

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Remember to
"Spring Forward" Sunday, March 13

Volunteers help
"Feed the Kids"
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ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

STRATEGIC DOING WORKSHOP HELD MONDAY

Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Members of the community along with elected officials and city commission members, attended a Strategic Doing Workshop on Monday at the Sadie Johnson Building. Pictured above is speaker Joseph Fratesi with Mississippi State University. Public Forums will be held Tuesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 16 at the Sadie Johnson Building where the Monticello Planning Commission will hear input from citizens on the future planning goals of Monticello.

Planning Commission Seeks Community Input

Public Forums scheduled to allow residents to voice their ideas

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

What is good about Monticello? What needs to be changed? What do YOU think?

In order to hear from Monticello's citizens, the city's Planning Commission has scheduled two sessions in mid-March where residents can voice their concerns, thoughts, and hopes for the future of the city.

Public Forums will be held on Tuesday evening, March 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and the following morning, Wednesday, March 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Sadie Johnson Community Center.

A primary function of the Planning Commission is to develop a Plan for Monticello. This requires a good bit of preparation, including maps, census information, and input from all parts of the city. For some time, Planning Commissioners have been gathering data on the history and current conditions of Monticello. Now the Commission needs to hear from area residents about what they like about Monticello, what they do not like, and what ideas they have for helping the city grow and prosper.

Commission Chair Dan Boice expressed his hope that residents would view these sessions as an opportunity to let their voices be heard. "There are a lot of wonderful things about Monticello, strengths we can build on," said Boice. "And there are things that need improving, too. We want to learn about those from the people who know their neighborhoods, who have to get to the store, and who see their children or grandchildren growing up here. It's critical that we hear from residents of ALL ages and from all parts of the city. We need to hear about everything: roads, facilities, quality of life, parks, sidewalks, the economy, utilities — everything!" Boice also expressed his hope that residents who had moved to Monticello from elsewhere might have ideas about good ideas that they have seen in other places.

Both sessions will be open for residents to come and go as they can. Planning Commissioners will be listening in order to better understand how to plan for the city's future. Donuts and beverages will be served.

Drew County COVID update

Wednesday, March 2: 3
Thursday, March 3: 0
Friday, March 4: 3
Saturday, March 5: 0
Sunday, March 6: 1
Monday, March 7: 0
Tuesday, March 8: 6
Active cases as of Tuesday, Feb. 22: 15
7-day average of new cases as of Tuesday, Feb. 22: 2
Total number of deaths as of Tuesday, March 8: 64
CDC COVID-19 Community level: Low

BY: MELISSA ORRELL

New infections of COVID-19 continue to sharply decrease across the County, as Drew County added 6 new cases to the tally bringing the total number of cases in the County since the beginning of the pandemic to 4,641, on Tuesday, March 8. The total number for the State of Arkansas is 823,926 with 2,709 active cases, over 1,500 less active cases than at the same time last week, as Arkansas continues to see active case numbers plunging. The County added one new death to the death toll last week bringing the total throughout the pandemic to 64.

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 for that area. 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
- Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (have home tests or access to testing)
- Talk to healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP and monoclonal antibodies
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine

Medium:

- If at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take

See COVID Page 6A

Sugars important to plants but not essential for sap flow

BY LON TEGELS

College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources - UAM

Discovery that plants have a backup plan to move sap even without the presence of sugar — once thought impossible — is the result of a decade-long study published in the February 21 issue of "Nature Plants." The multinational research team behind the discovery includes lead author Benjamin Babst, a scientist from the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, and the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

"Nature," established in 1869, is among the most highly regarded journals in science. In its 126-year history, Nature has grown dozens of high-impact offshoot journals, including "Nature Plants."

"What we found is quite a surprise," said Babst, associate professor of plant ecophysiology, "Sugar loading is not required for phloem sap flow in maize plants."

The research team looked at how plants move the sugars they manufacture through photosynthesis from the leaves to the stem, roots, seeds, and fruits. Those sugars are moved through the phloem, tube-like structures running from leaves to other plant parts.

"Plant biologists have been taught for decades what Ernst Münch first proposed in the 1930s — that sap flow is driven by pumping sugars — typically sucrose — into the phloem," Babst said. "The high concentration of sucrose causes water to move in. Water movement into the phloem generates pressure, and the pressure causes the sap to flow down through the phloem toward the stem and roots."

"Under normal circumstances, that appears to be true," he said. Babst and his colleagues wondered what happens when a plant cannot pump sugars into the phloem, for example, when the plant is under stress from drought, flood or heat or cold.

The team found the plant still has different ways to achieve sap flow by using potassium and other ions to drive osmotic movement.

Members of the research team tackled different aspects of the problem, which included finding a key mutation and inventing new ways to measure flow within

Photo courtesy of Lon Tegels

plant tissues.

Babst worked in partnership with David Braun of the University of Missouri, who isolated a corn mutation that prevents the plant from pumping sucrose into the phloem, but still had sap flowing at normal speeds.

Michael Knoblauch of Washington State University found that phloem pressure was high in the mutant maize, similar to wild-type maize.

Researchers found that "other dissolved molecules, solutes, should cause similar behavior of water," Babst said. "Sugars are usually the most abundant molecule by far in the phloem, but there is also a lot of potassium" found in the mutant corn.

New techniques gave accurate measurements that enabled Kaare Jensen, of the Technical University of Denmark, to model liquid flow. Babst said, "The modeling told us that the increase in potassium was enough to maintain phloem pressure and phloem sap flow at the levels we measured in the mutant plants."

"This paper was the culmination of the right mutant and several new non-destructive techniques being used together," he said. "Phloem is very difficult to study. Because it is very small and buried inside of other tissues, it is easy to damage or disrupt the phloem when trying to do physical measurements. Progress on understanding how phloem works has been slow because of these major technical difficulties."

Researchers turned to medicine and entomology for the innovative and non-de-

structive, and minimally invasive techniques used in this study.

"We used carbon-11 radioisotope to measure phloem sap flow in live plants — it's one of the isotopes used in medical imaging," Babst said.

Knoblauch recently invented a pico gauge device that he used to measure phloem pressure.

Gertrud Lohaus of the University of Wuppertal in Germany measured minute amounts of phloem sap using a technique called aphid stylectomy.

"The technique relies on sap-sucking insects, aphids, to find the phloem with their straw-like mouthpart, the stylet," Babst said.

Babst and another team member, Ryan Tappero at Brookhaven National Laboratory, used X-ray fluorescence to image and measure potassium in cross-sections of phloem. Sönke Scherzer and Rainer Hedrich, both of the University of Würzburg in Germany, used another technique to measure potassium in live phloem by inserting special microelectrodes into individual phloem cells of corn plants.

The knowledge gained from this research could help plant breeders develop crops with greater hardiness under climate extremes. Also, the suite of techniques developed for this research can be applied to other plant species and could aid research in enhancing crop yields or wood production.

"I approach my work with the idea that if we can understand basic plant function,

See BABST Page 6A

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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.

Ballot Draw

The Ballot Draw for position of candidates appearing on the primary election ballot will be at 10 a.m. March 14 in the Club Room at the Drew County Court House.

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 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Black History Parade

The Drew County NAACP You Chapter will hold a parade beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19. The line up will take place at First Baptist Church, located at 413 N. Main St., 10:00-11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Annual Cemetery Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the Union Cemetery Association will be held on March 20, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union Methodist Church at Rye. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

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.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

PEO Fundraiser

Enjoy fellowship and delicious food and refreshments for \$10 per person. Sign up for fun & games - Bridge, Dominos, Hand & Foot (Bridge players can get their own foursome). April 12, 2022 at the 1st Methodist Church, 317 S. Main, Monticello, starting at 1:00 p.m. Call Kay Keon, 870-367-3744, Sheere Scogin, 870-723-7560, or Marilyn Mhoon, 870-866-0929.

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).

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.

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

See CALENDAR Page 3A

Senior Center LUNCH



March 9 - March 16

Wednesday: *Sweet & sour meatballs, rice, egg roll, cookie*

Thursday: *BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, dump cake, roll*

Friday: *Sloppy Joes, tots, mandarin oranges, sugar cookie*

Monday: *Chicken noodle soup, crackers, brownie*

Tuesday: *Hamburger steak w/ onions, wild rice, carrots, fruit cocktail cobbler, roll*

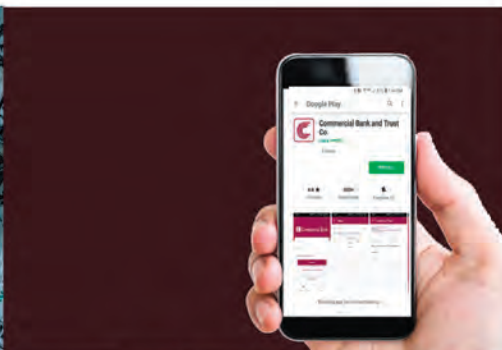
Wednesday: *Baked ham, sweet potatoes, spinach, pineapple chunks, biscuit*

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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Don’t forget to Spring Forward!

Daylight saving time 2022 in Arkansas will begin on Sunday, March 13



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Updated decision tool helps farmers decide whether to cut potassium fertilizer during record prices

By **Fred Miller**
U of A System Division of Agriculture

As fertilizer prices soar, Arkansas farmers are looking for places to cut costs, and potassium is often at the top of that list. Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station experts caution growers to choose their cuts carefully and offer a toolkit to help make those decisions easier and more cost effective.

Market mayhem
“Fertilizer prices soared in 2021 and more than doubled in the last 12 to 18 months,” said Trent Roberts, associate professor of soil fertility and testing for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Roberts is also the Endowed Chair in Soil Fertility Research for the Agricultural

Experiment Station. John Anderson, head of the department of agricultural economics and agribusiness, said the cost of potash — the common fertilizer source for potassium — costs a little over \$800 per ton now, up from \$375 per ton a year ago. Other fertilizers are similarly high, with urea, a primary nitrogen source in Arkansas, around \$900 per ton, up from less than \$400 per ton a year ago. While fertilizer costs are rising, crop prices are also high, Anderson said. Long-grain rice is around \$14.25 per hundredweight. For rice, a hundredweight equals 2.22 bushels. Corn is going for \$5.70 per bushel, cotton at \$1.01 per pound and soybeans are going for \$13.52 per bushel. “These are the best prices we’ve seen on our crops in 10

years,” Anderson said. But Roberts said producers are wondering if crop prices will keep up with fertilizer prices and other input costs. **Tough decisions**
Michael Popp, professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness for the Agricultural Experiment Station, said, “When crop and fertilizer price both go up, deciding what to cut back and how much is not a straightforward matter.” Traditional fertilizer recommendations are aimed at maximizing yield, Popp said. But maximum yield is not always the same thing as maximum profit. “Maximum profit is driven by agronomic response to fertilizer, soil test potassium, price for the crop and the cost of fertilizer,” Popp said. The four must be considered together he said, and

determining what potash rate maximizes profit is a complex calculation. Popp, in collaboration with Roberts and Nathan Slaton, associate vice president for agriculture and assistant director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, has developed a series of decision-making tools to make crop management easier. The newest of these is an updated potassium fertilizer rate calculator that helps growers make decisions for corn and cotton in addition to rice and soybeans. The new tool, PRC for Potash Rate Calculators, joins a lineup of Decision Support Software available from the Agricultural Experiment Station. The Excel-based tools can be downloaded free at <https://bit.ly/AAES-DecisionTools>. Once downloaded and in-

stalled on a Windows PC, Popp said growers can input soil test results, potash costs, crop prices and anticipated yield. “The program offers a profit-maximizing fertilizer rate.” By changing input values, Popp said, growers can explore the impacts of cutting back their potash application rates and decide where the best savings to profit ratio will be for their crop, or even the impact of not using potassium. “It took me two minutes to figure out the most profitable application rate for soybeans,” he said. “I like to use the tool at the field level,” Roberts said, explaining that its recommendations can be tailored for specific conditions in each field. “Its scalability is so useful and allows producers to tailor their potash rate to their specific farm based on

what their costs will be.” All extension row crop specialists and county agricultural agents are trained on the decision tools and can help growers with questions and to learn to use them, Roberts said. **Nutrient value**
Roberts said the Potash Rate Calculators are important because growers tend to underestimate the importance of potassium as a crop nutrient. Nitrogen tends to get top billing for most crops other than soybeans, followed by phosphorus. When farmers are looking for a place to cut costs, they eye potassium. But potassium contributes to the efficiency with which plants use other nutrients, Roberts said. A tool like PRC helps farmers make informed decisions on where they can afford to cut expenses. See **FERTILIZER** Page 5A

Spain announces candidacy for Prosecuting Attorney

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Frank Spain is excited to announce his candidacy for Prosecuting Attorney for Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, and Drew Counties. His 24 years of experience serving as a Deputy and Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney has prepared him for the responsibilities of the elected Prosecuting Attorney. He graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1997. Frank began his career as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Dardanelle and in 2001, Frank became a deputy prosecutor for the then newly elected Prosecuting Attorney, Thomas Deen, in Dermott. He has proudly spent the last 20 years serving the people of southeast Arkansas. Frank has prosecuted cases in District, Juvenile, and Circuit courts for all types of crimes from Driving While Intoxicated to Capital Murder. He

has helped families obtain mental health and drug treatment for their loved ones through the civil commitment process and has taught classes on criminal procedure and self-defense to church and community groups. He met his wife, LaDonna in McGehee, and they reside in Monticello. They have three daughters and two grandchildren. “With your help, I will continue my work with local law enforcement and community organizations to ensure the safety of our families, friends, and neighbors. Please vote for me on May 24, 2022, and thank you for your support,” Spain said. For more information about the campaign call 1-800-245-9495 or email Frank@SpainforPA.com.



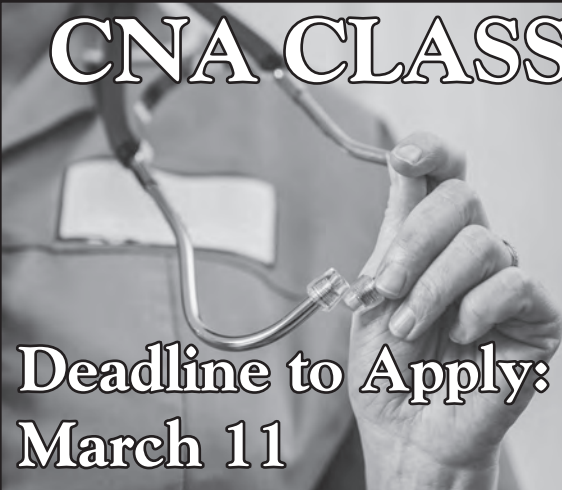
SPAIN

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 2A
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 mlvinj.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.

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U of A Offers Best Care Training for Child Care Providers

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Best Care training will give childcare providers an opportunity to enhance their proven childcare program and help meet educational requirements with continuing education. Childcare providers, foster parents, teachers, and police officers are invited to attend. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents, Hazelene McCray, Drew County, and Michelle Carter, Bradley County, will be providing 10 hours of “The Best Care” Child Care Provider Training on Saturday, March 12th, at the UAM Forestry Building located at 110 University Court, 71655. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., with Best Care training starting at 8 a.m. Participants are asked to bring their own lunch. Healthy snacks will be provided. Topics include:



- Growing Young Gardeners
 - Healthy Habits: Nutrition and Fitness Practices
 - STEAM in Outdoor Learning
 - Infant Care and Self-Regulation
 - Music in Early Learning
 - Making a Clean Sweep
 - Child Care Prepared – Disaster Preparedness
 - Effective Communication
 - Playground Safety
 - When Accidents Happen – First Aid
- Best Care training will be provided

free of charge. A total of 10 credit hours can be earned for attending the entire day. One credit is earned for each hour-long session you attend. Don’t miss this opportunity for learning! Pre-registration deadline is March 9th. Call Hazelene McCray, Drew County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent at (870) 460-4270 or e-mail HYPERLINKmailto:hmccray@uada.edu to pre-register. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Karen Fuqua

Karen began her career with Union Bank in January of 1983 as a part-time teller and later became full-time. She moved to the Trust Department where she ultimately became a Trust officer. In 1996 she was promoted to manager of the Data Center and held that position for ten years. Karen is now the Information Security Officer and a Vice-President, a position she has held for the last twenty-five years.

Karen and Mark Fuqua have been married for forty years and have two children and three grandchildren.



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OPINION

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You don't have to look far to see positives in Monticello

In my new job I see a lot of truckers that come through Monticello. Some are here only long enough to drop off or pick up a load, others end up having to stay overnight. For the most part, the overnight stays are planned. Sometimes though, things don't work out as planned. A couple weeks ago that happened to one of the trucks scheduled to pick up a load from us. Where he had to go to drop off the load before he came to us took longer than



MELISSA ORRELL
3-9-22 COLUMN

expected and he was "stuck" in Monticello for the night. When I arrived at work at six the next morning, he and his trailer were waiting for us. Since it was first thing in the morning, I had a little more time to chat than normal, he was in a talking mood because the residents of Monticello blew this guy away with their hospitality and personalities.

After taking care of paperwork, he asked me if we had a plot to suck people into our beautiful town. I was confused, then he explained. He explained he got stuck here the night before and was not happy about it. He didn't have clothes, he didn't have his medication, he didn't have toiletries. He was not happy about it in the least. He wasn't mad at anyone, just mad. He had planned on being home the night before, instead he was stuck in a town he was unfamiliar with and not happy about how he ended up stuck here. Let me just say, the truckers I come in contact with, for the most part, like to talk. Especially the long-haul drivers. And many of them like to complain. I think, based on my experience, it's a human trait. But this particular guy didn't continue the conversation about being stuck in the way I predicted. Instead, he began to tell me how everyone he came in contact with in Monticello had gone above and beyond in helping him.

He told me about the Walmart employee who helped him figure out what size he needed and then helped him find the clothes he needed for his stay; the pharmacy, who helped him get enough medication until he was able to get home. No hassle, easy and done. He even reported cars on 425 stopping to allow him to cross the highway safely as he crossed from his hotel to La Terraza for super.

He continued to brag on Monticello. He told me where he lived, his wife and daughter had concealed carry permits and carried, just to feel safe. He told me we had an amazing town. We do, we do have an amazing town.

Overwhelmingly I have been told by people who come to visit how amazing a town and the people of Monticello are. As someone who was born here, moved, visited a lot, moved back, left as an adult, visited a lot and then finally came back for good, I concur with his and other people who have made the same assessment. Our treasure in Monticello is not the lake or any other landmark or institution, they help make Monticello a better place, absolutely, but our real treasure, is... us. The people of Monticello. We are what make people want to come back or stay away. We are the draw, we are the good parts.

While going about their daily lives, a group of nameless, faceless, Monticellonians, made this trucker's bad luck of being "stuck" away from home not only less miserable, but enjoyable and better. So much so, he told me about it and I wanted to share with you. Maybe his recollection will remind those who had such a positive impact on him realize what their smile and helpfulness brought him, maybe they will never read these words and realize the impact, regardless, remember the next time you are having a bad day, week, month, look around and you will see the positives in Monticello, they are walking all around you.

Family adventures in Spa City

My life is truly an adventure, I am so blessed. I have a partner who shares my zest for life and constant need for travel. Thankfully, Fred has picked up on that desire for all life has to offer.



ASHLEY HOGG
EDITOR

This weekend, we ventured a little north in the natural state and found ourselves in the beautiful and eclectic Hot Springs. We had a few things on our agenda, one being the Arkansas Alligator Farm and Petting Zoo.

We rolled into Spa City and headed straight for the gator farm. My mother in law and sister in law met us there, and just like all the rest of her Aunts, when Aunt Chelles is around, mom barely exists.

We paid our ten bucks to enter the farm and a little extra so Fred could feed an alligator.

We took our time in the petting zoo with rabbits, sheep, goats, donkeys and one very fabulous emu. Fred ran around and touched all the animals and fed bread and lettuce to some. I won't mention any names but there may have been a classy selfie taken with the

fabulous emu.

After some time among the mammals, we entered the building of the reptiles. I have a rule about reptiles that I stick to whole heartedly. If the reptile has feet, it can be in the same room as me. No feet, no Ashley, that simple.

We were immediately greeted by an enthusiastic young man dressed as a leprechaun. He was eagerly distributing tiny alligators to children of all ages.

After only a moment of hesitation, Fred took hold of the gator and pranced around ever so gently. It spanned past the length of her arm but she was wide eyed and giggling the entire time she held it.

The mouths of the reptiles had been secured but I still was a tiny bit hesitant. Alas, I couldn't let the mini me outdo me so I took a deep breath and held the alligator.

It was not at all what I expected. The underbelly of the gator was so warm and the skin was so thin. I don't really know what I expected but I assure you that was not it. The top of the alligator was similar to what I expected. Not slimy, not crusty dry, but very similar to leather. I did not hold the creature long but

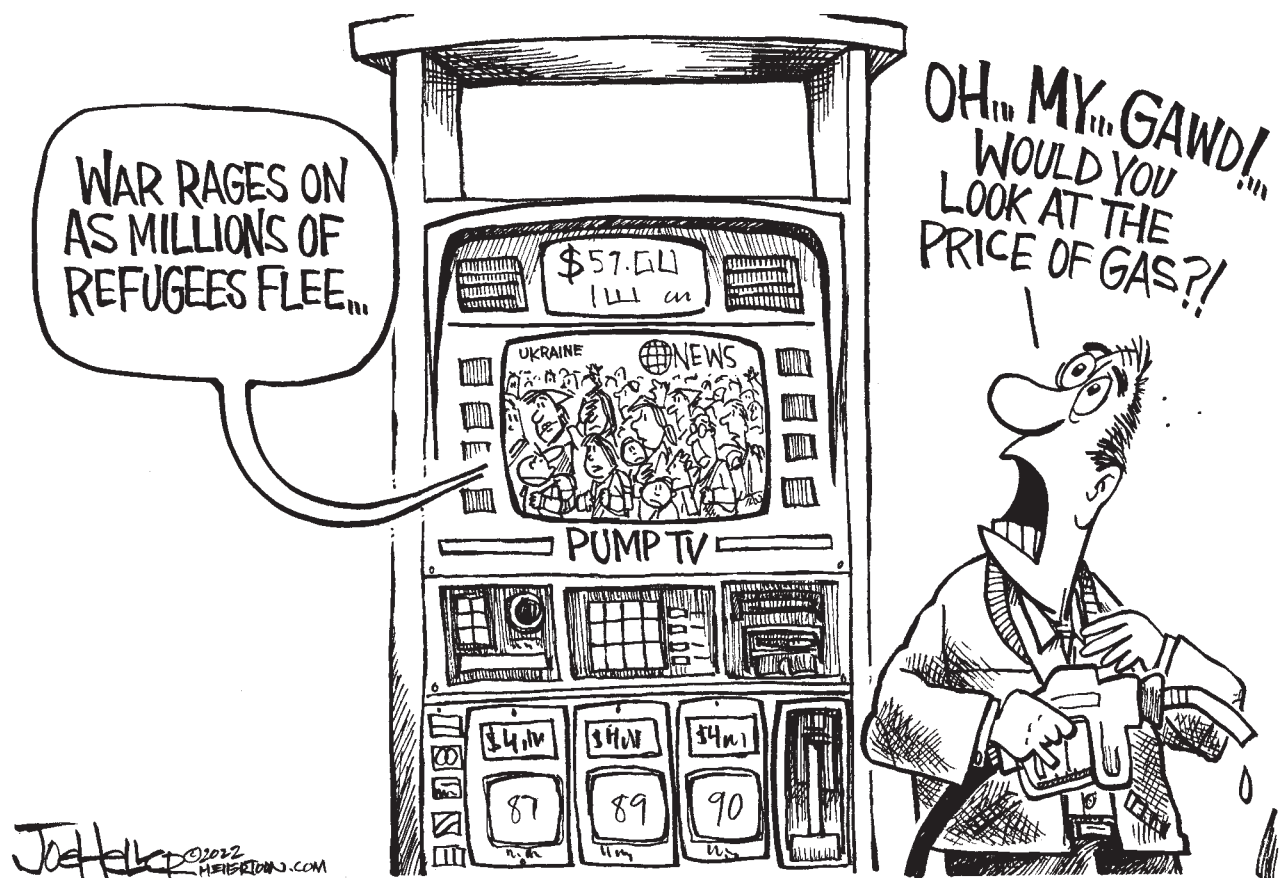
someone did get a photo of me with a concerned look on my face.

We perused the building seeing alligators of all sizes. It was exhilarating being so close to such mighty beasts. As we exited, it was time to use our little blue ticket and let Fred feed the gators.

She stepped up on a pedestal and the man dressed as a leprechaun handed Fred a skewer with a slice of hot dog on the end. After she looked at the four adults that were accompanying her, she held out the long skewer and waited for the alligators to approach. There was a pool of younglings that swam to the ledge to see what she was holding. In the blink of an eye, one fiery little guy reached up and bit the hot dog clean off the end of the skewer. After she realized everything was OK, Fred was tickled.

We had about all of the fun we could safely have with alligators for the day and we exited, through the gift shop of course. If Fred turns out rotten, I assure you it is her grandparents that are to blame.

We spent a little time strolling downtown
See HOGG Page 5A



Arkansas' support for Ukraine

In the week since Russia invaded Ukraine, Arkansas has joined most of the world in condemning the unprovoked assault. Today I'd like to share the story of a woman from Ukraine who is watching the war from Arkansas and praying

for her relatives and friends who are sheltering in basements in her homeland. Kateryna Pitchford's story highlights the reality of the war for the rest of us.



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Kateryna came to the United States in 2004

and is an associate professor of business at Central Baptist College in Conway. She was born in eastern Ukraine in 1982. The

Russian invasion is one more chapter of horror for Kateryna's family. A century ago, her great-grandparents and grandmother suffered under Soviet Russia. Kateryna grew up under the USSR, and she was nine when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

Thirty years later, Kateryna and her family live in uncertainty and nightmare. She communicates daily with her friends and family in Dnipro and Kyiv as they send images and videos by phone. A cousin showed Kateryna the inside of her refrigerator to assure Kateryna they had enough food. A friend who has supplies for two weeks says the nearby grocery store has sold out. Some remain in their homes, comforting their children as the sirens continually pierce the air; others continue

to work. Ukrainians are brave, but they are very afraid by this unprovoked aggression and air attacks on civilians.

Kateryna participated in the Arkansas Leadership Prayer Breakfast at the mansion on Thursday. She recited the Lord's Prayer in the Ukrainian language, followed by prayer for Ukraine in English.

The international support encourages her. She is proud to inform friends in Ukraine that the Hellfire and Stinger missiles going to their country are made in her home state. She tells them Arkansas is helping.

General Dynamics makes those missile in Camden, and every Javelin anti-tank weapon carries a Camden warhead. Aerojet makes the propulsion system in Camden. The missiles are known

See HUTCHINSON Page 5A

Fiscal Session Week 3

The Revenue Stabilization Act (RSA) is typically one of the last items passed every session. It categorizes and prioritizes state spending.

Members are now reviewing the proposed Revenue Stabilization amendment schedule reflecting the allocation of general revenue funds for Fiscal Year 2023.



HOWARD BEATY
ARKANSAS HOUSE REPORT

The proposed amendment outlines \$6.02 billion in spending. That is less than a 3 percent increase in spending from the current fiscal year.

The state fiscal year begins July 1.

The largest increases in spending can be found in education and human services.

The proposed budget outlines a \$70 million increase for elementary and secondary education.

It includes an \$11 million increase for DHS Children and Family Services and a \$23.5 million increase for DHS grants which includes Medicaid spending.

County jail reimbursement is increased by \$6.4 million in the proposed budget.

The RSA calls for a \$7.4 million increase for Arkansas State Police. This will assist in raising the salaries for state troopers.

It is anticipated members will vote on the RSA next week.

On Wednesday, the House voted to amend HB1034, an Act for the Department of Corrections-Division of Correction Appropriation. The amendment includes an appropriation of up to \$75 million for costs associated with prison expansion.

The House passed SB103 which provides a one-time stipend of \$5,000 to full-time certified city and county law enforcement officers as well as probation and parole officers.

It also provides for a \$2,000 one-time stipend for state troopers.

The House also passed one time appropriations for pregnancy center resource grants, the School for the Deaf and Blind, the breast milk bank, and the Northwest Arkansas Veterans Home.

You can find the proposed
See BEATY Page 5A

Certified law enforcement officers to receive stipend

Certified law enforcement officers will get a \$5,000 salary stipend this year, thanks to a Senate bill approved by the Arkansas legislature.

To qualify for the stipend, officers must have completed a basic training program approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. They must work at least



BEN GILMORE
ARKANSAS SENATE REPORT

24 hours a week. The House of Representatives added \$75 million to the budget

pendents will go to officers employed as of July 1. If they are hired after July 1 they can still qualify if they are hired before January 31, 2023. State troopers will get a stipend of \$2,000. In separate legislation they are due to get significant pay raises, from an average starting salary of about \$42,000 to about \$54,000.

Legislators budgeted \$50 million to pay for the stipends, but don't expect to spend all of that amount. Stipends to about 7,300 law enforcement officers and 542 State Police officers will cost about \$40.6 million.

of the Correction Department for possible expansion of the North Central prison unit at Calico Rock, to add 498 beds to the 800-bed unit.

If the North Central Unit adds 498 beds, its costs for salaries and operations will increase by \$13 million a year, according to a representative who spoke on the expansion.

The governor said the state could afford one-time expenditures such as the stipends, and the capital project, based on the favorable revenue report for January that indicates Arkansas is on track to end

See GILMORE Page 5A

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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Protecting Rural America

There is a major disconnect between the struggles Americans experience every day and the image President Biden and his team are trying to project. This is most ap-



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. SENATE
REPORT

parent in rural America. In his State of the Union address, the president only mentioned the word “rural” once, and the administration has failed

to prioritize the needs of our farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers. The president and his team often boast about record high farm income, but never acknowledge the fact that financial gains family farmers, ranchers and foresters see will soon be reduced by record high production costs.

As the Republican leader of the Senate Ag Committee, I’ve talked with producers who are experiencing increasing input costs. These same concerns are shared by farm families across the country.

Land, machinery, labor, fuel, seed and livestock feed prices are all growing. Fertilizer prices have spiked as much as 300 percent in some parts of the country, and at the same time the administration is levying tariffs on our fertilizer imports.

Every portion of the food chain remains strained as labor shortages and supply chain issues continue to hinder our ability to get food from farms to tables.

For many, the increased costs of farming are deterring them from continuing in the industry, pushing the next generation of farmers down a different career path instead carrying on the family business.

The family farm operations that once populated Arkansas in large numbers will be eroded away if we don’t make rural America and farming more economically sustainable.

This is bad news for rural America. In most of our rural communities, agriculture is all that is left.

Agriculture is Arkansas’s largest industry, adding around \$21 billion to our

economy every year and accounting for approximately one in every six jobs.

But rural Arkansas is hurting. Our state has 75 counties, and 55 of them lost population in the last census.

This exodus is fueled by the desire to leave rural America in pursuit of economic opportunities outside of farming. This is unfortunate, as the family farms that color the landscape of rural America are the true building block for a better future. Reversing this trend should be at the top of our to-do list.

Arkansas families take pride in maintaining the land their ancestors toiled on and passed down. We recognize the family operations that have demonstrated their commitment to farming and ranching for at least 100 years as Arkansas Century Farms. This honor highlights the rich history of farming in our state and celebrates our ongoing commitment to agriculture. I was proud to lead efforts to direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish a similar program at the federal level. Our agenda needs to ben-

efit these families who feed and clothe the world. Federal policies must serve more than urban and suburban America. They need to reach, and help, the 60 million Americans living in our rural communities.

When people leave our small rural towns, we run the risk of losing schools, hospitals and other vital infrastructure needed to sustain these communities.

We must deliver solutions to rebuild economies and secure livelihoods in rural America.

During his address, the president continued to push his tax-and-spending agenda—which favors big cities at the expense of rural America—and pledged to resurrect his doomed Build Back Better package.

My advice to President Biden: It’s time to stop pushing that boulder up the hill.

Instead, make good on your pledge to unite the fractured country.

That starts by abandoning these misplaced priorities and focusing on the needs of all Americans.

FERTILIZER

Continued from Page 3A

“Good data is key to getting the best information from any of these decision tools,” Roberts said. “Soil testing is the foundation of any fertilizer management decision, and these tools are based on it.” He added that getting quality soil samples is essential for getting good results.

Growers can learn how to collect good samples from their county extension agents. The county offices can submit those samples to the Agricultural Experiment Station’s Soil Testing Lab.

Bottom line

Roberts advises growers to avoid making emotional decisions on the farm.

“It’s easy to get overwhelmed by price changes, availability of inputs and all the things they have to consider,” Roberts said. “Use these tools coupled with the information you have at your disposal and don’t let emotions guide your decisions. Let the data tell you what to do.”

Popp, Roberts and Anderson discuss the Potash Rate Calculators, the confluence of high fertilizer and crop prices and the importance of potassium fertilizer in a podcast co-produced by the Fryar Price Risk Management Center of Excellence and the Division of Agriculture’s Row Crops Radio. The podcast can be heard here: <https://bit.ly/AAES-RelevantRisk-K>.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

the fiscal year with a sizeable surplus.

The Joint Budget Committee recommended an increase in the fund for reimbursing county jails when they hold inmates who have been convicted but for whom there is no space in a state prison unit. The current rate is \$32 per inmate per day and legislators are working to increase it to \$40 a day.

Sheriffs have voiced concerns about the backlog of state inmates in county jails. First, they say that reimbursements of \$32 a day are not enough to pay for the cost of housing an inmate.

Secondly, they are concerned that they are housing more serious offenders than in the past. This leads to more attacks on jail staff, they say. It also means they often must release minor offenders who committed misdemeanors, in order to make room for the dangerous offenders.

The Senate also approved

SB 102, to create a new grant program for Pregnancy Resource Centers. The bill appropriates \$1 million to the centers, where women with unintended pregnancies receive counseling about adoption and help in getting social services.

The Senate also approved SB 54, an appropriation for the Arkansas Medicaid program. It is in the Division of Medical Services within the Human Services Department.

SB 54 appropriates \$9 billion for health care for about a million Arkansas residents who at some point during a typical year will be eligible for Medicaid. The services include prescription drugs, long-term care, doctor visits and hospital stays.

Legislators have been working for months to add about \$37.6 million for home care and community services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Within a few years, the additional funding is expected to eliminate the waiting list for those services. About 3,200 people are on the list.

Women in Agriculture Conference to be held March 15 and 16 in Little Rock

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

On March 15 and 16, landowners, farmers, ranchers, and those who serve agriculture throughout the state will gather for the 16th Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Little Rock. Online registration for attendees and vendors is available at arwomeninag.org.

The conference will highlight two keynote speakers, Lesley Kelly and Courtenay DeHoff.

Kelly is the Co-founder of Do More Ag, a non-profit that spans across Canada and is championing the mental health of Canadian farmers. Do More Ag works towards inspiring and encouraging those who need to seek help and bringing resources to the agriculture community. Kelly will kick off the conference with a discussion about farm stress and mental health.

DeHoff is a cowgirl turned television personality, keynote speaker and podcast host. Through storytelling and fashion, her brand Fancy Lady Cowgirl is working to bridge the gap between

urban and rural cultures. DeHoff will share more of her personal story and encourage attendees to pursue their agricultural passions.

Sessions during the two-day event include: Meat Inspection, Community Forestry, Succession Planning, Beekeeping 101 and Cooking with Arkansas Ag.

In addition to the conference sessions, vendors will be on hand to provide valuable educational information to attendees as well as offering some shopping opportunities

“After canceling our 2020 and 2021 conferences due to the pandemic, we’re excited to meet in-person again this year,” said Donette Spann, Arkansas Women in Agriculture President. “We’re proud to offer educational content and exciting speakers, but one of the most valuable aspects of this conference is connecting with women who share a passion for agriculture.”

For more information and a full agenda, visit arwomeninag.org/conference.

Deadly H5N1 avian influenza creeping closer to Arkansas

By MARY HIGHTOWER

U of A System Division of Agriculture

A deadly strain of avian flu is creeping closer to Arkansas, having claimed a commercial broiler flock in southeastern Missouri.

The H5N1 strain is highly pathogenic and highly contagious. The Missouri flock was in Stoddard County, just above the Bootheel.

“The detection of the virus in multiple states, and especially close in Missouri, is highly suggestive that it is either currently in birds now migrating over Arkansas or will be shortly,” said Dustan Clark, extension veterinarian for the University of Arkansas Sys-

tem Division of Agriculture. “I cannot stress enough the importance of not only reviewing, but also implementing appropriate biosecurity measures.”

The disease has been found in Maryland, Maine, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, Delaware, Michigan, Connecticut and Iowa. In those 10 states, it has affected eight backyard flocks, seven turkey flocks, a captive wild bird group and two flocks of layers.

Maryland was the latest confirmed infection, announced Saturday by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Clark emphasized that the disease

poses no threat to humans and that both chicken and turkey are safe to eat.

The Cooperative Extension Service has biosecurity resources on its website. Visit <https://bit.ly/UAEX-Avian-Influenza>. USDA also has information: www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/def-resources/def-resources/.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aaes.uark.edu>. Follow on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch. To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>.

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

for their power to destroy tanks, buildings, and helicopters.

The killing of innocent citizens is a terrible evil, and this invasion of Ukraine ranks as the worst attack in Europe since the end of World War II. The Russians are violating the sovereignty and freedom of Ukraine. The free world must support Ukraine with all the defen-

sive arms it can muster. We should not pull our punches, and Mr. Putin must pay a high price for this invasion.

Mr. Putin underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainians and the reaction of the free world. He thought Ukraine would simply fold, but he has found that his attack has hardened the loyalty and courage of Ukrainians into a resistance that may save the country. Ukrainians love their country and don’t want to leave or turn it over to Russian governance.

The sanctions are essential, but we all want to do more. In Arkansas, I directed a review of our investments, and our alcohol distributors agreed to no longer buy Russian vodka. We need to do more, and I am hopeful that much more is being done covertly to help Ukraine.

BEATY

Continued from Page 4A

budget for Fiscal Year 2023 as well live-streams of all committee meetings and House proceedings on our website www.arkansasashouse.org.



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ATTENTION: ANNUAL MEETING UPCOMING

The annual meeting of the Union Cemetery Association will be held on March 20, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union Methodist Church at Rye. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Time to check out Belle View, A great place to call HOME!



Don't forget to "Spring Forward" Sunday, March 13

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UAM Fall 2021 Graduates

The University of Arkansas at Monticello presented 387 awards to 354 Fall 2021 graduates, according to information released by the UAM registrar's office.

(Note: Listed students have authorized the university to release this information. If you are contacted by students who believe that they have been left off this list, please refer them to the Office of the Registrar at (870) 460-1034.)

Monticello, AR

Zachary C. Abbott (BS)
Caroline Whitlee Adair (BS)
Tiarra Kimara Austin (CP)
Caliyah Banks (CP)
Rachel Lauren Beatty (MAT)
MaKayla Lenye' Binns (CP)
Jacob D. Boykin (BS)
Logan M. Briggs (TC, AAS, BIS)
Jessee Brixie (TC, AAS)
J'Naya D. Brown (AA)
Kelsey E. Caine (CP)
Jerrel Cade Clemons (AS)
Jonathan Anastacio Cruz (AA)
Delaney Michele Davis (CP)
Erica Chaniece Davis (TC, CP, AAS)
Kimberly A. De La Cruz (CP)
Ashley N. Forrest (BBA)
Joshua Lee Forrest (BIS)
Mary Forrest (BBA)
Megan E. Forrest (AA)
Reagen Elizabeth Gardner (AA)
Cairo Jeremia Zy'Kece Graham (CP)
LaReina Danyel Grundy (MAT)
Dylan Matthew Gustafson (AS)
Dallas Steven Harvey (AAS, ADC)
Jay Lance Hill (BIS)
Treasure Jackson (CP)
Auston Grant Jeffers (AAS, AAS)
Faith A. Johnson (BS, BS, BS)
Anna Maria Jones (AA)
Ashley Kelly (AA)
Krystin Labaj (TC, AAS)
Ouname Lemogang Mhotsha (MS)
James Robert Miller (CP)
Morgan Nicole Miller (AA)
Reid Maxwell Mitchell (AA)
Reese Caley Morman (BBA)
Hisham Naji (BBA)
Garrett T. Newton (CP)
Garianna Pace (BBA)
Patrick Hampton Phillips (AS)

Madeline Ann Pruitt (BA)
Jamie Nicole Rawls (BAS)
Reece Murray Reading (BS)
Cameron Seth Reynolds (BS)
Mairani Rivera (BA)
Samantha Gayle Sanders (BA)
Mecayla Abigail Shaver (CP)
Lakeira Iceeanna Simpson (AS)
Olivia Leigh Smith (BBA)
Daryn Katrice Spencer (CP)
Jacob H. Spencer (BA)
Carlton M. Talley (CP)
Kassie Briana Walker (BS)
Kensley Jo Young (TC)

Tillar, AR

Jikayla Khionne Goins (AA)
Steven L. Hill (BS)
Michael Alan Monroe (CP)
Elizabeth Grace Sandlin (CP)
Anna Elizabeth Stewart (CP)

Wilmar, AR

Jennifer Lynn Andrade (BS)
Reagan Bret Berryman (AA)
Shakerrea Lashuan Brown (AA)
Trent Wilson Brown (CP)
Drew E. Frasure (AA)
Halley Bianca Hudson (AA)
Tyranny O'Keith Riley (MAT)
Tonei S. Shepherd (AS, BBA)
Olivia Grace White (AA)

Key to Awards:
MAT = Master of Arts in Teaching
MED = Master of Education
MFA = Master of Fine Arts
MM = Master of Music
MPEC = Master of Physical Education and Coaching
MS = Master of Science
BA = Bachelor of Arts
BAS = Bachelor of Applied Science
BBA = Bachelor of Business Administration
BGS = Bachelor of General Studies
BIS = Bachelor of Integrated Studies
BME = Bachelor of Music Education
BS = Bachelor of Science
BSN = Bachelor of Science in Nursing
BSW = Bachelor of Social Work
AA = Associate of Arts
AAS = Associate of Applied Science
AC = Advanced Post-Bach Certificate
ADC = Advanced Technical Certificate
AS = Associate of Science
TC = Technical Certificate
CP = Certificate of Proficiency

Drew County achieves certification as ACT Work Ready Community

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

On January 26, Drew County announced that it had met all criteria to become a certified ACT Work Ready Community. This achievement caps a multi-year certification process and begins a growth and maintenance phase to retain certification.

The ACT Work Ready Communities (ACTWRC) initiative is designed to assist a particular area, region or state in developing its workforce pipeline to provide skilled workers for employers. The framework allows each participating community to quantify and improve the skill levels of its workforce through a standardized workforce skill credential—the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate. ACT WorkKeys assessments include standardized tests that measure an individual's essential work readiness skills in applied math, workplace documents and graphic literacy. According to decades of ACT research, these foundational skills are essential for a majority of today's jobs.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) became actively engaged in the ACTWRC initiative as part of an award to the UAM College of Technology-Crossett from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) Regional Workforce Planning, Implementation and Continuation Grants. The grant opportunities were passed into law in 2015 by the Workforce Initiative Act (Act 1131 of 2015) which intended to create a statewide, comprehensive structure through regional

workforce grants to enable students in Arkansas' universities, community colleges, secondary centers and high schools to participate in career and technical education programs. The programs are developed with input from area employers to address critical workforce skills gaps. The act, passed by the General Assembly, was sponsored by Sen. Jane English, R-North Little Rock, Sen. Eddie Cheatham, D-Crossett, and backed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

To begin this certification process, the ADHE Regional Workforce Grant and a supplemental grant from Delta Regional Authority sponsored teams of educators, businesses, and community leaders from each of seven original counties (Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, and Lincoln) to attend the ACTWRC training, an executive leadership and training program designed and hosted by the ACT. The teams worked toward their certification goals by building awareness, cooperation and commitment with local employers, policymakers, educators and economic developers. The initial seven counties completed the year-long training in December 2016. In 2018, three additional counties (Jefferson, Arkansas, and Grant) joined the effort to complete the 10-county region of the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District.

Drew County's ACTWRC coordinator, Jerry Bayliss, Jr., commented, "I would like to give a big thank you and congratulations to all of Drew County's businesses, educators, agencies,

and workforce that have worked to make this achievement a reality. Drew County now joins eight other Southeast Arkansas counties to form the largest contiguous ACT Work Ready region in the state of Arkansas. Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, and Lincoln Counties have sent a clear signal to businesses and industries that may be considering locating in our region that Southeast Arkansas is ready to work. We have demonstrated that readiness through this initiative."

The UAM grant manager for the Regional Workforce Grants, Janie Carter, offered congratulations to Drew County with her statement. "The partners in Drew County have shown amazing resilience in continuing to work toward this goal completion. There were numerous challenges over the past few years that sometimes slowed down their progress, but in the end, it has all been worth the effort. The ACTWRC coordinator, UAM's Adult Education WAGE coordinator, Jerry Bayliss, Jr., brought new enthusiasm and perseverance to the team, and we greatly appreciate him," Carter said.

Linda Rushing, vice chancellor for UAM-CTC, congratulated Drew County and stated, "Achieving the ACT Work Ready Community status was a lengthy process that has resulted in having a tremendous economic development tool to draw business and industry to our region. I commend Jerry Bayliss, Jr., Janie Carter and the county

See **ACTWRC** Page 7A

BABST

Continued from Page 1A

we can improve plants through breeding and develop better management strategies, whether that's for forestry or agriculture," said Babst.

This study was supported in part by the United States Department of Energy, Office of Biological and Environmental Research [under contract DE-AC02-98CH10886], by a Goldhaber Distinguished Fellowship from Brookhaven National Laboratory, and by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, McEntire-Stennis project number 1009319. Other funding consisted of US National Science Foundation Plant Genome Research Program grant (IOS-1025976) to DMB, and a research grant (13166) from Villum Fonden to KHJ, and a DFG grant to RH and SS (SCHE 2148/1-1). This research used the X27A Beamline

of the National Synchrotron Light Source, a US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science User Facility operated for the DOE Office of Science by Brookhaven National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC02-98CH10886.

College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources

The College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, a University of Arkansas System Center of Excellence, brings together interdisciplinary expertise through a partnership between the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The College and Center are headquartered at the University of Arkansas at Monticello campus, and their programs range statewide with the mission of developing and delivering teaching, research, and extension programs that enhance and ensure the sustainability and productivity of forest-based natu-

ral resources and agricultural systems. Academic programs are delivered by the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources through the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Through the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, research is administered by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and extension and outreach activities are coordinated by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offer all of their programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers.

About the Division of Agriculture

The University of Arkansas Sys-

tem Division of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to adopt best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation's historic land grant education system.

The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status. It is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

COVID

Continued from Page 1A

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

School district population COVID-19 spread was not published this week. The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, which tracked and published the data to help local leaders and school districts plan for mitigation efforts of the disease in areas of high transmission, published a statement stating low testing rates and the prevalence of unreported at home testing threaten the accuracy of counts and rates of new infections. For those reasons, ACHI anticipates being unable to publish new COVID-19 school district maps and tables.



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OBITUARIES

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

Harold “Bull” McManus, Sr.

Harold “Bull” McManus, Sr., 83, of Ladelle, passed away Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at his home. He was born March 14, 1938, in Ladelle, to the late Carl Don McManus and Effie O. Carpenter McManus. He was a retired logging contractor and road grader operator, a United States Army Veteran, and a member of Ladelle Baptist Church. Bull enjoyed spending time with his family, growing his garden, talking with anybody and everybody, telling old tales, and working on his road grader in the logging woods. He was also the owner and founder of “Shining M” Rodeo Arena. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by two brothers, Raymond and Jerry McManus.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Vest McManus of Ladelle; one son, Harold McManus, Jr. of Ladelle; one daughter, Carole Neeley (Dane) of Dumas; three grandchildren, Baylee McManus, Alana Mondragon (Rigo) and Jordan Neeley; two great-grandchildren, Whitlee Lawson, and Harlow Mondragon; two additional sons, Mark Hager and Jeff Hager; an additional daughter, Darla Merritt; along with an additional eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Ladelle Baptist Church. Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. Friday evening at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home. Burial was in Ladelle Cemetery. You can sign Harold’s guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

Rodney Edwin Norton

Rodney Edwin Norton, 76, of Maumelle, was born January 1, 1946 to the late Edwin and Phyllis Waldrep Norton in Pine Bluff, and died on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at Hospice Home Care in Little Rock. Rod grew up in Star City and graduated from high school there in 1963. He

attended the University of Arkansas and graduated from Arkansas A&M College in Monticello with a degree in business administration January 1968. After graduation he married Margaret Riley Norton of Star City and was drafted to serve his country with the U.S. Army that same year. He served his two years in Georgia and then in Germany. He and Margaret spent a wonderful year in Europe and made many lasting memories. After coming home in 1971, Rod went to work for The Mad Butcher in Fordyce and later Brinkley, Warren, and Dumas and with Piggly Wiggly at Monticello. Rod started working in the grocery business at age 15 driving the delivery truck for Fletcher Harvey’s Cash Grocery in Star City and then through college he worked for Frizzell’s Grocery also of Star City. Little did he know at that time that would be his

lifelong occupation. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello. Rod and Margaret had two sons who played every sport offered in the Warren School District and Warren YMCA. They would find themselves at some sporting event most every day of the year. He was a past president of the Warren Booster Club and Warren Rotary Club and insisted on being present if possible at events their grandchildren were involved in. Surviving him are his wife of 54 years, Margaret; two sons, Michael Chad Norton (Terri) of Star City and Kevin Andrew Norton (Erica) of Hamburg; grandchildren that Rod was so proud of, Nicholas Chad Norton of Dallas; Tara Layne Herren of New Home; Kaitlyn Carrico of Hamburg; Tara Carrico of Little Rock; and Courtney Carrico of Monticello. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Monday, March 7, 2022 at Leek Cemetery in Star City with lifetime friend Bro. Edwin Ollar conducting. Visitation immediately followed at the cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023 Merri-

field, VA 22116-7023, or First United Methodist Church, 317 South Main Street, Monticello, Arkansas, 71655.

Arrangements by Griffin Funeral Service in Star City. Online guestbook at www.griffinfuneralservice.net.

Mark Michael Pasterniak
Mark Michael Pasterniak passed from this life on March 5, 2022, at his home in Monticello. He was born October 2, 1950, in Cleveland, OH to the late Joseph Frank Pasterniak and Helen Ann Turchi Pasterniak. He leaves a legacy of education, love of children and learning, always doing the right thing, being there for those he loved, and saying the most off the wall things the moment could call for.

Mark was a man of integrity, who did what needed to be done. He took care of his family and was always there for them. He was a brother, father, pop pop, and school teacher. He loved to walk, run

and distance bike ride, once riding from Arkansas Post to McGehee for a fun Sunday morning. He loved to collect all manner of curious items and was a lifelong Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians fan. He was selfless and stubborn, and so loved by his family. Mark also loved music and playing his guitar along with spending time with his grandkids. He was of the Catholic faith.

He is survived by two daughters, Sarah Pasterniak (Caleb), his grandchildren, Autumn Murray-Pasterniak and Norah Burger all of El Dorado and Jennifer Nicolle (Nikki) Holloway of Austin, Texas; sister, Nancy Ward of Little Rock; two brothers, David Pasterniak (Brenda) and Bob Pasterniak (Mary) of Leeland, North Carolina; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Visitation was Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 1 - 2 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel, with the service celebrating his life following in the Chapel. Please visit www.stephensondearman.com to sign Mark’s guestbook.

LOCAL YOUTH COMPETES IN TOURNAMENT



Photo courtesy of Debbie Leslie

Eight year old Breindel Chua of Monticello recently competed in the Memphis Open Martial Arts Tournament held on Feb. 19 in Memphis. He placed third in Traditional Weapons and fourth in Traditional Forms. He is pictured with his instructor, Geoff Trisolini, from South Arkansas Martial Arts of Monticello. Breindel is the son of Jefe and Cris Chua.

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This property does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. Per section 504 requirements, this property will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Section 504 Compliance: ATTN: Compliance Officer-8101 Interstate 30-Suite A Little Rock, AR 72209 501.280.0037 TTY:711.

REGISTER TO VOTE

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE UPCOMING PRIMARY AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION IS APRIL 25, 2022.

REGISTER NOW AT THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE, 210 SOUTH MAIN STREET MONTICELLO, AR 71655 870-460-6260

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CLASSIFIED RATES

1 Week - \$7¹⁰

(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**.

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

RUMMAGE SALE RATES

Option #1

Includes date, time and location of sale **ONLY!**

Option #2

Includes date, time, location and brief description of items. Also includes a bold heading.

We'll even list your sale on **myMonticellonews.net!**

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: 4 good tires for a car 17inch, 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 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

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

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

For Sale: 2008 Nissan 350Z Coupe 2 door, automatic transmission, 156K miles, Cherry Red, good condition. \$7,500 call 870-723-5338

AUTO SALVAGE

Mr. Johnny's Auto Salvage at 421 Ambrose Street has good used tires starting at \$10 and up. Come on by 421 Ambrose Street or call 870-308-1025 4pd 4/2

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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

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

HELP WANTED

Monticello Senior Center is in need of an elder kitchen worker. Per Area on Aging Senior Worker Program,

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS, PROBATE DIVISION – 5TH DIVISION. IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRENETTA J. HUDSPETH, DECEASED, NO. 22PR-22-17.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTRIX

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 925 E. Oakland Avenue, Monticello, AR 71655;
DATE OF DEATH: January 24, 2022.

An instrument dated July 15, 2021 was admitted to probate on March 1, 2022 as the Last Will and Testament of Brenetta J. Hudspeth and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. Contest of the probate of the will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This Notice first published on the 9th day of March, 2022.
TRESHAI HUDSPETH, Executrix.
By: Allison J. Cornwell,
FRIDAY, ELDREDGE & CLARK, LLP,
400 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 2000
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3522,
Direct Phone: (501) 370-1452,
Direct Fax: (501) 244-5365,
cornwell@fridayfirm.com,
Attorneys for the Estate

#103981 3/9 3/16

HELP NEEDED: PART TIME PRAISE BAND AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC DIRECTOR

This position will be responsible for the Praise Band and the Contemporary Music Ministry for First United Methodist Church of Monticello, Arkansas. This person should be a skilled musician who is energetic, creative, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, and most importantly, is a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS:

- Knowledge of Choral and Instrumental conducting techniques
- Expert proficiency in keyboard and/or guitar, as well as vocal performance
- Familiarity with elements of liturgical worship

This is a 12-month part time position requiring Wednesday evening rehearsals and a Sunday morning service.

Salary range is based upon qualifications and experience.

Application should include a resume containing education, certification, work experience, a letter expressing interest in the position and a listing of at least three references. All material should be sent to:

Praise Band and Contemporary Music Director Search Committee,
First United Methodist Church, 317 South Main, Monticello, AR 71655
(870) 367-2471

This position is available immediately and will remain open until filled.

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.



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NOW ACCEPTING BIDS

Advantages of Southeast Arkansas, Inc. is accepting sealed bids for lawn maintenance at 168 W. College St. in Monticello. The following services will be covered under each contract: mowing, edging, weed eating, trimming of all sidewalk areas, buildings, trees, fences, etc.; blowing off all sidewalks, porches, drives, trimming any shrubs as needed; weeding beds, as needed; hauling off fallen debris and trimming. Services will include up to 3 mowings per month, as needed. The contract is anticipated to cover April through October 2022. However, contract may be cancelled at any time. Each bidder should include a separate bid for additional mowings. Current liability insurance coverage must be submitted.

Bids will be accepted by mail at:
Advantages, P O Box 359, Monticello, AR 71657
Questions may be directed to
Angie Burton at (870) 367-4383.
Bids will be accepted through March 18th, 2022.

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY BOOKER,
DECEASED

NO. 22PR-11-4

NOTICE

Name of decedent, Larry Booker
Last known address, 321 West College Street, Monticello, AR 71655
Date of death, July 28, 2021
On 1/31/22, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Larry Booker, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Drew County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101.
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or his or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate.
The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee is:

Steven Booker, Distributee
Estate of Larry N Booker
Post Office Box 661
Henderson, TX 75653

This notice first published February 23, 2022.

#103842 2/23 3/2 3/9

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

For Sale 2 hospital beds, walker, wheelchair, potty chair and a nebulizer call 870-226-2191 or 870-723-7432 4pd 4/2

For Sale log truck tires call 870-723-8093 4pd 4/2

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 870-308-1025 4pd 4/2

Barn kept 4x5 Round bales of hay. \$30 per bale, Square bales of hay fertilized. \$5.00 per bale. 870-723-3788 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 clas-



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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

PARKHILL APARTMENTS

Newly renovated 1 and 2 Bedrooms, CH/A. All electric, water paid. Call 367-6241 from 9 am to 5 pm. #61104 TFN mt-bw

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

For information, call 870-723-4996. TFN. mt-bm #101799

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bath, large living room, large kitchen with washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove. \$575 per month. References and deposit required. Call 870-367-3741 4pd 4/2

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

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 discrimina-

See **CLASSIFIEDS** Page 11A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 576 OF 1987 OF THE ACTS OF ARKANSAS, AND PURSUANT TO THE SECURITY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TRIPLE E ENTERPRISES, LLC dba NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE AND THE TENANTS OCCUPYING THE FOLLOWING STORAGE SPACE NUMBERS

#119 Teffenee Harding
#195 Amanda Rowland

THE COLLATERAL SECURING THE ABOVE NAMED TENANTS OBLIGATING TO NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25th AT 10:00AM.

THE LOCATION OF THE SALE IS 1361 NORTH HYATT STREET, MONTICELLO, AR 71655. TELEPHONE (870) 367-8800. THE SALE SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN PARCELS, EACH PARCEL BEING THE CONTENTS OF A STORAGE UNIT. THE COLLATERAL BEING SOLD AND SALE TERMS MAY BE VIEWED AT THE TIME OF SALE.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

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

Great pay. Temp to hire. Interested/qualified candidates can contact Patsy at Express (870) 535-3330 or email a resume to: patsy.reynolds@expresspros.com

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



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.**

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Lady Billies defeat Hermitage 5-0 to begin 2022 Soccer Season

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello Lady Billies and Billies began the 2022 Soccer Season on Thursday, March 3, hosting the Hermitage Hermits and Lady Hermits at Hyatt Field.

Taking the field in the first contest of the day, the Lady Bil-

lies saw four players score goals as the Lady Billies rolled to a 5-0 win.

Fleure Perez had the honor of scoring the first goal of the season for the Lady Billies after around 10 minutes into the first half of play.

Lily Parke would extend the lead to 2-0 with 26:43 remain-

ing in the half, it was the first of two goals on the night for Parke.

Lila Wilson was the next Lady Billie to push the ball past the net with 11:03 remaining in the half to put the score at 3-0.

The Lady Billies would get their final goal of the half with 6:03 remaining on a shot by Brook Paschall to extend the

lead to 4-0.

After the 10-minute break for halftime, neither team would score a goal for 28 minutes of the second half until Lily Parke connected on her second goal of the game with 11:52 remaining in the contest, it was the final goal of the match and the Lady Billies would take the 5-0 win.

In senior boys' action, Hermitage was able to get out to a lead in the first half and was able to maintain their lead throughout the contest to hand the Billies an opening match loss.

Monticello will return to Hyatt Field on Thursday, March 10, with the only game scheduled being the Billies taking

on Pine Bluff with a 5pm kick scheduled.

Both teams will travel to Mills University Studies, just outside Little Rock, on Tuesday, March 15, with the Lady Billies taking the field first at 5pm and the senior boys to follow.

Mills will be the first conference contest of the season.



LILY PARKE (left) scored two goals in Thursday nights contest against Hermitage to open the 2022 Soccer Season. LILA WILSON (center) extended the Lady Billie lead to 3-0 on her goal in Thursday's opening contest against Hermitage. BROOK PASCHALL (right) scored the Lady Billies final goal of the first half to give teh Lady Billies a 4-0 lead. Monticello went on the defeat Hermitage 5-0 in the first game of the season.

Lady Pirates open softball season with 21-10 win over Watson Chapel



JEFF YOUNG/ADVANCE MONTICELLONIAN
EMMA MCCRAE (top) took to the circle for the first inning in Monday's contest against Watson Chapel. McCrae allowed one run on a hit, two walks, and a strikeout in the inning. MALLORY JACKSON (bottom) came to pitch in the second inning. Jackson pitched 3.1 innings allowing four runs in the contest. The Lady Pirates defeated Watson Chapel 21-10 to begin the season.

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Lady Pirates were able to get the 2022 Softball Season underway on Monday night despite most area games being postponed due to unfavorable weather that moved through the area during the day.

Hosting Watson Chapel, the Lady Wildcats opened the contest with a single off of starting pitcher Emma McCrae.

McCrae would walk the next batter, followed by a groundout that scored the first run of the game.

After walking the next Watson Chapel batter, McCrae would strikeout the next batter and would get a ground out to end the inning.

Zoe Johnson would get things started for the Lady Pirates, leading off with a single and would advance to second on a wild pitch and to third on a passed ball.

Bailey Chapman would score a walk followed by a sacrifice fly by Mallory Jackson that scored Johnson to tie the contest at one.

McCrae would strikeout followed by a groundout by Alanah Jones to end the inning.



JEFF YOUNG/ADVANCE MONTICELLONIAN
KENNEDEE LOVE doubled in the bottom of the second inning to score Kynnlee Graves to help the Lady Pirates take the lead.

Watson Chapel would retake the lead in the top of the second inning after scoring four runs off of new Lady Pirate pitcher, Mallory Jackson, to take a 5-1 lead.

Caden Lane opened the bottom of the inning with a ground out to the shortstop.

Kynnlee Graves singled to third and scored on a double hit by Kennedee Love. Love would score after a single by Gracie Connard.

Johnson would double to advance Connard to third and Chapman would tie the contest

at five after a single to center scored Connard and Johnson.

Jackson singled to advance Chapman to third. Chapman would score on a passed ball that also allowed Jackson to advance to third.

The Lady Pirates would score two more runs in the inning off of three singles to take a 8-5 lead to end the second inning.

Jackson would give up a walk and a single in the top of the third, but the Lady Wildcats would keep the Lady Pirates from crossing the plate in the inning.



JEFF YOUNG/ADVANCE MONTICELLONIAN
BAILEY CHAPMAN finished the day going 3 for 3, scoring three runs and driving in five runs in the 21-10 victory.

Connard began the bottom of the third with a double followed by a strikeout by Zoe Johnson. Chapman would double to score Connard.

Jackson would reach on a fielder's choice that advanced Chapman to third allowing Jackson to advance to second.

McCrae would reach on an error as Chapman scored and Jackson advanced to third.

After a walk by Jones, Lane would single to score McCrae and Jackson to give the Lady Pirates a 12-5 lead.

The Lady Pirates would go on to score six more runs in the inning with runs by Jones, Lane, Johnson, Connard, Graves, and Chapman to give the Lady Pirates an 18-5 lead.

Chapel would score five runs in the top of the fourth inning to cut the lead to 18-10 but the Lady Pirates would add three runs in the bottom of the fourth to extend the lead to 21-10 which would remain to the end of the contest to give the Lady Pirates the opening day victory.

Zoe Johnson would finish the contest going 3 for 5 with four runs and an RBI.

Bailey Chapman 3 for 3, three runs and five RBI.

Mallory Jackson 2 for 4, two runs and three RBI.

Emma McCrae recorded one

run. McCrae also recorded one inning on the mound striking out one.

Alanah Jones was 1 for 2, scoring two runs and an RBI.

Caden Lane, 2 for 4, one run and three RBI.

Kynnlee Graves went 3 for 3, scoring three runs and had an RBI.

Kennedee Love was 1 for 2 with a run scored and an RBI.

Gracie Connard finished 2 for 3 with four runs scored and an RBI.

Ali Jo Cruce finished the day 1 for two with an RBI.

The Lady Pirates will return to the diamond on Thursday, March 10, with a 4:30 first pitch scheduled against Smackover to begin conference play at Drew Central.

The Lady Pirates will travel to Smackover on Friday, March 11, to face Junction City at 4:50pm followed by a contest against Smackover at 8:50 pm.

The Lady Pirates will return to Smackover on Saturday, March 12, to face Hampton with first pitch scheduled for 12:30pm.

Drew Central will return home on Monday, March 14, to face Dumas at 4:30pm and will travel to Camden to face Camden Harmony Grove on Tuesday, March 15, with the first pitch scheduled for 4:30pm.

Weevils baseball snaps five game skid with series win over #6 Henderson

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

After losing the final conference contest at home against the Southwestern Oklahoma State Bulldogs on February 20, the Weevils dropped five games in a row including a conference series sweep at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a contest to Delta State at home.

In the series against Northwestern State, the Weevils took an early two-run lead in game one of the series on a first inning home run by Cade Thompson.

Northwestern scored one run in the bottom half of the inning to cut the lead to 2-1.

Neither team would produce any runs until the top of the sixth inning when UAM's David Reyna would score on an error to give the Weevils a 3-1 lead.

UAM held Northwestern runless in the bottom half of the inning and was able to add a run in the top of the seventh after Jordan Johnson flew out to score Chase Cripps to increase the Weevil lead to 4-1.

Northwestern would come back in the bottom half of the inning to score five runs to take a 6-4. The score would remain until the end of the contest.

For the Weevils, Derek Potts was given the loss in the contest. Potts pitched 6.1 innings allowing five runs on six hits with all five runs being earned. Potts struck out five while walking four.

Trent Bunting came in to re-

lieve Potts, pitching 1.2 innings allowing one run on one hit, walking one and striking out two.

In game two of the series, the first of a double-header played on Sunday, February 27, the Weevils two runs in the top of the first, and three in the top of the second to take a 5-0 lead.

Northwestern would cut the lead to 5-2 in the bottom of the third inning on a two-run homerun.

UAM would extend the lead to 8-2 after a three-run inning in the top of the fourth after a Cade Thompson double scored Chase Cripps and Grant Shepherd and Thompson scored on a Clay Lockett single.

Northwestern took the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning, producing eight runs in the inning with two home runs including a grand slam to give Northwestern an 10-8 lead.

UAM tied the contest at 10 in the top of the fifth, but Northwestern would retake the lead 11-10 in the bottom half of the inning on a single run.

UAM tied the contest in the top of the ninth inning after a run by Shepherd.

Northwestern scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth on a walk-off single.

Returning for the second game of the double-header, the Weevils would once again get two runs in the first inning, but Northwestern would tie the contest on a pair of homeruns in the bottom half of the inning.

UAM came back to score three runs in the top of the second inning behind a pair of doubles by Cade Thompson and Chase Cripps to retake a 5-2 lead.

Northwestern would score five runs in the bottom of the third inning to take a 7-5 lead off a grand slam by Brayden Koenig, his second grand slam of the series.

Jordan Johnson would get one of the runs back in the top of the fourth after a solo shot made the score 7-6 but Northwestern would increase the lead to 10-6 after a three-run inning in the bottom of the fourth.

Northwestern would score four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to increase the lead to 14-6, but a Weevils rally would fall short in the top of the seventh as the Weevils scored six runs to pull within two runs, 14-12, when the final out was made.

UAM returned home to face Delta State University in a non-conference matchup on Tuesday, March 1.

Delta State would get on top in the first inning, 1-0, and would add a run in the top of the fourth.

Delta increased their lead to 6-0 after a four-run inning in the top of the fourth.

UAM's Grant Shepherd got the Weevils on the board in the bottom of the eighth inning on a solo home run followed by a score by Chase Cripps off a single to Jordan Johnson.

UAM kept Delta scoreless in the top of the ninth inning trailing 6-2.

UAM scored three runs in the bottom half of the ninth, but would come up short, falling 6-5.

Returning to Weevils Field on Friday, March 4, to begin a three-game series against #6 Henderson State University, the Weevils would take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning off a homerun by Grant Shepherd.

Henderson came back to score two runs in the top of the fourth inning to take a 2-1 lead and would add six runs off a pair of homers to increase the Reddie lead to 8-1 in the top of the fifth.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, David Reyna would hit a sacrifice to score Hudson Hopkins, and a Shepherd single would score Clay Lockett to cut the lead to 8-3.

The Weevils tied the contest at eight in the bottom of the eighth after a single by Cripps scored Nick Fakouri, a walk to Lockett scored Cripps, and a walk to Reece Reading scored Jordan Johnson.

The Score would remain knotted up at eight until a single by UAM's Orlando Arevalo scored Jordan Johnson in the bottom of the 12th inning to give the Weevils a 9-8 win, snapping their five-game losing streak.

Returning for the Saturday double-header, the Weevils could not get much going in the first game of the day.

Mason Philley shut Henderson down in the first inning, but the Reddies were able to get to

Philley in the second, scoring six runs off the left hander to take a 6-0 lead.

UAM scored two runs in the bottom of the third inning to cut the Henderson lead to 6-2 after a Thompson single scored Shepherd and Johnson scored Cripps on a sacrifice fly.

Henderson would get its final run off Philley in the fifth inning on a RBI groundout.

Philley would pitch five total innings, allowing seven runs on five hits, walking five, and striking out five.

Davis Reyna scored in the bottom of the fifth off a Thompson single and Shepherd would score on a walk to Johnson to cut the Reddie lead to 7-4.

Henderson added two runs in the top of the seventh inning with UAM adding one in the bottom half of the inning.

Henderson would add the final two runs of the game in the top of the eighth inning to give the Reddies the 11-5 victory.

The Weevils would use three pitchers following Philley with Jacob McDaniel pitching one inning allowing one run, Ridgell Robinson allowing two runs in two innings, and Jerrius Vickers pitching for one inning only allowing a single hit.

Returning for the second game of the double-header, the score would remain tied at zero for 10 plus innings until a Jordan Johnson walk-off home run scored Grant Shepherd to give the Weevils their first series win of the season with a 2-0 victory

over #6 Henderson State University.

Spencer Johnston pitched 7.1 innings for the Weevils allowing no runs on four hits, walking one, and striking out six.

Trent Bunting was awarded the win, pitching 2.2 innings allowing no runs on two hits while striking out two.

With the win, the Weevils improve to 5-10 overall and 3-6 in Great American Conference play.

The Weevils will take to the road for their next seven Great American Conference contests.

First up, the Weevils will travel to Russellville to face the Wonder Boys of Arkansas Tech. Game one of the series is set for Friday, March 11, with the first pitch set for 6pm.

The series will conclude with a double-header on Saturday, March 12, with the first game beginning at 1pm and the second at 3pm.

The Weevils will travel to Magnolia for a single game at Southern Arkansas University on Tuesday, March 15, for a 6pm start time.

The road trip will conclude in Durant, Oklahoma with the Weevils set for a three-game series against Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Game one of the series is set for Friday, March 18, with a 2pm first pitch scheduled and will conclude on Saturday with a double header with the first game set to begin at 12pm and the second at 2pm.



JORDAN JOHNSON (left) scored the go ahead run, ending the game in the opening series win against #6 Henderson State University on Friday night. After a losing 11-5 in game one on Saturday, Johnson connected on a two-run walk-off homerun to give the Weevils a 2-0 win in the game two to give the Weevils their first series win of the season. JOHN HARVEY (center) makes a mound visit with catcher Nick Fakouri during Saturday's game one to consult with pitcher Mason Philley. Despite allowing six runs in the inning, Philley would return to the mound for three more innings allowing only a single run in the top of the fifth inning. CLAY LOCKETT (right) runs towards first after making contact in game one in Saturday's double-header. Lockett finished the series going 2 for 11 with a run scored.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

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Continued from Page 9A

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Lady Billies shutout McGehee 11-0 to open 2022 Softball Season

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello Lady Billies got a complete game from McLauren McGregor as the Lady Billes opened the 2022 season with a 11-0 win over the McGehee Lady Owls on Thursday, March 4.

After opening the game with a lead-off walk, McGregor would strike out the next two McGehee batters while the Lady Billie defense threw out the baserunner to get out of the inning in three batters.

Skylar Burns would reach first to begin the inning for the Lady Billies after an error by the second baseman. Burns would score on a single by Alaina Lyle.

McGehee would get the next three batters to fly out to end the inning with Monticello leading 1-0.

McGregor would allow two base-runners in the top of the second inning, allowing a single and a walk but recorded three strikeouts.

Monticello would be held scoreless in the bottom of the second inning, leaving two runners on the base paths.

McGregor struck out the first two batters of the third inning and got the third batter to ground out to record a three up, three down

inning.

McGehee returned the favor in the bottom of the inning, setting the Monticello batters down in order.

McGregor continued to dominate the McGehee batters in the top of the fourth inning, getting the lead-off better to ground out and striking out the next two batters to end the inning.

Mia Reginelli opened the bottom of the fourth inning with a single.

Meygan Bivens reached on an error, advancing Reginelli to second. Reginelli would advance to third and Biven to second on defensive indifference.

Reginelli scored on a single by Anna Morgan to increase the lead to 2-0.

Erin West would reach on an error by the McGehee pitcher to load the bases for the Lady Billies.

Madeline Stanley flew out for the first out of the inning, followed by a walk to Burns that would score Bivens.

After a fielder's choice for the second out of the inning, McGregor would double to score Lyle, West, and Burns to give the Lady Billies a 6-0 lead.

Another three-out inning for McGregor after getting the lead-off batter to line out to Audrey How-

ard followed by two strikeouts to end the inning.

Mia Reginelli led off the bottom of the fifth inning with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Bivens.

Morgan would single to score Reginelli to extend the lead to 7-0.

Erin West flew out for the second out of the inning followed by a walk to Stanley. Burns would single to score Annika Nichols and advanced Stanley to second.

On the next at bat, Alaina Lyle put the exclamation point on the game with a three-run home run to initiate the 10-run rule after five innings to give the Lady Billes an 11-0 victory.

McLauren McGregor finished the game with a complete game shutout, allowing one hit and two walks while recording 11 strikeouts. At the plate, McGregor was 1 for 3 recording three RBI.

Skylar Burns finished 1 for 3 on the day with one walk, two RBI and scoring two runs. Alaina Lyle had the game winning home run and was 2 for 4, scoring two runs and recorded four RBI.

Mia Reginelli finished the day going 2 for 3 with two runs scored, Meygan Bivens reached on an error and scored a run, Anna Morgan was 2 for 3 with two RBI.

Erin West was 1 for 2 with a run scored. Madeline Stanley reached base on a walk and scored a run.

As a team, the Lady Billies were 9 for 24, scoring 11 runs, 11 RBI, two walks, and striking out once at the plate.

Monticello was scheduled to begin conference play on Tuesday, March 8, but the game was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for April 25.

The Lady Billies will now begin conference play on Thursday, March 10, against Star City at home with a 5pm first pitch scheduled.

The Lady Billies will travel to Magnolia on Tuesday, March 15, for their second 8-4A Conference game to face the Magnolia Lady Panthers.

Game time is set for 5pm.

As for the Monticello Billies, the Billies have begun the season with a 2-1 overall record, having one contest canceled due to the weather conditions on Monday.

The Billies will face Star City on Thursday, March 10, in their first conference game of the season. The game has been rescheduled to Thursday from Friday.

The Billies will also be in action Tuesday, traveling to Magnolia.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

McLAUREN MCGREGOR struck out 11 batters in the 11-0 victory over McGehee on Thursday. McGregor was awarded the Player of the Week for her performance.

Blossoms improve to 5-1 GAC record with wins over Northwestern and Henderson

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The UAM Blossoms have started the 2022 season with a 10-9 overall record and a 5-1 record in the Great American Conference.

Having to move their first conference series to Hot Springs for two games of the series against Northwestern Oklahoma State University in a Sunday double-header due to weather conditions in Monticello.

In game one, the Blossoms scored four runs in the bottom of the third inning but gave up five runs in the top of the fourth inning.

The Blossoms came back in the bottom of the fourth to score three runs highlighted by a Haley Cornell triple.

Northwestern tied the contest at seven in the top of the fifth inning, but the Blossoms would take the lead for good in the bottom half of the inning after a double by Alissa Suarez and a home run by Grace Neal to give the Blossoms a

11-7 victory.

In game two of the double-header, the Blossoms scored two runs in the first inning and three runs in the bottom of the second highlighted by Grace Neal's second home run of the day to take a 5-0 lead.

The Blossoms would score two runs in the bottom of the third and one in the bottom of the fifth to take an 8-0 win.

Returning to Monticello on Monday, February 28, for the final contest of the three-game series with Northwestern, the Blossoms would score two runs in

the bottom of the first inning with Northwestern scoring one run in the top of the second inning.

UAM came back in the bottom of the second inning to add a run to increase the lead to 3-1.

Northwestern would add two runs in the top of the fourth inning to tie the contest at three, but the Blossoms would retake the lead in the bottom of the fifth, 5-3, scoring two runs in the inning.

Northwestern would add a run in the top of the seventh inning, but UAM would record the final out to seal the series sweep 5-4.

Travelling to Arkadelphia to

face Henderson State University on Friday, March 4, the Blossoms recorded 16 hits while scoring 14 runs as the Blossoms took the first game of the series 14-2.

The Blossoms recorded five doubles, a triple, and a home run in the contest.

Returning for the first game of the Saturday double-header, the Blossoms bats were still hot as the Blossoms recorded 10 runs on 12 hits.

The Blossoms scored three

runs in the second, two in the third, three in the fourth, and two in the fifth.

Henderson State was able to break the Blossoms' five game winning streak in the second game of the double-header on Saturday.

Henderson got on the scoreboard first in the contest, scoring four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, but the Blossoms would cut into the lead, scoring three runs in the top of the fifth

inning.

Henderson would add a run in the bottom of the sixth to take the 5-3 win.

UAM will return to Alvy Early Field on Friday, March 11, hosting Arkansas Tech University for a 2pm first pitch.

The series will conclude on Saturday with a double header.

Game one of the double-headers is set for a 12pm start time with the second contest set for 2pm.

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Community volunteers help “Feed the Kids”

By **ASHLEY HOGG**
editor@monticellonews.net

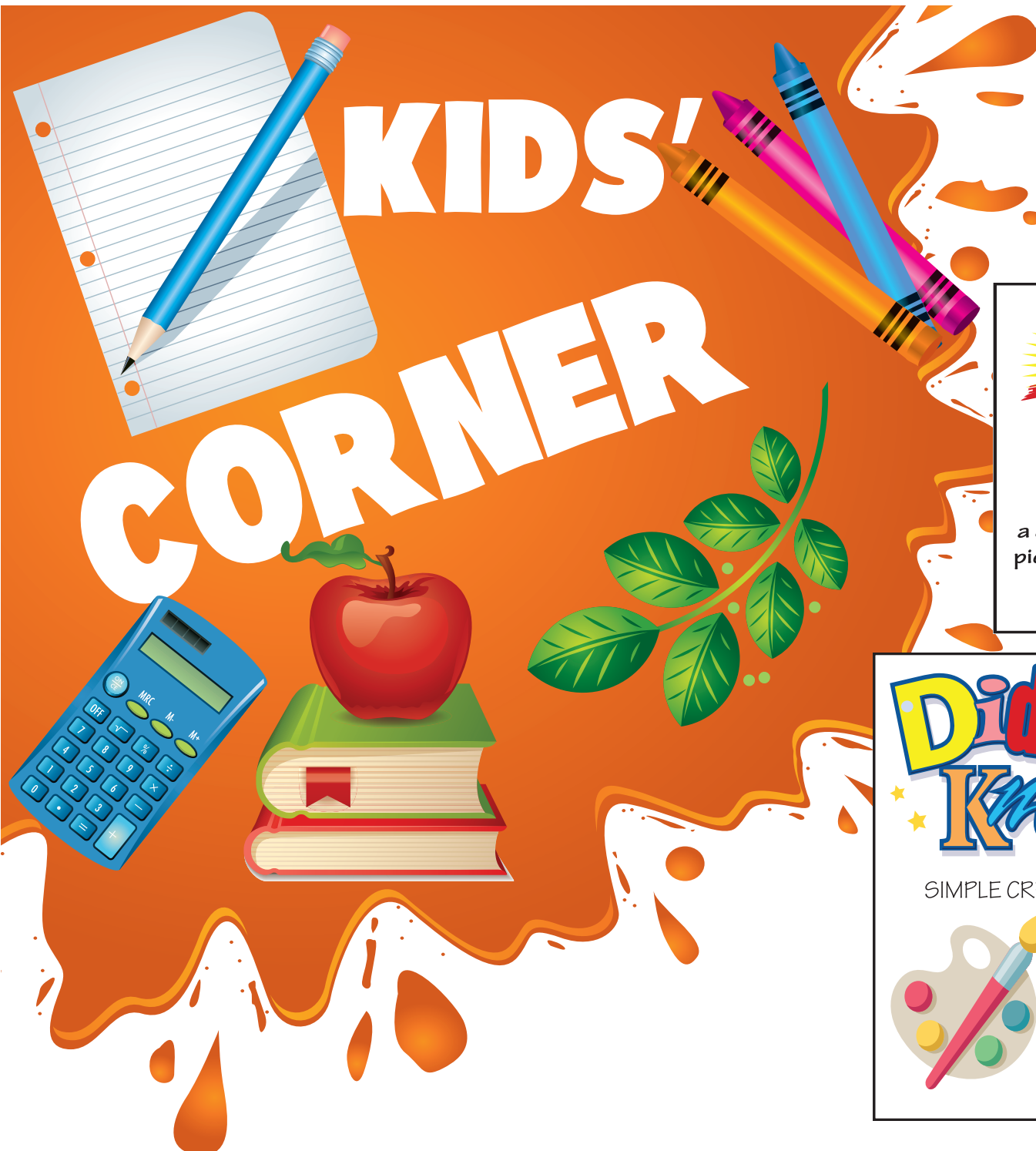
Across the globe and the nation, food insecurity plagues families young and old. According to statistics from www.feedingamerica.org, one in five children face food insecurity. “Feed the Kids” is a local program, started in 2006, that helps combat childhood hunger in Drew County.

A group lead by volunteers and completely dependent on donations, “Feed the Kids” spends approximately \$2,000 per month to provide meals for hungry children in the county. Volunteer groups sign up once a month and pick up the purchased food items from the grocery store, unload them at the Presbyterian Church and then pack individual bags.

“There are children across the world and our nation that are hungry,” Alison Collins, founding member of the group said. “But sometimes, we forget it might be the kid next door that needs a meal.”

For more information on how to get involved with “Feed the Kids” either by volunteering time or making a monetary donation, email collins-ali@att.net.






KIDS' CORNER

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

New Word

MOSAIC
a design made of small pieces of colored stone or glass

ART FACT:



THIS TECHNIQUE IS KNOWN AS A COLOR TRANSITION, OR A GRADUAL BLENDING FROM ONE COLOR TO ANOTHER.

ANSWER: GRADIENT

Did You Know?

SIMPLE CREATIVE ART ACTIVITIES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SAY MANY EXPERTS.



How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Paint
SPANISH: Pintura
ITALIAN: Tinta
FRENCH: Peinture
GERMAN: Farbe

Creative Coloring

Celebrate Youth Art Month.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



COUNTRY

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.

There is no Barkada news this week. Jana Wright had other commitments. Her column will resume in next week's edition.

Greenhill Community Baptist Church enjoyed a message title "The Parable of the Lost Sheep" from Luke 15:3-7 on Sunday. They had the first day of Childrens Church with 12 children attending. You all are welcome to join us for Sunday school at 9:30am, Worship service and Childrens church at 10:30am.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Becky Pace, Keith Pace, Raylynn Macon, Mark Peterson, Emily Bennett, and Cole Bratton. I hope you all enjoy a blessed birthday.

Aunt May has a doctor's appointment this week in Crossett. She is doing well and always appreciates the prayers.

Mark and Chris Pace visited Aunt May and Aunt Pepe on Saturday afternoon.

There are many families in need and I would like to share some information about a food pantry. On Monday the 7th and Friday the 11th at 4pm there will be a free food pantry at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Barkada Road. The next food pantry is scheduled for Monday the 21st and Friday the 25th at 4pm.

South Arkansas Gospel Singing was held on Saturday at Greenhill Community Baptist Church. It was reported that there was a good turnout, great gospel singing, good food, and enjoyed by all who attended.

Mr. Steve Berryman was in the hospital last week. I am happy to hear that he is home and doing well. Continued prayers for a full recovery.

On March 20, 2022 at 2 pm there will be a baby shower for Tom, Skylar, and baby Maverick Eliis at Greenhill Baptist Church.

Greenhill Community
Baptist Church will have a

Good Friday service April 15, 2022 at 7pm. And a sunrise service at 7am on April 15, 2022 followed by breakfast and an Easter egg hunt for the children. We also have a revival planned for May 1-4, 2022 at 7pm nightly.

Verse of the week: "I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope." Acts 2:25-26.

Have a safe and blessed week.

What a warm week we have been having and the weekend was so very nice and beautiful. I enjoyed sitting outside with my grandson and watching him run around playing, and playing with his toys. I was glad to get a call from Aunt Myrtle Burks, Michelle Burks, and Gwen White. A special thanks to Michelle Burks for the two beautiful gifts I received from her in the mail. All my Memphis families are doing well and have been enjoying the beautiful weather we had over the weekend.

Congratulations to Genesis Jackson of Monticello, she has been invited to present her research project at the Arkansas State Capitol on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Genesis is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Genesis is also a member of Drew County NAACP Youth Unit 674J. Congratulations, Genesis!

Happy birthday shout out this week goes to: Nancy Bowman, Patricia Mays, and Chyna Haynes, March 7; Tonnie Graham and Renea Nash, March 8; Grace Washington and Monica Dabney, March 9; Clara McClarin and Rosemary Britton, March 10; Shron Wade, T'Pring Bynum, and Marry Junior, March 12; and Enju'Lakie Davis, March 13. Happy birthday everyone, enjoy your special day.

Our Sunday school lesson

was on: “Wisdom’s Part in Creation” coming from Proverbs 8:22-35 (KJV). Proverbs speaks of wisdom having a divine origin. Hear the instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not (Proverbs 8:33 KJV). Pastor Robert Marshall Sr’s message was on: “God is Still Our Helping Hand” coming from Psalm 54:1-7 (KJV). God is our helper and will rescue us from all our troubles and will give us the victory over all, but we must seek God first, giving Him our all. And our Tuesday Bible study lesson was on: “The Object of Prayer” coming from 1 John 5:14-15; Philippian 4:4-6 (KJV). The aim of the lesson is to help the believer to seek God for the things that He desires for us. Prayer is a necessity of every true life.

Scripture for the week is:
1 John 1:9 (KJV), "Whether
therefore ye eat, or drink, or
whatsoever ye do, do all to
the glory of God."

Everyone have a blessed and safe rest of the week. Keep fasting, keep praying, keep on seeking God and watch God step in and bless you. Much love to you all. Blessings!

Hello everyone! It's the beginning of a new week

that God has spared us to see, I hope everyone had a safe weekend.

We were blessed at Promise Land Baptist Church Lacey with a great Sunday school and church service. The Sunday school subject was "The Resources to Rebuild"; Background Scriptures Ezra 1 & 2:64-70. Key Verse "And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the Lord which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place"; Ezra 2:68 (KJV). The class was taught by Brother Charlie Miller it was a wonderful lesson. Pastor Johnson delivered a powerful message from John 3:16, the subject was "What's Love Got to do with it?", which was the question, and the answer was "Love" has everything to do with it! It was so nice to have sister Kim Franklin with us this morning.

Mr. Mickey Findley and I chatted last week it had been a while since I had seen him. I also saw my niece Marie Collins and her granddaughter, they were on their way back to Little Rock from Texas where they had been visiting a new grand-baby. Marie now lives with her grand-daughter in Little Rock; she looks well. They were going to stop and visit with her brother Earl. Happy belated birthday

wishes to: Helen Colbert,
March 1; Shirley Spencer,
March 2; Kimberly Staple,
March 4; Alfonso Franklin,
March 5; Tatiana Randolph,
March 6; Louise Withers,
March 6. Happy Birthday
wishes to: JayLynn Phillips,
March 8; and Mary Foster,
March 9.

Prayers for Sister Georgia Fisher and family in the loss of her son. Mrs Jan Tiner called me Saturday morning; prayers for her and her family in the loss of her brother. Sympathy and prayers for all who have loss a loved one. Get well wishes to all the sick and shut-in Earl Collins, Virgie Mae Haynes, Mrs. Vera Suber and anyone else who may not be feeling their best.

Thought for the week:
 “Don’t think about what can happen in a month. Don’t think about what can happen in a year...Just focus on the 24 hours in front of you and do what you can do to get closer to where you want to be”. (Author Unknown).
 Be Blessed!!

Hello, y'all, and welcome back. What is up with our weather!? It's jumped from Winter straight into Summer. At least for a few days anyway. Although, looking at the forecast, it appears that cold weather will be back by the end of the week. After a lot of rain. But rain means more water in Lake Monticello, which is a good thing.

We started a women's bible study on Saturday morning. Tonya Rawls is our leader and teacher. Thirteen ladies showed up to learn how to become "A Woman After God's Own Heart". It was a wonderful

time of sistership, fun and faith-building.

Later that morning I got outside to do some prep work for a flower bed. I also assembled a frame for a greenhouse to go on the raised bed I bought last year. I'm thinking of starting some veggies in there. I'm also looking to buy some native flowering plants to place in containers to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. I have such a problem keeping dogs out of my flower beds, so I have to keep most of my flowers up off the ground.

Jason and his family traveled to Hot Springs over the weekend for Bo's first baseball games of the season. The Bat Attack showed out and won both Saturday games. At this writing, they are playing the championship game and leading 6-2. (Ultimately, they lost the championship game)

Rick and I were unable to attend the ballgames, but I was asked to look after grand kitty, Chloe, while they were away. Chloe is quite the feisty little diva and I enjoyed playing with her for a bit after filling her food bowl. I went over to check on her Saturday and Sunday morning and evening. By Sunday evening, she was 'asking' me where her people were and when would they be back home. I told her it looked to be a late night, but they would be home. She seemed content with that.

Sunday was our first without a pastor. Bro. Steve Jacks was gracious enough to fill the pulpit. Bro. Steve's message was taken from Matthew 22:36-37, Mark 12:28-30, and Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The theme of his message was that we

See **COUNTRY** Page 5B

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A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, smiling and looking to his left. He is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and white earbuds connected to a smartphone he is holding in his right hand. The background is a plain, light color.

DEVOTIONAL

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

The grace of grief

Our church family has recently experienced the death of a loved one in our community. A devastating loss to a precious family. Loss is common to man. Everyone is going to lose someone that they love. That is a fact. And with loss there is grief. You can't have one without the other. They are a package deal. It is moments like this we struggle to know what to say. What to say to the family, what to say to each other. We are at a loss for words because there are no words. We want to do something, anything for them because we love them. Gestures of kindness are appreciated and will be remembered and we need to do them. Bring food, wash a car, mow a lawn whatever it may be. And even when we do those things, they seem so hollow because we know there is really nothing we can do. That's just being honest.

So it's in these moments when say what King Jehoshaphat said to God in 2 Chronicles 20. He said, "Lord we don't know what to do but our eyes are upon you". Many times throughout my life as I have gone through seasons of loss I've cursed my grief. I've been angry at my grief. My bones have ached with grief. And like the Apostle Paul I have begged God to remove my thorn, a thorn of grief, to take it away. To grant me relief and rest from this pain.

I've always thought that grief was a necessary evil. I heard this quote this

week. Grief is love with no place to go. We can look at grief not as an enemy but actually a faithful friend. I grieve because my grief is proportional to my love. Would God be so cruel to remove this grief which is so precious? The answer to grief is grace. When Paul cried to God to remove his thorn our Lord replied with the answer, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

When there is not one ounce of strength left in my body or my soul, and the only thing I have to give to God is an offering of my weakness, it's then this beautiful exchange takes place. Our weakness is replaced with the supernatural strength of the living God. So instead of removing the grief, He strengthens our spirit. My grief never gets smaller, it's His grace in me that grows stronger. Strong enough to take the next breath. And the next. To get through one day then the next. Strength for the birthday and the Christmas.

If His grace is always sufficient then it never runs out. His grace is immeasurable. In fact, His grace, this unmerited favor and undeserving love and incomparable strength began at Calvary and is still available today. The World never knew true grace until Jesus Christ. When He hung on the cross at Calvary, it was there as His blood ran red, grace began to pour out and it has never stopped.

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind. Bro. Steve will be back next Sunday as well then Bro. Justin Hewitt will bring the message the following two Sundays in March.

Going back to our weather. Especially the rain part. Rick and I went out to the Plantersville access to Lake Monticello after lunch Sunday afternoon. I had heard that, after recent rains, the large pond was filling up nicely. So, I had to go see for myself. Through my binoculars, I was able to see some waterfowl flying and swimming around. But I wasn't close enough to ID anything. It's still a long way to go before the lake is filled. A wet Spring may help that along. While there, I kept hearing people talking and an engine revving. Even through my binoculars, I couldn't locate them. Suddenly, after

a lot of loud engine revving, I saw a huge cloud of smoke rise up from the lakebed. I came to the conclusion that someone had gotten their truck stuck and blew a motor up trying to get themselves unstuck. I hope they were able to find a way out.

This week's corny joke: How do you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile? You will see one later and one after a while. (Wonk wonk!)

That's my news for this week. Until next time, please be safe, be happy, and do your best to look for the good in each day.

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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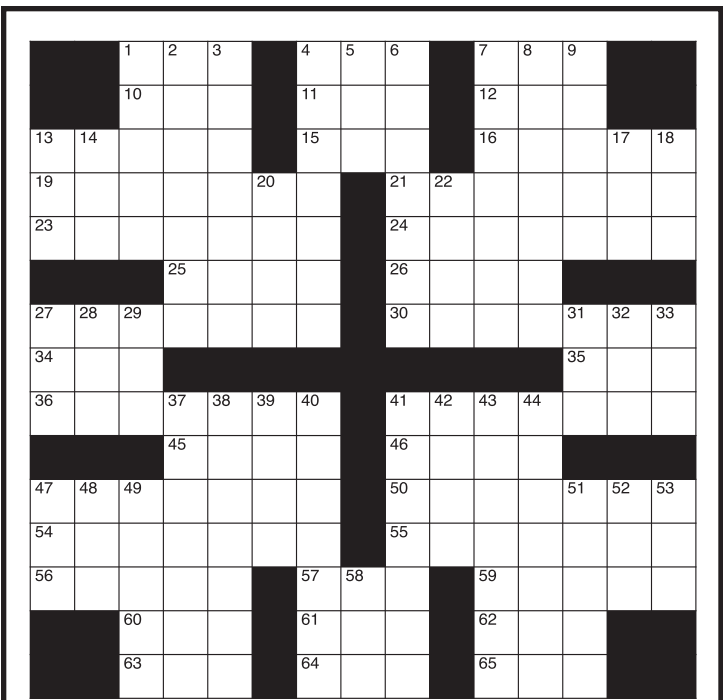
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Y	V	E	T	E	D	H	S	V	Y	Q	U	O	A	U	Y	D	A	A	D
E	H	H	Q	A	N	D	R	N	U	D	R	M	Y	U	O	E	H	T	O
Y	H	T	V	D	I	E	R	N	Y	G	N	O	E	P	N	H	I	M	
D	D	N	A	I	L	P	R	O	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E	A	N	D
R	N	Y	O	P	P	E	C	O	D	F	U	M	H	O	A	Q	N	E	Y
C	U	C	U	C	O	S	R	L	E	S	C	S	Q	R	H	E	R	G	P
C	O	R	A	T	I	R	Q	E	O	N	L	M	I	Q	Y	I	U	N	I
R	F	F	C	N	E	Y	U	C	V	R	E	N	Q	U	U	C	T	O	N
Q	O	G	A	O	A	H	E	A	E	G	S	V	Q	V	R	U	C	N	
O	R	V	U	S	O	L	U	M	N	D	S	Y	C	M	P	E	Q	G	A
E	P	T	I	G	E	S	R	A	E	I	U	A	V	I	Q	F	I	C	E
S	E	P	M	A	S	I	D	E	O	T	O	Q	F	L	P	N	M	R	O
R	R	F	O	S	E	L	C	I	S	O	N	C	D	N	M	F	U	S	
A	P	C	P	C	V	T	Y	O	P	S	E	M	A	E	M	M	V	A	G
E	L	D	D	I	M	C	N	N	H	N	G	F	R	P	V	O	N	T	Y

Page 6B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Central mail bureau

4. Member of the family

7. Partner to flow

10. ___ Angeles

11. Military mailbox

12. Patriotic women

13. Shallow lake

15. Tear apart

16. Middle Easterner

19. Eat to excess

21. Stained

23. Certain peoples of equatorial Africa

24. 1st day of month

25. Skin disease

26. Skating figure

27. Annelids

30. Gracefully slender

34. Kids need it
35. Swiss river

36. Indents

41. A sheer fabric of silk or nylon

45. Belgian River

46. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)

47. Originate from

50. Rugged mountain ranges

54. Made less clean

55. Professions

56. 3s

57. Scarf

59. Yellow light

60. Bird noise

61. Opposite of start

62. Bar bill

63. Northeastern Mass. cape

64. American rocker Snider

65. Midway between northeast and east

CLUES DOWN

1. Scandinavian drink

2. Washington river

3. Fast-running flightless bird

4. Nerve conditions

5. Indicates near

6. Immediate relevance

7. Things you can eat

8. Receptacles

9. Retired Brewers great

13. Month

14. Happy New Year!

17. Exclamation to convey truth

18. Passports and licenses are two

20. Ebert's partner Siskel

22. Long skirt

27. Part of company name

28. Drugmaker ___ Lilly

29. Electronic countermeasures

31. Klutz
32. Chinese statesman

33. Stir with emotion

37. Flat-bottomed boat

38. Go-between

39. This (Spanish)

40. A plot of ground where seedlings are grown before transplanting

41. Small waterfall

42. Modern tech necessity (abbr.)

43. Utter repeatedly

44. One of the bravest

47. Sun up in New York

48. Space station

49. Chilean seaport

51. Hasidic spiritual leader

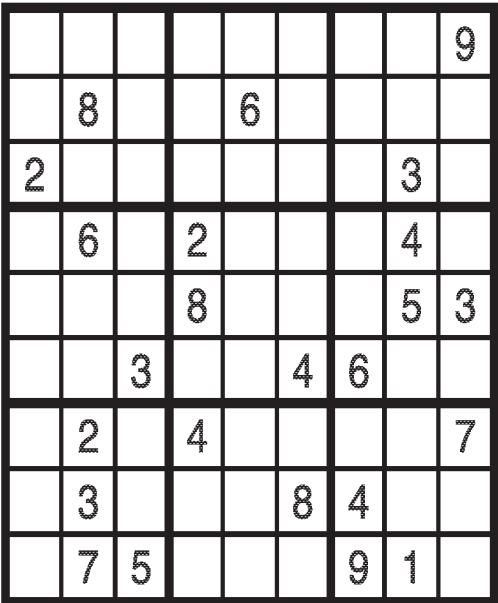
52. They ___

53. Soviet Socialist Republic

58. Single unit

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!

HEARING LOSS WORD SEARCH



WORDS

- ACQUIRED
- AUDITORY
- CANAL
- COCHLEA
- CONDUCTIVE
- CONGENITAL
- DEAF
- EAR
- EARDRUM
- HEARING
- INNER
- LOSS
- MIDDLE
- MILD
- MODERATE
- NEUROPATHY
- OSSICLES
- OUTER
- PINNA
- PROFOUND
- PROGRESSIVE
- SENSORINEURAL
- SEVERE
- SUDDEN

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

Supporting the Pirates - send off to State



Theresa Perrigen/Advance Monticellonian

Drew Central Pirate and Lady Pirate basketball players were met by fans all along U.S. Hwy 425 as they left the DC campus headed for the state basketball tournament on Thursday.



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