

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Issue 38 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

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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 to hold financial workshop for veterans

DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Glenwood Herald Editor

ARKADELPHIA – Veterans Upward Bound invite area veterans to attend a financial workshop Thursday, April 10, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Henderson State University.

The event will be held at the HSU Garrison Center Lecture Hall on the Henderson State University campus in Arkadelphia.

It will feature workshops covering four topics which include budgeting, credit, veteran benefits, and investing.

The budgeting workshop will include discussions on income, expenses, surplus, debt, and savings.

The credit workshop will include discussions on credit score, interest, mortgage, credit cards, and APR.

The veteran benefits workshop will include discussions on FTA, GI Bill, NGTW, and VA Home Loans.

The Investing workshop will include discussions on interest, stocks, bonds, CDs, and IRAs.

The workshop is a joint effort between Veterans Upward Bound and Henderson State University.

The Veterans Upward Bound Program is a program under the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs.

For more information about the workshop call (870) 230-5704, or email bursont@hsu.edu.



Westerman announces art contest for students

HOT SPRINGS -- Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) announces the annual Congressional Art Competition for 2025 is now open to receive entries from high school students across the Fourth District of Arkansas.

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students in the Fourth District. The winning artwork of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit in Washington will include the winning artwork from all participating districts from around the country. The winning artwork is also featured on the Congressional Art Competition page online.

Entries are to be submitted, in person, by April 16. An appointment is recommended to drop off artwork at Westerman's Hot Springs District Office, located at 101 Reserve Street, Ste. 200.

Winners will be announced the week of April 21.

The following is a summary of the Congressional Art Competition rules:

Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 26 inches by 26 inches, may be up to 4 inches in depth, and not weigh more than 15 pounds. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must be framed and must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions.

Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and water-color

Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil,

CONTEST Continued on Page 4



Staff photos

DEDICATING HIS LIFE ... Ricky Lee Franklin of Greenwood, Arkansas waived to passerbys on the Pike County Courthouse Square on Saturday in Murfreesboro. Stating that he was a servant of God, he was garbed as Jesus. Franklin, who was once sentenced to 360 years in jail, served 14 until his parole, a fact for which he credits the Lord, thus leading him to try to spread the word in various towns. Franklin also states that America is God's country, a fact evidenced by His reference in the United States Constitution and the various state constitutions, including Arkansas.

School board hires new Lady Rattler coach

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board filled one of two vacancies in the district's basketball program during a special meeting held Monday night.

The board voted 5-2 to hire Blevin Boyd as the new Lady Rattler head coach.

Boyd will come to Murfreesboro from the Spring Hill School District where he was head boys' basketball coach and assistant to the girls' teams, as well as girls' track head coach and physical education teacher.

Boyd's work experience includes coaching girls' basketball and softball at Mountain Pine and heading up the basketball program at Palestine-Wheatley. He was also a volunteer assistant basketball coach from 2012-2016 at Kirby.

Boyd's resume lists his top accomplishments as leading the Spring Hill Bears to a postseason

district tournament championship in 2024-2025 and being named 7-2A coach of the year that same year.

The split vote to hire Boyd came after a 22-minute closed executive session. Board members voting to hire Boyd included Cory Ballard, Robert Silva, Scott Maroon, Alyssa Duggan and Wes Campbell with Andrea McRae and Barbie Baxter voting against the hire.

Boyd will replace Nicole Martin, who was reassigned to the elementary PE program after several seasons as Lady Rattler head coach.

Boyd was chosen from a list of 12 other applicants, including:

- Kayla Sharp-Estep, Magnolia softball coach
- Rachele Erwin, Murfreesboro elementary counselor and former head coach at Ashdown
- Darren Horn, assistant football coach and head track coach at Murfreesboro
- Reagan McCormick, first-year assistant

coach at Morrilton

- Levi Lock, first-year coach at Hampton
- Nate Davis, girls head coach at Star City, former junior college head coach and assistant at Ouachita Baptist University
- Jason Barker, former head coach at De Queen
- Randall Henderson, retired head coach in Texas
- Clayton Ray, boys' coach at Ouachita.
- Jordan Shanks, first-year assistant at Prescott
- Cody Byrd, volunteer assistant at Hamburg
- Kendall Kirchoff, assistant coach at Cabot

The board will now resume its search for a new Rattler head coach following the departure of Buster Bonner, who came out of retirement to lead the Rattlers this past season and fulfilled his one-year contract with the district.



Staff photos

BAKING UP FUNDS FOR NATIONALS ... The Rattler Band Winter Guard held a bake sale at Diamond Bank last Friday, March 21. The group sold homemade goodies to help fund their trip to Arlington (University of Texas) to attend the National competition set for March 28-29. Pictured are (above right) Kayley Dowdle, Peyton Keys and helper Cayden Staten. Pictured outside (above left) are more members of the Winter Guard making trips around town for sales to individual businesses, Faith Henderson, Chloe Cornwell and Addison Countryman.

Archery teams compete in state tournament

MURFREESBORO – The South Pike County archery teams completed their seasons recently by participating in the state tournament in Hot Springs.

At the state tournament, the elementary team finished in ninth place out of 30 teams with 51 collective 10’s and 2,758 total points. The middle school team was in tenth place out of 30 teams with 99 total 10’s and 3096 total points. The high school squad was 13th out of 30 teams with 96 total 10’s and 3121 total points.

Top scorers for the elementary team were:
Lilli Harwell, 251 points, six 10’s, 20th place female
Tristen Watts, 248 points, eight 10’s, 31st place male
Tobias Doyle, 243 points, four 10’s
Jaciee Wilkinson, 242 points, five 10’s
Aly Cross, 240 points, six 10’s
Top scorers for the middle school team were:
Jackson Nance, 282 points, 17 10’s, ninth place male
Kristen Rodgers, 270 points, eight 10’s, 23rd place female
Avery Baker, 264 points, eight 10’s
Matt Lewis, 263 points, six 10’s
Ava Henderson, 262 points, nine 10’s
Top scorers for the high school team were:
E’Lye Whisenhunt, 275 points, 14 10’s, 24th place male
Vivian White, 271 points, 13 10’s, 33rd place female
Justen Carey, 264 points, four 10’s
Savannah Wilson, 263 points, nine 10’s
James Chaney, 261 points, seven 10’s
Cole McKnight, 261 points, seven 10’s
For full team results at the state tournament, please visit nasp-tournaments.org/school.aspx?oid=9261.

The teams competed in a number of tournaments leading up to the state tournament, with a good amount of success.

BOW BASH ARCHERY TOURNAMENT – BRYANT
Elementary, sixth out of 15 teams, 32 10’s, 2561 total points
Middle School, fourth out of nine teams, 71 10’s, 2995 total points
High School, fifth out of eight teams, 101 10’s, 3119 total points
Leading Scorers (regardless of division)
James Chaney, 270 points, 14 10’s, 12th high school male
Aiden Lewis, 269 points, 12 10’s, 15th high school male
Kent Eatman, 269 points, 11 10’s, 16th high school male
Sebastian Brewer, 268 points, 10 10’s, 9th middle school male

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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 spraying 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

Murfreesboro Diamond

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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.

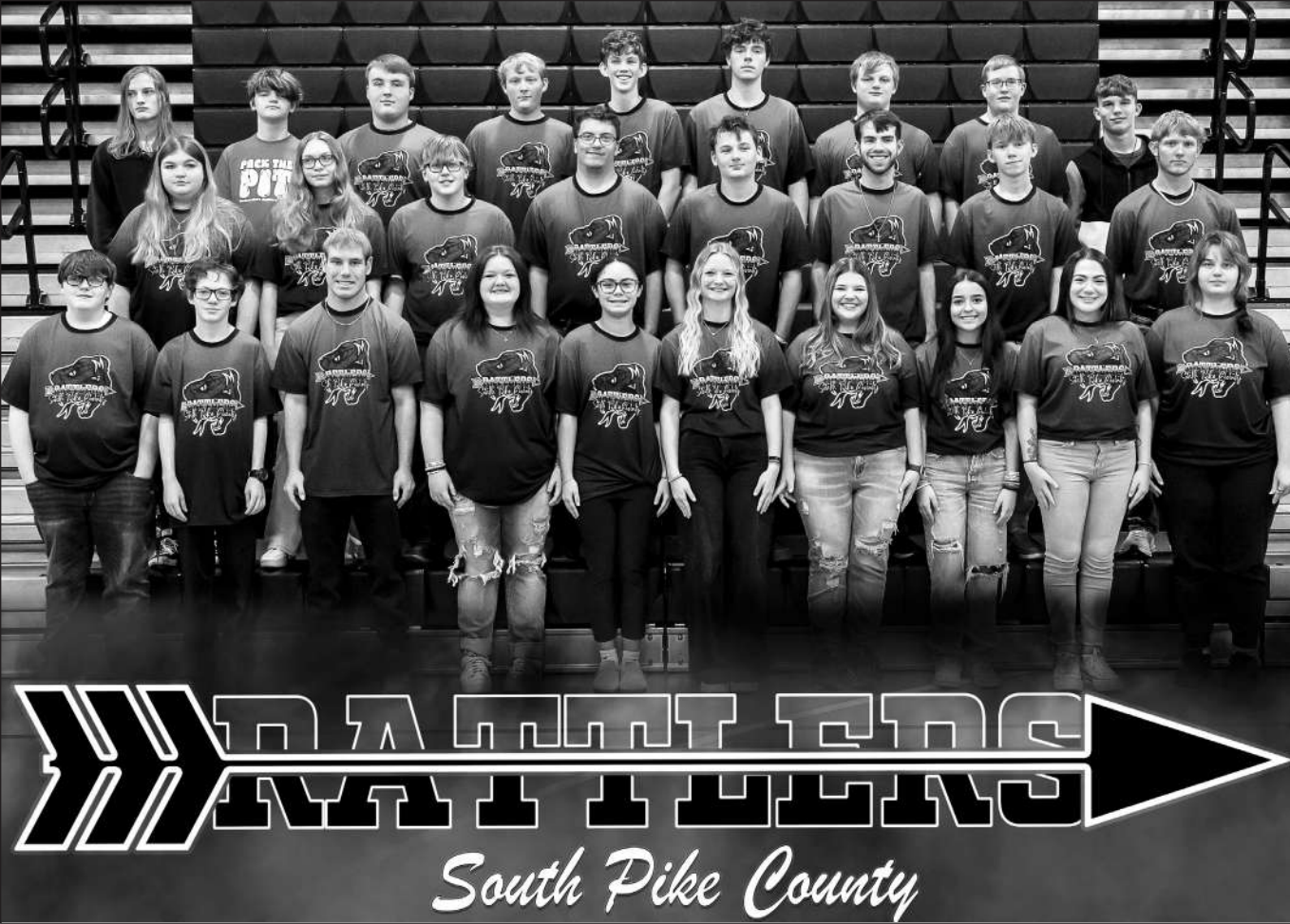
Cole McKnight, 267 points, seven 10’s, 17th high school male
Kristen Rodgers, 266 points, eight 10’s, 7th middle school female

GRIT 2025 – GLEN ROSE
Elementary, 2688 points, third out of 10 teams, 48 10’s
Middle School, 3064 points, second out of 8 teams, 85 10’s
High School, 3166 points, third out of seven teams, 100 10’s
Leading Scorers (regardless of division)
Cole McKnight, 282 points, 17 10’s, fifth place high school male
Kent Eatman, 275 points, 11 10’s, eighth place high school

male
Austin Wright, 272 points, 12 10’s, fifth middle school male
Lillian Wilson, 271 points, 10 10’s, fourth high school female
Joshua Myrkle, 268 points, nine 10’s, 14th high school male

DIAMOND SHOOTOUT – DELIGHT
Elementary, 2639 points, third out of eight teams, 32 10’s
Middle School, 3069 points, third out of eight teams, 85 10’s
High School, 3196 points, fourth out of five teams, 110 10’s
Leading Scorers (regardless of division)

ARCHERY Continued on Page 3



HIGH SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM ... Front row (L to R): Sebastion Green, Lyzander Doyle, Garrett Molnaird, Morgan Bierden, Jaycee Gonzalez, Lillian Cross, Chloe Cross, Bella White, Trisha Howard and Allie Wicker; middle row: Payten Teel, Shiann Carey, Kadence Green, Justen Cary, Hunter Cooley, James Chaney, Aiden Lewis and Kent Eatman; back row: Dalton Nelson, E’Lye Whisenhunt, Cole McKnight, Braden Wright, Ross Spradlin, Taiden Fannin, Daelyn Henderson, Hadley Cox and Colton Tidwell

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)



Submitted photos

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAMS ... (Above) Font row: Tristen Watts, Cayden Staten, Aliea Goolsby, Ares Collins, Emmalyn Staten, Gabby Green, Leigha Bierden, Kaylee Cross and Gentry Stone; middle row: Luke Whitten, Hunter Heaston, Lilli Harwell, Jacey Heaston, Anita Kinnu, Peyton Wright, Bently Buss, Tobias Doyle, Sam Hoover and Henley Kate Frachiseur; back row: Bransyn Staten, Emily Cornish, Kylee Fultz, Abby Cox, Ally Cross, Gracie Collins, Isabella Dowdy, Jaicee Wilkerson and Nykkan Staten; (below) front row: Matt Lewis, Austin Wright, Jackson Nance, Rachelle Wisener, Joli Henderson, Izzy Silva, Ora Kidd and Luke Agudio; middle row: Addy Silva, Natalie Bush, Abbi Whitten, Sabastian Brewer, Benjamin Cox, Ava Henderson, Sylvie Lane and Richard Agudio; back row:: Colton Plyler, Avery Baker, Phinehas Doyle, Lane Bierden, Jacob Chaney, Amy Jones and Sophia Cox



ARCHERY Continued from Page 2

Kent Eatman, 281 points, 15 10’s, fourth high school male
Jackson Nance, 275 points, 15 10’s, first middle school male
Cole McKnight, 272 points, nine 10’s, 11th high school male
Lillian Wilson, 271 points, 13 10’s, ninth high school female
Colton Tidwell, 271 points. 12 10’s, 13th high school male

SHOOTOUT IN THE COVE – MAGNET COVE
Elementary, 2722 points, fourth out of five teams, 44 10’s
Middle School, 3081 points, second out of six teams, 91 10’s
High School, 3149 points, third out of four teams, 98 10’s
Leading Scorers (regardless of division)
Adalyn Silva, 282 points, 15 10’s, second middle school girl

Kent Eatman, 277 points, 12 10’s, sixth high school male
Jackson Nance, 276 points, 13 10’s, fourth middle school male
Colton Tidwell, 273 points, eight 10’s, ninth high school male

RATTLER ARCHERY SHOWDOWN – DELIGHT
Elementary, 2777 points, second out of two teams, 48 10’s
Middle School, 3079 points, first out of five teams, 101 10’s
High School, 3180 points, third out of four teams, 103 10’s
Leading Scorers (regardless of division)
Jackson Nance, 281 points, 16 10’s, second middle school male
E’Lye Whisenhunt, 277 points, 12 10’s, sixth high school male
Cole McKnight, 277 points, 11 10’s, seventh high school male
Kent Eatman, 274 points, 11 10’s, ninth high school male
Vivan White, 271 points, 11 10’s, sixth high school female

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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 varicose veins?

A: Varicose veins are bulging, enlarged and twisted veins that appear just under the skin. Varicose veins can appear anywhere on the body but occur most frequently in the legs. It is a common condition that affects more than 20 million Americans according to the American Society for Vascular Surgery.

Increased blood pressure in the veins and the weakening of the vein walls result in varicose veins. As the blood pressure increases, weakened veins stretch and get larger. Blood does not move as effectively in these veins and tends to back up or pool. Age, family history, inactivity, leg injuries, and obesity are some risk factors for varicose veins. The condition occurs more frequently in women.

Symptoms of varicose veins include skin color changes around the veins, aching and swelling in the legs, itching, leg cramps, or a rash or sores on the legs. Blood clots or ulcers on the skin near varicose veins are possible complications.

In many instances varicose veins are only a cosmetic concern. Treatment includes compression stockings, elevating the legs, exercise, and avoiding long periods of standing or sitting. Ablation therapy (laser or an adhesive injection) is a treatment option. Contact your health care provider if you have questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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Obituaries

Daryl Eugene Boyer, 77, Murfreesboro

Daryl Eugene Boyer, age 77 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, March 21, 2025 in Nashville. He was born on May 4, 1947 in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, the son of the late Wendell Eugene Cote and Janice Ayre Fredrickson.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his adopted mother, Alma Matthews; a son, Neal Daryl Boyer; and a sister, Loni Kaufman.

Survivors include his chil-

dren, Samantha Boyer, Rebecca McCaleb, Caryn Boyer and Matthew Boyer; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 in Murfreesboro Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Possible March fireworks

The end of March 2025 may go out with a bang, the nova of a star that is. A star called the Blaze Star (T Coronae Borealis) might explode on March 27.

The star in question is part of the constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown, but it is a dim one and not part of the crown itself. In fact, a dark sky and binoculars are needed to see it. The constellation’s brightest star is called Alphecca. Blaze Star is actually not one star but two, a white dwarf and a red giant locked in a swirling gravitational dance. The dwarf siphons material from the giant which accumulates on its surface making it more and more unstable. About every 80 years it becomes so unstable that it explodes, expelling the excess material. Despite the violence of the event, it survives and begins the process over again.

The prediction of the nova was made by astronomers who studied the 80-year cycle of Blaze Star’s explosions. They concluded that this March date was very likely (if not March then maybe in November...). The nova of Blaze Star, if it occurs, would swell in brightness equal to that of Alphecca, and last for several days. It will be a short-lived “new” star. To find Corona Borealis look for the bright star Arcturus (recall that you can follow the arc of the Big Dipper’s handle to the very bright Arcturus), and look due east of it for a group of 7 stars making a backward C. Blaze Star is slightly below the C. Corona Borealis, in the spring rises in the east at about 9 p.m., and is overhead at about 3 a.m., and moved toward the west by 5 a.m.

Wrap your head around the fact that Blaze Star is 3,000 light years away, which means if we see it go nova, we would be seeing something that happened 3,000 years ago when humans were in the Bronze Age.

Because of the way the planets have aligned this year, combined gravitational forces will cause the Earth and the Moon to swap positions on April 1st. The Earth will become the Moon’s Moon. Scientists are not certain how this will impact such things as tidal schedules and forces, but it is all short-term. The Moon will gradually be pulled back to its usual orbit around the Earth by April 1st next year. Mark April 1st on your calendar.

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FORMER RULERS
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. London native, e.g.
 - 5. Major news network, acr.
 - 8. Elect democratically
 - 12. Dharma teacher
 - 13. *Henry ____, a serial husband
 - 14. Mosaic artist
 - 15. Cracked open
 - 16. Between ids and super-egos
 - 17. More unfriendly
 - 18. *Babylonian ruler, code creator
 - 20. Minute bit
 - 21. Cavern or cave
 - 22. Not amateur
 - 23. Sapodilla tree gum
 - 26. *Akhenaton or Tutankhamun
 - 30. Be bedridden
 - 31. a.k.a. crown vetch
 - 34. *Viracocha, the eighth Sapa ____ of King-dom of Cusco
 - 35. Like some peppers
 - 37. ____-been
 - 38. Trots and canters
 - 39. And others, for short
 - 40. Shred of clothing
 - 42. Aptitude test, acr.
 - 43. a.k.a. sodium carbonate
 - 45. In ignoble manner
 - 47. One behind plate, for short
 - 48. Patrick Swayze / Demi Moore movie
 - 50. George Lucas’ warrior-monk
 - 52. *Egypt’s famous queen
 - 56. Capital of Tunisia
 - 57. Military status
 - 58. “High” time
 - 59. River in India
 - 60. Rainbows, e.g.
 - 61. Al Capone, e.g.
 - 62. Difficult situation
 - 63. Striped stinger

64. Biblical paradise
- DOWN
- 1. Ho-hum
 - 2. Indian royal
 - 3. Mosque V.I.P.
 - 4. Plane road
 - 5. “Sometimes a cigar is just a ____”
 - 6. She turned to stone
 - 7. Not yet final, legally speaking
 - 8. *Second-longest reigning British monarch
 - 9. Spaghetti aglio and ____
 - 10. Do like bees?
 - 11. Go wrong
 - 13. Top of a mountain, e.g.
 - 14. #8 Down’s headdress, e.g.
 - 19. Untwist a rope
 - 22. Third degree
 - 23. Lawyers’ loads
 - 24. Informed of latest trends (2 words)
 - 25. Homeric epic
 - 26. Exterminator’s target
 - 27. Liquorice flavor
 - 28. Based on number 8
 - 29. Rash
 - 32. *Mohammad Reza ____ Pahlavi
 - 33. Get calories
 - 36. *Robert Graves’ “I, ____”
 - 38. Comprehend
 - 40. Medicinal amt.
 - 41. Kindle editions
 - 44. Not quite right
 - 46. Posture
 - 48. Unfriendly stare
 - 49. From this time
 - 50. Equinox month
 - 51. Concludes
 - 52. Underwater hermit
 - 53. Arnold Lobel’s “Frog and ____”
 - 54. Tug-of-War equipment
 - 55. Soon, to a bard
 - 56. Burton of gothic horror genre

CROSSWORD

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Extension suggests putting hummingbird feeders out early

BY RYAN MCGEENEY
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — While many Arkansas hummingbird lovers have typically filled their first feeders in mid-April, extension experts say the best way to support the migration is to hang those feeders with the first signs of spring, if not earlier. And in 2025, “earlier” is even sooner than you think.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds have already been sighted across the southeastern United States, from eastern Texas to Florida, according to Hummingbird Central, a hub for volunteer hummingbird migration sightings. The group’s 2025 migration page shows about a dozen sightings in Arkansas, including one as far north as Russellville.

Sherri Sanders, White County agricultural extension agent for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the mid-April “rule of thumb” is likely based on a common misunderstanding of the spring gardening checklist.

“People wait until April 15 or so to put out their hummingbird feeders, I think because they correlate that with planting warm-season vegetables,” Sanders said. “But we need them out about a month before that, because our little babies are coming through Arkansas on their way to Canada.

“We need to get the word out to help them with a pit stop so they can refuel,” she said.

In a blog post for the Cooperative Extension Service, Sanders recommended several prime locations for viewing hummingbirds in Arkansas, including Mount Magazine State Park, Petit Jean State Park, Hot Springs State Park and the Buffalo National River.

And of course, backyard gardens are always a great way to welcome in the migratory beauty. Sanders recommended planting native flowers, avoiding pesticides, providing shelter with trees and shrubs and maintaining water sources such as bird

baths and fountains.

Becky McPeake, extension wildlife biologist for the Division of Agriculture, said the occasional burst of unseasonably warm air from the south may drive the birds north ahead of their expected migration schedule.

“Hummingbirds are going to follow the weather,” McPeake said. “So if there’s enough nectar for them to consume, enough plants blooming, they’re just following the weather north in the spring.”

Both Sanders and McPeake said that Arkansans who haven’t put their feeders out already should make it a point to do so as soon as possible.

“There’s concern for birds in general, that there’s been a downward trend in population,” McPeake said. “Hummingbirds not only eat nectar, but also occasionally eat insects — so the perception that insect populations are decreasing also has implications for our songbirds, including the hummingbird.”

McPeake recommends a sugar-to-water ratio of 1:4. Red dye isn’t necessary to attract the birds, she said, and can in fact be harmful to them.

“Go ahead and put your feeder out early,” she said. “You might have to clean it a few times and replenish the sugar, but you’ll be ready when they come through, whenever that might be. Look for the signs of spring, such as blooming flowers. That’s when you need to have your feeders out.”

McPeake and Sanders said hummingbird lovers should also keep watch for the southern migration, which occurs in September and October, as flocks return south.

“We ask that people keep their feeders out later in the year, until there are no hummingbirds seen,” McPeake said. “People don’t need to take their feeders down by any certain date — they just need to watch their feeders and keep them up until there just aren’t any stragglers.

“Some of these birds are heading south from as far north as Canada,” she said. “They need to stop and replenish themselves for a few days before they continue their journey south.”

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

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