




**2022 Sports
Season
coming up fast
See Page 10A**



ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

BURN BAN
Drew County is under a BURN BAN until further notice.



A&P Commission meets to recap July 4 and discuss future events

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

The Monticello Advertising and Promotion Commission met Monday night with a full agenda. Members Mike Wigley, Shannon Herman, Kim Patel and Annette Taylor were present along with Mayor Paige Chase. A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. at the Hampton Inn.

Chairwoman Herman opened the meeting with a discussion on the potential company change for Christmas lights.

A contract was presented to the members and Herman explained that the previous company, SBC Lights recommended the new company, Southern Magnolia Landscaping, LLC to the commission.

Southern Magnolia Landscaping has attended the same training, Christmas Lights Installation Pro Association, as SBC Lights and is logistically closer to Monticello and has a larger crew.

“A representative from Southern Magnolia was scheduled to be here tonight to speak to us but he has a positive Covid case in his household and is unable to be here,” Herman stated.

The contract price for Christmas light service is \$19,000 and a deposit of \$9,500 must be made in August to secure the contract.

Next on the agenda was the Independence Celebration that was held at the Sports Complex.

The present commissioners agreed that even with the less than desirable weather, the event was well attended.

“The food truck vendors were happy and said they would be glad to come back,” Taylor added. “The fireworks show was really nice and lasted longer than expected.”

The group then discussed how to make adjustments for next year so things run smoother.

The minutes for the June 2022 meeting were approved and can be found on our website, www.advancemonticellonian.com.

A revenue report was given and Wigley dis-

cussed his disapproval of the low rate of interest the group was currently receiving. Local bank rates were discussed but no action was taken.

The “welcome” signs at the four entry points of the city limits of Monticello are still being worked on. Kellum Electric has been hired to make improvements but is waiting on Entergy Arkansas to give him the green light. Herman is in contact with Entergy Arkansas and said she would work on speeding up the process.

Lastly, the group discussed the hiring of an administrative assistant.

Herman noted that two interviews have been conducted and the scope of the job is 40 hours per week with an annual salary of \$32,000. Wigley noted that one of the interview candidates had accepted a position elsewhere. No hire was made at the meeting.

The Monticello Advertising and Promotion Commission has set their meeting times for 5:30 p.m., the fourth Monday of each month, at the Hampton Inn.

Tree limb blocking one lane on Hwy 83



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

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

A large, semi hollow tree limb has fallen on Highway 83, or the 400 block of North Main Street near the intersection with Jefferson Street.

According to City of Monticello officials, city employees cannot remove the tree because it has fallen onto a state highway.

The downed tree limb appears to be hung on local utility lines, not Entergy lines.

The state highway commission has been contacted and at this time, there is no estimate as to when the tree will be removed.

A barricade has been placed on the road. Please use caution while driving in this area.



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

The old Armory building (left) currently sits vacant. Requests for Proposals for use of the building will be complete this year. Also pictured, is tall grass (right) within the City. Ordinance 756 requires grass to be no taller than 12 inches high. The City Inspector reminded the council of the importance of this Ordinance at the council meeting.

City Council hears update from Planning Commission on Armory building and other reports

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

The Monticello City Council met Tuesday night with five of the eight council members present. Michael James, Al Peer and Clarissa Pace were not in attendance.

Dan Boice, Chairman of the Monticello Planning Commission informed the Council members that with the efforts of the commission members, the City attorney and the municipal league, the group is finalizing a Request for Proposals to advertise for the old armory building.

The intention is to have interested parties submit bids for the building along with a detailed plan for its use.

“We will review all submissions and work to preserve the integrity of that neighborhood where our schools and hospital are located,” Boice stated. Councilman Mark Tiner asked if they were required to accept the highest bid.

City attorney Whit Barton answered

that it would be made very clear in the Request for Bids that there is no requirement for the commission/city to accept the highest bid.

In other reports, Fire Chief Eric Chisom reported that the fire department’s volume of calls was down in June, responding to 17 calls. He also stated that they are testing applicants for a full time fireman position and there are currently five volunteer positions open.

Police Chief Jason Akers reported that the Monticello Police Department had been awarded a grant for new body cameras for the officers. He also stated that the TIP line was utilized this past month and as a result, several ounces of methamphetamines were seized while traveling through Monticello.

Public Works Manager Charlie Hammock told the council that 74 locates were done last month and a major water leak on Barkada was fixed. As time allows, the Public Works crew is continuing to conduct smoke tests on sewer lines, most recently completing

a section on the North side of town.

Water Operator Wayne Morphis said that all the water wells are running a lot of hours with the extreme heat we are facing but, they are all being maintained and running fine.

Senior Citizen Director Cindy Villarreal gave a brief report stating that more seniors are requesting home delivery for meals as they are leaving the hospital recovering from Covid. Because the Senior Center is back to fully operational, they are no longer providing the drive-thru service.

Councilman Mark Tiner commended Villarreal for her efforts at the Center.

Taylor James, Chairman of the Parks and Rec Commission stated that they will begin working on their operating budget to present to the City and that there are unfinished projects pending from this year.

City Inspector Brian Rodgers gave details about asbestos testing for condemned property demolition. He is

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SeaArk Facilities service project at Vera Lloyd - Working to “make life better”

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Recently, 25 employees from SeaArk gathered at the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home for an employee service project. Employees were split into four groups to complete four special projects.

Employee volunteers from SeaArk banded together to help the Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home, a children’s home in Monticello. During the project, SeaArk employees served the home by building and assembling a Zen garden, taking down fences as well as a storage building, and painting and restoring their workout room and intake room. Water slides and ice cream were provided for the children to en-

joy while the staff worked on their specific projects.

Each day during lunch employees were given a short devotional by a fellow employee and discussed how big of an impact this opportunity not only made on the kids, but the employees and their lives.

SeaArk President, Steve Henderson, stated “I am so honored to work for a company that not only allows but encourages philanthropy projects locally and internationally. It was great to be able to make life better for the kids at Vera Lloyd and to see the joy in our teams faces. The most selfish thing that a person can do in this world is to help someone else because of the gratification that comes back to you.

It was awesome to see this in action.”

“It was very special to see a true servant’s heart and attitude displayed by all SeaArk’s employees while at Vera Lloyd,” Director of Development for Vera Lloyd said. “We are truly grateful for their support and friendship.”

About SeaArk Boats: With over 63 years of experience in boat building, SeaArk Boats (owned by Correct Craft) is the industry’s premier aluminum fishing boat known for outstanding product quality and excellent customer service. Mostly known for heavy-duty aluminum boats built specifically for cat-fishing, SeaArk also builds bass- and crap-

pie-fishing boats, jon boats, duck boats, and bay boats, offering a wide variety of tunnel and jet tunnel hulls. For more information visit www.seaark-boats.com.

About Correct Craft: Celebrating 97 years of excellence in the marine industry, Correct Craft is a Florida-based company with global operations. The Correct Craft family includes Nautique, Centurion, Supreme, Bass Cat, Yar-Craft, SeaArk, and Bryant boat companies, Pleasurecraft Marine Engine Group, and Aktion Parks. For more information, please visit www.correctcraft.com.

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OUR 151ST YEAR
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Fifth Sunday Live services

The Word and the Spirit Ministries in Star City will hold a special service with speaker Alford Branch at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Medical Records Public Notice

Dr. K Shrum will be moving his practice to Mainline Health Systems in Monticello. Patients desiring to transfer their care to Mainline are required to complete a medical record release. Forms will be available at Dr. Shrum's current clinic until its closure on July 29.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Caldwell Cemetery meeting

There will be a Caldwell Cemetery meeting at 11a.m., Saturday, August 6 at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Winchester. All interested persons need to be present. Plots can be reserved for \$100.

Mail Donations Caldwell Cemetery P. O. Box 548 Gould, AR 71643 or call Levert Benton 870-723-6562 or Willie Goynes 870-377-0909.

Log-A-Load

Drew County's annual Log-A-Load for Kids will be held at 5 p.m.

August 6 at Pauline Baptist Church. Tickets are \$25.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Our Festival

Beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, August 27, Our Festival will take place at McCloy Park. There will be local music, a car show, a hot dog eating contest and much more.

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 31

Senior Center Raffle

The Senior Center is holding a raffle for a beautiful, crocheted Afghan and pillow. Tickets are \$1.00. The raffle will end the beginning of September.

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.

City recycling guidelines

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

Drew County Quorum Court Meeting

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

Monticello City Council Meeting

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

Support for local schools

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

Borrow a book and hours

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

Information and referral outreach office now open

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

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

Arkansas Bikers Aiming Toward Education Meeting

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

Andrews Chapel Cemetery

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

VFW Auxiliary

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

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

Drew Co. Democratic Party meeting

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

UAM AASN graduates achieve 100 percent pass rate for second consecutive year

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The 2022 graduates of the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello recently achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-

RN).

This marks the second consecutive year that AASN graduates of UAM have achieved a 100% pass rate on the examination. UAM's graduating class includes Styvie Crocker of Monticello, Rhonda Cruise of Warren, Jerrica Easterwood of

Monticello, Angela Holland of Hamburg, LaKrystal Jones of Greenville, Mississippi, Marie Porter-Harris of Monroe, Louisiana, and Felicia Thompson of Delhi, Louisiana.

"Our pass rate is a direct indication of the superb teaching from our faculty,"

said Dr. Brandy Haley, dean of the UAM School of Nursing. "We hold our students to the highest quality to ensure that all of our graduates have a chance to be successful."

For more information, contact the UAM School of Nursing at (870) 460-1069.

Drought pressing U.S. cattle inventory numbers to lowest levels since 2015

BY THE U OF A SYSTEM DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

The United States' cattle inventory has shrunk to its lowest numbers since 2015 thanks to the drought sprawling across the western half of the country.

James Mitchell, extension livestock economist with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said total cattle inventories stood at 98.8 million, "falling below 100 million for the first time since 2015."

Mitchell said the numbers, which came out the U.S. Department of Agriculture's June 22 Cattle Inventory Report, were somewhat better than expectations.

"While inventories posted a year-over-year decline, National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates were higher than pre-report expectations, with analysts expecting larger decreases in cattle numbers," he said,

adding that the NASS estimates were not a significant departure from pre-report expectations.

"Drought has been the main factor contributing to the decline in the number of beef cows and replacement heifers," Mitchell said. "Total beef cow slaughter through June is 14.6 percent higher year over year."

Mitchell said beef and dairy cow inventories were 2.4 percent and 0.5 percent lower compared to July 2022, respectively.

"The report confirms another year of beef cow herd liquidation with little evidence of anyone looking to expand," he said.

"Regionally, drought pressure this month has been a big concern in the Southeast," Mitchell said. "The effects of drought are shown in the auction data. For example, auction receipts for Arkansas show a 20 percent increase in slaughter cattle sales."

For the first 30 weeks in 2021, 20,942 head of slaughter cattle went to auction. This year that number rose to 25,033.

The full report is available on the USDA-NASS website.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aes.uada.edu>. Follow on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch. To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>. Follow us on Twitter at @AgInArk. To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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 to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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UCA announces spring 2022 graduates

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Central Arkansas held spring commencement on Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, 2022, in the Far- ris Center on campus.

The university conferred 1,032 undergraduate and 282 graduate degrees and certificates from the College of Arts, Human- ities, and Social Sciences; College of Business; College of Edu- cation; College of Health and Behavioral Sciences; and College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Colt Caldwell of Monticello, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science; Lilly Grace Daugherty of Wilmar, graduat- ed Summa Cum Laude Undergraduate Scholar with a Bachelor of Science; Markeyah Elyse McCullough of Monticello, gradu- ated with a Bachelor of Science; Emily Grace Clemons of Mon- ticello, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Jordyn Elizabeth Marie Nowlen of Monticel- lo, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

UA Little Rock Announces Spring 2022 Graduates

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock announces its spring 2022 graduates.

Approximately 1,075 degrees were awarded for the spring 2022 semester. Local students who graduated from UA Little Rock include: Emily Fendley of Monticello, who earned a Mas- ter of Public Service in Public Service; Daniel Ferguson of Mon- ticello, who earned a Associate of Engineering Technology in Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology and

Lataaka Harvey of Wilmar, who earned a Master of Educa- tion in Counselor Education.

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

Enjoy trips to Arkansas’ forests with a few simple precautions

By: WILL HEHEMANN

UAPB School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences

Some Arkansas forest land- owners are nervous about venturing into their own for- est for fear of the wildlife that live there, Joe Friend, forester for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, said. During his career as a forester, he is often asked about the probability of encountering bears or wolves.

“Some forests in Arkansas have bears, wild – or feral – hogs, coyotes and even pan- thers,” he said. “However, in my almost 40 years on the job, I have never been threat- ened by any of these animals. I rarely even see them when I’m in the woods.”

Instead of the lions, tigers and bears people may imagine lurking in the woods, Friend said the things that actually pose the most danger are ven- omous snakes, ticks, red bugs or chiggers, mosquitoes, and

poison ivy.

Friend said the list below can help Arkansans know what to look out for in the woods and how to stay safe:

- Venomous snakes. There are six species of venomous snakes in Arkansas: the cop- perhead, cotton mouth, coral snake, western rattlesnake, timber rattlesnake and pygmy rattlesnake. Snake bites are usually not deadly, but they can cause extreme illness and loss of limbs.

“The best way to avoid a snake bite is to wear snake boots or snake leggings and be observant of your sur- roundings,” Friend said. “Stay at least five feet away from snakes, and they will not be able to bite you.”

- Ticks. Tickborne illnesses are on the rise in Arkansas. The most common illnesses include Rocky Mountain spot- ted tick fever, Lyme disease,

See **FORESTS** Page 5A

UAM Hosts STEM camp for underserved students

By: LON TEGELS

College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources - University of Ar- kansas at Monticello

To show that math has real-world applications, Michael Blazier posed a problem to a group of high school students: How do you calculate the amount of usable wood that can be ex- tracted from a forest.

“Imagine going out to 200 acres of forest with a million plus trees on it,” he said. “You can’t measure every one of them, so what we do is take a sample of them.”

From that, Blazier, dean of the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, demonstrated how simple mathematical formulas can be used to solve what seem to be vast problems.

Blazier and six faculty members spent eight days this summer to be part of UAM’s STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Camp, a pilot program offered in conjunction with the Kan- sas City Teen Summit. The summit’s mission is to work within rural and urban communities to provide the best benefits in areas of youth empowerment, STEM education, summer youth internships, community beautification, volunteer- ism, helping the disadvan- taged and etiquette train- ing.

KCTS President Brenette Wilder sees this camp as a way to give back. Wilder is a University of Arkansas graduate with a degree in chemical engineering. She is from Altheimer, and her husband, is from Wilmot, both in southeastern Ar- kansas.

“My goal is to give back to the community of Wilm- ot,” she said. “STEM was a subject that kids were not introduced to in a hands-on way. We want our kids to be exposed to STEM opportu- nities both inside and out- side the classroom.

“If I can do it, they can do it,” Wilder said. “And I



Photo courtesy of Lon Tegels/UAM

want them to see that STEM is fun. It doesn’t have to be seen as too tech or too chal- lenging. They can do it if they have an interest in it.”

“This is a pilot scale pro- gram this year; we had a small class every day for the last two weeks,” Blazi- er said. “We participated in the Kansas City Teen Sum- mit in hopes this will gen- erate enough interest that it will build this program upward.

“I think it’s a very import- ant initiative to reach out to underserved students be- cause we want to make sure our students in the college at the University of Arkan- sas at Monticello are reflec- tive of the society we op- erate in,” Blazier said.

Each faculty member met with the students daily from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“My goal was to teach them how to become a pro- fessional land surveyor. If you see any building being built, roads being built, any property boundaries need- ing to be surveyed, that’s what we do,” said Land Survey Instructor Robert Blakeley. “We used an au- tomatic level to shoot an elevation from one location to the other; we also used a total station to measure distance and angles and finished with a GPS System base and rover to carry co- ordinates from one loca- tion to another. This was exposure to the land survey equipment. To explain to them what land surveying

is. Most people don’t know what we do,” said Blakeley.

“My objective with these STEM students was to cov- er two primary areas within wildlife and conservation management,” said Don White, UAM wildlife profes- sor. “I wanted to make sure they understood what the field was all about, at least in general. I wanted them to understand what I do as a wildlife ecologist within the greater field of wild- life population and wildlife ecology.”

White explained to the students what wildlife pop- ulation ecology is as a ca- reer opportunity. White used electronic monitoring collars as props to describe the career field. “After dis- cussing the scientific dis- cipline and talking about the importance of wildlife conservation management based on scientific princi- ples, I emphasized the ra- dio telemetry research that I do. Which involve animal capture and attaching radio collars on the animals to get locations any time of day or season, year after year,” said White.

“I felt we had a great re- sponse in the class I spent with them. I showed them how to age a tree by pulling tree rings out,” said Blazi- er. “They got to take some tree cores samples home with them. We taught them how the thickness of the rings would teach them how wet of a year it was or how droughty the year was. We

showed them how we use lasers, trigonometry, and sonar to measure the di- mensions of trees in field conditions.”, added Blazier.

Two days were spent on animal science. UAM farm manager Greg Montgom- ery took the students to the pastures, where they were exposed to sheep and cat- tle. Montgomery engaged students by moving a cattle herd from one pasture to another. “Whenever I want to move the cows, I want them to know whether I want them to come to me or go away from me; we have to give them some direction. A cow call to come to me is Wu Mao; a go is Hip Hip. So, the cows know whether to go or come.” There they received a lesson on forage and its importance to the livestock. Students guessed the weight of Montgom- ery’s prized bull. Estimates were anywhere from 300 to 600 pounds. Montgomery stunned the students when he told them that “Sumac” weighed in the neighbor- hood of 14 hundred pounds.

“Most of these kids have not been around forestry or animal science. All of this is new,” Wilder said. “Mi- norities are not represent- ed in this area. They do not realize the opportunities for careers in this area, and we want to expose them to this.”

“One of the things I was trying to emphasize is it’s great to be in the classroom, but it’s even better to have hands-on opportunities,” she said

“In animal science, to be able to touch, and in forest- ry to measure a tree instead of just enjoying the shade of it,” Wilder said.

“We hope that our kids find an interest in UA Mon- ticello here that they may even want to come here to pursue their careers. It would be fantastic to bring their high school learning back to where it started,” she said.



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OPINION

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988 mental health hotline makes connecting to help easier

There is a new way to get help for folks experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis and it's as easy as dialing 988. In July, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline launched, ushering in a link to crisis centers nationwide through a toll-free number connecting callers to trained counselors for free and confidential care.

This comes as a result of years of hard work by mental health advocates and legislators to expand access to mental health care through this critical service. After studying the feasibility of this initiative, with my support, Congress passed the bipartisan National Suicide Hotline Designation Act in 2020 to establish a quick and convenient way to get individuals the help they need so we can save lives.

The stress of the past couple of years only exacerbated the mental health crisis that was already gripping our nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports suicide was the 12th leading cause of death for all ages in the United States in 2020. Arkansas ranked 11th in the nation for deaths by suicide that same year.

Investments in mental health care are more important than ever. Expanding access to critical care is essential to getting individuals the help they need. The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates health professionals answering these calls can resolve more than 80-90 percent of the challenges over the phone.

The new nationwide emergency number continues our commitment to improving services designed to confront the challenges of mental illness and deploying support tools for those at risk of suicide.

Men and women who are serving or have served in their nation's uniform suffer a disproportionately higher rate of suicide compared to the general population. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates more than 20 veterans die by suicide every day. While we've increased federal funding to address this national crisis, there has been little to no improvement in reducing that number. That's why we've updated the VA's policies to support veteran-serving non-profits and other community networks that have proven effective in their outreach and better measure the effectiveness of existing programs.

Congress approved my legislation, the IMPROVE Well-being for Veterans Act, two years ago to create a VA grant program to leverage the positive outcomes of these organizations and build on their successes. The VA received applications for the inaugural funding and is currently in the process of reviewing the submissions and awarding millions of dollars in grants to support this effort.

Implementing a comprehensive strategy to provide mental health care and treatment is essential. The good news is there is support from every level of government. We've taken critical steps, but we know this is just the beginning.

The 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will save lives and I am committed to working to further improve access to mental health care for Arkansans.

Establishing the 988 number that is easy to remember and access during a mental health crisis is a simple way we can save more lives. Preventing suicide and reaching those struggling with their mental health is all about helping them understand they are not alone and assistance is available. I look forward to the good this new lifeline will do for Arkansans who are at risk and need support.

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The Windy City sure is fun to visit

We made it back safe and sound to our quiet neighborhood around 11 p.m. Sunday night. 48 hours in Chicago is not for the weak, weary or recently post covid. Breathing while walking was a challenge at times.

We landed Friday and hit the ground running. Well, we didn't exactly run but we walked, a lot. I have to take large steps to keep up with my spouse that is literally a foot taller than me.

Down at the Riverwalk we found ourselves hungry after the flight. We sat down at a little outdoor cafe right beside the Chicago river. I got to experience a food first. I ordered a steak quesadilla. What was brought out to me was this very pretty purple colored tortilla filled with tender steak and melted cheese. I loved it, the purple made it better.

Since the weather was questionable through the weekend, we decided to take advantage of the sunshine while we could. We went down to Navy Pier and visited the

beach on Lake Michigan. There were lots of people with the same idea as us. There were families throwing frisbees and kicking soccer balls. There were older couples sitting in the shade of the waterside bar. There were brave souls that swam way out into the water. My spoiled, Arkansas accustomed skin didn't make it much further in the water than my knees. The air was hot and humid, but Lake Michigan was cold.

The water was perfectly clear and I saw little minnows swimming around my feet. Out in the distance, we saw yachts of varying sizes and bright, beautiful sail boats navigating in the wind.

We filled our need to be in a Great Lake fairly quickly and made it down Navy Pier for some delicious gelato and a ride on the gigantic Ferris wheel. At the top, you could see for miles. Lake Michigan seemed endless and the other side was filled with the beautiful architecture that makes up the Chicago skyline.

While downtown, we walked passed the Chicago Tribune building. It was slightly bigger than the Advance building.

We saw "The Bean" at Millennium Park and made our way to our hotel.

Superman thought it would be a good idea to try something new this go around. He booked us to stay in Chinatown and it was fantastic.

The neighborhood was so interesting and surprisingly quiet. I have been to Chinatown in London and San Fransisco and I am always amazed.

We ate at one of Chicago's most famous asian restaurants. It was so tasty, we waddled out of there looking very tourist-like. We strolled through the row of souvenir shops, massage parlors and restaurants.

If you know me, you know I am a sucker for macaroons. I spotted some inside a bakery and even though I was full to the brim with sesame chicken, I of course bought some sweet treats for later. They were delicious and I only regretted them a little bit the next day as we hiked our daily five miles.

We made it down to Wrigleyville just in time for the show to start. Since the concert had already been rescheduled, Chris Stapleton and his crew made sure that the packed Cubs Stadium was going to get a show before

See **EDITORIAL** Page 5A

Governor Hutchinson announces the resignation of Secretary of The Arkansas Department Of Public Safety Jami Cook

Governor Asa Hutchinson today announced that Jami Cook has resigned as Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Public Safety and Director of the Division on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. In Secretary Cook's resignation letter to Governor Hutchinson, she states she will step down after battling multiple

health issues. She states she will be following her doctor's advice to "slow down" and focus on her health. "Since the day I met Jami, I

have known her to be a passionate public servant who cares deeply about serving the citizens of Arkansas," Governor Hutchinson said. "She has spent her professional life supporting those in law enforcement and leading the creation of the new Department of Public Safety. Her efforts have been historical and transformative. I value Jamie's friendship and service."

Ms. Cook was appointed as the Director of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training on January 14, 2015, by Governor Asa Hutchinson. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Arkansas State Police Program Director, responsible for policies, procedures, training,

strategic planning, research and development, and special projects. In 2009, she was appointed as a Commissioner to the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. She started her law enforcement career as a Newport Police officer in 1994.

In 2019, Governor Hutchinson signed into law the Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019. The legislation brought about a historic transformation and reorganization of state government agencies, boards, and commissions, including the creation of the Arkansas Department of Public Safety. Secretary Cook served as the first-ever Secretary of this new

See **HUTCHINSON** Page 5A

Sales Tax holiday coming August 6 and 7

Every year the sales tax holiday is the first weekend in August. This year it will be Saturday,

August 6, and Sunday, August 7.

Consumers will not have to pay sales tax on any articles of clothing that cost less than \$100. The exempted items include not only ordinary clothing such as pants, shirts, dresses and shoes. Also free from sales tax are bathing suits, baby blankets,

underwear, raincoats, uniforms, hats and caps, aprons, neckties, scarves and steel-toes boots.

Diapers, even disposal diapers, are included on the list of exempt items.

Accessories are also on the list of exempted items, as long as they cost less than \$50. The list of articles is extensive, and includes handbags and purses, sunglasses, jewelry, hair notions, wallets, watches and wigs.

More than 65 categories of cosmetics are exempt from the sales tax, such as mascara, many types of hair products, fingernail polish and fingernail remover, bath salts,

artificial eyelashes, perfume and stretch mark cream.

School supplies will be exempt from the sales tax. Officially the first weekend of August is called the sales tax holiday, but many people refer to it as the "Back to School" sales tax holiday. That's because the legislature intentionally scheduled it for early August, to benefit families with children going to school.

School supplies include pens, pencils and paper as well as art supplies.

Thanks to Act 944 of 2021,

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

Sales Tax Holiday to relieve financial burden

It is estimated that the average family will spend more than \$600 per child on back-to-school shopping this year. This time of year can bring a financial burden to many families across Arkansas. That is why we want to remind you about the upcoming Arkansas Sales Tax holiday.

This year, the event will begin at 12:01 am on Saturday, August 6th, and will continue until 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 7th. Act 757 of 2011 provides for a sales tax holiday in Arkansas during the first weekend of August each year. A sales tax holiday is a temporary period when state and local sales taxes are not collected or paid on the purchase of certain products.

Clothing less than \$100 per item is exempt during the weekend, as well as clothing accessories less than \$50 per item. Clothing accessories include handbags, cosmetics, jewelry, umbrellas, and more. Most school supplies, including book bags, binders, paper, crayons, pencils, and rulers, are also exempt.

In the 2021 Regular Session, we passed Act 944, which amended the sales tax holiday to include electronics. Examples include a calculator, desktop computer, cell phone, e-reader, computer mouse, laptop, monitor, printer, keyboard, and tablets. It does not include video game systems or television. Statewide, Act 944 is estimated to save Arkansans an additional \$650,000 in taxes a year.

Online purchases for the specified items will be tax-free as long as the transaction processes between 12:01 a.m. on the 6th and 11:59 p.m. on the 7th and the items are shipped to an Arkansas address. The sales tax holiday was created to help Arkansas families. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity. We have posted the entire list of tax-exempt items and answers to frequently asked questions at www.arkansas-house.org.

See **EDITORIAL** Page 5A

HOW TO WRITE US

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

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HISTORY MINUTE

About the Child Labor Amendment

By: **KENNETH BRIDGES**
Advance Correspondent

Children working in mines and factories was a common sight in the late 1800s. They worked for wages far less than those of adults in dangerous conditions and were forced to give up school to concentrate on work. The result was often another generation mired in poverty, bodies broken by labor they were still too young and too weak to perform, and the lost opportunities that youth and education could have provided for them. By the early 1900s, politicians began pushing to end the practice. In one of the most contentious humanitarian issues of the early century, Arkansas congressmen and legislators took the lead on banning children in factories nationwide, including favoring a proposed constitutional amendment.

Many states were pushing for a ban on children in factories. Even at the state level, Arkansas was one of the earliest to ban the practice. In 1914, under Gov. George Washington Hays, Arkansas passed a strict child labor law that banned children under 14 from working in factories. Though children routinely worked on farms, child labor was seen as more of a factory issue than a farm issue. In Congress, Senator Joseph T. Robinson had voted for a federal ban on child labor, the Keating-Owen Act of 1916. It was a popular piece of reform legislation, but corporations fought all the

way to the Supreme Court to keep children working in their factories. The law was declared unconstitutional in 1918 by the Supreme Court. A second ban on child labor passed in 1919, again struck down by the courts in 1922.

The 1920 Census showed that more than one million children between the ages of 10 and 16 were working in factories and mines out of a total national population of 105 million. By 1924, taking inspiration from the passage of the 18th Amendment banning alcohol, activists pushed for a constitutional amendment to give Congress the power to ban labor by children under 18. Many constitutional amendments have been proposed but very few have been ratified. In fact, the Constitution has only been amended 17 times since the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791.

Supporters of the Child Labor Amendment argued that children should be in school and not in the factories and pointed to the many injuries children suffered while working. The amendment drew wide bipartisan support. Robinson, along with Congressman John Tillman, a Fayetteville attorney, were among the most vocal supporters. Tillman passionately argued for ratification, declaring a need for one labor standard across the country. “The child is the same the world over, and should have the same protection in Louisiana as in Maine; the same protection in Florida as in California.”

The House of Representatives approved the amendment in April 1924 by a vote of 297-69. Of Arkansas’s seven congressmen, five voted for it. Only two, William Driver of Osceola and Otis Wingo of DeQueen, and the state’s other senator, Thaddeus Caraway, voted for the amendment in June, which passed by a vote of 61-23. The next step would require its ratification by three-quarters of the states.

On June 28, Arkansas became the first state to ratify the Child Labor Amendment. The historic vote took place during a special session of the state legislature in which Gov. Thomas C. McRae sought funding for the state’s public schools. However, support for the amendment stalled, and Arkansas ultimately became the only state in the Deep South to ratify the amendment.

Only five states had approved it by 1927. The crushing economic pressures of the Great Depression revived interest, with supporters arguing that factory jobs should go to adults with children to support instead of children, and 20 states ratified the amendment by 1933. As part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs to jump-start the economy, Robinson helped push through the National Industrial Recovery Act, a cumbersome program that

had the effect of banning child labor in some industries. When the Supreme Court struck down the NIRA in 1935, more states were prompted to act on the amendment.

Twenty-eight states ratified the proposed amendment, with the Deep South and major industrial states like New York and Massachusetts rejecting it, leaving it eight states short for ratification. By this point in 1937, some 33 states had banned factory and mine labor for children under 14 and ten more for children under 16 and all but one state had some laws regulating child labor.

Child labor was finally banned by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, making the Child Labor Amendment unnecessary. A major social problem had ended in the process, allowing children to have safer lives and more opportunities through schooling. The Child Labor Amendment itself is still in a legal wilderness ten states shy of ratification, but advances in labor laws and children’s welfare have made what was seen as a necessity then into a historical curiosity.

Dr. Ken Bridges is a Professor of History and Geography at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado where he lives with his wife and six children. He is the author of seven books, and his columns can be found in more than 40 papers across Arkansas. Dr. Bridges can be reached by email at kbridges@southark.edu.

FORESTS

Continued from Page 3A

ehrlichiosis, tularemia and anaplasmosis. These diseases only occur in humans if the tick stays attached to skin for over four hours.

“Avoid tickborne diseases by using a good insect repellent prior to going into the forest,” Friend said. “Check yourself for ticks and take a shower once you are home.”

- Mosquitoes. These pests are abundant in humid areas of the state, especially in south Arkansas. They can carry West Nile virus, Zika virus, encephalitis and malaria. Avoid them by applying a good insect repellent.
- Chiggers or red bugs. These pests are almost microscopic in size and are common from May to October. They cause itchy bumps, which can become infected if scratched too much.

“Avoid red bug bites by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts while in the woods,” Friend said. “Once you are indoors, run your clothes through the wash and take a shower.”

- Poison ivy. This dangerous plant grows prolifically in Arkansas and causes an allergic reaction and rash. A person’s reaction to poison ivy can be minor or severe depending on their particular sensitivity to the plant. Avoid exposure to poison ivy by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts. In case of exposure, wash the exposed skin with soap and water as soon as possible.

“Any dangers of venturing into the forest are drastically reduced with remembering to apply insect repellent, as well as taking a shower and doing the laundry once home,” Friend said. “By taking these simple precautions, Arkansans can enjoy trips to the forest without any fear.”

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EDITORIAL

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the bad weather set in.

One of my current favorite acts, The Highwomen, opened for Stapleton. They were so awesome. If you don’t know of The Highwomen, please give them a listen. My personal favorite is “Crowded Table” but you can’t go wrong when you listen to any of their tunes.

As the crew feverishly reset the stage for the main attraction, I indulged in a ballpark hot dog and fries. I felt like it was necessary.

Without hesitation, Chris Stapleton and his smooth

voice and booming guitar took the stage and the crowd never left their feet. He played all the favorites and voices were united all around the outfield ivy.

There really is something special about live music. The feeling of rumbling in my chest when there is a deep base note and the goosebumps I get when a particular harmony hits just right, it is a one of a kind experience.

By my side the entire time is this human that continues to be such a large part of why my life is so fun.

It doesn’t matter where you go, just make sure you take your best friend.

Gov. Hutchinson issues statement in response to Legislative Council

Governor Asa Hutchinson issued the following statement in regards to the Arkansas Legislative Council’s decision on the use of money from the American Rescue Plan.

"While I am pleased the Arkansas Legislative Council supports funding bonus pay for teachers, their action to rescind \$500 million in spending authority for the Arkansas Department of

Education is contrary to the Council’s statutory authority and contrary to the principles of separation of powers underlying the Arkansas Revenue Stabilization Act.

"I am disappointed by the Legislative Council’s vote to rescind its approval to give the Arkansas Department of Education authority to spend \$500 million in American Rescue Plan’s Elementary and Secondary Schools

Emergency Relief Fund. Just as the General Assembly could not recall a bill from my desk that had already been signed into law, ALC may not undo the lawful appropriations under Act 199 through a parliamentary maneuver.

"Under the appropriation passed last month the schools could use the funds for teacher bonuses and incentives. The big change

now is that the schools must submit plans which must go back to the legislature for additional review.

"In other words, the local school district priorities may not be approved. I am concerned that teachers in some districts will get a bonus, but others may not. The creative approach by the committee today while well-intentioned is not the best approach to helping our teachers."

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

approved by the legislature earlier this year, certain electronic and computer equipment was added to the list of tax exempt items.

Laptops, desktops, tablets, printers, keyboards, calculators, cell phones, e-readers and monitors are exempt from the sales tax. However, video games, stereos and televisions are not included.

Arkansas families will save an estimated \$2.6 million on purchases of electronic and computer equipment.

The sales tax exemption applies to single articles, and is not based on the overall cost of everything you buy. For example, you can buy three shirts \$25 each and a pair of pants for \$50 and you will not be charged the sales tax, even though the total is \$125. Because each item is less than \$100, the exemption is

applied.

However, if you buy a pair of shoes for \$120, you will have to pay the sales tax on the full amount of the purchase.

Essentially, there is no limit on the number of exempt items you can purchase, as long as each item costs less than \$100 for clothes or \$50 for accessories.

There is no price limit on electronics and computer equipment, nor is there one on school supplies.

The exemption applies to all sales taxes, not just state sales taxes. That means exempt items are free of all city, county and local sales taxes.

All retailers have to participate. Articles cannot be separated in order to lower their price under the \$100 and \$50 thresholds. Men’s suits and pairs of shoes, which normally are sold as one unit, cannot be split into separate purchases.



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Land surveying program at UAM offers hybrid learning

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

If you own property, are constructing a building, or simply wanting to know about whether your house is built in a flood zone, you've most likely used a land surveyor.

Even though land surveyors play such an important part of our daily lives, most people have no clue what a land surveyor does. It's a career as old as history. Surveying has been described as an element in the development of the human environment since the beginning of recorded history. The University of Arkansas at Monticello's College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources (CFANR) offers one of the oldest and well-established programs in the state. The College offers both associate and bachelor's degrees in land surveying.

The UAM-CFANR will offer a new component to its Land Surveying Program beginning the fall semester this year. CFANR Dean, Dr. Michael Blazier announced the college's new hybrid learning concept. Blazier said the hybrid is an offshoot of what the school learned from its adjustments made during Covid-19. Blazier said, "It's not a fully online program. It's introducing virtual class attendance as an option, with some attendance in-person at flexible times for important course activities. It's what we call a hybrid approach to instruction."

"This is a larger issue within higher education," said Blazier. "We are realizing that students are needing flexibility more and more. It's a lesson we are all taking from our Covid period. During that time there were forced needs to go at least partially online with instruction. If we have gone through that entire experience and don't take some positives away from it, then we haven't gained where we could have."

He said, "We learned a lot of lessons and fast by necessity on how we can offer coursework online." Blazier expressed, "now that we are back to our regular operations, we want to marry together what we learned about online class instruction with what we tra-

ditionally have done. That is where this term hybrid attendance comes from. We have our normal instruction but also co-offering some online flexibility."

To help administer the newly designed teaching format is recently hired surveying instructor Robert Blakeley. Blakeley was hired in June this year as UAM's Instructor of Surveying. Blakeley spent nine years as a land surveyor with the Arkansas Department of Transportation. There he performed control surveys, topographical surveys, construction surveys, and boundary surveys.

The Hamburg native and alumnus of the UAM surveying program is passionate about land surveying. Blakeley said, "One of my primary resources to grow the profession will be offering the degree programs through flexible virtual platforms. This will allow students who cannot attend traditional on-campus classes to receive the same content."

Blakeley said the technology has been all worked out. He will be on a microphone and widescreen classroom camera. "If I have a Power Point presentation, they'll see everything full screen that's on the Power Point. Not only can they log in and see it live, but those lectures will also be recorded so they can access them on their own schedules. Blakeley said that works well, especially if they have full-time jobs during the day, they can now view the lectures in the afternoon or evening. Blazier stressed the expectations will be the same for students attending lectures virtually as those attending in-person.

"When it comes to lab work," said Blazier, "students will still have to come to campus from time to time to exhibit proficiency in some of the lab assignments. "We will also work with them on scheduling some flexibility on a set date." Blakeley added that there are some flexibilities for the traditional lab work. "If the student is working for a professional licensed surveyor, that surveyor can work with me to administer how well the student displays competencies in lab exercises."

Blakeley said CFANR encourages students to become li-

censed professionals. He said, "Regulations were changed in 2017 about substituting years of hands-on experience for education. The law now requires any individual wanting to be a licensed professional to have an education, whether that be an associate degree or a bachelor's degree".

The University of Arkansas at Monticello has a long history in Arkansas offering degrees in surveying. Earning those degrees has become more accessible than ever with the opportunity to attend courses online. Enrollment in the fall 2022 semester is open, and there is a campus-wide registration scheduled for the evening of August 2. UAM Classes start August 17th; it's not too late to get signed up. Please call the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources office at 870-460-1052, or email CFANR@umont.edu.

The College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, a University of Arkansas System Center of Excellence, brings together interdisciplinary expertise through a partnership between the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The College and Center are headquartered at the University of Arkansas at Monticello campus, but their programs range statewide with the mission of developing and delivering teaching, research, and extension programs that enhance and ensure the sustainability and productivity of forest-based natural resources and agricultural systems. Academic programs are delivered by the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources through the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Through the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, research is administered by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and extension and outreach activities are coordinated by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

CC

Continued from Page 1A

now certified to test for asbestos and according to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, only one structure, per city block, per year, may be demolished if asbestos is present.

Rodgers also reminded the council about Ordinance 756. The Ordinance states that property owners are required to keep trash and other debris out of their yards and grass and weeds below 12 inches tall.

Nita McDaniel, Monticello Economic Development Direc-

tor stated that Scogin Dr. Bids have now been pushed back to November and she still has prospects considering the spec building.

In unfinished business, the council addressed the ongoing issue about the City trash trucks. Due to the extreme wait time for products the country is facing, the chassis for the new garbage trucks need to be ordered immediately. The current two trash trucks are on a lease with one coming due in May 2023 and the other in June 2023. There was discussion among the council members about the benefits and negative

aspects of leasing versus purchasing the trucks. Ultimately, it was decided to allow the Mayor to order the chassis for the truck and make a decision on financing options at a later date.

To close out the meeting, four resolutions were passed.

A resolution to accept the contract renewal with Area Agency on Aging; a resolution amending the 2022 adopted budget and expending the \$5,000 police stipend; a resolution accepting a bid for the east plant baffle system; and a resolution amending the one cent sales tax budget for 2022.

JOINING FORCES IN HEALTHCARE



Courtesy photo

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Monticello Ambulance Service Inc. recently announced the partnership with Pafford Medical Services to provide Monticello Ambulance Service Inc. with management oversight.

After 50 years in business, it is our goal to continue to provide our community with the best

EMS care available and with that being said, we are investing back into Drew County with the addition of new advanced lifesaving equipment, protocols, and additional training and operational support.

With this move, MASI and the community will immediately see marked differences.

2022 Master Gardener training offered

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Drew County Cooperative Extension Service will be offering Master Gardener training in the fall of 2022. The training will be zoom sessions, but participants will have the opportunity to be involved in all Drew County Master Gardener events while they are completing the training process. In addition to community gardening projects, the volunteer group hosts monthly educational meetings and frequently takes short field trips.

The zoom training consists of approximately 40 hours of in-

struction provided by top professionals. The training dates are October 5 and 19 and November 2, 9, and 16. You must attend all training sessions. Each day zoom lessons will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

Costs for training is \$75 and includes all educational materials.

Interested individuals can call the Drew County Extension office at 460-6270 for more information. A brief interview to answer questions and clarify goals will be conducted, and you will

be provided with an application form. Deadline for applying is Friday, September 15.

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OBITUARIES

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Sandra Denise Bodiford Brooks

Sandra Denise Bodiford Brooks, 59, of Sulphur, La., passed away Sunday, July 24, 2022, at St. Patrick's Hospital in Lake Charles, La. She was born April 20, 1963, in Drew County, to the late Billy Eugene Bodiford and Rachel



BROOKS

Prince Bodiford. She was one of Jehovah's witnesses who loved all the members of Kingdom Hall. Sandra was a simple woman who loved reading her Bible and serving others. She would reach out to people or write them letters trying to lead them to the Lord. She was very grateful for everything God had given her. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a brother, Billy E. Bodiford, Jr. She is survived by one son, John Thomas Brooks, Jr. of Sulphur, La; one daughter, Brandy Lasha Morphis of Greenville, Ky.; one brother, Timothy Lee Bodiford of Monticello; one sister, Susie Fenton of Monticello; five grandchildren, Elana Morphis, Isaiah Morphis, John Thomas Brooks, III, Christian Morphis and J.J. Brooks; and her grandpuppy, Sassy. Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2022, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel. There will be a visitation from 12-1 p.m. preceding the memorial

service in the Chapel. You can sign Sandra's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Dexter Eugene Gulledge

Dexter Eugene Gulledge, 76, of Monticello, passed away Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello. He was born June 28, 1946, in Colorado City, Texas to the late Dexter Cullen Gulledge and Izella Ruth Armstrong Gulledge.

He was a retired Professor Emeritus at the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he taught for fifteen years. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a half-sister, Daisy Joynell Gulledge; grandparents, Bloom Thomas Armstrong (Hattie S.) and Ed F. Gulledge (Nora A.); great grandparents, Cullen and Rhoda A. Altman and Robert Henry Gulledge (Susana Rebecca).

Dr. Gulledge's hobbies included reading, playing bridge and chess, bowling and racket ball.

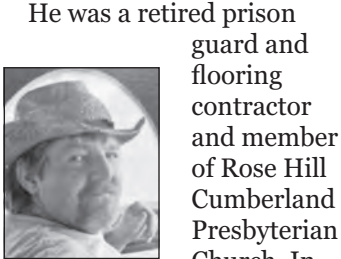
He is survived by his wife, Ellen Shermane Orndorf Gulledge of Monticello; one sister, Yutana Lofton of Sandersville, Miss.; nieces and nephews, Lonnie and Vanessa Duckworth, Michael and Joyce Diane Mayberry, Barbara F. Stockton and Brenda Joy Walker; ten great nieces and nephews; and twenty-seven great-great nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside service at a later date at Mt. Horeb Baptist Church Ceme-

tery in Collins, Miss. You can sign his guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

John Glenn Qualls

John Glenn Qualls, 60, of Monticello, passed away Saturday, July 23, 2022, at The Blossom Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in White Hall. He was born May 12, 1962, in Monticello, to Sally M. Harris Qualls Griffith and the late William Herschell Qualls.



QUALLS

He was a retired prison guard and flooring contractor and member of Rose Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In addition to his father, he was also preceded in death by a brother, Gary Qualls. John loved the outdoors where he was an avid hunter and fisherman. He also founded an online support group for chronic pain sufferers.

He is survived by his daughter, Keitha Danielle Dodson, and grandson, Cayden Dodson of White Hall; his mother Sally Griffith of Mississippi; and two brothers, Mike Qualls of Mississippi and Mark Qualls from Watson.

Funeral services will be 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at Rose Hill Cumberland Presbyterian Church with Rev. Mike Qualls and Rev. Jim Fisk officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery.

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

Bill Ross

Bill Ross, passed away on December 13, 2021, at 76 years old in Austin, Texas. Bill was born in Monticello, to William (Fay) Ross and Joy Elise Avery. Soon after the family moved to Enid, Okla. in 1949.

Bill graduated from Enid High School in 1963 where he was involved in Boy Scouts of America, achieving the top honor of Eagle Scout. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. After graduating from High School, Bill attended Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater, Oklahoma earning a Bachelor's Degree. Thereafter, he attended Louisiana State University (LSU) graduating with Honors with a Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Upon graduation, he moved to Houston joining the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse where obtained his CPA. Soon after, he moved to New Orleans where he was involved in various businesses including a fast food franchise, real estate, and restoring older homes. He enjoyed spending time on Lake Pontchartrain where he was part owner of a racing boat. After several years he moved to Austin, Texas establishing his own Financial Company providing a wide range of services including tax and estate planning.

Bill Jr. is survived by his brother, Larry of Texas, and

numerous cousins. We wish to express appreciation to the Medical/ICU staff of Ascension Seton Medical Center in Austin, Texas. A graveside memorial service was held at Oakland Cemetery July 27, 2022, Monticello. (Paid obituary)

Kevin Robert Thomas

When Kevin Robert Thomas was born on February 13, 1977, the world became a better, brighter place. He went to sleep and left this world on July 18, 2022.

Kevin loved sports and played baseball, basketball, and football all through school. He graduated from McClellan High School in



THOMAS



VETERAN

1995 and attended UCA. He joined the USMC in 2005 and did a tour of duty in Iraq. He was proud to be a Marine and loved his country. Kevin is survived by his wife Paula Howard Thomas; his two children Joely and Caden Thomas and their mother Joni. His "babies" (who are now 18 and 16) were the light of his life and his daily heartbeat. He will be forever cherished by his mother and father Bobby and Joy, brother Seth, nieces Alex Thomas and Lexy Howard, mother-in-law Jewel Brixie; aunts and uncles: Fred and Shirley Woodall, Judy and John Tolliver,

Butch Atkinson, Debbie and Jeff Newkirk, Darin Thomas (Paula), sister and brother-in-law, Adam and Jewellee Mellor, nephews Colton and Wyatt and a host of cousins, friends and Marine Corps brothers. A special thank you goes to his neighbor Richard Light and Sgt. Major Henry Moore.

Kevin was preceded in death by his grandparents, Herman and Nell Thomas, C. O. Woodall, Vivian Pollard and aunts Dianna Atkinson and Kristen Thomas. We know they were in heaven waiting on him with open arms.

The only comfort we get from his passing is to know his struggles are over, his addiction is cured. He has been healed.

A visitation with the family will be at 10 a.m. in the church parlor with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, 6400 Richard B. Hardie Drive, Little Rock 72207 on August 2, 2022.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting memorials to Sheep Dog Impact Assistance Attn: Warrior PATHH Program 1200 W Walnut Street, Suite 2310, Rogers, AR 72756; John 3:16 Ministries, 75 Holmes Road, Charlotte, AR 72522, or a rehab facility of your choice.

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

Latest poll says six percent of Arkansas voters want to see parties have more control in candidate selection

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Common Ground Arkansas commissioned a poll in June to gauge how satisfied Arkansas voters are with their role in the political process. Findings showed that Arkansas voters feel that they have too little power and that political parties have too much power over who holds office. Results also revealed that Arkansas voters feel that the values and issues they care about are being ignored by candidates.

An overwhelming number of Arkansas voters polled, 67 percent, said that voters do not have enough power in the political process. Only 23 percent said voters have the right amount of power.

Just 6 percent of Arkansas

voters want to see political parties have more control over the process of selecting candidates for office. That compares to 58 percent of Arkansas voters who feel political parties have too much control over the process of candidate selection. Less than a quarter, 21 percent, feel that political parties have the right amount of control.

"We continue to see power grabs by elected officials and political parties at the expense of Arkansas voters. That isn't going unnoticed by the people of Arkansas," said Sen. Jim Hendren, founder of Common Ground Arkansas. "We hear from Arkansans from around this state who are fighting for a voice in a process that is increasing-

ly stacked against everyday, hardworking Arkansans."

This perceived lack of control over the political process leaves an electorate that often feels their values are unrepresented. A majority, 54 percent, said they feel candidates ignore Arkansas voters' values and issues. Just 40 percent of Arkansans feel that candidates represent the values and issues that voters care about.

"Arkansas voters feel unrepresented in their choices and relatively powerless against hyperpartisanship,"

said Misty Orpin, executive director of Common Ground Arkansas. "The answer is not to strip their power further, but to fulfill our state motto: The people rule."

The poll was conducted by Citizen Data among 618 registered Arkansas voters between June 9 and June 12, 2022. Margin of error is +/- 3.9 percentage points.

Common Ground Arkansas is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization focused on supporting common sense governance in Arkansas through public education, leadership

development, and advocacy for responsive government

that better the lives of Arkansans.

Card of Thanks

The family, in grateful appreciation, wishes to acknowledge the words of comfort, calls, text messages, cards, flowers, and other expressions of love and concern. May God Bless You All!

*-The Family of
Reverend Nelson Spencer
& Sis. Delois "Ann" Spencer*

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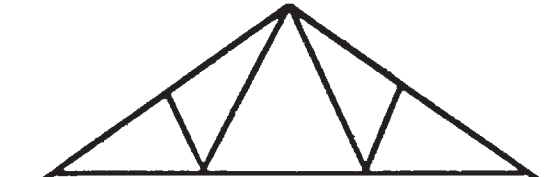


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4 Weeks - \$16

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

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

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

WE MAKE IT EASY TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS. CALL THE ADVANCE AT **870-367-5325** OR SUBMIT YOUR AD ONLINE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT **WWW.ADVANCEMONTICELLONIAN.COM**.

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

RUMMAGE SALE RATES

Option #1

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

Option #2

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

\$10

\$15

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

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

Fight Hunger

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

Historical Preservation Funds Needed For Enon School

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

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

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

AUTO SALVAGE

Mr. Johnny's Auto Salvage at 421 Ambrose Street has good used tires starting at \$10 and up. Come on by 421 Ambrose Street or call 870-308-1025 4pd 7/30

Mr. Johnny Will buy junk cars running or not. 421 Ambrose Street Open M-F 8am to 4:30 pm call 870-308-1025 4pd 7/30

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The Advance classifieds are online! www.advancemonticellonian.com. Log on now and click on the E-Edition. You can also place your classified ads online or by calling 870.367.5325.

FREE

Advance Classifieds are free to individuals if the item is valued at \$50 or less and the ad states the price. All free ads must be of a non commercial nature and be for one item.

An example would be a sofa for \$49 would be free but bales of hay for \$5 each would be a paid ad.

MISCELLANEOUS

1 220 Volt Heat/Air A/C \$50 call 870-224-5168 1F 7/30

1 220 Volt A/C \$50 call 870-224-5168 1F 7/30

Yamaha Guitar G-231 Nice. \$450 or make offer. Call 870-500-8515 4pd 7/30

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 7/30

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

PETS

If you have deer meat you aren't going to use, please donate it to my cat Purrcy, who is allergic to all other meats. Call 367-5852 after noon. 7/301tf

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

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

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRENDA JOYCE SIMPSON, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-97

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:
275 Beulah Rd., Monticello, AR 71655
Date of Death: February 2, 2013
An Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed on the 20th day of July, 2022. The estate to be collected contains real property, legally described as follows:
A parcel of land in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 14 South, Range 7 West, Drew County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Starting at the Northeast Quarter, thence run South along the east boundary of said 40 acre tract for 328 feet; thence run 87° 32 minutes West 490 feet; thence run South and parallel to the East boundary of said 40 acre tract for 160 feet to the point of beginning; thence run North 87° 32 minutes West and parallel to the North boundary of said 40 acre tract for 526 feet; thence run South and parallel to the East boundary of said 40 acre tract for 832 feet; thence run North 76° 02 minutes East for 433 feet along road; thence run North 67° 27 minutes East for 105.16 feet along road; thence run North and parallel to the east boundary of said 40 acre tract for 639 feet back to the point of beginning, containing 9 acres of land, more or less.
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published on the 27th day of July, 2022.
Casey Denise Trantham, Distributee
Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-6288

#103958 7/27 8/3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA CLIFTON, DECEASED

CASE NO. 22PR-22-98

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Name of Decedent: Virginia Clifton
Last known address:
420 North Speer Street, Monticello, AR 71655
Date of death: 10-18-2018
On the 21st day of July, 2022, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Virginia Clifton, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Drew County, Arkansas, under Arkansas Code Annotated § 28-41-101.
The legal description of the real property listed in the affidavit is as follows:
Lot No. 32 of Block 1 of Edgewood Addition to the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S1/2 of NW1/4) of Section 25, Township 12 South, Range 7 West, lying South of the Monticello-Mt. Tabor Public Road, as shown by the Plat recorded in Book 39, Page 399 of the Drew County, Arkansas Deed Records, being a lot 50 feet wide (measured North and South) and 150 feet long (measured East and West).
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or their attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate.
The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or the distributee's attorney is:
Brenda Freeman
219 Kennedy Blvd
Monticello, AR 71655
870-281-4367
This notice first published the 27th day of July, 2022.

#103958 7/27 8/3

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NOTICE

The following vehicle(s) will be sold, dismantled or destroyed in fifteen (15) days unless claimed at Rod's Towing and Recovery, 1010 Hwy 425 South, Monticello, AR 71655, 870-367-1700.
2009 Toyota Yaris Gray Vin # JTDBT4K37A1359601
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1999 Buick Century White Vin # 2G4WS52M6X1588692

#106608 7/20 7/23

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
ERICA ELFREIDA JACKSON, DECEASED
NO. 22PR-22-79

NOTICE
(To Creditors Re: Appointment of Administrator and Filing of Claims)
Last known address of decedent: 1781 Hwy 278 E
Monticello, Arkansas 71655
Date of Death: August 14, 2017
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published the 27th day of July, 2022.
Willie Earl Jackson, Administrator
c/o Ben Barton
Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657

#106610 7/27 8/3

REQUEST FOR BID/LEASE

Drew Memorial Health System invites qualified and experienced vendors to submit responses to our Request for Bid/lease of wireless network equipment for our EHR/wireless project.
Bid Deadline: 10:00 AM August 10, 2022
All bids are to be delivered in sealed envelopes with the project name clearly labeled on the outside of the sealed envelope to the address below.
They should include:
1) Option to purchase out right.
2) Option to lease for a term of 3 years with a \$1 buyout.
Sealed Bids should be mailed or hand delivered to Jackie Smith, 778 Scogin Dr, Monticello, AR 71655, and should be CLEARLY MARKED "SEALED BID." Please reference RFP DMHS EHR/ Wireless Project on all documents pertaining to this bid. All Bids are due on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 10:00 AM.
No late Bids will be accepted.
Drew Memorial Health System reserves the right to reject any or all quotes or waive minor irregularities when to do so would be in the best interests of DMHS. Minor irregularities are those which will not have a significant adverse effect on overall competition or performance levels.
To obtain specifications:
Rusty Bryant, Director of Information Technology
778 Scogin Dr
Monticello, AR 71655
870-460-3599 | rbryant@drewmemorial.org
ATTN: DMHS EHR/Wireless Project Bid/Lease

#106613 7/27 8/3

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For more information about adopting a pet, fostering a pet or donating, please email Monticello2ndChancefurdogs@yahoo.com or go to our facebook page Monticello 2nd Chancefurdogs.

Network. TFN

REAL ESTATE

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2bedroom Duplex for rent., all electric. 1585 Old Warren Road. \$500 per month, \$250 Deposit. Call 870-723-3309 4pd 7/30

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2 acre Treed Building Lot located on Wheeler Lane \$20K Call Rick 918-557-9548 4pd 7/30

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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 wom-

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2022 Sports Season less than a month away, begins August 16

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

With the month of July coming to a close, area schools are wrapping up the summer camps with the fall camps to start in a few weeks to prepare for the start of the 2022 football season that kicks off the 2022-23 Sports Year.

In less than three weeks, on Tuesday, August 16, The Monticello Billies and the Drew Central Pirates will take to the field for the first time in the 2022 season.

For the Pirates, Drew Central will stat the season on the road, traveling to Dumas in a scrimmage contest against Bobcats.

The Pirates will be led by former coordinator and now first year head coach Larry White who was hired shortly before the end of the school year after the

departure of head coach Matt Gonzales.

The Pirates' first home contest will take place on Friday, August 26, at Convo-Leslie Cotton Bowl Stadium on the campus of the University of Arkansas Monticello.

The Pirates this season will be led on the field by senior quarterback Kade Bodiford who will look to improve on his numbers from a season ago. The Pirates will return several seniors for the 2022 campaign including wide receiver Ashton Kelly and free safety Nick Bailey who will anchor the defensive backfield.

The Pirates are scheduled to have four home contests with six games on the road.

The 3A-6 Conference, in which Drew Central competes, will see a change in opponents with the McGehee Owls moving out of

the conference and welcome the Fordyce Red Bugs that are moving up from 2A and have played in three consecutive State Championship contests, winning the 2A State Championship on 2019 and 2020.

For the Monticello Billies, the Billies will also see a change on the sideline when they travel to Rison on August 16, to face the Wildcats in a scrimmage contest.

Coach Matt Gonzales joins head coach Randy Harvey as offensive coordinator after the departure of Correy Muldruw.

The Billies will travel to Rison and will open the regular season on the road in a non-conference contest against Fordyce on Friday, August 26. The Billies final non-conference contest was at home against Bauxite on Friday, September 2, before starting their conference season on the road at

DeWitt on Friday, September 9.

The Billies will have an extra conference contest with the expansion to nine teams in the 4A-8 Conference with the McGehee Owls moving into the conference.

The Billies will play the Owls at home in their second conference contest on Friday, September 16.

The Billies will return junior quarterback Brooks Bowman who took over the starting position last season as a sophomore. The Billie will return 11 seniors including wide receivers Jemar Mathews and Zavarius Johnson. Junior Evan Bealer will also be a target for Bowman at wide receiver. Bealer caught several passes last season as a sophomore with a touchdown.

Defensively, the Billies will return senior Hayden Carter at defensive end.

Senior running backs Jermi-

ah Franklin and KJ Davis, along with senior fullback Brandon Haynes and junior running Jonathan Lambert will anchor the offensive backfield for the Billies this season.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils will begin their 2022 season on the road with their opening contest being held on Thursday, September 1, in Bethany, Oklahoma taking on the Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm.

UAM defeated the Crimson Storm to open the season in 2021 with a 30-23 victory. The Storm finished the season with a 1-10 record.

UAM's coaching staff for the 2022 season will have some changes as well with the departure of wide receiver coach Tommy Feazell, linebackers coach/special teams coordinator Jordan

Frost-Dixon, and offensive line coach Marcus Hill. The Weevils added Jackson Bray as a Graduate Assistant and tight ends coach, Lawann Latson as the wide receivers coach, Jack Hendershot as a Graduate Assistant and linebackers coach, and Trey Williams as the linebackers coach.

Hud Jackson has added Director of Athletics along with his head coaching duties while promoting Ryan Lusby as the assistant head coach as well as the offensive coordinator.

UAM will host Oklahoma Baptist University on Saturday, September 10, in their first home contest of the season.

The Bisons defeated UAM last season 45-20 and went on to post a 8-4 overall record. UAM finished the season 5-6.

Stars WBB finishes top 10 in nation for academics

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The women's basketball program at South Arkansas Community College recently learned that its 2021-2022 team was among the top 10 finishers for NJCAA Academic Team of the Year in its sport.

The Stars were seventh for the national honor, which is bestowed to the team with the highest mean grade-point average among all NJCAA teams across each sport, regardless of division of play. Their 3.65 grade-point average placed the Stars women second among all NJCAA Division II women's basketball teams.

There are 135 NJCAA Division

II women's basketball programs and more than 400 total NJCAA women's basketball programs across the country.

Additionally, four Star student-athletes received individual recognition as NJCAA All-Academic First Team. They were Darbee Forte of Monticello, Addison McNeil of Emerson, Lexi Pyle of Emerson and Christian Marshall of Hermitage. Each completed the academic year with 4.0 grade-point averages.

"I'm so proud of our girls on their academic achievement, both as a team and as individuals," head coach Nate Evans said. "We take great pride within our program on being relentless in



Darbee Forte

the classroom, and to see it be recognized on a national scale is incredible. These girls have raised the bar high for what it means to be a SouthArk student-athlete."

Evans also applauded the work of SouthArk instructors and support staff in the academic effort.

"This achievement is also a testimony to the relentless efforts that our faculty and staff sows

into our students here at SouthArk," he said. "It's a great time to be a Star."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Excessive Heat Warning

American Humane provides critical tips to keep pets safe in Summer heat

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

As dangerously high temperatures are plaguing the globe, American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, is issuing key tips to help keep your pets safe in the summer heat. Many parts of the United States are facing triple digit temperatures with no let up in sight, while Europe's heat wave is shattering records, causing roads to buckle and train tracks to catch on fire. During these uncertain times, people must not forget about their pets.

"Severe heat is dangerous not just for humans, but for animals as well," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "Dogs and other pets can quickly become dehydrated and overheated in just a matter of minutes while taking a walk or by simply playing outside. During this heat wave, it's imperative that you plan accordingly to protect your entire family – pets included. We hope the public will follow these tips from the American Humane Rescue team and keep all their loved ones safe."

To help keep your pets safe

in the summer heat, refer to these critical tips from the American Humane Rescue team:

- Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle. Leaving a pet in a car for even a short period of time can have a deadly outcome. If you see a distressed dog inside a parked car on a warm day, immediately call your local animal control or law enforcement for help and stay with the animal until help arrives.
- Adjust exercise and walking schedules to cooler parts of the day. During hot summer months, even regular exercise can be dangerous for pets, and you may have to switch up your routine for walks to take place in the morning or the evening.
- If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their paws. Before taking your dog out on a walk, touch the surface of the sidewalk or street with the back of your hand. If the ground is too hot to touch for more than five seconds, this will also be the case for your pet. Have booties on hand for your pet to wear to protect their paws or carry them to a patch of grass to relieve them-

selves.

- Ensure that your pets always have access to shade and fresh water while outdoors. Temperatures in your yard can increase to dangerous levels in just a few hours, and heat stroke can become a serious issue.
- Familiarize yourself with the signs of heat-stroke. This can include excessive panting, dark or bright red tongue and/or bleeding of the gums, lethargy, stumbling, seizures, bloody diarrhea or vomit and even coma. If you think your pet might have heatstroke, take them to your veterinarian immediately.
- Learn to check your dog for possible dehydration. Gently pinch the skin over your dog's

shoulder, pull the skin away from its body, and then release it. The skin will slide right back into place if your dog is properly hydrated, but it will remain "tented" or return very slowly if your dog is dehydrated. If you think your dog is dehydrated, take them to your veterinarian immediately.

- Offer your dog a bowl of cool water to drink in small servings. If your dog swallows a

significant amount of water in a short period of time, it could get sick and end up vomiting.

- Provide temporary relief to an overheated animal by applying cool (not icy) water on your pet's skin with either a bath, hose or sponge until medical assistance can be reached.
- If your pet showed signs of heat stroke but has been cooled and now appears fine, do not assume that all is well. Inter-

nal organs, such as the liver, kidneys and the brain, are all affected by extreme body temperature elevation, so seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible.

Amidst the extreme temperatures, countries are also struggling to control devastating wildfires that have displaced thousands of people. Meanwhile, hurricane season is in full swing as well.



As drought lingers, trees require smarter approaches for watering

BY TRACY COURAGE
U of A System Division of Agriculture

With Arkansas' prolonged drought taking a toll on trees across the state, now is the time for homeowners to lend some extra attention to their trees that may be in distress.

"People have been calling about their trees losing leaves or starting to get their fall colors way too early, or the bark cracking," said Krista Quinn, a certified arborist and an agricultural agent with the Co-operative Extension Service's Faulkner County office, part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. "These are all signs of drought distress."

The prolonged lack of rain and high temperatures across

Arkansas has depleted moisture from soil in many areas.

"The two best things we can do to minimize drought damage to trees is to water them and lightly mulch them," Quinn said. "Watering and mulching trees now may not be enough to get them to produce new leaves or start growing again this season, but it can minimize damage and make them better able to withstand other environmental and pest pressures during the coming year."

Older trees require hundreds of gallons of water over a week, but their root systems can tap into deeper water sources that younger trees cannot access. Younger trees, especially those in harsh urban conditions, need extra care.

"Turf grasses can usually recover," Quinn said. "They will go dormant and turn brown. Some trees will also go dormant as a strategy for dealing with drought, so just because it's defoliating doesn't mean it's dying, but it is stressed."

Homeowners may face time or financial constraints when it comes to caring for their landscaping. Some municipalities may also request that homeowners reduce water use for irrigation like sprinklers and landscape watering to maintain the community water supply.

"For anyone who is trying to maintain their landscape through drought and heat and feel like they have to make decisions — I honestly think trees are the priority," Quinn said.

"They're expensive to plant, and large trees are irreplaceable. The hot temperatures make us appreciate the shade from a tree even more."

Tree Watering Tips

- Water under the entire tree canopy and not just at the trunk.
- For newly planted trees, water the area just outside the root zone to encourage roots to grow out away from the trunk into the native soil.
- Irrigate infrequently, but deeply. Watering once a week is usually sufficient as long as the top 4 to 6 inches of soil is wetted. Dig a small hole after watering to make sure the water has percolated through the soil.
- Watering trees in clay soils, compacted soils, or on slopes

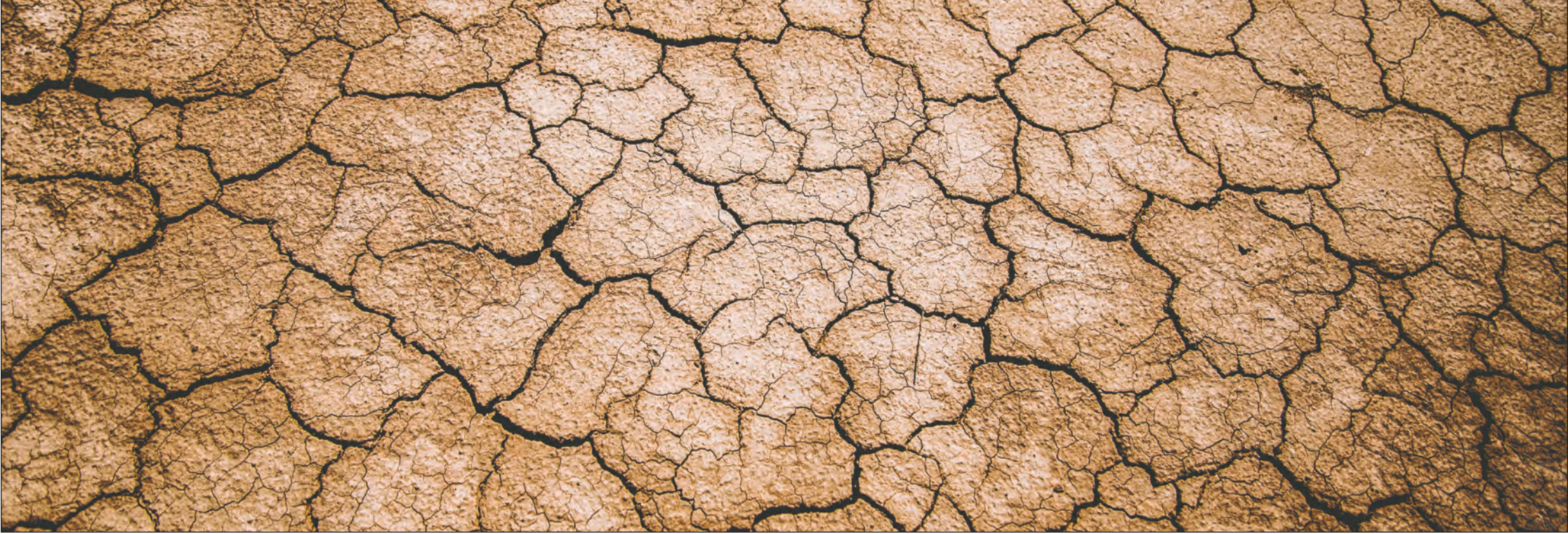
can be difficult since the water often starts to runoff before the top 4 to 6 inches of soil is wetted. Use a soaker or drip irrigation system to apply a low volume of water over a longer amount of time. Another option is to cycle the water flow on and off every 20 to 30 minutes. Water for 20 minutes, then let the water soak into the slope for 20 minutes, then water again for 20 minutes until the needed amount of water has soaked into the soil.

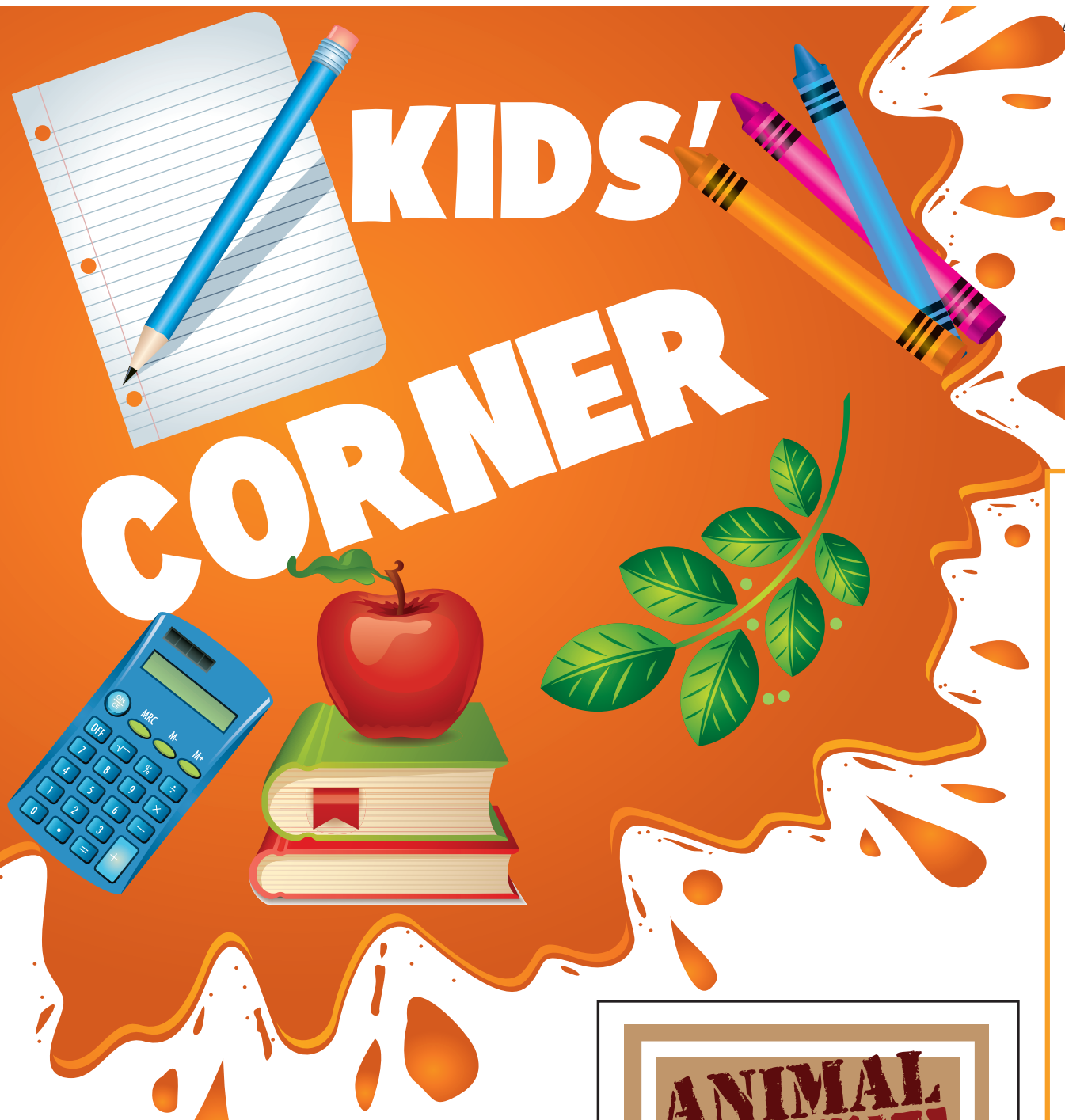
- Water in the evening or early morning to minimize evaporation.
- Use sprinklers, soaker hoses, watering bags, and buckets to water trees.
- Newly planted trees have a better chance of surviving if they are watered during dry

spells for the first two years after planting.

Tree Mulching Tips

- Apply a 2- to 4-inch-deep layer of mulch over tree roots.
- Keep mulch material away from the tree trunk. The goal is to keep the tree roots moist and the trunk dry.
- Mulch as much of the area under the tree as possible, preferably to the outermost edge of the tree's canopy.
- Many different organic products can be used as mulch. Bark, shredded wood, grass clippings, straw, pine needles, and dried leaves are all good options.
- Mulch does not need to be reapplied every year.
- Having a mulch layer more than about 4 inches deep can harm trees.





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

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A
and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Missing stump right side 2. Black
horse has white on chest 3. Brown horse has
longer mane 4. No hole in tree on left

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• **1921:** RESEARCHERS
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• **2007:** "THE SIMPSONS
MOVIE" IS RELEASED IN
THEATERS.



Next 30 days critical for irrigators, crops and equipment

By MARY HIGHTOWER
U of A System Division of Agriculture

If there's one message Chris Henry has for Arkansas row crop farmers during the drought, it's "don't get in a hurry."

Henry, professor and water management engineer for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, has posted a handout with a variety of tactics aimed at helping farmers get the most crop they can with what irrigation is available. Additional information can be found in a fact sheet series on Arkansas crop irrigation.

"The next 30 days will be critical for many irrigators, as fatigues sets in, and many crops are still at or entering high water demand," Henry said. "However, there are things that farmers can do to mitigate both the human and plant stress being experienced."

Arkansas has experienced

a broken string of days with highs in the triple digits, with rain in short supply. The U.S. Drought monitor map of July 19 showed all of Arkansas experiencing some form of drought. The Climate Prediction Center's extended outlook issued July 21 showed most of Arkansas with temperatures well above normal. However, the CPC's precipitation outlook was more promising, with the northern two-thirds of the state possibly seeing above-average amounts.

Henry's tactics include:

- Using a computerized hole selection program such as Pipe Planner, Rice Irrigation or PHAUCET to help plan water distribution across the field. Henry said use of these programs can reduce pump time by between 10 percent and 50 percent.
- Plan to be patient. Henry said water is drawn down from wells and reservoirs, pumps have to lift water further. "Expect to take

longer to irrigate a set or flood up a field and adjust accordingly," he said. "Some alluvial wells can drop off as much as 50 percent and it's not uncommon for reliefs to fall off 30 percent as we get to the bottom."

- Soil sensors are still relevant. "It's not too late to incorporate sensors into irrigation management," Henry said. "Using sensors to determine the last irrigation of the season is the largest payback of monitoring soil moisture, it almost always saves at least one irrigation and allows for planning ahead of dwindling irrigation supplies."

Even with one or two sets of sensors — for less than \$500 — estimating the number of irrigations left can be done for the entire enterprise. "In a drought year like 2022, sensors can save both water and profitability," Henry said.

- Irrigate deeply. Instead of flushing fields with limited water,

try to fill the profile up when irrigating, Henry said. "This will encourage the roots to go deeper for water and reduce the number of sets for the season-saving on precious labor."

- Check those pumps. Drought is prompting farmers to run their irrigation pumps beyond the typical 800 hours a year.

"For diesel power units, oil changes and greasing propeller shafts may seem obvious, but changing the oil in the gear head is often overlooked," Henry said. He also urged farmers with electric motors to be sure to use both the correct lubrication and amount. "If the oil in the sight window is black or white, there is a high risk of bearing failure."

The fact sheet provides additional guidance, tables and example calculations, on how to estimate crop demand and the amount and number of irrigations needed for reservoirs and wells as supplies draw down.

"Heat stress and heat exhaustion awareness are real threats to safely sustaining irrigation, keep ample water to employees and yourself and don't get in a hurry, it may take more time to do things safely," Henry said.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aaes.uada.edu>. Follow on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch. To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>. Follow us on Twitter at @AgInArk. To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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 to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Puzzle answers

Page 8B Sudoku

ANSWER:

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

Page 8B Word Search

WATERUSKTBYRTFCUDV
YNFUVBECSSFBLQODKIUP
CNBKUWSIDGABKDYAWCRL
NYWKOKKKNSSYKHEMPSON
ETSHMADIDPWALHUKNLFUY
ICNMSWYNABWCTLLMCFEFV
CSPORCLWVFBHEFPCEIBHF
ISSHDVWSNDYFPMYAINPSC
FYPCHEMIGATIONYFEEVLP
FSRFRVUFRUOCRITNRMAYB
ETICKNRYUESMKCPCUNEA
FENKCGDVTKTEFNOSCNGRE
IMKKNRSRRNTMAWLIKVTSS
EFLYOORETTITMEIVNEIDGP
LIEBEGHFFIGISTFHPPTMT
DMRRMANANAGEMENTKDIGNR
WASDENOITUBIRTSIDNSRD
DUGVADUCLHBAAYEPAAYKL
RKPGHGNNAHASKYDHNYYKUW
ERUSSSERPSBWOCBAPEEP

Page 8B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



Providing quality product; quality service

Special to The Advance

Caleb Kiefhaber, the owner of Kiefhaber's Heating and Air and Mobile Home Parts, knows a thing or two about owning a business. Kiefhaber's was established over 32 years ago by his father, Pete Kiefhaber. Throughout the years he taught his children how to operate the business, and took pride in doing so. He was proud of the business he built, and would be proud of his son's work.

Kiefhaber's provides HVAC and mobile home parts to all of South East Arkansas, and are focused on quality. The business philosophy is to provide a quality product and quality service. They also attribute their company's success to quality work, as well as honesty and prompt service. Caleb Kiefhaber emphasizes quality once again by giving advice to those interested in

starting a business. His advice is to work for a high quality, professional company and learn the business.

When asked why customers should do business with Kiefhaber's, he said, "We have high quality technicians and large truck inventory. We are constantly sending our technicians to continuing education. We are working to make you comfortable in your home."

Kiefhaber's Heating and Air is located at 6236 State Highway 114 West in Star City, and Kiefhaber's Mobile Home Parts is located at 117 Greenfield Drive in Monticello. The office phone number is (870)-628-4900.

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



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

Need to put a spotlight on your business?

Call (870) 367-5325 for information on how to advertise!

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2	Accounting Service	48	Dental Assistant
3	All Around Business	49	Dental Hygienist
4	All Around Industry	50	Dentist
5	All Around Restaurant	51	Dessert
6	Ambulance Service	52	Detail Shop
7	Apartment Complex	53	Diesel Mechanic
8	Appliance Repair	54	Dinner
9	Appliance Store	55	Discount Store
10	Assisted Living	56	Donuts
11	Attorney	57	Dry Cleaners
12	ATV/Small Engine Mechanic	58	Elected Official
13	Auto Dealer (New)	59	Electrical Supply
14	Auto Dealer (Used)	60	Electrician
15	Auto Mechanic	61	Employee Staffing Service
16	Auto Parts	62	EMT/Paramedic
17	Auto Service Dept. (Repair)	63	Eye Doctor
18	Automotive Salesperson	64	Family Entertainment
19	Bait Shop	65	Farm Supply
20	Bakery	66	Farmer/Rancher
21	Bank	67	Fast Food Service
22	Barbecue	68	Financial Advisor
23	Barber	69	Fireman
24	Beauty Supply	70	Fitness Trainer
25	Boat Repair	71	Flooring Store
26	Body Shop	72	Flower Shop/Florist
27	Breakfast	73	French Fries
28	Buffet	74	Fried Chicken
29	Building Contractor	75	Funeral Home
30	Burger	76	Furniture Store
31	Car Wash	77	Gas Station (Location)
32	Catering	78	Gift Shop
33	Children's Clothing Store	79	Greenhouse/Nursery
34	Chips & Salsa	80	Grocery Store
35	Chiropractic Clinic	81	Hair Salon
36	Chiropractor	82	Hair Stylist
37	Citizen	83	Handyman
38	Civic Organization	84	Hardware Store
39	Coffee	85	Health Club
40	Computer Repair	86	Healthcare Facility
41	Concrete Company	87	Heating and Air
42	Convenience Store (Location)	88	Hot Dog
43	Country Cooking	89	Hotel/Motel
44	Customer Service	90	Ice Cream
45	Dance Instructor	91	Insurance Agent
46	Dance Studio	92	Insurance Company



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READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Just vote for your favorites! Mail completed ballot to Readers' Choice Awards, c/o The Advance Monticellonian, P.O. Box 486, Monticello, Arkansas 71657 or bring it by our office at 314 N. Main in Monticello. Cast your vote via our Facebook page or www.advancemonticellonian.com. After all votes are cast we will draw one name from paper ballots and one name from online ballots to win \$100 each!*

SEE OFFICIAL RULES BELOW



OFFICIAL RULES

Paper ballot entries: Must be submitted on official newspaper entry ballot. Photocopies will not be accepted. Only one paper ballot entry per household per day will be counted. At least 60 of the categories must be filled out to be considered. Entries must be received by 5PM, Friday, August 12, 2022. Mail to: Readers' Choice Awards, c/o The Advance-Monticellonian, P.O. Box 486, Monticello, AR 71657, or bring by The Advance at 314 N. Main. Entry forms available in each edition of The Advance-Monticellonian through August 10, 2022. **Online entries:** Submit your online entries by clicking the link on our Facebook page or our website (www.advancemonticellonian.com). Only one online entry per category per computer address per day will be counted. Online entries will be accepted through August 12, 2022. All entries are subject to approval by Advance staff. The announcements of the winners will appear in the Readers' Choice edition on September 28, 2022. The decision of the judges is final. The Advance-Monticellonian will not be responsible for entries lost or delayed in the mail for any reason. All entries become the property of The Advance-Monticellonian. **NOTE:** Please, when voting for an individual such as hair stylist, nurse, etc. PLEASE let us know where the person is employed.

93	Jewelry
94	Land Management
95	Law Enforcement Officer
96	Lawn care
97	Lawn Mower Dealer
98	Locksmith
99	Lunch
100	Massage Therapist
101	Mattress Store
102	Medical Supply
103	Men's Clothing Store
104	Mental Wellness Provider
105	Mexican Restaurant
106	Mid-Level Provider (APRN, Physician's Assistant, etc.)
107	Mini Storage
108	Nail Salon
109	Nurse
110	Nursing/Rehab Facility
111	Nutritional Drinks
112	Oil Change
113	Orthodontist
114	Outboard Mechanic
115	Outdoor Supply Store
116	Paint Store
117	Painter
118	Pawn Shop
119	Pest Control
120	Pet Groomer
121	Pharmacist
122	Pharmacy
123	Photographer
124	Physical Therapist
125	Physician

126	Pizza
127	Place To Buy Meats
128	Place To Buy Produce
129	Plumber
130	Plumbing Supply
131	Real Estate Agent
132	Real Estate Company
133	Resale Shop
134	Roofer
135	Salad
136	Sandwich
137	School Principal
138	School Teacher
139	Seafood (Cooked)
140	Shirts, Decals, etc.
141	Shoe Store
142	Sno Cone
143	Sporting Goods Store
144	Steak (Cooked)
145	Tanning Salon
146	Tax Preparer
147	Taxidermist
148	Tire Store
149	Tobacco Store
150	Tree Service
151	Veterinarian
152	Veterinary Clinic
153	Waitress/Waiter
154	Wedding/Event Planner
155	Windshield Replacement
156	Women's Clothing Store
157	Wrecker Service

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City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

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