthEast arkansas would allow to have all resources in one place, allowing for the hiring of good leadership in key positions and investing more into our coaching staff, along with other advantage for players and families.

Road map for the future Meeting:

On November 19, we held a meeting with the Revolution Committee, the then Director of Parks and Recreation, and the then Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation. The purpose of this meeting was to present the agreed-upon framework for transitioning Revolution F.C. to Premiere Training Academy. During this meeting, we presented a comprehensive plan covering the following areas:

- **Soccer leadership structure**, including defined roles for a Director of Coaching, Technical Director, administrative leadership, and additional positions intended to better equip the club
- **Curriculum and club philosophy**, designed to establish a consistent foundation and structure that could be followed from the top of the organization to the bottom
- **Training opportunities**, including camps, clinics, and position-specific training to support player development
- **Player advancement pathways**, providing players with the opportunity and access to compete at the highest levels
- **Packaged programs**, combining multiple offerings at discounted rates to improve accessibility for families
- **Economic growth**, through tournaments, leagues, and events hosted in Jonesboro
- **Recognition**, including annual acknowledgment of the commitment made by players, parents, coaches, and volunteers

870.476.1105



- **Technology integration**, such as game cameras, digital training platforms, and player development tools to improve on-field outcomes
- **Communication**, including monthly or bi-monthly newsletters and increased opportunities for parent meetings and engagement

After presenting these topics, we asked whether there was any additional information needed to move forward with the transition from Revolution F.C. to Premiere Training Academy. One committee member indicated that financial information was needed, citing concerns about staffing expenses incurred during the fall season, noting that those figures did not include field usage costs. During that discussion, the then Director of Parks and Recreation stated that while he believed the plan looked strong, he preferred to keep Revolution F.C. where it is (under his control) and have Premiere Training Academy involved only in a training capacity. We explained our concerns with that approach and reiterated our belief that a competitive soccer club is best operated by a business with clear leadership, accountability, and operational structure rather than by a board model.

We were reluctant to give our Financial projects to Revolution F.C. as we didn't want to give them more insight into our business plan that they already had. We felt like they weren't going to honor our deal especially after finding out they has been reach out to our staff about positions within the club.

Dissolution:

Articles were released about the business dissolution of Jonesboro City Stars Booster Club as of the 5th of December, this is the umbrella that Revolution F. C. is under. This came after the federal investigation into parks and recreation director.

New articles

KAIT Article

NEA reports Facebook

Nea Reports

Ending of the Partnership:



Given the continued lack of communication, exclusion from decisions that materially altered the direction of the club, absence of collaboration on key club issues, uncertainty surrounding Revolution F.C.'s ability to continue operating under a dissolved entity per information given in said articles, failure to provide clear intent regarding whether the original leadership transition agreement would be honored, active recruitment of Premiere Training Academy staff without our knowledge, and practices by the committee that appeared to disproportionately benefit select players, we concluded that remaining aligned with Revolution F.C. was no longer appropriate. As a result, we made the decision to formally separate from Revolution F.C. and officially end the partnership.

Looking Ahead:

Looking ahead, Premiere Training Academy will continue moving forward with the formation of our independent competitive soccer club for the upcoming fall season. Our mission is to provide high-quality, accessible soccer opportunities for all players in Northeast Arkansas who desire to compete and develop, regardless of background or starting point. This vision is rooted in the same principles we presented throughout our proposed transition plan: clear and accountable leadership, a unified curriculum and club philosophy, intentional player-development pathways, and a commitment to long-term stability.

We will offer structured training environments, camps, clinics, and position-specific development, integrate modern training and performance technology, and create opportunities for advancement to higher levels of competition. In addition, we remain committed to community engagement, recognition of the dedication shown by players, families, coaches, and volunteers, and hosting events that contribute positively to both the soccer community and the region as a whole.

Our focus remains centered on the player experience and building a sustainable club model that serves families and the broader Northeast Arkansas soccer community for years to come.

We will be announcing our **2026 calendar soon**, which will include tryouts, camps, clinics, academy training programs, leagues, and additional development opportunities.

We understand that change brings questions, and we want to ensure families have a clear way to get answers. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact us at coach@premierretrainingacademy.com We will continue to share updates as details are finalized.

WINTER SOCCER TRAINING ACADEMY

DRIBBLING

Session 1:
Dec 9 & 11

PASS/RECEIVE

Session 1:
Dec 16 & 18

SHOOTING

Session 1:
Jan 5 & 8

COMPETITION

Session 1:
Jan 13 & 15



Jonesboro Parks and Recreation

December 5, 2025



Winter Soccer Academy registrations are open!

Four categories of sessions remain open. Whether your child is just starting out or looking to sharpen their competitive edge, we have a session for everyone!

Location: Joe Mack Campbell Park

All sessions are outdoors, weather permitting

#JonesboroParksAndRecreation #JonesboroAlwaysMoving #Soccer #YouthSports

WINTER SOCCER

Arkansas Revolution F.C.

...



All Photos Reels Events Mentions

ARKANSAS REVOLUTION F.C.

All posts



Arkansas Revolution F.C.

4h ·

We are still looking to add a few more players for the spring season!



Arkansas Revolution F.C.

Dec 12, 2025 ·



3



4



7



Arkansas Revolution F.C.

Dec 12, 2025 ·



Home



Reels



Friends



Marketplace



Notifications



Profile

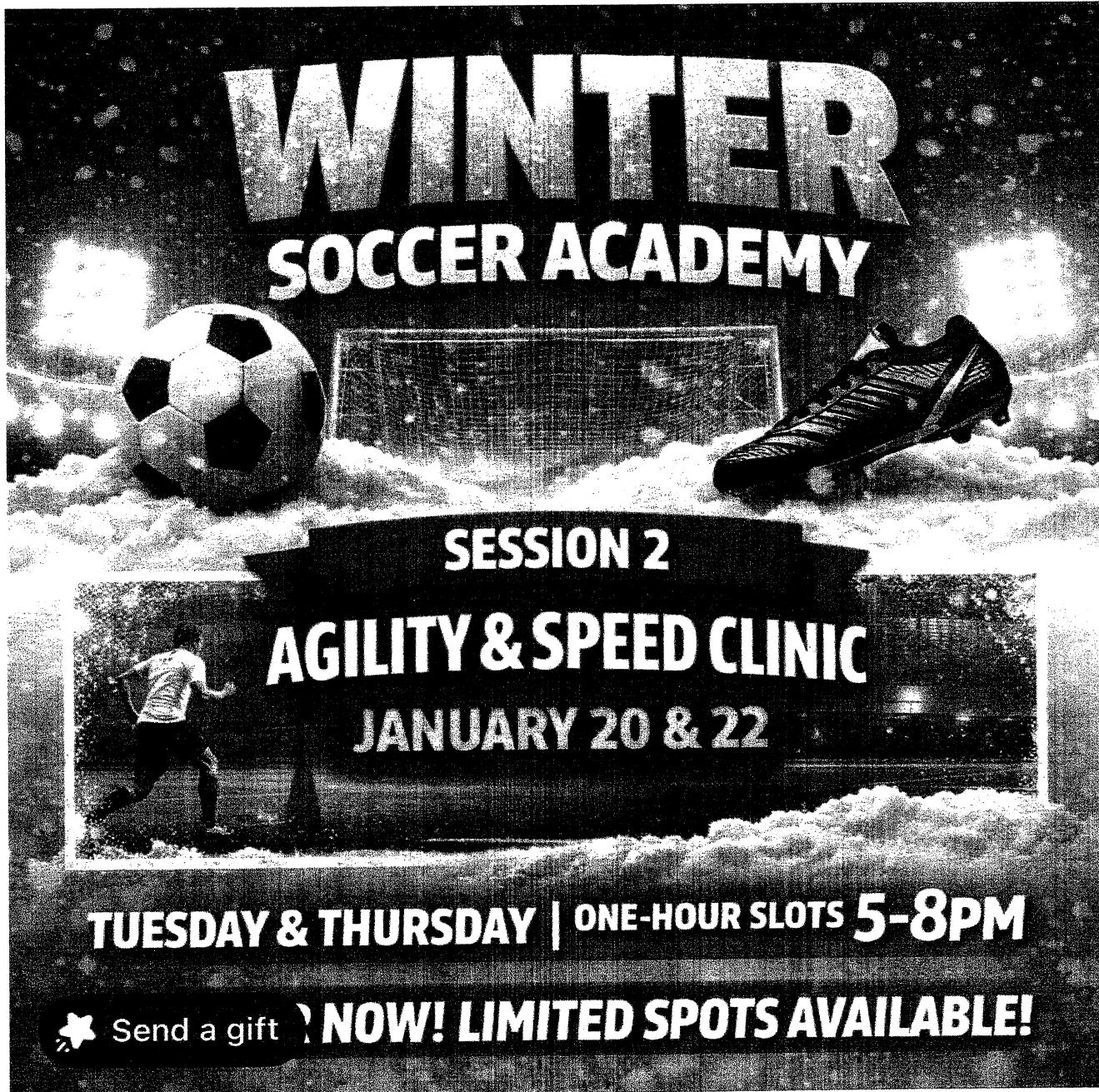


Jonesboro Parks and Recre... · Follow [...](#)

1h · ☽



Winter Soccer Academy – Agility &... See more



Are you interested in this post?

Interested

Not interested



1

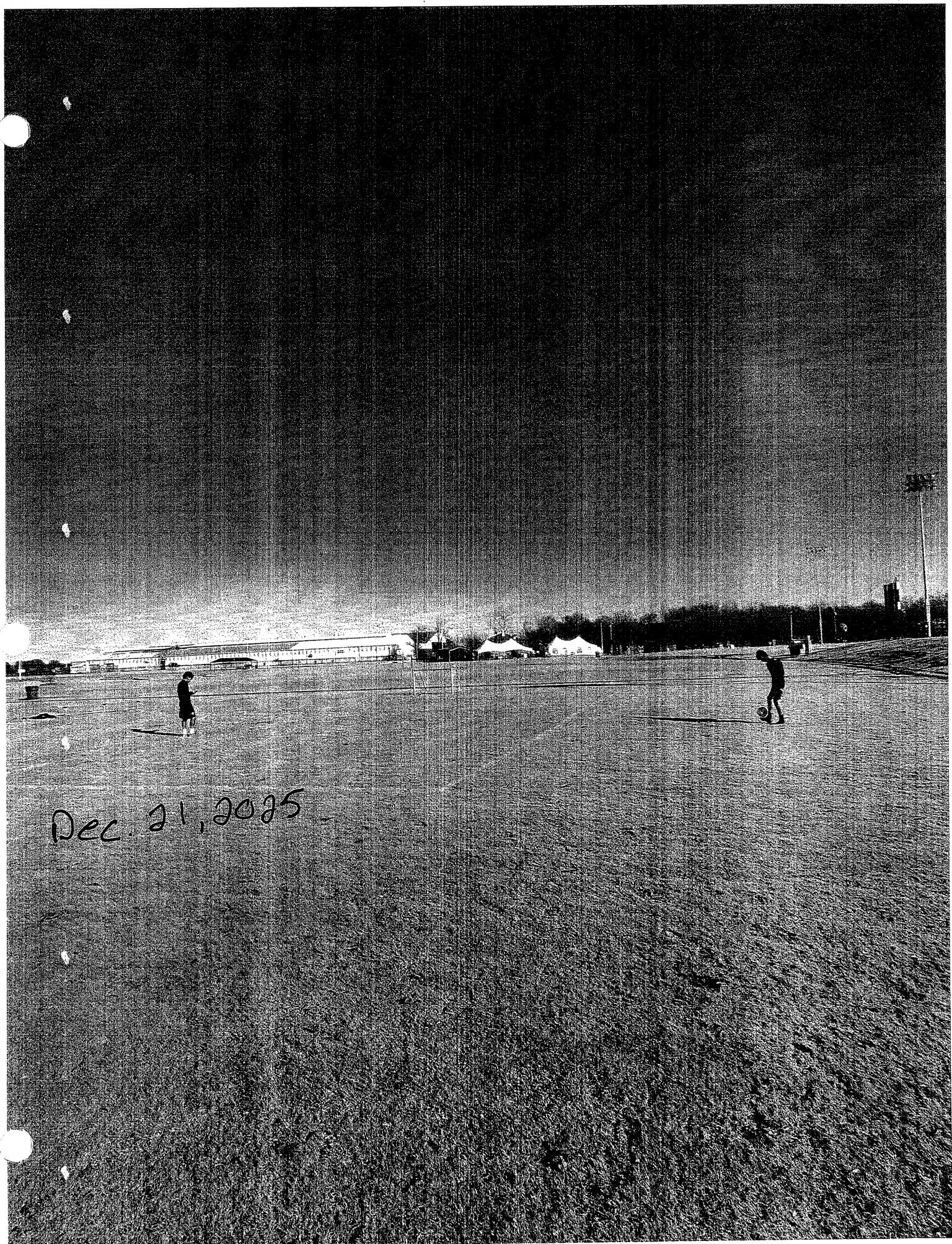


1



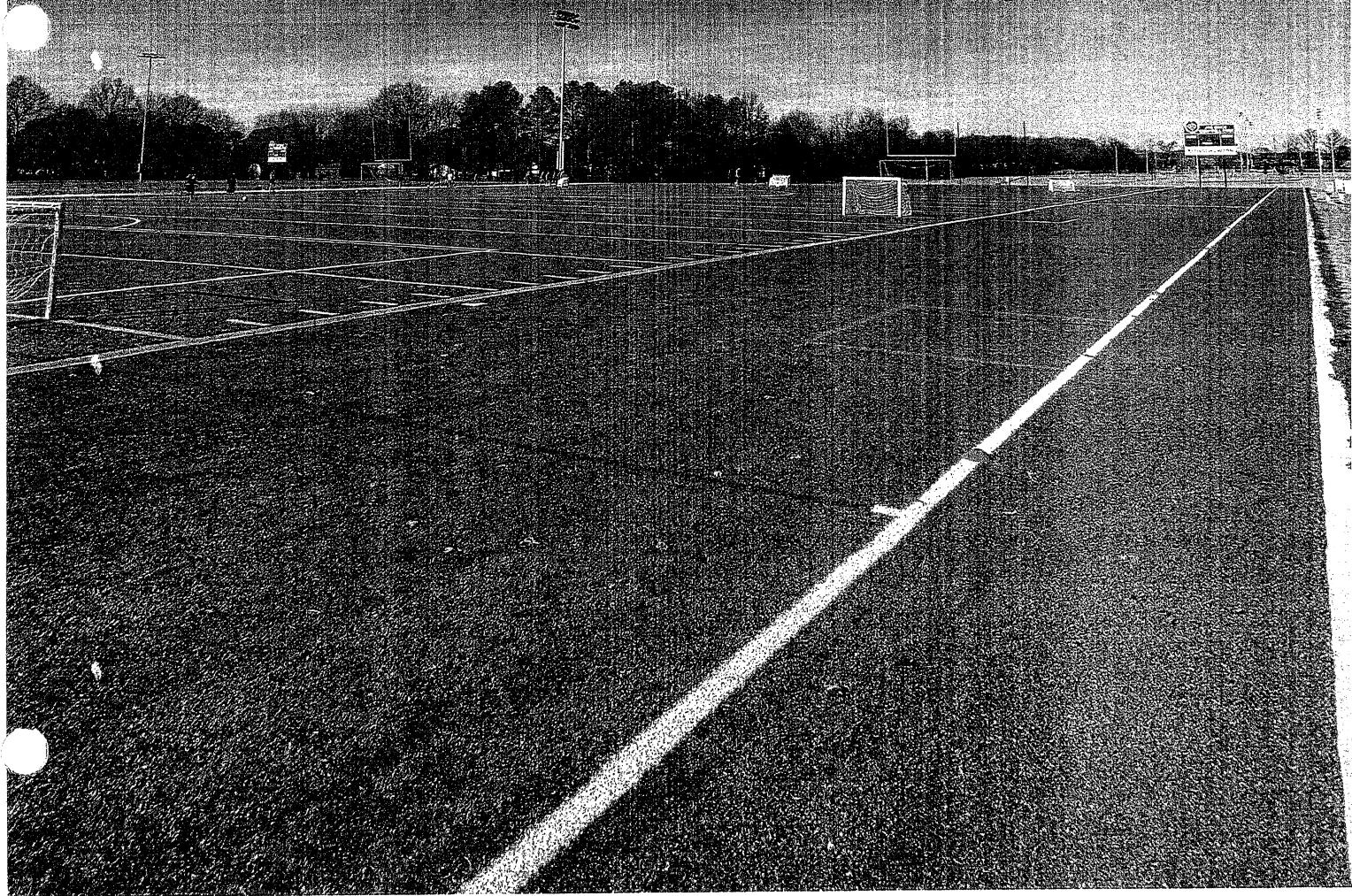
1



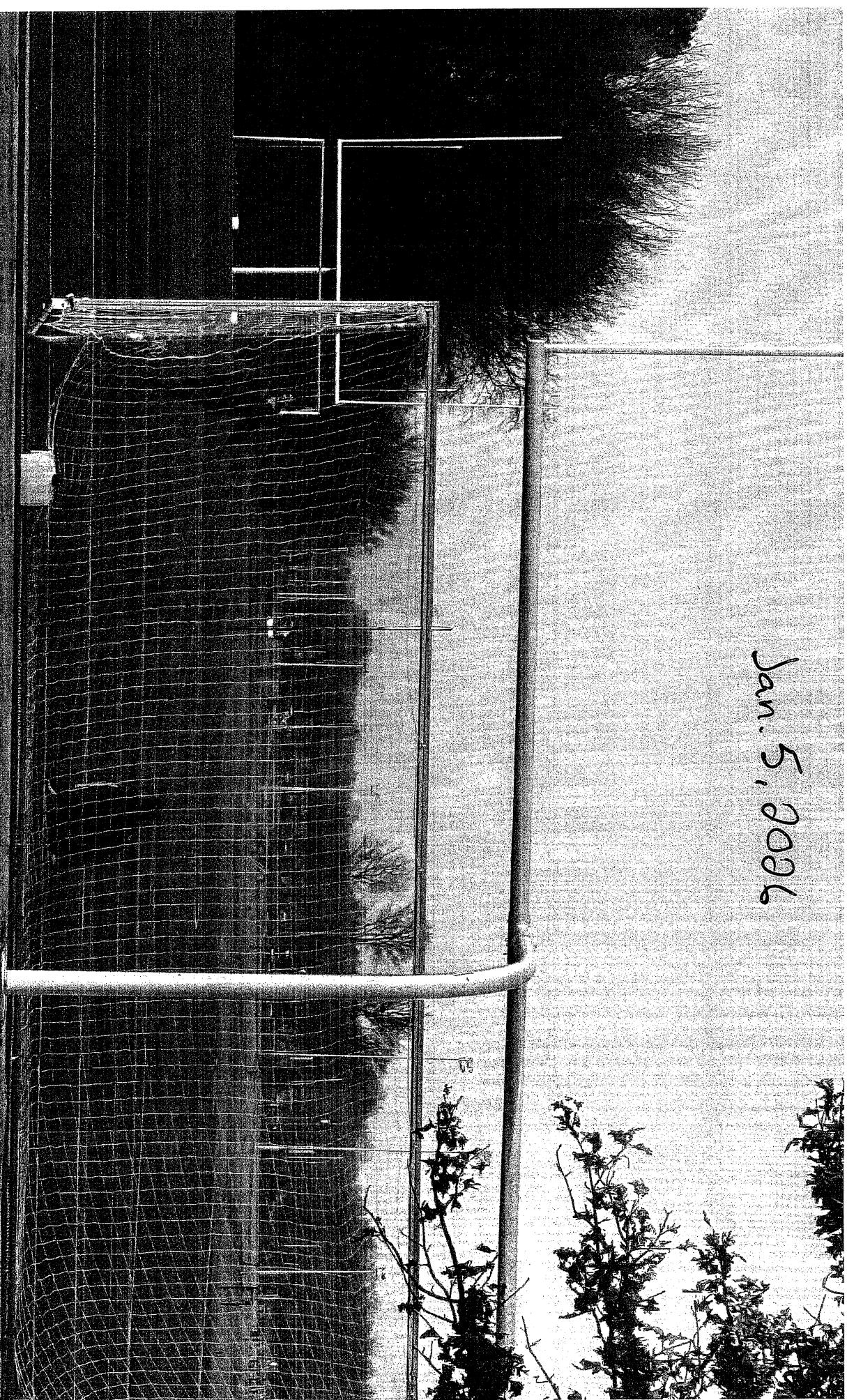


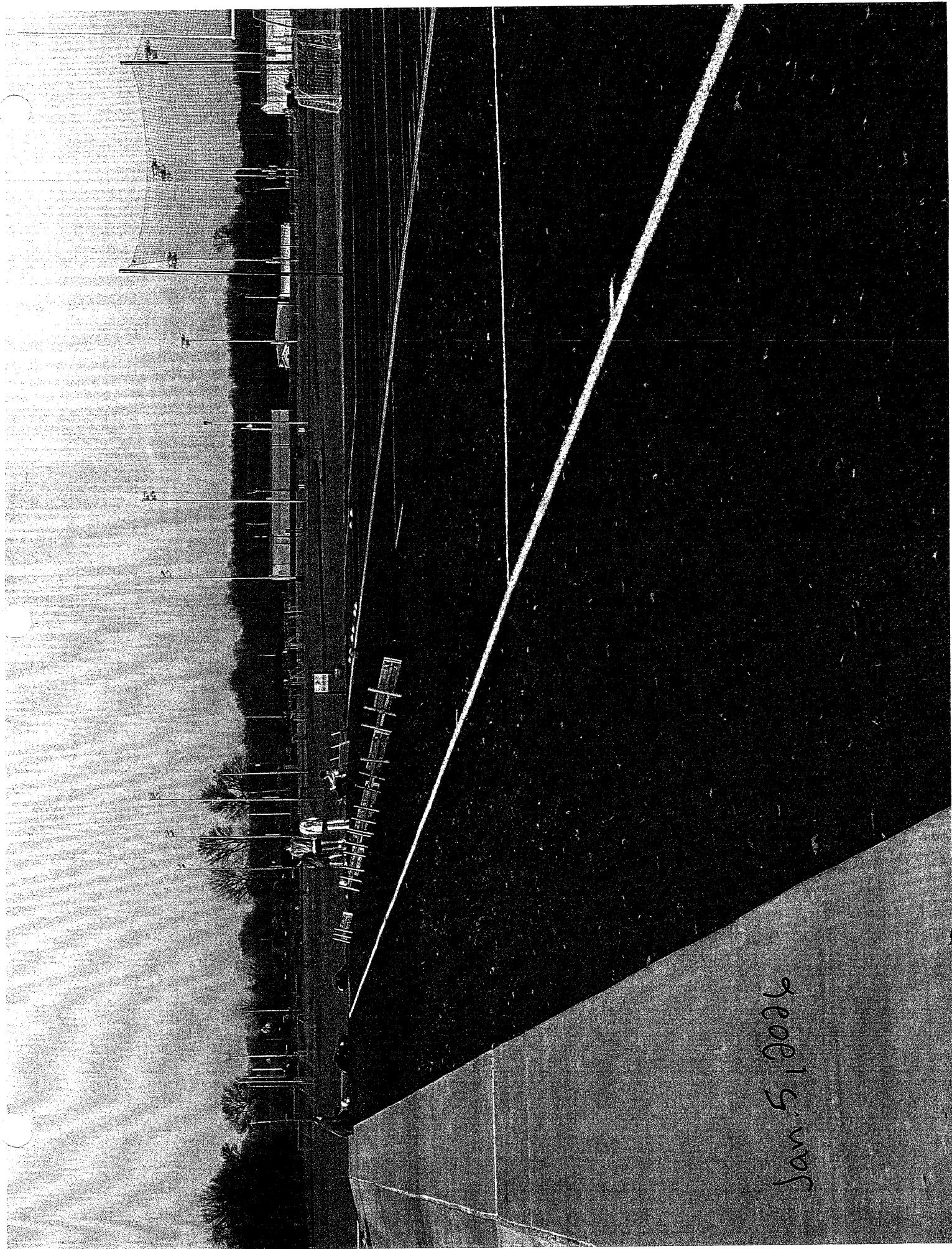
Dec. 21, 2025

Dec. 21, 2025



Jan. 5, 2006

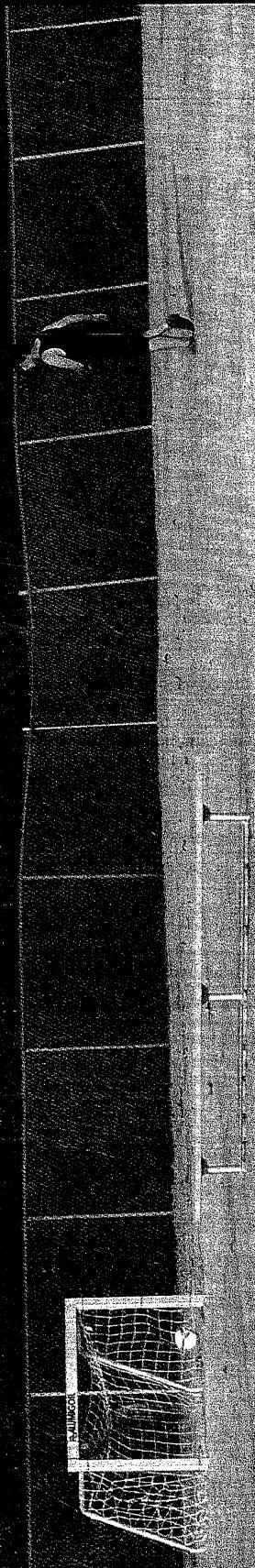
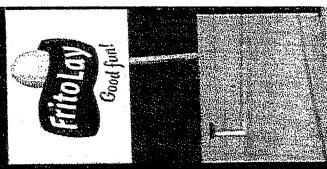




Jan 5, 2002

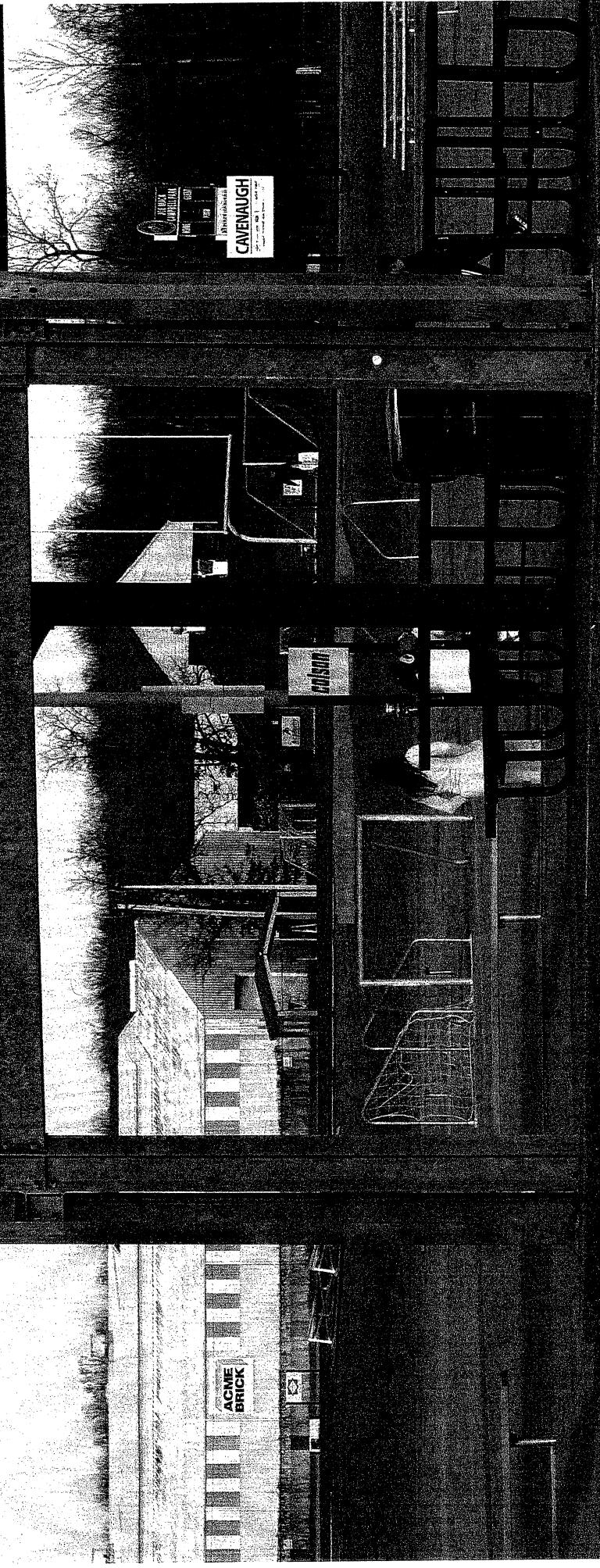
Jan. 5, 2006



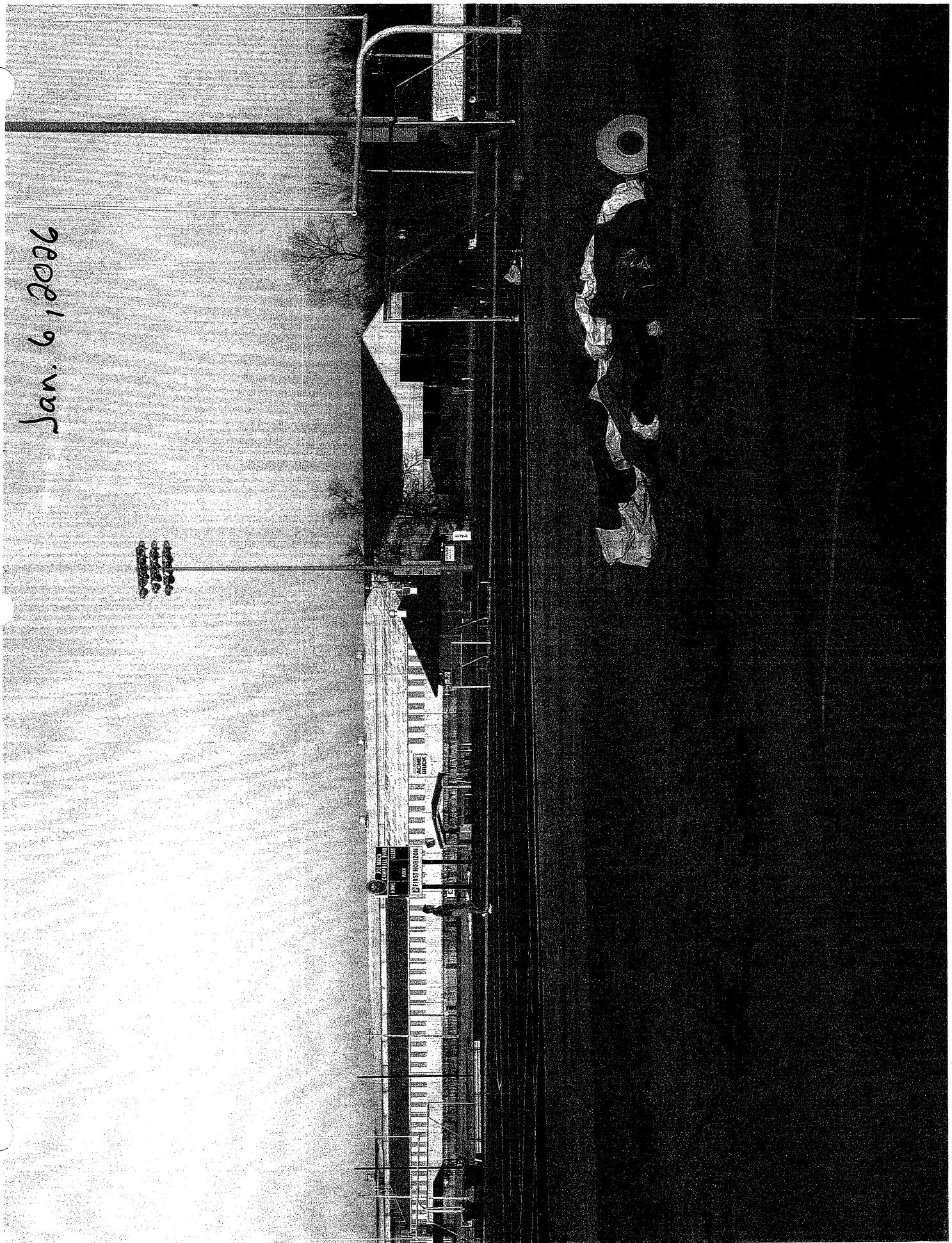


Jan 6, 2006

Jan. 6, 2006



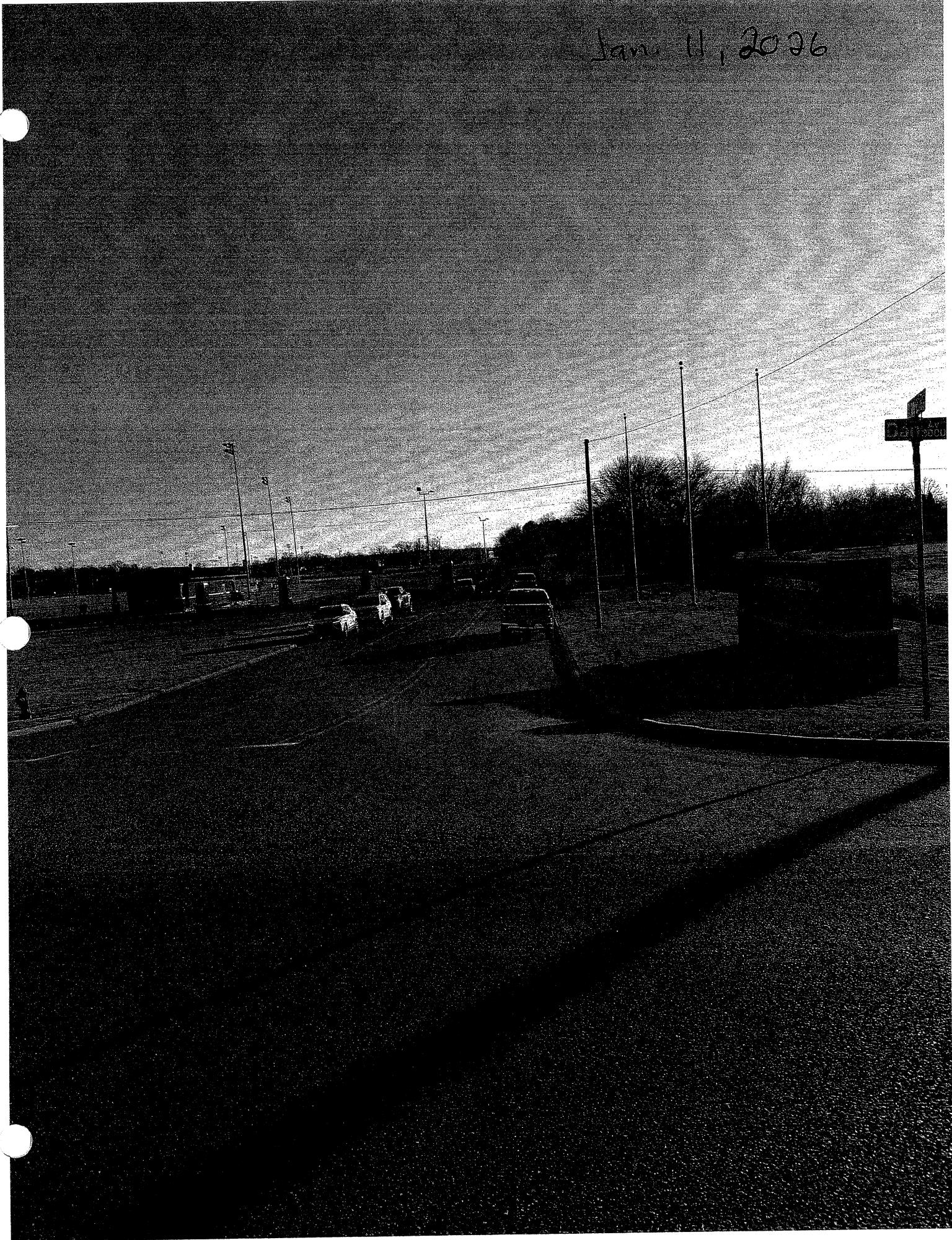
Jan. 6, 2006



Jan. 11, 2026



Jan. 11, 2026





9/20/01

City Stars / Sports Advisory Committee

Matt Modelevsky <mattm@jksinc.net>

Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 1:57 PM

To: "Harold Copenhaver (hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org)" <hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Jerry Morgan <jerry.morgan@fnbank.net>, jporter@jonesboro.org, bemison@jonesboro.org, ccoleman@jonesboro.org, cmoore@jonesboro.org, awilliams@jonesboro.org, cgibson@jonesboro.org, jstreet@jonesboro.org, kwmiller@jonesboro.org, lbryant@jonesboro.org, jahafner@jonesboro.org, acoleman@jonesboro.org, dmcclain@jonesboro.org

All:

As we all know, our community has made a significant investment in the future of sports and sports programming with the Ridge Athletic Facility. We can all agree that as a community we want to position ourselves to provide our youth with the most impactful opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities as those sports provide a positive pathway for development and growth.

Clearly, the news of the past week has created upheaval in our youth sports programming. For over a year we have expressed concerns to the Mayor and City Administration regarding City Stars. These concerns have included, but are not limited to, concerns regarding the structure of City Stars, the myriad of potential conflicts involving City Stars and the city, the use of city assets and facilities by City Stars without a valid agreement with the city, city employees being the primary board members of City Stars, and perhaps most importantly we have repeatedly raised numerous concerns regarding the finances and financial representations made by those involved with City Stars. These concerns were ignored or minimized by the Mayor and the administration until the Department of Justice investigation was made public. While the dissolution of City Stars appears to be a necessary step as we move forward as a community, we are at a crossroads when it comes to deciding how to proceed.

While change can be difficult, it also presents our community the opportunity to be thoughtful in how we proceed so that we can ensure that the steps taken provide for minimal disruption in the short term but also allows us to create a structure for long term success both with the quality of programming available to our youth, and our ability to maximize sports tourism opportunities for years to come. Accordingly, at this time we would encourage that any stop-gap measures that are taken be temporary and that we engage in discussions about the best way to move forward in securing the best programming and events for our kids and community both now and for the years to come.

Specifically, we recommend that an outside citizen group be created to review sports programming and sports tourism. We all have a vested interest in getting this right, so let's take

the time and opportunity to do just that. At this time, we would ask that the City Council take action to set up a sports advisory committee with representatives from the City Council, A&P Commission, and the Public Facilities Board to assist in guiding us through this important process. Please let us know if this can be added to an upcoming City Council agenda for discussion.

Thanks

Matt Modelevsky

Chairman of the Public Facilities Board

and

Jerry Morgan

Chairman of the A&P Commission

Please note these are the personal opinions of Matt Modelevsky and Jerry Morgan and have not been approved by or made on behalf of the Public Facilities Board or A&P Commission