Murfreesboro Diamond

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Homesteading Conference set for Saturday in Nashville

NASHVILLE - The Howard and Pike County branches of the University of Arkansas Extension Service will host the Southwest Arkansas Homesteading Conference on Saturday,

Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. and the conference will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The event will be held at the UA Cossatot

campus, located at 1558 US Highway 371 in Nashville.

There is a \$25 registration fee to attend the event, and a meal will be included.

Those who RSVP by Feb. 10 get a guaranteed meal of their choice. Youth meals may be added on for \$10 each.

Interested participants may register at uada. formstack.com/forms/southwest_homstead-

Topics to be discussed at the conference include food fermentation, flour milling, rain barrels, garden prep, soap making, quilting, barn quilts, bread making, intro to poultry, buying protein, dehydration, NRCS programs, soil fertility, canning, basics of forage and feral hogs.

Delight Cemetery Association to meet

DELIGHT -- A meeting of the Delight Cemetery Association will be held at the Pickett Building in Delight on Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m.

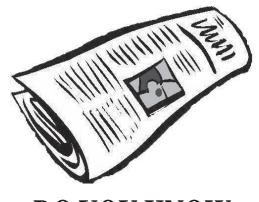
Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. Suggestions, questions and support are greatly appreciated and needed.

SPCSD Snow Makeup Days

MHS and MES will be in session on the following dates to makeup for the days missed due to snow in January.

- February 14
- April 25
- May 2





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Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information

County teen charged with witness intimidation

MURFREESBORO -- A Glenwood teen has been charged in Pike County for allegedly intimidating a witness involving in a shooting in December.

Kaiden Evans, 18, was charged Feb. 7 and he plead innocent to the charge Monday in Pike County Circuit Court. His bond was set at \$10,000 and he was assigned a public defender with a March 3 pretrial date set.

According to case information, agents with the Arkansas State Police responded to a call on South Second Street in Glenwood on Dec. 26, 2024 in reference to a shooting. The agent found 15 bullet holes in the east wall of a home and an occupants, identified as Kierra Stenstrom had been shot in the upper torso.

Stenstrom was treated at a nearby hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

On that same date, a subject named Lindsey Brooks was interviewed in reference to the case and began receiving threats over text message that aggressively accused her of "snitching" to the police.

Also on that same date, Evans was interview

with his mother's consent and denied any involvement in the shooting but did admit to sending the threatening message to Brooks.

In other Pike County proceedings held Monday, Candy Kane Lane, 53, of Delight, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with four years suspended. She is to return to court on March 3 for official sentencing.





NOT SO NEWLYWEDS ... Pike County 4-H held a "Not So Newlywed" contest last Saturday at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center in its second edition as an annual fundraiser for the group. Pictured above (left) is Becky and Richard Stivers during the men's answer reveals, while (right) Sherry and Keith Craig share definitive facial expressions during the event.

In wake of theft charges, Montgomery County constable resigns position

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY Glenwood Herald Editor

MOUNT IDA - A former Pike County Deputy who is currently facing two counts of theft of property, has vacated the Montgomery County Constable position he has held since 2023. Vines had just started his second term as constable.

According to a resolution submitted to the Montgomery County Quorum Court Monday, February 10, 2025, The Constable South District Position has been vacated. The resolution states that Brandon Vines has submitted his resignation from the position of Constable South District for personal reasons.

The Montgomery County Quorum Court approved Resolution 2025-06 officially vacating the position of Constable South District during their February meeting held Monday, February 10, in Mount Ida. County Judge Bart Williams stated that they plan to leave the position vacant until the next election.

Vines was arraigned last Monday, February 3, 2025, in Pike County Circuit Court for two counts of theft of property, a class D felony. According to an affidavit filed with the Pike County Circuit Clerk's Office, Special Agent Ernesto Échevarria investigated the alleged theft of two firearms issued to Vines while working for the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

According to the affidavit, Vines worked for the Pike County Sheriff's Office from May 21, 2024 to December 30, 2024. No reason was listed as to why he was terminated. Upon his employment he was assigned a Mossberg Model 590, 12 gauge shotgun and a Colt M-16 AR rifle. After his termination the affidavit alleges Vines returned part of his assigned equipment but did not turn in the firearms.

On January 2, 2025, Glenwood Police Department Chief Greg Harmon noticed a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun for sale. The affidavit alleges Harmon recognized the gun as Pike County property. He notified Chief Epperly at the Pike

County Sheriff's Office of this and confirmed the weapon was the won allegedly assigned to

The Colt M16 was allegedly located in the possession of a Glenwood resident who alleges he was given the firearm as collateral for money he loaned Vines. Both guns were returned to the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

The affidavit alleges that during an interview with ASP Special Agent Echevarria Vines admitted to pawning his county issued shotgun and using the M16 for collateral for a loan.

Vines was arrested and charged with two counts of theft of property, a class D felony. He was arraigned February 3, 2025 on both charges. A pretrial hearing was set for March 3, 2025. He was released February 4, 2025 on a \$10,000

All charges listed are simply allegations and all persons listed are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.





FINAL CONFERENCE GAME OF SEASON...

The Murfreesboro Rattlers hosted the Dierks Outlaws last Friday to close out the conference season this year. Both teams will play twice this week against Mt Ida at home for Senior Night and on the road at Kirby on Friday before returning home to host the post season conference tournament next week. Pictured (far left) is James Silva taking a charge on defense against an Outlaw driver, while (left) Jocee Holt scrambles to the floor to collect a loose ball for the Lady Rattlers.

MHS basketball completes conference season last week

MURFREESBORO -- The senior basketball squads closed out their conference seasons last week with games against Dierks.

The Lady Rattlers would fall to the Lady Outlaws by a 61-32

Dierks would hold a 10-8 lead after the first quarter, but would outscore Murfreesboro 16-6 in the second to take a 26-14 lead into halftime.

Murfreesboro tried to keep the score close in the third, losing the period 14-8, but the Lady Outlaws would pour it on in the fourth quarter with a 21-10 advantage to set the final score.

Addison Hill would lead Dierks with 17 points, followed by Hannah Kirby with 11 and Aspen Pugh with eight.

Jenna May would score 10 to lead MHS, while Natalie Perrin had eight, Jocee Holt seven and Sydney Braden six.

Dierks ended the season tied for the top spot with Cutter Morning Star, each with 13-1 record in conference play.

Murfreesboro ended with a 5-9 record, good for sixth place

out of the eight team conference. MHS will close out the regular season with a senior night at

home on Tuesday and a trip to in-county foe Kirby on Friday. The team will then return home to play host for the postseason conference tournament which begins on Monday, Feb. 17. The Rattlers would be victorious with a 60-41 win over the

Outlaws after jumping out to a 15-2 first quarter lead. The Rattlers held leads of 33-19 at halftime and 44-28 after

three quarters.

James Silva would lead MHS with 20 points, 11 rebounds and

Caden Dixon added 18 points, 11 rebounds and two steals, while teammate Kale Burns scored 11 points. The win sends the Rattlers to the postseason conference tour-

nament as the number one seed with a 12-2 record. The Outlaws finish the conference season with a 8-6 record, good for fifth place in the upcoming tournament next week.



Murfreesboro Diamond

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• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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

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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.





In their 60-41 win over Dierks last week, the Rattlers secured the regular season conference title. Pictured (left) James Silva wins the opening tip-off; (above) Kooper Caldwell guards a Dierks player against the baseline and (right) Kale Burns and Caden Dixon co-pressure an Outlaw ballhandler.

Love is in the air at The Tiny Bouquet!

This Valentine's Day, let us help you create something truly unforgettable for your special 🚬 someone. Whether it's a stunning arrangement of their favorite flowers or a one-of-a-kind gift, our team is here to make your vision a reality.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT T. SWIFT, deceased Case No. 55PR-23-63

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 226 Cantrell Rd., Amity, Pike County, Arkansas 71921

Date of Death: October 21, 2020

An instrument, dated, January 31, 2025, lawfully appointed Vernon Wehunt as Executor of the above estate.

That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published on the 5th day of February, 2025.

Petitioner, Vernon Wehunt

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell DUSTIN BISSELL Attorney for Petitioner 306 E. Broadway Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2589 Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b. 183w., 31,32)



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JBLIC NOT

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: JAYDEN ALEXANDER ROWTON, a minor child

55PR-21-68

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: QUALYN LUSTER

On Monday, March 17, 2025, commencing at 9 a.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, a hearing will be held on the Petition for Adoption in the above-styled matter.

This Petition is filed by DALTON WAYNE ROWTON and BRANDI DAWN MARTÍN, and is a formal request for legal action to seek the adoption of the above-listed child and thus termination of your rights. This hearing will take place at the Pike County Judicial Center, Courtroom, located at 305 Industrial Park Dr., Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.

If you object to the Petition, you should file a written

response with the Clerk of Pike County, Arkansas. If you fail to appear at the hearing, a Judge may enter orders or decrees which terminate your rights to the children

referenced above. TISHA MARTIN, ABN 2018105 Post Office Box 1066 Nashville, AR 71852

(870) 686-0074 - Telephone (870) 455-0045 -Facsimile (t.m. 181w., 32,33,34,35)







AGAINST THE OUTLAWS ... In their game against the Outlaws last week, (above left) Jocee Holt skies for a rebound; (above) Jamie Howell looks to drive versus a defender; (left) Sydney Braden seeks position in the paint and (below) Chloe Scoggin has questions for the referee after a scramble on the floor for the ball.







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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Q: What is peripheral neuropathy?

A: Peripheral neuropathy is a term for damage to the nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord. The brain and spinal cord form the central nervous system, while the peripheral nervous system makes up all of the other nerves in the body. The American Brain Foundation estimates that more than 20 million people in the U.S. have peripheral neuropathy. Excessive alcohol use. Type 2 diabetes, autoimmune disorders, infections and certain medications are some causes of peripheral neuropathy. The condition can affect people regardless of age, race or

ethnicity, or sex. It can affect the feet, legs, hands and arms but is most often seen in the feet and lower legs.

How quickly peripheral neuropathy develops depends upon its root cause and the

overall health of the individual. Loss of bowel and bladder control, muscle weakness, numbness, throbbing or burning pain, and tingling are some symptoms of peripheral neuropathy. Additional complications include foot ulcers, increased risk of falls, and circulatory or digestive issues. Treatments for peripheral neuropathy focus on treating its cause. Medications, physical therapy, devices such as canes or walkers, and foot care are common options. For some patients, peripheral neuropathy is a chronic condition that can be controlled. See your health care provider to develop a management and treatment plan if you have symptoms.

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Obituaries

Mark Somer Corson, Sr. 64, Murfreesboro

Mark Somer Corson, Sr. age 64, of Murfreesboro, passed away Friday, January 31, 2025.

He was born November 27, 1960 in Carmel California. He was the son of Richard and Cecille Corson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Gary Corson; and his sister, Cherie Winton.

Mark was a member of Harvest Time Assembly of God church. Mark was a jackof-all trades, working as a truck driver and mechanic. He loved hunting, fishing, camping, smoking, and going to the beach. Mark was a loving husband, father, brother, and

friend. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Gena Corson of Murfreesboro; his daughter and son-in-law, Alicia and Collan Lee of Miami, Florida; his three sons and daughters-in-law, Samuel and Abby Corson of Murfreesboro, Mark Corson, Jr., and Mindy of Red Oak, Texas, and Aaron and Katherine Daniels of Lowell, Massachusetts; his two brothers, Michael and Richard Corson, his sister, Cheryl Green; his best friend, Glenn Hebert; and a lot of people who knew and loved him.



The emergence of the snow moon coincides with return of cooler temperatures

A few days of April-like weather this month had us thinking about spring, but this week's temperatures have changed things.

In addition to the cold air, we have a full moon on Wednesday 12 February with a name, the Snow Moon, that helps keep winter in mind. Native Americans have other names for this moon such as the Cree's Eagle Moon, or the Ojibwe's Bear Moon. The Cherokee call it the Hunger Moon, a very telling reference to the scarcity of food during the winter months for early peoples.

A common sight in a blue winter sky is the abundance of white streaks from jet airplanes, called contrails. The word contrail is short for condensation trail. Contrails result when water vapor in the air condenses and freezes around small particles from jet airplane exhaust.

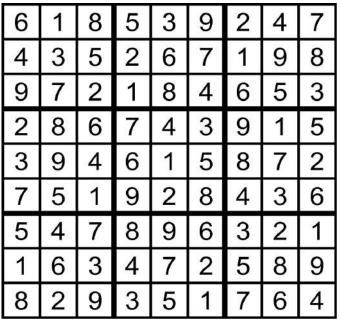
Contrails are basically clouds, and can form at any altitude, but the ones we commonly see are at something like 33,000 feet. There are three kinds of contrails; the short-lived, the persistent non-spreading, and the persistent spreading. The more humidity in the air the longer a contrail lasts, and it is the long lasting (persistent) spreading contrail that slowly becomes, in appearance at least, a cirrus cloud as it moves across the sky.

The next good time to see the International Space Station (ISS) will be at 5:47 a.m. on Valentines Day, Friday, 14 February. It becomes visible in the southwest, and moves across toward the northeast for five minutes at a height of 79 degrees.

SIMIAILIL AIDS IDO WORK! YOU JUST READ ONE!











Staff photos

ONE CLASS REMAINS FOR LICENSING ... Codie McAlister (above left), Pike County Agricultural Extension Agent, led classes in both Murfreesboro and Glenwood last week for local farmers needing to renew their pesticide applicator licenses. Twenty-eight county farmers attend the two classes, and McAlister will host one more meeting for 2025 in Murfreesboro on April 17. Call the Pike County Extension office in Murfreesboro at (870) 285-2161 for more information.

Legislature approves measure to provide all school students free lunches

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Senate voted to provide all public school children with free lunches, regardless of their income, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

Also, the Senate passed legislation to restrict students' cell phone use during the school day. State budget officials estimate that it will cost \$14.7 million a year to ensure that all students get one free breakfast every day. The governor has publicly announced her support of the measure, Senate Bill 59. It is co-sponsored by a

When children go hungry their long-term health is negatively affected, and their grades suffer. Hunger affects a child's academic per-

formance and increases their chances of being punished for behavioral problems and missing classes, according to testimony before the Senate Education Committee.

National studies indicate that students who have eaten breakfast perform better on standardized tests. Students improve academically in general, and some studies show that they specifically do better in mathematics.

After passing SB 59 the Senate sent it to the House of Representatives, where it has sufficient co-sponsors to guarantee passage.

Currently, students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals depending on their family income. The legislature passed Act 656 in 2023 to prohibit schools from charging students a copayment.

copayment. SB 142, to restrict cell phone use by students, also passed overwhelmingly but with a few dissenters who said the measure should also apply to students in private schools. Supporters countered that most private schools already have policies that restrict cell phone use.

SB 142 requires all school districts to adopt a policy to restrict the use of cell phones "from bell to bell." Its sponsor said the bill's purposes include eliminating distractions in the classroom and improving the mental and emotional health of young people.

Some students have an individualized education program (IEP) because they have special needs. An IEP may include the use of electronic devices or cell phones. Students with an IEP would be exempt from the restrictions in SB 142.

The state already had been helping school districts with cell phone restrictions. Last year the state provided about \$7 million to 180

school districts pay for magnetic pouches and other devices for storing cell phones during the day.

EXPANDED CHILD CARE

The state Education Department has added 2,600 children to a program that helps families pay for child care, bringing the program to its greatest capacity of about 18,300 student.

According to the department, Arkansas gets about \$100 million a year in federal grants to help low-income families pay for child care, thus better preparing them for kindergarten.

Last year the department expanded the program to make more families eligible. The Office of Early Childhood anticipates a waiting list, due to higher demand, beginning this month. However, teen parents and those on welfare, homeless families, children with special needs and foster children will be exempt from the waiting list.

Dear PreacherBy Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

CROSSING JORDAN Joshua 4:1-11

bipartisan group of 25 senators.

The Jordan River has a long history with God's people. It is the boundary that the Israelites had to cross to get into the promised land. Crossing the Jordan was so significant in God's dealings with His people that He had it memorialized with an altar of twelve stones built by His people in the dry riverbed. God had just held the waters of the great river which was out of its banks and covered a large land area back so the children of Israel could pass through on dry land. When the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant touched the edge of the Jordan River the water parted leaving a path of ground completely dry. The opening was wide enough that all the nation of



Israel could pass through it. When all the children of Israel were safely on the other side twelve large stones were used to build a memorial to the crossing and to the twelve tribes of Israel. In the days and years to come when the children of the people asked what these twelve stones meant they would be told of the great miracles God had performed bringing his people to this land that flowed with milk

and honey. He had done all of this to show His great love and mercy for a sinful and rebellious nation. They did not deserve his love and devotion. God, however, showed compassion and patience with those He wanted to bless.

Calvary stands as the last great testimony of God's love, mercy and grace toward us. We do not deserve forgiveness. We never would be worthy of the death of His Son. We look at the cross and are reminded how far God was willing to go to save us from our sins. What does that cross mean? "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

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SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, whole grain roll, 7-12 whole grain cookie, applesauce, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Chicken nuggets

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, juice,

Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, juice fruit, milk

Lunch: Cheese pizza, fresh broccoli w/ranch, seasoned carrots, applesauce, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Deep dish pepperoni

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NO SCHOOL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Breakfast: Poptart w/cheese stick or cereal,

juice, fruit, milk Lunch: Mexican chicken, 7-12 tortilla chips w/salsa, chili beans, seasoned corn, pineapple,

7-12 Line 2 option- Crispito

WEDNESDÂY, FEBRÛARY 19
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, juice,

Lunch: Chicken sandwich, french fries, let-

tuce, tomato, baked beans, pears, milk 7-12 Line 2 option- Hamburger

* Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at www.rattlers.org

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, butter corn on cob, wheat roll, pineapple rings WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 Beef tips w/onion, mac & cheese, broccoli,

wheat roll, peach cobbler Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available

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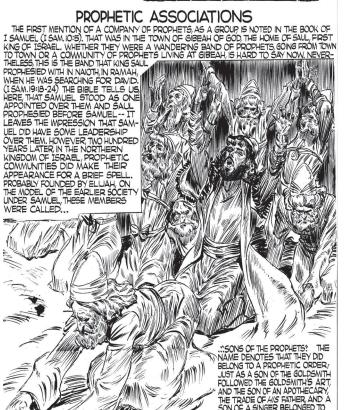
Worship 11 a.m.
Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

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THE 1960'S * -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Unit of electrical capacity F
- 6. Knicks' org.
- 9. Herring's cousin
- 13. City in Belgium
- 14. *The Beatles hit "Drive My _
- 15. Monument to Buddha
- 16. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
- 17. Affirmative to captain
- 18. Like a beaver?
- 19. *Che's last name
- 21. *Stonewall riots location
- 23. Division of time
- 24. West African country
- 25. Refuse to comply
- 28. *The Jackson 5 co-founder of Barney Fife fame
- 30. *Don_
- 35. Soon, to a bard
- 37. Hyperbolic tangent

40. *Apollo Moon Landing org.

- 39. Sunlight's interference
- 41. Operatic solos 43. Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr inci-
- 44. Deposit the ashes 46. Related to ear
- 47. Meat in a can
- 48. Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
- 50. Not written
- 52. Pilot's estimate, acr.
- 53. Ill-mannered one
- 55. Hawaiian welcome wreath 57. *Ford's pony car
- 61. *Assassinated president death do us part"
- 66. Down Under runner
- 68. Hindu caste
- 69. Moonshine maker
- 70. *Spock's was pointy 71. Comforter stuffing
- 72. Ruptured
- 73. Ground cover

74. Coach-and-four

DOWN

- 1. Use a cat o' nine tails
- 2. Hokkaido language
- 3. Network of nerves
- 4. Mojave plant
- 5. Go away
- 6. March Madness org.
- of Pigs, failed military operation 8. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 9. Command to Fido
- 10. Designer Boss
- 11. Copycat
- 12. Sinister side in "Star Wars" 15. Garment-making
- 20. Yogurt-based dip 22. Benevolent one
- 24. Hall order keeper
- 25. *Joplin of "Summertime" fame
- 26. Foolish
- 27. Same as boatswain
- 29. Tropical tuber
- 31. Auto pioneer 32. Brownish gray
- 33. Something yummy 34. *Certain march starting point
- 36. Backgammon predecessor
- 38. *Place for a flower
- 42. Part of mermaid's tale
- 45. Cricket umpire's call (2 words)
- 49. Not, prefix
- 51. Optical devices
- 54. S-shaped moldings 56. Arctic people
- 57. Necessary thing 58. Archaic preposition
- 59. *Bob Marley's hit "_ _It Up"
- 60. Fresco piece
- 61. Kurdistan native 62. Cocoyam
- 63. Fortune-telling coffee remnants
- 64. Ready and eager 67. *Zedong of Cultural Revolution
- CROSSWORD 10 11 13 14 15 18 16 17 19 20 21 22 23 24 28 25 26 27 29 32 33 34 35 36 38 39 37 40 41 42 43 44 47 48 50 53 55 56 54 59 60 63 65 68 69 73 Off First Month of New Service! ISE PROMO CODE: GZ590 888-804-0913 CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR © 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

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Chicken price increases due to more than just demand of product

ues to improve biosecurity, develop vaccines and other control

BY JOHN LOVETT

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The nearly 1.5 billion chicken wings fans consumed during last Sunday's Super Bowl watch parties will cost more this year, and it is more than just the demand driving the increase.

Jada Thompson, an associate professor in the agricultural economics and agribusiness department for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the national composite chicken price is up 5 percent year-over-year for December, but for whole wings it is up 19 percent.

"Likely, these are higher because of the holiday demand and strong market for these products," Thompson said of the chicken wings. "In terms of what is driving these prices, we can relate a lot to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

down 4 percent year-over-year, and while some of the dip was compensated by bigger birds, each chicken still only has two wings and two drumettes, she noted. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI, impacted some broiler production with a loss of 5.6 million broiler chickens last

The total number of chickens harvested in December was

year. It was the largest number of affected broilers in a given year since the outbreak started in 2022, she said. An additional 1.6 million broilers were lost this year by the end of January HPAI is also affecting the breeding side of the industry, with a 4 percent drop in broilers coming into the system, she added. There have been at least 65,000 breeder birds lost to HPAI this

year and 127,000 were lost in the final three months of 2024. "Broiler eggs in incubators are up, so the industry is trying to compensate for lower supplies," Thompson said. "Work contin-

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plans." WING DEMAND UP

According to the National Chicken Council's annual Chicken Wing Report, Americans are projected to eat 1.47 billion chicken wings watching the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LIX on Sunday, Feb. 9. That's about 20 million more wings than last year's game.

The increase in chicken wing sales is directly tied to American football and beer sales, the council adds.

"Cooking the whole bird was trendy in the 1960s and 1970s, but in the 1980s, U.S. consumers started preferring bonelessskinless breast meat, and wings became an inexpensive byproduct for chicken producers," a National Chicken Council news release explained. "Restaurants and bars realized they could charge low prices for the relatively inexpensive protein, and due to the spicy/salty nature of the sauce, they discovered that beer sales would go through the roof when customers ate wings."

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

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Thompson conducts research for the Arkansas Agricultural

Experiment Station, the Division of Agriculture's research arm.

She also teaches classes for the Dale Bumpers College of Agricul-

In addition to her work analyzing poultry meat prices,

Thompson also recently collaborated on a study exploring the

effects of HPAI on U.S. egg prices. The work, published last year

in the journal Food Policy, was titled "Biological lags and market

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Newlywed" contest last Saturday at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center. The event was won by John and Sandra Garrett. Jaycee Heaston and Carlee Garrett provided vocal entertainment at the event that also featured a pasta bar for attendees' dinner. Danny Eckert

emceed the festivities.

A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL ... Pike County 4-H held their "Not So

Extension offers spring pruning tips

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BY REBEKAH HALL

U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK -- Timing is key when it comes to pruning flowering and fruiting plants. Randy Forst, extension educator for consumer horticulture for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said late February is an optimal time to prune plants that bloom in the

"In general, plants that bloom in the spring should be pruned immediately following blooming, and plants that bloom in the summer should be pruned before growth begins in late February," Forst said. "Pruning encourages new wood growth and more flower buds, and roses and cane-producing plants especially benefit from pruning."

Some plants, including big leaf hydrangeas, oak leaf hydrangeas and gardenias don't fol-

"These plants all bloom in the summer, but they set their flower buds at the end of the summer into early fall," Forst said. "If you prune them before growth begins, you will not have flowers this summer. The time to prune them is when the flowers begin to fade.' Forst, who also coordinates the extension

Master Gardener program, said gardeners should research specific information about the plant they want to prune, as some plants do not need pruning at all.

"Some of the most common mistakes people make is pruning too intensely, especially when it comes to crape myrtles," Forst said. "Instead

of dehorning — or entirely removing the top branches of a crape myrtle — gardeners should instead selectively remove branches so that the tree maintains its height."

Forst said the following plants need to be pruned at the end of February and in early March:

- Ornamental grasses
- Roses
- Fruit trees
- Blueberries
- Blackberries, by removing old dead canes
- Buddleia, also known as butterfly bush
- Summer blooming spiraeas

In addition to timely pruning, Forst said pruning with the correct tool is important to a plant's success.

"The size of material to be pruned reflects the best tool for the job," he said. "Most of the time, it would be a bypass blade hand pruning shear. On larger branches, it might take lopping shears. On tree branches, it might require a bow saw. On any pruning device, it is very important that the blades are sharp, and you are getting a clean cut."

Visit Arkansas Yard and Garden Pruning Resources, Spring Pruning Tips and Crape Myrtle Pruning for more information, or contact Randy Forst at rforst@uada.edu.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit www. uaex.uada.edu.



This instrument prepared by: Marinosci Law Group, P.C. 415 North McKinley, Suite 360 Little Rock, AR 72205 (401) 234-9200

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 3, 2025, at or about 01:45 PM, the following real property will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Pike County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, to the highest bidder for cash:

Lots Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Four (4), Parker and Johnson Addition to the City of Murfreesboro, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book 62, Page 400A, same being a part of and located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW -4 SE -4) of Section 17, Township 8 South, Range 25 West.

More commonly known as: 315 JOHNSON ST, MURFREESBORO, AR 71958

On January 25, 2006, KELLY BLAIR JR and MARGARET BLAIR executed a Mortgage in favor of First National Bank, as Beneficiary, which was recorded January 30, 2006, in Book M266, at Page 446 in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and is now wholly due. The loan is now in default.

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The terms of the call are certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale or wiring of funds within twenty-four hours of the sale. All transfer taxes will be the responsibility of the purchaser. The party initiating this action is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 800-258-8602. Date: December 23, 2024. Scot P. Goldsholl Managing Attorney, Arkansas, Marinosci Law Group, P.C. as Attorney in Fact for Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-4, U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture Trustee

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