

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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USPC 103-230

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Energy assistance program open through April 30

LITTLE ROCK -- The 2025 Winter Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis assistance program is currently open and ends on April 30, 2025. LIHEAP applications are still available in all 19 CADC counties. To find out where to apply or to check local intake schedules, visit www.cadc.com/utility-assistance. If you have any questions, or want to know more about the program, please call (501) 326-6229 or visit our website at www.cadc.com/utility-assistance.

Bomb threat closes county school campus for a day

PCSO seeks more information

ROSBORO -- On April 3 the Pke County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) was alerted to a bomb threat at Centerpoint School. Emergency personnel swiftly responded, and the schools were evacuated promptly to ensure the safety of all students and staff. School was not resumed that day. The school grounds were thoroughly searched with the assistance of a bomb-detection dog provided by the Hot Springs Police Department. No bomb or suspicious devices were located during the search. The Pike County Sheriff's Office extended its "sincere gratitude" to the Hot Springs Police Department, Centerpoint School Faculty, Glenwood Police Department, Glenwood Fire Department, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Pafford EMS, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Amity Police Department, Pike County Office of Emergency Management and the Arkansas State Police for their outstanding cooperation and response to this matter. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to the safety of every child in Pike County. Threats of this nature are taken extremely serious, and we will continue to act swiftly and decisively to protect our community," said the press release from the PCSO. This case is currently under investigation, and we are working diligently to identify and bring to justice the individual(s) responsible for this threat. If any member of the public had credible information regarding this case, please contact Investigator Jason McDonald with the Pike County Sheriff's Office at (870) 285-3315 or email jmcdonald@pikeso.com.



Submitted photos/Lee Vincent

FLOOD DAMAGE ... The above photos represent damage across the county as massive amounts of rainfall were dumped over the area late last week. Pike County Emergency Management Coordinator Lee Vincent estimated that the damage to public property inside Pike County could top 1.5 million dollars and noted that many counties across the state would be worse off. He said repairs would proceed in a worst case scenario first, working on areas that cut off homes first. "Basically anything that has a downward slope experienced some washing out," Vincent said of the county's rural road system. Vincent also said a likely tornado (not yet confirmed by the National Weather Service) was sighted touching down in wooded areas near Lodi.

Flooding washes out county last week, repairs ongoing

PIKE COUNTY -- After storms inundated the area with water late last week, many county roads and properties experienced flooding issues. The National Weather Service out of Little Rock reported that Murfreesboro received 10.92 inches of rain, while Delight saw 12.85 inches and Antoine 13.1. Pike County Emergency Management Director Lee Vincent said that to report flood damage residents should call his office at (870) 285-2750. "I am in and out due to meetings about the flood but if you leave your name and phone number I will call you back," Vincent stated on social media. When reporting, the information required will include your name, address, phone number, type of home, how deep was the water in your home, and if you have insurance or not. Vincent said to report farm damage please contact the local farm service agent. The county's throughfares took a beating in the deluge, according to Vincent. "Several of our roads around the county have taken damage from the flooding event we are going through. Our road department is working diligently to repair them as soon as possible, and some will need time for waters to

subside before they can be gotten to. Some of the affected roads were partially or completely shut down heading into the early part of this week, including:

- Nathan Road between Hwy 27 and Muddy Fork Road near Nathan
- Roy Road at Terrell's Access near Murfreesboro
- Pike City Road just past Hwy 379 turn out-side of Murfreesboro
- Mitchell Road in Kirby
- John Hale Road in Kirby
- Camp Tula Road in Daisy area
- East Farm Road in Delight area
- Low Water area in Murfreesboro
- Single lane bridge on Antoine's Highway 301 side
- Strawberry Road and Wolf Creek Bridge near Delight
- Caddo Gap Road

"There are tons of the smaller side roads with damage as well ... please be careful on the roads and watch for holes/washouts," Vincent added. Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said he has been traveling the county roads to inspect the damage. "I spent the weekend looking at our catastrophic flooding in our county. There's not a

county road, either one of my road crew of I have not gone down. It's really bad over the whole county." As such, Howard has declared the event as an official disaster. "I declared our county as a disaster area, as did most of the counties in south Arkansas, which could potentially open us up to some disaster relief from FEMA or ADEM." He added that as more counties input their damages throughout the state, the better it will be for disaster relief by reaching the threshold, but that would be a reimbursement after the fact and there was no guarantee of such monies at this moment. Repair efforts are ongoing and being treated in a triage manner. "We have identified areas that need immediate work because people can't drive to their homes, other places are really rough but are drivable, we will get to those places, but we're going to concentrate on the worst areas first. We will get everything fixed, but it will take some time. Thank you ahead of time for your patience and God bless everyone." Howard said Monday afternoon that Lewis Lee road had been repaired and that Camp Tula was next on the list.

Man charged with theft following attempt to remove tires from Glenwood vehicle

Little Rock man also charged with residential burglary

MURFREESBORO -- A Little Rock man has been charged in Pike County following an incident in Glenwood. Montana Curry, 23, was charged April 3 with residential burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and theft of property. On March 18, the Glenwood Police Department was called to a home on East Broadway where a suspect had tried remove the wheels and tires from the owner's Lincoln Town Car, which had been partially jacked up in the drive. The home also appeared to have been entered and some of the home's items were out by the car. By the car, officers found a left-foot brown boot and a right-foot "Hey Dude" shoe and a backpack on the trunk. Earlier on March 18, an abandoned Lincoln Town Car was reported to be parked at the flea market near the resident on East Broadway. Th vehicle was same make and model as the other vehicle. Upon arrival at the abandoned vehicle, officers encountered Curry in the vehicle. Curry was reportedly wearing one boot and one "Hey Dude" shoe. He told officers he had been at the residence "trying to borrow a wheel." Curry plead innocent to the charges on April 4 and a June 2 pretrial date was set. He is currently on a parole hold in the Pike County jail with a \$25,000 bond. On April 2, drug charges were filed against Kevin Jeffery Stockton, 36, of Glenwood. He is charged with possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. Stockton, an active probationer, was arrested by the Glenwood Police Department along with the Montgomery County probation office on March 21 following a search on Opal Street in Glenwood. The search reportedly found methamphetamine and various paraphernalia including a pair of loaded syringes. Stockton plead innocent to the charges on April 4. He is currently in county custody and being held on a \$25 bond.

In a 'Bright' decision, school board hires new coach

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board met in special session Monday night to handle personnel issues, including the hiring a new boys' basketball head coach. By a 5-0 vote with one member absent, the board approved the hiring of Kevin Bright of Horatio, who will come to Murfreesboro High School from the Ashdown School District. Bright will also serve as assistant football coach. Bright was picked from a field of seven other applicants, including Jason Barker, Chance

Lyle, Timothy Webb, Tank Woodley, Anthony Linville, David Davis and Levi Lock. According to Bright's resume, he has 24 years of coaching and teaching experience in basketball, football, softball and track as well as health, physical education and Social Studies. He describes himself as a "team leader who is open to new ideas, thinks outside the box and skillfully handles student/parent challenges." Bright has worked at two stints at Ashdown and has also coached at Horatio and Lewisville. He is a combat engineer with the U.S. Air Force and Arkansas Air National Guard in Little Rock and is a veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom and

Enduring Freedom campaigns. In other business during the special meeting, the board accepted the resignations of Adam Morris, Brooklyn Cox, Gene Strode and Lynn Gleba, and approved the hiring of Mckenize May as the including/resource teacher for the next school year. The board also voted to hire Caden Dixon and Albert Quiroz as student workers for the remainder of the school year. Monday's meeting was scheduled to start at 7 p.m. but due to the Rattler baseball game going long the meeting did not convene until 7:43 and adjourned at 7:53.



Submitted photos/PC4-H

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS ... Pike County 4-H recently held their county level competition for the statewide 4-H Ross Photography Contest. Two of the winners are pictured above and right. The Ross Foundation photography contest provides an opportunity for Arkansas 4-H'ers across the state to "demonstrate, compete and exhibit their photography skills and is open to 4-H members aged 9-19. Categories for the contest include color living, color non living, black and white living and black and white non living. County level winners move on to the state competition. Please see more pictures on Page 6.

Egg hunt set for this Saturday

MURFREESBORO -- The Gypsy Underground Flea Market in Murfreesboro will host an easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 12.

The event is designed for children up to 10 years old. A special section will be set aside for ages 0-4.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as pictures with the Easter Bunny, Micky Mouse and Minnie Mouse will be available from 9-10 a.m. in front of the store.

The egg hunt will then be conducted from 10 a.m. until the eggs are gone. Each child will be allowed to collect a provided bagful of plastic eggs that will contain prizes or candy. It is asked that eggs not be opened until returning to the front, as some eggs may contain smaller part items.

Parents will be asked to supervise their children during the event.

Rattlers defeat Horatio

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers baseball team moved to 9-5 on the season and 5-0 in league play with an 11-0 win over Horatio on April 1 at home.

Murfreesboro scored three runs in the bottom of the third inning to take a 4-0 lead, and then added five runs in the fifth inning to bolster their control of the game.

Brody Maroon doubled and homered en route to scoring twice and driving in five runs.

Carter Gilmer would also add a double on his 3/3 day at the plate, driving in one and scoring twice.

Laytan Wilcher drove in a pair of runs and scored once.

The Rattlers did a great job of driving in runs when available -- after nine hits and five batters drawing walks -- the team only stranded three baserunners in the game.

Isaac Kuykendall started the game for the Rattlers from the mound, completing five innings with three hits, two walks and striking out six batters.

Gilmer would pitch the sixth inning for MHS, striking out a pair.

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

Call (870) 285-2723 to reserve yours in the next edition

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JIMMIE LEE THOMAS, Deceased No. 55PR-25-15

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATRIX AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Estate of: Jimmie Lee Thomas, Deceased
Last known address: 7406 Alto Caro Drive
Dallas, Texas 75248

Date of Death: October 6, 2020

The undersigned was appointed Ancillary Administratrix of the estate of the above mentioned decedent on the 25th day of March, 2025.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned 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 2nd day of April, 2025.

JOANN THOMAS,

Ancillary Administratrix
By: ERIC T. BISHOP
Attorney for the Estate
317 NW Front Street
Ashdown, Arkansas 71822

(e,b, 148w., 39-40)

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
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- 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.**

MURFREESBORO CEMETERY DONATIONS

MURFREESBORO -- The following donations have been given to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund from January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025

\$240.00 - Winston Hile
\$200.00 - Gloria Hill
\$100.00 - Donald H. Kidd
\$50.00 - Carolyn Branch Greenwood
Sherry Johnson Wenta in memory of Cora & Lloymal James Anderson
Joyce Woodruff in memory of Dick Carroll
Marlene Steen in memory of Dick Carroll

Marty & Joan Withers in memory of Dick Carroll
Betty Walls in memory of Dick Carroll
Pat Owens Morgan in memory of Dick Carroll

Shannon Lamb family in memory of Dick Carroll
Debby Scoggin in memory of Dick Carroll
Mark & Betty Parrish in memory of Dick Carroll
Glenna Butler in memory of Dick Carroll

Jessie Deer & Jeanette Woods in memory of Dick Carroll
Jim & Susan O'Neal in memory of Dick Carroll

Joe Phillip Watkins in memory of Dick Carroll
Rob Evans in memory of Dick Carroll
Marc Jackson family in memory of Dick Carroll

Robert & Wanda O'Neal in memory of Dick Carroll

Family of Walter & Juanez Fugitt in memory of Dick Carroll

Scott & Tracey Corbitt in memory of Dick Carroll

Bobby & Eleanor Watkins in memory of Dick Carroll

Murfreesboro Water & Sewer System in memory of Dick Carroll

Nina Cox in memory of Dick Carroll

Mowing season is here and the upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by your donations. Donations may be given to Gary Don Turner, Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbe and Joyce Woodruff. Donations may also be mailed to: Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund Inc., P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

Cheer benefit dinner tickets now on sale

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro cheer program is currently selling tickets for their annual program chicken dinner fundraiser.

The event is set for May 5 from 5-6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$10 each.

The meal will consist of smoked chicken, baked potato, green beans, roll, dessert and drink.

Tickets are currently on sale now until April 28. To obtain tickets, contact a MHS or MJHS cheerleader or e-mail MHS cheer sponsor Melissa Jones at melissa.jones@rattlers.org.

The cheer program is self-funded, and money from the event will go towards clothing, incidentals and programming for squad members.

An online auction to raise funds will

also be conducted from Saturday, April 26 until Saturday, May 3 on a Facebook Group Page.



You're invited to an Easter Egg Hunt

The Gypsy Underground in Murfreesboro will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, for ages 0-4 and children up to 10 years old. Pictures will be available with the Easter Bunny, Mickey and Minnie Mouse from 9-10 a.m. The hunt will begin at 10 a.m. and continue till all eggs are found.

* PARENTS WILL BE ASKED TO SUPERVISE THEIR CHILDREN DURING THIS EVENT *

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)

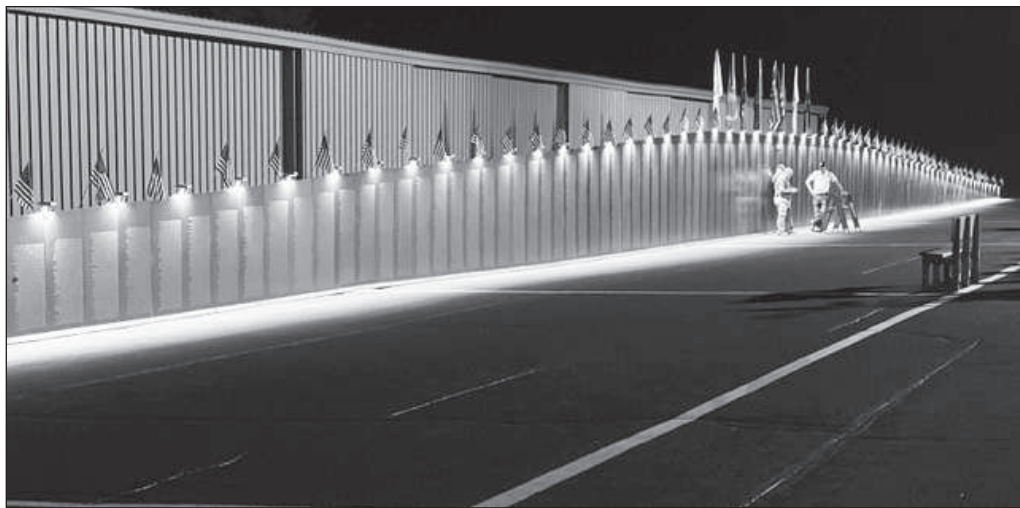
MJHS track teams compete at Magnet Cove's Junior Panther Relays

MALVERN -- The Murfreesboro Junior High track squads competed at Magnet Cove's Junior Panther Relays on Tuesday, April 1. The boys finished in fifth place with 61 points, while Prescott won the event with 178 points. Dierks would finish with 68 points, good for fourth place. On the girl's side, the Lady Rattlers finished in third place with 78 points. Nashville won the event with 150.5 points, while Dierks was fourth with 77.5 points. The Murfreesboro teams will next compete in Nashville on Tuesday. Athletes finishing in point earning places at

the Magnet Cove included: MJHS Ma'Shaylia Morris, second place high jump, 4'8"; fifth place discus, 63'10"; seventh place 200 meter dash, 30.10; third place 100 meter dash, 13.87 McKinlee White, first place pole vault, 5'6" Cooper Lowery, first place pole vault, 8'6"; fifth place 800 meter run, 2:36.37 Jacob Shaw, third place pole vault, 6'6"; fifth place 300 meter hurdles, 50.31 Macy Gills, seventh place long jump, 13'9.75"; first place 400 meter dash, 1:03.48; fifth place 200 meter dash, 29.50' second place 100

meter dash, 13.83 Josh Fox, sixth place triple jump, 33'11"; 400 meter dash fourth place, 59.29 Boy's 4x800 meter relay team, third place, 11:15.39 Girl's 4x800 meter relay team, fifth place, 13:09.99 Charles Morrow, first place discus, 117'2" Blakelee Dixon, eighth place shot put, 27'9" Adalyn Silva, sixth place 1600 meter run, 6:54.35 Jack Lamb, eighth place 1600 meter run, 6:27.48 Girl's 4x100 meter relay team, fifth place,

58.12 Boy's 4x100 meter relay team, seventh place, 52.69 Blayze Stone, eighth place 300 meter hurdles, 52.54 Girl's 4x400 meter relay team, third place, 5:08.26 Boy's 4x400 meter relay team, sixth place, 4:34.60 Isaac Smith, fifth place shot put, 37'4" Girl's 4x200 meter relay team, third place, 2:05.34 Boy's 4x200 meter relay team, seventh place, 1:50.90



Submitted photo/Visit Hot Springs

VIETNAM MEMORIAL ... Shown is the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica exhibit at Hot Springs when it last visited in 2012.

Replica wall comes to Hot Springs May 23

HOT SPRINGS -- A 360-foot-long replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial — commonly known as The Wall — will be on display at the Hot Springs Memorial Field airport from May 23 to May 26. The America's Freedom Tribute wall is 80 percent as large as the famous Wall in Washington, D.C., according to Visit Hot Springs CEO Steve Arrison. VHS is joining Veterans of Valor Organization of Hot Springs, Hot Springs VFW Post 2278 and Hot Springs American Legion Post 2020 in bringing the traveling tribute to Hot Springs. "We're honored to be able to partner with our local veterans organizations to bring this important Freedom Tribute back to Hot Springs," Arrison said. "The last time it was here, in 2012, more than 14,000 people visited the exhibit at the airport. "We believe it's a touching and important reminder of the sacrifices Americans have made in defense of our country. It's free and open to the public, and we anticipate an even larger number of people will enjoy the opportunity to see it." The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which sits

near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, chronologically lists the names of 58,318 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country during the Vietnam War. Kyla Doherty, spokesperson for America's Freedom Tribute, said, "Roaming the heartlands of America, our mission is to bring our traveling Veterans Tribute to communities across the land. It recognizes their service, preserves their stories and fosters a sense of gratitude and respect throughout the U.S.A. in recognition of their sacrifices for our freedom. All the while, enlightening young Americans about the profound contributions of our veterans." "The 80 percent replica wall provides communities with an incredible opportunity to pay respect to our veterans, honor the fallen, and remember the sacrifice made by so many in service of our great country." "Our tribute is a sight to see. With our beautiful bronze panels and detailed graphics, the names are etched in white so they are so clearly seen." For more information contact Steve Arrison, (501) 321-2027.

Second shot at blanket orders

MURFREESBORO -- A few too many blankets were produced last year for the Murfreesboro cheerleader fundraiser, providing a few lucky local residents with one more shot to order. There are 18 blankets available (see photo below -- 13 of the left design or 5 of the right design -- and orders will be on a first paid basis. The blankets are \$65 each. For more information, contact MHS cheer sponsor Melissa Jones @ melissa.jones@rattlers.

org "If you have seen these blankets at any event, they are great quality and worth it," said Jones, noting there will not be another order and this is the final opportunity to obtain one. The order form can be downloaded from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BChFiX3HB1k8060TATZuJx9rBFkGSR8H/view?usp=drive_link or visit the live-feed section of the school's website at www.rattlers.org.



Preorders for Juneteenth t-shirts now available

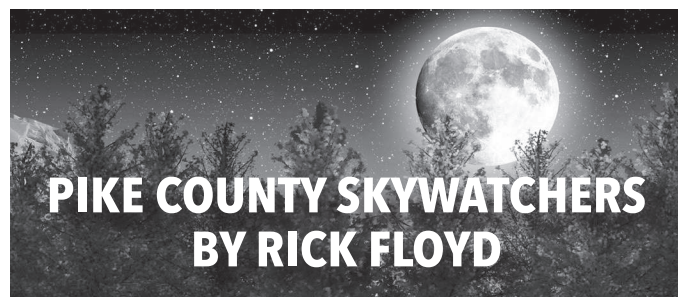
MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro's second annual Juneteenth Celebration is set for June 14 at the Murfreesboro City Park. In anticipation of the event, local residents can now place pre-orders on commemorative t-shirts. Shirts are being priced at \$20 for sizes small-2XL, \$22 for 3XL and \$25 for 4XL. Local businesses can also

get into the action with sponsorships that will be located on the back of the shirts. The business sponsorships will be priced at \$50 for a logo or \$100 for a banner. For more information, contact Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce president Lisa

Harvill at lisa@harvillandasociates.com. All orders and sponsorships must be submitted by May 30, and all payment must be made at the time of the order. Checks can be made to the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce.

Send Your Community Announcements

mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

Venus now prefers morning

You may have noticed Venus was both the evening "star" and the morning "star" as March changed over to April. Venus is now only a morning riser low in the pre-dawn east, and it will get higher each morning through April. The Moon will be full on April 12, rising as the sun is setting at about 7:22 p.m. C.D.T. A common name for the Moon this time of year is Pink Moon. It gets the name because of the prevalence of an early spring wildflower, the Moss Phlox (Phlox subulate), and not because it is pink. Roman Catholic and Protestant Christian Churches have given the Moons of March and April the distinction of setting the date of Easter Sunday each year. Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, which is simply the Full Moon that happens on or after the Vernal (spring) Equinox. Easter Sunday comes in late April this year because of the late Paschal Full Moon, on April 12/13. The system has complications, but that is it briefly stated. The Moon this month is also notable because it is approaching apogee (the farthest point in its orbit away from Earth). Because of its distance from Earth, it is referred to popularly as a micro-moon appearing slightly smaller than usual. The average distance of the Moon from Earth is 237,700 miles. It will be 251,655 miles away by April 13.

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UAMS HOUSE CALL



Dr. Daniel Knight is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: How is gout treated?

A: Gout is a form of arthritis caused by a buildup of uric acid, a product which is normally filtered through the kidneys. Excessive amounts of uric acid can form crystals, which settle into joints and cause intense pain. The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases estimates that 9.2 million U.S. adults are affected by gout. Gout normally occurs in one joint at a time. It typically appears in the big toe, but ankles, elbows, feet and knees can also be affected. Gout attacks (known as flares) may come on suddenly, and the joint can be hot, swollen and tender to the touch. Risk factors for gout include consuming sugary foods and drinks containing fructose, a family history of gout, being overweight or having such medical conditions as high blood pressure and heart disease. Gout affects men more than women. Men frequently develop gout between the ages of 30 and 50, while women tend to experience the condition after menopause. Treatment for gout includes corticosteroids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to manage pain. A diet low in purine, which reduces uric acid in the body, may be recommended to reduce the chances of attacks. Contact your health care provider for questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



Staff photo/John Balch

KINDNESS AWARD ... South Pike County Superintendent Tanya Wilcher (at right) accepts the Kindness School Award from MES Principal James Riley and Counselor Rachelle Erwin among with members of the MES Kindness Club Senior Ambassadors (back from left) Josiah Craven, Sophia Cox, Jase Crabtree; (middle) Ora Kidd, Kaydee Kuykendall, Lily McRae, Ellie Woods, Sadie Varner, Mason Stone; and Blaze Quiroz up front.

Elementary school named for kindness award

MURFREESBORO -- April 2, 2025 was a special day for the Murfreesboro Elementary School staff and students as they were awarded an exclusive award for the State of Arkansas.

MES is now the only school in Arkansas to earn the Kindness School Award, which is handed out to schools across the country by The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation. The group is a nonprofit with "a mission of making kindness the norm" and achieves that goal by providing free resources to participants focusing on schools, workplaces, and home and communities.

The award was presented to Superintendent Tanya Wilcher by MES Counselor Rachelle

Erwin, Principal James Riley and the school's Kindness Club Senior Ambassadors, comprised of fifth and sixth graders.

A "Certified Kindness School" is a school that "actively fosters a culture of compassion, respect, and empathy, going beyond academics to promote kindness in daily actions."

Erwin said the district started the accreditation process last year for the program and submitted paperwork this year, which involved the school's documented Random Acts of Kindness, Kindness Club, Choose Love Curriculum, Kindness Challengers and Kindness Student Ambassadors.

Local raising funds for 3-year mission to Northern Ireland

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO - Olivia Turner has known she would return to Northern Ireland since her junior year at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Mo.

It was then during a trip with the college that Turner "fell in love with the people and culture" of Northern Ireland.

"It's where I felt called to go," she said during a recent trip back home to Murfreesboro from Joplin. She is the daughter of Darwin and Sheryl Turner and older sister of Kristina. The family attends First Christian Church in Murfreesboro.

"During that trip, I just felt like God was calling me to go back."

Turner, 23, was soon involved with New International, a sending agency promoting global missions, and eventually returned to Belfast, Northern Ireland for a nine-week internship with a relatively new church, The Gathering. Her work focused on community outreach and pastoral care for women, youth and families within the parish.

She had found the calling. When Turner graduated from college in December 2024 with a major in Biblical justice and a minor in organizational leadership, she continued to follow the call and again partnered with New International and The Gathering for her to return to Belfast for a three-year mission.

The church has created an unpaid position for Turner that continues her previous intern work and she will live in a rented room belonging to a friend she met during her last stay.

"I am a missionary," Turner said. Being a missionary involves "raising 100 percent of my support," according to Turner. "Missionaries rely on the generosity of other people to be able to go," she said.

However, Turner added, "I am trying to do everything I can to support myself." She's even selling her vehicle. "I'm doing my part. I'm not just asking."

First Christian Church will host a mission yard sale including clothing, home decor, tools and more on Saturday, April 26, starting at 8 a.m., with all proceeds going towards Turner's mission expenses.

Persons wanting to donate items for the sale can contact the church or Turner by email: oturmer@newinternational.org.

In addition, tax-deductible donations may be made by visiting newinternational.org and typing 'Olivia Turner' into the search bar and following the instructions. Turner said monthly supporters will be vital to the mission.

"It really is an amazing opportunity for other people, as well, because they get to see and partner with what God is doing in different places in the world, just knowing God is still moving in those places."

Turner will also keep supporters updated

with a personal newsletter. And she said she is always open to discussing her beliefs.

If raising funds is not a big enough of a challenge, Turner has picked a country where religion and politics fueled a conflict deeply rooted in Ireland's history and known as "The Troubles" which britannica.com describes as a "violent sectarian conflict from about 1968 to 1998.. between overwhelmingly Protestant unionists and Roman Catholic nationalists."

The conflict may have been resolved in 1998, but animosity remains to this day towards the church. Physical "Peace Walls" or fences still separate protestant and Catholic neighborhoods.

"They are a post-Christian country and so they are mainly non-religious and because of all the conflict between catholics and protestants, and the political side of that, it has very much turned people away from Jesus and away from the church," she said, noting the importance for youth and community outreach roles.

"They have been hurt by it so they are not interested but that's a misrepresentation of Christ."

Turner said she has prayed for "boldness" in representing and presenting her beliefs to others and that she has found the best way is to "live authentically as Jesus did and show them how Jesus changed our lives and that he can change their lives, as well."

"There's always some hesitancy when trying to lead people into a closer relationship with Christ," she said. "You don't want to push it down people's throats. I'm a believer and I know that my life is better with Christ and that God is working on them and transforming their hearts along the way."

Turner is hoping to be in Belfast by July, but if that doesn't happen, she knows "that's God's timing and it will happen when it's supposed to happen."



Submitted photo

MES to host special programming Thursday

MURFREESBORO -- Parents and local residents are asked to mark your calendars for this Thursday, April 10.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held at Murfreesboro High School and Murfreesboro Elementary School from 4-6 p.m.

The school also invites attendees to take part in other events happening that evening including MHS EAST: EAST Night Out Science Fair, grades 3-4 Student Showcase and grades 5-6 G/T Renaissance Fair.

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 email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

A "CAN-DO" ATTITUDE

"I" - Because of the first-person pronoun "I", the reader automatically becomes a part of the verse.

"I Can" - Saying "I can" leaves out any "I think", "I might", "I could", or "I should."

"I Can Do" - When we say, "I can do", what we mean to suggest is that we can put our lives into action with confidence. It is not just a passing thought.

"I Can Do All Things" - Everything within righteous reason is possible with the right attitude.

"I Can Do All Things



Through" - There is a powerful source through which we can accomplish much. It is not beside of, over, or under - it is THROUGH.

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ" - Christ is the central force through whom all righteous things can be ac-

complished.

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens" It is Christ as our Savior, Redeemer, Mediator, High Priest, and King, who provides insurmountable strength to those who love Him!

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me" - Last, but not least, the reader is not only encouraged by the strength that Christ provides, but by the strength He provides on an individual basis.

-Jason Hart, Via Bulletin Gold

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show one of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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ABRAHAM WAS TOLD HIS STEWARD, ELIEZER TO GO TO THE LAND OF ARABIAH'S BIRTH AND BRING BACK A YOUNG MAIDEN TO BECOME THE WIFE OF HIS SON, ISAAC, NOW...

...ELIEZER SWEARS A VOW THAT HE WILL DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO BRING THIS ABOUT...

FOR SUCH A JOURNEY THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!

...THE SERVANTS GO INTO THE PROVISION TENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE LONG TRIP...

...NOT ONLY FOOD BUT GOLD, SILVER, AND GEMS WILL BE NEEDED FOR MANY GIFTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE.

...STURDY CAMELS ARE LOADED WITH FOOD, WATER, WINE, GARMENTS, AND RICH GIFTS OF SILKS AND FINE WOOLS - NOT TO MENTION SHEBELS OF GOLD AND TALENTS OF SILVER. FOR OBTAINING A WIFE IS A VERY COSTLY AFFAIR, AND SERIOUS, AS LONG JOURNEYS THROUGH THE WILD COUNTRY OF THESE ANCIENT TIMES ARE FILLED WITH MANY DANGERS AND HARSHIPS!

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Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

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TV SIBLINGS

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Newton of science
6. Over the top, in text
9. *Monica Geller's brother
13. Eurasian antelope
14. Public health org.
15. Add together
16. Underground worker
17. Put down
18. Modify
19. *Mitchell Pritchett's sister Claire
21. *Alex P. Keaton's sister
23. Lao-tzu follower
24. ___ it like it is
25. Banned insecticide
28. Wolf, in Mexico
30. Ubiquitous deciduous tree
35. Nevada's ___ 51
37. Passionate dislike
39. What scribes do
40. Lime-rich soil
41. Rocky ridge
43. Flying saucers, acr.
44. Certain "razor" creator
46. Skier's aid
47. Sicilian mountain
48. Activity of the intellect
50. Rush job notation, acr.
52. Stitch
53. Belted out
55. Mad Hatter's beverage of choice
57. *Wednesday Addams' brother
61. *Richie Cunningham's sister
64. Palate lobe
65. Jersey call
67. Notches made by saw
69. Olympic 4x4 race, e.g.
70. Public house, for short
71. Fill with optimism
72. Wholly engrossed
73. Store posting, for short

74. Slow on the uptake

DOWN

1. Any doctrine
2. "He ___, She Said"
3. Hokkaido language
4. Actor's representative
5. ___ tunnel
6. "___ the Lonely," song
7. *One "Sister, Sister"
8. Bouquet garni ingredient
9. Sushi choice
10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
11. Court petitioner
12. Light on one's feet
15. Rendered suet
20. Tumult and commotion
22. Any high mountain
24. Carryall (2 words)
25. *Vampire Stefan Salvatore's brother
26. Harry Potter's antagonist
27. 9 a.m. prayer
29. *Lisa and Maggie's naughty brother
31. *Phoebe and Piper Halliwell's sister
32. British elevators
33. Repent
34. Redo, to a carpenter
36. "Sad to say ..."
38. J.F.K. postings
42. Muse of love poetry
45. Lose
49. Famous frat house letters
51. Reached culmination
54. Naiad or maenad
56. Anoint
57. Make like a cat
58. Part of an eye
59. Mouthful, swallowed
60. Fence board
61. Apple co-founder
62. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit
63. Newts in terrestrial stage
66. Belonging to us
68. Be a witness

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Local farmers markets: a boost for small farmers and community health

Farmers markets have long been celebrated for their role in connecting local farmers with their communities. These vibrant hubs of commerce and culture are more than just places to buy fresh fruits and vegetables—they offer significant economic, and social benefits to both consumers and producers.

The Murfreesboro Farmers Market serves as a gathering place for local farmers, food producers, and artisans. It offers everything from seasonal fruits and vegetables to handmade crafts and local honey. The market not only supports local agriculture but also promotes sustainability, health, and a deeper connection to the food people consume.

The economic impact extends beyond the immediate sale of goods. Studies show that for every dollar spent at a local farmers market, a substantial portion of that money stays within the community, boosting the local economy and supporting jobs. Farmers markets also encourage local tourism, drawing in visitors from outside the area who are interested in experiencing the unique offerings of a particular region.

One of the greatest strengths of farmers markets is their ability to provide small and mid-sized farmers with an opportunity to stay in business. According to recent studies, farmers who sell at farmers markets have nearly a 10 percent greater chance of surviving long-term compared to those who sell through traditional channels, such as large grocery stores. This is because farmers markets allow them to sell their goods directly to consumers, cutting out middlemen and increasing profit margins. In addition, by participating in farmers markets, farmers can build loyal customer bases, gain immediate feedback on their products, and reduce the financial risk associated with traditional distribution methods.

Farmers markets also provide an essential low-barrier entry point for new farmers. With fewer startup costs and less overhead compared to selling through conventional retail channels,



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
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farmers markets allow newcomers to start small and scale as they learn the ropes of farming and marketing. This is especially critical for beginning farmers who may lack access to large-scale distribution systems or capital. They can test the market, build a reputation, and gradually grow their businesses at their own pace.

Consumers enjoy access to fresh, nutritious food that is often grown with fewer chemicals and pesticides than conventionally sourced produce. Produce is often harvested just hours before it is sold, preserving its flavor, texture, and nutritional value. In contrast, conventionally sourced produce is typically harvested long before it reaches store shelves, resulting in a loss of nutrients and a less flavorful experience.

More than just provide fresh produce—local markets foster a sense of community. By bringing people together in a shared space, farmers markets create opportunities for local residents to meet, interact, and engage in their local economy. This sense of connection can strengthen community ties and encourage collaboration among farmers, artisans, and consumers. It's not just about buying food—it's about building relationships and supporting local businesses.

If you are interested in selling at the Murfreesboro Farmers Market, you can get more information at the upcoming meeting

to be held 6 p.m. Thursday evening, April 17 at the Murfreesboro City Hall. Attendees will learn about Arkansas's Food Freedom Act and the requirements for selling foods at farmers markets. We will share ideas about different products that would do well at these venues and discuss ways to have a vibrant, successful local market. Hope to see you there!

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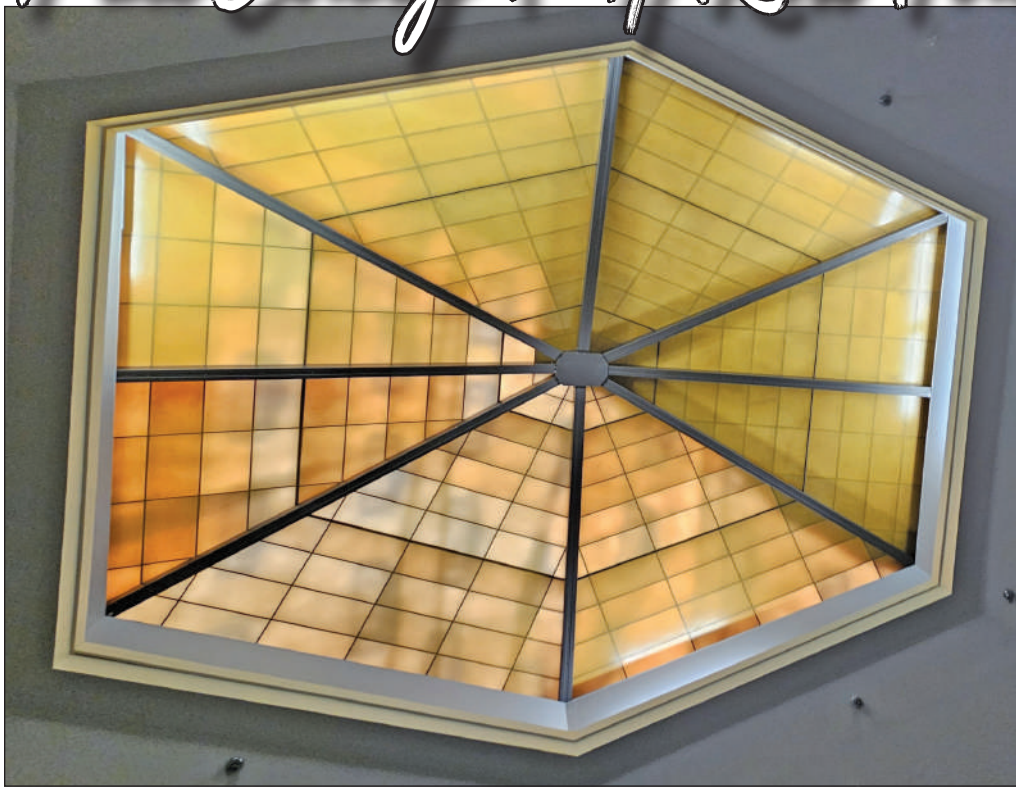
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Pike County 4-H/ Ross Foundation Photography Winners



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