



## FIRST BABY OF 2022



*Emmett Lewis McClain was born at Drew Memorial Health System on Jan. 2, 2022 at 7:14 a.m. He was delivered by Dr. Kelly Shrum and was 18 and a half inches long and six pounds and nine ounces. His mother, Emily Clark, was in awe of her precious addition, and his big brother, Emersyn, was excited for his new baby brother to come home.*

# ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

75¢

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022



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## NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL SECTION

# Year in Review

### FEBRUARY

## House District 94 to represent most of Drew County

By: **ASHLEY HOGG**

[editor@monticellonews.net](mailto:editor@monticellonews.net)

Although the decision is being challenged in federal court at this time, the Arkansas Board of Apportionment has redrawn the states House and Senate Districts and the changes will affect Drew County and surrounding areas. A majority of Drew County will be represented in House District 94 and Senate District 1 when the changes take effect.

The newly drawn District 94 includes all of Drew County except the Northwest corner of the county. Joining the majority of Drew County in District 94 is a Western portion of Desha County that includes McGehee and an Eastern portion of Bradley County that includes Warren and Hermitage.

Until December 31, 2022, most of Drew County is being represented by Howard Beaty -R from Ashley County. Beaty

won the seat in the most recent election. Beginning in 2023, if re-elected, Beaty will serve the citizens of Ashley and Chicot County for District 95. If the redraw decisions withstand federal court challenges, and the incumbent is re-elected, Jeff Wardlaw -R from Bradley County will represent Drew County in District 94. Opponents have announced their candidacy for House District 94 with the Advance-Monticellonian.

Senate District 1 will include all of Drew County except the Northeastern most corner, Chicot Co., Ashley Co., Bradley Co., Cleveland Co., the southern half of Lincoln Co., the southwest corner of Jefferson Co., and the southeast corner of Grant Co. Ben Gilmore is the current Senator for Drew, Ashley, Bradley and Chicot counties and parts of Cleveland, Desha and Lincoln Counties.

See **DISTRICT** Page 2C

### MAY

## Jessie Griffin wins Judge's seat



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

New Drew County Judge Jessie Griffin stands in the Courthouse with his wife Linda after unofficial election results are posted. Griffin will take office in January of 2023.

By: **MELISSA ORRELL**

Drew County will see a new face in the Courthouse in 2023 as challenger Jessie Griffin narrowly defeated sitting Drew County Judge Robert Akin during the 2022 Primary election Tuesday, May 24. With only 26.39 percent of registered voters in the county turning out to cast their vote. Griffin showed a slight lead throughout the night as precincts reported, ending with 52.1 percent of the vote over Akin's

See **GRIFFIN** Page 2C

### MARCH

## Mayor Paige Chase will not seek re-election

By: **ASHLEY HOGG**

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Monticello Mayor Paige Chase announced this week that she will not be seeking another term in office.

Chase has been Mayor since the 2018 election where she defeated Joe Rogers for the position. She was sworn into office in January of 2019 and

will fulfill her term to December 31, 2022.

"It is with gratefulness that I tell you I will not run for another term as Mayor," Chase stated in a message to the Advance. "I would not leave this office without making sure it was in good hands. I have greatly enjoyed my time in this office and I am proud of the things we have accomplished. I am

proud to have worked with the best and been witness to their professionalism. We have come out on top during a pandemic. I am thankful for the friendships I have made and all the things I have been taught. I can't explain what it means to me to have been elected and trusted to take care of my favorite city. I will always care for Monticello the way I do now and I will

always work to help our city any way I can. I hope to see you all at the grocery store, church, and the dentist office during the coming years. Thank you again for the trust you showed me."

As candidates announce they are running for office, their statements are published in the newspaper along with the office they are seeking.

### NOVEMBER

# 2022 Election Day results are in

## Akers to be next Mayor of Monticello; Drew Co. Sheriff runoff occurs Dec. 6

By: **ASHLEY HOGG**

[editor@monticellonews.net](mailto:editor@monticellonews.net)

Across the state, Election Day reportedly went smoothly at most polling sites, including in Drew County.

Capturing nearly 66 percent of the votes cast, Jason Akers will take the office of Monticello Mayor January 1, 2023.

"I thank God for his love, grace and protection through

the campaign, and my wife Tess, my children and my friends and family," Akers said.

"I want to thank the citizens of the great city of Monticello for their love, support and prayers. Know that the safety, health and happiness of your children and mine is my top priority. I love our town and consider it an honor to serve all of its citizens. I understand

the challenges our community faces. Be it organizationally, socially, economically or infrastructure related. As we move forward, we will confront each issue we face and leave our town better for the next generation. We will press the fight together. God Bless each of you and God Bless Monticello."

Akers currently serves as Chief of Police in Monticello

and is a native of Southeast Arkansas.

Joe Rogers received approximately 18 percent of votes and Bart Gregory received approximately 15 percent of the votes. A total of 2,215 votes were cast in the race for Mayor of Monticello.

A runoff election will be held Tuesday, Dec. 6 for the office of Drew County Sheriff.

Tim Nichols received 2,186 of the 5,290 votes cast within the county for an unofficial total of approximately 41.3 percent of the vote.

To win an election and avoid a runoff, a candidate must secure at least 50.1 percent of the votes cast.

"I want to give thanks to God, my family, friends and supporters," Tim Nichols stated.

"I am humbled by the support that each of you have shown throughout the last year and the words of encouragement I have received. It sincerely means the world to me. With that being said, we have another obstacle to overcome and that is a runoff election on December 6. So please, let's keep the faith and momentum alive as we continue

See **ELECTION** Page 9C

### AUGUST

## SOAPY PRANK ON DOWNTOWN SQUARE GOES VIRAL



Courtesy photo

The fountain on the downtown square in Monticello was squeaky clean the week of August 17, thanks to a classic prank of putting soap in the fountain sometime the previous weekend. Monticello Police Department took to Facebook giving the prank a rating of seven out of 10. The Monticello PD Facebook page reminded citizens that this type of prank is not graffiti; not permanent; not dangerous and it is better to have young people play pranks than engage in dangerous behavior. By Monday morning, the Facebook post had reached more than 150,000 users and all the bubbles were gone.

### DECEMBER

## Nichols to take Sheriff's office Jan. 1

By: **ASHLEY HOGG**

[editor@monticellonews.net](mailto: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."

In the general election held in

See **NICHOLS** Page 9C



# DISTRICT

Continued from Page 1C

According to the Arkansas Secretary of State website, the filing period to run for office begins Tuesday, February 22 at noon and ends Tuesday, March 1 at noon. Early voting for the preferential primary elections will begin on May 9 with the final voting day for the primary being May 24. Early voting for the general election will begin October 24 and end with election day on November 8.

Districts are redrawn every ten years according to population numbers when census results are published.

To view an interactive map, visit <https://arkansasredistricting.org/>.

## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Public forums elicit ideas

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Two public forums to envision the future of Monticello provided plenty of comments and ideas for the city's Planning Commission.

Held on the evening of Tuesday, March 15, and the next morning, the forums exceeded predicted attendance and had lively discussions.

Attendees came from across the city and environs, and expressed appreciation for many aspects of Monticello. These included the presence of UAM, a variety of medical facilities, the schools, parks, and especially what one participant called "a welcoming and caring community." Participants also noted a feeling of safety that is not common to all cities of Monticello's size.

Attendees listed and then ranked concerns and issues. Primary among these was the aging water and sewer infrastructure. Participants agreed that attending to this was foundational to moving ahead on other issues. Other challenges included the need for more opportunities for family activities, a lack of affordable housing, and a desire for sports tournaments. Creating safe routes and paths for bicyclists and pedestrians was also a concern of many.

Planning Commission Chair Dan Boice voiced the appreciation of the rest of the Commission for those residents who took the time to come out and share their thoughts: "It's obvious that Monticello's residents care deeply about the future of the city."

The Commission, using last year's community survey, the downtown walk audit, and a visit from regional civic leaders, will now begin drafting a Plan for the City. Boice said that when this is completed, the public will have opportunities to comment on that so that the Commission can

recommend to the City Council a plan that draws on the hopes and the wisdom of Monticello's residents.

### Mason Philley pitches Perfect Game against East Central

By: JEFF YOUNG  
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello improved their overall and Great American Conference record over the Spring Break with a series sweep over the East Central Tigers over three games. The Weevils would also witness a career outing by Mason Philley who pitched a seven inning perfect game in game one of a scheduled double-header on Saturday.

With the series sweep the Weevils now stand with an even 13-13 overall record and a GAC record of 9-9 and are currently on a six-game win streak.

In game one of the series on Friday, March 25, the Weevils got out to three run lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Chase Cripps would become the first baserunner of the day for the Weevils with a leadoff walk followed by a base clearing twoorun home run by Cade Thompson to right field.

After recording two outs, Grant Shepherd would go yard to put the Weevils up 3-0.

Derek Potts walked two batters in the top of the second inning but got out of the inning striking out the last two Tiger batters of the inning.

East Central got on the board in the top of the fourth inning, cutting the Weevil lead to 3-2 after a single and a double scored the Tiger runs.

East Central recorded the first two outs of the inning before UAM's DeShaun Cordova would connect on a solo shot to center field to increase the Weevil lead to 4-3.

The score would remain until the top of the seventh inning when East Central would add a run to make the score 7-4.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, Cripps would single, and Jordan Johnson would double to advance Cripps to third.

After a pitching change by East Central, Reece Reading would homer to right center for a three-run shot, increasing the Weevil lead to 7-3.

UAM would get their final run of the contest in the bottom of the eighth inning on a Nick Fakouri home run to left center to set up the 8-3 victory.

Potts would be awarded the win to improve his season total to 2-4 with Rigell Robinson recording his third save of the season.

Returning on Saturday, March 26, for the first game of a scheduled double-header, Monticello native Mason Philley would get the call as the Weevil starting pitcher.

Marking one year to the day since Philley set a Great Amer-

ican Conference record for strikeouts against a league opponent when he struck out 15 East Central Tigers on March 26, 2021, Philley would add another career outing against the Tigers, pitching a seven inning Perfect Game.

Philley would retire the Tigers in order to begin the contest and the Weevils would give the left hander some offensive support in the bottom half of the inning, scoring six runs highlighted by a Grand Slam by Jalyn Williams that gave the Weevils a 6-0 lead. After recording two consecutive strikeouts, Philley got Kyle Busker to ground out to end the top of the second inning.

Cripps led off with a solo homerun as the Weevils would add three runs in the bottom half of the inning to increase the lead to 9-0.

In the bottom of the third inning, the Weevils would add another run on a solo home run by designated hitter BJ Lee to left field to give the Weevils a 10-0 lead.

UAM would add their final two runs of the contest in the bottom of the sixth inning on singles by Hudson Hopkins that scored Jordan Johnson and a single by Fakouri that scored Grant Shepherd to set up the 12-0 win.

Mason Philley was perfect in the contest, retiring all 21 Tiger batters, striking out 10 without allowing a single base runner and pitching the complete game.

In the second contest of the double-header, East Central would see the first two batters of the contest reach base but UAM pitcher Spencer Johnston would get the next three batters out to end the inning.

Chase Cripps reached base safely for the third straight game as the leadoff hitter for the Weevils connecting for a double. Cripps would advance to third on an out to first by Cade Thompson but would be stranded on the bases after the final two outs were made.

The Weevils would get two runs in the bottom of the second inning to take a 2-0 lead.

Hudson Hopkins would draw a walk followed by Nick Fakouri being hit by a pitch.

Jalyn Williams singled to score Hopkins and a Cripps single would score Fakouri. It would be the only runs needed in the contest as the Weevils recorded the second shutout victory of the day 2-0. Cripps would lead the Weevils from the plate, going 2 for 4 with an RBI.

Jalyn Williams would finish 1 for 2 with an RBI. On the mound, Spencer Johnston would record the complete game allowing five hits, zero runs, zero walks, and striking out eight batters.

Johnston improves his overall record to 3-2 on the season.

Jordan Johnson continues to add to his all-time UAM record

numbers as he currently holds the record for most career home runs with 40, career doubles with 44, and career RBI with 157. Johnson is second in career hits with 207 and second in career runs scored with 153.

## MAY HIGHLIGHTS

### Lindsey family named Drew Co. Farm Family of the Year

By: ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

Farming and agriculture are major drivers in the economy and lifestyle of Southeast Arkansas. Each year, Drew County chooses one family as the recipient of the Farm Family of the Year award. This year's winner is the Lindsey Family of Wilmar.

Now owner Dr. Rocky Lindsey, is a third generation farmer as well as a Veterinarian and Professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Peyton Place Farms, started by J.S. Gibson, Lindsey's maternal grandfather, is now the home to sheep, goats, guardian dogs, cattle and timber. In previous years, Peyton Place also held chicken houses.

"Protecting the environment is important to our sustainability," Lindsey stated. "Through the use of small ruminants we have greatly reduced our need for chemicals. The goats have cleared much of the undergrowth in our set pines. Sheep prefer forbs. So much so, that we have used virtually no broadleaf herbicide in the 70 acres (50 acres of pasture) in which they are fenced. The government programs that have been put in place to help with the feral hog population has made a large difference to our farms, greatly reducing the damage to our pastures. Planting winter annuals such as ryegrass has allowed us to finish beef on grass only. The ryegrass also competes with winter weeds decreasing the use of herbicides where they are planted."

Peyton Place operates today with Alice (daughter of J.S. Gibson and mother to Rocky Lindsey), Rocky, Alicia, Isaac and Jonah Lindsey.

# GRIFFIN

Continued from Page 1C

46.78 percent. in the end, it came down to a less than 100 vote difference in the contest.

"I look forward to working for Drew County and am eager to work with the different organizations and municipalities to find solutions," Griffin said of his victory.

Also on the republican primary ticket was the competition between Stephanie Chisom and Hannah Adcock for County

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

### DC promotes White to head Pirate football coach

By: JEFF YOUNG  
Advance Correspondent

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

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

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

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

White was also a part of the Drew Central Track and Field coaching staff that saw the team win several individual state championships and fell short of winning an overall state championship, finishing in the top 10 at the 3A State Championship Meet. White also serves as the Drew Central Pirate Assistant Basketball Coach.

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

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

Coming to the University of Arkansas at Monticello from

UT-Chattanooga, White earned his starting position coming out of the 2007 Spring Scrimmage.

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

For his play in the 2007 Season, White earned the Daktronics Second Team All-Region honors.

White would lead the Weevils in tackles once again in the 2008 Season.

White would record 85 tackles, 12 for a loss including two sacks and two fumble recoveries.

White would become the head coach of the Drew Central PeWee team and would take the team to the State Championship game.

Many of the players that White coached throughout his tenure at the PeWee level are current Junior High players and Senior High players for the Pirates.

### Trash, fraudulent checks among topics discussed at QC meeting

By: MELISSA ORRELL

A solution to Drew County's ongoing trash problem is on the horizon after the Drew County Quorum Court approved an ordinance on Monday, June 13, at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Drew County, along with nine other Southeast Arkansas Counties belonging to the Southeast Arkansas Development District, will begin hauling their trash to a waste to electricity recycling center near Lake Village. Once the facility is completed it will be able to process 500 tons of household trash a day. The trash will be turned into gas that will then be used to heat water and produce steam to create energy.

The agreement with the counties will allow Drew and other counties to pay a locked in \$45 per ton tipping fee, the amount will be locked in for 30 years with reviews of the rates every five years, according to Shane Knight, SEADD Deputy Director. As long as the rates still "work" the tipping fee will remain at \$45. However, for every ton of garbage from Drew County, the county will receive \$3.75 of unencumbered funds. Unencumbered funds are funds that can be spent in anyway the

had competition with Rene Knowles securing another term on the Drew Central School Board for Zone 2 with 56.9 percent of the vote compared to Keith Alexander bringing in 38.25 percent Keith Wells Sr. Will serve on the Monticello School Bard for Zone 2, beating challenger Angelia Anderson with 60.96 percent compared to her 33.56 percent.

A Drew Central Millage rate of 39.90 mills was defeated in the election.

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

### MOBILE MILITARY EXHIBIT SEES LARGE TURNOUT IN MONTICELLO



By: ASHLEY HOGG  
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Beginning at noon, Sunday, April 10, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars building and surrounding parking lots, were full of visitors that had come to see a Mobile Military Exhibit.

A large truck and trailer were parked by the Barbara Abston Senior Center and patrons could take a tour of the museum at their leisure.

This event was put on by the local VFW, American Legion and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Museum curator Stefan Braun, spoke to visitors about Wreaths Across America.

Since 1992, wreaths have been placed on the head stones of veterans across the country and the world. Last year alone, more than two million wreaths were placed. At each stone, a wreath is respectfully placed and volunteers vocally say, "Thank you."

The local Boy Scout Troop #67 was present and conducted a flag retirement ceremony with VFW and American Legion members.

# REINHART

## FAMILY HEALTHCARE

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8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday

**Jeffrey Reinhart, M.D.**



County chooses to use them. Once the facility is built it will be the first fully operational gasification plant in the United States.

Fraudulent checks are proving to be a problem for the County, as Drew County Treasurer Charlie Searcy, explained to the Court during the financial brief. While the checks, which were initially paid, were discovered and disputed in time for Drew County to recover the money from the bank, the checks presented did in fact contain Searcy’s signature, which seems to prove that at least one legitimate check was obtained and enabled the thieves to reuse the signature on the fraudulent checks. The banks have been notified, funds were returned and are being investigated. According to Searcy, this is an ongoing issue with banks and individuals, as well as other entities need to keep a close eye on their checks and checking accounts.

The Drew County Sheriff’s Office is looking to upgrade their tasers and body cameras by purchasing body cameras and tasers that will automatically activate the body camera worn by any officer who uses his taser as well as any body cameras worn by other deputies in the vicinity. A question of bids was raised during the discussion and the DCSO will do research on if this particular type of camera and taser is available through more than one company, if so, the purchase will have to be open to bidding before a purchase is made. The issue was postponed until July’s regularly scheduled meeting.

Cares Act funds were also approved in the amount of \$40,000 each for the cities of Monticello, Tillar, Wilmar and Winchester, with another \$10,000 each for the Fire Departments of Clear Creek, Collins/Cominto, Green Hill/Hidden Valley, Lacey/Ladelle, Monticello, Selma, Tillar, Wilmar and Winchester. The cities will be able to use the funds for infrastructure while the Fire Departments will be able to use the money fire department equipment, improvements and repairs.

The County also approved the go ahead for an engineer to assess the Court House and the HVAC system, which has been a need of the County’s for some time. The County will pay a \$12,500 fee which can then be used as a credit if the County chooses to move forward with the project.

A run-off election for the constable for Marion Township will be held with early voting beginning Monday, June 20. While the Courthouse will be closed in observance of Juneteenth, the County Clerk’s office will be present with the poll workers to run the election. Although Josh Henley has withdrawn from the race, the run-off, by law, must still occur between David Menotti and Henley. If a citizen voted in the earlier election, they must have voted on the Republican ticket in order to vote in the run-off. If a citizen did not vote, they can vote in the run-off. If for any reason, Menotti is unable to win the run-off a constable would have to be appointed or a new election would have to be held.

County Clerk Nancy White also reminded the court that the Nov. 8 elections will determine the Drew County Sheriff, Monticello, Winchester and Tillar Mayor.

Judge Robert Akin also advised the court the County is building an additional parking lot in front of the jail in order to provide more parking for the courthouse. He also pointed out the new parking space will also help with parking for downtown events such as the annual Fair and Christmas parades.

The last item of discussion was a sample ordinance Cliff Gibson sent to court members. The ordinance would address vicious dogs in the county. According to Gibson, the issue was brought to him by the deputy prosecution attorney. The members of the court will review the sample ordinance and discuss the possibility of the ordinance at the July regularly scheduled meeting.

### Monticello School introduces therapy dog

By Ashley Hogg  
editor@monticellonews.net

In the wake of Covid, school shootings and social media pressures, students are under a

tremendous amount of stress.

Behavior issues, social emotional problems, and attendance issues are very common in today’s environment. Therapy animals help provide some relief.

Studies have shown that they build empathy skills, reduce stress and provide feelings of calmness. Therapy animals also help build rapport between the student and the adult working with them. They can also provide a reason for some students to look forward to coming to school.

“It is my hope that Bella will provide that extra support needed for all children in our building, especially the ones that have specific social emotional needs,” said Monticello Intermediate School Counselor Regina Lanehart. “It is also my hope that we see an increase in attendance, and a more positive welcoming school climate and culture.”

On the recommendation of the Superintendent and Principal, the Monticello School Board voted to allow the Counselor to bring Bella, a Golden Retriever, certified therapy animal through Pet Partners, to the school a couple of days a week to assist students with social emotional issues and to use inside and outside of the regular classroom.

Time with Bella may be used for a reward for good behavior, calming students before a tests and more.

Students must have gone through training on what to expect with Bella and have parent permission to participate.

### Mainline Health Systems hires Shrum for new women’s clinic

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

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

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

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

Shrum previously owned his own private OB/GYN practice, the Arkansas Center for Women, in Pine Bluff from 1999 to 2009. He joined Drew Memorial Health System’s staff in 2009, where he spent the last eleven years.

Drew Memorial Health System supports Dr. Shrum’s decision to transition to Mainline Health. “We are looking at this from a positive perspective because it is entirely beneficial to our community. Our OB/GYNs will not be separated, but united. Thankfully, Dr. Shrum will not be leaving an empty presence through our halls, because he will continue to utilize our facility to provide surgical and obstetrical services,” said Drew Memorial Health System CFO, Melodie Colwell.

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

Since 1978, Mainline Health Systems has served the residents of Southeast Arkansas with a compassionate approach and a commitment to the highest standard of medical and dental care. From its first office in Portland all those years ago, Mainline Health Systems has grown to 22 locations across Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Drew, Grant and Lincoln counties.

Mainline Health System’s mission is to provide the best care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The staff has worked hard to create and maintain financial assistance programs to ensure all families receive the medical and dental treatment they need, when they

need it.

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

Drew Memorial Health System is a non-profit, 60-bed, community-owned acute care facility that serves a population of 200,000 in Southeast Arkansas. They have operated for over 35 years in our current location in the City of Monticello, in Drew County.

At Drew Memorial, they strive to improve the overall quality of life in our community by employing a top-notch medical team, regularly advancing the equipment, trainings, and services offered, and by continually assessing how to best serve our patients and their families. Our community deserves access to professional, advanced care in a convenient location for Southeast Arkansas residents. They value the connections between our community members and organizations, which is why Dr. Shrum’s transition will be one of

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

ease.

### Mainline Health Systems opens new Women’s Clinic to serve Drew County and surrounding area

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Mainline Health Systems announced on Friday the addition of a women’s health clinic at its Monticello location to serve Drew County and surrounding areas with limited access to medical providers that specialize in care for women.

Located at 535 Jordan Drive in Monticello, Mainline Women’s Clinic and Mainline Family and Pediatrics will be led by Dr. Kelly Shrum and Dr. Constance Williams Chapman providing care that includes:

- Preventive Health
- Delivery
- Gynecologic Care
- Obstetrics
- Infertility Diagnosis and Treatment

“Health is our top priority. In some parts of our state, health care facilities can be few and far between,” Ashley Anthony, COO said, noting that babies will be delivered at Drew Memorial Hospital, also in Monticello. “We’re excited to be able to offer convenient obstetric and gynecological care and personalized attention to those in need.”

The clinic will operate Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon. Potential patients may schedule appointments by calling 870-367-6246.

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

Constance Chapman received her Doctor of Medicine in 2018 from The Ohio State University College of Medicine. In addition, Dr. Chapman holds master’s degrees in medical physiology and public health from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine respectively. A Pine Bluff native, Dr. Chapman is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and completed her residency at Lehigh Valley Health Network, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

### About Mainline Health Systems

Since 1978, Mainline Health Systems has served the residents of Southeast Arkansas with a compassionate approach and a commitment to the highest standard of medical and dental care. From its first office in Portland all those years ago, Mainline Health Systems has grown to 24 locations across Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Drew, Grant, and Lincoln counties.

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

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

### UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY DRAWS BIG CROWD TO PARK



By: ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

On July 1, McCloy Park was filled with people attending the Unity in the Community event hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education.

This event was free to the public and it included a ventriloquist act, musical guests, Covid screening, food trucks, financial literacy workshops and much more.

The stands were filled with citizens, young and old who laughed and interacted with the performers.

## AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

### Davis receives standing ovation at country music’s Mother Church

By Ashley Hogg  
editor@monticellonews.net

Nashville, Tenn. was buzzing with Ward Davis fans on Saturday, August 20 for his headliner debut at The Ryman Auditorium.

Davis, a Drew County native, moved to Nashville around 22 years ago to fulfill his dreams of being a country music songwriter and musician.

His show as the headlining act at The Ryman is a career milestone and a testament to how far he has come as an artist.

Like many artists, Davis began his musical career at school and regional events.

“I played at the Ashdown Jam-boree when I was 15 years old,” Davis said. “I am so happy that tonight, I get to bring my old friend Gene Simmons on stage with me. He plays the steel guitar and was there in Ashdown.”

Davis was accompanied by a full band on the Ryman stage while he took turns playing electric guitar, acoustic guitar and keys, all while showing his vocal talent.

“Getting a gig at The Ryman is difficult,” Davis added. “There is a certain expectation with this place and I couldn’t be happier to be here.”

The Ryman Auditorium seats approximately 2,300 people and by the time Davis took the stage, there were barely any open seats.

Understanding the gravity of the situation, Davis was extremely humble when he spoke about the historical significance of The Ryman and what the night meant to him personally.

“My dad is coming tonight,” Davis noted. “His health is not good and the trip here alone was tough for him. Nothing could mean more to me than my parents seeing me perform at The Ryman. They hauled me everywhere as a kid. My dad built an extra room on our house so I could practice. I want to show them that all that time wasn’t wasted.”

Prior to the show, Davis walked around backstage not taking a moment for granted. He and his team unloaded his gear in the dressing room that Roy

Acuff and Minnie Pearl used to prepare for their scenes on “The Grand Old Opry.”

“This is a dream realized,” Davis added. “In so many ways, it is just a show, just another gig but this is The Ryman. Country music exists because of this building. It means something.”

At 7 p.m., the doors opened and the building was flooded with fans. The line to purchase merchandise was wrapped around the top floor stair case for a majority of the night.

Josh Meloy and Charles Wesley Godwin played opening sets and both artists received major applause from the crowd. At the

end of Godwin’s set, the West Virginia native closed with “Take me Home, Country Roads. Davis made an appearance on stage to join him in singing the classic hit which prompted the first of many crowd sing alongs.

Davis then took the stage and filled with emotion told the crowd, “We made it here!”

His set opened with a Ray Scott original song titled, “Papa and Mama.”

The entire auditorium was on their feet, clapping and singing as Davis showed his immense performance skills.

He went on to perform many original writings as well as clas-

2023

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sic country covers like “Help me Make it Through the Night” and “Are You Sure Hank Done it This Way”.

“I take this very seriously,” Davis stated. “I have played here before. In 2017, I opened two shows for Cody Jinks. I asked him if I could open for him and it was almost like a favor. I take ownership of tonight. It happened like it was supposed to, I worked for it.”

Less than a block from The Ryman is Nashville’s most popular party destination, Broadway

Street.

Lined with bars, restaurants, boot stores and souvenir shops, Broadway is alive with throngs of people 365 days a year. It is a completely different atmosphere than what lies inside the red brick building that is The Mother Church.

“I don’t know how to do it any other way,” Davis said. “Today’s country radio is what it is. Music should have integrity. Hemingway wrote stories, I want to write songs that tell stories. I want to leave something for my kids.”



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Ward Davis made his headliner debut at The Ryman Auditorium on Saturday, August 20. He performed to a near sold out venue and received a standing ovation at the end of the show.

## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### Mainline Health Systems garners awards for excellence

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Mainline Health Systems recently received several awards from the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for being a health center quality leader and for advancing health information technology (HIT).

Mainline received the silver Health Center Quality Leader award from HRSA, reflecting the organization’s rise to the top 11-20 percent of health centers in 2021 adjusted quartile rankings.

HRSA also named Mainline an Advancing HIT for Quality award recipient. Offering telehealth services, engaging patients through health IT, and other services related to HIT allowed Mainline to qualify for the award.

“We are proud to be a silver Health Center Quality Leader because it reflects the hard work we’ve done to improve our patient care over the last few years,” Mainline’s Chief Quality Director Jeni Barham said. “Both of these awards are a testament to how much we care about our patients and our staff, and we hope to continue receiving awards that showcase our dedication.”

In addition to these awards, HRSA recognized Mainline as a Patient Centered Medical Home.

Since 1978, Mainline Health Systems has served the residents of Southeast Arkansas with a compassionate approach and a commitment to the highest standard of medical and dental care. From its first office in Portland all those years ago, Mainline Health Systems has grown to 18 locations across Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Drew and Lincoln counties.

Mainline Health System’s mission is to provide the best care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The staff has worked hard to create and maintain financial assistance programs to ensure all families receive the medical and dental treatment they need, when they need it.

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

### From Advance Sports Editor to UAM Hall of Fame

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Rick Owens still calls Monticello home, even though he was raised and went to high school in Pine Bluff. Owens is one of five former athletes being inducted into the 2022 class of the UAM Sports Hall of Fame in October Homecoming weekend.

“Monticello has a special place in our hearts and we have so many friends still here,” Owens

said during a recent visit. “Our son Tyler was born here in 1992, and my wife (formerly Donna Wilson) grew up in Monticello and taught school at Drew Central for 15 years. I spent over 18 years in Monticello and some of my closest friends are here. We still get the Advance and keep up with everyone thru facebook. We still consider Monticello our home though we live in Texas.”

Owens came to Monticello in 1975 and played baseball at UAM for four years. He was also the sports editor for The Advance during his college years, had a sports show on KHBK and worked for the Sports Information Dept at UAM.

“The Frank Jackson family was great to work for at The Advance and was a great job in college. I had previously worked for the Commercial in Pine Bluff, so I thought I wanted a career in journalism when I first came here. I loved working with Larry Smith at UAM and playing baseball for Espie Moore my first year.”

“I had a walk-on offer at Fayetteville with Coach DeBrynn but with Monticello being so close, plus the opportunity of working at The Advance, and a work-study scholarship from UAM, it was a pretty easy choice. And I don’t regret it.”

Owens remembers having a sports column in The Advance called “Rick’s Remarks,” laughing at the memories of covering Monticello, Drew Central and UAM sports teams.

“It was a lot of fun covering all the sports teams here. There was always a laugh interviewing Don Byrd, Ronnie McFarland, Raymond Scogin, Doug Barnes, Harold Tilley, Tommy Barnes and the other coaches I got to know. And the memories I have of playing softball in the early 80s for Jackson Saw and Pauline Baptist were the best times. I was just out of college and made some lifetime friends.”

Owens is being inducted into UAM’s Hall of Fame, primarily because of his 1978 season, finishing with a then school record .441 batting average. He was first team All-AIC, All-NAIA and the NAIA Academic All-American team. He credits Donnie Fendley for the two years he was the baseball coach at UAM.

“I knew I was being nominated by Mark Tiner and Jim Beasley, but when Coach Hud Jackson told me, I was shocked. I was driving back to Houston when Coach Jackson called, so that was a great drive home thinking about all the memories I had while playing and living in Monticello.”

After graduating with a degree in physical education in 1979, Owens chose the business world, taking a manager’s job with

Over the next year, we can expect new singles to be released and more tour dates across the country.

“I have recorded a lot of music and I plan to start writing more with the piano,” Davis said.

When asked about his fans from Drew County making the trip to Nashville, Davis smiled genuinely.

“Monticello has a treasure trove of people who have helped me over the years. The best people I have ever known are from Drew County, Arkansas.”

still selling baseball cards and memorabilia. I haven’t made a lot of money but I’ve had a ton of fun doing it and made lots of lifetime friends. And many of those are still in Monticello.”

“I love coming back to visit and play in the MCC 4-ball,” Owens continued. “I get to see many of my former students and players, and many golfing buddies. They have all grown, have families of their own and are successful bankers, nurses, doctors, teachers and business owners.”

“I remember coming back playing in the 2018 golf tournament, and hardly anyone recognized me because I had been gone for 23 years. Plus I had put on about 25 pounds and had a few more grey hairs. It was so much fun because I knew them but they didn’t recognize me. I’ll keep coming back to play as long as I’m invited.”

Owens looks forward to seeing old friends during this year’s Hall of Fame induction, scheduled October 6. Other inductees this year include former softball players Sarah Hayslip Santo and Becca Tipton Greenwood, basketball player Derylton Hill and Spirit Award winner Jeremy Woodall. They will also be recognized during Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 8., when the Weevils host Northwestern Oklahoma at 2 pm.

“I still can’t believe it, it’s a great honor and going to be a lot of fun. I hope to see to see a lot of old friends, teammates and some of my former players. I can’t wait.”

### City Council votes to increase solid waste rates

By: ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

The five present members of the Monticello City Council, voted to increase the solid waste rates at Tuesday night’s meeting. Mark Tiner, Claudia Hartness and Craig McRae were absent.

Mayor Chase addressed the council stating that the solid waste rates within the city were increased in 2012 and 2020. She also informed the full crowd at City Hall that a CD had to be cashed that was budgeted for solid waste, to help cover expenses.

At the last rate increase in 2020, the council members decided to do an annual audit of rates with the hope of not getting into the same situation of an almost four decade rate stall.

The current council has performed the annual audit with Arkansas Rural Water and it was their recommendation to increase rates this year. The 2021 audit did not recommend rates be raised.

With the Ordinance including an emergency clause, the rate increase will take effect immediately.

In 2020, under Ordinance 825, rates were increased to \$12.13. Under the new Ordinance, rates will increase to \$13.77 for one pickup per week from each single family residence, duplex, and each apartment unit.

For commercial solid waste pick-up, rates will increase from \$36.75 per one pick-up a week to \$41.16. If additional pick-ups are required per week, the fee will be \$20.44. Full copies of the Ordinances can be found at [www.advancemonticellonian.com](http://www.advancemonticellonian.com)

Also on the agenda was a discussion to increase sewer rates. In a similar situation to the solid waste rates, two increases have occurred to the Monticello sewer rates since 1949, one in 2004 and the latest in 2020.

Due to a typographical error within the contract that did not match numbers in the proposed Ordinance, the council voted to table the sewer rate increase Ordinance until the error was corrected and they were 100 percent sure about what they were voting on.

Attorney Cliff Gibson addressed the council with his pray for assistance for funding to help preserve the Jerome School building. The State has granted funding towards this project, as well as Drew County. After some discussion, the council voted to award \$11,000 to this preservation project.

Police Chief Jason Akers recognized Arika Davis as Chief for a Day. Arika was the winner of a back to school photo contest held by the Monticello Police Department. She spent the day learning about city operations, 911, District Court and got to



Courtesy photo

The Monticello Police Department partnered with Drew Central Elementary School with a new program called, Chief for a Day. A student was selected to spend the day learning about City operations and received some special perks from the department. Police Chief Jason Akers stated that this is a positive way to get students familiar with law enforcement agencies and build a rapport with the younger generation. Pictured above is Chief for a Day, Arika Davis (center) with Chief Akers (right) and Officer Overstreet (left).

take a ride in a patrol car. Chief for a Day is one of MPD’s efforts to introduce law enforcement to young people and help build a positive rapport between students and officers.

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

### UAM hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony for Arkansas Center for Forest Business

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

On September 29, the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Arkansas Center for Forest Business, which is housed in the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources building on the Monticello campus. Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony, where Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson served as the keynote speaker.

The center was created to provide market-based economic solutions to forest resource issues. It aims to improve business practices for forest enterprises and enhance the economic competitiveness of Arkansas’ forests in a global economy. Gov. Hutchinson provided seed funds of \$450,000 to establish the center in June 2021.

Dr. Matthew Pelkki, professor and George Clippert Chair of Forestry in the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources, serves as the director of the Arkansas Center for Forest Business. During the ceremony, Dr. Pelkki highlighted the origin of the center, explaining, “About 12 years ago, Dean Emeritus Phil Tappe and I came up with a simple concept: healthy forests, healthy forest economy, healthy forest businesses and vibrant rural communities are really complementary. They all work together, and it is a win-win-win situation for the forest, the people and the economy, so we put together a proposal for the Center for Forest Business with the help of a long list of people.”

Dr. Michael Blazier, dean of the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources and director of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, spoke during the ceremony, noting, “Forests in Arkansas are extremely valuable to

the economy. They contribute about \$16 billion annually to the Arkansas economy, including \$6 billion in traditional forest products output and another \$10 billion in the value of what they bring in from hunting, fishing and recreation.”

“Another thought that is integral to the mission of the Center for Forest Business is that managed forests are healthy forests. We take great pride in the fact that this is Arkansas’ sole university that produces four-year and graduate-level forestry graduates to serve this important industry,” Dr. Blazier said. “The center will be here to enhance all parts of the forestry sector of the state of Arkansas.”

Dr. Peggy Doss, chancellor of UAM, was instrumental in securing funding for the center. During her speech, she thanked members of the Arkansas General Assembly and Gov. Hutchinson for helping to make the center possible. “Governor Hutchinson has been so extraordinarily supportive. Without his support, this would not be possible. Governor, there are no words to express our gratitude to you.”

Dr. Doss said that the center will partner with programs at the UAM Colleges of Technology in Crossett and McGehee to provide additional educational opportunities to those pursuing forestry-related careers.

C.C. “Cliff” Gibson, III, chair of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, also offered thanks, stating, “I want to offer heartfelt gratitude to the governor, senators and representatives. Without you all, this would not be a reality. You have given us the ball, and we are going to carry it.”

During his keynote speech at the ceremony, Gov. Hutchinson said, “This Center for Forest Business will do more than simply allow us to preserve our forests and to enjoy them forever. It will create jobs, increase incomes and strengthen our communities in Southeast Arkansas, while at the same time managing the forests in a way that keeps them healthy, keeps them vibrant and keeps them a part of our future.”

“In the last eight years, I have placed a priority on forestry and the development of that industry in our state because I recognize it as an economic driver and an important part of our natural state,” Gov. Hutchinson said.

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OCTOBER  
HIGHLIGHTS



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Governor Asa Hutchinson spoke last week at UAM for the ribbon cutting of the Center for Forest Business. Pictured above, Hutchinson shakes hands with UAM Chancellor Dr. Peggy Doss and UAM Board of Trustees member Cliff Gibson and UAM forestry professor Dr. Matt Pelkki clap in the background.

“I see the importance of research and development,” Gov. Hutchinson noted. “That is done here, at UAM. It is done at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. And that has been combined and worked together to make the university system one of the leaders in research and development in the timber industry across America. That is important, and the center here at UAM involves all of those: the recruitment part that we rely on to bring business here; the expansion of timber and construction; and the research and development area, combined with our work at Fayetteville. UAM is a leader in all three.”

For the ribbon cutting, Gov. Hutchinson landed a blow from a sledgehammer to the end of a pre-cut log, knocking free a wooden cookie to reveal the Arkansas Center for Forest Business logo.

For more information about the forestry program, contact the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at 870-460-1052.

**Local legacy takes opportunity to help build generational wealth**

By ASHLEY HOGG  
editor@monticellonews.net

Opportunities are available every day. Some are created out of necessity, some from tragedy, and some seem random. It is what we choose to do with those opportunities that defines us.

Katelyn Burch Busby is a product of several generations of family financial planning in Drew County and in her new role as an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, her goal is to help Monticellonians reach their financial dreams and build generational wealth.

Her father, the late Dr. Robert “Bobby” H. Burch Jr. and her grandfather, the late Dr. Robert “Bob” H. Burch Sr., served Drew County’s dental needs for decades. Her mother, LeAnne Burch, is a retired Brigadier General of the United States Army, former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, and is retired from years of service as a Department of Human Services attorney.

Katelyn was born abroad while both of her parents served in the United States Army. The family returned home to Monticello when Katelyn was in the fourth grade. She is a graduate of Monticello High School and received her Bachelors Degree from the University of Arkansas and later, her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Katelyn married William Busby, son of William “Bill” Busby and Roselyn Grubbs Busby, all of Monticello, and after living in central Arkansas for a short time, the couple moved back home to Monticello to pursue their careers and start a family. William was employed as an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, following in the footsteps of his uncle and cousin, Kelton and Lee Busby.

Last November, William was tragically killed in an outdoor accident. His death left a space in local hearts and the growing financial community in Southeast Arkansas.

The opportunity arose for Katelyn to become a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones and she took it gladly.

“I am excited about the opportunity to help people in the community that I was raised in,” Katelyn stated.

Through her role with Edward Jones, it is Katelyn’s goal to help people reach their financial dreams with retirement investing, estate planning and much more.

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NOVEMBER  
HIGHLIGHTS



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

Little Mountain Disc Golf Course officially opened Saturday, November 5. Located on Harris Road near Lake Monticello, the course offers 18 baskets for players to utilize. The Monticello Parks and Recreation Commission took over this project within the last 18 months and put Joe Carmical (bottom photo) in charge of making the course a reality. Pictured above is an enthusiastic disc golf player making his shot on opening day of Little Mountain Disc Golf Course. For more information about the course, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/littlemountaindiscgolfcourse](https://www.facebook.com/littlemountaindiscgolfcourse).

OCTOBER  
HIGHLIGHTS



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Katelyn Burch Busby (right) happily welcomes clients into the Edward Jones office on Bolling Street in Monticello. Pictured with her on the left are Kelton and Lee Busby, fellow Edward Jones Financial Advisors.

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# OCTOBER

Continued from Page 5C  
ment, I can help,” Katelyn stated.  
**UAM hosts Hall of Fame ceremony**

**SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE**  
The University of Arkansas at Monticello Athletic Department held the 2022 UAM Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Thursday, October 6 in the UAM University Center.

The event celebrated members of the 2022 Hall of Fame Class; including former 2x All-American softball player Sarah Hayslip Santo; Derylton Hill, an All-Regional and All-GAC basketball player; Ricky Owens, an All-American and Academic All-American baseball player; Becca Tipton Greenwood, a 2x All-American softball player; and Jeremy Woodall, a former UAM football player and this year’s Spirit Award winner.

Greenwood is a native of Drew County and graduate of Drew Central High School. Becca was raised in Dermott by her late mother, Elaine Tipton, and father, David Tipton. She has an older brother, Park Tipton, who is a physical therapist at South Arkansas Rehabilitation. She has a wonderful husband, Jonathan Greenwood, and two

little boys, Kye and J.B. who love to hunt, fish, play baseball, basketball, and rodeo. She graduated from Drew Central High School in 2006 where she played tennis, softball, basketball, and ran cross country. She then attended UAM where she played softball from 2006-2010 and received her masters as well from 2013-2015. She received numerous national, regional, and conference recognitions, including GSC Freshman of the Year, ESPN All-Academic Team, GSC All South Region Player of the Year, and 1st Team All American. During her time at UAM she enjoyed working for Coach Alvy Early in the athletic department and had amazing professors who were very supportive. While playing softball for UAM, she worked for Jennie Finch at numerous softball camps and helped host a softball camp in Poland. After graduating from UAM, Becca worked at Monticello Middle School as a teacher and coach. She then became a special education teacher and is currently a teacher and coach at Drew Central High School. Some of Becca’s greatest memories were made during her time at UAM.

Since her graduation in 2010, Greenwood’s name stands out above most in the UAM and GSC record books. She holds top 10 placings in many individual season records, including at-bats (216),

runs scored (52), home runs (15), total bases (175), SLG (.810 & .801), and OBP (.511). Greenwood also holds the school record in average (.472), hits (102), doubles (70), and RBIs (71-T1st).  
Athletic Director Hud Jackson commented, “Our Hall of Fame banquet was amazing! We honored five great people! They were all so grateful for being selected. We will continue to build on this ceremony and we hope our honorees were happy with our effort. Big thank you to all the folks who made it possible. Our athletic department staff did a tremendous job putting the ceremony together.”

Prior to the ceremony UAM Chancellor Dr. Peggy Doss talked about the inductees and what their outstanding athletics achievements have done for the university, as well as the incredible strides each of them has made in their careers after departing from Arkansas-Monticello.

UAM Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director, and this year’s Spirit Award Winner, Jeremy Woodall, provided a blessing. Woodall is also a former Boll Weevil football player, and has been one of the biggest supporters of UAM athletes and students since.



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DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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-orientated 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 Bachelor 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.

ers. She has managed an array of student affairs-related programs and facilities 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 partner 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.

**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



Courtesy photo

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 removed from the region. However, most landowners feel ill-equipped in managing

## ELECTION

Continued from Page 1C

ue on this journey together in order to make Drew County a better and safer place to live, work, visit but most importantly, raise a family. Thank you and God Bless.”

Incumbent Mark Gober received approximately 24.6 percent of the votes, bringing his 18 year term as Sheriff to an end.

James Slaughter will join Nichols in the runoff, capturing approximately 34 percent of the vote.

“I want to thank everyone that came out and voted for me,” Slaughter said. “I encourage everyone to come out and vote in the runoff election. I am the right choice for this office because I will prioritize our children’s safety, cleaning up

drugs in the county and treating everyone with equal respect.”

Early voting for the runoff election will begin Tuesday, Nov. 29 and will take place at the Drew County Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and will resume on Monday, Dec. 5.

There are approximately 10,930 registered voters in Drew County.

Rep. Jeff Wardlaw was elected as State Representative for the newly formed District 94, which includes most of Drew County. Carly Jackson received 1,871 of the 5,062 votes cast.

In the Justice of the Peace District 4 race, Sheila Maxwell received 223 votes to opponent Heath Loveless’ 189.

District 9 in Drew County will have a new Justice of the Peace as newcomer Zachary Hill defeated incumbent René Knowles with 53 percent of the vote.

In statewide elections, Arkansans re-elected Senator John Boozman with 65.7 percent of the votes and U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman with 67.4 percent of the votes.

Capturing 62 percent of the vote, Sarah Huckabee Sanders will be the first female to serve

as Governor of Arkansas.

Attorney General Leslie Rutledge will serve as Arkansas’ new Lieutenant Governor and current Lt. Gov Tim Griffin will take the office of Attorney General.

Unopposed candidates were Circuit Clerk Beverly Burks, State Senator Ben Gilmore, and Mayor of Wilmar Toni Perry.

On statewide Issues, Arkansans voted against all four of the Issues on the ballot.

Issue 1, a Constitutional Amendment to allow the General Assembly to convene in extraordinary session failed with 60.95 percent of the state against.

Issue 2, a Constitutional Amendment to reform certain measures presented to voters, failed with 59.16 of the state

against.

Issue 3, a Constitutional Amendment to create the “Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment” failed with 50.48 percent of the state against.

Issue 4, an Amendment to authorize the possession, personal use and consumption of cannabis, failed with 56.25 percent of the state against.

## NICHOLS

Continued from Page 1C

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.”

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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.

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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.

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