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4-H bake sale to help send kids to Star Camp

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H will hold a bake sale at the Murfreesboro Farmers Market on Saturday, June 13 starting at 7 a.m. The baked goodies will be sold for proceeds to attend Star Camp by Pike County 4-H youth.

Public invited to attend 'Storm Spotter' class

KIRBY -- The Pike County Ham Radio Club will host a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Class on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kirby School Cafeteria. Attendance is open to the public, regardless of club affiliation or license status. Attendees will need an Internet capable device. The club will hold a short meeting afterward. Anyone with questions is more than welcome to contact Mark Reed at (903) 701-5954 or mark.reed.ii@gmail.com.

Leadership class taking applications for 2026

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas is now accepting applications for Leadership Arkansas Class XXI. Leadership Arkansas is a nine-month program designed to equip established and emerging leaders with a deeper understanding of Arkansas's people, communities, opportunities and challenges. Since its launch in 2005, more than 1,000 leaders from business, education, government, healthcare, agriculture and nonprofit organizations have completed the program.

Through immersive sessions held across the state, participants gain firsthand insight into the issues shaping Arkansas while building meaningful relationships with fellow leaders from diverse industries and backgrounds.

"Leadership Arkansas provides a unique opportunity for leaders to broaden their perspective, strengthen their leadership skills and develop lasting connections with individuals who are passionate about Arkansas's future," said Toni Lindsey, program director. "We are looking for leaders who are committed to serving their communities and helping move our state forward."

Applications for Leadership Arkansas Class XXI are open now through August 3, 2026.

Individuals interested in joining Arkansas's premier statewide leadership program are encouraged to apply online at <https://form.jotform.com/261404801830145>.

For more information about Leadership Arkansas or the application process, contact Toni Lindsey at tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com.

Leadership Arkansas is the premier statewide leadership program of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas. The program brings together leaders from across Arkansas to explore key issues affecting the state and develop the relationships, knowledge and skills needed to help shape Arkansas's future.

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mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information

From tomboy to queen by conquering grief

Myrkle set to compete for Universal Miss title in Dallas

MURFREESBORO -- Local resident Christina Myrkle will represent Arkansas in the national Universal Miss Pageant in Dallas the week of June 21 after winning the state elite miss title last December.

Myrkle said her first pageant was two years ago at the Arkansas State Fair. "I didn't do them as a kid," she said, noting her passion for the fair after working for years as the Pike County 4-H assistant at the University of Arkansas Extension office.

She noted she was encouraged to enter by Glenwood resident Karen Baker.

"She competed that same year and won," Myrkle said of Baker at the State Fair Pageant. "I did not," she added with a laugh. "But, I had a lot of fun doing it and the biggest part of it was meeting the women that were there - the things that they were doing and the stories behind why they were doing what they were doing, and that's kinda what drew me in."

Myrkle said another contributing factor was the passing of her father in May 2024.

"It was the reminder that tomorrow is not promised, and it was time to do something for me and not wait for someone to give me permission. So, I started doing a lot of things for the first time, pursuing dreams that I had long thought didn't matter any more - which isn't true."

Myrkle again competed in the State Fair Pageant in 2025, and placed as second runner up.

"That was out of 12-13 women - and we are talking incredible women who were doing a lot of things. [My success] was kind of a testament to the things I was teaching in 4-H that I was able to use. The same interview skills I worked on with them helped with my own interview, which is the highest scoring part of the pageant."

She says the pageant process is a learning curve, and one that can be improved upon each time both at the pageants and in life in general.

"Including my competition last December for Universal Miss, I have done a lot not only in my personal life, but also in school pursuing my psychology degree, being able to incorporate everything I was learning. These interviews are a conversation the judges want to have with you, and they aren't looking for a set answer, but more of a picture of who I am in a short answer - 20-30 seconds is an ideal answer. You practice what they call in the pageant world to 'land the plane' instead of rambling on."

Myrkle said one of the past winners of Universal Miss for Arkansas became a mentor for her.

"She's been there for me and very encouraging to keep going for it ... what the future holds, I don't know - but I know who holds the future."

She says during the same time she has gone through a lot of growth and changes in her professional life, culminating currently as a new job as a qualified behavioral health professional for Impact Counseling Services at the Caddo Hills School District.

"It's kinda been a full circle moment of get-



CHRISTINA MYRKLE

Submitted photo

ting back into working with kids and having an impact on their lives - if by doing nothing but listening to them."

Myrkle said the Universal Miss Pageant will be livestreamed [for pay] if anyone wants to watch, and will entail an interview, fun/open fashion, and an evening gown segment.

"I signed up for a few optional segments, including an essay and the casual wear portion - something you would wear to a dinner party, almost like an interview-type outfit. All these activities will be on a different day, until you get to the finals day, where if you make the final 11, you get to go on to do fun fashion, and if you make top 5 you get an onstage question and evening gown competition."

Myrkle said up until June 25, the contest was holding a "people's choice" competition for \$1 per vote. Voting can be conducted at www.universalpageantssystem.com/category/elite-miss-contestants.

"At the moment I am in the top three," Myrkle said with a laugh. "It's nothing to do

with me, but all the people that are supporting me. I have a lot of friends from high school - and I'm still growing into it - who are inspired to watch the changes that I have made from tomboy farmgirl to a pageant queen. That's a story in itself."

The winner of the people's choice immediately advances to the top 11 finalists, along with a package of prizes.

Myrkle said her platform was the aspect of mental health and recovery.

"That's what has driven me to be a part of the pageants," she said. "After discovering and working through my own eating disorder, that I didn't know I had until I too my psychology classes, things began to make sense after years of silent suffering. So, sharing my story and breaking the silence and stigma for mental

MYRKLE

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Lowery hired as Lady Rattler basketball coach for upcoming 2026-2027 season

MURFREESBORO -- Chuck Lowery has been named head coach for the Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers in the 2026-2027 season.

After getting him back from Prescott as a coach for football and track in the 2025-2026 school year, Lowery feels like it was a natural move for him when the position came open for the upcoming season.

"When I had the job at Prescott, I was comfortable ... I had been there five years, working my tail off and had a good crew coming. We had a good superintendent. But after they hired for this job [Lady Rattlers head coach for last season] things made a turn over there. The superintendent left - and I was pretty loyal to him, he was a great guy. Then three of my best players decide to transfer -- one to Little Rock and a couple to Blevins -- so my team kind fell apart. Then, with the new superintendent I knew there would be a lot of changes made, so I thought to myself that I had worked for five years to get this program fixed, and I didn't want to have to fight a lot of changes again."

Lowery said he was fortunate that the football and track positions came open last season so he had a place to jump to.

"That's how it got me back here," he said succinctly. "And that's why I didn't apply for the [basketball] job last time -- we were going to have a good squad over there [Prescott] and I put in a lot of blood, sweat and tears, thinking it would be my last [coaching job]. But, things change."

When the job came open for the 2026-2027 season, he knew the time was right.

"I've coached girls my whole life -- so, I thought, why not here?"

He said the idea seemed even better after coaching the MHS Lady Rattler track squad



CHUCK LOWERY

Submitted photo

last season.

"I've been around these girls, got to know them, and thought I'd love to have the chance to coach them in basketball. They are good girls and really competitive. They remind me a lot of a group that I had while I was at Camden Harmony Grove a number of years back.

Good numbers, tight group, athletic -- have the chance to have a pretty good squad."

He said he decided to "put his name in the hat" during the interview process to "see where it went."

"If I got it I was going to be happy with it, and if not, well I could just ride my time out. I'm glad they are giving me the opportunity."

Lowery said the community support of the program and himself was something he was very proud of.

"I'm hoping not to let them down ... you can get the world's greatest coach but that doesn't always equal to wins," he admitted with a laugh. "My old college professor said it's all about the Jimmies and the Joes, you don't have them, the coaching won't mean anything."

When track season ended, he was able to begin work with the teams right before the end of school, and of course the efforts will continue into the summer months.

"They are excited to get started, they are ready to go. The last week of school we were just trying to figure things out, get the right groups together. We have a calendar made for the summer of workouts -- we'll do that four days a week. June will be kind of an open gym, with so many kids going to church camps, cheer camps and the like. So I just told them to come if you can [in June] and in July we are going to hit it full bore."

Besides weight training, the Lady Rattlers will participate in four team camps in July. Unlike in recent off-seasons, Murfreesboro will

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health is important. Lots of people struggle is so many mental health areas, much like substance abuse recovery and the work I do with Celebrate Recovery, where I see the support people need and if I can bring more awareness to it – at a state level and now a national level – can help somebody get out of the darkness. That's my drive."

As for where she hopes to place at the pageant, Myrkle says she doesn't really know.

"I don't know ... we are talking about some incredible women, and may who have been doing this for far more many years than I have. Now, that doesn't always mean anything – I'm not preparing to lose, if that makes sense. What I said when I did my first State Fair Pageant still holds true – it's win or learn. I'm going to win, or I will learn, and either way my value isn't going to change based on the outcome. I'm going in doing things that are already making an impact in my own community, and I don't need this pageant to change that. This just allows me an impact on a larger scale. In my short time, I've learned how subjective pageants can be, and how if you are only tied to winning, you are not learning the lessons that could be gotten from doing the pageants."

Ultimately, Myrkle said she is having fun while growing from the experiences.

"It stretches you ... like any kind of pursuit, an athlete or someone going for something bigger than they are, it will stretch you in ways you didn't know you needed to be stretched. You don't know what you don't know, until you know it, and then you want to pass that on to other people. We each have to learn our own way through things, and it has taught me so much more about myself. I can now see that twenty-some years ago, I was in college and didn't have the grades or the drive, or a goal in mind. Now, I graduated from Cossatot [Community College] with my associate's degree summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average, and have continued that to this point. It hasn't been because it's been easy, it's the support system I have around me to help and my friends that are there when I need it. It's a different mentality now – I am going to push myself to do harder things than I normally would have done, even if I am not successful."

She said lack of success and the consequences therein can either "force you to give up, or force you to try harder. At this point in my life, I decided to try harder, and come what may, that's what is going to matter."

Losing her father was a catalyst moment for Myrkle, because as she says, "grief is very difficult."

"I was somewhat blessed that I didn't have to deal with that until I had gotten into my 40's. It taught me so much about my

fight with anxiety and depression over the years, but also how much I needed other people and how much I needed to not stay silent with the suffering. It has now come full-circle and I have been able to be there for somebody else that went through something, knowing that sometimes all somebody needs is a listening ear. I'm making my dad proud – I know he was proud before – but finally I guess I'm making me proud."

A stay-at-home mother for 20 years, Myrkle said she would not change anything about that role. But, other women have to know they don't have to give up on themselves, who they are, or who they want to be. Different seasons come along and there is always new growth in new seasons – but if they have little ones at home, they are just as much a warrior as anyone else, because it takes a lot of bravery and courage to be able to raise young kids."

After the pageant later this June, Myrkle says she doesn't know what is next, exactly.

Winning the pageant means obligations and a non-compete clause, meaning no more pageants for the time being.

"My husband is definitely hoping I win," she said sardonically.

Myrkle said one of the perks of winning that would be "absolutely incredible" is to go to New York Fashion Week and walk on the runway. "I've never been to New York City – that would be amazing."

Should she not win, she admits part of her is still drawn to competing at the Arkansas State Fair, so there are "possibilities."

Having talked her fellow queen competitors via chat on Facebook, Myrkle said she is looking forward to meeting them in person.

"All of them have such a unique story as to why they are competing – from foster care to heart disease and many more. Just so many incredible women who have chosen to share their platforms nationwide at this competition. I have found that knowing people and having connections across the country gives me an ability to help other people because I know somebody in that area that they need help with. Life is all about connections and relationships ... I joke that I got in trouble for talking in school, but it's now part of my platform."

Myrkle has a podcast on Spotify called "Voices of Hope" in which she shares the stories of other people, and what they have had to navigate and overcome. The first episode was on the topic of grief.

"The ironic part of the story is that after we did the podcast, my guest's father died two weeks later. So, by the time it got edited and posted, it was after he father had died, and she messaged saying she didn't know how she needed to go through her own story before she went through the five stages of grief."

Myrkle's next podcast will be later this month, talking with a woman whose child was born with no cleft palate.

"The journey a mother goes through in dealing with all the aspects of that – it will be entitled "A Mother's Journey. She is competing for Mrs. Arkansas in the next few weeks. There are stories from people – sometimes those in the darkness just need to know they are not alone."

Myrkle invites those interested to look up "Voices of Hope" on Spotify and says she is investigating other formats, such as YouTube.

She also helps with the "Blue Room" at First Christian Church that provides free rentals of formal dresses to young women in need.

She says a new addition makes her the grandmother of three, and now owns a house in the country with a "Taj McChicken Hall," joking she always has eggs for sale.

"I give a lot of them away – I think there is a reward to helping people without expectations and expecting something in return."

Myrkle has also been helping judge pageants, and will be holding a virtual mock interview on June 16 in order to help contestants practice before their pageants. Three of the mock judges carry credentials from the Miss Illinois Teen and Mrs. Arkansas International programs as well as a mother whose daughter was a queen in the Cinderella system.

"So we have quality judges, with quick feedback and the sessions will be recorded," she said.

If interested in participating, email Myrkle at cmyrkle@gmail.com and place "virtual interview" in the subject line.

"I'm just trying to do what I can, she said, reminding people of Celebrate Recovery on Thursday nights at First Christian Church with dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 6:30 p.m.

She notes that anyone interested can donate food items to the Celebrate Recovery Thanksgiving day meal, which features 60-70 people in the past. Monetary donations may be given to the church, with "celebrate recovery" in the check memo line.

"It's a safe and neutral place ... family functions can be the hardest for people still going through recovery."

For those that feel like Myrkle's platform and vision align with their own beliefs, she still has sponsorship slots available for the national pageant, be it business or personal.

She thanks Diamond Lakes Adventures, Castle Repair, R&W Motorsports and The Sweet and Salty amongst others for their support, along with many individuals who have given their monetary donations or simply encouragement.

"It all helps and is very appreciated," she said.

Myrkle is also willing to serve as a speaker for events in which she speaks on a topic or provides her personal testimony.

Finally, she thanks her family, especially her husband, which she says none of this would have been possible without. "He's – and my family – have been so supportive."

City council discusses financial crunch, will face consequences if it 'doesn't level off'

Public meeting on ATV/UTV use in city limits to be held July 13 for input

BY JOHN BALCH

Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro is pumping the brakes on its quest to become a street-legal ATV city and will hold a town hall meeting to solicit citizen input before proceeding.

The public meeting is set for Monday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The city council is currently considering a proposal by Mayor Jim O'Neal to allow street-legal ATVs/UTVs to legally operate on all city streets to support tourism and local recreation. The proposal was pitched during the council's May meeting and the mayor said it falls in line with the ongoing effort to establish ATV/UTV/bike trails in and around Pike County.

All recreational vehicles would have to meet Arkansas law to be street legal, with a specific criteria such as blinkers, seat belts, and headlights with a minimum age of 16 for drivers, etc.

A rough-draft ordinance is expected to be presented at the

public meeting and will detail the involved state statutes and include specific local policies for operating within the city limits. It was consensus of the council at last month's meeting to prohibit recreational vehicles in school zones during school hours and events, and to possibly establish a reasonable curfew.

The mayor noted Monday night that there is no emergency attached to the issue and, if an ordinance is drafted, it will require three readings, which will be held over the next three months. If passed, there will then be a 30-day waiting period, making November the earliest date the ordinance could take effect.

In other council business Monday night, Mayor O'Neal reported the city has experienced a net loss of approximately \$20,000 over the last two months and informed the council the issue will need to be addressed "if it doesn't level off."

"So, let's be thinking about some possibilities," O'Neal said about possible money-saving options. "None of them are go-

ing to be pretty, but we're going to have to adjust our budget at some point."

Also Monday, Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb reported that iPads approved for use of council members are almost ready to be distributed and she hopes the devices will be ready for next month's meeting. The devices are expected to reduce paper use, Lamb said.

The council also approved the city's financial report, which included the following beginning and endings for May:

General -- \$297,112 / \$276,451
Street -- \$393,999 / \$382,458
Park -- \$42,624 / \$42,809
Special Funds -- \$329,907 / \$3232,943
Tourism Commission -- \$64,037 / \$64,244
Waterworks -- \$917,713 / \$931,562

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pike County will no longer be accepting tires (all size) at the Pike County Landfill starting July 1, 2026.

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Pike County 4-H set to host 'Back to School Fair' July 26

GLENWOOD -- The Pike County 4-H program, in conjunction with the Pike County Hometown Coalition, will host a Back to School Fair on Sunday, July 26 at the Pike County Fairgrounds in Glenwood from 2-4 p.m.

Activities will include bouncy houses, free clothes, a petting zoo and free groceries (while supplies last). Also included will be arts and

crafts, face painting, hair stylists, school supplies, books, snacks, music, health checks,

sports and community resources.

The free event invites all

school aged children and parents to attend to get a "great start to the school year."

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MONDAY, JUNE 15

Chicken Alfredo pasta, broccoli, garlic bread, Angel food cake

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Cheeseburger on bun, potato chips, lettuce, tomato, chocolate chip blonde

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Smothered chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, fruited gelatin

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is available for \$6.00

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not host a team camp due to improvements to the gymnasium hardwood floor in August. Lowery said that it also coincided with Steve Martin's referee camp, which was forced to relocate this year with the uncertainty.

Martin will hold his camp at Mineral Springs this year.

"Maybe next year we will have that back, but this year we will go to Mineral Springs for one of our camps. We have some floor issues [dead spots] and we didn't know how they were going to address it at the time."

Lowery will drop his football coaching position, but will retain track next season.

"I'll have the girls all the way through [the school year]. I asked for that, because I thought it would be better -- the transition and planning would be a lot better -- if I could do it that way, basketball and track. I did all three with football years ago, but of course I was younger then. I'll still help out on Friday night home games, go in the booth or something. I'll help any way I can. But this way I was able to focus on one thing and let the girls know I'm theirs. I'm not going to be

shared, and that's the way it should be with a girl's basketball coach, to just have that one focus."

Lowery things the Lady Rattlers should expect a good season in 2026-2027.

"We have some girls that will come back out and play, and we are in a new conference -- so that's kinda of a unknown. Obviously, I'll have to do my research. Mansfield in the past has been traditionally good and just three to four years off the state championship. I don't know anything about Hackett, but Acorn is a traditional basketball school. We keep Caddo Hills, but they have new coaches and other new coaches in the conference, so it's going to be new for everybody. I feel like, from watching the girls last year, and with some of the girls moving up from ninth grade, the varsity squad will be much more competitive and we will just see how things fall."

He thinks the Junior Lady Rattlers will be good as well, with stronger numbers headed into next season, with 15 or so players for both MHS and MJHS.

"Those are good numbers," Lowery said.

I know there have been a lot of people in my corner for this, trying to get me

back for years. I came back home in 2010, coaching boy's basketball and football. This is a different capacity, and I've been a girl's coach my whole career. I couldn't come back until there was a job opening, and when I didn't take it before the 2025-2026 season, it was not for lack of interest, it was because of my dedication at Prescott and my five hard earned years of effort. I had the program back to relevance, and we were on track because I had the best player in the conference as a ninth grader. We were trending up, ready to make it, and she up and moved to Little Rock. She will probably be the first Division One player I've ever coached, she's that level kid. So things changed."

Lowery said he was not now and never has been a "talent chaser" but more of a program builder.

"Every place I've left was in better shape than when I got there. I've just never been that fortunate enough to coach a high-octane program. I don't really care about wins -- I'm not one of those coaches that can tell you their win-loss record. I just coach for the kids. Winning is not the end all be all, it's more for the love of the game."

Obituaries

William Chester Hutchison, 78, Delight



Hutchison III, son-in-law Jessie Jarrell, grandchildren Matthew and Noah Burress, Dillin and Dalton Hembey, Lexie Johnson, Tyler Fagan (Haley); great grandchildren Kobe Lecher and Harper Fagan; brothers Thomas Hutchison (Sandra), and David Hutchison (Susan), as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held on Sunday, June 7, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 8, at Delight First Assembly of God, with Dwight Craig officiating, burial followed in the Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Pallbearers were Dillin Hembey, Dalton Hembey, Matthew Burress, Noah Burress, Jeff Birdsong, Chayne Hutchison, Randy Buck, and Jason Bonner.

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

William Chester Hutchison Jr. 78, of Delight, AR., passed away on Wednesday, June 3, 2026. He was born November 10, 1947, in De Queen, AR., to the late William Chester Sr. and Ruth Hutchison.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter Emma Jarrell, brothers, Steve and John Hutchison and a sister, Louise Birdsong.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 54 years, Linda Hutchison, his children Dora Fagan (Greg), Christy Campbell (Tony), Amanda Hembey, William

Don't stress over other's vacation plans

BY REBEKAH HALL

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — With higher fuel and food costs, many families may be feeling stressed by vacation plans this summer.

"There is a broad pressure to do something special during the summer, and it can be overwhelming," said Brittney Schrick, extension associate professor and family life specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. "People who are in middle- and high-income areas, school districts, communities or jobs are going to feel more of that pressure."

Schrick said parents who spend a lot of time on social media are also subject to extra pressure.

"Research shows that people who are high-volume users of social media tend to have more of this social comparison mentality and tend to be less content with their own lives and less confident in what they can bring to the table," Schrick said. "They tend to think more about what they don't have, as opposed to what they do have. Social media can make this worse."

RISING TRAVEL COSTS

With high gas prices and increased food costs, what was once an affordable trip has become unfeasible for many families. According to the Travel Price Index, travel prices in April 2026 rose at more than twice the rate of overall inflation, with motor fuel prices rising 29.1 percent year over year and airline fares rising 20.7 percent compared with April of last year.

"Doing a road trip used to be a cost-effective alternative for going somewhere far, or with a large family," Schrick said. "You could drive for the cost of one or two plane tickets. Now, the cost of driving is potentially going to limit people from going."

Schrick said that missing out on vacation can be "disappointing and frustrating," and that it can be tempting to take on additional debt.

"It can feel really heavy, especially for parents who already may be struggling to meet regular needs, like feeding their family and making sure their kids have appropriate clothes to wear," she said.

Have honest, age-appropriate conversations

When it comes to speaking with children about family budget limits or changing plans, Schrick said the way parents frame the conversation is key.

"If the parents focus on what they can't afford or make a big deal about not being able to do something — rather than emphasizing what they are able to do — then kids are going to act that way, too," Schrick said.

For younger children, Schrick said it is okay to share that a planned trip is going to cost more than anticipated, but she suggested parents follow up with excitement about alternative possibilities. This could include camping, visiting Arkansas' state parks, spending time at a local body of water or finding every playground in the county.

"Try to make it something that would be an activity that your kid would still want to do and talk it up as being exciting, with-

out having to come up with some elaborate reason why you're not going," Schrick said. "You don't have to focus on the disappointment part. And if you put on the excitement for your child, you'll probably start to get excited, too. You can frame almost anything as an adventure."

With older kids, Schrick said honesty — within reason — can be the best policy.

"You don't have to overwhelm them or tell them anything that makes it feel like they're taking on a burden, but being honest with them about what things cost can actually be really helpful," Schrick said. "For a lot of kids, when they see those raw numbers, they're going to be blown away, especially teenagers who have a job or have had to buy things on their own."

"Kids are smart," Schrick said. "If they have some experience with how money works, they will be understanding. It doesn't mean they won't be disappointed, but they won't be confused, either."

A LESSON ON LIMITS

It is natural for parents to feel guilty, either for forgoing a trip to avoid financial strain or for taking on the additional financial burden of a vacation.

"It is a juggling act that is unwinnable," Schrick said. "You must decide for your family what sacrifices you are willing to make. Are you willing to have your kids be disappointed for a little while, but then not be in a worse financial situation? Or are you going to consciously make the choice of taking on additional debt?"

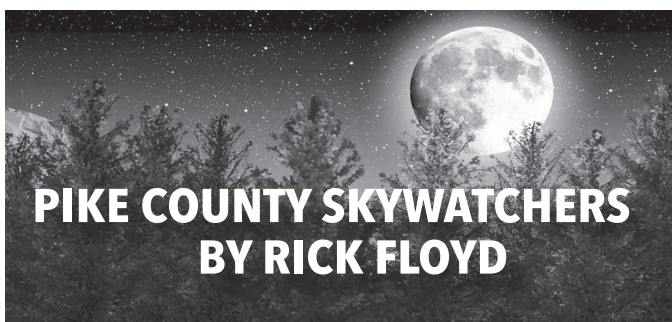
"If you do decide to do this, make sure it is an active choice," she said. "Don't just do it because it's something you think you're supposed to do."

Having appropriate conversations about financial limits can teach children about a family's priorities. For example, if a family prioritizes the cost of a child's year-round activities, such as sports, it can help to explain how that choice impacts the ability to pay for a summer vacation.

"When families pull back the curtain just a little bit — without burdening a child — they're helping their kid understand that money is not limitless, that choices have to be made and those choices have consequences," Schrick said.

For more extension family life resources, visit the Personal and Family Well-being page on the Cooperative Extension Service website.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2723 or visit uaex.uada.edu.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

Twilight not just for evenings

Twilight is defined as the light in the sky between full night and sunrise or between sunset and full night. This special time of day is produced by diffusion of sunlight through Earth's atmosphere which harbors fine particles of dust. Although it is a reference to both dawn and dusk, there seems to be a fixation in its use on the darkening side. There is the "Twilight" movie franchise, and songs that rhyme the coming of the night like the 1958 tune by The Platters "Twilight Time" where they sing "... heavenly shades of light are falling, its twilight time, when purple-colored curtains mark the end of the day." We also refer to the twilight years as the time of a person's elderly phase of life.

The Latin word for twilight is crepusculum which has been incorporated into the English language as the word crepuscular meaning the same as the Latin with extensions. Crepuscular light, in English, also refers to the bold rays of sunlight that are often seen as the sun is low or just below the horizon, especially in the evening. Crepuscular light is a favorite for makers of inspirational cards. Biology has taken the word as well when referring to animals like deer, rabbits, and cats that tend to hunt or forage in the cool of the twilight hours.

A description of how dawn evolves each day was written about in an earlier article, and the setting of the Sun is similarly described, but in reverse order.

Sunset is in civil twilight when the Sun's center is 0 to 6 degrees below the horizon. Next is nautical twilight when the Sun is between 6 and 12 degrees down, and it reaches astronomical twilight when it is between 12 and 18 degrees. Night has fallen after that. There are two other more poetic additions to twilight time that are often mentioned. One is The golden hour that often happens at both sunset and sunrise. At dusk it is the hour before the Sun reaches the horizon when sunlight is traveling through the thick part of Earth's atmosphere and the short wave lengths of blue and violet light are scattered while the longer reds and yellows come through. The other, the blue hour, is more often seen at sunset. This occurs in the early phase of civil twilight when the blue parts of the spectrum strike the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere giving sunset a moody deep blue and violet backdrop.

Watch the western horizon after sunset on June 16 for the crescent moon, Jupiter, and Venus lined up for a nice visual display. If you look hard enough, Mercury is also in the line (this line-up can be seen the next two nights as well).

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UAMS HOUSE CALL

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

Q: How are cataracts treated?

A: Cataracts are cloudy areas in the eye's lens, which is normally clear. The lens is made up mostly of proteins, and when the proteins break down vision is affected. A report in the National Library of Medicine estimates that over 100 million people worldwide are affected by cataracts.

Age is the most common factor in the development of cataracts. Proteins in the lens can start to break down around the age of 40, but vision problems may not be noticeable until around age 60. Medical conditions such as diabetes or eye diseases such as retina pigmentosa can also contribute to cataracts.

Symptoms of cataracts include cloudy or foggy vision, double vision in one eye, fading or yellowing of colors, sensitivity to bright light, or trouble seeing at night. Cataracts generally develop slowly, so symptoms may not be noticeable until the condition has progressed.

Adults over the age of 50 are recommended to get an eye exam at least once a year, and earlier if you have risk factors such as a family history of eye disease. Treatment for cataracts include contact lenses or eyeglasses, but surgery to remove cataracts may be required. See your healthcare provider if you have questions.

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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.

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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.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

June 2, 2026 • BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Adamson, Mindy, 50, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; \$465 balance
Campos, Mauricio A., 47, Hot Springs, \$140 BF, defective/improper head lamps
Cates, James, 32, Umpire, guilty of failure to pay; \$2,115 balance
Cox, Brittney N., 32, Nashville, \$545 BF, third-degree domestic battery
Cox, Jacob H., 31, Murfreesboro, \$545 BF, third-degree domestic battery
Davenport, Allen E., 34, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Dinger, Dustin G., 31, Delight, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$140
Eoff, Drake Daniel, 17m Delight, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Fant, William Michael, 38, Kirby, guilty of failure to pay; \$825 balance
Farmer, Christian Faith, 28, Newhope, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Garland, Tiyonna Nicole, 28, Nashville, \$140 BF, speeding
Garrett, Justin T., 34, Amity, \$170 BF, speeding
Gatliff, John D., 63, Texarkana, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Goehring, Mary Lynn, 70, Kirby, \$150 BF, speeding
Goolsby, James Hayden, 31, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Graves, Cassandra L., 40, Amity, \$140 BF, speeding
Grissom, April Lynn, 45, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125
Hawkins, Aarian Shawn, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140
Hendrix, David Brian, 56, Prescott, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Hernandez, Ernesto, 31, Hot Springs, guilty of failure to pay; \$255 balance; guilty of speeding, fined \$150
Hernandez, Manuel, 62, Horatio, \$85 BF, failure to present insurance
Hill, James M., 48, McCaskill, guilty of failure to pay; \$2,425 balance
Hines, Josiah James, 27, Pauls Valley, Okla., \$140 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear
Irvin, Tracy Dee, 64, Newhope, \$250 BF, overweight
Kitchens, Scott Charles, 39, Amity, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Lockeby, Nickolas, 31, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of driving left of center, fined \$140; guilty of leaving scene of accident-property damage, fined \$210; \$340 BF, driving with suspended license; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220
Lucas, Braedon Lee, 21, New Bruanfels, Texas, guilty of failure to register tags/expired,

fined \$140; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220
Matos, Alexander, 38, Mesquite, Texas, \$140 BF, non-English speaking driver; \$215 BF, non-current log duty status
Montgomery, Patricia Ann, 76, Texarkana, Texas, \$150 BF, speeding
Ortiz, Juandaniel Garcia, 25, Amity, \$140 BF, no driver's license
Post, Remond A., 50, Okolona, guilty of failure to pay; \$905 balance
Rather, Jonathan G., 41, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Robinson, Ollie Joseph Jr., 41, Arkadelphia, \$255 BF, overweight
Ross, Christian Dominick, 19, Glenwood, guilty of public intoxication, fined \$235
Sanchez, Heriberto, 47, Nashville, \$140 BF, no driver's license
Sanchez, Lesli Cristal, 19, Hot Springs, \$150 BF, speeding
Shelton, Bobby, 44, Murfreesboro, guilty of speeding, fined \$140
Spencer, Kayla Deanne, 33, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Vancamp, Dillon Scott, 33, Antoine, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125
Vazquez, Pascual, 73, Fort Smith, \$140 BF, speeding
Ward, Mignon Jean, 52, \$140 BF, speeding
White, Charles R., 55, Kirby, \$140 BF, speeding
White, Morgan T., 27, Nashville, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of speeding, fined \$140; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$615; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of speeding, fined \$140
Williams, Carey Dawn, 54, Coalgate, Okla., \$150 BF, speeding
Wooten, Curtis W., 52, Amity, \$85 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Wright, Jacob Corey, 41, Norman, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,010 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Castrejon, Cesar A., 23, Raeford, N.C., \$160 BF, no driver's license
Cox, Jacob H., 31, Murfreesboro, \$145 BF, no vehicle license; \$225 BF, failure to appear
Cox, Kevin B., 57, McCaskill, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,275 balance
Robinson, Matthew W., 44, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,917 balance
Walton, Belinda J., 58, Nashville, \$170 BF, speeding

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Aguilar, Juan Carlos, 50, Arkadelphia, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350

Bowser, Jessica Lynn, 38, Malvern, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Bradford, Sandra Joyce, 72, Glenwood, \$160 BF, failure to stop or yield
Castillo, Victoria, 55, Glenwood, \$160 BF, no driver's license
Downer, Wesley A., 61, Norman, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45
Fant, William Michael, 38, Kirby, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$280
Massey, Scottie Lance, 54, Bonnerdale, improper muffler, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss
McFadden, Margaret Mary, 68, Richmond, V.A., \$170 BF, speed

Morrisette, Bruce A., 45, Glenwood, \$255 BF, improper window tinting
Murray, Eleanor Jean, 61, Iowa City, Iowa, disorderly conduct, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss
Pittman, Clayton Ray, 23, Glenwood, guilty of first-degree criminal mischief, fined \$390
Stewart, Zachery Bill, 29, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Williams, Shawn Calvin, 21, Glenwood, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$160; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350; guilty of reckless driving, fined \$480; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$255

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-26-26 -- OCSE, vs. Terry Erickson, support/OCSE, May 11
DR-26-27 -- OCSE, vs. Ashley Markham, support/OCSE, May 14
DR-26-28 -- Kerri Sties, vs. Jeremy Stiles, divorce, May 14
DR-26-29 -- Jorge Martinez, vs. Noemi Ortiz, divorce, May 15
DR-26-30 -- Robert Holt, vs. Sharon Holt, divorce, May 18
DR-26-31 -- Robert Wilhite, vs. Karen Wilhite, divorce, May 18
DR-26-32 -- Christopher Gibbons, vs. Cori Davis, paternity, May 29
DR-26-33 -- Syndi Irvin, vs. Erik Irvin, divorce, June 1
DR-26-34 -- Deborah Ward, vs. Arthur Ward, divorce, June 1
DR-26-35 -- Ariel McCaghey, vs. Mason McCaghey, divorce, June 4

CIVIL

CV-26-55 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Brandon McMillian, debt collection, May 4
CV-26-56 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Eric McBay, debt collection, May 4
CV-26-57 -- Charles Willis, vs. Joshua Adkerson, David Crum, ET AL, automobile tort, May 6
CV-26-58 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Susan Pate, debt collection, May 7
CV-26-59 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Walter Oliver, debt collection, May 7
CV-26-60 -- Crown Asset Management, vs. Stephanie Forrest, debt collection, May 8
CV-26-61 -- Capital One, vs. Johnny Rowton,

debt collection, May 8
CV-26-62 -- Lisa Godwin, name change, May 12
CV-26-63 -- Brian Lankford, name change, May 18
CV-26-64 -- Melena Ingram, vs. Bradley Canale, automobile tort, May 19
CV-26-65 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Michael Lamb, debt collection, May 20
CV-26-66 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Cindy Cook, debt collection, May 26
CV-26-67 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Aerik Jacobs, contract/other, May 26
CV-26-68 -- Joseph Rowe, vs. Taylor Lamb and Justin Stone, landlord/tenant unlawful detain, May 29
CV-26-69 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Stephen Markham, debt collection, June 1
CV-26-70 -- Cavalry SPV 1 LLC., vs. Virgil Burk, contract/other, June 1
CV-26-71 -- Cavalry SPV 1, vs. Dee Hudson, contract/other, June 2
CV-26-72 -- Itzel Rojo Hernandez, name change, June 3
CV-26-73 -- Chambers Bank, vs. MRN LLC ET AL, mortgage foreclosure, June 3

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Jay D. Stuard, 22, Delight; Makenna Grace Cross, 21, Delight, May 8
Frankie D. Cash, 59, Murfreesboro; Deborah Lynn House, 59, Murfreesboro, May 11
Maynor Antonio Medina Car, 24, Glenwood; Luz maria Martinez-Hernandez, 23, Glenwood, May 14
David Obert Piersall, 63, Murfreesboro; Linda Casey Boggio, 70, Murfreesboro, May 28

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

Standing on the promises; we are probably all familiar with this phrase as many of us have probably sung this song since we were young children. As the chorus goes on to depict, the promises we stand on are the "promises of God." What promises would these be? The promise of a better life, of a spiritual family, of fellowship, of rest, and of a home in Heaven for eternity. In this short study we have a particular interest in the verb "standing."



Because the verb is used as a present participle it means that one is currently standing and continues to do so. Why is one in this position? 2 Peter 1:10 says, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." This statement does not mean that one who is saved can never fall away, notice the importance of the conditional word "if." He states that IF these things, the "Christian graces" (v5-9), are in us we will never fall. This is a logical conclusion, because if one continues to grow in grace and to be faithful, then he continues to stand on the promises of God.

When we sing this song and others like it, do we think about the meaning and grasp the implications of it? To be standing on the promises of God means not only that I am faithful, but that I am making effort to grow spiritually. It means that, with diligence I am adding virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and finally Christ-like love to my faith (2 Pet. 1:5-7). We must take special care that we are actually "Standing on the Promises" and not merely just sitting on the promises.

Today, we are standing on the promises of God because we are His faithful, hopeful, and called out people!

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The Shunammite's Son

THE YOUNG SON OF THE WEALTHY SHUNAMMITE FAMILY, WHOM ELISHA HAD PROPHESIED WOULD BE BORN, HAS DIED FROM A SUN-STROKE, AND NOW...

...WHILE THE ELDERLY MAN MOURNS HIS SON, SURROUNDED BY HIS WEeping SERVANTS...

...THE YOUNG MOTHER HAS CARRIED HER BOY TO THE SANCTITY OF THE LITTLE ROOM WHICH SHE HAD ORDERED BUILT FOR ELISHA...

...HAVING PLACED HER SON AS CLOSE AS SHE POSSIBLY COULD TO THE PROPHET'S HOLINESS—THE BED ON WHICH HE SLEEPS WHEN HE VISITS THIS HOUSE, THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN...

...HURRIES DOWN FROM THE GARDEN WILL TO SPEAK TO HER HUSBAND...

SEND ME, I PRAY THEE, ONE OF THE SERVANTS, AND A DONKEY, THAT I MAY HASTEN TO THE MAN OF GOD!

WHEREFORE WILT THOU GO TO HIM TODAY? IT IS NEITHER TIME FOR THE FEAST OF THE NEW MOON, NOR IS IT THE SABBATH!

...IN SPITE OF THE WEeping AND HOURLING BY HER HUSBAND AND THE HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS, THIS WOMAN HAS NOT GIVEN UP HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN YET BE DONE FOR HER LITTLE BOY—AND NOW SHE SPEAKS URGENTLY...

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* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Calculus, e.g.
5. Emerald ___ borer
8. Web journal
12. Eurozone money
13. Ginger beer cocktail
14. Overabundance, pl.
15. *Mike Brady's sons in "The Brady Bunch"
16. Taylor Swift's sixth tour, with The
17. Bob Marley, spiritually speaking
18. *Howard Cunningham's TV show
20. Answer from a tunnel
21. Calms
22. Albanian currency
23. House that's mostly gable
26. Smallest
30. Ante-
31. Magi's gift, pl.
34. Of a particular kind
35. Like Scotch whisky, flavor-wise
37. "___ the land of the free..."
38. *Fred MacMurray in "My ___ Sons"
39. Nessie's hangout
40. Passport-giving organization, e.g.
42. A Beatle bride
43. Give right or privilege
45. 3.26 light-years
47. Sun, in Spain
48. The Gem State capital
50. London native, e.g.
52. *Danny Tanner's show
56. Make awake
57. Popular sandwich cookie
58. Elephant trainer's poker
59. Loathing
60. Hot rum drink
61. Goodness gracious!
62. Yearnings
63. Letters of distress

64. Infamous Roman Emperor

DOWN

1. Crystal in the street
2. Atmosphere
3. Acid "journey"
4. Commotion
5. Pertaining to ear
6. Kills a dragon
7. Hitler's deputy
8. *Dre Johnson's show
9. Verdant
10. "The Simpsons" palindrome
11. General Services Administration
13. Assortment
14. *Dr. Leonard ___ of "Friends"
19. Delectable
22. Fleur-de-___
23. Granny Smith, e.g.
24. Banned aerosol propellant
25. Strike back, e.g.
26. Through, for short
27. #12 Across, pl.
28. Part of an act
29. *Sandy Cohen's show
32. *Johnny ___ of "Schitt's Creek"
33. High-___ image
36. *Jack Pearson's show
38. Spam destination
40. Not in good health
41. Final words
44. Native American emblem
46. Resume business
48. Old West pack animal
49. Bread spreads
50. Foretell
51. Today's Colosseum, e.g.
52. Driving hazard, pl.
53. Desire
54. Fly like an eagle
55. Taro plant
56. *Logan ___ of "Succession"

CROSSWORD

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An 'egg-cellent' summer activity ... eggs today, chicks tomorrow

I've got to confess I didn't grow up on a farm. However we did go out to Granny (aka Honey/ Ms. Caldwell)'s farm every now and then and I loved it. I still love going out there. I loved helping her in any way I could.

Granny would turn anything into a lesson. Whether it was with chickens, horses, feeding baby calves, plants, and even dogs. In her words she's "a walking textbook of farm knowledge." To that I agree.

While writing this article I got the privilege of interviewing the littlest Caldwell, Weldon. I asked him what his favorite farm memories were and he told me quite a few things. He said his favorite thing was "Helping his sisters raise two bull calves Milo and Otis that fight a whole lot" He also added "I like helping my dad with the farm, driving Honeys side by side, and helping Honey with Gus and Finn." I asked him what he liked so much about Honey's pony Gus and he said "He's lazy. I like to climb the fence and ride him without a saddle." He's hilarious. Weldon was in Ms. Caldwell's class and got to witness Granny's Chick lesson from the front lines.

For the past three years Ms. Caldwell's class has gotten to incubate eggs and watch their life cycle. She includes nature in any way she can while teaching. It takes twenty one days for an egg to hatch. Sometimes it could be a day early or day later. It just kind of depends.

To put in perspective for the kids I put what all twenty one days look like for the chicks inside an easter egg. Ideally you're supposed to open the egg each day. I just gave them out to her kids and let them open them one by one and ask questions.

I asked Weldon what his favorite part of learning about the chicks was and he said, "He loved candling the eggs and watching them hatch." Candling the egg is when you put a bright flashlight up to the egg and see what's going on in there. I got to pick an egg and put my name on it. I think I was just as excited as her little first graders to see them hatch.

I personally think this is a great summer project to do with your kids and I am so thankful that I had the privilege of teaching Ms. Caldwell's class about a chick's life cycle this year with



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the Farm Bureau Women's Leadership.

I'm going to give you the step by step to do this at home straight from the expert herself. First of all you're going to need an incubator before you get those eggs. Granny got her incubator from amazon. They have some that are pretty inexpensive there. I even found a couple that had a candler on them. Once you get that you can get those eggs. DO NOT get them from the refrigerator section at Wal-Mart.

You probably know someone that has chickens that you could get a couple of eggs from. Like I did with Ms. Caldwell's class, get those easter eggs and let the kids read how that chicken is growing in that egg. Her kids loved it! Now get the chick's temporary home set up. Granny uses a 27 gallon tub that she cuts a hole in the lid and puts hardware cloth wire so the chicks are able to breathe when she puts them in there. She lines the bottom of the tub with wood shavings as well.

When they start hatching you're going to want to get that chick out as soon as it hatches but give it a little bit in that warm incubator. You're going to want to open that lid as little as possible. Granny also puts a heat lamp on those chicks for two weeks when she transfers them into the tub. She has a thing of water in there for them as well. She starts them on medicated chick feed and says "I've never lost one."

I hope a couple of y'all try this out and see what you can come up with! To me it was super rewarding to be a part of this process! Once again if y'all do this please post on Facebook and tag me! I'd love to see how much y'all enjoyed this project! Who knows I might try my luck and do it for myself.



Submitted photo/Hallie Caldwell

THE CHICKEN NAMED NUGGETS ... Weldon Caldwell, his chicken he named Nugget and Granny's puppy Annie.

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Pike County 4-H holds summer cereal drive

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is seeking to provide children out of school with the most important meal of the day. As such, the effort is seeking non-perishable and kid-friendly breakfast items such as cereal, oatmeal, toaster pastries and granola bars from June 1-July 31.

"This is for children and families in the county who might otherwise go without," said Pike County 4-H assistant Shannon Ballard. Items may be dropped off at either the Pike County Extension offices in Murfreesboro or at the Bainum Library in Glenwood.

Delight Cemetery Association to hold June 20 meeting

DELIGHT -- The annual membership meeting of the Delight Cemetery Association will be held on Saturday, June 20, at 2 p.m. at the Delight cafeteria. All interested people are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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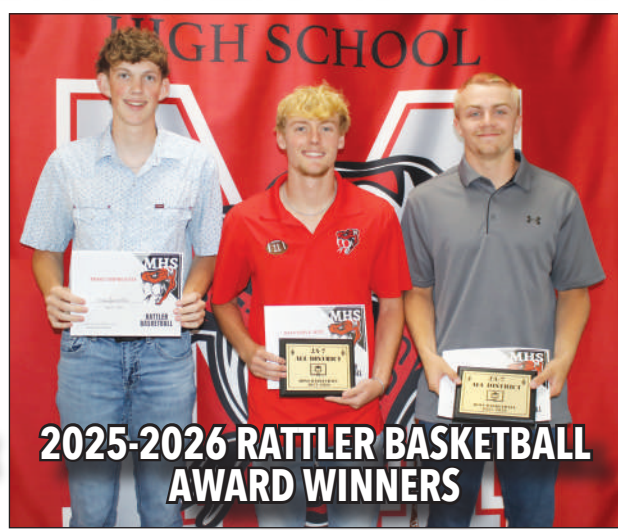
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