

The Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Issue 37 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
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Ham radio club seeks new members

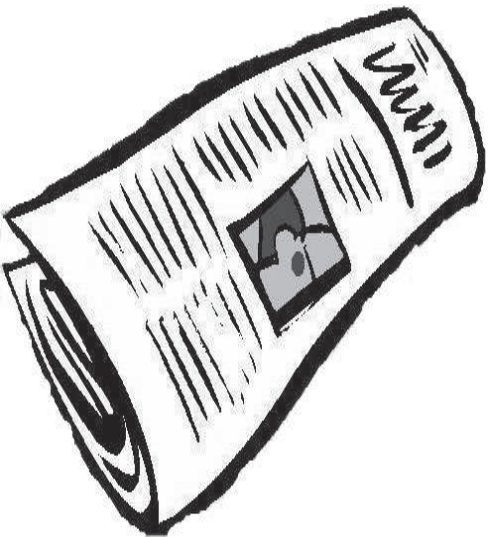
PIKE COUNTY -- The Pike County Ham Radio Club is looking for anyone interested in obtaining technician or general license classes this summer.
If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a ham radio operator, or advancing to the next license level, please message this page, send the group an email at pikecounty-hamradioclub@gmail.com.

Group seeks donations for garage sale benefit

NASHVILLE -- Operation Christmas Child's (OCC) semi-annual garage sale will be held Friday, March 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 22, 8 a.m.-Noon in the Family Activity Building (FAB) of the First Baptist Church in Nashville, located at College and 2nd Streets.
In order for this garage sale to be successful, the effort is seeking donations of no longer wanted but still usable furniture, tools, dishes, lamps, decorations, art, collectables, electronics, toys, jewelry, books, clothing, etc.
OCC volunteers will accept your donations at the FAB, Monday-Thursday, March 16-20.
Please mark your calendar with the donation times and especially the garage sale times. Thanks for your generous donations which will go toward helping children in need around the world," said the press release.

Former local resident, Delight graduate, dies in Texas water accident

REDWATER, Texas -- A former Antoine resident and Delight graduate apparent drowned the afternoon of March 11 at Wright Patman Lake, according to authorities in Redwater Texas.
The body of Frank Collier, 56, was found about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 nearly two hours after he was reported missing in the lake.
Collier, a 1988 graduate of Delight High School, was at the Low Water Bridge on Farm to Market Road 991 when his wallet fell into the water, said Capt. Shawn Hervey of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. According to witnesses, Collier removed his outer clothing and jumped into the lake to retrieve the wallet, which floated along the surface.
After swimming several yards, Collier went under and did not resurface. Authorities were notified shortly after 4 p.m.
Texas Parks & Wildlife and rescue teams from Bowie and Cass counties mounted a coordinated search in the waters along the east side of the bridge. Collier's body was discovered submerged in 12 feet of water about 50 yards from the bank, Hervey said.
"He just just drowned for unknown reasons. There's nothing in the water -- no stumps, no trees, none of that," Hervey said.
Collier's death is described as an accidental drowning.
Justice of the Peace Susie Spellings, of Precinct 5, has ordered an autopsy, Hervey said.



DO YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
WORTH TELLING?

Submit Your Local
News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information



Staff photos
POST-SEASON AWARDS ...
Murfreesboro High School student athletes named to awards lists for the 2024-2025 basketball season include (above, L to R) Natalie Perrin -- All-Conference Honorable Mention; Jenna May -- All-Conference, All-State Honorable Mention; Sydney Braden -- All-Conference Honorable Mention and Chloe Scoggin -- All-Conference; (left) Kale Burns -- All-Conference Honorable Mention; Kooper Caldwell -- All-Conference; Laytan Wilcher -- All-Conference, All-Region and (not pictured) James Silva -- All-Conference, All-Region, All-State and Caden Dixon -- All-Conference, All-State.

Man faces numerous charges after attempt to flee from police

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro motorcyclist is facing a felony fleeing charge and a host of misdemeanor driving offenses following a traffic stop by the Murfreesboro Police Department.
Christopher Lee Gibson, 43, was charged in Pike County Circuit Court March 14 with fleeing, careless prohibited driving, speeding, during on a suspended license, violation of the ignition interlock device, no motorcycle endorsement, a lighted lamps violation, improper use of evidence of registration, no insurance, a standard equipment violation and failure to register his motorcycle.
Gibson was arrested the night of March 14 and after he alleged led Officer Brandon Copeland on a high-speed chase that reached 110 mph at points Highway 19 North. Gibson attempted to hide from the officer by turning off his motorcycle's lights and taking a side road. However, Gibson apparently called his mother during that time and she advised officers where he could be found.
Gibson was at a home on Highway 19 North and when officers arrived Gibson reportedly ran out the back door and into the woods. He eventually surrendered after a threat of involving the county's K9 officer.
Gibson plead innocent to the felony charge Monday and a June 2 pretrial date was set. He remains in county custody this week.
Also on March 14, Suzanne Burgess, 65, of Glenwood, was charged with theft of property and residential burglary. The charges stem from an incident on March 6 in Glenwood where she was reportedly caught with stolen items. She

plead innocent to the charges Monday and an April 28 pretrial date was set.
A Hot Springs man has been charged in Pike County with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia and furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles. Corey Aaron McHenry, 33, was charged March 14 and he plead innocent to the charges Monday and a July 7 pretrial date was set. McHenry remains in county custody this week.
McHenry, who is an active parolee with the state, was arrested by Officer Copeland during a traffic stop that resulted in a vehicle search. McHenry was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia and when he was being booked at the county jail, a jailer reportedly recovered a baggy of meth from McHenry's anus.

School board to seek pair of basketball coaches

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board spent most of its March meeting in closed executive session as the district is now shopping for new basketball coaches.
With a 6:00 start time for the meeting, board members were in closed session at 6:11 to discuss "resignations and rehires" and returned to open session at 7:38.
The board then accepted the resignation of girls' basketball coach and sports coordinator Nicole Martin at the end of the school year. The board also accepted the resignation of boys' coach Buster Bonner at the end of the year. Both positions are currently being advertised.
Also, the board accepted the resignation/retirement again of elementary teacher Cindy Cobb at the end of the year and cafeteria worker Carla Sweney, effective immediately.
The board also rehired the district's certified teachers.
Among other business, the board heard an update from Superintendent Tanya Wilcher on the baseball/softball complex with plans to host a spring break tournament on the baseball field.
Wilcher also changed the board's April meeting date to April 22 at 6:00.
Academic reports from Elementary Principal James Riley and High School Principal Davey Jones were read in to the record by Wilcher.
The board also accept the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented, which is the same calendar format as this school year.
The following is the list of certified employees rehired during the March meeting:
MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL
Barnes, Alma
Bennett, Jonathan - Coach
Bobo, Danielle

Burns, Cheyana
Coleman, Adam - 1/2 Fte Certified
Collins, Kim
Cooper, Staci
Corbitt, Tracey
Cornish, Melissa
Cross, Stephanie
Elliott, Sandra
Gentry, Terah
Gleba, Lynn
Harris, Brittany
Horn, Darren- Coach
Hunter, Lois
Jones, Jennifer
Jones, Melissa
Maroon, Carrie
Mcrae, Marc Baseball/Computer Sci.
Motley, Kendra

SCHOOL Continued on Page 2

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

February 18, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Markham, Ashley N., 27, Paragould, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,180 owed, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Williamson, Aaron Flint, 53, Glenwood, guilty of speeding, fined \$125

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Buck, Dustan Ray, 39, Glenwood, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Hernandez, Elvin A., 39, Glenwood, guilty of DWI#2, fined \$1,640, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$145; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45; guilty of driving left of center, fined \$145
West, Devon Allen, 19, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,115 owed, fined \$150; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Williamson, Jeremy Laray, 45, Glenwood, guilty of endangering welfare of minor, fined \$800; guilty of endangering welfare

of minor, fined \$800; guilty of interference with emergency communication-first degree, fined \$280; guilty of interference with emergency communications-first degree, fined \$280

BENCH TRIALS
PIKE COUNTY

Armand, Justin Michael, 37, Belle Chasse, La., guilty of speeding, fined \$185
Elliott, Benjamin Garry, 45, Shell Knob, Mo., guilty of reckless driving, fined \$445, under advisement for three months to dismiss
Howell, Ashley Gail, 21, Delight, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$635
Kauschal, Bhanu, 26, Fresno, Calif., guilty of false report of log duty status, fined \$170
Underwood, Linda Lou, 62, Broken Bow,, Okla., guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Huffman, Codi Elizabeth, 39, Murfreesboro, guilty of shoplifting, fined \$405

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Baker, Adam S., 30, Glenwood, careless or prohibited driving with accident, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss, fined \$245
Coffman, Clay Mason, 25, Glenwood, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$75; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125
Graves, Heather, 44, Amity, guilty of following too close, fined \$150
Sherman, Tyler Ryan, 25, Texarkana, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$350; guilty of careless or prohibited driving, fined \$150; guilty of endangering welfare incompetent-third degree, fined \$685, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss; guilty of endangering welfare incompetent- third degree, fined \$685, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss; guilty of endangering welfare incompetent- third degree, fined \$685, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss.
Wisdom, Billy Harold Jr., 40, Glenwood, guilty of littering multiple items, fined \$340, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss

SCHOOL Continued from Page 1

Perrin, Melissa
Ray, Buddy - Certified Retired Coach
Simmons, Blake
Staten, Kira
Stone, Courtney
Strode, Gene - After School Coach
Stuard, Denise
Turley, Jay - Ad/Head Football Coach
Wise, Caroline
Wood, Gail

MURFREESBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Allgood, Breana
Ashbrooks, Ladonna
Bell, Markie
Caldwell, Jane
Erwin, Rachelle
Gatliff, Carle
Hartley, Natasha
Henderson, Eden
Hicks, Susan
Holder, Kelsey
Horn, Tana
Howard, Anna
Hughes, Laura
Ivy, Sherry
Jones, Traci
Kennedy, Lisa
Kidd, Rachael
Kuykendall, Kayla
Lingo, Carmen
Maag, Angie
Martin, Nicole-Pe/Youth Sports Coordinator

Martin, Steve
Mcdonald, Wendi
Mcrae, Sarita
Morris, Melissa
Slatton, Terrie
Smith, Hanah
Stokes, Laci
Synco, Nancy
Terrell, Karen
Turner, Kara
Watson, Melissa
White, Kayla

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANCILLARY ESTATE OF
CASE NO: 55PR-25-8
DAVID JAMES PRESS, DECEASED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 202 Farr Hill Ln.,
Farmersville, Collin County, Texas 75442

Date of Death: October 13, 2024

An instrument dated February 20, 2025, lawfully appointed David Jay Press as the Administrator 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 12th day of March, 2025.

David Jay Press, Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell

DUSTIN BISSELL
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 810
De Queen, AR 7132
(870) 642-4957
Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b. 141w., 36,37)

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park

Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson

• John Robert Schirmer, Publisher

• 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.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

IF THIS PROPERTY IS SOLD YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY WHICH THEN EXISTS AND AN ACTION TO COLLECT IT MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR SUCH PURPOSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 14, 2025 at or about 11:00AM, the subject real property described herein below will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Pike County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 to the highest bidder for cash. The sale will extinguish all interests, including those of existing lien holders or previous owners in the property. **THE TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH THE TIME OF SALE AND ALL TRANSFER TAXES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PURCHASER.**

WHEREAS, the property secured under the Mortgage is located in Pike County, Arkansas more particularly described as follows:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN PIKE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS:

A TRACT OF LAND BEING PART OF THE NE-4 NE-4 IN SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 25 WEST AND ALSO BEING PART OF THE SAME TRACT AS RECORDED IN BOOK 207, PAGE 748 IN PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 1/2” PIN W/CAP FOR THE NE CORNER OF SAID NE-4 NE-4, THENCE S01 DEGREES 29’ 36” W, 866.68 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NE-4 NE-4 (ALSO BEING ALONG AND WITH MUTT TURNER ROAD) TO 1/2” PIN IN THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 70; THENCE S76 DEGREES 38’ 17” W, 137.8 FEET ALONG WITH SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE; THENCE S13 DEGREES 52’ 43” E, 20.0 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE; THENCE S75 DEGREES 36’ 17” W, 35.24 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE TO A 1/2” PIN; THENCE N35 DEGREES 29’ 03” W, 561.02 FEET TO A 1/2” PIN (ALSO BEING THE SE CORNER OF GARRETT’S TRACT & NE CORNER OF O’NEAL’S 5 ACRE TRACT); THENCE N01 DEGREES 24’ 23” E, 488.27 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF EAST 500 FOOT OF SAID NE-4 NE-4 TO 1/2” PIN IN THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NE-4 NE-4 THENCE S87 DEGREES 52’ 31” E, 500.00 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID NE-4 NE-4 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 8.82 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A TRACT OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE NE-4 NE-4 IN SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 25 WEST AND ALSO BEING PART OF THE SAME TRACT AS RECORDED IN BOOK 207, PAGE 748 IN PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 1/2” PIN WITH CAP FOR THE NE CORNER OF SAID NE-4 NE-4, THENCE S01 DEGREES 29’ 36” W-300 FEET ALONG AND WITH MUTT TURNER ROAD TO RR SPIKE; THENCE S70 DEGREES 00’ W-396.24 FEET ALONG FLAGGED LINE TO 1/2” PIN; THENCE S01 DEGREES 24’ 23” W - 211.39 FEET TO A 1/2” PIN IN THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF JAMES SCALLION’S 2.10 ACRE TRACT THENCE N35 DEGREES 29’ 03” W - 217.56 FEET ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE TO A 1/2” PIN AT THE NE CORNER OF JAMES SCALLION’S 5 ACRE TRACT (ALSO BEING THE NORTH CORNER OF SAID 2.10 ACRE TRACT); THENCE N01 DEGREES 24’ 23” E - 488.27 FEET ALONG HACKED, PAINED & STAKED LINE TO 1/2” PIN (NORTH LINE OF SAID NE-4 NE-4); THENCE S87 DEGREES 52’ 31” E - 500.00 FEET ALONG AND WITH DOWN FENCE (PARTLY HACKED/PAINTED LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 4.90 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS. (SUBJECT TO ALL EXISTING COUNTY ROAD RIGHT OF WAYS AND 10 FOOT EASEMENT ALONG WEST LINE OF SAID 4.90).

LESS AND EXCEPT: A TRACT OF LAND BEING PART OF

THE NE-4 NE-4 IN SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 25 WEST, AND ALSO BEING PART OF THE SOME TRACT AS RECORDED IN BOOK D207 AT PAGE 748, IN PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A 1/2” PIN W/CAP FOR THE NE CORNER OF SAID NE-4 NE-4, THENCE S01 DEGREES 29’ 36” W, 861.26 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NE-4 NE-4 TO RR SPIKE (EAST LANE OF MUTT TURNER ROAD) FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S01 DEGREES 29’ 36” W, 5.42 FEET TO A 1/2” PIN IN THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF US HIGHWAY 70; THENCE S76 DEGREES 38’ 17” W, 137.79 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY TO A POINT THENCE S13 DEGREES 52’ 43” E, 20.00 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY TO A POINT; THENCE S75 DEGREES 36’ 17” W, 35.24 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY TO 1/2” PIN; THENCE N35 DEGREES 29’ 03” W, 131.82 FEET ALONG NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF SCALLION’S 2.10 ACRE TRACT TO 1/2” PIN; THENCE N81 DEGREES 04’ 35” E 170.87 FEET TO A RR SPIKE IN EXISTING DRIVE; THENCE S38 DEGREES 13’ 49” E, 21.49 FEET ALONG WITH EXISTING DRIVE (JOINT DRIVE FOR SCALLION/O’NEAL-HOCKADAY); THENCE S48 DEGREES 21’45”E, 77.54 FEET ALONG WITH SAID JOINT DRIVE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.40 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Street Address: 3243 Highway 70 W Kirby AR 71950

WHEREAS on March 24, 2023 Amanda Higgs, a single woman, Kenneth Higgs, a single man, and Tammy Tanner, a single woman with joint tenancy with right of survivorship, executed a Mortgage in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for FirstTrust Home Loans Inc. Said Mortgage was recorded on April 17, 2023 in Book M377, Page 593, in the real property records of Pike County, Arkansas. Said Mortgage was subsequently assigned to Planet Home Lending, LLC by virtue of an assignment dated December 19, 2024 and recorded on December 19, 2024 as Instrument No. 2024R-001911 in the real property records of Pike County, Arkansas. The party initiating foreclosure can be contacted at or in care of its servicer initiating foreclosure at: Planet Home Lending, LLC 321 Research Parkway, Suite 303 Meriden CT 06450-8301 at Telephone No. 855-884-2250; and

WHEREAS, there may be tenants that claim an interest in the real property herein based upon said tenancy; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned is the attorney for the mortgagee and is acting on and with the consent and authority of the mortgagee who is exercising its power of sale under Ark. Code Ann. §18-50-115 which implies a power of sale in every mortgage of real property situated in this state that is duly acknowledged and recorded; and default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, specifically the installment due August 1, 2024, and each subsequent payment to date are now due; and the holder of the debt has requested the undersigned to sell the property to satisfy said indebtedness. This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat or bill(s) of assurance; any restrictive covenants, easements, set back liens or encroachments; any unpaid and/or delinquent taxes or special assessments; any statutory redemption rights of any governmental entity; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a UCC or fixture filing; and, to any matter that an accurate survey of the property might disclose. This property is being sold “as is” with no representation as the condition of any structure(s) thereon or the accuracy of the above legal description. Transfer taxes and recording fees are the responsibility of the purchaser.

WITNESS my hand this 4th day of February, 2025. Planet Home Lending, LLC, by its attorney-in-fact, Albertelli Law

Kevin Rogers, 2012031
1 Information Way
Suite 201
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-406-0855
A LAW No. 25-001139

(p.n.a., 1351w., 37,38,39,40)

MHS FFA QUALIFIES FOR STATE COMPETITION



Electricity Team was in the Top 8 and consisted of Colton Jackson, Aden Stinson, Daniel Martinez, and Lawson Benight



Ag Mechanics was in the Top 5 and consisted of Garrett Lamb, Cale Humphrey, Justen Carey, and Riley Benight



Poultry Team was in the Top 8 and consisted of Chloe Beck, Gracie Goodwin, Ady James, Ross Spradlin, and Carter Gilmer

Submitted Photos/SPCSD
HEADED FOR STATE ... Murfreesboro High School students worked and practiced hard for the District FFA Career Development Events held recently at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. This year, the school had several students compete in Electricity, Ag Mechanics, and Poultry judging events. “Many of these students are learning not just concepts in these areas to obtain careers in life, but the soft skills many employers are looking for in every career set. I am proud to announce that all three teams will be qualified for State competition in April at the University of Arkansas,” said agriculture teacher Blake Simmons.

WWW.RATTLERS.ORG

Staying protected from the measles after outbreak


You may have been hearing about a recent measles outbreak in West Texas. As of March 14, 2025, 259 cases have been identified since late January. Thirty-four of the patients have been hospitalized. There has been one fatality in a school-aged child who lived in the outbreak area. The child was not vaccinated and had no known underlying conditions. For some perspective, in 2024, the total number of cases in the entire United States was 285.

There are no cases of measles in Arkansas; however, ADH reports that MMR coverage in our state is low. Most people are protected through herd immunity when over 95% of a community is vaccinated. Vaccine coverage among Arkansas kindergartners is estimated to be 92.5%. National statistics are similar at 92.7%. Vaccination rates are below the 95% needed to prevent community transmission of this virus in more than half of Arkansas counties.

Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can then live for up to 2 hours in an airspace after an infected person leaves an area. The flu, a common illness we encounter every year, has a reproductive number of 1.3, meaning that if someone with the flu walks into a room, one healthy person in that same room is likely to contract the flu from the sick individual. Measles has a reproductive number of 12 to 18, meaning that 12 to 18 unvaccinated people could contract measles from a person who is sick, assuming those who could contract the disease are completely vulnerable or unvaccinated. This makes measles one of the most contagious viruses known today.

Measles can be serious in all age groups. However, there are several groups that are more likely to suffer from measles complications: children younger than 5 years of age, adults older than 20 years of age, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, such as from leukemia or HIV infection.

The best protection against measles is the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine provides long-



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

lasting protection against all strains of measles. The MMR vaccine is 93% effective against measles after one dose and 97% effective after two doses. Adults with presumptive evidence of measles immunity do not need any further MMR vaccines. No “booster” doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for either adults or children. Everyone is considered to have life-long immunity once they have received the recommended number of MMR vaccine doses or have other evidence of immunity. Children should receive the first dose at 12 months of age and the 2nd dose at 4-6 years of age.

It may take one to two weeks for symptoms to show if someone has contracted measles. According to the CDC, Measles typically begins with high fever (may spike to more than 104°), cough, runny nose, red watery eyes. Two to three days after symptoms begin, tiny white spots, may appear on the inside of the mouth. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a measles rash may develop, starting at the hairline and coalescing down the face and trunk as time goes on. Other symptoms can include cough, runny nose, ear infection and diarrhea. If you think you have measles or have been exposed, please contact your healthcare provider immediately.

With measles outbreaks occurring in neighboring states, it’s essential to stay informed about the virus, its symptoms, and how to protect yourself and your family. If you haven’t been vaccinated or if you have any concerns about measles or the MMR vaccine, talk to your healthcare provider. You can also learn more from the Arkansas Department of Health’s website, [https:// healthy.arkansas.gov/](https://healthy.arkansas.gov/).

Obituaries

Patricia Mae Thomas Pedron, Kirby



Patricia Mae Thomas Pedron of Kirby, AR was born October 1, 1962 in Murfreesboro, to the late Johnnie and Maggie Kizzia. She received her complete healing on March 15, 2025 after a seven (7) year battle with ovarian cancer.

Patricia attended Kirby High School where she met her high school sweetheart, the late Terry Thomas. At the ages of fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) they were married and enjoyed thirty-six and a half years of love and devotion. At the age of fifty-five (55), Terry went to his heavenly home leaving Patricia with a broken heart.

Little did she know her broken heart would find another broken heart in Pete Pedron, who had also lost his beloved spouse. They found comfort in chatting and soon were as in love as two teenagers. They were married on November 7, 2015. In their over nine (9) years together, they packed a lifetime of memories and approximately five-thousand four-hundred and seventy-six (5,476) Branson trips. During Patricia’s seven (7) year battle, Pete never left her side.

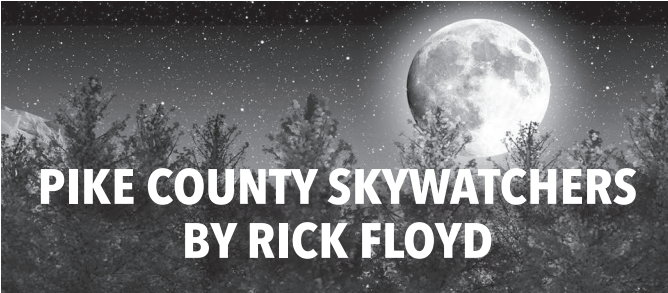
Patricia found several of her closest friends during her

twenty-eight (28) year career with the Arkansas State Parks. She was honored with many awards and commendations for her strong work ethic. She loved shopping with other people’s money. She also loved fishing, bird watching, and all of her plants. Her favorite hobby was filling her entire yard with plants and then moving them a hundred times until they were just right. She loved her grandkids and wanted to make it to as many of their activities as possible.

Patricia and Pete served the Lord faithfully at the Kirby Church of Christ. The Lord gifted Patricia with a servant’s heart and she was an encouragement to everyone she met. During all of her many hospital stays, she found a way to compliment everyone she met and greeted everyone with a huge smile that would light up a room.

Patricia was preceded in death by her husband Terry Thomas, her parents Johnnie and Maggie Kizzia, brother Leroy Funderburk, and Wallace Funderburk.

Patricia is survived by her husband, James “Pete” Pedron; her daughter, Shana Howell (husband Caleb); step daughter, Jaime Young (husband Shane); step daughter Jan Suit (husband Joe); step son Russell Pedron (wife Jennifer); grandchildren: Jamie & Kinslee Howell; Mia, Bella, and Maddie Young; Lily Suit; Zane, Gunner, and Jeb Pedron; sister Ruth Notes; brother Jerry Kizzia, and sister Clara Fae Babbitt, along with several very special nieces, nephews, and a host of wonderful friends.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS

BY RICK FLOYD

Timely break in clouds allowed for viewing of lunar eclipse

The lunar eclipse was not cancelled due to cloud cover, but occurred on schedule. The clouds were thick over our area until, surprisingly, they thinned just as the eclipse reached totality. The Moon was red as predicted, and through binoculars looked like an ornament with a few stars around it. The veil of clouds produced a halo to add to the beauty of the event. The brightest stars of the constellation Leo the Lion could be seen just above the Moon. Instead of a cow jumping over the Moon, as in the nursery rhyme, it was a cat.

That eclipse is the only total lunar eclipse over us this year. The next one will be in early March next year.

The Vernal (spring) Equinox occurs this year on 20 March which means that the Sun will rise due east and set due west, and that day and night are almost equal. It also means that daylight will win out over darkness until darkness takes over again after the Autumnal Equinox in September.

Astronomers recently announced that 128 moons have been added to Saturn’s collection, bringing its total to 274, the most of any planet. Jupiter has, so far, 95 moons. Saturn’s ring will seem to disappear by 23 March as it will be turned edgewise to us. It comes back to full view by November.

Astronomy is a science based on research and observation, and Astrology is not the same. It is the belief that the positioning of stars and planets affect the way events occur on Earth. Credit is given to Astrology, however, for being one of the contributing factors leading to the development of the science of Astronomy. Those interested in Astrology will find that the predictions for this year look favorable especially to Aries, Gemini, Aquarius, Leo and Taurus. The stars for them are aligned so that they will have good opportunities and successes.

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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.

UAMS

HOUSE CALL



Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: What are noroviruses?

A: Noroviruses are a group of viruses that cause inflammation in the stomach and intestines, commonly known as gastroenteritis. A norovirus infection is often referred to as a stomach bug or stomach flu, but those conditions are caused by the influenza virus. Noroviruses are very common, highly contagious, and are the No. 1 cause of foodborne illness in the U.S.

There are many types of noroviruses, so it is possible to be affected on multiple occasions. Close contact with an infected person, touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your mouth or nose, or eating or drinking contaminated foods and beverages are among the ways noroviruses spread.

Symptoms normally present themselves between 12 to 48

hours after exposure, and often come about suddenly. Diarrhea, nausea, stomach pain, and vomiting are common symptoms. Those infected with a norovirus may also experience body aches, fever, and headaches. Dehydration is a frequent complication of norovirus illnesses.

Treatment includes drinking plenty of liquids, eating soft, bland foods, and getting sufficient rest. The infection normally runs its course in one to three days. Hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and cooking food thoroughly are ways to reduce the risk of norovirus infections. See your health care provider if you have lingering symptoms.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Gambling Problem?

If you can answer YES to any of these questions, you may have a gambling problem.

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During the past 12 months, have you?



- Become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop or cut down on gambling?
- Have you tried to keep family and friends from knowing how much you gamble?
- Do you have financial troubles as a result of your gambling?

Make A Game Plan.



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Spring is the season for grass tetany in cattle

CODIE MCALISTER
Pike County Extension Agriculture Agent

MURFREESBORO -- As we move into the spring season, cattle owners need to be aware for Grass Tetany. Grass Tetany is a disease that is caused by a low level of magnesium in the cow's body that could potentially become fatal. This disease commonly occurs in Arkansas during the months of February, March, and April when forages start growing.

A decrease in magnesium can be indirectly caused by heavy fertilization of pastures. Forages that are heavily fertilized with potassium (potash) can cause the decrease of the dietary absorption of magnesium in a cow's gastrointestinal system.

Forage that is young and growing rapidly usually contains an increased amount of potassium. The two ways that lead to this disease (fertilization and rapidly growing forage) occur commonly in late winter and early spring.

Grass tetany occurs typically in older lactating cows but can also occur in cows with poor body condition scores. This disease can also occur in cows that are overly conditioned. There are other factors that might play a role in the disease are moist, cool, spring weather and stress. Stressors that affect cows the most in the spring are weather, hauling, penning, and heavy lactation.

SYMPTOMS:

Symptoms associated with this disease range from slight changes in behavior to death. Early in the disease, cattle that are affected may have a decreased appetite, decreased milk production, a tendency to stay away from the herd, increased alertness, or a stiff/unsteady gait.

As the disease progresses cattle may become recumbent (lying down) and/or exhibit muscle tremors (spasms), an increased heart rate and increased breathing rate. If untreated at this stage, the cow will likely die.

TREATMENT:

The most important part of treating this disease is to correct the magnesium imbalance. If clinical signs are mild, magnesium can be corrected with certain treatments. If the clinical signs are more severe, immediate action must be taken with the guidance of a veterinarian. Consult with your veterinarian to find the treatment that is right for your animals and their symptoms.

PREVENTION:

Grass Tetany can be prevented by either providing a mineral supplement or adjusting field fertilizations. Below are more in-depth prevention tips!

Provide a salt-mineral supplement containing at least 10 percent magnesium.

Several mineral feeders should be used if stocking rates are high.

Mineral feeders should be conveniently located in the pasture, so cattle have adequate access to them.

Review fertilization practices to prevent magnesium deficiencies in cattle. (Fertilization should be based on recent soil samples taken from the farm).

Work with your local veterinarian to develop an action plan if your herd is at risk for tetany.

For more information about soil testing or fertilizing pastures, contact the Pike County Extension office at (870)285-2161 or your local county Extension Office. The Pike County Extension office will also be able to come out to your farm and visit if you need guidance with weeds, soil testing, or any agricultural or natural resource.

Information from this article can be found at www.uaex.uada.edu and search for FSA3084 Livestock Health Series Grass Tetany.



MHS Track Athletes Compete At Caddo Hills Meet

Photos by Dewayne Holloway, Glenwood Herald Editor



‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

GOD'S GOODNESS

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” A Christian who does not appreciate the great patience of Jehovah is in dire danger. The problem with human nature is that we tend to think we are not as weak as those around us. If we are not careful, we attribute sinful things to others. The difficulty with this is that we cannot know why people act and talk as they do. Only God can judge the motivation of the individuals of our acquaintance. On occasion, we will think a family member is angry because of



an expression on the face or in the tone of voice. The truth many times is a result of a family emergency or an upsetting situation. It is evident that we cannot know what is going on in the lives of our peers. God wants us to understand that He has a perfect grasp of what is happening in our heart. God

blesses us every day to show how much He loves us. Satan will tempt us, and we will sin. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8. He goes further to tell us. “If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:10. Paul says God’s goodness is the motivation for us to repent and turn away from sin. God is always ready to forgive us if we will repent with all our heart. The inspired writer tells us, “Glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:10,11.

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MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Chicken fried steak, white gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit salad

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Burger on bun, sliced tomatoes, lettuce, onion, fries, banana pudding

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Hamburger steak w/ onion, mashed potatoes, sauteed spinach, squash & tomatoes, dinner roo, 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 for \$6.00

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, cornbread muffin, peaches, milk

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Breakfast: Apple fritter donut or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, savory carrots, steamed broccoli, applesauce milk

MONDAY, MARCH 24- FRIDAY, MARCH 28 SPRING BREAK

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Breakfast: Poptart w/cheese stick or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Chicken sandwich, sidewinder fries, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 onion & pickle slices, peaches, milk

* 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

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Facts About The BIBLE

SOME MODERN METHODS ARE AS OLD AS THE HILLS!
AMONG THE ANCIENT BIBLICAL PEOPLE THE DANGERS OF SUNSTROKE WERE ALWAYS PRESENT BECAUSE OF THE VERY HOT CLIMATE IN THE SUMMERS AND THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE WERE AN AGRICULTURAL PEOPLE USED TO WORKING ALL DAY IN THE HOT SUN. SO THE STORY ABOUT THE YOUNG LAD WHO SUFFERED A SUNSTROKE (1 KINGS 4:19-20) WAS NOT AN UNUSUAL ONE--WHAT IS UNUSUAL ABOUT IT IS THE PROPHET ELISHA'S WAY OF HANDLING THIS PREDICAMENT! NOT UNTIL THE 20TH CENTURY DID MEDICAL MEN START TO RESUSCITATE THE VICTIMS OF HEART ARREST BY USING MOUTH-TO-MOUTH BREATHING TO START THE VICTIM'S HEARTBEAT AGAIN, YET THIS IS WHAT ELISHA DID (1 KINGS 4:34) MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO! WHICH LEADS ONE TO SURMISE THAT THERE IS A LOT OF TRUTH IN THE OLD SAYING "THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN!" ALSO IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FIRST THING ELISHA DID WHEN HE STEPPED INTO THE ROOM WITH THE DEAD CHILD HE "PRAYED UNTO THE LORD"--NOT A BAD THING FOR ALL OF US TO REMEMBER, RIGHT?!



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- VACATION DESTINATIONS
- * -- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS
1. Aladdin's find
5. Reggae precursor
8. "Lights out" signal
12. Not good
13. Flock's echo
14. ____ diet, a.k.a. caveman diet
15. Kind of jerk
16. *Southern and Southwestern U.S. region:
- Sun ____
17. Financial backer
18. *Switzerland's skiing destination (2 words)
20. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
21. Clint Eastwood's "Play ____ for Me"
22. One in a pod
23. Wear out
26. Masculine
30. *Princess' turf
31. Makes a sum (2 words)
34. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
35. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
37. Choose
38. Provide food
39. Answer from a tunnel
40. Virtual you
42. ____ Scare
43. Prickly plant
45. *Second "National Lampoon's Vacation" destination
47. Biblical Adam's partner
48. Cause and effect cycle?
50. Goals
52. *Jamaica and Cayman Islands location
56. Bert's sidekick
57. Poet Pound
58. Hay bundle
59. "The Great Gatsby" author
60. Billiards relative
61. Theories
62. ____-deaf

63. Boar's mate
64. Reason to cram
- DOWN
1. Not more
2. Swear, not curse
3. Between mini and maxi
4. Bodily fluid
5. Small silvery fish
6. ____ G. of "SpongeBob SquarePants"
7. Aardvark's repast
8. *Serengeti National Park location
9. Aquatic plant
10. Pressure inducer
11. *Costa del ____, Spain
13. Humiliated
14. Eucharistic plate
19. Fretted instrument
22. OB-GYN test
23. Balance sheet item
24. *Coastal destination
25. Policeman's club in India
26. Cockapoo or Puggle, e.g.
27. Foreword
28. Make tea
29. Vast multitude
32. Peace symbol
33. *Rest and relaxation destination
36. *El Capitan and Half Dome location
38. Pigeon food?
40. Brewery order
41. Acrobatic move
44. Living room centerpiece?
46. Velveteen creature
48. Type of membranophone
49. Cupid's ammo
50. Gas station brand
51. Aware of a secret (2 words)
52. Porcinos
53. "At ____, soldier"
54. Charitable contribution
55. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
56. Time in NYC

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State legislature considers college measures, including raffles to pay for players

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Senate passed legislation with far-reaching changes in how state-supported colleges and universities divide state aid, and how students qualify for scholarships.

One of the most noticeable changes will be in how much is awarded the first year to students who qualify for an Academic Challenge Scholarship. Now, students receive \$1,000 during their first year, and that will go up to \$2,000.

The scholarships are funded with revenue from the state lottery. Since Arkansas voters approved the lottery in 2008 in a statewide election, it has paid for more than 770,000 scholarships. Their value is about \$1.4 billion.

Students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville have received 147,000 scholarships valued at \$262 million. At Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, almost 85,000 scholarships have been awarded. They're valued at \$155 million.

At Arkansas Tech, more than 74,000 scholarships worth \$132 million have been awarded since the lottery began.

Students at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia have received more than 26,000 scholarships since the beginning of the program. They're valued at \$44.8 million.

At the University of Arkansas at Monticello, more than 5,400 scholarships valued at \$9.5 million have been awarded.

Senate Bill 246 also changes other and smaller scholarship programs. It will expand Workforce Challenge Scholarships by \$9 million. This program helps students in workforce training who take classes in the high-demand areas of health care, information technology and industry. Students may take non-credit classes if they fit within those qualifying categories.

Access to higher education will become easier because the bill standardizes course numbering and will make application forms uniform for all state institutions.

It broadens the types of advanced placement courses that students may take in order to earn college credits while still in high school. It broadens the types of standardized tests that institutions will accept as admission tests.

The fiscal impact for colleges and universities will not be fully known for several years. The bill will change the state's formula for distributing state aid to include a "return on investment" metric that aligns with the state's economic and workforce needs.

The Senate also approved House Bill 1634 to allow colleges and universities to operate raffles, to raise money to pay players on their athletic teams. In recent seasons, college sports have changed dramatically because players are no longer amateurs.

They can accept payment for the use of their name, image or likeness (NIL).

In other news, the Senate approved SB 307 to allow utilities greater flexibility to recover investments in new power plants. Supporters of the bill said that other states have similar laws, and Arkansas must become more competitive in energy production because demand is expected to increase steadily in the future.

Under current law, utilities incur finance charges during construction. SB 307 would allow utilities to begin recovering costs from ratepayers during construction, and thus avoid some finance charges. Those savings would then be passed along to customers. SB 307 now goes to the House of Representatives.

State to offer local options for 'Free Tree Fridays'

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is celebrating Arbor Day by hosting its fifth annual "Free Tree Fridays" campaign, offering free bare root seedlings to Arkansans. The events will take place every Friday from March 21 through April 25 at various locations across the state.

"Free Tree Fridays is a way to raise awareness about the benefits of trees and encourage more people to plant them in their communities," said Kristine Kimbro, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator. "This event has grown over the years, and we are excited to continue offering Arkansans the opportunity to plant native trees in their own backyards."

Each giveaway will feature a variety of tree species native to Arkansas, including cherrybark oak, eastern redbud, persimmon, red mulberry, river birch, and Shumard oak. Participants

can receive up to five free seedlings on a first-come, first-served basis.

A full schedule of the events, including specific locations, is available on the Urban and Community Forestry webpage at <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/urban-community-forestry/>. Additional locations may be added throughout the event period.

Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, and supported by the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council.

- Local options include:
- March 21 -- Mt. Ida, Montgomery County Fairgrounds
 - April 4 -- Dierks, Arkansas Forestry Division Office, 106 Forestry Drive; Arkadelphia, Clark County NRCS Office

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Grand Prairie Regional Water in Stuttgart Arkansas is seeking applicants to fill 2 positions. The open positions are for:

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Starting pay is \$22 per hour, plus benefits. Benefits include Vacation, Sick Pay, Retirement Plan and Medical/Dental coverage. Must be able to pass background and drug screening. Send Resume PO box 850 Stuttgart, AR, 72160

BID NOTICE

The town of Delight is accepting bids on upkeep and maintenance of the City Park (including ball fields), Delight School Campus, and the Campus Ball Fields.

Bids should include pricing for all maintenance including mowing, weed eating, and sparying of all aforementioned properties for the 2025 season.

Please send all bids to the City Council of Delight at P.O. Box 29, Delight, AR. 71940.

Bids must be postmarked no later than April 13, 2025 in order to be considered.

Thank you in advance for your time and interest.

This publication is paid for by the City of Delight in the amount of \$40.80

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Daisy State Park holds ceremony to open new visitor center, playground

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

KIRBY - It was a big day Friday, March 14 at Daisy State Park when a special ceremony was held to officially open the park’s brand new visitor center and playground.

The event was attended by dozens of community members, longtime visitors to the park, and local and state officials, including Shea Lewis, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and Jeff King, director of state parks.

“This is an exciting day for Daisy State Park and the many visitors who come here each year to experience the beauty of Lake Greeson and the surrounding Ouachita Mountains,” Lewis told the crowd gathered outside the new center.

The new visitor center replaces the old 450-square foot one built in 1973.

“The new visitor center and playground further our mission of providing high-quality outdoor recreation and education for all who visit.”

Park Superintendent Nathan Fort, in his second year at the park, could barely contain his excitement and emotions when opening the ceremony and thanking those in attendance, which included members of the newly-elected

Kirby Elementary School Student Council.

Fort said the park is growing and the new center and playground will play a big part in enhancing the experience, not only for campers but the locals who enjoy the park and playground.

Many people were recognized during the event, from those who designed and built the additions to those who currently operate the park. Also in attendance was local Sandra Pinson, who was recognized for working as park office manager for close to 30 years and who wore a vintage T-shirt Friday that read: “Daisy State Park, Roam Free, 1955.”

Shelia Newman of Mount Pleasant, Texas, who has been camping at the park with family and friends for 55 years, was invited to speak on Friday. Newman is credited with forming a “camper’s reunion” that gathers every October and has for the last 35 years.

Newman, who knows all the former and current staff by name, reminisced about the days of tent-camping at the park when things were a little more primitive. She said in the early days that an electrical line was strung through the trees with light bulbs placed along the line for campers. Newman claimed there is still a piece of the old electrical line sticking out of a tree on site #85, her favorite spot in the park.



Staff photo/John Balch

RECOGNIZED AT EVENT ... Sandra Pinson (above with daughter Launa Simmons) speaks with Shea Lewis, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism at the recent event for improvements at Daisy Park. Pinson was recognized for working as park office manager for close to 30 years.

Murfreesboro recognized as ‘Gig-Ready’ community

MURFREESBORO -- Officials from Kinetic, an Arkansas-headquartered residential internet service provider, are proud to announce that the greater Murfreesboro area is now officially recognized as a Kinetic “Gig-Ready Community,” marking a major milestone in expanding high-speed internet access in rural Arkansas communities.

Kinetic, along with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce and members from the community celebrated the milestone with a ribbon cutting ceremony this morning. This designation means that more than 75% of homes and businesses in the Murfreesboro area now have access to Kinetic’s Next Generation Gigabit Internet, bringing faster, more reliable connectivity to the town. More than 1,000 locations in this area are now ready for fiber access.

Kinetic has been working to expand fiber-optic technology across the state, investing nearly \$275 million in private and public funding between 2019 and 2024. This state-wide investment includes \$55 million in public-private partnership funds. Murfreesboro is one of 15 communities across eight counties in Arkansas receiving “Gig-Ready” recognition—the first such announcement in Kinetic’s 18-state footprint.

“We are proud to officially recognize Murfreesboro as a Gig-Ready Community,” said

Patrick Brimberry, president of Kinetic’s Midwest Region. “High-speed fiber internet opens up new opportunities for education, business, healthcare, and economic development. We’re proud to partner with Murfreesboro to help bridge the digital divide and bring cutting-edge connectivity to this great community.”

With the advancement of fiber-optic lines, a quantum leap in technology, Murfreesboro residents will benefit from faster, more reliable internet, in which customers can stream, share and download at speeds of at least one gigabit a second. The upgraded network is also a significant boost for local businesses and economic growth.

Research shows that communities with fiber internet experience 213% higher business growth and increased home values while improving access to telehealth and education to ensure that students, professionals, and families can easily connect to critical online services without interruption.

In addition to reaching this milestone, homes in the communities around Murfreesboro that are using older copper technology may be eligible for a free upgrade to Kinetic’s fiber internet. For more information or to check availability in your area, visit windstream.com/gig-ready or schedule an upgrade by calling (800) 347-1991.



Staff Photo

KINETIC COMMUNITY ... Members of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, Murfreesboro City Hall and Pike County elected officials were on hand last week at a ribbon cutting ceremony for internet provider Kinetic.

“We’ve meet so many friends here,” Newman said about her time at the park, which she described as safe, comfortable, serene and clean. “We have seen this park progress and look at it now.”

Superintendent Fort closed out the event before tours of the new facilities started and lunch was served.

“Memories are made here, generations are coming back even more, and the commitment to outdoor recreation, well, it’s just getting started here at Daisy State Park.

Daisy State Park is situated on the northern shoreline of 7,000-acre Lake Greeson in southwest Arkansas. The clear water and Ouachita Mountains scenery make the park a favorite of

campers seeking water sports and fishing. Daisy is the eighth state park established in Arkansas, according to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas.

Lake Greeson was created in 1950 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed a dam on the Little Missouri River some six miles north of Murfreesboro (Pike County). The lake was created for flood control and hydroelectric power generation. The land for Daisy State Park, consisting of 272 acres, was acquired by the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 22, 1955. Former state representative Pete Austin, a lifetime resident of Pike County, was a leading advocate for the creation of the park.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MURFREESBORO WATER & SEWER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUE:		
Water Revenue	\$ 565,243	\$ 479,003
Sewer Revenue	273,887	193,839
Penalties	10,732	8,170
Connection Fees	7,920	2,018
Other Revenue	37,151	57,680
TOTAL REVENUE	894,933	740,710
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Salaries / Labor	186,662	155,089
Employee Benefits	26,127	26,359
Extra Labor	10,032	12,141
Parts and Supplies	11,555	8,847
Utilities	63,374	71,947
Repairs and Maintenance	179,304	81,342
Depreciation	169,527	165,720
Insurance and Bonding	26,961	24,736
Payroll Taxes	15,004	11,651
Permits and Dues	8,344	8,534
Office Expense	16,488	16,046
Commissioner Fees	5,250	5,400
Legal and Professional Fees	10,175	17,125
Truck Expense	7,240	13,318
Bad Debts	2,328	-
Miscellaneous	3,483	5,040
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	741,854	623,295
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	153,079	117,415
NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSES):		
Interest Income	7,920	2,098
Interest Expense	(39,396)	(49,290)
ADFA Service Fees	(11,738)	(13,647)
TOTAL NONOPERATING INCOME (EXPENSES)	(43,214)	(60,839)
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	109,865	56,576
NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,423,799	2,340,056
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	\$ 2,533,664	\$ 2,396,632

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MURFREESBORO WATER & SEWER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 840,864	\$ 695,866
Other Income	37,151	47,062
Cash Paid to Suppliers	(387,020)	(301,328)
Cash Paid to Employees	(186,662)	(155,089)
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	304,333	286,511
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Interest Received	7,920	4,659
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Increase (Decrease) in Meter Deposits	2,148	187
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Acquisition of Capital Assets	-	(97,829)
Principal Debt Payment	(134,493)	(128,999)
Interest Paid	(40,066)	(44,526)
Bond Administrative Fees	(11,738)	(12,673)
NET CASH FLOW FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(186,297)	(284,027)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	128,104	7,330
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	737,933	730,603
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 866,037	\$ 737,933

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MURFREESBORO WATER & SEWER SYSTEM
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

Reconciliation of operating income to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2024	2023
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 153,079	\$ 117,415
ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Depreciation	169,527	165,720
Change in Assets and Liabilities:		
Accounts Receivable	(16,918)	2,218
Inventory	-	-
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	(1,355)	1,158
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	151,254	169,096
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 304,333	\$ 286,511
SCHEDULE OF NONCASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
None		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

This publication is paid for by the Murfreesboro Water and Sewer System in the amount of \$337.50 (37)