

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

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4-H looks to help eliminate summer hunger for local kids

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is conducting a summer cereal drive to help fight summer hunger.

"The drive provides non-perishable breakfast items that are kid-friendly for children and families in Pike County who would otherwise go without the most important meal of the day -- breakfast," said Pike County 4-H assistant Shannon Ballard.

The items being requested are:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Toaster Pastries
- Granola Bars

Drop off sites for the items are at the Bainum Library and Learning Center in Glenwood and the Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro.

The program will run from June 1 to July 31.

Wanted man found in Hot Springs by US Marshals

MURFREESBORO -- A Delight man who allegedly absconded before he could be arrested on felony charges has been arrested by the US Marshals Service, according to Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald.

McDonald said James David Humphry, 49, was arrested in Hot Springs the night of May 30. Humphry is a convicted felony on parole and is now facing an absconding warrant, which will be separate from his existing felony charges.

Humphry was charged last month in Pike County with felony theft and first-degree criminal mischief following an alleged property dispute in Murfreesboro."

4-H announces project to dispose of old flags

MURFREESBORO -- Several Pike County 4-H students are conducting a project to properly dispose of old American flags.

Flags may be dropped off at the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro.

Congressman Westerman announces case specific office hours for June

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) has announced casework-specific office hours in district office locations across the Fourth District for the month of June, to assist with issues for constituents addressing Veterans' Affairs, Social Security, Medicare, IRS, USCIS, and passports.

For casework specifically related to Veterans' Affairs, the following dates and locations are available:

TEXARKANA

June 26 -- Miller County Courthouse: 400 Laurel St., Texarkana, AR, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For casework specifically related to Social Security, Medicare, IRS, USCIS, and passports, the following dates and locations are available:

HOT SPRINGS

June 10 -- 101 Reserve St. Suite 200, Hot Springs, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

TEXARKANA

June 24 -- Miller County Courthouse: 400 Laurel St., Texarkana, AR, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Staff/Submitted photos

DIAMOND COMES FULL CIRCLE ... Last Saturday, the Crater of Diamonds State Park hosted Kevin Kinard (above left), who discovered the brandy brown 9.07-carat Kinard Friendship Diamond (above right bottom), the second-largest diamond ever found at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Kinard unveiled the newly-cut and jewelry-set diamond and shared its journey from discovery to finished gem (above right top), including behind-the-scenes insights into its transformation by Lauray's The Diamond Center in Hot Springs. The diamond will be on display at the Crater's 12th Annual Prospectors' Gemboree and Famous Crater Diamonds Exhibit on June 21. Kinard, a 33-year-old bank branch manager from Maumelle found the diamond on Labor Day in 2020 just after Tropical Storm Laura dumped two inches of rain in Murfreesboro. Since the Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas state park in 1972, the only larger diamond found during that time is the 16.37-carat white Amarillo Starlight, discovered in August 1975. The previous record for the second-largest diamond found at the park belongs to the 8.81-carat white Star of Shreveport, discovered in 1981 by Carroll Blankenship, of Shreveport.

Texas fugitive arrested for second time in M'boro

MURFREESBORO -- A Texas fugitive has been arrested for a second time this year in Murfreesboro, according to Murfreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb.

Lamb said Neftalli Lugo, 33, of Houston, Texas, was taken into custody the evening of May 30 and is facing a local misdemeanor charge of fleeing. Lugo's companion, Jaymie Nance, 38, of Murfreesboro was also arrested at their home on West Dickson Street and is charged locally with possession of marijuana.

Lamb said his department along with county

deputies responded to the home on Dickson Street in reference to possible child abuse. When authorities arrived, Lugo allegedly fled on foot and was later apprehended at a local restaurant.

Lamb said Lugo is wanted on criminal charges out of Texas for an alleged assault on a police officer. Plans are now in the works with the U.S. Marshal Services to get him back to Texas to face the charges.

The chief added that Lugo has been arrested in Murfreesboro before. According to informa-

tion online, Lugo fled Connecticut back to Texas in April after he posted his bond in a criminal case there. He reportedly was charged with two counts of assault in Texas and then fled to Murfreesboro where he was staying with Nance and her children.

Lugo was extradited to Connecticut at that time by the U.S. Marshals Service.

Lugo and Nance remain in county custody, as of Tuesday morning.

Norman area residents to face charges of animal cruelty

DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Editor, Glenwood Herald and Montgomery County News

MONTGOMERY COUNTY -- Local concerns raised by area residents has led to the arrest of five Montgomery County residents in relation to an alleged animal cruelty case involving over 100 dogs, cats, and other animals.

Residents along Liberty Road south of Norman, Arkansas began raising concerns about possible inadequate care of animals at a residence on Liberty Road over a week ago. An investigation by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office resulted in the rescue of dozens of animals and the arrest of five individuals under the suspicion of cruelty to animals.

In a statement released by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Neal Thomas stated that the search warrant was served Thursday, May 29, 2025 on a 40 acre tract of land located outside the Norman community. The search warrant was in relation to the allegations of animal cruelty.

The five individuals arrested include: Janice Voerster, age 53, Jennifer Goodwin, age 32, Randy Hassen, age 61, Donald Bates, age 74, and Ronald Bates, age 74, all of Norman.

All five are being held on a \$1,000 bond under suspicion of animal cruelty, a class A misdemeanor. Hassan also is alleged to have been involved in an altercation with a MCSO officer during the execution of the search warrant. He faces one count each of Disorderly Conduct, a class C misdemeanor, and resisting arrest, a class A misdemeanor.

In a probable cause hearing held Friday in circuit court Sheriff Thomas testified that there were two locations involved in the search. One location was located on Smith Creek Road and the other on Liberty Road. Both locations included multiple structures.

Sheriff Thomas testified that over 100 dogs were located on the two properties with some roaming loose while others were caged, chained or housed in one of the structures. He described the conditions as uninhabitable with several animals visibly malnourished, covered in mud and feces, ticks and fleas.

He described one group of dogs located in a small kennel so small the dogs were unable to stand up in the kennel. The water bowl was filled with a dirty liquid that he state he couldn't identify as water.

Thomas testified that the floors and furnishings in the living structures were covered in several inches of feces with excessive trash in the residences. He also stated that the remnants of deceased animals were also

located in some of the residences.

Several volunteers gathered at the location to help in the rescue of animals. The MCSO statement reported that authorities seized over 100

CRUELTY Continued on Page 2

Submitted photo

HORRIFIC CONDITIONS ... A dog, pictured above, is shown in its former living conditions prior to being one of many animals seized last week following the arrest of five Montgomery County residents.

County economic development commission announces next steps in moving Pike County forward into the future

PIKE COUNTY – The Pike County Economic Development Commission (PCEDC) is undertaking steps in their growth to one day help bolster the current and future businesses of the county in an effort to grow and move the economies of the county in a positive direction.

The group explained how they were going to go about the process and what their goals were at a public presentation late last month in Murfreesboro.

The group, made up of members from across the county, stated their mission statement to open the presentation led by Glenwood based dentist Clayton Sorrells.

“The Pike County Economic Development Commission is dedicated to fostering sustainable economic growth and prosperity within our County through collaborative partnerships, strategic investments, targeted programs, and evidence-based initiatives. We will work diligently to expand, retain, and create new jobs while providing comprehensive support to existing businesses. Our holistic approach focuses on developing a resilient local economy, attracting new enterprises that complement our county’s strengths, and enhancing quality of life for all residents. Through responsible stewardship of resources and inclusive decision-making, we strive to build an economy that offers opportunities for everyone to thrive both today and for generations to come that create jobs, support businesses, and enhance quality of life for all residents.”

The PCEDC has formed a strategic partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI), whose expert analysis has helped inform the group with comprehensive data to start their journey. It was stated that In the upcoming months, PCEDC and AEDI will be collaborating closely to comprehensively refresh and enhance our information systems.

“This valuable alliance demonstrates our ongoing commitment to data excellence and positions us well for future growth opportunities,” Sorrells said.

On behalf of Pike County Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Economic Development Institute has stated that they intend to assist the county and PCEDC in the development and writing of a strategic plan designed to establish a list of community priorities and actionable steps toward those priorities.

This strategic plan will be developed through data collection, a community survey and meeting to better understand the public’s wants and needs, and a series of focus group meetings to further develop strategies.

Planned information from AEDI include:

- Up to date data on Pike County
- Community Survey and Survey Report
- 4-6 focus group meetings to develop strategies
- Pike County Strategic Plan

The project timeline for the first month will include collection up to date data on Pike County, which will be shared with Pike County through a public meeting.

Within the next two months, AEDI will create a survey to be distributed by PCEDC to residents, workers, and other participants across Pike County’s community and commerce, which will be processed and results reported back to the county via a second public meeting. The two groups will develop from four to six focus areas based on information received from the surveys and public meetings.

Then, in a period from three to seven months, AEDI and PCEDC host a series of focus groups to create strategies with actionable steps to further the established focus areas.

In eight months, AEDI will utilize all the information and strategies developed during the process to create a strategic plan

that PCEDC can use for a plan forward.

The Arkansas Economic Development Institute is located in Little Rock. For more information about the group, please visit [youraedi.com](#).

Some of the data provided by the AEDI includes:

- A roughly 1,000 person loss in population from the 2010 census across the county (11,000 to 10,000) with further losses projected through 2029 in a negative growth rate
- A population density of 16.6 persons per square mile
- A 44.2 median age, with the largest single age group being males 60-64 years of age
- A \$27,872 per capita income for residents in 2024, with a \$49,248 median household income and \$69,106 average household income
- Broken down by municipality, the per capita income and median household incomes are Antoine \$20,298/\$30.789, Daisy \$35,746/\$76,000, Delight \$31,561/\$30,682, Glenwood \$20,536/\$33,958 and Murfreesboro \$23,493/\$37,206
- Retail trade has the largest number of businesses in the county with 78, followed by services (excluding public administration) with 68, accommodation/food services with 56 and health care/social assistance with 38
- Some 17.5% of the county population lives below the poverty level (2022) with 20.8% of households below the poverty level
- In 2024 it is estimated that the average household will spend \$1,399 on apparel and services, \$5,024 on groceries, \$148 on computers and hardware, \$5,885 on health care and \$2,378 on eating out
- The labor force of Pike County is estimated at 3,950 people above age 16, with a 3.5% unemployment rate overall and a 10.7% unemployment rate for those aged 16-24
- Education levels are 10% with no high school diploma, 40% high school graduates, 30% with some college/associate’s degree and 19% with a bachelor’s and higher educational level
- The average commute time to work for people who reside in the county is 29.3 minutes

As for economic development of the county, it was stated that it is fundamentally structured as a three-legged stool, with each leg representing a critical function: job creation, job retention, and job expansion. Like any stool, the stability of a region’s economic development strategy depends on the equal strength and attention given to each component.

Sorrells stated that it was important not to focus solely on the acquisition of new businesses, but also to focus on the success of the businesses already located in the county.

“If PCEDC neglects any of these three pillars it will create inherent instability in our county’s economy. Just as a three-legged stool cannot stand with a weakened or missing leg, economic development strategies falter when they overemphasize recruitment at the expense of retention, or when they fail to nurture the expansion potential of their existing business community. The most successful economic development organizations implement coordinated strategies across all three areas, creating a balanced approach that maximizes employment opportunities while building sustainable economic prosperity.”

For the process of strategic planning, it was stated that the PCEDC needs to develop comprehensive economic development strategies with measurable goals that align with the county’s strengths and opportunities. This should include identifying target industries that match local assets through a process including:

- SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) specific to the local economy
- Asset-based community development approaches that build on existing resources
- Diversification strategies to reduce dependence on single industries
- Scenario planning for economic disruptions (recessions, natural disasters, industry shifts)
- Third-party facilitation for objective community input and stakeholder engagement
- Formal adoption of plans by governing bodies to ensure implementation

It was also stated that infrastructure was crucial to any growth plans – the County needs reliable transportation networks, affordable utilities, available industrial/commercial real estate, and robust broadband connectivity to ultimately attract and retain businesses.

Additionally, an educated workforce is crucial for any attempt

DEVELOPMENT Continued on Page 4

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Obituaries

Jerry Lee Linzy, 84, Murfreesboro



Jerry Lee Linzy, age 84, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas passed away on Monday, May 26, 2025, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born March 23, 1941, in Roy, Arkansas, the son of the late Woody Lee Linzy and Frances Inez Reeves Linzy.

Mr. Linzy was attending the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. He started out with his career at the age of 19 working for the Arkansas State Highway Department. Following that he spent many years working in construction operating a dozer and later becoming a foreman over construction crews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Brenda Kathleen

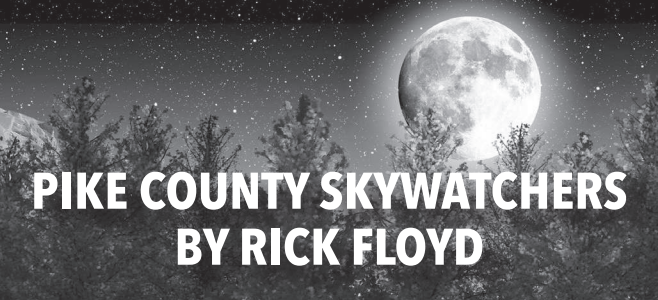
(Kathy) Linzy; and one brother David Linzy.

Survivors include one sister Jo Ann Hoover and husband Leon of Murfreesboro; one daughter Tracy Cortez and husband Ernest of Houston, Texas; step children Christy Peek and Sherri Lambert; adopted granddaughter Whitney Dickerson and husband Alexander; two nephews Brad Hoover of Murfreesboro, Shay Hoover and wife Mandy of Nashville; one niece Sherri Ford and husband Mark of Springhill; his sister in law Melva Linzy of Hope; as well as numerous family and friends.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, May 29, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with Bro. Kenneth Bobo officiating, burial followed in the Roy Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Roy Cemetery, In care of Jo Ann Hoover, 2306 Hwy. 301 S. Murfreesboro, AR. 71958, or Diamond Bank in Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](#)



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Earth and solar system takes a speedy vacation around the universe

The beginning of summer is on the horizon later this month. Among the things associated with this particular season are the dominance of the Sun and family vacations.

The Sun has been in a period of increased solar activity since late 2024 which is part of a cycle that occurs about every 11 years. This solar maximum period is predicted to peak in July. This maximum activity period can result in increased numbers of sun-spots, flares, auroras and geomagnetic storms that can disrupt communications, power grids and satellite systems. A major solar flare recently (June 1) caused auroras to be visible much further south than usual. There may be more to come this summer.

The heat of the summer sun is a good reminder of its power. Our star, like all stars, is a gigantic ball of hydrogen and helium held together by its gravity. The Earth is in an almost perfect orbital relationship with the Sun. If Earth was 10% closer to the Sun it would be too hot for most life, and if it was 10% farther from the Sun it would be frozen. Astronomers call Earth’s well-placed orbit the Goldilocks Zone. Consider also that a bowl the size of the Sun would hold 1.3 million Earths.

As families move about the planet on vacations, the Earth itself is on the move. The Earth spins at about 1000 miles per hour and orbits the Sun moving at a speed of 67,000 miles per hour. One day of orbital travel amounts to about 24,900 miles. So, if you need a low budget vacation this year, just get comfortable on the porch or patio and enjoy the ride on your planetary spaceship.

Earth’s cosmic motion and speed does not end with its motion around the Sun. Our Solar System moves along in the swirl of the Milky Way Galaxy at a leisurely 450,000 miles per hour (it takes about 230 million years to make a complete go around). The Milky Way itself is moving toward the mysterious “Great Attractor” (astronomers are not sure what it is) at a speed of about 325 miles per second. It is a wild ride across the universe.



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UAMS
HOUSE CALL



Dr. Amber Norris is an assistant professor in the UAMS Department of Family and Preventive Medicine who treats patients at UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena.

Q: How is carpal tunnel syndrome treated?

A: The carpal tunnel is a space in the wrist where ligaments, nerves and tendons pass through to the palm of the hand. Carpal tunnel syndrome is when the median nerve, which runs from the forearm through the carpal tunnel to the hand, is compressed due to irritation or swelling. It is a common condition — the American Medical Association estimates that as many as 10 million people in the U.S. are affected.

Arthritis, injury, trauma or mechanical issues in the wrist, as well as repetitive hand motions are some causes of carpal tunnel syndrome. Health conditions such as diabetes, gout and hypothyroidism can also cause carpal tunnel syndrome. Anyone can develop the condition, but it

is most common in people over the age of 40. Carpal tunnel syndrome affects women more than men.

Symptoms normally come about gradually and include numbness and tingling in the fingers and hand, cold or swollen fingers, and weakness in the affected hand.

Physical therapy to strengthen the muscles and increase flexibility in the wrist, over-the-counter medications to reduce inflammation and pain, and wearing a splint are possible treatments for carpal tunnel syndrome. In some cases, surgery may be necessary. See your health care provider if you are experiencing symptoms.

DEVELOPMENT Continued from Page 3

at attracting new business, as such PCEDC must collaborate with educational institutions to create training programs that align with industry needs, ensuring businesses have access to skilled workers.

The group will also seek to ensure financial tools are available, including tax incentives, grants, low-interest loans, and public-private partnerships that can support business growth and attraction. It was also stated that the PCEDC will need to create and monitor an economic analysis capabilities to track metrics like job growth, wage levels, business starts/closures and industry trends to measure progress and adjust strategies.

Sorrells stated that the county must work together for any plan to ultimately have success. “Strong partnerships between government, business, education, and community organi-

zations create the collaborative environment needed for economic success.”

The public has been invited to be a part of the process.

“We cordially invite you to become a valued member of the Pike County Economic Development Commission and attend our monthly meetings. As a collaborative alliance of forward-thinking businesses and dedicated citizens, our PCEDC is committed to fostering sustainable economic growth and enhancing quality of life throughout Pike County,” said Sorrells.

The PCEDC will commence the development of our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy on July 7 in the Kirby school cafeteria at 6 p.m.

“We ask for your participation and valuable input to ensure this strategic plan is authentically representative of Pike County residents’ needs and aspirations. Your contributions are

essential to shaping the economic future of our community,” said Sorrells.

It was stated that for those who wish to be a real part of the process, membership in the PCEDC offers unique opportunities to shape our region’s economic future through strategic initiatives, networking with key stakeholders, and access to specialized resources designed to support business expansion and workforce development.

“Whether you represent an established enterprise seeking new growth avenues, an emerging venture with innovative ideas, or are a citizen passionate about community prosperity, your perspective and participation are essential to our collective success,” Sorrells stated. “Join us in building a vibrant, resilient economy that benefits all members of our county. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities and create lasting prosperity for generations to come.”

Ultimately, the group will seek to hire an executive director, who will serve and represent the county in a full-time capacity. While the county, municipalities in the county and involved businesses/individuals will have to accrue the money to pay the executive director’s salary, Cossatot Community College will partner with the PCEDC in paying that person’s benefits.

To get more information on becoming a member, or on the PCEDC as whole, visit any of the board members listed below or email edcpikeco@gmail.com.

The PCEDC is comprised of president Johnny Plyler of Glenwood, vice-president Sorrells of Glenwood, secretary/treasurer Phil Terrell of Murfreesboro, Darwin Hendrix of Antoine, Becky Frazier of Daisy, Scott Howard of Delight and Karen Barlow, representing unincorporated Pike County.

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-25-22 --Tresa Hill, vs. Timothy Hill, divorce, May 1

DR-25-23 -- Cecil White, vs. Karen White, divorce, May 2

DR-25-24 -- Kelsey Johnson, vs. Matthew Oliver, order of protection, May 5

DR-25-25 -- Randi Lamb, vs. Jeffery Cox, divorce, May 8

DR-25-26 -- Trista Francis, vs. James Sample, divorce, May 9

DR-25-27 -- Morgan Morrow, vs. Nickolas Lockeby, order of protection, May 14

DR-25-28 --Christina Fugitt, vs. Dakota Stinnett, divorce, May 19

DR-25-29 -- Breanna Stevens, vs. Benjamin Stevens, order of protection, May 20

DR-25-30 -- Benjamin Stevens, vs. Breanna Stevens, divorce, May 29

CV-25-34 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Freela Hudson, civil-other, May 7

CV-25-35 -- Crown Asset Management, vs. Robert Cogburn, civil-other, May 8

CV-25-36 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Pasty House, contract-other, May 13

CV-25-37 -- Credit Acceptance Corp, vs. Drew and Sativa Hensley, contract-other, May 13

CV-25-38 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Cody Grinnis, contract-other, May 21

CV-25-39 -- Credit Acceptance Corp, vs. Jessica Perez, contract-other, May 22

CV-25-40 -- Citibank NA., vs. Steven Forrest, debt collection, May 23

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Gazmir Arshi, 34, Glenwood; Elizabeth Paige Cowart, 35, Glenwood, May 12

Richard Robert Owens, 20, Kirby; Monica Elizabeth Herring 21, Glenwood, May 16

Collan Rex Lee, 31, Gurdon; A;ocoa Nicole Lee, 31, Murfreesboro, May 21

Joshua Franklin Huffman, 31, Murfreesboro; Mikalyn Lee Wenner, 25, Royal, May 23

Christopher Glen Gates, 41, Murfreesboro; Tabatha Dianne Smith, 41, Murfreesboro, May 23

Anthony P. Paul, 57, Casa Grande AZ.; Joann M. Moreno, 49, San Antonio, Texas, June 2

CIVIL

CV-25- 29 -- Kaylynn Babbitt, civil-other, April 21

CV-25-30 -- Discover Bank, vs. Israel Delatova, debt collection, April 24

CV-25-31 -- HW, vs. AR CADC, administrative appeal, April 24

CV-25-32 -- Crown Asset Management LLC., vs. Chad Hughes, debt collection, April 30

CV-25-33 -- Cameron Reeves, name change, May 7

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‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

It is a popular saying, “We are what we eat.” It is more certainly true, however, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” There is disagreement among translators as to whether Proverbs 23:7 says that, but in any case, it is true. Jesus says, “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.” (Matthew 12:34-35).

Whatever is in a bucket



is what spills out when the bucket is jolted. What spills out of us when life jolts us is that with which our minds and hearts are filled. Jesus said, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder,

adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Matthew 15:19).

Want to fill your or your children’s hearts with violence, lying, killing and approval of all kinds of sexual sins? Then watch television and set your children watching it for hours on end. What goes in affects both what comes out and what one is.

May each of us fill our hearts and minds with those things we learn from God’s word. God be with you as we begin another week in service to Him!

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AGFC announces free fishing weekend statewide this Friday through Sunday

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas State Parks invites you to join us for Arkansas Free Fishing Weekend from noon on Friday, June 6, until Sunday evening, June 8.

Our state parks provide access to 12 rivers and 29 lakes, making Arkansas a renowned destination that draws anglers for unparalleled opportunities for both seasoned anglers and weekend adventurers. With clear waters and well-managed habitats, The Natural State stands out as one of the nation’s top destinations for exceptional fishing experiences.

Whether casting for bass or trolling for stripers, you’ll find exciting fishing adventures in our parks. Full-service marinas and boat docks are available, offering boat rentals, fishing supplies, fuel and more for your convenience. Free Fishing Weekend is made possible by a proclamation by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Free Fishing Weekend, sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, is an annual event in June that allows everyone in the state, both residents and non-residents, to fish without the need for a license or trout stamp. While all daily limits and fishing regulations remain enforced, the license requirement will be waived from noon on June 6 until 11:59 p.m. on June 8.

“Arkansas Free Fishing Weekend is a fantastic opportunity for families, friends and nature enthusiasts to reconnect with the great outdoors and experience the thrill of fishing in The Natural State,” said Shea Lewis, secretary of

Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. “Whether casting a line from the shore of a tranquil lake or wading through a babbling stream, Arkansas offers endless possibilities for unforgettable fishing adventures.”

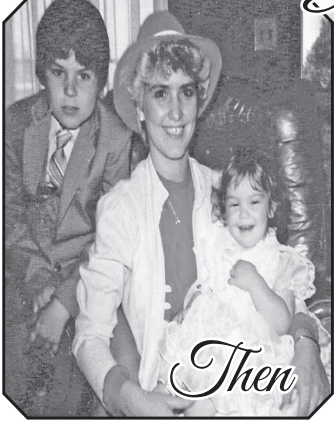
Arkansas State Parks facilitate access to these natural wonders, providing fishing opportunities in numerous lakes statewide, including Lake Greeson at Daisy State Park. Famous for its clean, clear water. It offers anglers strippers, black bass, crappie, bream, catfish and small-mouth.

For more information about Arkansas Free Fishing Weekend events and fishing opportunities in The Natural State, please visit ArkansasStateParks.com.

Share your big fish catches with Arkansas State Parks on social media this weekend! Tag your photos with #ARStateParks for a chance to be featured.

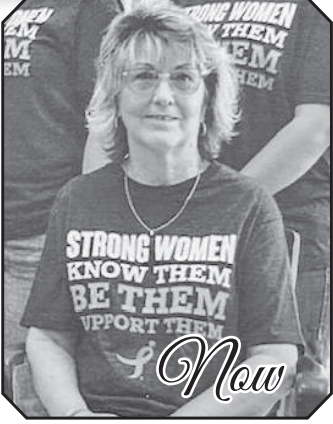


You’re Invited..



Then

Rather Retirement Reception



New

The world (and Delight) looked totally different in May of 1987 when Cathy Hendrix started working at the “biggest little bank in Arkansas.” Shoppers could get a dozen eggs for less than a dollar, a gallon of milk for a little more than a dollar, and a gallon of gas for \$1.15. Cathy began as a secretary in the loan department—answering phones, waiting on customers in the lobby, preparing the monthly board minutes, and figuring loan calculations and credit life by hand. When Rusty Silvey joined the bank, she received a loan calculator. As technology changed in the banking industry, she rolled with the changes. She went to UACCH and took Microsoft Office classes—she flew to Minnesota for loan processing training. She never once took a vacation during the week prior to or the week of the board meeting. In the 38 years that she has worked at the Bank of Delight, her coworkers and employers have stood by her through countless good times and not so great times—she divorced and remarried becoming Cathy Rather, she buried her parents, she welcomed all of her grandchildren into the world. Her colleagues became family as well—in fact, she baby-sat current bank president Vince Grimes when he was a little boy. As the world changed, she was a constant smiling face at the bank. Regardless of what was happening in her personal life, she exuded professionalism at every turn. Cathy’s attention to detail and knowledge of the loan policies and procedures made her a valuable employee; but more importantly her empathy and kindness to everyone is what will be remembered. Please join us in celebrating the well-earned retirement of Cathy from the Bank of Delight on June 13, 2025 from 9-11 a.m.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

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

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

To reserve this space for your church services or business...
Call Christy at 870-285-2723

Bank of Delight
503 E. Antioch St. Delight
(870) 379-2293

323 *Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

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

A-BRIDE-FOR-ISAAC

ELIEZER, HAVING BEEN MADE A GUEST IN THE HOUSE OF REBEKAH’S FAMILY, NOW ASKS THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO TAKE HER BACK TO ABRAHAM, AS A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, THE BELOVED SON OF ABRAHAM...

“I PRAY THEE, DEAL KINDLY WITH ME AND LET ME TAKE THE MAIDEN!”

NOW LABAN AND REBEKAH’S FATHER, BETHUEL, DWELL THOUGHTFULLY ON THIS REQUEST...

“TAKE REBEKAH AS A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, AS THE LORD HATH INTENDED!”

“AND LABAN, SPEAKING FOR THE FAMILY, ANSWERS...”

“WE HAVE FEASTED, LONG AND MERRILY, SEND ME AWAY UNTO MY MASTER!”

“NAY NOW! STAY AWHILE LONGER—DO NOT GO!”

“WE MAY NEVER SEE REBEKAH AGAIN!”

INDEED, ELIEZER IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ABRAHAM! HE HAS BEEN GONE A LONG TIME AND IS ANXIOUS TO RETURN WITH REBEKAH—FOR WHO KNOWS—ABRAHAM MAY EVEN NOW, BE ON HIS DEATH BED AND MAY NEVER SEE HIS SON’S BRIDE IF ELIEZER DOES NOT HURRY BACK—BUT THERE ARE OBJECTIONS!

Next Week A MAIDEN’S DECISION!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ
305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20
Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

MHS baseball announces postseason awards list

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattler baseball program announced their post-season recognition list for the 2025 season.

The Rattlers finished the recent season with a 23-10 record, 7-2A conference champion and a semi-finalist in the recent Class 2A state tournament.

Baseball athletes named to post-season honors included:

- Brody Maroon -- 2A All-Conference, 2A All-State, 2A-7 Outstanding pitcher of the year
- Lathan Compton -- 2A All-Conference

- Laytan Wilcher -- 2A All-Conference, 2A All-State, 2A-7 Outstanding infielder of the year
- Cameron Stevens -- 2A All-Conference
- Kale Burns -- 2A All-Conference, 2A All-Region
- Kooper Caldwell -- 2A All-Conference
- Isaac Kuykendall -- 2A All-Conference, 2A All-Region, 2A All-State Tournament team
- Carter Gilmer -- 2A All-Conference, 2A All-State
- Alex Bonner -- 2A All-Conference

Education, caution key to avoiding Arkansas’ six venomous snake species

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK -- Whether enjoying the Natural State on land or by water this summer, it’s important to keep an eye out for Arkansas’ six native venomous snake species — and to educate yourself on how to avoid them.

Shannon Caldwell, 4-H Center program director for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said learning about the state’s 39 native snake species can help Arkansans better enjoy their time outside.

“The best thing to do is learn about these snakes because the more you learn, the better you can understand which are venomous and which are not,” Caldwell said. “If you know that snakes don’t want anything to do with you, that’s going to cut down on your fear response. But if you don’t educate yourself, and you feel like every snake is potentially harmful, then that cuts into your enjoyment of being outside.”

Of the 39 native snake species, the six venomous species include the Eastern Copperhead, Northern Cottonmouth, Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake, Western Pygmy Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake and Texas Coral snake. For a guide on identifying these species and more information about native snakes, visit the Cooperative Extension Service’s Snakes of Arkansas web page.

Caldwell also recommends the Herps of Arkansas website, which offers an identification guide for amphibians and reptiles in the state, including both harmless and venomous snakes. When hiking or traveling on Arkansas’ many waterways, awareness is key.

“Snakes are going to be where they can find food and shelter,” Caldwell said. “If there’s going to be rodents in an area, there’s potentially going to be things that want to eat rodents there, snakes included.”

Take the following steps to practice snake safety:

- Make sure your path is well lit and has little ground cover, where snakes may be easily seen. If walking at night, use a light source to brighten the path.
- Never step over logs or other obstacles unless you can see the other side.
- Always look with caution. “Don’t just blindly stick your hand somewhere,” Caldwell said. “Wear gloves to protect yourself or take a stick or pole to help you flip something over, so you’re not putting yourself at risk.”
- Make noise and carefully watch where you step.
- Wear close-toed shoes or boots. Many snakebites result from going barefoot or wearing sandals outside.

Caldwell said most snake bites result from accidents — such as stepping on a camouflaged snake — or from people trying to handle a snake.

“When you encounter a snake, the best response is to avoid it,” Caldwell said. “Try to take a different path, especially if you don’t know what type of snake it is. It’s probably headed in a certain direction, so let it go and do your best to stay out of its way.”

Caldwell recommended staying on the established path, if walking on a trail, as the path is “there for a reason, so you can enjoy those settings in a more controlled way.” She said this can also help with avoiding other animals, in-

sects and arachnids, including ticks.

If enjoying the water in a canoe, kayak or tube, “you might have less control over your path, so it’s important to learn about your surroundings,” Caldwell said. “Try to avoid areas where snakes like to take shelter, such as the trees along the shore, or places where it would be convenient for something to hide. While looking ahead to avoid water obstacles, watch for overhanging limbs and maneuver carefully around them.”

- SNAKEBITE TREATMENT**
- If bitten by a venomous snake — or if you’re unsure of the type of snake — seek immediate medical care.
- “Don’t try to bring the snake with you to the hospital,” Caldwell said. “Most of us have a camera in our pocket, so try to get a picture of it if you can, but don’t feel like you have to pause care to identify the snake. Once you get to the medical facility, they will be able to look at the wound and provide the right care.”
- Remain calm, so as not to increase blood circulation and spread venom more quickly through the body.
 - Remove rings, watches, shoes and other restrictive clothing near the bite.
 - Call ahead, if possible, to alert medics or call your local emergency medical facility if you need transportation.
 - Keep the bite area immobilized as much as possible.
 - Do not apply ice, do not make cuts, and do not apply a tourniquet.
 - Clean the bite with soap and water. Cover it loosely with a clean, dry bandage.
- Caldwell said that if you are bitten by a snake that you’re sure is nonvenomous, treat the bite as you would any other bite, scrape or cut.
- If hiking in a more remote area, Caldwell said it’s important to prepare for emergencies by taking a wilderness first aid course.
- “If you’re going to be spending time in our beautiful state away from close medical care, then you need to make it a priority to take a wilderness first-aid class so that you have the knowledge of what to do,” Caldwell said. “The regular first aid that many of us learn is designed with the expectation that you have access to close medical care. Wilderness first aid is unique, because it centers on the reality of being far away from a doctor or hospital. It’s all about education.”
- All native snakes, including venomous snakes, are protected by law. It is illegal to kill snakes in Arkansas unless they pose an immediate threat to people, pets or property. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission enforces regulations which prohibit killing nongame species.

Wilderness First Aid courses are available through the American Red Cross. The C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center also hosts a Wilderness First Aid course through the National Outdoor Leadership School every two years.

To report nuisance wildlife, such as snakes in your home or yard, call the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s nuisance wildlife hotline at 833-345-0315 and visit agfc.com/education/nuisance-wildlife.

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

Pair faces felony drug charges

MURFREESBORO -- Felony drug charges have been filed in Pike County against two people following undercover operations by the 9th West Drug Task Force.

Charles Christ, 63, of Glenwood, was charged May 28 with delivery of methamphetamine. Christ pleaded innocent to the charge Monday and his bond was set at \$50,000 with a Sept. 29 pretrial date.

Christ allegedly sold methamphetamine during a controlled narcotics investigation involving confidential informants at his home on Opal Street in Glenwood.

Sandra Kay Jarvis, 68, of Amity, was charged June 2 with delivery of a controlled substance (adderall). Jarvis allegedly sold an undercover agent 60 pills for \$300.

Jarvis was arrested June 2 and has yet to make a court appearance and remains in county custody, as of Tuesday morning.

MAY 30 COURT

John D. Allen, 26, of Saratoga, entered a guilty plea in Howard County May 28 on Pike County charges of possession of marijuana and Oxycodone pills and probation revocation.

He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) and had his probation extended for an additional year.

JUNE 2 COURT

Jeremy Rankins, 44, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of a controlled substance and was sentenced to 15 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Michael Griffith, 38, of Caddo Gap, pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and was sentenced to three years in the ADC with three suspended.

Christopher Gibson, 43, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of fleeing and was sentenced to three years in the ADC with three years suspended.

Carlton A. Breazeale, 42, of Murfreesboro pleaded guilty to an amended charge of possession of firearms by certain persons and was sentenced to four years in the ADC with two years suspended.

Cameron Stevens, 21, of Amity, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his probation and was sentenced to 120 days in the county jail and six years of probation.



Submitted photo

REPRESENTING THE RATTLEERS ... Rattler graduated senior Brody Maroon participated in the Red River Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star Football showcase last week. The FCA event between Arkansas and Texas was held in Texarkana, with team members were chosen from schools in Arkansas and northeast Texas. The Arkansas team won the game by a 21-0 score. Maroon (pictured above) is accompanied in the photo by Rattler coach Buddy Ray and former Rattler coach Brad Chesshir.



Submitted photos/PCSO

WANTED BY AUTHORITIES ... Shana Pickrell (right) and Andrew Pipkins (left) of Kirby are being sought by the Pike County Sheriff’s Office for alleged fraudulent use of a credit card and financial identity fraud totaling \$65,000.



Submitted photos/SAU

SAU STUDENTS LAUNCH GAME ... Southern Arkansas University’s Game Development program proudly announces the official release of Blight’s Grasp, an immersive student-developed action game now available on Steam. Play Blight’s Grasp on Steam: https://store.steampowered.com/app/3470150/Blights_Grasp/. The game drops players into a fast-paced, alien world where they must battle corrupted creatures, master elemental abilities, and unravel the mystery behind a planet in decay -- all while on a desperate quest to find the protagonist’s missing sister. SAU invites the community and gaming enthusiasts everywhere to support these rising developers by playing, reviewing, and sharing Blight’s Grasp.

Women artists sought for registry

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (ACNMWA) is accepting applications for its biennial Juried Artist Registry of Arkansas women artists. The application is available on the ACNMWA website at www.acnmwa.org/programs/juried-artist-registry. The deadline to apply is July 31, and there is a \$20 entry fee.

The application is open to all artists who are residents of Arkansas at the time of application. The registry will be featured on the ACNMWA website from October 2025 to October 2027.

ACNMWA devotes significant consideration to the selection of its invited juror for the Juried

Artist Registry. Serving as juror for the 2025-2027 registry is Carey Voss, Curator of Exhibits at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock. Voss holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hendrix College and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting from American University.

The 2023-2025 Artist Registry is online at www.acnmwa.org/artists-23-25.

Founded in 1989, ACNMWA is a nonprofit volunteer organization that highlights the accomplishments of Arkansas women artist.

For more information on NMWA, visit nmwa.org.

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LIVE WEBCAST from our Office in Glenwood THURSDAY JUNE 5th at 11 AM

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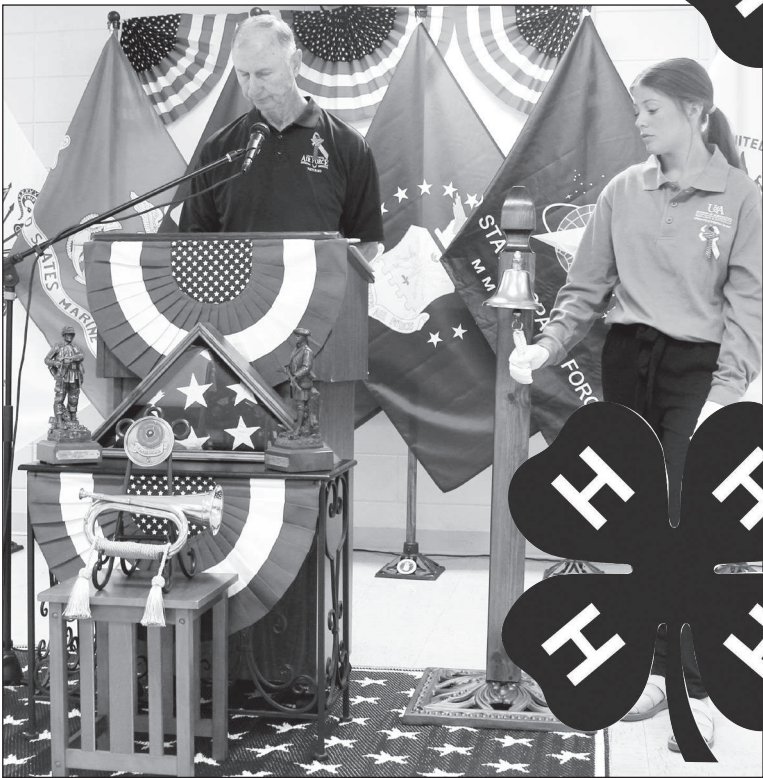
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LOCAL MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION AND PLACED AMERICAN
FLAGS ON THE GRAVES OF SOLDIERS AT THE ANTOINE,
DELIGHT AND MURFREESBORO CEMETERIES RECENTLY



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

CHAMBERS BANK
v.

PLAINTIFF
Case No. 55CV-24-95

MURFREESBORO NURSING CENTER, a limited
liability company and
RELIANT MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC and
STATE OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES and
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in pursuance of the authority and directions contained in the Decretal Order of Circuit Court of Pike County, made and entered on the 24th day of April, 2025, in case number 55V-24-95 then pending therein the case of Chambers Bank v. Murfreesboro Nursing Center, a limited liability company, et al, the undersigned, as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public venue to the highest bidder, on the 1st Floor Lobby of the Pike County Courthouse located at #1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, in which said Court is held, at 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 2025, the following described real estate in Pike County, Arkansas, to wit:

A part of Lots 1201 and 1203 Washington Street, all of Lots 1205 and fractional Lot 1301 Washington Street, all of Fractional Lots 1301 and 1302 School Street, all of Lots 1203, 1205 and 1206 School Street, a part of Lots 1202 and 1204 School Street and a portion of adjoining and abutting street described as follows: Beginning 52.0 feet North of the Southeast corner of Lot 1201 Washington Street; thence West 82.0 feet to a point in abandoned M.D. & G Railroad right - of- way; thence with said Railroad right -of- way South 24 degrees 00 minutes West 50.5 feet; thence South 15 degrees 00 minutes West 17.5 feet to a point in the center of 12th street; thence West 152.0 feet; thence North 94.2 feet; thence West 100.0 feet; thence North 223.0 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 1301 School Street being a point in Highway No. 19; thence East along Highway No. 19 366.0 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot 1301 Washington Street; thence South 148.5 feet to the Northeast corner of Physician's Building Site; thence West 159.8 feet; thence South 85.1 feet to the Southwest corner of Pharmacy Building Site; thence East 159.8 feet; thence South 15.0 feet to the POINT OF BEGGING. All within the town of Murfreesboro and conforming as near as possible to Plat of E 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 8 South, Range 25 West recorded in Deed Book "P," Page 410 of Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas, LESS AND EXCEPT the following described tract; Part of Lot 1201 Washington Street and a part of Lot 1202 School Street described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 1201 Washington Street; thence North 67 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of Pharma-Cald Pharmacy, Inc. Property for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence West 159.8 feet; thence South 15 feet; thence East 159.8 feet; thence North 15 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; being a part of Kelly's Addition to the town of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, as per plat recorded in Book "P" at page 410 of the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas.

Subject to covenants, easements and right of way, if any (hereinafter referred to as "Property").

TERMS OF SALE: On a credit of thirty (30) days, the purchaser being required to execute a bond as required by law and the Order and Decree of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from date of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the premises sold to secure the payment of the purchase money. Should any successful bidder fail to perform under the instructions of the Commissioner at time of sale, then that bid shall be void and set aside. The Commissioner thereafter shall find that the subject property be awarded to the next successive highest bidder, until performance rendered. Purchaser shall be responsible for any taxes or assessments due on the Property.

The sale is made subject to any and all stipulations made in the Decretal Order filed of record on the 24th day of April, 2025. The Commissioner does not warrant title, boundary lines, taxes and or improvements, if any, on this property or properties in Pike County, Arkansas.

Given under my hand this 12th day of May 2025.

SABRINA WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER
(j.c.r. 728w., 47,48)

Raid shuts down Hot Springs massage parlor

Griffin: 'I am committed to shutting down these hotbeds of human trafficking and Chinese criminal interference in our way of life'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing the results of a raid at AI Massage in Hot Springs:

"On May 22, investigators from my office conducted a raid at AI Massage at 3954 Central Avenue in Hot Springs. Our operation was based on intelligence indicating that the massage parlor was facilitating prostitution and enabling human trafficking.

During the operation, more than \$22,000 in American cash was seized, as was currency from Turkey, Thailand, and Colombia. About 100 unused condoms were confiscated, along with what is believed to be a home remedy to treat sexually transmitted infections, which implies there was sexual activity occurring at the business.

No arrests have been made at this time, but suspects have been identified, and our investigation is ongoing. Three individuals, all Chinese nationals, were provided victim services by victim advocate groups. One of the victims shared that she came to the United States through Mexico, responding to an online ad in China for work in the United States not of a sexual nature.

This operation stems from intelligence gathered during Operation Obscured Vision, an effort my office coordinated in January with local law enforcement agencies targeting suspected illicit massage parlors in multiple locations throughout the state.

I am committed to shutting down these hotbeds of human trafficking and Chinese criminal interference in our way of life.

I am grateful for the invaluable cooperation of the Hot Springs Police Department, 18th East Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Lawrence, Arkansas State Police, Into the Light, and the Northwest Arkansas Center for Sexual Assault's REACH program. I will update the public on this case as it develops."

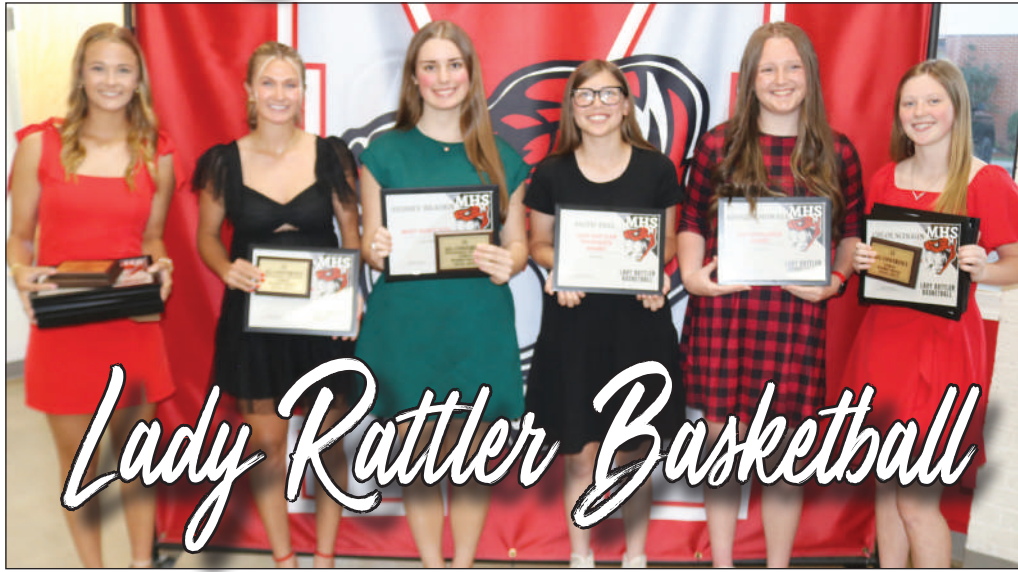
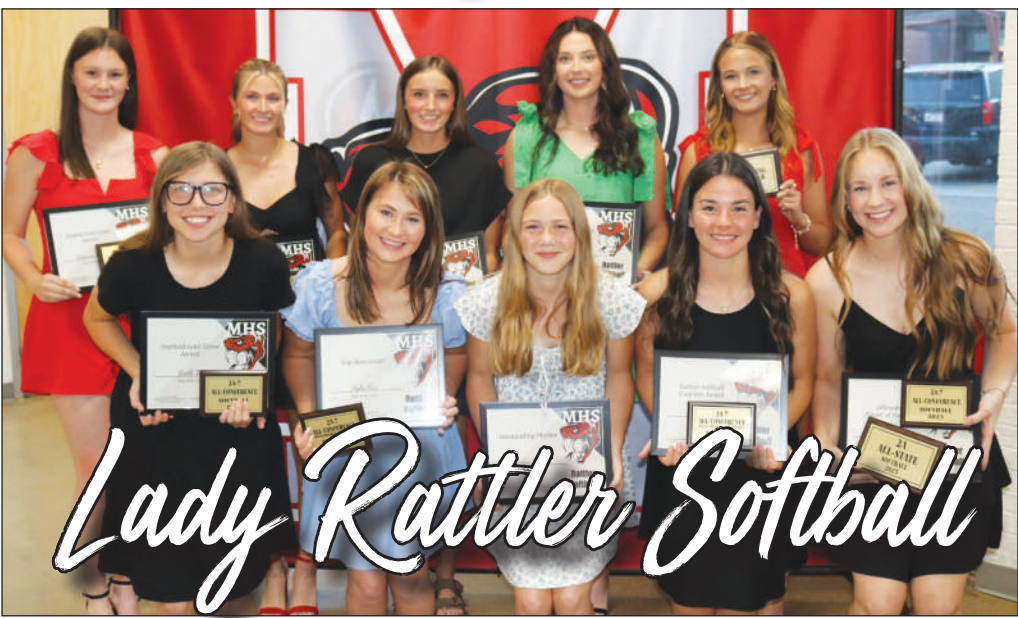
Combining with the results of Operation Obscured Vision in January, raids on illicit massage parlors this year have now led to six arrests, two additional warrants issued, and confiscations.

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