



## HS Basketball

Rebounding  
record fuels  
MHHS victory

PAGE A11



## HS Basketball

Top-ranked  
Lamar ousts  
Flippin, 67-44

PAGE A13

# The Baxter Bulletin

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 | BAXTERBULLETIN.COM | MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

A CARPENTER MEDIA GROUP PUBLICATION | \$1.50



Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery approaches the podium Thursday afternoon at the Baxter County Courthouse. Montgomery announced he would not seek reelection at the completion of his term in 2026. He also endorsed Lt. Brian Davis as his successor. SONNY ELLIOTT/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

## Montgomery to retire after 2026

BC Sheriff will not seek  
reelection, endorse  
Davis as successor

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

In the same spot where it all began, Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery announced he is ready to conclude his law-enforcement career.

On the south lawn of the Baxter County Courthouse on Thursday afternoon, Montgomery announced he will not seek re-election to the post he has held since assuming office on Jan. 1, 2005. He currently is the longest-serving sheriff in Arkansas.

“It has been my absolute honor to serve as your Baxter County

Sheriff for the past 20 plus years,” Montgomery told a crowd of approximately 150 attendees. “We’ve done many great things together, and I appreciate your years of support and partnership. I am proud to lead one of the best, if not the best law enforcement agencies in this state.”

A West Plains, Missouri, native, Montgomery moved to Mountain Home in the 1980s and managed his family’s business, Hubert’s Home Entertainment on State Highway 5 North. He entered law enforcement in 1988 as a patrolman for the Mountain Home Police Department, retiring from that agency after 15 years of service in 2003.

Montgomery always was active in the community, serving as softball commissioner for the local

men’s league in the 1980s and won a \$1,000 prize in 1987 for bowling a 300 game at Driftwood Lanes in 1987.

It was a chilly February day in 2004 when Montgomery announced his intent to run for sheriff on the same courthouse lawn. Montgomery defeated 21-year incumbent Joe Edmonds in that race and subsequently won re-election every two years until Arkansas voters extended sheriff terms to four years in 2016. He then won four-year terms in 2018 and 2022, his eighth and ninth terms.

Montgomery will continue to serve in his post until a new sheriff takes office on Jan. 1, 2027, after the November 2026 General Election.

See **RETIRE**, Page A7

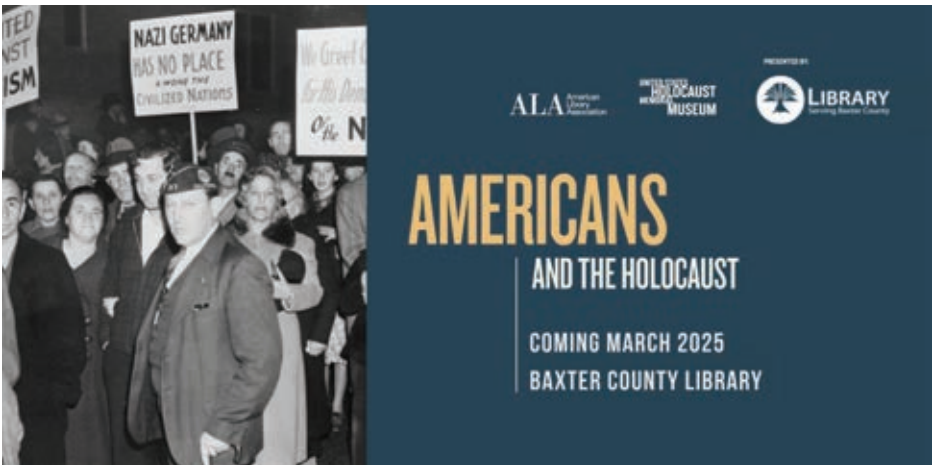
## Holocaust Exhibit comes to Baxter County Library

By Caroline Spears  
cspears@baxterbulletin.com

The Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County Library will host an exhibit this month to provide a glimpse into one of the nation — and world’s — darkest moments in modern history, the Holocaust.

The Holocaust, referred to as “The Shoah,” by persons of Jewish identity, served as one of the most shocking examples of man’s inhumanity to fellow man in the modern ages. This exhibit, which comes from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and American Library Association (ALA), is titled “Americans and the Holocaust,” serves to examine the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

The exhibit arrives at the library March 17 and will be on display through April 25. It is open during



The Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County will host an exhibit on the Holocaust from March 17-April 25. SUBMITTED PHOTO

library hours and is free to the public. The library received the opportunity to host this exhibit through a grant, therefore they do not charge the public to come in and experience the exhibit.

“We have a tremendous line up of programming that goes along with it,” said Library Director Kim Crow-Sheaner. “We are offering group tours and currently have the biggest number of area school students coming through

already booked on tours. This is because the subject of the Holocaust is a curriculum in the schools, so I know that teachers and educators are really looking forward to having their students experience the exhibit.”

The exhibit is not interactive, meaning there will be a display of panels with images and text, but no hands-on components to this particular exhibit.

“Many times we get interactive exhibits in, but

that is not the nature with this one,” Sheaner said. “This one is more of a thought-provoking exhibit, examining what Americans knew about the Holocaust during WWII. This includes, what information they actually had about the atrocities that were going on, and how they handled the information; how Americans processed the information that they had.”

See **EXHIBIT**, Page A7

## Davis announces for BC Sheriff

Veteran lawman  
earns Montgomery’s  
endorsement

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

Veteran lawman Brian Davis, a lieutenant in command of the Baxter County Sheriff’s Office’s (BCSO) patrol division, announced his candidacy for Baxter County Sheriff Thursday afternoon at the Baxter County Courthouse.

Davis, joined BCSO as a patrol deputy in 2011, working his way up through corporal and sergeant positions before advancing to lieutenant. Before joining Baxter County, he served 26 years with the Forrest City Police Department in the following roles: reserve officer, dispatcher, court officer, patrol officer, investigator in the criminal investigation division, narcotics officer, CID Sergeant, commander over narcotics investigations and member of the Delta SWAT team.

The announcement was made in conjunction with Sheriff John Montgomery’s announcement he would not seek re-election for his position next year, and Montgomery issued his endorsement of Davis’ candidacy.

“The Sheriff has a responsibility to keep the citizens of Baxter County safe. At the end of 2026, the leadership of the Baxter County Sheriff’s Office will change, with Sheriff Montgomery’s retirement and the new election,” Davis told an assembled crowd of approximately 150 local residents.

“We need a Sheriff that will continue to lead the Sheriff’s Office with the

professionalism the citizens deserve and are accustomed to. We need a Sheriff with the leadership experience to handle not only our current problems, but the ability to recognize future problems before they arise, be prepared, and make tough decisions for the safety of Baxter County and I have that experience and ability.

“Over three decades of law enforcement experience, at only two different agencies, demonstrates not only a long-time commitment to public service, but loyalty to the community in which I serve,” Davis added. “I plan to spend the rest of my life here in Baxter County, and I am committed to working hard to keep Baxter County a safe place to live and raise our families.”

For Montgomery, the political endorsement is a first. He explained that careful consideration of Davis’ experience and work history make him a great choice.

“With a few trusted advisers, we began thinking of who would be the best person to take over and work to make the Baxter County Sheriff’s Office even better than it is today,” Montgomery said. “We strongly believe it is important to leave this Sheriff’s Office in the hands of someone who doesn’t just look good on paper, who was popular, who would tell the voters what they had just to get them elected or even worse, someone who wanted the job for the wrong reasons. We knew we needed someone who had a vested interest and passion for Baxter County, someone we could trust to always have the safety and service of Baxter County in the forefront of their mind.”

See **DAVIS**, Page A7



Lt. Brian Davis, commander of the Baxter County Sheriff’s Office patrol division, makes his announcement Thursday at the Baxter County Courthouse that he will seek candidacy as a Republican for the position of Baxter County Sheriff. Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery, who endorsed David, announced he will retire at the conclusion of his current term, preceding Davis’ announcement. SONNY ELLIOTT/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

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### INSIDE TODAY’S ISSUE

State/Local.....	A2	News/Classifieds .....	A7
Obituaries .....	A3	Church Directory .....	A8
Community .....	A4	Health .....	A9
Classifieds .....	A5-A6	Sports .....	A10-A14

### Volume 124, No. 022

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## ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Baxter Health College Street Family Clinic providers Chesley Murphy, MD, and Amanda Whitaker, APRN, are board-certified in family medicine and both accepting new patients of all ages. Please call 870-508-6790 today for more information or an appointment.

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**BAXTER HEALTH**  
COLLEGE STREET FAMILY CLINIC





# Baxter Health introduces PFO treatment to reduce risk of recurrent stroke

Submitted Report

Baxter Health announced Tuesday that Zaid Alirhayim, MD, board-certified interventional cardiologist, and the Baxter Health Heart Team have successfully performed the first PFO closure using Abbott’s Amplatzer Talisman PFO Occlusion System. This therapy treats patients with a patent foramen ovale (PFO) who are at risk of recurrent ischemic stroke.

A PFO is a small, flap-like opening in the heart that fails to close after

birth, which can allow blood clots to pass from the right side of the heart to the left and potentially travel to the brain, increasing the risk of stroke. Studies show that patients under the age of 60 who have experienced a cryptogenic stroke (a stroke with no other identifiable cause) may benefit significantly from PFO closure to reduce their risk of future strokes.

“With the introduction of the Amplatzer Talisman PFO Occlusion System, we are able to offer our patients an effective and efficient treatment for reduc-

ing the risk of recurrent ischemic stroke,” Alirhayim said. “This procedure represents a major step forward in stroke prevention for our community.

“By closing the PFO, we can significantly lower the risk of recurrent strokes in younger patients who have already suffered one,” he said. “This is an important option for patients and their physicians to consider. We were able to perform this procedure using intracardiac echocardiography (ICE), allowing us to perform the procedure without the need for gener-



Baxter Health Heart Team

al anesthesia, and enabling the patient to go home the very same day.”

Alirhayim is an interventional cardiologist with additional subspecialty fellowship training in structural heart-disease interventions including ranscatheter Aortic Valve

Replacement (TAVR), Watchman, transcatheter edge-to-edge repair and PFO closures.

“I am excited that we are now able to offer this therapy to our patients who have experienced a cryptogenic stroke, and I encourage primary care

providers, neurologists, and patients themselves to explore whether this treatment is right for them,” Alirhayim said.

For more information about PFO closure or to schedule a consultation, call Baxter Health Cardiovascular Clinic at (870) 425-8288.

## Join Walk Across America

I’m excited to invite you to join the Walk Across Arkansas program this spring! This is a great opportunity to form a team, get moving and support each other in our health goals.

Walk Across Arkansas is a free, eight-week team-based physical activity program. Teams of up to 30 people set personal and team goals for physical activity, then encourage one another through some friendly competition.

Staying active is one of the best things we can do for our health.

Regular physical activity helps reduce the risk of serious conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. By participating in Walk Across Arkansas, we’ll be taking a big step (literally!) towards a healthier lifestyle.

I encourage you to join us in this fun and rewarding program. Together, we can motivate each other to reach



LEEANN BLEVINS  
BAXTER COUNTY EXT. OFFICE

our goals and celebrate our progress along the way.

To learn more about Walk Across Arkansas and how to sign up, please visit <https://walk.uada.edu/walk/>

Let’s make strides towards health and wellness this spring!

## VOICES & VIEWS

# Letters to the Editor

### Let’s look at the options before making a decision

Bill Howell,  
Bull Shoals

Does Bull Shoals want a Casey’s gas station: YES

Is Casey’s willing to build on the site of the old Village Mart if the city is willing to pay for the demolition of the building and parking lot? Having already invested \$22,000 in the last bad decision regarding that property, let’s look at the possible options:

- Option 1 — Communicate with Exxon-Mobil about selling the closed gas station in town. See if it would sell to Casey’s and find out if Casey’s would be willing to buy it. (For Casey’s it would mean changing the logo as it would be a “turn key” operation)

- Option 2 — Casey’s purchases the land next to the abandoned Arvest Bank which is for sale, and builds a new Casey’s from scratch. After looking at the size of Casey’s Flippin property, this property would easily accommodate a Casey’s location

- Option 3 — Put in an additional (approximately) \$200,000, beyond the \$22,000 already invested in the Village Mart property, to clear the buildings and hope to recover the taxpayers’ money by sales tax generated over the next 10-15 years.

To me, Option 3 makes no sense and is a bad business deal. Bull Shoals struggles financially and is in need of infrastructure replacement and street repairs. We don’t need the city extending itself and being in the finance business. Yes, I would like to see a Casey’s come to town, and if it’s in Casey’s best interest, they will look at the most realistic option for their location.

I’ve developed property and made successful real estate investments. So has Casey’s. All we can do is say “Welcome, we’d like to have you” and have Mr. Pas-thing show them what we have. Don’t strain the city finances just to get rid of the Village Mart.

### Democrats disappoint again

Curt Longhenry,  
Mountain Home

President Trump’s speech went as usual, the Democrats sat on their hands and looked mad. Mad about what? Mad because America said no to socialism/communism?

I say good for America, we are coming back to our roots. Where God is our ultimate ruler, not man, and where the government runs the country and not the people.

Democrats should want the country to succeed and not fail. But they want bigger and bigger government and more spending when we are on the verge of bankruptcy.

They couldn’t wait to make a scene at President Trump’s speech. They made their case to continue with their anti-American stance and are making us want to work even harder to get them voted out of office. We have four years to work on that. We have free speech again and the one-sided days of Facebook and others are over. Get with the truth and make up your own mind.

The Democrats want nothing to do with the truth and some walked out, others held up their little signs and others squirmed in their chairs like they had worms.

It will take some time, but Republicans are going after the rot that has invaded our government. There will be law and order restored and some people in high places will be prosecuted and some may go to jail. The truth is coming and the things some took part in will be exposed.

The Democrats lied for eight years of Obama-Biden and four years of Biden-Harris and now you wallow in your self pity. The mainstream media who covered for you all these years are now being exposed also. We no longer believe the mainstream media or the Democrats and what they say goes unheard.

But in the meantime, we will pray for you, us and our country. God Bless America.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Mountain Home receives \$108K matching grant

LITTLE ROCK — Mountain Home was one of 11 cities to receive matching grants Thursday through the The Outdoor Recreation Grants Program (ORGP) awarded by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (ADPHT). The \$108,607.92 matching grant will be used to build an ADA-accessible trail and four accessible fishing piers around the pond at McCabe Park.

ADPHT awarded \$3.85 million in FY2025 Outdoor Recreation Grants to projects within 20 cities across the state. The grants fall into two categories: Facilities for Underdeveloped Neighborhoods (FUN) Park grants and matching grants, according to Shea Lewis, ADPHT director. Project officers make recommendations regarding the feasibility of proposed facilities, eligibility for grant monies and other facets of the planning process. Each year, nearly 200 site visits are conducted to assist local communities.

### Y-S School Board announces agenda

YELLVILLE — A Yellville-Summit School Board meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 in the Administrative Building. The board will address:

- Petition for student transfers
- Proposed revision 2024-2025 calendar
- Proposed revised 2025-2026 Alternate School calendar
- Resolution concerning board election 2024-2025
- Proposed Classified Policy change 2024-2025

- Proposed certified and classified salary schedules 2025-2026
- Proposed technology purchase: Chromebooks
- Proposed technology purchase: Promethean Boards
- Proposed K-8 Literacy Interventions
- Proposed Professional Learning Grant agreement Bailey Education Group
- Principals’ data report, informational
- Superintendent’s update, informational.

### MC Quorum Court to meet Tuesday

YELLVILLE — A Marion County Quorum Court meeting is set for Tuesday, March 11. The agenda includes:

- Ordinance to transfer of unappropriated money from Coronavirus Relief Fund to Roads, sponsored by Justices Lee, Hopson, Kerwood and Dorsey
- Cleanup ordinance, sponsored by Justices Lee, Hopson, Kerwood and Dorsey
- Sales Tax Distribution Ordinance, sponsored by Justices Lee, Hopson, Kerwood and Dorsey
- Ordinance to transfer 5 percent sales tax from Tax Law Enforcement to E-911, sponsored by the Budget Committee
- Ordinance concerning Prosecutor’s Office personal services, sponsored by the Budget Committee
- Resolution concerning Oakland Promise Land Fire Protection District Rescue.

### Norfolk schedules workshop

NORFORK — A City Council workshop is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 at City Hall. The agenda includes:

- Resolution 2025-03 reconciling budget for 2024
- Appointment of Alex Eisele to Planning Commission
- City sign update
- Sewer sand update
- Legislative Audit 2023 and 2022
- Open appointment of Planning Commission
- Appointment of Michael Bynum to Planning Commission
- Parking lot for the city
- Water Rate Study
- Doug Simpson, culvert at end of right-away on Second Street
- Community Center ceiling repair.

### Bull Shoals Park Committee sets meeting

BULL SHOALS — A Bull Shoals Park Committee meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 at City Hall.

### MC Library announces special meeting

YELLVILLE — A Marion County Library Board special meeting is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at the Library. The agenda includes:

- Bylaws review
- Mission statement
- Job description of head librarian/director.

### BC Airport Advisory Board slates meeting

A Baxter County Advisory Board meeting is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 18 at Baxter County Airport in Midway.

Meetings and events are free, open to the public and in Mountain Home, unless otherwise noted. Email local news to [newsroom@baxterbulletin.com](mailto:newsroom@baxterbulletin.com) or bring to The Bulletin office, 16 W. Sixth St.



## Feeling Overwhelmed?



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OBITUARIES

Diana Lynn Ballentine

Oct. 10, 1953 — Jan. 10, 2025

Diana Lynn Ballentine, 71, died Jan. 10, 2025, in Texarkana, Arkansas.

A Celebration of Life will be 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 29 in Mountain Home, Arkansas

Diana and Gregory were united in marriage on May 11, 1975. They met at Williams Baptist College and then transferred to Arkansas State University. Diana held both Undergraduate and Master's degrees.

Survived by husband Gregory Ballentine; son Buck (Sunshine) Ballentine; daughter Amy (John) Kadlec; grandchildren Carson (11), Levi (9), Corinne (2), Bodhi (1) and Wesley (3 months); nine siblings, Audrey Artman, Joyce Ward and James, Connie Hutto and Conley, Sara Thompson and Glen, Jim Barnes and Linda, Tom Barnes, Steve Barnes and Susan, Bill Barnes and Tommie, Dave Barnes and Marianne; two sisters-in-law, Bennie DePriest and Delbert, Trena Driskill and Tim; and one brother-in-law, Kendall Ballentine



Proceeded in death by parents Edward and Mary Barnes, in-laws Buck and Edith Ballentine, brother-in-law Tim Ballentine

Diana loved spending time with friends and family. She attended grandkids' birthdays and activities, played cards or simply talked on the phone. She taught special education and elementary school for 34 years. Each child lucky enough to step into her classroom was loved as her own.

Diana treasured her Mary Kay business and those she met through it. She loved the meetings and teaching others about skin care. Diana grew to love golf as a past time and it became her favorite in retirement. She played everyday she could and met some amazing friends along the way.

Her true passion was her faith. She had the strongest, most beautiful faith in Jesus. She loved attending Bible studies, singing in the church choir and volunteering in the nursery. Diana's heart held many things but it was never too full.

Barbara Jorsch

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025

BULL SHOALS — Barbara Jorsch, 81, of Midway, AR, died Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025.

She was born Dec. 27, 1943, in Harvey, Illinois, to Delbert and Stella Rzab Heath.

A Celebration of Life is set for 11 a.m. Monday, March 10 at Kirby & Family Funeral Home Chapel-Bull Shoals.

Arrangements are by Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Bull Shoals.

CHURCH BRIEFS

KC schedule Paul Bunyan breakfast

A Knights of Columbus Paul Bunyan Breakfast is set for 7:30-10:30 a.m. today, March 8 at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, 249 Dyer St. The all-you-care-to-eat menu features scrambled eggs, biscuits with sausage gravy, pancakes, sausages links, coffee and juice served tableside. Cost is \$9 for adults; \$4 for children ages 5-12; and free for children younger than age 5. Mountain Home Police Department personnel eat free. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Twin Lakes Literacy Council. Baxter County Sheriff's Office personnel are guests.

St. Andrew's offers Stations of the Cross

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 511 Coley Drive, is open the devotional practice of Stations of the Cross at noon every Friday during Lent. The public is welcome to any or all of the sessions.

DOK to host half-day retreat

A half-day retreat/workshop, "Seeking Sacred Stories: Three Women Lost and Found in the Old Testament," conducted by artist and theological seeker, Lisa Thorpe, is set for 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. March 15 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 511 Coley Drive. The event is hosted by The Order of the Daughters of the King, an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in com-

munion with it or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Membership currently includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. For information, call St. Andrew's at (870) 425-3650.

St. Peter's Catholic sets Ladies Night

A Ladies Night by the women of St. Peters Catholic Church is set to begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 at St. Peters Catholic Church, 249 Dyer St. The event includes a social, potluck, "Miracle at Manchester" movie, dessert, beverages and a number of drawings. All women of faith are welcome to attend. Those attending

need to take a dish to share (appetizer, main dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Lucia at (870) 431-8046 or cell (906) 285-2648.

Songwriter Daryl Mosley to perform March 22

COTTER — Daryl Mosley, gospel songwriter and storyteller, will be present an evening of music and fellowship at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 22 at Good Shepherd Methodist Church of Cotter. Mosley writes about salt-of-the-earth people and their personal struggles and victories on life's journey. The church is at 179 Memory Lane, off U.S. Highway 62 in Cotter.

Events are open to the public and in Mountain Home unless otherwise noted. Email church news to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com

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DEATH NOTICES

Edward Madden, 82

Arrangements for Edward Madden, 82, of Everton are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. Edward Madden died Tuesday, March 3, 2025, at Baxter Health.

Timothy Mark McGowan, 59

Arrangements for Timothy Mark McGowan, 59, of Mountain Home are pending at Conner Family Funeral Home & Cremation Center. Timothy Mark McGowan died Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in Mountain Home.

James Edward Mead Sr., 85

LEAD HILL — Arrangement for James Edward Mead Sr., 85, of Mountain Home are pending at Diamond State Mortuary & Cremation. James Edward Mead died Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Hospice of the Ozarks Hospice House.

Eugenia Morris, 61

Arrangements for Eugenia Morris, 61, of Mountain Home are pending at Conner Family Funeral Home & Cremation Center. Eugenia Morris died Thursday, March 6, 2025, at her residence.

William Hayes, 78

Arrangements for William Hayes, 78, of Mountain Home are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. William Hayes died Thursday, March 6, 2025, at his residence.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Be Pro Be Proud conducts Draft Day

Be Pro Be Proud, Arkansas' premier workforce development initiative, brought its 2025 Draft Day Series to Mountain Home Wednesday, connecting students from 27 regional high schools to 33 actively hiring statewide employers for career exploration, networking and interviews.

"Mountain Home's thriving economy and strong industry presence make it the perfect place to connect local students with in-demand career opportunities," said Andrew Parker, Be Pro Be Proud executive director. "We would like to recognize Northcentral Arkansas Economic Alliance and ASU Mountain Home for their partnership and support of this year's Draft Day event as they help us bridge the gap between students and the workforce."

Now in its fourth year, Draft Day connects Arkansas students with employers in high-demand fields including construction, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, utilities and forestry. Attendees gain firsthand insight into technical careers, connect directly with hiring employers, receive advice and answers from on-site mentors, and find rewarding career paths close to home. Last year's Draft Day series spanned eight regions across the state and included 130 companies and 105 high schools, with over 1,000 students interviewing for a potential job, internship, apprenticeship, or training opportunity.

Draft Day is sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber, Arkansas Department of Commerce, Office of Skills Development and Arkansas Department of Education. The presenting sponsor of Draft Day in Mountain Home is Vantive, with additional sponsors Baxter Health and Northcentral Arkansas Arkansas Economic Alliance.

For information about Be Pro Be Proud's 2025 Draft Day series, visit <https://ar.beprobeproud.org/>

Email business news to [newsroom@baxterbulletin.com](mailto:newsroom@baxterbulletin.com)

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# BCCD announces coloring, poster contests

By Submitted Report

Earth Day 2025 is Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and Baxter County Conservation District (BCCD) is sponsoring a coloring contest for second graders and a poster contest for fifth-graders in Mountain Home, Cotter and Norfolk schools. The theme for the contest is “Our Power, Our Planet.” Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places from each school. Entries from all schools and grade levers will vie for a \$50 cash overall prize.

Coloring Contest rules are:

- Must use an official coloring sheet obtained from the BCCD

- May use paint, colored pencils, markers or crayons
- Submissions must include student’s name, name of school and teacher’s name on the back of the submission
- Work must be the original work of the student only

Poster Contest rules are:

- Create an iconic poster vividly illustrating this year’s theme
- Any size poster board or poster paper may be used
- Media may be flat or two dimensional
- Students may use paint, colored pencils, markers, charcoal or crayons.

For both contests:

- Submissions must be turned in to the student’s teacher by April 4
- Submissions will be picked up by BCCD from the school on April 9
- Cash awards will be delivered to the winning students on April 17
- By submitting an entry, consent is given to use winners’ pictures on the BCCD’s website, newsletter, on social media and newspapers
- All submissions will be retained by BCCD.

For additional information, please contact Dawn M. Downing-Wahl, BCCD district administrative secretary/office manager at (870) 425-3527, extension 3 or email [baxter-countycd@gmail.com](mailto:baxter-countycd@gmail.com)

# OBERT CAPTURES HIGHEST SCORE



Mountain Home Junior High School eighth-grade mathematician, Eliza Obert, attended the talent identification program at the Arkansas School for Math, Sciences and the Arts in January. Along with 62 students, she took the AMC-8 math exam and had the highest score of all eighth-graders who tested. Her performance on the exam placed her in second place overall. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# MHPS announces kindergarten registration

By Submitted Report

Kindergarten registration for Mountain Home Public Schools is set for Friday, April 4 by appointment only. Appointments are to be made through a digital form available at <https://kindergarten.mhbombers.com/reg>.

Students should accompany their parents to the registration appointment at the Mountain Home Kindergarten Center, 1310 Post Oak Road. Those who cannot attend should call (870) 425-1256 to schedule an alternate appointment.

Students set to enter Kindergarten must turn 5 years old on

or before Aug. 1, 2025. Documents needed include:

- Birth certificate or official hospital record
- Social Security card
- Immunization record (or appointment card)
- Kindergarten physical (or physical appointment card).

# Register now for Family Resouce Center classes

By Submitted Report

The Family Resource Center, a division of Communities Connections Inc., has provided families from Baxter and Marion counties with educational opportunities to equip them with informational tools in an effort to strengthen the family unit and promote healthy child development since 1997.

Registration is available at <https://bcjs.org/family-resource-center/#> for the following classes:

- Family Dynamics: For parents with youth ages 12-17 — 6-8 p.m. Mondays for eight weeks. Cost is \$20 per person for the series. Focuses on training the parent and teen to work together and communicate. Attendance of all eight classes is required to receive a certificate
- Coping with Character — 4-6 p.m. Tuesday or 4-6 p.m. Thursday for eight weeks. Attendance of all eight classes is required to receive a certificate. Focuses on providing students with tools and strategies for

managing anger issues

- Active Parenting: For parents of children ages birth to 4 — 6-8 p.m. Wednesday for eight weeks. Cost is \$20 per series. Attendance of all eight classes is required to receive a certificate. Parents learn skills that help families with communication, problem solving, anger management, and setting limits
- Active Parenting: For parents of children ages 5-11 — 6-8 p.m. Tuesday for eight weeks. Cost is \$20 per series. Attendance of all eight classes is

required to receive a certificate. Parents learn skills that help families with communication, problem solving, anger management, and setting limits

- Life Skills 101 — 4-6 p.m. Thursday for eight weeks. Class is free. Attendance of all eight classes is required to receive a certificate. Focuses on teaching youth how to cope with the challenges of life, make informed choices and set goals for success
- Adult Anger Management — 6-8 p.m. Thursday for 13 weeks. Cost is \$65 for the series. At-

tendance of all 13 classes is required to receive a certificate. Focuses on providing adults with tools and strategies for managing anger issues.

Community Connections For Youth & Families, Inc. is a local nonprofit entity providing Baxter and Marion counties community-based services for juvenile justice programs in order to meet the needs of youth and families by educating and empowering them to be caring and competent individuals who give back to Baxter and Marion counties.

# BINGO IS THE GAME-O

Area Bingo games are scheduled as follows. Some games may not be held due to weather. Please call ahead to confirm games are happening:

Friday

**Fraternal Order of Eagles 3183**, Noon, intersection of state Highways 5 North and 178 West, Midway. Doors open 10 a.m., kitchen open until 11:45 a.m. Call for minimum buy-in: (870) 481-5200.

Saturday

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Ozark Post 3246**, 5:15 p.m. 214 W. Seventh St. Doors open 3 p.m.; kitchen opens 3:30 p.m. Call for minimum buy-in: (870) 425-6174.

Sunday

**West Plains Elks Lodge 2418**, noon, 3336 U.S. Hwy. 63, West Plains.

Doors open 10:30 a.m. Food available. Call for minimum buy-in: (417) 256-7955.

Monday

**Hoevel-Barnett Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1341**, noon, 1206 Central Blvd., Bull Shoals. Doors open at 10 a.m.; kitchen open 10 a.m. to noon. Call for minimum buy-in: (870) 445-4501.

Wednesday

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Ozark Post 3246**, 5:15 p.m. 214 W. Seventh St. Doors open 3 p.m.; kitchen opens 3:30 p.m. Call for minimum buy-in: (870) 425-6174.

Thursday

**Taylor’s Freez-King**, 6 p.m. 208 E. Main St., Gassville. Admission: Purchase of a meal ordered between 5-5:15 p.m. Information: (870) 435-6744.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## FMS recognized for academic growth

FLIPPIN — Flippin Middle School has been recognized by the Office for Education Policy (OEP) at the University of Arkansas as a school that is Beating the Odds, because students demonstrated high growth on the ATLAS exams even though the school serves a high percentage of students who participate in

Free and Reduced Lunch.

The the OEP creates an annual report entitled the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards where it recognizes schools with high student academic growth. It think growth is the best indicator of the positive impact that a school is having on students. In the Beating the Odds report published Thursday, Flippin Middle School received:

- High Math Growth statewide
- High Overall Growth northwest region
- High Math Growth northwest region

Awards are based on the 2024 content growth score calculated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The growth scores reflect how much students at the school improved from 2023 com-

pared to how much other students with similar prior achievement improved. To learn more about how the OEP award winners are determined and to see the full list of award recipients, visit [https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wordpressua.ark.edu/dist/1/555/files/2025/03/OEP-Awards\\_4\\_BTO-ATLAS\\_2024.pdf](https://bpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/wordpressua.ark.edu/dist/1/555/files/2025/03/OEP-Awards_4_BTO-ATLAS_2024.pdf)

Email school news to [newsroom@baxterbulletin.com](mailto:newsroom@baxterbulletin.com)

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Clarkridge VFDA schedules meeting

CLARKRIDGE — A Clarkridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday, March 10 in the Main Fire Station, 12101 State Hwy. 201 N.

## NCA Military Service Sisters schedule lunch

A North Central Arkansas Military Service Sisters dinner is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 at Live Edge Bar, 2233 State Hwy. 5 S. Women who have served in any branch of the military or reserves are welcome. Those planning to attend should RSVP to (775) 302-0605.

## BC Master Gardeners to meet

A Baxter County Masters Gardeners meeting is set for 1 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at First Presbyterian Church. 11-6 Spring St. Speaker will be Rose C. Gergerich, Master Naturalist and University of Arkansas, Entomology and Plant Pathology professor emeritus, who will talk on “An Evolving Effort by Master Naturalists to Propagate and Disseminate Native Plants. Those attending the meeting should use the back entrance.

## Norfolk sets Bingo fundraiser

NORFORK — Bingo fundraiser is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at Norfolk Elementary, 161 Mildred Simpson Drive. There will be prizes ranging from \$50-

\$100 in value.

## Operation Christmas Child slates fair

An Operation Christmas Child County Fair is set for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 15 at Baxter County Fairgrounds. Those planning to attends should RSVP to (870) 404-1030.

## Fundraiser set to help Galatia Community Building

A chili fundraiser to benefit the Galatia Community Building, formerly Old Galatia Church, is set for 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at Norfolk Fire Department on State Highway 5 South. The menu includes chili with all the fixings, plus dessert. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and younger.

## Tip-A-Cop fundraiser rescheduled

BUKK SHOALS — A Tip-A-Cop fundraiser for Arkansas Special Olympics is set for Tuesday, March 18 at Connie Café. Bull Shoals Police Department officers will help the wait staff and take donations for Special Olympics. This is the first event ever sponsored by the Bull Shoals Police Department.

## Northeast Lakeside FDA sets fundraiser

The Northeast Lakeside Fire Department Auxiliary spaghetti supper scheduled for March 15 has been moved to 4-7 p.m. March 22 at the NELFD Auxiliary building, 5482 U.S. 62 E. The

fundraiser was rescheduled so not to conflict with an event scheduled by Henderson Fire Department. The meal includes pasta, salad, garlic bread, beverage and dessert for \$8 per person.

## Baxter Health Auxiliary announces fundraiser

A Baxter Health Auxiliary two-day fundraiser is set for 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 in the hospital’s Lagerborg Dining Room. The Uniform Shoppe II will have uniforms, shoes and accessories for purchase. Cash, check, credit card or payroll deduction will be accepted as payment. All proceeds go to support services, equipment purchases and special projects for Baxter Health.

## Salem Home and Garden Show slated

SALEM — The Salem Home and Garden Show is set for April 11-12 at Fulton County Fairgrounds. For information, call (870) 656-7724 or email [Mustardseed-momma@yahoo.com](mailto:Mustardseed-momma@yahoo.com)

## NACPAC schedules golf tournament

A North Arkansas Conservative Political Action Committee Golf Tournament (NACPAC) is set for Saturday, April 12 at Twin Lakes Golf Course. A registration and breakfast for the four-person scramble is set for 9 a.m., with tee-off at 9 a.m. Lunch also is provided. For cost, information and questions, call the golf course at

(870) 425-2028. To sponsor a hole, call Neil Buckley at (870) 467-5657. NACPAC is a group which assists and supports conservative candidates for constitutional positions on local, statewide and national levels.

## C.A.S.T. for Kids fishing event slated

A C.A.S.T for kids free fishing event for children with special needs is set for 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 12 at McCabe Park. The event site is accessible for all disabilities. Pre-registration is required at [www.castforkids.org/event/mccabepark/](http://www.castforkids.org/event/mccabepark/). Volunteers needed for a variety of roles, including fishing, serving lunch, registration and more. For information, call Christi West at (870) 632-9498.

## Art show set for April 17

MELBOURNE — The Friends of the Paul Weaver Library 12th annual art extravaganza, Tour D’Art, is set for 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, April 17 in the John E. Miller Education Complex on the Ozarka College campus. The theme is “Wild About Art” and admission is free.

## MC Master Gardeners set plant sale

YELLVILLE — The annual Marion County Master Gardeners plant and bake sale is set for 7:30 a.m. until sold out Friday, April 18 at Yellville City Park. The sale includes native plants, berry bushes, trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and succulents.

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For a complete job description and how to apply, please visit Job Opportunities at [www.asu.mh.edu](http://www.asu.mh.edu).

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Arkansas State UNIVERSITY MOUNTAIN HOME

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY-MOUNTAIN HOME seeks applicants for a Director of Title III and Student Success.

The Director of Title III and Student Success will lead five-year Title III grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Project entitled "ACTIVATE" (Advising, Careers, Technology, Innovation, and Virtual Augmentation for Transformational Education) is designed to improve student outcomes through a focus on enhancing the virtual education environment, online instructional innovation, and improved student services. This position is fully supported through the Title III project and is a 12-month position subject to continued federal funding annually and there is 1.5 years remaining in this grant. September 30, 2026 is the scheduled completion date. Minimum qualifications include a Master's Degree, experience supervising employees, project management experience including fiscal responsibility, experience working in a college, proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word, and excellent oral and written communication skills. Compensation includes an annual salary commensurate with background and experience, and a comprehensive benefits and leave package.

For a complete job description and how to apply, please visit Job Opportunities at [www.asu.mh.edu](http://www.asu.mh.edu).

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AUCTIONS & ESTATE SALES

Auction Sales

**NORTH ARKANSAS TRANSPORTATION** Service will be having a public auction on Friday, March 28 th at 2:00 p.m. to sell 13 vehicles. The location of the sale will be at 818 Hwy. 62-65 North, Harrison, AR. The vehicles are as follows.

Mileage

1. 2009 Ford High Top W/Lift 1FTDS34L49DA74156 127,978

2. 2006 Ford High Top Van 1FTSS34L86HB43345 128,825

3. 2008 Ford Van 1FTSS34LX8DB12494 145,030

4. 2009 Ford Van 1FTSS34L29DA76527 160,526

5. 2009 Ford Van 1FTSS34L49DA76528 129,541

6. 2010 Ford Van 1FTSS3EL2ADA22454 151,201

7. 2010 Ford Van 1FTSS3EL4ADA22455 226,278

8. 2010 Ford Van 1FTSS3EL6ADA22456 202,772

9. 2012 Ford Van 1FTSS3EL8CDA14023 161,709

10. 2005 Ford Bus 1FDXE45S05HA88084 119,172

11. 2017 Dodge M/Van W / R a m p 2C7WDGBG1HR618322 143,615

12. 2017 Dodge M/Van W / R a m p 2C7WDGBG5HR625838 121,903

13. 2019 Dodge M/Van W / R a m p 2C7WDGBG7KR649279 121,903

For any more information please call 870-416-0201  
These vehicles will be sold as-is, without any warranties, expressed or implied. NATS reserves the right to refuse any or all bids on any or all vehicles. Any successful bidder must pay by certified check or cashier's check the day of the sale and will have 7 days to pick up the vehicle. Any successful bidder will be responsible for their own insurance and maintenance requirements upon purchase of the vehicle.

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 14

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,035.00 FROM BAXTER COUNTY AIRPORT FUND (3037) INTO AIRPORT GRANTS FUND (3537); AND APPROPRIATING \$4,300.00 INTO AIRPORT GRANTS FUND 2025 BUDGET.

**Article 1. Affirmation:** The Baxter County Airport is requesting an allocation of funds within the 2025 budget for the purpose of appropriate assignment of expenditures.  
**Article 2. Designation:** There are sufficient funds available for said transfers.  
**Article 3. Appropriation:** The County Treasurer is authorized to transfer \$9,035.00 from Baxter County Airport Fund (3037) into Airport Grants Fund (3537).

The Quorum Court authorizes the Clerk's Office to make the following appropriation into the designated line item:

\$ 4,300.00 to GL #3537-0900-3107 (Clear Span 80X60 Grant)

**Article 4. Effective Date:** This appropriation ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage by the quorum court.

APPROVED: KEVIN LITTY, COUNTY JUDGE  
Date Signed: 03/04/2025

ATTEST:  
CANDA J. REESE, COUNTY CLERK

*Publication of this ordinance paid for by Baxter County Government at a cost of \$46.00.*

Legal Notice

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 13

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FEES AND REIMBURSEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,043.26 RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2025 BUDGET.

**Article 1: Affirmation.** This court affirms that the Baxter County Sheriff's Office has collected the following fees, reimbursements and donations in excess of the anticipated budgeted revenue amount in the month of January 2025: \$ 90.00 received from DWI Fines from District Court \$ 1,395.10 received from Act 770 Fees \$ 2,956.77 received for Installment Fees \$ 25.00 received VIN Checks \$ 200.00 received Inmate Social Security \$ 100.00 received Animal Adoption (Cash & Hosp) \$ 15.00 received Animal Claim (Cash) \$ 90.00 received Court Order/Unclaimed Property (per Judge) (Cash) \$ 385.85 reimbursement Inmates' Medical \$ 502.02 reimbursement Inmate Prescriptions (Sent from BXSO to Treasurer's Office) \$ 228.52 reimbursement (Check) \$ 50.00 reimbursement (Check) \$ 5.00 reimbursement Court Ordered Restitution (Extradition - Prisoner Transport) (Check)  
**Article 2: Appropriation.** It is necessary to appropriate said monies totaling \$6,043.26 to the appropriate line items in the Sheriff's Office 2025 budgets. There is hereby appropriated from the 2025 County General Fund (#1000) \$1,515.10 for the following designated expenditures: \$ 1,420.10 to GL# 1000-0400-2001 (Sheriff: Gen-

Legal Notice

eral Supplies) \$ 95.00 to GL# 1000-0400-2007 (Sheriff: Fuel, Oil & Lubricants)  
There is hereby appropriated from the 2025 Animal Control Fund (#1800) \$115.00 for the following designated expenditures: \$ 115.00 to GL #1800-0191-2001 (Animal Control: General Supplies)

There is hereby appropriated from the 2025 Sheriff's Special Projects Fund (#3400) \$3046.77 for the following designated expenditures: \$90.00 to GL#3400-0400-2001 (Sheriff's Projects: General Supplies) \$ 2,956.77 to GL# 3400-0400-2003 (Sheriff's Projects: Computer Services)  
There is hereby appropriated from the 2025 County Jail Fund (#3401) \$1,366.39 for the following designated expenditures: \$ 502.02 to GL# 3401-0418-2004 (Jail: Medicine & Drugs) \$ 228.52 to GL# 3401-0418-2005 (Jail: Food) \$ 585.85 to GL# 3401-0418-3006 (Jail: Med, Den & Hosp) \$ 50.00 to GL# 3401-0418-3220 (Jail: Adult Detention)  
**Article 3: Effective Date.** This appropriation ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage by the quorum court.

APPROVED: KEVIN LITTY, COUNTY JUDGE  
Date Signed: 03/04/2025

ATTEST: CANDA J. REESE, COUNTY CLERK

*Publication of this ordinance paid for by Baxter County Government at a cost of \$97.00.*

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA DIANNE CAULEY, DE-

Legal Notice

CEASED

CASE NO. 03PR-25-45

NOTICE

Last known address of Decedent: 463 Nubbin Ridge Road, Lakeview, Baxter County, Arkansas  
Date of death: January 15, 2025

Angela Kozak was appointed Administratrix of the estate of the above-named Decedent on the 26th day of February, 2025.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the Court with a copy to the Administratrix within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. Claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the Decedent shall also be filed 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 such estate.

This notice first published the 8 th day of March, 2025.

Angela Kozak, Administratrix  
c/o Larry Treat (ABA # 2017184)  
Estate & Elder Law Planning Center  
P.O. Box 498  
Mountain Home, AR 72654  
Telephone: (870) 425-2460  
Fax: (870) 451-5300

Canda Reese, Baxter County Circuit Clerk

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition has been filed with the Planning Commission and City Council of Mountain Home, Arkansas, by the owners of the following described property situated in Baxter County, Arkansas, to-wit:

A part of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 18, Township 19

Legal Notice

North, Range 13 West, bounded and described as follows: Begin at the SE corner of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 18 and run N. 0 deg. 42' E. 453.12 feet to the NW R/W line of U.S. Highway No. 62 and to a Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning run N. 1 deg. 23' W, 788.04 feet, Thence N. 86 deg. 34' E, along the fence 412.75 feet, Thence S. 1 deg. 23' E along the fence, 539 feet to the NW R/W line of Highway No. 62, Thence Southwest along the R/W line 487.78 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 6.33 acres.

Less and except: Part of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of Section 18, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Baxter County, Arkansas, described as follows: Beginning at the NW corner of said SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and run thence South 88° 32' 35" East for a distance of 175.00 feet along a fence to a 3/8" rebar; Thence South 00° 08' 12" West for a distance of 660.06 feet to a 3/8" rebar on the North R/W line of U.S. Highway 62; Thence South 54°33'57" West for a distance of 211.64 feet along said North R/W line to a 3/8" rebar; Thence North 03° 24' 20" East for a distance 234.83 feet to a 3/8" rebar; Thence North 05°10' 52" West for a distance of 174.74 feet to a 3/8" rebar on the West line of said SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>;

Thence North 00° 08' 12" East for a distance of 378.77 feet along said West line to the Point of Beginning, and Less and except: Part of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 18, Township 19 North, Range 13 West, Baxter County, Arkansas, more specifically described as follows: From the Southwest corner of said SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> go along the West line of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> N 00° 08' 12" E. 501.11 feet to the centerline of US Highway 62, Point of Beginning of tract being described; Then continue along said West line N 00° 08' 12" E. 457.52 feet; Then leaving the West line of the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> go S. 05° 10' 52" E. 174.74 feet; Then go S 03° 24' 20" W 284.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.09 acre and being subject to half of the Right of Way for U.S. Highway 62.

The above described property is located at 3000 Block Highway 62/412 West, Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Said petition seeks the rezoning of the property from Residential R-1 to Commercial C-2. The hearings related to said petition will be held as follows:

1. The Planning Commission will hear objections and make its determination on said petition at the City Hall on March 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

2. The City Council will make its determination on said petition at the City Hall on April 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

The petitioners are Charmaine E. Straub, Sarah Warzynski, Jonathan Warzynski, and Samuel Warzynski, the record owners of the property, and they have named Ted H. Sanders to act for them in this proceeding.

Scott Liles, City Clerk

NOTICE

The City of Briarcliff is holding its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday March 11th at 3:00 PM at Tracy Fire Department. On the Agenda will be a Resolution to approve a trailer to haul our new excavator purchased for City Clean up, the second reading of the animal revision ordinance, two resolutions to address condemnations.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 12

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A 911 ADVISORY BOARD

**Article 1: Affirmation** The Baxter County Quorum Court finds it necessary to establish a 911 Advisory Board due to cities contributing funds to 911 and to provide alternative and more cost-effective methods for 911 services.

BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT CASH BASIS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024			
	General Funds	Road Funds	Other Funds in the Aggregate/Debt Service
Beginning Cash Balance - 01/01/2024	18,792,279.82	1,558,182.18	5,624,409.74
Ending Cash Balance - 12/31/2024	18,805,197.12	1,544,140.10	6,281,855.45
REVENUE			
State Aid	1,108,131.01	2,647,478.58	224,885.77
Federal Aid	64,106.02	398,827.38	25,799.67
Property Taxes	2,415,120.66	1,653,066.07	793,667.92
Sales Taxes	6,142,777.32	13,762.66	2,702,987.68
Fines, Forfeitures, and Costs	683,460.01	0.00	191,236.68
Investment Income	855,826.56	66,501.35	208,529.53
Officers' Fees	122,621.37	0.00	339,334.53
911 Fees	0.00	0.00	634,494.39
Jail Fees	0.00	0.00	214,602.79
Insurance Premiums Collected	23,477.74	0.00	0.00
Collector's Commission	499,815.62	0.00	158,561.18
Assessor's Salary and Expense	1,060,885.45	0.00	0.00
Other	919,932.10	279,113.14	159,904.04
TOTAL REVENUES	13,896,153.86	5,058,749.18	5,654,004.24
LESS : COMMISSSTONS	204,971.63	95,476.28	99,991.98
NET REVENUES	13,691,182.23	4,963,272.90	5,554,012.26
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
General Government	5,660,535.07	0.00	532,003.68
Highway and Streets	0.00	5,184,527.96	0.00
Health	1,380,519.78	0.00	0.00
Law Enforcement	5,637,199.97	0.00	3,310,365.52
Public Safety	327,002.49	0.00	753,265.47
Recreation and Culture	0.00	0.00	905,541.59
Social services	130,702.85	0.00	10,000.00
Airport	142,810.60	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CURRENT	13,278,770.76	5,184,527.96	5,511,176.26
DEBT SERVICE			
Note Principal	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lease Purchase Principal	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lease Purchase Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,278,770.76	5,184,527.96	5,511,176.26
EXCESS of REVENUES			
OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	412,411.47	-221,255.06	42,836.00
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Transfers In	5,371,676.74	200,000.00	392,173.34
Transfers Out	-5,521,000.00	0.00	-49,600.00
Bond Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Audit Adjustment Due Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Audit Adjustment From Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Checks Paid	-22,704.80	0.00	0.00
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	-172,028.06	200,000.00	342,573.34
EXCESS OF REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES			
OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	240,383.41	-21,255.06	385,409.34
I, Canda J. Reese, County & Circuit Clerk for Baxter County Arkansas, hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of the Annual Financial Report, which is recorded in the Office of the Baxter County Clerk.			
Date 02/28/2025	Date 02/28/2025		
Canda J. Reese	Jenay Mize		
Baxter County & Circuit Clerk	Baxter County Treasurer		
This publication paid for by Baxter County Government at a cost of \$360.00.			



# RETIRE

Continued from Page A1

While making his announcement, Montgomery thanked those in attendance and throughout the county for their years of support and took the opportunity to make is first political endorsement. Montgomery introduced Lt. Brian Davis to the crowd and threw his support behind Davis as his successor.

“When Karen (Montgomery’s wife) and I made the decision not to run for Sheriff again, I began looking for someone who had the experience, the vision and someone who cared not only about the Baxter County Sheriff’s Office, but Baxter County and its citizens,” Montgomery said. “I care deeply for the Sheriff’s Office and for Baxter County and wanted to find someone who had that same passion. We have a quality of life second to none and is important to



**Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery greets Lt. Brian Davis as Montgomery announced his retirement at the end of his term in 2026 and endorsed Davis’ candidacy for position.**

not only keep that, but to continue to improve on it.

“I have never made a political endorsement before, but the next

Sheriff’s election is extremely important,” he added. “I promise you, I do not take this endorsement lightly.”



**Baxter County Sheriff John Montgomery directs traffic Wednesday afternoon after a two-car collision at the intersection of Sixth and Hickory streets. Montgomery, who was in traffic near the accident, was the first official on scene and later yielded duties when Mountain Home Police Department. After nine terms and more than 20 years in office, Montgomery announced Thursday he will not see reelection for a 10th term in office.** PHOTOS BY SONNY ELLIOTT/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

# EXHIBIT

Continued from Page A1

This exhibit has been on tour to 50 libraries from 2012 to 2023, and is set to travel to an additional 50 U.S. libraries from 2024 to 2026, covering distances from Hawaii and Alaska to Texas and New Hampshire.

“We are so proud to be selected from a competitive pool of applicants from all across the nation to host this important and powerful exhibition,” Sheaner stated. It is truly exciting to be able to share this unique, educational opportunity with area students and our community.”

The 1,100-square-foot exhibition examines various aspects of American society: the government, the military, refugee aid organizations, the media and the general public. Drawing on a remarkable collection of primary sources from the ‘30s and ‘40s,

the exhibition tells the stories of Americans who acted in response to Nazism, challenging the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded. It provides a portrait of American society that shows how the Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism shaped responses to Nazism and the Holocaust.

The exhibit will go hand-in-hand with a series of educational programs to enhance the exhibit experience. In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, the Baxter County Library will receive a \$3,000 cash grant to support public programs. The grant also covers one library staff member’s attendance at an orientation workshop at the Museum.

A nonpartisan, federal educational institution, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America’s national memorial to

the victims of the Holocaust, dedicated to ensuring the permanence of Holocaust memory, understanding, and relevance. Through the power of Holocaust history, the Museum challenges leaders and individuals worldwide to think critically about their role in society and to confront antisemitism and other forms of hate, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. For more information, visit ushmm.org.

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library’s role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit ala.org.

# LEGALS

Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice
<p><b>Section 1.</b> For Baxter County to efficiently provide 911 services, the County will establish a 911 Advisory Board to assist the County Judge in furnishing advice, gathering information, and making recommendations.</p> <p><b>Article 2. Terms</b></p> <p>Section 1. The 911 Advisory Board shall consist of seven (7) members.</p> <p><b>Section 2.</b> The term for members of the 911 Advisory Board shall be three (3) years.</p> <p><b>Section 2.</b> The County Judge shall serve as an ex-officio member of said Board.</p> <p><b>Article 3: Effective Date</b> This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Quorum Court.</p> <p>APPROVED: KEVIN LITTY, COUNTY JUDGE Date Signed: 03/04/2025</p> <p>ATTEST: CANDI J. REESE, COUNTY CLERK</p> <p><i>Publication of this ordinance paid for by Baxter County Government at a cost of \$48.25.</i></p> <p><b>ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 15</b></p> <p>BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:</p> <p>AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE TRAVELING PUBLIC, CONDITION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNTY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ROADS IN BAXTER COUNTY AND WITHIN ITS UNINCORPORATED LIMITS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES</p> <p><b>WHEREAS,</b> Baxter County,</p>	<p>Arkansas, has over 700 miles of county maintained public roads.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS,</b> the Quorum Court finds that the public interest is served by protecting the county maintained public roads and ability of the county road crews to be able to maintain the county maintained public roads in the county;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS,</b> it is necessary to adopt this ordinance to assure the county road crews are able to maintain the right-of-way, public road easement, roadway, subgrade, culverts and signage for those county maintained public roads.</p> <p><b>WHEREAS,</b> the Quorum Court finds that public safety and public interest is served by protecting the traveling public from the placement, creation or existence of physical and functional encroachments or obstructions to county maintained public roads.</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS:</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 1. Purpose and Applicability</b></p> <p>The road easements or right of way for county maintained public roads in Baxter County, Arkansas, shall be inviolate for county road purposes and free from the existence of functional and physical encroachments or obstructions, except where written permission is granted and issued by the county judge.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 2: County Maintained Public Roads.</b></p> <p>For purposes of this ordinance, "county maintained public road" shall mean: any road identified as a county road assigned a county road number and maintained by the county; or any road in which the county has directed construction, material,</p>	<p>blading or grading, maintenance, mowing or repairs of the road, roadway, or right of way, road easement or bridges.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 3: Encroachment.</b></p> <p>It shall be unlawful and a violation of this ordinance for any person, persons or organization to engage in the following activities on county maintained public road, to:</p> <p>(a). Create a physical or functional encroachment within the road easement or right of way for a county maintained public road;</p> <p>(b). Throw, dump or place any item or items onto a county maintained public road, including but not limited to, the county roadway or roadbeds, shoulder, ditch, subgrade, right of way, easement, backslope of the ditch, of any county maintained public road in the unincorporated areas of the county;</p> <p>(c). Dig, or place or situate any utilities, poles, lines, fences, cables, wires, or any item whatsoever within the easement or right of way of a county maintained public roads without first obtaining the written consent of the county judge and comply with the utility accommodation permit requirements of the county;</p> <p>(d). Any item, items, fences, gates (whether closed, locked or unlocked), obstacles, physical or functional encroachments within the road easement or right of way of a county maintained public road shall be moved by or at the expense of the owner of the property;</p> <p>(e). Burn anything within the road easement or right-of-way of a county maintained public road without the permission of the county judge;</p> <p>(f). Create a physical or functional encroachment by the diversion or placement of water onto the roadway, subgrade, right of way or road easement</p>	<p>or to create an impairment to public safety of the ability of the county to maintain the subject county road; or</p> <p>(g). Park a motor vehicle, trailer, camper, mobile home, equipment, or item within the roadway, road easement or right-of-way of a county maintained public road, except during an emergency due to malfunction, in which case the property shall be immediately removed from the roadway or driving surface to assure the safety of the traveling public. In no event shall the property remain parked on the shoulder of the roadway for over 48 hours.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 4: Penalties and Remedies:</b></p> <p>(a). Violation of this ordinance shall result in the fine of \$1,000 for a specified offense or violation, or double that sum for repetition of the offense or violation; and</p> <p>(b). If the act or violation is in its nature continuous in respect to time, the fine for allowing the continuance of the prohibited unlawful act or omission, in violation of the ordinance, shall be \$500 a day for each day that the violation is unlawfully continued.</p> <p>(c). Any item, items, fences, gates (whether closed, locked or unlocked), obstacles, physical or functional encroachments within the roadway, road easement or right of way shall be moved by or at the expense of the owner of the property;</p> <p>(d). The county may exercise self-help and remove any item, items, fences, gates (whether closed, locked or unlocked), obstacles, physical or functional encroachments within the roadway, road easement or right of way of a county maintained public road and shall be reimbursed for the costs of removal;</p>	<p>(e). The citizen or landowner with standing, and/or county judge, may pursue a declaratory and/or injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction for removal of an obstruction to county maintained public road; or</p> <p>(f). AC.A. § 5-71-214 provides that: "A person commits the criminal offense of obstructing a highway or public passage if, having no legal privilege to do so and acting alone or with another person, he or she renders a any highway or other public passage impassible to pedestrian or vehicular traffic. AC.A. § 5-71-214(c) further prescribes that the criminal penalty for: "Obstructing a highway and other public passage is a Class A misdemeanor". The county judge, any citizen or landowner may notify the Sheriff of the violation. The criminal penalties under A.C.A. AC.A. § 5-71-214 are not in lieu of the civil penalties prescribed by this ordinance but in addition thereto.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 5: Severability</b></p> <p>If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining sections, phrases, and provisions of this Ordinance which remain valid and enforceable.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 6: Emergency Clause</b></p> <p>The Quorum Court finds that the immediate implementation of this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public's peace, health, safety, welfare, and property, an emergency is hereby declared to exists and that this Ordinance is to be in effect immediately after its adoption.</p> <p>APPROVED: KEVIN LITTY, COUNTY JUDGE</p>	<p>Date Signed: 03/04/2025</p> <p>ATTEST: CANDI J. REESE, COUNTY CLERK</p> <p><i>Publication of this ordinance paid for by Baxter County Government at a cost of \$269.00.</i></p> <p><b>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION</b></p> <p>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NORMAN C. WILBER, Deceased 03PR-25-36</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>Last known address of decedent: 198 Virginia Lee Drive, Cotter, AR 72626 Date of death: November 25, 2024 An instrument dated November 5, 2024, was on February 10, 2025, admitted to probate as the Last Will of the above named decedent, and the undersigned has been appointed Executrix thereunder. A 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 the estate. This notice first published the 1st day of March, 2025.</p> <p>LACY WILBER, Executrix c/o Roger L. Morgan Sanders, Morgan, Clarke &amp; Floyd PLLC Attorneys at Law P. O. Box 2308 Mountain Home, AR 72654</p>







MRUK CENTER ON AGING  
SUPPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

The Mruk Family Center on Aging Support House offers support and education for journeys in aging, dementia, Parkinson's disease and many other senior adult concerns through the following:

Senior Exercise

- Fit and Fab for Women 50-Plus — 9:15 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, Baxter Health Wellness Education Center, 2545 State Hwy. 5 N. Can be modified to fit various fitness levels

- Seated or Standing Exercise 50-Plus — 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Video based
- Senior Boxing for Balance — Call for times
- Rock Steady Boxing for

those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease — Registration and assessment required. Call for times.

Registration for all programs encouraged by calling (870) 508-3880 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Events are free and at Mruk Center on Aging Support House, 618 Broadmoor Drive, unless otherwise noted.

MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY CALENDAR

The Baxter Health Mobile Mammography Unit will be available at the following locations during the next 30 days:

- **March 10** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Baxter County Family Clinic at Melbourne, 1019 E. Main, Melbourne. Registration and info: (870) 916-2150
- **March 11** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 1st Choice Health Care, 308 U.S. Hwy 62, Ash Flat. Registration and info: (870) 994-2202
- **March 12** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. First Security Bank, 520 State Hwy. 5 N., Mountain Home. Registration and info: (870) 414-8092
- **March 17** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. MO Ozark Community Health, 201 S. Elms St., Gainesville, Missouri. Registration and info: (417) 683-5739, extension 1415
- **March 18** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. ARcare, 54 Tate Springs Road, Mel-

bourne. Registration and info: (870) 368-5030

- **March 19** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Medic Pharmacy, 243 U.S. Hwy. 65 N. Marshall. Registration and info: (870) 448-3614
- **March 24** — 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Bank of Salem, 207 W. Church St., Salem. Registration and info: (870) 895-2591
- **March 25** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Walmart, 65 N. Walmart Drive, Mountain Home. Registration and info: (870) 492-9295
- **March 26** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Access Medical Clinic, 49 U.S. Hwy. 62/412, Ash Flat. Registration and info: (870) 994-7301
- **March 27** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Ranger Boats, 927 State Hwy. 178 N., Flippin. Registration and info: (870) 453-2222, extension 5
- **March 28** — 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Baxter Health Clinic, 350 Main St., Mammoth

Spring. Registration and info: (870) 625-1111

- **April 1** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Baxter Health Home Health, 30 Ryan Road, Cotter. Registration and info: (870) 435-7500, extension 261
- **April 2** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Iazard Regional Hospital, 61 Grasse St., Calico Rock. Registration and info: (870) 297-2441
- **April 3** — Noon to 5 p.m. Mountain Home Christian Clinic, 421 Wade St., Mountain Home. Registration and info: (870) 425-5010
- **April 7** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Boston Mountain Rural Health Center, 358 Valley St., Yellville. Registration and info: (870) 449-7000, extension 2714
- **April 8** — 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Marshall High School, 952 U.S. Hwy. 65 N., Marshall. Registration and info: (870) 448-3333, extension 0.

Email health news to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com

PEITZ CANCER SUPPORT  
HOUSE CALENDAR

The following events are scheduled at Peitz Cancer Support House on the Baxter Health campus:

Ongoing Groups

- These groups meet every week:
- Chair Yoga — 10 a.m. Monday and Wednesday
  - Threads of Hope — 1 p.m. Monday

- Beginner and Intermediate Yoga — 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday
- Kick Out Cancer Boxing — 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Support Group

- Cancer Support Connections — 10 a.m. Fourth Tuesday

Services

- Diagnosis, treatment and beyond information
- Cancer Survivors Connections
- Care packages
- Wig and mastectomy boutique
- Resources and library
- Ostomy supplies.

For information, call (870) 508-2273.

SCHLIEMANN CENTER FOR WOMEN'S  
HEALTH SUPPORT HOUSE CALENDAR

Events scheduled at the Schliemann Center for Women's Health Support House, 624 Hospital Drive, include:

Ongoing Groups & Exercises

- Breastfeeding Support for Successful Nursing — Meet

with a nurse for lactation support and consultation

- Line Dancing — Beginner steps, 11:15 a.m.; Beginner, noon; advanced, 1 p.m., Tuesday, 2545 AR Hwy. 5 N.
- Ladies Exercise — 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2545 AR Hwy. 5 N.

- Dance — 4:15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday
- Cardio Kickboxing & Strength Training — 5:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 2545 AR Hwy. 5 N.

For questions or to register for any event or class, call (870) 508-2345.

SUPPORT GROUP CALENDAR

The following is a list of support groups in the Twin Lakes Area. During inclement weather or on holidays, groups may not meet. Call ahead for the schedule of the group you want to attend:

Saturday

**Bull Shoals Food Pantry**, 9-10 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

**Coffee social**, 9-10:30 a.m. Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. For veterans and spouses. (870) 424-6277.

**Pantry at the Post**, 9-11 a.m. Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. For veterans and military families. Proof of military service needed. (870) 424-6277.

**Childbirth class**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. second Saturday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

**The Salvation Army Beyond the Bell Block Party**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 121 State Hwy. 201 N. Includes food, entertainment, bounce house, face painting, Santa Claus, games and KTLO treasure chest. Activities are free.

Sunday

**Celebrate Recovery**, 1:30 p.m. Yellville United Pentecostal Church.

Monday

**Fit Women exercise class**, 8 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Zumba**, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Fitness for Men**, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Growing Through Grief Support Group**, 10 a.m. to noon every Monday, Hospice of the Ozarks Administration building lower level entrance. 811 Burnett Drive. (870) 508-1771.

**Chair Yoga**, 10 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**PEPPI exercise class**, 10 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Threads of Hope**, 1 p.m. Monday, Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**Infant Loss Support for Women**, 5:30 p.m. first Monday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Tuesday

**Cancer Support Connections**, 10 a.m., second and fourth Tuesday, Peitz Cancer Support House. 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**Growing Through Grief Support Group**, 3:30-5 p.m. Hospice of the Ozarks Administration

building lower level entrance. 811 Burnett Drive. (870) 508-1771.

Wednesday

**Zumba**, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Fitness for Men**, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Bull Shoals Food Pantry**, 9-11 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

**PEPPI exercise class**, 10 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Visually Impaired Support Group**, 1 p.m. last Wednesday of the month, Church of Christ, 380 North College St. Info: (870) 613-3957.

Thursday

**Intermediate Yoga**, 8 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**Men's Cancer Discussions**, 9 a.m. second Thursday, Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**Tai Chi**, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Fit & Fab for Women**, 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Baxter Heath Wellness Education Center, 2545 Hwy. 5 N. (870) 508-3880.

**Seated Exercise for Seniors**, 10 a.m. Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Material Girls Quilting Group**, 10 a.m. to noon, fourth Thursday, Bull Shoals Library Annex, 1218 Central Blvd. (870) 421-8180.

**Life Recovery Group (12-Step group)**, 10 a.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 179 Memory Lane, Cotter. Info: (870) 421-0163.

**Parkinson's Carepartner Support**, 10 a.m. second Thursday. Call for location: (870) 508-3880.

**Dementia Family Carepartner Support Group**, 1 p.m. fourth Thursday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Women's Heart Healthy sessions**, 1 p.m. second Thursday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

**Better Breathers**, 2 p.m. second Thursday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Women's Book Club**, 1 p.m. third Wednesday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

**Knock Out Cancer Boxing**, 3:30 p.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

**Hope for All (resources for the homeless)**, 4:15 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, First United

Methodist Church, 605 W. Sixth St. (870) 706-0831.

**Infant Loss and Support Group**, 5:30 p.m. first Thursday, Schliemann Center for Women's Health Education, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 580-2345.

**Growing Through Grief Support Group**, 2-4 p.m. third Thursday, Kirby & Family Funeral Home, 717 Central Ave., Bull Shoals. (870) 508-1771.

**Dementia Caregiver Support Group**, 2-3 p.m. fourth Thursday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880 to register.

Friday

**Fit Women exercise class**, 8-9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Fitness for Men**, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

**Bull Shoals Food Pantry**, 9-11 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

**Zumba**, 10-11 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

**Celebrate Recovery**, 6:30 p.m. Yellville United Pentecostal Church.

**Labyrinth of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, second Friday, Keller Hall, 511 Coley Drive. Includes tea and light refreshments. (870) 421-5395 or abaily49947@usa.net.

Other

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, numerous meetings, (866) 641-9190.

**Al-Anon Family Groups**, various meetings, (870) 373-1263 or (870) 421-4170.

**ASUMH Food Pantry**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday through Friday. Contacts: Nancee Sherick, (870) 508-6340 and Amy Clark, (870) 508-6176. Must be an ASUMH student.

**Bull Shoals Library**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. (870) 445-4265.

**Bull Shoals TeleCare wellness-check calling service**, (870) 445-5010.

**Mountain Home Christian Clinic**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 421 W. Wade Ave. Free medical and pharmacy for uninsured and underinsured. (870) 425-5010.

**Narconon**, (877) 407-7520.

**Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's**, times vary, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Meetings and groups are free unless otherwise noted. Email support group information to newsroom@baxterbulletin.com or bring to The Bulletin office at 16 W. Sixth St.

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Rebounding record fuels MHHS victory

Fosness grabs 26 boards, Lady Bombers win state tourney opener

By Neal Denton ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

PARAGOULD — How does a team overcome committing a season-high 28 turnovers? How about with a record-breaking state tournament rebounding performance. Mountain Home's Livi Fosness scored 21 points and grabbed a state tourney record 26 rebounds to lead the Lady Bombers to a 65-56 overtime victory over the Little Rock Christian Lady Warriors in the opening round of the Class 5A State Tournament on Wednesday night at Eagle Arena. The No. 3 seed Lady Bombers overcame a 28-11 turnover disadvantage by cleaning up the boards for a 54-28 advantage against the No. 2 Lady Warriors. "Everybody out there took a beating," Mountain Home head coach Dell Leonard said. "At one point we had three girls with blood on them. It was just a really physical game. We obviously want to do a better job of taking care of the ball going forward. When you can rebound like that, it can equalize it a bit." Fosness broke a state tournament rebounding record set by Fayetteville's Cari Tanneberger back in 1994. Ironically, Tanneberger's performance came during the epic, eight-overtime state championship game to defeat Mountain Home. Fosness' rebounding mark also is fourth place all-time in any game in state history. The record is owned by two players with 30 boards.



Mountain Home's Livi Fosness (33) grabs one of her state tournament record 26 rebounds during the Lady Bombers' 65-56 victory over Little Rock Christian on Wednesday night. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

"I've been really hard on Anna (McCarn) and Livi," Leonard said. "Our post players, they have a really tough job. I'm so proud of them. Livi was a beast through all of regulation, then Anna comes in in overtime and scores 10 points." McCarn added eight rebounds and scored eight of her 10 points in the overtime frame as Mountain Home pulled away. The 6-foot Fosness feels the Lady Bombers should always control

the glass when she and McCarn, a 6-4 senior, are in the game at the same time. "I'm so proud of (McCarn) because we work together every day," Fosness said. "She just had that breakthrough, and it was awesome. We work so hard at it, and we trust each other to get them. I'm happy to be on this team and they give me opportunities to do this." But the overtime almost didn't happen. The Lady Bombers

struggled to move the ball past half court in the third period, turning it over 11 times in the frame, leading to Christian's all-state guard, Whitley Rogers, to score 19 of her team's 22 in the frame. With Mountain Home up 31-25, Christian went on a 12-0 run during which every single point came following a Lady Bomber turnover. "I wanted to call timeouts," Leonard said, "but I thought

we'd need them late — and we did. It just comes down to being where you're supposed to be. We had a couple trying to do it by themselves and three others just running down the court. When five got involved we were fine." The Lady Warriors led 37-31 before Mountain Home's Brooklynn Mitchell finally intervened with two free throws. Christian took a 44-38 lead into the fourth quarter after Rogers buried a step-back 3-pointer to end the third. Rogers did not score again. Christian led by as much as 47-40 in the fourth when Mountain Home mounted its comeback. Mitchell sparked the run with a bucket with 6:00 remaining, and McCarn later returned from foul trouble and scored her first bucket of the game that pulled her team within 48-46 with 3:49 left in regulation. "Going on a run gives you some confidence," Fosness said, "but we knew we would have to stick together and play as a team. We knew we would have runs and they would have runs, too." Mountain Home's momentum strengthened when Rogers was whistled for her fifth foul and had to exit the game. The Lady Bombers caused a few turnovers of their own in the final minutes, including Laykin Moore scoring the tying bucket off a takeaway at the 3:10 mark. They went to that zone," Leonard said, "and we knew the high post was wide open. Sometimes we fed the post from the wing. When we settled down and ran an offense, we pretty much got whatever look we wanted."

See RECORD, Page A12

Izard County survives, advances after 20T thriller

By Neal Denton ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

NEWARK — The Izard County Cougars' first two shots ahead of the buzzer led to survival, while the third led to victory Thursday night. Izard County's Cash Arnhart drove the lane and scored the game-winner with :03 seconds left in the second overtime as the Cougars defeated the England Lions, 65-64, in the Class 2A State quarterfinals at Cedar Ridge High School's Reaves Arena. England, the state's No. 1 ranked Class 2A team, left the door wide open for Izard County with a dismal performance from the foul line. Over the fourth quarter and both overtime periods, the Lions shot 3-of-13 from the free-throw line. The Cougars made the Lions pay each time with big shots. "We tell them all the time, basketball is a game of runs," Izard County coach Kyle McCandlis said. "Just make sure you have a good one, then weather the storm and have the last one to end the game." England led 57-54 near the end of regulation and forced a missed 3-pointer by

Izard County with :12.1 seconds remaining. But the Lions missed both free-throw attempts with :08.6 remaining. Arnhart hit his first of two big shots, banking in a 3-pointer from the right wing at the buzzer to send the game to the first extra session. "Hats off to England, they're a great ball team," McCandlis said. "We just hit big shot after big shot down the stretch. They're just dogs, every one of them." England also led 63-60 after a basket by DJ Turner with :31.7 left in the first overtime. Turner had a chance to finish a 3-point play but missed the free throw. Izard County's Gabe Spray made them pay by burying an off-balance 3-pointer to knot the score. England's final heave was off the mark, sending the game to a second overtime. Both teams struggled to score in the second extra period, but the Cougars had to play through the adversity of both Spray and Kasen Black fouling out. "We do preach that to our guys, a next-man-up mentality," McCandlis said. "We put them through the ringer. Our strength of schedule is super tough, because we be-



Izard County's Cash Arnhart goes up for two during the Cougars' 65-64, double overtime victory over England on Thursday night in the Class 2A State Tournament. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

lieve in our guys. They are confident in each other, and we're so proud of them." England missed five consecutive free throws, however, but Jayquan Mays hit his second of two attempts with :29.7 remaining for a 64-63 lead. Izard County nearly lost the ball twice, but after a timeout and a jump ball went their way on the possession arrow, the Cougars inbounded with :07.6 remaining. Arnhart attacked the basket and finished on the left side with :03 left, and England's full-court heave was short. "I've never seen three (game-tying or game-winning) shots like that in a game before," McCandlis said. "That's something we

just talked about in the locker room. We were all hyped up and had to sit down because the emotions came flooding. It was like 'holy cow, I can't believe we've just been a part of that.'" Spray led all scorers with 22 points and nine rebounds, with 11 points coming in the fourth quarter and both overtimes. Arnhart added 16 points, Black scored 13, and Kade Yancey scored 12 on four 3-pointers, including three of those in the third quarter. Mays led England with 17 points, while Landon Woods added 16, Aiden Scribner totaled 15, and Trent Arnold found double digits with 12.

See THRILLER, Page A11

Izard County storms past Ozark Mountain in 2nd half

By Neal Denton ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

NEWARK — During the first half of Izard County's Class 2A State Tournament game Tuesday night, the Lady Cougars didn't look like the same team that had held the No. 2 ranked team in the state to 20 points three days earlier. But that all changed in the second half. The Lady Cougars feasted on turnovers and offensive rebounds to outscore Ozark Mountain, 45-18, in the second half and stormed to a 77-54 victory over the Lady Bears in the opening round at Cedar Ridge High School's Reaves Arena. Izard County, which had knocked off Riverside, 40-20,

to win the 2A Region 2 championship on Saturday, was trailing 36-32 at halftime against Ozark Mountain, which had six different players score during the opening quarter alone. But the Lady Cougars used defense to generate offense in the second half, which is when they forced the majority of the 20 turnovers given away by the Lady Bears in the game. Five different players reached double-digit scoring for the Lady Cougars. Izard County also outrebounded Ozark Mountain, 36-22, in the victory, including nine boards by freshman Kallie Skidmore, who came off the bench for a fantastic outing.

See IZARD, Page A12



Izard County's Olivia Spray attempts to split a double team of Ozark Mountain's Jasmine Fletcher (left) and Kierra Kleinert (right) on Tuesday during the Class 2A State Tournament at Newark. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN




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### Twin Lakes Top PERFORMERS

## TUCKER THOMPSON

### Flippin Basketball

Thompson is the Twin Lakes Top Performer for Feb. 27-March 5 after leading the Bobcats in scoring in all four of their regional and state tournament games. The sophomore scored 26 against Newport to clinch a state berth, then scored 19 against Melbourne and 20 against Osceola in the regional. He led Flippin with 16 in its state loss Tuesday to Lamar.

### OTHER NOTABLE PERFORMERS

#### CALEB DUE

The Mountain Home swimmer won an individual state championship in the 100-yard backstroke at Saturday's Class 5A meet. He also placed second in the 50-yard freestyle and broke his own school record in both events.

#### COTY FOSTER

The Norfolk senior went 4-for-4 at the plate in the Panthers' season-opening baseball victory over Mountain View on Thursday. He also earned the win on the mound, striking out seven over three innings of sterling relief.

#### PEEKA TRAVER

The Mountain Home junior swimmer finished in third place in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley at the Class 5A State meet at Russellville.

#### CAMDEN PAYNE

The Flippin sophomore went 2-for-2 with two doubles, a walk, and three RBIs to lead the Bobcats to a win over Shirley in their baseball season opener Monday.

# Roundup: Lady Bomber soccer crushes Batesville

By Bulletin Staff

The Mountain Home Lady Bombers cruised to a 7-2 victory over the Batesville Lady Pioneers in a nonconference soccer match Tuesday night at Batesville.

Bella Dotson scored a hat trick with three goals to lead the Lady Bombers (2-0), while Kelsey Blackwell scored two goals, and Jocelyn Hill and Abi Dettelbach scored one goal apiece.

Mountain Home's boys played to an abbreviated 0-0 draw with the Pioneers before inclement weather canceled the final 20 minutes of their match. Goalkeeper Zach Padgett made eight saves for the Bombers.

The junior varsity match ended in a 1-1 draw. Alan Gasperini scored the JV Bombers' lone goal.

Ethan Clark made five saves, and Shep Martin made three saves for Mountain Home.

**Yellville-Summit softball whips Lead Hill**

The Yellville-Summit Lady Panthers waltzed to a 15-0, run-rule victory over the Lead Hill Lady

Tigers in their softball season opener Monday at Yellville City Park.

Sophomore Trinity Story pitched four no-hit innings, striking out 10 batters and walking five for the Lady Panthers.

Yellville-Summit put the game out of reach with eight runs in the fourth inning. The Lady Panthers scored once in the first and tacked on five runs on three hits in the second.

Ryleigh Spence smacked a two-run single during the second frame, and Hannah Hayward added an RBI double. Spence added her second RB groundout and fourth RBI of the game in the third inning for a 7-0 lead.

Greysen Dearmore added a hit and an RBI for the Lady Panthers, who were slated to host Green Forest on Thursday.

**Blanchard scores 33 in NAC postseason win**

The North Arkansas College Pioneers captured the NJCAA Region 2 Tournament championship, and the Lady Pioneers finished as tourney runners-up on Saturday at Pioneer Pavilion.

NorthArk's men's team defeated UA-Cossatot, 84-69, in the quarterfinals, then edged Southeast Arkansas College, 75-74, before taking down SAU Tech, 96-77, in Saturday's championship game.

Farmington product Jaxon Berry amassed 36 points and 17 rebounds in the championship and received Region 2 Player of the Week honors on Monday.

The Lady Pioneers fell 56-49 to National Park College in the championship game. Former Norfolk Lady Panther Keely Blanchard scored 21 points in the loss.

Blanchard pumped in a season-high 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in NorthArk's 69-68 semifinal win over Shorter College on Friday. The freshman finished her season averaging 17.5 points per game, 36th best in the nation, and shooting 52.1 percent from the field, 39th best in NJCAA.

Blanchard scored 402 points for the Lady Pioneers, who finished their season with a 14-9 record.

## LOCAL SPORTS BRIEFS

### Hurricanes swim team holding sign-ups

The Mountain Home Hurricanes AAU summer swim team league is hosting sign-ups from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at 217 South College Street.

The team is for ages 5-19 and is a fun group with no "bench-sitters." Registrants must pass a water assessment.

Practice gear will be for sale at the registration. For more information, call coach Hope Normandy at (870) 404-2128 or visit mountain-homehurricanes.com.

### NACPAC golf tourney set for April

The inaugural NACPAC (North Arkansas Conservative Political Action Committee) Golf Tournament will be held at 9 a.m. April 12 at Twin

Lakes Golf Course.

Rain date for the four-person scramble is April 13. Registration and breakfast will be at 8 a.m. April 12 with the shotgun start slated for 9 a.m.

Entry fee is \$60 per person or \$240 per team, including a pay-it-forward at Hole 15. Cart fee is \$10 per person. Fees must be turned in by April 5 to avoid a \$10 late fee.

Drawings will be held for a Las Vegas trip for two, a VRBO on the river, guided fishing trip, and liquor basket. A \$10,000 prize will be awarded for a hole-in-one on Hole 17.

NACPAC assists and supports conservative candidates for constitutional positions on the local and national level. To sponsor a hole, call Neil Buckley at (870) 467-5657. For more information, call Twin Lakes Golf Course at 425-2028.


### Lady Bombers holding skills clinic

Mountain Home Lady Bomber volleyball will begin its annual skills clinic on April 1 at a Hackler Intermediate School for students in grades 3-6.

The clinic will be held multiple Sundays and Tuesdays between April 1 and May 20. Sunday times will be 12:45-2 p.m. for grades 3-4, and 2-3:15 p.m. for grades 5-6. Tuesday times will be 3:45-5 p.m. for grades 3-4, and 5-6:15 p.m. for grades 5-6.

Cost is \$75 per student, and scholarships are available. Fees benefit the volleyball program as a fundraiser to purchase equipment for grades 7-12.

For more information, contact coach Jill Daves at [jdaves@mhbombers.com](mailto:jdaves@mhbombers.com).




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## THRILLER

Continued from Page A10


Izard County advanced to the semifinals, where it was slated to meet the winner between Tuckerman or Marianna Lee at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

"We've played in a lot of these tournaments with three games in a row," McCandlis said. "We're going to get right back to work (Friday). The kids are hungry. Actually they're starving right now."

**COUGARS (26-11)**  
Spray 22, Arnhart 16, Black 13, Yancey 12, Robbins 2.

**LIONS (32-4)**  
Mays 17, Woods 16, Scribner 15, Arnold 12, Turner 4.


IZARD CO. 19 9 15 14 6 2 — 65  
ENGLAND 13 14 16 14 6 1 — 64



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# Top-ranked Lamar ousts Flippin, 67-44

By Neal Denton  
ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

HARRISON — A span of only three possessions turned the tide for Lamar as the Warriors got rolling before halftime and raced to a 67-44 victory over the Flippin Bobcats in the first round of the Class 3A State Tournament on Tuesday at Pioneer Pavilion.

Lamar closed the first half by hitting Flippin with a 11-0 run that consisted of three Bobcat turnovers, each followed by 3-pointers from the same player.

No. 4 seed Flippin had rallied to within 24-23 after five straight points from Alex Glenn when the No. 1 seeded Warriors went on a run over the final 2:47.

Lamar’s Ben Noonan scored to spark the run, and teammate Caleb Green knocked down three straight treys to push a 26-23 lead to 35-23 before halftime.

Each of Green’s 3-pointers was prefaced by a Flippin turnover, and the Bobcats

did not score over the final 2:47 of the half — or the first 3:20 of the second half.

Flippin wasn’t hurt as badly during its third-quarter drought as Lamar managed only one basket, a Kaz Crofts 3-pointer for a 38-23 advantage.

But the Warriors heated up later in the third and buried three more 3-pointers, including another by Green, who drained six treys on the day.

Lamar led by 22 to end the third, and the Warriors led by as many as 24 before Flippin found its offensive footing in the fourth, climbing to within 19.

Rebounding was key as many of Lamar’s 13 3-pointers came after offensive rebounds. The Warriors, the state’s No. 1 ranked Class 3A team, played four different players 6-foot-4 or taller during the game.

Lamar outrebounded Flippin, 40-28, including Kendrick Carr and Noonan outrebounding the Bobcats by themselves.

Noonan led Lamar with 20 points and 13 rebounds,



Flippin’s Christian Wire passes to the corner while defended by Lamar’s Kendrick Carr on Tuesday in the Class 3A State Tournament at Harrison. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

while Green added 18 points on his trifectas, Crofts scored 12, and Carr totaled 11 points and 16 rebounds.

Sophomore Tucker Thompson led the Bobcats with 16 points, and Rilyn Robins grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds.

Lamar advances to face the Jessieville/Dumas winner at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the quarterfinals. Flippin ends its season with a 29-12 mark.

The Bergman Lady Pan-

thers also fell against Lamar as the Lady Warriors, the state’s No. 2 ranked Class 3A team, held on for a 58-51 win in the opening round.

**BOBCATS (29-12)**

Thompson 16, Glenn 9, Robins 7, Wire 6, Hodges 6.

**WARRIORS (29-4)**

Noonan 20, Green 18, Crofts 12, Carr 11, Smith 3, Leeds 3.

FLIPPIN	14	9	6	15	—	44
LAMAR	17	18	16	16	—	67

## RECORD

Continued from Page A10

The Lady Bombers pounded the ball into the paint, finding Fosness for the go-ahead bucket with 1:53 left and another for a 52-48 lead on the next trip.

“I just want to help my team any way I can,” Fosness said. “Whenever they need me I’m ready to score, but I’m just happy to get those points near the end (of regulation). I’m more happy for Anna, because she was huge in overtime.”

Christian’s Liv Hatcher converted an old-fashioned 3-point play to pull within one, then Mountain Home turned the ball over. Christian followed with its own turnover. But Mountain Home lost the ball yet again.

The Lady Warriors then got four shots off before Mountain Home finally grabbed the rebound to force a jump ball. The possession arrow was with the Lady Bombers, and Mitchell was later fouled with :30.6 remaining.

The junior sank 1 of 2 for a 53-51 lead, but the Lady Bombers fouled Christian’s AJ Jackson on a 3-point attempt with :13.3 left in regulation.

Jackson sank the first, missed the second, then hit the pressure-packed third attempt to knot the score. Mountain Home had the ball stolen away again before it could attempt a shot at the buzzer.

The overtime was almost anticlimactic as Mountain Home gained a quick lead and never let up, scoring 12 straight. McCarn scored the first bucket, then Mitchell stole the ball and fed Moore for a layup.

McCarn scored off another Christian turnover for a 59-53 lead, and she later sank four free throws to put the game out of reach.

Moore scored 14 points for Mountain Home, which is one victory away from its most in a season since 1995. Mitchell added 13 points and six rebounds, and McCarn netted 10 points and eight caroms.

Rogers led all scorers with 23 points, with 19 coming in the third period. She also grabbed six rebounds and swiped six steals.

“She’s a special player,” Leonard said of the junior. “Coach (Ronald) Rogers does a heck of a job, and that’s his daughter. They had an unbelievable year. That’s what’s so great about this tournament is there are so many good teams.”

The Lady Bombers turned the ball

over seven times in the first quarter and missed seven shots under the basket, but still held an 11-9 lead after one period due to strong defense and rebounding.

Fosness owned the glass, scoring six and grabbing eight rebounds in the first quarter alone. Christian took a 14-13 lead early in the second quarter when the Lady Bombers went on a 14-3 run. Fosness sparked the run with three straight, and Moore finished it with a banked-in 3-pointer for a 27-17 lead with 2:04 left in the half.

Mountain Home did not score the rest of the half, however, and Christian pulled to within 27-22 by halftime.

Mountain Home will face the Nettleton Lady Raiders at 1 p.m. Friday in the quarterfinal round. The Lady Bombers defeated Nettleton, 56-51, back on Dec. 17 in Jonesboro.

**LADY BOMBERS (25-6)**

Fosness 21, Moore 14, Mitchell 13, McCarn 10, Anderson 3, Coleman 2, Williams 2.

**LADY WARRIORS (24-5)**

Rogers 23, Jackson 14, Morris 7, McNay 6, Hatcher 3, Calva 3.

MTN.HOME	11	16	11	15	12	—	65
CHRISTIAN	9	13	22	9	3	—	56

## STATE TOURNAMENT SCORES

<b>CLASS 6A</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Bentonville 66, Conway 53 North Little Rock 68, FS Northside 53 <b>GIRLS</b> Fayetteville 69, Cabot 36 North Little Rock 81, Rogers 35 <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> LR Central 60, Bentonville West 54 Fayetteville 65, LR Southwest 53 <b>GIRLS</b> Bentonville 57, Bryant 28 FS Northside 55, Jonesboro 23 <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Bryant 81, Bentonville 60 Springdale Har-Ber 61, North Little Rock 46 <b>GIRLS</b> Fayetteville 69, Conway 62, OT North Little Rock 58, Springdale Har-Ber 49  <b>CLASS 5A</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Marion 72, El Dorado 44 Benton 78, West Memphis 50 Maumelle 97, Russellville 67 <b>GIRLS</b> Greene Co. Tech 66, Sheridan 34 Nettleton 67, HS Lakeside 46 Vilonia 68, Van Buren 52 <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> LR Catholic 62, Harrison 52 Sylvan Hills 52, Farmington 48 LR Christian 64, Alma 55 <b>GIRLS</b> Farmington 79, LR Parkview 39 Beebe 57, Greenwood 46 Mountain Home 65, LR Christian 56, OT <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Hot Springs 61, Valley View 53 Nettleton 78, HS Lakeside 65 Marion 54, Sylvan Hills 50	<b>GIRLS</b> Valley View 47, Lake Hamilton 36 Benton 44, Marion 41 Greene Co. Tech 42, Beebe 34  <b>CLASS 4A</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Dardanelle 66, Arkadelphia 51 Magnolia 51, Shiloh Christian 49 LR Mills 82, Lonoke 49 <b>GIRLS</b> Shiloh Christian 53, Camden Fairview 43 DeQueen 69, Pottsville 45 Pulaski Academy 70, Blytheville 36  <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> eStem 82, Forrest City 78, OT Morrilton 56, Jonesboro Westside 51 Blytheville 65, Joe T. Robinson 52 <b>GIRLS</b> Brookland 55, eStem 44 LR Mills 59, Southside Batesville 45 Clinton 52, Highland 46  <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Pottsville 72, Nashville 70 Camden Fairview 48, Ozark 39 Morrilton 58, Dardanelle 51 <b>GIRLS</b> Arkadelphia 62, Berryville 36 Nashville 51, Pea Ridge 33 LR Mills 56, Shiloh Christian 53	<b>GIRLS</b> Dumas 57, Perryville 39 Fouke 56, Pangburn 42 Harding Academy 61, McGehee 40  <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Elkins 46, Bergman 37 Osceola 51, Subiaco Academy 47 Lamar 68, Dumas 44 <b>GIRLS</b> Melbourne 67, Paris 49 Mountain View 71, Elkins 49 Lamar 49, Fouke 33  <b>CLASS 2A</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> England 78, Hampton 63 Marianna Lee 47, Poyen 42 Cedar Ridge 68, Ozark Mountain 34 <b>GIRLS</b> Barton 87, Ouachita 55 Cutter-Morning Star 58, MV-Enola 50 Izard County 77, Ozark Mountain 54  <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> East Poinsett County 64, Ozark Catholic 57 Izard County 81, Hector 54 Tuckerman 51, Hackett 44, OT <b>GIRLS</b> Buffalo Island Central 55, Mountainburg 46 Riverside 61, Alpena 23 East Poinsett County 61, Acorn 42	<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Fordyce 74, MV-Enola 72, OT Junction City 56, Quitman 48 Izard County 65, England 64, 20T <b>GIRLS</b> Poyen 54, Bigelow 46 Quitman 54, Mountain Pine 42 Barton 46, Riverside 39  <b>CLASS 1A</b> <b>TUESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Ridgefield Christian 82, Brinkley 75, OT Marked Tree 65, Bradford 34 Columbia Christian 51, County Line 39 <b>GIRLS</b> Rural Special 71, Wonderview 69 WS Greers Ferry 63, Bradford 26 Jasper 59, Bearden 29  <b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Lafayette County 54, Lead Hill 41 Blevins 87, Jasper 61 Nevada 70, Mulberry 66, OT <b>GIRLS</b> Lafayette County 67, County Line 29 Scranton 38, Kirby 29 Taylor 53, Magazine 40  <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>BOYS</b> Earle 79, Marvell-Elaine 50 Crowley’s Ridge Acad. 70, Clarendon 46 Blevins 86, Ridgefield Christian 70 <b>GIRLS</b> Marked Tree 42, Sacred Heart 31 Earle 77, Augusta 38 Rural Special 61, Scranton 26
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# Sports

## A good shore lunch can be quick and simple

When I first started guiding, one of the first things I had to figure out, other than catching fish, was the shore lunch.

If you are out fishing all day, you are going to need nourishment. It has to be portable, good, reasonably healthy and fairly quick to prepare.

When I began, there were few fly-fishing guides, but a bunch of bait guides. At the time, the bait guides would stop at lunch, start a fire and prepare a fish fry of the trout they had caught that morning, they would cook a pound of bacon and serve that with tomato slices on white bread as appetizers.

They would then fry up the trout, with some sliced potatoes and hushpuppies. If it was a high-tone trip, there would be a Dutch oven cobbler.

This was a delicious, hearty lunch that only enhanced the angling experience. It was also a cholesterol bomb. It requires transporting a lot of gear, cast iron skillets, charcoal, potatoes, bread, bacon, breading, etc.

You needed a cooler for soft drinks and food. It was slow. You had to start a fire, let it burn down to the coals and clean up afterwards. It all took time. I thought the time could be spent catching trout.

There were a few fly-fishing guides who would stop fishing, trailer their boat to a nearby café, and then trailer back to the river to finish the day. This was good but a major time-eater.

The fly-fishing guides out west furnished box lunches, a deli sandwich, cookie, bag of chips and an apple.



JOHN BERRY  
FLY-FISHING FOR TROUT

They were carried in a cooler that also held water and soft drinks.

This made a lot of sense to me, but you had to order them from the deli the night before and then pick them up the morning of the trip.

I found it was easier for me to do my own. My wife, Lori, did the shopping when she wasn’t guiding herself. Then, we usually did it together. That saved me a lot of time.

I only bought quality items, good custom sliced deli meat, up-scale bread (Neighbor’s Mill if I could get it), cheese, a variety of individual packages of chips, cookies (Lori’s famous brownies if available), apples, mustard, mayo, water and soft drinks.

I also carried napkins, paper plates, hand sterilizer and a table cloth. In the summer I sometimes carried a homegrown heirloom tomato or Lori’s German potato salad.

My clients would serve themselves, and there was always extra food. This was much better to me than stopping by Subway for a mediocre sandwich and took very little time, so my clients could concentrate on catching fish.

In the winter, I would build a fire and serve chili I heated on a small propane stove. I also carried a thermos of hot coffee.

Keep it simple and quick.

John Berry is a retired fly-fishing guide in Cotter and has fished our local streams for more than 40 years. He can be reached at berrybrothers@infodash.com.

## IZARD

Continued from Page A10

Senior Quinn Johnson led Izard County with 22 points and swiped four steals, while Skidmore totaled 15 points and nine boards, Makensie Yancey totaled 14 points and six rebounds, Olivia Spray notched 12 points and six boards, and Tinley Bailey tallied 10 points and seven rebounds.

Izard County turned the tide almost immediately to start the third quarter as it started with a 10-2 run. Spray tied it for the first time since the first quarter at 38-38 with 4:15 left in the third.

Johnson had a steal and layup to give her team the lead, and she scored again for a 42-38 lead to conclude the run. Izard County led 50-43 by the end of the third, and it ran away with the lead in the fourth, thanks to Skidmore tossing in nine points in the quarter and grabbing four of her rebounds.

The lead reached double digits for the first time when Skidmore bur-

ied a 3-pointer for a 59-47 lead with 5:15 remaining. Skidmore and Johnson scored off consecutive turnovers by Ozark Mountain to push it to 20 for the first time at 68-48.

Kelly Middleton, Ozark Mountain’s lone senior starter, led her team with 12 points and five rebounds, while Kierra Kleinert added 11 points, and MaHaley Gilmore totaled 10 points, five rebounds and three steals.

The Lady Cougars advanced to the quarterfinals, where they were slated to face the Poyen/Bigelow winner at 4 p.m. Friday.

Ozark Mountain’s boys also fell in the first round as the host Cedar Ridge Timberwolves ran past the Bears, 68-34.

**LADY BEARS (22-11)**

Middleton 12, Kleinert 11, Gilmore 10, Fletcher 8, Brumley 7, Tennison 5, Smith 1.

**LADY COUGARS (29-4)**

Johnson 22, Skidmore 15, Yancey 14, Spray 12, Bailey 10, Stephens 2, Fortney 2.

OZARK	23	13	7	11	—	54
IZARD	15	17	18	27	—	77

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# Benedict’s blast lifts Flippin past Cotter in 8 innings

By Neal Denton  
ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

FLIPPIN — Flippin’s Adrienne Benedict finished a back-and-forth, extra-inning game in dramatic fashion Thursday.

Benedict smashed a walk-off, two-run homer to dead center field to lift the Lady Bobcats to a 10-9, eight-inning victory over the Cotter Lady Warriors in nonconference softball action at Lady Bobcat Field.

The game began as a pitcher’s duel between Benedict and Cotter freshman Myah McNutt. Cotter held a 4-0 lead as late as the bottom of the fifth and also had three runners thrown out on the basepaths.

The Lady Bobcats needed only one inning to erase the deficit, plating four in the bottom of the fifth off three hits and two Cotter errors. Sophomore Jozy Rehrig capped the rally with a two-run triple to knot the score.

Cotter went back on top with two runs in the sixth on four base hits. The Lady Warriors left a pair on base and ended up stranding 11 through the game, plus four others being thrown out.

Flippin scored once in the sixth on two more Cotter errors, but the Lady Warriors got that run back in the top of the seventh for a 7-5 lead. Avery Rice doubled and scored when McNutt singled and advanced on an error.

The Lady Bobcats stayed alive in the bottom of the seventh with two



Flippin’s Adrienne Benedict approaches home plate as her teammates cheer in the background after she hit a walk-off, two-run homer to defeat Cotter on Thursday. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

runs and almost won in the inning. Rylee Hickey and Benedict each scored runs as Rehrig supplied another big hit.

With Rehrig on third base with one out, Cotter rolled the dice and intentionally walked the next two batters to load the bases. The strategy paid off as the next batter hit a ground ball that forced out the winning run at the plate, and the next grounded out.

Cotter began the eighth inning with Morgan Lipe on second base due to the

International Tiebreaker Rule, and she scored on a single by Gracyn Jackson. Jackson was thrown out on a steal attempt, but Paige Meis reached on an error and scored an insurance run on a double by Jadyn Tucker.

But Flippin answered with three in its final at-bat, sparked by Kara Paul scoring on a groundout by Rylee Hickey. Kelsey Hickey drew a walk, and Benedict came to the plate with one out and hammered a line drive about 240 feet to center field for the winner.

Benedict scored three runs in the game, reaching on two errors and

drawing a walk as well. The senior also earned the win in the circle, scat-

## NBA BASKETBALL

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB	Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	18	.714	—	Memphis	38	24	.613	—
New York	40	22	.645	4½	Houston	38	25	.603	½
Brooklyn	21	41	.339	23½	Dallas	32	31	.508	6½
Phila.	21	41	.339	23½	San Antonio	26	34	.433	11
Toronto	20	42	.323	24½	New Orleans	17	46	.270	21½
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB	Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	29	32	.475	—	Oklahoma City	51	11	.823	—
Atlanta	29	34	.460	1	Denver	40	22	.645	11
Orlando	29	35	.453	1½	Minnesota	35	29	.547	17
Charlotte	14	47	.230	15	Portland	28	35	.444	23½
Washington	12	49	.197	17	Utah	15	47	.242	36
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Cleveland	52	10	.839	—	L.A. Lakers	40	21	.656	—
Milwaukee	36	25	.590	15½	Golden State	35	28	.556	6
Indiana	35	26	.574	16½	L.A. Clippers	33	29	.532	7½
Detroit	35	28	.556	17½	Sacramento	32	29	.525	8
Chicago	25	38	.397	27½	Phoenix	29	33	.468	11½

x-clinched playoff spot

**FRIDAY’S GAMES**  
Cleveland at Charlotte, 6 p.m.  
Memphis at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.  
Utah at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.  
Minnesota at Miami, 7 p.m.  
Portland at Okla. City, 7 p.m.  
Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.  
San Antonio at Sacramento, 9 p.m.  
New York at Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY’S GAMES**  
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 5 p.m.  
New Orleans at Houston, 6 p.m.  
Indiana at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.  
Washington at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Miami, 7 p.m.  
Orlando at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.  
Detroit at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY’S GAMES**  
Denver at Oklahoma City, noon  
Phoenix at Dallas, 2:30 p.m.  
Memphis at New Orleans, 6 p.m.  
Utah at Phila., 6:30 p.m.  
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.  
San Antonio at Minnesota, 7 p.m.  
Detroit at Portland, 8 p.m.  
Sacramento at Clippers, 8:30 p.m.

## NHL HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE								WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Central	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	62	38	21	3	79	198	180	Winnipeg	63	43	16	4	90	220	147
Florida	63	39	21	3	81	209	172	Dallas	62	41	19	2	84	213	160
Tampa Bay	62	37	21	4	78	224	165	Minnesota	62	36	22	4	76	177	179
Detroit	62	30	26	6	66	179	197	Colorado	63	37	24	2	76	209	186
Ottawa	61	31	25	5	67	174	176	St. Louis	63	30	27	6	66	182	189
Boston	64	28	28	8	64	172	204	Utah	62	28	25	9	65	176	183
Montreal	62	30	26	6	66	186	207	Nashville	62	23	32	7	53	164	207
Buffalo	61	24	31	6	54	196	214	Chicago	62	19	35	8	46	172	218
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Pacific	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	62	40	14	8	88	223	163	Vegas	61	37	18	6	80	204	168
Carolina	63	37	22	4	78	200	173	Edmonton	62	36	22	4	76	200	182
New Jersey	63	33	24	6	72	189	158	Los Angeles	60	31	20	9	71	169	162
Columbus	62	30	24	8	68	207	205	Calgary	62	29	23	10	68	163	182
N.Y. Rangers	62	31	26	5	67	189	186	Vancouver	61	28	22	11	67	168	186
Philadelphia	63	27	28	8	62	184	212	Anaheim	61	27	27	7	61	162	188
N.Y. Islanders	61	28	26	7	63	168	182	Seattle	63	26	33	4	56	186	207
Pittsburgh	64	24	30	10	58	184	237	San Jose	64	17	38	9	43	169	241

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**THURSDAY’S GAMES**  
Winnipeg 4, Philadelphia 1  
Utah 4, Detroit 2  
Carolina 3, Boston 2  
Florida 3, Columbus 0  
Tampa Bay 6, Buffalo 5  
Nashville 5, Seattle 3  
Dallas 3, Calgary 2, OT  
Edmonton 3, Montreal 2, OT  
Colorado 7, San Jose 3

**FRIDAY’S GAMES**  
Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m.  
Winnipeg at New Jersey, 6 p.m.  
Utah at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Vancouver, 9 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Vegas, 9 p.m.  
St. Louis at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY’S GAMES**  
Rangers at Ottawa, 11:30 a.m.  
Seattle at Philadelphia, 11:30 a.m.  
Boston at Tampa Bay, 2 p.m.  
Buffalo at Florida, 5 p.m.  
Montreal at Calgary, 6 p.m.  
Toronto at Colorado, 6 p.m.  
Chicago at Nashville, 7 p.m.  
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Edmonton, 9 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at San Jose, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY’S GAMES**  
New Jersey at Philadelphia, noon  
Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 2:30 p.m.  
Seattle at Washington, 2:30 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Carolina, 4 p.m.  
Columbus at Rangers, 5 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Vegas, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Vancouver, 8 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Anaheim, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY’S GAMES**  
Edmonton at Buffalo, 6 p.m.  
Detroit at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Colorado, 8 p.m.  
Toronto at Utah, 9 p.m.

## THIS WEEK’S LIVESTOCK REPORT

North Arkansas Livestock Auction

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ARKANSAS WEEKLY LIVESTOCK											
Wednesday, March 5, 2025											
Total Receipts:		980	2,741	497							
Feeder Cattle:		650 (66.3%)	2,595 (94.7%)	405 (81.5%)							
Slaughter Cattle:		105 (10.7%)	121 (4.4%)	82 (16.5%)							
Replacement Cattle:		225 (23.0%)	25 (0.9%)	10 (2.0%)							
Compared to last week: Feeder steers mixed with the better 300-350 lb and the better 450-550 lbs 3.00-12.00 higher all other classes mostly 4.00-10.00 lower with more unweaned calves in the offering. Feeder heifers mixed from 5.00 higher to 10.00 lower generally steady to weak. Light supply with good demand on most classes of feeder cattle. No trend on cows and bulls not reported last week. Had a special replacement cow sale along with the regular sale. Demand was good for replacement cows with active bidding. Supply included: 66% Feeder Cattle (35% Steers, 46% Heifers, 19% Bulls); 11% Slaughter Cattle (80% Cows, 20% Bulls); 23% Replacement Cattle (2% Stock Cows, 39% Bred Cows, 6% Bred Heifers, 48% Cow-Calf Pairs, 2% Heifer Pairs, 4% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 14%.											
FEEDER CATTLE					BULLS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
STEERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	1	320	320	370.00	370.00		
4	274	274	505.00	505.00	3	370-395	385	315.00-377.00	349.04		
12	305-320	313	425.00-470.00	457.11	6	410-440	424	323.00-362.00	337.99		
15	360-395	370	409.00-429.00	412.84	2	450-485	468	300.00-327.00	312.99		
7	408-435	419	405.00-425.00	411.72	2	515	515	295.00	295.00		
1	410	410	355.00	355.00	3	550-590	563	267.00-280.00	271.54		
6	450-495	467	381.00-391.00	384.97	3	605-630	620	250.00-272.00	263.54		
23	512-525	514	333.00-367.00	351.73	2	722	722	212.00	212.00		
7	565-595	584	316.00-335.00	321.84	1	770	770	230.00	230.00		
17	561-599	580	270.00-313.00	298.06	1	875	875	190.00	190.00		
4	620-630	623	295.00-319.00	312.93							
6	650-678	673	280.00-292.00	283.94							
1	810	810	251.00	251.00							
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
8	387	387	390.00	390.00	7	1175-1660	1418	128.00-130.00	129.17		
			511	511	6	1370-1620	1438	139.00-144.00	142.02		
			329.00	329.00							
STEERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
4	298	298	350.00	350.00	17	1060-1285	1207	124.00-132.00	128.72		
4	365-390	375	299.00-370.00	333.63	17	1085-1440	1205	132.00-142.00	136.57		
3	405-445	420	331.00-395.00	371.83	3	900-1310	1137	117.00-121.00	119.21		
10	460-493	484	312.00-351.00	324.59							
7	550-585	555	268.00-271.00	268.45	COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
1	600	600	287.00	287.00	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
4	650-660	653	241.00-266.00	259.68	15	965-1225	1071	114.00-128.00	122.47		
1	755	755	269.00	269.00	4	1040-1118	1099	129.00-130.00	129.76		
STEERS - Medium and Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					7	920-1150	1049	100.00-111.00	105.99		
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	3	825-915	878	80.00	80.00		
1	320	320	345.00	345.00							
1	375	375	321.00	321.00	BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price		
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	7	1035-2105	1667	163.00-178.00	169.43		
16	308-340	316	350.00-394.00	380.23	8	1615-2055	1867	179.00-194.00	187.62		
15	355-399	385	339.00-381.00	360.70	4	1245-1485	1386	131.00-153.00	144.91		
4	360	360	327.00	327.00							
32	400-445	424	327.00-375.00	345.20	REPLACEMENT CATTLE						
20	450-474	459	293.00-377.00	337.78	STOCK COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
36	501-542	521	319.00-309.00	300.94	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
6	615-631	628	255.00-263.00	260.68	2-4	0	4	785-1170	901	172.00-211.00	182.32
1	800	800	235.00	235.00							
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					BRED COWS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
10	466-491	479	305.00-313.00	308.90	2-8	T1	7	870-1225	1103	1425-2700	1919.99
1	543	543	279.00	279.00	2-8	T2-3	64	795-1490	1155	185-3000	2617.00
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					>8	T1	1	1015	1015	1500.00	1500.00
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	>8	T2-3	10	915-1240	1084	1100-2250	1700.00
0	300-340	314	300.00-343.00	327.08	BRED HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
0	352-365	355	320.00-340.00	324.12	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
0	380	380	250.00	250.00	2-4	T1	1	1035	1035	2100.00	2100.00
0	400-426	414	275.00-322.00	309.42	2-4	T2-3	11	885-1001	960	2350-3100	2836.00
1	470-490	479	265.00-315.00	288.91	COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ <150 lbs calf						
1	500-545	526	240.00-297.00	270.42	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	560-577	573	247.00-265.00	252.96	2-8	0	6	1160-1265	1178	2600-2850	2805.00
1	635	635	240.00	240.00	>8	0	2	1268	1268	2150.00	2150.00
1	690	690	222.00	222.00	COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ 150-300 lbs calf						
1	718-745	727	190.00-220.00	209.75	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	710	710	190.00	190.00	2-8	0	30	1140-1300	1232	2650-3100	2943.00
1	805-845	825	200.00-223.00	211.22	2-8	T1	11	1055-1325	1219	2800-3200	3067.00
1	840	840	204.00	204.00	>8	0	6	1220-1252	1231	2000-2200	2067.00
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					>8	0	1	975	975	1500	1500
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	COW-CALF PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ >300 lbs calf						
0	350-385	373	220.00-290.00	263.34	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
0	450	450	185.00	185.00	2-8	0	7	1156-1460	1199	3350.00-3400.00	3391.00
BULLS - Medium and Large 1 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)					2-8	T1	36	1208-1460	1317	3250.00-3900.00	3477.00
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	>8	0	2	1452	1452	2775.00	2775.00
4	315-340	328	400.00-435.00	412.05	>8	T1	3	1443	1443	2925.00	2925.00
4	350-370	360	395.00-400.00	398.72	HEIFER PAIRS - Medium and Large 1-2 w/ <150 lbs calf						
4	400-440	422	381.00-415.00	392.33	Age	Stage	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	460-485	473	332.00-365.00	348.94	2-4	0	5	879	879	3050.00	3050.00
4	465	465	300.00	300.00	BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)						
4	525-545	534	319.00-339.00	328.30	Age	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	555-580	568	287.00-307.00	294.05	2-8	2	1705-1960	1833	206.00-220.00	213.00	
4	600-630	615	291.00-293.00	291.98	BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Unit / Actual Wt)						
4	650	650	253.00	253.00	Age	Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
4	690	690	263.00	263.00	<2	4	885-1070	959	1800.00-2500.00	2185.00	
4	705-706	706	257.00-263.00	261.80	2-8	2	1165-1315	1240	2300.00-2650.00	2485.00	
4	885	885	219.00	219.00							
4	1005	1005	185.00	185.00							
Please Note: The above USDA LPMGM 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.											
											
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ON TAP

Saturday

**High School Basketball**  
**Class 5A State Tournament at Greene County Tech**  
Greene Co. Tech vs. Mountain Home/Nettleton (3) Noon  
Marion vs. Benton/LR Christian (4) 1:30 p.m.

Vilonia/Valley View vs. Farmington/Benton (3) 6 p.m.  
Maumelle/Hot Springs vs. LR Catholic/Nettleton (4) 7:30 p.m.

**Class 3A State Tournament at North Arkansas College, Harrison**  
Lamar vs. Manila/Harding Academy (3) Noon  
Lamar vs. Melbourne/Prescott (4) 1:30 p.m.

Dover/Melbourne vs. Mountain View/Dumas (3) 6 p.m.  
Riverview/Elkins vs. Helena/Osceola (4) 7:30 p.m.

**Class 2A State Tournament at Cedar Ridge**  
Barton vs. Cutter-Morning Star/East Poinsett County (3) Noon  
Izard County vs. Marianna Lee/Tuckerman (4) 1:30 p.m.

Izard County/Poyen vs. Quitman/Buffalo Island Central (3) 6 p.m.  
Cedar Ridge/Fordyce vs. East Poinsett County/Junction City (4) 7:30 p.m.

**Class 1A State Tournament at Trumann**  
Rural Special vs. West Side/Taylor (3) Noon  
Blevins vs. Marked Tree/Nevada (4) 1:30 p.m.

Jasper/Marked Tree vs. Earle/Lafayette County (3) 6 p.m.  
Columbia Christian/Earle vs. Crowley's Ridge/Lafayette County (4) 7:30 p.m.

**College Baseball**  
ASU-Mountain Home at Coahoma College Noon

Monday

**High School Baseball**  
Marshall at Cotter 4 p.m.  
Melbourne at Flippin 4 p.m.

**High School Softball**  
Melbourne at Flippin 4 p.m.  
Cotter at Mammoth Spring 4 p.m.  
Salem at Yellville-Summit 4:30 p.m.

**Seventh Grade Track and Field**  
Mountain Home at Harrison 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

**High School Baseball**  
Norfolk at Concord 4 p.m.  
Cotter at Izard County (V-V) 4 p.m.  
Flippin at Jasper 4:30 p.m.

**High School Softball**  
Harrison at Mountain Home (V-JV) 5 p.m.  
Valley Springs at Cotter 4 p.m.  
Flippin at Jasper 4 p.m.

**High School Soccer**  
Harrison at Mountain Home (VG-VB) 5 p.m.

**Junior High Track and Field**  
Mountain Home at Green Forest 3:30 p.m.

TV SPORTSWATCH

SATURDAY

**AUTO RACING**  
4 p.m.  
FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The GOVX 200, Phoenix Raceway, Avondale, Ari.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)**  
11 a.m.  
CW — NC State at Miami  
ESPN — Kentucky at Missouri  
ESPNU — Vanderbilt at Georgia  
FOX — St. John's at Marquette  
SECN — TBA  
11:30 a.m.  
USA — Loyola of Chicago at UMass  
Noon  
PEACOCK — Penn St. at Wisconsin  
12:30 p.m.  
CBS — Iowa St. at Kansas  
1 p.m.  
ESPNU — Stanford at Louisville  
FS1 — Georgetown at DePaul  
SECN — South Carolina at Tennessee  
1:15 p.m.  
CW — Georgia Tech at Wake Forest  
1:30 p.m.  
ESPN — Alabama at Auburn  
FOX — Seton Hall at UConn  
USA — Premier League: Saint Joseph's at La Salle  
2 p.m.  
PEACOCK — Northwestern at Maryland  
2:30 p.m.  
CBS — Ohio St. at Indiana  
3 p.m.  
ACCN — TBA  
ESPNU — SMU at Florida St.  
FS1 — Providence at Xavier  
SECN — Texas A&M at LSU  
3:30 p.m.  
ESPN — Arizona at Kansas  
5 p.m.  
ACCN — Boston College at Syracuse  
ESPNU — Virginia Tech at Clemson  
FS1 — Butler at Creighton  
SECN — Mississippi at Florida  
5:30 p.m.  
ESPN — Duke at North Carolina  
7 p.m.  
ACCN — Virginia at Syracuse

ESPNU — Texas Tech at Arizona St.  
SECN — Oklahoma at Texas  
8 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Ohio Valley Tournament: TBD, Championship, Evansville, Ind.  
9 p.m.  
ESPN — Houston at Baylor  
ESPNU — Utah at BYU

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)**  
11 a.m.  
ESPN2 — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Greensboro, N.C.  
1:30 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Greensboro, N.C.  
3:30 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Greenville, S.C.  
6 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Greenville, S.C.

**COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN)**  
1 p.m.  
ACCN — Ohio St. at Notre Dame

**COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN)**  
11 a.m.  
ACCN — California at Pittsburgh

**GOLF**  
11:30 a.m.  
BTN — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Third Round, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla.  
1:30 p.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Puerto Rico Open, Third Round, Grand Reserve Golf Course, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico  
NBC — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Third Round, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla.  
4 p.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Colonial Classic, Second Round, La Paloma Country Club, Tucson, Ariz.  
10 p.m.  
GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Blue Bay LPGA, Final Round, Jian Lake Blue Bay Golf Club, Hainan, China.

**MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**  
7:30 p.m.  
ESPN — UFC 313 Prelims: Undercard Bouts, Las Vegas

**NBA BASKETBALL**  
7:30 p.m.  
ABC — Lakers at Boston

**NHL HOCKEY**  
11:30 a.m.  
ABC — Seattle at Philadelphia  
2 p.m.  
ABC — Boston at Tampa Bay

**SOCCER (MEN)**  
6:30 a.m.  
USA — Premier League: Manchester City at Nottingham Forest  
9 a.m.  
USA — Premier League: Fulham at Brighton & Hove Albion  
11:30 a.m.  
NBC — Premier League: Aston Villa at Brentford FC

SUNDAY

**AUTO RACING**  
2:30 p.m.  
FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: The Shriners Children's 500, Phoenix Raceway, Avondale, Ari.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)**  
11 a.m.  
CBS — Michigan at Michigan St.  
ESPN2 — Big South Tournament: TBD, Championship, Johnson City, Tenn.  
11:30 a.m.  
FOX — Iowa at Nebraska  
Noon  
BTN — Minnesota at Rutgers  
1 p.m.  
CBS — TBA  
ESPN2 — Atlantic Sun Tournament: TBD, Championship  
2 p.m.  
BTN — Oregon at Washington  
3 p.m.  
ESPNU — Southern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Asheville, N.C.  
5:30 p.m.  
ESPNU — Southern Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Asheville, N.C.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)**  
11 a.m.  
ESPNU — Southern Tournament: TBD, Championship, Asheville, N.C.

Noon  
ESPN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Greensboro, N.C.  
2 p.m.  
ESPN — Southeastern Tournament: TBD, Championship, Greenville, S.C.  
3 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Atlantic 10 Tournament: TBD, Championship, Henrico, Va.  
3:30 p.m.  
CBS — TBA  
4 p.m.  
ESPN — Big 12 Tournament: TBD, Championship, Kansas City, Mo.  
5 p.m.  
ESPNU — Big South Tournament: TBD, Championship, Johnson City, Tenn.

**COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN)**  
Noon  
SECN — Auburn at Missouri  
4 p.m.  
ACCN — TBA

**COLLEGE HOCKEY (WOMEN)**  
10:30 a.m.  
ESPNU — NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Selection Show

**COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN)**  
1 p.m.  
ESPN — Johns Hopkins at Syracuse

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
1:30 p.m.  
SECN — South Carolina at Oklahoma  
3:30 p.m.  
SECN — Missouri at Kentucky  
5:30 p.m.  
SECN — Auburn at Mississippi St.

**COLLEGE WRESTLING**  
7 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Finals, Durham, N.C.  
8 p.m.  
ESPNU — Big 12 Tournament: Session 4 — Finals, Tulsa, Okla.

**GOLF**  
11:30 a.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Final Round, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla.  
1:30 p.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Puerto Rico Open, Final Round, Grand Reserve Golf Course, Rio Grande

NBC — PGA Tour: The Arnold Palmer Invitational, Final Round, Bay Hill Club & Lodge, Orlando, Fla.

4 p.m.  
GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Colonial Classic, Final Round, La Paloma Country Club, Tucson, Ariz.

**NBA BASKETBALL**  
Noon  
ABC — Denver at OKC  
2:30 p.m.  
ABC — Phoenix at Dallas  
6 p.m.  
ESPN — Memphis at New Orleans  
8:30 p.m.  
ESPN — Sacramento at L.A. Clippers

**NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL**  
1 p.m.  
NBATV — Capital City at Raptors

**NHL HOCKEY**  
Noon  
TNT — New Jersey at Philadelphia  
TRUTV — New Jersey at Philadelphia (DataCast)  
2:30 p.m.  
TNT — Pittsburgh at Minnesota  
TRUTV — Pittsburgh at Minnesota (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN)**  
9 a.m.  
USA — Premier League: Leicester City at Chelsea  
11:30 a.m.  
NBC — Premier League: Arsenal at Man. United

**MONDAY**  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)**  
6 p.m.  
ESPN — Southern Tournament: TBD, Championship, Asheville, N.C.  
ESPNU — Sun Belt Tournament: TBD, Championship, Pensacola, Fla.  
ESPNU — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Indianapolis  
8 p.m.  
ESPN — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Las Vegas  
8:30 p.m.  
ESPNU — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Indianapolis  
10:30 p.m.  
ESPNU — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Las Vegas

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)**  
1 p.m.  
ESPNU — Sun Belt Tournament: TBD, Championship, Pensacola, Fla.

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
3 p.m.  
BTN — Texas at Ohio St.  
7 p.m.  
SECN — Auburn at Mississippi St.

**NBA BASKETBALL**  
7 p.m.  
NBATV — Denver at Oklahoma City  
9:30 p.m.  
NBATV — New York at Sacramento

**SOCCER (MEN)**  
3 p.m.  
USA — Premier League: Newcastle United at West Ham United

**TUESDAY**  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)**  
1 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, First Round, Charlotte, N.C.  
3:30 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, First Round, Charlotte, N.C.  
6 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: TBD, First Round, Charlotte, N.C.  
ESPN — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Championship, Indianapolis  
ESPNU — Northeast Tournament: TBD, Championship  
ESPNU — Southland Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Lake Charles, La.

8 p.m.  
ESPN — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas  
ESPNU — America East Tournament: TBD, Semifinal  
ESPNU — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Boise, Idaho  
10:30 p.m.  
ESPNU — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Boise, Idaho

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)**  
11 a.m.  
ESPNU — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Championship, Indianapolis  
3 p.m.  
ESPNU — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas

**NBA BASKETBALL**  
6:30 p.m.  
TNT — Milwaukee at Indiana  
TRUTV — Milwaukee at Indiana (DataCast)

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# MHPS focuses on well-rounded agriculture program

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

For Mountain Home Public Schools students taking agricultural courses or becoming a member of FFA, it's a well-rounded approach that keeps the program successful.

A five-member team makes up the department, with students starting with Tyler Lewis' Introduction to Ag Science Class in seventh grade. Jacquie Albright takes over at the junior high level, with high school students taking classes from Josh Baker involving animal science, Owen Carpenter for agricultural mechanics and Carson White for Plant Science. Lewis also teaches agricultural mechanics at the high school.

Mountain Home's FFA Program consistently has performed at high levels, winning numerous awards at the county, district, state and national competitions.

Baker credits students, both current and former, for building a successful foundation for the organization. In fact, Baker now is teaching second-generation students.

"I think the buy-in from our students and carrying on that tradition, bringing the kids in here and showing them what they can achieve," said Baker as a key to the group's historical success. "That's one of my favorite parts of the job, competing with students on that level. (Our



Students from Mountain Home Public Schools have a sustained history of success in competition at the county, district and state levels. PHOTO COURTESY OF MHPS

kids) get excited and fired up by winning state, nationals. It's been fun seeing the kids do that. They are hardworking kids, good

kids that come from good families. They want to work, succeed and find their place where they can be successful."

The break from a traditional classroom continues to be a drawing point for the program as well.

"The a hands-on aspect, the kids that are wanting to get out of the traditional classroom setting and come use and work with their hands or work with animals," said Baker.

As an elective class, Baker said students can take an agriculture class, see if it fits their interests and then decide to join FFA or continue to take course work.

Mountain Home students can choose different avenues in agriculture or pursue a trade skill, such as the agriculture department's long-standing welding program, which is now integrated with classes at the Arkansas State University-Mountain Home Robert L. Myers Technical center for those pursuing certification.

Baker said students also can learn basics in the areas of plumbing, ag mechanics, power structural.

"We're giving them the trades and the skills that they need to go into either the workforce or secondary training," he added.

**A leadership focus**

Founded in 1928 FFA, which formerly stood for Future Farmers of America, changed its name to the National FFA Organization in 1988. The name change was made to reflect the organization's growing diversity and the many opportunities in agriculture.

See **MHPS**, Page B9

# Chamber crunches data to improve tourism

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

For 75 years the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce has served the Twin Lakes Area, with tourism a key tenet of the organization's mission.

Fast forward to 2025 and that goal remains at the forefront as Baxter County ranks in the Top 10 for tourism spending in the state of Arkansas, an industry that brought in almost \$10 billion to the economy for 2023.

"Our focus right now is to continue to bring people to the area, not only people that have visited for a number of years, but those people that this will be the first time that they come to the area," said Dani Pugsley, Chamber president and chief executive officer. "Baxter County is ranked 10th in the state for the amount of sales-tax revenue from tourism and retail, which I think is a testament to how successful and important tourism really is to our area."

While the result may remain the same, the efforts on how to attract visitors to the area changes almost daily with technological advancements. Previously, trips to conventions in major metropolitan area like Dallas and Chicago were focal points for the chamber.

Internet has changed it all.

"Right now, our big focus is social media, because we see that it works," said Pugsley. "We do those targeted social media ads that allow us to get our content out. We stopped going to the shows because we weren't seeing the amount of people coming in. It wasn't worth the investment to travel and to do that."

Data analyzation has changed the marketing landscape as well. The tools available through programs like Placer AI — a self-described "location Intelligence and foot traffic data software" — that the chamber utilizes for planning and evaluation purposes. Other tools like geofencing help target specific events or areas of interest.

"We can tell where people are coming from and continue to use that data to focus our efforts on those specific places to get people to come back," Pugsley said. "For example, the Red White and Blue festival, we know exactly how many people are coming out there and where they're coming from. We can do all the concerts and events at Hickory Park. We know exactly who's coming."

For 2025, data helped the Chamber make a decision on whether to continue an event.

"That helps us with the festival that we decided not to do, JamFest," Pugsley explained. "We looked back at the data, realized we weren't really pulling in the amount of people that we wanted to. So, it probably isn't in our best interest to do that."

Not only does the data help indicate attendance numbers, it allowed the Chamber to learn that tourism in Baxter County is a year-round factor for the economy.

"(Placer AI) not only helped us figure out and see how many people are coming to this area," said Pugsley, "it shows the time of year that they're coming. Before, it seemed like tourism was mainly late spring and summer. There were always people here and then it would kind of die out. The trends are now showing, no, they're here year-round. It's not going away."

"And we're able to see to track where they're coming from," she added. "You have a lot more people coming up from the Little Rock area than we would have ever thought. We're seeing that those people are coming in our direction."

The chamber is about to release new video content, its first in three years. New merchandise also is available at the chamber office, located at 1337 U.S. Hwy. 62 W.

See **TOURISM**, Page B9



The Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce has served the Twin Lakes Area for 75 years. While tourism efforts formerly took trips to out-of-town conventions and tourism show, the Internet has changed everything. Data analyzation and social media campaigns are keys to boosting the tourism industry. BULLETIN FILE PHOTO



The Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County soon will be part of the trail system that currently connects Arkansas State University-Mountain Home and the developing McCabe Park thanks to an 80/20 grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation. BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

# Grant to connect BC Library to trail system

Donald W. Reynolds Library to also host holocaust exhibit

By Caroline Spears  
cspears@baxterbulletin.com

The famous song says, "these boots were made for walkin'," and that's exactly what the Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County hopes will happen with its exciting new walking trail and innovative exhibits coming in the future. Both are efforts to provide a deeper connection with the community and visitors from other parts of the nation.

"I definitely think the hottest thing right this very minute at the library would be the walking trail," said Library Director Kim Crow-Sheaner.

The library received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) in the amount of \$456,000 and is an 80/20 grant, meaning the grant will cover 80 percent of the project and the Foundation will put up the remaining 20 percent.

"The grant is to put in a trail that will be approximately a quarter of a mile that includes lighting the trail with solar lighting," Sheaner stated. "We have the wonderful trails at ASUMH and McCabe Park, and so it's kind of interesting when the library was designed, there had been the thought of putting in the walking trail around the library property and that would be well before anything was installed over at the college or at McCabe park."

"During the design phase and all of that it, was decided to put that plan to the side for a little while because we were tripling the size of our library building and weren't really sure what maintenance costs would be involved with the building," she continued. "We were tripling the size of our old building, and basically didn't want to bite off more than we could chew but never gave up on the idea."

She said it was at that point when the trails started coming in at ASUMH and McCabe Park that she knew it was time to pick back up on the idea to make it happen.

"The plan is that we are about to get started," she said. "We will get started in March with the first baby steps, but we are not starting about construction phase yet. We will get started next month, but it will be a slow process that will take about two years because there are all kinds of steps in the process when it comes to getting this funding."

She added this means, unfortunately, that they won't see the start of construction for quite some time, but that they are very excited to be part of the project regardless.

"The City of Mountain Home already knew we were going to apply for this grant and knew what our vision was, and they already got funding to put a cross walk in that would connect the trail at ASUMH over to the library across College Street," she said. "So, that funding was already in place before we even applied to get our funding."

See **LIBRARY**, Page B10





Mountain Home FFA member Taylor Albright earned state championship honors in the 2023 Arkansas FFA Sheep Production Systems Proficiency Award during the Arkansas FFA Convention. PHOTO COURTESY OF MHPS

# Inclusivity is key to MHPS FFA program

By Sonny Elliott  
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It doesn't matter how fast you run or how high you can jump. It doesn't matter if you love animals or prefer numbers. At Mountain Home Public schools, FFA has a place for everyone. That isn't just a clever motto, the evidence is obvious for those who take a deeper look. Josh Baker, who leads the high school program, sees that inclusiveness every day. "It's really cool to see our student body. If you came to our banquet and you saw the students that were there, that had been active throughout the year, just how diverse they are," he said. "You've got such a wide range of diversity among our students. We've got athletes, we've got kids that are big into band, or not any of those. It's a melting pot with a good bunch of kids." Jacquie Rohr Albright, a 32-year-veteran of agriculture education, leads the junior high portion of the program. All but one year of Albright's career has been spent in Mountain Home, and she is a graduate of the district. During her career, Albright has had the experience of imparting wisdom and educating the tenets of FFA to her students. While always imparting inclusivity, it was a personal experience that drove home just how deep that message runs.

Albright said her daughter, Taylor, was diagnosed with Level 3 autism. While growing up, Taylor was exposed to the FFA program as she accompanied her mother. When the time came for Taylor to join FFA, Albright did not know what where the road would take them. "(Her autism) is pretty severe and (involves) sensory processing, there's just a whole lot going on," Albright explained. "In ninth grade, I was able to incorporate (her into FFA) and then COVID hit. At one point I was like, 'she's not going to own an animal, we're not taking all that on, it's too much.'" The shutdown of public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be a blessing for the Albrights, allowing them to explore that route. "I was like we got so much time," said Albright of the shutdown. "So it was let's start (with) sheep. Let's have a lamb, let's do a project. We got a lamb and then (Taylor) got hooked on it, then she got two sheep." When life began to return to normal, Taylor's role in FFA increased. She progressed to showing her animals advancing through county and district level competitions. The experience would culminate when Taylor earned state championship honors in the 2023 Arkansas FFA Sheep Production Systems Proficiency Award during the Arkansas FFA Convention.

See **INCLUSIVITY**, Page B9

# MHPS program in good shape for CTE changes

Balanced program has school ready for ACCESS requirements

By Sonny Elliott  
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With a statewide overhaul of education continuing across Arkansas, the future of Career and Technical Education (CTE) is becoming increasingly focused. The ACCESS Act proposed by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders would place an emphasis on CTE to produce students who are ready to enter the workforce in high-demand careers. Currently, Mountain Home Public Schools offer 32 pathways for CTE. The numbers could change due to new state mandates, but Josh Baker, Mountain Home High School Agriculture Instructor, doesn't feel big changes are in store for his department. "The pushes that they're talking about, they are things that we've been doing forever anyway, so we're just going to continue striving to have an excellent ag program," he said. "We want to meet the needs of our students and needs of our community by producing students that are well rounded in the agriculture and the trades, which are built into agricultural education curriculum." Jacquie Rohr Albright, who leads agriculture classes at the



The Mountain Home Public Schools' agriculture program features a greenhouse which allows students to get hands-on experience while taking a plant-science course. Produce from the greenhouse has been served to students at lunchtime, and the school has an annual plant sale each spring.

junior high, said the district's prior commitment to CTE as a school with Career Academes has Mountain Home in great shape.



A Mountain Home student practices welding skills while participating in a welding class. A new emphasis on Career and Technical Education is the focus of the ACCESS Act, which currently is before the Arkansas legislature. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MHPS

"We're very student oriented, student-focused and so well-rounded because we have a lot of community support and school administration support. We're very fortunate. "(Administration) always talks with us in advance of making big changes," she added, "And they always take our input. We have CTE meetings regularly, both at each school building and then as a district as a whole. We also meet people from the workforce that are members of these committees. They all come in and give feedback and input. The collaboration that we get from stakeholders, really all that organization, that makes us successful." Albright is a 1986 graduate of Mountain Home High School and returned to the district in 1993. She has seen the program grow from just two teachers and a barn to a multi-site facility with an impressive greenhouse. "There were two agri teachers, myself and Roger Steele," Albright recounted. "We have progressed and grown, the barn has been rebuilt, the facilities have been rebuilt and refurbished and reconstructed. My building has been completely added on and now we have five teachers. So, we are maximizing all the different pathways."

See **CHANGES**, Page B9

# Pickleball enthusiasm spreading in Twin Lakes Area

By Neal Denton  
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One of the world's fastest growing sports is also one of the fastest growing in the Twin Lakes Area. Pickleball is cheap, easy to learn, and good for your health. And many enthusiasts will warn you with a grin, it also can be addictive. Julie Orlowski, one of several who gather regularly to play in the indoor facility owned by Ken Nevius in Bull Shoals, admits she was hooked from the start. "I hadn't played tennis in a couple years because of injuries," Orlowski said. "A friend of mine here said 'I know you can't play tennis, but I have a sport for you.' She took me, and right way, it was a blast. And it's much easier on your body than tennis." Pickleball was invented all the way back in 1965 in the Pacific northwest as a children's backyard game, but it took until the 2000s to see a rapid increase in popularity. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, the sport was named the fastest-growing sport in the United States, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. And it is, by far, the fastest



Ken Nevius hits a shot while playing pickleball with friends at Elite Pickleball Club in Bull Shoals. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

growing sport among seniors. Jim Duke said he began playing about six years ago. "I have a hip replacement and a rotator cuff in the other shoulder," Duke said. "I like to be

active, and it's one of the only sports I can run just a few steps. My physical trainer wasn't sure after the operation, but my doctor said to go ahead and do it." And Nevius, who himself

began playing in the past five years, admits Duke is a natural. "People of any age can play, from children to adults," Nevius said. "Jim is one of our best players, he's a former Air Force

pilot who has great vision and depth perception, and he's 82 years old. I've seen him play 35-year-olds here and send them home pouting." The growing popularity of the sport has been attributed to its short learning curve, its appeal to a wide range of ages and fitness levels, and its low startup costs. The equipment is both affordable and lightweight. "All you need is a paddle, and paddles range from \$29 to \$500 if you want to spend that much," Nevius said. "You can pick up used ones, and we provide paddles here to the players who want to experiment. The balls are incredibly cheap." Pickleball can be played in singles or doubles, and the rules are easy to understand. "They are completely different from tennis. It's apples and oranges," Orlowski said. "With the court being smaller it's easier, but there are rules about the non-volley zone and others that are different from tennis." Aspects of the sport resemble tennis and table tennis played on a doubles badminton court, but pickleball has specific scoring rules, paddles and court lines.

See **PICKLEBALL**, Page B9





Cotter FFA students are shown while attending the sub-Area Leadership Contest at Arkansas State University-Mountain Home. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Troy Williams, Jeremiah Whitsel, (second row) Anastasia Wilcoxson, Shane Mershon, Brooklyn Knight, Mariah Stout, Taylor Tolliver and Marlee Jo Dilbeck. The students competed in Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Extemporaneous Speaking, Job Interview, Discussion Meet and Creed Speaking. PHOTOS COURTESY OF COTTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Cotter ag program expands offerings

FFA supporters band together to support students

By Caroline Spears  
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Arkansas always has been known for its natural beauty and resources, so it is easy to see why schools in the state, such as Cotter Schools, have successful Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs which enrich the lives of students to ensure that they are on pace for a great future.

Adriane Watts serves as the teacher for Agricultural Education and FFA for Cotter Schools, and is excited about not only what has been accomplished in the previous years but what is to come.

“One of our newest things to be brought on board, with me being a single-teacher program, is that we were able to found an FFA and Supporters Program,” she explained. “Basically, it consists of past members of our FFA chapter and past parents that were involved, pretty much anyone in general who wants to support us along the way and that has helped us a lot with growth year, as well as help with extending our program and fundraising.”

She said another thing they have done this year is expand their plant-science class, which, is a huge benefit, she said, but can be challenging in the sense that when direction is given by one teacher.

“It is hard to add in when you have a one-teacher program, to have a power structural system, animal system and then add plant science on top of that,” she said. “It was challenging,



Cotter FFA member Marlee Dutcher is pictured with her Overall Junior Nigerian Doe at the Arkansas State Fair.

but we were able to get it added, and I think it is going to be a great benefit for the program and the students who participate.”

In addition to the busy schedule and ever-growing program base at the school, Watts has also chosen to continue her education and be even more prepared to provide the best leadership and guidance available for the field.

“I was selected as a participant in the ‘Stem it Up 2’ this summer, where I was able to travel for 10 days studying the floriculture industry,” she explained. “I went from South Carolina to Miami, as well as a few states in between.”

Stem it Up 2 is described as a program that is authentic, transformative, active professional development where secondary agriscience teachers create innovative learning

modules based directly on their immersive, firsthand accounts of the floriculture/green industry, and then teach and disseminate the curriculum to other educators.

The program is a three-year, professional-development program designed to deepen teacher understanding of the interconnectedness of agriculture, focusing on the identified needs in the “green industry.” The SIU 2 team will dive into an immersive program exploring each stage of the fresh-cut flower industry.

“They had over 320 applicants, but picked 16 participants,” she explained. “We had to go through an interview process and were selected based on our interview and applications. Basically, we received a completely-funded trip for 10 days to travel across the southern region.”

She explained the group was even able to go to the Miami National Airport and have a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of what happens there.

“We were also able to go to floral wholesalers, cost-to-farms, and many other places in between,” she said. “Now we are developing curriculum based on those travels.”

Essentially, she explained, it is teaching the educators to focus more on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) aspect of the department, to better engage students with this side rather than just focusing on the agriculture curriculum.

“We are tying STEM more into our curriculum,” she said.

See **COTTER**, Page B8

# Yellville-Summit FFA is small but involved

By Linda Masters  
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“FFA is the largest, organized student organization in the world, and it is the student organization that supports and ties in with our agricultural career and technical education programming,” said Katherine Quinn, one of the Yellville-Summit Schools FFA advisors.

“FFA is kind of the tie between what we learn at school in the classrooms and what students are learning at home. The skills — soft skills and and hard skills — for their home projects provide agricultural experiences, so FFA is kind of the conduit between the two, and it’s a way for our school and other area schools to maintain some community around agriculture education.

“We have two programs of study here with our agriculture career technical education course offering, we do plant science, and we do agricultural mechanics power systems,” she said. “Agricultural mechanics is really kind of like industrial arts, so it’s everything from a scale drawings to plumbing, carpentry, small engines welding, wood woodworking.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YELLVILLE-SUMMIT FFA

Quinn, who teaches agriculture to middle-school students, advises Yellville-Summit FFA along with high-school agriculture teacher Rick Zeigler. Originally from Little Rock, she has been teaching at Yellville-Summit for 12 years and has been an FFA advisor for 11 years.

The FFA mission statement is simple: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education, according to the school’s website.

See **INVOLVED**, Page B8



Yellville-Summit FFA members work in the greenhouse where the chapter grows lettuce for the school cafeteria and plants for an annual April plant sale.



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Cotter student Taylor Johnson is pictured at the FFA Auctioneer Camp, where he was Reserve Overall in the Advanced Division. Johnson plans on pursuing auctioneering as a career.



# BSWRSP recovers from storm, adds new trails

By Linda Masters  
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BULL SHOALS — On the heels of months-long recovery from a 2024 storm which caused ruinous damage at Bull Shoals-White River State Park, Superintendent Stewart Taylor is eagerly looking forward to a great season for camping, hiking and park activities.

A tornadic storm late last May caused extensive damage to several areas of the park. Not only were trees in the park's Day-Use Area decimated and campground also damaged by downed trees, Taylor said the parks' trails — all of them — had devastating damage.

It took the state sending heavy equipment and teams from other state parks to get the park usable for last summer. Taylor said park maintenance still is working on several problems in



Biking enthusiasts gather next to an Oakridge Mountain Bike Trail marker at Bull Shoals-White River State Park.

the campground that could not be resolved when camping sites were in use.

“We’re still working with FEMA,” he added. “But once the damage was cleared out in the Day-Use Area, we were able to plant 30 new maple trees.” Taylor explained work



Tail Team of North Central Arkansas members work to clean up a trail at Bull Shoals-White River State Park.

on the trails was contracted out so they would be usable sooner, as hiking in the park is popular. The park's five trails are:

- The Heritage and Habitat Trail is adjacent to the James A. Gaston Visitor Center in Bull Shoals. The trail is paved, approximately .5 miles long and handicapped accessible

- The Big Bluff Trail in the campground by the White River is 1.75 miles long and is moderately strenuous. The first part of this loop trail is a level walk over the remains of the railroad tram built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to bring in steel and lumber from Cotter to construct Bull Shoals Dam. Once the trail crosses the paved road, it goes up the hillside to an area overlooking the White River and Bull Shoals Dam. The trail then leads through cedar glades, mature deciduous forest and across stream

- The Lakeside Trail at the east end of the Day-Use Area on the Lakeview

side of the park is 1 mile long, easily walked, was constructed in 1979 by the Young Adult Conservation Corps and is on the edge of Bull Shoals Lake. This loop trail provides surprises around each corner. Eagle Point and Titmouse Alley provide excellent habitat for bird watching. Bald eagles, waterfowl, and gulls are often seen from Eagle Point in winter. During spring, summer and fall more than 90 species of migrating and summer resident songbirds populate the area

- The Gaston Wildflower Trail is across the road from the Camper Registration Center on Powerhouse Road as one enters the campground. This memorial wildflower garden loop trail meanders through three acres of wildflowers that change each week through the season. Wildlife, including birds and butterflies, can be viewed throughout the trail at feeders and rest areas. The area is under constant development, and



Wooden walkways are some of the improvements TTCNC made to the Oakridge Bicycle Tail System at Bull Shoals-White River State Park. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TTNOCC

memorial contributions may be made at any time

- The Oakridge Mountain Bike Trail originally was constructed by Bull Shoals-Lakeview Rotary Club. This 3-mile, multi-use trail offers both hikers and mountain bikers access to remote areas of the park. The trail traverses the oak-hickory upland forest for a unique walking or riding experience. Along the trail are creek crossings, dirt roads, open meadows, long downhills and taxing areas of upgrade. Depending on the direction of travel, the loop trail allows users to choose from two levels of difficulty: Moderately easy and moderately difficult with strenuous uphill slopes. Bicycle helmets are strongly recommended.

Taylor said there is exciting work nearing completion in the Oakridge Bike Tail System. An area bike club, Trail Team of North Central Arkansas (TTONCA), got designs approved, received grant money and has worked on an extension to the trail.

“The existing Oakridge Mountain Bike trail has been upgraded with some new safety and erosion re-routes,” Shannon Baker with TTONCA explained. It is rated as beginner to intermediate. He added that all trails — except the existing Big Bluff Trail — are considered “multi-use” and are open to hikers, runners and mountain bikers.

See **TRAILS**, Page B8

## Flippin FFA plans expansion

By Linda Masters  
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“I believe that FFA is important because it it gives some out-of-school experiences, and when we get those out-of-school experiences, we have a lot more freedom,” said Talon VanCuren, Flippin High School agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, when asked why FFA is important.

“It’s way better than classroom activities, so if a kid asks me, “Why should I join FFA,” I would say that basically all the things that you’re learning, you can put them to practical use in a fun setting away from school, which is usually inviting to students.”

“Imagine you’re learning math but you’re stuck in the classroom. There’s

only so much math that can be learned, but when you join FFA, you get to go and put your skills to use that you’re learning in the classroom. I mean they’re gonna see live animals; you know work on tangible projects.”

“FFA encompasses more than just farming. That’s why they actually change the name from Future Farmers of America,” VanCuren explained. “I try to encourage them to get them in there because you know not all of them are gonna utilize it to its potential. You know FFA encompass more than just farming that’s why they actually change the name from Future Farmers of America to just FFA.”

“There’s leadership skills which everybody needs. We teach soft skills



FFA President Taylor Henley (left), shows a rabbit to students Eva Guidry and Dawson Duckworth.

(like) public speaking, he said. “There’s lots of lots of things that aren’t just farming, and I try to get everybody to do it but most of all it’s fun. We do cookouts and things that I won’t let them in unless

they unless paying member. There’s some community in it. I think when they’re adults, I think looking back to their FFA days, there’ll be some nostalgia they can remember so I definitely want them all to join.”

VanCuren is in his 10th year of teaching at Flippin after teaching two years at Lutie in Theodosia, Missouri. He said the chapter now is in its CDE season.

“CDE stands for Career Development Event



Flippin FFA member Riley Rust works on a project.

so, for example, tomorrow (Saturday, March 1) we’re going up to College of the Ozarks, and we’re gonna be competing in horse evaluation,” he explained. “Arkansas Tech University, that’ll be coming up later in the spring. We have students that compete in poultry, horse evaluation, and livestock evaluation. As far as FFA goes, we’re looking at planning on attending state convention in the spring.

### Expansion ahead

“We’ve got some plans here at Flippin. We are in the in the planning stages, but we’re going to be building an animal barn so we can have some show animals. It’s gonna be located down just on the other side of the preschool,” VanCuren said. “We’re gonna be building a livestock barn and pretty quickly, we’re gonna start.”

He said he is doing some some outreach and trying to raise some funds.

“I don’t know exactly how much we have, well over half of what it’s gonna take to get the barn built, but we’re gonna reach out and see if we can do some projects that can raise some money. I would like for people to know this is a good opportunity. If anyone out there is interested in support us, they could get a hold of me,” he added. “I think that’s gonna be really good for kids.”

VanCuren said he as tried in the past to really promote livestock showing as it supports local businesses and the county fair, but it’s really difficult because a lot of the kids that want to do it just don’t have a place to keep their animals.



FFA members Jayden Wood (foreround) and Braelyn Caviness work together on a project. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLIPPIN FFA

See **FLIPPIN**, Page B9

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# New leadership, new direction for Norfolk FFA

Pendergrass takes over as leader of chapter

By Caroline Spears  
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As schools in the area march on through the year preparing students for their futures, Agriculture Education FFA Advisor Matthew Pendergrass spoke about Norfolk School's FFA program and what he sees for the future with the program, the emphasis being on growth and development.

"We currently have two focused programs of study here at Norfolk, and will add a third in time," he stated. "Right now, we have the animal-science program and the mechanics program, which deals with the welding aspect of mechanics. The state calls them completers, where students complete these classes and ultimately becomes a 'completer' in that area of study."

He explained there are many students currently moving through the program, but he actually does not have that many upper-classmen as of present.

"I have two seniors right now," he said, "That's all I have this year, and so we are working with a lot of the younger kids to develop their strengths and skill sets for the program and upcoming endeavors. Pendergrass himself is new to Arkansas, with having only been with the Arkansas school system a year. This only encourages him to move forward with progressive ideas and visions for the department and what lies ahead.

"It's a nice beginning as a new teacher," he said. "It is a nice beginning to have a bunch of young kids to help get focused headed in that direction."

Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, Arkansas has identified 18 pathways as H2 (High Demand and High Wage). H2 pathways without an aligned certification need nine hours of post-secondary credit or certificate of proficiency to meet demonstration. High Demand Definition states that high demand occupations have a 10-Year Forecast Total Demand greater than or equal to 0.4 percent of the current total employment in Arkansas.

Given Arkansas' current total employment of 1,386,991, High Demand occupations have a 10-Year Forecast Total Demand greater than or equal to 5,548 openings. High Wage Definition states that high-wage occupations have a median annual wage greater than or equal to the estimated baseline living wage in Arkansas. Given the MIT Living Wage Calculator estimated baseline living wage in Arkansas of \$39,728.00, High Wage occupations have a median annual wage greater than or equal to \$39,728.00.

He added they are looking to make a way in the program where the kids are able to complete the requirements within the mechanics portion stated above and receive their H2 certification, and actually would be the equivalent of what they would have received if they had gone to ASUMH and completed the program in the one- or two-year commitment requirement set forth by state regulations.

"It's the same certification you come out of here with as well, its through American Welding Soci-



James Whitehead (left) and Harlie Foreman learn how to operate a plasma cutter in the Norfolk Public Schools' agriculture shop. Agriculture education and other Career and Technical Education programs are under review as the state seeks to fill high-demand, high-wage job openings. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ety, so they can do that as a senior beginning next year," he stated. "They would walk out of here with a certificate and get recognized, at graduation, as having that certification as well. The school would get some bonus points on their score card, the state score card for them also."

He explained they are looking at the animal-science program with the intention of adding the veterinary technician program so that, much like the mechanics program, they would again receive a certification recognized by the state of Arkansas.

"The biggest thing is that the kids would have a piece of paper or a certification that meant something in the industry," he said. "We have our graduation certificates and things of that nature, but this is an industry standards certification. American Welding Society serves as that standard. The vet tech there is a standard as well. So it means something."

He said he considers it an exciting prospect to work with the upcoming generations of kids and be able to see where their futures take them.

"This is my first year here at Norfolk, and so as a first-year teacher here, having the younger kids has allowed them to buy in to what I'm trying to do here a lot more quickly," he explained.

He said while every teaching style is different, having the younger kids come into the program has allowed for the expansion of other ideas and inspiration towards new goals while respecting traditional methods. There are some drawbacks as far as opportunities that have been missed out due to the availability of the certification program.

"The older kids unfortunately are not going to have that opportunity for those certifications this year because I'm still working on it," he said. "My goal, however, is to have it ready to go as they sign up for classes and start this next fall with these certifications."

Unfortunately, the certification program won't be available to the two seniors I have this year, but going forward, it will be."

He added that overall, he felt the kids across the board have been very receptive to change and the direction the program is going.

"I am a little more classroom-focused," he stated. "We are putting more emphasis on the on the FFA. The FFA is great at showing cattle and doing such things. Every kid is getting the shop time and the things they need for these classes."

Pendergrass is no stranger to the world of Agriculture or the FFA. After being asked by his own agriculture (Ag) teacher in school what he aspired to do and providing that he accomplished just that by being an Ag teacher himself, he celebrates 26 years in the field and is not looking back.

"I have been teaching for 26 years, he said. "I moved to Norfolk but I'm not new to Ag teaching. I graduated from Bakersfield High School in Missouri. I taught 25 years in Missouri, and this is my first year in Arkansas. I'm retired in Missouri, and you know how teachers will do, we will cross over and vice versa. It's all about retirement money as time goes along."

When asked why he chose to teach Ag, he explained it simply.

"Ag is one of those worlds where, you know, kids, its hands on, its learning," he said. "I may teach you the skill of welding, or I may teach you how to run a saw or something to that effect and you may never use that in your life, but because you have that skill, it translates in ways to other things that you'll very few other classes that will transfer."

For instance, he said, the confidence a person has to use a miter saw or run a skill saw normally results in that person having the same confidence to try something else because of the feeling of accomplishment afterwards.



Norfolk students Brady Stover, Jeremy Jones and Emily Sharpe are shown working on small engines. The trio was removing the pistons and replacing the rings.



Jacob Buck, a Norfolk seventh-grader, displays a bird house he constructed in the class. Students are not able to enter FFA until seventh grade.

"It might have scared you a little in the beginning, but you have accomplished something and can carry that to the next thing," he said.

That is not his only item on his resume. Pendergrass was raised on a dairy farm that he worked with his family to maintain for 28 years in Missouri, and still helps with to this day.

"I still help Dad on our beef farm just between Caulfield and Bakersfield; he has a beef farm there and my brother and I help him with that," he explained. "We run several hundred head of cows and calves, and it's a big operation and what not."

He said although it takes 45 minutes to get to the school from where he lives, he wouldn't change a thing.

"I don't dread it at all," he said. "I look forward to coming into this work. When we have snow days, I miss the kids. It's a fun job and the best part about it is if I get bored with something, I can move us onto something else."

Currently, the schools in the area are preparing for state competitions in the coming week, so Pendergrass stated that the focus has been on preparing for those events.

"The kids love the hands-on stuff," he said. "They have been involved in various welding projects, as well as building garden beds for the elementary school. They also built some cutting boards out of scrap, and some are enjoying judging the cows."

He added the kids also are able to immerse themselves in the dairy food market, where they get to try different cheeses and milk products in preparation for various contests.

"They just enjoy trying different things," he said. "They'll set up stations with seeds and flowers and just have the opportunity to be hands-on and get dirty. They do have written tests, however, and they love the math — no, no they don't love the math. But they understand

it is real world things that they eventually can correlate with other things."

By this, he meant that some kids recognize when some things they learn through the Ag program can be applied to other subjects, such as science or biology.

"They'll tell me that some of the things we go over in here are some of the things they saw in math or science class and didn't realize what it was," he said.

All in all, he said the kids love the work that is put into the program and that they do see their efforts pay off.

"The more work I can give them, the more they love it," he said. "I can just keep pushing them and giving them various tasks, and they just want more. It's fun to watch that lightbulb come on."

For the future, Pendergrass said he wants to grow the mechanics side of the program as well as the animal science and give even more focus to the certifications aspect of it, but another plan is going to eventually be put in place, called a plan of science, which, essentially is a science-based lesson plan that outlines the goals and procedures for a science lesson, including learning objectives, assessments and activities. And, he has a specific reason for want to implement it.

"We have an old greenhouse that is not usable, it's in bad shape," he explained. "In order for us to do anything, we need to add a plan of science pathway so that we can add a functional greenhouse back into it."

He believes this is beneficial because the school's close proximity to Mountain Home makes it easy for any student interested in the landscaping and gardening industry to be a part of that, and having a functional greenhouse is important as a learning resource to introduce that industry to those in the program.



Norfolk students John McCoy, Emily Sharpe, Natalie Wyatt and Isabelle Lindsay are shown sampling types of steak at the end of the beef unit.



While FFA students spend plenty of time working in barns and shops, they like to have fun too. Norfolk FFA member Jamey Moore displays his skills at a chapter bowling outing.



# The season never ends for MHPS ag students

FFA members make serious commitments to achieve success

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

Like life on the farm, being a member of an FFA Chapter isn't easy. Agriculture producers may work from sunrise to sundown in some parts of the year, but the work rarely stops. The same is true for FFA members, as there is no offseason. Each February is National FFA Month, which often brings attention to the organization, as do County, District and State fairs in the fall. The successes that are often celebrated with Mountain Home Public Schools' (MHPS) award-winning program are rooted in the hard work contributed to projects throughout the year. Mountain Home's agriculture instructors Josh Baker and Jacquie Albright sat down with The Bulletin to discuss the ins and outs of the program and how students progress in FFA.

A year isn't 'a year'

In the FFA world, the "year" of activity doesn't correspond to a Gregorian or school-year calendar.

Teachers in the MHPS program work 12-month contracts, so they can continually check on students and their projects, which must be maintained whether school is or isn't in session. In fact, students who graduated the previous May are allowed to display their animals that fall, according to Albright. "They can be members for the next two years, because they can qualify for their American degree," Albright said. "If a student is in their senior year right now, they can choose to do another project, and then they still finish that project for county district and state fair the following year." Mountain Home FFA members Colton Cooley, Mason Dismore, Madison Hutson, Kelsey Roach and Abigail Taylor received the American FFA Degree in the last year, the highest degree to be bestowed on a member. Cooley was able to attend the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in October in Indianapolis to receive his award. The qualifications for the award are staggering: To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least \$10,000 or earned at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours outside of class time through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position as an employee or conduct research. Recipients also must complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through the completion of a long list of FFA and community activities. Less than one percent of FFA members achieve the American FFA Degree.



Mountain Home FFA students battle Harrison's FFA squad in a donkey basketball fundraiser at Harrison. The event is just one of many that fund the program. Mountain Home defeated Harrison in the matchup.

How it starts Mountain Home Public Schools expose students to agriculture as early as seventh grade with introductory classes and students can enter FFA at that time, or in following years. When each school year starts, Mountain Home's FFA chapter is both starting and finishing at the same time, Albright explained. "In the fall, we start learning conduct of chapter meetings, parliamentary procedure and creed speaking — all our leadership contests," she said. "As we move along, we're finishing all those large projects all about the same time." After the National FFA Conference each October, things start to reset, Albright said. "We empty the barn, everything gets sanitized and cleaned out," she said. "In November-December, they start with (new) large projects, so the barn is starting to fill up with beef projects, because those projects are a year long."

Time to win As a new calendar year arrives and students have had a semester in the classroom to polish skills, it's time to compete and that's where Mountain Home's program thrives. No, it doesn't just thrive, it dominates. Students may attend leadership events in January, then celebrate National FFA Month in February. "We partner with West Plains Bank, and they sponsor a breakfast for us, which we had to reschedule because of the snow days," said Baker of FFA Month. "We're going to be traveling a lot over the next few weeks, going to different career development events, we have district, then we come back from spring break and then we go to our state contest. "We'll get a little small break, then we go to our state convention, which is in Hot Springs, and that's where all of our leadership development events compete for state for state titles," he added. "We'll also have all the speakers and it's where everybody comes together to celebrate the year." March is where the action picks up.

See SEASON, Page B8



Beginning FFA students at Mountain Home may attend the annual Greenhand Conference, a program to introduce students to the world of FFA. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MHPS

# Rychtarik works to strengthen 4-H in BC

Extension agent's efforts triples active membership

By Sonny Elliott  
sonnye@baxterbulletin.com

A 112-year-old organization with a longstanding tradition in Baxter County was left on the brink of extinction after the COVID-19 pandemic. It's Amanda Rychtarik's mission to restore it. The Norfolk native joined the Baxter County Extension Office of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture as a 4-H Agent in late 2023. "One of the reasons why I was hired was because

COVID really hurt the 4-H program," she explained. "We are face-to-face, we're doing stuff. We've got workshops, we go on trips and stuff like that. So COVID really hurt. The former staff chair, Brad Runsick, was really wanting to grow 4H to what it used to be. They hired LeeAnn Blevins as a Family and Consumer Sciences/4-H, then they realized we need another person. So, Leanne stayed FCS, and then they opened the 4-H position." When Rychtarik began her work, she found things were not as they appeared. "When I was hired, I think there was probably 140 on the books as being members," she recounted,

"but as I went to club meetings, I only actually saw about 40 kids being active. There were a lot of kids that were 4-H in name only." The growth throughout 2024 was evident. "I tried to go to almost all the club meetings, I give different opportunities for different workshops," she said of her outreach efforts. "I try to go support the kids in whatever contest that it is that they're doing. And through that effort, we now have 130 kids that are truly active in 4-H."

What is 4-H?

Founded in 1912, 4-H takes its name from the utterance of the letter H four times in its original motto with the words Head, Heart, Hands and Health. According to its website, the goal of 4-H is to develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility and life skills of youth through experiential learning programs and a positive youth development approach. While generally associated with agriculture, today's 4-H also features citizenship, healthy living, science, engineering and technology programs. Today's 4-H motto is "To make the best better" and its slogan is "learn by doing." 4-H is open to children from ages 5-19, with three levels: clover buds, juniors and seniors. Participants can compete at



Baxter County Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent Amanda Rychtarik (right) is pictured with competitors from the Livestock Skill-a-thon held as part of the annual 4-H o'Rama. Visiting competitions and 4-H club meetings has helped Rychtarik increase active membership in Baxter County to 130. BULLETIN FILE PHOTOS

the county level as clover buds, then advance to state or national competition. "The national contests can range from anywhere from Louisville, Kentucky, to San Antonio, Texas, or Denver, Colorado," said Rychtarik said. "It's really, really cool that kids get to travel. You know, a lot of times through Baxter County 4-H, they can do that for half the price, if not free." Baxter County 4-H currently features nine clubs, who are chartered through the state, Rychtarik said. Previously, some clubs were based on location, but that is no longer the case. "You can be a part of one club or all clubs. That's the joy of 4-H, you're not committed to just one," she said. "Honestly, with 4-H, you can

cross county lines. I've got a couple of kids that are in our horse club that are not from Baxter County, and that's okay. We just want to see kids participate, be active, and give them new opportunities that they may not have. "You can do whatever you want," Rychtarik added. "I've got one little girl currently who is in four clubs, her mom will take her to all four of those club meetings and she's very active. She does everything that she can get her hands on. And whenever she finally graduates high school, she is going to be one rounded girl. I'm excited to see her in the future." Clubs are now based on interests, Rychtarik noted while discussing the program's "Legitimately, (a club) is anything that the kid is

interested in," she said. "I know of some kids from a different county, they are into weightlifting. They can use that project under the healthy living umbrella and do that. Obviously, there's still a large livestock component to it, but (4-H) is for kids who like to garden, draw, sing, play an instrument or entrepreneurship. "We actually have a cooking club that's brand new and it's really cool," Rychtarik added. "Their leader brings a snack that they make, and they learn the nutritional value of it. There are cooking competitions." Other subjects currently featured in 4-H noted by Rychtarik include: wildlife management; ATV safety; shooting sports; gun safety; land conservation; and water conservation.

See RYCHTARIK, Page B8



Baxter County 4-H member Allyson Tilley won the Grand Champion Poultry Chain and Junior Poultry Showmanship at the Arkansas State Fair in 2024. Members of 4-H can participate and compete in an array of activities and events.



# Ozarks' forests are perfect place to camp, hike and bike

By Bulletin Press Services

The scenic beauty of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests is a treasure of the Twin Lakes Area and leisure opportunities abound.

A haven for hikers, campers and motorcyclists, the scenery is at its finest in the fall when it's 1.2-million acres turn into fiery seas of red, orange and yellow hues. Coupled with cooler temperatures, autumn is a perfect time to camp, hike and bike amid this postcard-perfect scene.

Other popular activities in the forests are horseback riding, floating, kayaking, boating, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, four-wheeler riding, wildlife watching and photography. There are 200-plus camping and picnic sites, nine swimming beaches, 11 special interest areas, five wilderness areas, thousands of acres of lakes and streams, and more than 400 miles of trails. It's also home to Blanchard Springs Caverns.

You'll find plenty of developed and dispersed campsites as well as a few cabins managed by the forest service. Amenities vary from primitive sites with vault toilets and no showers to sites with bathhouses and picnic areas.

Located in central and northwest Arkansas and also along the Mississippi River in eastern Arkansas, the forests are perfect for one-day trips or extended vacations. Here are three recreation areas in North Central Arkansas that represent the variety of outdoor experiences the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests have to offer.



Just two miles from Gunner Pool amid classic Ozark Mountain topography is Blanchard Springs Recreation Area. Steep hillsides, hidden caverns, waterfalls and clear flowing streams make this a great place in every season. The highlight of the trip is a visit to Blanchard Springs Caverns, which features walking tours. BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

## Pedestal Rocks Scenic Area

In addition to spectacular views, this scenic area located south of Mt. Judea, offers a lesson in Arkansas geology. While hiking the trail, which is located at the top of the Illinois Bayou River Drainage, you will see layer upon layer of sediment that was deposited when the area was under water millions of years ago. After the water receded, the land raised to form a dome called the Ozark Plateau. Since that time, natural erosion has been occurring to form the Ozark Mountains. On the trail, you will see unique pedestal formations that were formed by weathering.

- Camping — For those who like to “rough it,” dispersed camping with a vault toilet is offered here. Dispersed camping means camping outside of a developed campground with no services and little to no facilities. The U.S. Forest Service website details the camping rules and regulations you need to know for this primitive experience
- Hiking — There are two hiking trails here. The hike to Pedestal Rocks is 2.2 miles and Kings Bluff is 1.7 miles. There are some steep sections, but the trails are easy to hike with plenty of resting places. While the namesake trail leads to the pedestals, Kings Bluff features a large flat bluff top with a waterfall that flows over the ledge. Use caution

while visiting the bluffs.

## Gunner Pool Recreation Area

It doesn't get much more scenic than Gunner Pool Recreation Area, where you can splash in the creek and hike the wooded hillsides. Plus, Blanchard Springs Caverns is just minutes up the road. For fishing and floating fun, the White and Buffalo rivers border the east and west sides of this recreation district.

Wildflowers are abundant in spring and early summer while fall brings brilliant hues to the forest. Gunner Pool is a dammed-up section of a creek with steep sides. The historic dam was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

- Deer, squirrel, bear and deer are around, even if you don't see some of them. Look for bats eating their nightly snacks out by the bridge at nightfall.
- Gunner Pool is open year-round unless inclement weather makes the road unsafe. \*Note that the road down to the recreation area is a steep, winding, dirt road not recommended for large recreational vehicles.
- Camping — Twenty-seven shady and private campsites stretch along the scenic North Sycamore Creek. The sites have grills, tables, lantern poles and tent pads. There are no electrical or water hookups. No reservations needed; first-come, first-served. Water is turned off seasonally

- Hiking — You can access the Sylamore Hiking Trail from a trailhead located within the campground. “This 15-mile trail follows North Sylamore Creek from the town of Allison, through Blanchard and Gunner Pool campgrounds, to Barkshed Recreation Area. The North Sylamore Extension connects North Sylamore Hiking Trail to the Ozark Highlands Trail along the western side of the Sylamore District,” according to the U.S. Forest Service website

## Blanchard Springs Recreation Area

- Just two miles from Gunner Pool amid classic Ozark Mountain topography is Blanchard Springs Recreation Area. Steep hillsides, hidden caverns, waterfalls and clear flowing streams make this a great place in every season.
- Camping — Thirty-two campsites have grills, tables, lantern poles and tent pads, but no electrical hookups. Spots are shaded by yellow pines and are near picturesque rock bluffs. Two group camps are available by reservation only for a minimum of eight and a maximum of 50. The facility has restrooms with hot showers, drinking water and an RV sewage dump station
  - Hiking/Biking — A trailhead connects the campground to the North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail, which features beautiful fern beds and bluffs. Access to the Syllamo Mountain Bike Trail is just past campsite No. 14. It's a strenuous spur trail that goes uphill to the Jack's Branch Loop. Don't miss taking the easy paved trail that snakes through a lush landscape to the mouth of Blanchard Springs. Plus, Blanchard Springs Caverns has great walking tours, too.



Pedestal Rocks Scenic Area offers a lesson in Arkansas geology. While hiking the trail, which is located at the top of the Illinois Bayou River Drainage, you will see layer upon layer of sediment that was deposited when the area was under water millions of years ago. PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVER ARKANSAS

## NORFORK

Continued from Page B5

“I really think our kids here could benefit from that type of program, so I am looking to implement that in the next five years,” he said. “My goal is to get that third pathway going. To do that, it comes back to student numbers and interest in the program.”

He said it disheartens him when he hears society put kids down, or when he hears some-

one telling a child or young adult that they cannot accomplish something or reach goals.

“These kids can do anything you teach them how to do,” he said. “These kids can do it and they want to do it. When people say that all the kids want to do is play video games, I want to say, no, these kids can do and want to do anything you could do and probably more. There is a huge opportunity if people would give these kids a chance.”

He was quick to commend Norfolk School for being a

wonderful school system that provided top-grade teachers, a positive environment that inspires growth and creativity, and a family environment where all the teachers, students and administration all work together.

“I have only been here a year, but I will say it is a fun place to work, and the kids across the board are just good kids,” he said. “I'm looking at what they want to do in life. I am going to have them for four or five years but always ask myself, what

can I do, what can I offer, what direction, do I need to direct them in for them to be successful in life. There are many things they can learn here or there, but where are you going? That's really what we need to be focused on is what is the next step in me preparing them for that next step.”

Whether it be going in the direction of furthering their education and going to a four-year school or just helping them figure out what direction in general they want to go, Pend-

ergrass said he is here for the journey.

“There are a ton of people in this community who support these kids,” he said. “And as for FFA, FFA is a big part of everything. It is a big part of Ag. You can't have one without the other. It's just a great place, and I have learned a lot about being in the Arkansas Ag program this year, and though it is different than the Missouri Ag program, when it comes down to the basics, what you are teaching in the classroom.

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# INVOLVED

Continued from Page B3

At one time, FFA stood for Future Farmers of America, but because the national club's range is well beyond farming, a name change occurred in 1988 to the National FFA Organization. Now it is known simply as FFA.

FFA still produces future farmers, but also produces future biologists, future chemists, future veterinarians, future engineers and future entrepreneurs, too, the schools website states.

Being one of the smaller FFA chapters in the area with 32 members, doesn't hamper the Yellville-Summit chapter one bit. The chapter is very involved and very busy. For example, the chapter has a greenhouse where members grow lettuce used in



Members of Yellville-Summit FFA Chapter pack boxes of food at Food Pantry of North Central Arkansas as part of a community-service project. PHOTOS COURTESY OF YELLVILLE-SUMMIT FFA

the school cafeteria, a true farm-to-table experience.

"We're proud of the food-growing component," Quinn said. "I think there's a lot of opportunity to weave FFA activities within the farm-to-school paradigm, you know, getting locally produced products to serve to kids in the cafeteria."

"We do monthly volunteering with our FFA

chapter at the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas and help pack the senior nutrition boxes that they distribute to the area, so that's always kind of fun," Quinn explained. "That's a lot of work, but the kids really like it"

FFA members also do community service and have social events.

"We celebrate FFA week every year with like a petting zoo for the elementary school and teacher appreciation. We've done an Olympics with the general population in the past, which is always kind of fun like haybale tossing and roping and different things like that, she added.

The chapter plans to attend the National FFA Convention is 2026.

Quinn said they have a Welcoming Event Night, where they have pizza and a movie to welcome new members into the chapter, as well as an end-of-the-year banquet

to celebrate new officers.

The annual FFA Week set for Feb. 17-21, simply didn't happen this year due to inclement weather when school was canceled.

"We did definitely get hampered this year, but we are looking for some make up," Quinn explained. "We just haven't quite gotten that planned out yet because spring is very very busy for school."

Chapter members will travel to Russellville on March 13 for the Northwest District CDE Contest to compete in agricultural mechanics, agronomy, wildlife management and horse evaluation.

Another event that keeps members busy is the annual plant sale the third week of April.

"We do our spring plant sale for FFA. It's FFA fundraiser by my plant-science class," Quinn said. "The students raise all the plants and then our FFA members help to man the sale. So they're dealing with customer service and checking people out as well as helping keep the greenhouse tidy for our plant sale."

Quinn added there are a lot of school with greenhouses that have spring plant sale and she said that's always a plug for FFA chapters anywhere because it is aim to support each other and FFA programming everywhere.



Students from Cotter's Amanda Gist Elementary school are shown at the Fall Carnival's FFA Petting Zoo. PHOTO COURTESY OF COTTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# COTTER

Continued from Page B3

As far as bringing more educators into the department, Watts said that in a perfect world, she would love to have another teacher added, but with the other expansions and additions coming in the future, she feels that that won't happen for a while.

"We are expanding," she said. "I am getting a new classroom next year, so I will have more space. We are continuing to improve and be proactive with participation and enrollment, though our enrollment is very good for a small school."

She was complimentary of the fact the school has a very successful shooting-sports program, run by one of the current FFA parents and that though they might address it in the future, do not plan on taking on any other sports activities at the time.

"It would be a wonderful thing to add more sports, but I am currently running a big program as it is so we will revisit that in the future," she said.

Stepping away from sports but still eyeing it from a competition standpoint, Watts stated that things have been busy lately due to last week being FFA week and competition preparation in full swing.

"Right now, we are fully into contest season," she said. "We went from show season to judging season now."

There is a lot that goes in to getting ready for the contests and competitions, but there are some things can be done to ensure the staff and participants are prepared.

"On contest day, you always pack the night before of course," she said. "You pack things like clipboards, pencils, calculators, pencil sharpeners, any other needed supplies for that contest, so make sure you have everything packed well."

"I also pack study material so they can study on the bus," she continued. "Usually those days start in the wee hours of the morning, like 5 a.m."

This year's competitions will include forestry, floriculture, food science, and wildlife, she explained. For the future, she stated they will prepare for World Food

Prize this spring. World Food Prize essentially is a program where students across the nation are inspired to contribute to the food crisis in the nation by providing educational and professional experiences on pressing food security and agriculture issues, as well as addressing challenges and successes in fighting hunger and poverty.

When they are not preparing for the World Food Prize program, students are working with their animals in other competitions, with one student receiving the Overall Grand Prize for her ram at the State Fair last year. Another student received Overall Grand with her dairy goat at the state-level competition, so Watts stated there is active participation throughout the year to give kids the chances and resources to succeed with these programs.

"We also had a student get Overall Reserve at the auctioneer workshop," she added.

She concluded by saying it is highly important for her students and department to be active in and give back to the community, with the kids doing various things throughout the year to bring awareness to different causes.

"During FFA Week this past week, we are doing Pancakes for Paws, a fundraiser where students bring in items for the local humane society," she explained. "This is where students bring in items for the local Humane Society and Animal Shelter in exchange for pancakes. So, they will have pancakes but also will bring items."

She said the chapter also participates in produce growth and distribution, as well as egg collection and distribution.

"We also like to participate in luncheons," she said. "We participate in the Hospice of the Ozarks luncheon with the butterfly release, and maintain a flower bed at the Spring in Cotter."

She said the chapter received grant funding to continue participating in the Food Packing Day at a food bank, so there are many things the program and the kids are getting involved in.

"We are really just trying to be involved in the community as much as possible and give back," she said.

# TRAILS

Continued from Page B4

A new trail by TTONCA now is open but is still being "finish worked, according to Baker. This trail, named Power House Point Trail, lies north of Big Bluff Trail and west of Oakridge Bike Trail, is 2.25 miles long and is rated as beginner.

Just across Power House Road, a new, 4.5 mile trail is under construction by Progressive Trail Design. Baker said plans for this new trail started approximately five years ago. It is funded by the state and while not named or completed, TTONCA is hoping for completion by late spring or early summer.



Bull Shoals-White River State Park is open year-round for camping, hiking and interpretive programming. LINDA MASTERS/BAXTER BULLETIN

Taylor noted the park has a new reservation system which is a more user-friendly platform

for those wishing to make reservations online. The program has photos of each camping site, and

campers can view a history of any reservations they have made.

"In addition, it includes point-of-sale in our gift shops which with better for our customers, employees and inventory," Taylor explained.

"We've got all new HVAC systems installed in all our bath houses in the campground, and we have a new marina manager," he added.

According to Taylor, on March 12, one of the park's most popular interpretive programs will open for the season. Ninety-minute cruises on Bull Shoals Lake will resume at 9 a.m. each Wednesday. To make reservations or for information, call (87) 445-3629.

# SEASON

Continued from Page B6

Mountain Home students competed this week in the Eastern District CDEs at Jonesboro, also known as a Career Development Event, but more commonly referred to as FFA judging contests that "challenge students to compete based on their knowledge of a specific subject."

Since the Sweepstakes Award was established in 2009, Mountain Home has won the title each year. Albright said teams earn points for their finish in an event, with first place earning 1,000 points and points awarded to other finishers in descending

order based on their finish.

Mountain Home students also face a handicap, as a mathematical formula is used to help even the playing field based on the numbers of instructors a program has. The Mountain Home program recorded 25,430 points last year with seven first-place finishes and an overall bonus for a state championship from the Farm Business & Agronomy Team.

A well-rounded program makes the difference, according to Albright.

"We compete in every single activity that's available to us," she said. "We've won (sweepstakes) every year and that's something like we're proud of. We earned that



Students from the Mountain Home High School FFA program make a presentation to younger students. Joining FFA can be a year-round commitment that doesn't match up with the traditional school year.

sweepstakes, because we involve everybody in everything. There are some schools that may have a meats team and a poultry team, that's all they do, but we do every single thing.

"So that's an extension that the kids can take what they learn in class, practice outside of class and then travel to let them do those development events," Albright added. "They're all supposed to be attached to a career or aligned to some type of career they might be interested in."

## Starting over again

Even though competitions and travel dominate the itinerary in March and April, the work in the barn never stops.

"At the same time, as we move into April, we start the small projects, which

would be sheep, goats and pigs," Albright said. "In the barn, we have portable stalls that we can set up and they'll start the small projects. All the livestock will carry through county, district and state for the next year, so they're all coming in as brand new, younger animals."

The summer months don't provide much respite either.

"We'll come and do a full fund-raising drive with our big FFA auction and fish fry and then we'll kind of start all over," said Baker. "We're taking kids in the summer down to livestock camps and leadership conferences. We have three kids that are going to attend the leadership conference in Washington, D.C. and that's the most we've ever had, which is cool."



Showing livestock remains a staple of the Mountain Home Public Schools' FFA program. Students generally begin large animal projects in December and small animal projects in the early spring. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MHPS

# RYCHTARIK

Continued from Page B6

## You can help

The success of 4-H rides on volunteers who are willing to serve in a mentor role. The program is in need of those willing to share their expertise.

"We have a need for volunteers who have hobbies, who can teach kids how to do woodworking or another skill, you know, fill in the blank," Rychtarik said. "We need people to just share their skills with these kids. I'm not asking them to take on these kids to raise, but a lot of times, these kids just need somebody to answer, 'Hey, does this look okay? Did I do this right?'"

"We live in a predominantly retirement community, and we have a lot of people in our community that have skills. All they need is a kid to share them with," she added.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time and skills may contact Rychtarik by calling (870) 425-2335 or emailing arychtarik@uada.

edu. You may also visit the Arkansas 4-H website at <https://4h.uada.edu/>

Rychtarik said 4-H is open to children of all abilities and their doors are always open.

"It's never too late to start," she said. "And the good thing about four H's, if you try a project and you're like, you know what, this just really isn't for me. I want to try something new. Okay, let's try something new."

The ability to see 4-H's impact on its members fuels Rychtarik's efforts.

"Honestly, what drives my passion is just seeing kids succeed, even if it's the smallest thing," she said. "I like to celebrate the small stuff because then it gives them confidence and courage to do larger things. The glory with 4-H is that it doesn't always have to be ag-related. It can be arts, it can be fashion, it can be public speaking, just to help them build that confidence in the drive to do more, do better, that kind of thing. The 4-H motto is to make the best better, so when you start small and just build upon that, then you've got a good solid foundation."





Mountain Home's agriculture education program features strong emphasis on business and leadership aspects. The 2024 Ag Business team won the state championship, and Mountain Home looks to defend it's title next month. Members of the winning team are Devyn Prins, Hannah Baker, Rylee Crecelius and Abby McClean. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MHPS

## MHPS

Continued from Page B1

"We're big in leadership," said Baker. "We're teaching kids how to be speakers and be that next generation as leaders, both in our community and in our state. In our leadership this fall, our parliamentary procedure team, they're learning so many skills through that contest. "Not only are they learning how to navigate Roberts' Rules of Order and be able to successfully run a meeting, but they're getting good thinking and public speaking skills through that contest. It's really cool to see the kids, once they graduate how far they've come."

## More than just the pasture

While many may think of raising livestock, growing and harvesting crops or judging animals, the business of agriculture is much more advanced. Many tasks in FFA are formulated to teach needed life skills. "There's a lot of record keeping involved for our students that are showing livestock," said Baker. "They're purchasing these animals with their own money or the help of their parents. Sometimes, we help them get loans, which is — for a lot of these kids — their first establishment of credit, the first loan they've ever had. "So we're teaching them

how to obviously take care of an animal, but they're also have to manage their finances, and we keep track of all that on a website and then get credit for that," he added, "whether that be through degrees or advancements through the organization. It's a cool skill they learn." The business of agriculture even has its own class, according to Baker. "Just last week, we had two guest speakers. We try to bring in some ag business bankers and talk about financing and how to obtain loans, how to obtain credit. Then we've got our farm business management team that competes competitively throughout the state and the nation that we've been



Mountain Home students dissect a fetal pig in an animal-science course. Students who are considering a veterinarian medicine career can participate in a pathway to prepare them for post-secondary education.

successful with. We've met with accountants and professors from the university, just teaching them how to calculate net worth and all the skills that they need to be successful in that contest. There's a lot of skills that they're gaining from the program as far as the business side of it." With entry points to the agriculture program now in place at the middle-school level, teachers in the program are seeing the growth in students each year.

"Mr. Lewis is over at Pinkston doing a great job with our seventh-grade program," said Baker. He is our first shot at recruiting these kids in our program. When students are in seventh grade, a lot of times they're 13 years old and they're just coming into themselves. It's cool to see them grow and go throughout the program, see what they achieve throughout their years in FFA. It is pretty neat to be able to watch that. I've been able to witness that with my own kids and it's been really cool."

## FLIPPIN

Continued from Page B4

"If we can get this barn built, then we can provide that place for them to keep the animals," he said. "Building this barn, I think I can expand and I can get the elementary and middle school involved and maybe get them out there around some small animals. I think everybody would benefit if we can go ahead and get that project completed." He has worked with Superintendent Kelvin Hudson, Cassee Horn and Amy Robson with writing grants, and they are waiting to hear back on the most recent grant submitted. "In our Perkins grant last year, we got several sheep goat and hog panels that we're gonna use in the barn that we're building," he explained. "Just a few years back — maybe two or three years back — we got a plasma CNC table that the kids have been using. They've been programming and making signs cutting metal that we can weld on, so we've got a lot of stuff going on when it from grants. "We live in a good place here because there's lots of people that wanna help. FFA is really a big deal to a lot of Flippin alumni, so I've got lots of support."

## TOURISM

Continued from Page B1

While JamFest may be no more, the Chamber began a series of "State of" events, quarterly programs which focus on various areas of the community. The opening event, "State of Healthcare", was held in early February. "What I see happening is — especially with downtown in the Baker District and what they've got going on — I think you're gonna start to see more events happening throughout the community and where it's not only the chamber of putting events on," Pugsley said. "We want more people to put stuff out. I think it's exciting to see the more we can get, because it helps us when we're promoting and we're trying to get people to come to the area. We want to make sure they have something to do when they get here." "There have been talks for the future for the community center to be able to put on different types of events as well, so we don't have to travel outside of our area and we can pull people in for those as well," added Erric Totty, Chamber director of membership and sales. The Mountain Home chamber also serves a dual purpose as a convention and visitor's bureau,

otherwise known as a CVB. "We operate as a tourism tourist information center without the CVB title. We hold and we keep all the magazines from the state, all the trail maps, everything that you want to know about Baxter County places to eat, places to stay, things to do," said Pugsley. "They come to our office for that information. The chamber has done it for a number of years." In the future, Pugsley hopes to grow the Chamber's tourism efforts. "Obviously, we would love to see if we could add more with a tourism side and to actually have a CVB person," she said. "With the community center and with all of the growth that's happening, I think we're going to need it. We're going to need someone that can focus solely on tourism, even our downtown area. "We just recently did a downtown five-year strategic plan and there are so many great ideas that were in that plan, but you must have someone to execute it. So down the road, absolutely, we would love to be able to do more," Pugsley added. "Right now, we're just excited that we have some new content, and we're trying to find creative ways that we can partner with people to help us get the word and that content out."

## CHANGES

Continued from Page B2

Albright said the added teaching staff has made a tremendous difference. "We're able to specialize in each thing that we do, it's sort of an advantage," she said. "We added the greenhouse, we've gotten a lot of grants and things to add on. Adding the greenhouse, students are able to get a science credit in addition to their plant science." The greenhouse not only educates students, it also benefits both the school and the community.

"I went out there today and Mr. White's got it going on out there. He's got some cool stuff happening," said Baker. "Our plant sale is going to be huge this year with a bigger variety. Not only of your garden plants for the people that are planting their gardens, but we've got lots of ornamentals, everything from flowers to begonias and all the hanging baskets. "I mean, it's a really a cool deal. He's got some of the aquaponics going, where the fish feed the feed the plants, he's got the all the vertical growing towers," he added. "We just harvested

a bunch of lettuce that we served in the cafeteria. Our students can grow the food that they're eating at lunch. I mean, that's pretty neat." While administrators and educators await changes ACCESS might bring, growth potential awaits for all CTE programs at the school. "I think we're just going to continue on and try to grow our program," Baker said. "I think we're going to see some growth from this as more emphasis gets put on CTE, I think we're just going to see more and more kids. Hopefully, maybe someday, we can hire another teacher. That's the goal."

## INCLUSIVITY

Continued from Page B2

"She was able to come in and be a part of the group, be a part of the team and by owning that animal, she was so proud," Albright said of the experience. "She owned the animal, she was like everybody else. They all go as a group and for her, it gave her a sense of pride and confidence."

For Taylor, the effects of FFA are simply life changing. "I saw firsthand how much she has grown and what a change in her life that (FFA) is, that she was such a part of this," Albright said. "I know that she wouldn't be the same student, if she had ended up just being in a self-contained class. If that would have been her life and she went through school sitting in that class, she would not be the same kid." Albright said the fami-

ly-oriented activities featured in FFA are welcoming to all, as members can compete through teams and as an individual. "I got to see firsthand how valuable that was to her because the activities that we do," she said. "It is very inclusive, it has a mix of all kinds of talents. Personally, as a teacher, that was a big, big thing. I mean, I always knew it was inclusive, but I experienced it like the first time."

## PICKLEBALL

Continued from Page B2

On each side of the net is the 7-foot area Orlowski referred to: the non-volley zone or "kitchen." A player standing there may not strike the ball until it has bounced. "There are a million places you can play now," Orlowski said. "The Mountain Home Youth Center, the Cotter Youth Center, we play here now at Ken's. They play at the church over in Flippin. The new aquatic center is going to have courts, too. That shows how popular it is." Pickleball is lower impact and puts less strain on joints compared to tennis. Like Orlowski, Kathy Meinking had her own injury but didn't need much recovery time before hitting the court again. "I was at the park and had only been playing a few months, and I was playing with a Senior Olympic pickleball player," Meinking said. "I went

running for the ball and went parallel and landed on top of my wrist. It split, but I spent a few months of therapy and came back. Our rule now is 'no ball is worth the fall' and at a certain point we don't run back for the ball." Pickleball also doesn't require as much movement as tennis. "John Beecroft brought it to our area," Meinking said, "and he got to the point where he couldn't get around very much but he stayed in his box and knew exactly where to hit it and could still play." Studies have shown pickleball keeps the brain sharp and is good for mental health. "I see it being played in grade, middle and high schools now," Nevius said. "I see the professional development of it with several people making millions of dollars. It seems to be growing, and I'm just promoting it for the health, the social interaction, and just the fun exercise of it. If you exercise a few

hours a day, it limits the onset of Alzheimer's and other brain diseases our generation can get." Duke is a testimony to the quality of life the sport can bring. "I'm still able to go on hikes and play with my grandkids, and walk longer," Duke said. "I could hike or swim if the weather is warm, but you don't get that burst of activity." And many seniors play the sport with their grandchildren. "We're teaching my grandsons who are 9 and 10 years old," Meinking said. "They were very excited when we got them paddles.

Last year was the first year it clicked and they knew they could run, and the hand-eye coordination kicked in and they love it." Nevius has turned his building, Elite Pickleball Club, located at 101 Alford Drive in Bull Shoals, into a pickleball haven. "My husband and I started at Cooper Park," Meinking said. "Before I got injured we started the one at Cotter, and we talked to Dale Forbus who had the archery center here in town and talked about him letting us play pickleball there. That's how we got pickleball in Bull Shoals. We were there about three

years, and we've been playing here for three and a half years." Nevius said his group typically has 12-15 players and more are welcome. They meet three days a week — Wednesday, Friday and Sunday — three

hours at a time. "Some courts that are asphalt have cracks and weeds coming through," Nevius said. "You're playing with two sets of lines, whereas this is pickleball only and the lines are clearly defined."

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LIBRARY

Continued from Page B1

She explained this is ultimately part of a grander vision to have a functional and beneficial walking trail system in the community, with some of the emphasis being on being able to connect students to the library.

“We want them to have easy access to the library, whether they are coming from ASUMH or other schools,” she said. “There is a great sidewalk that kids can walk from Pinkston to the library, but once they get to library property, there is no way to get them safely to the building. So, we want to be able to get them safely to the building from school, and this grant will allow us to that. That now is my biggest forward-thinking project.”

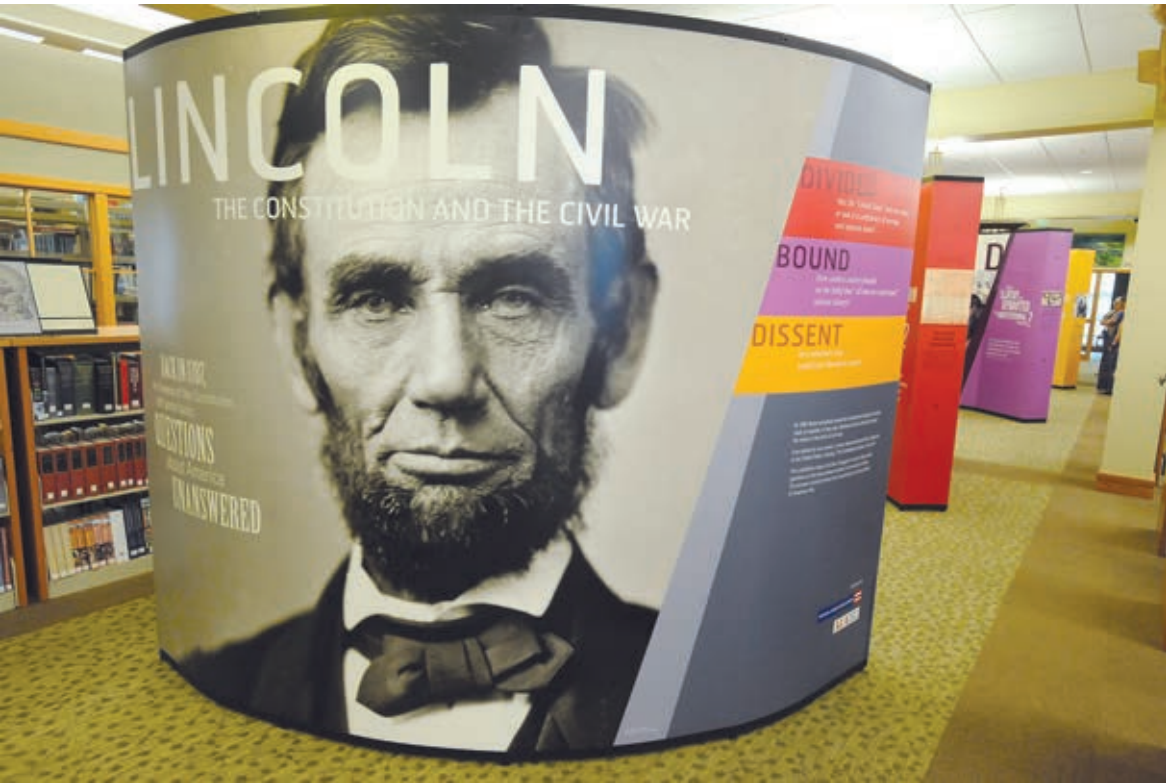
Essentially, she described it as being a standard crosswalk where a button is pressed, lights come on and vehicles stop, and pedestrians are able to cross.

“That is something the city is taking care of,” she stated. “We are just responsible for what is happening on our side. The ARDOT grant that we received does not include anything else other than the trail itself. There is no money for decorations, sculptures, artwork or anything like that, it is strictly a trail and will be similar to the trails at McCabe Park and ASUMH where it is wide enough for walkers and bicyclists.”

As far as what she feels it will bring to the community, she had a bold message for the community.

“Clearly, it will serve as enhanced recreational opportunities in this community,” she said. “This is because first, you have approximately three quarters of a mile to the existing trail, allowing you to be able to walk longer further, but also you can enjoy the library and park all in one spot. You can walk over to the library and enjoy one of our excellent library programs.”

Another thing she discussed was that the library is looking forward to participating in en-



The Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County plays host to multiple exhibit and programs each year, such as this file photo feature Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Constitution. The featured exhibit for 2025 is from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

hanced outdoor programming when the trail is put in place that they have not been able to do previously.

“We already do a lot of outdoor programming, such as interpretive nature walks, science projects and similar things,” she said. “And we will also have a lot of children’s programming. We already have a lovely pollinator garden that is maintained by the Baxter County Master Gardeners on the library property already, but I can see a future with more gardens and more landscaping. Again, that is not included in the grant. That would be future dreams.”

Sheaner said as far as bringing more library programs into the library itself, the library is experiencing a good problem — bursting at the seams with numerous programs for families, kids, students and anyone in the community who wants to take part.

“I think given our current staffing, I can’t imagine having any heavier load of programming that we currently have. We are exploding with wonder-

ful programming right now. We are currently at the future with library programming.”

She said when she looks around at other communities and their libraries, the Donald W. Reynolds Library is largely out-performing others with programming lineup, including the exhibit coming next month from the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.”

That exhibit, she said, is special to the library because the Baxter County Library is one of only 100 libraries in the nation that is able to host the exhibit.

“That is huge for us,” she said. “The future is now, as far as I’m concerned with the level of programming and the quality of programming that we provide. Of course, we will always be innovative and come up with new and different things, so that will be never-ending, but we look forward to always offering at least one exhibit a year, and other really amazing programming.”

Lastly, she talked about another big addition to the library that is in collaboration with one

of the music industry’s biggest names.

“One huge project that I think is very future moving is the Baxter County Early Literacy Project,” she said. “It is a project that the library spearheads, but we partner with all school districts in Baxter County. The mission of the Early Literacy Project is to prepare Baxter County children with the literacy skills they need to be prepared to start kindergarten.

She explained that falling under the umbrella of the literacy project is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Baxter County, a program that mails children one high-quality, age-appropriate book each month until their fifth birthday. Any child in Arkansas between birth and age five can sign up for this free program.

“We are really excited to be making headway and getting more and more children signed up for the program,” Sheaner said. “The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program is at no cost to the child or the family, but it requires community

support. We have donors who support the program locally, and then the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program kicks in as well. We now are at about 61 percent of children in Baxter County participating in the program.”

She said the library is making great headway with these programs, but of course they would love to see 100 percent participation of kids with the program and begin receiving those books.

“Books in the home means most likely someone will read them to the children, which means they are going to improve their early literacy skills, vocabulary and comprehension skills in getting ready to begin school,” she stated. “That is our objective.”

She added there are many little free libraries in and around the county that are managed by the Baxter County Literacy Project, with the same aim of getting books into kids’ hands for free.

“We have a whole team of volunteers and people at the different school districts that help support those little free libraries,” she said. “Also, kind of connected with the trail project, we look forward to putting in an additional story walk on the library’s portion of the trail. Right now, we have a story walk on the ASUMH portion of the trail.”

She explained the story walk is a children’s book with different stations meant to be read as the trail is being walked.

“As you walk along the trail, you get to read pages of a children’s book until you walk to the very end,” she said. “So, not only are you getting good exercise, you are reading aloud to your child, which is just about the best gift you can give them. So, that to me is the future of the library. We are going to expand our early literacy project, we are going to get the trail up and going and continue our amazing lineup of educational and life enhancing programs at the library, and looking forward to the future for sure.”

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