

The Eagle Democrat

SINCE 1885

YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

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Warren City Council kicks off 2025 with updates, recognition, and new initiatives

By JOANNA POOLE
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The Warren City Council gathered for its first meeting of 2025 on Monday, January 13, with all council members present and ready to tackle the city's pressing issues. The meeting began with a warm welcome to newly elected council member Chanel Hooper, who was congratulated by fellow Council Member Dorothy Henderson.

"I just wanted to congratulate Alderman Chanel Hooper and welcome her to the city council and let her know that we are looking forward to working with her," Henderson remarked, setting a tone of unity for the year ahead.

The meeting then moved into the approval of the financial report, which included detailed budget allocations for various city departments for the year 2024.

The following are key figures from the report: administrative- \$407,073.66, law enforcement- \$1,910,269.33, fire- \$886,221.81, sanitation- \$1,067,489.03, building codes- \$26,539.85, district court- \$111,203.83, municipal building- \$12,165.46, recreation- \$269,164.86, cultural center- \$9,799.50, armory- \$16,268.83, shooting range- \$47,894.89, senior citizen center- \$6,348.82, other- \$37,547.04, airport- \$38,011.02, economic development- \$21,786.52, and street department- \$1,093,841.00.

Council members voted unanimously in favor of the financial report.

Mayor Gregg Reep also addressed the city's sales tax figures for December, reporting a slight dip in revenue. December's total sales tax for the city amounted to \$85,824.19, with the city's portion of the county sales tax standing at \$61,415.60. Mayor Reep speculated that recent business closures, like AHP, could be contributing factors to the decline, although he acknowledged that the state does not provide clear



Joanna Poole/Eagle Democrat

information on the sources of the tax.

"I can't really tell you why, but the sales tax for the year was down a little bit, although not drastically," Mayor Gregg Reep said. "I'm not really sure what the driving force is in that because the state will not tell you where the money comes from. That's privileged information. The last couple of months could have had something to do with AHP closing down because they paid a lot in sales tax. But generally speaking, we were down ever so slightly."

In the mayor's report, one of the highlights was the recognition of Scott Steadman as Employee of the Quarter. Reep presented Steadman with a gift card in appreciation for his hard work and dedication.

"I've watched Scott work," said Reep. "He gets out there and does what he needs to do in

all kinds of conditions. We appreciate you very much."

Reep provided updates on several major industrial developments, with a special focus on Sky Blue Carbon's biochar operation. According to Reep, the company is close to launching its operation but is awaiting final regulatory approvals.

"We're very close to opening the Sky Blue Carbon biochar operation," Reep said. "We're waiting on some legalities and regulatory paperwork."

Reep added that several jobs would be added to the economy. He also informed the council that he spoke with County Judge Klay McKinney about the pellet mill operation that wants to come to Bradley County.

"We can't give you a timetable," Reep said. "That's a pretty big project. We're talking about a \$250 million investment and probably 50 jobs if that comes

through."

In addition, the mayor updated the council on the city's stake in the Weyerhaeuser intermodal located in Drew County. Warren holds a 25 percent ownership interest in the property, and if everything goes according to plan, Weyerhaeuser will ultimately take full ownership.

"If you know anyone who might be interested in doing work in the construction of the plant, and I'm talking about companies that do this for a living, Weyerhaeuser is already asking for companies to register with them," Reep added. "They will go through the MEDC, Monticello Economic Development Commission."

In an inspiring move, pastors Vernon and Tammy Colvin from Lighthouse Church addressed the council, presenting a new community initiative aimed at combating loneliness

and isolation among youth. The Colvins proposed bringing the TreeHouse program to Warren, a faith-based curriculum designed to help teens build relationships and emotional resilience.

"The curriculum is faith-based," Vernon Colvin said. "Many children don't believe that they are loved. Fifty-seven percent of children met their friends online. Loneliness has gotten very big."

The Colvins expressed the need for a place to hold TreeHouse meetings. Tammy Colvin, who has a master's degree in social work, then gave more details. The program is for grades 7-12 and operates in 3 components, which are identity, emotional support groups, and mentorship.

"We want each kid to have a one-on-one mentorship," Tammy said.

"I do believe that it will be an asset to the community," Vernon added.

The council then heard reports from the police and fire chiefs, sanitation and street departments, the Community and Economic Development Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.

The council concluded the meeting with a reminder that the Municipal Building will be closed on January 20, 2025, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The next city council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025.

As the year kicks off, Warren's leadership is focused on economic growth, community well-being, and continued collaboration, with an eye toward meeting the needs of residents and enhancing the city's vitality for years to come.

Hermitage receives surprise visit from Secretary of Education Olivia



Photo courtesy of Hermitage School District

Jacob Oliva (center), secretary for the Arkansas Department of Education, spoke Monday, January 6, 2025, at the Hermitage School District January Back to School Professional Development inside the high school Cafeteria at the Hermitage School District.

SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

Arkansas Secretary of Education, Jacob Oliva visited the Hermitage School District on Monday, January 6, 2025, as a surprise guest. While there, he spoke to educators who were learning about implementation of key literacy strategies across the curricula, student character-building principles, and the enhancement of the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) processes.

Olive, a lifelong educator, was appointed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders in January of 2023.

Olive's leadership was instrumental in the passage of the LEARNS Act, a comprehensive restructuring of Arkansas's education system. Oliva has since guided the implementation of LEARNS,

See OLIVIA Page 2

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TOO BUSY FOR GOD?

In a recent conversation a person said to me, "I know I should pray more but I am so busy." I asked the person, "Do you remember to eat?" Of course you do, and in fact, without even thinking. Why? Because your physical body tells you to and without food you would become weak and die.

That is the way prayer should be to us. The reason most of us don't pray very much is because we don't realize how much we need God and his help every day. We think we can get along without Him, at least until something serious comes along.

When we treat God like that, we gradually grow weaker and weaker spiritually, often without realizing it. Prayer is a very important part of our spiritual lives.

Ask God today to make you aware of just how much you need Him and ask Him to give you a spiritual appetite, a hunger to know Him better, and to enjoy His fellowship more fully. Then set a definite time each day to spend alone with God in prayer and in His word. Thank and praise God for who he is and all that He has done.

If you are too busy for God, then you are too busy! Remember, prayer still changes things.

OLIVIA

Continued from Page 1

which focuses on the importance of early learning programs, reading supports, and Career and Technical Education, in addition to empowering parents and recruiting and retaining the best educators.

Oliva is a graduate of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and a Flagler College graduate in St. Augustine, Fla. He began his educational career over two decades ago as an elementary teacher for students with special needs. He later served as a principal at the elementary and high school levels and as a superintendent at Flagler County Schools.

Oliva outlined the state's position on education and emphasized the importance of ensuring the success of Arkansas's vision that all students

are capable of learning.

"This is our top priority as students are accelerated and provided rigorous instruction based on the Arkansas State Standards," says Oliva. "It is up to all school educators to ensure that the Arkansas Grade Level Standards are taught to all students."

Oliva stated that third-grade students should be reading at or above grade level, as this is the stage when they transition from learning to read to reading in order to learn.

"When a student has gaps in reading in the early grades, we have a lot of work to do to catch them up," Oliva said. "The professional development for teachers is key as we build a curriculum with high-quality instructional materials to teach the standards with fidelity. Our assessment system gives teachers real-time information on how to support

students and data to measure progress. If teachers teach students the grade level Arkansas Standards every day, their lives will be changed because they will do better in school."

Secretary Oliva travels across the state to listen to educators, and the Hermitage teachers were excited to share what they are currently doing to prepare students for successful pathways in school. Hermitage educators asked Oliva where the state of Arkansas is with the career pathways and expectations for schools moving forward regarding college and career readiness. Oliva said that Arkansas LEARNS requires each Arkansas school to offer three College and Career pathways in school. This year all Arkansas districts met that expectation. Schools need a system to have career goals and pathways that are obtainable by students.

While visiting, Superintendent LaDonna Spain, on behalf of the Hermitage School District, presented Oliva with a plaque made from Bradley County lumber and designed and hand-carved by retired local artist Charles Browning. The plaque was signed by Browning and all participating educators who spent time with Oliva.

"We are always happy to share what makes Hermitage so unique and special to Hermitage children and Bradley County. We were so excited to hear firsthand about Arkansas LEARNS expectations directly from Secretary Oliva and look forward to the future," Spain said.

A special thank you to Commercial Bank executives and staff for sponsoring lunch and sharing time with the Hermitage School District and The Secretary of Education.

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. This article was first published April 16, 2003.

Linda Lyon Hogue of Little Rock has a picture of the "Tom Thumb Wedding" event that took place 61 years ago in 1942. Mrs. Hogue points out one of the kids in the "wedding" was Bill Mooney, star on afternoon TV soaps for years. Bill Mooney was a son of the late Lowell Mooneys. Oldtimers will remember his mother died of a brain tumor. Mr. Mooney was in lumber sales here, but the family later moved to Malvern. Wasn't he the Buick dealer there?

My neighbor, A. H. (Frisky) Mitchell reminds me that I missed the Noel Martin house in a recent discourse about South Main Street landmarks. Mitchell is a brother to Mrs. Cecil Nicholson. He moved back to Warren to be in retirement with his wife, the former Dorothy Michael of Pine Bluff. Mitchell is the uncle of Dale Nicholson, the TV executive (top one) in Little Rock. As for Dale, he is coping with his wife, Pat, in a season of health

problems for her. Pat is the sister of Nancy Vittitow, wife of Judge Robert C. Vittitow. The young women grew up in a house at Hankins and Lee, didn't they?

The late John Rufus Starr Meek ("Uncle Buddy" to family) and his wife and children once occupied a house at Shields and Main on the lot now holding Sue Sims Wagnon's impressive restoration of the home of the late Earl Reynolds'. Mr. Meek had married Miss Mary Lima Watson. Family later resided on West Pine, in a house then located on the site of Mrs. O. S. Cash's residence. Mr. Meek was a small man in build, differential always. We remember him as a teller at Warren Bank, whose personnel then included Mr. Meek's brother, S. B. Meek, the president; C. L. Tarleton, M. C. Singer, Margaret Scobey Thompson, and Farry Harrison. Sam Alexander, of course.

That's all. Times have changed. Moving on down South Main, you get to the Ederington house, built about 70 years ago (more, really) by Louis Ederington for his family. The well-designed residence is now the home of Dr.

and Mrs. Kenneth W. Purvis. Mr. Ederington was involved with his brother, John T., in the business established in 1869 at Main and Cedar in Warren by their father. T'was a general merchandise store, sort of like a modern Walmart. If Ederington's didn't have it, you probably didn't need it too much, anyway.

John T. Ederington, founder of the business, had the house built now occupied by Patti and Jim Davis, over 120 years ago. When the Ederington's decided to build the Purvis house, they had the original frame residence moved to the rear. It is occupied now by a family who has really fixed it up. Louis W. Ederington was in Conway's Hendrix College when the Purvis house was built. His close friend and classmate

was Bruce Crow, one of two doctor brothers of Anne Haley and "Dr. Merl Crow" the other.

Bruce Crow married Louis W. Ederington's sister, Virginia. She predeceased him. Both died young.

A house occupied by the Steve Anders family was across the street. It was later razed to make room for Rose Oil Company's station. Rose pioneered cheap gasoline. A friend of ours who had a Volkswagen could drive to Little Rock and back on \$2 worth of Rose Oil fuel. The Rose site was later sold to Kentucky Fried Chicken, while the sites of the monument business and the onetime home of Pat Ballentine's used car lot. He's moved the business out to his home on the New Edinburg road.

There was a Gulf station north of the Ballentine lot, across Shields. This now the parking lot for Frazer's Funeral Home. As

for Pat Ballentine, we paid him \$4,000 for a used Chevy van ten years ago. It now approaches 250,000 miles on the odometer. Just keeps in truckin'.

Major advantage: it's paid for.

Thomas Henry Peek operated the service station that has become the Main Street office of Emeritus Highway Commission Chair John M. Lipton. Thomas specialized in personal attention. He had a good business. Oldtimers will remember Mr. Henry Peek, his father, who had married one of the Oakley ladies. I always think of Mr. Henry Peek and that green international pickup he drove. Do they make those anymore?

I ran into the onetime Lumberjack quarterback, Bobby Barringer, at a civic occasion in Hot Springs recently. He was accompanied by his wife, Jackie, the eldest of three daughters of the

late Bo Cruce, who worked at the Bradley office for years. She is a very attractive lady. Bobby looks good, too.

He was a son of Hilliard Barringer. In the times change department: Hilliard Barringer's brother, Audis Barringer, never played high school football because he went to school at New Edinburg but he played at Arkansas A&M College with the likes of the onetime WHS coach, Stanley Cheshier. His wife was one of the daughters of the Rev. H. E. Simms, minister of the First Assembly of God Church at the time. Mr. Simms was a fine gentleman who was asked to come and speak to the kids at WHS during an assembly. His messages were good and we were fascinated about how he teetered back and forth on his feet as he spoke. He never fell down: just threatened to do so. More later.

Warren School District Job Opening

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

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

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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.

Dr. Robert W. Smalling Optometric Physician RETIREMENT

After 44 years of practice in Warren, Dr. Robert W. Smalling, Optometric Physician, is retiring. We are seeing patients until January 16, 2025 and the practice will be open until January 30, 2025. Records or record transfers are available by:

- Calling: (870) 826-6731
- Texting: (870) 308-5982
- Mailing to: P.O. Box 420, Warren, AR 71671 (please leave name and phone number)

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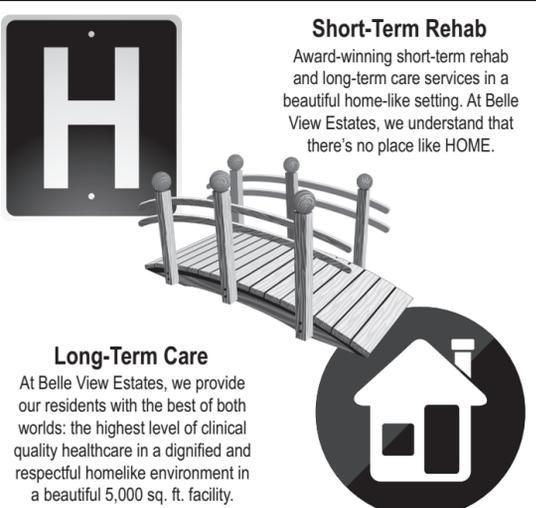
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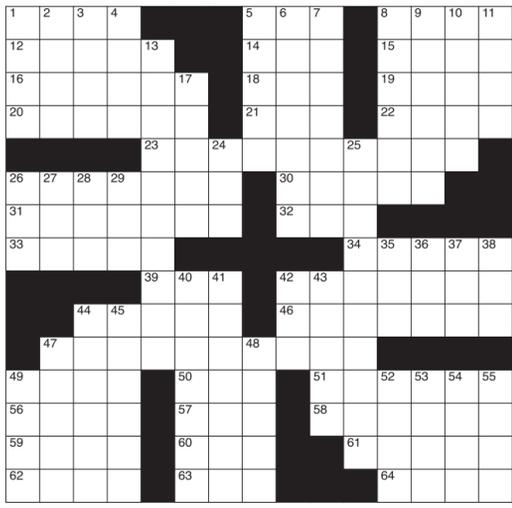
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- 5. People of northern Vietnam
- 8. Employee stock ownership plan
- 12. Regions
- 14. The center of a city
- 15. Hindu serpentine deity
- 16. Roared
- 18. Sun up in New York
- 19. "Sir" in Malaysian
- 20. Shrimp dish
- 21. Muckraker Tarbell
- 22. Apex
- 23. Harmonic effects
- 26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- 30. Groups in organic chemistry
- 31. More pleasant-tasting
- 32. Spring forward
- 33. Noted writer
- 34. Building occupied by monks
- 39. "The world's most famous arena"
- 42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
- 44. Long or fast speech
- 46. Things you can eat
- 47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
- 49. Actor Idris
- 50. I (German)
- 51. Taxes
- 56. Indonesian island
- 57. Nuisance (slang)
- 58. Shawl
- 59. Digits
- 60. Moved on foot quickly
- 61. "For goodness _"
- 62. Facial body part
- 63. Russian river
- 64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partner to "oohs"
- 2. Scaly water dweller
- 3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
- 4. Music producer Teo
- 5. Greek mythological goddess
- 6. Got together to discuss
- 7. Acquires
- 8. Involve
- 9. Some are tomato-based
- 10. Old Irish alphabets
- 11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
- 13. Blood poisoning
- 17. A moon of Saturn
- 24. Neither
- 25. Sums
- 26. They follow "A"
- 27. Satisfaction
- 28. People of southeastern Burma
- 29. Small amount
- 35. Guy (slang)
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 38. Affirmative
- 40. Almost at the top
- 41. Extremely slow
- 42. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 43. Influential mid-century playwright
- 44. Martens
- 45. Approval
- 47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- 48. African nation
- 49. Dark brown or black
- 52. A place to get caught
- 53. Large-headed, elongated fish
- 54. Type of sword
- 55. Scottish tax or levy

AT THE RINK

WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AXEL
- BLADE
- BREAKAWAY
- CHECK
- COAST
- COMPETITION
- DISCIPLINE
- EDGE
- FLIP
- HOCKEY
- ICE
- JUMP
- LIFT
- NOVICE
- PROGRAM
- RINK
- ROLLER
- SEASON
- SINGLES
- SKATING
- SPEED
- SPIN
- WARMUP
- ZAMBONI

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

Answers can be found on Page 6

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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



Solve the code to discover words related to skating. Each number corresponds to cooking. (Hint: 24 = E)

- A. 13 15 18 20 24**
Clue: Thin metal on skate
- B. 2 9 24 24 15 1**
Clue: Rolling devices
- C. 15 18 22 24 1**
Clue: Tie up shoes
- D. 1 25 24 24 20**
Clue: Fast pace

Answers: A: blade B: wheels C: laces D: speed

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Editorial

Arkansas House Report

Jeff Wardlaw
Ark. State Representative



The first day of the session will include the swearing-in of all members and the formal election of the Speaker of the House. While the Speaker is officially elected at the start of the session, the 94th General Assembly previously selected Rep. Brian Evans of Cabot as Speaker-designate.

On January 14, the second day of the session, House and Senate members will convene jointly in the House Chamber to hear an address from Governor Sanders. This address will outline the Governor's legislative priorities and provide key recommendations on the pressing issues facing Arkansas.

Several important deadlines will shape the legislative process this session. Members must file legislation affecting publicly supported retirement or pension plans, the licensure of health care providers, or state/public school health insurance by January 27. Legislation regarding lottery-funded scholarships or constitutional amendments must be filed by February 12, and all appropriation bills must be filed by March 3.

The Speaker will announce committee chair assignments on the first day of the session, and those assignments will be available at arkansashouse.org. Committee meetings and House floor proceedings are open to the public, providing Arkansans with an opportunity to see and participate in the legislative process. Those who wish to voice their support or opposition to a bill can sign in to speak during committee meetings, ensuring their perspectives are heard.

House committee meetings and floor proceedings are live-streamed and recorded, ensuring Arkansans can follow the legislative process in real-time from anywhere. Agendas and links to live-streams can be accessed at arkansashouse.org.

As your state representatives work to address issues ranging from education to health care to economic development, we invite all Arkansans to engage with the legislative process. Whether you reach out to your representative, attend a committee meeting, or follow our live streams, your input helps shape the future of our state.

Starting the new year off right

By JOANNA POOLE
reporter@theeagleanddemocrat.com

As we step into a new year, it's a time to reflect on what we've achieved and look forward to the opportunities ahead. For Warren and the surrounding communities, 2025 holds the promise of renewal, both in spirit and in action. From the vibrant energy of our community members to the forward-looking initiatives of our local leaders, this is a year where we can come together and make a real difference.

Small towns like ours thrive on connection, and the start of a new year is the perfect moment to strengthen those bonds. Whether it's supporting local businesses, volunteering at community events, or simply being there for a neighbor, each of us plays a part in shaping the heart of our towns. This year, let's make a collective effort to keep that sense of togetherness alive, knowing that every small act adds up to something much greater.

But progress isn't just about community spirit. It's also about looking ahead with optimism. We have exciting developments on the horizon, from potential new businesses to initiatives aimed at supporting our youth. With new ideas and new faces joining the conversation, the future of our towns looks bright.

As we go into 2025, let's take the lessons of the past and use them as stepping stones to build stronger, more united communities. Let's keep pushing forward, but always with the same sense of care and pride that makes Bradley County a great place to live.

Here's to a year of growth, opportunity, and, most importantly, connection. Together, we can make this year one to remember.

Arkansas History Minute

by Dr. Kenneth Bridges



A brief look at dinosaurs

Dinosaurs have been extinct for many millions of years, but they still fuel the imaginations of many people today. Dinosaurs came in all shapes and sizes. Some flew, others swam, and others were massive creatures weighing thousands of pounds. They dominated the landscape between 240 million and 65 million years ago. Dinosaurs even lived in ancient Arkansas, but it was an Arkansas very different from today.

The first dinosaur bone was discovered in 1677 by scientist Robert Plot in England. Many more discoveries followed. It was not until 1824 that English paleontologist William Buckland wrote the first scientific paper on the discovery of a jawbone of what he called a megalosaurus that dinosaurs received their scientific name and became a field of scientific study.

Remains of creatures predating the dinosaurs by millions of years have been found across the state. Fossilized remains of ancient sharks from the age of the dinosaurs as well as shark teeth have also been found in the state. Most dinosaur remains and footprints in the state have been found in an area called the Holly Creek Formation in Howard County, a formation dating back to the Cretaceous Era (approximately 143-65 million years ago). In that era, most of the familiar features of the state did not yet exist. The Ouachita Mountains were only foothills, rivers such as the Arkansas and Mississippi would not cut their way across America for millions more years, and much of southern and eastern Arkansas was under water, leaving many parts of South-Central Arkansas as beachfront property at different points.

The decay of vegetation in the shallower areas of this sea toward the end of this marine era allowed the formation of oil in what

See HISTORY Page 5



Senate Week in Review from Ben Gilmore Senator

The timing could not have been better for the good news Arkansas just received.

A \$17 million federal grant to improve maternal health care was formally announced a few days before the beginning of the 2025 legislative session.

Improving maternal health care is high on the legislature's list of priorities for the session, which convenes on Monday, January 13. There is no definite ending date. However, based on the length of recent legislative sessions it will probably last until April.

The governor appointed a Strategic Committee for Maternal Health last year and one of its recommendations was to

pursue the federal grant. As the governor said, "healthy moms means healthy babies."

The grant will be implemented by the state Human Services Department, whose secretary said that it would help transform how Arkansas approaches maternal health. The department will lead the project, and will be joined by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

According to the grant application, the rate of maternal mortality in Arkansas is the highest in the country and double the national average. On average, the health of newborn infants is "considerably worse than the rest of the U.S." when premature births, infant deaths and low birthweight babies are counted.

There are several reasons for the state's low ranking, according to the grant application. Arkansas is rural and there are many areas where obstetrician and delivery services are not easily available. Of the 75 counties

in Arkansas, 73 are classified as fully or partially under-served, and 45 counties are classified as maternal care deserts due to their lack of hospitals that offer obstetrical services. Arkansas is a poor state and Medicaid pays for 58 percentage of births.

Some of the grant money will go toward educating providers, such as physicians and health clinics, about the potential benefits of working with doulas, midwives and community health workers.

Arkansas currently has only 33 licensed midwives, so some of the grant money will be used to address that shortage. For example, UAMS is developing a new master's program for registered nurses to become certified nurse midwives.

Another goal is to create new categories in Medicaid so that doulas and community health workers can be reimbursed for helping with pregnancies and deliveries.

Another suggested change to

Medicaid policy is described as "presumptive eligibility." That means state officials would presume that a pregnant woman is eligible for Medicaid once she becomes pregnant, so that she is not discouraged from getting pre-natal because she feels that she could not afford it.

Some of the money will pay for new technology that will be used specifically to help pregnant women obtain better access to health care.

Some of the funding will pay for an effort to redesign the Medicaid reimbursement system. This effort will create incentives for providers whose patients have healthier outcomes.

In 2023 the legislature approved Act 316 that directs physicians and providers to screen new mothers for depression or other mental health issues, within six weeks of giving birth. Some of the grant funding will go toward improving and expanding those mental health screenings.



Our nation's ports, harbors and inland waterways are critical both for transportation and economic growth. They support industries, create jobs and promote commerce.

For Arkansas, they serve as essential resources for agriculture, flood protection efforts and clean drinking water access. It is no wonder Congress has consistently recognized the value in maintaining and maximizing this vital water infrastructure.

The primary tool we use to do so is a biennial package authorizing flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) called the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). In the closing weeks of the 118th Congress, we cleared the latest version and sent it to the president's desk to be signed into law.

The legislation, formally known as the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024, will impact every state through the over 200 feasibility studies, 22 new or modified construction projects and other programs it green lights. They are necessary and, in many

cases, overdue.

Many of the dams, levees and other infrastructure tied to our waterways are aging and beginning to deteriorate. While temporary repairs have provided short-term fixes, long-term investments to upgrade and enhance these structures are not only more cost-effective but essential to keeping our infrastructure reliable.

As a longtime member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I have appreciated the opportunity to work intimately on these issues and am always focused on securing Arkansas priorities.

This time was no different and I'm pleased with the success we achieved.

In Northwest Arkansas, the law will help advance the reallocation study for the Beaver Water District to help serve the water needs of over 400,000 people as well as regional and national business operations in an area experiencing rapid growth and development. Inadequate water supply storage and access could jeopardize that momentum.

On the opposite side of the state, we secured language to

allow the Corps to study the feasibility of expanding the Osceola Harbor to better to manage increased barge traffic and support the vibrant steel industry in Mississippi County - now the largest steel-producing county in America - and also delivered a provision establishing a comprehensive approach to managing the Lower Mississippi River.

But WRDA's reach extends beyond just our state's borders on the east and west. It also dedicates funding for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) to mitigate cost overruns. MKARNS has enabled enhanced navigation, flood control, power generation, habitat conservation and economic development across The Natural State. This investment represents an important next step to ensuring its vitality and the ability of individuals and industries in communities statewide to benefit

from the commerce this super-highway facilitates.

And the bill also contains measures I advocated to address levee safety guidelines that Arkansans have voiced concerns with, as well as an adapted version of legislation I helped lead to improve popular outdoor recreational facilities by encouraging the Corps to reinvest fees collected at them for on-site maintenance and upgrades.

These projects all help strengthen our water infrastructure, which stimulates economic growth and improves the quality of life for all.

It is an honor to play an integral role in crafting these momentous policies and ensuring we meet the pressing needs of our waterways and communities. I look forward to continuing those efforts and join all those celebrating the completion of WRDA 2024.

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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

HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

became the ten southernmost counties of Arkansas over the ensuing eons. Much of the area of Texas, Oklahoma, portions of Colorado and New Mexico, and most of the Great Plains north into Canada to the Arctic Ocean was part of a great sea that geologists now call the Western Interior Sea-

In Arkansas, only a handful of species of dinosaurs are believed by paleontologists to have existed in the area. Among them, Plesiosaurs apparently swam in the shallow seas around what became the Ouachita Mountains, and their remains have been found as far south as Antarctica. There were several different types of plesiosaurs, and sizes discovered range from 5 feet long to almost 50 feet long. These

were large predators who spent their entire lives swimming and hunting in the sea. Footprints of the giant dinosaur Sauroposeidon have been found the state. This dinosaur was a large plant eater. It lived about 118-110 million years ago. It was a massive creature, about 60 feet tall and 90 feet long, with an extremely long neck. They weighed as much as 55 tons. Remains of

See HISTORY Page 6

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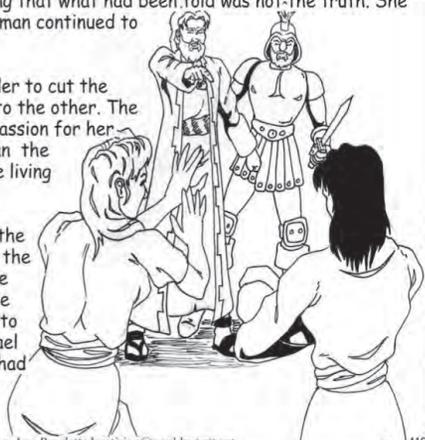
FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE
King Solomon Makes a Wise Ruling
 I Kings 3:16-27

Two prostitutes come before King Solomon asking him to settle their differences. As they stood before him one of them told him that she and the other woman lived in the same house and that in that house she had a baby and on the third day following the other woman had a baby.

This woman continued to tell how that during the night the other woman's son died because his mother lay on him and then she got up and switched babies. She explained that when she got up the next morning to nurse her son, he was dead. She then looked closely at the dead baby and saw that wasn't her son. The other woman spoke up saying that what had been told was not the truth. She said that the living child was hers. The first woman continued to insist that the living baby was hers.

King Solomon asked for a sword. He gave an order to cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other. The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and begged the king to give the other woman the living baby. She pleaded with him not to kill the living child.

But the other argued that neither should have the baby and she urged that he be cut in two. Then the king announced his ruling that the child would be given to the first woman ordering that he not be killed. He proclaimed that the one who wanted to save him from death was his mother. All of Israel held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.



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 Sun. School - 9:30
 Worship Service - 10:30
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 Rotary - Tue. - Noon
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

Add your event to our Community Calendar! It's free! Just send a short write up of your event to reporter@theeagledemocrat.com, give us a call at (870) 226-5831 or drop off at the Eagle office at 101 S. Martin St.

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RETIREMENT AUCTION **Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025**
STARTS @ 9:31 AM

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FOR INFO + ONLINE BIDDING: www.chuppsauction.com

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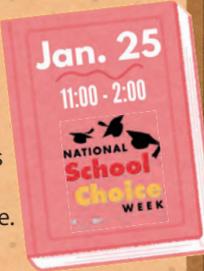
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Auctioneer's Note: Richard is a talented Metal Works artist and has a SHOP FULL OF QUALITY BLACKSMITHING TOOLS. Come bid on these items and WIN! LOADING ASSISTANCE provided DAY OF AUCTION. Follow us on Facebook for updates or visit our website for pictures at www.chuppsauction.com

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