

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Issue 7 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

## Suicide prevention meetings announced

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Hometown Health Coalition will hold a pair of meetings on suicide awareness and prevention in Pike County.

The first meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 9 at the Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Extension Office is located at 100 Court Street.

The second meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 16 at the Bainum Library and Learning Center in Glenwood from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The library is located at 128 East Broadway in Glenwood.

The meetings are designed to “ignite change, erase stigma, make a difference and equip yourself with knowledge.”

Speakers at the events will share information about the suicide crisis hotline, facts and myths, warning signs and how to help make the difference.

The community is invited to attend, including parents, grandparents, family/friends, educators, youth service providers, health care providers, nonprofit organizations and faith based organizations.

Classes for students will be held separately during the adult sessions. The classes will be held for free and dinner will be provided.

Interested members of the public are asked to call (870) 285-2161 to register or for further information.



Staff photos

**FOOTBALL BEGINS ...** The Murfreesboro Rattlers unofficially started their 2024 season with the Rattler Rally evening that featured introductions of both the Murfreesboro High School and Junior High football squads as well as the cheerleaders and band last Friday night at Rattler Stadium.

## MusicFest lineup announced for Delight Sept. 28

DELIGHT -- The Delight Music Fest has announced its entertainment schedule for the upcoming event set for Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Delight City Park.

The gates will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the park for the event. In addition to the live music offerings, vendors, food, bounce houses, train rides and raffle drawings will also be offered.

Admission will be \$5 for all attendees 12 years and older, \$2 for ages 5-11 and free for ages four and under.

Vendors interested in being a part of the festivities can get more information by calling Vincent Henry at (870) 723-5447.

The bands participating will be:

- 10-10:45 a.m. -- Open Mic to public
- 11-11:45 a.m. -- Marlin Taylor
- 12:15-1 p.m. -- Third Channel
- 1:30-2:15 p.m. -- Clark Campbell
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. -- Bear Creek Boys
- 5:00-5:45 p.m. -- David Garcia
- 6:15-7:30 p.m. -- Pike 6
- 8:00-9:30 p.m. -- Billstown

## Former resident charged with failure to register

ARKADELPHIA -- A former Pike County man has been charged in Clark County Circuit Court with failing to meet the requirements of being a registered sex offender.

Coty Earl Rector, 32, formerly of Delight, who is a Level 3 sex offender on parole and under probation, was charged with the Clark County felony on April 15. Rector is registered in Pike County but has allegedly moved to a mobile home in Okolona and failed to notify the proper authorities.

Also in Clark County, Kaitlin Samone Gentry, 24, of Delight, was charged Aug. 15 with possession of methamphetamine. She was arrested in July during a traffic stop for no vehicle license. She was allegedly found to be in possession of a small amount of the drug. It was noted in court records that two young children were in the car at the time of the stop. She was also charged with misdemeanor driving on a suspended license, failure to register tags and two counts of no child restraint devices.

## Chamber announces schedule for Halloween, Christmas

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce has begun preparation for the Diamonds in the Fall Festival, which features the popular trunk-or-treat event around the Pike County Courthouse Square.

The event is slated for Saturday, Oct. 26, and will feature vendors, a bounce house and pre-recorded music starting at noon. Prospective vendors are asked to note the time and not arrive hours early.

A pet costume contest will be held at 3 p.m., followed by a dachshund race at 3:30 p.m. Those interested in having their weenie dog participate in the race are asked to contact (870) 925-1874.

Kids’ costume contests (by age divisions) will begin at 4 p.m. and will continue up to the trunk-or-treat at 5 p.m.

The group hopes to again partner with the high school’s fall carnival so that games will be provided at the event.

Noting that the carnival provider who was in Murfreesboro a few years back has retired from the business, the group tried brainstorming ideas for other entertainment events, with midget wrestling and a circus mentioned in the discussion time.

Chamber President Lisa Harvill told the group that they had received permission from Pike County Judge Eddie Howard to utilize the former Pike County Hospital again this October to hold their haunted house fundraiser. While exact dates have yet to be set, the general plan is to hold the event on weekends throughout the month and on Halloween night. It was stated that the plan was to change the route through the facility, as well as improving the overall décor with the hope of decorating every room.

The next planning meeting for the haunted house will be held on Thursday, Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m., at Murfreesboro City Hall. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

The City of Murfreesboro, in conjunction with the chamber, has also set the schedule for Christmas events this December after changes last year caused confusion and consternation.

The Jingle Bell Run 5K will be held the morning of Saturday, Dec. 7, followed by Santa on the Square at 2 p.m. for youngsters to meet with Santa to inform him of Christmas present wishes and photo opportunities.

The Christmas parade will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12 with lineup at the former Pike County Hospital at 5 p.m. The parade will commence at 6 p.m., and any floats who wish to throw candy will have to have attendants walking alongside the float for safety purposes. The parade will conclude at the large parking lot in front of Harvill Insurance.

Additionally, the chamber will encourage

1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
MURFREESBORO, AR

FALL  
FESTIVAL

October 26, 2024

VENDORS - 12:00 P.M.  
BOUNCE HOUSE  
MUSIC  
PET COSTUME CONTEST - 3:00 P.M.  
DOG RACE - 3:30 P.M.  
KID COSTUME CONTEST - 4:00 P.M.  
TRUNK OR TREAT - 5:00 P.M.

SPONSORED BY:  
MURFREESBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

businesses on the square and throughout Murfreesboro to hold extended “open house” hours that night following the parade.

Breakfast with Santa will be held on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 14.

In the meeting, it was noted that more work was needed on the Christmas decorations purchased last year, with the replacement of lights being the biggest hurdle. A working date of Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m. at Branch Oil has been set for the next group effort that will last for a few hours. Volunteers are invited to come help the effort, with 13 weeks remaining until the lights are displayed. Call (870) 285-3131 for

more information.

Ashley Moore of CJRW in Little Rock was at the meeting to secure the Chamber’s annual co-op advertisement in the 2025 Diamond Lakes Tourism Guide. Moore told the group that 135,000 copies of the guide were distributed – 59,000 in the area to businesses, 46,000 to Arkansas Welcome Centers and State Parks and 30,000 to regional out-of-state markets.

Moore added that the Murfreesboro page had seen 2,966 views online in the digital version of the guide since last December.

The chamber approved the \$425 cost for the advertisement.

## City to seek ‘very competitive’ grant for park improvements

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council held its August meeting last Monday night on the heels of three public meetings and the annual ice cream social.

The public meetings concerned changing zoning classifications within the city; applying for a drainage project grant; and applying for grants for improvements at the city park. There were no objections to any of three issues and they were all given the go-ahead by the council

during the following meeting.

The city will now seek up to \$350,000 in grants for improvement plans at the city park from Great Strides/Trails for Life and a FUN Park grant from the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. Park Commissioner Robbie Crocker told the council the grants are “very competitive” and that there is no guarantee Murfreesboro will receive the funds, which are 100 percent grants and not

matching grants.

Park improvements previously discussed by the council include developing the 16 acres on the north end of the park and other areas within the 30-acre property.

“We have lots of room to grow,” Crocker said.

The zoning classification issue changes cer-

**M’BORO** Continued on Page 2

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M’BORO Continued from Page 1

tain properties in the city from Residential 1 to agriculture use and commercial/residential use; and Residential 2 to agricultural use. They names of the affected properties include Terrell, Lamb, Stone, Bonds and Tysons Foods.

In other business last week, the council appointed Jack Bennett for a 12-month term to the water commission and reappointed Angie Branch and Caleb Howell to the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission, each for four-year terms.

The council also approved an ordinance allowing the city to do business with council member Cody Bachmann, who has a “handyman” service. Bids from Hometown Heating and Air in the amount of \$15,586 were also approved to replace the air unit at the old city hall, which houses the city water office and county library.

Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb’s financial report was also approved and included the following beginning/ending balances for July:

General Fund Total -- \$417,633/\$436,756  
Street Fund -- \$18,278/\$26,422  
Street Operating -- \$370,335/\$194,576  
Park Fund -- \$31,547/\$13,701  
Water & Sewer Dept. -- \$365,955/\$378,599  
Advertising & Tourism Commission -- \$99,728/\$101,388

Tourism board to offer rental to local counseling service

MURFREESBORO – The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission discussed their rental property and an interesting opportunity.

A counseling group has interest in renting the location, located across the street from the former City Service Station, which was stated by some on the board as a better long-term deal than domestic dweller due to the location just off the Courthouse square.

Rent will be set at \$800 per month, and the group will split costs on improvements.

The commission will continue to maintain the yard, and will grind down a stump that was left by a tree removal earlier this year.

It was stated that a new vacation rental existed in Murfreesboro, owned by Cody and Mandy Bachmann and was located on Ninth Street.

After seeing the time involved – approximately six hours -- in maintaining the grass and new sidewalks, the Commission took it upon themselves to raise the pay for D.J. Barnes from \$100 per time to \$200 per time. The schedule has been set to an every-other-week occurrence.

The commission unanimously approved to keep their “premium full page” position in the Diamond Lakes Tourism Guide for 2025.

Advertising representative Ashley Moore told the group that the advertisement had been viewed 6,121 times in the digital version of the guide since December 2023, ranking as the sixth most viewed in the publication.

The advertisement also includes added value of an embedded video on the online version and has local social media posts shared on Diamond Lakes social media as an added perk.

The advertisement will be reworked from last year’s version, with the final cost being \$5,350.



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# Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

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*Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson*

• John Robert Schirmer, Publisher

• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor

• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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**\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.**

**College Subscriptions- \$25 for 9-months.**

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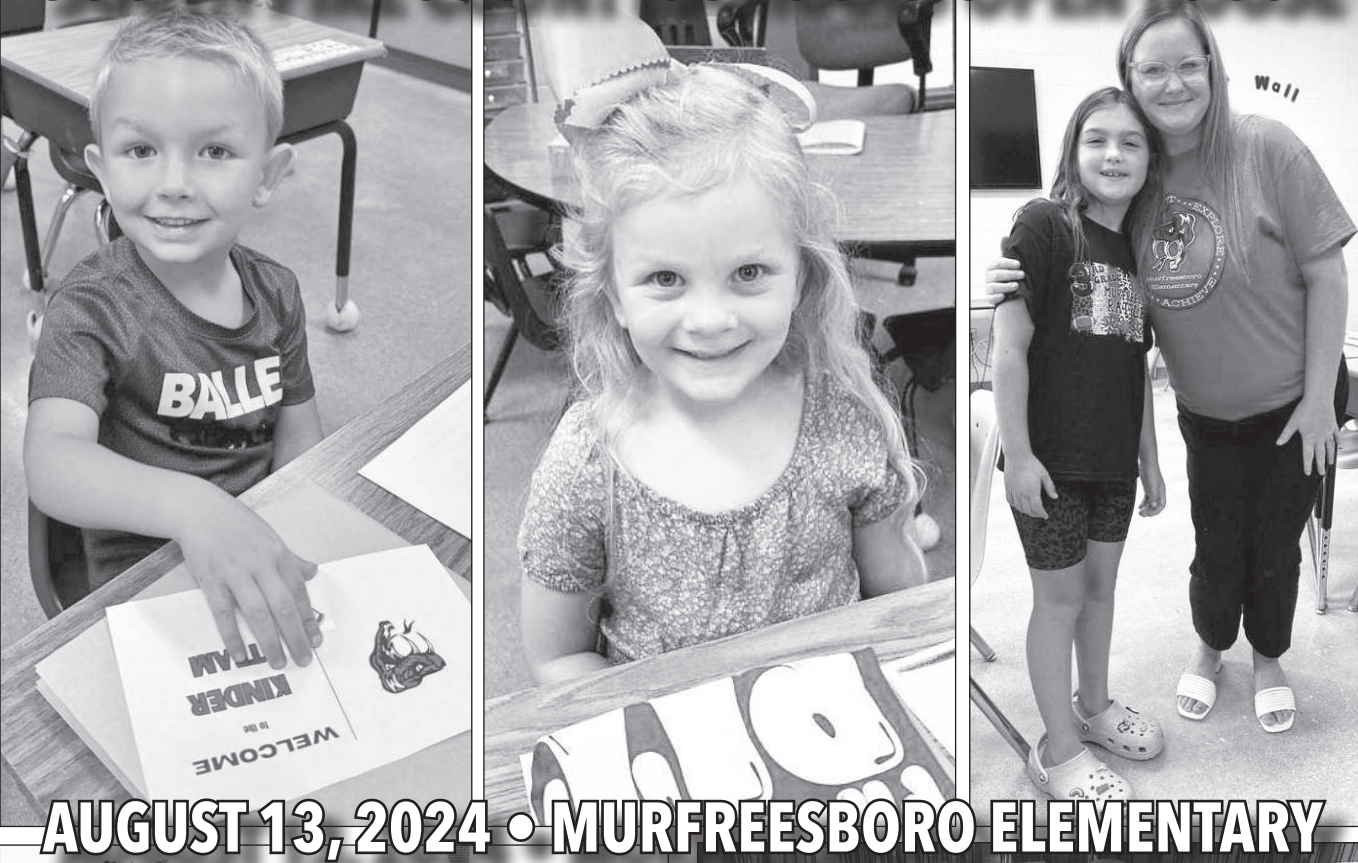
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*Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.*

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

## FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE



AUGUST 13, 2024 • MURFREESBORO ELEMENTARY



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## BID NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids on a 2011 Mack Sanitation truck with bed, mileage of 254423 for the Landfill department.

Bids can be mailed to Pike County Judge, P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR., or can be dropped off at the County Judge’s office, at 1 Courthouse Square.

Bids will be opened on September 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in the Pike County Judge’s office located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR.

Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Eddie Howard  
Pike County Judge

*This publication was paid for by the Pike County Landfill. The amount paid for this publication is \$44.80.*  
*(p.c.l. 112, 7,8)*

PUBLIC NOTICE

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS**

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2017-4 was adopted on June 15, 2017 regarding zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, The Murfreesboro City Planning and Zoning Commission requests changes to the zoning map and certain language regarding zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has prepared documentation regarding said map and language.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MURFREESBORO, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

SECTION 1. The zoning map shall be revised to reflect the changes of certain properties from Residential 1 to Agricultural Use, Commercial/Residential to Agricultural Use, and Residential 2 to Agricultural Use.

SECTION 2. The Zoning District Chapter, Commercial District Section for yard setback requirements, aka Chapter 3, Section 5(C)(2) shall be amended to read, “The Commercial District along Highway 27 and Highway 301 within the Murfreesboro City Limits shall be a minimum of 55 feet from the centerline of the highways. Requests for exceptions to this minimum limit should be discussed as a variance with the Murfreesboro Planning and Zoning Commission.”

SECTION 3. It has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Murfreesboro, in the State of Arkansas, to implement the revisions recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

SECTION 4. The declaration of any part of this ordinance to be invalid shall not serve to void any other part of the ordinance.

SECTION 5. This ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the health safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas; therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Approved: Jim O’Neal, Mayor  
Attest: Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer

*This publication was paid for by the City of Murfreesboro, office of the Treasurer. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 128.80.*  
*(c.o.m., 322w., 7)*

HELP WANTED

**JOB OPENING**

The Murfreesboro Water Department will be accepting application for a secretary/bookkeeper for the next 30 days through Sept. 14, 2024. Call Randy at (870) 285-1855 for applications.

*This publication was paid for by the Murfreesboro Water Department, the amount for this publication is \$16.40*  
*(m.w.s., 41w., 6,7)*

PUBLIC NOTICE

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-4**

**AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS TO MAKE PURCHASES FROM A BUSINESS OWNED BY A CITY EMPLOYEE, DIRECT OR INDIRECTLY, PURSUANT TO A.C.A. §14-42-107**

WHEREAS, James Bachmann (AKA Cody Bachmann) is employed by the City of Murfreesboro in the capacity of City Council Member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bachmann is the owner of a business known as Bachmann Handyman.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MURFREESBORO, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

SECTION 1. It has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Murfreesboro, in the State of Arkansas, to conduct business directly or indirectly with an employee of the City of Murfreesboro, specifically permitting the following: contracting with James Bachmann dba Bachmann Handyman in the regular course of business as long as said contracting does not violate other laws of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. The declaration of any part of this ordinance to be invalid shall not serve to void any other part of the ordinance.

SECTION 3. This ordinance being necessary for the preservation of the health safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas; therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Approved: Jim O’Neal, Mayor  
Attest: Penny Lamb, Recorder/Treasurer

*This publication was paid for by the City of Murfreesboro, office of the Treasurer. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 104.00.*  
*(c.o.m., 260w. 7)*



# Man attempts escape from courtroom

MURFREESBORO -- A Pike County man who slipped his cuffs and bolted from his court hearing Monday is now facing a felony escape charge.

John Fitzgerald Graves, 26, of Kirby, was in Pike County Circuit Monday to be arraigned on a probation revocation charge. He plead “not true” and a Sept. 9 trial date was set. His bond was set at \$10,000.

According to Investigator Jason McDonald, when Graves returned to his seat in the jury box he somehow slipped his cuffs, jumped out of the jury box and headed toward the door. A Montgomery County officer was seated at the back of

the court and collided with Graves as he attempted to stop him from leaving the courtroom. Graves made it out the front door of the jail and into the parking lot before being taken back into custody.

Graves’ bond was revoked following the incident.

Also Monday in Pike County Circuit Court, Vickie Sue Teel, 56, of Murfreesboro, plead not guilty to second-degree forgery. A Dec. 2 pretrial date was set.

Tell is facing the forgery charge after she allegedly wrote and cashed at check at Branch Oil in Murfreesboro that did not belong to her. The check was in the amount of \$81.24.

Shawn Timothy Tigue, 32, of Amity, plead guilty Monday to internet stalking of a child and was sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with five years suspended. He must also register as sex offender upon release from prison. A drug charge and a charge of possessing child pornography were “nolle prosequi” or no longer will be pursued by the prosecution.

Joey Dale Bennet, 40, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance with purpose to deliver. He was sentenced to 20 years in the ADC with seven years suspended.

# Obituaries

## Mary Alice Hill Gilmer, 93, Murfreesboro



Mary Alice Hill Gilmer, age 93, was born April 10, 1931 in Murfreesboro, AR and passed away August 13, 2024 in Arkadelphia, AR. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt and friend cherished by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 67 years John Harrison Gilmer, parents Clarence and Thelma Hill and a baby sister Helen Hill.+

She is survived by her two children, Kathy (Ed) Donihoo and John Gilmer Jr, both of Murfreesboro, AR, three grandchildren Patrick (Virginia) Donihoo of Fayetteville, NC, Stephanie (Brandon) Chaney of McKinney, TX and Lowell Gilmer of Grand Prairie, TX., seven great-grandchildren Laney, John, Maya, Will, Nate, Sean and Marilla; sister-in-law Sherry Gilmer Umphress and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Mary was born and raised in Murfreesboro. She graduated from high school in May, 1949 and on June 11, 1949, she married the love of her life, Harrison Gilmer. They were blessed with two children, Kathy in 1951 and John “Johnny” in 1954. In 1954 they moved to Grand Prairie, TX where they lived until retirement in 1984. In

1957, Mary started her working career with J. C. Penney Co. then changed careers in 1963 and went to work for the First National Bank of Grand Prairie. There she worked as a teller, new accounts rep, assistant cashier, marketing officer and held the position of assistant vice president until her retirement. During that time, she was a member of the Order of Eastern Star (for over 50 years), Women’s Division of the Chamber of Commerce, Grand Prairie Women’s Board of Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce Branding Irons group. After moving back to Murfreesboro, she worked part-time at People’s Pharmacy and was involved in many activities in the community.

She was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro and served faithfully until her health declined. She was a devoted follower of Christ, and her church home and family were so important in her life.

A special “Thank You” to all the nurses and aides of Twin Rivers Rehabilitation/ Nursing Home in Arkadelphia for the loving care they gave her during the past two years and especially during the last month of her life.

A funeral service to celebrate Mary’s life was held at the First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro AR, on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Visitation was held from 1:00 to 2:00 preceding the funeral service. Officiating the service was Brother Rick Hyde. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Hickory Grove Cemetery, 3124 Hwy 301 S., Delight, AR 71940.

Pallbearers were Patrick Donihoo, Lowell Gilmer, Brandon Chaney, Will Donihoo, Nate Chaney and Sean Chaney

## ‘Sew It’s Monday’ picked up by Glenwood EHC

GLENWOOD -- The summer quilting group that was offered by Bainum Library and Pike County Extension will be continuing thanks to the Glenwood EHC Club, which has decided to keep it going as their community service project. Betty Epperson and Karen Abshire of Glenwood EHC explain that they wanted to have a place where likeminded people could meet every Monday (except holidays) for a great time visiting and quilting. To make it easy to remember the meeting day, “Sew It’s Monday” was chosen as the name.

Epperson said “Having a place to socialize and be creative is important for a person’s wellbeing and our community. These meetings are open to everyone. There are no membership dues. No club rules. We just want everyone to have a good time and work on our quilt projects together. We have beginner, intermediate and expert quilters. One thing about quilters, they are some of the most helpful people around!”

“Bring your own projects, work at your pace, learn something new or share information with others.” said Abshire, an experienced quilter in the community. “We are meeting from 9:00 until 4:00 at the Glenwood Community Building (Bainum Library). You can come all day or just drop in for a few hours. If several would like to work on the same pattern, we can all decide which one it will be. Just remember, this is what ever you want to do...make a quilt top, finish UFO’S, table runners...etc. If you have a question or problem, someone is willing to help.”

Participants will need to bring their sewing machine, notions and fabric. An iron and ironing board are furnished, although several quilters have been bringing their own pressing pads that they position within reach. Not ready to start a



## PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT  
FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

project? Stop by for a visit and take a look at everyone’s project. Several have finished the 9-Patch quilt top from the summer program and are working on something new while other’s are working on the original 9-Patch AND something new!

The idea for this program stems from a love of quilting but it’s impact goes far beyond a pretty quilt. The Arkansas Extension Homemaker’s Council (AEHC) Cares State Project aims to provide mental well-being awareness and education to AEHC members and their communities. Social isolation increases a person’s risk of premature death as much, if not more than, smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity. It also increases a person’s risk of developing dementia, depression, anxiety and suicide. Physical illness and chronic conditions are more likely to be fatal among those who experience loneliness. Creativity has been shown to sharpen the mind, improve mood, relieve anxiety and stress, and help combat depression. By making this weekly “Sew It’s Monday” event available and open to the community at large, the Glenwood EHC has given people a chance to be social and creative – a powerful combination.

Here is a crock pot recipe to have waiting for you at home after “Sew It’s Monday”! Enjoy!

Ingredients  
1 tbsp Olive oil  
6 cloves Garlic (minced)  
1 cup Heavy cream  
1/3 cup Chicken broth

3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
4 large chicken breasts (6 oz each)  
1 tbsp Italian seasoning  
Sea salt  
Black pepper  
1/2 cup Sun-dried tomatoes (chopped)  
2 cup Spinach (chopped, packed)  
nstructions  
Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté for about a minute.  
Add the cream and chicken broth. Bring to a gentle simmer, then set heat to low and simmer for 8-10 minutes. The sauce will be thin enough to coat the back of a spoon on the thin side.  
Place the chicken at the bottom of your crockpot—season with Italian seasoning, sea salt, and black pepper.  
Top with sun-dried tomatoes.  
When the sauce is ready, turn the heat down to low.  
Whisk in the Parmesan cheese, 1/4 cup at a time, until smooth.  
Pour the sauce as evenly as possible over the chicken.  
Cook for 3-4 hours on High or 6-8 hours on low.  
Remove the chicken from the slow cooker and set it aside.  
Turn the slow cooker on High, add the chopped spinach and stir for a few minutes until the spinach wilts.  
Return the chicken to the slow cooker, spoon the liquid, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes on top, or pour them over the chicken when you are ready to serve.

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Daniel Knight is a 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 spinal muscular atrophy?

A: Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a form of muscular dystrophy. SMA is an inherited, progressive condition that affects motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and causes muscles to weaken to the point where they can no longer be used. SMA is most common in children but can also affect adults.

SMA is caused by a mutation in the survival motor neuron gene, which produces a protein critical to motor neurons. About 60% of people with SMA have Type 1 (severe), with symptoms generally appearing at birth or within the first six months. Type 2 SMA (intermediate) may occur between six and 18 months of age. Type 3 SMA (mild) appears after 18 months. Type 4 SMA (adult) may not present itself until after age 30.

Progressive muscle weakness is the main symptom of SMA. Other symptoms include difficulty rising from a lying or sitting position and frequent falls.

There is no cure for SMA or any other type of muscular dystrophy. Current treatments include corticosteroids to aid muscle strength and delay the progression of the condition. Range of motion and stretching exercises, along with aids such as braces or walkers also may be recommended.

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

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How are you really feeling? Don't be afraid to talk about it. It's time we eliminated the stigma of discussing mental health and let everyone know these feelings are normal.

For more information visit [normalizeconversation.com](https://www.normalizeconversation.com).

For immediate help, call UAMS AR ConnectNow at 1-800-482-9921, and Take Good Care.

## Sue Ann Harris, 77, Murfreesboro

Sue Ann Harris, age 77 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas passed away on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 in Nashville, Arkansas. She was born April 4, 1947 in Covington, Kentucky the daughter of the late George Federman and Ann Smith Hughes.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Fred Harris; brother Michael Hughes, and one granddaughter Heavenly Lee Harris.

Survivors include three sons George Harris, Fred Allen Harris, both of Murfreesboro, AR, Clifton Wayne Harris of Hot Springs Village, AR; and one brother Tommy Hughes of Texarkana, AR.

Cremation services are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

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(870) 285-2194

P.O. Box 298 Nashville, Arkansas 71852

1211 Anthony Ave., Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958

[www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

5	3	1	4	2	8	7	6	9
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PIKE COUNTY 4-H

5K

Color Run & Walk

SAVE THE DATE

Race Starts at  
325 West Main Parking Lot Murfreesboro

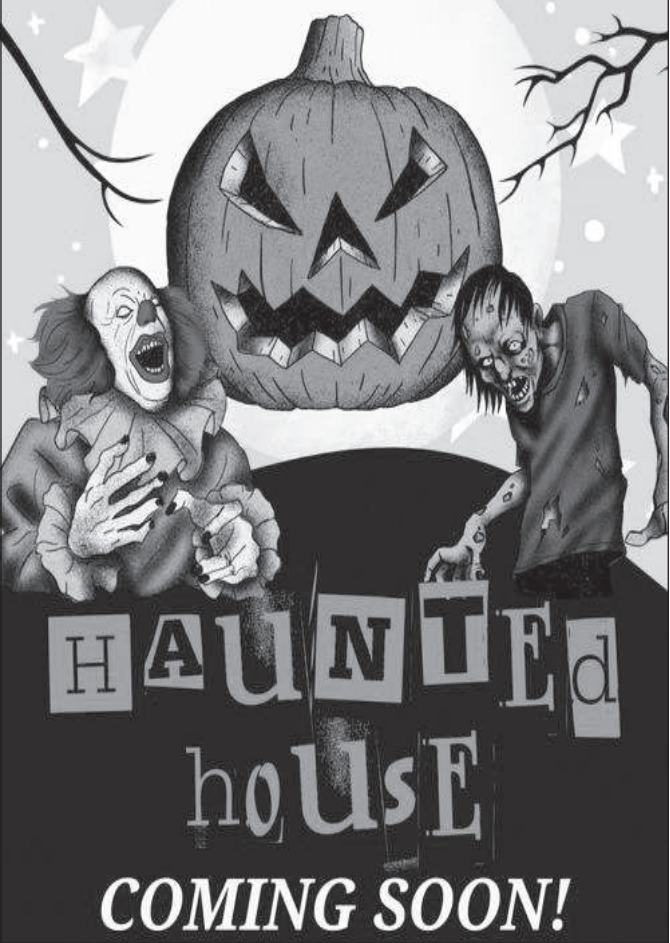
OCTOBER 26 2024

Race Starts at 9:00 AM

1 Mile Race for Ages 5-8!!



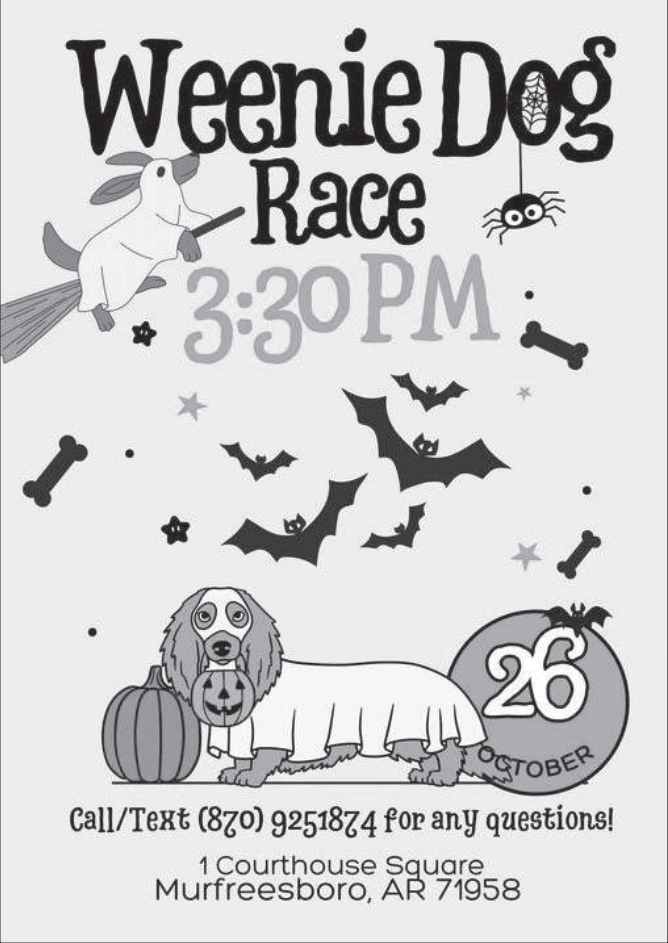
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HAUNTED house  
COMING SOON!

Weenie Dog Race

3:30 PM



Call/Text (870) 9251874 for any questions!

1 Courthouse Square  
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

## Cemetery announces donations

MUDDY FORK -- The cleanup and mowing of College Hill Cemetery takes place the first Saturday of each month at 7 a.m. and other times as required.

Residents who have relatives or loved ones buried at the cemetery -- or if you would just like to help out -- are urged to come. We would love to see some new faces.

Donations are also needed for the maintenance and care of the cemetery and would be greatly appreciated. Please address your contributions to the College Hill Cemetery Maintenance Fund at Diamond Bank, 319 East Main, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or hand to Doug Brown or Carol Strawn for deposit.

Before placing a marker at this cemetery, you should contact one of the following board members: Doug Brown (870) 285-5264, Bill Flaherty (870) 285-1713, Jerry Don Laurent (870)

925-0092.

Also, the cemetery board asks that at the time of burial, flowers and decorations that are placed on and around the grave be removed within two weeks. After that time, flowers and decorations may be placed on the headstone or in a vase attached to the headstone. If they are placed on the ground around the grave, they will be removed before mowing

Contributions made this past year are as follows:

Tommy & Debbie Howard \$50, Betty Woodley \$200, Marc and Megan Jackson \$50.00, Doss and Marilyn Walker \$40, Jan Weatherman \$40, Joe Zajac, Jr and Peggy \$300, Bob and Carol James \$25, Betty Walls \$50, H.L. Shahan \$200, David Folsom \$50, DW and Pam Dillard \$50, Brenda Godwin \$400, Chris Funderburg \$100, Nina Cox \$30, Keith and Pat Self \$100



Submitted photo/Saline County Extension Service

**IN CASE YOU WONDERED ...** According to the Saline County Arkansas Extension-Agriculture social media, a lot of people are wondering about these little white bugs floating around in the air recently. They are woolly aphids -- tiny, white, fuzzy, flying insects that can appear to float in the air. They are plant parasites that feed on the sap of trees like hackberry, crepe myrtle, pecan, and maple. Woolly aphids are covered in white waxy strands that help keep them hydrated and deter predators. They also produce a sticky substance called honeydew. They are not harmful to people, plants, or animals but they can be a nuisance.

## Project asks for garage sale donations

NASHVILLE -- Operation Christmas Child’s (OCC) semi-annual garage sale will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m.–noon in the Family Activity Building (FAB) of the First Baptist Church in Nashville, located at the intersection of College and 2nd Streets.

In order for this garage sale to be successful, the effort needs donations of no longer wanted -- but still usable -- furniture, tools, dishes,

lamps, decorations, art, collectables, electronics, toys, jewelry, books, clothing, etc.

OCC volunteers will accept donations at the FAB on Tuesday–Thursday, Sept. 3-5.


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

# ‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

IF YOU LOVE ME  
John 14:15

God’s people spend great time and effort verifying the fact that they really love their Savior. We sing about it and we pray about it. How can we know for sure we love the Lord the way He wants us to love Him? We follow Him day by day and try our best to show that “Keep my commandments.” Simply, He says, “Do what I have asked you to do.” Talents and abilities vary but the command does not. The parable of the talents gives us a decisive look at how it works. We, individually, can only do what our ability permits. We must not try to judge our devotion by another child of God. The Lord knows what we are able to accomplish with



the capacity He has given to us. The definition of a faithful servant is shown by our doing what we can in His service. We must do our best to step forward and accept any challenge or opportunity when it comes our way. Some of the open doors are always there and demand faithful devotion. The Lord knows each day will bring new challenges and our

mind set must propel us forward to do what we can every time we can. Accepting these challenges becomes a labor of love. We must do as Jesus did, work the works He has set before us each day we are blessed to obey. Do you and I love the Lord? The heartfelt answer is found in the joy we find in obeying our Lord. Do we look forward in great anticipation to honor Him every time we can? Is there a soul satisfying sense of bringing glory to Him each day we live? Jesus said, “If you love me...” Our response, obeying His commandments, will be done with zeal and love for Him. We are His servants and are honored that He has allowed us to serve Him and His father.

*Paid Advertisement*

## MURFREESBORO CADC SENIOR LUNCH MENU

<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 26</b> Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, green beans, french bread, fruit	Roast turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, fruit cobbler, ice cream
<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 27</b> Roast beef swiss on bun, lettuce, tomato, baked beans, brownie	Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312 Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Transportation available
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28</b>	

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 22</b> Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, whole grain roll, peaches, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, chicken tenders	3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, steak sandwich
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 23</b> Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Sausage pizza, seasoned corn, steamed broccoli, applesauce, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, stuffed crust pepperoni pizza	<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 27</b> Breakfast: Cinnamon crunch mini french toast or cereal, juice, fruit, milk Lunch: Chicken fajita w/ cheese, pinto beans, lettuce, & tomato, salas, pineapple, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option chicken quesadilla
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 26</b> Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken sandwich, fries, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 onion & pickles slices, peaches, milk-	<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28</b> Breakfast: Chocolate swirl cinnamon roll or cereal, juice, fruit, milk Lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, seasoned carrots, garlic breadstick, pears, milk- 3-6 Crustable lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, meatball sub w/ chips

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

# 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

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# Facts About The BIBLE

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THIS IS A DRAMATIZED VERSION OF FACTS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS, CHRONOLOGICALLY AND AUTHENTICALLY CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE STORY.

**AMOS • THE SHEPHERD TURNED PROPHET**

ON HIS WAY NORTH TO WARN ALL SINNERS IN ISRAEL THAT THE LORD IS DISPLEASED WITH THEM, AMOS RAISES TO VIEW THE CITY OF JERUSALEM FROM AFAR....

FROM AN OLIVE GROVE, HIGH ABOVE KIDRON VALLEY HE CAN SEE THE DOWNS AND ROOFS OF THE GOLDEN CITY....

BUT HE HAS NO TIME TO WASTE, THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE FURTHER NORTH IN BETHEL....

...NOW HE TURNS HIS BACK ON THE FABLED CITY AND CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY, FOR THE LORD HAS COMMANDED HIM TO GO TO BETHEL AND HE MUST NOT STOP....

TRAVEL IS VERY DIFFICULT IN THIS MOUNTAINOUS LAND AND THE SUMMER HEAT IS OPPRESSIVE, BUT HE PERSISTS ON.

AND WHILE AMOS STRUGGLES TO REACH BETHEL, THERE, IN THE SUMMER PALACE OF THIS CITY, GUESTS OF KING JEROBAM, THE NOBLES AND PRINCES OF ISRAEL, CONTINUE TO REVEL IN LUXURY, IN RIOTOUS WASTEFUL LIVING, WITH NO THOUGHT OF THE RIGHTEOUS WAY OF LIFE!

JOHN LEHTI 267

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Next Week

INTO THE TEMPLE BETHEL!

# 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](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)



- MUSIC 101
- \* -- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS
1. Meat chunks
6. Calendar square
9. \* \_\_\_\_ signature, or notation that describes
- #34 Down
13. Hiya or howdy
14. Down Under runner
15. West Point student
16. At full speed
17. Big Apple
18. Flounder's domain
19. \*Complementary notes sung simultane-
- ouslyly
21. \*Not sonata
23. Debate position
24. Painter Chagall
25. Munchhausen's story
28. Casino chip
30. \*R in R&B
35. Spanish earthen pot
37. Lobed organs
39. Nest for an eagle
40. Bona fide
41. \*Adagio or moderato, e.g.
43. What a willow did?
44. \*Type of piano technician
46. Flock member description
47. Fill beyond full
48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
50. Jon Krakauer's book " \_\_\_\_ the Wild"
52. High craggy hill
53. Church congregation
55. Hole punching tool
57. \*A \_\_\_\_ or without accompaniment
61. \*Fast
65. Not asleep
66. 2000 lbs.
68. Acquisition through marriage
69. Rubber tree product
70. Director's cry
71. \*Five lines
72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.

73. 168 in 1 week
74. Housed
- DOWN
1. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
2. Dharma teacher
3. Resembling wings
4. Good Year balloon, e.g.
5. Mexico City state
6. Say it isn't so
7. Winehouse or Schumer
8. New Mexico's state flower
9. Diplomat's asset
10. It comes to mind
11. Not in Impossible Burger
12. European erupter
15. Shell-like anatomical structure
20. \*Nine instruments, e.g.
22. Bobby of hockey
24. Halle Bailey's 2023 role
25. \*Loud or strong
26. Part of small intestine
27. Sometimes follows sauvignon
29. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
31. Coniferous trees
32. October 31 option
33. On top of trends (2 words)
34. \*Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
36. Sheltered, nautically speaking
38. "Wheel of Fortune" move
42. Based on number 8
45. Automatic reaction
49. \*Fa follower
51. Solemn and wise?
54. Gate holder
56. \*Slow
57. Pay a visit
58. Not home
59. Goose liver dish
60. Augments, usually with effort
61. Social insects
62. Air of allure, slangily
63. Five-star review
64. Was in the hole
67. Possessive pronoun

CROSSWORD

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72						73				74				

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# Log-A-Load to hold 31st edition in 2024

ARKADELPHIA -- This year will mark the 31st Log-A-Load in Arkansas since its debut in 1993.

All Log-A-Load donations go to the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Heart Institute.

The South Central Arkansas Log-A-Load golf tournament will be held Thursday, Sept. 12, at Glenwood Country Club. Registration is \$500/team and includes all mulligans, swag bags, price drawing entries and lunch for the four-person team.

The annual auction and dinner is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Clark County Fairgrounds on Highway 67 South, Arkadelphia. Hunter-Wasson Timber Services will sponsor a meal catered by Fat Boys. Attractions this year include a bounce house, face painting, a logging simulator and the Angel One helicopter.

For more information call Nicky Goff at 870-260-2278; David Smith at 870-403-8451; Pete Prutzman at 870-245-9000; Justin Kirksey at 870-245-8563; David Hunt at 501-626-2232; Kurt Hill at 870-260-2500; or Zach Buck at 870-828-4809.

Donations can be mailed to South Central Arkansas Log-A-Load, P.O. Box 364, Arkadelphia, AR 71923. Make checks payable to South Central Arkansas Log-A-Load for Kids.

# August birthstones can be found at Crater of Diamonds

BY SARAH REAP  
*Interpreter, Crater of Diamonds State Park*

MURFREESBORO -- Greetings from Crater of Diamonds State Park! Rockhounds often have a special connection with their birthstones. The diamond search area at Crater of Diamonds State Park is a good place to find many birthstones, most notably diamonds -- the birthstone for April -- but also peridot and spinel, which are birthstones for August.

Birthstones are thought to have originated around 600 to 400 BC with the creation of the Breastplate of Aaron, or the Breastplate of Judgement. This priestly breastplate worn by Aaron, brother of Moses, had twelve gems embedded in it to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Later, the twelve gems became associated with the twelve zodiac signs and eventually the twelve months of the year.

The traditional birthstones for August are sardonyx and peridot, but as recently as 2016, spinel has been recognized as a modern August birthstone. Peridot and spinel are both found at the Crater of Diamonds but are not gemstone quality like some of our diamonds.

Peridot is a light yellow-green variety of olivine, a magnesium iron silicate. Like diamonds, peridot forms deep inside the earth’s mantle and is brought to the surface by volcanic eruption. Historically, this mineral is said to have been revered by kings and priests and used to ward off evil spirits and negative energy. Its bright green color and hardness of around seven on the Mohs scale make peridot ideal for jewelry, though it may be scratched if worn often.

The modern birthstone for August, spinel is a hard crystalline mineral composed of magnesium aluminum oxide. Spinel is incredibly versatile, can contain a variety of elements and display many different colors. Often mistaken for ruby, the most widely known color of spinel is red. Spinel found at the Crater of Diamonds is pitch black, often small, and octahedral. In recent years, spinel has become more popular in jewelry for its wide array of colors, hardness of around eight, and affordability.

The next time you visit the Crater of Diamonds, keep an eye out for your or your loved ones’ birthstones. If you were born in Janu-

ary, February, April, August, or even November, your birthstone can be found at the park!

*Search area last plowed: June 22, 2024*  
*Most recent significant rain: August 19, 2024*  
*Recent diamond finds (100 points = 1 carat):*

August 15 – Brent Peterein, Godfrey, IL, 15 pt. white  
August 18– Brad & Kathy Newton, Pearcy, AR, 18 pt. white & 37 pt. white; Paula Penn, Texarkana, AR, 12 pt. white

# LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes.

The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550 • Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to [mdiamond.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**DON'T MISS THE 11th Annual FestVile - August 31, 2024,**  
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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 24/7: 1-877-593-7772

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, PROBATE DIVISION**  
**NO. 60PR-23-592**  
**Name of Decedent: Dynn McMaster**  
**Last Known Address:**  
1201 Carolyn St.  
Jacksonville, AR 72076  
**Date of Death: August 5, 2022**  
**NOTICE**  
On March 20, 2023, an affidavit for collection of small estate by distributee was filed with respect to the estate of Dynn McMaster, deceased, with the clerk of the probate division of the circuit court of Pulaski County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. § 28-41-101. The legal description of the real property listed in the affidavit is as follows: 1701 Carolyn St., Jacksonville, AR 72076, Lot 8 Block 4 Sub-Keaton WW Addn. All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the distributee or his or her attorney within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit of the estate. The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the distributee or distributee's attorney is: Hollie McMaster, 42 Byrd Ln Cabot, AR 72023. This notice first published the 28TH day of March, 2023. DR21-3/28/4/23

**AUCTIONS**

**LARGE AUCTION - OVER 1000 ITEMS**  
Sun, Aug 25th, 2024 @ 10AM  
1504 S Leslie St, Stuttgart, AR  
THIS AUCTION WILL FEATURE OUTSTANDING FRENCH & ENGLISH CHINA, BUFFET, SERVERS, DINING ROOM AND BEDROOM SUITS, LARGE AND SMALL BOOKCASES, PUB TABLES, DROP-LEAF TABLES, CURIO CABINETS, BARS, FALL FRONT DESK, WARDROBES, DRESSERS, CHESTS, FIRESIDE AND OCCASIONAL CHAIRS, SETS OF DINING CHAIRS, HARVEST TABLES, BEDS, QUALITY GLASSWARE, ANTIQUE COPPERWARE, OLD SCALES, PORCELAIN FISH AND GAME PLATE SETS, LOTS OF LEATHER BOUND BOOKS, ENGLISH PLATTERS AND TEA SETS, OIL PAINTINGS AND ARTWORK, TALL CASE BANJO, COTTAGE CLOCK, HAND CRANK SEWING MACHINES, AND COLLECTIBLES. **AUCTIONEER'S NOTES:** LOTS OF PHOTOS WILL BE ADDED WEEK OF SALE, PLEASE CHECK BACK OFTEN.  
**For more info, call JE PONDIER 870-672-1731 1A1LB 1787**  
For terms of sale, full listing, photos and videos, go to our website: [WWW.PONDIERSAUCTIONS.COM](http://WWW.PONDIERSAUCTIONS.COM)

ITEM OF THE WEEK

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WORKS \*NO KEY\* \$50<sup>00</sup>

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Week of August 19, 2024

5



2024  
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# Rattler football shirts available through Thursday

MURFREESBORO -- Area residents can place an order for "Pack the Pit," (\$10) senior high Rattler or junior high Rattler roster shirts (\$15) through this Thursday, Aug. 22. The sales are being held by the cheerleading squads and are available for sizes youth XS-adult XL. Larger sizes are available with a \$1 added to each size up the chart.

The shirts are tentatively scheduled to arrive in time for the first game of the season. Orders may be placed to cheer sponsors Melissa Jones or Melissa Cornish as well as to the offices of both MHS and MJHS. Forms may be obtained from the school's website at [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org).

Submitted photo/MHS  
**FINAL FIRST DAY ...** Murfreesboro High School seniors of the Class of 2025 gathered before school last Thursday, Aug. 15 for a senior breakfast at Southern Dine.

# RATTLER RALLY

## AUGUST 16 • RATTLER STADIUM