

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, October 30, 2024  
Issue 17 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

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USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975  
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Man sentenced in plea arrangement for sexual assault of a minor

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro man charged with sexual assault was sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court.

Zachary Ray Collins, 38, of Murfreesboro, entered a guilty plea to second-degree sexual assault by minor with person under 14 and was sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$500. Collins must also register as a sex offender and have no contact with his victim.

Collins was arrested and booked into the Pike County jail on July 29 on suspicion of rape that occurred between 2000 and 2005.

According to case information, Collins' victim was a minor during the five-year time-frame 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 the affidavit of arrest prepared by David Shelton, special investigator for the Ninth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney.

Charges expected for woman who left children unattended

MURFREESBORO -- Charges are expected to be filed this week against an Amity woman arrested for allegedly endangering the welfare of children she was hired to babysit.

Megan Davidson, 38, was arrested last week and has since bonded out from the county jail. She is expected to be charged with two counts of first-degree endangering the welfare of a minor, according to Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald.

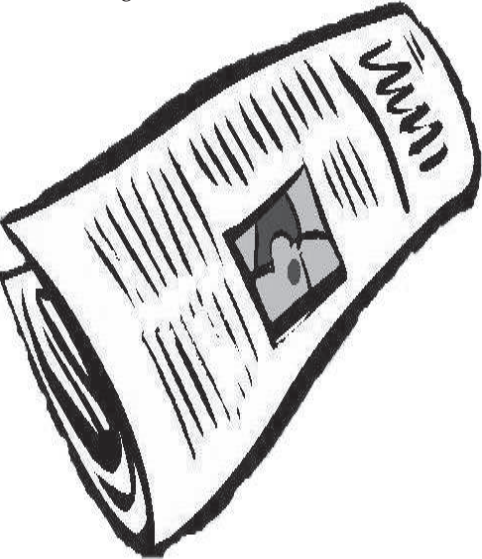
McDonald said an investigation began on Oct. 2 in Amity when Nicole Carpenter alleged Davidson, who had babysat Carpenters' kids since birth, had left her children home alone.

Carpenter stated that she had dropped off her kids with Davidson on the morning of Sept. 30 and then went to the post office when she noticed Davidson's vehicle at a nearby store. When confronted about the kids' location, Davidson said the kids were in the car but the mom found only the four-year-old inside the car. Davidson said the other kids were with her husband at home.

Carpenter went to the home and found the home unlocked and allegedly found her eight-month-old "strapped and restrained" in a bouncy chair inside a dark closet with the door closed. The other child, a two-year-old, was found in the back room in the dark.

Carpenter told law officials that the kids had told her before that Davidson had locked them in the closet but she wasn't sure to believe them "because kids exaggerate things."

Davidson made a first appearance on the charges Monday and a Nov. 15 date was set for formal arraignment.



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Staff photos

**AWARD WINNING PUMPKINS ...** Pumpkins decorated by Pike County 4-H members are now on display at the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro. The winning selections were determined by members of the Pike County Quorum Court. Pictured above (left, L to R) in the cloverbud division is first place Adeline Haney, second place Jessa Cait Humphry and third place Ollie Neal (not pictured). Above (right) is the senior division with designs by first place Adyson James and second place Hadley Cox. Below is the winners of the junior division with submissions by first place Analee Hart, second place Jazzy Espino and third place Sophia Cox.



Rattlers slay Dragons in crucial win  
Lead conference standings with two games remaining

JUNCTION CITY – The Murfreesboro Rattlers moved to 6-2 overall and 5-0 in conference play with a 30-14 win over Junction City (5-3, 4-1) on the road last Friday.

The Rattlers are now in the catbird's seat as far as conference play goes – with two more games remaining, Murfreesboro can claim the 2024 3-2A title by winning out –by virtue of being the lone undefeated team in conference play.

Senior QB Laytan Wilcher had his most impactful game of the season in the statistics department, rushing for 146 yards and two touchdowns on 12 rushing attempts while going 3/6 in the passing game for 21 yards, along with a touchdown and an interception.

Brody Maroon acted as the team's workhorse, getting 98 yards on 20 carries, while Lathan Compton added 58 yards and a touchdown on eight carries.

Kooper Caldwell had a reception for eight yards and a TD.

As a team the Rattlers garnered 339 yards on offense (318 rushing, 21 passing) in the game.

Bubba Stinson would lead the team in tackles on defense with 12, followed by Cameron Stevens (11), Maroon (10), Compton (8) and the trio of Logan Burris, Caden Dixon and Caldwell had seven stops each.

Compton would also nab a key fourth quarter interception that would allow the Rattlers to control the clock for much of the quarter.

"Going into the game, we knew that we were facing a really good football team and it would be a really big test for us. It was probably the best football team, on paper I guess, that we have seen all year," said head coach Brad Chesshir.

He credits a good week of preparation heading into the victory, along with the team coming into themselves as the season progresses.

"The big thing is – the confidence our team has right now and the way they are playing together – I felt really good about our chances all week. I told our guys last week before the game that I knew we were better than them [Junction City] and if we would just go do what we do, don't try to be someone we're not, offensively and defensively, I knew we'd have an opportunity to win the game."

While playing "extremely hard" Chesshir

said that defense was "not so great, getting a feel for what they do" on the first drive of the game that led to a Dragon score.

"In the second half the defense played lights out ... and the offense was as good as they have been all year long – they couldn't stop us."

Chesshir was especially pleased that the offense, following the late Compton interception, was able to salt away the clock.

"There was a lot of time left on the clock, and we just lined up and played big-boy football. We just went right at them and ate up the whole clock. That makes me extremely proud. Our kids continue to handle every situation the right way, good or bad. I'm excited to see how far this group can continue to grow."

However, he insists that it's not a finished

product.

"There is still room for growth – we still have things we can clean up and do better. We still have plenty of room for growth."

Chesshir was also complimentary of the fans in attendance despite a 2:15 drive to "pretty much Louisiana."

"It was good to see our crowd, as soon as we walked out for kickoff you could tell they were there. I'm proud to be a part of a community that supports their team like they do. I know our kids feed off that."

He added that the team had a lot of guys play well, including Wilcher with "his best game offensively all year."

**RATTLERS** Continued on Page 2

MURFREESBORO HAUNTED  
HOSPITAL

LAST THRILL  
"HALLOWEEN NIGHT"

6:30 – 7:00 KID FRIENDLY  
7:00 – 10:00 FULLY OPEN

315 E 13th Street, Murfreesboro



RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

Chesshir laughed telling the story of how a Junction City coach said they would do all they could to stop #13 (Wilcher) from running the football.

“It didn’t seem to help,” Chesshir deadpanned. “You can see that in the stats.”

He admitted it was nice to have choices.

“If you stop Brody [Maroon] then there is Laytan [Wilcher], and if you take away Laytan, then there is Lathan [Compton]. With our offensive philosophy, there is options. This is only the second game of the season Brody didn’t have any touchdowns, but as you can see, we have other weapons. Brody did a good job of getting four yards a carry and first downs when we needed them.”

Chesshir credited Compton with a significant amount of growth since the season began.

“His leadership skills have gotten unbelievably better since the beginning of the season, what he brings to the football field, the unselfish player he is. I can’t tell you how proud I am of Lathan.”

Chesshir said the offensive line had a “pretty good night” and while they missed a few assignments, “if you look out there at Junction, there’s some pretty big dudes.”

“You hear coaches label victories as a ‘team win’ ... I think coaches say that just to say it ... but I think we had an ultimate team win Friday night, and I believe that.”

He said it was an important win for the standings, but that his team must maintain focus.

“Moving forward, we still have two games to go in conference play and we have to finish, but it does put us in the driver’s seat for the conference championship.”

Now, the team has to come off a crucial victory and get prepared to play a (2-6, 1-4) Spring Hill team that doesn’t exactly remind anyone of the Junction City team the Rattlers just defeated.

Spring Hill defeated Geona Central 34-6 to open the season and beat Foreman 48-14 two weeks ago for their pair of wins. They lost a close game to Lafayette County 43-36 a couple of

weeks ago, but were easily dispatched by Gurdon 49-12 last week.

Chesshir said the formula wasn’t difficult.

“We come to work on Monday and focus on what we can do to improve to get better, and not look forward, like you are [news-paper interviewer] and all the rat poison on Facebook [posts that inflate the team’s collective ego]. We’ve won six games controlling what we can control. We’ve won six games doing what we do. We [the coaches] haven’t sit in here and schemed up people and said ‘we have to do this this week’ or ‘hey, we have to run this play this week.’ We haven’t done that ... we’re going to line up and do what we do, and be really freaking good at it. Do we have little things in terms of adjustments each week, yeah. But we don’t install a new defense or a new offense each week, so we will continue to do what we do. We don’t stop, and we will be consistent with our beliefs and our habits and get better at the little things.”

He said ultimately it was a question of perspective.

“I am not coaching to beat Spring Hill ... I am coaching to have my defensive end squeeze in week 15, or having the right technique on a block in week 15. We have to get better at those little things because at some point that’s going to matter. We have done a good job fundamentally over the past few weeks, but we can’t let up on those things. Just because you won a big game doesn’t mean you can let up. We have to stay humble and just keep being us.”

He said that marks a difference over last year’s squad.

“Last year we were thrilled to win a conference championship. Which is good, you want to win the district ever year. If we do it again this year, that’s awesome, because nobody thought we could do it again. But, the ultimately goal, for us, is not that.”

Also, there is still almost as much football potentially ahead for the Rattlers as behind in 2024, should the team check off it’s ultimate goal of playing in a state championship.

“If we had the opportunity to go do that, that’s in six weeks. That’s almost like playing this whole season thus far over again. That’s a long ways away ... it’s not like it’s three weeks from now. We have to continue to get better.”

Thus, in dutiful progress toward that goal, this week it all about Spring Hill.

Chesshir said the Bears employ a flexbone offense for the triple option.

“Coming from eight-man [in 2023] they are still trying to figure it out, going back to 11-man. They have a lot of young players in seventh grade and junior high and they are really looking forward, so they are trying to build the program back to an 11-man mindset because of those kids.”

Chesshir said Spring Hill had competent players with good size, a few backs with speed and a linebacker that ranks in the top five of 3-2A.

“They play extremely hard, I know coach [Greg] Smith from working with him at the all-star game this past summer, and I know he’s doing a good job with them. Hopefully, they will stick with him and keep growing.”

Chesshir switched back to coachspeak and said that his team will have to be disciplined while facing the Bears.

“Just like every week – we have to be disciplined, we have to play hard, we have to do the little things right, we have to be good tacklers, and we can’t turn the ball over.”

Defensively the Bears base out of an odd front.

**JUNIOR HIGH**

The seventh grade game will kick off at Spring Hill at 5:30 p.m. this Thursday night, followed by the junior high Rattlers at 7 p.m. This will mark the final action for the 2024 season for the two schools, and with a win, MJHS will finish as runners-up in conference play for the season – behind champion Dierks Outlaws.

“This is a group that plays extremely hard -- every game,” said Chesshir about his MJHS squad. “I have been very pleased with the growth from the group, and I look forward to seeing how they finish the season out.”

**SENIOR NIGHT**

Usually reserved for the final home game, celebration of 2024 seniors will be held this week and not prior to the season finale next week versus Mineral Springs.

The ceremonies will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will feature athletes from football, band, cheerleading, golf and tennis. The slate would also normally include cross county participants, but no senior participated in the sport in 2024.

Tips for safe treatings and not tricks this Halloween

BY REBEKAH HALL  
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — To ensure all children enjoy spooky fun this Halloween, it’s important for parents to establish safe trick-or-treating plans and include children with food allergies in the holiday’s festivities.

“If trick-or-treating at night, stay close and always keep a watchful eye on them,” Whitson said. “Some Halloween activities are offered earlier throughout the day at churches, local businesses, community centers, schools or “trunk-or-treat” events in parking lots. Attending these types of events can be safer, and this also allows your child to stick to their regular bedtime.”

For older children who have been given permission to trick-or-treat with their friends, Whitson said parents should establish and review an acceptable and safe route for them to follow.

“Emphasize staying together as a group and help brainstorm ideas to ensure everyone makes it home safely by a predetermined time,” he said.

Parents should also discuss the importance of minimizing distractions while walking, especially for children with access to electronic devices.

“Staying on well-lit streets and utilizing sidewalks and established crosswalks can reduce the risk of unfortunate vehicular accidents,” Whitson said. “Motorists often have trouble seeing children, especially if their costume colors don’t stand out and blend in with the surrounding environment. Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes for better visibility.”

Whitson said parents should also keep the following practices in mind:

Remind children never to enter a stranger’s house or receive a ride home from a person or people they do not know.

Before letting children eat any candy, sort and check them to ensure they have not been tampered with. Closely examine all treats and throw away anything unwrapped, spoiled or suspicious. If in doubt, throw it out!

Depending on a child’s age, some treats can be a choking hazard. Babies and toddlers should not have any hard candy, pop-



corn, gum, small candy, or anything with nuts or seeds.

**HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SWEETS**

Whitson said that though parents may be tempted to enforce strict, rigid rules around candy consumption for their children, this can be an opportunity for children to “learn mindfulness and stay calm around sweet treats.”

“As parents, you have the best interest in mind for your child, which may result in concerns that your child may ‘eat too much candy’ or become ‘addicted’ to sugar on this holiday when sweets are so abundant,” Whitson said. “These fears that parents have for their children can usually be attributed to their

own experiences as kids. Maybe you were told that if you eat too much ‘junk food’ or candy, you’d ‘ruin your teeth’ or perhaps even ‘gain weight.’

“It’s integral that positive relationships are created around all food, including sweets,” Whitson said. “The best way to do this is to not micromanage your child during this joyous time, and instead allow them to learn from their experiences — most kids learn that having way too much candy is not necessarily a good thing and will learn to regulate their intake of treats down the road.”

Whitson suggested that instead of getting angry and punishing children for overeating candy, approach the situation with kindness and care, and discuss the problem together.

“Ask why they think they feel sick, what they could do next time to avoid the same feeling, and ultimately explain that over-eating candy takes the fun out of Halloween.”

In the first two years of life, children do not need candy and other treats high in sugar, such as soda and sports drinks. For children aged two to four who have not had much opportunity to develop self-regulation skills, they will need help managing their candy stash.

“Try helping them out by giving them a daily amount of candy spread throughout the day that seems fair — maybe two or three pieces — and allowing them to decide when they will have it, such as one with their snack, lunch and dinner,” Whitson said. “Children older than four years old are likely ready to begin managing their candy stash with boundaries, such as when and where parents designate eating to occur.”

Whitson said taking this approach can help deal with some of the adverse effects of high sugar consumption, such as cavities and digestive issues.

**EVEN WITH FOOD ALLERGIES, MAKE TIME FOR FUN**

Whitson said it is essential that children with food allergies are not left out during Halloween fun with friends and family.

HALLOWEEN Continued on Page 5

Murfreesboro Diamond

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# BURN BAN ONGOING FOR PIKE COUNTY

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard issued a burn ban for all of Pike County until further notice

## PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

October 1, 2024  
BF=Bond Forfeited

### PIKE COUNTY

Ashley, Jay Michael, 49, Adrmore, Okla., \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear  
Bailey, Jansen Ross, 44, Bonnerdale, \$205 BF, failure to pay, \$945 owed  
Baker, Adela Recenidz, 31, Glenwood, \$125 BF, speeding  
Balderas, Pedro Marcos, 35, Horatio, \$249BF, overweight  
Booth, Brittany K., 37, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$75; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125  
Canals, Stephanie Nicole, 32, Bonnerdale, guilty of speeding, fined \$165; guilty of no vehicle license, fined \$125  
Carroll, Robert Douglas, 74, Amity, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$635  
Castro, Hortencia, 37, Fort Smith, \$135 BF, speeding  
Cates, Alicia Lynne, 29, Umpire, guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45  
Cates, Rhonda K., 53, Murfreesboro, \$315 BF, no proof of liability insurance  
Chamberlin, Catrina L., 54, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Chaney, Tammy E., 58, Benton, \$135 BF, speeding  
Clay, Lisa Marie, 36, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,365 owed  
Cogburn, Jacob Dempsey, 20, Glenwood, \$125 BF, no driver's license; \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Cupples, Braden Kristopher, 30, Nashville, \$160 BF, registration of gross weight/license  
Darling, Dana Lauren, 39, Nashville, \$125 BF, speeding  
Emmert, Joshua Lee, 21, Emerson, \$135 BF, speeding  
Engle, Clinton Ryan, 34, Springdale, \$135 BF, speeding  
Fant, Jerry Wayne, 38, Glenwood, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$7; guilty of speeding, fined \$125  
Fatherree, Kylie Nikole, 20, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay, \$485 owed  
Forney, Stephanie L., 38, Caddo Gap,

guilty of no driver's license, fined \$125  
Frawley, John Fortuscue, 56, Jacksonville, \$135 BF, speeding  
Garner, Sarah Dawn, 26, Newhope, \$145 BF, using handheld phone while driving  
Garza, Delia, 33, Glenwood, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license  
Golden, Cassandra Austin, 30, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,285 owed  
Gray, Robert Don, 52, Dierks, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,030 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205  
Hammock, Brandon Deril, 26, Mount Ida, \$215 BF, overweight  
Hampton, John Thomas, 62, Blevins, \$245 BF, overweight  
Hanratty, Dana Dupuis, 45, Hot Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$125  
Hernandez, Miriam, 41, Glenwood, \$125 BF, no driver's license  
Johnson, Isaac Keshawn, 22, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205  
Jones, Natasha E., 41, Hot Springs, \$205 BF, failure to pay; \$205 BF, failure to appear  
Kerr, Johnnsie D., 62, Hot Springs, \$125 BF, speeding  
Kesterson, Lloyd, 51, Donaldson, \$245 BF, overweight  
Kirkham, Zane Arthur, 24, Delight, \$170 BF, violation of Ignition Interlock Device Act  
Lamb, Jarrod D., 35, Murfreesboro, \$245 BF, overweight  
Laurent, Brittany Anne, 21, Murfreesboro, \$135 BF, speeding  
Liberelle, Marie Caroline, 27, Austin, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding  
Light, Conner Lee, 21, Amity, guilty of violation of restricted driver's license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125  
Lynn, Zachary Wade, 32, Caddo Gap, \$135 BF, speeding  
Mars, Bethany L., 23, Malvern, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125; guilty of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, fined \$220

Martinez, Frank, 40, Pharr, Texas, \$125 BF, no driver's license; \$205 BF, failure to appear  
McGee, Troy O., 79, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
McKin, Brian C., 41, Arkadelphia, \$543 BF, overweight  
Meeks, Randall Lee III, 17, Caddo Gap, speeding, under advisement for three months to dismiss  
Mota, Ismael Morales, 63, Nashville, \$125 BF, no driver's license; \$125 BF, speeding  
Murillo, Reshelle Marie, 47, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325  
Myers, Justin C., 29, Huntsville, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Nations, Jack Jay, 57, Kirby, \$125 BF, no child restraint  
Neighbors, Whitney Lea, 23, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325  
Oliver, Rachele Monique, 19, Hot Springs, guilty of failure to pay, \$925 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205  
Pandit, Dorothy, 75, Amity, guilty of speeding, fined \$165  
Parish, Jamie Taylor, 21, Caddo Gap, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Patterson, Donald K., 39, Amity, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license  
Phillips, Timothy Mason, 53, Murfreesboro, guilty of speeding, fined \$215  
Pierce, Johnny Lee, 30, Ozan, guilty of failure to pay, \$570 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205  
Prouse, Kendra Lynn, 29, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125  
Reyes, Sofia Kamil, 19, Moore, Okla., \$125 BF, speeding  
Schobey, Madison Blake, 27, Hope, \$45 BF, no seat belt  
Smedley, Evan, 31, Hot Springs, \$135 BF, speeding  
Smith, Nathaniel Hunter, 18, Amity, guilty of defective lights, fined \$125; guilty of careless prohibited driving,  
**DOCKET** Continued on Page 5

# Obituaries

## Wilma Jean Price, 80, Antoine



Wilma Jean Price, age 80, of Antoine passed from this life on Wednesday October 23, 2024, at Southwest Regional Medical Center in Hope. She was born on March 17, 1944, in Blue Eye, MO, the daughter of the late Jack and Nola Keeling

Gilbert. Wilma was a member of Antoine Baptist Church. She enjoyed sewing and quilting in her free time. Wilma is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Cedric Price, and one sister, Freda Vickers. Survivors are one son, Kevin Price of Antoine, one daughter, Julie Price of Antoine, three grandchildren, Kayla Long, Christian Long, and KC Price and five great grandchildren, Colton Long, Fallyn Long, Holden Long, Maci Price and Huxley Price. The family will hold a memorial service at a later date. Final arrangements are entrusted to The Welch Funeral Home of Arkadelphia. Visit [www.welchfh.net](http://www.welchfh.net) to sign the guest book.

## Food bank to distribute

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Commodities food boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Nov. 6,, from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed. Recipients must come inside the Municipal Building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Food boxes will be loaded

directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal Building. The next mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are a resident of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

## Birthday celebration set

DELIGHT -- The public is invited to Zenobia Craig's 100th birthday celebration on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Delight Church of Christ fellowship hall.

## OCC collection week approaches

NASHVILLE -- The Operation Christmas Child 2024 Shoebox Collection Week is November 18 – 25, 2024. Volunteers have been transforming empty shoeboxes into gifts of hope filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and articles of clothing for children in need worldwide. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way so that missionaries and volunteers can share the Good News of Jesus Christ. And, it all starts with the help of a shoebox filled with gifts. Since 1993, more than 220 million children in over 170 countries and territories have received a shoebox gift. These children as well as those who hear the Gospel at shoebox outreach events share their faith with friends and family who, in turn, disciple others. Collection Week – November 18 – 25, 2024  
First Baptist Church, 415 N Main Street Nashville  
Mon, Nov. 18: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tue, Nov. 19-Fri., Nov. 22: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Sat, Nov. 23: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sun, Nov. 24: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Mon, Nov. 25: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
For area questions, contact Jim Herman at [occjim.herman@yahoo.com](mailto:occjim.herman@yahoo.com).

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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 Guillain-Barré syndrome?

**A:** Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. GBS damages nerves and prevents them from sending signals between the brain and muscles. GBS is a serious but rare condition — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 3,000 and 6,000 people are affected yearly in the United States.

People between the ages of 30 and 50 are mostly affected by GBS, but it can occur at any age. GBS is more common in males. It often develops after illnesses such as respiratory or gastrointestinal infections or viral infections. GBS is not contagious and is not an inherited condition. GBS begins suddenly and often increases in intensity over hours,

days or weeks. Symptoms include chest muscle weakness, double vision or an inability to move the eyes, rapid heart rate, sensation changes and weakness in the legs that spreads to the upper body.

Chances of a complete recovery from GBS increases the sooner treatment begins. It can be hard to diagnose as indicators are similar to other conditions. Hospitalization is normally required as muscle weakness causes problems with breathing and heart rate. Contact your health care provider immediately if you experience symptoms.

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# 4-H Color Run held last Saturday

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County 4-H 5K Color Run and Walk to benefit suicide prevention in Pike County was held last Saturday in Murfreesboro.

Kurt Caldwell, 40, was the overall male winner with a time of 21.07, while Kynlie Snyder, 15, won the women's division with a time of 22:22.

Placements in division order are as follows:

Females 5-8: Brielan Caldwell, 31:15  
Females 9-17: Sadie Tolleson 33:05, Natalie Simms 33:41  
Females 18-24: Codie McAlister 44:45  
Females 25-29: Bailey Terrell 32:50  
Females 30-39: Katherine Williamson 33:11  
Females 40-49: Dianna Self 40:33, Kristy Wolfe 40:34, Lisa Harvill 45:46  
Females 50-59: Betty Parrish 40:03, P.J. Cox 45:57  
Females 60-69: Rhonda Harmon 42:58, Sherry Whisenhunt 43:00, Jan Funderburk 45:45  
Females 70+: Debra Nichols 47:35  
Males 5-8: Weldon Caldwell 31:49, Chandler Cox 45:56  
Males 9-17: Caleb Terrell 22:06, Sean Rohein 27:17, Kage Fore 42:29  
Males 40-49: Jacob Gold 28:17, Lee Hart 45:58  
Males 70+: David Samuel 47:29



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## ‘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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## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31**  
Breakfast: Chocolate swirl cinnamon roll or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, whole grain roll, applesauce, milk-3-6 Grilled cheese sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, Beef fingers
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, 7-12 Big daddy cheese pizza, salad, seasoned corn, pears, milk
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
Breakfast: Blueberry muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Cheeseburger, 7-12 spicy chicken sandwich, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 pickle & onion slices, peaches, milk
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**  
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, juice, fruit, milk  
Lunch: Taco salad w/cheese, 7-12 crispito, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, pineapple, milk
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**  
Breakfast: Powered donuts or cereal, juice, fruit, milk  
Lunch: Corn dog, 7-12 hot ham & cheese croissant, 7-12 chips, savory carrots, baked beans, mixed fruit, milk
- \*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)*

## DIAMOND 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.

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**THE OLDEST COUSIN TO THE KING!**

ABISHAI WAS THE ELDEST OF THREE SONS OF ZERUIAH, DAVID'S SISTER. IT MAY BE OWING TO THIS SENIORITY OF BIRTH THAT ABISHAI APPEARS AS THE FIRST DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF DAVID—OF COURSE, THE OTHER TWO, JOAB AND ASAHEL, FOLLOWED RIGHT ON THE HEELS OF THEIR BROTHER AS DAVID'S FOLLOWERS! NEVERTHELESS, ABISHAI WAS DAVID'S COMPANION ON THE DESPERATE NIGHT EXPEDITION TO THE CAMP OF SAUL, AND WOULD HAVE AVENGED HIS UNCLE BY HAVING BEEN THE SLEEPING KING SAUL, THEN AND THERE, WITH HIS OWN SPEAR, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR DAVID'S INDIGNANT RESTRAINT! ALL THROUGH DAVID'S REIGN THERE IS NOTICE OF ABISHAI AND HIS FEATS UPON THE FIELD OF BATTLE. PERHAPS HIS GREATEST EXPLOIT WAS WHEN HE FOUGHT SINGLEHAND-ED AGAINST THREE HUNDRED MEN AND SLEW THEM ALL (2 SAM.26:18) THE LAST ACT OF SERVICE TO DAVID, WHICH IS RECORDED, IS HIS TIMELY RESCUE OF DAVID FROM THE HANDS OF A GIGANTIC PHILISTINE, ISHBI-BENUB, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO SLAY HIM IN BATTLE (IT SAM. 21:15-17)

WHO NOW WILL GO WITH ME TO SAUL'S CAMP THIS NIGHT?

284

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK.

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\* -- *Theme Related Clue*

**ACROSS**

1. Performer’s time to shine  
5. Selfie, e.g.  
8. One of five Ws  
11. TrÈs \_\_\_\_, or very stylish  
12. Mandolin’s cousin  
13. Knitter’s unit  
15. Aren’t, colloquially  
16. Mimicked  
17. \*Like House with Oval Office  
18. \*The Hunchback’s home (2 words)  
20. Listening devices  
21. Flirtatious stares  
22. Salt, in Spanish  
23. \* \_\_\_\_ State Building  
26. TV shows, e.g.  
30. Will Ferrell’s “Funny or \_\_\_\_”  
31. Steve McQueen’s “The Great \_\_\_\_” (1963)  
34. Toss a coin  
35. \_\_\_\_ & Young financial services company  
37. Kimono tie  
38. Sweating room  
39. Short skirt  
40. Batter (2 words)  
42. Lake, in French  
43. Anise seed (1 word)  
45. \* \_\_\_\_ of Versailles or Buckingham \_\_\_\_  
47. \_\_\_\_ of war  
48. Sinbad the Sailor’s home  
50. Not good  
52. \*St. Basil’s in Moscow or St. Paul’s in London  
56. \*The Parthenon in Athens is made of this  
57. Capital of Norway  
58. Aeneas’ lover  
59. More slippery  
60. Animal protein  
61. Independent chieftain  
62. High degree  
63. TV program interruptions  
64. Retired, abbr.

**DOWN**

1. CAT or PET, e.g.  
2. \*Key Tower, tallest building in this Buck-eye state  
3. Laundry room fire hazard  
4. Type of local tax  
5. Pupa, pl.  
6. Things  
7. Give up a state  
8. Dam-like structure  
9. Not misses  
10. Football’s extra point  
12. Soup scoopers  
13. Make a solemn promise  
14. \*Burj \_\_\_\_, tallest building in the world  
19. Wading bird  
22. “Monkey \_\_\_\_, monkey do”  
23. Bodily swelling  
24. Rice wine  
25. 1/100th of Finnish markka  
26. Rotisserie skewer  
27. Spurious wing  
28. Cancer-treating machine, acr.  
29. \* \_\_\_\_ Needle, Seattle  
32. For boys and girls  
33. Lawyers’ org.  
36. \* \_\_\_\_ Chapel, Vatican City  
38. Flat replacement  
40. “\_\_\_\_, borrow or steal”  
41. Eventual outcome  
44. Leonhard \_\_\_\_, Swiss mathematician (1707-1783)  
46. Portable stairs  
48. Headquartered  
49. Road-tripping guide  
50. Carve in stone  
51. Emptiness  
52. Vegetative state  
53. Ice crystals  
54. Passage in a coal mine  
55. Voldemort’s title  
56. Small amount of drink

CROSSWORD

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HALLOWEEN Continued from Page 2

“Accommodate your child,” Whitson said. “Halloween can be scary for parents of children with food allergies but allowing them to participate in events such as trick-or-treating with their friends can still happen.

“To better accommodate them, establish ‘safe homes’ on your predetermined route by talking to friends or neighbors to see if they could have allergy-friendly or non-food treats available for your child when they come by, so they can still participate and get that classic Halloween experience,” Whitson said.

Parents could also try the following ideas:

- Consider a “trading system” with your child. This system consists of your child trading out a candy or treat they receive for safe candy or snacks, or perhaps toys, that they would typi-

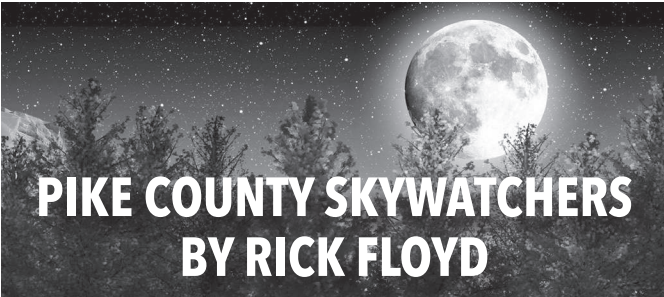
cally enjoy.

- Make Halloween about more than just candy. Brainstorm with your child about other aspects of the holiday, such as creating their costume, carving pumpkins, or planning a Halloween party with games and carefully chosen food items.

Parents should always carry epinephrine and other life-saving medications. Be sure to always have a child’s epinephrine device on hand in case of an emergency.

“Accidents happen sometimes, but being prepared can help ease tension surrounding this time, making the experience more enjoyable for everyone,” Whitson said.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit [www.uaex.uada.edu](http://www.uaex.uada.edu). You can follow the Extension Service on X and Instagram at @AR\_Extension.



The headless comet and Arcturus the ghost

The comet of recent weeks has faded from view. It never became a stand-out naked eye feature, but photo images of it abound.

So, as it says farewell for 80,000 years, another comet is approaching the Sun. It is theorized that these particular comets, called Sun grazers, are pieces of a much larger comet that disintegrated eons ago.

The second comet will pass even closer to the Sun as it goes around, and chances are good that it will fall apart. If it survives the Sun, some say it will be mostly headless -- a fitting Halloween visitor in the early morning sky this week.

Halloween night will be moonless so stars and planets will light the celestial sphere. However, rain is forecast.

Years ago, an imaginative person added a bit of astronomy to Halloween by observing that the very bright star Arcturus in the constellation Bootes sets in the northwest during Halloween season. The place where it sets is where the sun sets at Summer Solstice, so he dubbed Arcturus the “ghost of the summer sun”.

DOCKET Continued from Page 3

fined \$125; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205

Solano, Victor, 44, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Stoughton, Amber Brooke, 27, Fountain Inn, S.C., \$125 BF, improper passing

Sullins, Michael L., 56, Delight, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45

Swain, Blake Tyler, 23, Amity, \$165 BF, speeding

Tigue, Caleb Allen, 18, Glenwood, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss

Vaught, Dillon Dewayne, 28, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Vick, Jason L., 46, Amity, \$165 BF, speeding

Ward, Natasha N., 33, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325

Washington, Sheritta L., 50, Memphis, Tenn., \$170 BF, false report of log duty status

Welch, Robert W., 53, Bonnerdale, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Wesley, Annaliese Alexis, 27, Glenwood, \$125 Bf, no child re-

straint device

Whitaker, David J., 48, Norman, guilty of careless prohibited passing, fined \$125; guilty of improper lane change, fined \$125; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Whitley, Richard Wayne, 60, Hope, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125

Wood, Logan John, 26, Greenbrier, \$135 BF, speeding

Zellner, Brittany Lakyn, 31, Glenwood, \$125 BF, failure to register/expired

**CITY OF MURFREESBORO**

Baughner, Hayden Russell, 18, Murfreesboro, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225

Branch, Deborah T., 67, Murfreesboro, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$655

Clay, Lisa Marie, 36, Nashville, guilty of failure to register tags/expired; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225

Cox, Trenton C., 45, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335

Lewis, Joshua William, 34, Prescott, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Moore, Dannette L., 47, Emmet, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,880 owed, committed to jail; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225

Owens, Peyton James, 17, Glenwood, \$205 BF, speeding

Rhodes, John Welton, 62, Ashdown, \$145 BF, speeding

Stangler, Heather Gail, 46, Murfreesboro, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45

Townsend, Jason Wade, 43, Hope, \$145 BF, speeding

Tum, Van Cung, 20, Indianapolis, Ind., guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$33; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225

**ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION**

Davis, Edmund M., 52, Amity, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$190

Giles, Thomas M., 38, Keithville, La., \$220 BF, insufficient PFD; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Lancaster, Kelsey L., 42, Benton, \$220 BF, insufficient PFD; \$220 BF, insufficient PFD; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Owens, Charles J., 43, White Oak, Texas, \$870 BF, non-residential possessing residence license; \$205 BF, failure to appear

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Submitted photos/Dewayne Holloway  
Glenwood Herald

**CROSS COUNTRY ...** Rattler runners participated in the cross-country Indian Trail Run at Caddo Hills last Saturday. Ava Cox (pictured left), was 17th in the senior girl's division at 27:04, while teammate Kinleigh Mounts was the 20th finisher at 29:19. In the senior boys' division, Lucas Carey was 20th at 22:14, while Landon Jones finished 28th at 24:44. Adalyn Silva (pictured right) had the best finishing place for Murfreesboro in the junior high girls' division at 11th with a time of 15:08. Other MJHS finishers included: 34 Yoanna Gonzalez, 18:35:00, 39 Kaydence McAnelly, 19:48:00 and 47 Lily Cross, 23:38:00.



State House asks for all to spread awareness in effort to eliminate breast cancer in the future

Submitted by Arkansas House of Representatives

LITTLE ROCK -- As Breast Cancer Awareness Month continues during the month of October, it is important to reflect on the progress that has been made in the fight against breast cancer in Arkansas. The Breast Cancer Act of 1997 was a crucial step in providing women with access to life-saving screenings through the BreastCare program. Since then, over 141,850 women have received free breast and cervical cancer screenings. Despite these efforts, breast cancer continues to be a significant health concern in Arkansas. Nearly 400 women lose their

lives to breast cancer each year, and over 2680 women are diagnosed with the disease. According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, one in eight women will develop breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer for women in Arkansas and the second leading cause of cancer death for women both in Arkansas and in the United States. Early detection is key in improving survival rates, which is why regular screenings are important. The passage of Act 553 in 2021 further emphasized the importance of screening mammography for women at higher risk of breast cancer. By ensuring that insurers offer screening mam-

mograms as an essential health benefit, regardless of age, we are taking steps to improve early detection and treatment outcomes for women in Arkansas. Early detection can save lives, and the BreastCare program is here to help. For more information on eligibility and finding a provider, visit [www.ARBreastCare.com](http://www.ARBreastCare.com) or call 1-833-693-2942. As we close out Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us remember that the fight against this disease is ongoing. By spreading awareness, supporting those affected, and advocating for research, we can work towards a future where breast cancer is no longer a threat.

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