



Prayer vigil held on Town Square Page 1B



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022



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Juneteenth events to kick off Friday

June Dinner Schedule of Events

June 16: Bonfire starting at Sunset
Music by DJ Smooth

June 17: Food trucks and vendors starting in the afternoon
Old School Lip -Sync Performance at 7 p.m.
The William Staggers Trio at 9 p.m.

June 18: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Political candidates preview on the June Dinner Stage
1 p.m. June Dinner Parade 7th street in Wilmar
2 p.m.-6 p.m. Car Show registration with Judging at 6 p.m.
3 p.m. Motorcycle Burnout S. 8th Street with No Limit Bike Club
7 p.m. Up and coming talent with Sunny Side Click, Carl Best Jr, and other local talent
9 p.m. Sean Fresh and his Double Breasted Tour featuring Be'jou

June 19: Gospel singing 6-8 p.m. June Dinner Stage

Continued sounds from Gary Wilson's Production throughout the Juneteenth Celebration (Friday and Saturday)



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Annual Juneteenth pageants were held Sunday, June 5 at the Wilmar Community Center. For more pageant pictures, please visit www.advancemonticellonian.com.

Hartness joins lending team at Union Bank



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Kerry Hartness (center) is the new lending officer at Union Bank & Trust. He is pictured with Randy Rawls (left) and Brandon Hogg (right) from Union Bank.

By ASHLEY HOGG
editor@monticellonews.net

As of June 1, Union Bank and Trust Company has a new lending officer on staff.

Kerry Hartness, a Monticello High School and University of Arkansas at Monticello graduate, will be available for all community lending needs, with a focus on agriculture and poultry operations.

"I am excited for the opportunity to join a landmark in Southeast Arkansas," Hartness said. "Union Bank has served this area for more than a century and they are deeply passionate and

committed to the community. I look forward to continuing the tradition and building new relationships."

Hartness joins Union Bank with 10 years of lending experience. He was most recently the Chief Credit Officer for Delta Farm Credit Services in Monticello and Dermott and has worked with Delta ACA.

"I have been fortunate to work with all different aspects of agriculture lending," Hartness added.

Hartness has a proven history of being service minded. He served two tours over seas with the Arkansas National Guard and serves as president of the Drew County Farm Bureau Feder-

ation Board.

"I am proud to announce the hiring of Kerry Hartness as Vice-President in our lending division," Bank President Dave Dickson stated. "Kerry brings a wealth of knowledge in lending, particularly in agriculture area related to row crops and poultry lending. Kerry is very involved in our community are we are excited to have him join our Union Bank team."

Hartness and his wife of 13 years, Melissa, have a six year old daughter, Annie, and they attend First Baptist Church in Monticello.

DC promotes White to head Pirate football coach

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Pirates ended the 2021 Pirate Football season with an 0-10 record. Despite not winning a contest, head coach Matt Gonzales addressed those in attendance at the annual all-sports banquet with an optimistic outlook for the 2022 season.

Fast-forward to about a week later, Gonzales would announce his departure from the school to return to Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, leaving the Pirates in search of a head coach for the third time in the past 10 years.

It did not take long for the announcement to come that coach Larry White was to be promoted to the position.

White, who has been a part of the Pirate family for the last several years, served as an assistant coach under Gonzales, serving as defensive coordinator for the Pirates, and was named as the Junior High Pirate Head Coach last season.

White was also a part of the Drew Central Track and Field coaching staff that saw the team win several individual state championships and fell short of winning an overall state championship, finish-

ing in the top 10 at the 3A State Championship Meet. White also serves as the Drew Central Pirate Assistant Basketball Coach.

White, a Georgia native from College Park, Georgia, played high school football at Benjamin Banneker High School and was a standout on the defensive side of the ball earning All-State and All-District honors as a sophomore, junior, and senior and was offered a chance to play collegiate football at UT-Chattanooga in 2003.

In 2005, White started in eight games for Tennessee-Chattanooga picking up 58 tackles on the season, White also contributed with 14 tackles in an upset victory over then #21 Jackson State University.

Coming to the University of Arkansas at Monticello from UT-Chattanooga, White earned his starting position coming out of the 2007 Spring Scrimmage.

White would lead the 2007 Weevils in tackles with 102 tackles playing in all 11 games. Of his 102 tackles, 10 were behind the line of scrimmage.

For his play in the 2007 Season, White earned the Daktronics Second Team

See **COACH** Page 12A

QUAIL FOREVER FUNDRAISER BANQUET HELD



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

The SEARK Chapter of Quail Forever held a fundraiser banquet at the Monticello Country Club last Friday evening. A live and silent auction were held at the event. Money raised at this event stays with the local chapter.

UAM to offer state's only online Master's Degree in Nursing with emphasis in public health

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) is set to offer the state of Arkansas's only online Master of Science in nursing (MSN) degree with an emphasis in public health after the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission approved the proposed program at its meeting on May 23.

The degree is 100 percent online and requires 37 credit hours. The practicum credit hours built into the degree offer flexibility, allowing students to choose times that fit their schedules. "The goal of our new MSN degree is to expand all nursing opportunities and reach all communities," said Dr. Brandy Haley, dean of the School of Nursing at UAM. Dr. Haley has been a nurse for more than 25 years, with a decade of experience in public health.

"This degree teaches registered nurses to connect resources in the community to create a healthier population," Dr. Haley said. "There is a huge demand. We did a workforce analysis and a survey of all our stakeholders, including our current students, clinical instructors, clinical facilities and employers. We asked them if they saw any benefit in this; it was an overwhelming, yes."

See **UAM** Page 6A

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Prayer Service

Prayers for Peace, a prayer service for the victims of gun violence will be held at 6 p.m., June 9, at First Presbyterian Church in Monticello. The keynote speaker will be Pastor Daryle Daniels Jr. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Co-Ed softball tournament

The Monticello A&P Commission and Economic Development Commission will host a coed softball tournament beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 2 at the Monticello Sports Complex. Entry fee is \$25. There will be live music and fireworks.

ONGOING

Fair Board seeking volunteers

The Drew County Fair will be held the first week of October. The Fair Board is seeking volunteers in all capacities. For more information, contact the County Extension office at 870-460-6200.

Monticello Youth Football League sign up

The Monticello youth Football League registration is now open. The deadline to register is July 15. Coaches are needed. For more information and to register, visit www.monticelloyouthfootballleague.com or call 870-466-8219.

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.

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.



**CITY OF
MONTICELLO
WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH
FOR
JUNETEENTH DAY**

**Friday's trash will be picked up
Wednesday, June 15th.**

Senior Center LUNCH



June 8 - June 15

Wednesday: *Mexican casserole, Spanish rice, chocolate chip bar*

Thursday: *Chicken & dressing w/ gravy, turnip greens, peach cobbler, roll*

Friday: *Chicken tenders, black eye peas, mac & cheese, cookie, roll*


Monday: *Cheeseburgers, tots, chocolate pudding*

Tuesday: *Herb baked chicken, wild rice, whole kernel corn, brownie, biscuit*

Wednesday: *Meatloaf w/tomato gravy, mashed potatoes, fried okra, banana pudding, 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.

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Arkansas WMA Deer Hunt Permit opportunities expanded

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The application period for special deer hunting permits on many wildlife management areas in Arkansas is open until 11:59 p.m. July 1, and hunters will notice many new opportunities, thanks to regulations passed during the May Commission meeting.

Many WMAs managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission are open during fall deer hunting seasons without additional restrictions beyond the season dates and bag limits in that portion of the state. However, access to some of the more popular WMAs during muzzleloading, modern gun and some archery hunts must be limited to maintain a high hunt quality and ensure safe, uncrowded hunting conditions in line with the area's wildlife population. Wildlife biologists monitor hunting activity level as well as wildlife populations on these areas to determine the number of hunts available, the target number of hunters who can use the area at once and the number of permits issued needed to reach those target numbers.

Hunters may apply for WMA deer hunt permits at www.agfc.com by clicking the "Buy License/Check Game" button at the top of the page, then selecting Special Hunt Permits to find the hunt they wish to apply for.

WMA Deer Hunt Permit applications are available for \$5 per application type. If successful, applicants receive their permit without additional fees. Each hunter

may submit one application for each type of permit hunt: youth hunt, archery, muzzleloader and modern gun. Mobility-impaired individuals also may apply for special mobility-impaired hunts through the permit system. Hunters must be at least 6 years old by the beginning of the hunt, and hunters applying for youth hunts must be at least 6, but no older than 15, the day the hunt begins. To apply for a youth hunt, the youth hunter must be logged in under his or her own Customer ID in the licensing system. Youth hunts do not appear as an option to choose in the licensing system for any hunters older than 16.

Hunters applying for regular modern gun and muzzleloader hunts may do so as individuals or they may apply as a group of up to four, thanks to the AGFC's party hunt system. To apply as a group, the party hunt leader applies as though he or she were applying as an individual. Once the permit application is completed and paid for, he or she will receive a party hunt code listed underneath the application line on their updated hunting license via email. They may then share that code with up to three other individuals. The rest of the party will then apply, and respond "yes" when asked if they are members of a party hunt. They may then enter the code and continue with their application and payment. Applying as a party does not increase the chances of each individual being drawn.

A few notable changes for

the 2022-23 deer hunting season include:

- The archery permit requirement has been removed for Maumelle River WMA. Maumelle River WMA will now be open to hunting during archery season without the need for a specially drawn permit;
- Permit youth hunts have been added to Camp Robinson SUA and to Harold E. Alexander/Spring River WMA during the January youth hunt dates;
- A permit youth hunt has been added to Greers Ferry WMA for November and January youth hunt dates;
- A new 5-day muzzleloader permit hunt was added to Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA;
- The special firearms restriction for the modern gun permit hunt at Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek WMA has been lifted, and
- A new 5-day muzzleloader permit hunt was added to Stone Prairie WMA.

The AGFC's Deer Team also has compiled a list of drawing odds based upon the number of applicants for each hunt last year. While some of the hunts known for high hunting success may have long-shot odds to draw, there are many hunts available offering an excellent chance to draw that still hold good odds for an enjoyable hunting experience. Visit www.agfc.com/en/hunting/big-game/deer/special-hunt-permits for this list of odds and to apply for a WMA deer hunt.

Rhodes advances to NYC



Photo courtesy of Jason Rhodes

By ASHLEY HOGG
editor@monticellonews.net

Jay'Siah Rhodes, a 10-year-old student at Drew Central, was selected for a football combine earlier this month. Due to his impressive stats and performance during the game, Rhodes will advance to the next round as starting running back. The next game will be held in New York City on August 5.

At the end of the first All-Star game, Rhodes completed 121 yards, four tackles, one interception and one touchdown.

SAU Tech announces honors for Spring 22 semester

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Southern Arkansas University Tech celebrated its graduates with its annual commencement ceremonies on May 7, 2022. The College awarded 774 credentials to students from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and other states. Many students earned more than one credential in their field of study.

The following students are from Drew County and earned a degree or certificate in 2021-2022 academic year.

Joseph Bostian earned a Technical Certificate in Aviation Maintenance; John Burton earned a Certificate of Proficiency in Criminal Justice; Ricky Owens earned a Technical Certificate in Weld-

ing; Brandi Thiele earned an Associate Degree in Health Sciences; and John'Niqua Wofford-Libbitt earned an Associate Degree in Professional Studies.

The following students made the Deans List for the Spring semester: Joseph Bostian of Wilmar and Ricky Owens of Monticello. The following student made the Chancellors list for the Spring semester: Jaa Keilah Warner of Monticello.

SAU Tech is a two-year public college that is part of the Southern Arkansas University System. The College began in 1968 and today has an average enrollment of over 1,800 students. SAU Tech offers NJCAA basketball, base-

ball, and softball and provides students with housing options and full student life. Cheerleading, the Tech Scholars Program, and the Tech Choir are all options for SAU Tech's students. SAU Tech employs around 160 staff and faculty and is located inside Highland Industrial Park in East Camden, Arkansas. SAU Tech operates under the governance of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Arkansas University System located in Magnolia, Arkansas. The chancellor of SAU Tech reports to Dr. Trey Berry, President of the Southern Arkansas University System. Dr. Berry is advised by a governor-appointed board of trustees.

Attorney General Rutledge continues to combat robocalls with FCC and 40 states

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge joins 40 other attorneys general acknowledging the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing work to combat robocalls. In the letter attorneys general sent to the Commission, they recognized the FCC's work encouraging states to join information-sharing agreements and collaboratively address complex robocalls issues.

"I have long been determined to end incessant robocalls and protect Arkansans from these con artists," said Attorney General Rutledge. "Even though we have made strides to stop these illegal calls, we still have a long way to go, and I am hopeful a combined effort with states and the FCC will continue to combat and eliminate robocalls."

Attorney General Rutledge has led the national effort by state attorneys general to demand stronger oversight by the FCC by requiring telecommunication providers to aggressively block illegal robocalls before they reach consumers. Rutledge has consistently pushed the FCC to implement rules

and policies to make telephone carriers more responsible to identify and block these calls and to hold the providers liable for allowing these calls to pass through their networks. Rutledge brought together state and federal partners, as well as representatives of the telecommunications industry, to develop effective and innovative methods to stop the scourge of these persistent calls.

Along with Rutledge, 40 other states and territories signed the letter. They are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachu-

setts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

NOTICE OF SALE

The undersigned will offer by sealed bid for cash, in bulk, at 2:00 pm on June 23, 2022, the contents of:

Unit #81 - Laci Fitzgibbon

Unit #128 - Stangela Lindsey

Unit #188 -

Syntorreya Franklin

Contents of unit can be inspected on premises from 10-3 Mon.-Fri.

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La Petite Roche Anniversary: Putting Little Rock on the Map

In 1722, when French explorer Jean-Baptiste Bernard de La Harpe and his crew were exploring by way of the Arkansas River, they came upon what they called “La Petite Roche” or “The Little Rock” on the south bank of the river. This “little rock” became a landmark for travelers and gave The Natural State the name for its future capital city.

Now, 300 years later, we are celebrating this discovery and the important place Little Rock occupies in our state’s history and culture. As the capital of Arkansas, Little Rock is an important symbol as well as home to numerous businesses and attractions that bring people from all across the state, country and world.

I was honored to highlight this unique piece of our past that has linked our state with France for centuries during a recent visit with French Ambassador to the U.S. Philippe Etienne.

La Petite Roche’s 300th anniversary is a special time to welcome Ambassador Etienne to Arkansas. In celebration of Little Rock’s long and proud history, the thriving community it is today and its bright future, the La Petite Roche Tricentennial Task Force has organized fitting tributes to mark this milestone.

We continue to build on this connection centuries later with investments in Arkansas’s workforce. Several French-owned firms have located in our state including Dassault Falcon and L’Oréal. The ambassador and I visited these companies which serve to demonstrate our strong ties today and opportunities for the future.

These businesses, and other French-owned operations, have created 6,300 well-paying jobs in The Natural State.

Arkansas is a great example of how our nation’s longtime friendship with France is mutually beneficial. Direct employment in Arkansas is far from the only way our alliance supports job creation in our communities. Many more jobs are maintained through trade between our two nations.

Our economic relationship creates close to 1.3 million jobs in France and the U.S. with two-thirds of those located in America.


While this relationship allows American businesses—both large and small—to compete in today’s global marketplace, maintaining a strong relationship with France provides more than just economic rewards. This partnership reinforces our shared common values, bolstering our resolve and confidence as we stand side-by-side on the global stage and work to mutually keep each other safe.

I am pleased to continue promoting our friendship, strengthening our ties and highlighting our unique relationship and history.

It was an honor to commemorate this important discovery that put Little Rock on the map and share in its historic significance with all Arkansans and the French Ambassador. Ambassador Etienne’s recognition of this landmark is a great way to connect our past with our present and pave a road to a successful future.

ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

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TOM WHITEPresident/Publisher

ASHLEY HOGGEditor

Published weekly by:
DREW COUNTY NEWSPAPERS, INC.
314 N. Main St., Monticello, Arkansas 71655

(USPS-007-560) Periodical postage paid at Monticello, AR.
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: P.O. Box 486,
Monticello, AR 71657. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$34.00 per
year in zip codes beginning with 716; \$45.00 per year else-
where.

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Prayer vigil sparks humbling experience

I had the pleasure of attending the prayer vigil last Friday evening, organized by the Drew County NAACP Youth unit. I’m a praying individual, but this was a new experience for me.

I believe in corporate prayer. I believe that when comfortable, prayers should be shared so that other believers can agree in prayer with you.



ASHLEY HOGG
EDITOR

Praying for peace and healing for victims of gun violence is something we can and should all agree on.

Gun control, gun violence, 2nd amendment rights are all hot topics right now. Why wouldn’t they be? It’s just another thing Americans can’t agree on publicly. We are divided by so much, this is just another drop in the bucket.

I sometimes imagine what people that live outside of the U.S. think about our people and our nation. In my mind, it has to be similar to the way Americans view drug riddled countries south of our border. Dangerous, unsafe and no place to

take your family. Outsiders don’t see the good we have because of the overwhelming amount of mass shootings that have occurred this year alone.

According to the Washington Post, there have been more than 200 mass shootings in the United States since January 1, 2022. I’m no mathematician but, follow along with me for a second as I count on my fingers and toes.

We are now in the sixth month of the year. If we take 200 shootings and divide that by 6 months, the total comes out to 33.3. Our longest months only have 31 days in them. That equals to more than one mass shooting for every single day in 2022. If I lived in another country, there is no way I would bring my daughter here.

I think about Fred. She attends public school. Every day this year, she got out of my car and walked up the sidewalk into her classroom. Each morning, that could’ve been the last time I saw her. She still has many years left in her education journey. Anything could happen at our local schools. It’s too much for my mama heart to bear.

I’ve written on this topic before and

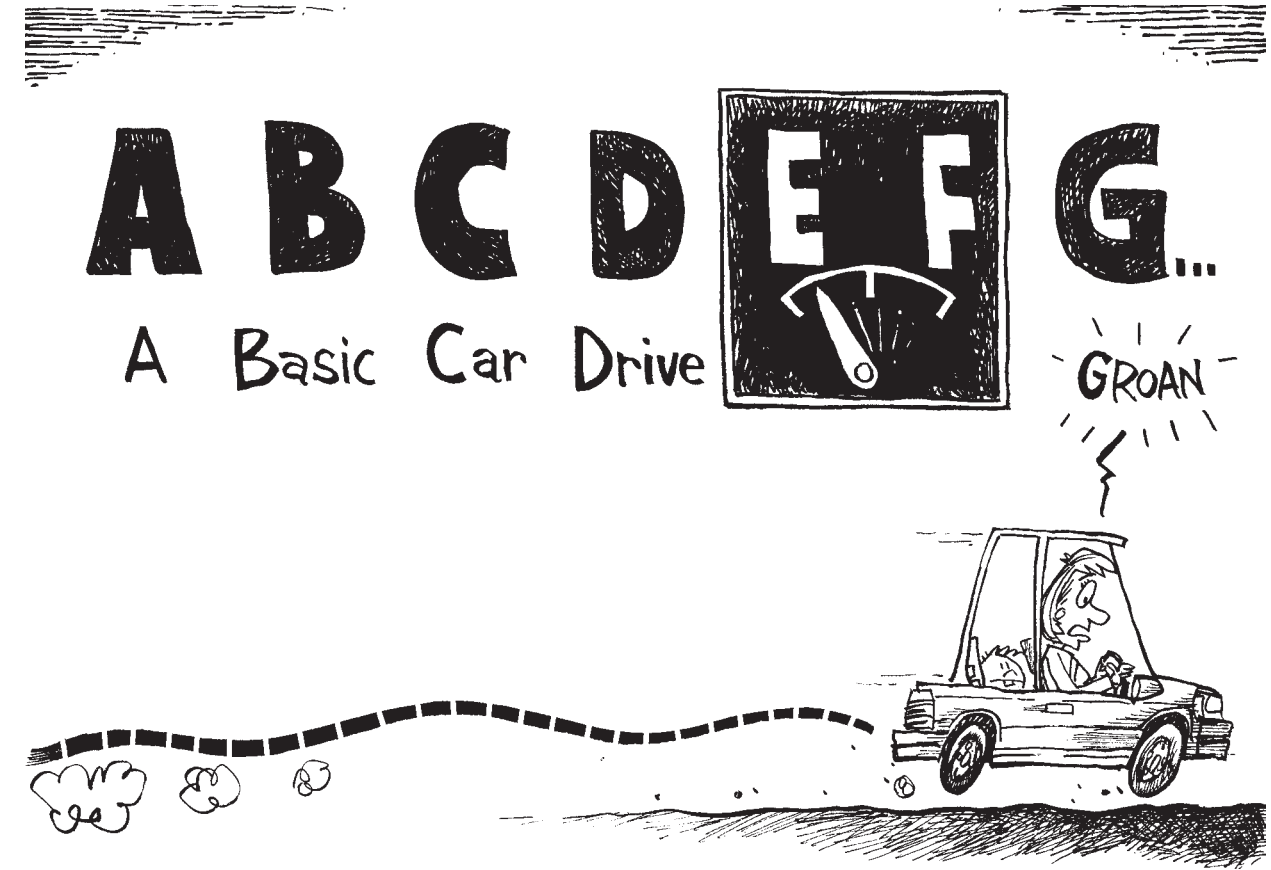
unfortunately, I still have no idea what the answer is. It seems futile to argue with either side as we are, for the most part, unwilling to listen to the other. Still, my heart tells me that this is a topic worth fighting over until we find a solution.

The prayer vigil held Friday was a beam of hope for my heart. I saw people from the community that I live in join together to pray for safety and peace.

Each prayer was specific and each person praying gave their own dynamic delivery. I know there are a lot of people praying the same prayer in their homes and churches. As I said before, I am a believer in prayer but I’m also a believer that God gave us a brain to know when it is time to take a stand.

It is past time for a change in this system that is so obviously broken. It is time for people to get their heads out of the sand and make hard choices. Thoughts and prayers only go so far.

How can we turn our prayers into action? How do we affect real change? Where does one freedom start and another end? How many innocent people will die on American soil at the hands of other Americans?



Ensuring the safety of Arkansas students and teachers

As our nation mourns the death of nineteen students and two teachers at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, the national conversation has turned again to the need to make our schools more secure.

In Arkansas, educators and legislators have long recognized the need for vigilance to keep our children safe. Concern for the safety of our students didn’t suddenly become a priority last week because of the violence in Texas. Four years ago, after a young

man killed seventeen students in Parkland, Florida, I created the Arkansas School Safety Commission to assess the state of school security. The commission submit-

ted a 124-page report with thirty significant recommendations. The work of the Commission hasn’t sat on a shelf. In fact, most of the recommendations have been adopted, or we are working toward implementing them.

But we need to do more. The attack in Texas compels us to revisit the findings and to assess the effectiveness of any changes school districts have made. I have asked Dr. Cheryl May, director of the School Safety Center and the Criminal Justice Institute and who was chair of the commission, to call the members back to follow up on their work to ensure that we are doing all we can.

I am considering calling a special session this summer, and if we have one, I will recommend a grant program to help fund the schools’ efforts to improve security.

There are many ways to harden the security of schools. We can invest in security guards, police officers, and school resource officers. We need to control and secure points of entry into a school. And we need to design schools with security as a top priority.

One area of concern is the mental health of students, which is part of the Arkansas Commission’s report. In 2019, the General Assembly responded by passing Act 190, which reduced the administrative duties of school counselors to 10 percent of their time and requires them to spend 90 percent of their time in direct counseling with students. This emphasis on students increases the likelihood that counselors will identify students who are struggling with emotional or mental-health issues.

See **HUTCHINSON** Page 5A

New charter schools coming to the Natural State

Two new virtual statewide charter schools have been approved by the Arkansas Board of Education.

The board’s action allows Founders Classical Academy to add as many as 500 slots for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The action also allows Premier High Schools of Arkansas to add as many as 250 students in a new virtual school.

Both charters operate existing

“bricks and mortar” campuses. After they have added online classes, Arkansas will have five virtual charter schools. The three existing ones are Arkansas Virtual Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy and LISA Academy Arkansas Hybrid School.

Also, several traditional schools have begun virtual learning, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

An official of the state Education Department reported at the beginning of the current school year that about 3.9 percent of all students in Arkansas now take online classes. The number of virtual students is about 18,500. About 474,000 students enrolled in Ar-

kansas public schools last fall.

Open enrollment charter schools are run by non-profit organizations, and their students can be drawn from anywhere. District conversion charters schools are run by public school districts, and their students must live within the district’s boundaries.

This year, almost 24,000 students are attending open enrollment charters schools. The largest charter is the Arkansas Virtual Academy, which teaches 3,885 students from around the state.

The LISA Academy system has 3,469 students in bricks and

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

Scholarship deadline approaching

Since 2010, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery has helped raise more than \$1.1 billion to fund more than 675,000 scholarships for students attending 51 Arkansas colleges and universities.

This week we want to remind you about the fast

approaching deadline to apply for the next round of scholarships.

July 1 is the deadline to apply for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship (AACS) for

students planning to enroll in a two- or four-year college or university in the fall.

Applicants can be new high school graduates, students already enrolled in college, or non-traditional students seeking to further their education. To apply go to <https://sams.adhe.edu/> and click on “Students.”

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be an Arkansas resident for at least 12 months prior to enrollment and receive at least a 19 on the ACT. To maintain eligibility, students must keep a 2.5 GPA.

Award amounts are as follows:

Four-year college:
Year 1 - \$1,000
Year 2 - \$4,000
Year 3 - \$4,000
Year 4 - \$5,000.
Two-year college:
Year 1 - \$1,000
Year 2 - \$3,000

The lottery also helps fund the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship. This scholarship is available for those attending technical schools. It is for students seeking certifications in high-demand occupations, such as health care and information technology.

And the lottery helps to fund the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Award. This award provides financial incentives to eligible high school students who want to get an early start on college courses.

The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery recently launched a map on the lottery site that shows Academic Challenge

See **BEATY** 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.

BY MAIL
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AGFC’s hatcheries, 30 other locations provide free fishing opportunities June 11

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Not only will the fishing in Arkansas be free on the weekend of June 10-12, but the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will provide plenty of free opportunities around the state for kids and adults to fish on Saturday, June 11.

The AGFC’s four state fish hatcheries – Andrew H. Hulsey Hatchery in Hot Springs, Joe Hogan Hatchery in Lonoke, C.B. “Charlie” Craig Hatchery in Centerton and William H. Donham Hatchery in Corning – again will be open to the public for the traditional fishing derbies on the

Saturday of Free Fishing Weekend. Each hatchery will have a pond stocked with catfish, and all ages are welcome from 8 a.m. until noon.

“We’re doing family derbies now at the hatcheries,” J.J. Gladden, Assistant Chief of Education, said. “We want good family fun, everybody going out and having a good time together.”

Some bait will be provided at the sites, but all participants will need to bring their own fishing equipment (rod and reels, hooks, bobbers and so forth). The Jim Hinkle Spring River Hatchery will not be part of the June 11 event because of ongoing reno-

ventions there.

New this year at the hatcheries will be a Fishing 101 class at the four participating hatcheries, to be held from 4:30-6 p.m. on Friday, June 10. “We’ll have people at each one of those hatcheries to teach people who might need some help so they can be ready for the derby the next day. For the Saturday derbies, we’re scaling those back to be more hands-on, basically teaching participants who need a few tips such as the way to tie a knot, bait a hook, and teaching them the proper techniques.”

All anyone has to do is register. The Fishing 101 classes will

be capped at each location to 50 participants, but the Saturday derbies will have no limit for participants. The AGFC was able to bring back its hatchery derbies last year as COVID-19 protocols began easing, and Gladden is hopeful even more families will take advantage of the opportunities this year.

“We had good participation last year,” Gladden said. “We set a cap for locations but we had really good attendance and we’re hoping to improve on these events with all we learned last year.”

To register for Fishing 101 or the next-day hatchery der-

bies, visit <https://www.agfc.com/en/education/calendar/annual-event/free-fishing-week-end-statewide-2022/>

If you’re unable to make one of the hatchery fishing derbies, there still are 30 fishing derbies scheduled around the state with the AGFC’s Fishing Education program. A list of fishing derby locations can be found at www.agfc.com/fe.

“Those are all partner derbies where we have partnered with a city, a chamber of commerce, a city’s parks and recreation department, Arkansas State Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the U.S. Forest Service,”

Gladden said. “Some of those will be kids-only events as far as fishing, but they want the families out to participate, too.”

AGFC hatcheries will be stocking catfish in the participating derbies for June 11. One trout derby is planned for Mirror Lake at Blanchard Springs.

Free Fishing Weekend allows anyone of any age to fish in Arkansas for free from noon Friday, June 10, to midnight Sunday, June 12, as proclaimed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson. No fishing license or trout permit is required. Other laws regarding the body of water being fished must be followed.

LOCAL ATTORNEY VISITS UAM CLASSROOM



Photo courtesy of UAM

Recently, University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees Chairman C.C. “Cliff” Gibson III, of Monticello, attended UAM’s American Presidency course, taught by Dr. John Davis, associate professor of political science. The visit was part of an initiative to bring members of the UA System Board of Trustees into university classrooms to engage with students and faculty. Gibson shared his legal experiences and participated in discussions with students during the class.

Gibson is the founder of Gibson & Keith Law Firm and serves as the county attorney for Drew County, Arkansas. He attended UAM and earned his Juris Doctorate degree at the UALR Bowen School of Law.

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System, comprised of 10 trustees representing each of the state’s four congressional districts, is the institution’s governing body. The board sets policy for all universities, colleges and institutes within the system. Trustees are appointed by the governor of Arkansas to 10-year overlapping terms. Gibson’s term expires in 2023.

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

Other laws that came out of the commission’s work included Act 629, which allows school districts to form their own police departments, and other enactments which focus on comprehensive school safety

audits, emergency operation plans, lockdown drills, and require Youth Mental Health First Aid for school counselors.

U.S. senators and representatives are discussing the issue in Washington. Congress certainly has a role in this ongoing conversation and can be helpful, but ultimately, each state

and school district must decide locally how to protect students.

There are common sense ways to predict these tragic events, and we must work together to do everything in our collective power to protect our most vulnerable Americans – our children.

The matter of safe schools doesn’t belong to Republi-

cans or Democrats. Each of us has a responsibility to see that schools are among the safest place for our children and educators. Americans in each political party and at all levels of government must work together to ensure that our students and teachers return home after the final bell rings at the end of the day.

BEATY

Continued from Page 4A

Scholarships awarded by county. We’ve posted a link to the site on our website www.arkansashouse.org.

Every bit of education you get after high school increases the chances you’ll earn good pay.

Most college graduates

earn more money during their working years than people who stop their education at high school earn. We encourage Arkansans to explore how the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery can assist in furthering their education.

And don’t forget to apply for the Arkansas Academic Challenge by July 1.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

mortar campuses in Pulaski County and Springdale. Its hybrid academy is a mix of traditional and online classes.

Arkansas Connections Academy is the third largest charter in the state. All of its 3,390 students take virtual classes. The only other char-

ter system in Arkansas with more than 3,000 students is eStem Public Charter School System in Little Rock, with 3,050 students.

The state Department of Education currently lists 24 open enrollment charter schools and 35 district conversion charter schools in Arkansas.

Tourism Industry Rebound The Arkansas Tourism Ticker is a venture managed

by Talk Business and Politics, an online news site, and the Arkansas Hospitality Association, a trade group representing restaurants, hotels, lodging and related businesses that rely heavily on tourism.

The most recent report by the Tourism Ticker has good news. The industry is in a strong rebound after the financial devastation caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

One gauge is the amount of hospitality taxes collected in 17 Arkansas towns and cities. They’re up more than 27 percent for the first two months of the year, compared to last year. Of the 17 cities and towns, only Texarkana reported a drop in hospitality tax revenue.

Another measure is the state’s two percent tax on hotels, boat rentals and tourism related destinations. Those

revenues are up 48 percent over last year.

The Tourism Ticker also keeps track of jobs in the industry, as reported by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of jobs in the Arkansas tourism indus-

try has risen by 9.5 percent since last year.

There were 120,700 Arkansas residents working in the tourism sector in January and February. That number tends to increase over the summer months.

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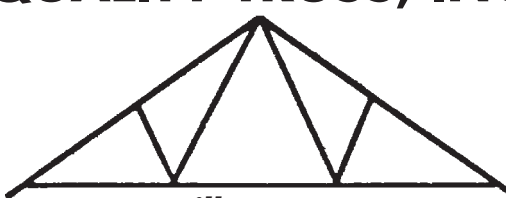
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ATTENTION: JUNTEENTH CLOSINGS AND TRASH SCHEDULE

The Drew County Courthouse, Road Department, Sanitation Department and Landfill will be closed for business **June 17th, 2022** in observance of Juneteenth. We will reopen June 20th, 2022 at 8:00 am.

The Drew County Clerk’s office will remain open to early voting on June 17th, 2022 from 8:00 am-4:30 pm for the Preferential Primary Runoff.

Trash **WILL NOT RUN** Friday **June 17th, 2022** but will instead be picked up June 24th, 2022 For Friday’s route **ONLY**. All other routes will run as normal.

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission sets 2023-24 waterfowl season dates, passes bear season expansion

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recently unanimously approved a package of regulations changes that included the adoption of a new waterfowl season structure, beginning with the 2023-24 seasons.

The upcoming waterfowl season will follow the same format as last season, with the following dates:

2022-23 Arkansas Waterfowl Seasons

Duck, Coot and Merganser — Nov. 19-27; Dec. 10-23; and Dec. 26, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

White-Fronted Goose — Oct. 29-Nov. 11; Nov. 19-27; Dec. 10-23; and Dec. 26, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

Canada Goose — Sept. 1-Oct. 15; Nov. 19-27; Dec. 10-23; and Dec. 26, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose — Oct. 29-Nov. 11; Nov. 19-27; Dec. 10-23; and Dec. 26, 2022-Jan. 31, 2023

Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose Conservation Order — Feb. 1-3, 2023; Feb. 5-April 25, 2023

Youth, Military and Veteran Waterfowl Hunt — Dec. 3, 2022, and Feb. 4, 2023

Beginning with the 2023-24 waterfowl season, the opening day of the first segment of duck season will begin on the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving. This change was preferred by public comment respondents from surveys conducted in 2008, 2010 and 2012. During this year's public comments period, 2,964 people provided input on the duck season proposal, with 68 percent giving a favorable response to the opening day being moved to the later

date. To accommodate the plans of hunters and businesses impacted by the different dates, the AGFC will delay implementation until the 2023-24 waterfowl season. Those season dates will be as follows:

2023-24 Arkansas Waterfowl Seasons

Duck, Coot and Merganser — Nov. 25-Dec. 3; Dec. 9-23; and Dec. 27, 2023-Jan. 31, 2024

White-Fronted Goose — Oct. 28-Nov. 10; Nov. 25-Dec. 3; Dec. 9-23; and Dec. 27, 2023-Jan. 31, 2024

Canada Goose — Sept. 1-Oct. 15; Nov. 25-Dec. 3; Dec. 9-23; and Dec. 27, 2023-Jan. 31, 2024

Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose — Oct. 28-Nov. 10; Nov. 25-Dec. 3; Dec. 9-23; and Dec. 27, 2023-Jan. 31, 2024

Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose Conservation Order — Feb. 1-2, 2024; Feb. 5-April 25, 2024

Youth Only Waterfowl Hunt — Feb. 3, 2024

Youth, Military and Veteran Waterfowl Hunt — Feb. 4, 2024

In addition to the date changes, the new regulations package increases the daily bag limit on white-fronted geese from two to three birds per hunter per day.

The regulations package also saw some changes on some AGFC-owned WMAs. Beginning with the 2023-24 duck season, waterfowl hunting will now be limited to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday on Bell Slough, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Frog Bayou and Galla Creek WMAs and on the Dyer Lake Unit of Ozark Lake WMA. Additionally, boat access on all WMAs with current boating time restrictions will be expanded to



preclude any boats on the WMAs for seven days preceding the first day of the first segment of regular duck season.

Another regulation that passed in the waterfowl package includes the requirement for nontoxic shot for all migratory bird hunting on AGFC WMAs that have waterfowl access restrictions. This primarily concerns dove hunting and early migratory bird hunting, as lead shot will still be allowed for other small game hunting, such as rabbit and squirrel, on these areas.

An additional regulation will require all boats on these WMAs to operate only with a stock, factory exhaust system. Implementation of this regulation also will be delayed until the 2023-24 waterfowl season.

Bear season also saw a major change during this year's regulations setting process, with the addition of an open hunting season in Bear Zones 3 and 4 for the first time since modern-day bear hunting was instituted. Bear Zones 3 and 4 will have season

dates of Dec. 10-16, 2022 and a conservative quota of five bears in Zone 3 and 25 bears in Zone 4. The limited season will help prevent over harvest and enable the growing bear population to continue to thrive in this portion of Arkansas. The opening of archery bear season in Zones 1 and 2 also saw an expansion, with both of those seasons now opening the weekend before the archery deer season opening date (Sept. 17 for the 2022 season).

AGFC Director Austin Booth said the new season is a testament to the AGFC's continued efforts to increase opportunity for hunters and anglers and the continued use of hunting as a scientifically sound tool for population management of wildlife species in Arkansas.

"The black bears' decades-long resurgence in Arkansas is proof, not only that Arkansas possesses first-class bear habitat, but that our state treasures this important resource," Booth said. "Make no mistake, this conservation milestone was unthinkable 70

years ago, when wild black bears scarcely existed at all in Arkansas. But thanks to Arkansans, we are watching the successes spread across the state. This is a tremendous marker for south Arkansas, the Arkansas Game and Fish and sportsmen."

Three notable regulation change proposals were tabled and were not included in the regulations package: the implementation of a one-bird statewide annual turkey bag limit, the issuance of a permanent "sticky" tag for turkeys and the implementation of a third buck tag for hunters who submitted a full, six-deer annual bag limit for chronic wasting disease testing.

Chris Fletcher, liaison to the AGFC from the Governor's Office, read a special proclamation from Gov. Asa Hutchinson, announcing noon June 10 through 11:59 p.m. June 12 as Free Fishing Weekend. During this weekend, anyone can fish without the requirement of a fishing license or trout permit.

An annual tradition sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and approved by Gov. Hutchinson, Free Fishing Weekend gives many people the opportunity to enjoy the amazing angling The Natural State has to offer. Residents and non-residents may fish without a fishing license or trout permit. All other regulations, such as daily limits and size restrictions on certain bodies of water, still apply during this weekend.

In his address to the Commission, Booth announced the selection of Ben Batten and Brad Carner to fill two vacant deputy director positions at the agency.

Batten, previously chief of fisheries, and Carner, previously chief of wildlife management, will join Deputy Director Spencer Griffith in leading the conservation efforts of the AGFC under the direction of Booth and AGFC Chief of Staff Chris Racey.

"This is a point in time for our agency, that we have such a large and aggressive vision that we can't afford to slow down on either the terrestrial or aquatic side of our conservation work, so we will continue to have both of these men continue to lead this agency in positions commensurate with their leadership and skills in management of not only the resource, but of the staff that work daily to make a difference in Arkansas," Booth said.

At the end of the meeting, Commissioner Bobby Martin moved to have Commissioner Bennie Westphal sit as acting Commission chairman for his remaining time at the AGFC. Westphal was selected by Hutchinson to fill the remainder of the late Joe Morgan's term in December 2020. His appointment will conclude at the Commission's next meeting, which is scheduled for June.

"This is not a trite move, this is more a signal of the respect and relationship that we garner deeply with Bennie," Martin said. "In this brief time his contributions are immense, and we know they're not going to stop. When we say once a commissioner, always a commissioner, it probably means a lot of things to a lot of people, but we know this guy will never ever stop."

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Calhoun, Cheshire to wed



Courtesy photo

Mr. Kanyon and Mrs. Amanda Calhoun are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming nuptials of their daughter Kaylei Nichole Calhoun to Cody Lane Cheshire. Kaylei is the granddaughter of Jim and Diane Calhoun of Wilmar, Jill Henry of Ballard, Missouri, and John Henry of Warren.

Cody is the son of Jeffery Cheshire of Monticello and Beverly (Dennis) Carter of Monticello. Cody is the grandson of Kay Anders of Kingswood, Texas, Claude (Mary) Cheshire of Sheridan, Beth (Late James L.) Bates of Star City, and Thomas (Carman) Newell of Orlando, Fla.

Kaylei received her Bachelors of Nursing Science Degree at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in May 2022. She is currently working as a Registered Nurse at BelleView Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Cody completed the electrical apprenticeship program in December of 2021. He is currently an Electrician at Potlatch Deltic in Warren.

The couple will exchange vows Saturday June the 11th in a private ceremony at Tanglewood Landing in New Edinburg.

Biden Administration announces \$5.6 million to improve rail infrastructure, enhance safety, and strengthen supply chain in Arkansas

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced nearly \$5.6 million in rail infrastructure funding for Arkansas. This funding is part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. Nationally, the CRISI program awarded 46 projects in 32 states and the District of Columbia more than \$368 million. FRA's award will make critical upgrades to rail

infrastructure in Arkansas that will allow businesses across the state to move more goods more efficiently. These investments will play a crucial role in modernizing our country's rail infrastructure and strengthening supply chains to reduce congestion and get people and goods where they need to go faster and cheaper. The program will create good-paying jobs and benefit urban and rural communities across the country.

The selected projects announced today will not only improve and expand passenger rail and fund conventional and high-speed rail, but they will also increase supply chain resilience and fluidity, support short line railroads, invest in new technology and safety advancements, and benefit rail industry workforce development and training activities – helping to create jobs and increase economic growth.

See **RAIL** Page 7A

UAM

Continued from Page 1A

"UAM is pleased to be the only institution in Arkansas to offer an online MSN with an emphasis in public health," said Crystal Halley, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UAM. "The online design of the program offers registered nurses an opportunity to advance their studies while maintaining their employment. The program will also serve our region and state by training more nurses to look at their community as a whole in order to

determine the needs of that community and promote its overall health," Halley said.

To qualify for the MSN program, candidates must have at least one year of nursing experience in the field. There will be two tracks for the nursing master's degree. Prospective students with a Bachelor of Science in nursing can complete the MSN program in two to five years, depending on how many credits they take each year. Students with an associate degree or nursing diploma will need three to seven years to complete the BSN and MSN degrees.

"We also have a post-master's certificate option for registered nurses who have already earned a master's or doctoral degree," Dr. Haley said.

The MSN degree can offer another significant benefit for graduates. Dr. Haley estimates that the difference between the salary for the BSN degree and MSN degree is about \$15,000 a year, depending on the population, size of the facility and locale.

The MSN program at UAM is now accepting applicants. The program will begin in January 2023.

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Fall planting strawberries? When is too late, and too early, to plant in Arkansas?

By JOHN LOVETT
U of A System Division of Agriculture

Planting strawberries in the fall to get a robust crop the following spring is typical with growers. But how late is too late for fall planting of strawberries in Arkansas?

The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, conducted a three-year study to provide updated recommendations for fall strawberry establishment in the Natural State.

During the 2018-2020 growing seasons, researchers planted test plots of Chandler strawberry plants in late September and early October at the Division of Agriculture's Southwest Research and Extension Center near Hope and the Fruit Research Station near Clarksville for a late planting date study.

Amanda McWhirt, assistant professor and fruit and vegetable extension specialist, said the 2018-2020 late planting date study included plots planted on what was considered "on time" — the last two weeks of September — and then a week later in the first week of October. The 2018-2020 fall weather offered "worst-case scenario" research conditions as temperatures dropped soon after planting in those years, McWhirt added.

The researchers simultaneously evaluated the use of fall-applied row covers, which could potentially help keep young strawberry plants warm enough to continue producing crowns as

the air temperatures drop. Strawberry crown development in the fall is important because crowns ultimately produce flowers in the spring that develop into strawberry fruit.

"If you plant strawberries late in the fall, there might be a benefit to using a row cover to keep the plants slightly warmer, which may help them to continue developing crowns into the fall, and that may result in a slight increase in yield the following spring," McWhirt said. "But the use of the row cover will never make up for the loss of daylight that occurred due to the late planting, even in as short of a one-week delay."

If planted too late in the fall, there are just not enough days for the plant to establish enough crowns before the plants go dormant due to cooler temperatures, and this results in fewer flowers and fruit the next spring, she explained.

McWhirt said the late-planted treatment reduced strawberry yield 15-35 percent depending on variety and test year.

Growers must sometimes delay planting when the soil is too wet for ground preparation. For example, McWhirt said hurricanes sometimes push wet weather up from the Gulf of Mexico in the fall.

She said growers seem to be responding to the study's results.

"I've seen a shift in growers thinking toward being aware that every week that they're delayed in planting is going to impact the returns they can get the following spring," McWhirt said. "So,

they've tried to prioritize getting their ground prepped earlier and making sure their strawberry plant sources are contacted on time."

Early planting study

In the fall of 2021, the researchers switched focus to finding out how early strawberries could be planted in the fall to maximize yield potential. Researchers planted strawberries each week in September and then what they considered too late — the end of the first week of October — at the Fruit Research Station and the Vegetable Research Station near Kibler. Varieties tested included Camino Real, Chandler, Fronteras and Ruby June.

Preliminary results indicate that planting too early could reduce yield potential, McWhirt said. Further analysis of the data will provide the ideal two-week window for the optimum planting of strawberries in the region.

"We are still analyzing the data, but we are starting to see that you do have the potential to plant way too early," McWhirt said. "If you plant way too early, then the plant responds to high air temperatures and longer day lengths, so it thinks it is summer and starts making runners instead of crowns."

Strawberry runners are horizontal stems that run above the ground and produce new "baby" clone plants at the end of the long horizontal stem.

McWhirt said she expects to release the complete data from the 2022 season in July at the annual Mid-America Strawberry Growers Association meeting.

RAIL

Continued from Page 6A

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has nearly tripled funding for this critical rail infrastructure program - to \$1 billion a year for the next five years. Strengthening supply chains and increasing the productive capacity of the economy are key tenets of President Biden's plans to get goods from ships to shelves more quickly and lower costs for American families.

"Americans deserve a world-class rail system that allows people and goods to get where they need to go more quickly and affordably, while reducing traffic and pollution on our roads," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "We're proud to award these grants to improve passenger rail for riders and strengthen the freight rail that underpins our supply chains and makes our economy work."

The Little Rock Port Authority was awarded up to \$5.6 million to add 11,215 feet of track at the Slackwater Harbor siding and North Marshaling Yard tracks, as well as to construct an engine maintenance

facility at the Little Rock Arkansas Port Authority location. Specific improvements include the construction of an engine maintenance facility that will allow the storage and service of two locomotives with room for two additional locomotives in the future, which will include an inspection pit, as well as support offices for the facility. This project will result in increased capacity at the Port Authority that will improve the efficiency of the multimodal port facility with both river and rail operations. The Little Rock Port Authority will provide a 25 percent match.

"This round of CRISI grants — one of the largest ever — is a major step forward for FRA and the Biden Administration's efforts to revitalize and rebuild the country's infrastructure," said FRA Administrator Amit Bose. "These awards will allow FRA to support rail projects that have a direct impact on numerous communities nationwide, while also laying the groundwork for future growth."

CRISI aims to advance intercity passenger and freight rail projects that promote FRA's key goals of safety, economic growth, transportation equity,

and sustainable and resilient infrastructure. As the nation continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, these upgrades and expansions will help state and local governments and rail carriers meet renewed travel demand and strengthen supply chains.

By statute, a minimum of 25 percent of this funding must be awarded to rural projects, and this announcement includes nearly double the required investment in rural communities, which underscores the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to addressing the needs of rural communities. In addition, \$87.6 million is for projects that support the development of new intercity passenger rail service, and \$25.7 million is for capital projects or engineering solutions targeting trespassing, exceeding the required statutory minimums. Historically, CRISI has funded projects that improve safety and railroad infrastructure, reduce congestion, relocate rail lines, conduct rail-related research, and enhance multi-modal connections between rail and other modes such as ports or intermodal facilities.

LOCAL STUDENT ACCEPTS SCHOLARSHIP



Special to the Advance
Ashley Marshall of Monticello, a nursing major at South Arkansas Community College, has accepted a Melba Tatom Nursing Endowed Scholarship to attend the school this fall. The scholarship is funded through the South-Ark Foundation.

UCA announces spring honors

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Central Arkansas congratulates more than 1,300 students who were named to the spring 2022 Dean's List. Students from Drew County that made the list were James O Buckley and Davis H Smith. Eligibility on the Dean's List requires at least a 3.5 GPA with a minimum course load of 12 credit hours. UCA also congratulates approximately 1,100 students who were named as Presidential Scholars. Students from Drew Co. include Emily G Clemons, Lilly G Daugherty and Jordyn Elizabeth M Nowlen.

Students must achieve a 4.0 GPA with a minimum course load of 12 credit hours to qualify as a Presidential Scholar.

SEACAC NOTICE

Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corporation will receive U.S.D. food commodities. Items available will be: Canned pears, mixed fruit, beef stew, canned pork, pork patties, raisins, long grain rice, egg noodles, instant milk, canned chicken, chili no beans, cream of mushroom soup, pink salmon, oat circle cereals, pinto beans, frozen corn, frozen carrots, and swiss cheese. (English) The rules for acceptance and participation in the U.S.D.A's Temporary Emergency Program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, disability, national origin, political affiliation, or veteran status. (Spanish) "Las reglas para ser aceptado o ser un participante para el program. Es el mismo para todos no importa tu color, raza nacionalidad, sexo, edad, o si eres deshabilitado" This institution is an equal opportunity provider. (Spanish) Esta institucion es un proveeder igual de oportunidad. If your household's income is at or below the federal poverty level you may be eligible to receive surplus commodities. Households must meet income guidelines, live in the county that you apply for commodities, and show some type of identification (driver's license, or other photo identification.)


Ashley County: Monday, June 13
8:00 a.m. at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Family Center, 404 MLK Jr. St., Hamburg, AR Contact Jazmine Tanksley at 870-853-8606

Chicot County: Tuesday, June 14
8:00 a.m. across from Yee's Foodland on Main Street, Lake Village, AR Contact the Chicot Community Action 870-265-3379

Desha County: Wednesday, June 15
8:00 a.m. at Dumas Community Center, 18 Belmont St. Dumas, AR Contact Melvin Newman at 870-222-3392

Drew County: Thursday, June 16
8:00 a.m. at the Morning Star Baptist Church, 312 E. Oakland, Monticello, AR Contact Natasha Ware at 870-460-0842

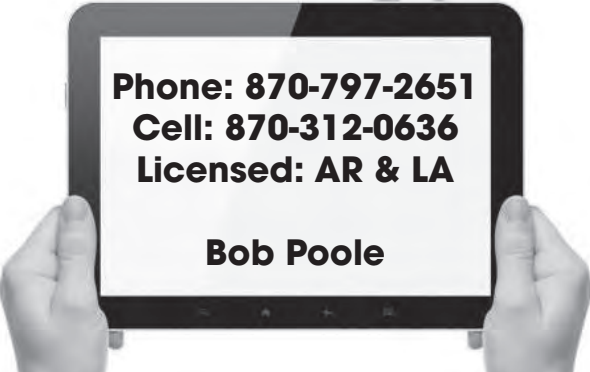
Bradley County: Friday, June 17
8:00 a.m. at the Central Office, 1208 N. Myrtle, Warren, AR Contact Kim Lewis at 870-226-2668



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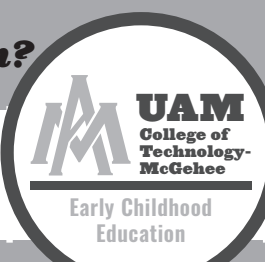
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OBITUARIES

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Louise Darrough

Louise Darrough, 84, of Wilmar, passed away Thursday, June 2, at The Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Monticello. She was born November 17, 1937, in Pansy, to the late O.V. Darrough and Gracie Washington Darrough.

She was a Certified Nursing Assistant and a Baptist. Louise loved cooking, reading and traveling.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a daughter, Pam Render. She leaves to cherish her memory her children, Tammy Mack

(Larry) of Powhatan, Va., Melba Rhodes of Wilmar, Karen Copeland of Detroit, Sabrina Bolar of Wilmar and Jarbis Rhodes of Wilmar; three grandchildren, Crystal Render, Cornelia Rhodes and Clifton Tucker.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with burial in St. Stephens Cemetery in Cornerville. There will be a visitation from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday evening at the funeral home.

You can sign Mrs. Louise's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

William T. (Bill) Feeser

Tech. Sergeant William T. (Bill) Feeser USAF Retired, 92, expired peacefully, May 31, in his home with family. He spent his last days riding his tractor and living his best life. He was born on

April 9, 1930, in Woodward County, Okla., and was the oldest of four children. He was a graduate of Sheridan High School, retired from the United States Air Force, retired from the Arkansas State Forestry Commission, and a retired truck driver. He drove trucks all over the country and log trucks and gravel trucks locally. He also was a single father to four of his children and a member of Lacey United Methodist Church. He was the son of the late Esther (Foster) and Floyd Ralph Feeser and was preceded in death by one brother, Carroll J. Feeser, one son, Ronnie Feeser, and one daughter, Margaret Craig.

He is survived by four children, two sons, Rusty Feeser (Susan) of Ringgold, Ga., and Floyd Feeser of Warren; two daughters, Amanda Smith (Virgil) of Lacey, and Mary Robinson (Rick) of Wesley; two sisters, Mary Jones of Fountain Hill, and Lena Cooper (James) of White Hall; twelve grandchildren, Ron, Russ, Bobby, Michael, Ashley, Patrick, Anna, Emily, Noah, Madison, Brenden, Sara; and a special grandson-in-law, Kevin; nine great-grandchildren; along with several nieces, nephews, friends, pets, and a tractor. Bill enjoyed eating, collecting rocks, hauling dirt, and spending time with his family. He will always be remembered for his work

ethic, generosity, and his sarcastic sense of humor. Those who knew him best called him Daddy, Papaw, Brother, Dirtdobber, and Unk and will always have a funny story to tell about him and his pranks.

A visitation/memorial service was held on Friday, June 3, from 6-8 pm at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home in Monticello.

Memorial donations can be sent to Lacey Cemetery % Roy White at 671 Hwy. 133 South, Ft. Hill, AR 71642.

You can sign Bill's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Betty Gene Martin

Betty Gene Martin, 73 of Wilmar, went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday, May 28. She was born April 23, 1949, in Fountain Hill, to the late James and Everline Daniel Jacobs.

She graduated high school from Drew Schools and worked many years as a seamstress until she retired.

She was married to Virgil Martin, Jr. and enjoyed cooking, sewing, and reading.

Mrs. Betty was a devoted member of Holy Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Warren, and a District Missionary for the Fordyce Central District of the Church of God in Christ, Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Arkansas.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Betty was also preceded in death by her siblings, Perry Lambert, Marvin Lambert, Ronnie Lambert, Ivory Lambert, Earlene Spears, Ida

Jacobs, Curtis Jacobs and Louise Jacobs.

Leaving to cherish her memories are her four children, Chris Martin (Anna) of Little Rock, Tori Golden of Johnsville, Tonya Orr (Johnny) of Wilmar and Brian Martin of Warren; her brothers and sisters, James D. Lambert (Lonzetta) of Portland, Ore., Isaac Lambert (Kathleen) of Oxen Hill, Md., George Lambert (Elaine) of Atlanta, Ga., Charles Jacobs (Vicky) of Monticello, and Ruby Frazier (Thomas) of Atlanta, Ga; ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at Holy Deliverance Church of God in Christ with Elder Terry Carroll officiating. Burial will be in Palestine Cemetery in Johnsville.

You can sign Mrs. Betty's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Bennie Jean Causey Tucker

Bennie Jean Causey Tucker, 94, of Monticello, passed away Sunday, May 29. She was born May 19, 1929, in the community of Goose Hollow, near Lacey, in Drew County, to the late Malvin and Lois Fox Causey. She was a devoted mother and wife.

Bennie retired from Dura-Craft Boat Company after many years of service. She loved to hunt and fish for everything, but crappie fishing was her passion. Over her lifetime, she had many passions, some were candle making, pottery, raising little birds, collecting bottles, and whatever else sparked her interest. In her crafts, she created beautiful things. In her cooking, she made her

family and friends full and blessed.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Malcom (Jack) and Macon Causey; two sisters, Margaret Catherine Causey Knowles and Lavern Burberry; one daughter, Judy Carol Dulin; one son, Robert Glenn Craig; one granddaughter, Janelle Vance

Baird; and husband, Walter L. Tucker.

Bennie's survivors include, but are not limited to, two sons, James Bryant Craig (Pauline) of London, Ky. and Dennis Knox Craig of Monticello; grandchildren, Vanessa Johnson (Dave) of Monticello, Tisa Kennedy (Sam) of Arp, Texas, Seth Dulin of Eureka Springs, Brock Craig of Pa., Johnnie Glenn (Lana), and Shannon Vance of Com-minto, Steven Young Craig (Beth) of Monticello, Anna Marie Craig of Monticello; great-grandchildren, Tiffany Booker (Keith), Sariya Cheyenne Lane (Micah), Emiley Ann Price (Josh), Erin Hope Ashby (Hootie), Alex Boland, Taylor Catherine Kennedy, Justin Craig, Jewells Craig, Tara Baird, and Eric Baird; and step- grandchildren, Lane, Ashley, Bridget, Adam, and Selena; as well as a host of other nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. June 2, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. David Jacks officiating. You can sign Mrs. Bennie's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Earlist Daymon Wright

Earlist Daymon Wright, 86, of Rison, passed into eternity on June 4, at Greenhouse Cottages in Rison with his daughter Kathy at his bedside. He was born on August 11, 1935. He was the youngest of six children born to Clyde and Esker (Adair) Wright and was the last surviving sibling. He was a farmer and later in life opened Wright's Grocery store at Rye.

He is survived by his children Dwayne (Christy) Wright, Kathy Wright, Bruce (Rox-ie) Wright, and Carlton (Jennifer) Wright. He was blessed

with eight grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and a host of family and friends.

Funeral services will be at Enon Missionary Baptist Church; 21760 Hwy 63 Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 2 p.m. with Dr. David Robinson officiating. Burial will be in Enon Cemetery. There will be a visitation from 1-2 p.m. preceding the funeral service. You may sign the guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

Pallbearers for his service will be Michael McGee, Jonathan Wright, Brandon Wright, Terry Young, Scott Ashcraft, and Robert Murd. Honorary pallbearers are Josh Wright, Keith Wright, Jeff Wright, Jimmy Dale Adair, Jimmy Reep and Steve Harlow. (Paid obituary)

Unattended baby wild animals might not be abandoned

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of wildlife and their offspring. Throughout the spring and summer, it is not uncommon to come across unattended baby wild animals. But alone doesn't mean orphaned when it comes to wildlife.

Many people discover apparently lost or abandoned wildlife young and take them in, thinking they are doing the right thing. The AGFC maintains a list of volunteer rehabilitation specialists at www.agfc.com/rehab who may be able to take in an injured or orphaned baby animal, but a few simple guidelines can help determine whether the animal truly is in need of help. First and foremost, don't assume that these animals have been abandoned and need to be rescued. One or both of the parents may be just out of sight and disturbing them could jeopardize their well being. Three simple questions can help determine the animal's situation.

Is the animal abandoned?

An "orphan" is a young animal that is not able to care

for itself and whose parents cannot be found or are known to be dead. If you find a healthy young animal that is able to walk and is fully feathered or furred, it may not need your help. Its parents are usually nearby. Partially feathered baby birds almost ready to fly will often hop around in the tree branches exercising their wings, and fall out of the tree. Parents will feed these youngsters where they find them on the ground, at times up to a week or more. Observe the young animal from a distance before approaching it. The parent birds rarely feed their grounded fledglings if they see people nearby.

Is the animal in danger?

Young wild animals in danger do not necessarily have to be taken from the wild, just protected from the danger. Pets and children are the most immediate hazard to a young wild animal in your yard. Pets may attack the young animal and children may cause injury by mishandling it. Some wild animals carry diseases. Keep pets and children away from the animal while you keep watch.

Is the animal injured or weak?

If the young animal appears weak or injured, it may have some disease. Nature has provided that many more animals are born every year than are able to mature and reproduce. This surplus of animals goes to feed other animals. In other words, by rescuing one wild animal, you may be depriving another of its prey. It may sound cruel, but an orphan animal helps another animal survive by becoming its food.

It may also be against the law to possess wild animals, according to nongame wildlife program coordinator Karen Rowe. "It is illegal to possess migratory birds such as

songbirds and that includes cardinals, mockingbirds, blue jays, etc. as well as hawks and owls. Also, most wild animals don't spend very much time at their young's side in order to not attract predators to the nest. In fact, a female rabbit only spends about one hour out of every 36 with her baby rabbits, so observing them from a distance and waiting for the adult to return can be a long wait," Rowe explained. "Bottom line, just leave them alone," she added.

Half of all baby birds may hop out of the nest and fall to the ground where the adults just chase after them and feed them wherever they are, she said. "It is best to keep pets,

children and oneself away and let nature take its course. It's also important to keep in mind that in prolific species such as songbirds and rabbits, up to 80% of the young die their first year, so attrition is part of nature's way," Rowe said.

Transporting wildlife to rehabilitators also may lead to the introduction or movement of diseases across the landscape. This is the reason why white-tailed deer fawns may no longer be rehabilitated. The appearance of chronic wasting disease creates the risk

of a fawn that may be infected with the disease spreading it not only to the rehabilitator's facility, but also to its eventual release location. Meanwhile, every other deer that would be brought to that rehabilitation facility would then run a high risk of infection and spreading the disease further.

It's human nature to want to help any creature that appears to be suffering or lost, but for the sake of all species, keep wildlife wild and enjoy them from a distance.

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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. 4tf 10/25

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

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GARAGE SALE

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Yard Sale June 17th & 18th, 8am till 5pm 647 W Trotter St 2pd 6/18

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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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JUNE



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Legals

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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 OR THE 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 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

TOMMY ANTHONY CHERAMIE

The State of Tennessee, Department of Children’s Services, has filed a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights as to Sarah Michelle Cheramie. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because your whereabouts are unknown. You are hereby ORDERED to serve upon Laura Beth Whitley, Attorney for the Tennessee Department of Children Services, 600 Hearwood Court, Cookeville, Tennessee 38506, (931) 644-6147, an Answer to the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Tennessee Department of Children Services, within thirty (30) days of the last day of publication of this notice, and pursuant to Rule 39(e)(1) of the Tenn. R. Juv. P. you must also appear in the Juvenile Court of Fentress County, Tennessee at Jamestown, Tennessee on the 10th day of August, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., for the Hearing on the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the State of Tennessee, Department of Children’s Services. If you fail to do so, a default judgment will be taken against you pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-1-117(n) and Rule 55 of the Tenn. R. of Civ. P. for the relief demanded in the Petition. You may view and obtain a copy of the Petition and any other subsequently filed legal documents at the Juvenile Court Clerk’s Office, Jamestown, Tennessee.

#104040 5/18 5/25 6/1 6/8

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. 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

The following vehicle(s) will be sold, dismantled or destroyed in fifteen (15) days unless claimed at Rod’s Towing and Recovery, 1010 Hwy 425 South, Monticello, AR 71655, 870-367-1700.
2002 Chevrolet Blazer White Vin # 1GNDT13W22K166694
2019 Mazda 3 Gray Vin # 3MZBPAFM3KM100113
2004 Ford Mustang Red Vin # 1FAFP40654F132665
#104047 6/1 6/8

NOTICE

The following vehicle(s) will be sold, dismantled or destroyed in fifteen (15) days unless claimed at Reggie’s Lock & Key LLC, 1065 Highway 278 West, Monticello AR 71655, PH: (870) 723-6898.
2001 Dodge Durango VIN 1B4HR28N51F502664
2003 Ford F-150 VIN 2FTRF072X3CA14689
#104055 6/8 6/15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH KAY ROGERS, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-67

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 420 Loveless Lane Monticello, AR 71655
Date of Death: April 20, 2022
An instrument captioned “Last Will and Testament of Deborah Kay Arrington” dated August 30, 1984, was on the 2nd day of June, 2022, admitted to probate as the last will of the above-named decedent and the undersigned has been appointed Co-Executors thereunder. A contest of the probate of this will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published the 8th day of June, 2022.
Melissa Reid and Russell Arrington, Co-Executors
c/o Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657

#104056 6/8 6/15

Legals

NOTICE

The City of Monticello is taking sealed bids for the masonry work for the 33' x 30' addition at the Central Fire Station. Interested parties can call 870-367-5433 for more information about the project. Bids will be opened June 27, 2022 at 2pm in City Hall.

Paid for by the Monticello Fire Department in the amount of \$16.52.

#104054 6/8 6/15

PROCLAMATION/PUBLIC NOTICE

PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY RUNOFF

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN US BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, WE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY RUNOFF WILL BE HELD IN DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 BETWEEN THE HOURS 7:30 A.M. – 7:30 P.M. FOR THE FOLLOWING CONTEST:

MARION TOWNSHIP CONSTABLE:
JOSHUA HENLEY
DAVID MENOTTI

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

ABSENTEE voting located in the county clerk's office. For information, call 870-460-6260.

Absentee Ballot Applications are available in the County Clerk's Office.

Absentee ballots will be opened, processed, canvassed in the Courthouse clubroom beginning at 3:00 p.m. on June 21, 2022.

EARLY VOTING will begin Tuesday, June 14 - June 20 and take place during regular business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 pm) in the County Clerk's Office in the Courthouse at 210 South Main, Monticello, AR 71655.

FOR VOTING AT THE COURTHOUSE, ENTER THE MAIN ENTRANCE OR USE THE HANDICAP ACCESS DOOR AT THE BACK OF THE COURTHOUSE (WEST SIDE). THE CLERK'S OFFICE IS ON THE 1ST FLOOR. ELEVATOR ACCESS IS ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHEN ENTERING VIA HANDICAP DOOR.

ELECTION DAY VOTING will be 7:30 am - 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 21 at the following Vote Centers:

ETHEL HAWKINS LIFE CENTER,
527 E. MCCLOY, MONTICELLO
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
317 SOUTH MAIN, MONTICELLO
MONTICELLO CHURCH OF CHRIST,
2078 HWY 425 N., MONTICELLO
SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
103 HWY 172, MONTICELLO.

TABULATION WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM ON ELECTION DAY IN THE COURTHOUSE CLUBROOM.

YOU CANNOT VOTE IN THIS RUNOFF IF YOU VOTED IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.

The list of appointed election officials is posted outside of the Clerk's office.

Written objections to the service of an election official, deputy or county clerk must be submitted to the County Clerk's office.

If you have any questions, please call the County Clerk's Office at 870-460-6260

Paid for by the Drew County Board of Election Commissioners

#103931 6/8

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARTHA JEAN WAGNER, DECEASED

NO.22PR-22-68

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTOR

Last known address: 1960 Hwy 425 N, Monticello, AR 71655.

Date of Death: March 21, 2022.

An instrument dated October 12, 2018, was admitted to probate on June 5, 2022, as the Last Will and Testament of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. Contest of the probate of the will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published on June 8, 2022.

Michael Hershel Wagner
Executor of the Estate of Martha Jean Wagner
P.O. Box 354
Monticello, AR 71657

Attorney for Estate:
John A. Singleton, Jr.
HASHEM LAW FIRM, PLLC
437 W. Conrad
P.O. Box 739
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-4223

#104063 6/8 6/15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY LOU WALLACK, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-69

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:

522 North Main St., Monticello, AR 71655

Date of Death: February 11, 2022

An instrument captioned "Last Will and Testament of Mary Lou Wallack" dated July 9, 2018, was on the 5th day of June, 2022, admitting to probate as the last will of the above-named decedent and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. A contest of the probate of this will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published on the 8th day of June, 2022.

Mary Lee Caine, Executrix
Barton & Roper, PLLC
c/o Whit Barton, Attorney
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-6288

#104059 6/8 6/15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RANDY K. PHILLIPS, SR., DECEASED

NO.22PR-22-59

NOTICE

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

Last known address of decedent: 111 Dreams End

Monticello, Arkansas 71655

Date of Death: July 24, 2020

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 8th day of June, 2022.

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

#104060 6/8 6/15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TIM GATEWOOD, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-60

NOTICE

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

Last known address of decedent: 1032 N Cooper St #B13

Monticello AR 71655

Date of Death: January 8, 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 the 8th day of June, 2022.

Gwendlyn Leonard, Administrator c/o Ben Barton
Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657

#104061 6/8 6/15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF OTHA LEE RIDGELL, DECEASED

NO.22PR-22-65

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:

1272 N. Chester, Monticello, AR 71655

Date of Death: August 31, 2009

An Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed on the 2nd day of June, 2022. The estate to be collected contains real property, legally described as follows:

UNDIVIDED ONE-THIRD INTEREST

IN SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 6 WEST
SOUTH HALF OF NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST
QUARTER SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SOUTHWEST
QUARTER WEST ONE-THIRD OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER
OF SOUTHWEST QUARTER.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

THE EXPECTED PARCELS IN DEED RECORDED AT
PAGE 365 OF BOOK 426 OF DREW COUNTY REAL ESTATE
RECORDS.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned 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 in the estate.

This notice first published on the 8th day of June, 2022.

Kevin Ridgell, Distributee
Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657
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CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 9A

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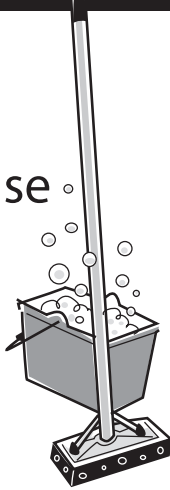
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See **CLASSIFIEDS** Page 12A

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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

#159 Alicia Smith
#244 Nadine Pruitt
#295 Travarius Clary
#401 McKenzie Meeks

THE COLLATERAL SECURING THE ABOVE NAMED TENANTS OBLIGATING TO NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24th 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.

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COACH

Continued from Page 1A
All-Region honors.

White would lead the Weevils in tackles once again in the 2008 Season.
White would record 85 tackles, 12 for a loss including two sacks and two fumble recoveries.
White would become the head

coach of the Drew Central PeeWee team and would take the team to the State Championship game.
Many of the players that White coached throughout his tenure at the PeeWee level are current Junior High players and Senior High players for the Pirates.
The Pirates will begin the 2022 Season is set to begin on August 16 with a scrimmage contest at Dumas with the regular season to open with a contest against Bearden to be held at Convoy Leslie/Cotton Bowl Stadium on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Monticello on August 26.
The Bearden contest is set for a 7 p.m. kickoff.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

LARRY WHITE has been hired as the new Head Pirate Football Coach after Matt Gonzales stepped down to return to Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock. White has served as the Pirates Defensive Coordinator and as the Head Junior High Coach as well as the assistant track and field coach as well as the assistant coach for the Pirate basketball team.

Thompson earns NCAA All-Region Honors

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) announced the 2022 ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. II All-Region Teams and Regional Players of the Year with Weevils Baseball's Cade Thompson receiving second team honors in the Central Region. Thompson is one of eight players from the Great American Conference to

appear on either the Central Region's first or second team, and is one of three players from the state of Arkansas to feature on the second team.
A former GAC Rookie of the Year, two-time All-GAC performer, and now a first-time recipient of ABCA All-Central Region, Thompson's junior season as a Weevil has been nothing shy of his best.
After the conclusion of the Weevils' 2022 Great American Conference Tournament run, he closed out the year with a .355 average, ranking 2nd for UAM and twelfth in the GAC. The Texarkana, Texas native places in the top 10 of the GAC in on-base percentage (.474, 7th), hits (66, 110th) doubles (16, T8th) and stolen bases (13, T8th).

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 11A

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Light, Wells compete in the FCA All-Star Showdown



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

JORDAN LIGHT (left) and KJ WELLS (right) recently participated in the FCA Showdown All-Star Football game in Texarkana. The Arkansas team was coached by Monticello Head Coach Randy Harvey for the second consecutive season. Harvey saw the Arkansas team defeat Texas 26-7 with Light and Wells playing defense for the team. Wells was credited with a fumble recovery that he returned for a touchdown in the contest. Light and Wells, along with teammate Doerian Allen committed to play for the University of Arkansas at Monticello next season.

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LAKERS WIN TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Fifty-Six Lakers roster front left to right: Deuce Jordan, Tramond Miller, Jr., Cody Weatherspoon. Back left to right: Chandler Reeves, Antonio Jordan, Jordyn Ingram, and Christian Reeves. (Not pictured: Braeden Smith, Tommy Richardson Jr, Neon'Dre Thomas and Head Coach: David Jordan)



The Neaux Limit Lakers roster front left to right: Braeden Smith, Tramond Miller, Quan Reeves, Deuce Jordan, Christian Reeves, Jordyn Ingram. Back Left to Right: Cody Weatherspoon, Antonio Jordan, Chandler Reeves, and La Jerren Jones. (Not pictured: Tommy Richardson Jr, Neon'Dre Thomas and Head Coach: David Jordan)

The Fifty-Six Lakers were crowned the 11th grade Gold division champions of The Insider Exposure Memorial Day Tournament held in Monroe, La, May 28-30th. The Neaux Limit Lakers took the 12 th grade Silver division championship as well. Antonio "A.J." Jordan and Tramond Miller were named Co-MVPS of the 11th grade division. Tramond Miller Jr. was named championship MVP, scoring tournament high 36 points. Antonio "A.J." Jordan was division's leading scorer, rebounder and shot blocker. He was also named player of the game a division high three times. This local team includes players from Monticello, Warren and Rison.

LIVING

CONTACT US
870-367-5325
editor@monticellonews.net reporter@monticellonews.net

Prayer vigil held on town square

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

Last Friday evening, members of the community gathered on the town square to attend a prayer vigil for the victims of gun violence. Organized by the Drew County NAACP Youth Unit, local pastors, law enforcement officers and citizens were present to intercede on behalf of those suffering from recent tragic lose.

Stacey Smith opened the ceremony by welcoming guests and Anthony Jackson sang a stirring performance of “America the Beautiful.”

Specific prayers for school students, staff, frontline workers and the nation as a whole were spoken.

According to the Washington Post online, there have been more than 200 mass shooting since January 1, 2022.

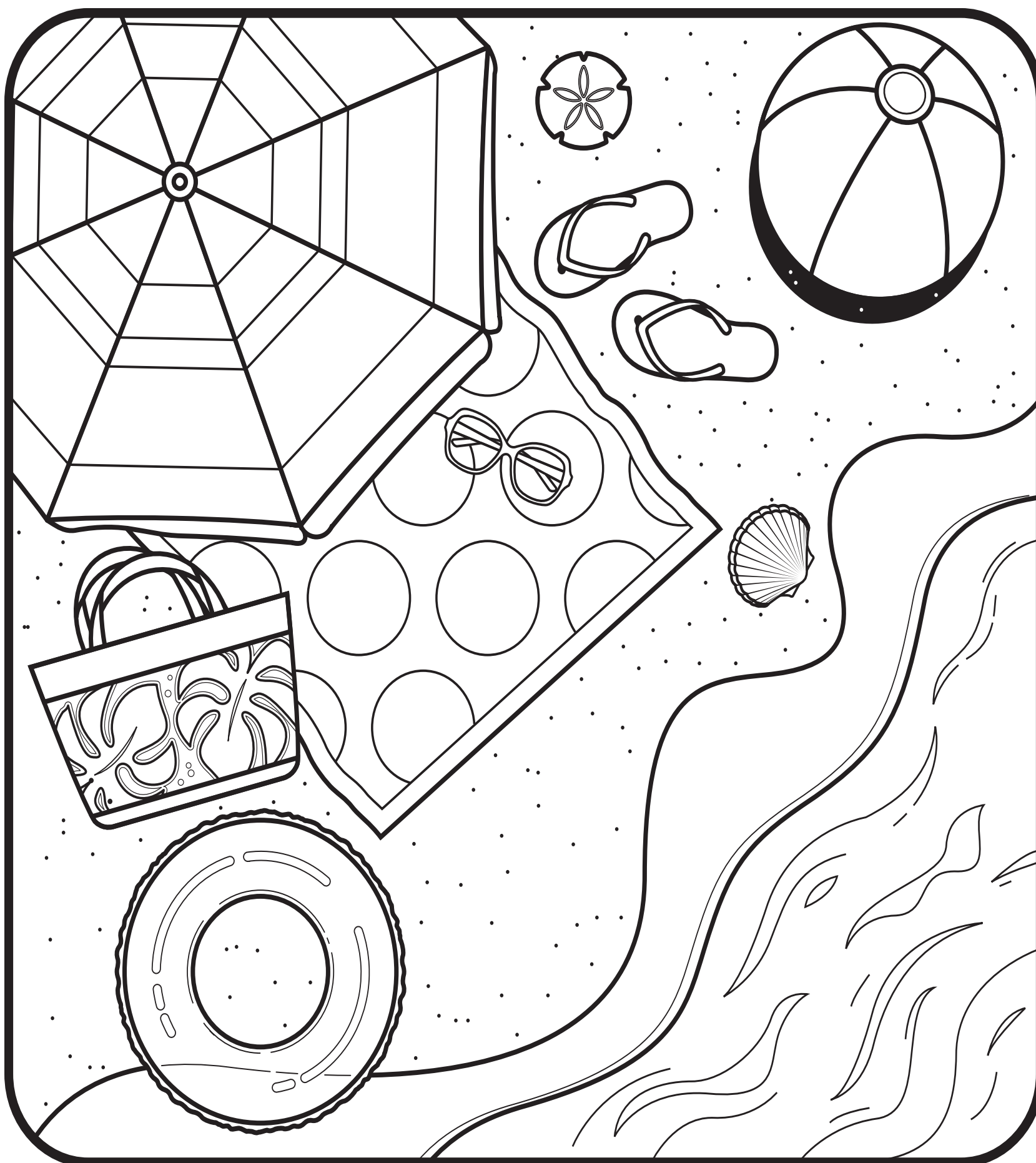


**Here are some fun activities for
our younger readers to enjoy!**



ANSWER: SURFING WAVE CURL

ENGLISH: Beach
SPANISH: Playa
ITALIAN: Spiaggia
FRENCH: Plage
GERMAN: Strand



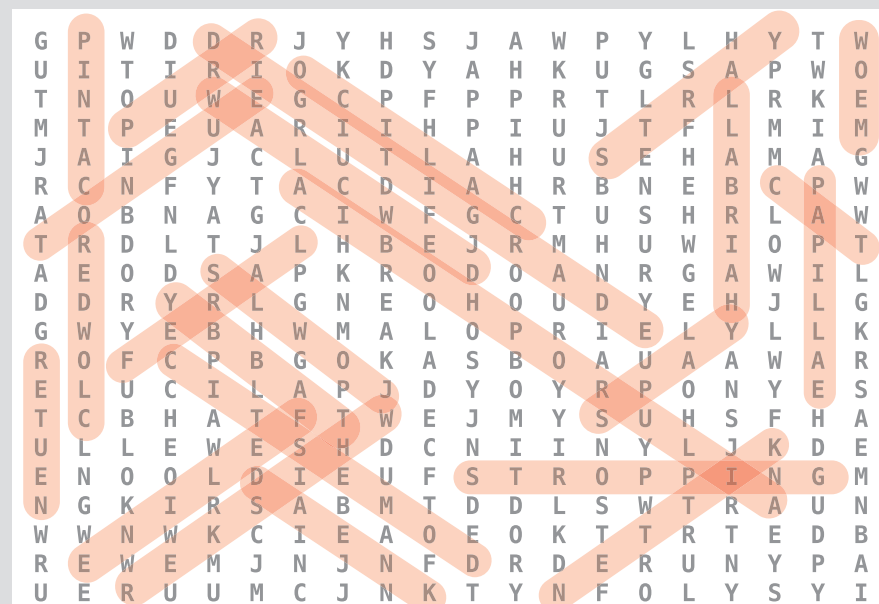
the tendency to
float in air, water
or some other fluid

An illustration of a laboratory setup. On the left is a beaker containing a green liquid with several green bubbles rising from it. On the right is a conical flask containing a blue liquid with several blue bubbles rising from it. The background is a light blue gradient with a dark blue wavy shape at the top.

ANSWER: WAVES

Page 6B Crossword

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FAITH

CONTACT US
Ashley Hogg, Editor
870-367-5325
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CHILDREN’S DEVOTIONAL

Let it Go! Rejoice!

By Amy Becker

“But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.” Psalm 5:11

Have you ever just been completely in your feelings? What I mean by that, is no matter what anyone does or what their intention is, you seem to get your feelings hurt? I know I have! Or maybe everything seems to be going wrong. You wake up late, your favorite shirt has a stain on it, and to top it off your best friend ignores you at school. Maybe your problems go deeper than that. There could be really big stuff going on in your life or really big hurts that peo-

ple have laid on you. Yet, scripture tells us that no matter our circumstances, we can choose joy. People (even friends) will sometimes be unkind, days will start and end poorly, stains will happen, big things and little things are going to get us down, but regardless of how people are acting toward you or how your day is going we can still be filled with joy! I feel convinced that it’s time we start to just let stuff go. No one needs to be convinced that

I’m right when I feel that I am and I don’t need to show someone my displeasure by treating them differently. I don’t have to pitch a fit every time I don’t get my way, and guess what? Neither do you. Because truth be told, it hurts us and the people who are closest to us when we let everyday things get us down. The Lord though, wants something different from us. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This is what God wants for our lives. I am convinced that if we would do just that, our

lives would be filled with hope and joy the way that the Bible promises us. But is it really all that simple you ask? Well, let’s see. Rejoice always-show great joy even when it’s tough delight in what you can! Pray continually- ask God to direct your path and your attitude. He will show you the right things to do and say. He will also show you what’s important and what’s really not. Give thanks in all circumstances-even when it’s tough, give thanks, you may be thanking God for the smallest things, but that act of praise will be so good for your heart.

So is it all that easy? Nah! Not really, but it can be over time. If you are convinced that the Lord can be trusted in all things, it’s time to start letting some stuff go. Especially the little stuff! It’s time that our hearts and minds be filled with thoughts of praise and thankfulness rather than the laundry list of things that we wish were different. God has given us so much to be thankful, it’s time we start acting like it! “Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!” Philippians 4:4 Make two columns on a piece of notebook paper by folding it in half like a hot dog. On one side write, “Things I should be rejoicing in” and on the other side write, “Things I should let go.” Tear the side off that you wrote the things you should let go, pray that God gives you the strength to do just that, and throw them away.

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Caleb Kiefhaber, the owner of Kiefhaber’s Heating and Air and Mobile Home Parts, knows a thing or two about owning a business. Kiefhaber’s was established over 32 years ago by his father, Pete Kiefhaber. Throughout the years he taught his children how to operate the business, and took pride in doing so. He was proud of the business he built, and would be proud of his son’s work. Kiefhaber’s provides HVAC and mobile home parts to all of South East Arkansas, and are focused on quality. The business philosophy is to provide a quality product and quality service. They also attribute their company’s success to quality work, as well as honesty and prompt service. Caleb Kiefhaber emphasizes quality once again by giving advice to those interested in

starting a business. His advice is to work for a high quality, professional company and learn the business. When asked why customers should do business with Kiefhaber’s, he said, “We have high quality technicians and large truck inventory. We are constantly sending our technicians to continuing education. We are working to make you comfortable in your home.” Kiefhaber’s Heating and Air is located at 6236 State Highway 114 West in Star City, and Kiefhaber’s Mobile Home Parts is located at 117 Greenfield Drive in Monticello. The office phone number is (870)-628-4900.

(Service Spotlight is a weekly advertisement highlighting local services. For information on how to advertise, call our advertising representatives at 367-5325.)



FOCUSED ON QUALITY. Pictured above is the Kiefhaber’s sign. Kiefhaber’s Heating and Air is located at 6236 State Highway 114 West in Star City, and Kiefhaber’s Mobile Home Parts is located at 117 Greenfield Drive in Monticello.

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COUNTRY

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BARKADA

JANA WRIGHT

I hope everyone had a great weekend. Saturday, the temperature was actually not that bad. I did some work in the yard on Sunday.

Jim and Diane Calhoun were nice enough share their garden bounty with Mrs. Mary Lasiter. They brought her cabbage, Mexican cornbread, and fresh picked cucumbers. She enjoyed it very much.

I had a chance to visit with Mrs. Helen Ross while I was getting my hair done the other day. We had a nice visit while catching up on things!

Tripp Lanehart son of Chuck and Regina Lanehart received an award for the highest average in algebra and history, excellence in science, and the Gold Band award. Way to go Tripp!

Shawn and I attended Quail Forever Banquet at the country club Friday night. Eric and Corey Wright and Lauren Caldwell joined us. We had a great time!

Congratulations to Addi Stafford on getting her driver's permit!

Jeremy Tucker has begun racing again. I wish him all the best! Sheena Tucker's family celebrated her dad's 80th birthday this last weekend. They all went to see Jace's last baseball game and then went back to their house for burgers, hotdogs, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake.

Kevin, Karri, and Hayslee Ferrell, and Drake Mashburn, and several others went to the river and did some fishing this past weekend.

Please continue to pray for Debbie Brewster. She has surgery a week or so ago and has a long way to recovery. Also, continue to pray for Judy Adair as she continues her battle with cancer.

Happy birthday to Nicole Jeffers, Brian Smith, J.J. Bayliss, Renee Schumacher, Don Pharr, Judy Adair, Tammy Busch, Tiffany Chapman, Alex Walls, Jo Calhoun, and Rachel Martin. I hope you all have or had happy birthdays!

Please call 870.224.3383 with news or email wright-woman_66@yahoo.com. No news is too small!

GREEN HILL

WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church had a wonderful Sunday service. Brother Caleb's message from Ephesians 2: 8-10 was titled "Sinfully Bankrupt But Debt Free". VBS will be held every night this week at 5:30. Happy Birthday wishes for Josh-

ua Lane, Phillip and Susan Starks.

Brittany Jackson's son celebrated his one year birthday. Happy Birthday Dalton!

Aunt May had a doctor's appointment last week. She has not felt well the last few days. Please pray for her.

Tressia Donaldson had foot surgery and is doing well. Roger has been taking good care of her.

Ethan Reed made the all year honor roll. I am so proud of him. Congratulations Ethan!

Sandy Smith shared a beautiful quote with me and I want to pass it along to yall. "Things may happen around you, Things may happen to you, The only things that really count are the things in You."

If you are not getting fresh home grown vegetables from Roger Pace, Greenhill Grocery Store, or the Market in Park, you are missing out. Squash, Zucchini, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, green beans, and peppers are ready now with tomatoes coming soon.

Verse of the week: "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth". Psalm 145:18

Have a safe and blessed week.

JORDAN PARK

TRILISA MARSHALL

The death angels are flying again in the family, and our hearts are so heavy. Got a call that my Aunt Rose Grays has passed away. Our family is still grieving over the passing of my dad, Agrone Clifton, now Auntie Rose, my dad's baby sister, both gone within 6 months apart. Please keep the Grays and Clifton families in your prayers. Her funeral arrangements were not made yet at the time of writing.

Prayers are going up for my family. Also, sorry to hear of the passing of Gladys Marie Davis. Her funeral was held Saturday, June 2 at 1:30 p.m. at Frazer's Funeral Home in Warren, and interment was at Hall Cemetery. Also, my heart was heavy to hear the passing of Missionary Batty Martin. She was the sister-in-law to my sister Katie Jacobs and I always loved talking with her at my sister's home when she was visiting over there, or at a church function. She was such a sweet person that had a heart of gold and loved the Lord. She was the district missionary for the Fordyce Central District of the Church of God in Christ, Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Arkansas. Her funeral was held Saturday,

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.

June 4 at 11:00 a.m. at the church she was a member of, Holy Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Warren, and interment was at Palestine Cemetery in Hermitage. Also was sorry to hear the passing of Sandra R. Robertson. Her funeral arrangements were not ready at the time of writing. My prayers, love, and condolences go to all the families and may God comfort and strengthen each one of these families.

It was a pleasure for my husband and I to be in Save A Lot and talk with Mrs. Wanetta Williams and Kim Jordan. Haven't seen them in a while. It was so good to see and talk with them. They both say their families were doing well. Also ran into Jessie Deshazer. It was good talking with her as well. That evening I went to pick my grandson up from daycare and on the way home we saw Mrs. Jean Douglas at her mailbox, and we stopped to talk with her. Such a sweet lady and she is in our prayers. Love you Mrs. Jean Douglas. The next day my grandson and I went to Walmart and ran into Lareatha Block, Latonya Block, and her daughter. Love talking with them. Very beautiful family.

Happy birthday shout out this week goes to: Savon James, Debra Williams, Jerrilyn Swann, Juanita Daniels, and Jennifer Beasley, June 6; Al Bealer, June 8; Leslie Goodman, Vell Crow, Lorraine Shaw and Angela Jordan, June 9; Pastor Martiz Scott, June 10; Dorothy McDowell and Don Ridgell, June 12. Happy birthday everyone, enjoy your special day.

On Sunday, our Sunday school lesson was on: "Rules for Just Living" coming from Exodus 23:1-9 (KJV). We should seek justice for all. And Pastor Robert Marshall Sr's message was on: "The Word Became Flesh" coming from John 1:1-4 (KJV). In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. And our Tuesday night Bible study lesson was on: "Rising to Challenges" coming from Acts 19:8; Genesis 50:15-21; Colossians 3:1-17; Jude 1:23; Romans 14:1-12 and Philipians 2:12-18 (KJV). When a

believer can overcome challenges, he can become victorious in every area of his life.

Praying everyone has a blessed, safe and cool rest of the week. The scripture for this week is: Job 37:5 (KJV), "God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend". Blessings!

LACEY

IVANELL HANDLEY

Last week's column (arrived too late for early holiday deadlines):

Hello readers, sorry I missed you last week; Floyd and I were in Sherwood. We had the pleasure of attending the Sylvan Hills High School Graduation Ceremony Class of 2022 on Saturday May 21, 2022 at the Jack Stephens Center. Camryn X. Jones was one of the 350 to graduate; we are so proud of Camryn and all of the graduating students. Our grandson Darnell was also in town for the graduation; Angelika was unable to attend being that she was preparing her own students for their upcoming Pre-K graduation.

After graduation Richard and Yolanda Jones treated Darnell, Camryn, Regena, Floyd and I to dinner at BJs Restaurant; after dinner we all went back to the Jones' residence for dessert and spent the evening enjoying being together.

The Lord has blessed us to see another month! Please remember to send up a prayer for all those suffering both physically and emotionally. Also keep all the families who have suffered from all the senseless acts of violence in your thoughts and prayers. Prayers for those who are sick and shut-in: John Franklin, Torris Newton and others. Prayers for the Jacob family in the loss of their sister.

Patricia and I went to visit our brother John Sunday afternoon. Everyone please say a special prayer for the families in Texas, Chicago, and Tennessee; let us pray that God will give them peace that the world can't give them. "Peace I leave with you; my

peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27

Happy Birthday to Daniel Richardson June 3; enjoy your special day!

Thought for the week: Isaiah 60:19 "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Do you realize that God himself should be our light, the absence of light is darkness and that is true for a child of God also. The absence of God in our hearts is darkness to our being; don't allow this world to steal your light keep Him close to you. As long as you keep your eyes on Jesus you will always be in the light! Prayer: "Thank You Lord for being not only the light of the world but also the light of my life" Amen. (Author Unknown).

This week's column:

Hello readers, it's another day that the Lord has blessed us see and I am so thankful for that blessing; we have so much to thank God for!

I would like to start the week off asking for prayers for the world we live in. Each and every day there seems to be more and more terrible things happening around us. These trials and tribulations may be too much for us to understand but we can find hope and help in Christ Jesus!

Sunday Service at Promise Land was blessed; Sunday School began with an inspiring lesson entitled "Nowhere to Run"; scriptures Isaiah 47:10-15; the key verse, Isaiah 47:15 KJV, "Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast labored, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander everyone to his quarter; none shall save thee". Pastor Johnson taught Sunday school as well as delivered the Sunday worship message; his thought was from Luke 10:30.

Prayers for those who are sick-and-shut in: Ruby Frazier, Jeraldine Bell, John Franklin, Pastor Nelson Spencer, Ava Stout and others that are not feeling well. Prayers for the Lambert,

Jacob and Martin Family and others who have loss a loved one. Also prayers for the family of William Bill "T" Feeser. Bill was our neighbor; he visited with Floyd and me the week before he went home to be with his Lord and Savior. We had been neighbors for many years and were friends with his mom and dad.

Happy belated birthday wishes to: Thelma Miller, May 11. Happy Birthday to: Ephraim Franklin, June 7.

Thought for the week: "Love does not come with a tag of restrictions and limitations. It is an independent feeling which arises from within and is purely unconditional and boundless. The best love is the kind that awakens the soul and makes us reach for more; that plants a fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds. To know love is to know God. The Best way to find Love is to find God...God is Love". (Author Jacqueline Van der B). Have a blessed week.

POSSUM VALLEY

KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Last week's column (arrived too late for early holiday deadlines):

Welcome back and happy Memorial Day. May we always remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom. Salute!

I know that I've more than likely missed the deadline for this week's column because of the holiday. Here I am on Sunday night, as usual, fully knowing that Friday at noon is the deadline before holidays. It is what it is. I guess this means you might see two columns next week.

Birding, overall, has slowed down considerably, but my hummers have come back with a vengeance. After what seemed like an extended hiatus while the honeysuckle was blooming, they are thirstier than ever. This past Saturday was the first time in a while that I've gotten to sit out on the porch and watch. It appears that I have at least four female birds and one male. And fight, have mercy,

See **COUNTRY** Page 5B

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Better Together

I’ve been very fortunate to have a few very good friends throughout my life. My best friend I met in 10th grade English in high school is still my very best friend today. Even more valuable is that I have been married to the love of life for 25 years. Relationships are very important to me. They make life richer. How sad and boring would it be to do life without people to share it with. The good times and the bad. We need people.

When we look at the six days of creation, at the end of each work day God would look upon what He had created and he would say it was good. Until he made Adam and declared that it was not good for man to be alone. So God created a helpmate for Adam in that of Eve who would be his wife.

But before we can explore the need and complexities of human relationships we must talk about the most fundamental and greatest relational need that every human being has and that’s the one with your creator. You were not made to be alone.

God is a relational God. He fully understands the necessity of relationships. With the exception of the death and burial of Jesus where God had to turn his

back on his son because Jesus took on sin and death and was restored on the third day, that Holy Exception, that break in time that separates history, was the only time in the entire history of forever going backwards and forward that the trinity of Heaven was broken. It had never happened before and will never happen again.

The famous 17th century poet John Donne wrote, “no man is an island unto himself”. Since God created man and woman in His image it would stand to reason that you and I are also a triune being. We are made up of three parts. Body, soul and spirit. We are relational. We were created first and foremost to be in relationship with God. There is a deep need within the human soul for connection to the Lord. We are creation longing for our Creator. It’s woven into our very being. Yet we were created as people with a free will and in sin, that longing that we all have, has to be reborn and then disciplined so that we recognize that the need we’ve always had was Jesus and we are able to satisfy that longing in Him.

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

they battle it out for the primo nectar port. I’ve been greatly entertained by them this weekend.

Rick’s mother has been visiting with us this week. It is always a pleasure for us to spend time with her.

Just like last year, when Rick’s mother is with us, we attend the Monticello Church of Christ. They are a very friendly congregation, and some even remembered us from last year. Mrs. Etha treated us to lunch after church then we spent the afternoon relaxing. But I can only spend so much time indoors when it’s nice outside. So, I spent more time watching hummingbirds, doing a bit of yard work and walking up and down the road. I took a few pictures. Not many birds but when the wildflowers are blooming and the sun is shining, there will be dragonflies, butterflies and tiny insects. During one of my walks, I saw a Yellow-crowned Night Heron perched high in a tree at the creek. I’ve not seen many of these birds, so it was a treat to see it. They are not as skittish as the Great Blue Herons and the Night Heron sat and allowed me to take pictures until the light began to fade. There are still a few Summer Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadees

Bo and the Bat Attack did not have a great weekend but I’m sure they did the best they could. Later, after they got back home, Jason came over with the kids for a visit.

That’s my news for this week. Until next time, please, stay safe, be happy and always be thankful for the many blessings God provides and His many promises we can have faith in to help us through these troubled times.

Oh, I almost forgot. It’s corny joke time. “Why was the stadium so hot after the game? Because all the fans left!”

That’s a wrap. See y’all next week. This week’s column:

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you’ve all enjoyed a wonderful week. Summer seems to have made a stake in our weather and is here to stay for the foreseeable future. As long as the A/C continues to run, we’ll be A-OK. Any outside activities will need to be done early in the morning or late in the afternoon and even then, one might still break a sweat.

I have to recount to you one evening when Bo walked Addie over for a visit. Bo couldn’t stay because he had a headache and needed to go back home. Addie and got right to it playing inside and outside. Just wherever her imagination took us. Rick’s mother, Mrs. Etha, was still here and she and Addie seemed to get along pretty well. In fact, as Addie and Bo were walking up to the house, she asked me if Mrs. Etha was still here. At one point, after we had played for a while and eaten some supper, Addie wanted to go get her bicycle. We had crossed the road and walked just a few steps when I spied a tiny moth on the ground. I pointed it out to Addie who asked if she could touch it. I bent down and placed a finger in front of the moth, and it climbed aboard. I then instructed Addie to lay her finger next to mine and the moth crawled on her finger. She was so tickled, and we passed the tiny creature back and forth until it grew tired of our little game and flew away. It’s moments like this that make being a Memaw so enjoyable. Of course, I did not have my phone or camera with me. Hope-

fully, this little moment will stay with her and teach her that we must share our world with these tiny creatures and to treat them with respect.

Saturday morning, Rick, his mom and I started out to take her to a sister-in-law who lives in a community called Center, which is near Evening Shade. We reached our destination and made sure his Mom was settled in. Then we drove to a nearby wildlife management area, the Harold E. Alexander WMA, that Rick knew about. Turns out that WMA is not really set up for visitors. We drove and drove along this narrow, rocky, dusty road and never saw any place amenable to birdwatching. There was no lake or open areas so we turned around and drove back out. We had met lots of traffic but couldn’t for the life of us figure out where they were coming from. From there, we drove to Bald Knob WMA. By time we arrived there the sun was dropping pretty low and we only drove around a short time before deciding to drive back out before closing time. We didn’t see much except for Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Canada Geese. There were a few Dickcissels, Killdeer and a momma Mallard and her brood, but nothing very exciting. We spent the night in Searcy and got up the next morning so we could get back home in time to rest up before church that evening.

Around the house I’m still seeing a few hummingbirds, a pair of Blue Jays, Tufted Titmice, Indigo Buntings, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Mourning Doves. One surprise I got right after we got back home Sunday afternoon, was a Giant Swallowtail fluttering all over my little patch of butterfly/milk weed. I was so excited to finally see a large butterfly. I’ve also had a few Skippers on my ‘Aunt Letty’ plants out in front of the house. During my retirement, I am looking forward to turning a portion of my yard into a full-fledged meadow where many butterflies, bees and other pollinators can find a home safe from herbicides and mowing. I am also looking forward to spending more time with Rick and traveling, if the gas prices don’t get too out of hand.

That’s my news for this week. Until next time, please, be safe, be happy, and don’t forget to be kind to each other and pray for one another.

Oh, I almost forgot this week’s corny joke. What do you call a chicken from the 1960’s? A funky chicken!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

WILMAR CHRIS RILEY

Last week’s column (arrived too late for early holiday deadlines):

The end of May and the beginning of June, year almost half gone and many that started out in 2022 is no longer with us, so it behooves us to get our house in order for we don’t know for whom the bell will toll.

We at First Baptist East Side experienced a blessed time as Pastor Graylin wilson broke the bread of life. Script was 1 Samuel 9:19 - Subject: “Don’t Poke Fun at My Faith”. It was very inspiring. We had one to unite with. The said church pastor is James E. Simpson. Glad to see Brenda Brooks’ daughter who was in the midst.

A belated birthday to James Simp-

See **COUNTRY** Page 6B

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