

# The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, February 21, 2024

No. 33

## BCMC receives Bronze Recognition award

### SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Bradley County Medical Center was presented with a plaque and certificate in honor of receiving "Bronze Recognition" from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

as part of the 2023 DoNation Campaign. Gerald Curtis of ARORA, the largest organ, tissue, and eye recovery agency in Arkansas, presented the award to BCMC Chief Operating Officer Leeanna Williams on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at the

hospital. BCMC earned the accolade for its role in promoting the lifesaving gift of organ, eye, and tissue donation amongst colleagues and communities during the 2023 DoNation Campaign.



ARORA's Gerald Curtis (left) and BCMC COO Leeanna Williams.

Photo courtesy of BCMC

### BCMC FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Photo courtesy of BCMC

Lab Director Leah McIntyre, Sherazade (Leng) Guanzon, and BCMC CEO/CFO Leslie Huitt.

### SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Congratulations to Sherazade Guanzon, also known as Leng around Bradley County Medical Center, of the laboratory department for winning February's Employee of the Month award! Her nomination said, "Leng is

a loyal employee. She not only works hard but wants all aspects of her job done well. She cares about her coworkers and is always willing to help. During this recent ice storm, Leng stayed several nights to assure coverage and safety for others. She

may not like change, but she has committed to learning MEDITECH for the greater good. She has a positive influence on those around her not only by her work ethic, accountability, and values, but she also verbally encourages others.

### LUMBERJACKS HOST SENIOR NIGHT



Lumberjacks recognized graduating seniors from the basketball and cheering teams. Left to right: Sarah Forrest; Victoria O'Neil; Jayden Ridgell; Murphie Wilkinson; and Ashlyn Crawford.

Photo courtesy of Robert Camp

## BCMC issues urgent call for blood donations

### SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Bradley County Medical Center is issuing an urgent appeal to the community for blood donations in its upcoming LifeShare Blood Drive scheduled for Friday, February 23 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The blood drive will take place in the BCMC Rural Health Clinic parking lot, located across the street from the ER entrance at the hospital.

Blood donations are down across the country as it's hit a 20-year low so if you are able to donate, please come by and give blood on February 23. Potential donors can reserve a time slot online through the donor portal on [www.lifeshare.org](http://www.lifeshare.org). You do not have to make an appointment as walk-ins are encouraged. Every donor will receive

a token of appreciation in the form of a long sleeve influencer shirt, while supplies last, for their selfless contribution. Together, the Warren community can ensure that local hospitals have the necessary resources to provide quality healthcare when it matters most.

Every two seconds, someone somewhere needs blood. One of every seven people who enter the hospital will need blood. That person could be you, your loved one, friend, or co-worker. With all the wonderful advances in modern medicine, there still is no substitute for human blood. The blood that helps patients comes only from caring people who volunteer to

See **DRIVE** Page 3

## Hermitage city council discusses budget and park improvements

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

The Hermitage city council met on Thursday, February 15, to discuss a few different issues. Mayor Matt Cathey opened the meeting with the previous month's minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes, and all were in favor. Police Chief Ben Poole then presented the police report. For January the following citations went to court: two for speeding, one for no proof of insurance, one for contempt of court, and two for no driver's license. There was a total of six arrests for January.

Cathey presented the fire report saying that there were no fires for the month of January.

Next, Travis Stanley, the Public Works Supervisor presented the public works re-

port to the council. All water and sewer samples that were collected for January passed. There was a water leak at Hermitage Elementary and Stanley was able to repair the leak. One of the aerators that is located at the sewer pond in Hermitage quit working and one of the wires will need to be replaced. Terry Fortenberry from Arkansas Rural Water will begin work on the aerator on Monday, February 19. There will be no charge for this service due to the yearly membership that Hermitage has with Arkansas Rural Water. Stanley also filled potholes near the Hermitage Apartments. A motion was made to accept the Public Works report, and all were in favor.

Poole then presented the animal control report. Two dogs

were caught and there are currently five dogs in the city dog pen. A motion was made to accept the animal control report, and all were in favor.

Cathey then moved on to present the mayor's report which included the council's approval of the 2023 budget. A motion was made to approve the budget, and all were in favor. The city of Hermitage currently has a loan with the USDA and the Rural Development Department, which is a part of the USDA and therefore must send in copies of the approved 2023 budget. Hermitage is currently waiting on a grant to help with the expenses associated with the construction of a sewer levee.

To make improvements to the city park in Hermitage, the city invested in 12x12 concrete



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

Members of the Hermitage City Council at Thursday's meeting.

pads to make a walkway from the park and baseball field to the bathrooms. There were

also improvements made to the bathrooms at the park.

The next meeting will be

Monday, March 21 at 6 p.m. at the Hermitage Community Center.

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## Passin' the Faith Along

By REV. JIM BALES  
Pastor - First Assembly of God  
*Sponsored by Merchants & Planters Agency*

**DO YOU BELIEVE IN HEAVEN?**

An atheist lay dead in a casket, dressed in his very best. A friend gazed at him and knowing of his disbelief in the hereafter, said, "Look at him... all dressed up and nowhere to go."

Is heaven real to you? Do you ever spend time pondering eternity? Do visions of that glorious place ever fill your mind? The older I grow, the more I consider my place on the other side. Jesus told His disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:1) But what sort of place must it be? The word of God does give us insight into that home.

Heaven is a place of grand

reunion. Oh, I have so many of my family there. Hebrews 12:1 reminds us of a vast cloud of witnesses, those who have died in the faith of Jesus Christ. My mother and father are there. As a pastor, I have had the honor of preaching many funerals of those who were born again. "What a day that will be!" Jesus will be there and "Oh, I want to see Him," the one who made this grand reunion possible.

My heroes will be gathered there, too. Men and women I have only read about. I will see them and get to know them and we will have fellowship through the ages. I want to ask Rahab

what she felt as the walls of her fortress town of Jericho crumbled before her eyes - yet her house on the wall remained intact for her rescue. I want to ask Caleb what made him and Joshua different; why they gave such a different report from the other ten spies upon their return from Canaan. I want to ask Jonathan if he didn't feel just a teeny-tiny twinge of jealousy when God ordained David to be king instead of him. I want Elijah to describe the scene on Mt. Carmel when the skies opened and fire consumed the sacrifice and the troughs of water around the sacrifice. I want to hear Paul describe his thoughts as guards led him from his filthy cell to the place of beheading outside of Rome. I want to be there when Peter tells of Jesus' coming to him just after the resurrection. Oh, won't it be wonderful there! Where will we ever begin?

I fully intend to make heaven my eternal home. Make no mistake about it, it's my life's num-

ber one priority. This world is not my home, I'm only passing through!

Time and space does not permit me to dwell on the physical wonders of heaven - the beauty of the walls, the streets of purest gold, the pure river of water of life that proceeds out of the home of God. Nor may I elaborate here on the glorious truth that there will be no more curse, no more sickness, no more pain, no more parting. There will be no night there; for the Lord God will give us light.

Oh, my friend, this heavenly homecoming is more real to me than ever before. I have such a longing to see Jesus face to face.

You can scoff at what you know is true. Someone recently told me, "I don't believe any of that stuff about heaven and hell, just do the best you can." The truth of the matter is there is going to be a grand homecoming and only those who believe are going to be there.

Do you believe?

# LEGALS

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

CASE NO. 06CV-23-63-3

DISCOVER BANK PLAINTIFF  
vs.  
CHASE FERRELL DEFENDANT

### WARNING ORDER

The Defendant, CHASE FERRELL is hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Order - or sixty (60) days if you are incarcerated in any jail, penitentiary, or other correctional facility in Arkansas - and answer the Complaint filed against him by the Plaintiff.

Failure to file a written answer within thirty (30) days - or sixty (60) days if you are incarcerated in any jail, penitentiary, or other correctional facility in Arkansas - may result in an entry of judgment by default against you or otherwise bar you from answering or asserting any defense you have.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the CIRCUIT Court of BRADLEY County, State of Arkansas, this 13th day of February, 2024.

/s/ Stephen L. Bruce  
Stephen L. Bruce, Ark Bar #2009103  
Leah K. Clark, Ark Bar #2021287  
Brett M. Harris, ABA #2022046  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
P.O. Box 808, Edmond OK 73083-0808  
(405)330-4110

/s/ Cindy Wagnon  
Cindy Wagnon  
Circuit Clerk

2/21, 2/28

# Community drug prevention roundtable

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Criminal Justice Institute would like to invite the public to a Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Community Roundtable event for Bradley County on February 29, 2024 at noon.

Criminal Justice Institute Director, Dr Cheryl May and Arkansas State Drug Director, Thomas Fisher will head up the discussion about the prescription drug/opioid overdose crisis that is not only happening in Bradley County but also in the entire state of Arkansas. They would love to hear the public's thoughts on the community factors that open opportunities for the misuse of opioids in the county and the changes that might solve the problem.

The event will take place at SEACBEC, 800 N. Walnut Street, Warren, Ark. There will also be a Facebook watch party on the Arkansas Overdose Program Facebook page.



**Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Prevention Project Community Roundtable**

Bradley County, Thursday, February 29, 2024 @ 12:00pm

Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center (SEACBEC)  
800 North Walnut St. Building D

Photo courtesy of ?

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Warren Planning Commission at 5:30 pm in the Municipal Courtroom on February 26 to consider a request for a special use permit for a mobile home at 914 St James. Being more fully described as:

Beginning 3.16 1/2 chains E of the SW corner of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 6, Townships 13 S, Ranger 9 W and run N 3.16 1/2 chains, thence E 1.58 chains, thence S 3.16 1/2 chains, thence W 6.58 chains to point of beginning, containing 1/2 acre, more or less.

That property belonging to Dale & Jerry Investments, LLC. All persons having any interest in the above mobile home request are urged to attend this meeting.

2/14 2/21

### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BUSINESS OF WARREN, ARKANSAS

Once again it is time for local business to pay the Warren City Privilege License. Statements will be going out soon, but you can come to the City Clerk's Office anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. All privilege license fees are due by March 29, 2024. If you have already paid the privilege license fee, thank you, if you receive another statement in mail and have paid, please ignore but make sure all business info is correct with the City Clerk.

Paid for by the Bradley County Clerk in the amount of \$37.40.

/s/ Janice Nelson  
Janice Nelson  
City Clerk

2/21

### ORDINANCE NO. 954 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 214

ORDINANCE NO. 214 is hereby amended to delete the last sentence of SECTION 2 of Ordinance NO. 214 that prohibits reappointment of any five year appointee to the Warren Aviation Commission. HENCEFORTH, any five year appointee shall be eligible for reappointment to the Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED 2-12-24.

Paid for by the City of Warren in the amount of \$31.28.

Attest: /s/ Janice Nelson  
Janice Nelson  
City Clerk

/s/ Gregg Reep  
Gregg Reep  
Mayor

/s/ H. Murray Claycomb  
H. Murray Claycomb  
City Attorney

2/21

# Rotary Club holds February meeting

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Rotary Club of Warren met for its weekly meeting Feb. 13 at First Methodist Church. The group received a speech from Warren High School Junior Rotarian Ashley Rodriguez to begin the program about her academic and extracurricular accolades. The meeting then transitioned to Warren High School Baseball Coach Jared

Dutton. Coach Dutton gave a little background information about his upbringing in Star City and coaching career before going into details on the upcoming 2024 season. He gave a breakdown of the roster and some of the players he is expecting to play key roles this season and then talked about the schedule. Coach Dutton closed with a few questions from the crowd.



Courtesy Photo

Warren High School Baseball Coach Jared Dutton (Left) and Rotary President Dennen Cuthbertson.



Courtesy Photo

Junior Rotarian Ashley Rodriguez.

### NOTICE

Schools in the Warren School District are applying for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, an after school/ after hours program for students. Warren Elementary School and Thomas C. Brunson Elementary School will be applying for one grant to service students in grades K-5. Warren Middle School and Warren High School will be applying for one grant to service students in grades 6-12. The grant is designed to establish or expand community learning centers that:

1. Provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging state academic standards;
2. Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs and activities, such as youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, arts, music, physical fitness and wellness programs, technology education programs, financial literacy programs, environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, career and technical programs, internship or apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand industry sector or occupation for high school students that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
3. Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their student's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

2/21


### City of Warren Financial Statement 12/31/2023

#### Water and Sewer Department

<b>Balance</b>	\$ 803,040.38
<b>Cash Receipts</b>	
Water Revenue	\$ 883,223.71
Sewer Revenue	\$ 723,749.15
Sanitation	\$ 690,463.22
Other	\$ 1,283,029.45
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$ 3,580,465.53
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	\$ 4,383,505.91
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries	\$ 527,446.60
Social Security	\$ 37,879.02
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 1,036,646.53
Sanitation	\$ 690,463.22
Other	\$ 1,596,560.15
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ 3,888,995.52
<b>Balance Water and Sewer Fund</b>	\$ 494,510.39
	<b>Bonded Indebtedness</b> Date Last Payment:
General Obligation	\$ 0.00 12/29/23
Water Revenue	\$ 0.00
Sewer Revenue	\$ 3,018,668.00 Date Free of Debt:
<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,018,668.00 <b>12/01/45</b>

All financial records of the Water and Sewer Department of Warren, Arkansas are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday at Warren Water & Sewer in Warren, Arkansas. If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.

Paid for by the City of Warren in the amount of \$69.70. 2/21



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Subscription: In 716 zip, \$37 for 12 months - \$20 for 6 months  
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## WE ARE HIRING!!

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- Interpersonal skills.

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# Lumberjacks and Lady Jacks take on Wildcats

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Lady Jacks entertained league leaders Tuesday night in basketball action. Unfortunately the Lady Wildcats defeated the Lady Jacks 25-49.

Lady Jacks promoted several Freshman to join the Senior team. Though the game ended in a loss, its important to remember that they are a young team and will return as starters next year.

Lumberjacks avenged an earlier loss to Watson Chapel with a narrow 58-52 victory. The win leaves the Jacks tied for second place in conference.

Termond Miller led Warren scores with 25 points and AJ Jordan scored 19 points.



Freshman Natalie Hargrave scored her first basket as a Lady Jack with a three pointer.

Photos by Robert Camp

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONGOING

#### AA Meetings

Warren has AA meetings every Monday at 7 p.m. and every Wednesday at 12 p.m. All meetings are held at First Methodist Church of Warren, located at 111 W. Church St. All meetings are open.

## The City of Warren seeks qualified applicants for a full-time position in our Street Department.

We will be taking applications until the positions are filled. Applications can be picked up at the Municipal Building in the Mayor's Office. The City of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

## HELP WANTED

LPN/RN  
7PM-7AM

Housekeeping PRN  
7AM-3PM

Dietary  
Cook part-time



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

## DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

help others by donating their life-saving blood.

Every year, countless lives are saved through the generosity of blood donors, and Bradley County Medical Center is calling upon the community to join forces for this life-saving cause. The event aims to bolster blood supplies during a crucial time, ensuring that hospitals and medical facilities in our region have an ample and steady blood inventory.

LifeShare Blood Center, established in Shreveport, La., in

1942, regularly supplies blood components and related services to more than 100 medical facilities and hospitals throughout Louisiana, East Texas and South Arkansas. LifeShare is a member of America's Blood Centers and the American Rare Donor Program, is licensed by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, and accredited by AABB. LifeShare Blood Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community blood bank governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

For the latest news and updates regarding BCMC please like the Bradley County Medical Center Facebook page, follow

updates for the BCMC Rural Health Clinic, please like the BCMC Rural Health Clinic page on Facebook.

## JOB OPENING

The City of Warren is currently accepting applications for a part time thrower for our sanitation department.

Applications may be obtained at 104 N. Myrtle Warren, AR 71671 until position is filled.

The City of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

## 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.

Applications may be obtained at:  
815 East St. Louis St. • 870-853-4224 • Hamburg, AR  
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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### AUCTIONS

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# The Eagle Democrat

# Editorial

## Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw  
Ark. State Representative



In a recent report to Arkansas lawmakers, it was revealed that behavioral health cases at a pediatric hospital surged by 25 percent since the pandemic's onset, with pediatricians noting that a significant portion of their workload now revolves around such cases. This trend mirrors national statistics cited by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), indicating that mental illness affects 1 in 5 Americans annually, including 1 in 5 children at some point in their lives. Responding to this pressing issue, the Arkansas Legislative Council recently approved funding a comprehensive plan aimed at tackling the crisis.

The council allocated \$30 million from the American Rescue Plan funds, as per the Department of Human Services' request, to enhance mental health and substance abuse services statewide.

This initiative encompasses various strategies, including establishing a coordinated crisis response system featuring a 24-hour call center linking individuals in crisis with clinicians via tablets, deploying mobile crisis teams, and providing telehealth training for first responders. Additionally, the plan focuses on bridging gaps in support by bolstering connections between healthcare and emergency response entities through innovative software.

Arkansas's Department of Human Services Secretary outlined plans to allocate these funds strategically, aiming to preempt crisis escalation and fill existing gaps in care services.

In 2021, the Arkansas General Assembly mandated a study on Mental and Behavioral Health in the state. Following extensive consultations involving DHS representatives, legislators, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders, the proposed plan addresses key concerns identified in the study. In a recent report to Arkansas lawmakers, it was revealed that behavioral health cases at a pediatric hospital surged by 25% since the pandemic's onset, with pediatricians noting that a significant portion of their workload now revolves around such cases. This trend mirrors national statistics cited by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), indicating that mental illness affects 1 in 5 Americans annually, including 1 in 5 children at some point in their lives. Responding to this pressing issue, the Arkansas Legislative Council recently approved funding a comprehensive plan aimed at tackling the crisis.

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## Arkansas History Minute

by Dr. Kenneth Bridges



Buildings have a special way of evoking a sense of place and time. A certain building can be the heart of a community, and its special features can leave warm feelings of nostalgia for their visitors many years later. Buildings also create a sense of character for a community. While many architects and contractors have contributed to the countless buildings across Arkansas, many mid-century buildings across South Arkansas exist today because of the work of architect John Abbott.

John Benjamin Abbott was born in El Dorado in May 1912. His father, Thomas Abbott, was superintendent of El Dorado schools. He had three sisters. In 1914, the family moved to Camden. They moved to Paragould and then to Little Rock a few years later. He was a diligent student and recalled how he was one of the first students to attend Little Rock High School, now known as Central High School. He was part of the first graduating class of the school in 1927. After graduation, he attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he studied architecture.

He eventually made his way back to El Dorado. He married Alice Grayson in 1935, and the two had a son. They all lived together in El Dorado in a home that Abbott himself designed. Abbott was one of the first licensed architects in Arkansas. His architectural license was number 6.

In 1936, he started his own architectural firm. That firm, CADM Architects, is still in operation. Abbott would go on to design a number of houses, churches, schools, and community buildings across the region. Abbott developed a reputation as insightful, honest, and diligent. His designs were both functional and elegant and found a receptive clientele across South Arkansas. One of his earliest designs was the Works Progress Administration Gymnasium on what was then the combined campus of El Dorado High School and El Dorado Junior College. The building was completed in 1940 and is used for basketball games at South Arkansas College today.

In 1946, he designed the terminal building at South Arkansas Regional Airport, which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That year, he also designed El Dorado's Memorial Stadium, home to the Wildcats of El Dorado High School and the Murphy USA Classic, which invites two Arkansas college football teams to the city to compete each year.

The entire cluster of buildings that surround the stadium were also designed by him in the 1950s, an area that is still a vital part of the life of the community. He designed the buildings for the Boys and Girls Club and the American Legion Building, later known as the TAC House. Both continue to serve as activities centers for area youths. In the 1960s, he designed El Dorado's South Arkansas Arts

See HISTORY Page 5



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

Arkansas legislators approved a \$30 million expenditure to improve mental health services and treatment of substance abuse.

The governor and the state Human Services Department supported the plan to fill in the gaps in the statewide system of treating mental illness and helping people with drug problems.

The money will help create a statewide response network, which will include a 24-hour call center. First responders will be equipped with tablets that allow people to be more quickly connected to staff at clinics.

Also, the funds will pay for more training for emergency medical technicians, police officers and other first responders.

They will be trained in patient evaluation, in order to recognize indications that someone is going through a mental health crisis.

They will be trained in the emerging technology now used for telehealth services, which allows medical staff and trained professionals to provide care for people at a distance. Funding also will pay for new software.

Some of the money will pay for more bed space in facilities where therapy is provided to people with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental illness.

Other improvements include programs to re-integrate children back into their communities after they or a family member has gone through a crisis.

Some funding will expand residential treatment programs for youths and adults who have problems resulting from substance abuse.

It will pay for housing for adults with mental illness to help them avoid being home-

less, or to help them stay out of prison or an institution. A similar program will support youths who are in jeopardy of homelessness, incarceration or institutionalization. The risk is especially acute for youth and young adults leaving state custody from foster care or the juvenile justice system.

The governor said the improvements paid for with the \$30 million are part of a broader plan to fill in gaps in current services and complete the health continuum of care for individuals with mental health needs, intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities. It also will benefit elderly people.

The state will build a "state of the art" facility at the Little Rock campuses of the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the School for the Deaf, which are adjacent to each other.

Legislators set aside about \$30 million and the governor said she hoped the project would move ahead as fast as possible.

Students, parents and stakeholders have expressed their wishes that the two campuses not be consolidated, in order to preserve the distinct culture and identity of each.

Some buildings need upgrades to electric lines and plumbing. The exterior of several buildings is crumbling, and the interior rooms are drafty. The schools must maintain a lot of outdoor space. Security of students is an issue, in part because the schools are near parts of Little Rock where transients seek shelter.

After legislators toured the schools, a senator said that the state had not prioritized the needs of the schools, and that "disrepair and neglect are apparent."

This year the School for the Deaf is teaching 102 students and the School for the Blind is teaching 67 students. Some live in Little Rock but many are from other parts of the state and live at the campuses during the week.



Arkansas high school seniors are busy planning for the future. As they study for Advanced Placement exams, buy their final yearbook and anticipate graduation celebrations, many pursuing higher education are filling out financial aid paperwork to help pay for the skyrocketing costs of college.

More than 17 million students annually complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to get crucial information about financial support eligibility from schools. This is a critical component for undergraduates in selecting where they will study.

In past years, the application process was lengthy and complex, which posed a significant barrier for prospective students and led Congress to make changes. In 2020, lawmakers authorized the U.S. Department of Education (DoEd) to simplify the application with the goal of encouraging young adults to realize the dream of obtaining a college degree.

While the number of questions considerably decreased from 108 to 36, there has been little else to applaud. Typical-

ly, the FAFSA form is available on October 1. However, DoEd's rollout of the new process for the 2024-2025 school year has been a failure. The form wasn't accessible until January 6 after a week of intermittent availability. This delay, and additional technical glitches, is leaving applicants with little time to review financial aid offers before having to make a final decision on where to attend.

In recent weeks, Arkansas college leaders and financial aid administrators have shared their concerns about the troubling impact these hurdles will have on the those considering registering for the fall semester and the potential negative impact on enrollment numbers.

This chaos has forced some colleges nationwide to extend admissions deadlines so students have more time to make the decision that best meets their needs.

Just as problematic is a disadvantage many children of rural communities will face. The revised method for calculating financial aid assistance requires these families disclose agricultural business

assets. Farm assets can range well into the millions of dollars, with the price of a combine harvester alone often exceeding \$400,000.

Changes to the needs analysis formula unfairly penalize farm families and could significantly cut financial aid eligibility for rural students.

The new FAFSA question misunderstands how these hard-working men and women operate. Farm assets cannot be cashed out to support a loan in the same capacity as traditional investments, so the cost of these tools should be exempt from calculating student aid.

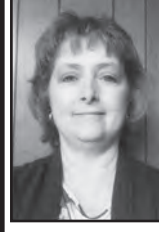
Bipartisan efforts in the Senate and House of Representatives are underway to overturn this misguided rule.

As families struggle to navigate the new FAFSA form, we're working to hold the administration accountable. In early

February, I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues in demanding answers from the DoEd Secretary about cuts to college aid for the children of agriculture producers. We need to know who the department consulted from rural communities to create the new guidance, if anyone at all.

The Government Accountability Office has also launched an investigation into this debacle. This is a good step that will deliver transparency and help prevent more students from experiencing the current setbacks.

Many scholars depend on financial aid to afford college. We have a responsibility to ensure they have access to this vital support that allows them to build a foundation for success.



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## HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

Center. Many of the schools in the El Dorado area in use today, including Hugh Goodwin Elementary School and Yocum Primary School, were either designed by Abbott at their inception or during their later restorations and expansions. He would also design the El Dorado Municipal Auditorium, the site of many graduations, community celebrations, and concerts since that time.

He continued to work actively as an architect into the 1970s. By this time, he also began concentrating on nominating buildings across South Arkansas onto the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 1980s, he led the res-

toration of the Newton-Rainey House, an impressive 1851 Victorian structure that was at one time home to El Dorado's founder, Matthew Rainey. As part of the process, the home was carefully moved a couple of blocks over to its current location. With Abbott's help, it became the Newton House Museum twenty years later.

Late into his life, he continued to contribute to the architecture of South Arkansas. In 2005, now 93, he worked as an advisor to the restoration of the WPA Gymnasium he designed early in his career. His partners in his firm, many years younger than him, often marveled at his attention for detail, his sage advice, and how well he remembered the smallest features of buildings he had designed decades be-

fore. Abbott enjoyed his role as a mentor. Even well into his 90s, he wrote several articles on the architectural history of Union County and continued to work to nominate buildings to the National Register of Historic Places. He remained very active in church and civic organizations. The South Arkansas Historic Preservation Society, an El Dorado-based historical organization, named an award for him to honor others in South Arkansas with his spirit for preservation and historical education.

Abbott passed away quietly at his El Dorado home in February 2012, just months shy of his one hundredth birthday. Many of his buildings still stand today, a testament to his skill and imagination.

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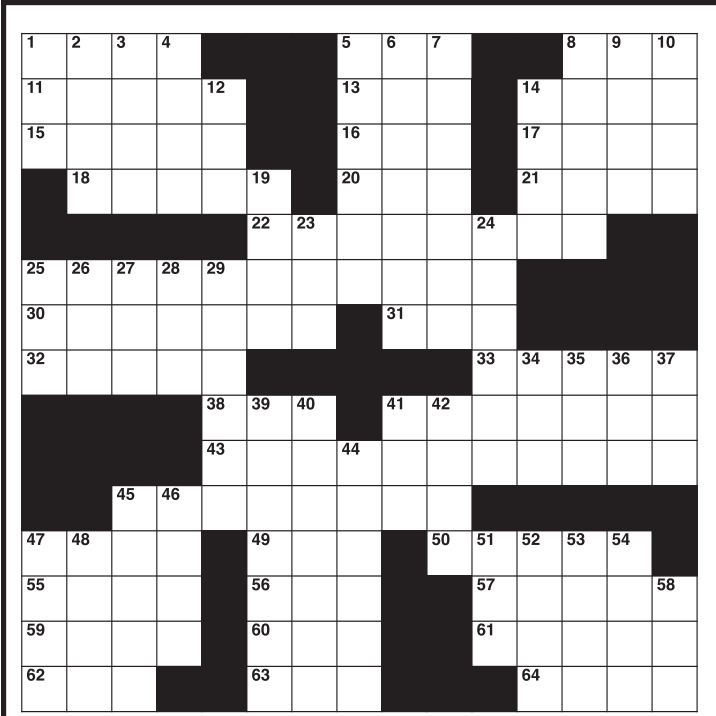
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# TIE THE KNOT WORD SEARCH



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer's tool
- 11. Quench one's thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path along a slope
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity
- 64. Post

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snakelike fish
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Economically-minded aircraft
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent

### WORDS

- BAND
- BETROTHED
- BOUQUET
- BRIDESMAID
- BUFFET
- CELEBRATION
- CENTERPIECES
- CEREMONY
- CHURCH
- COUPLE
- DANCING
- DINNER
- FESTIVITIES
- GUESTS
- HAPPINESS
- INVITATION
- LIMOUSINE
- MARRIAGE
- OFFICIANT
- RECEPTION
- RINGS
- SEATING
- VOW
- WEDDING

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M M L I U E Q I G H L O O E S A A I H D  
R R V P W N S G N I R G U S E A T I N G  
E D U L U N F O S V R Q N V C Y M I A C  
C M C H P O E P B Y N N B I S O C G H F  
N O I T P E C E R Y A R V G C V E F S E  
I Y S W R N O I T A T I V N I N I L A S  
C T S S E C E I P R E T N E C V A N W T  
V T S B G F C L D T P S E E Y O N D F I  
E E E O U D H E F E V W O V F L W S H V  
G F N U U M I C L I H M I F Y U F U W I  
A F I Q E D N A S E C T I N U Q U Y P T  
I U P U V H W W M B B C O Y Y O A B E I  
R B P E E E V Y A S I R H R H T C D G E  
R N A T D G I I O A E D A U T W H I D S  
A O H D N G F M N F L D N T R E R F I B  
M E I E C M D T Y E T E I A I C B A N M  
I N G E N I S U O M I L D R B O H Q N M  
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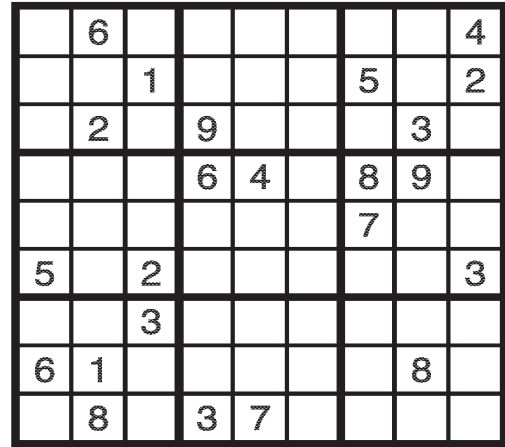
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



Solve the code to discover words related to weddings. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = R)

- A. 12 7 5 4  
*Clue: Promises*
- B. 10 14 9 3 11  
*Clue: Woman on her wedding day*
- C. 18 14 7 7 20  
*Clue: Man on his wedding day*
- D. 20 21 14 14 17  
*Clue: Get hitched*

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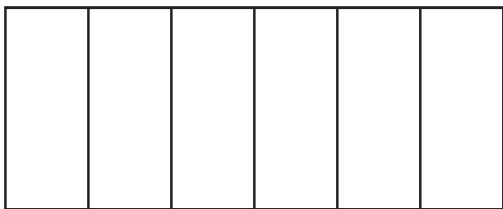
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Answers can be found on Page 8

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting married.

C R T I E E



Answer: Rectie



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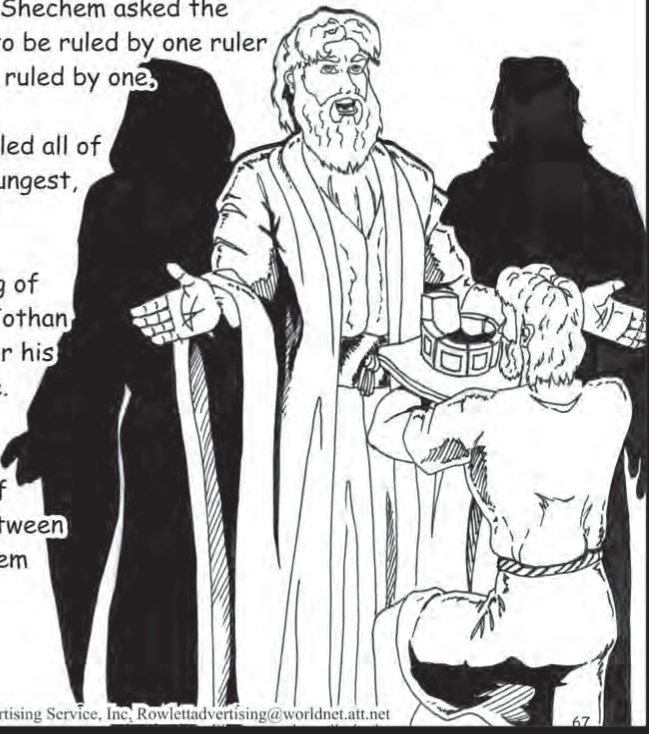
**FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE**  
**TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE**  
**Abimelech becomes King**  
 Judges 9

Gideon had seventy sons by many women. After his death, one of the sons, Abimelech, whose mother was a slave girl from Shechem asked the people of Shechem if they wanted to be ruled by one ruler or seventy rulers. They chose to be ruled by one.

Abimelech gathered an army and killed all of his brothers except Jothan, the youngest, who escaped.

Abimelech had himself crowned king of Israel by the people of Shechem. Jothan challenged Abimelech but in fear for his life he fled to Beer and dwelt there.

Three years after Abimelech was made king of Israel by the people of Shechem, God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the people of Shechem to avenge the death of Gideon's seventy sons.




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# UAM receives donation to launch Investment Club for all students

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

When Kevin Stephenson met Scott Saffold through the University of Arkansas Foundation, Inc., where the two serve on the Board of Directors, Stephenson was looking for a university that wanted help to launch an investment club for college students. Saffold, executive vice president and senior loan officer of Union Bank & Trust in Monticello, saw an opportunity to collaborate and told Stephenson about his alma mater, the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM).

Upon visiting UAM, Stephenson personally donated \$11,000 to fund the club, which is housed in the UAM School of Business but is open to all students on campus.

"Every student should learn about investing, no matter their major. Joining an investment club is a fun and effective way to do that," Stephenson explains. "After visiting the UAM campus

last fall and meeting the amazing students, faculty and staff, I knew I had to get involved, especially with the UAM Investment Club."

Stephenson's personal contribution will fund the activities of the club, materials for meetings, online resources to research investment opportunities and potential field trips and attendance at conferences. But he is not just giving financial support to the project. He also attended the club's first meeting on November 9, 2023, to share his expertise in investment strategies and introduce students to job opportunities outside of banking for finance majors. Stephenson is an expert on the subject, as he currently serves as the president of the Walton Investment Team, LLC and is co-chief investment officer of the Walton Foundation.

Dr. Shanna Knowles, faculty co-advisor of the UAM Invest-

ment Club, explains the importance of students having access to guest speakers like Stephenson.

"It's not often that students have the opportunity to sit in the room and learn from an investor who manages money of that magnitude," Dr. Knowles stated. With Dr. Knowles and faculty co-advisor Becky Phillips at the helm of the club, more than two dozen students joined within the first few weeks.

"We want to make an appeal to all students at UAM, not just business majors, to join the UAM Investment Club and learn the skill of personal investing. This is knowledge that is so important for them to take into their adult lives," Dr. Knowles said.

The club meets twice per month to hear from guest speakers with expertise in various areas of finance.

Phillips offers her thanks to

Saffold for helping to bring this opportunity to students at UAM.

"Scott Saffold has been very instrumental in supporting the launch of this club, and he is giving his time because of his love for UAM," Phillips said. "He is attending the meetings to share his expertise, and he is helping us to arrange guest speakers from the community for future meetings."

Saffold has big hopes for the outcomes of the club.

"I hope the students learn the importance of starting to invest early and how this pays dividends at retirement or at big life moments," Saffold said. "I hope it helps them create more retirement income by more informed investing of retirement funds. I hope it creates wealth that can help with down payments on homes, children's educations, etc. I also hope it creates a broader knowledge of career opportunities in the investment

industry."

The club regrouped after the winter break and had its second meeting on January 25, 2024. Guest speaker Marsha Masters, associate director of Economics Arkansas, helped kick off the club's first competition by announcing that her employer, Economics Arkansas, is paying the entry fee for UAM teams participating in the Stock Market Game, which is a national investment competition that takes place for thirteen weeks from January to April 2024. Teams of three to four students will pretend to have \$100,000 to invest in a simulation stock market. They must learn about various types of investments and assess risks with the objective of having the most money by the end of the thirteen-week game. During the meeting, Masters taught students in the club how to use the game's software to invest and compete.

"Although the game is short, only 13 weeks, we hope students learn to be long-term investors," Masters says. "We want students to learn about investing at a young age because we know that it will benefit them and their future."

UAM will compete against colleges across the state, and Economics Arkansas is offering a \$125 prize to the winning collegiate team from Arkansas. Local Edward Jones Investments financial advisor Jay Jones, a former vice chancellor at UAM, is also sponsoring a cash prize of \$100 per team member for the top-performing UAM team.

At the January meeting, Saffold introduced students to valuable investment resources, such as Morningstar, allowing students to research reports on investments to drive their decisions during The Stock Market

See UAM Page 9

# This week's recipe: A meatless meal to enjoy during Lent

The forty days and nights of Lent are a time for reflection and anticipation of Easter's arrival. Fasting, which for many Christians includes skipping meat and animal products each Friday, also is part of the preparation. Individuals who are unaccustomed to going meat-free may need to expand their culinary repertoire to en-

sure Friday meals continue to be filling and tasty.

This recipe for "Herby Rice and Black Bean Salsa Burrito Bowl" from Niki Webster's "Rainbow Bowls" (Sourcebooks) is full of protein-rich beans, flavorful herbed rice and satisfying avocado. It can be enjoyed as a quick and easy, meatless lunch or dinner.

## Herby Rice and Black Bean Salsa Burrito Bowl

**Ingredients: (Serves 2)**

- Splash of olive oil
- 100 grams sugar snap peas
- 1 avocado, flesh sliced
- For the rice:**
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 250 grams cooked basmati rice
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- 40 grams fresh herbs, such as coriander, flat-leaf parsley, mint and/or dill, chopped
- Sea salt and black pepper
- For the black bean salsa:**
- 240 grams canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 tablespoons sun-dried tomato paste
- 100 grams cherry tomatoes, chopped
- Juice of 1/2 lime

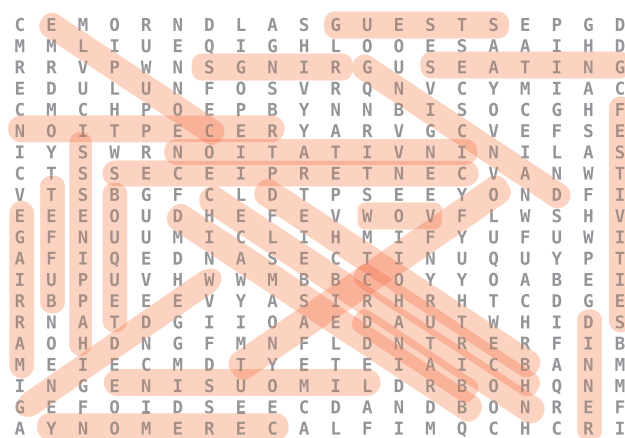
- 4 tablespoons fresh mint, shredded
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt flakes
- Pinch of chili flakes

### Directions:

To make the rice, add 1 tablespoon of the oil to a frying pan with the cooked rice, lime juice and maple syrup. Fry for 1 to 2 minutes on a medium heat, then add the fresh herbs. Add the remaining tablespoon of oil and season with salt and pepper. Set aside and keep warm. Set a small frying pan or griddle pan on a medium heat. Add a splash of olive oil and the sugar snaps and fry for 2 to 3 minutes until a little charred. To make the black bean salsa, add all the ingredients to a bowl and stir to combine. To serve, load two bowls with the rice mixture, black bean salsa, sugar snaps, and sliced avocado.



## Puzzle answers



### PUZZLE SOLUTION

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7	5	3	4	8	6	2	1	9
6	1	4	2	5	9	3	8	7
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## Guess Who?

I am an actress/singer born in California on February 20, 2003. I started out on television in a series based on the "American Girl" books. I moved on to Disney television, and later released my debut single about driving past a former flame's house.

*Answer: Olivia Rodrigo*

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SCAN ME



# Entergy offers variety of bill management and assistance options for winter season

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Last month, a significant intrusion of arctic air led to a three day period of below freezing temperatures and winter precipitation throughout the state. Many residents turned up their heaters to take the chill out of the air. Producing heat requires a lot of electricity, which can drive up your energy usage and bills.

You don't have to compromise comfort to keep your winter energy bills down. We recently shared free or low-cost energy efficiency tips that can go a long way in conserving energy and saving money

during the winter season. If you do receive a higher-than-expected winter energy bill, we have additional resources to help.

For customers experiencing financial hardship, we offer a variety of bill assistance options, including:

- **Deferred payment:** Talk with us about your situation and we may be able to make deferred payment arrangements. Request a deferred payment arrangement through myEntergy or by calling 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) and following our automated response system menu.
- **Low Income Home Ener-**

gy Assistance Program: Funded through the federal government, LIHEAP helps low-income households meet their home energy costs by making payments on the customers' behalf directly to energy suppliers. Visit [entergy.com/bill-help](http://entergy.com/bill-help) to learn how to apply for assistance.

- **Payment extension:** Qualifying customers who need a few extra days to pay their bill can request an extension through myEntergy or by calling 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) and following our automated response system menu.
- **The Power to Care:** Through

a network of nonprofit agencies, The Power to Care helps pay utility bills of those facing extreme temperatures with no way to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Learn more at [myentergy.com/s/powertocare](http://myentergy.com/s/powertocare).

Customers who are behind on bill payments should contact Entergy through myEntergy or by phone at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) to make payment arrangements and prevent disconnection. The Entergy app is also available to download for Android and iPhone operating systems at [entergy.com/app](http://entergy.com/app) and can be used for your convenience

to pay bills, monitor your usage and more.

Choose when, where and how you pay with our bill management resources, including:

- **AutoPay:** Avoid late fees, writing checks and paying for postage by having your bills automatically deducted from your bank account. Learn more at [myentergy.com/s/autopay](http://myentergy.com/s/autopay).
- **Level billing:** We average bills over a rolling 12-month period, so you have a more consistent bill each month of the year. Enroll at [myentergy.com/s/levelbill](http://myentergy.com/s/levelbill).
- **MyAdvisor:** Receive an estimate of what projected energy

usage costs could be by the end of the billing cycle. Learn more at [entergy.com/MyAdvisor](http://entergy.com/MyAdvisor).

- **PaperFREE:** Get your bill delivered directly to your email as soon as it posts. Learn more at [myentergy.com/s/paperfree](http://myentergy.com/s/paperfree).
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- **Understanding my bill:** We've designed the Entergy bill to help make it easier to understand. Learn more at [entergy.com/bill](http://entergy.com/bill).

# Arkansas Fruit Breeding Program releases new late-season blackberry

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Arkansas Fruit Breeding Program has released a new late-season blackberry to give growers a premium product after other varieties are done yielding.

Commercial scale propagators have licenses and material for sale for the 2024 planting season.

Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ is a thornless, florican-fruiting blackberry that offers medium to large berries that have been shown to hold up well after harvest. Floricane varieties produce flowers and fruit on second year canes.

"It is named to highlight its berry quality, which is beyond reproach, and its late-ripening season," said Margaret Worthington, director of the Fruit Breeding

Program for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. "People have been asking about a new late-season variety from the Arkansas program for a long time now. The main advantages Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ has over other late-season blackberry varieties are its outstanding post-harvest performance and its great yield potential."

The experiment station is the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Worthington said Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ demonstrates a step forward for blackberry firmness, which aids in holding up well during storage and shipping. Post-harvest trials at the Fruit Research Station near Clarksville

show that Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ had better fruit firmness than all comparison cultivars after two weeks of refrigerated storage.

Maintaining quality in post-harvest storage is especially challenging late in the season, Worthington added, because it is when temperatures are high and spotted wing drosophila pest pressure increases.

Despite its late-ripening window, red drupelet reversion and leak ratings for Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ were similar to earlier season varieties like Sweet-Ark® Caddo and Sweet-Ark® Ponca, she noted. Red drupelet reversion occurs when the individual round segments on the blackberry turn from black back to red during or after postharvest

storage.

Late-season varieties are treasured for growers in the shipping industry to command a higher premium because less fruit is available during that period. But, she said, it is also nice for local growers who can have fruit available at farmers markets, fruit stands, or pick-your-own operations later in the season.

At the Fruit Research Station, Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ is typically ready to pick the last week of June through mid-to-late July. Worthington noted that this period is 10 to 14 days after the harvest of Ouachita but in season

with Navaho and Von.

Like Sweet-Ark® Ponca, Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ has shorter-than-standard canes and a reduced space between leaves, also known as the internode length.

"It fills the trellis, but the first-year canes are a little bit shorter than standard," Worthington said. "This has an advantage for growers because you don't have to tip during the busy season when harvesting fruit. So, it can spread out the workload a little bit."

The term "tipping" refers to summer pruning on new black-

berry canes performed during the growing season to manage plant height and increase yields by promoting lateral branching.

Including Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™, the Arkansas Fruit Breeding Program has publicly released 22 blackberry varieties, with 16 of those being florican-fruiting.

Sweet-Ark® Immaculate™ is available for licensing to propagators. Contact the Technology Commercialization Office for licensing information at 479-575-3953 or by email at [agritco@uada.edu](mailto:agritco@uada.edu).



Photo courtesy of UAM

## UAM

Continued from Page 8

Game.

"For me, the club is an opportunity for our students to learn about investing through various levels of industry investment experts speaking to the club, as well as an opportunity to gain practical experience through investing \$100,000 through the Stock Market Game. I think we have a great opportunity

through the club to provide added value to the education they will receive at UAM," Saffold said.

Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of UAM, offered thanks to those involved in bringing the club to UAM.

"I want to express my gratitude to Kevin Stephenson for his generous donation to fund the UAM Investment Club. Thanks to his support, our students will have the opportunity to learn about the important life skill

of investing," Dr. Doss said. "I would also like to extend thanks to Scott Saffold for bringing this opportunity to UAM. It is a shining example of the importance of alumni bringing resources to the university and supporting the next generation of students."

For more information about the UAM Investment Club, contact Becky Phillips at [phillips@uamont.edu](mailto:phillips@uamont.edu) or (870) 460-1111 or Dr. Shanna Knowles at [knowles@uamont.edu](mailto:knowles@uamont.edu) or (870) 460-1311.

## City of Warren Mayor's 2023 Report

It is my pleasure to provide a report on Warren Municipal Government for the year 2023. I believe our city made progress in 2023 and laid the foundation for more progress in 2024.

First, it is my privilege to have been elected Mayor of Warren for the term that began January 1, 2023. It has been an honor to work with the day-to-day operations of Warren Municipal Government and to work on issues and policies to improve our community. The city council, elected officials, all department heads, employees, and those serving on boards and commissions have been cooperative to work with and consult with.

### THE FOLLOWING IS A DEPARTMENT-BY-DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR 2023:

#### ADMINISTRATION:

Some minor reorganization was implemented in 2023. City Clerk Janice Nelson and City Treasurer Robert Milton have an assistant who works for the City Clerk but provides services for both officials. This person also maintains the city's website and manages our Economic Development information by computer.

The mayor has an Executive Administrative Assistant (long-time position) and an assistant who helps the mayor manage personnel issues and works special projects such as grants. Reporting directly to the mayor are the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Building Official/Sanitation Manager, Street Foreman, and Parks & Recreation Director. Economic Development is managed by the mayor and his office.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Shaun Hildreth reported a 10% drop in crime for 2023 from 2022 with a total of 911 calls for the year. The Animal Control Division of the department reported 155 dogs picked up, with 51 returned to owners. There were 301 calls answered and 39 dogs adopted out. Another 6 dogs went to an Animal Rescue Facility.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Warren Fire Department responded to 170 emergency calls in 2023. This included 20 toned out structure fires and 7 extrication calls. The department made 150 inspections and began repainting fire hydrants.

A grant of \$230,505.00 was provided by FEMA to purchase new MSA Air Pak's, 34 face pieces, 52 air bottles and replaced the 1983 model air compressor and filling system. The department consists of 4 full-time firemen and 33 volunteers. The department trains monthly.

#### BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

During 2023, the department issued 53 building permits and collected \$47,083.58 in fees based on construction valued at \$7,435,844.43. There were 5 new Commercial Construction permits issues for \$675,605.00 in value. Fees collected were \$6,044.01 of which \$337.81 was paid to state.

One property was rezoned, 66 electrical permits issued, and 70 plumbing permits issued. All were inspected. Two mobile home permits were approved in 2023.

**SANITATION DEPARTMENT:** (garbage collection) - The City collected 3,300 tons of garbage and paid \$250,000.00 to dispose of it in a private landfill.

Garbage collected included household garbage, limbs, leaves, and junk. The Class IV material was disposed of in the County Landfill. The City paid dumping fees.

Two Longtime and valued employees retired in 2023. Agary Hill served 35 years, and P.J. Byes served 25 years. We are grateful for their service and wish them the best in retirement.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX** - An extraordinary amount of repairs and improvements were made on our recreation facilities during the year. The baseball/softball complex needed considerable work. This included new fencing, painting concession building and dugout, and major repairs to the lighting system. New major repairs to the nets were installed and repairs to the grounds and entrance were made.

The baseball/softball complex is owned by the city but serves as the home field for the Warren Lumberjack Baseball team and the Warren Lady Jack Softball team. The complex serves the Donald W. Reynold YMCA as well and is rented for tournaments and private events. It is heavily utilized in the spring and summer. The Warren School Districts assists with maintenance.

**WARREN CITY PARK** (Martin Street) - We have worked to maintain the playground and equipment and the old locomotive engine.

**WARREN TRAIN DEPOT** - The depot is being regularly used for events such as reunions, birthdays, and other events. Maintenance and repairs were conducted during 2023.

**WARREN CITY POOL** - Major upgrades were made to the restroom and dressing rooms. Plumbing repairs were made for both girls and boys.

**OLD ARMORY** (Martin Street) - The Old Armory houses several offices for individuals and organizations. The offices are rented, 4-H Archery practice is conducted in the large room and the facility is rented for various activities.

**WARREN PISTOL/RIFLE RANGE** (South of Warren) - This range is heavily used for skeet and trap shooting and has a rifle and pistol ranges. Our youth clubs use it and organizations rent it. Upkeep of the range was conducted during the year.

**JOHN SCOBY DRIVE/TENNIS COURTS** - The park and tennis courts belong to the city and are used by the public and the Lumberjack Tennis teams. Maintenance was carried out in 2023 and more is underway.

**WARREN CULTURAL CENTER** - The building is stable but in need of major repairs. It was shut down in 2023- for safety and general conditions. The city is working on repairs in an attempt to reopen.

#### STREET DEPARTMENT:

In 2023 the Street Department vacated the Old Street Shop near Church Street and moved into new facilities behind the Old National Guard Armory. It is bigger and more suitable for storing equipment.

During the year the department conducted extensive ditch cleaning and chemical treatment for weed control throughout the city.

The department oversaw periodic work by State Prison Inmates in cleaning streets and ditches, picking up litter and cleaning out portions of the Town Branch. The department is working its way to each street in the city limits.

#### WARREN WATER & SEWER:

The Warren Water & Sewer Utility pumped 376,810,000 gallons of water in 2023. The peak month was August when 30,390 gallons were pumped. The daily average pumped in 2023 was 1,032,356 gallons.

Pipe infrastructure was repaired in several locations to reduce leakage and a new well was drilled.

Work continued to add sewer line to the Southeast section of the bypass and upgrades were made to the city's sewage treatment plant.

Maintenance and improvement were made to sewage lines and pump stations.

#### WARREN HOUSING AUTHORITY:

During 2023 work was completed re-roofing buildings of the Twin Rivers Housing on the corner of Rock and George Streets. Other repairs were made to other housing units and the Warren Housing Authority was awarded a high-performance rating by HUD.

The section 8 program, which provides rental assistance to low-income residents of private rental property, provides 70 vouchers.

The Warren Housing Authority manages 171 apartments in addition to Twin Rivers and the Section 8 Program.

#### OTHER:

A major undertaking of the city in 2023 consisted of effort to clean up dilapidated structures and require owners to repair, cleanup to remove junk for both residential and commercial establishments, according to law. Many old vehicles that were not licensed or insured were removed. In some cases, the property owner cooperated, but in many cases the city had to take legal action.

Under action taken by the City Building Official and the Warren City Council, the city tore down 1 house, cleaned up 27 properties and removed 55 vehicles.

Also, during the year, 4 commercial buildings were removed on Cedar just across the street from the courthouse. All were in dangerous condition, and all were in danger of collapsing. The city condemned 3 of the larger structures, Bradley County purchased all the properties and razed the structures. The area is now safe and will hopefully be utilized in the future.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The city is currently working with several industrial-type businesses to have them locate in Warren. We are hopeful to see more progress in 2024.

**The Advance-Monticellonian is looking to hire an energetic individual to join our sales and marketing team.**

**The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic about serving the local community and assisting local businesses with their print and digital advertising needs.**

**Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**



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- Meet sales goals set by each publication

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# Obituaries

## Anthony Lynn Colvin

Anthony Lynn Colvin, 64, beloved husband, son, brother, father, and grandfather passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by his family on Saturday, February 10, 2024. An esteemed resident of Livingston, Texas since 1995, he was born on December 15, 1959 in Cleveland, Texas, the middle son of J.C. and Wanda Williams Colvin. Anthony grew up on his grandparents' lumber mill, Williams Lumber Company, which was located south of Cleveland, Texas, along with his family, aunts, cousins, and workers. A third generation lum-



COLVIN

berman, Anthony owned and operated Colvin Timber Company before branching out into retail with Colvin Auto Parts and AC Guns. Anthony was the recipient of the Texas Forestry Association's Outstanding Logger of the Year award in 2004, a distinction that his father received in 1996. Anthony was a lifetime hunter, fisherman, farmer, rancher, mechanic, handyman, entrepreneur, tinkerer, and learner. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Beverly Bailey Colvin; brothers John Charles Colvin Jr. (Billie) and Mark Wayne Colvin; children Matthew Scott Colvin (Kasha), Drew Alexander Colvin (Katie), and Hannah Rae Colvin Mueller (Jack); grandchildren Rowan Colvin, Rooney Colvin, Ren Colvin, Caroline Mueller, Auden Mueller, and Frederick Mueller; and his late mother's

husband, Hoyle Pope. Anthony was preceded in death by parents, J.C. Colvin and Wanda Williams Colvin Pope, and grandparents, Sam and Mildred Hamilton Colvin, and Carl F. and Cynthia York Williams. Anthony was a long-time member of Central Baptist Church in Livingston, Texas, where services were held at on Saturday, February 17, 2024 with Pastor Sonny Hathaway officiating. Interment will follow at Peebles Cemetery. Visitation was held for family and friends on Friday, February 16, 2024 at Cochran Funeral Home Chapel in Livingston, Texas. The family would like to give special thanks for the compassion and companionship received from the doctors and nurses at Texas Oncology in the Woodlands, Dr. Luna of Livingston, and Gentiva Hospice Care. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Central Baptist Church.

Cochran Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. (Paid obituary)

## Jeffrey Allen Smith

Jeffrey Allen Smith of Warren, Ark., died Thursday, February 15, 2024. Surviving is his mother, Elizabeth Clanton Smith, brother Greg Mann (Rachelle), son Joseph Smith (Jessica), ne-

ice Gabby Mann, and grandsons Elijah Smith and Hudson Smith. Graveside service was held February 18th at Union Hill Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home.

## Tylette Jackson-Talukder

Tylette Jackson-Talukder, 43, of Memphis, Tenn., died Febru-

ary 8, 2024. Born June 19, 1980, to Barbara Jackson and Joe Simmons. Surviving is her husband Mark Talukder, Bonus father Jerry Sr., Siblings Vanna (Joshua), Jerry Jr. (Brandhi), Nicholas (Lamika). Funeral service was February 17, Greater Shady Grove AME, Wilmar. Hammons Funeral Home.

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Eagle Democrat publishes obituaries edited to The Eagle's format, up to 50 words, free of charge. All words over the 50 word limit will be charged at a rate of 34 cents per word. Obituaries that are requested to be published "exactly as the furnished copy" will be charged 30 cents per word for the entire obituary. No form of "thank you" will be published within the obituary. No exceptions. The cost to publish a picture with the obituary is \$10. The deadline to submit an obituary is noon on Monday.

# Chamber of Commerce holds monthly meeting

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Bradley County Chamber of Commerce met on Monday, February 12, 2024, for the first monthly meeting of the year. Newly installed Board Chair Dana Harvey called the meeting to order and welcomed EASI rep-

resentative Nyeshia Aldridge who attended the meeting for the first time. The minutes of the annual meeting held in January were approved by the members present, as was the financial report which was reported by Treasurer Jane Harris.

Chair Harvey announced that former Special Events Committee Chair Julie Hamilton was stepping down and Nancy Arnold was being appointed as the new committee chairperson. James Wells was appointed as Fundraising Committee Chair. James

informed those present that he had completed paperwork for an Arkansas Heritage grant and Executive Director Terrie White will be attending designated training to comply with the grant stipulations. Dana reminded everyone that the committee chairs are

coordinators and are not solely responsible for performing the work necessary to hold community activities such as the Christmas parade and Easter Egg Hunt. The next Chamber meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at noon in the BCEDC

conference room. Members and representatives from businesses which are part of the Chamber membership are encouraged to attend, as well as those interested in joining the Chamber or who would like to learn more about its activities.

# DG announces more than 215,000 pounds of food donated in AR

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Dollar General announced it donated more than 215,000 pounds of food to Arkansas Feeding America® food banks in 2023. The donations are a part of more than 15.2 million total pounds of food the Company donated in 2023 to local food banks from DG stores and distribution centers to help address food insecurity and nourish neighbors

in need. "As millions of U.S. households struggle with food insecurity, Dollar General is utilizing our store and distribution center footprint to advance efforts to eliminate hunger and create access to nourishing foods for families in need through our Feeding America partnership," shared Denine Torr, Dollar General's vice president of corporate social

responsibility and philanthropy. "We are collectively working on strategies to address immediate and longer term needs of our communities and neighbors through food recovery efforts and capacity building grants for local and regional food banks. We are grateful for local affiliates and national leaders involved in our efforts and their dedication to eliminating hunger." Dollar General donated to the following Arkansas food banks in 2023:

- Arkansas Foodbank
- Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas
- Northwest Arkansas Food Bank

Since its partnership in 2021,

Dollar General has donated more than \$3 million to Feeding America, including a July 2023 \$1 million grant, alongside in-kind donations that equate to more than 24 million meals. On average, DG stores and distribution centers donated more than 1.25 million pounds of food, equivalent to more than 1 million meals, each month in 2023. With approximately 75 percent of the U.S. population living within five miles of a DG store, millions of Americans rely on Dollar General to provide convenient and affordable access to everyday household essentials. While Dollar General is not a grocer, the Company continues to provide Better For You foods

and resources, as well as health and wellness products and services. The Company also recently announced fresh produce availability in more than 5,000

stores, giving it more individual points of produce distribution than any other U.S. mass retailer or grocer.



# Application period opens for Arkansas Heritage Grants

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Community-based non-profit groups and others interested in supporting the mission of Arkansas Heritage are encouraged to apply for Arkansas Heritage Grants. Arkansas Heritage is a division of the Department of Arkansas Parks, Heritage and Tourism which identifies, preserves and promotes our state's cultural, historic and natural resources as a source of pride and enjoyment for all.

brick-and-mortar infrastructure. More information on grant criteria can be found at ArkansasHeritage.com. There are two deadlines in 2024 for submitting proposals: April 12 and Oct 11. For more information, please contact Debra Fithen, grants manager for Arkansas Heritage, at debra.fithen@arkansas.gov.

"The heritage of our state is influenced greatly by the big and small actions of community leaders," said Marty Ryall, director of the Division of Arkansas Heritage. "That's why we're encouraging Arkansans to apply for these grants and further support their local programming, events or offerings." Arkansas Heritage Grants are designed to help groups promote awareness and enjoyment of Arkansas' heritage; increase community-based non-profit groups' ability to create heritage related programs, especially in places where they would otherwise not occur; foster cooperative efforts among organizations, businesses and government to increase the size and scope of events; and create ongoing components to existing heritage-related celebrations. Grants cannot exceed \$5,000, and for-profit organizations or events are not eligible. Money must go toward the proposed program, but cannot be used to fund ongoing operating costs, staff salaries or

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BRADLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 NOON-2 P.M.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION CENTER (SEACBEC)

800 N. WALNUT ST. | WARREN

Facebook Watch Party @ Arkansas Overdose Program Don't Run Call 911

https://www.facebook.com/ArkansasOverdoseProgram/

Join us for the Arkansas Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Prevention Project Community Roundtable, where community members and key stakeholders in Bradley County will discuss possible solutions, prevention efforts and ways to address the opioid epidemic in the county.

Help us put an end to the opidemic.

Contact us at (501) 570-8000 or visit [www.NARCANSAS.com](http://www.NARCANSAS.com) for more information.

JUST SAY KNOW

ONE PILL CAN KILL

The project is funded by grants (SORII H79TI085733 and FR-CARA TI082521) from SAMHSA. The views and opinions contained here do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and should not be construed as such.