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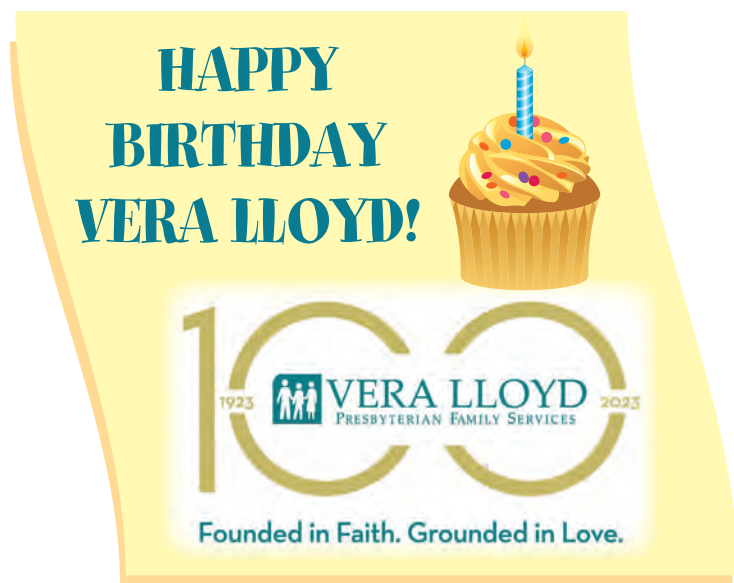
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023



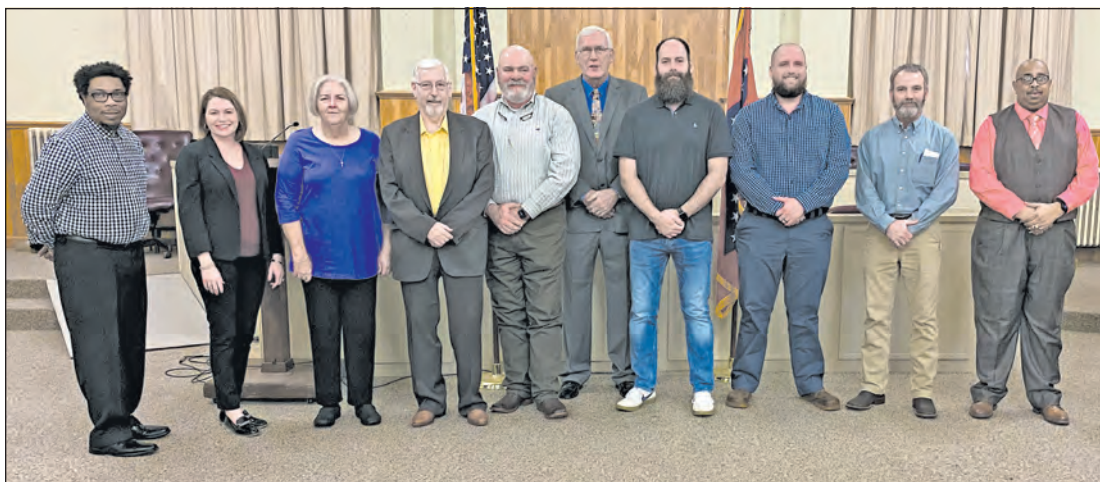
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New elected officials sworn in at Drew County Courthouse



January 1, 2023 began a new term for many elected officials in Monticello and Drew County. Pictured here is Judge Gibson during the official swearing in of Drew County Sheriff Tim Nichols (top left), Drew County Judge Jessie Griffin (top center), Monticello Mayor Jason Akers (top right), Drew County Clerk Stephanie Chisom (bottom left), Drew County Quorum Court members (bottom center), and Monticello Police Department Chief Carlos Garcia (bottom right). These and other officials that were sworn in are featured on our website, www.advancemonticellonian.com.

Photos by Melissa Orrell

STANDING WATER CAUSED BY MONDAY'S STORM



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Water and debris lined the streets of Monticello after a large thunderstorm rolled through the county.

MPD investigating shooting on Hwy 278

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

According to Monticello Police Chief, Carlos Garcia, on January 3, 2023, at approximately 4:28 a.m., the Monticello Police Department received a call reporting a disturbance at a residence on U.S. Highway 278 East.

Officers arrived at the residence to find two juvenile victims suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim was seen by medical personnel and one victim was transported to Drew Memorial Health System in Monticello by medical personnel where the victim succumbed to their injuries.

At this time, two persons of interest are in custody. The investigation is still ongoing. Anyone with information pertaining to this incident is asked to call the Monticello Police Department at 870-367-3411.

FIRST BABY OF THE NEW YEAR BORN JAN. 3



Photos courtesy of Drew Memorial Health System

Mother Erica Mata (center), Dr. Chapman, Auxilian Barbara Brown, Chelsea Gulleddge and Melissa Chapman, in celebration of baby boy Reece Owen Mata, the first baby born in the Olivia Faith Beebe Nursery at Drew Memorial Health System in 2023.

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OUR 152ND YEAR
NUMBER 1 • 14 PAGES



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Common Ground AR to speak at Rotary Club

The Monticello Rotary Club meets at noon on Thursdays in the Gibson Center at UAM. Thursday, January 19, representatives from Common Ground AR will address the club. The public is invited to attend.

ONGOING

Free community yoga class

Every third Thursday, from November to March, a free community yoga class will be offered from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Monticello Coffee Company. Props and mats are available for use. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy yoga, hot tea and coffee sponsored by Woodside Medical, hosted by MoCoCo and led by Maci Edwards.

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 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays and 12 noon on Tuesdays and Fridays. 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.



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Follow important safety guidelines to enjoy outdoor activities

By REBEKAH HALL

U of A System Division of Agriculture

During the cooler months in Arkansas, there are many opportunities for outdoor fun, such as hunting, camping and riding all-terrain vehicles. While enjoying these activities in the Natural State, it's important to follow safety guidelines to avoid accidents and injuries.

Jesse Bocksnick, extension 4-H outdoor skills coordinator for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said safely operating guns and ATVs can minimize the risk of accidents.

"Accidents happen — we can't be 100 percent safe all the time," Bocksnick said. "But the main thing is to practice good, safe operation of ATVs and safe gun handling so that when an accident does happen, we can minimize it and it's just a scare — not a tragic story that we talk about years later as a teaching tool."

Proper firearm handling

When it comes to safe gun handling, Bocksnick said three elements are key: muzzle control, action open and trigger control.

The muzzle is the part of the firearm where

the bullet exits the gun. Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times can help prevent accidents or minimize the damage of an accident.

"Every year it seems like somebody gets hurt with an 'empty gun,' and that's because they think it's unloaded, and it's not," Bocksnick said.

The action on a gun is the part where the ammunition enters the chamber and is then extracted when the gun is fired. By keeping the action open, the user indicates to others that the gun is unloaded until it is time to shoot.

"When that action is closed, nobody knows if there's a bullet in the chamber," Bocksnick said. "You just assume that it's loaded. We assume that all guns are loaded all the time — it just keeps things safer that way."

Trigger control means "you keep your finger off the trigger until your sight is on the target," Bocksnick said.

"A lot of folks, especially young folks, when you hand them a firearm, the first thing they do is wrap their hand around the grip and they've got a finger on the trigger," Bocksnick said. "We don't want to do that."

For adults who are excited to introduce

hunting and shooting sports to the young people in their lives, Bocksnick said it's important to brush up on safety skills, as many adults develop poor safety habits over time.

"People are usually excited about training young folks and getting them out there," he said. "It's a family pastime, and they want to pass that tradition along to their family members, but sometimes they have unsafe habits, or they don't realize how unsafe they actually are with a firearm. When they're talking to kids and teaching them the basics of hunting, sometimes they may skip over or take for granted some of those basic firearm controls."

When training youth on proper firearm handling, Bocksnick said another issue is handing off firearms to young people too soon.

"If they can't physically work the action, hold the gun up, or handle the recoil, they're too small," he said. "You need to wait until the next year, or maybe the year after that. I see a lot of parents push kids too fast. They want them to be that hunting buddy so badly that they give them a little too much responsibility for their age."

See **SAFETY** Page 3A

Senior Center lunch menu: January 4-11

Wednesday: *Chicken & dumplings, mixed greens , cake*

Thursday: *Smothered baked porkchop, rice, sweet peas, sliced pears, roll*

Friday: *Chicken tenders, mac & cheese, broccoli, cookie*

Monday: *Spaghetti w/meat sauce, whole kernel corn, garlic toast, pears w/cottage cheese*

Tuesday: *Breaded chicken breast w/country gravy, mashed potatoes, Cali blend vegetables, banana cake, roll*

Wednesday: *Sausage & pintos, white rice, spinach, beets, cookie*

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.

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.

-Michael Attshuler

HAPPY New Year

2023



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SAFETY

Continued from Page 2A

ATV and UTV safety

Riding ATVs and UTVs, or all-terrain and utility task vehicles, can be a fun way to explore the outdoors. But these vehicles can be very dangerous for riders if not handled safely.

Bocksnick said that for ATVs and UTVs, the “number one thing to remember is to wear a helmet.”

“It is the single most important piece of safety equipment that a person – adult or youth – can wear,” he said. “It must be a Department of Transportation-approved helmet.”

It is also critical to follow the age recommendations of the vehicle’s manufacturer, Bocksnick said.

“Most ATVs and UTVs are 16 years old and up,” Bocksnick said. “Just because a youth can steer a machine or push the throttle doesn’t mean they are capable of driving that machine. ATVs are ‘rider active’ machines that require the operator to use their body weight and active movement to properly ride the machine and make it handle properly. With UTVs, if a youth cannot sit in the seat properly with their back against the seat, buckled in, and reach all the controls, they are too young.”

Bocksnick said a common misconception about UTVs is that they are safe for children because they have a roll bar or rollover protective structures. But youth must be buckled in and using the seatbelts or harness systems for these protective measures to work.

“Unfortunately, ATV and UTV accidents are a major cause of head trauma, death and major injuries in the state among youth,” Bocksnick said. “Youth riding machines they are not old enough for, not wearing helmets, or carrying passengers on ATVs increases this problem exponentially.”

Hunting and campfire safety

During hunting season, many people get injured from their deer stands. Becky McPeake, extension professor and wildlife specialist for the Division of Agriculture, said scouting for the proper deer stand location before the hunt is important.

“Find a tree which is strong enough to support your weight,” McPeake said. “Sometimes the tree nearest an opening is smaller in diameter, and it is tempting to use that tree, but don’t. Be safe.”

McPeake said being in good shape is also key to successfully navigating a deer stand, as it takes physical strength to get in and out.

“If there are physical limitations, ground-hunt to be safe,” she said. “You can build your own blind using natural features or purchase a tent blind.”

Wearing a harness is also an “essential safety feature” for those using deer stands, McPeake said.

“Use a climbing rope, climb a little higher than your stand, and slip into the stand,” she said. “Then, use a rope to lift or lower your supplies and your unloaded firearm, and clip yourself in the tree once in place.”

Be sure to get plenty of rest and stay awake while in a deer stand, and let others know when heading out for a hunt.

“Tell your family or friends when you go hunting and when you expect to return,” McPeake said. “Leave them a map of where you will be hunting, since cell service sometimes doesn’t work in remote locations.”

While hunting, camping or simply spending time in the backyard, campfire safety guidelines should also be followed to avoid injury or an out-of-control blaze. Creenna Bocksnick, extension 4-H camping coordinator for the Division of Agriculture, said the first step to a safe campfire is checking the fire regulations in one’s area.

“Some locations don’t allow for open flames, and seasonal burn bans also need to be considered,” Bocksnick said. “Campers also need to remember general fire safety concerns: burns, keeping flammable liquids and materials away from the fire, and not leaning or stepping over the fire.”

Bocksnick said people should also pay close attention to their surroundings for other potential fire hazards, including dead trees above their fire that can fall, tinder on the ground near their fire that can catch on fire, and tree roots under their fire that can also catch on fire without them knowing.

People camping in a wilderness setting should also aim to “leave no trace” of their presence at the campsite after leaving.

“Campers should build, douse and cover remnants of their fires so that the next person doesn’t know they were there,” Bocksnick said. “They should also not put items in the fire that will not completely burn and turn to ash during their stay.”

NEW OFFICERS



Photo courtesy of Brian Rodgers

Eureka Lodge #40 F & AM met Monday, December 26, and installed the following officers for the year 2023. Pictured on the front row (from left to right) Jack Bennett – Master Of Ceremonies, Bobby Faulkner – Worshipful Master, Don Connard – Master of Ceremonies, Kyle Day – Junior Warden. Back row (from left to right) Lucas Owens – Senior Warden, Ryan Collins – Senior Deacon, Brian Rodgers – Chaplain and Scott Woodward- Secretary. Not Pictured are Jim Searcy – Treasurer, Labon Hood – Junior Deacon and Andrew Brannon - Tyler.

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OPINION

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Making a difference for Veterans

As a son of a Master Sergeant in the Air Force who served for 23 years, I understand the unique challenges veterans and their families experience and how Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, programs and care are critical for men and women called to serve in our nation's uniform. This is what drove me to serve on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and work with Arkansas veterans and Veterans Service Organizations in our state and nationwide to improve services and benefits veterans earned. Through our collaborative efforts, we've made positive reforms and updates to VA care and benefits.



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. SENATE REPORT

I want to share some of the improvements we've made in 2022 that will help veterans well into the future.

Today's veteran population looks a lot different than it did a few decades ago. With more women serving in uniform it's necessary the VA has the resources to serve their unique needs. We're building on the foundation from last Congress to improve support and medical resources for women veterans. Just months ago, the president signed into law two measures I championed to save lives through implementing better cancer prevention, detection and treatment tools at the VA.

The Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments (SERVICE) Act and the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act will modernize the VA's breast cancer screening policies and offer earlier access to mammograms and, for those diagnosed with breast cancer, improved breast imaging services to ensure they get the world-class imaging and care they earned.

We strengthened oversight at the VA so the Office of Inspector General (OIG) can conduct more thorough investigations by expanding its authority to subpoena former VA employees no longer in federal service and other individuals who may be relevant to its reviews. This will enable us to enhance transparency.

We expanded health care to all eras of toxic-exposed veterans with passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 and supported VA funding to ensure we can meet those needs.

Congress closed out the year with some other achievements in support of veterans including expediting disbursement of veterans' life insurance benefits to surviving family members or beneficiaries. Veterans need to know their loved ones will be taken care of when they're gone. The Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act will improve the VA's process for administering these funds.

Finally, we made improvements to how the VA cares for survivors of military sexual trauma so they have the trained support they need when documenting their experience. We also made it easier for veterans living with service-related medical conditions to get their clothing allowance benefit. The VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act eliminates bureaucratic paperwork and simplifies continued participation in this program.

I look forward to continuing my commitment to our nation's veterans and their families. In 2023 I'll be working to strengthen suicide prevention programs and bolster recruitment and retention of the VA's workforce. As long as men and women wear our nation's uniform in defense of our ideals and freedom, we have a responsibility to take care of them. As always, we will continue our promise to supporting them like they like support us.

What resolutions shall we break this year?

I've never been big on setting New Year Resolutions. I try to change things about myself as quickly as I find out I am doing something wrong.

Obviously, there are things I would like to be better at but, my motivation to save money does not outweigh my enthusiasm for travel.

With all the exercise equipment lining the lanes at the stores and every commercial advertising either a gym membership or the next big fad in weight loss, I am reminded that I should probably drop 25 pounds. I do have plans to work on that but I'm realistic with myself. The love I have for cookies and potatoes outweighs most other things.

I don't like to make promises if I am not 100 percent sure I can keep them. The beauty of the idea that January 1 is vastly different from December 31 is lost on me. The year, month, day is what you make it.

Things I will be attempting to make more frequent rituals in my life include reading daily and

trying new foods.

I have never been an avid reader. Sitting down with a book is just not enjoyable for me. It probably has a lot to do with the fact that my attention span is similar to that of a second grader and being still for long periods of time has proven to be quite the task for me.

I can't tell you the amount of times I have been told, "Oh, Ashley. You just need to find a book that captures you and makes you want to keep turning the page."

Yeah, that's not really the case for me. I wouldn't even pick up a book if it wasn't something that I was really interested in and I have no problem laying it down in the middle of a chapter to go vacuum, or clean the toilet, or scrape gum off the bottom of my shoe.

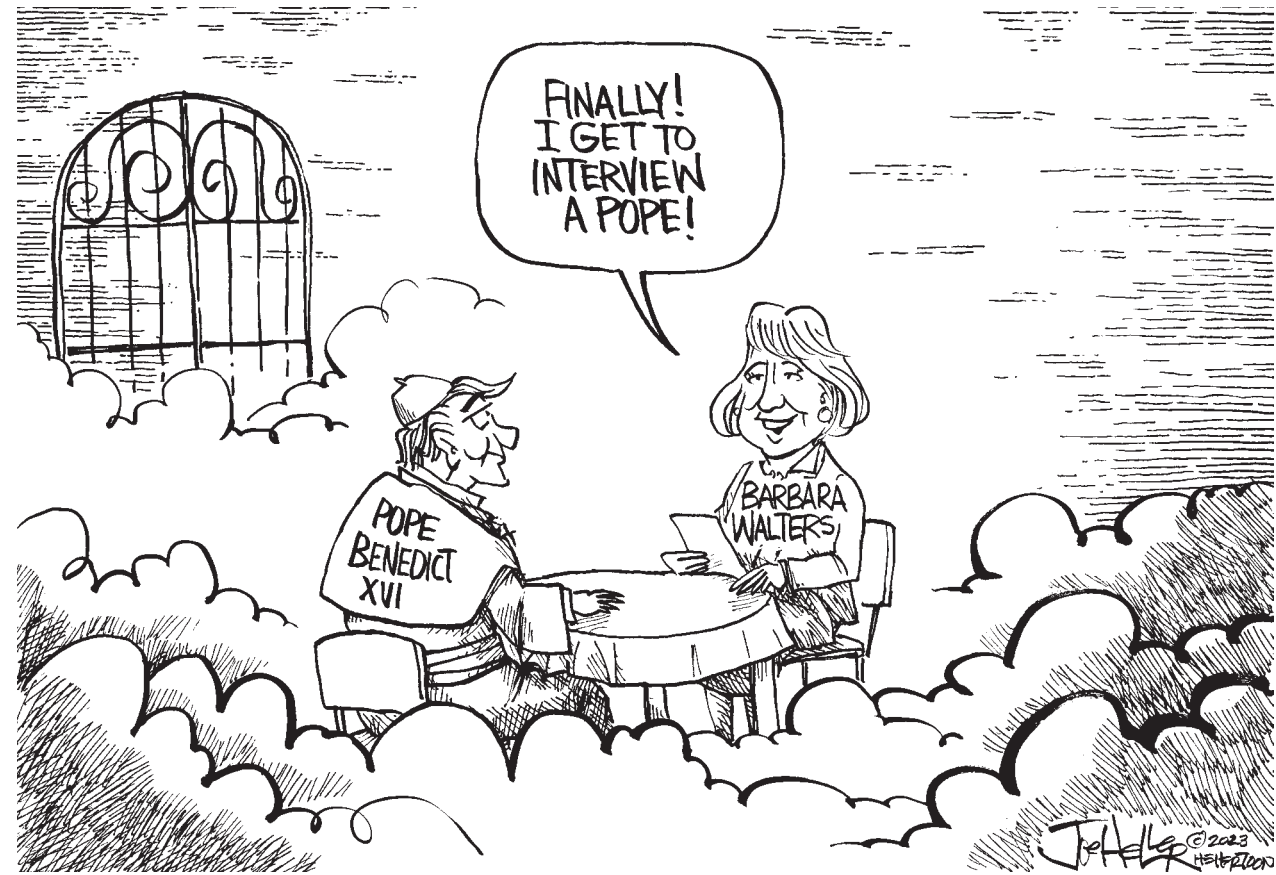
I think back to my high school years and the only book I can remember reading from start to finish is "The Great Gatsby." It was fairly short and I remember mostly enjoying it because it was non-fiction and about a time in America that fascinates me. Any other "required reading" I probably used internet summaries and notes. Sorry to all the English teachers; although, I am sure they were smart

enough to see through my bull.

I seem to do better when I am accompanied in my endeavors so I asked Superman if he would commit to reading 15 minutes a day with me before bed. He is a reader and he uses some of his early morning time to read while I summon all the darkness of the universe to try and crawl out from beneath the covers.

As we were traveling this weekend, I had the idea to include Fred in these reading plans. She has really taken off with her reading this year and I could not be more proud of her and thankful for her absolute gem of a teacher! Superman agreed that a few minutes of reading in the evening would be nothing but good for Fred. Now, we are tasked with teaching her to read silently. She chose to read the ever popular "Green Eggs and Ham" last night and everyone in the house heard every word.

I do enjoy learning about people and places so biographies are my go to genre. I asked for two books for Christmas and the wonderful people in my life gifted me both. I still am only 50 pages into the book I got last Christmas. Hopefully, by implementing the 15 minutes a day, I can finish all three books this year.



2022 House of Representatives recap

As we approach a new year, with new goals for the next legislative session, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress made in 2022.

In 2022, the Arkansas General Assembly passed a historic tax cut, increased pay for law enforcement officers, and directed millions in surplus funds to im-

prove safety in Arkansas schools.

In an Extraordinary Session held in August of this year, the General Assembly passed Act 1 and Act 2. Those acts are

identical pieces of legislation that reduced the income tax to 4.9 percent and made that rate retroactive to January 1, 2022. The legislation also lowers corporate income taxes from 5.9 percent to 5.3 percent on January 1, 2023. In addition, it aligns Arkansas law with the federal depreciation schedule which will provide relief for business owners by accelerating the depreciation of their assets and allowing for an easier calculation of their tax bill.

Act 1 and Act 2 also grant a nonrefundable income tax credit of \$150 to taxpayers with income up to \$87,000 and \$300 to couples filing jointly with income up to \$174,000.

In this special session, the General Assembly also passed Act 3. This act set aside \$50 million from the revenue surplus for the purpose of funding a school safety grant program.

In March of 2022, the 93rd General Assembly convened for the 2022 Fiscal Session. During this session, the General Assembly passed a \$6.02 billion budget. The budget outlined a \$70 million increase for elementary and secondary education.

The budget also included increases for the DHS Division of Children and Family Services, county jail reimbursements, and state police.

The General Assembly also directed one-time surplus funds to be used for prison expansion and one-time stipends for law enforcement officers.

The majority of House members will return for the 94th General Assembly. There will be 26 new members.

The 94th General Assembly will include 82 Republicans and 18 Democrats. There will be 26 women and 74 men.

The 94th General Assembly

W.I.N.S. in 2022

As 2022 comes to an end, I have been reflecting on my time as Governor and looking forward to what is ahead.

In January, I announced my W.I.N.S. initiative for my final year as Governor. Each letter in W.I.N.S. stands for a pillar that I have focused



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR'S REPORT

on to boost Arkansas to success. Workforce Training, Infrastructure, New Economy Jobs, and Strengthening Arkansas Families all aim to push Arkansas to being the best place the state can be – and help Arkansas WIN.

Arkansas has continually grown economically over the past eight years. Thanks to the people of Arkansas, we have made this state one of the premier locations for business owners to put their roots down and conduct business that gives well-paying jobs to hard-working Arkansans and puts more money into our

state.

As this year and my term is coming to an end, Arkansas has never been in better financial shape than we are right now. We have lowered taxes, funded services, and we have over \$2 billion in reserve accounts.

Even in the face of a pandemic, the state's economy, like Arkansans themselves, remained resilient. In 2021, Arkansas was ranked number two in the nation for states with the most pandemic-proof small businesses. That speaks not only to the hard work of business owners who have chosen to live in Arkansas, but to the small business environment, workforce support, and resource access our state's infrastructure had in place, ready to help small businesses.

Arkansas small businesses were rightfully ranked as having the greatest potential to bounce back because they had the least to bounce back from. Arkansas never shut down throughout the pandemic. Our state kept working, and our consistently low unemployment rate over the past few years

reflects that. In fact, there are over 120,000 more people employed now than when I took office in January 2015.

The future success of our state demands that we improve the training of our workforce. Now with initiatives like the 'Ready for Life' program, it is easier for employees and employers to find each other, and it will offer business leaders a quick snapshot of the employee pool in Arkansas as they recruit talent.

Our infrastructure is the backbone of everyday operations in this state, and it is worth investing in to create a better quality of living. That is why we have invested almost \$500 million in rural broadband expansion in our state.

In terms of new economy jobs, we expanded our high-tech jobs from the steel industry to software development, and this growth will continue with the recommendations from the Council on Future Mobility Report.

Lastly, but certainly not least of the pillars of my W.I.N.S. initiative – strengthening Arkansas families. Over the past year, my focus has been to give families the best chance of success

See **HUTCHINSON** Page 5A

Freshman legislators to join Natural State Senate

When the 2023 regular session convenes on January 9, there will be 13 new members in the Arkansas Senate.

The legislature is a citizen legislature, and the senators' occupations reflect the Arkansas economy. The Senate has cattle ranchers, chicken growers and row crop farmers. It has bankers, accountants, attorneys, educators and people who own their own businesses.

One senator is a pastor and chaplain for people in hospice care.

There are senators who work in the

timber industry, health care, long-term care, employment services, graphic design, real estate development and construction.

Their experience is varied and extensive, including service on city councils, county quorum courts, school boards, development districts and state government.

Each senator represents about 86,000 people.

The political breakdown is 29 Republicans and six Democrats. Five senators are women and four senators are African-American.

The 13 new senators will be the largest freshmen class in the 35-member Senate since 2011, when 14 senators began their first regular session. One of those

14 newcomers had limited experience because he had been elected in a special election and served in the Senate during the 2010 fiscal session. The 2011 session was his first regular session.

Fiscal sessions are not nearly as hectic as regular sessions. In a typical fiscal session fewer than 300 budget bills are considered and work is completed within several weeks.

In a typical regular session, the legislature works for several months and considers about 2,000 bills affecting state government, law enforcement, education, health care, insurance, transportation and economic development.

During the regular session, senators

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

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Monticello, AR 71657

BY EMAIL

editor@monticellonews.net
reporter@monticellonews.net

Time for New Year’s financial resolutions

It’s that time of year when many of us promise ourselves we’ll go to the gym more, or learn a new language, or take up a musical instrument, or any number of other worthy goals. But this year, when making New Year’s resolutions, why not also consider some financial ones? Here are a few to consider:


- Don’t let inflation derail your investment strategy. As you know, inflation was the big financial story of 2022, hitting a 40-year high. And while it may moderate somewhat this year, it will likely still be higher than what we experienced the past decade or so. Even so, it’s a good idea to try not to

let today’s inflation harm your investment strategy for the future. That happened last year: More than half of American workers either reduced their contributions to their 401(k)s and other retirement plans or stopped contributing completely during the third quarter of 2022, according to a survey by Allianz Life Insurance of North America. Of course, focusing on your cash flow needs today is certainly understandable, but are there other ways you can free up some money, such as possibly lowering your spending, so you can continue contributing to your retirement accounts? It’s worth the effort because you could spend

two or three decades as a retiree.

- Control your debts. Inflation can also be a factor in debt management. For example, your credit card debt could rise due to rising prices and variable credit card interest rate increases. By paying your bill each month, you can avoid the effects of rising interest rates. If you do carry a balance, you might be able to transfer it to a lower-rate card, depending on your credit score. And if you’re carrying multiple credit cards, you might benefit by getting a fixed-rate debt consolidation loan. In any case, the lower your debt payments, the more you can invest for your long-term goals.
- Review your investment portfolio. At least once a year, you should review your investment portfolio to determine if it’s still appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. But be careful not to make changes just because you feel your recent performance is not what it should have been. When the financial markets are down, as was the case for most of 2022, even quality investments, such as stocks of companies with solid business fundamentals and strong prospects, can see declines in value. But if these investments are still suitable for your portfolio, you may want to keep them.
- Prepare for the unexpected. If you encountered a large unexpected expense, such as the need for a major home repair, how would you pay for it? If you didn’t have the money readily available, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments or retirement accounts. To prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses — or a year’s worth, if you’re retired — with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. These resolutions can be useful — so try to put them to work in 2023.

Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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This article was written by

HISTORY MINUTE

New Year around the world

By: KENNETH BRIDGES

Once Christmas has passed, the world looks to a new year. Many wonder what the new year will bring while planning their own ways of ringing in 2023. It will be a year marked with war in some nations and peace in others. There will be triumph, and there will be heartbreak. But in the meantime, the world will pause to celebrate the end of one year and the hopes for the next.

In New York City, the famous dropping of the Times Square Ball

will mark the new year. It is a tradition dating back to New Year’s Eve 1904 when Adolph Ochs, then owner of The New York Times, devised it as a way of celebrating the new year by having the glass ball lowered on the roof of his newspaper building. The modern ball, its fifth incarnation, is glass, six feet in diameter, and weighs more than 1,200 pounds. It was manufactured by Waterford Crystal and has more than 9,500 LED lights illuminating it. It is the most popular new year’s

observance in the United States.

Observances of the new year date back thousands of years as ancient peoples recognized the regular shifting patterns of stars at night and the sun in the day and their connection to particular seasons. The earliest observances of January 1 for the beginning of the year began with the Romans around 713 BC. The Romans named the first month of their lunar calendar year January after

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HUTCHINSON

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and to protect Arkansas children from child abuse and crime.

In November, I announced a monumental expansion in

rural health services with the ARHOME Medicaid program. Thanks to the great work of the teams at the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Life360 HOMEs will address the complex challenges facing many of Arkansas’s most vulnerable

residents, including individuals in rural areas with serious mental illness and those in need of addiction services. I look forward to watching the full potential of this transformative program as it unfolds in the months and years to come.

As we conclude 2022, I am grateful for the W.I.N.S. we have had this year in improving our workforce, investing in our infrastructure, creating new economy jobs, and strengthening Arkansas families.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

will meet in committees to review in detail proposed bills. The nine standing committees are State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Judiciary; Insurance and Commerce; Education; Revenue and Taxation; City, County and Local Affairs; Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development; Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs and Public Health, Welfare and Labor.

The Joint Budget Committee has members from the Senate and House. It will review in detail all state agency spending requests and meets more often than any other committee during regular sessions.

Also during the 2023 regular session the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs will review numerous bills affecting public pension systems.

The Senate experienced historic turnover in 2001, when 17 senators were newcomers, and in

2003, when there were 16 newcomers. Those years reflected the impact of the first version of a term limits amendment to the state Constitution, which was first approved by Arkansas voters in 1992.

The amendment took effect for about half of the senators in 2001, when they would have come up for re-election except they were prohibited due to term limits. The amendment took effect for the remaining senators in 2003, when it prohibited them from seeking re-election.

The 100 members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms and all 100 seats are contested every election year.

Senators serve four-year terms, and half of the 35 seats are contested in every election year. That means if 17 seats are contested during one election, then 18 seats are contested at the following election. Another difference between the Senate and the House is that gubernatorial appointments are confirmed by the Senate.

WARDLAW

Continued from Page 4A

bly will convene at noon on January 9. On the first day of the session, all members will be sworn into office. House members will then formally elect the Speaker of the House. The Speaker will then make remarks and announce the chairs for House committees.

On the second day of the session, the House and Senate will convene for a Joint Session. On this day, all constitutional officers will be sworn into office and the newly elected Governor will make her first address as Governor.

The House streams all committee meetings and House floor proceedings at www.arkansashouse.org.

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OBITUARIES

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

Brian Larry Eason

Brian Larry Eason, 45, of Monticello, passed away Saturday, December 31, 2022, at his home. He was born November 22, 1977, in Pine Bluff, to Martha Nell Cheshier Eason and the late Austin Larry Eason.

He was of the Assembly of God faith and enjoyed computers and gaming.

In addition to his father, he is also preceded in death by a brother, Timothy Alan Eason; and a sister, Kathy Ellis Donaldson.

Brian is survived by his mother, Martha Nell Cheshier Eason; one brother, Steve Eason; and one sister, Debra Sharp, all of Monticello.

Memorial Services were Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church in Monticello. You can sign Brian's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Joseph (Jake) Leon Lindsey

Brother Joseph (Jake) Leon Lindsey, 90, of the Florence community in Drew County, went to be with his Lord and Savior Monday, December 26, 2022, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello. He was born January 14, 1932, in Star City, to the late Leon Lindsey and Ellene Owens Lindsey.

He was a retired School Superintendent with Fountain Hill School District and a retired Southern Baptist Preacher at Florence Baptist Church.

Brother Jake, as he was affectionately known, loved



LINDSEY



VETERAN

hanging out with family and friends before he became inactive. He was always a jokester with a great sense of humor that enjoyed giving (and receiving) gag gifts. He also was an avid builder of anything and everything and would always literally give you the shirt off of his back and share his last bit of food.

Brother Jake was a United States Air Force Veteran, Mason and member of Florence Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Martha Lindsey of Florence; one son, Kevin Lindsey (Tracy) of Florence; and two grandchildren, Payden and C.J. Lindsey also of Florence.

Funeral services were at 1 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. Jeremy Woodall officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Tabor Cemetery. There was a visitation from 5-7 p.m. Thursday evening at the fu-

neral home. You can sign Brother Jakes guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Carolyn Faye Taylor

Carolyn Faye Taylor was born on October 9, 1956, to the late Albert and Gertrude Taylor. She departed this life on December 29, 2022, in Little Rock.

Carolyn grew up in the Wilmar Community and graduated from Wilmar High School. She confessed her faith in Christ at an early age. She was a homemaker who would spend her time cooking at different deer camps.

Carolyn enjoyed reading the bible, walking, listening to music, and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents Albert and Gertrude Taylor; two sisters, Ometha Cameron and Lillie Bell McCloy; three brothers, James Durden, Carl Taylor

(her twin), and Earl Taylor; and her nephew, Kevon Taylor.

She leaves to cherish her memories one son, Demetric (Jacqueline) Spencer of Dumas; one daughter, Shandra King of Little Rock; five grandchildren, Aleiya Trotter, Cadyn Allen, Earl Holmes, Detrundrick (J a q u a y) Holmes, and Dominique Holmes; eight great-grandchildren; three sisters, Robbie Brown of California; Mary Ann (Earnest) Jackson of El Dorado, and Josephine (Otis) Demon of Spokane, Wash.; one brother, Herman (Alice) Durden of Chicago; one uncle, Garland Fletcher of Wilmar; one sister-in-law, Joyce Taylor of Wilmar; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 1 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel. Burial will follow in Wilmar Cemetery.

Please sign Carolyn's guestbook at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Alta Marie Hall

Alta Marie Hall, 94, of Hamburg, died Monday, January 2, 2023, at Stonegate Villa Health and Rehabilitation Center in Crossett. Hall was a native of Danville; a resident of Hamburg for many years, and a former resident of Wilmot.

Graveside services were at 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2023, in the Hamburg Cemetery with Dr. Bobby Pennington officiating. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jones-Hartshorn Funeral Home of Hamburg. Online guestbook, www.jones-hartshorn.com.

First Arkansas Grown conference and expo scheduled for Jan. 25-28



SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Arkansas Grown program, administered through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, will partner with several Arkansas agricultural associations and organizations to host the first Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo on January 25-28, 2023, in Little Rock.

The conference and expo will consist of workshops, speakers, off-site farm tours, networking opportunities, and a vendor trade show. Evening events at the Sunset Lodge

at Rusty Tractor Vineyard and the University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech Culinary and Hospitality Management Institute will showcase Arkansas Grown food and include an Arkansas Grown wine tasting.

The Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo is open to all parties interested in the Arkansas agriculture industry and will focus on farmers and producers who produce for the local food system.

Partner organizations include the Arkansas State Horticulture Soci-

ety, Arkansas Association of Grape Growers, Arkansas Farmers Market Association, Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention, Arkansas Blackberry Growers Association, and Arkansas Agritourism Association.

The four-day event will be held at the Embassy Suites in West Little Rock. The registration deadline is January 11, 2023. For more conference details and to register, go to arkansasgrown.org/arkansas-grown-conference-expo/.

Arkansas Dept. of Ag cautions horse owners following recall of Alfalfa product

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture cautions horse owners and handlers in Arkansas following a voluntary recall of alfalfa cubes from Manzanola Feeds due to a possible Clostridium botulinum health risk.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a notice on December 17 advising horse owners not to feed Top of the Rockies alfalfa cubes with the date codes 111222, 111322, 111422, 111522, and 111622. This product has been recalled by Manzanola Feeds of Manzanola, Colorado, which distributes directly to feed stores and co-ops in the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. Further distribution is possible, so it is important to check the date codes located on the front of the bag.

The FDA is aware of at least 98 horses in four states that showed neurologic symptoms. These cases of illness and death in horses are being investigated in cooper-

ation with state departments of agriculture in Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas. The symptoms in the cases reported are consistent with botulism, and further testing is underway. At least 45 of these horses have died or were euthanized due to declining health.

Clostridium botulinum is an organism that can cause severe and potentially fatal toxicity in animals eating the contaminated food or encountering areas that have been exposed to the product. Horse owners and handlers should take precautions to protect human and animal health and im-

mediately consult a veterinarian if your horse ate this product and shows signs of neurologic illness, such as muscle tremors, difficulty eating or swallowing, difficulty standing, or collapse.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/>. The Arkansas

Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drew County Historical Museum is back. Opened each Saturday from 10am till 4pm. Come on by and visit with us and see some of Monticello's treasures. We're located at 404 South Main Street. See you soon

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.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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See **CLASSIFIEDS** Page 8A

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DANNY LAVON SINCLAIR, DECEASED
NO. 22PR-22-145

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:
929 Barkada Road
Monticello, AR 71655
Date of Death: September 8, 2022
An Order Admitting Will to Probate Without Administration was rendered on the 14th day of December, 2022. The estate to be collected contains real property, legally described as follows:
A parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4 of NE 1/4) of Section 27, Township 12 South, Range 7 West, bounded by a line the point of beginning of which is found by starting at the Northwest Corner of said Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter and thence running South 86 degrees 26 minutes 09 seconds East along the North boundary of said Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter a distance of 843 feet, and thence running South 00 degrees 24 minutes 42 seconds East a distance of 255.80 feet to the centerline of an existing drainage ditch and the point of beginning for the parcel of land hereby described; THENCE, FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, running South 27degrees 21 minutes 55 seconds West along the centerline of said drainage ditch a distance of 28.09 feet, thence running North 30 degrees 10minutes 42 seconds West along the centerline of an existing gravel road a distance of 37.01 feet, and thence running South 88 degrees 47 minutes 07 seconds East a distance of 165.01 feet, and thence running South 00 degrees 24minutes 42 seconds East a distance of 249.65 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 0.579 acre of land, and being Lot Fas shown on the "Property Survey for H. W. Burnett" made by R. Wesley McCoy, Registered Land Surveyor, dated 3-9-88, and recorded at Page 13of Plat Book No. 4 in the office of the Circuit Clerk and ex-officio Recorder of Drew County, Arkansas.

1988 Mobile Home
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All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published on the 28th day of December, 2022.
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CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 7A

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HISTORY

Continued from Page 5A

the Roman god Janus, who supposedly was the god of time and also the god of beginnings and transitions. According to legend, Janus had two faces, one looking into the past and the other looking into the future. It was a day marked with great celebrations.

The tradition of Rosh Hashanah marks the tradition of the Jewish new year, which means "head of the year" in Hebrew, a tradition dating back to the Old Testament. This holiday is not observed in January but sometime in September or October, depending on the lunar calendar. The two-day celebration includes many symbolic foods, including apples dipped in honey to mark a sweet new year. It is a national holiday only in Israel and Ukraine. In 2023, it will begin at sunset on September 15

and run through September 17.

In most countries throughout the world, January 1 is an official holiday to mark the beginning of the new year. Even many non-western countries will observe January 1 as New Year's Day because of the overwhelming influence of European and American business and culture for the past few centuries as they ultimately adopted the modern Gregorian calendar used throughout the West, even in officially atheist nations like China.

The Chinese New Year will not start until January 22. Under the Chinese Zodiac system dating back many centuries, 2023 will mark the Year of the Rabbit. In China, the rabbit is associated with luck, so the Year of the Rabbit is usually considered a lucky year. In China, fireworks are set off to mark the new year and to also scare off demons and forces of darkness.

Similarly, January 22 will mark the traditional Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet. The Vietnamese lunar calendar is very similar to the Chinese calendar. The Vietnamese Zodiac, however, makes the cat a symbol of 2023 instead of the rabbit but similarly considered to be lucky. By tradition, a great feast is prepared, family reunions are held, and many celebrations are held in cities across the country. Many in Vietnam see Tet as the beginning of spring as well. Cleaning the home is also part of the traditional observances to symbolically clean out the bad spirits from the previous year.

Different types of food are also associated with the New Year's celebrations. In India, rice is eaten for prosperity in the new year.



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Buttered bread is supposed to be good luck in Ireland. In Spain, people traditionally eat 12 grapes at midnight, one at each chime, to bring luck for the year. In the American South, black-eyed peas are eaten for good luck for the new year. Leafy green vegetables like collard greens are supposed to symbolize prosperity.

In some cultures, it is also customary to exchange gifts on New Year's Day. In Ancient Persia,

eggs were given as symbols of fertility in the new year. When observances of Christmas and religion were outlawed in the Soviet Union, Russians responded by shifting gift-giving from Christmas to New Year's Day. In Scotland, gifts of silverware or pastries are traditionally given for luck. In the Philippines, Christmas and New Year's Day celebrations are often combined.

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Pirates, Lady Pirates win Commercial Bank Holiday Tournament

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Lady Pirates and Drew Central Pirates are the 2022 Commercial Bank Holiday Tournament Champions after winning three consecutive contests to claim the title.

Beginning the tournament on Wednesday, December 28, the Lady Pirates would play their first contest of the tournament against Junction City.

The Lady Pirates would start the contest by going on an 8-0 run with Sayveiona Durden and Edriana Hunter scoring four points each to start the contest.

Drew Central would go on to outscore Junction City 10-1 in the first quarter.

Junction City would have their best scoring performance of the contest, scoring six points in the second quarter, however the Lady Pirates would produce their best scoring performance of the contest in the quarter, outscoring Junction City 28-6 in the second quarter to hold a 38-7 lead at the half.

The Drew Central defense would hold the Lady Dragons to zero points in the third quarter and to three points in the fourth while outscoring Junction City 10-0 in the third and 8-3 in the fourth to take a 56-10 victory to advance to the semi-final contest on Thursday night.

Hannah Meeks would lead the Lady Pirates in scoring with 11 points followed by Edriana Hunter with 10 points. Sayveiona Durden and Bailey Chapman would each score eight, Kaliyah Miller with six, Layna Chrabol with four, and Lana Boykin with four.

Kaisa Orr, Kaiya Williams, and Emma McCrae rounded out the scoring with two points each.

For the Drew Central Pirates, the Pirates would close out the



KADE BODIFORD scored six points against Rison in the Drew Central Pirates opening contest against Rison on Wednesday night. Bodiford would come back to lead the Pirates in scoring on Thursday and Friday, scoring 21 point against Warren and 24 points in the championship contest against Star City. **ALI JO CRUCE** would have a similar tournament performance for the Drew Central Lady Pirates. Cruce would start the tournament by not scoring a basket against Junction City but would lead the Lady Pirates with 11 on Thursday against Maumelle and with 18 in the tournament championship game against Magnolia.

first night of tournament action on Wednesday night against the Rison Wildcats.

The Pirates would jump to a big lead in the first quarter, outscoring the Wildcats 21-4 in the first.

Drew Central would continue to increase their lead in the second quarter, outscoring Rison 28-8 in the quarter to take a 49-12 advantage at the half.

With the clock running in to begin the second half, the Pirates would outscore the Wildcats 9-7 in the third and 11-7 in the fourth to advance to the semi-final contest on Thursday with a 69-26 point win.

Tre'Bennett Fuller led the Pirates in scoring against Rison with nine points with Tramond Miller and JaCorrian Love scoring eight points each. Kade Bod-



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

iford, Alex Preddy, and David Jordan scored six.

Blake Gibson scored five, Ashton Kelly and Nick Bailey added four each, and Tralon Miller, Dayton England, and LaMarcus Bolden rounded out the scoring with three points each.

Returning on Thursday, December 29, for the semi-final contests, The Drew Central Lady Pirates would face the Maumelle

Hornets.

The Lady Pirates would control the tip to begin the contest, but Maumelle would get on the board first with a three-pointer.

The Lady Pirates would get four points from Sayveiona Durden and Ali Jo Cruce with Kaiya Williams scoring two, to outscore the Hornets 10-5 in the quarter.

The Lady Pirate defense would

hold Maumelle to five points in the second quarter also, outscoring the Hornets 13-5 behind three-pointers by Hannah Meeks and Edriana Hunter.

The Lady Pirates would hold a 13 point, 23-10, lead at the break.

Returning from the half, Lana Boykin would hit two three-pointers in the third quarter, but the Lady Pirates would be outscored in the quarter 8-7, to hold a 30-18 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, the Hornets would attempt to make a run at the Lady Pirate lead, outscoring Drew Central 16-11 in the quarter, but the Lady Pirates were able to hold their lead to take the contest and advance to the tournament championship contest on Friday night by the score of 41-34.

Leading the way for the Lady Pirates was Ali Jo Cruce with 11 points followed by Lana Boykin with six, connecting on two three-pointers.

Kaiya Williams and Sayveiona Durden each scored five with Edriana Hunter scoring four points.

Bailey Chapman and Hannah Meeks each scored three points with Kailiah Miller and Kaisa Orr rounding out the scoring with two points each.

Taking the court after the Lady Pirates, the Pirates would face off with the Warren Lumberjacks in their semi-final contest.

The Lumberjacks would control the opening tip and would score the first six points of the contest before Tramond Miller put the Pirates on the board, scoring the first Pirate bucket with 4:30 remaining in the first quarter.

Warren would outscore Drew Central in the first quarter 15-8 with all eight of the Pirates points being scored by Tramond Miller.

See **TOURNAMENT** Page 10A



TRALON MILLER (right) drives towards the basket against Star City in the championship game of the Commercial Bank Holiday Tournament over the Christmas Break. Tralon Miller would score three points against Rison, four points against Warren, and 12 points against Star City. **TRAMOND MILLER (center)** goes up under the basket against Warren on Thursday night. Tramond Miller would score eight points against Rison, 18 points against Warren and eight points against Star City. **TRE'BENNETT FULLER (left)** would lead the Pirates in scoring in the Pirates opening tournament contest against Rison on Wednesday with nine points.



HANNAH MEEKS (left) led the Drew Central Lady Pirates in their first round contest against Junction City with 11 points. Meeks would go on to score three points in Thursday nights contest against Maumelle and five points in the championship contest against Magnolia on Friday night. **LANA BOYKIN (center)** would score 15 points over three games. Boykin would score three points against Junction City, and six point against Maumelle and Magnolia. **SAVEIONA DURDEN (right)** drives through the Magnolia defense in the Lady Pirates championship contest against the Lady Panthers. Durden would score eight points on night one against Junction City followed by scoring five points against Maumelle and six points against Magnolia.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 9A

Drew Central would have a better outing in the second quarter scoring 18 points. Kade Bodiford led the Pirates in the quarter with six points with Tramond Miller scoring five and Alex Preddy adding four.

The Pirates would outscore the Lumberjacks in the quarter to trail by one point, 27-26, at the half.

The Pirates would take the lead in the third quarter behind Bodiford's 11 points in the quarter.

Drew Central would outscore Warren 16-7 in the quarter to hold a 42-34 heading into the fourth quarter.

Both teams would visit the free throw line on several occasions in the fourth quarter with Drew Central connecting on 5 of 11 and the Lumberjacks connecting on 3 of 11.

The Lumberjacks would edge out the Pirates in scoring in the quarter, outscoring Drew Central 16-15, but the Pirates held on to the seven point, 57-50 win to advance to the finals on Friday night.

Drew Central had two players reach double-digits in scoring with Kade Bodiford leading the way with 21 points followed by Tramond Miller with 18 points.

Drew Burton added five with Alex Preddy and Tralon Miller scoring four. Nick Bailey finished with three and JaCorrian Love and Tre'Bennett Fuller rounding out the scoring with one point each.

With the finals of the Commercial Bank Southeast Arkansas Holiday Tournament set, the Drew Central Lady Pirates would face off against the Magnolia Lady Panthers on Friday night.

The Lady Pirates would control the tip with Sayveiona Durden getting the first points of the contest, Magnolia would immediately come down the floor to tie the contest and score the next six points to take a eight-two advantage.

Lana Boykin would connect on a three-pointer to pull the Lady Pirates within three points, 8-5.

Magnolia would extend the lead to 11-5 before Hannah Meeks would connect on a three to cut the lead to 11-8.

Magnolia would go on to outscore the Lady Pirates 13-10 in the quarter.

The second quarter was almost similar to the first quarter with the scores being reversed.

Ali Jo Cruce would score eight points to lead the Lady Pirates in the quarter to help Drew Central outscore the Lady Panthers 13-10 in the quarter to make the contest even at 23 as the buzzer sounded for halftime.

The Lady Pirates would continue to score in double-digits in both of the final quarters of the contest with the Lady Pirate defense holding Magnolia to single digits in both quarters.

Drew Central would outscore Magnolia 12-5 in the third and 13-8 in the fourth to take a 48-36 victory capturing the 2022 Commercial Bank Southeast Arkansas Holiday Tournament Championship.

Leading the way for the Lady Pirates was Ali Jo Cruce with 18 points followed by Sayveiona Durden and Lana Boykin each added six points.

Hannah Meeks scored five points, Bailey Chapman with four, and Edriana Hunter scoring three.

Kassidie Gilbert, Layna Chrabol, and Kaiya Williams rounded out the scoring with two points each.

The Drew Central Pirates would get an opportunity to avenge an earlier season loss in the finals of the tournament, facing the Star City Bulldogs, who had defeated the Pirates 54-50 on December 1.

Star City would control the opening tip, but Drew Central would get on the board first with two points by Kade Bodiford.

The Pirates would spread the scoring out amongst several players in the first quarter with Bodiford and JaCorrian Love leading on the scoreboard with four points each in the quarter.

The Pirates would outscore Star City 15-8 in the quarter.

Neither team could gain an advantage in the second quarter with each team scoring big in the quarter.

Each team scored 19 points in

the quarter with Drew Central holding a 34-27 lead at the half.

Returning from the intermission, the Pirates would put together not only the best scoring performance of the game, but possibly one of the best one quarter scoring performances of the season.

The Pirates would connect on five three-pointers in the third quarter with Tralon Miller and Drew Burton connecting on one three each and Kade Bodiford hitting three.

The Pirates would score 32 third quarter points to outscore Star City 32-13 in the quarter to take a 66-40 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, Star City would outscore the Pirates 17-13 in the quarter with the Pirates taking the 2022 Commercial Bank Southeast Arkansas Tournament title, 79-57.

Kade Bodiford would lead the Pirates in scoring with 24 points followed by Tralon Miller with 12 points.

Tramond Miller, JaCorrian Love, and Drew Burton each added eight points, David Jordan added seven, and Nick Bailey with six.

Alex Preddy scored four and JaMarcus Bolden rounded out the scoring with three points.

With the wins, both the Lady Pirates and Pirates improved on their 2021 Runner-up finishes in the tournament.

With the 2022 portion of the basketball season completed, the teams will now turn to conference play for the remainder of the 2022-23 season.

The Pirates currently have an overall record of 10-5 on the year and a 2-0 record in 3A-8 Conference play.

For the Lady Pirates, the team currently has an overall record of 11-4 with a 2-0 record in 3A-8 Conference play.

The Lady Pirates and Pirates will host Dumas on Friday, January 6, with the Drew Central Junior Pirates tipping off at 5 pm.

The teams will be on the road Tuesday, January 10, traveling to McGehee to face the Owls and Lady Owls. The Junior Lady Pirates will be the first team to take the court with a tip scheduled for 5 pm.

Monticello participates in Berryville tournament

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello Billies and Lady Billies travelled roughly four and a half hours and 256 miles over the Christmas Holiday/Winter break period to participate in the 13th Annual CS Bank Holiday Hoops Tournament.

On the girls side of the tournament, the Monticello Lady Billies would open tournament play with a 51-42 loss to host team Berryville on Wednesday, December 28.

The Lady Billies will play their second contest of the tournament on Thursday, December 29, falling to Arkadelphia 68-24. Returning for their final contest of the tournament on Friday, December 30, the Lady Billie would fall to Pocahontas 48-20.

For the Billies, their opening contest would come against Fountain Lake on Wednesday with the Billies falling by one point, 42-41.

On Thursday, the Billies would be able to pick up their third win of the season after de-

feating Heber Springs 59-41. In the Consolation Championship contest, the Monticello Billies would fall to host team Berryville by a score of 50-48. The Billies are now 3-10 overall with the Lady Billies having an overall record of 0-10. Monticello 7th Grade and Junior High teams will host Star City on Thursday, January 5, at 4:30 pm with the senior teams travelling to Star City on Friday, January 6, for a 5:30 pm tip. Monticello will host Hamburg on Tuesday at 5:30 pm.

Weevils and Blossoms return to action on the road

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils and Cotton Blossom basketball teams return to action this week, making their first Oklahoma road trip of the season.

The Weevils finished the 2022 portion of the basketball season with an overall record of 5-5 and a Great American Con-

ference record of 1-3. For the Blossoms, the team finished the 2022 portion of the schedule with an overall record of 4-6 and a conference mark of 1-3 having ended the 2022 portion with a conference win over Ouachita Baptist and winning two consecutive contests.

UAM will travel to Weatherford, Oklahoma to face Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Thursday, January 5.

The Blossoms will tip off at 5:30 pm with the Weevils to follow.

The second stop on the first Oklahoma trip will be in Alva, Oklahoma to face Northwestern Oklahoma State University on Saturday, January 7.

The Blossoms and Lady Rangers are scheduled to tip off at 1 pm with the Weevils and Rangers to follow around 3 pm.



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7	3		16
13	6	18	

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Solution

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ITALIAN: Pulito

FRENCH: Propre

GERMAN: Sauber

SCIENCE FACT:

THIS COMPONENT OF A COMPUTER IS ESSENTIALLY ITS "BRAIN." IT TELLS OTHER COMPONENTS WHAT TO DO.

ANSWER: CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LAPTOP KEYBOARD

Did You Know?

ORGANIZE AND CLEAN OUT DIGITAL DEVICES FREQUENTLY TO KEEP THEM WORKING EFFICIENTLY.

New Word

CACHE

a type of computer memory with high-speed retrieval time

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

- **1896:** UTAH IS ADMITTED AS THE 45TH STATE IN THE UNITED STATES.
- **1948:** BURMA GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN.
- **2007:** CALIFORNIA DEMOCRAT NANCY PELOSI BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



DEVOTIONAL

CONTACT US
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editor@monticellonews.net

Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you”.

I heard a preacher say this one time, an offense is an event but being offended is a choice. Offenses are going to happen. Or in biblical terms “trespasses”. This is a foregone conclusion should you decide to live on planet earth with other humans. In fact the closer you are to people, the more you love people there is a 100% chance of offending and being offended. Should we choose to live at arms length of people, never investing, never sharing space and time then forgiveness would rarely be a necessity.

But that’s not reality is it? Humans are made for relationships. It’s what makes life worth living. We’re surrounded by each other! Family, friends, co-workers, customers. We’re everywhere! But as much as we enrich each other’s lives humans are also capable of harm. Intentional and unintentional. Disappointment is inevitable. Betrayal is common. So much so that these types of harm will actually break relationships. Some of which may even be beyond repair. God was fully aware of this reality when He created you and I. It’s why He created this incredible

mechanism for human relationships called forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not the human default. Carrying grudges and offense is actually easier. But forgiving someone of hurt especially when they don’t ask is very difficult to do. In my opinion it may even be impossible. Unforgiveness is a great trap set by the enemy. It’s a trap that will keep you in bondage. Not the person who committed the offense but those who are offended. It can keep us bitter and distrustful of other relationships. The offender may never ask for it. They may even be unaware of or in disagreement of the hurt inflicted so the forgiveness is not for them. It’s for you. Forgiveness is freedom.

So if forgiveness is humanly impossible how is it made possible? Grace. Grace is the fuel of forgiveness. An acknowledgment that the same grace lavished on me by Jesus Christ is the same grace I must extend to those who harm me. I have disappointed and betrayed, I have harmed and caused pain and right in the middle of it Jesus loved me as I was and forgave. The least I can do is forgive.

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

Children’s Devotional

BY: AMY BECKER

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!” Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

I love this old hymn. It has many sweet memories attached to it of precious people I love young and old singing in harmony, and I can almost hear it now. Yet, that’s not why I love the song. I love it, because it reminds me of God’s faithfulness. It comes to mind in times of triumph and in times of trouble. The reason? Because it uses God’s own word.

“Because of the Lord’s faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 2:22-23

The prophet Jeremiah is said to have written the book of Lamentations. He wrote this book in lament, meaning to express grief or sorrow. Afterall, he had plenty to be sorrowful about. The people of Judah (his

nation) had been taken into captivity, something he had warned them about for years. His nation had strayed far from the Lord (sound familiar?), and there was a lot of suffering at the hands of the Babylonians who had taken them over. But in the midst of it all, he found reason to hope. What was that hope? His hope came from the Lord!

Our hope comes from the Lord too! He sees us in our sadness, and he knows exactly what we need. Just because bad things happen, doesn’t mean the Lord has left our side. How do we know? Well, because his mercies are new every morning. Each morning the sun comes up, the birds chirp, and it’s a brand new day. When we focus on all the Lord is providing, we shift our focus to his faithfulness, and boy is he faithful.

So instead of listing the things that have gone wrong, or focusing on all that makes you sad, let’s fill ourselves with hope from God. Do you have a warm bed to sleep in? Friends and family that love you? How about clothes to wear? Have you looked at

See **CHILDREN’S** Page 4A

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Puzzle answers

Page 4B Sudoku

ANSWER:

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

Page 4B Word Search

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

Page 4B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

COUNTRY

CONTACT US
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BARKADA
JANA WRIGHT

There is no Barkada news this week. Jana Wright had other commitments. Her column will resume in next week's edition.

GREEN HILL
WANDA PACE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church had a guest preacher on Sunday. Brother Joe Williams shared a message from Numbers 13:1-33 titled "Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve". The second Sunday singing will be on January 8th.

Aunt May spent a few days in the hospital last week. Happy to report she is home and doing better. I talked with Aunt Pepe on the phone New Year's day and she was cooking a wonderful meal for them both to enjoy.

Happy Birthday Mr. Joe Berryman! I wish you many more blessed birthdays!

Happy Anniversary to Wayne & Sandy Smith; Byron & Marion Pharr; and Caleb & Janet Lane! Best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

Leighanne Tucker is in the hospital in Dumas. Prayers for healing and a full recovery.

Happy New Year! May your faith in God grow stronger and the new year bring you love, health, peace, and joy!

Verse of the week: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of

you has received." 1 Peter 4:10
Have a safe and blessed week.

JORDAN PARK
TRILISA MARSHALL

Happy New Year 2023! Health, peace, love, joy, happiness and new beginnings in the new year. This is a new beginning and a time for us to get closer in loving one another, because we have lost so many family members, friends, and loved ones. The older generation is dying out, the ones that are still loving, some of the younger ones don't have time for them. As the Bible says in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another". Our love for others should reflect the love Jesus has for us. If we truly love one another, then we will give the very best of ourselves just as Jesus does for us.

Happy birthday shout out this week goes to: Sadie Jackson, Jan. 2; Margie Owens, Korsica Brown, Lou Griddine and Pattie Dailey, Jan. 3; Stephanie Hawkins and Brenda Gardner, Jan. 5; Nanette Wilson and Debbie Binns, Jan. 7. Happy birthday to each of you. Enjoy your special day.

The death angels are still flying high. So sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Mattie Bell, Orr, Carolyn Taylor, Anthony Thomas and Frank Roach. Funeral arrangements were not yet made at the time of writing. Mr. Harold Gof-

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.

fin's funeral was held Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Monticello First Assembly of God and Mr. Leron Miller Sr's funeral was held Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Stephenson Dearman Chapel and interment was at Oakland Cemetery. My prayers, love and condolences to all the family members, friends and loved ones. May God comfort and strengthen each and every one of you.

We had an awesome Sunday School lesson on the first Sunday of the new year. It was on: "Christ's Love For The Church" coming from Ephesians 5:21-6:4 (KJV). Family members should love and care for one another just as Christ loves and cares for the church. Pastor Robert Marshall Sr's message was on: "Why Do You Worry" coming from Matthew 20:1-16 (KJV). And our Tuesday Bible Study lesson was on: "Prayer Brings Peace During Storms" coming from John 20:21. God gives peace to the believer in the midst of their storms. And scripture for the week is: Psalms 34:7-8 (KJV), "The angel of the Lord encampeth

round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him".

Everyone have a blessed, safe, warm rest of the week and have a blessed and wonderful rest of the year 2023. Much love to everyone, and again, Happy New Year 2023. Blessings!

LACEY
IVANELL HANDLEY

There is no Lacey news this week. Ivannell Handley had other commitments. Her column will resume in next week's edition.

POSSUM VALLEY
KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Welcome back, y'all and Happy New Year! Yes, by the time this column goes to print, 2023 will have arrived. As you can see, I missed the deadline for the Christmas edition of news. But I knew I would. We had a lot going on that week. Jason and Leigha

hosted Christmas Eve at their home. Meghann and Tim came down to join us, too. It was so much fun watching the grands open their gifts. That evening, we went to see Finney's Christmas light display, which has become a Christmas Eve tradition. Sunday morning, I attended Bethel youth group's presentation of "A Savior's Birth". It was a sweet, to the point, presentation of the Christmas story. The congregation joined in on several Christmas hymns. I was so pleased to see a good number in attendance to celebrate our Savior's birth and to support the youth.

After church, Meghann and I went back over to see what Santa had brought the kids. Some of us enjoyed a few rounds of the "Soggy Doggy" game that Addie had gotten.

I was off work Monday and we spent some time in getting the house back in some semblance of order then went and spent some time with my best friend, Wanda.

Tuesday, the 27th, was the first day of my last week at work. Come Friday, December 30th I will hand in my key and name badge and finally join the rank of retiree. I got to work Friday, inserting the key in the lock for the very last time. Yes, it's bittersweet, but I am ready for this new chapter in my life.

The birds in our backyard have been very busy. Nothing new has been seen and since I've had the patio door sealed off with plastic, I've started scattering seed in the front yard for the birds. The Juncos

and White-throated Sparrows really seem to be enjoying it.

What with all the rain we've had I really haven't gotten out much, but I'm hoping next week to be out and about as much as possible. I've been on Pinterest searching for funny retirement memes, which I hope to share over the next week or so. The one I posted on my last day of work read, "I can't keep calm. It's my last day of work!". When my alarm woke me at 5:15 a.m. I immediately turned it off. No more waking up every weekday alarms!

I'm having to send this column in early, so I don't have much more to report. Bethel will host a New Year's Eve gathering on Saturday night to eat, play games and fellowship. We're starting early though and I, for one, do not plan on staying up to see the new year in. I am definitely not a night owl. But I am hoping to, gradually, teach my early bird to not wake me quite as early has it has for the past forty some-odd years. At least, if it does wake me early, I can go back to bed if I want to.

Here's a cute corny joke about retirement. How any retirees does it take to change a lightbulb? Only one, but it might take all day!

That's my news for this week. Until next time, please, smile, take time to smell the roses and watch sunrises and sunsets. And always remember to be thankful to God for His many blessings.

See COUNTRY Page 4B



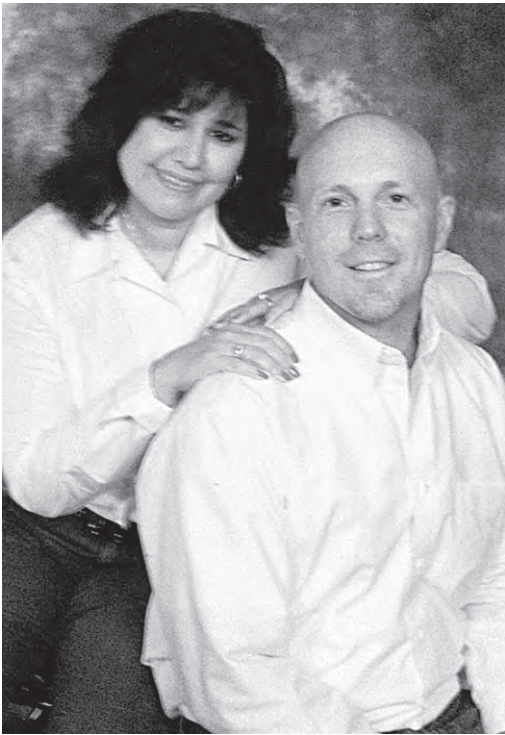
Carpet Medics: 30 years of service

Special to the Advance

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

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Fire & Smoke Restoration Tech
Odor Control Tech

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



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