

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER **SINCE 1885** 140th Year Warren, Arkansas, Wednesday, January 1, 2025 No. 27

Year in Keview JANUARY

HIGHLIGHTS

Snow blankets Bradley County

SOUTH ARKANSAS PET S FOR BUSINESS



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

All was quiet Monday, January 15 in Hermitage, above and on Main Street in Warren after wintry precipitation moved through the area.





APRIL

HIGHLIGHTS

Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

South Arkansas Pet Cremations held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 4. "At South Arkansas Pet Cremations, we strive to provide high-quality care for each pet and family we serve. We understand that pets are more than just animals. They become part of the family and deserve a proper farewell. As pet lovers ourselves, we recognize the need for a pet cremation service in our area. We understand that your beloved pet will not always pass during normal business hours; we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for pet removals. Please call ahead at 870-500-0419 if you plan to bring your pet to our location. We are here to serve all of South Arkansas."

CHAMBER WELCOMES GOOD NEWS ICE CREAM TO THE COMMUNITY



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

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

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Pink Tomato Festival deemed a success



BY JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

The sky was clear, the sun was shining, and the temperature was hot! But that didn't keep people from getting out in the heat to see the excitement that the 2024 Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival held. A few events were held on Saturday, June 8 to kick the festival off. Thursday, June 13 saw the annual Gospel Music Jamboree and this year was the forty-fifth anniversary. Later that evening, those that were interested competed in a Cornhole tournament.

The carnival was set up in its usual place and the top of the Ferris wheel could be seen over the buildings. Lights from carnival food trucks flashed on and off to attract visitors.

The festival weekend kicked off on Friday, June 14 with the tradi-

Member FDIC

tional arts and crafts, t-shirt sales, a quilt show, and local businesses hosting their open house event. The smells of corn dogs, blooming onions, and tacos floating through the air were the cue to visitors that food vendors were open and ready for business.

Saturday opened with the parade which hosted pageant winners, cheerleaders, horses, firetrucks with blaring sirens, and so much more. When the parade was over, festival-goers made their way to watch the tomato eating contest and then on to many more events throughout the day.

That evening visitors brought out their lawn chairs to listen to Ward Davis, and then Tyler Farr. Ward Davis is originally from Monticello, but in 2000, he moved to Nashville to start his music ca-

See **PTF** Page 2

MARCH **HIGHLIGHTS**

NEW BEGINNINGS CASA OPENS NEW FACILITY



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

New Beginnings CASA drug rehabilitation center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Warren on Monday, March 25 to celebrate the opening of their new facility. Refreshments were served and everyone there had a chance to tour the new building. There will be 32 beds for women and 34 beds for men. While the facility will not be open to the public, patients will be transported from the York Street location to the new building to ensure privacy. When patients's time there is done, they will be transported back to the York Street location.

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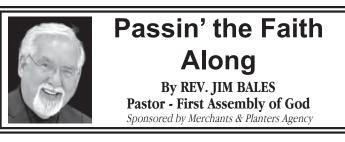
Let Warren Bank make your dreams come true and see a loan officer today.







The Eagle Democrat



THE REALITY OF BEING LOST

about hell anymore.

You seldom hear a sermon was no hell in the streets and in the homes. But where there is no It has been said that when there hell in the pulpit, one finds it now use to be hell in the pulpit there in the streets and in the homes of

people.

The subject is avoided at most meetings. We do not want to be reminded of the place Jesus described so starkly: "Where their worn dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44).

It is almost as if our avoidance of the subject will somehow make hell vanish. Perhaps God will change His mind; maybe He will decide that man's sin and rejection of Christ are not worthy of such terrible punishment after all. Our generation has been given

such a one-sided view of God that it cannot comprehend the penalty for sin. Men have heard of God's love, His mercy, His long suffering and now He gives bounteous supplies of just about everything - no wonder they cry out, "How can such a loving God send anyone to hell?" Such a question dismisses God's holiness, justice and divine order.

It is a blunt reality - harsh though this truth may be - that without God man is lost, both now and forever. The word "lost" is a

ter allows us to leverage our

sad one, isn't it?

Especially when it refers to man's soul. For the human soul, of all God's vast creation, alone is priceless! All of earth's treasures are not enough to purchase one eternal soul.

The soul is eternal. It was created in the image of God, himself. When all the ancient hills and rolling seas have found their sepulcher, and the stars have been snuffed out like candles in the wind, the soul will still be young. It will abide forever in heaven or hell.

It would be a terrible tragedy if the recording angel at the close of your life wrote LOST by your name. Your legal eternal status as an unforgiven sinner. Lost for eternity.

Down deep in your heart you are experiencing a tug that you know does not come from me. Only the Holy Spirit can convict a person of sin and bring that on to the cross of Jesus. That is exactly the situation you are in right now, isn't it? Don't you think it is time that you faced realities and came to the Savior?

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

FIRE DESTROYS LOCAL BUSINESS



BY JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

The Warren Emergency Services Center received a call around 7:27 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, letting first responders know that local business, C2

Fire Departments from the city of Warren and Bradley County arrived along with the Warren Police Department, and EASI ambulance service. After talking with fire chief, Chuck Moore, the Eagle has learned

Floor and More was on fire. that as of now, the fire department does not have enough information to determine what caused the fire.

> "Right now, we have no idea because we don't have everything we need but it will be investigated," Moore said.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Commercial Bank & Trust was proud to announce a strategic initiative to unify sister bank, First State Bank of Warren, into the Commercial Bank operation effective June 24, 2024. Given the proximity of locations, unifying as one bank under the Commercial Bank charter helped aid customer said. "It has also allow our staff access and convenience. Cus- to spend more time with customers now have access to a total of eight banking offices and nine ATMs in the southeast Arkansas communities of Monticello, Warren, Hermitage and Hampton.

Both Banks were purchased by Bennie Ryburn, Sr. more than 50-years ago, and have operated as separate and distinct banks since that time. Todd

Smith, president of Commercial Bank and First State Bank of Warren was asked about the reason for the change. "Joining the two banks to-

gether has removed back-office redundancies and has allowed us to offer greater convenience, and better products and services such as enhanced technology for customers," Smith tomers and less on administra-

tive duties that act as a barrier

to service. It's a win-win for

the communities we serve be-

cause no staffing, philanthrop-

ic-giving, or community devel-

opment has been reduced. We have eliminated the structural red tape of operating with two names.'

The Bank converted its computer systems in mid-June, and opened June 24, 2024, as a combined institution. Customers are now able to do business at any of the Bank's eight offices and nine ATMs which was effective June 24, 2024.

"Unifying our banks under a common name and char-



Both First State Bank and Commercial Bank customers have continued using their existing deposit accounts, loans, debit cards, and digital services. First State Bank notified customers in writing with updates regarding the re-brand to Commercial Bank.

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

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

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

SEACBEC students compete in national **SkillsUSA** competition

JULY

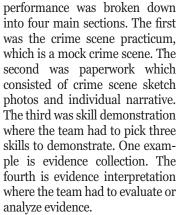
HIGHLIGHTS

By JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

A team of students from the Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center or SEAC-BEC along with director Devin McDiarmid and Criminal Justice teacher Jessica Jones attended the SkillsUSA national competition in Atlanta, Georgia on June 24-29, 2024. The team which consisted of Jimmy Lister, Aryia Williams, Griselda Herrera, and Stephanie Garcia competed and placed 12 out of 35.

SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference is the largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce. It brings together more than 16,000 attendees, which include instructors, industry partners, government officials, administrators, and more. Competitors compete for gold, silver, and bronze medals. Each vear, the event is held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Over 1.79 million square feet of space is covered which is the equivalent of 31 football fields. The team members who par-

ticipated not only competed as a team but also individually and were not allowed to consult with each other during the individual part of the competition. Skills



Competitors also must know the meaning of words like control samples, crime scene photographs, blank samples, and chain of custody to be successful while competing. They must complete tasks like lifting fingerprints, photographing a scene and evidence from multiple angles, and measuring the scene.

Competitors can earn scholarships, tools of the trade, and even job offers right off the competition floor. It is the number one workforce development organization for students.

For a team to be eligible to compete at the national level, they must first win at the state level. The team from SEACBEC competed in April 2024 and placed second but was able to advance after the first-place team was unable to attend the national competition. To say that the students

See **SEACBEC** Page 3



PTF

Continued from Page 1

reer. Tyler Farr is originally from Missouri and has toured with Jason Aldean, Florida Georgia Line, Luke Combs, Brandley Gilbert, and Lee Brice. Both performers put on great shows and the crowd was entertained.

This year's festival was a success and now the countdown for next year begins.

JOB OPENING

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.



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The Warren School District is searching for a Bilingual Paraprofessional to work closely with assigned students.

Job Opening

Warren School District 🦼

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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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 - Scholarships available to those who qualify (must be income eligible).
 - There are a couple of ways to apply: in person at SEACAC central office @ 1208 N. Myrtle St., Warren, Arkansas or go to www.seacac.org.

Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corporation has teamed up with Delta Regional Authority and University of Arkansas at Monticello to make it possible to become a Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA), License Practical Nurse (LPN), or Registered Nurse (RN). If you are interested, please contact Michelle Meadows @ 870-308-0752, Natasha Remley @ 870-820-5125 or LaQueisha Evans @ 870-820-5238.



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Like puzzles?

sudoku. This

mind-bending

puzzle will have

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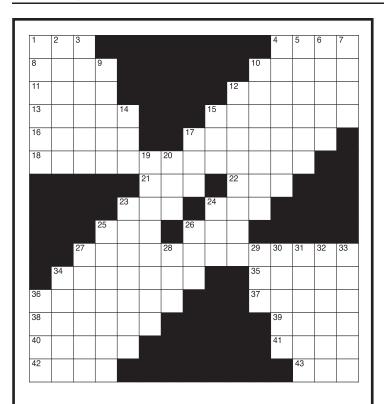
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Americans' "uncle"	24. Satisfaction
4. Chair	25. A person's brother or sister
8. Ancient kingdom	26. Folk singer DiFranco
10. Egyptian city	27. The Blonde Bombshell
11. Alaskan glacier	34. Kids' school project
12. One from Somalia	35. Bluish greens
13. Ancient alphabets	36. Classifying
15. Relating to vocabulary	37. Cube-shaped
16. Small mongrels	38. Choo-choos
17. Natural settings	39. Indian religious god of
18. Weekend entertainments	dissolution
21. Line from which light	40. French department
seemingly streams	41. Leak into gradually
22. Your own private code	42. Foundation
23. Swiss river	43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

 Counterbalancing debt In slow tempo Glamorous city Japanese lute Makes law Informative book Animal's body part American playwright Blood poisoning Angels Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) Written account Unwelcome pest 	 20. Type of gibbon 23. Delta is one 24. NE Massachusetts cape 25. Soup cracker 26. Yes vote 27. Muddy ground 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.) 29. Type of drug 30. German city 31. Animal disease 32. Martini ingredients 33. Get away 34. Spanish municipality
17. Unwelcome pest 19. Saddle horses	34. Spanish municipality36. Thrust a knife into
19. Saddle horses	36. Thrust a knife into

e Blonde Bombshell ls' school project	Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally	, diagonally, and backwards.	
ish greens ssifying pe-shaped	Answers can be found on Page 6	SEACBEC	w te
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- Answers can be found on Page 6

SUDOKU									
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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!

SEACBEC

"The feeling of just going," Herrera said. "I was so excited about everything."

"I was very excited when I found out that we went from second to first," Garcia said.

To get ready for the competition in Atlanta, the students had many after-school practices where they processed mock crime scenes, each one working on individual skills.

Stephanie Garcia, who is interested in the photography side of C.S.I. explained how photographic evidence is collected.

"You take photos of the evidence, the body, and other stuff that's in the crime scene," Garcia said. "You take photos from different angles."

Jessica Jones, who is the Criminal Justice instructor was there with the students in their after-school practices and she also accompanied them to Atlanta.

"This is truly a student-led operation," Jones said.

Another thing that made it possible for the team to attend the national competition was support from the community. Businesses like Union Bank, UAM in Crossett who transported equipment to Atlanta, the Warren School District, Keith McKnight, SEAC-BEC faculty and staff, the Bradley County Sheriff's Department, and the Warren Police Department all provided support in different ways.

"In the past, the Warren Police Department has donated a police car for students to use as practice," said McDiarmid.

Even though the team is short one member due to graduation this past May, they are looking forward to the 2024/2025 school year and another possible trip to nationals where they plan to place higher and do better.

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Arkansas House Report Jeff Wardlaw Ark. State Representative



As we prepare for the upcoming session, we'd like to give you an overview of the composition of the House for the 95th General Assembly.

We will have 12 members serving their first term, bringing fresh perspectives and ideas to the table. On the other end of the spectrum, 26 of our members will have more than 10 years of experience serving in the House, providing valuable institutional knowledge and expertise.

We have 23 women and 77 men who will be serving in the House next year. There will be 19 Democrats and 81 Republicans.

In terms of professions, we have a varied group of individuals including 10 attorneys, 8 farmers, 8 educators, 5 health care professionals, 10 real estate professionals, and 4 individuals involved in ministry.

Members will be sworn in on the first day of the session, January 13, where we will also formally elect the Speaker of the House for the 95th General Assembly. The 94th General Assembly elected Rep. Brian Evans of Cabot as the Speaker-designate.

On the second day of the session, we will meet jointly with the Senate in the House Chamber to hear an address from Governor Sanders. This address traditionally provides recommendations on key issues facing our state.

As we look ahead to the upcoming session, we are excited to work together to address the needs and priorities of the people of Arkansas. We will continue to update our constituents on developments at the Capitol. You can watch all meetings at arkansashouse.org.

New year, new me?

BY JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

2024 was a good year for me and my family. I feel blessed to be able to say that because I know that not everyone can. At the beginning of the year, I saw my forty-third birthday. In May, I graduated with an English degree from UAM Magna Cum Laude and on the same exact day, my second oldest son graduated from high school. I even have a photo of both of us in our graduation gowns. I'll forever hold that day close to my heart. My oldest son started working as a deputy for the sheriff's department in a neighboring county and he loves his job.

But another day that I'll always hold close is the day I started working for The Eagle Democrat. The beginning of December marked my one year anniversary. I know you're probably asking, "Joanna, why are you so excited about working for a little paper in this little town?" Let me enlighten you with a quick history of my life.

I'm originally from Bradley County. I lived right outside of Warren in a small tan and white single-wide trailer behind the VanDerZwalm family until I was seven. We attended Immanuel Baptist Church on Sundays and Wednesdays. I went to school at the old Eastside building. However, at the end of my first grade year, we moved to New Orleans because my dad enrolled in the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Between then and 2005 we bounced from town to town. I attended seven different schools and homeschooled my last two years of high school before graduating. I met my husband in 2001, got married in 2002, and we permanently planted ourselves in Hermitage in 2005. I've been there ever since. You're probably thinking, 'That's a lot of unneeded information, Joanna.' I know. But the point I really wanted to make is that even with all of the relocating, there were two constants in my life. One-I always visited my grandmother in the summer and two-I could always find a copy of The Eagle Democrat at my her house. I don't know if she had a subscription or picked one up every week. But I remember looking at each page and reading its contents. Never once did it cross my mind that I would one day be a part of putting that paper together. When I started my journey at UAM, working for a news publication wasn't even on my bingo card. I wanted to teach college. But God had other plans for me. In my last semester, I had an internship at The Eagle and one of my assignments was a school board meeting. I listened as the board went over number, statistics, and scores. When the meeting ended and I walked to my car, it was one of those "light bulb" moments you never forget. I knew that the world of education wasn't for me. I wasn't the only one who knew. God knew it wasn't for me before I did. He opened every single door for my position at The Eagle. When I really think about the details of my job, it makes my heart happy. I have the privilege of connecting with a great little town. I get to cover things big and small and bring them to light. Yes, I see the things that aren't so pleasant, but I also see the ways that people from Bradley County come out and help each other when needed. For example, the story about the Midnight Rydaz and the amazing things that they're doing for their community is one that sticks out for me. The good that I see far outweighs the bad and makes every day working worth it. So to you, my dear lovely reader, thank you for being you. Thank you for supporting The Eagle Democrat. Thank you for sending in the photos, stories, and tips. You are a treasure and you should never forget it.



The legislature's list of accomplishments in 2024 was highlighted by a \$438 reduction in income taxes for Arkansas families and businesses.

Individual income taxes for about 1.1 million Arkansas taxpayers will go down because the legislature lowered the top rate from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent.

The legislature also lowered corporate income taxes by changing the top rate from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent, saving about \$66.2 million every fiscal year. An estimated 7,800 corporations will benefit from the tax reduction.

The tax cuts were passed in a June special session.

In addition to lowering in-

come taxes, the legislature also lowered property taxes. For assessment years beginning January 1, 2024, the homestead property tax credit will go up from \$425 to \$500, saving homeowners \$46 million a year. The second full year it is in effect it will save homeowners about \$47 million.

The legislature also met in fiscal session in 2024, approving a budget for the current fiscal year of \$6.31 billion. That is an increase of only 1.76 percent over the previous year. Arkansas legislators have always been fiscally conservative, and the 2025 budget is one of the most conservative in the state's history.

During the fiscal session lawmakers passed laws to tighten regulations of data centers and the newly emerging crypto mining industry. The laws protect homeowners from excessive noise near the data centers. Another goal is to ensure that their energy consumption doesn't cause power failures.

In August more than 3,000 additional families applied for Education Freedom Accounts, bringing the total number of families in the program to about 15,000 this school year. The accounts were created in 2023 to promote greater school choice for families who choose to send their children to private or parochial schools.

Editorial

In its first year the program funded 5,548 accounts, each providing \$6,672 for help with tuition.

The same legislation that created Education Freedom Accounts also raised teacher salaries. Arkansas teacher salaries went up 3.2 percent last year, to an average of \$54,309. The LEARNS Act set a minimum salary of \$50,000. It will dramatically affect teacher salary figures in coming years.

The Legislature approved rules to implement a provision in the LEARNS Act that helps families pay for literacy tutors

for children who have difficulties learning to read. The families of about 20,000 elementary students are eligible for a \$500 grant to pay tutors to help their children move up to grade level. The students are in kindergarten through the third grade.

During the current school year the state Education Department began making grants available to Arkansas school districts to help implement cell phone restrictions in the classroom.

The grants can be used to pay for mental health services, via telehealth technology. It also is being used for secure pouches in which students lock away their cell phones during the day. Each pouch costs about \$30. Teachers and other school personnel will have special magnets that unlock them.

When the legislature convenes in regular session in January, they likely will consider further restrictions on students' cell phone use.

For the last four years, the casework load had been dominated by programs and issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ripple effects of agency closures and backlogs. I am happy to report that the trends in my office this year indicate the end of those complications. In fact, the problems reported and the number of requests we received in 2024 were similar to 2019 with a list dominated by veterDistrict Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt so helpfully explained to me years ago, "When the election is over there are no Democrats or Republicans, just the people of Arkansas - and it is your job to take care of them."

I'm grateful that Arkansans reach out to share their views and seek assistance from my team and me each day. I look forward to continuing this work in 2025 as we search for ways to make our federal government work better for every American.

IRS questions. As Arkansas's former Third

ans' issues, Social Security and

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? Let us know! Send us your letters

of opinions on local politics, current events, businesses, and the talk of the town!

When people think about the job of a U.S. Senator, they often picture what we see on C-SPAN with hearings, votes and eye-catching debates. But that work in the Capitol is only part of the job, because Members of Congress need to know what is happening at home and how federal agencies are working for their constituents before voting on legislation and policies in Washington.

That process is best seen in the calls and emails I get every day from Arkansans who need help with a federal agency. This year alone, my office directly assisted more than 2,700 Arkansans by cutting through bureaucratic red tape and addressing everything from emergency passports to a veteran who was owed 20 years of backpay.

In addition to providing an important constituent service, assisting with these issues helps

when they reach out to my office

in their hour of need. Looking at the requests for help I received in 2024, 68 per-

cent related to military and veterans' issues. Every day, my staff and I helped connect former service members with health care options, discovered the status of VA loans or obtained overdue military records and medals. Among our most solemn and time-sensitive duties is assisting families and funeral homes when a veteran passes away but the proper paperwork for a burial is missing or incomplete. These cases usually come to us 24 to 48 hours before a scheduled service and my office works swiftly to meet this need as a comfort to grieving families and a final act of respect for our nation's heroes.

As someone who grew up in a military family, I take special pride in helping these men and women – and their loved ones – access the benefits and services they have earned. Yet they are far from the only Arkansans who require my staff to reach out to federal agencies on their behalf. It is notable what types of support were needed this year compared to recent history.

41 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING JOHN BOOZMAN



me, too. When I know what problems people have with various federal agencies, it informs budget decisions and helps identify programs in need of oversight or reform. Receiving that input from Arkansans is a critical part of the job, and I am grateful for the trust each person puts in me





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- Behavioral Health
- Chronic Care Management
- Immunizations and Vaccinations
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- Preventative Care
- Referrals
- And more!





304 E. Central St., Warren, AR 71671

Tiffany Wargo APRN, PMHNP Kristen Harvey

APRN

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Accepting New Patients 870-226-8636

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CLASSIFIED RATES BUSINESS ADS

BUSINESS ADS



(25 Words Or Less; 34¢ Per Additional Word) Includes one insertion in the Eagle.

Weeks (25 Words Or Less; 34¢ Per Additional Word) Includes four insertions in the Eagle.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS: To individuals for all ads with items priced at \$50 and under. All free ads must be for a single item, and be of a noncommercial nature. Lost and Found ads and Give away ads will also qualify as free ads. All other classified ads will be charged at the rates listed above. Free ads will run for two weeks.

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

DEADLINE TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS: Monday by Noon

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

SERVICES

I have (1) 250 gal propane tank and (1)150 gal propane tank. Call for price. 870-952-0547 4pd 12/25

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Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DOZER, TRACK HOE **& BACKHOE** WORK - Hauling Gravel, Top Soil and Sand, Clearing, Grubbings, Ponds, Pads, Driveways, Yard Leveling, Drainage, Chicken House Pads. Contact Tracy Rawls, 870-226-7034 or 870-820-1013. TFN

WANTED

Still looking for old pontoon boat. Only needs to float. Call 870-308-0168 2f 12/18

HIRING

The Warren School District is seeking qualified, experienced applicants for the following positions for the 2024-205 school year.

An appropriate Arkansas teaching license is required. Positions open until filled.

Qualified, interested licensed applicants should go to our website to apply, https:// warrensd.org/24021 1 OR go to warrensd. org and click the employment tab.

Licensed:

• WMS/WHS Choir Instructor 2025-2026 School Year

- District Dyslexia Coordinator
- High School History Teacher Classified:

- SEACBEC Secretary
- High School Principal's Secretary
- Food Service Worker
- ELL Professional
- · Physical Therapist
- Paraprofessional
- Bus Drivers (District)

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



For subscription info call 870-226-5831



NOTICE

Southeast Bradley County Water District Public Water Authority of the State of Arkansas will be having it's annual meeting for the public on Thursday, January 9, 2025; 6:00 pm in their board room located at 320 South Main Street, Hermitage, AR. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

1/1, 1/8





Call us for your house 101 N. Main, Warren



ANIMAL CLINIC 1505 S. Main St., Warren, AR 870-226-6447 **Dr. Tabitha Norris**





AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

AHF Products' hardwood flooring plant in Warren closes

BY JOANNA POOLE reporter@theeagledemocrat.com

South Arkansas received news in August of 2024 that AHF would be closing its facility in Warren, Arkansas with a closure date of September 27, 2024, immediately affecting the local and state economy. Using economic software, an analysis of the immediate economic effects of the closure was calculated by the Arkansas Center for Forest Business.

The loss of 130 jobs at AHF

produced a total loss 275 jobs across the region resulting in the loss of \$16 million in labor income. County tax revenues decline by \$350,000 and state tax revenue were expected to decline by \$1.6 million. Arkansas' gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to decline by \$36 million. Though the initial impacts of

the loss was difficult, it was not permanent as AHF workers find other jobs, the economy was expected to recover.

Closure of the mill not only affected residents of Bradley County but had a ripple effect across the region and state. Hardwood sawmills in South Arkansas soon felt the effect of the closure as they worked to find new outlets for their products.

There were several possible reasons for this closure. As the economy begins to slow down due to rising interest rates, housing starts have begun to decline. In the current economic environment, consumers are more sensitive to pricing when buying new homes or remodeling and often opt for less expensive flooring to save money.

AHF stated in a press release that the company recently acquired two sawmills in West Virginia and invested over \$25 million in the Beverly and West Plains, Missouri plants to increase their capacities and capabilities. Unfortunately, the Warren facility was not chosen for improvements. With this capacity increase within the company, the Warren facility was selected for closure.

"While we are indefinitely idling the plant, our plan is to retain ownership of the facility, which will allow us to restart it; however, we do not foresee this happening soon," said AHF Products President and CEO Brian Carson in their press release about the closure. "It was a difficult decision because closing a plant impacts people and their local towns. We are extremely grateful for the dedication and service of all the employees over the years since the plant has been in operation."

The idling was treated as a plant closing and notices were provided as required by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act.

The 130 employees working at the Warren plant had employment for the following 60 days. During that time, AHF provided career counseling and worked with several local companies to help the displaced workers find other employment.

"Although difficult, we believe this strategic move is necessary to best service our customers," said

Carson.

Statewide, flooring and millwork employs 903 people and pays an average annual compensation of \$56,582. Hardwood flooring mills are able to produce high-quality products from trees with numerous defects, providing landowners with income from trees that would bring lower prices from other types of mills. Its products are sold under the Crossville, Armstrong Flooring, Bruce, Hartco, LM Flooring, Robbins, HomerWood, Heartwood, and Capella brands, among others.

Bradley County Chamber banquet deemed a success

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The Bradlev County Chamber of Commerce Banquet that was held on Tuesday, September 24 was a huge success! Over a hun- service to the Chamber (she has dred people were in attendance at sold out tables. Live music was provided by Shaw Revolver and a meal and hors d'oeuvres were served by Warren High School student volunteers. Awards were

now retired), and Volunteer of the Year 2024 went to Kenneth Saunders. A special thanks was given by Chair of the Board Dana Harvey for volunteers who made the Banquet possible: Nancy Ar-

nold, Estephany Roman, Brooke presented to Terrie White for her

Hatch, Jane Harris, Missy Wardlaw, and James Wells. The winner of the Raffle for a 40-bag pallet of deer corn was Shari Davis, and the silent auction proved successful. All funds raised from this and other Chamber fundraising events are used to promote Chamber members and Bradley County community development efforts.

We wish to thank our sponsors who purchased a table: Commercial Bank & Trust, Warren Bank & Trust, Union Bank & Trust, Bradley County Medical Center, Timber Logistics, Mainline Health, Mayor Gregg Reep, South Arkansas Pet Cremations, Heritage Poultry, Milton Insurance, Chapel Woods, Belle View Estates, and Arkansas Superior Federal Credit Union.

We also want to thank those that contributed items for our silent auction: Warren Motor Supply, Charley Rauls, South Arkansas Pet Cremations, The Mane Event, Maribeth Frazer, Flo Bac Energy Service, Papaw's Wood Shop, Jewelry Box, Fran VanDer-Zwalm, Mitchell Lumber & Hardware, Jane Harris, Nancy Arnold, Sweet Moments, Dana Harvey

We wish to further thank all that attended and/or contribut-

ed to this event, and hope we can more successful! make next year's Banquet even



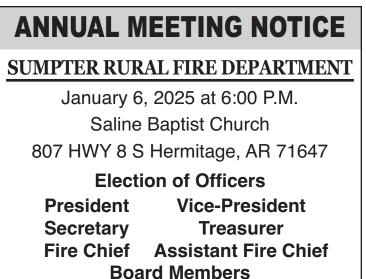




Photo courtesy of James Wells On the left, Terri White holds the award she received for her service to the Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, and Kenneth Saunders on the right, displays his award for Volunteer of the Year for 2024

BRADLEY COUNTY CHAMBER HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR I.T.M.



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

The Bradley County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for its new Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) on Thursday, October 24. ITMs are a combination of video technology and touch screens that allow customers to interact with a live teller virtually. "We proud to open this new facility," said Dave Dickson, president of Union Bank & Trust Co. "With this machine, we can expand our hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays." Dixon also explained that the machines are capable of doing almost everything that a teller can do. "We appreciate the community support," said Patricia Wilkinson, Vice President and branch manager at Union Bank in Warren.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF C&R WINDOW TINTING AND DETAILING



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

The Bradley County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting on Thursday, October 24 to celebrate the grand opening of C&R Window Tinting and Detailing. C&R Window Tinting and Auto Detailing is located at 1204 S. Myrtle Street in Warren. Owners Ronnie and Calvin Miller offer various services to ensure that your vehicle looks and smells nice. To ask questions or make appointments you can call 870-820-6516 or 870-820-4059.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Weyerhaeuser Company announces plan to build new facility in south Arkansas SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world's largest private owners of timberlands, has announced an estimated \$500 million investment to build a new, state-of-the-art TimberStrand® facility near Monticello and Warren. This investment is expected to create 200 high-quality jobs

in the south Arkansas region. "This \$500 million investment

and 200 new jobs are pivotal for towns like Monticello and Warren," said Governor Sanders. "I was at the University of Arkansas at Monticello last month to break ground on a new Forest Research Center my administration helped fund by directing \$16 million to the school. Between Weyerhaeuser's announcement and UAM's expansion, we're growing that portion of the state and investing in Arkansas' for-

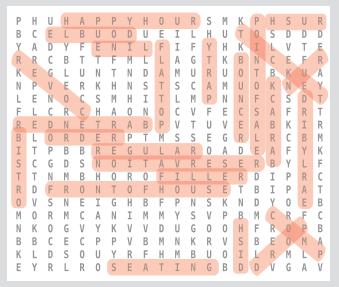
estry industry for generations to come."

The new facility will expand Weyerhaeuser's engineered wood products capacity, adding approximately 10 million cubic feet of annual production capacity. Using southern yellow pine as the primary feedstock, Weyerhaeuser will manufacture TimberStrand[®], a laminated strand lumber, at the Arkansas facility and will use a biomass-fueled cogeneration system to fully supply the plant's electrical needs.

"This is an exciting opportunity to grow our EWP business, expand TimberStrand® into the U.S. South and provide an additional outlet for our fiber logs in Arkansas," said Devin W. Stockfish, president and chief executive officer, in the company's release. "Of the wood products we produce, EWP has the strongest tie to single-family housing construction activity, and this new facility aligns with our conviction that U.S. housing demand will

See FACILITY Page 8

Puzzle answers



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Page 8

Obítuaríes

Gerald Greenwood

Gerald "Jake" Dwain Greenwood, age 85, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at Heartland Nursing Home in Nashville, Tenn. He was born on November 26, 1939 "in a little shack on the Castleberry place"



in Warren to the late Herman Abram Greenwood Ruthie and Mae Jones Greenwood.

his

serving

country

GREENWOOD

in the United States Air Force, he worked many years for General Electric as a service technician. Upon retiring, he owned his own business as an appliance repairman and was known by all who hired him for being hardworking and

honest. He was a follower of Jesus Christ and endeavored to live all his days pointing people to Jesus, leaving behind a legacy of faith and love.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ida Adams Greenwood of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, Louis Greenwood (Brenda) of Cameron, Okla.; and a sister, Judy Moore (Roger) of Newhope. Additionally, he is survived by his children, Deanna Hollifield (Michael) of Thompson's Station, Tenn.; Steve Greenwood (Katie) of Nashville, Tenn.; and Deborah Kilgore (Wade) of Nashville, Tenn.; as well as his grandchildren, Audrey Hollifield and Abby Catapano (Joe) of Nashville, Tenn.; Nick Hollifield of Thompson's Station, Tenn.; and Ally Greenwood and Andie Greenwood of Columbia, Mo.. He is also survived by an honorary daughter, Tarah Taylor (An-

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

thony) Ponder of Ward, nieces, nephews, and many friends who all loved him.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a brother, Mitchell Greenwood, and a sister, Betty Radcliff.

The funeral was Friday, December 27, 2024 at Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Warren. Burial was at Pleasant Vallev Cemetery All arrangements were handled by Frazer's Funeral Home in Warren. (Paid obituary)

Patricia Baker

Patricia Baker, 89 of Rowlett, Texas died December 15. Born January 14, 1935 to the late Oscar and Elizabeth Parrot Sparks.

Survivors: sons, Gerald Wayne Baker and James W. Baker; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren and one great-greatgrandchild.

Graveside was held December 21, at Moseley Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home.

Janet Doggett

Janet (Kathy) Doggett, age

"On behalf of the City of War-

70 died December 21, 2024. Born August 12, 1954 to the late Billy Smith and Helen Campbell. Survived by mother Helen

Campbell, daughter Christy Doggett Madray (Micheal) and son Jason Doggett (Heather). Memorial service 3:30 p.m.

January 11, 2025 at Frazer's Funeral Home.

Amanda England

Amanda Michelle England, 47 passed away December 17, 2024. She was born October 17, 1977 to James and Melba Johnston.

She is survived by her parents; husband, Chris England; daughter, Aislin England, and a host of other family members and friends.

Graveside was at Gravelridge Cemetery December 21.

Jerrell Johnson

Jerrell Mack Johnson, age 93, of the Calmer Community died December 21, born March 7, 1931 to William "Shelley" and Oleta "Ruth" Thompson Johnson.

Survivors: children, Annette,

million in a new manufactur-

ing facility creating jobs for our

people is most rewarding," said

Arkansas State Representative

Jeff Wardlaw. "It is a great plea-

sure to witness how our regional

efforts have worked to secure a

sound future for generations to

people involved with this project

who have been dedicated from

start to finish in seeing this great

opportunity for Drew County,"

said Drew County Judge Jessie

Griffin. "The new jobs that will

"I would like to thank all the

come."

ing Bradley and Drew Counties for 15 years as State Representative, this announcement of \$500

strengthen our County, City and Southeast Arkansas. We look forward to welcoming new families to our area."

"It has been a pleasure working alongside the Southeast Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority, comprised of Bradley & Drew Counties and the cities of Monticello & Warren, and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to locate this project for the company," said Nita McDaniel, Executive Director of the Monticello Economic Development Commission, Inc. "This announcement gives evidence that our regional efforts have been well placed. I value greatly the confidence which

Support Veteran Nonprofits.

877-313-1596

Weyerhaeuser has placed in our communities and in our people through this investment and job creation." Nita McDaniel, executive director,

"We welcome this new facility to southeast Arkansas," said John Lipton, President of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority. "This shows what the working relationship between Bradley and Drew Counties and the cities of Monticello and Warren can achieve through the Southeast Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority. We look forward to the new jobs and the utilization of our natural resources being created."



Continued from Page 6

remain favorable over the long term. In addition, this plant will allow Weyerhaeuser to better serve other customers and end markets in the region, including mass timber applications, and it supports our broader sustainability ambitions. I'd like to thank the state of Arkansas and local officials for working with Weverhaeuser to site this facility. We look forward to building on our long history in the state and providing new employment opportunities in the Monticello community."

This is Weyerhaeuser's third manufacturing facility in Arkansas, in addition to a lumber mill in Dierks and a plywood and veneer plant in Emerson, as well as a seedling nursery and multiple offices. Weyerhaeuser currently employs more than 700 individuals across Arkansas.

"Weyerhaeuser's \$500 million investment is an incredible milestone in Arkansas's rural economic development momentum," said Clint O'Neal, executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. "This project will be transformational for Southeast Arkansas, strengthening our state's timber industry and creating 200 new jobs. We are grateful for Weyerhaeuser's commitment to Arkansas, and we congratulate the local leadership for their hard work in securing this major economic development project."

Weyerhaeuser plans to source more of its fiber log requirements from company-owned timberlands in the south Arkansas region. The company owns approximately 1.2 million acres of timberlands in the area.

Construction on the facility is expected to begin in 2025 with operations planned to start in late 2027.

"The City of Monticello is proud of its contributions to this project and the work of all the City, County and State entities that came together to make this happen for our people," said Monticello Mayor Jason Akers. "This is what happens when people work together for the greater good."

ren I express our pleasure and excitement relating to the announcement of a major new manufacturing facility to be located in our Regional Intermodal complex," said Warren Mayor Gregg Reep. "A lot of work has gone into bringing this project to fruition. It will mean jobs and economic growth to both cities and counties along with the entire Southeast Arkansas region. The taxpayers of Warren, Monticello, Bradley and Drew counties are to be thanked for helping to make this happen. We look forward to a bright future with new job opportunities."

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a generator.

It's a power

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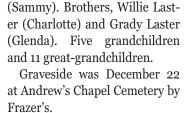
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alued at \$735



Dianne, Phyllis, Larry, Bruce. Funeral was December 28, at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Burial in Rowell Cemetery by Frazer's Funeral Home. Mildred Leggett

Mildred Leggett, 87, died December 21, born July 5, 1937 to the late Ernest and Nola Laster.



The Eagle Democrat

Survivors: daughters, Jana

Adcock (Lee) and Lola West

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.

Donate Your Vehicle Call (877) 313-1596 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today! Free Pickup & Towing. Top Tax Deduction. **Donate Your Vehicle Today**



+



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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