



UAM Men's Golf to open fall 2022 schedule at GAC Preview Page 10A



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Big option on the way for waste disposal in Southeast Arkansas

BY: MELISSA ORRELL

Drew County, along with nine other counties in Southeast Arkansas, will have an alternative choice for waste disposal in approximately two years, when MD Power opens a fully functional waste to energy plant in Lake Village. The Drew County Quorum Court approved an ordinance earlier this month during their June 13, regularly scheduled monthly meeting to begin hauling trash to the energy from waste center near Lake Village. Once the facility is completed it will be able to process 500 tons of household trash a day. The trash will be turned into gas that will then be used to heat water, produce steam and create energy.

MD Power, according to their website mdgsus.com, is part of Marc David Green Solutions, Inc., an energy consultant company that sells answers to the global waste problem facing the world today. The waste to energy plant uses gasification of waste, along with reselling ash, glass and metal to industry, resulting in no need for a landfill. According to the website, the plant will solve the issues of open dumping of waste, the overuse of landfills and leaching of their contaminants into ground water, the failure of existing technologies to meet strict EPA regulation, recyclable products ending up in the landfills or burned into metals rendering them unusable and the common view point that all waste to energy is dirty and kills the planet. While looking at alternatives, the com-

pany noticed that common technologies to turn waste to energy were shown to have some major setbacks such as expensive extra fuel to run because of extra fuel needed to run plants, large pre-processing facilities to sort and separate, needed 100 acres or more, had a large parasitic load and the electrical output was very small. It was while searching for a comparable technology that MD Power discovered INEZ Power.

INEZ power is an energy from waste system that utilizes a gasification platform. The technology was developed at a facility in Inez, Ky. The company was founded on the idea to develop technology for the energy from waste market "aimed at accomplishing three primary objectives."

These objectives were to have a compelling economic profile with three revenue sources: power/steam generation, recycling and tipping fees; 100 percent beneficial conversion of municipal solid waste tailored to achieve zero landfill targets and compliance with strict environmental standards.

In 2000 Recycling Solutions Technologies was founded and a site was located at Inez, Ky. The founders of RST had a long history of operating coal mines Kentucky, as coal production began a steady decline in 2000's, so did the number of landfills. The founders saw an opportunity to create a Kentucky technology that could create a new

See **WASTE** Page 6A

Mainline Health Systems hires Shrum for new women's clinic

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Mainline Health Systems has hired Dr. Kelly Shrum, D.O., as a OB/GYN provider for its new Women's Clinic location.

In his new role for the Women's Clinic, Shrum will work to provide care that embodies the patient-first values which are vital to Mainline Health's mission. He brings over two decades of experience with him, which will serve him well as he continues to provide OB/GYN services.

"We're excited to welcome Dr. Shrum to our team," said Ashley Anthony, Mainline Health Systems COO. "His experience in this field and ability to provide excellent patient care make him a great fit for the Mainline team."

Shrum previously owned his own private OB/GYN practice,



SHRUM

the Arkansas Center for Women, in Pine Bluff from 1999 to 2009. He joined Drew Memorial Health System's staff in 2009, where he spent the last eleven years.

Drew Memorial Health System supports Dr. Shrum's decision to transition to Mainline Health. "We are looking at this from a positive perspective because it is entirely beneficial to

our community. Our OB/GYNs will not be separated, but united. Thankfully, Dr. Shrum will not be leaving an empty presence through our halls, because he will continue to utilize our facility to provide surgical and obstetrical services," said Drew Memorial Health System CFO, Melodie Colwell.

Shrum is a Guyman, Okla., native who earned a bachelor's in zoology from Oklahoma University in 1990 and graduated from medical school at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1994. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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Arkansas MLK Commission to kick off Independence Day weekend with Unity in the Community Event

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, is to promote and preserve the life and legacy of Dr. King in our state; and to promote the principles of nonviolence and equality among all citizens. Our community outreach projects are designed to promote education, an appreciation for history, and to encourage youth to engage in positive leadership development and roles within their communities.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission invites the public to attend the 2022 Monticello "Unity in the Community Festival," Friday, July 1, 2022, beginning at noon until 5 P.M., at McCloy Park, 178 Henley Drive.

The goal of the festival is to mobilize, inform, and uplift everyday multigenerational citizens in a safe space to achieve new levels of economic empowerment, personal development, wealth creation, civic engagement, and community leadership. The Unity in the Community Festival will also promote unity, education, community service, arts, family, culture, and promoting the "Beloved Community" Dr. King mentioned in his writings.

The event will be free and open to the public and will include free food at designated food vendors, a community vendor showcase, financial literacy, a live entertainment, kids' zone, and a homebuyers' workshop. The free concert lineup includes:

- Willie Brown and Friends, nationally known comedian, and ventriloquist
- Steven Russell, former lead singer of the award-winning R&B group TROOP
- Glenn Jones, Grammy nominated recording artist and producer
- Tony Terry, Legendary Veteran songwriter, and performer

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission will also honor live music trailblazers who have made an impact on the arts, media, and

music culture in Arkansas and even beyond. The Commission will present MLK Music Trailblazer awards to:

- Rodney Block, Trumpeter
- Nikki Parrish, Vocalist
- Tawanna Campbell, Vocalist
- Valerisse Bell, Vocalist
- Marrissee "Mo B" Boyd, Soul Blues Prince and Vocalist
- Carl Dupins, Media Award
- Stacy Slater, The Heat Magazine Editor, Media Award
- Gabe "G" Pace, MLK Music Dream Keepers Award

"The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is proud to work with the city to host this great event," says DuShun Scarbrough. "There is something for everyone. The goal is to host events that promote volunteerism, economic development, and civic engagement in your hometown. Community programs are a way to curb violence by keeping people engaged. It's great to travel out of state to support empowerment events and music festivals, but it is greater when those events are happening in your area and free of charge. It is our goal to build communities through positive, family-friendly events which also inspire and encourage community service and provide something for youth to get involved in which discourages violence. Music is also a great part of our lives; we are honoring several performing artists to encourage continued support of the arts and live music."

The Unity in the Community Festival is an outdoor event. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. The focus of this event will be to Promote Kingian Principles of Nonviolence

The Commission will focus on Home Ownership, Civic Engagement, Community Service, Financial Literacy Youth, Empowerment, Economic Development, and the Arts.

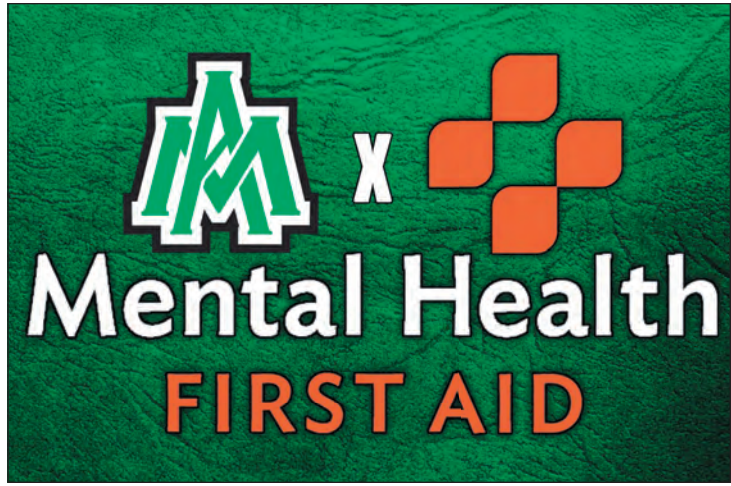
UAM Athletics Dept. holds mental health training

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

On June 22, the UAM Athletics staff, including coaches and athletic trainers, gathered in the Judy and Jack Lassiter Indoor Practice Facility for an interactive training session on mental health first aid. UAM became the first University Athletics Department in Arkansas to be fully certified in Mental Health First Aid.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Athletics Department would like to extend a warm thank you to Amanda Kutenkuler from the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership for providing the training. The facilitator outlined a number of different scenarios—for example, an athlete is displaying signs of emotional distress and early drug usage to cope—and asked each group what they'd do to respond to such a situation. The staff came out of this training section with numerous strategies they can use to identify students in distress and connect them with help.

"We are very grateful to Mandi and her team for spending time with our entire athletics



team on such an important topic," said UAM Athletic Director, Hud Jackson. "We are committed to being a strong advocate for mental health awareness and we will strive to be the best at making sure our student-athletes get the proper help they need in times of struggle."

The importance on maintaining mental health among student-athletes is not just a growing concern for Arkansas-Monticello. According to the NCAA Student Athlete Well-Being Study in Fall 2020, student-athletes reported feel-

ing increased levels of exhaustion, hopelessness and depression, all feelings exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic.

The training consisted of two seminars on Tuesday and Wednesday led by Kutenkuler. Part presentation, part interactive experience, the training showed the athletics staff how to handle a variety of mental-health-related situations, including recognizing warning signs, receiving someone who is in distress and connecting athletes with other important resources if necessary.



Courtesy photo

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

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.

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Hospital Auxiliary sale

Beginning at 7 a.m., Thursday, July 7, the Hospital Auxiliary will hold a clothing and accessories sale in the conference rooms of Drew Memorial Health Systems. All proceeds will be donated to the hospital.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Campground Cemetery Association meeting

The annual meeting of the Campground Cemetery Association will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 12 at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church. All members and interested persons are invited to attend.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Enon Baptist Church VBS

Enon Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 16 at 2952 Hwy 35 E. Preschool age through 6th grade are invited to attend. The closing program will be at 5 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 25 THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 28

SMARts summer theatre camp

Seark Concert Association presents SMARts Theatre Camp from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday, July 25 through Thursday, July 28. Registration is \$100 and the deadline to sign up in July 1. For more info, and to register, visit www.searkconcert.org.

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. Its 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.

Reminder: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

This Independence Day, keep the red, white, and blue in the sky and out of your rearview mirror. To help keep the community safe, local law enforcement is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 7, consisting of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, to spread the message about the dangers of drunk driving. Even one drink can be one too many. Remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

It's important to understand that impairment can occur even after one or two drinks. According to NHTSA, 11,654 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes that involved an alcohol-impaired driver in 2020. That same year, 201 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the July 4th holiday period (6 p.m. July 2 to 5:59 a.m. July 6) involving alcohol-impaired drivers.

The goal is to save lives during what is usually one of the deadliest holidays on our roads. Nighttime is a particularly dangerous time to be on the roads. The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2020 was 3.1 times higher at night than during the day.

In support of the law enforcement community's dedication to protecting the lives of residents in their communities, you'll see an increased presence of law enforcement working together during this holiday weekend to take impaired drivers off the roads.

"We want our communities to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, but sadly, many people have made a terrible habit of driving after drinking," said Regional Administrator Susan DeCourcy. "Our region lost 760 lives from drunk driving in 2020. For the cost of a sober ride, you can avoid a hefty fine and keep people safe. There's never an excuse to get behind the wheel of a vehicle after you've been drinking. Doing so puts you, your passengers, and everyone on the road with you in harm's way."

This Fourth of July, commit to only driving 100% sober and plan ahead. Law enforcement knows how to spot a drunk driver on the road. NHTSA urges drivers to designate a sober driver before drinking any alcohol. If you plan on drinking, plan on not driving. If you are out on the roads and see an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement.

Don't lose your independence on Independence Day, and don't be a deadly risk to yourself and other innocent people. Remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. For more information on impaired driving, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/>.

Senior Center lunch menu: June 29-July 6

Wednesday: *Smothered chicken, rice, mixed greens, banana pudding, roll*

Thursday: *Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried okra, fruited jello, biscuit*

Friday: *Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, chocolate chip cookies*

Monday: *CLOSED FOR JULY 4TH HOLIDAY*

Tuesday: *Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, fried okra, cookies, roll*

Wednesday: *Italian baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, spinach, fruited jello, roll*

Menu is subject to change. All lunches have a choice of sweet tea and milk.

The Senior Center serves 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.

Dear seniors: June 30th will be the last day you can get a lunch through the drive-up. Starting July 1st, you will have to come in to the center to get lunch. Sorry for any inconvenience, but the funding for this is no longer available.



Happy Birthday AMERICA!

On July 4th, we will have freedom pops (while supplies last) and \$100 in pool games!



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Steven Harper Named Dean of UAM School of Arts and Humanities

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) has announced the appointment of Dr. Steven Harper as dean of the UAM School of Arts and Humanities. Dr. Harper comes to UAM from Georgia Southern University, where he has served as a professor of Music and the chair of the Fred and Dinah Gretsches School of Music

since 2014. Crystal Halley, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at UAM, stated that Dr. Harper's extensive administrative experience, his long academic career and his broad knowledge of the arts make him superbly qualified to lead the diverse faculty and the



HARPER

broad-ranging programs of the School of Arts and Humanities. "Dr. Harper is joining UAM at an exciting time of innovation and expansion, and I am confident that his demonstrated creativity and collaborative management style will serve him well." Dr. Harper holds a Doctor

of Philosophy in music theory from the University of Texas at Austin. He also has a Master of Music from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Louisville. Vice Chancellor Halley pointed out that, in addition to his administrative experience, he is an accomplished teacher at both the graduate and undergraduate levels and has

many publications and conference presentations. The School of Arts and Humanities houses undergraduate programs in art, communication, English, foreign languages and music, as well as graduate programs in creative writing, debate and communication, English and jazz studies. Dr. Harper stated that he

looks forward to joining the UAM family. "It's an honor to have this opportunity to work with the talented and accomplished faculty at UAM and to oversee the vibrant programs in the School of Arts and Humanities, all of which have the potential for tremendous growth." Dr. Harper's appointment begins July 1.

New ag economist focuses on food systems and agricultural supply chains

By JOHN LOVETT
U of A System Division of Agriculture

A new agricultural economist who works with the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station says marketing in a world with endless options requires producers to know more about consumer demand. Trey Malone, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, has spent over a decade researching agricultural marketing issues and is now focused on developing technology that will help producers in regional food systems compete in a global marketplace. "Once upon a time, a farmer could grow a Red Delicious apple and know someone was going to be willing to buy it at a high enough price, but now consumers have so many different apples to choose from at the grocery store," Malone says. "So, producers need to know even more about what their customers are demanding in the marketplace."

As a potential solution, he is developing an index to inform producers and stakeholders of consumer concerns and help them "get ahead of issues" such as the surge in toilet paper buying at the outset of the COVID pandemic. He expects the index, which uses surveys to gather data from a nationally representative sample of consumers, to be available to producers this year. The working title is the Food and Agriculture Systems Sentiment Index. "We are excited to have Dr. Malone joining the faculty here in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness," said department head John Anderson, who is also director of the Fryar Price Risk Management Center of Excellence for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. "Trey is well-established as an emerging leader in research and outreach on agricultural and food systems management and value-added agriculture," Anderson added. "He has a

deep understanding of the land-grant mission of stakeholder-relevant research, outreach, and education. His diverse interests and skillset are a great fit in a state like Arkansas, with its diverse agricultural economy and rural community needs." Malone has already begun to work with the Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research, also known as I3R, or "I-cubed-R." The new University of Arkansas research initiative is supported by a \$194.7 million grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. Malone is submitting I3R's first National Science

Foundation proposal to develop a platform to match regional farms with regional demand. The proposal is in direct line with his 2022 Southern Agricultural Economics Association's Emerging Scholar Award keynote address called "Moving the conversation from 'Can we grow it?' it to 'SHOULD we grow it?'" Malone also hopes to work with the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food, a service center of the experiment station, to assist specialty crop producers with research-driven marketing decisions. Malone's research will be conducted through the Arkansas Agricul-

tural Experiment Station, the research arm of the Division of Agriculture. Starting this fall, he will teach Agricultural and Food Marketing and Agribusiness Entrepreneurship at the University of Arkansas. Before joining the Division of Agriculture, Malone was an assistant professor and extension economist with the Michigan State University Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. He earned his doctorate in 2017 from Oklahoma State University, where his dissertation used the American beer market to explore the behavioral principles underlying how modern-day

consumers choose what they eat and drink. Malone has published dozens of academic articles in peer-reviewed journals as well as opinion pieces in major media outlets such as USA Today, Fast Company, and Popular Science. He also has been featured on television news outlets such as CNBC, CNN, and the TODAY Show. He currently serves as a co-editor for the peer-reviewed journal Agricultural and Resource Economics Review as well as managing editor of the International Food and Agribusiness Review. His

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OBU announces students named to Spring 2022 Dean's List

Ouachita Baptist University has named more than 350 students to its Spring 2022 Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must compile at least a 3.5 grade point average and be classified as a full-time student, with a minimum of 12 academic hours and have no incomplete or failing grade for the semester. Students from Drew County that were honored were: Ethan Elkins and Reece Gray. Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts university, is in its 136th year as a Christ-centered learning community and is ranked the No. 2 "Regional College in the South" by "U.S. News & World Report." In Fall 2021, Ouachita recorded its highest enrollment in 55 years and its highest-ever four-year graduation rate for the class of 2021. Learn more about the university's highly personal approach, reflected in a student/faculty ratio of 13:1, at www.obu.edu.

ASU lists Spring honors

Special to the Advance
Arkansas State University has announced the list of students who completed degree requirements to graduate at Spring Commencement, held May 7 in Centennial Bank Stadium. The list includes graduates from 44 states and 16 other countries. Chancellor Kelly Damphousse presented diplomas at the associate, bachelor, master, specialist and doctoral levels, along with various program certificates, as awarded through the various colleges: Agriculture, Neil Griffin College of Business, Education and Behavioral Science, Engineering and Computer Science, Liberal Arts and Communication, Nursing and Health Professions, Sciences and Mathematics, and University College. Students from Drew County honored were, Olivia Adden Pesaresi, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Paul Ryan Smith, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Emily Madison Johnston, Master of Science in Education, School Counseling, And Haley Nichole Hill, Bachelor Science in Education, Special Education, Magna Cum Laude.

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NOTICE

Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, The Advance will be CLOSED Monday, July 4th. The deadline for classifieds, garage sales, legal notices and country/church news for the July 6 paper will be Friday, July 1 at 5:00 p.m., and all other paper ads will be Tuesday, July 5 at noon.

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4TH OF JULY CLOSINGS AND TRASH SCHEDULE

Drew County Solid Waste will be **CLOSED** on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Monday, July 4th's trash will be picked up on Tuesday, July 5th, the rest of the week's trash will be on its regular schedule. The Road Department and the Courthouse will also be closed.



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OPINION

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Sharing the story of Natural State Agriculture

Every five years, Congress sets out to write and pass a new farm bill, the cornerstone of our nation's agriculture policy. It is a daunting undertaking. However, passing farm bills in this manner offers an opportunity to see what policies are working for our agricultural, nutrition and rural communities, and which ones need updates to better serve their needs.

The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, on which I serve as the lead Republican, kicked off this process earlier this year holding a field hearing in Michigan, the home state of the committee's chair.

Then it was Arkansas's turn to shine.

From the stage at Riceland Hall of the Fowler Center at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, 11 Arkansans shared the story of agriculture in The Natural State.

Witnesses discussed commodity programs, safety nets and risk management. They talked about how to help rural communities and families, how to support wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources, why research at our universities is crucial to advancing agriculture, and ways to help those who struggle with food insecurity.

The testimony they shared with the committee, and their candid responses to questions we posed, will help inform our decisions and identify the issues we will consider as we write a new farm bill.

We are in an unprecedented time as we begin this undertaking. The pandemic, the war in Europe, historic and widespread inflation, and now serious concerns about a recession—it just feels different.

And yet many of the same challenges that come with each farm bill, such as balancing the different needs of each region of the country, remain true this time around.

I believe we have an opportunity in this farm bill to put in place the tools necessary to strengthen American agriculture for any situation we face in the future. If we do that, our farmers will continue to do what they have always done: provide the most abundant, lowest cost and safest food supply in the world.

I know Arkansas's farmers and ranchers are ready to meet the challenge.

However as much as the farm bill is a safety net for those who supply our food, it's also a safety net for rural America. For many of these communities, agriculture is all that is left.

Agriculture is Arkansas's largest industry, adding around \$21 billion to our economy every year and accounting for approximately one in every six jobs.

Yet, 53 of Arkansas's 75 counties lost population in the last census, something that is far too common in rural counties throughout the United States.

We all lose when rural America loses. To stem this loss, we must ensure our farm families and rural residents have access to affordable electricity, high speed internet and safe drinking water. Those forms of infrastructure are essential services that, with proper investment, can measurably increase quality of life.

It is imperative for rural Arkansas's future that we address these shortfalls in the next farm bill. Our rural communities depend on agriculture and agriculture depends on this critical infrastructure. If we keep that in mind, while continuing to ensure our producers have programs that offer strong support that meet the needs of all communities, then we will have a farm bill that provides that safety net for both agriculture and rural America.

Finicky Fred learns life lesson

Recently, the residents of my house went to see the new Lightyear movie. Indoor activities are appreciated when the "feels like" temperature is 111 degrees.

Toy Story was a memorable movie from my adolescence so I thought this would be something fun to introduce Fred to.

Actually, I can't take any of the credit, it was the Superman hubs/bonus dad that came up with the idea. Fred and I are lucky ladies.

We rolled into the mostly empty theatre on a random weeknight and quickly got our tickets. I'm pretty sure it is considered a sin in my family to go to the theatre and not get popcorn. As we stood waiting for our bucket of butter and

Fred's individual tray of goodies, my child saw one of her classmates and did not hesitate to say hello. The two sweet girls ran across the theatre to give hugs, kids can be so sweet when they want to be.

We made it into the theatre and for a while, were the only ones in the room. I showed her

how I used to go down to the front of the theatre right beside the screen and dance and see if I could cast a shadow. I think I have her convinced that I am a lot cooler than I actually am. I will be riding that wave for as long as possible.

We watched the movie and it was really enjoyable. It was just the right amount of nostalgia with a balance of a new story line. I liked the inclusivity of the main characters.

Fred liked it right up until the last 20 minutes or so. She is much like her mother, when she gets tired, all bets are off. Don't ask us to do anything and do not expect a sunshine type of mood. We must get our beauty rest.

I saw all the signs as she began to wiggle in her seat and ask to go to the bathroom for the second time. Thankfully, she managed to keep her eyes open to finish the movie.

On the way home, we asked her what she thought about the movie. She said it was good and she liked all the colors.

For the life of me, I cannot remember what prompted the next bit of conversation but it is worth sharing regardless.

Sleepy eyed from the back seat we heard, "I am not going to eat meat anymore, it is made from dead animals."

Slightly startled, we immediately chose to make this a teachable moment.

Since she sprouted tooth number four, Fred has been a bacon eating machine. Pancakes and bacon are a weekend staple at our house.

"Fred," I said to her lovingly. "Honey you know bacon is meat right?"

Utterly appalled she said, "No, bacon doesn't come from cows. I can eat bacon."

Laughing quietly, we had to break her heart and tell her that bacon was in fact meat and it came from pigs. Thinking that she was clever, she told us she would continue to eat bacon but that was the only meat she would eat. We then asked her if she understood that her beloved chicken nuggets were meat also.

"Chickens are birds, not meat," she exclaimed. The laughing was not so silent this time. Her moral dilemma did not last long because she didn't even pretend like she was going to give up chicken nuggets. I guess we will tackle other food if the topic ever resurfaces.

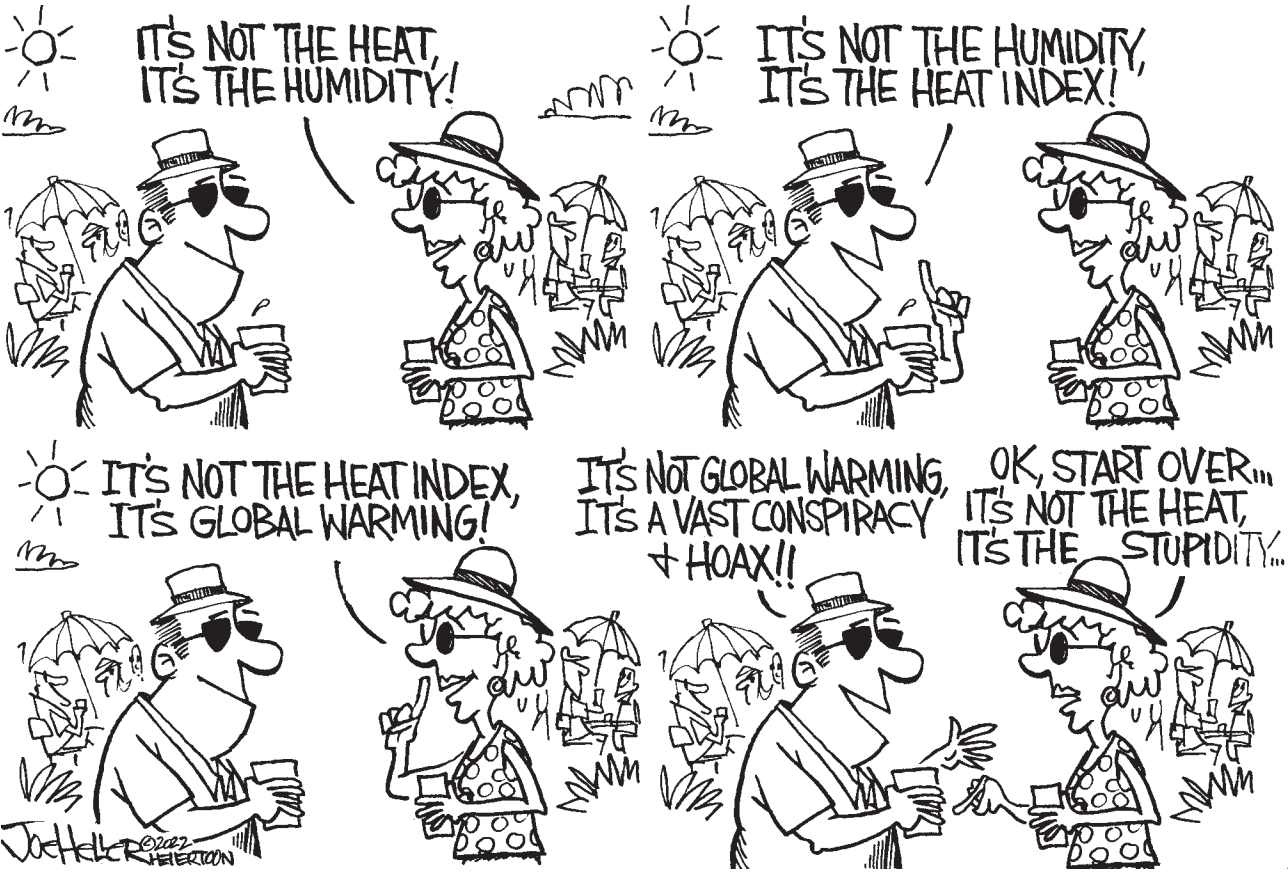
I love watching her grow and see how she pieces life together as she gets older. She is so smart, I sometimes forget that she is learning every day and we take simple information for granted sometimes.



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. SENATE REPORT



ASHLEY HOGG
EDITOR



Supporting our teachers

Arkansas's education system greatly depends on our ability to attract and retain teachers. We need to make sure the pay reflects the importance of their job and our respect for their role in shaping the lives of the next generation of leaders.

When the pandemic impacted the world, our schools were heavily burdened. Education could not waiver even during a time when things felt so uncertain.

Arkansas was one of the few states that kept schools open thanks to the amazing teachers in our state. In fact, Arkansas ranked #2 in the nation for days

of in-classroom instruction during the pandemic. That puts us in front of Texas and Florida. And so, we must be able to provide for those who are willing to go on the frontlines for our children's future.

Teacher pay has been one of my top priorities since running for Governor in 2014. Since then, we have increased the minimum teacher pay to align with many of our surrounding states.

In 2019, I signed the Teacher Enhancement Act that took our minimum pay of \$31,400 and raised it to \$36,000 annually by 2022.

This increase was needed for our teachers, but it is not enough. Arkansas is still ranked 48th in the country for teacher starting pay even after that increase. 88% of our school districts start teachers below a salary of \$40,000. We are 14th out of 16 states in our region

for minimum starting salary, and we rank 13th out of 16 for average salary. Nearly 70% of all our teachers are making below \$40,000 a year.

Our goal should be to have 100% of our teachers making above \$40,000. We know teachers are important, but we must show them why Arkansas is a place they'll want to teach and live.

For that reason, we must give our school districts more resources to recruit teachers. We have seen firsthand how providing the right resources can bring growth like we've seen with the Computer Science initiative.

In 2015, we started the initiative with fewer than 50 computer science teachers in Arkansas. By providing more resources and incentives, we now have more

See **HUTCHINSON** Page 5A



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR'S REPORT



BEN GILMORE
ARKANSAS SENATE REPORT

Against Children. The Division presented a report to the Senate Committee on

Children and Youth about the most recent quarter. A total of 7,808 reports were received during the three-month period. Of those 1,531 were assigned to the State Police and 6,277 to the Division of Children and Family Services.

Of the reports assigned to DCFS, 24 percent were found to be true. Of those assigned to the State Police, 33 percent were found to be true.

The investigations concluded that 2,215 children were victims of substantiated allegations of maltreatment. Of those, 55 percent were girls.

The most common type of maltreatment was neglect. Inves-

tigators found that 70 percent of the substantiated cases reported to the hotline involved children who had been neglected. That is 1,549 children.

The second most common form of maltreatment was physical abuse; 20 percent of the substantiated cases, involving 445 children, were for physical abuse.

Investigators found 408 children who had been victims of sexual abuse. That was 18 percent of the substantiated cases. Of the remaining cases, 23 children were abandoned and 21 children were victims

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

Funding approved for Dementia Program

If you are someone you know is caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other dementia, you may be interested in a new program launched this week.

The Arkansas Legislative Council recently approved the creation and funding for the Dementia Respite Care Pilot Program.

This program provides \$500 respite grants to enable caregivers to take a break from caregiving.

It is estimated that more

than 93,000 Arkansans are caring for a loved one with dementia. Full-time caregiving can take an emotional and physical toll on anyone. This program is designed to give those care-takers time to rest or just get out of the house to do routine activities many of us take for granted.

The program is the first of its kind in Arkansas. It was established by the Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council, which was created as a result of Act 391 in the 2021 Regular Session.

In addition to authorizing the Respite Program, the Council has worked to update Arkansas's Alzheimer's and Dementia Disease State Plan.

Under the Respite Program, families can receive two grants during a calendar year (with at least six months between approved dates). To qualify, care recipients must live in Arkansas and have a primary or secondary diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Additionally, the diagnosis must state that the patient requires daily assistance.

Respite Program grants come from a \$200,000 investment, funded through the Social Services Block Grant.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Respite Care Pilot Program is administered by the DHS Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance.

These grants are available now and interested parties can apply starting today.

To learn more about the Alzheimer's and Dementia Respite Care Pilot Program and to apply for assistance, please visit www.ALZark.org/grants, email grants@ALZark.org, or call 501-224-0021, extension 210.

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MALONE

Continued from Page 3A

research has won multiple awards, most recently winning the Advisor Award for the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association.

He also recently recorded a TEDx Talk in Michigan titled “How to change your mind about the food system,” focusing on how it reacted to the covid pandemic.

“If I had a nickel for every time I’ve heard someone claim that COVID-19 proves that the U.S. food system is broken,” Malone said. “I’m not so convinced. We experienced one of the craziest global events of the last century, and I think the food system responded resiliently to this unbelievable challenge. It’s just that most Americans have never experienced barren grocery store shelves.”

Malone says that the average grocery store in 1975 had about 8,000 unique options. He said that the average grocery store leading up to the coronavirus pandemic had more than 45,000 unique options.

“Psychologists often talk about rosy retrospection. We all have this idea that things used to be ‘better,’ but even at the beginning stages of COVID-19, we still had more than 8,000 options on that average grocery store shelf,” Malone said. “Even if you didn’t necessarily like those options, you had more options than your grandparents did.”

He said that an overload of choices makes decisions harder for consumers and sometimes distracts them from making a decision. As part of his study on the marketing issue, a bar in Oklahoma agreed to double the number of beers they offered to

see if it increased or decreased beer sales.

“If we increased the number of beers offered, we could decrease the chances someone would order a beer because it would overwhelm the customer and they would simply decide not to order one,” Malone said.

However, if they offered quality ratings, some other type of third-party verification, or put a particular beer as a special on the menu, they could eliminate the “choice overload problem.”

Malone has also conducted studies to assist stakeholders in many agricultural value chains, including dairy, beef, eggs, hops, hemp, and even morel mushrooms. He says maintaining trust with stakeholders is critical and he sees research and extension closely tied to the land-grant university mission to assist stakeholders in making decisions.

“I can’t publish meaningful papers unless I know the problems and have the ability to collect primary data within trusting partnerships,” Malone said. “As a land-grant institution, we are responsible to the stakeholders to maintain that level of trust. I think the Division of Agriculture is on the frontlines of maintaining those relationships, and on-campus faculty have an obligation to support that.”

Malone’s family ranch is the Backwards Rocking L Ranch near Laverne, Oklahoma. His wife, Caroline Kraft Malone, is a developmental psychologist from Tulsa and is set to take on a teaching role in the University of Arkansas Department of Psychological Science, as well as a part-time role in Agricultural Experiment Station communications. She previously worked as an assistant professor in the Michigan State University Department of Psychology.

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

than 650 certified computer science teachers with more coming by the fall. We have gone from fewer than 1,000 students learning about computer science to more than 12,000 with that number increasing every year.

There is a reluctance by some in the General Assembly to raise teacher salary

because of the concern over a future economic downturn. We currently have over \$2 billion in state reserves and our surplus.

I am confident in our future ability to fund these initiatives, but the General Assembly controls the purse strings of state government, and I respect their constitutional role. While we might not get it done this year I hope it remains a priority in the future.

Summer heat can increase power usage, utility bills

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

There are many factors that can impact your utility bills, including the summer heat, which often sends us lowering the temperature on our thermostat and pushing the air conditioner into overdrive. Remember, taking steps like this to stay cool on the hottest days of the year can significantly increase your electricity usage and, subsequently, your bill.

But there are ways to stay comfortable and keep your bills affordable! Entergy recently provided energy efficiency tips like closing blinds and curtains and keeping your thermostat at 78 degrees or the highest comfortable temperature. These free or low-cost steps can go a long way in conserving energy; however, if you have already received a high bill, here are six helpful options to consider in managing costs or receiving assistance:

- Level Billing – Entergy averages your bill over a rolling 12-month period, so you have a consistent bill each month of the year. Pay about the same

every month, with no surprises.

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- Payment Extension – Qualifying customers who need additional time to pay their bill can call our automated answering system at 1-800-ENTERGY (1-800-368-3749) or request an extension through myEntergy.

- Power to Care – Through Entergy’s The Power to Care program, local nonprofit agencies can provide emergency bill payment assistance to seniors and disabled individuals in crisis. Find out more at Help for Paying Your Electric Bills.

- LIHEAP – LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is a program that provides money to help people with energy bills and

other energy-related expenses. LIHEAP is funded through the federal government and works with the community action agencies to help customers pay for and keep electric service in their homes. Find out more at Help for Paying Your Electric Bills.

Entergy encourages customers download the company’s mobile phone app to monitor usage (if you have a smart meter), among other steps, to be more energy efficient before the next bill arrives.

And aside from the do-it-yourself tips we offer, the company’s energy efficiency programs can help. They offer free in-home energy assessments and rebates to help reduce the up-front cost of installing energy-efficient equipment, such as high-efficiency HVAC tune-ups, insulation, air sealing and duct sealing.

Customers who are behind on bill payments or have a concern about their bill should reach out to the company either online or by phone at 1-800 ENTERGY (1-800-368-

3749). Our representatives can investigate your account or describe available bill help options that may work best for you and your family’s specific case.

About Entergy Arkansas
Entergy Arkansas provides electricity to approximately 728,000 customers in 63 counties. Entergy Arkansas is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, an integrated energy company engaged in electric power production, transmission and retail distribution operations. Entergy delivers electricity to 3 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy owns and operates one of the cleanest large-scale U.S. power generating fleets with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including 7,000 megawatts of nuclear power. Entergy has annual revenues of \$10 billion and approximately 12,500 employees.

Bees need watering too

By MARY HIGHTOWER
U OF A SYSTEM DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

When temperatures rise, so does the need for honey bee hydration, said Jon Zawislak, an extension expert in bees and urban entomology for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

“Bees may be able to get sufficient water from the nectar they drink to get by, but they are often found drinking water from other sources in the summer,” he said. “Honey bees particularly need extra water because they use it to cool their hives in the summertime.”

Despite their small size, the thousands of honey bees in a colony can generate a lot of heat.

“Honey bees maintain a fairly constant temperature of 93 degrees inside their nest, which is the perfect temperature to incubate baby bees,” Zawislak said.

The bees moderate hive temperature in a couple of ways. The first is by fanning outside air into the hive.

“Many bees will line up together, facing one direction, and actively fan their wings, creating air currents into and out of a bee hive,” he said. “They bring in fresh, cool, oxygen-rich air while blowing out the stale, humid air filled with carbon dioxide.”

The tactics change when the temperatures rise and just bringing in outside air doesn’t help as much.

“The bees then rely on evaporative cooling,” Zawislak said. Bees have a nectar crop — an extra stomach-like organ used to haul nectar back to the hive. During hot weather, bees fill the crops with water.

“Back at the hive, the busy bees will deposit tiny droplets of water all around the hive,” he said. “As the bees fan their wings, the moving air evaporates the water and carries some of the heat away with it. They use the same activity to evaporate water from nectar to help turn it into honey.”

Help hydrate your bees

It’s easy to provide a water source for pollinators. “You can leave a dish out for them or keep your bird bath full if you don’t mind them buzzing around your garden,” Zawislak said. “Bees can’t swim, though, and they can’t sip while on the wing like a hummingbird.”

Bees must land to take a drink, so they need a “platform” to reach the water.

“You can fill a container with clean gravel they can sit on while they sip or provide them with pieces of wood floating in the water for them to land on,” he said. “Bees will also visit swimming pools and hot tubs if they can’t find any other water sources. They will usually be found sipping from puddles splashed around the pool and won’t try to get to climb down the ladder. So be mindful of them as you walk around in your bare feet.”

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

of sexual exploitation.

An individual child may have been the victim of more than one type of abuse or neglect. During the three-month period, investigators substantiated that four children were killed and another four children were nearly killed. One allegation of a child fatality that was reported to the

hotline was determined to be unsubstantiated.

Of the cases that came through the hotline, the Division of Children and Family Services determined that 1,163 merited a differential response, which is an alternative to a criminal investigation. The most common findings in those cases were of environmental neglect. In 36 percent of the cases the child’s home lacked basic cleanliness and hygiene.

The second most common finding, in 30 percent of the cases, the child was inadequately supervised. The third most frequent finding, in 20 percent of cases, the child’s education was neglected. Fourth in frequency was that the child was not given enough to eat. Inadequate food was a reason for a differ-

ential response in 13 percent of the cases.

In six percent of the cases, the child lacked shelter. In five percent the child had been locked out of his or her home. In four percent the child was not provided medical attention. Also in four percent of cases, the child lacked sufficient clothing.


The Division opens a protective services case, or a supportive services case, when it substantiates an allegation of abuse or neglect. During the most recent quarter, case workers found that eight percent of the children in a protective services case were abused within a year after the case had been opened.

In supported services cases, three percent of the children were neglected or maltreated within the year after the case had opened.

The Division has 428 family services workers. Their average caseload in March was 23.3, which is down from 25.5 last October. The state’s goal is to bring it below 20.

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UAM cattle breeding program enters new phase

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

The cattle herd at the University of Arkansas at Monticello is getting an upgrade, receiving more than two dozen hand-picked Beefmaster cows and calves donated by James and Mary Ann Skelton of Springdale. “I didn’t want UAM to have any scrubs,” the 77-year-old James Skelton. “I’m selling down, so I donated the better end of my cows.”

At one time, Skelton and his brother managed more than 300 head of Beefmaster cattle. “My brother got out of the business, and now it’s just my two sons,” Skelton said. “We have about 60 cows. They, too, are now wanting out of the cattle business. So, it’s a good time.”

UAM has had cattle on its campus for a long time, beginning as a research and demonstration herd managed by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s Southeast Research and Extension Center. When the Center closed, the herd was transferred to UAM.

“With the switch of ownership, so did the focus of the cattle operation. We were suddenly tasked with the need for our cattle to produce calves for revenue so that the farm could financially stand on its own,” said Rocky Lindsey, veterinarian and associate professor animal science.

Genetic upgrades
UAM farm manager Greg

Montgomery said the donated cattle, which arrived in May, have excellent traits that help elevate the quality of the UAM herd.

“We are getting some proven genetics,” said Montgomery.

“There are three boxes we are trying to check. The first is visual assessment; we want them to look pretty as you go down the road. The next two boxes included pedigree: what ancestry do they have, and have they produced recognizable genetics?” he said.

“The third box is EPDs or expected progeny differences. All three things can get very complex, but it’s pretty simple once you know the process. If we are checking all three boxes, we are upgrading our cattle,” Montgomery said.

Beefmasters Breeders United helps track all the cows’ data.

“They have the bloodline; they get a number, the animal’s birth weight is recorded, weaning weight and yearling weight. By the time you’re done, you have a huge database to help improve the quality of your herd,” he said.

Beating the competition
UAM doesn’t often enter competitions with its livestock. However, this past year Montgomery and a student tested the waters at the Arkansas State Fair. The result was a measuring stick.

“The results couldn’t have been better,” Montgomery said. “We were at the state fair in 2021. We had a heifer and a bull. Our bull won Arkansas Champion and Grand Champion Beefmaster Bull.

“We walked out of there with a lot of purple ribbons. For me, it was the first time I’d ever done that,” he said. “Even as a kid, I had never won the state fair. It was cool to do that for the university and a cool thing for me.”

Montgomery said UAM student Rayvin Callaway showed the cattle and “she did a wonderful job. Kudos to her for the work she has done. We hope to have more student interaction in the future in showing our cattle.”

“The goals for the herd with University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture were teaching and research. Generating revenue through cattle sales was not the focus,” said Lindsey. “We’re still going to use them as a teaching herd and perform quality research, but the focus has changed since UAM took ownership of the cattle. We now want to help the UAM farm grow and support itself.”

“We can brand our UAM university name and become well-known. We are starting to become known as a quality Beefmaster breeder. This gives added value to our cattle,” said Lindsey.

“Everything we do out here on this cow farm, there will be a student involved,” said Montgomery. “Ultimately everything we do to improve the college’s herd; the student is involved 100 percent hands-on. As the herd gains more notoriety, the university also builds its name and reputation. Meaning more opportunities for the student.”

Skelton became familiar with



Photo courtesy of Lon Tegels/UAM

the UAM breeding program about five years ago. At that time, Bill Pendergrass, executive vice president of Beefmasters Breeders United, told Skelton that UAM needed a bull to breed their cows. Skelton called Montgomery and told them that the school he could use one of his top bulls for a few months. The bull was a top five ranked Beefmaster. The bull and cows did their job producing top calves. However, closure of the Southeast Research and Extension Center meant Montgomery had to start over.

The current “donation we received was very beneficial, no strings attached,” Lindsey said. “Some of the cattle we were ini-

tially going to sell, the donation agreement allowed us to do that, but instead, the quality of the animals we received was incredibly good. Those cows and calves will now be incorporated into our existing breeding program.”

About the Division of Agriculture

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the

nation’s historic land grant education system. The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses. The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

SHRUM

Continued from Page 1A

Since 1978, Mainline Health Systems has served the residents of Southeast Arkansas with a compassionate approach and a commitment to the highest standard of medical and dental care. From its first office in Portland

all those years ago, Mainline Health Systems has grown to 22 locations across Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Drew, Grant and Lincoln counties.

Mainline Health System’s mission is to provide the best care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The staff has worked hard to create and maintain financial assistance

programs to ensure all families receive the medical and dental treatment they need, when they need it.

To learn more about Mainline Health Systems, visit <https://mainlinehealth.net/about-us/>.

Drew Memorial Health System is a non-profit, 60-bed, community-owned acute care facility that serves a population

of 200,000 in Southeast Arkansas. They have operated for over 35 years in our current location in the City of Monticello, in Drew County.

At Drew Memorial, they strive to improve the overall quality of life in our community by employing a top-notch medical team, regularly advancing the equipment, trainings, and ser-

vices offered, and by continually assessing how to best serve our patients and their families. Our community deserves access to professional, advanced care in a convenient location for Southeast Arkansas residents. They value the connections between our community members and organizations, which is why Dr. Shrum’s transition will be one of

ease.

Any patients desiring to transfer their care to Dr. Shrum at Mainline Health Systems or to another provider will be required to complete a medical record release. Medical release forms will be available for patients at Drew’s Women’s Clinic until its closure on July 29, 2022.

WASTE

Continued from Page 1A

economic engine in the region through the manufacturing and sale of projects. In 2005, the patent was granted and construction of a commercial scale power plant, followed by successful air quality and ash results in 2008. During 2009 to 2010 the company received solid waste and air quality permits and in 2011 the first and only fully permitted successful gasification waste to energy plant in America was located in Inez, Ky. The plant now stands as the research and development facility for Inez power, LLC, an operating arm of RST established between 2012 and 2016.

One of the benefits touted by Inez power is the ability to use all material at the facility to convert to energy and reselling recyclables such as ash, glass and steel to domestic industry, meaning regardless of other countries tariffs or trade restrictions, the company and all materials are unaffected by trade restrictions or tariffs such as those imposed

by China on recyclables.

Unlike incinerators, the gasification process, which uses low heat to render waste to a gas that can then be used to heat water and produce steam to make energy, has an energy ration greater than 45 percent improvement over the energy ration of 500 kwh/ton. The syngas produced uses less air for oxidation, improving the overall efficiency of the thermal system. Incineration renders waste to ash that then goes to the landfills, the gasifica-

tion process converts waste to a synthesis gas which enables the plant to run in a more efficient manner. The low temperature used in the process allows the facility to extract all non-ferrous metals and create zero waste throughout the process meaning all of the process’ by-products can be reused, with 45% greater efficiency. In the typical incineration facility an average of 25 percent of the incoming waste is sent back to a landfill for disposal, while the gasification process

uses 100 percent, sending no by-products to a landfill.

When the facility is completed in Lake Village it will be the first fully operational gasification waste-to-energy plant in the United States since the Inez Plant is for research and development. The agreement with the counties will allow Drew County to pay a \$45 tipping fee per ton, according to SEADD Deputy Director Shane Knight, the rates will be locked in for 30 years with a review every 5 years. I the

rates still “work” the tipping fee will remain the same. The County will also have a new unencumbered funds revenue stream with the County being paid \$3.75 per ton of trash brought to the facility.

Trash has been a concern for the County recently with issues ranging from unexpected tipping fee hikes to issues keeping the landfill open, during the June QC meeting County Judge Robert Akin who was defeated by Jessie Griffin in the latest elec-

tion stated this may be his legacy with a hope the plant and technology will lead to zero needs for landfills.

“I want folks to know as the deputy director how grateful I am because Judge Akin was a key player in this,” said Knight. “He advocated the ordinances, he advocated the contracts, he sees the future in this, and he sees the benefit to Drew County. I can’t give him enough accolades for how his leadership helped make this come to fruition.”

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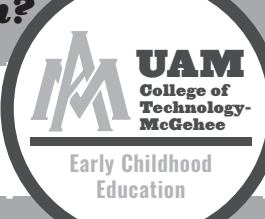
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OBITUARIES

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

John P Franklin

John P Franklin was born August 19, 1948 in Lacey, Arkansas to the late Porter and Treathe Franklin.

He attended public school while growing up in Lacey, and graduated from Drew Central High School.



FRANKLIN

In his early years he attended the Promise Land Baptist Church in Lacey. John P Franklin departed this life on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at his home with family and loved ones. He was preceded in death by his father, Porter Franklin, mother Treathe Franklin; brother Glen D, Franklin; three sisters Vernie Childress; Shirley Tabb and Lafran Rogers; and two sons John P Franklin Jr, and Antwan Miller.

He leaves to cherish his memories, a devoted wife,

Mary M. Franklin of Lacey; three sons Deverick (Clare) Franklin of Lacey; Alfonzo (Amber) Franklin of Lacey; Tyrone (Lateasha) Franklin of Wilmar; one daughter Tonya (Johnathan) Spencer of Monticello; one nephew reared as a son, Undra (Anita) Lambert of Sherwood; one brother, Jerry Franklin of McGehee; three sisters, Patricia Staple of Monticello, Ivanell Handley of Lacey and Jacqueline Riley of Detroit, Mich.; sixteen grandchildren, Natasha (Semaj) Brown; Natisha (Julius) Winston; Michael Grays, Jr; Jalen Franklin; Alfonzo Franklin Jr; Ciara Franklin; Parker Franklin; Savannah Franklin; Dontavia Clay; Deverick Franklin Jr.; Kiara Franklin; Gloria (Darius) Warner; Maya Franklin; Tyrone Franklin Jr.; the late Undra Lambert Jr; Paige Lambert; Peyton Lambert, and a host of great grands, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends.

Visitation was Monday, June 27, from 6 - 7 p.m. in

the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel. Funeral services were Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 1 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel. Burial followed in Oakland Cemetery in Monticello with Pastor Daryle Daniels officiating.

Please sign Mr. Franklin's guestbook at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Ben Lasiter

Ben Lasiter, 78, of Wilmar, passed away Wednesday, June 22, 2022, enjoying his last ride on a favorite pas-time - riding his four-wheeler around the front field. He was born June 17, 1944, in Wilmar, to the late Howard Benjamin and Mary Johns Lasiter.

He was a retired heavy equipment operator and was of the Baptist faith. He was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 624. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 55 years whom he married on July 14, 1964, and re-

mained by her side until her last breath, Peggy Calhoun Lasiter; one son, Dewayne Lasiter; and two brothers, Marvin and Charles Lasiter.

Ben's expertise as a pipeline side-boom operator was unmatched. The challenges of working in extreme temperatures and conditions



LASITER

were normal for Ben. He encountered these conditions as he worked on the slopes of Prudhoe Bay, Ala. on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System during the 70's, as well as the pipeline across the United States. These abilities he possessed always enabled him to provide for his family. He was proud of his homeplace on Green Hill New Hope Road where he raised his four kids. On this homeplace, Ben loved his garden, raising cattle, cutting hay, and training catahoulia dogs. He also had a few goats and rabbits.

Other hobbies of his included hog and squirrel hunting and feeding his fish where he trained them to come to the sound of his four-wheeler.

Back in the day, men were taught to be strong, stoical, not to express vulnerability, encouraged to express pain without complaining, be in control, self-reliant, handle any situation and to overcome any challenge without fear. He lived those words until his last breath. If you would ask him how he was doing or feeling, his answer lately would be, "I'm not doing 100 percent but I am good!"

Survivors include one daughter, Tina Lasiter Hilliard of Fayetteville; sons, Dusty Lasiter of Wilmar, Michael Joe and Shawn Lasiter of Monticello; two sisters, Linda Derryberry (Tommy); Irma James (Alvin), one brother, Tim Lasiter (Teacy), five grandchildren Dewayne Norrell, Nikolas Hillyard, Dustin Lasiter, Madison Lasiter, and Noah Hillyard; and

seven great grandchildren, Cecily, Tandy, Kyler, Bentley, Adalay, Jaxx, and Axel.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Monday, June 27, 2022, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel. Burial was in Andrews Chapel Cemetery. There will be a visitation Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. You can sign Ben's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Sgt. Russell Jarvis Jr.

Sgt. Russell Jarvis Jr. died Sat. June 25, 2022.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 30, 2022

at the Lone Sassfrass Cemetery in Monticello.

Burial will follow in the Lone Sassfrass Cemetery under the direction of Mitchell Memorial Funeral Service in Crossett.



UAM Nursing Student Selected for the Arkansas Center for Nursing's Young Leaders Program

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Jaye Saunders, a University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) senior nursing student from New Edinburg, Arkansas, was selected as one of five students across the state for the 2022 BSN Young Leaders program.

The Arkansas Center for

Nursing sponsors the BSN Young Leaders program each year, selecting a limited number of nursing student applicants from across the state to explore opportunities in nurse leadership. Nurses bring a unique, important perspective to health care, and the program aims to prepare more

nurses for important leadership positions to address Arkansas' significant health care challenges.

The BSN Young Leaders program pairs nursing students with nurse researchers, educators, clinicians and other health care leaders in various settings. Selected students are

guided through the process of leading a quality improvement or research project. At the completion of the three-month program, students receive a \$1,000 stipend to assist with educational costs.

Saunders wants to focus her project on bringing awareness to pediatric mental health

screenings in primary care clinics.

Dr. Brandy Haley, dean of the UAM School of Nursing, offered congratulations to Saunders for her selection, stating, "The School of Nursing is proud to have a student selected for this leadership program. This program mentors future

nurses in leadership roles that strengthen the delivery of safe, effective and high-quality care. Jaye is an excellent nursing student, and her participation in this program will reinforce the theoretical beliefs we teach in our BSN program regarding leadership and its impact on patient outcomes."

GPS Hospitality Awards Burger KingSM Foundation Scholarship to Drew County High School Student

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

GPS Hospitality, a rapidly growing franchisee with over 400 BURGER KING restaurants, is pleased to announce it will award the Burger King Foundation scholarships to 213 students in 13 states this graduation season. Since 2013, GPS Hospitality has supported 1,601 scholars in totaling nearly 1.6 million in giving.

Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors based on their grade point average and the impact the applicants have on their schools and communities through volunteerism and work experience. BURGER KING employees and their

family members pursuing a traditional post-secondary education or enrichment programs are also eligible to apply. This year's 213 winners include 30 employees and 183 seniors in GPS Hospitality's local communities. The Burger King Foundation scholarships are a community effort as they are funded completely through guest donations at local restaurants. In 2000, the Burger King Scholars program has awarded nearly \$55 million in scholarships.

The BURGER KING Scholar selected for the 2022 program from Drew County is Lila Wilson, Monticello High School.

"We are passionate about

making a positive, local impact," said Michael Lippert, President of GPS Hospitality. "I am proud of our team members who drive in-store donations that support the Burger

King Foundation Scholarship program. Not only is it rewarding to be able support students and employees in continuing their education but also to see the impact our team members

and guests are making together in cities across the country."

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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

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

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

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

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

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Big Benefit Sale: July 2, 2022 @ Wilmar Center HWY 278 (Old School Campus) N. Wilmar 7AM Til ? Bargains Galore 1f 7/2

HELP WANTED

Clearview Glass and Mirror is seeking to hire a new team member: Glass Installer. Successful applicant must possess basic construction skills. High regard for quality and customer service is required. Interested? Call 870-460-9244 or stop by 315 East Gaines to apply. 4pd 7/9

Secretary Position Available. Monticello business is seeking a motivated individual to join our team. Applicant must be a good communicator and multitasker. Must possess good computer and communication skills, and must be focused on customer service. Please send your resume to: Business, PO Box 662, Monticello, AR 71657 4pd 7/9

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking for Monticello High School Yearbooks from 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 call Steve @912-257-2350 2tf 7/16

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Mr. Johnny is buying precious metals. Gold, Silver, Copper etc. 421 Ambrose Street M-F 8am to 4:30 pm call 870-308-1025 4pd 6/25

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

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Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

BRITTANY WASHINGTON, PLAINTIFF VS. VALERA'S INVESTMENT, LLC., DEFENDANT

Lot No. 10, in Block No. 1, of Edgewood Addition of a part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S1/2 of NW1/4) of Section 25, Township 12 South, Range 7 West, in the City of Monticello, as shown on the plat of said addition recorded at Page 399 of Book 39, of the Deed Records of Drew County, Arkansas.

NO. 22CV-22-61

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Drew County, Arkansas, to quiet and confirm title in and to the above described real property in the heading of this case.

Any persons claiming any title or interest of any kind to said property is hereby notified to appear herein or before the 5th day of July, 2022, to assert their interest in said property and to demonstrate which title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in and to Brittany Washington.

/s/Beverly Burks
Beverly Burks, Circuit Clerk

#103936 6/15 6/22 6/29 7/6

NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given this 21st day of June, 2022 that York W. Williams, Jr. Child Development Center, Inc. of 115 North Freeman Street - P.O. Box 338, Dermott, AR 71638 has made application for funds through Section 49 U.S.C. Section 5310 for the purchase of the following type of passenger transportation vehicle: Small Cutaway Bus.

This vehicle will be used primarily for the following purposes: Transporting Clients to and from residence to our child development center.

Purchase of the above vehicle is considered essential to the efficient operation of this organization in provision of public transportation services to seniors and individuals with disabilities. There is no intent to infringe upon, or compete with, existing public or private transit operators, including Section 5307, urban public transit operators and Section 5311, rural public transit operators.

York W. Williams, Jr. Child Development Center, Inc. is requesting a vehicle that is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, York W. Williams, Jr. Child Development Center, Inc. does meet the "equivalency of service" requirements to individuals with disabilities in the community.

Any objection should be submitted in writing only to persons listed below. All comments will become a part of this organization's application and will be a matter of public record. All written comments must be submitted within 30 days of this notice. Any person wishing to request a public hearing on the proposed project must submit a request in writing within 10 days of the date of this notice to the person listed below:

Dr. Hagit Gregory
Executive Director
York W. Williams, Jr. Child Development Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 338 - 115 North Freeman Street
Dermott, AR 71638
and to:
Greg Nation, Administrator
Public Transportation Programs Office
Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
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#104962 6/29


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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given this 22nd day of June, 2022 that Advantages of Southeast Arkansas, Inc. of 168 West College Ave. Monticello, AR 71655 has made application for funds through Section 49 U.S.C. Section 5310 for the purchase of the following type of passenger transportation vehicles: (1) 22' Small Cutaway Bus with lift (2) 22' Small Cutaway Bus without lift these vehicles will be used primarily to transport developmentally disabled individuals to and from day treatment at Discovery Children's Center and Discovery Skills Center.

Purchase of the above vehicles is considered essential to the efficient operation of this organization in provision of public transportation services to seniors and individuals with disabilities. There is no intent to infringe upon, or compete with, existing public or private transit operators, including Section 5307, urban public transit operators and Section 5311, rural public transit operators.

Advantages is requesting one vehicle that is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, Advantages does meet the "equivalency of service" requirements to individuals with disabilities in the community.

Any objection should be submitted in writing only to persons listed below. All comments will become a part of this organization's application and will be a matter of public record. All written comments must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice. Any person wishing to request a public hearing on the proposed project must submit a request in writing within 10 days of the date of this notice to the persons listed below:

DeAnna Doherty
Executive Director
Advantages of Southeast Arkansas, INC.
PO Box 359
Monticello, AR 71657
and to:
Greg Nation, Administrator
Public Transportation Programs Office
Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

#104075 6/29

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION
CITY OF MONTICELLO, ARKANSAS, PLAINTIFF V.
Lot No 1 in Block "G" of the Laude Addition in the City of Monticello, WAYNE & TAMMY PEACOCK; AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LAND, DEFENDANTS

NO. 22CV-22-78

WARNING ORDER

TO: WAYNE & TAMMY PEACOCK, DEFENDANT:
You are hereby notified that The City of Monticello, Arkansas, Plaintiff, whose attorney is Whit Barton, Barton & Roper, PLLC. and whose attorney's address is P.O. Box 507 Monticello, AR 71657 has filed a Complaint against you, a copy of which complaint and summons shall be delivered to you or your attorney upon request. You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your answer or other response if pleading within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; and in the event of your failure to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint as circumscribed by the laws of this state.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal as clerk of this court on this 15th day of June, 2022.

/s/Beverly Burks/LA
Beverly Burks, Clerk

#103943 6/29 7/6

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TFN. mt-bm #101799

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this news-

paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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vance-Monticellonian and the FTC. TFN

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Mark Your Calendars!

JULY



JULY 6TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **Monticello at the Workforce Center from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon and in McGehee at UAM from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M..**

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SUMMER FUN



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

We asked readers to submit their “summer fun” photos. The photos on this page are what we received!



UAM Men’s Golf to open fall 2022 schedule at the GAC Preview

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Men’s Golf Team announced their schedule recently for the 2022 fall season. The team is set to compete in four tournaments in the first half of their 2022-23 season. Head Coach Ken Hamilton will return for his second season as the head coach of the UAM Men and Women’s Golf Teams. “Our Men’s team closed strong in the Spring 2022 season,” said Coach Hamilton.

“That finish, a strong returning core and a strong recruiting class has created some true excitement leading into the Fall season. The players are taking their summer break serious and are playing in some highly competitive tournaments. I believe when they return for the Fall Season we will make some noise right from the start and hope to greatly improve on our 7th place GAC finish. This team will be fun to watch.” The schedule for the Weevils

includes only the first half of the season, including four tournaments for the fall. UAM will travel to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in the opener for the Great American Conference Preview, hosted by Southern Nazarene University at the Lake Hefner North Golf Course on Sept. 10-12. Tournament No. 2 of the fall season will come the next week with the Battle of the Belt in Hot Springs, Arkansas hosted at the Hot Springs Country Club - Ar-

lington Course (Oct. 2-4). The Weevils will wrap up the fall schedule with two final events in October, being South-

ern Arkansas University’s Arkansas Collegiate in El Dorado, Arkansas at the Mystic Creek Golf Club (Oct. 9-11), and the

Tulsa Cup, hosted by Rogers State University, at The Club at Indian Springs (Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Oct. 23-25).

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LIVING

CONTACT US
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editor@monticellonews.net reporter@monticellonews.net



The following area businesses would like to wish all of our friends and neighbors here in the community a safe and happy July 4th! We hope your holiday is a blast, but please remember to celebrate responsibly and stay sober behind the wheel.

When there is an EMERGENCY... Let us take care of you!



Monticello Ambulance Service Inc.

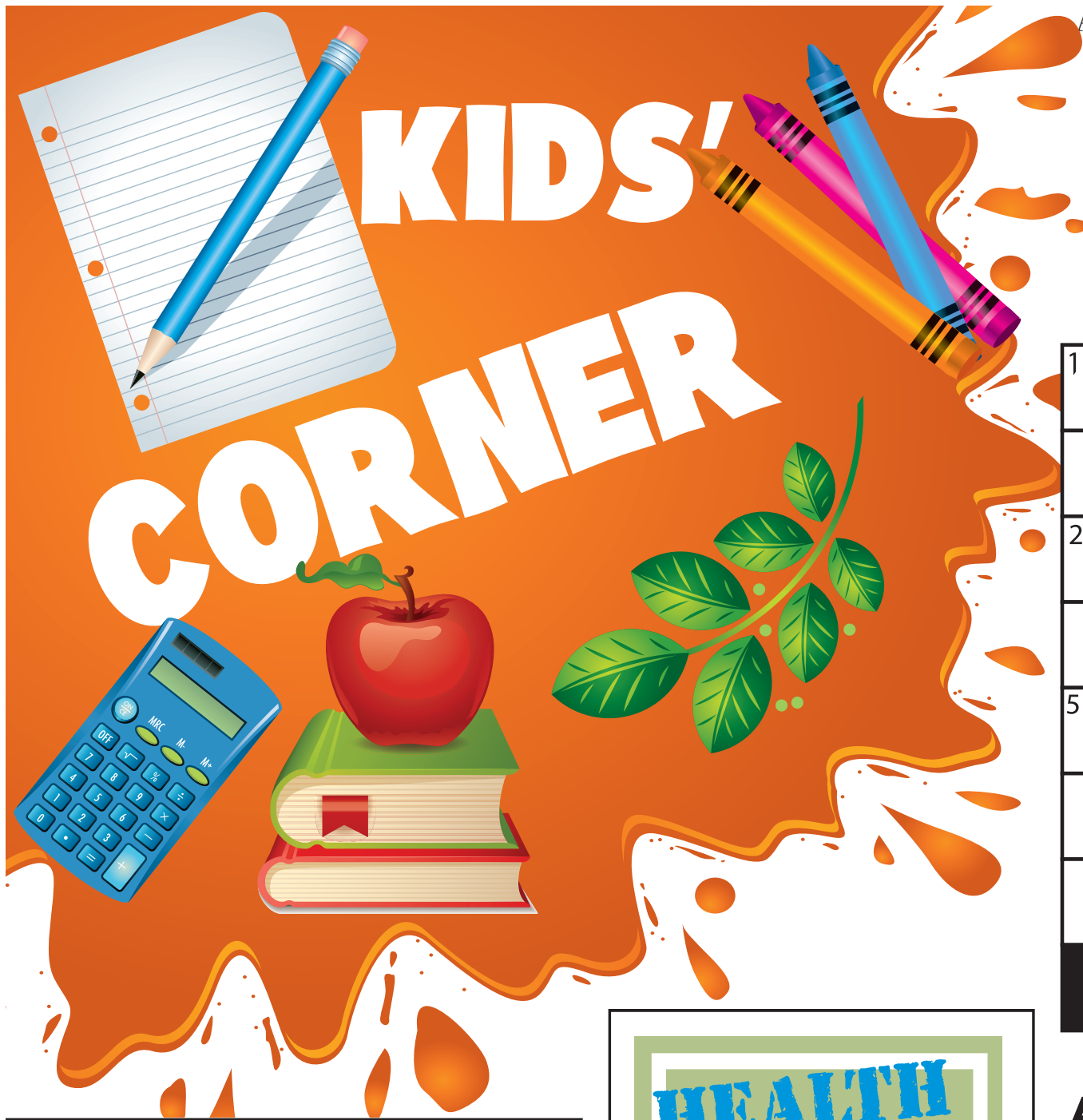
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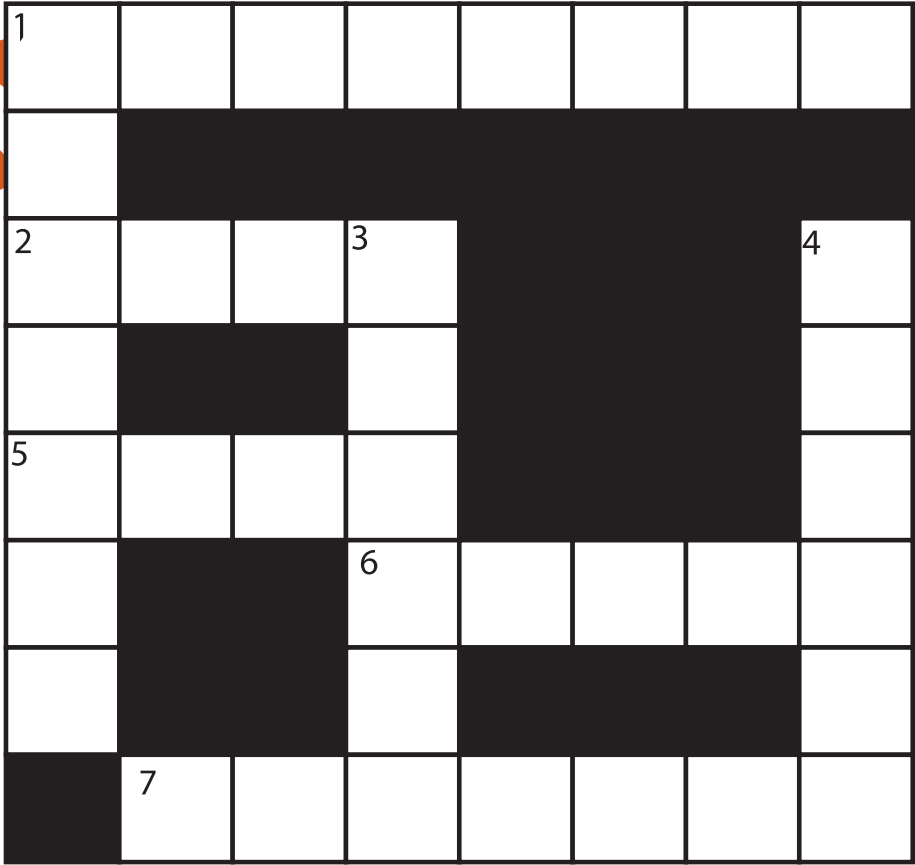


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Here are some fun activities for
our younger readers to enjoy!

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Colored arches
2. Cats and dogs have them
5. Individual unit
6. Hot fluid in the Earth
7. Those who ride the waves

DOWN

1. Dangerous, dragging motion of the ocean
3. Warm season
4. Cover most of the Earth

Answers:
Across
1. Rainbows 2. Paws 5. Item 6. Magma
7. Surfers
Down
1. Riptide 3. Summer 4. Oceans

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Fuse

SPANISH: Espoleta

ITALIAN: Miccia

FRENCH: Amorce

GERMAN: Zündschnur

HEALTH FACT:

SECOND-DEGREE BURNS ARE THE LEADING INJURY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF THESE DEVICES. BURNS TEND TO OCCUR ON THE HANDS.

ANSWER: FIREWORKS

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FIREWORKS

New Word

AERODYNAMIC

moves through the air smoothly with less drag

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

• **1613:** THE GLOBE THEATRE IN LONDON BURNS TO THE GROUND.

• **1976:** THE SEYCHELLES GAIN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

• **2007:** APPLE INC. RELEASES ITS FIRST MOBILE PHONE, THE IPHONE.



FAITH

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

CHILDREN’S DEVOTIONAL

An Eye for an Eye? Not so fast!

By Amy Becker

Have you ever been bitten really hard? If you have, then you know how infuriating it can be. After all, bites seem to come out of nowhere, not many people actually bite you, and it’s shocking and painful all at once. My grandma and I were on a little road trip last week, and we got on this conversation. She told me that her brother was a biter when he was a toddler, and her mom told her that the only way to make him stop would be to bite him back. I really don’t remember how the story ended or if she ever even got to that part, because our conversation moved in a different direction. What do we do when someone hurts

us?

The natural thing to want to do is hurt those who hurt us. If someone talks bad about us, we talk bad about them. If someone is hateful to us, then we’re hateful to them. More than not, when someone is wronged, they want to make the other person feel as bad as they do or worse. No ifs, ands, or buts, this is not the right way and it goes against everything Jesus taught. When we hurt people intentionally we are sinning against God and against that person. There is no loophole for how that person made you feel. That is between the other person and God and not yours to repay. Don’t just take my word for it though, let’s see what scripture has to

say about it.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for

evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed

him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

Romans 12:14-20

So when it comes to those who have treated us poorly we’re told to bless, not repay their evil, live at peace with them, don’t take revenge on them, feed them, and give them a drink and that’s it. The Lord will deal with punishing the wrongs of others, but your job is to work on living at peace with

everyone. Sometimes that means swallowing your pride and being kind to people who have made you upset. It may mean doing something nice for someone that you know will never return the favor, but in the end this is what we as followers of Jesus are told to do. So it’s time to live at peace with one another, even those who have hurt you. You might be surprised with how much better things will get if you will only treat others the way you want to be treated.

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Carpet Medics: 29 years of service

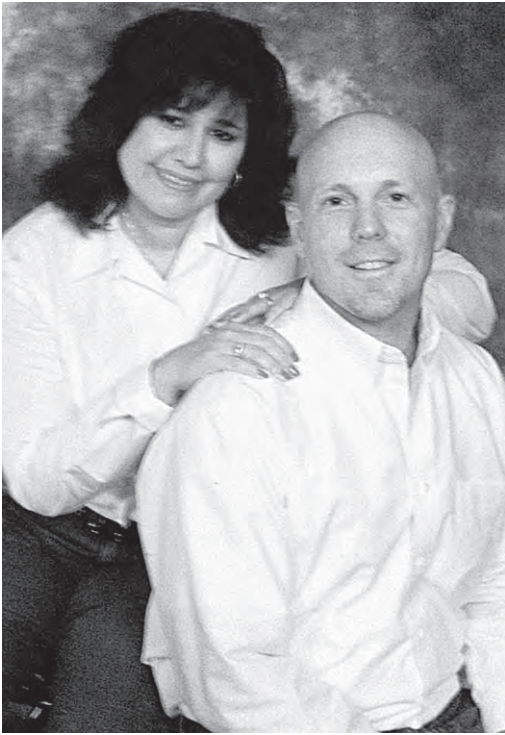
Special to the Advance

Carpet Medics Restoration has served Southeast Arkansas since 1993 providing services from basic carpet, upholstery, and tile cleaning to catastrophic disaster restoration. Carpet Medics Restoration's owners, Randy & Julie Phillips, have made their personal touch on every job a priority. In addition to over 50 years of combined experience, they have pursued mastering their craft of disaster restoration to the extent of the following

degrees from their industry's governing body, the IICRC:

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- Applied Structural Drying
- Applied Microbial Remediation Tech (Mold Remediation)
- World's Fastest Drying Tech
- Fire & Smoke Restoration Tech
- Odor Control Tech

as well as other organization's certifications. Applying their years of experience along with their advanced knowledge, Carpet Medics Restoration's owners and technicians have assisted home and business owners at their times of need whether dealing with flooded structures or fire/smoke damaged buildings. Owner Randy Phillips states that their goal is to solve the homeowner's problem and serve their needs first. "Although the majority of our restoration work is billed directly to insurance companies, we are there to serve the home or business owner. It is their property and we work for them. Our own home burned in 2007, so we can certainly empathize when someone is dealing with a catastrophe, big or small, in their home." Carpet Medics Restoration's sister company Phillips Mgmt & Svcs, Southeast Arkansas' premier commercial cleaning service, provides a strong resource of cleaning experts to rely on which is critical in the restoration of flooded and smoke damaged buildings. Phillips says "We have trained staff on hand at all times ready for whatever situation comes our way. If your house floods or you have fire & smoke damage, we hope you'll let us help you get through a difficult time."



Special to the Advance Monticellonian

Owners Randy & Julie Phillips

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



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BARKADA

JANA WRIGHT

I was very thankful for the rain we got Sunday, and it was actually pleasant outside for a while.

I have not had a chance to be outside today, but it is supposed to be in the 80's. It would probably be a good day to go fishing.

Saturday we had a gathering for Kelly, Dustin Barnett, Rebecca and Steve Harlow's birthdays. Those attending were Bradley, Brittany, and Sawyer Sears; Janie and Rachel Nicholson, Rebecca, Steve, Beverly, and Zeffery Harlow; Ethan and Brandi Gilliam, Koby and Jakob Bayliss, Sheila Watts, and Jamie Martin. We had a great time and were really glad to see Aunt Janie. She has been battling cancer and has not felt well for a while.

Jim and Amanda Stafford have had a bountiful garden this year. She canned 6 gallons of salsa this past weekend. While taking a break from canning, Amanda, Crystal Wood, Haley Voerster, and Mary Bradberry went to see Top Gun: Maverick at the theater.

Camden Harris, son of C.J. and Kari Harris, raced in the Swan MX this past weekend.

He had a little bad luck with some wrecks, but he sure raced hard! Great job, Camden!

Crayton Harris, son of Dustin and Laci Harris, also raced this past weekend at the Swan MX. He will be moving on to the Loretta Lynn Regional Qualifier. Good luck, Crayton!

Regina Lanehart made the Advance this year with the new therapy dog Bella who will be working with the Monticello School District.

Uncle Don Martin came down last week to get a kitten from me. We had a nice visit.

I always find out some new family history when we visit.

The Wilmar All School Reunion will be Saturday, September 3rd at the former high school building at Wilmar from 3-8. The meal will be catered. Mail money to Margaret Tucker 601 Roosevelt Road, Star City.

Happy 40th anniversary to my in-laws, David and Kay Ozment. Also, I would like to wish my brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bobby and Christy Roberts a happy anniversary.

May both couples have many more happy years together!

I was sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Ben Lasiter. He and his wife Peggy were really good friends with my mom and dad years ago. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Happy birthday to Chris Barnett, Bekka McIlvoy, Wan-

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.

da Harris, Shanise Hudsbeth, Mandy Flaniken, Lela Owen, and Anna Wright. I hope you all have or had wonderful birthdays!

Please call 870.224.3383 or email wrightwoman_66@yahoo.com. No news is too small.

GREEN HILL

WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church hosted a guest pastor, Brother Dobbs, on Sunday. Sunday School is at 9:30 and worship service is at 10:30. You are all invited to attend.

Aunt May returned home from the hospital on Friday. She is feeling much better and Aunt Pepe has been taking good care of her. Praying for full and speedy recovery.

Harry Wayne Pace called to check on and visit with Aunt May and Aunt Pepe. And Gary & Becky Pace visited with them on Saturday.

Allison Barnes had surgery on Thursday. I hope you are doing well and Eddie is taking good care of you. Prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

Happy Belated Birthday wishes go out to Brittany Jackson & Jeff Pace. I hope you both enjoyed a blessed birthday.

Mr. Jerry Webb brought Aunt May, Aunt Pepe, and I some tomatoes he grew in his garden. They tasted so good and we really appreciate your kindness. Thank you.

With Independence day approaching, I hope you all enjoy a safe and Happy 4th of July! God Bless America

Once again I would like to thank Mrs. Sandy Smith for always calling me with news. Thank you

Verse of the week: "For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:5

Have a safe and blessed week.

JORDAN PARK

TRILISA MARSHALL

What a blessing it was to see a lot of my relatives home for my Aunt Rose Grays' funeral that was held Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at

Stephenson Dearman Funeral Home. Interment was at Wilmar Cemetery. I was glad to see all her children, Deborah Hudspeth and her family of Flint, Michigan; Genetta Thorn and Pamela Grays of Pine Bluff; Maria Grays of Dallas, Texas and Likeyshan Grays and Calvin Grays of Monticello, and all the grandchildren. They all were also here for the June Dinner Celebration and it was a sad occasion but a happy one to see family that I haven't seen in awhile. My husband Pastor Robert Marshall Sr. did the eulogy for the funeral and right after we were done and rode through Wilmar for June Dinner, we left out of town to Biloxi, Mississippi to spend time with family on my husband's side of the family. What a great and beautiful time we had. My grandson had a ball playing in the sand and watching the boats go by. Some were even racing but it was an awesome time. When we got back I was not feeling my best at all, but I thank God for a wonderful loving husband/pastor, my grandson, my family, the power of prayers and a great doctor, Dr. Reinhart. I am feeling much better now.

Happy birthday shout out this seek goes to: Bertha Walker, June 28; Marquis William, June 29; Roger McCants and Lennard McCants, June 30; Anna Miller, July 1; Bertha Binns and Victor Vincent, July 3. Happy birthday everyone,

NOTICE

Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, The Advance will be CLOSED Monday, July 4th.

The deadline for classifieds, garage sales, legal notices and country/church news for the July 6 paper will be Friday, July 1 at 5:00 p.m., and all other paper ads will be Tuesday, July 5 at noon.

enjoy your special day.

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. John Franklin. His service was held Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Stephenson Dearman Chapel and interment was at Oakland Cemetery. Also I was sorry to hear of the passing of Deborah Swift. Her service will be held Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Stephenson Dearman Chapel and interment at Zion A.M.E. Cemetery. My prayers, love, and condolences go out to all the families and loved ones and may God comfort and strengthen each and every one of you.

Awesome Sunday school lesson was on: "Having an Attitude of Christ" coming from Philippians 2:1-18 (KJV). and our Tuesday Bible study lesson was on: "Knowing Your Purpose" coming from 2 Timothy 1:9; Eccles 3:1; Habakkuk 2:1; Matthew 6:39; Romans 8:23; 2 Timothy 1:9 and Acts 9:1-16 (KJV). God's purpose for a believer always supersedes the believer's thoughts for himself.

And our scripture for the week is: Psalm 8:1 (KJV), "O Lord how our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. (KJV)"

Everyone have a blessed, safe and cool rest of the week, and much love to all. Blessings!

LACEY

IVANELL HANDLEY

There is no Lacey news this week. Ivanel Handley had other commitments.

Her column will resume in next week's edition.

POSSUM VALLEY

KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Wow. This month/year is moving on along, isn't it?


I was noticing something about myself the other day while I was making my familiar drive through Old 16th Section Rd. As I drew near to one of my favorite spots, I picked up my camera. I wanted to be ready for that perfect shot should it present itself. There were several Pine Warblers flitting and flying around. So carefree and enjoying their little birdy lives. I rarely can get a good shot of Pine Warblers because they're so busy and full of life. Then I got to thinking that maybe I could learn a lesson from these

little birds. I put my camera down and simply watched and listened to the wonders of God's creation. The sun was coming up over the treetops, birds were singing, bees were buzzing, deer were munching and flowers were blooming. Maybe God didn't put these things here just for me to enjoy, but He did put them here for us to enjoy. And not just to enjoy but to protect and do our best to ensure they continue to populate this earth doing their part in making the environment and the cycles of the seasons continue and flourish. I will continue to take photos but will take more time just to look at the world through my eyes and not only with a view to take a photo. I thank God for the gift of nature.

Thursday the 23rd was a crazy day. Somewhere in Monticello a transformer caught fire causing a widespread power outage, which included our office. My coworkers and I sat around for a few hours until finally given permission to leave. This old woman doesn't do well without air conditioning. From what I understand, the power came back on late afternoon and it was on when I got into work Friday morning. Thanks to Entergy and all involved in resolving this issue. The day before it was an internet outage that kept us twiddling our thumbs at the office. Without internet our phones don't work, the email

See COUNTRY Page 5B

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Living water

I remember as a child growing up in the 1980’s we would spend all summer outside. We rode our bikes everywhere. We played in sprinklers in somebody’s front yard. We stayed out until we saw fire flies. Or if you’re from the part of Texas I grew up in they were called “lightnin’ bugs”. It was hot in Texas in the summertime. Like 3rd degree burns on the back of your legs when you sat on the vinyl seat in Mom’s car with shorts on hot.

We would be so preoccupied with playing hard outside that when we got thirsty we weren’t going to go back inside for a water break. No, we would drink from somebody’s garden hose. After you turned on the hose you would have to wait a minute before you took a drink or you get burned by the scalding hot water that came out first before you got to the cold stuff.

I remember drinking from that hose for what seemed like forever because I was so thirsty and the water tasted so good and cold. So you’d drink until your buddy said it was his turn. We’re fortunate in the United States that whenever we’re

physically thirsty we can just walk over to the faucet or refrigerator and get a glass of water.

Yet so many of us are experiencing spiritual dehydration. So thirsty but not finding anything that truly satisfies. So we drink from this fountain and that fountain but none of which quenches. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 63:1 *O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.*

Our bodies can go well over a month without any food. Not recommended of course but it’s possible. Water on the other hand, about three days before dehydration will kill a person. Just like our bodies need water our souls need Jesus. We long for Him. Jesus encountered a woman at a well. He asked her to give him a drink. This is his response to Her. Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

won’t work nor is our electronic case file management system accessible. We were without at home until 9 o’clock.

Rick has been working the 1-8 shift this week which makes for a long quiet afternoon and evening at home. Unless Addie comes over then it’s playtime!

One evening, I had to get the weed eater out because the grass was getting out of hand. Jason mows the big part of the yard and I use the push mower and weed eater to get the rest. Anyway, one evening I was out back whacking some weeds when my grandson, Bo, walks up and motions for me to give him the weed eater. So, I went and got the mower and between the two of us, we managed to get most of it done. Thanks, Bo!

My morning walks have been short and sweaty, uh, I mean sweet. The heat and humidity turns even a short, casual walk into a sauna experience.

As I sit here now, I can hear thunder rumbling. I went out to the car to put the windows up, which may have jinxed any chance of a shower. I sure hope and pray that we receive a good, cleans-

ing, cooling rain shower. I’ve been watering flowers almost every evening.

Bethel enjoyed a good service this week. Bro. Steve Jacks filled the pulpit again. He preached from 1 John 5:13-20, “Things That a Christian Can Know Without a Shadow of a Doubt.”

Next Sunday evening at 5:30, Bethel will host a 4th of July gathering at the church complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, dip and drinks. We also hope to have a water slide to cool off the kiddos.

Bo and Addie both came over Sunday afternoon. It was hot as all get out so we stayed inside. Then the wind began to blow and the thunder rolled followed by a much needed rain. Later, once the rain stopped, we got ready and went to church. I let Bo drive and since he had to drive slowly, his dog, Ozzie, followed us all the way to church and was still there when we came out an hour later. Poor beast then had to run all the way back home. But, before that, I found I had a flat tire. Thankfully, I had a portable air compressor in the trunk and aired it up enough to get to Jason’s. They invited me in for some of Leigha’s yummy lasagna aka basagna as Addie says. When I went back outside, the

See **COUNTRY** Page 6B

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Puzzle answers

Page 6B Sudoku

ANSWER:

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

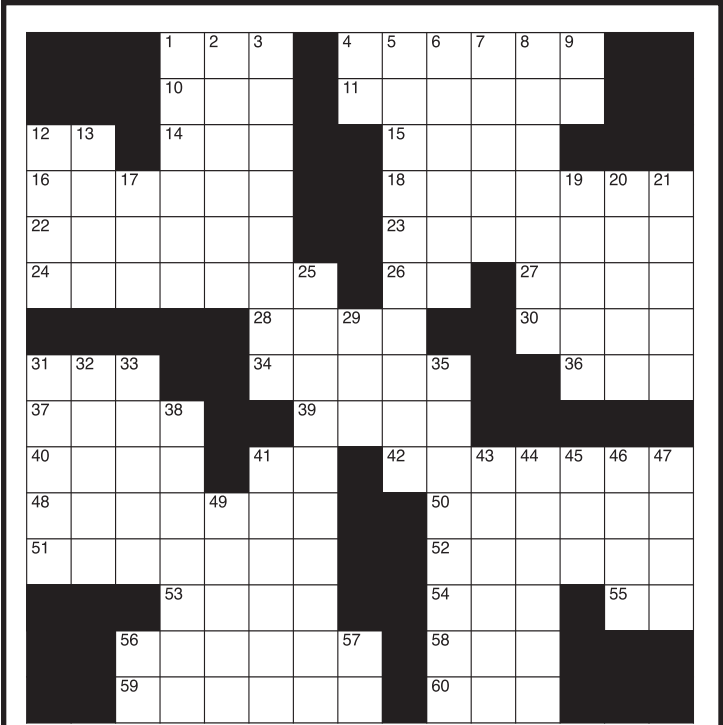
Page 6B Word Search

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

Page 6B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics

4. In a new way

10. __ Paulo, city

11. Jailhouse

12. Expresses surprise

14. Trigraph

15. A small stream

16. Dissimilar

18. Promote

22. Gives a boost

23. Lawmaker

24. Orthodox Jews

26. Actor Harris

27. Wild cherry

28. Participate in democracy

30. Opposite of begins

31. A Brit’s mother

34. Set of moral principles
36. Very fast airplane

37. Czech river

39. Private school in New York

40. Israeli dance

41. Electron volt

42. Adjusting

48. Duct by the bladder

50. Small burger

51. Begin again

52. Unstuck

53. Jai __, sport

54. Get free of

55. For instance

56. Hotel chain

58. A team’s best pitcher

59. Extracts from various sources

60. Indefinite period of time

CLUES DOWN

1. St. Francis of __

2. Supported

3. United in working

4. It cools your home

5. Predicting

6. Irritated

7. Popular talk show host

8. Fabric edge

9. A resource for employees

12. Broadway’s Jackman

13. Small water buffalo

17. City of Angels: __ Angeles

19. Asteroids

20. Tailless amphibians

21. German expressionist painter

25. What drives you
29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group

31. Gold coin used in British India

32. Have deep affection for

33. Ponds

35. Breaks between words

38. Hairstyle

41. Print errors

43. Family of iron alloys

44. Sidelined in bed

45. Many couples say it

46. Brazilian hoopster

47. Allman Brothers late frontman

49. German city

56. One hundred grams (abbr.)

57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

Answers can be found on Page 5B

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Guess Who?

I am a reality star and entrepreneur born in California on June 27, 1984. Together with my sisters, I am part of a famous family. My father was a prominent attorney, and my mother was once married to a legendary Olympic athlete.

Answer: Khloe Kardashian

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to roller coasters.

T K R C A

Answer: Track

ROLLER COASTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ACCELERATION
- AIRTIME
- ASCEND
- BARREL
- BENTS
- BOOMERANG
- BRAKE RUN
- CARS
- CHAIN
- CIRCUIT
- CORKSCREW
- CUTBACK
- ENCLOSED
- ENTHUSIAST
- HEADREST
- INVERSION
- LAPBAR
- LIFT
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- PLATFORM
- RESTRAINT
- STEEL
- TRACK
- WOODEN

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 5B

tire was flat as a flitter again. Jason aired it up for me so I could drive home. Good thing I live just across the road. I figure I'll have to put the spare on in the morning once it gets daylight.

Our little church is struggling right now. Attendance during tomato season and summer vacations is normally low but not having a pastor is hurting us, too. We’ve had no lack of preachers to fill the pulpit but there aren’t many men willing to be a pastor. Please, help us in praying that God will send us the man we need to keep our church light shining.

Sometimes it seems like we just can’t compete with larger churches with more activities. But, I believe Bethel’s little light can still shine and carry out God’s great commission to make disciples, baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach others to observe all things that God has command- ed us to do. God is with us even unto the end of the age.

Corny joke time: What do horses say when they fall? I’ve fallen and I can’t giddy up!

That’s my news for this week. Until next time, please, stay cool and be safe.

P.S. Rick to the rescue. I’ll drive his Jeep to work, and he’ll call AAA and have the car towed into the repair shop.

WILMAR

CHRIS RILEY

Hot, hot, hot is the word. But thanks be to God that we can feel the heat. Don’t have much to report. Sorry to hear of the passing of John P. Franklin, whose last rites were held Tuesday at Stephen- son Dearman Chapel. To the Franklin and Handley fami- lies, you have our prayers and sympathy. Just know Earth has no sorrows that Heaven cannot heal. Trust God.

We at In His Presence Wor- ship Ministries were blessed with Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. taught by “D” and Jan- sen Goodwin. At 11:00 a.m. Minister Calvin and Penny Howard brought the word on

a godly marriage, with various scriptures.

I spent the past week in Bry- ant with my children where I underwent outpatient surgery. All went well, praise God.

Sorry I missed Family and Friends Day at 1st Baptist East Side. I missed my church fam- ily but as we know, duty calls.

Things went well, June Dinner there were many attending.

Will be home by the time this news is public.

Happy birthday to Peggy Fisher.

Now until we meet again by paper and pen, God let you excel so you can make Him known. To God be the glory.

This week’s recipe: Make watermelon the centerpiece of meals

Few things are as delicious and refreshing as watermelon on a warm day. Watermelon grows quite readily in summer and is often ready to pick after three months of growing time. Harvesters look for a pale buttery yellow spot on the bottom of watermelon (the ground spot), indicating ripeness. However, shoppers can do their part and pick perfect watermelon at the store. The fruit should be firm, symmetrical and free from bruises, cuts or dents. The melon also should be heavy, as it is comprised of 92 percent water. Most people immediately think of watermelon as a sweet snack or as a palate cleanser after an evening meal, but watermelon is equally at home in savory dishes as it is in sweet offerings. You may enjoy this recipe for “Zesty Watermelon Chicken Salad Tortilla Cups” courtesy of The National Watermelon Promotion Board and recipe author Shannon Kohn. This is a great warm weather meal that looks impressive and is both cool and filling for summer entertaining.

Zesty Watermelon Chicken Salad Tortilla Cups

Ingredients (Makes 12 servings)

- 4 8-inch flour tortillas

1/4 cup softened cream cheese

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 tablespoon cayenne pepper sauce

2 tablespoons chopped green chiles

1 cup cooked, chopped chicken

1 1/2 cups chopped watermelon

1/4 cup roasted, salted pumpkin seeds (pepitas)

1/4 cup sliced green onions

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.



2. Using a 4-inch cookie cutter or cup, cut rounds out of each tortilla. Press one tortilla round down into each cup of a 12-cup muffin pan.

3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until tortilla cups are light brown and crispy. Remove

- from oven; allow to cool.

4. In the bottom of a large bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise and pepper sauce until smooth.

5. Stir in chicken and green chiles. Fold in watermelon.

6. Divide and fill each tortilla cup with an extra amount of the watermelon-chicken mixture.

7. Divide and garnish with an equal amount of pumpkin seeds and green onion, respec- tively.

DAVE’S FIREWORKS

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Red & White Tent

Crossett

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North Crossett

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