

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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## Delight VFD to hold fundraiser April 25

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

## Group seeks donations for fundraising sale

**NASHVILLE** -- Operation Christmas Child's (OCC) semi-annual garage sale will be held Friday, March 27, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m.-noon in the Family Activity Building (FAB) of the First Baptist Church in Nashville. The church is located on College and 2nd Streets.

In order for this garage sale to be successful, the group is seeking donations of no longer wanted but still usable furniture, tools, dishes, lamps, decorations, art, collectables, electronics, toys, jewelry, books, clothing, etc.

OCC volunteers will accept donations at the FAB, Monday-Thursday, March 23-26, 9 a.m.-4p.m..

"Please mark your calendar with the donation times and especially the garage sale times. Thanks for your generous donations which will go toward helping children in need around the world," said the press release.



Submitted photo/Pike County 4-H

**COOKING UP A STORM ...** The 'Camo Cookers' comprised of (L to R) Carsyn Ballard, Cale Humphry, Cayden Ballard and Hadlee Wilson, recently placed seventh in a regional competition in Memphis.

## 'Camo Cookers' compete in culinary challenge

**SHANNON BALLARD**  
Pike County 4-H Program Assistant

**MEMPHIS** -- The Camo Cookers cooking team represented their community at the Mid-South Pantry Cooking Competition held Feb. 28 in Memphis, Tennessee.

The team placed seventh out of 18 teams from across the Mid-South region. Competing teams traveled from Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana, making for a highly competitive event.

The Camo Cookers team is made up of Carsyn Ballard, Cayden Ballard, Cale Humphry, and Hadlee Wilson. The team originally formed in 2022 under the name Cooking Clovers, consisting of Cayden Ballard, Carsyn Ballard, Lyzander Doyle, and Phinehas Doyle.

During their first season together, the team advanced to the state level and earned an impressive second-place finish. In 2023, three members of the original team continued competing and gaining experience.

The group reunited in 2025 as a senior team, making one change to the lineup. Cale Humphry joined the team, replacing Phinehas Doyle, who was not yet old enough to compete at the senior level.

Later that year, the team competed in the Ouachita District competition alongside Lyzander Doyle, where they once again performed well and placed second. However, when the state competition in August arrived, Lyzander was unable to compete.

The team then added Hadlee Wilson to the roster, and the newly formed lineup went on to

place fourth at the state competition.

Building on that momentum, the team entered the Mid-South Pantry Cooking Competition in Memphis earlier this year. Facing teams from five states, the Camo Cookers secured seventh place overall, marking another milestone for the experienced young cooks.

With several years of competition experience and continued improvement each season, the Camo Cookers have established themselves as a dedicated and competitive team in regional youth cooking events. The group has built a strong history of teamwork and competitive success over several years.

Their goal this year is to win district and state then return to Mid-South Pantry Cooking Competition maybe pushing on to the national competition held in Dallas.



## Fair announces dates for benefit bass tourney

**PIKE COUNTY** -- The 22nd annual Pike County Fair bass tournament has announced the details for the 2026 installment.

Set for Saturday, April 11 at SWAHA Lodge on Lake Greeson the tournament will begin at "safe light" and will continue until the weigh-in at 3 p.m.

Registration for the tournament can be conducted at <https://forms.gle/tacREmt8eFbm-vjGn6>. The link can also be accessed via the Pike County Fair and Rodeo page on Facebook.

Takeoff numbers will be based on paid registration order. Registrants must register by April 1 to receive a tournament hat, but registrations will still be taken up to the start of the tournament.

A five bass limit will be held for the tournament, with a \$100 entry fee per boat.

Guaranteed prize money has been set for places 1-5 (\$1,000 to \$100) and a prize will be handed out for the big bass (\$500) of the tournament.

For questions regarding the tournament or a link to the registration page, please email [pike-countyfairandrodeo@gmail.com](mailto:pike-countyfairandrodeo@gmail.com).

## Quorum Court approves seeking trail grant

**MURFREESBORO** -- The Pike County Quorum Court approved Resolution 2026-1 that authorizes the applying for grant funds for an ATV/bike trails to Lake Greeson.

"It's a huge deal and getting bigger every day," Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said of the trails at the March meeting Monday night, noting that Wal Mart was facilitating a bike lift at Queen Wilhemina State Park near Mena.

He added that trails would eventually be connected from Fayetteville to Mena, and was in favor of extending that down the Ouachita Mountains into Pike County.

Justice of the Peace Randy Lamb said that many people would like to bike from Murfreesboro to the Crater of Diamonds State Park, but that it was a safety issue with not enough shoulder on the highway.

Local resident Ronald Vaughn was on hand at the meeting, stating his interest in trails. He said that in good weather he would often travel to the trails at Iron Mountain a couple times a week, near Arkadelphia. He also suggested a track be built at the old city park near the tennis courts for bikes to be ridden.

Jane Fugitt, representing the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission was on hand to speak about the resolution.

She said recent state legislation made a trail system locally more possible, allowing for ATVs to use designated county roads.

Fugitt said any grant money would be used for signage and construction of trails, and once established maps would be available at local hotels to instruct where riding could take place.

Fugitt said the Tourism Commission also hoped to see stimulation of business, including bike shops and ATV repairs.

She cautioned that it would not be fast process and would have to be done in phases, as political red tape was abundant while dealing with the Corps of Engineers and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The Tourism Commission will get the aid of the state's Outdoor Tourism department in preparing their grant application to the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) as well as another grant through the state Tourism Department later in June.

The ARDOT grant is an 80/20 matching grant, with the match coming from the Murfreesboro Tourism Commission, while the funds would be administered by Pike County should any funds be garnered.

Lamb asked if there was a plan in place, but was told this was just the first step and that a plan would have to be established before submitting the grant application to ARDOT.

The Quorum Court approved the resolution unanimously.

Howard told the court that approximately \$941,000 has been received from FEMA work from last year's flooding issue. After recouping the money the county initially invested in the work, some \$437,571 remains.

Howard said that money will be used for three projects -- flooding mitigation with box culverts in New Hope, Delight and Kirby.

"The FEMA funds are pretty much wrapped up and the [remaining funds] will be a real boon for the county. Flooding is one of our biggest problems and improving drainage will allow us to knock three spots off the map."

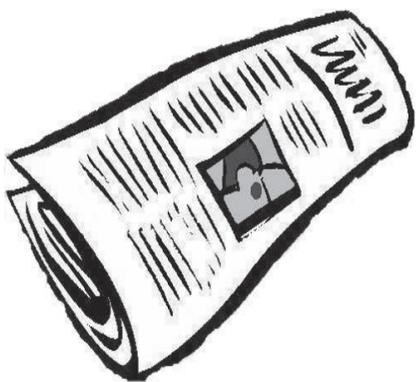
Pike County Treasurer Loretta Rather gave the following openings and closings of county accounts through February:

- County General -- \$1,923,207.60/\$1,832,327.79
- County Road -- \$333,259.97/\$252,018.56
- County Landfill -- \$465,785.32/\$478,053.71
- All County Accounts -- \$6,990,260.32/\$6,716,634.83



Submitted photo/Jane Fugitt

**AVOIDING THE PINCHES ...** Elouise Sanders of Murfreesboro is pictured regaled in green at the Pike County Courthouse on St. Patrick's Day.



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# PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

March 3, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

## PIKE COUNTY

Anderson, Natasha N., 36, Glenwood, \$180 BF, speeding  
 Bohannon, Jerry Benton, 47, Vicksburg, Miss., \$180 BF, speeding  
 Bolanos, Jennifer, 27, Bismarck, \$205 BF, failure to pay  
 Boyce, Vickie Mechell, 57, Gurdon, \$150 BF, speeding  
 Burkhardt, Benjamin, 37, Glenwood, \$200 BF, speeding  
 Campbell, Russell Stewart, 49, Nashville, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$110  
 Cates, Michael T., 37, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$900 balance; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45  
 Crews, Mindy Kay, 58, Murfreesboro, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
 Crisp, Tamara D., 34, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,095 balance  
 Davis, Zachary Lee, 19, Glenwood, guilty possessing instrument of crime, fined \$465  
 Diaz, Arias, 59, Miami, Fla., \$140 BF, no driver's license  
 Dismuke, Michelle Renee, 49, Conway, \$140 BF, speeding  
 Durden, Brandon Michael, 32, Russellville, \$340 BF, driving with suspended license; \$220 BF, failure to appear  
 Farmer, Jaxtin Charles, 25, Pittsburg, Texas, \$150 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear  
 Fugitt, Jeremy S., 48, Murfreesboro, \$150 BF, speeding  
 Garland, Logan Kai, 22, Dierks, \$140 BF, speeding  
 Gulley, Herman Lee, 66, Gurdon, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330

Hart, Jordyn Trayvon, 25, Malvern, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired  
 Hill, Justin Lynn, 18, Bonnerdale, guilty of failure to register tags expired, fined \$75; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75  
 Holcombe, Teddy James, 19, Glenwood, \$180 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear  
 Hupp, Michael Allen, 43, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$515 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220  
 Jones, Tyler S., 34, Hot Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330  
 Kinsey, Russell W., 54, Murfreesboro, \$15 BF, failure to pay  
 Landreth, Elijah Paul, 26, Malvern, \$240 BF, failure to yield-accident  
 Lowery, Eugenia P., 41, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of violation of ignition/interlock device, fined \$185  
 Maldonado, Edwin, 31, Langley, \$140 BF, no driver's license; \$140 BF, no child restraint device  
 Markcum, Allen L., 50, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,080 balance  
 Millwood, Jacob Dalton, 27, Mount Ida, \$410 BF, overweight  
 Morrison, Anthony Ray, 47, Elkhart, Texas, \$125 BF, spilling load on highway; \$205 BF, failure to appear  
 Plunkett, Azalynn Georgianna, 22, Amity, \$150 BF, speeding  
 Price, Susan Diane, 48, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$340 BF, driving with suspended license; \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$220 BF, failure to appear  
 Shaw, Justin, 39, De Queen, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,655 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$295  
 Simpson, Lisa L., 52, Queen City, Texas, \$140 BF, speeding  
 Spears, Phillip D., 52, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,600 balance; committed to jail

Swift, Santana Venay, 24, Nashville, \$150 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear  
 Tewart, Tammy E., 61, Delight, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$565  
 Thompkins, James, 49, Delight, \$125 BF, failure to stop or yield  
 Tucker, Christopher D., 47, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$145 balance  
 Wilder, Audra Jean, 47, Glenwood, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance

## CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Bumgarner, Ronna Ione, 25, Murfreesboro, \$160 BF, failure to stop or yield  
 Childers, Brittany E., 35, Antoine, \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
 Fugitt, David, 46, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$240 BF, failure to appear  
 Garner, Rebecca L., 50, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350; guilty of failure to pay, \$175 balance  
 Lynch, Jason R., 46, Ben Lommond, \$160 BF, speeding  
 Maldonado, Edwin, 31, Langley, \$160 BF, fictitious tags; \$160 BF, no driver's license; \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
 Robinson, Freddie Lee, 35, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360  
 Tompkins, James, 49, Delight, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$335 BF, no proof of liability insurance

## ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Conner, Andrew R., 36, Waynesville, Ga., \$635 BF, hunting from roads prohibited on WMAs  
 Lee, Kenneth M., 61, Delight, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of drinking in public or on highway, fined \$235; guilty of fleeing a wildlife officer, fined \$335

## CITY OF GLENWOOD

Avery, Ginger Carroll, 56, Glenwood, \$670 BF, passing stopped school bus  
 Bowers, Sheila Faye, 67, Pearcy, \$170 BF, speeding  
 Breazeale, Ryder Drake, 20, Nashville, \$160 BF, spewing  
 Buck, Daniel R., 64, Glenwood, \$255 BF, public intoxication  
 Cates, Michael Thomas, 37, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$4,115 balance  
 Cogburn, Sondra M., 53, Story, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,310 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205  
 Cox, Dustin Lee, 17, Amity speeding, under advisement for six months to dismiss  
 Culpepper, Kason Paul, 19, Kirby, guilty of speeding, fined \$160  
 Duarte, Carlos, 55, Glenwood, \$150 BF, violation of city canine/feline ordinance; \$150 BF, violation of city canine/feline ordinance; \$150 BF, violation of city canine/feline ordinance  
 Flores, Elia, 45, Wickes, \$170 BF, speeding  
 Grillo, Hailey Marie, 25, Hot Springs, \$160 BF, speeding  
 Harrington, Joseph Jarrod, 36, Crossett, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,125 balance  
 Jenkins, Jacob Dewell, 34, Russellville, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$160; guilty of owner failure to register vehicle, fined \$150; guilty of failure to show proof of insurance, fined \$340; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245  
 Payte, Nicolas O., 43, Hot Springs, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$160; guilty of driving on suspended or revoked license, fined \$360; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240 and sentenced to six days in jail  
 Smith, Sheri L., 46, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350  
 Treece, Errica L., 32, Nashville, \$160 BF, speeding

## Budget hearings begin for state lawmakers ahead of fiscal session

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW  
 Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas lawmakers recently convened for budget hearings to review spending across state government ahead of the fiscal session beginning April 8. The hearings opened with a presentation of Governor Sarah Sanders' balanced budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2027. Arkansas does not deficit spend or borrow to fund day-to-day government operations, so each year's budget must be balanced.

The Department of Finance and Administration outlined a plan that increases state general revenue by \$194.5 million. Overall, the proposed budget totals \$6.7 billion, reflecting a three-percent increase in state spending.

In her introductory letter, the governor emphasized that her administration's top priority is limiting the growth of government while continuing to invest in essential services. She noted that this approach supports the ongoing effort to responsibly phase out the state income tax.

To help manage spending, the proposal formally reinstates "Category A" and "Category B" designations. Category A includes essential expenses such as employee salaries and building maintenance—items the state must fund every year, much like families must cover rent and utilities. Category B covers discretionary programs that may be funded when revenues allow, similar to how families budget for vacations or non-essential purchases.

The proposed budget includes several notable funding items:

- More than \$309 million for the Arkansas LEARNS Education Freedom Account program—an increase of \$122 million

from last year's proposal—along with an additional \$70 million from surplus funds to accommodate anticipated growth. The program allows families to use state funds for educational expenses such as private school tuition and homeschooling. This is the first year the program is open to all students, and approximately 44,000 are participating.

- \$53.4 million for the state's new pay plan, with the majority dedicated to salary increases for correctional officers and Arkansas State Police troopers.

- \$6 million for higher education institutions.
- \$7 million for drug task forces across the state.
- \$5 million to improve the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) error rate. Under the federal One Big, Beautiful Bill Act, states will begin sharing the cost of SNAP benefits for the first time in the program's 86-year history. A state's share will depend on how often it overpays or underpays benefits. Those with error rates below six percent will continue receiving full federal coverage, while those above six percent

must begin contributing at least five percent of program costs beginning Oct. 1, 2027. As of December 2025, Arkansas' error rate was 7.01 percent.

- \$6 million for the 10:33 Initiative, a program led by the governor's Faith-Based Initiatives office. It connects Arkansans in need with faith and community partners who can provide immediate assistance and long-term support to help families move out of poverty and become self-sufficient.

During the upcoming fiscal session, legislators will finalize the state budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which is from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

## 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](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

## Murfreesboro Diamond

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## JOB OPENING

Job Opening: Field Technician  
 Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department  
 Murfreesboro, Arkansas

The Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department is accepting applications for a Water Treatment Field Technician.

Duties include assisting with maintenance and repair of water and sewer lines, operating equipment, responding to service calls, and performing general field work.

Outdoor work and a valid driver's license required.

Alternating weekends on call.

### Benefits include:

APERS retirement, paid sick leave, vacation leave, and training opportunities.

Apply at 204 East Main Street, (P.O. Box 271) Murfreesboro, AR. (870) 285-2655.

Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department is an equal opportunity employer (m.w.s.d., 94w., 37,38)

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## JOB OPENING

Job Opening: Office Manager  
 Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department  
 Murfreesboro, Arkansas

The Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department is seeking a dependable and organized Office Manager to oversee daily administrative operations and provide excellent service to the community. This position plays a key role in ensuring the efficient operation of the department office while supporting staff and customers.

### Position Summary

The Office Manager will be responsible for managing office activities, maintaining accurate records, assisting customers, and supporting the financial and administrative functions of the department.

### -Key Responsibilities

- Manage daily office operations and administrative tasks
- Provide customer service for water and sewer utility customers
- Process payments, billing inquiries, and account records
- Maintain office records, reports and documentation
- Coordinate communications between staff, city officials, and the public
- Assist with basic bookkeeping and office financial tracking
- Maintain office supplies and support general department operations

### -Qualifications

- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Experience with office administration, bookkeeping, or customer service preferred
- Basic computer and record keeping skills
- Ability to manage multiple tasks in a professional environment

### -Benefits

- Health insurance provided
- Participation in the APERS (Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System) retirement program

### -How to Apply

Interested applicants may apply by submitting a resume and application to the Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department at P.O. Box 271, Murfreesboro, Arkansas or In-person at 204 East Main. (870) 285-2655

The Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department is an equal opportunity employer and encourages qualified applicants to apply. (m.w.s.d., 234w., 37,38)

# Master Gardeners to hold sales across state

BY REBEKAH HALL  
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Throughout the state, Arkansas Master Gardeners are preparing a variety of annuals, perennials, berry bushes, succulents and vegetables to sell at more than 20 plant sales for home gardeners between March and June.

Proceeds from the sales will benefit local Master Gardener beautification efforts, such as community gardens and greenhouses, as well as scholarships.

Randy Forst, extension consumer horticulture educator for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and

Master Gardener program coordinator, said a wide selection of plants will be available at all plant sales, including vegetables and flowers.

"These sales are the primary source of revenue for our Master Gardener groups, and they pour a lot of time and energy into making these a great experience for home gardeners in their communities," Forst said.

Master Gardeners will be available to pass on tips for plant selection and care. Some sales will also offer educational sessions, door prizes and baked goods.

Upcoming regional plant sales include:  
March 21: Miller County, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Four States Fair-

grounds, 3700 E. 50th, Texarkana

April 11: Nevada County, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., The Barn at Willow Oak Acres, 2073 US Hwy 371 West, Prescott; \$20 pre-register, \$25 at the door - register online

April 25: Garland County, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Garland County Fairgrounds, Buildings 3, 5, 6, 4831 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs

April 25: Montgomery County, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 248 Fairgrounds Rd., Mount Ida

Visit the Arkansas Master Gardeners page at [uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/](http://uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/) master-gardeners to learn more or contact the Pike County Extension Service at (870) 285-2161.

# State touts 'staycations' this spring break season

LITTLE ROCK -- As Spring Break approaches, Arkansas State Parks is inviting Arkansans to stay close to home and explore the beauty of The Natural State with a Spring Break staycation.

With 52 Arkansas state parks located across the state, visitors can discover scenic mountain views, peaceful lakes, historic landmarks, and miles of outdoor adventure. From hiking and

biking trails to fishing, kayaking, and wildlife watching, Arkansas State Parks offer something for everyone looking to enjoy time outdoors this Spring Break.

Admission to Arkansas State Parks is free, making it an affordable option for everyone. While park access is free, some activities and amenities, such as diamond searching at Crater of Dia-

monds State Park or certain tours and rentals, may require a fee.

For those looking to extend their stay, Arkansas State Parks offer a variety of lodging and camping experiences. Visitors can enjoy full-service lodges, cozy cabins, unique yurts, camper cabins, RV sites, traditional tent camping, and even hike-in campsites for a more immersive outdoor experience.

"Spring Break is a wonderful opportunity for Arkansans to rediscover the incredible experiences available right here in our state parks," said Shea Lewis, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. "Whether you're seeking adventure on the trails, relaxation by the lake, or quality time with family in the outdoors, Arkansas State Parks offer unforgettable experiences just a short drive away."

Many parks also offer interpretive programs, guided hikes, and family-friendly activities, providing opportunities for visitors to learn more about Arkansas' natural and cultural heritage.

With parks located in every region of the state, a memorable Spring Break getaway is closer than you think.

To start planning your Spring Break staycation, visit [ArkansasStateParks.com](http://ArkansasStateParks.com).

# ASMSA to offer free summer camps

HOT SPRINGS -- The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts is accepting applications for 2026 Summer@ASMSA camps.

Summer@ASMSA is a program that provides free, one-week summer camps for current eighth- and ninth-grade students in all Arkansas schools as well as seventh-graders participating in ASMSA-TIP. All camp activities — including tuition, housing meals and class supplies — are free. The camps will be held on ASMSA's campus in Hot Springs on Sunday, June 14 through Thursday, June 18.

Students may apply to participate in one of eight different camps that will provide a fun and challenging atmosphere. The camps include:

- Arkansas Goes Global: World Languages and Cultures: Campers will explore the rich connections between global languages and Arkansas' own cultural and economic landscape. Through a focus on Spanish, French, Japanese and German, campers will discover how each language leaves its mark on the state's history, community and industry.

- Aviation and Aerospace Engineering (Sponsored by xCelle Americas): Campers will be introduced to the different areas and tools of engineering as well as the standards of the engineering design process as they explore aerodynamics and what makes aviation possible.

- Chamber Music: Campers will expand their instrumental musical experience through ensemble performances, receive personalized instruction from experienced educators, and attend workshops on topics such as music theory and history.

- Environmental Science and Biotechnology: Campers will conduct fieldwork, find a crystal at a quartz mine in the Ouachi-

ta Mountains and learn how to evaluate the health of our ecosystems in Hot Springs National Park with immersive experiences. Preference will be given to ninth-graders.

- Ignite Camp: Campers will explore the physical and life sciences, digital and studio arts, literature and more through engaging activities led by ASMSA faculty and community partners. Preference will be given to seventh-graders in ASMSA-TIP.

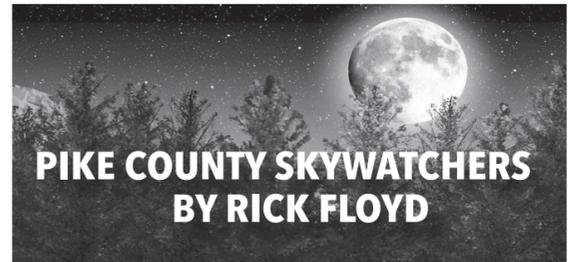
- Physics in Motion: Theme Park Thrills: Mathematics and physics will come alive for campers as they investigate how concepts from geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability and physics explain the motion, forces and design behind amusement park rides.

- StoryLab: The Writing Process Across Genres: Campers will explore how writers develop ideas, shape language and bring stories to life across multiple forms.

Housing and meals will be provided in ASMSA's Student Center, where nightly fun activities will be planned by members of the school's Residential Life staff.

To apply for Summer@ASMSA, visit [asmsa.me/summeratasm26](http://asmsa.me/summeratasm26). Application deadline is April 30. For more information, email [talent@asmsa.org](mailto:talent@asmsa.org), call (501) 622-5116 or visit [www.asmsa.org/outreach/summer-at-asmsa](http://www.asmsa.org/outreach/summer-at-asmsa).

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts is one of 17 public residential high schools in the country specializing in the education of academically gifted students with a STEM focus and is located in historic downtown Hot Springs.



## Sun rises on a new season

Astronomical spring starts at 9:46 a.m. CDT on March 20 this year. We have seasons because the Earth is tilted on its axis 26 degrees which means that part of our orbit is summer because we are tilted toward the Sun, and winter because we are tilted away from the Sun. The southern hemisphere has seasons opposite to those of the northern hemisphere. Twice a year we have an equinox, the vernal or spring equinox, and the autumnal equinox. At these places in our orbit, Earth is sideways to the Sun, neither tilted toward or away from it.

It is often said that at equinox, from the Latin meaning equal night, that day and night are equal, but this is not exactly true, however, another thing often said about equinox is true, that the sun rises due east and sets due west.

Speaking of sunrise and sunset, when sources such as the old Farmer's Almanac give sunrise and sunset times they are referring to when the top of the Sun first appears at the eastern horizon and to when the top last appears above the western horizon. That "point" at the top of the Sun of course is not all of it. The Sun is a disk, so its rising and setting is a bit more complex.

The complexity is added to when the daily occurrence of atmospheric refraction is added to the solar rising and setting times. Because of Earth's atmosphere, light from the rising or setting sun is bent making it appear that the Sun is at the horizon when it is actually about half a degree below it. Happily, most of us do not have to factor in these details to the equations of our daily lives.

NASA has announced that the launch of the Artemis II rocket, that will send the Orion spacecraft with four astronauts on board to orbit the Moon, is scheduled for April 1st. There is room for skepticism given the launch has been postponed several times, and that they have chosen April Fool's Day to do it.

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**UAMS HOUSE CALL**

Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

**Q: What exactly is a muscle strain?**

**A:** A muscle strain (or muscle pull) is when muscle fibers are overstretched or torn. Muscle strains can range from minor to major, depending upon the damage to the muscle fibers. Muscle strains are common injuries and in many instances do not present an extended health concern.

Muscle strains can occur if you do not warm up properly before engaging in physical activity, when muscles are tired, if the muscle has been strained before, or from quick or unexpected movements. There are three grades of muscle strains. A Grade I muscle strain is a mild strain with minimal damage. A Grade II muscle strain is when the muscle fibers are damaged, but the muscle is not completely ruptured. With a Grade III muscle strain, the muscle is completely torn.

Symptoms of a muscle strain include bruising, swelling, pain or tenderness, limited range of motion, or feeling a pop during the injury.

Mild muscle strains can be treated at home. Rest, ice, compression, and elevation can relieve pain and swelling during the first few days of the injury. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can also help reduce pain and inflammation. See your health care provider if symptoms persist or worsen.

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

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# LADY RATTLERS SOFTBALL



**ACTION ON THE DIAMOND ...** The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers softball team dropped their game to Foue 16-2 on Monday and traveled to Magnet Cove on Tuesday. The team is off to a 0-5 start to the season with losses to Mineral Springs 12-7, Magnolia 19-2, Magnet Cove 11-2 and Parkers Chapel 16-2. Their contest against Bismarck on March 9 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The team will get a chance to regroup over spring break with their next scheduled game on March 30 at Acorn and hosting Mineral Springs at home the next day on March 31.

**PHOTOS BY MARY ANNE JONES**



## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

### A "CAN-DO" ATTITUDE

"I" – Because of the first-person pronoun "I", the reader automatically becomes a part of the verse.

"I Can" – Saying "I can" leaves out any "I think", "I might", "I could", or "I should."

"I Can Do" – When we say, "I can do", what we mean to suggest is that we can put our lives into action with confidence. It is not just a passing thought.

"I Can Do All Things" – Everything within righteous reason is possible with the right attitude.

"I Can Do All Things



Through" – There is a powerful source through which we can accomplish much. It is not beside of, over, or under – it is THROUGH.

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ" – Christ is the central force through whom all righteous things can

be accomplished.

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens" It is Christ as our Savior, Redeemer, Mediator, High Priest, and King, who provides insurmountable strength to those who love Him!

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me" – Last, but not least, the reader is not only encouraged by the strength that Christ provides, but by the strength He provides on an individual basis.

-Jason Hart, Via Bulletin Gold

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## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Breakfast: Maple butter snack waffles, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheese french bread pizza, marinara sauce, seasoned corn, salad, pears, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Big daddy cheese pizza

### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Breakfast: Honey bun, or cereal, fruit, juice,

milk

Lunch: Ham & cheese on bun, sidewinder fries, pickle spears, 7-12 whole grain cookie, mixed fruit, milk

Line 2- No line 2 option

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

*Spring Break March 23 - March 27*

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Italian green beans, garlic toast, mixed berry cake

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, Texas toast, sherbet

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Chicken & sausage jambalaya, rice, okra, roll, Mandarin orange

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

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- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

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365 *Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

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

**The Shunammite's Son**

AT LAST, HAVING TOLD ELISHA ABOUT HER SON'S DEATH, AND PLEADED FOR HELP FROM THE PROPHET, THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN (BESS GEHAZI) RUSH OFF WITH ELISHA'S STAFF TO AID HER SON, BUT...

...IN SPITE OF GEHAZI'S FAST PACE...

...AND ELISHA'S INSTRUCTIONS TO STOP FOR NO MAN ALONG THE WAY...

...HE IS STOPPED BY THIS MOTHER'S PERSISTENCE...

...THE WOMAN IS NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED AND, AS ELISHA TURNS AWAY...

...THE WOMAN OF SHUNEM NOW INFORMS THE VENERABLE MAN OF GOD THAT SHE WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS SIDE—WITH THIS DECLARATION IT BECOMES OBVIOUS TO ELISHA THAT HE, ALSO WILL HAVE TO JOURNEY TO THE WOMAN'S HOME TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL GOES WELL!

Next Week  
GEHAZI'S REPORT!

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**PLANTS**

\* -- Theme Related Clue

**ACROSS**

1. Canvas primer
6. Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.
9. Heroin, slang
13. Poetic although
14. Indochinese language
15. Part of a whole
16. Like certain suspects
17. Rainbow, e.g.
18. Not mainstream, as in art
19. \*Coast \_\_\_\_, world's tallest tree
21. \*Vanilla-producing plant
23. Classic film production company, acr.
24. \_\_\_\_ in the neck
25. \_\_\_\_ the season!
28. Ready and eager
30. "Reader's \_\_\_\_" magazine
35. "Do \_\_\_\_ others..."
37. Rubber bulb on an old bike
39. "Lord of the Flies" shell
40. Bear's den
41. \*Colorful daisy-like bloom
43. \*The corpse flower emits a foul one
44. Spouse's parent
46. EU money
47. Unadulterated
48. Fish food unit
50. Karl of politics
52. Between NE and E
53. Fat Man or Little Boy
55. Major time period
57. \*Fastest-growing plant
60. \*Coffea \_\_\_\_ a.k.a. coffee plant
64. Dam
65. Slovenly abode
67. More painful
68. Change the Constitution
69. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
70. Black tie one
71. Shakespeare, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ of Avon
72. Kum Ba follower

73. What defense does, after presenting

**DOWN**

1. India's wild ox
2. Something \_\_\_\_
3. Poker variety
4. Medieval oboe
5. Study of bird eggs
6. Armor-\_\_\_\_
7. Distant
8. Cold-weather drink
9. Hyperbolic sine
10. Ghana money
11. Battery fluid, e.g.
12. "Wow!"
15. Alfresco meal
20. Nebraska's largest city
22. Antonym of keep
24. Throw out of kilter
25. \*It once was more valuable than gold
26. Absurd
27. Static picture
29. \*U. S. national flower
31. Gwyneth Paltrow's brand
32. Empower
33. Open disrespect
34. \*Leaves of \_\_\_\_, let them be
36. Non-written exam
38. Infamous Roman tyrant
42. Space exploration vehicle
45. Like duck's foot
49. Likewise
51. Pencil tip
54. \*Covered with sphagnum
56. Beyond's partner
57. Pulpit predecessor
58. Affirm with confidence
59. Darn a sock, e.g.
60. Nursemaid, in India
61. Wraths
62. One-tenth of a dime
63. Liberal pursuits
64. Blood testing site
66. \*Camellia sinensis drink

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# GLP-1 'friendly' lands in nebulous definition

BY MARY HIGHTOWER

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Broad use of a hormone prescribed for weight loss has spawned a flurry of menu items touted as “GLP-1 friendly,” but it’s a phrase that has no strict definition, said nutrition expert Lida Araghi.

“GLP1 friendly” is not a standardized or regulated nutrition claim,” said Araghi, who is an assistant professor — extension nutrition and foods specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “That is an important consumer takeaway.”

GLP1 stands for glucagonlike peptide1, a hormone the body naturally releases from the gut after eating. It plays several important roles in appetite regulation and blood sugar control.

“In everyday conversation, people often use ‘GLP1s’ as shorthand for a group of newer diabetes and weight loss medications,” Araghi said. “Some work on GLP1 receptors, while others, such as tirzepatide, act on more than one gut hormone receptor.”

“The common effect across these medications is improved satiety, appetite regulation, and blood sugar control,” she said.

**LOOK BEFORE YOU EAT**

A study conducted by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment

Station, delved into how food companies have changed their marketing strategies as people on GLP-1s change their eating habits. The Agricultural Experiment Station is the research arm of the Division of Agriculture.

“Unlike defined food labeling terms, there is no universal requirement for protein, fiber, calories, fat, or added sugar that a company must meet to use the ‘GLP-1 friendly label,’” Araghi said. “Different restaurants or food brands may apply it in very different, and sometimes inconsistent, ways.”

“So, while the phrase may reflect generally sound nutrition principles, it remains a marketing label, not a medical or regulatory designation,” she said.

Araghi said the phrase may be a clue about the nutritional value of the food but is not a guarantee the food is a good fit for the consumer’s diet. She offered a checklist for consumers deciding whether to order the GLP-1 friendly item:

- Is there a meaningful protein source, not just a small amount?
- Is fiber coming from whole foods such as vegetables, beans, or whole grains, and introduced gradually if the consumer has gastrointestinal symptoms are an issue?
- Is the portion size reasonable, or could it be split?
- Is it lower in very highfat, fried, or very sweet components if nausea or reflux is a concern?
- Does it match individual tolerance, which can vary widely?

**POPULARITY OF GLP-1S**

GLP-1s were originally prescribed to help diabetics but are now seeing wide use among people seeking to lose weight. Trade names include Ozempic and Wegovy, which are semaglutide, Mounjaro and Zepbound, which are both tirzepatide, and Victoza/Saxenda, which is liraglutide.

“These medications are widely prescribed because they can produce clinically meaningful weight loss for many patients, especially when combined with nutrition and physical activity changes,” Araghi said.

She said several factors explain their rapid adoption: They significantly reduce appetite and help people eat less without constant hunger

Some are FDA-approved for chronic weight management in people who meet eligibility criteria

There is growing recognition in healthcare that obesity is a chronic disease, not simply a willpower issue, and may require long-term medical treatment

Their popularity also reflects strong public awareness and patient demand, though cost, access, and insurance coverage remain major barriers for many people, Araghi said.

Mention of trade names does not imply endorsement by the Division of Agriculture.

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

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**MARCH 21 --** The Pike County Ham Radio Club has announced that the scheduled March 21 license test in Kirby has been cancelled.

**MARCH 25-26 --** The “Cooking for a Change” Cooking Classes to be held by the Pike County Extension Service were originally scheduled for this week have been moved to next week. The day class will now be held on March 25 at 10 a.m. and the evening class is set for the next day, March 19 at 6 p.m. Both events will be held at the Extension office in Murfreesboro. Cost to attend the events is \$20, for more information call (870) 285-2161.

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# Extension to host plant class

Locals invited to 'get ready to bloom' as spring planting season germinates

CODIE MCALISTER

Pike County Extension Agent -- Agriculture

MURFREESBORO -- Coming up on April 3, a Flowers Night Out class will be led by Pike County Extension Agriculture Agent Codie McAlister, who will provide practical tips and guidance in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

Flowers Night Out will be held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building Community Room in Murfreesboro from 6-8 p.m., with doors open at 5:45 PM.

"Flowers Night Out" will be an evening of fun, learning, and creativity. The event is open to all gardeners of all experience levels, from beginners looking to build confidence to seasoned plant enthusiasts hoping to refine their skills. Topics will include care for garden flowers, potted flowers, houseplants, and flowering shrubs or bushes.

In addition to learning best practices for plant care, participants can expect a fun and interactive experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to create and take home their own bouquet.

A light meal will be provided. There will also be an opportunity to win fun and useful door prizes. The event is being sponsored by The Trendy Hanger, a local boutique.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person, which includes all materials needed for the hands-on portion of the workshop. Participants can register by scanning the QR code (pictured right) or by going to the following link: [uada.formstack.com/forms/flowers\\_night\\_out\\_murfreesboro](https://uada.formstack.com/forms/flowers_night_out_murfreesboro).

Those wishing to pay at the door must still pre-register by April 2 by calling the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161 as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

For additional information or questions about the event, or anything agriculture related, please contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

Pike County Extension Office Presents:

**FLOWERS NIGHT OUT**  
Murfreesboro - Flowers & Houseplants Care

April 3, 2026  
6:00-8:00 PM  
Murfreesboro Municipal Building  
Community Room  
Murfreesboro, AR

Join Pike County Extension Agriculture Agent Codie McAlister for an evening of learning and creativity!  
Learn about how to care for Flowers, Houseplants, Flowering Bushes.

- Light Snacks Provided
- Door Prizes
- Take Homes!

**Make and take your own bouquet home!**

Register using the QR Code or by calling the office at 870-285-2161 to pay at the door by April 2.

SPONSOR: THE TRENDY HANGER

For more info or to register contact Pike Co. Extension at 870-285-2161

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# Rattler baseball streaks to 7-0 start to season

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers are off to a perfect 7-0 start on the season.

The team kicked off the season with a 7-0 win over Prescott on March 2.

Carter Gilmer would drive in two runs for the Rattlers on a pair of hits, while Kooper Caldwell would score twice and drive in a run along with three stolen bases.

The Rattlers were a menace on the basepaths, collecting a total of 10 stolen bases, including Colton Tidwell with two as the team's courtesy runner.

Rattler pitchers combined to allow only four hits and a walk in the game. Isaac Kuykendall would start the game, going two innings with four strikeouts. Asher Howard would follow with three innings and four strikeouts. Caldwell and Hunter Cox would each throw an inning each, both collecting two strikeouts.

On March 5 the Rattlers faced the Hope Bobcats, taking a 7-2 victory after trailing 2-0 after the top of the first inning.

Kale Burns and Alex Bonner would each drive in two runs, while Kuykendall would score once and collect an RBI on a triple.

Caldwell pitched the first inning, allowing two hits, two earned runs and three walks. Cox would pitch the remaining four innings allowing only a single hit and notching two strikeouts.

On March 6, the team played perennial power Woodlawn,

winning the game 4-2.

Murfreesboro would hold a 4-0 lead heading into the bottom of the sixth.

Gilmer, Kuykendall and Caldwell each had an RBI for MHS, with Gilmer lacing a double for the team's only extra base hit.

Kuykendall went five strong innings on the mound for the Rattlers, allowing only two hits and walking two while striking out eight batters.

MHS would defeat Caddo Hills 8-3 on March 10.

Gilmer would lead the team with three RBIs and three runs scored on three hits, including a triple and a home run. He also has a stolen base in the game.

Howard would score a run and collect an RBI on a double.

Caddo Hills would tie the game at three in the top of the third inning -- but was unable to contain the Rattlers, who would score five unanswered runs to seal the game.

Howard, Caldwell, Cox and Gilmer would each see the mound in the game, allowing a combined four hits, two walks and 11 strikeouts.

Parkers Chapel would test the Rattlers on March 12, taking a 4-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh inning. Murfreesboro would score twice for the walkoff win.

Caldwell would drive in three for the Rattlers, while Bonner added an RBI on a double. Cale Humphrey would score twice for MHS.

Gilmer started the game for the Rattlers, pitching four innings

in allowing seven hits, two earned runs and striking out three. Cox would relieve Gilmer in the fifth inning, going the rest of the way on two hits, two earned runs, two walks and three strikeouts.

Cutter Morning Star would travel to Murfreesboro on March 13 to get whopped by the Rattlers by a 21-0 score in four innings.

Gilmer would have two hits, including a double, driving in three and scoring three times. Caldwell had a pair of hits, including a double, to drive in one and score twice.

C.D. Morrow doubled for the Rattlers, driving in a pair and scoring twice. Asher Howard had a triple as part of his two-hit day, along with two RBIs and two runs scored. Humphrey scored three times for the Rattlers and had a stolen base.

Kuykendall pitched the three innings for MHS, allowing one hit and striking out four.

Monday the Rattlers hosted the Dierks Outlaws, winning by a 10-0 score.

Kuykendall would triple, score twice and drive in a run. Cox (R, RBI) and Gilmer (RBI, SB) each doubled for MHS.

Morrow had two RBIs on two hits, scoring once and had a stolen base. Caldwell would score twice and drive in two on a pair of hits.

Drake Thatcher would have the Outlaws' only hit in the game. Gilmer went all five innings on the mound for MHS, allowing one hit and one walk with four strikeouts.

The Rattlers will travel to face Ouachita on Thursday and will host Foreman on Friday.

## RATTLERS IN ACTION

HOME OF THE RATTLERS

BALL	2	STRIKE	0	OUT	2						
INNING											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	PITCHES
Outlaws	0									4	33
Rattlers	4									4	23

First State Bank

OFF TO 7-0  
START IN  
SEASON

Photos by  
Jillian Caldwell

