

# The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, April 24, 2024

No. 43

## Hermitage sewer project in danger of being shut down

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle-democrat.com

The city of Hermitage held its monthly city council meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Mayor Matt Cathey opened the meeting by asking Police Chief Ben Poole to present the police report. Poole reported that there were 15 citations for speeding, four citations for no proof of insurance, three citations for driving on suspended license, one citation for running a stop sign, one citation for no driver's license, one citation for battery in the third degree, one citation for reckless driving, one citation for criminal mischief, and two citations for expired tags. A motion was made and approved to accept the police report. All were in favor.

There were no fires for the month of March. Cathey told the council that the fire truck that has been out of commission is in the process of being repaired and will soon be ready.

"The alternator has been repaired and the fluids and belts are being replaced," Cathey said.

The public works report was then presented. All collected samples passed all tests. A motion to accept the public works report was made and approved. All were in favor.

The animal control report was then presented to the council. There are currently six dogs in the city pen. They are all available for adoption. A motion to accept the animal control report was made and approved. All were in favor.

Cathey then presented the Mayor's report to the council. The city of Hermitage is in the process of extending its sewer system to include parts of the Farmville Road. The city has only received one bid but has heard nothing from the bidder. The city received a verbal notice that the project will be shut down soon if the current bidder does not respond to the city by May 1, 2024.

Cathey also reported that the second annual Hermit Daze Festival is set to happen on May 18. A full list of events can be found on the Hermitage City Hall Facebook page. A motion was then made and approved to accept the Mayor's report. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 16 at the Hermitage Community Center.

## CHAMBER WELCOMES GOOD NEWS ICE CREAM TO THE COMMUNITY



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

The Bradley Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the Good News Ice Cream Shop to officially welcome them to the City of Warren. The Good News Ice Cream Shop is a locally owned and operated business with a wide array of ice cream treats including cones made in-house and banana splits. They are located at 200 West Cypress Street. They are open Tuesday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

## UAM partners with SEACAC to train nurses

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) and the Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corporation (SEACAC) have announced a partnership to train certified nurse assistants (CNAs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) using grant funds awarded to SEACAC through the Delta Regional Authority.

The partnership aims to increase admission numbers to the UAM Colleges of Technology CNA and LPN programs and the UAM School of Nursing Associate of Applied Science RN program. Additional objectives are to raise the attainment rates of skilled nurses by 24 certified nursing assistants each semester and to increase the retention of skilled nurses by 15 percent.

The program begins in May of

2024 and ends in May of 2025. It will fund scholarships for tuition and fees and course materials and supplies for 24 students in the CNA program, three \$1,000 scholarships per College of Technology for students in the LPN program and six \$1,000 scholarships for students in the AASN program. Certain eligibility criteria must be met in order to qualify for the scholarships.

"This partnership fills critical needs in southeast Arkansas and aligns perfectly with the vision and mission of UAM. We appreciate this opportunity to serve our region as afforded by SEACAC and the Delta Regional Authority," Crystal Halley, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UAM, stated.

"SEACAC's mission challenges our agency to assist those who are disadvantaged to advance

toward self-sufficiency. We are fortunate to have UAM and its technical campuses in our communities. The quality of education offered by UAM assures the success of this endeavor," Michael Jones, executive director of SEACAC, said.

"Effective Organization Management Consultant (EOMC), in collaboration with SEACAC, is dedicated to fostering the success of this program by not only being a support system for the partners involved but also promoting job creation and retention for the students they serve," Dr. Lupita Roy-Rasheed, CEO and founder EOMC, said. "We believe that the healthcare industry deserves individuals who are highly skilled, motivated and committed to making a positive impact on others' lives."

Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of



Photo courtesy of UAM

On April 9, a planning meeting was held at UAM in which members of SEACAC, EOMC and UAM gathered to discuss the details of the new partnership between SEACAC and UAM.

UAM, expressed her gratitude for the new partnership with SEACAC.

"Thank you to SEACAC for their valuable partnership and their grant funds from the Delta Regional Authority to train UAM

nursing students," Doss said. "It is crucial to have skilled nurses to meet the workforce needs of the region and Arkansas, and we are grateful for SEACAC's support of the UAM School of Nursing and the nursing programs at

the UAM Colleges of Technology in Crossett and McGehee."

For more information or to complete an application, visit SEACAC's Nursing Program webpage.

## Commercial Bank and First State Bank to join together to benefit customers

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Commercial Bank & Trust is proud to announce a strategic initiative to unify sister bank, First State Bank of Warren, into the Commercial Bank operation effective June 24, 2024. Given the proximity of locations, unifying as one bank under the Commercial Bank charter will aid customer access and convenience. Customers will have access to a total of eight banking offices and nine ATMs in the southeast Arkansas communities of Monticello, Warren, Hermitage and Hampton.

Both Banks were purchased by Bennie Ryburn, Sr. more than 50-years ago, and have operated as separate and distinct banks since that time. Todd Smith, president of Commercial Bank and First State Bank of Warren was asked about the reason for the change.

"Joining the two banks together will remove back-office redundancies and allow us to offer greater convenience, and better products and services such as enhanced technology for customers," Smith said. "It will also allow our staff to spend more time with customers and less on administrative duties that act as a barrier to service. It's a win-win for the communities we serve because no staffing, philanthropic-giving, or community development will be reduced. We will eliminate the structural red tape of operating with two names."

The Bank will convert its computer systems in mid-June, and open June 24, 2024, as a combined institution. Customers will be able to do business at any of the Bank's eight offices and nine ATMs effective June 24, 2024.

"Unifying our banks under a common name and charter allows us to leverage our strengths as we continue to invest in our employees, our customers, and the communities we serve," stated Bennie Ryburn, III, Chairman and CEO. "Operating as one bank will be a game-changer for customers on day one while we focus on the things that set us apart, 1) local bankers making local decisions, 2) investing in our relationship-based model to satisfy customer needs, and 3) actively serving the Southeast Arkansas communities we call home. After all, we live here, and succeed when you succeed."

Both First State Bank and Commercial Bank customers should continue using their existing deposit accounts, loans, debit cards, and digital services. First State Bank will notify cus-

tomers in writing with any updates regarding the re-brand to Commercial Bank.

First State Bank executive Hugh Allen Quimby stated he is excited that customers of both banks will have double the number of locations and ATMs to use.

"Bennie Ryburn, Sr., was all about customer convenience," Quimby added. "That's why he bought the banks in the first place. He'd be pleased to know local people still have a local bank designed with them in mind."

The banks' websites have links at [www.FirstStateWarren.com/resources/BetterTogether](http://www.FirstStateWarren.com/resources/BetterTogether) and [www.Commercial-Bank.net/resources/BetterTogether](http://www.Commercial-Bank.net/resources/BetterTogether) to answer FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

## HERMIT JUNIOR BOYS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP



Photo courtesy of Mistie McGhee

On April 17, 2024, the Hermitage junior boys track and field team, coached by Greg Hilliard, competed in the 1A-8 conference championship. They won overall with a score of 129 points. Carson Curtis scored 28 points making him second overall. Aidean Castanon was fifth overall scoring 22.5 points. Team members included Aidean Castanon, Carson Curtis, Josh Mitchell, Robin Carroll, Robert Carroll, Blaine Howard, Ace Jurado, AJ Thomas, Carlos Dominguez, Aiden Smith, and Samuel Ramos.

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Pastor - First Assembly of God  
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**WHEN LAUGHTER IS HOLY**

What about this matter of laughing?

Is it right to laugh? Is there any place in the Christian life for it? Is it proper to laugh in church, of all places? One might think not when looking at some organized religions. The solemnity and piety can be stifling. The clearly defined program in the printed bulletin leaves no room for such positive emotion.

Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini has shown the world just how unhappy some religions can be. And, even in the Western society, much of the singing slips into the category of the dirge. The buildings are austere; robes are black. Faces solemn and crowds subdued.

So what about laughter? The writer of Proverbs told us that "A merry hear doeth good like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

Malcolm Muggeridge, that crusty old curmudgeon from England, who in his later years committed his life to Jesus Christ, once said that he fully expected that the first thing he believed he would hear in heaven was the unmistakable sound of laughter.

Oh, I like that. I truly think he may be right.

But what does God think about it? Does it please Him when we exhibit joy and delight? Or does He frown upon such frivolity as unnecessary and impious? Doesn't it seem a bit illogical to you that the God who designed the monkey and the puppy could ever frown on laughter?

And yet laughter is not often a part of the worship experience. Somehow breast-beating seems more appropriate to us: slow, ponderous music more acceptable.

Those self-appointed critics of healthy, positive emotion would point out that we have no record of Jesus ever laughing. And they are right that no Scriptures out and out record such a happening. But I would dispute such a conclusion. I believe Jesus laughed — and often.

For example, when a small boy brought our Lord his lunch box when Jesus needed enough food to feed 5,000 men, plus their vices and children, I believe Jesus at least smiled at him; and frankly, I think He

may have laughed right out loud. That little lad must have given Christ a tremendous moment of pleasure.

I think our Lord must have been amused when Peter tried to do the impossible and climbed out of the boat to walk on top of the water of Galilee.

I believe that Christ must have laughed at the stodgy camels that dipped and bobbed across the middle-eastern terrain. I am confident that He laughed when He held those precious little children on His lap.

Oh, yes! I am sure that Jesus laughed all right. Laughter is perhaps the healthiest emotion we have. And it is a delight to worship in churches where the people are not afraid to laugh. I am not talking about frivolity or in any way desecrating the sacred matters of the Word. I am talking about healthy, natural laughter.

There is an abundance of joy in knowing Jesus. That joy can be expressed in quite normal ways without doing any violence to scriptural holiness. We know for a fact that Wesley often enjoyed a good laugh. Once, when a band of ruffians decided to scare the preacher out of town, they waited for him to ride on horseback along a desolate country path. When he rounded the corner, they leaped into his way, each dressed in a long sheet or robe. One of them screamed at Wesley, "I am the devil," Wesley simply slipped to the ground, walked to the fellow

and held out his hand. "Why, I've wanted to meet you for a long time," he said, "I'm married to your sister." That could only come from a man possessing a sparkling sense of humor.

Perhaps a pastor is reading this whose every vision and dream for the charge God has given him has fallen far short. You wonder if it's you, if it's your ability, your talent that is lacking. Satan has inflicted you with a raging inferiority complex. You have wept in the night at the backslidden condition of some of your parishioners. You have silently wondered if revival will ever come in that church where you minister. You have pondered leaving, thinking perhaps the spiritual grass is greener on the other side. Don't let Satan cheat you like that. God is no respecter of persons and hence no respecter of ministries. Keep sowing that precious seed. Water it with your tearful prayers and intercession. The day will come — for God has promised it — when you will come rejoicing, bringing your sheaves with you.

So is it wrong to laugh? To enjoy life to its fullest?

Laughter is a gift of God: the giggle of a child, the chuckles of a loving mother, the joyous laughter of a saint who has seen a wayward child come home. "Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongues with winging; then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them!" (Psalm 126:2).

**LEGALS**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HOLLY THRELKELD, DECEASED NO.06PR-2024-7-2

**NOTICE**

Estate of HOLLY THRELKELD, Deceased.  
Last known address: 411 W. ELM ST., WARREN, ARKANSAS 71671  
Date of Death: 20<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by a Distributee was filed with the Circuit Clerk of Bradley County, Arkansas. The following real property is listed in the Affidavit:

**REAL PROPERTY:**  
The decedent owned the following described property located in Bradley County, Arkansas:  
**BEGINNING AT A POINT 10.95 CHAINS SOUTH AND 4.32 CHAINS EAST OF THE NW CORNER OF THE NW ¼ OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 13 SOUTH, RANGE 9 WEST, THENCE RUNNING EAST 1.02 CHAINS, THENCE SOUTH 2.01 CHAINS TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE WARREN AND OUACHITA VALLEY RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY, THENCE SOUTH 68° WEST ALONG NORTH LINE OF SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, 1.11 CHAINS, THENCE NORTH 2.39 CHAINS TO BEGINNING POINT.**

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, duly verified to the undersigned within three (3) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate. Provided, that claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publications of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This Notice was first published 4/17.  
The name and address of the distributee and his attorney is stated below:

Janette Stafford, Distributee  
/s/Michael D. Ray  
By: Michael D. Ray, 92146  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 1123  
Crossett, AR 71635  
870-364-5176-phone  
870-364-6503-facsimile  
mdraylaw@gmail.com

4/17, 4/24

**HOLLINGSWORTH HOME WINS YARD OF THE MONTH**



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

Mark and Kelley Hollingsworth were awarded Yard of the Month for April by the Revitalize Hermitage group. Revitalize Hermitage is a group of people who come together make a difference by doing good and making their community look nice.

**Chamber of Commerce announces beautification contest**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Bradley County Chamber of Commerce announces the Community Business Beautification contest. Let's get Warren spruced up! There are big things happening in Warren during the month of June. Of

course, there is the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival, and the cast and crew from History Channel's hit series AMERICAN PICKERS will be here filming an upcoming episode. We want Warren to show its pride!

For the contest, make your business look the best you can. Examples are power washing, fresh paint, attractive window display, flowers, benches, clean/new awnings, etc. The Chamber will tackle the old Martin's lot; volunteers are

welcome for all projects — just call the Chamber office at 870-226-5225.

There will be a CASH PRIZE for first, second, and third places. Judging will take place Wednesday, May 15. Winners will be announced thereafter.

**Church Secretary, First Methodist Church (FMC) of Warren:**

The position is vital to the mission and success of FMC. The secretary works closely with church members, volunteers, pastor, and staff.

The ideal candidate will have excellent interpersonal skills, as this position will function in both clerical and financial capacities. The position is salaried and considered safety sensitive.

Submit your resume to [pastordixonfumcwarren@gmail.com](mailto:pastordixonfumcwarren@gmail.com) or call Pastor Dixon Platt, 479-249-7100, for more information.

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**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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- Read and interpret equipment manuals to perform required maintenance and service.
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- Performs other work-related duties as assigned.
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Please email resumes to: [mchavez@ouachitahardwood.com](mailto:mchavez@ouachitahardwood.com)  
Mail or deliver to 501 Pennington St. Warren AR 71671  
Office hours are from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

**THE LUMBERJACK BATTALION BRINGS HOME HARDWARE**



Photo courtesy of Heidi Lassiter

Warren High School's Army JROTC, Lumberjack Battalion, participated in the Little Rock Catholic Marine Corps JROTC'S Raider competition this past Saturday April 20, in three categories, bringing home hardware in each. The all-male team of: Cody Weatherspoon, Luis Woods, Emanuel Strong, Nickolas Dickens, Aaron Woodard, and Ashton Ozment won third place in the Physical Fitness competition. The all-female team of: Aaliyah Ross, Alliana Ayala, Isabell Davis, Faith Strong, Julisa Jaimes, and Anna Gomez won second place in the Physical Fitness competition. Finally, the all-female team of: Alliana Ayala, Mia Johnson, Isabell Davis, and Julisa Jaimes secured the first-place trophy in the Color Guard Competition. Other school districts that competed were: Watson Chapel, North Little Rock, and the host Little Rock Catholic.

**LADY JACKS WELCOME NEW COACH**



Photo by Robert Camp

Bo Hembree introduced Mary Beth Grant as the new junior and senior Lady Jacks basketball coach. Grant is currently the assistant coach of the Watson Chapel Lady Wildcats. She will take over the reins of the basketball program at the end of the school year. Grant was welcomed to the Lumberjack family by parents and students at a gathering in Lumberjack Arena Monday April 22, 2024.

**The Great Outdoors Youth Day**

**SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE**

The Cooperative Extension Service of Bradley, Cleveland, Calhoun, and Dallas Counties is once again sponsoring The Great Outdoors Youth Day on Saturday, May 4, at the Bradley County Park. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and events will include a fishing derby, learning stations, and other special activities. Lunch is sponsored by L'Aigle Creek Conservation District. All youth ages 5-14 years old are invited. Youth under age 9 will be required to have a parent present, however, all parents are encouraged

to attend. Bring your own fishing poles and bait for catching catfish. For more information, contact John Gavin at the Bradley County Extension Office at 870-226-8410. The University

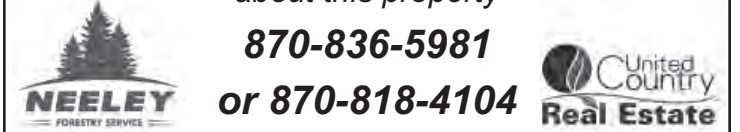
of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or

need materials in another format, please contact your Bradley County Extension Office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

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# The Eagle Democrat

# Editorial

## Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw  
Ark. State Representative



The General Assembly is now entering the third week of the 2024 Fiscal Session.

This week, the House passed three resolutions to allow the introduction of non-appropriation bills during this session.

HR1013 will allow for the introduction of legislation outlining a temporary pay plan for state employees. The plan would increase pay for all state employees by 3 percent, increase the minimum starting salary to \$32,405, and increase the maximum salary for all pay grades by 10 percent. The bill now outlining the plan is SB77 and has been introduced in the Senate.

The House also passed HR1009 and HR1020. These resolutions will allow for the introduction of legislation regarding digital asset mining businesses. SB78 and SB79 have been filed in the Senate.

This week, the House also passed more than 100 appropriation bills. The bills included appropriations for the Department of Corrections for overtime of correctional officers and transitional housing for inmates.

Appropriations for several two-year colleges and various state commissions also passed the House. In addition, the House passed a supplemental appropriation for \$29 million for grants and aid to local school districts for the current fiscal year.

The House will convene again on Tuesday, April 23 at 1 p.m. You can watch all House proceedings and committees at arkansashouse.org. I'll continue to update you.

## Arkansas History Minute

by Dr. Kenneth Bridges



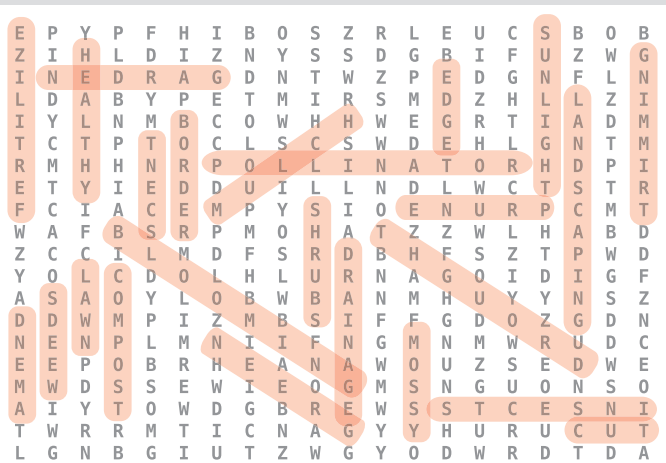
Fay Jones spent his life building and creating, bringing elaborate and stylish building designs to life. In the process, the Arkansas native became one of the most respected and innovative architects of the twentieth century.

Jones was born in Pine Bluff in 1921. As a child, his family moved to Little Rock and then to El Dorado. Here, his parents ran the People's Cafe, a local favorite, for many years. Growing up in El Dorado, he developed a reputation for art as he drew constantly as well as his building all sorts of structures, from crude huts to an elaborate treehouse that featured a balcony and a fireplace.

After learning about famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, he was inspired to turn his passion for art and building into an architecture career. Upon his graduation from El Dorado High School in 1938, he enrolled in the civil engineering program at the University of Arkan-

See HISTORY Page 5

## Puzzle answers



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

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



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

The state Education Department has written new rules for troubled schools to enter "transformation contracts" with outside entities, such as charter school operators.

The Department will accept public comments until May 15 on the eight pages of proposed rules. They will implement a provision in the LEARNS Act that was passed by the legislature last year. The act was the centerpiece of the governor's legislative agenda.

An Education Department official said that transformation contracts offer a dramatic way to improve districts that are in academic distress.

Schools are eligible to enter the contracts if they have a

D or an F rating or if they are classified as needing Level 5 intensive support by the Board of Education.

A strong incentive to enter transformation contracts is that for two years after the contract is signed, the state will not impose any sanctions or take any actions against the school for failing to satisfy academic performance standards.

The proposed rules allow the state to provide financial incentives to support the transformation campus, but the proposals do not specify any details about those incentives.

Under the proposed rules, any property owned by a school district when the contract is signed shall remain in the school's possession.

The organization that contracts to take over most of the school's administration is referred to as the transformation campus operator. Their intent must be to return management to the school after "accelerated, meaningful, and sustainable in-

creases in student achievement have been achieved."

One school district in the state is already being operated under a transformation contract that was signed soon after the LEARNS Act took effect last year. It is the Marvell-Elaine School District in east Arkansas, which is under state control.

Under the three-year transformation contract signed last year, Marvell-Elaine schools are being operated by the Friendship Education Foundation that sponsors open-enrollment charter schools in Little Rock, North Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

The proposed rules would allow school districts that are not under state control to enter transformation contracts. If the district falls under state control during contract period, the contract would become void on the date the state takes over control.

Another provision in the LEARNS Act will require high

school students to perform 75 hours of community service in order to graduate. The first seniors who will have to comply will be the class of 2027, who are now in ninth grade.

This class has about 39,000 students, so they will contribute almost three million hours of community service in Arkansas over the next four years.

The Education Department has written four pages of proposed rules to implement the community service provisions and will take public comments until April 24.

Local school boards may grant a waiver to a graduating student for extenuating circumstances, on a case-by-case basis. For example, waivers may be granted to students who are medically fragile, or students going through a serious illness or who has a family member who is seriously ill.

Also, students with jobs who contribute significantly to the family's income may get a waiver.



The opioid crisis has had a widespread and destructive impact on our state and entire country, which is why we're working together to fight back. State and local leaders are investing in prevention and treatment efforts while non-profit organizations have mobilized with the same goal of delivering help and ending the cycle of addiction.

In rural states where people live far from treatment centers, accessibility is a key factor. Efforts are underway in Arkansas to bring care to patients where they live. Arkansas Mobile Opioid Recovery launched its health clinic earlier this month to deliver critical services to individuals struggling with addiction in areas with limited resources.

It's ready to hit the road and help beginning on a rotating basis in Malvern, Danville and Morrilton. The idea was sparked by community partners who recognized the need in underserved neighborhoods and found a practical way to provide care. I am hopeful it will be successful and inspire similar outreach in other

areas of the state.

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin approved a grant for this project with money from the state's opioid settlement. He is responsible for disbursing these funds and has backed a number of other measures to fight the opioid epidemic including awarding \$50 million to Arkansas Children's to establish the nation's first research center to study opioid effects in infants and kids.

The National Center for Opioid Research & Clinical Effectiveness will play a critical role in developing preventative measures and therapies to combat the impact of opioids on developing brains.

The need for this center is clear. Young children are increasingly falling victim to accidental ingestions at an alarming rate. The National Institutes of Health reports opioids are the most common cause of fatal poisonings in children one to four-years-old, making identifying and evaluating the signs of overdose even more urgent to be able to treat these vulnerable individuals.

There is a role for us all to play to prevent children and adults from accessing harmful prescriptions. Drug take-back programs have proven effective in getting legal prescription drugs off the streets and out of the hands of friends, family and neighbors who might misuse them either deliberately or unintentionally.

As a longtime advocate for the Arkansas Drug Take Back program, I'm proud to see how Natural State residents are supporting this cause and taking action to get expired or unused medications out of homes.

This is an important step that has resulted in the disposal of more than 290 tons of medications in Arkansas.

We're looking to build on

this momentum during Arkansas Take Back Day on April 27. It's easy to join this effort with more than 300 sites statewide collecting prescription drugs. To find a convenient Take Back site visit [www.takeback.org](http://www.takeback.org).

To learn more about how to monitor, secure and dispose of medications, the new ReviveAR app available on smart phones is a good resource that also provides access to prevention, treatment and recovery tools available in our state.

We remain committed to eliminating the threat of opioid-related overdoses. Let's work together to tackle the opioid epidemic head-on and prevent potentially dangerous medications from being abused so we can curb this crisis and save lives.

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Ben Barton

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- Brunson Elementary School Principal (Services Grades 4-5)
- Middle School/Brunson Art Teacher
- Brunson Elementary Instructor (2)

- WHS/WMS Choir Director
- Warren High School History Teacher
- Classified:
- WHS ISS Facilitator
- Bilingual Paraprofessional
- Physical Therapist
- Technology Technician
- Bus Drivers (District)
- Food Service
- Paraprofessional
- ELL Paraprofessional

Applications may also be picked up from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Warren school District Administration Office located at 408 Cherry Street in Warren, Arkansas. Application and supporting documents may be emailed, faxed, mailed, or delivered to: Warren School District, Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 1210, Warren, AR 71671, ph. 870-226-6738, fax 870-226-8531.

# HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

sas. With World War II on the horizon, he enlisted in the navy in 1941 and served throughout the war as a dive bomber and a torpedo pilot.

Jones left the navy in 1945, and returned to the University of Arkansas in 1950 as the university inaugurated its new architecture program. While still a student, Jones happened to meet his inspiration, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the

two began a lasting friendship. Reportedly, while teaching in Oklahoma, it was Wright who advised Jones to return to Arkansas, telling him, "You can build there."

Fay Jones accepted a position as an architecture professor at the University of Arkansas in 1953. In 1956, he began an architectural firm in Fayetteville while still teaching. Most of his early work was designing a handful of houses in Northwest Arkansas. At one point, he designed a new home for Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton. By

the early 1960s, Jones's designs were winning praise from fellow architects and the general public alike. He continued to train new architects, ultimately rising to the position of dean of the architecture school in 1974.

In July 1980, he unveiled what became his most famous work, Thorncrown Chapel, near Eureka Springs. Using a style that Jones called "Ozark Gothic," he used mostly glass, native pine, and a small amount of steel to create a small chapel

See HISTORY Page 6

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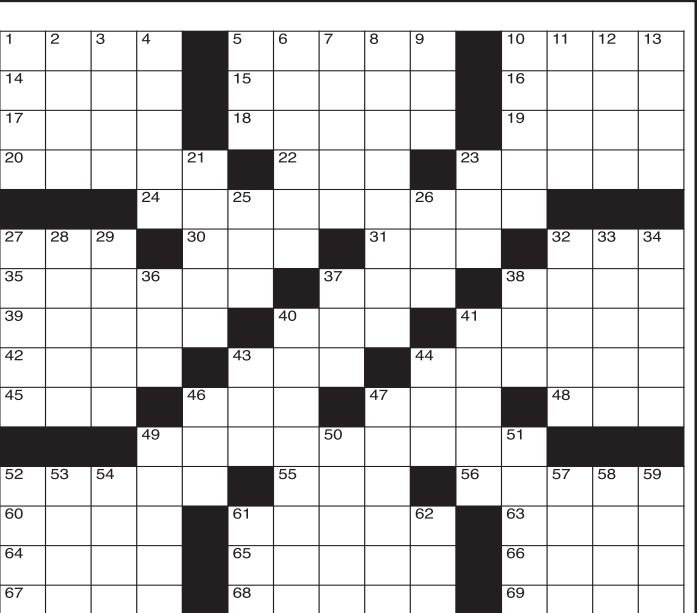
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E P Y P F H I B O S Z R L E U C S B O B  
 Z I N H L D R I Z N Y S S D G B I F U Z W G  
 I N E D R A G D N T W Z P E D Z H L L Z I N  
 L D A B Y P E T M I R S M D D H L L Z I  
 I Y L N M B C O W H H W E G R T I A D M  
 T C T P T O C L S C S W D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

## WORDS

- AMEND
- BLOOMING
- BORDER
- COMPOST
- CUT
- DRAINAGE
- DROUGHT
- EDGE
- FERTILIZE
- GARDEN
- GREEN
- HEALTHY
- INSECTS
- LANDSCAPING
- LAWN
- MOSSY
- MULCH
- POLLINATOR
- PRUNE
- SCENT
- SHRUBS
- SUNLIGHT
- TRIMMING
- WEEDS

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



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disgrace
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Slang for sergeant
- 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part
- 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin
- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskey
- 61. \_\_\_ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of water

Answers can be found on Page 4

## SUDOKU

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

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Level: Intermediate

## HISTORY

Continued from Page 5

that was 48 feet high and included 425 windows and six thousand square feet of glass rising to a criss-crossing web toward the ceiling. The effect was a panoramic view of the surrounding forest and hills. It is routinely used for weddings and worship services. Six million people have visited it since its completion. The chapel was awarded the highest honor among architects, the American Institute of Ar-

chitects Honor Award, and won global praise. AIA members also chose Thorncrown Chapel as the best design of the 1980s. Jones was hired to design projects across the nation, often integrating the natural landscape into the designs. The fame his work had earned led him to retire from the university in 1988. His practice, however, remained small, with his wife handling most of the paperwork and the firm occupying one floor of a Fayetteville office building he had designed. By the 1990s, his fellow architects had named him

one of the most admired living architects in the world. Declining health forced his retirement in 1997. He would

pass away seven years later at age 83. In 2009, the University of Arkansas honored his memory by naming its School of Ar-

chitecture after him. The Fay Jones School currently offers degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, and in-

terior design, teaching students to make ideas and possibilities into architectural wonders as Jones had done.

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This other relative wanted the land but did not want to perpetuate Mahlon's name by marrying his widow. Boaz, being the next in line, took Ruth as his wife. Ruth bore a son, Obed. Obed begat Jesse. Jesse begat David, who became the King of Israel.




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# Obituaries

## Linda Joyce Hamilton

Linda Joyce Hamilton passed away April 12, 2024 at the age of 71.

Surviving family members include sister Mary Bray. Two brothers, Marty Hardy and Mike Wheat. Three children, Lisa Webster, Kenny Hamilton, and James Hamilton. Four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and dog, Lil Bit. Arrangements by Frazer's Funeral Home.

## Charlotte McClelland

Charlotte McClelland, 86, died April 19, 2024 in Rogers. Born June 17, 1937, to the late Vosser and Birdie Gorman.

Survivors: sons, Benny Johnson and Monty Johnson; daughter, Delores Johnson; granddaughters, Randi and Sarah; six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Funeral 2 p.m., April 23 at Frazer's Funeral Home. Burial in Marsden Cemetery.

## Empowerment through education: introducing Pre-Educator Program of Study for high school students

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

With the rapidly evolving landscape of education, Warren High School is proud to announce the launch of the new Pre-Educator Program of Study, an innovative education program designed to empower high school students with knowledge and experience in the field of education. The Pre-Educator Program aims to bridge the gap by offering a comprehensive curriculum tailored to the needs of today's students. Through a combination of interactive lectures, hands-on projects, and collaborative activities, students will have the opportunity to delve into various subjects and develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.

growth mindset, we strive to ignite a passion for lifelong learning in our students.

Introduction to Education offers students who are preparing for college a valuable opportunity for growth and development. Moreover, students can receive college credit for this yearlong course.

"We believe that every student has the potential to achieve greatness, and this new program of study can unlock that potential," said Ms. Tiffany Gathen, principal at Warren High School. "We are excited to embark on this journey with our students and empower them to succeed in school, career, and life."

We invite our students to enroll in Introduction to Education for the fall 2024 semester; to register, you or your student can contact Mrs. Nicole Robinson, WHS counselor.

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## Wardlaw speaks to Rotary about Pinnacle In-Home Care

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Rotary Club of Warren met for its weekly meeting Tuesday at First Methodist Church. To begin things, the group heard from Junior Rotarian Mya Casler. Rotarian Reverend Dixon Platt introduced Missy Wardlaw's program, Pinnacle In-Home Care to the crowd. Wardlaw spoke about Pinnacle In-Home Care, which has an office in Warren. Jeff Wardlaw recently became the Chief Operating Officer for the company. Wardlaw talked about the services Pinnacle provides and answered a few questions from those in attendance.



Pictured are Reverend Dixon Platt and Missy Wardlaw.

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# 2024 Hometown

# REFLECTIONS

## BELTREFLECTIONS

## How the YMCA continues to make a community better



By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle Democrat.com

If you have lived in Bradley County for a while, you probably know where the YMCA is. The Young Men's Christian Association, or YMCA as it is best known, has been in the Warren community for 104 years. But anyone from Warren simply calls it the "Y". Growing up and starting out in Warren, I knew what the YMCA was. I moved out of Bradley County at a young age, but I would return to visit friends and family during the summer. I remember driving by and seeing people swimming and thinking about how fun that must be.

Recently I got to talk with Bart Goodwin and Stacie Stone, who both work at the YMCA. Goodwin is the Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, and Stone is the Assistant Executive Officer, or AEO.

I asked Goodwin if there was anything about the YMCA that people may not know, and his first thought was that people often don't know that they are a non-profit organization.

"Not everyone knows that we're a non-profit," Goodwin said. "To be honest with you, most people think that the Y is loaded, but the truth is totally opposite."

One thing that they rely on to keep going is donations from the public. Each year, the YMCA has its annual campaign where they go around to the community and send out letters asking for donations.

Another way that the YMCA raises money is through its annual radio auction which always falls on the first Friday of every November.

"That's our biggest fundraiser," Stone said.

The radio auction always coincides with the last regular Lumberjack football game of the season. The Jacks play on Thursday and the auction hosted by Jimmy Sledge, happens on Friday on 105.5, KWRF. But Stone and Goodwin are aware that not everyone listens to the radio, so the EAST lab from Warren High School will come each year and set up their camera and broadcast to Facebook. This makes it possible for people to see what is being auctioned off.

"But people still have to call in to bid," Stone said.

The YMCA offers many services to the community. Fitness classes are just one example. The most popular class they offer is the Active Older Adults class. Susan Roberts teaches it and close to 40 people meet three times a week to participate. Stone herself offers a class called Total Burn twice a week and she has 10-12 people that join her.

"Our class is more high-intensity," Stone said.

The YMCA also offers different kinds of peewee sports. Right now, they are in the middle of baseball and softball season. If you have a three to four-year-old that is interested in playing, they have a junior tee ball league. For kids that are five and six years old, there's regular tee ball. Then for kids who are eight to fifteen

years old, there are the softball and baseball leagues.

"It's our busiest time of year," Goodwin said.

After baseball and softball, they offer tackle and flag football to students.

The YMCA also does things to help out its community. When places like Armstrong have their health fair, the YMCA will set up a booth. They have also donated books to the school, which in turn, the school handed out to the community. For that event, the YMCA set up a reading area so that students could come and read their new books. If other community events like bake sales or auctions happen, the YMCA is more than happy to donate memberships. If you've caught a t-shirt or walked on an orange footprint at a Lumberjack game, the YMCA has helped with those.

One thing that Goodwin and Stone are always happy to hear is people's "Y" stories. People from past generations will often have a story of the role that the YMCA in Warren played in their lives and how important it is to them.

"We get letters from the ones that live out of town that grew up here saying how much the Y meant and still means to them," Stone said.

Goodwin and Stone both have their own "Y" story.

"From the time I was five, I would take dance and my mom would drop me off. Then of course I would swim in the pool. The Y was like my babysitter," Stone said with a laugh. "My mom worked up the street and

when we got tired, we would just walk to where she worked."

Goodwin then shared his own story.

"I moved to Warren when I was 13, but before I did, we would come in the summers and visit. My papaw was the pastor at Calvary and we would walk from where Calvary is, to the Y, and stay there all day," Goodwin said. "C-Way was open and we would bring four or five dollars a day and go over there and get

lunch, whether it was a Snickers bar or whatever."

Goodwin also said that when he moved to Warren, the YMCA was a big reason for excitement and that he grew up there.

"I don't know what I personally would've done without the Y," Goodwin added.

I've been to a few towns in my life, and I don't think I've ever had anyone tell me that the YMCA meant as much to them as the one in Warren means to its

residents. My guess is that many people have their own "Y" story. I have memories of going as a guest with friends and in recent years, taking my kids to swim. In the state of Arkansas, there are only two open and active YMCAs, and one is in Warren. I hope that our YMCA will stay open for many years to come and that many more generations will continue to enjoy everything it has to offer.

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# Hermit Corner Produce brings big taste to a small place



By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

The town of Hermitage is not very large. Some might even call it a “blink and you’ll miss it” kind of place. I’ve called it home for almost 19 years. It’s the type of town that has a couple of small restaurants, gas stations, and a Dollar General. While it used to be busier, Main Street is a little quieter now. I’ve heard rumors that Hermitage used to be the place to go when you wanted to do

something, but that was long before my time. I’ve only ever known it as what it is now; quiet. One thing that Hermitage hasn’t had until recently is a place to buy fresh plants and produce. That changed when Brad Harrod decided that he wasn’t done growing things.

The Harrod name isn’t unknown in Bradley County or the world of produce. They’ve grown different types of produce over the years ranging from toma-

atoes to watermelons and cabbage. There’s a good chance that if you drove through any part of south Bradley County, you might see one of their fields.

Recently I was able to sit in an interview with Harrod and his daughter, Emily Rippey, and learn a little about their journey into the small produce business. When their family farm went out of business, Harrod didn’t feel like he was done.

“I didn’t want to quit,”

Harrod said.

He tried selling produce from where his home and property are located, but there were other places to buy from before people reached his location. He was kind of at the end of the line. By the time people to got him, they had found what they were looking for and their trucks were almost full.

“I had some loyal peddlers from the family farm that would still come, but anybody else, by the time

they got to me, they were just looking for one special item or another,” Harrod said.

After a while, Harrod was given the opportunity to use a small lot located in town where people were sure to stop because it was easy to find. Harrod’s son, Braden started selling their produce off of the back of a flatbed trailer. He did that for two years until the Harrod’s were approached in 2018 and asked if they wanted to buy the lot. Brad

said yes and Hermit Corner Produce had a permanent home.

I asked Harrod if Hermit Corner Produce was affected during the pandemic and his answer was no. He said that because the market was open air, people were more willing to come shop.

“People were taking their stimulus money and actually buying fresh vegetables,” Harrod said.

Each year, Hermit Cor-

See HERMIT Page 11

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## HERMIT

Continued from Page 10

ner Produce grows a little. While they started on the back of the trailer, soon they moved to wooden tables in a larger area where they could add more of what they were already selling and also widen their selection of produce. A permanent roof that keeps the sun and rain off of the produce was added, making the stand look like an actual market.

They have a large selection of vegetables to choose from and you can find tomatoes, watermel-

ons, squash, and other typical produce. Recently they have started branching out and adding things like guajillo peppers which are found in molé sauces. They will also add a new squash called a calabacitas which is really common in Mexican dishes.

“They’re very similar to a zucchini, but they’re a little sweeter,” Rippy said.

In the summer, one thing that they always have is tomatoes. But I’m not just talking about your typical, run of the mill, red tomato. They carry tomatoes in all kinds of colors ranging from Purple Cherokees to

bright yellow and orange grape and cherry tomatoes. They also sell many varieties of watermelon. The range of colors of produce is very pleasing to the eye.

But the Harrod’s aren’t sticking with only vegetables. They also sell plants. The difference between their plants and the plants from the big chain stores is that the Harrod’s grow their own plants in greenhouses that they own. They oversee the growing process from seed to bloom.

Their selection is large and the colors of the flowers are always bright and vi-

brant. They also sell pots to go with your plants. You don’t have to go to multiple locations to find what you need.

Hermit Corner Produce isn’t only serving Bradley County. People from the surrounding area make their way to Hermitage to see what they can find and they return week after week and year after year. Harrod and Rippy have customers that come from as far as Bastrop, Louisiana.

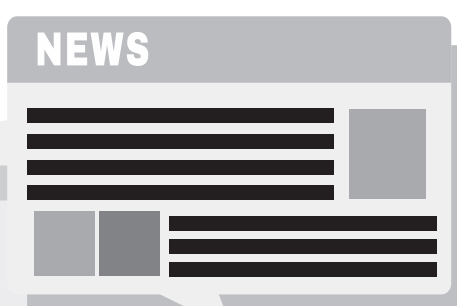
“The man who was the foreman for the bell tower project on the courthouse in Warren lives in El Do-

rado and he would pass by all the time going to and from work,” Rippy said. “Now he and his wife come all the time and buy things from us. The minute we open, they come and buy flowers, produce, and in the fall, they buy pumpkins.”

Among places like El Dorado and Bastrop, people also come from Strong, Camden, Smackover and Monticello. In order to attract the people from places that aren’t close, you have to have something that’s worth driving for. That’s exactly what Hermit Corner Produce has.

Harrod and Rippy are very passionate about what they do and the proof can be seen in the products that they grow and sell. They are eager to help and they love seeing new and returning customers year after year. They have made Hermitage look better with the work they’ve done to the corner where their market sits. They are honest and hard-working and they are ready to serve you. Make sure that you make your way down to south Bradley County to pick up fresh produce and beautiful plants. You won’t regret it!

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# HOMETOWN Heroes 2024

## Hometown hero: Tiffany Gathen

By JOANNA POOLE  
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When I think of a high school principal, I think of someone who loves their school, job, and most importantly, the kids that attend their school. The person that comes to mind when I think of all of those is Tiffany Gathen. Tiffany is the current principal of Warren High School. Recently, at a school assembly, I listened to her talk about her students with great admiration. But more on that in a minute.

When I asked Gathen if she was a Bradley County native, her answer was no. However, I think that some would disagree. While the definition of the word native says that you have to be born and raised in that particular place, I say that doesn't always apply. Gathen may not have been born here, but she still considers herself a Bradley County girl.

"I tell people all the time that I sleep in Monticello, but I live in Warren," Gathen says. "My day starts and ends in Warren, Ark."

Another reason she considers herself a B.C. native is because of her parents. She credits Bradley County and Warren Public School District as the reason her parents met. Her father, Thomas Gathen taught physical science and was an assistant coach. Her mother, Barbara Gathen taught English in the district for 28 years.

"Many people do not realize that my early education years

started at Eastside, K-2 grades," Gathen said. "I say my educational years and career have come full circle since working in the district. I just love this and not many people can really say they are this fortunate."

I wholeheartedly agree! It's not often that someone gets to work in the same school district that they started in.

Gathen graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with her undergraduate degree. From there, she went on to Harding University and Arkansas State University for all of her post-undergraduate studies.

I asked Gathen what factor helped her decide to go into the field of education. To my surprise, she didn't start college to become an educator. When Tiffany was in junior high and high school, she actually wanted to be a cardiologist.

"After two years spent majoring in pre-med and fighting my way through Organic Chemistry, I spoke with my parents and decided that my heart and true ability was my writing skills," Gathen said. "Thus, I changed my degree plan to English."

Gathen then spent four years working at the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative writing grants and that's when she decided that her true calling was education. She loves that she gets to not only help shape students' lives but also fulfill her desire of wanting to work on hearts.

"One could not ask for a better job than being an educator," Gathen said.

Gathen has been in the education field for 21 years. Seventeen of those years have been spent working as a teacher, instructional facilitator, and administrator.

Let's go back to why I was at a school assembly listening to Gathen speak. Not long ago, Josten's ran a campaign called the Josten's School Revamp. Schools submitted videos saying why they wanted to win \$150,000.00 to go towards a makeover for their building. Gathen is the contact person for Josten's at the high school and after reading about the requirements and knowing that Warren High School could benefit from receiving the award, she took action! With the help of Peyton Reep and WHS's EAST lab students, they got the ball rolling and told Josten's exactly why they were Lumberjack Strong!

Tiffany Gathen is passionate about her job and loves to show compassion to her students. She wants her students and Warren High School to be successful. She's everything a high school principal should be. That's why she's the Hometown Hero for April.




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