

Local sports highlights can be found on Page 11A-12A

LETTERS TO Santa Inside today's edition: A peek at this year's wish list! See Page 1-18C



ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

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Foxworth named UAM Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement and Dean of Students

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello has announced the appointment of Jessica L. Foxworth as the associate vice chancellor for Student Engagement and dean of students.

Foxworth joins the Student Engagement leadership team at UAM with over twenty years of experience in higher education. Her experience in student affairs

is broad, and she offers a deep understanding of how the work in Student Engagement connects to recruitment, retention and student success. She is a student-oriented leader with enthusiasm, intrinsic motivation and an earnest desire to prepare students for professional success. She grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and graduated from Arkansas State University in 1998 with a Bache-

lor of Science in communications degree. She earned a Master of Science in sports administration management degree in 2004 from Henderson State University.

Foxworth is experienced in fostering inclusive programs and communities and partnering with colleagues to identify and remove systematic barriers. She has managed an array of student affairs-related programs and facili-



FOXWORTH

ties during her career and brings extensive experience in functional areas such as housing and residence life, student leadership, orientation, crisis management, student rights and responsibilities and Title IX.

Foxworth says she looks forward to the opportunities and challenges of her new position, stating, "I am excited and humbled to step into this role and part-

ner with UAM students, faculty, staff and leadership. I value the intentionality behind the focus on Student Engagement at UAM under Dr. Doss's leadership, and I am committed to the work that impacts our students' ability to find success as they navigate their UAM educational journey."

Foxworth's appointment began on November 21, 2022.

Police Dept. receives \$32,773 in grant funding

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

According to Monticello Police Chief Jason Akers, the City of Monticello has received a grant for \$32,773.38 from the Arkansas Department of Public Safety for the purchase of new Kevlar vests and vest carriers for the entire Monticello Police Department.

Officers vests require periodic replacement after a period of years of use due to wear

and tear and while critical for officer safety, are required by MPD's department policy for patrol officers.

We are grateful to the Department of Public Safety for this funding and their support of Monticello and our Officers. Grants received by the City of Monticello to obtain large ticket items such as vests allow us to save our taxpayer money or utilize it for other projects.

UAM students win poster contest

By: LON TEGELS

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

The Ouachita Society of American Forester (OSAF) announced the winners of their annual 2022 forestry research poster contest. The Ouachita chapter is made up of foresters from Arkansas and Oklahoma. This year's winners were University of Arkansas at Monticello second-year graduate students Cassandra Hug and Alyssa Mineau. Hug is from Arvada, Co., and Mineau is from Sunnyvale, Calif.

Scientific poster presentations are an effective way to demonstrate knowledge and skills at the end of a research project. It's a fast, effective way of presenting a new idea, skill, or concept. The poster presentation usually includes a brief verbal explanation.

Hug's poster focused on tree management decisions in eight green tree reservoir (hardwood forests that are kept flooded for portions of the year to help waterfowl) sites. Her research focused on what trees were most economically and environmentally beneficial in these reservoirs. Her research is based on elevated plots located at the Five Oaks Ag Research & Education Center near Humphry, Arkansas. Northern higher elevation sites were found to be dominated by Cherrybark Oak, while southern lower elevation sites were dominated by Nuttall oak and Overcup oak.

Mineau's research was based on understanding landowner perspectives on invasive feral hogs and management to mitigate the effects of their presence across the West Gulf Region. Overall, landowners hold negative attitudes towards feral hogs and want them

See POSTER Page 3A

Nichols to take Sheriff's office Jan. 1

By: ASHLEY HOGG

editor@monticellonews.net

Votes have been counted in the run-off election for Drew County Sheriff and Tim Nichols emerged victorious.

With a total of 2,969 ballots cast, Nichols received 1,693 votes and James Slaughter received 1,276.

"First of all, I want to give honor and praise to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, without him I would not be where I am today," Nichols said. "I also want to thank my family, friends and supporters for all of the confidence you have shown in me when I didn't even have the

confidence myself, so thank you! Many times today and throughout the election I have found myself with mixed emotions. The majority of those emotions were that of humbleness and gratefulness for I know that I am nothing without each of you. To my wife and kids I say thank you, you have dealt with a lot when you didn't ask for it. However, you done it because you knew that's what I wanted for Drew County and our families as a whole. To my Dad and Mom, I want to say thank you for being such a positive role model for me throughout my life and for listening to me vent. Dad, you are my hero, never forget that. To the people

of Drew County, thank you for the love shown from you and your families. You are the reason why I wanted to do this. I want to be a positive light unto Drew County and serve you and your families with honor and respect. We are family, no matter of our last names or anything else. We are one Drew County and come January 1, 2023, we will be ready to serve you and your families. Again, thank you and never hesitate to call me 870-723-4679."



NICHOLS

In the general election held in November, Nichols received the most votes but did not carry 50 percent of the total, resulting in the run-off.

"I want to thank my family, friends, supporters, and the voters for believing in me and most of all, I want to thank God," Slaughter stated.

"It did not turn out the way we had hoped but I want to thank everyone.

I will continue to do my part as an Agent of the Drug Task Force to keep Drew County safe and a great place to live. I am still available for anyone to contact if there is anything needed from me. Again, thank you."

GENTIVA HEALTH HOLDS OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING THURSDAY



Tom White/Advance Monticellonian

Gentiva Health held its official ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 1. Formerly Kindred at Home, Gentiva provides hospice care to local residents. They are located at 420 W. Gaines St.

UAM to hold Fall Commencement Friday, Dec. 9

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The University of Arkansas at Monticello will hold its fall commencement exercises on Friday, December 9, in the Steelman Field House. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. Doors will open at 9 a.m.

Scheduled speakers include Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of UAM, and C.C. "Cliff" Gibson, III, chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees.

Special recognitions during the ceremony will include the presentation of the Chancellor's Legacy Award.

The university will present academic credentials ranging from master's degrees to technical certificates during the ceremony.

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

Sing, Dance, Rejoice performed at UAM



Photos courtesy of Susan Akin

SEARK Concert Association held their winter program "Sing, Dance, Rejoice" last Saturday at the University of Arkansas at Monticello Fine Arts Center. Local talent was showcased in this Christmas themed production.

HOLIDAY SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL
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 OUR 151ST YEAR
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5D Winter Benefit Barrel Run

Children's Advocacy Center of South Arkansas will host a Benefit Barrel Race beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 at Hogskin Arena in Hampton. To pre-enter, contact 870-862-222 EX. 103.

The Sounds of Christmas

First Missionary Baptist Church will present The Sounds of Christmas at 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 at 546 N. Bailey St. All are invited to attend this show featuring a mass choir, poems and skits.

ONGOING

City recycling guidelines

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

Drew County Quorum Court Meeting

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

Monticello City Council Meeting

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

Support for local schools

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

Borrow a book and hours

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

Information and referral outreach office now open

Southeast Arkansas Delta Solutions Community Development Organization announces the opening of its Information and Referral Outreach Office, 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.

AA meetings

The Monticello Winner's Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, located at 836 N. Hyatt St. in Monticello at noon on Tuesdays and Fridays and at 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. The meetings are open. There are no dues or fees.

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.

Nowlen, Montgomery to wed Jan. 14



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nowlen announce the engagement of their daughter, Jordyn Elizabeth Nowlen, to Adam Paul Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Montgomery.

Jordyn is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and is a Registered Nurse at Conway Regional hospital in Conway.

Adam is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello and is an underwriter at Farm Bureau in Little Rock.

The wedding will take place at 3 p.m. on January 14, 2023, at the Pauline Baptist Church sanctuary in Monticello, with a reception to follow in the church gym.

No invitations will be sent. All friends and family are invited to attend.

Drew Central Middle School December Students of the Month

5th Grade
Alaina Jordan
Jacob Rush

6th Grade
Chelsie Pennington
Braylon Jordan

7th Grade
Anna Ross
Ramien Collins

8th Grade
Alana Mack
Johnny Say

Senior Center lunch menu: December 7-14

Wednesday: Pork Roast, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, mixed greens, peach cobbler, roll

Thursday: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, fried okra, banana pudding, roll

Friday: Hamburgers, tots, brownie

Monday: Hearty chicken noodle soup, crackers fruit cocktail

Tuesday: Chicken pot pie, pickled beets, cookie bar

Wednesday: Meatloaf w/tomato gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed berry cobbler, roll

Menu is subject to change. All lunches have a choice of sweet tea and milk. The Senior Center serves lunch for citizens 60 and older for \$4; under 60, \$5, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., first come, first served. If you need any information on our senior center, please call 367-2434.

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Pet Photo Contest

Submit your cutest pet photos to our website at advancemonticellonian.com by December 21st!

Professor brings plant biotechnology research to UAM

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

This semester at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, under the direction of Dr. Arturo Quintero Ferrer, students have successfully experimented with tissue culture using potato plants in a biology lab.

In 2021, Dr. Quintero Ferrer joined UAM's faculty as an assistant professor of biology in the UAM School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences. His expertise is in genetics and synthetic biology, and one of his research focuses is in plant pathology. He is the owner and CEO of PlanTech, a plant biotechnology lab

in Guadalajara in Jalisco, Mexico, which he founded in 2016. The lab offers products and services to the state of Jalisco and is currently working with potato and agave plants, providing growers with certified seed that is lab-confirmed to be pathogen-free.

Dr. Quintero Ferrer plans to bring similar plant biotechnology to UAM. "With this type of lab, UAM students would not only learn about how the agriculture industry's seed certification process happens, but they would also experience it."

Dr. Quintero Ferrer previ-

ously worked on potato seed certification at the University of Idaho. During the past year, he has brought his expertise to his lab at UAM. His current student lab interns are learning to implement medical and molecular techniques to clone plants. The primary student researchers for the project include Kaylee Beck, an agriculture major from Hamburg, Arkansas, and Macie Carter, a pre-medical biology and biochemistry double major from East End, Arkansas.

After purchasing a potato from a grocery store, students test it in the lab to confirm that it is

pathogen-free. Upon confirming that the seed is clean, students establish the plant in vitro by putting it in media to germinate. After germination occurs, students micropropagate, or clone, the clean plant by cutting it and reestablishing each new piece in the media. This process ensures that each plantlet, known as an explant, that they create from the original potato plant is genetically the same, and the seed can be certified as clean.

Dr. Quintero Ferrer has been working for over ten years with certified seed projects. He aims to develop a lab that is self-suf-

ficient, providing academic and economic benefits, explaining, "I would like to create an academic experience that is active. I want students to participate in active learning and be exposed to real-world projects. Working in a lab like this one offers students many opportunities, and they gain hands-on experience that can make them attractive to future employers."

He plans to expand the lab's scope to work with Arkansas-grown, state-relevant crops, such as tomatoes and rice. "In the future, we may be able to offer products to growers in

the state, such as seed-certified plants, as well as phytopathological services," Dr. Quintero Ferrer said.

Dr. Shuneize Slater, dean of the UAM School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, stated, "We are very excited about this opportunity for our students and the possibility of future interdepartmental collaboration. It will be an excellent research project for all of us."

For more information about this research and the UAM School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, contact Dr. Slater at 870-460-1116.

POSTER

Continued from Page 1A

removed from the region. However, most landowners feel ill-equipped in managing feral hogs by themselves and desire financial or technical assistance in doing so.

OSAF representative and UAM Professor and Associate Dean, Robert Ficklin, presented the women with two checks from the forestry organization. Ficklin was recently recognized as a distinguished Fellow with the organization. Ficklin said, "The OSAF, consisting of Arkansas and Oklahoma members, has a history of supporting both undergraduate and graduate student education."

The poster contest during the OSAF annual meeting provided graduate students the opportunity to present their thesis research and exercise their science communication skills with a variety of forestry and natural resource professionals. "We're proud of how our students represented themselves, the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources and UAM during the meeting," said Ficklin. "The Society of American Foresters has advocated for sustainable forestry and natural resource management for more than 120 years, and the education and training of future managers and policy makers is critical to that mission."

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.

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

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 twenty entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all seventy-five counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses.

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



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OPINION

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Preserving memories of time in military service

Growing up in a military family, Richard McKinney learned at an early age about service and sacrifice. These lessons inspired him to follow in his father's footsteps and join the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Greenwood High School.

He trained as an electrician and eventually moved into management with the civil engineering division, but found his true calling when an Office of Special Investigations (OSI) officer said they were looking for new agents. The selection process was rigorous, but it was rewarding.

Throughout his career as an OSI agent, McKinney was involved with investigations that ranged from narcotics and fraud to counterintelligence. He also served on teams to help maintain security for U.S. military programs.

Recalling how commanding officers would charge him to search for leaks about information regarding a unit's operations, McKinney described his special agent duties and career in uniform to my staff as part of the Veterans History Project (VHP), a Library of Congress program preserving the history of our nation's veterans. This collection of former service-members' accounts ranging from World War I to the present day is the largest oral history archive in the country.

Arkansas has a storied legacy of brave citizens answering the call to serve in our nation's uniform. It's fitting their personal reflections will be preserved for future generations, and we're working to ensure more Arkansas veterans are part of this record.

My staff and I have helped expand the collection. We recently hosted Arkansas veterans at the Van Buren Public Library to record their experiences. Soon, the archive will hold the memories McKinney and others who participated in the event shared as part of this initiative.

I'm proud of the work we've done and are continuing to do to encourage more Arkansans to participate by hosting workshops around the state teaching others how to get involved. There is a lot of enthusiasm to honor our veterans by preserving their experiences.

More than 1,200 Arkansans have been trained to participate. Civic organizations, public entities and schools have also joined in this worthwhile endeavor. Arkansas PBS has promoted the program and shared some of the interviews in its archive with the VHP. Arkansans seeking to earn their Eagle Scout badge have arranged interviews and trained volunteers while some schools have incorporated the VHP into their coursework.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette recently reported Little Rock Central High School students are now taking part and have begun scheduling interviews with veterans for submission to the VHP.

It's exciting to know young people around our state are demonstrating an interest in history and honoring the men and women who served in uniform by recording their memories for the benefit of future generations. The personal reflections help us better understand the sacrifice of all who are called to defend our country.

I encourage more Arkansans to join us in the effort to document and preserve the experiences of family and friends who have been willing to give their all. I'm appreciative of those volunteering their time to recognize veterans in this manner.

The VHP is a valuable resource to learn about the realities of war. It's worth exploring the archive to hear the personal stories and dedication of Arkansans and all brave American veterans. The accounts are nothing short of inspirational.

In recent years, communities in our state have made this a special time to recognize our veterans by blanketing national and veterans cemeteries with Christmas wreaths. In that same spirit, we can launch a new tradition demonstrating our thanks and gratitude by sharing the experiences of a loved one's service in uniform.

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Serving Drew County since 1870

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send an email to editor@monticellonews.net

True Holiday Spirit

GUEST EDITORIAL

By: **BRYAN GOLDEN**

Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just

impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Holding the door open at a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the wellbeing of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

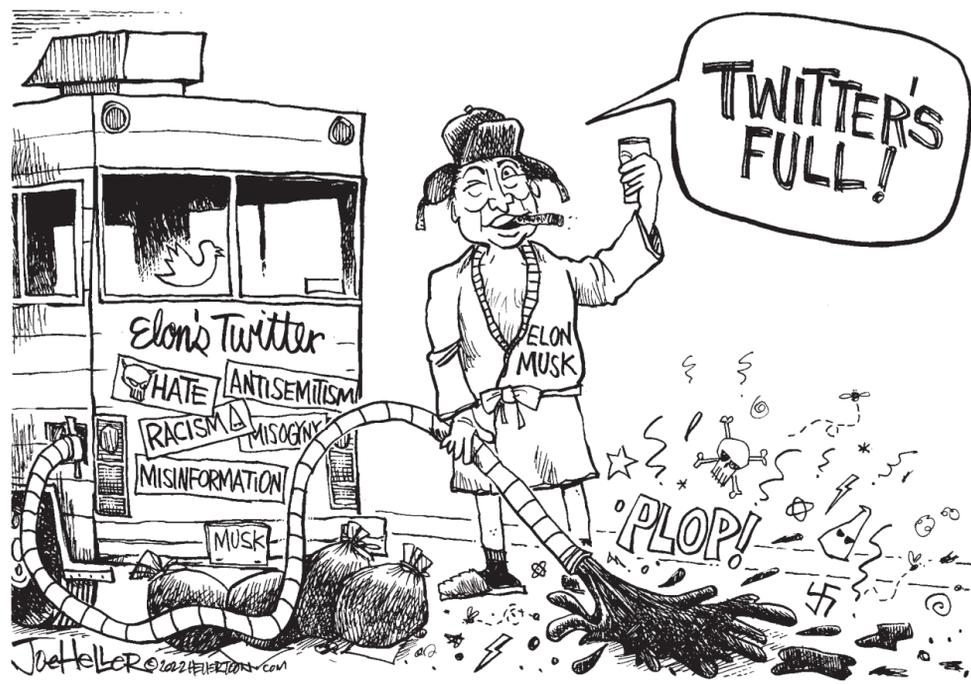
Giving is a simple concept that works every time it

is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. The recipient might like what you give them but it won't make up for your actions. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

The best gift you can receive is the joy of making someone else happy. Being unselfish is a wonderful way to live. When you give with no ulterior motives, your actions are seen as genuine. Should you expect something in return, your behavior is always suspect. We all know people who do nice things only when they want something in return.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. Every day is a good day to do something nice. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself. And that is priceless. The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.



2023 regular session begins Jan. 9

Returning House members and newly elected members are now preparing for the upcoming session.

The pre-filing period for bills and resolutions began on November 15. So far, 16 bills have been filed in the House and 3 have been filed in the Senate. You can review all the bills filed at www.arkansas-house.org.

The House Organizational Meeting previously scheduled for November 17 has been rescheduled to Monday, December 5, 2022, at 9 a.m. in the House Chamber.

During the meeting, newly elected members will draw for seniority and all members will select their seats for the 94th General Assembly. After seat selection, the committee selection process will begin.

The vast majority of legislation considered during a legislative session begins in a standing committee. There are 10 standing committees in the House. Each standing committee consists of 20 members including five members from each of the four House district caucuses.

Selection for the House Budget Committee, Arkansas Legislative Council, and Legislative Joint Auditing will take place after standing committee selection.

The next day, December 6, newly elected members will begin orientation. For the 94th General Assembly, there will be 26 members serving their first term in the House. The legislative institute will review everything from parliamentary procedures to balancing the state budget so that every member is prepared on day one of the session.

At the beginning of each legislative session, the House and Senate meet separately to organize and adopt temporary rules for the respective bodies. Then on the second day of the session, we will meet in a joint session in the House Chamber to hear an address from the newly elected Governor.

The House streams every committee meeting and House floor proceeding live on our website. We will also be streaming the organizational meeting on December 5. In addition, the recorded meetings are archived and searchable by key terms on our site.

Howard Beaty is the Arkansas House Report editor. He can be reached at reporter@monticellonews.net.

Firearms and ammunition industry

When I ran for Governor in 2014, I wanted to be the jobs governor, and today I'd like to talk about our work to bring firearm industry jobs to our state.

On my first day in office I made calls to six CEOs across the country to recruit them to Arkansas. One of those calls was to Ron Cohen, CEO of Sig Sauer.

Just over one year later we announced that Sig Sauer would be relocating its Elite Performance Ammunition manufacturing operation to Jacksonville. But this wasn't the beginning of the firearms industry in the state.

In 1969, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller joined Remington Arms to break ground on their new plant in Lonoke. He even proclaimed July 23, 1969,

as "A Day to Welcome Remington Arms." The proclamation states, "this multi-million-dollar plant will employ approximately 1,000 people, thereby bringing new prosperity to the community and to the State."

Today, more than 50 years later, that same Remington plant in Lonoke continues to thrive and grow under the ownership of Vista Outdoor, employing hundreds more people than when the plant first opened in the late 1960s.

When I took office I tried to recruit industries that would mesh with the culture of the state. I knew of the history of the Remington plant and Arkansas's respect of the Second Amendment, so the firearms industry was a natural fit.

In 2015, I was the only governor to attend the SHOT Show, the industry's leading trade show. Since then, I've taken a delegation from Arkansas every year they've held the event. Governors from states like Georgia, Oklahoma,

South Dakota, and Montana have since followed our lead and attended the SHOT Show in an effort to recruit these companies.

Because of our rich history and continued efforts to attract these businesses, we've seen steady growth over the past eight years. While it began in 2016 with Sig Sauer in Jacksonville, that's not where it ended. In 2017, Gamo/Daisy Outdoor, the maker of the legendary Red Ryder BB gun, expanded their production in Rogers.

Ammunition manufacturer American Marksman in Searcy and high-end firearm creator Nighthawk Custom in Berryville have also expanded their presence in the Natural State.

During the pandemic in 2020, Fiocchi of America announced their decision to move primer production to Arkansas. When they made this decision they also acquired some of the assets

See **HUTCHINSON** Page 5A

Alzheimer's is a health crisis in Natural State

Arkansas has been developing a statewide response to the growing health crisis created by Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

During the 2023 session the legislature will consider a series of proposals brought by the Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council, which was created by Act 319 of 2021.

Measures include enhancement of services for caregivers. Many wear themselves out physically caring for loved ones, and many

receive no compensation for the long hours they devote to care.

Although most people have heard of Alzheimer's disease, public awareness campaigns are necessary to improve early detection, and educate people about the early warning signs. Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's, there are treatments that can slow its progression and soften the impact of its symptoms.

State governments began responding to Alzheimer's in the 1980s, and their responses amplified as public health officials became more aware of the wide-ranging effects of the disease.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60

to 80 percent of all dementia cases. Dementia is a general term to describe loss of memory and mental abilities. There is no single test for Alzheimer's. Physicians rely on blood tests, scans, interviews with family members and tests of memory and cognitive skills.

How a person gets Alzheimer's is not known exactly. The major risk factor is old age. It can run in the family. Obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease may be risk factors. That means you may be able to ward off the disease by exercising, keeping mentally active and eating healthily.

The most common early symptom

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

HOW TO WRITE US

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

BY MAIL
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Don't overlook importance of cash

If you're an investor, you no doubt pay a great deal of attention to your stocks, bonds and mutual funds. But you shouldn't forget another key element of your financial strategy: cash.

Cash is part of any financial strategy and investment portfolio, but how much have you thought about the different uses of cash, and how much you really need? Consider these four key purposes:

- Unexpected expenses and emergencies – If you face an interruption in employment, you need an extensive home repair or you encounter an unplanned medical expense, you may need access to cash. If you're not re-

tired, it's a good idea to have three to six months of living expenses in cash, possibly supplemented by access to a line of credit. If you're already retired, keeping up to three months of living expenses in cash, possibly supplemented by a credit line, is a good rule of thumb.

- Specific short-term savings goals – You may have some goals you want to meet within the next year or two, such as a wedding, a vacation or the purchase of a new car. And since you have a little more time to meet these needs than you would for an emergency, you might consider using a money market account or a short-term certificate of deposit (CD), in

addition to your other savings vehicles.

- Everyday spending – You'll always need cash to provide for your day-to-day spending needs, such as your mortgage, other debts, groceries, utilities, entertainment and so on. If you haven't already done so, you might want to create a budget, which could help highlight areas in which you can reduce spending to free up funds for investing in long-term goals. If you're still working, keeping one to two months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account may be sufficient, but if you're retired, you may need up to 12 months of living expenses, which you can adjust to accom-

modate outside sources, such as Social Security or a pension.

- Source of investment – You can look at cash as an investment source in two different ways. First, cash can be considered its own distinct asset class, and because it typically behaves differently from other asset classes, it can provide some diversification to a portfolio containing stocks and bonds. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.) And second, the cash in your portfolio could be used as part of a systematic investing strategy in which you put set amounts of money at regular intervals into invest-

ment vehicles that are appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance.

Clearly, cash is an important part of planning for the future, but there can be too much of a good thing. While cash may seem like a perpetual safe harbor from the stormy investment seas, it is not without risk. If you hold too much cash, you could underfund your longer-term investments – the ones with the growth potential you need to reach some of your most important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Put your cash to work. By using it wisely, you can add a valuable element to your financial picture.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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Avian Influenza confirmed in third Arkansas poultry flock; producers urged to take precautions

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Testing has confirmed a case of avian influenza in a backyard flock in Arkansas County that had shown increased mortality over the course of several days.

This is the third case of avian influenza in Arkansas this year. Earlier this year the Department confirmed cases of avian influenza on a poultry farm in Madison County and on a farm in Pope County.

"We will continue to work with poultry growers, the industry, and our laboratory partners to protect against the spread of avian influenza," said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. "Arkansas poultry is safe to eat, and consumers can be confident in the safety of their food."

"The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is urging poultry owners to increase biosecurity measures on their operations in response to several reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds along the Mississippi Flyway," said Patrick Fisk, Livestock and Poultry Division Director.

Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. There is no public health concern, and avian influenza does not affect poultry meat or egg products, which remain safe to eat.

To mitigate the disease risk from contact with the birds or their droppings, the Livestock and Poultry Division strongly recommends taking the following steps for the next 30 days, especially within the Delta area:

- Keep your birds indoors or covered to prevent exposure to wild or migratory birds.
 - Restrict access to any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.
 - Implement strict biosecurity methods to prevent exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
- All poultry flock owners are encouraged to follow the strict-

est biosecurity on their farms to prevent the spread of the disease. Those steps include:

- Limit, monitor, and record any movement of people, vehicles, or animals on or off your farm.
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm to limit the chances of bringing the virus from an outside source.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms and any unnecessary travel off the farm.
- Disinfect equipment, vehicles, footwear, and other items that come into contact with flocks.
- Keep your flock away from wild or migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Isolate any ill animals and

contact your veterinarian.

For more information on avian influenza, visit aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/ai and for information on protecting poultry, visit aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program.

Backyard flock owners who have sick or unusual deaths in their flocks should email info@agriculture.arkansas.gov or call (501) 823-1746.

Additional background

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus that can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese,

and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl and wild birds, such as ducks, geese, raptors, and shorebirds. AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1-H16), and neuraminidase or "N" proteins, of which there are 9 (N1-N9). Many different combinations of "H" and "N" proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype and can be further broken down into different strains which circulate within flyways/geographic regions. AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity (low or high)—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic poultry.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

is the inability to remember newly learned information. Other warning signs include difficulty completing familiar tasks, losing things, being disoriented, withdrawal from social activities, no longer being able to plan ahead or work with numbers, changes in judgment and decision making that are out of character and finally, mood swings and personality changes.

In Arkansas, an estimated 93,000 people provide unpaid care to loved ones with Alzheimer's. The majority are women and two-thirds are older than 50, so the physical chal-

lenges of caregiving are daunting. The majority of caregivers have been providing care for more than four years.

Caregivers have to leave work early or take time off. They lose benefits and have to turn down promotions. Due to the demands of caregiving, nine percent have had to quit work entirely and 18 percent have had to leave a full-time job and take a part-time job.

In 2020 about 58,000 Arkansans had Alzheimer's and by 2025 that will increase to 67,000 people, in part because of the general aging of the population.

It is expensive to care for Alzheimer's patients, more so than caring for people with cancer and heart disease.

Patients with Alzheimer's and dementia tend to have more incidents entailing higher costs for coronary artery disease, diabetes, strokes, chronic kidney disease and cancer.

Overall, people without dementia don't need care as often for those same medical conditions as do people who also suffer from dementia.

For people 65 and older with dementia, the rate of hospitalization is twice what it is for people who don't have dementia. It is 538 hospital visits for every 1,000 people compared to 266 hospital visits per 1,000 people.

HUTCHINSON

Continued from Page 4A

of Grandeur Fasteners in Danville, which was a supplier for Sig Sauer. Just last month, Focchi announced the largest invest-

ment in the firearms industry in Arkansas with over \$41 million dollars and 120 new jobs coming to the Port of Little Rock.

The Remington Arms factory that Governor Rockefeller helped bring to our state was also purchased by Vista Outdoor in 2021

and reopened to bring an additional 450 jobs back to the state.

As governor, I focused on job creation and the growth of the firearms industry is a great fit for Arkansas. Now our state is known as a premier destination for the firearm industry.

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We are so very proud of the beautiful float entries. These volunteers made the switch from Tuesday to Thursday night and provided an outstanding parade night experience for the thousands of spectators who all seemed ready to welcome a happy and merry Christmas season.

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BRIDAL REGISTRY AT CITY DRUG

ASPSF honors Monticello residents for their volunteerism

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

For the month of December, Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF) is recognizing not one but two outstanding volunteers in the Southeast Region. Congratulations to Brian Wells and Aaron Simpson, both of Monticello, as ASPSF's December 2022 Volunteers of the Month. Program Manager Kerron

Simpson described Brian and Aaron, who are her brothers, as behind-the-scenes volunteers who were raised in a single parent home. They passionately believe in empowering single parents to pursue their education, increase their income, and raise their standard of living. Called "a champion of ASPSF," Brian is a volunteer Kerron can

always count on. He retired after 33 years with the Arkansas Department of Transportation but stays active by keeping Kerron up to date on community activities. He even secured and drove a side-by-side so ASPSF could have a vehicle for the NAACP's Black History Month parade. "I can always call on Brian to assist me," Kerron said. "He is al-

ways willing to accompany me as a driver through my very rural region. We were even caught in the snow while driving at night from Chicot County!"

Aaron, meanwhile, is Kerron's co-pilot, doing whatever he can to serve the community. He helps by distributing scholarship checks and accompanying Kerron as she travels to visit students and sup-

porters in Drew, Jefferson, and Arkansas counties.

Through his work as a resident specialist at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Aaron has helped ASPSF establish a relationship with the school and its students. Aaron is also employed at the Saracen Casino Resort as a security guard supervisor. "He always has my back," Ker-

ron said. "His focus is always about helping single parents."

For more information about Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund — which has awarded more than \$30 million in scholarships since 1990 — contact ASPSF Program Manager Kerron Simpson at ksimpson@aspsf.org or (870) 498-8650.

Research suggests melatonin improves growth performance of calves born to cows that grazed toxic fescue during gestation

By FRED MILLER
U of A System Division of Agriculture

An animal scientist at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station has shown that a common and inexpensive hormone additive may mitigate the ill effects on growth performance of calves born to cows grazed on endophyte-infected fescue pastures during gestation.

Toxic impact
Brittini Littlejohn, assistant professor of animal science for the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said fescue is the most common cool-season forage in the southeastern U.S., including Arkansas. Most of that fescue is infected with endophyte fungus, which is beneficial to the grass, but produces ergot alkaloids, organic compounds in plants that are toxic to grazing animals.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service ranks Arkansas 11th in the nation in beef cows that have calved and beef cow replacement heifers, according to the 2022 Arkansas Agricultural Profile published by the Division of Agriculture. Farm cash receipts for cattle and calves totaled \$426 million in 2020, according to the profile.

Littlejohn said fescue toxicosis restricts blood flow in animals that eat the infected grass. Her lab recently showed that pregnant cows consuming toxic fescue seed have decreased uterine artery blood flow that potentially reduces nutrient supply to bovine fetuses during gestation.

Calves born under these conditions are underweight, Littlejohn said. Calves in her study were on average about 90 pounds underweight at weaning. Low weight continues as the calves grow and the differences are maintained through yearling stage, she added.

Fescue growth and concentrations of ergot alkaloids, the toxic compounds in endophyte fungus, peak twice a year, Littlejohn said. Toxicity concentrates as the grass matures and produces seed, and some beef producers avoid the problem by keeping their pregnant cows off fescue pastures during those times. But few producers have that option.

Research results
Littlejohn and her collabo-

rators investigated the effects of adding melatonin to supplemental feed for pregnant cows consuming endophyte-infected fescue seed during toxic phases in the pasture grass. Melatonin is a natural product found in plants and animals. In animals, it is released by the pineal gland and is believed to be associated with sleep-wake cycles.

Littlejohn added melatonin to feed containing toxic fescue seed during mid- to late-gestation for test subjects at the Savoy Research Complex Stocker Unit. Other animals received toxic fescue seed without melatonin or were fed only endophyte-free fescue as control subjects to measure the impact of the melatonin. Test subjects at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station's Savoy Research Complex were fed in a precision agriculture controlled feeding system.

The melatonin additive tended to improve birth weights and significantly improved weaning and post-weaning weights of calves whose dams consumed toxic fescue during gestation, Littlejohn said. "We were able to recover over 70 percent of the loss in weaning weight by treating pregnant heifers with melatonin."

Littlejohn stressed that the melatonin was added only to the diets of pregnant heifers during a 70-day window of gestation and not to the calves. But the calves benefitted from the addition to their mothers' diets with improved weight-gain throughout their development.

"The calves are yearlings now and still showing benefits based on how you treat the mothers," Littlejohn said.

Next steps
Littlejohn said her data so far is still preliminary. She has submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a National Institute of Food and Agriculture seed grant to continue gathering data. "We need to replicate the study to build up the data and confirm our results," she said.

The proposed NIFA-funded project will be conducted at the experiment station's Livestock and Forestry Research Station near Batesville.

In the meantime, she has received a provisional patent for the use of melatonin in cows to mitigate the effects of fescue toxicosis during gestation. Parker Cole, associate director

of Technology Commercialization for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, said the provisional patent offers intellectual property rights protection while Littlejohn continues her research.

"We're the first to investigate this use of melatonin," Littlejohn said.

Her graduate student Rachel Scott will present this research at the January meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Animal Science.

Down the road, Littlejohn wants to develop and evaluate the other methods of administering melatonin for pregnant cows. She anticipates that some methods, like implants, would be relatively inexpensive and only have to be used during gestation and when the endophyte toxin is active.

Littlejohn and her collaborators are also in the process of further evaluating factors that might play a role in calf weight gain results. "Current and ongoing research will evaluate differences in the muscle biology, feed efficiency, metabolism, immune function, and the microbiome to better understand what's driving the differences in growth rate," she said.

COOKIES WITH SANTA EVENT HELD AT DC FRIDAY



Photo courtesy of Trudy Jackson

Drew Central Elementary, the Drew Central Preschool and the DC PTO continued the tradition of the "Cookies with Santa" event Friday, December 2, in the Drew Central Multi-Purpose Building. This family event has always been a free event for families and includes lots of games, cake walk, pictures with Santa, free hot cocoa, free books, cookie decorating, and many other fun activities. COVID put this event on pause the last couple of years and it was sorely missed. Attendees donated canned goods that will be used to assist Drew County families at Christmas.



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OBITUARIES

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James Edward Andrews

James Edward Andrews, 77, of Monticello, passed away at his home surrounded by family Sunday, December 4, 2022.

He was born November 8, 1945, in Pine Bluff, to the late Vester Lee Andrews and Marguerite Virginia Stewart Andrews. James served in the United States Air Force and was a member of Rose Hill Freewill Baptist Church.



ANDREWS



VETERAN

He was also a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner and was retired from Burlington Industries. James was an avid UAM sports fan and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved God and his church family very much.

In addition to his parents, James is preceded in death by a sister, Virginia Bottom; and his twin brother, Henry Martin Andrews.

James is survived by his wife of 51 years, Barbara Louise Clemons Andrews of Monticello; two daughters, Tabitha Turner (Robert) of Conway and Jamie Andrews of Monticello; one son, Marty Andrews of Monticello; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Celebration of life services with Military Honors was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at Rose Hill Freewill Baptist Church with Rev. Dwain Roper officiating. Memorials may be made to the Shriners or Children's Hospital. You can sign James' guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Cora Sue Bailey

Cora Sue Bailey, 88, of Monticello, passed away at Gardner Nursing and Rehab in Star City, Saturday, December 3, 2022. Sue was born April 2, 1934, in Drew County, to the late Byron Montgomery and Verlee Ellis Montgomery. She was a member of First Assembly of God in Monticello. She enjoyed watching the Gaithers, talking to friends and family, and traveling with her First Assembly of God Prime timers.

In addition to her parents, Sue is preceded in death by her husband, John S. Bailey; her son Michael Doss; and sister, Patsy Strahan.

Sue is survived by three children, Ken Doss (Gail), Robby Doss, and Lisa Doss Pevey, all of Monticello; eight grandchildren, Candi Hill, Jason (Andrea) Camden, Logan (Cassie) Camden, Levi (Jamie) Hammil, Jake (Lauren) Hammil, Kris (Rebecca) Doss, Carrie (Adam) Aylor, Sarah (Jon) Worosylo; seventeen great-grandchildren, Jessy Hill, Cason Camden, Abbi and Kierstyn Camden, Jaci, Luke and Aaden Hammil, Heidi and Holt Hammil, Coy and Baylor McCain, Grace Douglas, Rowan and Teagan, Caleb Worosylo, Kingston Lucas, and Kash Camp; as well as a host of nieces, neph-

ews, family and friends.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 3 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel. There will be a visitation one hour prior to the service beginning at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Sixteenth Section Cemetery in Wilmar. For more information or to sign her guestbook visit www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Thomas Nichols Berry

Thomas Nichols Berry, 85, of Pine Bluff, passed away peacefully at his home. Thomas was born May 22, 1937 in Monticello, to the late Jesse Lee Berry and Mabel Nichols Berry. He graduated from Arkansas A & M, now known as UAM, and went on to Auburn University for his post graduate work. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

Thomas was a coach and teacher for 28 years at Watson Chapel and Dollarway School Districts from 1966 to 1994. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pine Bluff. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Thomas loved horse racing, making his last winning bet two days before his passing. He enjoyed cooking, specifically smoking boston butts and was nicknamed "Pork Butt Berry" by his coworkers at McFarland Eye Centers where he worked as a van driver for 12 years after retiring from coaching and teaching.

In addition to his parents, Thomas is preceded in death by nephews Bryan Tindall and Marty Tindall.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Sue Magie Berry whom he married November 23, 1974; daughters, Nicole Berry and Heather Berry; grandchildren, Taylor (Ashlyn) Smithwick, Jaben (Brittney) Tidwell, Madison Stuckey, and Cole Hendricks; great-grandchildren, Jaben Jr., Azalee, Jadis, and Loki; and sister, Benetta Tindall.

The service officiated by the Reverend C.B Baker will be Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 703 W. 3rd St., Pine Bluff. Burial will be in the Trinity Columbarium. A Celebration of Life reception will follow the service in the Church Parish Hall. Memorials may be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church. A special gratitude is extended to those who checked on him and kept him company at home over the last few years, especially Renee Harris Parks and the nurses and staff of Saline Memorial Hospice.

(Paid obituary)

James Edward Green, Sr.

Barber Legend and former art and history teacher, James Edward Green, Sr. passed away on Thursday, November 30, 2022, at 1:25 p.m. at the age of 77 at Baptist Hospital, North Little Rock. Despite battling ongoing medical issues in recent years, James, Sr. showed remarkable courage and strength in facing life's challenges with resilience and smiles. Despite enduring unspeakable pain, James, Sr. remained

determined, optimistic, and strong until the end of his life. He was surrounded by loved ones who watched him peacefully transition from his earthly duties.

James Green, Sr. was born on May 5, 1945, in Monticello, to the late Warren Harding Green and the late Beatrice White. At the tender age of 15, he met his loving and devoted wife, Queen Etta Green. They married in 1964 and celebrated their 58th year of matrimony on July 12, 2022.

James was a believer in God and accepted his son Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He was baptized in the very early 1970s in Chidester, at the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ (CLJC). James, Sr. and his wife Queen were first introduced to the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith with headquarters in Philadelphia, through worldwide radio broadcasts of the late Bishop S.C. Johnson who passed in 1961. They became members of the church under the administration of S.M. Shelton who passed in 1991 and continued membership under the current administration of Bishop Omega. James Sr. loved the "Good Lord", and enjoyed studying the bible with a dictionary alongside him. After James Sr and Queen had children, he would get up on Sunday mornings to make the 3-hr roundtrip drive with the family to attend church in Chidester. Eventually, the family started attending the CLJC church in Greenville, Miss. In later years, he was encouraged by friends to attend a local congregation in Monticello and was welcomed at the Church of Christ on Kennedy Blvd in Monticello under Bro. Charlie Vincent.

James was a lifelong learner and had a deep passion for education. He believed that furthering one's knowledge was the greatest equalizer. He graduated from Drew High School in 1963. James was a member of the basketball team. After graduation, he followed his first passion and attended the Arkansas College of Barbering in Little Rock, where he received a License in Barbering in 1964. James, Sr.'s pursuits did not stop there. He also attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello and graduated with his bachelor's degree in Art and a minor in History. Later he pursued graduate courses in education at Northeastern State University, Monroe, La.

A genius with his hands, James was skilled at drawing, painting, writing (he authored his own magazine "Common Sense" circa the mid-1990s), sculpturing, and building. He taught Art History for over 20 years at Warren High School, Hermitage High School, and Dermott High School. Despite his love for art and teaching young minds, nothing could keep him from his love of Barbering. James Sr. was affectionately known as the best barber in southeast Arkansas. In his 64-year barber tenure, he cut hair for thousands of people, including former NBA star Scottie Pippen. James Sr. was called a Barber Legend because he delivered more than just a premium haircut service to his clients. Beyond that, he delivered a wealth of humorous stories filled with wisdom, laughter, encouragement, advice, and a sense of hope that helped to retain his customers and their families for generations. An enterprising entrepreneur, James, Sr. also owned a small apartment, a tailoring shop, and Green's Bar B Que Hut. The BBQ hut featured Hickory-Smoked barbecue with Queen's Best Barbecue Sauce. Joe Jackson the father of the Jackson Five singing group tasted the barbecue when they came through Monticello. James Sr and Queen also started a tailoring business that featured the sewing skills of the talented seamstress/singer Vera Racy from Dumas. James, Sr. also taught himself to sew, and took pride in designing men's clothes including the popular West-African-inspired "dashiki", and a three-piece man's suit. Green's Enterprises were located in a multi-unit building that sustained extensive fire damage in the late 1970s/early 1980s. But when it came to barbering, James, Sr. would cut hair anywhere, and did so outside his home residence to the end of his time on earth.

A friendly, engaging, and talkative man, James Sr. will be remembered for his smile that lit up any room. With an insatiable passion for learning and inspiring others, he never gave up on his dreams and encouraged others to pursue their ambitions. He was generous and faithful in his works. Besides being a renowned barber, and an accomplished artist, James Sr was an avid reader; and delighted in tickling the ivory keys and playing his own compositions on the piano. He enjoyed spending time with his family and loved ones, watching the late-night news, eating a big bowl of buttermilk and cornbread, and pancakes at Cracker Barrel.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories: his wife, Queen Etta Green; three daughters: Brenda Green of Atlanta, Sharon Green of Philadelphia, and Angela (Todd) Rogers of Conway; four sons: James Green Jr. of Monticello, Steven (Tiffany) Green, of Wilmington, Del.;

Jeremy Mitchell of Chicago, and Wayne'a Daeshawn Green of Monticello; four sisters: Kay (Tyronne) Miles of Spencer, Okla., Marilyn Jones of Monticello, Mona Lisa Green and Glenda Green of San Francisco, and three brothers: Alvin (Lorraine) Green of Monticello, Arnold "Laron" White of Monticello, and Augustus "Mike" Alexander Green of San Francisco seven grandchildren: Brianna Jackson, Keanu Green, Christin Rogers, Davion Green, Amora Green, Pierce Green, Carmen Rogers; and one great-grandchild, Ashlyn Jackson; and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

In addition to his parents, James is also preceded in death by his grandma, Ada Belle Green, brothers: Charles White, Johnnie Lee White, Freddie Earl White, Wayne Green, Raymond Green, Kenny Alton Green; sisters: Joyce Ann Green, Brenda Jean Green-Toliver, Patricia Ann Green, and Linda Darlene Green.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2022, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home. There will be a viewing from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022, at the funeral home. The repast will occur immediately following the Memorial Service, at the VFW Hall on Saturday, December 10, 2022.

(Paid obituary)

Robert H. Martin, Sr.

It is with great sadness of hearts, but the belief in God's mercy, that the family of Robert H. Martin, Sr. of Monticello, announces his passing from this earth into the peace and comfort of heaven's portals on December 3, 2022. He was 80 years old and surrounded by the loving support of his loved ones at the time of his death.

Robert H. Martin, Sr. was born in Barkada, on April 4, 1942 and was raised in the Wilmar and Barkada areas. He was a Pipeliner by occupation for 53 years until his retirement in 2012, a Christian, and a Free Mason of the 32nd Degree. He was a long time member of The International Union of Operating Engineers

and is a member of The Pipeliners' Hall of Fame. He is preceded in death by his adoring and loving wife, the late Barbara Ann Martin (who passed away on June 17, 2018), whom he married on February 16, 1962. Also, he is preceded by twin sons who did not survive a premature birth in 1969. In addition, he will be reunited in Heaven with his mother whom he has longed to see again, Jewell Marie Martin, two brothers, Guice and Garvin Martin, and a sister, Creola Reynolds. He is survived by two sons, Robert H. Martin, Jr, MD and Roger Dale Martin; four grandchildren Brittney Ann Martin-Norsworthy, Austin Sykes Martin, Madeline Grace Martin, and Meredith Jewel Martin; one great grandchild Stoney Riggs Norsworthy; two daughters-in-law Angila Benson Martin and Carole McGarr Martin; two step grandchildren John Michael Efrid and Max Hyatt Efrid; and a grandson-in law William Seth Norsworthy. He is also survived by three siblings Margaret Tucker, Don Martin and Joyce Woods; a sister-in-law Linda Griffin-Heath; as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends that he loved and cared about very much. Special gratitude is extended to those who checked in on him and kept him company at his home over the last few years such as his dear friend, Mary Thompson; and someone he considered like a daughter, Kristy Pamplin. Pallbearers are: Seth Norsworthy, C.J. Reed, Jeff Patton, Ricky Trantham, Scotty Ferrell, Mark Gober, and Colton Reed. Honorary Pallbearers are: J.R. Jackson, Eddy Montgomery, Mike Adrian, Don Brazzell, Glen Perkins, and Ed Kelly. Visitation will be at the Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home in Monticello, from 6-8 p.m. on December 8, 2022. The funeral service will also be held at the Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home on December 9, 2022 at 1 p.m. The presiding minister for the service will be Pastor Michael Griffith, Jr. The eulogy will be given by Bro. Billy Collins. The graveside and burial service following the funeral will be at The Union Cemetery on Hwy 35 West in Rye. All friends, family, and the public is invited to attend. (Paid obituary)

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870-367-5325
classified@monticellonews.net

CLASSIFIED RATES

BUSINESS ADS

1 Week - \$8⁵⁰

(25 Words Or Less; 34¢ Per Additional Word)
Includes one insertion in the Shoppers' Guide and one insertion in the Advance.

BUSINESS ADS

4 Weeks - \$20

(25 Words Or Less; 34¢ Per Additional Word)
Includes four insertions in the Shoppers' Guide and four insertions in the Advance.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS: To individuals for all ads with items priced at \$50 and under. All free ads must be for a single item, 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. Free ads will run for two weeks.

PAID CLASSIFIEDS: 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. For Rent, Hay for Sale, etc. are classified as **BUSINESS ADS**.

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 \$20 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

Rummage Sale ads are now

FREE to individuals!

Includes date, time and location of sale, plus a short list of items. Limit 25 words.

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

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, Laura Whitaker, 870-460-5690. 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



4pd 12/24*

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Good Shepherd 203 E. Trotter Avenue, Monticello (870)460-0503 Educational child care, after school care and summer programs. Open Saturdays from 7 am to 5 pm. Come in for a free trial day and see what makes us different. 50% off first week. We are bilingual and accept vouchers. #81546 TFN mt-bw

MISCELLANEOUS

4 all terrain tires for sale 265/70/R17 \$300 call 870-509-2720 2ft 12/14
For sale: Ruger 22 rifle, composite stock and scope, \$200. Automatic .22 pistol, \$200. 870-224-3261. 12/17 2ft

For sale: 2004 Free Star Mini Van. One 6x12 area rug, one floor lamp and several table lamps, manual exercise bike. Crystal glassware. Cat tower and toys, litter box and other accessories for a cat. Lots of Christmas decor, Navy blue luggage set, CD's and ladies clothing. Please call 870-623-1505 or 870-727-1830 for more information. 4pd 12/24

For Sale: 4 ATV Tires that fit Polaris 2 are 27x9.00-14 and 2 are 27x11.00-14. Like new \$350 870-224-3261 2f 12/07

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

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

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

REAL ESTATE

APARTMENTS

Cedar Hill Apartments

Newly renovated. Veteran units available. New appliances and interior. Income restrictions apply.

Washer/dryer in each unit. 839 S. Gabbert St. 870-367-3394. TFN cc-11/28

Weevil Run Apartments

Choose 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom or 1 bedroom, 1 bath. All feature stove, refrigerator and dishwasher, hook-up for washer/dryer. Adjacent to UAM campus. Email: weevilrun@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook. Phone: 723-2342. #52703 TFN mt-bw

Westside Manor Apartments. 2 BR, 1 BA. Refrigerator & stove provided. Washer/Dryer hookups. (870) 853-5345 or 870-818-6702. #80594 12/19 TFN mt-bw

COMMERCIAL

For rent: 1,700 sq ft warehouse with 300 sq ft office/showroom. Address 155 Market St. Monticello, AR. Contact 870-723-9439. #102370 1/2

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

1100 SQ FT CLASS A OFFICE SPACE UTILITIES PAID 419 WEST GAINES (USDA BLDG), CALL 870-723-3534. TFN c11/28

OFFICE FOR RENT

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

HOMES FOR RENT

House for rent. 3 bedroom 2 bath. Water, Trash and internet included. House is located in Warren AR. \$1000 month and \$600 deposit. Call 602-688-9103 1pd 12/10

House for rent. 3 Bedroom 1 bath, Central heating and air, Carport. No pets inside or out. Rent is \$750 per month with a \$750 deposit. For more information call 870-723-1301 4pd 12/14

3 bedroom 2 bath Home for rent in

Legals

NOTICE

For Sale: The Drew County Public Facilities Board is now accepting sealed bids for the sale of a 2011 Ford Ranger with automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, 105,000 miles, well maintained, 2 door, single cab, and attached locking toolbox. Truck can be seen at 303 W. Jackson Avenue. Sealed bids need to be delivered to 303 West Jackson Avenue, Monticello. Sealed bids will be opened on Monday, December 19, 2022 @ 9:00am at the DCPFB office. You do not have to be present to win the bid.

#106571 11/30 12/7

NOTICE

The following vehicle(s) will be sold, dismantled or destroyed in fifteen (15) days unless claimed at Reggie's Lock & Key LLC, 1065 Highway 278 West, Monticello AR 71655, PH: (870) 723-6898. 2000 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 VIN 1GCEC14W8Y2181499

#107169 11/30 12/7

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NETTIE B. JACKSON, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-147

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 9010 Ann Ave Kansas City, KS 66112 Date of Death: November 27, 2021 An instrument captioned "Last Will and Testament of Nettie B. Jackson" dated January 5, 1995, was on the 30th day of November, 2022, admitted to probate as the last will of the above-named decedent and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. A contest of the probate of this will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date

Legals continued on Page 9A

HELP WANTED

LPN/RN Charge Nurse
(with \$5k sign on bonus)

Marketing/Admission

CNA's all shifts



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WAR EAGLE • JOB OPENINGS

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Legals

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 7th day of December, 2022.

Clifton Jackson, Jr.
c/o Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657

#107172 12/7 12/14

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH R. RYBURN, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-148

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTRIX

Last known address: 114 Circle Acres, Monticello, AR 71655.

Date of Death: October 24, 2015.

An instrument dated June 5, 2015, was admitted to probate on November 28, 2022, as the Last Will and Testament of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. Contest of the probate of the will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

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

This notice first published on November 30, 2022.

Gloria Ryburn
Executrix of the Estate of
Joseph R. Ryburn
114 Circle Acres
Monticello, AR 71655
Attorney for Estate:
John A. Singleton, Jr.
HASHAM LAW FIRM, PLC
437 W. Conrad
P.O. Box 739
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-4223

#106776 11/30 12/7

NOTICE OF FILING OF ACCOUNTS

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 28-52-106, notice is given that accounts of the administration of the estates listed below have been filed on the dates shown by the named personal representative.

All interested persons are called to file objections to such accounts on or before the sixtieth day following the filing of the respective accounts, failing which they will be barred forever from excepting to the account.

Names of estate: Daisy Suitt
Name and Address of Personal Representative:
Mamie Meier
2507 Hwy 35 W
Monticello, AR 71655
Nature of Account: Accounting of Personal Representative
Date Filed: 11/17/2022
Date: December 5, 2022.
/s/Nancy White, Clerk.

Paid for by the Drew County Clerk's Office in the amount of \$41.82.

106777 12/7

NOTICE

The City of Monticello is taking bids for exterior cleaning of the Lacey-Ladelle Elevated Water Tower at 180 Old Troy Road, Monticello, AR 71655.

The project can be viewed by calling (870) 355-5300 to speak with Wayne Morphis or the mayor's office at (870) 367-4400. Sealed bids can be sent to PO Box 505, Monticello, AR 7157 c/o Kirstin Garrison or brought to City Hall at 203 W Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655.

The City of Monticello will be opening sealed bids at 2:00pm on January 5th, 2023 at 203 W Gaines St., Monticello, AR and reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$40.12.

#106778 12/7 12/14

NOTICE

The City of Monticello is taking bids for exterior cleaning and interior and exterior recoating, to include an epoxy primer coat and a finish coat, of the Conrad Elevated Water Tower at 417 W Conrad Avenue, Monticello, AR 71655.

The project can be viewed by calling (870) 355-5300 to speak with Wayne Morphis or the mayor's office at (870) 367-4400. Sealed bids can be sent to PO Box 505, Monticello, AR 7157 c/o Kirstin Garrison or brought to City Hall at 203 W Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655.

The City of Monticello will be opening sealed bids at 2:00pm on January 5th, 2023 at 203 W Gaines St., Monticello, AR and reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$45.22.

#106779 12/7 12/14

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-28

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF DREW, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 2022-28 FOR HVAC REVOLUTION TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

ARTICLE 1. The Twenty-fourth Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget for Drew County, which the Annual Budget was dated December 13, 2021, and which amendment is dated November 5, 2022 and is filed with the County Clerk, is hereby adopted by reference and is incorporated herein as though set out word for word.

ARTICLE 2. The appropriations, sums, funds, accounts and demands as amended by said Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget for Drew County, filed with the County Clerk, are hereby appropriated to be paid from the designated funds and devoted to the payment of the specified demands for the year 2022 and those appropriations are hereby made by reference to that **Twenty-fourth** Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget which is incorporated herein as though set out word for word.

ARTICLE 3. The Twenty-fourth Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget and the amendments to the budget and appropriations adopted and made therein shall be effective for the calendar year of 2022.

ARTICLE 4. If any provision of this ordinance (including, but not limited to any provisions of the **Twenty-fourth** Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget or appropriations in that amendment) are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance (and the amendment to the budget and appropriations) are declared to be severable.

ARTICLE 5. This **Twenty-fourth** Appropriation Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget shall be effective immediately upon passage by the quorum court and approval by the county judge. (See 2016 ACCG §14-14-907 3(f))

ADOPTED: November 5, 2022

APPROVED: 12/5/2022 /s/Robert Akin

Robert Akin, Drew County Judge

ATTEST: /s/Nancy White

Nancy White, Drew County Clerk

Sponsors: Steve Pigott, Roger Harris

ATTACHMENT TO APPROPRIATION

ORDINANCE 2022-28

The **Twenty-fourth** Amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget for Drew County, Dated November 5, 2022

Appropriation Ordinance 2022-28

HVAC RENOVATION TO COURTHOUSE

Decrease Unappropriated County General Fund (1000) \$1,946,950.00 and increase the following line item:

1000.0108.2024

Maintenance Contracts \$1,946,950.00

Reason for Appropriations • HVAC Renovation and contingency

Paid for by the Drew County Clerk's Office in the amount of \$132.94.

#106780 12/7

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See CLASSIFIEDS Page 12A

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #45



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Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian ALICIA WHITAKER, Woman of the Year.

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Weevils fall to Henderson State Reddies 64-61 at home



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

ISSAC JACKSON slams one home over a Henderson State defender. Jackson has led the Weevils in scoring in their first two GAC contests scoring 21 at Arkansas Tech and 23 against Henderson.

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

After winning three consecutive non-conference contests, the University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils have lost two consecutive Great American Conference contests to begin conference play.

Opening conference play on the road, travelling to Russellville to face the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys,

Arkansas Tech started the contest with a 5-0 run before three-pointers by Josh Denton and Alex Brogdon gave the Weevils a 6-5 lead.

UAM would hold the lead until Arkansas Tech was able to regain the advantage by one point, 15-14, with 11:16 remaining in the half.

UAM would tie the contest at 27 after a three-pointer by Mario Fantina with 2:28 remaining in the half.

Arkansas Tech would regain the advantage and would increase their lead to five points, twice before the end of the half to take a 34-29 advantage into the locker room at the half.

Fantina would connect on a three-pointer with 18:16 remaining in the contest to cut

the Wonder Boy lead to three points, 38-35. It was the final moment of the game that the Weevils would have that less of a point margin.

Arkansas Tech began to add to their lead, increasing the lead to double-digits for the majority of the second half with their largest lead being 21 points with 7:36 remaining in the half.

The Weevils were able to cut away at the lead and would see the lead go to single digits, an eight point lead, on a layup by Cole Anderson with eight seconds remaining in the contest to set up the final score of 75-67.

Issac Jackson would lead the way for the Weevils with 21 points followed by 11 point performances by Timur Krupalija and Edwin Lewis.

Mario Fantina added nine points, going 3 of 9 from the three-point arc, Josh Denton and Cole Anderson each scored six points, Alex Brogdon rounded out the Weevil scoring with three points.

The Weevils would return home for their first Great American Conference home contest at Steelman Fieldhouse on Saturday, December 3, hosting the Henderson State Reddies.

The Reddies entered the contest with a 1-0 record in conference play after defeating Southern Arkansas University 75-67 on Thursday, December 1, and had an overall record of 4-3.

Henderson scored the first basket of the contest on their first possession for a 2-0 lead with Edwin Lewis connecting on the first three-pointer of the contest to give the Weevils the 3-2 lead.

With 13:02 remaining in the half, a three-pointer by Henderson's Josh Mason would tie the contest at 11.

UAM would retake the lead off a pair of free throws by Issac Jackson to give the Weevils a 13-11 lead with 10:03 remaining in the half.

The Weevils would maintain the lead for the remainder of the half with the largest lead being seven points on two separate occasions, both times coming off three point shots by Mario Fantina.

Henderson would cut the lead to one point with 1:29 remaining in the half, 27-26, but UAM would get the final points of the half on a dunk by Issac Jackson to give the Weevils a three point, 29-26 lead at the break.

Returning from the halftime break, Henderson and UAM would exchange the lead for the first few minutes of the second half with the game being tied at 32 with 17:15 remaining in the contest.

Henderson would take the lead with 16:52 remaining in the contest and would hold on the lead until Edwin Lewis connected on a three-pointer with 3:03 showing on the clock.

Henderson would retake the lead on a pair of free throws, and would hold on to the lead for the remainder of the contest taking the three point, 64-61 victory.

Issac Jackson led the way for the Weevils with 23 points to lead all scorers. Edwin Lewis added 14 and Timu Krupalija scored 10.

Mario Fantina added eight points with Josh Denton and Alex Brogdon rounding out the scoring with three points each.

With the loss, the Weevils fall to 3-4, 0-2 in the GAC.

Both the Weevils and Blossoms will return to action on Saturday, December 10, travelling to Searcy to face Harding.

The Blossoms will tip at 5:30 pm with the Weevils to begin after the Blossoms.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

MARIO FANTINA (left) drives the lane against Henderson State. Fantina scored nine points against Arkansas Tech on Thursday and eight points Saturday at home against Henderson State. **TIMUR KRUPALIJA (center)** and **EDWIN LEWIS (right)** have scored in double-digits in the first two Great American Conference contests. Krupalija and Lewis each scored 11 points at Arkansas Tech with Lewis scoring 14 against Henderson and Krupalija scoring 10.

Blossoms lose in overtime contest against Henderson 75-70

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Cotton Blossoms began Great American Conference play this week, first travelling to Russellville to face the Golden Suns of Arkansas Tech on Thursday, December 1.

After tying the contest at two with 8:37 remaining in the first quarter, the Golden Suns would go on a 14-0 run to take a 16-2 lead.

The Blossoms would chip away at the lead to end the quarter trailing by six points, 23-17.

Arkansas Tech would lead back to double-digits for the majority of the second quarter to take a 11 point, 35-24, lead at the half.

The Golden Suns would continue to lead by double-digits throughout the third quarter, ending the quarter with their biggest lead of the contest to this point of 21 points for a 59-38 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Blossoms would chip away at the Arkansas Tech lead in the fourth quarter, cutting the advantage to six points, 69-63, after a pair of free throws by Bailey Harris, however the Golden Suns would score the six points of the contest to take the 75-63 victory.

Leading the way for the Blossoms was Alindsey Long with 20 points, connecting on 6

of 10 from beyond the three-point arc. Joi Montgomery and Nyah Banks also scored in double-digits for the Blossoms with 10 points each.

Bailey Harris added nine points, Azaria Hulbert with seven, Cyarah Kensmil with four,

and Aeryn Hawkins rounding out the scoring with three points.

The Blossoms would return to Steelman Fieldhouse on Saturday, December 3, for their first home GAC contest of the season, hosting the Henderson

State Lady Reddies.

The Blossoms would hold the lead in the first quarter of the contest for the majority of the time period with their largest lead being nine points on two separate occasions in the quarter.

At the end of the quarter, UAM would hold a six point, 22-16, advantage.

The Blossoms would hold their lead throughout the second quarter, increasing the lead to 15 points with 4:12 remaining in the half.

Henderson would cut the lead to eight points before the conclusion of the quarter with the Blossoms taking a 34-26 advantage into the halftime break.

The third quarter did not fare well for the Blossoms as Henderson's Bobbi Bazzle would connect on a layup that would spark an 11-0 run to give the Lady Reddies a 50-49 lead., the first Henderson lead since the first quarter.

After exchanging the lead, the Blossoms would hold a one point, 54-53, lead heading into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, Henderson would hold a three-point lead after connecting in a pair of technical foul shots with 1:03 remaining in the contest.

Joi Montgomery would get a layup and foul to tie the contest at 67 as regulation ended to send the game to overtime.

In the overtime period, Henderson would take the lead for good with 2:51 remaining and would go on to seal the 75-50 win.

Joi Montgomery led the Blossoms with 20 points followed by Alindsey Long and Bailey Harris with 11, and Aeryn Hawkins with 10.

Azaria Hulbert added eight, Cyarah Kensmil with six, and Nyah Banks with four.

With the loss, the Blossoms fall to 2-5 on the season after dropping three straight, and are currently 0-2 in Great American Conference play.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

Blossoms Head Coach **DAVID MIDLICK** gives his team instructions before heading into the overtime period against Henderson State on Saturday. The Blossoms would lose the contest 75-70 to the Lady Reddies to fall to 0-2 in Great American Conference play losing their first GAC contest on Thursday in Russellville to Arkansas Tech 75-63.

Billies, Lady Billies fall in first home contest to Camden Fairview

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello Lady Billies and Billies played their first contest of the season at Dan Coston Fieldhouse on the campus of Monticello High School

on Tuesday, December 6, hosting Camden Fairview from the 4A-7 Conference.

Camden would get the first points of the contest, but Lillian Fletcher would tie the contest at two after a successful pair of free throws.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

GENESIS FREEMAN (top) led the Lady Billies in scoring against Camden Fairview with 12 points. **RYAH RIDGELL (bottom)** finished the contest with four points.

Camden would extend the lead to 7-2 before Ryah Ridgell scored in the paint to cut the lead to 7-4.

The Lady Cardinals would outscore Monticello 20-9 in the quarter.

The Lady Billies would score 12 points in the second quarter with Genesis Freeman scoring six points and Abri Scott scoring five in the quarter, but Camden would score 16 points to take a 36-21 advantage at the half.

Returning for the half, the Lady Billies would produce their worst scoring output in the contest, scoring five points with Camden scoring 16 to hold a 52-26 lead heading in the fourth quarter.

IN the fourth quarter, the Lady Cardinals would put the sportsmanship rule into play with 2:13 remaining in the contest forcing the clock to run and would take the contest 67-36.

Leading the way for the Lady Billies was Genesis Freeman with 12 points followed by Abri Scott with eight. Zaniyah Thompson and Ryah Ridgell each scored four, Lillian Fletcher and Cadence McCray with three, and Mindy Raney rounding out the scoring with two points.

With the loss the Lady Billies fall to 0-3 on the season.

The Monticello Billies came into Tuesday's contest against Camden Fairview with a 1-3 record after defeating Junction City to open the season on November 25 with a 64-43 win.

The Billies would have two games canceled before traveling to Blytheville for three contests,



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

QUAY RHODES (top) led the Billies with 14 points in the loss against Camden Fairview followed by **LUKE JONES (bottom)** who finished the contest with 13 points.

a 63-51 loss to Paragould, a 53-34 loss to Manila, and a 46-35 loss to Har-Ber.

The Billies would get out to a solid start against the Cardinals in the first quarter highlighted by two three-pointers by Jagger Hines that helped the Billies to outscore Camden 18-10 in the quarter.

Camden came back in the second quarter to overtake the Billies, outscoring Monticello 30-10 in the quarter to take a 40-28 lead in the locker room at the half.

The third quarter was played fairly evenly with Monticello taking the quarter 14-12 with Camden holding a 52-42 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Camden would outscore the Billies in the fourth quarter by a 14-12 margin to take the 12 point, 66-54 victory.

Quay Rhodes led the way for the Billies with 14 points followed by Luke Jones with 13, and Tejon Tensley with 10.

Jagger Hines added eight points, Jeremiah Daniels with five, Tye Guthrie with two, and Jacorius Ridgell and Jontavion Lambert rounding out the scoring with one point each.

The Billies will return home on Thursday, December 8, to face Lake Village with the Junior Billies scheduled to tip off at 5:30 pm.

The Billies and Lady Billies will be on the road on Friday, December 9, traveling to White Hall to face the Lady Bulldogs and Bulldogs with tipoff scheduled for 5:30 pm.

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 9A

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2/4

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Happy Birthday Mother,

- Ricky & Jackie Lindsey
- Roosevelt & Kaye Lindsey
- Peggy L. & Ray Owens
- Debra Lindsey
- Verna & John Sims
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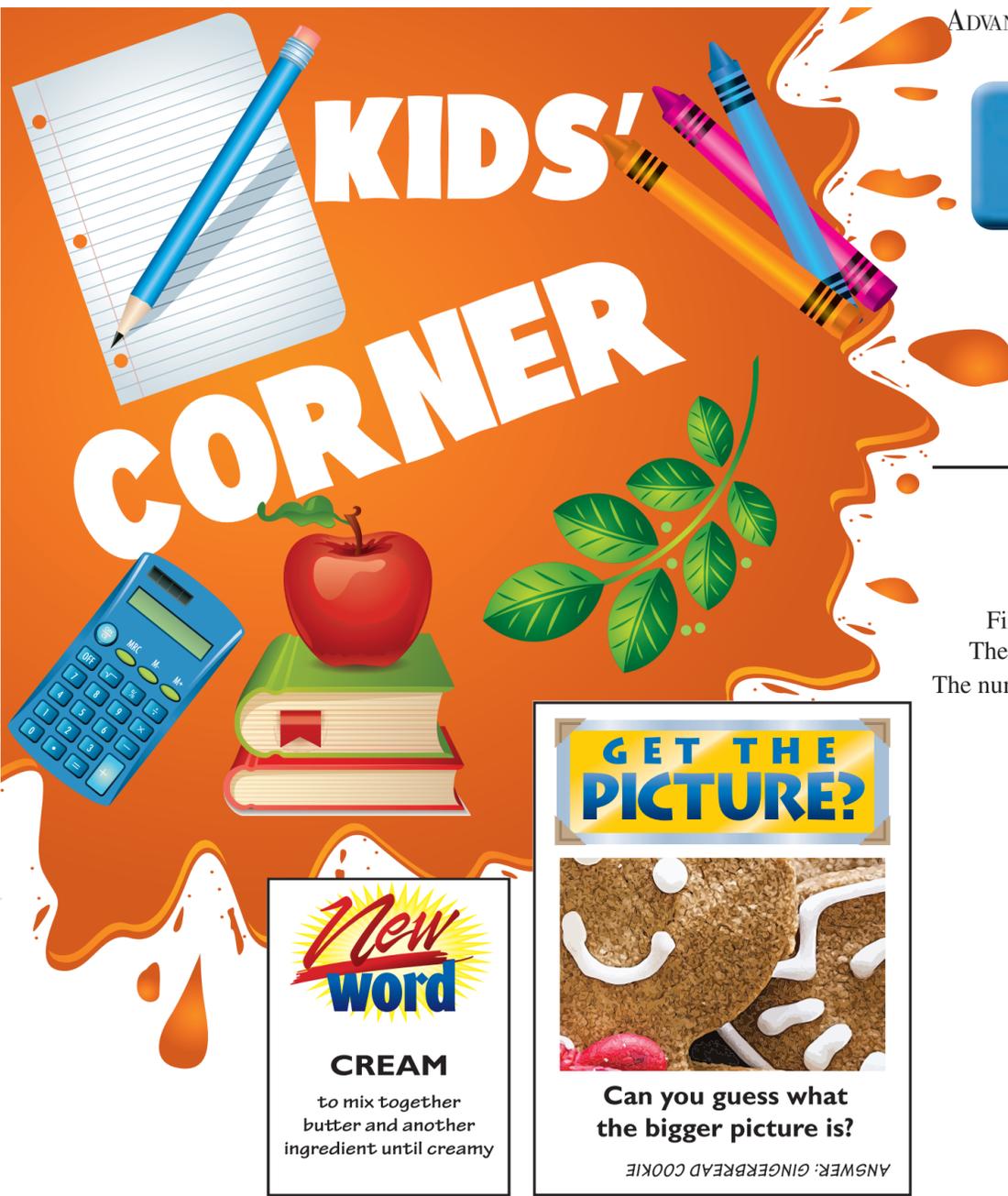
Grandchildren,
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LIVING

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Scenes from the annual Carols of Christmas Parade





KIDS' CORNER

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

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

LOOCAETCH HPCI

Answer: *Chocolate chip*

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

4		9	19
	1		6
	8	0	13
11	15	12	

New Word

CREAM
to mix together butter and another ingredient until creamy

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GINGERBREAD COOKIE



0	8	5
3	1	2
6	6	4

Solution

FOOD FACT!

THESE SWEET FOODS ARE KNOWN AS BISCUITS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

ANSWER: COOKIES

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Cookie
SPANISH: Galleta
ITALIAN: Dolcetto
FRENCH: Biscuit
GERMAN: Kekes

Puzzle answers

Page 6B Word Search

Page 6B Crossword

Page 6B Sudoku

ANSWER:

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

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

FAITH

CONTACT US
Ashley Hogg, Editor
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CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONAL

Use the talents God gave you to bring glory to him

By Amy Becker

"How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" Psalm 133:1

About two months ago, my friend, Krissi, stood in front of the church and talked to us about The Living Christmas Story. She told all about it for those who had not been there the first time around a few years ago. Just in case you aren't familiar either, The Living Christmas Story is a walk through tour of the prophecy and birth of Jesus Christ. Everything is made as authentic as possible with our time and resources. There are people and animals and props galore. It is no small feat, and so the challenge she had was to get us to sign up for a job! She talked

about her favorite thing about The Living Christmas Story being all of the people from all ages and abilities coming together for one purpose, and that purpose was to tell our town about the birth of Jesus. Her prayer, the verse above, "How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" Psalm 133:1.

Last weekend, we finally got to see the whole thing come together! My husband parked cars, one of my daughters was a girl in Nazareth, the other a Roman soldier, I had family members in Bethlehem, family members in the gym greeting people, my grandmother sang in the choir, and I was at the welcome table finding a group for those who came through the doors to go through the tour.

When it was all over, what

took a week to put up, was down in about an hour and a half. There were leaf blowers, brooms, vacuums, and more. Everyone put their heads down and worked to get the task accomplished.

Around 225 church members came together to share the story of Jesus' Birth to almost 900 people throughout our community and surrounding communities. I'd say that was an answer to a very specific prayer.

"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

Of those 225 people, no one person was alike. Each individual had a different set of talents and experiences that added to the area where they served. How wonderful and pleasant it was for members of our church

to come together for one cause, the most important that is, sharing the story of Jesus!

Are you part of a church? If you are, remember that young or old your talents can be used. There is a place for you. God designed you specifically with gifts that can be used for his glory, so don't forget to use them! What about if you're not part of a church? Same thing! There is a body of believers in

this town that needs you! They need your smile or your voice, your teaching or artistic ability. They need your ability to make peace or bring joy in sad situations. They need you!

I for one would love to welcome you to Pauline Baptist Church, but even if it's not our church, go! Use your talents for God today!

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AUDITOR OF STATE ANDREA LEA

SERVICE Spotlight

Melvin Rauls focuses on honesty, integrity

By: Kristie Nail
graphics3@monticellonews.net

Melvin Rauls, owner of Rauls Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork, has been around awhile. His business started out in 1996 in the Pine Bluff area, but he's since moved to the Monticello area (around 2000). The business has two employees, Melvin and Aaron Rauls.

Mr. Rauls' business philosophy is short but sweet: "A job done is a job well done."

He attributes his company's success to 'staying with it.' When life is sour or when life gives Mr. Rauls lemons he 'makes lemonade.'

Melvin says that the greatest obstacle he's had to overcome to make his business a success is not giving up and staying focused when money is low or business is slow.

Mr. Rauls hopes to see his business grow in the future. In the next year, five years or ten years, he wants to go from a small



Photo by Annette Buzzell/Advance

HERE TO SERVE YOU Melvin Rauls and wife Tracy are pictured above.

business to a large business covering the whole state. Melvin has a bit of advice for someone interested in starting their own business. He says, "Don't give up. Keep the business dream alive."

We asked why customers should do business with Rauls

Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork, to which he said, "Honesty, integrity, compatible business rates and customer satisfaction."

Rauls Landscaping, Housepainting and Yardwork is located at 314 West Oakland in Monticello and is here to help you with all your lawn,

house/room and yard manicuring, flower beds, etc. Give them a call at 367-7709 today!

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

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COUNTRY

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BARKADA JANA WRIGHT

I hope you are looking forward to a chilly, wet week. It is supposed to rain a good part of the week. We do need some rain, though.

I visited with Mrs. Betty Carter on Sunday. She used to be my neighbor when I was a child. We had a really nice visit. I plan on doing it more often.

The same day I went to see Dave and Tona Wesson's house. They did a complete remodel. They bought Mr. Buster and Mrs. Sarah Trantham's house and completely redid it. It looks really good! I had a good visit with them as well.

I got to have a movie night Saturday night with my grandson, Beaux Swain, and daughter, Taylor Swain, and mother-in-law, Kay Ozment. We really enjoyed it!

Camden Harris harvested his first buck this past weekend. His Uncle Brandon Harris took him hunting!

Cody and Kaylei Cheshire attended a Cody Johnson concert this past weekend. They had a great time!

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mr. James Andrews. He passed away this weekend after a battle with liver cancer.

I have asked for prayers for my Uncle Robert Martin. He went to be with the Lord and my Aunt Barbara last week. My thoughts and prayers and love is with the family.

Happy birthday to Mary Kate Jones, Brian Cater, Erin Norris, Debra Burt, Nydra Binns, my bestie Billie Ferrell, Sarah Pace, Monty Barnett, Carroll Deal, Deana Ramsey, Savannah Fenton, and Mrs. Joanne Ferguson. I hope you all have or had happy birthdays!

Sorry I don't have much news! Please call 870.224.3383 with news or email wrightwoman_66@yahoo.com. No news is too small.

GREEN HILL WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church enjoyed a wonderful Sunday morning service. Brother Caleb's message was titled the "The Lord's Supper" from 1 Corinthians 11:27-33. The children's Christmas play will be on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30pm followed by a potluck.

Happy Birthday wishes for Karleigh Ingram, Ann Bennett, Sissy Cross, Pam Leeper, Joe Jr., Dakota & Steve Sturgis. I hope you all enjoy a

blessed birthday.

Happy Anniversary to Byron & Marion Pharr' Wayne & Sandy Smith and JR & Angie Rawls. Wishing you many more years of good health and happiness.

Kirk & Lani Barnes welcomed a baby boy, Richland Barnes, on Friday.

Please keep Mr. Joe & Mrs. Linda Berryman in your prayers. They are both not feeling well.

Aunt May had a doctor's visit in Pine Bluff and received a good report. Continued prayers for good health. They also prepared Thanksgiving dinner and were joined by Eddie & Allison Barnes on Thursday.

Aunt Pepe invited me to the Pauline Baptist Church Live Nativity on Friday & Saturday night. We went on Saturday night and really enjoyed it.

Those visiting over the Thanksgiving week at the Davis/Cockrell camp were Max & Carolyn Davis; Cindy McKinstry; Greg, Jennifer, Ashley, & Anna Davis; all of Little Rock; Michaela, Sam, & Wolf Mears of Mabelvale; Melanie Adair of Bryant; Jimmy Cockrell ; Dalton, Katie, Silas, & Harlyn Wedge of Green Hill.

Cindy McKinstry had Thanksgiving meal on Friday with her cousins, the Burks family of Wilmar. She also visited with her Uncle Jimmy Cockrell, Eddie Barnes & Byron Pharr on Friday 12/2/22. And had lunch with her stepmom, Liz McKinstry, of Banks, AR on Saturday.

Verse of the week: "One who spares words is knowledgeable; one who is cool in spirit has understanding." Proverbs 17:27

Have a safe and blessed week. Happy Hunting!

JORDAN PARK TRILISA MARSHALL

Seasons greetings everyone! Praying everyone is doing well, this weather has really been changing, cold one day then back to warm, now back to cold. Some are even getting sick with colds or sinus's acting up really bad behind this weather.

If you are feeling bad you have my prayers and asking God for complete healing in Jesus name. Praying for my Uncle James Clifton. He is in the nursing home but he is in good spirits. He is the last living uncle on my dad's side and I have one living aunt in Chicago, Betty Walton. That is why it is so good for the younger generations to get to know the older family members to learn the family history.

I always enjoyed when we

Do you have any community tidbits?

The Advance-Monticellonian is actively seeking other community reports to join the seven you read on a weekly basis. If you live in a community not represented on this page (and we know there are several around Monticello)—and you want to write about your particular area of the world, contact us at 870-367-5325, via email at editor@monticellonews.net, by U.S. mail at P.O. Box 486, Monticello 71657 or just drop by the office during business hours on either Thursdays or Fridays. Let's discuss your participation in our newspaper.

had family reunions on my dad's side for the Orr, Clifton, Sanders and Godan family. On my mother's side was always the Ferrell, Green and Fisher families.

So many of the older generations have passed on and Covid-19 stopped a lot of the family get togethers and some of the younger generations are not worrying about it. Lets keep the generations going whether it is a family reunion get-together, holidays, gathering or just going to visit the older ones in the family. If family is out of town, pick up the phone and just call to check in on them. Too many are dying and leaving this earthly world and its time to get closer to our family, friends, and loved ones. Family, much love to you all and enjoy the holidays, love on one another, stay warm, safe and blessed.

Happy birthday shout out this week goes to Helen Jordan, Dec. 5, Caviha Leonard and Jackie Ferrell, Dec. 6; Nickena Gardner, Dec. 7; Linda McKinley, Fannie Hicks and Ruthie Jefferson, Dec. 9; Julia Merrill and Dr. Jeffrey Reinhart, Dec. 10; Denise Ambrose, Mottie Watson and Stephen Moore, Dec. 11. Happy birthday everyone and enjoy your special day.

My husband, grandson and I enjoyed the event on Saturday of the lighting at Jordan Park. Preston was so very happy he saw and talked with a few police officers, took pictures with Santa Claus and the Grinch, ate candy, ran around with other children, and Mr. Jackson read stories to the kids.

My husband and I got to talk with the Mayor elect Jason Akers, and a few of Monticello Police Officers. We also spoke with Missionary Lou Lambert, Angelia Anderson, Linda Isom, Bertie James,

Brenda Freeman, Brian Edgington and his daughter, Clarissa Pace. Her daughter, LaDarian Pace was there and the DJ was playing music for everyone. They had hot coco if anyone was cold. Everything was beautiful and a special thanks to everyone that put on this special event at Jordan Park.

I was sorry to hear the passing of Frank Junior Watson. His funeral service was held last Saturday.

I was also saddened to hear James Green Sr. passed away. His funeral will be Saturday, Dec. 10. Praying for both of these families, you all have my prayers and condolences and just know God is with you all in this difficult time.

Also, sending up prayers for Pearlina Bealer, Al Bealer and their family because they lost a loved one this past weekend, Mr. Collie Anderson. His funeral arrangements were not available at my time of writing. Please keep the family in your prayers and my prayers and condolences and God's blessings to you all.

Our Sunday school lesson was on Zacharias hears from God, coming from Luke 1:8-20. God has an abundant amount of ways to remember His promise to us. Sometimes we have to wait a long time to see an answer to prayers. Even when we wait we are being enlarged by God.

Pastor Robert Marshall's message was on; Prayers unto the Lord, coming from Habakkuk 3: 1-19. How can we learn to trust God like the Prophet Habakkuk. The answer is we have to learn to trust and believe in God even when there is so much evil and tragedy in the world around us.

Our Tuesday Bible study was on County your blessings with a grateful heart, coming from John 12:46; Isaiah 58 and Ephesians 3: 20-21.

Jesus summarizes His purpose, and states in the world that He alone provides the means of salvation. Jesus will never forsake them that who will seek Him.

The scripture for the week is Ephesians 3: 11-14: "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. Where fore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ."

Everyone have a blessed, safe and wonderful rest of the week. My husband is into football but my grandson and I are going to watch Christmas movies.

LACEY IVANELL HANDLEY

Hello readers! It's another day that the Lord has allowed me to see and I am so thankful!

We were blessed with another great Sunday service at Promise Land Baptist Church, Lacey. The Sunday school lesson was "A Special Promise"; the background scripture was Luke 1:5-23, Key Verse, Luke 1:13 (KJV), "But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zachariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John". The lesson

was taught by Bro. Kenny Junior. Pastor Johnson's message was very inspiring, his thought was "Peace Be Still", St. Mark 4:38-39. The mens choir is also doing a great job. Our visitor was Ms. Rachel Junior, she has returned from Germany where she was attending class. She will be returning to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in January. We were happy to see her and thankful that she returned safe and sound.

I called and checked on my brother Jerry and his family, I also visited with Jeraldine Bells on Sunday afternoon. Felton Handley called to say that he was home from the hospital and doing well. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Daniels are enjoying visiting with their children this week.

Prayers for the sick and shut-in: Don Ray Stewart, Cleborn Collins and others who aren't feeling their best. Sympathy and prayers for the family of James Green and others that have loss a loved one.

Happy Birthday wishes to: Detria Lambert, December 5; Lynn Adkin, December 6; Bridgette Harris, December 7; Ann Shaver, December 8; Jerry Smith, December 8; Erica King, December 9; Aaliyah Miller, December 9; and Linda Simpson, December 13.

Blessings for the new week: "May your week ahead be filled with blessings of good

See COUNTRY Page 5B

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DEVOTIONAL

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Immanuel-God with us

When you think about it, we're living in a pretty amazing time in history. "The Digital Age". The internet allows us to gain instant access to any piece of information within seconds. With that we have access to news from all over the globe in real time. Technology has advanced quicker and further than any other era. Consider this, the smart phone you have in your pocket or purse, has 100,000 times the processing power than the computer that landed Apollo 11 on the moon! Incredible. All of this advancement has created the greatest opportunity for connection. Social media platforms have provided dozens of ways for users to have "followers" and "friends," "instant messaging" and live video interaction.

Yet for all the connection we've never been more isolated. A recent study published by the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy sites ER visits for suicide attempts by adolescent girls were 51% higher in early 2021 than in early 2019. 4% higher for boys. Mental health issues were already increasing before the COVID-19 pandemic. ER visits due to depression, anxiety and similar conditions rose 28% between 2011 and 2015.

Numerous studies have shown that loneliness and isolation is a key predictor of these issues. Unfortunately, this time of year doesn't help for many people. Holidays are mile markers of our lives and so

many times those milestones are connected to memories that we try all year to forget. So in an effort of coping we isolate, we disconnect and frankly, we just can't wait to get to January 2.

But what if we get back to the real story. Not the Hallmark movie or the Daisy Red Rider you didn't get when you were 9. We've got to go back. Way back. Further than even the silent and starry night. 700 years in fact. When one of the first messages and prophecies of the coming Savior Jesus Christ would be given. Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel".

In the original Hebrew language "Immanuel" literally means "God with us". That God would no longer be far away, inaccessible and separate. By way of a miracle He would now be with us. Jesus would experience the full spectrum of humanity. Yet without sin. The comfort that we can have today is that yes, Jesus completely understands my loneliness, my depression and anxiety but He's also walking with me through it. Though this season may feel lonely, we are not alone. That through a relationship with Jesus Christ we can experience Him as Immanuel, God with us.

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

health, strength, friendship, kindness, compassion, and love! (Author Unknown)

POSSUM VALLEY

KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I've decorated my tree and home earlier this year than I ever have. I suppose it may have something to do with the fact that I couldn't decorate last year. As some of you may recall, I was in the hospital undergoing open-heart surgery during Christmas 2021. I am so thankful this year for my health, my family and my community and church family. If not for them, and the love of my dear Lord and Savior, I could not have made it through that trying time. So, this year I hope to make it the best Christmas ever. Not the best as in the most gifts ever given or money ever spent. But for more quality time spent with family and friends.

Rick and I spent last Sunday night with Meghann and Tim. Meghann and I went to the Eagles concert at Simmons Bank arena and had the best time. I was amazed at the stamina of the band members who are now in their 70's. Vince Gill is touring with them, too, and he is 65 years old. I think they performed every song they'd ever released. And from what I've heard from folks who've seen several Eagles concerts, this was their best ever. Meghann and I didn't get home until after midnight so we were plum tuckered out. The next morning, as we readied to head back to Possum Valley, Meghann took us to the beautifully decorated Veteran's Cemetery to visit Randy. It was a bittersweet moment as we miss him so very much.

On the way home, we stopped in Pine Bluff and since it was still early afternoon, I asked Rick if we could take a slight detour. It had been a few months since I'd been to Boyd Point Wastewater Treatment Facility. And the last time we were there we saw very few birds. This time there were ducks and waterfowl everywhere. Northern Shovelers, Teals, Mallards, Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorants, a Snow Goose, American Coot and various other species I couldn't get close enough to identify. It was time well spent.

While most children are counting down the days until Santa visits, I am counting down the days left until I can retire. I had my official exit interview with my manager last week. So, there's no turning back now. 2023 will definitely be a new year and new way of life for this ol' gal. I can hardly wait.

Friday was one of my days off and the weather was so nice I decided to take a walk. Poor Ozzie had been after me to spend more time outdoors with him so there was nothing doing except to take him for a walk. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more. Ozzie is just a big puppy and is a pain in the rear and doesn't realize his own strength, but he does like accompanying me on my little excursions. We spotted several White-throated Sparrows and Juncos this go round and some nicely colored leaves. There are several Dark-eyed Juncos visiting our backyard this year. There is also a pair of Carolina Wrens setting up house in the wooden storage box on the back deck. The door

doesn't quite close all the way, so they have uninhibited access to come and go as they please. One of them starts each morning with a song. I think it must be the same bird who used to frequent the front porch.

Saturday, several ladies, young and old, gathered at Bethel for our first annual brunch and ornament exchange. I can only speak for myself, but I had a wonderful time. Thanks to Tonya Rawls for planning it and for everyone who helped decorate and prepare food.

Sunday morning dawned cool and overcast. But still a very nice day. Bethel enjoyed a wonderful service with Bro. Justin providing our message. His sermon was from 1John 2:9-17. "Anyone who says he is in the light, and hates a brother, is still in the darkness"

The youth and their leaders are busily practicing for the program they will present on Christmas morning. I know it may sound crazy to hold services on Christmas morning, but what better day to come together and worship if not on the day that has been set aside to commemorate our Savior's birth. The service will begin at 10 a.m. and will last about an hour. So, we invite you to take a break from opening gifts and come celebrate, encourage our youth, and be reminded about the greatest gift of all...Jesus Christ.

With various members of our family having been puny in some form or fashion over the past two weeks, it's been fairly quiet around our house. Not even the grandchildren have visited. Rick's been sick this past week and rest, meds and hydration have been Dr. Kay's prescribed course of treatment. He is improving, slowly but surely.

I may have already told y'all this, but a few weeks ago when we went to the Old Milo Pumpkin patch with Addie, I lost a lens cover off my camera. I contacted the owners in hope that it would be found, but really didn't believe that it would be. Lo and behold, Sunday afternoon I received a text from one of the owners that the lens cover had in fact been located. A month to the day since I'd lost it. We plan on going down to retrieve it one day this week.

Corny joke time: "Breaking News! The world paper tearing champion has died. R.I.P."

That's my news for this week. Until next time, please, be thankful, be safe, and smile. Also, and most importantly, during his holiday time, remember to pray for and reach out to those who are hurting and in need.

WILMAR

CHRIS RILEY

Thomas Shorter "Scooter", how could I miss your birthday when you and my granddaughter have the same birthday, November 27. Forgive me. Also a belated birthday wish to Sylvia Carr, December 2.

Thank God for the last month in 2022, and I'm blessed to see it. So many started out January 2022 and now their voice is hushed in death.

Our sympathy goes to Melissa and Dwight Vincent in the transition of your son and to Johnnie M. Douglas in the homegoing of your daughter Celeste, and the family of Frank Davis of Banks and Mrs. Tillman's family. This lady was an educator. And to the family of Tiffani Harding.

Pauline Phillip Wade spent

See COUNTRY Page 6B

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