

Events held for
Drew County's
younger
generation
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Local sports highlights
can be found on Page
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MEDC hears updated reports
at first 2023 meeting

By ASHLEY HOGG
editor@monticellonews.net

The Monticello Economic Development Commission January meeting was well attended by its board of directors and guests Wednesday, January 4.

The meeting opened with Chairman Bennie F. Ryburn III giving the totals for tax revenue for the previous month.

Among several board members' reports, Drew Memorial Health System CEO Scott Barrilleaux updated everyone on the state of the hospital's financials.

"Volume and revenue go hand in hand," Barrilleaux stated. "We struggle with volumes and there is a number of factors that cause that struggle, including workforce."

He went on to state that lack of staff is a statewide problem and that he hopes to be able to do something to help legislatively with his new appointment to the Arkansas Hospital Association Council for Government Relations.

"It's a real issue," Barrilleaux continued. "We have had some success with negotiating some rate increases with some insurance companies and we are working on a couple of others. Medicare has given hospitals across the nation around four and a half percent increase. None of that is enough to get us to the point where our revenue is covering our expenses. It costs us more to take care of a patient than what we are being paid. That is not a good formula and eventually, something is going to have to give. We are looking at all sorts of ways we can make this thing balance."

He went on to say that the hospital is waiting on answers to grants that they have applied for and that staffing remains their biggest challenge at this time.

"I will ask for the patience of the community when they come to the Emergency Room," Barrilleaux said. "We often will have patients in rooms waiting for hours to get in a room."

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Chancellor Dr. Peggy Doss gave a spirited report about the coming semester for UAM and what the university means to the area.

"We've done some renovations to the campus," Dr. Doss stated. "I invite everyone to come out and look at the new entrance to Willard Hall, the school of education building. In addition, we continue to do renovations to our math and science building with painting and window repairs. We are still looking for funding for a new HVAC system for that building. We have acquired grants for upgrading certain things in the science labs like hoods in the chemistry labs."

Doss went on to say that she has charged Dr. Matt Pelkki to conduct an

economic impact study on the salaries from UAM and how they affect the local economy. Representatives from UAM are in constant contact with elected officials to make sure a voice for UAM is heard in the legislature.

Newly sworn in Mayor of Monticello Jason Akers commended Dr. Doss for her passion about UAM and all the current efforts going on at this time to keep UAM the most affordable four year University in the state.

The Mayor also mentioned his approval of having City Inspector Brian Rodgers working as a City employee now and they will work on getting Rodgers to be able to write citations for ordinance violations.

Brian Rodgers addressed the group stating that this year's SNAP drive was a success. All applications were filled and even though some rules had been changed, all 16 applicants should be able to be fully funded within the next month and repairs can begin. The SNAP program happens once a year and is designed to make necessary home improvements for low income senior citizens.

“None of that is enough to get us to the point where our revenue is covering our expenses. It costs us more to take care of a patient than what we are being paid. That is not a good formula and eventually, something is going to have to give.”

Scott Barrilleaux,
DMH CEO

SQUARE BEAUTIFICATION



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Several months ago, Union Bank and Trust Co. reached out to local business for assistance with a downtown square beautification project. Thanks to these generous donors, the project for new banners on the square was fully funded and the banners are being put up by City workers this week. Thanks to Union Bank for spearheading this project and Patrick's Auto Wash, Lucky's of Monticello, Commercial Bank, Clearview Glass & Mirror, Sammy Mullis Insurance, Monticello Rotary Club, Phillip and Reathel Privett, Majors Forest & Lawn, Tommy and Beth Maxwell, Kiwanis of Monticello, David and Gail Hooker, and Drew Co Farm Bureau Insurance. Take notice of other projects in the downtown area such as fresh flowers in sidewalks planters in conjunction with the Drew County Master Gardners and the murals just East of the square, painted in conjunction with the UAM Art Department.

Monticello Branch Library collects more than 30 cold weather clothing items for Arkansas PBS Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Monticello Branch Library collected more than 30 sweaters/coats as a partner in the Arkansas PBS Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive held Nov. 5-30.

Shannon Rodriguez, Monticello Branch Manager was thrilled with the community response and how these sweaters and other cold weather clothing will benefit neighbors in need as extremely cold temperatures are forecast. "We live in a supportive community that responds consistently when others are in need."

Monticello Branch Library was one of 47 libraries across Arkansas participating in this year's statewide Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive, which is a tribute to Fred Rogers and his example of being a caring neighbor. A complete list of libraries and additional information is available at myarpbs.org/sweaterdrive. The statewide drive collected more than 2,500 cold weather items for those in need.

During the Neighborhood Sweater Drive, members of the community donated new or gently worn sweaters, as well as other cold-weather clothing. The sweaters collected in the drive were forwarded to those in need at Bellevue Estates and The Woods (both of Monticello).

The statewide Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive was sponsored by Crain Buick GMC of Conway and 911 Restoration. Additional information is available at myarpbs.org/sweaterdrive.

"All of us, at some time or other, need help," Fred Rogers said. "And, whether we're giving or receiving a sweater, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world."

"That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors - in our way, everyone is a giver and receiver."



Courtesy photo

Monticello Branch Library collected more than 32 sweaters as part of Arkansas PBS's Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive this November. Gracie and Mady prepared the donations for distribution by Bellevue Estates and The Woods (both of Monticello) as much colder weather is set to enter the state.

To help set the tone for a "comfortable" visit with his young viewers, Rogers put on a sweater and changed into sneakers to help children settle in for "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." All of Rogers' original sweaters were knitted by his mother, Nancy McFeely Rogers. Each year, she knitted a dozen sweaters and gave them to family and close friends at Christmas.

For more than 40 years, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," PBS's longest-running children's series, earned four Daytime

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Drew County Quorum Court
tours courthouse, holds first
meeting of year

By: MELISSA ORRELL

A new judge, new sheriff and a new court with a mix of old and new Justices of the Peace met Monday, Jan. 9, in the first Quorum Court meeting of the year in the Drew County Courthouse. Only one member of the court, District 2 Justice of the Peace Ben Higginbotham was absent from the meeting.

Following a tour of the Courthouse, Drew County Judge Jessie Griffin called the first meeting to order with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. A screen and projector were used to display the agenda, followed by the first ordinance on the agenda, allowing the public a view of what the court was discussing. Ordinance 2023-1, which was approved by all members of the court present with little discussion, appointed Cliff Gibson as County Attorney and included an emergency clause to go into effect immediately.

The second item up for discussion was Ordinance 2023-2, an ordinance to establish the rules and procedures for regular and special sessions of the Drew County Quorum Court. Discussion of the ordinance commenced with Griffin explaining how he would run the meetings from now on with the ordinance being introduced, followed by discussions by members of the court, with Griffin also giving time for elected officials to speak if they wished.

Gibson chimed in at this time, pointing

ing the members to Article 14 of the Ordinance. According to Gibson, the rules and procedures outlined in the ordinance are not meant to be cumbersome but are instead designed to ensure meetings and County business will run efficiently and smoothly. Article 14 of the ordinance, which Gibson credited to Griffin, states that at any regular meeting, the court may revise or modify the stated rules, or adopt new rules by a majority vote of the full membership of the Court.

"This provision is a safety valve as I call it," he stated, before reading the article aloud to the Court.

Justice of the Peace Frank Appleberry, District 8, then brought up an issue with only three members of the court appointed to the budget committee, pointing out that in the past, all members of the court were part of the budget committee. Griffin, for his part, stated limiting the committees: budget/finance committee, personnel/policy grievance committee/Office of Emergency Management-911 and solid waste committee, to three members limited the power of the committees by not having enough members in the committees to pass ordinances out of the committee, instead all ordinances and resolutions would have to come before the Quorum Court in a regular or special call meeting. Appleberry stated that when

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it came to County finances, he believed all members should be present and part of the discussions and pointed out that when all members were present they could rely on one another when trying to remember budget details during discussions. Griffin also stated the committees would be able to dig deeper into the budgets and bring issues or discussions to the Court, pointing out in the past, budgets would stay the same year over year with only minor changes being made and while it is functional, it is not streamlined.

“We have to have a budget committee that is actually going to look at every line on that budget and understand, that’s a process,” Griffin said before asking County Treasurer Charlie Searcy for his input.

Searcy stated he would like to have at least a quarterly meeting and that regardless of how many or what Justices were on the committee all members of the court were welcome to attend the budget meetings. He also stated the court may want to have the committee a few members for the quarterly meetings and then have the whole court present for end of the year budget meetings.

“It would be good to start having quarterly budget meetings for the different budgets and see what we can do,” Searcy told the Court.

Pigott then asked clarifying questions to Searcy who told him that he would like to see the committee meet quarterly and pick out budgets to look at and find out where money is being spent and where it isn’t being spent so they end of the year budget meetings would be quicker and the budget would be streamlined. After further discussion, the court then took a vote on having a budget committee with a few members for quarterly meetings and all members being present for end of the year discussions or requiring all members in the budget meeting. Justices of the Peace Steve Pigot, District 5, Shelia Maxwell, District 4, and Zachary Hill, District 9, all voting no to Appleberry’s suggestion of all members making up the committee, while Appleberry; Orlando Jones, District 1; Roger Harris, District 3; Donna Usry, District 6; and Joe Williams, District 7 all voted yes to all members of the Court being on the committee. The five yes votes were a full member majority, making the full court members of the budget committee. During the discussion



Photo by Melissa Orrell

The Drew County Quorum Court met for the first time with new County Judge Jessie Griffin (center) at the courthouse Monday, January 9.

of committees Griffin told the Court the importance of having committee meetings, stating he hadn’t found minutes for any committee meetings from last year if there had been any.

Following the vote, the court passed the ordinance unanimously by all members present.

Obtaining more credit cards for the Courthouse was the next item on the agenda with the court voting to acquire a total of seven cards, one for each elected official and a second card to fall underneath Griffin’s office. In order to maintain a \$2000 limit for each official, the court also approved an increase of credit to \$12,000 from \$5,000. Previously, the officials had two cards, with a total credit line of \$5,000, that was shared by all offices in the courthouse. The Ordinance passed with 9 years and 1 not present.

Searcy then briefed the court on the county finances pointing out that while the bottom line made it appear the County was doing better than last year that was deceiving based on ongoing projects and expenses for the County. He also told the court he would go over the budget and the process for the court.

Following the Treasurer’s report, Appleberry brought up a concern with new Department of Energy regulations that went into effect Jan. 1. The new regulations require all HVAC units installed after Jan. 1, 2023, have a higher energy efficiency rating. The new regulations are affecting the price of new HVAC units, with some media outlets reporting over a 10 percent increase in

the cost of the new equipment being installed. While the Appropriation Ordinance passed in 2022 has a contingency clause, where the court appropriated more money than the quote given to account for surprise costs, Griffin will be meeting with the contractor to see how or if the increases will affect the price on Friday, Jan. 13.

Next on the agenda was personnel, with Griffin requesting four slots for general laborers be opened for the road department and sanitation to share, two employees have already been hired, as well as requesting to change slots reserved for CDL holders to accommodate an employee move from the courthouse to the road department to serve as an assistant road coordinator and an employee at the landfill being moved to more accurately reflect his position. Griffin pointed out that the current road department administration employee has been having to take work home to be completed and an assistant was needed. He also stated he hired an employee for his office. Following this explanation, he admitted to the court that he had placed the employee moved from the courthouse to the road department in one of the CDL slots, as well as needing to increase the Journeyman slot to accommodate the pay the employee is already receiving at the landfill. Now he needed the Court to create slots to pay the

general laborers and assistant road coordinator. Griffin admitted he made a mistake when he placed them in the CDL slots, not realizing the employee in those slots had to hold a CDL. He then asked the court to approve five new slots for the road department, four for general laborers, two who have already been hired, and a fifth slot for the assistant road coordinator. Collector Tonya Loveless then protested the pay of the assistant, stating the employee should not be paid what the executive assistants at the courthouse made. Griffin informed the Court, the employee was being paid what she was being paid at the courthouse. That she was given the option of staying in the courthouse but very graciously stated she would like to help at the road department but would be available for questions and to help the employee hired to assist Griffin in his office. In order to ensure all employees will get paid on time, the Court will meet Tuesday, Jan. 17 to pass an ordinance to create the five slots, to change the names on other slots from CDL to truck driver and to increase the Journeyman pay slot and to appropriate the funds for salaries. The Special meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Griffin then talked to the court about meeting places for the court, explaining that he would like to see each meeting begin

at a different County facility so all Justices could be familiar with the work performed in the County. Appleberry raised concerns about the public who regularly attend the meetings and making sure they were aware of where the court would be meeting. With many members expressing their desire to tour the facilities, it was decided the court would meet before regularly scheduled meetings to tour facilities and then convene at 6 p.m. in the Quorum Court meeting room as usual.

Next was the possible purchase of the OEM-911 building from the City. Griffin stated the City of Monticello was looking to sale the building and that the County should look at purchasing the property to keep the OEM building. Griffin asked the Court for permission to negotiate with the City a price for the building and then will bring the proposal back to the court.

Trash pick-up fees were next up for discussion with Griffin requesting that a late fee be attached to trash bills that are not paid on time. Cheri Adcock, county assessor, both protested the late fees, insisting that if a late fee was attached to the bill, that people who were paying on time would be penalized because many people prefer to pay their bill in a bulk sum at the end of the year. Griffin pointed out one of the problems in the sanitation department was that so many

did wait until the end of the year and the department needed the money to operate before the end of the year.

“If they are paying annually, they should be paying annually forward,” said Searcy, “Not annually behind. There wouldn’t be a late fee for them if they are paying 12 months forward, not 12 months behind. If they are paying 12 months backward, they are late.”

After back-and-forth discussions about whether the late fee should be attached and when, it was decided an ordinance would be brought forth next month that would have the bill sent out quarterly with a late fee attached if the bill isn’t paid by the end of the quarter, for example, the quarterly bill sent out in January would be late if it wasn’t paid before April 1.

Wilmar Mayor Toni Perry was also present at the meeting and requested the money allotted to Wilmar last year by the County stating she never got word on how to submit for the money but that Wilmar had several infrastructure projects that needed to be completed and would like to request the money. Perry stated she would be submitting any of the needed paperwork to the County.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, February 13.

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“Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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OPINION

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Mayor makes first address to citizens

Fellow Citizens,
It is with a great honor that I begin my term as your Mayor. I believe in servant leadership, and I promise each of you, that is the model of leadership I intend to practice.
My first goal upon taking office has been and will be to examine our current policies and practices. My approach is simple- we will retain what works and is efficient and we will either discard what does not work or modify it to adequately address our needs. This is your town, so if you have suggestions on streamlining city government, this is my open invitation to you to share with me your thoughts and ideas.
Working with our city department supervisors, we have begun to examine our organizational structure and are in the process of finalizing modifications that should reduce duplicity of effort and increase our efficiency. Equal distribution of responsibility and supervision among departments means city personnel being held accountable and an easier and quicker route to providing services to our community.
Also, I intend to establish a mission statement for our city which will clearly state our goals in city government. If we cannot state our own mission, we surely cannot fulfill it. We will be clear, concise and because we are Monticello- we WILL succeed in moving forward.
Stay safe and God Bless each of you and yours!
Jason

JASON
AKERS
MAYOR'S REPORT

Priorities for the 118th Congress

A new year gives us an opportunity for a fresh start and to make positive changes to the way we live. No matter what our resolutions are, we can agree on hoping 2023 will be better than the past. It's also the beginning of a new Congress which is another reason to be optimistic because we will have expanded options to hold the Biden administration accountable and advance policies important to Arkansas.
One of the priorities I'm focusing on this year is writing the farm bill. Arkansas is a leader in agricultural production and as ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I'm proud to be a voice for the industry and support the needs of our state's producers in this legislation. The farm bill is critical to providing our farmers, ranchers and producers with certainty and predictability so they can continue as leaders in feeding and clothing the world.
The farm bill isn't just a safety net for agriculture, it's also a safety net for rural America. Nutrition programs, conservation initiatives and rural development measures are also shaped by the farm bill. The committee will be working to examine these programs and ensure the necessary resources are available to meet their unique needs.
As we craft policies to strengthen rural America, we're in a better position this Congress to provide oversight of the Biden administration's harmful actions toward families who call these communities home.
Just days ago, the Biden administration demonstrated how out-of-touch it is with rural America with the release of a new Waters of the U.S. rule. This rolls back a commonsense approach by the Trump administration to balance protecting our nation's waters and the rights of landowners. We can all agree we need clean water, but this rule is more about expanding the authority of unelected federal bureaucrats than safeguarding our water. We've successfully fought the overreach of a similar policy by the Obama administration and I will be just as relentless in pursuing a reversal of this regulation.
Fortunately, with a Republican majority in the House of Representatives, we will have in-

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Watch your toes, I'm dropping a truth bomb

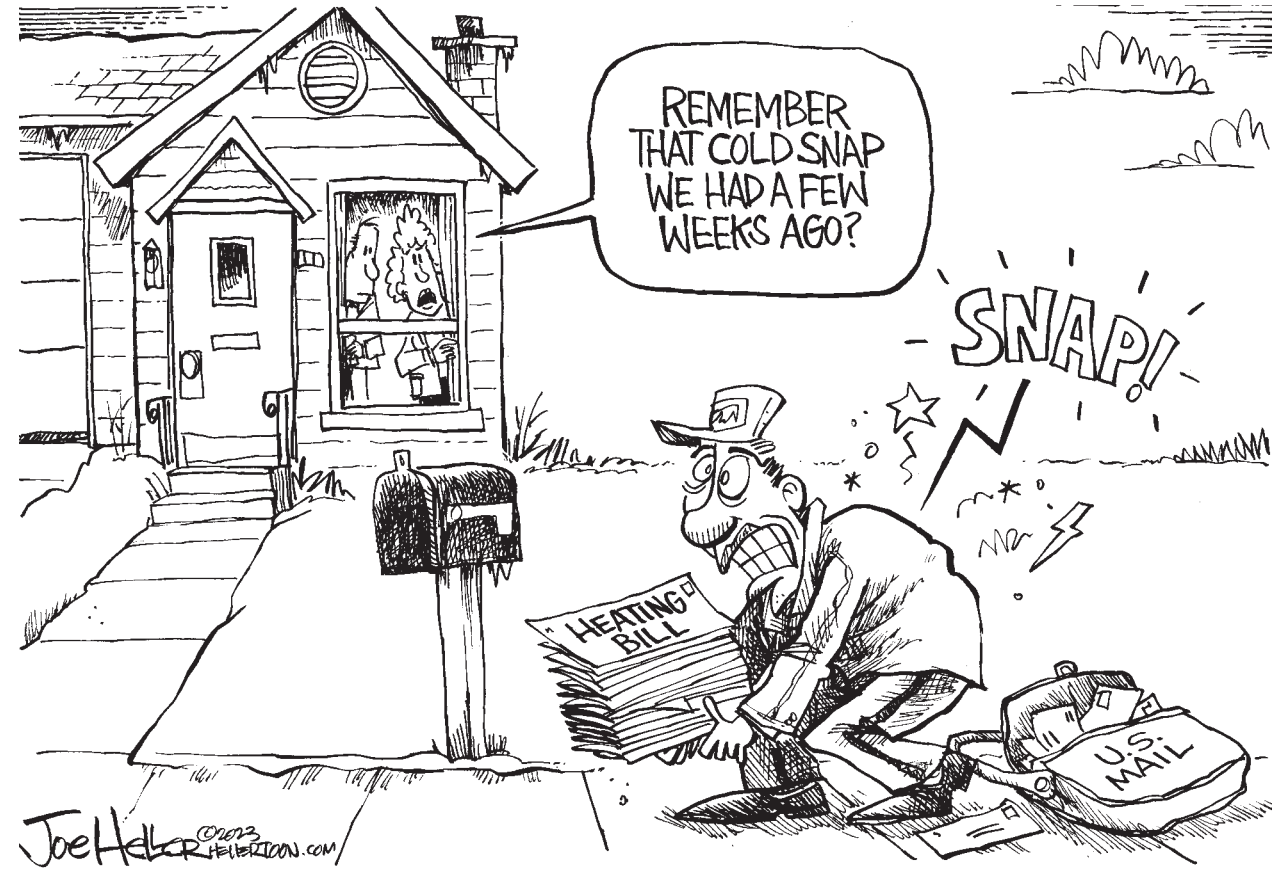
Our area has several newly elected officials in various offices.
Monticello has a new Mayor and Drew County has a new Sheriff, County Judge and County Clerk.
It's no secret that in some previous administrations, the City and the County have not always worked together like they should have for the benefit of the citizens.
There have been some cases of cohesive partnerships in recent memory, and a lot of the time, the collaborative moments like that go unseen by the masses. Just like anything else, the negativity sells and makes for juicy conversation around the water cooler.
It is my sincerest hope that with these new officers, Monticello and Drew County can find common ground in all situations and be proactive for the people.
In my job, I follow county and city happenings as closely as I can so that I can accurately report to the people what is happening. I also follow a lot of statewide news because, if I'm being truly honest, I like to remember that where we live is by far not the worst place in Arkansas.
I was given the "County Lines" magazine last



ASHLEY
HOGG
EDITOR

week and I was admittedly skimming through it when a headline stood out to me, "Being a leader is not about you".
This of course caught my attention and I sat down to read the article by Eddie A. Jones, a county consultant in the Natural State.
Jones talks about how people who are actually great leaders, care about the people and the issues. He charges the newly elected officials across the state to be quality leaders and to help those around them become successful.
He goes a little deeper into the weeds to talk about how government has become so divisive in recent years and everyone gets a radical label. With this being the case, little advance is made due to unwillingness to compromise from all sides.
We are all guilty of surrounding ourselves with people who believe like we do and we tend to miss anything that doesn't align with our personal way of thinking.
"It takes self awareness to recognize your bias, and then discipline to actively look for ways to work together," Jones states in his County Lines article.
I believe this is where we all fail. I am so guilty of pushing things away that don't align with what I believe. I call myself doing this because I don't want to argue and I know full well that arguing and

talking at someone will never change their opinion.
While I thought my intentions in not engaging were coming from a genuinely good place, I am realizing that removing myself from the conversation is not the answer.
"I remember the day when alignment was possible because elected officials sought to understand different points of view and then partner together to find the best solutions. I don't know a single person who is smart enough to know it all or solve all problems with only their ideas," Jones added.
Wow! What a smack in the face. I have enough confidence in my body for a group of people and there have been times in my life that it has served me well and other times where, it has made me eat crow.
How could we possibly think as individuals that we have the intellect to solve every problem on our own?
We have to start listening to the other side. We don't have to agree with the ideology totally, but how do we expect to grow if all we do is talk and don't ever listen.
I have a lot of thinking and growing to do. I challenge you to listen more this upcoming year. Don't lose your voice, just give everyone a chance to speak.



Nichols shows enthusiasm for office

Ladies and Gentlemen of Drew County, Happy New Year! I, Sheriff Tim Nichols, am beyond excited about this opportunity you have given me to serve as your Drew County Sheriff. December 6 was great but January 1, 2023 was absolutely amazing and I am so thankful.
This was the day I was sworn in by my friend Honorable Judge Robert Gibson. It was also the day that I was able to place my hand on his fathers Bible that was given to him in 1958 in which my father Sheriff Ronald Nichols was holding while I took that said Oath of Office. My wife and children were also present along with other loved ones. To say it wasn't humbling would be a lie and to hear the cheers



TIM
NICHOLS
SHERIFF'S REPORT

and claps afterwards were great as well.
But enough of that, let's get down to business. During the first week of Office we handled a lot of business in reference to the transition of Office. On January 3 I officially hired Chief Deputy Jerome Perez and Jail Administrator Courtney Hale. We were also able to get the jail up to a full staff in which has not been done in a couple of years. We have since done tours / inspection of the jail and are addressing some major issues such as plumbing, food service and training. Orders for uniforms for the Patrol Division of the Sheriff's Office have been placed and we will be transitioning into them in the near future eliminating the western attire. We have been able to secure two vehicles to be placed on patrol and are currently awaiting the outfitting of the units.
As the second week has started we have been visiting the schools (Monticello and Drew Central) working on

building a relationship with the youth and the staff. Our staff have also attended community events and Basketball Games. We will be working throughout the day and night to help curve the crimes being committed within Drew County. Violent crimes amongst our youth are a huge priority and we will work each day to help protect them. As we continue into this adventure I just ask that you be patient as we are still transitioning and ironing out some issues in hopes to better serve you and your families.
We have a long way to go but I am certain that if we chip away at it one day at a time we will make the positive progress needed. Please never hesitate to contact us at the Drew County Sheriff's Office.
God Bless,
Sheriff Tim Nichols

2023 Legislative session happening now

School choice, prison expansion and tax cuts are expected to be the highlights of the 2023 regular legislative session that convenes on Monday, January 9.
Also on the agenda will be legislation to improve the reading skills of elementary school students. Legislators will consider plans to better prepare workers with the job skills most in demand by Arkansas manufacturers. Industry spokesmen have said that companies would like to locate in Arkansas if they



BEN
GILMORE
ARKANSAS
SENATE REPORT

can hire enough skilled workers.
Legislators say that Arkansas would be more competitive with neighboring states if individual and corporate income tax rates were lowered further. In the past eight years the legislature has approved reductions in state income taxes that now save Arkansas taxpayers about \$750 million a year.
The top rate for individual income taxes has gone down from seven percent to 4.9 percent and the top rate for corporate income taxes has gone down from 6.5 percent to 5.3 percent.
The state's strong fiscal position has prompted debate about tax cuts, prison expansion and higher teacher salaries.
Even with the recent tax reductions,

the state will end the current fiscal year with an estimated surplus of almost \$600 million, and the governor's proposed balanced budget for next fiscal year projects another surplus of \$255 million. Also, the state has about \$2.7 billion in various reserve funds.
The Senate and House Committees on Education have recommended raising teacher pay by \$4,000 a year. The two bodies differ on how quickly to implement the higher salaries.
Proposals to expand prisons have not been finalized. Some call for building space for 1,000 inmates and other legislators prefer a more aggressive building plan.

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Legislature now in session

The 94th General Assembly will convene at noon on Monday, January 9.
The House will have 26 new members taking the oath of office and 74 returning members. The longest-serving members will be serving their 7th term in the House.
This body will range in age from 27 to 81. There will be 26 women serving in the House.
Occupations of members



JEFF
WARDLAW
ARKANSAS
HOUSE REPORT

vary widely. There will be 9 farmers, 9 attorneys, and 10 members who are either currently teaching or are former educators.
The House will have 11 members who work in either real estate or property management. In addition, there will be 4 medical professionals, 6 business owners, and 2 pastors. Other professions of members include engineering, contracting, communications, and information technology.
The partisan composition of the House will be 82 Republicans and 18 Democrats.
The one thing every member has in common is the number of Arkansans they represent. Each House member represents approximately 30,000 Arkansans. Due to redistricting, every district has a new number this year. Changes in boundaries could also mean you have a different representative this year. You can find your representative and his or her contact information by using the "Find My Rep" tool at arkansashouse.org.
On Tuesday at 10:30 am, 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 an address.
On Wednesday, committees will begin meeting. More than 80 bills have been pre-filed in the House so far.
As the session progresses, we will continue to update you on the legislation moving forward. The House streams all committee meetings and House floor proceedings at arkansashouse.org.

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Are you ready to ‘unretire’?

Have you recently retired but are now thinking of going back to work? If so, you aren’t alone, as many people are choosing to “unretire.” But if you do reenter the workforce in some capacity, what opportunities might be available to you? And how will your renewed employment affect your financial outlook?

For starters, though, what reasons might motivate you to go back to work? For many people, the primary cause has been inflation, which has presented a huge challenge to retirees living on a fixed income. In addition, the volatile financial market of 2022 caused many people’s investment portfolios to decline in value — a real problem for retirees who needed to start selling investments to supplement their income.

But non-financial factors could also be driving you to unretire. Like other retirees, you may miss the chance to use your work experience to engage with the world, and you may miss the social interactions as well.

In any case, if you do decide to rejoin the working world in some fashion, you may have several options. For example, if you enjoyed the work you did for your former employer, you might want to see if you could go back on a part-time basis. Or you could use your skills to join the “gig” economy by doing some consulting or freelance work

in your former industry. You might also consider going to work for a nonprofit organization, as many of these groups lost employees during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing labor shortages.

Going back to work, even part time, can improve your cash flow, which helps cover the cost of regular expenses. Furthermore, the added income can possibly help you delay or reduce withdrawals from your investment accounts. And it’s important to increase the longevity of these accounts considering you may spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. (Once you turn 72, however, you will have to start withdrawing certain amounts from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.) But your earnings can affect another source of your retirement income — your Social Security benefits.

If you return to work before your “full” retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67, the Social Security earnings limit in 2023 is \$21,240. For each \$2 earned over that amount, Social Security will deduct \$1 from benefits. If you reach your full retirement age in 2023, the earnings limit is \$56,520; Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for each \$3 earned over this amount until the month you turn your full retirement age. But in

all future years after you’ve reached your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you want without losing any benefits. Social Security will then recalculate your payments to give you credit for the months your benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. Be aware, though, that your earned income can potentially result in higher taxes on your Social Security benefits at any age.

Returning to work can be rewarding, both financially and emotionally. And you may get more out of the experience when you’re aware of the issues involved.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Lee Busby, AAMSTTM
611 West Bolling
Monticello, AR 71655
Phone: (870) 367-5347

BOOZMAN

Continued from Page 4A

administration. We’ll be working together to fight bad policies like this so Arkansas’s agriculture producers can use their land and grow their crops without unwarranted interference from Washington.

More oversight will also be needed when it comes to the chaos at the southern border. President Biden announced he will make his first ever vis-

it there and he should expect to see the consequences of the ongoing national security and humanitarian crisis he created by dismantling our nation’s immigration enforcement policies since day one of his presidency.

In the last two years there have been more than 4.3 million illegal border crossings and record-high seizures of fentanyl at the border. This is a problem the Biden administration has largely ignored while Senate Republicans have offered numerous legislative initiatives to secure the border.

We’ll be working to encourage the administration to abandon its open border policies, uphold immigration laws, end incentives encouraging illegal immigration and finish building the wall.

As we begin a new Congress, I appreciate the support of Arkansans who have entrusted me to be their voice in the U.S. Senate for another term. I look forward to serving Natural State residents by advancing policies to better our communities, state and nation.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

ers would relieve pressure on county jails, which at times can house up to 2,000 state inmates because there are no available beds in state prison units. County sheriffs have told the legislature that violent offenders in county jails are a danger to staff and to people in jail on minor offenses.

Truth in sentencing is another public safety issue that will likely come before the Senate and House Judiciary Committees.

Now, when a jury sentences a convicted offender, that person can accumulate good time and be released on parole before the end of his sentence. Inmates out on parole have committed serious offenses, including murder. That has generated public support for longer sentences and

stricter parole policies.

School choice can take several forms, such as more charter schools or more flexible policies that provide parents more options to home school their children. Legislation is expected that would create tax saving accounts for parents to help pay to send their children to a private or parochial school.

The pandemic affected students across the nation, and in

Arkansas the impact has shown up in standardized test scores. However, legislators were beefing up literacy programs in elementary schools even before the pandemic. Expect a renewed effort to improve young children’s reading skills.

Lawmakers will be in session for at least 60 days, as mandated by the state Constitution, but more than likely it will last for about 90 days.

UAM lambing season arrives like a storm

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

The UAM sheep fields are experiencing what Associate Professor of Animal Science and Veterinarian Dr. Rocky Lindsey calls a “Lambing Storm.” “Seems like whenever one drops they all start dropping day after day. We’ve had two born overnight, that’s been the case. One or two have been born each day



Photo courtesy of UAM

See LAMBS Page 6A

HISTORY MINUTE

Old buildings can be beauties

By: KENNETH BRIDGES

People will often drive past or walk by an old building in their city without giving it a second thought. For some, an old building is such a constant fixture that they forget about the events that took place inside it or stop noticing the beauty and originality of the design. And for still others, an old building is an impediment to progress. For Parker Westbrook, the past was worth treasuring and preserving. Because of the work of Westbrook, many communities across Arkansas have rescued many historic buildings from the ravages of time and neglect and restored them to their original glory.

Westbrook was born in Nashville in Howard County in 1926. As a young man in the late 1940s, he went to work in Washington, DC, as an aide to U. S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. Caught up in the rich history of the nation’s capital and northern Virginia, he developed a deep love for the past. He developed an interest in preserving and restoring historical buildings.

In 1975, after Fulbright’s defeat, he returned to the state as an aide to Gov. David Pryor. He was named to the new State Review Board for Historic Preservation that year, where he would serve for the next 40 years. He would go on to serve on such state boards as the Main Street Arkansas Advisory Board, the

Arkansas Museum Commission, the Arkansas State Capitol Association, and the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

For Westbrook, an achievement in architecture was not an impediment to progress. Historic buildings across the state were in disrepair or unique designs torn down to make way for faceless and bland modern designs. In the process, many communities and neighborhoods steadily lost their identity and connections to history. He worked with state officials and preservationists in communities across Arkansas to educate others about how old buildings could be repurposed for entirely modern needs.

Westbrook also volunteered for the Pioneer Washington Foundation, helping to restore the buildings in the historic Hempstead County community that had once served as a way station for pioneers heading west and briefly as the capital of Confederate Arkansas.

In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton tapped his expertise and named him as chairman of the National Parks Service Committee on National Historic Landmarks and as an advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Through these positions, Westbrook was able to spread his message of the importance of preservation across the country and help communities find new resources to pre-

serve old landmarks and historic buildings.

One of his more curious legacies was in 2007 when he approached State Rep. Steve Harrelson of Texarkana about the proper, official spelling of the possessive form of Arkansas. Since the word “Arkansas” is singular, Westbrook reasoned, the proper possessive form must end with an apostrophe and the letter “s,” thus appearing as “Arkansas’s.” Harrelson sponsored the resolution, which was eventually passed and signed into law by Gov. Mike Beebe.

Still not content with Arkansas’s official position on spelling, Westbrook continued to encourage communities and organizations to preserve Arkansas’s historic buildings. With his help, Arkansas also established a tax credit system to help pay the cost of rehabilitation and repair of historic buildings.

Today, preservation tourism is a multi-billion dollar industry nationwide. Thousands of Americans trek across the country to connect with America’s past. Many communities in Arkansas emphasize their own historic sites and architecture to attract tourists, El Dorado, Camden, Washington, and Little Rock, to name but a few.

Westbrook died in 2015 at the age of 89, praised for his achievements in helping Arkansans remember their heritage.

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Marshall-Klein to wed April 14

Cary and Debra Marshall of Monticello, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Allison Farris Marshall, of Wentzville, Mo., to Scott Tray Klein, also of Wentzville, Mo.

Allison is the granddaughter of Mrs. Bobbie Farris and the late Grady Farris of Ruston, La. and the late Jim and Marlene Marshall of Camden.

Scott is the son of Kenneth Klein and the late Belinda Klein of Northfield, Ohio, Bonnie Greco of Macedonia, Ohio, and Joe and Judy Morozek of Conneaut Lake, Pa.

Allison is a graduate of Monticello High School and the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Scott is a graduate of Nordonia High School in Northfield, Ohio and Eastern New Mexico University.

Allison and Scott are also graduates of Logan University in Chesterfield, Mo. and are Chiropractors in Wentzville, Mo.

The invitation only ceremony will be Friday, April 14, at Silver Oaks Chateau in Pacific, Mo.

LOCAL ROTARY CLUB STARTS 2023 WITH FIRE DEPT. TOUR



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Monticello Rotary Club began their January programs with a guided tour of the Monticello Fire Station. Fire Chief Eric Chisom and Fire Marshal Dale Jones, graciously led the club through the facilities and explained the amount of area the department covers. Rotary meets every Thursday at noon for a meal and local program. For more information about the club, contact President Brandon Hogg at Brandon.hogg@unionbnk.com.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1A

Emmys. As a testament to his legacy, Rogers received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 and was recognized in 2002 with a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his contributions to children's development and education using broadcast television.

The Fred Rogers Company was founded by Rogers in 1971 as the nonprofit producer of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" for PBS. In the years that followed, it not only created hundreds of episodes, but it also extended Rogers' values and approach to other efforts

in promoting children's social, emotional and behavioral health and supporting parents, caregivers, teachers and other professionals in their work with children. The Fred Rogers Company continues to build on his legacy through a wide variety of media and by engaging new generations of children and families with his timeless wisdom. Additional information is available at FredRogers.org.

About Southeast Arkansas Regional Library – Monticello Branch

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library is committed to providing diverse services and programs to its communities in order to promote inspiration, information and recreation as well as lifelong learning through

the provision of free access to cultural, intellectual, and informational resources

About Arkansas PBS

Arkansas PBS, Arkansas's only statewide public media network, empowers learners of all ages by educating, informing, entertaining and inspiring communities. Arkansas PBS serves as a daily and essential

LAMBS

Continued from Page 5A

for the last week or so, "said Lindsey. He said that the lamb births will continue for another couple of weeks until they are done.

This is the second lambing season for the sheep and goat program at UAM. The hairless sheep were introduced to the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources in 2021 as part of expanding the Animal Sciences program. The breed of domestic sheep is called the Katahdin, which is disease resistant. They are known for their meat and do not need shearing.

Lindsey said, "there are a number of first-year ewes having single lambs, which is what you want" He added, "we also have a number of second-year

ewes having twins. One of the ewes surprised everyone on New Year's Eve when she had triplets.

Twins Preferred

Lindsey says twins are preferred. "You get more bang for your buck; the ewes have plenty of milk and the lambs grow well." He said the triplets can be a problem because the mothers will often reject one or both of the other babies, which was the case of the UAM triplets.

Lindsey said the mama sheep allowed one lamb to nurse and was head-butting and pushing away the other two, so the mother and lambs were caught in placed in a pen to stay together overnight. Lindsey said, "she accepted one of the two abandoned lambs. So as of now she has accepted two of the lambs. The third lamb is being bottle-fed"

Dr. Nelson monitoring lambing operation

Animal Science Assistant Professor and veterinarian Dr. Maribel Nelson has volunteered to monitor this year's lambing season and has been checking on the sheep herd three times per day and feeding them. It was Nelson who discovered that the mother sheep was rejecting her lambs.

Nelson is making a concentrated effort to interact with the sheep so that she can bond and understand their behaviors. In the long-term Nelson would like UAM to try some new reproductive methods like artificial insemination. Collaborations with other professionals and companies are underway to help move that part of the sheep program forward.

Cooperative Extension Service agents provide professional development training for thousands of Arkansas childcare professionals

By: REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

In Arkansas, childcare providers are required to complete a minimum of 15 hours of professional development annually. Family and Consumer Sciences Agents with the Cooperative Extension Service, part of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, helped meet this need by conducting professional development training online and in person for thousands of childcare providers in 2022.

Rebecca Simon, Early Childhood and Family Life instructor for the Division of Agriculture, said the training are an important resource for childcare providers and families because they connect "trusted research to the adoption of best practices in early childhood and personal development."

Extension offers several modes of training for educators, both in-person and online, for its Best Care, Best Care Connected, and Guiding Children Successfully programs. Extension also offers Best Care Out-of-School-Time, an online training geared towards providers who work with school-age chil-

dren in afterschool, summer, camp and other out-of-school time programs. Simon said about 5,800 individuals were enrolled across all the Early Childhood Professional Development training in 2022.

Simon said that from January through August 2022, Family and Consumer Sciences agents provided in-person Best Care training for more than 1,900 participants in 32 locations statewide. More than 2,900 professionals completed their training online. Simon said FCS agents are the "main reason why Best Care is a success."

"Agents teach and personalize the content through hands-on activities, discussions and anecdotal stories," Simon said. "The agents are able to build relationships with the childcare educators and establish themselves as the go-to person for training needs in each county throughout the state."

Simon said the success of these programs has led to agents being asked to provide additional training in other FCS program areas, including nutrition, health and consumer economics.

Past participants in extension's early childhood profes-

sional development training have commented that the programs are "well put together and very useful for any childcare provider in Arkansas" and provide "practical teaching that can be applied to everyday living."

"Having training available in-person in remote locations is very helpful," one participant shared. "The agents are knowledgeable and friendly. I also like learning about other extension programming and ways to educate myself and the parents I work with."

All childcare training programs are offered free of charge by the Cooperative Extension Service in partnership with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and the Professional Development Registry.

Anyone interested in Best Care training should contact their local Family and Consumer Science agent at uaex.uada.edu/counties/ for information about upcoming training offered in their area. More information about Early Childhood Professional Development opportunities in Arkansas can also be found at uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/child-care-providers/.

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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Notice of Availability

To all landowners within the boundaries of the Drew County Conservation District, notice is hereby given that petitions for securing a ballot position for the election of conservation district directors are available at the Drew County Conservation District located at 419 West Gaines St., Monticello, Ar 71655, phone: 870-224-7296, email DrewCountyConservationDistrict@gmail.com.

***Submit a nominating petition by: February 1, 2023.**

or by writing to:

Natural Resources Division
Attn: Elections
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To be eligible for election, you must be an owner of land within the district and registered to vote under the election laws of Arkansas.

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OBITUARIES

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

Decabrin Jamare Binns

Decabrin Jamare Binns, 17, of Monticello, went to his heavenly home January 3, 2023, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello. He was born April 9, 2005, to Cecily Binns and Harvey Lawson in Monticello. Decabrin was deeply loved by all his family and friends. He was to be a father any day to a little boy.



BINNS

He is survived by his mother, Cecily Binns; dad, Harvey Lawson, Sr.; two brothers, Zayden Morgan and Harvey Lawson, Jr.; two sisters, Kencily Lawson and K'Cey Lawson; two grandmothers, Pearlene Binns and Rose Mary Childs; three uncles, Ced Binns, Xavier Binns, and Quincy Binns; eight aunts, Jamonica Brown, Vanessa Binns, Avah Johnson, Markea Johnson, Lasheta Bonner, Shay Henderson, Felisha Johnson, and Kalebha Binns; cousins, MaKyla Folk and Shakyra Binns; as well as a host of cousins, friends, and family.

(Paid obituary)

Janette Hignight Feeser

Janette Hignight Feeser, 69, of Hot Springs, passed away Saturday, December 29, 2022, at St. Vincent Hospital in Hot Springs.

She was born March 26, 1953, in Hot Springs, to the late Claude Wynia and Doris Trout Erwin.



FEESER

She was retired and was a member of Lacey United Methodist Church. Janette loved attending worship services and loved the outdoors, camping, fishing, gardening and going to yard sales.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a brother, B.J. Wynia.

She is survived by her children, Jeremy Hignight of Sheridan and a daughter, Robin Wright of Jacksonville, Fla.; and her two grandsons, Austin Wright and Logan Hignight.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date. You can sign Mrs. Janette's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Ray and Shirley Morrison

Shirley, then Ray Morrison passed from this world on Wednesday, January 4 at their home in Rison, a place they loved.

Shirley was born on March 15, 1934 in Pine Bluff, to Elva and Van Sadler. She was preceded in death by her parents and older brother, J.L. Sadler II.

Ray was born in Rison, on June 1, 1933 to Mildred and Angus Morrison, who preceded him in death.

They both graduated from Rison High School, where Ray was a member of the 1950 State Championship Football Team. They then both attended Henderson State College. After marriage, they were stationed in

Georgia and California as Ray fulfilled his Army obligations. They returned to Rison in 1957 to build their lives together. Ray was head football coach of Rison High and then went on to sell Life Insurance. He served as a board member for C&L for many years. Ray and Shirley were members of Rison Methodist Church, where Ray also served on various committees.



MORRISON



VETERAN

They are survived by Ray's sisters, Kay Reed and Angie Day; sons Scott (Paige) Morrison of Rison and Dr. Steve (Debbie) Morrison of Monticello; grandchildren, Dr. Kathryn Morrison (Doug) Rinehart of Bentonville, Dr. Sadler Morrison of Springfield, Mo., and Jaelle Morrison of Mansfield, Texas; and great-grandchildren, Van Sadler and Grace Elizabeth Rinehart of Bentonville.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 7, 2023 at Greenwood Cemetery in Rison with Bro. Scott Grubb and Bro. Wade Toddy officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Rison State Champions Endowment c/o Arkansas Community Foundation 5 Allied Drive Suite 51110, Little Rock, AR 72202.

Arrangements by Buie Funeral Home of Rison (870) 325-6216. Please sign the online guestbook at www.buiefuneralhome.com.

(Paid obituary)

Janie West Nicholson

Janie West Nicholson, 67, of Monticello, went to be with her Lord and Savior Saturday, January 7, 2023, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello. She was born July 7, 1955, in Pine Bluff, to the late Carl West and Mildred Beard West.

She was a homemaker and an active member of Ark of Faith Church. Janie loved her family and friends very much along with cooking for crowds, reading, writing poetry and crafting. She was a small woman with a huge faith and showed the love of Jesus to all she met. Janie was a graduate of Warren High School.



NICHOLSON

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by two brothers, Don and Larry; four sisters, Betty, Carline, Rece and Faye; two daughters, Rikki Jo and Vikki Lynn; and a nephew, Martin.

Janie married the love of her life, Wayne Nicholson on July 8, 1977. She is survived by her husband; three sons, Brandon (Jenn), Travis (Sara) and Michael (Suzey); one daughter, Rachel (Allen); one brother, Robert; one sister, Laura (Mark); two granddaughters, Jayden and Allie; two grandsons, Drake and Oliver; a host of much loved nieces and nephews; and a collection of adored bonus children and grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, January

14, 2023, at Ark of Faith Church with Rev. Bruce Hackett officiating. You can sign Janie's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Donald Ray Pharr, Sr.

Donald Ray Pharr, Sr., 71, of Monticello, passed away Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at his home. He was born June 19, 1951, in Monticello, to the late Willie Dayton Pharr and Maycel Ruth Peacock Pharr.



PHARR



VETERAN

He was a carpenter, member of the National Guard for six years and a member of the Florence Assembly of God Church.

In his free time, he enjoyed hunting and fishing. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his twin brother, Ronald Jay Pharr.

He is survived by a son, Don Pharr, Jr. (Jennifer) of Monticello; a daughter, Lisa Pharr Kauffholtz of Benton; two brothers, Eugene Pharr and David Pharr; one sister, Gail Lenderman all of Monticello; grandchildren, Courtland Daniel (Hayden Daniel) of Benton; and three grandsons, Dalton, Daxton and Draydon Pharr all of Monticello; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Friday, January 6, 2023, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. Jason Cater officiating. Burial was in Mt. Tabor Cemetery. There was a visitation an hour preceding the funeral service from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home. You can sign Donald's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Frank Roach

Our dearly loved Frank Roach, 51, passed away on December 29, 2022.

He is survived by his daughter, Brooklyn, and her mother,



ROACH

Cadyn Spruell of Nashville; his father, Johnny Roach of Monticello, his brothers, Howe (Brandi) Roach of Fayetteville, and John (Paula) Roach of Bixby, Okla.; his sister Cindy (Brian) Campion of Dallas; his nieces and nephews Griffin, Anna and Samantha Roach, Lofton, Keller, Lola and Mase Roach as well as Riley, Emerson and Wyatt Campion. He was preceded in death by his mother, Kaye Roach.

Frank attended First Baptist Church in Monticello. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1989 where he excelled in football and power lifting. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1993 where he was part of the Rho Sigma Red Shirts organization. He was a walk-on member of the OBU Tigers Football Team where he earned a scholarship, earned all-conference honors and elected as team captain. After OBU, he graduated from the University of Ten-

nessee Dental School in 1998. Frank then practiced dentistry in Atlanta, for over 20 years.

Frank was smart, passionate, kindhearted, generous and a loyal friend. Frank worked hard to be the best football player he could be. He was a gifted dentist and was driven to do things with excellency. Frank was generous and willing to help anyone. If you needed anything, Frank was there. Frank loved to make everyone in the room laugh. He was always up for an adventure and loved flying high in his plane. If you met or knew Frank, you will always remember him.

We would have loved more time with Frank, but we are forever grateful for the blessing his life was to those that loved him.

The family hosted a visitation on Friday, January 6 at First Baptist Church of Monticello, from 6-8 p.m. A celebration service was held on Saturday, January 7 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to contribute to a trust fund for Frank's daughter, Brooklyn, you can make payments to Union Bank & Trust Co. "John Roach. You can sign Frank's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Anthony Laurel Thomas

Anthony Laurel Thomas "aka" Tony to family, and "Tone Loc" to friends, was born on May 29, 1961, to Gladys Mae Oliver Thomas and John Henry Thomas as in Detroit.



THOMAS



VETERAN

Tony grew up in Detroit and Toledo, Ohio. Anthony Thomas and his other siblings moved to Monticello, where he finished high school. After high school, he attended Job Corp where he met and married Elain, and to this union, he had two daughters, Brandy and Ebony Thomas.

Tony later went on and entered the U.S. Army where he completed four years of service. After his service, he returned to Monticello where he made his home. Tony held various jobs in Monticello and other small towns as well. To know Tony was to love him, he never met a stranger. Tony was there to help any and everybody. He was always smiling, laughing, and joking with everyone he came in contact with. He loved and cared deeply about his family. He was always "Uncle Tony" to everybody and he will be loved and missed.

He departed from his earthly home on December 31, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter, Ebony Thomas. He leaves to cherish his memories, one daughter, Brandy Thomas; two brothers, Craig Thomas and Frank Powell; three grandsons, Andrez, Christopher, and Shawn of Florida; his siblings, Marion Thomas, Charles Thomas (Andrea), Robert Thomas, and Carnell Thomas, all of Monticello; a special friend, Aretha Tate of Monticello.

lo; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Visitation was Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel. Funeral services were Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel.

Please sign Mr. Thomas' guestbook at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Jack W. White

Jack W. White, 81, of Warsaw, Mo., passed away Saturday, December 31, 2022 at the Truman Lake Manor in Lowry City, Mo. He was born on June 1, 1941 in Eudora, the son of SE and Johnnie White. Jack grew up in Eudora and began work in the cotton fields with his father.

Jack served in the United States Army from 1959-1962. He was stationed in Fort Sam Hood, Texas and was deployed to Korea during his service.

On January 1, 1965, Jack was united in marriage to Earlene Dority. They made their home in Climax Springs, Mo. until 1970 when they moved to Warsaw.

Jack was a member of Disabled American Veterans-Kansas City and was State Commander in 2000 and 2001. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Warsaw and enjoyed his cattle and ranch in Benton County for many years.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Chuck White; and a sister, Carolyn Russell.

Jack is survived by his wife, Earlene White, of the home; three children: Jack White, Jr. (Shannon), of Kearney, Mo.; Jennifer Hall (Eric), of Austin, Texas; and Jonna Daleske (Jeff), of Warsaw, Mo.; three grandchildren: Cheyenne White, Chase White and Emma Callahan. As well as two sisters: Betty Dority, of Warsaw, and Shirley Berryman (Bob), of Monticello; a brother, AC White (Sarah), of Heber Springs, and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services for Jack W. White were held at 11 a.m. Friday, January 6, 2023 at the First Baptist Church in Warsaw, Mo. with Pastor Barry Edwards officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the funeral from 10-11a.m. Graveside Services and Interment were held at 10 a.m. Monday, January 9, 2023 at the Oakland Cemetery in Monticello.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans c/o the Reser Funeral Home P.O. Box 910 Warsaw, Mo. 65355. You can sign Jack's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Dennis Adrian Willis

Dennis Adrian Willis, 74, of Lacey, passed away peacefully Friday, January 6, 2023, at his home in Lacey surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. He was born August 5, 1948, in Monticello, to the late Paul Adrian Willis and Willie Mae White Willis.

Dennis moved, along with his family, to Greenville, Miss. in 1959. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1966



WILLIS

and from Delta State University in 1970 with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education.

He taught music in the Pace and Gunnison, Mississippi Public Schools for two years; then at O'Bannon School System in Greenville for one year. In 1973, he went to work for Sears and was there for 37 years before retiring in 2010.

He is survived by his sister, Cassandra Strong of Lacey; his niece, Angela Neese (Mike) of Carrollton, Miss.; his nephew, Michael Long (Alison) of Lake Village; along with three great nephews, three great nieces, four great great nephews, and three great great nieces, all who loved him dearly.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. Andy Connard officiating. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery. There will be a visitation one hour preceding the funeral service from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home. You can sign Dennis' guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com.

(Paid obituary)

Sharon Ann Jones Henderson

Sharon Ann Jones Henderson, 74, of Wilmar, died December 31, 2022. Born June 23, 1948, a daughter of Otto and Velma Jones.

Survivors include siblings Joe Jones (Angela), Ottis Jones (Brenda), Bobbie Webb, Georgia Hammock, Eunice Shorter and sister-in-law Elmarie Jones.

Funeral services were January 8 at Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Wilmar. Burial in Turner Hill Cemetery, Wilmar. Arrangements: Hammons Funeral Home.

Mattie Orr

Mattie Orr, 93, of Wilmar, died December 28, 2022. Born January 13, 1929, a daughter of Joe and Hattie Wimbley.

Survivor include daughters, Peggy Orr, and Angela Jones (Joe); 9 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services were January 7, Greater Shady Grove AME Church, Wilmar. Burial in Wilmar Cemetery. Arrangements: Hammons Funeral Home.

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MLK DAY CLOSINGS AND TRASH SCHEDULE

Drew County Courthouse, Road Dept., Landfill and Solid Waste will be **CLOSED** Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Monday, Jan. 16th trash will be picked up on Tuesday, Jan. 17th. The rest of the week's trash schedule will run on its regular scheduled day.

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Includes four insertions in the Shoppers' Guide
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FREE CLASSIFIEDS: To individuals for all ads with items priced at \$50 and under. All free ads must be for a single item, and be of a noncommercial nature. Lost and Found ads and Give away ads will also qualify as free ads. All other classified ads will be charged at the rates listed above. Free ads will run for two weeks.

PAID CLASSIFIEDS: Any ads of a commercial nature will be charged at the rates listed above. Classifieds to individuals must be pre-paid – you may use a credit or debit card or stop by our office at 314 N. Main St. For Rent, Hay for Sale, etc. are classified as **BUSINESS ADS**.

ADJUSTMENTS AND CREDITS: Check your ad for errors the first day. In the event an ad is accidentally omitted from publication or contains printer's error, the publisher's liability for such omission or error shall not exceed the charge made by the publisher for the ad which is omitted or which contains an error. Notice of the typographic or other errors must be given before the second insertion. No refunds on items sold before the last run date of the ad. No refunds are available with the \$20 classified special.

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SUBMIT YOUR AD ONLINE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT **WWW.ADVANCEMONTICELLONIAN.COM**.

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

RUMMAGE SALE RATES

Rummage Sale ads are now

FREE to individuals!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Hope Place

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

Fight Hunger

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

Historical Preservation Funds Needed For Enon School

Funds are needed for the maintenance of Enon's 2-room schoolhouse located at 2474 Highway 35E outside of Monticello. Any donation amount will be greatly appreciated to keep the legacy alive and well. For more information on how to help preserve Enon's schoolhouse or to make a donation contact, Laura Whitaker, 870-460-5690. TFN

CASA of the 10th Judicial District

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

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

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED – TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE: 1. DIGITAL EVIDENCE CLERK: Duties include electronically sort, organize, maintain and copy digital files in various criminal cases. Background check, security testing and training required. Salary \$22,880. 2. PARALEGAL/SECRETARY:

Proficiency in computer skills a must, ability to multi-task & manage high case load, excellent time management skills, organization and attentiveness to detail are required. Must have acceptable work history, pass criminal background check, security testing and training. Salary \$28,471. Both positions offer health, dental, vision & life Insurance, APERS retirement, paid holidays & paid vacation time after one year. Submit resume with references to Prosecuting Attorney Office, 506 S Main St, Monticello AR 71655 or email to lfreeman@tenthdistrictpa.org. 1/21 4tc

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Images- A pictorial History of Drew County. Book published in 1997, good condition. \$10 call 870-628-4359 2f 1/14

For Sale: like new scooter, Navy blue luggage set, area reu 6x12, table lamps and a floor lamp, Clothing. Please call 870-623-1505 or 870-727-1830 4 pd 1/28

For sale: 680 John Deer zero turn mower. \$2000. Call 870-820-0689 4pd 1/11

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

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

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY BERNICE BURKS, DECEASED

NO. 22PR-22-154

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent:

PO Box 65
325 South 9th
Wilmar, AR 71675

Date of Death: November 3, 2022

Beverly Burks has been appointed administrator of this estate.

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

This notice first published the 11th day of January, 2023.

Beverly Burks, Administrator
Barton & Roper, PLLC
P.O. Box 507
Monticello, AR 71657

#107194 1/11 1/18

NOTICE

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

2002 Chevrolet Avalanche VIN 3GNEC13T62G269358
2013 Dodge Grand Caravan VIN 2C4RDGCG0DR636880

#107197 1/11 1/18

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Westside Manor Apartments. 2 BR, 1 BA. Refrigerator & stove provided. Washer/Dryer hookups. (870) 853-5345 or 870-818-6702. #80594 12/19 TFN mt12w

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For Sale: 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in Western Pines Call 870-723-3568 or 870-723-3494 for more details. 4pd 1/28

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Scholarships guaranteed or your money back! Beware of scholarship "guarantees". Before you pay for a search service, get the refund policy in writing. Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to learn how to avoid scholarship scams. A message from The Advance-Monticellonian and the FTC. TFN

Call the Federal Trade Commission to find out how to spot medical billing scams. 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from The Advance Monticellonian and the FTC.

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Wanted to buy: International 140 Tractors; call 870-820-0689; leave a message if no answer and I will call you back. 4pd 1/11

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LOOKING FOR RELATIVES: In search of pictures of my grandfather, John H. Breedlove and his first wife, Chelgnas I. Gilham. Chelgnas was the daughter of David Bradley Gilham and Mary M. Duncan. Also searching for information and photos of Velma Breedlove and Chester Hayes. If you have any information about these people, please contact Annette at 870-370-3020. 1/18 2tf



HARVEST RICE IN MCGEEHEE AR IS NEEDING WORKERS!
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For more information about adopting a pet, fostering a pet or donating, please email Monticello2ndChancefurdogs@yahoo.com or go to our facebook page Monticello 2nd Chancefurdogs.

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS.
Delta Family Center, a psychiatric residential treatment center for adolescents, is looking for qualified individuals to work as a

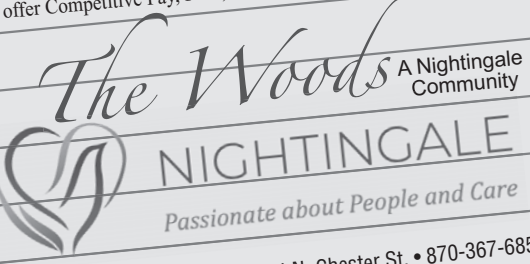
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Qualifications: Must be 21 years of age, pass state police and child maltreatment background checks, and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
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JOB OPPORTUNITY



The City of Monticello Police Department is currently taking applications for Full Patrolman.

Salary Range: \$32,991.43 - \$39,393.50 benefit package included. Certified individual preferred but not required. Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug screen. Must be able to pass a psychological test, firearms test and physical agility test. Must be able to work swing shift hours, weekends and holidays. On the job training as well as out of town training required. Must be 21 years of age or older and have a valid Arkansas driver's license.

To apply please come by the Police Department in person to pick-up an application. Monday through Friday from 8:00 - 4:30PM. For more information, please contact the Police Department at 870-367-3411. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.



Legals

ORDINANCE NO. 842
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF MONTICELLO WITH EMERGENCY CLAUSE
Whereas, the Monticello Planning Commission has submitted to the City Council and recommended the passage of a proposed Comprehensive Plan for the City of Monticello, a true and correct copy of which can be viewed on the City of Monticello's website, www.monticelloarkansas.us;
Whereas, the City Council approves of the Comprehensive Plan as submitted by the Planning Commission.
It is, therefore, by the City Council of Monticello, Arkansas, ordained as follows.
1. That the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Monticello as recommended by the Planning Commission (a true and correct copy of which can be viewed on the City of Monticello's website, www.monticelloarkansas.us) be and in the same is hereby adopted.
2. An emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of Monticello shall be in full force and effect from and after it's passage.
PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of December, 2022.

/s/Kirstin Garrison
City Clerk/Treasurer
Attest: /s/Paige Chase Mayor

Paid for by the City of Monticello in the amount of \$66.30.

#107605 1/11

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 576 OF 1987 OF THE ACTS OF ARKANSAS, AND PURSUANT TO THE SECURITY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TRIPLE E ENTERPRISES, LLC dba NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE AND THE TENANTS OCCUPYING THE FOLLOWING STORAGE SPACE NUMBERS

#82 J Johnson

#223 Kimberly Catchings

#236 Khanniyah Allen

THE COLLATERAL SECURING THE ABOVE NAMED TENANTS OBLIGATING TO NORTH HYATT SECURE STORAGE WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th AT 10:00AM.
THE LOCATION OF THE SALE IS 1361 NORTH HYATT STREET, MONTICELLO, AR 71655. TELEPHONE (870) 367-8800. THE SALE SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN PARCELS, EACH PARCEL BEING THE CONTENTS OF A STORAGE UNIT. THE COLLATERAL BEING SOLD AND SALE TERMS MAY BE VIEWED AT THE TIME OF SALE.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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needed for the Dumas area. Starting pay depends on experience. Send resume to Patsy.

Need experienced/licensed electrician
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BRAN OPERATOR Solid work history. Above average pay.
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Send resume to patsy.reynolds@expresspros.com

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Experience a plus but will train. \$12/hour.

WELDERS needed in Dumas area
Night shift. 20.25/hour with 1.00 shift differential. Must pass visual welding test. Call Patsy.

FORKLIFT DRIVERS/LABORERS NEEDED

WELDERS, FORKLIFT DRIVERS, UTILITY WORKERS Needed in the Dumas/McGehee area. Great \$\$\$.

LOOKING FOR experienced applicants in the Monticello/McGehee area for jobs in the McGehee/Dumas/Dermott area. Must be able to work shift positions. Verification of past employment will be completed for employment. Call Patsy.

Mark Your Calendars!

JANUARY

JANUARY 18TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **Monticello at the Workforce Center from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon and in McGehee at UAM from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.**

JANUARY 25TH - Express Employment will be taking applications in **McGehee at UAM from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.**

*Applicants must have I-9 documentation that proves your identity and eligibility to work, and able to pass a drug screen. Come see us and get ready to go to work!!!

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EOE –Equal Opportunity Employer
I-9 documentation that proves your identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. is needed.

SPORTS

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sports@monticellonews.net

Billies, Lady Billies open conference play with wins over Warren



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian
AUNESTI JACKSON drives the lane against Hamburg on Tuesday night. Jackson would not score against Hamburg, but was second in scoring against Warren with 14 points.



GENESIS FREEMAN (left) led the Lady Billies in scoring against Warren with 18 points and against Hamburg with 10 points. **QUAY RHODES (center)** scores the first two points of the contest against Hamburg. Rhodes would score 20 points against Hamburg. **LUKE JONES (right)** drives the lane against Hamburg. Jones would lead the Billies in scoring with 23 points to help Monticello improve to 3-0 in conference play.

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Monticello and Lady Billies began the 8-4A Conference portion of their basketball schedule with home victories over Warren. Scheduled to be played on the road at Warren, the game was moved to Monticello with the future contest with Warren being moved to Warren in hopes of being played in their new arena. Taking the court first, the Monticello Lady Billies would hold the Lady Jacks to two first quarter points, outscoring Warren 14-2 in the quarter. ‘ A more competitive quarter in the second stanza as Monticello would outscore Warren 7-5 to take a 21-7 lead at the break. Returning from halftime, the Lady Billies would produce one of their best single quarter performances of the season, outscoring Warren 22-6 in the third quarter to hold a 43-13 lead heading into the fourth quarter under the “Sportsmanship Rule” with a running clock. In the fourth, the Lady Billie defense would hold the Lady Jacks to zero points while scoring seven to finish the contest with a 50-13 win earning their first win of the season. Leading the way for the Lady

Billies was Genesis Freeman with 18 points followed by Aunesti Jackson with 14. CaMyah Lewis would score seven, Abri Scott with six, Shariyah Singleton with three, and Lillian Fletcher finishing with two. For the Billies, the Warren Lumberjacks would get out to a 14-5 lead in the first quarter, but the Billies would come back in the second quarter to outscore Warren 17-8 to head into the locker room tied at 22. The Billies would return from the break to hold the Lumberjacks to four third quarter points, outscoring Warren 14-4 to hold a 10-point, 36-26, lead heading into the fourth quarter. Warren would make a run in the fourth quarter, outscoring Monticello 18-12 in the quarter, but Monticello was able to hold Warren at bay taking a four-point, 48-44, victory for their first conference win of the season. Jacorius Ridgell would lead the Billies in scoring with 11 points followed by nine point outings by Luke Jones and Jeremiah Daniels. Quay Rhodes would add seven, Tejon Tensley with four, Jon Lambert and Jagger Hines with three, and Jemar Matthews rounding out the scoring with two.

On Friday, January 6, Monticello would travel to Star City to face the Lady Bulldogs and Bulldogs. For the Lady Billies, Star City would defeat Monticello 72-21, but the Billies would improve to 2-0 in conference play with a 64-55 win over the Bulldogs. Returning home to Dan Coston Fieldhouse on the campus of Monticello High School on Tuesday, January 10, the Monticello teams would host the Hamburg Lions. The Lady Billies and Lady Lions would compete in a competitive first quarter with Hamburg leading 14-10 after the quarter. The Lady Lions would outscore Monticello 12-7 in the second quarter to hold a 26-17 lead heading into the half. Hamburg would take full control of the contest in the second half with the Lady Lions outscoring Monticello 15-6 in the third, and 14-1 in the fourth to take a 55-24 victory. Genesis Freeman led the Lady Billies in scoring with 10 points with Lillian Fletcher and Ryah Ridgell scoring five. CaMyah Lewis added three and Shariyah Singleton scored one point. For the Billies, Monticello would score the first four points of

the contest, but Hamburg would come back to outscore Monticello 14-12 in the first quarter. Hamburg would continue to hold the advantage throughout the second quarter to outscore Monticello 18-14 in the second quarter to hold a 32-26 lead at the half. Monticello would comeback to outscore Hamburg 16-10 to tie the contest at 42 heading into the fourth quarter. Hamburg would score the first points of the final quarter before Monticello went on a 16-0 run before the next Hamburg score. Monticello would go on to outscore Hamburg 23-6 in the quarter to take the 65-48 win. Luke Jones led the way with 23 points followed by Quay Rhodes with 20. Jemar Matthews added seven, Jon Lambert with five, Jeremiah Daniels with four, Jacorius Ridgell with three, Jagger Hines added two, and Tejon Tensley with one. Monticello will return home on Friday, January 13, hosting Watson Chapel with the Lady Billies tipping off at 5:30. The Billies will be on the road on Tuesday, January 17, travelling to Crossett to face the Eagles. The Lady Billies begin at 5:30 pm.

Dumas sweeps Drew Central in 3A-8 Conference contests at Drew Central

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Junior Pirates, Lady Pirates, and Pirates hosted Dumas on Friday, January 6, in contests that could have regular season conference title implications. In the first contest of the night, the Junior Pirates would lead the Junior Bobcats 20-15 at halftime after outscoring Dumas 13-5 in the first and Dumas taking the second quarter 10-7. Dumas would go on to out-

score Drew Central 8-6 and 17-9 in the next two quarters to take a 40-35 win. Jeremiah Bodiford led the Junior Pirates with 10 points, Blake Chandler with nine, and Zae Bullard with eight. Jayden Jones scored five, Brody Cater with two, and Uriah Rhodes with one. In the second contest of the night, the Lady Pirates would fall behind in the first quarter, scoring five points in the quarter while the Lady Bobcats would

score 13. Drew Central would outscore Dumas 7-3 in the second quarter to trail the Lady Bobcats 16-12 at the half. The Lady Pirates would come back to outscore Dumas 7-5 in the third quarter but trailed Dumas 21-19 heading into the fourth quarter. In the fourth, Dumas would take control of the contest, outscoring the Lady Pirates 11-4 to take the 32-23 win. Sayveiona Durden led the way

with six points with Bailey Chapman adding five, and Kaisa Orr with four. Hannah Meeks and Lana Boykin each scored three with Kaiya Williams scoring two. In the final contest of the night, the Drew Central Pirates would take a 13-9 lead after one quarter of play, but both teams would play even in the second quarter with each team scoring 12 points. The Pirates would hold a 25-21 lead at the half.

The Pirate offense would fall off in the second half with Dumas outscoring the Pirates 13-14 in the fourth quarter on 17-7 in the fourth quarter to take the 51-36 win. Tramond Miller would lead the way for the Pirates with eight points followed by Kade Bodiford with seven. Drew Burton, JaCorrian Love, and Tre'Bennett Fuller would add five points each. Talon Miller added four with Nick Bailey rounding out the

scoring with two points. Drew Central will return to action on Friday, January 13, hosting Lakeside with Junior Girls tipping off at 4:30 pm. Drew Central will travel to DeWitt on Tuesday, January 17, with the Junior Girls tipping off at 4:30 pm. Drew Central will host a Junior Tournament on January 14 and will continue on January 18 and January 21.



ZAE BULLARD (left) scored eight points for the Junior Pirates on Friday night. The Junior Pirates led for the first three quarters before Dumas took the lead in the fourth quarter, defeating the Junior Pirates 40-35. **KAISA ORR (center)** would begin their contest against Dumas with three consecutive blocks. Orr would finish with 11 rebounds and four points. **TRE'BENNETT FULLER (right)** goes up against Dumas for two points. Fuller would finish the contest with five points.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

Weevils, Blossoms fall in consecutive games on Oklahoma trip

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Weevils and Blossoms took to the road this past week in the teams first road trip into Oklahoma of the season.

Facing Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma on Thursday, January 5, in their first stop on the two game road trip, the Blossoms would take to the court with a 5:30 pm tip.

The Lady Bulldogs would get on the board first to begin the contest, scoring the first four points of the game before UAM got on the board on a jumper by Alindsey Long.

About two minutes would click past in the quarter before either team would score with the scoring drought being broken by Southwestern.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

JOI MONTGOMERY led the Blossoms in their first Oklahoma road game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University with 21 points. The Blossoms would fall in both their contests on the first Oklahoma road trip of the season.

UAM's Laia Balcells would tie the contest at six with 5:21 remaining in the quarter, but Southwestern would break the tie and go on to take a double-digit lead by the ending buzzer of the first quarter, 25-11.

Southwestern would increase their lead to 16 points to begin the second quarter, but the Blossoms would make a run to cut the lead to single digits with 5:35 remaining in the half on a jumper by Balcells.

A layup by Bailey Harris would cut the lead to eight points with 1:48 on the clock, but Southwestern would end the half leading by 10 points, 38-28.

The Blossoms would cut the lead to six points on two different occasions in the third quarter with Southwestern closing the quarter with a 14 point, 57-43, lead.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

ALINDSEY LONG led the Blossoms in their second contest of their Oklahoma road trip with 18 points against Northwestern Oklahoma State.

Southwestern would continue to lead throughout the fourth quarter with UAM getting within nine points twice before falling by a 10 point margin, 78-68.

Joi Montgomery would lead the Blossoms with 21 points with Bailey Harris scoring 11 points and Laia Balcells with eight.

Alindsey Long, Cyarah Kensmil, and Azaria Hulbert each added six points, Nyah Banks and Shea Goodwin each scored four, with Aeryn Hawkins rounding out the scoring with two points.

In the second contest of the night, the UAM Weevils took the court to face the Bulldogs.

Southwestern would score the first five points of the first half before the Weevils would get a two-point basket from Mario Fantina.

defeat the Weevils by 13 points, 78-65.

Leading the way for the Weevils was Cole Anderson with 17 points followed by Timur Krupalija with 12 points.

Josh Denton added seven, Alex Brogdon and Cam Rhodes each scored six, Mario Fantina and Edwin Louis with five, and Donovan Cooper with three points.

Walter Covington and Issac Jackson rounded out the scoring with two points each.

Travelling to Alva, Oklahoma on Saturday, January 7, to face Northwestern Oklahoma State University, the Blossoms would fall behind 5-0 before Cyarah Kensmil got the Blossoms on the board with a pair of free throws and would tie the contest on a three by Laia Balcells.

The teams would exchange the lead throughout the first quarter with Northwestern ending the quarter with a two-point, 14-12 lead.

Northwestern continued to hold the lead until Balcells tied the contest at 20 with a free-throw.

The Blossoms would take the lead and hold a three-point, 25-22, lead at the half.

Northwestern would take the lead in the third quarter and would maintain the lead for the remainder of the contest, taking the 59-52 win.

Alindsey Long led the Blossoms with 18 points followed by Bailey Harris with 12 and Joi Montgomery with seven.

Cyarah Kensmil and Laia Balcells each scored six with Aeryn Hawkins scoring two.

With the pair of losses, the Blossoms fall to 4-8 overall and 1-5 in Great American Conference play.

For the Weevils, UAM would start the contest with Northwest-

ern scoring the first five points before Josh Denton got the Weevils on the board.

The contest would remain close throughout the first half with the game being tied at 37 after a layup by Denton.

Edwin Louis would give the Weevils a two point lead with six seconds remaining in the half on a pair of free throws that gave the Weevils a 39-37 lead at the half.

Each team would exchange the lead throughout the second half until 4:11 remained in the contest when Northwestern would take the lead for the final time in the contest, going on to hand the Weevils an eight-point, 82-74, victory.

The Weevils would have four players score in double-digits with Josh Denton leading the way with 21 points.

Edwin Louis would add 14 points followed by Issac Jackson and Timur Krupalija each scoring 10 points each.

Mario Fantina scored nine points with Cole Anderson and Donovan Cooper rounding out the scoring with five points each.

With the losses, the Weevils fall to 5-7 overall and 1-5 in conference play.

The Weevils and Blossoms will return home to Steelman Fieldhouse this week for a pair of Great American Conference contests.

First on Thursday, January 12, the Blossoms will take the court to face Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a 5:30 pm tip scheduled with the Weevils taking the court shortly after.

Returning on Saturday, January 14, the Blossoms will tip off at 1 pm facing East Central University with the Weevils to take the court against the Tigers following the Cotton Blossoms contest with the Lady Tigers.

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Serving the next generation



By Ashley Hogg
editor@monticellonews.net

Across Drew County, the younger generation was highlighted with different events.

The grand opening of the Drew Central Dining Hall was held this week as students in high school, second and fourth grade are now utilizing the facility.

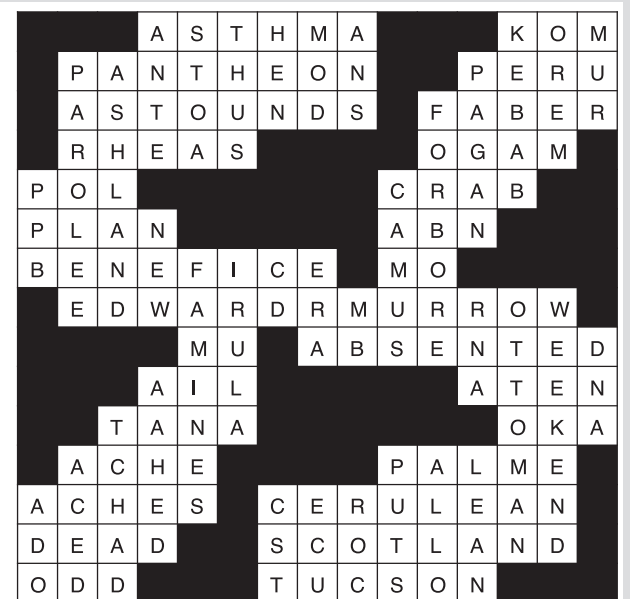
The Dining Hall has arena lighting and is equipped with many state of the art amenities.

Just west of Monticello, Tech-Know 123 held an event at the Wilmar Community Center for local youth. The party was complete with a DJ, dancing, activities for the kids, balloons, glow sticks and much more.



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

GERMAN: Tee



FAITH

CONTACT US
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CHILDREN’S DEVOTIONAL

Don’t try to deal with life’s struggles on your own

By Amy Becker

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:14-16

Sin can get us into a world of trouble, but when we get into that trouble where should we turn for help? I pray that there are many people that you can go to when things get tough. Great people to talk to are your parents and grandparents,

teachers, preachers, doctors, school counselors, or a trusted friend or family member. All of these people are great resources when something is on your mind or when you need advice on handling something, but the list cannot stop there.

If you’re like me then anytime you have a problem, especially one of your own doing, you probably believe that no one would really be able to understand even if you explained. Sometimes you might even feel like it’s better to deal with it on your own. For example, maybe you forgot to do your homework, so the next day you decide to make up a story so your teacher won’t be upset. Afterwards, you feel guilty and worry about whether your parents will find out. You’ve dealt

with something on your own and not in the right way. I am here to tell you that you cannot deal with life’s struggles on your own. You need people that care for you to pray with you and help you and to encourage and build you up, but oh my goodness you need Jesus! Jesus understands because he lived a life here on earth and went through testing just like us, yet

he did not sin. Some versions of the scripture above say that Jesus “sympathizes” with us in our weaknesses. Because of his time here on earth when he was tempted and tried, Jesus knows what you are going through, so he is approachable.

Jesus is also the one who can give us the grace and mercy that we need. This is what sets him apart from all of the oth-

ers that we may go to at times. He is perfect (without sin completely) yet he can understand our struggles. We do not have to hide a single thing from him because he loves and cares for us. So go to him today. Remember that he knows what you are going through.

Copy this verse using lots of colors and fun letters. Cut it out and put it in a place you can see

it often.

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

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Caleb Kiefhaber, the owner of Kiefhaber’s Heating and Air and Mobile Home Parts, knows a thing or two about owning a business. Kiefhaber’s was established over 32 years ago by his father, Pete Kiefhaber. Throughout the years he taught his children how to operate the business, and took pride in doing so. He was proud of the business he built, and would be proud of his son’s work. Kiefhaber’s provides HVAC and mobile home parts to all of South East Arkansas, and are focused on quality. The business philosophy is to provide a quality product and quality service. They also attribute their company’s success to quality work, as well as honesty and prompt service. Caleb Kiefhaber emphasizes quality once again by giving advice to those interested in

starting a business. His advice is to work for a high quality, professional company and learn the business. When asked why customers should do business with Kiefhaber’s, he said, “We have high quality technicians and large truck inventory. We are constantly sending our technicians to continuing education. We are working to make you comfortable in your home.” Kiefhaber’s Heating and Air is located at 6236 State Highway 114 West in Star City, and Kiefhaber’s Mobile Home Parts is located at 117 Greenfield Drive in Monticello. The office phone number is (870)-628-4900.

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BARKADA JANA WRIGHT

I hope everyone had a happy new year! Our grandson Beaux spent the night with us so we were asleep before 12. I cannot think of a better way to spend it.

My mother-in-law and father-in-law treated us to a New Year's Day dinner. We had our black-eyed peas, cabbage, and pork, along with a lot of other goodies. Those attending were Stacy, Shana, Elizabeth, and Seth Wilson; Heath, Taylor, and Beaux Swain; Bobby, Christy, and Carleigh Roberts; Bob West, Steven Barnett, and me. We had a great time bringing in the new year.

Saturday, Jakob Bayliss and I met Jamie Martin and Dustin Barnett in El Dorado for a day of adventure. We had a great time!

Good luck to all the newly elected local officials. May God lead you in your endeavors.

I talked with Paige Stell yesterday. They are making progress in becoming Barkadians. I am ready to have them as neighbors!

It is a new racing year. Camden Harris, son of C.J. and Kari Harris, placed 1:10 in the Moto 1 and 2:9th in the Moto 2 ages 7-9. Great job Cam!

Rhett Harris, son of Dustin and Laci Harris, celebrated his birthday at Bella Luna's. Later in the day, they made cookies and Parker made covered pretzels. Happy birthday, Rhett!

Charles Saffold helped his cousin Mrs. Ruth Hunter while water was out in Wilmar. He brought her a case of water.

Jeremy and Sheena Tucker participated in the Wilmar Poker Run this year. She said they had a fun time!

Addi Stafford, daughter of Brandon and Anne Stafford, had her first gym meet of the year. She earned 3rd on floor and 5th on the beam! Great job, Addi!

My thoughts and prayers are with Amanda Calhoun and her family on the unexpected passing of her father. May the Lord give you strength and peace during this time.

We lost the surrogate matriarch of our family over the weekend. My Aunt Janie Nicholson went to be with the Lord Saturday. We have a hole in our family that will never be healed. Please pray for our family for strength and peace as well. You will forever be missed!

Congratulations to Dane Loveless and Kailyn Loveless on their marriage. I wish you both a lifetime of happiness!

Happy belated anniversary to my bestie, Jaye and Larry Jones. I wish you many more years of happiness!

Happy birthday to Theo Johnson, Shannon Wilkinson, Brittney Norsworthy, Contessa Boone, Lisa Smith, Mrs. Gloria Ryburn, Bill Burt, Theresa Perrigen, Beth Davis, Autumn Langley, Tressia Donaldson, Jill Colleen, Devin Burns, TaKendra Webb, and

Mark Gober. I hope you all have or had happy birthdays!

Please call 870.224.3383 with news or email wright-woman_66@yahoo.com. No news is too small!

GREEN HILL WANDA PAGE

Greenhill Community Baptist Church enjoyed a wonderful Sunday morning service. Brother Caleb's message was titled "He is still working on me" from Philippians 1:6. Sunday School is at 9:30am followed by the worship service at 10:30am. You are all welcome to come.

Aunt May & Aunt Pepe are doing good. Aunt May is having some trouble with her back and Aunt Pepe is taking good care of her. Prayers for you both.

Happy Birthday Brenda Adcock! I hope you enjoyed a blessed birthday.

Tom, Skylar, & Maverick Ellis joined us for dinner on Sunday evening. Maverick is my one year old great nephew. He is such a sweet and special little boy.

I visited with Wayne & Sandy Smith on Tuesday. We enjoyed a Wendy's chocolate frosty while catching up on life's events.

If you have any news to share please message me on facebook or call 367-9635 to share.

Verse of the week: "We will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18.

Have a safe and blessed week.

Prayers for those that are sick and shut-in and for those who have loss a loved one.

The pool ladies (Camilla, Joyce, Rowena [Ben], Tina, Ann and I had lunch at Rays on Friday; as always, a great time was had by all. I chatted with Jeanette Lansdale on Saturday.

Thought for the week: "My wish for you is simple, have the best life imaginable. Live like you will never grow old, laugh, giggle, cry if you must. Play as hard as your work, make time for people and things you adore. When you sleep, have the best dreams that will make you wake with a smile on your face. And that you always, always know that you are loved! This is my wish for each of you! (Author Unknown)"

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JORDAN PARK TRILISA MARSHALL

There is no Jordan Park news this week. Trilisa Marshall had other commitments. Her column will resume in next week's edition.

LACEY IVANELL HANDLEY

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the New Year! Floyd and I spent Christmas with the children and grandchildren, we had an awesome time! We were blessed to enjoy plenty of good food, family games, karaoke and lots and lots of laughter. It was just nice to have everyone all together.

Our son-in-laws birthday was December 23, we celebrated by having dinner at Longhorn Steakhouse, in North Little Rock, it was delicious! Darnell and Angelika treated Ava and I to lunch at Red Lobster; we had such a good time! A big thank you to Jeraldine, Louise, and Eddie for keeping an eye on things while we were away!

We had a blessed Sunday service at Mt. Olive AME, Lacey. The Sunday school topic was "God Promises Restoration and Protection"; focus scripture, Isaiah 43:1-4 and 10-12. The key verse Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV) "But now thus

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.

says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Pastor Washington delivered a wonderful message; his thought was from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, it was titled "It's Time to Love One Another". Guests were: Cynthia Spencer and Bro. Ephriam Franklin.

Happy birthday wishes to: Keira Franklin, January 4; Sara Walls, January 5; Regena Handley, January 6; Angelika Handley, January 7; Cynthia Spencer, January 8; Patricia K. Staple, January 8; and Gloria Wilbanks, January 9. I hope each of you had/has an amazing day.

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POSSUM VALLEY KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Hello, and welcome back, y'all. My first full week of retirement is finished and I can report that it has been wonderful! I'm still waking up too early, but I can go back to bed if I want to. Even if I don't, I can lollygag around the house in my pj's as long as I like. Anytime either Rick or I have an appointment of any kind, I can just go without having to ask for time off work. The weather has been quite nice, too. Last Friday, Rick had an appointment in Little Rock, which didn't take long. On the way back, Rick began hinting he had a

surprise for me. After several clues and several incorrect guesses on my part, we came up to Whitehall and as I looked to the right, I saw Colton's Steakhouse. The restaurant where we had our first date. Back to the scene of the crime, I called it.

Saturday we just piddled around the place. At one point I looked out the kitchen window and saw a male Purple Finch on the feeder, and once I saw it wasn't going to rain, I went for a walk. There wasn't a lot of bird activity, but I did see a few White-throated Sparrows, a Red-bellied Woodpecker and I could hear a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Eastern Towhee out in the woods. I'm already losing track of what day it is. I do recall one day this past week was National Bird Day. I spent quite a bit of time out on the deck watching a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cardinals, Juncos and a Pine Warbler. There were the furry variety of critters hanging around, too. The squirrels have, thus far, not been too bothersome at the backyard feeders. But, they are still about and I'm have no doubt they'll invite themselves when the need arises.

Saturday afternoon, Rick and I got in the Jeep for a drive to Gee's Landing. When we arrived at the Jack Bottom, it was apparent that the river was out of its banks. We went on past Mr. Tom's place and was soon met with water over the road there in the curve just before you get to the landing. No real surprise there. Anyway, we turned around and headed back home. Poor Scarlett, our dog, had followed us and we met her just before we got back to the Jack Bottom. She's not a spring doggy anymore, so we stopped and I loaded her up in the back of the Jeep. She seemed to appreciate not having to walk all the way back home. As we approached home, we could see Addie and Jason out in their yard. So, we drove over and sat outside with them for quite some time. Jason decided the time was right to assemble the climbing dome

that Santa had 'sent' Addie. It arrived in an unassembled state since it was too big to fit in his bag. Santa's letter stated that her daddy could assemble it. And of course he did. I admire Jason's attention to detail and ability to concentrate on tasks like that. He had it all together in about an hour's time. His Daddy was good at doing things like that, too.

Oh, at some time during my ins and outs, my cat, Cookie, escaped from the house. Early afternoon I could have sworn I'd seen a cat outside near the shed. I assumed it was a stray and went about my business. Later that evening when we got home from visiting, we ate supper and sat down to watch some T.V. when I realized I still had not seen Cookie. I got up, looked out the back door and called to her. No Cookie. Then I went and looked out the front door and there she was, on the front porch. Her fur was all fuzzed up from fright. I was so thankful to see her again and that she had not been harmed. I'm still not sure how she got out.

Bethel enjoyed a wonderful morning service with Bro. Steve Jacks filling the pulpit. His message was taken from James 4:17, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and doesn't do it, to him it is sin." Next time you see Bro. Steve ask him about the \$5 pot roast.

After lunch, I went outside to take advantage of the nice, sunny Spring weather. In fact there were several signs of Spring. The maple tree out front was covered with buds and bees. At one point, as I was looking up into the mulberry tree, a pair of Kinglets came swooshing up. The tiny male had his ruby crown flashing while in hot pursuit of his lady love. There were a few tiny Spring Beauty flowers blooming in the yard and even the daffodils were sprouting near the old house place. If all goes as usual, I'm fairly positive Winter will rear it's cold head again. But this little prequel of Spring was enough to give me hope of warmer, flower and butterfly filled days ahead.

This week's corny joke is an ode to one of Rick's favorite breakfasts: Why do pancakes always win at baseball? They have the best batter.

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10.

That's my news for this week. Until next time, please, be safe, enjoy the outdoors if

you can, smile and find joy in the little things.

WILMAR TERRY HOPSON

Hello, to the Advance-Monticellonian newspaper readers. Greetings from the great city of Wilmar, where Mayor Toni Perry says, "Welcome!" with a big ol' smile. "It's another day's journey and I'm glad about it".

Where do I began to tell the story of how great sadness can bring much joy - in the morning.

We have prayed. We have cried, we have hugged and kissed goodbye. Good food, good company. Doesn't get any better than this. Even though the occasions were so very sad. We have enjoyed each other to the fullest.

The occasions I'm speaking of, are the beautiful home going celebrations of three Wilmar natives. They will be truly missed.

Sis. Mattie Orr was funeralized on Saturday morning. Her nephew Rev. Elmo Shorter Jr. was the Eulogist at Greater Shady Grove AME church, Wilmar, where Rev Marvin Mosby is the pastor.

Sis. Carolyn Taylors, funeral was Saturday afternoon. Eulogist Pastor Herdicine Meadows at Steveson-Dearam Funeral Home, Monticello.

Sis. Sharon Jones Henderson. Eulogist Presiding Elder James Hooper Sunday afternoon at Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, in Wilmar, where Rev Andrew Bess is the pastor.

Each of these beautiful souls brought joy to all who were in their presence during their stay here on earth. They will be truly missed.

Family and friends near and far came to bid farewell and support for each other during their bereavement. Prayers for safe travels as you all journey back to your destinations.

On Saturday evening the kids TechKnow 123 party was fun! fun! fun! Sponsored by Kashif Kincade and Staff. If you missed it, stay tuned there is more to come. We also had a friendly visit from our Sheriff, Tim Nichols. Always nice to see him.

I was so happy and proud of my Sunday School children at Greater Shady Grove AME Church Sunday morning! First of all I was late getting there. We had about 12 students present. Mr. Hopson, Sr. Instructed the kids to study the lesson until I got there. Well, with Dorian

See **COUNTRY** Page 5B

NEEDED TEST ADMINISTRATORS
to administer state required student exams
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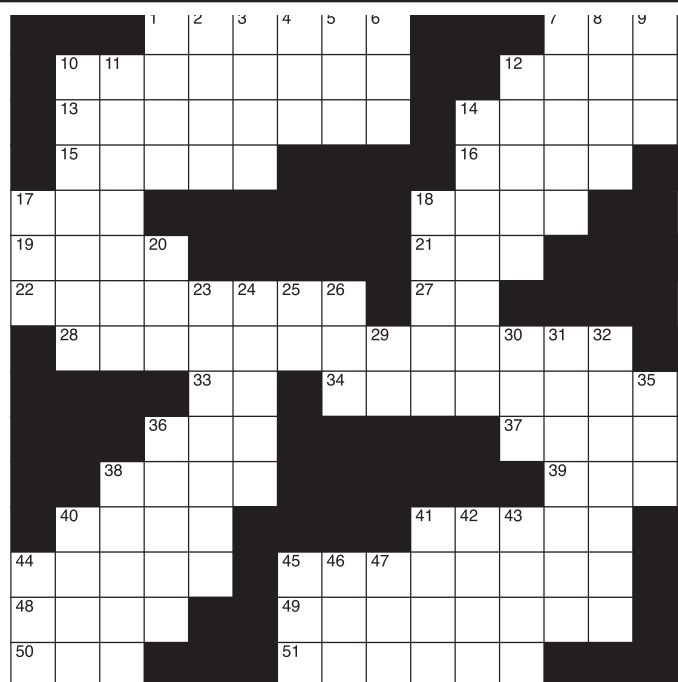
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CLUES ACROSS

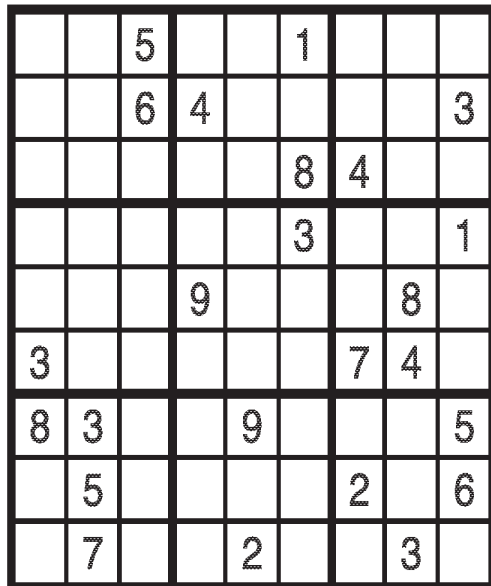
1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. ___Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly's pal
28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished
36. Afflict in mind or body
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award ___ d'Or
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN

1. Wager
2. Classical portico
3. As a result
4. Bird
5. A type of “Squad”
6. Autonomic nervous system
7. Dish with food on a stick
8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heathen
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. “The Stranger” author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India
25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to “ooohed”
38. African nation
40. Breezed through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. “Much ___ about nothing”
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

Answers can be found on Page 3B

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

LUNAR NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

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

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

This week's recipe: Add oats to any meal



A typical pantry contains a host of staples, including oatmeal. Oats long have been portrayed as simple comfort food that can feed a crowd for less. But there's nothing simple about the recipes that can be created when oats are in the mix.

Oats are packed with nutrition, and even in their various formulations sold at the store, such as rolled or steel cut, they are minimally processed and almost always in whole grain form. Oats are notable for their ability to lower bad cholesterol and control blood pressure. They contain beta-glucan, which is a soluble fiber not found in most other grains. It has been shown to suppress appetite and help promote gut health. In addition, oats have anti-inflammatory and anti-itching properties, which explains why oatmeal baths are popular for various skin conditions. But oats are perhaps best utilized in the kitchen, as this assortment of uses for oatmeal in favorite dishes can attest.

- **Oat flour power:** Replace wheat flour with oat flour to deliver feelings of fullness with fewer calories. Ground oats or oat flour also can be used to thicken soups, stews and dips.

- **Meatloaf magic:** When making meatloaf or meatballs, use oats as an alternative to bread crumbs for binding ground meats.

- Oatmeal latte: By cooking oatmeal with milk, thinning out the finished product with more milk, and adding sugar and spices, anyone can whip up a tasty beverage that seems tailor-made for the coffee house.

- **Overnight oats:** Oats, when combined with low-fat yogurt, fruit or other add-ins, and left overnight to meld, produce a thick and filling breakfast food that is the best mix of oatmeal and smoothie.

- **Oat-corn casserole:** Oats can be mixed with cream-style corn, butter and milk to form the base of a side dish casserole. Grated cheddar or pepper jack makes this an ooey-gooley comfort dish.

To start your oatmeal recipe journey, try this recipe for “Cardamom and Orange Overnight Oats” courtesy of Oldways Whole Grains Council.

Cardamom and Orange Overnight Oats

Ingredients (Serves 2)

- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup unsweetened almond or coconut milk
fortified with vitamin B-12
- 2 tablespoons chia seeds
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin seeds for garnish
- Orange slices for garnish

Directions:

1. In a mason jar, mix yogurt, oats, milk, chia seeds, maple syrup, orange zest, cardamom, and cinnamon. Place the lid on the mason jar and shake.
2. Leave in the fridge overnight.
3. Top with pumpkin seeds and orange slices or other fruit



A birthday banner featuring the word "happy" in a red script font and "BIRTHDAY" in a black block font with white polka dots. A small yellow slice of cake is visible in the top right corner.

**GLADYS
MARCUSSEN
WATTS**

celebrated her 100th birthday in December. Most of her family was in attendance to celebrate with her.

*Born in the Ozark
Mountains, 10 miles from
Charleston, 1922*

*Moved to Monticello in
1927 at 5 years old,
graduated high school, 1942*

