

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
Issue 49 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

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Juneteenth celebration set for this weekend

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro and the Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring the second annual Juneteenth celebration in Murfreesboro.

Juneteenth is actually Thursday, June 19, but activities will be held in advance starting this Friday, June 13.

That night a meet and greet will be held for all attendees and the public at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building starting at 5 p.m.

On Saturday morning, June 14, the festivities will kick off with a parade down Washington Avenue to the Murfreesboro City Park. The parade will begin its procession starting at 10 a.m., with lineup beginning at 9:45 in the Harvill Insurance parking lot.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. activities will be held at the park, including an opening speech by Jeffery Rhymes. Following will include a domino tournament, spades, a bounce house, live D.J. and lunch of hot dogs and watermelon.

Later that night, at 8 p.m., a street dance will be held on Mauney Street in Murfreesboro.

On Sunday, all attendees and the public will be invited to church services at the Mauney Street Church of Christ starting at 9 a.m.

JUNETEENTH HISTORY

According to the Congressional Research Service, Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It is also known as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, Black Independence Day, and, by statute, Juneteenth National Independence Day.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX, and announced the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery. Although the Emancipation Proclamation came 2.5 years earlier on January 1, 1863, many enslavers continued to hold enslaved Black people captive after the announcement. Juneteenth became a symbolic date representing African-American freedom.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. All 50 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or observance, and at least 28 states and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth as a permanent paid and/or legal holiday through legislation or executive action.

Town hall meeting set to discuss recent legislative session

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro's Mayor's Office has announced that on Thursday, June 26, a town hall meeting will be held at the Municipal Building at 6 p.m.

The featured speaker will be state senator Steve Crowell, who will be discussing and answering questions about the recent state legislative session.

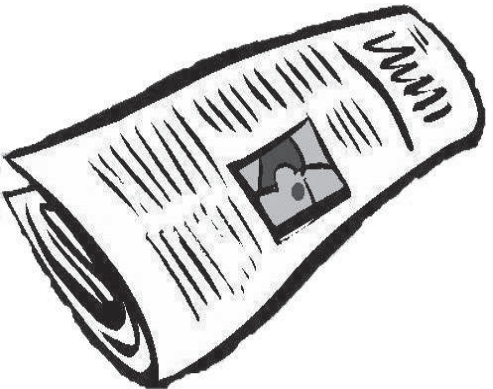
4-H blood drive ready for this Friday

MURFREESBORO -- A "Give The Spice Of Life" blood drive will be held in Murfreesboro on Friday, June 13.

The drive will be a part of the Pike County 4-H Health Fair from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Pike County Extension offices are located at 100 Court Street, Suite A.

If a interested party wanted to schedule their blood donation for a specific time, visit donor.lifeshare.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/281364.



Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information



Staff photo

IN RESPONSE TO NEED ... The Senior Adult Center in Murfreesboro made a donations to PAWS in Glenwood to help care for the many animals that were confiscated in an abuse case from Montgomery County that was detailed in last week's Diamond. Some of the center's senior members carried such items as cat and dog food, paper towels, bleach, towels, bowls, gloves, wormer, puppy pads, scrub pads, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, sheets, collars, flea spray and monetary donations given on behalf of the senior center participants. Pictured above (L to R) from left are Marlene Steen, Mary Hill and Debbie Whisenhunt.

Book launch in fours -- murders, wars and authors

GLENWOOD -- Veteran author Penny Richards of Glenwood, would like to invite the public to the book launch of The July Fourth Murders, an anthology collection co-authored with three Texas friends: Janis Patterson, Sandy Steen, and James Gaskin. The patriotic mystery collection, honoring America's ongoing fight for our freedoms, unfolds during four separate time periods and four different wars.

Independence Day, by Penny Richards, offers her version of the Revolutionary War's question of who really fired "the shot heard round the world." Janis Patterson uncovers the person behind the threat to General George Pershing's life in her WWI story, Lafayette, We Are Here. Sandy Steen's Murder Is Riveting, is set against the backdrop of an airplane factory during WWII and deals with both murder and treason, and James Gaskin's Saigon Sucks paints a vivid, disturbing picture of a soldier's life in Vietnam and the murder of a visiting band manager.

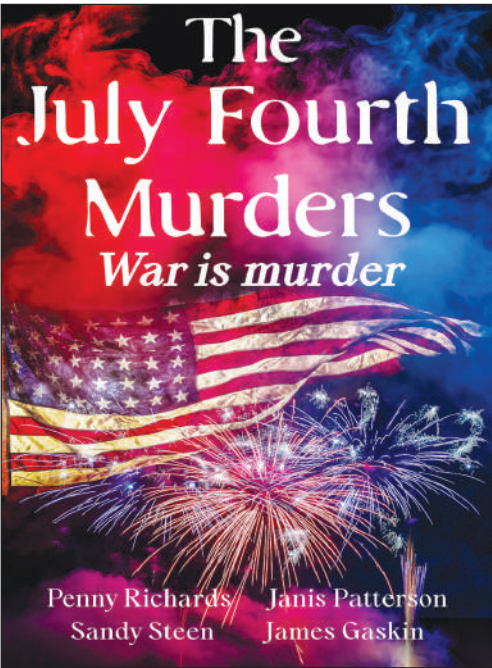
"I hope everyone will come have lunch,

meet and visit with the authors, and help us celebrate the release of our patriotic anthology mystery book. There is something for all ages," said Richards.

The book launch will be celebrated in Delight, June 14, Flag Day, from noon until 3 p.m. at the Sweet and Salty on Antioch Street. The event will feature many door pries and a silent auction basket that is up for grabs, with the basket proceeds going to the Delight Veterans Memorial effort.

Other launch events include a reading of The ABCs Of Being B.R.A.V.E. (Building Respect and Values for Everyone) at 1 p.m. by Miss Natural State Elementary, eight-year-old Annslee Sutton, followed by a flag raising ceremony at 2 p.m. by the Pike County 4-H, to honor and thank our veterans.

More on the book can be seen at www.JulyFourthMurders.com or at www.WAGbooks.com.



Submitted photo

Crater to host Prospectors' Gemboree June 21

BY SARAH REAP
Interpreter, Crater of Diamonds State Park

MURFREESBORO -- Every year on the third Saturday of June, Crater of Diamonds State Park hosts Prospectors' Gemboree, a celebration of those who come in search of diamonds and other gems at America's only public diamond mine. This year's event will take place on June 21.

Festivities will include a day of fun games, treasure hunts, and diamond exhibits. Games are geared towards all ages and will include such favorites as the Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest and Prospectors' Trivia Showdown. Each game will feature prizes sponsored by local businesses.

Starting June 21, park guests can also take part in the 29th Annual Prospectors' Treasure Hunt for yellow canisters and red-painted rocks hidden throughout the diamond search area. Each bottle and rock can be traded in for a variety of prizes (limit one canister and one rock per family)! Top prizes this year include a full-day barge rental from Swaha Lodge and Marina, and three-piece Saruca sets donated by Muddy Miner Supplies LLC.

Park guests will also have a chance to see real Crater diamonds, meet diamond finders and collectors, and hear the stories "behind the finds" during our 17th Annual Famous Crater Diamonds Exhibit, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's exhibit will feature a special viewing of the Kinard Friendship Diamond. This 9.07-carat brown gem was discovered by Kevin Kinard, of Maumelle, in September 2020.

Since its discovery, the diamond has been cut and set into a stunning ring. This is the first time the Kinard Friendship Diamond will be on public display since its cutting! Come see the diamond, learn all about the cutting process, and discover what makes this diamond exceptionally unique!

A complete schedule of events, games, and activities can be picked up at the Visitor Center on June 21. All games and activities are free with the purchase of admission to search for diamonds (\$15.00 for ages 13 and up; \$7.00 for ages six through 12; ages five and under are free). For more information, contact Crater of Diamonds State Park at 870-285-3113 or e-mail

CraterofDiamonds@arkansas.com. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate diamond miners in Arkansas during Prospectors' Gemboree!

Search area last plowed: May 16, 2025
Most recent significant rain: June 5, 2025

Recent diamond finds (100 points = 1 carat):
June 2 – Jack Pearadin, Murfreesboro, AR, 6 pt. white
June 3 – David Anderson, Murfreesboro, AR, 2 pt. white, 12 pt. brown; Scott Kreykes, Dierks, AR, 2 pt. white
June 4 – Jimmy Maxell, Waldron, AR, 10 pt. yellow



Submitted photo

TO BE SEEN AT GEMBOREE ... The once 9.07 carat Kinard Friendship diamond will be able to viewed at the upcoming June 21 Prospector's Gemboree at the Crater of Diamonds State Park.

Drunken day at Caddo River leads to police chief being punched

MURFREESBORO -- A Glenwood man has been charged in Pike County after an intoxicated incident on the river last month when he allegedly punched the local police chief.

Kevin Taylor, 39, was charged with second-degree battery Monday involving a May 13 incident where the Glenwood Police Department was called to the Highway 8 bridge over the Caddo River about two males who were intoxicated and causing a disturbance.

When an officer arrived, he located one male lying face down in the river and the other male attempting to drag him out. One of the males involved, later identified as Caleb Cates, fled the

scene toward Elm Street. The officer reported Cates was “highly intoxicated” and stated his friend, Kevin Taylor, needed help under the bridge.

Taylor was also “highly intoxicated” when he was located and was trying to fight his friend. When Glenwood Police Chief Greg Harmon arrived to de-escalate the situation, Taylor allegedly punched the chief. With the help of two officers and a first-responder, Taylor was placed in handcuffs. Harmon was slightly injured in the ruckus including bruised ribs.

After an evaluation by an ambulance crew, Taylor was transported to the Pike County jail. Taylor has yet to have a court

date.

On June 5, Robert Glen Wells, 37, of Mena, was charged in Pike County with felony forgery.

According to case information, Wells is accused of passing counterfeit money, all with the exact same fake serial numbers, at the John Plyler Home Center, and possibly other places in Polk County. Surveillance video led the Glenwood Police Department to Wells.

Wells had yet to have a court date.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

May 6, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Anderson, Cheryl Denise, \$135 BF, speeding
Bonazzi, Dominck C., guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$25; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325
Borger, Ashley Marylynn, \$135 BF, speeding
Brantley, Mary Jo, \$125 BF, speeding
Cagle, Austin Ryan, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$635
Cavanaugh, Donald Blake, \$185 BF, speeding
Cogburn, Kalista Belle, guilty of speeding, f fined \$135; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125
Cotten, Caleb Mitchell, \$445 BF, reckless driving; \$185 BF, speeding
Dvorak, Kent Alan, \$185 Bf, speeding
Ewin, Rebekah A., \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Halley, Jacob Adrain, \$135 BF, speeding
Haney, Britney R., guilty of guilty of failure to pay, fined \$20-5
Harrison, Ellen Renee, \$135 BF, speeding
Hernandez, Yessica, \$\$125 BF, no driver’s license
Hicks, Charles Anthony, \$135 BF, speeding
Houser, Dylan, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
Howell, Olen Richard, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
Hudson, Larry N., guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
James Ross Daniel, \$185 BF, speeding
Johnson, Timothy J., \$185 BF, speeding
Kemp, Allison K., guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
Kitamura, Yuki, \$185 BF, speeding
Martin, Larry L., guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
McNeil, Justin Michael, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Miller, Leaoriea D., \$125 Bf, speeding
Miller, Wesley P., \$315 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Muniz, Robert, \$135 BF, speeding
Parker, David A., guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Pipkins, Donna R., \$185 BF, speeding
Rya, Kylie C., \$135 BF, speeding
Rice, Michele Marie, \$135 BF, speeding
Roberts, Rebecca Lynn, \$135 BF, speeding
Ryan, Dave Thomas, \$135 BF, speeding
Simpson, Susan Bramlet, \$185 BF, speeding
Sims, Lee Andres, \$135 BF, speeding
Smith, Erik S., \$135 BF, speeding
Stone, Matthew, \$185 BF, speeding
Thapa, Prabin, \$135 Bf, speeding
Vicente, Mauritania, \$125 BF, no child restraint device
With, Ryan Allan, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Yocum, Dauntel L., \$125 BF, speeding;
Zuniga, Victoriano, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$135 BF, speeding

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Crews, Mindy Kay, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$620; guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145
Gwynne, Will Garrett, \$165 BF, violation of city animal ordinance
Harris, Laci D., guilty of violation of city animal ordnance, fined \$250
Lucas, Braedon Lee, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345
McKinnon, Judy L., guilty of failure to present liability insurance, fined \$90; guilty of defective lights, fined \$145
Mooring, Crystal Dawn, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; guilty of no child restraint device, fined \$145
Richter, Josph Dewayne, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,090, credited for time served, license suspended and must compete DWI educational course; guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of defective/improper headlamps
Rodriguez, Javier, \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Teague, Joey Dalton, guilty of theft of property, fined \$405; guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210
Zacarias, Jose, \$145 BF, no driver’s license

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION
McMurtrie, George N III, \$220 BF, littering waters-banks

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Clift, Matthew Daniel, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145
Downer, Khamon, Taylor, \$145 Bf, failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; \$345 BF, driving with suspended license
Drye, Matthew Edward, \$145 Bf, failure to stop or yield
Gilbert, Zackary Wayne, \$155 BF, speeding
Hassen, Randy Thomas, \$145 BF, speeding
Hernandez, Apolonio E., \$145 Bf, no driver’s license
Houser, Dylan, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
Jenkins, Avery Thomas, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Moss, Addyson Kalynn, \$145 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Martinez, Martin, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
Nagera, Gabriel, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$145
Phillips, Sarah Mechelle, \$145 BF, speeding; guilty oof leaving scene of accident, fined \$220; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Ramirez, Jose Julian, \$145 Bf, no driver’s license; \$145 BF, driving left of center
Serrano, Allison, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$145

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

RYAN MCCLOSKY, JAMES MCCLOSKY, JORDAN MCCLOSKY, Petitioners, Vs. 55 CV-25-24 JONATHAN RANDALL WATSON, ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES Defendants,

IN REGARD TO A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, To wit: All that part of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 SW1/4) of Section Five (5), in Township Eight (8) South, in Range Twenty-Four (24) West, lying Northeast of Saline Creek, and containing 40 acres, more or less

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been filed in the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, a Petition to quiet title to lands in Pike County, Arkansas, described as follows, to wit: All that part of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 SW1/4) of Section Five (5), in Township Eight (8) South, in Range Twenty-Four (24) West, lying Northeast of Saline Creek, and containing 40 acres, more or less The Defendant, and/or any and all other persons claiming said lands or interest thereon are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and answer said Petition and show cause why the title to said lands should not be quieted and confirmed as set forth by the Petitioner or be forever barred from asserting his or her interest. WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, this 15th day of May, 2025.

SABRINA WILLIAMS CIRCUIT CLERK OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS (a.b., 266w., 46,47,48,49)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WANDA FAYE VERMEER, deceased Case No. 55PR-25-28

PUBLIC NOTICE-ESTATE

Last known address of the decedent: 408 Woodlawn St, Glenwood, AR 71943

Date of Death: April 21, 2025.

An instrument, dated July 26, 2022, was on May 19th, 2025 admitted to probate as the Last Will of the above decedent, and Michell Lee Garner was lawfully appointed as the Executrix of the above estate. That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published on this day of June 11, 2025.

Michell Lee Garner, Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell DUSTIN BISSELL Attorney for Petitioner 306 E Broadway Glenwood, AR 71943 (870)-356-2589 Arkansas Bar #2022047 (d.b., 158w., 49,50)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JO ANN BARENTINE, deceased No. 55PR-25-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 811 N Clay Street, Glenwood, Pike County, AR 71943 Date of Death: March 22, 2025

An instrument dated May 27, 2025, lawfully appointed TODD BARENTINE and KENNETH BARENTINE as Co-Administrators of the above estate. That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published on this 4th day of June, 2025.

Lee Ann Cannon Petitioner

BY: DUSTIN BISSELL Attorney for Petitioner 306 E Broadway Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2589 Arkansas Bar #2022047 (d.b., 144w. 48,49)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CERISE RENEE LEBLANC, DECEASED NO. 55PR-2025-9-2

NOTICE

Last Known Address: 908 S. Washington Ave Murfreesboro, AR 71958 Date of Death: March 24, 2025

The undersigned was appointed Administrator of the estate of the above named decedent on April 4, 2025. All persons having claims against the estate, including claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent, 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 benefits in the estate. This notice first published the 4th day of June, 2025.

Gary Fitch, Administrator c/o Hutcheson Law Firm, PLLC Attorneys for the Estate P.O. Box 841 Magnolia, AR 71754 (870) 234-6111 / (870) 234-6699 FAX (h.l.f. 152w., 48,49)

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Murfreesboro Diamond

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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.



Submitted photos

SUMMER PREP ... The Murfreesboro Junior High cheer squad was awarded the first place trophy for their Game Day Cheer performance at their summer camp. The team was also noted with Technical Excellence in Jam Stunts, Stay SAFE Award for Stunts, eight girls nominated for All American, Lainey Beene and Addy Silva selected for the All American Team, Addy Silva won Top Gun Dance and a superior rating on all material from our NCA Cheer Instructor. “We are so proud of these incredible athletes and their hard work, dedication, and Rattler spirit,” said sponsor Melissa Cornish. Members of the team (pictured above) include (front row, L to R) Jacee Chaney, Lainey Beene, Kaydee Kuykendall, Amaya Zacarias and Abby Howard; (back row) Larsyn Tidwell, Carsyn Ballard, Kyndahl Posey, Addy Silva, Alyx Clark, Graisyn Roberts, Madi Drapper, Kailani Cox and Ava Harr.



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

UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. 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: Do I use cold or heat for muscle injuries and pain?

A: Whether to use cold or heat is a common question for home treatment of minor joint or muscle injuries and pain. The answer is often both.

Cold is best used with new injuries, particularly in the first 48-72 hours. Cold reduces inflammation and swelling, and it also reduces pain by numbing the affected area. Cold can also be effective with conditions such as gout or tendinitis. Cold treatments should be for no more than 20 minutes at a time.

Heat can be used to relax tightened muscles and stimulate blood flow to the area, which promotes healing. For new injuries, heat should be used after the initial 48-72 hour period of cold treatment. Heat

can also be used prior to certain activities to warm joints and muscles.

Both treatments can be used effectively at home to resolve many minor issues. Once inflammation and pain subside using cold, heat can help manage joint and muscle stiffness in the affected area. If the problem persists after using one or both treatments, make an appointment with your health care provider for further direction.

Call (870) 845-0600 To Place Your Ad Today!

4 Family Yard Sale

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www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Obituaries

Amy Joy Campbell, 38, Delight

Amy Joy Campbell, 38, from Delight, AR, went to be with the Lord on June 5th, 2025, at Baptist Health Hospital in Little Rock.

Amy was born on May 14, 1987, to Mick and Joyce Vitzthum in Hope, AR. They were delighted to take her home on Mother’s Day. She made her first trip to Iowa in June, where she was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, Iowa. She grew up attending Delight First Baptist Church. She often attended Bogg Springs Church Camp where she accepted Christ as her Savior.

Amy was a lifelong Bulldog, graduating from Delight High School in 2005 as valedictorian of her class. Throughout high school, she waitressed at Mom’s Diner, played softball, basketball and kept score-books. Amy was so dedicated to her children. She and Kevin did their best to keep the Bulldog spirit alive by continuing to coach Delight Pee Wee Basketball. She often enjoyed her favorite shows in what little spare time she had, “The Office” and “The Big Bang Theory”, while snuggling with her precious “Pig”. She had a humor like none other. For example, a cat named “Pig” and a pig named “Cat”. Amy was an avid deer hunter and enjoyed the time spent with family during hunting season.

Amy married the love of her life, Kevin Campbell, on Sept. 5, 2015. Kevin states “Marrying Amy was the best decision of my life. She had the most beautiful smile, and the most precious soul I’ve ever met. She made me a better man, husband, and father. Amy enjoyed being at home

with me and the kids, having family game nights, and watching movies. Everything from sitting down as a family and praying before home cooked meals that she prepared from scratch to our peaceful morning coffee on the back porch watching birds and deer in the backyard. Amy was the best mother, wife, and friend any of us could ask for. I’m so thankful to have had her in my life in the past years. She always said I completed her, but we completed each other. As I say goodbye to you, my beautiful wife, I’m not going to make this harder than it has to be “That’s what she said” I love you, Amy Joy”.

While teaching pre-school in Murfreesboro, she began online classes to become a teacher. She later became a favorite and constant substitute teacher at MES. She was a teacher at heart. She truly cared for and loved all her “kids”, especially her 2 classes she had for student teaching, Mrs. Ivy & Mrs. Stokes. She worked so hard to successfully balance work, home and college. On May 9, 2025 she graduated Suma Cum Laude from SAU with a degree in Elementary Education.

Amy is survived by her loving husband, Kevin, and her joys, her children Emma Joy, Asher Jordan, Kassidy Happy, Shelby Nicole and Madison Allyse. Parents, Mick and Joyce Vitzthum. Brother Andrew, wife Stephanie and family. In Laws Tommy and Pam Campbell, sister Katrina, husband Russell Potter and family, brother Keith, wife Stefanie Campbell and family. One Precious Grandbaby Chandler Campbell and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family, whom all adored her. Her lifelong bestie of 25 years, Jessi Gatliff, and so many, many more friends.

Visitation was held on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro. A private family graveside service will be held a later date.

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

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS

BY RICK FLOYD

Take note of the rare strawberry moon as final full phase of spring

The final full moon of spring will occur on June 11. This month’s moon is now called the Strawberry Full Moon, but Native American tribes over time have also called it the Berries Ripen Moon, Green Corn Moon and Blooming Moon. The ancient Celts called it Horse Moon and Rose Moon.

The full moon of June 2025 is a rare one. No, it will not be strawberry red. It is rare because it will cross from southeast to southwest above the southern horizon at only about 20 degrees. The last time it was this low was in 2006

Briefly, the reason it doesn’t rise high is because the Sun is near Summer Solstice when it is highest in the sky, and also because Earth’s orbit is almost the farthest away from the Sun (aphelion peaks in July). It so happens that the Moon is also near its most distant from the Earth. So, it will be low in the sky and a “micro” moon

Look for the star grouping called the Summer Triangle rising in the northeast as darkness comes. Mentioned before, this is a triangular asterism made up of the three brightest stars of their respective constellation. Altair of the constellation Aquila the Eagle is the last of the three to rise. It is a very curious star because astronomers estimate that it has a spin rate that is on the edge of its gravitational cohesion. The Sun makes a full rotation in 24 ½ days. Altair takes only 10 hours to make one rotation, which is why it is flattened and looks a bit like an M&M.

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6	7	3	4	1	8	9	5	2
8	5	4	9	2	7	6	1	3

Mount Ida missing person found dead, suspect in custody

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Editor, Montgomery County News

MOUNT IDA – A Mount Ida man has been charged with murder following an investigation into a report of a missing person Saturday, June 7, 2025.

Billy George Walden, age 53, of Mount Ida, Arkansas, has been formally charged in an ongoing investigation by the Arkansas State

Police and the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. Walden was initially arrested Saturday, June 7, and charged with Second-Degree Battery, Kidnapping and Tampering with Physical Evidence. He also faces charges of Fleeing and Resisting Arrest.

Events which led to his arrest began Saturday, June 7, when the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) received a report of a missing person according to an initial state-

ment released by the sheriff’s office Sunday. The release reported that through the course of the investigation deputies began to suspect the possibility of foul play. Sheriff Thomas contacted the Arkansas State Police (ASP) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) to assist in the investigation.

The ASP CID released a statement Monday stating when Special Agents arrived, they found evidence of foul play. A suspect was identified and taken into custody on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Human remains were discovered near the suspect’s Mount Ida property.

The suspect was identified as Billy George Walden Monday, June 9, in a social media post. The victim has not been identified at this time.

Bond has been set at \$1,000,000.00. Walden will be formally arraigned on the charges in Montgomery County Circuit Court at a later date.

Additional information will be released as it



Report of escapee visiting area ultimately go unfounded

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Editor, Glenwood Herald

GLENWOOD -- A manhunt in North Arkansas for a convicted murderer and rapist led to unconfirmed reports of him being spotted in Pike County last week according to the Pike County Sheriff’s Department.

Grant Hardin, a former chief of police in North Arkansas, escaped from the Arkansas Department of Corrections facility in Calico Rock on May 25, 2025 while disguised as a correctional officer. He was serving a 30-year sentence for murder and rape. He pleaded guilty to the murder of James Appleton in 2017 and was later convicted of a 1997 rape involving an elementary school teacher in Rogers, Arkansas.

A statewide All Points Bulletin was issued as a manhunt was launched to capture the fugitive. Last week the Pike County Sheriff’s Department reported that there had been a report of a possible sighting of someone matching Hardin’s description at the Family Dollar Store in Delight.

The sheriff’s office reported that after reviewing video footage they were unable to confirm if the individual spotted was the escaped inmate. They reiterated that they could not confirm the identity of the person identified as possibly being Hardin.

The manhunt for Hardin, known as “The Devil of the Ozarks,” included local, state, and federal agencies. The moniker was the result of a documentary about the charges that led to his arrest, conviction and incarceration.

He was found by Arkansas LEOs and the U.S. Border Patrol Friday, June 6, 2025, near Moccasin Creek in Izard County. He was found a mile and a half from the prison he had escaped from earlier. While the sighting in Delight was unconfirmed, in light of the location he was found it is unlikely that he was the person spotted in Delight the week before.

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‘Dear Preacher’


By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

WHERE ARE YOUR TREASURES

As we go through this life here on God’s earth, we are making a daily choice to serve God or something other than the true and living God. There are only two choices when it comes to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are either for Him or against Him. There is no middle ground or fence straddling when it comes to our commitment to Christ.

Matthew 6:24 tells me that no one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Because we are either serving God faithfully or mammon. I encourage you to closely examine the following passage of scripture.

Matthew 6:19-21 – 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where



thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN!

LET THE WORD OF GOD ACT IN YOU

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17; HEBREWS 4:12

PREACH THE WORD

MARK 16:15; 2 TIMOTHY 4:2

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

MATTHEW 5:16

OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

ACTS 5:29

LIVE FAITHFULLY UNTIL DEATH

REVELATION 2:10

1 Timothy 6:7 says that we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Since we know this, it is very wise and prudent that we daily serve our God and lay up treasures in Heaven!

Consider the following two passages of Holy Scripture as you search your heart.


Proverbs 27:19 As in water face reflects face, so a man’s heart reveals the man.

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

IS THY HEART RIGHT WITH GOD? Have a great week serving the Master!

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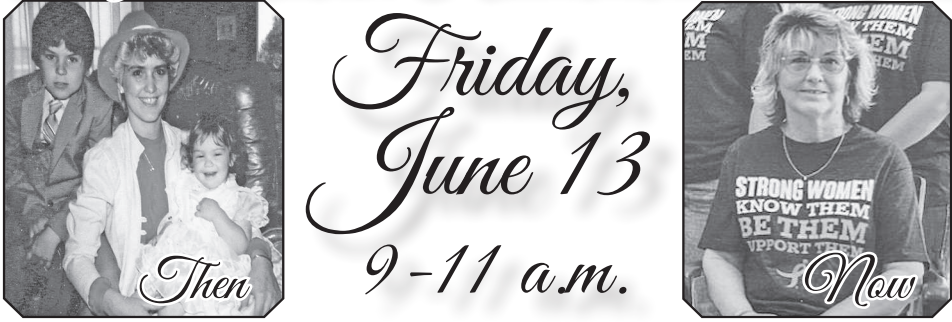
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Bank of Delight

Cathy Rather Retirement Reception

Friday, June 13

9-11 a.m.



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.

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324 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 WANTS TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY WITH REBEKAH TO BRING HER TO ISAAC AS HIS BRIDE, BUT REBEKAH'S FAMILY OBJECTS, NOW....

DO NOT HINDER ME—SEND ME AWAY NOW WITH THE MAIDEN!

I WILL GO!

WE MAY NEVER SEE REBEKAH AGAIN—DO NOT GO YET!

LABAN PUTS THE QUESTION DIRECTLY TO REBEKAH...

WILT THOU GO WITH THIS MAN?

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SUMMER VIBES
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. Baking ingredient
 - 5. Accounting pro
 - 8. Depletes
 - 12. ____ reflection
 - 13. Painter Chagall
 - 14. Feeling of resentment
 - 15. Member of Germany’s NSDAP
 - 16. ____ lily
 - 17. Light shade of blue
 - 18. *Summer thirst quencher
 - 20. Same as tsar
 - 21. Subside
 - 22. Tierra ____ Fuego
 - 23. Taken without consent
 - 26. Even greener, as in fruit
 - 30. Dot follower
 - 31. Largest hot dessert
 - 34. Australian palm
 - 35. Evian, backwards
 - 37. A in FANBOYS
 - 38. *Like a lightning bug
 - 39. Prima donna
 - 40. *Midsummer’s maypole dance, e.g.
 - 42. *William Blake’s “To Summer,” e.g.
 - 43. Any voting citizen
 - 45. *Sun to ice cream
 - 47. Feeling of veneration
 - 48. Two-door
 - 50. *Beach bag, usually
 - 52. *Summer rays
 - 55. Rock bottom
 - 56. Altar location
 - 57. Milk ____, candy
 - 59. Small stream
 - 60. Turned to the right, like a horse
 - 61. Starchy tuber
 - 62. *It’s knee-high by the 4th of July
 - 63. Ctrl and Delete partner

64. Type of tide
- DOWN
- 1. *____-kissed
 - 2. Birthstone after sapphire
 - 3. Nod off
 - 4. Kind of instinct
 - 5. Diamond weight unit
 - 6. Bluenose
 - 7. Climber’s destination
 - 8. *Intensely hot
 - 9. Greenish blue
 - 10. Make like a cat
 - 11. “Monkey ____, monkey do”
 - 13. Sometime in the future
 - 14. Indianapolis basketball player
 - 19. With BMI over 30
 - 22. Piece of evidence, acr.
 - 23. Type of probe
 - 24. *Summer hiking path
 - 25. Nose of a missile
 - 26. Pakistani tongue
 - 27. Sitcom trial
 - 28. Lyric poem
 - 29. Less experienced
 - 32. *Boat ____, don’t care!
 - 33. *Uninvited picnic guest
 - 36. *Break from summer routine
 - 38. First in Hebrew alphabet
 - 40. Fish eggs
 - 41. Entertained
 - 44. Twist plus jerk
 - 46. City in Netherlands
 - 48. Precious metal extraction cup
 - 49. Early stages
 - 50. #61 Across cousin
 - 51. ____-Eaters
 - 52. Literary genre
 - 53. In the buff
 - 54. Collection of Norse mythology
 - 55. Oldest of the “Big Three” TV networks
 - 58. Dip into liquid

CROSSWORD

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ARDOT announces recent scam for state residents

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) warns Arkansans to be cautious of fraudulent texts asking for personal information or payment information. ARDOT has received reports of fraudulent text messages posing as the “Arkansas Vehicle Administration” to collect payments for traffic violations. These scam messages include fake links that appear to come from ARDOT, and some even use real ticket numbers.

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is separate from ARDOT. There is no validity to these messages.

“DFA will never send you a text regarding a traffic ticket,” DFA spokesperson Scott Hardin said. “Please ignore it and warn friends and family. Thousands of Arkansans are receiving this text today.”

These fraudulent messages come on the heels of a previous texting scam relating to toll roads. In February 2025, Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin alerted Arkansans to a scam targeting mobile phone users through fraudulent text messages. Those behind the text messages were posing as toll service providers to steal personal information and trick recipients into making fake payments.

“If you get one of these texts, please fill out the robocall reporting form on my website, and do not send payment to any entity that only contacts you via text,” Attorney General Tim Griffin said.

To report a scam text message, visit arkansasag.gov/resources/contact-%20us/robocall-reporting-form.



Submitted photo

CLASS REUNION ... The Murfreesboro High School Class of 1972 held their reunion on Saturday, June 7, at Telinga’s Mexican Restaurant. Members present were (front row, L to R) Carolyn Sweeden Craven, Jane Kizzia Caldwell, Teresa Steel Schooley, Kathy Dillard Conley, Jan Mitchell Burns; (back row) Ricky Hudson, Bill Barnett, Kenneth Wooley, Jim Henderson, Gary Don Turner, Ronnie McKinnon, Wayne Stark, David Spanhanks, Mitchell Levins and Larry Brinkley.

Dierks residents named to regional farm family list

LITTLE ROCK — The 78th annual Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program has announced its eight district farm families, encompassing the breadth of Arkansas agriculture, the state’s largest industry.

The list includes the West Central District winner, the Smith family of Dierks. Jared and Cathren Smith have been farming for 17 years. They raise cattle and poultry on nearly 250 acres. They have two children: Cooper and Clara.

The other District Farm Families of the Year are: East Cen-

tral District: the Mitchell family of Des Arc (Prairie County), North Central District: the Henley family of Evening Shade (Sharp County), Northeast District: the Dilldine family of Blytheville (Mississippi County), Northwest District: the Spears family of Fayetteville (Washington County), Southeast District: the Hoover family of Monticello (Drew County), Southwest District: the Lockeby family of Ashdown (Little River County) and Western District: the Staton family of Magazine (Logan County)

Beginning with the selection of top farm families in each county, the Farm Family of the Year program comes to a close in December with the selection of the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. The Arkansas Farm Family will go on to represent the state at the Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year competition. Arkansas has three Southeast Farmer of the Year winners, Brian and Nan Kirksey (Clark County), 2008; Wildy Family Farms (Mississippi County), 2016; and the Cobb, Lyerly and Owen Family/Partnership (Craighead County), 2023.

Families are judged on farm production, efficiency, management, family life and rural/community leadership.

The full press release is available online at www.arfb.com.

In 2025, Pike County did not name a farm family of the year.

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Week of June 9, 2025

5



Submitted photos

SUMMER BASKETBALL ... The Murfreesboro senior high and junior high Lady Rattlers got some work in during the summer team camp they hosted last week at the school. The teams (pictured above) competed against Kirby.

Arkansas Graveler makes stop in Glenwood on statewide tour

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Editor, Glenwood Herald

GLENWOOD – The weather couldn’t have been better last Tuesday as cyclists participating in the second annual “Arkansas Graveler” made their way to Glenwood for the first stop on their tour through south and central Arkansas.

The Arkansas Graveler is owned and operated by The Ozark Foundation, a charitable organization focused on creating fun and enriching outdoor experiences in Northwest Arkansas that elevate the region as a better place to live, work, and play. The event is co-hosted by the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, the Arkansas Game & Fish

Commission, and the Arkansas Department of Commerce.

This year’s event started in Mena Tuesday, June 3, 2025 with cyclists leaving Mena Tuesday morning with 190 cyclists weaving their way through the back roads of Polk County and through Montgomery County on their way to Glenwood that afternoon.

The Arkansas Graveler introduces the rich history and heritage of Arkansas with adventurous cyclists who want to experience the natural beauty of the Natural State. Cyclists had the opportunity to enjoy the majestic beauty of Montgomery County as they made their way along Thunder Mountain Road then Voan Road and then onto Highway 70 which led them to Caddo River Camping and Canoe in Glenwood

where they would spend the night.

Ki and Kayla Hartsfield welcomed the cyclists to Glenwood on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the city of Glenwood. The cyclists cooled off in the Caddo River while enjoying the hospitality of the people and businesses of Glenwood. Cyclists rose early for breakfast at Mount Ida First Baptist Church before leaving for Hot Springs, the second leg of the tour.

Local residents lined Broadway Street to cheer on cyclists as they left Glenwood. They

turned on Mountain View Road before returning to the gravel roads on their way to Hot Springs. The tour ended in Russellville later last week.

For more information about the Arkansas Graveler please visit arkansasgraveler.com.

For more information about Glenwood Chamber of Commerce or the cyclists stay in Glenwood visit the Chamber’s Facebook page or email at glenwoodchamberar@gmail.com.



PHOTOS BY
DEWAYNE
HOLLOWAY

Arkansas first in election integrity

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas ranks first in the nation in election integrity, according to the most recent study by the Heritage Foundation.

Last year Arkansas ranked number eight. At a press conference at the Capitol, the Governor, the Secretary of State and members of the legislature announced the newest ranking.

They attributed the state’s moving up in the rankings to prioritizing in recent years the passage of laws that secure the integrity of voter registration and processing ballots.

According to one senator, the Heritage Foundation rankings have long been the gold standard for comparing how well states prevent voter fraud.

Arkansas scored 91 out of 100 on the recent scorecard, including 20 out of 20 in the category of voter ID implementation. We scored three out of three in granting access to election observers, four out of four in verification of citizenship of voters, three out of three in requiring identification of people who assist others to vote and three out of three in prohibiting election officials from receiving pay or benefits from private sources.

Arkansas scored six out of six in how we monitor voter registration to prevent fraud. For example, Arkansas does not allow registration on the same day as elections. Requiring voter registration ahead of an election allows more time to verify the accuracy of applications.

However, Arkansas scored 26 out of 28 in the category that measured the accuracy of voter registration lists. One negative score was for not including photographs of voters on the lists of registered voters, where they are kept electronically.

The legislature’s approval of Act 840 of 2025

may correct a negative score in the Heritage rankings. The act allows the Secretary of State to share voter registration lists with federal courts, which use them for jury selection. In return, the courts will notify the state of ineligible voters such as non-citizens, convicted felons, dead people or non-residents of the state.

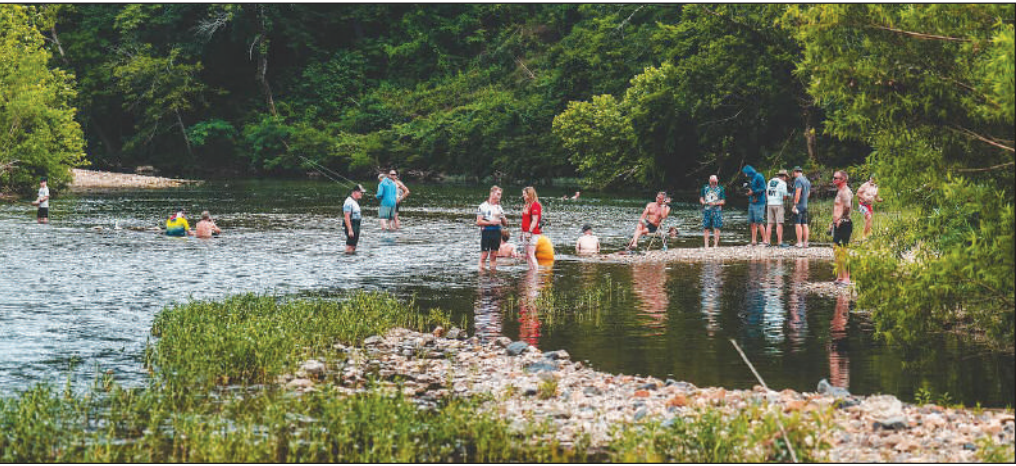
The Heritage Foundation scorecard did not include a package of bills enacted earlier this year that prevent deceptive practices when canvassers collect signatures in order to place an issue on the ballot.

However, the governor specifically mentioned several of them, such as Act 218 of 2025 to require canvassers to inform people, before collecting their signatures, that petition fraud is a Class A misdemeanor. The disclosure could be verbal, or in a separate written document that would be shown to people before they sign.

She also mentioned Act 240 to require canvassers to view a photo ID of each person signing the petition. If canvassers are unable to verify someone’s identity, they may not collect a signature.

The governor mentioned another bill that strengthens the protections of the signature-gathering process - Act 241. It requires canvassers to submit a sworn statement that they have complied with all state laws governing the collection of signatures, and with the Constitution. Unless canvassers submit the sworn statements, any signatures they submit will not be counted.

The Secretary of State listed measures to ensure the accuracy of voter registration lists, such as partnering with credit bureaus to determine that people actually live where they say they do on applications. Agreements with other states reveal whether people are registered in more than one state.



ELECT

KEVIN JESTER

South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative Board

South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

TRUSTED, TESTED, READY TO SERVE.