

Newton County Times

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Vol. 102 Number 3

Library teams up with school districts to expand access to ebooks and digital audiobooks

Staff Report

Shared goal to provide digital materials in the community, especially during remote learning

As educators seek more creative ways to support students' learning, a key resource for schools is the local public library. Now, Newton County Library, Ozark Mountain School District, Jasper School District and Deer-Mount Judea School District have formed an innovative new partnership to increase students' access to ebooks and digital audiobooks by combining the library's and school's digital reading resources in one app.

"We are so proud of and grateful for the Newton County Library's partnerships with our schools and districts," said Kenya Windel, Director at Newton County Library. "As a service-minded organization, we hope this partnership acts as a supplement to their wonderful school libraries by putting more digital reading resources at students' fingertips. This partnership is also an excellent example of the goals of the Arkansas Department of Education's Reading Initiative

for Student Excellence (R.I.S.E) in action."

The library-school partnership provides safe access to thousands of age-appropriate titles for students' use inside the classroom, at home and anywhere 24/7. Through Sora, the new student reading app for Ozark Mountain School District, Jasper School District and Deer-Mount Judea School District, students can now borrow the school's collection of classroom and pleasure reading, and also access Newton County Library's juvenile and young adult digital collection. In addition, Sora supports teachers by offering education-specific tools like achievements, exportable notes, and reading progress that encourage individualized learning.

"We are thankful for the ebook access that Sora and the partnership with Newton County Library has given Ozark Mountain School District students and staff and look forward to using it during this unique school year," said Monique Wilson, Library Media Specialist at Western Grove School.

Todd Parker, Director of

See LIBRARY, 2A

Napier renewed as superintendent

Staff Report

DEER —Brenda Napier was renewed as the superintendent of the Deer/Mt. Judea School District Monday night, Jan. 11, by the board of education at its regular monthly meeting.

Napier was hired as superintendent following the resignation of Dr. Andrew Curry at the end of his contract in 2019.

Napier is a long-time teacher and was the Deer/Mt. Judea math curriculum coordinator when she filled the vacant principal position after Roxanne Holt passed away.

The Deer/Mt. Judea board offered Napier a year to year contract on an alternate

licensure plan as she was not state certified. She was one of four applicants at the time.

Also on Monday, at the board accepted the resignation of Renee Mccutcheon, distance learning paraprofessional. It hired Miranda Davis as the distance learning facilitator at the Mt. Judea Campus part-time for the remaining of the 2020-2021 school year.

The board approved the transfer into the school district of two students from the McCrory School District.

In regular business, the board approved the December 2020 meeting minutes, and approved the December 2020 financial report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

January is Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. Arkansas school board members are elected or appointed school leaders. State law empowers them to set policy for their district, supervise the district's finances, approve the budget, hire and evaluate the superintendent, and direct the vision of the district. This month is an excellent time to show our appreciation to the board members who give unlimited hours of their time to safeguard the success of our students. The Deer/Mt Judea Board consists of five outstanding community leaders. (left to right) Justin Gilmore: Secretary, Andrew Campbell: Vice-President, Julie Black, Clayton Heffley: President, Anthony Casey. Join the administration and staff in recognizing and thanking these dedicated school board members for their commitment to the Deer/Mt Judea school district.

2021 Ozark Mountain School District Homecoming Court



Ozark Mountain School District's Homecoming ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 21 (2021), at 5:30 p.m., at Pioneer Pavilion on the South Campus of North Arkansas College. Pictured are, back row from left, Trisha Lange, Skylar Shatswell, McKenzie Holder, Shaylen Ricketts, Brookelynn Swafford, Charli Beeman, Jordyn Jackson; front row, from left, Sarah Beeman, Tara Yochem, Hannah Wilson, Amber Nelson. Not pictured, Chloe Bing, Allison Brown and Paige Chaney.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEATHS

Jimmie Brasel, 78
Lois G. (Freeman) Hunt
Clisby Strickland, 67

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Staff Report

LITTLE ROCK — In his State of the State address Tuesday, Gov. Asa Hutchinson asked legislators to consider cutting the sales tax on used cars almost in half.

Hutchinson said the state's current sales tax rate on used cars that cost \$4,000 to \$10,000 is 6.5%.

"We could reduce that to 3.5% and give relief to thousands of Arkansans who depend upon used vehicles for getting to work and school," he said. "Let's do that together."

But, he said, in order to pay for tax cuts, the state must grow the state's economy by bringing people to the state. So, he proposed lowering the tax rates on new resident to 4.9% for five years to bring more people to the state to work, spend money and pay taxes.

The governor also said he wants to increase broadband internet to rural parts of the state.

"We have to reduce the digital divide," he said. That, he added, would increase equitable educational opportunities for all parts of the state and attract more businesses.

Hutchinson said the first

Governor: Cut sales tax on used cars



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Asa Hutchinson delivers his State of the State address to the 93rd General Assembly on Tuesday.

priority of the legislative session that began Monday was to act on the healthcare emergency facing the state.

He hailed the legislature as an effective partner in establishing a grant program for small businesses in the state, and adding more funding to unemployment, rent and food insecurity assistance. Now is not the time to withdraw from battling the coronavirus.

"We must not be faint of heart, but we must keep

fighting and not call for retreat as some would advocate," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson has faced pushback from some Republicans, including by a group of lawmakers who sued to invalidate the state's virus restrictions. Some lawmakers have proposed scaling back the restrictions or the governor's emergency powers.

The current emergency rules are in place until Feb. 27, so the legislature must act before that date, he said, by confirming

the emergency status.

"Now, let me move to a more difficult subject," Hutchinson said.

While speaking in Harrison in January 2020, Hutchinson said he wanted to see the state adopt a hate crimes bill that would enhance punishment for anyone convicted of a crime committed against an individual based on nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation and even sexual identity.

The governor on Tuesday read letters from individuals encouraging the legislature to adopt hate crimes legislation. One letter even came from IBM engaging businesses in the state to get behind the move.

Hutchinson said the main objection he hears "from my conservative friends" is that such a bill would give some groups more protection than others. But he said the legislation would apply to anyone who is targeted for a crime be they Hispanic, Jewish, African American or Caucasian.

"My only request is that you listen and make your own judgement on the merits and fairness of the bill," Hutchinson told legislators.



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Weather

THUR A 50% chance of showers.	FRI A 40% chance of showers.
 Mostly cloudy with a high near 61°	 Mostly cloudy with a high near 45°
SAT A 20% chance of showers.	SUN
 Partly sunny with a high near 46°	 Sunny with a high near 51°

LIBRARY:

From 1A

Curriculum and Professional Development at Jasper School District, added, "Jasper School District is happy to join in partnership with the Newton County Library to offer a wide variety of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other digital media to our students. We are excited for the opportunities and possibilities this new partnership offers to our students and our teachers!"

Melissa King, Federal Programs/Curriculum/Assessment coordinator at Deer-Mount Judea School District, agreed, "We hope this partnership acts as a supplement to our school and classroom libraries by providing more digital reading resources for our students. We love any opportunity to promote the importance of reading to our students and our community."

The Sora app was named one of TIME's Best Inventions 2019 and is available for Ozark Mountain School District, Jasper School District and Deer-Mount Judea School District students to download through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, and on Chromebooks that support the Google Play Store. It is also available for use in web browsers at <https://soraapp.com> on any computer.

Since Newton County Library is a member of ArkansasLibrary2Go, the entire Newton County community can also borrow and read ArkansasLibrary2Go's complete ebook and e-audiobook collection. With a valid library card from Newton County Library and the award-winning Libby app, patrons can enjoy thousands of ebooks and digital audiobooks including bestsellers and new releases. Readers of all ages can select from virtually every subject ranging from mystery, romance, children's, business and more. Libby can be used on any major device or computer, including Apple (R), Android™, Chromebook™ and Kindle(R) (US only).

Both reading apps are built by OverDrive and OverDrive Education. To learn more, visit <https://meet.soraapp.com/> and <https://meet.libbyapp.com/>.

Vaccination schedule expanded as doses are available

Staff Report

LITTLE ROCK — State officials say the COVID-19 vaccine rollout should begin to include more people not already considered in the first tier of people set to begin getting shots next week.

The group of people in what is called the Phase 1-A group of people who were prioritized as first in line for the vaccine included frontline healthcare workers, nursing home residents and staff, and first responders.

At a press briefing Tuesday, Gov. Asa Hutchinson said that as of Tuesday the state had received 227,500 doses of the vaccine and 89,449 had been administered. That was an increase of 8,653 shots given over the previous 24 hours.

Hutchinson had said earlier this month that the state planned to finish vaccinating everyone in Phase 1-A by the end of January.

However, after consulting with hospitals, the Department of Health, the

COVID-19 Winter Task Force and other stakeholders in the effort, they found the schedule could be modified.

"And we are ready to move into two categories of 1-B," the governor said.

Those categories include people ages 70 and over, as well as K-12 and higher education staff and teachers and daycare workers.

Hutchinson said the plan is to begin vaccinating those individuals beginning Monday, Jan. 18.

For Arkansans over the age of 70, vaccinations will be available through many community pharmacies located in each county in the state. You can visit healthy.arkansas.gov for a map of participating pharmacies. Call ahead and make an appointment. Vaccine clinics and events may be available in your area through hospitals and healthcare providers, Hutchinson said.

For schools and daycares, districts should determine how many doses are needed, then reach out to the local

health unit or pharmacy in your county to schedule a vaccination clinic, the governor said.

He went on to say that there are about 132,000 education workers in the state and 311,000 people 70 or older. That could be a heavy lift to add 433,000 potential Arkansans eligible for the vaccination, so prioritization will be necessary.

Hutchinson said he had spoken with hospitals, especially the larger ones, and they say they have vaccinated most of their workers who wanted to take the shot. They have doses available and are ready to move on.

He was asked if that meant if a healthcare worker was offered the vaccine and declined it that the hospital could offer it to someone else.

"That's exactly right," Hutchinson said. "They had an opportunity for priority, which was important. Some chose not to take that priority, so we're going to move to other priorities."

Be 'very, very patient' waiting for COVID-19 shot

By JAMES L. WHITE

jamesw@harrisdaily.com

"The best thing is to be on a list if you would like to receive the vaccine and then be very, very patient," Josh Bright, PharmD, said.

Bright is also vice president of operations at North Arkansas Regional Medical Center. He said some people have misunderstood the availability of the vaccine.

Last Tuesday, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced that the state was going to expand COVID-19 vaccination availability to people 70 or older and employees at schools, colleges and day care centers beginning Monday, Jan. 18.

But being eligible for the vaccine does not mean there are doses readily available.

Officials knew there

would be a limited supply of the vaccine at first. It was going to the entire country to share. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines regarding individuals who should be vaccinated first. After that was accomplished, the state prepared to move forward and start inoculating more people.

That left the public wondering when they could get the shot.

Bright said the hospital and local participating pharmacies -- Sam Alexander Pharmacy, Sullivan's Pharmacy and Harps in Bellefonte -- have been inundated with phone calls from people wanting the vaccine.

"To the point where it's become somewhat overwhelming because

we don't have enough vaccine to take care of the appointments we already have," he said.

Some pharmacy employees have received angry phone calls when people want their names added to a waiting list.

"They have lists, but the lists are currently full," Bright said. "They are made out for quite some time."

Some people have put their names on multiple waiting lists, but Bright said that is counterproductive.

In a press release, Bright said the hospital has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Health to act as a hub for redistribution of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in north central Arkansas.

Having your name on multiple waiting lists doesn't put you in a different category because the vaccine

is all coming from the same place in this area, Bright said.

NARMC plans to release a community phone number sometime Monday that will allow people to call for vaccination information. The ADH will handle phone calls.

"It will help us get people scheduled for larger community clinics as they become available," Bright said.

Bright said "hundreds of people" in Boone County are scheduled to be vaccinated in the coming week in previously scheduled clinics for people included in the Phase 1-B categories. More vaccine will be delivered in the future and more people will be vaccinated as doses are available.

"We will get to everyone over time," Bright said.

Safety measures make the 2021 legislative session historic

From the Arkansas Senate

LITTLE ROCK – When the Arkansas legislature convenes the 2021 regular session, the first major challenge on the agenda will be ensuring that the public can still safely participate in the democratic process.

Visitors to the Capitol must wear a face mask, and they will be given a temperature check to make sure they are not running a fever.

There will be limited seating for visitors, because of Health Department regulations that restrict the number of people who can safely sit in the public galleries.

Legislative leaders were finalizing details of a safety plan up until the beginning of the session, which this year will convene at noon on January 11. They were working with the Secretary of State, who is the constitutional officer who is in charge of maintaining the Capitol and its grounds.

Several changes were made in how legislative committees will function during the pandemic.

Legislative committees review all proposed legislation before they are voted on during full sessions of the Senate and

House. It is during committee meetings that the public can comment on bills.

Committee rooms in the Capitol have been connected with video technology, so that when a committee is in session the public can keep up with the action from a nearby room. If members of the public want to voice opinions on a bill, they will be allowed to do so, but there will be rules about where they must wait until it is their turn to speak.

Senators will consider adoption of new rules for the 2021 session that would allow legislators to participate remotely, in the event they are under quarantine or have concerns about appearing in person at the Capitol.

The legislature will address a series of familiar issues, along with some new ones.

Funding public schools is one of the first duties that lawmakers will take care of, because of the state's Constitutional obligation to adequately and equitably provide an education to every child in Arkansas. Education funding accounts for more than half of the Arkansas general revenue budget.

Other vital state services include operating prisons and re-entry programs

for inmates returning to society. Juvenile justice, foster care and adoption services are run by the state.

The state pays for health care, treatment of drug and alcohol abuse, residential care for people with developmental disabilities and nursing home care.

Apart from setting budgets and spending levels for state agencies, there will be bills affecting the rights of taxpayers, gun owners, businesses and voters.

Revenue Report

The state revenue report for December shows that the Arkansas economy continues to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

For the first six months of Fiscal Year 2021, total general revenue was up \$320.7 million over the same period of the previous year. That is a 9.5 percent increase.

The revenue report is an accurate gauge of economic activity in Arkansas, because tax rates have not gone up. In fact, the top state income tax rate just went down from 6.6 to 5.9 percent on January 1, thanks to a tax cut written into Act 182 of 2019.

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SENIOR CENTER PROVIDING MEALS

The Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center in Jasper continues its home delivery of meals and curbside pickup from 11:30 to noon, Monday through Friday, announced center director Nickie Henderson. She asks payment be made by check or exact change. Seniors 60 and older eat free though a \$3 donation is appreciated. All others pay \$6.60 which includes tax. All Meals include 8 ounces of 2% milk.

"Since we are not able to have fundraisers, I am going to need the community's support more than ever to meet our goal this year. Please remember us at this time. We have an online donation system which can be found at <https://www.aanwar.org/make-a-donation>. Select Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center in the drop down menu under "Donation Designation*."

"We will not discontinue this essential service for our community. You can do your part by staying home and helping to slow down the spread of COVID-19. If you are a senior over 60 who is staying at home, afraid to get out because of the pandemic and need food please

give us a call. 870-446-5531. Income is not now and has never been a part of the equation for getting home delivered meals. We want to make sure you are safe from this pandemic. We are here to help," Henderson said.

"We decided it was time for another fish fry so mark your calendars for Friday, Jan. 22.

The drive through fish fry will be from 3-6 p.m. at the senior center in Jasper.

Menu Jan. 21-27

Thursday - Oven chicken fajitas, peppers and onions, buttered rice, black beans and fresh fruit.

Friday - Tuna noodle casserole, green beans, wheat roll and warm rosy applesauce.

Monday - Honey lemon chicken, red skin mashed potatoes, broccoli, wheat roll and oatmeal cookie.

Tuesday - Breaded fish fillet, baked potato wedge, calico slaw, wheat roll and vanilla cream pie.

Wednesday - Open faced turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, green beans, white dinner roll and yellow cake with peanut frosting.

What's going on

Due to the coronavirus pandemic regular monthly meeting schedules may be suspended.

Jasper Kiwanis Club meets 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Ozark Cafe.

Al-Anon Meeting, a support group for family and friends of alcoholics. We have resumed our meetings every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Methodist Fellowship Hall, 400 Clark St. in Jasper. Please wear a mask. You can also join us via Zoom. For more information, call 479-857-8281 or 712-898-8390.

Newton County Chamber of Commerce's regular monthly meeting is on the third Thursday. The next meeting is at noon on Thursday, Jan. 21, at The Ozark Cafe.

The Jasper City Council normally meets at City Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The next meeting is Jan. 21.

The monthly board meeting for Newton County Healthcare Association, Inc., meets the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 5 p.m., in the Conference Room of Newton County Nursing Home.

Newton County Historical Society meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Bradley House Museum in Jasper. Public is invited. The next meeting is Jan. 26.

Newton County Single Parent Scholarship Board meets the first Monday of each month, at 3 p.m., at the Jasper Christian Church. Next meeting is Feb. 1.

Jasper Community Garden members meet on the first Monday of each month at the Jasper United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Feb. 1.

The Newton County Quorum Court meets the first Monday of each month at the courthouse beginning at 7 p.m., unless the first Monday is a holiday, then the quorum court meets on Tuesday night. The next meeting is Feb. 1.

The Western Grove City Council meets the first Tuesday of the month. The council meets at 7 p.m., at the Western Grove City Hall. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The Newton County Cancer Support Group meets at 12:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of the month, at the Senior Center in Jasper. Next meeting is Feb. 3.

Friends of the Newton County Library meets at noon on the second Monday of every month, at the library on state Highway 7 South. The next meeting is Feb. 8.

The Deer/Mt. Judea Board of Education meets at 6:30 p.m., on the second Monday of each month. Meetings will alternate between campuses. The next regular meeting of the Deer/Mt. Judea Board of Education will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 8.

Newton County Hometown Health Coalition meets the second Thursday of each month at the Newton County Special Services Learning Center on West Clark Street, at 10 a.m. The next meeting is Feb. 11.

The Newton County Resource Council meets the second Thursday of each month, at 5 p.m., at Jasper City Hall. The next meeting is Feb. 11.

Jasper Board of Education meets the third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jasper School Library. The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 15.

Campbell Edgmon Post 93 of the American Legion and the Women's Auxiliary meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Feb. 16.

Harps makes donation to Newton County 4-H clubs

The Newton County 4-H Clubs recently received a check from the Harps Employee's Community Christmas Program. The 4-H Clubs received the donation in support of the many activities that each club does in their communities, self and families. A member of the our local Jasper Harp's Store nominated the group. The funds will be used to purchase supplies for club activities and projects. It will also be used to help with registration fees for members to compete in District O' Rama as well as other competitive events.

"In Newton County we have 10 local clubs that are located though out the county," said Marsha Horton, FCS/4-H Agent for Newton County. "Each school has a club associated with their campus as well as several independent clubs in Compton, Western Grove and Jasper."

If you would like to join a club, Newton County 4-H is currently working on enrollment for the 2021 activity year. Contact the Newton County Extension office for more information or go to www.4h.uaex.edu and join.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pictured are Marsha Horton, FCS/4-H Agent for Newton County and Blake Keeton, Manager of Harps Store Manager for Jasper Store #195.

Winter Home Energy Assistance program starts

Ozark Opportunities, Inc., has announced that the Winter Non-Emergency Energy Assistance Program began Monday, January 11, 2021. The start of the Crisis program will be announced at a later date. This Program's goal is to assist low-income households cope with the high costs of fuel for heating their homes in the winter months. This is a one-time assistance payment per program per year. The program will run through April 30, 2021, or until funds have been exhausted. See

below for contact information.

All applicants must provide identification and proof of income for all household members for the month prior to application. A copy of electric, propane, and/or natural gas bills is also required. Other information may be requested at the time of application. Please apply in the county in which you live.

Applications can be completed online or downloaded from the Ozark Opportunities, Inc website: www.ozarkopp.org under the Community Services, Utility

Assistance Section. Applications may also be obtained from take-one boxes located at our administrative building, outreach offices, via fax, mail or email.

Although Non-Emergency assistance does not require an appointment, all other services do. Applicants for the Non-Emergency Program can mail in or drop off their applications at 506 West Court, Jasper, (Mailing: 1856 Church Park Dr Suite C, Harrison AR 72601) 870-446-2222 or 870-741-2089 Fax:870-741-2090.

Newton County **TIMES**

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Newton County
TIMES

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My goals for the 93rd General Assembly

By GOV. ASA HUTCHINSON

The 93rd General Assembly convened this week, and today I'd like to talk about the goals that I shared with legislators in my State of the State address.

I expect legislation that will boost our economy from tax cuts to reduced regulations. We need laws that will assure that our police officers have the highest standards, and are fully trained, funded, and supported. We also want laws to increase accountability and oversight.

Two years ago, legislators raised the pay of our dedicated public-school teachers. I support another round of pay increases. My goal is to raise average teacher salaries by \$2,000 over the next two years, and I expect there will be great legislative support for this effort.

During my time in office, we have become a national leader with our computer science initiative. But we can't relax in our success. This year, I am asking the general assembly to support legislation that will require all students to take at least one computer science course in order to graduate, and to require all schools to employ at least one certified computer science teacher. We will have to increase the training of our teachers even more, but we are ready to do it because this will give our young people even greater opportunities right here in Arkansas.

During each regular session while I have been governor, we have lowered taxes on hard-working Arkansans. As a result, we have moved \$800 million from the government bank account into the hands of Arkansans.

This session, I am asking for two specific tax cuts. I would like to reduce the sales tax on used cars that sell between \$4,000 and \$10,000. The tax would be reduced from 6.5 percent to 3.5 percent. This would give relief to thousands of Arkansans who depend upon used vehicles for getting to work and to school.

To pay for tax cuts, we need to continue to grow our economy and bring people to Arkansas. To help with that goal, I am recommending a second tax cut. And that is that we lower our tax rate for new residents to 4.9 percent for the first five years they live in Arkansas. That will attract new Arkansans, who will spend money and pay taxes, and companies that will create jobs and contribute to our economy.

This year the individual income tax rate has been reduced to 5.9 percent, and I hope that within the next five years, Arkansas will reduce the rate to 4.9 percent for all residents.

We are entering 2021 with a balanced budget, a strong economy, and the strength of Arkansans to pull through these tough days. As I established my legislative goals for the 93rd General Assembly, I am mindful that the most urgent task is to respond and recover from the pandemic and to do everything needed to get our vaccines out to everyone in need.



Newton County Times

State Capitol Week in Review

From SEN. BREANNE DAVIS

LITTLE ROCK — The 93rd General Assembly convened with a traditional day of swearing in ceremonies for new members, followed by the governor's speech in a joint session of the legislature. Then lawmakers immediately got down to business.

More than 400 bills were filed in the first three days, and the public was able to participate as usual when they were heard in committee.

The governor proposed raising teacher salaries by \$2,000 a year. It would take two years to phase in the increase, and would cost about \$25 million annually. A spokesman for the Department of Education said that the average teacher salary last year was \$49,822.

Also, the governor proposed an additional \$50 million a year in tax cuts for middle class and low income families. One specific proposal was to lower the state sales tax on the purchase of used cars valued between \$4,000 and \$10,000, from 6.5 to 3.5 percent. Now, used car purchases of less than \$4,000 are completely exempt from the sales tax.

Legislators have questioned another of the governor's tax cut

proposals, to lower income tax rates for new Arkansas residents in the top bracket, from 5.9 to 4.9 percent for the first five years they live in the state. The goal is to attract people to Arkansas who will invest and create jobs here.

Lawmakers expressed support for the governor's proposal to spend \$30 million to continue expanding broadband access across Arkansas.

Senate Bill 107 would require high school students to pass a computer science course in order to graduate, beginning with students who will be in the 9th grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

SB 107 was referred to the Senate Education Committee, which in the past has always been crowded with spectators and people wanting to comment, such as parents, patrons, superintendents and school board members.

This year Senate Education will meet in the Old Supreme Court Room rather than its traditional location in Room 207, because the Old Supreme Court Room is larger and people can more easily maintain safe social distancing.

The public and people waiting to speak on bills will wait in Room 272, which is just across the hall

from the Old Supreme Court Room.

The Senate Judiciary Committee also tends to draw a crowd, due to the nature of legislation it considers. When the committee considered and gave a favorable recommendation to SB 24, commonly known as the "Stand Your Ground" bill, the public was allowed to voice opinions as always.

The Judiciary Committee met in Room 171, as always, while the public watched on live television monitors from Room 207.

The public can sign up to speak on legislation, as always, but this year they can also sign up online.

When a member of the public signs up to speak, they wait in a nearby room. When it is their turn to testify, a legislative staffer will escort them from Room 207 to the Judiciary Committee meeting in Room 171, or from the waiting area in Room 272 to the Education Committee in the Old Supreme Court Room.

All waiting rooms for the public are very close to the committee rooms, and they are clearly marked. Employees at the Capitol will help anyone with questions about where to go.

Paycheck Protection Program re-launches with improvements

By US SEN. JOHN BOOZMAN

Small business owners have faced unprecedented challenges for nearly a year as a result of COVID-19. Last March, Congress developed the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help these businesses survive and continue paying their employees. More than 43,000 PPP loans were approved for Arkansas last year. Now, more help is on the way.

Last month, President Trump signed into law COVID-19-relief that extends the PPP, allocating more than \$284 billion to expand the program. This will allow additional businesses to participate and provide those experiencing severe revenue reductions an opportunity to apply for an additional forgivable loan, particularly restaurants and hotels. These updates to the program will help

prevent small business closures, allowing them to continue paying their employees, rent and utilities. We know the PPP has been a lifeline for small businesses, so strengthening the program to ensure it continues to deliver vital support was absolutely necessary.

I've advocated allowing local newspapers, radio and television broadcasters to be eligible for PPP loans. This is particularly essential as Arkansans rely on quality news coverage from local outlets to stay informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local newsrooms are reporting details residents need to know about things such as when they can receive the COVID-19 vaccine and where and how it will be administered.

Unfortunately, this crisis has intensified declines in advertising revenue forcing some news outlets to

drastically reduce the number of staff, furlough workers or even close. This threatens the flow of reliable and community-centered information.

I worked with my colleagues to expand eligibility and ensure these local outlets have access to PPP funds. The new law fixes the Small Business Administration (SBA) affiliation rule that prevented local news outlets owned by larger parent companies from qualifying for PPP funding. TV and radio stations with 500 or fewer employees and newspapers with no more than 1,000 employees are now eligible for PPP loans – that's more than 3,300 television and radio stations and 2,000 newspapers nationwide.

Arkansas Press Association Executive Director Ashley Wimberley says this "will help maintain these vital information sources and preserve local jobs" in our state.

Just as importantly as providing funds to small businesses, Congress has a role to oversee the implementation of the program so these critical resources only go to qualified recipients. For instance, last year we learned Planned Parenthood received PPP loans despite being ineligible to participate in the program. I joined my Arkansas colleague Senator Tom Cotton in calling on the Department of Justice to investigate this misuse of taxpayer dollars. As the SBA reopens the PPP, we've requested that agency officials take precautions to prevent this from happening again.

Congress made some necessary updates to the PPP that will improve how we can help struggling businesses. I'm pleased we are able to deliver additional aid so we can assist small businesses in rebounding quickly.

Against impeachment

By CONG. BRUCE WESTERMAN

Arkansas's Fourth District

I voted against impeaching President Donald J. Trump in the U.S. House of Representatives. This week's rushed process is not in keeping with one of the House's most solemn responsibilities. Unlike previous impeachment votes, there were no hearings and very little debate of the serious charges brought against the president. I carefully considered my colleagues' arguments and determined that our constitutional duty to carefully consider the power of impeachment must not be circumvented for the sake of expediency. This rushed impeachment sets a dangerous precedent for future Congresses. In addition, Joseph Biden will become president in five days. This vote does nothing to remove President Trump before that time.

One week ago, I experienced the attack on the Capitol firsthand. I make no excuses for the president or any others involved, and I pray that our country never again experiences an event like this. All those involved must be held accountable for their actions, and they must receive justice according to the constitutional rights they have as citizens of this country.

Political rhetoric and the events of the past week have highlighted divisions in Congress and across the United States. It has divided our friends and our families. Even in my immediate family, there are differences of opinion on impeachment. It's in our states, communities and churches. My prayer is that we end the divisions and move forward together seeking a more perfect union.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor: Hello, my name is Suzanne Noss Thomason. I respect and support our President, our military and our law enforcement and our flag. I love our beautiful country, America.

Why is our law enforcement being re-trained? They're not the ones who are burning and destroying. Why aren't these people being punished? They're murdering our law enforcement, the epode who have families that worry about them. They risk their lives every day protecting us.

Shame on these people who are murdering, burning and destroying. I am a confessional Lutheran and I am praying for the safety of the people (and their families) who defend our county and its citizens. I will always support and trust our law enforcement.

**Sincerely, Suzanne Noss Thomason
Mt. Judea, Arkansas**

PS. "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." — Abraham Lincoln

Funding sought to buy theater

Staff Report

Jasper Mayor Jan Larson has proposed a \$120,000 grant from the Buffalo River Conservation Committee (BRCC) that would help buy the historic and currently vacant Buffalo Theater to turn it into an information center and public restrooms.

She told the committee during its most recent meeting the town of about 500 residents relies heavily on tourism. Currently, the city has no public restrooms, creating a waste management issue.

She explained the importance tourism is to the area and positive management is needed to protect the Little Buffalo River which flows into the Buffalo National River six miles away. The mayor said pollution needs to be stopped at its source and not after it enters the rivers.

If given the funds, Larson said, the public restrooms could be ready by spring. The building could also be used by vendors or other services that supports tourism.

The theater had been last used as a performing arts venue several years ago by a local non-profit group that could not keep up with payments in 2015. The building was later sold to a private interest, but has sat vacant ever since.

BRCC has listened to several proposals from organizations that applied for further assistance from the committee's remaining project funds. Around \$167,400 remain of the \$1 million allotted to support grants and projects within the Buffalo River Watershed.

The \$1 million was transferred Nov. 15, 2019, from the governor's discretionary fund to an Arkansas Department of Agriculture account for projects like voluntary best management practices for farmers and landowners; improvements to wastewater and septic systems for cities and counties within the watershed; and reduction of sediment runoff from unpaved roads within the watershed, according to the committee's 2020 report.

The committee had asked for applications from anyone seeking such funding in early November. It received 10 applications by its Dec. 15 deadline.

The BRCC earlier approved providing \$250,000 in funding assistance to Jasper for improvements to the city's wastewater treatment facility. Funding provided by the BRCC is intended to work in conjunction with the application that was submitted by the city to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Commission which approved a \$440,000 loan and a \$1,351,750 loan with principal forgiveness from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund on July 15, 2020.

The city's existing wastewater treatment facility discharges into the Little Buffalo River. The current facility has an inefficient sludge handling process that backs up in the treatment units. Necessary improvements to the wastewater treatment facility include a new sludge processing facility that would house a sludge press and associated chemical feed equipment, site pump station improvements, new flow equalization basin, and general site plumbing rehabilitation.

Jimmie S. Brasel, 78

Jimmie S. Brasel was born February 1, 1942 in Clinton, AR to Edna (Taylor) and Turnie Hughes. She passed away on January 11, 2021 at Cox South Hospital in Springfield, MO. She married Billy Wayne Brasel on July 25, 1959. They have been married for 61 and a half years.



She is proceeded in death by her parents; and son-in-law, Junior Daniels.

Jimmie is survived by her husband, Billy Wayne Brasel, of the home; their 4 children, Billie Sudigala and husband Andy of Parthenon, Becky Daniels of Parthenon, Libby Robinson and husband Randall of Parthenon, and Brandon Brasel and wife Candra of Jasper; 5 grandchildren: Jana Cross and husband Greg of Harrison, Justin Lane and wife Kim of Wayton, Chris Daniels and wife Brianna of Jasper, Brenna Brasel of Jasper, and Brielle Brasel of Jasper; 8 great grandchildren: Trey, Jax, Avery, Emery, Sam, Benton, Kyndall, and Kamdyn; her brother, Wayne Hughes and wife Oleta; her sisters, Ima Keeton and husband Roy, Janie James and husband Jerry, and Judy Fowler and husband Vernon.

Jimmie was a homemaker and a long time member of the Parthenon

Baptist Church. She loved teaching little children about Jesus through her Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classes. She was the most selfless and generous person

and loved her family immensely. She really enjoyed watching her children and grand children play sports. She also enjoyed gardening especially growing flowers.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Parthenon Baptist Church, PO Box 98, Parthenon, AR 72666.

A private family service will be 10:00 AM, Thursday, January 14, 2021 at the Parthenon Baptist Church with Brother Bobby Young and Pastor Wade Edwards officiating. Everyone is invited to attend the burial following the service, at Union Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

Pallbearers will be Brandon Brasel, Justin Lane, Chris Daniels, Grant Fowler, Andy Sudigala, Randall Robinson, and Greg Cross.

Honorary pallbearers are Jimmie's nieces and nephews.

In compliance with state Covid-19 mandates, everyone over age 10 is required to furnish and wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Online condolences may be left at www.coffmanfh.com

Courtesy of ROLLER-CHRISTESON FUNERAL HOME

519 N. Spring St., P.O. Box 100
Harrison, Ark. 72602-0100
(870) 741-3113

For funeral information, visit www.rollerfuneralhomes.com

Recent Deaths

Jimmie Brasel, 78, died Monday, Jan. 11 (2021). A private family service was 10 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Parthenon Baptist Church. Burial followed at Union Hill Cemetery. Arrangements were by Coffman Funeral Home.

Lois Hunt died Tuesday, Jan. 12 (2021). Services were held 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 14, at Sexton Cemetery in Mt. Judea. Arrangements by Diamond State Cremation & Mortuary Service, Lead Hill.

Clisby Gene Strickland, 67, of Deer, died Dec. 8 (2020). Burial was in Essex Cemetery in Limestone. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Arrangements by Diamond State Cremation.

Lois Hunt

Lois G. (Freeman) Hunt died at home, Tuesday, Jan. 12 (2021). Services were held 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 14, at Sexton Cemetery in Mt. Judea. Arrangements by Diamond State Cremation & Mortuary Service, Lead Hill.

Lois was the daughter of the late Verlin and Jean Freeman and is survived by her hus-

band Stanley Hunt, his daughter Dalah and husband Dennis Elijah and loving grandchildren, brothers: Carl (Mary) Freeman, Earl (Lola) Freeman, Dale (Mid) Freeman, Jake (Kathy) Freeman, Allen (Julie) Freeman all of Newton County and Sisters: Brenda (Joe) Collins of Piercetown and Patsy Stapleton of Lead Hill.

Clisby Gene Strickland

Clisby Gene Strickland, 67, of Deer, Arkansas, passed away at home on December 8, 2020. Born April 13, 1953, in Titusville, Florida, the son of Adrill Clisby and Betty Lou Hart. Clisby is sur-

vived by dear friends and will be intuned in Essex Cemetery in Limestone, Arkansas. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Condolences can be left at: www.DiamondState-Cremation.com

Monarch license plate pollinates conservation education in Arkansas

By Randy Zellers, AGFC
Assistant Chief of Communications

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at its Dec. 10 meeting unveiled the artwork for the 2021 Conservation License Plate, a monarch butterfly. This is the 21st plate in the Conservation License Plate series, which contributes more than \$1 million annually to conservation education, scholarships and internships in Arkansas.

Tabbi Kinion, chief of the AGFC's Education Division, says the selection of the monarch was the perfect match with the AGFC's recent conservation efforts surrounding northern bobwhites and the habitat they share with pollinator species.

"The monarch is a trademark pollinator species and is a growing concern in conservation," Kinion said. "Species like these migratory butterflies are vital to many plant species that are important for wildlife habitat as well as agriculture. In addition to being an attractive plate, this one really has a strong message relevant to some of our current conservation issues."

AWW Conservation License Plates. Conservation license plates have provided \$17,813,505 to conservation education efforts from Fiscal Years 2001-2020. According to Jami Fisher, AGFC Chief Financial Officer, the program has topped \$1 million per year since the 2008 plate (a black bear).

"That's revenue from new license plate sales and renewals of old plates combined," Fisher said. "There are still some of the first plates out there that I've seen while driving."

It's been 2009 since a butterfly graced the artwork of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual Conservation License Plate, a trio of Diana fritillaries, and promises to sell out as quickly as the last.

Each plate costs \$35; \$25 is dedicated to conservation education and the rest goes to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

The series began with a white-tailed deer in 2000; whitetails also were featured in 2011 and 2018. The 2021 edition shows off a monarch butterfly by AGFC graphic artist Greta James, who also created a red fox for the 2017 plate, a deer in 2018, a northern pintail in 2019 and last year's Brittany and northern bobwhite.

Nursing Home

By WINNIE JAMES

Hello friends and family! We started out our week with Let's Get Movin' exercises. Along with our regular activities, we'll be making snowman gift bags, a show and tell, and make blonde brownies. Last week we had a hat contest. The residents enjoyed it. We even had a coal miners hat, they enjoyed hearing about that. Thanks to each of you for wearing a hat or just bringing it in.

Thanks to whoever brought in the cookies and oranges for employees. Thanks Tommy Flud for singing to the residents.

Everyone have a good week, and God Bless!



Church Directory

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

-BOXLEY-
BOXLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sun. School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. AWANA Club 4:30 p.m., Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7 p.m.
Claude Williams, Pastor • 861-5712

-COMPTON-
COMPTON COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sun. School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. 7 p.m.
Steve Emerson, Pastor • 688-2415

-COWELL-
FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF COWELL -
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

-DEER-
DEER BAPTIST CHURCH
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. • Bible Study, Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Bill Counts, Pastor • 428-5005

DEER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sun. Bible Study 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Kelly Woods, Preacher

-EVERTON-
LIGHTHOUSE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
154 Hwy 206/Everton Rd. • Sunday School 10:30 a.m. • Worship 11:15 a.m. • Rev. Jerry Marshall, Pastor

-HASTY-
HASTY HOLINESS CHURCH
Sun. School 10 a.m. • worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Angie & Richard Bower, Pastors • 870-429-6122

-JASPER-
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sun. Bible Study 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.
Anthony McCutcheon, Preacher • 446-2978

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sat. Prayer 7 p.m. • Sun. School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sun. Worship 6 p.m. • Wed., Royal Rangers, Missionettes, Forgiveness Youth Group, Worship 7 p.m.
Brother Steve Holt, Appointed Pastor • 446-2921

FIRST BAPTIST
Sun. School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. 6 p.m. • Jimmy Dale Huskey, Pastor • 446-5442.

UNITED METHODIST
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Children's Sermon 11 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.
Byron Mann, Pastor • 870-446-2089

NEWTON CO. COWBOY CHURCH
Sunday 5 p.m. • Newton Co. Fair Grounds • 870-291-9417

TROY WALKER GRACE FOR LIFE MINISTRY
- Sun. Worship 10 a.m. • American Legion Hall, Jasper

JASPER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sun. School 9:45-10:45 a.m. • Worship 10:45-11:15 a.m. • For information: 391-1595

LOW GAP FULL GOSPEL CHURCH
Services: Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m. • Phone 870-861-5855
Pastor Kelvin House

-LURTON-
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Evening service 5 p.m. • Youth & Children's Wed. 7 p.m.
Stan Taylor, Pastor

-MT. JUDEA-
BETHLEHEM CHURCH
Services 7:30 p.m. Wed. & Sun.
Kenneth Campbell, Pastor • Troy Royce & Paul Martin, Assistant Pastors

MT. JUDEA CHRISTIAN CENTER
Next to the Mt. Judea School • Sun. 10 a.m. • Thurs. 7 p.m. Bible Study
Gary & Nina Johnson, Pastors • 434-5574

-MT. SHERMAN-
MT. SHERMAN ASSEMBLY
Sun. 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. meal 5:45 p.m. • Services 6:30 p.m.
Raymond White, Pastor • 861-5560

-PARTHENON-
CHURCH OF GOD SEVENTH DAY
Sat. Services 11 a.m. • Wed. 6 p.m. • 1.5 miles • Diamond Cave Rd. • Jason Overman, Pastor
446-5736 or 446-2352

CHURCH IN THE VALLEY CAMPGROUND MINISTRIES
1 mile on Murray Road • Sun. School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 a.m. • Wed. 7 p.m.
Charlie Jamison, Pastor • 446-6661

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. • Wed. 6:30 p.m. • 446-5627

For a free listing, call 870-446-2645

-PIERCETOWN-
NEWTON COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School: 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Wednesday Evening 6:30 Children and Youth ministries • Andrew Campbell, Pastor
434-5988

-SHILOH-
SHILOH UNITED BAPTIST
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. • Every 4th Saturday 7:30 p.m., Jerry Liggett, Pastor

-VENDOR-
BIG CREEK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. • Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible study, youth & children's ministries
Phil Pittman, Pastor 434-5517

LOG HALL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., Jim Bohannon, Pastor • 434-6217

-WAYTON-
WAYTON UNITED BAPTIST
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m., David Edgmon, Pastor

WAYTON FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday school, 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m., Pastor Tony Taylor

-WESTERN GROVE-
ABUNDANT LIFE UPC
Wed. service 7 p.m. • Sun. Worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., J.W. Daniels, Pastor

Gone but not forgotten:

Boxley Valley Historic District

From the Encyclopedia of Arkansas

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/big-buffalo-valley-historic-district-13628/>

Located in Newton County near Ponca (Newton County), the Big Buffalo Valley Historic District (also known as the Boxley Valley Historic District) includes a number of historic structures dating between 1879 and 1930. Also included in the district are a number of archeological sites representing prehistoric peoples. The sites in the district are scattered across the entire valley, which measures more than 8,000 acres. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 29, 1987, with the original application amended on November 7, 1990.

When created in 1987, the district included about 250 structures. Of the fifty residential structures in the district, only about twenty were occupied at that time. Structures included in the district fall into five categories related to their age and significance. Many are clustered as part of small family farms. Buildings located at the same farm fall into different categories based on age and condition. At the time of the nomination, forty-two of the structures were deemed to be category one, possessing architectural/historical integrity and making a significant contribution.

A total of 160 buildings fell into the second and third categories, including structures built more than fifty years before the nomination and fifty years after. Only thirty-nine structures—built in the twenty to thirty years before the nomination—fell into the fourth category. The final category was for structures that detracted from the district, and few areas fell into that category, mainly updated bridges and picnic areas constructed by the National Park Service for visitors. This also includes modern homes, including mobile homes.

Architectural styles in the valley evolved over the decades, with the earliest homes constructed as single-room cabins. As families grew, these grew into two-room dogtrot houses. The second generation of homes were typically of frame construction with partial or full-length porches and two front entrances. Additions to these homes gave the structures ells or T-shaped layouts. While the earliest settlers in the area utilized stone chimneys, these were replaced by metal flues by this second generation of homes. Included in this generation of structures is the Walnut Grove Church and School, also known as the Boxley Community Building. Constructed in the late nineteenth century, the white two-story wooden building is a notable community gathering spot.

Several commercial buildings are included in the district, including a watermill and the Casey Sawmill, both constructed in the late nineteenth century. Several stores, including the Casey Store, Edgmon Store, and Villines Store are located in the district, as is an early twentieth-century motel constructed by Clyde Villines. Also included in the district is Villines Mill. Constructed around 1840, it is separately listed on the National Register.

The Boxley Valley Historic District includes an interpretive area operated by the National Park Service located at the intersection of Arkansas Highways 43 and 74 near Ponca. The area includes several buildings constructed by the Villines family and by later owners of the property, including an outhouse constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The original nomination was amended in 1990 with the addition of forty-two prehistoric archeological sites within the boundaries of the district. The sites date from 6000 BC to the early twentieth century and include sites utilized by Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian peoples, as well as early settlers in the area. Prehistoric sites include bluff shelters and caves, camping sites near springs, open fields and terraces, and tool workshops. The prehistoric sites include several that contain evidence of habitation stretching from the Archaic period to the early twentieth century. Artifacts recovered at the prehistoric sites include potsherds, flakes, points, scrapers, and drills, while artifacts at the historic sites include iron rims, square nails, and glass.

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Extension Corner:

Ten cooking tips for your air fryer

By MARSHA HORTON

Newton County Agent, FCS

The air fryer first debuted in 2010 for the fry-loving, small-kitchen-having European market. Its popularity has continued to expand even into this Christmas as they were popular holiday gifts. Let's explore what they are and how they work. Although we are told they are good for "fried" foods. They also have other uses.

An air fryer is a technological innovation on the way we cook and prepare foods in the kitchen. It is a machine that is said to fry delicious dishes without having to use cooking oil.

It works by cooking your food using super-heated air that it circulates within its chamber. A fan inside the air fryer helps circulate the hot air and help the air fryer create a reaction called the Maillard Effect.

Maillard effect, named after the French chemist Louis-Camille Maillard, is chemical reaction characterized by the bonding of amino acids and reducing sugars. This chemical reaction is most notably known for how it gives browned food its unique taste and aroma.

The air fryers circulate air at high temperatures up to 400 degrees. Food comes out crispy on the outside while moist and tender on the inside. Air fryers provide a healthier alternative to conventional frying because they use very little or no oil during the cooking process. You can also grill, roast, and yes, even bake foods in it.

Air fried food has 75 percent less fat than traditional fried food making it a healthier alternative to that fried food taste without the health risks. They use less oil, electricity, and cook meals faster. As an added bonus, that fried cooking smell is reduced as well.

Food safety guidelines need to be considered when using these new appliances. Using a food thermometer is the only way to ensure safety of meat, poultry, and egg products when air frying. Place the food thermometer in the thickest

Air Fryer Buttermilk Fried Chicken

1/3 cup low-fat buttermilk
1/4 tsp hot sauce
1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, (cut in half lengthwise to make 4 equal portions)
6 tbsp corn flakes
3 tbsp stone-ground cornmeal
1 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp paprika
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp coarse-ground black pepper
nonstick cooking spray

In a small bowl, stir together buttermilk and hot sauce. Place chicken in the buttermilk mixture. Allow to stand 15 minutes.

Place the cornflakes into the bowl of a food processor. Process until coarse crumbs form. Add the cornmeal, garlic powder, paprika, salt, and pepper and pulse until evenly mixed. Pour the crumbs into a shallow bowl. (No food processor? Crush the cornflakes in a plastic bag with a rolling pin.)

Drain the chicken, allowing the excess buttermilk to drip back into bowl. Coat the chicken pieces evenly in the cornflake mixture. Place the coated chicken pieces on a wire rack.

Place the chicken in the air fryer basket. Spray with nonstick cooking spray for 2 seconds (do not crowd the chicken; cook in batches if all the chicken doesn't fit). Set the temperature to 375°F and air fry for 7 minutes. Turn the chicken pieces. Air fry for an additional 7–10 minutes or until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest parts registers 165 degrees.

Nutrition Facts: 4 Servings, Serving Size 1 (4 oz) piece of chicken, Amount per serving: Calories 160, Total Fat 3.5g, Cholesterol 65mg, Sodium 190mg, Total Carbohydrate 7g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 24g, Potassium 230mg.

part of the food, making sure not to touch bone, fat, or gristle. You should follow the recommended internal temperatures according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Here are 10 cooking tips for your air fryer. These will help you get great results from the foods you cook.

Smaller ingredients usually require a slightly shorter preparation time than larger ingredients.

For best results of smaller foods such as fries, onion rings and chicken nuggets, remove the fryer basket halfway through preparation time and shake to mix around the food in the basket. This will help to evenly fry the food being prepared.

Add some oil to fresh potatoes for a crispy result. Fry your ingredients in the air fryer within a few minutes after you added the oil. Do not fill basket with oil.

Do not prepare extremely greasy ingredients such as sausages in the air fryer.

Snacks that can be prepared in an oven can also be prepared in the air fryer.

For French fries, use 17 ounces of fries at a time for

best frying results.

This air fryer is great for reheating food. To reheat your food, set the temperature control to 300 degrees and reheat to 165 degrees.

Overfilling the fryer basket will interfere with the browning process, as well as, foods will not cook evenly or reach the proper temperature.

Don't be afraid to open the basket to check the progress of your foods.

Mix fine ingredients, such as salt and spices, in with oil to keep them from getting blown on the wall of the air fryer. Or add them after you spray oil on the food and before it gets absorbed.

For more information, contact the Newton County Extension Office, 870-446-2240. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action institution.

Try this air fryer recipe from The Easy Air Fryer Cookbook. If you don't have an air fryer, you can cook in the oven at 350 degrees. You will need to adjust the cooking time for doneness and your food thermometer reaching 165 degrees.

Western Grove School honor roll second nine weeks 2020-21

Western Grove School recently released its honor roll for the second nine week period of the 2020-2021 school term.

Third grade, all A students, Masen Bolin, Ryeland Eli,

Allie Evett, Michael Foster, Kayden Garner, Kylan Hancock, Dillon Hollis, Cheyanne Jenkins, Trent Lopez, Talon McGuire, Eli Smith, Hunter Vanzant, Ella Villins and Katelyn

Willimas. A and B, Kris Arrow, Maddox Criner, Ally Lowry and Raylon Riddell.

Fourth grade all A students, Skipper Bright, Sarah Flud and Bentley Freeman. A and B, Preston Brown, Klaylen Kimbrell, Aspen Hoppis, Zachariah McCoy, Ricky Middleton, Hunter Middleton, Mya Morris, Ethan Nichols, Hunter Ray and Caleb Wheeler.

Fifth grade all A students, Jackson Caudle, Olivia Eddings, Donnie Flud, Sarah Garner, Kylee Smith and Haven Vanzant. A and B, Jayden Applegate, Hailey Collins, Kelby Little, Bentley Middleton,

Brian Morris and Madison Mularski.

Sixth grade all A students, Hannah Wheeler and Sadey

Woods. A' and B, MaHaley Gilmore, Breann Samsel and Isaac Surber .

Seventh grade, 4.0, Hannah Shatswell; 3.0-3.9, Landon Carney, Tate Dixon, Grant Eddings and Brody Morris.

Eighth grade, 3.0-3.9, Jayden Bradshaw. Ninth grade, 4.0, Sydney Marshall and Holden Roland; 3.0-3.9, Anastazja Stewart.

Tenth grade, 3.0-3.9, Grace Bradshaw and Joseph Breer.

Eleventh grade, 3.0-3.9, Darunee "Ribbin" Dangdee, Jordyn Jackson, Karley McFarlan, Emberlyn Spencer and Mason White.

Twelfth grade, 4.0, Brooklynn Baker and McKenzie Holder; 3.0-3.9, Leslie Campbell, Mallory Johnson Isaac Martin and Jaden Sisco.



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Sports

Green Forest sweeps homestand with Deer

By **RODNEY BEAVER**

sports@newtoncountytimes.com

GREEN FOREST — The 3A-1 and the 1A-1East collided on the hardwood in Carroll County on Monday night.

All four basketball squads for each school tipped off and the closing buzzer for each contest ended with the home team taking the win.

In senior boys action, the Tigers held off a late Deer surge and won, 69-61.

The Lady Tigers came from behind in the fourth period and won their contest with the Lady Antlers, 44-39.

Both junior high games resulted in double-digit wins for the home team. The junior boys won over Deer, 46-34, and the Junior Lady Tigers won, 39-15.

Senior Boys

When Green Forest wasn't feeding the big man inside, the Tigers were knocking down treys from behind the arc. The balanced offense from the home team still faced a Deer team that took the game late into the fourth quarter.

The Tigers knocked down enough free throws in the final stretch to pull away for a 69-61 non-conference win against the Antlers.

Green Forest led by a 49-44 score to start the fourth quarter and Deer came out swinging with Landon Rhoades hitting his third trey of the game.

The Tigers responded with seven unanswered points sparked by a 3-pointer from the top of the key by Adrian Serna.

After a garage of free throws from both squads over a 3-minute period, Daniel McDonald resumed his role of dominating the post and

scored off a Reiley Gordon steal.

Kieran Carey drained a trey after a Deer timeout that got Deer within, 61-55, but Green Forest put the next four points on the board by driving the length of the court on back-to-back possessions. Gordon went the distance on the first and point guard Ali Cabrera cruised down the court for the second transition bucket to make it a double-digit score with Green Forest leading, 65-55.

Avery Young drained a pair of 3-pointers over a 13-second stretch for Deer, but it proved to be the final points of the night for the Antlers.

Green Forest hit another four shots from the free throw line and sealed the win.

The Tigers began the game with three unanswered treys. Serna hit the first and third from the right corner while Cabrera hit the middle bucket. Cabrera later hit his second trey of the quarter off a Serna assist and Tony Gonzalez ended the quarter with a steal and a layup.

Deer's Carey and Young each had a field goal in the first period and Deer trailed at the first break, 16-4.

The Antlers picked up the intensity in the second period with 24 points that included 11 from Keagan Middleton.

Green Forest matched the offense with a stretch of four-straight baskets in the paint by McDonald.

Green Forest led at halftime, 31-25, and never relinquished the lead in the third period.

McDonald scored a game-high 24 points to lead the Tigers.

Cabrera tallied 14 points, Serna 11, See **GREEN FOREST, 8A**



RODNEY BEAVER/STAFF
Landon Rhoades of Deer elevates for a shot at Green Forest. The Antlers got 12 points from Rhoades, but fell in the contest, 69-61.

Are you as surprised as I am?

In August there were people that were taking wagers on how long the football season would last.

I had some veteran officials say that they never thought the high school football season would get past the non-conference games.

National experts were thinking that COVID-19 would close down college football before it had a chance to finish.

Luckily for all of us, everyone was wrong and we had football season. The completed seasons were a tribute to every level of the game.

America needed football season. Coaches had to plan practices differently. They had to keep players separated while trying to teach skills that equated into successful seasons without players touching each other on the practice field.

Of course, there was tackling, but it was limited.

Some high school teams completed a full schedule while some had to adjust on the fly. Some Arkansas high schools only played five regular season games.

Coaches and teams start planning for a Friday night football game on Saturday morning. They watch endless game film on both their team and the opponents. Over the course of the weekend, they put together a game plan on how to beat the opponent.

Then curve balls were thrown at the teams. This week we can't play Farmington, but we found another opponent on Tuesday for our Friday game.

Coaches and players made changes in the game plan at the last

minute and played a football game.

During the postseason, there were some high school football games lost because of the virus.

I really don't know if any of the forfeits that happened would have actually been a close game if it had been played. It was always the underdog that had to forfeit.

Monday night was my annual time to cheer for Alabama. The Crimson Tide played in the national championship finals against a team from a

conference that wasn't even going to play football this season until the spring.

The SEC proved once again that it is the elite conference. It put together a plan of attack to have a nearly full football season and it worked.

Over the course of the season there were only a few SEC conference games that were lost, this is an example of why the league's leadership is top-notch.

America needed football. It was and still is a great distraction to what is going on around the country. In the height of a global pandemic, people can argue about the play of a sports team. Those people can leave that argument and still be friends.

Our society needs that. Our society needed football to be successful.

It was, and for a while people could forget about things outside the stadium.

Jeff Brasel is the sports editor of the Newton County Times. E-mail him at sports@newtoncountytimes.com or follow him at twitter.com/jeffbrasel.



Jeff Brasel

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Kingston wins two with Jasper

Staff Report

sports@newtoncountytimes.com

KINGSTON — It was 1A-1East action on Friday night in Kingston. The Yellow Jackets hosted Jasper in a battle of sister schools.

When the night was over, Kingston was victor in both boys contests. The Yellow Jackets won the senior boys contest, 58-51, and the junior boys game, 51-31.

Senior Boys

Kingston broke from a tie in the second half to post a 58-51 win over Jasper.

Zac Root scored seven first-period points for Kingston as the home team moved ahead of Jasper, 16-13.

In the second frame the Pirates got seven points from Sam Parker which included a trey as the Pirates came back and tied the contest at

30 at intermission.

Trey Bowen lived up to his name in the third frame for Kingston. The senior hit three 3-pointers to lead Kingston back to the lead at 46-42 with one period left.

The Yellow Jackets left the door open for Jasper in the fourth period. Kingston was only 6-of-12 from the free throw line, but the Pirates See **KINGSTON, 8A**

OMSD takes two at Kingston

Staff Report

sports@newtoncountytimes.com

KINGSTON — The 1A-1East paired Ozark Mountain School District on the road against Kingston for basketball action on Tuesday.

OMSD won the senior boys contest over the home team, 68-37.

In junior high action, the junior boys game went to Kingston, 49-10, and OMSD took the junior girls game, 40-19.

Senior Boys

It was smooth sailing for OMSD as they visited Kingston and left with a 68-37 win.

Gage Freeman scored eight points early and Zack Bolin added seven from the field to put OMSD at a 17-7 advantage at the end of the first period.

The score continued to grow in the Bear's favor toward halftime. Bolin tacked on another 14 points before halftime and Freeman scored five points to give OMSD a 43-13 lead at intermission.

Brayden Anderson and Trey Bowen hit the only field goals for Kingston in the third period while Zac Root and Darian Alexander combined for five

free throws.

Kingston's 10 points in the third were offset by 19 points from OMSD. The Warriors hit four shots from downtown and seven players scored.

OMSD took a 62-23 lead into the fourth.

Kingston had its biggest quarter in the fourth with 14 points.

Bolin ended the night with 24 points in the win. Freeman tallied 14 points, Aidan Fletcher six, Walker Robinson five, Marcus Bunch, Dom Giles and Kendall Smith four apiece, Gavin Freeman and Ethan Brumley three each and Brooks Willis one.

Bowen scored 15 points for Kingston. Payton Hartness six, Root and Alexander five each and Anderson three.

Junior Boys

Kingston began to build a lead in the second period and it continued to develop until the Junior Yellow Jackets defeated OMSD, 49-19.

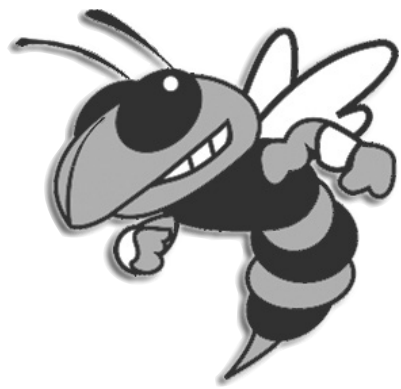
OMSD faced an 11-9 deficit at the end of the first and a 22-14 score at halftime.

Kingston stoked the fire and led by a 40-18 score to start the fourth and See **OMSD, 8A**

KINGSTON:

From 7A

could only score nine points with Parker getting seven of those. Leading Kingston in scoring was Root with 22 points. Bowen added 19, Payton Hartness seven, Ethan Sprinkle six and Darrian Alexander and Caiden Fancher two each.



Junior Boys

Kingston took control of the game in the second period on the way to a 51-31 win over Jasper. Jasper led 10-7 after the first period, but Kingston held the Junior Pirates to five points in the second period while piling 19 into the scorebook.

The 26-15 Kingston lead moved to 39-23 with a quarter left.

Leading Kingston in scoring was Chism Floyd with 24 points. Ethan Clark added 12, Eli Humphreys six, Colton Clemons five and Hunter Farrar four.

Spencer Traywick led Jasper with 11 points. Caden Hatfield added five, Espn Daniels, Alex Davis and Levi Johnson four each, Jonas Lagar two and Nick Dexter one.

OMSD:

From 7A

then outscored the Junior Bears by a 9-1 score in the final frame.

Chism Floyd scored 25 points in the Kingston win. Eli Humphreys added 10 points, Ethan Clark seven, Colton Clemons four and Jaxon Woods three.

Marcus Fields scored seven points for OMSD. Kooper Baker and Walker Collins added four each, Dustin Carlton two and Canon Morgan and Tate Dixon one apiece.



Junior Girls

Offensive struggles for Kingston helped the Junior Lady Bears earn a 40-19 road win over Kingston.

OMSD put up 10 points in each of the first two periods while Kingston scored three points in the first period and nine in the second.

The 20-12 Junior Lady Bear lead at halftime grew to a 28-19 lead after three periods. Kingston was held scoreless in the fourth frame while OMSD added another 12 points.

Joshanna Middleton scored 20 points to lead the visitors. Tara Yocham added 12 points, Anny Stewart six and Alexis Campbell two.

Kingston got seven points from Lila Hartness. Rilee Pittman added six points, Callie Edgmon three, Paige Randall two and Mckinzey Coger one.

Jasper splits with Mulberry

Staff Report

sports@newtoncountytimes.com

Two schools teeter-tottered the scoreboard from one game to the next on Tuesday night at the Pirate Cove.

Mulberry defeated Jasper in the nightcap as the Pirates suffered a 48-39 loss.

The senior girls game ended with Jasper rolling to a 42-29 win.

Senior Boys

Jasper played from behind the whole game and suffered a 48-39 home loss on their non-conference schedule against Mulberry.

The Yellow Jackets took an 11-5 lead at the first break.

Sam Parker scored five points in the second period along with a Warren Clark bucket. The Pirates trailed at halftime, 23-14.

Parker added seven points in the third to go with a Calvin Smith field goal.

Mulberry was limited to six points and the Yellow Jacket lead was a 29-23 score entering the fourth quarter.

Both teams had their best offensive output in the

fourth. Mulberry won the battle in the final quarter, 17-16.

Parker scored 21 points to lead the Pirates. Clark added six, Smith five, Forrest Siebert four and Mason Morgan three.

Senior Girls

The Lady Pirates took over early and defeated Mulberry, 42-29.

Six players scored in the first period for Jasper and the Lady Pirates began the second period with a 17-4 lead.

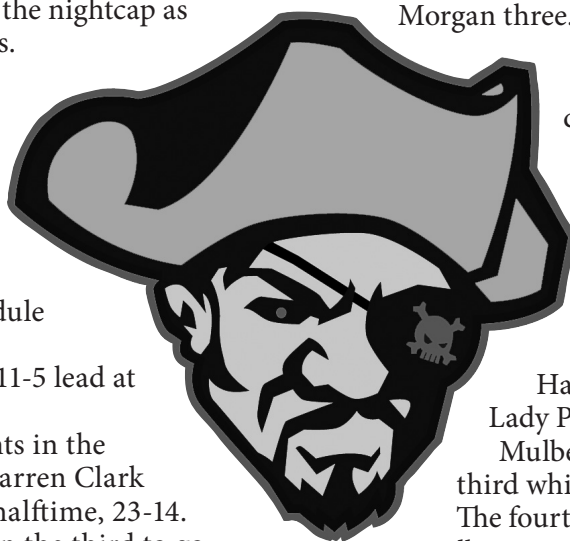
Kaylee Reynolds hit three field goals for six points in the second while Halle Emerson collected four points for Jasper.

Halftime was a 32-13 advantage for the Lady Pirates.

Mulberry was held to three points in the third while Jasper added another eight points.

The fourth period began with a 40-16 edge and Mulberry outscored Jasper by a 13-2 mark to set the final score.

Emerson scored 10 points to lead Jasper. Brooklyn Flud added nine points, Reynolds eight, Aubrey Henderson six, Zalia Phillips four, Brielle Brasel three and Haley Daniels two.



RODNEY BEAVER/STAFF

Jessica Dotson (middle) of Deer attempts to get away from Green Forest defense last week in games in Carroll County. The Lady Antlers fell to Green Forest in the contest.

GREEN FOREST:

From 7A

Isaac Demeyer 10, Gordon seven and Gonzalez two.

Deer got 20 points from Young. Middleton added 14 points, Rhoades 12, Dale Dotson eight, Carey five and Brayden Clement two.

Senior Girls

The fourth quarter made all the difference in a 44-39 win over Deer for Green Forest.

The Lady Tigers trailed by a 35-29 score to start the final period and then dominated both ends of the court.

Maddie Youngblood scored on a left-handed layup and then sank a trey from the left wing. Emily Lozano followed with a trey of her own and Green Forest had its first lead since the opening quarter, up 37-35.

Deer bounced back with a putback by Olivia Heffley and then Ashlyn Davis assisted to Jade Williams for a layup that gave Deer

the lead back.

Green Forest shut down Deer's offense the rest of the way and scored the next seven points from the charity stripe to end the game with a win.

The first half was a close score until late in the second period.

Deer led by a 9-8 score at the fist break led by four points from sophomore Bryleigh Davis.

The Lady Antlers built an eight-point lead before halftime and the majority of it came from the foul line. Ashlyn Davis hit for eight points at the stripe and the Deer lead increased to a 24-16 score at halftime.

Youngblood went to work in the third period with a pair of 3-pointers to start the half and then Jessica Padilla scored on a baseline drive that tied the game at 44 apiece. Ashlyn Denniston put six Deer points through the hoop to push Deer back in the lead and a 35-29 score after the third quarter.

Youngblood scored 23 points including 10 in the fourth quarter. Samantha Delavin added seven points, Padilla four, Lozano and Lyndsey Snow three apiece and Leah Evans and Bianca Rosales two each.

Ashlyn Davis scored 10 Deer points. Bryleigh Davis had nine points, Jessica Dotson eight, Denniston six, Williams four and Heffley two.

Junior Boys

The Junior Tigers took the lead and never looked back to post a 46-34 win over Deer.

Green Forest led after the first period, 11-6, and increased the score to a 23-15 lead at halftime.

Green Forest outscored Deer by an 11-9 mark in the third and then 12-10 in the fourth to take the win.

Hesten Maybee scored 18 points for the Junior Tigers. Ridge Swafford added 14 points, Zak Watson six, Sebastian Holsted five, Mason Meador two and Sergio Martinez one.

Jacob Brown led Deer

with 11 points. Kaden Moore added 10 points, Tyson Davis six, Malijah Campbell, Blake Williams and Lane Nichols two apiece and Ty Williams one.

Junior Girls

Green Forest scored enough points in two separate period to match the Junior Antlers. The Junior Lady Tigers ran away with a 39-15 win.

A 15-5 lead at the first break turned into a 20-8 edge at halftime. Another 15-point effort in the third period turned into a 35-10 lead for the Junior Lady Tigers.

McKensy Randolph scored 14 points int he Green Forest win. Lydia Russell added eight, Presley Gordon six, Kayla Lozano and Alyvia Newboles four each and Rachel Roberts one.

Kaylynn Bryant scored four points for Deer. Lily Stone added three points while Ila Casey, Brooklynn Tennison, Aurora Gilmore and Charles Breedlove scored two apiece..

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Recovered COVID-19 patients needed for donations; convalescent plasma saves lives

By **DONNA BRAYMER**

Convalescent plasma (CCP) is saving lives of people extremely sick and hospitalized with COVID-19, officials say.

Chris Pilgrim, media relations for Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, said he had recently heard of a COVID-19 patient that was given CCP and within hours was sitting in the chair watching television.

So, if you are a recovered COVID-19 individual, some good can come out of the experience by donating blood within approximately 90 days. Pilgrim said the experts aren't exactly sure right now how long one has to donate blood, but there are definitely more antibodies the sooner one donates after recovery.

But there are some protocols to follow. A person recovering from COVID-19 must be 17 years or older and weigh at least 110 pounds. They can't have donated any blood 56 days prior and be well and healthy.

The specialized equipment for Community Blood Center is located in Springdale or in Springfield, Missouri. Pilgrim said to call (417) 227-5006 to set up an appointment at either location. Donations take about an hour. Individuals also have to bring proof they were positive with COVID-19 and proof of recovery and 14 days past symptoms. Pilgrim said it could be February before any open appointments are available, but to call and ask.

Pilgrim said, "Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19. Recovered patients develop antibodies in their blood that work against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. To date,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Logan Aguirre of Springfield, Missouri, donated convalescent plasma at Community Blood Center of the Ozarks in Springfield.

hundreds of plasma treatments have been administered in Ozarks area hospitals, with many positive reports of its effectiveness. Many more donations are needed to help build a reliable stockpile of CCP to help in the future."

"Our area hospitals are seeing the tremendous healing effects of convalescent plasma transfusions, and the treatment has become a key weapon in fighting off coronavirus," CBCO executive director Anthony

Roberts said. "But area usage is higher now than the amounts we are able to provide. There are hundreds of now healthy individuals who have recovered from coronavirus. Those people have a unique calling right now. Their plasma can have a positive effect on the most severely ill patients."

Donating convalescent plasma is a simple procedure, as Suzanne Stringer can attest. She, along with her husband, Dr. Kenton Stringer, have donated their antibody rich plasma multiple times since recovering from COVID-19.

"I had never given plasma before but knew that donating plasma was a way that people could make a difference in a time where we don't have an answer yet," she said. "It meant even more when I found out the plasma, when given to CBCO, was staying in the area. It's easy and painless."

One person's convalescent plasma donation can help two or three people. Pilgrim said the evidence is overwhelming that it is working very well. "We have ramped up the ability to accept donations. Hospital usage is up 300%. It's our job to provide what hospitals need, so we need help from the public."

Pilgrim also wanted to remind the public that there are still post-holiday needs for blood donations. "It's a constant challenge to have the types of blood on hand for our area hospitals. So please take advantage of area of blood drives."

Pilgrim concluded by saying, "On behalf of local hospital patients, CBCO thanks blood donors from across the region for giving life to your community."

Visit cbco.org for additional information on convalescent plasma or area blood drives.

Northark welcomes new board members

Staff Report

The North Arkansas College Board of Trustees met by Zoom Thursday, Jan. 14, and three new trustees were welcomed on the board.

Pam Henry, Debbie Johnson and Linda Pledger have filled positions formerly occupied by Bill Lovell, Sarah Jo Fendley and David Evans. All three ran unopposed in the 2020 General Election.

Pam Henry

Henry is a Harrison native who graduated from Bergman and attended ATU in Russellville. Her path to the board was an unexpected realization.

"I really didn't think

serving on the board of trustees would interest me until visiting with one current and two retiring Northark board members," she said. "Their passion for the college, the students and the community were intense, and contagious. I realized I had gotten 'used to' Northark being here and took it for granted. I would like to see the entire board and the community be reminded of, and passionate about, the college and the difference Northark has made in the lives of the students and their families, area businesses and the entire community."

Henry is particularly fascinated by the plans for the new Robotics and Manufacturing facility on campus and encouraged by existing and new technical certificate programs. She attends church at

Crossroads Community Church and has been a Red Kettle "bell ringer" for the Salvation Army for the past 10 years. Henry regularly volunteers during Ozark Share & Care Christmas grocery campaigns and has been on numerous mission trips to both New Orleans and Lake Charles after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as other disaster relief efforts.

Her hobbies include traveling and spending time outdoors doing yard work, gardening, hiking, kayaking and picnicking.

She is married to retired Northark counselor Dick Henry. They have two daughters, Heather and Jolene, and two grandsons, Jeremiah and Josiah.

Debbie Johnson

A native of Melbourne and a long-time Harrison resident, Johnson knows

the value of education to this community. She graduated from Melbourne High School and went on to get her degree from ASU Jonesboro.

"I have worked with Northark in different capacities as the Arkansas Department of Health Local Health Unit Administrator for 35

years," Johnson says. "Especially with the nursing program who helped us conduct mass immunization clinics. I have also worked with the college by being on the board of the North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education. I have always found the North Arkansas College staff and students to be very community oriented, professional, and easy to work with."

Johnson retired from the Health Department and looks forward to giving back to Northark by serving on the Board of Trustees.

She is a member of the Bellefonte Church of Christ and serves as current president of the North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education Board. She also serves on the Area Agency on Aging Board.

Johnson is interested in the Health Professions

programs. "As an RN I am very interested in the nursing programs as well as all of the Health Profession programs. My niece played on the Lady Pioneer's basketball team, so I have always enjoyed Pioneer athletics."

Johnson's hobbies include spending time with family, attending basketball games and spending time with her grandchildren.

Johnson has been an integral part of Harrison for 43 years. She married Jerry F. Johnson from Harrison and they have one daughter and son-in-law, Ashley and Matt Bodson, and two grandsons, Beck and Brooks Bodson.

Linda Pledger

A native of Harrison, Pledger graduated from Bergman High School and received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from

College of the Ozarks. She earned a master's degree from the UA, going on to complete 24 graduate hours above the master's degree at UA to complete an Elementary Principal Certification.

"I serve on the Northark Board of Trustees because I value

education and I want to do my part to help promote that in my community," Pledger said. "We are so fortunate to have a community college in our community."

Her father, Billie Joe Blevins, taught Heavy Equipment at North Arkansas College for many years. Linda taught and served as a principal in elementary education for 36 years noting, "I'm passionate about that level of education, but value education at every level."

Linda is an active member of Crossroads Community Church where she sings on the Praise Team and helps serve at The Sharing Kitchen.

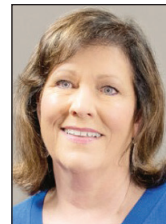
In her spare time, she likes to read, garden and hike in the beautiful area where we live.

She is married to Jerry Pledger. Their daughter's name is Cara Marino and her son-in-law is Martin Marino. They live in Kansas City, Missouri. Martin attended North Arkansas College when he first moved to the United States from Ecuador and earned his associate degree in Business.

"We are thankful for the education that he received at Northark," Pledger said. "I've had two nieces and a nephew attend Northark and am thankful for the education that they received there."



HENRY



JOHNSON



PLEDGER

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If anyone has any information, please come forward to the Newton County Sheriff's Department or contact Jennifer Zabawa by calling 870-434-5134.

Leon & Gladis Middleton, his parents, loved him very much and are enjoying time together in heaven.

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Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, is currently accepting bids for janitorial and cleaning services at the following locations:

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Call **870-448-5733 ext. 2008** or email accountspayable@bmrhc.net for details and/or questions.

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