

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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## STATE AG RELEASES SCAM ALERT

LITTLE ROCK -- Scammers are now impersonating Arkansas Courts with fake traffic citations.

Arkansans have reported receiving text messages from senders claiming to be an Arkansas court regarding an alleged unpaid traffic citation. The message includes a case number, judge name, and a deadline to respond, and it directs recipients to click a link to resolve the matter or make a payment.

### WHAT ARKANSANS SHOULD KNOW

Arkansas courts will not send unsolicited text messages demanding payment or directing you to click a link to resolve a citation. Scammers use official-sounding language, fake case details, and threats of penalties—such as license suspension or fines—to pressure victims into acting quickly.

### What Arkansans Should and Shouldn't Do

- Do not click on any links in the message.
- Do not reply to the text.
- Report the message as junk and delete it.

If you are concerned about a possible citation, contact your local court directly using a verified phone number or official website.

You can report the scam to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov.

For more information, please contact the Office of Attorney General at (501) 682-2007 or oag@arkansasag.gov, or visit the website www.ArkansasAG.gov.



Submitted photos/Tri-Lakes CASA



**ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH ...** Tri-Lakes CASA recently attended an event at the Pike County Courthouse to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month for April 2026. "We're grateful to Pike County Judge Eddie Howard for issuing the Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness proclamation and helping shine a light on the importance of protecting children in our community," said the group on social media following the event. "This meaningful recognition reflects what can happen when we come together—our community partners, advocates, and supporters—all united in a shared commitment to the safety and well-being of children. Prevention starts with awareness, and awareness leads to action. Thank you to everyone who stands with us in making a difference." The group placed a sign and pinwheels on the courthouse grounds as a visual reminder to all attendees.

## Petitions now available to place alcohol sales on ballot

*Group takes second swing at measure after failing by six votes in 2022*

## Another continuance issued in murder case

MURFREESBORO -- The case against a Murfreesboro man charged with second-degree murder has been granted another continuance with a pretrial now set for Aug. 10.

Gage Allan King, 24, was officially charged Sept. 18, 2025 in Pike County Circuit Court for the death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight on June 18, 2025.

A Sept. 3 trail date has also been set. According to Pike County Clerk Sabrina Williams, the case was continued Monday while authorities await evidence from the Arkansas State Crime Lab.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed in the case in 2025, the Arkansas State Police was called in concerning a shooting that had occurred at 220 Pike City Road. An investigator arrived at approximately 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Pike City Road and Highway 26 and observed paramedics and Pike County deputies were already on the scene.

The investigator was informed that Lamb had been shot in the chest by a suspect identified as King, who was later taken into custody by county deputies. Lamb had left the scene of the shooting in a vehicle driven by Melissa Campbell, 52, who had driven to the intersection and was met by first responders. Lamb was pronounced deceased at the intersection.

ASP Special Agent James Avant interviewed Campbell in his patrol unit at the intersection. The agent reported that Campbell said she and Lamb went to 220 Pike City Road to "confront King regarding a prior incident" and that King had come outside holding a gun. She said Lamb exited the vehicle and had begun to approach King when King fired the gun, which was reportedly a .22 caliber rifle. Lamb was able to get back into the vehicle with Campbell.

Campbell further stated that King had pointed the gun at her vehicle and that she drove forward and struck King with the front of her vehicle before fleeing the residence.

While King was in county custody, he told an ASP investigator that Campbell and Lamb had come to the residence and made threats towards him. He said he went inside to get the rifle and that when Lamb exited the vehicle and began to approach he warned him multiple times to stop before firing the one fatal shot.

MURFREESBORO -- The quest to get alcohol sales on the ballot for the second time has officially kicked off in Pike County.

According to the numbers provided by Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards, there are currently 6,184 registered voters in Pike County. That will require the group to obtain a minimum of 2,387 valid petitions (38%) to place the referendum on the November ballot for voter consideration.

The referendum failed by six votes at the polls in 2022.

Lisa Harvill said the effort has officially begun dispersing petitions to volunteers across the county that will help in collections.

While she said the effort currently has approximately 20 volunteers, she said more would likely be required.

Anyone that is willing to help with petition efforts — regardless of availability -- is asked to call (870) 557-1860.

Harvill said that having achieved the effort once gave a bit of calm to the group this time around.

"Due to the success of achieving ballot placement four years ago, we now have a bigger interest group volunteering to cover the entire county with volunteers in Kirby, New Hope and Glenwood, as opposed to being Murfreesboro based. We are confident to get the referendum to the ballot for voters to decide on the issue in November," Harvill said.

An effort by Howard County volunteers to get the sale effort on the ballot was recently abandoned after they failed to gain enough volunteer effort and signed ballots.

For Harvill, the effort is all about the economic growth of Pike County.

"Our county has so much to offer -- but we are not tapping into all of our resources. Alcohol sales would drive economic growth and give us a competitive advantage over our neighboring counties."

She said the lack of "night life" and evening entertainment is affecting extended stays by tourists, who are leaving Pike County for a livelier atmosphere in many cases. In turn, Pike County is becoming more of a day-tripping destination.

"It's important because we need to grow into something more than just a day destination ... extended stays by tourists with a well-rounded experience will benefit Pike County immeasurably," Harvill said, noting that can include an alcoholic beverage at dinner or entertainment options at night.

According to Harvill's research, roughly 60% of Americans report consuming alcohol annually, and about half or more say they choose to drink while on vacation.

"Tourists are often looking for evening entertainment—which may or may not include alcohol—but if it's not offered, they will often choose to go elsewhere."

Since the last election, two Murfreesboro based restaurants -- Tellinga's Mexican Restaurant and the Feed Bin Cafe -- both obtained private club licenses to sell alcoholic beverages. In addition, the State of Arkansas passed legisla-



Staff photo

**THAT'S TWO ...** Jack Bonds (left) and Lisa Harvill display their signed petitions to place the alcohol sales referendum on the ballot this November in Pike County. The group must collect at least 2,387 petitions to place the measure on the ballot for voter consideration.

tion in 2025 to allow state parks, including the Crater of Diamonds, to sell alcohol at the park. "We have the opportunity to be so much more than we currently are, and we -- as well as the businesses that sell alcohol -- have seen no real negatives since they started doing so."

Overall, having more tourists will positively impact the growth of small businesses in the county. In addition, more jobs will help combat the population loss of the county, which is

projected to fall under 10,000 perhaps as soon as this year.

"This is in a county that holds one of the most unique attractions in the nation," Harvill

## REFERENDUM Continued on Page 2

## DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WORTH TELLING?

### Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information

# MHS Lady Rattlers track shows promise headed into season's stretch run

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro High School track squads are off to a good start on their 2026 campaign.

The teams started the season on March 5 at the Prescott High School Wolf Relays. The Lady Rattlers finished fourth at the meet with 65 points, while Magnolia High School won the event with 141.5 points.

The Rattler boys accrued no points.

Athletes earning points included:

Macy Gills, fifth place 100 meter dash, 13.30; third place 200 meter dash, 27.88; first place 400 meter dash, 1:03.55

Ma'Shaylia Morris, sixth place 100 meter dash, 13.33; fourth place 200 meter dash, 27.97; third place 400 meter dash, 1:04.32; second place long jump, 16'1"

Kinleigh Mounts, eighth place 800 meter run, 2:55.25

Ava Cox, eighth place 1600 meter run, 7:02.13

4x400 meter relay team, third place, 4:41.10

4x800 meter relay team, fourth place, 12:31.90

The teams next entered the Diamond Bank Relays at Caddo Hills High School on March 12.

The Lady Rattlers would win the meet with 150 points, out-pointing second place Harmony Grove High School with 124 points.

The Rattlers finished in third place with 77.50 points, well back of first place Caddo Hills with 197.50 points.

Athletes earning points included:

## LADY RATTLERS

Ma'Shaylia Morris, second place 100 meter dash, 13.74; third place 200 meter dash, 28.86; second place 400 meter dash, 1:05.10; first place high jump 4'10"; fifth place long jump 14'5.5"

Macy Gills, third place 100 meter dash, 13.90; fourth place 200 meter dash, 29.29; first place 400 meter dash, 1:03.95; seventh place long jump, 12'6.5"; fifth place triple jump, 28'2.5"

Arianna Jones, fourth place 100 meter dash, 14.08; second place high jump, 4'8"; third place triple jump, 30'8"

Kinleigh Mounts, third place 800 meter run, 2:45.92

Ava Cox, third place 3200 meter run, 15:51.78

4x100 meter relay team, second place, 57.64

4x200 meter relay team, first place, 2:03.63

4x400 meter relay team, first place, 4:42.12

4x800 meter relay team, first place, 12:35.37

Payton Niles, eighth place triple jump, 24'8"

Kinslee Howell, third place discus, 91'11"; fifth place shot put, 25'8"

Aurora Stone, seventh place discus, 57'7"

Kamiah Thomas, fourth place shot put, 26'7"

## RATTLERS

Alex Parker, third place 100 meter dash, 12.62; first place long jump, 18'10.75"; third place triple jump, 36'5"

Jamauri Jones, seventh place 400 meter dash, 1:05.80; sixth place 110 meter hurdles, 21.15; eighth place high jump, 5'2"

Josh Fox, fifth place 800 meter run, 2:31.52

Landen Jones, fifth place 3200 meter run, 16:48.19

4x100 meter relay team, second place, 48.48

4x200 meter relay team, fifth place, 1:49.62

Cooper Lowery, second place pole vault, 11'0"

Isaac Smith, second place shot put, 34'6"

Cole McKnight, third place shot put, 34'2"

Corbin Hoover, fifth place shot put, 33'2"



Submitted photo

**TEAM EFFORT** ... The Murfreesboro High School Lady Rattlers track squad took second place at last week's track meet in Prescott.

The tracksters next attended the Southern Bancorp Relays at Gurdon High School on March 19.

The Lady Rattlers earned 78.5 points, good for fourth place, well behind first place Genoa Central with 117.5 points.

The Rattlers had 7.5 points, good for fourteenth place, as Prescott won the meet with 127 points.

Athletes earning points included:

## LADY RATTLERS

Ma'Shaylia Morris, sixth place 100 meter dash, 13.96; fourth place 200 meter dash, 28.67; second place 400 meter dash, 1:04.79; first place high jump, 5'0"; second place long jump, 16'0"

Macy Gills, seventh place 100 meter dash, 13.72; third place 200 meter dash, 28.31; first place 400 meter dash, 1:03.19

Kinleigh Mounts, fifth place 800 meter run, 2:47.07

Ava Cox, eighth place 1600 meter run, 7:03.65; fourth place 3200 meter run, 15:53.08

4x100 meter relay, eighth place, 56.36

4x200 meter relay team, seventh place, 2:04.35

Mason Phillips, fifth place high jump, 4'8"; second place pole vault, 7'0"

Kinslee Howell, sixth place discus, 84'8"

## RATTLERS

Alex Parker, eighth place 800 meter run, 2:26.27; eighth place long jump, 19'0"

4x100 meter relay team, eighth place, 48.04

Cooper Lowery, seventh place pole vault, 10'0"

Isaac Smith, sixth place shot put, 37'5"

After the spring break holiday, the teams traveled to Genoa Central High School for the Dragon Relays.

The Lady Rattlers would finish fourth at the meet with 86 points, behind host Genoa Central with 131.5 points.

The Rattlers would end in fourteenth place with four points, as the Dragons swept the meet with their boys team accruing 145 points.

Athletes recording points included:

## LADY RATTLERS

Ma'Shaylia Morris, third place 100 meter dash, 13.71; first place 200 meter dash, 27.96; first place high jump, 4'10"; sixth place long jump, 15'7"

Macy Gills, seventh place 200 meter dash, 29.47; first place 400 meter dash, 1:04.86

Jordan Nance, fourth place 400 meter dash, 1:08.25

Kinleigh Mounts, sixth place 800 meter run, 2:48.10

Ava Cox, fifth place 1600 meter run, 6:32.88

4x100 meter relay team, first place, 53.51

4x200 meter relay team, sixth place, 2:03.26

Mason Phillips, fifth place high jump, 4'8"; third place pole vault, 7'6"

## TRACK Continued on Page 5

## REFERENDUM Continued from Page 1

said referencing the Crater of Diamonds State Park. "For the people that say they want everything to remain exactly the same as it has been, we will begin to see more and more issues with the decline in population across the county."

Also, alcohol sales will benefit the county as a whole, and the individual municipalities via added revenue through tax collections -- which will benefit local residents.

"That tax revenue will help the overall infrastructure, providing stability for Pike County, which currently sees that revenue leaked to other surrounding counties. The extra revenue can be utilized to help fund infrastructure projects, city and county services, as well as reducing the county's dependence on grant funds that may dry up in the future. As we have seen in both Clark and Little River Counties, who both voted for alcohol sales, there were immediate gains to be seen to the tax collections."

For those that would like to sign a petition, can visit Harvill Insurance at 325 West Main Street, Murfreesboro or the Gypsy Underground Flea Market located at 111 West 13th Street, both in Murfreesboro, where petitions are available.

## Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

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

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Little Missouri River • Lake Greason

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Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper  
will be gladly and promptly corrected if called  
to the attention of the management.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
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## ESTATE of CLOVIS KESTERSON RANCH INVENTORY AUCTION 720 HWY. 246 E. Vandervoort AR. SAT. APRIL 18 ~ 9 AM

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\*2016 RAM Single Cab 4x4, 50,173± MIs., Dually Bed

\*2005 RAM 4 Door 4x4, 226,650± MIs. w/a T&S Red Top Side Delivery Bulk Cube Feeder w/ Cab Remote to be offered separate

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**FLATBED GOOSENECKS** 32' BIG TEX Tandem Dual, Dovetail, Ramps, Steel Bed and a 24' Shop Built, Steel Bed, Dual Axle 8 Hole

**MISC.** 50± Sheets of 20' Metal Roofing, (3) V Round Bale Hay Racks, (3) Water Troughs, (3) Squeeze Chutes (2) are Priefert Brand, Portable Livestock Loading Chute, (30) 12' Priefert Pannels (10) Priefert Portable Gates like new. (14) Older Pannels, 3 Pnt. V-PTO Seeder, ATV Sprayer, several Guns & Gun Safe, Portable Storage Building, Yamaha Big Bear 4x4, Tools, old Coins, Jewelry, Home Furnishings and more Click on [FowlerAuctioneers.com](http://FowlerAuctioneers.com) for more info.

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

Send letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

or email to [mdiamond.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD, YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY AND AN ACTION FOR COLLECTION MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 20, 2026, at or about 01:45 PM,** the following real property will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Pike County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, to the highest bidder for cash: Lots Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Four (4), Parker and Johnson Addition to the City of Murfreesboro, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book 62, Page 400A, same being a part of and located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW -4 SE -4) of Section 17, Township 8 South, Range 25 West.

**More commonly known as: 315 JOHNSON ST, MURFREESBORO, AR 71958**

On January 25, 2006, THE ESTATE OF KELLY BLAIR JR and MARGARET BLAIR executed a Mortgage in favor of First National Bank, as Beneficiary, which was recorded January 30, 2006, in Book M266, at Page 446 as Instrument No. in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and is now wholly due. The loan is now in default. Tenants of the property may claim an interest in the real property herein. The terms of the call are certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale or wiring of funds within twenty-four hours of the sale. All transfer taxes will be the responsibility of the purchaser. The party initiating this action is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 800-258-8602. Date: February 10, 2026. Chase Taskerud Managing Attorney, Arkansas Marinosci Law Group, P.C. as Attorney in Fact for Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-4, U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture Trustee. **LEGAL PRECEDENT IS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE SENDING OF THIS LETTER MAKES US A DEBT COLLECTOR. TO THE EXTENT IT DOES, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE IN BANKRUPTCY OR HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY, THIS LETTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS AN ACT TO COLLECT, ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OR HAVE BEEN IN THE MILITARY SERVICE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, AND YOU ENTERED THE SERVICE AFTER SIGNING THE PROMISSORY NOTE AND DEED OF TRUST, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS FIRM IMMEDIATELY AS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT. WHEN CONTACTING THIS FIRM ABOUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICE, YOU MUST PROVIDE THIS FIRM WITH EVIDENCE OF YOUR MILITARY STATUS. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE SUCH EVIDENCE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PROTECTION UNDER THIS ACT. 24-01864**

(p.n.a., 516w., 38,39,40,41)

# Kirby man sentenced for two separate cases

MURFREESBORO -- A Kirby man was sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court to 12 years in jail in two different cases.

Nathan Peek, 46, pleaded guilty to felony charges of terroristic threatening and possession of a firearm by certain persons. He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Correction on each charge for a 12-year total.

The charges stem from an incident on June 13, 2025 where Peek made threats while armed with a gun.

Peek also pleaded guilty to being one of nine Pike County inmates charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article involving an incident where marijuana was smuggled into and smoked in the county jail.

On that charge, Peek was sentenced to five years in the ADC with five years suspended.

## CONWAY MAN CHARGE

Felony drug charges were filed April 10 in Pike County against a Conway man.

John J. McMurry, 44, is charged with possession of a controlled substance (psilocybin mushrooms) and possession of marijuana, under four ounces.

McMurry was arrested on March 30 during a traffic stop near Newhope. An alleged strong odor of marijuana resulted in a search of his vehicle where various marijuana products were located, including vape cartridges, THC wax and mushrooms. McMurry was also cited for speeding during the stop.

# Obituaries

## Michael Shawn Carey, 42



On September 3, 2011, he met his great love, Sirena. They married on September 3, 2014, and had a wonderful almost 15 years together.

He also left behind: one brother Kenny Carey and wife Fawn of Nathan. A niece and a nephew, Justen and Shiann Carey of Nathan; five children Baylee Carey of Russellville, Lucas Carey of Murfreesboro, Jake Kemp of Haskell, Josie Kinnu of Murfreesboro, and Jonathan Kinnu and wife Amanda of Murfreesboro; three grandchildren Landon Adams of Glenwood, Anita Faye Kinnu of Murfreesboro, Ripley Ray Kinnu of Murfreesboro; three step grands: Hailley Parks, Emerson and Axel Thompson. One new-born great grand, Daxton Ray Parks; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. To know Michael was to love him. He could turn any frown "upside down".

Michael Shawn Carey, 42, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, April 10, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Hot Springs on May 7, 1983, to the late Kenneth and Judy Carey.

He was also preceded in death by three uncles, Danny Crews, John Rose and Jimmy Rhodes.

He was a lifetime resident of Murfreesboro, where he also attended school. He attended Harvest Time Assembly. He was Michael "the fix-it man" to many but his favorite title was "Pappy". He dearly loved all his kids, as well as his large close-knit family.

He truly loved being a Dad. He was very proud of his kids. He loved cooking for everyone and taking them fishing. Fishing was his favorite past time along with watching the Razorbacks. He worked at JA Riggs CAT for twenty-five years and they were his second family.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, at the Harvest Time Assembly with Bro. Danny Eckert officiating, burial followed in College Hill Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

# Area coach called out at track meet, placed on leave

PRESCOTT -- An incident that played out last week at Scrapper Stadium during a recent track meet has resulted in a Prescott coach being placed on paid administration leave after being accused of sending inappropriate messages to a 15-year-old girl from a another school district.

The Prescott School District said last week the coach is on leave pending the results of an investigation triggered by the incident. The unnamed coach is also an instructor in the school's alternative learning center and coaches track and football.

The school district posted the following messages last week: "The district became aware of a social media post that was made from a track meet at Nashville High School at which a

staff member was confronted by two people who were evidently broadcasting live on Facebook. Once administration was made aware, the staff member was immediately removed from the premises, taken home by the District, and notified that they were not to return until a meeting could be held this morning with the District Superintendent."

The two people who confronted the coach during the track meet and live-streamed the encounter are associated with the social media group "Preds vs Prey." The group's stated goal is to expose alleged child predators and bring attention to potential criminal behavior, often broadcasting encounters live on social media platforms.

# Murfreesboro Cemetery announces donations

MURFREESBORO -- The following donations have been given to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund from January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026.

- \$240.00 --Winston Hile
- \$200.00 -- Gloria Hill
- \$100.00 -- Karen Goff

The upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by your donations.

Mowing season is here and your continued support will be appreciated.

Donations may be given to Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbre or Joyce Woodruff. Donations may also be mailed to: Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

# Delight Cemetery to hold decoration/cleaning day

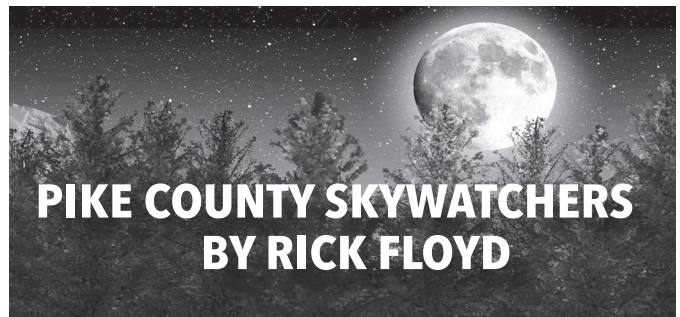
MURFREESBORO -- The Delight Cemetery Association will be hosting a Decoration and Clean-Up day on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

The group encourages those who have a loved one at rest in the cemetery to come and decorate the grave with flowers, etc. Also, supplies will be available to help clean the cemetery and grave stones.

Participating attendees will be offered hot dogs, chips, dessert and drinks.

The plan is to make the effort an annual event, coordinating the date to line up with the former cemetery dinner.

For more information, please contact Celeste May at (501) 941-9196.



## Sun rains on comet's parade

The possibility of having two comets in the April sky this year was dashed when one of them, C2026 A1, the sun-grazer, grazed too close and fell apart. The other visitor, PanStarrs C2025 R3, came around the Sun in good shape and will give us a chance to get a brief few days to see it.

This particular PanStarrs comet (there are 3 or so of them discovered by the PanStarrs telescope) is visible in the predawn eastern sky until maybe April 19th. Maybe it will be at its best from the 15th when it is in the upper right area of the "Great Square" of the constellation Pegasus. It will appear a little lower each morning even (maybe) becoming visible to the naked eye, but binoculars are recommended.

PanStarrs comets are named for the large (the mirror is about 71 inches across) PanStarrs telescope in Hawaii. PanStarrs stands for Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System. It is designed to monitor our immediate cosmic neighborhood for objects moving about, such as comets and asteroids, but it also scans far away for events like supernovas.

As its name implies, comet PanStarrs 2025 R3 was just discovered last year, but it is actually an old one. It is calculated to visit our Solar System every 170,000 years.

There are so many maybes with this one because it is hard to predict what it will actually do. Those who are out in the early morning will need a clear view of the eastern horizon. The square of Pegasus just clears the horizon at 4 a.m., so waiting a bit for it to rise higher becomes a race with the coming of the Sun.

The Lyrid meteor shower will be in action on the 15th this month and peaking on the 22nd. Like other showers, the best time to recline and watch is from mid-night to dawn's early light. Look toward the star Vega in the constellation Lyra. Many of the meteors will appear to come from a point in the sky (the radiant) to the right of Vega.

The Lyrids are noted for their lingering ionized gas trails and also for fire-balls. Past Lyrids have produced 100 or more meteors per hour in a good dark sky. Fingers crossed.

SUDOKU

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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: Can a pulmonary embolism be prevented?

**A:** A pulmonary embolism is a blood clot in an artery in the lungs. Blood flows from the heart to the lungs through the pulmonary artery, where blood picks up oxygen, which goes back to the heart to be supplied to the rest of the body. A pulmonary embolism is a serious medical condition that requires immediate treatment.

A blood clot that breaks loose and travels through the body, frequently originating in one of the deep veins in the body (deep vein thrombosis) is the main cause of a pulmonary embolism. Risk factors for the condition include extended periods of inactivity such as while on bed rest or traveling, pregnancy, having a history of blood clots, smoking, and being overweight.

Those affected by heart disease and certain cancers such as brain, colon, and stomach are also more at risk for a pulmonary embolism.

Symptoms include shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, fever, and a rapid heartbeat. A pulmonary embolism can lead to pulmonary hypertension, where the blood pressure in the lungs is too high.

Taking anticoagulant medications, wearing compression stockings, and elevating the legs when possible are some ways to prevent a pulmonary embolism. Seek emergency treatment if you have symptoms.

Email your health questions to [housecall@uams.edu](mailto:housecall@uams.edu).

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# Liberty Tree planted at dedication ceremony at county courthouse

MURFREESBORO -- The Desoto Trace Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Mine Creek-Paraclifta Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapters conducted a joint dedication of the Liberty Tree in Murfreesboro, Arkansas on April 8 at the Pike County Courthouse grounds.

The event is part of the America 250 program that is being conducted across the country in honor of the county's anniversary of founding.

Elizabeth Overton, the Regent for the local DAR Chapter and Rodney Young, president of the DeSoto Trace Chapter of the SAR were present for the event.

"This tree -- hereafter known as the Liberty Tree -- stands in commemoration of our American patriots, whose unwavering service and sacrifice furthered the cause of independence. We are bound by a solemn responsibility to our patriots to ensure that the United States of America endures forever as a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

A prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem and Preamble to the Constitution were recited at the event.

Along with Michael Myers of the DeSoto Trace Chapter of the SAR, Carrie McGaha, Arkansas State DAR Chaplain, Terry Haygood, Chapter Regent of the Arkadelphia DAR chapter, Sharon Whitlege Arkansas State Recording Secretary, Judy Hile, Recording Secretary of the Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, Fran Strawn, Register of Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, Brenda Barham of the John Cain chapter in Prescott, Velma Owens of Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, Leanne Turner of Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, Eddie Howard, Pike County Judge, James O'Neal, Mayor of Murfreesboro and many other citizens and guests attended the solemn occasion.

Overton told the crowd that the Liberty Tree was a treasured symbol in the years leading up to the American Revolution.

One such tree, an elm in Boston, Mass., served as a rallying point for people to voice their opposition to British rule. A copper plate was placed on the tree, naming it the "Tree of Liberty."

Soon, liberty trees began appearing in towns throughout the colonies.

When the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, Bostonians hung lanterns in their tree's branches in celebration.

The site of protest and patriotic unity was felled in August 1775 by British troops in an effort to destroy the symbol.

"Although that original elm is long gone, its spirit endures in the Liberty Trees planted across America -- living reminders of the courage, conviction and the unyielding hope that inspired the birth of our nation," said Overton.

"We do therefore, in the name and behalf of all the true sons of liberty in America, dedicate and solemnly devote this Tree of Liberty. May all our councils and deliberations under



Submitted photos/Mine Creek-Paraclifta DAR

**LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION** ... The local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution dedicated an elm tree planting (pictured below) at the Pike County Courthouse on April 8. The tree is symbolic of elm trees that acted as meeting spots leading up to the American Revolution as the country celebrates its 250th anniversary.

its venerable branches be guided by wisdom, and directed to the support and maintenance of the liberty which our forefathers sought out and found under trees in the wilderness. May it long flourish, and may the sons of liberty often repair hither, to confirm and strengthen each other. When the look toward this sacred elm, may they be penetrated with a sense of their duty to themselves, their country and their posterity," Overton stated.

Myers said that "in the planting of this tree, we remember the past and honor the men and women who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms and secure our future. May we never forget the Revolutionary War patriots whose devotion to country and heroic sacrifices advanced the cause of independence. May we ever recognize that fidelity and integrity must guard the precious heritage entrusted to us by those who risked and gave all. Let us strive always to be worthy of their service and sacrifice."

After unveiling the marker that tells visitors about the tree, Myers said in part that "we are deeply blessed to live in a community that cherishes freedom. May the dedication of this tree stand as a lasting reminder of commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

After the ceremony, refreshments were provided to attendees by the Pike County Archives and History Society at their office across from the Pike County Courthouse by Archives members Darlene Watson, Charlotte McCauley and John Gould.



## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**  
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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**  
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## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**  
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Chicken sandwich, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 onion & pickle slices, mixed fruit, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- Cheeseburger

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**  
Breakfast: Cinnamon swirl danish or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Beef fingers, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, 7-12 cornbread muffins, peaches, milk  
7-12 line 2 option-Spicy popcorn chicken

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**  
Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Corn dog, baked beans, savory carrots, steamed broccoli, pineapple, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- Ham & cheese on bun, let-

tuce, tomato

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**  
Breakfast: Sausage pancake bites or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Cheeseburger, seasoned potato wedges, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 onion & pickle slices, peaches, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- Spicy chicken sandwich

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**  
Breakfast: Yogurt w/strawberries & granola or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, seasoned corn, steamed broccoli, pineapple, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- Bid daddy pepperoni pizza or cheese French bread pizza w/ sauce

\*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org)

## 'Dear Preacher'

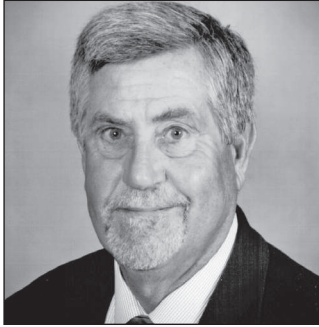
By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

### LET US SING

In my life I have found that singing brings cheer and joy to us. It is beautiful to blend our voices together in praise and adoration to our Lord and Savior. We are blessed to be able to "Sing and Be Happy" along our journey to Heaven. We should daily count our blessings that the Lord has given to us. An acceptable song service is truly a blessing that we enjoy each time we worship.

Throughout the Holy Scriptures we are shown the importance of singing. The Bible specifies that we sing. Examples are given us to follow in these verses.

In Matthew 26:30, after the institution of the Lord's Supper, we are told that the Lord and His disciples sang a hymn.



Acts 16:25 finds Paul and Silas singing hymns to God while imprisoned.

Our brother James says in James 5:13 that those who are merry need to sing.

Singing is also a commandment for each and every one of us as we worship our God.

Ephesians 5:19 "...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Each time we gather to worship, we should sing with the Spirit and sing with understanding to the Lord, as in I Corinthians 14:15. We are singing to Him; therefore, we need to lift up our voices and not worry about what others may think of our singing.

As you walk day by day, I encourage you to be strengthened by the words of "Sing to Me of Heaven". May we fondly dream of Heaven and look forward to that eternal home where we will forever sing praises to our God.

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6. Templeton of "Charlotte's Web"
9. Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
13. Poisonous plant
14. UN labor grp.
15. George Orwell to Eric Arthur Blair
16. Movie genre
17. Shark part
18. Ax mark
19. \*First Native American to win Olympic Gold
21. \*The Great One of hockey
23. Be indisposed
24. Disfigure
25. Du Bois' initials
28. Hoodwink
30. Baking soda
35. Bypass
37. "Breaking Bad" product
39. Spelunker
40. Orchestra member
41. Charles Dickens' "\_\_\_ House"
43. Family room staple
44. Like United States Capitol
46. "Cogito \_\_\_ sum"
47. Tongue-\_\_\_
48. Stockholm dwellers
50. \*Tiger Woods has won this award the most times
52. On the wagon
53. Silage
55. Almond-induced state?
57. \*Jordan or Phelps
61. \*Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams

- 73. End of a fuse?
74. Balance sheet entry

DOWN

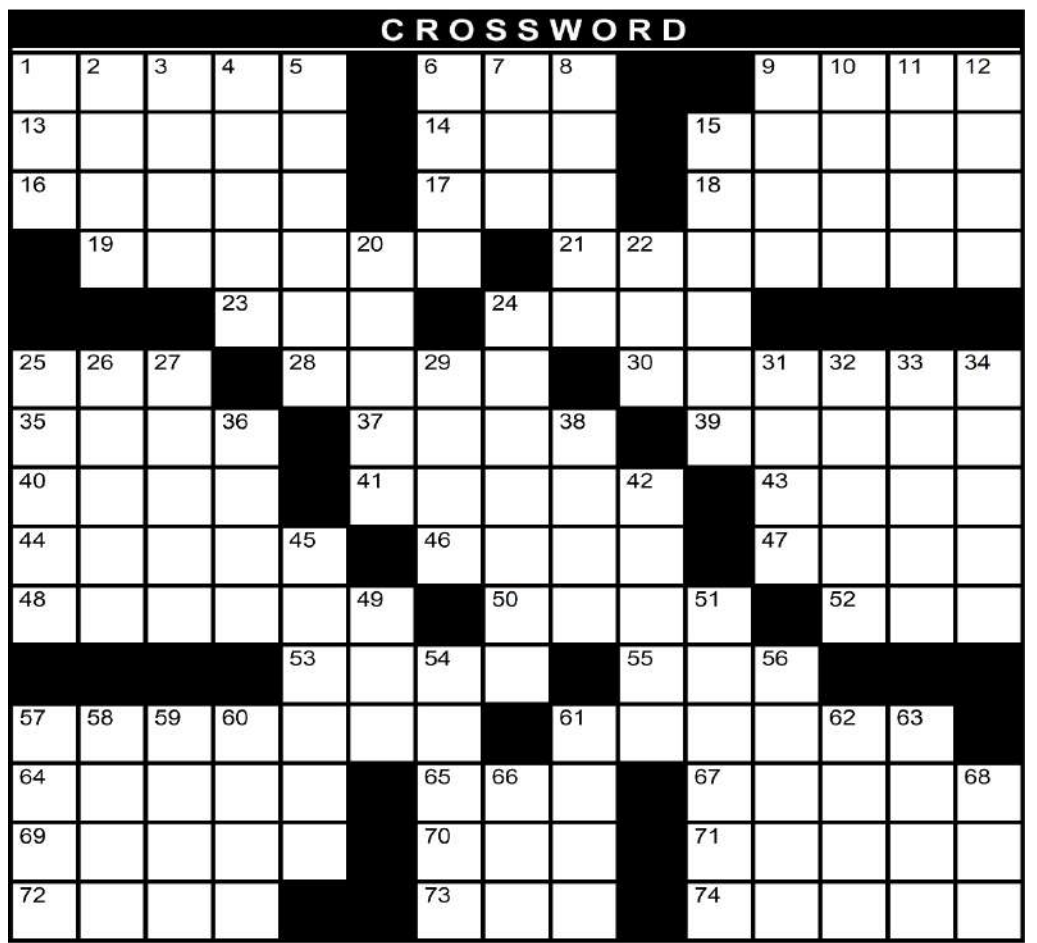
- 1. Drug in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"
2. John Mellencamp's "\_\_\_ So Good"
3. Nanny in East Asia
4. Polynesian island country
5. Tick or mite
6. Abundant
7. \*Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
8. Kingdom in South Pacific
9. Loads (2 words)
10. Nabisco cracker
11. Noisy talk
12. Like Zombie's skin color
15. Low on hemoglobin
20. Perfectly vertical
22. Adam's body part
24. Measured, like electricity on utility bill
25. \*Tied for most PGA Tour wins
26. Curve like a bow
27. Biotic community
29. \*O Rei of soccer
31. Throw a line
32. Steer clear of
33. Send to a specialist, e.g.
34. \*NFL's 7-time Super Bowl champion
36. Got ready to drive
38. Old witches, usually
42. Small steep-sided hill, in Africa
45. Vandalize
49. Johnny Nash's "I Can \_\_\_ See Clearly Now"

Grand Slams

- 64. Infant's woe
65. Seafood selection
67. Practical
69. Stopped sleeping
70. Pigeon sound
71. \*Most decorated gymnast
72. Red, or excessively bureaucratic, one

Now"

- 51. West African people
54. Choose by vote
56. Abominable snowmen
57. Med. sch. requirement
58. \*Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
59. Hoofbeat sound
60. Nature walk
61. Narrow aperture
62. Zilches
63. Away from wind
66. Many, many moons
68. Approx.



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TRACK Continued from Page 2

Arianna Jones, third place long jump, 16'2"; third place triple jump, 31'7.5"

RATTLERS

- 4x100 meter relay team, eighth place, 52.87
4x200 meter relay team, sixth place, 1:41.82

Last week the teams traveled to Prescott for the Merchant Relays on April 9.

The Lady Rattlers finished in second place with 100.33 points, well behind El Dorado's 201.33 points

The Rattlers finished in tenth place with 10 points, also behind meet champion El Dorado's 153 points.

Athletes with points included:

LADY RATTLERS

- Ma'Shaylia Morris, third place 200 meter dash, 27.76; fourth place 400 meter dash, 1:06.32; third place high jump, 4'10"
Macy Gills, first place 400 meter dash, 1:02.99
Kinleigh Mounts, fifth place 800 meter run, 2:43.01
Josey Jones, seventh place 800 meter run, 2:55.10; second place pole vault, 7'0"
Ava Cox, fourth place 3200 meter run, 16:00.31;
Mason Phillips, sixth place 100 meter hurdles, 19.49; fourth place 300 meter hurdles, 54.52; fifth place high jump, 4'6"; first place pole vault, 8'6"
4x100 meter relay team, eighth place, 54.81
4x200 meter relay team, fifth place, 1:57.76
4x400 meter relay team, fourth place, 4:34.86
4x800 meter relay team, fourth place, 12:16.02
Arianna Jones, fifth place long jump, 15'9"; third place triple jump, 33'1"
Kinslee Howell, fourth place discus, 88'2"; seventh place shot put, 28'3"
Aurora Stone, sixth place discus, 80'4"

RATTLERS

- 4x200 meter relay team, eighth place, 1:41.09
Alex Parker, fifth place long jump, 19'1.5"
Cooper Lowery, fourth place pole vault, 10'0"

The teams will be back in action this week on April 16 at the Senior Georgia Pacific Relays in Gurdon, and then conclude their regular season on April 21 at the Coca-Cola Relays in Nashville.

MJHS TRACK

The Murfreesboro Junior High tracks squads have shown promise during the 2026 track season thus far.

The teams opened in the De Queen Cub Relays on March 3.

Athletes fishing in the points (top eight finishers included):

LADY RATTLERS

- 4x100 meter relay team, seventh place, 59.10
4x200 meter relay team, seventh place, 2:08.00
4x800 meter relay team, sixth place, 12:27.30
Carsyn Ballard, sixth place pole vault, 6'6"
Kyndahl Posey, seventh place pole vault, 6'0"
Blakelee Dixon, eighth place shot put, 29'3"

RATTLERS

- Jacob Shaw, seventh place 110 meter hurdles, 19.30; third place pole vault, 8'0"
Jayden Luster, seventh place pole vault, 6'6"
Charles Morrow, fourth place discus, 113'0"
4x100 meter relay team, eighth place, 54.00
4x400 meter relay team, eighth place, 4:26.10
4x800 meter relay team, fourth place, 10:22.70

On March 10, the teams entered the Diamond Bank Junior Relays at Caddo Hills High School. Results from the event were not available.

On March 17, the squads traveled to Genoa Central for the Junior Dragon Relays.

The Lady Rattlers finished in tenth place with 25 points, with Genoa Central winning the event with 127 points.

The Rattlers finished in ninth place with 22 points, well behind first place Prescott High School with 116.5 points.

Athletes finishing for points at the event included:

LADY RATTLERS

- Adalyn Silva, sixth place 1600 meter run, 6:27.87
4x200 meter relay team, eighth place, 2:09.94
4x400 meter relay team, sixth place, 5:13.49
4x400 meter relay team, sixth place, 5:13.49
4x800 meter relay team, third place, 12:11.52
Kyndahl Posey, fourth place pole vault, 6'0"
Blakelee Dixon, third place shot put, 31'3"

RATTLERS

- Jack Lamb, eighth place 800 meter run, 2:36.15
Jacob Shaw, seventh place 110 meter hurdles, 18.92; fifth place pole vault, 8'0"
4x400 meter relay team, sixth place, 4:19.29
4x800 meter relay team, fifth place, 11:12.29
Keith Wilkinson, seventh place long jump, 16'9"
Charles Morrow, third place discus, 116'4"

Following Spring Break, the teams attended the Junior Panther Relays at Magnet Cove High School on March 31.

Athletes earning points included:

LADY RATTLERS

- Jacee Chaney, seventh place 800 meter run, 3:01.85; seventh place 1600 meter run, 6:59.95
Adalyn Silva, fourth place 1600 meter run, 6:27.38; fourth place triple jump, 27'1"
Emma Cox, sixth place 100 meter hurdles, 20.62
Ava Harr, eighth place 300 meter hurdles, 1:00.31
4x100 meter relay team, fourth place, 56.84
4x200 meter relay team, eighth place, 2:06.75
4x400 meter relay team, third place, 5:11.42
4x800 meter relay team, first place, 11:56.25
Kyndahl Posey, seventh place high jump (tie), 4'0"; fifth place pole vault, 5'6"
Kaydee Kuyendall, seventh place high jump (tie) 4'0"
Carsyn Ballard, second place pole vault, 7'0"

- Leigha Cooper, third place discus, 76'9"
Blakelee Dixon, third place shot put, 31'3"

RATTLERS

- Kage Burns, seventh place 400 meter dash, 1:01.09
Jack Lamb, eighth place 800 meter dash, 2:36.77; sixth place 1600 meter run, 5:50.91
Jacob Shaw, seventh place 110 meter hurdles, 19.81; sixth place 300 meter hurdles, 49.66; seventh place pole vault, 8'0"; sixth place discus, 104'3"
4x400 meter relay team, fifth place, 4:25.30
4x800 meter relay team, fourth place, 10:56.59
Keith Wilkinson, fourth place pole vault, 8'6"

Last week the squads attended the Junior Scrapper Relays in Nashville on April 7.

The Lady Rattlers finished in tenth place with 17 points, well behind meet winner De Queen with 126 points.

The Rattlers were in eleventh place with 21 points, trailing meet champ Prescott with 110 points.

Athletes finishing in points positions included:

LADY RATTLERS

- Adalyn Silva, fourth place 1600 meter run, 6:14.20
4x800 meter relay team, third place, 11:47.15
Carsyn Ballard, third place pole vault, 7'0"
Kyndahl Posey, eighth place pole vault, 7'0"

RATTLERS

- Jack Lamb, eighth place 1600 meter run, 5:35.83
Keith Wilkinson, third place pole vault, 9'0"
Blayze Stone, third place pole vault, 9'0"
Charles Morrow, second place discus, 127'6"; eighth place shot put, 38'6.5"

This week the team will travel to Gurdon for the Junior Georgia Pacific Relays on April 14, their final tune up before the conference season ending meet.

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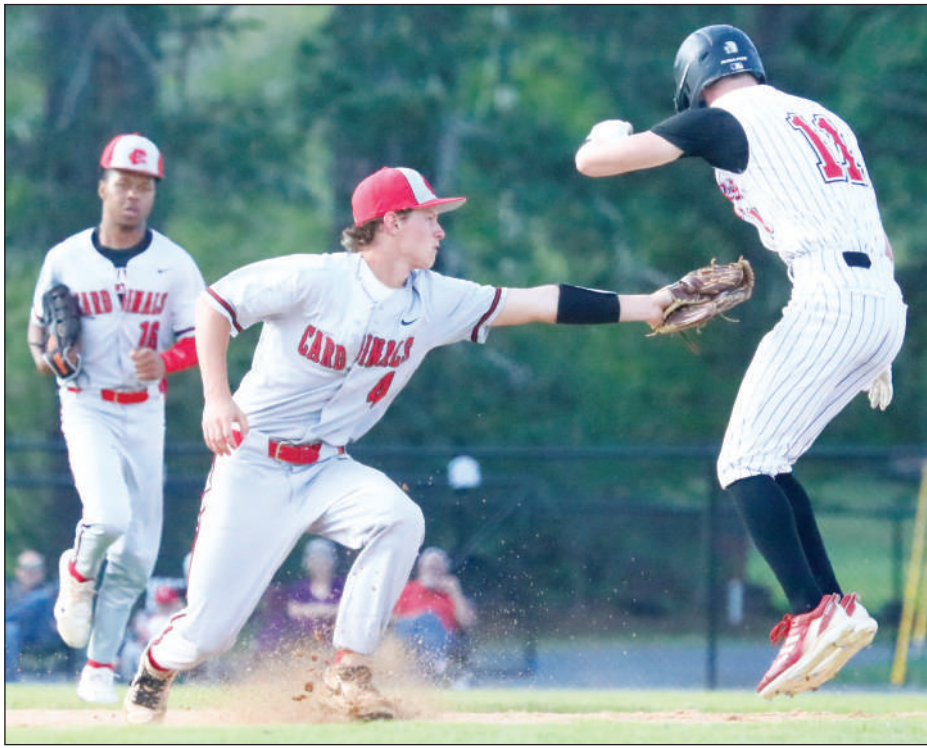
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Submitted photos/Pearl Cox and Mary Anne Jones

**ACTION ON THE DIAMOND ...** (Above right) Josey Jones rounds third base and heads for home in recent Murfreesboro High School Lady Rattler Softball action, (above middle) Kale Burns (11) looks to avoid the tag of a Camden Fairview player while on the basepaths and (above right) Cale Humphry slides into third base under the tag of a Caddo Hills defender. The Murfreesboro Rattler baseball team has moved to 17-1 after recent wins over Caddo Hills 12-2, Camden Fairview 10-9 and Cutter Morning Star 16-0. They will play at Dierks on Friday. The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers lost to Bismarck 22-2 and defeated Caddo Hills 6-4 in recent action. After defeating Cutter Morning Star 7-5 on Monday, the team will trek to Bismarck on Tuesday and Dierks on Friday for this week's slate of games.



# PIKE COUNTY 4-H 2026 ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

## OVERALL WINNERS • SENIOR DIVISION

(ABOVE LEFT) NORA MATTHEWS, BLACK AND WHITE NON-LIVING DIVISION

(ABOVE MIDDLE) JESSA CAIT HUMPHRY, BLACK AND WHITE LIVING DIVISION

(ABOVE RIGHT) JASPER MORPHEW, COLOR NON-LIVING DIVISION • (RIGHT) CALE HUMPHRY, COLOR LIVING DIVISION

**PLEASE SEE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE OF THE DIAMOND FOR CLOVERBUD WINNERS**

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ONGOING --** The public is invited to drop by the Pike County Extension Office and get some Texas Roadhouse Rolls. The rolls have been cut in price to \$4 a dozen and \$2 for container of cinnamon butter. Call the office at (870) 285-2161 for more information.

**APRIL 24 --** The Saline Church of Christ will be hosting their annual singing on Friday, April 24, starting at 7 p.m. until midnight. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to come and enjoy a night of singing and fellowship. The Saline Church of Christ is located at 1248 26E., between Murfreesboro and De-light.

**APRIL 25 --** The Delight Fire Department will hold a fund-raising dinner and auction on April 25 at 6 p.m. in the Delight school cafeteria. Smoked chicken dinners will be \$10 a plate. An auction will follow the meal.

**APRIL 26 --** The Murfreesboro High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chapter will be hosting an event with representation from each of our local churches. The Chapter hopes the Court of Champions will be a huge success and bring hope and a renewed sense of faith to our community. The event is set to take place on Saturday, April 26, starting at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., at the Murfreesboro High School Gymnasium. The first 50 people will receive free food. There will also be live music, fellowship and a sharing of the gospel. Admission is free and open to all. Come and join our FCA Chapter for a "shot at salvation" at our first annual Court of Champions. For more information call (870) 285-2189, extension 130.

**JULY 24-26 --** The itinerary for the 2026 Bullock Family Re-union Weekend has been set with the event scheduled for July 24-26 and to include a full day in Howard and Pike counties. After events on Thursday and Friday in Little Rock, the family will caravan to Muddy Fork, home of the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden located within the Polk Cemetery, Saturday for a headstone unveiling ceremony at 9 a.m. There will be six headstones unveiled and another one honoring a WWI veteran who's stone is already in place. The headstones to be unveiled will include: Alice Bullock Benson (1904), Doc Amos Bullock (1924), William Bullock (1923), John Henry Bullock (1930), Viney Bullock (1944) and Alice Jackson-Bullock (1946). WWI veteran John Wesley Bullock's headstone will be included in the ceremony. The Saturday event will include remarks by Pastor Kenneth McCollough, Machella Jackson, Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton and State Rep. Jimmy Hickey, Jr., and a special Butterfly release by Charlotte Carr and singing by Denisha' Coulter. At 11:00, the group will travel to the former Bullock plantation house in Pike County before heading to the Crater of Diamonds State Park for a family picnic. Family members from all over the country are expected to attend.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE TO MDIAMOND@WINDSTREAM.NET



**PEACH BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**  
**NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS**  
**MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> - FROM 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.**  
**ON MAIN STREET IN NASHVILLE**  
**ARKANSAS...**  
**FOOD TRUCKS, CRAFT BOOTHS, FACE PAINTING, BOUNCE HOUSES, MUSIC, BICYCLE PARADE, DOGGIE COSTUME CONTEST, AND MORE.**  
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