

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, August 14, 2024
Issue 6 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆



Rattler Rally set for Friday at stadium

MURFREESBORO -- As school is immanently beginning this Thursday, the Murfreesboro Rattlers are preparing to kick off the 2024 season.

This Friday, Aug. 16 the Rattler Rally will be held ay 7 p.m. in Rattler Stadium. The football team will start the new school year in style with performances by the Rattler football teams, cheerleaders and the Rattler band.



MusicFest lineup announced for Delight Sept. 28

DELIGHT -- The Delight Music Fest has announced its entertainment schedule for the upcoming event set for Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Delight City Park.

The gates will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the park for the event. In addition to the live music offerings, vendors, food, bounce houses, train rides and raffle drawings will also be offered.

Admission will be \$5 for all attendees 12 years and older, \$2 for ages 5-11 and free for ages four and under.

Vendors interested in being a part of the festivities can get more information by calling Vincent Henry at (870) 723-5447.

The bands participating will be:

- 10-10:45 a.m. -- Open Mic to public
- 11-11:45 a.m. -- Marlin Taylor
- 12:15-1 p.m. -- Third Channel
- 1:30-2:15 p.m. -- Clark Campbell
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. -- Bear Creek Boys
- 5:00-5:45 p.m. -- David Garcia
- 6:15-7:30 p.m. -- Pike 6
- 8:00-9:30 p.m. -- Billstown

Benefit set for Kirby resident with cancer

KIRBY -- A benefit for Carl Harmon of Kirby will be held Saturday, August 17, at the Kirby School cafeteria and pavilion.

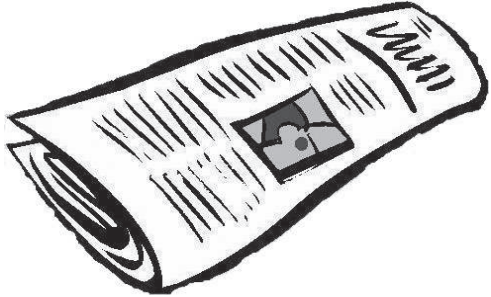
Harmon, along with his wife, Rhonda, are the owners of Kirby Quick Stop and Diamond Lakes Adventures.

Harmon was recently diagnosed with liver cancer, and all proceeds of the benefit will go toward treatments and doctor visits.

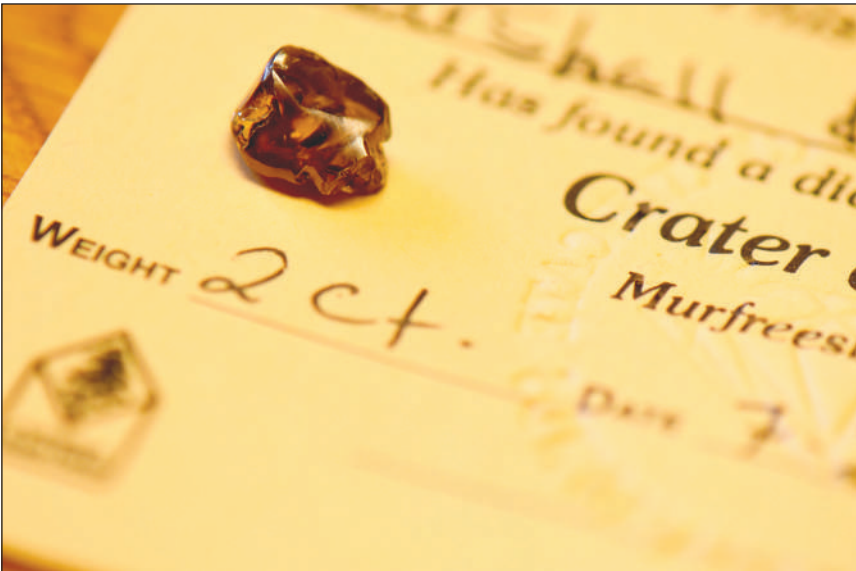
"This family is so generous and selflessly gives back to the community all the time. It is time we give back to them," said event organizers.

The benefit will have live music starting at 3:30 p.m., the meal will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a live auction that starts at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Shanna Mack-Coleman, Karen Baker, B.J. Donaldson or Lisa Miller at (870) 356-8746.



Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



FATHER/SON DIAMOND FIND ... Will and Marshall Bennett of Buckeye, Arizona put the cherry on top of a father-son trip to Murfreesboro by finding the two-carat "Minor Find" diamond at the Crater of Diamonds State Park on July 27.

Arizona man finds two-carat diamond at Crater
Discovery ranks as largest diamond find of 2024

MURFREESBORO -- There is nothing better than memories made while spending quality time with family.

For Will and Marshall Barnett, of Buckeye, Arizona, a recent father-and-son trip to Arkansas' famous Crater of Diamonds State Park resulted in the story of a lifetime and the second-largest diamond registered so far this year.

The Barnetts set out on a "boys' week" road trip from their home in late July, their main goal to visit family and have fun along the way. After learning about the Crater of Diamonds State Park from his uncle, who worked as a park interpreter at another Arkansas State Park, Will decided to stop by Arkansas' diamond site to try their luck at finding a genuine diamond.

Will and Marshall arrived at the park on the morning of July 27, buckets and shovels in-hand. After renting screens at the park's Diamond Discovery Center, the two entered the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area, a plowed field atop the eroded surface of an ancient, diamond-bearing volcano, to start digging. After filling a few buckets with diamond-bearing soil, they headed to the park's south wash pavilion to wet sift their dirt.

"Wet sifting is one of the most effective methods to search for diamonds," said Park Interpreter Ashlyn Keys. "The search area has two wash pavilions, with water troughs and tables, for visitors to wet sift. Using screens to separate dirt from the gravel allows you to go through more material in less time, giving a better chance of finding a diamond."

While sifting, Will spotted a promising, glimmering gem at the bottom of his screen. He quickly called over his son, saying, "Hey Marshall, you should take a look at this!" Marshall excitedly picked out the large stone before asking an experienced miner nearby if they had just found a diamond.

Early that afternoon, the Barnetts brought their find to the park's Diamond Discovery Center, where staff confirmed that it was a large diamond. Park Superintendent Caleb Howell said, "While examining the diamond, I looked out the office window and asked Mrs. Keys who the finders were, then said, 'Wait, let me guess: they're the ones shaking with excitement!'"

"You could tell they knew they had found something special from the smiles on their faces," said Keys.

The beautiful two-carat diamond is rectangular in shape, about the size of a pencil eraser, with a light brown color resembling iced tea. "The first thing I noticed was two large facets that really shined when the light hit them just right," Howell said.

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. As frequent gold panners, Will and Marshall came up with the name "Minor Find," as Will often calls his son a "minor-miner." Will says of their visit, "It's worth looking, even if you don't find a diamond!"

The "Minor Find" is the 412th diamond registered at the park this year and the 36,500th diamond registered since Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas State Park in 1972. On average, park visitors find one or two diamonds each day.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow. The three most common colors found at Crater of Diamonds State Park are white, brown and yellow, in that order.

In total, over 75,000 diamonds have been unearthed at the Crater of Diamonds since the first diamonds were discovered in 1906 by John Huddleston, a farmer who owned the land long before it became an Arkansas State Park in 1972.

The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed in 1924 during an early mining operation on the land that later became Crater of Diamonds State Park. Named the Uncle Sam, this white diamond with a pink cast weighed 40.23 carats. It was later cut into a 12.42-carat emerald shape. The Uncle Sam is now part of the Smithsonian's mineral and gem collection and can be seen at the National Museum of Natural History.

Another well-known diamond from the park is the Strawn-Wagner. Found in 1990 by Murfreesboro resident Shirley Strawn, this 3.03-carat white gem was cut into a round brilliant shape weighing 1.09 carats. It graded as ideal cut, D-colorless and flawless and was set in a platinum and 24-carat gold ring. In 1998, the state of Arkansas purchased this diamond for \$34,700 in donations and placed it on permanent display at the park visitor center.



WELCOME BACK ... With students set to return to campus on Thursday, South Pike County Schools have been prepping for their arrival, including new bulletin boards, like the one pictured above, at Murfreesboro High School designed by Tarah Gentry.



KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Incoming Kindergartners at Murfreesboro Elementary School were recently treated to an exploration of a school day. including visiting the playground, classroom time and a snack in the cafeteria to help them be ready for the first day of school this Thursday.



kinder
garten

August 15
8:00

First
Walk

Outside
the Kindergarten
Hallway Entrance
to the building

1
2
3

FIRST WALK ... Continuing the tradition of the Kindergarten First Walk at Murfreesboro Elementary School, the public is invited to join the cheering of the school's new Kindergarteners as they take their first steps into the elementary in 2024. A live stream of the event will also be available on the school's social media pages.

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,

418 North Main Street

Nashville, AR 71852

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The Murfreesboro Diamond (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.

Subscription Rates: \$40 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$55 per year elsewhere.

\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.

College Subscriptions- \$25 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please Send Change of Address Information to:

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Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Woman dies following accident in Kirby

KIRBY -- An Athens, Ala., woman has died from injuries suffered during a crash Thursday, Aug. 8 in Kirby.

Julie Faye Keith, 61, succumbed to her injuries two days after the wreck that happened at the Highway 70 and Highway 27 intersection.

According to the Arkansas State Police, Keith was traveling east in a Toyota Corolla on Highway 70 and failed to yield the right of way, drove into the intersection and into the path of a Kenworth commercial truck that was traveling north on Highway 27.

The accident was reported around 1:40 p.m.

ASP Cpl. David Hamilton reported conditions were clear and dry at the time of the accident.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CRASH

A Hot Springs man was killed Aug. 10 in a one-vehicle accident on Cedar Creek Road off Union Hill Road in rural Montgomery County.

Jade Michael Davis, 20, died in the wreck.

Davis was reportedly traveling north on Cedar Creek Road, which is a dirt road, when he lost control os his Honda CRV and left the roadway and rolled over.

ASP Trooper Tate Ledbetter reported conditions were dry at the time of the accident.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Draw For Ballot Positions

The Pike County Election Commission will meet Friday, August 23rd, at 1:00 p.m. to draw for ballot positions for the November 5th, 2024 General Election. This meeting will be held in the Pike County Clerk's Office at 112 N. Washington, Suite A in Murfreesboro. All candidates are invited to attend.

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Clerk, the amount for this publication is \$29.20

(p.c.c. 73w. 6)

I'm

not sleeping well

always feeling **anxious**

not leaving the house much

unable to concentrate on work

stressing about little things

not eating much

Fine

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PUBLIC NOTICE

JOB OPENING

The Murfreesboro Water Department will be accepting application for a secretary /bookkeeper for the next 30 days through Sept. 14, 2024. Call Randy at (870) 285-1855 for applications.

This publication was paid for by the Murfreesboro Water Department, the amount for this publication is \$16.40

(m.w.s., 41w., 6,7)

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COMPLETE HOME LIQUIDATION AUCTION
Saturday, August 17th, 9am
59 Mini Storage north of Van Buren
3125 Highway 59N Van Buren
Full house of furniture, appliances, tools, four wheelers, mowers, decorations, household items, kitchen items and much, much more. The items were all taken from the home and brought to the mini-storage due to a sale of the home. There is some really nice items in the sale that are not picture due to being in storage. The items will be pulled from the units and sold, we are not selling the Home Liquidation as a "storage unit". Lots of good stuff in this one!! Below is a partial list.
In addition to the home liquidation, 59 Mini Storage will have a couple of Storage Unit's that will be auctioned. These units will be sold as a unit, the entire content of the unit will be sold as one item. This will be in addition to the Home Liquidation auction.
Partial List: many more items not listed... Yamaha 350 sport 4 wheeler, 2013 Honda rancher RX 420FM 4x4 four wheeler, Husker fast trac 54in zero turn mower 159 hours, Lincoln sp125 plus wire welder, Troy built 2800 psi pressure washer, central machinery 12 ton shop press, craftsman 16in chainsaw, 16 in wren electric chainsaw, Poulan 16 3314 chainsaw, craftsman 5 205 20in chainsaw, Troy Bilt 22in trimmer, Hypro tough wood eater, craftsman 8P510 backpack blower, Kobalt battery operated blower, Shop 20 gal Pro air compressor, 6in bench grinder on stand, hydraulic motorcycle lift, 3 ton floor jack, Kobalt socket set, Kobalt impact sockets, Kobalt battery right angle impact, Kobalt battery impact, mac air tools, Bostich impact nailer, air stapler brinks, lots and lots of hand tools, central pneumatic air spray gun, 14 in hyper tough surface cleaner, heat bond carpet seamer, little giant aluminum ladder, wetolux tool box on wheels, craftsman toolbox on wheels, husky chest 9 drawer toolbox on wheels, Homak professional 12 drawer tool box on wheels, Frigidaire ref/freezer, Frigidaire side by side with ice and water in door, Traeger upright freezer, 75in 65in and several other flat screen TVs, whirlpool dryer, Midea washer, gun safe, adjustable king size bed, office chairs, king rustic 5 piece bed room set, sectional couch, rustic lodge type long dining table with 6 chairs, lodge type rocking chair, rug doctor carpet cleaner, large fish aquarium, plus lots and lots of house hold items.
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Week of August 12, 2024

5

FOOTBALL
* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS
1. Command to Fido
6. Sheep not yet sheared
9. Cap and gown accessory
13. Blood line
14. Ancient Chinese dynasty
15. Ringworm
16. Driver's license notation
17. Not outs
18. Like Cheerios
19. *Piece of football equipment required since 1943
21. *Peyton or Eli
23. Napkin spot
24. Eminem's 2002 hit " ____ Yourself"
25. Embargo
28. Feed storage cylinder
30. Like house from a kit
35. Greek god of love
37. Smokes
39. *Super Bowl I M.V.P. Bart ____
40. Taj Mahal locale
41. *Career rushing yards record holder
43. Equals s squared
44. Regretting
46. *Highest college football level: ____ Division I
47. Extend credit
48. *Seventeen games in NFL
50. Somewhat (2 words)
52. "Whatever Will Be, Will Be" singer
53. Mare's baby
55. Not a friend
57. *55 of them
61. *Home of the NFL Hall of Fame
64. Hole-borer
65. For every
67. Color red on coat of arms
69. Birds of ill omen
70. Outrage
71. ____ shopping cart
72. Party barrels
73. Sound from one of #69 Across

74. Homes for #69 Across

DOWN
1. Down in the dumps
2. Cry of contempt
3. Marine eagle
4. Wake Island, e.g.
5. Kismet, pl.
6. Foolish one
7. Even, poetic
8. Useful contraption
9. Lamborghini model
10. Unfavorable prefix
11. "As ____ on TV"
12. Suspend
15. Astrigents
20. "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," e.g.
22. Venomous Egyptian snake
24. Deducible
25. *One of 2 NFL founding teams still in league
26. Lock horns
27. Waterwheel
29. Outline
31. Et alii, abbr.
32. Got along
33. *Like indoor eight-men football
34. *Career NFL passing yards record holder
36. Without
38. Wild guess
42. Israelian port
45. Errand-runners
49. Neither's partner
51. Nuku'alofa language
54. Meat jelly dish
56. Musician's exercise
57. "Go ____ Go!"
58. Fishing decoy
59. Awestruck
60. Archery wood
61. "Ship, Captain, ____"
62. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short
63. Remaining after deductions
66. ____ of Good Feelings
68. Lusitania's last call

CROSSWORD

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U-A Cossatot Collegiate and Alumni FFA attends conference in Alaska

DE QUEEN -- Students in the UA Cossatot agriculture program attended an FFA Alumni & Supporters Development conference in Alaska over the summer.

Agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor, Kelli Harris, along with program assistant, Hadley Philamlee, traveled to Palmer, Alaska from June 20 - 24 with three students: April Klitz, Gynder Benson, and Hannah Jackson.

The conference provided information on topics such as agriculture program development, student retention, and offered an opportunity to network with other FFA alumni members from around the country.



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The group learned about production agriculture in Alaska, which is widely known for gigantic cabbages that can easily grow up to 50 pounds during the long daylight hours of the Alaskan growing season. They also toured a musk ox farm where they were able to see how these animals are managed for their hair, which is called qiviut, and how the fibers are used in textile production.

"This was an amazing experience for our students at UA Cossatot and we were all excited to learn more about agriculture beyond our region of the United States. Attending these conferences helps us expand our knowledge about agriculture and bring new ideas back to our college," says Kelli Harris.

The agriculture program is looking forward to planning more educational travel experiences for students this fall.

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November ballot finalized with close of municipal office filings

MURFREESBORO – As the filing period for municipal elected positions closed last week, the ballot has been set with the candidates.

In the county seat of Murfreesboro, there will be one contested race in November between incumbent Lewis Gills and Danny Eckert for the South Ward Position 1 position on the city council.

For all other positions in Murfreesboro, only the incumbents registered for their positions, including:

- Recorder/Treasurer – Penny Lamb
- North Ward Position 1 – Mark Barnes
- North Ward Position 2 – Kirk Stone
- South Ward Position 2 – Jane Fugitt
- West Ward Position 1 – Betty O’Neal
- West Ward Position 2 – James “Cody” Bachmann

In the county’s northern reaches, the City of Glenwood will also feature one contested race between incumbent Jimmy Clark and Rick Driggers for the council position from North Ward Position 1.

Jason Lenderman filed for the position of City Recorder/Treasurer, where he has been filling in since July following the resignation of

Ryan Brady.

No one filed for the position of South Ward Position 1 in Glenwood, currently held by Alan Moore, allowing the council to fill the position with any eligible candidate.

The Town of Delight is set for a pair of contested races, including Position 2 that was vacated by incumbent Valarie Wingfield. Jenimy “Jimmy” Williams will face off against current Delight Fire Chief Ty Sherrod for the position.

Position 3 incumbent Chris Goodson will vie for the position with Brandi Rowton Martin.

Delight council incumbents Rhonda Abbott

(Position 1), Ronnie Cox (Position 4) and Keith Woods (Position 5) will maintain their seats with no opposition filed.

In the towns of Antoine and Daisy no one officially filed for any of the five seats each.

Ballot draw for the positions will be held at the Pike County Clerk’s office in Murfreesboro on Friday, August 23 at 1 p.m.

Registered Pike County voters will be able to see their complete ballots in mid-to-late October on voterview.com based on residence prior to going to the polls this November 5.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

Seeing the Green Corn Moon

MURFREESBORO -- This inaugural edition will be late informing of the Perseid meteor shower peaking on August 12.

However, another early morning event will have you looking toward the east. The mighty and bright Jupiter will be visually very close to the planet Mars (they are, in actuality, millions of miles apart) on Aug. 14. You will see the two planets and the brightest star in the constella-

tion Taurus, Aldeberan, forming a triangle.

While you are looking your might see one of the fiery steaks for which the Perseids are known to produce.

The moon will be full on Aug. 19. Native Americans called this one the Sturgeon Moon, or the Green Corn Moon. It is also called the Red Moon because of the reddish tint that it often takes on in the haze of summer.

More apply for Education Freedom Accounts

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – More than 3,000 families applied for Education Freedom Accounts during the first week of August, bringing the total number of applicants statewide to 15,365.

The Internet portal for applications had been closed over the summer and re-opened on July 29, when about 12,000 applications had been approved.

There is no scheduled deadline, as long as funding is available under the Arkansas LEARNS Act. The accounts expand school choice options by helping families pay tuition at private or parochial schools.

Last year the governor proposed and the legislature approved Act 237 of 2023, also known as the LEARNS Act. The 2024-2025 school year is the second year it has been in effect. It is being phased in over three years.

Last year students were eligible if they were first-time kindergarteners, or if they attended schools that got an “F” on school report cards or were enrolled in districts ranked at Level 5 for academic distress. Also eligible were children of active duty military members, as well as children with disabilities and children enrolled in kindergarten for the first time.

For the upcoming school year, eligibility is expanded to include students from a school that got a “D” on school report cards, children of military veterans and the children of emergency responders. Current or former foster children are eligible.

Also eligible are students from the Succeed Scholarship Program, which existed before the LEARNS Act was created.

Next year, the third year of the phase-in of the Education Freedom Accounts, all children are eligible.

Another way the LEARNS Act expands school choice is by repealing previous limits on the number of charter schools in Arkansas.

The LEARNS Act also provides bonuses of up to \$10,000 for teachers as merit incentives. In June, the state announced that 3,000 teachers qualified for the bonuses because their students showed remarkable academic improvement or they acted as inspiring mentors to new teachers.

Also, they qualified if they taught in a part of the state, or in a subject matter, with a critical teacher shortage. The state Education Department has listed those subjects in which there is a critical shortage of teachers. They are computer science, foreign language, secondary math, secondary science and special education.

The act raised the minimum salary for teachers from \$36,000 to \$50,000, which benefited more than 15,240 teachers. Also benefitting were teachers who already earned \$50,000 or more, because they received raises of \$2,000.

Also, the LEARNS Act provides teachers 12 weeks of paid maternity leave.

Other provisions in the LEARNS Act expanded opportunities for high school students to enroll in college-level concurrent courses and receive college credits for passing them. Surveys indicate that students who take concurrent courses are more likely to obtain a college degree or certificate.

Under the LEARNS Act, Arkansas schools will recruit an additional 120 literacy specialists. The act provides \$500 for families of students struggling to learn how to read in kindergarten through third grade, so they can hire a tutor.

The LEARNS Act requires high schools to develop a career-ready pathway towards a diploma, to prepare students for well-paying jobs if they choose not to go to college.

Extension announces agri economic podcast

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas agricultural extension economists have launched a new weekly podcast aimed at giving farmers an earful — in a good way.

The “Morning Coffee and Ag Markets” podcast is the brainchild of Ryan Loy and Hunter Biram, both extension economists for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Anchoring the podcast each week is Riley Smith, agricultural economics and agribusiness program associate.

“Everybody can listen, but our main target audience is our farmers,” Loy said. Each episode will be 10-20 minutes, an easy listen in the combine or truck with a cup of coffee.

So far, their topics have included Farm Bill proposals and the spread between input and output prices.

Biram and Loy conceived the podcast as a way to stay in touch with Arkansas’ ag professionals during the growing season, not just on the off-season.

“In the winter, Hunter and I get out in the counties making presentations and just having that every day rapport with farmers,” Loy said. “The podcast is a way that we can still have that conversation with them.”

The podcast launched July 24 and has four episodes. Biram and Loy will alternate weeks at the microphone.

“In addition to our regular episodes, we would like to have round table discussions,” Loy said. “We want to bring in industry folks and farmers and talk about what they see going on in the industry.”

Listeners can also sign up for a companion newsletter. They are also welcome submit topics for coverage by emailing Loy at rloy@uada.edu.

Hooten’s announces 2024 magazine release

BENTON — The cover story for the 32nd annual Hooten’s Arkansas Football bookazine goes in-depth with the Arkansas Razorbacks, new offensive coordinator Bobby Petrino and how he landed quarterback Taylen Green.

The book retails for \$19.99 and is on sale now at Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens, Harps Food Stores, Hays Food, Brookshire’s, Edwards Food Giant and Doublebee’s.

The 544-page book, which is our largest ever and takes more than six months to compile, offers the most comprehensive preseason football coverage in Arkansas.

In addition to providing extensive coverage of every high school team in the state, the book features an in-depth preview on the Razorbacks, Arkansas State and every state college.

The national award-winning Hooten’s Arkansas Football features coaches’ polls for each high school conference, top 20 rankings for

each classification, returning statistically leaders in each conference, super teams for each classification, the state’s Top 50 recruits, a national college poll and complete high school results from last year and this year’s schedules. In addition, it offers 6 unique feature high school feature stories.

Georgia is picked to win the new-look SEC, Texas is second, Alabama is picked third, Ole Miss is tabbed fourth and LSU is fifth. Hooten’s picks the Razorbacks to finish 13th.

Harding is picked to win the Great American Conference, followed by Southern Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist, Henderson State, Arkansas Tech and Arkansas-Monticello.

Hooten’s high school favorites to win it all in 2024 are Fayetteville in Class 7A, Greenwood in Class 6A, Little Rock Parkview in Class 5A, Warren in Class 4A, Prescott in Class 3A and Junction City in Class 2A.

Representative suggests USPS ‘Pony Up’

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. Representative, AR-04

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is vital, especially in many of the rural communities I represent. Hardworking families, seniors, small businesses, local municipalities, and others rely on the USPS in their daily lives for medication, bills, products, and correspondence.

Unfortunately, my office has received countless complaints from Arkansans who have been victims of recent failures by the USPS. Prescriptions are arriving late, packages are missing, and bills are being delivered well past their due date. It’s entirely unacceptable that someone may not receive their critical medication or face a late fee for a bill because the Postal Service didn’t deliver it in a timely manner.

Despite numerous meetings I’ve had with USPS officials to address these issues, they

have consistently failed to acknowledge or rectify them. Instead, they shift the blame to local mail carriers. It’s clear that these widespread, nationwide issues are a result of systemic failures at the top and require comprehensive solutions.

If the Postal Service makes a mistake that negatively impacts you, whether it be a late bill or lost prescription delivery, they should have to own up to it. I’m proud to cosponsor the Pony Up Act, bipartisan legislation that would protect Arkansans by putting the USPS on the hook for late delivery of bills. It would require the USPS to reimburse any fees charged for the late payment of bills that were delayed in the mail.

The bipartisan support for this bill should serve as a wake-up call for the USPS that it’s time to refocus and adequately serve the American people.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY


All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

Benefit accounts announced

Our Kids is a project that helps the kids and teachers of our community. An account has been opened at First State Bank in Murfreesboro. A committee of local citizens oversees the use of the funds. Anyone needing to reach the Our Kids committee may do so by e-mailing ourkids@rattlers.org.

An account has been set up for Shop With A Cop at First State Bank of Pike County. The public is invited to make a donation to this cause that will benefit local children in need this December. Local law enforcement officers will participate in the shopping for Christmas gifts.

NOTICE FOR AMENDMENT REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY	ARSHIPS AND GRANTS TO ARKANSAS CITIZENS ENROLLED IN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.	citizens of this State enrolled in public and private non-profit two-year and four-year colleges and universities the following higher education institutions located within the State that are certified according to criteria established by the General Assembly: (A) A public or private nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university; (B) A public or private vocational-technical school; or (C) A public or private technical institute.
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 94th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 5, 2024, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2023 Session by Representative Lundstrum and filed as HJR 1006.	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:	(2) The General Assembly shall establish criteria to determine who is eligible to receive the scholarships and grants pursuant to this Amendment.
ISSUE NO. 1 Popular Name A Constitutional Amendment to Provide that Lottery Proceeds May Be Used to Fund or Provide Scholarships and Grants to Arkansas Citizens Enrolled in Vocational-Technical Schools and Technical Institutes.	THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:	SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. <u>This amendment shall be effective on and after January 1, 2025.</u>
Ballot Title AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT LOTTERY PROCEEDS MAY BE USED TO FUND OR PROVIDE SCHOL-	SECTION 1. Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 14(b), concerning the use of lottery proceeds, is amended to read as follows: (b)(1) Lottery proceeds shall be used solely to pay the operating expenses of lotteries, including all prizes, and to fund or provide for scholarships and grants to	IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2024.
		 JOHN THURSTON SECRETARY OF STATE STATE OF ARKANSAS