



Young sentenced 30 years on murder conviction

Staff Report

A Newton County man was sentenced to 30 years in prison after being found guilty of second degree murder. The sentence was enhanced 15 years for employing a firearm in committing the crime. The enhancement is to run consecutive. In addition to the prison sentence, the Newton County jury also assessed the maximum fine of \$15,000. The jury handed down the verdicts following a week-long trial in Jasper that began on Monday, Aug. 7. The verdict and sentencing forms were electronically filed on Aug. 14.

The sentencing report noted that there were aggravating circumstances involved noting that the offender knew the victim was vulnerable due to advanced age, disability and ill health and the offender employed a firearm in furtherance of the offense.

The trial, a criminal case, 51CR-21-72, was filed in November 2021 and formally charged William Kasey Young, 36, with murder in the first degree, a class Y felony. The charge alleged that on Sept. 27, 2021, Young went to the home of Charles Clark and shot Mr. Clark, who was 71 years old, with a handgun resulting in his death.

In an affidavit filed in the record, the Newton County Sheriff's Office received a 911 phone call, at 6:06 a.m., from a subject identifying himself as Kasey

See **CONVICTION**, Page A2

Jasper council levies millage

Staff Report

The Jasper City Council met in monthly session Thursday night, Aug. 17, and enjoyed a light agenda. The most pressing subject was to levy the city's millage for 2024. The city already collects the maximum 5 mills on residents' property taxes.

The council also accepted the city's water and sewer audit report from its accountants.

Mayor Michael Thomas updated the council on several projects including construction of the new lift station for the waste water treatment system, final detail work being completed on the recently opened Little Buffalo River Visitors and Convention Center and entering a service contract with an information technology company to provide security for the city's computer system.



DEATHS

- Narvin Beutler, 62
- Mary Domme
- Betty Jo Farmer, 96
- Treva Hampton, 92
- Lola Riley, 65
- Lonnie Spencer, II, 44

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NEWTON COUNTY TIMES

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LOCAL PARADE VETERAN ON

★★★★★Route 66★★★★★

Robert Roberson drove his restored red-and-white 1972 Ford pickup truck in the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival Parade held Friday, Aug. 11, at Springfield, Missouri. Robert's truck was third in the parade behind the police and the Army Marching Band. Robert's daughter Lane Collins and a friend joined Robert, riding in the bed of the pickup truck. JEFF DEZORT/STAFF

Fall color tour dates announced

Staff Report

The Jasper Advertising and Promotions Commission (JAPC) has released the 2023 Autumn Color Tour dates as well as the addition of a Jeep Tour, Arts & Crafts Tour and the Small Business Saturday Shopping Excursion.

The 61st Annual Autumn Color Tour includes four tour dates in October including:

- Friday, October 13th (Fall color Tour Featuring Sam's Throne)
- Saturday, October 14th (Fall Color Tour Featuring Tim Ernst Gallery)
- Friday, October 27th (Haunted History of Newton County) (Ponca Color Fest)
- Saturday, October 28th (Murder Mystery Tour) (Ponca Color Fest)

We are also excited to add the following excursions throughout the Fall:

- Buffalo River Arts & Crafts Excursion Tour on September 8th and 9th finishing up at the Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival
- The Backroad Bootlegger Jeep Tour on Saturday, September 23rd (Moonshine Run Route) (Jeep Tour price is 40.00 Per Vehicle NOT per person.)

See **TOUR**, Page A2



International Overdose Awareness Day will be officially observed in Jasper on Thursday, Aug. 31. Jasper Mayor Michael Thomas signed a proclamation declaring it so during a ceremony held at the city council's regular monthly meeting Aug. 17. Pictured behind the mayor are from left Newton County Hometown Heath coalition chairman Jeff Dezort; council members Leslie Murphy, Steven Todd Parker, Bobby Keeton and Darrell Davis and Hometown Health coalition members Nelda Casey and Helen Reynolds. PHOTO BY GEORGE FOWLER

Overdose awareness, remembering lives lost

Staff Report

Observed each year on Aug. 31, International Overdose Awareness Day seeks to bring awareness to one of the world's most urgent health crises... deaths from overdose, one that unfortunately is on the rise, especially since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic. "By coming together to remember lives lost in our communities, we stand together to say that more needs to be done to help end overdose," says Kyle Evatt, the Region 2 Prevention Provider at North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education (NAPHE) who hosts substance misuse prevention education programs and services in Boone, Baxter, Marion, Newton and Searcy Counties.

Partnering with other regional prevention programs including the Boone County Drug Free Communities Program, Region 2 Partnerships for Success Program, Project Prevent Program, and area drug free coalitions and task forces, team members work together to provide prevention programs and services region-wide. According to Evatt, "Overdose can affect anybody and one of the messages of this special day of remembrance is that people who overdose are our sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, sister and brothers – and they are loved and missed by all of us." Community

See **OVERDOSE**, Page A2

Mobile health unit at senior center Aug. 31

On Aug. 31 a Mobile Health Unit will be at the Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center to check cholesterol, BMI, blood pressure, oxygen/pulse, glucose and health education. Then Kara with North Arkansas Regional Medical Center will be here with information on strokes.

Sept. 1 — Fish Fry 12-6 p.m.

Sept. 22-23 — Fish Fry 12-6 p.m. during Bikes Blues and BBQ.

Sophia Folwer has also offered to teach people how to use the exercise equipment on Monday's at 11 a.m., or if you already know you can just come join in to exercise together. Don't forget to check with your insurance to see if you qualify for Silver Sneakers or Renew Active to be eligible for 24/7 gym membership.

Yoga is Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Bible Study at 10 a.m. Peppi is Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The new fiscal year began in July. This year's goal for fundraising to be completed by June 2024, is \$86,832.

Are you 60 or above? Here is the weekly van schedule to Jasper:

Monday — Western Grove and Hasty

Tuesday — Mt. Judea, Vendor and Bass

Wednesday — Mockingbird Hill, Deer and Nail

Thursday — Shiloh, Mt. Sherman and Parthenon

Fridays — Jasper City Limits .

To schedule please call 870446-5531.

The regular daily meal charge is a \$4 donation; no-age limit guests and carry outs is \$6.50.

Menu

Aug. 24 – Sept. 1

Thursday — Honey mustard chicken, mashed potatoes, collard greens, wheat bread and sherbet.

Friday — Tomato basil soup, crackers, turkey salad sandwich, potato salad and fruited gelatin.

Monday — Sloppy Joe, baked potato wedge, summer coleslaw and pudding parfait.

Tuesday — Chicken tenders, mac-

aroni and cheese, broccoli florets, wheat roll, cinnamon applesauce.

Wednesday — Baked spaghetti, Tuscan vegetable blend, spinach salad, salad dressing, Italian bread and fruited gelatin.

Thursday — Crumb baked fish, potato wedge, meadow blend vegetables, wheat roll and ambrosia.

Friday — Chopped steak, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned greens, wheat bread and glazed angel food cake.

The Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center is “An equal opportunity provider and employer.” It serves older adults all over Newton County.No fees are charged for services if you are age 60 and over. No one is turned away for inability to give a donation. The center is only funded by 47% state and federal funding, which in return means 53% is from fundraising, client donations, quorum court and the community. That is why donations are requested for congregate lunch, home delivered meals and transportation.

Master Gardener fall classes announced

Staff Report

The Newton County Master Gardeners have announced it will offer five training session this fall.

The sessions will be held on Wednesdays in October and November at the Newton County Extension office. Also this year there is an online self paced option. Come to the Newton County Extension office to register by Wednesday Sept. 20.

Fish for free in Arkansas today

Staff Report

In case you were thinking about getting out to fish Wednesday, Aug. 23, and weren't sure of your current status as an Arkansas fishing license holder, don't worry about it. You and everyone else can go out and fish for free, without a state fishing license or a trout permit, as the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission switches over Wednesday to a new licensing system. The system will be offline Wednesday, and there won't be any way to access the system or purchase a license, so the AGFC commissioners voted this week in their monthly meeting to give anglers the special one-day opportunity to fish for free, no tickets to be issued to non-license holders by game wardens. All other fishing regulations will apply, however.

“We saw this as an opportunity to give anglers one more chance to get out and enjoy some free fishing on this day instead of worrying about whether their license was valid or not,” AGFC Deputy Director Spencer Griffith said when briefing the Commission about the need for the minute order Wednesday. “The new license system will have some features that have been asked about in the past and will be more user-friendly with more of a customized experience for our customers.”

BRCC meeting in Jasper Sept. 21

The Buffalo River Conservation Committee will hold a quarterly meeting on September 21, at 11 a.m., at the Carroll Electric building in Jasper. The committee will hear updates from the subcommittees and review any project submissions.

JASPER PRESENTS: Fall and winter event line up

From the Jasper Advertising and Promotion Commission

September 2023

21st Annual Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival: Thursday September 7- Saturday Sept 9, 2023 (see Flyer)

Arts and Craft Excursion: **Sept 8-9, 2023, 8am-5pm.** (see Flyer)

Join us for a fun-filled day of shopping at local businesses, experiencing new craft techniques, enjoying presentations from local artists. We will listen to local musicians, tour our local galleries, and finish up on the banks of The Little Buffalo River for the 21 annual Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival

Backroad Bootlegger Jeep Tour: **Saturday, Sept. 23,2023** (see Flyer)

Come Journey with us through the Majestic Ozark Mountains as we explore the history of Newton County's Prohibition era. (Any Street legal vehicle will be allowed)

Homecoming Shindig: Saturday, September 30, 2023, Beginning at 10 am. Newton County Fair Grounds. Live music, Demonstrations, and children's activities scheduled throughout the day!

Homecoming Shindig Car show: Saturday, September 30, 2023, Newton County Fair Grounds Registration 9:00-10:00 Awards 4:00

October 2023

Autumn Color Tours: Friday October 14, 2023 (Featuring Sam's Throne)

Autumn Color Tours: Sat. October 15, 2023 (Featuring Tim Ernst Studio)

Murder Mystery Weekend EVENT ONE:

Haunted History Tour: Friday October 27, 2023 (Ponca Color Fest) Join us for a Hauntingly good time as we journey through the autumn scenery listening to haunted history legends and folklore.

EVENT TWO:

Murder Mystery Tour: Sat. October 28, 2023, 8am-5pm. (Ponca Color Fest) We don't have a clue what is going to happen on this autumn color tour... but what we do know is we will have a blast trying to figure it out.

EVENT THREE:

Westbrook Music Series: Sat October 28, 2023, 7-9 Pm.

November 2023

Live Big Shop Small: Saturday November 25, 2023, 8am-5pm

Join us for a day of discounts at the local businesses, Tours at the local museums, Holiday Farmer's Market, & Christmas Parade by Kiwanis. Lighting of the Square.

Kiwanis Christmas Parade: Saturday November 25, 2023

December 2023

Holly Jolly Christmas in Jasper: Saturday December 9, 2023, 4-8Pm.

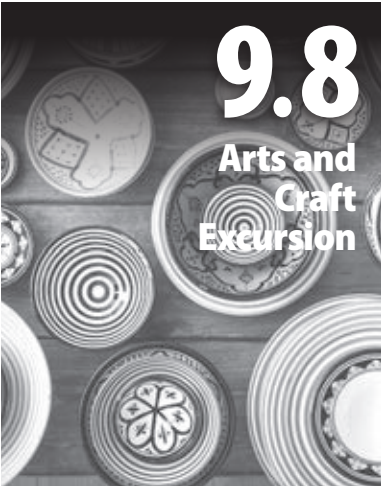
Join us for a fun filled afternoon of Games, Shopping local, Pictures with Santa, hot chocolate bar, trail of lights rides, scavenger hunt and so much more!

Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa: Date: TBD

Tickets for the Tour Excursions can be purchased at the following link or by Contacting the Director of Advertising and Promotions.

Lisa Duet (337) 401-9155 lisaduet-japc2023@yahoo.com

Experiences of Jasper 2023 Excursions Tickets in Jasper, AR, United States (ticketleap.com)



This event will Feature a DJ, with Halloween and Line Dance Music. We will have music videos playing on the big screen. Face Painting, Corn hole tournament, Games, Prizes and Concessions! Come in costume for a costume contest!

Kiwanis Haunted House: Nightmare on 9th Street: Kiwanis Haunted house October28, 2023 & October 31st

Join us for a Spooktacular time at 103 N. 9th Street in Jasper for Kiwanis annual Haunted house. Hauntings will start at dark.

Hometown Haunt: **Tuesday, October 31st, 2023**

Come join us downtown for trick or treating, Hayride, games, hot chocolate, Crafts and so much more! (Jasper Volunteer Fire Dept., JAPC, and The City of Jasper)

WHAT’S GOING ON

Attention Newton County residents

- To obtain your 911 address please contact the Newton County addressing office at 870-446-2966 or come by Monday — Friday 8-4:30. The office is located upstairs of the courthouse.

ASP DL testing facilities now open

- At each facility written exams are given from 8 a.m to 11:30 a.m. and the skills exam is by appointment times only. Jasper – The 1st Tuesday of the month. Newton County Sheriff's Office, 300 North Spring Street.

Jasper Kiwanis Club

- Meets 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Ozark Cafe.

Al-Anon Meeting

- Support group for family and friends of alcoholics. The Jasper meeting now meets via Zoom every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information and Zoom ID, call 479-857-8281 or 870-446-2402.

Community Matters

- A group representing churches and non-profit organizations serving Newton County meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., at the Jasper Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be Aug. 24.

Campbell Edgmon Post 93 Auxiliary

- Meets the fourth Thursday of every month at the Legion Hut in Jasper from 4-6 p.m. The next meeting is Aug. 24.

Newton County Healthcare Association, Inc.,

- Meets the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 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 Aug. 29.

Campbell Edgmon Post 93 of the American Legion

- Hosts open mic night on the first Friday of each month from 6-8 p.m., at the Legion Hut in Jasper. The next event is Sept. 1.

American Legion, All you can eat pancakes and waffles with butter and syrup

- Scrambled eggs and sausage patties, biscuits and sausage gravy, along with coffee, milk, and orange juice. Only \$8 on the first Saturday of every month, starting at 7 a.m., at the American Legion Hut in Jasper. Served by Boy Scouts from Jasper/American Legion Troop 446. The next breakfast will be Saturday, Sept. 2.

Jasper Community Garden

- 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 Sept. 4.

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 Tuesday. The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 5.

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, Sept. 5.

Newton County LEPC

- Meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Jasper Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be Sept. 11

The Friends of the Newton County Library

- Meets the second Monday of each month at noon at the library in Jasper. The next meeting will be Sept. 11.

Deer/Mt. Judea Board of Education

- Meets the second Monday of each month at noon at 6:30 p.m. Meetings alternate between the Deer and the Mt. Judea campuses. The next meeting will be Sept. 11.

Newton County Single Parent Scholarship Board

- Meets the second Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 p.m., at the Newton County Library. Next meeting is Sept. 12.

The Newton County Resource Council

- Meets the second Tuesday of each month, at 5 p.m., at Jasper City Hall. The next meeting is Sept. 12.

I'm

constantly worrying

never going outside

always lacking energy

sleeping all day

unable to focus

feeling sad and stuck

Okay!

Take good care.

Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield

How are you really feeling? Don't be afraid to talk about it. It's time we eliminated the stigma of discussing mental health and let everyone know these feelings are normal. For more information visit [normalizetheconversation.com](https://www.normalizeconversation.com). For immediate help, call UAMS AR ConnectNow at 1-800-482-9921, and Take Good Care.

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LARGE PUBLIC AUCTION OF MULTIPLE ESTATES

Sunday, August 27th at 9 AM, 2023, 1540 S Leslie St, Stuttgart, AR.

WE HAVE OUTSTANDING VARIETY AND QUALITY THIS SALE WITH FINE FRENCH, AMERICAN, AND ENGLISH FURNITURE

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A silver sedan car.

A young girl with glasses pointing upwards.

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Newton County and adjoining counties (Boone, Carroll, Searcy, Madison, Pope and Johnson): six months for \$23.72 or 12 months for \$35.58

Mail out of County (elsewhere in Arkansas): six months for \$29.50 or 12 months for \$44.40;

Out of State: Digital - 1 month for \$2.91 or 12 months for \$28.15.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. They must have a full name, address and daytime phone number in order to be considered. Letters longer than 350 words may not be printed, and all may be edited for clarity. E-mail letters to Jeff Dezort at jeffd@newtoncountytimes.com. Letters may also be delivered to the Newton County Times office on the Harrison Square, or mailed to Newton County Times, P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641.

Questions? Call (870) 446-2645.

State Capitol Week in Review

By From SEN. BREANNE DAVIS

LITTLE ROCK – During the 2023 session the Arkansas legislature enacted a lengthy list of new laws to strengthen the integrity of the elections.

Act 620 grants more power to the state Board of Election Commissioners to detect and prevent voter fraud. The board has been conducting an audit after each general election, and Act 620 requires an audit after primary elections also. The new law sets up a review of elections every two years for the board to investigate any indications of wrongdoing, primarily in absentee voting and voter registration.

Act 620 makes it a felony to forge someone's signature on applications for voter registration or for absentee ballots.

Act 444 outlines the rights of poll watchers, to ensure access to all parts of the election process. Poll watchers must complete an online training course, set up by the state board of Election Commissioners.

The main goal of Act 444 is to make sure that poll watchers have uniform and fair access to all stages of the voting process. For example, they're to be

allowed within three to six feet of the check-in area.

Poll watchers may bring a list of eligible voters and may challenge a ballot by speaking to an election official. However, they may not interfere with anyone's ability to vote, either by harassment, intimidation or coercion. They must wear name tags and may not wear political badges promoting a candidate or an issue.

Act 441 requires the Secretary of State to use multiple strategies to ensure the integrity of voter registration lists.

One strategy is to compare our lists with those in other states, to prevent a person from registering and voting in more than one state. Another strategy is to make full use of the Social Security Administration's file of people who have died.

The Secretary of State's office will develop an address verification process. The office will report annually to the legislative Joint Performance Review Committee on the accuracy of voter registration records.

Act 353 prohibits county election officials from using a drop box for the collection of absentee ballots. Unless absentee ballots are sent through the

mail, they must be delivered into the hands of someone in the physical office of the county clerk.

Act 320 also tightens the rules governing absentee ballots. It requires anyone who goes to the county clerk to drop off absentee ballots for another person to present a photo ID. Anyone who helps a voter fill out an application for an absentee ballot must provide his or her name, address and signature on the application.

Act 320 prohibits county clerks from distributing unsolicited absentee ballots or applications to potential voters. County clerks may make the applications generally available online or in their office.

Act 141 creates a new criteria to allow a voter to use an absentee ballot. If you are prevented from voting in person due to an observance of your religious discipline or due to a religious holiday, you will be eligible to vote absentee.

Act 462 changes the laws governing the creation of new political parties. It requires 10,000 signatures to establish a new political party ballot. The threshold had been 3 percent of the total votes cast in the most recent race or governor.

Celebrating the National Park Service and its role preserving American treasures

President Woodrow Wilson signed into law legislation creating the National Park Service to support the conservation and preservation of lands for the enjoyment of future generations on August 25, 1916. This idea had been evolving for decades as leading conservationists worked to protect the lands they loved from development. As we mark the 107th birthday of the National Park Service, we celebrate Arkansas's treasures and recognize ongoing efforts to improve stewardship of our nation's most precious sites and landmarks.

Earlier this month, Pea Ridge National Military Park celebrated a 140-acre land donation from The Conservation Fund to complete the area within the park's envisioned boundaries.

I was honored to join events commemorating this milestone and the collaboration of private and public entities working together to preserve the history, protect the habitat, and ensure the park is a place for learning and reflection in the years to come.

Pea Ridge National Military Park is a unique historical site within a dynamic region with so much cultural significance. Fortunately, many Arkansans can experience all it has to offer with relative ease.

While most people associate Pea Ridge with the Civil War battle, it also serves as home to another historic piece in the fabric of Arkansas's and our na-



JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. SENATOR

tion's story: the Butterfield Overland Mail Route.

From 1857 to 1861, this trail made it easier to transport mail and goods to the western frontier. This route truly helped facilitate America's westward expansion. It is a symbol of the pioneering spirit we still seek to embody.

I was proud to champion its designation as a National Historic Trail and work with local citizens, national organizations and government agencies to highlight its importance to our nation's history. Congress passed the legislation and the president signed it into law in January 2023.

Formally recognizing its important historical significance will help educate others about Arkansas's role in the growth and development of our country.

The National Park Service helps make historic locations and beloved landscapes accessible to all visitors, and it's particularly important that the men and women who served our nation in uniform have that oppor-

tunity to explore these gems.

That's why I was proud to support a measure last Congress that offers veterans and Gold Star Families free lifetime access to these sites.

The Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act made law a Department of Interior program that provides a free pass to these heroes. We expanded this idea by creating a lifetime pass and launching an annual pass for current servicemembers, which can be easily converted into a lifetime pass once they leave active duty.

Time outdoors has proven to be a successful tool to help veterans heal from the invisible wounds of war. Ensuring those called to serve have access to these lands is the least we can do to demonstrate our appreciation for their sacrifice.

Passes are available online, including on the National Park Service website, and at many national park and federal recreation sites to those presenting the correct documentation.

More than a century after the creation of the National Park Service, the commitment to maintain access to the beautiful landscapes we're blessed with is unyielding. In recent years, Congress has made significant investments to conserve the spaces that help define America. I'm pleased to support these efforts and will continue advocating for measures to preserve public land so generations to come have access to the many blessings they provide.

Stay aware of school buses

From REP. STEVEN WALKER
District 27

As we navigate busy streets in our communities, rushing to work or running errands, it's easy to get caught up in the fast pace of modern life. However, one thing demands our utmost attention on Arkansas roadways- a stopped school bus with its flashing lights and extended stop arm.

Every day during the school year, more than 350,000 Arkansas children are depending on school buses to transport them safely to and from school. These buses make multiple stops in every community.

As the 2023-2024 school year is about to begin, we want to remind Arkansans that it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus. The fines, penalties, and punishment for anyone found guilty of illegally passing a stopped school bus were increased dramatically by Act 2128 of 2005, also known as Isaac's Law. The legislation was named in honor of Isaac Brian, an elementary school student in the Bryant School District who was struck and killed when a driver illegally passed his school bus while students were exiting the vehicle.

The law requires drivers to stop on 2-lane and 4-lane highways in both directions, even those with a middle lane. Drivers cannot attempt to pass in any direction until the school bus vehicle has finished receiving or discharging its passengers and is in motion again.

In the 2021 Regular Session, the General Assembly passed Act 264 to clarify the distance and areas where drivers must stop. It states drivers must come to a complete stop no less than 30 feet from the bus when it stops to load or unload passengers. This 30 feet perimeter would apply to public roads, private or public property open to the general public, and any driveway or parking lot belonging to a public school.

Arkansans should also remember that the use of handheld wireless phones is prohibited in a school zone. In 2019, the General Assembly passed legislation making the use of a handheld phone in school zones a primary offense.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Teachers are a blessing

Dear Editor,

My son, Jesus Ramsey, told me about his son Duncan talking to his school principal about an issue.

The principal had to say "no" to Duncan's request but told Duncan to come by at any time to talk about the issue.

Then Jes, a graduate from Deer, said "I'm so thankful for strong men at Deer School like Mr. Stuckey, Jack Martin and Ronnie Brown, who spoke to me man to man."

Teachers matter. As a mom of a 50-year-old son, I say thank you to all teachers. God bless you.

Kay Ramsey,
HARRISON

Every state is a border state

Every day, more and more deadly drugs and criminals are flying over our southern border and into our communities. In June alone, over 2,000 pounds of deadly fentanyl were seized at our southern border – enough to kill the entire state of Arkansas 150 times (over 453 million people). Just imagine how much is making it across under our noses.

The crisis at the border isn't just at the southern border anymore; it's in our own backyard, and far-left Democrats refuse to open their eyes and acknowledge it. Rather than securing our nation's borders, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, President Biden, and other far-left Democrats have



BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR
ARKANSAS'S FOURTH DISTRICTS

implemented misguided open border policies that have created a historic humanitarian, ecological, economic, and national security crisis.

House Republicans took bold action and put America first when we passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, legislation that will secure the border and combat

illegal immigration. This historic legislation would force the Biden Administration to restart construction of the border wall, end catch and release, increase the number of Border Patrol agents, strengthen and streamline the asylum process, and strengthen current law to protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking, among other things.

Our country's leaders cannot continue to disregard this crisis. The delusion must end; our country needs border policies that put Americans first – that's precisely what the Secure the Border Act does. Border Security is national security, and it's time for Secretary Mayorkas, President Biden, and far-left Democrats to wake up and follow House Republicans' lead.

TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

Send your letters to P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641 or email news@newtoncountytimes.com

We want to hear from you!





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

For funeral information, visit
www.rollerfuneralhomes.com

Deaths

Mary A. Domme died Thursday, Aug. 10 (2023) at Celebrations Senior Living in Denison, Texas. A private family memorial is being planned. Mary chose to be a participant and donor in the Southwestern Medical School Willed Body Program.

Betty Jo Farmer, 96, of Jasper, died Sunday, Aug. 20 (2023). Cremation arrangements are by Coffman Funeral Home of Jasper.

Treva Hampton, 92, of Oark, died Tuesday, Aug. 15 (2023). A graveside service was 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Coleman Cemetery in Dover. Arrangements by Roller-Cox Funeral Home of Clarksville.

Lola Riley, 65, of Everton, died Saturday, Aug. 19 (2023). Funeral is at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 23, at Coffman Funeral Home in Harrison.

Lonnie Spencer, II, 44, died Wednesday, Aug. 16 (2023), in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Cremation and arrangements are with Coffman Funeral Home of Jasper.

The Newton County Times is pleased to publish death notices of reasonable length at no charge to the family. Expanded obits, with more detail and information, may be purchased as paid advertising through a funeral home or by calling Lynn Blevins at the newspaper at (870) 743-0606.

Betty Jo Farmer, 96, of Jasper

Betty Jo Farmer, 96. of Jasper, died Sunday, Aug. 20 (2023). Cremation arrangements are by Coffman Funeral Home of Jasper.

The daughter of the late Levi and Creasie Farmer was born in Deer, Oct. 18, 1926.

She is preceded in death by five brothers; two sisters and her son, Larry Wayne Cox.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Sonja Cox, and her sister, Shirley Campbell.

OBITUARIES

Treva Hampton, 92, of Oark

Treva “Annabelle” Hampton, 92, of Oark, died Tuesday, Aug. 15 (2023). A graveside service was 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Coleman Cemetery in Dover with Stanley Taylor officiating. Arrangements by Roller-Cox Funeral Home of Clarksville.

The daughter of the late Clinton Lester and Ethel May (Smith) Bailey was born in San Bernardino, California, Sept. 12, 1930.

She is preceded in death by her husband, “Jess” Hampton; six children, Sue Farmer, Marilyn Bickner, Leslie Farmer, David Hampton, Jessica Danielle Hampton, Kathryn Williams and Faye Farmer and four grandchildren

Annabelle is survived by her children, Christie Fouts, of Dover, Villa Friesen, of Fallsville, Linda Williams, Lester Hampton, Johnny Hampton, James Hampton, Bob Hampton, Lydle Hampton, Glenna Ward and Viancie Hampton; many grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Jeff Fouts, Eric Richter, Jerry Hampton, Danny Sisco, Lane Sisco, and Keith Ricketts.

Honorary pallbearers were Ricky Williams, Lester Hampton, Johnny Hampton, James Hampton, Bob Hampton, and Lydle Hampton.



Mary Domme, of Texas

Mary A. Domme died Thursday, Aug. 10 (2023) at Celebrations Senior Living in Denison, Texas. A private family memorial is being planned. Mary chose to be a participant and donor in the Southwestern Medical School Willed Body Program.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, O.L. (Bud) and Betty Rogers of Kansas, brother Gale Rogers of Kansas and two husbands.

Survivors are daughter Liz Washington, of Bells, Texas; twin sons, Dr. Winston Marshall, of Sherman, Texas and Dr. Wesley Marshall, of Frisco, Texas; nine grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Following retirement, Mary moved to Sherman, Texas, where she has made many friends at the Senior Dance Clubs, Parkside Baptist Church, Super Seniors Fellowship at Grace United Methodist Church, and Red River Line Dancers.



Lonnie Spencer, II, 44, of Oklahoma

Lonnie Charles Spencer II, 44, died Wednesday, Aug. 16 (2023), in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Cremation and arrangements are with Coffman Funeral Home of Jasper.

The son of Lonnie and Debbie Spencer was born May 1, 1979, in Harrison.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Debbie Spencer and his grandmother, Linda Story.

He is survived by his father, Lonnie Spencer, of Jasper, and his brothers, Shane Spencer, and Ben Spencer.

Lola Riley, 65, of Everton

Lola “Carol” Riley, 65, of Everton, died at home, Saturday, Aug. 19 (2023). Funeral is at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 23, at Coffman Funeral Home in Harrison.

The daughter of the late Willard James Henson and Anna (Spears) Henson was born in Bass, Dec. 6, 1957. She raised in Newton County and has been a longtime resident of Boone County. Carol has worked 23 years at Walmart and attended church at Yardelle Chapel.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jeremy Smith.

Carol is survived by her husband of 35 years, Steven Riley, Sr.; her sons, Steven Riley, Jr., and Ethan James Riley; two sisters, Diane Criner and Crystal Hill; three grandchildren and other relatives.



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YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL HOMES OF WORSHIP

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Sun. School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. • Wed. Adult & Children Bible Study 6 p.m.
Craig Villines, Pastor

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.
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 Sermom 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

JASPER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Worship: 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Sabbath School 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Pastor Ross Harris • 446-2122

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
- MARBLE FALLS**
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located on the Old Erbie Road across from Dogpatch.
Pastor is OD Chaney, 870-688-1189.
Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday youth activities at 6:30 p.m.

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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
Buffalo Church
Services Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Pastor Austin Williams

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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
- 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.

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

Fatal motorcycle crash in Baxter County

A motorcycle crash in Baxter County last Saturday, Aug. 19, claimed the life of Stephanie Lynn Bay, 53, of Mountain Home, according to Arkansas State Police. She was a passenger on the 2008 Honda operated by Joe Dean, 55, of Mountain Home. He was injured and was taken to Baxter Health in Mountain Home.

The crash happened on state Highway 341 at Lone Rock, at 6 p.m. , according to the report filed by Senior Corporal Mark Morton.

The motorcycle was northbound and apparently struck a large rock in the roadway, causing the operator to lose control of the motorcycle. It ran off the right side of the roadway and struck a road sign.



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AS LIFE GOES BY

By ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE

On Saturday my sister, Jackie and I drove from Springdale/Garfield to Jasper to attend the Celebration of Life for Butch Harrison. Jane drove to Jasper on Friday from Mountain View to spend the night with John and Wanda so she could have the strength to attend on Saturday. That was the first time she had driven that far since her surgery. It just takes time to heal, and she is doing very well. There were many family members and friends at the memorial service for Butch.

It was a beautiful service. The quote by John Wayne fit Butch, “Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway.” Butch lived a life of courage facing each challenge head on. He endured years of treatments and pain fighting with all that he had. If he was scared, he didn’t show it much. He knew that people counted on him, and he wouldn’t go down without a fight. He truly was one of the toughest in the county. It was good to see some of the family that I haven’t seen in a long time. Jackie Lynn and Austin were there. I visited

Jerry Harrison and he said his mother, Peggy is in the nursing home. It was fun seeing Jerry and Elaine Waters. I haven’t seen them in years. They got married when Karl and I got married. Was reading about the upcoming two eclipses over Arkansas. One this year is going to be Saturday, Oct. 14. It is a partial Solar Eclipse and can be seen everywhere in Arkansas. The second one will be on April 8, 2024. It will be a total eclipse and people from all over the world will come to see it on the path of totality.

The people of Hawaii are still dealing with the fire destruction and trying to locate all their loved ones. California is dealing with a storm hitting the coastline along with an earthquake. The eastern coast is dealing with storms, too. The heat in the central part of the country is causing problems this week. As we change to the autumn season we will find many extreme weather events. Jackie and I drove state Highway 7, from Harrison so we could see what was going on at Dogpatch. We were disappointed that we could not see

anything due to all the trees and grasses that have grown up along the road. We were really sorry we couldn’t see Marble Falls. We were surprised it wasn’t cleared because it is a part of a historical marker. It was where we got the marble for the Washington Monument. The stone was huge and weighed a great weight taken on a wagon pulled by horses to the Mississippi River where it was loaded on a barge and taken on to Washington D.C. Have a great week. Stay cool, stay out of the heat. It can make you sick.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The 1931 Newton County bank robbery

By BARBARA LEROY

The second robbery of the Newton County Bank included locals as part of the robber gang. It is likely that this actually made it easier for authorities to find the culprits rather quickly. On Monday, Jan. 5, 1931, Matthew Farmer, of Red Rock, and Bill Baker, who lived on Twelfth Street in Little Rock, left that city and traveled north to Newton County. That same day, Albert Gairright and Gaston Reeves left Little Rock in another car and headed north. They were joined by Baker’s brother-in-law, Ewell Villines, and the five camped out Monday evening. There was a murder trial being held at the courthouse in Jasper, which drew a lot of interest, and no one would be looking at another car parked around the square. Around noon on Wednesday, Jan. 7, two unmasked men came into the bank and started looting the tills, making off with about \$6,500. They fled to a point about 3 miles south of Jasper and then took a trail through the woods. Bill Baker, who had been raised in Newton County, was their guide. He led them to another road, where Ewell Villines waited to drive them away. The next day, the sheriff arrested Matthew Farmer of Red Rock at the home of J. L. Baker. That same day he arrested William Baker, who lived near Little Rock, in Erbie at the home of his mother. The getaway car was found parked in front of J. L. Baker’s house at the time of Farmer’s arrest. After his arrest, Farmer told authorities about the robbery plan and who was involved. On Jan. 9, Albert E. Gaithright and Gaston Reeves were arrested at Reeves’ home on Seventeenth Street in Little Rock by Pulaski County deputies. During the arrest, \$3,178 of the stolen money was recovered. The two men were identified that night by Sheriff Will Jones, J. W. Moore, director of the bank, and Boyd Pruitt, assistant cashier. Moore and Pruitt had been present during the robbery. The two were also identified by Mathie Farmer, who was already in custody. Matthew Farmer was charged as accessory before the fact, and found guilty by a jury on February 4. He was sentenced to ten years in prison. Ewell Villines pleaded guilty as an accessory and sentenced to 6 years. Gaston Reeves and Jesse Smith (alias Albert Gairright) pled guilty to robbery and were sentenced to 10 years each. John L. Baker, charged as an accessory, was still awaiting trial. Bill Baker, who had also been charged as an accessory, was killed in Little Rock on January 25. Gaston Reeves escaped the penitentiary in May, and was recaptured while he was on the run to get the rest of the stolen loot, which he claimed was hidden in Newton County. Clemency was offered to some of the Newton County robbers. Ewell Villines received indefinite furlough March 23, 1932, after recommendation by the trial judge, prosecuting attorney, several bank officials and the citizens of Newton County. Several hundred of them signed a petition asking for clemency. Barbara LeRoy is the author of “Which Side Were They On?,” a new 302 page book listing biographical sketches of the Newton Countians who were involved in the Civil War, available for sale either in the Bradley House Museum or by purchasing online at www.newtoncountyar.com. The book sells for \$33.

EXTENSION CORNER

Johnsongrass, you love it or hate it

By ADAM WILLIS
Newton County Extension Agent

I have found that producers for the most part love Johnsongrass or do not want a sprig of it in their pastures and hay fields. There are many reasons for this love-hate relationship. We will discuss a few here. The following are some reasons producers like Johnsongrass. It is long lasting and very drought tolerant so stand establishment and longevity are usually not a problem. It is very palatable to cattle they will seek it out over almost any other forage. In the right stage of growth, it is high in nutrients and digestibility. It grows well in hot and dry conditions when most other grasses become stunted or burned. It produces a lot of tonnage of forage due to plant height, leaf mass, and growth rates. The following are some reasons

producers hate Johnsongrass. The number one reason that producers hate Johnsongrass is that it can be poisonous to animals. Effects of the poisoning can range anywhere from weight loss, abortion of fetuses to death and it is quick acting. Johnsongrass poisons in two different ways when the plant becomes drought or cold stressed it produces prussic acid which is a highly poisonous chemical that can cause death in a few hours. This chemical is no longer present in the plant after the plant has no green matter. Johnsongrass can also develop a high level of nitrates that can poison animals. The issue with nitrates are that they can be available in actively growing grass or in dried grass. This means that if you have nitrate issues you could still have them after the grass goes dormant or is harvested for hay. The plus side to nitrate poisoning is that for \$6 you can have your

forage tested and determine if it is safe to feed. Johnsongrass also is easily spread by animals, birds, or equipment it will sprout from almost any part of the plant. It is also very costly to control. Adequate control of Johnsongrass can cost up to \$40 per acre. I hope you found this information helpful and if you have additional questions, please contact Adam Willis at the Newton County Cooperative Extension Service at 870-446-2240 or by email at awillis@uada.edu. As always, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Former residents

By REV. JOHNNIE GAIL COLLINS

Last week: Hello again Family & Friends in and from Newton County. It seems we spend a great deal of time on the road to or from Joplin for medical appointments. On July 20th Seth had a “Watchman” in his heart. This is supposed to get him off the blood thinners as his kidneys are so bad. We hope it makes a difference and he will feel somewhat better. He has suffered for a week with gout and can barely get from the dining table to the couch. My niece, Kathy (Varkados) Bain is getting married tomorrow in Weatherford, Texas, which is where she lives. They are spending a few days in Eureka Springs striper fishing. The great thing is they are coming to see us also. My niece, Janet (Watson) Ford and

husband Dan flew to Dallas to attend the wedding. They visited with my brother, Wayne (W.C.) Collins, in Hico, Texas, yesterday. Wayne has all kinds of animals and the draught there has been horrible, 112 degrees yesterday. He has been hauling water for some of the animals for sometimes now. My daughter, DaLane (Smith) Dean will be visiting us Monday from OKC for my birthday. Also, her son, Brett and grandson, Lakodan will come with her. It doesn’t seem possible I will be 85 years old. I have enjoyed it all, made many mistakes, had a lot of fun and have been blessed beyond belief. My cousin, Vernon Hawley and his friend Lanette Taylor are coming for lunch tomorrow. Lanette has ordered Brown beans, fried potatoes and cornbread. That I can do! Vernon lives at Avoca and Lanette

in Rogers. My friend, Carolyn (Cowell) Lindberg and husband, Gene, attended the Pig Roast at Deer. They reported lots of food (as usual) and good visiting with her cousins and friends. Her daughter, Cheryl, who lives in Florida attended with them for the first time. They all enjoyed it a lot. Carolyn and Gene were planning to visit us after taking Cheryl to the airport in Springfield. However they both became ill with a virus and went straight home. They were here for my 80th birthday! Carolyn and I go back to the beginning of second grade at Deer. I have enjoyed being facebook friends with Tony Taylor. I also watch his services via the internet. That is it from my little corner of the world. I pray God’s blessings on each of you. Stay cool! Until next time “Happy trails to

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Newton County Times

QMSD School Board PREPARES FOR CHANGES

large photo showing members of school board

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Blood drive at Jasper Aug. 31

The Red Cross needs donors now. Schedule an appointment to give by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). All who come to give throughout the month of August will get a \$10 e-gift card to a movie merchant of their choice. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Movie. Upcoming blood donation opportunities Aug. 16-31:

Jasper

8/31/2023: 9 a.m. — 1 p.m., Jasper High School, 600 School Street. How to donate blood To make an appointment, simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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ENOS



S

IS BACK AT ARKANSAS

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Dan Enos is back at Arkansas for the second time in his career.

Enos was offensive coordinator for Bret Bielema from 2015-17 and coached Brandon Allen during an outstanding senior season in the offensive coordinator's first year with the Hogs. Just like in 2015, Enos inherits a very impressive quarterback in redshirt senior KJ Jefferson. But Enos isn't one to place goals on a player.

"No, you know, I've never really done that," Enos said. "We just kind of say we do whatever we need to do to help the team win to be honest with you. And I always tell the guys 'If we do what we're supposed to do to help the team win, all that stuff is going to take care of itself.' So no I never really have. It doesn't surprise me though because, KJ is a really, really smart player. And like Brandon, Brandon was an extremely smart player as well. Both those guys make really good decisions. They both know how to take care of the football. And they're both really accurate.

But again they're different, you know. But both very, very productive players."

Enos has Jefferson taking snaps under center just as he did in the spring at times as well. He explained the reasoning behind that on Thursday.

"Yeah, he's been real good on intermediate and short throws," Enos said. "I haven't noticed anything with that. I agree, I think his deep ball accuracy is very good and continues to be very good. He's made some throws the last couple days, but really great coverage by our

See **ENOS**, Page A8

Arkansas offensive coordinator Dan Enos is back to the lead the Razorback offense. This marks his second stop in Fayetteville. CRAVEN WHITLOW/NATE ALLEN SPORTS SERVICES

Criswell adding depth at QB position

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas' first day in pads produced some good showings on both sides of the ball, but one of the continued pluses is back-up quarterback Jacolby Criswell.

The former Gatorade Player of the Year at Morrilton High School is in his first season at Arkansas after transferring in from North Carolina. Criswell spent three seasons at North Carolina where he completed 18 of 31 passes for 204 yards, one touchdown and an interception. He also rushed 20 times for 133 yards and a touchdown.

Criswell is running second-team quarterback behind KJ Jefferson, but on Thursday Criswell was throwing deep passes to receivers that were going for touchdowns. Following practice, Sam Pittman praised both Criswell and Cade Fortin.

"I think it's always a battle," Pittman said. "I do. It's always a battle. But Jacolby Criswell is one heck of a quarterback and so is Fortin. Criswell has an elite, special arm and he can fly. They've both done a nice job. Criswell is really playing well, as well."

Transfer wide receiver Isaac TeSlaa has been catching passes from Criswell since last spring and is impressed.

"Yeah, Jacolby's a real... I mean, he's an athlete and a quarterback, so you know he's going to be able to move in the pocket but also make throws outside of the pocket," TeSlaa said. "And he honestly throws one of the best balls I've ever seen from any quarterback. That thing, I mean he's got some zip on it, and he can put touch on it. I feel like he's just an all-around very solid quarterback, and he's able to make those throws wherever. Inside of the pocket, outside of the pocket. He's able to zip that thing anywhere."

Safety Alfahiym Walcott has defended some of the passes thrown by Criswell and is equally impressed.

"He can definitely put it in tight spots, I experienced it," Walcott said. "He's putting it in tight spots. That's all I have to say. Very good. Very talented. Getting better each and every day from summer to now. Very good. I can't wait to see that, as well."

Redshirt freshman wide receiver Isaiah Sategna caught one of those touchdown passes from Criswell on Thursday.

"I mean Jacolby, he has a cannon," Sategna said. "He wants to throw it deep every time. His intermediate passes are really good, too. We didn't have him last year so this is my first time throwing with him and stuff. I really like going with him. I'm a deep threat, so I love going with him."

Andrew Armstrong is another transfer wide receiver who came in with Criswell. Armstrong likes the way Criswell delivers the football.

"Jacolby knows what he's doing in the backfield," Armstrong said. "You love to see that from a guy that plays quarterback because he is the leader. He has to be the leader of the team. His short-pass game. His intermediate, deep ball. Like (Sategna) said, he has a cannon of an arm. He knows how to throw it. He knows how to read the zones. He knows if it's man (coverage). He's great."

Criswell was a four-star recruit coming out of Morrilton. He chose North Carolina over Arkansas and others. In three years for Morrilton, Criswell passed for 5,925 yards and 58 touchdowns. He also rushed for 2,568 yards and 41 touchdowns.

As a senior, he led Morrilton to an 8-5 record. He threw for 2,869 yards and 27 touchdowns. He rushed for another 1,282 yards and 24 touchdowns.

Razorbacks expect tight ends to be bigger part of offense

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas' tight ends should be a bigger part of the offense with Dan Enos now the offensive coordinator.

When Enos was at Arkansas previously the tight ends were targeted more than in Kendal Briles' offense. Morgan Turner is set to begin his first season at Arkansas and is looking forward to seeing what his group can do.

"It's fun because it's challenging," Turner said. "The guys are getting a taste of it now, moving them to different spots. They're at one spot for one play, and then 'hey, flip here. Go there.' It's challenging, so every day you've got to come in and be focused and really embrace the mental side of it. They've done a really nice job."

Arkansas had three scholarship tight ends in the spring and now have six. Turner talked about how Ty Washington, Luke Hasz and Nathan Bax welcomed Shamar Easter, Var'keyes Gumms and Francis Sherman.

"A lot of credit to the guys that were here in the spring," Turner said. "They could have taken it one way, but they've embraced them and really helped them out over the summer. It's not like I'm starting from scratch and they don't know a thing. They've done a nice job over the summer, and the older guys really helped them."

Former North Texas tight end Gumms is expected to play a big role in Arkansas' offense.

"He's picking it up really well," Turner said. "The guys, they worked really hard over the summer (in) the play-led practices and you can really see that pay-

ing off when they're jumping in at the start of fall camp and he's hitting the ground running. It's no Day 1 learning."

Gumms was named second-team Freshman All-America by The Athletic. Gumms played in 14 games with six starts last fall. He caught 34 passes for 458 yards and five touchdowns. Gumms said Monday he is making the most of his time with the Hogs.

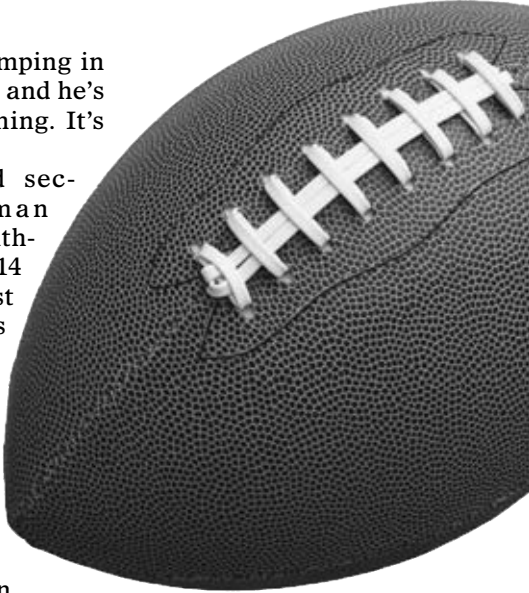
"For me, I just came in ready to work, came in ready to adapt," Gumms said. "It's been good as in coming in during the summer time got some good work and started to learn the offense and now going into fall camp, going over the install against and still learning from here and getting better every day."

Shamar Easter arrived in the summer from Ashdown High School. He was the top recruit in Arkansas last season. At Ashdown, Easted played football, basketball and ran track. Turner feels he is transitioning to Arkansas very well.

"He's doing great," Turner said. "It's been fun to watch him grow. He really spent that time in the weight room. He's coming out with a great attitude every single day at practice and he's taken big jumps. It's been fun working with him."

Hasz was one of the top tight ends in the nation last season out of Bixby (Okla.) High School. Turner has Hasz in the spring as well.

"Yeah, he just comes to work everyday and works hard, works on his route running and tries to build a better relationship with KJ (Jefferson)," Turner said.



"And then he'll compete, go up and get balls and just make plays when they're available."

Washington is a redshirt freshman who is expected to play a bigger role in 2023.

"I think he's taking a big jump since spring," Turner said. "He's come every day focused, locked in and not worried about anything else. When the ball comes his way, he's making plays. That's all we need to do is take advantage of the opportunities we have. He's done a nice job."

In the bowl win over Kansas, Washington caught a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jefferson. Turner feels that catch helped propel Washington to a good spring and then strong preseason to this point.

"It gives you some confidence, excitement," Turner said. "Embracing like 'Alright. I played a big part in this team right here.' Even though he did it the whole season, it's another thing when you score that touchdown and I'm sure it gave him a bunch of confidence."

Washington agreed that catch helped his confidence.

I have my passports, ready to travel

My family loves to go on adventures. Make a suggestion of a trip and we are there.

All four of our grandsons have passports and all have been overseas. Our oldest grandson has been to five countries which is not bad for an eight-year old.

When he was in kindergarten, the teacher was asking the kids where their favorite place to go was. The

answers ranged from the zoo to grandma's house.

Little Abram Henry said, "Iceland." Which is one of my favorite places to go as well.

However, last summer Becky and I were traveling with our friends Brad and Karla. We decided to go on a trip together to Colorado. I really felt a trip to the Skirted Heifer was in the cards.



JEFF BRASEL
SPORTS EDITOR

See **BRASEL**, Page A8

Woodson likes progress of secondary

By OTIS KIRK
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Marcus Woodson is helping Deron Wilson with the secondary after a season that saw Arkansas’ defensive backs give up large amounts of yardage.

Woodson came to Arkansas from Florida State where he also inherited a similar situation there. Woodson likes the progress Arkansas is making since the spring.

“Absolutely. I think we’re headed in the right direction,” Woodson said. “It started with what I just said, coming together as a group with a lot of new faces in the room. And then just coming together to improve daily. That’s what those guys have done. They seek daily improvement. They have a ‘coach me, coach’ mindset. As long as they continue to come to work every day, we’ll continue to improve that stat for sure.”

What Woodson had talked about earlier was just the unit coming together as a team and brotherhood.

“Just the togetherness,” Woodson said. “Guys coming together. You heard Jayden (Johnson) mention the brotherhood. I feel like those guys have really gotten closer throughout the summer. And me as a coach, that’s what I wanted to see from the group.”

Baylor transfer Lorando “Snaxx” Johnson has moved from cornerback to the Hog (Nickel) position. Some cornerbacks developing and improving has allowed Woodson to make that move.

“At first we had to find the right guy at that corner,” Woodson said. “Nudie (Dwight McGlothern) has really stepped up and done a good job. The addition of Jaheim [Singletary] to the room has really been a big addition. He’s a smart kid. He hasn’t played a lot of football in college. Obviously being at Georgia he was able to be around some good coaches and in a good culture. He’s still young, but he’s a smart player that retains information. He

takes the meeting to the field. And that’s what gives himself a chance.

“Kee’yon [Stewart] has been a great addition as well. He’s a very talented kid that has played a lot of football. I’m still pushing him to strain more. That’s the thing, he’s got to practice more like the standard here at Arkansas. And it’s getting better, but he’s still got some improvement to do. Jaylon Braxton, as you all mentioned earlier, he’s a kid that’s very talented. Hasn’t played any college football. With him being here in the spring, it was really, really good for him. So right now we feel good with those four corners. That’s what allowed for us to move Snaxx inside. Snaxx is a guy that is very versatile. Right now we need more depth at the Hog position, which is nickel, and he’s been a great addition. It’s been a smooth transition for him. He’s another high football IQ guy, so it wasn’t hard for him to be able to slide inside and pick up like he had been there already. It’s been a great move. At the end of the day, we’re just trying to find the best five to put on the field to get us in the best position to be successful.”

Singletary came from Georgia, Stewart from TCU and the Hogs also added safety Alfahiym Walcott from Baylor. Walcott is working at safety and pushing Jayden Johnson and others for a starting spot next to Hudson Clark.

“Uhhh, yeah, he has,” Woodson said. “Nothing is solidified right now. He and we still have a lot of work to do between now and Sept. 2. But Al has done a phenomenal job being that he missed the entire spring due to injury and didn’t get full-go until July. So he’s a great player. Played a lot of good football. It’s important to him. Again, he shows up with a coach’s mindset, takes good notes in meetings, is very detailed with the meetings and how he goes about things. So again, right now he’s competing for the starting spot, but nothing is solidified right now.”

At safety, true freshman TJ

“Absolutely. I think we’re headed in the right direction. It started with what I just said, coming together as a group with a lot of new faces in the room. And then just coming together to improve daily. That’s what those guys have done. They seek daily improvement.”

Marcus Woodson

Metcalf has seemingly made a move similar to Braxton at cornerback.

“Absolutely,” Woodson said. “Yes sir. Again, him being here in the spring is really big for him. He’s a smart kid that retains information, as well. Has a lot of talent. He’s a mature kid, as well, beyond his years. So for him, he’s a kid that has ice in his veins, comes from a really good high school. So I’m expecting for him to be a big impact for the defense this year.”

While Johnson is looking good at the Hog spot Woodson named one other player who has impressed as well.

“J-Lew (Jaylen Lewis),” Woodson said. “He still has some things to improve at just like we all do, but Jaylen is someone who is going to help this team in a big way. He’s still competing for that spot. He’s had a pretty good camp up until this point. Still got some things to clean up on in terms of communication and execution, but he’s working everyday to get to that point.”

Singletary was a five-star recruit who went to Georgia last year, but failed to make an impact. He left and it appears he’s set to make a big impact at Arkansas this fall.

“He’s a selfless kid,” Woodson said. “He’s someone that

came in and really adapted to the guys as if he had been here the whole time. Again, he’s super talented, but the most important thing is his love for the sport. He loves football. If you love football and you’ve got talent, success is going to happen for you. I’m so excited to coach him. Again, we needed a corner to come in and challenge the other guys to be better, and he’s done that. He’s a kid that’s going to have a phenomenal year for us.”

With 11 practices behind them and the Sept. 2 opener against Western Carolina in Little Rock growing nearer Woodson talked about what will be the focus going forward.

“Communication,” Woodson said. “You know that’s the main thing for us. We want to play clean Razorback football. And, you know, 10 guys can be playing the same call and one guy get the wrong call and it’s a breakdown in the defense on the back end. And as you know, we can’t have any breakdowns because when something bad happens on the back end we the last level of defense and everyone in the stadium knows it. So at the end of the day if we continue to communicate — we can fix the physical piece of it.

“But the mental piece and the communication is something that they have to take ownership in. And being on the same page. And I’m confident that as long we continue to improve our communication, execute the defense and do your job within the defense, we can play with anybody in the country. So I’m just excited to see the steps that we must take going forward. Again it’s a lot of work that still has to be done until September 2nd. The communication is the first piece. And just continuing to be disciplined, to do your job with the right technique and making sure your eyes are on the right spot. You know, so communication and eye discipline — those are the biggest two things for me that I want to see as a coach improve in the group.”

Arkansas will return to the practice fields on Thursday.

secondary, and he’s put the ball in a place where our receivers can make plays, and I’ve been very impressed with that. You know, I don’t know about the NFL as far as that because I think everybody has their own philosophies and how they want to do things. But I believe in training underneath center. I believe in the offseason they should train under center a lot because I think when you’re under center it makes you more aware of your timing, your rhythm and your balance on your drops. I think a lot of these young players now don’t play under center ever when they’re young. I do think that’s a disservice for these quarterbacks coming up because I feel that’s where you really, really learn and build a foundation of balance, rhythm and timing on passes.

“And then you should transition back into the shotgun because that’s great as well. But I think it’s much easier to transition back than it is to transition forward. And I think it helps them develop as a passer when they train under there. So, we do a lot of training in the offseason under there for those reasons. I train him in practice that way, too. And we are under center some, as well, because there’s some things that fit what we do better under center than they do in the gun. But we’re obviously very multiple as far as we’re going to be in the pistol, we’re going to be in the sidecar, we’re going to be under center. We’re going to have the ability to do all those things.”

Enos also likes the quarterbacks in his group behind Jefferson including former Morritlon standout Jacolby Criswell, who transferred in from North Carolina at mid-term.

“We have a good group,” Enos said. “These guys work really hard. Jacolby, Cade Fortin and Malachi (Singleton), they all come to work every day. They’ve got a blue-collar mentality. We grind it out so we meet a lot this time of year, and these guys are big note-takers and listeners. It’s a really well-rounded room. We’ve got some young guys in the room. Ryker Acebo is in there with us, too. Then we’ve got some elder statesmen in Cade and KJ. It’s a really well-rounded room. It’s a talented room.

“The thing I’ve been most impressed about is the amount of respect they have for one another. The guys are not in any way jealous of one another and all that. Which sometimes in quarterback rooms can be tough because only one guy is going to play, and everybody wants to be the guy that goes out there when the game starts. Obviously, KJ has really established himself here, and I think it’s really good to have him in the room. Especially for the younger players to watch a guy and be able to mentor the guys. I think it’s really important for young players to have someone to look up to and be able to watch and say okay that’s how you’re supposed to do it. KJ and Cade Fortin have certainly played that role very well thus far.”

Last season Jefferson missed two games with an injury. Enos was asked can the Hogs win with Criswell?

“Yeah, we feel really good about Jacolby,” Enos said. “I think he’s had a really good camp. He had a really good spring. He’s got tremendous arm talent. Like, elite arm talent. He can make throws into windows. I mean, he threw a post the other day like 60-something yards in the air into a breeze. So, he can make some of those ‘wow’ throws that a lot of guys can’t make. But when you throw on top of it that he can run, he ran 21 miles per hour plus this summer I believe. He’s a guy that can do them both you know. Again, he’s a little bit different too. He’s really smart. Studies the game. We have a lot of confidence in Jacolby and I think he’s going to continue to get better.”

Arkansas will open the season on Saturday, Sept. 2, in Little Rock against Western Carolina at 3 p.m.

26 athletes with Arkansas ties competing in 2023 Worlds

By UA COMMUNICATIONS

Arkansas will be represented by 26 athletes spread among eight countries during the 2023 edition of the World Athletics Championships held at the new National Athletics Center in Budapest, Hungary, from August 19-27.

The group of athletes with ties to the Razorback track and field program include 13 current athletes, eight alums, and a group of five who train in Fayetteville. Countries represented by the Arkansas crew include United States (11), Jamaica (8), Great Britain (2), Bahamas, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, and South Africa.

In the 40th year of the World Athletics Championships, which started on a four-year cycle in Helsinki, Finland, in 1983, the global outdoor event will be held for the first time in consecutive years due to COVID-19 disrupting the normal two-year cycle, which

started in 1993.

Arkansas alum Tina Šutej will contest her sixth World Outdoor Championships in the pole vault, representing Slovenia. She placed fourth in 2022 after earning a bronze medal at the 2022 World Indoors. Later last summer Šutej claimed a silver medal at the European Championships.

Alum Sandi Morris is competing in her fifth World Outdoors in the pole vault, where she has collected three silver medals in 2017, 2019, and 2022 as a member of Team USA. Among three World Indoor meets, Morris has claimed a pair of gold medals (2018, 2022) and one silver (2016).

This will be the fourth World Outdoor meet for Ryan Crouser, who has trained in Fayetteville the past few years. He enters the meet as the defending champion, meet record holder and has improved upon the world record he set in the shot put last summer.

Shamier Little and Cindy

Sember, who both train with Arkansas women’s head coach Chris Johnson, will each compete in a fourth World Outdoor meet. Little, a silver medalist in the 400m hurdles in 2015, placed fourth a year ago. Sember finished fifth in the 100m hurdles last summer.

A silver medalist in the long jump in 2017, Jarrion Lawson competes in his second World Outdoors. Indoors, Lawson has placed fourth twice in 2018 and 2022. Lawson has recovered from rupturing his patella tendon last season to earn another berth into a World Championship meet.

Ayden Owens-Delerme finished fourth in the decathlon at the 2022 World Championships held in Eugene, Oregon, representing Puerto Rico. This summer Owens-Delerme won the CAC title in his first decathlon since last summer when he led the World decathlon field after the first day.

Nikki Hiltz previously was a finalist in the 1,500m during

the 2019 World Championships, placing 12th. This season Hiltz broke the American mile record at the Monaco Diamond League. They claimed mile and 1,500m titles indoors, on the road and outdoors in winning USATF Indoor, USATF Mile Road, and USATF Outdoor races over the course of the 2023 season.

Making World debuts in Eugene a year ago were Britton Wilson, who finished fifth in the 400m hurdles and earned gold as a member of the United States 4 x 400m relay; Wayne Pinnock, who placed ninth in the long jump for Jamaica; and Jah-Nhai Perinchief, who competed in the qualifying round of the triple jump for Bermuda.

This year Wilson will contest the 400m where she broke the American and collegiate record indoors (49.48), and then lowered the outdoor collegiate record three times (49.51, 49.40, 49.13) during a season that elevated her to becoming a Bowerman finalist.

BRASEL

Continued from Page A7

However, before getting to the Heifer, we decided to make a little trip to a Colorado Rockies game.

They were playing the Dodgers and we were fired up to watch the game.

Unfortunately when Becky and Karla get together, a credit card must die. Luckily for the card, the death is not a slow one that takes a while. It is quick and nearly painless for the card.

At Coors Field, I got into the action of killing the credit card.

I was standing in line with nothing more than a hat and

Becky’s three or four things from the store. Of course, she shopped while I was in the long line to check out.

While in said line, I saw these people just go up to the counter and the worker did something that involved a pen and a stamp.

When I got to the funeral for my credit card, I asked what was going on with those little books.

The lady explained to me that it was a Major League Baseball passport.

Of course my mind was whizzing around about the opportunity to go to all of the big league stadiums and have a place where it was documented. I have mapped trips

before, but this gave me hope of achieving that goal.

I put my foot on the neck of that credit card and added \$99 for my leather bound passport.

Little did I know the pressure that I was going to feel.

Now, when my family plans to go somewhere, I look to see if the hometown MLB team is in town. Then comes the next point of how do I get to a game and we all still do what we want to do as a family.

That passport is going to get stamped. I need to see baseball. I need to sit in the stands, eat hot dogs and collect helmets full of nachos or popcorn.

Becky needs to add to her

collection of sweatshirts.

This love of the MLB passport is just another thing that we are doing with our friends.

There needs to be a passport for SEC Stadiums since that is our other obsession.... and collecting sweatshirts from every college in the country.

Of course a passport for SEC stadiums could be an ever-changing book.

I have both of my passports. I am ready to go.

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.

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Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION JOHNNY BUTLER, II, and STEPHANIE BULTER, a married couple PETITIONERS VS. CASE NO. 51CV-23-33 RESPONDENTS AL MOORE and CECIL MOORE, and all their unknown heirs, if any, and the following described lands in Newton County, Arkansas: A part of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, in Section 8, T15N, R22W, 5th Principal Meridian, Newton County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows; A part of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, of Section 8, T15N, R22W, 5th Principal Meridian, Newton County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows; Commencing at the southwest corner thereof, a set 1/2" rebar pin with monument cap from a previous survey, thence along the west line there of N 01°15' 18" E 208.71', to a set 1/2" rebar pin, the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence continuing along said west line N 01°15' 18" E 202.16', to a set 1/2" rebar pin, thence leaving said west line S 87°41' 29" E 458.58', to the centerline of Newton County Road 24, thence along said centerline S 60°16' 31" W 269.28', and S 58°57' 37" W 107.87', thence leaving said centerline N 87°41' 29" W 136.47', to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 1.373 acres. WARNING ORDER-NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE PETITION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Quiet Title Petition has been filed in the Newton

Legal Notice

County Circuit Court to quiet and confirm title to the above-described real estate in the above Petitioner. Anyone claiming an interest in said lands is hereby notified that you must appear and file your claim in writing within Thirty (30) days of the first publication of this Notice, or be forever barred. Vanessa Moore, CIRCUIT CLERK DATE: 8/14/23 1st. Pub. 8/16/23, 4t.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOLLY B. JONES, Deceased No. 51PR-2023-37-2 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTOR AND FILING OF CLAIMS Last known address of decedent: 101 Harrison Street, Jasper, Arkansas 72641 Date of Death: April 25, 2023 An instrument dated March 13, 2017, and Codicil to the Last Will dated October 28, 2022, was admitted to Probate on August 04, 2023 as the Last Will of Jolly B. Jones, deceased, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. Contest of the probate of the will can be effected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in

Legal Notice

the estate. All claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate. This notice first published the 16 day of August, 2023. /s/ Jim Carney Administrator of the Estate c/o Stayton & Associates, P.C. Rowe Stayton, Attorney 405 East 3rd Street South Prescott, AR 71857 Attorney for Estate 1st. Pub. 8/16/23, 2t.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION SHERRI WRIGHT PLAINTIFF VS. CASE NO. 51CV-23-30 BONNIE COOPER DEFENDANT NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Newton County, Arkansas, to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described pieces of real property in Newton County, Arkansas: THE WEST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 15 NORTH, RANGE 21 WEST, CONTAINING 40.44 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. Any person claiming any title or interest of any kind to the described piece of real property is hereby notified. All persons who claim any interest in the land or lien thereon shall appear in the court and show

Legal Notice

cause why the title of petitioner should not be confirmed. Respectfully submitted, Sherri Wright Donnie Davis, Circuit Clerk or Deputy Clerk Date: 7-21-23 (SEAL) Prepared by: /s/ Ben Honaker Ben Honaker Honaker Law Arkansas Bar No. 2017108 124 W. Capitol, Suite 1900 Little Rock, AR 72201 Telephone: 501.247.6975 Email: ben@benhonakerlaw.com 1st. Pub. 8/02/23, 4t.

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Strawberry Poke Cake

Ingredients: 1 box white cake mix 1 box Strawberry Jello .3 ounce box 8 ounces Cool Whip topping thawed

Strawberry Topping: 1 cup fresh strawberries 1/4 cup sugar 1/2 tablespoon lemon juice

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare cake batter per the package directions. Pour batter into a 9x13 glass baking dish and bake. While the cake is in the oven, add the strawberries, sugar and lemon juice to a medium pot and cook for 5 minutes or until the strawberries soften and a sauce starts to thicken. Pour into a bowl and set aside. Remove the cake from the oven and let it cool for 15-20 minutes. Mix the jello packet (with the amount of water listed on the box) in a large measuring cup or jar for easy pouring. After the cake is no longer hot, poke holes all around the cake with the end of a wooden spoon. Pour the entire jello mixture evenly over the top of the entire cake. Then spread the strawberry sauce over top of the entire cake. Place the cake in the refrigerator for at least 2-3 hours to set. Remove from refrigerator and spread entire cake evenly with cool whip. Top with additional fresh strawberries if desired.

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Organic Certification Cost Share Program open for applications

Staff Report

LITTLE ROCK— The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications from producers for reimbursement under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Organic certification fees paid between the dates of October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023, are eligible. Applications for reimbursement are available at cognitoforms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/NationalOrganicCertificationCostShare-Application and are due by November 1, 2023.

Reimbursement for 75 percent of eligible certification costs up to \$750 is available for operators who have been certified by a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Certification costs that have already been reimbursed through the USDA Farm Service Agency or other agencies are not eligible. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture administers the USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program through funding provided by the USDA.

“Anything we can do to help offset costs for Arkansas producers is a win for agriculture, which is our state’s largest industry,” says Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the USDA on this program that provides important cost-share assistance to an expanding sector of Arkansas’s agricultural industry.”

According to the latest data available from the USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service, certified organic production in Arkansas has grown significantly since 2012. From 2012 to 2021, the number of farms producing certified organic commodities increased from 32 farms to 82. Sales of certified organically produced commodities increased from \$789,000 in 2012 to over \$110 million in 2021, an increase of over 13,900 percent.

For questions about the application or the reimbursement process, contact Karen Reynolds at 501-529- 1630 or karen.reynolds@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

Help spruce up Lost Valley Sept. 9

Are you, your family, or your group (scouts, 4H, Master Gardeners) looking for a volunteer opportunity in a beautiful setting? Look no further. Buffalo National River Partners, the official Friends group of the Buffalo National River, will be conducting a stilt grass pull in Lost Valley on Saturday, September 9.

Stilt grass is an invasive species native to Asia. It appeared in the U.S. in 1919, probably hitching a ride as packing material for shipments from China. Wherever it grows, it crowds out native plants. The good news: it’s easy to pull up. The bad news: it’s really hard to eradicate. However, for several years now efforts in Lost Valley, the most visited area in the Buffalo National River, is paying off.

Lost Valley is located in the Buffalo National River park just off highway 43 between Ponca and Boxley. Follow the signs. To find out more and to sign up, go to the Buffalo National River Partners calendar for Sept. at bnrpartners.org/calendar.



Cooperative Extension Service receives CDC High Obesity Program funding

By REBEKAH HALL
U of A System
Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — In many rural Arkansas counties, access to healthy food, nutrition education and safe places for physical activity are limited, contributing to higher rates of obesity. To help improve these conditions, the Cooperative Extension Service has received a five-year, \$4 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s High Obesity Program.

The Cooperative Extension Service, the outreach arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, is one of 16 land grant universities selected to receive funding to implement the CDC’s High Obesity Program. The program funds universities working with local cooperative extension services in mostly rural counties where 40 percent or more of adults have obesity.

Bryan Mader, extension assistant professor and health specialist for the Division of Agriculture, said this is the first round of funding in a five-year grant cycle. The High Obesity Program will be implemented in Bradley, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Hempstead, Phillips, Monroe and St. Francis counties.

According to the CDC, obesity in the United States affects more than 100 million adults and 14 million children, accounting for approximately \$173 billion in annual healthcare costs. In 2021, the adult obesity rate in Arkansas was 38.7 percent. That same year, 37.1 percent of Arkansas youth aged 10-17 qualified as overweight or obese, according to the CDC.

Mader said this funding will support programming that addresses food security, safe and accessible opportunities for physical activity, family healthy weight programs, breastfeeding and early childhood education. Extension will work closely with the selected communities to implement these important programs, Mader said.



PLAY FOR ALL — As part of Cooperative Extension Service efforts to reduce rates of obesity in Arkansas, extension worked with the City of Forrest City and the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas to renovate Stuart Springs Park with accessible playground equipment, new signage, bike racks and walking tracks. DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO

“All of this work will be done in cooperation with community-based organizations as well as community members themselves,” he said. “That’s everyone from local government, healthcare clinics and hospitals — such as UAMS East in Phillips County—to organizations such as food pantries, food banks and early childcare education centers, as well as community members who will be participating in the programs that we put in place.”

Creating sustainable solutions

This is the third High Obesity Program grant to be awarded to the Cooperative Extension Service in Arkansas, the first having been awarded in 2014. Mader said the goal of the program is to not only achieve statistical improvements in health outcomes, but also create sustainable programs that will continue to improve quality of life in the selected counties.

“We’re hoping to create sustainability through collaboration, so that in the end, these communities have built capacity to support health promotion programs and make sure that they’re able to continue improving health outcomes, especially once grant funding ends,” Mader said. “We’re also looking to position extension as being a trusted partner in communities for delivering public health interventions and public health programming.”

During the previous grant cycle, the Cooperative Extension Service

has made progress in addressing health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity and obesity.

“We do a lot of work through food pantries and food banks to increase access to food,” said Jessica Vincent, extension community and public health outreach specialist for the Division of Agriculture. “Part of that work involves expanding food pantries by providing the necessary items they need to bring in and distribute healthier food options, such as proper shelving, refrigeration and freezers.”

Vincent said extension established a mobile food pantry in Phillips County with the help of Phillips County Judge Clark Hall. Hall allows the use of a 30-foot cargo trailer owned by the county, which is otherwise used only during elections.

“We equipped that cargo trailer with shelving, refrigeration and a battery-operated generator,” Vincent said. “That trailer now goes through the very remote areas of Phillips County to serve residents who can’t get into the main Helena-West Helena area to get their food.”

In St. Francis County, extension assisted with the renovation of a local park and is currently renovating a second in partnership with the City of Forrest City and the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. This includes installing new, accessible playground equipment, signage, bike racks and walking tracks.

AR agriculture agents want to hear how you use extension farm, livestock, garden resources

By MARY HIGHTOWER
U of A System
Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Extension agriculture agents from all 75 Arkansas counties want to know how their constituents use the livestock, forage and gardening resources of the Cooperative Extension Service, and have opened a survey for feedback.

The Cooperative Extension Service is the outreach arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Its aim is to share research-based knowledge about a wide range of

topics including farming, gardening and raising livestock.

“We’ve opened an online survey with questions about how people find out about and use specific resources of ours,” said Brad Runsick, the Baxter County extension staff chair who initiated the survey.

The survey doesn’t address row or field crops.

“Our mission each year, in planning our work, is to provide a relevant service to the people we serve,” Runsick said. “I and my fellow agents truly want to plan our work for the coming year based on

feedback from the people we are helping now and hope to help in the future.”

The nine-question survey should take only a few minutes to complete. The survey will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 15.

Some of the resources offered by the Cooperative Extension Service include publications on gardening, soil testing and other diagnostic services, as well as production meetings where farmers and ranchers can hear about relevant recommendations and be face-to-face with land grant experts.

THIS WEEK'S LIVESTOCK REPORT

North Arkansas Livestock Auction

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ARKANSAS WEEKLY LIVESTOCK

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Total Receipts: 9691,026489

Feeder Cattle: 744 (76.8%)795 (77.5%)320 965.4%)

Slaughter Cattle: 190 (19.6)171 (16.7%)104 (21.3%)

Replacement Cattle: 35 (3.6%)60 (5.8%)65 (13.5%)

Compared to last week: Feeder steers under 700 lbs mostly steady to 8.00 higher with a few 750-800 lbs 1.00 lower. Feeder heifers mostly 2.00-8.00 higher. Supply moderate with good demand. Slaughter cows 1.00-4.00 lower. Slaughter bulls 5.00 lower. Supply included: 77% Feeder Cattle (38% Steers, 1% Dairy Steers, 41% Heifers, 20% Bulls); 20% Slaughter Cattle (87% Cows, 13% Bulls); 4% Replacement Cattle (7% Stock Cows, 81% Bred Cows, 4% Bred Heifers, 4% Cow-Calf Pairs, 4% Heifer Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 27%.

FEEDER CATTLE

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	315	315	327.00	327.00
6	355-398	388	310.00-317.00	315.44
15	400-445	423	285.00-311.00	298.42
15	460-490	477	275.00-311.00	296.32
8	500-532	523	281.00-302.00	285.89
17	560-570	564	271.00-291.00	283.91
24	602-630	609	249.00-277.00	267.47
7	610	610	253.00	253.00
13	662-678	668	256.00-268.00	263.69
12	704	704	249.00	249.00
15	753-776	771	243.00-248.00	243.98

STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
9	447	447	293.00	293.00
24	529-536	533	269.00-279.00	272.93
16	559-576	566	258.00-278.00	266.16
6	601	601	245.00	245.00

STEERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	350-395	376	269.00-279.00	271.83
9	400-440	425	255.00-283.00	272.37
13	455-495	479	255.00-277.00	271.28
10	505-545	521	235.00-265.00	256.66
2	550-580	565	246.00-249.00	247.46
5	632-638	634	232.00-251.00	243.36
7	717-744	732	223.00-230.00	227.06

STEERS - Medium and Large 3 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	420	420	195.00	195.00
1	470	470	209.00	209.00
1	510	510	215.00	215.00
1	670	670	197.00	197.00

DAIRY STEERS - Large 3 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	452	452	107.00	107.00
2	522	522	107.00	107.00

HEIFERS-Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	305-335	320	257.00-271.00	263.67
7	360-380	369	264.00-270.00	266.11
24	408-448	437	253.00-273.00	264.71
20	462-495	477	254.00-270.00	263.32
49	500-540	519	240.00-270.00	255.48
8	544	544	259.00	259.00
7	550-580	556	239.00-258.00	248.93
7	600-641	630	229.00-234.00	231.13
13	665	665	241.00	241.00
6	712-740	724	207.00-215.00	212.00
5	730-738	735	223.00-226.00	224.81
8	947	947	196.00	196.00

HEIFERS-Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
24	381-385	383	251.00-261.00	256.03
9	572	572	246.00	246.00
4	800	800	211.00	211.00

HEIFERS-Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
6	310-342	327	230.00-241.00	236.49
4	365-385	375	230.00-262.00	242.85
8	408-435	427	240.00-251.00	246.04
12	450-498	485	219.00-249.00	238.23
15	505-545	529	210.00-241.00	231.00
5	555-580	570	227.00-233.00	230.79
1	635	635	209.00	209.00
5	655-695	680	201.00-214.00	210.91
1	710	710	182.00	182.00
3	782	782	190.00	190.00
1	810	810	180.00	180.00

HEIFERS-Medium and Large 3 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	315-317	317	209.00-210.00	209.25
1	490	490	170.00	170.00
1	500	500	190.00	190.00
1	595	595	201.00	201.00

BULLS-Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
14	355-388	381	275.00-305.00	287.08
9	418-437	430	281.00-297.00	291.81
15	465-490	480	259.00-281.00	277.87
29	500-545	515	250.00-275.00	265.07
7	565-590	582	245.00-249.00	247.87
7	600-645	617	231.00-241.00	236.58
3	655-665	660	220.00-223.00	221.01
4	720-748	741	209.00-221.00	211.91
6	762-765	763	198.00-205.00	203.83

BULLS-Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	375-398	388	243.00-255.00	246.67
2	430	430	267.00	267.00
4	450-460	458	217.00-253.00	244.15
1	535	535	235.00	235.00
4	570-582	579	211.00-241.00	229.10
5	610-645	621	196.00-220.00	203.79
1	690	690	190.00	190.00
3	728	728	185.00	185.00

BULLS - Medium and Large 3 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
7	333	333	201.00	201.00
1	460	460	217.00	217.00

SLAUGHTER CATTLE

COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
31	905-1370	1132	96.00-108.00	103.46
27	975-1485	1211	108.00-118.00	110.72

COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
31	905-1370	1132	96.00-108.00	103.46
27	975-1485	1211	108.00-118.00	110.72

COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
15	850-1170	1021	89.00-100.00	93.81
5	925-1220	1052	101.00-107.00	103.15
7	910-1085	963	75.00-88.00	84.04
4	765-1005	890	62.00-72.00	67.25
1	635	635	55.00	55.00

REPLACEMENT CATTLE

STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4	0	2	765-975	870	104.00-112.00	107.52

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt/Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4	T1	3	1020-1225	1132	105.00-118.00	110.91
5-8	T1	1	1145	1145	103.00	103.00
5-8	T2-3	3	945-1195	1029	103.00-115.00	109.71
>8	T2-3	10	1025-1405	1292	102.00-117.00	107.65

BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit/Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2-4	T1	1	1115	1115	1450.00	1450.00
2-4	T2-3	4	995-1160	1080	1250-1600	1424.16

BRED HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	T2-3	1	860	860	1075.00	1075.00

COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5-8	0	1	1285	1285	1600.00	1600.00

HEIFER PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ <150 lbs calf

Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
<2	0	1	770	770	1000.00	1000.00

North Arkansas Livestock Auction

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Please Note: The above USDA LPMGN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted.

623475

Northark named No. 7 ‘Best Community College in Arkansas’

Staff Report

BestColleges.com, a leading online resource for students, and leading authority in higher education research and college planning, is pleased to announce the updated list for Best Community Colleges in Arkansas of 2023. Among numerous higher education institutions across the nation, North Arkansas College has emerged as a standout due to its associate degrees, technical cer-

tificates, business and industry training, and education courses.

“We’re pleased this ranking affirms our focus on academics, skills and workforce training,” said President Rick Massengale. “In addition to academic rigor within our programs, our faculty and staff go above and beyond to deliver a holistic approach to learning. We ensure students have access to the latest technologies to learn from home, including providing laptops and internet

hot spots. When combined with a bustling campus full of student events and organizations, the overall goal is to create a life-changing learning experience that prepares them for their future career.”

BestColleges.com’s ranking recognizes education institutions that have established high-quality community college curriculum in 2023

According to BestCollege’s website, rankings are based on

statistical data and consistent principles such as academic quality, affordability, and online competency. Since 2014, their aim with college rankings is to provide an objective assessment of relative quality, considering academic outcomes, affordability, and the breadth and depth of on-line learning opportunities.

The rankings evaluate academic quality by examining the number of students graduating in specific majors, indicating a

school’s commitment to those programs. The affordability score considers program cost, student loan rates, and post-graduation loan repayment ability. They further assess the quality of online offerings based on program availability, student enrollment, and the school’s investment in remote learners.

For more information about the Best Community Colleges rankings and methodology, please visit BestColleges.com.

Hundreds of new state laws now in effect

From the Arkansas Senate

LITTLE ROCK – Most of the bills that were approved by the legislature earlier this year became law on August 1.

Among the most important measures taking effect is the LEARNS Act, which raises teacher minimum salaries to \$50,000 a year and makes sweeping changes in the public school finance formula.

LEARNS is an acronym that stands for Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking, School Safety.

Another important bill is Act 659, the Protect Arkansas Act, which lengthens prison sentences for violent offenders and requires prison inmates to work harder to qualify for parole. Making offenders serve longer sentences would bring Arkansas sentencing guidelines more in line with those used by federal prisons, where people convicted of federal

crimes serve almost all of their sentence.

To more effectively implement Act 659, lawmakers approved funding in separate legislation for 3,000 more prison beds.

Act 584 creates a new felony of “death by delivery” for dealers who lace their illegal drugs with fentanyl, resulting in the death of users. The penalties range from 20 years to life.

Act 264 tightens up requirements for scrap metal dealers who must maintain records of buying recycled parts, such as catalytic converters. The bill also makes it a Class C felony to possess stolen converters. It will be illegal to buy or possess a catalytic converter if it has been removed from a car the person does not own.

Act 629 prohibits the sale of Delta 8 products, a marijuana product made legal by the passage of federal Farm Bill in 2018, which legalized hemp production. The law has a loophole that

allows for extraction of the ingredients that go into Delta 8. Previously, it was sold in stores with no regulation of packaging or marketing. The act has been challenged by manufacturers and sellers of the product.

Another high-profile bill has been challenged in the courts. Act 372 gives parents more options to have offensive material relocated or removed from local libraries and school libraries.

After making an objection to the librarian and if necessary making an appeal to the library board, parents then can appeal to the county Quorum Court or City Council. Both are composed of people elected by voters.

Act 372 removes the current exemption that protects librarians from criminal prosecution. If librarians knowingly maintain material that is deemed obscene, they could be prosecuted.

Act 612 makes pornography websites liable for harm

they cause to minors, and requires them to make reasonable efforts to require age verification. For example, they can require a digital ID before allowing viewers to access the site.

Act 689 would require social media sites to verify the age of users, and users under the age of 18 would need parental permission. Prosecutors could seek fines of \$2,500 per violation against the social media companies.

Other new laws affect transgender people, and physicians who perform medical procedures to change genders. Act 274 allows medical malpractice lawsuits against physicians who perform gender transformation procedures on children, for up to 15 years after the minor turns 18. In most medical malpractice cases the limit is two years after the injury.

Act 777 clarifies that you don’t need a permit to carry a concealed firearm in Arkansas.

Back to school is historic this year in Arkansas

By From the Arkansas Senate

LITTLE ROCK – This year back to school activities in Arkansas have historic importance, thanks to the far-reaching changes in Act 237 of 2023.

Act 237 is the LEARNS Act, proposed by the governor and approved by the legislature earlier this year. LEARNS is an acronym that stands for Literacy, Empowerment, Accountability, Readiness, Networking and School Safety.

The act provides parents with more school choice options than they have ever had. Tuition at private and parochial schools will be more affordable than at any time in Arkansas history, thanks to the Educational Freedom Accounts created by Act 237.

Parents of qualified students can use the Educational Freedom Accounts to pay tuition at qualifying schools, which include most of the accredited private and parochial schools in Arkansas.

This year, eligible students are in these categories: children entering kindergarten, students coming from a school that got an “F” on the most recent school report cards or districts in Level 5, meaning they are in distress and receive intensive support from the state.

Income Tax School offers in-person, virtual training for advanced income tax preparation

By REBEKAH HALL
U of A System
Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — For Arkansans interested in advanced income tax preparation, the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will offer five in-person and virtual Income Tax School training courses later this year.

The Income Tax School is offered through the Community, Professional and Economic Development unit of the Cooperative Extension Service. Each of the two-day courses will provide information about the latest tax code updates and insight into what taxpayers can expect for the 2024 tax season.

“As one of only a few tax

school options in Arkansas, we offer high-quality, affordable federal tax education that fits your schedule,” said Kim Magee, director of the Income Tax School for the extension service. “We provide the information you want and continuing professional education you need every year.”

In-person training will be offered in four Arkansas cities:

Jonesboro: Nov. 13-14 at the Arkansas State University Delta Center for Economic Development, 319 University Loop

Fayetteville: Nov. 16-17 at the Don Tyson Center, 1371 W. Altheimer Drive

Hope: Nov. 27-28 at Hempstead Hall, 2500 S. Main Street

Little Rock: Nov. 29-30

at Cooperative Extension Service State Office, 2301 S. University Avenue

A virtual option will be offered via Zoom Dec. 6-7.

The cost of the course is \$270 for those who register before Aug. 25, or \$310 after the priority registration deadline. Registration is available at uada.formstack.com/forms/tax. Classes run 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. A certificate of attendance will be

awarded after class is dismissed on the second day.

Curtis Davis, a certified public accountant with more than two decades of tax experience, and Bill Laird, a retired Internal Revenue Service agent, will be instructors at the schools. The course will offer a general review of current tax regulations and updates on changes in existing tax laws.

The Income Tax School is approved by the IRS as a continuing education provider. Participants can earn 16 hours of continuing professional education credit, including two hours of ethics.

For more information, contact Kim Magee at 501-671-2081 or kmagee@uada.edu.

Applications for wildland fire suppression kits accepted

Staff Report

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division is now accepting applications for wildland fire suppression kits through October 20, 2023. The application can be found at cognitofrms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/ApplicationForWildlandFireSuppressionKit.

The Forestry Division received \$293,154 through a United States Forest Service grant to provide 85 kits this year to rural volunteer fire departments across the state.

pression, but they are often in need of specialized equipment and gear necessary for safe wildfire suppression. The necessary equipment and gear in the kits include lightweight wildfire-resistant coveralls, wildland gloves, rakes, backpack water pumps, and leaf blowers.

Rural volunteer fire departments are encouraged to apply online, but paper applications are available upon request. Applications are scored according to specific criteria to include the population of the fire district, the number of square miles covered, the average number of wildfires a department responds to annually, and other factors.

The selected departments will be notified in November and kits will be delivered in the spring of 2024 or as soon as supplies are received.

Fire departments may contact Kathryn Mahan-Hooten at kathryn.mahan@agriculture.arkansas.gov or (501) 679-3183 with questions. More information about the program can be found at agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/rural-fire-protection-program/.

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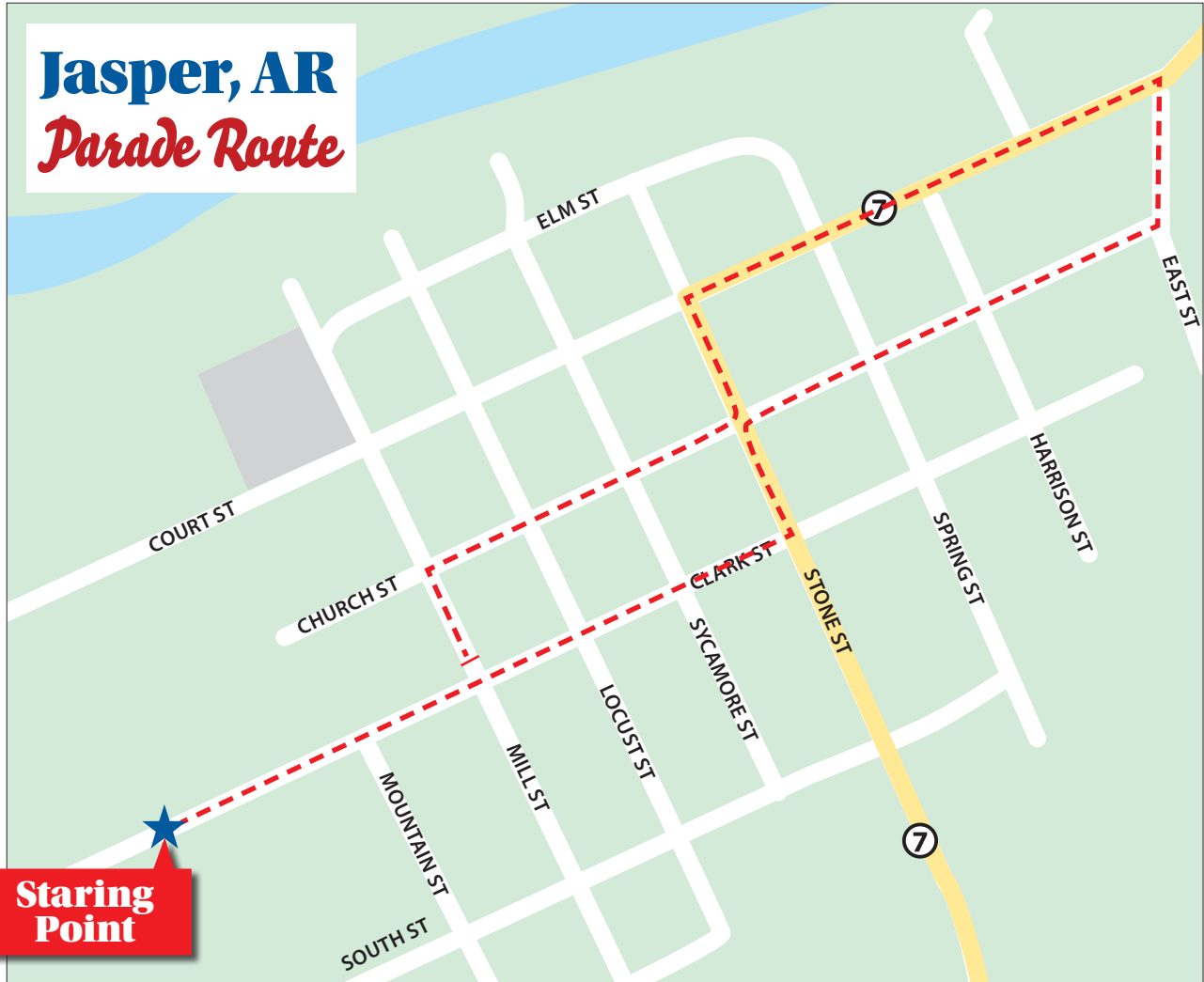
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Fair parade to be morning event



MELANIE ALLEN ILLUSTRATION

Staff Report

The Newton County Fair Parade will be held Saturday, Aug. 26, at 10 a.m.

Grand Marshals are the 2023 Junior Farmers, Brook Shepherd, of Hasty, and Hayden Moenning, of Vendor.

The parade units will assemble at the Jasper School grounds. All parade entries except horse and horse drawn conveyances should come to the back of the school grounds (through the Nance Addition). DO NOT attempt to come in from Clark Street by Special Services building.

- You will take the next place in line when you arrive, and the line will go through the school grounds and along the street.
- Horses and horse trailers should go directly to Bradley Park and line up. Coggins papers will be checked on horses and mules as required by start law. All horses

once mounted must be kept west of the school grounds entrance, until the parade starts

- Trucks and horse trailers must stay on the roads. DO NOT drive across the grass.
- The Color Guard, Grand Marshal, and Royalty will line up beside the Special Services Building on the Clark Street entrance. All other parade entries must come in through the Nance Addition on the backside of the school grounds.
- Entries will be judged on appearance, theme and originality. Decision of the judges is final. Fair theme is Newton County: Born & Raised.
- You must register before the parade begins. Judges will consider depiction of the theme as part of the score in selecting winners.
- Parade winners will be posted at Saturday night rodeo. Trophies may be picked up at "The Shed" concession stand by the announc-

er's stand in the arena.

- All 4-Wheelers must be parked and shutoff until the parade starts.
- Anyone who does not follow the rules will be disqualified and asked to leave. Categories are: Best Decorated – 1. Truck, 2. Trailer, 3. Four-wheeler, 4. Newton County Fair Pageant Royalty Float, Best Dressed Junior & Senior Cowboy & Cowgirl.



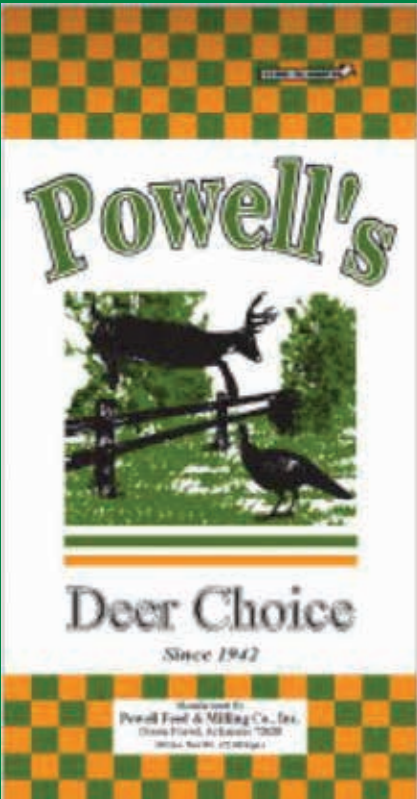
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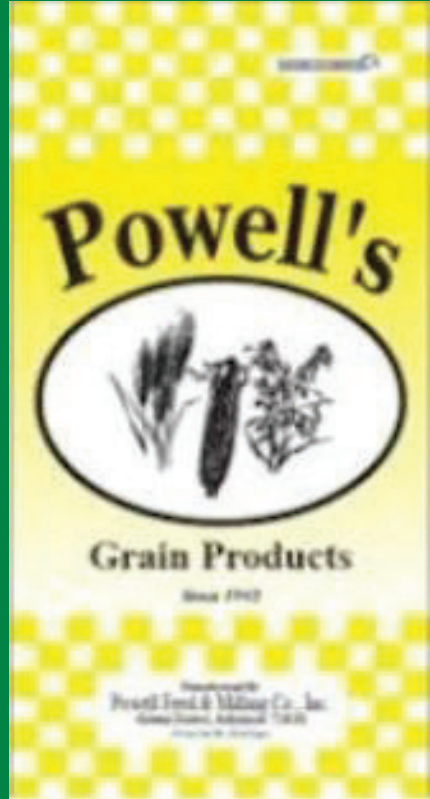
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