



Miners win opener in Mayflower

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"SALINE COUNTY'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1876"

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1 SECTION 12 PAGES

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Punching Past It

Benton man works to overcome TBI

By Elisha Morrison

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After a Benton man was left with a traumatic brain injury, as well as injuries to the rest of his body, he is working to overcome his injury while he and his mother are also trying to raise awareness about brain injuries.

"When you see your kid broken in an ICU unit, you are pretty scared," said Leanne McNutty, mother of Cody Silva, 31.

Silva and a friend were in a car accident Dec. 17 and both were ejected from the vehicle. He was taken to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Along with the TBI, he had a compound fracture of the ankle. Both feet were broken. The frontal lobes of his brain were bleeding.

McNuttty said when Silva woke he knew his name, but was unsure where he was or what year it was. He began to get angry and frustrated. He tried multiple times to get out of the bed, even though his feet were broken.

To help McNuttty cope as a caregiver and loved one, a resident at the hospital suggested she go on Facebook and seek out survivor and caregiver groups. Those in the group she found were able to answer many of her questions.

McNuttty was also grateful for the packet of literature provided by UAMS to help her learn more about her son's condition.

"They were so helpful," she said.

Feb. 12, Silva went to NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge, located on Arkansas 298 in

SILVA, page 3



Cody Silva began his recovery at UAMS before moving to NeuroRestorative Timber Ridge for therapy.

Special to The Saline Courier

Benton Parks holding Underwater Easter Egg Hunt

By Elisha Morrison

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Benton Parks and Recreation will hold its unique Easter celebration, the Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, on April 3 at the River Center in Benton.

"The Underwater Easter Egg hunt is a clever spin on the Easter tradition, the Easter egg hunt," said Adam Nelson, director of the aquatic center. "Everyone loves to swim at the pool and everyone loves to do an Easter egg hunt. We wanted to create an event for the holiday so we could get more families at the pool. We have an amazing swim facility and we aim to get people out to the pool that have never tried it before."

Nelson said this has been one of the River Center's most popular events at the pool each year.

The event is broken down into hour time slots. The department is limiting each slot to no more than 50 swimmers. Registration for the event is on the hour from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nelson said they add the later times because so many people want to take part.

By limiting each hour to 50 participants, Nelson said they can better insure social distancing.

While in the facility, masks will be encouraged.

As participants arrive, they will get the chance to have a picture with the Easter bunny. The department

will have a photographer taking Easter bunny photos, which will go up on social media for parents to grab. Parents will also be permitted to take their own pictures.

After pictures, all the children will go to the swim area to catch as many of the floating eggs as they can. When they finish, they will turn the eggs in for pre-packaged Easter candy bags.

Each session will have one golden egg.

"Whoever finds that egg will get a giant Easter basket," Nelson said.

While children are encouraged to bring their own easter baskets, the River Center asks people not to bring Easter grass.

"It can get really messy if it gets wet or all over the pool," Nelson said.

Only one family member will be able to attend with a swimmer.

Nelson said Parks loves holding fun, family-friendly events to show off the facility. By making it free, more families can take part.

Parents must register their children in advance for the event. They can call 501-776-5970, follow the link on the Facebook event page or find registration under the Parks tab on the city of Benton website, www.bentonar.org and click register.

"We are excited about having it this year. I think the kids are going to love it," Nelson said.

That's a spicy!



Special to The Saline Courier

Jared stretches out a noodles as he eats at Pasghetti's in Branson, Missouri, while out of school for spring break. More pictures of others activities during spring break are featured on pages 8 and 11.

Chamber seeking vendors Business Expo



ELISHA MORRISON/The Saline Courier

During the last Business Expo put on by the Benton Area Chamber of Commerce, attendees visit with the vendors at one of the many booths at the event. This year's expo will be May 14 and the Chamber is still seeking vendors.

By Elisha Morrison

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The Benton Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking vendors for its annual Saline County Business Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 14 at the Benton Event Center.

Director of Business and Events Amy McCormick said it is a chance for a wide variety of businesses and organizations to come together, network and promote their product or business to new clients or customers.

The event will not be limited per industry.

With registration, vendors will receive a 10-foot by 8-foot booth with draping on the sides and back, an 8-foot table, two chairs and two lunch vouchers for Hook, Line and Chicken, which will also be taking place during the event.

While sales will not be permitted, vendors can give samples and set appointments.

McCormick is anticipating 65 to 70 vendors during the event.

The cost for a vendor booth is \$275 for a for-profit Chamber member, \$200 for a non-profit Chamber member, \$400 for a for-profit that is not a Chamber member and \$275

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WEATHER

Daily Forecast TODAY **66° 39°**

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OBITUARIES

Mary “Alene” Blacklock Crawford Abels

Mary “Alene” Blacklock Crawford Abels, 90, of Bryant, passed away Thursday, March 25, 2021. She was born March 15, 1931, to Goebel and Alma Blacklock in Bauxite, AR, and was a lifetime resident of Saline County. Alene loved camping, fishing, sightseeing and loved her family very much. She was a very sweet loving mother & grandmother and had lots of friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, LeeRoy Abels and Preston Crawford; daughter in law, Susie Abels; step daughters, Mary Moore and Judy Bell. She is also preceded in death by her brothers, Grover, George, Garland and Lamar Blacklock.

She is survived by her two sisters, Doris Woods and Barbara Floyd; her sons, Roy Abels and Terry Abels (Mary); and daughter, Linda (Richard) McCutcheon. Also, survived by seven grandchildren, Kyle, Dane, Tonya, Amber, Jordan, Ryan & Chuck; thirteen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

We would also like to mention her wonderful family at Southern Trace that spent lots of time with her over the last several years of her life, she loved them and they loved her as family.

To know Alene was to love her, very happy person with a very kind heart and feisty at times always joking and laughing. That is how we will always remember her. She will be greatly missed by all.

Visitation is at Ashby’s Funeral Home in Benton from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 28, and her graveside service is Monday, March 29, at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Bauxite, AR.

On-line guest book at www.ashbyfuneralhome.com.

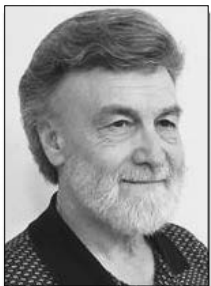


Abels

PAID OBITUARY

Poets Forum

by Dennis Patton



WHISTLE ME A MEMORY

Sometimes a lonely train
whistle splits
the silence of the night
taking me back
to that narrow Pullman on
a crowded train
whizzing west when I was
very young
and rules were for the old.

— Verna Lee
Hinegardner
Former Poet Laureate —

HAIKU

spring house cleaning
memories of my mother
dust motes in light

— Dennis Patton,
Alexander

MAMA'S THING

When Daddy worked the
midnight shift,
Mama did her thing!
With all her babies tucked
in bed,
Mama began to sing.
The old wringer washer
going,
the radio station playing,

oh, how Mama would
sing—
Mama was doing her
thing.

— Jeanette Heffington,
Benton

HAIKU

late March
fern and cactus
amid last year’s leaves

— Pat Laster, Benton

ANIMAL COOKIE DAY

Lions, elephants, and
bears
are waiting for me
Good to eat, fun to see
So easy to carry as I rush
around
Now I eat them with cof-
fee

And I still have found the
taste is the same
And so is the name
Some things never
change
Have an Animal Cookie
Day.

— Phyllis K. Steel,
Sheridan

HAIKU

tired of waiting for their
cue
they determined to make
their way up front
weary of waiting on win-
ter’s exit
its encores and consecu-
tive curtain calls

the spring equinox had
entered stage right
and exited stage left –
Mother Nature paying
no heed to Father Time’s
calendar
backstage it was cold and
dark

they peeped their yellow
heads
through the folds of the
dark curtain
through the linen curtain
of snow
knowing in their hearts

it was past time for the
chorus
of daffodils to enter center
stage

— Renee Ramsey,
Floral

BIRD WATCHING

I watched a bluebird flex
and bend

To keep his balance while
rocked by the wind.

He was unaware that any-
one was near

As he sang his song for
the world to hear.

The cardinal also was
unaware

As he ate from the feeder
hanging there.

I dared not move or
they’d fly away

So I sat very still, hoping
they’d stay.

I love to watch them and
hear them sing

Early in the morning from
my porch swing.

It’s a perfect way to start
my day

And makes my troubles
seem far away.

— Becky Townsend,
Benton

...

To submit poems for publication,
please send poems of 16 or fewer
lines to Dennis Patton, 2512
Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR
72002, or patton_dr@hotmail.com.

Now vaccinated, older adults emerge from COVID hibernation

By David Sharp

AP Writer

PORTLAND, Maine — Bill Griffin waited more than a year for this moment: Newly vaccinated, he embraced his 3-year-old granddaughter for the first time since the pandemic began.

“She came running right over. I picked her up and gave her a hug. It was amazing,” the 70-year-old said after the reunion last week-end.

Spring has arrived with sunshine and warmer weather, and many older adults who have been vaccinated, like Griffin, are emerging

from COVID-19-imposed hibernation.

From shopping in person or going to the gym to bigger milestones like visiting family, the people who were once most at risk from COVID-19 are beginning to move forward with getting their lives on track. More than 47% of Americans who are 65 and older are now fully vaccinated.

Visiting grandchildren is a top priority for many older adults. In Arizona, Gailen Krug has yet to hold her first grandchild, who was born a month into the pandemic in Minneapolis. Now fully vaccinated, Krug is making plans to travel for her granddaughter’s first birthday in April.

“I can’t wait,” said Krug, whose only interactions with the girl have been over Zoom and FaceTime. “It’s very strange to not have her in my life yet.”

The excitement she feels, however, is tempered with sadness. Her daughter-in-law’s mother, who she had been looking forward to sharing grandma duties with, died of COVID-19 just hours after the baby’s birth. She contracted it at a nursing home.

Isolated by the pandemic, older adults were hard hit by loneliness caused by restrictions intended to keep people safe. Many of them sat out summer reunions, canceled vacation plans and missed

family holiday gatherings in November and December.

In states with older populations, like Maine, Arizona and Florida, health officials worried about the emotional and physical toll of loneliness, posing an additional health concern on top of the virus.

But that’s changing, and more older people are reappearing in public after they were among the first group to get vaccinated.

Those who are fully vaccinated are ready to get out of Dodge without worrying they were endangering themselves amid a pandemic that has claimed more than 540,000 lives in the United States.

“Now there’s an extra level of confidence. I am feeling good about moving forward,” said Ken Hughes, a 79-year-old Florida resident who is flying with his wife for a pandemic-delayed annual trip to Arizona in April.

Plenty of older adults are eager to hop on a jet to travel. Others are looking forward to the simpler things like eating at a restaurant, going to a movie theater or playing bingo.

Sally Adams, 74, was among several older people who showed up for “parking lot bingo” in Glendale, Arizona. She felt safe because she’d been vaccinated and because she was in her car at the first bingo

event in more than year.

Once she fulfills the time to reach peak immunity, she plans to indulge in little things like eating out. Both her and her husband, who is also vaccinated, have only done takeout. Now, they feel like it will be OK to even eat indoors — as long as it’s not crowded.

“We’ll probably go in and take the farthest table from other people just to be on the safe side,” she said.

Indeed, many older adults are taking a cautious approach, especially when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declined to ease recommendations for travel.

Silva

From page 1

Benton, two weeks after he left UAMS.

Breyunna Williams, therapeutic program liaison manager, said Timber Ridge offers physical, occupational, speech and behavioral therapies. All therapists at Timber Ridge, except behavioral, are certified to work with brain trauma. While undergoing his other therapies, therapy for Silva’s brain injury was incorporated.

Silva said he has made great progress since going to Timber Ridge.

He praised the physical therapists he has been working with.

“Everyone is really good at what they do,” he said. “It is like doing therapy with friends.”

He is excited the therapies have also included work related to diving.

Before the accident, Silva was set to attend a diving school to train to be a diver with the goal of doing underwater construction.

They are now working toward getting him into the school in September.

“I am hoping by September to be back close to 100 percent. Timber Ridge has really helped with that,” Silva said.

Even after he completes therapy at Timber Ridge, he will continue working toward healing using apps on his phone. He said it actually takes around two years for a brain injury to fully heal.

Before this started McNutty did not know what TBI was. She feels they were blessed to get the support and education they have. She said for



Cody Silva stands with his mother, Judy McNutty, before his accident which left him with a brain injury and other injuries. Both now seek to raise awareness for brain injuries.

Special to The Saline Courier

ing with TBI.

McNuttty said her most important advice to those

facing her family’s situation is don’t wait to start working on healing the brain. Many people focus on healing the body and ignore the brain. She feels the brain should be the top priority.

Silva said to remember it is a long process.

“Take every day with a smile,” Silva said.

He urged others like him not to let the depression get to them.

“Don’t give up,” he said.

Williams said she wants people to realize a brain injury is not like what they see on T.V. The injury can really depend on the person who has it.

The referral line for Timber Ridge is 1-800-743-6802. It can be found online at www.neurorestorativ.com.

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3-30 Amy Woods
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3-31 Linda Paulovich
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