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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.

Pair of special meetings announced by City

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro has announced a pair of specially called meetings.

On Thursday, June 18, the Murfreesboro Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at City Hall starting at 6 p.m. to discuss a pair of requested variances.

Then, on Tuesday, June 23, the Murfreesboro City Council will meet at City Hall at 6 p.m. to discuss sewer rates.

4-H to sell baked goods, totes at Farmers Market

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H will sell baked goods and feed bag totes at the Murfreesboro Farmers Market on Saturday, June 20 starting at 7 a.m.

The sales will benefit Pike County 4-H youth.



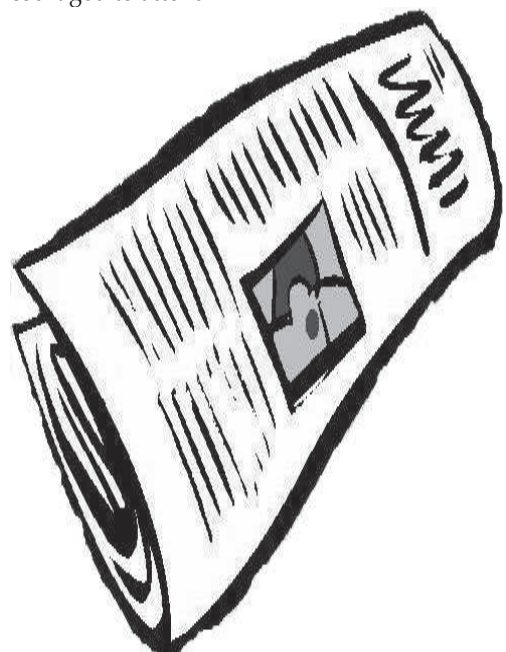
Staff/submitted photos
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ...
The annual Juneteenth celebration was held on Saturday, June 13 in Murfreesboro. Pictured is the opening parade that ran through town to the city park, including (left) Annie Sue Sanders. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It marks the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and free the last enslaved people in the state.



Delight Cemetery Association to hold meeting Saturday

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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mdiamond@windstream.net

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Quorum Court approves repairs of fairgrounds

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court authorized the movement of funds to repair the Pike County Fairgrounds in Glenwood following damage from the winter storm damage in early 2026.

Insurance through the Arkansas Association of Counties (AAC) will pay a portion of the costs, and since the event was declared a disaster by Pike County Judge Eddie Howard, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) will also kick in 35% of the costs.

Broken down, the costs are as follows:

- Pavilion -- repair costs \$40,500; insurance reimbursement \$8,016; ADEM reimbursement \$14,175; leaving uncovered final costs of \$18,309

- Chicken Barn -- repair costs \$46,750; insurance reimbursement \$17,001.25; ADEM reimbursement \$16,362.50; leaving uncovered final costs of \$13,386.25

- Rodeo Arena Roof -- repair costs \$6,500; insurance reimbursement \$28,500; ADEM reimbursement \$2,275; leaving a \$24,275 surplus

Howard told the court he was verifying if he could use the surplus funds from the rodeo arena roof project (the total has already been approved by the AAC insurance) on the other two jobs.

If that is the case, the total uncovered cost of the project will be \$7,420.25.

Howard said he had approached local banks about getting them to kick-in funding for the cause, and had handshake deals with some of them.

The county still has yet to receive any insurance money, and would not get any of the ADEM funding until after the project is completed. Therefore, the court approved \$62,232.75 to be moved into the building accounts and to be repaid to the Tribal Consistency Fund when the payments actually come in so the project can be completed before the 2026 Pike County Fair this fall.

Some further damage was done to the hog arena in the recent severe hail event in Glenwood, but that would not be covered for ADEM purposes. Also, it was noted that \$4,000 worth of lumber had been donated by Great Southern to aid in the project.

"We have to get it fixed ... even if we have to"
QUORUM COURT
Continued on Page 2



Staff photo
LEADING THE PLEDGE ... Pike County 4-H member Jessa Cait Humphry leads the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday's Pike County Quorum Court meeting in Murfreesboro. Pictured along with Humphry is Pike County Treasurer Loretta Rather and Pike County Judge Eddie Howard.

Extension offers screen time tips for summer

BY REBEKAH HALL

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — As summer kicks off, an extension family life specialist offers advice for parents who may be worried about children spending extra time on screens.

"During the school day, parents know there is a block of time when their children won't be on screens, so they may not feel as guilty about kids being on them in the evenings," said Brittney Schrick, extension associate professor and family life specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. "But during the summer, when kids are home alone, you can try to set boundaries, and sometimes they will get followed, but a lot of the time they won't."

One option for parents is to collaborate with other families and make plans for children to spend time together at each other's homes, taking turns hosting them.

"Previous generations of kids could ride their bikes to someone's house to hang out during the day, but they don't do that anymore," Schrick said. "Most interactions with their friends have to be organized. If you can establish a core group of families that trades off doing that, you can build a little community where the kids get intentional peer interaction."

Schrick said the goal should be to give children safe, unstructured time during summer days — not just physically safe, but psychologically safe.

"If they're online all day at home, that safety is an illusion," Schrick said. "If they're playing a game online that connects them with other people, they might start talking to someone they wouldn't normally talk to."

MONITOR USAGE

"Parents need to be aware of what their kids are doing and want to do on screens," Schrick said. "Use all the parental control features available, even past the age when kids think that they shouldn't need them anymore. Keep in mind that this is ever-evolving — just because you knew what your kid was watching last week doesn't mean they're still watching that."

Schrick encouraged parents to use children's versions of media platforms, which usually feature a code that must be entered to switch from a child's user profile to an adult profile. She also said it is important for parents to understand that when children explore new content on their devices, "they aren't doing it to be sneaky, break the rules, or defy you."

"They aren't doing this with any malice," Schrick said. "They're just being kids who are bored and have a whole lot of time on their hands. Unless you have made it a priority to learn how to deal with boredom without screens, that's what they're going to do — it's what the culture prepares them to do."

It's critical for parents to stay curious about the content their children are interacting with, Schrick said, without sounding dismissive or judgmental.

"Sit down next to them and ask them, 'What are you doing? Tell me about what you're watching,'" Schrick said. "That can be disarming in a way where it doesn't give them a chance to get defensive or worried, and they'll just answer you. If you don't understand it, ask them, 'Help me understand what you like about this,' and watch your tone."

MODEL GOOD SCREEN TIME HABITS

Though parents can also be guilty of spending too much time on their devices, Schrick said it is important to model healthy screen time habits, especially when it comes to putting phones down during conversations.

"Incremental improvement is better than no improvement," Schrick said. "Make it a point to click the screen off, put it down and make eye contact with your kid while they're talking to you."

Schrick said it is normal for children to push back against limits on screen use, and that parents should be prepared to answer the "why" questions children may have about those limits. If parents do discover that their child has encountered inappropriate content or engaged in unsafe behavior online, it's important to not shy away from difficult conversations.

"Sometimes, when parents are scared of the answer, they don't ask the question," Schrick said. "That can be true for a lot of things, including, 'What are you watching?' Because if they are watching something or engaging with media that has taught them something you weren't ready for them to know, are they going to ask you questions that you're not ready to answer?"

"This may mean you have to discipline them in some way or take the screen away and deal with the fallout," Schrick said. "You have to have the courage to ask those questions, even when you might be nervous about the outcome."

PRIORITIZE CONNECTION

"The idea that you only get 18 summers with your kids can be viewed as cliché, but it's true," Schrick said. "You get a finite amount of time with your kids. That doesn't mean every moment has to be magical, positive and perfect, but you're not going to get an unlimited number of chances to connect."

"This can look like talking to each other while you're cooking dinner or going on a walk together even though you're tired at the end of the day," Schrick said. "Push through annoyance or exhaustion because those are the moments your kids will remember and the things you will cherish."

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) 285-2161 or visit uaex.uada.edu.



Submitted photo

HATTIE HORN

Hattie Horn named queen

HOT SPRINGS -- Four-year-old Hattie Horn of Kirby, Arkansas, was crowned Tiny Miss National F.A.C.S. Queen on Sunday, June 7, 2026, during the National F.A.C.S. Pageant held at Hotel Hot Springs in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

F.A.C.S., which stands for Fight Against Childhood Starvation, is a national pageant system dedicated to encouraging leadership, service, and community involvement among young contestants while raising awareness and support for children facing food insecurity.

In addition to capturing the national title, Hattie earned several prestigious awards throughout the competition. She was named Best Fun Fashion, Best Evening Gown, and was selected as the Overall Junior Talent Winner among contestants ages 3-12. Hattie was also recognized with a Community Service Achievement Award for completing more than 100 hours of community service.

As Tiny Miss National F.A.C.S. Queen, Hattie will spend the next year serving as an ambassador for the organization and promoting her personal platform, "Cultivating Kindness Through Agriculture."

Through her platform, Hattie enjoys working alongside her mother and nana to educate others about agriculture, healthy living, and livestock education. She believes that helping others learn where their food comes from encourages kindness, responsibility, and stronger communities.

Hattie resides in Kirby with her parents, P.J. and Samantha Horn, and her two brothers, Guy Cooper and Winston. When she is not participating in pageants, she enjoys spending time with her family, helping with agricultural education activities, cheering, and serving her community.

With her bright smile, servant's heart, and passion for agriculture, Hattie looks forward to representing the F.A.C.S. organization and making a positive impact throughout her year of service as Tiny Miss National F.A.C.S. Queen.

QUORUM COURT Continued from Page 1

bankroll it to get it done ... for the kids," said Justice of the Peace Paul Baker.

Howard would then explain the recent removal of tire acceptance at the Pike County Landfill.

He amended his figures that were recently on social media, stating that the costs to accept tires was now \$3 each for small tires (normal passenger vehicles) and \$5 each for large tires.

"This was entirely caused by the state," Howard explained, noting that cutbacks in funding meant that money that was formerly used for the tire final retirement was no longer available and had to be borne by the individual.

"Since we cannot accept cash/payments at the landfill, we can no longer accept the tires," Howard said.

It was also noted that the permit that can be garnered by Pike County residents for use at the regional landfill at Nashville would very shortly be extinguished of reserve funds if used for the costs of tires.

J.P. Robbie Crocker said it would be helpful for the county to make a list of items that could be accepted and conversely not accepted at the Pike County Landfill.

"Put out a list, because people don't know ... and [accepted items] gets less and less every year."

Howard told the court that the July meeting will be moved back one week to July 27, 7 p.m. at the Pike County Courthouse.

Account balance openings and closings for Pike County through May, as reported by Pike County Treasurer Loleita Rather, included:

- County General -- \$1,522,158.01; \$1,477,477.49
- County Road -- \$208,198.99; \$195,781.42
- County Landfill -- \$268,975.04; \$290,522.40
- All County Funds -- \$6,601,516.64; \$6,643,492.46

Murfreesboro Diamond

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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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Judges Office, the amount for this publication is \$16.87 (p.c.j. 49, 50, 51)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids to tear off and replace shingles on the Glenwood Senior Citizens building located at 229 Betty Street in Glenwood Arkansas.

Requirements:
-Shingles shall be grey 30-year architectural shingles.
-The shingles shall be tacked down, not stapled.
-New felt will be installed.
-All valleys, and the bottom perimeter around the building up 3 feet from the drip edge, shall be lined with ice and water felt.
-All pipes that penetrate the roof must have lead or high-temp silicone boots installed, if not already installed.
-All new drip edges must be installed.
-Contractor is responsible for removing and disposing of the old shingles.

-Contractor shall coordinate times of any work with the county judge, or his representative, and keep a clean work environment.

-Once shingles are removed, the contractor must inform the judge for an inspection time in case there is any weak areas in the decking.

-New ridge vents must be installed.
Bids may be mailed to the Pike County Judge, P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR or delivered to 1 Courthouse Sq. Murfreesboro, AR 71958 no later than June 29, 2026.

Bids will be opened July 1, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in the County Judge's office located at 1 Courthouse Sq. Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Eddie Howard
Pike County Judge

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Judges Office, the amount for this publication is \$103.95 (p.c.j., 231w., 50,51)

Teacher sentenced for assault of student

MURFREESBORO -- An Arkadelphia woman was sentenced Monday in Pike County on a sexual assault charge involving a relationship with a Centerpoint School District student.

Lauren Reschea Brewer, 29, who was charged July 11, 2024 with fourth-degree sexual assault, plead guilty to the charge Monday and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with three years suspended. Brewer will be required to register as a sex offender upon her release.

According to case information, the Pike County Sheriff's Department received a case in April 2024 from the Arkansas State Police Crimes Against Children Division in reference to a sexual relationship "causing pregnancy" between a 16-year-old boy and a 27-year-old female, Lauren Brewer.

The juvenile male student involved is "intellectually deficient

and has an IQ of 45" and a school official stated she felt like the juvenile "would not be developmentally able to consent." The student disclosed that he and Brewer had a relationship and that he knew of the possibility of her child being his.

Brewer allegedly admitted she and the juvenile had had sex one time around the time she thought the baby was conceived. Brewer, who is married, told investigators "she was nervous about who the baby would belong to." It was determined the student was 15 at the time in question.

Also Monday, two defendants plead "true" to violating the terms of his probation. They included: Monty Todd Cox, 57, of Little Rock, sentenced to three years in the ADC, and Clint Yarbrough, 27, of Glenwood, sentenced to five years in the ADC.

Obituaries

Travis Glenn Gregory, 89, Centerpoint



fish, and raise various animals and fowl. He was quite a skilled craftsman in leather work, woodworking, and the making of jewelry. When you drove by his place, rarely did you not see him outside on his tractor cutting and baling hay or cleaning fence rows.

Travis Glenn Gregory, age 89 of Center Point, Arkansas, in Howard County, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, June 8, 2026, at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was born in Pisgah, Arkansas, on April 6, 1937, and was a graduate of Delight High School, class of 1956. He immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force and served his country honorably for 20 years, including his service as a Vietnam War veteran. He married Rema Jo Westfall in December of 1959, and their travels took them to various military assignments around the globe during his service, and eventually settled down in Center Point, where they built their own home, remaining there for the 33 years of their marriage. Travis was a member of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

Following his military retirement, he worked at the Crater of Diamonds State Park, Howard Memorial Hospital, in construction of residential homes, and with the Pilgram's Hatchery. He loved to hunt,

Travis was preceded in death by his parents, Seborn Gregory and Flora Belle (Laurent) Gregory. His first wife, Rema Jo (Westfall) Gregory; and second wife, Bessie Rose (Jones) Gregory; An infant son, Randy Wayne Gregory; three half-brothers, Loyd Russell Taylor, Ira Lindell Taylor, and Ted Taylor; two sisters, Audie Marie Stuart and Cecil Faye Calley. He is survived by one son, Seborn S. Gregory of Center Point; one daughter, Nella Williams and her husband, Robert, of Nashville; five grandchildren, Cassie A. Lichtenberg (Donnie), Jessica B. Smith (Neil), Travis Gilbert Gregory (Jenny), Stephanie D. West (Adam), and Travis Neil Williams; and 13 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

A private family graveside service is planned in Palestine Cemetery, Kirby, Arkansas, in Pike County. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Palestine Cemetery, C/O Priscilla Reid, 440 Palestine Rd, Amity, Arkansas 71921 or Palestine Cemetery, C/O Gwenn Turner, P.O. Box 32, Kirby, Arkansas 71950

Online guest registry can be found at www.smithfamilycares.com

Arkansas State announces Chancellor's, Dean's list students

JONESBORO – Students on the Chancellor's and Dean's Lists for the spring 2026 semester at Arkansas State University have been announced. The lists recognize undergraduate students

who achieved the highest grade-point averages while completing a minimum of 12 credit hours of study.

The Chancellor's List (designated as CL) includes students who earned a perfect GPA of 4.0. The Dean's List (designated as DL) includes students with a GPA of 3.6 to 3.99. The lists include students enrolled at Campus Querétaro in Mexico and the Doha campus.

Students are listed by state, county or parish, and city, with Chancellor's List students first within each city, followed by Campus Querétaro and the Doha campus, then international students grouped by country.

The complete list can be viewed at <https://www.astate.edu/about/news/spring-2026-chancellors-and-deans-list-students-are-announced.html>.

Local students on the list include:

- Pike County, Glenwood: Heather Davidson, CL
- Pike County, Kirby: Gus Tolleson, CL
- Howard County, Dierks: Annaliese Stamps, CL
- Howard County, Dierks: Hunter Young, DL
- Howard County, Nashville: Nadia Bretado, CL
- Howard County, Nashville: Amber Burchette, CL
- Howard County, Nashville: Chelsea Ewing, CL
- Howard County, Nashville: Karrissa Ragland, CL
- Howard County, Nashville: Ahmelia Williamson, CL
- Howard County, Nashville: Jose Bretado, DL
- Howard County, Nashville: Shirley Scoggins, DL



Submitted photo

LILLIANN NUNLEY ... Last Saturday night, Antoine native, LilliAnn Nunley was chosen first runner-up in the Miss Arkansas pageant in Hot Springs. LilliAnn is the daughter of A.J. and Nicole Bienusa and Robin Nunley, and the granddaughter of the late Rosevelt Williams and Sally Williams of Antoine. Earlier in the preliminary judging, she won both the Evening Gown and Overall Health and Fitness competitions. LilliAnn is a student at the University of Arkansas and a part of the Women's Track and Field team. After graduation from the University of Arkansas she will be entering law school.

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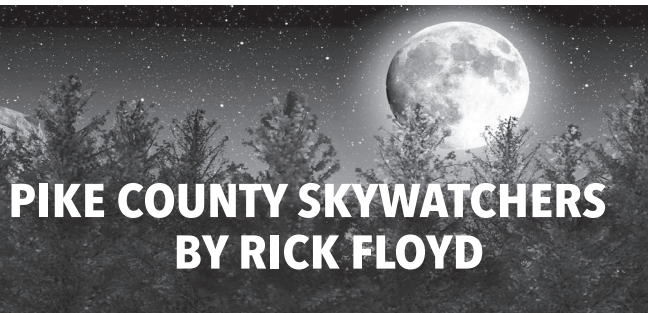
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Sun to swing back to fall

This week the Sun reaches its northernmost place on the eastern horizon, and it will linger there for a few mornings like a pendulum that has swung to its highest point. It will then rise a bit in the opposite direction each morning as we move through summer and toward autumn and winter. Summer Solstice, the first day of summer, is on June 21 (officially at about 3:25 a.m. CDT) which is when the tilt of the Earth has the northern hemisphere leaning directly into the heating rays of the Sun. It is the first day of winter for the folks down under as their part of the world is tilted away from the Sun. The word solstice, by the way, is from the Latin solstitium – sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still).

Lightening bugs (Fireflies) seem to be in abundance this year. Arkansas has been blessed with over 23 native species scattered about the state. One common species in our area is Photinus pyralis or the "Big Dipper" so called because it often makes a quick hooking or J-shaped motion just as it blinks. The fireflies in flight are males in search of responding females who do not fly but wait on the ground for an attractive blinker. The females of another local species, Photuris, are noted for their predatory activity as a sideline to their mating responsibilities. Each species has a distinctive blinking pattern, and Photuris females can mimic those of other species so well as to lure an unsuspecting male to being attacked and devoured. So, the beautiful flashing lights have a dark side too.

Arkansas has one officially recognized firefly sanctuary near Bentonville called The Color Mountain Bike Preserve. Its nature trails wind through an area that is protected from development, pesticides and other harms to nature. Protecting the firefly habitat is one of its mandates. Another good firefly friendly area in the state is The Buffalo National River. Firefly larvae live in the ground for two or more years before emerging for their short span as adults, so holding off on spraying your yard with broad spectrum pesticides helps to preserve your annual blinking light show.

It is about time to start seeing and hearing the annual Cicadas. These adults have lived underground for two or more years, and in their short time as adults they hope to find a mate and leave the eggs that will become another generation. Brood XIX, the Great Southern Brood, is the 13 year Cicada that last appeared in 2024. They are currently larvae living underground, and they will do so until they emerge in 2037.

Hattie Zenobia Craig, 101, Delight

Hattie Zenobia Craig, age 101 of Delight, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, June 12, 2026 at her home. She was born on November 7, 1924 in Alpine, to the late Henry McClane and Carrie Hughes McClane.

Mrs. Craig was a faithful member of the Delight Church of Christ.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Basil Craig; two brothers, Leonard McClane and Calvin McClane; as well as a sister, Pearl Boyd.

Those left to cherish her memory include her two children and their spouses, Kathy (Johnny) Harrison and Keith

(Sherry) Craig; her brother, Zeta Floyd (Jenny) McClane; five grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; a special caregiver, Twana Thomason; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at the Delight Church of Christ with Wallace Alexander and Brent Alexander officiating. Interment followed in the Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

UAMS HOUSE CALL

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

Q: Should I see a healthcare provider before donating blood?

A: An abundant blood supply is a vital component in healthcare. Blood is often required in the case of traumatic injuries and major surgeries, and for the treatment of patients with illnesses such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, or other chronic illnesses. Most blood products cannot be stored for an extended period, so donations are always needed.

Most healthy adults can donate a pint of blood with little or no effect on the body. The body replaces lost fluids in a few days, and red blood cells are replenished within a few weeks. Bruising or soreness at the needle site, dizziness, fatigue, and lightheadedness are common side effects of donating blood.

People who are generally in good health can safely donate blood. Reasons to see a healthcare provider if you are considering donating blood include if you have a cold or the flu, have been diagnosed as having low iron, are taking certain medications, or you have recently traveled outside of the United States.

A screening will occur at the blood donation site, which includes having your blood pressure, hemoglobin, and temperature checked. It is advised to get plenty of rest, avoid drinking alcohol, and drink plenty of water before donating blood.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Windswept vacation and scavenger hunts

It's that time of year again where everyone has a really cool vacation they've been waiting for since January. Maybe a cute little beach house in Florida or maybe you went to New York to watch the Knicks.

My family went to Oklahoma, "where the wind comes sweeping down the plains" and boy did it! There were a couple of times I thought my eyebrows were going to fly off, and I would never see them again.

While we were driving through the flattest place I had ever seen in my life, there in the middle of it all was a memorial called "Cattle Drive" (pictured below). It had a couple of Herfords, cowboys, and what looked to me like a little dog.

A day or so later I found out they had a Merle Haggard statue in Muskogee, and I knew I had to go. It was definitely one of my top ten life experiences I have ever had.

Then a few days later we stopped in McAlister, OK, and there I noticed they had a couple of buffalo scattered around the city. I took my picture with one as well.

All throughout Oklahoma it was like a little scavenger hunt



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for me. Which leads me to a scavenger hunt I have planned for our Pike County Kiddos! The statues that I came across got me thinking about how fun it would be to try and find all of them and take pictures to add to a scrapbook.

All throughout our county I will be placing little cows in busi-

nesses. When you find one, take a picture with it but leave it where it is. Next week make sure to grab a paper where I will list all the clues for these County Cows and how to play! I might even tell you what the grand prize is!



Extension experts share tips for preventing heat illness this summer

BY REBEKAH HALL

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — As summer temperatures begin to climb in Arkansas, it's critical to prevent the risk of heat illness by wearing appropriate clothing, staying hydrated and taking frequent breaks to cool down.

Bryce Daniels, extension assistant professor and state extension health specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said there are three main types of heat illness that vary in severity.

Heat cramps are the mildest form and involve painful muscle cramps during or after physical activity in the heat, Daniels said.

"This is the first sign of electrolyte and mineral imbalances in the body, which can cause painful tightening of muscles," Daniels said. "Heat cramps can progress into heat exhaustion if you remain in a hot environment and don't replenish your lost electrolytes."

The next stage of heat illness is heat exhaustion, which is more serious and occurs when the body loses too much water and salt through sweating and can no longer cool itself properly, Daniels said. If untreated, this can lead to heatstroke.

Heatstroke is the most severe form of heat

illness.

"According to the Mayo Clinic, heatstroke is defined as a condition when the body overheats to a temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, usually due to exposure to high temperatures or physical activity in high temperatures for too long a period of time," said Nina Roofoe, extension assistant vice president for family and consumer sciences for the Division of Agriculture. "Heatstroke can damage vital organs, including the brain, heart, kidneys and muscles."

Daniels said it is important to understand that "all heat illness is 100 percent preventable."

WHO IS AT RISK?

Roofoe said people are more susceptible to heatstroke if they are older than 65, have heart or lung disease, are overweight, inactive or have a history of heatstroke. People exerting themselves in hot weather — such as members of the military, athletes or construction workers — or who lack air conditioning are also at greater risk of heatstroke.

"People who take medications for high blood pressure, including diuretics, vasoconstrictors and beta blockers, as well as those who take antidepressants and antipsychotics, are more

susceptible to the risk of heatstroke and should practice caution," Roofoe said.

SYMPTOMS OF HEATSTROKE

A change in mental status or behavior can be an indicator of heatstroke, including confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability and seizures.

"It's also important to look out for a change in sweating, where the skin may feel hot and dry, or sweating may be profuse," Roofoe said.

Nausea and vomiting, flushed skin, shallow and rapid breathing, a fast heart rate — which is the heart's attempt to cool the body — and a throbbing headache can also be indicators of heatstroke.

Roofoe said the biggest concerns of experiencing heatstroke are organ damage and death.

"Heatstroke can cause the brain, heart, liver and kidneys to swell and therefore be unable to perform their normal functions," Roofoe said. "If the damage occurs without intervention, permanent damage or death can occur."

FIRST AID FOR HEAT ILLNESS

For heat cramps, stop performing physical activity and move to a cool place to rest, Daniels said. Remove extra clothing, use cool cloths or a fan to lower body temperature and drink fluids with electrolytes.

For heat exhaustion, follow those same steps and closely monitor for worsening symptoms. "Seek medical care if symptoms do not improve or if the person cannot drink fluids," Daniels said.

If you suspect someone is experiencing heatstroke, treat it as a severe emergency, he said.

"Call 911 immediately and move them to a cool place," Daniels said. "Remove extra clothing and cool the body with fanning, water and ice packs to the armpits and groin. Only give fluids if the person is fully alert."

SUN SAFETY AND HYDRATION

Wearing appropriate clothing when outside can help prevent overheating, Roofoe said. This includes loose-fitting and lightweight garments made from cooling fabrics such as linen, silk, cotton or hemp.

"A wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses are helpful, too," she said.

Practice sun safety by using sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 and reapplying every two hours. Daniels said it is best to apply sunscreen approximately 30 minutes before sun exposure. This helps the skin absorb the sunscreen and makes it less likely to wash off during perspiration.

It's also important to stay hydrated, Roofoe said, although thirst is not a good indicator of

hydration. Thirst lags behind hydration status, she said, especially as we age.

"Proactively drinking water — before you necessarily feel acute thirst — will help you sweat, maintain a normal body temperature and prevent heatstroke," Roofoe said. "Sugar-free electrolyte drinks can also help you stay hydrated and replace losses of electrolytes from extra sweating."

"Avoid high-sugar drinks, because these pull fluid out of cells and into the gut, which can lead to nausea and vomiting, which further dehydrates the body," Roofoe said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has a hydration guide, which includes a urine color scale to help determine one's hydration level.

"Aim to drink about one cup of hydrating fluid every 15 to 20 minutes," Daniels said. "That equals about 24 to 32 ounces per hour. Small, frequent drinks work better than drinking large amounts at once, and you should not drink more than 48 ounces per hour."

If you must exert yourself outside during the summer months, it is critical to condition yourself to work in the heat by exposing yourself to it gradually, giving the body time to acclimate.

"Take breaks more often to cool down in air conditioning, or at least in the shade," Roofoe said. "Don't work outside in the heat alone, so if anyone has a heat-related issue, others are there to assist."

Limit time spent outside during the hottest part of the day, which is usually from noon to 4 p.m.

Daniels said it is also key to start your day well-hydrated if planning to spend time outside, as it is "easier to stay hydrated than to catch up later."

"If you begin the morning already dehydrated, your body may not recover throughout the day," Daniels said. "Staying hydrated daily can also prevent long-term health problems such as kidney stones."

It is also critical to never leave pets, children or adults in parked cars during the summer, as temperatures can rise 20 degrees Fahrenheit in 10 minutes, Roofoe said.

"Even with the windows cracked, or if the car is in the shade, it is still going to contain heat and can lead to heatstroke or death," Roofoe said.

For more information about healthy living, visit the Cooperative Extension Service's Health in Arkansas website.

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

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

TAKE HEED

Jesus uses the words "Take Heed" often as He warns against sin and especially bad attitudes. Our hearts are to be on guard every moment lest we fall prey to the devil's efforts to seduce us. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks Matthew 12:34. Most of our temptations will come upon us unexpectedly. We will not be prepared for the suddenness of the appearance of evil. Part of the success of Satan with his times of tempting is that sin will appear harmless. Even if we are aware of the harm it can cause, we tend to think we are stronger than we really are. Take Heed! Most people would be very cautious if they thought



a very venomous snake had gotten into their house or car. I was surprised that commercial airlines regularly transport dangerous reptiles with hundreds of passengers on board. I would not be very comfortable with dangerous animals on a plane with me. We need to be more concerned than we usually are with the wicked

plans that our adversary, the devil, has for us personally. It is safe to say that at this very moment Satan is laying the groundwork for our downfall. The Lord knew by experience that Satan could and would tempt us because he tempted the Lord. We are not exempt! Take Heed! If you believe this is not true, you are a prime candidate for a serious and painful experience. The devil will come to you very soon — he never rests! Peter says he prowls the world continually, looking for unwary victims. He will pounce on and destroy every soul he can like a hungry lion. Watch out! Take Heed! Be on guard. Stay close to your Savior!

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EVEN THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF SHUSHAN, IN WHICH THE KING'S PALACE IS SITUATED, ARE SHOCKED.

IS THIS NOT A HARSH DECREE?

BUT IT IS THE KING'S LAW AND CANNOT BE CHANGED!

AND WHILE THE KING AND HAMAN SIT AT PRINK...

THE JEWS GATHER IN BACK-CLOTH, ASHES, AND PRIBRAZ TO BEHOLD THE RESCULATE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM—AND NO ONE CAN BE MORE SHOCKED OR SORROWFUL THAN MORDECAI HIMSELF. HAVING FOR YEARS AFTER YEAR, RENDERED SUCH GREAT SERVICE TO THE VERY KING WHO HAS ORDERED HIS DEATH!

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6. Hawaiian flower garland
9. What beanstalk did
13. Pack animal
14. Charged particle
15. Lacking guile
16. Lumen per square meter, pl.
17. Crime scene evidence, acr.
18. Roast host
19. *Unalienable ones in the Declaration of Independence
21. *Colony that originally abstained from voting on independence
23. Baba of "One Thousand and One Nights"
24. Parsley or basil, e.g.
25. Mountain peak
28. *Four Declaration signers were alums of this CT Ivy Leaguer
30. Most mature, as in fruit
35. It must go on?
37. Small brook
39. *"...to assume among the powers of the "
40. Cap and gown accessory
41. Where there's trouble
43. Rani's dress
44. Useful quality
46. Volcano off Sicily coast
47. State on Old Glory
48. Dionysus' follower
50. Dems' opponents
52. Not divisible by two
53. Like certain people's glasses
55. Australia's flightless bird
57. *First Declaration of Independence signer
61. *Self-evident ones
64. Not a minor
65. " _____ it or lose it!"
67. Songs for two
69. Formally surrenders land
70. *Last name of the only brothers to both sign the Declaration
71. Last Supper cup

72. "If you only ____!"

73. Boy

74. Item in diary

DOWN

1. * ____ men are created equal
2. Talk like a drunk
3. Fare ride
4. Opposite of alpha
5. In a foolhardy manner
6. Jar covers
7. Long, long time
8. Stupid or silly
9. Risqu
10. Puerto ____
11. ____ and anon
12. 168 hours
15. Rookie
20. Beauty pageant winner's headgear
22. Make a blunder
24. Serfdom, archaically speaking
25. Indian black tea
26. Capital of Tibet
27. One's entourage
29. *Liberty's partner
31. Permission to leave
32. Muse of love poetry
33. Nickname for a certain violin
34. *Certain George, with The
36. *" _____ in the course of human events..."
38. Like TV's famous ranger
42. Candle shape
45. Fortune teller's deck, pl.
49. Who is Bugs Bunny talking to?
51. Blemish
54. Cranial bones + facial bones
56. Driver's 180
57. Bypass firewall, illegally
58. Yemeni port
59. Classic art subject
60. Ball of yarn
61. Started during the Ryder Cup, e.g.
62. Miami basketballer
63. Cookbook direction
66. Shining one in "America the Beautiful"
68. Sylvester Stallone's nickname

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Tourism Commission hears of website attendance gains, discusses non-city bias

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission were told the most recent website figures from advertising corporation DNT Media of Benton.

Some 15,625 users visited the digmurfreesboro.com site in May, up 50% from April.

The largest number of those users came from Nashville, Murfreesboro, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City and Chicago.

The top five pages of the website were the homepage, location, things to do, lodging and restaurants.

Internet streaming advertising was shown to 109,375 people, and Facebook views were up 29% with 131 new followers.

The group approved taking an ad in the 2027 Diamond Lakes regional magazine.

The commission also discussed placement of non-local businesses on the website after receiving complaints from local businesses that collect the bed tax that funds the commission.

Included on the site are several members of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce that are not located in Murfreesboro but pay the yearly dues. Additionally, the site does feature some regional attractions that would be of interest to vacationers visiting Murfreesboro.

The group agreed that some "cleaning up" of the website needed to be done with the removal of businesses no longer participating with the Chamber of Commerce, but did not feel that the site had to be limited to those businesses that collect the bed tax.

"It is a legitimate concern," commission chairman Jamie Terrell said in favor of the businesses in Murfreesboro.

However, he noted that someone who is visiting Murfreesboro might like to know the closest public golf course is in Glenwood.

Additionally, some vacation rental businesses outside city limits, that don't collect the tax -- such as Swaha Marina and

Self Creek Marina -- either pay directly to be featured on the website (Swaha) or are members of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce.

Ultimately, the group agreed that some attractions would be included on the site regardless of whether it benefitted the commission directly or not, with the feeling that the idea was to present a picture of Murfreesboro that was most attractive and complete to visitors, and they could make their own choices after visiting digmurfreesboro.com.

They also invited the public and those who collect the tax to attend and participate at their monthly meetings, which are nor-

mally held the second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. at the City Hall building.

Murfreesboro Fire Chief Ricky Branch suggested that the group get magnets for inside vacation rentals that could be adorned with the physical address. It was noted that a couple of recent 9-1-1 calls were made more difficult by the fact that the visitors could not provide an exact address for the first responders.

The group will coordinate with Pike County Emergency Management director Lee Vincent to get the proper 9-1-1 addresses for the vacation rental locations.

Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discusses storage

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce held a short meeting for June last week.

Stating that plans for last weekend's Juneteenth celebration were completed, they also discussed the farmer's market that is held on Saturdays at the old city park pavilion.

The biggest discussion was about finding a spot to relocate the Chamber's Christmas decorations, which are still being stored at Branch Oil and will have to be removed following the sale of the business.

Chamber President Ricky Branch mentioned a 16x40 building could be purchased for approximately \$15,000, but noted that he would coordinate with Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal on a solution should another exist.

The chamber also discussed selling some of the decorations that they own that do not pertain to Christmas, like the pair of helicopters and the ferris wheel.

The Chamber will soon send out notices for membership dues for 2026.

CCCUA announces sports foundation to fundraise

DE QUEEN -- The University of Arkansas Cossatot officially unveils the Colts Athletic Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to fundraising for the UAC Colts athletics programs.

"The Colts Athletic Foundation opens an exciting new chapter for UA Cossatot, dedicating a singular focus toward fundraising that champions our student-athletes. By expanding scholarships and enhancing program operations, the foundation ensures our athletic programs continue to be a force for good in the community." Remarked Madelyn Montgomery, Foundation and Advancement Director for UA Cossatot.

The Colts Athletic Foundation purpose, mission and values are as Follow as follows:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Colts Athletic Foundation is to ignite Colt pride and champion the success of UA Cossatot student-athletes by driving program excellence, securing athletic scholarships, and funding premier facilities and equipment.

Deeply rooted in our region, the Colts Athletic Foundation holds, manages, and invests resources to build a thriving athletic culture. Through the power of sports, we aim to unite De Queen and our surrounding communities, fostering regional pride, shared growth, and a vibrant, connected community spirit.

MISSION:

To empower UA Cossatot student-athletes to excel on the

court or field, in the classroom, and in life, while building an energetic, inclusive sports culture that unites and uplifts the entire community.

VALUES:

Colt Spirit & Pride: We champion a culture of energy, excellence, and enthusiasm, proudly wearing the green and gold to rally students, alumni, and fans.

Community Unity: We believe sports have the power to bring people together. We actively design our initiatives to foster connection, peace, and shared celebration across De Queen, Nashville, Ashdown and the surrounding areas.

Championship Character: We support the holistic development of student-athletes, emphasizing integrity, discipline, teamwork, and grit both on and off the court.

Impactful Stewardship: We manage every asset, donation, and property with transparency and strategic vision, ensuring our resources create a lasting legacy for UA Cossatot Athletics.

UA Cossatot Chancellor Steve Cole commented on the start of the foundation, saying: "As we continue to grow our athletic offerings at UA Cossatot, and provide our college and student athletes with a competitive edge, we are proud of our new Colts Athletic Foundation!" Cole said. "The Foundation will allow folks from around the globe to support our scholar athletes as we keep adding more and more opportunities in athletics at UA Cossatot. This is one of our focused ways for exponential growth at all four campuses!"

More information on how to donate will come at a later date.

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New world screwworm: a pest worth watching

BY CODIE MCALISTER

University of Arkansas Extension • Pike County

On June 3, 2026 officials with the USDA confirmed that New World Screwworm was found in La Pryor, Texas in one confirmed case. The affected animal is a 3 week old calf, and the larvae were found in the umbilical area. As of June 15, 2026 there have not been any confirmed cases in Arkansas.

WHAT IS NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

The New World screwworm (NWS) is a parasitic fly which causes myiasis, meaning the fly larvae burrow into the flesh of any warm-blooded mammal. This can cause serious damage, and often it is deadly if not caught and treated.

Adults are the size of a common house fly, with a metallic blue body, orange eyes and three stripes running down the thorax, behind the head. The NWS larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, seriously impacting host health and often leading to death if left untreated.

NWS can affect livestock, pets, wildlife, and even humans. However, it is important to note that NWS is an animal health issue, not a food safety concern. NWS spreads only when an NWS fly lays eggs in a wound, not through

meat, poultry, or dairy products. All animals that enter the food supply must pass USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection which ensures humane handling of animals and food safety requirements are met.

In 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed an unprecedented number of NWS cases in Panama. Since then, the movement of NWS has trekked north into Mexico. Due to the movement, the United States/Mexico border was closed to the importation of livestock. It has not reopened since its closing.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS?

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (AR Dept. of Ag.) issued a statement on Saturday, June 6, 2026, discussing the new requirements of entry of animals from Texas.

To be clear - There has NOT been a confirmed case of NWS in Arkansas currently. Movement of animals into Arkansas from the affected area in Texas will be restricted according to established federal NWS response guidance.

If NWS is confirmed in Arkansas in the future, state and federal officials will implement a coordinated response. This will include quarantines, movement restrictions, and the

designation of surveillance zones to contain and eliminate the pest. These measures are designed to protect animal health and prevent the spread of NWS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT NEW WORLD SCREWWORM?

The USDA has compiled a list of action items livestock producers can implement on their operations to prevent a NWS infestation. Prevention is key.

- Constant vigilance: Watch for signs of NWS in pets and livestock.
- Prevent animal injury: Handle livestock carefully and inspect pens and equipment for sharp objects that can cause wounds.

• Treat wounds quickly: Treat the umbilical cords of newborn animals and all wounds immediately with an approved insecticide.

• Parasite prevention: Protect pets and livestock from other wound-causing parasites such as ticks.

To keep up with confirmed cases of New World Screwworm by the USDA you can visit this website: screwworm.gov

Again, New World Screwworm has not been found in Arkansas. If you have any more questions, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161 or contact your local county extension office. You can also visit our website at www.uaex.uada.edu.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

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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Pike County Teen Leaders awarded grant for food insecurity

BY SHANNON BALLARD

Pike County 4-H Program Assistant

The Pike County Teen Leaders Club was awarded the Innovative Program Grant from the Arkansas 4-H Foundation at the Ouachita District O'Rama. Cayden Ballard (pictured below) received the award on behalf of the Pike County Teen Leaders.

This grant was submitted on behalf of our teen leaders to address an important issue in our community—food insecurity. For those who may not know, Arkansas continues to have one of the highest food insecurity rates in the nation. In Pike County, approximately 18% of residents live below the poverty line, making access to food a challenge for many families.

Through this grant, our teen leaders hope to help keep Blessing Boxes stocked throughout Pike County this summer. These boxes provide free food and essential items to individuals and families who may be struggling and are available to anyone in need. In addition to helping supply the boxes, youth will gain valuable leadership, service, and community engagement skills as they work together to make a difference.

This project reflects the 4-H pledge to use our hands for larger service and demonstrates the power of young people working to improve their communities. We are incredibly proud of our teen leaders for recognizing a need, developing a solution, and taking action to help their neighbors.

We look forward to sharing updates as this project grows and thank the Arkansas 4-H Foundation for investing in the ideas and leadership of Pike County youth. Together, we can help ensure that our Blessing Boxes remain a source of hope and support for families across our county.





VOTE



KAREN KIRKPATRICK

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