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Unearth a Story this summer at library

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro chapter of the Pike County Library will host "Unearth A Story" summer reading program events this July on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 p.m.

The library will be closed on Friday and Saturday 3-4 for the Fourth of July holiday.

On Tuesday, July 7 the library will host a colored sand art program, and a dinosaur scratch art program on Friday July 10.

Dinosaur sand art will be the feature on Tuesday, July 14, with the Arkansas Game and Fish holding a program on Friday, July 17.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program will be held on Tuesday, July 21, with colored sand art held on Friday, July 24.

No registration is needed for any of the events.

For more information, contact the library at (870) 285-2575 or e-mail murfreesboropubliclibrary@gmail.com. The library is open on Tuesdays-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed from noon-1 p.m. for lunch.

New book arrivals to the library may be viewed at www.facebook.com/Murfreesboro.Library.



Submitted photos

RECORD BOOK WINNERS ... Pike County 4-H had announced the annual record book winners, including Cloverbud (above right): Delylah Leppert -- Performing Arts-Visual; Owen Morpew -- Food Nutrition & Food Prep (garlic); (above left) Junior Record Book Winners: Jessa Cait Humphry -- Fine Arts - Leisure Arts; Senior Record Book Winners: Carsyn Ballard -- Civic Engagement- Communication; Hadley Cox -- Stem/mechanical science; Lyzander Doyle -- Healthy Living-Food Nutrition Food Prep, (not pictured) Hadlee Wilson -- Fine Arts/Performing Arts, (not pictured) Joelee Wilson -- Civic engagements/Leadership; Advanced Record Book Winners -- Cayden Ballard -- Civic Engagement- Citizenship, Cale Humphry -- Stem & Agriculture.

UNEARTH A STORY™

ASMSA Class of 2026 holds commencement

HOT SPRINGS — The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts held its 32nd annual Commencement celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2026 at the Oaklawn Event Center on Saturday, May 16.

The ceremony honored 107 graduates from 40 counties. The graduates earned almost \$32.5 million in scholarship offers, pushing the overall total to \$386.2 million over the school's history. Megan Reed, Ph.D., MBA, who is a member of ASMSA Class of 2010 and serves as a senior licensing associate at BioVentures, the technology transfer office at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, served as the commencement's keynote speaker. Grace Ann Conn of Van Buren and Luis Vidal Jr. of Fort Smith, both members of the Class of 2026, were student speakers.

Graduates with local ties included Colton Melson of Springdale (formerly of Nashville) and Addie Nance of Delight.

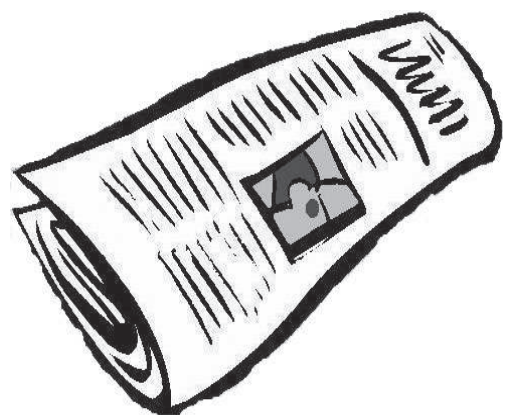
4-H continues summer cereal drive

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.



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mdiamond@windstream.net

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Alcohol effort progressing, still a ways to go in ballot effort

PIKE COUNTY -- The effort to get county-wide alcohol sales on the ballot is making strides toward the goal, but is still well short of the final number to achieve voter consideration in November.

The Vote Pike County Wet effort has amassed approximately 600 petitions thus far, but is still working toward the minimum 2,291 qualified petitions by the August 1 deadline.

To help the effort, the group will host a fundraising event in the Chimney Rock Grocery parking lot in Murfreesboro on Saturday, June 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The effort will give away hot dogs, chips, water and watermelon to any and all attendees. Pike County registered voters will also be able to sign a petition at the event. See the advertisement on page 6 for a drawing.

Group member Lisa Harvill said there was no requirement to sign a petition to attend and partake in the meal.

Harvill said the ticking clock was very similar to the effort four years previous when the final ballots were collected on the last few days before the deadline to submit to Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards.

"It's the same fear as last time," Harvill said with a laugh. "We ask that anyone interested in signing a petition, do so soon as the deadline is quickly approaching. Rather than having our limited number of volunteers attempt at covering the entire county, it would sure aid in effort tremendously if those interested in signing would simply stop by a designated signing location and sign a petition. Every single signature matters, just like every single vote mattered, as we found out, in the 2022 election."

She admitted the effort needed all the volunteer help it could get and asks that anyone interested in aiding the effort contact her at 870-557-1860.

The group met last week and resolved to



make a significant effort over the next three to four weeks in obtaining petitions.

"We need all the help we can get for the final push," Harvill said.

She reminds everyone in the county that sees the effort as a valuable venture toward revenue growth to take action soon.

"Pike County voters -- you are facing the possibility of missing out on an opportunity to vote on the wet dry initiative come the November 3, 2026 election. If you are registered to vote in Pike County, don't assume someone else will sign the petition to get the initiative onto the ballot. Your signature is needed now!"

In 2022, the Pike County Wet Initiative Committee worked "tirelessly" to get the measure on the ballot for voters and it failed by six votes.

Harvill would like to remind everyone there are a number of sites and scheduled events in

Pike County that a person could fill out a petition if they are unable to attend the hot dog meal this Saturday in Chimney Rock Grocery parking lot.

- Gypsy Underground -- Murfreesboro
- Chimney Rock Grocery -- Murfreesboro
- Harvill Insurance -- Murfreesboro
- OK Cafe - Glenwood
- Tobacco Store - Glenwood
- Farmers Market (Saturday Mornings) - Glenwood
- Langley Store - Langley

There will also be two more upcoming public events for residents to sign a petition. On Tuesday, June 30, petitions will be available at the Stars and Stripes parade at Glenwood starting at 6:30 p.m. Then, on Saturday, July 4, the Gypsy Underground will host a community yard sale in their parking lot in Murfreesboro.

Glenwood man arrested after entering prohibited area

MURFREESBORO -- A Hot Springs sex offender who apparently works in Glenwood is now facing charges in Pike County after visiting a city park.

Stephen Matthew Beckowitz, 41, was charged June 19 with being a registered offender entering a water park, swimming area or children's playground contained within a public park.

According to case information filed by the Glenwood Police Department, an officer observed a blue van in the John Benjamin Recreational Park, which is maintained by the City of Glenwood and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. When the van left the park, a check of its license plate showed the owner to be Beckowitz and identified him as a registered sex offender.

A traffic stop was conducted as the van pulled into the subject's workplace. After determining Beckowitz' sex offender assessment status was high risk and Level 3, he was taken into custody. His employer was advised of the situation and said he was unaware his employee was a sex offender.

It was noted in the case file that Beckowitz is appealing this assessment status. He pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday with an Aug. 3 pretrial date set.

CHARGES PENDING
A Glenwood man is expected to be charge in

Pike County Circuit Court with multiple felony drug charges.

Chase Allen King, 25, of Glenwood, was arrested on June 18 during a traffic stop on Rock Creek Cutoff Road. King was a passenger in the vehicle and was described as "sweating heavily and acting nervously" during the stop. The unnamed driver stated his passenger may have an active warrant and when the deputy went to check, King allegedly fled the scene on foot into a wooded area.

King was quickly apprehended and the deputy noticed several Suboxone packages and cash on the ground near the vehicle's passenger door. A glass smoking device was also found in the car and when the deputy retraced the flight path he located a baggy of metham-

phetamine.

At the Pike County jail, the deputy reviewed his body camera footage and observed an object on the ground where King had been apprehended. He returned to the area and found a shirt and other drug items.

The approximate total weight of the meth seized was 7.11 grams.

King remains in county custody this week awaiting formal charges to be filed.

His expected charges included possession of a Schedule II controlled substance with the purpose to deliver; two counts of possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; and misdemeanor counts of possessing an instrument of crime and fleeing.

4-H offers "Jar-rassic" experience

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H will host a "Jar-Rassic Gardens" program on Monday, June 29 at the Pike County Extension Offices in Murfreesboro from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Attendees will "discover and create their own world in a jar" by making terrariums.

Students will also learn about plant parts through snacks and learn about soil particles.

The cost of attending the event is \$10, and attendees are asked to bring their lunch.

Interested participants are asked to register as soon as possible so sufficient materials may be on hand at the event.

For more information, including the link to the registration form, please call the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET



June 16, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Coleman, Zoe Rosemarie, 25, Flippin, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$220 BF, failure to appear; \$220 BF, failure to appear

Davis, Jonathan A., 49, Amity, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,270 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$20; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of defective lights, fined \$140; guilty of failure to yield to emergency vehicle, fined \$310

Holloway, John Walton, 18, Jackson, Miss., \$150 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear

Howell, Andrew B., 31, Hot Springs, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$140; guilty of no driver's license, fined \$140; guilty of failure to maintain control, fined \$140; guilty of leaving scene of accident, fined \$210

Johnson, Glenda Irene, 59, Delight, \$340 BF, driving with suspended license

West, John Herman, 73, Norman, passing stopped school bus,

under advisement to dismiss, fined \$600

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Sounds, David C., 56, Kirby, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125

Scherlinger, Susan Marie, 42, Amity, \$180 BF, use of phone when driving

Teague, Joey Dalton, 20, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,480 balance

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Bryan, Joshua Eric, 40, Prescott, \$235 BF, no ski area

Dufrene, Stuart M., 47, Prescott, \$235 BF, insufficient PFD

McIntosh, Jamison H., 18, Nashville, \$235 BF, no running lights

Rowe, Parker D., 25, Ashdown, \$235 BF, over capacity in boot

Saulsbury, John Jason, 55, Louann, \$235 BF, no running lights

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Cogburn, Eric W., 37, Norman, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360

Mathis, Stacy Lynn, 51, Little Rock, guilty of careless or pro-

hibited driving, fined \$150; guilty of disregarding stop sign, fined \$150; guilty of leaving scene of accident-personal injury, fined \$580

Sullins, William, 49, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125

BENCH TRIALS

PIKE COUNTY

Lamb, Taylor K., 33, Delight, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$1,000

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Welch, Timothy Daniel, 30, Murfreesboro, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,110 and license suspended for six months; guilty of improper use of signals to stop or turn, fined \$160; guilty of obstructing government operations, fined \$500; guilty of resisting, arrest fined \$2,500

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Murray, Jillian Alexandra, 25, Glenwood, third-degree domestic battery, under advisement for one year to dismiss

State discusses isolated school districts leaving merger, including Empire

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

State Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) and its subcommittees met this week.

ALC is one of the most important legislative committees that meet in the interim between legislative sessions. Through its various subcommittees, it provides legislative oversight of the executive branch of government.

The Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee met Monday morning. Members reviewed presentations related to Workforce Implementation, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, an overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and more.

That afternoon, the Administrative Rules Committee met to review and discuss changes to rules in the Arkansas Children's Education Freedom Account (EFA) Program.

The changes include requiring parents to receive pre-approval from the Department of Education for any purchases that are not considered core educational expenses.

The rules make fees for some community or homeschool athletic leagues reimbursable while restricting expenditures for sports that limit participation based on tryouts. Equipment or

travel costs would also not be considered eligible expenses.

The new rules also cut the amount of EFA funds that can be carried over from year to year, from \$20,000 to \$8,500.

Tuesday morning, the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Subcommittee (PEER) reviewed various temporary appropriation requests from the Maternal Health Outreach Media Campaign, Wynne High School, the State Police, and more. Members also reviewed federal grant appropriation requests, fund transfers, and various other items.

That afternoon, the ALC Review subcommittee reviewed methods of finance, discretionary grants, reports, and service contracts for state universities and departments.

The ALC Lottery Oversight Subcommittee reviewed the proposed budget for the Arkansas Lottery for fiscal year 2027.

On Wednesday, the State Insurance Programs Oversight Committee reviewed and approved contracts from the Employee Benefits Division and Office of Property Risk.

The Personnel Subcommittee reviewed and approved requests from the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Military, among others.

On Thursday, five Arkansas Legislative Council subcommittees met to review items ranging from a "one door" model to allow Arkansans to access employment, job training, and social

services from a single framework to asbestos abatement programs and law enforcement standards and training.

The Executive Committee reviewed rules pertaining to consolidation and annexation of school districts and approved \$2 million in funding so that parent districts are not financially harmed when a campus forms a new district. Four isolated school districts in the state are leaving parent districts for the upcoming school year. Empire is detaching from the Cossatot River School District. Kingston will separate from the Jasper School District, and Timbo and Rural Special are separating from the Mountain View School District.

Legislators were also updated on the construction of the new Arkansas State Crime Laboratory and new technologies and methods that the lab is using to improve turnaround times.

The reports of this week's ALC subcommittees were reviewed and approved in the full ALC meeting on Friday.

After ALC adjourned, the Senate met in chamber to approve recent gubernatorial appointments to state commissions and boards.

You can watch the full meetings on demand and download related documents at <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/>.

Seeing the warning signs during June's Alzheimer's awareness month

BY REBEKAH HALL

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — During Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June, extension experts encourage Arkansans to watch for warning signs of the disease and take swift action to receive earlier treatment.

Bryce Daniels, extension assistant professor and state extension health specialist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said dementia is a broad term that describes a decline in memory, communication, problem-solving and other thinking skills severe enough to disrupt daily life.

"Dementia is not a single disease," Daniels said. "Within the larger category of 'dementia,' Alzheimer's disease is the most common underlying condition, meaning it is a specific brain disorder that causes symptoms known as dementia."

According to the Alzheimer's Association, about 7.4 million adults aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. Of these individuals, 74 percent are age 75 and older. Worldwide, more than 57 million people live with dementia, and between 60 to 70 percent of them are estimated to have

Alzheimer's disease, according to the World Health Organization.

Daniels said that according to the Mayo Clinic, Alzheimer's disease starts when proteins build up in the brain, forming "sticky plaques and tangles."

"Over time, this buildup damages and kills brain cells, causing the brain to shrink and memory and thinking to decline," Daniels said. "Just like buildup in blood vessels can raise the risk of heart disease, buildup in the brain can interfere with normal function and increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease," Daniels said.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Daniels said age is the strongest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, as most people with the disease are age 65 or older. Family history can also play a role.

"Having a parent, brother or sister with Alzheimer's increases your risk," Daniels said. "Risk is higher if multiple family members are affected."

Daniels said most people with Alzheimer's develop symp-

oms in their mid-60s or later, which is called late-onset Alzheimer's. When symptoms begin before age 65, it is referred to as early-onset Alzheimer's. While the disease can begin earlier in life, this is less common, Daniels said.

Certain genes can also increase the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's, although they do not guarantee disease development, Daniels said.

OTHER RISK FACTORS INCLUDE:

- Head injury or traumatic brain injury: "Past serious or repeated head injuries are linked to a higher risk for Alzheimer's," Daniels said. "Risk is greater with injuries involving loss of consciousness or repeated impacts."

- Cardiovascular and metabolic health conditions: Conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol, can increase risk. "These conditions can damage blood vessels and reduce blood flow to the brain," Daniels said.

- Lifestyle factors: Certain habits increase risk, including physical inactivity, smoking or tobacco use, poor diet or obesity, and limited mental or social activity.

"The key takeaway is that while some risks like age and genetics can't be changed, others can be improved to lower risk, such as physical activity, heart health and smoking," Daniels said.

WARNING SIGNS

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alzheimer's Association, 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's include:

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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.**

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 (pc.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

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ALZHEIMER'S Continued on Page 5

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Get MOOOO-ving around in Pike County

I have hinted at it since my first article. It's the long awaiting "fun thing" I had planned. Through Farm Bureau's Women's Leadership in Pike County, I have started a scavenger hunt called "The County Cows". The goal of this is to get our Pike County Kiddos out and about throughout businesses in our community.

I have seven businesses lined up for this go round! They are all hid in Murfreesboro, Glenwood, and Delight. Some might be a little tougher to find than others. Here those long awaiting hints are for these Heifers.

- Ducky -- Boats, burgers, fishing, and more. Lots to do outside this store.
- Sham -- Hands, Heart, Health, and Hands. Think 4-H.
- Patty -- Over the river you go! You can get your farm friends' needs and yourself a nice outfit too!
- Brooke -- named after a local celebrity chef on wheels.
- Bessie -- Right where this leadership program started!
- Sissy -- Two sisters working together to bring you icy flavors!
- Blondie -- could be a coffee flavor or hairstyle!

Now with the fun comes some rules. Remember to be respectful in these businesses when looking for these little heifers. When you find one take a picture with the cow and tag me in it on Facebook. This is the only way you will be entered in the drawing.

After doing that leave the cow there so



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someone else can get the chance to find it. The more cows you find the more times your name gets entered into the drawing. The scavenger hunt June 25th-July

8th after that on July 15th, we'll announce the winner!

Our winner will get a \$25 gift card to Malibu Sno Glow!

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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: What are mitochondrial diseases?

A: Mitochondrial diseases are a group of conditions that affect how mitochondria work in the body. Mitochondria are present in each cell in the body and provide energy for the body to function. The National Library of Medicine reports that one in 4,000 people in the United States are affected by mitochondrial diseases.

Mitochondrial diseases are genetic, although occasionally cases occur in someone without any family history. Mitochondria may also malfunction due to conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, Type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and muscular dystrophy. Both adults and children can be affected by mitochondrial diseases, and they can occur in any part of the body.

Symptoms of mitochondrial diseases include diarrhea,

frequent infections, muscle weakness, respiratory problems, and stunted growth. Mitochondrial disorders affect organ function, and can lead to complications such as cardiomyopathy, gastrointestinal issues, kidney disease, pancreatic failure, and strokes.

Mitochondrial diseases can be difficult to diagnose since they involve many parts of the body. Treatment depends upon the type of disease and the associated symptoms, which may include changing the diet, medications to reduce symptoms, physical therapy, or supplements or vitamins. Reach out to your healthcare provider if you have questions and to develop a treatment plan.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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AG announces fraud summit

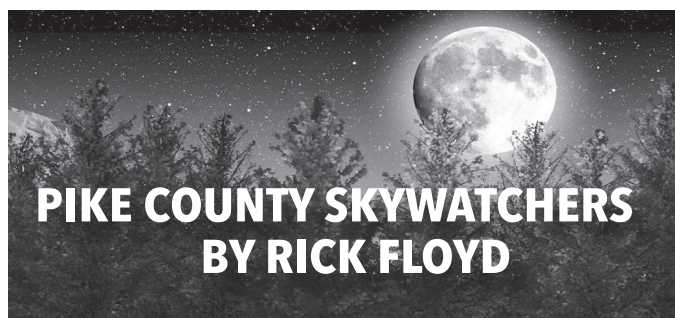
LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing his annual summit for 2026:

The Fraud and Consumer Protection Summit will be held Monday, September 28, and Tuesday, September 29, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Breakfast and lunch will be provided the first day. Like previous summits, admission is free, but prior registration is required.

"The summit will cover such topics as identifying and avoiding common scams, recognizing price gouging, learning little-known truths about robocalls and text scams, understanding how we address Medicaid fraud, and much more.

"Everyone is impacted by fraud in one way or another, so this summit truly has something for everyone. We've had as many as 1,500 registrants for our previous summits, and I expect we'll see a similar response this year. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for announcements of speakers."

To register for the Fraud and Consumer Protection Summit, visit arkansasag.eventsmart.com/events/fraudandconsumerprotections Summit/.



Fly me to the moon, June Bug

The full moon of June 2026 will rise just after sunset on the 29th. June's full moon has traditionally been called the Strawberry Moon, and if conditions are right it might actually look a bit like a giant strawberry rising in the southeastern sky. The reason for its name however is because early people used the names of moons to help mark the seasons. Today we think of these names as "nicknames", but in the days before calendars people relied heavily on things heavenly to keep track of time.

The June full moon takes on another couple of roles; as the last full moon of spring and the first of summer. The wild strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*, ripens about this time of year and inspired the Algonquin Tribe to choose it as the moon of the month. This plant does not grow in Arkansas or most southern states, but we do have a false or mock strawberry (*Potentilla indica*) that goes mostly unharvested by humans.

The little brown and black beetles that are abundant in May, June and part of July are generally called June Bugs. It is common to see them as numerous survivors of the night. They lie on their backs having been attracted to a light and unfortunately stranding themselves by landing hard and flipping over. There is a "myth" that they navigate their way at night by the Moon (there are some insects and other creatures that are actually known to look to the stars for guidance), but these bugs it seems are simply attracted to our lights.

There are about 900 species of the June Bug genus (*Phyllophaga*). These "scarabs" include, in addition to the brown and black ones, the Green June Beetle, the Striped June Bug and others. The adult can live up to a year or so and has spent its youth two or more years underground as a big white grub. Again, there is no scientific evidence that June Bugs navigate by the Moon, but they are attracted by bright lights, so what do they think of a full moon? How many have begun a journey to the Moon, and how far did they go on that quest?

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www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Obituaries

Ruby Leola Ludlam, 91, Delight



Ruby Leola Ludlam, 91, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Friday, June 19, 2026 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She was born October 3, 1934 in Benton, Arkansas the daughter of the late Warren Walter and Odethel Morrow Williamson.

Mrs. Ludlam was a member of Delight Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Billy Earl Ludlam. Two children Jimmy Wayne Goss and Marilyn Spann.

Survivors include daughters Arlene Spriggs of Delight Misty (Bobby) Pruett of Delight.

Grandchildren, Monica Pruett, Coty Rector of Delight, Dakota Rector of Delight, Ty Sherrod of Delight, David Fenton. Sr of Delight, Mary Jones of

Liberty, Texas, Billy (Christy) Spann of East End, Arkansas, Kevin Spann of Little Rock, Timmy (Michelle) Spann of Little Rock, Jerry Johnson,

Great Grandchildren Patrick (Jessica) Fenton of Delight, David Fenton, Jr. of Little Rock, Katelyn Jones of Liberty, Texas, Justin Johnson (Debra) of California. Josh, (Katelyn) Samuel, and John Spann, Dylan (Alissa) and Savannah Spann, Winston, Alexander, Robert Rector and Glendon Rector.

Great-great grandchildren Zachary Fenton, Abbygil and Alexis Fenton of Delight, Mary Lewis of Murfreesboro, Abigail and Vincent Johnson of California.

Great-great-great grandchild; Ivy Spann.

Visitation was held on Monday, June 22, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services was held on Tuesday, June 23, at Delight Methodist Church, with Rev. Jim Henderson officiating, burial followed in the Delight Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

Glen A Sweeden, 76, Murfreesboro



Glen A. Sweeden, age 76, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas passed away on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was born September 17, 1949, in Daisy, Arkansas the son of the late Preston and Elice Crow Sweeden.

Mr. Sweeden was a member of Saline Church of Christ and served as Elder. He enjoyed being outdoors, fishing and hunting when he had the opportunity. But more importantly he enjoyed being with his family and going on trips with Susie.

Glen alongside Susie were the owner and operators of Sweeden Tractor in Murfreesboro for 44 years. Customer service was very important to him, and he was always on call and ready to assist his customers who were needing help no matter the day or time.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister Gail Russell, two nephews Preston "Pep" Glenn

and John Jones and one niece Misty Boatwright.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years Susie Sweeden of Murfreesboro; two daughters Kerri Beth Curry (Jonathan) of Hot Springs, Jenni Sue Hayes (Robert) of Damascus; Papa's pride of his life his two grandchildren Caleb and Kellen Curry both of Hot Springs, his honorary grandson Blaze Lucas. Also survived by two sisters Gloria Bagwell (Jerry Lee), Genesa Sarasin (Ted) of Red Oak, Texas; two nephews Garrett Sarasin, Harold Glenn and one niece Kathey Hawthorne. As well as his special fur pal Buddy.

Visitation was held until service time Saturday, June 20, at Murfreesboro Church of Christ.

Memorial services began at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 20, at Murfreesboro Church of Christ, with Buddy Ray, Roger Cox and Logan Foshee officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Saline Church of Christ, 23 Sweeden Ln. Murfreesboro, AR; 71958 or Pleasant Home Cemetery, P.O. Box 350, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.

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

Cleta Faye 'Turner' Cooper, 86

Cleta Faye 'Turner' Cooper left this world to travel to her heavenly home on June 17, 2026. She was 86 years old.

Cleta was born at home on July 23, 1939 to Terrell Thomas Turner and Macy Carnell 'Merritt' Turner.

Cleta 'Turner' Cooper is preceded in death by both parents, Terrell Thomas Turner and Macy Carnell 'Merritt' Turner; her husband, Gary B. Cooper; two brothers, Curtis Turner, Sr. and Bobby G. Turner; her youngest daughter, Lisa Gail 'Crisp' Ritterbush; two sons-in-law, Larry Ritterbush and Douglas C Shukers, Sr; and two sisters-in-law, Clarence Turner and Myrna Turner.

She is survived by her oldest daughter, Debbie K. 'Crisp'

Shukers; her stepson, Brooks Cooper and spouse, Rachel; her brother, T.G. 'Glenn' Turner; her sister-in-law, Mary Virginia Turner; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, And a multitude of nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.

The family received friends on Friday, June 19, at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services followed at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Curtis Abernathy and Bro. Mike Turner officiating. Interment followed in the Pike City Cemetery.

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

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Submitted photo

RECEIVES GRANT ... Recently, Pike County received a check for \$20,000 to help pay for improvements addressing security concerns in the Pike County Courthouse. "Approximately two months ago a gentleman from the state Court Security Commission had a walk through with me in our courthouse, to advise me on what we needed improvements on. When we applied, we ranked high enough to receive [financial] help from them. I'll be applying again next year for this grant," said Pike County Judge Eddie Howard, who is pictured above (just right of check) at the state Supreme Court in Little Rock to receive the grant funds.

CCCUA upgrades grader program for better area roads

DE QUEEN -- Univerity of Arkansas Cossatot Community College has announced the expansion of their Motor Grader Operator Program, which will now feature Applied Skills & Reinforcement sessions to help operators build safer, longer-lasting roads.

The enhanced training will go beyond the basics, focusing on real-world challenges, improving field performance, and boosting operator confidence.

Notably, the training was co-designed by Pike County Judge Eddie Howard and 50-year industry veteran Jackie Herring, ensuring participants gain practical, field-tested expertise that meets real industry needs, including hands-on training, real-world problem-solving and a three-tiered skill development approach.

"We're proud to support regional employers and workforce growth by delivering training that improves efficiency, consistency, and roadway quality across our communities," said Cossatot on social media.

Learn more about Workforce Development opportunities at www.cccua.edu.



EDDIE HOWARD AND JACK HERRING

Submitted photo

Keeping Arkansas kids safe online

BY BRIT MCKENZIE
Arkansas State
Representative District 7

June is National Internet Safety Month.

For most families that probably registers as background noise. It shouldn't. Protecting kids today means protecting them in the digital spaces they live in every day, not just the physical ones.

The internet is an extraordinary tool for learning and connection. It is also where predators operate. According to the Arkansas State Po-

lice Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, the summer months and the start of the school year consistently bring some of the largest spikes in online enticement cases involving children. The timing is not random. Kids have more unsupervised screen time, and the people who target them know it.

The latest ICAC data shows both progress and a hard reality. Online enticement cases involving intent to travel dropped significantly year over year, which is genuinely good news. But reports in-

volving child sexual abuse material jumped nearly 30 percent, and investigators saw an increase in suicide-related threats involving minors online. Technology moves fast. The need to pay attention does not change.

The General Assembly has acted on this. During the 2025 Regular Session, we passed legislation to strengthen online protections for minors, including measures on privacy defaults, addictive social media features, and the role algorithms play in pushing harmful content to young users.

Those laws are currently tied up in court, and implementation is paused while the legal process plays out. I think the laws are sound and I expect them to hold up, but that fight is not finished.

Here is the part no statute can handle: no law replaces an engaged parent. The State Police recommend families talk regularly about internet use, review privacy settings together, use strong passwords and multi-factor authentication, and make sure kids understand how AI and social media shape what they see.

Simple steps. They work. National Internet Safety Month is a good reason to take them this week instead of meaning to get around to it.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, JUNE 22
Beef taco salad, pinto beans, tortilla chips & salsa, sidekick ice fruit cup
TUESDAY, JUNE 23
Pulled pork sandwich, cheese grits, green beans, pudding

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
Chicken tenders w/gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, roll, Emerald pears
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

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

THINGS TO PRAY FOR
As Christians, we need to regularly examine our prayer lives and make certain that we have strong and faithful daily prayer to our God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells me to pray without ceasing, and James 5:16 says that the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Does my daily prayer life reflect the teaching of these two verses? We must pray with thanksgiving to our Lord each day.

In Matthew 6:9-13 the Lord teaches his disciples how to pray. The Bible gives us some things to pray for in the following scripture from Matthew chapter 6:

1) THAT THE LORD'S



WILL BE DONE - 6:10
2) FOR OUR DAILY BREAD - 6:11
3) FORGIVENESS AND ABILITY TO FORGIVE - 6:12
4) RELIEF FROM TEMPTATION - 6:13
5) DELIVERANCE FROM THE EVIL ONE - 6:13
New Testament scripture also gives us other things for

which to pray:

- 1) PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER - James 5:16
 - 2) PRAY FOR LABORERS IN GOD'S HARVEST - Matthew 9:37-38
 - 3) WISDOM - James 1:5-8
- Matthew 7:7 tells us to ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.

We should encourage ourselves through God's word to have a daily prayer life that is spiritually healthy and effective and one that is based on our faith in Jesus Christ and God the Father.

I pray that each of you have a great week!

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380 **Facts About The BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

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

EVIL HAMAN
WHEN THE JEWS IN THE PERSIAN KINGDOM HEAR THE DECREE CONDEMNING THEM TO DEATH, THEY PUT ON SACKCLOTH AND ASHES TO MOURN....

...INCLUDING MORDECAI, WHO HAS SERVED THE KING FAITHFULLY AS AN OFFICIAL IN THE PALACE GATES...

THE NEWS OF THIS DECREE TRAVELS FAST THROUGHOUT THE CITY

...AND NOW THE QUEEN'S HANDMAIDS HEAR OF IT...

WE MUST TELL THIS TO THE QUEEN!
YES! IT IS SOMETHING NEW TO TALK ABOUT - THERE'S BEEN NO FRESH GOSSIP FOR WEEKS!

SO THE NEWS REACHES ESTHER, THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN - THE FAVORITE OF KING AHASUERUS - AND ALSO THE NIECE OF MORDECAI THE JEW! FOR IT WAS MORDECAI WHO RAISED ESTHER FROM A LITTLE CHILD TO THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHOM AHASUERUS PICKED TO BE HIS QUEEN! AND TO THIS DAY, NO ONE IN THE CITY OF SHUSHAN OR EVEN THE PALACE, ITSELF, HAS KNOWN THAT MORDECAI IS THE QUEEN'S UNCLE!

Next Week
COUNTERPLOT!

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

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

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

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mdiamond@windstream.net

THE 4TH OF JULY

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Dagger's partner
6. Elephant party, acr.
9. Do like volcano
13. Fire (2 words)
14. Pro football org.
15. Jonas Salk's conquest
16. Like a Harvard building?
17. ET carrier
18. Bedeck
19. *Tasty Fourth of July outings
21. *Float processions
23. Black gunk
24. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
25. The Jackson 5's 1970 hit
28. Caffeine source
30. TV classic "___ Heroes"
35. Folio page
37. Abel's big brother
39. Fortune teller's card
40. Rank in British peerage
41. Archipelago parts
43. Head for (2 words)
44. Beseech
46. Impermanent employee
47. Prayer's end
48. Gardener's trimmer
50. Part of speech
52. Am is to I as ___ is to we
53. Calista Flockhart's husband
55. Likewise
57. *Salad tuber
60. * ___ Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest
64. Nonsense
65. Female gametes
67. "A Doll's House" playwright
68. Cuckoo
69. Opposite of guzzle
70. Cuckoo for what puffs?
71. Eyelid affliction
72. Driver's aid
73. Giving a once-over

DOWN

1. Hair holder
2. First name in jeans
3. Auricular
4. ___ provocateur
5. Island off Alaskan coast
6. Wildebeests
7. *For most, the 4th is a day ___
8. Onomatopoeia for splash
9. *Drink at a barbecue
10. Weary walk
11. Ireland, once
12. *Patriots ___ over Loyalists
15. Long John Silver's pet
20. Crocus, pl.
22. Ooh partner
24. Last part (2 words)
25. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
26. Famous Memphis street
27. Felt concern
29. **...twilight's ___ gleaming"
31. Lady of "A Star is Born"
32. Smell
33. Post-it user
34. **"Born on the Fourth of July" director
36. *Popular July 4th decoration
38. Captain of Nautilus
42. Phlegms
45. Sully one's reputation
49. Go bad
51. Public announcement
54. Fowl perch
56. Exclamation of delight or dismay (2 words)
57. Bridge, in Paris
58. Colloquial approval
59. Ditty
60. Back of neck
61. Ascus, pl.
62. Ne
63. Glitch
64. Part of O.H.M.S.
66. Strive

CROSSWORD

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ALZHEIMER'S Continued from Page 2

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life: "This can be forgetting recent information, important dates or asking the same questions repeatedly," Daniels said.
- Challenges in planning or solving problems: Trouble following a plan, managing bills or concentrating.
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks: "This could include trouble doing daily activities like driving, shopping or following a routine," Daniels said.
- Confusion with time or place: Losing track of dates, seasons or where you are.
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships: Difficulty reading, balancing or judging distance.
- New problems with words in speaking or writing.
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps: "This can involve putting items in unusual places and being unable to find them," Daniels said.
- Decreased or poor judgment: "Making poor decisions, especially about money or personal care, is something to keep a close watch for," Daniels said.
- Withdrawal from work or social activities.
- Changes in mood or personality. "Keep an eye out for increased confusion, anxiety, fear or mood swings," Daniels said.

If you notice any of these signs, it is critical that you do not ignore them, Daniels said.

"Changes that disrupt daily life are not a normal part of aging," Daniels said. "Schedule an appointment with a doctor. A healthcare provider can help find the cause, and some causes may be treatable."

Early detection allows for earlier treatment, planning and support, so seeking an early diagnosis can be very beneficial, Daniels said.

To talk to someone for support, the Alzheimer's Association offers a free, 24/7 helpline with guidance and resources. Call the helpline at 800-272-3900.

NUTRITION, EXERCISE SUPPORT BRAIN HEALTH

Daniels said modifiable health behaviors, such as healthy eating and regular physical activity, work together to support brain health and may help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease over time.

"Starting these habits at a younger age can lower the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity, which are closely linked to cognitive decline," Daniels said. "Many individuals who develop Alzheimer's also have other chronic health issues that can limit their ability to stay active and maintain good nutrition."

"By reducing these risks earlier in life, individuals can better prepare their bodies to handle the stresses of aging," Daniels said.

Certain foods provide nutrients that support brain structure and function, including diets rich in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory nutrients, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and whole grains, Daniels said.

"These nutrients may reduce inflammation and oxidative stress, which are key processes involved in Alzheimer's disease," Daniels said. "Oxidative stress is when the body produces harmful molecules during normal processes, and there aren't enough defenses to clean them up."

Daniels said people should focus on a consistent pattern of eating mostly plant-based foods, healthy fats and lean proteins, rather than relying on one specific food, to support brain health and lower dementia risk.

Physical activity that challenges balance, coordination, dual-tasking and strength is also important to supporting brain health because it trains the body and the brain at the same time, Daniels said.

"Balance and coordination activities help improve body awareness and reduce the risk of falls, while also requiring the brain to process movement and make quick adjustments," Daniels said. "Dual task exercises, such as walking while talking or carrying something while moving, force the brain to handle more than one task at once, which supports thinking skills and attention."

"Strength training helps maintain muscle mass and supports

independence with daily activities, but it also benefits the brain by improving blood flow and supporting overall function," Daniels said. "When combined, these types of exercises help strengthen the connection between the brain and body and may help maintain cognitive health and quality of life as people age."

Read Daniels' extension fact sheets on Healthy Eating for Brain Health and Exercise and Brain Health to learn more or check out the extension Acknowledging Aging page for more resources for healthy aging.

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

Free patriotic concert

The Doughboy Foundation will host a free concert -- "Celebrate America's Military Heritage" -- on June 25 in Washington D.C.

Those interested may livestream the event for free. "We invite you to join us for a spectacular musical journey through 250 years of American history. This special concert spans from the Revolutionary War to modern favorites."

The Thursday, June 25, concert will be held at 4 p.m. Featured performers include:

- The American Expeditionary Forces Band: The official world-class ensemble of the National WWI Memorial.
- The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps: The elite historical performers from the Military District of Washington.
- The 8th Green Machine Regiment Band: A unique ensemble playing 19th-century music on authentic, period-accurate brass instruments.

Visit <https://thedoughboyfoundation.ticketspice.com/virtual-250-years-of-american-music-livestream>

For more information on The Doughboy Foundation, Stewards of the National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C., visit www.Doughboy.org.

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Week of June 22, 2026

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes.

The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

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

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Submitted photo/Codie McAlister

SPECIAL DELIVERY ... A pair of silkie chicks, belonging to Ollie Neal, were brought for the Pike County 4-H Chicken Clinic recently in Murfreesboro.

Pike County Teen Leader earns Arkansas 4-H State Ambassador title

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is proud to announce that Carsyn Ballard has successfully completed the Arkansas 4-H State Ambassador interview process during Teen Leadership Conference (TLC) and has earned the prestigious title of Arkansas 4-H State Ambassador.

The State Ambassador program recognizes outstanding 4-H members who demonstrate exceptional leadership, communication skills, community involvement, and dedication to the 4-H program. Candidates participate in a rigorous application and interview process that highlights their accomplishments and commitment to serving others.

As a State Ambassador, Ballard will represent Arkansas 4-H at events across the state, serve as a role model for younger 4-H members, and help promote leadership, citizenship, and service opportunities within the organization.

Ballard will be officially recognized during Arkansas 4-H State O'Rama in July, where youth from across the state gather to celebrate their achievements and participate in educational and leadership activities.

The Pike County 4-H program is incredibly proud of Carsyn and this outstanding accomplishment. Her dedication, hard work, and commitment to leadership exemplify the values of 4-H and serve as an inspiration to youth throughout our community.

"Congratulations, Carsyn, on this well-deserved honor!" said Pike County Extension Service Staff Chair Eva Langley.



Submitted photo/PC4-H

CARSYN BALLARD

America's great outdoors

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. Representative (AR-04)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- From sea to shining sea, our nation's landscapes boast wonders unmatched by anywhere else in the world. From the glaciers in Alaska to the mighty Sequoias in California and the abundant geothermal springs right here in Arkansas, we are incredibly blessed to call this land our home.

As the summer season kicks off, many will travel across the country to see our natural beauty on full display. The national park system draws over 300 million visitors annually. For many, this has been a time-honored tradition, with countless visitors checking off another destination from their national park bucket list.

To fully appreciate this land that has been set aside just for you and me, we must understand its origin. In 1832, Congress protected the thermal waters in Hot Springs, creating America's first federal reservation of a natural resource and making Hot Springs the birthplace of "America's Best Idea."

50 years later, Yellowstone became our nation's first national park. In a speech given for the laying of the cornerstone of the gateway to Yellowstone National Park, President Roosevelt expressed his thoughts on the role the American people should play for the longevity of our national parks. He said, "The only way that the people as a whole can secure to themselves and their children the enjoyment in perpetuity of what the Yellowstone Park has to give is by assuming the

ownership in the name of the nation and by jealously safeguarding and preserving the scenery, the forests, and the wild creatures."

On the cusp of our nation's 250th celebration of independence, Congress is assuming that ownership by introducing the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) 250. This legislation focuses on enhancing access, improving visitor experience, and creating new outdoor recreation opportunities across the country. The legislation also makes historic investments in and modernizes our national parks, public lands, and revitalizes the economies of rural gateway communities that depend on public lands tourism.

Hot Springs has benefitted greatly from the Great American Outdoors Act that was signed into law in 2020. Most notably, through the Legacy Restoration Fund, Bathhouse Row received critical safety updates and the restoration of iconic historic features to open its doors once again to the Hot Springs community for commercial use.

Last week, as Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I had the honor of holding a field hearing in the heart of Hot Springs to discuss the importance of this legacy bill. Hot Springs National Park served as the perfect backdrop for this hearing, demonstrating how GAOA 250 investments can spur new public-private partnerships, create jobs, and sustain billions of dollars in spending within rural and gateway communities.

Our patriotism is often associated with our thankful-

ness to our armed forces and the military heroes who have sacrificed to protect our freedom. But I'd wager that a lot of our national pride also stems from the incredible beauty of our land. It's a great privilege to work in Congress to ensure that "America's Best Idea" -- our national parks and public lands -- are modernized and maintained for generations to come.

Published on July 4, 1895, by Katharine Lee Bates, "America the Beautiful" was the result of a recent trip to Pikes Peak in Colorado. Struck by its beauty, Bates penned the famous words that still resonate with us today and serve as a reminder of the gift we have been given and should continue to conserve. "O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!"

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