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Easter
Sunday
April 9**

\$1.00

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Quorum Court continues talks about library system in Pike County

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court last week received an update for the libraries county wide.

The report come on the heels of the previous controversy about limiting/closing the Delight branch late last year.

Via the county's library board, justice of the peace Seth Kirkham presented the following numbers (November, December, January, February):

Glenwood (30 hours/week, Tuesday-Saturday)

Patron Count -- 317, 405, 216, 362
Books Checked Out -- 392, 423, 413, 373

Delight (24 hours/week, Tuesday-Friday)

Patron Count -- 82, 129, 172, 212
Books Checked Out -- 104, 268, 355, 641

Murfreesboro (24 hours/week, Tuesday-Friday)

Patron Count -- 253, 330, 389, 342
Books Checked Out -- 231, 256, 281, 240

"Thankfully, the Delight Library is opening back up to public events ... I'm glad to see the library board has made some changes and taken appropriate steps, because the public library system is near and dear to my heart. I used it as a child, and now I represent the district. A failure to provide full funding for it would have been devastating to the community," said Kirkham. "Libraries are a great thing for our communities."

He noted that numbers were up for all three branches, and fact of which Kirkham said board president Gary Don Turner was "very proud."

However, there was one point in which Kirkham was not happy -- and that was with the procedure in which the Delight library faced the limitation of hours and how it came about.

"I attended a Pike County Library Board meeting in February, with the understanding that the board was the one pushing for the closure and the cutting of funds [at Delight]. To me, that's not their purpose, their purpose is to grow the library system and get all the funding they can. It just didn't make sense, so I attended. They came to me and expressed some deep concerns, were upset and wanted to clear the record. They said closure of Delight was never brought up in meetings beforehand, and never did they wish for Delight to close. We never considered it until [the Quorum Court] brought it to our attention."

Kirkham said the situation was perplexing -- the library boards own minutes from November 7 state that Turner and board member Betty Woodley would meet with the budget commit-

tee last November 10 to "discuss raises for librarians."

The minutes would go on to state that the board heard that "the Quorum Court expressed concerns of keeping Delight open and this would be discussed at the [budget] meeting" and asked for patron numbers for the libraries to be presented at the upcoming budget meeting.

Kirkham stated that was interesting, as the Quorum Court had not previously discussed the Delight issue at one of their meetings -- in fact, the possibility was not raised until the November 5 budget meeting, of which he personally was in attendance.

"That perplexed me. I sit on the Quorum Court ... and never remember talking about such a thing. The only time we talked about the libraries [in 2022] was when they asked for raises in August [and was told to wait until budget time to properly address the situation]."

J.P. Johnny Plyler concerned that to his recollection the conversation had not been had at that point.

"They were upset, stating it has been reported in the paper that the board proposed the idea. They thought words were being put in their mouth, and after looking at [the minutes] I think words are being put in our mouth, I feel like. My question is, who spoke to the library board on behalf of the Quorum Court? Who reaches out [for us]?" said Kirkham. "I just wanted to know where they were getting this information ... I'm concerned that this was discussed before the budget meeting, and someone was speaking on behalf of the Quorum Court at least three days prior. It's pretty upsetting, because we almost made a drastic decision because of what we thought they wanted, and the library board felt [the quorum court] was pushing an agenda upon them. It's unacceptable, and my district was being negatively impacted."

Kirkham called for Turner to be invited to the next meeting to speak and find out more information on where the wires got crossed. He said he had personally spoke with Turner about the issue, but "could not get [the] information."

"There are unanswered questions here, and where is this information coming from?"

County Judge Eddie Howard moved the proceedings along, stating that "it seems no one is going to mention any names."

Kirkham then again called for Turner to be invited to the April meeting "to get to the bottom of it. I'm pretty concerned about all of this."

Howard said he could be invited, but couldn't be compelled to divulge

Drag bunt by Chloe Pipkins leads to first run against Jessieville Lady Lions



Lady Knight Chloe Pipkins tried a bunt in their March 30 game against the visiting Jessieville Lady Lions. Pipkins made it to first base with a single over the Jessieville shortstop and came home to score on a fence finder home run by the next Centerpoint batter
photo by Mike Wallace

information. "that will be up to him."

Kirkham concluded by saying "I'd like the court to invite him. To me this is pretty concerning, and let's just see what happens. If he doesn't want to tell, that's fine. But what happened is inappropriate ... the library board members are upset, the constituents are upset, and it's all coming down to false information for somewhere."

"If there was any false information," justice of the peace Paul Baker said.

"It was in their official minutes," Kirkham retorted. "Somebody was given false informa-

tion."

Baker said it was possible someone "gave false information, not that they were given false information. They may have given false information. We don't know yet."

Howard agreed that he would ask Turner to see if he would like to come to the meeting, but Baker issued an edict.

"I can tell you this, and I think all of you [other quorum court members] are in agreement, we don't come down here and corner elected officials. If someone has a problem

See PCQC, Page 4

Brothers charged with cruelty to animals after attempt to kill dog

Felony charges have been filed in Pike County against two Delight brothers accused of aggravated cruelty to an animal.

On March 30, charges were filed against Dakota Rector, 27, and Cody Rector, 31. They are both accused of aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat or equine and criminal trespass.

According to case information, a citizen contacted the Pike County Sheriff's Department to report that the two men had come onto her property and attempted to cut her dog's throat. The incident was caught by a security camera. The dog survived the incident after receiving stitches to close the wound on its neck.

Both defendants made court appearances Monday when they both plead innocent to the charges. They were ordered to return to court May 1 with a June 2 pretrial date set for both case.

Also in court Monday, Taylor Wilkerson, 20, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to the charges of commercial burglary and criminal mischief for breaking into the Murfreesboro Elementary School in February. He was sentenced to 10 years of probation.

Marshall E. Black, 22, of Norman, plead guilty to the charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to five years of probation and 120 days in the Arkansas Correction Center and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

Joshua W. Hill, 42, of Delight, plead guilty to two counts of possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs. He also plead guilty to probation revocation and was sentenced to 120 days in the Community Corrections Center.

Thomas Tigue, 48, of Bonnerdale plead

See Crimes, Page 5

Bear den surveys reflect influence of summer drought

WALDRON — Last summer's drought may have some lingering impact on Arkansas's black bear reproduction, but there's no immediate cause for alarm, according to Myron Means, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's large carnivore program coordinator.

Each year Means works with biologists and technicians from the AGFC's Wildlife Management and Research divisions during February and March to visit female bears at their dens and evaluate their condition and the condition of their cubs to identify trends that may impact the entire population.

"We try to maintain about 60 female bears with radio collars throughout the state to help us with our monitoring work," Means said. "Of those, about half will be with yearlings and the other half will have cubs with them in their dens."

Means explains that female bears typically take two years to have and raise their young. During the first winter, the sows will have their cubs with them and allow them to nurse. Those cubs will stay with the mother throughout the year and through the next winter "learning to be bears." Upon emerging from their second denning cycle, the yearlings will be pushed from the mother's home.

"She'll actually let her female yearlings stay in a part of her home range, but she'll push the males out," Means said. "That does two things: it ensures that her female cubs have a good place that provides adequate food and resources, and it prevents issues that can arise from in-

breeding. It's one of those ways Mother Nature works that's just really interesting." Typically, a female black bear is sexually mature at 3-5 years old. Arkansas bears tend to begin reproducing at age 3 or 4. They can have cubs until they are around 20 years old. That gives them 16 years of opportunity to reproduce.

"But with an every-other-year cycle, we're really only looking at raising young eight times at most," Means said. "With the average litter size being two cubs, a fe-

male bear will produce about 16 cubs if she survives throughout a bear's typical natural lifespan."

This fascinating two-year reproductive cycle also means biologists must keep constant tabs on the population, as it is much slower than other game species in Arkansas.

"We have much fewer bears than deer and other game, and they reproduce much more slowly, so we really want to identify trends as soon as possible," Means said. "That means we really need to keep a close eye on reproduction each year. If you overhar-

See Bear Survey, page 4



The AGFC visits dozens of female bears during late winter to measure cub production and survival.



Legals

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE SECOND LIEN BONDS

To Whom It May Concern:

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kirby School District No. 32 of Pike County, Arkansas, was held at Kirby, Arkansas in Pike County, Arkansas on the 14th day of March, 2023, at the hour of 6:30 o'clock, p.m. All members of the Board had due notice of the time and place of said meeting, and the purpose thereof, and a quorum consisting of the following members: Lori Fortner, Blake Harmon, Ronnie White, Brent Swanson, and Daniel Funderburk adopted a resolution reading as follows:

"That, this School Board, in accordance with provisions of Arkansas Department of Education rules adopted May 12, 2008, will file application with the State Board of Education to issue second lien bonds in the amount of \$2,350,000 to be retired over a period not to exceed 28 years, from surplus revenues accruing from 15.0 mills pledged to all outstanding bond indebtedness and to employ First Security Beardsley as fiscal agent. The proceeds of the loan will be used for constructing and equipping a multi purpose gymnasium and any remaining funds will be used for constructing, equipping, refurbishing, and remodeling school facilities.

Board of Directors of Kirby School District No. 32 of Pike County, Arkansas
/s/ Darla Crump
President
/s/ Lori Fortner
Secretary

221 words G14-1tc

Legal

CITY OF GLENWOOD

LARGE ITEM TRASH PICK-UP
HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTS ONLY

Monday & Wednesday pick-ups - Saturday April 15th, 2023

Tuesday pick-ups - Saturday April 22th, 2023

Start at 7:00 AM through -----

FOLLOWING ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

Household trash; paper, cardboard, items in Trash bags, Styrofoam, canned goods in glass or can; hazardous waste, oil, gas, thinner, aerosol containers, treated wood; tires, paint cans, anything burnt, etc.

68 words GH 13-3tc

Card of Thanks

Thank you from the Mantooths

We just wanted to say thank you so much for all the support we received after the tornado. we were amazed at the number who reached out. From old friends and family to churches to people we had never met. They all just simply cared and wanted to help.

It was just incredible the love we felt around the community and beyond. There are just too many to mention individually, but we will always remember you all.

We appreciate it more than you will ever know.

God bless all of you. Thanks again

Larry and Cherry Mantooth

G14-1tp

An Anniversary I Never Wanted To See

By Mike Wallace

Last Friday was March 31.

It marked the one year time span since the source of the Light of My Life was turned off.

Shirley died that date in 2022 at the Glenwood Rehab and Hospice place.

The stomach cancer she had growing in her had moved on to threaten her kidneys, liver and intestines.

I knew that she was never going to be cured. There is no treatment that cures stomach cancer.

I realize that the rest of my life I will pine for her, be lonely without her, and continue to see her in my mind's eye.

I will be forever grateful that God graced me with 63 years of knowing her and with 54 years of an excellent marriage to her. There has never been anyone else that held that special place in my heart.

My mother's dad, Grandpa Coley, came close as I felt his patience, love and caring come through as I was growing up.

Like Shirley, Grandpa Coley did not have to say anything at all, but still spoke volumes.

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\$40 in local area

Mail check to:
Glenwood Herald
P.O. Box 1130
Glenwood, AR 71943

I have heard a song on the radio which explains where I am right now. The refrain goes a little like this - "A man this lonely, a man this blue, a man whose world has been torn in two."

Where do I go on? How do I go on?

I understand that most everyone who reached my age group (mid-70's) will have lost someone who means the world to them. I will go on living. I will go on caring about others.

With the grace of God, I will make it through this loss. It is that the path through it is sometimes full of stones and bumps.

But I have an excellent group of family and friends, an excellent guide in God and His Son, and will always be grateful for the years I spent with Shirley.

I think if I stay busy working and fixing up the house, I will survive it all.

ANOTHER TOPIC - I had heard nothing of value on the TV except the flapping gums of folks who no idea if Donald Trump did anything wrong. We have heard that there around 34 separate charges against Trump. I do not know if that is true, because as of this last Sunday, he has not been indicted or brought before a judge.

It just plain stinks. Don-

ald Trump may have done something wrong. We may or may not learn just what those things are .

There have been three major departments in the federal government who have declined to prosecute Trump over the same charges that District Attorney of Manhattan Alvin Bragg now wants to charge Trump with doing. Bragg has even declined to proceed with charges before, but received enough campaign funds to now charge Trump.

He has taken a misdemeanor charge and tied it to a federal charge on campaign funds misstatements.

It will be an interesting prosecution as this theory has never been done before.

The fact that the statute of limitations on those charges has long since passed, Bragg wants to ruin Trump's reputation along the lines of something is terribly wrong with the 74 million votes Trump got in the last general election.

The Democratic Party bigwigs do not believe that Uncle Joe will win want anyone who may have a chance to be smeared with untruths and outright lies.

Most every commentator on the TV is clearly aligned with what their network wants them to say. If they hate Trump and those

74 million peoples who did not vote for Uncle Joe, then they will pronounce that "the walls are closing in" on Donald Trump.

If anyone who wants to wait and see what the Manhattan D.A. actually brings forth against Trump, they are automatically a racist, a white supremacist or someone too stupid to know better.

The Manhattan Grand Jury has 23 members on it. All it takes is 12 of that 23 jury pool people to vote for an indictment on anything.

The person being talked about and indicted has no chance to defend themselves. There is nothing presented which might make a jurist vote no on any charge.

This all a political stunt. D.A. Bragg just wants the publicity and notoriety to cling to Trump up through the next general election. Then the charges will be mysteriously dropped.

It also appears that since the election results for the presidential election two years ago brought more than 85 percent of New York City voters going Democratic, of course Bragg and all the Democratic Party bigwigs want the Grand Jury and trial to be held there. Do you think Trump will get a fair trial in New York City?

I kinda doubt it.

Farm Equipment Auction!

Don't miss our April Auction!
Saturday, April 15th at 9:00 a.m. in Nashville, AR!

Our April Auction will be an outstanding one! Lots of local, one-owner equipment has already been consigned! Our list is growing daily, so what's below is just a PARTIAL listing. Plan to come and stay all day. Bring your trailers. We'll start checking in items, Monday, April 10 from 7:30 till dark, right on up through sale time. This auction offers something for all! Concessions and rest rooms will be available. Feel free to call us anytime at (870) 845-2142 or 845-9200. Go online to see current auction items at toddmorrisauction.com or check us out on facebook.

Celebrating
27 Years of
Consignment
Auctions

Directions to auction: On Hwy. 278, travel 3 miles from Nashville, AR toward Hope. From I-30, take the Hope exit (#30), then go west on Hwy. 278 for approx. 23 miles, sale yard is on the right.

PLEASE help us avoid a hazard by NOT parking on the highway the day of the auction - THANK YOU for your cooperation!

The items below represent only a PARTIAL listing of what has been consigned to us two weeks prior to the auction. No Buyer's Premium.

TRACTORS * CAMPERS * TRAILERS * FARM EQUIPMENT * CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT * BOATS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Krone Easy Cut 320 10.5Ft. Hay Cutter
16Ft Gooseneck Stock Trailer
36Ft Gooseneck 3 Axle (new)
16Ft Bumper Pull 7,000 Axle HD
16Ft. Bumper Pull Stock 3FT. Sides 5200lb. Axles
20 Ft w/4Ft Sides 5200lb. Axles
Big Load of Priefert Gates & Panels
36 Ft. 2 Axle 8,000lb Axle GN Expanded Metal
Square Tubing
2016 Bobcat E26 Mini Excavator w/2562 Hours
2014 John Deere 3032E w/Front End Loader
2016 Bobcat S510 Skid Steer
2017 Bobcat T550 Track Loader
5 Mobile Home Axles (1 broke)
2010 Kuhn GMD 700 Mower
1993 John Deere 375 Round Baler
1993 Vermeer 322 Hay Rake
Vermeer 5400 4x5 Baler (one owner, barn kept)
Miller Bobcat 225 Gas Welder w/100 Ft. leads 50 Ft. Grd on 5'x8' Trailer, 147 Hours, (runs good, like new)
3" Gas Water Lift Pump w/30Ft. Suction Hose
2018 Kubota M6 111
2021 1,000 gal. Sprayer 40 Ft., Boom setup for Liquid Fertilizer, 2 Sets of Nozzels
2001 CAT D4 6 Way Blade, New Under Carriage
2 - Powder River Squeeze Chutes
3 Bottom John Deere Switch Plow
4'x8' Sheets Diamond Plate Metal New Trailer Grip Floors
New Trailer Tires & Wheels
JD Riding Lawn Moers
2021 New John Deere HX6 HD Shaver Hyd Post Driver
Deutz 8006 Tractor 80HP
New Idea 5209 Hay Mower
Conditioner
1983 GMC 3500 w/84,300 miles with Heavy Duty Welding Bed
2004 Sandpiper GN Camper R31 RLBS w/2 slides (nice)
Parts Hay Mowers
Hog Trap (nice)
John Deere 1010 Tractor
John Deere 2-Row Planter
John Deere 650 Rake, 3PT PTO, extra teeth included
2017 40 Ft. Big Tex Dual Tandem Mega Ramps
5'x10' Trailer w/Gate
5'x12' Trailer w/Gate
Plasma Cutter
Trailer Tool Boxes
New Feed Troughs
Metal Shop Tables (heavy duty)</p> | <p>Vermeer WR20 Rake
Walton Caddy Rake (extra wheels included)
Case IH 8530 Inline Square Baler (small)
Husqvarna Riding Mower
2008 Massey Ferguson 1745 Hay Baler (good condition)
2016 Charger w/Hemi (ex-police car) 72,571 miles
John Deere 8200 Grain Drill
John Deere E1600 Chisel Plow
Caterpillar 6Ft. Skidsteer, Vibrating Roller, Skidsteer attachments
Bar 6 Cake Feeder
Priefert Bull Panels & Gates
Priefert Heat Gates (new)
Priefert Water Tanks
10x10x6 Heavy Duty Dog Pens
2004 Chevy 4x4 Pickup, Ext. Cab 1/2 Ton Z-71
Misc. Trailers of All Sizes
500 Gal Pressure Sprayer
Light Pole Post
2005 GMC 7500 Flatbed Automatic, C7 Cat Engine, 164,000, cold air
Taylor Way Dump Trailer, runs with Tractor Hyds.
Komatsu D41P Dozer, 5338 Hours (low hours) 6-Way Blade (nice)
27Ft. Holiday Rambler, 2 door, 2-axle everything works (no leaks), 2 TVs, Awning, New Plex Water Lines all through
9Ft Vicon Mower
6Ft. Razor Rotary Cutter
6Ft. Front Angle Blade Skid Steer
X-Mark Quest 42" Zero Turn
2 - MX6 Rotary Cuter
Vicon Hay Tedder
Kubota Commander 200 Zero Turn
Yamaha Big Bear 400 4-Wheeler
John Deere Z445 Mower
8 Wheel Hay Rake
Cone Seeder
Chicken Insinerator
Bad Boy Zero Turn Mower
John Deere Hyd Post Driver
3 Ft. Concrete Mixer
3 Pt. Hay Unroller
Corral Gates
WW Head Gate w/Chute
40 Ft. 3 Axle Gooseneck Flatbed
Priefert Litter Saver
Steel Feed Troughs
Misc. Hay Forks (all sizes)
Automatic Calf Catcher
Several Wagon Wheels
Whiskey Jugs
New Yard and Garden Decor
Rolling Tool Carts
Airless Nail Guns
Air Compressors
Tool Boxes, Misc. Tools</p> | <p>Priefert LS5 5Ft. Litter Saver (new)
John Deere 2440 Tractor 2WD w/Loader (excellent shape)
Vicon 3200 Disc Trail Mower
Kubota Diesel Zero Turn Model 326 (nice)
Land Pride 15Ft Batwing (excellent)
Kuhn GMD 700 GII HD
5'x20' Pipetop w/Toolbox, Tailgate
John Deere 567 Baler
Frontier H1510, Diesel, 10Ft. Drag (nice)
PTO Generator on Trailer
John Deere Batwing (parts)
Poly Tank
Sets of Chicken House Trusses
75Kw Diesel Generator (3 phase or single phase)
Smoker on Wheels
John Deere MX7 Cutter
2 3/8 Pipe
6Ft 3 pt Disc
Priefert 2 Bottom Turning Plow
John Deere 6 Ft. Blade
Skid Steer Grappels
3 Pt. Post Hole Digger
5 Bale Gooseneck Hay Trailer
John Deere Planter
5Ft Roto Tillers
86 Ford F700 Dump Truck
Vermeer 12 Wheel Speed Rake
2014 Delco 32Ft Rubber Floor, Tarp extra wide (nice)
2017 Kuhn 6 Basket, Hyd Hay Fluffer
1995 Mack w/13 Speed Eaton w/scales (new clutch)
New Charcoal Self Feeding Grills
Cattle Pot Truck, Loadout (nice)
Hyd. Car Lift
PLUS, MANY, MANY MORE ITEMS</p> |
|--|---|--|

Upcoming Auction
Biggers Inc.
Inventory Reduction and Consignment Auction
May 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Camden, AR
go to toddmorrisauction.com for more details and photos.

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American Energy Dominance is Within Reach

By US Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)
4th Congressional District

This week, the House of Representatives passed historic, bipartisan legislation to lower energy costs for hardworking Americans. This bill puts American families and American workers first – and I'm proud that both Democrats and Republicans could realize how important that is for Congress to support. With the passage of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, House Republicans are delivering on our promise to end President Biden's war on American energy and create an economy that's strong, resilient, and works for American families.

This common sense, science-based, landmark legislation will end the misguided war on American energy by restarting onshore and offshore leasing programs. It will incentivize domestic energy production, unlocking the resources we have here at home which are vital to our clean energy future. H.R. 1 will cut the red tape and modernize federal regulations that have inflicted decade-long permitting delays on critical energy infrastructure projects of all kinds. But most of all, it will lower energy costs for hardworking families and boost our economy.

Americans have suffered the consequences of the woke left's misguided energy policies for far too long. The President's misguided energy policies have increased costs for hardworking Americans and jeopardized our national security by making us more reliant on foreign adversaries like Russia and China. The Lower Energy Costs Act gets the federal government out of the way so American workers and American companies can lower costs for Americans, complete infrastructure projects faster and cheaper, and ensures the critical minerals we need for advanced technologies come from America, NOT our foreign adversaries. The American people can rest easy knowing that House Republicans have set the U.S. back on course to be a global leader in energy production.

As chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, I am proud to have played a central and critical role in developing and passing this historic legislation alongside House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Sam Graves.

The Lower Energy Costs Act is a massive win for Americans everywhere, but it's not over yet. It's now in the hands of the Senate to take the reins and keep this critical legislation moving to the President's desk. I've already spoken to many of my Senate counterparts about this legislation, and I'm optimistic. We have an incredible opportunity to continue working on a bicameral basis to get this bill signed into law.

Liberal Democrats' war on American energy is coming to an end. We have the resources here at home to dominate in American energy production. This week, the House made a massive stride towards unleashing American energy independence once and for all.



Rep. Bruce Westerman

Cottage For Sale!

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With Sun Porch

Judy Olsen

501-525-2307



Obituaries

Helen "Carlene" Davis

Helen "Carlene" Davis departed this world on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. She was a resident of De Queen, AR. Carlene was born January 19, 1948, in Kolbtown Community in Dierks, AR. She was the oldest daughter of Carl Junior Young and Mary Helen Turner Young.

Carlene was a 1966 graduate of Dierks High School. After graduation, Carlene married Ronnie Davis of Umpire, AR. From this union, Tajaha Elaine Davis was born. Ronnie and Carlene were business owners in De Queen, AR, throughout their marriage.

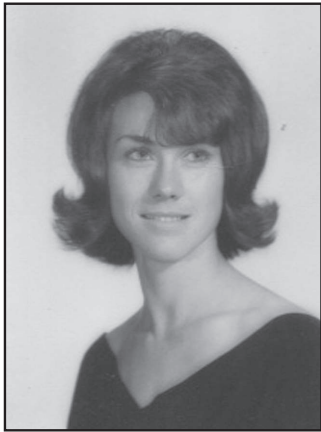
Ms. Davis was a devoted wife of 56 years, loving mother, and precious grandmother to Michael Van Voost. Carlene has remaining siblings which include LaQuita Jo (Young) Cox, Lanorma Jeanene (Young) Allen, and half brother Glen David (Young) Burt; nieces and nephews Paul Cox; Kyle Deen, Darby Deen Newbolt, and grandnieces Annika Deen and Addison Cox.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Junior and Helen Young, and grandparents Carl and Dora (Barnes) Young and Archie Weaver and Mary Lucinda (Aylor) Turner.

Funeral services for Ms. Davis were held 10:00 a.m., Saturday, April 1, 2023 in the Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel in De Queen, AR with Donnie Vaughn and Tracy Welch officiating. Burial followed in Green's Chapel Cemetery the Young plot.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Green's Chapel Cemetery Fund, C/O Marty Cox, Treasurer, 169 Firehouse Lane, Lockesburg, AR 71846.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com



Rosemary "The Wild Rose" Lambert

Rosemary "The Wild Rose" Lambert, 65 of Bismarck Arkansas, passed away March 25, 2023.

She was born February 14th, 1958 in Hot Springs, Arkansas to Franklin and Lavern (Runyan) Lambert.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her mother, father, and sister Hilda Welch.

Survivors include her son Adam Porter, her daughter, Precious Hope Riley, and her siblings, Buddy Lambert, Sally Shirley, Marsha Yarbrough, and Nancy Doss—many grand kids, nieces, and nephews.

Rosemary spent most of her life doing what she loved helping others as an R.N. for 30-plus years. Her hobbies included gardening, gambling, sister trips, going to the lake and beach, enjoying being on the party barge, nursing, and spending time with her grand kids.

Graveside services were held at 2:00 PM, Friday, March 31, 2023, at Sweet Home Cemetery with Bro. Rick Collie officiating.

Visitation was held from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, Thursday, March 30, 2023, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel, Glenwood, 209 North Third Street, Glenwood, Arkansas 71943.

Interment was in the Sweet Home Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Sally Shirley, Marsha Yarbrough, Nancy Doss, Debbie Skates, Orie Doss, Russell Doss, and Miles Wilder.

Guest registry is at www.smithfamilycares.com.

Clean Up Day at Hopper Cemetery

May 6, 2023.

Please send your contribution to:
Hopper Cemetery Fund
care of Avadelle Cogburn
326 Oak Grove Rd, Caddo Gap
71935

Committee members: Charles
Coffman, Wendell Coffman and
Chuck Golden

Marquetta Peppers

Marquetta Peppers, age 85, of Glenwood, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2023.

She was born on March 10, 1938, in Battiest, Oklahoma, the daughter of Hoyt Homer Perrin and Linnie Hazel Vaughn Perrin. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Don Peppers; her granddaughter, Hope Reid; her niece, Lacy Peppers Chivers; and her sister, Phyllis Jean Golden.

On February 8, 1959, Marquetta married the true love of her life. After staying home to raise her children while they were little, "Quetta" chose to work in the food service industry waiting tables for many years at the M&W and Lux Corner Café. If you ever sat at the round table, you know she always had your coffee and some funny, quick-witted conversation. For many years, after the loss of an unborn granddaughter named "Hope" at a local Hot Springs Hospital, she and her mother made and donated heart shaped pillows with the name "Hope" embroidered on them, so that all the mothers who lost a baby would not go home with empty arms. She had a servant's heart and ended her working career as a caregiver to several locals in the community. After she retired she volunteered at the Helping Hand Store receiving the 2018 "Volunteer of the Year" award. She had a big personality, contagious laugh, and was fiercely loyal. She loved to garden and work in her yard. She was a member of Eastern Star and Grace Baptist Church in Glenwood. Above all, she was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister who dearly loved her family. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Marquetta is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Kelli and Tommy Gannon of Glenwood; her son and daughter-in-law, Ki and Holli Peppers of Fayetteville; her grandchildren, Kaci Reid, Kadi Harris and her husband, Adam, Evelyn Peppers, and Gideon Peppers; her great-grandchildren, Karlie Reid, Gage Reid, Brooke Reid, and Kason Harris; Her sister and brother-in-law, Treva and Paul Peppers of White Bluff, Tennessee; her nieces, Twyla Golden and Penny Peppers; her nephews, Steven Peppers, David Peppers, and Rusty Chivers; her special caregivers, Lupita Zamorano and Oneyda Soto; and numerous extended family members and a host of wonderful friends.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Matthew Hulsey, Veronica Ashbrook, and the staff of Glenwood Family Medicine.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood with Bro. James Owens officiating.

Visitation was held from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel, Glenwood, 209 North Third Street, Glenwood, Arkansas 71943.

Interment was in the Mount Tabor Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Tyler Zander, Gage Reid, Tim Robbins, Steven Peppers, David Peppers, and Jeff Gannon.

Willard Gene Turner

Willard Gene Turner, age 84, of Kirby passed away on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at CHI St. Vincent Hospital in Hot Springs. He was born January 2, 1939 in Forrester, Arkansas the son of Virgil and Bertha (O'Neal) Turner.

Willard was a 1957 graduate of Kirby High School. He lived most of his adult life in the Houston area before moving back to Kirby in 1998 to live in the home where his parents last resided. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially the "little" ones that called him PawPaw, beekeeping, deer hunting, and fishing. Willard was a faithful member of Elmore Hunting Club. He was also a crafty carpenter who would always assist those in need with his detailed workmanship.

Preceding him in death are his parents; brother, Waymon Turner and wife, Barbara of Malvern; sister, Noema Hoskins and husband, Coleman of The Woodlands, Texas; sister, Fern Knight and husband, Caroll of Crockett, Texas; former wife and mother to his only daughter, Bonnie Jeter of Tomball, Texas.

Survivors are his daughter, Laurie Strutz and husband, Michael of Pinehurst, Texas; brother, Wallace Turner and wife, LeeAnn of Newhope; sister, Faye Cargile and husband, Fred of Kirby; grandchildren, Kasie and Kenady Strutz of San Marcos, Texas, and Karlee Strutz of Pinehurst, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved very much; his dogs, Red and Shelby, T-Tom the cat, and his chickens.

Visitation was Monday, April 3rd from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Smith Family Funeral Home in Glenwood. Services were Monday, April 3rd at 11:00 am directly after the visitation with Brother Bert Brown officiating. Interment was at Bear Creek Cemetery in Kirby.

Pallbearers were Michael Strutz, Ronnie Bailey, Stephen Turner, Tyler Turner, Keith Hunter, Collin Hunter, Brant Abbott, and Allen "Bubbie" Cargile.

The family would like to thank all friends for their prayers and support and extend an invitation to gather for lunch at Willard's home after the graveside service.

Arrangements were under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Home, Glenwood, 209 North Third Street, Glenwood, AR 71943.

Guest registry is at www.smithfamilycares.com.



James Dean "Jimbo" Horton

James Dean "Jimbo" Horton, age 52, of Bonnerdale, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2023.

He was born on August 15, 1970, in Hot Springs, the son of John Henry Horton and Shirley Anne Mizell Horton. He was preceded in death by his son, James Dean Earl Horton; his parents; and his grandparents.

Everyone that knew James will always remember him best as Jimbo, a nickname he had pretty much his entire life. Jimbo was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending time at the creek, but above all his greatest joy in life was riding 4-wheelers, side-by-sides or dirt bikes. Jimbo always had a need for speed and loved to jump on a 4-wheeler, or pretty much any ATV, and do as many wheelies as possible, donuts or pretty much anything he could come up with to attempt, which allowed him to be a little bit of a showoff. His family and friends will never forget the many fun times they spent with Jimbo, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Jimbo is survived by his daughter, Racheal Horton and her partner, Zachary Hughes; his grandson, Adrian James Gage Hughes, all of Bonnerdale; his brother and sister-in-law, John and Melissa Horton of Royal; his two sisters, Crystal Horton and her husband, Gregory Clark of Hot Springs and Debbie Horton of Bonnerdale; his niece, Shelbi Horton; numerous cousins, extended family members and a host of wonderful friends.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, April 1, 2023, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood with Brad West officiating.

Visitation was held 1:00 PM until 2:00 PM, Saturday, prior to the services at the funeral home.

Interment was in the Grants Chapel Cemetery in Bonnerdale.

Pallbearers were Dack Rosenbaum, Scott Wilson, Tyler Light, John Horton, Gregory Clark, Curt Horton and Brad Newton.

The family would like to invite all of his friends to enjoy one last ride with Jimbo on his special day on Saturday. For more information regarding the gathering for this special ride, you are welcome to call his brother, John Horton at 501-627-6040.

Guest registry is at www.smithfamilycares.com.

Mary Jane Bridges Williamson

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, after 584 days without her twin, Mary Jane Bridges Williamson, 79, of Maumelle, passed away. That Melba Jean Bridges managed to pass peacefully in her sleep at home after a multitude

of health crises over the last few decades is a testament to her stubbornness. That Jane passed in the same way would likely cause Melba to point out that Jane always copied her. Anyone who knew them knew that they were, despite ongoing evidence to the contrary, each other's favorite person. They were very particular about what they would and wouldn't share. Facebook was fine to share but not a coffee pot. This is supposed to be Jane's obituary, but because we lost Melba during the pandemic, she didn't get her own memorial service- so they are sharing this one. One can only imagine what they would have to say about this.

They bickered incessantly but quickly joined forces if anyone else wanted to argue, never losing a fight when they were on the same side. Jane's daughters only recently won a long-standing disagreement with them, as Jane and Melba were vehemently opposed to having a memorial service. Their memorial service will be held at Smith Family Funeral Home in Glenwood, Arkansas on Thursday, April 6 at 3:00pm.

They enjoyed watching sports, going shopping, talking about sports, vacationing at the beach, reading about sports and spending time with family- especially if it involved sports.

They were preceded in death by their parents and Jane's husband. Their older sister, Sherry Bridges Ledet, passed away after Melba but before Jane- putting her in the unenviable position of being between them, which is not a place anyone ever wanted to be. Ask Dottie Williamson, who spent decades making certain she went into any church pew or stadium row first or last.

They are survived by Jane's daughters and their families. Laura Bailey and Gary Waters of Northwest Arkansas and Sherry Williamson and Debora Inman of Maumelle. They are also survived by grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Silas, Finn and Jasper Inman of Maumelle as well as Taylor Bailey, Chandler Rooks and their son Rowan; Mason and Kaylee Bailey and their daughter Ava; Shelby Waters, CJ and Kaylee Waters all of Northwest Arkansas. Speaking of sons and daughters, Jane always wanted sons and would tell anyone who would listen. Even her daughters.

Melba and Jane will be missed by a multitude of family, extended family, former co-workers and friends. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in their memory to: Special Pals of the Shelter (SPOTS) P.O. Box 824 Glenwood, AR 71943.

Arrangements are under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Home, Glenwood, 209 North Third Street, Glenwood, AR 71943.

Guest registry is at www.smithfamilycares.com.



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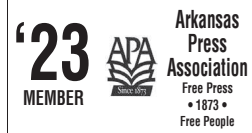
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PCQC, From Page 1

with an elected official, then need to meet with the [County] Judge and they need to iron that out. If they can't iron it out, then we will meet with them. This is not a place to drag people through the mud. Don't do that. We never had, and we're not going to start. We just don't do it."

Robbie Crocker added that the library board was a volunteer position, and that needed to be remembered.

"There is some misinformation out there, and I don't know where it came from, but it didn't come from the budget meeting," Crocker said. "I do agree with Seth, if someone gave them this, it does pique my curiosity, but I don't want us or the library board being drug into this -- it doesn't look good."

Plyler said the budget committee devoted "two, two-and-a-half hours to this one thing. But that's water under the bridge, we've voted on it and we need to move on. It's done."

"I just want to get it correct, so that going forward -- we can get it right for the ladies on the library board, for my constituents, for us."

"The decision is up to them," Howard said.

In other quorum court news, the board heard a short presentation by Lori White about employees of the county becoming members of Air Evac for \$75, down from the normal \$99 yearly charge.

She said the service has 2,200 members in Pike County, and that the service covers the entire household of a

member. Additionally, she said Air Evac had 320 different locations in the United States, should someone be traveling when the need for an emergency flight took place.

An ordinance, 2023-3, was passed that allows for business to be done with county employees and their families. In addition to the one passed earlier this year, the ordinance states that Scott Howard, brother of County Judge Eddie Howard, can be allowed to bid on Pike County construction projects without bias. Also, Pike County Road foreman, Richard Calley, owns a work truck -- a 2020 5500 Dodge with fairly low mileage, workbed, toolboxes and fuel tank -- that the county would consider purchasing for a road department vehicle in a one time only exception.

Howard said that the truck could be used to haul some of the county's equipment.

Leotis Snowden asked if the truck had been assessed by a mechanic, and Howard said it had not.

"The assessment price is over what he is asking for it," said Howard.

Snowden said that may well be the truth, but "even with lose mileage it is something that needs to be looked at very close. It could have issues that you can't see."

Howard said Snowden could come look at the vehicle before purchase. "It's not a done deal, I don't want ya'll to think it is, I just want the option open. I only want what is best for the county."

In financial matters, the court approved the transfer of \$20,519.54 to the ARPA fund after accidentally "double dipping" over salaries for school resource officers that are being funded with a COPS grant.

Also, \$35,464 was appropriated as the matching portion of the \$106,392 AWIN radio grant from Arkansas Public Safety Communications grant program. The grant will provide the county 40 700/800 megahertz radios and eight 700/800 megahertz mobile radios for placement inside vehicles.

Pike County Treasurer Loretia Rather announced the following openings and closings of county accounts through the month of February:

- County General -- \$1,248,346.17/\$1,405,228.33
- County Road -- \$860,028.55/\$907,387.18
- County Landfill -- \$949,713.21/\$980,273.13
- All County Accounts -- \$7,712,953.57/\$7,775,080.64

Obituaries

Dale Martin Adams

Dale Martin Adams, age 73, of Hot Springs, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

He was born on March 15, 1950, in Inola, Oklahoma, the son of Luther Adams and Mary Fleming Adams. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Roberta Vaught; and his brother, Bill Adams.

On May 19, 1984, he was married to the true love of his life, Cass Sigman Adams. He was a member of the Hot Springs First Baptist Church and a United States Army veteran, having served in Vietnam. Dale was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, who loved and cherished his family. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dale is survived by his loving wife, Cass Adams of Hot Springs; his son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Tara Adams of Bismarck; his daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Brian Reynolds of Little Rock; his grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, April 5, 2023, in the Mount Tabor Cemetery with Bro. Erby Burgess officiating. Military honors will be provided by the United States Army Honors Team.

Visitation was held Tuesday, 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood, 209 North Third Street, Glenwood, Arkansas 71943.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in memory of Dale, to The Caring Place, 101 Quapaw Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901.

Guest registry is at www.smithfamilycares.com.

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PIKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS- GLENWOOD, AR.
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Partial List: 15 tables of tools - Craftsman/Kennedy roll around tool boxes - numerous tables household and misc. - 2 tables of ammo. - awesome oak antique oak desk - Sheraton mahogany chest on chest/matching dresser - odd chest/dressers - kitchen cabinet - occ. chairs - patio table - wrought iron chairs - bar stools - numerous storage cabinets and shelves - leather sofa - Hon file cabinet - pressure washer -ships wheel - porch rocker - must see tree trunk chair - pr. roll around leather chair - nice queen size matt/springs - industrial work table - water kegs - oriental sofa table - rows of misc. boxes - fabulous vintage framed far east tapestry - art work electronics - decorator items - glassware - ladders - lots of heavy plastic shelving - round oak dining table - Craftsman work table - dryer - leather office chair - two 54" flat screens - fishing items - light bar - hi lift jack - Holland grill - concrete fisher boy - 7' bar clamps - mounted goose - *More to be added!*
Photos & Detailed List: Auction Zip 21075 - McGrew Auctions Facebook.

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State Capitol Week in Review

By State Sen. Terry Rice

The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved legislation that lengthens prison sentences for violent offenders and requires prison inmates to work harder to qualify for parole.

The legislation is Senate Bill 495. One goal is to provide juries in criminal trials with more accurate information about the length of time that convicted criminals are truly going to serve behind bars after their sentencing.

Criminals convicted of rape and capital murder would serve 100 percent of their sentences. The 100 percent sentence requirement also will apply to aggravated robbery, human trafficking, Internet stalking of a child and more serious categories of aggravated residential burglary.

Offenders would serve 85 percent of their sentence after conviction for a long list of violent felonies, including second degree murder, negligent homicide, manslaughter, encouraging someone to commit suicide, first degree battery, first degree sexual assault and sexual indecency with a child.

Other felonies on the list include permitting abuse of a minor, serious categories of arson, advocating overthrow of the government, treason, making a terrorist threat, arming a terrorist and exposing the public to toxic, chemical or radioactive substances.

Making offenders serve longer sentences would bring Arkansas sentencing guidelines more in line with those used by federal prisons, where people convicted of federal crimes serve almost all of their sentence.

The sponsor of SB 495 told senators on the Judiciary Committee about inmates being released after serving only a sixth of their sentence because of Arkansas laws.

In some cases, they were released before completing

drug rehabilitation or other programs designed to help them transition back to the outside world.

A goal of SB 495 is to create incentives for inmates to complete rehabilitation, anger management, skills training and other courses that improve their chances of success in society. Instead of automatically earning "good time" just for being in prison, they would not begin to accumulate credits for early release until they complete rehabilitation programs.

The bill creates a task force to work on recidivism, and expands mental health treatment for inmates.

Along with SB 495, the legislature will consider appropriations to pay for an additional 3,000 prison beds and the hiring of additional security officers and prison staff. One goal is to put a stop to the "revolving door" that allows dangerous offenders to be released early due to lack of prison capacity. Those new beds will be in addition to the 400 beds recently approved by prison officials.

Another goal is to free up space in county jails, which house convicted offenders when there is no space in state prisons. Sheriffs have told legislators that conditions are becoming more dangerous for jail staff and minimum security prisoners, as county jails fill up with serious offenders.

A growing number of people charged with misdemeanors are being released because county jail space has to be reserved for dangerous felony offenders. By making space available again in county jails, supporters of SB 495 say they want to re-establish the importance of punishing misdemeanors.

Representatives of prosecuting attorneys and county sheriffs told senators that they support SB 495.

Bonnerdale News

By Karroll Morphew

No birthdays this week to report.

James Dean "Jimbo" Horton, age 52, of Bonnerdale, passed away Friday, March 24, 2023. He was the son of John Henry and Shirley Anne Mizell Horton of Bonnerdale. Funeral services were held at 2 PM, Saturday, 1, 2023, in the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood, Arkansas, with burial in the Grant's Chapel Cemetery near Bonnerdale. Our condolences to this family.

Jim has a few comments on the dangers of riding smaller recreational vehicles in an unsafe manner: "One of the handiest pieces of equipment that has come along in years is the ATV, or four wheeler. This is especially so for me since I have difficulty walking very far at a time because of some arthritis issues. These woods vehicles are a blessing to those who still like to get out and about in the country. They are just like any other piece of equipment though. Common sense must be used when riding one of them.

The main street in the metroplex is Dollar Road. The traffic is not usually very congested, so the road is considered safe to ride or drive on. This statement is accurate until some one decides to drive or ride recklessly. This seems to be occurring more often, and has led to several accidents on the road and in the forest as well.

A few years ago the US Forest Service established some rules and guide lines for riding an ATV on government property. These were developed for the protection of the property, as well as for the safety of the rider. I live adjacent to the national forest and quite often I hear or see riders abusing their privilege. Recently we had a neighbor lose his life while riding on the national forest. A few years ago another person lost their life while riding a pipeline right-of-way on the east end of Pigeon Roost Mountain. These are just two accidents that I am aware of that cost someone their life. They could have been avoided if better judgement had been used.

These small vehicles are a great asset to have and use, just like the automobile, but once again, like all things, use some horse sense when riding on the streets and woods trails of the Old Bonnerdale/Imelda Metroplex."

Some of our family members are coming in for a long weekend this week. We are always happy to see any or all of them when they get here. Schools and jobs have a way of interfering with ALL of us being together at the same time. So Jim and I are happy when any of them can come. And we are especially happy that they WANT to come. I don't think that is true in every family's case. We are greatly blessed!

Once again, it's that special time of year – springtime, and that means Easter is to be celebrated.

When the women came to the tomb of Jesus, an angel met them and said: "He is not here: for he is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matt. 28:6, KJV. See you next week.

CASA events planned for Pike and Clark Counties in April

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike and Clark County chapter of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) has several events planned in observance of April's Child Abuse Prevention month.

The group, which advocated for children in the foster care system is also looking for local volunteers to aid their reach.

"Many of the kids in foster care have been abused or neglected, so in many cases we have to step in for parents and look out for the kids in the courtroom and classroom," said Celeste Davis of CASA.

Anyone interested in being a part of the effort can receive free training.

There are currently 18 children in foster care from Pike County, and only four of that total has a CASA advocate.

"There is definitely a need," said Davis. "It's our overall goal that each one of these kids has a CASA advocate."

For questions or more information, visit the group's website at casaofclarkandpike.org, call (870) 260-5448

Crimes, From Page 1

guilty Monday to the charges of possession of meth. He was sentenced to one year in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC).

James Calvary McSweeney, 60, of Amity plead guilty to failure to comply with registration and reporting requirements of being a sex offender. He was sentenced to CORRECTION - In last week's newspaper, it was incorrectly reported that Charles Leroy Hearn, 62, of Amity, charged with sexual assault of a young child, had been released on \$100,000 bond. Hearn remains in custody at the Pike County Jail.

Account set up at Diamond Banks for children of Jordan Nutt

An account has been set up for the children of Jordan Nutt at Diamond Bank. All proceeds will go to Colton and Fallym Nutt. Donations can be made at any Diamond Bank location.

Master Gardeners offer scholarship

The Montgomery County Master Gardeners are offering a \$500 scholarship to a college student studying at an Arkansas college or university in a plant science related field, including but not limited to horticulture, botany, agronomy, forestry, plant science, landscape architecture/design, and turf management. Deadline to apply is March 31. Contact Linda Bridgers at lindabridgers@outlook.com or text870-828-2961

SPRING REVIVAL

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Kirby will be hosting a Spring Revival April 10-12 with services beginning each evening at 7:00 p.m.

The evangelist will be Bro. Brian Sellers
Pastor is Bro. Jack Herring

Centerpoint High School Knights' Choir Presents SHREK The Musical Jr

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Gulp & Grub Show Pita Chips/Dip, Sandwich/Quiche, Fruit-Kabob, Drinks, Desserts & Coffee
Saturday, April 22, 2023 6:00 pm \$20.00/person
Super Supper Show Salad, Smoked Chicken, Baked Potato, Beans, Desserts & Coffee
Sunday, April 23, 2023 3:00 pm \$10.00/person
Popcorn Show Popcorn & Bottled Water
For Tickets: You may contact Penny Fox 501-837-3827 Cash/Check Only
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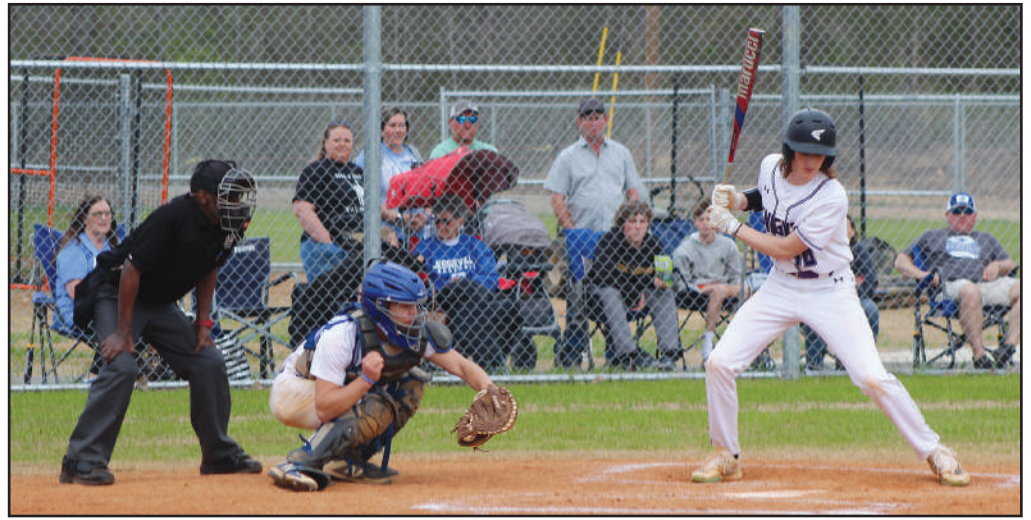
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Action shots from Knights hosting Lions



Centerpoint Knight Tristan Rader fouls one pitch off in their game March 30 against the visiting Jessierville Lions Both squads hit sht ball well and displayed excellent running the bases skills. photo by Mike Wallace



Centerpoint Knight Kaison Snider lets a low pitch go bye in their March 30 game against Jessierville. photo by Mike Wallace



This Centerpoint Lady Knight Dara Smith hit one over the chain link fence in their march 30 game against Jessierville. She brought in Chloe Pipkins and herself for a two run lead early in the game. photo by Mike Wallace



Centerpoint Lady Knight Dara Smith at the plate early in their March 30 softball games against the visiting Jessierville Lady Lions. photo by Mike Wallace

Bear Survey, From Page 1

vest bears, it can take a long time to recover. We have different regulations and season frameworks that can help prevent that if we have this annual data.”

The process of bear den monitoring actually begins in summer when biologists and technicians across Arkansas’s bear range set and monitor snare traps to catch bears they are seeing on game cameras and during their work on wildlife management areas. They sedate the bears, take their measurements and outfit them with radio collars. Each collar has a signal emitter that biologists can

later use to locate the bear using special equipment. It can take days of driving and hiking to discover exactly where a female bear has decided to make her den for the winter.

“Our south Arkansas bears were given GPS collars, which give locations a bit easier,” Means said. “Those are much more expensive, so the majority of our collared bears still use the radio-signal version for now.”

Biologists look for the dens in late winter and have a list of bears that should be with cubs to visit. They will quietly approach the mother bear and again sedate her using a special mix of chemicals.

“We’re actually working with researchers from Texas testing a new drug for the trips,” Means said. “The previous drugs we used were highly monitored by regulatory agencies, and this one should be safer for the bears. It has the ability to be reversed. This lets the mother bear get back to the business of raising her cub as soon as we’re gone.”

Despite popular belief, Means says bears aren’t true hibernators. Many animals like groundhogs can lower their body processes – for example, pulse rates and breathing

rates – to the point they are catatonic. It can take several hours for a hibernating animal to rouse from this state. This is not the case with a mother bear.

“She’ll lower her heart rate and breathing rate as well as other bodily functions during the winter denning cycle, but not to that catatonic state,” Means said. “If she sees, hears or smells an intruder, she can instantly respond. Just about every bear we approach in our research will be awake when we arrive to sedate her.

So far this year the bears in the Ozarks and Ouachitas have shown reproductive rates at roughly 45 percent of what they typically record. While this might be cause for concern, Means says the bear population is still very healthy and should be able to withstand one poor year of reproduction.

“We’re seeing sows without cubs and sows with only one cub,” Means said. “The female bears and the cubs produced are in good condition, there are just less cubs this year. “That’s normally an indication of poor habitat quality during the first few months of the bear’s reproductive cycle.”

Means says that although breeding takes place in spring, the bear’s body can reject the pregnancy if conditions are not good.

“Last year’s drought hit the berry crop hard in the northern half of the state, reducing the amount of wild blackberries and wild cherries these female bears would normally have been eating. But the acorn crop was good, so those bears who did have cubs recovered quickly and are showing very good health. The drought conditions weren’t as bad in the southern half of the state, and we had a really good berry crop in the Gulf Coastal Plain. Those bears continue to show good reproduction.”

Check out a recent segment of Arkansas Wildlife Television covering the AGFC’s bear den research and the greatest



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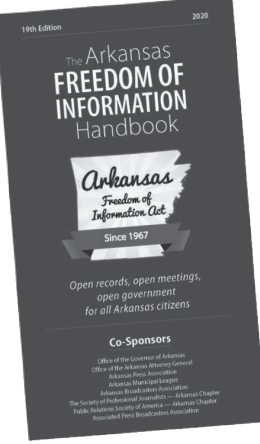
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AGFC officer weighs bear cub for survey