



# Millennials try to give their kids carefree, phone-free childhood

LIVING, 7B

# TIMES RECORD

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## Maj. Gen. Jack Ryan, AR's former Adjutant General, dies at 95

**George "Clay" Mitchell**  
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Maj. Gen. James A. "Jack" Ryan, United States Army National Guard (Retired), who led the Arkansas National Guard through the final years of the Cold War and into the early 1990s, died Nov. 25 at the age of 95.

Ryan served as the Adjutant General of Arkansas from 1986 to 1993, overseeing the administration, training and operations of more than 11,000 service

members — approximately 9,200 Army National Guard Soldiers and 2,100 Air National Guard Airmen. Appointed by then-Gov. Bill Clinton, Ryan became the state's senior military leader for both branches of the Guard during a period of modernization and increased national defense readiness.

Born Dec. 4, 1929, in Gurdon, Ryan graduated from Arkadelphia High School in 1947 and later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His military education included

the U.S. Army War College and Harvard University's Executive Program in National and International Security.

He began his military career in 1948 as an enlisted soldier in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant May 9, 1952, and assigned as a platoon leader with the 153rd Infantry Regiment.

In the next several decades, Ryan held a wide range of leadership roles — aviation officer, assistant communications

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**Maj. Gen. James A. "Jack" Ryan in his military portrait as Arkansas' Adjutant General, leading more than 11,000 Guard members through one of the most significant restructuring eras in state military history.**  
PROVIDED BY ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

## Rapid technological shift adds wrinkle for already-strained educators



Turning to AI for help writing lesson plans and assessments not only saves time, but it also gives teachers a tool for brainstorming ideas, helping them feel less isolated in their work. PHOTOS VIA GETTY IMAGES

# AI could worsen school inequalities

**Katie Davis and Aayushi Dangol**  
University of Washington  
THE CONVERSATION

Today's teachers find themselves thrust into a difficult position with generative AI. New tools are coming online at a blistering pace and being adopted just as quickly, whether they're personalized tutors and study buddies for students or lesson plan generators and assignment graders for teachers. Schools are traditionally slow to adapt to change, which makes such rapid-fire developments especially destabilizing.

The uncertainties accompanying the artificial intelligence onslaught come amid existing challenges the teaching profession has faced for years. Teachers



How teachers end up using, or not using, AI to support their teaching – and their students' learning – may determine whether AI's use in schools narrows or widens existing equity gaps.

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## River Valley choirs, bands kick off holiday concerts

**George "Clay" Mitchell**  
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK

From the first notes of "Jingle Bells" to full-symphonic finales, the River Valley's schools are tuning up for December as choirs and bands from Fort Smith, Van Buren, Greenwood, and Alma present their annual holiday concerts for families and the community.

The concert calendar begins with the Fort Smith Chorale, which will present its annual Christmas performance on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. The program features Advent texts including "Wake, Awake," Handel's "And the Glory of the Lord," and an arrangement of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," along with Sweelinck's "Hodie Christus Natus Est," "To Thee My Heart I Offer," and a lineup of traditional Christmas carols. Tickets are \$15 and available in advance at [fortsmithchorale.com](https://fortsmithchorale.com) or at the door.

Following the Chorale's performance, audiences will have dozens of opportunities to hear students from Fort Smith, Van Buren, Greenwood, and Alma throughout December.

### Dec. 4

- Southside Jazz Band Christmas Concert, Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.
- Southside Band Christmas Concert, Auditorium, 6 p.m.
- Butterfield Trail Middle School Choir Winter Concert, Van Buren Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m.
- Greenwood High School Choir Concert, Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

### Dec. 5

- By Fireside and Starlight, Northside Middle School, Northside High School, Northside Nightingales, Northside Cafetorium, 7 p.m.
- Van Buren High School and Freshman Academy Choir Winter Concert, 7 p.m.

### Dec. 8

- Van Buren High School Band Winter Concert, Fine Arts Center

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