

Clay County Courier

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Lack of leadership puts kids at risk as school year begins

By Pam Lowe – Editor-Clay County Courier

Joseph W. Thompson, MD, MPH, President and CEO of Arkansas Center for Health Improvement recently spoke with the Clay County Courier about the dangerous situation that students, teachers, families and ultimately the community, find themselves in with the Delta variant raging across the state just as the school year is set to begin. Dr. Thompson explained, “Well, I think unfortunately we’ve had a lack of leadership on



Dr. Joe Thompson, CEO & President, ACHI

this issue, and we are now faced with a pretty risky

situation as we go back in school. We have the Delta variant, which is a very different virus than the original COVID variant. It attacks younger individuals, including our kids, and now is causing hospitalization and even death among kids less than age 18. Obviously if there are parents with kids that are 12 and older, I strongly encourage them to get vaccinated immediately and to finish, if it’s a two dose course, to make sure they get that second dose at the appropriate time. That protection, however,

will not kick in for five to six weeks. So that means if kids didn’t get vaccinated earlier in July, they will not have protection as they start school. And so even though the teenagers should think about wearing masks as they go to school to be protected. And then for sure, kids

12 and under, we cannot vaccinate now so parents need to encourage and support and model with behavior wearing a mask and washing their hands. I mean it’s time to put those defensive measures back into play because this virus is looking for unprotected individuals.”

Dr. Thompson stated that Arkansas was going to have a very rough next four to six weeks. “I think delay in school initiation should at least be on the table for consideration.”

“We still need our local leaders to do the right thing. And at least in the first few weeks, month or two of school to require masks and to make sure that they realize the threat is real in their community, both for the kids and for the teachers and for the staff.”

- Dr. Joe Thompson, CEO ACHI

I think it will probably peak. It will be in a different

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School board encourages masks; implements opt-out policy

The Corning School Board met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, in the board room with all members present. The board approved the minutes from last month’s meeting, the financial report as presented, and the Statement of Assurance for Accreditation Compliance. Employments

of Kathy Dixon as Park Elementary Nurse and Jennie Moore as cafeteria worker were approved. The updated Ready for Learning plan was presented and approved. An Additional Compensation Plan for Covid19 was approved for the 2021-22 school year. Updates to the Certified Salary

Schedule were approved as presented by the PPC Committee and Superintendent Woolard. These updates include a \$3000 stipend for the District POC for Covid19, and a \$35 per hour addition for Learning Loss Committee members. A resolution

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About 9.1% of Covid-19 cases involve immunized people in Arkansas

By Rob Wells; ArkansasCovid.com

About 9.1% of all COVID-19 cases in Arkansas involve fully immunized people since Feb. 1, the Arkansas Department of Health said Monday, providing new insight about the extent of the delta variant in the state.

7.4% of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in that time period involved people fully immunized. Overall, 14.6% of the 22,815 active cases involve fully immunized individuals. The data was released as overall COVID-19 cases escalate in Arkansas. Just eight intensive care beds remain open in the

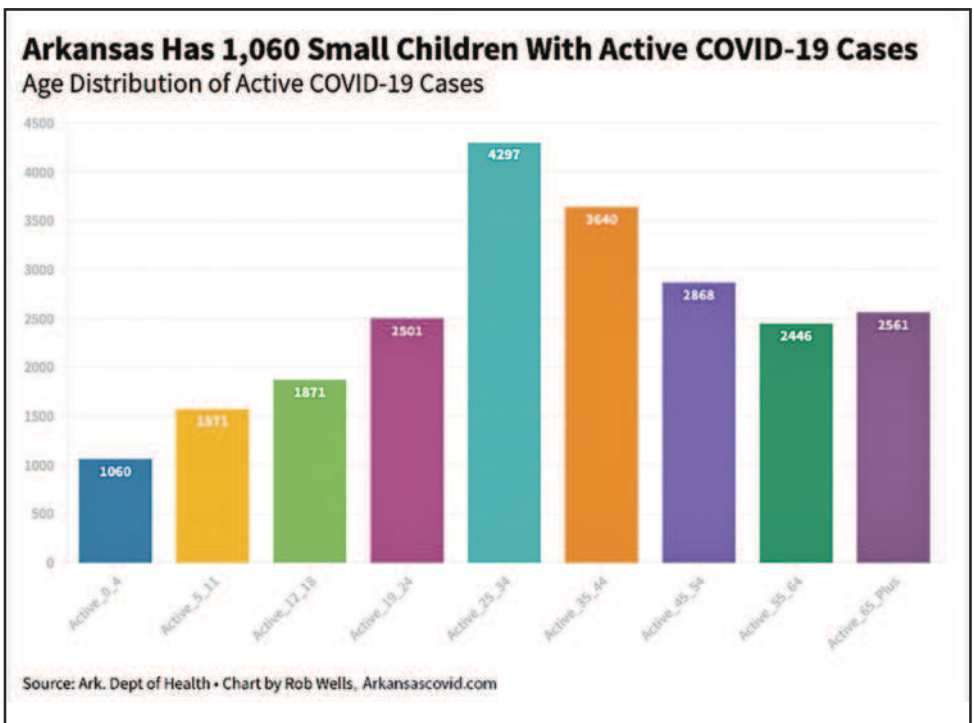
the prior record of 1,371 cases on Jan. 11. On Friday, 3,037 cases were reported, illustrating the growing severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in Arkansas. This ranks No. 13 on the list of the largest one-day reports of COVID cases in the state; Jan. 1, 2021, was the record with 4,304



Open House . . .

Park Elementary Kindergarten teacher Shelby Burkheart (far left) chats with Christy Brandon (back left) and Steven Daily (right) about their daughter Adaleigh Daily (front, left) starting kindergarten during Park’s Open House on Thursday, Aug. 5. The family also has a soon-to-be second grader, Abigail Daily (front middle) and first grader, Carson Daily (front right). Steven Daily reunited with his own kindergarten teacher, Brenda McGrew and second grade teacher, Laurie Mock during the Open House visit.

Photo/ Anthony Childress



The health department said 9% of all COVID-19 deaths since Feb. 1 involved fully immunized individuals. And it said

entire state, the health department said Monday, as hospitalizations from COVID-19 reached a record 1,376 cases, eclipsing

cases. Arkansas, with one of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation, is sufficient

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City receives ARP funds; discusses water dept. issues



Corning Water Department Supervisor Doug Hill explains to Councilmen Ray Vannoy (right) and Terry Masterson (left) how the batteries on the water meters lose their life and need to be replaced before the warranty runs out.

By Pam Lowe – Editor-Clay County Courier

The Corning City Council met on Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. at City Hall for their August meeting. After approving the budget including the expense report, bills payable and purchase orders, Mayor Greg Ahrent stated there was no old business and moved onto the new business of his request to purchase vehicles for the Water and Street Departments. The 2000 model F-250 currently used by the Street Department is a gas hog according to the mayor and he stated he wants to upgrade that truck and one for the Wa-

ter Department. Ahrent said the purchases would be over his spending limit and estimated the cost to be around \$22,000 - \$23,000. Councilman Ray Vannoy made a motion to raise the mayor’s spending limit to \$25,000 for a one time use on vehicle purchases. The city plans to continue to use both older trucks and will not be trading them in. The mayor plans to purchase Ford trucks in order to get them worked on locally at Red Taylor Ford. Concerning the swimming pool, the mayor said he is still waiting on an estimate from one more per-

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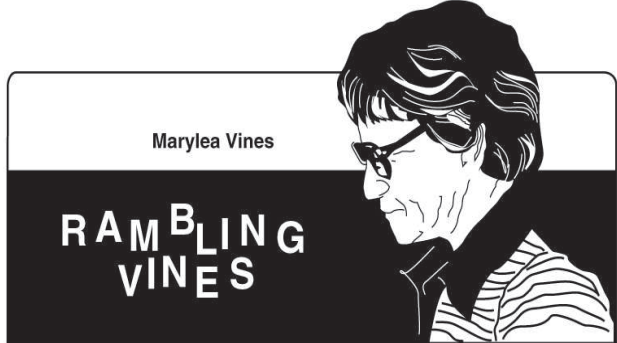
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For your reading enjoyment, we continue to publish **Rambling Vines** by the late Marylea Vines as she recalls events and names of Corning folks from many years ago. We are currently in the year 1986.



I went with friends over in the mountains recently and we had a great time. There is this train ride with a steam engine that is okay, but not quite what we had in mind... There is a short- age of track and half the trip is made backward. It was okay though and great thrill for those who had never ridden on such a train.

We grew up with steam engines and many a time the engineer has released the steam when passing as we played near the railroad track. I have a lot of “train” stories, be- sides the one about the fast morning train near- ly getting me at Oliver’s crossing as a First grad- er. I used to go to Knob- el on Number Three as often as I could get the 13 cents fair. Would vis- it my grandmother and ride back to Corning next morning with Grandma’s neighbor, Fred Cox, who had to drive right past our house to get to his job at the courthouse... It was an ideal setup that went on for quite some time.

One time my sister (a whole lot older) and I were going to visit Grandma the Summer af- ter I had completed First grade and I insisted on holding my ticket. When we got on the train I sat across the aisle from her to be out of reach and de- cided to see if a scheme I had thought up would work, if so, I would never have to buy another tick- et that Summer. When the conductor came by collecting tickets, I just held on to mine, tight as I could, hidden in my fist. He said, “Where’s your ticket little lady?” and I rolled my eyes, looked up at him and said that I didn’t have one because I

wasn’t old enough (six). He put his hand on my shoulder and said, “No, but I bet you go to school?, knowing that if I said yes that I would be at least six. I looked him straight in the eye and said, “No, but I will go next year,” ... and to add a convincing note to my story, I con- tinued, “And Miss Jewel will be my teacher.”

Pretty simple, I was thinking, until we stepped off that train and my sister started pound- ing on me. She whacked on me all the long way from the train station to Sellmeyer’s Store, then quit because she didn’t want anyone to see us fighting. She cried the remaining blocks to Grandma’s because I had brought shame to the en- tire family. Personally, I was pretty proud of my- self, I was in Knobel and still had by 13 cent ticket!

There’s a lot more to this story, even though the ending was post- poned until we got back to Corning, it was defi- nitely not a happy end- ing.

The average American now pays out as much in taxes as he formerly re- ceived in wages.

Have you every no- ticed what a chore it is to see the weather news on television? For some rea- son the weather-person chooses to stand right in front of Arkansas and I find myself leaning to one side or the other, try- ing to see behind them, which is, of course, im- possible. I really prefer to see and hear what is happening in Arkansas, in the Missouri Booth- eel, and in the Memphis area... whatever is hap- pening in Caribou, Maine or some of those places, plays out before it ever gets to us anyway.

the *Lord's* Corner

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1: 9

The Lowe Down

by Pam Lowe

MANAGING EDITOR

Hot potato . . .

Leadership takes back- bone. Few people like con- frontation, but when you’re in leadership you can expect it from time to time. A leader can’t be worried about who gets mad at them. As Harry Truman said, “If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.” Great leaders do what they know is best for their charges based on facts and research. In the case of school districts, it is the kids. I’ve said this many times, every decision made by a district must be in the best in- terest of the kids, from major decisions to minute details.

Currently we are seeing a lack of leadership in just about every direction. Lead- ers are to look out for the best interest of all the people un- der their care. This includes the most vulnerable, our children. While our governor is concerned about our chil- dren, words only go so far. They certainly don’t protect our children. Some school boards are in a tough position now that Pulaski County Cir- cuit Judge Tim Fox issued a preliminary injunction block- ing enforcement of Act 1002, a new state law that prohibits public mask requirements. Those that hoped that the decision would not be given local control are basically ad- mitting a weak leadership. The only reason that anyone wouldn’t want control of a decision is if they were con- cerned that others would disagree. The decision about mask wearing is now laid at the feet of Arkansas school districts. It’s the biggest game of hot potato I’ve ever seen. No one wants to touch this issue, except those with op- inions on social media.

The Corning School Dis- trict is supporting masks but doesn’t want to man- date them. They are laying the decision in the hands of

parents to decide. They are trying to ride the fence and allow those that want to wear masks wear them, and those that don’t want to wear them possibly infect the others. It appears to be from a glance the best of both worlds that is, until Delta variant cases increase in the district.

It’s easy to have a higher power make a decision so that the blame is laid at an- other’s feet. I get that, but it’s cowardly. What is coura- geous is to speak out for what you believe is right when the majority has differing views and loud voices. And not that I must point this out, but I support our school. I always will. It doesn’t mean I have to agree with every decision.

Many times, if we stand back and allow the loudest voices to ring out, they show their true character and in the case of mask wearing, the lack of a basic knowledge of science and faith in the medi- cal field. I’m still surprised by this. First, not taking science into consideration, common sense seems to dictate that if you have a covering over your mouth and nose, some degree of spit, germs, etc. will be blocked from expelling onto another person in close proximity. That’s not even considering the science be- hind masks.

For a true indication of the effect of masks curtailing ill- ness, look at 2021’s flu cases in Arkansas. There was a dra- matic decrease in flu cases in the height of mask wearing. From September 27, 2020, to March 20, 2021 there were 1,938 positive influenza tests reported to the ADH data- base by health care providers. Arkansas reported 18 influ- enza-related deaths this flu season.

In the same time period in the previous year, 2019-2020, from September 29, 2019, to

March 14, 2020, there were 34,600 positive influenza tests reported to the ADH database by health care pro- viders, with over 960 positive tests reported in the week of March 20, 2020 alone.

While Arkansans were wearing masks last year to prevent the spread of Covid-19 there was 32,662 less flu cases. Previous years had high flu cases as well. Last season was the lowest. Masks work to slow trans- mission of illness.

If schools can enforce a dress code, they can enforce mask wearing.

For those hung up on hav- ing a vaccination card, news flash: We have always need- ed proof of vaccination. It’s just that our parents listened to medical experts.

As school is starting Cor- ning is listed again this week in the ArkansasCovid.com list of 140 Arkansas school districts that have COVID-19 infection rates of 50 or more new known infections per 10,000 district residents over a 14-day period. The infor- mation is based on Arkansas Department of Health data obtained Monday. The Rec- tor and Piggott School Dis- tricts are not on this list.

Today, Wednesday, Aug. 11 there are 96 active cases. Since the other two school districts aren’t in the hot zone, I’m assuming a good deal of the cases are in our com- munity. Clay County numbers have steadily grown from 54 cases on August 4 to 96 cases today, August 11.

We’ve got a perfect storm brewing just when we thought we were past the worst of Covid.

It’s a poor time to play hot potato with the health of our community. Please get vaccinated and wear a mask and listen to the medical experts.

Letter to the Editor

Reader urges city to address properties

Dear Editor,

The properties from 3rd Street north to the edge of the old trailer court and from 3rd Street and George Street to 4th Street on the north side and the

corner of 4th to George Street look like a jungle! Now there are two burnt out houses to look at with a fence now so overgrown you have to pull out to the middle of 4th Street before

you can see if traffic is coming. You know who owns all this. Why can’t something be done?

Charlotte Madsen
Corning, AR

From The Courier Files

1894

The Baptist Church, we regret to say, is not so prosperous. We hope to see it, and the Christian and Catholic congrega- tions, who as yet have no church houses, all prosper for there is nothing so wholesome and eleva- tion as religious exercised. A. L. Barnett’s new brick double store on first street approaches completion ad looks like a city building with its splendid glass front and in really the handsom- est and the best store in Corning. Mr Barnett will soon transfer his large stock of general merchandise from his present quarters into the building William Felsberg is the architect and builder of the woodwork in the new building and show plainly that he is en- tirely equal to the occasion and is a first-class artist. E. H. Clark and Sons are to be

praised for the brickwork. T. F. Ray the hardware and furniture dealer of Poplar Bluff, furnished the tin roof. J. E. Matthews is a regular deputy marshal of Corn- ing now, and his former success will. recommend him as the best man for the place. The blind tiger that pokes his head out any- where in Corning is very liable to get badly used up. Thomas Warren, who owns and lives upon a good form two miles North of town is now at work making a large brick kiln on his form. This is a good invest- ment. Bricks will always be in demand here, for, so far, Corning is a Wood- en town with exception of only three brick hous- es. Make plenty of good brick. They will always sell here at a good price. The teachers for the Corn- ing Public School arrived

last Saturday. They are as follows: L. S. Gillis, principal of Mountain Home, Miss Viola B. Cundiff, intermed- iate, Of Cairo Ill., Miss Edna Harris, primary of Union City, Tell. The school being under entirely new manage- ment throughout is hoped that the advancement of the pupils will be encouraging in the future, as it has been in the past. Corning Public School has all the advan- tages that can be given and is a credit to the town, and the directors and citizens are determined to keep it fully in front and up to the times. At the daily morning noon and evening hours can be heard the sounds of the many steam whistles at the different mills and factories in and about Corning and almost encircling the town: the sounds varying in the musical scale from the heavy steamboat bass of the South- ern Cooperative Company factor in Corning, in differ- ent notes, to high Cat Fergu- son and Wheeler’s mill on Black River near town. The sounds are pleasant because it notes that many hundreds of worthy laboring people have good and prosperous work and thereby the coun- try prospers.

Notices

Corning City Council meets second Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., in City Hall.

Clay County Quorum Court, Third Monday each month, 7:00 p.m., al- ternating between Cor- ning and Piggott court- houses.

Corning Area Chamber of Commerce meets first Monday each month, 12:00 noon at a local restaurant.

Corning School District conducts regular month- ly board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. during winter months.

Corning Lions Club meets the second Tues- day of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Parkview Restau- rant.

Corning Library is open 6 days a week, Mon- day-Saturday. Check time posted on their front door. Telephone 870-857-3453.

The Peach Orchard City Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Kiwanis Club meets at noon each Tuesday.

Corning Masonic Lodge, Number 719, meets the second Thurs- day each month, Winter months 6:30 p.m.; Day- light Saving months 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple.

Clay County Republi- cans meet second Tues- day of each month at El Acapulco, 6:30 p.m.

Rapert-Poynor VFW Post #8347 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in M.B. Ainley, Jr. Commu- nity Center.

McDougal City Coun- cil meets the first Tues- day of each month, be- ginning at 7:00 p.m.

Knobel City Council meets the second Thurs- day of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Clay County Chap- ter of National Associ- ation of Retired Federal Employment (NARFE), meets first Wednesday each month at 11:00 a.m., in Piggott Community Center. Call 870-857-5137.

The Board of Directors of Doni Martin Center for Development Services, holds its regular meet- ings on the third Wednes- day of each month, at 5:00 p.m., at 1506 Park Street, Pocahontas. Special meetings or changes will be announced.

Board commissioners of Central Clay Drainage District and Cache River maintenance District of Clay County will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Eastern District Courthouse in Piggott.

For Your Information

Tax deductible do- nations are being ac- cepted for Corning’s recreational project, including: M. B. Ainley Jr. Community Center, Victory Lake Golf Course, ballfields and fishing lake.

Corning Cemetery Trust Board’s goal is to set up a perpetual care fund so that in future years the cemetery will be self-sustain- ing. Tax deductible donations may be sent to Rick Ermert or Bil- ly Allen. Receipts are issued by the City of Corning.

Clay County Literacy Council, Corning divi- sion, has Carolyn Jones as local contact person. She may be reached at 870-857-5364.

Area residents who would like to make a donation to Ameri- can Cancer Society and have it designated for use in Northeast Arkan- sas may contact Ameri- can Cancer Society, 901 North University, Post Office Box 3822, Little Rock 72203.

Guest Post

by Brigitte McDonald

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 1ST CHOICE HEALTHCARE,
CHAIR, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF ARKANSAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Stand strong, get the vaccine, let local schools decide mask policies

Working for a Community Health Center, one needs a special mindset. You're not out punching timecards or obsessing over profit margins. You care about the people in your community. You care about their health. You do everything you can to treat, but more importantly, you listen. You help patients help themselves.

Most of the time, patients listen. They may not like what you say, but they generally respect their medical providers' opinions. They believe Community Health Centers have their best interest at heart.

But it's different with COVID-19. We respectfully talk about the good results from vaccines. We work hard to counter misinformation. But it's hard. People are too willing to believe so many conspiracy theories.

Now, we've reached a tipping point. COVID is exploding across Arkansas. We've got to do more.

I strongly support Governor Asa Hutchinson's call to amend Act 1002, the state law banning local mask mandates. Our local school leaders deserve the option. Our children deserve the protection. COVID isn't a disease just affecting the old and sick. This new delta variant changed the ballgame. Kids are not only contracting COVID but

ending up in the Intensive Care Unit. The situation will only get worse when school starts. Kids will spread it to adults.

The current dynamic confounds me. In the 24 years, I've led a Community Health Center, I've never seen anything like this.

We have a deadly worldwide pandemic on our hands and a wonderful miracle of science: a vaccine developed by medical professionals to keep everyone safe. But too many people just refuse to accept the cure. They aren't always acting in their best interest. (I'm finding many times we leave the vaccine issue as an "agree to disagree issue." we don't want to anger or insult to the point where they don't come back for the medical care they need.) In some respects, I've thrown up my hands. Some days, I must admit I feel like giving up. As health care providers, we're exasperated. But we'll keep trying.

I hate it's come to this, that we're again talking about students wearing masks in school. I don't like wearing a mask any more than anyone else does. Didn't we already do this? Weren't we supposed to be clear of COVID after the vaccine arrived?

But when you stop and think, it makes perfect sense.

Let's consider the simple truth that if folks

just got their vaccines we wouldn't be in this predicament. Vaccine rates are too low. Among the counties 1st Choice Healthcare serves (Clay, Greene, Randolph, Lawrence, Sharp, and Fulton), the percentage of people fully immunized is highest in Clay County at 32 percent, according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data. The remaining five counties have less than 30 percent of their people fully vaccinated. That's just too few people getting their shots.

Who's ending up in the hospital? The unvaccinated. They make up nearly all the COVID cases (96 percent), hospitalizations (95 percent), and deaths (97 percent) since January 1, 2021, according to figures released by the governor.

Still, it's understandable why some people would refuse a vaccine. There are so many mixed messages from Washington and from Little Rock. The changes are constant. The CDC said people with a vaccine didn't need to wear a mask. Now, they are saying the opposite. The state had a mask mandate, then they didn't. Who do you listen to?

But let's keep our eyes on the big picture the driving factor with Governor Hutchinson. If we all do our part and get the vaccine, this mask stuff goes away.

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From Page One RISK

ent place in October, but late August, September I figure is going to be a pretty threatening time." And I don't think we're talking about canceling the school year. I just think delaying the start until we could get more teenagers vaccinated and get past the peak of this surge is something that ought to be on the table. The doctors said, "Clearly masks do help. Some of the misinformation around the dangers of masks is false. And it is one of our tools against this deadly virus we have to have available for use."

Thompson explained the difference between the Delta variant and the original Covid-19 virus. "The parent of the original COVID-19 virus it infected, an individual was likely to infect two to three people that they came in contact with. This Delta variant is likely to infect five to seven people that it comes into contact with. Now, the reason it is more infectious are twofold. One is apparently when you get infected with the Delta variant, your viral load, the amount of virus, you shed is potentially a thousand times more. And also that virus you are shedding; the spikes are much stickier. It's like the difference between duct tape and scotch tape. It unloads more virus and a stickier virus. So, if you come in contact with it, it's going to try to infect you."

The doctor said that Arkansas could get variant that is more threatening than the Delta variant. "The way this virus has acted so far is when there are high levels of transmission that's when the virus mutates into a more seri-

ous threat. So we are in the highest transmission rate in the United States right now, Arkansas. And I am concerned if we could get an Arkansas variant that is even more threatening than the Delta variant."

Thompson offered the following advice, "I think for protected individuals that have been vaccinated, some commonsense measures let them go do relatively normal levels of activity. I would encourage vaccinated people to wear masks if they're in a large public place where there are lots of unvaccinated people and the virus is probably present. I'd wear a mask when I went to the grocery store or to retail outlet, I'd made sure I washed my hands frequently. And then I'd try not to be a big crowds. For unprotected individuals, you are at high risk and this is a deadly virus. And I would encourage you to do whatever you can to get protected through vaccination and to reinstate all the defensive measures that we know of; staying at home, avoiding crowds, wearing your masks all the time, limiting your activities that would expose you."

Thompson stated that he believes it's safe for vaccinated people to go in and eat at restaurants. "I think I would go back and use those measures that we know work. I'd wear a mask when I was waiting in line to be seated and I'd wear a mask when I was walking through the restaurant. But if I sit down with other vaccinated people at the table, I think you can enjoy a nice meal. If I was unvaccinated and unprotected, I would seriously question whether I should go into that establishment to start with. I think we're having a division, unfortunately, you know, of our residents

into those that have protections, they still need to be smart and they still need to avoid unnecessary exposure. And then we have those without protection that this virus is preying upon it, unfortunately for our kids that are 12 and younger, we had no protection to offer them. Other than that, the defensive measures that we added last year, masking, distance and hygiene."

The doctor said that even with the decision made by Judge Tim Fox last week to issue a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of a new state law that prohibits public mask requirements that leaders need to step up. "We still need our local leaders to do the right thing. And at least in the first few weeks, month or two of school to require masks and to make sure that they realize the threat is real in their community, both for the kids and for the teachers and for the staff."

He continued, "The folks that are getting the sickest and that we are losing by far, most of those are unvaccinated individuals. That means the vaccines are protecting a lot of people. There are circumstances like if somebody has cancer or their immune system was compromised in some way that maybe the vaccine didn't provided as much protection. So, you know, even people with vaccines, a small proportion could have bad outcomes, but the vaccines appear to be very effective at preventing hospitalization."

Thompson said, "This is a deadly virus, and nobody should take it lightly. It can strike families. It will strike families across our state. And I am fearful of the next few weeks that, that we're in for a pretty dark time."

From Page One COUNCIL

son. He said the city had applied for a grant, but he still must come up with a number that will cover what needs to be done at the pool.

Next Councilman Terry Masterson asked if the mayor had received any information about increasing the sales tax. Ahrent said he called Linda Vinson, who is on the Election Commission Board, and she said there are only certain times an election for sales tax could be held. He had not heard back from her prior to the meeting. There was a short discussion on how a public meeting would need to be presented about increasing the sales tax. Street Supervisor Doug Hill gave a report on the sewer project. He said that Lee Drive is finished, and Bryan Street has one more little line tie in there, but it's up and running. He also stated that the lift station by the swimming pool is up and running and Lockwood Drive is approximately a quarter of the way completed. Councilman Ray Vannoy asked about Ferguson Road. Hill said they were waiting to see how much money they're going to have left in that budget. We've got three of them that we're waiting to see how much we're going to have left and maybe just be able to revamp them. He named 11th Street behind Dr. Erwin's house, Ferguson Road and one in the Lyndale Addition. Hill said, "All of them are needing pretty bad attention, but I mean, it's nothing we can't keep going, but we're just dumping money at this point." Councilman Randall Godwin asked Hill about

the average cost of a pump. Hill responded that John Selig had told him he thought \$75,000 for the smaller pumps, including two submersibles and new tops. He said the larger pumps are over \$100,000. Hill explained the situation further saying the compressors are \$375 and there are some pumps that go through a compressor a month. "We just need to get away from the whole priming set up. Cause I mean, like I said, there's just so many variables when you've got them submersibles, you gotta float. When that float raises, she kicks on and she pumps when a float drops, she's off. I mean, you don't have to sit there and the air hoses and everything else. A self-priming pump, they're only good for 15 -20 feet. We're needing to be down there at 30. So, I mean, now you're stressing that new pump." City Clerk J'Anna Couch announced the city had received the Arkansas Rescue Plan money it had applied to receive. The city will receive \$631,492.25 that will be divided into two payments. The first half has been received with the second half of the money to be delivered in a year. Couch said the money has to be applied to infrastructure, such as water and sewer with more items being allowed every day. Hill said, "That's why I am saying while we've got these three small pumps that they, you know, I mean, if they're going to give us the money, it needs to be invested in something like that, it's better than trying to come up with it later when they do completely fail." Couch told the council the city must spend all the money. "I have to

put it in a completely different account. It came to our state funds, but I have to go open up another account and have that money put over into that. I think we have until I'm not mistaken, 2026 to actually spend it all. So, I don't know if the first check has to be spent by 2023 and then the second check by 2026. I don't know how that works, but think it's about 2026."

In talking about the water department, Mayor Ahrent said that the battery life of the city's water meters is gone. Hill reported that they had the master meter do a check on the meters and 1,160 of the meters have a dead battery. This requires that members of the water department to drive around and manually read the meters. It was explained that the batteries are about eight and half years old with an estimated life of 10-15 years. Hill said to purchase 130 meters would cost \$10,000. He explained, "You get a hundred percent at 10 years, something happens to that meter within the first 10 years, you send it back. No problem. They send you one." Hill said the meters were eight months from the warranty being out. "And the guy said once that warranty runs out, he said, we're going to prorate them. But he said, what you're going to spend on prorating them right now, you throw a few more dollars in it, you've got another 20 years." Hill said the water department was shut down two weeks a month manually reading the meters. Councilman Godwin made a motion to raise the mayor's spending limit to \$15,000 a month to the end of his term

See COUNCIL - Page 5

From Page One IMMUNIZED

fering a major outbreak of the virus due to spread of the delta variant, which is far more infectious than the original COVID-19 virus that emerged in January 2020.

On Friday, the Arkansas State Legislature adjourned without altering its statewide mask ban that prevents governmen-

tal entities from ordering employees or public school students to wear a mask and protect themselves from COVID-19. This has led to legal challenges. The Associated Press reported that Pulaski County Circuit Judge Tim Fox issued an order temporarily blocking enforcement of the mask ban that Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed in April.

The new data release offered some sobering new

insights about the spread of the virus among small children. It shows 1,060 small children have active COVID-19 cases in Arkansas. Overall, there are 2,631 children with COVID-19 who are under age 12, all of whom are ineligible for the vaccine. People aged 25 to 34 represent the largest group with 4,297 active cases, followed by the age 35 to 44 group, with 3,640 active cases.

From Page One MASKS

declaring financial interest in Jim's Tire and Auto was approved. Next, Superintendent Woolard presented various updates to the board including the continuation of Covid19 prevention procedures, sanitizing procedures, and updated information on AMI days.

Superintendent Woolard also presented results of the parent/guardian survey and the faculty/staff survey regarding wearing facemasks and virtual learning to the board. Woolard said the district sent a survey link to parents via their notification system. The notifications are sent directly to the phone numbers listed on the student's enrollment forms. The survey was available online from Monday morning until Wednesday, Aug. 11 and the administration provided paper copies at the meet and greet on Monday night. Woolard said she was extremely pleased with the number of parents who participated in the survey and said, "Of all surveys I have sent to parents/guardians in the last two years, this survey had the most responses."

The surveys indicated that 75% of parent responses were against a student face mask requirement, while 25% were for such requirement. Faculty/staff responses were 69% against a student face mask requirement and 31% for a face mask requirement.

After consideration of the parent and faculty surveys, discussion with medical professionals, and guidance from DESE, the board approved the following parental choice student mask opt-out policy: The Corning School Board strongly encourages all faculty, staff, and students to wear face masks while indoors at school. The district recommends and will assume that all parents want their children to wear masks while in school to prevent the transmission of COVID19 and to allow in person learning to continue for the 2021-22 school year. This recommendation is not mandatory, and each parent has a choice to opt their student out of wearing a mask in school. Woolard said that in order for students to be mask-less while at school, parents must sign and return the Student Opt-Out Form to their child's principal. A separate form must be completed for each child.

On Wednesday afternoon, Woolard said she sent a letter to parents/guardians via the school's notification system and to the parent emails they have in their student database. "In that letter I stated that if we determine an increase in the number of student and/or staff quarantines or positive cases, we will implement a temporary mask mandate for all until the cases decrease. If we have to implement a temporary mandate, the opt out option will no longer be available until we lift the mandate."

Woolard added, "It is extremely important for parents/guardians to make sure we have the correct phone numbers and email addresses in our student database so that they receive our notifications. It is also important to note that most notifications will also be posted on our district webpage." The letter will also be posted on the district's webpage by later this afternoon.

The September meeting was changed to September 28 at 6:00 pm in the CHS Library. This meeting will include Federal Programs updates and the Annual Report to the Public. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Society

Zack Brown Farms defines success with top yields



Grower: Zack Brown, Zack Brown Farms, Success Arkansas Crop Advisor: James Varvil, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Corning, Ark.

The Fertilizer Institute

Since 2012, the 4R Advocate Program (4Rs - Right fertilizer source at the Right rate, at the Right time and in the Right place) has recognized 100 ag producers and retailers who manage 246,000 acres in 25 states. These forward-thinking individuals serve as examples by championing sound nutrient stewardship. Zack Brown of Success was selected as a 2021 Advocate. The following article was published on The Fertilizer Institute website.

Success can be defined many ways. It can mean continuous improvement. It can mean helping wildlife. It can be both a place and a way to live. For Zack Brown, it is all these and more. The 30-year-old, fourth generation farmer calls Success, Ark., home, where he farms 2,500 acres of corn, rice, and soybeans. And he defines his success as a farmer like this: “We try to make every acre the highest potential it can produce, keeping up with the fertilizer, making sure

I know what’s out there, what it needs, what I’m taking out.” Zack Brown Farms lies in the Current River bottoms, which makes farming more challenging than other places. That’s because the river is prone to flooding. For fertilizer application, Brown uses GPS-guided application, putting down the initial application on his corn and rice within a day or two of planting to ensure nothing gets washed away. Then he uses three to four applications during the growing season to give the crops the nutrient boost they need to produce well. To make sure he’s applying the right rate at the right time, Brown works with Nutrien Ag Solutions. He and Nutrien’s James Varvil use Veris soil sampling to sample and map the soil. Veris is a precision soil sampling technology that maps soil variability by integrating electric conductivity, topography, soil nutrient test values, pH, and organic matter. The farm is smaller than

many of the surrounding operations, meaning Zack must get the most from every acre. In 2019, corn was 17 bushels per acre higher than the county average. Rice yields were greater by 41 bushels per acre in 2019 and soybean yields exceeded county average by 15 bushels. Water management is also a key component to managing the loss of nutrients in his rice fields. More than 30 years ago, Zack’s father and grandfather implemented a well-known practice today of using split runs and multiple side inlets for improved water use and more efficient management of water resources. When harvest is complete, he will block water from draining, allowing rice fields to catch and hold rainwater, creating waterfowl habitat. While generational knowledge is essential to successful farming, Zack leans heavily on science as well. “I try to stay up with the times and try to do some on-farm trials with different fertilizer techniques to see what gives me the best return on my

- investment,” he says. “The groundwork has been laid and I’ve just got to continue to be a good steward of it, sample it to see what it needs and keep it producing the highest potential crops it can produce and not let fertility be an issue.”
- Best Practice Management
 - Use nitrogen stabilizer for fertilizers
 - Use urease inhibitor
 - Account for nutrient credits from the previous year to determine rate
 - Utilize plant tissue testing to evaluate effectiveness of fertilizer program and as a diagnostic tool when needed
 - Use foliar application
 - Use satellite imaging to help identify yield potential and nutrient management plans

CSD holds final Meet and Greet

The third CSD Parent/Administration Meet and Greet was held Monday, August 9 at the M.B. Ainley, Jr. Community Center. There were approximately 65 people in attendance. Superintendent Jennifer Woolard shared the school’s vision, “Coming Schools, the Heart of the Community”. She explained, “Our goal is to create a school environment so that when students graduate, they want to stay in Corning. If they leave for post-secondary training, we want them to return to community when they finish. We plan to meet these goals by

- becoming a strong school in academics as well as extracurricular activities
- Supporting our community through volunteering
- Creating students who contribute to the community”

Shelley Smith spoke about the district’s curriculum. She said, “Our district is in the process of looking at our curriculum in every grade and subject area to determine strengths and weaknesses and to determine the next steps in identifying and addressing student learning loss as a result of the pandemic.” The principals at each campus introduced themselves and shared their building goals for the year. Athletic and Transportation Director Chad Hovis shared information on bus



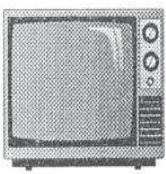
The Rearview Mirror by JANET FRITTS

Political Correctness Gone Crazy

It seems every day we hear of some new stupidity which undoubtedly makes us the laughingstock of the world. These people (Oh, is people politically incorrect?) come up with the most outlandish junk I ever heard. Let’s start with education. There is a push to change the history of our country. They want the founding fathers demonized. This includes Washington, Lincoln, Franklin, and all the other great historical figures we studied when we were in school. Had it not been for these men, we might still be part of Great Britain and speaking like Queen Elizabeth. They seem to forget it was Lincoln who freed the slaves. They say math is racist, so they want to dumb it down and say there’s no correct answer. Not long ago a liberal university decided to stop using the terms “freshmen,” “sophomores,” “juniors,” and “seniors.” Supposedly these terms are sexist. Whatever. Back in our day, they were even referred to as fruity freshmen, silly sophomores, jolly juniors and sophisticated seniors. Nobody was offended. We just looked forward to being the sophisticated group. Speaker Pelosi in her wisdom declared the members of the House

routes and the safety precautions that will be taken on buses. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on all buses. In addition, buses will be sanitized daily. Windows will be open during routes to help circulate air flow. Hovis also shared that at this time, AAA has no restrictions on attendance at football games; although he noted that our guidance could change at any time. We will make our game day plans public as it gets closer to the first football game. Cathy Goodman, of Goodman Drug, spoke to the crowd about the COVID-19 vaccinations. She shared information about the safety of the vaccination, eligibility requirements, and offered to answer any questions or concerns from the audience. She concluded by offering vaccinations to anyone in attendance. Woolard concluded the meeting with a discussion on the current situation concerning reopening of schools. She stated she contacted several members of the medical community locally and through

out the state. While many have different suggestions as to wearing masks at school, she said all were in agreement that vaccination was the best method to making sure school was able to have as normal a school year as possible. Woolard also asked the audience to seek the advice of their personal physicians when searching for answers concerning COVID issues including vaccinations. Woolard also discussed quarantine policies and stated that the school will follow ADH directives concerning quarantine and school attendance. Students and adults who are fully vaccinated and are a close contact to a positive case do not have to quarantine unless they show symptoms. Students and adults who are not fully vaccinated and have come in close contact with a positive individual will have to quarantine. Shelley Smith is the COVID POC this year and will identify close contacts should the need arise. The school’s Covid number is 870-857-6571. All parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if they are feeling ill. Woolard also asked parents to call Shelley Smith when their child has been quarantined, or has tested positive, as it is often days if not weeks before the school is notified of a positive case. The school will reopen with the same visitor guidelines as last year. Visitors are not permitted on campus except by appointment only. Students and staff will be asked to social distance and use proper hand washing techniques. Classrooms, hallways, and high traffic areas will be sanitized frequently throughout the day. Masks and hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom. A question/answer session concluded the meeting. The administration extended a special thanks to Pam Harness and Midsouth Health for providing information and Cathy Goodman for speaking to the audience and providing two vaccination clinics this week for patrons.



Do you have a computer you need to get rid of?

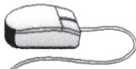


We’ll take the old ones off your hands for free. We’ll also take video cameras, desk or wall telephones, cellular phones, fax or copy machines, and notebook computers. We take it all - towers, keyboards, monitors, mice, and printers. We’ll take TV’s and anything to do with TV’s, such as video game consoles, video cassette recorder/players, and DVD recorder/players.

We’ll take all these items for free. That’s right - no charge.



Just put them in any of our recycling containers located in **Paragould, Marmaduke, Corning, Piggott, Rector, Pocahontas, Hoxie and Walnut Ridge**, or take them to the Recycling Center located at the landfill, about four miles North of Paragould.



We recycle lots of other things too, such as clear and colored glass, aluminum and other metals, plastic bags, plastic bottles and jugs, cardboard, chipboard such as cereal boxes, newspapers, computer paper, junk mail, and household appliances.



Food and beverage containers must be rinsed out. Bring washers, dryers, water heaters, other appliances, motor oil and automotive batteries to the Recycling Center.

Get our brochure at your mayor’s office (cities listed above), or at your county judge’s office.

Please practice the 3 R’s - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Northeast Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District Recycling Center.

Call us at 239-5572 for directions, or more information.

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Corning & Knobel, Arkansas

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From Page Three
COUNCIL

in order to purchase 130 meters a month before the warranty expired. Vannoy added, "With the council's ability to revoke that." Mayor Ahrent replied that was fine that he didn't care about his spending limit. The City Attorney, Ryan Wallace said, "Prove your income and expenses every meeting. So, if it needs to be objected to, then you can raise your objection as it comes up." Vannoy replied, "But if we don't approve the income expense report, the meeting moves right on until further action is taken. Correct?" Wallace said, "But then you'll have to have probably a special meeting at some point in so many days, I can verify all that, but that's the gist of it." The motion to increase the mayor's spending limit to order water meters was approved.

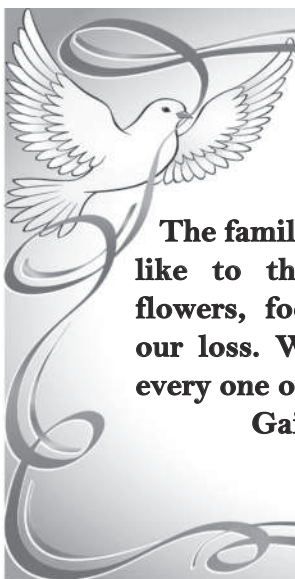
Councilman Trent McKinney made a request to investigate a solution to provide an after-school program due to the fact that the Noah's Ark preschool program had canceled their afterschool program. McKinney said that there were about 20-something kids that had attended the

after-school program. After a discussion about possible options, Ahrent said he would discuss it with his spouse, Rhonda Ahrent, Executive Director of Black River Area Development Corporation, to see if she knew what the city could do about the situation.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Corning resident, Mitch Brown came to the council meeting to request the city do something about unsightly properties in town and perhaps provide stiffer penalties for violators. The discussion ranged from rais-

ing the violation fines to having a designated code violation officer. Mayor Ahrent said, "I wouldn't want to earmark the guy at code enforcement because there's too many other things that we need him; we would need him for. If we hire another officer, he needs to be working in the city to be on call. During the discussion he also suggested perhaps violators should have their names printed in the paper. The discussion continued with no definitive solution decided upon.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Thank You

The family of Gail Conyers would like to thank everyone for the flowers, food and prayers during our loss. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Gail Conyers Family

Thank You to all of those that called, sent cards, flowers, memorials, food and all the other kindnesses shown at the loss of this most kind and loving person. We know he will be missed, not only by his family, but by the many friends he had.

The Family of Owen Little



OBITUARIES

Doris Evelyn Day



Doris Evelyn Day, 89, of Knobel, passed away August 4, 2021, at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro.

Mrs. Day was born September 11, 1931, in Elm Store, MO. She retired from Corning School District. She enjoyed cooking for her family, gardening, especially flowers and roses. She loved attending

church, spending time with her grandchildren and shopping with her daughters. She was a member of Knobel Church of Christ.

On December 13, 1947, she married John Junior Day. He preceded her in death on January 25, 2006.

She is survived by her children, John (Lynn) Day of Beebe, Judy (Rodney) Schimming of Peach Orchard, Lori (Brian) Haley of Piggott, and Chad (Joni) Day of Searcy; grandchildren, John Howard Day, Richard Schimming, Wade Schimming, Peyton Haley, Abby Haley, Anna Haley, Julia Day Hartis, Emma Day, Lynlee Day, Todd Perkins and Kim Slisher; 11 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great-grandchildren; and special

niece, Brenda Aud Moskovic.

In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Elsie (Arnold) Aud, brother, James Aud and grandson, John Joseph Day.

Memorials may be made to Paragould Children's Home, 5515 Old Walcott Rd, Paragould, AR 72450 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

A private graveside service was held on Saturday August 7, 2021, with Tim Carter officiating. Burial followed at Brownie Cemetery in Peach Orchard under the direction of Ermert Funeral Home.

Online condolences: www.ermertfuneral-home.com

Lorene Curtis



Lorene Curtis, 89, of Corning passed away August 6, 2021, at Corning Therapy and Living Center.

Mrs. Curtis was a C.N.A. for many years in California and Arizona. She loved her family and is still very loved.

Survivors include her daughter, Susan Degenstein of Corning; brother, Gaylen McCollum; sister, Dorothy Kay McCollum of Corning; grandchildren, Brandy (Chris) Flores and Dustin Degenstein, both of Corning; great-grandchildren, Amber Degenstein, William Arnold, Christopher, Daniel, and Zander

Flores, Keela Davis; and great-great grandchildren Zander and Zayne Arnold and Briley Degenstein.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Chester Smith and Norman Curtis, son Duane Degenstein, parents, Neely and Ada McCollum, and brother, Les McCollum.

The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Online condolences: www.ermertfuneral-home.com

ADOPTION WEEK



NEA Veterinary Clinic
2412 West Main St.
Corning, AR 72422
(870) 857-5050



When: Mon-Fri August 16-20th

Time: 9:30-11:00am 1:00-3:30pm

Come join us for adoption week. There are dogs of all ages and kittens waiting for their furever home! All proceeds go to Good Cause for Paws. There will be a raffle for 3 different prizes on Friday Aug 20th at 3:00pm.

RAFFLE



Tickets for sale @ NEA Vet Clinic
\$1 per ticket



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started today!**

Peach Orchard News

by

Diana Kay Rush



Hello everyone! I hope all is well. I am finally on the mend. It's hard to keep a good woman down. A lot of rest is what I needed. It's been a stressful time with the new Covid going around, but this too will pass.

I can't believe it is time already for school to start. Prayers go out to all students and teachers for a safe and blessed year. Be mindful around the school bus stops and crossings. Let's do our part in keeping the school children safe this year.

The City Meetings have been moved to the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the City Hall. The Volunteer Fire Department meeting been moved to the 1st Thursday of each month at the main fire station at 6:30 pm.

The Community Center is opened for rent for a daily fee of \$50.00. You can contact me at 249-1379 for a request to rent the Community Center and for availability.

I can't wait for the new street paving to begin. It should start in September. We will be getting our new roof on the City Hall this month. Hopefully we will get a new paint job on it soon when cooler weather permits. The council voted on getting the Community Center and storm shelter power washed. It's time to spruce up our little community. Bill has been working hard to keep up with the mowing. Seems like the grass is growing in a faster pace this month. It must be all the morning dew causing

it to grow so much.

This is the month to count all the fogs in the mornings. An old wives' tale says it will let you know how many snowfalls to expect this winter. I haven't opened a persimmon seed yet to see what is inside. A fork means we will be raking leaves and eating salads, spoon is to be shoveling snow and eating soups and a knife will be cutting ice. Hopefully it will be a nice winter. I would love a dusting of snow on Christmas morning. We haven't had a white Christmas in so long. It is only four months away until Christmas will be here. This year has flown by!

Well, that's all I have for now. Until next time have a blessed day!

From Page Three MCDONALD

I worry so much about my community. I love northeast Arkansas. But I hate COVID. I'm tired of it. My staff is tired of it. Community Health Centers across Arkansas are fed up with COVID. But we all must guard against virus fatigue. Maybe that sounds like preaching, but it's true.

Our staff has called all our patients to ask them if they want the vaccine. We don't tell them what to do. It's their choice. We just share the facts, that COVID is a killer, and that they are at risk of getting extremely sick and possibly dying if they refuse to get a

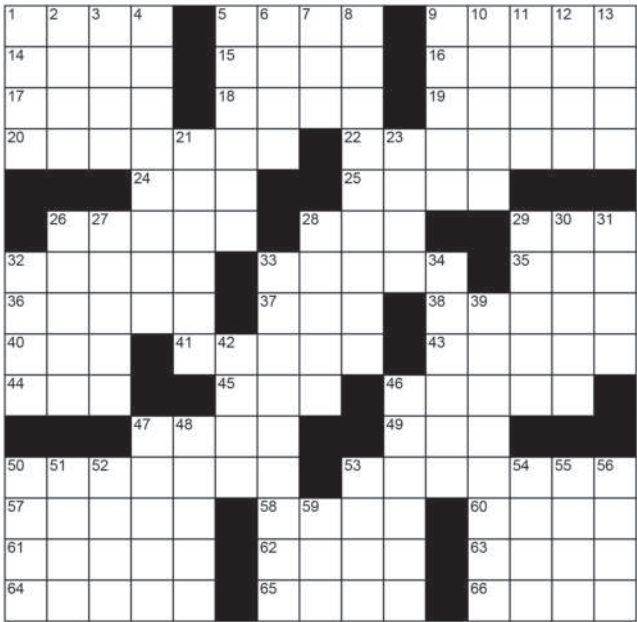
vaccine. Not only that, but they are putting their family, loved ones, friends, neighbors and co-workers at risk. Most who haven't gotten a vaccine tell us they won't get one. They just don't believe in it. Many have a strong distrust of the media and government, disbelief that COVID is real, frequently express the belief that the vaccine is too new and not enough testing has been performed and they express concern about immediate and late side effects.

We held plenty of community vaccine clinics earlier this year. After a while, people just stopped coming. So, we decided to use our resources elsewhere. It was extremely

frustrating.

But as health care leaders in the state, we can't give up. And, we haven't given up. We're planning more vaccine clinics with the first day of school around the corner. We remind people during their visits that they can receive a vaccine conveniently while at the clinic. If someone wants a vaccine, we offer it at any of our six clinics.

All 12 Community Health Center organizations in Arkansas, with more than 160 sites around the state, offer the vaccine. Please come see us. Ask us about the vaccine. Let's remember that all of Arkansas is in this together. Let's stand strong against COVID, as a community.



ACROSS

- Mormon State
- Prophet who built the arc
- Major world religion
- Grainery
- Otherwise
- Stone
- Read quickly
- Sobbed
- Fable writer
- Cite (2 wds.)
- Passes
- MGM's Lion
- Grain
- Condescend
- Bed
- School group
- Tan color
- Elder
- Long time
- Dine

DOWN

- Food and Agriculture Organization (abbr.)
- Malicious burning
- Stretch to make do
- Inflix
- Not glossy
- Average work performance
- Rapid eye movement
- Luck o' the _
- Beautiful bird
- Cheat
- Raspy
- Traveling salesman
- Author Poe
- Object
- Aged
- Adds flavoring
- Permission to enter a foreign country
- Bode
- Rendezvous
- Economics abrv.
- Writer

See Answers on Page 9

Education Matters

EDUCATION BEAT

with Jennifer Carollo Fischer

Teaching Reading in Our Digital Age

When I think back to my own teaching experience from over a decade ago and compare it to the way my three elementary aged daughters learn today, there are more than a few differences. In the early 2000’s every child had a library card; and weekly trips to the library, along with whatever encyclopedia or textbook they could get their hands on might have been their primary means of gathering information. If the book you needed for your biography report was checked out, you chose a different person to write about. You may have visited a museum for your art history report or the aquarium for the marine science project you had due. The students I taught had a bin they could visit with their leveled reading selections to pick from and an anthology textbook from which skills were taught and practiced. There were no reading websites, or tablets to download stories onto and whenever possible, we had older students come into the classroom, to mentor the younger ones. (This practice is still of value, by the way, and hopefully is still taking place.) We worked with what we had!

Fast forward 20-ish years and we find a whole new system in place. With the explosion of so-

cial media, school aged children today navigate a whole new world of both print and digital texts. Within moments of a quick search, plentiful information on any and every topic are overwhelmingly available. With so much information at their fingertips, it is important that teachers (and parents) guide young learners in their search for high quality, accurate, and trusted resources. Today there are eBook subscription services that can give kids over 20,000 books to choose from in just a few clicks. For the academic subject of reading, students cannot only find books digitally, but can also find new ways to make note of their ideas and questions in real time. Remember the colorful sticky notes we used to have on the top of every page of our books? Students today can blog about their findings, set up an online journal or start a virtual chat session to work with partners or groups. Vocabulary enrichment in the digital world is also a little different with the utilization of digital dictionaries. I remember sitting with a good old- fashioned dictionary and thesaurus in my lap, as I read, for almost every subject I studied or planned for my students. Teachers today can hyperlink complex

words and phrases with videos and explanations for their students. Pretty cool, right? Assessment practices have also changed greatly by how teachers today can follow a student’s progress in reading ability and level. Reading habits, speed and comprehension are all easily measured with various programs geared towards the modern language arts world. A typed essay today can be read, proofread, edited and passed back and forth 10 times before it becomes a final copy thanks to our digital world. I remember the 125 papers I had to grade by hand when I taught middle school. I must have had more than that many red and purple pens back then! Talk about a time consuming, laborious challenge that has been greatly alleviated.

Luckily, at the root, what is truly important will never change. Reading will always be an invaluable skill. Children need to be surrounded by print and books in both their classrooms and at home. Reading every day to your child, with your child, or having them read independently will always be vital for success, at every age level. In our way too busy and rushed society, there is no greater value to instill in young minds.

A-State Summer Commencement set for Aug. 13

JONESBORO — Arkansas State University will hold its 2021 summer commencement ceremony Friday, Aug. 13, in Centennial Bank Stadium. The event gets underway at 7 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will move indoors to First National Bank Arena at the same date and time.

Chancellor Kelly Damphousse will confer degrees upon graduates from eight colleges, including Agriculture, Neil Griffin College of Business, Education and Behavioral Science, Engineering and Computer Science, Liberal Arts and Communication, Nursing and Health Professions, Sciences and Mathematics, and University College. Graduates will receive doctoral, specialist, master, bachelor and associate degrees.


Bradley Wiggins of McCrory is the featured speaker on behalf of the graduating class. Wiggins is receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and is graduating Summa Cum Laude. He appeared on the Chancellor’s and Dean’s Lists eight times during his time at A-State.

A-State’s standard clear bag policy will be in effect, and no outside food and drink will be allowed. Sodexo will have water, coffee, soft drinks and candy for sale on both sides of the stadium. Free water will be provided to students on the field courtesy of the university.

For those who cannot attend in person, live streaming of the commencement ceremonies will be available online at AState.edu/Livestream.

SCHOOL NOTES

from Superintendent Jennifer Woolard



One of the most important responsibilities parents and teachers share is that of role models. Role models serve as examples by influencing others and are crucial in shaping how children behave at school, how they develop relationships, and how they make tough decisions. Last Friday, Pulaski County Judge Tim Fox issued a temporary injunction against Act 1002, the law prohibiting school boards from enforcing mask policies. The Court’s ruling is temporary and may change as it goes through the court system, but for now school boards have the authority to legally adopt and enforce mask policies. Now is our perfect opportunity to be positive role models for our children as we make decisions concerning masks and how we deal with the increasing number of positive cases in our community.

In the upcoming days the Corning School Board and Administration will consider whether to adopt a mask require-

ment for our students and staff. This decision will not be easy and will likely result in some disagreement with the decision. However, the decision will assuredly be made after much research and careful consideration as to what is best for our students and staff. This is where our opportunity to teach our children occurs. We need to model to our youth that while we may disagree with each other, we can respect one another knowing that decisions were made honestly and after careful consideration for the well being of others. This is our opportunity to demonstrate to our impressionable children that while we may not like the results and we can’t control how we feel about the decisions, we can control how we react to them. So, when the decision is made please try to be the positive role model that your children need. Talk to them about the importance of communication and being kind to each other, even when we disagree.

Did you know?

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Arkansas Blue Cross reminds Arkansans who need health insurance of August 15 deadline

American Rescue Plan special enrollment period for individuals & families ending

Little Rock, Ark. (August 9, 2021) — The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package, allows for many Arkansans who are not on Medicare or who don’t have employer-sponsored health insurance to qualify for health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Those who do not have a marketplace policy will have until

August 15 to take advantage of this special enrollment period.

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan is to speed up the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill, which was passed by the federal government in March, lowers or eliminates health insurance

premiums for many lower- and middle-income families enrolled in the Health Insurance Marketplace. “Enrollees may save up to 20% or more each month on premiums, for an average of savings of \$50 per person per month,” said Samantha Skyrme, manager of agent marketing for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. “Financial assistance may be available to people with

higher incomes who did not qualify for it before.”

The percentage of income a person pays toward their Affordable Care Act plan premium will be reduced for everyone with income below 400% of the federal poverty limit. People with income equal to or higher than 400% of the federal poverty limit will be eligible for advance premium tax credits (APTC). The maxi-

mum anyone will pay for a benchmark plan will be 8.5% of their income. The federal marketplace will automatically increase advanced premium assistance September 1 for Arkansas Blue Cross marketplace policyholders who have not updated their policy since April 1.

“Since the American Rescue Plan was implemented, Arkansas Blue Cross has helped more than 20,000

Arkansans take advantage of these enhanced premium tax credits,” said Skyrme. “But you must enroll or make changes to your Health insurance Marketplace plan by August 15. Talk to an independent insurance agent or call Arkansas Blue Cross at 855-625-0376, visit an ArkansasBlue welcome center near you, or go online to arkbluecross.com/ARP.”

Stumbling Upon my “Happy Place”

Jennifer Carollo Fischer

Everyone has their “happy place”- the place where you journey to in your mind (or go to) when you want to escape your normal day to day. For a few it is a childhood memory, for some a vacation destination where memories have been made, and for others a simple spot where you can visit effortlessly. It is a subjective notion, but in the simplest terms, it elicits true contentment and peace.

This idea of a “happy place” can also sometimes be called a “thin space.” And while I have only recently been introduced to this Celtic term, it takes the idea of a “happy place” to a higher level and explains the moments in life where the distance between heaven and earth collapses. More than just physically seeing the places we hold most dear, experiencing this “thin space” concept, goes beyond the limits of our 5 senses.

Whatever you choose to call it, I encourage you to go on the quest to find yours. For me, as an adult restarting on a new chapter of my life, with my priorities shifting and encountering a readmittance into life beyond

“mommy”; I have just been gifted with the opportunity to have found my own, new “happy place.” I will paint the best picture I can of what I recently discovered, for all those who are in search of theirs or for those who just like to wander.

For starters, and most notably, the air itself in my new “happy place” is incredible. Within hours upon arrival, I think I was breathing easier than I ever knew I could. I felt energized and focused and my blood pressure lowered. Any level of stress and any anxiety I was feeling seemed to slowly dissipate as well. Being submerged by nature, with forests and lakes abound, seemed to give off an invisible yet bewildering energy. A calm, peaceful feeling where things are slow and serene and purposeful. I felt surrounded by an understated and unapologetic beauty, in every direction, for as far as the eye could see. In a word, I stood in complete awe.

Stunning landscapes were met with picture perfect post card details from every angle, and at every different time of the passing day. The ways in which the light hit the water and the vast rugged terrain made me

catch my breath more than a few times. I made sure to take pictures to remember for later, but also took many mental photographs throughout my stay. I paid attention to the colors, the flowers, the animals, and the new sounds around me- even when it was silent.

The people I met were humble and unassuming. I do not know if they even realized how lucky they were to live where they do. They were just proud to be there and to share it with me, and anyone else. I listened very carefully to those I encountered, who reminded me why I was in a special place. The beauty and the grace of our surroundings made for an easy conversation, but the stories they chose to share heightened what I had already been witness to. The spoke of how they had gotten there and what they had found along the way. I felt as though I was being let in on small secrets to keep.

I will add to all of this, that I was not even in search of what I had found. Happiness comes in different ways and is most valuable when it comes to us unexpectedly. I guess that is the best part. My “happy place” is a place I never knew existed or what would fit a normal standard of

being praiseworthy (for myself.) It, however, opened my eyes to a new perspective, in a place I never anticipated learning about or ever traveling to.

We get a handful of gifts as we age and the moments that move us seem fewer and more far between. Life is fluid and can change course at any given time. For me, stumbling upon this “happy place” or “thin space” has been one of those stand out, important moments. For those of you who do not have to leave, you have been blessed- and for myself, I will count the days until I can go back.

School Menus - August 16-20

Corning Schools All Cafeterias

ALL CAFETERIAS

BREAKFAST:

Monday: Cereal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast, Fruit/Juice, Milk

Tuesday: Poptart or Muffin, Yogurt, Fruit/Juice, Milk

Wednesday: Cereal or French Toast, Yogurt, Fruit/Juice, Milk

Thursday: Cereal or Donuts, Fruit/Juice, Milk

Friday: Cereal or Sausage Egg and Cheese Biscuit, Fruit/Juice, Milk

LUNCH:

Monday: Pizza, Corn, Tossed Salad, Chilled Fruit, Cookie

Tuesday: Beef Nachos, Tossed Salad, Beans, Corn, Chilled Fruit

Wednesday: BBQ Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole-slaw, Veggie Sticks, Chilled Fruit

Thursday: Bosco Sticks, Marinara Sauce, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Chilled Fruit, Side Kick

Friday: Corn-dog, French Fries, Veggie Sticks, Chilled Fruit, Surprise Dessert

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SUDOKU by MIA VONNE

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

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9 using logic.

Last Issue’s Solution:

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

Clay Co. Extension Agents optimistic about 2021 crops

By Anthony Childress
Clay County Courier

Clay County Extension Agent Stewart Runsick sees a lot to optimistic about where this year's soybean, rice, and corn crops are concerned. "We are set up for a good crop," Runsick said of the expected yields from the county's western side. On the county's eastern side, Extension Agent Allison Howell feels just as enthused about the cotton crop.

Runsick noted that county growers planted much of their crops earlier in the year than usual. "The late freeze and strong thunderstorms

this spring caused some damage, but not enough to have much of an effect the crops," he said. "Early planted soybeans suffered some hail damage but quickly outgrew it. Northeast Arkansas was fortunate not have the severe flooding that south Arkansas encountered."

One method Runsick uses to gauge crop health is taking a sweep net and checking for worms and stinkbugs. He said it is quite helpful in keeping tabs on how things are progressing throughout growing season.

In an Aug. 2 update on row crops, Runsick provided a summary of where

things stand heading into the last several weeks of summer and harvest season.

Soybeans

"The majority of the soybeans were planted in April, which is somewhat unusual for us," explained Runsick. "Many times, it is mid-to-late May before soybean planting begins. This year, producers were planting rice, corn, and soybeans all around the same time. We had nice conditions during the early planting window and a lot of acres went in the ground. The soybeans look good, and we are set up for outstanding yields this fall. Insect and disease pressure has been light. The usual large flight of corn earworms moths did not occur this year. Stinkbug numbers have been pretty low as well. Several producers have signed up for the 'grow for the green' soybean yield contest this fall. I hope we can finally break the 100 bushel per acre mark this year. Around 70 percent of the soybean acres in Clay County are planted in Xtend technology while 30 percent are Enlist or Liberty technology."

Rice

"Rice acres are down this year, mainly due to the good corn and soybean prices. The rice crop is about seven days behind where it should be, due to the cold weather we had over

Memorial Day week," the agent said. "The rice headed between July 22-30 this year. There may be some soybeans harvest in late August, but the rice will probably be pushed into September. Rice stinkbug numbers were above treatment level on the first fields to head and they were sprayed with insecticide. The numbers have dropped this week (Aug. 1) as the stinkbugs have disbursed across more acres. The crop looks good, and I expect normal yields."

Corn

"Corn acres have increased this year. Producers were able to book corn for around \$5.00 per bushel, which is considerably higher than previous years. We also have the Peco feed mill in Corning which is an excellent local market for corn. The corn crop is mostly finished at this time, only requiring a couple of more weeks of irrigation." Runsick continued, "Southern Rust Disease came in the week of July 4 and nearly all the corn required fungicide treatment July 7-15. The disease has progressed slowly and the corn is now at the stage where it won't have much effect. All the rainfall we had this spring caused some nitrogen loss and additional fertilizer applications were required in some fields. The insect pressure has been very light as we saw virtually no southwest-



Clay County Extension Agent Stewart Runsick uses a sweep net to check a soybean field for worms and stink bugs on the Zack Brown farm near Datto and Success. He said this year's soybean, rice, and corn crops are shaping up nicely heading into the latter part of the summer and harvest time.

Photo/Anthony Childress



Clay County Extension Agent, Allison Howell scouting for plant bugs in cotton using a shake sheet.
Photo courtesy/Allison Howell.

Animal scientist investigates effects of grazing toxic fescue during gestation

By Fred Miller
UA System Division of Agriculture

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A researcher at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station is investigating a feed additive that might mitigate endophyte toxicosis in pregnant cows grazing infected fescue pastures.

Brittni Littlejohn is an assistant professor of animal science for the experiment station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Her research focuses on beef cattle physiology, especially reproduction.

Many pastures in Arkansas and around the country are planted in Kentucky 31 tall fescue, which is infected with a toxic endophyte fungus. The toxin produced by the endophyte causes constriction of blood vessels, resulting in sometimes serious health problems for beef cattle, Littlejohn said.

"It can weaken the immune system, exacerbate heat stress and, in severe cases, cause sloughing of tails and hooves," Littlejohn said.

Effects on gestation

Endophyte concentration is highest in the seeds, Littlejohn said, and toxicity is highest twice a year when the fescue is at peak growth. "What happens to the fetus when these peak toxicity levels overlap gestation?" Littlejohn asked.

Littlejohn said a cow's experiences during gestation result in epigenetic changes

to the fetus that program lifelong characteristics. Epigenetics refers to the way external events influence the regulation of what genes are active or silent in specific tissues.

"Such environmental conditions experienced by pregnant cows during gestation influence how the calf adapts to its post-natal surroundings," she said.

Littlejohn wants to know how epigenetic changes during gestation affect a calf throughout its life, particularly in terms of health, well-being and meat production. She also is investigating whether a melatonin feed additive can mitigate the effects of endophyte toxicosis in the cow and whether that has a long-term impact on the calf.

"Melatonin has been shown to alter blood flow," Littlejohn said. "We want to know if it influences uterine artery blood flow and whether that counters the ill effects of consuming toxic endophyte."

Littlejohn is using heifers, young females that haven't yet borne calves, in her research. They are divided into four groups, each with a different feed mixture.

Two groups are eating endophyte-infected fescue — one with a melatonin additive, and one without. The other two groups are eating endophyte-free fescue, including one using the melatonin additive.

Natural melatonin levels rise and fall with circadian rhythms, Littlejohn said, usually rising at night. For

her research, she is feeding some of the heifers a melatonin feed additive in the morning to maintain nighttime levels throughout the day.

New tool

To accomplish her study, Littlejohn is using SmartFeed Pro automatic feeders that use radio frequency identification to control feed mixtures and intake for 56 cows. Four of the feeders were provided by the South Dakota manufacturer, C-Lock. The company contributed about \$65,000 worth of equipment and costs for installation and maintenance of the feeders, Littlejohn said. The department of animal science also purchased four additional SmartFeed Pro feeders to meet the needs of Littlejohn's research.

The units are also providing research support for Agricultural Experiment Station professors Beth Kegley and Jeremy Powell. Kegley is studying the effect of mineral nutrition on beef cattle immune systems and productivity. Powell is investigating how management decisions for parasite control affect cattle production.

The heifers are all fitted with RFID ear tags, each of which is programmed into a computer to identify individual animals. The SmartFeed Pro units read the RFID tags to identify which cows are permitted to eat from each of the feed mixtures. An automatic gate in each unit will open only when it identifies a cow permitted to eat from it.



Beth Kegley, left, and Brittni Littlejohn discuss plans for research projects in cattle nutrition and reproduction using SmartFeed Pro feeders. (UA System Division of Agriculture photo by Fred Miller)

The feeders are also programmed to restrict a cow's time in the feeder to 30 seconds, Littlejohn said. "That prevents one cow from eating all the food so that other cows can get in there."

A gate rises to lift the heifer's head away from the feed when her time's up. Each heifer can return to the feeder later, but only after other cows have had a chance to eat. The gate will cut off access to any animal that has had its full allocation of feed.

"The cows figure out pretty quickly which feeder they can eat from," Littlejohn said. "And the restricted time at the trough works well to give them all a chance to get in there."

The computer also keeps track of how many times each heifer gets to the

trough. "It tracks each animal's feeding behavior," Littlejohn said. "And if it shows one of them is not eating from the feeder, we can go and find out if it's a health problem or something else keeping her from eating."

Between meals in the automatic feeders, the heifers are free to graze from endophyte-free pastures on the Division of Agriculture's Savoy Research Complex in Washington County. Controlling which feed mixture each heifer can access allows Littlejohn to keep all her animals together instead of maintaining different groups on separate pastures.

Follow-up

Littlejohn said she will monitor the health of the cows now and during gestation. Later, she will track

the health and productivity of their calves throughout their lives.

If the research bears out melatonin's effectiveness in mitigating the effects of endophyte toxicosis, it could prove to be a more cost-effective solution than replacing toxic fescue with a non-toxic alternative. "Melatonin is relatively cheap," Littlejohn said.

In a follow-up study, Littlejohn wants to test the use of melatonin implants.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aaes.uada.edu/>. Follow us on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch.

To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>. Follow us on Twitter at @AgInArk.

Corning Police Report

The following information was taken from the Corning Police Department radio logs for August 1-6, 2021.

August 1, 2021

3:46 p.m. - Female called re: 4 Amazon Prime trucks parked at the Flash Market. She felt was suspicious, especially with all the human trafficking going on. Advised that she buys a lot of stuff off Amazon and the delivery drivers are always in uniform. Requested an officer go check it out.

3:50 p.m. - Trucks are brand new and still have the stickers on the windows. Everything 10-4.

4:41 p.m. - Male requested to speak with officer re: a female and male. Advised he wants woman charged with kidnapping.

8:50 p.m. - Shop doors open

and music playing on Ferguson Street, owner lives on Edith Street, Advised 306.

9:08 p.m. - Owner coming to close up the shop.

9:05 p.m. - Male reports that a family is vandalizing home, doesn't need assistance right now but wants more patrol around home. Silver Jeep, black Tahoe, and black car are the only vehicles that are supposed to be in driveway, Advises 306.

August 2, 2021

3:55 a.m. - Flash Market with a guy acting really weird.

9:40 a.m. - Female working with Youth Law Team of Indiana to speak with 301.

12:52 p.m. - 2013 Chevy Malibu, ownership ceased. Owners just hadn't changed the tag on the vehicle yet.

1:22 p.m. - Older male with a darker colored female who appeared uneasy got out of

a champagne-colored minivan and went into Video Playhouse. Seemed suspicious to caller.

1:25 p.m. - Identified 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan. The people in the vehicle are family members. Everything 10-4.

August 3, 2021

7:14 p.m. - Male advised that another male was evicted to move out but hasn't said it was getting violent.

7:36 p.m. - Said the owner of the building would have to take it to court to get him evicted.

8:49 p.m. - Suspected drug activity, loud music, parked cars, on Hope Street, advised 308.

9:00 p.m. - Everything 10-4, music turned down.

August 4, 2021

3:24 a.m. - Female thinks someone around her home but thinks someone is messing with an abandoned house by her residence on 3rd Street.

3:39 a.m. - Nobody around there.

7:58 p.m. - Possible house fire on 4th Street and George Street, smoke coming from the top and sides, advised 308.

8:02 p.m. - House on George Street filling up w/smoke.

8:07 p.m. - Truck en route.

8:12 p.m. - On scene.

8:32 p.m. - Female's mom is trying to hurt her, she is beating on her door on 13th Street.

10:14 p.m. - Deputy advised there is a trash can in the middle of Crawford Street, advised 306.

August 5, 2021

7:04 a.m. - Call about Plainview to pick up a dog from yesterday's dog biting incident.

7:10 a.m. - 314 has dog in custody. The dog must be quarantined for 10 days from today and must have a vet appointment before it may be picked up. The dog must have the appointment and shots within 5 days from being

picked up.

9:05 a.m. - Male advised there is a dog hanging out of the window by the air conditioner on the second floor of the apartments across the street from him on Bryan Street.

9:19 a.m. - Attempted to contact the resident by phone because no one is answering the door. Negative contact.

9:27 a.m. - 314 taking dog to the pound.

10:05 a.m. - Dollar General advised a female in a pink shirt and thick glasses was stumbling around the store, knocking into everything.

10:45 a.m. - Plainview, attempting to speak with 10-12 re: dog.

10:47 a.m. - Can hear them inside apartment but no one will come to the door.

12:00 p.m. - Caller advised a 4-wheeler is speeding up and down Hope Street.

12:06 p.m. - Drove up and down Hope Street and made negative contact.

12:07 p.m. - Casey's advised a go-cart is stuck in the road. Male said he was going to ride it in the grass at Mid-South and was advised he better get permission first.

9:03 p.m. - Male needing to talk to an officer, advised 303.

9:35 p.m. - Talked to male, gave him advice.

10:36 p.m. - In front of courthouse, two males are carrying around a small television.

August 6, 2021

3:39 a.m. - Male advised kids being loud next door, he said if they keep on through the night he would call again. Along Hope and Plainview streets.

3:07 a.m. - Commercial burglary, on N. Missouri Avenue, advised 308.

3:46 a.m. - Commercial burglary, on N. Missouri Avenue, advised 303.

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in my name, there am I among them."**
Matthew 18:20

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4th & VINE CHURCH OF CHRIST. Services: Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.; Wednesday 6 p.m. James Johnston, Minister. (870) 857-3764

BIG T PENTECOSTAL CHURCH. Service Time: Saturday Evening 7 p.m.; Sunday Morning 10 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6 p.m.; Tuesday Night 7 p.m. Pastor Bryan Malone.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH. 316 Crafton Street. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship 6 p.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor Cam Stevens.

FIRST APOSTOLIC UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH. Kenmore and Bobcat Lane. Sunday School and Worship Services 10 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 6 p.m. Pastor Troy D. Johnson.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. 701 West Third. Pastor Josh Raspberry. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Adult Choir Practice 5 p.m.; Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening - AWANA at 6:30 p.m.; Youth Service 6:30 p.m.; Adult Service 7 p.m. Youth and Music Pastor Daniel Plemmons.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Fourth and Elm Streets. Pastor Tim Burgess. Sunday Bible School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m.; Nursery provided; Sunday Evening 5 p.m.

FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH. Fourth and Hazel Streets. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Hour 11 a.m.; Sunday Night Services 6 p.m.; Wednesday Night Services 7 p.m. Pastor Ryan Curtis.

FIRST GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH. Ada and Kenmore Streets. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m. Jeffery Crain, Pastor.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 600 Pine. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 10:55 a.m.; Sunday Morning Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Pastor: Rev. John F. Michael.

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Eaton and Fifth Streets. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 6:30 p.m.

GRASSYLEAD CHURCH OF CHRIST. Highway 67 West. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship

10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 5 p.m.

HOPEWELL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH. Heelstring Community, County Road 116. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF PRAYER (INTER-DENOMINAL). 803 Main Street. Pastor Jimmy McMasters. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Highway 67 North. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7:30 p.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m. Pastor Robert Moore.

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP. 1606 Main Street, Highway 67 West. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Evening Service 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 6:30 p.m. Pastor William Allen.

MILL HOUSE GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD. On Creason Road. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Thursday 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Pastor P.W. Wilson

NEW BEGINNING TABERNACLE. Location Highway 62. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening 5 p.m. Pastor: Joey Holladay

PALATKA CHURCH OF CHRIST. Route One. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC CHURCH. 1415 Harb Street. Saturday Mass at 4 p.m. Confessions heard before Mass. Holy Day Mass to be announced.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH. Highway 67 North and Jones Street, Corning. Present time Schedule 8:30 a.m.; Divine Service, Sunday School and Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Rev. Jon C. Bischof, Pastor.

DATTO
DATTO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Mike Chadwick, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Preaching Services 11 a.m.

HICKORIA
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.

KNOB
BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.

ROCK SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Reverend Mark Trout. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Everyone invited to attend.

KNOBEL
CHURCH OF CHRIST. Third and Cherry. Tim Carter, Minister. Sunday Morning Services 10 a.m.; Sunday Preaching Services 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.; Bible Study Wednesday Night 6 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. Third and Cypress. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF KNOBEL. Pastor Matt Jones, Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m.; Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS FULL GOSPEL. 333 Third, Knobel. Pastor Reverend Randall K. Pinkston. Sunday 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study 6 p.m.

NEW LIFE FAMILY CHURCH. 39 CR 240, Knobel. Pastor Gary Holcomb. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

DELAPLAINE
DELAPLAINE BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.; Mid-Week Service 6:30 p.m.; Pastor Terry Phipps. (870) 240-0279

McDOUGAL
APOSTOLIC FELLOWSHIP CHURCH. Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Pastor Herb Ellis.

McDOUGAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m.; Sunday 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Kevin Faughn.

MORRIS CHAPEL GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH. Jared Hancock, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6 p.m.

TRUE LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Pastor Jason Self. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship Services 11 a.m.; Evening Worship 5 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Service 6 p.m.

PEACH ORCHARD P E A C H O R C H A R D PENTECOSTAL CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Evening 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 6:30 p.m.

PEACH ORCHARD SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH. Pastor Mike Bradley. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.

POLLARD
HARMONY SOUTHERN BAPTIST. Pastor Tim McCluskey. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Sunday Night 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night, 6 p.m.

MARS HILL METHODIST CHURCH - CROCKETT. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Evening Worship 6 p.m.; Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m.

SUCCESS
SUCCESS APOSTOLIC CHURCH. Pastor Reverend Richard Mahan. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service 6:00; Midweek Service Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

SUCCESS BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Discipleship Training 5 p.m.; Evening Services 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

SUCCESS CHURCH OF CHRIST. Bruce McGrew, Minister. Bible Class Sunday Morning 10 a.m.; Worship Services 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7 p.m.

BOYDSVILLE
BOYDSVILLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. Route 2, Rector. George L. Bearden, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Bible Training 5 p.m.; Sunday Evening Worship services at 6 p.m.

SMITH CHAPEL GENERAL BAPTIST. Jerry Suiter, Pastor, Sunday Morning 10 a.m.; Sunday 5 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7 p.m.

Attend the church of your choice



STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

From
Senator Blake Johnson

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.

The committee defeated bills that would authorize school boards to impose mask mandates.

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.

Revenue Report
July's state revenue report must be viewed from a different perspective than usual. Revenue in July of 2021 was well below revenue in July of 2020, but that does not reflect a downturn in the state economy.

Rather, the decrease of almost 22 percent happened because last year the state and the federal government moved the tax filing deadlines from April 15 to July 15 due to the pandemic.

State revenue officials anticipated the decline and budgeted for it, so even though revenue was below last year's levels it was 9.4 percent more than forecast.



From the office of **JOE JETT** HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES State of Arkansas District 56

This week, House members convened in the House Chamber for two orders of business.

In accordance with ACT 403 of the Regular Session, the House convened as a committee of the whole on Tuesday, August 4, to consider whether to terminate the Governor's July 29, 2021 declaration of a statewide public health emergency.

When it was determined that no concurrent resolutions had been filed in the House and that one resolution filed in the Senate had been withdrawn, the House adjourned its committee of the whole. Since no resolution was adopted by the General Assembly, the Governor's declaration remains in effect for 60 days.

The House convened on Wednesday, August 4, for an Extraordinary

Session.

The Governor called for the session primarily for two purposes.

The first item on the call was to allow public school boards and open enrollment charter schools to implement masking protocols for children under 12. Children under 12 are currently not eligible to receive the vaccine for COVID-19.

The second purpose listed on the call was to concur with the Governor's decision to terminate the state's participation in federal pandemic unemployment compensation program often referred to as PUA.

In response, to the call the House considered two pieces of legislation.

HB1001 outlines the General Assembly's concurrence with the termination of PUA in Arkan-

sas.

This bill passed in the House with a vote of 74-17-0

HB1003 stated that a public school district can mandate the use of a face mask, shield, or other face covering only with approval of the school board and if the district or area served by an open-enrollment charter school has a fourteen-day COVID-19 infection rate of at least 50 new known infections per 10,000 residents of the public school district based on the most recent data published by the Department of Health or the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement. Currently, 100 school districts meet that criteria.

HB1003 outlined certain exemptions and limits such mandates to 60 days. This bill underwent Committee review, but did not advance to the House floor. The House adjourned the special session on Friday, August 6.

We will continue to update you on the actions of the General Assembly regarding the current emergency.

All of our meetings are streamed live and archived on our website www.arkansashouse.org

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claycountycourier.com
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FIRE TRUCK FOR SALE:

McDougal Fire Department is now accepting bids on a 1973 Ford fire truck. To view, call the McDougal Fire Chief at 870-631-1780. City of McDougal reserves the right to refuse all bids.

Paid for by the city of McDougal - \$25.80

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JANET LUFFKILBREATH, CLERK

CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WESTERN DISTRICT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

BY: SH

ANDY FLAHERTY

PLAINTIFF

v.

CASE NO.: 11CDR-20-40

MANDY FLAHERTY

DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER

To: Mandy Flaherty, Defendant:

You are hereby notified that Andy Flaherty Plaintiff, whose attorney is Kirk B. Lonidier at 402 West Elm St., Corning, AR, 72422 has filed a Complaint herein against you, a copy of which complaint and summons shall be delivered to you or to your attorney upon request.

You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your Answer or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; and in the event of your failure to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint as circumscribed by the laws of this State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal as Clerk of the Court on this, the 9th day of August, 2021.

[SEAL]

Janet Luff Kilbreath
By: Shondra Luff
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Approved by:

Dan Ritchey
Honorable Judge Dan Ritchey

Prepared by:

Kirk B. Lonidier

PRICE \$46.40

CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WESTERN DISTRICT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

GORDON GOETTSCH

PLAINTIFF

v.

CASE NO.: 11CDR-18-64

SUSAN GOETTSCH

DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER

To: Susan Goettch, Defendant:

You are hereby notified that Gordon Goettsch Plaintiff, whose attorney is Kirk B. Lonidier at 402 West Elm St., Corning, AR, 72422 has filed a Motion For Contempt herein against you, a copy of which complaint and summons shall be delivered to you or to your attorney upon request.

You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your Answer or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; and in the event of your failure to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint as circumscribed by the laws of this State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal as Clerk of the Court on this, the _____ day of _____, 2021.

[SEAL]

By: _____
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

Approved by:

Tonya Alexander
Honorable Judge Tonya Alexander

Prepared by:

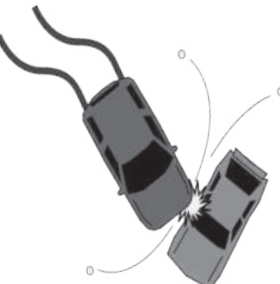
Kirk B. Lonidier
Kirk B. Lonidier

PRICE: \$70.80

Solution:

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LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Corning is requesting Statements of Qualifications from firms that provide engineering services. All Statements of Qualifications received will be kept on file for a period of one (1) year to be used as reference in the procurement of engineering services for specialized municipal infrastructure projects. One (1) copy of your Statement must be mailed to the attention of Mayor Greg Ahrent, City of Corning, 308 West Main Street, Corning, Arkansas, 72422. Statements must be received no later than 4:00 PM, Local Time on Thursday, August XX, 2021. For further information, please contact Mayor Ahrent at (870) 857-6001. The City of Corning is an equal opportunity employer. The City of Corning reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to waive any or all formalities and technicalities.

Date: 08/05/2021

Signature: J. Anna Couch

Price: \$52.40

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CLAY COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION WESTERN DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAULA ANNETTE RUSH, Deceased No: PR 2021-31

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This Notice pertains to the Estate of Paula Annette Rush whose last known address was 508 North Stephens in the City of Corning, Arkansas, who died on January 8, 2021.

An Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributees was filed on August 3, 2021 and said Affidavit lists real estate known as:

300 Crafton, Corning, Arkansas.

Lot One (1) in Block Two (2) in Fisher's First Addition to the City of Corning, Arkansas.

All persons having claims against the estate are to exhibit them, properly verified, within three months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and concluded from any benefit in this estate.

The name and mailing address of the Distributee is: Robin Green, PO Box 22, Burdette, AR 72321

The Attorney for the Estate is:

Richard Whiffen
Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 924
Sikeston, MO 63801

The date of the first publication of this Notice is August 13, 2021.

Price \$76.40

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NOTICE

Deadline for ads to be placed on classified page is 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Those coming in after 12:00 p.m. may be put elsewhere in the paper under "Too Late to Classify".

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Corning HDC	Corning Indep. Living Ctr.	Piggott HDC
1600 Success Street Corning, AR 72422	710 Sharon Circle Corning, AR 72422	551 W. Main Street Piggott, AR 72454

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Applicable Deductions are considered before rent is determined; such as Elderly, Medical and Disability status.

Example with standard deduction: Social Security & SSI Annual Income Amount of \$9,768 would = a Total Monthly Rent and utilities amount of \$234.

Example with no deduction: Social Security & SSI annual income of \$9,768 would = a Total Monthly Rent and utilities amount of \$244.

To Apply Contact: Susan Spence for Corning or Piggott HDC

Corning Housing office on Tuesday and Friday at 1600 Success St., Corning, AR from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Phone number is 870-857-6652.

Piggott Housing office on Monday and Thursday at 551 W. Main St., Piggott, AR from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Phone number is 870-598-3287

OR CONTACT

Rhonda Ahrent, BRAD Director at 870-892-4547

Pamela Martin, Secretary/Data Processing II

at 870-892-4547 ext. 1355

Toll Free Number is 1-800-879-4047

1403 Hospital Drive

Pocahontas, AR 72455

Equal Housing Opportunity

Tdd 7-1-1



Clay County Courier readers may send in their favorite recipes to be published in our What's Cooking Clay County? section of the newspaper. Please mail, bring your recipes to the newspaper or email to pamlowe@claycountycourier.com.



Grilled Zucchini Lasagna

- 4 large zucchini, cut into lengthwise slices
- olive oil, for brushing lasagna slices
- Italian Herb Blend (optional)
- 24 oz. pasta sauce,
- Italian Sausage and basil to add to the sauce
- 2 cups cottage cheese
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups grated Mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup coarsely grated Romano or Parmesan cheese

Directions:
Simmer sauce for a few minutes until the sauce is thickened and reduced a bit, adding some cooked Italian sausage if you prefer, then stir in the chopped fresh basil if using.
Preheat oven to 400F. Brush grill with olive oil or spray with grill spray and preheat to high heat. While grill heats, cut zucchini into slices about 5/8 inch thick.
Brush both sides of zucchini lightly with olive oil and sprinkle with Italian Herb Seasoning if using. Grill zucchini slices until they're lightly browned on both sides, but not fully cooked, about 3-4 minutes per side.
Remove the zucchini slices to a cutting board and press lightly with a paper towel to absorb some of the moisture. (Put zucchini between two pieces of paper towel if it seems especially juicy.)
Beat eggs in small bowl, then stir in cottage cheese.
Spray heavy ceramic or glass deep lasagna dish with non-stick spray or olive oil.
Then make a layer of lasagna slices, a layer with half the sauce, a layer with half the cottage cheese-egg mixture, and a layer with half the cheese.
Top with second layer of grilled lasagna slices, sauce, cottage cheese-egg mixture, and remaining cheese.
Bake 30-40 minutes, or until cheese is melted and browned on top and mixture is slightly bubbling. Leave it uncovered so some liquid can evaporate but cover it for the last part of the cooking time so top doesn't get quite so brown.
Let sit at least 10-15 minutes before cutting, then cut into pieces and serve hot.



Blackberry Cake

- FOR THE CAKE:
- 2 egg whites
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1 ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
 - 1 cup blackberries
 - ¼ cup water
 - 3 cups cake flour
 - 1 ½ cup granulated sugar
 - 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ¼ teaspoon baking soda
 - Fresh blackberries and mint leaves for decorating

- FOR THE CREAM CHEESE FROSTING:
- 8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
 - ¼ cup heavy cream
 - 2 tablespoons milk
 - 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
 - 1 ½ cup powdered sugar

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and line the bottoms of 2, 8-inch round pans with parchment paper and spray the sides with non-stick spray.
Whisk the egg whites and eggs together in a large bowl then add the milk and butter and whisk again.
Blend the blackberries and water together until smooth.
Strain the juice through a fine mesh sieve into a measuring cup until you have ¾ cup of juice then discard the remaining juice. Pour it into the wet ingredients and stir to combine.
Whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda together in a separate large bowl then add it to the wet ingredients.
Stir until combined then pour the batter into the prepared baking pans evenly.
Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted into the center of the cakes.
Let them cool completely before frosting.
To make the frosting, whip the cream cheese until smooth then add the heavy cream and beat until slightly fluffy but not stiff.
Add the milk and vanilla and mix until smooth then add the powdered sugar and mix again.
Cut the top lump of each cake off using a serrated knife if needed.
Add a little dollop of frosting to a cake stand or plate then place one of the cakes, cut side down on the plate.
Add a thick layer of frosting to the top then add the other cake, cut side down then frost the top and sides of the cake.
Decorate the top with fresh blackberries and a few mint leaves if desired then serve.



Homemade Cinnamon Ice Cream

- 3 cups Half-and-Half
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 whole cinnamon sticks
- 1 whole vanilla bean (or 1 tsp. vanilla extract)
- 9 whole egg yolks
- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Directions:
In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, combine the half-and-half and sugar. Stir it to combine, then add the cinnamon sticks, the caviar from the vanilla bean, and the empty vanilla bean pod. Stir the mixture around and heat it up until it's very hot but not boiling. Meanwhile, add the egg yolks to a medium bowl and whisk them vigorously for about 2 minutes, until the yolks are slightly lighter in color.
Remove and discard the cinnamon sticks and vanilla bean pod from the saucepan. Grab a ladle of the hot Half-and-Half mixture and drizzle it very slowly into the yolks, whisking them constantly to temper the egg yolks. Repeat with another ladle of the hot liquid. When it's mixed in, slowly pour the entire egg mixture into the pan with the Half-and-Half, stirring with a spoon. Once added, stir and cook it for 2 minutes or so, until the mixture is thick enough to coat the spoon. Strain the custard. Add the heavy cream to the bowl, add the ground cinnamon, and stir it all together. Chill the mixture for an hour or so, then pour it into the ice cream machine and process it according to your machine's directions. When it's in the soft-serve stage; transfer it to a freezer container and freeze for several hours or overnight until it's frozen firm.

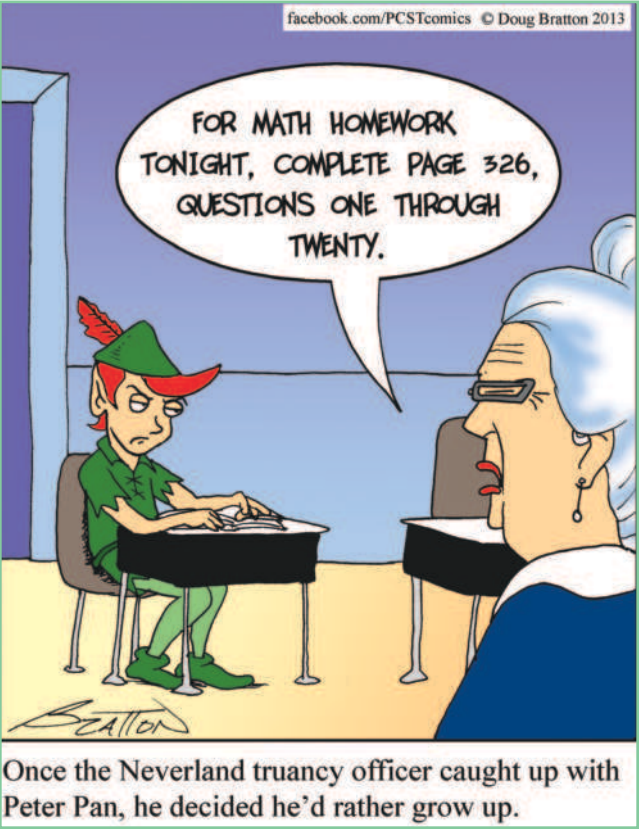


Crockpot Boston Iced Tea

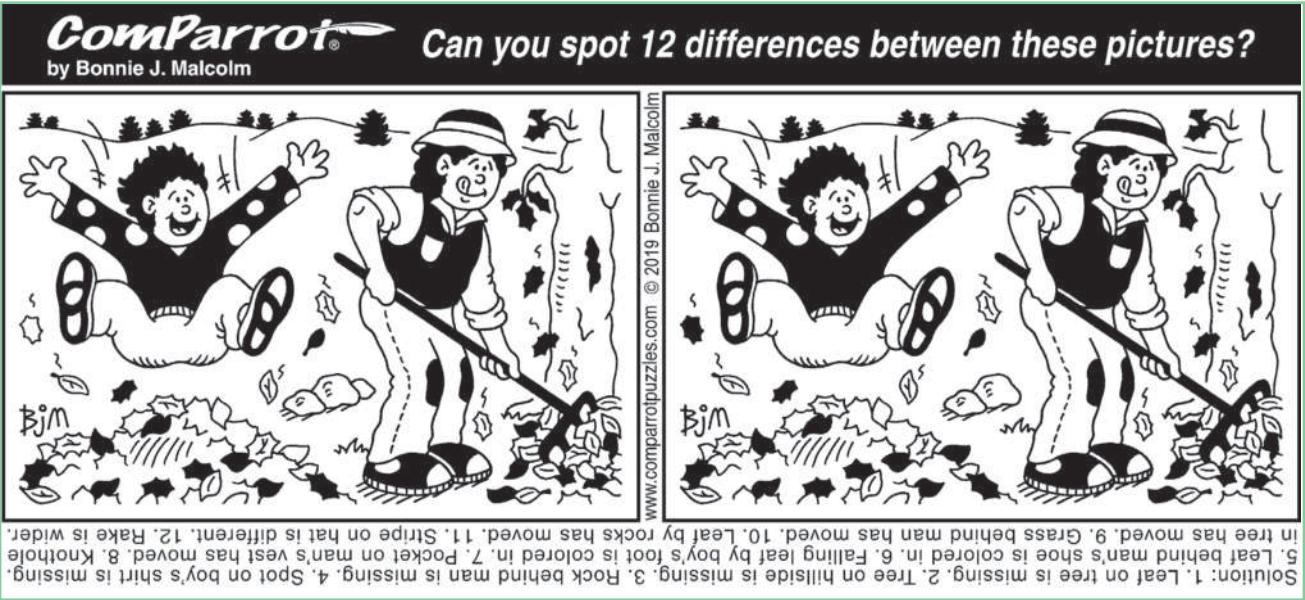
- 1 Gallon Water
- 1 Cup Granulated Sugar
- 10 Black Tea Bags, Ends Tied Together
- 12 Ounces Frozen Cranberry Juice Concentrate Thawed

Add water and sugar to a 6 quart or larger slow cooker. Hang the tied tea bags just inside the slow cooker in the water, holding them in place with the lid. Cook on HIGH for 1 hour, allowing the sugar to dissolve. Add the thawed cranberry juice concentrate to the slow cooker and stir to combine. Recover and cook on HIGH for 1 additional hour. Turn slow cooker OFF and remove the lid. Remove and discard tea bags. Allow the tea to cool by either carefully pouring into a jug or pitcher and refrigerating. Or you can place the slow cooker insert in the refrigerator and allow it to chill. Serve over ice and enjoy.

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton



Once the Neverland truancy officer caught up with Peter Pan, he decided he'd rather grow up.



Tundra Comics by Chad Carpenter

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