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139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, May 8, 2024

No. 45

# 2024 Alfred J. Crabaugh Award: Braden Jones

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Braden Jones decided four years ago to move from the southeast Arkansas home he loves to attend Arkansas Tech University.

As he prepares to graduate from ATU. Jones now considers Arkansas Tech his second home.

"I think we have one of the greatest campuses in the state," said Jones. "It's beautiful. It's big enough that you don't know everyone, but you have the opportunity to meet everyone if you want. You can create your own path at Arkansas Tech. If I need anything from my professors, I call them. They're going to answer and help me the best they can. There are just so many ways to get involved and so many things to do off campus, as well. Arkansas Tech does a great job of putting the student first. We have everything for everyone."

Jones is the 2024 recipient of the Alfred J. Crabaugh Award as the most outstanding senior

male student at Arkansas Tech. He will be recognized during ATU's spring commencement ceremonies at Tucker Coliseum in Russellville on Saturday, May 11.

"To me, it's an honor I cannot describe," said Jones when asked about the Crabaugh Award. "It shows that Arkansas Tech is inviting to everyone and anyone. We're all here together. It shows that Arkansas Tech loves its students and that we're a family. If it hadn't been for my professors pushing me, looking out for me, and understanding what I could be, I wouldn't be here. Looking back, I was just having fun. I didn't really think about how influential it had been. I just felt like I was at home."

Jones grew up in Warren playing football, basketball, baseball, and golf. Other pastimes included hunting or fishing with fam-

"I even tried my hand at pole

vault for a little bit," said Jones.

As he prepared to graduate from Warren High School and take the next step in his educational journey, the community of Russellville helped sell him on Arkansas Tech.

"I chose to come to Tech because I loved the feel of Russellville," said Jones. "Coming from a small town...Russellville is much larger than where I'm from, but it still has that smalltown feel. Then I learned about all the opportunities outside the campus with the state parks, Lake Dardanelle, and a lot of wildlife management areas to hunt at. I knew a lot of people in south Arkansas, and I felt like it was time to go and meet new people."

Jones and his roommate, fellow Warren High School graduate Kade Weaver, enrolled at Arkansas Tech in the fall of 2020 and Jones quickly found his place in the Bachelor of Arts degree program in journalism, focusing his studies on public re-



JONES

lations.

"I fell in love with the program," said Jones. "I started taking classes with Dr. Hanna Norton,

Mr. Tommy Mumert, and Mrs. Megan Toland. Instantly, I was learning the Associated Press style, the rule of thirds, and multimedia practices. I was excited to get that insight so early in my college career, and I could tell they weren't just teaching this stuff from a book. They had lived these experiences, and I knew

one day I'd be able to use those experiences for my benefit."

Jones began to see those benefits in action when he was selected for an internship with The Communications Group, a public relations firm in Little Rock. There, he designed and executed a public relations campaign and event that earned him a Prism Award from the Arkansas chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

"It cemented that what I've learned at Arkansas Tech is what I need to know," said Jones. "When I entered my internship, I was a little nervous about being in the real world. However, I found that everything transferred from what I was doing in school right into what I was doing in my internship. To see the hard work that I put in during my classes pay off in the real world showed me it was all worth it and that I had some great mentors. I can't thank them enough for what I've learned (at ATU)."

Jones has served as president of ATU's Public Relations Student Society of America chapter, as a tour guide in the ATU Office of Admissions, and as a senator in ATU Student Government Association.

"I was always passionate about school," said Jones. "My mom and grandmother understood the importance of education. They always told me academics come first, so I entered here with the same mindset. Winning is a mindset you can put into anything you do...in the classroom, athletically, and in relationships with your friends and family... so I wanted to continue that. At Tech, I grew personally and realized there's more than just attending class and getting good grades. I continued to do that, but I got involved in other areas and felt more prepared. I have a better understanding of how to meet people, how to talk to them, how to work as a team and how to be a leader."

# Midnight South to perform at Pink **Tomato Festival**

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival Executive Committee is pleased to announce that on Friday, June 14, vocal group MIDNIGHT SOUTH will take the stage as our Friday night entertainment.

Midnight South is an American country band that utilizes shades of rock and roll, pop, and old-time music. Formed organically in Central Arkansas, Midnight South is proud to bring its listeners the sounds of the Natural State.

Heavily influenced by icon-

ic country artists of the 1990s through the 2010s, like Alan Jackson, Brooks & Dunn, Keith Urban, Zac Brown Band, and Midland, as well as more traditional country artists such as Merle Haggard, and Arkansas' own, Johnny Cash, the group harkens back to previous eras of country music, all while providing a fresh take on a familiar sound. Sure to invoke feelings of nostalgia, Midnight South aims to give listeners a soundtrack for windows-down cruising, two-stepping, or toe-tappin'.

#### BRADLEY COUNTY 4-H HOLDS BARBEOUE COMPETITION



The Bradley County 4-H Program recently held its annual Broiler BBQ Contest. Participants were given four chicken thighs to grill. The thighs were then judged. The participants were: Axel Martinez, Jack Chambers, Asher Weaver, and John Sawyer Murphy. Asher Weaver received the First Place Award. All four will advance to the District Competition in Clark County later this month.



Number two-seeded Warren opened regional play against number three-seeded DeQueen. Kolby Pope took the mound and pitched a complete game allowing only three hits. Warren defeated DeQueen with a score of 2-0. Warren advanced to round two to face number four-seeded Monticello, who had advanced with a victory over number one seed Nashville. Warren fell behind early but staged a comeback in the late innings. Down two runs in the ninth, AJ Jorden started off with a triple and scored on a single. Warren however was unable to generate any additional runs, losing with a score of 8-9. Warren played in the consolation game Saturday against Crossett. Nathan Spears started Warren's scoring with a two-run homer to left field, but Warren could not score any more runs which caused them to lose to Crossett with a score of 2-5. Warren finished the tournament with a 15-8 record and a number four seed in the state tournament which will be held in Gravette. Warren will face Morrilton on May 9.



Photo by Robert Camp

Lady Jacks enter the regional tournament as a number four seed to face the tournament host and number one seed Nashville. Warren's Presley Reep doubled to score Natalie Hargrave and give Warren a 1-0 lead in the second inning. Nashville took the lead until the top of the fourth inning when Warren would tie the score with another double by Reep. Nashville eventually went on to defeat Warren with a score of 10-3.

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# Passin' the Faith **Along**

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

#### STAYING 'ON COURSE' AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

What do you when you are not really sure of the course of acto be said for pursuing one path and an equal argument against it? Are we left to find our way out morally?

problems on for size: (1) You cover that your boss has or-

are a nurse in a hospital where abortions on demand are pertion? When there is something formed. Is it right for you to remain an employee of such a place involved in the actual abortions? Gray area.

(2) You are a mechanic for a For example? Okay, try these large car dealership. You dis-

dered the fellows in the service department to turn back the odometers on used cars. That's clearly against the law, but you are not the one doing it. Do you call the law? Do you keep quiet about the issue? Gray area.

(3) You are a check-out clerk in a convenience store that suddenly begins selling pornographic magazines. Is it right for you to ring up those sales? Gray area.

Not so easy, is it? The fact of the matter is that many moral choices in life are not clearly defined. You desperately want to do the right thing. You just don't know what the right thing

The fellow in the hospital emergency room looked a mess. His face was swollen on both sides and his hands were all swollen and bleeding. The attendant asked him, "What in the world happened to you?" "Well," he responded, "a man walked up on me and smacked me on the cheek. Being a Christian I turned the other cheek and he hit me there, too." "But what about your hand?" asked the attendant. "Oh," he said. "That's from beating the guy up." "I thought your were a Christian," the attendant said. "Oh, I am!" the patient answered. "But see the Bible doesn't say what to do after you get hit on the other cheek - as any good Christian would do - I just beat the daylights out of that guy!"

The patient was technically right. After telling us to turn the other cheek, that portion of Scripture is silent on the next step. Although the Bible may not tell us specifically what to do, it will give principals and guidelines by which we may make proper decisions in the gray areas.

You and I, as followers of Christ, have the marvelous opportunity to be people of moral integrity, of ethics, of the same value system as the Master. When we are faced with an unclear moral choice, we can dig into the Scripture. No, you may not find a clearly written "thou shalt" or "thou shalt not," but your choices in life will be much easier made. When the dust all settles, you will find that you made the right choice time after

Much of the world's population just "floats along" with the tide of whatever everyone else is doing. Much of what the world is doing is wrong. Sometimes, it's pretty clear it is wrong; and other times, it is a... fine shade of gray. God isn't confused by it all and He gives very clear direction. Seek Him and know the truth. The truth will set you

# Property Planning Committee views proposed drafts of venue layout

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

On April 23, 2024, architect Ken King of Lockeby and Associates, Incorporated of Little Rock met with the Property Planning Committee (PPC), along with Warren Mayor Gregg Reep and Bradley County Judge Klay McKinney. Two initial drafts of potential layouts were presented for the entertainment venue that is to be constructed across from the courthouse. Lunch was provided by former Warren Mayor and PPC member Denisa Pennington. Discussion included comparison of the two drafts, including pros and cons of each. Input was provided by each attendee as the process to whittle down to a final design began. All committee members were present with the exception of Gwen Bullard. The group will reconvene once Mr. King has drafted Aaron Barajas, Ken King, Deni-



Courtesy photo

provided during the meeting.

Pictured (front): Dana Harvey, Jolie Trussell, Ashlyn Crawford, and Jimmy Sledge; (back): Anna Grace Mitchell, a layout based on the feedback sa Pennington, and Cathy Rich-

ardson. Not pictured: Jennifer Rodriguez.



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our

Union Bank & Trust had the honor of cooking for the Arkansas State Troopers of Troup F during their Family Day event. Tricia Wilkinson and Randy Rawls represented the bank, serving a delicious meal to all those in attendance. The event was a meaningful opportunity to show gratitude for all that our troopers do for our

# Warren School District **Job Opening**

The Warren School District is searching for a Bilingual Paraprofessional to work closely with assigned students. Qualifications for this position are as follows:

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

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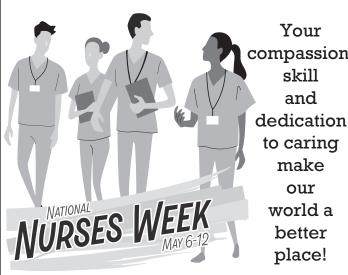
The FY'2024 Winter Regular/Crisis Program closed on April 30, 2024. Southeast Arkansas Community Action Coporation will no longer be taking applications.

The news release applies to the following counties: Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, and Drew.

> If you have any questions or concerns, please call 870-226-2668.



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# **Rotary hears from Doctor Smalling**

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Rotary Club of Warren met for its weekly gathering Tuesday, April 30 inside the Fellowship Hall at First Methodist Church. Junior Rotarian Jacob Puterbaugh from Warren High School gave his speech to kick the program off. Puterbaugh was the last Junior Rotarian of the year and the Rotary Club wishes all of them the best in their future endeavors. Rotarian Doctor Bob Smalling took the stage next as he presented his own program to the club. Dr. Smalling is in his fiftieth year as an optometrist and took some time to tell the club about some of the changes his profession has seen over that time frame. He touched on his background which included graduating from Arkansas State in 1970 and the Southern College of Optometry in 1974. He's been in private

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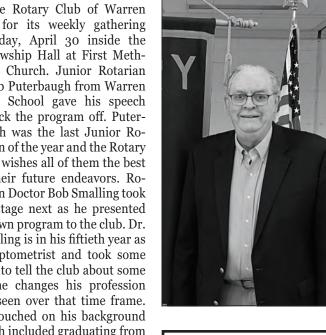
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Courtesy photos

practice at Warren since 1980 with a stint at the Ireland Army Hospital at Ft. Knox, Kentucky from 1974-76 and private practice in Conway, Ark., from 1976-1980. Dr. Smalling spoke about different types of eye problems before going into the differences in technology he's seen in dealing with cataracts, glaucoma, and contact lens from 1974 until the present day. He ended the presentation by taking a few questions.

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NOTICE FOR AMENDMENT REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 94th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 5, 2024, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2023 Session by Representative Lundstrum and filed as HJR 1006.

#### **ISSUE NO. 1**

#### Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to Provide that Lottery Proceeds May Be Used to Fund or Provide Scholarships and Grants to Arkansas Citizens Enrolled in Vocational-Technical Schools and Technical Institutes.

#### **Ballot Title**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT LOTTERY PRO-CEEDS MAY BE USED TO FUND

OR PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS TO ARKANSAS CITIZENS ENROLLED IN VOCA-TIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GEN-ERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 14(b), concerning the use of lottery proceeds, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) Lottery proceeds shall be used solely to pay the operating expenses of lotteries, including all prizes, and to fund or provide for scholarships and grants to citizens of this State enrolled in public and private non-profit two-year and four-year colleges and universities the following higher education institutions located within the State that are certified according to criteria established by the General Assembly:

(A) A public or private nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university;

(B) A public or private vocational-technical school; or (C) A public or private technical institute.

(2) The General Assembly shall establish criteria to determine who is eligible to receive the scholarships and grants pursuant to this Amend-

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after January 1, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRE-TARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2024.



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# Editorial

# Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw Ark. State Representative



This week, the House addressed several key issues including state employee pay, digital asset mining regulations, and the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

SB77, which was passed by the House, outlines a temporary pay plan for state employees, including a potential 3 percent raise and setting the minimum salary at \$32,405 per year. Additionally,

it increases the maximum salary range for pay grades by 10 percent and offers special compensation under specific circumstances.

The House also passed two bills, SB78 and SB79, addressing regulations for the digital mining industry. SB78 mandates noise-reduction techniques for digital asset mining businesses,

while SB79 requires a valid permit from the Oil and Gas Commission for operation in Arkansas.

Both SB78 and SB79 state that a prohibited foreign party shall not purchase or acquire any interest in a digital mining business in the state.

The House passed HB1097 and SB80. These identical bills amend the Revenue Stabilization Act (RSA) by outlining state spending for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

The RSA includes a 1.76 percent increase in state spending. It increases funding for the Education Freedom Accounts by \$65.7 million. The public school fund will increase by \$38.2 million and the funding allocated for Arkansas State Police will increase by \$3.9 million.

The House will reconvene on May 9.

When the Fiscal Session adjourns Sine Die, House Rules state that the election for Speaker-designate will occur 15 minutes following the adjournment. That election, and all House proceedings, will be streamed live at arkansashouse.org.

# Time can slow down now

By JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

Recently a friend wrote an editorial piece about how time is a thief. His little boy is about to turn five and he is getting to experience first-hand how fast time flies. I am 100 percent in agreement. As I was reading his piece, it got me thinking about how my life has flown by. Wasn't it just yesterday that I was a six-year-old running around barefooted outside catching frogs and lightning bugs? What about when I went to Walmart for the first time alone at the age of 16? Didn't that happen a week ago? I can say with absolute certainty that it was not and did not. I'm now 43 but those childhood and teenage years feel like they were a few days ago. However, at the same time, they feel so far away. How is that possible?

I lived in Bradley County for the first seven years of my life. I attended Eastside Elementary until the end of first grade. My kindergarten and first-grade teachers were Ms. Ginger and Ms. Springfield. I remember going on the hunt for the gingerbread man because he had escaped from our classroom. Then my life changed when my dad started attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I made new friends and attended new schools. Dad's first pastoral position was at Wilmar Baptist Church where we spent a little less than a year. Then it was on to other churches and schools. I'm sharing all of that to show just how fast life goes by.

As we all become adults, we take different paths. I opted to get married and have children right out of the gate. I got married at 21 and had my first child at 22. Two more babies quickly followed. After a break of six years, we had our youngest who is now ten. I absolutely love seeing my kids grow and succeed in life. Memories of when they were smaller pop up on love the ones that are.

various social media platforms and they remind me of how quickly life moves. It makes my heart hurt a little, but then I see the people that they are becoming, and my heart is happy again in the next beat. I do miss them being small, but I don't want them to be babies again. I love seeing them meet milestones and achieve goals. I also love seeing how far they've come.

My oldest is now 20 and has been married since October. I was asked when he got married if I'd miss him living at home. My response was, "Not at all." But Joanna that's mean!

Hold on and let me explain. I have a couple of reasons for that answer. The first reason is that he is very strong-willed and wants to do things his way. Then comes the question, "But aren't all teenagers that way?" I can't answer that because I'm not raising all teenagers. Again, I'm going to be honest and tell you that his teenage years were not easy. There were tears and yelling on both of our parts. I knew that we were going to make it through, and we did. He is now a proud member of the Arkansas National Guard, and he wants to follow in his dad's footsteps and go into the field of law enforcement.

The second reason is that he is living life as a new adult and he is doing well. He got married last year and gave me a daughter-inlaw who is the answer to the prayer that I've prayed for years. I'm very proud of the adult that he has become, and I can't wait to see where life takes him and his wife.

The question remains: Is time a thief? Absolutely. The years have gone by faster than I thought they would. If someone tells you to cherish the time you have with someone, listen to them. They have a reason for giving that ad-

Hug your loved ones, miss the ones that are no longer here, and

# Students bring home medals for SEACBEC

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center (SEACBEC) took 35 high school students from Warren, Hermitage, and Woodlawn to compete at the Arkansas SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference located in Hot Springs, Arkansas on April 15-17, 2024. SEACBEC had students competing from all five programs: Computer Science, Construction, Criminal Justice, Medical, and Welding. Students that compete must be members of the SkillsU-

SA student organization. Prior to the conference, all competitors were required to take a knowledge based test and then competed based on their performance at state. With over 1,600 students competing at this year's state conference, SEACBEC brought home medals in four competitions.

SEACBEC's Construction program took participants in Carpentry, Carpentry Display, Electricity, and Plumbing to compete in Arkansas SkillsUSA competi-

See **SEACBEC** Page 5



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

The Senate has passed a balanced budget for state government for next fiscal year, clearing the way for completion of the 2024 session.

The budget calls for general revenue spending of \$6.31 billion in Fiscal Year 2025, which begins on July 1.

That is an increase of only 1.76 percent over current general revenue spending. The legislature has always been fiscally conservative, and the 2025 budget is one of the most conservative in recent history.

In Arkansas the balanced budget law is called the Revenue Stabilization Act. The bulk of state general revenue comes from three major sources. They are the state sales tax, the state individual income tax and the state corporate income tax.

General revenue is distributed to public schools, institutions of higher education, corrections, the State Police, health care programs and human services programs.

Growth in general revenue will be an estimated \$109.3 million from this fiscal year to next. Under the governor's proposed budget, public education from kindergarten through twelfth grade will receive the majority of that increase. Legislators are increasing the amounts available under the Education Freedom Account program that provides financial help to parents who choose to send their children to a private school rather than to a public

Public elementary and secondary schools will receive about \$2.4 billion next year.

The Department of Human Services will receive about \$1.8 billion in state funds. However, its spending authority is much

higher because it receives so much in federal matching

For example, the state contributes about 29 percent for Medicaid spending in Arkansas while the federal government pays for the remaining 71 percent.

The Division of Correction is budgeted to received \$536 million. It operates state prisons. The Division of Community Correction monitors inmates on parole and runs re-rentry programs for inmates just out of prison. It is budgeted to receive \$105 million next year.

The fund for reimbursing county jails that hold state inmates will remain stable at \$25.7 million. The state is working to open space for about 3,000 additional beds, and when that happens the backlog of state inmates in county jails should lessen.

The State Police are budgeted to get a 4.4 percent increase, from \$88.6 million to \$92.5 million.

Under next year's Revenue Stabilization Act, institutions of higher education will get a decrease in state aid of \$2.45 million. This year they are receiving about \$781.3 million and next year they're budgeted to receive about \$778.8 million.

Four-year universities will receive \$628.6 million in state support and two-year colleges will receive \$117.1 million.

Some state agencies receive special revenues and their budgets are not included in general revenue category. An example is the Department of Transportation, whose revenue comes from motor fuels taxes, fees on large trucks and federal highway funds.

The state is projected to end next fiscal year with a surplus of about almost \$400 million, after ending the current fiscal year with a surplus of about \$240 million. The amount of the budget surplus allows legislators to seriously consider further tax cuts.

# JOHN BOOZMAN

Arkansans advocating for issues important to them regularly come to Washington to participate in Hill Day, a time to meet with their senators and representatives and encourage them to support their policy goals. The message I share with the groups meeting with Members of Congress is to personalize their visits with stories about how rules and regulations impact their operations and customers as well as how what they do enhances the community and improves their state. It's especially moving to hear from individuals who share their personal experiences to demonstrate the need for action and why their proposed solutions are warranted.

Arkansas Circuit Court Judge Thomas Smith administers the Benton County treatment courts, an initiative that offers drug-addicted, non-violent offenders an alternative to jail while rehabilitating them through a strenuous treatment program. The judge recently introduced me to Kyra, a graduate of the drug court.

Kyra said she tested the program, and when she saw the drug court staff believed in her, it gave her the confidence to believe in herself. This changed her

outlook and ultimately helped her overcome her struggles with addiction and turn her life around. Now she's inspiring others in Benton County on their own path to recovery. We can be proud of Kyra's accomplishment and her continued leadership in the fight against drug addiction.

Judge Smith and Kyra's stories highlighted the success of Benton County treatment courts and provided justification for enhanced investment. Arkansas is fortunate to be experiencing the benefits of this program. In Benton County the treatment courts have an 85 percent graduation rate. One graduate called it a "blessing" that can change your

For more than two decades, drug courts have proven effective in helping break the cycle of addiction. Nationwide, more than 4,000 treatment courts help 150,000 individuals annually. This approach has become a critical tool for the judicial system that is cost-effective and cuts crime, with data showing treatment courts have reduced crime by 58 percent.

I've had the opportunity to attend a drug court graduation. The optimism and pride

on display from graduates and families is inspiring. It represents a turning point in a long journey, where the search for a solution once seemed hopeless - but treatment courts deliver a path for a brighter future. They help keep families together and break the generational cycle of addiction.

Throughout Arkansas more than 100 specialty court programs target drug and substance abuse for people of all ages and populations. This idea has expanded to veterans and mental health. Last year, the Arkansas Legislature approved allowing judges to establish family treatment. These courts provide treatment and accountability to parents with substance use disorders while prioritizing the well-being of their children.

May is recognized as National Treatment Court Month. This is a time to highlight the positive impact this alternative approach to drug and substance abuse has on our communities by leading people out of the justice system and into long-term recovery.

Changing the habits of Arkansans and guiding people like Kyra to a second chance at life through this commonsense method are great outcomes. Treatment court graduates are living proof there is still hope for those struggling to overcome addiction. I'm proud to advocate for resources that sustain and expand this critical program as it improves public safety, helps conserve taxpayer dollars and, most importantly, saves lives.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, MAY 13

**Water Association Meeting** The Southwest Warren Rural Water Association, Inc., will

hold its annual membership meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, at the office of Saunders Services located at 311 N. Myrtle St. All members are welcome to attend. **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.



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The Warren School District is seeking qual- Classified: ified, experienced applicants for the fol- . WHS ISS Facilitator lowing positions for the 2023-2024 school • Bilingual Paraprofessional year.

An appropriate Arkansas teaching license is required. Positions open until filled. Qualified, interested licensed applicants should go to our website to apply, https://warrensd.org/24021\_1 OR go to warrensd.org and click the employment tab. Licensed:

- District Dyslexia Coordinator
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- Warren Elementary School Teacher
- High School Special Ed Instructor (Life Skills)
- Middle School/Brunson Art Teacher
- Brunson Elementary Special Ed Instructor
- WHS/WMS Choir Director Warren High School History Instructor

- 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.

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# **SEACBEC**

Continued from Page 4

tions. SEACBEC brought home first place in Carpentry Display by Cristobal Guerrero, Junior at Hermitage High School and third place in Plumbing by Race Frazer, Senior at Warren High School. Construction is sponsored by Jeremy Groves.

Carpentry Display competi-

tors had to follow a set of blueprints and specific directions to build a finished product to take and display for judging. Guerrero was awarded a full tuition scholarship to the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton.

Plumbing competitors roughin hot and cold-water lines with copper tubing and rough-in sanitary drainage, waste and vent lines with cast iron and PVC plastic for a water closet, a lavatory, a washer box, and a floor drain. Water pipes are pressure tested on completed projects. Professional plumbers and pipe fitters judge the competitors on accuracy, workmanship, proper selection, and use of tools and supplies and proper safety procedures.

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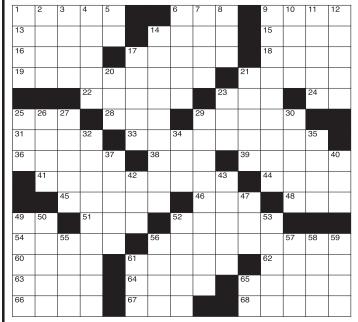
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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. It wakes you up
- 6. A place to sleep 9. Czech village
- 13. Appetizer
- 14. African country
- 15. Dark brown or black
- 16. Parent-teacher groups
- 17. Saturates
- 18. ESPN personality Kimes
- 19. Songs to a lover 21. Cavalry-sword 22. Begat
- 23. Patriotic women
- 24. Famed Princess 25. One who does not conform
- 28. Neither
- 29. Nigerian monetary unit
- 31. Body parts 33. Hit Dave Matthews Band
- 36. Depicts with pencil

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 3. Resembling a wing or wings
- 5. Professional designation
- 8. Speak poorly of
- 10. Apron
- 11. Studied intensively
- 20. Trent Reznor's band
- 25. Valentine's Day color
- 26. Wyatt
- 27. Type of rail

- 44. Fingers do it
- 45. More dried-up

- 49. A way to listen to music
- 51. The bill in a restaurant
- 54. Cyprinid fishes
- 60. Scottish Loch

- 62. Extra seed-covering

- 65. Forearm bones

- 1. Vipers
- 2. Not on time
- 4. Tears down
- 6. Noise a sheep made
- 7. Type of lodge
- 9. Ties the knot again
- 12. City in Finland
- 14. One who monitors
- 17. 18-year astronomical period
- 21. Takes to the sea 23. Split pulses

- 29. One from the Big Apple

- 38. Make into leather without tannin 39. Plants grow from them
- 41. Alias
- 46. Clod
- 48. Senior officer
- 52. Historic center of Artois region
- 56. Poisonous perennial plant
- 61. Heads
- 63. Wings
- 64. Britpop band
- 66. Small immature herring
- 67. Female sibling
- 68. Hymn

# 30. Asteroids

- 32. Made more sugary 34. Change in skin pigment
  - 37. Koran chapters
    - 40. A place to relax 42. Young woman ready for

35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

- society life
- 43. Female horses
- 47. Half of Milli Vanilli 49. Icelandic poems
- 50. Indiana town 52. Golden peas
- 53. Closes tightly
- 55. It's mined in mountains 56. Cliff (Hawaii)
- 57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 58. Monetary unit

Fun By The

Like puzzles?

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Then you'll love

puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

sharpen your

your sudoku

pencil and put

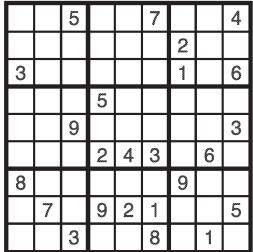
savvy to the test!

Numbers

59. Primordial matter 61. TV station

65. Rise

# SUDOKU



## Here's How It Works:

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

# Answers can be found on Page 8

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

В.

C. crisp

D.

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ONIONS **RADISHES** REFRESHING ROMAINE SALAD **SPINACH** TOMATOES TOPPING **TOSSED** 



Solve the code to discover words related to salad. Each number corresponds to a letter.

10 12 17 17 18 13 12 A. Clue: Salad leaves

4 25 8 17 4 12 24

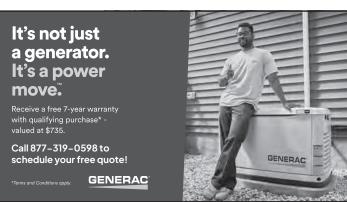
Clue: Full of lycopene 13 20 16 24

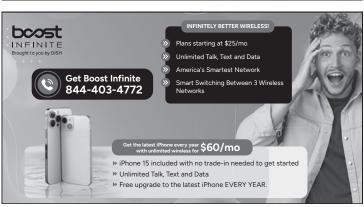
Clue: Firm and crunchy

**18 23 13** 10 Clue: Afternoon meal



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# FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Ruth was a Moabite woman who married two Israelite men. The first husband was Mahlon. He had gone from Israel to Moab with his brother Kilion and their parents, Elimelech and Naomi, because of a famine in Israel.

All three men died while in Moab and Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. Ruth chose to go to Israel with Naomi while, Orpha, Kilion's wife decided to stay

Ruth expressed her devotion to Naomi and determination to go with her to Bethlehem with the following words:

"...Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.

Learn about Ruth's second husband next week.

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807 Hwy. 8 S., Hermitage

870-463-8706

**SOUTHSIDE BATPIST** 104 Shelby St., 870-226-2338

UNION HILL CHURCH

121 Bradley Rd. 123, Hermitage

UNION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH Ingalls, Ark.

UNION HILL MISSIONARY

**BAPTIST CHURCH** 919 West Central. Warren

WARREN FIRST BAPTIST

310 S. Main St., 870-226-5884

WEARY REST BAPTIST

683 Bradley Road 80, Banks

870-463-8532

**WESTSIDE BAPTIST** 1328 S. Martin St., 870-226-5670

WILLOUGHBY F.W.B

147 W. Pine St., 870-226-5410

# **CHRISTIAN**

IGLESIA CRISTIANA PACTO DE GRC

196 Hwy. 8 N., 870-226-2146

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

WALNUT STREET CHURCH **OF CHRIST** 

102 South Walnut St. 870-818-6868 WEST CENTRAL CHURCH **OF CHRIST** 

1101 W. Central St., 870-226-6605

#### **CHURCH OF GOD**

HOLY DELIVERANCE CHURCH OF **GOD IN CHRIST** 

> 1109 S. Myrtle St., 870-226-2544 **HOLY HILL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

747 Bradley 1 N., Hermitage 870-465-2289

## **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS 300 E. Pine St., 870-226-2883

# **METHODIST**

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

**OF WARREN** 111 W. Church St., 870-226-2641

HAMPTON CHAPEL AME 1678 Bradley Rd. 56, Hermitage 870-463-2473

HERMITAGE METHODIST 103 E. Grand Ave., Hermitage

870-463-2236 PALESTINE AME

460 Bradley Rd. 56, Hermitage 870-463-2710

ST. JAMES AFRICAN METHODIST 915 Saint James St., 870-226-2905 TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 1107 S. Main 870-820-2905

# **PENTECOSTAL**

FIRST UNITED **PENTECOSTAL** 

804 E. Church St., 870-226-3610

## **PRESBYTERIAN**

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH** 

143 Bradley Rd. 56, Johnsville FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 212 E. Church St., 870-226-3774 HICKORY SPRING ASSOCIATE

## **OTHER**

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1815 HWY 63 S. Warren

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** 

407 West Pine. Warren

HOUSE OF PRAYER, INC. 815 W. Central, Warren

870-226-7314

LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH 113 Bradley 7 Rd. South

LIVING WATERS CHURCH

206 Maine St. Hermitage St. Luke's Catholic Church

**POWERHOUSE COGIC** 815 W. Central, Warren

870-226-7314 If you need a church listed call 870-226-5831

# **BRADLEY COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER**

870-226-3731

404 S. Bradley St. Warren, AR



1440 E. Church Street Warren, AR 71671

cwadmin@reliancehealthcare.com P: 870-226-6766 C: 870-308-3319



201 N. Martin, Warren 870-226-2035





The Eagle Democrat has moved! Visit us at our new address: 101 S. Martin St., Warren, AR 870-226-5831



870-226-3534 313 S. Martin. Warren, AR



Farm Bureau Insurance **Bradley County** 

> 107 E Central St Warren, AR 71671

Tabitha.Robinson@afbic.com



# **Grace Cowboy Church**

316 Smith Rd.

Warren, AR



870-820-5361

Johnsville Country Store & Restaurant

3508 Hwy 160 - Johnsville, AR



Warren, AR 716071

(870) 226-5214

Dr. W. Brent Hall, O.D 105 East Ash Street

# First Methodist Church

Church Office 870-226-2641 Sun. School - 9:30 Worship Service - 10:30 Wed. Night Meal & Devotional - 5:30 Rotary - Tue. - Noon AA Meetings - Mon. Evening - 7 p.m. and Wed. - Noon

# LEVIEW EST

REHABILITATION AND CARE CENTER 870-367-0044

jtrucks@southernadmin.com 1052 Old Warren Rd. www.belleviewestates.com Monticello, AR 71655



# **Obituaries**

#### **Nick Felton Bowman**

Our beloved husband and father Nick Felton Bowman passed away peacefully on April 19, 2024, at the age of 76. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Linda Rae Bowman of Princeton, Louisiana, his sister Jean Weaver of Crossett, Arkansas and brother Bobby Bowman of Milo, Ark. He leaves behind his daughter Lisa Wynne Bowman, his son and daughterin-law Ben and Karla Bowman, grandchildren Tripp Bowman, Brooke Bowman, and adopted granddaughter "Girl" Jillian

Bean Lloyd all of Princeton, La. Pets Jack, Josie, Emma, Louis and Chanel. He was preceded in death by his

father Benjamin Felton Bowman and his mother Peggy Sue Quimby Bowman, both of Warren, Ark. Nick will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother.

Nick received his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Arkansas - Monticello in 1971 and was certified by the Data Processing Management Association. He started his career as a self-employed data processing consultant eventually moving to WEHCO Media Inc. in Little Rock, Ark. He also worked as a cost accountant Georgia Pacific Corporation in Crossett, Ark. In 1979 he joined Century Telephone as a systems manager and held several positions within the company. He retired from CenturyTel in June 2002 as Vice-President of Operations. He pursued his love of flying by serving his country in the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserves before retiring on Dec 2, 1996. During his 26 years of service, Nick proudly flew the T-37, T-38, KC-135, F-100, A-37 and the A-10. His last assignment was the Vice Wing Commander for the 917 Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base. He often mentioned and cherished the time he deployed alongside his son Ben in 1995 to Aviano Air Base Italy in support

of OPERATION DENY FLIGHT. After retiring from the military and CenturyTel he focused his time on traveling fishing and spending time with family.

Nick will be cremated at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Bossier City, Louisiana. The family will be hosting a celebration of life at a later date. At this time the family asks that donations to the cancer charity of your choice be made instead of flowers or other gifts. (Paid obituary)

#### **Earnest Merl Johnson**

Earnest Merl Johnson age 92 passed away on May 1, 2024, at his home, surrounded by his familv. He was born on August 26, 1931, in Marsden, Arkansas to the late Horace Wade Johnson and Martella Robertson Johnson. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy as a Private in Company A 206 HV.TK.Bn. Upon discharge from the U.S. Navy, he entered the University of Houston, Texas, and studied engineering. Af-



**JOHNSON** 

Arkansas. He and his wife were self-employed and owner of E and S Logging, Johnson Equipment Supplies and for 20 years.

He

changed

his career path

and worked for

ter marriage to

Sandra West,

he relocated to

Combustion Engineers as Field Director in New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma until he retired after 22 years of service. He again re-entered the work field as yard supervisor for 25 years for WS Richardson Pulpwood Inc. After a second retirement he was self-employed as owner and operator of a small saw mill he managed from his home. He permanently retired at the age of 88 to care for his wife until her death. Working and making sure everyone around him worked was his passion and hobby.

He was a member of the Blue Lodge in Warren, Masonic Lodge number 33, Warren, a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, Houston, Texas. He was a member of the Shriner-Sarah Temple in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and a member of various local clubs. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Church in Warren, and a devoted member of the Fisherman's Sunday School Class.

Other than his parents he is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years Sandra West Johnson in 2017, his daughter Teresa Johnson Brewster, son in law James

Shelby Brewster, brother Myrna and congregational Bible stud-Gene Johnson, sisters Marnell Johnson Smith, Mary Parrish Tucker, and Patricia Ann Johnson Burchett.

Survivors include: son Toney

Johnson (Deborah) of Scott, Ark., daughters Karen Richardson (Scott) of Warren, Ark., and Rhonda Sizemore (Harvey) of Cayman Brac, BWI:, brother Gene Parrish of Hartsdale, OH; seven grandchildren Shelly Ashley, (Jett) of Flower Mound, Texas, Scott Allison Johnson (Justin) of Warren, Ark., Robert Austin (Ashley) of Warren, Ark., Krista Thornton of Benton, Ark., Toni Elizabeth Johnson of Benton, Ark., Winston Sizemore (Mary Allison) of Hattiesburg, Miss., Bryant Sizemore (Claire) of Little Rock, Ark.; seven great grandchildren, one great, great grandchild, and his extended family Robbie Miller, Reola Raney, and Beverly Brown.

Funeral services were Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Frazer's Funeral Home, with the Revered Dixon Platt officiating. Graveside at Oaklawn Cemetery Warren.

Pallbearers were Robert Austin Richardson, Winston Sizemore, Bryant Sizemore, Justin Johnson, Jett Ashley, and Thomas Frazer.

Honorary pallbearers were Curtis Blankinship, Brenda Blankinship, Doctor Kerry Pennington, Zeb Beard, Donald Strom, Danny Gene Adair, Collin Ashley, Connor Ashley, Greg Harton, Mack McClain, Thomas Izquerdo and the Methodist Fisherman's Sunday School

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First Methodist Church, or the Warren Veterans Museum.

(Paid obituary)

#### **Betty Lou Herring** O'Neal

Betty Lou Herring O'Neal, age 96 of Warren, Ark. went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, May 5, 2024 surrounded by her family. She was born on August 28, 1927 in the Pros-



nity in Bradley County, Ark. to the late John L. Herring and Clara Grubbs Herring. Betty was a faithful member

**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 obitu-

ary is \$10. The deadline to submit

an obituary is noon on Monday.

pect Commu-

of Immanuel Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School, played an active role in the mission organizations and in the music ministry. She loved studying God's word, personal

ies, letter writing and music. Betty was an enthusiastic prayer warrior. She enjoyed spending time with her family and she was a dedicated spouse who was an avid supporter in every endeavor of her husband Charles of 73 years.

Other than her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Thomas O'Neal; brothers, Theron Herring and Cravon Herring and sisters, Dorris Clayton, Denver DeArmond, Aubrey Bradford and Juanita DeArmond.

She is survived by her beloved daughters, Pam Wharton (Doctor, Joe Hank Wharton) of Warren, Ark. and Judy West (Jerry) of Warren, Ark.; brother, Shannon Herring (Sandra) of Cincinnati, Ohio; four grandchildren, Charles Davis Wharton (Sarah) of Clarksville, Md., John Taylor Wharton (Amanda) of Warren, Ark., Jaye West Hembree (Bo) of Warren, Ark., and Justin Wayne West (Tricia) of Warren, Ark.; nine great-grandchildren, Weston Hembree, Braxton Hembree, Ty Hembree, Avery Wharton, Max Wharton, Lainey Bea Wharton, Shea Wharton, Mattie West, and Ryder West, and one great-great-granddaughter, Nova Wharton.

Funeral service held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at Immanuel Baptist Church with Rev. Craig Jenkins and Rev. Matt Overall officiating. Burial in Oakland Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Immanuel Baptist Church in Warren, Ark.

(Paid obituary)

#### J.G. Howsen

J.G. Howsen, 89, died April 30, 2024. Born October 23, 1934.

Survivors: wife Mary Sue Howsen; son Joey Howsen; and daughters Cindy Wagnon, Deborah Simpson, Paula Broome, Belinda Hollis, Melody Spears, and Angela Epps.

Funeral was May 3 at Frazer's. Burial in Pleasant Valley Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral

## Janette Smith Kelley

Janette Smith Kelley, 67, of Warren, died April 27, 2024. Born March 4, 1957 in Eudora to William "Doc" and Virginia Martin Smith.

She is survived by her daughter Staci Hargrave (Jarrod); grandchildren Westin and Natalie.

Graveside was May 4, 2024 at Pinewood Memorial Park by Frazer's Funeral Home.

# **LEGALS**

#### HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

2024-2025 Invitation for Bid (IFB) for Prime Vendor

Notice is hereby given that The Hermitage School District is requesting bids to provide vended meals for the operation of Child Nutrition Programs. Bids will be accepted at:

Attention: Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director, Hermitage School District Location: 310 N. School Dr. Hermitage, AR 71647

Bid Opening: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Bids must be received prior to bid opening.

To request the full solicitation packet, please contact Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director at kristi.best@hermitageschools.org. If questions arise during the solicitation process, answers to questions will be provided via email and added as an addendum to the solicitation. This information will be provided to all prospective bidders.

Bidders must be fully aware and comply with USDA rules and regulations. The Hermitage School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

#### HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

2024-2025 Invitation for Bid (IFB) to provide Milk

Notice is hereby given that The Hermitage School District is requesting bids to provide vended meals for the operation of Child Nutrition Programs. Bids will be accepted at:

Attention: Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director, Hermitage School District Location: 310 N. School Dr. Hermitage, AR 71647

Bid Opening: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Bids must be received prior to bid opening.

To request the full solicitation packet, please contact Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director at kristi.best@hermitageschools.org. If questions arise during the solicitation process, answers to questions will be provided via email and added as an addendum to the solicitation. This information will be provided to all prospective bidders.

Bidders must be fully aware and comply with USDA rules and regulations. The Hermitage School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

5/8

#### HERMITAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

2024-2025 Invitation for Sealed Bid (IFB) to provide Bread

Notice is hereby given that The Hermitage School District is requesting sealed bids to provide vended meals for the operation of Child Nutrition Programs.

Sealed Bids will be accepted at: Attention: Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director, Hermitage School District

Location: 310 N. School Dr. Hermitage, AR 71647 Bid Opening: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Bids must be received prior to bid opening.

To request the full solicitation packet, please contact Kristi Best, Child Nutrition Director at kristi.best@hermitageschools.org. If questions arise during the solicitation process, answers to questions will be provided via email and added as an addendum to the solicitation. This information will be provided to all prospective bidders.

Bidders must be fully aware and comply with USDA rules and regulations. The Hermitage School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: **MOBILE HOME** MAY 28, 2024 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Warren Planning Commission at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom on May 28 to consider a request for a psecial use permit for a mobile home at 827 Glover, Warren. Being more fully described as:

Lot 7, Block 3 of the O.F. Butler Estate Addition to the City of Warren, Arkansas, as per plat of said Addition recorded in the office of the Recorder in and for Bradley County, Arkansas.

SUBJECT, however, to all rights-of-way, reservations and easements apparent and of record, and all prior leases, reservations, exceptions and conveyances of the oil, gas, coal, lignite and other minerals in, upon, and under said lands.

That property beloning to Carla Hamtpon and Chasity Hines. All persons having any interest in the above mobile home request are urged to attend this meeting. 5/8, 5/15

## **NOTICE**

Bradley County is listing a 2010 Freightliner Trash Truck with a New-way bed and 2014 Mack Trash Truck with a Heil bed, they will be listed with Witcher Auctions on May 30, 2024. Bidding opens on May 20, 2024 at 12:00 noon and closes on May 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. You can see pictures and bid at Farm, Heavy Equipment, Transportation & Real Estate Auctions or for more information call the office at 870-238-1400.

# **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

This notice is hereby given that Bradley County Medical Center will receive written bids to relocate and replace a Whole Hospital generator. Bidders must contact Tim Saunders, Facility Maintenance Supervisor, at (870) 226-4353 and must make a site visit at 404 S Bradley, Warren, AR 71671, for more information.

DESCRIPTION: 800kW Generator & 4,000A Automatic Transfer Switch with Turn-Key Installation

Bids will be accepted until Wednesday, May 29th at 2:00 P.M., at which time bids will be reviewed in the Bradley County Medical Center's Administrative Office.

Bradley County Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to reject any or all optional items included in the Bid. 5/8, 5/15

# America's Newspapers endorses Arkansas **Government Transparency Initiatives**

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE America's Newspapers, a

leading advocate for the nation's newspaper industry, enthusiastically endorses the Arkansas Government Disclosure Act of 2024 and the proposed Arkansas Government Disclosure Amendment. These initiatives represent a critical step forward in protecting the public's fundamental right to access government records and proceedings and to make government actions more transparent. The Arkansas Government

Disclosure Act aims to make

state and local governments more transparent and accountable to the citizens they serve. Provisions like establishing a clear definition of public meetings, allowing courts to levy penalties for noncompliance with records requests, and requiring timely disclosure of public records align with best practices and the principles of open government. The Arkansas Government Disclosure Amendment of 2024 will enshrine the right to government transparency into the state Constitution.

"A free press and robust local journalism rely on open records and open meetings to spur civic engagement, root out corruption, and hold officials answerable to the people," said Dean Ridings, CEO of America's Newspapers. "These critical Arkansas proposals recognize the important relationship between transparency and a healthy democracy."

America's Newspapers commends the civic leaders behind these efforts to strengthen Arkansas's freedom of information laws. We urge all Arkansans who value government accountability and the public's right to know to sign these initiatives and then vote affirmatively. Open government is a cause that transcends political partisanship. It is a universal principle that benefits all citizens when their states and municipalities operate with maximum transparency. America's Newspapers stands firmly behind measures that strengthen this ideal.

For more information visit https://arcitizens4transparen-

