



**HS Football**  
Bombers seek  
3rd straight win,  
playoff berth

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**World Cup Soccer**  
Ronaldo, Messi and  
others likely playing  
at last World Cup

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# The Baxter Bulletin

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022 | BAXTERBULLETIN.COM | MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

A PHILLIPS MEDIA PUBLICATION | \$1.50

## Local doctor has enlarged heart

Orthopedist Dr. Thomas Knox uses funds, influence to aid people in war-torn Ukraine

By Helen Mansfield  
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While Dr. Thomas Knox is a well-known and highly-respected orthopedic surgeon in the Twin Lakes Area, over the years he has demonstrated that he has an altruistic and giving heart, which may indicate he may have missed the opportunity to become a cardiac surgeon.

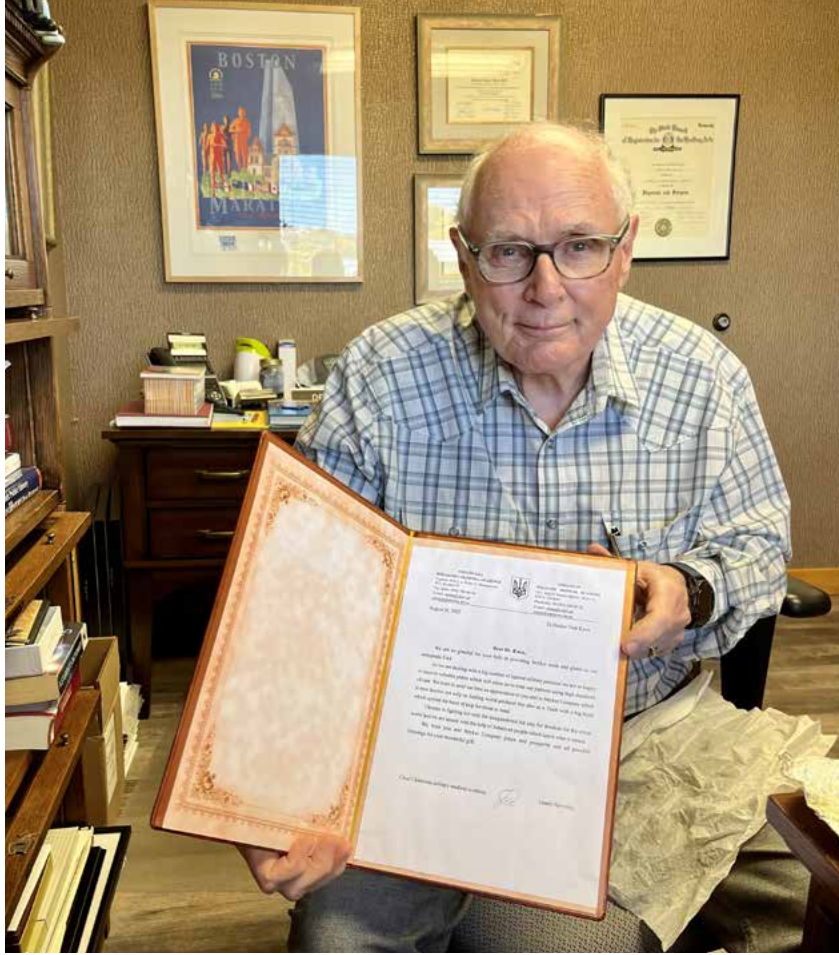
The Good Doctor and his wife Deborah Knox were instrumental in the construction of the Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County, and have quietly donated money over the years to a number of charitable organizations, oftentimes trying to stay out of the public eye while doing so.

According to his long-time friend Mark Kemp, Knox has once again been working quietly behind the scenes since February, when Russian forces invaded Ukraine. He said while it's been difficult to get such things as medical supplies to the people of Ukraine, Kemp has a pair of friends named Edward Ma and Dr. Steve Orten who found a path from Krakow, Poland, across the border into Ukraine.

Knox and Kemp bonded over their mutual love of riding motorcycles — a hobby that has no doubt created a number of patients for Knox over his lifetime.

Kemp is a retired software developer from Tulsa who had sold a copy of his electronic

healthcare software to Knox more than 20 years ago. Two of Kemp's best friends are a plastic surgeon out of the Dallas area named Orten and an entrepreneur named Ma. The two of them both formed individual charities named the Face of Hope and Ed's Friends to facilitate the rapid movement of medications, medical supplies, medical equipment, reconstructive surgery services, ambulances and a wide range of protective gear for the Ukrainian soldiers.



Local orthopedic surgeon Dr. Thomas Knox recent sent some orthopedic plates and screws to Ukraine to help with the war effort. Knox had received the items from the Stryker company to help those with long-bone fractures — such as in the forearms and legs — the kind of injuries that need immediate attention. One set of these plates has the potential to help 30 to 40 people, depending on their injuries. HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Orten, a prominent plastic surgeon out of Plano, graduated number one in his class from the University of Oklahoma. He is now dedicating more of his time to his charity Face of Hope to perform surgeries at the Military Medical Clinical Center of the Western Region as well as the local children's hospital where he repairs cleft palates for children.

As a young man, Ma volunteered to serve in the Peace Corps and was stationed in Dnipro, Ukraine where he taught English to the locals. After that, he studied in the Wharton MBA program and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in International Studies from University of Pennsylvania. He then returned to Ukraine and started a solar panel

business that had become fairly successful, but Ma closed up approximately eight years ago when Russia annexed Crimea.

When the shelling began in Ukraine, Ma mobilized to get a relief effort started and reached out to his friends. Since those early days of attacks, Ed's Friends partnered with Australian donors who provided 23 used ambulances and other emergency vehicles that they were able to get across the border. The vehicles are driven by Polish, American and Australian volunteers who painted, repaired and sometimes re-fitted four-wheel-drive vehicles into an ambulance.

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The Carney Law Office, which is closing its doors in December, has been purchased by Baxter County for use by the Sheriff's Office as additional office space. SCOTT LILES/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

## County purchases Carney Law Office

By Scott Liles  
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Members of the Baxter County Quorum Court voted 11-0 on Tuesday night to purchase the soon-to-be-closed Carney Law Office. The office building is located at 210 W. 7th Street in Mountain Home and is adjacent to the Baxter County Detention Center. The building, which will be vacated in December, will be used as additional office space for the Baxter County Sheriff's Office once the county takes possession. It has 3,300 square feet of space and will cost the county \$302,000 to purchase.

Justices of the peace last month agreed to purchase a strip of land at the back of the law office for \$11,000 to use as additional parking for the jail. The county's purchase of the entire property now voids that agreement with the county receiving

its \$11,000 back in return.

The \$302,000 spent to purchase the building was pulled from the county's General Reserve Fund. That amount includes the \$300,000 sale price of the property itself as well as \$2,000 for closing costs.

The former law office will give the Sheriff's Office space to stretch its legs. Employees are currently working right on top of one another, Sheriff John Montgomery said.

Prior to moving in, some light remodeling will be done to the office building, Montgomery said. Those improvements would likely include redoing the floors and either adding or removing a wall in certain parts of the building. Depending on the final costs of those renovations, Montgomery said he would likely cover those improvements out of his department's budget.

## HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY AWAITING KEY PIECES OF EQUIPMENT TO OPEN



While the exterior of the new Highlands Oncology cancer treatment facility in Mountain Home appears complete, the facility is awaiting some additional, key pieces of equipment before announcing its official grand opening. According to Highlands Director of Marketing and Community Relations Traci Yeftich, "supply chain issues continue to create challenges, but Highland Oncology is pleased to join the medical community in Mountain Home, as a partner with Baxter Health. Our new cancer center will provide world-class care to the people of Baxter and surrounding counties. In the last year, our teams have worked tirelessly to create a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility that will serve the community well. The construction crew is finalizing their work and most of our supplies, equipment and furniture are on the way or have already arrived. We are currently waiting on parts for a key piece of equipment that is necessary for us to open and see patients. As a result, the opening of our cancer center will be delayed. Our leadership team is following this matter closely and desires to open it as soon as possible. As more information becomes available, we will share that with the community. Baxter Health will continue to offer cancer services onsite until the new cancer center is officially open." HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

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Volume 121, No. 243

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