



SHARP COUNTY 4Her
enjoy recent
activities
 SEE PAGE 3



HMS ROBOTICS
TEAMS WIN BEST
DESIGN AWARD
 SEE PAGE 4

Wed	☁	44°	69°
Thu	☁	30%	30°
Fri	☀	27°	46°
Sat	☁	26°	52°
Sun	☀	31°	59°
Mon	☀	38°	63°
Tue	☀	51°	69°

Wednesday
 Feb. 15, 2023
 through
 Feb. 21, 2023

SPRING RIVER
Chronicle
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24,342 already do!

EDUCATION NEWS



PHOTOS/SUBMITTED BY TURNBOUGH AND PARENTS WHO

WENT ON THE TRIP
 Students from Mrs. Trish Turnbough's History Club at Cave City Middle School will be hosting a chili and soup fundraiser for a 2024 trip to Washington, D.C. This is the group who went last year on Spring Break. The club tries to make the trip every two years.

History Club to host chili fundraiser for trip to D.C.

BY: TAMMY CURTIS
 Managing Editor

editor@myspringriver.com

Cave City Middle School History Club will be hosting a Bingo Night and Chili and Soup Supper fundraiser to help the students make the trip to Washington, D.C.

The event will be held on Feb. 25, beginning at 5 p.m. with Bingo and the Chili/Soup Supper beginning at 6 p.m. in the Cave City Middle School Cafeteria.

This fundraiser provides students with educational experiences they may not otherwise be able to make

Continued on Page 8

SPORTS NEWS

Jr. Lady Rebels clench first Conference Championship in nearly thirty years



Highland Junior Rebels 2023 undefeated (14-0) 4A-3 Conference Champions.

The Highland Junior Lady Rebels went undefeated in Conference and won their District Tournament on Feb. 11. This amazing accomplishment was one the ladies have not reached for nearly three decades.

There were so many milestones this year for these young ladies. Last time the team accom-

Continued on Page 7

SPORTS NEWS

Moore attends senior night, Highland raises \$10,000 for him

BY: TAMMY CURTIS
 Managing Editor

editor@myspringriver.com

Last week was a powerful week for the family of Cave City's Jacob Moore. To say communities across the region have stepped up is an understatement. No matter which side of the goal one is on, athletes, businesses, churches, clubs and organizations across the area have donated to help Jacob and his family since learning of his diagnosis of

Continued on Page 7

BUSINESS NEWS



Photos/Tammy Curtis

Alix Meacham, second generation owner of Meacham's Family Restaurant in Ash Flat flips some food on the grill. The restaurant has placed in the top four in the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame. She hopes to honor late father, Troy, who established the restaurant in 1979. The overall winner will be announced March 6. Below, waitress Amy Wiles waits on long time Meacham's customers Sandra and Elbert Layne. They enjoyed the popular hamburger steaks on Feb. 10.

BY: TAMMY CURTIS
 Managing Editor

editor@myspringriver.com

The smell of homemade food permeates the air even before one enters Meacham's Family Restaurant in Ash Flat. The the difficult decision of whether or not to order the famous hand made onion rings or any of the other homemade specialties the restaurant is known for must be made. It is no wonder this long time family business has managed to not only successfully keep their doors open for nearly 45 years, but also to be named to the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame's top four three times.

This year, second generation owner Alix McDonald is excited that the third time may be actually be

Continued on Page 8



a charm. She hopes Meacham's can bring home the coveted title to one of the area's longest standing restaurants. McDonald spoke to the SRC after their nomination about the reason Meacham's has survived and thrived - despite countless other restaur-



Photo/Submitted

Members of the Highland Rebel Basketball teams, cheerleaders, area businesses collected \$10,000 for the family of Jacob Moore and presented it to the team on Feb. 7 when the Rebels played the Cavemen at Highland. The fundraiser arose from a challenge to HHS Youth Path classes from the Rebel STUCO. Area businesses matched the money raised.

OPINION & EDITORIAL



What is the price tag on government transparency?

By Tammy Curtis, Publisher

There are so many things one can't put a monetary value on. But, one area congresswoman seems to think there is a price tag on promoting government transparency and county and city government shouldn't have to pay that price. Republican Representative Frances Cavanaugh of Walnut Ridge introduced the bill last week in the House. This was his third round of attempting to curtail government transparency to the very people who elected him via a bill to end the requirement for government entities to publish public notices like land sales and ordinances in newspapers. Why? It will save taxpayer dollars.

Has Cavanaugh thought of cutting actual waste to save even more taxpayer dollars? Has she went after counties with numerous unneeded take home vehicles with exponential costs for fuel and maintenance? Has she introduced a bill to make government agencies more accountable with their oftentimes lavish spending? NO!!! She has instead went after one of the most important items to the public under the guise of saving

taxpayer dollars. To her, the price tag is too high to ensure they are being transparent to the people who elect them. What is that price? Maybe her loyalties lie with her friend and lobbyist for the County Judge Association instead of the people who elected her.

Our Founding Fathers set in ink, within the foundation of the Constitution in the First Amendment, providing Americans with the Freedom of the Press.

Long hailed the Fourth Estate, the PRESS... newspaper, not internet, not television or radio, was created as a means for reporters to ensure government accountability. Newspapers have been the most respected and researched news gathering source for centuries for a variety of reasons.

One, because more time is spent researching articles for accuracy and utilizing sources. They do not have to spill a story in a few seconds like on television or radio. They can't print anything they wish like the internet. Two, because once an article is in ink it is a permanent printed record, archived in many places and can be accessed or utilized even centuries from later for research. It is a record that can't be changed, deleted or hacked

Continued on Page 7



Arkansas House of Representatives

Trey Steimel, Arkansas State Representative

On the 5th week of the Regular Session, the House passed legislation addressing substance abuse, teen pregnancy, public assistance, and transportation.

The House passed HB1144. This bill creates the Arkansas Family Treatment Specialty Court Act.

The bill states that there is a critical need for judicial intervention and support for effective treatment programs to reduce the number of family separations due to substance use disorders and mental health disorders. HB1144 address that by creating a specialized court within the court system, similar to our current drug courts.

The House also passed the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Students Act. HB1161 allows pregnant and parenting students to have an additional 10 days of excused absence after the birth of their child. This bill also ensures adequate nursing facilities are provided by schools to parenting students.

The House passed two bills this week regarding qualifications for public assistance.

HB1197 would disqualify a person from collecting unemployment compensation for any week he or she fails

to respond to a job offer or fails to appear for a job interview.

HB1196 would require an able-bodied person to work, train, or volunteer in order to qualify for and receive public housing. Several exceptions are outlined in the bill.

In addition, the House passed HB1182. This bill aims to address the state's shortage of large animal veterinarians by providing clarity regarding the certification of a veterinary technician specialist and defines a collaborative agreement between a veterinarian and a specialist.

The House passed SB43 which defines an adult-oriented performance and adds certain restrictions.

And the House passed a couple of transportation bills.

HB1324 would allow law enforcement officers to pull over a driver who does not have their headlights on when it is raining, snowing, or any time the windshield wipers are being used.

SB47 repeals a law that prohibits leaving a running vehicle unattended.

The deadline to file proposed constitutional amendments was Wednesday of this week.

In all, 33 proposals were filed. Constitutional amendments are typically one of the last items to be addressed in the session. You can review the proposals at arkansashouse.org.

Letter to the Editor:

Numbers talk, we all know that. We also know that anyone can manipulate data and numerical percentages to further a plight or cause. Standardized testing measures in public schools help in determining possible inequities in general education. However, too often data is misused, interpreted to fit a particular agenda or misread in ways that perpetuate an inaccurate story. My name is Andrea Pendarvis and I am a proud English teacher at Highland High School. I have been in education for almost seventeen years and feel blessed to be an employee of Highland School District. Opponents of the millage have indicated concern over certain scores and I would like to shed some light on this issue.

This data is being used in a context that isn't fair, and I am saddened to know that some members of the community and a retired teacher have contributed to this misuse. No piece of data tells the whole story. When drawing conclusions about how students are doing, it's important to use more than one measure. Data interpretation must include guiding areas that encompass representative and disaggregated numbers that accurately show the sample size and the limitations of the particular measure.

ACT Aspire is our summative measurement (standardized test) for 9th and 10th grade students. The students have one session at sixty-five minutes to answer thirty-two items. These items consist of three-four passages with multiple choice and constructed response questions that measure their understanding and comprehension with Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, and Integration of Knowledge and Ideas. The 2022 Reading Scores showed that 40% of HHS students were in the Ready or Exceeding categories, performing higher than the Arkansas state average of 38.5%. With all test scores combined, HHS performed better than 74.5% of High Schools in Arkansas and ranked 58th out of 280 High Schools. We are proud of this achievement but we want this number to accurately show what we know our students can do. Everyone is working towards this goal with many different plans targeted around student achievement.

To the students who take the ASPIRE test, nothing is at stake. Their grades will not be affected no matter how poorly their results are, colleges will not be looking at these, and rarely are they mentioned after the testing week. There are not any repercussions or consequences. The staff and faculty at HHS tries every trick and tool of the trade to increase individual external motivation. We do this by offering different rewards,

trips, and other various incentives/celebrations. However, any experienced teacher will testify that after a week of testing, many teenage students will just start randomly clicking away. What do they have to lose? At this point, with no repercussions, most are willing to trade in whatever "carrot" is being dangled in their face.

Math and reading proficiency provide a critical touchpoint about how students are doing academically, but it's important to use other data — attendance rates, discipline, graduation rates, growth, and other feedback. This is why schools in Arkansas receive an ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Report and Letter ranking. This year's 2022 overall state average ESSA scores for high schools was 64.01%. Highland High School's ESSA index was 67.77% (above state average). Closer examination will show that we were .9 tenths of a point away from a B rating. All schools faced a decline in performance after Covid, but another number glared from the report. Basically, our student attendance rate is alarming and subsequently resulted in a component of our score to decline. Of our entire population, 57% of our students were grouped in the moderate and high risk attendance categories. In other words, these particular students miss 5-10% or more of days enrolled in a calendar school year. Teachers have absolutely no control as to whether or not a student attends class. We can't teach them if they aren't here.

Additional subpopulation student information indicates that 70.58% of our student population is "Economically Disadvantaged." Economically Disadvantaged can be defined as, "Families below poverty line, or receiving government assistance." According to outside research provided by the Arkansas Department of Education, this cohort is 7.9% percentage points less likely to achieve proficiency in Math and ELA. Every year this number increases and we have more students that are homeless, migrant, living with multiple families in unlivable conditions, and being raised by guardians that are not their biological parents etc. The list goes on and one and just when I think that I have "seen it all," a new situation emerges.

Here are some numbers to report:

I am ONE Teacher at Highland High School. I went to college and got a FOUR year degree. Later, I spent TWO years obtaining my MSE in Leadership and Education. I have sacrificed my own personal money of at least \$250-500 per school year for my classroom and individual needs of my

Continued on Page 7

POSTAL STATEMENT

The Spring River Chronicle (USPS 12920) is published weekly, 52 times a year. One year mailed subscriptions are available for \$30 a year. General advertising rate is \$9 per column inch. The editorial and advertising office for the Spring River Chronicle is located at 1638 Hwy. 62/412, Highland, AR 72542. The *Spring River Chronicle* will not knowingly publish any advertisement that is untruthful, fraudulent or otherwise misleading. Acceptance of editorial and advertising material is at the discretion of the publisher.

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Spring River Chronicle Opinion or Editorial Submission Policy

Do you have an opinion you'd like to share? We have two outlets for your views: letters to the editor or opinion pieces.

We prioritize submissions regarding Hardy, Cherokee Village, Ash Flat, Highland, Sharp County and Arkansas - topics written by the people who live in Sharp County. Topics of a broader nature that are written by local residents take second priority, followed by those who don't live in the area. Rarely will we publish letters from those who live outside of Arkansas.

Required information for all opinion columns:

- Sources (either a URL or by naming the source) for factual assertions in all submissions.

- No vulgarity or unsubstantiated claims.

- In general, we publish submissions in the order we receive them. If your submission is time-sensitive, please let us know when you submit it. Publication isn't guaranteed.

Each author is permitted to submit one letter every 30 days.

If you don't hear back from us, it means we have what we need to run your submission. We will contact you only if we require additional sourcing, clarification, etc.

For letters to the editor:

The word limit is 550. Please include your first and last name, city of residence and contact information. Contact information will not be published. Election endorsements are accepted up until two weeks prior to the election, after which the endorsement must be a paid advertisement.

SEND TO: editor@myspringriver.com or
P.O. Box 270 • Hardy, Ark. 72542

COMMUNITY

2023 Century Farm applications being sought

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the 2023 Arkansas Century Farm Program. This program recognizes Arkansas families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years. Online and printable applications are available at agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/arkansas-century-farm-program/. There is no cost to apply.

“Arkansas Century Farm families have persevered challenges for at least ten decades and have contributed greatly in making Arkansas agriculture the success story that it is today,” said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “As our state’s largest industry, agriculture has an economic impact of over \$19 billion annually and provides one in seven jobs in the state.”

To qualify, Arkansas farms must meet the following criteria:

The same family must have owned the farm for 100 years by Dec. 31, 2023. The line of ownership from

the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces, including through marriage and adoption.

The farm must be at least ten acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.

Qualifying Arkansas farms will receive a personalized Arkansas Century Farm certificate and metal sign listing the farm name and year established.

Arkansas is home to more than 42,000 farms, of which 96 percent are family owned and operated. Since the program began in 2012, 568 farms have been certified. Find lists of previously inducted Arkansas Century Farm families at agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/arkansas-century-farm-program/.

Contact Beth Moore at 501-539-4027 or beth.moore@agriculture.arkansas.gov with questions. Applications must be received via email or postmarked on or before May 31, 2023, to be eligible for designation as a 2023 inductee.

Sharp County 4H Clubs enjoy meetings



Mary Ellen Henley and Bradi Schulz Southern Sharp County Club in Evening Shade.



Vicki Brink with the Ruff Riders Club, based in Highland



Andrea Vogt 4H Adventurers from Hardy.



Murphy Bloomfield's Ash Flat Livestock Club in Ash Flat.



Ashley Hall and Casey Hunt's Rebels 4H Club from Ash Flat.



For more information, or to join one of the clubs, call the Sharp County Extension Office at 870-994-7363.

Sharp County Fair Chili Dinner fundraiser rescheduled

The Sharp County Fair Fundraising Committee was forced to postpone their scheduled Chili Dinner due to inclement weather conditions.

The Fifth Annual Chili Dinner will be held on Friday, Feb. 17 at the First Baptist Church of Cherokee Village from 5 to 8 p.m.

Pre-Buy Tickets are

on sale until Wed., Feb. 15 for \$6 each.

This includes chili with all the fixings, a drink, and a homemade dessert.

The Silent Auction begins at 5 p.m., with closing bids at 7 p.m. There will also be Facebook Auction items. The auction will begin on the Sharp County Fair Facebook Page on Friday, Feb. 17



at noon and bids will end at 7 p.m.

For more informa-

tion, please contact Shaina Manning at 870-847-4427.



Photo submitted

Ryder (orange shirt), Ashlyn (smiley face shirt), Paisley (Paw Patrol shirt) and at the Wee Care Child Enrichment Center enjoyed indoor water play on this rainy day (Wednesday). With classrooms for ages 0-3, WC-CEC is one of two childcare centers in Highland operated by Network of Community Options, Inc., which is headquartered in Batesville. Its sister site, Wee Care Day Care and Learning Center, serves children ages 3-5 and is a 3-Star Better Beginnings program, which is the highest level a Better Beginnings provider can receive and signifies the best quality of child care in Arkansas. For more information about either daycare, call Lisa Pinkston, NCO, Inc., Executive Director, at 870-612-5900 ext. 101 or Amanda Bledsoe, Human Resources Director and interim Director of Children's Services, at 870-612-5900 ext. 102.

SEEKING CANE POLES

Arkansas Cane is looking to buy hickory, sassafras, and dogwood saplings for hiking sticks. We are also seeking sumac for root canes. Call for information on sizes and prices.

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Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

EDUCATION

School based health clinic partners with All About Smiles

The Highland School Based Health Clinic has expanded its services again. The District partnered with Dr. Steven Goacher and staff from All About Smiles Family Dental to provide services to the students of the district.

The first clinic day was held during the week of Jan. 16-20, with 10 students being treated; a couple of them getting dental services for the very first time.

The clinic will continue once a month for the

remainder of the school year.

For more information on how your child can receive dental services through our program, please contact our Clinic Coordinator, Megan Kulczycki, at 870-847-2687. You can also read more about our school-based health clinic and how it operates by visiting the district website at <https://highlandrebels.org> and click on the Health Services tab along the right-hand side.



Photo submitted

Highland School Based Clinic recently partnered with All About Smiles. Pictured from left are: Dr. Steven Goacher, Tasha Gurley, Christy Himschoot, Lauren Peters, Kodi Seymore, Highland School Based Health Clinic Coordinator Megan Kulczycki and Medicaid Clerk/Clinic Assistant LeighAnn Sublett.



Photo submitted

Mammoth Spring FBLA attended the District VI Spring Conference at ASU Mountain Home on Feb. 6, 2023. These students competed in events at the District level and will be going to the FBLA State Conference in April. Melissa French- Accounting I- second place; Savannah Chance- Agribusiness- first place; Nikki Young- Intro to FBLA- second place; Chris Keller- Journalism- second place; Elayna Russell- Personal Finance- fourth Place; Aleena Cochran and Cameron Reynoso- Graphic Design- fourth Place; Wesley Thompson and Callie Jo Young- Website Design- third place. Other students that will be competing at state not seen in the awards photo will be Bobbie Bettis (Broadcast Journalism), Amanda Parker (Sales Presentation) and Luke Reynoso-Blankenship (Computer Game and Simulation Programming). These students will be competing in events that are only performed at the State level.



Photo/Author

Highland Middle School Robotics team with instructor Stacey Burton recently brought home the Best Design Award at a robotics competition in Fayetteville.



Photo submitted

The Mammoth Spring Junior High Quiz Bowl Team placed fourth in the Regional Tournament held Feb. 7 at Concord High School. They now move on to the Junior Finals. The competition will be held Feb. 25 at UACCM in Morrilton.

Area students named to A-State's Dean, Chancellor's lists

Students on the Chancellor's and Dean's Lists for the fall 2022 semester at Arkansas State University have been announced. The lists recognize undergraduate students who achieved the highest grade-point averages while enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours of study. The Chancellor's List (designated as CL) includes students who earned a perfect GPA of 4.0. The Dean's List (designated as DL) includes students with a GPA of 3.6 to 3.99. The lists include students enrolled at Campus Queretaro in Mexico. From the Spring River coverage area, the following students were named to the list.

Fulton County students named to the list include: Ash Flat: Trevor Blythe, DL and Hannah Gibson, DL. Cherokee Village: Zoie Deckard, DL. Gepp: Cory Duncan, DL. Glencoe: Jesse Taylor, DL. Hardy: Samantha Mills, CL. Mammoth Spring:

Rachel Davis, CL; Zackery Flynn, CL; Laken Bailey, DL; Madyson Huffst-edler, DL; Cole Larson, DL; and Kelli Young, DL.

Salem: Luke Keen, CL; Rebecca Lemon, CL; Jaiden Strong, CL; Jaycie Strong, CL; Amber Yates, CL; Dustin Bullard, DL; Luke Hearn, DL; Emily Sevor, DL; Rory Walling, DL; and Sarah Young, DL. Lawrence County students named to the list include:

Ravenden: Kelly Curtis, CL, and Shawna Chapman, DL. Sharp County students named to the list include:

Ash Flat: Alexis Himschoot, CL and Crystal Nicholson, CL.

Cave City: Anna Bailey, DL and Hannah Wojcik, DL. Cherokee Village: Karisa Phelps, CL; Rain Pillow, CL; Jeannette Strano, CL; and Breanna Hoffman, DL.

Evening Shade: Colby Hopkins, CL. Hardy: Rebecca Skinner, CL and Parker Dillard, DL.

Highland: Kara Wiles, DL.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Salem students qualify for Bassmaster High School

Salem eighth graders Huntlee York and Colton Smith earned their way to qualify to fish in the biggest fishing tournament possible, the Bassmaster High School Classic last August. This is the "Super Bowl" of fishing. Only nine teams qualify for this event. The tournament is held in Knoxville, Ken.

To help with the expenses of the trip, a fundraiser for a Beretta A300 Mossy Oak Bottomland with a value of over \$1500 is underway. Tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50. To purchase tickets, call, Nicole York, 870-371-0177; Mandy Smith, 870-

371-2426; Trapper York, 870-371-0681; or Jamie Smith, 870-750-0054. The winner will be responsible for all legal paperwork and picking up gun in Salem at Tower Hill Guns.

In August, they competed in Bassmaster High School National Championship. They were the youngest team of the year and double qualified for this national tournament from winning the Bassmaster Central Open and finishing fifth at the State Tournament. As eighth graders they made the decision to move up to the high school division.



Photo/Submitted

Captain Trapper Smith, Colton Smith and Huntlee York during one of their 2022 Fishing Tournaments. The boys will fish in the Bassmaster High School Classic this year.



With a final conference record of 11-3, the Junior Rebels are the 4A-3 Conference Runners-Up.

This Week In **REBEL SPORTS** *February 13-19*

THURSDAY: SENIOR HIGH DISTRICT TOURNAMENT (A-D) TRUMANN
 SENIOR BOYS VS. TBD - 5:30
 SENIOR GIRLS VS. TBD - 7:00

2023 4A-3 SR. HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

1	Bytheville	1/13	5:00pm
2	Brookland	1/13	5:30pm
3	Forrest City	1/13	6:00pm
4	Highland	1/13	6:30pm
5	Southside	1/13	7:00pm
6	Trumann	1/13	7:30pm
7	Wynne	1/13	8:00pm
8	Pocahontas	1/13	8:30pm
9	Westside	1/13	9:00pm

2023 4A-3 SR. HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

1	Southside	1/13	6:00pm
2	Brookland	1/13	6:30pm
3	Highland	1/13	7:00pm
4	Westside	1/13	7:30pm
5	Forrest City	1/13	8:00pm
6	Wynne	1/13	8:30pm
7	Bytheville	1/13	9:00pm
8	Pocahontas	1/13	9:30pm
9	Trumann	1/13	10:00pm



Photo submitted
The Salem Greyhounds are the 2023 3A-2 Conference Runners Up.



The Salem Lady Greyhounds are the 2023 3A-2 Conference Champions.

Photo submitted

SPORTS & OUTDOORS



Photo submitted
The Salem Junior High Lady Greyhounds clenched both the District Championship and Conference Runners-Up this year.



Photo submitted
The Mammoth Spring Lady Bears are the 2023 1A-3 Conference Champions.



Photo submitted

Athletes at Mammoth Spring were honored Feb. 6 during Senior night. Each was given a certificate, medals and balls representing the sports in which they participated.



Photo submitted
Highland Rebel bowling teams wrapped up their inaugural season Feb. 7 with a district tournament at Hijinx in Jonesboro. It's been a great year for the new team. The team was coached by Brian and Jo-Beth Webb.

PRICE TAG

Continued from page 2

with the click of a keyboard. Three, because subscription based newspapers are still sought due to the reliability and trust placed in their researched content.

Living in an area that has a 72- 77 percent poverty rate, as many areas of Arkansas are, this legislator has failed miserably at taking into account that this population has very little access to internet, but that even if they could have service, most cannot afford it. Or the fact

that a large percentage of the elderly population that make up large percentages of the population do not even own a computer. If nothing else Covid taught us that, with the the huge issue of educating children remotely in these areas.

Why then does Cavanaugh think it would be a great idea to place public notices, often times that affect this population most, on the internet? Does she not recall the recent hacking of the state's computer software that housed public records, mostly from county clerk's offices? Does she not understand the importance and reason small and locally owned

newspapers exist? Either she doesn't or she doesn't care.

The Spring River Chronicle is one of the smaller weekly papers in the state. Last year, due to the support of the community, it was the only newspaper that grew from a small weekly to a medium weekly, due to an increase in subscriptions. Why would those increase? Because local newspapers bring the hard news that others often neglect due to the continually fading wall between advertising dollars and hard news content. People don't have time to attend meetings, most are busy in their lives and depend on news-

papers to bring them the stories that most affect their daily lives and pocketbooks. They may opt to go to Facebook or television for non vital news stories, but when they want to know what is happening in their own back yard, its newspapers that provide that content.

While local newspapers run public notices, often in three places, covering all media types, readers depend on those notices to be informed, many as their only source. This bill is a direct punch in the face to not only local newspapers who are funded by advertising dollars and subscriptions gleaned from their credibility, but also

small business advertisers. These businesses have a huge impact on local economies, and they choose to spend their limited advertising dollars to promote and grow these business with these papers due to their credibility and obvious sustainability. Newspapers have strong reputations for asking the hard questions and never straying from difficult public matters.

While our mission is to provide information and truth while also ensuring our public officials are accountable to the public, printing and mailing costs have skyrocketed. The passage of this bill into law would not only effec-

tively cut off the hand of local newspapers, but also leave millions of Arkansans who fall at or below the poverty level in the dark in regard to being aware of what their public officials are doing with their tax money.

After all what is the price tag Cavanaugh has put on government transparency and more importantly, why is she so concerned with getting these public notices out of local newspapers? Don't leave a large percentage of the state in the dark. We all know what happens in the dark. Call your legislator and ask them to vote no to Cavanaugh's House Bill 1399.

REBELS

Continued from page 1

plished this goal and went undefeated was in 1997 when eighth grade player Macy Daggett's mother, Michelle Burton Daggett

was also in eighth grade when they went undefeated and also won the conference championship.

These young ladies

have four more years to play and improve. A state championship may be part of their future.

The Junior Lady

Rebels are coached by Cecil and Lindsey Meyer. Cecil is a Highland graduate who has led Thayer to several champi-

onships. This is the Meyer's second year coaching both the Highland Lady Rebels and Junior Rebels.

MOORE

Continued from page 1

B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia B-ALL on Jan. 7.

The outpouring of support was instant and has been continuous since. Cave City has become a town of orange, the color used to show support for Moore in shirts, banners and on storefronts. Most recently, Highland Student Council is challenging HHS YOU Path classes to create a friendly competition to see who could raise the most money for Moore. It wasn't long until area businesses jumped on board too. They matched the funds. On Feb. 7, when the Rebels

played the Cavemen at Highland and passed the bucket one last time before donating the grand total of \$10,000 for Moore's.

There were many tears shed as athletes, members of the Highland Student Council and others witnessed the generosity. The fun competitive fundraiser will help the Moore family with the escalating medical costs associated with his treatments. The students were so proud to be able to help Moore's family. This is the second time in as many months students and the Highland community have raised money to support Jacob. On Jan. 14, nearly \$500 was collected at the Highland basketball games. Many of students, despite being from differ-

ent schools knew his reputation for helping others, including the youth in the basketball program at Cave City. They were more than willing to do all they could to show kindness, prayer and hope for Jacob and his family, exemplifying youth community service.

The Highland fundraiser was one of the many being held or already completed for the Moore's. The unexpected diagnosis has been difficult on the family, as it would be on anyone. Jacob has just completed his first month of chemo treatments. He received the diagnosis just after beginning his last basketball season at Cave City.

Just after New Years, Jacob began suffering from extreme fatigue

and visited his family doctor before being referred to Arkansas Children's Hospital. He and his family quickly made that trip to Children's where he underwent a series of tests and, later, was diagnosed with B-ALL.

Despite having undergone treatments, a second night in the week brought with it many tears of joy on Feb. 11 at Cave City's Senior Night. Donning a protective mask, Jacob appeared alongside his parents, Randal and Dianne, and was recognized for his exceptional athleticism in football, basketball, and soccer throughout his high school career.

"It has been a very difficult month. He was hospitalized three times. We were so ex-

cited he could attend senior night. It was great for him to see everyone and be a part of his senior year," his mother said.

Jacob began to lose his hair due to his chemotherapy treatments, but a group of his loyal friend, including Dayton Korkis, Tanner Cahall, Shawn Walling, Deagan LeBeouf, Kaden Ayer's, Parker Davis, and several more have shaved their heads to show them their love and support for their friend.

"The support from the Cave City community, as well as surrounding schools, churches and other communities has been overwhelming. The Highland school and community raised an astounding

\$10,000 dollars. Our family is humbled by the love, prayers and support of everyone. We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their love and support. We ask that everyone please continue to Pray Jacob well." Doctors remain optimistic about his prognosis.

Besides the GoFund Me account set up early, that has raised nearly \$30,000, an account has also been set up at Bank of Cave City for donations.

Dianne said Jacob has chemotherapy Monday through Friday for the next two weeks. He will then undergo two more weeks of treatments in March, but the family has not received the schedule for April.

LTE

Continued from page 2

students. I am the teacher to EIGHTY-FIVE juniors and TWENTY-FIVE fresh-

men. I require weekly writing and while you are sleeping EIGHT hours, I have corrected papers and tests. I have researched, created, and planned for SEVEN hours of instruction everyday. I work with FIVE-TEN students per day that need a little extra help with ELA skills. I have tutored ONE-TWO hours per week after school. I have endured harassing phone calls and

emails with grace and professionalism. I have spent COUNTLESS hours as a class and club sponsor. I have assisted at least TEN-TWENTY student cases PER YEAR of sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, homeless, suicidal thoughts, depression, and other mental health issues. Now, I have been accused of being part of a failing system and that I am not worthy of teach-

ing in a new building.

You can take any number or data set that you want and use it for your benefit or to defend your cause. Don't forget, I am not a single number. I am ONE TEACHER that is a part of HUNDREDS of dedicated, loving, hard-working, and highly qualified

professionals (teachers, staff/faculty, administration, and board members) at Highland School District.

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MEACHAM'S

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rants closing since they have opened.

Two things, besides the restaurant crew's longevity were something her late father, founder Troy Meacham, credited with its survival... the quality and consistency of their food.

Alix and Meacham's long time crew, the majority of who have been with them for 25 years, know what they are doing and work seamlessly as a team. "You come here one year on your way to vacation and come back three years later and your food is the same."

Troy was never about self promotion. "Daddy always said that word of mouth is the best advertising." Alix felt a little bit guilty because she posted the nomination on her personal social media page, not the Meacham's page. "The last thing on his bucket list was to be in the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame and by gosh, if we didn't so close before he passed away. This year, when I found out we were on the finalist list, I just did a very minute amount of push- in case people didn't know about the Food Hall of Fame." She said doing things as he would be very important to her. Following the direction he provided Alix for the restaurant before he passed away from cancer in 2021 is something she takes very seriously.

Her mother, Roberta, also worked side by side with Troy for decades in the family restaurant. She passed away from cancer in 2016. While Alix's sister Lorrella has worked in the restaurant for generations, Alix was not blessed with any restaurant experience, and was living in Jonesboro with her family at the time her mother passed away.

Alix and her family moved to the area in 2017, to help her father in the business. "My dad mentored me and my husband, Colt, for just

over five years and taught us how to do everything to his standards. Those are the only standards I know," she explained.

All the food served at Meacham's is hand cut, nothing is pre-battered or frozen, as the restaurant doesn't even have a walk in freezer. The food is always fresh. Alix's husband's grandmother owned a Jonesboro based restaurant for 20 years. So, restaurant work and cooking "genes" are in the couple's blood.

Colt arrives at the restaurant at 4 a.m. to start preparing food for the day. He begins by making the soups from scratch. The clam chowder is an area favorite. He also must knead the chicken fried steaks, start the pork tenderloins and roasts. "Every day we start out with a fresh batch of food," Alix explained. "We are one of the only restaurants who gets five deliveries a week. That way we continue to rotate everything out the restaurant in about 48-72 hours. We never have any food that has been in the restaurant more than three days."

Many ask with their marked success why they do not expand. "Daddy said if you get bigger, you have to hire more employees. You have to train them to your standards. Good luck keeping them. The more people working, the more expectations there are. The larger your restaurant gets, the more chance you have of failing," she explained of the wisdom her father left as part of his legacy.

Meacham's building is paid for, allowing them to have lower overhead. For the 40th year anniversary in 2019, her father allowed Alix to refresh the look of the front of the restaurant. She was sure to state that it was only cosmetic, and very minor. He still held the major role in its appearance. She only changed the paneling but left the decor which her father hand picked, including drawings from her grandmother.

Meacham's was first a laundry mat, then it became BJ's fine foods in the mid to late 70s. Troy bought the restau-

rant on July 28, 1979. By that time he had decades of cooking skill under his belt, as he began when he was just 14. Troy also cooked and ran the Elks Lodge in the 90s while still owning and operating the restaurant.

Meacham's is most famous for their hand cut and breaded onion rings. The monstrous rings are a challenge to complete, even for the biggest eater. Another dish Meacham's is known for is their butterfly shrimp. Each day they peel and butterfly 8-10 pounds of fresh jumbo shrimp. They are lightly hand battered and fried, never dipped in pre-made panko like most restaurants. Hand-cut and breaded mushrooms are often a stand alone meal for locals with Meacham's paired with their made from scratch rendition of ranch.

Alix explained her dad grew up around hotels and that is what gave birth to Meacham's cream sauce that is highly requested. Since Troy grew up with French style cooks, Meacham's cream sauce his version of the French Bechamel sauce, and can never be called "gravy," which is what many locals refer to the rich sauce that tops their famously large chicken file and mashed potatoes. "It was against dad's rules," she laughed. She called her dad's style of cooking "Hillbilly French. It is like gourmet dump cook. We are about as gourmet as you are going to get. We are just measuring with handfuls. He taught my husband and I all of his recipes and we just keep making them."

What Alix may have lacked in cooking and restaurant skills when coming to Meachams in 2017, she was never lacking in people skills, having worked in retail. Her quirky personality and often zany clothing choices are a reflection of her loving and friendly attitude that always makes visitors feel welcome at the restaurant. Alix is very flexible she said she can cook, fry cook, cook on the stovetop, wash dishes, bus and wait tables. "My

job is to the job of whoever can't come in. I don't have extra people with a staff of 12," she explained.

Alix, much like her father, never takes any credit for the success of the restaurant. She gives credit to her sister and her mother's best friend, Lorella, for stepping up and being like a mother to her and helping her when she has difficult days.

"I really have a feeling this year is the year. it is the last thing on Dad's bucket list. I know he's not here, but if we can get it, that's the whole bucket list," she exclaimed with pride.

When told he will likely be smiling down on her from heaven, she said, "Actually, I think he would be frowning and saying, [in her Troy Meacham voice] 'Yea you wouldn't have done it without me,'" she laughed. "That means I love you and I am proud for you in Daddy language," she continued. "He was a great dad, a great mentor and we are not going to change anything. We are going to hope and pray that this year is the year. I can't wait, he deserved it. Daddy specifically deserves it. He put so much time and effort into making this place great. The only thing we (our team) do is maintain. He taught me how to do what he did."

Her staff includes her sister, Lorella Meacham, Nelson and Julia Armstead, Jan Ratliff, Larry Campbell, Mike Dailey, Matt Strauser, Johnny Callahan, and Tracey Bales, who is a professional pastry cook. She took over when Jeremy Harmon, who had worked there for 24 years went into his own business, "Without him, Daddy and Lori, I wouldn't know what I was doing," she explained. Amy Wiles has also been with Meacham's for many years. Alix hired Sklar Casey, the youngest employee to shadow Amy Wiles, who recently returned to work after cancer to ensure she doesn't have to overdo it and suffer a health setback. Dasha Nikulina, is another

important part of the Meacham's crew. She joined the crew after Roberta's death. Alix said her positive attitude always made her Daddy happy and she has become an equally valued member of the Meacham's family.

Alix's love for her crew is evident. She never wants anyone to think Meacham's is about her. "The people behind the scenes are who make it happen. I am the laziest one here. Other than that this, is a well oiled machine," she explained. "The restaurant sustains itself. It pays for its employees. Anytime it ever makes a profit, I give everybody a raise. That is my family, they raised me." Despite her modesty, Alix does work hard at Meacham's and when the doors are closed on Mondays, she is doing prep work for the week and constantly greeting customers with her smile and bubbly personality.

She and her husband have two sons who attend school at Highland.

The winners will be selected by the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame Committee, A division of the Arkansas Department of Heritage, and then announced at a hybrid, in-person and virtual ceremony to be held at Central Arkansas Library System's Ron Robinson Theater on March 6, 2023.

Alix will attend in person if she is able, if not, she will attend virtually. To be named to the list is an honor in itself, but three times making it to the top four is a huge honor. Whether Meacham's finishes overall or not, one thing is certain... the fame the restaurant has gained through four and a half decades of fine food will continue. There is no doubt that the very mouths of all who sample their fine food will continue to be part of Troy's legacy..Proving with the same mouths, that word of mouth advertising is always best.

HISTORY

Continued from page 1

to our nation's capitol.

Each year, Mrs. Trish Turnbough and other sponsors take the students from the history club to Washington D.C. to be able to experience the historical sites.

Seventh through ninth grade students get to make the trip on Spring Break every other year, they have been a part of the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Last year, 11 students from Trish Turnbough's History Club in grades seventh through ninth were able to made the trip March 20-23

In order to be able to make the trip in their eighth grade year, the group begins conducting various fundraisers as soon as they become members of the History Club. The Chili and Soup Supper is just one of the two year long fundraising efforts that will help students travel next spring.

Turnbough said the trip is very expensive. She loves to be able to chaperone with others and provide the once in a lifetime experience for her students and begins organizing the trip over a year in advance. She has to undergo many behind the scenes preparations from itinerary planning to gaining proper permissions and seeking flight prices. She

said the reality of the efforts hit hard when tears rolled down her face as she went through Arlington National Cemetery for the first time. The bleached white tombstones against a green grass background brings to light the sheer volume of soldiers, sailors and marines who died in service to this country.

Last March, Turnbough was lucky enough to take her students on the fifth trip, but said, regardless the emotion is always there. Turnbough has a passion for not only teaching but also history and veterans. She loves to see her students experience the history they have learned about in the classroom. Seeing them benefit from two years of hard work and fundraising culminates on the day they arrive in D.C.

To be chosen as one of the students who receives the honor or laying a wreath on the tomb, they must submit an essay on the theme "Why I Want to Participate in the Wreath Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery." A group of former teachers selects the recipients from all essays submitted and the top four are chosen.

To lay the wreath is an honor that was taken very seriously by the group. Last year, Mason Simmons, Landon Farris, Eli Higginbottom and Elizabeth Winney were selected to participate in the ceremony. 38 people from the Cave City group were present for the

honor at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of the new Memorial Amphitheater.

Sculpted into the white marble tomb are panels, the East panel faces the city and contains three Greek figures representing Peace, Victory and Valor. The six wreaths, three sculpted on each side, represent the six major campaigns of World War I. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are the words "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

The Tomb was placed above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I. West of the World War I Unknown soldiers are the crypts of unknowns from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The remains of the Vietnam Unknown Soldier were exhumed May 14, 1998. Based on mitochondrial DNA testing, scientists identified the remains as those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam, in 1972. It has been decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown shall remain vacant. Public wreath laying ceremonies take place daily at the Tomb and require

a long advanced wait and strict permissions.

The Unknown Soldiers laid to rest at the Tomb represent all missing and unknown service members who made the ultimate sacrifice - they not only gave their lives, but also their identities to protect these freedoms.

Another historical activity the last year's group was able to witness was the Changing of the Guard. The Guard is changed every thirty minutes during the summer and every hour during the winter. There are three reliefs, each having one relief commander and about six sentinels. The three reliefs are divided by height so that those in each guard change ceremony look similar. During the hours the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every two hours. The Tomb is guarded, and has been every minute since April 6, 1948.

It was the majority of the students first time to on an airplane, others rode a bus and some families drove. This chili and soup fundraiser is vital to the club. Turnbough has already began working on scheduling. Prior approvals for destinations have to be submitted well in advance, including the White House, which requires 18 months advance approval. They were not able to tour the White House or Capitol last year, but were able to stop at both locations for photo opportunities. Turnbough said they never

know whether or not they are approved until a few weeks before the trip.

Last year's group toured Mount Vernon, the National Mall, Capitol, White House, various Smithsonian Museums and Ford's Theatre..

In order to be in the History Club, Simmons explained students must maintain good grades and are also chosen on the basis of their good conduct. Turnbough's History Club also presents one of the area's largest Veteran's Day recognition ceremonies each year on Veteran's Day at the school, where club members are also speakers, greeters and ushers.

Turnbough's heart is with veterans and history and it shines through in many of her past awards and accolades. She also serves on the board with her husband Ed. The group with the help of the Turnbough's were able to establish a Veterans Memorial area in Cave City that is a beautiful addition to the pocket park.

Everyone has to cook supper or pay to eat out, so why not come out and support a great cause with some good winter food at the Cave City Middle School Cafeteria. The cost is \$10 for the meal and four games of Bingo, \$7 per bowl with a drink and desert provided and \$1 for each Bingo game. The meal includes chili or soup with crackers or Fritos, tea, water and a desert.