

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, July 31, 2024
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USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
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Rattler football sets
preseason schedule

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattler football program has announced several upcoming for preseason events.

- August 5 -- First Day of Fall Camp 8 a.m.-10 a.m., football practice for 7th, 8th, 9th grade and Senior High
- Senior High practice at 8 a.m.
- 7th, 8th, 9th practice at 10 a.m.
- August 10 -- Media Day 8 a.m.- 11 a.m. Rattler Stadium for media day pictures which involves Sr. High football, Jr. High football, Sr. High cheerleaders and Jr. High cheerleaders
- August 16 -- Rattler Rally 7 p.m.

Held at Rattler Stadium as the team kicks off the new school year with performances by the Rattler football teams, cheerleaders and the Rattler band

For more information, contact Chesshir at brad.chesshir@rattlers.org.



2024 holiday craft fair
taking applications

MURFREESBORO -- Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Murfreesboro Holiday Craft Sale.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building Community Room.

Participants will be utilize 10 x 10 spaces and applications can be obtained by contacting organizer Robin Cox on facebook at www.facebook.com/robin.princecallahan or by visiting the event's page at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093543717628&mibextid=LQQJ4d.

Cox said there was a limited number of spaces so no holding of booths without approved application and that no multi-level marketing businesses will accepted, such as Mary Kay, Tupperware, Scentsy, etc. and that all items for sale must be made, baked, cooked, canned, preserved or harvested by the individuals renting the booths.

Cox added there was an outside chance that more space could be available for vendors if the effort is able to utilize additional space nearby, but that was still undermined at this point in time.

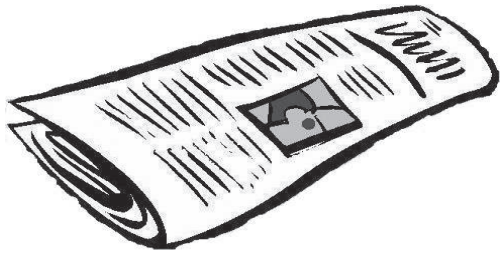
Concessions are planned to be available for purchase at the event.

Entry forms due for
fair on Thursday

GLENWOOD -- All livestock entrants for the 2024 Pike County Fair must be registered or postmarked by Thursday, August 1.

Entry forms, schedule and rules can be found at the fair's website, www.pikecountyfairandrodeo.com.

The fair is set to be held September 1-7 in Glenwood, followed by the IPRA Rodeo on September 20-21.



DO YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
WORTH TELLING?
Submit Your Local
News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photo/DAR

SEED, FEED, READ ... The Mine Creek Para Clifta chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has started a new service project entitled "Seed, Feed, Read." A basket has been placed in the C-Laundry location behind the Exxon C-Stop in Murfreesboro. Local residents are invited to place -- or take -- objects in the basket that include instant packets of drinks, books, plant seeds, canned vegetables, baby food jars or activity sheets. "Take an item ... or, if possible, leave something for a neighbor," said local DAR representative Judy Hile. For more information, call (870) 925-0528.

Woman convicted three years after referee abuse

MURFREESBORO -- A more than three-year-old misdemeanor case of abuse of an athletic contest official filed in Pike County District Court has finally been closed.

Lillie J. Golden, 58, of Lockesburg forfeited a \$500 bond July 23 in connection with an incident during the February 2021 district basketball tournament held in Murfreesboro.

According to court information, in March 2021 Murfreesboro High School Principal spoke with Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald about a game on Feb. 27, 2021 where a female from the from the visiting team (Horatio School District) reportedly threw a half-full Dr Pepper bottle, striking basketball official, Trevor Hamilton, in the leg.

Jones reported both South Pike County and Horatio school officials confronted the female, who was "being belligerent" and yelling "you can't kick me out," and tried to escort her out of the gymnasium.

Due to the tournament game being streamed, the incident was captured and the footage was turned over to Investigator McDonald, who

confirmed the allegations.

MAN BOOKED FOR RAPE

A Pike County man with a lengthy criminal history has been charged with a rape that occurred between 2000 and 2005.

Zachary Ray Collins, 38, of Murfreesboro was charged July 26 in Pike County Circuit Court. He was booked into the county jail Monday, July 29 and has yet to make a court appearance.

According to case information, the victim was a minor during the five-year timeframe and she stated the assaults occurred so many times that she could not provide an accurate count. She also claimed one encounter had been witnessed by family members and was not reported to law enforcement.

"The disclosure of this case came during an investigation into a separate sexual assault case," according to affidavit of arrest prepared by David Shelton, special investigator for the Ninth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney.

OTHER CHARGES

William Griffith Medcalf, 60, who has Caddo Gap and Murfreesboro addresses, was charged July 25 with felony theft by receiving in connection to a 1995 Jeep Wrangler stolen from Murfreesboro in early July. He plead not guilty Monday and his bond was set at \$15,000 with an Oct. 28 pretrial date.

Brittany A. M. Smith, 39, of Delight, was charged July 25 with felony failure to appear after she failed to return as order to the courtroom to conclude her probation revocation hearing.

Brandon Leon Davis, 28, of Little Rock was charged July 25 with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Russell Jackson, 44, of Delight, was charged July 25 with two counts of aggravated assault and terroristic threatening. He plead not guilty to the charges Monday and a Sept. 23 pretrial date was set.



Submitted photo

BENEFIT ANNOUNCED ... Kirby resident Carl Harmon, pictured above with wife Rhonda, will be the beneficiary of funds raised during an August 27 benefit at Kirby Schools. Harmon was recently diagnosed with liver cancer.

Benefit set for Pike
County resident
diagnosed with cancer

KIRBY -- A benefit for Carl Harmon of Kirby will be held Saturday, August 27, at the Kirby School cafeteria and pavilion.

Harmon, along with his wife, Rhonda, are the owners of Kirby Quick Stop and Diamond Lakes Adventures.

Harmon was recently diagnosed with liver cancer, and all proceeds of the benefit will go toward treatments and doctor visits.

"This family is so generous and selflessly gives back to the community all the time. It is time we give back to them," said event organizers.

The benefit will have live music starting at 3:30 p.m., the meal will be served at 5 p.m., followed by a live auction that starts at 6 p.m.

"We hope for a large turnout and can't wait to see you there," the organizers concluded.

For more information, contact Shanna Mack-Coleman, Karen Baker, B.J. Donaldson or Lisa Miller at (870) 356-8746.

'Shop with a Cop' program announces account

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.

Woman sentenced to jail following abuse charges of minors

MURFREESBORO -- One-half of the Glenwood couple charged earlier this year with seriously injuring two small children plead guilty to two counts of first-degree domestic battery Monday in Pike County Circuit Court.

Cheyenne Hildbrand, 28, was sentenced to a total of 40 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with a consecutive sentence of 40 years on each charge. Hilbrand, who is reportedly pregnant, underwent and was cleared by a mental evaluation before proceeding with the plea entry.

Hilbrand’s boyfriend, Michael Earl Shepherd, 27, is still awaiting results from his mental evaluations before being tried on two counts of felony permitting abuse of a minor.

The charges against the couple are connected to an investigation that began in January when health officials received a hotline report concerning neglect of juvenile twins with concerns of malnourishment and “that the parents are not capable for caring for the children.”

On Jan. 18, the twins were taken to a pediatrician in Hot Springs who determined the girl needed to be sent by ambulance to Arkansas Children’s Hospital after being found to have “bilateral subdural hemorrhages and torn frenulum in the mouth.” The boy was also transported by Shepherd in his personal vehicle to ACH where doctors determined he also needed to be admitted for a “possible skull fracture and brain bleeds.”

A preliminary report indicated that both children had “healing” fractures that were determined to be two- to seven-weeks-old and were described as “non-accidental trauma” with child abuse suspected.

Hildbrand reportedly admitted in an interview that, due to anger issues for which she fails to take her prescribed medication for, she had handled the babies in a manner that caused their injuries.

Shepherd admitted in an interview that he had witnessed Hildbrand abusing the children but he never reported it because he as trying to cover for her. Shepherd also said in the interview that once he and his girlfriend found out about the injuries they concocted a story “to tell authorities to eliminate any possible guilt on their behalf.”

Other sentences

Also Monday in Pike County Circuit Court, Lacie Scantling, 24, of Caddo Gap, plead guilty to furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article. She was sentenced to five years probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

During the July 22 session of court, Kindell DeShae Woods, 24, of Blevins, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance and possession of firearms. He was sentenced to three years in the ADC.

Tony Wade Pipkins, 61, of Delight, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Pike County Equalization Board will meet in session at the Pike County Courthouse on August 1st, 2024. Anyone wishing to meet with the Equalization Board should contact the Pike County Clerk’s office before the deadline of August 19, 2024. You may schedule an appointment by calling 870-285-2743 and a date will be given at that time.

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Clerk, the amount for this publication is \$23.60

(p.c.c., 59w., 4)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Taking sealed bids starting July 31st till August 9th at 430 pm. Items include 2 black bar height barstools, double sided oak bookcase, oak U-shaped desk with hutch, oak reception desk (2 person). Can be seen at Pike County Assessor’s Office or pictures on request till August 9th. Bids may be turned in to the Judges office or the Assessor’s office. Right to refusal of any bids reserved.

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Assessor, the amount for this publication is \$34.80

(p.c.a., 87w., 4,5)

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.



Submitted photos/SPCSD

RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE ... The Murfreesboro High School band auxiliary recently attended the MA Camp in Dallas, Texas. Over the span of three days they learned team building, tips, tricks, techniques and eight routines -- preforming one they had two hours to perfect before showing it off to the entire camp. The team collected such awards as Perfect Precision, Wonderful Work Ethic, Awesome Attitudes and Grand Champions for their final camp performance. Individual Awards included (members pictured below) Trista Howard, Faith Henderson, Dessaray Jones, Addison Countryman and Peyton Keys all receiving Rising Star Ribbons, which are awarded to auxiliary members who are showing amazing skills, technique and work ethic. All five members also received All-Star Ribbons awarded to more advanced flag performers earning them an invitation to perform at the 2024 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. “This is a huge accomplishment to have them all receive this ribbon,” said MHS band director Kira Staten. Henderson, Countryman and Keys also received Honor Medals that are awarded to the top ten-percent of all star performers at camp, as voted on by instructors. “Congratulations to all the girls ... everyone did amazing and I’m one proud director!” said Staten.



Health Coalition holding giveaway for teachers

The Pike County Health Coalition (PCHC) is holding a “Teacher’s Treasure Trove Giveaway” to recognize and support the incredible educators in the Pike County School Districts.

“Our teachers go above and beyond every day, often spending their own money on classroom supplies to ensure their students have what they need to succeed. By hosting this raffle,

we aim to alleviate some of this financial burden and show our heartfelt appreciation for their hard work and dedication,” said a social media post by the PCHC.

Winning educators will receive a basket of essential classroom supplies, making a tangible difference in their teaching experience and benefiting countless students.

To enter the Teacher’s Treasure Trove Giveaway, following the PCHC Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/pikehealthcoalition and nominate a teacher on the post by their name and/ or picture.

Entries are limited to only one nomination per person.

“Let’s show our teachers some love and appreciation! Enter now and help your favorite teacher win big!” said the PCHC post.

SMALL ADS DO WORK ...
YOU JUST READ ONE!

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;4)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM HAROLD PIPKINS

55 PR-23-49

NOTICE OF PROBATE-INTESTATE

Last known address of decedent: 662 Billstown Rd, Delight, Arkansas 71940

Date of death: January 2, 2022

Eugene Pipkins was appointed the Administrator of the Estate of William Harold Pipkins, by order dated November 7, 2023 . All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published the 31st. day of July, 2024

Eugene Pipkins, Administrator, by
Aaron R. Brasel, ABN 2009138
Post Office Box 813
Nashville AR 71852
(870) 845-4100 – Telephone

(a.b., 136w., 4,5)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EVANGELINE REEVES, DECEASE CASE NO. 55PR-24-50

NOTICE

Name of Decedent: EVANGELINE REEVES

Last known address: 274 RANCH ROAD, NASHVILLE, ARKANSAS 72201

Date of death: MAY 20, 2020

On July 8, 2024, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Evangeline Reeves, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Pike County, Arkansas under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101.

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the distributee or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or same shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate.

This notice first published the 24th day of July, 2024.

/s/Marvin C. Reeves, IV
11 Millbrook Court
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

AFFIANT / DISTRIBUTE

- Care of -

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501.376.3600 Telephone
501.225.6370 Facsimile

(j.b., 190w., 3,4)

Election contestants to qualify by August 7

MURFREESBORO – The time to qualify for elected municipal positions in Pike County is now.

Candidates must have completed petitions and register at the Pike County Clerk’s office in Murfreesboro starting at noon on Wednesday, July 31 and ending at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 7.

According to Pike County Clerk Rande Reide, candidates must file in-person due to additional filing forms that require candidate signatures.

Those qualifying for the ballot will be a part of the November 12 election.

For questions or further information, please contact the Pike County Clerk’s office at (870) 285-2743.

2024 Municipal Positions open in 2024 (includes current office holder)

- CITY OF GLENWOOD
- CITY OF MURFREESBORO
- Recorder/Treasurer -- Penny Lamb
- Alderman North Ward, Position 1 -- Mark Barnes
- Alderman North Ward, Position 2 -- Kirk Stone
- Alderman South Ward, Position 1 -- Lewis Gills
- Alderman South Ward, Position 2 -- Jane Fugitt
- Alderman West Ward, Position 1 -- Betty Jane O’neal
- Alderman West Ward, Position 2 -- Cody Bachman
- TOWN OF ANTOINE

- Alderman Position 1 -- Carrie Tidwell
- Alderman Position 2 -- Lonny VanCamp
- Alderman Position 3 -- Heath VanCamp
- Alderman Position 4 -- Vance Teel
- Alderman Position 5 -- Theresa House
- TOWN OF DAISY
- Alderman Position 1 -- Linda Hughes
- Alderman Position 2 -- Rebecca Frazier
- Alderman Position 3 -- Scotty Frazier
- Alderman Position 4 -- Nicholas Stant
- Alderman Position 5 -- Helen Frazier
- TOWN OF DELIGHT
- Alderman Position 1 -- Rhonda Abbott
- Alderman Position 2 -- Valerie Wingfield
- Alderman Position 3 -- Chris Goodson
- Alderman Position 4 -- Ronnie Cox
- Alderman Position 5 -- Keith Woods

Tax free weekend on back-to-school items

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — The annual Arkansas Sales Tax Holiday can be a help to families sending children back to school, but a little planning can help shoppers save more and prevent unwelcome surprises at checkout, said extension family and consumer science experts

This year’s sales tax holiday begins Saturday, Aug. 3, at 12:01 a.m. and continues through Sunday, Aug. 4, at 11:59 p.m. State and local sales taxes will not be collected on the purchase of certain products. All retailers are required to participate.

“The sales tax holiday covers clothing, footwear, school supplies, art supplies and instructional materials,” said Laura Hendrix, associate professor and extension personal finance expert for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “It also includes electronics such as computers, printers, tablets, monitors and cell phones.”

The state Department of Finance and Administration has a list of eligible items online, located at <https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/exciseTaxOffice/HolidayItemizedList.pdf>

BEFORE YOU GO

Before heading out for back-to-school shopping, Hendrix recommends:

- Take inventory of what you need or want to purchase.
- Examine your budget and determine how much to spend.
- Have a plan for how you will pay. “Credit card fees and interest can offset any savings you might have from not paying sales tax,” Hendrix said. “If using credit cards, have a plan to pay them off as soon as possible.”
- Make a shopping list.
- Set a spending limit.
- Find practical financial information at the [uaexMoney](#) blog.

TAX FREE ... WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?

Kris Boulton, Saline County extension staff chair and family



and consumer sciences agent for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, says shoppers need to look at the possible savings.

Arkansas has a 6.5 percent sales tax and depending on where you live, county and city sales taxes will also get tacked on to the bill.

“For ease of calculating let’s round up to 10 percent,” Boulton said. “If you are spending \$200 on items for back to school that qualify for the tax-free holiday you would save close to \$20. Now what if you are spending \$500 your savings is now \$50.

“What would you do with an extra \$20-\$50 in your wallet?” she said. “I can think of some good uses.”

Boulton said that while the Arkansas Sales Tax Holiday is a great resource to use while shopping for Back-to-School supplies, “let’s make sure we all know the items that qualify and the exemptions before we check out and have a rude surprise.

A tax holiday doesn’t help if you buy something you don’t use, says Kris Boulton, Saline County extension staff chair.

“Although it may be tax-free, it’s still not a bargain if it’s not something that will not be used,” she said.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service office at (870) 285-2161.

The summer Pike County 4-H cereal project to help feed local youth will come to an end on August 1. The group thanks all who donated to the effort, helping provide extra meals for students not in school.

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Back @ School SALE

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Children’s Apparel & Shoes
LOW LOW PRICES

INSIDE
New Fall Merchandise
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Plus New Markdowns

Sale Days: Thurs, Aug. 1st - Sat, Aug. 3rd
NO TAX DAY SAT, AUG. 3RD
Watch our FACEBOOK LIVE
Each Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

Obituaries

Jimmy D. Rhodes, Sr., 63, Delight



Rayanna Carey and two brothers-in-law, Danny Crews and John Rose.

Survivors include his wife, Ivey Denise Rhodes of Delight, two daughters, Naida LeAnn Melson and husband, Waylon Melson of Delight; Robin Adams and husband Jeremy (Biscuit) Adams of Fountain Lake; one son, Jimmy Rhodes Jr. of Delight; two sisters, Sharon Crews and Fern Rose (Robin McMorris) of Murfreesboro; two brothers, Marty and Paula Kennedy and Johnny and Doris Rhodes, six grandkids, Brandon, Ethan, Makenzie, Braxton, Aylssa, and Tyler; one great grandson, Elias May; one honorary brother, Tracy McWha, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, July 25, at the Delight Methodist Church where Rhodes was a member.

Jimmy D. Rhodes, Sr. 63 of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Monday, July 22, 2024 in Delight, at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born April, 2 1961, in Sweetwater, Texas, the son of the late Philip Rhodes and Helen Rhodes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, John Wilton Boyd and Agnes Fern Boyd; one sister, Judy

Melissa Lashelle Mitchell, 51, Blevins



having a wonderful mother-in-law, Debbie Vershay and they spent many hours together.

Melissa was preceded in death by her mother Roxie McGalliard Cox, her grandparents Emry and Etherine McGalliard and Jimmy and Lucile Cox.

Survivors include her husband Mark Mitchell of Blevins; one son Tyler Davis of Emmett; one grandson Brentlee Davis of Hope; her father Doug Cox and wife Reba of Conway; two brothers Jay Faulkner and wife Lauren, Jeff Cox and wife Aimee, her niece and nephew Aubrey Cox and Aiden Cox; as well as a number of extended family and friends.

Visitation will be 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 1, 2024, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will begin at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 1, 2024 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with Randy Posey officiating, cremation services will follow under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home Murfreesboro.

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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 is involved in allergy testing?

A: An allergy is overreaction of the immune system to a foreign substance referred to as an allergen. The allergen could be something eaten, inhaled, injected or touched. Allergies are incredibly common, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that nearly 40% of adults in America have eczema, a food allergy or a seasonal allergy.

A health care provider may perform one of several allergy tests to determine the cause of allergy symptoms. A skin prick or scratch test involves pricking the skin with a potential allergy to observe the reaction. A blood test is when an allergen is added to a blood sample to measure the amount of antibodies produced. Someone with a suspected drug or food allergy may be asked to eat or swallow a small amount of a suspected

allergen under medical supervision in order to monitor symptoms.

Allergy symptoms are specific to each individual. Reactions to allergens in the air may include headaches or watery eyes. Food allergies could result in swelling of the face, lips or tongue.

Contact your health care provider if you experience allergic symptoms, particularly if they are persistent, for a diagnosis and development of a treatment plan.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Extension provides tips for handling homework in new school year

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — The start of a new school year typically marks the dreaded return of homework for students and parents. Brittney Schrick, extension family life specialist and associate professor for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said it’s key for parents to give children plenty of free time, manage their own expectations and think outside the box regarding homework help.

Schrick said that it’s crucial for children — especially elementary and middle school-aged students — to have a period of free time after they get out of school, instead of immediately sitting down to focus on homework.

“Adults often have this perspective of, ‘All you’ve been doing is sitting in a chair all day, why are you tired?’” Schrick said. “But it’s exhausting. They have to focus all day and not move around, when what they want to do is move around, so it’s really important that when they get home, they are given time to do something else with minimal expectations.”

In the last 20 years, schools have reduced free play time, including recess, and prioritized academics much earlier for younger students, Schrick said.

“Historically, kindergarten and first grade were really about learning how to go to school, and they were learning about how to be in a classroom with other kids, the basic building blocks of social interaction and rule-following,” she said. “It’s gotten to the point where parents are concerned when their kids can’t read before they go to kindergarten.

“Those are kind of unrealistic expectations because kids haven’t changed – it’s the expectations that are placed on them that have changed,” Schrick said.

MORE HOMEWORK, MORE PROBLEMS
Schrick said the emphasis on academics for younger students has led to teachers assigning them more homework, which often harms more than it helps.

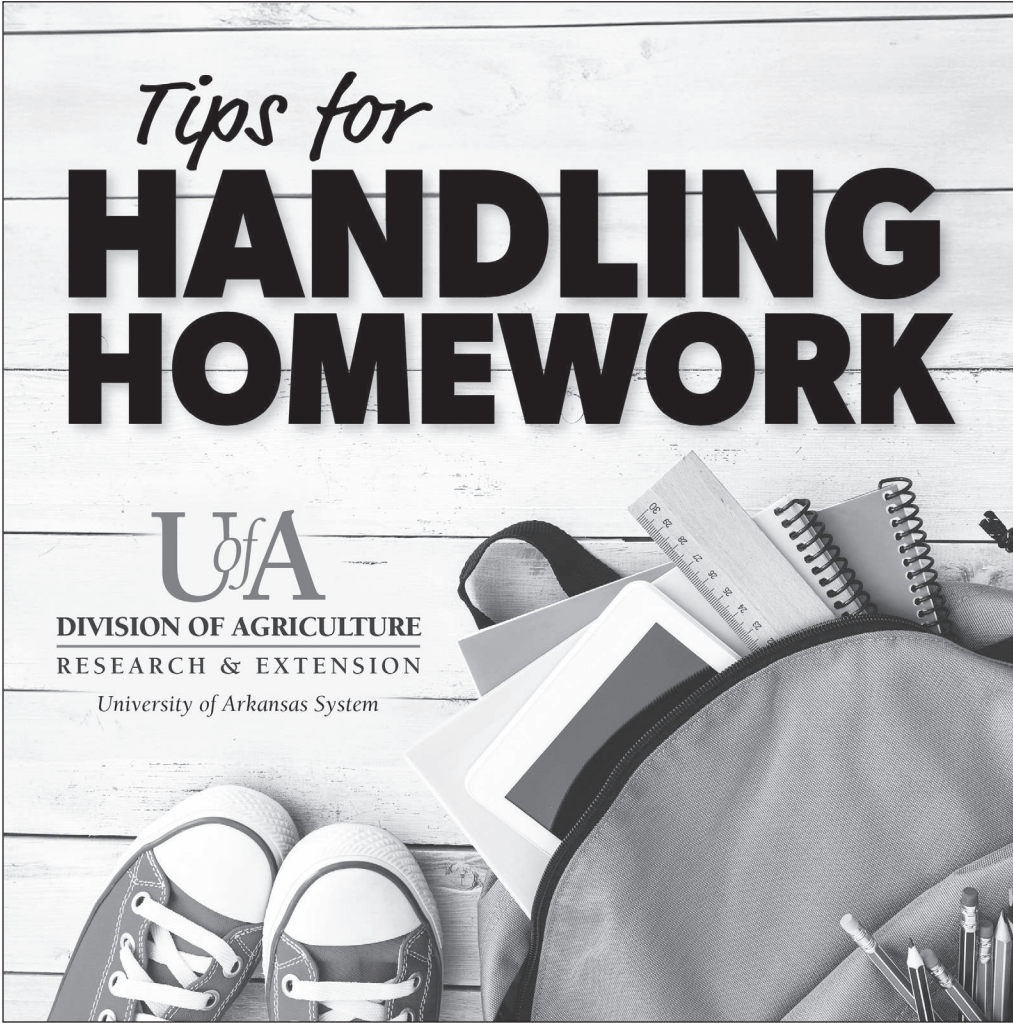
“I would argue that homework is not developmentally appropriate for kids below high school, but definitely not below junior high,” Schrick said.

Schrick said that if parents are concerned about the amount of homework their child is bringing home, the first step is checking in with his or her teacher.

“In high school, all bets are off, but in elementary school, there’s no reason for them to be getting a ton of homework,” she said. “So if they are, that’s a conversation to have with their teachers.”

While too much homework does not benefit children, consistently reading together at home is vital for elementary and middle school students.

“Reading is really all that younger students need to be doing regularly at home,” Schrick said. “There are some math concepts that prob-



ably would benefit some kids to practice at home, especially if they’re struggling, but with low stakes. The benefit is literally just fluency, it’s not mastery. It’s not about learning new information.”

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX FOR HOMEWORK HELPERS

Doing homework together can be a significant source of conflict for families. When tensions rise, Schrick said it may be necessary for a parent or child to take a break and walk away from the task.

“When you get into those high-stress moments, when your kid has reached their limit, pushing them because ‘It’s homework and you have to do it,’ is not helpful in the long run, and I think it’s not helpful in the short run either,” Schrick said. “It can cause damage to a relationship, and it can cause damage to the relationship a kid has with school.”

Schrick said it’s helpful to figure out which parent or guardian to turn to for each school subject. For example, one parent may have a better grasp on math problems, while another may be the go-to for language arts homework. And for a family with multiple children, one parent may be better equipped to help one child than another.

Schrick also suggested seeking homework help from family friends or community mem-

bers.

“It’s a matter of thinking outside the box of who could help,” she said. “Sometimes we think it has to be someone in the immediate family, and that’s not necessarily true. Especially for single parents, or grandparents who are raising grandchildren, think of alternatives.

“Use your close resources first,” Schrick said. “Maybe your aunt is an accountant, maybe your grandfather used to be in a science field. Think about the retired teachers in your life. Teachers don’t stop being teachers – there’s a reason that educators gravitate towards education. Reach out to the recent college graduates in your circle.”

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS, ADAPT TO CHANGING NEEDS

Schrick said managing one’s expectations of their child is a significant part of managing conflict with them. The way a parent might think

to approach a homework problem is going to be different than how their child approaches it. Acknowledging and accepting this difference can lead to smoother interactions.

“Their effort doesn’t need to look exactly like how I would do it, because I’m a grown adult,” Schrick said. “And when I’m watching my third grader do homework, she’s going to be doing it differently than I would.”

It’s also important for parents to determine what kind of guidance their child needs when it comes to planning and task completion.

“Some kids need very little, and others need a ton. Do they need to write everything down? Do they need little reminders about when things are due?” Schrick said. “Adults either tend to be ‘hands-off’ because they feel it’s the kid’s responsibility, or they’re so involved that the kid doesn’t learn how to manage it. It’s about trying to find that happy medium.”

Finding that happy medium will take trial and error — and a willingness to make mistakes and learn from them. Schrick said that in her experience as a parent, the most helpful strategy usually must come from the child themselves.

“I’ve learned that often, whatever the management strategy is, it has to be their idea,” she said. “They have to have some ownership over it. If you have a kid who won’t try anything, imposing something might be your only option, but typically, adult-imposed solutions just become more work for the adult.”

Schrick said parents must understand that these time management and planning solutions will need to change over time as the child grows and their responsibilities become more demanding.

“As kids get older and family dynamics change, all of these strategies have to be fluid,” she said. “You have to be willing to adapt to changing needs and changing schedules, and changing expectations from the school, changing expectations from your kid. What worked last year may not work this year, especially if your child is going to a different school, or especially if they’re going to junior high or high school. Everything is going to change.”

For more information about family life resources, visit the Cooperative Extension Service’s Personal and Family Well-Being page at www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/personal-family-well-being/ or contact Brittney Schrick at bschrick@uada.edu.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service office at (870) 285-2161.

MURFREESBORO CADC SENIOR LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, AUGUST 5 Soft pork taco, pineapple slaw, ice cream	seasoned carrots, wheat roll, fruit cup
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 BLT sandwich, pasta salad, oranges	THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 MONTHLY COMMODITIES Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312 Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Transportation available
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7 Original cheeseburger pie, mashed potatoes,	

‘Dear Preacher’ By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

The God of Peace Will Be With You
The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9



What a blessing it would be if all of us could recommend our way of life to those around us as did Paul. He first appealed to the Philippians through the fact that he taught them. He knew they had learned from his inspired teaching all that pertained to life and godliness. He was confident that they had and would continue to have the knowledge they would need to grow and remain faithful as they walked in newness of life. God’s word is that full, well rounded, complete spiritual diet needed for Christian men and women to grow and mature. Paul had not filled

their heads with his personal opinions or interesting stories. They had been taught and had learned and accepted the pure gospel of Christ. Paul knew because he was inspired to know that they had received the truth. Communication is an art. We hearers do not understand and apply the word the message they received from Paul. Some hearers of Paul’s day were hearing impaired. They heard the words but did not make an applica-

tion of what they heard to themselves. Many hearers are thinking of those who should have been here to hear the message on Sunday and fail to realize the message applied to them. The Philippians were astute hearers of God’s word because they became doers of His word. Paul also appealed to them with his personal example. It is true most of us would rather see a sermon every day than hear one. If the messenger and his message do not match, we lose confidence and interest in the speaker and the word. One cannot teach about the Son of God without trying to walk in His footsteps. It may be tried but is doomed to fail. Our message must be demonstrated by our way of life. Day by day we are preparing for the day we meet our Lord. Let us be ready for that day.

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This Sunday!**

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?
email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

Pike County residents have access to fraud alert resource

Free service alerts property and homeowners to potential fraud

- Property Fraud Alert offers:*
- *Ability to sign up online or via phone*
 - *Spanish support for website and alerts*
 - *Receive alerts via text, e-mail or phone*

MURFREESBORO -- Property Fraud Alert is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows individuals to have their name monitored within the Circuit Clerk’s office to track possible fraudulent recordings that affect their property.

Property Fraud Alert is available in both English and Spanish, making it usable to a wider audience and susceptible group to fraud. In addition, the phone alerts now include specific details regarding the document with both language options.

Subscribers can also now choose to receive a text message alert when a document is recorded in their name. This will ensure that they never miss an update and can continue getting the most out of PFA.

The revamped website is even easier for subscribers to use, and contains all the same information about the service laid out in an intuitive manner. And as always, this is FREE service to the community!

“Being elected by the citizens of Pike County, I make it a priority to help safeguard our homeowners and their financial well-being,” states Pike County Circuit Clerk, Sabrina Williams. “Today, we proudly offer Property Fraud Alert for combating fraud and empowering our community. This valuable service is free of charge to all homeowners, providing them with the necessary tools and resources needed to monitor their homes. The time and money victims can save due to these early notifications of fraud are priceless.”

Property Fraud Alert is available by subscription on the web at www.propertyfraudalert.com, or by calling 800-728-3858.



Submitted photos/PCUAEX

ATTRACTIVE DEMO ... Pike County University of Arkansas Extension Agricultural agent Codie McAlister announced a plant demo outside of the Pike County offices in Murfreesboro. “This is something new I got to try this year ... the Arkansas Diamond Trial, showcasing some possible choices for your landscaping and flower beds. There are two annuals and two perennials which will continue on to next year! Come by the office to see it,” McAlister said.



Protecting Arkansas VFDs

BY JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Across The Natural State, selfless men and women protect their communities from danger through service with local, volunteer fire departments. They deserve our thanks and support, particularly at a time when their ability to carry out that work is under threat.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently proposed a rule that would impose unnecessary and, frankly, debilitating regulations on Arkansas’s volunteer fire departments, search and rescue units, and emergency medical services providers.

Deeply concerned about the implications of this proposal, emergency personnel from across the state have engaged with my office to express their dismay and worries. Through these discussions, we’ve gained greater insight into the noble services and support they provide to their fellow Arkansans, and the harmful impact this mandate could have throughout our state.

These requirements mandated by OSHA could force many fire stations, particularly those in rural areas that are mainly staffed with selfless and brave volunteers, to close their doors, eliminating services vital to the survival and safety of these communities.

The current proposal would require all fire stations and other emergency response centers, regardless of their resources, to meet impractical standards. Fire departments will face constraints such as using trucks no older than fifteen years regardless of feasibility and availability considerations, costly medical examinations, and time-consuming and expensive facility assessments.

Out of Arkansas’s 1,003 fire departments, 974 are at least partially staffed by volunteers. It is these volunteer-based departments, already operating on tight budgets, that will struggle the most to comply with OSHA’s new standards.

OSHA estimates these new regulations will cost fire departments \$15,000. Given the breadth of the requirements, that figure seems highly unrealistic and doesn’t account for the likely unintended consequences, including the need for in-house lawyers and compliance staff necessary to implement the 250-page rule. It is easy to understand why our local leaders and volunteer fire services view this rule as daunting and unworkable.

While I appreciate OSHA’s efforts to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our emergency services personnel, this is another example of a blanket federal regulation that does more harm than good. It jeopardizes the safety of small communities across Arkansas and our country by decimating local fire station staff and potentially leaving them without adequate systems for protection and mitigation.

I understand the importance of local volunteer fire departments to Arkansans. In many cases, they are the backbone of our rural communities, composed of courageous volunteers who take great pride and responsibility in serving their fellow citizens. Without them, our communities face greater fire risks, leading to safety concerns and higher home insurance premiums for everyday Arkansans.

Needlessly threatening to eliminate these long-standing community institutions is not only sad, but unwise.

That’s why I was proud to join the rest of Arkansas’s congressional delegation, led by Congressman Rick Crawford, in denouncing OSHA’s new rule and requesting its immediate rescission. We will continue working to protect our volunteer fire departments and the important mission they fulfill for communities in every corner of our state.

Arkansas State announces 2024 spring graduates

JONESBORO – Arkansas State University has announced the list of students who completed degree requirements to graduate at Spring Commencement at First National Bank Arena. The list includes graduates from 46 states and territories and 22 other countries.

AREA GRADUATES INCLUDE:

Glenwood: Haylee D. Barnett, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

For the complete list of graduates, please visit www.astate.edu/news/a-state-announces-list-of-students-graduating-at-spring-2024-commencement.

Tax-Free weekend sets savings on back to school

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas sales tax holiday this year will be on the first weekend in August, Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4.

Consumers will not have to pay sales tax on any articles of clothing that cost less than \$100.

The exempted items include pants, shirts, dresses and shoes. Also free from sales tax are bathing suits, baby blankets, underwear, raincoats, uniforms, hats and caps, aprons, neckties, scarves and steel-toes boots.

Diapers, even disposal diapers, are included on the list of exempt items. However, sports equipment will not be exempt, so you will pay sales tax on cleats, baseball gloves, goggles, life preservers, shin guards and shoulder pads.

Accessories are also on the list of exempted items, as long as they cost less than \$50. The list of articles is extensive, and includes handbags and purses, sunglasses, jewelry, hair notions, wallets, watches and wigs.

More than 65 categories of cosmetics are exempt from the sales tax, such as mascara, many types of hair products, fingernail polish and fingernail remover, bath salts, artificial eyelashes, perfume and stretch mark cream.

School supplies will be exempt from the sales tax. Officially the first weekend of August is called the sales tax holiday, but many people refer to it as the “Back to School” sales tax holiday. That’s because the legislature intentionally scheduled it for early August, to benefit families with children going to school.

School supplies include pens, pencils and paper as well as art supplies.

Thanks to Act 944 of 2021, approved by the legislature earlier this year, some electronic and computer equipment were added to the list of tax exempt items.

Laptops, desktops, tablets, printers, keyboards, calculators, cell phones, e-readers and monitors are exempt from the sales tax. However, video games, stereos and televisions are not included.

Arkansas families will save an estimated \$2.6 million on purchases of electronic and computer equipment.

The sales tax exemption applies to single articles, and is not based on the overall cost of everything you buy. For example, you can buy three shirts \$25 each and a pair of pants for \$50 and you will not be charged the sales tax, even though the total is \$125. Because each item is less than \$100, the exemption is ap-

plied.

However, if you buy a pair of shoes for \$120, you will have to pay the sales tax on the full amount of the purchase.

When you take advantage of a sale that allows you to buy one item and get another for a reduced price, the holiday exemption applies only to the

items costing less than \$100. For example, a store may offer a pair of jeans for \$120 and you can get a second pair for half price, or \$60. The sales tax exemption will apply only to the second pair.

The exemption applies to all sales taxes, not just state sales taxes. That means exempt items are free of all city, coun-

ty and local sales taxes.

All retailers have to participate. Articles cannot be separated in order to lower their price under the \$100 and \$50 thresholds. Men’s suits and pairs of shoes, which normally are sold as one unit, cannot be split into separate purchases.

HEAT Continued from Page 5

Mader said that while working in the heat, it is recommended to drink at least 8 ounces of water every 15-20 minutes. This translates to approximately 24-32 ounces per hour of heat exposure.

For more information about healthy living, visit the Cooperative Extension Service’s Health in Arkansas website at www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/health/.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service office at (870) 285-2161.

Program helps ‘Our Kids’

Donations accepted at FSB in M’boro

Our Kids is a project that helps the kids and teachers of our community. An account has been opened at First State Bank in Murfreesboro. A committee of local citizens oversees the use of the funds. Since its creation, this fund has assisted in providing shoes and clothing to students, assistance in purchasing a letterman jacket, paying fees for two girls to participate in mini cheer camp, and provided Christmas for four children on the Angel Tree. Anyone needing to reach the Our Kids committee may do so by e-mailing ourkids@rattlers.org.



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