

Local sports highlights can be found on Page 10A, 11A, and 12A



# UAM hosts fundraiser for new facility

## See Page 1B



# ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022



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Filing deadline for  
Drew County candidates:  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022  
at 12:00 Noon

For a complete list of  
County filings, See Page 3A.

## Mayor Paige Chase will not seek re-election

By ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

Monticello Mayor Paige Chase announced this week that she will not be seeking another term in office.

Chase has been Mayor since the 2018 election where she defeated Joe Rogers for the position. She was sworn into office in January of 2019 and will fulfill her term to De-

cember 31, 2022.

"It is with gratefulness that I tell you I will not run for another term as Mayor," Chase stated in a message to the Advance. "I would not leave this office without making sure it was in good hands. I have greatly enjoyed my time in this office and I am proud of the things we have accomplished. I am proud to



CHASE

have worked with the best and been witness to their professionalism. We have come out on top during a pandemic. I am thankful for the friendships I have made and all the things I have been taught. I can't explain what it means to me to have been elected and trusted to take care of my favorite city. I will always care for Monticello

the way I do now and I will always work to help our city any way I can. I hope to see you all at the grocery store, church, and the dentist office during the coming years. Thank you again for the trust you showed me."

As candidates announce they are running for office, their statements are published in the newspaper along with the office they are seeking.

## Additional CWD not detected in Union County

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

After a hunter-harvested white-tailed deer taken in Union County tested positive for chronic wasting disease in December, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has confirmed that no additional sampled deer had been detected with the disease.

The infected deer was harvested in Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge during the permit-based annual modern gun deer hunt. A CWD sample was collected at the check station for that hunt. That sample tested positive for CWD and was confirmed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison. This was the first case of CWD in Union County.

As a result, staff from the AGFC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services conducted a targeted sampling of 40 deer from Felsenthal and three deer from Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita Wildlife Management Area. CWD was not detected in any of the samples.

Previously, 307 CWD samples were submitted in Union County before the first positive case, with 107 of those being submitted since July 2021.

AGFC State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Jenn Ballard says the agency will continue to be vigilant on not only a regional area, but statewide as well. "This is a great example of how difficult it is to find the disease in an area with low prevalence," Ballard said.

According to Cory Gray, Chief of the AGFC's Research Division, hunters are the backbone of the AGFC's efforts to contain CWD in Arkansas. "Without this hunter having his deer sampled, we may not have found the disease in Union County. We couldn't be nearly as vigilant without hunters helping in our efforts," Gray said.

The AGFC has placed more CWD drop-off containers near the refuge for voluntary testing and are talking with local deer clubs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to get help in gathering additional samples while deer season is still open.

Felsenthal NWR Manager Michael Stroeh said he was relieved to hear that no other deer were found to have CWD, but "we are going to continue working very closely with the AGFC and not get complacent in this effort. We ask that hunters continue to

enjoy the refuge, and make plans to hunt Felsenthal for the upcoming deer season"

AGFC Director Austin Booth says the agency will follow the AGFC's CWD Management and Response Plan, and evaluate the need for any changes concerning deer hunting during the hunting regulations-setting process once the season is over. "More samples means more chances to find any new concentrations of the disease and gives our staff a better picture of the landscape so they can make better-informed decisions moving forward."

Hunters who wish to have their deer tested for CWD can voluntarily take the head of the deer, with 6 inches of neck still attached, to one of the AGFC's network of participating taxidermists to have a sample tested for free. They also may drop off the head at one of dozens of CWD-testing collection stations positioned throughout the state. A list of CWD-testing facilities is available at [www.agfc.com/cwd](http://www.agfc.com/cwd). Local landowners near Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge also may contact the AGFC to participate in surveillance efforts in the area. For more information, call 501-412-5434.



Courtesy photo

TESTING: AGFC Chief of Research Cory Gray gathering samples for delivery to the Arkansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

### LOCAL CORPORATION DONATES TO LIBRARY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Photo courtesy of Kelly Bryant

Clearwater Paper Corporation, through the site Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DE&I) community outreach team, presented a \$250 check to the Monticello Branch Library on Friday, February 25, 2022. The donation was made to purchase books increasing awareness and recognition of the many faceted contributions of African Americans as part of Black History Month. In addition to the Monticello Library, a \$250 donation was made to both the Dumas Library and the McGehee Library. Clearwater Paper Corporation is a pulp and paper mill producing bleached paperboard located near Arkansas City. Pictured (L-R): Kelly D. Bryant (Clearwater), Shannon Rodriguez (Monticello Library - Branch Manager), Terrance Johnson (Clearwater), Eric Reed (Clearwater), and Brad Sears (Clearwater).

## Sheriff's Dept. has busy week

By ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

Wednesday, February 23, the Drew County Sheriff's Department, along with the Arkansas State Police, apprehended Jerry Lynn Brooks Jr. after a chase on foot and a high speed chase in Eastern Drew County.

Sheriff Mark Gober observed Brooks, 40, of Drew County, exiting a vehicle at his residence on South Sixteenth Section Road. Brooks had an absconder warrant placed on him by the Arkansas Division of Community Corrections.

While Gober was speaking with him, Brooks ran around the back corner of the residence into a clear cut. Gober pursued Brooks for approximately 150 yards when Brooks laid down. While attempting to restrain him, Brooks broke free from Gober's hold and sped away in a vehicle heading North on South Sixteenth Section Road. The chase led to U.S. Highway 278 toward the Arkansas Highway 35 bypass. At this time, DCSO deputies and the Arkansas State Police arrived to assist.

Brooks was traveling at a high rate of speed on Highway 35 when Gober and a state trooper

successfully executed a PIT maneuver. Brooks' vehicle stopped in a ditch and he exited the vehicle with a shotgun and ran into a wooded area.

Moments later, Brooks was apprehended by deputies and troopers. He was taken to the Drew County Detention Facility where he was charged with Possession of firearms; Second Degree Battery; Resisting arrest; Felony Fleeing; driving on suspended license and reckless driving.

On Friday, Brooks appeared before Judge Robert Gibson where a bond of \$50,000 was set.

In an unrelated case on the same day, DCSO Deputy Allen Edwards was dispatched to Arkansas Highway 35 South on a report of a careless driver. A white Ford Fusion was observed crossing the center line. Edwards stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as Ronald Spratt Jr.

It was discovered that Spratt had two national wide pickup warrants, one for second degree battery in Desha Co. and the other for failure to appear from Washington County.

Edwards smelled a strong odor of marijuana.

See DCSO Page 6A

## Chamber seeking nominations

The Monticello-Drew County Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for 2021 Man, Woman, and Non-Profit of the Year. These community service awards will be presented at the annual banquet that will be announced at a later date. Readers are encouraged to submit their written nominations to the chamber office No later than March 15, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Submissions can be sent to: Monticello-Drew County Chamber of Commerce, 335 East Gaines Street, Monticello, AR 71655, [monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net)

All submissions must contain the award nominated for (Man, Woman or Non-Profit of the Year), nominee's name, telephone number and address. The nomination must also contain a written statement describing the activities of the individual or organization being nominated that makes them deserving of the award.

The person making the nomination must also include their name, address and phone number.

For more information contact the Chamber at 870-367-6741.

## Crash in Tillar results in fatality

By ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

At approximately 7:43 p.m. Wednesday, February 23, an East bound semi-truck crossed the center line while attempting to negotiate a right-hand curve on U.S. Highway 278 East and collided with a Ford Expedition. The Expedition was West bound and being driven by Crystal Gibson, 41, of Drew County. After impact, both vehicles came to a final stop on the westbound roadside.

Injured parties were taken to the McGehee Hospital and Gibson was later pronounced deceased. Gibson leaves behind her husband Josh, and three daughters.

Arkansas State Police and Drew County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Crown Gala Masquerade Night

Junior Auxiliary of Monticello presents the Crown Gala Masquerade Night, Saturday, March 12, 2022 from 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. at the Monticello Country Club. Live auction, silent auction, raffle, DJBigCity, cash bar and more. Semi-formal dress. Tickets \$50 per person. To purchase tickets contact Lakyn Collins at (870) 723-1325 or lakyn-collins93@gmail.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Drew County Quorum Court Meeting

Monticello District Court 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Monticello Planning Commission Public Input Session

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Monticello School Board Meeting

Monticello Schools 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Monticello Planning Commission Public Input Session

10:00-11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

UAM Rodeo

Weevil Stampede Collegiate Rodeo - Thursday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Drew County Fairgrounds.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

UAM Aggie Comeback Farm Tour

April 22- Friday 4 p.m. — UAM Farm Tour.

Drew/Desha Cattlemen's meetings - 5:30 p.m (after Farm Tour).

MARCH 1-APRIL 5

Shepherd Center –Spring 2022

Who: Adults

What: Classes in bridge, hand, knee and foot, dominoes, knitting, crocheting, crafts and carpentry. Other possible classes include crafts, technology and jewelry making.

When: Register on March 1 at 8:45. Classes will continue each Tuesday in March and April 5. Activities begin at 9:00 except carpentry which begins at 8:00.

Where: First Methodist Family Life Center (east door)

Cost: \$10 (one time)

This is sponsored by several churches in Monticello and provides a time of fellowship and learning. Each session begins with a devotional. News to Know segments will include useful information.

ONGOING

City recycling guidelines

Each Wednesday, barring a catastrophe, the city of Monticello is accepting recyclable items at the Transfer Station within the following guidelines: 1) Cardboard—must be flattened. Not accepted are cereal boxes, drink can boxes or egg cartons; 2) Plastic bottles—lids must be removed and the bottles must be bagged. Only No. 1 and No. 2 bottles are accepted (the number is located on the bottom of the bottle). No wide-mouthed bottles can be accepted; 3) Newspapers—bagged or boxed; 4) Aluminum cans—must be bagged. No tin cans or pet food cans can be accepted; and 5) Shredded office paper—must be bagged. To have recycled items picked up, contact City Hall at 870-367-4400. Note: Electronics (E-Waste) are accepted at the city transfer station, 1466 Old Warren Road, but are not eligible for pick up. The city reminds all citizens to not mix household trash with recyclable items. The city does not accept glass or any item not listed above at this time.

Drew County Quorum Court Meeting

The Drew County Quorum Court meets the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Monticello District Court, 107 East Jackson Avenue in Monticello. The public is encouraged to attend.

Monticello City Council Meeting

The Monticello City Council meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Sadie T. Johnson Community Building, 707 U.S. Highway 278 East in Monticello. The public is encouraged to attend.

Monticello Planning Commission Meeting

The Monticello City Planning Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday March 8th. The public is encouraged to attend.

Support for local schools

Show support for local schools by purchasing a school mascot yard sign for only \$20. All three (University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils, Drew Central Pirates and Monticello Billies) may be purchased for \$50. For more information, contact the Monticello-Drew County Chamber of Commerce at 870-367-6741 or stop by the chamber office at 335 East Gaines Street.

Borrow a book and hours

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, Monticello Branch, 114 West Jefferson Avenue, is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Masks are required while entering, exiting or walking around the library. Masks may be removed while seated. Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals. Hand sanitizer is available upon entering the building and at the front desk. Call the library at 870-367-8583. Fax, copying and printing services are available. Public WiFi is available inside and from the parking lot. The password is books2015.

Information and referral outreach office now open

Southeast Arkansas Delta Solutions Community Development Organization announces the opening of its Information and Referral Outreach Office, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office will be open Tuesdays only. Services will include but are not limited to, COVID-19 relief information, pharmacy assistance referrals for free and reduced prescription medications, help with disability applications and other health and human services needs. Delta Solutions is a non-profit organization, serving residents in Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha and Drew counties. It's primary focus is Education, Housing, Health and Wellness, Economic Development, Community Development, Housing, Food Insecurity, and Financial Literacy.

The office is located at Revival Center Church's Business office complex. For service, please use the front entrance at 311 South Pine in Monticello. For questions or to schedule an appointment, one may call Mrs. Linda Austin at (870) 740-1093.

Arkansas Bikers Aiming Toward Education Meeting

The Arkansas Bikers Aiming Toward Education holds a meeting monthly at Western Sizzlin', 436 U.S. Highway 425 North, on the first Thursday of every month. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is called to order at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend who cares about motorcycles and motorcycle safety, you do not have to own or ride a bike to be a member or to attend meetings.

Andrews Chapel Cemetery

To all concerned that have family or cemetery plots in the Andrews Chapel Cemetery, please send any updated contact information to: Andrews Chapel Cemetery Association, C/O Cindy Ferrell, Secretary/Treasurer, 2968 Barkada Road, Wilmar, AR 71675.

VFW Auxiliary

Anyone interested in joining the VFW Auxiliary is asked to contact Wanda or Melvin Veasey, VFW Commander, at mlvnj.veasey@yahoo.com or 870-723-4993.

Any relative of a veteran who served overseas in a foreign war is eligible for membership. Any past members who are still interested in the Auxiliary are also asked to contact Wanda or Melvin if they are still interested in being a member.

Senior Center LUNCH



March 2 - March 9

**Wednesday:** Meatloaf w/tomato gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, dump cake, roll

**Thursday:** Herbed baked chicken, squash casserole, wild rice, biscuit, chocolate chip cookie

**Friday:** Fried fish, hushpuppies, french fries, coleslaw, tropical fruit

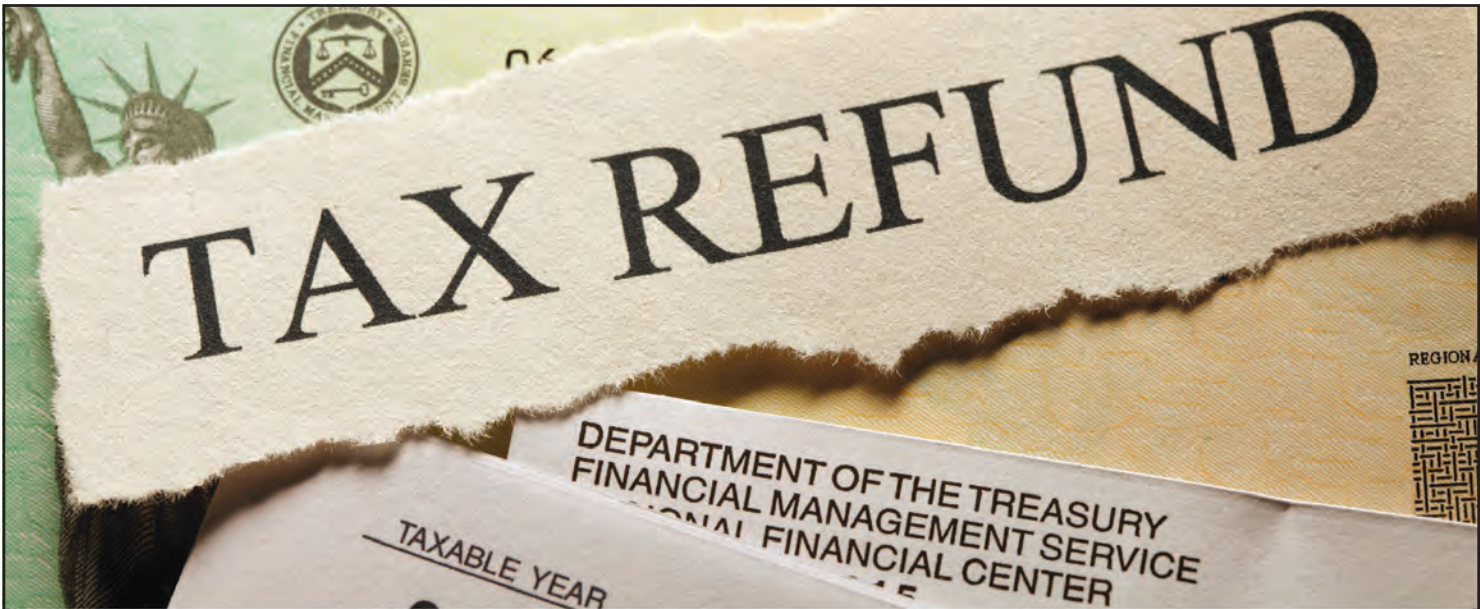
**Monday:** Texas cowboy stew, biscuit, rice, brownie

**Tuesday:** Turkey w/gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, oatmeal cookie, roll, beet

**Wednesday:** Sweet & sour meatballs, rice, egg roll, mandarin oranges

*All lunches have a choice of sweet tea and milk.*

*The Senior Center is now open and serves curbside and sit down lunch for citizens 60 and older for \$4; under 60, \$5, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., first come, first served. Rates for lunches were changed in January 2022 to those currently listed.*



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# Friends of the Library host poetry contest

**SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE**

After a successful contest in 2021, Friends of the Monticello Branch Library will host the second annual poetry contest through March 31.

Six divisions, from Kindergarten to adult, will be judged and the form to enter the contest may be found on the Monticello Library Facebook page.

Children who cannot write may dictate their poem to be typed and printed or written legibly.

Each entrant may submit up to three poems of no more than 20 lines on any subject. Any style except concrete (shape poems) or black out poems will be accepted, provided that the content of the poem is not vulgar or offensive, does not employ profanity, and is the original, individual work of the entrant.

Poems should be accompanied by the name, age, and adult contact information on a cover page for submission(s).

This year’s judges are Dr. Judith Lane Bynum, Poet Ashley J. and Ryan Harmon.

Dr. Bynum is the author of “For Thou Art With Me: My Journey of Cancer through Poetry” and a life-long resident of Southeast Arkansas. She is a graduate of Arkansas A&M College (UAM) and is retired from the Drew Central School System.

Poet Ashley J is an inspirational/Christian poet and the author of “Chains are Broken: Prayers and Poems” and “Under Construction: God’s at Work.” Harmon is an Arkansas native who appeared on American idol in March 2020 with a performance of his original song “I Knew This Would Happen.”

# Drew County Master Gardener Awards

**SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE**

Each year, Drew County Master Gardeners recognize those individuals, projects, and community groups who not only support but enhance the efforts that Master Gardeners make to educate themselves and others and beautify the community.

The Master Gardener of the Year from Drew County is Jody Gladden. Jody is also president this year and has guided the Master Gardeners despite the challenges of the past two years. She was honored for her dedication, work ethic, and leadership. This year’s Rookie of the Year is Suzanne Ziemann who uses her creativity to focus attention on this group. Her handiwork was responsible for the award winning fair booth this year. She also works hard on the numerous projects that Drew County Master Gardeners support.

The Project of the Year and Excellence in Education award is the Pollinator Project at Monticello Sports Complex and Jordan Park. This is the third year for the activities of the Pollinator Project and gradually the project is coming to fruition. Master Gardeners have supported the project with its budget, donations, and grant activities. A brochure is being developed that highlights the plants in the projects and the types of butterflies that are attracted to those flowering plants. Future plans include signage at both the Sports Complex and Jordan Park to identify plants and butterflies.

The Business Friend of the year is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and staff biologist Bubba Groves. Groves has helped with the project from planning, to preparation, and planting. He has helped facilitate partnerships with Quail Forever and Arkansas Native Plant Society as well as Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. He has answered questions or found the answer to questions that Master Gardeners asked about the Pollinator Project.

The Individual Friend of the Year is Mayor Paige Chase. The Pollinator Project would not have come to being if not for the vision of Groves and the utter commitment of Mayor Chase in allowing the Master Gardners free rein in their endeavor as well as taking flack for what appeared to be a weed patch. Monticello is the first city in the state to make such a commitment to improving habitat for pollinators. Mayor Chase also supports the Master Gardeners in keeping the roses on the square attractive and welcoming.

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#2 Assisted Living

DREW COUNTY CANDIDATE FILINGS AT PRESS TIME MARCH 2, 2022				
Office Sought	Cadidate Name	Incumbent	Party affiliation	Position
Drew County Judge	Robert Akin	Y	R	
Drew County Judge	Jesse Griffin	N	R	
Drew County Clerk	Hannah Adcock	N	R	
Drew County Clerk	Stephanie Chisom	N	R	
Drew County Sheriff	Mark Gober	Y	D	
Drew County Sheriff	Tim Nichols	N	I	
Drew County Sheriff	James Slaughter	N	R	
Justice of the Peace	Heath Loveless	N	R	District 4
Justice of the Peace	Sheila Maxwell	N	I	District 4
Justice of the Peace	Zachary Hill	N	R	District 9
Justice of the Peace	Rene Knowles	Y	I	District 9
Monticello School Board	Angelia Anderson	N	I	Zone 2
Monticello School Board	Keith Wells	Y	I	Zone 2
Drew Central School Board	Keith Alexander	N	R	Zone 2
Drew Central School Board	Rene Knowles	Y	I	Zone 2
Constable	Daniel Garrison	N	R	Marion Township
Constable	Joshua Henley	N	R	Marion Township
Constable	David Menotti	N	R	Marion Township
Constable	Shiloh Jordan	N	R	Saline Township
Constable	Steven Paul Sturgis	N	R	Saline Township
Running unopposed				
Constable	Jessica Moore	N	R	Clear Creek Township
Constable	John W. Beatty	Y	R	Collins Township
Constable	Michael Frisby	Y	R	Cominto Township
Constable	Casey Walker	N	R	Springhill Township
Constable	Scott Chapman	Y	R	Veasey Township
Justice of the Peace	Orlando Jones	Y	R	District 1
Justice of the Peace	Ben D. Higginbotham	N	R	District 2
Justice of the Peace	Roger D. Harris	Y	D	District 3
Justice of the Peace	Steven H. Pigott	Y	R	District 5
Justice of the Peace	Donna F. Usry	Y	R	District 6
Justice of the Peace	Joe Williams	Y	D	District 7
Justice of the Peace	Frank Appleberry	Y	R	District 8
Drew County Assessor	Cheri Adcock	Y	R	
Drew County Tax Collector	Tonya K. Loveless	Y	R	
Drew County Treasurer	Charles Searcy	Y	R	
Circuit Clerk	Beverly Burks	Y	D	
Drew County Coroner	Charles F. “Chuck” Dearman Jr.	Y	R	
Drew County Surveyor	Doug Harton	Y	R	
Monticello School Board	Wil Maxwell	Y	I	Zone 1
Monticello School Board	Andrew Hilton	N	I	Zone 3
Monticello School Board	Curt Preston	Y	I	Zone 4
Monticello School Board	Dr. Joseph M. Fakouri Jr.	Y	R	Zone 5
Mayor of Wilmar	Toni A. Perry	Y	D	
Wilmar City Council	Deborah K. West	Y	D	Ward 1, Position 1
Wilmar City Council	Charles Saffold	Y	D	Ward 1, Position 2
Wilmar City Council	Shirley McNeary	Y	D	Ward 2, Position 1
Wilmar City Council	Marvin Hopson Sr.	Y	D	Ward 2, Position 2

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# OPINION

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## State of the Union: time to offer solutions

Arkansans are being stretched thin. We're experiencing record high inflation that's forcing us to alter our budgets and future plans. More and more Natural State residents are reaching out to express their frustration over the pocketbook



JOHN BOOZMAN  
U.S. SENATE REPORT

difficulties they're facing. I've met with hardworking Arkansans, agricultural producers, small business owners, health care advocates and many others, all with similar concerns focusing on managing money in an uncertain economic climate caused by rising costs for everyday goods, supply chain disruptions and labor shortages.

I understand these challenges and I've brought the voices of Arkansans to the Senate floor and the halls of Capitol Hill to share the hardships families all across the state and country are experiencing.

As President Biden prepares his State of the Union Address, it is my hope he will speak to the worries Arkansans have repeatedly shared with me.

It's long overdue for the Biden administration to listen to these concerns and take action to address them. The president's pursuit of a tax-and-spending agenda has thrown gas on the fire, making matters worse.

The inflation rate is 7.5 percent – the highest in 40 years –, the price of gasoline has increased by 40 percent and input costs for agricultural producers are up across the board. This is directly impacting how we spend our hard-earned money. Folks are worried about their ability to pay their bills. A recent analysis by Moody's Analytics shows this burden is costing families an additional \$276 each month.

It would be wrong to dismiss the troubles Americans are facing under his leadership, or worse yet, fail to acknowledge them in his speech. The president must address these causes of anxiety and offer commonsense solutions, that can get bipartisan support, to provide relief from inflation, end the supply chain bottlenecks and restore our workforce to full strength.

Like many Americans, I'm also interested in hearing how President Biden intends to tackle the humanitarian and national security crisis on our southern border. It is necessary for him to reverse his administration's policies allowing illegal immigrants unfettered access to our country. We are a nation of laws and it's inexcusable for the president to pick and choose which ones to follow. This must end. It's clear Vice President Harris, who was given the responsibility to solve this crisis, is not up to this task. It's time to give this job to someone else who will be committed to executing actions deterring illegal immigration such as construction of a border wall and the Remain in Mexico policy.

Americans will additionally be listening closely for the president to lay out a specific plan to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin for his military's invasion of Ukraine. While President Biden has issued several sanctions against Russia, there is more we can do. Even as the cooperation of our allies is essential during this precarious time, I encourage the administration to impose strict measures like those I've championed in the Never Yielding Europe's Territory (NYET) Act to impose tough economic consequences on the Kremlin and provide critical support for Ukraine's defenses.

There are many issues for President Biden to address in his State of the Union speech. We need leadership that's prepared to contain inflation, secure our southern border and demonstrate a strong foreign policy. I'll be listening for solutions that can get support from both sides of the aisle.

# Happy to be back home

Well, you can take the girl out of the newspaper but you can't take the newspaper out of the girl.

For those new to the area, or if you are like me and took many naps during the covid years, let me (re)introduce myself.

My name is Ashley Hogg and this is my third adventure working at the Advance-Monticellonian. I have been with the newspaper on and off for the last decade. Freshly out of college and green as a baby gourd, our publisher, Tom White, gave bright eyed me a chance at

selling advertising. It was my first full time, big kid job and I loved it. I worked with great customers on developing their advertisements and met some amazing people. This led me to my next adventure, selling cars.

One of my favorite bankers and a Monticello gem, George Harris, got me hooked up with a position at Ryburn Motor Co. in the sales

department. I was young and ready to take on anything the world hit me with. After a little more than one year selling vehicles, I got the surprise of my life. I found out I was expecting and my entire world changed.

I took some time off to deal with a harsh pregnancy and to spend a little time shaping Fred, my feisty daughter, in her early months of life. I quickly realized that being a stay at home mother was not my journey in life (more power to the parents that do it) and once again, the newspaper welcomed me with open arms. This time, I was fulfilling a life long dream of being a writer. There was a position on the editorial staff for a reporter and Tom let me have my shot.

After almost two years of reporting on local events and breaking news and telling everyone the latest funny thing Fred had done, I ventured out to see what else the world had for me.

I worked in Dumas, Warren and for Monticello Mayor Paige Chase. I learned a lot of valuable lessons from each of these experiences, most notably, what is not for me. I am not

cut out to work in healthcare, God bless the people that do and have to deal with patients like me. And, my internal fire for wanting to be in politics had been extinguished like a small grass fire.

I was fortunate enough to be involved with some local and regional organizations that showed me the good and the not so good side of working in public service. The people that make politics their life long career are an anomaly to me. I am glad I had the opportunity to learn these lessons now, though. Since the third grade, I wanted to be the first female president of the United States. Yes, I have always been as my grandmother would say, a little too big for my britches.

I can with full confidence say that I am at a place in life now where I am happier than ever. I have a healthy, smart and sometimes sassy child, a wonderful husband that makes me smile every single day and a great support group of family and friends.

I am so thankful to be home at the newspaper. I can't wait to bring breaking news and funny stories to the people of my hometown.



## Paving the way for the future of mobility

Ever since I took office in 2015, my goal has been to make Arkansas first.

From the very first coding tour, I have pushed Arkansas to lead the nation on computer science. Legislators who share my vision for the future passed laws that put the state ahead of the rest of the nation.

In a press conference this week, I announced that Arkansas can also be a worldwide leader in advanced mobility, which includes

electric vehicles, driverless vehicles, drone delivery, and cars that travel by air. I created the Arkansas Council on Future Mobility to identify barriers, recommend

policy, and suggest incentives to support the development of advanced mobility. Members of the council will search for innovative companies and create partnerships with businesses that are pushing the future in terms of transportation and movement of people and goods.

By doing this, we are laying the foundation for Arkansas's leadership in the transportation industry for decades to come. This is another step that will not only make Arkansas No. 1, but we will be the first to create this type of council with private sector experts, academia, and government leaders.

Arkansas is home to a growing number of mobility companies such as Canoo, an electric vehicle manufacturer, which is moving its headquarters and R & D [Research and Development] facility

to Bentonville, and Envirotech announced this week it would be opening its first U.S.-based electric vehicle manufacturing facility in Osceola, Arkansas.

In Bentonville, right now thanks to a partnership between Walmart and Gatik, the world's first autonomous driverless delivery service is operating daily, without a safety driver aboard the vehicle. This is the first time that fully autonomous operations have ever been achieved on the "Middle Mile," a term to describe moving goods from warehouses or micro fulfillment centers to a pick-up location such as a retail store. These companies are choosing to build in Arkansas because we have made it clear we are committed to striving for

See HUTCHINSON Page 5A

## Bills approved will affect teachers and state employees

The legislature approved a package of bills that allow greater oversight of two major health insurance plans that cover public school teachers and state employees.

The new laws require the systems to maintain financial reserves, and to take steps to build up their reserves if they fall below a certain point.

More legislative oversight should mean that taxpayers will

not have to shore up the systems. The president of the Senate told a news reporter that the legislation would save at least \$70 million a year.

A House co-sponsor of the legislation said the bills would not require any cuts in benefits or any increase in premiums, which was cause for celebration.

A group of lawmakers has worked on the list of reforms for most of the past year. Lingering financial problems in the systems had been so consistent that last year, the 2021 regular session, the legislature replaced their governing board.

The package of reform bills

creates a multi-tiered system to oversee the health insurance plans. One commission will focus on the teachers' system and another on the public employees' system. Both will meet monthly. Members will be paid \$500 a month and mileage.

They will evaluate the financial health of the systems and make recommendations on benefits. For example, they will review which prescription drugs are available in the systems' formularies. Compared to drugs that are not listed in the formulary, drugs that are on it are more eas-

See GILMORE Page 5A

## Bills passed during second week of Fiscal Session

The House will begin the 3rd week of the 2022 Fiscal Session on Monday. The second week was an abbreviated one due to the federal holiday and winter weather across the state.

In addition to several appropriation bills, the House also passed the following

pieces of legislation this week:

SB87- This bill establishes coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity under the State and

Public School Life and Health Insurance Program.

SB86-This bill establishes a funding mechanism to ensure the solvency of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program by directing the Employee Benefits Division to aim for a reserve balance of 14% of expenses.

SB85-This bill clarifies the definition of "eligible inactive retiree" to participate in the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program.

SB88-This bill modifies the state contribution to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program.

This completes our work on a package of bills we elected to take up during this Fiscal Session to ensure the health insurance plan for state and public school employees and retirees remains financially stable without reducing benefits.

On Tuesday, the House approved an amendment to HB1034, an appropriation for the Department of Corrections. The amendment adds \$4.5 million to be used for employees overtime pay.

The House also approved an amendment to HB1067, an appropriation for the Division of Career and Technical Education. The amendment adds approximately \$1.4 million for vocational training.

The Joint Budget Committee is working to complete the review and votes of the remaining budget bills in the upcoming week. The bill filing deadline for the 2022

See BEATY Page 5A

### ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

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BEN GILMORE  
ARKANSAS SENATE REPORT

tain point.

More legislative oversight should mean that taxpayers will

### HOW TO WRITE US

The Advance-Monticellonian welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and phone number. The phone number is for verification purposes only. We reserve the right to edit letters or to not publish certain letters.

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SOUTH ARKANSAS MARTIAL ARTS OF MONTICELLO HOLDS RANK TESTING



Courtesy photo

South Arkansas Martial Arts of Monticello held a rank testing on Feb. 22, 2022, for some of its students. Participating students were: Tori Simpson, A.J. Simpson, Breindel Chua, Liam Mondragon, Aurora Osborne, John Day, Tessa Norris, Railey Ernest, Andrew Maxwell, Aaron Greene, William Leslie, Jadon Henson, Sawyer Hemphill, and Caleb Norris. SAMAM instructors: Mrs. Marie Trisolini, Master Richelle Danley, Mr. Geoff Trisolini, and Ms. Donna Rash (not pictured).

UA Little Rock announces Fall 2021 graduates

**SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE**

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock announces its fall 2021 graduates.

UA Little Rock awarded more than 670 degrees for the fall 2021 semester.

Local UA Little Rock students who graduated include:

Kevin Davidson, of Monticello, AR, graduated with a Associate of Engineering Technology in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Misael Delacruz, of Monticello, AR, graduated with a Associate of Engineering Technology in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Daniel Ferguson, of Monticello,

AR, graduated with a Associate of Engineering Technology in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

With about 9,000 students and 100 programs, UA Little Rock offers learning, research, service, social and career opportunities that can only be found at a metropolitan university located in Arkansas's capital city.

Letter to the Editor: Visit a cemetery this Spring

Drew County has a rich historical past and much of that history can be explored and researched by making a visit to our cemeteries. With an estimates cemetery count in Drew County of 127 cemetery locations, there are recorded burials of 23,499. Oakland Cemetery, in the middle of Monticello, has a total of 5,698 burials or 24% of the total graves in the county. Oakland is beautiful and the city of Monticello does an excellent job of keeping this cemetery in wonderful condition. Rough and Ready Cemetery and Old Saline Cemetery are

listed on the National Historic Register and are filled with history of the early settlement of the county. The UAM Research Station of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey is now headed by Dr. Matthew P. Rooney at UAM. He has initiated research documentation near the Cypress Grove Cemetery, an African American burial site close to Bayou Bartholomew.

Cemeteries contain beautiful monuments often very ornate with depictions of angels, folded hands or lambs. Stones are also make of different material with

many early stones made of marble or granite. Additionally, some locations are adorned with colorful plants, flowers, trees and other flora. As spring approached, it offers a wonderful opportunity to view the art and botanical aspects of our local cemeteries.

In the eastern part of Drew County are several cemeteries that are easy to find. Selma Cemetery, Old Piney Cemetery and Mt. Tabbor Cemetery are three that are easy to find and worthy of a visit.

However, there is one cemetery that is classified as

neglected and most people are not aware of its existence. Old Florence Cemetery is located off Highway 293 between Highway 278 and Highway 138 about a quarter mile south of the intersection of 293 and 138. For many years, there has not been a sign or any indications that a cemetery was there in a grove of mature trees with decades of overgrown underbrush hiding its existence. There are 45 marked gravestones there with the last burial made in the mid 1930s.

The site was the location of a Cumberland Presbyte-

rian denomination church which was known as Piney Grove and later Old Florence Church. The church was formed around 1839 and many early Florence families were members. The longtime pastor of the congregation was named T.P. Stone and he and his wife Winnie are interred in the cemetery after serving the congregation for 35 years. Records from the old church have survived and names many of the church elders and members. After walking the grounds recently, I believe that the location of the church building site is

evident. The church structure was moved at some point to a new location but the cemetery and the 2.66 acres remain now silent with only stones as a reminder of family members long gone and forgotten.

Recently, a new wrought iron sign was placed on the highway to identify the turn off to the cemetery. There is no road there but just a place to park and the graves are located in the wooded area just ahead. Hopefully now the cemetery now will have an identity and can be found easily.

*By: Doug Owens*

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

the future. Nowhere else in the world has this been done

yet, but in Arkansas, we have achieved it and continue to look forward to what's next.

In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to travel by automobile while

on official duties. He rode in a Columbia Electric Victoria Phaeton, an electric vehicle that ran on two 20-volt batteries that weighed nearly 800 pounds. His trip around

Hartford, Connecticut took nearly four hours. Now, more than 100 years later, I was the first Arkansas Governor to sit in the driver's seat of the next generation of

transportation.

When discussing the most innovative and forward-thinking places in the world, Japan, Germany, Israel, and Finland are among

those mentioned. Now, the Natural State has staked its place as a global leader as we lay the pavement for the future of transportation and mobility.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

ily available and affordable to public employees and teachers who participate in the health plans.

The commissions will study the need for adjustments in premiums and contributions by schools and state government. They will make recommendations if necessary.

The state Board of Finance now manages the systems, and will continue to do so with input from the

two commissions. A new law will add the state Insurance Commissioner to the Board of Finance, but only to vote on policy changes affecting the health plans.

The Board of Finance is made up of several constitutional officers, directors of state with financial duties and people with expertise in banking, investments and accounting. The Board decides where to deposit state tax revenue until it is allocated to an agency that will spend it on a program approved by the legislature.

The package of reforms

significantly enhances legislative authority over policy decisions by the health insurance plans.

One new law specifically says that a legislative committee shall have oversight over all decisions by the Board of Finance related to the state and public school life and health insurance program.

Legislators will have

oversight over proposals to change eligibility of participants, to increase or to change benefits, to increase premiums and to change vendors or contracts from one year to the next.

Legislative oversight will include any changes in the four-year projections of the financial health of the health plans.

Another new law will

require a fiscal impact statement before bills can be considered, if they expand benefits or impose any new cost obligation for the health insurance systems. This is similar to a policy that is already in place, which requires a fiscal impact statement when bills are considered that would increase retirement benefits for state employees.

BEATY

Continued from Page 4A

Fiscal Session is February 28.

The House will reconvene on Monday, February 28, at noon. You can watch all committee meetings and House proceedings at [www.arkansashouse.org](http://www.arkansashouse.org).

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**REGISTER TO VOTE**

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# Arkansas cotton farmers to receive \$.75 per acre rebate from Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

## SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (ABWEF) board of directors voted to provide a cash rebate of \$.75 per acre to Arkansas cotton farmers for cotton acreage reported in 2021 under Arkansas's boll weevil eradication program. A total of \$318,000 will be returned to cotton farmers by the end of April.

The ABWEF is an Arkansas nonprofit corporation designated to operate the Arkansas boll weevil eradication program. The ABWEF and the boll weevil eradication operations are overseen by the Arkansas

Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Division. "The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation has remained dedicated to the best interests of Arkansas cotton growers throughout the successful operation of the boll weevil eradication program," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. "Providing rebates to producers while also maintaining reserves to ensure sustainability of the program is a testament to good management and a successful partnership on behalf of Arkansas's agricultural industry."

The ABWEF borrowed millions of dollars over the years

from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), as did other southern states and programs, to finance the boll weevil eradication program that began in 1997. The boll weevil pest was eradicated from Arkansas in 2006. In 2015, the ABWEF successfully paid off the loan amount three years early. Since 2018, the ABWEF has provided a cash rebate to growers each year.

Learn more about the history of boll weevil eradication across cotton producing states and the ABWEF at [abwep.org](http://abwep.org). With questions about the boll weevil rebate, contact Regina Coleman at 870-692-6368 or [rcoleman@abwep.org](mailto:rcoleman@abwep.org).

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [agriculture.arkansas.gov/](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov/). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# Teachers bring the outdoors into their classes with Project WILD

## SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Teachers, homeschool coordinators and other educators can bring the outdoors into their classrooms with ready-to-teach materials, thanks to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Project WILD.

When COVID-19 shut down schools across Arkansas, many people rediscovered the wonders of nature and took to exploring during those days with the kids. Now that schools are back in session, nature can still be a big part of a student's day.

Developed in 1983, Project WILD (which stands for Wildlife In Learning Design) is an education program that incorporates nature-themed knowledge and activities with curriculums required by many educational institutions. Educators in traditional schools, home school networks, scout leaders, 4-H coordinators, and even nature camp counselors can attend Project WILD workshops to learn the best ways to blend outdoors-oriented activities and knowledge in lessons they deliver to the next generation of conservationists.

"There's a Project WILD workshop and curriculum available for all grade levels," Sheila Lovelady-Connerly, who coordinates the program for the AGFC, said. "There's Growing Up WILD that's focused on preschool-aged children to get the ball rolling, and then lessons are available in the standard Project WILD that go from Kindergarten all the way to high-school seniors."

Before joining the AGFC, Lovelady-Connerly was a

teacher in Conway who used the Project WILD curriculum during her 16 years in front of students. "I would always see increased interest from my classes when we worked with the curriculum," Lovelady-Connerly said. "It was a chance to talk and learn about nature, and in some cases an opportunity to go outside and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine during the day. That part was also pretty nice being the teacher."



Courtesy photos



The lessons aren't just nature walks or free time for students. They've been painstakingly crafted to support many disciplines and crosswalks required in today's educational standards. Science is obviously covered, but there are lesson plans that cover other subjects, such as math, language arts, social studies and physical education.

"All of the lesson plans follow national standards, and participants will receive professional development credit for attending our workshops," Lovelady-Connerly said. "The materials were created by professional educators and reviewed for accuracy and educational value, so this is a great opportunity for teachers to have some lessons ready to

go that will hold their students' attention." Teachers who attend a Project Wild workshop not only receive professional development credit, but they also receive books full of lesson plans and information to develop their own lessons and customize the lesson to match their grade level and highlight local features. They also be-

See **WILD** Page 7A

## DCSO

Continued from Page 1A

na and a search of the vehicle was conducted where a glass jar with a large amount of marijuana, scales, and baggies were found. Two handguns were also found in the vehicle, one in the backpack where the marijuana

was found.

Spratt was arrested and is being held at the Drew County Detention Center for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and simultaneous possession of drugs and a firearms. Holds have been placed on him for the outstanding warrants.

# CNA CLASSES

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## Deadline to Apply: March 11

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# Drew County COVID update

Wednesday, Feb. 23: 13  
Thursday, Feb. 24: 8  
Friday, Feb. 25: 2  
Saturday, Feb. 26: 1  
Sunday, Feb. 27: 0  
Monday, Feb. 28: 0  
Tuesday, March 1: 3  
Active cases as of Tuesday, Feb. 22: 33  
7-day average of new cases as of Tuesday, Feb. 22: 4

**By: MELISSA ORRELL**

New infections of COVID-19 continue to sharply decrease across the County, as Drew County added 27 new cases to the tally bringing the total number of cases in the County since the beginning of the pandemic to 4,634, on Tuesday, March 1. The total number for the State of Arkansas is 820,677 with 4,887 active cases, almost half of the number of active cases in the State at the same time last month, as Arkansas continues to see active case numbers plunging. The County added three new deaths to the death toll last week bringing the total throughout the pandemic to 63.

Due to new advances in treatments and the plunging case numbers around the Country the CDC has offered new guidance on recommendations to prevent community spread, moving away from across the board mask mandates and restrictions and taking a more measured approach to the

disease.

The CDC now has three categories to put counties in that will then determine the recommendations made by the agency. The categories are low, medium and high and the recommendations are as follows:

**Low:**

- Stay up to date with COVID vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

**Medium:**

- If at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health-care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay up to date with COVID vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

**High:**

- Wear mask indoors in public
- Stay up to date with COVID vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

As of Friday, Feb. 25, Drew County was listed as a high risk county.

Drew Central and Monticello School Districts are now listed in the orange category by the Arkansas Department of Health Improvement, meaning the total population for the school districts has between 30 and 49 cases.

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

# Patrice Hall



Patrice Hall has worked for Belle View Estates for 10 years. She stated that she has spent 10 years here because she loves the atmosphere and the teamwork among staff. When she is not at work she loves to watch TV and play with her children. She received a gift donated by Town & Country to recognize her as the "Employee Spotlight".

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# OBITUARIES

**CONTACT US**  
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## Crystal Denise Gibson

Crystal Denise Gibson, 41, of Selma, went to be with her Lord and Savior Wednesday, February 23, 2022. She was born April 5, 1980, in Dumas, to Robert Brown, Jr. and Connie Fuller Brown.



GIBSON

She was a licensed massage therapist but was most proud to be a homemaker to her husband and three daughters.

Crystal was a member of New Life Assembly of God Church. She loved her Jesus, spending time with her church family, the farm life and was always looking for ways to help others.

Survivors include her husband, Joshua William Gibson of Selma; three daughters, Haley, Jaci and Annalee Gibson all of Selma; a sister, Erin Hackett (Joshua) of Groveland, Fla.; a brother, Nicholas Stratton of Monticello; her mother and father-in-law, Susan and Hal Gibson of Selma; her sister-in-law, Corrie Gibson Ferrell (Adam); along with numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at New Life Assembly of God Church. Visitation was from 5-7 p.m. Monday evening at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel.

(Paid obituary)

## Joe Harrod

Joe Harrod, age 58 of Monticello, departed this life and went to be with the Lord on February 20, 2022, at his home. He was born May 21, 1963, a twin to his brother, Jeff, in Mobile, Alabama. He was the son of the late Hubert Paul Harrod and Norma Gill Harrod.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his twin brother, Jeff.

Joe loved to deer hunt, bass fish, watch football, both college and NFL, and spend time with his family and friends. He was a die-hard southern rock

music fan. He also held an honorable discharge from the Army National Guard in 1983. Joe had a fierce spirit that allowed him to overcome some major hardships for many years. He always dealt a full hand of cards and allowed you to choose which hand you played in his life. He had many loyal friends and loved them all like brothers.

Joe is survived by his loving partner, Tolly, who stood by his side for 35 years. He also leaves behind a daughter, Lindsey JoBeth and a step-son, Josh whom he loved dearly; but most of all he was "Papa" to his grandson Sawyer who meant the world to him. Joe is also survived by one brother,



HARROD



VETERAN

Randy and wife Linda of Lake Village; two sisters, Cassie and Eddie Edwards of Dermott and Lisa and Ronnie Ashley of Clarksville; plus many nieces, nephews, and cousins. The family would like to issue a special thanks and gratitude to Mike and John Ward, Don Marter, Blondie, David, Ms. Jane, Cindy, and Wanda at War Eagle Boats.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Joe's favorite charities, St. Jude's Children Hospital, or the Arkansas Food Bank.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held Saturday, February 26, 2022 at Temple Baptist Church in Dermott.

(Paid obituary)

## Laura Lea Hales Hensley

Laura Lea Hales Hensley, 59, of North Little Rock, passed away January 11, 2022 at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock after a battle with cancer.

She was born November 24, 1962 in Paris, France to the late Harris "Buddy" Pope Hales, Jr. and Mary Louise

Cummings Hales. Laura received her education in the Monticello School district and she was of the Baptist faith.

She worked as a CNA, truck driver and for Carelink.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death



HENSLEY

by a son, Jeremy Black; a granddaughter, Makanda Williams; and a brother, Harris Hales III.

Laura is survived by her husband, James Hensley; son, Andrew Osbourn; daughter, Amber Coleman; six grandchildren, Drew, Lexie, Conner, Clayton, Josh and Pedro; and a sister, Barbara Hales.

A visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Greenhill Cemetery in Monticello followed by graveside services, Saturday, March 12, 2022 at with Rev. Buddy Lemons officiating. All family and friends are invited. Please adhere to COVID guidelines.

Local arrangements by Griffin Funeral Service in Star City. Online guestbook at [www.griffinfuneralservice.net](http://www.griffinfuneralservice.net).

(Paid obituary)

## Steve Byron Hollinger

Steve Byron Hollinger passed away on February 22, 2022 at his home in Artesia, New Mexico surrounded by his adoring children and wife.

Steve was born on March 4, 1947 in Monticello; the son of Elwood and Effice Bonita (McKiever) Hollinger. He married his high school sweetheart, Anne Calhoun, on June 18, 1967 while on leave from Naval basic training. They began the first of their adventures together in Quonset Point, Rhode Island during the Vietnam War where Steve specialized as an Aviation Electronics Mate. Recognized for his superior skills, he was the Admiral's requested mechanic which contributed to his expedited promotion in rank to Petty Officer, 2nd Class during his Naval service.

After four years of Naval service, he and Anne returned home to friends and family in Monticello where they welcomed the first two of their three children. When the opportunity arose to join the Tretolite Oil Corporation in 1982, he relocated his family to Artesia, N.M. where they were welcomed with open arms by many members of the community and the First Presbyterian Church who have become life-long friends and surrogate family members. It was in Artesia where the couple welcomed their third child. Though work and family led them back to the Southeast a couple of times through the years, Steve and Anne were always drawn back to the Land of Enchantment.

Over his long career as an oil production analyst, Steve specialized in the prescription and application of chemicals to correct and perfect oil quality. Due to the constantly shifting nature of oil production, he remained every ready to respond to his customers' and colleagues' needs – day or night. He was a recognized expert in his field and a friend and mentor to many over his 30+ years of service. His greatest joys in life, however, were derived from his family, his faith, fellowship and service to his church and his countless, deeply meaningful friendships – many of which he had enjoyed since childhood. He received tremendous fulfillment through his service as a Deacon and Elder for the First Presbyterian Church of Artesia, and of Monticello, over the years, happily volunteering his time and talents to both.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father. Survivors include his wife, Anne Hollinger;

children, Rachel Chapman of Atlanta (spouse, James), William N. Hollinger of Artesia (spouse, Kelli) and Jaye L. Riner of Roswell, N.M. (spouse, Erny); grandchildren, Addison, Jackson, Kambri, Addisyn, James and Dylan; brother, Houston Hollinger of Baton Rouge, La. and a wealth of additional loving family members and friends.

Memorial services were at 3:00 p.m. Friday, February 25, at First Presbyterian Church of Artesia. Scott Petrus will officiate. The service was available via live stream on YouTube and Facebook Live on the First Presbyterian Church, Artesia channel/page. Interment of ashes in the First Presbyterian Church courtyard columbarium occurred after the service concluded. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Terpening & Son Mortuary.

The family expresses tremendous gratitude for the incredibly compassionate love and care administered by Steve's health teams from J&J Home Healthcare and Encompass Hospice along with the many other caring doctors and nurses who aided him through his journey.

## R. David Ray

R. David Ray was born in San Antonio, Texas on February 5, 1942 and departed this life on February 21, 2022. He was the adopted son of Ben F. and Lila D. Ray of Lubbock, Texas. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Loyce; son, Hunter Ray (Chrissy); daughter, Heather Worley (Justin); and his grandchildren – Brittani (Joe), Brooke (Jeovanny), Benjamin, Lainey, Ashton, Brandon, and Mitchell.

Ray completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Texas Tech University. He moved to Monticello, Arkansas in 1970 to establish a debate program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

He retired from UAM in 2012 after 42 years of service as Professor, Debate Coach,

Dean, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and Provost. For 35 years, Ray directed the University Debate and Forensics Program. His love for the Lord's body led him to serve as deacon, elder, and part-time preacher. He served as an elder for more than 20 years at Monticello and Hot Springs Village.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at the Village Church of Christ on February 26, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Memorial gifts may be given to the R. David Ray Debate Camp; Forensics Scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cedar-Vale Funeral Home in Hot Springs. Online condolences and tributes available at [www.cedarvalefuneralhome.com](http://www.cedarvalefuneralhome.com).

(Paid obituary)

## Ann Burgess

Ann Burgess, 87, of Monticello, died Sunday, February 27, 2022 at her home. Visitation will be Saturday, March 5 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home.

Funeral Services will follow at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

## Gary Royce Morgan

Gary Royce Morgan, 74, of Monticello died Saturday, February 26, 2022, at his home. He was born on February 18, 1948, in Marked Tree to Ira Berry and Pansy Mae Payne Morgan. He was a member of Monticello Church of Christ.

He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers: James Morgan and George Earl Morgan and three sisters: Estelle Clize, Martha Dale Hughes, and Betty Lou Phillips.

He is survived by his wife, Donnie Vowler Morgan of Monticello, two brothers and four sisters.

Graveside services were Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at Marked Tree Cemetery in Marked Tree. Arrangements are under the care of Delancey Funeral Home in Marked Tree, Arkansas.

# Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Arkansas 4-H host SeaPerch Challenge

## SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Arkansas 4-H will host the 2022 Arkansas SeaPerch Challenge, an underwater robotics competition, on Friday, March 11 at The Center at Bishop Park in Bryant. An estimated 165 students will represent 41 teams from 11 counties at the event. Event participation has grown by more than 400 percent since 2016.

The SeaPerch is a remotely-operated submersible built from more than three dozen parts, including PVC pipe, pool noodles, three 12-volt motors and batteries. During the contest, teams must navigate their SeaPerch through obstacle courses and complete other tasks, such as moving plastic rings from one part of the course and successfully placing them to another part. The goal is to ignite students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

During this year's competition, competitors will use their SeaPerch robots to simulate space exploration. Robots are becoming more common on the International Space Station and training for maneuvers happen underwater. The winner of the Arkansas SeaPerch Challenge will advance to the International SeaPerch Challenge that will be held June 4, 2022, at the University of Maryland.

"Arkansas' electric cooperatives are dedicated to providing STEM-based educational opportunities for Arkansas' youth," said Rob Roedel, director of corporate communications for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. "Our partnership with Arkansas 4-H has resulted in tremendous growth in this program that opens learning paths for the future leaders of our state."

To learn more about the Arkansas 4-H SeaPerch Challenge, visit [4h.uada.edu](http://4h.uada.edu). More information about the SeaPerch initiative can be found at [seaperch.org](http://seaperch.org).

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 600,000 homes, farms and businesses in Arkansas and surrounding states.

For additional information, contact: Rob Roedel, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, 501.570.2296 or [rob.roedel@aecc.com](mailto:rob.roedel@aecc.com)

## WILD

Continued from Page 6A

come eligible for grants that can be used to purchase supplies for some of the lessons included in the workbooks.

"The grant is part of a new program we developed three years ago called Project WILD Classroom," Lovelady-Connerly said. "It helps teachers take that next step with the training, and it gives them another resource to network with us and each other and develop as educators."

Educators can find all planned Project WILD work-

shops, as well as other professional development workshops on the AGFC's Outdoor Skills Network calendar, available at [www.agfc.com/events](http://www.agfc.com/events). Many of the workshops are available

as in-person classes, but virtual options are available as well.

More information on Project WILD and the Project WILD Classroom can be found at [www.agfc.com/projectWILD](http://www.agfc.com/projectWILD)

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- All colors of granite available
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- Can design your own memorial
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Mon-Fri 8am-6pm  
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DRUG!

Mikayla McGregor  
Bride-elect of Chase Crosby  
June 18, 2022

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An American Icon  
tag  
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# CLASSIFIED

**CONTACT US**  
Classified Manager  
870-367-5325  
classified@monticellonews.net

## CLASSIFIED RATES

**1 Week - \$7<sup>10</sup>**  
(25 Words Or Less; 28¢ Per Additional Word)  
Includes one insertion in the Shoppers' Guide and one insertion in the Advance.

**4 Weeks - \$16**  
(25 Words Or Less; 28¢ Per Additional Word)  
Includes four insertions in the Shoppers' Guide and four insertions in the Advance.

**FREE CLASSIFIEDS:** To individuals for all ads with items priced at \$50 and under. All free ads must be for a single item, contain the price of the item and be of a noncommercial nature. Lost and Found ads and Give away ads will also qualify as free ads. All other classified ads will be charged at the rates listed above. Each household is limited to two free ads per week and will run only one week.

**PAID CLASSIFIEDS:** All ads with items valued over \$50 and any ads of a commercial nature will be charged at the rates listed above. Classifieds to individuals must be pre-paid – you may use a credit or debit card or stop by our office at 314 N. Main St.

**ADJUSTMENTS AND CREDITS**

Check your ad for errors the first day. In the event an ad is accidentally omitted from publication or contains printer's error, the publisher's liability for such omission or error shall not exceed the charge made by the publisher for the ad which is omitted or which contains an error. Notice of the typographic or other errors must be given before the second insertion. No refunds on items sold before the last run date of the ad. No refunds are available with the \$16 classified special.

WE MAKE IT EASY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS. CALL THE ADVANCE AT 870-367-5325 OR  
SUBMIT YOUR AD ONLINE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT [WWW.MYMONTICELLONEWS.NET](http://WWW.MYMONTICELLONEWS.NET).

**DEADLINES:** Newspaper - Monday 5 PM, Shoppers' Guide - Thursday Noon

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drew County Historical Museum is back. Opened each Saturday from 10am till 4pm. Come on by and visit with us and see some of Monticello's treasures. We're located at 404 South Main Street. See you soon

Church Sale: Pentecostal Church of God in Christ 111 East Briarcliff Street in Monticello. Pastor Robert Marshall Sr. has for sale: Two sets of camo sheets, 1 gallon of transmission fluid, small love seat (older but very clean), small two drawer night stand (black), One set of new crutches, one right leg boot (for injured leg), Tucker wear trays, Cups & Saucers and plates, One exercise bike. One queen size bed, One large 12 x 12 rug, One cash register., Baseball pants for boys (size 8 to 12). School pencils. Two pair of boots , mens or boys (size 8). For the ones that are truly interested in any of these items please call Pastor Robert Marshall Sr. at 870-281-4863. Located in the Market Place parking lot every Saturday. 4th 10/25

### Hope Place

Hope Place in Monticello is in need of newborn and size 6 diapers. We are open to receive donations Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. TFN f

### Fight Hunger

Hope Place of Monticello invites our community to drop off non-perishable food donations. We are open to receive donations Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday from 9:30am-4:30pm. Suggested items: Pasta, Peanut Butter, Rice, Beans, Soup, Canned Meats, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Mac&Cheese, Cereal, Juice and Boxed Meals. 224 South Main, Monticello. TFN

### Historical Preservation Funds Needed For Enon School

Funds are needed for the maintenance of Enon's 2-room schoolhouse located at 2474 Highway 35E outside of Monticello. Any donation amount will be greatly appreciated to keep the legacy alive and well. For more information on how to help preserve Enon's schoolhouse or to make a donation contact, James Jarrett at 870-367-3765. TFN

CASA of the 10th Judicial District is seeking volunteer advocates and board members. To find out how you can help a child in need, please contact (870) 367-9449. TFN

Monticello 2nd Chancefurdogs is in need of supplies: Dog pens, kennels and crates, dog houses, 20x20 plastic tarps, dog feeders, dog and puppy food ALWAYS needed. If you would like to donate, please contact: Monticello2ndChancefurdogs@yahoo.com or find us on facebook. TFN

### AUTO SALVAGE

Mr. Johnny Will buy junk cars running or not . 421 Ambrose Street Open M-F 8am to 4:30 pm call 870-460-5399 or 870-308-1025 4pd 2/26

### BUYING JUNK CARS

#### New Year .. New Prices

\$200 and up on complete vehicles Please call 870-224-1750 8pd 4/16

### WE BUY JUNK CARS



We buy Junk cars! Will haul them away. 870-723-9698. TFN mt-bw

The Advance classifieds are online [www.mymonticellonews.net](http://www.mymonticellonews.net) Log on now and click on the E-Edition. You

can also place your classified ads online or by calling 870.367.5325.

### CARPET CLEANING

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TFN

### CHILD CARE

Good Shepherd 203 E. Trotter Avenue, Monticello (870)460-0503 Educational child care, after school care and summer programs. Open Saturdays from 7 am to 5 pm. Come in for a free trial day and see what makes us different. 50% off first week. We are bilingual and accept vouchers. #81546 TFN mt-bw

### COMMERCIAL TRUCK

'94 Ford Truck, price reduced \$6500. Good for loader truck, logging, and farm to market truck. Call 870-692-1152. TFN mtbw

### FREE

Advance Classifieds are free to individuals if the item is valued at \$50 or less and the ad states the price. All free ads must be of a non commercial nature and be for one item. An example would be a sofa for \$49 would be free but bales of hay for \$5 each would be a paid ad.

### FURNITURE

For sale - Complete baby bed with comforters. \$50. 870-224-1250. 1tf 3/5

For sale - Cherry wood curio cabinet. \$50. 870-224-1250. 1tf 3/5

5 ft. cabinet countertop wall cabinet, in good condition. \$50. Must pick up. 870-204-7271. 2/19 1tf

We buy estates and household furnishings. 870-308-5827 or 870-308-0663. Selling used furniture and varieties at 1320 N. Hyatt St. #102391 TFN BM-M

### GARAGE SALE

Hwy 35 Junk hunt and downsizing sale March 10, 11, and 12th. 135 Gateway Drive in Monticello. (off North Hyatt close to country club) Sale from 8AM to 3PM each day as long as items last 1f 3/5

Huge yard sale. 645 Pine Street. Saturday March 5th. Camping equipment, tools, Lots of Misc. 6:30 AM till (weather permitting) 1pd 3/2

### HELP WANTED

Monticello Senior Center is in need of an elder kitchen worker. Per Area on Aging Senior Worker Program, you must be 60 or older, and be able to work 4 days a week, 5 hours a day. If interested, please apply at Monticello Senior Center or call 367-2434 and ask for Cindy. 3/19 4pd

### MISCELLANEOUS

Free- Old chain link fencing with top rails and line posts. Must be taken down, Call 870-489-5588 /

Mr. Johnny is buying precious metals. Gold, Silver, Copper etc. 421 Ambrose Street M-F 8am to 4:30 pm call 870-460-5399 or 870-308-1025. 2/26 4pd

Barn kept 4x5 Round bales of hay. \$30 per bale, Square bales of hay fertilized. \$5.00 per bale. 870-723-

## HELP WANTED

**Dietary: Evening (12:30 - 6:30) dietary aide/cook**  
**Nursing: CNA All Shifts**  
**LPN/RN charge nurse full-time 12 hr. shift 5K bonus**

**CNA Classes will begin March 21st**  
**Last day to apply is March 14th.**  
**MUST BE COVID VACCINATED!!!**



1440 E. Church St., Warren  
870-226-6766

## ATTENTION:

## DREW COUNTY POLL WORKERS NEEDED

**Must be a registered voter in Drew County, and must read and speak English.**  
**Please send Name, physical address, and phone number to: Drew County Clerk**  
**Attn: Drew County Election Commission**  
**210 South Main, Monticello, AR 71655**  
**Application must be received by March 15, 2022.**  
**For questions call the Drew County Clerk's office at 870-460-6260.**

**Attn: Drew County Election Commission**  
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# Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS  
PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE  
OF WANDA WIGLEY HOPKINS, DECEASED

NO.22PR-21-130

### NOTICE

(To Creditors Re: Appointment of Administrator and Filing of Claims)

Last known address of decedent:  
145 James Brown Lane, Monticello, Arkansas  
Date of Death: July 11,2021  
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published the 23rd day of February, 2022.

Kelby Smith, Administrator  
c/o Whit Barton  
Barton & Roper, PLLC.  
P.O. Box 507Monticello, AR 71657

#103861 2/23 3/2

### ORDINANCE NO. 2021- 831

#### ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT OF DANIEL PACE AS MONTICELLO POLICE OFFICER

WHEREAS, Daniel Pace is a Certified Law Enforcement Officer and has applied for employment with Monticello Police Department;

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Monticello Police Chief, Jason Akers, that Daniel Pace, is well qualified for employment as a Monticello Police Officer, that an opening exist at Monticello Police Department for his employment and that his employment is in the best interest of the City of Monticello;

WHEREAS, Arkansas code ( provides that no Municipal Official, to include members of the City Council, may directly or indirectly benefit from a contract with the municipality, to include employment contracts);

WHEREAS, Clarissa Pace is a duly elected and serving member of the Monticello City Council and is the mother of Daniel Pace;

WHEREAS, Daniel Pace is not financially dependent on Clarissa Pace and Clarissa Pace is not Financially dependent upon Daniel Pace;

WHEREAS, the Monticello City Council determines that the employment of Daniel Pace as a Monticello Police Officer does not bestow either a direct nor indirect benefit upon Clarissa Pace.

IT IS, THEREFORE, by the Monticello City Council, ordained as follows: That the employment of Daniel Pace, as a Monticello Police Officer is approved and authorized.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2021.

ss: Paige Chase, Mayor  
ss: Jess Hilton, City Clerk

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$66.36.

#103978 3/2

### ORDINANCE NO. 832

#### AN ORDINANCE CREATING DISTRICT COURT PROBATION FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello and the 28th State District Court, Monticello Division, have heretofore agreed that the court clerk and deputy clerks be paid a monthly stipend for additional work done by the clerks in performing probation services;

WHEREAS, the money for the stipend is provided by probation fees collected by the 28th District Court for certain probation services (“funds”);

WHEREAS, the funds are an asset of the City of Monticello;

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello agrees to the creation of a District Court Probation Fund with the proceeds for said fund to be from fees for probation services rendered by and collected by the 28th State District Court, Monticello Division.

IT IS, THEREFORE, by the City Council of Monticello, Arkansas ordered as follows:

1. That a District Court Probation Fund (the “Fund”) is authorized to receive fees provided by the district court for probation services.

2. That the District Court Clerk is authorized to create the budget for the fund, receipt monies into the fund, and expend monies from the fund consistent with the budget. An emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of Monticello shall be in full force and effect from and after it’s passage.

(END OF ORDINANCE)

ADOPTED on this 27th day of January, 2022.

ss: Jess Hilton, City Clerk  
Approved on this 27th day of January, 2022.  
ss: Paige Chase, Mayor

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$74.76.

#103977 3/2

### ORDINANCE NO. 833

#### AN ORDINANCE CREATING MONTICELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT DRUG CONTROL ACCOUNT FUND

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello agrees to the creation of the Monticello Police Department Drug Control Account Fund with the proceeds for said fund to be from seizures and forfeitures rendered by and collected by the Monticello Police Department.

WHEREAS, the funds are an asset of the City of Monticello;

IT IS, THEREFORE, by the City Council of Monticello, Arkansas ordered as follows:

1. That a Monticello Police Department Drug Control Account Fund (the “Fund”) is authorized to receive funds provided by seizures and forfeitures.

2. That the Police Chief is authorized to create the budget for the fund, receipt monies into the fund, and expend monies from the fund consistent with the Arkansas State Law.

An emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of Monticello shall be in full force and effect from and after it’s passage.

(END OF ORDINANCE)

ADOPTED on this 27th day of January, 2022.

ss: Jess Hilton, City Clerk  
Approved on this 27th day of January, 2022.  
ss: Paige Chase, Mayor

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$58.24.

#103979 3/2

3788 16pd 3/19

Call the Federal Trade Commission to find out how to avoid scams. 1-877-FTC-HELP. Never give any personal or financial information to unfamiliar websites without researching those sites. Even those sites listed in classified ads here. A message from The Advance Monticellonian and the FTC.

### PETS

Monticello 2nd Chancefurdogs is in need of supplies: Dog pens, kennels and crates, dog houses, 20x20 plastic tarps, dog feeders, dog and puppy food ALWAYS needed. If you would like to donate, please contact: Monticello2ndChancefurdogs@yahoo.com or find us on facebook. TFN

Post on our Facebook page designed to reunite missing pets in the Monticello/Drew County area with their owners! Monticello Lost Pet Network. TFN

### REAL ESTATE

#### APARTMENTS

Small standalone apartment, 1BR 1BA, kitchen, living room. No smoking, no pets. Reference required. \$480 deposit, \$480 per month rent. (870) 723-1301, leave message.4pd 3/9

#### Cedar Hill Apartments

Newly renovated. Veteran units available. New appliances and interior. Income restrictions apply. Washer/dryer in each unit. 839 S. Gabbert St. 870-367-3394. TFN cc-11/28

### HWY 35 JUNK HUNT AND DOWNSIZING SALE

March 10, 11 & 12  
135 Gatesway Drive in Monticello  
(off N. Hyatt close to Country Club)  
Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day as long as items last.

### PARKHILL APARTMENTS

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### Weevil Run Apartments

Choose 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom or 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All feature stove, refrigerator and dishwasher, hook-up for washer/dryer. Adjacent to UAM campus. Email: weevilrun@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook. Phone: 723-2342. #52703 TFN mt-bw

Westside Manor Apartments. 2 BR, 1 BA. Refrigerator & stove provided. Washer/Dryer hookups. (870) 853-5345 or 870-818-6702. #80594 12/19 TFN mt12w

### COMMERCIAL

For rent: 1,700 sq ft warehouse with 300 sq ft office/showroom. Address 155 Market St. Monticello, AR. Contact 870-723-9439. #102370 1/2

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

1100 SQ FT CLASS A OFFICE SPACE UTILITIES PAID 419 WEST GAINES (USDA BLDG), CALL 870-723-3534. TFN c11/28

### OFFICE FOR RENT

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### ESTATE SALE

534 County Rd. #73,  
Fountain Hill

Household items, furniture, freezer, sewing machines, material, etc. Farm equipment, tools, horse drawn wagon, lots of harness, boat/motor, 4 wheeler, & tillers

March 17, 18 & 19  
8:00 till 5:00

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Shift: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shift: 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Please apply in person.



702 N. Drew St. • Star City, AR 71667

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

### RESALE SHOP

Blane's Resale. Household goods, movies, furniture, and games. Also buys household furniture and unwanted storage buildings. Open Fridays and Saturdays. 708 N Gabbert Street. For weekdays Call 870-220-1359. 12/26 ttn

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**Pressure Washing: Driveways, sidewalks, campers, houses, etc.**  
**870-308-2047.** TFN.

See CLASSIFIEDS Page 11A



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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Bachelor of Science in Accounting, expert knowledge of accounting functions, 3-5 years experience preferred, proficiency in Microsoft applications including Excel, Word, Office 365, Teams. Competitive salary, great company. Call Patsy or email resume to patsy.reynolds@expresspros.com

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED IN THE DUMAS/MCGEHEE AREA.

Must have AR, AP, HR experience and able to perform other office related duties, excellent computer skills. \$\$\$ DOE. Call patsy.

#### CDL DRIVERS NEEDED:

Openings available for CDL Class A and B drivers in Pine Bluff, McGehee and Warren. Local runs, good driving record - Great Pay!! Call Patsy - 870-535-3330

#### HR ADMIN POSITION AVAILABLE IN THE DUMAS AREA

must have HR training and experience - good phone skills, customer service skills, excellent computer skills - call Patsy.

#### PURCHASING/PLANNING COORDINATOR

for company - will need excellent computer skills, ability to learn new tasks quickly, answering phones, working with scheduling. Call Patsy or email your resume to: patsy.reynolds@expresspros.com.

#### EXPRESS IS LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Material/Production Planner • Sales Director

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#### WELDERS:

Qualified/Certified Welders needed. Must pass a visual welding test.

#### FORKLIFT DRIVERS/LABORERS NEEDED

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AVAILABLE

– Must have good computer skills, be able to file, answer phones, take messages, set up appointments, schedule interviews, all office type duties. \$\$\$ DOQ.

#### WELDERS, FORKLIFT DRIVERS, UTILITY WORKERS

Needed in the Dumas/McGehee area. Great \$\$\$.

#### LOOKING FOR experienced applicants in the Warren/Monticello/Fordyce area for jobs in the Warren area. Must be able to work shift positions. Verification of past employment will be completed for employment. Call Patsy.

Mark Your Calendars!

## MARCH



# 8

Express Employment will be taking applications in **Monticello at Immanuel Baptist Church from 9am-11:30am** and in **McGehee at UAM from 1pm-3pm.**

# 16

Express Employment will be taking applications in **Warren at AHF from 9am-12 noon** and in **McGehee at UAM from 1pm-3pm.**

# 22

Express Employment will be taking applications in **Monticello at Immanuel Baptist Church from 9am-11:30am** and in **McGehee at UAM from 1pm-3pm.**

# 29

Express Employment will be taking applications in **Warren at AHF from 9am-12 noon** and in **McGehee at UAM from 1pm-3pm.**

\*Applicants must have I-9 documentation that proves your identity and eligibility to work, and able to pass a drug screen. Come see us and get ready to go to work!!!

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**870-535-3330 or 1-888-477-7846**  
**EOE –Equal Opportunity Employer**  
I-9 documentation that proves your identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. is needed.



SPORTS

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sports@monticellonews.net

Pirates fall to Dumas in 3A Region 4 Championship thriller 49-48



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**TRISTIAN BUTLER** scored a total of 25 points in three games during the Drew Central Pirates appearance in the 3A Region 4 Tournament.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**TRAMOND MILLER** shoots a three-pointer against Dumas in Monday's Regional Championship game. Miller who helped lead the Drew Central Junior Pirates to a regular season conference championship, was moved up to the senior high squad for the last two games of the regular season. Miller scored a total of 32 points in the Regional tournament.

By: **JEFF YOUNG**  
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Pirates entered the 2022 3A Region 4 Tournament this past week as the fourth seed out of the 8-3A after losing to Lakeside in the District Tournament the previous week.

Being the fourth seed, the Pirates would open the tournament facing the number one seed from the 7-3A in the Glen Rose Beavers.

Tralon Miller would get the Pirates on the board to begin the contest with two points driving the lane, but Glen Rose would return the favor, tying the contest on the next possession.

Tristian Butler added a free throw to give the Pirates a one-point lead but Glen Rose would connect on a three to regain the lead 5-3.

Drew Central would score the next six points to go up 9-5, but a Glen Rose three at the end of the quarter would cut the Pirate lead to 9-8 to end the quarter.

Kade Bodiford would extend the Pirate lead to three points at the start of second quarter, after connecting on a pair of free throws.

Neither team could score for the next couple of minutes when Glen Rose connected on a three to tie the contest at 11 with 4:50 remaining in the half.

Glen Rose would outscore Drew Central in the quarter 8-7 to tie the contest at 16 heading into the locker room at the half.

Returning from the break, Glen Rose would score the first basket of the quarter on a three at the 4:50 mark.

Glen Rose was able to outscore the Pirates in the quarter 9-8 to hold a one-point lead, 25-24 heading into the fourth quarter.

KJ Smith gave the Pirates an early advantage, 26-25, after making both of his shots from the free throw line to begin the fourth quarter, but a three from Glen Rose would retake the lead 28-26.

Antonio Remley tied the game at 28 on two made free throws on two trips to the charity stripe with Glen Rose taking a one-point lead on a free shot to make the score 29-28.

Glen Rose extended the lead to three points after a two-point shot with 4:13 remaining in the contest and would extend the lead to five points with 3:28 remaining.

Kade Bodiford scored the next

five points to tie the contest with 2:43 showing on the clock.

Glen Rose connected on a three with 2:06 remaining and extended the lead to 38-33 with 1:35 remaining in the contest.

Bodiford cut the lead to 38-36 on a three followed by a pair of free throws by Antonio Remley to tie the contest at 38 to send the game into overtime.

In the overtime period, each team would score six points to end in a 44-44 tie to send the contest into a second overtime where the Pirates would outscore Glen Rose 4-2 to take the 48-46 victory, knocking the Beavers out of the tournament and punching their own ticket to the 3A State tournament.

Leading the Pirates was Kade Bodiford with 21 points followed by Tristian Butler with eight. Tramond Miller added seven, Tralon Miller and Antonio Remley with four, and Will Watson and KJ Smith rounding out the scoring with two points each.

Returning to action on Sunday, February 27, to face the team that had beaten them three times this season, the Lakeside Beavers, the Pirates would find themselves trailing after one quarter of play 13-9.

The Pirates would outscore Lakeside in the second quarter 19-14 to take a 28-27 lead at the half, but that score would not be determined until after the break had concluded.

Before the second quarter ended, Lakeside would inbound the basketball with a mere .3 seconds remaining in the half trailing 28-27.

Lakeside inbounded the ball, and the shot was taken from half court with the ball going through the hoop. The referees gathered at the scorer's table and after a short conference counted the basket as good, giving the Beavers a 30-28 lead, but after the break, upon further review and discussion it was determined that .3 seconds was not enough time to get the shot off before the buzzer and the call was reverse handing the lead back to the Pirates, 28-27, to begin the second half.

The Pirates began to put some distance between themselves and the Beavers in the third quarter, outscoring Lakeside 18-12, to take a 46-39 lead into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, the Pirates continued to outpace Lakeside, tak-

See **PIRATES** Page 12A



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**KADE BODIFORD** pulls up for a jumper in the lane against Glen Rose on Friday night. Bodiford led the Pirates in scoring on Friday against Glen Rose with 21 points and finished the tournament scoring 40 total points.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**TRALON MILLER** soars against the Glen Rose defenders Friday night. Drew Central upset the number one seed from the 3A-7 with Miller scoring four points. Miller would score a total of 19 points in the tournament including nine points in the Pirates 15-point win over Lakeside.

Lady Pirates head to 3A State Tournament as 3A Region 4 fourth seed

By: **JEFF YOUNG**  
Advance Correspondent

For the first time in six or seven seasons, the Drew Central Lady Pirates have qualified for the 3A State Championship set to begin, Thursday, March 3, on the campus of North Arkansas College in Harrison.

The Lady Pirates entered this week's 3A Region 4 Championship Tournament as the second seed from the 8-3A after losing to Dumas in the District Tournament Championship game.

Facing Benton Harmony Grove in the first round of the Regional Tournament, the Lady Pirates got out to an 8-3 lead in

the first quarter and extended their lead to 24-11 after outscoring Benton Harmony Grove 16-8 in the second quarter.

Returning after the break, the Lady Pirates outscored Harmony Grove 18-7 in the third quarter to hold a 34-15 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Harmony Grove outscored the

Lady Pirates in the final quarter 9-6 as Drew Central took the victory 48-27 to advance to the semi-final contest against Centerpoint and qualifying for the 3A State Tournament.

Leading the Lady Pirates in scoring was Hannah Meeks with 17 points followed by Gracie Connard and Kaiya Williams

with seven points each. Sayveiona Durden added six, Edriana Hunter with five, Jaila Bunn with four, and Kassidie Gilbert with two points.

Returning against Centerpoint on Sunday, the Lady Knight took control of the contest from the very start of the first quarter. Centerpoint outscored the Lady

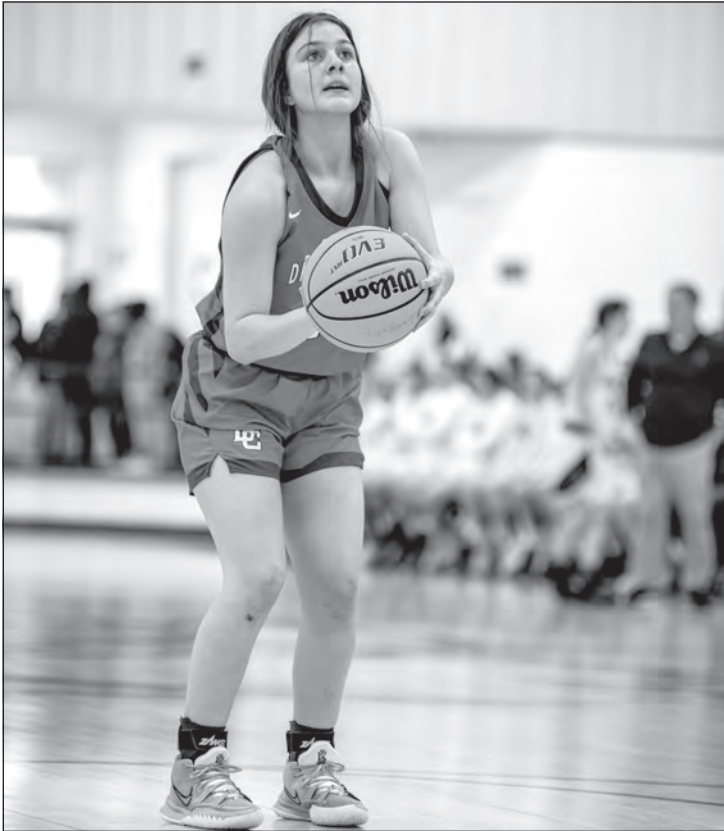
Pirates 16-1 in the first quarter with the Lady Pirates only point coming off a free throw by Sayveiona Durden.

The Lady Pirates had a better offensive quarter in the second, being outscored 12-10 in the quarter with the Lady Knights holding a 28-11 lead at the half.

See **LADY PIRATES** Page 12A



**KAIYA WILLIAMS (left)** prepares to drive to the basket against Centerpoint in Sunday's semi-final game. Williams scored three points against Centerpoint and 10 points total throughout the Regional Tournament. **HANNAH MEEKS (center)** shoots a free throw against Centerpoint. Meeks led the Lady Pirates with 17 points in their opening game against Benton Harmony Grove, seven points against Centerpoint, and eight in the Lady Pirates final contest against Fouke. **SAYVEIONA DURDEN (right)** takes a shot over a Lady Knight defender. Durden scored six points against Harmony grove, seven against Centerpoint, and seven against Fouke.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian



# Boll Weevils’ season comes to an end with 68-55 loss to Ouachita

By: **JEFF YOUNG**  
Advance Correspondent

Heading into the final week of the 2021-2022 Boll Weevil basketball season, the Weevils would split the final two contests with one being on the road and the final contest being at home in Steelman Fieldhouse.

Coming into the final week the Weevils had lost five straight contests.

Travelling to Searcy on Thursday, February 24, to face the Harding Bisons, the Weevils fell behind 5-0 before Ray Price put the Weevils on the board with a layup at 17:08.

A Jabari Sweet dunk would

give the Weevils their first lead of the contest with 9:08 remaining in the half. Each team would exchange the lead for the next few minutes with Harding taking the lead with 3:36 remaining before extending their lead to eight points, 24-16, to end the half.

Harding continued to lead throughout the second half with the largest lead being 13-points on two occasions before settling for an 11-point, 60-49, victory.

Leading the way for the Weevils was Jabari Sweet with 12 points followed by Richard Feagin Jr with nine. Ray Price and Wesley Booker each scored seven points, Cole Anderson added six, and Jesse White with four.

Josh Denton and Kyle Moore rounded out the scoring with two points each.

Returning to Steelman Fieldhouse on Saturday, February 26, for the final contest of the season against Ouachita Baptist University, the Weevils would honor

their only senior, Richard Feagin Jr., before the game.

UAM’s Cole Anderson got the Weevils on the board first, scoring the first two baskets of the contest to give UAM an early 4-0 lead before the Tigers got on the board with a single free throw.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**RICHARD FEAGIN JR** was honored before the Weevils final contest of the season as the only senior on the team. Feagin was a graduate student from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama. Feagin concludes his one season at UAM scoring 336 points on the season.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**JOSH DENTON** brings the ball down court in Saturday’s contest against OBU. Denton led the Weevils with 19 points connecting on three of five three-pointers.

OBU would take the lead on a three-pointer, 7-4, with 15:41 remaining in the half.

OBU would lead for the remainder of the half, extending their lead to 19-points before UAM’s Kyle Moore cut it to 18-points, 37-19, on a free throw to end the half.

OBU continued to lead the

Weevils for the remainder of the contest with their biggest lead coming with 10:27 remaining in the contest at 26-points, 53-27.

The Weevils were able to reduce the deficit before the end of the contest to 13 points on a layup by Cole Anderson to finish the contest trailing on the scoreboard 68-55.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**COLE ANDERSON** scored the first four points of the contest against OBU. Anderson finished the contest with nine points.

Josh Denton led the way on the scoreboard for the Weevils with 19 points followed by Richard Feagin Jr. with 10.

Feagin ends his career with the Weevils after one season scoring a total of 336 points on the year.

Cole Anderson and Zalek Sharp added nine points each, Wesley Booker with seven, and

Kyle Moore with one.

With the loss to Ouachita Baptist, the Weevils close the 2021-22 season on a seven-game losing streak going 10-18 overall and 6-16 in Great American Conference play, failing to qualify for the Great American Conference Championship Tournament this season.

## Billies open baseball season with 13-3 victory



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

**BRADEN HOLEMAN** got the start in Monday’s season opener for the Monticello Billies versus Hamer, LA. The Billies got off to a slow start as the Rebels took a 3-0 lead, but the Billies were able to erase the deficit to run-rule the team from Louisiana 13-3 in six innings.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 9A

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# UAM Blossoms fall to Ouachita Baptist to end season with 0-28 record

By: **JEFF YOUNG**  
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Cotton Blossoms completed the 2021-22 basketball season on Saturday, February 26, becoming the first Blossom team in the history of the school to finish a complete season without winning an official game, going 0-28 on the year. The Blossoms have won just one official game in the past two seasons under head coach Markel Cox, who officially stepped down as the Blossoms

head coach on Monday, February 28. Since the 2010-2011 basketball seasons, the Blossoms have had two winning seasons in the 11-year time frame. In 2014-15 the Blossoms went 14-13, winning their opening game against East Central in the Great American Conference Championship Tournament before losing in the second round to Harding. The next winning season came under newly hired head coach Greg Long in the 2019-2020 season as the Blossoms finished

the season with their best record in over a decade, finishing 20-11 with their final loss coming in the GAC Championship game against Southeastern Oklahoma State University. It would be the only season that Greg Long would be at UAM as he left for Mississippi College. Coming to UAM the next season was Coach Cox, who had the distinction of trying to build a program on a shortened recruiting season during the start of a global pandemic. The Blossoms would only play eight contests during the 2020-

21 season, going 1-7 during that time with their only victory coming on January 29 at Steelman Fieldhouse against Harding University. It would be the only official win for Coach Cox during his tenure at UAM. The Blossoms closed out the season at home against Ouachita Baptist on Saturday, after losing to Harding University on Thursday night on the road in Searcy, 70-42. In that contest, the Blossoms were led in scoring by Chaney Scott with 10 points followed by Taylor East and Madison Wey-

dert with seven points each. Trinity McDowell and Lauren Kleine each scored five, Aeryn Hawkins with four, and Bailey Harris and Azaria Hulbert with two points each. Returning on Saturday, the Blossoms saw OBU take the lead from the opening drive as the Lady Tigers never looked back, outscoring the Blossoms 16-8 in the first quarter, 28-10 in the second quarter, 29-15 in the third, with the Blossoms outscoring OBU 21-16 in the fourth with Ouachita taking the 89-54 victory.

Leading the Blossoms on the scoreboard was Trinity McDowell with 12 points followed by Bailey Harris with 10. Azaria Hulbert added eight, Madison Weydert with six, and Chaney Scott with five. Lauren Kleine and Aeryn Hawkins each scored four, Shania Smith with three, and Taylor East rounding out the scoring with two points. For the second time in two seasons, UAM will begin a new coaches search in time to begin the recruiting process and to determine what current players may return next season.



**BAILEY HARRIS (left)** shoots a jumper against Ouachita Baptist on Saturday afternoon. Harris scores 247 points this season for the Blossoms. **CHANEY SCOTT (center)** saw significant playing time one her return to the harrowd this season. Scott who missed all of last season and most of this season recovering from injury. The Monticello native could be one of the few returning players next season. **AZARIA HULBERT (right)** played in 12 of the Blossoms 28 games this season, scoring 56 total points on the year with her season high being 11 points against East Central.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

## PIRATES

Continued from Page 10A

ing the quarter 19-11, to take a 15-point, 65-50 victory to advance to the Regional Championship against Dumas. Leading the Pirates in scoring was Tramond Miller with 20 points followed by Nick Bailey with 10 points. Tralon Miller and Kade Bodiford finished with nine points, and Aiden Jones with five. Tristian Butler, KJ Smith, and Antonio Remley rounded out the scoring with four points each. Returning on Monday, February 28, the Pirates took to the court to face regional host, Dumas, in the 3A Region 4 Championship game. The Pirates got off to a solid start with KJ Smith getting the Pirates on the board first on a

pair of free throws. Tristian Butler put the Pirates up 4-0 at the 6:11 mark. Dumas got on the board on their next possession after a two by Tommy Reddick. The Pirates would go on a 10-0 run to take a 14-2 lead with 1:01 remaining in the quarter. Dumas connected on a pair of free throws to cut the lead to 14-4 as the quarter ended. Kade Bodiford got the Pirates started in the second quarter with a three-pointer on the Pirates first possession of the quarter. Dumas' offense began to pick up in the second quarter, outscoring the Pirates in the quarter 12-9 with the Pirates holding on to a 23-26 lead at the half. Dumas' Mike Reddick continued to be a scoring problem for the Pirates, scoring 17 straight points for the Bobcats from the

second quarter through half of the third quarter. Dumas' defense was able to hold the Pirates to six points in the third quarter, outscoring the Pirates 14-6 to take a 30-29 lead into the fourth quarter. Tommy Reddick extended the Bobcat lead to 33-29 on a three-pointer to start the fourth quarter. KJ Smith answered the Dumas three with a three-pointer for the Pirates to pull Drew Central back within one point. Drew Central's Tralon Miller gave the Pirates a 34-33 lead with 6:00 remaining in the contest, but Dumas would retake the lead on the next possession on a basket by Mike Reddick to give Dumas the 35-34 lead. Tommy Reddick extended the lead to three points, 37-34 with 3:25 remaining.

Bodiford tied the contest at 37 on a three-pointer with two minutes remaining in regulation and with 50 seconds remaining on the clock, Tralon Miller would score the go-ahead basket to give the Pirates a 39-37 advantage. Dumas came down the court looking for the final shot. The Bobcats drove the lane to attempt to get the shot but the shot was off its mark, but the Bobcats were able to secure the rebound and put it back up, but were unsuccessful on the putback but once again secured the rebound giving Tommy Reddick a final opportunity. The basket was good, and Reddick drew the foul to go to the line. Pirate head coach CJ Watson pleaded his case to the officials that time had expired before the shot was taken, but after a discussion amongst themselves and the

timekeeper, they ruled the shot was in time and added .6 seconds on the clock. Reddick was successful on the free throw attempt to give the Bobcats a one-point, 40-39, lead with .6 now showing on the clock. The Pirates did get one final shot away, but it bounced off the backboard and the front of the rim as the Dumas Bobcats claimed the 3A Region 4 Championship and a number one seed in the 3A State Tournament. Leading the way for the Pirates was Tristian Butler with 13 points followed by Kade Bodiford with 10. Tralon Miller added six, Tramond Miller and KJ Smith rounded out the scoring with five points each. With the loss, the Pirates secured the second seed from the Regional Tournament and advanced to the 3A State Tourna-

ment. The Tournament will be held at North Arkansas College in Harrison and will be hosted by Valley Springs. The Pirates will face Central Arkansas Christian in the first round on Friday, March 4, at 5:30pm. This will be the second meeting for the schools this season as CAC defeated Drew Central in the Mini-State Classic held at Drew Central on December 4. The Mustangs won that contest 52-34. If the Pirates are successful, they will move to the quarter-final game on Sunday, March 6 at 8:30pm. The semi-final game is scheduled for Monday, March 7 at 2:30 pm with the 3A State Championship game scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at 1:15 pm in Hot Springs.

## LADY PIRATES

Continued from Page 10A

The Lady Pirates played Centerpoint within one point in the third quarter, being outscored 14-13 in the quarter with Centerpoint carrying a 42-24 advantage into the fourth quarter. The Lady Knights closed out the contest outscoring Drew Central 11-4 in the fourth to take a 53-28 victory knocking Drew Central into the third-place game against Fouke. Sayveiona Durden led the Lady Pirates with eight points,

Gracie Connard and Hannah Meeks added seven, Kayia Williams with three, Edriana Hunter with two, and Jaila Bunn with one point. Centerpoint would go on to defeat Dumas in the Regional Championship game to claim the number one seed with Dumas as the second seed. In the third-place contest, Drew Central took a small advantage, 16-13, lead over Fouke in the first quarter of play and extended their lead to seven points. 30-23, after outscoring Fouke 14-10 in the quarter to close the half.

Returning from the break, neither team could get much going offensively with The Lady Pirates edging Fouke 6-5. Fouke had their best scoring performance in the fourth quarter, outscoring Dre Central 22-12 to take a 50-48 victory claiming the third seed and Drew Central the fourth. Edriana Hunter led Drew Central in scoring with nine and Hannah Meeks with eight. Gracie Connard and Sayveiona Durden each scored seven, Kaisa Orr with six, and Jaila Bunn and Lana Boykin with three points each.

The Lady Pirates will now face the first seed from Region 3, Lamar, on Friday, March 4, at 1pm. If successful, the quarter finals will be on Sunday, March 6, at 7pm. The semi-final game will be held on Monday, March 7, at 5:30pm with the 3A State Championship to be held in Hot Springs on March 12 at 11:30am.

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LIVING

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UAM hosts fundraiser for new athletic facility

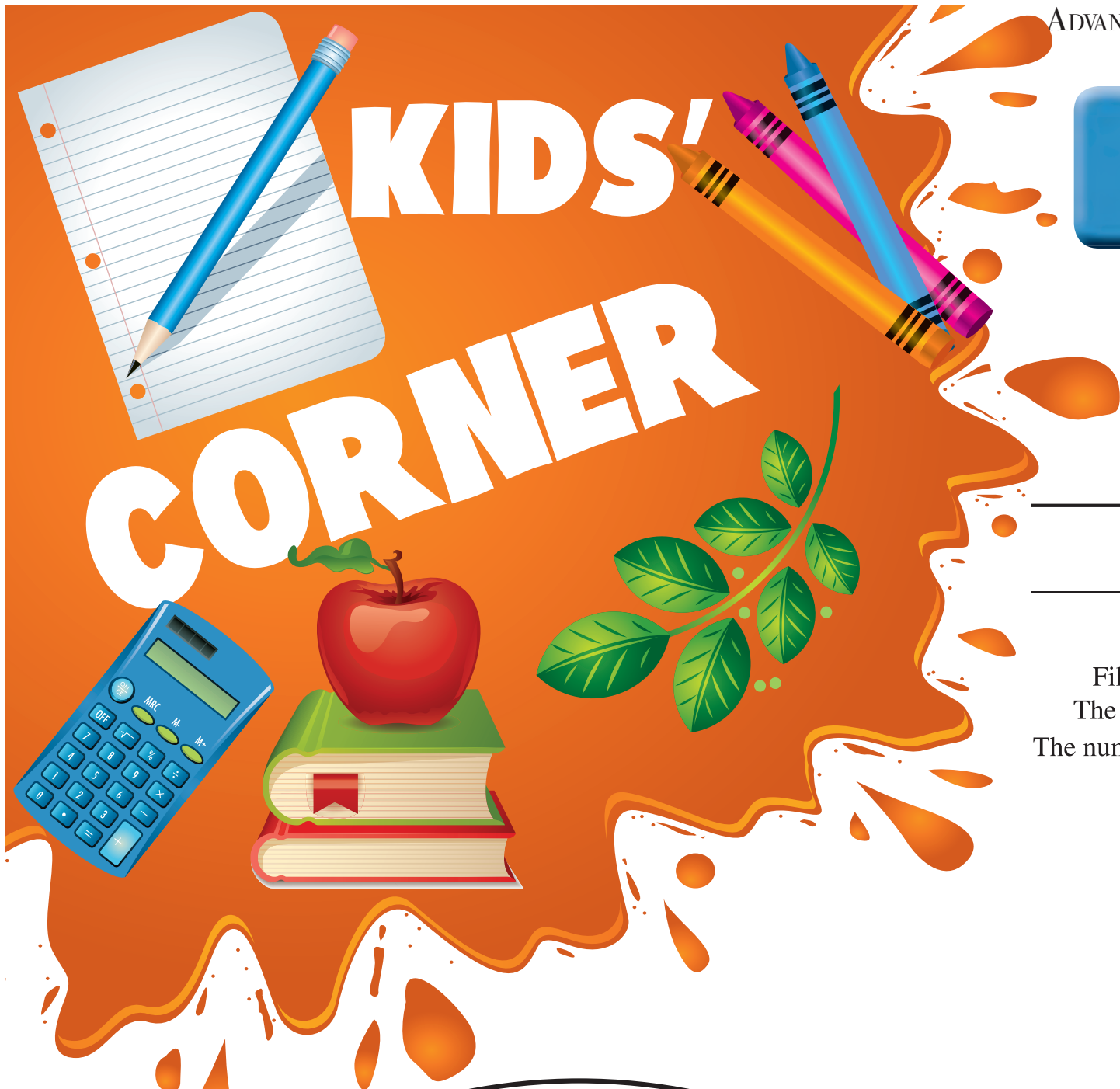
By: ASHLEY HOGG

Last Friday night, the University of Arkansas athletics department held a fundraiser in McGehee for the proposed new athletic facility. Chancellor Dr. Peggy Doss, interim Athletic Director Hud Jackson and other UAM officials were present to welcome the crowd and give information about the proposed plans. A silent auction was set up and as guests arrived, they were greeted by UAM personnel to take a commemorative photo in front of a UAM backdrop. While patrons enjoyed appetizers ca-

tered by Hoots and bid on auction items, acoustic music was played by UAM football player Josh Dennie. Jackson addressed the crowd to discuss the vision of the new facility and the benefits it would bring to the student athletes. After a meal, a live auction was held, and 25 items were auctioned off with all proceeds going to the new athletic facility. For more information on donating to this cause, contact UAM athletics at 870-460-1026.







# KIDS' CORNER

Here are some fun activities for our youngest readers to enjoy!

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

F B E L U A I T U I C O E V

Answer: Beautiful voice

## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	0		11
6		3	10
2		5	15
12	9	15	

5	8	2
3	1	6
7	0	4

Solution



## CLEF

a musical symbol to indicate the pitch of the notes written on a staff



WHAT IS THE HIGHEST FEMALE SINGING VOICE?

ANSWER: SOPRANO



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MICROPHONE

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH: Singer
- SPANISH: Cantante
- ITALIAN: Cantante
- FRENCH: Chanteur
- GERMAN: Sänger



A STAFF IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE FIVE HORIZONTAL LINES ON WHICH PEOPLE WRITE MUSIC. MUSICAL NOTES ARE PLACED EITHER ON A LINE OR IN A SPACE.





FAITH

CONTACT US  
Ashley Hogg, Editor  
870-367-5325  
editor@monticellonews.net

# CHILDREN’S DEVOTIONAL

## “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:3

By Amy Becker

I know this big ol’ world can seem like a scary place. Whether you’re listening to glimpses of the news, reading over your parent’s shoulders on social media, or listening to grown-up conversations, by now you’ve probably gotten the picture that this place we live is less than perfect. This is not heaven on earth. Whether you are 8 or 88, chances are (like me), you need the reminder that

while this place is where God has put us and we are so thankful and so blessed with the lives we’ve been given, on this side of eternity things get a little scary from time to time.

Luckily our peace does not have to depend upon the absence of anything upsetting happening around us. Our peace, or absence of panic and fear can be a good indicator of the faith we have in the one we know is in total control.

“Peace is what I leave

with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.” John 14:27

You know who said this? Jesus. The very one that calmed the raging sea with his voice. He gives us his own peace! Come on! That is amazing! Read further

though, he lets us know that others in this world will offer us peace, but it won’t be what we need. We need not be worried, upset, or afraid. God is with us.

Imagine if we lived like we really believed that was true! Would you worry less? Fret no more?

I get it. This world can be

intimidating and frightening, unkind even, but the things going on in the world should not change our behavior. Our knowledge that we have a great big God who has overcome it all should wrap us in a peace beyond what anyone can understand.

“Do not be anxious about

anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Trust God. Enjoy his peace. He is in control.

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# SERVICE Spotlight

## Melvin Rauls focuses on honesty, integrity

By: Kristie Nail  
graphics3@monticellonews.net

Melvin Rauls, owner of Rauls Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork, has been around awhile. His business started out in 1996 in the Pine Bluff area, but he’s since moved to the Monticello area (around 2000). The business has two employees, Melvin and Aaron Rauls. Mr. Rauls’ business philosophy is short but sweet: “A job done is a job well done.” He attributes his company’s success to ‘staying with it.’ When life is sour or when life gives Mr. Rauls lemons he ‘makes lemonade.’

Melvin says that the greatest obstacle he’s had to overcome to make his business a success is not giving up and staying focused when money is low or business is slow. Mr. Rauls hopes to see his business grow in the future. In the next year, five years or ten years, he wants to go from a small

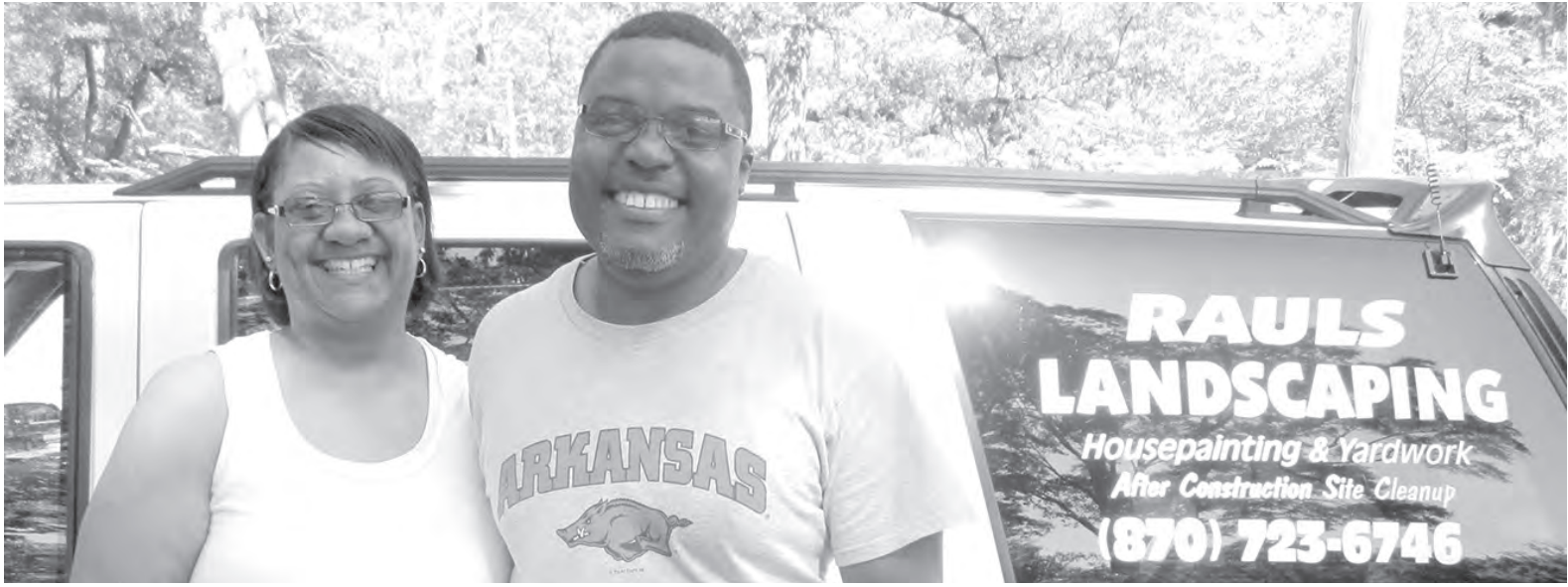


Photo by Annette Buzzell/Advance

**HERE TO SERVE YOU** Melvin Rauls and wife Tracy are pictured above.

business to a large business covering the whole state. Melvin has a bit of advice for someone interested in starting their own business. He says, “Don’t give up. Keep the business dream alive.” We asked why customers should do business with Rauls

Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork, to which he said, “Honesty, integrity, compatible business rates and customer satisfaction.” Rauls Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork is located at 314 West Oakland in Monticello and is here to help you with all your lawn,

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# COUNTRY

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## BARKADA JANA WRIGHT

It sure is nice to see some sunshine after the gloomy, wet weekend we had. However, we were in need of some rain so I won't complain too much.

It is crazy what a difference a week can make. We are witnessing another historical event: the invasion of the Ukraine by Russia. Prayers that this ends quickly and peacefully.

Robert and Tammy Stafford were off for another adventure. This time they went to Ponca to see the elk. I am glad that they are fully enjoying their retirement. I will get there one day.

Bettye Rial was nice enough to call with some news. Last week Ann Johnson, Sharon Beard, and Betty Kellum came to visit her. Then last Monday, Shana Wilson came by for a visit. She also said that Shelly Wooten has been having some health issues. I hope she is better soon! Thanks for calling Ms. Bettye!

Prayers that Cam Harris is feeling better. He tested positive for Covid this past week.

A special shout-out to my nephew Will Crutchfield. He accepted Jesus in his heart this past week!

Glad to hear that Ms. Wanda Reaves is home and doing better. She is very lucky to have Rhonda Kohnen closer to help take care of her.

Amanda Calhoun, Kaylei Calhoun, and Lexy Sanders went shopping for Kaylei's wedding dress. She found the one she wanted and said, "Yes," to the dress!

Crayton Harris, son of Dustin and Laci Harris, qualified in both 65 classes for the South Central Loretta Lynn Regional. He ended up 3rd overall in the 65cc and

7th overall in the 65 (10-11) mod class! Great job!

I was very sorry to hear about the sudden passing of Crystal Gibson. I had the pleasure of meeting her when I taught two of her daughters. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. May the Lord lift you up and give your strength.

Happy birthday to my nephew Will Crutchfield, Debbie Martin, Judy Tipton, JaKasha Johnson, Jill Brown, Tony Her-ring, Becky Pace, Jonathan Herring, Micheal Lesley, and Jeff Jester. I hope you all have or had wonderful birthdays.

Please call 870.224.3383 or email wrightwoman\_66@yahoo.com with news. No news is too small! We love to hear about graduations, weddings, engagements, birthdays, etc.

## GREEN HILL WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church was blessed with a church full on Sunday. Brother Caleb's message titled "Illuminating the Darkness" it was from Mark 4:21-25. Children's church starts next Sunday March 6th. You are welcome to join us at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. for Worship Service, and Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. Second Sunday singing every month on the second Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Greenhill Community Baptist Church will have a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. Friday, April 15 and sunrise service at 7 a.m. Sunday, April 17, followed with breakfast and an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Our revival is planned for May 1-4, 2022 at 7 p.m. nightly. There will be a potluck on Sunday and

**Do you have any community tidbits?**

The Advance-Monticellonian is actively seeking other community reports to join the seven you read on a weekly basis. If you live in a community not represented on this page (and we know there are several around Monticello)—and you want to write about your particular area of the world, contact us at 870-367-5325, via email at editor@monticellonews.net, by U.S. mail at P.O. Box 486, Monticello 71657 or just drop by the office during business hours on either Thursdays or Fridays. Let's discuss your participation in our newspaper.

Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. The speaker for the revival is Brother Travis Lane from Geneva Baptist Church of Dequeen.

Greenhill UMC sponsored a Soul Food Monday at UAM Wesley Foundation. They enjoyed providing a meal and the fellowship.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Emily Bennett, Dodge Bennett, Joy Lawson, and Crystal Johns. I hope you all enjoy a blessed birthday.

South Arkansas Gospel Singing will be held at 10 a.m. Greenhill Community Baptist Church this Saturday, March 5.

Aunt May had a doctor's appointment last week and she received a good report. Aunt Pepe had a doctor's appointment as well and I am happy to report she is doing much better. Both ladies are a true inspiration to me. They exercise, eat well, and do their best to take care of their health.

Wayne and Sandy Smith enjoyed a visit with Jimmy May Gray and Tammy Leggett on Friday afternoon. Sandy served homemade vegetable soup, cornbread, and a chocolate cake. Thank you Sandy for always calling me with news. I appreciate it very much.

I was blessed to have my family in church with me on Sunday then gathered around my table for lunch. I love to cook and we all love

to eat. We are blessed to be able to gather to worship and spend time together.

Please keep our military and the citizens of Ukraine in our prayers.

Verse of the week: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Have a safe and blessed week.

## JORDAN PARK TRILISA MARSHALL

My heart, prayers and condolences go out to all the family, friends and loved ones of Crystal Denise Gibson. Crystal was a very beautiful and sweet person, and her life was tragically taken too soon from her husband, children and family. Her funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 1 at New Life Assembly of God Church. May God comfort and strengthen this family in a very special way.

My husband, grandson, our youngest daughter and myself went Saturday morning to Walmart and Huddle House for breakfast. I was happy to see and talk with my cousin Johnnie Mae Ingram. I also saw and talked with our Bishop Michael Jones, one of his sons, our good friend Angelia Ander-

son and husband Al Bealer. It was so good to see family and good friends in spite of the rain and cold weather. We had a long wait for our food and ended up getting food from Ray's.

When we got back home, my grandson said it is cold out there and he was not going back out. He put on his pajamas, got his blanket and got on the couch and watched the Razorback basketball game with this Paw Paw.

Happy Birthday shout out this week goes to Bonnie Williams and Shanky Ray, Feb. 28; Lulsa Coulter, March 1; Latonya Block, Gloria Harris, Christine Riley, DeShundra Griddine, Karen Hillard, Yvette Harris and James Adams, March 2; Stanford Lindsey and Tavaris Starks, March 3; Takesha Johnson, Bridgette Freeman and Brenda Spinks, March 4; Dalvin Lane, March 6. Happy birthday everyone, enjoy your special day.

Awesome Sunday school lesson this week. It was on: Fruits of Redemption, coming from Galatians 5:22 (KJV). Paul said that whenever possible, we should work for the good of all, especially for those in the family of faith. Pastor Robert Marshall Sr's message was on God's promise, coming from Genesis 12:1-9 (KJV). Abraham was blessed to be a blessing because God blessed him to be a blessing to others.

Scripture for the week is Psalm 92:1-2 (KJV) "It is a god thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most high; to show forth they loving-kindness in the morning, and they faithfulness every night."

This is the first week of March. Everyone have a safe, blessed and warm rest of the

week and in all your do, remember to always keep God first. Blessings!

## LACEY IVANELL HANDLEY

Hello, it's another day that we've been blessed to see; it's cold but the sun is shining and I thank God for that. We were blessed with a great Sunday church service at Mt. Olive Methodist Church in Lacey. Sunday school was taught by Bro. Darren Spencer; the subject was "Serving a Just God"; Job 42:1-6 and 10-17. The key verse, Job 42:3 (NSRV) "Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things to wonderful for me, which I did not know"; it was a well taught lesson. Minister Edgar Spencer's message was great; his thought was from Acts 10:1-3; subject "Call on the Lord". Brother Ephriam Franklin lead an awesome alter call and the choir sang beautifully; the spirit was definitely in the house.

I was happy to see and talk too Brother Otis Burks and Mrs. Erma Burks; it had been a while since I had seen them. Ray Jordan Allen called to check on us and so did Sister Jessie Daniels as well as Fredrick Handley and Felton Handley. Matilda Jordan called to say Callen Hardin and Julia Lambert called to check on the family. It is always good to reach out and check on each other.

Happy belated birthday wishes to: Marilyn Suber, February 23; Doyle Philips, February 23; and Janice Miller, February 24. Happy Birthday wishes to: Andrea Williams, February 28 and our aunt, Mary Moore.

Sending our prayers and sympathy to Joyce Dowd and

See COUNTRY Page 6B

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# DEVOTIONAL

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### Faith that moves mountains

Mountains. We climb them, we ski them, we're raised up to walk on them; we see their purple majesty. From a distance they seem like road bumps, from a distance they seem regal and awesome until we're face-to-face with them. Then they seem impenetrable and un-climbable. So we stand in the valley and we look up to the monstrous challenge in front of us. It's impossible and impassible and we consider turning around. The problem with being in a valley is that not only is there a mountain in front of you but also one behind you. No escape!!

We think there is no escape because so many times we have a "valley perspective". From the valley the mountain is ominous and enormous. That's how we view trials in life. We look at them from the valley. They are overwhelming.

Yet we really should be encouraged in our valley moments because they can serve as reminders of the mountains that we have already conquered! That allows us to change our perspective. We can see with our own eyes what God has accomplished and then we can begin to see the next mountain from His perspective. Through the eyes of God the mountains are molehills! I know the trial that you may be going through today seems impossible.

But it's in those times in the valley that we look at the mountain through the eyes of faith. Zachary Zaitzeff who made the summit of Mt. Everest in 2011 is quoted as saying "I have found no other activity were I have to put everything into making one step upward or downward"

Mountains are only conquered one step at a time. Each step requires faith and

perseverance.

With each step of faith we can have the confidence that the peak is within sight and that the valley is getting further and further behind us. Matthew 17:20 can become the mountain moving word of God that we can stand on. For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

If we were to be totally honest, when it comes to the prayers, we pray about our problems. We usually ask God to remove them, to somehow change our circumstances and eliminate them. But we know that's not how life works. Mountains and valleys are all part of the plan. But by faith and the power of Christ, he changes you and I in the process of climbing the mountain.

So what we thought was too difficult isn't so hard anymore. What once filled us with fear, we now laugh at. That thing that reminded us of our failure is now a testament to our victory. The mountain that seemed so big we can now look down on because we're no longer in the valley but now we're standing on the peak.

Though your mountain looks impossible right now have faith that there will be a moment soon enough where you will be able to say that the Lord moved my mountain when He moved me.

I pray you have an awesome week.

In Christ,  
Tim

*By: Timothy Parke, Lead Pastor  
New Life Assembly of God*



## Puzzle answers

### Page 6B Word Search

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

### Page 6B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

	C	R	A	V	A	T		S	C	A	L	E	S	
C	U	I	S	I	N	E		C	A	L	I	B	E	R
R	D		S	P	I	D	E	R	M	A	N		M	A
A	G	U	E	S		I	R	E		S	A	P	I	R
T	E	N	S		P	U	R	E	E		C	E	T	E
E	L	I		J	A	M		D	K	R		R	O	B
		V	I	O	L				G	E	M	I	N	I
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T	A	L	A	S		D	O	T		S	A	R	A	N
I	D		W	H	I	R	L	I	G	I	G		B	D
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Pauline Baptist  
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Rose Hill Freewill Baptist  
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Second Baptist  
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Shady Grove Baptist Church  
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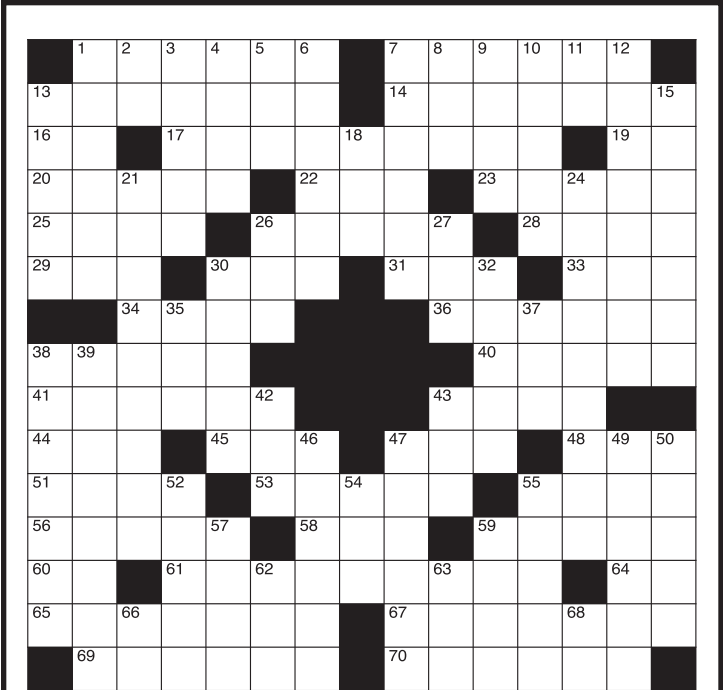
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Neckwear

7. Fish parts

13. Cooking

14. Quality

16. Rural delivery

17. Popular superhero

19. Partner to Pa

20. Shivering fits

22. Wrath

23. Linguistics pioneer

25. Large integers

26. A way to prepare food

28. Group of badgers

29. Peyton's little brother

30. Rock out

31. Danish krone

33. Take from with force

34. Baroque musical instrument

36. Zodiac sign

38. Hebrew alphabet letter
40. Independent member of a clone

41. Type of garment

43. Satisfy

44. One point south of due east

45. A way to wipe out

47. Moved quickly on foot

48. Bar bill

51. An idiot

53. Performed with the voice silent

55. Body fluids

56. Rhythmic patterns

58. “\_\_ my i’s”

59. Type of wrap

60. It shows who you are

61. Carousel

64. Type of college degree

65. Molding

67. Closes again

69. Verses

70. Surface

CLUES DOWN

1. Short, thick stick

2. Rhode Island

3. Animals of the horse family

4. Very important persons

5. Folk singer Di Franco

6. Boredom

7. Long speech

8. Footballer Newton

9. Expression of sorrow or pity

10. Linear accelerator

11. One quintillion bytes

12. Smallest interval in Western music

13. Box

15. Cheese dish

18. Make a mistake

21. Done by all people or things

24. Circumference

26. Chum

27. Electrocardiogram

30. Sandwich chain Jimmy \_\_
32. Showed old movie

35. Important event on Wall St.

37. Where wrestlers work

38. Free from contamination

39. Eastern Canada coastal region

42. Slang for gun

43. High schoolers' test

46. Fathers

47. Call it a career

49. Productive

50. Musical groups

52. Yellowish-brown

54. Lowest point of a ridge

55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig

57. Fill up

59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1

62. Frost

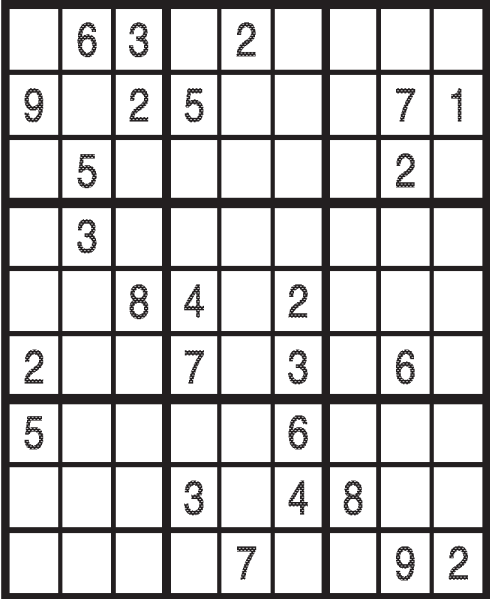
63. Jewel

66. Atomic #45

68. Top lawyer

Answers can be found on Page 5B

SUDOKU



**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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

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

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

WORDS

- ABDOMINAL
- ACUTE
- ANEMIA
- BLADDER
- BLOOD
- CREATININE
- DIALYSIS
- DISEASE
- DONOR
- EXCHANGE
- EXCRETION
- FAILURE
- FILTRATION
- GLOMERULI
- HEALTH
- IDIOPATHIC
- INFLAMMATION
- KIDNEY
- MEMBRANE
- NEPHROLOGY
- RENAL
- URINARY
- URINATION

This week’s recipe: Chocolate bark gets a nutty upgrade

Peanut and chocolate has always been a tasty combination. The saltiness of peanuts pairs well with the sweetness of chocolate, which is why many desserts feature this combination of flavors. Cakes and cookies may be prime outlets for pairing peanuts and chocolate, but so can homemade candies, like chocolate bark. “Caramelized Peanut Milk Chocolate Bark” from “Chocolate Obsession” (Stewart, Tabori & Chang) by Michael Recchiuti and Fran Gage mixes peanut butter right into the chocolate to give it an extra dose of nutty flavor.

Caramelized Peanut Milk Chocolate Bark  
Ingredients (About 24 pieces)

- 1 1/2 cups blanched whole peanuts
- 1/2 cup granulated cane sugar
- 2 teaspoons unsalted butter with 82 percent butterfat
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup (10 ounces by weight) tempered 41 percent milk chocolate
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons smooth peanut butter, at room temperature

Directions:

Roast and caramelize the nuts:

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line the bottom of a sheet pan with parchment paper. Spread the peanuts on the prepared pan in a single layer. Roast the nuts until they are a medium brown, about 15 minutes. While the nuts are roasting, put a piece of parchment paper or a nonstick baking liner on a work surface. Measure the sugar and butter and put both of them next to the stove. As soon as the nuts are roasted, place a medium, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Use an unlined copper pot if you have one. When the pot is hot — test it by flicking a drop of water into the pan; it should sizzle and dance across the bottom — immediately add the hot nuts and the sugar. Cook, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, until the sugar liquefies and coats the nuts. If they start to smoke, reduce the heat. When only a few specks of sugar remain unmelted, remove from the heat. Sprinkle the salt over the nuts and add the butter. Stir until the nuts glisten and start to separate from one another. Scrape the nuts onto the parchment paper or baking liner and spread them apart. Let the nuts cool completely, and then break up the larger pieces. The pieces don’t have to be uniform. Store the nuts in a zippered plastic bag at room temperature if you are not making the bark immediately.

**Make the bark:** Line the bottom of an 8-by-12-inch sheet pan with parchment paper. Stir the tem-

pered chocolate and peanut butter together in a medium bowl. Pour the chocolate into the prepared pan. Spread it evenly with a small offset spatula. Tap the pan on a work surface to even the top. Sprinkle the caramelized nuts over the chocolate. Tap the pan again to settle the nuts into the chocolate. When the choco-

late loses its sheen and starts to set, after about 15 minutes, cut the bark with a sharp knife into 2-inch squares or other fanciful shapes of your choice. Leave the bark at room temperature until it is completely set, about 1 hour, and then separate the pieces. Store in a cool, dry place, not in the refrigerator.

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

family in the loss of her brother Joseph Young Carter. Also sending our prayers and sympathy to Amanda Killingsworth and family in the loss of her mother as well as the family of Mrs. Lucille Daniels. Prayers for the sick and shut-in: Earl Collins, Jean Ray Douglas, Virgie Hayne, Artis Lucas, Pastor Nelson Spencer and others who aren’t feeling well. Thought for the week: “Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, or obsess; just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best”, author unknown. Be blessed!

POSSUM VALLEY  
KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Welcome back, y’all! I hope you’ve enjoyed freezing half to death this week, I haven’t. I think we had one day that I can recall being nice enough to go outside. I was able to

clean up the yard a little bit on that day. The rest of the time I spent inside covered up under my fuzzy blanket. These old bones just don’t cotton to cold, wet weather. It’s fit for only ducks and birds. Speaking of birds, you may recall that last weekend was the Great Backyard Bird Count. I submitted counts for 41 different species and over 2000 birds. Most of that was Geese and Cormorants. But they count, too. I didn’t see a lifer this year. Next year I need to travel somewhere new so I can find something new. I’ll have to look into that. I start back to work Monday, just in time for a new month to begin. The old saying is that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But if the thunder in February saying holds true, then it may be that April comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion instead. Although, I believe our weather is too bipolar to be so predictable. We’ll have alternating cold and warm for at least another few months. We shall

see. Bethel enjoyed a wonderful service this week. This was Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl’s last Sunday with us. We are really going to miss those two. Bro. Kevin’s message was, “The Bible Speaks About Witnessing”, from Luke 24:45-52. Please, pray for our church as we seek the Lord’s will for a pastor to lead us and guide us. Some of us began reminiscing about what Bethel church looked like years ago. As in when I was a young’un. I can recall our church was comprised of one room, the room which is now the James Glennon Fellowship Hall. We still had the tall windows that were held open with toma-to sticks and there was no bathroom or running water. We had an outhouse complete with granddaddy longlegs and spiders and it was one of my greatest fears to enter its creepy confines. I would have to ‘go’ really badly before I would walk out in the woods behind the church to go there. I was so afraid, especially if I’d been a bad girl, that the devil himself would reach up from

the abyss of the black hole and pull me down. I was so happy when the church installed indoor plumbing. I remember our only source of heat was an old potbel- lied stove and we cooled off using handheld paper fans and any breeze the good Lord would see fit to send through those windows. Later on, I can recall an attic fan being installed. That thing would just about suck the pages out of the hymnals and the hat off grannie’s head. And it was noisy as all get out, but it cooled the place well. That’s my news for this week. Until next time, please, be safe and smile and show re- spect to everyone you meet. The corny joke for this week is “How does a duck buy lipstick? She just puts it on her bill!”

WILMAR  
CHRIS RILEY

There is no Wilmar news this week. Chris Riley had other commitments. Her column will resume in next week’s edition.

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