

# The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

140th Year

Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, December 25, 2024

No. 26



## A local church offers hope and nourishment

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle democrat.com

As I was driving home the other day, I noticed a long line of cars snaking around the parking lot of Hermitage Baptist Church. It wasn't a Sunday or Wednesday, so I couldn't help but be curious. I decided to pull in and find out what was going on. As I got out of my car and walked toward the church, I saw a couple of volunteers walking in and out of the building, putting bags of food onto a long white table. It was clear they were preparing for something important, and as I approached, I learned that it was the third Thursday of the month—the day when food is distributed to those in need.

Debbie Driggers who has been volunteering for a little less than a year, greeted me with a warm smile and explained the process. Every third Thursday, volunteers gather to prepare food bags that



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

will be given away to members of the community.

"We give away anywhere from 60 to 70 bags each month," explained Driggers. "Everyone is welcome to help out, whether you're part of the church or just a neighbor wanting to lend a hand."

The church donates a portion of its building to store food that

is donated from various sources, and every month, a few volunteers come together to ensure that these bags are packed with the essentials: canned soups, beans, oatmeal, cereal, peanut butter, and other dry goods. The need is great, and the volunteers are committed to doing whatever it takes to help those struggling.

See **FOOD** Page 3

## MRS. WEST'S FOURTH GRADERS CREATE MAGIC WITH RAISED SALT PAINTING



Photo courtesy of Tricia West

Mrs. Tricia West's fourth grade class got to take part in an art activity known as "raised salt painting" as part of their lesson. "Salt painting is a fun way to create art with salt," said West. "It involves gluing salt to paper and then painting a design with watercolors or food coloring and water mixture like ours." Salt painting is a STEM activity and a creative craft that combines science, sensory play, and art. The magic happens when the salt absorbs the pigments and creates a textured 3-D effect, making the salt crystals look like diamonds when dry. The wet paint adds a shimmer to the artwork.

## JORDAN NAMED FARM BUREAU OVERALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Photo courtesy of Hooten's Arkansas Football

A ceremony for the Farm Bureau Insurance Awards was held on Monday, December 16. Forty of the best high school football players were present and awards were presented for top offensive player, defensive player, and coach of the year for each classification. At the end of the evening the award for Overall Player of the Year was presented to Antonio Jordan. "It is truly my pleasure on behalf of Farm Bureau Insurance to take part in recognizing the incredible achievements of the student-athletes and coaches being honored here," said Mack Wallace, Vice President of Sales Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc. "They are some of the greatest in the state, and Farm Bureau Insurance wishes them continued success."

# HOMETOWN Heroes


A Hometown Hero can be found on Page 9

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**SCROOGE — SANTA CLAUS — SAVIOR**

Christmas can mean Scrooge or Santa Claus, or it can mean Savior. That is the gambit. It is the complete circle.

To some in the Scrooge image, without his conversion, this season is painful. Everything about it makes them groan and wince. They resent spending and sharing. They complain about decorating and cooking. They remember cards sent which brought no response and presents given without equal value received. It is always the same, "No exchange for gifts this year!"

To such people Christmas is a waste of time and money. There is no gladness in their souls. The shouts and excitement of little children make them cross and cantankerous. The carols and lights mean commercialism. The goodwill and charity are marks of hypocrisy.

This is one side of Christmas. Thank God, such people are in

the minority!

To others, Christmas is Santa Claus. It is the annual frolic. It is a chance to go out on the town. It is credit buying to the limit. It is an excuse for parties every night. It is myth and legend and tradition. It is levity and the social season raised to the highest level.

It is secrecy and plotting. It is little white lies and a bit of sneakiness. It is kissing and hugging and an exchange of banter. It is the hoped-for season of bonuses and company gifts. It is toys and dolls for the little; and perfumes and jewelry for the grown-ups.

To these people Christmas is an intoxicating time of the year. Saint Nick rules. He decrees fun for everyone.

The footsore clerk behind the counter must never show a sign of weariness. The police must ignore overtime parking. The postman is expected to struggle

with heaps of mail with a smile. Everybody is expected to urge the customer to sign the will-pay-later form. Package wrappers are meanies if they do not add the extra bow.

Hopes are raised. Wife becomes more considerate than usual. Children do chores without being told. Husbands open car doors again for their wives. Santa Claus has come to town. Things are different as long as he stays.

But that is not the real Christmas! A real Christmas centers about the Savior.

He doesn't arrive by parade on Fifth Avenue. He is not sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He is not escorted to a throne of tinsel by stars of Hollywood and television. No mantles with stockings pinned to them become His silent rendezvous. No cash registers, rollicking with sales, pour out their profits to Him. No knees are bowed to him in liquor stores, ballrooms, or corporation offices. No place is set for Him at the table.

But there can be no real Christmas without Him. Without Him all you have is either a Scrooge or a Santa Claus. You face either disillusionment or fantasy.

Jesus Christ brings reality. He

brings Christmas into your life. He makes it more of a passing holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's He makes it an everyday affair.

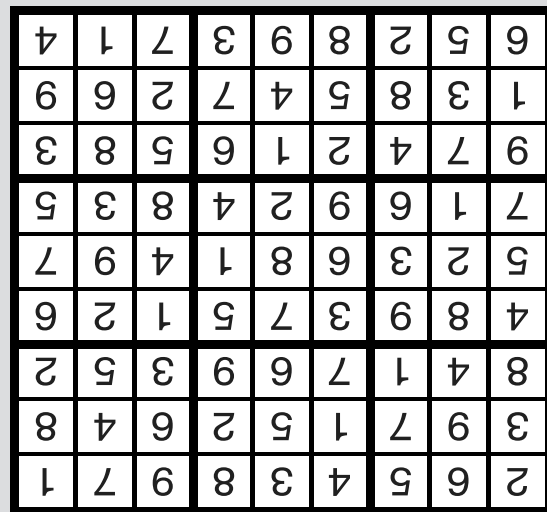
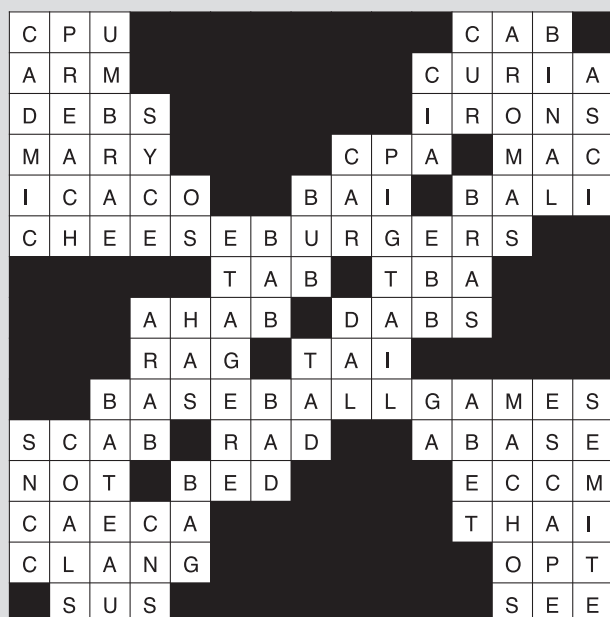
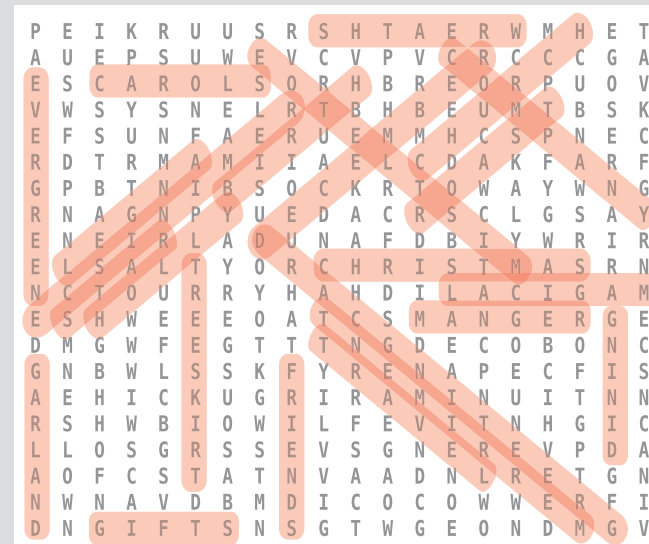
Jesus Christ brings back into your life the freshness and expectancy of little children. It is the kind of gladness and joy you cannot find in a bottle or an expense account or another marriage. It is a gladness of faith.

I want you to think about this. If it were not for that Book and the Christ of whom it bears record, there might not be any Christmas to celebrate in your country and mine; or at the best only a pagan festival or the satire of a calloused Scrooge.

I want you to open the Bible. Get a copy! Read God's account of your Savior! Christmas will flood your soul. You will find a mystery there that is missing in traffic jams and crowded escalators. You will discover a meaning that cannot be found in troubadours' songs and the jingle and jangle of ornaments.

This Gift cannot be wrapped and tagged and laid under a tree. The Gift of God to you comes like the air you breathe and the sleep you enjoy. God's Gift was nailed to a tree. Make room in your heart for Him!

**Puzzle answers**



**Oldtimer's Notebook**

The publishers of The Eagle Democrat have chosen to publish articles from the past Oldtimer's Notebook in memory of Robert L. Newton.

David King and the folk at the YMCA are surely due praise for their impressive restructuring of the appearance of the front end of the Y building, now approaching 50 years of age on Warren's North Main Street. Area includes hundreds of \$250 bricks placed there in memory of people as laid down most expertly by Richard Saunders, an impressive artisan who is married to the lovely daughter of the Odys Lyons.

Susan Saunders has her business-support business on North Myrtle, in the same building as her mother's Warren/Lyon Florist establishment.

King and associates have reapplied sod to the area that once had the Y swimming pool. For real oldtimers, it is the area where the tennis court was once

located, where people like the late Mary and Marvin Culp impressed with their tennis skills. Larry Derby and Jim Griggs were among the best at that, too, as was the late Corbon Curry.

We are back from the little fall vacation we always enjoy down to Gulf Shores, Alabama. Gulf Shores, also called the "redneck riviera" is 443 miles from our front door... an easy day's drive. In October, condos down there rent for less than half price. We had one of the four condos on the eleventh floor of one of the big units; it was the only one occupied on that floor for that week.

The weather is delightful, however it got a little coolish on a morning or two. The area got some damage from the hurricane earlier in the fall. Most damage was on the west beach area where it seemed like at least half the beach houses had roof damage. The main problem on the west end of Gulf Shores

was the water washed great amounts of sand from the beach across the highway. Men were busy with front-end loaders and other devices trying to move it back.

Buildings got extensive damage usually on the east side which was the direction from which the winds came. Our condo got some damage from wet carpet. That was about it, really.

The unit belonged to some rich people from Smyrna, Tenn. Doesn't one of the Japanese car makers have a plant at Smyrna?

Going down and upon returning, we noticed neat little rectangular piles of cotton on the roadsides. We're told big farmers down in that area store cotton like this before it can be ginned. Where once there were thousands of cotton gins, now there are a mechanized few (like the one Bob Pugh operates

at Portland) and they work 24 hours a day.

Oldtimers can remember when there were two cotton gins in Warren, one or more at Hermitage, one at Banks, one in Fountain Hill, and one at Ingalls. Didn't Ronald Clanton, father of the lovely Denisa Pennington and Rhonda Herring, operate that one?

Is there an acre of cotton grown in Bradley County now?

Bob Pugh's gin is operated by a busload of migrants who come each fall to Portland. Bob does his best to see that their housing is just fine. Robert Dean Pugh is one of the understated good guys, an elegant gentleman. Maybe one of the reasons for this is that his mama was a Warren lady, as is his lovely wife, the former Jo Ann Ederington, the late-in-life child of Miss Nettie

See NOTEBOOK Page 3

**NOTICE**

Due to the New Year's Day Holiday, The Eagle Democrat will be CLOSED Wednesday, January 1. The deadline for the January 1 paper will be Friday, December 27 at noon.

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The City of Warren is accepting applications for a Full Time Dispatcher and Full Time Police Officer. We will be taking applications until the position is filled. Applications may be obtained at the Police Department, 200 Alabama Street Warren, AR 71671. The City of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

**The Eagle Democrat**

101 South Martin Street Warren, Arkansas 71671  
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editor@theeagledemocrat.com -  
 bookkeeper@theeagledemocrat.com  
 (USPS) 163-720

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**FOOD**

Continued from Page 1

gling to make ends meet. Driggers also shared with me that the rising cost of groceries has only intensified the need in the community.

“Since groceries have become so expensive, there is a real need in this area,” said Driggers. “I didn’t realize until I started vol-

unteering just how great the need is.”

The program isn’t just for Hermitage residents, either.

“We have people who drive from Drew County just to pick up a bag,” Debbie explained. “It’s not just about Hermitage.”

Each vehicle that pulls up to the church’s designated food distribution area receives one bag. The bags are filled with essential pantry items, things that

most people can stretch to make a meal out of. But there’s more than just basic staples.

“We try to include things kids will like, too, like ramen noodles and mac and cheese,” added Driggers.

Meat is always a challenge, Debbie told me. It’s not easy to come by, but when it’s available, it doesn’t last long. “When we get meat, it goes fast,” said Driggers.

For the December distribu-

tion, though, Driggers had managed to secure bags of frozen chicken legs, which were quickly distributed as well.

As I stood there, listening to Driggers tell me about how she loved being able to help, I realized just how much this small community effort meant to the people of Hermitage and beyond. The simple act of coming together each month has become a lifeline for so many.

It is evident that this monthly food distribution, led by Brother Eddie Raines and supported by a group of selfless volunteers, is more than just an act of charity. It’s a testament to the compassion and resilience of a community that refuses to let anyone go without. And while the food bags are filled with basic staples, the real gift is the hope they bring—a reminder that, no matter how tough things get, there are peo-

ple who care and are ready to help.

The next time you’re driving through Hermitage on “distribution day” and you see a long line of cars at the church, know that something powerful is happening there. It’s not just food being given away—it’s the heart of a community coming together to ensure no one has to face hunger alone.

**NOTEBOOK**

Continued from Page 2

and Mr. Louis Ederington. Jo Ann was a classmate of the onetime country editor.

Speaking of classmates, we ran into Nina Faye Hester at the postoffice the other morning. She has the same birthday as the onetime country editor, only a year older. She says she doesn’t take medicine and gets

along great on herbal choices. Nina Faye is one of the giant pillars of Central Baptist Church. So is Ben Garner who works for Potlatch as a forester. Ben’s son, B.J., is one of the promising halfback types for the rebuilding grid teams of Tommy Arnold at WHS. He scored a touchdown against McGehee with a recovered fumble. Ben’s a leader in the music program at Central. Another of the good guys.

The movie, “An Officer and a Gentleman” came out a decade ago. The title, not the subject matter, always reminded an oldtime Warrenite of several men we’ve known here.

One of them was WHS Coach Marion Glover, a graduate of The Citadel. He coached with great success, first at Clinton, then here, then finally at Pine Bluff, where he showed a commanding gift for taking young

men from all backgrounds and moulding fine football teams wearing Pine Bluff Zebra uniforms.

Another, certainly, was Lt. Colonel Bernie Hargis, Senior, who went to Ouachita College as a raw country boy before World War I. At Ouachita, he got in the ROTC, was an outstanding football player, and, as a senior, was honored as the “Outstanding Christian Gentleman” on the

Ouachita campus.

Fittingly, his son, Bernie, Jr., was the third. Automobile dealer, director of the YMCA, then postmaster in Warren 25 years, Bernie, Jr. (oldtime friends called him “Doonie” for some reason or another) always did his best to serve both the institutions and friends he knew. Occasionally, we got to see him in his National Guard uniform. He retired as a full colonel after

service both in World War II and Korea. Douglas McArthur never looked better in a uniform as a high-ranking officer than did Bernie Hargis, Jr. Both wore it well.

Now, at only 74, after fighting a debilitating disease, he’s gone. But the oldtimers, like me, will remember him; an officer and a gentleman . . .

**Riceland program receives 2024 USA Rice Sustainability Award**

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Riceland Sustainability Team and its Carbon Ready™ Program received the 2024 USA Rice Sustainability Award Tuesday at the USA Rice Outlook Conference in Little Rock, Ark. Adam Shea, vice president of government affairs and sustainability, accepted the award with the sustainability team members.

“What an honor it is for our

program to receive this recognition from our peers in the rice industry,” Shea said. “This award represents a decade of work in carving out a place for farmers to make a meaningful impact using sustainable rice growing practices and receive a premium from the marketplace for those efforts on the farm.”

Riceland Foods distributed over \$4 million to its farmer-members enrolled in the

2023 Riceland Carbon Ready™ Program. The program allows Riceland farmer-members to provide climate-smart solutions for many valued customers. The program not only rewards farmers implementing sustainable farming practices, but it also gives its farmers the tools and support needed to adopt new sustainable practices moving forward.

“The Riceland Carbon

Ready™ Program has been successful because it keeps farmers at the forefront while creating added value opportunities throughout the supply chain for our program partners,” Kevin McGilton, Riceland’s chief executive officer, said. “This award is a testament to the team’s dedication in bringing our farmer-members to the table with our CPG and retail partners to work together to create a more

sustainable future.”

Launched in June 2022, the Riceland Carbon Ready™ program, in partnership with Arva Intelligence, was created to help farmer-members capture and utilize the farm-level data generated within their operations. The cooperative’s farmer-members in the program tracked key data points, such as tillage method, irrigation, and nutrient management, to showcase how

climate-smart practices impact sustainable metrics.

As part of the cooperative’s Ingrain Good Sustainability Initiative, Riceland Carbon Ready™ also allows Riceland to help our customers achieve their Scope 3 GHG emission reduction goals while creating a meaningful impact for U.S. farmers and their land.

**Recipe: Take hot chocolate to the next level**

People tend to think of sipping ice cream floats in the middle of summer when temperatures are soaring. Ice cream floating in a bubbling base of cola or root beer can be a welcome treat on a hot day. However, floats can be just as delicious when the weather chills,

particularly when ice cream enhances rich and decadent hot chocolate.

For this “Hot Chocolate Float” from “Chocolate: Over 100 Temptingly-Tasty Dishes” (Love Food) by the Love Food editors, coconut- and chocolate-flavored scoops of ice

cream bob and melt in creamy hot chocolate. Feel free to use your favorite flavors of ice cream to make this recipe your own, and you can even make this drink a boozy version with the inclusion of a shot of flavored vodka.

Whipped cream, to decorate

**Directions:**

Pour the milk into a saucepan. Break the chocolate into pieces and add to the saucepan with the sugar. Stir over low heat until the chocolate has melted, the sugar has dissolved and the mixture is smooth. Remove the saucepan from the heat.

Put 1 scoop of coconut ice

cream into each of 4 heatproof glasses, top with a scoop of chocolate ice cream, then repeat the layers.

Pour the chocolate flavored milk into the glasses, top with whipped cream, and serve immediately.

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# The Eagle Democrat

# Editorial

## Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw  
Ark. State Representative



This week, the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) took significant steps to address issues ranging from fair reimbursement practices to workforce development and support for our veterans.

The ALC approved a proposed rule from the Arkansas Insurance Department requiring health benefit plans and pharmacy benefit managers to reimburse pharmacists at fair and reasonable rates.

In addition, the ALC approved a \$2 million transfer from the Restricted Reserve Fund to support Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. These funds will help construct the Jobs 4 You Cabot Workforce Training Center in Lonoke County. This new facility will provide training and employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. The center will create 38 new jobs and train up to 60 adults annually, offering them pathways to meaningful community employment.

To address workforce shortages and reduce reliance on temporary staffing agencies, the ALC approved a plan from the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs to provide one-time bonuses to full-time maintenance employees at the state's veterans homes and cemeteries. This incentive aims to improve recruitment and retention in these vital roles.

The ALC approved the final recommendations of the Firearms and Concealed Carry Laws Study report. These recommendations, developed after months of review, aim to simplify and clarify Arkansas gun laws, ensuring a better understanding of where and when firearms can be carried legally.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation presented its legislative package to the ALC this week. One key proposal is to increase fines for moving traffic violations in mobile maintenance zones. This measure seeks to enhance safety for road crews and drivers across the state.

Any proposed legislation will be considered in the 2025 Regular Session which begins January 13. You can review the bills filed so far and the reports presented to ALC on our website at arkansashouse.org.

## Christmas family gatherings: embracing the joy and the mess

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagleanddemocrat.com

Christmas has a unique way of drawing us home, back to the familiar faces and places that shape our sense of belonging. For me it was Christmas Eve and day spent at my aunt's house. Family gatherings during the holiday season, with their mix of tradition, anticipation, and sometimes chaos, have a special place in the rhythm of our lives. They're not just about presents or elaborate meals. They're about coming together in all our imperfect glory and celebrating the bond that ties us together.

For many, these gatherings summon nostalgia. When I think about Christmas Day gatherings, I think about the aroma of a food that filled the house as we run through rooms excited to see each other and show off our newly acquired Christmas treats. I also think about table where the adults and the food sat. I'm not sure how they had room for their plates. Dishes of food seemed to cover every inch of the table. I also think about the sheets and blankets that were spread out on the living room floor because that's where the kids ate. It didn't matter in which room you went because both rooms were filled with talking and laughter. It was the joy of being surrounded by loved ones, sharing the same stories every year.

Whether it's putting up the tree together, playing board games, or just enjoying each other's company, these moments create memories that last long after the season ends.

Yet, family gatherings are far from flawless. The reality of juggling multiple personalities, managing dietary preferences, and sometimes

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## Arkansas History Minute

by Dr. Kenneth Bridges



Charles M. Schulz created a comic strip that captured the hearts of millions in the nearly 50 years that Peanuts ran in thousands of newspapers around the world. Schulz, an amiable and soft-spoken Minnesota native and World War II veteran, had been drawing the daily strip since 1950. Fifteen years later, he would be responsible for a Christmas story that has since become a cultural icon. But it was almost entirely by accident.

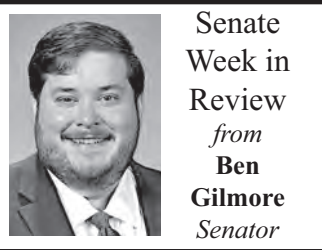
In April 1965, executives at the Coca-Cola Company contacted their advertising agency, McCann-Erickson in New York, and asked if there were any Christmas specials they could sponsor that winter, still months away. The ad agency immediately suggested an adaptation of Schulz's Peanuts strip even though none had even been proposed and Schulz had not even thought of the idea.

Within days, Schulz, along with producer Lee Mendelson and animator Bill Melendez, produced a story outline. Executives at CBS agreed to air the special but only gave it a budget of \$76,000 (or \$768,000 in 2024 dollars).

In spite of the special's purpose of advertising Coca-Cola, Schulz chose a storyline that was critical of crass profiteering and emphasizing the simple message of the Christmas spirit. By the early 1960s, many cultural commentators had already criticized the commercialization of Christmas and the emphasis on gifts and holiday spending. In 2023, Americans spent hundreds of billions on Christmas by one estimate, so much that many businesses depend on brisk Christmas shopping to stay afloat. The number is likely to be repeated in 2024.

In the storyline that emerged, inspired by strips that Schulz had run previously, the main character Charlie Brown was feeling disconnected and depressed as Christmas approached as everyone around him made demands on receiving extravagant gifts, including his sister Sally asking Santa Claus in a letter to make it simple by just sending "tens and twenties."

See HISTORY Page 6A



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

The financial health of the state Teacher Retirement System has been steadily improving over the past decade.

For example, using very conservative criteria, retirement systems are generally considered healthy if their "funded ratio" is above 80 percent. Ten years ago it was below 80 percent but at the end of last fiscal year it was 84.6 percent. This measure the system's capacity to pay for all future benefits of both retired and active members.

Improvement is also indicated if you measure the system's financial health by its amortization period. Actuaries estimate that

within 20 years the system will be 100 percent funded. That compares favorably to the amortization period of ten years ago, when it was an estimated 33 years. It is a marked improvement over last year's estimated 26 year estimate.

The ratio is 100 percent when taking into account only retired members. The system has enough funds to fully pay for all future benefits of every retired beneficiary, for the rest of their lives.

According to the system's director, who sends regular updates to members, the retirement system hire consultants to recommend how to best make investments. The investments are diversified, to protect from excessive loss in a particular category and withstand market volatility.

About 56 percent of the system's investments are in publicly-traded stocks, while 13.4 percent are in bonds and other fixed income categories. Alterna-

tive investments, such as hedge funds, make up 5.1 percent of total investments. Real estate accounts for 6.7 percent, private equity 13.4 percent and agriculture, timber and infrastructure 4.9 percent.

Assets are evaluated after adjusting for losses and gains over a four-year period, and at the end of last fiscal year the system's investments earned 9.75 percent.

A snapshot of the system's finances demonstrates how its financial health has improved over the past few years. At the end of Fiscal Year 2024 its assets were \$22.4 billion. A decade ago its assets were \$15 billion.

The system has 142,000 members. About 68,000 are active and 56,000 are retired. Almost 3,000 are in the T-DROP program and almost 15,000 are inactive.

The Teacher Retirement System is the largest public retirement fund in Arkansas. Its Board of Trustees makes decisions

after considering their long-term effect. To quote from the system's web page: "The ATRS Board makes decisions in terms of decades, not days, weeks, or months."

### Junk Food Restrictions

The governor announced that Arkansas would seek permission from federal agencies to prohibit the use of food stamps for sugary soft drinks and junk food snacks. The food stamp program is now called SNAP, for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

In a letter to federal officials, the governor said that SNAP "is undermining the health of millions of Americans, on the taxpayer's dime, by encouraging families to eat highly processed, unhealthy junk food.... our federal food assistance policies are fueling obesity, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and a wide range of chronic health conditions across America."



Elizabeth Dole has been a staunch advocate for our veterans, helping lead a movement to support and uplift them and the caregivers who work tirelessly to meet their needs. That passion came from her own life experience as the spouse of a disabled veteran, former Senator Bob Dole.

Today, she continues this important work to elevate issues and enact solutions for our ill and injured former service members as well as their loved ones. Her legendary status among this community continues to inspire while driving forward improvements to the policies that impact them.

And she is certainly not alone in her concern. From the time I entered Congress, my mother – the wife of a retired Air Force Master Sergeant – would frequently ask me, "Are you taking care of the veterans?"

That persistent question has helped remind me to work hard every day to live up to the sincere expectation of all those concerned about the welfare of the Americans who have worn our nation's uniform.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I continue to take that approach to the problems and opportuni-

ties that arise as we evaluate the benefits and services they have rightfully earned.

I'm pleased that we are ending this Congress by approving a comprehensive veterans policy package that delivers needed reforms and strengthens support for them and their caregivers.

The legislation, fittingly named the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, improves access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care and benefits, enhances programs for student veterans and their families, and provides increased oversight to ensure the VA is meeting its lawful obligations.

It delivers on many of the priorities Veteran Service Organizations have long pushed to achieve and represents an important step forward to better serve the men and women who honorably served our country.

This advancement to the quality and capacity of care the VA offers is good news, and I was honored to secure several specific provisions in this landmark bill.

Measures I helped author to bolster recruitment and retention of VA clinicians, support

training for current and future providers to ensure veterans receive the highest quality of care, and provide more oversight and transparency on its efforts addressing leadership vacancies were all included.

Additionally, my latest push to confront the veteran suicide crisis was also incorporated into the larger package. This initiative – the Not Just a Number Act – requires the VA to examine veterans' benefits usage in its annual suicide prevention report in order to evaluate the relationship between VA benefits and suicide outcomes, analyze which benefits have the greatest impact on preventing suicide, and issue recommendations for expansion of those benefits to further combat it.

We were also able to extend

VA burial benefits eligibility to terminally ill veterans who pass away at a non-VA facility while receiving hospice care, as well as ensure training for VA employees on reporting waste, fraud and abuse in coordination with the VA Office of the Inspector General.

These are all important and timely wins that should make us proud.

Our nation's promise to those who have served does not apply only to Republicans or Democrats; it must be kept for each person who answered that calling. I am proud to continue that effort daily and join those enthusiastically welcoming these latest enhancements for the heroes we all deeply respect and admire.

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**PAID CLASSIFIEDS:** Any ads of a commercial nature will be charged at the rates listed above. Classifieds to individuals must be pre-paid — you may use a credit or debit card or stop by our office at 314 N. Main St. For Rent, Hay for Sale, etc. are classified as **BUSINESS ADS**.

**ADJUSTMENTS AND CREDITS:** Check your ad for errors the first day. In the event an ad is accidentally omitted from publication or contains printer's error, the publisher's liability for such omission or error shall not exceed the charge made by the publisher for the ad which is omitted or which contains an error. Notice of the typographic or other errors must be given before the second insertion. No refunds on items sold before the last run date of the ad. No refunds are available with the \$20 classified special.

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and so deeply loved. Our hearts break with the uncertainty of knowing whether Chai is safe, warm and alive. All help is so greatly appreciated during this holiday season. Please call if you have any information. 870-820-7877 or 870-820-2894 3f 12/25

## PETS, LOST & FOUND

Jessi Reep in Warren, AR. Is offering a \$1,000.00 cash reward for anyone who can help assist the family in finding their missing cat. Last seen the morn-

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If you have any questions you may contact Tonia Brasher at the Warren School District Superintendent Office by phone or email.

Phone number - 870-226-6738  
Email address - [tonia.brasher@warrensd.org](mailto:tonia.brasher@warrensd.org)

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# Obituaries

## Michael Wayne Smith

Michael Wayne Smith, age 65, of Benton, Arkansas, entered the presence of his Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 14, at Saline Memorial Hospital. Michael was a member of Northside Church of Christ in Benton, where he served in the food pantry over 20 years. He was employed for over 25 years by the Saline County Health



SMITH

Department. Michael was the son of Scotty Smith and Joyce Etheridge Smith. Other than his parents, he is survived by one sister, Debbie Smith Baluch (John Baluch), one brother, David Smith, one niece, Jennifer Baluch Sexton, one nephew, Christopher Baluch, one great-niece, London Sexton, and one great-nephew, Knox Sexton. He was a 1977 graduate of Benton High School and attended the University of Central Arkansas. Graveside service was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at Oakland Cemetery in

Warren by Frazer's Funeral Home. (Paid obituary)

## Roger Coddington

Roger Coddington 75, of Banks, died December 13, born November 27, 1949 to the late James and Sarah Outlaw Coddington.

Surviving is his wife, Diane Box Coddington, daughters Tonya McCarthney, and Brandy Ashcraft.

Funeral was December 19th at Frazer's. Burial in Outlaw Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home.

## Calvin Davis

Calvin Davis, 73, of Warren, died December 7, 2024. Born October 26, 1951, to Adell Da-

vis and Leatrice Gannaway. Survivors: Children – Erica Beavers (Waymond), Kelvin Davis (Tina), Sonya Davis Eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren Funeral service was December 16 at A T Cemetery in Jersey. Hammons Funeral Home

## Janice Faye Sloan

Janice Faye Sloan died December 11, 2024. She was born to the late Floyd Porter and Janette Porter. She is survived by her husband, Michael Sloan; children, Hersley Sloan and Kristy Hurd; sister, Jane May; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held December 17 at Frazer's Funeral Home.

# OBITUARY POLICY

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

# EDITORIAL

Continued from Page 4

navigating unspoken tensions can make the holiday season feel more like a logistical challenge than a blissful retreat. And for some, the holiday table is a reminder of absent loved ones,

adding a layer of quiet melancholy to the celebration. There's also the pressure of making the "perfect" Christmas dinner, giving the "right" gifts, or simply living up to the expectations that come with this time of year.

But the true magic of Christmas family gatherings often lie in their imperfection. It's in

the burnt cookies that everyone laughs about, the gift exchange that turns into a funny mix-up, or the heartfelt conversations that go long into the night. These gatherings, as messy and complicated as they may seem, are a reflection of what family is all about; the imperfections that make the bond stronger and

more real. At their best, Christmas family gatherings remind us that the holidays are about more than just the picture-perfect moments we see in movies or on social media. I often think about the scene from the film "A Christmas Story" when the father is looking forward to the turkey

and all of its leftovers. However, the neighbor's dogs break in the kitchen and the reality of leftovers is gone as fast as the dogs eat the turkey. If that story were real, they would've talked about the kidnapped turkey for years to come.

So, this Christmas, whether your gathering is big or small,

quiet or boisterous, remember that the true spirit of the season is found not in the flawless execution of a holiday agenda, but in the messy, beautiful moments of togetherness. Because in the end, it's not the perfect holiday that we remember—it's the imperfect family that makes it unforgettable.

# HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

As part of directing a Christmas play, Charlie Brown and his friend Linus, a blanket-toting theologian, attempt to buy a Christmas tree. The two find a lot filled with the aluminum Christmas trees that had become popular by the early 1960s. Thinking the aluminum trees were too superficial, Charlie Brown chose the one live tree available, a small, dilapidated sapling. Mocked by his friends about his choice of tree later, he asked what the meaning of Christmas was, prompting Linus to quote Luke 2: 8-14 from the Bible on the birth of Christ. "And that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown," Linus said to Charlie Brown, satisfied and inspired by the answer.

The network, studio executives, and advertisers were reluctant to include the monologue. The biggest question they had was whether it was in good taste to take a scriptural message so special to millions of Americans and turn it into a cartoon. Television had only been widely available for a little over a decade by the 1960s. Television animation had been around for almost as long, but critics did not see it as very sophisticated. Schulz,

however, insisted that the scene be included. In the process, it became the first time the Bible was quoted in a television cartoon.

Animators worked feverishly to produce the thousands of images needed for a cartoon before the deadline. With 12 images needed each second for a 25-minute special, their work was cut out for them as each needed to be drawn and colored by hand. Children auditioned to voice the characters with 8-year-old Peter Robbins cast as Charlie Brown and Christopher Shea as Linus, who would both repeat their roles in future specials. CBS executives were uncertain how audiences would react to the cartoon, trying without success to convince Schulz, Mendelson, and Melendez to make changes to the production, already over budget.

A Charlie Brown Christmas aired on December 9, 1965. More than 15.5 million households watched. It immediately became a classic. Its heartwarming message that Christmas was more than about shopping became a comfortable reminder for millions. The special won an Emmy Award in 1966. It had such a profound impact on American culture that aluminum Christmas trees ceased to be made by 1968. In the

following years, the special was translated into numerous other languages and broadcast in countries around the world. CBS agreed to produce more Peanuts cartoons, averaging about one per year into the 1990s. And a slew of other Christmas specials, inspired by the Peanuts success, would follow in the years afterward.

With the popularity of A Charlie Brown Christmas, CBS would air the special each December until 2000 when it

was picked up by ABC for a few years afterward. Now, it is broadcast on digital streaming networks. Nearly 60 years after its first airing, it is still a program enjoyed by millions of children and also parents and grandparents who grew up watching it. Its simple message criticizing the commercialization of the holiday and emphasizing the true meaning of Christmas still resonates in the twenty-first century as countless people continue to

look to Christmas as a time of family and togetherness and a time of the special promise of a manger in Bethlehem.

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**Abishag**  
 I Kings 1 & 2


When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers on him. His servants said, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

They searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her. I Kings 1:1-4.

King David died and Solomon became king. Before he did so, Adonijah claimed the throne. When Solomon became king he spared Adonijah's life. Sometime later Adonijah spoke with Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, and asked her to ask Solomon if he would give Abishag to him as his wife.

Bathsheba went before Solomon and asked if he would permit Adonijah to have Abishag as his wife.

Solomon replied, "You might as well request the kingdom for him - after all, he is my older brother." Then King Solomon swore by the Lord: "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request!" Solomon gave the order and Adonijah was struck down and he died.



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 206 Grand Ave.  
 Banks, AR 870-608-9106  
**CALVARY BAPTIST**  
 605 Sturgis St., 870-226-5422  
**CENTRAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
 406 E. Seminary St., 870-226-5197  
**CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
 1337 Hwy 278 W. Warren  
 318-366-2779  
**DICKINSON BAPTIST**  
 Hermitage, 870-798-2290  
**EAGLE LAKE CROSSROADS BAPTIST**  
 110 Bradley Rd. 91, Hermitage  
 870-463-8246  
**EBENEZER BAPTIST**  
 113 Bradley Rd. 7 S.,  
 870-226-3425  
**FENTRESS BAPTIST**  
 1722 W. Pine St., 662-285-6757  
**FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
 1007 E. Church St., 870-226-6380  
**GRACE COWBOY**  
 316 Smith Rd., 870-820-5361  
**HAMPTON PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**  
 1761 Bradley Rd. 1 N., Banks  
 870-463-8256  
**HERMITAGE BAPTIST**  
 405 E. Grand, Hermitage 870-463-8667  
**IMMANUEL BAPTIST**  
 701 W. Pine St., 870-226-5454  
**LANDMARK BAPTIST**  
 265 Bradley Road 5 N.,  
 Hermitage 870-463-8220  
**MACEDONIA BAPTIST**  
 791 US Hwy 63  
**MT. CARMEL BAPTIST**  
 510 N. Walnut St., 870-226-6128  
**PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**  
 Main St., Hermitage,  
 870-463-8916  
**SALINE BAPTIST**  
 807 Hwy. 8 S., Hermitage  
 870-463-8706  
**SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST**  
 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 REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 1815 HWY 63 S. Warren

**OTHER**  
**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

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 870-226-3731 404 S. Bradley St. Warren, AR

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 Warren, AR 71671  
 cwadmin@reliancehealthcare.com  
 C: 870-308-3319 P: 870-226-6766

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 870-226-2035

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 Davidmitchell1005@yahoo.com  
**SEARK Electrical Solutions**  
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 218 Browning Dr  
 Monticello, AR 71655

**ARKANSAS SUPERIOR** FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
 870-226-3534  
 313 S. Martin. Warren, AR

**Smith roofing**  
 Owner: Jesus Christ 870-723-7923  
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**Tabitha.Robinson@afbic.com**

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 Worship Service - 10:30  
 Wed. Night Meal & Devotional - 5:30  
 Rotary - Tue. - Noon  
 AA Meetings - Mon. Evening - 7 p.m.  
 and Wed. - Noon

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# LEGALS

## APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # 2024-7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BRADLEY, STATE OF ARKANSAS: "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025"

SECTION 1. ANNUAL BUDGET ADOPTED BY REFERENCE. The annual budget for calendar year 2025 identified as "2025 Annual Budget, Bradley County, Arkansas", dated December 16, 2024, is hereby adopted by reference. A copy of said budget shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk and shall be available for inspection and copying by any person during normal working hours. Any further 2025 appropriations may be made by an amendment only to this Ordinance with only the amendment to be published.

SECTION 2. NON-RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES. Expenditures of funds appropriated by this Ordinance shall not be restricted to line-item expenditure codes compromising the four major categories of expenditures - Personal Services, Supplies, Other Services and Charges and Capital Outlays-but shall be restricted for personnel salaries and related employee benefits. Personnel expenditures shall not exceed the dollar amounts, number of employees, and salary or wage rates specified in the annual budget or an amendment hereto.

SECTION 3. TRANSFERS Any transfers of monies between the various funds of the County or between the three major categories of expenditures-SUPPLIES, OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES, AND CAPITAL OUTLAYS-shall be made only at the discretion of the elected Official or Department Head and the County Judge. Provided, however, all transfers budgeted for in the annual budget shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

### SECTION 4. MAXIMUM APPROPRIATED AMOUNTS

APPROPRIATIONS	
<b>A. GENERAL FUND-1000</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 625,000.00
REIMBURSEMENT-OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 18,000.00
REIMBURSEMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER	\$ 58,736.00
TRANSFER FROM CO. CLERK'S COST FUND	\$ 12,655.49
TRANSFER FROM DISTRICT COURT COST FUND	\$ 37,602.14
TRANSFER FROM CLASS IV-LANDFILL	\$ 100,000.00
TRANSFER FROM JAIL OPERATION & MAINT.	\$ 88,435.22
TRANSFER FROM ASSESSOR FUND	\$ 12,635.84
TRANSFER FROM EMERGENCY VEHICLE FUND	\$ 20,250.30
TRANSFER FROM RECORDERS COST FUND	\$ 40,000.00
TRANSFER FROM 10TH CIRCUIT COURT EXCESS FUND	\$ 138,607.12
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ 1,910,885.71
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,062,807.82
LESS DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ -129,000.00
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 2,933,807.82
90% ALLOWANCE AVAILABLE	\$ 2,640,427.04
PLUS, DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ 129,000.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME	\$ 2,769,427.04
2025 GENERAL BUDGET	\$ 2,720,960.00
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 48,467.04
<b>B. ROAD DEPARTMENT-2000</b>	
CARRYOVER AND INVENTORY	\$ 250,000.00
TRANSFER FROM ADD MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND	\$ 1,860,000.00
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ 787,520.73
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,897,520.73
LESS SALES TAX. BEGINNING BALANCE & INVENTORY	\$ -450,000.00
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 2,447,520.73
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,202,768.66
PLUS, SALES TAX BEGINNING BALANCE & INVENTORY	\$ 2,652,768.66
AVAILABLE INCOME	\$ 2,624,985.00
2025 ROAD BUDGET	\$ 2,442,758.53
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 210,010.13
<b>C. TREASURER'S AUTOMATION FUND - 3000</b>	
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ 38,000.00
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 34,200.00
2025 BUDGET	\$ 16,930.03
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 17,269.97
<b>D. COLLECTOR'S AUTOMATION FUND-3001</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 5,510.63
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ 22,680.52
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 28,491.15
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 25,642.04
2025 BUDGET	\$ 16,971.96
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 8,670.08
<b>E. COUNTY CLERK'S COST FUND-3005</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 11,524.61
PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 2,536.85
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 14,061.66
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 12,655.49
2025 BUDGET	\$ 12,655.49
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 0.00
<b>F. RECORDER'S COST FUND-3006</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 17,000.00
PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 100,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 118,163.08
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 106,346.77
2025 BUDGET	\$ 96,547.50
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 9,799.27
<b>G. LIBRARY FUND-3008</b>	
CASH CARRYOVER	\$ 127,103.04
PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 100,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 237,103.04
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 213,392.74
2025 BUDGET	\$ 213,392.74
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 0.00
<b>H. SOLID WASTE-3009</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 69,415.84
TRANSFER FROM CLASS IV	\$ 100,000.00
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$ 830,250.00
LESS SALES TAX & CARRYOVER	\$ -369,415.84
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 630,250.00
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 567,225.00
PLUS, SALES TAX & CARRYOVER	\$ 369,415.84
AVAILABLE INCOME	\$ 936,640.84
2025 BUDGET	\$ 758,252.87
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 178,387.97
<b>I. CHILD SUPPORT COST FUND-3012</b>	
PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 288.66
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 259.79
2025 BUDGET	\$ 0.00
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 226.65
<b>J. EMERGENCY 911 FUND-3020</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 322,050.63
911 FEES	\$ 24,973.50
CMRS/911	\$ 182,831.17
SMART911 FUNDING	\$ 40,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 569,855.30
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 512,869.77
2025 BUDGET	\$ 226,160.22
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 286,709.55
<b>K. JUVENILE PROBATION FUND-3031</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 16,343.39
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 17,592.74
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 15,833.47
2025 BUDGET	\$ 10,000.00
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 5,833.47
<b>L. HOSPITAL FUND-3404</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 4,549,459.49
REVENUE	\$ 1,161,255.33
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,710,714.82
2025 BUDGET	\$ 921,967.22
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 4,788,747.60
<b>M. SHERIFF'S DRUG BUY FUND-3407</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 1,000.00
2025 BUDGET	\$ 1,000.00
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 0.00
<b>N. DISTRICT COURT COST FUND-3408</b>	
CARRYOVER	\$ 34,390.65
DISTRICT COURT	\$ 7,389.50
TOTAL	\$ 41,780.15
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 37,602.14
2025 BUDGET	\$ 37,602.14
<b>O. COUNTY LANDFILL-1805</b>	
CLASS IV PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 135,000.00
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 121,500.00
CARRYOVER	\$ 382,511.48
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 504,011.48
2025 TRANSFERS OUT	\$ -205,000.00
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 299,011.48
<b>P. JAIL MAINTENANCE-3017</b>	
CASH CARRYOVER	\$ 60,049.25
INCOME	\$ 32,449.30
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 98,261.36
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 88,435.22
2025 TRANSFER OUT	\$ 88,435.22
UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 0.00

<b>Q. COUNTY ROAD SALES TAX-2010</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$ 1,130,218.35
2023 BUDGET TOTAL	\$ 1,130,218.35
<b>R. ACT 833-6016</b>	
PROJECTED INCOME	\$ 21,077.21
2025 DISTRIBUTION TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS	\$ 21,077.21
<b>S. EMERGENCY VEHICLE FUND-3022</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$ 22,500.33
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 20,250.30
2025 BUDGET	\$ 20,250.30
<b>T. HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE-3410</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$ 25,000.00
2025 BUDGET	\$ 25,000.00
<b>U. ASSESSOR'S AMENDMENT 79 FUND-3004</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$ 14,039.82
90% ALLOWANCE	\$ 12,635.84
2023 BUDGET	\$ 12,365.84
<b>V. COLLECTORS 4% COMMISSION-1801</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 38,597.55
TRANSFER TO COLLECTOR'S UNAPPORTIONED	\$ 38,597.55
<b>W. CIRCUIT COURT AUTOMATION-3002</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 5,673.41
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 5,673.41
<b>X. CIRCUIT COURT COMMISSION FEE FUND-3039</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 842.47
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 842.47
<b>Y. RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT FUND</b>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 0.00
<b>Z. SEARCH AND RESCUE</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 3,478.88
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 3,478.88
<b>AA. ASSESSOR'S LATE ASSESSMENT FEE FUND</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 3,172.37
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 3,172.37
<b>AB. HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT</b>	
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE	\$ 111,000.00
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 111,000.00
<b>AC. ADDITION MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND</b>	
INCOME	\$ 180,870.73
TRANSFER TO COUNTY ROAD FUND	\$ 180,870.73
<b>AD. BOATING SAFETY FUND</b>	
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 4,589.45
<b>AE. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN</b>	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 1,672,133.29
INTEREST	\$ 2,061.68
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,674,194.97
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,674,194.97
TOTAL UNAPPROPRIATED	\$ 0.00
<b>AF. ARPA REPLACEMENT FUND</b>	
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 1,674,194.97
<b>AG. AUTOMATED RECORDS GRANT FUND</b>	
TRANSFER TO RECORDERS COST FUND	\$ 1,163.08
<b>AH. 10TH CIRCUIT COURT EXCESS FUNDS</b>	
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 138,607.12
TRANSFER TO COUNTY GENERAL	\$ 138,607.12

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY If any provisions of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

DATE OF PASSAGE: DECEMBER 16, 2024 DATE OF APPROVAL: DECEMBER 16, 2024  
APPROVED: /s/ Klay McKinney  
Bradley County Judge  
ATTEST: /s/ Karen Belin  
Bradley County Clerk

This publication was provided and paid for by the Bradley County Clerk in Bradley County, Arkansas. The amount paid for this publication is \$395.42. 12/25

## Bradley County

### Emergency Ordinance 2024 - 8

An Ordinance to Obligate Remaining ARPA Funds on the Books of the County; To Adopt an Interlocal Agreement to Obligate Certain County Financial Recourses; and to Declare an Emergency.

**Article 1. Affirmation.** This court affirms the requirement of the U.S. Treasury to obligate any remaining ARPA funds on the books of the county by December 31, 2024 for expenditure on or before December 31, 2026. This court is cognizant of the definition of "obligation" in the final rule to mean "an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, sub awards, and similar transactions that require payment." Similar transactions for county governments in the State of Arkansas include an obligation made through the precepts of a county ordinance with ordinance being defined "as an enactment of compulsory law for a quorum court that defines and establishes a system of principles for the control and conduct of county affairs."

**Article 2. Obligation.** The following is Bradley County's obligation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds in the amount of \$1,013,086.29 to be expended on or before December 31, 2026 and appropriated as needed. Said American Rescue Plan Act dollars received through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund are hereby obligated for the following expenditures:

- Building the COVID Emergency Center for Bradley County
- Architectural Fees \$ 180,000.00
- Construction Fees \$ 833,086.29
- Total ARPA Obligation \$1,013,086.29

**Article 3. Legislative Intent.** It is the sole intent of this ordinance, which is compulsory law, to obligate the remaining ARPA funds held in the county treasury for the purposes listed in Article 2.

**Article 4. Declaration of Emergency.** The U.S. Treasury has mandated that any unspent ARPA funds held by this county must be obligated no later than December 31, 2024 and in order to facilitate that mandate without error an emergency is declared to exist and this emergency ordinance is effective immediately upon passage by the quorum court and approval by the county judge pursuant to § 14-14-908(f).

ADOPTED: December 16, 2024

APPROVED: /s/ Klay McKinney, County Judge

ATTEST: /s/ Karen Belin, County Clerk

This publication was provided and paid for by the Bradley County Clerk in Bradley County, Arkansas. This publication was paid in the amount of \$124.78. 12/25

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

#### ADAM-SINGER CEMETERY MEETING

Adam-Singer Cemetery meeting will be December 29, 2024 at 2 p.m. in the home of Melvin and Pat Mills. Pat Mills Treasurer secretary 870-866-5824.

## 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.

# Make the road home a safe one.

This holiday season, join us in raising awareness and making responsible choices behind the wheel by planning ahead, calling for a ride and driving ONLY when sober.

## Don't get in a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking or using drugs. BUZZED DRIVING is DUI/DWI.

for more information on substance abuse prevention contact Phoenix Youth & Family Services at 870-364-1676



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# HOMETOWN Heroes 2024

## Hometown Hero: Susan Scott – A Lifetime of Education, Family, and Community

By JOANNA POOLE  
reporter@theeagle.com

In a small town like Hermitage, it's not hard to find someone who has made a lasting impact. But Susan Scott is more than just a familiar face. She is a cornerstone of the community, a dedicated retired educator, and a proud small business owner. After 35 years of teaching, Susan's journey through life and education is a testament to her unwavering commitment to her students, family, and the people of Hermitage.

Born with a passion for education, Susan Scott's journey began when she attended Southern Arkansas University, where she played basketball before moving on to Henderson State University. There, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and later went on to complete her Master's in Education at the University of Arkansas Monticello.

It was after college that Scott's journey took a turn toward Texas. She moved to Rockport, Texas, where she met her husband, Gary. When asked what brought her to Texas, Scott gave a simple reply.

"I just wanted to work out there," said Scott.

The two eventually decided to return to Bradley County, where they made their home, so they could be close to Scott's family. After nine years

of teaching in the Hampton School District, she made the decision to move closer to home and joined the Hermitage School District. For the next couple of decades, she poured her heart into educating the students of Hermitage High School.

Her dedication to education extended beyond the classroom. Susan also spent many years driving the Sumpter school bus route.

"I just kind of raised them," said Scott, referring to the children that rode her bus. "I drove for 10-12 years. I had the best bus."

Susan and Gary have three children—Dakota (34), Montana (31), and Nevada (28)—and five grandchildren. Three of her grandchildren attend school in Hermitage, while the other two go to school in Hampton. Their ages range from 4 to 12.

Her experience with family came full circle when her mother was diagnosed with dementia. Scott took time off from teaching to care for her mother, a time she considers invaluable.

"I got to spend a good year with her before she got down," Susan said, her voice filled with emotion. "It's hard to watch them go through that."

After retiring from teaching, Susan and Gary decided to take on a new adventure: opening a coffee shop. Hometown Coffee House, located at the corner of Main Street and

Grand Avenue quickly became a beloved spot. Their offerings include everything from hot and cold coffee to milkshakes, soft-serve ice cream, and pastries. The idea for the coffee house came during a vacation to Montana, where Susan and Gary saw small towns thriving with cozy coffee spots.

"We went to Montana, and every little town had a coffee shop," recalled Susan. "People were just lined up getting coffee. Gary said he thought that would be good in Hermitage."

And so, Hometown Coffee House was born.

The shop has become more than just a place to grab a cup of coffee. Susan and Gary, along with other local businesses, sponsor the "Staff Member of the Month" award for the Hermitage School District, a recognition given to outstanding staff members chosen by their peers.

"We did teachers last year, and this year we're doing staff," shared Scott proudly.

One of the most memorable moments of Susan's teaching career came from her students. She recalled how one of her classes organized a surprise fiftieth birthday celebration for her, a gesture that filled her heart with warmth.

"It was such a special moment," said Susan, smiling.

Scott's dedication to education and her genuine love for her students are qualities that haven't changed. Reflecting on the challenges facing today's

educators, Susan noted that the rise of social media and smartphones has brought about new difficulties.

"We're real fortunate in Hermitage because parents are still involved," said Scott. "But it's just a different day now with kids. Social media and phones make a difference. Someone said you can either teach or worry about phones, because you can't do both."

The world may change, but one thing remains constant in Scott's advice to those considering a career in education.

"You have to have a love for kids," said Scott. "Because you're not going into it for the money."

As Susan looks back on her 35-year career in education, her heart is filled with pride and gratitude. Her legacy isn't just in the lessons she taught, but in the countless lives she touched along the way. From the classroom to the bus route, from the coffee house to the hearts of her children and grandchildren, Susan Scott's impact is undeniable. Her story is a beautiful reminder of the power of community, family, and a deep commitment to making the world a better place—one student, one cup of coffee, and one kind gesture at a time. In every corner of Hermitage, Susan Scott will always be known as a true hometown hero.



**Joey Cathey**  
Insurance Agent

**State Farm**  
870-226-3797  
410A South Martin



(870) 226-6400  
504 N Main St, Warren, AR 71671

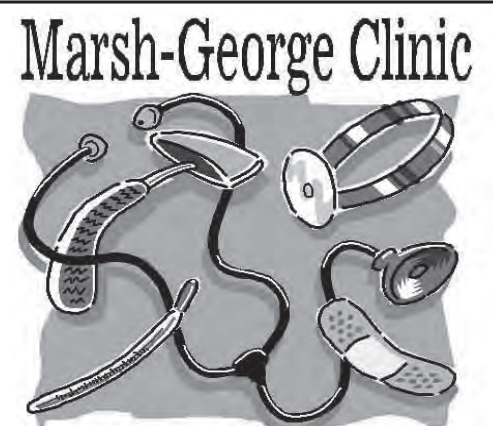


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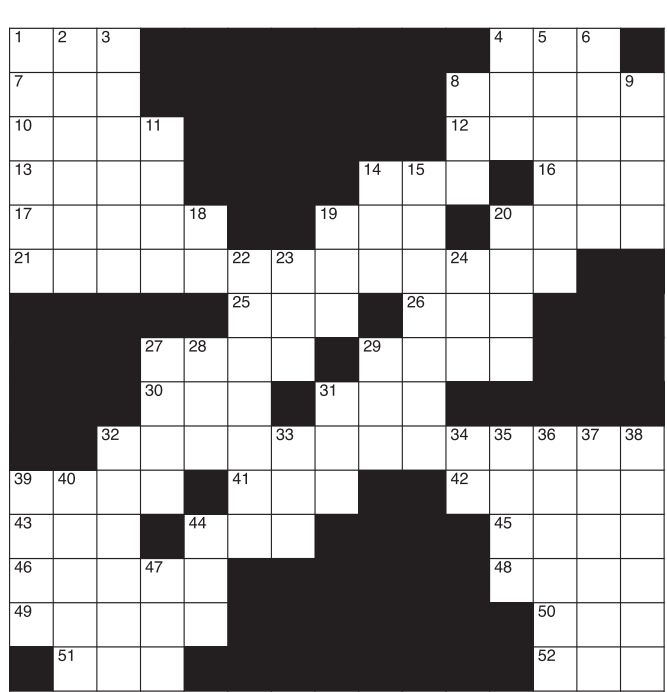
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Taxi
- 7. Body part
- 8. Papal court
- 10. Young women making their public debuts
- 12. Metal shackles
- 13. Joseph's wife
- 14. Licensed professional
- 16. Partner to cheese
- 17. Mild fruits
- 19. File format
- 20. Province of Indonesia
- 21. Beloved grilled foods
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Don't know when yet
- 27. Whale ship captain
- 29. Touches softly
- 30. Mock
- 31. Red-brown Pacific sea bream
- 32. Summer entertainment options
- 39. Protective crust
- 41. Cool!
- 42. Behave in a way that belittles
- 43. Denial
- 44. A place to sleep
- 45. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 46. Intestinal pouches
- 48. SE Asia family of languages
- 49. Sound
- 50. Select
- 51. Give the impression of dishonesty
- 52. Witness

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Of cadmium
- 2. Deliver a sermon
- 3. Inner regions of a shadow
- 4. Aggressive dog
- 5. Smells
- 6. Twofold
- 8. Former OSS
- 9. Computer language
- 11. Indian groom
- 14. Automobile
- 15. Hairstyle
- 18. Atomic #76
- 19. Guy (slang)
- 20. Ladies' undergarments
- 22. Furniture with open shelves
- 23. Back-arc basin
- 24. Partner to flow
- 27. A type of horse
- 28. Possesses
- 29. Split pulses
- 31. Small amount
- 32. Flat-bottomed riverboat
- 33. Not good
- 34. Atomic #31
- 35. Assist in committing a crime
- 36. Chauvinists
- 37. Get away
- 38. One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
- 39. Civil rights college organization
- 40. Combustible dark rocks
- 44. Grocery container
- 47. Central nervous system

**MERRY CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH**



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

**WORDS**

- ANGEL
- BIRTH
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS
- CHURCH
- COMPANY
- DECEMBER
- DINING
- EVERGREEN
- FRIENDS
- GARLAND
- GIFTS
- GREETING CARD
- HOLLY
- MAGICAL
- MANGER
- MERRIMENT
- MISTLETOE
- REMINISCE
- ROAST
- STAR
- TRAVEL
- TREE SKIRT
- WREATHS

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

Answers can be found on Page 2

**SUDOKU**

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

**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!



Solve the code to discover words related to Christmas. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = E)

- A. 15 22 5 5 8**  
*Clue: Happy*
- B. 23 22 5 20 9 12 8**  
*Clue: Special occasion*
- C. 9 16 11 16 18 7 16 26**  
*Clue: Twelfth month*
- D. 1 26 16 24 16 19 3 24**  
*Clue: Gifts*

Answers: A. jolly B. holiday C. December D. presents

**BECAUSE THERE'S SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE...**

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE IMPAIRED.**

Your health is important. Your friends and family are precious. Your reputation is valuable. Your freedom is priceless. Life is irreplaceable. When you decide to drive impaired, you risk it all. Respect yourself and others by committing to a sober ride home this New Year's Eve.

**The Choice Is Yours.**

1. Be a designated driver.
2. Make plans with a designated driver.
3. Reserve a ride home with a car service.
4. Call a taxi service.
5. Make overnight plans.
6. Attend an alcohol/drug-free celebration.

These community sponsors urge you to **celebrate responsibly for a safe and happy New Year!**

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