

Local sports highlights can be found on Page 12A, 13A, and 14A



Special Olympics brings community together Page 1B



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022



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Copico receives Delta ByWays Award



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Last Wednesday, local pastor Ryan Copico was presented with an Innovation Award from members of the Arkansas Delta ByWays Commission. The award was presented for Copico's efforts to keep community involvement up during the Covid pandemic. Copico accepted the award along with his family and thanked the many vendors who have participated in Food Truck Friday and made it the large event it has turned into.

UAM to hold spring commencement exercises on Friday, May 13

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas will hold its spring commencement exercises on Friday, May 13, in the Steelman Field House. Commencement will be split into two ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Doors will open at 9 a.m. for the 10 a.m. ceremony and 1 p.m. for the 2 p.m. ceremony.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources (undergraduate and graduate), the School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, the School of Nursing, the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Division of General Studies. The 2 p.m. ceremony will

include the School of Arts and Humanities (undergraduate and graduate), the School of Business, the School of Computer Information Systems and the School of Education (undergraduate and graduate).

Scheduled speakers include Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of UAM, C.C. "Cliff" Gibson, III, chair of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, and Donald R. Bobbitt, president of the University of Arkansas System.

Special recognitions during the ceremonies will include the presentation of the Hornaday Outstanding Faculty Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

See UAM Page 6A

MEDC PRESENTS HARRIS WITH SERVICE AWARD



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

By: ASHLEY HOGG
editor@monticellonews.net

At the regular monthly meeting, the Monticello Economic Development Commission presented George Harris with a special service award thanking him for his 18 years of service to the board.

Harris, who is transitioning into retirement from his long time position as President of Commercial Bank, thanked the board for the recognition.

The board members also voted to appoint the incoming President of Commercial Bank, Todd Smith, to the MEDC board.

Director Nita McDaniel gave her usual report and officially announced that Burkes Outlet retail store will be opening in the North Park shopping center, formerly Stage's location. Burkes is set to open later this year and will have a variety of clothing, shoes and accessories for women, men and children.

I-69 improvements in Drew and Desha Counties among 5 projects funded this year by Amendment 91 following a legal challenge to ARDOT

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

In 2022, the scheduled I-69 improvement project between Highways 278 and Highway 65 (S) will be among five Arkansas Department Transportation Projects now funded through Amendment 91 thanks to a legal challenge. No Drew or Desha County tax dollars raised through the amendment approved by Arkansas voters in 2012 had originally been allocated for projects in those counties. The \$2,160,000 that will now partially fund the project through Amendment 91

had been allocated to the I-30 Crossing project in Little Rock until lead plaintiff attorneys Joe Denton and Justin Zachary filed suit on behalf of a small group of taxpayers. They claimed that it was not permissible to use those dollars to fund the Little Rock project under the wording of the amendment and the Arkansas Supreme Court agreed.

"Our challenge was about making sure those funds generated by Amendment 91 went to where Arkansas taxpayers intended when they

See I-69 Page 6A

Early voting begins in Drew County

By: MELISSA ORRELL

One hundred and twenty-one votes were cast Monday, May 9, as early voting in the preferential primary began in Drew County. Early voting will run through Election Day, May 24, announced County Clerk Nancy White at the regularly scheduled Drew County Quorum Court meeting Monday, May 9.

Early voting, which takes place in the Club Room of the Drew County Courthouse, will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Friday, May 20. Early voting will also be available Saturdays, May 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday, May 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Election Day, eight voting centers will be open for voting: Ethel Hawkins Life Center, First Assembly of God Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Shady Grove Baptist Church, Tillar City Library, Wilmar School and Monticello Church of Christ. Voters may choose to vote and any of the vote centers. The Vote Centers will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election



Photo by Melissa Orrell

Poll workers stand ready at the Drew County Courthouse, waiting to help the citizens of Drew County get ready to vote.

Day. To see your sample ballot before going to cast your vote, visit www.voterview.ar-nova.org/. Enter your name and birth date and you will be shown a sample ballot for your specific precinct.

A county road department position moved

from a part-time position to a full-time position when the Court voted unanimously to make position #22 of the Road Department a full-time maintenance position to have the

See QC Page 6A

City Planning Commission moving forward

By: ASHLEY HOGG

editor@monticellonews.net

The Monticello Planning Commission met Tuesday night for their regularly monthly meeting.

Chairman Dan Boice opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the commission is always happy to hear public comments, take questions and listen to concerns. He noted that answers to questions and decisions may not always be given immediately. The commission reserves the right to do proper research on any issue that is presented to them. An answer will be given and a decision will be made, it just may not happen at the same meeting.

Fire Marshal Dale Jones gave his report, stating it had been a busy month for permitting. He updated the group on the construction at the Monticello Fire Department with the addition of a new bay. Most of the labor is being done by the firemen.

At the end of his report, he presented one issue to the commission members. A local church built an addition in 2019 and they are now trying to get electricity to the structure. Per City Code, Entergy would

not hook up their electricity without a proper permit. After some discussion, it was decided to grant the local church an electrical permit retroactively.

Bubba Groves updated the commission on the upcoming youth trap shoot. Plans are being made and there will be a fundraiser in June. The event is tentatively being planned for September.

The idea for this event came from the Community Catalyst focus group that was held several months ago. This event will be in conjunction with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Quail Forever and Monticello Youth Shooting Sports.

Boice handed out copies of the 15 year, city infrastructure plan that was presented at a recent City Council meeting by Mcllenland Engineering. Focusing on water infrastructure updates was the main topic during the discussion among the commission members.

At this time, the Planning Commission has asked for representatives from Mcllenland to attend the next Planning meeting to explain their large and very detailed document further, as to allow the Planning Commission to better build their plan for the City with the infrastructure update as the centerpiece.

Monticello woman receives top military honor

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Sergeant Major Donna Rogers King, a Monticello native, was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame at Fort Lee, VA on May 4, 2022. The Quartermaster Hall of Fame is highest form of recognition the Corps offers. This much coveted award honors individuals who are judged

to have made the most significant contributions to the overall history and traditions of the Quartermaster Corps. Sergeant Major Donna R. King is a native of Monticello, Arkansas. She is the daughter of Mrs. Vera Suber and the late Mr. Henry Suber, Jr. She is married to Bennie King. She has one daughter, Dr. Tremi-

kae Owens Henderson, MD; son-in-law, James Henderson II and grandson, James Henderson III. Sergeant Major King entered the United States Army in 1983 and served the citizens of the United States and the Army for 32 years. Her Military educa-

See KING Page 6A

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Senior Center Cake Walk

The Senior Center will be doing a cake walk May 13. Get your tickets at the Senior Center. \$.50 per ticket for a chance to win some of grandma's cakes, cookies, or pies. (870) 367-2434 for more information.

Miracles and Music Fundraiser

Seak Miracle League will host a live and silent auction beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, May 13 at The Ridge on Wilson Mill. There will be live music and crawfish. Tickets are \$50. Contact Gay Pace at 870-723-6466 or Amanda Killingsworth at 870-224-6162 for tickets.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Poetry at the library

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Monticello Branch will host Poet Ashley J at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 14. Ashley is a published author and poet.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Church Homecoming celebration

Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church will host its 90th year homecoming at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 15. Bro. Alvin McMahon will hold service and there will be music by Kelley Payne. A pot luck lunch will follow. Everyone is invited to attend.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Spaghetti Fundraiser

The Monticello Arkansas Firefighters Association will host a spaghetti lunch fundraiser on Friday, May 20. Plates may be picked up at 114 W. Wood St. Contact any local fire fighter for tickets.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Church Homecoming celebration

Pleasant Springs Baptist Church will hold its annual homecoming service at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 22 at 601 Pleasant Springs Rd. The guest speakers will be Bro. Ben Leonard with special music by Charles Graham and Bill Burchfield. Everyone is invited to attend.

Memorial and Cemetery decoration

Union Cemetery and Enon Cemetery in Rye will observe the Annual Fourth Sunday in May Memorial and Cemetery decoration on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 10:00 am at Union Methodist Church in Rye. All families and friends are invited to attend. If you can not attend and would like to donate to the upkeep of the cemeteries, you can mail donations to: Karen Gage, 1202 Hwy 278 West, Monticello, AR 71655.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Virtual Dementia Tour

Transitions/IOP at Drew Memorial Hospital is hosting an Open House of Transitions/IOP and an educational event (Virtual Dementia Tour) to the community. The Virtual Dementia Tour is free and open to everyone. We are encouraging professional and family care givers to attend. We are offering 3 sessions (10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) that day and individuals need to call ahead to reserve a spot before they are filled.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

June Dinner pageant

The annual June Dinner pageant will be held at 5:30 p.m., Friday, June 3 at the Wilmar Community Center. Applications can be found on the Walmar Juneteenth Facebook page. The deadline to register is May 23. For more information, contact Seneca at 870-224-2779, Sandra at 870-723-8038 or Dion at 870-723-8284.

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 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.

Senior Center LUNCH

May 11- May 18



Wednesday: *Pot roast w/carrots & potatoes, purple hull peas, peach cobbler, roll*

Thursday: *Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, fried okra, cookie, roll*

Friday: *Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, sweet peas, banana pudding, roll*

Monday: *Great northern beans w/ sausage, turnip greens, sugar cookie, cornbread*

Tuesday: *Glazed ham, baked sweet potatoes, butter beans, mixed fruit*

cobbler, roll

Wednesday: *Smothered pork chop, mashed potatoes, cabbage w/ onions, cake, roll*

Menu is subject to change. 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.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to all Graduates of UAM, Monticello and Drew Central Schools



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UAM hires new agronomist in CFANR

By: LON TEGELS
College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources - University of Arkansas at Monticello

“Soils are the basis of most agricultural production, but we tend to rely too much on the soil chemistry and how we can alter it to increase our yields. We need to pay more attention to the soil health, which includes the biology and physics of the soil too. Soil is more complex than we’ve been treating it,” said UAM Assistant Professor of Agronomy Dr. Katy Bridges.

Bridges is the newest hire in the University of Arkansas at Monticello, College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources. She was hired as an agronomist to teach soil and crop production. This fall, she will begin teaching Introductions to Soils and Fiber and Oil Seed Crops, formerly taught by Professor Paul Francis, who retired in

December. She will also work with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture with extension and research.

Bridges is currently collaborating on two grant proposals to do soil carbon research. One project focuses on biochar. Biochar is a product of pyrolysis, which is the process of burning pine bark or other raw products such as sorghum stalks or rice hulls at high temperatures without oxygen. The result is a charcoal-type product that can be re-introduced into soils to sequester carbon and potentially improve crop production. The other grant focuses on the carbon sequestration potential of changing land use from agriculture to bottomland hardwoods.

“I grew up in, Haynesville, La., and I was a dedicated 4-H member from 4th grade to graduation,” said Bridges. “While in 4-H, I raised

livestock and participated in leadership projects. Originally, I had intended to become a veterinarian but became interested in ecology.”

After receiving her animal science degree from Louisiana State University, Dr. Bridges attended the University of Georgia in Athens. There she received a masters in Conservation and Sustainable Development from the Odum School of Ecology.

“My research focused on forest mycorrhizal ecology,” she explained. “Ecologists have a different perspective about agriculture than what I had been taught. I had to re-evaluate my own knowledge and understanding of conventional agriculture, which sparked my interest in soil health.”

Upon completing her degree at Georgia, Bridges went to work for the University of Tennessee Extension. She

was the 4-H agent of Fayette County for three years before returning to Louisiana State University to pursue a PhD in soil science. “I learned a lot about teaching from my 4-H experience, but I wanted to pursue the science. My research focused on soil microbial ecology and soil health in pasture systems of southeastern Louisiana,” she said.

Bridges spent a brief time working for a private company in North Carolina as a soil carbon specialist and for The Ohio State University as a postdoctoral scholar, doing

on-farm soil health and soil carbon research in northeastern Ohio. There, she worked for the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center.

Bridges credits her mother and father for her interests in agriculture and teaching. Her mother is a chemistry instructor at Louisiana Tech University. “She reminds me of the importance of scientific

integrity,” said Bridges. She credits her father with her appreciation of the environment and agriculture. He was an extension educator (recently retired) for 30 years in both Louisiana and Arkansas. “They have both greatly influenced my life and still do. I learned the priceless value of hard work and a willingness to learn from them,” she said.



Courtesy Photo

Get paid to turn marginal farmland to native habitat

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Row crop producers who struggle with highly erodible or underperforming land may consider enrolling in the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Levell Foote, conservation consultant for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Program, said. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

Foote said he recommends CRP to producers who are in a

difficult spot and having trouble managing land that has recently been used for row crop production. The program also applies to farmers with pastureland along a stream or water body.

“I was recently working with a producer who was farming 55 acres, but this part of his operation just wasn’t paying off,” he said. “In this case, I suggested he take his land out of production through CRP. That way, he wouldn’t have to buy equipment, plant the land or raise a crop. Instead, he was able to get paid for taking his land out of production and helping improve its sustainability.”

Foote said those who enroll in the program can plant

native grasses or trees to help control soil erosion, improve water quality and benefit wildlife. Some program participants install bodies of water on their property to attract ducks and other waterfowl.

According to the FSA website, contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. Participants receive annual payments, as well as incentive payments and some cost-share assistance. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils in each county and the average cash rent using data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Producers can choose to enroll in the program through

the general or continuous CRP signup. A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months preceding the first year of the contract period.

“I recommend producers opt for the continuous signup because they will receive a signup incentive payment of 32.5 percent of the first full year annual rental payment,” Foote said. “A practice incentive payment of up to 50 percent is paid for in-

stalling a practice. Under continuous signup, soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates.”

Foote said producers interested in enrolling in CRP should contact the FSA office at their local USDA Service Center.

“The Conservation Reserve Program offers a great way for producers with marginal farmland to earn money by restoring the soil, water and wildlife habi-

tat on their land,” he said.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff 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, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 2A

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.

Drew Co. Democratic Party meeting

The Drew County Democratic Party is hosting monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month through November. The meeting location is the Wilmar Community Center 2506 Hwy 278 West. The venue is set up for social distancing and mask recommended. The meeting starts at 6pm. All interested parties are invited to attend. For more information, contact President Peggy Orr 870-224-2416.

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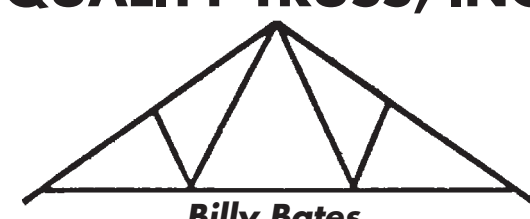
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OPINION

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More must be done to address the looming global food shortage

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is run by my good friend David Beasley. Under his leadership, WFP was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger, promote peace in conflict-affected areas and prevent the weaponization of food as part of war and hostilities.

David will remain at WFP's helm for another year, which is very good news. The world is about to find out just how vital his steady leadership is during a time of crisis.

Global food prices are a whopping 34 percent higher than they were this time last year. The high cost of food has complicated humanitarian efforts to help those suffering from food insecurity at a time the world is seeing those in need increase dramatically.

The massive market disruptions brought on by Russia's ruthless invasion of Ukraine will make it more difficult

for WFP and other organizations to feed the hungry. Ukrainian ports are closed, and likely to remain so until the invasion ends. Additionally, Russia is threatening to only export agricultural and food products to countries it considers "friendly." This spells trouble for many nations that rely on exports out of the Black Sea.

Russia and Ukraine are major grain exporters to regions of the world most at-risk for food insecurity-driven conflict. On average 18 percent of corn, 30 percent of wheat, 71 percent of barley, and close to 80 percent of sunflower-based cooking oils are exported from these two countries annually. Disruptions in the supply of these commodities will affect food security and further increase ballooning global inflation.

President Biden has acknowledged the looming threat of international food shortages is "going to be real." Despite this pronouncement, his administration has been slow to act.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not provided Congress its plans to address the forthcoming global food crisis and support domestic producers' efforts to meet increasing demand.

It's past time for the administration to do that as well as empower American farmers to help ward off this emergency.

If USDA were to grant flexibilities for current or prospective participants in its programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program, millions of acres of cropland and pasture that would have otherwise remained idle can be farmed for food production. It's a win-win solution.

Time is of the essence. An estimated 323 million people are at risk of food insecurity this year. Furthermore, WFP estimates more than 44 million people around the world are on the brink of famine.

Arkansas family farmers stand ready to help to bridge the gap globally and help bring down food costs here at home. President Biden should allow them to scale-up capacity to aid those desperately in need.

As major importers of Ukrainian and Russian agriculture products, countries across North Africa and the Middle East have experienced a significant increase in wheat prices as domestic production has been crippled by droughts. These same nations will be dealt another blow when the supply of wheat exported via the Black Sea dwindles. The economic conditions in these parts of the world are already grim. Inaction could very well lead to Arab Spring 2.0.

Violence breaking out in any of these countries could also result in migrant crises with tragic consequences as people take drastic measures to flee their war-torn homelands.

David Beasley and his dedicated team at WFP are on a mission to prevent these scenarios from occurring. Farmers in The Natural State and across the country can help accomplish that goal. However, what is missing is leadership from the Biden administration to make this happen.

Let's have a chat about voting

Early voting began Monday at the Drew County Courthouse. Have you voted yet? Do you wait until Election Day to cast your ballot?

I am a serial early voter, have been since I was 18. I was so excited the first time I got to vote. I was filled with American enthusiasm as I registered and got my voter card. Now, many moons later, I find myself voting defensively most of the time.

When I was growing up, I always heard, "If you don't vote, you can't complain." I took this to heart and I knew that my overly opinionated self would have things to say, so I made sure I voted every

time I could. I've learned so much about government over the past few years. I have been fortunate to see first hand how City and County officials work and it is not always pretty. The things our officials are tasked with are not issues to be taken lightly. Sometimes, officials' hands get tied and the general public is unable to

see why certain projects can't be completed. If you are uncertain about something, never hesitate to ask questions of our leaders.

As I have grown and gained some knowledge of how things operate, I have been able to separate local issues from national issues. I wish some of the rest of the population would do the same. I'll just be honest with you, I could not care an ounce less how the elected official in charge of my county's roads feels about the pro-choice pro-life issue. It legitimately makes no difference in the job that person is tasked to do. I believe a popular phrase in today's culture is "stay in your own lane." If you are in charge of roads, or taxes, or water, or insert whatever local, day-to-day issue, focus on that. Leave the politics to Washington.

Don't get me wrong, you are absolutely entitled to believe whatever you want to believe and I respect a person with strong convictions and that has passion about specific things. I don't have to always agree with you and one person isn't usually right. The answer, I find, is most of the time right smack dab in the middle.

Drew County is in the midst of a political

race that unfortunately has turned, in my humble opinion, disgraceful. The City of Monticello has an upcoming race that needs the utmost care and someone in the job that has the ability to follow through. My sincerest hope is that every voter is keeping up with what is happening and does some extra evaluation before they push the "finalize vote" button.

What is important to you? What is important to our County and City? Who can we work with to communicate citizen priorities?

Once again, I'll be fully transparent. I expect my elected officials to be able to hold a professional conversation in whatever type of situation, and be able to speak intelligently about the topic at hand. I don't want the person in charge of where I live to be flaky or non-committed. I don't want my elected officials to be expert "politicians." That's not what we need here. We need people to use that organ behind our skull that God gave us that when you eat a Popsicle too fast, it freezes up.

Educate yourself and don't be afraid to ask the hard questions. Remember, you have until May 24 to vote in Drew County.

I think that's all I have to say about that.



JOHN BOOZMAN

U.S. SENATE REPORT



ASHLEY HOGG

EDITOR



May is Foster Care Month in Arkansas

All children deserve to grow up in a loving and stable home. Unfortunately, many children in Arkansas are lacking that stability.

Currently, there are more than 4,600 children in foster care in Arkansas. There are fewer than 1,700 foster families statewide.

May is National Foster Care Month. Children in foster care do better in homes with families, not facilities, needs caring, patient, and

flexible foster families who can provide temporary care to children while we work to get them safely back home to their original families as quickly as possible.

Foster care is home-like care provided by licensed foster parents and providers for children who cannot live with their parents because they are either unsafe, have special care or treatment needs that their parents are unable to manage, or other circumstances resulting in their parents or family being unable to care for them.

Placement in foster care is usually temporary and gives families time to make necessary changes so the child can safely live in his or her home and community. Most children in foster care return home to their families, which is called reunification. When children cannot return home, they find permanence through adoption, guardianship, or other means.

You don't need a lot of money to become a foster parent. However, you must have sufficient resources to meet the financial, medical, physical, educational, emotional, and shelter needs of the child without relying solely on state or federal financial assistance to meet those needs.

Foster home applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Two-parent homes may apply and must demonstrate a stable relationship. A single person also may apply.

Foster parents do not do it alone. They have multiple staff from the Division of Children and Family Services to help support the family.

If you think you could provide a loving home to a foster child, visit humanservices.arkansas.gov to apply.



HOWARD BEATY

ARKANSAS HOUSE REPORT

Helping with housing stability

There is no question that many families suffered financial setbacks as the coronavirus swept across the nation two years ago. Today I'd like to discuss my vision to stabilize housing and to assist Arkansans with opportunities to move up the economic ladder.

Arkansas's unemployment rate rose to more than 10 percent in the early months of the pandemic. The federal government stepped in with Emergency Rental Assistance, which allowed

many to remain in their homes and softened the financial blow for landlords.

But our economy has returned,

jobs are plentiful, and our unemployment rate is even better than before the pandemic. Many still are recovering, but as employment opportunities abound, we are returning to our pre-pandemic assistance programs.

Our goal is to educate Arkansans so they can move into trades that will allow them to build a career that will support their family. We must do more than pay the rent.

Arkansans want to work. We recognize the dignity that comes with earning a living rather than a lifetime of accepting help. For this to work, we must assess the needs of individuals. What training does a person need? What challenges prevent a parent from finding a job? Some need help to overcome a mental illness or an addiction to alcohol or another substance.

We still have programs that

assist renters, including the Emergency Solutions Grants, the Community Services Block Grants, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Arkansans' belief in the value of work has been a foundation of my approach to lending a government hand to those in need. I recently informed the U.S. Treasury that Arkansas would accept no more than about \$58 million in funds the federal government is offering through the second round of the Emergency Rental Assistance program. That is about 39 percent of the total the state was offered.

We still have approximately \$16.5 million available in housing stability funds through other programs, and that includes more than \$6 million for rental assistance. So we don't need the entire

See HUTCHINSON Page 5A

Voting rights challenged in Arkansas

Last year the legislature enacted a series of new election laws, and four of them were challenged in court by plaintiffs who argued that they restricted voting rights.

In March the four new laws were stricken by a circuit judge after a trial of four days. He ruled that they were unconstitutional and he issued an injunction ordering that they not be enforced.

In defending the new voting laws

the state attorney general filed an urgent appeal at the state Supreme Court.

In April the Supreme Court overturned the lower court injunction. The result, for now, is that the four new voting laws will apply when Arkansas citizens vote in the May 24 primary elections.

These are the four laws under challenge:

Act 249 repeals a previous section of the law that allowed voters to sign an affidavit at their polling place if they didn't bring a photo ID.

Under Act 249, if voters fail to show an ID, they must cast a

provisional ballot and in order for their votes to be counted they must show an ID to the county board of election commissioners or the county clerk by noon on the Monday following the election.

Act 728 prohibits people from entering or remaining in an area within 100 feet of the entrance to a voting site while voting is taking place. An exception allows people to enter or leave the building for "lawful purposes."

Proponents of the bill said it aims to prevent voter intimidation, electioneering activities and violations

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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Tagged catfish are being stocked around the state

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Thousands of channel catfish from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hatcheries are being stocked at several locations around the state, and a select few carry a “bonus prize” if you catch them.

Each of Arkansas’s Family and Community Fishing Program stocking locations have catfish wearing a brightly colored tag just behind their dorsal fin. Anyone that catches a tagged fish can send in the tag, regardless of whether they keep the fish or not, for a chance at Bass Pro Shops gift cards ranging

from \$200 to \$800.

“Thanks to the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Steve Smith Endowment, we have a little over \$5,000 in gift cards to give away,” Maurice Jackson, FCFP coordinator for the AGFC said. “We also have two grand prize guided fishing trips. Each trip is a half-day fishing experience with a guide on Beaver Lake for two individuals, also courtesy of the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation.”

The annual tagged fish promotion began in 2012, and has been a huge success. Originally used to gauge the angling effort and success on these lo-

cally stocked fishing ponds, the tagged fish promotion has grown into a useful tool to promote additional anglers at some locations.

Anyone catching a tagged fish from Family and Community locations should send the tags to the AGFC Family and Community Fishing Program, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. Include your name, address, phone number, location and date of catch. Only one entry per person. Tag returns must be postmarked by June 30, 2022.



Courtesy Photo

Spring bear sightings don’t have to mean ‘trouble bruin’

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Each spring, young male black bears emerge from their dens and strike out to find new territories. While sightings of these misguided youths certainly grab the attention of people living in neighborhoods bordering bear country, they often move on as long as people don’t give them a reason to stay.

Bears are part of Arkansas and have been since before the state was settled. In fact, Arkansas once was so rich

with black bears that its official nickname was “The Bear State.” Unrestricted hunting for their fur and fat led to the bear’s rapid decline by the early 1900s. Thanks to the efforts of conservationists and biologists with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas again has bears throughout much of the state in the areas they once roamed. But living with bears requires a brief mention about bear biology.

Female bears will spend two winters with their cubs: the first when they are new-

borns, and the second as adolescents. In their second year, female cubs will be allowed to stay in a portion of their mother’s territory, but male bears are forced away to find a new home on their own.

“It’s nature’s way of ensuring genetic diversity,” said Myron Means, bear program coordinator for the AGFC. “The young males will wander for a while until they find a new home with good food resources.”

Unfortunately, that search may land young bears in some sticky situations. Open

trash cans, bowls filled with pet food and areas where people have dumped cooking grease or table scraps often attract these wayward bears. Wildlife feeders also act as magnets to these young bruins, who will take advantage of the free meal.

“The first thing we tell anyone to do when they have a nuisance bear in the area is to put away any possible foods, including deer feeders, bird feeders and dog food, and to keep trash cans locked or put away where they are inaccessible for a couple of

days,” Means says. “That’s usually all it takes for the bear to move on.”

Just like grandpa told you about snakes and other scary critters, bears are much more scared of people than we are of them. But if a bear is allowed to stick around, it can begin to associate people with a free meal, and that’s when trouble starts. Means suggests people who see bears where they don’t want them, make it clear they need to move on.

“Making noise, yelling and throwing a rock or two at the

bear will give it the message that it’s not welcome,” Means said. “Bears aren’t aggressive animals and they don’t have a desire for revenge or anything. They just realize the area isn’t comfortable to stay in and will go away.”

More information about bear awareness and bear safety can be found on the cooperative website www.Bearwise.org. This site was developed by bear biologists throughout the Southeast and includes information specific to Arkansas.

DREW COUNTY EHC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS RECOGNIZED



Courtesy Photo

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Drew County Extension Homemakers Council recently recognized students from the University of Arkansas at Monticello who were awarded their academic scholarships for the past academic year. The scholars were invited to attend the EHC Spring Council meeting at the Monticello First United Methodist Church Family Life Center on April 30, 2022. The guest speaker for the event was Cindy Smith from McGehee, who served as a Parks and Tourism Department Commissioner for 11 years. She spoke about the wonderful sites and activities the Natural State has to offer in all 52 state parks and signed copies of her new book.

Pictured are the winning students along with the Co-chairs of the EHC Scholarship Committee (L to R): Dr Kay Walter, Evelyn Delacruz, Kailley White, Trenton Eubanks, Sandra Mondragon, Rylee Griffin, and Claudia Horton. Any graduating senior from Monticello or current student attending UAM in the 2022-23 school year who would like to apply for a Drew County EHC Scholarship should contact Hazelene McCray at the Extension Office in the Drew County Courthouse by email at hmccray@uada.edu or by phone at 870-460-6270 immediately. Further information about Drew County EHC and its activities is also available through the Extension Office.

Job Corps launches recruitment drive in Arkansas

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Job Corps program has launched a recruitment drive in Arkansas, offering immediate openings and free career training for low-income students ages 16–24 in the nation’s leading industries.

“This is a great opportunity for young Arkansans who are trying to leverage a strong job market,” said National Director of Job Corps Rachel Torres. “We are a gateway to skills, credentials and opportunity. Our students need Job Corps, and the workforce needs our students.”

There are two Job Corps centers in Arkansas: Cass (in Ozark) and Little Rock. They offer career skills training in high-growth industry sectors, including Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Health Care, Homeland Security, Hospitality, Information Technology and Transportation.

Job Corps is free for ages 16–24 from low-income households who meet the eligibility requirements, and students can apply and enroll at any time. Job Corps provides hands-on career skills training, on-campus housing, meals, health care and job search assistance. Applicants may qualify if they receive SNAP, TANF, or free or reduced school lunch, or if they are experiencing homelessness or are a foster youth.

The recruitment drive in Arkansas is part of a national effort to restore Job Corps campuses to full capacity after pandemic safety measures had restricted enrollments, due to the residential aspects of the program. Job Corps has restored pre-pandemic admission standards nationwide and has immediate openings in Arkansas.

For more information about Job Corps, or to begin the enrollment process, visit jobcorps.gov or call 800-733-JOBS (5627).

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

\$146 million the federal government offered. The money we do accept from the second round of Emergency Rental Assistance could better be used to continue pilot programs with various nonprofits from Our House to Restore Hope and others, or to start new programs that promote housing stability.

I thought long and hard

about whether to accept all of the federal funds, but I didn’t think we should take the money when we already have rental assistance funds available through other programs. It makes no sense to start an absolutely new rental-assistance program that would make it too easy for people to accept help rather than improve their job skills.

The federal money also came with strings and limited our flexibility in program-integrity efforts.

We are not going to ignore

the needs of Arkansans. Community action agencies throughout the state can distribute aid from the remaining funds.

But now that we are putting the pandemic behind us, we must focus on giving Arkansans the best kind of help, which is the chance to train and the ability to succeed. Our goal is not only to help someone find work today, but to help them achieve the dignity and pride of putting their family into a house and putting food on the table.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

of the Americans with Disabilities Act, while objectors said it was overly broad and could prevent nonprofits from distributing food and water. Act 736 changes the rules for voting with absentee bal-

lots. It states that possession of more than four absentee ballots is presumed to be election fraud. Previously, possessing 10 or more absentee ballots was presumed to be proof of election fraud.

Act 736 also requires county clerks to provide the county board of election commissioners with a daily count of

absentee ballot applications.

A controversial provision in Act 736 directs county clerks to compare signatures on applications for absentee ballots with signatures on the applicant’s voter registration document.

If the signatures don’t match, the clerk will not send an absentee ballot to the ap-

plicant. Plaintiffs argued that a person’s signature changes over the years, especially if they get arthritis.

Act 973 moves the deadline when absentee ballots must be turned in to the county clerk, from Monday, the day before the election, to the preceding Friday, before the final weekend of the election

season.

One new law that is not being challenged is Act 128, which requires the Secretary of State’s office to post sample ballots on an Internet site.

If you do an Internet search for “Arkansas Voter View,” the site operated by the Secretary of State site will be the first in the list of links. You

have to submit information such as your name and date of birth.

If you’re registered to vote your name will appear, along with the address of your polling place and a list of early voting sites. At the bottom of the page are pdf files that can be opened to show sample ballots.

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Drew Central named Jostens 2022 National Yearbook Program of Excellence

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, today announced that Drew Central's yearbook program has achieved the Jostens 2022 National Yearbook Program of Excellence award at the Silver Level. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

The Drew Central award-winning yearbook program is led by Michael Herman, Editor and Karleigh Hoskins, Assistant Editor under the direction of Chaile Brown, Drew Central yearbook adviser.

"Our yearbook is fully created by students," said Mrs. Brown, "and I am proud of their hard work and dedication. The product speaks for itself."

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are presented twice a year, in spring and in fall based on the yearbook's arrival date at the school. The award was present-

ed to the Drew Central yearbook program for achieving defined criteria in between one and three of the following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement, and successfully managing the yearbook creation process.

"Jostens is proud to recognize those individuals who have created an exceptional yearbook for their school and community," said Tammy Whitaker, Jostens VP and COO Yearbook Division. "These schools did an exceptional job on multiple levels, despite the challenges presented by this school year. Yearbooks are a crit-

ical part of capturing and telling a school's story, and Jostens is dedicated to supporting yearbook staff members as they do their important work."

Founded in 1897, Jostens has produced school yearbooks for over 60 years. Schools rely on Jostens and their local Jostens representatives to provide a combination of journalism education and technology tools to deliver a learning experience that helps students develop 21st century skills in journalism, photography, writing and design, leadership and business while creating the school's permanent record of the school

year. Jostens invests in state-of-the-art technology, best in class service, educational curriculum and award winning print manufacturing platforms to plan, design, build and produce yearbooks.

About Drew Central High School

Drew Central high school provides a quality education to all students in preparing them for college, career and community engagement. Drew Central strives to educate the whole person by ensuring an outstanding and safe learning environment which nurtures the unique talents

of the individual student.

About Jostens
Jostens is a trusted partner in the academic and achievement channel, providing products, programs and services that help its customers celebrate moments that matter. The company's products include yearbooks, publications, jewelry and consumer goods that serve the K-12 educational, college and professional sports segments. Founded in 1897 and based in Minneapolis, MN, Jostens is a subsidiary of Platinum Equity and can be found online at www.jostens.com.

MASTER GARDENERS HAVE BUSY WEEK



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Drew County Master Gardeners are in full swing. Last Saturday, the group held their annual plant sale at the mini park. On Tuesday morning, they partnered with Union Bank to put seasonal flowers in the planters along the square. Pictured above are volunteers from the Drew County Master Gardeners that did the planting and employees of Union Bank.

UAM

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The university will present academic credentials ranging from master's degrees to associate degrees during the ceremonies.

Commencement will be livestreamed on YouTube. The link will be accessible from the university's homepage. A clear bag policy is in place for all guests. For additional information on commencement, visit www.uamont.edu or contact the Office of Academic Affairs at (870) 460-1033.

QC

Continued from Page 1A

salary of \$29,547.36 with the Court appropriating \$32,994.81 for eight months to fund the position. The larger amount includes the full cost of the position for the next eight months, including benefits. County Judge Robert Akin asked the Court to fund the position for \$13.50 per hour to give room for a raise in the future. The position will currently pay \$13 per hour. According to Akin, the position fulfills more of a maintenance role across the County.

Due to this, the positions salary will be taken from budgets across the County 2 percent will be paid by Drew County Office of Emergency Management, 5 percent from District Court, 20 percent from the Health Department, 33 percent from Courthouse Maintenance, with the remaining 40 percent coming from the Road Department.

Also in the meeting, Scott Barrilleaux, Drew Memorial Health System Chief Executive Officer, briefed the court on hospital affairs. April was slower than expected in the clinics and labor costs are still the biggest worry for the health

system. The Administration continues to work with outside agencies to help the hospital with strategies to staff the hospital. A sub-variant of the Omicron variant is emerging across the country, according to Barrilleaux, who reported while the variant is more contagious, it is not a potent and is currently leading to less hospitalizations than earlier variants.

The County Collector, Tonya Lovell and her staff will be in classes Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6, 7 and 8. The department's part-time employee will be filling in at the time.



Courtesy photo

Donna King stands to receive her many awards and recognition for her service.

KING

Continued from Page 1A

tion includes the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 58. Donna holds a Masters of Arts degree in Human Resource Development from Webster University. She is a graduate of Liberty University with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration. She served in a multitude of challenging positions of increasing responsibility culminating as the United States Army Combined Arms Support Command G-3/5/7 Sergeant Major. She was instrumental in synchronizing the Combined Arms Support Command Strategic Plan across the staff and five schools in support of Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the Operational Army. She redesigned the orders and tasking management process to better synchronize Sustainment Meetings and the Logistics Leader Development Strategy. While serving as the Quartermaster School Logistics Training Department, she trained and positively impacted over 10,000 Initial Military Training Soldiers for the operating force. She spearheaded and oversaw the redesign of the 92A and 92Y enlisted Military Occupational Specialties and two Additional Skill Identifiers, to include, classroom upgrades and changes to the Program of Instructions aimed at better preparing logistics Soldiers. While deployed her efforts in support of the Afghanistan National Security Forces left an indelible mark on the nation of Afghanistan. She also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Her awards and decorations includes the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star; and the Meritorious Service Medals.

I-69

Continued from Page 1A

approved the amendment," said attorney Joe Denton of Denton and Zachary. "In this case, that means funding highway improvements in rural parts of the state where they're sorely needed rather than consolidating the funds paid by citizens from across the state for a few large-scale projects in Little Rock that were clearly not permissible under the wording of the approved amendment."

Drew and Desha County tax dollars raised as part of the amendment will now help fund

local projects instead of seeing that money sent elsewhere in the state. In all, \$121-million in Amendment 91 funds originally allocated to the ineligible I-30 Crossing project and an I-630 project in west Little Rock were re-allocated to other projects across Arkansas following the court's ruling. In addition to the project in Drew and Desha Counties, four other projects funded in full or partially through re-allocated Amendment 91 funds are scheduled for 2022, including the Washington County Highway 112 project, Pulaski County Highway 10 project, Columbia County Highway 82 project and Pope County

I-40 project.

"In addition to the satisfaction of seeing this money go to the projects that Arkansas voters intended it to fund, this challenge has been important because it affirmed the rights of every citizen to stand up and make their voice heard when they recognize a problem, even when that problem has to do with a state agency's actions," said Denton and Zachary attorney Justin Zachary.

"Transportation Infrastructure is a significant factor for business and industry," Monticello Economic Development Commission Director Nita McDaniel stated. "In 2019, I ap-

proached the Arkansas Highway Commission with a request to change their plan for constructing the western portion of the I-69 bypass around Monticello, toward building this eastern piece of Interstate 69 which gives us a better route for moving freight through the southeast Arkansas region and better access across the Mississippi River for freight. The Highway Commission approved my request, after I worked hard to gain support from mayors, county judges, Southeast Arkansas Cornerstone Coalition, Yellow Bend Port Authority and Crossett Economic Development Foundation and made an

in person presentation to the Commission with the request. There was approximately \$48 million left in allocated funds for the I-69 corridor after the eastern portion of the Monticello bypass was constructed between US 425 South and US Highway 278 East. ArDOT allocated additional funds in their 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Plan for the project and it is scheduled to be advertised for bids this year (2022) with full funding since 2021. I do not know the impact of this case and the moving of Amendment 91 funds toward it since ArDOT Job # 020678 (I-69 east between Monticello and

US Highway 65) had already been funded. MEDC will continue to advocate for additional investment toward completing I-69 in Arkansas."

Once approved by voters in 2012, Amendment 91 instituted a 0.5 percent sales tax over 10 years that would help pay for the \$1.8-billion Connecting Arkansas Program. The program was aimed at improving over 200 miles of state highways, but was limited to projects no wider than four lanes. The I-30 Crossing and I-630 projects in Little Rock involved six-lane roads which would be widened to 10 lanes in the case of I-30 and eight lanes in the case of I-630.

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Bowhunting opportunity for dinosaurs and sasquatch coming to AGFC archery range

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Archery buffs throughout Arkansas are invited to take their shot at some of the most interesting targets and challenging situations offered in the bowhunting world at the R100 being held at the Camp Robinson Special Use Area archery ranges May 13-15. The archery ranges are at 331 Clinton Road in Conway.

The R100 is a special circuit that offers archers a rare opportunity to shoot at targets crafted after dozens of game animals found in North America and Africa. Two 50-target ranges will be set up (the Safari Range and North American Range). Featured among the game animals, archers also will find some unique

targets, including giant mosquitoes, dinosaurs, sasquatch and other fun but nonexistent creatures. Archers looking to test their nerves as well as their skill also may want to attempt the steel forest challenge, where participants shoot at 3D white-tailed deer targets through a maze of steel trees that will destroy the arrow on an errant shot. Other speciality shoots also will be offered throughout the weekend to keep things interesting. A special kids zone will offer more fun targets for the young archers in attendance as well. Participants who wish to shoot a crossbow also may join for fun, but their scores will not be posted nor counted toward a ranking.



The R100 is sponsored by the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, Central Arkansas Bowhunters and the Arkansas Bowhunters Association, who help administer urban archery hunts in Arkansas with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The 3D archery event helps NBEF interest archers to take the next step toward conservation.

"This is a fun way for NBEF to engage with archers and get them interested in bowhunting," Marilyn Bentz, NBEF Executive Director, said. "We appreciate that these events appeal to youth and adults. The unique targets and shooting situations really take these events to the next level."

Carrie Crawford, state coordinator for NBEF and administrative office coordinator for the AGFC in Little Rock, said the ranges will be available noon-dusk Friday, 7 a.m.-dusk Saturday and 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Participants can come and shoot anytime the ranges are open during the three days.

"You can shoot the courses however you want," Crawford said. "Some people shoot all 100 targets in one day, some split it up into multiple days, and some people just shoot one course and call it a day. There will be door prizes each day for people who shoot, and the top five archers in each class will be announced at an award presentation at 3 p.m. Sunday."

Crawford says the 3D archery tournament is a great way for hunters to stay in shooting shape throughout the year and get more enjoyment out of archery than bow season.

"Even if you've never hunted, it's still a blast," Crawford said. "Thousands of people have learned to shoot a bow through the AGFC's Archery in the Schools program and Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program that may want to come out and continue their archery journey, and 3D targets are the perfect next step."

Visit <https://www.r100.org/shop/conway-ar> for more information about the R100 and how to participate in this year's event.

UAM "Top Gun" is putting piloting skills to use to assess health of the campus forest

By LON TEGELS
College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources - University of Arkansas at Monticello

Dr. Hamdi Zurqani, assistant professor of geospatial science, joined the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources (CFANR) in the fall of 2021.

"Drones have recently become an essential tool for forest management and forest health monitoring," he said. "So, we purchased this drone to help us get accurate data for every tree in our forests."

UAM flies a DJI Matrice 300 RTX — a \$60,000 tool — to assess research conditions the university's 1,080 acres of forest. The drone has a flight time of about 45 to 55 minutes depending on whether it carries a payload. Its has thermal, zoom, wide-angle and distance finder capabilities.

"This drone will be utilized to characterize key indicators of urban forest health and investigate statistical relationships between forest health, such as individual forest trees and species, and vegetation indices derived from the drone imagery," said Zurqani. "It will also be utilized to calculate the trees' heights

and crown widths and use this information to calculate how much carbon is held in its above-ground biomass."

Fast-developing technology

"Drone-based remote sensing is one of the fastest-developing suites of technologies, with high impacts on improving the accuracy and efficiency of managing natural resources and agricultural operations," said CFANR Dean Michael Blazier. "We're very fortunate in our College to have a professor of Dr. Zurqani's caliber to lead the way for us in this field. He has a robust research program underway for advancing the capabilities of drone-based remote sensing, and our graduate and undergraduate students benefit greatly from how he is incorporating his leading-edge work into the classroom."

Learning to fly

Talk to Zurqani about his measurement tool and he can provide you with a lot of information very quickly.

Equipped with sensors that can read visible light and near-infrared bands, "this drone can be used to monitor forest health and detect early

signs of stress," Zurqani said. "Also, with the LiDAR system, we can obtain fine-resolution 3-D data on forest structure."

LiDAR stands for light detection and ranging. It is a remote sensing method that uses a pulsed laser to measure range and generate precise 3-D data. The LiDAR system UAM purchased comes with eight lasers. The LiDAR software and data package can process and convert the measurements into maps and graphics.

Before Zurqani could use the drone and its data collection, he and three students went to Alabama for training on the LiDAR system. UAM students on the training mission were AlSaket AlDaikh, Ricky Parris, and Katie Hickle.

To use the drone, Zurqani had to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. Zurqani says students will be tested and receive their remote pilot certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration before being allowed to fly.

Centimeter precision

For the drone to make the most of the drone's precision

tools, UAM needed a base station.

The base station is known as a Global Navigation Satellite System, or GNSS. The GNSS receiver collects GPS measurements at a known location. GNSS receivers like those in smartphones can only determine the position with two to four meter accuracy, meaning that if you use your smartphone to navigate to a point you would be able to get within 10 to 13 feet of the point. However, the UAM base station, which includes a GNSS correction technology, means "we could obtain high-precision positioning data at centimeter-level accuracy," said Zurqani. As such, navigating using the UAM base station you would be able to get to within an inch of the point you are targeting.

LOCAL YOUTH PLACES 2ND IN COMPETITION



Photo courtesy of Debbie Leslie

Fifteen-year-old Jadon Henson (above) recently competed in the Sedalia Open Martial Arts competition on April 23, in Sedalia, Mo. He placed second in Point Sparring, Traditional Forms, and Traditional Weapons while competing in the 16-17 year old black belt division. Jadon is currently ranked first in Point Sparring and second in Traditional Forms and Weapons for this year's tournament season in the Heartland Region for the Pro Mac Tournament Circuit. He is a student at Tribe Martial Arts in Monticello.

Drew Central Students of the Month for May:

Fifth Grade

Shelby Chalk
Paisleigh Thiele

Sixth Grade

Hailey Burnette
Cody Barnett

Seventh Grade

Alexis Bolden
Aiden Bottin

Eighth Grade

Addy West
Brayden Parks

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OBITUARIES

CONTACT US

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

Clifton Lorenz Berry

Clifton Lorenz Berry, 92, of Monticello, passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at his home. He was born December 9, 1929, in Crossett, to the late Clifton Edward Berry and Vivian Graves Berry.



BERRY

He was a retired building contractor, United States Navy Veteran, member of the American Legion and Masonic Lodge, and a Baptist. Lorenz enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and telling stories to anybody. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a daughter, Diane Berry Bush; and two brothers, Billy Wayne Berry and Harold Brady.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Betty Dodson Berry of Monticello; two sons, David Wigley and Mike (Lori) Wigley all of Monticello; two daughters, Lisa Wigley Shrum of Rogers and Cathey Bradley of Searcy; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Berry of Fountain Hill; nephew, Greg Berry of Fountain Hill; and five grandchildren, Daniel (Taryn) Wigley, Mary Beth

Wigley, Reagan Shrum, Gilian Shrum and Pam Bush.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, April 29, 2022, in Prairie Grove Cemetery with Rev. Ray Hearron officiating. There was a visitation from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday evening at the funeral home. You can sign Mr. Lorenz' guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Johnny William Brown

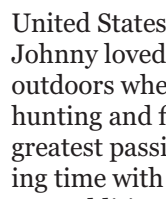
Johnny William Brown, Sr., 79, of Monticello, passed away Friday, April 29, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello. He was born August 6, 1942, in Dallas, to the late William Lawton Brown and Mary Estelle Brown.



BROWN

He was a retired carpenter, Baptist and a United States Army Veteran. Johnny loved spending time outdoors where he enjoyed hunting and fishing but, his greatest passion was spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Donna Brown; and two brothers, Tommy and Roger Brown.



VETERAN

Survivors include one son, John Brown, Jr. (Jamie) of Monticello; two daughters, Angie and Patricia of Texas; two sisters, Nelda Tyler and Sandra Cowley; along with his grandchildren.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. Alvin McMahon officiating. There was a visitation from 6-8 p.m. Monday evening at the funeral home. You can sign Johnny's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Mary Jo Taylor Haynes

Mary Jo Taylor Haynes was born on December 17, 1933, in Hazen, to the late Johnny B. Taylor and Lou Della Horton Taylor. She went to be in the loving hands of her Lord on May 2, 2022.

She later moved with her family to Detroit, where she excelled in her schoolwork Highland Park High School and was a majorette in the marching band. On July 5, 1952, Mary Jo married Bill J. Haynes from Hazen, her husband of almost 70 years.

Mary Jo took great pride in her family and home. Mary Jo and Bill lived in Carlisle, Newport, Poplar Bluff, Mo., and Pocahontas, until Bill accepted a transfer to Monticello in 1970. Always, Mary Jo settled their home and kept it a quiet, loving sanctu-

ary for her husband and sons. Her passion was studying the Bible to learn more about Jesus, her Savior and Lord, and subsequently, leading her sons to their salvation. Mary Jo was a quiet, dignified lady, never uttering a complaint about anything, yet, always striving to make everything better.



HAYNES

Preceding Mary Jo in death were her parents, an infant daughter Terry Gayle, a son David Blake, and her sister Julia Sample Hart. She leaves to cherish her memory husband, Bill Haynes of Monticello, son Larry J. Haynes (Polly) of Andover, Kan., grandsons Joseph and Paul (Ali) of Lenexa, Kan., Mark (Yvette) of Andover, Kan. and her true pride and joy, granddaughter Amanda Bowers (John) of Saginaw, Texas. Mary Jo leaves six great-grandchildren: Will, Henry, Wyatt, Tannie, and Kevin Haynes and Hudson Bowers and another great grandchild is due in December.

Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7, 2022, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel. There was a visitation one hour preceding the funeral service at the funeral home. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery. You

can sign Mary Jo's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Rosalyn "Roz" Elizabeth Dickens Moore

Rosalyn "Roz" Elizabeth Dickens Moore, 69, of Dermott, went to be with the Lord Wednesday, May 4, at Dermott City Nursing Home. She was born June 9, 1952, in Dermott, to the late James Lawrence Dickens and Bernice Jones Dickens.

Roz played basketball at Lakeside High School. Following high school, she attended and graduated from Philander Smith College



MOORE

where she played women's college basketball and volleyball. While there, she pledged and became a sorority sister of Zeta Phi Beta, Incorporated, Tau Chapter in 1976. She graduated on May 7, 1978. After working diligently in the public school system, she was employed with the city of Dermott in a different career that she enjoyed tremendously. For over 20 years, Moore was a dedicated City Water treatment Manager until her health eventually failed. She planted vegetables in her

garden every year and always gifted her family and friends with tomatoes, peas, butter beans, etc. and she was an avid dominoes player.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by four sisters, Beatrice, Doris, Julia Maxine, and Beverly Ann; six brothers, James Starling, John Willie, Joseph (Nancy), Larry, Claude, and Benjamin.

She leaves to cherish her memory a daughter, Rozelle; three sisters, Celia, Paulette, and Angee; two brothers, Arthur Thomas (Olivia) and Sam; special nephews, Edmund, Gerald Jr., Herman "CJ"; special nieces, Ruqaiyah, Lynnette and Allison; a grandniece, Cailynn; grandnephews, Geremiah and Gabriel; closest friends, Elmer "Buddy" Boatner, Martha Jones, Chivonne "CC" Butcher, City of Dermott Mayor Walter Donald and fellow City Hall co-workers; ex-husband, Wadie Moore; along with a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 12, at the Montrose Community Cemetery, US-82 BUS, Montrose. You can sign Roz's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Clinton Young named Dean of UAM School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Dr. Clinton D. Young, professor of history at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, has been named dean of the UAM School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, effective May 1, 2022. He has been serving as the dean in an interim capacity since August 2021.

A faculty member at UAM since 2009, Young has taught courses in world and European history. He was the 2021 recipient of

the Hornaday Outstanding Faculty Award at UAM and was recently recognized as the Monticello-Drew County Chamber of Commerce UAM Educator of the Year. Before becoming dean, he was part of the team that acquired grant funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to restore the Taylor House at the Hollywood Plantation, a historical property owned by UAM.

"I've enjoyed my experience as a faculty member at

UAM," Young said, "and I'm proud that I'll have the opportunity to help faculty and students in the ways that others have helped me."

Young is a past president of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers and currently serves as the editor of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Newsletter. He is also active in local civic organizations. He has served as both vice president and president of the SEARK Concert Association



YOUNG

and is currently serving on

the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Monticello Public Library.

An expert in the history and culture of modern Spain, Young's scholarship focuses on the connections between music and national identity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His 2016 book, Music Theater and Popular Nationalism in Spain, 1874-1930, was the recipient of the Robert M. Stevenson Award for outstanding scholarship in Iberian and Latin American

music from the American Musicological Association. He was also a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to Spain and has received research funding from the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Education.

Young earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in history and Spanish from the University of Rochester in 1998. He earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of California at San Diego in 2006.

UAM College of Technology-McGehee awards 56 allied health certificates

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello College of Technology-McGehee held its semi-annual allied health commencement ceremony at the Fine Arts Center on the Monticello campus on Monday, May 2. A total of fifty-six students were conferred a Technical Certificate in Paramedic or a Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician, Phlebotomy or Nursing Assistant.

The Technical Certificate in Paramedic is awarded to students who successfully complete four semesters of coursework and clinical rotations. Certificates of proficiency in allied health programs, which include emergency medical technician, phlebotomy and nurs-

ing assistant, are awarded to students who successfully complete the required coursework and clinicals for the program within six to sixteen weeks.

Six students in the emergency medical services program earned certificates. One student earned a Technical Certificate in Paramedic, and five students earned a Certificate of Proficiency in Emergency Medical Technician. Graduates of these programs are prepared to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Tech-

nician certification exam. After certification, they will enter the workforce to provide pre-hospital emergency care.

Eighteen students earned a Certificate of Proficiency in Phlebotomy. Graduates are prepared to take the National Healthcare Association certification exam. To complete this program, students participated in eight weeks of theory and eight weeks of clinicals, where they performed a minimum of 50 venipunctures and ten capillary blood sticks. Ten of

these students were participants of the adult education program—a new program offered this spring.

Thirty-two students earned a Certificate of Proficiency in Nursing Assistant. Upon completion of the training program approved by the Arkansas Department

of Human Services Office of Long Term Care, graduates can take the certified nursing assistant exam in Arkansas. These graduates enter the workforce with the ability to provide basic patient care under the supervision of licensed nurses and providers.

The UAM College of Technology-McGehee will offer nursing assistant courses beginning May 31. All other allied health programs begin on August 17. For information about how to apply and enroll in any of these programs, please contact 870-460-2130.

Card of Thanks

Thank you to all for thinking of us during our loss. Everything was very much appreciated. The kindness and care received from DMH, Home Health and therapy will never be forgotten.

The Family of Dink Barnett

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RUMMAGE SALE RATES

Option #1 \$10
Includes date, time and location of sale ONLY!

Option #2 \$15
Includes date, time, location and brief description of items. Also includes a bold heading.

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: Ashley sofa in excellent condition, 4 good tires for a car 17inch, Two sets of camo sheets, 1 gallon of transmission fluid, 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 queen size bed, One large 12 x 12 rug, One cash register., Baseball pants for boys (size 8 to 12). School pencils. Two pair of boots , mens or boys (size 8). For the ones that are truly interested in any of these items please call Pastor Robert Marshall Sr. at 870-281-4863. Located in the Market Place parking lot every Saturday. 4th 10/25

Hope Place

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

Fight Hunger

Hope Place of Monticello invites our community to drop off non-perishable food donations. We are open to receive donations Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday from

9:30am-4:30pm. Suggested items: Pasta, Peanut Butter, Rice, Beans, Soup, Canned Meats, Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Mac&Cheese, Cereal, Juice and Boxed Meals. 224 South Main, Monticello. TFN

Historical Preservation Funds Needed For Enon School

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

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

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

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Free hay, you must harvest. First come first served. call 870-224-6858 or 870-510-0635 5/18

GARAGE SALE

Moving Sale May 12th & 13th. Starting at 7am 453 Greenhill Road, Wilmar Arkansas Household items 1pd 5/11

See **CLASSIFIEDS** Page 10A

Legals

NOTICE

The City of Monticello is accepting bids for electrical work in Well #4 located at N. Conley Street. The bids should include the following:

- Demo of existing components
- 3 lights with switches, 3 continuous powered outlets, and 2 pump-controlled outlets
- 3 50 watt led wall pack lights on photo eye
- Exhaust fan on/off switch
- 8 circuit breaker box and 7.5 KVA transformer
- Junction box for wall controls and surge protector
- 150 hp soft start with new wiring to motor
- Outdoor rated 400 amp disconnect, and fuses mounted where the existing underground conduit meets building and dig it up and reuse wiring and mount it at that location

All work must be completed within 3 months of bid acceptance. The City of Monticello reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

All bids should be sealed and submitted to City of Monticello, 205 E Gaines, Monticello AR 71655 by noon of May 26th. Bids will be opened at 2:00 pm in City Hall.

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$49.28.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS, PROBATE DIVISION – 2ND DIVISION.
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT WILLIAM BAUGHN, DECEASED,
NO. 22PR-22-44.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS CO-ADMINISTRATORS

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:
160 Center Drive, Monticello, Arkansas 71655;
DATE OF DEATH: March 31, 2022.
The undersigned were appointed Co-Administrators of the Estate of Robert William Baughn, Deceased, on April 26, 2022. 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 4th day of May, 2022.
MARSHALL BAUGHN and FLORENCE RICE BAUGHN, Co-Administrators.
By: Allison J. Cornwell, #95184, FRIDAY, ELDRIDGE & CLARK, LLP, 400 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 2000, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3522,
Direct Phone: (501) 370-1452,
Direct Fax: (501) 244-5365,
e-mail: cornwell@fridayfirm.com,
Attorneys for the Estate

#103913 5/4 5/11

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Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN DAVID BARHAM, DECEASED
NO. 22PR-22-48

NOTICE
 Name of decedent: John David Barham
 Last known address: 102 Cottonboll Lane, Winchester, Arkansas 71677
 Date of death: March 12, 2022
 On April 27, 2022, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distributee was filed with respect to the estate of John David Barham, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Drew County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101.
 The legal description of the real property listed on the affidavit is as follows:
 Lot 3, Block 39, Original Town of Winchester, Drew County, Arkansas.
 All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee 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 or distributee's attorney is:

Gibbs Ferguson, Attorney at Law,
 209 W. Oak St.,
 McGehee, Arkansas 71654
 (870) 222-6660
 This notice first published May 4, 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BRADLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DAVID LEE HAMPTON, DECEASED
06PR-22-34

NOTICE
 Name of Decedent: David Lee Hampton
 Last known address: 154 Bradley 144 Road, Jersey, Arkansas 71651
 Date of Death: October 24, 2017

On April 28, 2022, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of David Lee Hampton, Deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Bradley County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101.

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

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

John A. Singleton, Jr.
 Hashem Law Firm, PLC
 P. O. Box 739
 Monticello, AR 71657
 (870) 367-4223
 This notice first published the 11th day of May, 2022.

#104038 5/11 5/18
 Legals continued on Page 11A

CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

Continued from Page 9A
 Cherry Curio Cabinet \$50 call 870-224-1250 1f 5/18



For sale: Ampeg SVT-450 bass amplifier and 4-10 cabinet. Really good shape. \$550. Call 870-224-5646. 5/21 4tc

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 5/28

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

PETS

Looking for a free male kitten. call 723-4920 1f 5/14

If you have deer meat you aren't going to use, please donate it to my cat Purroy, who is allergic to all other meats. Call 367-5852 after noon. 4/23

11f
 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

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.

NOTICE OF SALE

The undersigned will offer by sealed bid for cash, in bulk, at 2:00 pm on May 26, 2022, the contents of:

Unit #203 - Gwendolyn Leonard
 Contents of unit can be inspected on premises from 10-3 Mon.-Fri.

SAF-T-STOR
 860 Barkada Road
 Monticello, AR 71655

Washer/Dryer hookups. (870) 853-5345 or 870-818-6702. #80594 12/19 TFN mt12w

300 sq ft office/showroom. Address 155 Market St. Monticello, AR. Contact 870-723-9439. #102370 1/2

COMMERCIAL

For rent: 1,700 sq ft warehouse with

OFFICE SPACE

See CLASSIFIEDS Page 11A

HELP WANTED NURSES

DAYS • EVENINGS NIGHTS WEEKEND OPTION

CNAs All Shifts

Also Needed: Full-Time Stock Person, Dietary Aid & Cook Relief

TRINITY VILLAGE

6400 Trinity Drive Pine Bluff, AR

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

- #132 Arielle Cones
- #139 Kayla Graves
- #207 Wyvonie Cooper

THE COLLATERAL SECURING THE ABOVE NAMED TENANTS OBLIGATING TO NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 27th 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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION
CEDRIC LEONARD, PLAINTIFF VS. LARRY WAYNE BURNETT AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING INTEREST IN: All lot No 2 in Block No 3 of Unit No 1 of Sherwood Forest Subdivision; as shown on the plat of said subdivision, now appearing of record at page 56 of Plat Book No 1 in the office of the Circuit Clerk and Ex-office Recorder of Drew County, Arkansas, DEFENDANTS
NO. 22CV-22-41

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION
 Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Drew County, Arkansas, to quiet and confirm title in and to the above described real property in the heading of this case.
 Any persons claiming any title or interest of any kind to said property is hereby notified to appear herein on or before the 15th day of May, 2022, to assert their interest in said property and to demonstrate which title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in and to Cedric Leonard.
 /s/Beverly Burks
 Beverly Burks, Circuit Clerk

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS.
 Delta Family Center, a psychiatric residential treatment center for adolescents, is looking for qualified individuals to work as a

- **DIRECT CARE SUPERVISOR** •
- **LPN** •
- **BEHAVIOR COACH** •

INCREASED PAY SCALE

Qualifications: Must be 21 years of age, pass state police and child maltreatment background checks, and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.

Applications may be obtained at:
815 East St. Louis St. • 870-853-4224 • Hamburg, AR
 Equal opportunity employer.

Express
 EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

EXPRESS IS LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Material/Production Planner • Sales Director
- Marketing Director for established Monticello company

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

FORKLIFT DRIVERS/LABORERS NEEDED

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!

MAY

MAY 16TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **Monticello at the Workforce Center from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon.**

MAY 18TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **Dumas at the Workforce Center and in McGehee at UAM from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.**

MAY 25TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **Warren at AHF from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon and in McGehee at UAM from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.**

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

2600 S Olive • Pine Bluff, AR 71601
870-535-3330 or 1-888-477-7846
EOE -Equal Opportunity Employer
 I-9 documentation that proves your identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. is needed.

Subscribe to the Advance!

Call **367-5325** for details.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Call Neil McConnell at 1-800-569-8762 to place your ad here!

EDUCATION/TRAINING

ONLINE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING. New Students Only. Call & Press 1. Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. 100% Online Courses. Call 877-648-6341

Medical Billing & Coding Training. New Students Only. Call & Press 1. 100% online courses. Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. Call 877-581-8649

Ultimate Medical Academy Online | Medical Billing and Coding. Prepare for a Career in Medical Billing & Coding w/ an Online Degree at Ultimate Medical Academy! Students Come First. Flexible Online Learning. Student support services. Call 877-328-0342

FARM EQUIPMENT

EARN \$15,000 - \$40,000 OVER 5 YEARS. #1 Hunting Lease Company in America Customize your contract. Call Base Camp Leasing (888) 871-1982.

FINANCIAL

Over \$10K in debt? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay a fraction of what you owe. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 866-916-4956.

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurances companies. Let us do the shopping & save you time & money. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 888-912-0111. (M-F 8am-8pm Central)

Struggling with Your Private Student Loan Payment? New relief programs can reduce your payments. Learn your options. Good credit not necessary. Call the Helpline 877-248-8044 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Eastern).

Do you owe more than \$5000 in tax debt? Call Wells & Associates INC. We solve ALL Tax Problems! Personal, Business, IRS, State and Local. "Decades of experience"! Our clients have saved over \$150 Million Dollars! Call NOW for a free consultations. 1-855-815-0405

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FOR SALE

TIMBERLAND FOR SALE

Sealed-bid sale opening bids **May 26, 2022**

± 224 Acres
 • Ouachita County, AR, 5 mi. SE of Camden
 • Access to Pedron Lake and frontage to the Ouachita River
 • Some utilities on the tract allowing for camp/home site potential
 • Diverse range of timber types

UCNeeleyForestry.com
(870) 836-5981

NEELEY **United Country Real Estate**

COW FEED FOR SALE!

WHOLE COTTON SEED (lightly damaged) and Distiller Grain.

ORGANIC COMPOST AVAILABLE
 100% Cotton Gin Trash. Excellent for Worm Farms, Raised Gardens Potting Soil, Shrubs & Flowers, and Potting Hemp. \$50/ton.

Delivery possible for Feed and Compost (Semi-loads only)
 For Pricing you must CALL (No Text Please) **731-676-0857.**

HELP WANTED

Peco Foods is currently recruiting for LIVE HAUL DRIVERS.

Must have current Class A CDL, good driving record and have 1 + year driving experience. Competitive salary and benefits.

For more information, please call Peco Foods at 870-793-7511.
 Resumé may be sent to fax # 870-793-1554 or email mmarsh@pecofoods.com

Peco Foods Inc.
 625 S. Allen Street
 Batesville, AR 72501
 EOE M/F/D/V

MISCELLANEOUS

SWEET CORN

Harvest should begin about the end of June

ORDER NOW!

Esau Farms
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esausweetcorn.com

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BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Beautiful new walk-in showers with no slip flooring. Also, grab bars and seated showers available. Call for a free in-home consultation: 877-554-2862

DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Call for more details! (some restrictions apply) Call 1-855-400-3297

1TV 150 Channels w/locals \$64.99 mthly. Call Now! 870-551-2220.

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NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Issue No. 2
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
 Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 93rd General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 8, 2022, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 2. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2021 Session by Representative Ray and filed as HJR 1005.

ISSUE NO. 2
Popular Name
 A Constitutional Amendment to Reform Certain Measures Presented to Voters, to be Known as the "Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Initiative Reform Amendment"

Ballot Title
 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND BALLOT INITIATIVE REFORM AMENDMENT", CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF VOTES REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES PRESENTED TO VOTERS; REQUIRING THAT INITIATIVES PROPOSED UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 5, § 1, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, § 22, AND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 70, § 2, SHALL BE APPROVED WHEN RECEIVING AT LEAST SIXTY PERCENT (60%) OF THE VOTES CAST ON THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE OR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT; AND REQUIRING THAT A MEASURE SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM SHALL BE REPEALED IF THE MEASURE IS REJECTED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS VOTING UPON THE MATTER.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as

an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit: SECTION 1. TITLE. This amendment shall be known and may be cited as the "Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Initiative Reform Amendment".

SECTION 2. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, titled "Majority", is amended to read as follows: Majority Approval. Any measure submitted to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become a law when approved by a majority at least sixty percent (60%) of the votes cast upon such measure, and not otherwise, and shall not be required to receive a majority of the electors voting at such election. Such measures shall be operative on and after the thirtieth day after the election at which it is approved, unless otherwise specified in the Act measure. However, a measure subject to a referendum shall be repealed if it is rejected by a majority of the electors voting upon the matter. This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the General Assembly of the right to introduce any measure, but no measure shall be submitted to the people by the General Assembly, except a proposed constitutional amendment or amendments as provided for in this Constitution.

SECTION 3. The subsection of Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1, titled "Conflicting Measures", is amended to read as follows: Conflicting Measures. If conflicting measures initiated or referred to the people shall be approved by a majority at least sixty percent (60%) of the votes severally cast for and against the same at the same election, the one receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall become law.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 22, is amended to read as follows:

§ 22. Constitutional amendments.

Either branch of the General Assembly, at a regular session thereof, may propose amendments to this Constitution; and if the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is

published, for six months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State, for approval or rejection; and if a majority at least sixty percent (60%) of the electors voting at such election adopt such amendments, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. But no more than three amendments shall be proposed or submitted at the same time. They shall be so submitted as to enable the electors to vote on each amendment separately.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 70, § 2, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2. Additional Constitutional amendments authorized.

In addition to the three amendments to the Constitution allowed pursuant to Article 19, § 22, either branch of the General Assembly at a regular session thereof may propose an amendment to the Constitution to change the salaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Commissioner of State Lands, and Auditor of State and for members of the General Assembly. If the same be agreed to by a majority of all members elected to each house, such proposed amendment shall be entered on the journals with the yeas and nays, and published in at least one newspaper in each county, where a newspaper is published, for six months immediately preceding the next general election for Senators and Representatives, at which time the same shall be submitted to the electors of the State for approval or rejection. If a majority at least sixty percent (60%) of the electors voting at such election adopt the amendment the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Only one amendment to the Constitution may be referred pursuant to this section.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after January 1, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY 2022.

 JOHN THURSTON
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 STATE OF ARKANSAS

NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Issue No. 1
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
 Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 93rd General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 8, 2022, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2021 Session by Senator B. Davis and filed as SJR 10.

ISSUE NO. 1
Popular Name
 A Constitutional Amendment to allow the General Assembly to Convene in Extraordinary Session Upon the Issuance of a Joint Written Proclamation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or Upon the Submission of a Written Proclamation Containing the Signatures of At Least Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the House of Representatives and At Least Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate Requesting that the General Assembly Convene in Extraordinary Session

Ballot Title
 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT WRITTEN PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OR UPON THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION; PROVIDING THAT NO BUSINESS OTHER THAN THE PURPOSE SET FORTH IN THE JOINT WRITTEN PROCLAMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OR THE WRITTEN PROCLAMATION CONTAINING THE SIGNATURES OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS (2/3) OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE SHALL BE CONSIDERED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENED UNDER THIS AMEND-

MENT; REQUIRING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH BY JOINT RULE DURING EACH REGULAR SESSION PROCEDURES FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UNDER THIS AMENDMENT; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES NOT RESTRICT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 6, § 19.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:


THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, is amended to read as follows:
 § 5. Regular and fiscal sessions — Extraordinary sessions.
 (a) The General Assembly shall meet at the seat of government every year.
 (b) The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year to consider any bill or resolution. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the regular session begins.
 (c)(1) Beginning in 2010, the General Assembly shall meet in fiscal session on the second Monday in February of each even-numbered year to consider only appropriation bills. The General Assembly may alter the time at which the fiscal session begins.
 (2) A bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the General Assembly approve consideration of the bill.
 (d) The General Assembly, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly, may alter the dates of the regular session and fiscal session so that regular sessions occur in even numbered years and the fiscal sessions occur in odd-numbered years.
 (e)(1) The General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session upon the:
 (A)(i) Issuance of a joint written proclamation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
 (ii) The joint written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the purpose for which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session and the date on which the General Assembly shall convene; or
 (B)(i) Submission of a written proclamation containing the signatures of at

least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary session.
 (ii) The written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall include without limitation the purpose for which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.
 (iii) Upon the submission of a written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall specify a date on which the General Assembly shall convene in extraordinary session.
 (2) No business other than the purpose set forth in the joint written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section or the written proclamation under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be considered at an extraordinary session under subdivision (e)(1) of this section.
 (3)(A) During each regular session, the General Assembly shall establish, by joint rule procedures for an extraordinary session under subdivision (e)(1) of this section.
 (B) Joint rules established under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section may include without limitation:
 (i) A limitation on the duration of an extraordinary session under subdivision (e)(1) of this section;
 (ii) The format and required content for a written proclamation requesting that the General Assembly convene in extraordinary session under subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i) of this section; and
 (iii) A provision permitting the General Assembly, after having disposed of the purpose for which the extraordinary session was convened under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, to remain in session for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days if remaining in session is approved by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the House of Representatives and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Senate and entered upon their journals.
 (C) Rules established under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section may be amended by the General Assembly.
 (4) This section does not restrict the authority of the Governor to convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly under Arkansas Constitution, Article 6, § 19.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after November 9, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY 2022.

 JOHN THURSTON
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 STATE OF ARKANSAS

NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Issue No. 3
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
 Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 93rd General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 8, 2022, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 3. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2021 Session by Senator Rapert and filed as SJR 14.

ISSUE NO. 3
Popular Name
 A Constitutional Amendment to Create the "Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment"

Ballot Title
 AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE THE "ARKANSAS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AMENDMENT"; AND TO PROVIDE THAT GOVERNMENT MAY NEVER BURDEN A PERSON'S FREEDOM OF RELIGION EXCEPT IN THE RARE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT APPLICATION OF THE BURDEN TO THE PERSON IS IN FURTHERANCE OF A COMPELLING GOVERNMENT INTEREST AND IS THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE MEANS OF FURTHERING THAT COMPELLING GOVERNMENT INTEREST.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit: SECTION 1. This amendment shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment". SECTION 2. (a) The General Assembly finds:
 (1) The framers of the United States Constitution, recognizing free exercise of religion as an unalienable right, secured its protection in the First Amendment to the United States

Constitution;
 (2) The framers of the Arkansas Constitution of 1874, also recognizing the free exercise of religion as an unalienable right, secured the protection of religious freedom in Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 24;
 (3) Federal and state laws "neutral" toward religion may burden religious exercise as surely as laws intended to interfere with religious exercise;
 (4) Governments should not burden religious exercise without compelling justification;
 (5) In *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990), the United States Supreme Court virtually eliminated the requirement that the government justify burdens on religious exercise imposed by laws neutral toward religion;
 (6) The compelling interest test as set forth in prior court rulings is a workable test for striking sensible balances between religious liberty and competing government interests in areas ranging from public education (pedagogical interests and religious rights, including recognizing regulations necessary to alleviate interference with the educational process, versus rights of religious freedom), national defense (conscription and conscientious objection, including the need to raise an army versus rights to object to individual participation), and other areas of important mutual concern; and
 (7) The United States Congress passed the Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb, to establish the compelling interest test set forth in prior federal court rulings, but in *City of Boerne v. Flores*, 117 S.Ct. 2157 (1997), the United States Supreme Court held the act unconstitutional, stating that the right to regulate was retained by the states.
 (b) The purpose of this amendment is to:
 (1) Guarantee that the freedom of religion is not burdened by state and local law; and
 (2) Provide a claim or defense to persons whose religious freedom is burdened by government.


SECTION 3. As used in this amendment:
 (1) "Demonstrates" means meeting the burden of going forward with the evidence and of persuasion;
 (2) "Freedom of religion" means the free exercise of religion under Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 24;
 (3) "Government" means:
 (A) A branch, department, agency, or instrumentality of the State of Arkansas;
 (B) A political subdivision of the state, including without limitation a county, municipality, township, or other unit of local government;
 (C) An official acting on behalf of government; and
 (D) A person acting under the color of law of the State of Arkansas; and

(4) "Rule" means a statement of Arkansas law, including without limitation a:
 (A) Statute;
 (B) Rule;
 (C) Regulation;
 (D) Ordinance;
 (E) Administrative provision;
 (F) Administrative ruling;
 (G) Guideline; or
 (H) Requirement.
 SECTION 4. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, government shall not burden a person's freedom of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.
 (b) Government may burden a person's freedom of religion only if the government demonstrates that application of the burden to the person:
 (1) Is in furtherance of a compelling government interest; and
 (2) Is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling government interest.
 (c) A person whose religious freedom has been burdened in violation of this section may assert that violation as a claim or defense in a judicial, administrative, or other appropriate proceeding and obtain appropriate relief against a government.

SECTION 5. (a) This amendment applies to each rule of government and its implementation, regardless of whether the rule:
 (1) Is statutory; or
 (2) Was adopted prior to or after the effective date of this amendment.
 (b) This amendment shall not be construed to:
 (1) Authorize a government to burden a religious belief; or
 (2) Affect, interpret, or in any way address:
 (A) The portions of the United States Constitution, First Amendment, permitting the free exercise of religion or prohibiting laws respecting the establishment of religion; or
 (B) Article 2, § 24 of this constitution regarding religious liberty.
 SECTION 6. (a) This amendment shall be liberally construed to effectuate its remedial and deterrent purposes.
 (b) If any provision of this amendment or its application to any particular person or circumstance is held invalid, that provision or its application is severable and does not affect the validity of other provisions or applications of this amendment.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall be effective on and after November 9, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 8TH DAY OF MAY 2022.

 JOHN THURSTON
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 STATE OF ARKANSAS

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 10A

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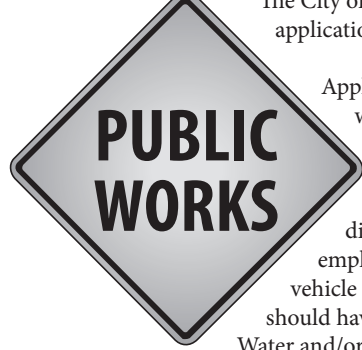
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SPORTS

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Monticello Billies finish second in 4A South Regional Tournament

By: **JEFF YOUNG**
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello Billies have extended the 2022 season after finishing second in the 4A South Regional Tournament held in Malvern this past week. With the second place finish the Billies will now travel to Nashville, having qualified to participate in the 4A State Championship Tournament.

Coming into the 4A South Regional Tournament as the number one seed from the 8-4A, the Billies would begin the tournament on Friday, May 6, facing the Bauxite Miners. The Games were originally expected to begin on Thursday but severe weather forced the contests to be pushed back a day.

Taking the mound for the Billies to open the tournament was Tucker Breedlove and the Miners were able to get the game started with a double, however the runner would be thrown out at third base by John Frost to Cade Pigott after trying to stretch the play into a triple.

Breedlove would get out of the inning by allowing a single and striking out two.

Monticello would get on the scoreboard in the bottom half of the inning after Warren Pen-

nington drew a walk followed by Pigott and Breedlove loading the bases after being hit by pitches.

Brenden Brown would hit into a fielder's choice and would reach first safely with Pennington beating the attempt at the plate to give the Billies a 1-0 lead.

Pigott became the second out of the inning after a failed attempt to steal home, but Frost would single to score Breedlove to give the Billies a 2-0 lead.

Monticello extended the lead in the bottom of the second inning after Kaleb Romero reached first on an error, stealing second and then advancing to third. Pennington would single on a bunt that would score Romero for the 3-0 lead.

Bauxite got on the board in the top of the third inning, cutting the Billie lead to one run after scoring two runs to cut the score to 3-2 and would tie the contest, 3-3, in the top of the fifth inning.

Monticello retook the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning after Breedlove led things off being hit by a pitch. Brenden Brown would single. Blaine Hayden would advance Breedlove to third on a fielder's choice with Brown out at second followed by a single by Brooks Harvey to score Breedlove for the 4-3 score.

Bauxite tied the contest back

up, 4-4, in the top of the seventh.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Doerian Allen would lead the Billies off with a single followed by Pennington reaching on an error to advance Allen to second. Pigott would hit a single to left field in the next at bat to score Allen to take the contest 5-4, qualifying the Billies for the 4A State Championship Tournament.

Tucker Breedlove would give the Billies 6.1 innings on the mound allowing four runs on eight hits, striking out seven, and walking one. Jagger Hines picked up the win for the Billies in relief for Breedlove. Hines pitched .2 of an inning with no hits and no runs.

As a team, the Billies were 6 for 23 from the plate with Allen, Pennington, Pigott, Brown, Frost, and Harvey all recording a hit in the contest.

Returning for the semi-final contest on Saturday, May 7, to face the Fountain Lake Cobras, the Billies found themselves down 2-0 with the Cobras scoring runs in the top of the first and fourth innings.

Monticello would cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning after a leadoff walk to Brenden Brown, Brown would be out at second during the next

play as Pigott hit into a fielder's choice. After the second out of the inning, Pigott would score on a single by Frost and a fielding error by the Fountain Lake right fielder.

Trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning, Brooks Bowman would lead off successfully reaching first on an error. Samuel Napier would single with Bowman advancing to third. Bowman would score on a balk by the Cobra pitcher, advancing Napier to second.

In the next at bat, Doerian Allen would hit a sacrifice fly to left field that would score Napier for the Billie win, 3-2.

Jagger Hines would throw for 6.2 innings in the no-decision for the Billies, allowing two runs on five hits with eight strikeouts and two walks. Easton Byrd would get the win in relief for the Billies facing one batter.

The Billies went 4 for 24 from the plate with Allen, Frost, Napier, and Blackmon recording the hits in the contest.

Returning later in the day on Saturday for the championship game, the Billies would face the Arkadelphia Badgers.

After getting out of the first inning only allowing a single, Doerian Allen led things off for the Billies with a single. After

two outs with Allen advancing to third, Breedlove would single to score Allen for a 1-0 lead.

Arkadelphia returned in the top of the second inning to tie the contest 1-1.

Monticello's Brooks Bowman reached on an error for the first runner in the bottom of the second inning and would advance to second on a wild pitch. Brooks Harvey connected for a single to score Bowman. After the second out of the inning, Harvey would score on a steal of home with Allen being picked off at first. With the score, the Billies led 3-1.

Arkadelphia would take the lead in the top of the third inning, scoring three runs for a 4-3 advantage.

The Badgers extended the lead to 6-3 after scoring two runs in the top of the fifth inning.

Opening the bottom of the fifth inning with two groundouts, Pigott would reach first on a walk followed by Breedlove reaching base on an error to Pigott to cut the Badger lead to 6-4.

Arkadelphia came back in the top of the sixth inning to score three runs to extend their lead to 9-4 with Monticello scoring their final run of the contest in the bottom of the sixth inning after a walk to Brown scored Bowman to make the score 9-5.

Arkadelphia scored their final four runs in the top of the seventh inning to set up the final score of 13-5 with Monticello taking the second seed from the 4A South Regional heading into the 4A State Championship Tournament.

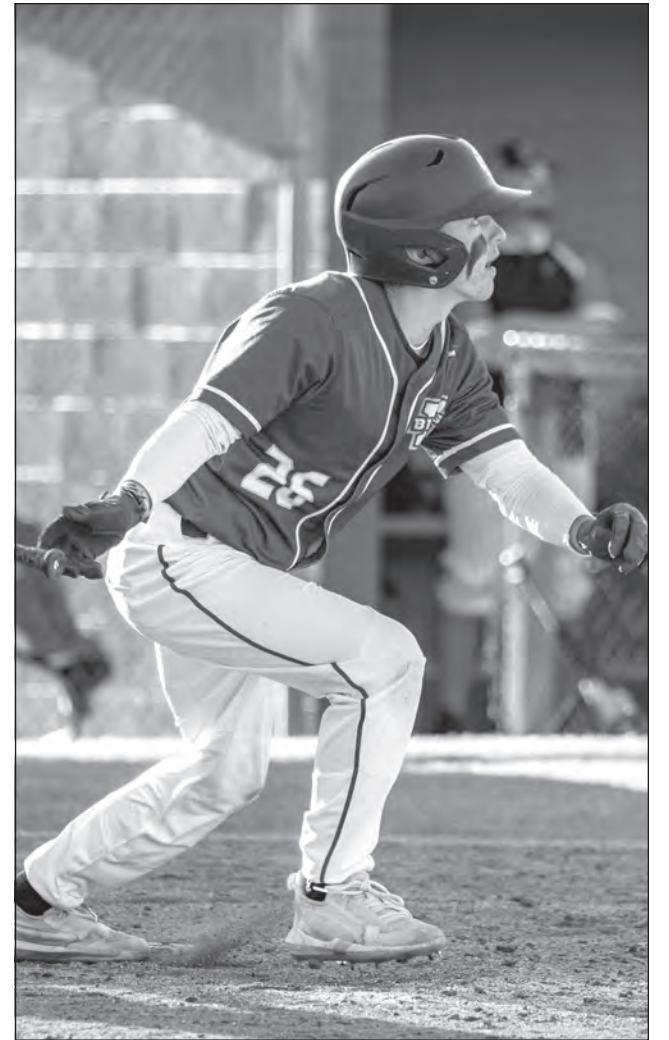
Easton Byrd would take the loss in the contest, pitching 6.1 innings allowing 12 runs on 13 hits, striking out four and walking three. Samuel Napier finished the day on the mound for the Billies pitching .2 of an inning allowing one run on two hits.

The Billies were 5 for 28 from the plate with Brooks Harvey and Tucker Breedlove recording two hits each and Allen recording the other hit for the Billies.

The Billies will travel to Nashville on Thursday, May 12, to face the fourth seed from the 4A East, the Robinson Senators. The contest between the Billies and Senators is scheduled to begin at 3 pm.

Robinson finished the regular season as the Conference Champions from the 5-4A one game ahead of Lonoke who defeated the Billies in their final regular season contest 13-0.

The winner of Monticello and Robinson will advance to face the Huntsville Eagles on Friday, May 13, with a 3 p.m. start time scheduled.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

JOHN FROST (right) went 2 for 8 during Monticello's games during the 4A South Regional Tournament. Frost drew one walk and was credited with an RBI over the three games. **SCOTT JOHNSON (center)** exits the mound after a visit during Monticello's opening conference contest of the season. Monticello led the 8-4A for most of the season before dropping to third in the conference, but coming back to close out the regular season as the 8-4A Conference Champions. Monticello placed second in the 4A South Regional Tournament and will be the second seed from the regional to enter the 4A State Championship Tournament with a 20-10 record. **BROOKS HARVEY (left)** was 3 for 7 during the regional tournament with one run 2 RBI and a walk.

Blossoms' season ends with loss to Arkansas Tech at GAC Championship Tournament

By: **JEFF YOUNG**
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Blossoms' season ended this past weekend with a 6-0 loss to the overall number

one seed in the tournament, the Arkansas Tech Golden Suns.

The Blossoms could not get things going at the plate with the team going 5 for 25 with no runs, four walks, and striking

out six times.

Hannah Holdbrook, Maddie Pflieger, and Shae Shoquist each produced a hit for the Blossoms with Lauryn Davies led the Blossoms going 2 for 3. UAM used a total of four

pitchers on the day with Sam Stephens picking up the loss, dropping her overall record to 2-11 on the season.

Stephens would pitch into the third inning with Maddie Chalenburg coming in for relief

followed by Jamie Franks, and Maguire Estill.

Arkansas Tech scored one run in the bottom of the first inning on a solo homerun and would get five runs in the bottom of the third to set up the

6-0 final.

The Blossoms complete the 2022 season with an overall record of 17-33 and a Great American Conference record of 11-21.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

HANNAH HOLDBROOK (left), CAROLINE TEDDER (center), and HALEY CORNELL (right) received season Great American Conference awards for their play and academic achievements for the 2022 season. Holdbrook was selected as a All-GAC Honorable Mention, Tedder was selected as the GAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete, and Cornell was selected to the All-GAC Second Team.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

CHASE CRIPPS was one of five UAM Weevils to receive post-season honors. Cripps was selected as an All-GAC Honorable Mention along with Mason Philley and Derek Potts. Jordan Johnson was selected as All-GAC Second Team and Cade Thompson was All-GAC First Team and was selected as the Distinguished Scholar Athlete.

Weevils' season ends at GAC Tournament

By: **JEFF YOUNG**
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils' 2022 baseball season ended with two consecutive losses this past weekend in Hot Springs at the Great American Conference Championship Tournament.

Before tournament play began, the GAC announced the post-season awards with Cade Thompson being selected as an All-GAC First Team and as the Distinguished Scholar Athlete. Jordan Johnson was selected as an All-GAC Second Team with Mason Philley, Derek Potts, and Chase Cripps being All-GAC Honorable Mention.

Facing the Henderson State Reddies in the opening round of the double-elimination tournament on Saturday, May 7, the Weevils would send Spencer Johnston to the mound to face the Reddies. Johnston would pitch five scoreless innings before allowing the first run of the contest in the bottom of the sixth

inning to give the Reddies a 1-0 lead.

Johnston would throw for two more innings without a run before being relieved by Mason Philley in the bottom of the ninth inning.

In the top of the ninth inning, The Weevils would tie the contest 1-1.

Trevor Rugg singled to right-center and was replaced on the base paths by Grant Jeffers. Jeffers would advance to second after a ground out to third by Hudson Hopkins and would advance to third on a wild pitch. DeShuan Cordova drew a walk following a fielder's choice by Cripps that scored Jeffers.

Mason Philley opened the bottom of the ninth inning allowing a leadoff double followed by two walks.

Henderson State's Luke Farrar would connect on a walk-off single that scored Colton Patterson for the 2-1 win.

Johnston completed eight innings for the Weevils allowing one run on three hits, walking one and striking out six. Philley faced four hitters allowing two hits, one run, and two walks with one walk being intentional.

The Weevils were 9 for 34 at the plate with Chase Cripps and Grant Shepherd going 2 for 4 and Hudson Hopkins going 2 for 3. Trevor Rugg was 1 for 1, Nick Fakouri was 1 for 3, and Cade Thompson was 1 for 5.

Returning for the second game of the tournament on Sunday, May 8, the Weevils and Harding Bison would have a late start time of 9:45 pm.

Derek Potts got the call to start the contest for the Weevils with Joel Barker getting the call for the Bison.

After three innings of scoreless baseball, the Bison would get on the board in the bottom of the third inning to take a 1-0 lead.

Trent Bunting came in relief

for Potts to begin the bottom of the seventh inning. Bunting would throw two scoreless innings.

UAM would take the lead in the contest in the top of the ninth inning.

Grant Shepherd led off being hit by a pitch but was out at second after Rugg hit into a fielder's choice. Grant Jeffers would come in to run for Rugg and advanced to second on a Hudson Hopkins single.

Jeffers would advance to third on a line out by David Reyna. BJ Lee would replace Hopkins as a pinch runner and would score with Jeffers on a double by Reece Reading to give the Weevils a 2-1 lead.

Harding would tie the game 2-2 in the bottom of the ninth inning after scoring the run with two outs in the inning.

Neither team could break

See **WEEVILS** Page 14A

UAM's Chiara Sturaro finishes 2022 NCAA Central Regional Tournament tied for 23rd position

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello women's golf team had one individual qualify for the 2022 NCAA Central Region Tournament. Chiara Sturaro is the first UAM individual to qualify for the Central Regional since Frida Rydberg in 2018.

Sturaro finished out the GAC Women's Golf Championships on April 10-12 tied for 11th place.

She finished the tournament with a 17-over 233, after shooting an 81, 76, and 76 through her three rounds.

She was selected to the 2022

All-GAC Women's Golf Second Team and currently has the second-best scoring average in a single season in Blossoms history with an average score of 78.24, beating her previous season average of 79.25.

Sturaro closed out the 2022 Central Regional Women's Golf Championship on Wednesday afternoon at the Hot Springs Country Club Golf Course in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Sturaro closed out her final round of the tournament tied for 23rd place.

After the conclusion of 2021-2022 regular season play, she was selected to the 2022 All-

GAC Women's Golf Second Team and currently has the second-best scoring average in a single season in Blossoms history with an average score of 78.24, beating her previous season average of 79.25.

Because of her performance on the year, she qualified to compete individually at the Central Region Tournament.

Sturaro finished the third day of the tournament tied for 23rd place.

Her three rounds compiled of a 77 on Monday, a 76 on Tuesday, and a 79 in the final round on Wednesday.

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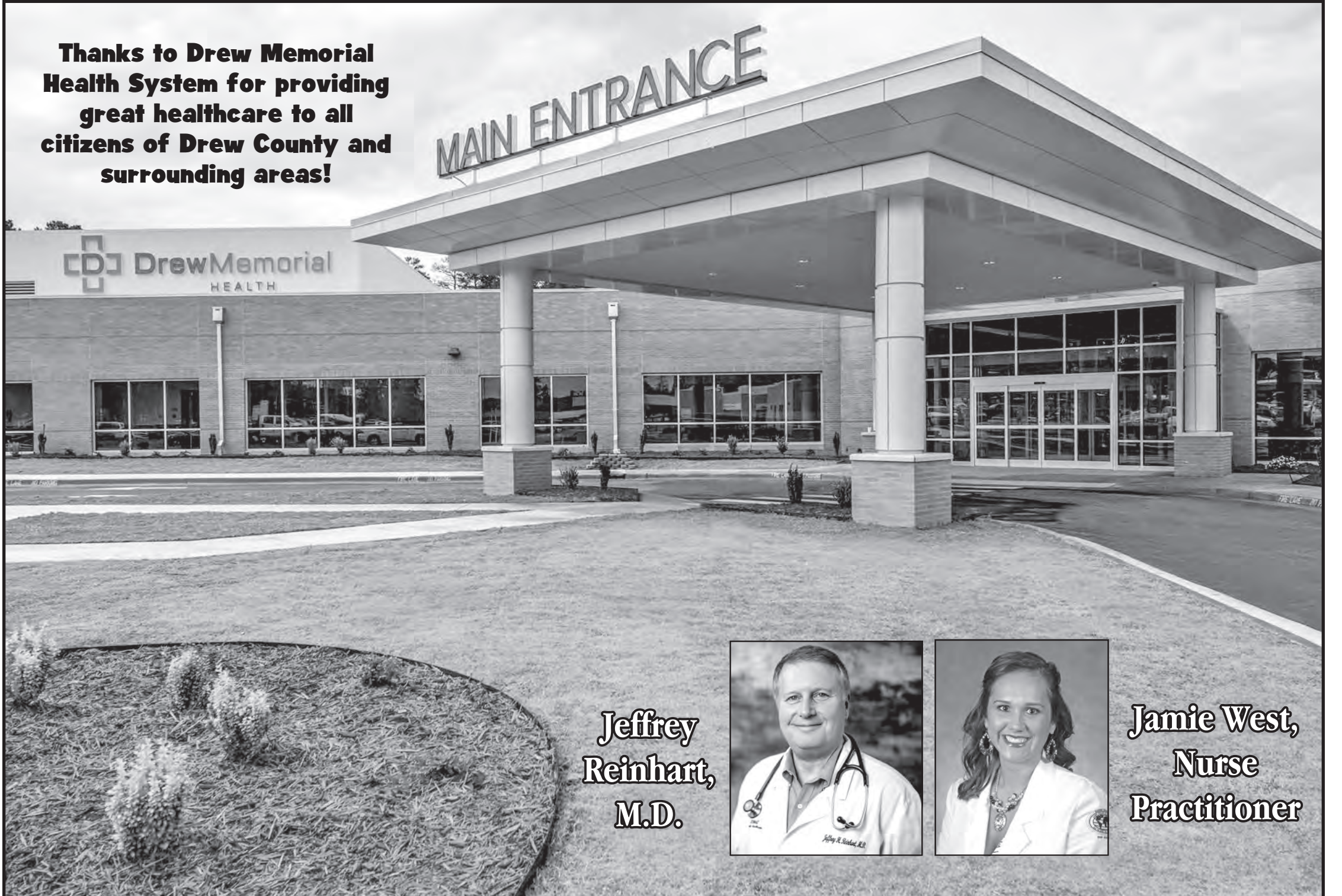
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Pirates', Lady Pirates' seasons end in first round of regional tournament

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Pirates and Lady Pirates 2022 baseball and softball seasons ended in their first-round matchups in the 3A Region 4 Regional Tournament.

Facing the Ashdown Panthers in the opening round of the tournament on Friday, May 6, the Drew Central Pirates were not able to get their offense going as the Panthers ended the Pirates season with a 10-0 victory.

Nate Cooper led off the contest for the Pirates with a single to center field, but the Panthers

would get the next three batters out to end the inning.

Ashdown would take the lead in the bottom of the first scoring four runs to take a 4-0 lead.

Will Watson led off the second inning with a single and after the first out of the inning, the Panthers would intentionally walk Mathew Barnard. Jacob Jones would hit into a double play to end the inning.

Drew Burton would walk the Ashdown leadoff batter, but the runner would be thrown out by Burton to second baseman Mathew Barnard on a steal followed by two strikeouts to end

the inning.

Drew Central loaded the bases in the top of the third inning but was not able to get any runs in the inning.

Ashdown added three runs in the bottom of the inning to extend the lead to 7-0 and added another run in the bottom of the fourth inning for an 8-0 lead.

Drew Central loaded the bases once again in the top of the fifth inning, but all three runners would be stranded on the base paths after Ashdown recorded the third out.

Ashdown was able to end the contest in the bottom of the

fifth inning after connecting on a two-run walk-off homerun to give the Panthers a 10-0 win.

For the Lady Pirates, their contest did not fare much better than the Pirates.

Also having to face the Ashdown Lady Panthers who entered the tournament as the number one seed from the 7-3A with Drew Central being the eighth seed from the 8-3A.

The Lady Pirates opened the contest with a double by Gracie Connard but Connard would be stranded on base after the next three Lady Pirate batters struck out to end the inning.

Connard would strike out the first two Ashdown batters before allowing a single but would get the next batter to ground out to end the inning.

Ashdown would take the lead in the contest in the bottom of the second inning after two singles with the runners scoring on errors and passed balls for a 2-0 lead.

Drew Central's second hit of the contest came in the top of the third inning after a fly out by Caden Lane, Kennedee Love would connect for a single to left field.

Connard would hit into a dou-

ble play to end the inning.

Ashdown would extend the lead in the bottom of the third inning after scoring four runs to increase the lead to 6-0.

Ashdown scored the final runs of the contest in the bottom of the fourth inning after loading the bases, a walk would score a run for a 7-0 lead and in the next at bat the Lady Panthers would get an inside the park grand slam home run to extend the lead to 11-0.

The Lady Panthers would get the Lady Pirates out in order in the top of the fifth inning for the win.

WEEVILS

Continued from Page 13A

the tie in the 10th inning and Harding would hold the Weevils scoreless in the top of the 11th.

In the bottom half of the 11th inning, Bunting would get the first two Bison Batters out with a leadoff line out to second base and a strikeout for the second out of the inning.

Cody Smith would connect for a single to center field and in the next at bat, Coulton Doyle would connect for a walk-off two run home runs to give the Bison a 4-2 victory, eliminating the Weevils from the Great American Championship Tournament and ending the 2022 season for the Weevils.

Derek Potts pitched six innings for the Weevils, allowing one run on four hits, walking five and striking out 14 batters.

Trent Bunting threw for 4.2 innings, allowing three runs on four hits, striking out one.

The Weevils were 9 for 40 at the plate with Hudson Hopkins going 3 for 4, Cade Thompson was 2 for 5, and Chase Cripps was 1 for 5.

Grant Shepherd finished going 1 for 3, Grant Jeffers was 1 for 1, and Reece Reading finished the day going 1 for 1 with two RBI with a double.

With the loss, the Weevils fall to 23-24 overall and end the season as the seventh seed in the Great American Conference Championship Tournament and a conference record of 17-16.

The Weevils were 13-9 at home and were 10-10 on the road and 0-5 at neutral sites.

As a team, the Weevils ended the season with a .276 batting average going 439 for 1588 scoring 318 runs with 90 doubles, five triples, 55 home runs and 290

RBI.

Pitching the Weevils finished the season with a 5.91 ERA, allowing 302 runs on 374 hits, walking 208 batters and striking out 410.

The Weevils allowed 73 doubles, five triples, and 43 home

runs.

Spencer Johnston led the Weevils with a 4.19 ERA followed by Derek Potts with a 4.67 ERA, and Mason Philley with a 5.18 ERA.

Potts led the Weevils in strikeouts, striking out 91 batters.

Chase Cripps led the Weevils

in batting with a .356 average followed by Cade Thompson with a .355 average.

Cripps led the Weevils with 18 doubles and two triples with Cade Thompson leading the Weevils with 12 home runs with Johnson hitting 11.

Summer sports highlights wanted

School's out for summer. That means we are counting on parents and coaches of summer sports teams to help make us aware of games and send us pictures and highlights from events.

Pictures and information can be sent to editor@monticellonews.net. To let us know about upcoming games or events, call 870-367-5325.

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Special Olympics brings community together

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

The annual Special Olympic Games were held last Wednesday at the Monticello High School Track.

Athletes from Drew County and across Southeast Arkansas attended the event to participate in games or cheer on their peers.

Volunteers from local businesses and schools were on site to help escort athletes to various events, give out awards and assist athletes where needed.

To kick off the games, local law enforcement officers ran the flaming torch around the track and local athletes said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Special Olympics motto.

Throughout the day, there were foot races, softball and tennis ball throws and many more physical games.



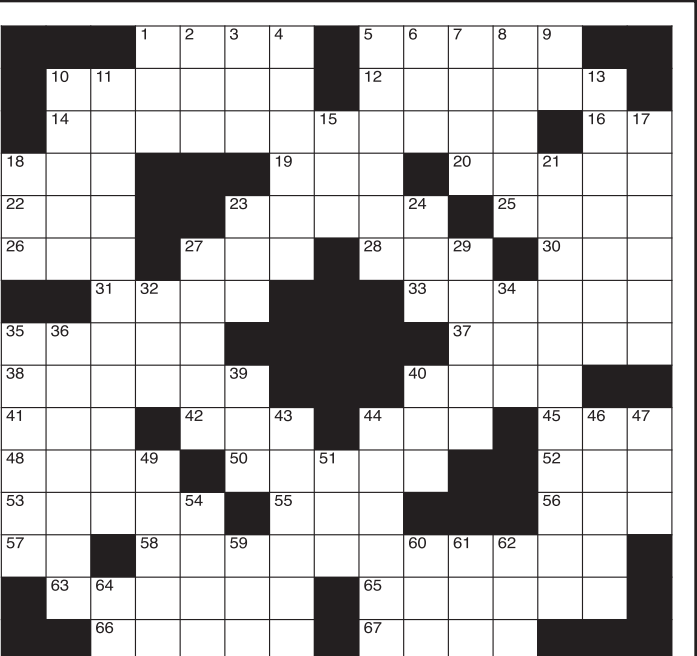
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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1. Amounts of time
5. A ship's place at a wharf
10. Point a finger at
12. Large, burrowing rodent
14. Raises the stakes
16. Measure of illumination
18. Cast out
19. One who is staid
20. A word used for emphasis
22. Military missions
23. Wet with rain
25. Selling at specially reduced prices
26. Word element meaning ear
27. ___ student,
28. Blood relation
30. Make into leather
31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
33. Containing salt
35. A seat
37. A type of fine pottery
38. You're caught red- _!
40. "Heat" director Michael
41. Expression of creative skill
42. Title of respect
44. Crony
45. Payroll experts
48. Actress Remini
50. Famed consumer advocate
52. Indigenous Thai person
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Cooking tool
56. Decorate a cake with frosting
57. The seventh note of a major scale
58. Transfer from private to state ownership
63. A set of five
65. Removes
66. Foolish persons
67. Lower parts of a wall

CLUES DOWN

1. Old EU money
2. Some put it on steak
3. Sign language
4. Sowed on the ground
5. Tags
6. Everyone has one
7. Arguments
8. N. African capital
9. Midgame (abbr.)
10. Change as needed
11. Functioning as a consonant
13. An island in the north Atlantic
15. Carpenter's tool
17. Small football player
18. Ghosts say it
21. Explain through logic
23. Having ten
24. Criticize
27. Arms of the sea
29. Belonging to a bottom layer
32. ___ Caesar, comedian
34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
35. Swiss cottage
36. Cleft lip
39. Loud, unpleasant noise
40. Disfigure
43. Kayakers traverse them
44. Authored
46. Small freshwater fishes
47. Macabre poet
49. Carthaginian statesman
51. Principle underlying the universe
54. Common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Small constellation
61. Chap
62. Equal
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

Answers can be found on Page 5B

SUDOKU

	1			2	9			
					7			
2			9					4
9			1	2		3		
3			4					
1	4			6		7		
7	8			5			1	
								8
		2	9	1	6			

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!

Level: Intermediate

CRYPTO FUN

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gardens.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 18 = L)

A. 26 18 5 10 8 11

Clue: Living organisms

B. 11 25 6 18

Clue: Upper layer of Earth

C. 8 6 18 18 6 10 22

Clue: Cultivating land

D. 5 20 12 10 9

Clue: Modify

Answers: A. plants B. soil C. tilling D. amend

This week's recipe: Add flavor to your next fiesta

Is shrimp on the menu tonight? Maybe it should be. Coming in at just around seven calories per medium-size shrimp, this crustacean is low in calories and high in lean protein and is one of only a few dishes that provides the beneficial antioxidants selenium and astaxanthin, according to The American Shrimp Company. The majority of North American shrimp is harvested from the Gulf of Mexico, ensuring fresh catches for the U.S. and Canada. Around 244 million pounds of shrimp are produced each year.

An abundance of shrimp means the opportunities for delicious meals are endless. For something with a lot of flavor and crowd appeal, try this recipe for a "Shrimp Quesadilla" courtesy of Eastern Fish Company. Plump shrimp are nestled between tortillas and seasoned with familiar Latin flavors, ideal for a fast meal any time.

Shrimp Quesadilla

Ingredients (Serves 6)

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, sliced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

- 1 pound uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced (optional)
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil, or as needed
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 3 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend

Directions:

1. Heat 2 tablespoons vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir onion and red bell pepper in the hot oil, stirring frequently, until onion is translucent, and peppers are soft, around 6 to 8 minutes.
2. Stir salt, cumin and chili powder into onion and bell peppers.
3. Stir shrimp into mix and cook until shrimp are opaque and no longer pink in the center, 3 to 5 minutes.
4. Remove skillet from heat; stir jalapeño pepper and lime juice into shrimp mixture.
5. Heat a skillet over medium heat and brush with about 1 teaspoon vegetable oil.
6. Place a tortilla in the hot oil. Spoon about 1/6 shrimp filling and 1/2 cup Mexican cheese blend on one side of tortilla. Fold tortilla in half.
7. Cook until bottom of tortilla is lightly browned, about 5 minutes; flip and cook other side until lightly browned. Repeat with remaining tortillas and filling.



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COUNTRY

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BARKADA JANA WRIGHT

The last few weeks have been very busy for me. Sorry that I did not have any news. I hope all of the mothers out there had a Happy Mother's Day. We went to my sister-in-law's house and celebrated with Shawn's family. We all had a great time!

Robert and Tammy Stafford decided to take a trip to Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. While we were here with 80 degree weather, she was taking pictures of snow. I am glad they are enjoying retirement!

Mrs. Mary Lasiter had a wonderful Mother's Day. Chris, Nancy, Max, and Miles came down and brought her some KFC for lunch. Benny and Anita called her later and wished her Happy Mother's Day. She said she had a lot of calls and texts from nieces and nephews and other loved ones. It was a wonderful day!

Amanda Calhoun had a blessed day as well. She had both of her children with her at church. Then they spent some time at home with her.

Kaylei Calhoun just completed her last class for nursing school. Now she is ready to graduate! Awesome accomplishment!

Speaking of which, my bonus daughter Taylor Swain will graduate this Friday with her RN! We are so proud of her!

Jeff and Sheena Tucker spent Mother's Day with their children and grandchildren. They had Jeremy, Brooke, and Jaxson Tucker, and Amanda, Jace, and Karson Bone over. They had a blessed day considering Sheena had been sick earlier in the week.

Amanda Stafford had a pleasant surprise this weekend. Her son Brice was not supposed to be home because he was working out of state, but he surprised her with a visit.

Nena Thomas had her son and grandsons over for Mother's Day. They went to church with her, and then Jerry Word fried fish for them all. She said it was a

blessed day.

Mrs. Wanda Reaves had her daughter Rhonda and son-in-law Kevin Kohnen come down for church and lunch. She had a wonderful time with them.

I talked to Mrs. Betty Carter for a few minutes the other day. It was nice to catch up.

Happy 16th birthday to Kaylie Jester. Happy birthday to my bestie in the whole world Jaye Jones! Happy birthday to Mrs. Lela Carter, Chris Barnett, Crystal Wood, Megan Terrell, Blake Schiesser, Jennifer Borden, Doug Temple, Mallory Forrest, Kailyn Davis, Matt Rankin, Allison Davis, Angela Usry, Shelley Temple, Wendy Shorter, Micky Chambers, Becky Phillips, Richard Barnes, and all of the other May babies. I hope you all have or had happy birthdays!

Please call 870-224-3383 with news or email wright-woman_66@yahoo.com with news. No news is too small!

GREEN HILL WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church enjoyed a wonderful Sunday morning service. If you would like to join us for Sunday morning service, Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. and worship service is at 10:30 a.m.

Aunt May went to the doctor last Thursday and hasn't been feeling well this past week. Please keep her in your prayers.

Cindy McKinstry of Little Rock came to her homeplace in Greenhill on Tuesday and spent the day visiting with her uncle Jimmy Cockrell; her friend, Tammy Knobloch; Paula and Scott Lane; and numerous members of the Greenhill Community Baptist Church when she attended revival. Cindy went to the Spring Craft Bazaar at the Market in the Park. She attended the funeral of a previous neighbor, Mary Jo Haynes. She also visited with Shirley and Beverly Burks of Wilmar. It was nice to visit with family and catch up on events since they had last seen each other. Cindy was

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.

unable to visit with her stepmom Liz McKinstry because she had been in the hospital with chest cold/pneumonia. Prayers are requested for her recovery.

Verse of the week: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

If you have any news that you would like to share please call me or message me on facebook.

Have a safe and blessed week.

Happy Birthday Ms Chris Barnett. I hope you enjoyed a blessed day.

JORDAN PARK TRILISA MARSHALL

What a blessed weekend I had thanks to my husband/pastor Robert Marshall Sr., my grandson Preston and both my daughters Deborah and Keturah Rucker, and all our members of Pentecostal Faith Church of God in Christ for making my Mother's Day so very special. A special thanks to our Pastor Robert Marshall Sr. for taking all the ladies out to eat after church Sunday. Special thanks to everyone that called, texted are brought gifts by the house you all are so awesome thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Our Sunday school lesson was on The Bread of Life, coming from John 6:22-35. God in Christ is our source for everything in our lives. Pastor Marshall's message was on Mom's are real strong, coming from Proverbs 31:25-30. Honor that mother for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praises, a mother who honors the Lord deserves to be praised. We thank God for all the

visitors that we had what a bless Mother's Day service. And our Tuesday evening Bible Study lesson was on Fast and Pray coming from Matthew 12:43-45; 17:21; 1 Kings 17:20; Mark 9: 25-29 and Acts 27: 21-25. Praying and fasting is not futile, it only helps you to be cool, calm and collected in the midst of a storm. It enables you to keep a cool head while everyone else is losing theirs. It empowers you to hold your peace and be still. It disciplines you to be quiet and let the Lord to be all the talking. In the process, you learn how to chill out and let the Lord work everything out.

Happy Birthday shout out this week goes to Yolonda Lambert, May 12, Lois Jordan, May 13, Linda Simmons and Sharon Jones, May 14. Happy birthday everyone, enjoy your special day.

Scripture for this week is, Proverbs 31: 10-12. "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

Everyone have a blessed and safe rest of the week. It is hot outside, stay cool everyone. My prayers this week is for all the workers that have to work outside in the heat, and the workers working in factories that are hot. You all stay cool and drink plenty of water. God's blessings to you all.

LACEY IVANELL HANDLEY

Hello readers, I hope all the mothers had a beautiful Mother's Day. I was blessed

to spend the week with my children. I thank God for allowing me to see another Mother's Day! I received calls from my sister and brother and some of my nieces and nephews. I was wine and dined all week by my baby Yolanda and on Sunday, Regena cooked Mother's Day dinner for Yolanda and I. My son-in-law gave me 12 red roses, my girls, grandsons and granddaughter blessed me with amazing gifts. My other daughter, Taryn Coven also came by to visit me on Sunday, I was so happy to see her! I also received Mother's Day wishes from: Amanda Killingsworth, Rhea LaGrone, Ann Shaver, Mary Minor, Ginger Cotton, and Sherry Lambert.

Happy Birthday to my grandson, Camryn Xavier Jones and May and Charlie Smith, May 13. I hope each of you has a fantastic day!

Prayers for our brother John Franklin, our niece Angelia Childress, Pastor Louise Miller and others that are sick and shut in. Sympathy and prayers to families that loss a loved one. Prayers for my friend Mrs. Marie Jones and her family and also for Mrs. Courtney Cottrell.

Thought for the week: I wish for you a good start to Monday; no hurdles for Tuesday; no pain for Wednesday; no stress for Thursday; big smiles for Friday; good luck for Saturday;

and a relaxing and peaceful Sunday! (Author Unknown). Be blessed and have a great week!

POSSUM VALLEY KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you've been enjoying the wonderful weather. My week has been very birdy indeed. Tuesday after I came home from work, I looked out the kitchen window and saw the female Painted Bunting. I remember remarking to myself that I sure wish the male Painted Bunting would show up within the next hour or so. Bo had a band concert that night and we were going to leave and go back to town to watch his concert. You won't believe what happened! Of course, those of you who have me on Facebook already know this. Because it wasn't thirty minutes later that the beautiful, multicolored male Painted Bunting arrive in all his glory. I spent so much time photographing him that I was just about late for Bo's concert.

A female and juvenile Rose-breasted Grosbeak have arrived, too. She's probably waiting for the male to show himself. Isn't that just the way of a woman's life...waiting on a man! (Grin and wink) They're

See COUNTRY Page 5B



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Unforgettable

There's a beautiful story found in all four gospels in the New Testament. Central to the account is a woman. We don't know her name, at first we only know her by her reputation. Apparently it wasn't one that most would be proud of. Jesus has been invited to dinner at the home of one of the communities religious elites. As these men were reclining around a table eating and relaxing in walks this woman of "ill-repute".

Past the stares, sneers and eye rolls this woman makes her way to Jesus, where kneeling behind him, she begins to weep. And with her tears she begins to wash his feet. And with her hair she wipes her tears from them. She then takes out a jar. It's made from Alabaster and was made to hold oil. Think of a ceramic vase. The lid of which is probably sealed with wax so that the contents wouldn't spill or lose its potency.

Inside the jar is Spikenard Oil. This is made from a rare plant found in northern India. You can imagine how expensive this oil would be considering how rare it was and that it was imported from a long distance. In fact the gospel records that the oil was probably worth an entire years wages. The only way to get to the oil was to break the jar and then you had to use the contents within a short amount of time.

And that's what she did. Much to the amazement to those watching. She broke the jar and poured the oil on the feet of Jesus. The aroma filling the whole house with the sweet smell of this oil. Some of Jesus's own disciples who were there wondered out loud why she would waste this oil when it could have been used for something more important, like the ministry. Sadly, the selfless act of made by this woman was lost on those watching. Jesus rebuked them and said that you will always have the poor but you won't have me for much longer and in Mark 14:9 (NKJV) Jesus says, "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her"

The story of this woman encourages and convicts me. Hang on to these three truths we see in her.

First, regardless of our past Jesus receives us as we are and He loves us enough to not allow us to stay there. Secondly, people around you may know you by your sin, but Jesus knows you by who He's called you to be. And finally Jesus is worthy of our complete devotion. Everything we have and everything we are. Both the tears and the oil.

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

usually worth the wait though.

Wednesday morning, I drove through Old 16th Section Rd. and saw an Orchard Oriole, a Pileated Woodpecker, several Indigo Buntings, a Common Yellowthroat, a couple of Yellow-breasted Chats and an Eastern Kingbird. Rick and I are planning a trip over to Rick Evans Grandview Prairie, which is near Hope. Last year, we made the mistake of going in late summer and all the wildflowers were already gone. So, we decided to make an earlier trip this time hoping to see lots of glorious wildflowers and birds, of course.

Friday after work, I finally saw my FOS male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. He was young and not quite into his full colored plumage, but it was enough to make the ID.

Saturday morning, while I was out piddling in the yard, I saw my FOS Yellow-billed Cuckoo or rain crow as the old folks called them.

I don't know if it's been the same at

your hummingbird feeders, but at mine, they've been conspicuously absent for the last week or so. I have noticed, though, that the honeysuckle is blooming, and other natural sources of nectar are available to them. You really can't blame them for wanting natural instead of manmade nectar. But I know they'll be back. Just keep those feeders clean and changed every few days. That nectar will spoil in a heartbeat in the heat we've been experiencing lately.

My Mother's Day was a good one. Meghann came down and took us out to eat at the Feed Trough Restaurant. Jason had to work, but he came a joined us as soon as he got off work. The most wonderful Mother's Days are when I can see both of my babies. And, yes, they're still my babies and will be forever. I hated that Meghann's Tim was feeling badly. We certainly missed him.

My Momma has been gone since December 2010 and each time I drive by the old house place, I long for the chance to stop and visit her and Daddy again. Even at the age of 65, there are

See **COUNTRY** Page 6B

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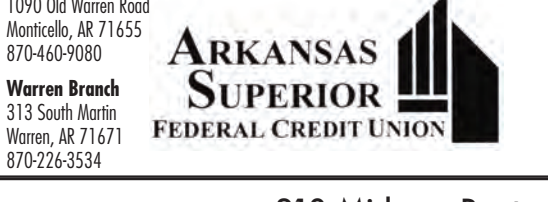
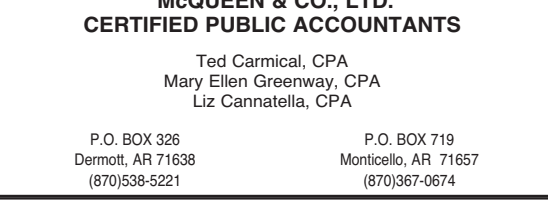
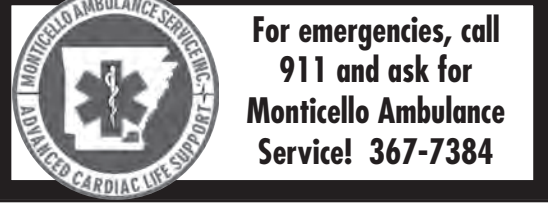
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- Episcopal**
St. Mary's Episcopal
836 North Hyatt
(870)723-4657
- Methodist**
Andrews Chapel Methodist
Barkada Rd
- First United Methodist
317 S. Main • 367-2471
- Green Hill United Methodist
372 Green Hill Rd.
- Lacey United Methodist Church
135 W. Lacey Rd. • Lacey
- Mt. Pleasant "Campground"
United Methodist
194 Campground Rd.
367-5966
- Rock Springs United Methodist
Rock Springs Rd.
- Wilmar Methodist
Hwy. 278
- Mormon**
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
519 Glenwood • 367-5817
- Pentecostal**
Pentecostal Faith Church of God in Christ
111 E Briarcliff St.
Monticello, AR 71655
- United Pentecostal
1115 Hwy. 278 W. • 367-2535
- Presbyterian**
First Presbyterian
821 N. Main • 367-6883
- Rose Hill
Cumberland Presbyterian
2133 Hwy. 83 N.
367-5114
- Holmes Chapel Presbyterian Church
527 E. McCloy Street
367-9421
- Wood Avenue Presbyterian Church
207 Wood Ave
- Seventh Day Adventist**
Seventh Day Adventist
2656 Hwy. 278 E. • 460-0244
- Old Catholic**
Holy Trinity Old Catholic Church
621 West Bolling St. • 367-3208
- Other**
Ark of Faith
1222 Hwy. 83 S. • 723-8230
- Christ Church
1126 Hwy 278 W. • 723-3115
- Florence Full Gospel
Hwy. 277 North • 469-5539
- Fountain of Life Christian Center
910 Old Warren Road
367-5087
- House of Refuge
239 Hwy 296 • Selma
- Israel of God
121 Bird St. • 469-5431
- King of Glory Outreach Ministry
306 E. Gaines • 367-3814
- Tabernacle of Faith
2525 Hwy 425 N. • 367-9400
- Trinity Full Gospel Church
468 S. Edwards • 367-7304
- True Covenant Worship Center
310 N. Main St. • 740-0091

If your church is not listed or has updates to the current listings please contact us at 870.367.5325 or editor@monticellonews.net.

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Page 2B Sudoku

ANSWER:

5	1	4	7	8	2	9	6	3
8	9	3	5	6	4	7	2	1
2	6	7	3	9	1	8	5	4
9	7	8	1	2	5	3	4	6
3	2	6	4	7	9	1	8	5
1	4	5	8	3	6	2	7	9
7	8	9	6	5	3	4	1	2
6	3	1	2	4	7	5	9	8
4	5	2	9	1	8	6	3	7

Puzzle answers

Page 2B Word Search

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

Page 2B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

			E	R	A	S		B	E	R	T	H
	A	C	C	U	S	E		A	G	O	U	T
	D	O	U	B	L	E	S	D	O	W	N	C
B	A	N					D	A	G		S	I
O	P	S					D	E	W	E	D	S
O	T	O		M	E	D		S	I	B		T
			N	S	E	C				S	A	L
C	H	A	I	R						S	P	O
H	A	N	I	E	D					M	A	N
A	R	T		S	I	R		P	A	L		A
L	E	A	H		N	A	D	E	R		L	A
E	L	L	A	S		P	A	N			I	C
T	I		N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	Z
	P	E	N	T	A	D		E	R	A	S	E
	B	O	O	B	S			D	A	D	O	

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 5B

still so many things I need to ask her.

Sunday, Bethel enjoyed a very enthusiastic service. First, Bro. Justin Hewitt taught us a wonderful Sunday school lesson followed by a vigorous message all about Jesus Christ crucified and His finished work at Calvary, from Bro. Tommy King from over El Dorado way. It was very comforting to have my Meghann sitting beside me in church again.

I spent most of Sunday after-

noon either walking in the yard or sitting/dozing on the front porch. On one point, I asked Rick to drive me to Gee's Landing in his Jeep. I had not been there since I almost got stuck a few months ago. We enjoyed a nice leisurely drive but once we stopped at Gee's Landing and I opened the door of the Jeep.... Lordy mercy! The skeeters swarmed me! I got off a few shots of the high water with my camera and jumped back in the Jeep and we hightailed it outta there.

Bo and the Bat Attack played in South Haven, MS over the weekend meaning Leigha

and both kids were away for Mother's Day. I believe they'll be making a trip to the Memphis Zoo before they come back home.

That's my news for this week. I hope and pray you all have a wonderful, safe week

Here's a corny joke just for Mother's Day: What do you call a Mom who can't draw? Tracey!

WILMAR
CHRIS RILEY

Wow! What a beautiful and blessed Mother's Day Sunday

we at In His Presence Worship Ministries witnessed. Lady Francez brought the word on being a real mother and was backed up by various script. There was presentations of music in art solos by Faye Long and Chris Riley who sang God Amazing Grace. After service the family ate lunch at Applebee's. Later Kevin made crush ice cream at the Johnson residence (Tina). I enjoyed seeing my little great grand twin girls who are now 17 months, Kinlee and Kaylee. While in Bryant I

had the joy of visiting with Bro. James and Sis. Iris Phifer of Crossett, who were at the home of their daughter Jo Beth. Solomon was there. It was so good to see them as it has been awhile. Jo Beth lives in walking distance from my daughter and family.

I received many calls and gifts. Sorry I missed CN Clydean Green, who was in Wilmar and Warren, who's now living in Las Vegas.

June Dinner is fast approaching. I need a goat. Any-

one who knows where I can get one please call me at 870-469-4004 or 870-308-1956 ASAP. Thanks!

Prayers and sympathy goes to Angie Butcher and family in the transition of your sister Roseland "Roz" Moore.

Prayers to the sick and shut in's and sympathy to the bereaved. Now until we meet again by paper and pen, be a doer of God's word and not hearer only. Have a blessed week and make the Lord center of your life.

MAKE IT COUNT

RE-ELECT ROBERT AKIN
Drew County Judge

9+ Yrs. Experience & Experience Counts! Early Voting Begins May 9

ENDORSEMENT

"Judge Robert Akin is the strong conservative voice that Drew County deserves to keep in office. Judge Akin is well respected at the Capitol for his knowledge of county operations and his strong advocacy for Drew County and South Arkansas. He works well with the legislature and works tirelessly to promote and advance Drew County. I am proud to call Judge Robert Akin a friend and encourage you to join me and support him for re-election."

- State Rep., Howard Beaty

ENDORSEMENT

"I have known Drew County Judge Robert Akin for almost a decade, and I am proud to endorse him for re-election. Whether it's improving roads, supporting law enforcement, or working hand-in-hand with state legislators, Judge Akin works hard every day for the people of Drew County."

- Lt. Governor, Tim Griffin

ENDORSEMENT

"I've worked with Judge Robert Akin for almost ten years and he did not hesitate to lend his support to me for my primary and general election campaigns in 2020. He is a strong advocate for Drew County and is a well-known voice at the state Capitol on county issues. He has my support in his re-election."

- State Senator, Ben Gilmore

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Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District

W.I.O.A.

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Arkansas Workforce Center at Dumas
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Dumas, AR 71639
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