# Murfreesboro Diamond

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### Former employee under investigation for selling weapons

BY JOHN BALCH Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill has confirmed a former county deputy is under investigation by the state police for allegedly hawking two of his county-issued

Hill declined to name the former deputy, citing the ongoing Arkansas State Police investi-

Hill said he called for the state investigation into former deputy after one of his long guns was found for sale at a Glenwood pawn shop and another long gun was recovered from an individual who was reporting holding the weapon for the deputy as collateral for a loan.

Hill said the deputy was terminated from the county force a few weeks before after failing to show up for two scheduled dates to attend the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. When the deputy was ordered to turn in his county equipment, the two long guns were not in the inventory.

The Arkansas State Police confirmed the investigation last week and described it as "open∫active."

### Fly fishing festival set for M'boro Jan. 31-Feb. 2

MURFREESBORO - The annual Little Missouri River Fly Fishing Festival has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31-Sunday, Feb. 2.

The event will be conducted at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building's community room, located at 204 East Main Street in Murfreesboro.

The ArkLaTexOma (ALTO) Fly Tyers will be hosting the festival that will include a "weekend of tying, fishing, fellowship and fun ... with expert tyers, casting instructors, vendors, and seminars."

Raffles and door prizes will also be a part of the festivities - interested participants are asked to follow the ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers Facebook page for more information on the raffles and event proceedings.

Information for the event says the group will accept interest from all levels of expertise, and wants to make beginners feel welcome.

There is no fee to attend the event, but attendees are asked to bring new/slightly used gear to augment the raffle table. As with all ALTO events, there are no membership dues and events are supported by member donations. All of the donations go toward future events throughout the year or charitable organizations

On Friday, Jan. 31 the group will open the event at noon, and that evening at 6 p.m. a presentation will be held on the state of the Little Missouri River. Pizza will be available – sold by the slice – as well as drinks.

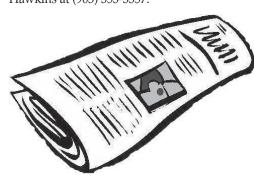
The morning of Saturday, Feb. 1, fly tying will start at 9 a.m., followed by an update on Patriot Angler news and projects by Johnny

Saturday's lunch will be chicken/sausage gumbo with sides, with cost being a donation

Following lunch at 1:30 p.m., Gordon Shaw will present the joys of fishing with fiberglass. One of the raffle items will be a hand-built fiberglass fly rod by Randy Hanien. At 3 p.m. the group will present a program on raft fishing in

Sunday morning, Feb. 2, a short devotional will be held at the Riverside pavilion, weather permitting, before the event commences.

For further information, contact Mike Hawkins at (903) 353-3357.



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Submitted photo

THIRD AT STATE ... The Murfreesboro High School cheerleaders placed third in the state competition recently in Hot Springs.

# Dedicated group places third in state

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro High School cheer squad finished third at the state competition held recently in Hot Springs.

The squad was also named for the "highest tumbling award" in their part of the competition and senior team member Reid Spradlin was named to the 2024-2025 all-state cheer list.

Team coach Melissa Jones, who said she participated in competitive cheer as a student in North Little Rock said she came out of retirement for the job when her daughter started cheer in seventh grade.

"I enjoyed it, and most small schools in Arkansas don't do it [competitive cheer]. Our girls are rock stars in multiple things – starters in basketball, track, FBLA – they're so busy its hard to practice competition stuff along with everything else," said Jones.

She brought the team back to competitions because she knew "this group of girls was talented, had a good work ethic and practice ability working well. It's not something you want to do with just any group of kids."

The team qualified for the state competition via their efforts at competition earlier in the fall season, which fall directly amongst their duties for football season.

"That's why it gets a little crazy [time-wise],"

During the in-season competitions, the Murfreesboro squad could be lumped in a class A-AA-AAA grouping, depending on the number of participants at the meet. At the state championship meet, the team competed against other class AA and A schools.

At the championship event Jones laughed that the team had departed, and she called them to return after realizing they finished

During the state competition, each squad

receives scores for three categories – overall, building/stunting and cheer. Inside the scores are sections for a gameday cheer, motions, callback cheers along with a music section with pyramids, stunts, jumping and tumbling.

Jones said the season really begins in the spring semester with tryouts in March and their chicken dinner fundraiser in May.

"Everything we do is self-supported, we get no funds from the school whatsoever. It costs about a thousand dollars per girl for uniforms and camp, so we fundraise and fundraise. After the chicken dinner in May, we usually have the senior high do something else like crumble cookies or fried pies. We fundraise after tryouts until spring sports are over, because trying to practice during all that is difficult.'

The squad begins practicing around the end of May after the end of softball and track. The practices continue in the summer around the basketball duties.

"That's more for senior high than junior high, because we also have football games and pep rallies to get ready for."

The girls attended a cheer camp in Bentonville last summer, and Jones said it was still undetermined what they will do this summer.

June contains the squad's practice and team camp, followed by most of July off – both for a breather and in allowance for the Arkansas Activities Association's mandated time off for all athletes. Cheer now falls under the rules being a state sanctioned sport and no longer a club

"I had to go through all the coaching credentials – I'm now just as qualified to coach basketball as I am cheer," Jones said laughingly. "That's just crazy, but anyway, that's another

Toward the end of July the squad begins sell-

ing advertisements for the football programs, which is another fundraiser for the squad.

"Then we start working on game stuff, and don't really begin working on competition stuff until October," said Jones. "Because we are football, football ... working on pep rallies, that's our main focus, getting ready for

Once the competition practices start, the squad holds them after school, further display-

ing their commitment to the craft.
"Most schools, maybe not our size, but against many we compete with, get a class period for cheer. At Nashville they have a cheer room and a 90-miunte cheer period. But those girls just cheer – they don't do basketball and band, etc. Our girls couldn't get a cheer period with their athletic periods - they'd never graduate high school. So, we just try to make it up after school. That's hard - it's quite a commitment from the girls."

Jones said another difficulty the girls face is the lack of a full-sized practice spot for the

"We have a full floor we have to compete on with mats, where we only have two of the nine strips of mat [that would comprise the competition space]. I don't even know where we could locate these mats if we had a full floor. Part of the disadvantage for the girls is that they never really get to do it full-out until we get to a com-

Jones said they have made trips to Nashville to utilize their facilities in order to prepare.

"We still don't get the repetitions that other schools get, because we can't go full-out because of lack of facilities. So, compliments to the girls, we get in there and space it out, but

CHEER Continued on Page 2

# Malvern man sentenced in predator sting case

MURFREESBORO -- A Malvern man is the latest individual to be sentenced to prison after falling for an undercover social media account that appears to be a 14-year-old girl, but is actually a Pike County investigator looking for sexual predators.

Trevor Tyrone Lowe, 33, was scheduled for a jury trial Thursday, Jan. 16 in Pike County, but instead took a plea deal on charges of internet stalking of a child and possession of drugs and paraphernalia. As part of the deal, the state will not pursue the drug charges.

Lowe was sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with four years suspended. Lowe must also pay all related court fees and will be required to reg-

ister as a sex offender upon his release from prison.

An investigation into Lowe began in August 2023 up until his January arrest.

According to case information, Lowe sent messages to the account operated by Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald and he claimed to be 22 years old. Even after being in-

formed the person he was messaging was 14, Lowe continued and his messages eventually turned sexual in nature. In January, a meeting was arranged for the two to meet and have sex and smoke marijuana, according to case information. When Lowe

arrived at the predetermined meeting spot, he

texted "I'm Here" and was quickly surrounded

by Murfreesboro and Pike County law enforcement and taken into custody with marijuana and a pipe in his pocket.

Also on Jan. 16 in Pike County, William Griffith Medcalf, 63, of Murfreesboro, avoided a jury trial on charges of theft by receiving and misdemeanor drug and driving offenses. He instead plead guilty to the theft by receiving charge and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with two years suspended. As part his plea deal, the state will not pursue the drug or driving charges.

Medcalf was arrested in July behind the wheel of a Jeep Wrangler that was stolen in Murfreesboro on July 3.

### **CHEER** Continued from Page 1

most squads have an advantage."

In that vein, Jones wishes the squad could have gone to more competitions leading up to the state competition.

"They just hit at the wrong times – during football – and we were busy preparing for playoffs. We didn't have the time to get prepped, and I didn't want to take them if they weren't ready."

The team was happy with their final results of the season,

"We were excited to get third - if we can get our building numbers up – we have a squad of 14 with only 11 that could go to competition [two injuries and a medical issue] and some of the scoring is based on numbers. A lot of the squads there had as many as 24 members. The scores have different expectations [due to squad size] and with 14 members we could have had three full stunt groups, but with 11 we could only have two. But with 11, I think that helped us get the highest tumbling award in the classification, so that was good. I was very proud of them."

The routines vary, Jones said, noting that the past two years the team has had a National Cheer Association instructor from a member of the squad at Ouachita Baptist University help install

"Some years I have done it, meshed stuff we have learned together for it. The past two years we had the NCA instructor, a North Little Rock alum."

Jones said Spradlin was nominated by the group for here All-



# The celestial clock

There is a scene late in the motion picture, Jeremiah Johnson, where the Johnson character, played by Robert Redford, is sharing a rabbit with another trapper named Bear Claw (played by Will Geer), and Johnson asks his companion if he would happen to know what month of the year it is. The reply is "no, I truly wouldn't." They continue in sparse dialog speculating on whether it is March or April. It is a powerful scene in that it portrays two men who are slowly leaving civilization behind, and with it that what we would call the measure of time.

Time was not invented by we humans, but we learned ways to track and measure it. We have come a long way from simple observation of the movements of sun and stars to what we have today. The Jeremiah Johnson scene raises the question, though, of how long it would take us to lose track of time if we were cut off from calendars and time keeping devices. How many of us would be able to look at celestial cycles, for instance, and know what month of the year it is after a few years without time mea-

Preppers and survivalists, as part of their "kit", have maybe learned the patterns of the sky. Our military realized some time ago that things like GPS could be taken out during a conflict, so training of navigators and such includes knowledge of constellations, sun position, and the use of the "primitive" sextant.

Sky watching is actually a very multi-level activity, and serious business in many ways. Is it worth the time to learn a few basics of using the Sun and stars to navigate by, and to keep time? Probably so. Noting where the sun rises at different times during the year can give a good hint of the month of the year. Finding the North Star is a good start at knowing how to navigate your way. The three stars that are the "sword" of the constellation Orion point south as it moves across the sky, and Orion rises early morning in late July, and early evening in mid-Autumn, and always due east. Ways of navigating and telling time by looking at the sky are topics for another time, maybe when the big square of the constellation Pegasus sets early evening in the west (that

### SMALL ADS DO WORK .... YOU JUST READ ONE!

### Murfreesboro Diamond

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• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor

• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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\$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

**Telephone:** 870-285-2723 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: Murfreesboro Diamond

P.O. Box 550

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.

State designation after participating in the competition. Participation in the state competition is a prerequisite for inclusion on the list.

"I consulted with [Melissa] Cornish because she had had this group for the two years prior, and I thought it needed to be a senior. Reid is always a go-getter, asking what she can help with and providing ideas, so she's very organized. She's a leader that speaks up, and if I need an idea for some material for halftime or a pep rally, she was always helpful. She's just a dependable good kid, but all of my seniors are, so it was hard to pick."

Jones also adds that the student athletes are also very good in the first part of the equation, excelling in the classroom with high grade point averages.

"They are good students and active in everything."

The squad was composed of:

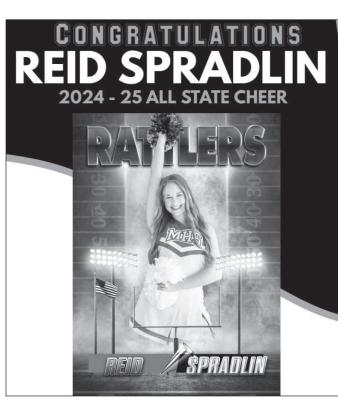
Sophomores -- Josey Jones, Madie Ward, Charleigh Wheeler, Ramsey Terrell, Kinslee Howell, Bella Frazier and Gianna Drap-

Junior -- Teegan Barnett

Seniors -- Natalie Perrin, Jocee Holt, Alyssa Ruiz, Jenna May, Reid Spradlin and Kinleigh Sullivan

Jones said the junior high squad also attended competitions this season with an eye toward developing them for state competition when they reach the senior high level.

"They went to a few other [competitions] that we didn't go to. They do the same type things we do on the senior high level."





PERFORMING THE ROUTINE ... The Murfreesboro High School cheerleaders (above) are pictured doing the routine that won them third place at the state competition in Hot Springs.

Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond: People's Pharmacy • Gypsy Underground C-Stop • Tobacco & More • EZ Mart

# PUBLIC NOTICE

### **BID NOTICE**

Pike County will be accepting sealed bids on the following equipment.

3-20- yard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters.

3-30- yard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters. 2-40- vard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters.

Please call the Pike County Judge for details and specifications. Bids may be mailed to P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958 or delivered to the Pike County Judge, at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro.

Bids will be opened January 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pike County Judge's office, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro.

Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any an all bids.

Eddie Howard Pike County Judge

This publication was paid for by Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$54.00

(p.c.j. 132w. 28,29)

# PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, **ARKANSAS** CIVIL DIVISION

Michael McCratic

**PLAINTIFF** 

**Vickie Owens** 

55CV-24-104

ANY UNKNOWN PERSON **CLAIMING AN INTEREST** IN THE PROPERTY AT ISSUE

**DEFENDANT** 

### **NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION**

Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Pike County, Arkansas to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described property in Pike County,

A tract of land being situated in the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 25 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, being located in Pike County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a Rebar w/Cap (PS 902) for the NE Corner of Said SE1/4 SW1/4, Thence S 03°22'38" W, 309.94 Feet to a Rebar w/Cap (PS 902) on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4; Thence S 03°22'38" W, 242.06 Feet to a Point on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4 and the Point of Beginning; Thence S 03°22'38" W, 146.04 Feet to a Rebar w/Cap (PS 1491) on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4; Thence N 87°34'37" W, 550.25 Feet to the Centerline of a Road; Thence N 02°51'11" E, 155.21 Feet along Said Road Centerline; Thence S 86°37'22" E, 551.59 Feet to the Point of Beginning, Containing  $\pm 1.91$  Acres more or less and being subject to any and all covenants, easements, and restrictions of record.

Any person claiming any title or interest of any kind to such property is hereby notified to appear herein on or before February 10, 2025 to assert his title or interest in such property and to demonstrate why title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in Michael McCratic and Vickie Owens, Plaintiff herein.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 6th day of

January, 2025. SABRINA WILLIAMS,

Pike County Circuit Clerk (d.b. 337w, 28,29,30,31)

# 4-H announces date for 2025 **Not-So Newlywed game**

To be held Feb. 8 at Senior Center

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County 4-H will be hosting a Not So Newlywed Game on Feb. 8, starting at 6 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Senior Center, located at 120 Court St.

The evening's dinner will consist of a pasta bar and dessert. Also a silent auction and door prizes will be held.

The second annual game participants will include Tim and Melanie Trout, John and Sandra Garrett, Keith and Sherry Craig, Richard and Becky Stivers.

Tickets for the event will be \$10, or a table of 6 for \$60. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Pike County Extension office, located at 100 Court St. Murfreesboro.

For more information, call (870) 285-2161.

# PUBLIC NOTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

PATRICIA OLDHAM DICKEY, DECEASED NO. 55PR-25-3

#### **NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND FILING OF CLAIMS**

Last known address of decedent: 7920 Skylake Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76179

Date of death: 01/04/2024

The undersigned, Reade Clayton Dickey, was appointed Executor of the ancillary estate of the above-named decedent on the 8th day of January, 2025.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the ancillary estate.

This notice first published this 22nd day of January, 2025.

Reade Clayton Dickey, Executor BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116 Attorney at Law 420 N. Main, Suite One P.O. Box 922 Nashville, AR 71852 (870) 845-5256 phone (870) 845-5899 fax

(v.m., 161w., 29, 30)

# PUBLIC NOTICE

### **BID NOTICE**

Pike County will be accepting bids on culvert pipe for the 2025 calendar year. Bids are requested on galvanized, bituminous coated, concrete, corrugated polyethylene (smooth interior) and aluminum coated culvert pipe.

Prices will be F.O.B. County Yard, Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Bids will be opened January 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the County

Judge's Office located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro. Bids may be mailed to the Pike County Judge, P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958 or delivered to 1 Courthouse Square in

Murfreesboro. Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids

Eddie Howard Pike County Judge

This publication was paid for by Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$48.80

(p.c.j. 122w., 28,29)

# Chamber sets date for annual banquet, discusses benefit meal formats

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber designated Thursday, March 6 as the date for their annual banquet.

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center with a Mardi Gras theme. Crater of Diamonds Superintendent Caleb Howell will be the featured speaker.

Local restaurants will again be asked to participate in providing choices for the meal. Tickets will be priced at \$25 each.

As usual, the event will also include awards, a silent auction and door prizes.

The chamber commended Cherokee Lee and the free concert he put on before Christmas. The group agreed that he was "well equipped and turned out well" and that the event would be better attended on a warmer evening in a future date.

The chamber also discussed discontinuing the traditional

formats for the Christmas in July and Taste of Christmas fundraisers, perhaps moving back to a "grab and go" box that was employed in the covid era. Meals could consist of pulled pork sandwiches in July and holiday-type fare in December, perhaps in a collaboration with the Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire Depart-

It was discussed that asking people for donated dishes wasn't the best idea under current financial conditions and that 2024 showed less positive response for both events.

"Younger girls don't cook and the older ladies are tried," said secretary/treasurer Jane Fugitt. "We should just do it ourselves – it's much more simple that way and less responsibility for the public."

The group also discussed the 2024 Christmas activities, stating

that they would soon announce the official schedule for 2025 to avoid conflicts that have occurred in the past.

One of the ideas is to not have events before the Santa on the Square festivities on the first Saturday of the month in order to maximize attendance.

It was also noted that the group needed to continue work throughout the year on their existing decorations, plus look toward getting more. It was noted that if SWEPCO added plugs to some of the existing light poles that were without, then the group could perhaps alternate lighted candy canes with the snowflakes they already possess, thus eliminating some of the older decorations being used.

# City, County announce holiday dates for trash collection in 2025

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro and Pike County have released their sanitation schedules for 2025.

The City of Murfreesboro will see deviations in the normal collection schedules on the following dates:

Week of January 20 (MLK Day) - One day behind normal through Thursday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday

Week of February 20 (President's Day) -- One day behind normal through Thursday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday Week of April 14 (Good Friday) – Regular pickup through the week, with Friday being collected on Thursday

Week of May 26 (Memorial Day) -- One day behind normal through Thursday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday

Week of June 16 (Juneteenth) - Regular collection through Wednesday, Thursday pickup on Friday Week of July 1 (Independence Day) – Regular pickup through

the week, with Friday being collected on Thursday

Week of September 1 (Labor Day) -- One day behind normal through Thursday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday

Week of October 13 (Columbus Day) -- One day behind normal through Thursday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday

Week of November 10 (Veterans Day) - Regular collection on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday normal collection

Week of November 24 (Thanksgiving) – Regular collection on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Wednesday

Week of December 22 (Christmas) -- Regular collection on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Friday

Week of December 29 (New Year's Day) - Monday through Wednesday normal collection, Thursday and Friday pickup on

Pike County's rural collection will see deviations in the normal collection schedules on the following dates: January 20 (MLK Day/Robert E. Lee Birthday) – One day be-

February 17 (President's Day) – One day behind all week

May 26 (Memorial Day) – One day behind all week September 1 (Labor Day) – One day behind all week October 13 (Columbus Day) – One day behind all week

November 11 (Veterans Day) – Monday normal collection, one day behind starting Wednesday

November 27 (Thanksgiving) - Monday through Wednesday normal collection, Thursday's collection on December 1

Week of December 1-5 – One day behind all week

Week of December 22-26 - Monday regular collection, Tuesday regular pickup on south end of county plus Tuesday and Wednesday collection on north end of county, no collection on Wednesday or Thursday, Friday collection will include Thursday normal collection for northern Pike County plus Wednesday and Thursday normal collection for southern Pike County

Thursday January 1 - Thursday normal collection will be picked up on Friday

Any changes to the schedule will be posted on the Pike County Judge Facebook page, any questions may be directed to the Pike County Judge's office at (870) 285-2414.

The Pike County Landfill will operate normal hours on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

# Bank of Delight expands with loan production office in Arkadelphia

SUBMITTED PRESS RELEASE

DELIGHT -- Bank of Delight, a community-focused financial institution, is pleased to announce the planned opening of a new Loan Production Office (LPO) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. This strategic expansion underscores the Bank's commitment to providing personalized banking services and financial solutions to customers in the greater Southwest Arkansas region.

Located at 2901 Pine Street, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the new LPO will offer a wide range of lending services, including personal loans, home mortgages, small business financing, and commercial loans. The office will serve as a resource for individuals and businesses in the Arkadelphia area, helping them to achieve their financial goals with the support of experienced loan officers. Bank of Delight plans to announce a ribbon cutting and grand opening of the loan production office within a few weeks, after the current office renovation project is completed.

"Our mission has always been to serve the local communities with a high level of service and a commitment to building long-lasting relationships," said Darwin Hendrix, Chairman and CEO of Bank of Delight. "With the opening of this Loan Production Office, we are excited to offer our customers more convenient access to the loan products and services they need to grow, invest, and thrive."

The Arkadelphia LPO is the latest step in Bank of Delight's ongoing efforts to expand its footprint throughout southwest Arkansas while maintaining its core values of trust, integrity, and community involvement. The new office will work closely with local residents and business owners to understand their unique financial needs and provide customized lending solutions.

Bank of Delight has been serving communities in Southwest Arkansas for over 100 years, and its reputation for exceptional customer service and dedication to financial excellence has made it a trusted name in banking.

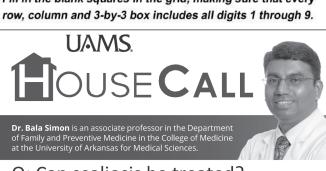
For more information about the services offered at the new Loan Production Office in Arkadelphia, or to schedule a consultation with a loan officer, please contact Trey Clark at 870-315-0103 or Terry Bird at 870-577-2853 or visit www.bankofdelight.

#### ABOUT BANK OF DELIGHT

Bank of Delight began in 1912 and is a full-service community bank committed to offering personal and business banking solutions. With a focus on local engagement, the Bank provides a wide range of financial products, including loans, savings accounts, and checking services. With branches in Gurdon, Delight and Prescott, the Bank of Delight remains dedicated to meeting the evolving financial needs of its customers while fostering economic growth in the communities it serves.



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every



#### Q: Can scoliosis be treated? A: Scoliosis is an abnormal curve

of the spine. The spine normally curves slightly forward and backward — the spine of those with scoliosis curves into a C or S shape. The National Scoliosis Foundation estimates that 7 million people in the United States are affected by the

A neuromuscular condition, a spine injury or tumor on the spine, or defects in the development of the spine at birth can cause scoliosis. There are many instances (idiopathic scoliosis) where the cause is unknown. The condition often develops during adolescence and

Symptoms include constantly leaning to one side, elevated hips, ribs that protrude farther on one side, uneven shoulders,

affects girls more than boys.

or changes in appearance of the skin over the spine. Arthritis, loss of bladder and bowel control, chronic back pain, difficulty breathing, and pain and numbness in the legs are complications of scoliosis. Scoliosis cannot be cured or

prevented but can be managed. The type of scoliosis, the patient's age and the degree of the spinal curve are factors in consideration when developing a treatment plan. Mild cases may only require observation. Braces or surgery are possible options for more severe cases. See your health care provider if you have

# Legislation off to fast start for Arkansas in 2025

Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The 2025 legislative session got off to a fast start. By the end of the session's third day more than 200 bills had been introduced.

In November the governor presented a balanced budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The legislature's Joint Budget Committee has already begun working on a detailed review of every spending request by state agencies, and on a comprehensive new pay plan for state employees proposed by the governor.

During opening ceremonies, the governor outlined a list of legislative priorities that are not budget bills.

She proposed improving access to state-supported institutions of higher education, through a plan called Arkansas AC-CESS. If adopted, students will fill out one application and pay a single fee. The student will be able to send that application to every four-year university and two-year college in the state.

Another priority of the governor's will be to make it easier to fired tenured professors who indoctrinate students instead of educating them. Also, in order to make higher education more affordable, the governor proposes "funding college credits while students are still in high school." More scholarships will be available for students earning associate's degrees and certificates that are not designated as a degree.

At the request of the governor, legislators will work on changes to the higher education funding formula.

The governor proposed using revenue from taxes on medical marijuana to pay for a summer program that will help families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Those families typically struggle during summer months because the children are not getting lunch at school.

The governor told legislators that the same source of revenue could be used to make school breakfast completely free.

A related proposal would protect people and businesses from liability if they donate food to hunger relief programs. Restaurants should not have to worry about ending up in court if they donate excess food to a food pantry, she said. Her proposed legislation will be called the Good Neighbor Act.

The governor mentioned her proposal to seek authority from the federal government to require that food stamps be used only for healthy and nutritious food, rather than junk food. Another proposal would encourage schools to purchase food from local

farmers and businesses. Legislators will consider a proposal to ban cell phones in



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Submitted ph

**DOING THE GOOD DEEDS** ... After the recent storm that dumped inches of snow and ice across town, local Murfreesboro businessmen Travis Branch and Henry Ward helped clear parking areas of local businesses, allowing commerce to progress a bit more normally in the aftermath.

# Extension investigates impact of road salt on environment

**^** 

BY JOHN LOVETT

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

FAYETTEVILLE -- Salt is essential to keeping our roads and walkways safe when it snows. But when salt is washed off the roads, how does it impact nearby microorganisms?

Water quality researcher Shannon Speir and her students have been conducting studies to measure the impact that road salt and beet brine, a common eco-friendly alternative, have on freshwater ecosystems that receive the roadway runoff. Their initial results were not entirely expected.

Beet brine is a liquid solution of salt and beet molasses, which helps the solution stick to the road. Road salt is mostly salt mixed in with a small amount of calcium chloride or magnesium chloride.

Speir is an assistant professor of water quality in the crop, soil and environmen-

WHEN LOVE IS BAD

Even though Jesus taught

that love is the greatest com-

mandment (Matthew 22:36-

40), we are also warned that

there are certain types of love

that are unprofitable and evil.

The following are examples of

love that we should not have:

love of money is a root of all

kinds of evil: which some

reaching after have been led

astray from the faith, and have

pierced themselves through

with many sorrows" (1 Timo-

Love of the world – "Love

not the world, neither the

things that are in the world.

If any man loves the world,

the love of the Father is not in

Therefore, for men to search

their own glory, is not glory"

(Proverbs 25:27); "For who-

soever exalts himself shall be

abased; and he that humbles

himself shall be exalted"

Love of prestige – "It is not good to eat much honey:

him" (1 John 2:15)

thy 6:10)

Love of money - "For the

tal sciences department for the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Speir said her team's experiments showed road salt and beet brine did not significantly impact overall leaf litter decomposition even though decomposition rates were decreased in the presence of high levels of beet brine during the first week of the study only.

"Beet brine has less salt than road salt since it is in a solution, but it also has a lot of added nutrients like nitrogen, carbon and phosphorus," Speir said. "So, we're reducing our salt application, but what does this mean in terms of added nutrient application and potential runoff to waterways?"

Caroline Anscombe, one of Speir's graduate students at

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

Love of idols – "Thou shalt

fear the Lord your God, and

serve him, and shalt swear by

his name. Ye shall not go after

other gods, or the gods of the

people which are round about

you" (Deuteronomy 6:13, 14)

"For men shall be lovers of

their own selves..." (2 Timothy

3:2); "And that he died for all,

that they which live should

not henceforth live unto them-

selves, but unto Him which

died for them, and rose again"

(2 Corinthians 5:15); "...In low-

liness of mind let each esteem

others better than themselves.

Excessive love of self -

the University of Arkansas, put the question to the test. She conducted a study in partnership with researchers at the University of Notre Dame to examine the impact beet brine and rock salt have on leaf litter decomposition using recirculating aquatic mesocosms. Aquatic mesocosms are water enclosures designed to replicate natural conditions where environmental factors can be realistically manipulated.

"They look kind of like oblong donuts," Speir said of the aquatic mesocosms. "It circulates the water around and around using a paddle wheel to simulate natural stream flow."

Anscombe's experiments aimed to measure the impact of varying levels of beet brine and rock salt on leaves that were either tough or soft. They chose post oak leaves, which are harder for microbes to break down, and sugar maple leaves, which are easier for microbes to decompose. She

Look not every man on his

own things, but every man

also on the things of others"

Love of strife – "As coals

are to burning coals, and

wood to fire; so is as conten-

tious man to kindle strife"

(Proverbs 26:21); "But if ye

have bitter envying and strife

in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This

wisdom descends not from

above, but is earthly, sensual,

and devilish. For where envy-

ing and strife are, there is con-

fusion and every evil work"

all might be damned who

believed not the truth but

had pleasure in unrighteous-

ness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12);

"Who knowing the judgment

of God, that they which com-

mit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same,

but have pleasure in them that

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do them" (Romans 1:32)

Love of sin - "That they

(James 3:14-16)

(Philippians 2:3,4)

exposed the leaves to low and high levels of road salt and low and high levels of beet brine to get a broad comparison of different treatments.

#### **TESTING**

Going into the study, Speir and Anscombe predicted that the nutrients in low levels of beet brine might stimulate microbial activity. Higher levels of beet brine, however, were hypothesized to hinder microbial decomposition activity due to excessive salt concentrations. Similarly, road salt was predicted to decrease microbial processing, Speir said.

Contrary to expectations, preliminary results suggest that decomposition rates were not significantly affected by the various treatments over the experiment's two-week duration. Beet brine decreased decomposition rates for maple leaves more than traditional road salt in the first seven days but did not significantly impact leaf litter decomposition overall for the oak and maple leaves. And microbial colonization of oak leaves increased by each of the deicing treatments.

Beet brine had a larger effect on leaf litter decomposition and respiration than the equivalent concentration of traditional road salts. However, they did not see differences between low and high salt treatments in any of their response metrics.

The results, especially the lack of a significant impact on decomposition from beet brine treatments, were surprising and did not align with the initial hypotheses, Speir said. Since they found that beet brine has the potential to impact decomposition, partic-

### SALT

Continued on Page 5

# Strawn-Wagner diamond to take field trip to Arizona

Murfreesboro Diamond

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission was told by board member Caleb Howell that the Crater of Diamonds would be sending a local contingent to the Tucson, Arizona Gem and Mineral show this Feb. 13-16.

The Crater employees will host a booth with information about the park, and will have on hand the Strawn-Wagner diamond along with a replica of the Esperanza diamond.

Howell said it was hoped that the park and Murfreesboro would see results from their efforts, but noted the difficulty of measuring those results directly. To that end, the group is planning some sort of giveaway with the Esperanza replica to those that like and follow the Crater's Facebook page.

He added that the group would be happy to share Murfreesboro-centric information and take along local brochures, and suggested that the commission purchase a diamond from a local vendor to be given away at the event under the same guidelines as the park to help draw viewership of the Chamber's Facebook page and digmurfreesboro.com website.

Howell said the contest would be open to only residents of the 48 contiguous states, because shipping a diamond internationally was simply too time consuming.

The winners would be drawn after the contingent returns to Murfreesboro, and the commission approved the purchase of a yet-to-be-identified diamond for the venture with an up to \$2,000 budget. Howell suggested something in the range of a quarter-carat diamond, perhaps yellow in color.

In other Commission business, the group was told by Howell that he is now seeing an increase in electric cars (two to three per week) that make the trek to the state park, and noted that there was a chance that the state would find a way to place chargers at the park.

However, the tourism commission has noted perceived value in having a small number of chargers at the former City Service station, essentially forcing users to enter local shops while they wait for the charging to complete.

Commission treasurer Jane Fugitt told the board she would apply for the 2025 round of grants via the Arkansas Transportation and Highway Department to help accomplish such a venture.

The group will also have the electrical meter at the former hospital turned off, presuming there would be no reconnection fee. The electricity was turned on to help provide power for the Haunted House efforts by the Chamber of Commerce last October.

Howell also discussed the Arkansas State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission meeting that will be held at the locally this September 17-18. It was noted that it could include to up to a 40-member contingent, and that the Park really didn't have a proper facility for that many attendees. Therefore the community room of the Murfreesboro Municipal Building could be utilized, and further updates will be given as the year progresses.

December was slower for local tourism, and the commission showed deposits of \$5,460.23 for the month, now allotting them a balance of \$94,962.24 at the end of 2024.

# Park sets signup times

MURFREESBORO -- Sign up for youth baseball, softball and tee-ball will be held Thursday, Jan. 30 from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m-noon.

day, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m-noon.

Both dates will be conducted at the Murfreesboro City Park office. Fees of \$60 for baseball and softball and \$30 for tee ball will be due at the time of sign up.

·····

# Community discussion set for March 10 at Municipal Building's community room

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike Health County Coalition invites county residents to an upcoming community roundtable discussion and asks interested participants to save the date.

The event will be held on March 10 at the community room of the Murfreesboro Municipal Building located at 204 East Main Street.

Topics of conversation will be improving healthcare access, addressing community concerns and fostering collaboration across local organizations.

"Help us make a difference," said the flyer for the event. Lunch will be provided for attendees.

For more information contact Shannon Ballard at (870) 285-2161 or Chantell Jones at (870) 703-1158.

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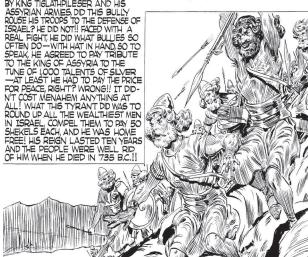
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SOME KINGS WERE TYRANTS!

RIAH OF ISRAEL AND REIGNED IN HIS STEAD (II KINGS IS:10), MENAHEM AND HIS
DILLOWERS FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO SAMARIA AND ONE MONTH AFTER SHALLUM TOOK THE
HRONE, MENAHEM SLEW HIM AND THEN HE PROCLAIMED HIMSELF KING! THE PEOPLE GOT
D BARGAIN, FOR MENAHEM WAS A VENGEPU. MAN —TIPHSAH, WHICH WAS A TOWN THAT
AD REFUSED TO ADMIT HIM WITHIN ITS GATES DURING HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SHALLUM, HE
DIM CAPTURED AND IMMEDIATELY PERPETRATED UNSPEAKABLE CRUETIES ON ITS PEOPLE,
OCH AS KILLING ALL WOMEN WITH UNBORN BABIES IN A MANNER SO ATROCIOUS THAT
ORMAL MINDS REFUSE TO ADMIT ITS REALITY! (V. 16). WHEN THE KINGDOM WAS INVADED



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- 5. Cause of a trip?
- 11. Between marquess and viscount
- 13. Inlet in Norway
- 15. Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
- 17. Deprived of a limb
- 18. \*Half-time headliner
- 20. Ice, dark or middle\_
- \_\_ Dukes" in
- 23. \*Last year's Super Bowl winners
- 26. A cheap, run-down motel
- \_ the fields we go"
- 34. Actor's part

- 40. \*David Tyree's \_\_\_\_ Catch

- 52. \*Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- 57. Salmon's output
- 62. \_\_\_\_ Robinson

64. "Come Sail Away" band

- 3. Craving
- 4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g. \_ lazuli
- 6. Hot 7. 52 cards 8. Hefty volume
- 9. Greek god of war 10. 1, e.g.
- 12. Cherry red
- 13. Post vitriol
- 14. \*Team with no Super Bowl appearances
- 19. Looney Tunes duck
- 22. Architectural add-on
- 23. Meat of coconut 24. Roman king of Judea
- 25. Like certain whiskey
- 26. Grow crop
- 27. Brag
- 28. Algorithmic language
- 29. Ganders' companions 32. Tom Jones's "\_\_\_\_ a Lady"
- 33. Rolodex abbr.
- \_Superdome 38. Wombs
- 40. Lady lobster
- 41. Hardened
- 44. Follows wash 46. Pig sounds
- 48. Bouncing off the walls
- 49. Weasel's aquatic cousin 50. Fly like an eagle
- 51. Boot-wearing kitty 52. Mama Bear's husband
- 53. To perfection (3 words)
- 54. \*Justin Timberlake's "\_\_\_\_Back," sung in
- Super Bowl show 55. Expression of doubt
  - 58. \*Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

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# **SALT** Continued from Page 4

ularly in areas where it is continually applied throughout the winter, Anscombe said future studies may be needed to quantify the effects of repeated deicer treatments and the residence time, or how long these products are staying in the environment, to determine their potential impacts of beet brine products on freshwater ecosystems.

Two undergraduate students in Speir's lab — Brynnen Beck and Claire Meara — are currently conducting related studies on the impacts of road salt and beet brine on microbial respiration, which is a measure of microbial activity, and the conversion of nitrates to atmospheric nitrogen, also known as denitrification.

plication of salt to roads without really understanding what the benefits, the risks and tradeoffs are," Speir said. "It's not to say that road salt and beet brine are not tools you should use. It's just that if we're going to wholesale apply it on areas, and water quality is something of importance, we really want to make sure

### PRACTICING 'SMART SALT'

occurred in the Midwest and Northeastern regions, driven by

The Conservation Foundation, a northern Illinois nonprofit that promotes a practice called "Smart Salt" recommends making a brine with 3.5 cups of road salt per gallon of hot water to spray on driveways and walkways. Following is a list of brine application tips from The Conservation Foundation.

• Don't apply brine if rain is forecasted before the snow.

#### jug for the next winter. Excess brine or rinse water shouldn't be dumped onto the lawn or down a storm drain or sink drain.

out - especially if the sprayer has been sitting for a while be-

• Use the sprayer to make lines back and forth across the

• Brine can be applied 24-48 hours before a storm is predicted.

Agitate or shake the sprayer to keep the salt from settling

• Brine left over at the end of the season can be stored in a clean

pavement; you don't need to cover all of the pavement.

To learn more about the Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website.

# **LEGISLATION** Continued from Page 3

schools throughout the day. Suicide rates among teenagers have risen dramatically and the culprit is clear, the governor said. It is unrestricted access to phones and social media.

A related bill, titled the Social Media Safety Act, would enable parents to sue social media companies in state court. The governor proposed legislation allowing property owners

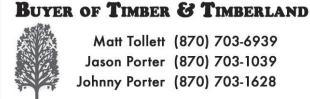
to more easily evict squatters from their land, by calling their Expanding access to Medicaid for pregnant women will be considered this year, as will legislation to pay for an additional

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### School board extends superintendent's contract BY JOHN BALCH

Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board unanimously voted Monday night to extend the contract of Superintendent Tanya Wilcher through the 2027-2028 school year.

The vote was taken after an eight-minute closed executive session. All board members were in attendance Monday, including Andrea McRae, Cory Ballard, Robert Silva, Scott Maroon, Barbie Baxter, Alyssa Duggan and Wes Campbell.

Wilcher, who took over as superintendent in 2022, has a long career in education and has worked in the South Pike County School District, as well as the former Delight School District. She is a 1990 graduate of Murfreesboro High School. Wilcher became director of programs in 2016 at Murfreesboro

and also served as elementary principal from 2009-2016. From 2007-2009, Wilcher was high school counselor and from 2005-2007 was principal at the former Delight district where she also served as interim superintendent in 2004. In other school business Monday, Wilcher gave a progress report on the district's new \$1.750 million baseball/softball facil-

ity. The complex is located on the 27-acre tract purchased by the

district in 2007 for \$48,000. The land adjoins the campus and is north of the visitor side of Rattler Stadium. In December 2023, SPCSD board members approved a resolution authorizing the district to issue second-lien bonds "in an estimated amount of \$1,830,000 for the purposes of constructing athletic facilities" with any remaining funds to be used for other

construction, renovation and equipment purchases. Wilcher said Monday the project is progressing, despite weather setbacks, and the fields are ready for sod. She expects the complex to be ready for league play in March, weather permitting. In the meantime, the Rattler baseball and Lady Rattler

softball teams will practice at the city park fields. Wilcher also gave a preview of the education-related issues expected to be addressed during the legislative session. She said "the big ones" will include: use of cell phones in school, salary schedule adjustments, school calendars and School Choice.

Board member Alyssa Duggan is serving as the board's liaison again this legislative session.

The board also heard a video presentation from Elementary Principal James Riley, which included information about the elementary's use of AI technology in the classrooms.

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### 8. Dao, alt. sp. 12. Super garb?

- 16. Long story
- 21. \*Cindy Crawford wore "\_ a Super Bowl ad
- 22. Flightless bird
- 31. Merry
- 35. Expensive
- 37. Not him
- 38. Cell phone bill item
- 39. Civil Rights icon
- 42. Letters of distress 43. What rule follower does
- 45. Get cozy 47. Greed, biblically-speaking
- 48. Grieve for the dead 50. Time period
- 55. 3600 seconds, pl. 56. Casino chip
- 59. En \_\_\_\_\_, all together 60. Like Piper of Hamelin
- 61. Uber alternative
- 63. Acronym, abbr.

"It's a very understudied area considering the widespread ap-

that we understand all the tradeoffs.

While this study showed that beet brine and road salt did not significantly impact leaf litter decomposition, Speir said more public education is needed to address proper application of salt to roads, driveways and walkways. Too often, Speir said, people use too much salt around those areas.

In the United States, the most drastic increases in salinity have winter road salt application, Speir said.

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Submitted photo/Jack Bonds

JUDGE SWEARING IN ... Former Murfreesboro lawyer and judge Dana Stone was sworn in on January 1 in Prescott as District Judge for the 8th North Judicial District. Stone was elected to the position in a run-off held last November.

······

### Reward still offered in theft of deer stand

MURFREESBORO -- A local resident is offering a \$1,000 reward for information regarding a stolen deer stand.

Facts are being sought that would go toward the locating of the person that allegedly stole a Buck Palace deer stand belonging to Wesley Trister from the Parker Creek area of Lake

Greeson.

Persons with information may call the Pike County Sheriff's Department at (870) 285-3315 and tips may remain anonymous.

The reward will be given upon the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible.

### Cemetery announces recent donations

MURFREESBORO -- The following donations have been give to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund from October 1, 2024 to December

Jane Kennedy Memorial Fund

Joyce Woodruff in memory of L.R. Woodruff Betty Walls in memory of Betty Sue Dillard Debby Scoggin in memory of Betty Sue Dil-

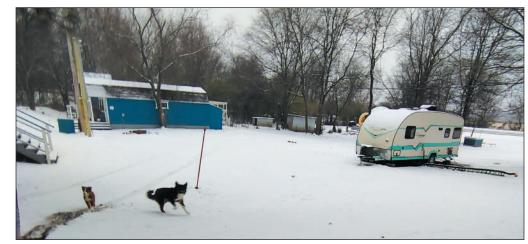
Glynda Kizzia in memory of Cooper Kizzia and Jimmy Echols

\$500.00 - Kathy Stafford \$200.00 - Nina Cox

\$100.00 - Carol Strawn, Thomas Crocker

Your continued support is deeply appreciated. Donations may be given to Gary Don Turner, Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbre or Joyce Woodruff.

Donations may also be mailed to Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.



## Pesticide applicator trainings rescheduled

Extension office also notes now is the time for soil testing

BY CODIE MCALISTER

Pike County Extension Agent, Agriculture

MURFREESBORO -- It is another new year and farmers and ranchers will be soon getting ready to apply herbicides to their fields. One important thing they need to do is check their pesticide applicator license.

If the pesticide applicator license is expired, they will not be able to purchase restricted use pesticides. If you don't have your license in hand or misplaced it, you can contact the Pike County Extension Office, and we can check to see if your license has expired or is currently

The Pike County Extension office previously had pesticide applicator trainings scheduled for January 21 and 22, but due to winter weather, chose to reschedule the dates to February 4 and 5, 2025.

The new pesticide applicator training dates

- February 4 -- 6 p.m., Pike County Extension Office, 100 Court St., Murfreesboro
  - February 5 -- 10 a.m., Bainum Library
- Community Room, Glenwood • April 17 -- 6 p.m., Pike County Extension

Office, 100 Court St., Murfreesboro To register for one of these, or for more infor-

mation, you can contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161. The cost for the training is \$20.

#### **SOIL TESTING**

As spring draws near, this is a great time to soil test. This is beneficial if you plan to fertilize gardens, pastures, or hay fields. Soil testing is free for Arkansas residents, and you can test more than one area at a time.

- 1. Rake aside mulch or surface litter like leaves.
- 2. Take soil with a soil probe or shovel from at least 12 spots in each area to obtain a representative sample. A zigzag sampling pattern is preferred. Fertilizer and lime recommenda-
- tions are no better than the sample taken. 3. Take samples in gardens, lawns, and around shrubs to a depth of about 4 inches and for mature fruit trees at a depth of 12 inches.
- 4. Mix soil thoroughly from a sample area. Keep different areas separate. Discard rocks, gravels and roots.
- 5. Allow the soil sample to air dry. Spread the sample on newspapers or large paper bags for a couple of days. Do not heat the sample in an oven to speed drying.
- 6. Remove one pint for the laboratory sample and place in a clean container or zip top bag. Label each sample with a name that you would
- 7. Bring sample(s) to your local County Extension office. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have separate gardens or fields, keep the samples separate. I recommend each sample being a sandwich size plastic bag that is full can also be measured as pint. If sampling pastures and hay fields, limit the samples to 20 acres and split it into multiple samples if it is

Soil samples can be brought to the Pike County Extension Office at 100 Court Street Murfreesboro. Questions or information about agriculture and natural resources you can contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161. Not sure of your local county extension office? You can find it at our state website at www.uaex.uada.edu.



Submitted photos

WINTER RECREATION ... Diamond Glamping provided these pictures (above, left) of the picturesque snow event that covered the area recently.

# LOCKHART TAX & CONSULTING SERVICES

# NOW OPEN in Downtown Nashville



William, Cason, Austin, Parker and Stephanie Lockhart

Stephanie Lockhart is a Certified Public Accountant bringing a wealth of experience in tax management, compliance, and strategic planning. Throughout her career, Stephanie has developed comprehensive tax strategies and solutions for a diverse range of clients, including individuals and small businesses. She has a strong background in reviewing and preparing income tax returns, calculating tax forecasts, and managing governmental audits to ensure compliance with federal and state laws.

In addition to her technical expertise, Stephanie excels in establishing and managing client relationships, providing tailored financial and tax advice. She is committed to supporting individuals and small businesses in achieving their financial goals.

Stephanie holds an MBA from Texas A & M University – Commerce and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting Control Systems from the University of North Texas.

Stephanie grew up in Murfreesboro, AR, and is the daughter of Steve and Cindy Turner and Richard and the late Vicki Cook of Murfreesboro. In addition to her parents, she has a host of family and friends in the Murfreesboro and Nashville area. She and her spouse William have been married for 16 years and recently moved to Nashville to raise their three boys: Austin (12), Parker (11), and Cason (6).

Stephanie Lockhart, CPA 410 N. Main, Suite 1 • Nashville 870-455-8093 stephanie@lockhartcpa.com

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