

# Poinsett County Democrat Tribune

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Trumann, Arkansas 72472

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## Primary Election results are in

By COREY CLAIRDAY  
DT News Staff

Results are in for the May 22 Primary Election. In local results, incumbent Bob Cantrell won the Republican nomination for county judge over Mark Weston with a vote of 930-699, according to unofficial results from County Clerk Teresa Rouse's office.

Other local Republican Primary races included Justice of the Peace 11, where incumbent Harold Blackwood beat out Michael Ferguson 105-90, and Constable of the Willis Township, where Jay Paul Woods beat Wayne Hogan 250-173.

In statewide results, Governor Asa Hutchinson won the Republican nomination for governor over challenger Jan Morgan with a vote of 141,604-61,317. Locally, the vote was 957-680. Jared Henderson won the Democratic nomination for governor over Leticia Sanders with a vote of 67,494-38,991. Local results were 111-52. In the Secretary of State race on the Republican Primary, Commissioner of State Lands John

Thurston won over State Representative Trevor Drown 98,323-90,117. Locally, the vote was 1,000-539. For Arkansas Supreme Court Position 3 (Non-Partisan) Courtney Goodson received 114,053 votes, David Sterling received 102,581, and Kenneth Hixson received 88,040. Locally, those numbers were 811, 430, and 491.

In elections for school board, Spencer Harston won EPC Zone 1 unopposed with 19 votes, Keith Tyler won EPC Zone 3 unopposed with 26 votes, Daniel Nooner won EPC Zone 7 unopposed with 28 votes, and R. Scott Taylor won Trumann Position 1 unopposed with 525 votes.

In local voter statistics released by County Clerk Rouse's office, this election saw 1,835 ballots cast in the county out of a total of 12,125 registered voters, making voter turnout 15.13 percent. In the Republican Primary, 1,644 ballots were cast, while 172 were cast in the Democratic Primary, and 19 were cast Non-Partisan.

## Trumann Memorial Day observance set

American Legion Post 42 will hold a Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, May 28, at the American Legion Memorial Park located at the corner of Highway 463 and Main Street in Trumann. Col. Clarence Overbay will be the guest speaker.

## Beat the Heat Donation



DT photo/Corey Clairday

O'Reilly's Auto Parts in Trumann donated water and Gatorade to the Trumann Police Department last week to help them Beat the Heat in the coming summer months. Beat the Heat is part of Trumann Chamber of Commerce's community policing initiative.



Photo provided

Ground was broken Monday on work to upgrade facilities at Marked Tree Elementary and Marked Tree High School.

## Marked Tree School Board approves construction bids, pre-K classroom

By COREY CLAIRDAY  
DT News Staff

Among the items of business covered at the Marked Tree School Board meeting Monday were approving construction bids and approving an additional pre-K classroom.

The board looked at the first round of construction bids, which were for plumbing, demolition and roofing. They approved bids from Action Inc. for plumbing (\$57,000), Michelle's Excavating for demolition (\$271,500), and Architectural Roofing and Construction for roofing (\$873,100).

Superintendent Matt Wright said the good news was that they are

\$40,000 under budget after the first round of bids. He said the next round of bids will be June 1.

Wright also gave a short construction update on the demolition and renovation, saying ground was broken earlier that day and things are about to pick up. A representative from the construction company or the architect will be at future school board meetings to give updates.

The board also looked at the need for a new pre-K classroom. Superintendent Wright said he contacted the Co-op about the cost of an additional classroom because they are always having to turn kids away due to space. The Co-op wrote a grant so that an additional class-

room can be used at no cost to the district. All the district has to do is provide the room and playground. The board approved partnering with the Co-op on the grant.

In other business, the board approved raising the cost of student lunch 10 cents, from \$2.65 to \$2.75, as required by the state. The board also heard from music teacher Robby Byler, approved student insurance with Alive Risk Insurance, approved the Wellness Policy, approved ACSIIP and School Improvement plans, approved the Title VIB budget (special education), approved the summer work schedule, and heard building reports from the principals.

## Arrest made in Trumann shooting

By DT News Staff

A man was arrested by Trumann police Sunday following a home invasion and shooting of a 15-year-old last week.

According to Trumann Police Chief Chad Henson, officers were dispatched to the 400 block of Arrowhead Road around 12:30 a.m. May 18 in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, they found a 15-year-old girl suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. She was transported to a Memphis hospital, where she was listed in critical condition. After surgery, the family reported she was in a stable condition.

Police canvassed several fields and residences looking for the shooter and interviewed the family and victim after she recovered.

On May 20, Seth Mullins, 25, of Bay was arrested in connection with the home invasion and shooting. Chief Henson said Mullins will be charged with Criminal Attempt to Commit First Degree Murder and Aggravated Residential Burglary.

In a press release Chief Henson

sent out following the arrest, he said, "Trumann Police Department is very aware of the violence this community has witnessed in the past few weeks. We strive to make our community aware of the predators and drugs that threaten the safety of our citizens. Our department would be remiss if we didn't take a moment to remind citizens that if you have prescription narcotics, specifically opioids, inside your homes or vehicles, please dispose of them when you are through taking them. Selling these surplus pills is a crime, and it is killing our community. Our department will do everything in our power to ward off criminals who will harm us, especially breaking into our homes in an effort to steal pills and hurt our children."

Chief Henson also asked that anyone who knows of Mullins' movements and/or whereabouts during last week contact the Trumann Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at 870-483-6423 or cid@trumannpd.org.

## Marked Tree Schools offering free summer meal program

Marked Tree School District will be offering free meals this summer to anyone under the age of 18.

The district is participating in the Seamless Summer Option, a USDA program, where anyone under 18 will be able to eat breakfast and lunch free at the Marked Tree Elementary cafeteria, regardless of what district they live in.

The program will run from June 4-

21 and then July 9-26. During these dates on Monday through Thursday, breakfast will be served from 8-8:30 a.m and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

This is the first year the district has participated in the program. Superintendent Matt Wright said more information about the program's rules and regulations will be posted on the school's website and facebook page this week.

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## Your Local Weather

Thu 5/24	Fri 5/25	Sat 5/26	Sun 5/27
89°   69° F	87°   70° F	87°   70° F	85°   70° F
0 in	0.24 in	0 in	0.16 in

## This Week



Trumann GT field trips

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# Perspective

## U.S.-Mexico relationship is at crucial stage

When I worked on American foreign policy during my decades in Congress, I often thought how fortunate the United States was that issues with our southern border rarely rose to the level of a crisis. Tensions with Mexico arose periodically but always seemed manageable.



Lee H. Hamilton

Over the years, we have had a strong and even cordial relationship with Mexico, and it has been a trusted ally for many years. We share a 2,000-mile-long border and are closely linked via travel and trade, including over \$600 billion in goods and services exchanged in 2017. An estimated 1 million people cross the border legally every day for work and personal business.

Thus, I have been disturbed to see that, in recent months, unfavorable views of the United States among Mexicans have increased sharply. Such views are at their highest level since early in this century.

Roughly two-thirds of Mexicans now have a negative opinion of the U.S.; that's more than double the share in 2015. The jump in unfavorable views reverses a trend of warming perceptions that accompanied increased cooperation on trade and national security following the adoption in 1994 of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Much of this recent shift can be traced to President Donald Trump. He has called NAFTA the worst trade deal ever, had unpleasant exchanges with Mexican leaders and accused Mexico of sending rapists, criminals and drugs over the border. Trump is pushing to renegotiate NAFTA with Mexico and Canada, but the three sides haven't reached consensus on revising the agreement.

Trump has asserted that Mexico should pay for a border wall. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto strongly disagrees and recently canceled a scheduled White House visit over the conflict. Trump has proposed reducing security aid to Mexico, although Congress hasn't gone along with the cuts. He has threatened to impose tariffs on Mexican imports, which would of course raise costs to U.S. consumers.

Mexico is in the midst of a presidential election campaign, and leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is leading in the polls with rhetoric that is strongly critical of Trump and the United States.

In short, we are at a crucial point in U.S.-Mexico relations. My hope is that we will reverse this trend and move forward in a positive way, surmounting some of these differences and misconceptions that have developed. If not, and if NAFTA negotiations fail, the relationship could be seriously set back.

Surveys show that most Americans have maintained a favorable perception of Mexico, but border issues and immigration have produced sharpened feelings among many in the U.S.

Mexico has some challenging problems, including crime, scandal and corruption. There have been human rights abuses, and prominent journalists have disappeared. Violence threatens Mexicans and weakens governance in towns and cities near the border. But Mexico has mostly been a reliable ally in addition to a top trading partner. Through the 2008 Merida Agreement, we have cooperated to disrupt organized crime and drug trafficking, support human rights, and interdict illegal migration from Central America.

The U.S. has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Mexico, much of it to support policing and anti-drug initiatives. We have supported Mexican efforts to reform the criminal justice system, combat crime and protect citizens because we know that if the relationship goes smoothly, it's a big plus for America in terms of strengthening our national security - and economic well-being. But if it goes poorly, Mexico has a lot of tools that it could turn against us. It could clog our immigration courts. It could engage in a trade war, looking elsewhere for trading partners and slapping tariffs on our exports. It could shut down intelligence-sharing and strategic cooperation, and leave our common borders unsettled, if not dangerous.

The North American Free Trade Agreement helped break a long history of suspicion and set U.S.-Mexico relations on a better course. It has created, with Canada, an unmatched trilateral relationship and a unified continent. If it were to fail now, it would cause painful disruptions in the relationship, costing us dearly in jobs, trade, competitiveness and security.

All this means we have to work hard to forge a path to a renewed trade agreement with Mexico. We should turn down the heat on the invective and insults, and do all we can to deepen cooperation.

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## Mike Pence is determined to be heard from again

Thomas Marshall, whom you very likely have never heard of, served as Woodrow Wilson's vice president and is known for his declaration that what America needed was a good five-cent cigar. But he also is the man who used to tell the story of two brothers, one who went to sea and was drowned and the other who became vice president of the United States. Neither was ever heard from again.

There are two things about the current vice president upon which almost everyone can agree. Mike Pence is not at sea. And he is determined to be heard from again.

Thus the remarkable few days that the onetime Republican governor of Indiana has experienced in the public prints. First was an astonishing column by the conservative commentator George F. Will, who characterized Mr. Pence as "oozing unctuousness from every pore" and who painted him as a hopeless, total toady. Then came a New York Times report suggesting the White House increasingly considers the vice president a scheming opportunist blinded by ambition, perhaps reaching for the main prize himself.

White House palace protectors almost certainly would dismiss both critiques as

bleats from a dying mainstream media commentariat. There is no denying that both accounts appeared in the accursed pages of the MSM, the most fiendish three-letter appellation in Washington, with the possible exceptions of HRC and BHO.

One way or another, this is a season for fresh attention on the vice president, which itself is a statement of some moment. Vice presidents often have been so obscure, and their activities so obscured, that no one paid any attention to them at all.

Inconspicuous, perhaps, but not always inconsequential.

Lyndon Johnson had stridden the Capitol like a colossus when he was Senate majority leader, but he chafed at being John F. Kennedy's vice president. Johnson was a brooder even in better days, but he was a caged animal as second-in-command, eventually falling into a visible depression. One day his personal secretary, Juanita Roberts, pushed Johnson — descendant of Confederate soldiers — to consider a Memorial Day speech at Gettysburg. He resisted, she pushed. And then, 55 years ago this month, he delivered a speech that was an uplifting bookend to Martin Luther King's "Letter



David M. Shribman

From a Birmingham Jail" and that has been credited for nudging Kennedy to give his landmark civil rights speech less than a month later.

Johnson didn't treat his vice president, the liberal warrior Hubert Humphrey, much better, but in recent times, vice presidents — the last six, three from each party — have had bigger roles.

"It is a tough and unique job, taking someone at the top of his or her profession and making that person totally subservient," says Joel Goldstein, the Saint Louis University law professor whose "The White House Vice Presidency" examines the recent growth of the post. "The position takes leaders and makes them followers. The vice president is always advancing someone else's agenda."

And yet for a powerless position, the vice presidency often is a magnet for controversy. Richard Nixon was targeted with tomatoes in Caracas. Spiro Agnew was Nixon's point man for his press attacks and resigned in disgrace. Dick Cheney took criticism for his aggressive

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## The haters are still wrong

John Kelly, the White House chief of staff, recently told NPR that undocumented immigrants are "not people that would easily assimilate into the United States, into our modern society. They're overwhelmingly rural people. In the countries they come from, fourth-, fifth-, sixth-grade educations are kind of the norm. They don't speak English; obviously that's a big thing ... They don't integrate well; they don't have skills."

Kelly is repeating the same nativist nonsense that was hurled at his own Irish and Italian ancestors generations ago. They were told they could not integrate into America, that they lacked the skills and intelligence to contribute to their adopted country — and especially to Kelly's home city of Boston. Catholicism was actually illegal in Massachusetts until 1780, and a convent was burned to the ground there in 1834.

The haters were wrong about Kelly's forebears, and Kelly is wrong about the latest wave of newcomers. If anything, immigrants are more productive than native-born Americans, according to virtually every economist who has ever studied the topic.

One example: The Council of Economic Advisors under President Bush 43 concluded, "Our review of economic research finds immigrants not only help fuel the nation's economic growth, but also have an overall positive effect on the income of native-born workers."

Kelly's statement reflects a monumental ignorance of both economics and history, but he is only channeling the woefully warped mindset of President Trump, whose mother was born in Scotland and who has married two women from Eastern Europe. Like his chief of staff, the president embraces anti-immigrant attitudes rooted in fabrication, not fact; emotion, not evidence.

Trump doesn't care about facts, because his real motivation is pure political opportunism: fanning the fears of supporters who yearn for a more white, less diverse country with fewer neighbors from what Trump famously called "s—hole countries."

When John Feeley, Trump's ambassador to Panama, quit in disgust, he wrote in the Washington Post: "I am convinced that the president's policies regarding migration are not only foolish and delusional but also anti-American." He is right, but Trump's



Cokey and Steve Roberts

anti-immigrant crusade has only gotten more determined and more dangerous. Here are four examples:

— Abandoning Dreamers. A recent Harvard-Harris survey found that 76 percent of voters say that Dreamers, about 700,000 undocumented young people brought here as children, should be granted a path to citizenship. But Trump has torpedoed every attempt at a legislative compromise and no permanent solution is possible without his assent.

— Encouraging family separation. On the day that Melania Trump introduced a program to help children, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a "zero-tolerance" policy for anyone caught trying to enter the country illegally. That means parents who are arrested at the border and sent to prison would be separated from their children, who are barred by law from incarceration.

The New York Times reports that at least 700 youngsters have been taken from adults claiming to be their

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John Boxley

## Not that you asked

It turns out that I'm not finished with the question: why are gas prices so high? The simple fact is, there's no good reason for it. To begin with, oil companies in the U.S. get a total of \$4.6 billion in subsidies and tax breaks from Uncle Sam. Don't you wish Uncle would be as generous with us? On top of that windfall, the five largest oil companies in America have combined profits of \$137 billion as recently as 2011. That comes out to \$375 million a day. Even someone as lousy at math as I am can figure out with that kind of profits and tax breaks, there's no reason that gas should be getting close to \$3 per gallon.

Oil companies aren't alone when it comes to getting favorable treatment from government. The much praised "Tax Reform" passed last year isn't reform at all. For one thing, it did nothing about one of the biggest corporate tax dodges out there—offshore tax havens. That loophole allows U.S. companies to claim that their home office is located in a tax-friendly country outside of America, even if that "office" is nothing more than a post office box. That little trick has cost the U.S. Treasury \$111 billion in tax revenue each year. And it isn't just old established companies that do this. Google and Apple also have offshore homes.

But enough about corporate greed. Let's focus now on two current obsessions of Republicans and Fox News. That would be denouncing the Mueller investigation and praising the upcoming summit with North Korea.

The current mantra about the Mueller investigation (besides calling it a witch hunt) is to claim that there is no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians, so the investigation should end. That makes a good soundbite, but it isn't entirely accurate. We don't know what the investigation has uncovered because none of its work has been leaked to the media. There may be nothing to it, or maybe there is. We won't know until Mueller issues his report.

This may be hard to accept for people who remember the Ken Starr investigation into Whitewater and later the Clinton-Lewinsky affair. That's because Starr talked to the press all of the time. They camped out in his driveway because he would hold little press conferences with them each morning while getting in his car to go to work. That determination to get to the facts about sexual misconduct didn't follow him to Baylor University.

As for Mueller, I don't know if any of us have ever heard him speak.

When it comes to the summit with North Korea, events have changed at Trump speed. Just two weeks ago it looked like a done deal. It seemed that Trump's tough talk had shaken up Kim to the point that he was willing to talk and maybe get rid of his nuclear weapons. Fox News began a campaign to get Trump the Nobel Prize by acclamation.

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## Poinsett County Democrat Tribune

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# Lineup announced for Johnny Cash Heritage Festival

The 2018 Johnny Cash Heritage Festival is pleased to announce a special featured presentation with performances by Grammy record-holder Alison Krauss, award-winning singer/songwriter Jamey Johnson, Grammy-winning producer/performer John Carter Cash, and pop/soul/country artist Ana Cristina Cash, with more to come.

The benefit concert presentation will take place Saturday afternoon, Oct. 20, as the highlight of the three-day festival from Oct. 18-20 in Dyess, Ark. Saturday afternoon events will be from noon to 5 p.m., with specific performance times to be announced.



**Alison Krauss**

Born in Champaign, Ill., Alison Krauss grew up listening to everything from folk to opera to pop and rock music, but quickly fell in love with bluegrass when she began playing fiddle at age five. At age 14, Rounder Records signed her to her first record deal and she went on to release her debut solo album two years later. The accomplished bluegrass musician became a member of the Grand Ole Opry at age 21.

Since 1985, Krauss has released 14 albums including five solo, seven with her long-time band and musical collaborators Union Station, and the Robert Plant collaboration "Raising Sand," which was certified platinum and won five Grammys, including Album of the Year and Record of the Year. She's sold more than 12 million records to date, and her honors include 27 Grammys, making her the most awarded singer and most awarded female artist in

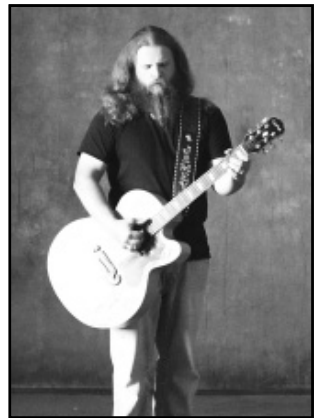
Grammy history. She also has nine Country Music Association awards, 14 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards, two Academy of Country Music Awards and two Gospel Music Association awards.

"Windy City," her latest solo album, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums and Top Bluegrass Albums charts and received two Grammy nominations.

Krauss has contributed songs to numerous films, including "Down to the River to Pray" in O Brother, Where Art Thou? and "You Will Be My Ain True Love" and "The Scarlett Tide" in the film Cold Mountain.

In 2013, she performed at the Kennedy Center's "American Voices" festival and also honored Dolly Parton and Paul Simon with performances during The Kennedy Center Honors. She has performed for three presidents—George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Krauss frequently collaborates with artists from numerous genres and has recorded and toured with Willie Nelson, whom she honored with a performance during the 2015 Gershwin Prize Tribute Concert. She will reunite with Nelson this summer on a co-headlining tour throughout North America.



**Jamey Johnson**

Jamey Johnson is acknowledged by many as country music's "north star." An 11-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, he is "one of the greatest country singers of our time," according to The Washington Post.

Johnson has received

praise from The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Wall Street Journal and other publications, many of which have hailed his albums as masterpieces. The Nashville Scene has twice named Johnson's albums as the year's best album in its annual Country Music Critics' Poll. In 2011, it also named him artist of the year, best male vocalist and best songwriter.

His 2008 album, "That Lonesome Song," was certified platinum for one million in sales, and his 2010 double album, "The Guitar Song," which debuted at No. 1 on the country album charts, received a gold certification. In 2012, he released a Grammy-nominated project honoring one of his heroes, "Living for a Song: A Tribute to Hank Cochran," that paired him with Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, Ray Price, Elvis Costello, George Strait, Vince Gill and Merle Haggard.

Johnson is also recognized as one of the most powerful and prolific songwriters of his generation. He is one of only a few people in the history of country music to win two Song of the Year Awards—for "Give It Away" and "In Color"—from the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association. He has written singles for George Strait, Trace Adkins, James Otto, Joe Nichols and others. In 2014, he launched his own label, Big Gassed Records.



**John Carter Cash**

Grammy Award-winning record producer, singer-songwriter and author John Carter Cash has been involved in music all his life.

Grandson of Maybelle Carter and son of Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, he carries on the family tradition of creativity and music.

In the mid-1990s, he began recording material for himself and others. In 1999 he was co-producer for his mother's album, "Press On," which won the Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album. He continued his studio work with his father, serving as associate producer under Rick Rubin for the Grammy-winning "American Recordings" series.

His production of his mother's "Wildwood Flower" won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album in 2003. He also worked with various artists to create the album, "Unbroken Circle: The Musical Heritage of the Carter Family," which went on to achieve three Grammy nominations.

John Carter has produced hundreds of recordings for dozens of high-profile artists within the past 20 years. In all, he has received five Grammy Awards as producer, with a total of 12 nominations. His own musical recordings and compositions span numerous genres and include "Bitter Harvest," "The Family Secret," and the soon-to-be released album "We Must Believe in Magic."

His work as an author is equally diverse, including his mother's biography Anchored in Love, House of Cash: The Legacies of My Father Johnny Cash about his personal relationship with his father, three children's books, a fantasy novel Lupus Rex, and an upcoming Cash and Carter Family Cookbook.

He owns and operates Cash Cabin Enterprises, LLC in Hendersonville, Tenn., the same studio where his father recorded years ago.

**Ana Cristina Cash**

Ana Cristina Cash is an American singer-songwriter, raised in Miami, Fla., as the daughter of Cuban immigrants. Her recordings exhibit a broad vocal range, span-



**Ana Cristina Cash**

ning from contralto to a high coloratura soprano known to some as a "whistle register."

She started her professional music career at age six on the variety show, "Sabado Gigante." At age 16 she signed to Sony Music's Latin division and released her first album "Ana Cristina" in the Spanish language. Her latest album, "The West Coast Sessions," was released in May 2015.

In 2005, at age 19, Ana Cristina became the first Hispanic in history to perform the "Star Spangled Banner" at a Presidential Inauguration. The following year she was invited to perform at the White House for the President of the United States, the Crown Prince of Spain and notable world ambassadors. She also has performed the national anthem for various live national broadcasts including NBA, MLB and NFL.

Along with live shows, Ana Cristina is currently working on her upcoming release, "The Tough Love E.P.," which shows off her connection to rockabilly and gritty blues, with a flavor for country and soul. Ana Cristina and her husband, music producer

John Carter Cash, live in Nashville with their infant daughter, Grace June Cash.

About the Johnny Cash Heritage Festival

The Johnny Cash Heritage Festival events take place in the cotton fields surrounding the Johnny Cash Boyhood home which was added to the National Register of Historic Places May 4, and in the Dyess Colony Circle. After music events in Arkansas State University's First National Bank Arena from 2011-14, a new festival format was established in 2017. The festival now extends beyond music to feature world-renowned artists on the main stage and local musicians on smaller stages in the colony center, as well as educational presentations, exhibits and local crafts. The academic theme for the festival is "The Ties That Bind."

The festival is coordinated through Arkansas State University Heritage Sites and the Heritage Studies Ph.D. program and is licensed through the John R. Cash Revocable Trust. Presenting sponsors include the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and the Judd Hill Foundation.

Tickets for the benefit are on sale at the Arkansas State University Box Office, First National Bank Arena, (lower red entrance), 217 Olympic Drive and online at [JohnnyCashHeritageFestival.com](http://JohnnyCashHeritageFestival.com).

All reserved seating at the Saturday afternoon concert will be \$100 plus applicable fees, and general admission tickets are \$35 plus fees.

## HAMILTON

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The U.S. has an interest in a strong, prosperous Mexico that expands its markets, creates jobs on both sides of the border, raises wages and reduces incentives for illegal immigration. There is so much interwoven economic and security activity connecting our two countries: supply chains that span the border, close cooperation between military forces, the continuous flow of people, goods and services across nearly 50 border crossing points.

But it's all fragile; it depends on the two countries maintaining a good functional relationship. And if the Mexican economy were to collapse, no border wall will be effective at keeping out migrants.

While we've been fortunate to not have to worry about having Mexico as a neighbor,

the downside is that we have had a tendency to take the relationship for granted. If current trends continue, our relations could be about to get much worse. That would be bad for both of our countries. Both countries have significant interests in maintaining a strong and durable relationship. We neglect Mexico at our peril.

*Lee Hamilton is a leading figure on foreign policy, intelligence, and national security. He served as Vice Chairman of the 9/11 Commission; Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group; Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence. Hamilton was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## ROBERTS

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parents since October. Michelle Brane of the Women's Refugee Commission told the Times: "The idea of punishing parents who are trying to save their children's lives ... is fundamentally cruel and un-American."

— Ending protected status. About 300,000 immigrants who fled natural disasters and civil strife in Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador enjoy Temporary Protected Status under a program enacted in 1990 that allows them to stay in the U.S. Trump has canceled the program and ordered the migrants expelled, even though many of them have planted deep roots here and produced an estimated 273,000 American-born children.

The president rejected the advice of senior diplomats who encouraged him to keep the program because, as the Washington Post reports, "Money sent home by Central Americans and Haitians living in the United States is an engine for job creation that reduces the pressure to go

abroad."

— Deporting workers. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has stepped up raids on businesses that hire undocumented workers, making about 1,200 arrests since Oct. 1, which is up from about 300 during the previous fiscal year. This comes at a moment when the agricultural sector is plagued by a severe labor shortage. The Wall Street Journal documented the crisis in the crab industry on Maryland's eastern shore and quoted a local fisherman, Burl Lewis: "It trickles all the way down the line. The Mexican labor creates jobs for Americans. It's creating my job."

President Trump, with John Kelly's backing, is following an immigration policy that is not just "foolish and delusional (and) anti-American." It also directly undermines the country's economic future.

*(Steve and Cokie Roberts can be contacted by email at [stevecokie@gmail.com](mailto:stevecokie@gmail.com).)*

## SHRIBMAN

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national security views. Now Pence is under siege.

Trump loyalists are alarmed he has taken such a forward role in this fall's midterm elections, grousing that Pence is establishing a power center parallel to that of the White House and the Republican National Committee. Much of the criticism is aimed at the presence of Nick Ayers, a wunderkind strategist steeped more in campaigning than in governing, in Pence's circle.

Then, the day the United States opened its new Jerusalem embassy, Pence marked the occasion by reciting the Shehecheyanu — "Our praise to You, Eternal our God ... (for) enabling us to reach this season." Some rabbis cringed, viewing this blessing as a legal formula not to be employed simply because someone is moved by the moment.

Pence, almost alone among Trump insiders, is a veteran politician, chosen as running mate either — depending on your viewpoint — because no one else would take it, or because he possessed the political experience (member of the House, governor of a state) that complemented Trump's status as outsider and disrupter. Either way — as a Trump team player or as a guide to the political arts — Pence built unusual stature in the White House.

"Pence has sort of a unique challenge because President Trump is such an idiosyncratic character," says Goldstein. "Pence has been a lapdog in a way no other recent vice president has been

— but he has also done more, such as being more assertive politically, than his predecessors."

The elephant in the Republican room — if that is not a redundant statement — is that the emphasis here is not on the midterms but the 2020 or even 2024 presidential election. Pence would likely run if the 45th president does not seek a second term.

But the question that must haunt Trump is this: If he seeks a second term, would Pence be his running mate?

Woodrow Wilson kept his vice president on his ticket for his second term, perhaps because Marshall lived up to his own definition of the job: "a man in a cataleptic fit; he cannot speak; he cannot move; he suffers no pain; he is perfectly conscious of all that goes on, but has no part in it." And one other thing. Vice President Marshall behaved as if he were lost at sea.

*(David M. Shribman is executive editor of the Post-Gazette ([dshribman@post-gazette.com](mailto:dshribman@post-gazette.com), 412 263-1890). Follow him on Twitter at [ShribmanPG](https://twitter.com/ShribmanPG).)*

## BOXLEY

*Continued from page 2*

Then things changed. Kim began threatening to stop the summit and said he has no intention of getting rid of his nukes. In the duel between the two craziest leaders in the world, suddenly Kim had the upper hand. Now Trump needs the summit more than Kim does. This gives Kim leverage to get a better deal out

of Trump. Hopefully the summit will take place, Trump will negotiate a good deal, and Kim will abide by it. That is in all of our best interest. And if it happens, Trump will deserve that Nobel Prize. However, that is a huge "if."

If we are all still here next week, I'll have more.



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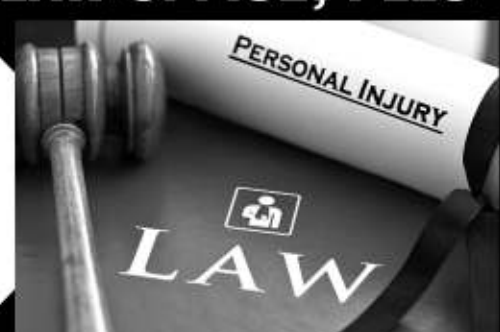
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**FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE**  
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**Jehu Kills Ahab's Family**  
II Kings 10

Jehu wrote letters to the officials of Jezreel, to the elders and to the guardians of Ahab's seventy sons telling them to choose the best and most worthy of Ahab's sons and set him on his father's throne and then fight for their master's house. The officials were fearful and responded by sending Jehu a message that they would be his servants and would do anything he said. They did not appoint anyone as king. Jehu wrote a second letter telling the officials that if they were on his side and would obey him then they must take the heads of Ahab's sons and meet him in Jezreel. After reading the letter these men took the princes and slaughtered all seventy of them, put their heads in baskets and sent them to Jehu in Jezreel. Jehu had the heads placed in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning. The next morning Jehu stood before all the people and proclaimed them innocent. And then told them that not a word the LORD has spoken against the house of Ahab would fail. He told them that the LORD had done what he promised through his servant Elijah. Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel of the house of Ahab, as well as all his chief men, his close friends and his priests, leaving no survivor. At Beth Eked of the Shepherds, Jehu met some relatives of Ahaziah, king of Judah and asked them who they were. When they replied that they were relatives of Ahaziah and had come to greet his family and the queen mother, Jehu ordered them slaughtered.

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# Obituaries

## Billy Byram



NASHVILLE, TENN. - Billy Wayne Byram, 71, passed away May 12, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn. He was born Tuesday, July 2, 1946, in Trumann to Rev. Bill C. Byram and Velma (O'Neal) Byram. He graduated from Trumann High School in 1964. Billy Wayne enjoyed working in home improvement for many years. He loved witnessing to family, friends, and even acquaintances he came in contact with about God. He loved having fun and never met a stranger. Billy Wayne dearly loved his family. He will be greatly missed and cherished by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Rev. Bill C. Bryam.

Billy Wayne is survived by his mother, Velma (O'Neal) Byram of Trumann; one brother, Bobby Glen (Becky) Byram of Williford; two sisters, Beverly Gail (Kelly) Major of Cotter and Judy Delene (Eddie) Webb of Collierville, Tenn.; two sons, Timothy (Tim) Wayne (Chrisy) Byram of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Brandon Noah Byram of Tampa, Fla.; one daughter, Teresa Ann (James) Cooper

## Billy Byram

of Jonesboro; two stepsons, Alan Gay and Joshua Gay, both of Nashville; five grandchildren, Dustin (Sara) Osment, Dillon (Victoria) Osment, Darby Osment, all of Jonesboro, Paige Byram and Austin Byram, both of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; three stepgrandchildren, Blake Gay, Braden Gay and Brooklyn Gay of Nashville; and two great-grandchildren, Blakely Osment and Beckett Osment of Jonesboro.

Visitation will be Thursday, May 24, at 5 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 6 p.m. with Rev. Ricky Hart and Rev. Murray Ray officiating at the United Pentecostal Church in Trumann. Memorials can be made to First Pentecostal Church, Trumann.

An online register book can be signed at [www.thompsonfuneralhome.net](http://www.thompsonfuneralhome.net).

## Wayne Owens



COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. - Franklin Wayne Owens was born near Harrisburg on Feb. 19, 1937, to Tolbert and Metta (Hogan) Owens. Wayne graduated from Trumann High School in 1954. After moving to Peoria, Ill., in 1955, Wayne married Patricia Ann Beaty on June 30, 1961. They were blessed with two sons, Todd and Kent. Wayne began Wayne Printing Company in 1965. In 1974, they moved to Virginia, Minn., and operated a Christian book store, Adams Place. In 1977, he and partners opened Village Inn Family Restaurant in Virginia, Minn. In 1984, Wayne joined Vicorp Restaurants Inc. and remained until his retirement in 1997.

His wife Pat passed away in 1980. Wayne later married Betty (McNeill) Musgrove. Their blended family consisted of Wayne's two sons and Betty's daughter, Rayme.

Upon retirement, Wayne and Betty relocated to Woodland Park, Colo. As a volunteer, Wayne oversaw the completion of an updated water system for their mountain community. Due to health reasons, they moved to Colorado Springs where they resided until his death.

As a result of a multi-car accident, Wayne went home to be with the Lord on April

## Wayne Owens

29, 2018.

He leaves behind his wife, Betty; his two sons, Todd of Colorado and Kent (Jerrene) of Wyoming; daughter, Rayme (Justin) Johansen of Colorado; five grandchildren, Dustin (Courtney) Owens-Welch of Wyoming, Ella Johansen of Colorado, Tyler Braisted of Wyoming, Kolby (Priscilla) Braisted of Wyoming, and Maci Braisted of Montana; and one great-grandchild, Aleia Welch of Wyoming.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tolbert and Metta Owens; three brothers, Odell, Milburne, and Vernon Owens; one sister, Wilma Louise Tatum; and his first wife, Patricia Ann Owens.

Funeral services were held on Monday, May 14, in Woodland Park followed by burial in the Woodland Park Cemetery.

## Lillie Seabron

MARKED TREE - Lillie Mae Seabron, 91, died May 14, 2018, at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro. She was born Oct. 23, 1927, in Wynne to Vernon and Lucille Clay. Ms. Seabron was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon Clay and Lucille Hobbs; two sons, Melvin Hughes, Jr. and Tyrone Hughes; one daughter, Bobbie J. Ladden; two grandchildren, James Calloway, Jr. and Tommy Calloway.

She is survived by one son, Vernon Lee Hughes of Mount Morris, Mich.; five daughters,

Annette Hughes Hairston and Charlotte Spears of Flint, Mich., Rita Seabron and Cynthia J. Hughes of Jonesboro and Shirley M. Smith of Nashville, Tenn.; one brother, Richard Clay of Jonesboro; one sister, Freddie Jo Scott of Marked Tree; and a host of grand-, great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 22 at Wilson Funeral Home in Tyronza. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro with Pastor Brandon Walker officiating under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home in Tyronza.

# Extra Help Program helps seniors with medication costs

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any special Medicare programs that help seniors with their medication costs? My 74-year-old mother, who lives primarily on her Social Security, takes several high-priced drugs that sap her income even with her Medicare drug plan.

Looking for Assistance Dear Looking,

Yes, there's a low-income subsidy program called Extra Help that can assist seniors on a tight budget with paying for their premiums, deductible and co-payments in their Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plan.

Currently around 10 million people are receiving this subsidy, but another two million may qualify for it and don't even realize it. They're missing out on hundreds, maybe thousands, of dollars in savings each year.

Changes in the law make it easier than ever to qualify for the Extra Help program. Even if your mom applied and didn't qualify before, she may be eligible now. The amount of additional assistance she would receive depends on her

income and assets. If she qualifies for help, she'll pay no more than \$3.35 for a generic drug and \$8.35 for a brand-name drug in 2018.

To get the subsidy, your mom's assets can't be more than \$14,100 (or \$28,150 for married couples living together). Bank accounts, stocks and bonds count as assets, but her home, vehicle, personal belongings, life insurance and burial plots do not.

Also, your mom's monthly income can't be more than \$1,538 (or \$2,078 for married couples). If your mom supports a family member who lives with her, or lives in Alaska or Hawaii, her income can be higher.

In addition, the government won't count any money if your mom receives help for household expenses like food, rent, mortgage payments, utilities and property taxes.

## How To Apply



Savvy Senior

Jim Miller

There are three ways to apply for Extra Help: online at [ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp); by calling Social Security at 800-772-1213; or by visiting her local Social Security office.

The application form is easy to complete, but you'll need your mom's Social Security number and information about her bank balances, pensions and investments. Social Security will review her application and send her a letter within a few weeks letting you know whether she qualifies.

If your mom doesn't qualify for Extra Help, she may still be able to get help from a state pharmacy assistance program or a patient assistance program. Visit [BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://BenefitsCheckUp.org) and click on "Medications" to search for these programs.

Other Medicare Assistance If your mom is eligible for Extra Help, she may also qualify for help with her other Medicare expenses through

her state's Medicare Savings Program.

State Medicaid programs partner with the federal government, so income and asset qualifications vary depending on where she lives. Medicare Savings Programs will pay her entire Medicare Part B premium each month. Some also pay for Part B co-insurance and copayments, depending on her income. Contact your mom's state Medicaid office to determine if she qualifies for benefits in her state.

You can also get help through her State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free one-on-one Medicare counseling in person or over the phone. To locate a SHIP counselor in your area, visit [ShiptaCenter.org](http://ShiptaCenter.org) or call the eldercare locator at 800-677-1116.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

# Wet Ink . . .

By DR. KEN WORTHINGTON

Beginning at verse 14 of Revelation chapter 1, we find John experiencing the vision of the Glory of Jesus Christ. From the 12th to the 16th verses inclusive, we have a remarkable vision which is the key-passage to the interpretation of the whole book of Revelation. The elements of the vision are first, seven golden candlesticks and in the midst of the candlesticks a vision of Christ as the Sun of righteousness. He holds in His right hand seven stars and out of His mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword. This vision He explains Himself: the candlesticks represent the churches; the stars represent the messengers or pastors of the churches; the two-edged sword represents His word, or the gospel. The whole vision is one of light. The central light-Christ, the Sun of

righteousness; the lower lights, the churches and the preachers; the instrumentality of dispensing the light, the Word of God.

In the next chapter we see that while Christ is in the midst of the churches, He is not there in person, but through the other paraclete (one called alongside), the Holy Spirit, who is His representative here His vicar here upon this earth. John in his gospel had previously represented Christ as the light of the world, but since He ascended into heaven this light is reflected in the churches and preachers through the Spirit and by the Word. The object of the vision is to show that the whole world will be illumined by the churches and the preachers in these "last days" of the gospel, which is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, for when Christ speaks to the churches He says: "If any man hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth to the churches."

The doctrine of this vision is of incalculable importance.

It teaches that the Spirit dispensation, or Word dispensation through the churches and the preachers, is to accomplish the whole work of the application of the salvation achieved by our Lord's vicarious death. We will find in every subsequent revelation this ruling thought: the world to be illumined by these light-bearers. There is no hint of any other source or medium or instrumentality of light. There is no hint that the churches will fail on the earth and that some other divine interposition must take place to finish the mystery of the Kingdom of God. This is in accord with the "great commission" in the 28th chapter of Matthew's gospel: "Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, an lo! I will be with you all the days, even unto the end of the world."

# Harrisburg Schools offering summer meals

The Harrisburg School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge at the following times. Breakfast will be served from 8-8:30 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11-11:45 a.m. at the high/middle school cafeteria located at 401 N. South Street. The program will run from June 4 to July 26 and will be closed every Friday and on July 4. There will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

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# Lifestyles

## Lepanto Senior Life Center . . .

By GENE VAGODWIN

This week we will have puzzles, bingo, exercise, and after lunch today we will enjoy a movie and popcorn.

On Tuesday, we will have yahtzee, rummikub, and bean bag baseball practice. We were supposed to have karaoke with Legacy Hospice, but they had to reschedule. We sure hope they can make it on the 29th. We always enjoy having them here. Mr. Ron is such a delightful person to be around. I will miss all the fun because I have an appointment with my heart doctor.

On Wednesday, we will have our regular games and at 12:30 p.m. we will have a pet show (pictures only). We will have our regular games as usual, and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, we will have our monthly birthday party and bingo to celebrate our May birthday. Mrs. Brittney always comes in with our good-

ies, and we always look forward to that. We would like to thank her and Three Rivers Nursing Home for that. We would also like to send our best and warmest wishes to Mrs. Brittney on her pregnancy.

The center will be closed Friday, May 25, and Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day in honor of all the veterans as well as the active service members. Thank you for all you do. Heroes never die. They live on forever in our hearts and minds.

We would like to send well wishes to Randy Wright. We miss you and hope you feel better soon.

We would like to have more people that are 60 or older to come and sign up for the fun and parties. We really do have fun. I just can't stay home all the time. I look forward to going to the center every day. Hope everyone has a good week.

## Click It or Ticket begins

As the unofficial start of summer, the Memorial Day holiday weekend is a busy time for Americans. Each year, the highways fill with families in vehicles on their way to start their summer vacations.

To help keep drivers and passengers stay safe, the Trumann Police Department is reminding motorists to Click It or Ticket. Aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep families safe, the national seat belt campaign will take place May 21 through June 3, concurrent with the busy travel season.

"Buckling up is such a simple task that can keep you and your family safe in the car," said Captain Gary W. Henry Sr. "But it's more than that. Buckling up is the law. Our law enforcement personnel see the consequences of not buckling up. We see the loss of life. Often, it could have been prevented with the simple click of a seat belt. This should be automatic."

"As the Memorial Day weekend approaches and the summer vacation season ramps up, we want to keep our community members safe and make sure people are doing the one thing that can save them in a crash: buckling up," said Assistant Chief Jon Redman. "If the enforcement crackdown wakes people up to the dangers of unrestrained driving, we'll consider it a success."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half (48 percent) of the passenger ve-

hicle occupants killed in crashes in 2016 were unrestrained. At night from 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., that number soared to 56 percent of those killed. That's why one focus of the Click It or Ticket campaign is nighttime enforcement. Participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. In Trumann, the maximum penalty for a seat belt violation is \$90.

"In 2016, we lost too many community members because they did not buckle their seat belts," said Capt. Henry. Almost twice as many males were killed in crashes as compared to females, with lower belt use rates too. Of the males killed in crashes in 2016, more than half (52 percent) were unrestrained. For females killed in crashes, 40 percent were not buckled up.

"If you know a friend or a family member who does not buckle up when they drive, please ask them to consider changing their habits," said Chief Chad Henson "Help us spread this life-saving message before one more friend or family member is killed as a result of this senseless inaction. Seat belts save lives, and everyone—front seat and back, child and adult—needs to remember to buckle up—every trip, every time."

For more information on the Click It or Ticket mobilization, please visit [www.nhtsa.gov/ciot](http://www.nhtsa.gov/ciot).

## Ms. Genealogist

By SYLVIA EVANS



## 100 Years County Commemorative Day

In honor of Historic Preservation Month and to show respect to our veterans and our history, the Poinsett County Historical Society along with the Poinsett County officials would like you to come and visit us at the courthouse grounds at 10 a.m. Friday, May 25.

Our courthouse was completed in 1918 and constructed of Bedford Stone. The county courthouse, with its stately columns, continues to serve our county government. The present courthouse was built at a cost of \$200,000, and construction began in 1917 after a fire destroyed the old courthouse. Harrisburg became the county seat in 1856. The first county seat was located at Bolivar in 1838, the year the county was created.

After the creation of Poinsett County, a portion was taken in 1859 to form Craighead County, and again in 1862 a portion was cut off to form Cross County. So when looking for your ancestors you need to start at Poinsett County Courthouse.

At the courthouse, there will be a Historical Marker to the county by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, which will be unveiled at the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn.

General Robert E. Lee observed, "The Bible is a book in comparison with which all others in my eyes are of minor importance, and which in all my complexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength. For in its pages the light and strength you need for each and every day of your life."

Through a partnership of Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee and the Arkansas Forestry Commission, a willow oak tree will be planted in the courthouse annex lawn to remember the Arkansans who served during the Great War.

Come inside the courthouse after the program and see our display of our courthouse and its history with veterans' photographs you may recognize and look for your veteran in Poinsett County Veterans Bible, write your name, address, and email next to their names so we can notify you of events regarding our veterans. The Bible covers every war from the Revolutionary War to present.

This event is for young and old. A hot dog lunch will be served in the Veterans Park with birthday cake to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Poinsett County Courthouse. We hope you will be able to attend.

## Pleasant Grove EHC elects officers

Pleasant Grove Extension Homemakers Club held this month's meeting on May 10. New business involved electing 2018-2019 officers: President Sarah Dacus, Vice President Amy Carter, Secretary Martha Smith, and Treasurer Ernestine Layton. Committee chairs were appointed as follows, Community Service Chair, Emma Dunn; Member-

ship, Amy Carter; Publicity, Martha Smith; Education, Barbara Dacus; and Leadership, Amy Carter.

Leadership meetings for club officers also took place this month. And club and county education chairs will meet in June to plan the program for the 2018-2019 yearbook.

## School lunch menus . . . . .

May 28-31  
EPC

Monday-Memorial Day  
Tuesday-bbq rib on bun, meatball sub, fries w/ketchup, cobb salad, blueberry muffin and banana orange mix.

Wednesday-Have a great summer!

Marked Tree

Monday-Memorial Day  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday-sandwich, lettuce/tomato, carrots/celery, fruit, ranch, mayo/mustard and milk.

Friday-Have a great summer!

[democrattribune.com](http://democrattribune.com)

## Poinsett County 4-H Camp Fit and Fun taking registrations

Camp Fit and Fun is a nutrition and fitness focused day camp open for Poinsett County youth grades third-sixth during the 2017-2018 school year or ages 8-13 as of Jan. 1. Campers will learn about healthy nutrition and exercise choices while participating in hands-on activities, cooking demonstrations, outdoor activities, and classroom lessons.

Camp Fit and Fun is conducted by the Poinsett County Extension Service and Poinsett County 4-H. Camp dates are Tuesday, June 19, and Wednesday, June 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. This year's camp location will be at Tyronza Elementary School in Tyronza/East Poinsett County.

Cost for camp is \$25 or \$15 for one day. Registration includes lunch, snacks, and a

camp t-shirt. Space is limited to the first 30 campers who apply with paid registration.

Applications are also being accepted for youth counselors, ages 14-18 as of Jan. 1. Contact the Poinsett County Extension Office at 870-578-4490 or email [lhelms@uaex.edu](mailto:lhelms@uaex.edu) for a camper or counselor application or for more details.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture and offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Older Americans Month observed

Every May, the Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living, leads the nation's observance of Older American's Month. The 2018 theme, Engage at Every Age, emphasizes that one is never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It also celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in one's communities.

Trumann Mayor Barbara Lewallen declared by official proclamation observance of the Older American's Month. Representatives of East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging were on hand to witness the signing. Those attending included Cynthia Marshall, Trumann Senior Center, Richard Mabe, Revis Kemper, Fire Chief, Chad Henson, police chief, and representatives of East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging.

"We live in an era that highlights health promotion and are constantly discovering

the means, particularly preventive care, that can keep our elders in optimal wellness," said Jacquie McDaniel, executive director, EAAAA. "Being engaged is evidenced in both the active lifestyles and the drive to continue learning and doing among seniors as well as the interaction of younger generations with older persons. We've long recognized the wisdom offered by others."

"According to our just-released 2017 Profile of Older Americans, one in seven Americans are 65 or older, and just two years from now, this fast-growing segment of the population will number more than 56 million people," said Lance Robertson, ACL administrator and assistant secretary for aging. "In this increasingly diverse and vital group are treasured family members, expert craftspeople, skilled professionals, seasoned adventurers, and wise advisors. They are our connections to history, and our guides for the future."

## Commemorative Day is Friday

In honor of Historic Preservation Month, and to show respect to veterans and the state's history, the Poinsett County Historical Society, along with county officials, will hold a County Commemorative Day at 10 a.m. Friday, May 25, at the court square in Harrisburg.

Through a partnership of the Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee and the Arkansas Forestry Commission, a willow oak tree will be planted in

the courthouse annex lawn to remember the Arkansans who served during WWI. A historical marker provided to the county by the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will be unveiled at the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn.

A hot dog lunch will be served in Harrisburg's Veteran's Park with birthday cake to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Poinsett County Courthouse.

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The Poinsett County Democrat Tribune will publish your event free. Simply email the information and a photo to [cclairday@democrattribune.com](mailto:cclairday@democrattribune.com)

For more information: Contact the Poinsett County Democrat Tribune at 870-483-6317 or drop by the office at 201 Highway 463 N, Trumann, AR 72472





# Sports

## Wildcats Sign Scholarships



Jacob Ferguson of Trumann signed his letter of intent to play basketball for Williams Baptist College. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Jennie Fry (mom), Ferguson, Todd May (dad), (standing) Lois May (grandmother), WBC assistant basketball coach Stanley Malcom, and Leroy May (grandfather). (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)



Trumann's Kendall Pruitt signed her letter of intent to continue her softball career at Williams Baptist College (WBC) this past Monday at Trumann High School. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Michelle Vaughn (mom), Pruitt, Kenny Pruitt (dad), Trumann head softball coach Karisa Hendrix, and (standing) WBC interim head softball coach Ethan Quarles. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)



## Hornets Football

Harrisburg's Jamason King intercepts a pass to end the game as the Hornets' spring game ended in an 18-18 tie last Thursday. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)

## Chaos Baseball



Brant Montgomery takes a swing at a pitch during baseball action this past Saturday in Jonesboro. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)




Chaos' Chanc Arender tries to leg out and infield hit this past Saturday. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)



Gavin Richardson watches the game action from his outfield position this past Saturday in Jonesboro. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)



Cole Doke of Arkansas Chaos deliver a pitch during Mayhem at the Mack tournament action this past Saturday. (DT Photo/Anthony Cossey)



## Marked Tree Senior Life Center Happenings

By Joan Campbell

We are having a good time at the Marked Tree Senior Center. We wish you were here.

We had our council meeting on May 7. Those in attendance were Winnie Johnson, Inez Ivy, Carol Crum and myself.

We had commodity giveaway on May 9 for those 60 and older that meet the guidelines.

National Hostess Cupcake Day was May 10. Carol had cupcakes for everyone. That was nice.

On May 14, we played bean bag baseball against Harrisburg. They won both games, but we had a very good time. We love those people. We had our food pantry giveaway on May 16 for people who are 60 and older that meet the guidelines. That food helps us a lot, and we are so proud to get it.

We are busy playing Wii bowling because we have our tournament at the mall on July 12.

If you would like to come to our center, call Carol Crum at 870-358-3751 or drop by and talk to her.

## Ivermectin toxicity in dogs

This toxic reaction occurs especially in dogs that are genetically hypersensitive to ivermectin, an anti-parasite medication most commonly used for heartworm prevention, to treat ear mites, and kill mange mites. Ivermectin prevents or kills parasites by causing neurological damage to the parasite, resulting in paralysis and death for the parasite. But dogs genetically sensitive to the medication have an anomaly that allows the ivermectin to pass the dog's blood-brain barrier and into its central nervous system, which can be lethal for the animal. The low dose used for commercial heartworm prevention is well below the toxic dose even for the most sensitive dogs.

While the sensitivity to this type of medication is not always guaranteed, the following breeds are most likely to be affected: Old English Sheepdog, English Sheepdog, Shetland Sheepdog (Sheltie), Australian Shepherd, German Shepherd, Long-haired Whippet, Silken Windhound, Skye Terrier, Collie, and Collie mixes.

It is also seen in mixed-breed dogs, older dogs that have experienced a blow to the head, puppies, and dogs that have overdosed on similar types of drugs. Treating dogs that are susceptible to ivermectin toxicity with parasitic medication should be only be done under a veterinarian's supervision

and with great caution.

**Symptoms**  
Symptoms for the dog

may be acute or mild. Acute signs will become apparent within 4-12 hours of the drug's administration. Animals can absorb ivermectin through oral or topical exposure as well as injection. In mild cases, symptoms will occur between 48 to 96 hours after your dog has been treated. Such symptoms include:

- \*Lethargy
- \*Depression
- \*Drooling
- \*Vomiting
- \*Dilation of the pupil
- \*Loss of appetite (anorexia)
- \*Difficulty controlling voluntary movement
- \*Disorientation
- \*Tremors/seizures
- \*Inability to stand
- \*Blindness
- \*Slow heartbeat
- \*Respiratory distress
- \*Coma

The difference between the safe use of ivermectin and poisoning is all about the dose and an animal's inherent sensitivity to the drug. Some dogs carry a gene (MDR1 or ABCB1) that makes doses of ivermectin and other drugs dangerous to those dogs that carry the gene. A test is available to test your dog for these genes.

Treatment is not always successful. Your pet could require several weeks hospitalization. Please consult your veterinarian before giving any medications to your pet.



**Pet Talk**  
Dr. Norette Underwood

## Greenway Equipment hosts John Deere CEO

Greenway Equipment had the honor of hosting John Deere CEO Sam Allen and President of Ag & Turf Division Jim Field, along with other senior management members, on April 24 in Weiner at their Customer Support Center.

The visit from Deere and Company provided an opportunity for Greenway's Leadership Team to give insight on the current state of the local agriculture economy, to overview their operation, and to discuss their strategy for the future.

The Deere-Greenway relationship emerged in 1988. Thirty years later, both parties still embrace strong align-

ment in the same core values, a passion to improve customers' operational efficiencies, and a shared vision for the future of American agriculture—including technology adoption.

Sam Allen toured Greenway's Precision Ag and Technical Support facilities and observed how Greenway's specialists are connecting and assisting customers with their operations. He witnessed their focus on training, water management, imagery, customer support, and cutting-edge technology utilization.

Adding around \$20 billion to the state's economy each

year, agriculture is Arkansas' biggest industry. The Natural State is home to about 50,000 farms, 97% of which are family owned.

Arkansas ranks nationally in the top three for broiler chickens and catfish, fifth for timber production, eighth in egg production, and tenth for soybean production.

Though the crops are important, it's the men and women behind the tractors that keep Arkansas agriculture so strong. Arkansas has around 70,000 farmers.

The visit ultimately reinforced Greenway's partnership with John Deere and their shared vision.

"It was an honor to have Sam Allen, Jim Field, John Lagemann and company travel to Weiner, Arkansas, and have discussions on a wide range of topics," said Rick Bormann, Senior Vice President. "Mr. Allen commended Greenway Equipment for embracing change and encouraged us to continue to focus on delivering agricultural solutions which will ultimately make our customers more efficient, profitable, and sustainable."

For any questions regarding the Conway Drive Green event, please contact Stan Vardell at swardell@gogreenway.com.

## It's time to check your pond's fish

By CRAIG ALLEN  
County Extension Agent,  
Staff Chair

A quality fishing pond requires a balance in size and abundance of predator species, usually largemouth bass, and their prey, most commonly bluegill. A pond owner or manager needs to have a basic understanding of the size range and species composition in the pond to maintain quality fishing. It is a good idea to perform annual check-ups of the fish, as this information can help track and identify problems with the fish population.

One method to evaluate the bass and bream population is to capture some of the young fish using a seine. The best time to do this is in mid-May to late June after the bass and bluegill have spawned. Using a 20-foot seine (4 to 5 feet deep with a 3/8 inch mesh), make three to five semi-circu-

lar passes in shallow areas of the pond. Allow the seine to arch so that the fish cannot easily swim around it. The fish caught in the seine hauls provide information on the reproductive success of the fish in the pond and also help determine if there are unwanted species present.

A well-balanced pond will have many recently hatched bluegill less than 2 inches, some intermediate size (2-4 inches) bluegill, and some recently hatched largemouth bass (1-4 inches).

If there are no or few recently hatched bluegill, many intermediate size bluegill and no recently hatched largemouth bass, the pond is likely overpopulated with bluegill, and many have too few largemouth bass.

In this case, the best course of action is to harvest as many bluegill as possible and increase the predator popu-

lation. Stock 20-30 largemouth bass per acre (8-12 inches), and remove all bluegill caught. Fishing alone many not remove enough small bluegill. A seine can be used along the shoreline to remove prey in greater quantities. Use a winter drawdown if possible to increase predation on bluegill. Reduce the pond volume by half from October to February. This concentrates the prey making them more susceptible to being eaten by bass. If this does not work, the best course of action may be to drain or poison the pond and start over.

Conversely, if you catch in the seine many recently hatched bluegill, very few or no intermediate size bluegill, and very few or no recently hatched largemouth bass, you may have a problem with bass overpopulation. In this case, try to remove about 35 pounds of largemouth bass

(12 inches or less) per acre in a single year. This reduces the competition for food among the remaining bass resulting in increased growth the following years.

If catfish are desired and are not being caught while fishing, stock more fish. In ponds with existing bass populations, make sure to stock catfish fingerlings at least 6-8 inches in length. Keeping records of the number of catfish stocked and caught help determine if and when additional stockings are needed. Catfish may spawn in farm ponds, but predators often eat resulting fry (small fish), so stocking is recommended.

For additional information on pond balance and management, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office at 870-578-4490 and request "Farm Pond Management for Recreational Fishing (MP-360)."

## Retirement reception for KASU's Mike Doyle is May 24

JONESBORO – Mike Doyle, station manager of KASU 91.9 FM and longtime Arkansas State University instructor, is retiring at the end of this academic year. Staff, family, and friends are planning to send him off with an informal retirement reception on Thursday, May 24.

Doyle has served as KASU station manager since 2008. Listeners recognize his voice

in a variety of original KASU programming, especially on various music shows such as Arkansas Roots and Music from the Isles.

The public is invited to attend the drop-in reception in the Grand Hall of Fowler Center from 4 to 8 p.m. For more details about this event, one may contact KASU at (870) 972-2200.

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## Notice

### COMMISSIONER'S SALE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the authority and directions contained in the decretal order of the Circuit Court of Poinsett County, Arkansas, made and entered on April 20, 2018, in a certain cause (No. 56CV-17-297) then pending between MidFirst Bank, Plaintiff, and Deborah F. Benson, et al., Defendants, the undersigned, as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public venue to the highest bidder, at the Poinsett County Courthouse in which said Court is held, located in Harrisburg, Arkansas, within the hours prescribed by law for judicial sales, on July 11, 2018 at 10:00 AM, the following-described real estate, situated in Poinsett County, Arkansas:

Lot 2 in Block "B" of Harrison and Douglas Addition to the City of Trumann, Arkansas.

Also known as 436 Harrison Street, Trumann, AR 72472

TERMS OF SALE: On a credit of three months, provided the purchaser shall execute a commercial corporate surety bond as required by law and the order and decree of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the maximum legal rate per annum from date of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the premises sold to secure the payment of the purchase money. The property will be sold subject to any and all property taxes due and payable.

GIVEN under my hand this 14th day of May, 2018.

Misty Richardson  
Commissioner in Circuit

Prepared by:

WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.  
400 West Capitol Avenue  
Suite 1400  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 219-9388

By: Maria Yoder (2006278)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

## Notice

Poinsett County Housing Authority is accepting bids for Pest Control until Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Bid specifications can be picked up or mailed to you by calling 870-358-2990.

Pub. 5-24-18

## Notice

**NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF POINSETT COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
PROBATE DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
DENNIS WAYNE PENTER, Deceased  
No. PR-2018-49**

Last known address of the decedent: 30145 Thorn Road  
Trumann, Arkansas 72472

Date of death: March 12, 2018

An instrument dated March 3, 1998, was on the 30th day of April, 2018, admitted to probate as the last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. A contest of the probate of the Will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. Claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent shall similarly be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published the 17th day of May, 2018.

Doris Penter  
c/o Robert S. Jones  
Waddell, Cole & Jones, PLLC  
P.O. Box 1700  
Jonesboro, AR 72403

## Notice

The City of Lepanto is accepting bids to purchase a new truck for the water department. The truck must meet the following specifications: 4x4, V-8 engine, automatic transmission, air conditioning, cruise control, power windows and door locks, tow package, no carpet, bed liner and white in color. Sealed bids are to be submitted to Mayor Dale Dunlap at Lepanto City Hall – P.O. Box 610 – Lepanto, Arkansas 72354. Sealed bids can be hand delivered to 117 South Greenwood Lepanto, Arkansas. Bids will be accepted until 3:00 PM on June 7, 2018.

Pub. 5-24,31-2018

## Notice

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF  
POINSETT COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
CIVIL DIVISION**

**BOB BOLTON  
PLAINTIFF**

**VS. CASE NUMBER 56CV-18-57**

**GINGER RUSSELL  
DEFENDANT**

**WARNING ORDER**

Plaintiff has filed a Complaint in the above entitled action. That Defendant, GINGER RUSSELL, be and hereby is warned that you must appear and defend the Complaint by filing an Answer within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; and, in the event you fail to do so, a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in Plaintiff's Complaint deeming it admitted.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Poinsett County, Arkansas, this 17 day of May, 2018.

R. Russell  
Circuit Clerk  
/s/ Tomasina Rosa, D.C.

Luther Oneal Sutter, AR Bar No. 95031  
**SUTTER & GILLHAM, P.L.L.C.**  
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501/315-1916 – Facsimile  
Counsel for Plaintiff





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## NOTICE

**FOR SALE** - The Trumann Church of God is accepting bids on the parsonage at 504 Wayne St., Trumann, AR until May 31, 2018. We reserve the right to refuse or reject any and all bids. Please send bid to Trumann Church of God, P.O. Box 427, Trumann, AR 72472.

## HELP WANTED

THE POINSETT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY (PCHA) will be accepting applications for a site manager. Applicants must have experience working with the public and must be computer literate, able to speak before small groups, demonstrate strong leadership and organizational skills. Applicant must have experience working with Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher and the capability to work independently. Salary range is dependent on experience. You may apply by filling out an application at 1104 Elm Street or submitting your resume at phal@grnco.net. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled. PCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

AR or by submitting your resume at phal@grnco.net. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled. PCHA is an Equal Housing Employer.

THE POINSETT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY (PCHA) is accepting applications for Housing/Receptionist, public housing clerk and housing clerk/inspector. Applicants must have experience working with the public and must be computer literate, able to speak before small groups, demonstrate strong leadership, excellent writing skills as well as organizational skills. Applicants must have experience working with

Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher and the capability to work independently. Salary range is dependant on experience. You may apply by filling out an application at 1104 Elm Street, Marked Tree AR or submitting your resume at phal@grnco.net. Applications will be accepted until the job is filled. PCHA is an Equal Housing Employer.

## AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, \*\*10:00 A.M.\*\* Auctions and More, 408 S. Illinois, Harrisburg. Selling the estate of Oral Edwards. Furniture, appli-

ances, antiques, tools, patio sets, pontoon, and a baby grand piano. Dennis Lore, Auctioneer/real estate agent AALB 2110. www.auctionsandmore.com Call us for all your auction and real estate needs, 870-919-3580. Real estate agent JR Hendrix.

Email your news to:  
cclairday@democrattribune.com

## WANTED

**WANTED:** The Trumann Church of God is seeking individuals who are looking for a place to play for the glory of the Lord. You must be saved and have a relationship with the Lord. If interested, call Pastor Timothy Gray at 318-547-7964 or 334-695-7217.

## REAL ESTATE

**FOR SALE** - 2 Lots at 645 Monroe, \$3000 cash, good place to build a home. Call 870-882-2903 for more information.

THE POINSETT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY is accepting applications for a full time maintenance foreman. Applicants may apply by filling out an application at 1104 Elm Street, Marked Tree,

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## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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- Town Crier: -561-4634
- Poinsett County Democrat Tribune: 870-483-6317

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Week of 05-21-18

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### WANTED 10 HOMES

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**State Rep. Johnny Rye**

A vast majority of recreational vacations are water-related, and Arkansas is ready. With more than 600,000 acres of lakes, there's plenty of space for fishing, swimming, sailing, boating and more.

Before you head out on the water this summer, we want to remind you of a few of the laws we've passed to keep our lakes and rivers a safe place for you and your family.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1986, and of legal age to operate a motorboat or sailboat, must have successfully completed an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Boating Education Course and carry proof while operating a motorboat or sailboat on Arkansas water.

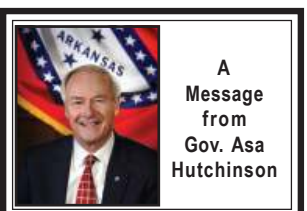
The traditional method is an instructor-led class. These classes may be a couple of hours each night for three to four nights or a full-day Saturday class.

In 2017, the General Assembly passed Act 1072 which ensured that the course may be taken on line. Boat Arkansas is the official online course of Arkansas Game and Fish. You can study and take the test from the comfort of your own home at [www.boat-ark.com/arkansas](http://www.boat-ark.com/arkansas). There is a fee of \$24.50.

To operate a personal watercraft, a person must be 16 or older, be 12 to 15 years old and be under the direct supervision of a person at least 18 years old, or be under 12 and be under the direct supervision of a person at least 21 years old.

Personal watercrafts include brand names such as Jet Ski, Wave Runner or Sea-Doo. The 87th General Assembly passed Rachel's law raising the minimum age for operating a personal watercraft without direct supervision from 14 to 16. The law is named after a 15 year old girl who was killed in an accident while operating a watercraft.

And finally, we want to remind everyone that it is mandatory for anyone under the age of 12 to wear a life jacket when they are in a moving boat. Act 517, which passed in 1995, also states there must be a life jacket on board for every single individual regardless of age. We hope you enjoy everything the Natural State has to offer this summer. If you aren't certain of all of the rules and regulations check out the Arkansas Game and Fish website at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).



## Arkansas's booming economy

The economy in our state is booming, which allows us to keep existing businesses and to attract new ones. Since December, 10 companies have announced that they are expanding their Arkansas operations or plan to open here.

These new or expanding businesses will infuse more than \$50 million in investment capital and will eventually create more than 400 jobs. Of those 10, four are new to Arkansas, six are expanding, and three of the 10 companies started in Arkansas.

The services and products they provide include banking, steel and charcoal.

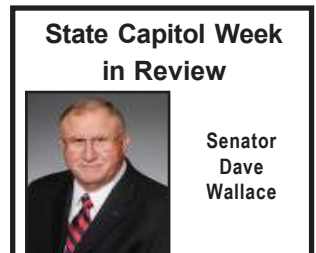
The 10 new or expanding companies are Calstrip in Blytheville; Ecodrum Composter in Ozark; a Swed-

ish company called Gränges in Newport; Bank of the Ozarks in Franklin County; BankLabs in Little Rock; Applied Processes and Silgan in Fort Smith; Safe Foods in North Little Rock; Cooks BBQ in Pindall; and Morrilton Packing Co. in Morrilton.

Homegrown businesses of all sizes are the foundation of our economy, and their success is a significant element of our recruiting message. The majority of the 364 incentive agreements we have signed in the past three-and-a-half years have involved Arkansas business. Arkansas businesses have created the majority of the 62,000 new jobs. The solid achievements of Arkansans have created a business environment that attracts business.

Arkansas is a small state, but we have built a reputation that is bigger than our boundaries and population. Many leaders of business from Germany to France to China to Mexico recognize that the Natural State is a natural fit. The ingenuity and solid work ethic of Arkansans makes Arkansas an easy sell.

We have a strong economic wind at our back with the promise of much more to come on the horizon.



A recent survey of school bus drivers indicates a disturbing increase in the number of motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses while they are loading and unloading students.

The state Education Department conducted a survey of drivers on April 24. A total of 3,258 bus drivers, in 194 school districts, participated. Their responses were "alarming," in the words of the transportation manager for the state Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

Bus drivers reported 857 instances of being passed illegally by a motor vehicle while the bus was stopped and red lights were flashing and a stop sign was extended. That is an alarming increase from last year's survey, when drivers reported 726 instances of being illegally passed during a stop.

It's a cause for concern, as the transportation manager said, because even one instance is too many. To have hundreds of instances in a single day creates the potential for tragedy, because every school day in Arkansas, more than 7,000 buses transport about 350,000 students. In the winter months, it can be dark when buses stop to drop off or pick up students. When a school bus picks up and drops off students, the average time of the stop is only three minutes.

In 2005 the legislature increased the penalties for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, in response to the death in 2004 of a nine-year-old from Bryant who was struck by a passing car and killed.

Since then, other Arkansas students have died after being struck by passing motorists. In 2007 a 14-year-old girl from Watson Chapel and in 2014 a 12-year-old girl in Pike

County were killed by drivers who passed stopped school buses.

The law made it negligent homicide to cause someone's death while illegally passing a stopped school bus. It also raised the penalties for passing a school bus, even if no injuries or accidents occur. The offense is still a misdemeanor, but the fine went up from a minimum of \$35 to a minimum of \$250. The maximum fine went up from \$500 to \$1,000.

The offending driver may also be jailed for up to 90 days.

Isaac's Law allows the judge to order community service of up to 400 hours, and it mandates that the driver's license of the offender be suspended. Previously, suspension of the driver's license was optional, and now it must be suspended for a minimum of 21 days and a maximum of a year.

The law takes into account school bus stops on highways with multiple lanes, divided by a median strip or a grassy parkway. On those highways, drivers going the opposite direction do not have to stop, but they shall proceed with due caution as they approach the school bus.

The definition of a multiple lane highway in Isaac's Law does not include five-lane highways with a turning lane in the center, therefore motorists going in both directions must stop for school buses that are unloading students and have their flashing red lights on.

The Education Department, police departments and local schools promote school bus safety in August, when the school year begins, in a campaign called "Flashing Red, Kids Ahead." A reminder is needed as we approach summer vacation, when children can be more impulsive than usual.



## Arkansas small businesses are worth celebrating

During a recent in-state work period—a feature of the Congressional calendar designed to give members of Congress the ability to devote time to being in their home states and districts—I had the opportunity to travel around south and southwest Arkansas with my friend and colleague, Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-4).

Congressman Westerman and I embarked on a tour we called the "Talk Small Y'all" Small Business Tour to highlight the importance of small businesses to our state's economy and the local communities where they make such a significant impact. The tour was designed to be an opportunity for us to listen and learn, which is exactly what we did.

We know small business owners embody the values and ideals that helped build our country—hard work, willingness to take risks and vision. More than 90 percent of Natural State businesses are small businesses. They em-

ploy nearly half of Arkansas employees.

As we visited with business owners, managers, employees and other industry and civic leaders, Congressman Westerman and I heard a few common messages repeated.

One of their biggest needs involves hiring a workforce that is educated, ready and able to work. We also heard about how regulatory burdens, and especially uncertainty, are detrimental to their ability to grow and invest in their own companies and employees. Another plea we encountered frequently, particularly from Main Street retailers, was the urgent need to level the playing field by requiring internet retailers to collect sales taxes just as their brick-and-mortar counterparts must.

But one thing is abundantly clear: the small businesses we visited on this tour, and the thousands of others across Arkansas just like them, are optimistic about the current

climate and the direction we are headed. Congress, under Republican leadership, has eliminated onerous regulations that went beyond commonsense approaches to protect public safety and health. We also passed meaningful, historic tax reform that makes our nation's businesses more globally competitive.

On our small business tour, we visited manufacturing companies, an oilfield and industrial products supplier, a foodservice distributor, dining establishments and retail stores. We also sat down with community bankers because they are instrumental in providing small businesses with the capital and resources needed to get off the ground or invest in their operations.

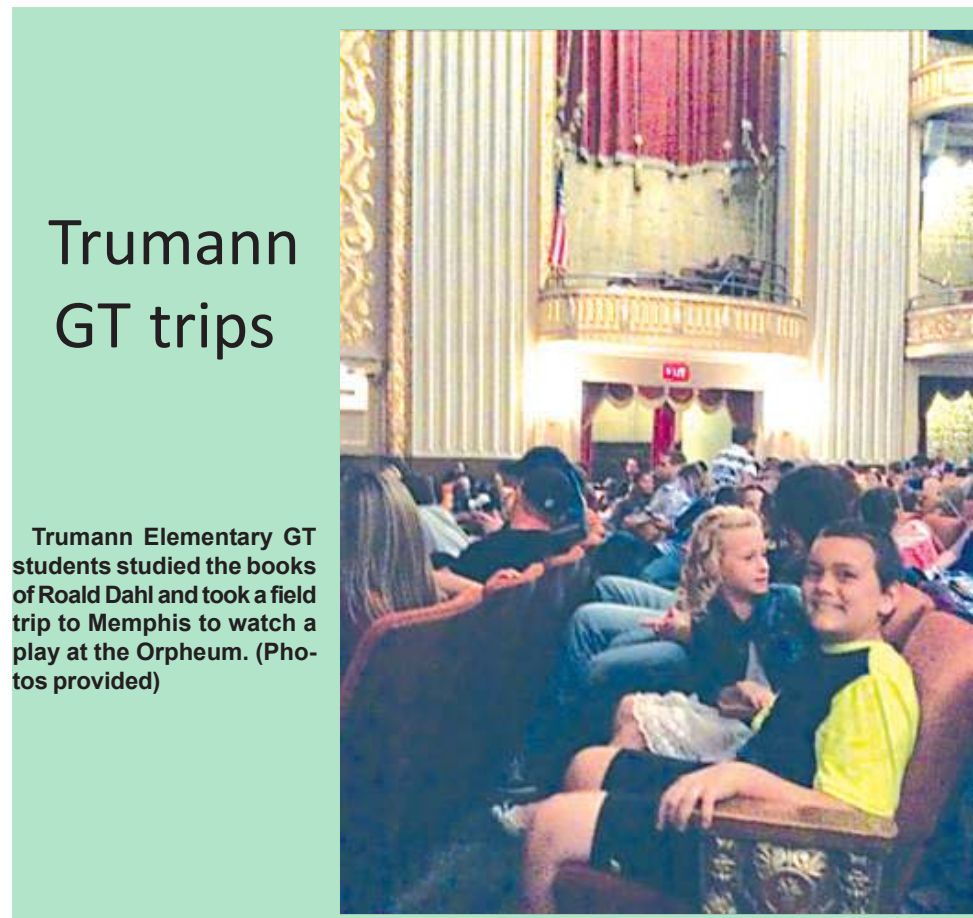
This array of businesses and interests are representative of those found in towns and cities across Arkansas.

I appreciated the opportunity to visit with Arkansans about small business issues

and to hear their real-life experiences in regards to what it's like to run, manage or work at a small business today. Congressman Westerman and I are taking these firsthand accounts back to Washington, D.C. to help craft policy and legislation that incentivizes and encourages people across Arkansas and throughout the country to pursue their dreams and create or expand businesses like those we visited.

It is an easy thing to say, but we truly cannot forget the role that small, local businesses play in our communities. They employ our family friends and neighbors. They generate economic activity that extends far beyond one sale or purchase. They also give back in so many ways—financially, philanthropically and more.

We simply have to support small businesses. When they reach new heights of success, our entire country benefits.



## Trumann GT trips

Trumann Elementary GT students studied the books of Roald Dahl and took a field trip to Memphis to watch a play at the Orpheum. (Photos provided)



Trumann Middle School GT students studied the 1940s/1950s and read the Anne Frank Diary Play, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, the art of Jackson Pollock, and the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. For their field trip, they visited Graceland in Memphis.



Trumann High School GT students took a field trip to the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center in Piggott.

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