

Local summer reading schedule announced

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Branch of the Pike County Library system has announced a few dates remain in July for the 2024 summer reading program.

The remaining dates include:

Thursday, July 18 -- 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. - Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, July 20 -- 10 a.m.- Game & Fish

Parton’s Imagination Library Books surpasses 5 million books gifted To Arkansas Children Since 2005

HOT SPRINGS -- In July, Arkansas Imagination Library and local program partners in all 75 counties will celebrate a statewide milestone: More than 5 million Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library books have been mailed to the homes of Arkansas children, ages 0 to 5, since 2005.

In Garland, Montgomery, and Pike Counties a total of 315,829 books have been gifted to local children. We are excited to play a role in this important milestone. We work hard every day to raise awareness for the Imagination Library and raise funds that stay in our community to provide books to local children.

Garland County Imagination Library (dba – Imagination Library of the Ouachitas) partners with The Dollywood Foundation in Tennessee and Arkansas Imagination Library to increase childhood literacy and promote school readiness in Garland, Montgomery, and Pike Counties. All eligible children in Arkansas (ages 0 to 5) can register for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library – at no cost to families. Each child enrolled in the Imagination Library receives one book per month in the mail until the child’s 5th birthday.

To enroll a child and find a list of all Imagination Library program partners in Arkansas, visit www.garlandcountyimaginationlibrary.org.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND PROGRAM COSTS

Currently, approximately 84,000 Arkansas children (46% of the state’s total 0 to 5 population) receive books each month from local program partners around the state. Locally, 4,697 children are currently enrolled in Garland, Montgomery, and Pike Counties which is 77% of the eligible population.

The program costs \$26 per child per year. Local program partners raise \$13 of every \$26 per child, while Arkansas Imagination Library provides the remaining \$13 per child.

THE PROGRAM’S IMPACT ON ARKANSAS STUDENTS

Arkansas Imagination Library’s 2021 study showed that participation in the Imagination Library increased kindergarten readiness and third-grade literacy scores among Arkansas students by 18.26 percent. In 2023, ARIL and the Arkansas Research Center at the University of Central Arkansas analyzed Qualls Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores of all Arkansas preschool children from 2013 to 2017. The analysis revealed that children enrolled in the Imagination Library performed 5 to 10 percent higher in all areas than unenrolled peers, particularly among low socioeconomic groups. This indicates that the Imagination Library program helps close both opportunity and achievement gaps.

REDUCING EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES IN ARKANSAS

By providing monthly books to all eligible children at no cost to families, the Imagination Library reduces educational disparities by ensuring that all children have access to a home library. According to the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Aspire Arkansas Report (2023), only 32 percent of Arkansas third graders are proficient in reading. Given that 85 percent of a child’s core brain development occurs before age three, when vocabulary can predict third grade reading levels, early literacy is crucial (J.S. Hutton, 2015). Additional research links the presence of a home library with a significant boost in future academic achievement, re-

IMAGINATION Continued on Page 2

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Submitted photos

BISCUITS, BUTTER AND JELLY

... Local students attend a biscuit making class that included the creation of strawberry freezer jam and fresh butter with instructor Eva Langley of the Pike County UA Extension Service last week at the Murfreesboro Library. The program was a part of the library’s summer reading program.



Delight council approves rate hike to match provider

DELIGHT – The Town of Delight council voted to approve a 2.5% increase in the water rates for local customers at their July meeting.

The move comes after a 2% increase by the town’s water provider, the City of Murfreesboro Water Department.

The council reasoned that the extra .5% would allow them to actually put a little in reserve for the water department uses as opposed to just matching the increased cost and gaining nothing.

In any regard, the council stated they “had no choice” in the matter of an increase.

The letter from Murfreesboro announcing the rate hike said there would be increases of 2% annually for the next four years, which will necessitate further rate hikes down the line for Delight.

Brian Elmore of the non-profit Merit Ministries was at the meeting to seek a home for a food pantry, and inquired about locating it on the former school campus, which is now city property.

Initially considering the elementary school building, Elmore said he could use the extra space to place expired and recalled items, plus he felt that a consistent presence would help

deter the ongoing vandalism on the campus.

He said he would be willing to fix the windows and install solar lights to make the area safer and look better.

After discussion and thought, however, Elmore felt that Scudamore Hall would suit his purposes, with its three rooms and a bathroom.

It was noted that Scudamore was handicapped accessible from the rear of the building, but would need some work to be useable.

“It will take a bunch of work,” said council member Ronnie Cox, noting the broken windows, lack of electric for months and necessary ceiling work. He added that electricity would have to be restored to the building to see what worked and what didn’t.

The council briefly discussed the Hendrix Building because of its better condition and parking, but moved past the idea.

Elmore said he was willing to rehab Scudamore inside, with perhaps the need to install new HVAC units.

He told the board that before opening, he would have to pass a state inspection, and that he did not plan to be open every day. There would be prep work and then scheduled distribution days once a month, and that initially

he would not need refrigeration and would not provide frozen foods, dairy products and meat in the distributed commodities. The distributed food would come from Harvest Food Bank in Texarkana and perhaps others such as the Little Rock Food Bank.

Qualified residents would be eligible to get commodities on distribution days.

Elmore added that he would consider grants to get a van in order to deliver commodities to homebound elderly.

He also envisioned part time dental/vision/emergency care services down the road as long term goals.

Elmore agreed that Merit Ministries would pay the utilities incurred, but the council then debated the cost of rent.

The thought of no rent for non-profits was spoken, but council member Valarie Wingfield asked if that was the case for any and all non-profits. It was noted that other non-profit groups are paying rent at other buildings on the campus, such as Rural Community Alliance Youth, in the \$200-\$250 a month range.

“If people hear buildings are being given

DELIGHT Continued on Page 2



Staff photos

SIDEWALK REPAIRS ... Workers installed new sidewalks last week on North Washington Avenue in Murfreesboro across from Telinga’s Mexican Restaurant after issues recently identified in the original plans forced the removal and revamping of a small part of the project.

DELIGHT Continued from Page 2

out, everyone will want them,” councilman Chris Goodson said.

It was noted that rent was necessary for upkeep of the buildings, that the city could not alone bear all that cost and that even use of the cafeteria was not free.

Elmore said that part of Merit Ministries would be built on auctioning off merchandise via their website and that he didn’t want to have to depend solely on donations, but did hope that once the food pantry was open that people would donate, but that first it must become a reality.

Later auctions could be held at the cafeteria, which Elmore dubbed as “a good social event.”

He said the timeline was undetermined, with repairs and then state inspection, the latter of which would be on their schedule.

“If I had unlimited money, I would just build a building, which is why I’m asking for help,” Elmore said to the council.

Wingfield asked her fellow council members “what is the city willing to do?”

Keith Woods suggested a scenario where there was a fixed time frame – perhaps six months – that no rent be charged until everything was up and going, also providing the city time to change the locks and seek security upgrades.

Ultimately Elmore asked that the issue be tabled for a month, so he could consider the cost options.

“If we can go get a free box of commodities

at Murfreesboro, why would I pay costs in Delight?” he wondered aloud to the board.

City Fire Chief Ty Sherrod asked if he could have a debit card – and not a credit card – attached to the fire department’s account for purchases as opposed to having to go through the city treasurer in times when the purchase must be made in a timely manner.

He also requested the approval of the council to utilize \$1,000 in Firewise funds to purchase a pair of chainsaws. The city department does not currently own their own chainsaws and had been utilizing the rural fire department’s stock as necessary.

The council approved both measures, with a proviso to retaining the ability to cancel the debit card if misused.

Sherrod also asked if an ATV owned by the

city could be relocated to the former bus barn as they clean up the station and hoped to use the adjacent building for storage.

It was noted that the building held several other things, including Christmas decorations owned by the city.

The council took no action, stating that further discussion was needed on the matter.

Resident Ginny Evans said that the appreciated the recent work of the fire department as they put out a fire started by a rouge firework.

Following an executive session, the council voted to hire Dylan Hill in the previously discussed part-time position that will work with both the city and the water department as needed.

IMAGINATION Continued on Page 2

ardless of socioeconomic status (Evans, M.D., 2014, 2017).

Dr. Charlotte Parham, Executive Director of Arkansas Imagination Library, stated, “Arkansas Imagination Library’s goal is to ensure access to quality books for ALL Arkansas children. Every child deserves to have his or her

own home library...This is more than books. This is the future of Arkansas.”

ABOUT DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit orga-

nization, has gifted more than 300 million free books to children in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and The Republic of Ireland. The Imagination Library mails more than 3 million high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children’s homes every month. One in every 7 children under the age of five in the United States receives Imagination Library books.

Dolly Parton envisioned creating a life-

long love of reading and inspiring children to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More. The program’s impact has been widely researched, and results demonstrate its positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

For more information, visit: www.garland-countyimaginationlibrary.org

Teacher charged after alleged relationship with students

MURFREESBORO -- An Arkadelphia woman has been charged with sexual assault after she allegedly had a relationship with a Centerpoint School District student.

Lauren Reschea Brewer, 27, was charged July 11 with fourth-degree sexual assault. She plead not guilty to the charge Monday and her bond was set at \$20,000. Brewer was ordered to return to court with an attorney on Aug. 12.

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

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

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

Also on July 11, Robert Derrick Hudson, 52, of Delight, was charged one count of first-degree criminal mischief involving an incident on June 20 where he allegedly shot up a truck belonging to his former stepdad and stepsister.

Hudson plead not guilty to the charge Monday and his bond was set at \$25,000. An Oct. 28 pretrial date was set and a no-contact order was issued in the case.

Joshua G. Lemons, 33, of Nashville was charged with felony nonsupport and is allegedly in arrears \$10,974 for child support. Lemons has yet to make a court appearance in Pike County.


stalking of a child and was sentenced to 20 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

On July 15, Christopher Parte, 36, of Kirby, plead guilty to fleeing and possession of drug paraphernalia and plead “true” to violating the terms of his probation. He was sentenced to a total of six years in the ADC with two year suspended.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

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



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PUBLIC NOTICE

BID NOTICE

The City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas is accepting bids for the removal of old and installation of a new heat and air unit for the municipal building located at 204 E Main.

Deadline to submit bids will be August 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. Bids may be mailed or delivered to Murfreesboro City Hall, 805 N Washington Ave, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Contact City Hall at (870) 285-3732 to request an inspection of current equipment.

The City of Murfreesboro reserves the right to reject any and all bids, does not discriminate and encourages minority vendors.

This publication was paid for by the City of Murfreesboro, the amount for this publication is \$38.80 (c.o.m. .,97w., 2,3)

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Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

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BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK DRIVE BINGO

FRIDAY, JULY 19

DOORS OPEN AT 6, BINGO STARTS AT 7!

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Every \$1 raised will purchase a book that will go to a local kindergartener (and maybe first grader) on their very first day of school!

HOSTED BY: MARKET AT THE WILLOWS

Submitted graphic

BINGO FOR BOOKS ... A Pike County 4-Her, Evie Nolen, is conducting a Back To School Book Bingo program. Her goal is to get every kindergartener in Pike County a book. For every \$1 raised a book will be purchased. If enough money is raised, every first grader will receive a book also. Donations are also appreciated at CashApp\$bethnolen8 or you can drop off at the Extension Office. Please contact Beth Nolen at (870) 828-0905 or Evie Nolen at enolen1208@gmail.com for any further questions.



ITEM OF THE WEEK

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Staff photos

SAND ART ... Local students participate in the sand art program at the Murfreesboro Library last Thursday as part of the summer reading program.



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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: How often should I have my hearing checked?

A: Hearing tests are a way for health care providers to determine the status of your hearing. These tests can evaluate how well you can hear or if there is any hearing loss. If there are any issues, a full audiological evaluation may be needed. A National Health Interview Survey administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that about 40 million American adults experience some sort of hearing loss.

Frequency of hearing tests is dependent upon each individual situation. Infants should have a hearing test within six months after birth. People who work in noisy environments may need their hearing checked once a year. Certain occupations may require periodic hearing tests as a condition of employment.

Many adults may not require a hearing test until after age 50, which is when age-related hearing loss often begins.

Symptoms of hearing problems include issues with balance, dizziness, hissing or ringing in the ears, having to turn up the volume on a radio or television, or being bothered by background noise.

Treatments may include hearing aids, cochlear implants or removing earwax. See your health care provider if you experience sudden hearing loss. A referral to an audiologist may be required.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

From the Family of Traci Roberts

Our lives changed tremendously on April 30th this year. A vehicle accident almost claimed Traci's life. The ensuing weeks in ICU were difficult, but God pulled her through. The amazing outpouring of prayers and support from our extended community has been incredible. If we have not been able to personally thank you, please let this note extend our most sincere gratitude until our paths cross. Traci still has much healing to do. Physical and mental struggles occur daily, but along with the struggles come progress. Phillipians 4:13 is a familiar verse to most everyone seeing this, and in times of difficulty is comforting to know: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength". Christ is King and is our foundation. Please continue to pray for Traci and the family as there is still much to do. Once again, thank you, and may God bless you all.

Sincerely,
The Family of Traci Roberts

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Obituaries

Wayne Edward Bunker, 77, Delight

Wayne Edward Bunker, age 77 of Delight, Arkansas, passed away on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at his home. He was born on September 13, 1946 in West Memphis to the late Clarence Harvey Bunker and Gusta Roach Bunker.

Mr. Bunker was a member of the Mt. Joy Freewill Baptist Church. He loved to build things and truly was a "jack of all trades." He loved spending time with his family. He worked thirty years as a line-man, finishing out his services with South Central Electric.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four siblings, Harvey Bunker, Mary Blasingame, Jerry Bunker and Margie Bunker Hoss.

Survivors include his loving wife, Loren Dakens Bunker; five children, Dawn Nichols, Tamera Seeley, Ricky Fralick, Susan Whitten and David Bunker; one brother, Jimmy Bunker; one sister, Debbie Vessels; eleven grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at the Mt. Joy Freewill Baptist Church near Daisy, with Bro. Raymond Dee officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

Jimmy Don Bagwell, 69, Murfreesboro

Jimmy Don Bagwell, age 69 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2024 in Hot Springs. He was born on April 13, 1955 in Little Rock to the late J.C. Bagwell and Maudie May Lamb Bagwell.

He was family of the Church of Christ.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Johnny Bagwell.

Survivors include his two children, Jimmy Don Bagwell, Jr. and Amy Bagwell; two brothers, Jerry (Gloria) Bagwell and Jeffery (Kathy) Bagwell; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

Dosha Howell, Murfreesboro

Dosha Howell, born on October 3, 1928 and passed away on July 14, 2024, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, cherished by all who knew her. Dosha was a devoted follower of Jesus, and her faith was the cornerstone of her life. She was an active member of her church, The First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, deeply loving and appreciating her church family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, David Wesley Fox, and Elsie Leola Cox Fox. Also preceding her was the father of her children, Clifford Adcock and her second husband, Chester Howell. A sister and brother-in-law, Imogene Epperson and husband Horace, a brother Marin David Fox, three sons, Rudy, Larry, and Ronald Adcock. She is survived by a daughter, Vickie Gore of Texas, and a son, David Adcock of Texas, one sister, Edna Williams of Texas and Carl and wife Patsy Fox of Elm Springs, Arkansas. Nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews, and many other family members and friends who held her close to their hearts.

A funeral service to celebrate Dosha's life will be held at First Christian Church, Murfreesboro, Arkansas on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm with a visitation at the church from 12:00 pm until service time. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Christian Church preschool in her memory.

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Stop the march of fall armyworms

BY CODIE MCALISTER
Pike County Extension Agent- Agriculture

MURFREESBORO -- Fall armyworms (FAW) have made their way into Pike County this summer. I have seen several out in a few pastures, including my own. This has been pressuring pastures and hayfields in the area.

The fall armyworm (FAW) is one of the most devastating pests of pastures and hayfields, reducing both forage availability and hay yields. Damage can appear almost overnight and infestations can be easily overlooked when the caterpillars are small and eating very little. Beginning as early as late June or July significant fall armyworm populations can occur in Arkansas.

FAWs feed on variety of forages but often prefer lush well fertilized bermudagrass and threaten newly emerged small grains and ryegrass.

Producers are encouraged to diligently scout their pastures and hayfields for FAWs. Examine at least 10 one sq. ft. samples at random across the field. Female fall armyworm moths prefer to lay eggs in areas of abundant growth, be sure to include a few of these areas in your 10 samples. If you need help with scouting please contact the office and we can make a farm visit to help.

Other indicator of fall armyworm presence include silver leaf tips, feeding damage and birds feeding in the field.

Chemical control is usually needed when 2 or 3 worms per square foot are present. Read label instructions and follow all harvesting and grazing restrictions. In situations where mixed-sized worms are present, strongly consider using products with longer residual activity.

Products containing anthranilic diamides, IGRs and the tank mix of diflubenzuron plus a pyrethroid exhibit longer residual activity than

pyrethroids alone, spinosyns or the carbamate against armyworms.

Pyrethroid insecticides are faster acting than insect growth regulators and work well on small and medium-sized caterpillars. In general, insect growth regulators will have longer residual activity than pyrethroids. However, because insect growth regulators are slower, they should be used when the caterpillars are small. Most insecticide labels will provide a rate range (low to high). Consider using the higher rate if the armyworms are large because they are harder to kill.

For more information and recommendations, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161 or your local county extension office. You can visit the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension website for more information at www.uaex.uada.edu.



ARMYWORM

Submitted photos/UAEX

Anotine Baptist to host VBS

ANTOINE -- Antoine Baptist Church will be hosting vacation bible school on July 22-26 from 6-8 p.m.

The event is open to children ages 3-12 under the theme of "Breaker Rock Beach."

Delight to host bingo Saturday

DELIGHT -- The next installment of bingo in Delight will be held on Saturday, July 20 from

1-5 p.m. at the Delight Cafeteria on the former school campus.

MURFREESBORO CADC SENIOR LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, JULY 22
Chili dog on bun, chips, baked beans, cake with strawberries
TUESDAY, JULY 23
BBQ chicken, seasoned yellow squash, garden salad, wheat roll, fruit
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Glazed meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat roll, pineapple upside down cake
Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312 Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Transportation available

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL
The New Testament shares with us the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the entire world this gospel is the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In I Timothy 1:11 the apostle Paul refers to this gospel in this way:

according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

In order that we may inherit our heavenly home for all of eternity we must obey this glorious gospel of Christ Paul explained this gospel to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 15:1-4. Paul delivered to them that Christ died for our sins ac-



ording to the scriptures and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. He assures them it is the gospel by which they are saved by holding fast to the Word that was preached.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is the glo-

rious gospel. We must hear it, believe it, obey it, stand for it, and SPREAD it in order for us to be pleasing to God.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

We know from II Thessalonians 1:8 that God will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel.

It is our responsibility to preach the gospel to all creation to help save their souls.

Have a blessed week and spread the gospel through a daily life devoted to Jesus Christ!

Paid Advertisement

UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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GARDENING SERIES

July 19: Composting and Worms

2:00 PM Extension Office in Murfreesboro

Open to all youth ages 5-19!

Make a worm bin and take home worms!!!

For more information or to sign up contact the Pike Co. Extension Office at 870-285-2161

or sign up here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/DKP75QfJGG>

2nd Annual

4H CLOTHING DRIVE

Murfreesboro Municipal Building
204 E Main St, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024

Donate gently used or new clothing to those in need. We will be accepting clothing July 15 -August 2.

Drop Off @ Pike Extension Office

For More Information contact Shannon Ballard @ 870-285-2161 or 870-200-2419

Biggs Chapel Church

46 Academy Rd. Nathan, AR.

Non-Denomination Full Gospel Church

WHERE IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Service Time Change

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

John 14.6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

- Worship 11 a.m. • Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

To reserve this space for your church services or business...

Call Christy at
870-285-2723

Bank of Delight

503 E. Antioch St. Delight

(870) 379-2293

Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

THIS IS A DRAMATIZED VERSION OF FACTS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS. CHRONOLOGICALLY AND AUTHENTICALLY CONSOLIDATED!

...BUT IN THE RUGGED HILL COUNTRY OF TEKOA TO THE SOUTH, A HUMBLE SHEPHERD, NAMED AMOS...

AMOS... THE SHEPHERD TURNED PROPHET

BOTH KING UZZIAH OF JUDAH AND KING JEROBOAM OF ISRAEL HAD LED THEIR PEOPLE AWAY FROM RIGHTEOUS LIVING, PRAISING THEM INTO A SINFUL... LIFE....

BUT THE ISRAELITES SEEM TO HAVE NO CARE FOR KEEPING THE WAY OF THE LORD! THEY HAVE FOLLOWED THEIR KINGS WITHOUT THOUGHT OF THE FUTURE, THINKING ONLY OF RIOTOUS LIVING AND THE PLEASURES OF SIN, SO EASILY BOUGHT WITH THEIR WEALTH!

THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD OF AMOS, FAR TO THE SOUTH, WHO IS PREPARING A MODEST MEAL, WHILE HIS HERD SLEEPS, AND THE GENTLE EVENING BREEZES SEEM TO SPEAK TO HIM....

AMOS, AMOS!

...EVEN AS HE MAKES READY TO EAT, IT ALMOST SOUNDS AS IF "THE LIGHT WINDS" CALL HIS NAME, AND SUDDENLY, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- HIS NAME IS BEING CALLED! HE LOOKS ABOUT BUT THERE IS NO ONE TO BE SEEN! YET THE VOICE IS INSISTENT!

Next Week
THE MESSAGE!

262 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

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

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

SUMMER OLYMPICS

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Delhi dress
- 5. *Individual Neutral Athlete at 2024 Olympics, acr.
- 8. Mother in #48 Down
- 12. Joie de vivre
- 13. Fodder holder
- 14. External
- 15. ____ Grey tea
- 16. Gulf V.I.P.
- 17. Edible cannabis substance
- 18. *Famous Olympics basketball team (2 words)
- 20. 90 degrees on compass
- 21. Like Al Yankovic
- 22. Popular deciduous tree
- 23. College treasurer
- 26. Balaclava (2 words)
- 30. Compass point between E and NE
- 31. Nullify
- 34. Diva’s delivery
- 35. Smart ones?
- 37. Two halves
- 38. That is, in Latin
- 39. First queen of Carthage
- 40. What ivy does
- 42. ____ chi
- 43. Hindered
- 45. Alternative form of a gene
- 47. Band aid
- 48. Diet inspired by prehistory
- 50. European erupter
- 52. *Michael Phelps predecessor
- 56. “In the Hall of the Mountain King” composer Edvard ____
- 57. Black and white killer?
- 58. U.S. lake
- 59. From then on
- 60. Bank claim
- 61. Decomposes
- 62. Against, prefix

- 63. a.k.a. acid
- 64. State of vexation

DOWN

- 1. Bird feeder morsel
- 2. a.k.a. Daminozide
- 3. Hard to find
- 4. Family addition, pl.
- 5. *Archer or shooter, e.g.
- 6. Homer’s classic
- 7. Accepted behavior
- 8. *a.k.a. Cassius, 1960 gold medal winner
- 9. Greek H’s
- 10. Landlord’s due
- 11. Heat unit
- 13. Certain style of humor
- 14. Obelus, pl.
- 19. “The end justifies the ____”
- 22. ____ out, as in a win
- 23. Mardi Gras souvenir
- 24. Dark
- 25. Full of cattails
- 26. Petals holder
- 27. Rocky ridge
- 28. Like certain rug
- 29. *Swimmer Ledecky
- 32. *Like 23 out of Michael Phelps’ 28
- 33. “Wheel of Fortune” request (2 words)
- 36. *Nadia of perfect 10 fame
- 38. Archipelago
- 40. Large edible mushroom
- 41. *Like Bosnia and Herzegovina or Bulgaria
- 44. Mental portrait
- 46. Trotters
- 48. *2024 Olympics host city
- 49. Formed a curve
- 50. Sportscaster Andrews
- 51. Windshield option
- 52. Gangster’s gal
- 53. *Xander Schauffele club option
- 54. South American monkey
- 55. Gusto
- 56. Geological Society of America

CROSSWORD

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Chamber to hold Christmas in July this Thursday

MURFREESBORO – The annual Christmas in July fundraiser for the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce is set for this Thursday, July 18, at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center. Meals will be available from 11:30-1:30 p.m. with plates costing \$10 or by greater donation. The traditional meal will include ham, dressing as well as casseroles, salads, vegetables and desserts donated by local church parishioners. Tea and water will be available and the meal is designed as either a dine-in or take-out format. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Chamber’s Home-town Christmas programming this December as the group looks to make Murfreesboro “a holiday destination.” “This is a big event and a good fundraiser,” said Chamber president Lisa Harvill. In other Chamber news from their meeting last week, the group called the inaugural Juneteenth Fest a “good success” for the first year, despite a slightly lower attendance than expected. “The parade was great and a good time was had by all,” said

Harvill. “We have had commitments by people who want to help make it an even bigger event next year.” The Chamber board approved an increase to membership dues for the first time in more than a decade. The group noted they had enlisted several new members in 2024. Upcoming for the group will be the annual Fall Fest, held on October 26 at the Pike County Courthouse and surrounding

square area. The event features music, a dog race, pet and kid costume contests and concludes with the ever-popular trunk or treat event. Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. at Murfreesboro City Hall on the second Tuesdays of the month, followed by the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission meeting. The public is invited to attend.

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Christmas in July

Sponsored by the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce

Thursday – July, 18
11:30 – 1:30

Murfreesboro Senior Citizens Building

** Featuring **

Ham, Chicken & Dressing, Casseroles, Vegetables,
Salads, & Desserts
(donated by local churches)

\$10 per plate or by donation

Pre-orders can be placed on Monday, July 15, by calling 870-557-1860

All proceeds go for Christmas promotions




MURFREESBORO
PO Box 166
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Cheerleaders seek advertisements for football program


MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattler football squads are seeking advertisers for the 2024 Rattler football programs. The programs will be on sale at all home and junior high football games, and will feature the junior high and senior high Rattler football squads, cheerleaders and band. “This is a great way to show your support for a specific Rattler or your business or organization ... we appreciate your support!” said the school’s official online form. Full page ads are priced at \$120, half pages at \$65 and quarter pages at \$40. All profits from the effort will go toward cheer squads to help with cost for competitions. Payments may be made to junior/senior high cheerleaders or squad coaches Melissa Jones and Melissa Cornish at Murfreesboro High School. The final day to place an advertisement is Friday, August 9, and all costs and information -- proof, text, pictures and business card -- must be turned in by that day. Items to include in the advertisement should be sent to me-

lissa.cornish@rattlers.org. Visit forms.gle/n2aZ7v18655orZD56 to access the digital form to secure an advertisement.



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Jason Porter (870) 703-1039
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P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

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Call Neil McConnell at (501) 374-1500 to place your ad here!

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SERVICES

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WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold in your home. If you have water damage to your home, call for a free estimate for complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24hr: 1-877-593-7772

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ONE LEFT! MALE OMCBA MOUNTAIN CUR SQUIRREL DOG PUPPY OUT OF STREAK BLOODLINE AND MUCH MORE. BEAUTIFUL.



CALL 501-590-1716. JAMES BAKALEKOS.

Week of July 15, 2024

S



Attendees will learn the pep rally cheers and the "basics of cheerleading in a fun and interactive session" taught by Murfreesboro cheerleaders.

Register online at forms.gle/NSspbxFcbyB5itZY7.

For more information email either cheer coach at melissajones@rattlers.org or melissacornish@rattlers.org.

TEXARKANA -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Commodities food boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, July 24, from 9-11 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue and Owens St. towards First United

Methodist Church. Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are a resident of Pike County.

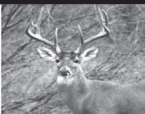

Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle. Vehicles start lining up early, so we recommend you get there early.

80 ± AC. OF LAND > ATTENTION INVESTORS

LIVE AUCTION w/ ONLINE BIDDING

MURFREESBORO AR. 71958 Approx. 4 mls. East on HWY. 26
LIVE ON LOCATION THURSDAY JULY 25th at 10AM

80± Acres OF LAND to be at Live & Online AUCTION 7/25/24@10 AM Offering (4) 20± Tracts Combinations and All Together. Offering great Deer and Turkey Hunting, and other endless opportunities including but not limed to ATVing, Camping or whatever your ideas may be. Get your friends together and make and come to the Auction, here is your rare chance to purchase your own hunting property. Close to the Crater of Diamonds State Park and Lake Greeson Little an Hour to Hot Springs and Texarkana... Click on FowlerAuctioneers.com for more Information, Maps, Video, Pictures & Terms. Can't make the Live Auction? Enter your MAX BID NOW! Pre Auction Bidding now in Progress. Drive in the gate just past 26 & 379 to view this Land or Contact Auctioneer at 870-356-4848 for showing.


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" SOLD IN 30 DAYS "

An account has been set up for Shop With A Cop at First State Bank of Pike County. The public is invited to make a donation to this cause that will benefit local children in need this December. Local law enforcement officers will participate in the shopping for Christmas gifts.

MURFREESBORO – The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission unanimously accepted a bid on trimming near and cleaning off the new city sidewalks located on North Washington Street.

The bid of \$100 per time by D.J. Barnes was accepted at a rate of every other week or as needed, chairman Jamie Terrell will coordinate with Barnes on an official schedule.

In the accepting vote, board member Mark Barnes abstained due to his familial relationship with D.J.

The group's advertisement in the Diamond Lakes Tourism guide for 2025 was again tabled until next month, when an official decision for or against will be made ahead of the advertising deadline.

Terrell called June "a good month" for tourism as the group saw deposits of \$11,891.11. The commission's total balance now sits at \$99,727.92.

In new business, the group discussed charging stations for electric vehicles, and the desire to locate them at the City Service building on the square. It was noted that after prior discussions the prices have come down, making them a more reasonable investment.

Commission secretary/treasurer Jane Fugitt said that a "level 2" charger that would charge a car in a few hours was now around \$3,650 each, while the more premium units that charge in 30-40 minutes were approximately \$44,000 each.

The group will investigate the possibility of grants, but noted that keeping people on the square was an idea that they liked as a whole. Users of the chargers would pay for the service with a credit card.

Crater of Diamonds Superintendent and commission member Caleb Howell said there was always interest in the chargers at the state park, but it was unlikely that the state would be installing them in the near future.

The topic will be revisited and further discussed at a future meeting.

Board members Howell and Angie Branch both saw expiring terms this past month for their service on the commission, however, both saw their positions renewed by majority vote by the board for a new four-year terms.

The Advertising and Tourism Commission meets every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Murfreesboro City Hall.

LITTLE ROCK -- Attorney General Tim Griffin today issued the following statement alerting Arkansans to the availability of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services after Change Healthcare's February data breach:

"In March, I launched an investigation into the cyberattack against Change Healthcare, a unit of UnitedHealth Group, Inc., to determine whether Arkansans' confidential medical and personal information was compromised and whether other laws were violated.

"Unfortunately, after publicly stating that the data breach could impact up to one-third of all Americans, Change Healthcare has not yet provided individual notice to consumers. The delay in notifying Arkansans affected by the breach is unacceptable, and I am issuing this alert regarding Change Healthcare's public offer of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services.

"Because Change Healthcare has not yet provided notice to individuals, the safest course of action is for Arkansans to use some of the resources available such as free credit monitoring."

Change Healthcare is offering all Arkansas residents who believe they may have been impacted free credit monitoring and identity theft protections for two years. The dedicated website and call center will not be able to provide details to individuals about whether their data was impacted, and Change Healthcare has not determined the actual number and identity of affected consumers. Griffin encourages Arkansasans to use the following resources Change Healthcare has offered:

For information on the breach, visit changehealthcare.com/cybersupport.com.

To enroll in credit monitoring, visit changehealthcare.com/cybersupport.com or call (888) 846-4705.

For additional support from Change Healthcare, call (866) 262-5342.

Griffin also encourages consumers to be aware of potential warning signs that someone is using their medical information. The signs include:

- A bill from their doctor for services that they did not receive;
- Errors in their Explanation of Benefits statements;
- A call from a debt collector about a medical debt that they do not owe;
- Medical debt collection notices on their credit report that they do not recognize;
- An unexpected notice from their health insurance company indicating they have reached their benefit limit;
- Denial of insurance coverage because their medical records show a pre-existing condition that they do not have.

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