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Trumann, Arkansas 72472

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Mayor Johnson promises changes at Marked Tree Council

By COREY CLAIRDAY
DT News Staff

Newly elected Marked Tree Mayor Danny Johnson promised changes in a state of the city address during the first city council meeting of the new year. In his address, he said he was glad to have Chester Ford as Police Chief and Alan Hicks as Fire Chief and said he planned to keep them on board as long as he was mayor. Mayor Johnson also spoke about some plans for 2019, including getting the areas around the railroad tracks cleaned, cleaning a factory, working on buildings that have been ignored, fixing the Health Department building, and working on the daycare.

"I think the city will see some big improvements. Just be patient with us," Mayor Johnson said. He added, "I want this town to be our town. We don't need to be separate. We need

to stick together."

The first item of business was to appoint an alderman for Ward 4, Position 1, to fill out the rest of Mayor Johnson's term in that seat. The council went into executive session and chose Lisa McCrary for the position.

In old business, the council briefly discussed the trailer at Dale Dunlap's liquor store at 230 B Elm Street, which was supposed to have been there temporarily. The council decided the trailer should be moved and gave Dunlap 30 days to remove it. Mayor Johnson also gave an update on the parks grant. They currently have the grant money and are meeting with various people to finalize plans on the walking track at Carver Park.

In new business, Mayor Johnson presented the council with pictures of the Health Department building that show water damage to the



Judge Brian Miller (left) swore in Marked Tree city officials on New Year's Day. With him, from left, are Mayor Danny Johnson, City Attorney Jobi Teague, Alderman Sierra Tacker, Alderman Louis Bailey, and City Clerk/Treasurer Susan Macefe. (Photo provided)

ceiling in several places as well as a section that was covered with plywood where damage from an air conditioner had occurred. He said

the Health Department has been neglected and that "it was pitiful inside." Mayor Johnson told the council that he had people working

to repair the damage on the city-owned building.

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Local author Kathy Roach talks about her new book, *Anchored*, at the Trumann Lions Club. (DT Photo/Cosmo Cossey)

Trumann Lions hear about local author's book

By COSMO COSSEY
DT News Staff

Kathy Roach, a local author from Trumann, was the guest speaker for the Trumann Lions Club last Thursday. Roach talked about her book, "Anchored," which is a memoir and testimony of her life.

Roach has lived in Trumann for 19 years and is married to Gay Roach, Jr. (GW). They have five grown children. The couple will have been married 13 years this year.

Roach spent 20 years in the Navy and was one of the first women to serve on a ship. "There were many opportunities for women. The sky was the limit. They came around to our school in 1979 asking for

volunteers. I was 17 years old, so I decided to join," Roach said. Roach was on a ship for three years, one of the first four ships that tested women at sea.

"The men, especially the old salts, didn't like us coming on board their ship because they couldn't run around in their skivvies, and they couldn't do the things they were used to doing. They had to adjust to women on board," Roach said. "They threw smoke bombs in our berthing compartments to try to get us out. They just could not adapt."

After her time at sea, Roach went to Barbers Point Naval Air Station in Hawaii, where she would have two daughters. Roach also went

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Harrisburg Council holds special meeting

By COREY CLAIRDAY
DT News Staff

The Harrisburg City Council held a special meeting Monday afternoon to correct an error made at the regular council meeting last week.

At the regular meeting, the council had passed a resolution waiving competitive bidding and authorizing the purchase of a used tractor for the Street Department. Mayor Justin Kimble said that since that meeting, Alderman Rachel Morgan had discovered a code in state law that said they had to approve the

purchase as an ordinance, not a resolution.

The ordinance, which waives competitive bidding and authorizes purchase of a tractor with front loader for a price not to exceed \$80,000, was approved through all three readings along with the emergency clause.

The tractor is a two-year-old John Deere with 200 hours on it that is up for public auction on Jan. 24. The tractor it is replacing will go to Water and Gas, which is in need of one.

EPC School Board tables elementary reorganization

By COSMO COSSEY
DT News Staff

The topic that was supposed to be the hottest item on the agenda ended up being pretty docile at the monthly meeting of the EPC school board this past Monday at the high school library.

EPC Superintendent Michael Pierce moved the elementary reorganization business to the top of the list as most in the audience were there for that issue. The proposal is for Kindergarten through second grade to be moved to the Lepanto campus and for third through sixth grade to be moved to the Tyronza campus.

The board discussed the issue and decided to send out a questionnaire to all tax payers in the district and

gather input about the issue. They talked about how to regulate how the forms will get filled out online, and it was decided that each would enter their email address, letting them fill out only once per device. Hard copies will be sent out for those who do not use computers.

The only question to be on the form coming from the audience was to ask if one's kid would be enrolled in another district if the issue passes. One big concern is the travel time for the small kids going to the Lepanto campus on the bus.

The questionnaires are due by Feb. 28, so the issue was tabled until the next board meeting.

In other business, the board looked at the board members' hours already logged by each member and how many more they still need to

meet requirements for the year, and substitute teacher pay was raised to \$70 per day due to the new minimum wage increase.

Also in new business, the board discussed those who would have to see re-election this year. Board members JP Holiman and Daniel Nooner are both up for re-election. They both got their packets from Pierce in preparation to gather signatures after Jan. 21. The school board election will be held in May.

The board approved to hire Charlie Mahan for the maintenance department and Pam Garrett to ride the shuttle bus to and from the campuses each day. The board members also took home superintendent evaluation forms to be filled out before the next meeting.

Harrisburg Rotarians learn about school OWL program

By COSMO COSSEY
DT News Staff

Crissie Parks, Special Education Director at Harrisburg Schools, was the guest speaker for the Harrisburg Rotary Club last Thursday. Parks talked to the group about the Opportunities for Work Based Learning (OWL) program that the ninth through twelfth grade special education kids at Harrisburg can participate in.

OWL is a partnership between individual schools, Arkansas Department of Education, and Arkansas Vocational Rehab. Arkansas Vocational Rehab dedicates 15 percent of their budget to serve students in high schools across the state. The ninth and tenth grade students learn about different careers and the education required for those fields while the eleventh and twelfth graders get to go out and actually work at jobs in the community and at the school.

Parks said the program has been good for her kids. "Their attendance is up. If they don't come to school, they can't have a job," Parks said. She also said the kids enjoy having the money from their paychecks. "I've heard many say that they'll just do nothing and get a check after high school. When the kids get their paychecks, it shows them what working can do for them. We are trying to break the cycle that most have seen all their lives," Parks said.

There are 19 kids who have jobs in the program. Parks said she has

kids what work at Play School Day Care, the elementary school helping with the backpack program, and helping in the cafeteria. Some are working at the bus shop, some help keep the football field mowed and cleaned, and some are working with the janitorial department.

Parks said five will start a new program sponsored by ASU-New-

port to learn Direct Care. They will learn 13 of the 26 skills in the CNA Program, including first-aid and CPR.

"I ask that if any of you know of anybody in Harrisburg that could help us, please put me in contact with them. The kids work hard and

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Crissie Parks, Special Education Director, talks to the Harrisburg Rotary Club about the OWL program at Harrisburg School District. (DT Photo/Cosmo Cossey)



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Perspective

Information before impeachment

"I" words are inundating Washington. President Trump insists his border wall would impede an invasion of illegal immigrants who injure innocents. Democrats say Trump indulges an idiotic idea to instigate an impasse and incite impassioned illusions.



Cokey and Steve Roberts

But the most incendiary "I" word is clearly "impeachment," which flared into prominence when Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a freshman from Michigan, pledged to supporters that House Democrats would "impeach the motherf---er" in the White House.

Her sentiment--if not her language--might have been popular with Democratic loyalists, but party leaders were appalled at her promise--and with good reason. Democrats would be making a huge mistake, and playing right into Trump's hands, if they use their new power in the House to push for impeachment now, without a clear and compelling case that could command broad bipartisan support.

Trump's single biggest vulnerability is his impulsive and reckless temperament, which repels even many loyal Republicans. Impeachment proceedings without a rock-solid foundation would tarnish the Democrats with a similar reputation for unreliable instability.

Trump gleefully seized on Tlaib's outburst, calling her "disgraceful" and "highly disrespectful to the United States of America." See, he was telling his core supporters, the system really is rigged against us, and the Washington insiders want to steal the election we won fair and square.

Tlaib's colleague, Michigan Democrat Dan Kildee, was on target in calling her comments "obviously not helpful" and adding, "this fuels a narrative the Republicans will use."

"Instead of mimicking Trump, the Democrats would be better off providing a stark contrast with this improvident president. Be calm when he's crazy, factual when he's fabricating, reasonable when he's irrational. And use those defining differences to challenge him at the ballot box in 2020, a far more sensible way to remove him from power than impeachment.

Nancy Pelosi, the new Democratic speaker, understands the dangers here and is resisting the demands from the red-hots in her caucus. "Impeachment is a very divisive approach to take, and we shouldn't take it without the facts," she said on MSNBC.

"Facts" is the key word here. Trump is the Prince of Prevarication--with 7,645 false or misleading statements by the end of 2018, according to The Washington Post--so the Democrats must be the exactly opposite, rooting their decisions in a rigorous devotion to reality.

Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York, the new chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which would handle any impeachment effort, advises Democrats to hold their fire until special counsel Robert Mueller issues his report on Trump's actions during and after the campaign. "We have to get the facts," he stressed on CNN. "We will see where the facts lead. Maybe that will lead to impeachment. Maybe it won't. It is much too early.

"But the pressures are growing on Democratic leaders to act quickly--and rashly. Two House members have already filed articles of impeachment, and one of them, Brad Sherman of California, insists, "Impeachment is on the table. You can't take it off the table."

New York Times op-ed columnist David Leonhardt recently posted a lengthy indictment of Trump's sins and argued "waiting is too dangerous...The president must go." Veteran journalist Elizabeth Drew, who covered Watergate, wrote in the Times that impeachment "now seems inescapable.

"History teaches, however, that caution is a far better course. It took more than two years after the Watergate break-in to build a case for impeaching President Nixon, and most Republicans joined the effort only after White House tapes documented vividly--and irrefutably--the president's complicity in obstructing justice.

When House Republicans launched impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton for lying about his sex life, the case was so flimsy that the whole vendetta backfired, boosting Clinton's approval ratings, undermining Republicans in the 1998 elections and forcing Speaker Newt Gingrich to resign.

"I think we mishandled the (Clinton) investigation," Gingrich recently told Washington Examiner columnist Byron York. "We should have been calmer and slower and allowed the country to talk to itself before we reached judgment."

Moreover, while Rep. Tlaib is cheered on by left-wing

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Not that you asked



John Boxley

As bad as Donald Trump has been as a President, he isn't completely at fault for the cesspool that Washington has become. In fact, his election might have been the public's reaction to that cesspool. The truth is Washington is broken, and it's broken for three reasons. One is that our political parties have too much power. The second is that members of Congress are more concerned with getting and keeping power instead of governing. The third is that the arguments in Washington never change, just the sides the two parties on does.

This country began without political parties. There is no mention of them in the Constitution. At first, the winner of the presidential election took the top office, and the loser became Vice-President. George Washington saw the two parties forming at the end of his Presidency and warned against them. I know the guy always looked like he was sucking on a lemon, but on this he was right.

The members of the House and the Senate need to remember that they weren't elected to office to represent a political party. They were elected to represent a district or a state. They even represent the voters who voted against them. (Are you listening Senator Cotton?) They should put the needs of those people first, with party considerations a distant second.

Imagine what a better government we would have if, once an election was over, everyone put politics aside and concentrated on governing? Imagine further how much better government would be if both sides would stop automatically opposing something from the opposite party? Believe it or not, sometimes even President Trump has a good idea. It's easy to notice them because they are so rare.

Unfortunately, this isn't about to happen anytime soon. That's because both sides are more concerned with keeping control of Congress and the White House than they are in governing. That's why each side demonizes anything the other side proposes. It doesn't matter if the idea is good or bad. The only thing that matters is controlling public opinion about it and then turning that into votes on election day. Every Democrat doesn't oppose the wall, and every Republican doesn't think that Obamacare is bad, but they can't admit it.

When it comes to the White House, things aren't much better. From 1789 until 1999, only two Presidents were ever impeached. Since Clinton, every President has been threatened with impeachment. The Founders never intended for impeachment to become a political threat to be used by the party not in the White House. It was meant as a drastic, last effort to remove a criminal or unfit President from office.

As for my final point about the arguments in Washington never changing, just look at the Mueller investigation. Just to be clear, investigating Russian attempts to influence our elections should be something we all want done. That should be the only focus of

See BOXLEY page 3

Should you have a political or religious identity?

As expected, any mention of religion or politics can quickly degenerate into an argument. Why does this happen with religion or politics and not with other topics people talk about? The problem with both politics and religion is the topics have no threshold of expertise for expressing an opinion. All you need is strong convictions.

What's so different about religion or politics that people don't feel they need to have any particular expertise to have opinions about it? All they need is strongly held beliefs; anyone can have those. These topics often cause heated debates among every social class of all races and voting-aged individuals because these people feel they have the expertise to discuss or comment about these issues as an expert.

Do religion and politics have something in common that explains this similarity? One possible explanation is that they deal with questions that have no definite answers, so there are no repercussions for people's opinions. Since no one can be proven wrong,

every opinion is equally valid, and in knowing this, everyone will tend to share their opinions. There are certainly some political questions that have definite answers, like how much a new government policy will cost. Nonetheless, the more precise political questions suffer the same fate as those which are more vague.

What religion and politics have in common is that they become part of people's identity, and one can never have a fair argument about something that's part of their identity. By definition, they're opinionated. Topics that engage people's identity depends on the people, not the topic. Therefore, it's not politics that's the source of the trouble but rather identity.

The point when this happens depends on the people rather than the topic; it's a mistake to conclude that a question tends to provoke an argument. This often misleads people to conclude the question must be unanswerable.

Generally, you can have a productive discussion about



By Sherri Holliman

a topic only if it doesn't engage the identities of any of the participants. What makes politics and religion such minefields are that they engage so many people's identities. But you could very well, in principle, have a useful conversation about them with some people.

If people can't think clearly about anything that has become part of their identity, then all other things being equal, the best plan is to let as few things into your identity as possible.

There are other topics that might seem harmless, like the best companies to work for or best dressed elected official.

Most people reading this will already be fairly tolerant. Yet, there is a step beyond thinking of yourself as x tolerating y, not even to consider yourself an x. The more labels you have for yourself, the dumber they make you.

A state that extols outsiders considers an insider for President

When, 120 years ago, the New Hampshire poet Edna Dean Proctor saluted this state's "cliffs, her meads, her brooks foam" and spoke elegiacally of the "white-robed heights" of its mountains, she identified perhaps the mostly enduring characteristic of New Hampshire -- its worship of the outside.

And now, as the 2020 presidential campaign cranks to an opening in the state that holds the first primary of the political season, one major question persists:

Will a state that extols the virtues of the outside embrace an insider for the White House?

The question, like the two peaks for which this town nestled between Franconia Notch and Crawford Notch is named, has twin aspects:

Will New Hampshire grant its Democratic National Convention delegates to a neighbor such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, whose principal residence is but 30 miles from the New Hampshire border?

Or will the Democrats instead side with a true outsider like the two little-known municipal leaders contemplating presidential campaigns, Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles and former Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans?

Past practice, never an entirely reliable guide, answers both questions with a resounding, though thoroughly contradictory, yes.

New Hampshire residents customarily regard Massachusetts residents as outsiders, and not welcome ones; the most expensive act on a highway here is driving in a car with red-on-white Bay

State plates, magnets for state patrollers looking for speeders or, more precisely, for any excuse to torment a Massachusetts driver.

And yet in politics, New Hampshire voters, recipients of a constant diet of news from Boston television stations, have been remarkably congenial to Massachusetts presidential candidates, virtually considering them one of their own. Bay State candidates John F. Kennedy (1960), Michael Dukakis (1988), Paul Tsongas (1992), John Kerry (2004) and Mitt Romney (2012) all won the New Hampshire primary. The only Massachusetts candidates to fall short have been Edward Kennedy (1980) and Romney, in his first try (2008).

So Warren has an edge in this contest. Now the second question: Can she, elected twice to the Senate and with the advantage/disadvantage of having served on the faculty of the Harvard Law School -- which produced by far the most Supreme Court justices in American history, including a majority of today's high court -- plausibly portray herself as an outsider?

Her best bet: Emphasize her gender and her views, both departures from American political custom. The outsider question has special resonance in this age and for Democrats, who will be opposing an incumbent who, in his 2017 Liberty University commencement address said, "Being an outsider is fine. Embrace the label, because it's the outsiders who change the world and who make a real and lasting difference."

Democratic insider pres-



David M. Shribman

idential candidates have fared poorly. Nine of the last 11 Democratic insider non-incumbent candidacies lost. The outsiders prevailed: Jimmy Carter (single gubernatorial term), Bill Clinton (veteran governor but an outsider by virtue of being cast by his GOP rivals as a "failed governor of a small state") and Barack Obama (less than a full term as senator).

Indeed, it is possible to argue that since the pre-Civil War years of James Buchanan (member of the House and Senate, twice an ambassador and a secretary of state -- and thus a true insider), the Democrats have elected only two true insiders to the White House, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Kennedy.

(In an intriguing twist of history, both FDR and JFK, elected president with the nomination of the self-styled "party of the people," were aristocrats.)

Determined to prevent Trump from winning a second term, Democrats here and elsewhere are priding themselves on examining the candidates with sedulous care, looking less to ideology than to electability.

The ideology factor may aid Warren, or Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, or many others such as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York or Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, plus a passel of rela-

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BOXLEY

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the investigation. If during that investigation, it leads to contacts with the Trump campaign, the truth will come out.

Unfortunately the whole thing has become politicized. Republicans call it a witch hunt and demand that the whole thing end, while Democrats call it a search for truth that must go on as long as it takes.

But what would be happening if Hillary had won?

The investigations into her use of a private email server

and the attack on the compound in Benghazi would still be going on. Republicans would have no problem with long investigations. You would never hear one of them refer to the situation as "Presidential Harassment." Democrats would be calling the investigations partisan witch hunts and complaining about how long they were taking.

And you still wonder why nothing ever gets done in Washington?

SHRIBMAN

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relative newcomers whose views match the new generation of voters--vigilant about civil rights, troubled about the wealth gap, concerned about climate change, determined to win single-payer health care. The winnability factor may favor former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who is not alone in believing he has the best chance of toppling Trump.

The result is a Democratic dilemma unlike any it has encountered before.

And it comes at a time when it is prudent to remember that it is not the Democrats but the Republicans who for the past century have tended to elect insider candidates such

as, among others, Herbert Hoover (the longest-serving secretary of commerce), Richard Nixon (victorious in House and Senate races, two terms as vice president, and one presidential nomination before winning the presidency in 1968) and George H.W. Bush (member of the House, director of the CIA, veteran diplomat, two terms as vice president).

The only modern exception until recently was Wendell Willkie (1940). Plus one other: Donald Trump.

(David M. Shribman is executive editor emeritus of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He can be reached at dshribman@post-gazette.com.)

ROBERTS

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activists and opinion mongers, she hardly speaks for the country's mainstream. A Quinnipiac poll last month asked voters to name their "top priorities" for the coming Congress. Only 8 percent of the total--and only 15 percent of all Democrats--picked impeachment.

The "I" word that should guide Democrats right now is information, not impeachment. As Nadler says, "see where the facts lead." Only then is a defensible decision on the next step possible.

(Steve and Cokie Roberts can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.)

OWL

Continued from page 1

want to learn," Parks said. Parks said that Arkansas Vocational Rehabilitation pays the salary for the kids, and the school assumes all liability for the kids while they are working.

"We want to work hand in hand with the community to show these kids that they are able to work and keep a job. All of those that have helped our kids with jobs have been great, and we thank you for helping us," Parks said.

The biggest need for the program is for businesses to step up and offer to help. "We need the kids to be exposed to different work situations. The school provides the transportation to and from work and handles their time sheets. If you know of any business or anyone who can help, please have them contact me," Parks said.

Parks can be reached at 870-273-3829 or by email at crissie.parks@hbgsd.org.

Introducing the litter box to a new kitten

A top concern of many new kitten parents involves the litter box. Don't worry. This behavior is instinctual. Most cats pick it up on their own, but some need a little help. Most kittens that come from a shelter or foster home are litter box savvy. Some may need a refresher course. When you get your litter box, gently place the kitten in the litter box after eating and praise them when they are successful.

Some tips for successful litter box behavior are:

1. Provide several litter boxes in areas that the kitten can easily find.
2. Keep the litter boxes clean. Scoop at least once daily.
3. Make sure the box is in an area where other animals cannot harass them when they go to use them.
4. Provide a variety of boxes so your kitten may select a box to their liking. Some cats prefer open boxes. Some like

5. Select a litter that is fragrance-free and has low dust. Cats do not like scented or dusty litter. Make sure that once your cat starts using a certain litter to always purchase that litter. Changing the variety of your cat's litter is one sure way to cause them to not use their box.
6. Be sure the litter box is in a quiet, secluded area of your home.

If you follow these simple rules you will be successful with your kitten and the litter box.

Questions about litter box behavior can be directed to Dr. Norette Underwood of Best Friends Vet Mobile and Trumann Animal Clinic at catdoc56@gmail.com.



Pet Talk
Dr. Norette Underwood

MARKED TREE

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In a separate building repair item, Mayor Johnson asked the council to approve \$7,000 to do renovation work at the Municipal Building, including replacing ceiling tiles and repairing walls. The council approved.

The council heard from two citizens. The first was Connie Huff, director of the Three Rivers Food Pantry. The pantry has used the old armory with permission from the city for the past two years, and Huff was present to report on the pantry's activity and ask the new administration for the city's continued support. The mayor and council agreed that the pantry could

continue to use the armory and praised them for the work they do. Additionally, Mayor Johnson agreed to provide the pantry with mousetraps, which Huff listed as a major need.

Mary Louise Smith addressed the council regarding a section of the railroad near Railroad Street and Elm Street. She had previously spoken to the council about getting into contact with the railroad company about keeping the grass cut. She said that after some checking, it turned out the railroad company did own it. She checked with the tax assessor and was told that because the proper-

ty is exempt from taxes, it belongs to either the city or the state. She then thanked Mayor Johnson for getting the grass cut there. The mayor added that he has called the Department of Corrections, and the city will start using inmates on work release to get areas of town cleaned up.

In other business, the council:

*Approved adding Mayor Johnson, City Clerk Susan Macefe, and John C. Ford to the city bank accounts.

*Amended the personnel policy so that now city employees will be able to carry over up to five vacation days

past the end of the calendar year. This changes a policy which said there would be no carryover.

*Approved a resolution adopting the 2019 budget.

*Hired Adam Borden as a officer, hired Jennifer Hawkins as a dispatcher, and made Raymond Russell full-time in the Street Department.

*Approved doing away with the Public Works Director position and splitting public works into two departments. Wayne Hendrix will manage Water and Sewer, and Roy Eldridge will manage Streets and Sanitation.

ROACH

Continued from page 1

from the sea side to the air side of the Navy. "I became a load master on the C-118 before transitioning to the DC-9. As a load master, I did weight and balance of the people and cargo on the plane," Roach said. Roach said she flew all over the place as they would carry animals, dignitaries, and celebrities all over the world. "It was always a somber flight when we had to drop off but a victory when we got to bring our troops home," Roach said. Roach retired from the Navy in 2000.

When she decided to write her book, Roach said she had no idea how to do it. "I give all the credit to God. When I finally decided to do it, my hand could not keep up with what was in my brain. He was leading me to share my story with others," Roach said. Roach said it took her 17 years before she was able to write the book, and she said GW was her biggest supporter during the process. "The first chapter is pretty rough as it tells why I went into the Navy. It was the best thing for

me, gave me structure. I think the military is a good choice for our youth who are not sure what they want to do," Roach said. Roach said there is something in the book for everybody.

Trumann has been the place Roach has lived the longest after moving several times while growing up. "I'm a city girl, and I didn't think this was the place for me. Trumann is a great town and a great place to share with others," Roach said.

Kathy and GW are involved

with the youth group at Maple Grove Baptist Church and often open up their home for group events. "We are lucky to be involved with a great group of youth. Ronnie Dye has done a great job with the youth. Kids just need to be loved," Roach said.

"Everybody has a story" is my motto. Most think they don't have a story or their life is not very interesting, but it may be. You never know who you will reach as everyone is watching everybody," Roach said.

Can you deduct Medicare costs on your income taxes?

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can I deduct my Medicare premiums, deductibles, and copayments on my income taxes? I had a knee replacement surgery last year and spent quite a bit on medical care out-of-pocket and would like to know what all I can write off.

Frugal Dave

Dear Dave,

The short answer is yes, you can deduct your Medicare costs but only if you meet certain conditions required by the IRS. Here's how it works.

As a taxpayer, you're allowed to deduct many medical and dental expenses as well as your Medicare out-of-pocket costs. But you can deduct only those expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your 2018 adjusted gross income (AGI), and you'll also need to itemize your deductions. Next year, (2019 tax season) the threshold will rise to ten percent.

Here's an example. Let's say that your AGI in 2018 was \$50,000. Of that, 7.5 percent is \$3,750. If your total allowable medical expenses last year were \$8,000, you'd be able to deduct \$4,250 (\$8,000 minus \$3,750). But, if your medical expenses were less than \$3,750, you couldn't claim any as a deduction.

You also need to understand that when taking a medical expense deduction, you don't actually get back every dollar you claim. While a tax



Savvy Senior

Jim Miller

credit reduces your taxes dollar-for-dollar, tax deductions simply reduce your taxable income, and your savings ultimately depend on the effective rate at which you're taxed. So, for example, if you qualify for a \$4,250 deduction and your effective tax rate is 22 percent, you would get \$935 in savings from that particular deduction.

To get this deduction you will need to file an itemized Schedule A (1040) tax return. You cannot claim medical expenses on Form 1040A or Form 1040EZ.

Allowable Medical Expenses

The list of allowable medical expenses, as defined by the IRS, is long and fairly flexible. As a Medicare beneficiary, you can deduct your monthly premiums for Part B, Part C (Medicare Advantage plans), Part D drug plans, and any supplemental (Medigap) insurance you have. If you have to pay a premium for Part A, that's allowed too. You can also deduct the cost of all your deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments under Medicare.

In addition, you're also allowed to deduct the cost of medical services not covered by Medicare, including dental treatment, vision

care, prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, and even long-term care. They also allow transportation to and from medical treatment to count as an eligible medical expense. And if necessary, you may even be able to deduct home alterations and equipment, like entrance ramps, grab bars, stair lifts etc., that can help you age in place.

Some things, however, you cannot deduct like vitamins and supplements unless recommended by a physician to treat a specific medical condition. And Medicare late penalties added to Part B or Part D premiums. Medicare beneficiaries who fail to sign up during their initial enroll-

ment period are typically hit with a penalty that gets added to their monthly premiums, but these additional costs won't count for tax purposes.

For more information, including a detailed rundown of allowable and unallowable medical expenses, see IRS Publication 502 "Medical and Dental Expenses" at IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p502.pdf or call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a copy.

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

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A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone or broadband service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-855-954-6546 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

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*Arkansas Department of Health Vital Statistics, www.healthy.arkansas.gov.

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

The Call of Elisha
I Kings 19

The Lord had told Elijah to go to the desert of Damascus and anoint Elisha to succeed him as prophet. Elijah found Elisha plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair.

Elijah approached him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah and requested that he be able to kiss his father and mother good-by and then he would come with Elijah.

Elijah gave his permission and Elisha left him and went back to say good-by to his parents. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them, burned the plowing equipment and used it to cook the meat and gave it to the people who ate it. Elisha then followed Elijah and became his attendant.



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Obituaries

Ruby Juel York Camper

DONIPHAN - Ruby Juel (Fitzgerald) York Camper, 73, of Doniphan, Mo., departed this life Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, at the Westwood Hills Nursing Center in Poplar Bluff, Mo. Mrs. Ruby Camper, daughter of Johnny Claude and Eithel Bell (Burnett) Fitzgerald, was born Aug. 26, 1945, in Smith Center, Ark.



Ruby Juel York Camper

She has been a seamstress at an alteration shop. Ruby was an excellent homemaker and caregiver and loved her family, always helping anyone she could. She also enjoyed going to flea markets and yard sales. She attended the Pentecostal Church.

She was first married to Clarence York, and he preceded her in death in 2006. She later married Alvin Camper, and he preceded her in death as well. Ruby was also preceded by two sisters, Eithel Marvine Fitzgerald and Emma West; and three brothers, Odell, Charles, and Herschel Fitzgerald.

She is survived by two children, Brenda Juel Addington

of Poplar Bluff and Clarence (Cleo) York Jr. of Doniphan; her only granddaughter, whom she raised, Tracy Juel Huffstutler of Doniphan; two sisters, Lou Dobbins of Cherry Valley, Ark., and Linda Dobbins of Harrisburg; four brothers, Jessie, Junior, Orval, and Wayne Fitzgerald, all of Harrisburg; and several nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Arrangements were by Edward Funeral Home, Inc. of Doniphan, Mo. Graveside services were held at Wilson Cemetery Doniphan, Mo., on Dec. 22, 2018.

Brenda Dale Head

TRUMANN - Mrs. Brenda Dale Head of Trumann departed this life on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, at her home in Trumann at the age of 62. She was born June 22, 1956, was a lifetime resident of Trumann, housewife, and of the Pentecostal faith.



Brenda Dale Head

She was preceded in death by her husband George Edward Head; two sisters, Debra Gail Brooks and Baby Brooks; two brothers, Johnny Carl Brooks and Jerry Edward Brooks; and her parents, Jerry Lee and Betty Adams Brooks.

She is survived by five sisters, Mary Shotts and Roberta Lee Witt both of Trumann, Barbara Drum of Harrisburg, Neicy Whitlock of Paragould, and Margaret Lynn Hudgens of Searcy; and

three brothers, Charles Leon Brooks, Buddy Lee Brooks, and Jackie Brooks, all of Trumann.

Visitation was held at Thompson Funeral Home in Trumann on Jan. 10. Graveside service followed in Holly Springs Cemetery with Rev. Bobby Brooks officiating.

An online register book can be signed at www.thompsonfuneralhome.net.

Melissa Ann Davis

TRUMANN - Mrs. Melissa Ann Davis of Trumann departed this life on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, at Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House in Jonesboro at the age of 57. She was born Aug. 8, 1961, in Marked Tree and lived most of her lifetime in Trumann. Mrs. Davis was a housewife and of the Baptist faith.



Melissa Ann Davis

She was preceded in death by six sisters, three brothers, and her parents Vester and Dollie Ferguson Baney.

She is survived by her husband, Robert E. Davis of the home; two daughters, Vanessa Tackett (Tim) of Jonesboro and Samantha Parker (Brett) of Trumann; three sisters, Mildred Wood of Michigan, Francis Pauline Roberts and Rachel Baney both of Trumann; three brothers, James Alfred Baney of Harrisburg, Charles Baney of Wynne, Ark., and Al-

vin Baney of Hardy, Ark.; five grandchildren, Zakarie Campbell, Jacob Chambers, Blake Hatcher, Illana Parker, and Ellissa Parker; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held at Thompson Funeral Home in Trumann on Jan. 9. Funeral service was also held on Jan. 10 in the chapel of Thompson Funeral Home with Bro. Joel McMasters officiating.

Online guest book can be signed at www.thompsonfuneralhome.net.

Wet Ink

By DR. KEN WORTHINGTON

In our study today, we are considering Revelation 2:25. We find here the blessing of destiny. There are several glorious things here promised to the faithful and true.

First, freedom from all future inconvenience. No other burden will be put on them. Freedom from evil, what a blessing! Next we find exaltation to authority. "I will give you power over the nations." The Christian victor shall share in the dominion of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:2). Then the possession of Christ. No matter how weak or strong our possession, the mariner does not throw away the little light which shines upon him from the polar star

but retains it in his eye till it has guided his vessel into port. And though in some periods of your religious experience, Jesus Christ may not appear to you in His full tide of glory--as the Sun of Righteousness--yet if He appears to you in the feebler beams of the morning star, ever remember that what you see, though but a glimmering, still is light, real heavenly light. Hold it, therefore, in your view.

If you possessed but one single grain of wheat, its intrinsic value would be trifling; but how is its value enhanced, and with what care will it be preserved, when you know that if it be sown and reaped, and sown and reaped again, its production will soon be seen waving

Trumann chamber accepting nominations for annual awards

The Trumann Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for three of the awards to be given out at their annual banquet.

The awards are: Community Service Award, Citizen of the Year, and Excellence in Agriculture.

Anyone can nominate

someone for these awards by contacting Chamber Executive Director Neal Vickers at 870-483-5424 or by email at director@trumanchamber.org.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Feb. 6. The banquet is scheduled for Feb. 19.

Trumann Senior Life Center "On the Go"

Monday, we had guest speaker Mr. Larry Rodgers. He talked to us about insurance and all the different plans. We had exercise and dominoes, and we all jumped in and helped Ms. Vera finish her puzzle.

Tuesday, Red Hats took a trip to Jonesboro for shopping and lunch. This is a very colorful bunch of ladies!

Wednesday was newspaper day, food pantry day, and

Ms. Bianca Burgess with the Jonesboro Public Library was here. We always do some type of art. She leads us stroke by stroke, and when you get through, you have a painting!

Thursday is bingo and bean bag baseball. Friday is points derby and cards games.

Won't you join us here at 351 Campbell?

Have a great weekend!

Marked Tree Sr. Center Happenings



By Joan Campbell

The Marked Tree Senior Center is doing good.

We have got more people coming now. We are proud of that.

On Jan. 8, Shirley took us bowling and out to eat. Those who bowled were Janet, Joan, Irma, and Miss Ruth. Miss Ruth goes up there taking these little baby steps, throws the ball slow, and makes three

strikes. She is 87 years old, and she was top bowler for the day.

Shirley took all of us and Carol Sue to Jason's to eat fish. That was the best food we have ever eaten.

We then went home and went to sleep.

Jan. 9 was commodities day for people who had the right income. We played Wii Bowling and rummikube the next three days.

If you would like to come to the center and play games and have fun, call Carol Crum at 870-358-3751 or drop by and talk to her.

Blythes welcome son

Matthew Lane Blythe was welcomed into this world on Dec. 20, 2018, by his parents Lance and Leigh Blythe and brother Jonathan Luke Blythe, all of Brookland. He was born at 12:15 p.m., weighing

7 pounds and 14 ounces.

His grandparents are Richard Helms (Arkadelphia), Carl Blythe (Jacksonville), Betty Stockton (Clarksville), and Dickey and Sandi Brown (Arkadelphia).



State Capitol Week in Review
Senator Dave Wallace

The regular session of 2019 will be remembered for the number of far-reaching and significant issues that legislators resolved.

At the top of the list is a package of tax bills developed by legislators on the Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force. They have been working on a list of tax relief and fairness bills since the 2017 regular session. Of all the bills in the task force's list of recommendations, the one with the highest profile is a proposed reduction in state income taxes. It also would simplify the income tax tables.

Legislators and tax officials are calling the proposal the "two-four-five point nine" plan. That's because it would phase in rates for all taxpayers of two percent, four percent, and 5.9 percent.

The governor is proposing an income tax reduction that closely aligns with the recommendations of the legislative task force. His proposal would save Arkansas taxpayers more than \$111 million a year.

Increases in the minimum teacher salary will garner public attention. The legislature's Committees on Education have voted on a school funding bill that calls for an increase in minimum salaries of \$1,000 in each of the next two years.

That is similar to the governor's proposal to set aside \$60 million for gradual increases in teacher salaries over the next four years, to bring the minimum from its current \$31,800 to \$36,000 a year.

The governor has proposed reducing the number of state agencies from 42 to 15. By 2021 the savings from efficiency would be \$15 million a year and likely would grow over time.

Bills to implement the reorganization will be referred

to the Senate State Agencies Committee.

State Agencies already is one of the busiest committees because it considers proposed constitutional amendments to refer to the ballot. In each regular session, legislators may refer up to three proposed amendments for voters to decide in the statewide election. Amendments proposed this session will be on the ballot in November, 2020.

There likely will be legislation to strengthen ethics laws and improve transparency. For example, two separate senate bills have been filed, SB 52 and SB 53, which would prohibit elected officials from collecting retirement benefits if they are convicted of a felony arising from their actions as an elected official.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services administers the Medicaid program, a health care plan for people with disabilities, senior citizens in long term care facilities and low-income families. In every session

there is vigorous debate as legislators make changes to eligibility criteria.

Any changes in Medicaid have ramifications throughout state government, because Medicaid represents such a large portion of the state's total expenditures. Increases in Medicaid spending make it difficult to increase funding for schools, higher education and prisons.

Also this session, legislators will work on a highway funding program, which may be referred to voters in a statewide election. It is a higher priority for legislators in certain areas of the state where highway improvements have not kept up with population growth.

Legislators will spend much of their time writing budgets for state agencies for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. The state general revenue fund, which is the major source of legislators' discretionary spending, will be about \$5.75 billion next fiscal year.

The Storm

A poem by SHIRLEY LONG

Savagely the storm howls to and fro,
Bringing destruction to the earth below,
Tearing and destroying anything in its path,
Could it be God sending his wrath?
Nature's fury strong and bold,

Also causes beauty to unfold.
The trees uproot and hurl through the air,
And yet the roses are still standing there.
After the storm when the sun shines again,
We see the beauty in the eyes of a friend.
Though the winds howl about me,
I will fear no alarm.
Because my soul is at peace,
In the midst of the storm.

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Sports

Lady Wildcats take second place in Kell Classic tournament

By COSMO COSSEY
DT Sports Staff

Trumann got off to a slow start, which--coupled with being held to single points in three quarters--was too much for the Lady Wildcats to overcome as they lost 42-29 to Riverside in the finals of George Kell Hall of Fame Classic this past Saturday in

Swifton.

The Lady Rebels hit a three-pointer to open the scoring before adding two free throws and a basket inside to make it 7-0 with 2:25 left as Trumann called a time-out. Hannah McClaughlin canned a three-pointer for Trumann after the time-out only to see Riverside hit two free throws and back to back

jumpers to make the score 13-3 Riverside at the end of one.

Riverside pushed the lead to 16-3 with a conventional three-point play early in the second quarter before Haley Mathis stuck back an offensive rebound for the Lady Wildcats to make it 16-5. The Lady Rebels made back to back baskets as Mallory

Hartley hit two free throws for Trumann to make the score 20-7 Riverside with 3:26 left. The Lady Rebels hit a three-ball with just over a minute left as Mycha Wilson hit two free throws for Trumann with 31 seconds left to make the halftime score 23-9 Riverside.

The Lady Rebels hit one of two free throws for the first

points of the third quarter as Trumann got a three-pointer from Tay Smith and a steal and layup from Hartley making it 24-14 Riverside. The Lady Rebels hit two free throws and got a stick back basket to make the score 28-14 with 2:56 as the Lady Wildcats called a time-out. Riverside pushed the lead to 32-14 with two free throws and a coast to coast layup before the Lady Wildcats got two free throws from Wilson to make it 32-19 Lady Rebels. Hartley got a steal and layup for Trumann as Riverside hit one of two free throws to make it 33-21 Lady Rebels at the end of three.

Kayla Spence hit a jumper in lane for Trumann to start the fourth quarter scoring before the Lady Rebels hit one of two free throws and got a coast to coast layup to make it 36-23 Riverside with 4:01 left. Wilson canned a three-pointer for the Lady Wildcats only to see the Lady Rebels hit one of two free throws, score from the paint and hit one of two free throws making it 40-26 Riverside. Hartley hit one of two free throws from Trumann, the Lady Rebels got another coast to coast layup as Smith hit two free throws for the Lady Wildcats to set the final score at 42-29 Riverside.

"I thought we competed. We were there and just didn't

make the plays. In a championship game with that caliber of a team, you have to make your shots. I felt we got our looks but just didn't make the shots," Trumann head coach Aaron Ballew said after the game. "We didn't execute our game plan tonight and I think it came down to who made their shots which they did and we didn't," Ballew added.

Hartley led Trumann with nine points as Wilson finished with eight points. Smith netted five points with McClaughlin adding three points and Spence and Mathis chipping in two points each.

The Lady Wildcats got a 49-41 win ICC in their opening round game last Thursday as Hartley led in scoring with 12 points. Spence and McClaughlin added 10 points each as Wilson scored eight points. Smith tossed in seven points as Caroline Morgan chipped in two points for Trumann.

The Lady Wildcats punched their ticket to the finals with a 60-50 win over Marmaduke in the semi-finals this past Friday. Smith led four players in double figures with 18 points as Hartley added 12 points with Wilson and McClaughlin netting 11 points each. Spence finished with eight points for the Lady Wildcats.

Hartley, Wilson, Smith and McClaughlin were all named All-Kell tournament team for the Lady Wildcats.



Lady Wildcat Tay Smith tries to get the ball from Bean Hoffman during Kell Classic finals action this past Saturday in Swifton. (DT Photo/Cosmo Cossey)

Wildcats fall to Rivercrest in Kell Classic semi-finals

By COSMO COSSEY
DT Sports Staff

Trumann couldn't hold off Rivercrest in the second half, especially with the loss of Ben Turner in the second quarter, as the Colts ousted the Wildcats with a 59-52 win in the George Kell Hall of Fame Classic last Thursday in Swifton.

Turner hit a baseline jumper and two free throws around a basket inside from the Colts to give the Wildcats a 4-2 lead early in the game. Rivercrest scored off the fast break to tie the game at 4 before Aaron Phelan canned a three-pointer for Trumann and MJ Barnes scored off the break to give the Wildcats a 9-4 lead with 4:04 left. The Colts hit one of two free throws, Zach Buchanan got inside for a score before Rivercrest scored back to back baskets to make it 11-9 Wildcats. Lewis Milton, III hit a jumper in the lane for Trumann, the Colts made back to back baskets only to see Turner score inside for the Wildcats to make the score 15-13 Trumann. Rivercrest scored inside, Mario Burks canned a three-pointer for the Wildcats, the Colts stuck back an offensive rebound, Burks hit a jumper for Trumann as Rivercrest netted a three-pointer late to make the score 20-20 after one.

Buchanan scored inside for Trumann only to see the Colts scored back to back baskets to take a 24-22 lead. MJ Barnes scored in the paint as Buchanan converted an old-school three-point play to give Trumann a 29-24 lead with 3:42 left. Rivercrest got a stick back basket, Milton scored inside for Trumann as

the Colts got a steal and layup to make it 31-28 Wildcats. Phelan canned a three-ball for Trumann, Rivercrest hit a jumper, Buchanan scored down low before the Colts hit a jumper making the score 36-32 at the half.

Rivercrest scored the first seven points of the third quarter to take a 39-36 lead only to see the Wildcats get one of two free throws from Burks an old-fashioned three-point play from Buchanan to give Trumann a 40-39 lead with 3:43 left. The Colts scored back to back baskets as Dedrick Coleman scored inside for Trumann with less than a minute left to make the score 43-42 Colts after three quarters of play.

The Colts converted a conventional three-point play early in the fourth quarter as Phelan scored inside for Trumann to make it 46-44 Wildcats. Buchanan scored inside to tie the game at 44 only to see Rivercrest score the next five points to make it 51-46 Colts with 3:22 left. Rivercrest hit one of two free throws, Barnes scored inside for the Wildcats, the Colts got a bucket down low as Barnes hit two free throws to make the score 56-52 Rivercrest. The Colts added a basket inside and one of two free throws to set the final score at 59-52 Rivercrest.

Buchanan led the Wildcats with 16 points as Phelan and Barnes finished with eight points each. Turner, Milton and Burks each had six points as Coleman chipped in two points for Trumann.

Turner and Barnes were named to the All-Kell tournament team. The Wildcats were also awarded the sportsmanship award.



Trumann's Zach Buchanan and Rivercrest's Shamar Jones go after a loose ball during their semi-final game last Thursday in the Kell Classic. (DT Photo/Cosmo Cossey)

Lard selected for Class 2A all-state football team

By COSMO COSSEY
DT Sports Staff

Senior James Lard of EPC High School capped off his senior year with a selection to the Class 2A All-State football team. Lard played offensive tackle and split time at inside linebacker and defensive tackle for the Warriors.

On offense, Lard helped EPC rush for 1793 yards on the season, 180 yards per game, with a 5.94 average per rush with the team scoring 26 rushing touchdowns. On defense, Lard had 54 tackles, six quarterback sacks, one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries. Lard was also

responsible for all defensive calls.

“Having a kid like James with this young group was great for us,” EPC head coach Brandon Powell said. “He was a three year starter that knew multiple positions on both sides of the ball. He had great leadership skills and did a great job teaching the underclassmen, leading by example with his work ethic while always encouraging the younger guys.”

“Offensively, we asked a lot from him, and he did a great job of making the offense click without ever getting any of the glory. Defensively, he was a student of the game and was well

prepared on Friday nights. He did a great job of keeping his teammates in positions to make plays.

“More than anything James is a great example of a student-athlete representing the football team well in the classroom as well as in the community. James is a perfect example of what makes football great. He’s been a big part of this program for three years, always doing the dirty work on the line of scrimmage for our backs, never getting his name in the paper, or being put up for awards. He did it the right way, and he did it for his teammates without any recognition.”



EPC's James Lard (52) blocks a McCrory player during high school action this past season. Lard was named to the Class 2A all-state team. (DT Photo/Cosmo Cossey)

ADH warns of a possible hep A exposure to customers of Cheddar's

Northeast Arkansas continues to see new infections as part of an ongoing hepatitis A (hep A) outbreak. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is warning people about a possible hep A exposure after an employee of Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen in Jonesboro tested positive for the virus.

Anyone who ate at the Cheddar's restaurant at 2123 Stadium Blvd., Jonesboro, AR 72401 on Dec. 22 and 23 should seek care immediately if they develop symptoms of the disease. Typical symptoms of hep A include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements, joint pain, or jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes). It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek care immediately. Vaccination within two weeks of exposure may prevent infection. The ADH learned of this exposure after the two-week interval had elapsed, so there is not a vaccination clinic scheduled. However, customers of the restaurant who ate there on those dates, and anyone who is at a high risk of getting hep A, can still get the vaccination. Anyone who would like to get the hep A vaccine can contact the Craighead Co. Local Health Unit at 870-933-4585.

Risk of getting hep A in a food service setting is low. Restaurants must follow ADH protocols for handwashing and glove use, and employees are not to return to work until they are no longer sick. Hep A is being spread in this outbreak primarily through close contacts in the community, not through eating at restaurants.

Since February, 250 cases of hep A have been reported as part of an outbreak in Northeast Arkansas, including two deaths. Greene, Craighead, and Clay counties have had the most cases, although there have been cases in Arkansas, Cleburne, Cross, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Logan, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp and White counties.

High priority groups for getting the hep A vaccine include:

- *Anyone who has had close contact with someone who has hep A.
- *Food workers.
- *People who use drugs, whether injected or not.
- *People experiencing homelessness, transient, or unstable housing.
- *People who have been recently incarcerated.
- *People who have been diagnosed with hepatitis B or C.

The hep A vaccine is safe and effective. Hep A is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the hep A virus, which is a different virus from the viruses that cause hep B or hep C. It is usually

spread when a person ingests tiny amounts of fecal matter from contact with objects, food or drinks contaminated by the feces (stool) of an infected person.

A person can transmit the virus to others up to two weeks before and one week after symptoms appear. If infected, most people will develop symptoms three to four weeks after exposure; however, the virus can cause illness anytime from two to seven weeks after exposure. Many people, especially children, may have no symptoms. Almost all people who get hep A recover completely and do not have any lasting liver damage, although they may feel sick for months.

Older people typically have more severe symptoms. Other risk factors for having more severe symptoms of hep A include having other infections or chronic diseases like hep B or hep C, HIV/AIDS, or diabetes. Up to one in three adults are typically hospitalized. Death due to hep A is rare, but is more likely in patients with other liver diseases.

Area Sports Roundup

By COSMO COSSEY
DT Sports Staff

Marked Tree got one win out of four games this past Tuesday at Earle. The Indians came back from an 11 point deficit in the second half to post a 69-66 win over the Bulldogs. Jack Brown led Marked Tree with 23 points as Trayvius Brown tossed in 21 points. Israel Malone had a double double with 20 points and 16 rebounds. The Lady Indians lost 90-41 to the Lady Bulldogs as Makayla Marshall scored 16 points and Shira Hendrix had nine points. In the junior boys game, Itavious Nesbitt score 16 points and BJ Marshall had 14 but it wasn't enough as the Junior Bulldogs posted a 66-47 win. The Junior Lady Indians fell 32-20 as Kiasia Burns led with nine points, Nikoby Andrews netted eight points and

Nitasia Matthews chipped in three points.

Trumann got 24 points and 11 rebounds from Ben Turner as the Wildcats beat Piggott 65-42 in senior boys' basketball this past Tuesday at Wildcat Gym. Zach Buchanan added 10 points for the Wildcats. Trumann won the junior high game 59-35.

Mallory Hartley scored 25 points as Trumann picked up a 3A-3 conference win this past Monday with a 65-37 win at Piggott. Mycha Wilson and Hannah McClaughlin added 12 points each as Kayla Spence tossed in 10 points. In the junior high contest, Kayde Jones scored 19 points and Nygeria Jones finished with 11 points in the Junior Lady Wildcats' 37-11 win.

Trayvius "Wooga" Brown led three Marked Tree players in double figures with 19 points as the Indians cruised past McCrory 66-18 in boys' high school basketball action this past Friday in Marked

Tree. Israel Malone posted a double double with 14 points and 13 rebounds as Brennon Honeycutt added 12 points for the Indians. Tray Jones and BJ Marshall both scored 15 points as Itavious Nesbitt added 14 points for the Junior Indians in their 55-24 win over the Junior Jaguars.

Ben Turner scored 18 points for Trumann as the Wildcats dropped a 3A-3 conference game on the road to Osceola this past Friday. Zach Buchanan added eight points for Trumann.

EPC downed Clarendon 64-52 in girls' senior high basketball action last Thursday in Lepanto. Bre Ward led the Lady Warriors with 21 points as Kaylee Hood added 20 points. The Junior Lady Warriors got 14 points from Denissia Gaines and 11 points from Zoe Constant in their 29-26 win.

Rotary International offers study abroad scholarships

Rotary International District 6150 alerts area students of the Jan. 31 deadline for applications for its 2019 short-term summer exchange program. The program is available to students age 15-19 in the Northeast Arkansas area.

Accepted students are the beneficiaries of Rotary scholarships valued at \$2,000. The scholarships represent the value of the volunteer efforts of Rotarians and others both here and abroad to make the exchange arrangements, provide student and family orientations, and student support.

While these volunteer efforts don't cover the whole cost, Rotary District 6150 has a supplemental scholarship

fund that will help students who have a financial need with the other costs of the exchange. The District wants to be sure that no qualifying student foregoes this opportunity of a lifetime due to financial circumstances.

The short-term program enables an Arkansas student to live together with a foreign student for about 4-8 weeks, half with each student's family.

Last summer three students from Helena, Clinton, and Jonesboro participated in a short-term exchange to the Netherlands, France, and Austria respectively. With local Rotary club support, those students and their families, in turn, hosted their exchange partners to stay with them

here in Arkansas.

More information on Rotary's exchange program, including the application and financial assistance form, can be found at www.rotary6150youthexchange.org.

Rotary's Youth Exchange program is known to be one of the best exchange programs in the world because of low cost, thorough orientations, careful interviews, and local Rotary support for students. Rotary Youth Exchange is open to all students who are in the upper half of their class, who exhibit openness to new ideas, who are flexible, and have the capacity to be ambassadors for their town, the state and country, and Rotary.

Farmers and legislators gather for 2019 Arkansas Rice annual meeting

Rice farmers from around Arkansas and the Mid-South gathered on Tuesday, Jan. 8, for the Arkansas Rice Annual Meeting at the Grand Prairie Center in Stuttgart.

Some 330 were registered to attend and included farmers from Arkansas along with other rice-growing states in the Delta region.

About 400 people were in attendance, and vendors and business interests that support rice farming were at tables along the walls. Also on hand were the state's Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward, several elected officials including Secretary of State John Thurston and state Commissioner of Lands Tommy Land along with various state senators and representatives.

The day started with a legislative overview with state Rep. Dan Douglas and state Sen. John Cooper of, respectively, Bentonville and Jonesboro. Douglas, a farmer, is chair of the House's Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development committee, while Cooper serves on the same committee on the Senate side.

Both were quizzed about issues

they expect to see in the upcoming legislative session that starts Monday, Jan. 14. One of the major issues that was addressed was the proposed restructuring of the state government.

"I think it will be smooth," Douglas said of what he expects from Gov. Asa Hutchinson's proposed reorganization of state government while Cooper added, "the efficiencies gained from that will be very important."

Both noted that consolidating agencies would end duplicated offices like those that serve computer networks and human resources.

"I think it will pass," Douglas said of the proposed reorganization. "Ultimately it will be a good thing for our state."

Both also noted that other top topics in the upcoming legislative session would be a proposed tax cut, along with securing more funding for the state's highways. The legislators also noted the success of last year's voluntary smoke management guidelines implemented by the agriculture industry for row crop burning.

Representatives Andy Davis

and David Hillman were also in attendance. USA Rice CEO, Betsy Ward, also provided an overview of national efforts including opening the Chinese market for U.S. rice and highlights of the new farm bill.

"I appreciate the opportunity to share with folks in Arkansas what we are doing on their behalf and to hear firsthand their concerns and priorities," said Betsy Ward, President & CEO of USA Rice. "It was also nice to be able to share some good news--bipartisan passage of the Farm Bill and positive developments in Iraq and China."

In addition to the legislative overview, attorneys Trav Baxter and Ryan O'Quinn of Little Rock law firms respectively, Mitchell Williams and Quattlebaum, Grooms and Tull talked estate planning, while other sessions included farming issues on water conservation and progress from promotional and research projects funded through the rice checkoff program.

The meeting concluded with lunch, and, naturally, rice was on the menu.

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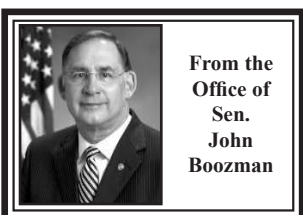
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From the Office of Sen. John Boozman

Dear Senator: answers about the partial government shutdown

I'm disappointed that differences in funding priorities has resulted in a partial government shutdown. Republicans and Democrats must come to the table to find a solution so we can end this partial shutdown and allow all federal agencies to provide the service Arkansans and all Americans expect and deserve. I've received many phone calls, letters, and emails about the partial shutdown, and I want to share a few answers to some of the frequently asked questions.

Why is this called a partial government shutdown?

Congress approved and President Donald Trump signed into law five spending bills that fund federal agencies in advance of Fiscal Year 2019, which began in October. The remaining seven appropriations bills that fund the Departments of Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State, Treasury, and Justice were operating under a short-term spending bill that expired on Dec. 21, 2018. The Senate advanced, with my support, a bill that would have avoided this partial shutdown, but the president said he would not sign it because there was not enough funding to improve border security. While the House of Representatives passed a bill that included the president's newly requested level of funding for border security, the Senate was unable to move forward with the bill.

Do you think we should shut down the government until we address this crisis?

I agree with the president's call for increased resources to defend our borders. I am hopeful we can find a solution that expands investments in border security and resume government operations among federal agencies.

I am a member of the Senate Border Security and Enforcement First Immigration Caucus and have visited our southern border on numerous occasions. I believe we need increased funding to protect our borders. National security is the federal government's highest responsibility and we must allocate resources in support of border protection in order to accurately reflect this priority. I supported the president's original budget request for border security funding in the Fiscal Year 2019 Senate Homeland Security Appropriations bill when it passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and I will continue advocating

for increased resources for manpower, technology and infrastructure--including roads for access, electronic devices for surveillance and fencing for deterrence--in order to reduce illegal border crossings.

I will continue working with the president and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to find a solution that is agreeable to all parties and end the instability created by this partial federal government shutdown, but I do not believe such a disruption in services and uncertainty for federal employees is in the best interest of Arkansans or the American people. Federal employees should never be in the unfortunate position where they worry when they will receive their paycheck.

What happens to federal workers employed at agencies that are not funded?

Many federal employees are furloughed. Others who work in public safety fields--such as FBI agents, border security personnel, TSA agents and Coast Guard employees--are working without pay. The Senate and House have both recently passed legislation that would compensate federal employees once the partial shutdown has

ended, so all federal employees within the affected agencies will be compensated. The president has indicated that he will sign this bill.

How can a government shutdown be avoided in the future?

Working in good faith to use regular order to pass the 12 individual appropriations bills prior to the end of the fiscal year is the way to avoid government shutdowns. As a member of the Senate Appropriations

Committee, I was proud that we passed all of the bills out of the committee for Fiscal Year 2019. Unfortunately, only five of those passed the full Senate and were approved by the House of Representatives and signed into law. We must do better in the future in order to avoid this result. We can secure our borders and keep our government running at the same time because both things are necessary in order for our nation to thrive.

School lunch menus

Jan. 21-25
Trumann
 Monday: chicken fried steak, grilled cheese, ham cheese wrap, chicken salad, green beans, tamato wedges, assorted fruit.
 Tuesday: stew, sloppy joe, turkey sandwich, diced ham salad, corn, grape tomatoes, assorted fruit.
 Wednesday: scrambled eggs with ham and toast, cheeseburger, ham sandwich, chef salad, tater tots, celery sticks, assorted fruit.
 Thursday: general tso chicken, chicken sandwich, ham/turkey sandwich, nacho salad, steamed zucchini, baby carrots, assorted fruit.
 Friday: pepperoni pizza, bbq chicken flatbread, chicken wrap, fruit salad, carrots, cucumber slices, assorted fruit, cookie.
Marked Tree
 Monday: no school

Tuesday: chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches, roll.
 Wednesday: chili, crackers, baked potato, orange, cinnamon roll.
 Thursday: sausage pizza, tossed salad, ranch, corn on cob, banana.
 Friday: bacon cheeseburger, sandwich salad cup, french fries, ketchup/mustard, sidekick.
EPC
 Monday: chicken nachos with white queso, beef burrito, taco salad, cornbread, fresh garden salad, texas pintos, mandarin oranges.
 Tuesday: meatball sub, pepperoni calzone, french frie with Ketchup, cobb salad, blueberry muffin, fresh garden salad, banana orange mix.
 Wednesday: roast pork, chicken patty, chicken caesar salad, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, peach-

es, hot rolls.
 Thursday: hamburger mac and cheese, Italian bread, popcorn chicken with Italian bread, Italian chef salad, fresh garden salad, corn, applesauce.
 Friday: sweet and sour chicken with rice, cheese pizza, popcorn chicken salad, pineapple muffin, fresh garden salad, broccoli with ranch dressing, pineapple.
Harrisburg
 Monday: no school
 Tuesday: scrambled eggs/sausage, potato bites, carrots, fruit, biscuit.
 Wednesday: crispito, carrots, steamed broccoli, salsa, fruit.
 Thursday: country steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit, hot roll.
 Friday: bbq rib sandwich, oven crisp fries, lettuce/tomato, veg, beans, fruit, wg dessert.

Notice

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Published 1-17-19

Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF POINSETT COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS A. YARBRO, DECEASED

NO. PR-2018-152

NOTICE OF PROBATE

Name of the Decedent: Thomas A. Yarbro
 Last Known Address of decedent: 8855 Old Military Rd. Harrisburg Ark.
 Date of Death: May 10, 2018

On December 27, 2018, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributes was filed with respect to the estate of Thomas A. Yarbro, deceased, with the clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Poinsett County, Arkansas, under ARK. Code Ann. 28-41-101

Legal Description of all real property listed in the affidavit:

Part of Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 11 North, Range 4 East, more particularly describes as follows: Commence at thge Southwest corner of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of said Section 19 and run thence East 155 feet; thence North 735 feet to the point of beginning proper; thence East to a point in the center of the Old Military Road; thence Northerly along the center of said road to the point of intersection of the center of said road with the center of creek; then Westerly along the center of creek to a point in the center of creek which is due North of the point of beginning proper; thence South to the point of beginning proper, containing 2.75 acres,

TOGETHER WITH - one 1994 Fairmont Fairpoint Double Wide Mobile Home S/N# MY-9488717AB

All persons having claims against the estate are required to exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributees or his/her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, of they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the state.

The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or distributee's attorney is:

Teresa Ann Hoffman 34425 Maiden Lane
 (262) 672-3432 Lenore, ID 83541

This noticed is first published on the 17th day of January, 2019.

Published 1-17-19, 1-24-19

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Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POINSETT COUNTY, ARKANSAS

PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC PLAINTIFF

V. CASE NO. 2018-009

VICTORIA RAULSTON DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER TO: VICTORIA RAULSTON

You are hereby notified that Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC, Plaintiff, whose attorney is Lori Withrow, whose address is 12410 Cantrell, Suite 100, Little Rock, AR 72223, has filed a lawsuit herein against you, a copy of which shall be delivered to you or to your attorney upon request. You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your answer or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this warning order; and in the event of your failure to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint as circumscribed by the laws of the State of Arkansas.

IN WITNESS Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal as Clerk of the District Court of Poinsett County, on this 26th day of October, 2018.
 (SEAL)

Donna Wood

Clerk

By: Poinsett County D.C.

Approved as to Form:

Lori Withrow
 Lori Withrow (98069)
 Gary J Barrett (2000071)
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 P.O. Box 17248
 Little Rock, AR 72222
 (501) 227-2000

Published 1-10-19, 1-17-19

Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DRAFT DISCHARGE PERMIT AND 208 PLAN PERMIT NUMBER AR0033863, AFIN 56-00055

In accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 8-4-203(e), the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Office of Water Quality, gives the following notice:

The city of Harrisburg operates a facility located as follows: 300 Town Creek Lane, Harrisburg, AR 72432 in Poinsett County. The facility is currently permitted to discharge treated municipal wastewater into an unnamed tributary, thence to T Lateral Creek, thence to Hollow Branch, thence to the L'Anguille River, thence to the St. Francis River in Segment 5B of the St. Francis River Basin. The city of Harrisburg submitted an application on May 17, 2018, with all additional information received by May 30, 2018, for the renewal of NPDES Permit No. AR0033863. The application has been reviewed by the ADEQ's Office of Water Quality and has received tentative approval subject to the terms of this notice.

The 208 Plan, developed by the ADEQ under provisions of Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act, is a comprehensive program to work toward achieving federal water goals in Arkansas. The initial 208 Plan, adopted in 1979, provides for annual updates, but can be revised more often if necessary. The following updates to the 208 Plan have been proposed based on an updated water quality model:

1. The year-round monthly average CBOD5 limit is being revised from 20.0 to 15.0 mg/L.
2. The May - October monthly average TSS limit is being revised from 20.0 to 30.0 mg/L.
3. The May - October monthly average NH3-N limit is being revised from 4.0 to 6.0 mg/L.
4. The November - March monthly average NH3-N limit is being revised from 6.0 to 9.0 mg/L.
5. The minimum upstream flow requirement for November-April was removed.

Citizens wishing to examine or obtain copies of the permit application, the draft permitting decision, the Statement of Basis or the 208 Plan may do so at the ADEQ headquarters located at 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317. To request a hard copy of one or more of the documents to be mailed, please call (501) 682-0623. For those with Internet access, a copy of the proposed draft permit as well as the publication date may be found on the ADEQ's website at: https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/permits/drafts_pn.aspx

Comments on the draft renewal will be accepted in accordance with Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Reg. 8.208. ADEQ's contact person for submitting written comments on the draft permit or 208 Plan, or requesting a public hearing on the draft permit or the proposed changes to the 208 Plan, is Alex Kreps at the above address and telephone number or by email at Water-Draft-Permit-Comment@adeq.state.ar.us.

The period for submitting comments on the draft permit or 208 Plan, and for requesting a public hearing shall begin on the date of publication of the public notice and end at 4:30 P.M. (Central Time) on the 30th day after the publication date. If the last day of the comment period is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the public comment period shall expire on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. For information regarding the actual publication date along with the actual date and time the comment period will end, please contact Alex Kreps at the above address and telephone number or by email at Water-Draft-Permit-Comment@adeq.state.ar.us. Public notice, comments, and hearings will be conducted in accordance with Regulation 6.104(A) (5) [40 CFR Parts 124.10 through 124.12 by reference] and Regulation 8.207 through 8.210 (Administrative Procedures). All persons, including the permittee, who wish to comment on ADEQ's draft permitting decision must submit written comments to ADEQ, along with their name and mailing address. A Public Hearing will be held when ADEQ finds a significant degree of public interest. After the public comment period, ADEQ will issue a final permitting decision. ADEQ will notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permitting decision. Any interested person who has submitted comments may appeal a final decision by ADEQ in accordance with the APC&EC Regulation No. 8.603.

Published 1-17-19

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Our directory is distributed throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri in the following publications:
Clay County Times-Democrat and Poinsett County Democrat Tribune.

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Marked Tree Christmas display winners

The following are the winners of the Marked Tree Chamber of Commerce's Christmas display contest. Each of the winners received cash prizes from the chamber.



First United Methodist Church was the overall winner. (Photo provided)



Pastor Danny Partlow accepts the prize from Chamber President Sandy Teague.



Riverside Ambulance came in first place. (Photo provided)



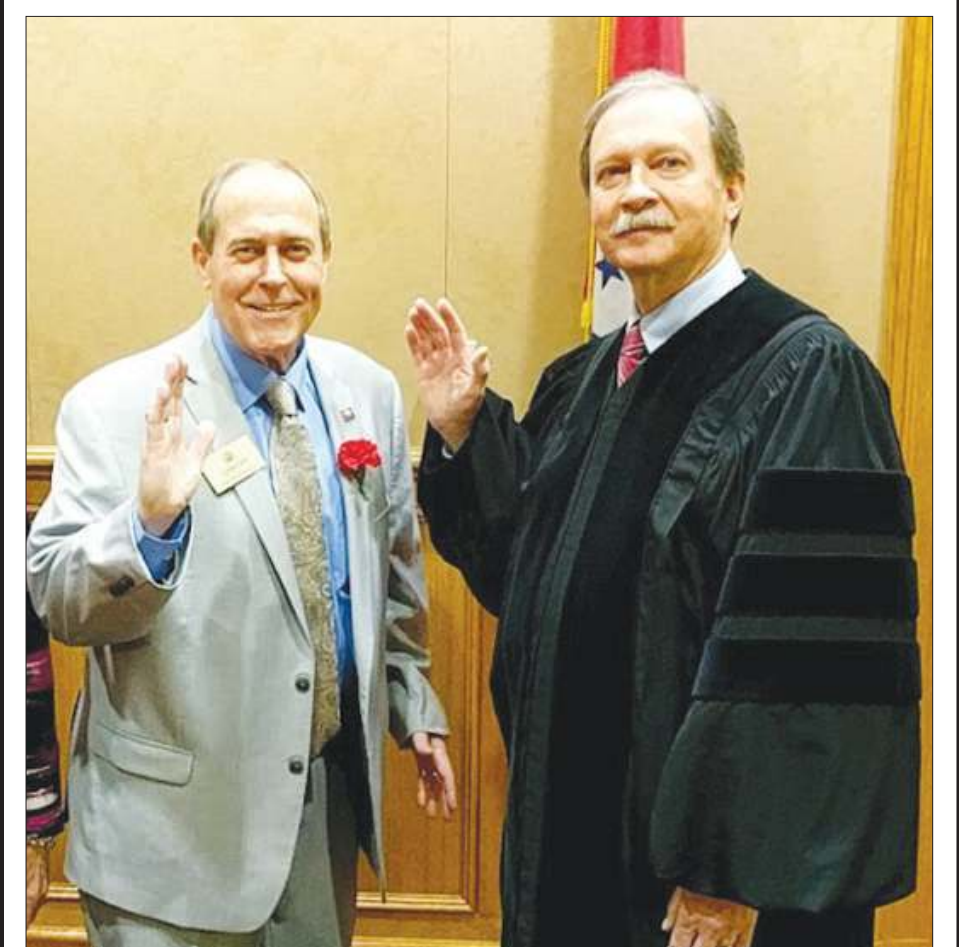
Jim and Faye Lawrimore won second place. (Photo provided)



Sandy Teague presents David Simmons of Riverside Ambulance with the prize. (Photo provided)





Sandy Teague presents Jim and Faye Lawrimore with the prize. (Photo provided)



Sworn in

State Rep. Johnny Rye took the Oath of Office from Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Dan Kemp. (Photo provided)

	From the House of Representatives	
Rep. Johnny Rye		Rep. Dwight Tosh

Having a diverse membership helps the House of Representatives more effectively serve the people of Arkansas. For the 92nd General Assembly, the House membership will be diverse in age, gender, race, and careers.

Our members will range in ages from 28 to 81. Women will make up 25 percent of the House, tying a record set in 2009. And there will be 13 African-American legislators serving in the House.

Arkansas's legislature is considered a part-time citizen legislature. Most House members have a full-time career in addition to their

legislative obligations. Members come from a wide range of professional backgrounds. The House will have more health care professionals serving than in previous years. We have nine members who either currently work or previously worked in the health care industry. The professions include doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

There will be ten members who are currently teachers or former educators.

The state's largest industry is well represented as nine members bring an agricultural background to the House.

Although not all are currently practicing attorneys, 13 members of the House have a Juris Doctorate degree.

Another 13 members are small business owners. Other professions include real estate agents, engineers, consultants, a television producer, and a pastor just to name a few.

We are proud to say that 11 of our members have served in the Armed Forces.

This body also brings a range of legislative experience. There are 22 freshman and 11 members are serving their 5th term.

All of us look forward to updating you during the session on our progress. As a reminder the session begins at noon on Jan. 14. We stream all meetings at arkansas-house.org.

Visit us online at www.democrattribune.com