

# The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

139th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, June 26, 2024

No. 52

## Hermitage City Council hears monthly reports

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle democrat.com

The Hermitage City Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 20 at the Hermitage Community Center. Mayor Matt Cathey opened the meeting with minutes from May. Alderman Chris Ledbetter made a motion to accept the minutes and all voted in favor.

Police Chief Ben Poole then presented the police report. For the month of May, there were seven citations for speeding, one citation for no proof of insurance, one citation for public intoxication, one citation for running a stop sign, three citations for not having a driver's license, one citation for terroristic

threatening, and one citation for domestic battery in the third degree with a total of 17 citations. A motion was made to accept the police report and all were in favor.

Cathey then told the council that there were no fires to report. He also said that both of the city's fire trucks were running well.

The public works report was then presented. All samples that were collected for the month of May passed inspection. The city is continuously working to control plant life at the sewer pond. The city has replaced multiple stop signs. City employees also repaired a washed-out place on East Fourth Street in front of Jackson's Garage. A motion

was made to accept the public works report. All were in favor.

Cathey presented the Mayor's report to the council. The city has been running a notice that they are accepting bids for a mowing contract and they will decide in three weeks as to who will win the contract. A motion was made to accept the Mayor's report. All were in favor.

Alderman Karina Ramos informed the council that she will be stepping down as a council member. A motion was made to accept Ramos's resignation. All were in favor.

A motion was then made to adjourn. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 18.

## INTRODUCING THE 2024 BRADLEY COUNTY FARM FAMILY



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

See page 9-12 for information about the Harrod family, the 2024 Bradley County Farm Family of the Year.

## Volunteers sadly see the end of weekly food distribution



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

Barbara Dawkins and her team of volunteers gather to distribute food at their last giveaway. Pictured: Maddie Head, Jase Dawkins, Becky Forrest, Sarah Forrest, Brittany Lee, Carolyn Huitt, Joy Ayers, Barbara Dawkins, Bryan Lee, Chery Moring, Kristen Dawkins, Edith Ezell, Steven Dawkins, Diane Reeves. Not pictured: Becky Quimby, Rick Anders, Wayne Lee, Braylen Lee, Jackson Dawkins, Esther Rogers.

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle democrat.com

It's been five years since volunteers first came together to distribute food essentials to community members in need. While Barbara Dawkins and other volunteers had hoped that the weekly event would carry on for much longer, the time for this particular food distribution has sadly come to an end.

The giveaway started and stayed at Southside Baptist Church for two and a half years. Volunteers then moved the giveaway to Crossroads Baptist Church where it lasted for another two and a half years.

"We saw a need in the community," Dawkins said.

Every Wednesday, a team of people would meet and start getting items ready to distribute to those that were waiting. The official start time was 10 a.m. but sometimes cars would line up as early as 6:30 a.m. to receive what was available.

"We would give away food in the rain, or cold, or heat," Daw-

kins said. "It didn't matter." Dawkins also said it wasn't uncommon to distribute as much as 12,000 pounds of food to as many as 200 families in one day.

"We didn't even know what we were going to be giving away each Wednesday until the day before," Dawkins said.

While the giveaways took place at a couple of local churches, the churches weren't actually involved. It was simply a group of volunteers that felt the need to make sure that those in need were taken care of.

"It was a blessing for us and a blessing for the families," Dawkins said.

Two reasons for ending the giveaway are a lack of volunteers and space. Dawkins hopes to see someone step in and continue something that is dear to her heart.

"There is still a need in the community," Dawkins said. "I would love to see someone take it up."

There's no doubt that those in need will truly miss Dawkins and her team.

## Suspected shooter named in Fordyce grocery store shooting

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Arkansas State Police (ASP) has named the suspected shooter in Friday's Fordyce grocery store shooting as Travis Eugene Posey, 44, of New Edinburg. Posey will be charged with four counts of Capital Murder. Additional charges are pending. He was treated for non-life-threatening injuries after exchanging gunfire with law enforcement, released to ASP custody, and transported to the Ouachita County Detention Center, where he remains. ASP's Criminal Investigation Division is investigating the shooting that occurred on Friday, June 21, 2024, at approximately 11:38 a.m. at the Mad Butcher grocery store. Five female and three male civilians, ranging in age from 20 to 65, survived injuries sustained in the shooting. Five of those individuals remain hospitalized, including a woman who is in critical condition at UAMS in Little Rock. Three of the injured civilians were treated and released from the Dallas County Medical Center on Friday. Those killed in the shooting were all civilians. They were: Shirley Taylor, 62, Callie Weems, 23, Roy Sturgis, 50, and Ellen Shrum, 81.

Six officers working for the Fordyce Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office were on the scene during the incident. Four additional Fordyce Police officers and an off-duty officer employed by the Stuttgart Police Department arrived on scene after the suspect was taken into custody.

Jacob Murry, 26, an officer who serves both the Fordyce Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, was treated Friday for minor injuries related to gunfire. Fordyce Police Officer James Johnson, 31, was released from a Little Rock hospital Saturday evening after being treated for a gunshot wound.

Stuttgart Police Officer John Hudson, 24, received minor injuries unrelated to gunfire. He rendered medical aid to an injured individual after the incident had concluded. Hudson was previously incorrectly included as an officer with injuries related to gunfire. ASP's Criminal Investigation Division is investigating the shooting and asking for anyone with information to please call (870) 850-8630.

## JORDAN COMMITS TO RAZORBACKS



Photo courtesy of Otis Kirk

Lumberjack wide receiver, Antonio Jordan has committed to playing for the Arkansas Razorbacks. He and Sam Pittman have a close bond and the Razorbacks started recruiting him as a freshman. Even though he received offers from Florida State, Tennessee, and South Carolina, Jordan opted to stay in Arkansas. "I'm an Arkansas kid," Jordan said. "Always been. I love it here." Jordan will play for Ronnie Fouch at wide receiver.

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## Passin' the Faith Along

By REV. JIM BALES  
Pastor - First Assembly of God  
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### LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES GONE IN PERFECT ETERNITY

A person can get downright confused, anymore, and that worries me. I am a simple man with very simple tastes. I still think vanilla is the best ice cream around.

That is why I am so concerned. I have this craving for the "old time religion." Some of the new stuff goes way over my head. To tell you the truth about it - a fellow can get a guilt complex over

the whole thing if he's not careful.

God only knows how many people would like to put a guilt trip on your head over any number of things. Yet, the book of Romans makes it so clear that "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit: (Romans 8:1). So any guilt feeling or condemnation does not originate with God. My part has all been cleared by the blood of the Lamb.

Well, let me just open my heart to you, today, and let you in on some of these things which concern me. Who knows - maybe they concern you, too - way down deep in your heart. Maybe we will start a new order here

today - a society of relieved believers.

I still consider life's difficult moments as tough times rather than opportunities for miracles. I am so old-fashioned that when I am sick, I actually say, "I'm sick." I would really feel awful about that, except that there have been a lot of pretty fair "country believers" who also expressed themselves rather negatively at times.

For instance, Paul, he wrote once, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present times are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

When I started, I said that is easy for a person to get confused, today, unless he keeps his eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher

of our faith.

Here I am - with marks and scars all over this tired body, with more doctor-made teeth than God-made ones, with eyes that get dimmer every year, with enough aches and pains to fill a medical book. But, I am not very upset about it. I am headed for a place where I will have perfect health for eternity.

A long time ago, Charlotte Elliott wrote a wonderful song.

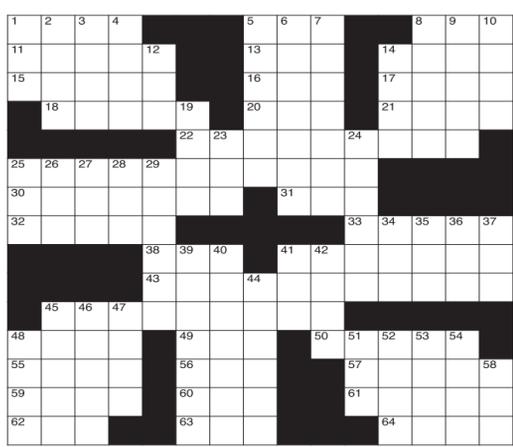
"Just as I am"

Just as I am, tho tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt

Fightings and fears within,  
without

O Lamb of God, I come!

You and I, with all of our  
bruised and battered lives, fears  
and anxieties, questions and  
frailties - can come just as we are  
and the Lord receives us. Thank  
God!



### CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it
- In favor of
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Pulpits
- Leisure activity
- Fertility god
- Financial obligations
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Spanish river
- Sporting events
- Type of tree
- Ceased to be
- Persons
- Synthetic resin
- Relates to photochemical reactions
- Father
- Former Cowboys coach
- City in Finland
- Run batted in
- Got through
- They darken skin
- In a harmful way
- Form of weaving
- City of Angels hoopster
- Caucasian language
- Syngman \_\_, Korean president
- Sun up in New York
- Paddled
- Fishes
- Affirmative
- Nimble
- Doctor of Education
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- A small island

### CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Hebrew unit of measure
- Swedish rock group
- College army
- Favor over another
- Called it a career
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Israeli statesman
- Hurries
- Slog
- Midway between south and southeast
- Benedictine monk
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of regulator genes
- Surrendering
- Political action committee
- S. American plant
- Long-term memory
- Bark
- Breathes in
- Take hold of
- Everyone has one
- Valentine's Day color
- Drivers' licenses and passports
- Outer walls of castles
- Enters with force
- One thousandth of an inch
- Deceased Chinese politician
- Sugary secretion of plants
- Expressed pleasure
- Shelter
- Utilizes
- Forest resident
- Fashion accessory
- A sharply directional antenna
- Kristofferson, actor
- A bad place to end up
- MLBer Gordon

Answers can be found on Page 3

## SUDOKU

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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Intermediate

## 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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## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Photo courtesy of Allison Chapman

Zane and Allison Chapman of Warren, Ark. are excited to announce the birth of their son Kameron Jayce Chapman. Kameron was born on May 31, 2024 at 7:52 a.m. weighing seven pounds and ten ounces. He was 18.5 inches long.

## HELP WANTED

### LPN/RN

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The candidate will be responsible for the following:

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- Performs minor electrical maintenance including, but not limited to replacement or repair of fixtures using appropriate hand, power, and specialty tools.
- Performs minor plumbing maintenance
- Performs minor painting, carpentry, and masonry work
- Under the supervision of Maintenance Technician Performs basic mechanic skills including but not limited to mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, and troubleshooting of production machines.
- Diagnose problems, replace, or repair parts, test and make adjustments.
- Perform regular preventive maintenance on machines and on production equipment.
- Read and interpret equipment manuals to perform required maintenance and service.
- Responds to emergency situations during and after hours for the purpose of resolving immediate concerns.
- Comply with safety regulations and maintain clean and orderly work areas.
- Performs other work-related duties as assigned.
- Able to work flexible hours

This will be a full-time job with benefits including:

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870-226-5831

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bookkeeper@theeagledemocrat.com  
(USPS) 163-720

Subscription: In 716 zip, \$37 for 12 months - \$20 for 6 months  
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PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at  
Warren, Arkansas 71671-2780

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
101 S Martin Street, Warren, AR 71671-2780

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# Festival committee thanks donors

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Thanks to the 2024 donors for your support of the sixth-eighth Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival. This time honored event would not happen each year without the generous contributions from area businesses, organizations and individuals. Thank you for making the annual Pink Tomato Festival possible.

Pink Tomato Festival Donors for 2024:

City of Warren, Ryburn Motor Company, First State Bank, AHF Products, The Hatcher Agency, Potlatch/Deltic, Emrich and Scroggins, Bradley County Medical Center, Heritage Poultry, Leah St. John, Union Bank, Warren Bank, University of Ark Monticello, C & L Electric, Maxwell Hardwood Flooring, Super-

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## Three tips for staying hydrated this summer

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Staying hydrated is essential to maintaining health, especially during summer months. Aside from preventing dehydration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that water helps your body maintain normal temperature, facilitate joint movement and protection, protect sensitive tissues like your spinal cord and remove waste through sweat, urination and bowel movements.

Here are three tips for staying hydrated this summer, and there are more available at [cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/)

healthy-weight-growth/water-healthy-drinks/index.html.

### Upgrade your water bottle.

Buying a reusable water bottle to refill throughout the day can help ensure you drink enough water. Freezing pre-filled plastic water bottles can be a great way to make sure you have access to cold water throughout the day, especially if you plan to spend an extended amount of time outside. Consider buying a flavor-infusing water bottle to add fruit flavors to your water if you dislike the taste of plain water.

### Cut back on other drinks.

Substitute water for sugary

drinks like sodas or teas when you feel thirsty and consume alcohol, caffeine and energy drinks in moderation. Sports drinks can be a good way to restore electrolytes after prolonged periods of sweating and heavy physical activity, but avoid consuming them outside of regenerating electrolytes. Remember that choosing to drink water as often as possible will help keep you hydrated.

### Make water part of your meals.

Water is usually a drink option at restaurants, so choose to order water when given the opportunity. If you plan to host dinners or parties this summer, serve water

and water-based drinks with your meals. Serve recipes with fruits and vegetables that contain water, like cucumbers and tomatoes. Whether you plan to eat indoors or outside, consider keeping a pitcher of ice water on the table during meals so guests can refill their glasses as they need to.

Regularly consuming water during the summer will help you stay hydrated and healthy. Find more resources about water and hydration at [nutrition.gov/topics/basic-nutrition/water-hydration-and-health](https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/basic-nutrition/water-hydration-and-health) and [heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/fitness-basics/staying-hydrated-staying-healthy](https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/fitness/fitness-basics/staying-hydrated-staying-healthy).

## Puzzle answers

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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

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

### SEEKING BIDS:

The City of Hermitage is seeking bids for the 2024 mowing. A copy of the bid specifications and requirements may be obtained at Hermitage City Hall, 186 US Hwy 63 S. Bypass, or you may request the specifications via email at [hermitagecityhall@gmail.com](mailto:hermitagecityhall@gmail.com)

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### JOB OPENING

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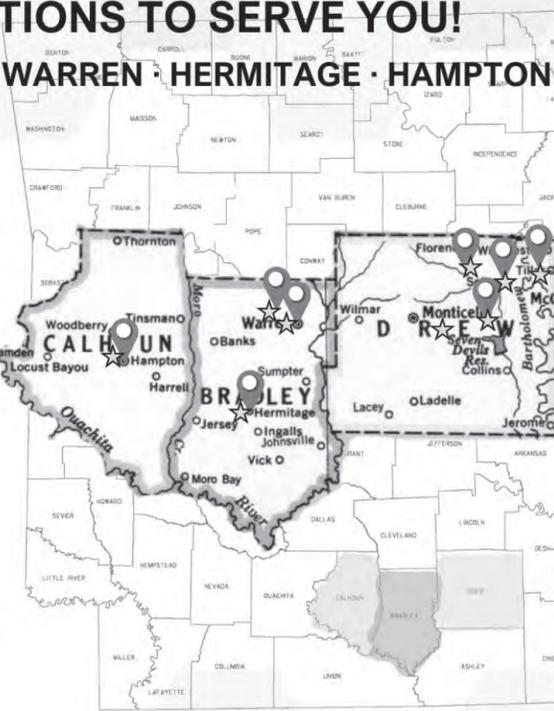
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- East**  
902 U.S. Hwy. 278 East
- Warren**
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- Hampton**  
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# The Eagle Democrat

# Editorial

## Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw  
Ark. State Representative



This week, the General Assembly convened for an Extraordinary Session, during which the legislature passed significant tax legislation.

The new laws reduce the top individual income tax rate to 3.9 percent, the lowest since the tax was first enacted in the state in 1923. Among Southern states with an individual income tax, Arkansas now has the lowest in the region. This reduction will benefit every Arkansan earning more than \$25,000, an estimated 1.1 million people.

Identical Acts 1 and 4 lowered the top individual income tax rate from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent and reduced the corporate income tax rate from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent. These cuts will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Additionally, the acts direct the transfer of \$290 million in surplus funds to the Arkansas Reserve Fund Set-Aside, with a projected general revenue surplus for Fiscal Year 2024 of \$708.1 million.

Acts 3 and 5, also identical, increase the homestead property tax credit from \$425 to \$500, effective January 1, 2024.

The General Assembly also approved an appropriation to fund the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. In addition to appropriating funds for personal services and operating expenses, the appropriation sets the maximum salary for the commission director at \$170,437. It also prohibits increasing the director's salary by more than 5 percent without prior legislative approval.

Copies of all the legislation passed in the session and recordings of all House proceedings are available at arkansashouse.org.



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

Arkansas families and businesses will save more than \$483 million in income taxes next year, thanks to a tax cut passed by the legislature during a three-day special session.

Also, Arkansas homeowners will see their property taxes go down by about \$46 million because the legislature increased the homestead property tax credit from \$425 to \$500.

Senate Bill 1 had the major income tax reduction. It lowers individual income taxes for about 1.1 million Arkansas taxpayers by reducing the top rate from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent. That will save taxpayers \$384.2 million next year and \$256.1 million in following years. The savings are

higher next year because they actually include 18 months of savings, from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

After that, in a typical 12-month fiscal year the savings will be \$256.1 million. Numerous lawmakers said that income taxes need to be lowered, even eliminated, in order for Arkansas to remain competitive with neighboring states. Every tax reduction makes it easier for the state to recruit industry.

The Senate bill also lowers corporate income taxes by changing the top rate from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent. In the first 18 months it is in effect it will save Arkansas businesses about \$99.3 million and then the savings will be about \$66.2 million every fiscal year.

An estimated 7,800 corporations will get a tax cut, according to a fiscal impact statement by the state Department of Finance and Administration.

Property taxes will go down for assessment years beginning Jan-

uary 1, 2024, because of the increase in the homestead property tax credit. The second full year it is in effect it will save homeowners about \$47 million.

The legislature met in special session to finalize a budget for the state Game and Fish Commission. It had to be done before June 30, the final day of the current fiscal year. If the legislature had not approved a budget, the agency would not have had authority to spend any of its funding on July 1.

The special session was scheduled to coincide with the week when the Legislative Council and its subcommittees hold their regular monthly meetings. That helped to hold down the costs of the session because so many lawmakers were scheduled to be at the Capitol anyway.

The legislature has always written very conservative budgets to keep down spending levels for state agencies. For example, state spending will grow by only 1.76 percent next year.

Even after accounting for the loss of revenue due to the income tax reductions, the estimated budget surplus next year will be \$280.3 million.

Since 2013 the legislature, the current governor and the previous governor have approved a series of tax cuts that lowered state revenue by about \$1.5 billion a year. For perspective, this year's total general revenue fund will be \$6.2 billion.

Arkansas operates under a balanced budget law, known as the Revenue Stabilization Act. If an economic downturn causes tax revenue to go down, state agencies must reduce spending by a proportionate amount.

However, the Public School Fund is protected from cuts because the state Constitution mandates that the state provide all children with an education. Other state services do not have similar constitutional protection from budget cuts.

## Detox from the digital

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

I grew up in between two well-known generations. I was born in 1981, but I would really call myself a 90s kid. I'm not a part of Generation X, and I missed being a Millennial by a few years. I don't remember enough about the 80s to revel in it, but a few memories poke through here and there. "The Neverending Story", Rainbow Bright, and candy cigarettes were a daily part of my life. People smoked in cars, houses, and restaurants. Wearing a seatbelt was optional. But most of my memories don't start until the 90s.

I can proudly say that I remember answering a phone that was hanging on the wall and connected to the base by a very long spiral cord. We had no idea who was on the other end when we said hello because there was no Caller I.D. When we left the house, no one could get in touch with us until we got back home.

Unless you had cable or satellite, your selection of entertainment was narrowed down to three or four channels, and if the antenna outside your house wasn't turned in just the right direction, you weren't watching anything. That's when you would have to either go outside and turn the metal antenna pole while waiting on someone to yell stop, or send someone out and yell at them to stop turning. It was a whole thing. Streaming didn't exist and the definition of "binge-watching" was hoping you set your VCR correctly to record whatever you knew you were going to miss, and then praying that someone didn't record over it. What's a VCR you ask? Go ask someone older.

If we weren't sure how to get somewhere, you pulled a folded map out of the glove compartment, looked at the numbered roads and highways, and then attempted to fold the map up again so it would fit back in the glove box.

When you went to church or summer camp, you could buy a little book with blank pages from whatever gift store that was there. Before camp was over, you would collect addresses from the friends you just made and swear to write them every week. There was nothing like the feeling of waiting day after day for a letter from those friends to arrive in the mailbox. When I got these letters, I think it took me less than five minutes to read them. Right away I pulled out my stationary, wrote my reply, stuck the letter in an addressed envelope, and found a stamp. It was a process that was on repeat for at least a month.

I also remember a time when I knew my friends phone numbers off the top of my head. That's because we used our phones to have conversations that didn't involve typing out sentences. I don't think talking

See EDITORIAL Page 5

Opioid misuse and abuse has devastated communities in Arkansas and prompted a whole-of-government response to combat it, but hard-fought progress against the deadly consequences is now in view.

Drug overdoses in Arkansas decreased by 13 percent in 2023, the second consecutive year there was a decline in the number of fatalities from overdoses in our state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The national average of overdose deaths in 2023 also fell by about three percent – the first time since 2018 that the drug overdose rate has declined nationally.

One reason for the year-over-year drop in overdose deaths is the distribution of naloxone, an anti-overdose drug that counteracts the effects of opioids. Tens of thousands of Arkansans have obtained and been taught how to administer it, including through a program called Narcansas that borrows its name from Narcan, the name brand version of this antidote. Prescriptions for the emergency medication at pharmacies have also been increasing, climbing by 340 percent from June 2021 to June 2022.

Another part of the solution to this crisis has been the rising awareness and investment in opioid abuse, treatment and recovery programs, which the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership has led the way on by providing nearly \$23 million toward in the last two years.

The organization, founded by the Arkansas Municipal League and Arkansas Association of Counties with \$300 million from an opioid settlement, along with others in our state are helping educate and fight back against prescription and illicit drugs harming Arkansans from every walk of life.

Congress has also worked hard to curb the opioid epidemic and save lives through multiple reforms, including provisions passed in 2022 that allow physicians to prescribe a treatment for opioid addiction, buprenorphine, without obtaining a waiver from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and requiring providers to undergo eight hours of training on substance abuse disorders before obtaining or renewing a DEA registration to prescribe opioids.

We also crafted and approved comprehensive legislation to

address this crisis by supplying law enforcement with additional tools to halt the spread of opioids, including highly dangerous synthetic versions like fentanyl, in addition to supporting programs for Americans struggling with addiction and expanding research into non-addictive pain treatments.

Additionally, the president signed into law earlier this year legislation that enables government agencies to disrupt the trafficking of fentanyl and impose sanctions on money laundering that makes the flow of this drug into our communities profitable.

Informing the public that even one inadvertent consumption can cause death is also important. That's why I joined other members of Congress with medical backgrounds to warn unsuspecting Americans that just one pill can kill. Our public service announcement reminds us all to never take any drug except those

personally prescribed by your physician and filled by your pharmacist, while also imploring parents and teachers to discuss these risks with children before it's too late.

We have also regularly promoted opportunities for Arkansans to safely dispose of unused or expired medications to keep them out of the wrong hands. To date, more than 300 tons of medications have been collected at approved sites through Arkansas Take Back events held biannually since 2010.

These are all important steps to reduce overdoses and it is encouraging to see that they may be succeeding. Our ultimate goal is to save as many lives as possible and keep our guard up against more drugs flowing into our communities. Together, we will continue tackling this challenge head-on for the good of our families, friends and neighbors.



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## Arkansas History Minute

by Dr. Kenneth Bridges



As the twentieth century dawned, Little Rock residents looked at the continuing problems of crime and corruption in the city and decided they would not tolerate it any longer. Charles Taylor was one such man, and as mayor, he brought that reform energy to city government, creating a modern city worthy of being a state capital.

Charles Taylor was born in Mississippi in 1868. After his father's death in 1880, the surviving family moved to Little Rock. He was a hard worker, graduating high school and briefly attending a business school before accepting a clerk position at a local hardware store. Over the next few years, he would come to work as a traveling salesman for other hardware retailers.

Taylor had been active in the community, belonging to several civic organizations. Also a man of faith, he served as head of the Sunday School classes at Little Rock's Second Baptist Church for sixteen years.

In 1910, Mayor W. R. Duley had announced that he would not seek re-election. Alderman John Tuohey had become the leading establishment candidate, backed by veteran politicians and insiders. However, the business-as-usual inefficiency and corruption that had become common in city politics was becoming too much for residents to bear.

In November, Taylor announced his candidacy for mayor, calling for reform at all levels of city government. He had never run for office before, but he relied on his business experience as his chief qualification. Taylor called for the city to be run in a more "business-like" manner. Throughout the campaign, he had called for modernizing city services, improving public health, and ridding the city of crime.

See HISTORY Page 6



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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONGOING AA Meetings

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

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**EDITORIAL**  
Continued from Page 4  
on the phone was inhibited by any kind of anxiety. People knew that it was the only immediate form of communication and they did what they had to in order to communicate.  
But of course, as I grew older, the Internet came around and we started carrying phones with us everywhere. Contact became constant. As a teenager, my parents would send me to run errands alone with change for a payphone. What's a payphone? Go ask someone older. Now the idea of driving down the street without my phone is a little scary. When did I become that person?  
I think most people today suffer from a "Fear of Missing Out" or F.O.M.O as kids today call it, therefore their phones are continually with them. But I have a crazy idea that might freak you out a little. Next time you're streaming and binge-watching your favorite show on you smart T.V., leave your cell in your room for an hour. If you go outside to do some yard work, leave your phone inside. You'll be fine, I promise. You might find that you actually like being unreachable for a small amount of time.

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# Obituaries

## Victor Hugh Hunter

Reverend Victor Hugh Hunter age 93 of Warren, Ark. went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on June 16, 2024. He was born to the late Grady Curtis Hunter and Doris Almira Dearman Hunter on March 9, 1931 in New Edinburg, Ark. in Cleveland County.

Victor was a member of Faith Free Will Baptist Church. He was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister and pastored several churches. He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Victor had various jobs during his life time and was a retired meat cutter for Piggly Wiggly. He enjoyed many activities during his life, such as hunting, fishing, coaching baseball, and also developed a love for playing golf after he retired, where he made multiple holes in one. Victor enjoyed watching sports, and old western shows on TV. For several years Victor was a member of the American Legion part 82 and was active with local veterans. He also volunteered many hours working at the Bradley County Veterans Museum. Through many of Victor's pastoral years he was active in the Bradley County Ministerial Alliance.

In addition to his parents, Victor is preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Verna Mae Hunter and his siblings Juanita Clay, Curtis Hunter, and James Hunter.

Victor is survived by his two sons Bruce Allen Hunter (Brenda) and Larry Wade Hunter

(Joan), his two grandchildren, Jacob Allen Hunter (Cheryl), and Hannah Elizabeth Bryant (Blake), his two great-grandchildren Wyatt Oliver Hunter and Walker Howard Bryant, as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. with reverend Waymen Mann officiating. Burial was in Mosely cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home.

(Paid obituary)

## Symetha Jackson

Symetha Hampton Jackson, 57, of North Little Rock, died June 15, 2024. Born August 4, 1966, to Carl and Mittie Hampton.

Survivors: Siblings – Kenneth, Ricky, Anthony, Roderick, Jeffery, Stanley, Komonte, Emanuel, Linda, Tajuana, Ketra, Sheena

Funeral service was June 22, at Hampton Chapel AME Church, Johnsville. Hammons Funeral Home.

## Nora Dye Waltman Lucas

Nora Dye Waltman Lucas died June 15, 2024. Born July 15, 1946.

Surviving is her husband, Micheal Lucas. Sons, Joseph O. Waltman, Joseph Waltman Jr, Ronny Joe Waltman. Daughter Barbara Ann Waltman, sisters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Arrangements made by Frazer's Funeral Home.

## Billy Smith

Billy Lyndon Smith, 61, died June 15, 2024.

Proceeded in death by his parents James Silas 'Tubby' and Lindora Smith.

Survivors: sons Chris Johnson and Jeff Johnson, brother Lawrence, sisters Florence and Freda.

A celebration of life June 30, 4 p.m. at Outlaw Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home.

# HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

In the spring 1911 primary, Tuohy came out ahead. Taylor's allies immediately claimed fraud, pointing to hundreds of fraudulent votes. Many of these votes were thrown out, prompting a runoff that Taylor won.

Taylor wasted no time. He enacted ambitious projects to pave streets and sidewalks across the city as well as installing electric streetlights for safer neighborhoods. He created a new Health Department to regulate the local hospital and city hygiene. Regular trash collection and regular sanitary inspections of food services and the water supply began. Disease rates plummeted.

The fire department's horse-drawn wagons were retired, replaced with automatic pumps, fire hydrants, and a modern ladder truck to combat high-rise fires. A new fire station was built downtown as well as neighborhood fire stations.

He created a vice commission to combat the city's problems with gambling, alcohol, and prostitution. Saloons were tightly regulated, houses of prostitution were shuttered, and

gambling halls were raided. Taylor reportedly led several raids himself.

He went even further to propose a new hospital for Little Rock as well as new parks and the annexation of North Little Rock. While Pulaski Heights was annexed, North Little Rock stayed independent, and financing forced him to abandon his more ambitious plans.

While mayor, Arkansas completed the modern State Capitol building in 1915. The city's first airport was constructed in 1917 as a U. S. Army Air Corps training field, which the city would buy in the 1930s. The population had increased nearly 40 percent under Taylor, going from just over 45,000 to nearly 65,000 residents.

With eight years as mayor, Taylor became the longest-serving mayor in the city's history, a record that would stand for decades until 1993. In spite of some setbacks, he had created a safer and healthier city with all the conveniences the twentieth century had to offer. He returned to the business world and would never again run for office and died in Pine Bluff in 1932.

## THORNTON TURNS UP HEAT WITH DUTCH OVEN DINNER



Photo courtesy of Dennen Outhbertson

Doug Thornton prepared a delicious meal for the Wednesday night crowd before the fellowship meal at First Methodist Church.



HUNTER



VETERAN

as hunting, fishing, coaching baseball, and also developed a love for playing golf after he retired, where he made multiple holes in one. Victor enjoyed watching sports, and old western shows on TV. For several years Victor was a member of the American Legion part 82 and was active with local veterans. He also volunteered many hours working at the Bradley County Veterans Museum. Through many of Victor's pastoral years he was active in the Bradley County Ministerial Alliance.

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## OBITUARY POLICY

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

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# LEGALS

## ORDINANCE NO. 953

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCES NO. 207 AND NO. 835 GOVERNING OWNING AND MAINTAINING LIVESTOCK WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF WARREN:

Whereas the city council of Warren has determined that no person shall keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody, or control within the city limits of Warren, of any small or large hooved animal or animals without first obtaining a permit issued by the City of Warren Building Official and subject to the following:

Now therefore it be ordained by the City Council of the City of Warren. Section 1: Owners of small and/or large hooved animals must apply for a permit from the City of Warren Building Official's Office to allow for the animal or animals to be maintained within the Warren city limits. No animals in the place at the time this ordinance is adopted are to be grandfathered in. There will be no charge to secure a permit.

Section 2: Prior to the permit being issued, the City of Warren Building Official will visit the site where the animal or animals are to be maintained and inspect the site to assure city regulations will be adhered to.

Section 3: It shall be unlawful to keep small and/or large hooved animal(s) in pen, lot, yard, pasture, home, or commercial building that is within 25 feet of any resident business other than the residence of the livestock owner or business establishment owned by the livestock owner.

Section 4: If the permit is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Warren Planning Commission by written notice within 30 days of the denial of the permit.

Section 5: All existing nuisance and noise ordinances remain in effect and any violation is a grounds for legal action to remove the animal or animals regardless if the distance requirements are in compliance.

Section 6: Ordinance No. 207 and Ordinance No. 835 are amended in accordance herewith and all parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7: The following animals are prohibited within the Warren City limits:

- a. Swine
- b. Roosters

Section 8: All animals that are legal within the city are to be maintained in a humane manner with regards to food, water, and adequate shelter.

DATED this 11th day of June, 2024.

The City Council having found that there is an immediate need for the public health and safety to adopt this Ordinance, an emergency is hereby found to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of June, 2024.

Attest: /s/ Janice Nelson, City Clerk

/s/ H. Murray Claycomb, City Attorney

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/s/ Gregg Reep, Mayor

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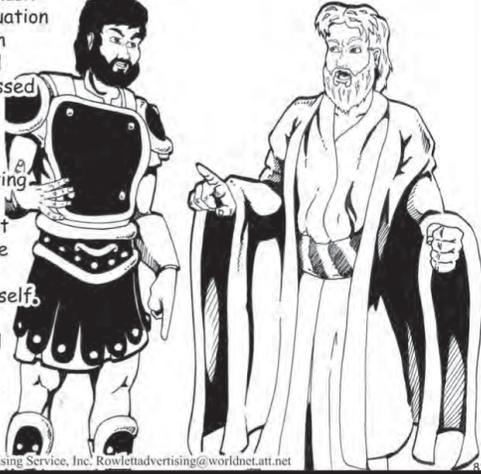
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**Saul as King**  
 1 Samuel 13,14

Saul was thirty years old when he became king of Israel and reigned for 42 years. His sons were Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua and his daughters were Merab and Michal. Saul's first battle as king was against the Philistines. Saul's son, Jonathan, attacked a Philistine outpost and infuriated the Philistines. The Israelites were called to join Saul at Gilgal. As the Philistines assembled at Micmash the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and they began to hide in caves, thickets, among the rocks and in pits and cisterns.. Some even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul stayed at Gilgal seven days waiting for Samuel to arrive and offer the burnt offering. When Samuel did not arrive in seven days as he had said he would, Saul's men began to scatter. Saul offered the burnt offering himself. Just as he finished, Samuel arrived. Learning what Saul had done, Samuel chastised him and told him that his kingship would not last. All the days of Saul, there was bitter war with the Philistines.



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# HOMETOWN Heroes 2024

## Hometown hero: Randy Rawls

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

This month's Hometown Hero is a Bradley County native and very active in Warren. Randy Rawls has lived in Warren his entire life and was even born at Bradley County Medical Center. He attended and graduated from the Warren School District. He is still involved as an adult. You've heard Randy's voice if you've been to a Lumberjack football game. He's been announcing the games for 25 years.

Randy has also chaired the Pink Tomato Festival committee, been president of the booster club, the Lion's Club, and Chairman of the YMCA.

Randy and his wife Karen have been married for 22 years, and they have two children, Josef who is 20, and David who is 15. David will be a junior at Warren High this coming school year and Josef will begin his junior year at UAM as an agriculture major.

In 2006, Randy received a call from Hugh Allen Quimby asking if he wanted to get into banking.

"I was working at Warren Wholesale at that point, and I told him maybe," Rawls said. "He told me to go ahead and come in and interview with him and Freddie Mobley.

That was when Randy's career in banking began. He worked

at Warren Bank for four years before he received a call from Union Bank. But Randy was hesitant to say yes.

"Both Hugh and Freddie were really good to me," Rawls said. "It took Union Bank calling three times for me to finally move over."

But Randy doesn't only work in banking. This past December, he and Karen started a woodworking business named R&R Woodworking and Custom Engraving. Randy says that Karen does all of the finishing and engraving, and he builds whatever the current project is. When it comes to projects, Randy and Karen have built things from dining room tables and chairs to benches.

"People request it and we build it," Rawls said.

But Randy and Karen aren't just building for the love of building. They have a really great reason behind what they do. For some time, Randy has been working with Living Water Wells and going on trips to El Salvador with the mission of making sure villages have fresh water.

"It takes about \$2,000 per person to get down there for a week," Rawls said. "We started R&R to raise money for mission trips."

Along with the money from R&R, they also do fundraisers with First Baptist where they're

members.

I asked Randy if he and a few others make the trip to El Salvador every year.

"With the exception of COVID, we try," Rawls said. "El Salvador was locked down for 24 months. The only flights in and out were military because we have a base there."

In 2022, El Salvador finally opened up again, but the in-country group that Living Water had previously been working with didn't want people coming in, Living Water Wells stopped investing with that group, which happened to go by the same name.

"They were struggling for about a year and a half," Rawls said.

There's a reason why Randy finds it important to make sure that villages have fresh water.

"The second year we did something called pump repair," Rawls said. "The little village we were helping had like 400 people. They got their water from cisterns which collect rainwater. Whatever the acceptable number for things like fecal matter, their water tested much higher than it should've. A man said that he knew that the water would make his child sick, but that was the only water they had. That broke my heart!"

But when Randy and his group got back to the United States,



two or three weeks passed and they received a phone call saying that the villagers had started using the pump that belonged to the school, and therefore they were able to have fresh, clean water.

Randy is very passionate about

the trips to El Salvador and the mission to bring clean water to the villages there. I could hear it in every word of the stories he was sharing with me. In the very small amount of time that I spent talking with him, I could tell that Randy is a good person

who wants others to have things as simple as clean fresh water. He is a pillar in the community and a few words that come to mind are generosity, advocate, and role model. That's why he's our Hometown Hero for June.



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# Sustaining tradition on the generational farm

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

Farming is a time-honored tradition that stays with some families generation after generation. The word farming doesn't necessarily mean putting a seed in the ground and waiting for something green to pop up. Bradley County's Farm Family of the Year specializes in eggs.

Nathan and Jodi Harrod, along with their three children, Kaysen, who is nine, and their twins Kenzley and Kouper, who are seven were chosen as the 2024 Bradley County Farm Family of the Year. They run Spring Branch Farms and are in a partnership with Nathan's grandparents James and Barbara Johnson and they specialize in breeder hens.

Nathan is no stranger to farming or hard work. As a kid, he helped on his family's tomato farm.

"I started driving a tractor when I was probably way too young," Harrod said with a laugh. "We were driving trucks around the farms since we were old enough to walk. It's all I've ever done."

Nathan credits his dad, Matt for getting him into what he calls the chicken side of farming.

Matt Harrod had grown chickens for Tyson for years and when Nathan was 18, he worked with the broiler side.

Barbara Johnson, Nathan's maternal grandmother was working at Potlatch when she said she received a call from Nathan.

"He said what do you think about chicken houses," Johnson said. "I told him, Nathan, I don't think I've ever thought of them."

At the time Nathan was 19.

Barbara then said that's when they decided to go for it. They only had chickens at first and then Nathan started cleaning out other farmers' chicken houses.

"That's really needed thing because it takes a lot of labor,"

Johnson said.

Commercially cutting hay was another venture that Nathan wanted to try. In one year, he cut 3,000 round hay bales.

"The thing about hay is that you can't coordinate the weather and hay needs," Johnson said.

She also said that people would call saying that they wanted their hay cut, but then rain would ruin plans.

After four years, Nathan decided he was done with cutting hay and sold all of his equipment.

Another reason that he decided that cutting hay wasn't for him was because he used some of the same equipment to clean out chicken houses. The workflow for cutting hay and cleaning out houses did not work.

Nathan continues to clean out chicken houses for other people. Barbara said that the litter side of the business has grown in a way that no one expected it to. What started out as a few houses for Nathan has turned into 150 houses a year; and because it has grown at the rate it has, Nathan stays busy. Spring Branch Farms sells approximately 15,000 tons of litter that they haul and spread each year.

"That inspires Nathan to continuously work," Johnson said proudly.

One thing he is very careful about is keeping all of his equipment cleaned and sanitized. In order to keep from bringing possible illness-causing bacteria back to their farms or other farms, they clean and sanitize their equipment after each use.

"We go through a few pressure washers each year," Johnson said.

While Spring Branch doesn't specialize in cattle, they do keep a few. Nathan said he loves taking care of cows, but because they stay so busy with the chicken litter business, they simply don't have time. Another reason they don't have more cows is because they don't have enough



land.

In 2014, they built four chicken houses, and a few years later they started leasing another farm. They now have eight chicken houses dedicated to eggs. Together they have 80,000 breeder chickens and 8,000 breeder roosters. Each chicken produces 12.5 dozen eggs per year and that comes to a total of one million dozen eggs each year. The eggs are collected by a conveyor belt, but each egg is graded

and possibly cleaned if needed. The eggs that come from Spring Branch Farms are fertilized and after they are collected, they are sent to Mexico to be hatched. After that, the chicks are then sent back to the United States to be raised in broiler houses where they are picked up and then sent from processing for grocery stores. Spring Branch Farms is contracted through Bachoco/OK Food which is located in Fort Smith, Arkansas. When

Spring Branch's hens are no longer laying, they're picked up and the houses have to be ready to receive more chickens within a few months.

Nathan and Jodi understand that owning chicken houses isn't just a job.

"It's a lifestyle," Harrod said. "It takes all of us to make this work."

Barbara has a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and an MBA and keeps the books and

payroll for both Spring Branch Farms and SBF Cattle and Farm Services. Jodi has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture; Nathan has a degree in mechanics, and both oversee the farm activities. Jodi also helps in the office.

Often, Nathan will drive a vehicle down to James and Barbara's house because it isn't working the way that it should. James, who is retired will end up going out to his shop to help Na-

See HARRODS Page 10

## Congratulations to the Harrod Family!



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# HARRODS

Continued from Page 9

than fix whatever problem that the vehicle may be experiencing. James uses his knowledge to help Nathan with mechanical issues.

"He has the experience we need, and he is our consultant," Harrod said.

While Nathan and Barbara

were explaining the different aspects of the farm, James saw quietly and listened. But after a little time had passed, he started talking about the history of the farm. In the 1940s, Hagard and Ethel Trussell Johnson purchased the farm from Ethel's father. Hagard built a groundhog sawmill where he cut the lumber and built the farmhouse where Nathan and Jodi cur-

rently live. Hagard would cut the lumber for the hothouses and cold frames for the farmers of Bradley County. He and Ethel raised cotton, cattle, and corn. Later, they started raising tomatoes. James worked at the groundhog mill, with the cattle, and the crops. He and Barbara married and together they continued to raise tomatoes and live in the farmhouse until they

retired. Both James and Barbara retired from the Potlatch Corporation. They considered selling because their children had no interest in farming. But when Nathan suggested chicken houses, they agreed to a partnership and now they have the fifth generation farming the land. Nathan and Jodi's children are already very active in farming. Kaysen, Kenzley, and

Kouper are also active in 4-H and FFA. They have farm duties, which include picking up floor eggs and showing and caring for the animals.

Spring Branch Farms employs seven people full-time and additional temporary employees as needed. They own two tractors, two spreaders, four skid steers, a loader, several buckets, two 18-wheel trucks,

a lowboy, and two litter trailers. They also own five farm trucks used by owners and employees.

Nathan and Jodi, along with Barbara and James, are examples of how hard work really does pay off. They are a true family operation and well deserved to be called Farm Family of the Year.



# Broiler breeder farms are an egg-cellent choice

By JEFF McDONALD  
editor@monticellonews.net

If you are like me, whenever you hear someone say that have chicken houses a specific picture pops into your head. I've always pictured an enormous and long room filled with thousands of chickens awaiting their time to be taken to a facility where they would be slaughtered, processed, and shipped to grocery stores all across America. That would be partially correct if it were a house that raised broiler chickens, but for the farmers who are operating broiler breeder farms, things look a little different.

When asking the question of which came first, the chicken or the egg, the answer can be more complicated than most people think. In the chicken industry, all of these fluffy chicks that will grow up and end up on dinner tables nationwide have to come from somewhere, the simple answer is they come from a hatchery. That leads to the question, "How do they get to the hatchery?" This is where broiler breeder farms enter the picture.

Broiler breeder farms are operated by broiler-hatching egg farmers. These farmers raise hens and roosters who will be

the parents of the broiler chickens. When speaking with Dr. Jason Cater of Monticello, he said that on average each of the chicken houses holds right at 11,000 chickens, 10,000 being hens and the other 1,000 roosters. These hens and roosters will mate to produce fertilized eggs, which are not the same as the unfertilized table eggs that we eat. These fertilized eggs are transferred to hatcheries in either Canada or Mexico for incubation.

Broiler breeders' lives happen in two stages, rearing and breeding. Many farmers have separate "pullet barns" where the females are raised until they are transferred to the breeding houses. A pullet is the technical term for a hen that hasn't started laying eggs yet.

Hens generally begin laying eggs at approximately 26 weeks old. Each hen will lay between 145 and 150 eggs before the end of their expected laying period which is approximately 35 to 40 weeks later.

These farms have automated egg gathering systems where the eggs gently roll from the nest box onto a conveyor belt, then to a station where the eggs are gathered and graded. Hatching eggs are gathered sev-

eral times a day, and only those that meet specifications are sent to be hatched, the others are graded as culls. Eggs are typically picked up once or twice a week. Dr. Cater stated that there could be as many as seven million eggs in each truckload.

Upon their arrival at the hatchery, the eggs are placed in incubators where they are kept warm and automatically turned at regular intervals. At around the 21-day mark, the eggs should begin to hatch. The incubators would then be opened to reveal thousands of fluffy little chicks who have pecked their way to freedom.

At the hatchery, the chicks can be vaccinated to protect them from common poultry diseases, much like we vaccinate human babies to protect them from disease.

It is crucial that the chicks are kept warm and protected from drafts as they are readied to be transported. They are carefully placed in clean and disinfected crates. Once the crates are in the climate-controlled truck, they are ready to begin the journey to their new homes, a chicken house where they will be raised for about 35 days until they become broiler chickens ready for the market.

At this point, the broiler breeder farmers have long since been out of the process with these chickens, and are more than likely preparing the next batch of eggs for transport.

The poultry industry in Arkansas is big business, and from my humble observations, thriving. With Tyson being the largest chicken producer in the US, it seems that our great state will always have strong ties to the industry. This brief glimpse into the early stages of poultry production was eye-opening and shed light on an aspect of chicken farms I was unaware existed.



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