

# Newton County Times

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Vol. 102 Number 33



TIMES PHOTOS/JEFF DEZORT

Jasper School District's District Day activities Thursday, Aug. 12, included introducing new staff members icebreaking activities that morning including a Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament. Videos and training sessions followed lunch in the afternoon.

## Jasper staffs remembering last year's lessons learned

By **JEFF DEZORT**  
*Newton County Times*

**JASPER** — Last school year, during the pandemic, student test scores fell. Teachers found out that digital learning is not ideal.

The pandemic is still with us as this school year begins and Jasper School District teachers and staff are being called upon to believe that students can and will learn. Superintendent Dr. Candra

Brasel issued that challenge Thursday morning, Aug. 12, during District Day kicking off the 2021-2022 school year. "If we believe they can learn, they will believe they can learn," she told the crowd of teachers and staff members from all three school district campuses gathered at the Jasper School cafeteria.

Brasel said the lessons learned last year show that the focus needs to be placed on the whole child. Children had to rely on their school and its personnel more than ever to provide them with two daily meals, a safe place to go to and a daily routine. To provide those things required the work of everyone from bus drivers, to custodial staff to faculty and administrators.

Brian Cossey, director of federal programs and district operations, continued that theme. He said he doesn't want to hear any staff member say that they can't do something because they are just a ... whatever ... classified worker, an individual teacher,

bus driver or cafeteria worker. He reminded everyone that about 80 percent of the school district's students are bus riders. The first and last face these students see during their school day is that of their bus driver. For some students the only two meals they may eat that day are breakfast and lunch prepared by the food service staffs at their school. He encouraged staffs to get to know the students. "Know better, do better," he said.

The biggest success last year was the summer feeding program that is being continued this fall. Last year 473 families were provided with over 24,000 meals prepared by the school district's cafeterias staffs. Director of Food Services Tina Byrd said the meal program will continue to grow.

Brasel said problems will have to be solved, especially on how to teach students who are out of school for extended periods of time.

See **JASPER, 2A**



Jasper School District personnel from the Jasper, Kingston and Oark campuses gathered at the Jasper School Cafeteria Thursday, Aug. 12, for the 2021-2022 District Day. Administrators provided information about this year's re-entry plan. Staffs were updated on COVID-19 protocols and other changes in school policies.

## OMSD prepares for upcoming semester

### Staff Report

**ST. JOE** — The Ozark Mountain School District Board met Thursday, Aug. 12, at the St. Joe campus to discuss the reentry plans for the 2021-22 school year. The plan is intended to keep students safe while ensuring that they remain on track academically.

Teachers will utilize New Core Curriculum for all grade levels and subjects, along with diagnostic screeners to identify students may be

falling behind in any subject.

A new math intervention program has been purchased to provide extra practice for students struggling with math.

ESSER funds to hire the interventionists on each campus to bridge the learning gaps for students.

OMSD has been approved for 10 AMI days for the school year. Digital components are in place in case

See **OMSD, 2A**

## JAPC to have website

### Staff Report

The Jasper Advertising & Promotion Commission (JAPC) met Aug. 6 and decided a website is needed to assist the city publicize events via social media.

Karl Thomas, a website designer working in Jasper, was selected to develop a website page utilizing artwork and photographs that the commission members will gather from volunteer contributors. Commissioners said the website will center information about Jasper from a tourist's perspective. It will feature scheduled events and sights in Jasper and in close proximity.

Thomas said he would charge a fee of \$200 to set up the website and \$30 per

month to maintain it. If available, the domain name will be [experiencejasperark.com](http://experiencejasperark.com).

Some thought was even to ways businesses can help sponsor the website such as promoting the growing quilt trail and holding bean bag toss tournaments.

The commissioners also discussed the qualifications needed for a paid JAPC director. The job application will be based on forms and questions used by the city.

The JAPC received its mailing post office box address. It is JAPC, P.O. Box 369, Jasper, AR 72641

The next meeting will be Friday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m., at Jasper City Hall.

### DEATHS

Wayne Castleberry, 88  
Bradley Easter, 47  
Charles McCarthy, 68  
Faye Williams, 95

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## Special Jasper Council meeting Thursday

### Staff Report

The Jasper City Council will hold a special session, prior to its regular meeting Thursday, Aug. 19.

The council will meet at 5 p.m. to review letters of application to fill the city council's Position 1, Ward 1, four-year term and Position 2, Ward 2, two-year term.

Both council members Lindsey Graham and Todd Parker submitted resignations last month.

The regular August meeting will follow.

Items on the agenda include: Considering council recommendations for filling the vacant council positions and possibly recessing to swear in the new council members.

- Old business
- Wastewater project
- JAPC report
- New business
- Police vehicle
- Police procedures
- Resolution on tourism grant for theater
- Killingsworth firm for water/sewer audit
- Elk festival
- Census
- Financial statement
- Fire Department report
- Police Department report

Any announcements.

## 23rd annual Buffalo River Elk Festival scheduled Sept. 3-4

### Staff Report

Whip up your best Dutch oven recipe and practice your elk bugle! The Buffalo River Elk Festival will return to Jasper's historic downtown square on September 3-4, 2021.

For the 23rd year, the Buffalo River Elk Festival will offer two days of entertainment, local art and handmade goods, food vendors, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual elk tag lottery and outdoor activities for the whole family in beautiful Newton County—the elk capital of Arkansas. This annual festival celebrates the successful reintroduction of wild elk to

the Buffalo River corridor and the associated benefits to local communities via tourism, outdoor recreation and education.

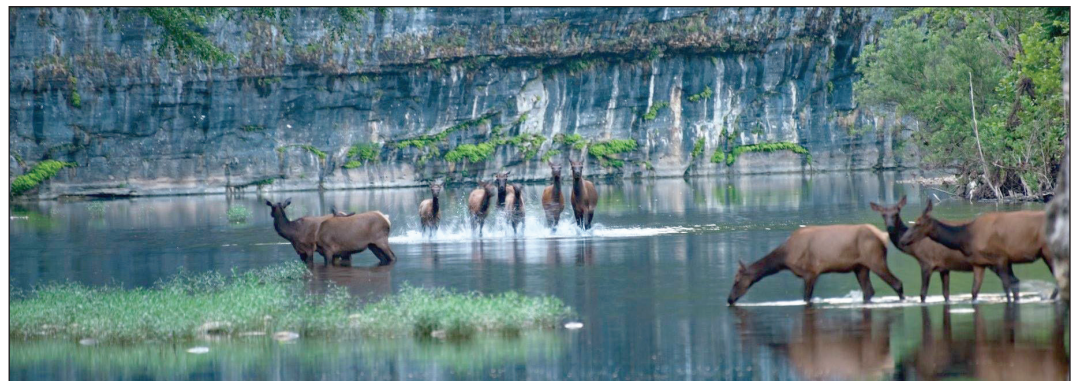
This year's festival will feature musical performances by award-winning regional artists. Festival activities will include a Dutch oven cook-off, food vendors, the Arkansas State Championship Elk Calling Contest, a youth fishing derby, presentations by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission educators, the Arkansas elk tag lottery, and many other family friendly events!

This year's Miss Buffalo River Elk Fest Pageant will take place at Jasper High

School on Saturday, August 14th, at 10 a.m. More information available at <http://www.misselkfest.com/>

For more information about the 23rd Annual Buffalo River Elk Festival, please visit [www.buffaloriverelk-festival.com](http://www.buffaloriverelk-festival.com) or find us on Facebook.

Buffalo River Elk Festival, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of individuals and businesses dedicated to the cultivation of prosperity in Newton County, Arkansas. Our purpose is to celebrate the natural beauty of our region and to educate the public about the elk population and wildlife found in our area.



GENO KETCHUM PHOTO

The 23rd Buffalo River Elk Festival will offer two days of elk related fun Friday and Saturday, Sept. 3-4, on the Jasper square.





# Weather

<b>THUR</b> Shows and thunderstorms likely. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  <b>Mostly sunny with a high near 87°</b>	<b>FRI</b> Shows and thunderstorms likely. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  <b>Partly sunny with a high near 87°</b>
<b>SAT</b> A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms.  <b>Mostly sunny with a high near 90°</b>	<b>SUN</b> A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms.  <b>Mostly sunny with a high near 89°</b>

## OMSD:

**From 1A**  
 students cannot be on campus. Google Classroom will be utilized to access assignments. Hotspots will continue to be provided at no cost to families that need them and pencil and paper work can be provided for families who prefer this method.

Attendance policies will revert back to the original form. Students will either be enrolled in the OMSD Virtual Academy or traditional students. There will not be a hybrid option. Absences will adhere to original policies with the exception of documented quarantine or positive COVID-19 test.

Buildings and facilities will be sanitized regularly throughout the day. Windows and doors will be left open when feasible.

All students will be eating a grab and go breakfast in the classroom. The cafeteria will be sanitized between each shift of students and seating charts will be kept in the lunchroom to assist with contact tracing.

Staff and students who have a fever or do not feel well and anyone running a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be required to go home. There will be no assemblies or large gatherings of students. Water bottles will be provided and filling stations have been placed. Students may not be dropped off before 7:30 a.m.

OMSD will not mandate the wearing of masks. Students and staff who wish to wear masks may do so.

School buses will be sanitized after each trip. Seating charts will be made and adhered to in order to ensure contact tracing abilities.

All visitors must make an appointment and no visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with the students. Please contact the school for early pick up and drop off and students will be escorted to the entrance.

The district hired Trisha Tyler and Sara Taylor as paraprofessionals and April Coleman as Digital Learning Instructor.

# Legislature affirms declaration of public health emergency

LITTLE ROCK – Legislators gathered at the Capitol in Little Rock to affirm the governor’s declaration of a public health emergency for 60 days.

The governor declared the first emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic last year, on March 11, 2020. He renewed it several times and it finally expired on May 30, 2021.

Earlier this year, in the regular session of the General Assembly, lawmakers approved Act 403 to grant the legislature veto power over the governor’s emergency declarations.

Act 403 gives the legislature the power to terminate a state of disaster emergency. The Senate and House must meet within eight days of the governor’s declaration.

The governor issued a declaration of a public health emergency on Thursday, July 29, and both chambers of the legislature affirmed it on Tuesday, August 3.

The legislature then met in special session to clarify that the state

Department of Workforce Services may choose not to participate in a federal program that awards supplemental unemployment benefits.

The federal program was awarding unemployed workers an additional \$300 a week. Business leaders and legislators have said that the added benefits encouraged people to stay home and not seek work, at a time when some businesses are having trouble finding enough staff.

The main topic of the special session was whether to amend Act 1002 of 2021, which was approved by the legislature earlier this year. It prohibits schools from requiring that students and staff wear masks.

Allowing schools to require masks was the first item on the governor’s call for a special session.

Members of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor heard numerous conflicting statements on the effectiveness of masks, and whether school boards

should be able to pre-empt parental authority on health decisions that affect children.

Adding urgency to the debate was the fact that Arkansas is being hit with the Delta Variant of the Covid-19 virus. Children appear to be more susceptible to this year’s Delta Variant than they were to the original Covid-19 virus last year.

According to the state Health Department and the governor, the rapid rise in cases of the Delta Variant is causing an unsustainable strain on Arkansas hospitals. Declaration of a public health emergency allows Arkansas officials to recruit additional hospital staff from other states, under an interstate compact.

Also, the Health Department is ordered to identify any regulatory statutes that hinder the licensing of health care professionals. They will be suspended during the 60 days of the emergency.

# Law enforcement plans aimed at holiday drunk drivers

## Staff Report

As Arkansans begin looking forward to plans of a final summer getaway, law enforcement officers are preparing to saturate the highways with additional patrols during the Labor Day holiday. The mission is to keep streets and highways safe by identifying and arresting drunk drivers.

The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over impaired driving awareness campaign begins Friday, August 20th and will remain active through September 6th. Arkansas State Troopers, sheriff’s deputies and city police officers will be unified

during the operation designed to arrest drunk drivers who threaten the safety of others traveling on Arkansas road.

Lives lost in highway crashes across the nation involving alcohol impaired drivers during 2019 totaled 10,142, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). That’s one person killed every 52 minutes in a drunk driving crash. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed in drunk driving crash each year from 2015 to 2019.

“The statistics left

behind from these deaths each year represent thousands of sad and troubling stories from the families of each victim,” said Colonel Bill Bryant, Director of the Arkansas State Police and Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. “That’s why law enforcement agencies in Arkansas are working together with NHTSA to remind drivers that drunk driving is not only illegal, but also a matter of life and death for those who count on us to keep the highways safe by arresting drunk drivers.”

The Arkansas Highway Safety Office and NHTSA are reminding everyone

of the many resources available to get them home safely and offer these tips:

If you plan on drinking, plan not to drive.

Plan a safe way home before you leave. It’s never okay to drink and drive, even if the driver has consumed only one alcoholic beverage.

Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation to get to your destination safely.

If you’ve been drinking, call a taxi or someone who is sober to drive you home.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 9-1-1.

If you know someone who is about to drive or operate a motorcycle

or any other vehicle while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination safely. Buckle up, always. Your seat belt is your best defense against the drunk driver.

“The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign is more than just a partnership among law enforcement to remove drunk drivers from the highway during the Labor Day holiday,” Colonel Bryant said. “We need the commitment from communities and citizens to work with law enforcement every day and help keep the streets and highways safe for everyone.”

# JASPER:

## From 1A

Last year the state allowed schools to take virtual days off when a significant number of students were absent or if there was snowy or icy weather. The school district will only be allowed to suspend classes a total of 10 days this coming school year. Any more than that will have to be made up at the end of the school year.

Collaboration will be the key as no one can do the job of teaching children individually.

The administrators moved into explaining the school district’s Ready for Learning Plan that was updated by the Ready for Learning Committee at its latest meeting held last Aug. 9.

Policies discussed were mainly left the same as they were at the end of the last school year. The Jasper School District Board of Education will meet in regular session Monday night, Aug. 16, and may continue or

change them.

The first question on everyone’s mind is if face masks will be required to be worn by students and staff.

The state legislature banned mask mandates in a special session, but the matter has been taken to court.

When the initial mask mandate was lifted by the governor last spring the school board followed suit.

When classes begin on Tuesday, Aug. 17, wearing or not wearing masks will be the decision of parents and staff, Brasel said, unless the board says differently.

Social distancing will be 3 feet and hand washing and the use of sanitizer will still be encouraged as it not only fights against COVID-19, but other sicknesses such as the flu and the common cold.

There will not be daily screenings at the schools of staff and students, however screening of visitors to the schools will continue. Parents are being asked to take the temperature of their children and staff are

being asked to take them themselves. If they are running a high temperature or if they feel sick they should not come to school “We are trusting you to do the right thing,” Brasel said.

Cossey continues to serve as the school district’s point of contact regarding COVID-19.

Most of the protocols are still in place. Some changes have come as a result of the availability of vaccinations, he said.

Protocols will continue to be followed for those with the virus as they have been. Cossey emphasized the results of recently marketed home testing kits cannot be used for a person to come out of quarantine. That release to return to school or work must come from the testing laboratory or health unit that processed the test.

Jasper School had vaccinations available for anyone who wanted one during its Open House activities last Friday evening. Free testing is available to all district staff and students.

Brasel said funding has been released to school districts earmarked to make up for expenditures related to COVID-19. The money has been released in three rounds. Jasper School District received over \$300,000 in the first round and \$1.3 million in the second round. It will receive about \$3 million in a third round (designated as ARP ESSER), 20% of which (about \$650,000) is to be used to address learning loss of students. The money will mostly be used to hire additional personnel and curriculum.

The school district plans to use these funds to buy four air conditioned school buses, new heating, air conditioning and ventilation equipment for all three campuses and for renovations. The money primarily is to be used to continue to purchase cleaning supplies, personal protection equipment and more water bottle filling stations as the pandemic continues. These funds sunset in 2024.

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# SENIOR CENTER PROVIDING MEALS, FISH FRY FRIDAY

The Newton County Senior Activity and Wellness Center will have another popular drive through fish fry from 3-6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20. There is curbside pickup only at a cost of \$10 per meal including hand brewed fried fish or chicken strips, coleslaw, pinto beans, hushpuppies, pickled green tomatoes and cinnamon roll.

The exercise room is now open 24/7. There are different price ranges so if you are interested call or stop in. You can also check with your insurance company. The center is Silver Sneakers and Silver Fit approved.

Seniors 60 and older eat free though a \$3 donation is appreciated. All others

pay \$6.60 which includes tax. All Meals include 8 ounces of 2% milk.

### Menu Aug. 19-25

**Thursday** - Cornbread pork cutlet, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, wheat roll and fruit medley.

**Friday** - Tangy ranch chicken, new red potatoes, seasoned green beans, wheat roll and very berry fruit.

**Monday** - Seasoned baked chicken, rice pilaf, broccoli and cauliflower, wheat roll and banana pudding.

**Tuesday** - Shepherds pie, seasoned greens, wheat roll and coolie.

**Wednesday** - Tomato basil soup, crackers, turkey sandwich, potato salad and fruited gelatin.

## Criminal court hearings resume, continued cases adjudicated

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the growth rate of the virus in the 14th Judicial Circuit, and to protect the public from unnecessary risks, most case on the spring and summer docket have been continued. In doing so the period of continuance shall be an excluded period from the speedy trial rule.

The following is a brief compilation of criminal cases that have been adjudicated in Newton County Circuit Court since December 2020 when court sessions resumed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Circuit court cases are filed by county on the Administrative Office of the Courts CourtConnect Website [https://caseinfo.arcourts.gov/cconnect/PROD/public/ck\\_public\\_qry\\_main.cp\\_main\\_idx](https://caseinfo.arcourts.gov/cconnect/PROD/public/ck_public_qry_main.cp_main_idx).

Cases are listed by file number and defendant. In some instances affidavits explaining the original cause of arrest and charges were not available.

51CR-2019-25 - Levi Glen Rose, 38, was charged in May 2019 with possession of a scheduled II controlled substance, class C felony; possession of a schedule VI controlled substance, a class A misdemeanor; tail lamps and reflectors, unclassified misdemeanor, vehicles to be driven on right side of roadway, unclassified misdemeanor.

Court information noted that on March 13, 2019, a deputy was on patrol on state Highway 7 and observed a vehicle traveling 10-15 miles under the speed limit and crossed the center line three times.

The deputy observe the vehicle's left brake light was out and the right turn signal lit up solid when stopping. The driver failed to signal a left turn.

The deputy deployed his canine and the dog gave a positive alert. The deputy conducted a probable cause search and found marijuana in the trunk of the vehicle. Rose was found t have methamphetamine in one of his pockets.

In a negotiated plea agreement filed in February, 2020, Rose pleaded guilty to the charges and was given a sentence of five years of probation on the class C felony charge and a year of probation on the remaining charges, all running concurrently. Rose was fined \$2,000 and ordered to pay court costs and fees.

19-27 - Richard Carlos Ray, 39, was charged in May 2019 with manufacturing a controlled sub-

stance, marijuana, a class C felony. The charge stemmed from a marijuana eradication effort in July 2018. A deputy was dispatched to Limestone Valley and the residence of the defendant. Eleven marijuana plants were growing in a garden area near the residence. Five more were found in a bucket inside an abandoned vehicle and 13 are plants were growing along a path. A total f 29 plants were seized from the property.

A negotiated plea agreement was filed in December 2019. Ray pleaded guilty to the charge and received six years of probation. He was also fined \$5,000. He was ordered to pay court costs and fees.

19-49 - Mark Alan Hemphill, 32, was formally charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, a class D felony and no driver's license, violation in July 2019.

A deputy observed the defendant driving a vehicle knowing that the person did not have a driver's license due to previous encounters. The defendant was pulled over and the vehicle was searched. The deputy fund a glass smoking device with a residue consistent with the use of methamphetamine.

In a negotiated plea the state dismissed the no driver's license charge. Hemphill pleaded guilty to the felony and received three years of probation and was fined \$1,000. He also had to pay court costs and fees.

19-55 - Kenny Hamm, 57, was charged in August 2019 with terroristic threatening, a class D felony and possession of firearms by certain person, a class B felony.

Court information relates that on July 25, 2019, the defendant passed a firearm having previously been convicted of a violent felony. A complaint was received from a woman saying she was fearful of the defendant. She noted that her pistol was missing. He said if she contacted law officers he would shoot them. And it would be her fault.

In court proceedings Feb. 26, 2020, the case file notes that the defendant appeared and entered an agreement for a negotiated plea.

A sentencing order shows Hamm pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of terroristic threatening in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor. No sentence is indicated. The state dismissed the felony charge, the record shows.

19-72 - Todd Christopher Hodge, 37, was charged in November, 2019, with multiple charges stemming from incidents happening Oct. 12, 2019. A deputy was dispatched to Bradley Park in Jasper for a possibly intoxicated subject driving recklessly in the park. A pursuit ensued through the business district of Jasper and ended when the vehicle slid off of state Highway 327.

Hodge was uncooperative and refused taking a field sobriety test. A variety of drugs were found in the vehicle along with alcohol and a pipe.

An amended plea statement was filed in August 2020. The state agreed to dismiss the drug paraphernalia, refusal to submit to arrest, refusal to submit to chemical test, improper passing, left of center, defective brake light, disregard for stop sign, no seat belt. The state amended the three counts of aggravated assault to assault in the second degree, class B misdemeanor, three counts and the criminal mischief felony charge to criminal mischief in the first degree, a class A misdemeanor.

He pleaded guilty to fleeing in a vehicle and received six years of supervised probation; criminal mischief in the first degree, class A misdemeanor and received a year of supervised probation; DWI, one year in jail with 364 days suspended; possession for schedule VI controlled substance, a year of supervised probation and assault in the second degree, three counts, 90 days in jail suspended for each count. The sentences run concurrently.

He was fined \$2,000 and ordered to pay court costs and fines. As well as \$1,000 in restitution to the Newton County Sheriff's Office for damages.

19-81 - Michael Brandenburg, 34, was charged in December 2019 with possession of firearms by certain persons, class B felony.

Court filings say the defendant on Nov. 10, 2019, the defendant was stopped at a checkpoint. Brandenburg is a convicted felon and sex offender with a search waiver on file. The officer located a .243 rifle in the vehicle.

A plea statement was filed in November 2020. He was sentenced to five years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with two years suspended. He wa also fined \$500.

## What's going on

**Jasper Farmers Market** at the courthouse lawn Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Fridays from 2-5 p.m.

**Attention Newton County Residents!** To obtain your 911 address please contact the Newton County addressing office at 870-446-2966 or come by Monday- Friday 8-430. Our office is located upstairs of the courthouse.

**ASP DL testing facilities now open.** At each facility written exams are given from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the skills exam is by appointment times only. Here is a list of those testing sites and hours of operation.

Jasper - the 1st Tuesday of the month. Newton County Sheriff's Office, 300 North Spring Street.

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

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

**Al-Anon Meeting**, a support group for family and friends of alcoholics. We meet every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Methodist Fellowship Hall, 400 Clark St. in Jasper. You can also join us via Zoom. For more information, call 479-857-8281 or 870-446-2402.

**Newton County Chamber of Commerce's** regular monthly meeting is on the third Thursday. The next meeting is at noon on Thursday, Aug. 19, at The Ozark Cafe.

**The Jasper City Council** normally meets at City Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The next meeting is Aug. 19.

**The monthly board meeting for Newton County Healthcare Association, Inc.,** meets the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m., in the Conference Room of Newton County Nursing Home.

**Newton County Historical Society** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Bradley House Museum in Jasper. Public is invited. The next meeting is Aug. 31.

**The Newton County Cancer Support Group** meets at 12:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of the month, at the Senior Center in Jasper. Next meeting is Sept. 1.

**Newton County Single Parent Scholarship Board** meets the first Monday of each month, at 3 p.m., at the Jasper Christian Church. Next meeting is Sept. 6.

**Jasper Community Garden** members meet on the first Monday of each month at the Jasper United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Sept. 6.

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

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

**Newton County Hometown Health Coalition** meets the second Thursday of each month at the Newton County Special Services Learning Center on West Clark Street, at 10 a.m. The next meeting is Sept. 9.

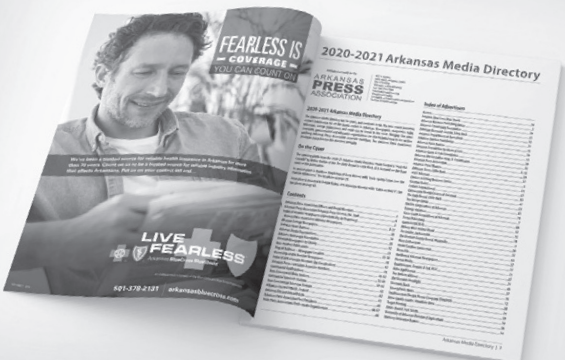
**The Newton County Resource Council** meets the second Thursday of each month, at 5 p.m., at Jasper City Hall. The next meeting is Sept. 9.

**The Friends of the Newton County Library** meets the second Monday of each month at noon at the library in Jasper. The next meeting will be Sept. 13.

**Jasper Board of Education** meets the third Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jasper School Library. The next meeting is Sept. 20.

**Campbell Edgmon Post 93 of the American Legion and the Women's Auxiliary** meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Sept. 21, at 6 p.m., with a pot luck dinner before the meeting.

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# Newton County TIMES

P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641  
(870) 446-2645

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## Out and about during the August recess

By **CONG. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

Fourth District of Arkansas

It is a hot week in Arkansas' Fourth District, but that hasn't stopped my staff and I from getting out and about during the August recess. The week kicked off in Pine Bluff with stops downtown at Go Forward Pine Bluff and the Jefferson County Alliance, along with Chapel Pharmacy. There are so many exciting developments happening in the area.

While in Pine Bluff, I joined the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. NCTR employs nearly 700 people across 17 counties and contributes \$70 million to the economy. Their partnership with the state of Arkansas and the Food and Drug Administration has allowed critical research projects that impact millions of Americans lives.

To commemorate this important work, I joined the Arkansas congressional delegation to introduce a resolution in the House and the Senate celebrating 50 years of NCTR. There are many opportunities ahead, and I look forward to seeing the innovative research and projects to come.

## Newton County Times

# State Capitol Week in Review

From **SEN. BREANNE DAVIS**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Legislative Council approved a funding request of more than \$245 million to help hospitals and nursing homes recruit and retain staff, and to cope with extraordinary expenses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The money comes from a massive federal act known as the American Rescue Plan, which sends about \$1,573 billion to Arkansas state government and an additional \$1 billion to Arkansas cities and counties. Other ARP funds will go to schools and for capital projects.

The Legislative Council is the main body of lawmakers who meet in the interim between legislative sessions to oversee state government operations. The Council met soon after the conclusion of the recent special session to consider the health emergency funding requests.

The pandemic has strained the capacity of Arkansas health care facilities in numerous ways. Staff are working long hours. So many beds are occupied by Covid patients that other units in hospitals sometimes lack space for patients with other ailment and injuries. Testing of staff is constant, and continues to add to the cost of operations.

According to the request for funding from the state Department of Human Services, the 226 skilled nursing facilities in Arkansas are in unsustainable financial jeopardy. In ordinary times they rely heavily on government programs, such as Medicaid to reimburse their costs for patient care.

Since last year the nursing homes have spent most of the emergency government funds they received to help them weather the pandemic, their accounts are being depleted and their unreimbursed costs continue to climb.

Without additional help, “thousands of residents and staff face a real risk of multiple closures,” the request said.

Those closures would create severe disruption in access to health care, with reduced availability of nursing care for families and individuals. Local economies would suffer, especially in rural areas.

“The human impact will be considerable,” the DHS request said.

Nursing homes must comply with detailed government regulations, which have changed frequently since last year as medical officials learned more about the pandemic and how it spreads. To meet the specific and complex requirements of regulators, nursing homes have

added staff while maintaining nursing services.

Hospitals also have seen increased costs due to the pandemic. They've bought protective equipment and additional medical equipment. They are constantly testing staff, patients and the general public. They have partitioned and updated rooms to meet the growing demand for beds for Covid patients.

According to the Human Services Department request for ARP funding, the factor limiting hospitals ability to respond to the health emergency is a lack of frontline staff. In recruiting available nurses and medical staff, Arkansas hospitals must compete with other states where hospitals pay higher salaries.

Hospitals propose to spend the ARP funding recruiting additional staff and retaining their existing staff, the department said in its funding request.

The funds will be disbursed to hospitals and nursing homes according to formulas that take into account how many beds they have and how many people they have on staff already.

Hospitals that don't accept Medicaid or Medicare will not receive any of the emergency funding.

## Arkansas dairy bars: Nostalgic and pandemic perfect

By **GOV. ASA HUTCHINSON**

I'd like to talk about a sector of our culinary industry that is the perfect business model for dining establishments during a pandemic.

Ninety-four of these eateries dot the Natural State's rural landscape, and next week, Arkansas PBS will release a documentary about these short-order diners.

The subject of the film is the Arkansas dairy bar, a remnant of the time before the proliferation of franchised restaurants.

The idea for this project came to Arkansas foodie Kat Robinson in the early months of COVID-19. Kat, a 1995 broadcasting graduate of Arkansas Tech, has made her name as a food historian, author, and foodie, with some public television shows thrown in. She is a member of the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame's selection committee. She grew up eating sugar on her rice for breakfast and country-fried venison. Her books include *Another Slice of Arkansas Pie* and two volumes of *Things to Eat in Arkansas Before You Die*.

One day when Kat was hankering for an ice cream, as she says, she traveled to Malvern to see whether the dairy bar from her childhood was still in business. Mel's Dairy Bar was still standing, it looked just like she remembered, and the place was hopping. That's when she decided to write a book. In March, she and the team at Arkansas PBS began to work on the companion documentary.

The documentary, *Arkansas Dairy Bars: Neat Eats & Cool Treats*, will premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 19, on Arkansas PBS. This week, Arkansas PBS hosted a free advance screening at the Kenda Drive-In in Marshall.

Dairy bars evoke nostalgia for many of us who had the good fortune to live in a town with a dairy bar or whose grandparents lived near one. That was the initial appeal for Kat.

But as she traveled more than eight thousand miles to visit all ninety-four of Arkansas's diners, she realized that by their very design, dairy bars may be the perfect restaurant for a pandemic.

Think about it. A dairy bar

generally doesn't have a dining room. You order your food through a window. You eat in a car or at a picnic table. Textbook social distancing.

Arkansas PBS sustained the social-distancing theme by holding its premiere of *Arkansas Dairy Bars* at a drive-in theater. The Arkansas PBS event was perfectly crafted as public family entertainment during a worldwide pandemic.

Kat is an Arkansan who understands Arkansans. Like the 3 million other people who live here, Kat took the pandemic head-on and blazed a different route. In one of her books, she writes about the character of her state. “Arkansas is a stubborn, hang-on-by-your-teeth subsistence land that adapts to weather, new folks, and the lay of the land.” That's an accurate description.

With this documentary, Kat Robinson and Arkansas PBS preserve a piece of our culinary history. They also demonstrate that with imagination, sweat of the brow, and a dash of courage, we can work our way through anything.

## Out-of-control spending threatens America's future

By **US SEN. JOHN BOOZMAN**

We all know that our fiscal house isn't in order right now. The national debt stands at \$28 trillion dollars, the projected budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2021 is nearly \$3 trillion and President Joe Biden is aiming to approve more than \$5 trillion in spending just this year.

Not long ago, Americans viewed significantly smaller federal budgets as bloated and in need of scaling back. Now, we're dealing with multi-trillion-dollar proposals that we aren't committed to paying for. As the federal government's spending has continued to climb over the last two decades, this year we're pushing the limits of what we thought was even possible.

It may seem like we're dealing with Monopoly money, but unlike in the popular board game there are real-world consequences ahead if we continue down this path.

Since January, Congress and the Biden administration have pursued outrageous spending policies that

would have been unfathomable just a few years ago. It started with the so-called “COVID-19 relief” legislation that passed in March and came in just under \$2 trillion.

Now, in pursuit of a bipartisan infrastructure measure, legislation that would add at least a quarter-trillion dollars to the projected deficits over the next ten years is advancing in Congress. I have long supported responsible infrastructure investment, but I couldn't support this bill because it increases deficit spending with too little to offer in return, including outsized focuses on public transportation and green alternatives rather than traditional needs like modernizing and upgrading roads, bridges, railroads, airports and even water systems and rural broadband.

I'm disappointed we couldn't reach a fiscally responsible solution, but instead are choosing to increase the burden on future generations of Americans to pay for

more current spending. And worse, Speaker Nancy Pelosi has tied this bill to a \$4.2 trillion spending spree of liberal wish list items.

That agenda of radical left-wing priorities is also on the move in Congress. The framework passed the Senate on a party-line vote and should concern anyone wary of bigger government and more debt.

It also emphasizes the risks of continued inflation. Since last July, prices have risen 5.4 percent. It's becoming more expensive to fill up our gas tanks, buy food at the grocery store or in restaurants, and even purchase other consumer goods like appliances and automobiles. That hurts all of us to some extent, but none more so than individuals and families already struggling to make ends meet.

Many Americans had been seeing their wages rise in recent years, but now those gains have been wiped out as a result of higher costs.

These challenges will only grow

if the federal government continues to spend at the astounding levels the White House is pushing. One area where the rubber will truly meet the road is the cap on our country's borrowing limit.

I recently joined most of my Republican colleagues in the Senate to tell the American people that we believe Democrats should take ownership of their out-of-control spending. As such, we won't be voting to increase the debt ceiling. The massive, reckless tax-and-spend agenda they are working to rapidly enact is not paid for, so the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats owe the American people an explanation for why we must borrow even more money to afford it.

For my part, I will continue to advocate for responsible and sound fiscal policies. That's what we do in Arkansas and around our kitchen tables. It is also what should be done in Washington.



**Bradley Don Easter, 47, of Hector**

Bradley Don Easter, 47 of Hector, died at home, Tuesday, Aug. 11 (2021). Visitation was Tuesday, Aug. 17, at Coffman Funeral Home in Jasper from 6-8 p.m. Funeral service is 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Rev.



Jimmie L. Dotson First Pentecostal Church, Pelsor. Tony Mays will officiate. Burial will be in Smith Cemetery in Vendor.

The son of Billy Easter and Gennett (Dotson) Hunter was born in Harrison, June 6, 1974. Bradley worked at Wabash as a truck driver and for M & J Reefer Refueling.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Rex Easter, Virgie (Dodson) Easter Coonts and

Ted Coonts, Rev. Jimmie L. and LeAnner (Campbell) Dotson.

Survivors include his daughter, Tabitha Easter, of Willis, Texas; his father, Billy Easter, of Bass; his mother, Gennett (Dotson) and husband,

Ross Hunter, of St. Joe and many relatives.

Pallbearers are Christopher Dotson, Alan Mays, Luke Myers, Glen Hill, Robert Cowan, Jason Myers, Bobby Wattles, Isiah Myers, Eli Myers and Brandon Cowan.

Honorary pallbearers include all of his cousins and friends.

Memorials can be made directly to Coffman Funeral Home to help defray funeral expenses.

**Wayne Castleberry, 88, of Harrison**

Wayne Ray Castleberry (Doc), 88, of Harrison, died at his home, Monday, Aug. 9 (2021). Funeral was 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 14, at Roller-Christeson Funeral Home, with Bill Arnold officiating. Interment was in Maple Leaf Cemetery.



The son of the late Athel and Oma (Cook) Castleberry was born at Bass, Oct. 6, 1932. Wayne married Corene Edwards on September 30, 1951, and shortly after they married they moved to California where he was employed with International Harvester for ten years. In 1964 they moved back to Arkansas where he was a member of Ridge-way Church of Christ. He worked for Edwards Feed/ Harrison Farm Center/Tindle Mills for

thirty years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Alice Corene (Edwards) Castleberry and his two brothers, Cortez Castleberry and Gary Castleberry.

Wayne is survived by his daughters, Shirley Ann Parks, of Harrison and Belinda Harrell, of Cabot, a son, Larry Castleberry, of Dillon, Colorado; his brothers, Travis Castleberry, of Hayward, California and Ronnie Castleberry, of Harrison; nine grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Neil Parks, Derek Parks, Adam Harrell, Grafton Harrell, Jonathan Castleberry, and Todd Taylor.

Honorary pallbearers were grandsons-in-law, his nephews, and his driving buddies.

**VA expands mandate for COVID-19 vaccines among VHA employees**

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough will expand his previous COVID-19 vaccine mandate Friday, Aug. 13, to apply to most Veterans Health Administration employees and volunteers and contractors who work in VHA facilities, visit VHA facilities or otherwise come into contact with VA patients and healthcare workers as part of their duties.

Under the expanded mandate, employees who will need to be vaccinated include Hybrid Title 38 and Title 5 VA health care personnel — such as psychologists, pharmacists, social workers, nursing assistants, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, peer specialists, medical support assistants, engineers, housekeepers and other clinical, administrative and infrastructure support employees who come into contact with VA patients and healthcare workers.

“We’re now including most VHA employees and volunteers and contractors in the vaccine mandate because it remains the best way to keep Veterans safe, especially as the Delta variant spreads across the country,” Secretary McDonough said. “This pandemic is not over and VA must do everything in our power to protect Veterans from COVID-19. With this expanded mandate, we can once again make — and keep — that fundamental promise.”

The department’s decision is supported by numerous medical organizations, including the American Hospital Association, America’s Essential Hospitals and a Multisociety group of the leading Infectious Disease Societies. The American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of American Medical Colleges, and National Association for Home Care and Hospice also endorsed mandating COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers.

As with the previous mandate, directive affected employees will have eight weeks to provide proof of vaccination to their local VHA Occupational Health Office.

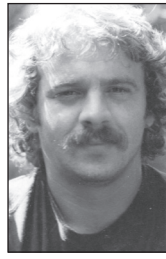
All VA employees are eligible to be vaccinated at no personal expense at any of our facilities and would also receive four hours of paid administrative leave after demonstrating they have been vaccinated.

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**Charles McCarthy, 68, of Parthenon**

Charles “Shawn” McCarthy of Parthenon, Arkansas, passed away at home on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at the age of 68.



The son of Charles H. and Catherine A. (Kincaid) McCarthy was born on June 10, 1953 in Scituate, Massachusetts.

Shawn grew up in Madison, New Jersey where he worked as an independent Master Electrician and had his own business “Madison Electric”. After retiring he moved to Parthenon, Arkansas, and lived with his sister. Shawn enjoyed

the outdoors and was an avid fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles H. and Catherine McCarthy; two brothers, Steven and Richard.

Shawn is survived by his five sisters, Julanne, Sue Ellen, Carol, Sarah and Mary Beth; three brothers, Robert, Brian and James; seven nieces; five nephews; three great-nephews and numerous other relatives and friends who will miss him.

On-line condolences may be left at [www.coffmanfh.com](http://www.coffmanfh.com).

**Death notices**

**William Merlin Kidwiler, 77, of Bergman**, died Aug. 11 (2021). Born June 24, 1944, in Clinton, Missouri, the son of William and Thelma Roberts Kidwiler. William leaves his wife, Dorothy Jean, of the home, and daughter, Lindsey. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Condolences may be left at [www.diamondstatecremation.com](http://www.diamondstatecremation.com).

**John Henry Earll, 71, of Yellville**, died Aug. 3 (2021). Born Nov. 7, 1949, in Lee’s

Summit, Missouri, the son of Roy and Delma Thompson Earll. John Henry was a Navy veteran. A graveside memorial service was held at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Lead Hill. Condolences may be left at [www.DiamondStateCremation.com](http://www.DiamondStateCremation.com).

**Trina Lynn Willis, 44, of Harrison**, Arkansas, died Aug. 11 (2021). Born June 20, 1977, in Harrison, the daughter of Roy Lee Shatwell and Teri C. Rollins. A Memorial Service will be held at a later time. Condolences may be left at [www.DiamondStateCremation.com](http://www.DiamondStateCremation.com).

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**Recent Deaths**  
Wayne Castleberry, 88, of Harrison, died Monday, Aug. 9 (2021). Funeral was 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 14, at Roller-Christeson Funeral Home, with Bill Arnold officiating. Interment was in Maple Leaf Cemetery.  
Bradley Easter, 47, of Hector, died at home, Tuesday, Aug. 11 (2021). Funeral service is 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Rev. Jimmie L. Dotson First Pentecostal Church, Pelsor. Tony Mays will officiate. Burial will be in Smith Cemetery in Vendor under the direction of Coffman Funeral Home.  
Charles McCarthy, 68, of Parthenon died Thursday, Aug. 12 (2021). Arrangements by Coffman Funeral Home.  
Faye Williams, 95, of Deer, died Saturday, Aug. 14, (2021). There will be a private family graveside service. 9. Arrangements by Roller-Christeson Funeral Home of Harrison.

**Faye Williams, 95, of Deer**

Faye Williams, 95, of Deer, died at her home, Saturday, Aug. 14, (2021). The service will be a private family graveside due to COVID-19. Arrangements by Roller-Christeson Funeral Home of Harrison.



She was born at Deer, daughter of the late Ziba and Martha (Davis) Barber, July 3, 1926.

Faye was preceded in death by her husband, Gus Williams; her daughter, Kathy (Williams) Larimer; her sons, Jearl and Gary Williams; her grandsons, Jeffrey Williams and Shawn Anglin and also numerous infant

great-grandchildren. Faye is survived by her children Jerry Williams, of Ozone, Larry Williams, of Harrison, Ruth Sexton, of Pelsor, Virginia Basinger, of Clarksville, Ricky Williams, of

Harrison and Edward Williams, of Deer; 23 grandchildren and stepgrandchildren; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren

Pallbearers are Dennis, David, Johnny, Billy and Dale Williams, and Eric Walters.

Honorary pallbearers are grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

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Wed. service 7 p.m. • Sun. Worship 10 a.m. • 10 a.m., Tony Taylor

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

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

**-COMPTON-**  
COMPTON COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH  
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Steve Emerson, Pastor • 688-2415

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

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

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

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

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

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Pastor Kelvin House

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Stan Taylor, Pastor

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

**-PARTHENON-**  
BUFFALO CHURCH  
Services Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Pastor Austin Williams

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



# Gone, but not forgotten:

## The spherical boulders in North-Central Arkansas

By William D. Hanson and J. Michael Howard

For many years, the region around Prim, Arkansas has been known for its large round sandstone boulders, commonly ranging in diameter from 1 foot (0.3 m) to 4 feet (1.3 m). These boulders are not restricted to the Prim, Cleburne County area, however, similar boulders have been seen in situ at Alum Cove Natural Bridge and vicinity in southern Newton County to the west and in the Peacock Road quarry in northern White County to the east. This is a distance of some 100 miles.

### Part 2 Topography

The Boston Mountain Region of Arkansas is characterized by bench and bluff topography typical of flat lying dissected interior plateau highlands. Resistant units of sandstone cap hills and are bluff formers. Shale units, when thick, form flat-floored open valleys and gentle slopes.

### Geology

The rock units in and around Prim, Arkansas are part of the Bloyd/Hale Formations of Morrowan age in the Pennsylvanian System. The units of sandstone and shale of the Bloyd/Hale were deposited in a delta-like environment some 300 million years ago. These sediments were deposited on a relatively flat plain that sloped gently to the south. Rivers built deltas out into the shallow ocean and deposited their sediments in a system of different deposits, typical of what is now observed at the mouth of the present day Mississippi River. The sediments were later buried by overlying materials and eventually compressed and cemented to become the rock units now observed. Since the end of the Paleozoic Era, the region has been exposed to weathering and erosion. These processes, along with the relative resistance of certain rock units, resulted in the present-day topography of the region.

The spherical boulders are now known to be present in a packet of sandstone units in the geologic section underlying Prim and to the south.

The spherical boulders in Newton County are in the Prairie Grove Member upper Hale Formation. Here, spherical boulders were noted at three separate locations. In the NE 1/4, section 26, T15N, R21W, boulders are 2 to 4 feet in diameter and still in the outcrop. No loose boulders were noted at this site, possibly because they were weathering at an equal to or faster rate than the host sandstone. The host sandstone bed at this site is massive, 12- to 20-foot thick, and is a bench former. This unit is mapped as the "middle Bloyd sandstone" by Braden and Ausbrooks (2003).

On USDA Forest Service property two sites were documented. The first is in the Alum Cove Natural Bridge Recreation Area in the S 1/2, section 17, T14N, R21W. At this location spherical balls occur in massive sandstone immediately below the natural bridge. No boulders were noted freed from the outcrop. The spherical masses at this location are also in the "middle Bloyd sandstone." The second location is in the Farmer Cove Bluff area in the SW 1/4, section 2, T14N, R21W. Here spherical balls occur in massive sandstone beds that also contain zones of exsolved shell casts and honeycomb weathering. This is indicative of the presence of carbonate during deposition and lithification.

More next week

# Extension Corner: Breakfast - Most important meal of the day

By MARSHA HORTON

Newton County Agent FCS

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day." We've heard it hundreds of times, yet for many individuals, including children, they would rather sleep a few more minutes than sit down to breakfast, or even grab something as they run out the door.

Both researchers and teachers will tell you that children who eat something for breakfast are better learners. Children who have eaten breakfast are more likely to have better concentration, have more problem-solving skills, and better hand-eye coordination.

Smart choices for breakfast include whole grains, fruit and low-fat dairy products. The whole grains and fruit contain high amounts of fiber, which tend to fill you up faster and will delay symptoms of hunger for hours.

For many children, if they have a bowl of cold cereal and a glass of milk, they are happy, while others need a more hearty breakfast meal. You know what type of breakfast eater you have, and need to plan accordingly.

If all your child wants for breakfast is cold cereal, make a choice that will help them make it through until lunch. Look for whole grains, with 3 to 5 grams of fiber and make sure sugar doesn't appear as one of the first three ingredients on the nutrition facts label. Sugar may be disguised as a word that ends in "ose." "Ose" words mean that some form of sugar is in the product. Some of the sugar-

coated or frosted cereals may have as much as 2-3 teaspoons of sugar for a 1 ounce serving.

Oatmeal is another high fiber choice, and with the variety of instant oatmeal available today, there is surely a flavor your kids will enjoy. It can be prepared in fewer than 2 minutes in a disposable cup or bowl. When paired with fresh fruit and milk, you have a healthy breakfast in a matter of minutes.

If your children want leftover pizza for breakfast, let them have it. A traditional breakfast isn't necessary, as long as it is nutritious and well balanced. The combinations are limited only by your creativity and imagination. Think out of the box for breakfast ideas, including ways you can save time in the morning. Try some of these ideas.

- Mash a banana into peanut butter and spread over whole wheat toast in fewer than 3 minutes. This one makes eating on the run easy.

- Keep muffins in the freezer and warm them up in the microwave.

- A breakfast casserole takes a little time to prepare but it can be done the evening before then refrigerated. Pop it in the oven in the morning for 45 minutes while everyone is getting ready and you have a quick and nutritious breakfast!

- Set the breakfast table the night before, even if it's only for juice and cereal. You'll be surprised at how much time it will save you.

- Most kids love French toast, plus it is quick and, easy. Add a

little cinnamon to the egg batter for variety. For smaller children, cut the toast into shapes.

- Keep pancake or waffle batter in the refrigerator in a covered bowl, ready to pour on the griddle.

- Use last nights left over chicken and make quesadillas or breakfast burritos in a matter of minutes. Wrap in a paper towel and they can be eaten on the bus or in the car on the way to school.

- Create your own specialty breakfast biscuit. Between the biscuit, place a cooked egg, a sausage patty, a small chicken patty, or a slice of ham with cheese melted on top. This is super quick when you use your leftover biscuits from the weekend.

- Greek yogurt is always a fast choice. With the amount of protein in it, it will help tide you over until lunch. Pair it with a carbohydrate such as fresh fruit and you have a potable breakfast.

- Let's not forget fruit. Most of it can be just washed and eaten. No prep required, but will add vitamins that your brain needs.

Breakfast doesn't have to be time consuming or a hassle. Just as you plan what school supplies and clothes for each day, keep in mind what healthy breakfast foods you will have on hand as well. For more information contact the Newton County Extension Office, 870-446-2240. The University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action institution.

## As life goes by

By ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE

School begins this week. It is funny to not be going to school to teach and this is the 13th year I have been retired. Guess it is in my blood since I taught for 39 years. Elisa and Samantha had to go shopping for school supplies. While visiting about the beginning of school and I was told that some schools have the kids to go to school the week before school begins and pick up their supplies, which had been donated by the community members. The family doesn't have to purchase any of the supplies. I remember the school I taught at had a room the supplies were stored in and given out as the kids needed them. Most of our students started out with some supplies and then as they needed more we gave them what they needed. It is interesting how much each child needs now days. I remember,

as a child, I took paper and pencil and later on we had to have colored pencils for map skills.

While visiting with my sister, Jane, I found out she had been laughing at her cat! It was running all over the house acting strange. It turns out it had gotten a fly trap on its tail and couldn't get it off. She tried putting dishwashing liquid on it to get it off, but it wasn't coming off easily. The cat went outside, and she figures it will look like a camouflaged cat when she sees it next since its tail is still sticky.

My granddaughter, Mary Margaret, drove to Springfield and her dad and mother took a vehicle, too, to enter college at Missouri State University. Of course, it has been a long time since I went to college, but I was comparing what I took and what she took. Jane went to Conway to UCA with her grandson, Logan, and they took a truck

and a car to get him settled.


It is funny what I remember about going to Arkansas Tech the first day and then when Mother and Daddy took Jane and me the next year. We took one car and had all our stuff in it. I know I had a clock radio, a lamp, few clothes and a couple pairs of shoes, a blanket, bedspread, pillow, sheets, towels, and wash cloths along with a little carry-all with soap, toothpaste, and shampoo. I know there could have been other things but nothing like what these two kids took.

As you know, I have to say more about getting vaccinated. This is the pandemic of the unvaccinated! What a sad thing to have happen in our wonderful country. Many young people are dying or are getting extremely sick with the virus. When we look back in time over

the history of this pandemic, we will compare it with the polio vaccine and how we reacted to it. People were lined up waiting to get the vaccine. We took the vaccine at school during the school year and took boosters without complaining each year. Did we worry about what was in the vaccine? No, we were willing to stop polio by doing what it took to stop it. Please take the shots and help save our children from this terrible virus. Thank goodness, our schools are concerned with the health of our students and are having masks required. What forward thinking of our school boards and administrations. We can have school and have our students vaccinated along with wearing the masks. Hopefully, this year could be the last of this terrible virus with your help. Have a great week.

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# Sports



## Penalties plague Arkansas preseason

By NATE ALLEN  
nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — Though the hitting fit his criteria, Arkansas Coach Sam Pittman saw too much flag football during his Razorbacks' first scrimmage of the preseason Saturday at Reynolds Razorback Stadium.

Too many flags justifiably thrown by an authentic SEC officiating crew.

"I thought we played extremely hard but we had too many penalties," Pittman said after Saturday's scrimmage closed to the public and the media.

What were the penalties?

"I can tell you exactly," Pittman replied. "Too many defensive pass interferences. Too many false starts on offense. I think we cut down our jumps on the defensive line, there were two there, but that's two too many. Too much holding on the offensive line. It wasn't what I would call sloppy until maybe the fourth quarter. Then it got kind of sloppy, which tells you we're not anywhere near where we need to be."

Better to see what makes officials wave their flags in a scrimmage than a real game, said third-year All-SEC sophomore safety Jalen Catalon and third-year sophomore starting quarterback KJ Jefferson, both post-scrimmage media available after Pittman met with media.

"A couple of holding calls," Catalon said. "A couple of offside penalties that we can't have as a defense. But as a first scrimmage, I'd rather get those out now than to have them in a game where they're crucial. I think we'll definitely learn from all the mistakes and clean them up. I think the second scrimmage (next Saturday) will be a lot smoother."

Jefferson concurred regarding the offensive flags

The penalties were about all that marred the defense that mostly got the best of it, Pittman implied, particularly late scrimmage.

See HOGS, 8A

Craven Whitlow/Staff

Arkansas senior linebacker Bumper Pool participates in footwork drills. Pool has been placed on a shortlist for the Reese's Senior Bowl game.

## Six Hogs shortlisted for Reese's Senior Bowl

By UA COMMUNICATIONS

FAYETTEVILLE – A sextuplet of Razorbacks are on the watch list for the 2022 Reese's Senior Bowl.

Arkansas defensive back Montaric Brown, offensive lineman Myron Cunningham, linebacker Grant Morgan, linebacker Bumper Pool, defensive lineman John Ridgeway and running back Treelon Smith each earned spots on the watch list, which was released Thursday morning.

The Reese's Senior Bowl, the nation's most prestigious college all-star game, annually serves as the first step of the NFL Draft process. This year's game will be held February 5, 2022,

in Mobile, Ala., and broadcast on the NFL Network. Practices will be live on ESPN, and the NFL Network will host a daily recap show each evening in prime time.

Brown, a redshirt senior, played and started in eight games at cornerback in 2020, logging 31 tackles (20 solo) with 2.0 tackles for loss, one interception and a forced fumble. The Ashdown, native led the Razorbacks with six pass breakups on the year.

Cunningham, a preseason All-SEC honoree, anchored Arkansas' offensive line at left tackle last year, starting all 10 games while playing 705 snaps – the most of any Razorback. The redshirt

See SENIOR BOWL, 8A

## Razorback athletics announces promotions

By UA COMMUNICATIONS

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics Hunter Yurachek recently announced a series of administrative promotions within Razorback Athletics. The moves include multiple additions to the department's Senior Staff as well as two new sport administrator assignments.

The University of Arkansas is coming off the most successful collective year in the history of the program, including capturing one NCAA title, 10 SEC championships and finishing a program-best eighth in the Learfield-IMG College Directors' Cup. Razorback student-athletes combined for a 3.25 GPA and 104 student-athletes graduated from the University of Arkansas.

"As we focus on our mission of Building Champions and Razorbacks for Life, it is important to enhance our leadership team to help guide us on that path," Yurachek said. "The men and women that have been recognized are among a talented group of administrators within our department who are dedicated to helping Razorback student-athletes succeed in all aspects of their collegiate experience. I am appreciative of their efforts and look forward to working alongside our entire Ra-

zorbacks Athletics team to continue to build on that tremendous success."

Derita Dawkins, Deputy Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Wellness, will add Assistant Vice Chancellor to her title, in conjunction with a university wide initiative recognizing her integral role as the Chief Diversity Officer for the Department of Athletics. Dawkins is in her fifth year with Razorback Athletics.

Tricia Matysak has been promoted to Associate Athletics Director for Sports Medicine. Matysak leads the department's Sports Medicine team consisting of 14 full-time certified athletic trainers and five graduate assistants. She joined Razorback Athletics in 2009 and is in her 13th year with the department.

In addition to her previous leadership role within academic services, Felecia Saine will now also oversee the department's student-athlete development division. Saine is in her 18th year overall with Razorback Athletics and serves as the lead within the Office of Student-Athlete Success as an Associate Athletics Director for Academics and Student-Athlete Development.

Jon Fagg, Deputy Athletics Director for Academics, Integrity and Student-Athlete Development has added

See PROMOTIONS, 8A

## Map shows true Arkansas spirit

I love maps.

I may or may not have an atlas in my bathroom. It may or may not need to be replaced because of the wear and tear that it has endured.

My daughters have several skill sets that were inherited or learned from me. They can do math. They can be sarcastic and they can read a map.

Even in foreign countries, my girls are on top of directions even with or without our phones.

It should be no surprise that when I am thumbing through The Facebook — yes, The Facebook (it upsets my daughters when I use the term) — that I stop at the maps.

First, getting on a political soapbox, there is a map that shows why we need an electoral college. There is a map that shows that LA County in California has a larger population than 25 or 30 states.

There are also maps that show the light density of the United States. That is a really cool map.

What is your favorite coffee

brand? There is a map that shows that.

Then there is my favorite map. One that shows the

favorite teams of each state.

This map is from Google Data, and the one simple question was, "who is your favorite sports team?"

There are some funny trends on the map.

Most states

selected NFL teams as their favorite. Thirty-two states picked a professional football team. The Seattle Seahawks and the Dallas Cowboys had the most states that picked them as their favorite — four.

Major League Baseball had 10 states that picked a favorite team in their corner. The Red Sox, Pirates and Braves each had two states that like them more than other teams.

There are five states that picked NBA teams. The Heat were selected by two states as the favorites. One of those states is located as far from Miami as any other state

— Hawaii.

Two states selected the Boston Bruin hockey team as their favorite.

When doing the math that is 49 states.

But wait there are 50 states. That means that there is one more state that has selected a favorite team. This state went off the grid and picked a college team.

The state was Arkansas and you know the favorite team — Razorbacks.

So, the map of the United States has each state's favorite team and there in the middle is the Razorbacks.

That is state pride at its finest.

Why wouldn't the Razorbacks be the favorite team? The big three sports are all headed in the right direction and the minor sports are doing well.

I have a lot of state pride and I guess a lot of other people do as well.

Sept. 4, the state will be collectively calling the Hogs.

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



Jeff Brasel

sports@newtoncountytimes.com



## HOGS:

From 7A

"I thought our defense outlasted the offense," Pittman said. "I felt like maybe the last half of the scrimmage, I felt like the defense controlled the energy of the scrimmage."

Catalon seconded that motion.

"The defense came out with some juice today and it showed on the field," Catalon said. "We played really well. The D-line was getting back there. The linebackers were plugging up the holes and the DB's on the back end were doing really well. The offense gave us some tough times, too. They had a couple of explosive plays here and there but I thought for the most part we held our own which is good for our first scrimmage."

Defensive secured turnovers included cornerback Montaric Brown's jarring hit for a fumble recovered by senior All-SEC middle linebacker Grant Morgan and a tipped ball interception by defensive back Malik Chavis.

"The defense stopped the offense on the goal line from the one two plays in a row," Pittman said. "They were on the four, and they got it down to the 1 on the first play and were stopped there. Mo Brown had a corner blitz and hit the running back and knocked the ball loose. Great disguise and a real physical hit."

Unfortunately Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek absorbed Saturday's most imprinted hit. Posting his picture on Twitter, Yurachek obviously got too close to the action observing from the sideline. He took a cleat to the face from which he received several gashes on his nose and just above his mouth.

"I know he's going to be fine," Pittman said. "I had a nice conversation with him."

As for players, senior linebacker Deon "De De" Edwards was "dinged up a bit" Saturday, Pittman said and freshman running back AJ Green was injured earlier in the week and withheld from Saturday's scrimmage.

Pittman presumed Saturday that Green and starting center Ricky Stromberg, injured at last week's outset, would be able to scrimmage next Saturday.

Freshman Raheim "Rocket" Sanders, netting a 1-yard touchdown, and track sprinter Josh Oglesby did much of Saturday's backup running back work behind starter Trelon Smith.

Though moved during the week

from running back to tight end, red-shirt freshman Dominique Johnson also took some running back snaps Saturday, Pittman said.

The "other Catalon", Jalen's older brother, Kendall, activated this year after redshirting in 2020 as junior transfer from Southern University, struck Saturday's biggest offensive blow with a 50-yard touchdown catch of a Jefferson pass.

"Kendall Catalon caught a routine 15-yard out and went for a touchdown," Pittman said. "That was good to see him make that play."

Jalen Catalon was asked about the mixed emotion of seeing the defense burned but his brother doing the burning.

"It was 50-50," Jalen said. "When he first scored, I looked and was like, 'Dang!' But then I turned away and gave him a little smirk. I was happy for him."

As a defense, you want to succeed, but at the end of the day, I always celebrate for my blood. For my brother."

Asked to describe his TD pass, Jefferson said, "We knew coming in that we were going to have a 1-on-1 matchup with Kendall on the route. Luckily I got the ball to him with great protection from our line."

By his account and Pittman's, Jefferson had an "average" scrimmage.

Pittman explained it's hard when adorned with a no-hit, caution jersey in scrimmages, for a powerful running quarterback like Jefferson to do all that he can do.

"He's so big and such a good runner, it's just hard in scrimmages for him a lot of times to get into a routine," Pittman said.

Because of the caution jerseys all quarterbacks were in practice, scrimmage sack stats are mostly quick whistle estimates.

However Pittman said via Missouri transfer defensive end Tre Williams had at least two sacks in the bag.

"Tre Williams might have had two, three sacks," Pittman said. "I know he had two, may have been more."

Highly touted freshman Cam Little continues locking the place-kicking post.

Little has done all the first-team preseason place-kicking including Saturday field goals of 46 52 and 37 yards.

"He knows how to kick the ball between them two deals pretty consistently," Pittman said. "We had a hurry field goal situation the other day and it was 57 (yards) and he kicked it 65 I guarantee you."

## COVID disruption gives Morris chance to be recruited

By NATE ALLEN

nallensports@att.net

FAYETTEVILLE — As a walk-on transfer via Helena, Fayetteville and the University of Central Oklahoma, Tyson Morris never had been Razorbacks recruited.

This past winter Morris was doubly Razorbacks recruited.

Coach Sam Pittman and just hired receivers coach Kenny Guiton quickly sought the Razorbacks 3-year letterman senior receiver to return for the encore option the NCAA granted 2020 football seniors because of last season's COVID disruptions.

After leaving early in 2016 without playing at UCO then redshirting in 2017 upon transferring that January to Arkansas under former Razorbacks Coach Bret Bielema, Morris fashioned a nice niche as a reserve receiver and special teamer from 2018-2020. He had played 32 games logging 24 career catches for 352 yards with a touchdown each year. Chad Morris, the second of three head coaches who have coached him, awarded Tyson a scholarship in 2019.

But with his sports management degree in hand, Morris easily could have moved on from football or use the transfer portal seeking increased playing time.

"To be honest, I didn't know how that would go," Pittman recalled recently. "I didn't know. We obviously wanted him to come back."

Pittman asserted that to Tyson.

So did Guiton though he hadn't even met much less coached Morris.

Justin Stepp, the receivers coach coaching Tyson for the two Chad Morris years and Pittman last year, abruptly left Arkansas as a South Carolina native called home to Columbia, S.C. to coach the Gamecocks receivers for new South Carolina Coach Shane Beamer.

"Whenever Coach Stepp left I was kind of in that bind of not knowing what I was going to do about coming back or going elsewhere," Morris said. "But once Coach Pittman hired Coach Guiton he (Guiton) gave me a call the day he got hired."

With his Helena and Fayetteville roots as the son of former Nolan Richardson basketball era center Butch Morris and Synetra Morris, the assistant principal of Fayetteville's Owl Creek Elementary, and the opportunity to start UA grad school, Tyson knew it would be tough to leave Arkansas regardless.

"I love the State of Arkansas and I love the Hogs," Morris said.

And once he knew how Arkansas wanted him ...

"Coach Pittman and Coach Guiton made it clear and answered all the questions that I needed answered," Morris said. "And that's what really got me back."

Quickly.

"There was really no hesitation," Pittman said. "I certainly talked to him about our expectations and what he wanted to accomplish out of his super-senior year. His goals and our goals matched up."

While Morris has been a productive reserve, the big goal is him allowing

himself to be even more productive.

"His biggest challenge was his consistency," Pittman said. "He's very talented. He's got a good body (6-1, 205) good length and he can catch."

But...?

Despite his outwardly sunny disposition, Tyson can get down on himself which downplays his play.

"His deal was being up and down," Pittman said. "Not 50-50 up and down but his down times were not good. He (this preseason) certainly looks better."

Morris, Pittman and Guiton discussed all that from the get-go.

"I've talked to Tyson plenty about having the right mindset," Guiton said. "Having the mindset that hey, I'm going to do my job play-in, play-out, and use my ability to the best that I can do. He's an explosive guy, he can run, he's a bigger-bodied guy, so I think he's got tools and abilities that we can use. I just want to keep him in the right mindset and let him keep playing ball every day, play by play."

That's what Morris has in mind.

"Not having a good day outside of football I can't let that affect me," Morris said. "When I step on the field nothing outside this building should affect me. I have worked on that. They are all for me working on my mental health and point out the things whenever they think I'm going to be down. I appreciate it. My goal is just to be the best me I can be."

His quarterback, third-year sophomore KJ Jefferson, appreciates him and his experience.

## SENIOR BOWL:

From 7A

senior from Warren, Ohio, produced four games with an 80-plus passing grade, allowed only two sacks and was flagged just four times during the 2021 campaign.

Morgan, meanwhile, is no stranger to the limelight this preseason.

The redshirt senior is a candidate for the Bednarik Award, Butkus Award and Bronko Nagurski Trophy as well as a preseason All-SEC selection headed into the 2020 campaign after emerging as one of the best players in all of college football last year by producing one of

the greatest seasons in Arkansas history.

The Greenwood, product, who was named a Walter Camp and AFCA Second Team All-American following the 2020 campaign, posted an SEC-leading 111 total tackles, including 7.5 for loss, with 2.0 sacks. The linebacker finished tied for the nation's lead in tackles per game (12.3) while intercepting one pass, breaking up five and registering one quarterback hurry. Originally a walk-on, Morgan joined Martrell Spaight (2014) as the only two Razorback defenders to garner both AP and Coaches All-SEC recognition in the last 10 seasons.

Pool, who was also tabbed to this year's

preseason watch list for the Butkus Award, grabbed second-team All-SEC recognition last season and was a Lott IMPACT Trophy semifinalist. The senior from Lucas, Texas, played in nine games a year ago and finished second on the team in tackles (101), including 6.5 tackles for loss. Averaging 11.2 tackles per game, Pool ranked second in the SEC and ninth nationally.

Ridgeway joined the Razorbacks this past spring as a graduate transfer from Illinois State (FCS), where he spent the first four years of his collegiate career. A first-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference selection last season, the Bloomington, Ill., native

led the Redbirds in tackles with 22 (14 solo), including 3.0 tackles for loss, while logging one pass breakup and an interception.

Smith, a redshirt junior, produced a team-best 710 rushing yards with five touchdowns on 134 carries (5.3 avg.) out of the backfield in 2020. The Houston, Texas, native played in all 10 games with four starts, finishing with the squad's third-most catches (22) for 159 yards and one score while tallying the second-most all-purpose yards (869) on the Razorbacks.

The tailback, who was also named to the watch list for the Doak Walker Award and Earl Campbell

Tyler Rose Award this preseason, registered his first career 100-yard rushing game at Florida last season, gashing the Gators for 118 yards on eight carries as well as his first career rushing score. His career-long 83-yard touchdown run against Florida stands as Arkansas' longest touchdown run against an SEC opponent since Joe Adams' 92-yard run in 2011 against Auburn.

The Razorbacks open the season at home against former Southwest Conference rival Rice at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, on SEC Network+/ESPN+. Season tickets are available now and can be purchased by calling the Razorback Ticket Center at (479) 575-5151.

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## PROMOTIONS:

From 7A

the responsibility of sport administrator for the swimming and diving program. Fagg, in his 14th year with the Razorbacks, also serves as the sport administrator for football.

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Kat Devenport, Chief of Staff, will now serve as the sport administrator for gymnastics. Devenport, a former Razorback soccer student-athlete is in her eighth year with Razorback Athletics and also serves as the sport administrator for soccer.

In addition, the Razorback Athletics' senior staff has been expanded to welcome 11 new members, representing various areas of the department.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF NEWTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF B.N.J.M, a minor Case No. 51PR-21-12 ALEXIS AGUSTA RYAN MIDDLETON AND KODY ALLEN MIDDLETON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, PETITIONERS VS. AUSTIN NEWTON, RESPONDENT WARNING ORDER STATE OF ARKANSAS COUNTY OF NEWTON), ss. Respondent Austin Newton is hereby Warned and notified that a final hearing in the above case is set for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Newton County Court-house, 100 Court Street, Jasper 72641. Failure to appear or attend the hearing on this date may result in an entry of judgement by default against you or otherwise bar you from answering or asserting any defense you have. WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Newton County, Arkansas, this 12th day of August, 2021. Judge Deanna Layton. 1st Pub. 8/18/21 2t.

**Legal Notice**

22 West of the 5th P.M. in Newton County, Arkansas; thence 23 chains East; thence 20 chains North; thence 23 chains West; thence 20 chains South to the place of beginning, LESS 20 acres North side of this tract, the remainder to contain 26 acres, more or less. AND RODGER OGDEN, KATHRYN OGDEN, AND HAROLD OGDEN COUNTER DEFENDANTS NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Newton County, Arkansas, to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described property in Newton County, Arkansas: Beginning at the SW corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 35 in Township 14 North, Range 22 West of the 5th P.M. in Newton County, Arkansas; thence 23 chains East; thence 20 chains North; thence 23 chains West; thence 20 chains South to the place of beginning, LESS 20 acres North side of this tract, the remainder to contain 26 acres, more or less. Any person claiming any title or interest of any kind to such property is hereby notified to appear herein within 30 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice to assert his title or interest in such property and to demonstrate why title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in Mark Griffin and Teresa Griffin, husband and wife, Counter Plaintiffs herein. Donnie Davis, Circuit/County Clerk Date: July 28, 2021 (SEAL) 1st. Pub. 8/04/21, 4t.

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# Redrawing state districts 6 months behind

By **JAMES L. WHITE**  
jamesw@harrisdaily.com

The Arkansas Board of Apportionment held a hearing Tuesday night in Mountain Home to explain how the state could be rearranged in state senate and house districts as required by law.

The state is required to redraw those districts using data from the 10-year census when completed.

Former Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Betty Dickey is coordinator of the board. She said release of information from the census is at least six months behind schedule. Redistricting must be accomplished before Dec. 31 of this year.

"And we won't get an interpretive map or census until on or about Sept. 30," she said.

Dickey explained that certain criteria must be followed under Arkansas law to redraw each district.

First is the one man, one vote principle that makes districts "substantially equal" for representation in the General Assembly. This allows for a plus or minus 5% deviation in population of districts if necessary.

Of the 35 senate districts and 100 house districts, each particular General Assembly member should represent roughly the same amount of people. House districts should be about 30,000 in population, while senate districts should represent about 85,000 people each, it's estimated this year.

Arkansas law prohibits discrimination based on

race, color or language minority.

There are geographic principles that must be followed, one of which Dickey called "the eyeball test" or shape of the district.

She explained that then-Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry in 1912 drew the district around Boston to look like a salamander, thus the term "gerrymandering," Dickey said.

Districts must have contiguity so that there are no islands of district separated from the remainder. The goal is to keep as much of whole counties and cities in the same district, although it's not always possible to do that, Dickey said.

The Board of Apportionment also must try to

keep new districts from overlapping that might force incumbent representatives or senators from running against one another.

And new districts shouldn't be drawn to target partisanship, giving preferential treatment to one party or another.

Shelby Johnson with the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems office explained how redistricting is to be accomplished.

Johnson said that without the actual numbers from the 2020 census, the department must operate with estimates through 2019.

By looking at changes in population based on those estimates, eastern and southeastern Arkansas have shown a

drop in population, while counties like Benton and Washington have seen substantial population growth. He pointed out that population tends to follow prosperity and opportunity.

As a result, those areas where population has declined will require expanding the geographical area of district to keep the number of people being represented fairly equal. By the same token, those areas where population has dramatically increased will see house and senate districts reduced in geographical area.

Still, those districts can't be officially redrawn until the final 2020 cen-

sus data is received.

When the floor was opened for public comment, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce president Bob Largent said a group of citizens in Boone, Carroll, Newton, Searcy and part of Marion counties have dubbed that region "hub of the Ozarks."

Those areas have different features while sharing a lot in common. He said the four state senators who serve the area do so well well and each "brings a lot to the table." But he asked for a more focused senate district that encompasses those five counties.

## Healthcare worker showing COVID-19 strain

By **JAMES L. WHITE**  
jamesw@harrisdaily.com

Rotary Club of Harrison members got a message Thursday regarding the COVID-19 pandemic: It's not getting any better yet.

Sammie Cribbs, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at North Arkansas Regional Medical Center, began her presentation to the club with statistics that are often heard:

- About 30% of people in Boone County 12 years old or older who are eligible for the vaccine have been fully vaccinated.

- About 90% of people who have died from the illness were not vaccinated.

- The vaccine has been clinically proven to protect against serious sickness or death from the disease. There are cases in which vaccinated people have been hospitalized or have died, but the majority of vaccinated people don't suffer acute illness.

- As of Thursday morning, the Arkansas Department of Health reported 342 active COVID-19 cases in Boone County, an increase from about 80 cases this time a month ago.

Cribbs said that as of Thursday morning there were 21 COVID-19 patients at NARMC and about a quarter of them were on ventilators.

The hospital continues to offer vaccination clinics and has expanded to areas outside Boone County.

The hospital is continuing to test people for the coronavirus. Testing is important because NARMC does offer monoclonal antibody infusions, but it's most effective when administered within 10 days of the onset of symptoms, Cribbs said.

Testing is being done from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the old Bear State Building on Highway 65 North, now the NARMC Medical Plaza across from Dunkin' Donuts. Rapid tests are available for those who qualify, but they also offer PCR tests that are shipped to a laboratory and are currently the most the most effective testing method currently available.

People who show negative results with a rapid test are encouraged to follow up with the PCR test for confirmation.

"I can tell you, yesterday we had 20 out of 23 tests that were positive," Cribbs said Thursday.

Over the counter tests

that come from a pharmacy have about a 50-60% accuracy rate. A positive result from one of those tests will be fairly accurate, but there is a 30-40% chance it could result in a false negative result. In the latter instance, you should follow up with a PCR test.

With more severe illness and more of it, health care resources are being strained. That, Cribbs said, accounts for longer wait times in the emergency room.

"Patients are having to wait in unideal circumstances and the delivery of care is significantly impacted from the resource availability," Cribb said. "So, hang with us. The healthcare workers are tired."

Cribbs recommended wearing face masks, practicing good hand hygiene and physical distancing, avoiding large crowds and being vaccinated.

A woman asked Cribbs about symptoms presented in vaccinated people. Because those symptoms could be milder, the person might think their suffering seasonal allergies and could spread the virus.

Cribbs admitted that "struggle is real," but research shows that the vaccination can help reduce the amount of virus a person carries and reduce the amount of transmission if they do contract the virus.

Cribbs said that is not to say that a vaccinated

person can't in some cases spread the virus because there have been some such documented instances.

If you don't normally get seasonal allergies or if those symptoms last for more than a day or two, it would be a good idea to get tested just for confirmation.

When asked about booster vaccines for people who have been fully vaccinated, Cribbs said NARMC can't administer a third shot yet because that would be operating outside the emergency use authorization granted the vaccines currently available.

She was also asked for her opinion about what could happen with the virus if the vaccination rate continues as it is.

You have to have two doses of vaccine given 21 to 28 days apart and it takes two weeks after the second dose before your body reaches optimal immunity.

Cribbs said that puts the community "behind the eight ball." At a pivotal time when children are about to go back to school and the virus continues to surge, the Health Department is predicting a peak of infection in October.

"So, as we're continuing to battle through this, our concern is the limiting factors of health care resources," she said.

For instance, staff that must care for critical COVID-19 patients could limit healthcare workers

available for someone with a heart attack or stroke, or a car wreck victim.

"We're extremely concerned about that impact to our community, to our state, to our region," Cribbs said.

So, what do they do when short staffed? "Scramble," Cribbs said.

She explained that some clinicians have stepped forward to take on a role caring for patients at bedside. NARMC continues to recruit more healthcare workers and offer incentives.

But she again stressed that those workers are tired. They grow weary of caring for patients who are suffering from a terminal illness and the impact that has on their families.




**COVID-FREE STARTS WITH ME**

Protect yourself, protect your community and get back to the life you love by getting your COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and find out where you can get yours at [VaccinateTheNaturalState.com](https://www.vaccinate.thenaturalstate.com).

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8.14.21



**REAL FACTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE.**

**Q:** Will the COVID-19 vaccine keep me from getting very sick?

**A: YES** The vaccines work by teaching your immune system how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19.


**Q:** Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

**A: NO** None of the vaccines in the U.S. contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, so it cannot make you sick.

**Q:** Do I need a shot if I already had COVID-19?

**A: YES** You should get vaccinated even if you already had COVID-19 before.

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# Newton County Fair Pageant winners for 2021



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Petite Miss Newton County Mackenzie Crow.



Tiny Miss Newton County Haisley Kae Heft.



Junior Miss Newton County Sophie Smith.



Tiny Miss Newton County, Crowd Favorite, Most photogenic, best dressed and rodeo queen Kynzlee Woods.



Little Miss Newton County Mia Royce.



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## Newton County Fair Schedule

The Newton County Fair is Aug. 22-29. This year's theme is "It's all fun & games until it hits the fan!"

High school classes, clubs, organizations and volunteer fire departments in the

county are invited to contact the fair board about this year's midway events. Booth space is being offered at no cost for fundraising projects.

Fair-connected events began last Saturday

with the annual fair pageant at the Jasper High School. The next upcoming event will be the truck pull at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, at the rodeo arena.

Check-in day is Sunday, Aug. 22, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The annual Livestock Show is 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23; the buyers dinner and livestock sale is Tuesday, Aug. 24. The fairgrounds are closed on Wednesday. Events return at the arena Thursday with Mutton Austin' at 7 p.m. and the John Villines Memorial Bull Jam at 8 p.m. Another round of Mutton Bustin' will be at 7 p.m. Friday followed by night one of the Ramsey Motor Company ACA Rodeo at 8 p.m. The fair parade will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, followed by the final Mutton Bustin' event at 7 p.m. and the rodeo finale at 8 p.m.

Check-out day of building exhibits will be from 12-2 p.m., Sunday, only.

**THE HAYGOODS**  
 BRANSON'S MOST POPULAR SHOW!

**New Show Additions 2021!**  
**LOCAL AREA APPRECIATION!**  
 August 17-28 & Sept. 7-11, 2021: **7:30 PM**  
 Sept. 5, 2021: **2:00 PM**

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