**PAGE 24 HOLMES** COUNTY HERALD THURSDAY, **AUGUST** 

## \*Archer

Mendenhall-Puckett

residents in 2011.

hunter also, lived at the time

before becoming Lexington

Copperhead (Bows), on 471,"

said Sherry, "every Thursday

night people would meet out

there. We would have these

shoots, these little competi-

That first competition us-

ing only traditional bows, like

chored her passion for shoot-

ing from that day forward.

That was the first one."

When Sherry faces her target, whether a life-size 3D (Continued from page 1.) foam model of a mountain Think of it like a golf course, bear or a traditional small where the "holes" are threeround bull's-eye, surprisingly dimensional, foam targets for her, gauging the distance that look like various game isn't essential. animals – deer, bears, leopards, "You stand there and you antelope, etc. So archers move look at it, I'm like 'OK I know

from station to station, where I can't aim dead at it. I've got they shoot at these animal tarto go up or down with my bow. gets at various distances, in But I don't know exactly. Your varying settings. brain kind of takes over...I "Instinctive" is how Sherry don't do the fine art of knowis classified in archery. She ing exact distance," Sherry exhad no formal archery training plained. "(Competing archers) or coaching when in 2009 her all miss at some point, that's husband David brought home just part of it." an old recurve bow. She tried Engaging with other tradiit. "I was hooked!" she says.

tional archers at competitions That same year, Sherry and elsewhere is a joy for looked into competing in the Sherry, who considers them as where she and David, an avid "We're always rooting for

our fellow archers," said Sherry, "no matter what, we may lose, but we're always happy "We had heard of Terry that our friends won. We all try Thornton's place in Brandon, to help each other."

A large brown bruise covers Sherry's upper left forearm, the sting of the bowstring is a new

"I've never hit my arm when tions. Then there was a bow I shoot, in ten years," Sherry shoot in Learned, Mississippi. explained, "All of a sudden, for some reason. I've been hitting it and I don't own an arm strictly on the members to pay guard. I've never had to have recurves and longbows, an- one."

Another "first, first" for Sherry was winning first place competing at the Howard Hill Classic in Alabama.

"That was 2010 or 2011... it's safe to say the tears were..." Sherry pauses. "You feel so blessed just to be there, to actually shoot well enough to take first place, second or third, the top three."

Blessings do come in many forms. A top three placing is a blessing for Sherry. Getting to that point involves much more than having good aim.

"Gas money to get where ever you're going, your hotel accommodations, your entry fees, food, T-shirts, anything you may need, your arrows." Sherry explained. "Those particular arrows I'm shooting are like \$190 bucks for twelve. That's without nocks, fletching, that's just a bare shaft ar-Making it on Team USA

ing to take a breath and regain composure. That blessing is still sinking in. "This is such an honor and lesson she will not soon forget. a privilege to do it," Sherry said. "It is completely self funded. USA Archery takes care of nothing for the shooter.

gives pause to Sherry, enough

for her stop mid-sentence, hav-

for everything. This is a very expensive trip." It's still a trip of a lifetime. Sherry is not without the sup-

They're just a platform, it's

port, care and love of her family, coworkers at Barrett Law Office where she works as a legal assistant, and friends that have helped her over the years.

2019

One friend and arrow fletcher for Sherry, Sam Sandifer, has been her general go-to and advisor on all things archery related for many years. His secret is that he works for Vans Sporting Goods. Sherry also credits Tony and Myrna Jetton for their untold support. Another friend, Calvin Smock, 2017 USA Team member and Gold Medal winner for World Archery 3D in Robion, France, pushed her into the 2019 USA Team trials in the Instinctive Class. Sherry thought she wasn't good enough to compete at higher levels. All it took from Calvin was a "Yes, you

While trying not to tear up, Sherry says David is the main object of her appreciation.

thank the good Lord above for his help also. "In two years from now if God allows me to live that

long and to try this again," said

Sherry has not forgotten to

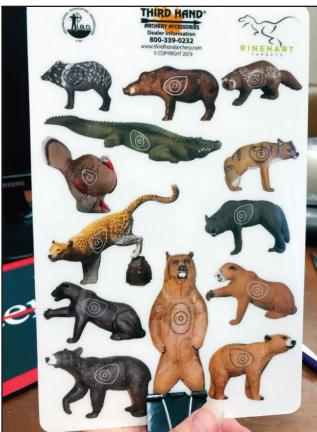
Sherry, "competition will be in Italy." Local efforts to help offset supporters.

ing a bake sale for me that's tember.

going to be August 12," said Sherry. "So, that's going to ture on August 30, and gone be a big help as well and anybody can pre-order casseroles, will be investing in an arm cakes, pies, anything like that."

Sherry herself also has col-

In preparation for her departhrough September 11, Sherry guard, practicing for an average range shoot of thirty-three orful Team USA rubber brace- yards and ironing her Team lets available to help raise USA jersey which she's very proud of.



expenses for competing has Pictured above, Sherry Harrell-Pugh shows examples been organized by some other of the 3D life-size foam targets she'll expect to see while competing for Team USA at the World Archery 3D "Here at Barrett they're do- Championship set in Lac La Biche, Canada in early Sep-(Courtesy Photo)



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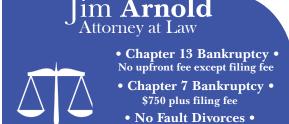
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