

The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, January 3, 2024

No. 25



THE NEW YEAR COMES IN WITH A BANG



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

Families all over Bradley County welcomed 2024 with colorful fireworks.

Bradley County Medical Center talks about Meditech in Dec. meeting

By JOANNA POOLE
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

The Bradley County Medical Center board met on December 28, 2023, to discuss various items. The meeting was opened with the minutes from November.

The financial report was given for December. Senior care is up 53 percent from November and total gross patient revenue was \$3.8 million. The net operating revenue was \$1.5 million. There was a net loss of \$272,000.00. Cash increased \$30,000.00 and accounts receivable was down seven percent from last month which was a total of \$630,000.00. Sales tax came to a total of \$123,000.00.

From there, the board heard executive updates from Leslie Huitt, Jamie Wolfe, and Leeanna Williams.

Huitt reported that positive things in November included a decrease in the accounts receivable balance of \$630,000.00, and a \$30,000.00 increase in cash making that the first time an increase had been seen in a few months. The hospital was able to put \$40,000.00 back in reserve funds due to the closing out of CD's and the reinvest-



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

ment of interest.

The board should continue to see expenditures improve with the closing of the OB department.

"The turnaround in cash in just one month has been pretty phenomenal," Huitt said.

One of the largest things that hospital staff is focusing on at the moment is the transition to Meditech. Meditech is a completely new software system for the hospital and clinic that will cause everything from patient

registration to billing to change. The projected start date for Meditech is January 23, 2024, which the hospital staff refers to as the "go live" date. During this time, the staff asks for understanding and patience.

Jamie Wolfe reported that there have been large increases in the medsurge area. COVID has picked up, however, numbers are not as bad as last year. Illnesses have been milder this year. However, more employees have been out sick.

"We are definitely in that prime time right now for respiratory illnesses," Wolfe said.

He also reported that there has been an uptick in flu and RSV cases.

Senior care has seen significant increases. On multiple days, there have been six to seven patients.

Leeanna Williams reported that there will be small changes to policies starting in January. When the hospital moved over to an electronic system, more

time had to be spent reviewing policies. The current three-step process involves manager review, policy committee review, and then going before the entire board. The goal is to keep the first two steps but turn the last step into giving a paper form to board members Freddie Moble and Dr. Joe Wharton for signatures.

On December 27, 2023, a few hospitals around the state received bomb threats via email, but BCMC has not received any

threats. However, to prepare the hospital staff, an email was sent out containing a release from the Arkansas Hospital Association saying that they were aware of the threats. The release also said that the hospitals that had reported the threats had been checked and cleared.

The date of the next meeting will be announced in the coming weeks due to the start of Meditech.

Bradley County Medical Center hosts blood drive



Photo courtesy of BCMC Facebook

The LifeShare Bus was at the Bradley County Medical Center Rural Health Clinic for a blood drive on Friday, December 29, 2023.

LADY JACKS SCORE FIRST VICTORY OF THE SEASON



Robert Camp/Eagle Democrat

Lady Jacks scored their first win of the season with a 46-19 victory over Junction City in the Commercial Bank Southeast Arkansas Holiday Tournament at Drew Central Wednesday Night. Freshman Breize Fellows led all scores with 25 points. Another addition to the Lady Jack lineup was Freshman Livi McKinney who added a strong presence on the boards as well as nine points in the paint.

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Holding its own

By **REX NELSON**
Senior Editor, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

I'm standing at the front door of the Trotter House in Monticello, wishing I had spent the night at this bed-and-breakfast inn rather than at a chain motel. Operated by the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the house was built by Virgil Josephus Trotter shortly before his marriage to Willie Ada Ford in 1896. Trotter had left the farm on which he was raised and gone into business at Monticello.

The mercantile store Trotter founded in 1887 remained in business until it was sold to the Van Atkins chain in 1962. The house was enlarged twice, as a family with eight children required more space. It was the first house in Monticello with an indoor sewage system. Fireplaces were used to heat the home until gas heaters were installed in 1950. Trotter lived to age 100 and died in the house in 1956.

"The large attic was once used as a roller skating rink by two of Trotter's sons, and it wasn't unusual to find the boys running about on the roof of an adjacent carriage house," a UAM history of the Trotter House states. "A fig tree in the back yard sank its roots beneath the original three-hole toilet in the carriage house and still bears fruit today."

Trotter's descendants went on to establish the well-known Trotter automobile dealerships in Pine Bluff. The fact that UAM now owns the home is a reminder of the importance of the university, which is the subject of the cover story in today's Perspective section. While most of southeast Arkansas has been bleeding population for the past 40 years, Monticello has held its own because it's a college town. It's the largest town in the region south of Pine Bluff.

Monticello survived in part because it has been a center for education since the 1800s in a rural area not usually known for educational opportunities.

"Rodgers Female Academy closed during the Civil War and reopened as Wood Thompson School for Boys," writes southeast Arkansas historian Rebecca DeArmond-Huskey. "The name

changed to Thompson High School when it become co-educational. Phi Kappa Sigma Male College was organized in 1859 by James William Barrow, who named it after his college fraternity. The Monticello Male Academy and Bessilieu Schoolhouse opened soon after the Civil War. Hinemom University, under the leadership of John H. Hinemom, was established in 1890.

"The first public school opened in 1876 for a three-month session, and a nine-month school opened in 1883. The name changed to Monticello High School in 1910. A private school for Black students, known as Monticello Academy, was established in the late 1890s. A public school for Black students opened in the late 1920s."

Monticello was chosen as the site of the Fourth District State Agricultural School, and classes began in 1910. The name was changed to Arkansas Agricultural & Mechanical College in 1935. Arkansas A&M became part of the University of Arkansas System in 1971.

Peggy Doss, a native of nearby Warren, is the first UAM graduate to serve as chancellor. Doss earned a master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a doctoral degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She spent a decade as the dean of UAM's School of Education and was later provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. She became chancellor on Jan. 1, 2020. As a southeast Arkansas native, she understands what UAM means to this region of the state.

After we tour the Trotter House, Doss tells me about the school's restoration of the Taylor House on the Hollywood Plantation, on the west bank of Bayou Bartholomew near Winchester. The plantation once covered 11,000 acres and was worked by more than 100 slaves.

"After the Civil War, Hollywood transitioned from slavery to free labor," writes UAM historian Kyle Day. "The Taylors permanently relocated to Hollywood in 1876 after selling their Kentucky home. The family occupied the house until the 1940s when descendants start-

ed selling the surrounding land. The house was thereafter used to store farm machinery and boats used for duck hunting. In 2012, John Hancock of El Campo, Texas, donated the Taylor House to UAM for historical research and interpretation.

"UAM began restoring the house and adjacent grounds to how they appeared in the earliest known photographs. Funded by almost \$1.8 million in state grants, restoration was undertaken in four phases. ... UAM announced plans to use the house as a public teaching tool whereby faculty members can train students in historical and archaeological research, museum interpretation and administration of a heritage site. The Taylor House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1995."

UAM also owns the law office on Xenophon Overton Pindall in Arkansas City. Pindall practiced in the building before becoming acting governor in 1907. The structure was built in 1882 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in May 1999.

"Pindall practiced law in Arkansas City for decades as well as maintaining an office in Little Rock," Day writes. "Pindall was prominent in Democratic politics, representing the 17th District in the Arkansas Senate, which at the time included Desha and Drew counties. As the Senate's president pro tempore, Pindall served as interim governor beginning May 14, 1907, soon after incumbent Democratic Gov. John Sebastian Little resigned due to mental illness.

"Pindall's most notable accomplishment during his brief term of office was in prison reform. He initiated policies that marked the ultimate end of the convict-lease system. Pindall served until the inauguration of duly elected Democratic Gov. George Washington Donaghey on Jan. 11, 1909. Upon his return to the Senate, Pindall helped secure passage of Act 100 of 1909, which established four district agricultural schools."

In addition to what's now UAM, the other schools Pindall helped establish are now Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia and Arkansas Tech University at Russellville.

The law office survived the great Mississippi River floods of 1927 and 1937. It was donated to UAM in December 2013 by Robert Moore Jr., a former speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives and former chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission. The Taylor House and Pindall law office are examples of how UAM plays the leading role in preserving the rich history of southeast Arkansas.

In 1945, Hugh Critz, the school's president, hired Henry "Hank" Chamberlin, a noted forester, to establish a forestry program. He began what's now the only forestry program in the state with three students. Chamberlin was born in Pennsylvania in 1913. He was the son of a barber and the youngest of four children. He received a bachelor's degree in forestry from Penn State and a master's degree in forestry from Yale.

"Chamberlin was working at Louisiana State University as head of the forestry program when he was offered a posting at Arkansas A&M," Paula Reaves writes for the Central Arkansas Library System's Encyclopedia of Arkansas. "He said he would stay one year. ... Beginning a forestry school wasn't an easy task. There was no money for equipment and no classroom space. Chamberlin lived in one of the dormitories and ate meals in the cafeteria as part of his salary. The forestry school later was given some space on the third floor of a classroom building.

"The number of students grew to 57 by the end of the first semester and continued to increase. Budget issues were always a problem. Chamberlin and other professors paid out of pocket for things such as paper and postage. They had to justify every purchase. Chamberlin remained head of the forestry school until 1972 and taught until 1980. He taught every student who came through the program during his time as head of the school."

The program received accreditation from the Society of American Foresters in 1984. In 1995, the building housing the school was named for Chamberlin. Forestry is now UAM's best-known academic program. Like the school itself, it has had a major impact on southeast Arkansas.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Public Meeting

The Southeast Bradley County Water District Public Water Authority of the State of Arkansas will be having their annual public meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 6:00 pm at the SEBCWD Water Office Board Room located at 320 South Main Street, Hermitage Arkansas.

Weaver appointed Director of Government Affairs for U of A Division of AG

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Jeff Weaver will be joining the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture as its director for government affairs and stakeholder engagement, a new position, starting January 2.

"Jeff is a perfect fit to fill a critical position on our team," said Deacue Fields, vice president-agriculture for the University of Arkansas System. "Jeff brings a wealth of experience not only within the U of A System, but also the workings inside the Beltway and its impacts within Arkansas. Jeff also has a solid track record for development, which will be of great benefit to the Division of Agriculture."

"I am excited to take my experience in government relations and fundraising to support the research and outreach the Division has been conducting for decades," Weaver said. "I thank Dr. Fields for this opportunity. He has assembled a great team, and I am thrilled to be a part of that group."

Weaver also expressed thanks to the University of Arkansas at Monticello for the opportunity to work for his alma mater, an institution he says has been "vital to the growth and sustainability of the Arkansas Delta."

In his new position, Weaver will handle in-state government affairs and coordinate fundraising from a base in Little Rock. Chuck Culver, assistant vice president and director of external relations, will continue working with Congress and development efforts.

"I am looking forward to advocating for the research and outreach that supports Arkansas' largest industry," Weaver said. "I'm impressed with the diversity of projects and missions of the Division of Agriculture. I want to be able to convey that breadth of work to our elected officials."

A native of the Arkansas Delta, Weaver said he has a passion for rural development.

"Growing up in Dumas, I see how important it is for our smaller towns that rely on farming to have the support to be sustainable," he said.

Weaver has served as vice

chancellor for advancement at the University of Arkansas at Monticello since 2018. During his tenure, UAM raised more than \$16 million and created 37 endowments, and gained its two largest private gifts in the school's history.

Between June 2015 and June 2018, he was vice president for external affairs at National Park College in Hot Springs. His prior posts include campaign manager for U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, state director for U.S. Rep. Mike Ross, and field director for U.S. Rep. Marion Berry. Prior to that, he was a graduate assistant intern for U.S. Sen. Blanche Lambert Lincoln.

"My interest in public policy and politics started in college," Weaver said. "I was fortunate to work for a few great public servants and really get a 30,000 foot view of the state by being a congressional staffer."

"Agriculture and education were always important topics because one is the state's largest industry, and the other, in my opinion, is the most transformative issue for the Arkansas Delta," he said. "The Division of Agriculture has a great reputation, and the University of Arkansas System is the gold standard when it comes to research and education and getting that research in the hands of the farmers."

Weaver served on the UAM Alumni Foundation Board and was named among Arkansas Business' 40 under 40 in 2008. In 2016 and 2017, he earned nine Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations with National Park College.

Weaver earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and his bachelor's in political science from the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Weaver and his wife Aimee have two daughters, Lauren and Ella. Lauren, of Bentonville, is a healthcare marketing consultant. Ella is a sophomore in high school. Aimee is a former small business owner who was director of the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center at UAM.

Governor Sanders signs Caregiving Proclamation

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed on Wednesday, Nov. 29, a proclamation stating that Nov. 2023 is "Family Caregivers Month in Arkansas." The proclamation was requested by AARP Arkansas on behalf of the more than 420,000 unpaid caregivers in our state.



SANDERS

annually. This unpaid care can be valued at \$5.8 million."

AARP further notes that 61 percent of family caregivers work either full time or part time and face financial risks, such as lost income, reduced career opportunities and savings; and that nearly 36 percent of Arkansans are 50-years of age or older.

"One of the reasons we are so passionate about advocating for this particular group

is because by the year 2034, adults aged 65 and older will outnumber children under the age of 18," said McBride. "As our population ages and the pool of those available to care for those in need decreases, we could find ourselves in a care-

giver crisis."

McBride continues saying, "Caregiving is a bipartisan issue that transcends geography and socio-economic factors. If there is an issue all Arkansans can get behind, it is caregiving."

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS.

Delta Family Center, a psychiatric residential treatment center for adolescents, is looking for qualified individuals to work as a

- MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST •
- RN OR LPN •
- BEHAVIOR COACH •

Qualifications: Must be 21 years of age, pass state police and child maltreatment background checks, and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.

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JOB OPENINGS

The City of Warren is currently accepting applications for a full-time Dispatcher for the Warren Police Department.

The City of Warren is currently accepting applications for a Full-time and Part-time Patrolmen for the Warren Police Department. (Certified preferred) Applicants must be able to pass an extensive background investigation.

Applications may be obtained at the Warren Police Department, 200 Alabama Street, Warren, AR 71671, or by calling (870) 226-3703.

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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LUDIE MAE NICHOLS, DECEASED

NO. 06PR-23-10-2

AFFIDAVIT FOR COLLECTION OF SMALL ESTATE BY DISTRIBUTEES

Comes LORETTA JANE NICHOLS WEIER, for the purpose of dispensing with administration of the estate of LUDIE MAE NICHOLS, deceased,

1. The decedent, Ludie Mae Nichols, aged 93, who resided at Warren, Arkansas, died at Warren, Arkansas on May 26, 2018. No petition for the appointment of a personal representative for the decedent's estate is pending or has been granted.

2. More than 45 days have elapsed since the death of the decedent.

3. The value, less encumbrances, of all property owned by the decedent at the time of death, excluding the homestead and statutory allowances for the benefit of the surviving spouse or minor children, if any, of the decedent, does not exceed \$100,000.

4. An itemized description and separate valuation of each item of property of the decedent, including the homestead, if any, and the names and addresses of the persons having possession thereof, are as follows:

Description of Property and Extent and Details of SEE EXHIBITS A AND B attached HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF	Valuation Less Encumbrances Less than \$100,000	In Possession of:

5. There are no unpaid claims or demands against the decedent or estate.

6. The Department of Human Services furnished no federal or state benefits to the decedent, or, if any such benefits were furnished, the Department of Human Services has been reimbursed in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

7. The names, ages, relationships to the decedent and residence addresses of the persons entitled to receive the property of the decedent as surviving spouse, heirs devisees are:

Name: Cary Don Nichols, Deceased

Name: Margaret Elizabeth Nichols, Deceased

Name: Ervin Elton Nichols, Deceased

Name: Queffa Diane Nichols Hatch Age: Adult Relationship: Daughter

Name: Loretta Jane Nichols Weier, Designated Beneficiary Distributee Age: Adult

Relationship: Daughter Residence Address: Warren, Arkansas

THEREFORE, the distributees of this estate shall be entitled to distribution of the property identified above, without the necessity of an order of the Court or other proceeding, upon furnishing a copy of this Affidavit.

/s/Loretta Jane Nichols Weier

EXHIBIT "B" TO AFFIDAVIT FOR COLLECTION OF SMALL ESTATE BY DISTRIBUTEES FOR LUDIE MAE NICHOLS, DECEASED

Queffa Diane Hatch

5-1-2019 FROM QUEFFA DIANE HATCH Too Pecos River Operating Enclosed are Division Orders to Transfer my Interest in The Title Change From Ms Ludie Mae Nichols Too Loretta Jane Weier.

/s/Queffa Diane Hatch

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

The undersigned Clerk of the Circuit Court, Probate Division, of Bradley County, Arkansas, certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of an Affidavit filed in this Court on the 3rd day of February, 2023 that the same remains on file and that no petition for the appointment of a personal representative of the estate described in the caption has been filed in this Court.

DATED this 3rd day of February, 2023.

/s/Karen Belin, Clerk

12/27 1/3

More than one-third of Christmas tree home fires occur in January

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

More than 34 percent of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk."

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest statistics from NFPA, there was an estimated annual average of 150 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in one civilian death, 10 civilian injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017 and 2021. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each

year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.



NOTICE

Desha Co Private-Sector nomination & election on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 5:30pm.

The location for the event:

First Baptist of Pickens

338 Pickens Rd, Pickens, AR 71662

All Desha County residents and candidates are invited to attend.

JOB OPENING

The City of Warren is currently accepting applications for a Full-time and Part-time Patrolmen for the Warren Police Department.

(Certified preferred) Applicants must be able to pass an extensive background investigation.

Applications may be obtained at the Warren Police Department, 200 Alabama Street, Warren, AR 71671, or by calling (870) 226-3703.

The City of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

Warren School District Job Opening

The Warren School District is searching for a Bilingual Paraprofessional to work closely with assigned students.

Qualifications for this position are as follows:

Associate Degree or 60 college credit hours, must pass the Paraprofessional Praxis, and if hired, complete a background check \$38.25 and Child Maltreatment Check \$11.00, Total Cost \$49.25.

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STEP INTO THE NEW YEAR

ON A STEADY NOTE

Partner with the Community Builder



2024



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The Eagle Democrat

Editorial

Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw
Ark. State Representative



Many of the laws we passed in 2023 take effect on January 1, 2024. These new laws impact everything from taxes to criminal justice.

Act 10 of the 2023 Extraordinary Session reduces the top personal income tax rate from 4.7 percent to 4.4 percent for tax years beginning January 1, 2024. The act also reduces the corporate income tax rate from 5.1 percent to 4.8 percent.

Act 485 of the 2023 Regular Session phases out the income tax apportionment throwback rule over seven years. The sections of the act phasing out the throwback rule are effective for tax years beginning January 1, 2024.

Other acts passed during the 2023 Regular Session that become effective on January 1, include the following:

Act 811 requires each public high school campus to have a clearly visible and labeled opioid overdose rescue kit and requires that the location of each opioid overdose rescue kit be registered with the school nurse and school resource officer of each public high school. This act also requires that each state-supported higher education campus also have an opioid overdose rescue kit in certain locations.

Act 300 changes the date for special elections on measures and questions to the preferential primary election or general election date and defines what constitutes an emergency special election.

Act 316 requires screening for depression for birth mothers within the first six weeks after birth and mandates that an insurance policy shall cover the cost of the screening.

Act 196 reduces the maximum potential unemployment compensation benefits. It also establishes the contribution rates of employers.

Act 106 disqualifies an individual from unemployment benefits if he or she fails to accept suitable work within five business days or fails to appear for a previously scheduled job interview on at least two occasions without notification.

Act 587 requires an individual who submits a claim for unemployment benefits to complete at least five work search contacts per week to be eligible for unemployment benefits for the week.

Act 160 requires a public housing authority to request federal approval if necessary to implement a work requirement for able-bodied adults in households that receive housing assistance.

Several provisions of the Protect Arkansas Act also take effect also January 1, 2024. These provisions include requiring persons convicted of the most serious offenses to serve a greater percentage of their sentence prior to release.

You can find a complete summary of all the legislation passed this year at arkansashouse.org.

Arkansas History Minute

by
Dr. Kenneth Bridges



For decades, they have been a common site for weary travelers along the highways of America. The Holiday Inn has become one of the largest hotel chains in the United States. And the story of the iconic hotel has its roots in one small town in Arkansas.

Charles Kemmons Wilson, the founder of the corporation, was born in Osceola in 1913. His father was an insurance salesman, and his mother was a homemaker. Tragedy marred his early life when his father died in an automobile accident when he was nine months old. Forced to find work, his mother took him to Memphis where she found work as a dental assistant. Wilson proved to be very determined and very enterprising at a young age. When he was six, he began selling subscriptions to the popular Saturday Evening Post and soon began a paper route delivering the local Memphis newspaper. When the Great Depression hit, Wilson's mother lost her job, forcing him to quit high school and take any manner of odd jobs to support him and his mother.

He soon borrowed \$50 from a friend to buy a popcorn machine and started selling popcorn at a local movie theater. It was wildly successful. He soon started buying pinball machines and racking up a tidy profit in the process. By 1933, he had saved up \$1,300 (or almost \$31,000 in modern dollars). He expanded his business by setting up coin-operated jukeboxes in small diners across the city. In the 1940s, he began moving into property. He began a home construction business, and with postwar housing demands, business was brisk. He hired his mother as vice-president to help advise on decorating details for the new houses. Wilson soon teamed up with another Memphis homebuilder, Wallace E. Johnson, and the two soon became the most successful homebuilders in the South. By 1950, Wilson had amassed a fortune of over \$1 million (or \$13 million in modern dollars). While this would have been an impressive rags-to-riches story for a paperboy and popcorn salesman to become a millionaire, it was the only the beginning.

In 1951, Wilson took his wife and five children on a road trip. As he traveled, he was disappointed by many roadside motels and began thinking of ways to set up his own chain of hotels. He began devising a hotel that would be the best of what 1950s America had to offer the traveler – mid-range room prices with air conditioning and TV sets. His partner Johnson was impressed with the idea, and they asked their architect Eddie Bluestein to start coming up with designs. But they still needed a name. It was Bluestein who half-jokingly suggested "Holiday Inn" after the popular 1942 Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire musical. By August 1952, the first Holiday Inn opened on US 64-70-79, the main highway in Memphis between Nashville and Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

The hotel was a success, and Wilson and Johnson opened up three more on the highways leading in and out of Memphis by the next year. Memphis's relatively central location in the U. S. helped make the hotels a success. By 1957, there were 30 locations, and it grew rapidly, thanks to the initial concept by Wilson and franchising partnerships. Wilson again hired his mother as vice-president, and her favorite colors, green and yellow became the standard colors on the eye-catching Holiday Inn signs increasingly dotting the highways of America. By the end of the decade, there were more than 100 locations. The first location outside the United States opened in 1960. And this had increased dramatically to more than a thousand locations by 1968. The sprawling hotel corporation



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

Numerous state laws will take effect in 2024, including tax reductions that will save Arkansas families and businesses about \$250 million a year.

During a September special session the legislature approved tax cuts that will benefit Arkansans in two ways. An income tax reduction will lower the top rate from 4.7 to 4.4 percent for individuals. Also, the top rate for corporate taxes will go down from 5.1 to 4.8 percent.

The tax relief measure includes a one-time credit of \$150 for all taxpayers whose incomes was below \$89,600 in 2023. That means Arkansas taxpayers will benefit from the credit in

the next couple of months, when they file their income taxes for 2023.

For taxpayers with incomes between \$89,601 and \$103,600 the amount of the credit gradually decreases. People whose income is \$103,601 and above will not get a credit.

In all, about 1.1 million people in Arkansas will save \$150 million a year because of the tax reductions enacted by the legislature earlier this year. Also, about 7,500 businesses will save \$34.5 million a year.

The \$150 credits will save individuals \$156.3 million on their 2023 taxes. However, they will not be in effect in future years.

Those cuts were not the only tax relief enacted by the legislature in 2023. During the regular session at the beginning of the year, legislators approved Senate Bill 549 to lower income taxes for individuals, trusts, estates and corporations.

Those tax cuts benefited

1.1 million individual taxpayers whose incomes are above \$24,300 a year. The Senate bill became Act 532 of 2023.

Businesses will also benefit from Act 485 of 2023. It phases out the "throwback rule," a provision in state tax law that formulates taxes on multi-state corporations with a connection, or nexus, in Arkansas when they do business in other states.

For those businesses, fewer sales of property in other states will be taxed.

Act 532 takes effect for tax year 2024 and will save businesses \$10.6 million. The savings steadily increase until Fiscal Year 2030 and afterwards, when businesses in Arkansas will see tax savings of \$74 million a year because of Act 532.

Act 659 of 2023 changes the length of prison sentences for violent offenders, and requires inmates to participate in drug rehabilitation and education programs in order to qualify for

parole.

The act will affect county jails, sheriffs, bail bondsmen and people who get arrested and want to bail out of jail. As of January 1, 2024, the 10 percent premium for bond must be paid in full before the defendant may be released from jail. Previously, defendants could make arrangements to pay their bail bondsman in installments.

Another provision in Act 659 affects defendants who put up property to make bail. Starting in 2024, bail bondsmen must submit paperwork verifying the amount of the property is sufficient, and verifying that it has been transferred to the surety. It will not be enough for the bail bondsman to simply collect a deed or title.

Some judges already have begun working on documents to streamline the process for defendants who choose to put up property.



The last time Joe Brindley saw his big brother, Kenyon, was in 1941. The younger Brindley recalled Kenyon's generosity at leaving his siblings his uneaten piece of lemon pie before heading back to his U.S. Army Air Force assignment. While Kenyon regularly wrote letters to his family, those stopped nearly 80 years ago.

U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Kenyon Brindley, a Little Rock native, bravely served as bombardier aboard B-24s during World War II. On February 24, 1944, his 13th mission, his plane was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire. The plane caught fire and crashed, killing Lt. Brindley and other crew members. Unfortunately, the military was unable to account for him following the war, but his family never gave up hope.

Their prayers were finally

answered in September 2023 when Lt. Brindley's remains were identified and began the journey home to be laid to rest in Conway a week before Christmas.

This homecoming was made possible thanks to the relentless pursuit of individuals at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) who are tasked with accounting for missing men and women who served in our nation's uniform. They are committed to searching for answers to share with families who are waiting to hear news of their loved one.

This dedication takes DPAA personnel to remote areas. In its 2023 Year in Review report, the agency detailed recovery efforts around the world including Papua New Guinea, Laos, Panama and India. From October 2022 to September 2023, DPAA account-

ed for 158 individuals, including Lt. Brindley.

More than 81,000 Department of Defense Americans remain missing from World War II, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other recent conflicts. It's estimated that 75 percent of the missing are in the Indo-Pacific region.

Advances in science and technology are helping make identifications like Lt. Brindley's possible.

In March 1952, the organization charged with recovering fallen American servicemembers in the European Theater took custody of remains recovered from Bad Salzung Cemetery in Germany. It was believed this included crew members from Brindley's aircraft. While identification was not possible, the remains were interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

Historians exhumed these remains 69 years later for updated testing at DPAA laboratories. Using anthropological and mitochondrial DNA analysis, scien-

tists from the DPAA and Armed Forces Medical Examiner System reached out for additional assistance for a positive identification.

Brindley's great-niece recently shared with Little Rock media how a call she received in 2018 from the military looking for a descendant of one of his sisters helped create the momentum needed to positively identify their lost hero.

Lt. Brindley gave everything for his country. While we can never fully repay him, we must strive to fulfill our promise to all who are missing and their families. No one should ever wonder where their loved one who served in uniform is, or when then will return home.

We are grateful Lt. Brindley has come home to Arkansas. His family says for them this is a Christmas miracle. It certainly is a blessing they deserve for their sacrifice. Our nation is committed to continuing this mission so we can deliver the same news to families waiting for their heroes.

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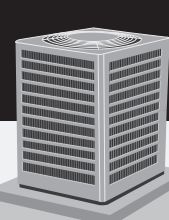
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Tips to maintain your commitment to exercise

At one point or another, millions of adults across the globe have resolved to be more physically active. The benefits of routine exercise are too numerous to cite, but some of the more notable ones include a lower risk for chronic disease and illness, improved self-esteem and greater overall health.

With so much to gain from routine exercise, it's no wonder so many people aspire to be more physically active. But it's easy to lose motivation when aspiring to exercise more. Each year, one of the most popular New Year's resolutions is to exercise more. In fact, Statista conducted a survey regarding New Year's resolutions for 2023 and found that exercising more was the most popular resolution. However, a 2021 study published in the International Journal of Environment Research and Public Health found that 64 percent of people abandon their New Year's resolutions within a month of making them. Exercising more requires commitment, and there are some ways to make it a little easier to maintain that commitment over the long haul.

- Break it up. The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health notes that people don't need to exercise all at once to reap the rewards of physical activity. If time is tight, break up a workout over the course of your day. Some strength-training exercises in the morning can be

followed up with a brisk walk or run over a lunch break. This approach makes it easier to fit a full workout into your daily routine.

- Employ the buddy system. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests that working out with a partner increases exercise motivation and encourages individuals to be more consistent with their exercise routine so they do not let their partners down. The authors behind a 2019 study published in the International Journal of Research in Exercise Physiology suggested the efficacy of the buddy system may require further study before researchers can definitively say it's an effective motivation strategy for people who want to exercise more. But there's no denying that many individuals feel that they are more likely to exercise with a friend than they are if they go solo.

- Schedule exercise time. Busy professionals book work meetings, family obligations and other daily tasks in their schedules, and the T.H. Chan School of Public Health recommends doing the same with exercise. Allotting time to exercise each day may decrease the likelihood that you'll skip a workout, and once results start to manifest you may be more motivated to stay the course.

- Identify what progress may look like. It's easy to become discouraged if a commitment to routine exercise does not pro-

duce visible results. But just because your abs are not becoming chiseled a month into a workout routine or the scale is not reflecting significant weight loss does not mean your routine is not working. As the human body ages, it becomes more difficult to transform it. So a workout routine that left you looking lean and chiseled in your twenties may not produce the same body in your forties. But that does not mean the exercise isn't working and ultimately helping you get healthier. Adults are urged to speak with their physicians and

identify what progress with a workout routine might look like for someone their age. Progress may look different than it did years ago, but if the end result is a healthier you, then that should be all the motivation you need to keep going.

It's no secret that making a commitment to routine exercise can be difficult. But various strategies can increase the likelihood that individuals will stay the course as they seek to exercise more frequently.



Tips to stay the course with a new diet

The dawn of a new year marks a great time to turn over a new leaf. Many people begin a new year by making resolutions, and aspiring to eat healthier is annually among the most popular pledges health-conscious individuals make.

A recent Statista survey of hundreds of people across the globe found that eating healthier was the second most popular New Year's resolution of 2023. In fact, 50 percent of respondents indicated they set goals to eat healthier in the year ahead. Though each year is different, it's fair to assume a similarly large percentage of resolution-minded individuals will aspire to eat healthier over the next 12 months. As people begin their journeys to a healthier lifestyle, they can consider these



strategies to stay the course with a new diet.

- Do not eat too close to bedtime. A 2014 study published in the Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics found that eating more of a day's total energy intake in the evening is associated with a higher risk of being overweight or obese. The researchers behind the study concluded that eating more of the day's energy intake at midday can lower the risk of being overweight or obese. Individuals are more likely to stay the course when they see positive results, so try to eat dinner several hours before bedtime and resist the urge to snack after dinnertime.

- Treat yourself, but only periodically. It's unreasonable and potentially counterproductive to completely avoid foods seen as treats. Cutting out indulgent foods may seem appropriate, but such an approach could make you miserable, and a diet that sparks feelings of misery will prove harder to commit to than one that allows for the occasional indulgence. Moderation is the name of the game, and that should be a rule of thumb for both healthy foods and indulgences. Don't make indulgences part of your daily routine, even if you eat them in moderation. Rather, save treats for special occasions, and even then only eat them in modera-

tion.

- Consider eating less, but more frequently. Data is conflicting in regard to eating smaller but more frequent meals. A 2015 study published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics found that individuals who had six or more eating occasions in 24 hours had a lower mean body mass index than people who had four or fewer eating occasions in 24 hours. The researchers behind the study concluded that eating a larger number of small meals throughout the day may be associated with improved diet quality and lower BMI. This approach is commonly referred to as "grazing," and some research has indicated it has no metabolic advantage over other approaches to eating. So what to make of the mixed results? Dieters can decide for themselves and eat more frequent but smaller, healthier meals to combat hunger pangs that can arise when switching to a new diet. If hunger is no longer posing a threat that can derail your diet, then this approach might increase the chances you stay committed to eating right.

Millions of people will begin January on a quest to eat healthier in the year ahead. Some simple strategies can help them stay the course as they adjust to a new diet.

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from January 2024

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped shape the world in January 1924.

- Millionaire oil broker Courtland S. Dines is shot in the abdomen at his home on January 1. When police arrived on the scene, they found alcohol on the premises, causing a scandal during the Prohibition era.
- Flooding causes the water level of the Seine to rise in Paris, forcing the closure of railway stations on January 2.
- The exiled King Ferdinand is granted permission to return to Sofia by the Bulgarian government on January 2, prompting an immediate objection to the move by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.
- On January 3, the governor of the Mexican state of Yucatán, Felipe Carrillo Puerto, is executed by rebels fighting for General Adolfo de la Huerta. de la Huerta was attempting to overthrow the government of President Alvaro Obregón, and Carrillo and three

of his brothers were among 11 people killed by the rebels.

- The automobile manufacturer Walter P. Chrysler introduces his first car, the Chrysler Six Model B-70 sedan, on January 5 at the 24th Annual New York Automobile Show.
- Turkish President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk survives a bomb attack at his home on January 6. A visitor to the president's home asked to see him and then threw the bomb when Atatürk appeared.
- The British submarine HMS L24 sinks during a training exercise on January 10. The sub collided with the battleship HMS Resolution, and all 43 crew members aboard perish in the accident.
- Bengali activist for Indian independence Gopinath Saha shoots and kills Englishman Ernest Day, a civilian, in Calcutta on January 12. Saha believed he was shooting Calcutta police commissioner Charles Tegart, who was helping to lead the fight against the independence movement. Saha is arrested and sub-



sequently tried and sentenced to death.

- The SMS Berlin embarks on a two-month tour of the North Atlantic Ocean on January 15. It is the first German Navy warship since the end of World War One to depart on an overseas voyage.
- On January 16, Argentine engineer Raúl Pateras Pescara breaks his own record for helicopter flight. Pescara keeps his model 2F aloft in the air for eight minutes and 13.8 seconds at an altitude of around 15 feet near Paris.
- Ailing Russian leader Leon Trotsky is rumored to have been arrested on January 18. Despite

the rumors, Trotsky is ultimately revealed to have been traveling to the Black Sea in an effort to overcome his illness.

- Richard Connell's short story "The Most Dangerous Game" appears in the weekly magazine Collier's on January 19. The story's theme of the hunter who becomes the hunted has since been adapted for countless stories.
- Following a stroke, semi-retired leader and founder of the Soviet Union Vladimir Lenin dies on January 21 at his estate in Gorki.
- On January 23, Britain and the United States sign a treaty that allows American authorities

to search British ships suspected of rum-running.

- Oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny testifies on January 24 that he lent Senator Albert B. Fall \$100,000. Doheny's admission exacerbates the Teapot Dome Scandal that enveloped the administration of United States President Warren G. Harding.
- The first Winter Olympics open in Chamonix, France, on January 25.
- Prince Regent Hirohito marries Princess Nagako in an elaborate royal wedding in To-

kyo on January 26. Within two years, Hirohito would become the 124th Emperor of Japan, a position he would retain, despite controversy, until his death in 1989.

- Lenin is laid to rest in a state funeral in Moscow's Red Square on January 27. Mourners brave frigid conditions, as the temperature drops to -35 F during the funeral.
- Benito Mussolini addresses 10,000 Blackshirts in the Palazzo Venezia in Rome on January 28. Mussolini predicts complete victory for the Fascists as he campaigns for a general election in Italy.
- On January 31, within weeks of his wife's death, Prussian state executioner Paul Späthe dresses in formal evening wear and lights 45 candles. Each candle signifies a person Späthe had beheaded, and once each candle is lit, Späthe takes his own life with a revolver.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

added a toll-free service in the late 1960s to help coordinate reservations. The chain was so successful that many other hotel chains began copying their innovations. By 1972, Wilson made the cover of Time magazine as "The World's Innkeeper."

Wilson briefly retired in 1979 after a heart attack, but he soon jumped back in. The company branched into other businesses, including nursing homes, the Trailways bus company, camp sites, and started building luxury hotels and golf resorts under "Wilson World Hotels." Wilson and Johnson gave heavily to local charities. In 1982, Wilson was inducted into the National Business Hall of Fame.

In 2002, the Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management opened at the University of Memphis, training students in a fully-operating hotel.

In 2003, Wilson died in Memphis at the age of 90. The

small hotel he started with his partner is now a multi-billion dollar corporation operating 19 different hotel brands at more than 6,000 locations on six continents.

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
The Southeast Bradley County Water District
Public Water Authority of the State of Arkansas
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Ehud
 Judges 3

Ehud was the second judge mentioned in the book of Judges.

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord gave Eglon, king of Moab, power over Israel. He was joined by the Ammonites and the Amalekites.

In their distress, the Israelites cried out to the Lord and He gave them Ehud, from the tribe of Benjamin, to deliver them.

Ehud went to Eglon to deliver a tribute from the Israelites. He attached a double-edged sword, a cubic long, to his right thigh, under his clothing.


After presenting the tribute to Eglon, Ehud sent those who had carried the tribute on their way and visited Eglon under the pretense of giving him a secret message.

As Ehud approached Eglon, who was alone in the upper room of the palace, Eglon arose to receive the message and Ehud plunged the sword into the king's belly. His fat closed over the sword.

Ehud left and locked the doors to the room. Much later the king's servants entered the room and found Eglon dead.

Ehud led the Israelites in a battle against the Moabites and was victorious. The Moabites became subject to the Israelites and there was peace for eighty years.

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Obituaries

Bobby Damon Jackson (Bob)

Bobby Damon Jackson (Bob) passed away peacefully Thursday, December 28, 2023 at his home in Rogers, Arkansas surrounded by loved ones. Born September 22, 1933, in Banks, Bob spent his childhood working on the farm, helping his father build their family home, and graduated valedictorian of his high school class. To fund his college education, Bob served as staff sergeant in the United States Army's 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions.



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Bob went on to earn a Bachelor's and Master's degree in business from the University of Arkansas. While there, Bob met his beautiful bride Betty Sue Jackson at a social dance class and married soon after on November 1, 1958. They have spent 65 wonderful years raising children, traveling, collecting antiques and Native American art, and gardening together.

Bob went on to work at Conoco, Williams, and several other oil and gas corporations. In 1994, Bob founded Ozark Mountain Propane in Northwest Arkansas. For the last thirty years, Bob has exponentially grown his business, been a supportive husband and an amazing role model for his children and grandchildren.

A successful businessman, devoted steward of the Jackson Family Tree Farm, and a loving family man, Bob was predeceased by his parents, Martin Wesley and Reba Angeline Erwin Jackson, sisters Martha Monte Morgan and Elizabeth Ann Howard, and grandson Wesley Damon Leon Jackson.

He is survived by his wife Betty Sue Fore Jackson, their children Damon Jackson, Jodi Jackson, and Jennifer Jackson-Stowe, grandchildren Jennifer "Jaycie" Jackson, Sarah Stowe and Jackson "Jack" Stowe, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was from 2-3 p.m. Monday, January 1, 2024, with services following at 3:00 p.m. at Benton County Funeral Home 306 N. 4th St. Rogers, Arkansas. Interment will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the Williams Cemetery in Banks, Arkansas.

OBITUARY POLICY

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Arkansas soybeans on course for record yield

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

For soybean farmers in 2023, intermittent rains helped push the yield envelope to an estimated state record of 53 bushels per acre, said Jeremy Ross, soybean extension agronomist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Better growing practices, including proactive irrigation, along with better plant genetics, early planting and favorable conditions for many of the state's soybean farmers were other factors for improved yields, he added.

"We won't have the final numbers until February, but there is potential for the yield average to be higher," Ross said. "South Arkansas took it on the chin this spring with heavy rains and some very cold conditions after planting, in addition to several hailstorms in other parts of the state, but overall, it was a good year."

The previous record average soybean yield for Arkansas was 52 bushels per acre in 2021, which was matched in 2022. The final numbers will be released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February. Ross said he would not be too sur-

prised if the estimate is bumped up a little past 53 bushels per acre for Arkansas.

"Each year our soybean yields just keep getting better and better, and that trends across the entire United States," Ross said. "Looking back, we were 20 percentage points ahead of the five-year average on planting progress and that translated into the crop being mature 15 to 20 percent ahead of typically where we were."

Many soybean farmers in Arkansas were done with harvest before Halloween and got a jump on land preparation for the 2024 planting season, Ross said. One farmer he talked to in central Arkansas said his fields were 4 to 5 bushels better across the entire farm.

"I've talked to several producers and some farmers say that this is the best year they've ever had soybean wise," Ross said.

Dry periods helped push down fungal disease pressure until the end of the season when "it came on with a vengeance," he added. Soybean fields planted earlier were able to fend off disease better and farmers were outrunning pests with earlier

harvest, Ross noted.

Soybean fields near and north of Pine Bluff saw enough favorable weather in 2023 to bump up the state average. It wasn't a golden year for most growers in the middle of America, though. Drought in the Midwest pushed soybean yields down in that region and created troubling low-water levels on the Mississippi River, which tripped a domino effect downstream.

Not only were grain elevators filled up at harvest time because barge traffic was limited, but fertilizer wasn't coming in for post-harvest bed preparations when expected. Some farmers also had to leave soybeans in the field to harvest later, Ross said.

"Grain elevators were having to hold on to more than they typically do because they

couldn't get it shipped out fast enough," Ross explained. "We really didn't have a break in harvest. Farmers just rolled from corn to rice to soybeans, and there wasn't a break to give elevators a chance to get grain shipped out, so everything just kind of started stacking up."

The rice harvest was also a little better than expected, Ross said, taking up space typically reserved for soybean because it could not make it to the river for export when expected. Some farmers Ross talked to said they trucked their soybeans 50 to 75 miles farther than usual.

"There were a few hiccups and a few glitches along the way, but I think most everybody is doing pretty good now," Ross said of the post-harvest trials of a bumper crop with low river levels.

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