

# The Eagle Democrat

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139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, January 10, 2024

No. 28

## Warren City Council hears reports from multiple city departments

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle democrat.com

The Warren City Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, January 8. Mayor Greg Reep opened the meeting with the approval of December's minutes. A statement of Revenue and Expenditures for 2023 was given as follows:

- Administrative- \$486,387.75
- Law Enforcement- \$1,550,545.36
- Fire Department- \$474,493.69
- Sanitation Department- \$1,058,749.32
- Building Department- \$35,677.07
- District Court- \$96,644.46
- Municipal Building- \$28,398.10
- Recreation- \$259,889.61
- Cultural Center- \$19,135.81
- National Guard Armory Neighborhood Center- \$28,470.88
- Shooting Range- \$71,108.63



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

- Senior Citizen Center- \$10,002.85
  - Other- \$27,640.20
  - Municipal Airport- \$35,087.97
  - Economic Development Activities- \$56,862.14
  - Street Department- \$735,108.54
- A motion was made and approved to accept the report. The Sales and Use tax report was given next. In Decem-

ber 2023, the city's individual sales tax revenue total was \$93,352.87. The total received in 2023 was \$1,071,562.31. "The total was up for the month but down a little for the year," Reep reported. The city's share of the county tax was also up for the month at \$64,039.47. The city broke even for the year. Next, Reep gave the mayor's report asking the council mem-

bers for permission to dispose of equipment that the city could no longer use. Reep then recommended to the council members that each quarter, one employee be picked from the city to be recognized and given some kind of award which will be decided at a later date. The council members were in favor and Reep said he would work on finalizing that process.

Warren Police Chief Shaun Hildreth gave his report to the council members. He told the board that the police department had hired three new full-time officers and one part-time officer. All but one of the new officers are certified and the uncertified officer will be sent to the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. The positions that remain open are dispatch and jailer. The de-

partment is still looking for an animal control vehicle. The council members then heard updates on ordinance number 952, which concerns the parking of campers, and ordinance number 953, which concerns having livestock inside city limits. Warren Fire Chief Chuck Moore gave his report next. He reported that the fire department responded to 12 calls in the month of December. Moore said that the fire department had also received all of the fire equipment that had been purchased with a grant that was given to the fire department. The council members also heard reports from the sanitation committee, street committee, and the Ways and Means committee. The next city council meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12 in the Municipal Building.

## Lumberjacks face Billies in basketball



Photos Courtesy of Robert Camp

The Lumberjacks and Lady Jacks played the Monticello Billies on January 2, 2024. Number 23, Antonio Jordan, led the Lumberjacks with 23 points defeating the Billies 58-56. The Lady Jacks suffered a loss with a final score of 51-32. Charlie Wardlaw, number 23, led the Lady Jacks scoring 10 points.

## Hermits suffer multiple losses to Harmony Grove



Photos Courtesy of Robert Camp

The Hermits and Lady Hermits played the Harmony Grove Hornets on January 4, 2024. Both Hermit teams suffered losses. The score for the Hermits was 67-79 and the score for the Lady Hermits was 49-55. Hayden Cathey, number 24, led the Hermits with 35 points and Ny'Asha Tatum, number 24, was the leading scorer for the Lady Hermits with 20 points.

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**Passin' the Faith Along**  
By REV. JIM BALES  
Pastor - First Assembly of God  
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**GOD'S PLAN FOR REACHING THE LOST**

The book of Jonah fascinates me. No volume in any library contains the drama to equal this portion of the Bible. An entire city experienced revival. Nothing in the Bible compares to Nineveh, a city of 120,000, repenting and turning to God. There are lessons for today. Nothing underlines the tragic unconcern a saved person can have for the lost as does this narrative. If Jonah had had his way,

Nineveh could have gone to hell! It is a crime to embark passengers on faulty equipment. James says in the New Testament, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is a sin" (James 4:17). Miners have been lost- suddenly homes without husband and sons- because responsible parties with full knowledge, have withheld information. Unseaworthy ships have been given clearance and calamity has fol-

lowed. In a disaster where 400 school children perished when a building exploded, investigators questioned related parties. One woman said, "My husband told me before this tragedy happened that he knew there was faulty construction in the gas line under the building." "What?" said the inspector. She repeated her statement. The investigator repeated, "Did your husband know the construction of the gas line was faulty?" "Yes," she answered. "Did he report it to anyone?" "No." "Then your husband is a criminal!" he said. That is the way God views Christians who remain disinterested about the unsaved. Jonah didn't care about how many

Ninevites went to hell. He wanted to select his own company and, above all, be comfortable. There is something else in this book of Jonah that nearly jumps off the pages. There is no substitute for repentance. Jonah's message after his encounter with a large fish was a very simple one anybody could understand, "Repent." This book tells me God is using every means available to Him to reach the lost and turn the ungodly from their way. In this instance, He used a boat, an angry sea, and probably the biggest fish in the Mediterranean. But, under the Holy Spirit, God's choice agency is another human being. "You are my witness" (Acts 1:8). That is the plan. God will be honored or dishonored by human obedience or disobedience to that plan.

**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.

**AR Citizens for Transparency resubmits amendment on heels of second rejection by AG**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

On Monday, January 8, Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin rejected four submissions for proposed popular names and ballot titles for the Arkansas Citizens for Transparency Drafting Committee's proposed constitutional amendment aimed at maintaining and protecting government transparency in Arkansas.

ACT submitted the language rejected on December 20, along with four proposed popular names and ballot titles. The proposed popular names include the Open Meetings and Open Records in State and Local Government Amendment, the Arkansas Government Transparency Amendment, the Arkansas Government Disclosure Amendment and the Arkansas Government Openness Amendment.

In response to the rejections, the Drafting Committee is issuing

**the following statement:**

"From the beginning, our goal has been to ensure that any law that reduces government transparency must be approved by the people. Initially, the committee hoped for the legislature to retain the power to pass laws that strengthen government transparency, without those laws having to go to a public ballot. It has become clear, however, that the Attorney General will not provide his approval for any amendment where the legislature retains this power.

We have therefore submitted a revised third amendment, where any legislative proposal that affects government transparency, even if the bill strengthens transparency laws, must be submitted to the people for their approval."

The group resubmitted the revised amendment at 6 p.m. on January 8.

**Forestry Program receives third-largest single gift in UAM's history**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) has received a gift of \$1.3 million to establish the Jonathan Hartley Endowed Scholarship for Forestry. The gift comes from the estate of Andrea Stanley Hartley, mother of the late Jonathan Isaac Hartley, and is the third-largest single gift in the university's history. Scholarships will benefit undergraduate and graduate forestry students in the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources (CFANR) at UAM.

Jonathan Hartley was the only child of the late Andrea Stanley Hartley and the late John Charles Hartley and graduated from Watson Chapel High School in Pine Bluff in 2001. He graduated from UAM in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in forestry. In 2011, he earned a Master of Science in forest resource management from UAM. From 2005-2015, Hartley worked as a program technician for several

faculty at UAM, including Dr. David Patterson and Dr. Matthew Pelkki. His main areas of research included biometrics and wood products. In January 2015, he became Drew County Forester for the Arkansas Forestry Commission and held the position until January 2018, when he passed away at the age of 34 after battling chronic illness since the age of 16.

Jolene Hammock, outreach and engagement coordinator for CFANR, was married to Jonathan Hartley from 2006 until his passing in 2018. "Jonathan was a vibrant, lively man who loved UAM. He was passionate about the forestry program and the university, where he made lifelong friendships and pursued his research interests. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, and he was the center of his mother's world. Andrea was dedicated to preserving Jonathan's legacy at UAM, and Jonathan would be

very proud to have scholarships help future generations of foresters."

Dr. Michael Blazier, dean of CFNAR at UAM and director of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, stated, "Jonathan was heavily involved with our forestry program as a student and professional forester, and it's a fitting legacy that we'll carry on his name for scholarships that will help countless forestry students get a degree. Jonathan's family recognized how positively Jonathan's life was affected by finding his passion for forestry and working closely with our faculty as a student and technician, and it's a great privilege for us to honor him through generations of UAM foresters to come."

Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of UAM, celebrated the Hartley family, stating, "We express our heartfelt gratitude for the recent donation of funds for university scholarships from the estate of

Ms. Andrea S. Hartley to honor the memory of her son, Jonathan, who was a UAM alumnus and forestry program technician at the university. This generous gift not only honors the memory of Jonathan but will support the academic aspirations of deserving students majoring in forestry at UAM, and we are profoundly thankful for the lasting impact it will have on their educational journeys. The foresight and generosity displayed through this estate donation will play a pivotal role in fostering access to education for each deserving individual. This gift has created a legacy that will positively influence the lives of countless forestry students for years to come."

For more information about the Jonathan Hartley Endowed Scholarship for Forestry, contact the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at (870) 460-1052.

**Arkansas Farm to School Institute accepting applications until March 1**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) is accepting applications for the Arkansas Farm to School Institute (Institute) until March 1, 2024. The Department's Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program will select up to 15 schools to participate in the program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Institute is a year-long professional development program that offers training, resources, and technical assistance to school educators, administrators, school nutrition directors, cafeteria staff, local farmers, and community partners. The program is open to schools looking to expand on existing farm to school efforts throughout the state.

Selected schools are invited to a summer retreat to create a collaborative farm to school action plan. Teams will meet throughout the year to discuss action plan progress and provide feedback to Department staff and coaches. In

collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education, selected schools will receive a \$1,000 implementation grant to execute their action plans.

"The Institute provides a unique opportunity for the Department to support the growth of existing farm to school programs across the state," said Jessica Chapman, Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator. "From the retreat to the end of the school year, we get to assist schools in the implementation of a school-wide plan that integrates all three aspects of farm to school - school gardens, education, and local procurement."

Selected schools are also eligible to participate in the Arkansas School Garden Program, an incentive program where up to five teachers per participating school can complete a professional development course. Upon completion of the course, each teacher will receive a \$1,000 grant to improve their school garden.

**Big Squirrel Challenge returns to Arkansas Jan. 12-13**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's statewide squirrel-hunting celebration is back for its third year. Get a buddy and get to the woods next Friday and Saturday to take your chance winning prizes and notoriety as the best bushytail hunter in your neck of the woods.

"AGFC Education Division staff started the Big Squirrel Challenge in May of 2021 at J.B. and Johnelle Hunt Family Ozarks Highland Nature Center," Eric Maynard, interim chief of education for the AGFC, said. "It was so popular that we expanded it to a statewide event with 12 locations for people to weigh-in their squirrels and win a prize."

The official rules are available at <https://www.agfc.com/education/2024-big-squirrel-challenge>, but here are the main details in a nutshell (or acorn, if you prefer). Teams hunt from noon, Jan. 12-noon, Jan. 13 during legal shooting hours to harvest the three largest squirrels they can find. Hunters are welcome to use squirrel dogs or still hunt for their bushytails.

"They're welcome to go ahead and harvest their legal limit of 12 per person, but we only weigh



the top three at the end of the event, and each squirrel can only be weighed once," Maynard said. "After the weigh-in, all squirrels will be returned to the hunters to enjoy for supper."

Squirrels are weighed (skin on and field-dressed) and winning teams are announced at 1:30 p.m. for each region. Each regional first- and second-place team will receive medals and bragging rights for their effort. The top teams in the state will be announced in a press release Jan. 15 and will receive additional prizes, including an Umarex air rifle.

"We have different categories for youth teams and adults," Maynard said. "A youth team can consist of two youths or one youth and an adult mentor.

mixed bag and/or gray squirrels."

If you can't find a partner or a youth to take along, you can hunt as a single-person team, but everyone is encouraged to get out and hunt with a partner.

"We want everyone to get outdoors, and that's always best enjoyed with friends and family," Maynard said.

No registration or entry fees are required to participate in the contest. Participants just need to show up at one of the following weigh-in locations from noon-1 p.m., Jan. 13 to compete.

We also have a category for fox squirrels (which typically weigh a little more) and a category for

**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.

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED**

The Municipal Building will be closed January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday.

**HELP WANTED**

LPN/RN  
7PM-7AM

Housekeeping PRN  
7AM-3PM

Dietary  
Cook part-time



1440 E. Church St., Warren  
870-226-6766

**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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# AR Coalition Against Sexual Assault announces mission change; new portal for reporting human trafficking

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ACASA) announces its change in mission to include training and technical assistance for programs working with victims of human trafficking and online reporting portal, TOP-Report Form (Trafficking of Persons).

ACASA has provided training and technical assistance to programs working with victims of sexual violence for over 25 years. Now, ACASA adds simi-

lar support for those programs that work with adult individuals who have experienced or are experiencing human trafficking. In December of 2021, ACASA received funding in the amount of \$6,297,000.00 from the American Rescue Act to support organizations in twelve regions of Arkansas to add services for victims of human trafficking. Although ACASA began providing training and technical assistance for these agencies in 2020, this funding allowed for the expan-

sion of this program to provide advocates around the state explicitly trained to work with victims who have been trafficked. Over the past two years, ACASA has expanded this program to all 12 regions identified by ACASA, sub-granting funding to 12 different organizations serving these communities and having ties to resources in their communities. Since the program's initiation, these organizations have reported serving over 85 adult victims around the state.

Of these 85 victims, almost 90 percent were female, with nine victims being male.

The breakdown for the ages of the victims is as follows: Ages 18-24 Total: 10 - Percentage: 11.76 percent, Ages 25-59 Total: 52 - Percentage: 61.18 percent, Ages Not Reported Total: 22 - Percentage: 25.88 percent, Ages 13-17 Total: 1 - Percentage: 1.18 percent

As you can see, the majority of victims who this program has served are between the ages of

18-60. ACASA is providing funding for services of adult victims who have not had the opportunity to be helped in the past (More statistics are available upon request).

ACASA has also developed an online reporting form, Trafficking of Persons (TOP-Report Form), that can be accessed by scanning a QR Code or following the link: [https://chat.google.com/dm/3L1qrAAAAAE/WSz3Pr\\_HwaE/WSz3Pr\\_HwaE?cls=10](https://chat.google.com/dm/3L1qrAAAAAE/WSz3Pr_HwaE/WSz3Pr_HwaE?cls=10). Community members

may use this portal to report anything they may suspect as human trafficking by filling out the form. The person reporting may include contact information, including their name, or remain anonymous.

ACASA is proud to be a part of the effort to end human trafficking in Arkansas, working alongside the Attorney General's Office and the Arkansas State Police. ACASA has developed collaborative relationships with

See ACASA Page 8

## KAB announced second year of statewide participation for Great Arkansas Cleanup

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission (KAB) announced today that all 75 Arkansas counties registered cleanups during KAB's 2023 Great Arkansas Cleanup (GAC) challenge, marking the second consecutive year that the campaign received participation from the entire state. From September 1 through October 31, 7,027 Arkansans volunteered during the GAC, collecting 199 tons of litter in their communities.

"We're immensely proud of the incredible dedication shown by Arkansans during this year's Great Arkansas Cleanup," said Colbie Jones, director of KAB. "This year's results underscore the passion and commitment of

our communities toward preserving the natural beauty of our state. The collaborative effort and enthusiasm displayed by volunteers reflect our shared commitment to a cleaner, more beautiful Arkansas."

During KAB's annual fall cleanup initiative, thousands of Arkansans volunteer to improve their communities by removing litter and debris from Arkansas' roadways, shorelines, parks and other public areas. This year, there were 246 cleanup events hosted across all 75 Arkansas counties.

"The success of the 2023 Great Arkansas Cleanup is a testament to the pride and dedication of volunteers across our state," said Robyn Taylor, volunteer pro-

gram manager at KAB. "These results display what collective responsibility can accomplish, and should inspire us all to foster a continued sense of ownership in preserving the beauty of Arkansas."

Volunteers removed 120 tons of bulky waste across 1,002 miles of roads, 204 miles of waterways and shorelines and 377,692 acres of parks and public areas. Volunteers collected 2,580 tires and 126 tons of recyclables, while also focusing on beautification efforts by planting 426 trees and 142 plants, shrubs, flowers and bulbs.

KAB is encouraging Arkansans to continue beautifying their communities throughout the year.

## Cervical Health Awareness Month

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) BreastCare program coordinates efforts with a statewide network of providers offering no-cost cervical and breast cancer screenings and follow-up services.

Cervical cancer is largely preventable with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination, and routine pap tests to detect pre-cancers. Yet, in 2023, an estimated 160 Arkansas women were diagnosed with cervical cancer, and 60 women died due to cervical cancer. The state currently ranks as fifth lowest for pap tests that can detect cervical cancer and eighth lowest for HPV vaccination among girls

13-17 years old that can prevent cervical cancer. While cervical cancer screening rates among women in Arkansas have improved over the years, we still have a long way to go in improving the screening rates.

Cancers diagnosed at late stages (III or IV) are generally associated with poor outcomes and higher treatment costs. Women who are diagnosed at earlier stages have a greater chance of survival. Cervical screening services are imperative for early detection and better treatment outcomes. Cervical cancer can often be found early, and sometimes even prevented, by having regular screening tests. If detected early, cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable

cancers.

Women ages 21-64 can be screened for cervical cancer regardless of ethnicity or nationality through the ADH BreastCare program. Since its inception, the BreastCare Program has enrolled over 137,500 women for breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services. Additionally, the program provides educational information to communities about the importance of regular cervical cancer screening.

For more information about cervical cancer screening, call 1-833-693-2942 or visit [www.ARBreastCare.com](http://www.ARBreastCare.com) to see if you are eligible and to find a provider. Chances are there is a BreastCare provider near you.

**As of January 1, 2024 Bradley County will no longer be responsible for picking up household trash.**  
**Get Rid Of It will be picking up the household trash cans in Bradley County.**  
 If you have issues with your pick-up call 1-800-996-0012 and let Get-Rid-Of-It know.  
 The County Landfill will still be open and we will still rent out the 20, 30, 40 yard roll-off dumpsters. If you have any questions or would like to rent a dumpster call the Judge's Office at 870-226-3853 ext. 5.


**PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**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.**

**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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 The auction is at the home of the late Charles Miner. Lots of tools and shop accessories along with trailers and other misc. items.  
 Partial listing: Metal hen nest; metal round bale hay feeder; wire cattle panels; several saddles, tack & bits; horse blanket; truck bed trailer; 1 post; trolling motors; misc. fishing poles; fish fryers; 16c6 homemade gooseneck stock trailer; mobile camper; PVC pipe fittings; electric fence supplies; Lincoln 225 welder; Hustler Fastrak 48" zero turn mower; chain boomers; small lift; pipe wrenches; parts washer; sand blaster; several aluminum ladders; Craftsman tool box chest; Radio Flyer wagon; Poulan wheeled trimmer; several boat motors (Johnson & Mercury); yard sprayer; yard tools; tanning bed w/new bulbs; 5th wheel hitch; 7' 3pt disk; plant stands; Murray riding mower; garden tillers; continuous fence; Tarter 1 row plow 3pt.; cinder blocks; Generac GP5500 generator; Predator rear tine tiller; engine holder; floor jacks; vice; several power tools; bottle jacks; chains; Lincoln battery powered grease gun; electric grinder; Milwaukee Superhawk right angle drill; chop saw; air hoses; 2 wheel dolly; 20x11 portable building; propane BBQ grill; charcoal grill; washer & dryer; mirror & dresser; butcher block portable island; TV; night stands; table & 4 chairs; misc. kitchen glass ware and utensils; misc. other household items.  
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**ESTATE AUCTION**  
**The Estate of Dennis & Kristi Rood.**  
**Saturday Jan. 20th 10am**  
**462 County Rd 2320 Clarksville AR**  
 This is an amazing collection of items including antiques, collectibles, motors, household items, crafts, paintings and even a 1956 Pontiac Star Chief completely restored in mint condition. Below is a partial listing of the items. This will include many more items all in excellent condition, words can not describe this auction - you will not want to miss it!  
  
 Corvette engine; Whittle hit and miss engine; International Harvester hit and miss engine, LGB complete train set w/tracks, power controller, cars, etc. (in mint condition, still in boxes); electric GATARAC 1900 washing machine and other antique appliances; antique sewing machines and grandfather clock; vintage appliances and tools, furnishings, Kristi's and other paintings...SO much more it's impossible to list! Visit [www.readingauctionservice.com](http://www.readingauctionservice.com) to see the FULL listing and more pictures!!!  
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**STEP INTO THE NEW YEAR ON A STEADY NOTE**  
*Partner with the Community Builder*  
  
 First State Bank Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
  
**First State Bank**  
 Warren • Hermitage • Hampton  
[FirstStateWarren.com](http://FirstStateWarren.com) | 870.226.2601  


# The Eagle Democrat

# Editorial

## Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw  
Ark. State Representative



As the Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan General Election draw near in Arkansas, it's crucial for every eligible citizen to recognize the power they hold within their vote. The upcoming election on March 5, 2024, serves as an opportunity for Arkansans to shape the future of their communities, the state, and the nation. The deadline to register to vote for this significant event is Monday, February 5.

Arkansas is home to 1,738,711 registered voters. Each of these individuals carries the potential to influence the trajectory of local and state policies. However, the unfortunate reality is that voter turnout during primary elections has not always reflected the significance of this responsibility.

In the 2022 Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan General Election, Arkansas experienced a voter turnout of just 25.98 percent. The turnout in the 2020 Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan General Election was 28 percent.

The first step in exercising your right to vote is ensuring that you are registered. The deadline for registration is fast approaching on Monday, February 5. Don't miss this chance to be part of the democratic process.

To register in Arkansas you must fill out a paper Voter Registration Application.

You can pick up an application at the following locations:

- Your local county clerk.
- The Arkansas Secretary of State Elections Division: 1-800-482-1127.
- Local revenue or DMV office.
- Public library.
- Disability agency.
- Military recruitment office.

You can print a form to mail or request an application to be mailed to you at [sos.arkansas.gov](http://sos.arkansas.gov).

Once your local county clerk has processed your Voter Registration Application, he/she will send you a personalized voter registration card. This could take up to several weeks. You may also check your voter registration status online by visiting [www.voterview.org](http://www.voterview.org)

It's essential to recognize that the decisions made at the ballot box extend beyond partisan politics; they directly impact education, healthcare, infrastructure, and various other facets of our daily lives. The future of Arkansas is in the hands of its citizens, and voting is the most direct way to shape that future.

## Swift and Kelce: Are we over it?

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

It seems like no matter where we look right now, the headlines are going to be dominated by two names. If you guessed Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce, you're right. Those two names are constantly popping up in both entertainment and sports news. Even sportscasters are joining in the "fun." But is it fun for those who have been fans of Kelce from the beginning?

Right now, it's hard to miss any kind of news about Taylor Swift. Her name is everywhere. Except for a few court cases involving copyright infringement, usually, we only see her name in entertainment news. But thanks to her very public relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end, Travis Kelce, if they didn't already, the sports world now knows who she is.

Let's look at a little backstory on Swift. In 2006, when she was only 14, Swift signed with Sony as a songwriter. But not long after, she was noticed by record executive Steve Borchetta. This led to her first single release, "Tim McGraw." The song spent a total of eight months on the Billboard country singles chart.

By 2012, at the age of 20, Swift had accomplished things that most musical artists only dream of. These accomplishments included releasing three more studio albums that had songs that stayed at the top of music charts, winning multiple awards like Grammys and CMA's Entertainer of the Year, and breaking the record for fastest-selling single in digital

history. Since then, Swift has continued winning awards and breaking records. In 2023 she kicked off her sixth tour and officially became a billionaire.

Travis Kelce's accomplishments may look different than Swift's, but he is still a very accomplished individual. Before becoming what some would consider the best tight end in NFL history, Kelce's start was a little rocky. In high school, he was benched due to failing a class. Then, in 2010, the University of Cincinnati suspended Kelce for testing positive for marijuana. He was kicked off of the team and his scholarship was revoked. But because of older brother Jason Kelce's pleading with coaches, Travis Kelce was given a second chance. In 2013 he was picked by Kansas City in the third round of the NFL Draft.

Fast-forward to 2023, Kelce is now a two-time Super Bowl champion and a successful podcaster, and he is dating one of the most well-known women in the world.

Now that all of the history is out of the way, I'm going to ask a couple of questions. Why is everyone so obsessed? Do we really need to see Swift's reactions pop up on the television anytime Kelce does anything in a game? I don't get it. Maybe it's because I'm neither a Swift nor Kelce fan. It's nothing personal with Kelce. I honestly had no idea who he was until 2023. I like football but I don't get to watch much due to my schedule. I'm not a fan of Swift

See EDITORIAL Page 8



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

Thanks to legislation passed last year, Arkansas businesses will save about \$31 million in taxes paid for unemployment insurance in 2024.

Legislative approval of Act 196 was a priority for the state's business community, and it passed in the Senate by a vote of 29-to-3.

The act grants tax relief to businesses in a variety of ways. It lowers the unemployment insurance tax rate for new employers from 2.9 percent to 1.9 percent.

The new law also repeals the rates of 14 percent and 10 percent that used to be levied on deficit rated employers.

When the unemployment

trust fund is above \$600 million the taxable wage base is set at \$7,000. The act limits increases to the taxable wage base to \$2,000 a year.

At the end of 2023 the balance in the fund was about \$918 million.

Act 196 reduces the maximum length of time for collecting benefits from 16 weeks to 12 weeks.

The act also allows revenue from assessments on businesses to be used for upgrades in technology and hardware, and for training.

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services administers unemployment benefits. It also offers education and job training to unemployed people and helps them find work.

Another new state law that went into effect on January 1 is Act 587, which provides that people getting unemployment shall become ineligible for benefits for any week during which

they do not make at least five contacts seeking new jobs.

Similarly, Act 106 disqualifies claimants for unemployment benefits if they fail to respond to an offer of a job, or if they don't show up for a previously scheduled job interview on at least two occasions. Act 106 took effect on January 1.

Act 854 is another new law that went into effect last October penalizes claimants who fraudulently receive more than \$1,000 in unemployment insurance. They shall be ineligible for unemployment benefits for 10 years.

Arkansas voters go to the polls this year and numerous new election laws will be in effect. They include Act 194 of 2023, which authorizes the state Attorney General to review ballot titles and popular names of proposed amendments and initiatives. For years the Attorney General reviewed ballot titles, but in 2019

the legislature transferred that authority to the Board of Election Commissioners. Act 194 transfers it back to the way it was before 2019.

Act 766 makes it a crime to destroy signatures gathered on petitions to place an issue on the ballot.

Act 300 schedules all special elections on the same day as ordinary elections. In other words, special elections will be held on the May primary or the November general election date. In years when voters elect a president, as they will in 2024, the Arkansas primary election is in March.

Act 620 requires the state Board of Election Commissioners to conduct more frequent reviews of election-related documents and results. It also creates and Election Integrity Unit within the Attorney General's office.



With continuously rising costs for everyday essentials, hard-working Arkansans are stretched thin. When incomes run out, sometimes days or weeks before the next paycheck, it creates some difficult choices. To make matters worse, grocery prices have climbed nearly 21 percent since the beginning of 2021 resulting in an urgent role for nutrition assistance in communities across our state.

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance estimates one out of every three Natural State children is experiencing food insecurity. This means kids aren't getting enough to eat and they are uncertain of where their next meal will come from.

We know healthy, nutritious food helps students learn and contributes to their growth and development. A 2022 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences study found breakfast in the classroom also helps improve behavior.

Leaders at all levels of government, in addition to nonprofits, are taking steps to fight hunger and address food insecurity in our state to help students thrive.

The Arkansas State Legislature approved a bill the governor signed into law last year to cover the cost of reduced-priced school

meals for students from low-income families. This policy change is helping families who depend on these programs to feed their children.

As a former local school board member, I saw firsthand how substantial the nexus between nutrition and learning is, and how much more successful students were when they had proper nourishment.

And while school pauses for the summer, childhood development, and the struggle many families have putting food on the table, does not.

That is why closing the hunger gap when school is out has long been a goal of mine.

With input from Arkansas nutrition advocates, my colleagues and I developed legislation to modernize federal child nutrition programs. The Keep Kids Fed Act, passed by Congress and signed into law in 2022, increases flexibility within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program and provides states new and improved options to ensure children who rely on free and reduced-priced lunches during the school year continue to have access to healthy, nutritious food in the summer months.

This law helps children liv-

ing in rural areas where families may lack transportation or time to make the daily trip to a feeding site. Thanks to our updates, these communities can offer alternative meal service options such as "grab-and-go" or home-delivered meals that could reach eight million more eligible kids.

Starting this summer, states are able to provide a \$120 Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer card to eligible children for grocery purchases. These benefits could help provide meals to more than 29 million kids nationwide over the summer.

This month, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced Arkansas's participation in the program.

I am extremely pleased Arkansas is utilizing this promising new tool we added to the toolbox for states to address food insecurity. I appreciate the governor's leadership to implement the summer EBT program so hunger and malnutrition don't stand between our children and success.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished to update and modernize federal nutrition assistance programs. As the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am committed to creating solutions to improve access to food and working with advocates to implement these new reforms so we can end child hunger.

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**FOR SALE:** Basketball goal with new net and ball. Good condition. \$40. call 870-226-6324. Ask for Linda. 4f

**FOR SALE: PRICE REDUCED** Hustler portable generator HIG 2200 model. 1,800 running watts and 2,200 starting watts. Used once. Asking price \$600. Call 870-820-1720 4f

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\$30, Verizon ORBIC I Phone prepay \$30, 10" inch I Pad with leather cover \$80, ALSO: a bluetooth accessory kit with wireless speaker, a sirius plug and play satellite radio and vehicle kit, an apple I pod, and set of apple ear phones All for \$700. If interested call 903-490-2222

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**-FOR SALE:** 175 brick pavers .25 cents each. King size mattress \$50, King sized bed frame \$20, Green metal lawn chair \$5.00 call -870-226-5396

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**HIRING:** The Warren School District is seeking qualified, experienced applicants for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year:  
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• WHS ISS Facilitator

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An appropriate Arkansas teaching license is required. Positions open until filled. Qualified, interested licensed applicants should go to our website to apply, warrensd.org/24021\_1

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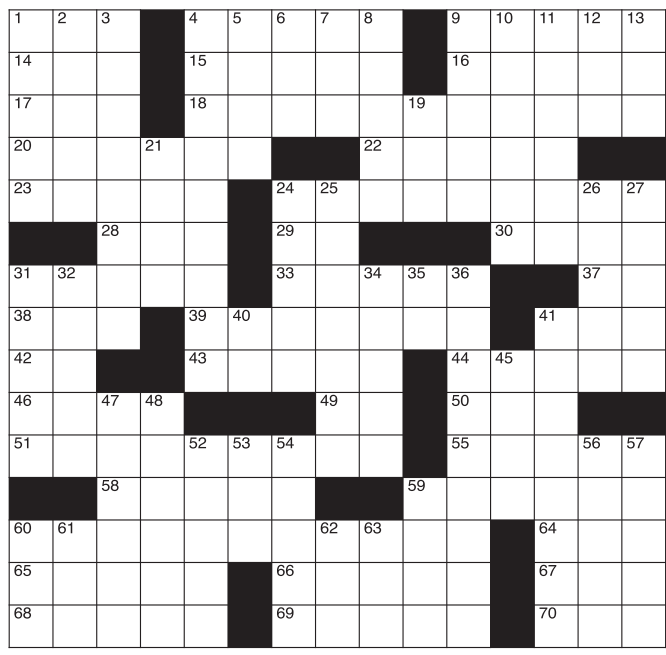
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# COMPUTER TERMS WORD SEARCH



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 4. Moved back and forth
- 9. One-time coach of the Cowboys
- 14. Last letter
- 15. Cause to become less intense
- 16. Genus of tree bugs
- 17. Body art
- 18. Romance novelist
- 20. Be filled with love for
- 22. City
- 23. Make vivid
- 24. Horses
- 28. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 29. Atomic #18
- 30. Shortly
- 31. A type of prejudice
- 33. Whirls
- 37. Six
- 38. Old world, new

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indigenous people of Mexico
- 2. Dietary supplement
- 3. Having a particular sheen or luster
- 4. Views
- 5. Academic Bill of Rights
- 6. Automobile
- 7. When you anticipate arriving
- 8. Beef or chicken intestine
- 9. Conspiracy
- 10. Blood disorder
- 11. Long-time NBAer Shawn
- 12. Time zone
- 13. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- 19. Upton Sinclair novel
- 21. What a cow does
- 24. Cavalry-sword
- 25. Ancient Greek war galley
- 26. Stars
- 27. Rebukes
- 39. \_\_ Hess, oil company
- 41. Talk
- 42. Not off
- 43. Begets
- 44. Cars need them
- 46. Computing architecture (abbr.)
- 49. Of I
- 50. Journalist, activist Wells
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Lists
- 58. Positively charged electrode
- 59. Hard, colorless compound
- 60. Inflammation of the peritoneum
- 65. Trent Reznor's band
- 66. Simply dry fruit
- 67. "Ivanhoe" author
- 68. Google certification
- 69. French commune
- 70. Medieval circuit courts

R Y J H D P D S V W C H S I G G U L S D  
 F O S A W E R C E C N E G I L L E T N I  
 E E E R U K S E N F J I C N H M J L F U  
 R G L D D R D K F J N P N T C E J E L T  
 A Y I D S H E M T E R W R C P O R B U M  
 W R F R O B H B O O R U I O T U P T U O  
 T V B I S O U G O T P E P L Y G Y A B O  
 F S E V K K R T B O H H N U P O T P A L  
 O A P E Y E T U O A T E U C F C O I C C  
 S L H M C T R G C A C N R E E F W A Y K  
 F F J I F A A N O P D K P B R S M F D Y  
 H F F S T N S P M P L R U K O L J G E J  
 H F I Y U P H H P L V M A P F A D K W L  
 O J P D P E S P U I I Y A O N O R L B E  
 H A U L N R D Y T C S E E P B D W D N E  
 B K T V I S U P E A U F T H S Y E V D D  
 F H R T D O J C R T E B L J Y L E S H W  
 M H A E P N M G M I J B P H P L G K D B  
 L T T D M A J J B O P S C P Y R O M E M  
 O S S Y W L B G L N T I A B H M K F C G

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

- APPLE
- APPLICATION
- BACKUP
- COMPUTER
- DESKTOP
- EJECT
- FILES
- HARD DRIVE
- INPUT
- INTELLIGENCE
- KEYBOARD
- LAPTOP
- MEMORY
- MOTHERBOARD
- OFFICE
- OUTPUT
- PERSONAL
- PREFERENCES
- REBOOT
- SLUGGISH
- SOFTWARE
- SPAM
- STARTUP
- TRASH

## SUDOKU

	2	4		9	1			5
1		7	3					6
								9
				8				
	5	3						
	7	1		5		2		
			2					1
5			9	7				6
								4

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Intermediate

⊙\*⊕⊗⊘⊙⊚⊛⊜⊝⊞⊟⊠⊡⊢⊣⊤⊥⊦⊧⊨⊩⊪⊫⊬⊭⊮⊯⊰⊱⊲⊳⊴⊵⊶⊷⊸⊹⊺

## CRYPTO FUN

☪ ☾ ☽ ☿ ♁ ♂ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♔ ♕ ♖ ♗ ♘ ♙ ♚ ♛ ♜ ♝ ♞ ♟ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♣ ♤ ♥ ♦ ♧ ♨ ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯ ♰ ♱ ♲ ♳ ♴ ♵ ♶ ♷ ♸ ♹ ♺ ♻ ♼ ♽ ♾ ♿

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to computers. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

- A. 20 11 5 11  
Clue: Information
- B. 14 1 14 15 4 13  
Clue: Storage capacity
- C. 16 10 12 1 22  
Clue: Containers for storing information
- D. 22 1 4 17 1 4  
Clue: Provides service to another computer

Answers: A. data B. memory C. files D. server

## Puzzle answers



**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

A	B	M		P	A	C	E	D		C	A	M	P	O			
Z	E	E		A	B	A	T	E		A	N	A	S	A			
T	A	T		N	O	R	A	R		O	B	E	R	T	S		
E	N	A		M	O	R				M	I	A	M	I			
C	O	L		O	R		S	T		A	L	L	I	O	N	S	
				L	O	A				A	R			A	N	O	N
A	G	I		S	M		B	I		R	L	S		V	I		
E	E	C		A	M	E	R	A		D	A			G	A	B	
O	N			S	I	R	E	S		T	I	R	E	S			
N	I	S		C						M	E			J	I	D	A
S	E	P		A	R	A	T	E		S		R	O	T	A	S	
				A	N	O	D	E		S	I	L	I	C	A		
P	E	R		I	T	O	N	I		T	I	S		N	I	N	
A	K	E		N	E		S	C		O	T	T		G	D	E	
H	E	R		E	S		E	Y		R	E	S		S	S	R	

6	2	4	8	9	1	7	3	5
1	9	7	3	2	5	4	8	6
3	8	5	4	6	7	1	2	9
2	4	6	7	3	8	9	5	1
9	5	3	1	4	2	6	7	8
8	7	1	6	5	9	2	4	3
4	3	9	2	8	6	5	1	7
7	6	8	5	1	4	3	9	2
5	1	2	9	7	3	8	6	4

## BE A DIFFERENCE MAKER

### Blood Drive

**Belle View Estates Rehabilitation and Care Center**  
**LifeShare Bus**  
**1052 Old Warren Rd. Monticello, AR**  
**Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> • 10:00AM-4:00PM**

Every donor to successfully donate will be enter in a drawing for a \$100 gift card!

Donate and receive a long sleeve influencer shirt! While supplies last.

**LifeShare**

Mobile drive dates, times, and locations are subject to change. For the most up-to-date mobile drive information, please visit: LifeShare.org

**LifeShare supplies all blood for Baptist Health Drew County.**

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**FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE**  
 TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE  
 Deborah and Barak  
 Judges 4

The Israelites again did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so He sold them into the hands of Jabin, the king of Canaan.

Jabin's commander, Sisera, had 900 iron chariots and oppressed the Israelites for 20 years. They cried unto the Lord for help.

Deborah, a prophetess, who was leading Israel at that time, sent Barak with word that the Lord commanded him to take 10,000 men to Mt. Tabor, where the Lord would deliver Sisera into Barak's hands.


Barak refused to go unless Deborah went with him. She agreed to go, but reminded Barak that the honor would not go to him but to a woman.

Sisera took his chariots and men to meet Barak. Deborah sent Barak forth with the word that this was the day the Lord would deliver Sisera into his hands.

As Barak advanced, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots. Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot.

All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword.

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# Obituaries

## Kelly Gaston Clark

Kelly Gaston Clark, 75, of Batesville, passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2023. He was born November 20, 1948 in Dermott to the late Eugene Terrall Clark and Francis Ellen Gaston Clark. He was preceded in death by his brothers, James Terrall Clark and John Howard Clark.

Kelly, having grown up in McGehee, graduated from McGehee High School and then entered the United States Marine Corp. He held dual degrees from the University of Arkansas, Monticello. He retired from the Arkansas Army National Guard. Kelly received his APN at Delta State University in Mississippi. He then practiced in Lake Village, as well as other areas in southern Arkansas. He retired in 2017 relocating from El Dorado to Batesville with his wife of 37 years. Kelly enjoyed golfing, fishing, horse racing and traveling.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Pam; daughter, Amy (Brian) Monroe of Conway; son, Matthew (Jamie) Clark of Monticello; step daughter, Jennifer (John) Hughes of Batesville; and six grandchildren, Marley Shaddox, Jakob Halter, Abbey Halter, Lauren Hawkins, Carter Clark and Jackson Hughes; and two great grandchildren. A special gratitude of thanks to the staff of Mountain Meadows Health and Rehab.

Burial at Oaklawn Cemetery will be private. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, P.O. Box 3964, Batesville, AR 72503 or to Mountain Meadows activity fund, 1680 Batesville

Blvd. Batesville, AR 72501. (Paid obituary)

## Nancy Rose Plair King

Nancy Rose Plair King, 83, of Warren, passed away peacefully Monday, January 1, 2024. She was a product of a simple, country upbringing. She spent her summers with friends and cousins, canning and preserving bountiful harvests, and caring and playing with the family livestock and pets. She was a 1958 graduate of Warren High School. She married her lifelong sweetheart, Jimmy on June 25, 1959 and spent 64 years building the life they loved together. A competent pianist, she played revival services and in country churches growing up. Nancy was a skilled homemaker, whose cooking was second to none. She

was a talented seamstress, making countless clothing and costumes for her children and elder grandchildren that are now enjoyed by her great granddaughter. She excelled at making every family member feel important and knowing their worth. Nancy was never so happy as when every dining room chair was filled with people she loved. She loved to entertain and chat with friends. She was a member of First Methodist Church in Warren. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, James A. Plair and Geraldine Moseley Plair and her grand-daughter, Ashely Nolle Wader. She is survived by her husband, Jimmy King, her brother, Bob Plair (Patsy) of Warren, her children David King (Julie) of Warren and Diana Wader of Conway, her grandchildren Katie Kuhn (Jacob), Sara Hicks (Jacob), Sydney Cantwell (Dylan), and Austin Wader, and her great-granddaughter Gabby Kuhn. Private burial will be in Shady Grove Cemetery, New Edinburg. (Paid obituary)

## Tommy Randall (T-Roy) Reep

Tommy Randall (T-Roy) Reep, 75, passed from his life Friday, January 5, 2024 at South Arkansas Regional Hospital in El Dorado, Arkansas.

He was born September 1, 1948 in Warren, Arkansas to the late Roy and Era Pinckard Reep. He was a graduate of Warren High School, served in the National Guard, and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

He worked at Southern Retail and as a saw filer at Potlatch. He enjoyed his work, but LOVED retirement. When he was asked what he did in retirement, he would smile and say "NOTHING!"

Preceding him in death were his parents and a brother Bobby Norman Reep.

Survivors include 2 brothers, James L. Reep (spouse Ada) of Missoula, Montana and Jerry Reep (spouse Sue) of Chestertown, Maryland. 3 sisters, Janis Doggett (spouse Charles) of Warren, Arkansas; Bonnie Smith of Camden, Arkansas; and Becky Quimby of Warren,

Arkansas. A sister-in-law Janet Reep of Monticello, Arkansas; 3 nephews; 6 nieces; 5 great-nephews; 6 great-nieces; and host of loving friends and relatives.

T-Roy was bachelor who loved people and people loved him. Through the years he helped countless numbers of people as he went above and beyond. He was truly a "Good Samaritan".

Funeral services were held Monday, January 8, 2024, at 10 A.M. at Calvary Baptist Church with Bro. Rocky Goodwin officiating. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Danny Ferrell, Mike Miller, Mike Young, Roger George, Bobby Hargrave, and Perry Watkins. Honorary Pallbearers were Herman Phillips, Susan Roberts, Jim Lasiter, Wayne Robinson, and Dr. Kerry Pennington.

Memorials preferred to the Veteran's Museum, 210 N. Main St., Warren, AR 71671 or a charity of your choice. (Paid obituary)

## Ricky Davis

Ricky Davis, 68, of Warren died January 3. Born September 3, 1955 to the late Aubert and Dorothy Davis.

Survivors: wife, Lorrie Davis; son, Ryan Davis (Andria); daughter, Amanda Wharton (Taylor), grandchildren, Fathe, Jake, Avery and Max and great-grandchild, Chayse.

Graveside 2:00 p.m. January 4, at Enon Cemetery by Frazer's.



CLARK



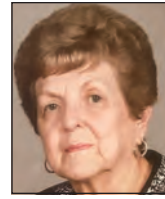
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\*\*\* Online + OnSite will AUCTION in this order: #1, 62 - 83, then 2 - 61 \*\*\*

**Estate of: SAM & GRACE ZICKEFOOSE**

**Auctioneer's Note:** Included in this auction is the 50+ Year Collection of Sam & Grace Zickefoose. They attended auctions frequently and loved to purchase vintage items. Don't miss out on this auction. **Tons of old vehicles and parts.** Loader will be available on Friday, January 19th and all purchases must be removed by Saturday, January 27th. Follow us on Facebook for updates or visit our website for pictures at [www.chuppsauction.com](http://www.chuppsauction.com)

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