

See Page
1B for
“Pirate
Highlights”

Local sports highlights
can be found on
Page 9A & 10A

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION



ADVANCE-MONTICELLONIAN

75¢

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SERVING DREW COUNTY SINCE 1870

Hospital Board discusses financial condition, options

By: ASHLEY HOGG
editor@monticellonews.net

The Drew Memorial Health System Board of Directors met Monday, January 23, for the regularly scheduled meeting with representatives from Baptist Health to discuss partnership options.

“We have been having discussions about what some of our options might be given the challenges we have been dealing with lately,” Chairman Mike Akin stated. “We have invited Doug Weeks and Troy Wells from Baptist to come down and visit with us. As you know, they have been successful in having some kind of alliance with some other hospitals and they have done that for a long time.”

Wells, CEO of Baptist Health System, opened the conversation by giving information about his background in rural healthcare.

“I feel for the situation you are in now, and I have been there before,” Wells stated. “I have been

with Baptist since 2006 and we now have four regional hospitals in our group, Arkadelphia, Heber Springs, Malvern and Stuttgart. These hospitals have been very successful with our model.”

“Things are going to have to change for healthcare to remain successful in Arkansas,” Wells added. “Payment mechanisms have to change. We have been surviving for a long time. We can’t afford to not look for as many options that are out there so we can remain strong.”

“We’ve made a lot of progress physically at this hospital and we provide a lot of great services,” Hospital Board Member Carl Lucky stated. “But, we are struggling to keep the right people in the right jobs for a long enough time to get things accomplished.”

Lucky then posed the question to the representatives from Baptist and asked how they would handle this difficult staffing situation.

“When you lose a key person, it all kind of unravels,” Wells

said. “Arkadelphia doesn’t have to worry about that. They are not dependent on this one person that knows how to do this one particular job. This does not apply to the nurse at the bedside but it does apply to the coder, the biller, the people that understand the computer systems.”

Wells went on to indicate that there was always someone available within the Baptist Health System that can do office/administrative type jobs.

“When we look at our statements today, it is probably the worst one we have seen in my tenure on this board,” Lucky added.

According to the December financial statement, cash on hand decreased by \$510,102 in the month of November and salaries were over budget by \$177,041. The financial break down stated that the salaries being over budget “is primarily driven by the use of in-house contract nurses in multiple areas. We also paid administrative bonuses for a to-

tal of \$100,000.”

It was noted by Hospital CFO Melodie Colwell that these bonuses were not Christmas bonuses but performance based bonuses within employee contracts based on the previous fiscal year and that overall, December expenses were under budget by \$159,201.

The Operating Statement provided to the board members and media stated that for December, the hospital had a loss of \$1,057,021. Cash on hand decreased from 138.07 days of available operating cash to 26.78 days

“It’s a reflection of what you are talking about,” Lucky stated. “We have hired two different institutions to help us code and collect and bill because we can’t keep enough quality people here to do it on our own. Now, our patient volume in 30 percent lower than when Covid started and we can’t survive like that.”

Weeks added that the employee turn over rate within the Bap-

tist Health System has remained low over the past several years even with volume changes.

“The regional hospitals in our system operate in positive operating margins,” Wells added.

Chairman Akin pointed out that Drew Memorial is a county owned hospital and newly elected County Judge Jessie Griffin and County Attorney Cliff Gibson were present for the meeting.

“Can you walk us through how a partnership works with a county owned facility?” Akin asked.

“Malvern, in Hot Springs County, was a county owned facility,” Wells stated. “Now, we have a county lease from their 501c3 to our 501c3 because of the sales tax issues,” Wells said. “Where there have been boards in place, we try to keep them in place as an advisory board. We meet with the county Quorum Court annually and provide them with financials and whatever information they want. Malvern is a lease with the county.”

Board member Wayne Owen asked if Baptist had “in-house” billing or if they outsourced that process. Wells stated that billing is done in house at Baptist but food service, janitorial services and bio-medical engineering services are outsourced.

Cliff Gibson addressed the Baptist representatives with a concise follow up question regarding potential changes.

“If anything along the lines of what is being discussed was to happen, this board would need to know what your analysis is and what you would change,” Gibson stated. “Obviously, you are not in a position to tell us that today, I assume. But, I assess that everyone wants to know what all would change. What is Baptist’s vision for the future? Why does it want to come here and think it can do a better job than what is already being done?”

Wells responded that the reason they were at the meeting

See HOSPITAL Page 3A

UAM, NPC announce four-year degree in Hot Springs

By: ASHLEY HOGG
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National Park College (NPC) and the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) announced a new bachelor’s degree partnership Tuesday, January 24. The institutions will collaborate to bring a bachelor’s degree in business administration to Hot Springs beginning in the fall of 2023. The degree was approved by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) in July and by the Higher Learning Commission in January of 2023.

All four years of the new Bachelor of Business Administration degree will be offered through the NPC University Center on the NPC campus. Students will complete the first two years of the degree enrolled as NPC students and the junior and senior years enrolled as UAM students.

Students will pay NPC tuition rates for the first two years of coursework and UAM tuition rates for the junior and senior year coursework. Students who participate will have access to all of the services and resources NPC offers, as well as those UAM offers. Students will earn an associate degree diploma from NPC and a bachelor’s degree diploma from UAM upon graduation.

“This is such a unique partnership and has required some out of the box thinking,” UAM Chancellor Dr. Peggy Doss stated. “A few courses will be taught online but a majority of the classes in this degree will be taught face to face by the very qualified staff at NPC.”

UAM announced they will offer NPC students a \$3,000 per semester Nighthawk Transfer Scholarship to offset tuition costs, making the UAM Bachelor of Business Administration degree at NPC one of the most

affordable bachelor’s degrees in the state. Students will be required to complete 55 credit hours and maintain a 2.5 grade-point average to be eligible.

NPC President Dr. John Horgan said, “Increasing access to bachelor’s degrees is critical to the economic growth of our region and critical to the personal growth of our students. It remains a top priority for us and today we are celebrating an addition to that goal. We appreciate UAM for this investment in our students. The generous transfer scholarships they are offering makes this one of the most, if not the most affordable bachelor’s degree in the state.”

“We are excited to announce our new campus within a campus partnership with National Park College,” Doss added. “This model of strategic collaboration and partnership is an effective and efficient approach to meet the workforce education needs of the state. We value the opportunity to work with NPC so the UAM Bachelor of Business Administration degree is affordable and accessible to students in this important region of the state. We look forward to many future collaborations between our institutions. By engaging in this program, we will be able to grow our enrollment and have more graduates. This is a wise use of our resources as it strengthens higher education relationships.”

A public announcement for students was held on the NPC campus Tuesday following a press conference for media earlier that morning. Students, faculty, staff and community supporters gathered in the Student Commons to hear the news.

“This partnership has been supported by the University of

See DEGREE Page 2A

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON THE LAKE MONTICELLO TRAIL PROJECT



Photo courtesy of Jeff Newton

An estimated three miles of bike optimized multipurpose trail have been completed with crews still on site working to add additional mileage. Progressive Trail Design and Topp Trails are nearing completion of the first phase of the project. Recent wet weather has slowed progress, but the crews are moving as fast as possible. Topp Trails is currently putting the finish-

ing touches on the skills park/pump track area which is located off the parking lot on the Harris Road access of Lake Monticello. Crews are expected to be onsite for another 4-5 months. The City of Monticello was awarded another ArDOT TAP grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2022 grant cycle. This amount will be applied to mileage in phase two of the project, and the goal is

to keep this project rolling and keep crews building trails.

“We plan to have an opening in early spring but as I stated this will be an ongoing project and users will need to be mindful of the signage of closed areas for their safety,” Jeff Newton said. “I would like to personally

See LAKE TRAIL Page 2A

Seark Concert Association presents Ballet Magnificat!

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

“Deliver Us!” a show that tells the story of Moses through dance, will be presented at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 2 at the University of Arkansas at Monticello Fine Arts Center.

The ballet presents the story of the enslaved Jewish people, who cry out for help as they toil under the blazing Egyptian sun. One man, Moses, emerges as a challenger to the pharaoh and leads the people to freedom.

Based in Jackson, Miss., Ballet Magnificat! is an arts organizations dedicated to presenting the good news of Jesus

Christ to the whole world. It was founded in 1986 by Keith and Kathy Thibodeaux and operates a professional touring company, a School of the Arts, and a pre-professional training program.

“We are very excited to be able to bring Ballet Magnificat! to Monticello and hope everyone will come out and enjoy this colorful, exciting performance,” Susan Akin, Seark Concert Association President stated. “Seeing the familiar story of Moses told through dance brings it alive in a whole new way, and we encourage everyone to experience it for them-



Photo courtesy of SEARK Concert Association

selves.”

Tickets to the performance are \$20 for adults, \$18 for veterans and \$15 for children age 12 and

under. They can be purchased at the door, by calling the Seark Concert office at 870-460-1888 or online at searkconcert.org.

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INDEX	Opinion.....4A
Calendar.....2A	Religion.....5B
Classifieds.....7A	Sports.....9A
Obituaries.....6A	Kids' Activities...2B

OUR 152ND YEAR
NUMBER 4 • 28 PAGES



HOSPITAL

Continued from Page 1A

Monday was because it was requested by representatives of Drew Memorial that they come take a look at the facility and situation.

“We have never said no to a request to come look,” Wells said. “Apart from that, we care for a lot of people from South Arkansas. Healthcare in Arkansas is important to us. We are a 100 year old Arkansas organization and we care about people. Our plan would be to come back to you with an assessment of what we see and a plan of what we would do if we were here and what it would look like if we did it that way. It would be up to this board to decide if that was something to pursue or not.”

“We are going to do a significant comparison to our other regional facilities,” Weeks noted.

Wells and Weeks stated that they could be ready to present options to the board as early as the February board meeting.

The next topic discussed was hospital employee health insurance.

Currently, the hospital uses Blue Cross Blue Shield for employee health coverage. The proposed cost for the upcoming year to remain with Blue Cross Blue Shield is an increase of seven percent from the previous year.

Other options that were presented were switching from BCBS to United Healthcare or Cigna to save on costs. After some discussion, Hospital CEO Scott Barrilleaux recommended that they look into switching to United Healthcare for the significant savings.

The board then spoke via conference call with HRG, the company that handles the hospitals coding and billing. According to that report, the turn around time to get a case coded is more than 10 days. Their goal is five days. Issues with improper use of insurance pre-authorization were also discussed. Lucky pointed out that if they could recoup the money that had been lost on lack of proper pre-authorization, the financials would be in much better shape.

CEO Scott Barrilleaux gave a report from a recent Arkansas Rural Hospital Partnership

meeting. At the meeting, the partnership reported that the member hospitals in Southeast Arkansas had losses ranging from \$25 million to just over one million.

“The message was the status quo was not sustainable” Barrilleaux said.

At a Council of Government Relations meeting, the top priority area as a group of hospitals in Arkansas was to try to get Medicaid rates increased. 2007 was the last time hospitals received a rate increase on the inpatient side. In 1992, there was a rate adjustment on the outpatient side and that was a rate decrease. There is a bill at the current legislative session that will provide a rate increase but it is going to take some advocacy, Barrilleaux said.

The board also discussed but took no action on replacing an outdated Fluoroscopy machine that had broken down. The hospital is currently using other methods to conduct some of the functions of the fluoroscopy but they are not as efficient according to staff.

CELEBRATING PEACE



Photo courtesy of Stacey Franklin

Annual celebrations for Martin Luther King Jr. Day were spread out across the weekend and all were successful. A brunch, Meet the Greeks, Cease Fire, alumni basketball game and church service were held throughout the weekend. Pictured above are the members of local Greek life as they introduced the different fraternities and sororities to an audience at the Wilmar Community Center.

January City Council meeting swift and concise

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

In the first regularly scheduled Monticello City Council meeting, Mayor Jason Akers kept the meeting flowing with precision and directness.

All City Council members were present and minutes from the December 2022 City Council meeting and minutes from the special called January 2023 meeting were approved.

Under Unfinished Business, the item of filling the position of City Clerk was on the agenda. Akers stated that other parties

were potentially interested in the position and considering this was an HR matter, more discussion would need to take place. The resolution to appoint was tabled for the February meeting.

In New Business, a Resolution to seek bids to replace the Bowser Street Pump Station was approved.

Resolutions providing for and adopting an operating budget for 2023, accepting the update and adjustment to the Sales and Use Tax Budget for 2022, providing for and adopting a bud-

get for the Sales and Use Tax Budget for 2023, and accepting the update and adjustment to the operating budget for 2022 were all passed unanimously.

A resolution to accept the contract with the Monticello Economic Development Commission was accepted. It was noted that no other contracts were received for that service.

A Resolution to appoint Jerome Pace to the Parks Commission was accepted.

A Resolution appointing Daniel Courtney and Evan Patrick to the Planning Commission was passed.

Akers then commended Cindy Villarreal with the Barbara Abston Senior Citizen Center for helping save the Monticello tax payers approximately \$5,000 annually by adjusting an outdated utility bill.

Council Mark Tiner let the crowd know that the City manages a budget of \$28 million and approximately 100 employees and he commended everyone involved in making this budget season go smoothly.



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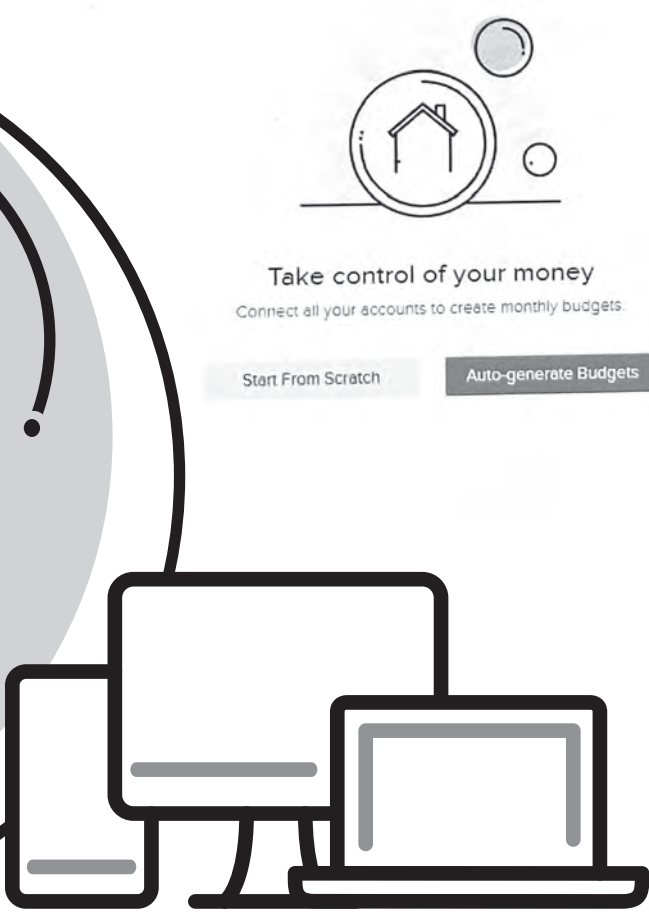
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Spend a moment in my head if you dare

As you very well should know, my train of thought is not much of a train at all. It's more like a New York City taxi, a little scary, can't find it when I need it, gets impatient at red lights.

I have a hard time sitting still or focusing on one task at a time. Most days you will find me with about 12.4 projects going at once. I like to say I am good at multi-tasking. Maybe I should let other people be the judge of that.

As I sat down to try to write my weekly column, I had a hard time settling on one topic to discuss. So, in true Ashley fashion, we will be making up the rules as we go along and I will invite you on brief trip inside my thoughts on this particular day.



ASHLEY HOGG
EDITOR

Life is short. Don't waste it. I know we hear this all the time and there are a million examples that can be listed but its so true. You do not know when the last time you will see someone, speak to someone, give someone a hug. Don't take little moments for granted. Dance in the kitchen when your favorite song comes on. Buy the pink pair of tennis shoes. Life should be enjoyable.

Do the Mets really have a chance this year? If you don't know, one of my first loves was Baseball. I might catch some hate for this but I honestly wouldn't care a single bit if there was never another football thrown in the history of forever. Baseball is America's sport and it shall remain so as long as my big mouth is around. As a child, I played youth softball for the city league and I was average at best. There were no athletic scholarships in my future but I enjoyed playing and did so for several years. My family, who has strong ties to St. Louis and the Cardinals, exposed me to MLB games and all the fanfare that goes along with it at an early age. As I emerged and formed my own opinions, my favorite baseball player was Mike Piazza. He was a catcher and that was the position I played so it seemed to fit. Piazza played for the New York Mets when I was introduced to his Italian/American accent and I have been a Mets fan ever since. They came close last year but dropped the ball at the end of the season. This year, they have the largest payroll in the league and I am hoping all those dollar signs get us to the World Series.

Why are Civic Clubs dwindling? Why do people not care about community issues as much as they once did? Have we gotten that lazy? Do we no longer find joy in helping people? I was recently inducted into the Monticello Rotary Club and I find it a great opportunity to be plugged in to my community and know what is going on and how I can use my talents to help advance the place I live, and choose to raise Fred. I ask everyone to consider community service in some capacity. We all can make a little time in our schedule.

Dolly Parton and Dave Grohl are absolute national treasures and they should be protected at all costs. I am by no means an avid reader but I am currently reading Dave Grohl's biography and it is great. The older I get, the more I appreciate Dolly Parton for everything she is and everything she represents for southern women. Also, her cake mixes are great, pick one up next time you are at the store.

Why are people against medical marijuana? If someone needs it for a medicinal purpose, what gives another human being the right to deny that person something that can help them be better? We don't oppose traditional pharmaceuticals. And by all means, if you don't want to use it, you do not have to. I just will never understand why people spend their valuable time and resources fighting against things that don't negatively affect them.

I hope you take a moment to look at page 1B of this weeks newspaper. The journalism students at Drew Central, under the instruction of Stephanie Teel, did a fabulous job showcasing many positive things that are happening on the DC campus. These kids are smart, thoughtful and have bright futures and I am really proud to have worked with them. I do hope this partnership can continue.

Anyone still following? Did I lose you at cake mix?

Recipe for reaching children in need

Americans have long called on Washington to cut inefficiencies in federal programs and modernize them for the 21st century. Yet rarely, are those calls heard on Capitol Hill.

Come this summer, we will get a good glimpse at what happens when Congress follows through with rhetoric and puts change into motion, as a lot of hungry children will be helped as a result.



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. SENATE REPORT

A long overdue modernization of our summer meals program, based on ideas I have championed for years, recently became law.

These reforms update rules that have been in place for over 60 years. Generations of families have struggled with the challenges these restrictive regulations presented while Washington sat idle.

Those difficulties arose from the requirement that children travel to a central location and eat at that site during the summer. This may work well in some communities. However, in rural areas, it can be difficult for children to reach a meal site, if one even exists.

Continuing down this antiquated path left

many families scrambling to find access to nutritious meals for their children during the months when classes are not in session.

The solution I have long advocated for, and successfully incorporated in the Fiscal Year 2023 government funding package, is to give states more options to reach hungry children during the summer. There are proven ways to achieve this goal, but until now, states have been powerless to employ commonsense approaches like off-site meal options or the issuance of electronic benefits cards.

These options do not replace congregate feeding sites, which as I previously noted, work well in many communities. But the one-size-fits all approach is outdated, and states have needed additional ways to fill the void in communities where it is not feasible for children to gather in a central location to eat.

Moving forward, states will be allowed to provide non-congregate meal options, such as grab-and-go or home delivery, to eligible children, and issue Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, capped at \$40 per child per month, to eligible families on a permanent basis.

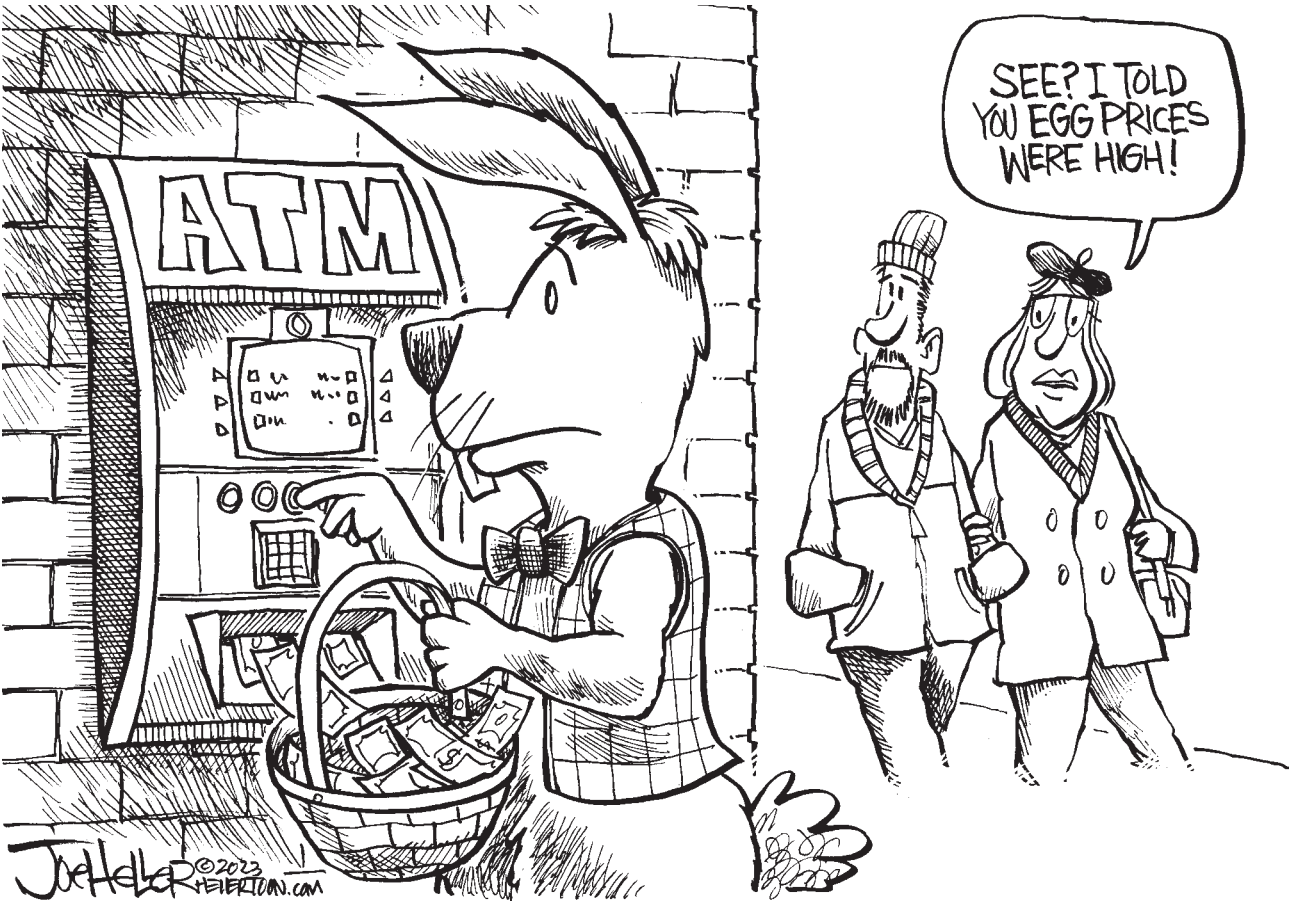
These options proved to be quite effective during the pandemic. When social distancing

mandates were in place, Congress waived the requirement for children to travel to a central location and eat their meals onsite. In turn, this spurred innovation with public-private partnerships that provided access to nutritious meals for young Arkansans.

We already had evidence to show summer EBT works. Pilot programs conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture prior to the pandemic showed summer EBT successfully reduced child hunger by over 30 percent among participants.

A handful of my colleagues and I had been pushing for these changes for many years. The success of these options during the pandemic convinced the rest of Congress it was time to act. While I am pleased to see these much-needed reforms are now law, it really should not be this difficult for Congress to act when a solution is staring us in the face.

While government is almost always behind the curve on innovation, we can show the American people that we are serious about fixing the way Washington works. It just takes a willingness from policymakers to focus on solutions, rather than punditry. Ending food insecurity is a great place to start that commitment.



United States has officially hit \$31.4 trillion debt limit

In response, the Treasury Department is embarking on "extraordinary" measures to ensure the federal government has enough money to stay afloat. Before we dig a little deeper into this, let's get one thing clear - it was "extraordinary" and wildly irresponsible spending that got us to this point in the first place.



BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. HOUSE REPORT

In December 2021, Congress voted to raise the debt limit to pay for the historic influx of spending amid the COVID-19 era. President Biden was a strong supporter of fast-tracking the process to raise the debt limit then, and it sent us even deeper into a never-ending spiral of spending and debt. And now look where we are. Not even 13

months later, we're right back in this same situation again.

In the meantime, The Treasury Department will continue to enact "extraordinary" measures and will move money around to remain under the cap and keep the government afloat, but this won't last forever. If the Treasury Department exhausts all extraordinary measures, it will be unable to pay bills and force us to default on our debt - something that would be economically devastating and could result in a global financial crisis. We cannot let this happen.

It's time to look in the mirror and face the facts - our nation has a debt problem, and it's Congress' job to fix it. Our national debt has always been a cause of great concern for me and my Republican colleagues in the House. And although hitting the debt limit raises serious economic fears, I believe we have been presented with a unique opportunity to enact

positive, proactive change in the federal government's spending habits. But we cannot make those changes or cut spending without bipartisan conversations. Raising the debt limit ensures that we pay the credit card bill. What we have to do is make sure that in the future, we're not creating a new, unwieldy bill. The only lasting way to ensure that we control our debt is to work across the aisle to do so, and I am ready to get to work.

It is my hope that the Biden Administration will work proactively with House Republicans as we work diligently to prioritize spending, cut back on unnecessary spending, streamline and lower costs, and strengthen our national security and economy so we can end this cycle of out-of-control debt growth. These are the first steps in getting America back on the right track.

House enters third week of Regular Session

In the second week, several bills passed the House and are now making their way to the Senate.

On Wednesday, the House passed HB1018. This bill will allow members of municipal fire department bomb squads to carry weapons while responding to bomb threats.



JEFF WARDLAW
ARKANSAS HOUSE REPORT

The House also passed HB1086. This bill amends the law concerning parking privileges for a person with a disabled veteran special license plate. It states vehicles with

a disabled veteran special license plate can have access to disabled parking spaces if the vehicle also displays a special certificate issued by the Office of Motor Vehicle.

On Thursday, the House passed HB1023. This bill states that all US flags and Arkansas flags purchased by a public entity with public funds shall be made and manufactured in the United States.

The House passed HB1024. This bill removes the requirement to collect a tax on prepared food and hotel purchases for cities seeking to create an entertainment district.

The House also passed HB1028. This bill replaces the term "child pornography" with the term "child sexual abuse material" in Arkansas code. This is the term used by several states and by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

See **WARDLAW** Page 5A

Senate attempting to change sentencing process

There are many stages in the process of convicting criminals and sentencing them to prison. Senate Bill 2, the "Truth in Sentencing and Parole Reform Act of 2023," will change many of them.



BEN GILMORE
ARKANSAS SENATE REPORT

Currently SB 2 is a shell bill, which means it consists only of the title. That's because the co-sponsors are still gathering ideas from people in the many areas of law enforcement that will be

affected.

Stakeholders include county sheriffs and police departments, prosecutors, judges, wardens, prison security officers, parole and probation officers, transition programs, victims' rights advocates, defense attorneys, drug courts, specialty courts, drug treatment programs and alcohol abuse programs.

The reforms will cost money, so SB 2 will have a ripple effect on the other spending categories in state government.

Last year many elected officials listed stronger law enforcement as one of their campaign issues.

In an interview, the Senate spon-

sor said that a major focus of the bill would be to protect people from repeat violent offenders who are released from prison on parole, sometimes after serving as little as a sixth of their sentence.

Under SB 2 inmates would have to earn their parole eligibility through good behavior; it would not be guaranteed merely by serving a portion of their sentence. The bill would create incentives for inmates to complete rehabilitation programs.

One challenge the sponsors must address is that about 1,700 inmates are being held in county jails in an average month while they wait for

available space to open in a state prison unit.

County jails don't have the funds or resources for the programs that state prisons can offer, such as treatment for drug abuse and job training. Thus, while inmates are serving time in a county jail they are not preparing for a productive life after their release.

The measure will lengthen sentences and tighten parole provisions because violent offenders are getting out too soon, the sponsor said. Some inmates don't participate in job training and drug rehab

See **GILMORE** Page 5A

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Financial Focus: Watch out for tax season scams

It's that time of year when we do our taxes — but it's also the same time that tax scammers go to work. What scams should you watch for — and how can you avoid being victimized?

Sadly, the list of scams is pretty long, including demands for payment or requests for “additional information” pertaining to your tax refund, in which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online “tool” that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

- The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.
- The IRS won't call to demand you make an immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe taxes, the IRS generally will mail you a bill. And the IRS won't threaten to bring in the police or another law enforcement group to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skeptical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive — and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax-season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department — but if you weren't expecting it, something's likely not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this overpayment be sent to them. If this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the government.

Other scams don't claim to originate directly from the IRS, as scammers pretend to be from real or imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent “Bureau of Tax Enforcement.” Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a recommendation from a trusted friend or family member. And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number and must sign your tax return. If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, it may well be a sign that this individual is a “ghost preparer” who only wants to pocket your fee.

Tax scammers are, unfortunately, here to stay — but remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future.

This article was written by

Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Katelyn Busby,
Financial Advisor
611 West Bolling
Monticello, AR 71655
Phone: (870) 367-5347

Drew Central Elementary announces Honor Roll students

<p>Second Grade Principal's List:</p> <p>Natalie Beard, Braxton Devlin, Chaplin Spencer, Malorie Gifford, Rylee Smith, Stormy Burnett, Jaxon Garay, Kensley Hammock, Serenity Hoover, Starlynn Redmond, Rylan Shaw, William Murray, Kodi Puddephat, and Braxton Collins.</p> <p>Pirate's Pride:</p> <p>Talin Watson, Zachary Shaw, Dayton Pace, Aaron-Parker Moore, Caelab Lambert, Aliyah King, Annabelle Jarrett, Drake Harvey, Lorenzo Hart, Samuel Gardner, McKenzie Garcia, Grayson Cater, Tobias Colbert, Alex Cortez, Brooks Kelnhofer, Nariah Lister, Elijah Miller, Lilah Owen, Cannon Free, Remi Phillips, Carliebeth Rauls, Eleanor Rodgers, AJ Simpson, Chandler Stewart, Ja'Kyia Woodard, Adalynn Chapman, Brimlee Taylor, Castle O'Connor, Gannon Noel, Lily Henry, Payton Leek, Kalen Roberts,</p>	<p>Roan Binns, Gavin Caine, Allen Etheridge, Luke Hammil, Kai Hickam, Jaxon Holdcraft, Grayson Lundy, Kolten Martin, Bentley Stephenson, Adrian Tillman, Madden Rose, Jamir Peoples, Kyleigh Marter, Bryson Griffin, Addison Colburn, Richard Block, Ezra Barnett, and Emily Austin.</p> <p>Pirate's Merit:</p> <p>Maylee Watt, Ronnie Tyler, Anna Irons, Drake Carter, Lucky Groce, Skylar Powell, Ava Boykin, Kendall Williams, Blaine Thomas, Brody Smith, John Minga, Alex Carley and Gunner Burris.</p> <p>Anchor List:</p> <p>JD Peacock, Luke Forrest, Jonathan Rhodes, Rekevis Block, Timber Mitchell, Ashton Keasler, Carsyn Knight, Jacob Goudy, Na'Heem Burns, Avant Ayala, Natalee Griffin, Karrean Heard, and Talia Robinson.</p> <p>Citizenship:</p> <p>Grayson Cater, Tobias Colbert, Timber Mitchell, Cooper</p>	<p>Carter, Talia Robinson, Blaine Thomas, Anna Graves, Kodi Puddephat, Kinsley Flemister and Luis Ambrocio.</p> <p>Perfect Attendance:</p> <p>Cameron Dofflemeyer, Phaedra Henry, Austyn Mooney, and Skyler Powell.</p> <p>Third Grade Principal's List:</p> <p>Travis Pevey and Thomas Trolinder.</p> <p>Pirate's Pride:</p> <p>Ryson Birch, Charles Chapman, Mason Chark, Tyler Clary, Dominic Duet-Preston, Taylor Gibson, J.B. Greenwood, Loryn White, Holden Cathey, River Eubanks, Brooklyn Harris, Dameron Hoover, Landon Jackson, Dechlan Knight, Zayden Morgan, Matthew Shepherd, Tori Simpson, Lyla Tipton, Gunnar Barnett, Aricka Davis, Gracie Fowler, Bennett Hogue, Mason Oakes, Kayleigh Burnett, Orrin Cope, Giuliana DeLa Cruz, Anna Ellingsburg, Rowdy Gibson, Virginia Golden, Paisley Har-</p>	<p>ris, Alex Hewitt, Josie James, Colton Long, Ahmad Lucas, Daylin Norrell, Ezekiel Sanchez, Jack Thiele, Samantha Chalk, Jordan Ferrell, Aliana Kelly, and Ella Seach.</p> <p>Pirate's Merit:</p> <p>Nicholas Hunt, Jordyn Jackson, Chase Maggard, Karson Mann, Aniyah Russell, Gracie Smith, Emma Stanley, Kadan Sutton, Cullen Booth, John David Gammel, Mattelyn Shepherd, Gunner Booth, Kaiden Remley, Gatsby Spencer, Ni-Jayla Burns, Lucas Cox, Braylon Dawson, Raine Farmer, Joslyn Frost, Ethan Reed, Yair Zungia, M.J. Tumlinson, Jerman Butler, Michael Hatcher, Jeremiah Powell, Raegan Threet, and D.J. Weeks.</p> <p>Anchor Award:</p> <p>Mya Ambrocio.</p> <p>Citizenship:</p> <p>Kyler Clary, Jordyn Jackson, Gatsby Spencer, Essence Hegler, Gracie Fowler, Bennett Hogue, Annabelle Ellingsburg,</p>	<p>Alex Hewitt, Hallie Forrest, and Michael Hatcher.</p> <p>Perfect Attendance:</p> <p>Colton Long, Delilah Clobber, Mason Oakes, Travis Peavy, and Taylor Gibson.</p> <p>Fourth Grade Principal's List:</p> <p>Dax Brown, Garrick Caine, Gage Cater, Jennifer Dodson, Macyn Fox, Ella Jordan, Aisher Rodriguez, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Casper Samaniego, Nora Wilmoth, Skylar McCarty, and Kacyn Rhodes.</p> <p>Pirate's Pride:</p> <p>Bentley Brandon, Taylim Burnett, Aubrey Carley, Colt Carter, Cruz Gonzales, Drake Hale, Max Johnson, Jase Walker, Jason Little, Kaylee Bardin, Uriah Cope, Konnor Forrest, Levi Hayden, Micah Hill, Maycie Jarratt, Aaron McAdoo, Hayden Pertuis, Layney Strickland, Ameera Williams, Estefania Acuapa, Dallas Brewer, Asher Briant, Ava Burns, Kendalyn Collins, Emma Cortez, Joy Fig-</p>	<p>ures, Darrion Jackson, A'Leigh Lucas, Landon Moreland, Kylan Remley, Bentley Sheffield, Jake Spradlin, Brooklyn Cater, Adam Clowers, Aakiyah Dobbins, Eyan Horn, Jaxon Macklin, Jace Neill, Kyree Oglesby, C.J. Trolinder, and Legacy Woods.</p> <p>Pirates Merit List:</p> <p>Maleki Alvarez, Aliyah McKee, and Zaiden Miller.</p> <p>Anchor List:</p> <p>Bailey English, Ruthie Reed, Nina Honeycutt, Mallisen Veasey, Marcus Vincent, Adan Ayala, Thomas Hammock, Rushing Martin, Gabriel Sutton, Jaci Fortenberry, Rosa Martinez, Dax Williams, and Robert Williams.</p> <p>Citizenship:</p> <p>Jase Walker, Cruz Gonzales, Konnor Forrest, Nina Honeycutt, Maycie Jarratt, Emma Cortez, Aisher Rodriguez, Robert Williams, and C.J. Trolinder.</p> <p>Perfect Attendance:</p> <p>Drake Hale.</p>
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Plunkett promoted at AgHeritage McGehee Branch Office

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

“We’re thrilled to have Jessie take on this new role to better serve our customer-owners,” said Bill Stephens, VP of Lending and Branch Manager at McGehee. “She has been a Customer Specialist for our company for five years and is someone our branch can always rely on.”

Plunkett holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She resides with her husband and children in Selma.

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services is a financial cooperative



PLUNKETT

with owned and managed assets of approximately \$2.21 billion as of December 31, 2022. The company provides credit and related services to more than 6,300 farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products in 24 Arkansas counties. Branch offices are located in Batesville, Brinkley, Lonoke, McGehee, Newport, Pine Bluff, Pocahontas, Searcy and Stuttgart.

MONTICELLO MAYOR PRESENTS TO ROTARY CLUB



Ashley Hogg/Advance Monticellonian

Newly elected Mayor of Monticello Jason Akers recently spoke to the Rotary Club about the issues the community is facing and proposed solutions to said issues. Akers gave a recant of the difference between buffalo and cows stating that cows run from the storm but buffalo run into the storm. It is his recommendation that as a city, we tackle to storms head on. New members Kerry Hartness and Ashley Hogg were officially inducted into the club. The Rotary Club will meet next at noon, Thursday, January 26 at the UAM Gibson Center with a public program from Common Ground Arkansas.

GILMORE

Continued from Page 4A

programs. A strong incentive to participate would be to make it a requirement in order to become eligible for parole.

The legislature will consider proposals to add prison space. The question is how many more beds to build, and how

many of the new beds will be for violent and dangerous offenders.

At the end of 2022 the Department of Correction had more than 17,000 inmates in its jurisdiction. That is an increase of about 3,000 more inmates since 10 years ago, and an increase of about 5,000 inmates since 20 years ago.

In fiscal year 2010 the leg-

islature appropriated \$338 million from the state’s general revenue fund to the Correction Department for operating state prisons. Last fiscal year the appropriation was \$494 million.

The Senate co-sponsor of SB 2 said that garnering a consensus in support of the bill would depend on its total cost. It probably will be a couple of

weeks before the details are finalized. When that happens, the bill will be amended. It will no longer be a shell bill with just a title, but will be “a fairly large piece of legislation.”

WARDLAW

Continued from Page 4A

Close to 170 bills have been filed in the House so far. More than 70 bills have been filed in

the Senate.

We will continue to update you on developments throughout the session.

You can watch all committee meetings and House floor proceedings at arkansashouse.org

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OBITUARIES

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Janice Marie Burks

Janice Marie Burks was born August 19, 1966, to the very proud parents, Otis and Erma Burks, Sr. in Monticello. She departed this life on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at her childhood home surrounded by her loving parents and family. Janice or "Jan" as she was affectionately called by family and those close to her was the baby of five children. Janice was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Norman and Bernice Moore, and her paternal grandparents, Leroy Burks and Tommie Mae Batts. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Tommie Jean and Debbie Sue (her best friend and birthday month twin) Burks.

Janice confessed her faith in Christ at an early age at Brooks Chapel Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Paul Everett, Sr. She was a faithful and hard-working servant for God. She loved driving her parents to Sunday morning and evening worship services to praise and worship the goodness and faithfulness of God. Her love for God was seen through her love shown to her family. Anyone who knew Janice knew that her faith and family were two of the most important things in her life.

Janice was a graduate of Monticello High School's class of 1984. She graduated from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1988, where she received her BA in Business Administration. After graduation, Janice gained employment at Walmart, where she worked for 30 years as a cashier and worked her way into management. Customers knew they could always receive assistance with a smile from her. She loved her job and assisting others.

Janice leaves to cherish her memories her loving parents, Otis and Erma Burks, Sr. of Monticello; two siblings, Brenda (George) Welch of Mabelvale, and Otis Burks, Jr. of Monticello; aunts and uncles, Norma Jean (Eli) Selph, Peggy Sue Bardley, Barbara Ann (Clint) Richardson, and Earston Burks; five devoted coworkers, Angela, Melissa, Phyllis, Rose, and Quinella; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends to whom she loved dearly.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. in the Stephenson Dearman Chapel. Funeral services will be Friday, January 27, 2023, at 1 p.m. in the Stephenson-Dearman Chapel with burial in Brooks Chapel Cemetery. (Paid obituary)

William Dean Busby

William Dean Busby, 65, of Monticello, peacefully passed away on January 21, 2023, in his home surrounded by his daughter and his siblings.

He was born on May 29, 1957, in North Little Rock, to the late Dr. A.K. Busby and the late Louise Yocum Busby. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Roselyn Grubbs Busby, his son, William Busby, and his brother, Jeff Busby, and his sister, Pat Busby Akin.

Bill was raised in and blessed by a large, loving, boisterous Busby clan. He married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Roselyn. They were blessed with two wonderful children, Kelli and William, and then again with six beautiful grandchildren. Bill enjoyed life. He enjoyed people, piddling, and playing. He had an infectious and sometimes mischievous grin. He served kids as a teacher in the Monticello schools for over 26 years. He loved Razorback football, the outdoors, wood-working, gadgets, and making frequent impulse purchases.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Kelli Chandler (Colin) of Dripping Springs, Texas; his daughter-in-law, Katelyn Busby, of Monticello; brothers, Kelt-on Busby (Betty) of Little Rock, and Dr. John Robert "Bo" Busby (Nina) of Little Rock; sisters, Susan Wooldridge of Centerton, Melissa Claycomb (Sonny) of Edmond, Okla., and Jana Calhoun (Daron) of The Woodlands, Texas; his six grandchildren, Rory Chandler, Rose Chandler, Elizabeth Jane Chandler, Georgia Chandler, Henry Busby, and Clara Busby; as well as a host of other family, including nieces and nephews who loved their Uncle Bill. Bill was blessed with a loyal and loving family and friends. If there was fun to be had, Bill was interested in having it! In his later years, he loved be-

ing "Poppy" to his grandkids. He was a genuine guy, and he will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Bill's memory to the Madeline Grubbs Scholarship Fund, c/o UCA Foundation, Inc., UCA Box 4986, Conway, 72035 or the Jeff Busby Memorial Scholarship, c/o UAM Foundation Fund, PO Box 3520, Monticello, 71656.

In lieu of a visitation, the family invites you to a Celebration of Life for Bill Busby at the Monticello Country Club on January 27, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Please join us in sharing memories of Bill, Roselyn, and William Busby. A brief memorial service will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Monticello.

Honorary Pallbearers include Nat Grubbs, Robert Akin, Lee Busby, Paul Svoboda, Jim Beasley, Paul Lewis Dottley, Paul Henson, Phillip Herring, and John Ward. (Paid obituary)

Barton Alan Bynum

Barton Alan Bynum was born in Dermott, on June 7, 1945, the son of Woodrow Wilson and Janie Richardson Bynum. He died on January 21, 2023, at the Southern Hills Cottages in Rison.

He loved duck hunting, family, friends, and God with a passion. During his lifetime, he was a teacher, owner/manager of the Western Auto Store in Dermott, loan officer at First Service Bank, volunteer fireman in both Dermott and Collins, as well as a United Methodist minister at Wesley United Methodist Church in McGehee.

He and his wife, Judith Lane Bynum, were married for over 53 years. Bart was preceded in death by his parents, Woody and Janie Bynum of Dermott; his parents-in-law, Herbert and Corine Lane of Monticello; his sister, Ann Bynum Dunbar; and his son-in-law, Jon Garraway Nance.

Survivors include his wife, Judith Lane Bynum of Collins; daughter, Dr. Jody Grimm (Robert) of Sallisaw, Okla.; son, Woodrow Bynum of Albany, New York; grandchildren Emma

Lane Nance of Bronx, New York, and Garraway Nance, Matthew Grimm, and Allie Grimm of Sallisaw, Okla. He will never be forgotten through tales told around the campfire or at family gatherings around the dinner table.

Memorials may be made to the Curry Cottage of Southern Hills Cottages in Rison, the Collins-Cominto Fire Department, the First United Methodist Church in Monticello, The Charles Graham Ministry, or to a charity of your choice. Simply "paying it forward" to help another would have pleased him so much.

Special thanks go to the residents and staff of Curry Cottage at the Southern Hills Cottages of Rison, who nurtured and loved him during his final months. (Paid obituary)

Joyce Donaldson

Joyce Donaldson, 76, of Monticello, passed away on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello.

Joyce's early dreams and aspirations of growing up in the tiny community of Selma were all about family and children. Where other young girls might have dreamed of escaping the rural life of Selma, through fortune or fame, Joyce's dreams were more down to earth and guided by her loving heart. Though Joyce never sought fortune, she did get more fame than she bargained for when she said "I do" and hitched a life-long ride with truck driver and Monticello socialite George Ervin Donaldson. That 53-year romance fulfilled her dreams of being a supportive loving wife and a doting, supportive mother to three daughters, Teresa Taylor of Greenwood, Georgie Mae Fleming of Monticello and Elizabeth Donaldson of Reno.

In her work life, Joyce was recognized for her work ethic and reliability during her many years at Duracraft and then later at McKiever Packing but she was most happy and content just to be the central figure in the lives of her three beautiful grandchildren; Jordan Kelley and husband Patrick of Barling, Teresa Fleming and Jamie Johnson of Monticello; five great grandchildren, Makynli Meadows, Avery Johnson, Kayben Johnson, Ol-

ivia Adams and Bennet Kelley; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents Ruby and Johnny Lindsey; sisters Louise Lindsey, Donna Prickett and Kathrine Donaldson. She is survived by sisters Velma Lindsey and Ouida Carter both of Monticello and two son in laws, Lee Fleming of Monticello and Jim Taylor of Greenwood.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Graveside services will be held at Flat Creek Cemetery in Fountain Hill at 3 p.m. following the viewing.

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

Levell Handley

Levell Handley, 61, of Monticello, made his transition Thursday January 12, 2023, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his wife Debra.

He was born in Monticello, on March 9, 1961, to the late Larry (C.C.) Handley and Gloria Jean



HANDLEY

Grasper Hubbard. Levell Handley was a loving and devoted husband, father, brother, uncle and grandfather to his family and friends whom he loved so much.

He was especially devoted to his God always had a big bright smile on his face and was a lover of sports. He was married to Debra for 33 years.

He accepted Christ at an early age. Levell attended Mt. Pleasant A.M.E. Campground Church. He was preceded in death by both of his parents, Larry (L.C.) Handley and Gloria Jeans Grasper Hubbard; his brother (Phil) Venance Jerry Binns; and his grandparents.

Levell worked at Advantages of Southeast Arkansas for 26 years in which he loved doing. He also retired from Safeway Stores Inc. after 18 years of service and was a member of UF-CWU.

Survivors include his loving wife Debra of Monticello; his four sons Clayton Handley (Amanda) of Dallas, Kendrick Simmons of Monticello, Jalen Handley and Terrell Handley of Little Rock; five grandchildren; Clayton Handley Jr., Amar'e

Handley, and Cayden Handley of Dallas, Savion Jackson of Conway and Ava Handley of Little Rock; three brothers; Gregory (Tikisha) Binns of Monticello, Gerald Grasper (Leean) of Monticello and Marcus Jordan of St. Louis; nine sisters; Delores Woodard (Barry) of Wilmar, Shelia Shelton (Lenard) of Pine Bluff, Bernester Dupree (Carl) of Crossett, Subrinna Coleman and Michelle Handley both of Monticello, Jackaye Handley and Kimberly Handley both of Jonesboro, Angela Williams (Joseph) of Pennsylvania, Regina Jones (Reginald) of Fountain Hill; his stepfather John Hubbard and a special father figure, Jerry Binns; along with a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and brothers and sisters in laws.

Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 21, 2023, at Stephenson-Dearman Funeral Chapel with Rev. D.J. Buffington presiding. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery. You can sign Levell's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

Bettye Jane Murphy

Bettye Jane Murphy, 82, of Monticello, passed away Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at her home.

She was born January 13, 1941, in Hampton, to the late Horace Ivy and Georgie Ginn Ivy.

She was the widow of Norman Murphy, a retired secretary and homemaker and was of the Baptist faith.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was also preceded in death by four brothers and one sister.

Survivors include her son, Douglas Murphy (Judy Brint-Murphy) of Sherwood; two sisters, Peggy Norman of Pine Bluff and Bobbie Rogers (Daniel) of Hampton; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; along with her fur babies.

Graveside services were at 2:30 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2023, at Union Ridge Cemetery. There was a visitation from 1-2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home preceding the graveside service. You can sign Mrs. Bettye's guestbook page at www.stephensondearman.com. (Paid obituary)

ATU announces fall 2022 Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Arkansas Tech University has announced its Dean's List for undergraduate students on its Russellville campus for the fall 2022 semester.

A student must achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher and complete at least 12 hours of college-level coursework to be named to the Dean's List.

A total of 1,709 Arkansas Tech students achieved that

distinction during fall 2022.

Included in the fall 2022 Dean's List are 836 students who achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

Students from Drew County that made the list include Lucas Anthony Babst (4.0), Austin R. Norman (4.0), Anna-Marie Pesaresi (4.0), Quinn Joseph Reynolds and Mylesha Jaleen Yao.

Hannah Jones named to Harding University Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE ADVANCE

Hannah Jones, a Sophomore studying marketing, is among more than 1,200 Harding University students included on the dean's list for grades achieved during the fall 2022 semester.

The dean's list is published each semester by Dr. Marty Spears, University provost, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible,

a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

Harding University is a private Christian university located in Searcy. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, it is the largest private university in the state. Harding's student body is made up of students representing 49 states and 55 nations and

territories. The University offers more than 100 undergraduate majors, graduate and professional degrees at the master's, specialist and doctoral level as well as numerous international

study offerings including locations in Australia, Latin America, England, France, Greece, Italy and Zambia. For more information, visit harding.edu.

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RUMMAGE SALE RATES

Rummage Sale ads are now

FREE to individuals!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Hope Place

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

Fight Hunger

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

Historical Preservation Funds Needed For Enon School

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

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

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

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See **CLASSIFIEDS** Page 10A

Legals

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF DREW, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO ADD 3 SLOTS TO THE ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND TO ADDRESS OTHER MATTERS

ARTICLE 1. The **First** Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget for Drew County, which the Annual Budget was dated December 12, 2022, and which amendment is dated January 17, 2023 and is filed with the County Clerk, is hereby adopted by reference and is incorporated herein as though set out word for word.

ARTICLE 2. The appropriations, sums, funds, accounts and demands as amended by said Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget for Drew County, filed with the County Clerk, are hereby appropriated to be paid from the designated funds and devoted to the payment of the specified demands for the year 2023 and those appropriations are hereby made by reference to that **First** Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget which is incorporated herein as though set out word for word.

ARTICLE 3. The **First** Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget and the amendments to the budget and appropriations adopted and made therein shall be effective for the calendar year of 2023.

ARTICLE 4. If any provision of this ordinance (including, but not limited to any provisions of the **First** Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget or appropriations in that amendment) are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance (and the amendment to the budget and appropriations) are declared to be severable.

ARTICLE 5. This **First** Appropriation Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget shall be effective immediately upon passage by the quorum court and approval by the County Judge. (See 2016 ACCG §14-14-907 3(f))

ADOPTED: January 17, 2023

APPROVED: /s/Jessie Griffin

Jessie Griffin, County Judge

ATTEST: /s/Stephanie Chisom

Stephanie Chisom, Drew County Clerk

ATTACHMENT TO APPROPRIATION

ORDINANCE 2023-03

The **First** Amendment to the 2023 Annual Budget for Drew County, Dated January 17, 2023

Appropriation Ordinance 2023-03

Creation of 3 Slots for Road Department

Slot 26	Common Laborer	\$29,120.00
Slot 27	Common Laborer	\$29,120.00
Slot 30	Assistant Road Coordinator	\$32,240.00
	Total	\$90,480.00

Decrease Unappropriated County Road Fund (**2000**)

\$199,045.59 and increase the County Road Fund (2000) County Road Department (0200)

Line items;		
1001	Salaries Full-time	\$90,480.00
1006	Social Security Matching	\$13,618.00
1008	Non-Contributory Retirement	\$27,271.59
1009	Health Insurance Matching	\$53,291.00
1010	Workers Compensation	\$4,185.00
1011	Unemployment Compensation	\$10,200.00

Decrease Unappropriated County Sanitation Fund (**3009**)

\$5,217.19 and increase County Sanitation Fund (3009) County Sanitation Department (0701) for slot 2 Equipment Operator/Journeyman

Line items;		
1001	Salaries Full-time	\$4,242.64
1006	Social Security Matching	\$324.57
1008	Non-Contributory Retirement	\$649.98

This appropriation is effective date of January 1, 2023.

Paid for by the Drew County Clerk's Office in the amount of \$162.52.

#107607 1/25

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.
2017 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4AL3AP2HN342577

#107207 1/25 2/1

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Mill Technicians



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Monticello

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.



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Legals

INVITATION TO BID

1.01. Sealed bids for new flooring and emergency generator addition & clinic remodeling for Mainline Health Systems - Dermott will be received until 2:00 PM, Local Time on Thursday, February 09, 2023, in the Conference Room of the Mainline Health Systems Administrative Office at 583 W Gaines St, Monticello, AR 71655, and then will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A. Telephones and private office space WILL NOT be available for use by bidders.

1.02. There will be no pre-bid conference. The Owner reserves the right to schedule additional meetings.

1.03. The work includes Site Preparation and Improvements, General Construction, Mechanical Work, Plumbing Work and Electrical Work, all to be let under one prime contract.

1.04. Bid Security: A cashier's check or acceptable bidder's bond payable to the Owner in an amount of not less than 5% of the base bid submitted must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into a contract and execute such bonds as may be required. If a Bid Bond is provided, the Bond must be signed by an authorized agent of the Bonding Company and the agent's power of attorney must be submitted with the Bid Bond.

1.05. Copies of drawings, specification and other proposed contract documents are on file and are open to inspection at the following places.

Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc.

Southern Reprographics Plan Room
Dodge Reports | Construction News - (Paid for by Plan Service)

ConstructConnect™ | iSqFt® - (Paid for by Plan Service)

1.06. Prime Bidders may obtain up to one (1) full-sized set of Bidding Documents from Southern Reprographics, Inc., 901 West 7th, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, Tel: 501-372-4011, upon deposit by means of a credit/debit card, on account, or check in the amount of \$100 per set, payable to Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc. Any required deposit shall be refunded to Bidders who submit a bona fide Bid and return paper Bidding Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after receipt of Bids. A Bidder receiving a Contract award may retain paper Bidding Documents, and the Bidder's deposit will be refunded. Additional sets or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, may be obtained for the actual cost of printing, shipping and handling, and will be non-refundable. Prime Bidders may also obtain Bidding Documents in electronic format through Southern Reprographics at www.sriplanroom.com for a non-refundable fee as pre-determined by level of access.

1.07. Bidders, sub-bidders, material suppliers and other interested parties are encouraged to obtain complete sets of Bid Documents from the Architect. Complete sets of Bid Documents should always be used in preparing bids. Neither the Owner nor Architect assumes responsibility for errors in bidding or misinterpretations of Bid Documents resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bid Documents. The documents obtained through the Architect are considered the official version and take precedence if any discrepancies occur. The use of

incomplete or inaccurate Bid Documents does not relieve the bidder of the obligation to perform all work related to his bid as detailed in a complete set of Bid Documents.

1.08. - Not used -
1.09. The Davis-Bacon Wage Rates and other federal regulations will apply to this project.

1.11. All bidders shall conform to the requirements of Arkansas Code Annotated 17-25-101, Arkansas State Licensing Law for Contractors.

1.12. Bidders are hereby notified that any bidder who desires to enter into Contract for this work must comply with disclosure requirements pursuant to Governor Executive Order 98-04. Submission to the Owner of completed Disclosure forms will be a condition of the Contract. The Owner cannot enter into any contract, which does not obligate the contractor to require the submission of Disclosure forms for subcontractors.

1.13. Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 22-9-203, the Owner encourages all small,

minority, and women owned business enterprises to submit bids for capital improvements. Encouragement is also made to all general contractors that in the event they subcontract portions of their work, consideration is given to the identified groups.

1.14. The Owner reserves the right to waive any formalities in, or to reject any or all bids.

1.15. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the date of the opening thereof.

1.16. Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing, on the outside, the name of the bidder, their Arkansas Contractor License number, their address and the project name.

#107200 1/18 1/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PEBBLE J. MONTGOMERY, DECEASED

22PR-23-6-4

NOTICE

Name of Decedent: Pebble J. Montgomery

Last known address: 876 Slemmons Street

Monticello, AR 71655

Date of Death: November 19, 2022

On January 13, 2023, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributees was filed with respect to the Estate of Pebble J. Montgomery, Deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Drew County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributees or their attorney, within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or distributee's attorney is:

Hani W. Hashem
Hashem Law Firm, PLC
P. O. Box 739
Monticello, AR 71657
(870) 367-4223

This Notice first published the 18th day of January, 2023.

#107202 1/18 1/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION



Alumni & Development Officer
Alumni Affairs
University of Arkansas at Monticello

For complete details visit us online at <http://www.uamont.edu/jobs>
AA/EOE



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AUCTION

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3BR/2.5 BATH, 1.75 A. M/L

Begins Jan. 9 at 1 PM

Ends Feb.8 at 1 PM

To Register go to:
BiddingOpen.com

Neal Davis Auction & Realty Co. PB 6564,
ALB #1, 501-940-2138 or
501-454-3382
Shown By Appointment.

COUNTRY STORE AUCTION

Sunday, January 29, 2023
START TIME: 9 AM
1504 South Leslie Street
Stuttgart, AR 72160

We will be selling the contents of a General Mercantile and Dry Goods Store. That opened in 1878 as B.B. Bethell and Sons. In the mid 1950s A.F. Horne bought it and then his son Gene Horne and Family operated it till retiring in 1990. These items were stored on the Second Floor of the Mercantile Building. There's a lot of Rare and Unusual Items that have all been moved to our Auction Facility in Stuttgart to be sold. Plus, a 53-ft semi load of quality Furniture antiques and Collectibles. Definitely something for everyone. Come and spend the day enjoying the excitement of a live auction event!

For more info call (870) 672-1731
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HELP WANTED

McGehee School District

has the following positions available 2022-2023 school year and for the 2023-2024 school year.

Elementary special education self-contained teacher (K-12 Ped certified) for the remainder of 2022-2023 school year and the 2023-2024 school year.

High School Band Director / Music (2023-2024 school year). Applications available online at <https://www.mcgeheeschools.org/>.

Deadline until filled.

Must meet State licensure requirements. EOE



WE'RE HIRING at EASTER SEALS: Direct Support Professional positions at the Children's Rehabilitation Center. \$15 Base Pay + \$3 Shift Differential (depending on shift) To see all job listings and to apply online: eastersealsar.com/jobs

MISCELLANEOUS

Attention Photographers, Florists, Bridal Shops, Wedding Planners and more:

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

BITTY KNOWLES JONES, DECEASED
NO. 22PR-21-154-2

NOTICE OF FILING

OF ACCOUNTS

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

All interested persons are called on to file objections to such accounts on or before the sixtieth day following the filing

of the respective accounts, failing which they will be barred forever from excepting to the accounting.

Name of Estate: In the Matter of the Estate of Bitty Knowles Jones, Deceased.

Name and Address of Personal Representatives: Sampy Jones, by and through the Hashem Law Firm, P.O. Box 739, Monticello, AR 71657.

Nature of Account: Accounting by Personal Representative
Date filed: January 19, 2023
Date: January 19, 2023

/s/Stephanie Chisom
STEPHANIE CHISOM,
DREW PROBATE CLERK

#107608 1/25

MAXWELL HARDWOOD FLOORING

is seeking the position of an

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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! FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1ST -

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.**

FEBRUARY 8TH - 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.**

FEBRUARY 15TH - 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.**

FEBRUARY 22ND - 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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Blossoms defeat Arkansas Tech 67-60 before losing consecutive games



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

JOI MONTGOMERY has scored 32 points in the Blossoms last three contests. Montgomery scored 12 at home against Arkansas Tech and 11 on the road at Henderson State before returning home to score nine against Southern Arkansas.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

AERYN HAWKINS lays it in against an Arkansas Tech defender on Thursday night. Hawkins, who is the only senior on the Blossom roster, scored nine points to help the Blossoms win their third consecutive contest.

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Blossoms came into Thursday's contest against the Arkansas Tech Golden Suns with a two game winning streak that started at home a week earlier with a 67-56 victory over Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Arkansas Tech entered the contest with a 5-2 Great American Conference record with UAM sporting a 3-5 conference record.

The Blossoms would miss their first shot of the contest and would see the Golden Suns take off to a 7-0 run before Bailey Harris connected on a jumper to get the Blossoms on the board at the 7:43 mark.

After Arkansas Tech would score to extend the lead to 9-2, UAM would score seven straight points to tie the contest at nine with 5:39 remaining in the first quarter.

The Blossoms would gain their first lead of the contest on a jumper by Harris to take a 16-15 lead with 1:03 left in the first before ending the quarter on another successful jumper by Harris to give the Blossoms a three-point, 18-15, advantage at the buzzer to end the quarter.

The Blossoms would hold their lead throughout the second quarter, gaining their largest lead of the contest with 3:46 remaining in the half on a jump shot by Harris for a 10-point, 27-17, lead.

UAM would close the half with the six-point lead after Joi Montgomery laid the ball in with 22 seconds remaining in the half to give the Blossoms a 29-23 half-time lead.

Returning from the half, Arkansas Tech would make a run at the Blossoms lead, cutting the lead to one point on three different occasions in the quarter, but UAM maintained a 45-41 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Golden Suns took the lead in the fourth quarter but the two teams remained close on the scoreboard until the Blossoms broke a 50-50 score by going on a 11-0 run to jump to a 61-50 lead with 2:32 remaining in the contest.

The Blossoms would not relinquish the lead, taking a 67-60 victory for their third consecutive win.

Leading the way for the Blossoms was Bailey Harris with 16 points followed by Cyarah Kensmil with 13 and Joi Montgomery with 12.

Alindsey Long and Aeryn Hawkins each scored nine, Azaria Hulbert added five, and Laia Ballcells rounded out the scoring

with three.

The Blossoms headed out on the road, travelling to Arkadelphia, to face Henderson State on Saturday, January 21.

The Blossoms were able to get the first points of the contest, but it would be the Lady Reddies that would take the advantage in the first, to outscore UAM by 10-points in the quarter for a 23-13 lead heading into the second quarter.

The Blossoms would outscore Henderson in the second quarter 15-12, with Taylor East cutting the lead to seven points at the half on a three-pointer.

Henderson State would hold a 35-28 lead at the break.

The Blossoms would cut the Lady Reddie lead to five points in the third quarter after outscoring Henderson 16-14 in the quarter.

A pair of successful free throws by Alindsey Long reduced the Lady Reddie lead to 49-44 heading into the fourth quarter.

Henderson would hold the lead for the remainder of the contest, outscoring UAM 23-19 in the fourth quarter to take the 72-63 win.

Bailey Harris would lead the Blossoms in points with 14 followed by Joi Montgomery with 11 and Laia Ballcells with 10.

Taylor East added nine, Alindsey Long with seven, Cyarah Kensmil and Aeryn Hawkins with five, and Azaria Hulbert rounding out the scoring with two points.

The Blossoms would return home for a short turnaround on Monday, January 23, hosting conference rival Southern Arkansas University.

Each team would exchange the lead throughout the first quarter with the Blossoms taking a one-point lead, 21-20 at the end of the quarter.

The Blossoms would lead the entire second quarter, closing the quarter with an 11-point, 39-28, advantage.

SAU would come back in the third quarter to take the lead with the Blossoms battling back to tie the contest at the end of the quarter 53-53.

SAU would control the entire fourth quarter, stretching their lead to double-digits, taking a 13-point, 76-63 victory. Handing the Blossoms their second consecutive loss.

Bailey Harris would lead in scoring with 23 points followed by Nyah Banks with 10.

Joi Montgomery added nine. Azaria Hulbert with eight, and Aeryn Hawkins and Cyarah Kensmil scored four.

Laia Ballcells and Tori Hamilton each scored two, and Alexys Grice rounding out the scoring with one.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

LAIA BALCELLS drives in for a shot in the paint against Arkansas Tech. The Blossoms would defeat the Golden Suns 67-60 with Balcells scoring three points in the game. The Blossoms would lose two consecutive contests after winning three in a row.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

AZARIA HULBERT shoots a three-pointer against Arkansas Tech. Hulbert has scored a total of 15 points in the Blossoms last three contests. Hulbert scored five against Tech, two at Henderson, and eight against SAU.

Weevils fall in eighth consecutive contest with loss to Southern Arkansas

By: JEFF YOUNG
Advance Correspondent

With the last win for the Weevils coming back on December 13 in the "Billie Ballgame" against Langston University, the Weevils have lost eight consecutive Great American Conference contests dating back to a home loss to Ouachita Baptist on December 17.

After dropping two games on

their first road trip to Oklahoma against Southwestern and Northwestern Oklahoma State Universities, the Weevils would return to Steelman Fieldhouse to drop contests to Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 83-55, and to East Central University, 66-59.

Playing in their third home contest on January 19, the Weevils would lead the Wonder Boys

27-15 at the half and would lead Arkansas Tech until five seconds remaining in the contest when the Wonder Boys connected on a pair of free throws to take a 49-48 win.

Taking to the road to face Henderson State, the Weevils would find themselves on the wrong end of their second one-point loss after trailing for the majority of the contest, UAM would take

the lead in the second half, but would lose the lead with 19 seconds remaining allowing Henderson to take the 66-65 win.

Returning home on Monday, January 23, hosting Southern Arkansas University.

UAM and SAU exchanged the lead several times during the first half with the Weevils taking a one-point, 26-25, lead on a layup with five seconds on the clock by

Cole Anderson.

The Weevils and Muleriders continued to go back and forth in the second half until the Muleriders took the lead for the final time in the contest with six seconds remaining.

SAU would finish the contest on the free throw line, connecting on two shots to take a four-point, 65-61 win handing the Weevils their eight consecutive

defeat.

With the loss the Weevils are now 5-12 overall and 1-10 in GAC play.

UAM will take to the road for their second trip to Oklahoma to face Southern Nazarene on Thursday, January 26, in Bethany, Oklahoma, following with a stop in Shawnee, Oklahoma, facing Oklahoma Baptist University on Saturday, January 27.



ISSAC JACKSON (left) has scored 79 points in the last five contests. Jackson scored 13 against Arkansas Tech, 19 against East Central, five against Southeastern, 20 at Henderson, and 13 against Southern Arkansas. **MARIO FANTINA (center)** has scored eight points against Arkansas Tech and Southeastern, 11 against East Central, and 18 against SAU. **JOSH DENTON (right)** takes a jumper shot against Arkansas Tech. Denton scored 13 points against Tech to co-lead in scoring with Jackson. Denton scored 10 points against East Central, three against Southeastern, 16 at Henderson State, and six against SAU.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian

Pirates win four straight contests to improve to 7-1 in conference



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian
JA'CORRIAN LOVE is one of two freshman that have given the Pirates an offensive boost this season. Love scored 11 against McGehee and 14 at home against Smackover.

By: **JEFF YOUNG**
Advance Correspondent

The Drew Central Pirates have run off four consecutive victories since dropping their first conference contest against the top 10 ranked Dumas Bobcats on Friday, January 6.

Travelling to McGehee to face the rival Owls on Tuesday, January 10, the Pirates would take the lead in the first quarter, outscoring McGehee 12-9.

The Pirates took control of the contest in the second quarter, outscoring McGehee 28-11 in the quarter to hold a 40-20 lead at the half.

Drew Central would return from the break to outscore McGehee 15-12 in the third and 16-12 in the fourth to take a 71-44 win.

Tralon Miller would lead the Pirates with 15 points followed by Kade Bodiford and Ja'Corrian Love with 11.

Tra'Bennett Fuller added nine, Drew Burton and Tramond Miller with eight, Nick Bailey with four, Ashton Kelly with three, and David Jordan with two.

Returning home on Friday, January 13, hosting Lakeside, the Pirates would see three players reach double-digits as the Pirates would defeat Lakeside 68-53.

Tramond Miller led the way with 21 points followed by Drew

Burton with 13, and Tra'Bennet Fuller with 10.

Kade Bodiford added nine, Tralon Miller with seven, Nick Bailey with five, Alex Preddy with two, and Ja'Corrian Love with one.

Travelling to DeWitt on Tuesday, January 17, the Pirates trail 36-29 heading into the fourth quarter but would outscore the Dragons 23-10 in the fourth to take a 52-46 win.

Drew Burton led the way with 22 points followed by Fuller and Bailey with seven.

Love and Tralon Miller scored six with Bodiford and Jordan scoring two.

Capping off the four game streak, Tramond Miller would score 23 points followed by Ja'Corrian Love with 14 and Tralon Miller with 10 to lead the Pirates to a 62-57 victory.

Alex Preddy would score seven, David Jordan with four, and Nick Bailey and Tra'Bennett Fuller with two points each to round out the remaining scorers against Smackover.

With the wins, the Pirates improve to 15-6 overall and 7-1 in the 8-3A.

The Pirates are currently second in conference play behind the Dumas Bobcats who are 9-0 in conference.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian
TRA'BENNETT FULLER was also moved up as a freshman and has scored 28 points off the bench for the Pirates during Drew Central's four game win streak.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian
TRALON MILLER (left) has scored 38 combined points over four games for the Drew Central Pirates scoring 15 at McGehee, seven against Lakeside, six at DeWitt, and 10 against Smackover. **KADE BODIFORD (center)** scored 11 points at McGehee and nine points against Lakeside before scoring two points at DeWitt. Bodiford has been sidelined since the DeWitt contest due to an injury sustaining against the Dragons. **TRAMOND MILLER (right)** has become one of the leaders on the scoreboard for the Pirates. The sophomore scored eight against McGehee and led in scoring with 21 against Lakeside and 23 against Smackover.



Jeff Young/Advance Monticellonian
KADE BODIFORD (center) scored 11 points at McGehee and nine points against Lakeside before scoring two points at DeWitt. Bodiford has been sidelined since the DeWitt contest due to an injury sustaining against the Dragons. **TRAMOND MILLER (right)** has become one of the leaders on the scoreboard for the Pirates. The sophomore scored eight against McGehee and led in scoring with 21 against Lakeside and 23 against Smackover.

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from Page 7A

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Pirate Highlights
Chef Showdown in the
Pirate Nation

By: JUAN LUCAS

The Chef Showdown competition, sponsored by K-12 Culinary Connection, took place January 12 in Mrs. Penny Vance's room in the vocational building.

What is a Chef Showdown? It's similar to the show "Chopped" on Food Network. Four participants are tested on their cooking skills, but the catch is that they can only cook with a limited number of ingredients and five have already been chosen for them.

The required ingredients all the student chefs began with were: ground beef, parmesan cheese, jalapenos, raspberry vinaigrette dressing, and French onion strips. The four participants in this cook off were Kennedee Love, Madison Johnson, Julia Lazarus, and McKinly Harris.

Students prepared their recipes, gathered their ingredients, and began cooking. They were judged on use of the required ingredients, presentation, and taste. Burritos, burgers, and taco salads were created during the competition.

While this was a competition, learning still took

place and fun was had by all. McKinly Harris was the named the winner with an outstanding burrito!

She also qualified to compete at the state level competition at Pulaski Technical College. McKinly said, "I was surprised and shocked." Her preparations were practicing at home, the classroom, and getting help from her family members. She would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Vance, her family, the judges, and God for allowing her to have this special opportunity.

Other participants may not have succeeded in winning, but did still have learning success in the kitchen. Kennedee Love said "When Mrs. Vance brought up the Chef showdown to my attention, I wasn't interested, but Mrs. Vance somehow persuaded me into it. I'm grateful to be a part of this. I was able to step out of my comfort zone and learn



The Advance-Monticellonian partnered with the Drew Central High School Journalism students to produce a news page of the happenings at DC during the month of January. All stories and photos were done by students in Mrs. Stephanie Teel's Journalism class.

some techniques from Chef Matt."

Chef Matt works with the sponsor of the competition, K-12 Culinary Connections. Maddison Johnson stated that, "My dad and I spend a lot of time cooking so it was natural for Mrs. Vance to bring it up to me. I don't really like participating in school events so it was like stepping out of my comfort zone, but I enjoyed it and learned a lot from this."

Mrs. Vance, who works with students on cooking and nutritional skills all year long stated that, "Throughout my 33 year career, it has been my goal to teach students basic nutrition and cooking skills in order for them to be able to care for themselves and their families. Studies show that learning to cook during childhood correlates with better health as an adult, as well as giving families an opportunity to do something fun together. With fewer young people than ever learning to cook at home, this competition is another way to encourage students and showcase their talents. It is my hope that my students will make cooking a lifelong activity."

Congratulations to McKinly Harris and the rest of the participants!



DCHS introduces
new program

By: TRISTAN STANLEY

This year, Drew Central High School brought a new Response to Intervention (RTI) program to better help the students with various disciplines depending on which grade they are in.

Each day for 30 minutes, teachers have the opportunity to address skills that students are struggling with. Concepts that may have been missed due to COVID-19 and other learning gaps are being focused on in the freshman and sophomore classes. These students are working are on math, science and English interventions. KeMija Balentine, a ninth grade student in Mrs. Teel's RTI class said "RTI has helped me improve in math and science, it has made me feel good about my classes. RTI has helped me get better grades on things I had trouble on and the

things I did not know before."

RTI is helping many students achieve in areas they had been struggling in before. Mrs. James, a science teacher who educates the sophomore and freshman students during RTI said, "RTI gives teachers the ability to focus on specific science, math and literacy skills that students will need to be successful in their high school classes, post high school classes and careers." She feels that RTI is an important aspect of learning for students to have. Students rotate to a new subject each three weeks so that all students are able to gain more science, math, and English skills.

Seniors and juniors are working in two subjects, ACT WorkKeys and life skills. ACT WorkKeys is a system that has assessments and curriculum



that will help determine and measure workplace skills that are essential for all future employees. These students will be able to show certificates earned through the program to future employers. These students are

also working on life skills such as resumes, interviewing, and budgeting.

Brittany Leek, the high school agriculture teacher who works with these students said, "My focus has been budgeting and

lifestyle skills. We have looked at pay scales for jobs they wish to do, verses jobs that career testing suggested that they do. Many have found that their expected salary for their chosen job does not meet the cost of

their expected lifestyle."

The goal of this program is getting the students prepared for life outside of high school, so they are more likely to succeed.

Pirates compete in unique
competition

By: JUAN LUCAS

On December 15, the Pirates Cubed team competed in a Rubik's Cube competition held at the local educational co-op. They solved 15 cubes in six minutes and 34 seconds. They had three competing team members, and they did incredible.

Damien Harris, seventh grade, placed first in the individual competition. He solved a cube in 49.006 seconds.

After the competition, they taught other students how to solve Rubik cubes. Ms. Morgan Temple, DC's Gifted and Talented Coordinator,

said "I'm so proud of their perseverance and kind hearts."

The Jr. High Quiz Bowl team went to a tournament, taking first place overall and being undefeated in five games. Two members of the team gave their thoughts and feelings about the win.

Nick Chapman said that this win made him feel "good and happy. It was a fun experience."

Kinsley Hobbs "I was shocked with the results and I'm glad for what we did." Congratulations to our Jr. High Quiz Bowl team!



DCE's Outstanding Student

By: TRISTAN STANLEY

Drew Central Elementary has many outstanding students. One student that is a great all around student and that shows astounding character is Axel Yee.

Axel is a third grader from Mrs. Meeks class and is nine years old.

We asked Axel a few questions just to get to know him better and these of some of his responses.

When asked what his favorite part of school is, Axel said, "Reading is my favorite. It seems easier for me than math, so I like it the best." Harry Potter and the Soccer's Stone is his favorite book and he thinks he might like to be a teacher when he grows up.

Axel said his favorite thing about DC is, "the Star Pirate

award. At my old school, they didn't have anything like that. I think it's really cool." The Star Pirate award is a weekly recognition and celebrates a student for doing well academically and with behavior.

Then Axel answered the deepest, most thought provoking question we had, "If you could change anything in the world, what would it be?" His answer was wonderful! "If I could change anything in the world, I would make it so that dinosaurs were still alive. I really like dinosaurs. They look really cool. I like learning about them." Dinosaurs are pretty amazing, so seeing them and being able to learn what they were really like would be cool.

The DCE staff thinks Axel is an incredible student as well. His teacher Mrs. Meeks said, "Axel has the biggest heart. Whenever any of his classmates miss school, he always asks me how they are or if I have checked on them. He truly loves and has concern for his friends." Mrs. Jackson, the principal, says, "When I first met Axel as a new student to Drew Central Elementary, I knew at once that he was a very unique, genuine and personable young man who displayed outstanding character with a kind soul. While his mom was filling out the mountain of paperwork for registration, Axel was watching his very young brother and his demeanor with him was filled



with love and care as he made sure he did not get into anything that would harm him in the office. This first impression of him proved to be who he really is! Every day, I have been very impressed with Axel's character and caring nature as he interacts with students and staff at our school."

Axel Yee is an excellent student and we are all proud of him and we all hope that he continues to show this amazing character.

DCHS' Terrific
Teacher

By: KENYETTA DODDS

Lisa McInnis is a high school math teacher and has been teaching for 32 years. When asked why she chose teaching as a career she said "I chose teaching as my career because I had a teacher who made a difference in my life, when I was in school, so I always want to be the teacher who makes a difference in my student's lives."

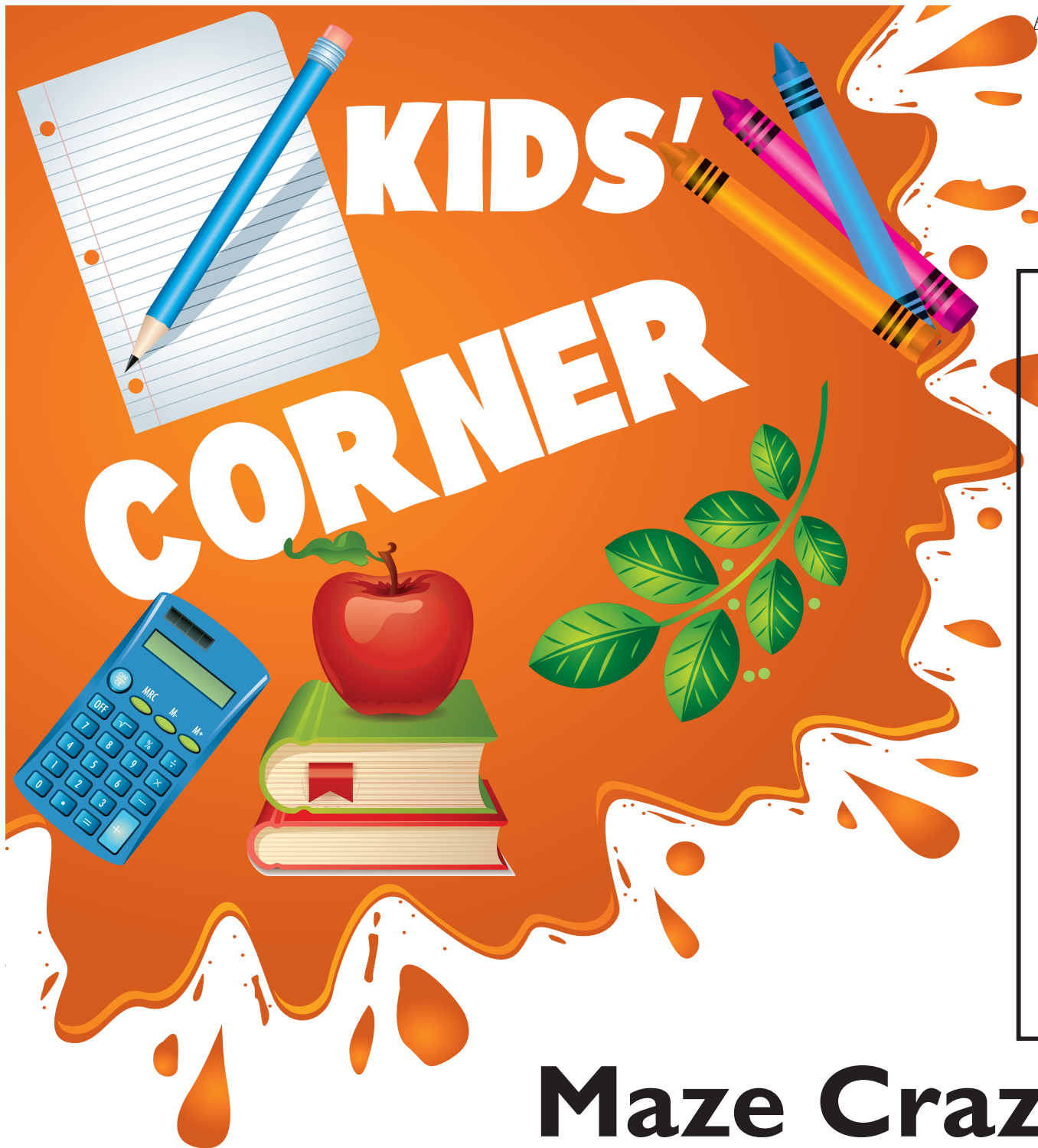
Outside of teaching, Lisa McInnis works in the yard and works on construction work as she is helping build her house.

Her favorite thing about teaching is the great connection



that she has with her students.

Other math teachers have stated that, "Mrs. McInnis has the best ways to help students understand the material. She can create a story to help students remember how the math works for almost every math concept. I hope to continue to learn from her myself."



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

*How they
SAY that in...*

ENGLISH: Soup

SPANISH: Sopa

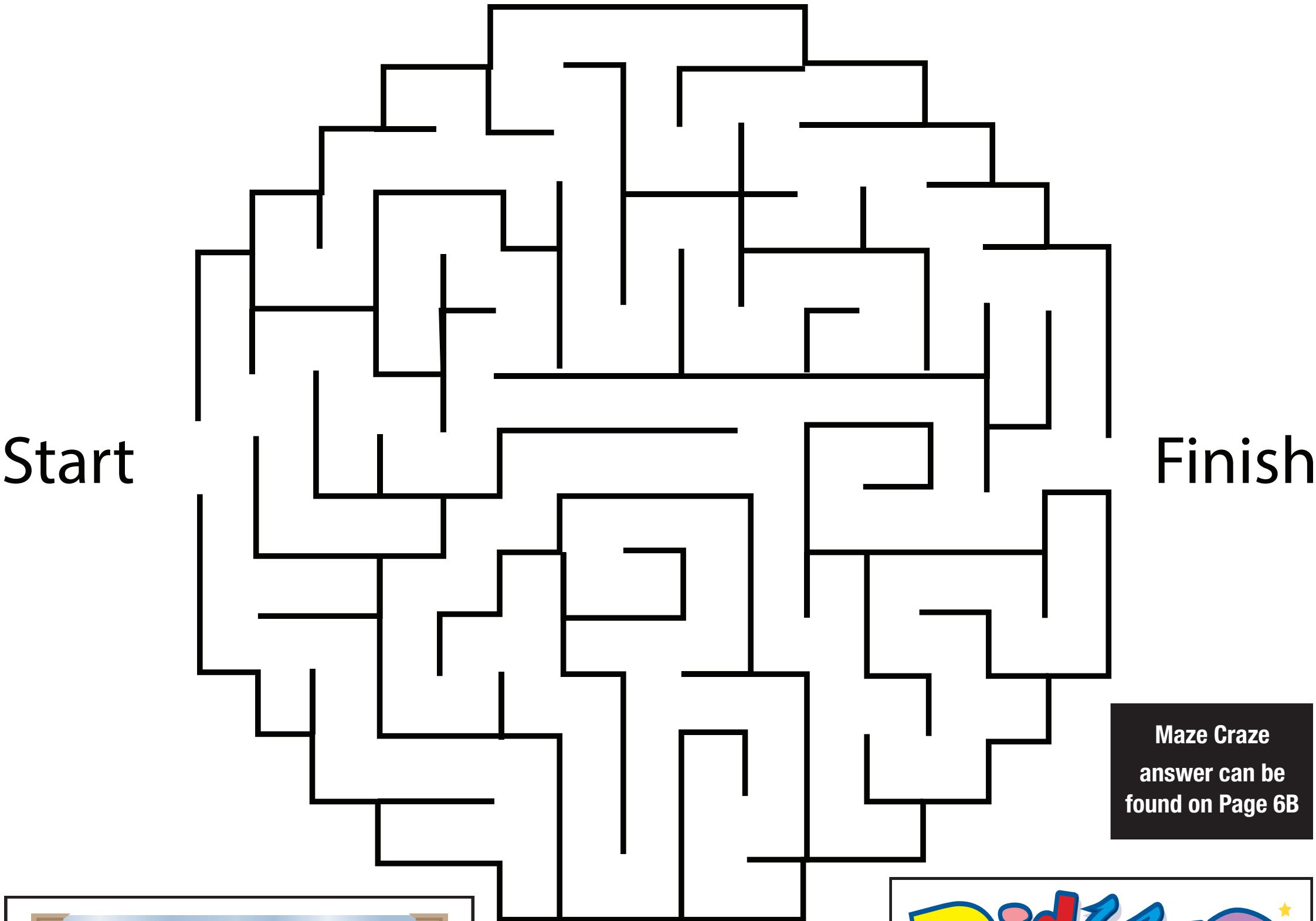
ITALIAN: Minestra

FRENCH: Soupe

GERMAN: Suppe

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP



TRUE OR FALSE?
DRINKING AND EATING WARM
FOODS AND BEVERAGES CAN
HELP RELIEVE COLD OR FLU
SYMPTOMS.

ANSWER: TRUE



SOUP WAS FIRST KNOWN AS "SOP."
IT WAS A MEDIEVAL DISH OF
A THICK STEW POURED
ON SLICES OF BREAD
USED TO SOAK UP
THE LIQUID.

FAITH

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CHILDREN’S DEVOTIONAL

It’s important that you spread the word about Jesus

By Amy Becker

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.” James 4:27

The book of James is a great handbook for what it looks like to live a life that follows Jesus’ example he set for us on earth. I think of it as an answer to the question, “I’m a Christian, now what?”

In chapter 4 James writes about how the trouble we have

amongst each other often comes from our desires for ourselves. Meaning, the reason that we get upset with people has more to do with earthly desires and not what God really thinks is important. The book of Colossians gives us more instruction on making sure our intentions are good.

“Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:1-2

So what gives? How can we really set our minds on what God wants and not get our feelings hurt every time something doesn’t go our way? Well, let’s read further down in Colossians.

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive

as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all

in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:12-17

In order to get along, the Bible is pretty clear. We are to be compassionate and kind, gentle, patient, humble, and forgive each other. When we get sick of it, we need to do it again because this is the forgiveness that has been given to us. As we do these things we will be able to do the work that Christ has for us which is to love our neighbors and tell

them about Jesus.

I know that as a kid (or at any age really) it can be difficult to put our own desires away, but we have to always remember that there is something so much more important and that’s that others hear about Jesus. How will they hear? From our mouths!

So let today be the day that we remember our purpose is to spread the name of Jesus. If our hearts are set on that alone, not much else will matter.

This week’s recipe: Enjoy a tasty, egg-based hot breakfast

Breakfast is often described as the most important meal of the day. After a period of sleep when nothing is consumed, breakfast does just what its name implies: breaks the fast. While many people are content to grab something fast from the pantry each morning, every now and again a hot breakfast can really hit the spot. Whether feeding a family or a crowd, this “Egg in a Hole Bagel” recipe can be prepared quickly and assembled on one baking sheet. Try this eggceptional meal, courtesy of The Incredible Egg and the Egg Nutrition Center. It can be enjoyed for breakfast, brunch — or at any time of day.

Egg in a Hole Bagel Ingredients (8 servings)

4 whole wheat bagels, halved

8 large eggs
4 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 cup baby spinach, thinly sliced, divided
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
1 tablespoon capers, rinsed
1/2 cup jarred roasted red peppers, finely chopped
Chopped parsley (optional garnish)
Lemon zest (optional garnish)
Lemon juice (optional garnish)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Use a 2- or 2 1/2-inch round cookie or biscuit cutter to create a larger hole (it should be just big enough for an egg to fit). Spread mayonnaise over cut sides of bagel halves and press firmly, mayo side down, onto the baking sheet.



3. Stuff a little spinach in the bottom of each hole (this will help hold the egg in) then crack an egg into each center. Season with salt and pepper then top each egg with remaining spinach, capers and roasted red peppers. Bake until egg whites are set and yolk is cooked to preferred doneness, about 12 to 15 minutes.
4. For optional garnish: Toss parsley with lemon zest and lemon juice in a small bowl. Use as a garnish just before serving.
Note: Save bagel cutouts and toast to enjoy alongside bagels.

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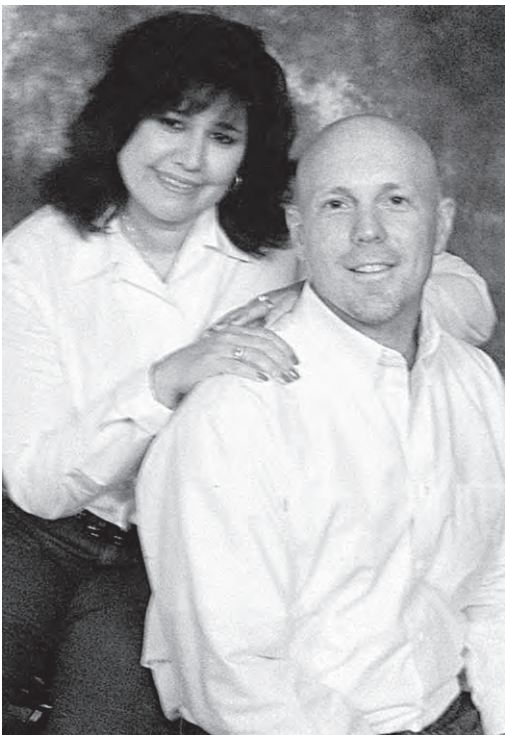
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Odor Control Tech

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



Special to the Advance Monticellonian

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BARKADA

JANA WRIGHT

Sorry I did not have any news last week. I hope everyone has had a wonderful new year so far. Shawn and I stayed at our cabin this past weekend so I had a peaceful, relaxing weekend.

Don and Crystal Wood had some time away from Barkada. They and some family and friends went on a cruise. Their last stop was New Orleans. They all had a great time!

Robert and Tammy Stafford did some traveling last week. They went to Natchez. They stayed at the Clarion, which is on the bank of the river. She shared some beautiful pictures of their trip.

The Wilmar Daytimers had another fun gathering at the Gathering Place this past Saturday. They played bingo, and everyone there received a special handcrafted item from Mrs. Cleo Young. The next gathering will be February 11th. I swear I am going to make it to one!

Mrs. Gloria Ryburn, Mrs. Linda Allen, Mrs. Sharon Beard, Mrs. Marilyn Crutchfield, Mrs. Bettye Rial, and Mrs. Judy James celebrated Mrs. Gloria's birthday at Ameca. She appreciated the cards and gifts and the company! Happy belated birthday.

Congratulations to Robbie Ryburn on being ordained as a deacon last week at Pauline Baptist Church last week.

Good luck to Camden Harris, son of C.J. and Kari Harris, on his next big race coming up on February 18th. I hope you do great!

Ms. Hayli Gilliam has some fresh eggs for sale. \$3 a dozen. Check with Kevin or Brandi Gilliam if you are interested.

Jamie Martin came from Hope and we met in Rison to see our dad, Robert Owens. We had a good visit! He is doing well. He was on the phone with Mr. James Leggett when we came in. They have an old school bell project they are working on.

I am happy to announce that Joanie Hamilton, daughter of Justin and Myka Hamilton is home! She was born prematurely and spent 151 days in the hospital. After many prayers from a lot of people and the care of skilled physicians and staff, she is home! What a great message for the new year!

I forgot that we have a community page on Facebook. It is Barkada Community (you can search it). Use it to post lost animals or things you are selling or news (I can steal). We would love

historical pictures or stories about the community or its settlers. Check it out!

Congratulations to my cousin Rachel Nicholson Ashcraft on her marriage to Allen Ashcraft this past weekend. I wish the couple many years of happiness together!

My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Mary Lasiter and her family. Her brother Shelby's daughter passed away unexpectedly. Please lift them up in prayer.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Bill Busby. He and I taught at Monticello Middle School. He was always such a sweet person. He will be missed.

Happy birthday to Beth Davis, Autmn Langley, Debbie Haralson, Justin Goudy, Colby Dodson, Brittany Caldwell, Nicole Sims, Dave Wesson, Jim Brewster, C.J. Harris, Diana Patrick, Catherine Binns, Anne Stafford, and Mrs. Donna Bradley. I hope you all have or had wonderful birthdays!

Please call 870.224.3383 with news or email wrightwoman_66@yahoo.com or even put your news on our Barkada Community Facebook page. We would love to hear from you.

GREEN HILL

WANDA PACE

Aunt Pepe attended the singing at Pauline Baptist Church. She said it was magnificent! I enjoyed a good visit with Aunt May and Aunt Pepe on Wednesday.

Happy Birthday wishes for Tressia Donaldson, Joyce Brannon, and Rita Worley. I hope you all enjoyed a blessed birthday!

Happy Anniversary to Joe and Linda Berryman. Wishing y'all many more years of good health and happiness.

Verse of the week: "Be kind to each other, tender hearted forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you". Ephesians 4:32

If you have any news to share please call or message me on Facebook.

Have a safe and blessed week.

JORDAN PARK

TRILISA MARSHALL

There is no Jordan Park news this week. Trilisa Marshall is currently receiving medical attention and is unable to write her column.

Trilisa called to say she is improving, and thank you to all who have sent prayers up for her. She requests that everyone keep praying for her

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.

at this time.

LACEY

IVANELL HANDLEY

I missed the cutoff for news last week so this week, I'll be giving you double dose of Lacey news! I'm very grateful that the Lord spared me to see another week! It's a new week and I thank God for allowing me to see another day!

Last Week: A blessed Sunday service was held at Promise Land Baptist Church, Lacey. We had an exciting Sunday School lesson; the subject was "Not by Our Own Devices"; background scripture; Isaiah 48:1-22. Pastor Johnson's message was "This is My Exodus"; Exodus 14:10, it was a great message.

Belated Happy birthday wishes to: Joie Lambert, January 18; Keisha Franklin, January 19; Michael Grays, January 19; Semaj Brown, January 20; Natasha Brown, January 22; and Alicia Childress, January 23. I hope each of you has a wonderful day!

Prayers for those that are sick and shut-in: Angelia Childress, Janice Burks, Regina Junior and others that not are not feeling well.

Prayers for Mary Junior and family in the passing of their loved one as well as others who have lost loved ones.

A celebration of life ceremony was held for Marianne Robinson Veasey. Funeral Services were held January 4, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the Stephenson Dearman Funeral Home; Pastor Shalane Jenkins officiating. Pastor Jenkins' message was from Hebrews 11:1 and her thought was "Don't Let Go of Your Faith".

Congratulations to Mr. and

Mrs. Charlie Miller on the marriage of their daughter. They attended their daughter's wedding in California on December 31, 2022. The Miller's are excited and happy for their daughter and son-in-law. Joyce and I chatted few minutes last week and Matilda Jordan called to check on me.

This week: I was unable to attend church services this past Sunday; but regardless if we are physically in the building or not the word of God should always be in our hearts and minds!

Happy birthday wishes to: Pastor Jessie Washington, January 25; and Stacey Hardin January 25. I hope you both had an awesome day!

Prayers and sympathy to the Burks, Handley and Lindsey families in the loss of their love one as well as others that loss a loved one.

Prayers for the sick and shut: Patricia Staple was admitted to the hospital this past weekend. Patricia and our family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and the many phone calls. I pray that by the time you are reading this she will be at home!

I called and checked on my Aunt Mary last Friday; she sounded good. We are thankful she is still with us she's 93 years old.

Camila Wilson visited her doctor on Friday; please pray she will be up soon and able to resume her activities and join us again at the pool. I was happy to see my niece Delois Ridgell and Mrs. Dunlap on Sunday. My sister Jackie called several times this week. I talked to my brother Jerry Sunday as well as Charlie Smith and Jeri Smith.

Thought for the week: "It's Monday. It's a new week. God is Doing new things.

New Doors. New Breaks. New Blessings. Prepare your mind. Enlarge Your Vision! (Author Unknown). Have a blessed week!

POSSUM VALLEY

KAY CRAIG SPURLOCK

Welcome, to this week's edition of the Possum Valley report.

One day last week as we were returning from Pine Bluff, I decided to take a detour off Hwy 172. I wanted to go to Ozment Bluff and see how high the river might be. While there another vehicle arrived from which a gentleman and his dog emerged. While I was walking about, Rick began speaking with the man. And it turns out that he was an old classmate, Phill Chatman. Small world.

There's been a Pied-billed Grebe swimming in the creek this week. We've seen it several times, but anytime I get close, it dives under. One day I managed to get off without Ozzie and got within camera range. I did get a pic, but only just because the little critter took a dive as soon as it spotted me. I saw Wood Ducks one day, too. I've seen the Hermit Thrush a few more times. Once on the trail from the pond and then in the backyard scratching all by his lonesome. Saturday, there were at least four pair of Purple Finches at the feeder.

The 22nd was our grandson, Bo's, 13th birthday. I remember when we first met, he was probably just two years old. Through the ensuing years he and I went on several adventures together. Exploring the woods, fishing the pond and river, and even going on birding trips together. He went through a phase when he wanted to take pictures, too. I'd loan him my old camera and he would take

photos of anything and everything he saw. He traveled with me to Boyd Point in Pine Bluff at least two times. Now that he's a teenager, I figure those adventure days together are pretty much over. But, I will always hold them, and him, dear to my heart. Happy birthday, buddy.

Sunday morning, Bethel had a wonderful service. Bro. Dub Ashcraft filled the pulpit this week. He and his wife are so sweet and made themselves at home. Bro. Ashcraft brought us a message, "What Causes The Wrath of God", from Romans 12:1-3, Romans 1:18-21, 2:1 and Romans 6:1-6. Herschel's voice was a bit scratchy this week and I was honored to lead the song service in his stead. Next week is 5th Sunday so I may get an opportunity to do it again.

Next Sunday is 5th Sunday, as I said, and we will have potluck after morning service. Y'all come join us

Sunday evening we joined Jason and his crew, Leigha's mom, Jay and Colleen Hammock, Ronny, and Mrs. Ruthie, at Ameca for a final birthday bash for Bo.

At our ladies bible study this week we talked about the older ladies in the church and how they are to teach the younger women as written in Titus 2:3-5. I couldn't help but think of the older ladies who I looked up to and who lead by example during my formative years at church and in the community. Some where bold and unashamedly open with their love for Christ, which brings Aunt Maggie to mind. Others were more quiet in their example, but no less effective like Miss Floy, Aunt Gertie and Mrs. Ruby Loveless. Of course, I can't leave out my own Momma, who took us kids to church and nourished us all

See **COUNTRY** Page 5B

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Department of Human Services Announces Application Dates for 2023 Summer Food Program (LITTLE ROCK, Ark.)

— The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCCE) within the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) operates the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for Arkansas. According to officials from DHS, applications for the 2021 SFSP will be processed in two phases, beginning in January 2023. Phase one, applications for schools and government sponsors will open on January 14, 2023. Phase two, applications for all other providers will open February 14, 2023. The deadline for all applications to be submitted is April 30, 2023. Providers, who would like to request commodities must have their application approved by April 30, 2023. You are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible to avoid any delays. The SFSP operates through DHS to provide food services to children from needy areas during periods when area schools are closed. The program ensures that these children have nutritious meals when school is out. It's estimated that 64 percent of the eligible children in Arkansas did not receive meals during the summer months. Almost every county in Arkansas has geographical areas defined by the most recent Census, as 185 percent of the poverty level for children less than 19 years old. In Arkansas, there are 36 counties listed as having underserved areas as designated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Youth ages 18 and younger, or people over 18, determined by the State Educational Agency or a Local Public Educational Agency; who are deemed either mentally or physically handicapped, and who participate in a public or private non-profit school established for mentally or physically handicapped, are eligible to receive meals at approved summer feeding sites. Providers of the SFSP may be a sponsoring organization of a public or private non-profit School Food Authority (SFA); a public or private non-profit college or university; public or private non-profit residential summer camp; unit of local, county, municipal, State, or Federal Government; or any other type of private non-profit organization. Sponsors must provide their tax-exempt status and must demonstrate the administrative and financial ability to manage a food service program effectively. Sponsors must provide a year-round public service to the area in which they intend to provide the SFSP. SFSP sponsors must be able to assume responsibility for the entire administration of the program. As a sponsor, an organization at a minimum will: Attend the State Agency's training, Monitor all sites, Locate and recruit eligible sites, Prepare claims for reimbursement, Hire, train, and supervise staff and volunteers, Ensure the sites are sustainable, Competitively procure food to be prepared or delivered, Maintain all program documents for 3 years, plus the current year. Certified Food Manager (CFM) Certification must be completed by all SFSP sponsors. If your program has not met the Arkansas Department of Health's requirement for obtaining a Certified Food Managers Certification, you have until June 30, 2023. Any SFSP or NSLP program that has not met this requirement by this date, your application for the next program year will not be approved. If you have further question regarding the Certified Food Managers Certification, please contact Stephanie Clowers at Stephanie.Clowers@dhs.arkansas.gov or Sharon Hagen at Sharon.Hagen@dhs.arkansas.gov. The deadline for all SFSP applications is Sunday, April 30, 2023. Please call 501-682-8869 to receive program technical assistance to submit an SFSP application or visit <https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dccce/snp/SummerInfoM.aspx>. To find sites across the state to help children and adults in need of free food, Arkansas can visit www.whyhungry.org. Call 1-800-SHUNGRY, or text their ZIP code to 1-800-548-6479. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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At His feet

Luke 8:43-44 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

Dictionary definition of Humility - a modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness.

Humility is a virtue that's in short supply in our culture today. It's just not something that is promoted. It's certainly not a human default. Culture teaches and promotes self service and self promotion. We innately have a desire to satisfy our own needs first and then think about everything else after that. Have you ever been around a toddler? They are a great illustration. The world revolves around them without the slightest hint of concern. Being humble then must be learned. That's just being human.

The bible story of the woman with an issue of blood serves as an amazing example of humility. We don't know her name or anything about her except her condition. She was a woman that had suffered for a long time with an illness. She was a woman

desperately in need. When she saw her opportunity to meet this man whom she had heard could heal her she responded in a very unique way. She wasn't brash or demanding. She didn't cut her way into the crowd of people who were thronging Jesus. She quietly, meekly made her way to Jesus. She didn't even have the courage to meet Him face to face.

She comes behind Him and though her body was weak, her faith was strong. I believe one of the reasons her faith was so courageous was because of the humility in which she approached the Savior. Un-intrusively, she didn't grab or claim but merely touched the hem of His garment. Interesting observation, in order to have touched the hem she had to have been at His feet.

In order to bow at someone's feet you have to surrender all self regard. You must no longer be concerned about pride or position. You must sacrifice feelings of embarrassment or worldly view of respect. However, humility opens doors pride never can. Because when she touches His hem she received everything she ever needed. Let's find ourselves at the Master's feet today.

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

COUNTRY

Continued from Page 4B

her life. There were many others, too. I am rapidly becoming one of the older ladies and I only hope I live up to the example of the those who came before me.

Corny joke time: Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the ark? They were using fowl language!

That's about all I have to report this week. Until next time, stay safe, be

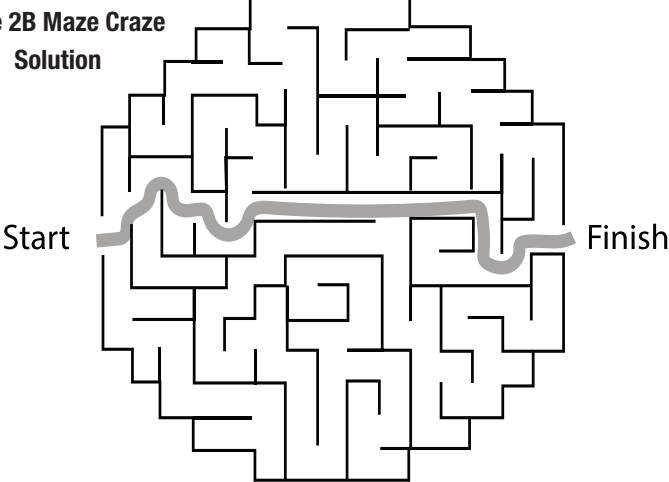
happy, be prayerful, and remember to be thankful to God for His many blessings in your life.

WILMAR TERRY HOPSON

There is no Wilmar news this week. Terry Hopson had other commitments.

Her column will resume in next week's edition.

Page 2B Maze Craze
Solution



Page 6B Sudoku

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

Puzzle answers

Page 6B Word Search

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

Page 6B Crossword

PUZZLE SOLUTION	I	R	S						D	A	P	S
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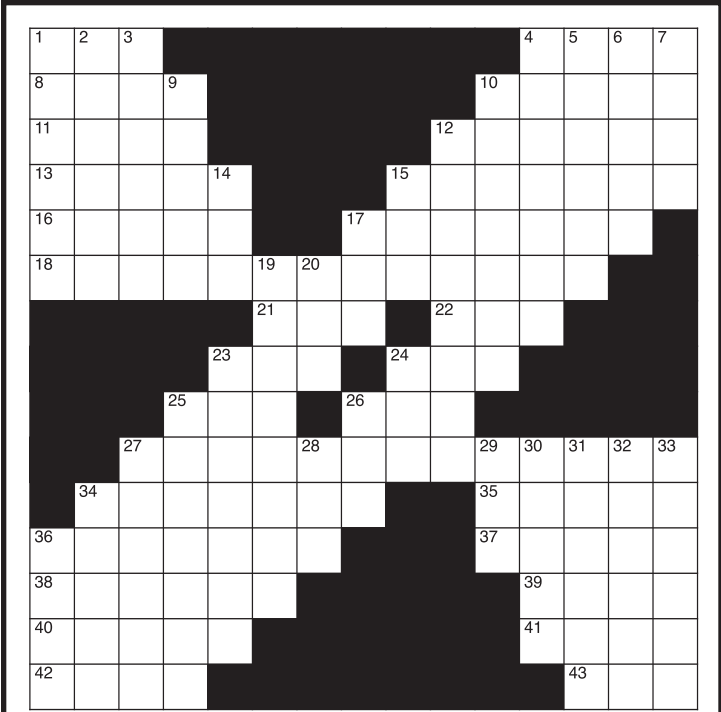


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1. Tax collector

4. Fishes without the line touching water

8. Brooklyn hoopsters

10. Actress Lathan

11. A metric for athletes

12. Food storage location

13. Colossus

15. Desolations

16. Accustom to something unpleasant

17. ___ Kubrick, filmmaker

18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving

21. Arkansas city

22. Gave food to

23. Request

24. V-shaped open trough

25. Make lively

26. It accompanies feather

27. Blonde bombshell

34. One who revolves

35. Bluish greens

36. Charity

37. Having the shape of a cube

38. Unwind

39. Believed by some to be the supreme being

40. Checks or guides

41. Leak slowly through

42. Top-quality

43. Midway between south and southeast

- CLUES DOWN
1. Part of your foot

2. It's at the back of the eyeball

3. Where things stand

4. Offered

5. Contains pollen

6. Boisterous get-together

7. Asserts out loud

9. They're in the sky

10. Canonized

12. A politician's official stances

14. It can catch fish

15. British thermal unit

17. Helps little firms

19. Where patients go for treatment

20. Large red deer

23. Pokes holes in

24. "Star Wars" hero Solo

25. One in a hospital

26. Scandinavian god of battle

27. Famous cat

28. ___ Angeles: City of Angels

29. Type of drug (abbr.)

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. Martini ingredients

33. Get away

34. Rare species of rodent

36. Suppress

BLOOD CELLS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ALLELE
ANTIBODY
ANTIGEN
ASSURANCE
BANK
BLOOD
CELLS
CODOMINANT
COMPATIBLE
DONOR
DOSE
ENZYMES
GENE
GROUPING
MANAGEMENT
MATCH
PHERESIS
PLASMA
RED
TESTING
THERAPY
TRANSFUSION
TYPE
VIAL

Answers can be found on Page 5B

SUDOKU

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

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!

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to donating blood. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 14 = O)

A. 3 14 12 5 15 8 14 12

Clue: Gift of money or something

B. 22 21 14 1 15 5 4 6

Clue: Not enough

C. 17 8 2 6

Clue: Growth and sustenance

D. 19 5 1 8 12 4

Clue: Compassionate

Answers: A. donation B. shortage C. life D. caring

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