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Local Senior Center offers dressing for thanksgiving

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center will again be holding their annual Thanksgiving fundraiser.

Uncooked dressing will be sold in five pound (\$15) and 10 pound (\$30) varieties, Residents may also order uncooked rolls at \$6/ dozen.

Orders may be picked up the week of November 25. Call (870) 285-2312 to place your order.

The center will also repeat the effort in December for Christmas.

Investigation ongoing in death of Delight man

DELIGHT -- The body of a Delight man found deceased in his yard Monday, Nov. 4 has been sent to the Arkansas State Crime Lab to determine a cause of death, according to an incident report filed by Pike County Deputy Shaun Furr.

On the morning of Nov. 4, the Pike County Sheriff's Department received a call from a subject reporting they just found their neighbor, Larry Jay Alford, Jr., 55, "laying out in the yard with blood on his feet and face." Deputy Furr, Sheriff Travis Hill and Investigator Jason McDonald arrived and secured the scene at the corner of Pipkins Lane and Highway 26 in Delight.

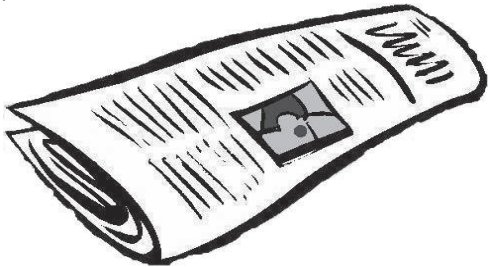
"The scene didn't appear to have involved foul play and cause of death is undetermined at this time," Furr reported.

Case postponed until 2025 for multiple violator of AGFC laws

MURFREESBORO -- A case against a Glenwood man charged with more than 30 state game violations has been postponed until next year in Pike County District Court.

Nicholas Lee Evans, 43, who resides on Ruby Lane in Glenwood, was cited with 34 misdemeanor violations on July 26 by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Officer Ethan Angel. The charges include eight counts of tagging regulations, seven counts of legal buck requirements, eight counts of game animal daily bag/possession limit, five counts of night hunting and six counts of big game checking requirements with potential fines totaling \$16,380.

Evans is being represented by attorney John B. Hurst. The case was originally set for Nov. 19 but was recently granted a continuance until Jan. 21.



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Pike County in lockstep with state on 2024 electable issues

MURFREESBORO – Election results for Pike County in the 2024 presidential election have been counted, with 67.85% of the 6,442 registered voters (4,371) casting ballots in the process of early voting and election day that was held on Tuesday, November 5.

Almost two-thirds cast their ballots in the early voting process – 3,053 – versus 1,227 county voters that waited until election day, with another 91 voters casting ballots via the absentee route and one overseas voter.

In the presidential race, 3,745 voters cast their preference for Donald Trump/J.D. Vance (85.68%) over the 560 votes for Kamala Harris/Tim Walz (12.81%). None of the other candidates for president garnered even 1% of the vote. Trump would win the statewide race with 64.23% of the vote.

Pike County also highly favored Republican Buce Westerman (3,741/85.59%) over Risie Howard (509/11.64%) in the race for Arkansas' U.S. Congress District 4. Westerman won the district race with 72.93% of the vote.

In the statewide treasurer vote, Pike County gave 83.60% (3,654) of the vote to the soon former Secretary of State John Thurston over Democratic nominee John Pagan's 11.76% (514). Thurston received 65.40% of the votes statewide to claim the race.

In the runoff for State Supreme Court Chief Justice Position 1, Pike County voters selected Karen Baker with a 57.17% rate (2,499) over her opposition Rhonda Wood's 34.93% (1,527). Baker would receive 52.68% of the vote statewide.

Much of the ballot was taken up by unopposed candidates -- including District 3 State Senator Steve Crowell, District 5 State Senator Terry Rice and District 89 State Representative Justin Gonzales, who all inexplicably won their races.

In local municipal races, the Delight City Council will see a pair of new faces in 2025 as Ty Sherrod defeated Jimmy Williams 58-39 for Valerie Wingfield's number Two vacated position, while Brandi Rowton Martin won over incumbent Chris Goodson 55-41 for Position Three.

In Glenwood, Jimmy Clark defeated Rickey Lee Driggers 351-275 for the North Ward Position One Alderman seat on the city council.

Eligible Murfreesboro residents narrowly re-elected incumbent Lewis Gills to the South Ward Position One seat on the city council

overt challenger Danny Eckert 275-256.

In the statewide referendums on constitutional amendments, Pike County was heavily for Issue One (86.91%) and to a lesser degree Issue Two (57.93%).

Statewide, voters went the same direction as Pike County, with 89.54% of the electorate passing Issue One – that allows for lottery derived scholarships to be used at vocational schools and 55.78% voting in favor of Issue Two, the amendment requiring local voter approval in a countywide special election for certain new casino licenses and repealing authority to issue a casino license in Pope County, Arkansas.

"It is clear voters have demanded new leadership in the Senate and a return to the agenda President Trump has fiercely championed. I look forward to helping the president-elect and this incoming Republican Senate majority restore prosperity, border security and public safety. The Senate Agriculture Committee will refocus on strengthening our rural communities and we will provide farmers and ranchers the policies and support they desperately need to remain viable," said U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-AR) after the election.

Rattlers get stung to close regular season

After losing to Hornets, team must regroup this week to face Marked Tree in playoffs

The Murfreesboro Rattlers (7-3, 6-1) unceremoniously ended the 2024 regular season with a 52-36 loss at the hands of the visiting Mineral Springs Hornets (6-4, 5-2).

Rattler head coach Brad Chesshir, visibly annoyed, took credit for the defeat, stating that the team was "obviously not ready to play" and issued an apology to the community for the effort.

"[Mineral Springs] came out and played their best game all year – so full credit to them. We just didn't play as hard and come out ready to play. Full credit to them for their efforts and what they were able to do. We were not mentally prepared for that game, and that's 100% on me."

Chesshir said there was little for MHS to take away from the game, other than the fact that they can be bested if they don't bring maximum effort.

The Rattlers trailed 22-6 at half and both teams traded scores late in the fourth to balloon the final score.

Senior QB Laytan Wilcher rushed for 128 yards and a pair of scores on 12 attempts, but was 2/11 for 15 yards passing on the night.

Alex Parker had 56 yards on two rushes, while Brody Maroon tallied 37 yards and a TD on 11 attempts.

Backup QB Kooper Caldwell was 5/87 for 86 yards and two touchdowns.

Kale Burns led the receivers with four catches for 82 yards and two touchdowns.

On defense, Bubba Stinson and Lathan Compton each tallying 13 tackles. Caden Dixon and Maroon each had 10 tackles, with the former also recording three pass breakups.

"We have to use this as an opportunity to learn and grow ... obviously we now know we can be beat if we don't do every little thing right. We are in the playoffs now, so it's do-or-die, win-or-go-home. You just don't have an option but to go prepare the right way every single day. So, that's what we are doing as coaches and players and see where this thing goes," Chesshir said.

Chesshir said the film study last Friday highlighted a lot of bad and negative, but the team has "moved on and don't let it happen again ... be better focused and prepared this week."

Despite the loss, the Rattlers still reign as the 3-2A conference champions in 2024.

This week the Rattlers will host the number four seed from 2-2A, Marked Tree (7-4, 4-3) in the first round of the state playoffs. Marked Tree provided the Rattlers with their only loss in 2023 with their second round upset of the Rattlers in last season's playoffs.

Chesshir said he was excited about the opportunity to exact a little retribution.

"I wouldn't want it any other way [than Marked Tree], this is an opportunity for our kids to exact a little revenge in a payback game. If you can't get excited about that, something's wrong."

Chesshir said last year's game was marred with many of MHS' players exhibiting flu symptoms all week.

"We weren't 100% healthy, and we had the right there on the ropes in the third quarter and then just couldn't finish and let it slip away. We have an opportunity to go get back what we



HOSTING THE HORNETS ... (Above) A pair of Rattlers, including Cameron Stevens (1) look to tackle Mineral Springs QB Evan Erwin as he scrambles downfield, while (below) Rattler QB Laytan Wilcher (13) looks to deliver a pass down field.



lost last year, and that's what we are going to try to do."

He said the Indians return a number of starters from last year's squad, including quarterback Kenyon Carter and sophomore running back T.J. Hodges, who has received a scholarship offer from the University of Arkansas.

Chesshir said Carter was "very good on his feet and can find open receivers if you are not able to pressure him."

Marked Tree also has receivers that "can beat you over the top if you're not disciplined fun-

damentally with technique."

Chesshir said the Indian offensive was not the largest they had seen, outside tight end Jonah Walker, who wolehogsports.com lists as 6'6" and 270 pounds.

"He's one of the biggest kids in 2A football," Chesshir stated.

Chesshir said Marked Tree has a good running game, however Hodges reportedly may or may not be available in the game from an

RATTLERS Continued on Page 2



4-H Community Service Project

Diamond City 4-H Group will be collecting items such as socks, gloves, flashlights, chap stick, soap, razors, shaving cream, hats, tissues (any size), baby wipes, canned food, & snacks (nuts, candy, jerky) for our veterans! We will be making baskets and delivering them before Christmas!!!!



You can drop off these items at the Pike County Extension Office now through December 1st!!

For more information contact Shannon Ballard @ 870-285-2161 or 870-200-2419.



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RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

injury.

“I don’t know his status, but they have the number one running back in 2A football, and one of the top recruits in the state. He went down a week ago, and everyone says he’s not going to play, but if he does play we have to be ready. He’s very good.”

Chesshir said the Indians led the “very tough” 2-2A conference in points per game, with 36.5 points per game over the course of the season.

The Marked Tree defense had surrendered an average of 29.4 points per game this season.

“All four playoff teams from that conference are good teams, and this is a four seed team that could easily be a one seed in another conference. They had some injuries early in the year that hurt them, but offensively they are explosive.”

Chesshir said the Rattlers will have to play top-notch defense this week in order to advance.

“We have to be in attack mode this week, more than we ever have been. We have to go get it.”

Defensively, he said the Indians would load the box, so in response the Rattlers would have to be disciplined with multiple formations.

“They have given up some points this year, so we have to take advantage with that. I think we will have an opportunity to move the football a bit – especially in the run game – if we will just stay on blocks. They are solid, this is the best four-seeded team in the bracket, so we will have to play our best game. We are at a point where there is not other choice and you are expected to ... from here on out, you have to play some really good football. There is no room for error, no room for mental mistakes, you just have to go play really good football.”

The head Rattler added he had watched more film than ever in his life.

“I want to win this game so bad,” he said with clenched teeth, remarking he was also hoping for a rematch with Mineral Springs in the championship game.

Almost in the same breath, Chesshir reminded to enjoy the moment.

“You have to enjoy every moment you can, you never know if this will be the last one or not – you don’t want it to be, but you have to enjoy every single minute of practice, film or weights, whatever it may be, especially with these seniors, because it could be you last week with these kids forever. We can’t take anything that we do for granted and enjoy it all.”


A prep-rally bonfire will be set for 6 p.m. this Thursday night outside the activity center.

On Friday before the kickoff at 7 p.m. the school will host a community tailgate party at 4:45 p.m. that will coincide with “Rattler Walk to the Rock” at 5 p.m.




2024 Arkansas Centennial Bank State Football Playoffs - 2A

First Round Nov. 15	Second Round Nov. 22	Semi Final Round Nov. 29	Championship Round Dec. 6
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>1st 3 Murfreesboro</div> <div>4th 2 Marked Tree</div> <div>Game 1</div>	<div>NOV 22 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 9</div>	<div>NOV 29 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 13</div>	<div>DEC 6 - 12:00 PM</div> <div>Game 15</div>
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>2nd 4 Bearden</div> <div>3rd 1 Mount Ida</div> <div>Game 2</div>	<div>NOV 22 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 10</div>	<div>NOV 29 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 14</div>	
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>1st 2 East Poinsett County</div> <div>4th 3 Gurdon</div> <div>Game 3</div>	<div>NOV 22 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 11</div>		
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>2nd 1 Bigelow</div> <div>3rd 4 Poyen</div> <div>Game 4</div>	<div>NOV 22 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>Game 12</div>		
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>1st 1 Conway Christian</div> <div>4th 4 Hazen</div> <div>Game 5</div>			
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>2nd 2 Des Arc</div> <div>3rd 3 Mineral Springs</div> <div>Game 6</div>			
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>1st 4 Carlisle</div> <div>4th 1 Hector</div> <div>Game 7</div>			
<div>NOV 15 - 7:00 PM</div> <div>2nd 3 Junction City</div> <div>3rd 2 Cross County</div> <div>Game 8</div>			

 The home team will be the higher seeded team or the top team on the bracket when both have the same seed. All play-off games will begin at 7.

Graphic provided by the Arkansas Activities Association www.ahsaa.org



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• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor
• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,
418 North Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR
The *Murfreesboro Diamond* (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.
Subscription Rates: \$40 per year in area: *Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties;* \$55 per year elsewhere.
\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.
College Subscriptions- \$25 for 9-months.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
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Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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Staff Photos

SALUTING THE VETS ... At the Veterans Day assembly held at the senior adult center in Murfreesboro on Monday, third and fourth graders from Murfreesboro Elementary performed a patriotic musical number after handing out hand crafted notes that they personally delivered to the veterans in attendance. Also as part of the festivities, Mrs. Ashbrooks' class at MES created the centerpieces that were placed on the tables. After the event, the veterans were able to take them home as a parting gift. The event was hosted by the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce.

Celebrate Veterans Day every day of the year

BY JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Veterans Day is a special time to remember and honor the sacrifices of the patriotic men and women who have answered the call to serve. We can never fully repay our former servicemen and women who followed the path to protect and defend our country and freedoms, but we can ensure America fulfills the promises we made to support them.

That is not an option, but a responsibility. My dad was a World War II veteran who served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. I think of him, my uncle and those they served alongside as I work with my Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee colleagues, in a bipartisan way, to do what is best for our veterans and support the needs of their families. With this unifying goal, we strive to improve the policies and programs

that can help our veterans and their families thrive. In recent years, we have seen movement in the right direction. Congress has successfully expanded health care benefits while eliminating barriers to care and services for women veterans at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. Additionally, we have modernized the VA's breast cancer screening policies. Increasing access to its unique capabilities and resources will help deliver lifesaving and preventative care to our women who served. I have been proud to champion these improvements that were long overdue.

Veterans suffering with toxic exposure illnesses sustained during their military services are now benefiting from a landmark proposal that became law in 2022, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The bill, which extended eligibility for more toxic-exposed veterans to qualify for VA healthcare and benefits, has enabled thousands of veterans across our state and many more nationwide to the healthcare and support they are owed. Ensuring our veterans receive mental health support has also been a high priority. While there is no single solution to the veteran suicide crisis, I have authored several major reforms that aim to prevent and reduce veteran suicide through data-driven policy decisions. The Improve Well-being for Veterans Act is now empowering veteran-serving nonprofits to provide even more direct support to vulnerable former servicemembers, and the Not Just a Number Act would modernize how the VA can better reach and serve those struggling.

In order for it to be effective, the Department must have the workforce and bandwidth to meet this responsibility. Our veterans deserve the best care from the best medical professionals possible, which is why I'm leading a bipartisan effort to bolster the recruitment and retention of excellent clinicians who can provide the highest quality of care. The VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion, and Retention Support (CAREERS) Act helps level the playing field for it to compete for the best and brightest doctors to serve those who have worn our nation's uniform.

As kids, my friends and I were surrounded by men who had served in the armed forces. Whenever they were asked to stand and be recognized, it seemed like the whole room would rise. Today, we know the burden of defending our country is increasingly borne by a limited number of Americans – but these brave men and women, past and present, always deserve our thanks and admiration.

While Veterans Day was celebrated on November 11, as a nation, let us all demonstrate our appreciation for their service and sacrifice each and every day of the year.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: What is rheumatic fever?

A: Rheumatic fever is an autoimmune condition, which can affect the brain, heart, joints and skin. Also referred to as acute rheumatic fever, it develops when either scarlet fever or strep throat goes untreated, and the immune system overreacts. Rheumatic fever can be life-threatening without proper care.

Both scarlet fever and strep throat are bacterial infections. If these conditions are not treated, the immune system may attack the body's tissues and cause swelling and inflammation. Rheumatic fever is a rare condition since scarlet fever and strep throat normally receive treatment. It mostly affects children between the ages of 5 and 15. Those with weakened immune systems or who have a family history of rheumatic fever

are also more at risk. The condition is not contagious, although scarlet fever and strep throat are.

Symptoms of rheumatic fever include chest pain, fatigue, fever, rash, and swollen and painful joints. Headaches, muscle aches and small bumps under the skin may also be present.

Antibiotics for the bacterial infection is normally the first step in treating rheumatic fever. Anti-inflammatory medications are used to reduce pain and swelling. Contact your health care provider if you experience symptoms, particularly if you've recently had scarlet fever or strep throat.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Obituaries

Larry Jay Alford Jr., 55, Delight

Larry Jay Alford Jr., age 55, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Monday, November 4, 2024, in Delight, Arkansas. He was born May 7, 1969, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the son of Larry Alford Sr. and Mary Wasko.

Mr. Alford worked for many years in construction remodeling homes. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved being outside and enjoyed fishing.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather J.W. Alford and his grandmother Norene Alford who preceded him on October 5, 2024.

Survivors include his aunt Deborah Alford, two brothers Ryan Alford (Tina), Jason Richardson, as well as several other relatives and friends.

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

Billy Don Theron Womack, 87, Nashville

Billy Don Theron Womack, age 87, passed away Friday, November 8, 2024 with his loving family by his side, due to lengthy illness.

Bill, was born February 11, 1937 to Theron and Gertie (Hignight) Womack in Amity, Arkansas. He was a member of the Sunset Church of Christ, a Veteran of the United States Air Force, and owner of Womack Backhoe, Sand & Gravel.

He was preceded in death by his sister Leta Fay Purdy and Perlie Mae Jackson.

He is survived by his loving wife Patricia (Pat) of Nashville, AR; a daughter Leigh Angela Wilson and husband Jerry of Nashville, AR; granddaughter Katherine Maries Sipes and husband Michael of Benton, AR; Dakota and Garrette both of Benton, AR; one brother James Henry Womack and wife Anna Laura of Maritaca GA; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were Monday, November 11, at Pleasant Home Cemetery, with Karon Baxley and Dr. Glen Lance officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

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24-25 RATTLER BASKETBALL

DATE	PLACE	TEAMS	START TIME
Nov. 18/20-21/23at Nashville Jr Tournament.....	JG/JBTBA
Nov 19	.....vs Magnet Cove.....	7G/JG/SG	.....5:00 p.m.
Dec 2, 4-5	.....at Magnet Cove SB Classic.....	SB	.....TBA
Dec. 3	.....vs Umpire.....	JG/JB/SG/SB	.....5:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	.....vs Spring Hill*	7B/JG/SG/SB	.....5:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	.....at Horatio*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	.....vs Hampton.....	JB/SG/SB	.....5:00 p.m.
Dec. 13	.....at Foreman*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	.....M’boro 7th Jamboree.....	7G/7B	.....TBA
Dec. 16	.....vs Gurdon.....	SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	.....vs Mt. Pine*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Dec. 28/30, Jan. 2/4	.....at Min Springs Tournament.....	SB/SG	.....TBA
Jan. 3	.....at Hampton.....	SG/SB	.....5:00 p.m.
Jan. 7	.....vs Cutter Morning Star*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	.....vs Prescott	7G/7B/JG/JB.....	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	.....vs Caddo Hill*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11/15/16/18	.....at Umpire Junior Tournament.....	JB/JG	.....TBA
Jan. 14	.....at Dierks*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	.....at Spring Hill*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	.....vs Horatio*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	.....at Prescott.....	SG/SB	.....5:00 p.m.
Jan. 24	.....vs Foreman*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	.....Mboro 7th Jamboree.....	7G/7B	.....TBA
Jan. 27	.....Make Up Conf Night*	TBA	.....TBA
Jan. 28	.....at Mt Pine*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	.....vs Ashdown	7G/7B/JG/JB.....	5 p.m.
Jan. 31	.....at Cutter Morning Star*	JG/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	.....vs Lafayette County.....	JG/SG/SB	.....5 p.m.
Feb. 4	.....at Caddo Hill*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	.....vs Dierks*	JB/SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Feb. 10-15	.....at Jr Dist Tourney, Horatio	JG/JB	.....TBA
Feb. 11	.....vs Mount Ita **	SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	.....at Kirby.....	SG/SB	.....5:30 p.m.
Feb. 17-22	.....at Sr Dist. Tourney, M’boro.....	SG/SB	.....TBA
Feb. 26-March 1	.....Regional Touney.....	TBA	.....TBA
March 4-8	.....State Tournament.....	TBA	.....TBA

SEE NEXT WEEK’S DIAMOND FOR THE LADY RATTLER PREVIEW STORY

THE MURFREESBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WILL HOST A CHAMBER COFFEE EVENT FOR
DR. RHODES AT MURFREESBORO DENTAL CARE ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14 FROM 11 A.M.-1 P.M.
***THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND HELP
WELCOME THE COMMUNITY’S NEW DENTIST***

Holiday craft fair set
for this week in M’boro

MURFREESBORO – The Murfreesboro Holiday Craft Fair will encompass two buildings this year.
Slated for Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the effort will spread from the Murfreesboro Municipal Building’s community room at 204 East Main Street to the Senior Center across the street at 120 Court Street. This will allow for the effort to showcase 30 vendors.
Parking for the event will be in the senior center parking lot located between the two venues, allowing access to both.
Vendors will be offering for sale such wares as Christmas and home décor, ornaments, yard decorations, wood products, jewelry, clothing, toys, body products and candles. Additionally, food items such as homemade bread, fried pies, cakes/ cupcakes, cookies, macarons, jams/ jellies, honey, pickles, freeze dried candy, pecan and more will be available at the event.
Two door prizes will be given out following the event -- \$25 gift cards to Texas Roadhouse. Attendees to the event may register at both the municipal building and the senior center by filling out a slip. Participants need not be present at the time of the drawing to win.
“All items are handmade, baked or grown locally,” Cox said of the vendors attending the event. “Please help make Murfreesboro’s craft sale a huge success for our vendors.”

Pike County 4-H

Chili & Chill

4-H Fall Bash

CONTESTS-FOOD-FUN

November 16, 2024

Chili Cookoff, Baked Goods Contest, Cornhole Tournament, Face Painting, Vendors, Silent Auction, Games, Awesome Prizes and More!!!

Watch the Arkansas vs Texas Game with us!!

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Vendor Booths:
\$20 10x10

Where:
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For more information or to sign up contact the Pike County Extension Office at:
(870)285-2161

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161 as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

TAKE HEED
HOW YOU HEAR

The many different attitudes of the people who heard Jesus during his personal ministry were manifested not only by what they said but by how they listened. The parable of the sower reveals that our receptivity to the truth will determine how much the truth blesses us. God’s good news is meant to bring us to a state of blessedness we cannot attain through any other means. The warning comes: “be careful how you hear.” Two souls who hear the same gospel message can receive two different results. One hears and gladly receives the word. He obeys from the heart that form of doctrine he has received. His sins are forgiven by the blood of Christ because he was moved by faith in his



Savior. Another hears and the message is mixed with doctrines and opinions of men. He is lost and remains lost. The problem for him is that he thinks he has obeyed the Lord and has not. He is not able to see that he is following his own stubborn will. It seems right to him, but he is only justified in his own eyes. Satan has been able to deceive this man’s mind to the point that he equates his religious opinions and experiences with

the will of God. He has done what is right in his own eyes. Submission to God’s will has not taken place and never will because he has heard what he wanted to hear. The truth always contradicts the feelings, desires and human ideas of what makes a man righteous in God’s sight. Isaiah 55:8-9 says: For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Be careful how you hear. Be sure your heart is open to the Lord’s saving grace.
Have a great week, and let us all take heed to God’s word and to His will for our lives!

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SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Breakfast: Mini glazed donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Popcorn chicken, 7-12 chicken fried steak w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, diced peas & carrots, whole grain roll, mixed fruit, milk
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, 7-12 big daddy cheese pizza, salad, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, applesauce, milk
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Meatball sub w/ cheese, french fries,

baked beans, pineapple, milk
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread stuffing, whole grain roll, peaches, milk
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: BBQ rib sandwich, pinto beans, cole slaw, 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*

MURFREESBORO CADC SENIOR LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Chicken Alfredo, buttered noodles, steamed broccoli, garlic breadstick, sidekick ice fruit cup
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Hamburger steak, brown gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, cornbread, banana

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Chicken & dumplings, salad/ dressing, roll, salted caramel apple crisp

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Transportation available

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- Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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Facts About The **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

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A VILLAINOUS OPPONENT!

GESHEM WAS AN ARABIAN AND ONE OF THE MOST VOCIFEROUS AND ACTIVE OPPONENTS OF THE JEWS, AFTER THEIR RETURN TO JERUSALEM FROM CAPTIVITY! HE NOT ONLY OPENLY RIDICULED THE PROPOSAL OF NEHEMIAH TO REBUILD THE RUINED WALLS OF JERUSALEM BUT ACTED AS IF IT WAS REBELLION ON NEHEMIAH’S PART TO DO SO — AS IF NEHEMIAH DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO! (NEH. 2:19) NOT FINDING ANY SUCCESS IN DETERRING THE JEWS BY THIS MEANS, GESHEM THEN JOINED WITH OTHERS IN PLOTTING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST NEHEMIAH — IF NOT ACTUAL MURDER AGAINST THIS LEADER OF THE JEWS!

FAILING IN THIS PURPOSE ALSO, HE CIRCULATED THE REPORT, FAR AND WIDE, THAT NEHEMIAH WAS ACTUALLY FORTIFYING THE CITY PREPARATORY TO REBELLING AGAINST PERSIA AND PROCLAIMING HIMSELF KING! (NEH. 6:1 SEQ.) BUT NO MATTER HOW HE PLOTTED AND PLANNED, GESHEM’S EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN — AS THE STORY IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH SO FORCEFULLY BRINGS OUT!!

286

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK.

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of Christ

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This Sunday!

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SEE INCLUDED?

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mdiamond@windstream.net

THANKSGIVING
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. As opposed to Ave.
 - 5. *Male turkey
 - 8. *The National ____ Show
 - 11. Suggestive look
 - 12. Transversus abdominis location
 - 13. Milan's La ____ opera house
 - 15. Curved molding
 - 16. Welcoming sign
 - 17. Crossword entries
 - 18. *Skillet-cooked batter
 - 20. Bristles on grass
 - 21. Talked like a pigeon
 - 22. Scepter's partner
 - 23. A way to steal gas
 - 26. With two maxima, in statistics
 - 30. All Nippon Airways
 - 31. Tip of lion's tail
 - 34. Body, breath and mind workout
 - 35. Garments
 - 37. Singer Benatar
 - 38. Unethical loaner's practice
 - 39. Copycat
 - 40. *Pie nuts
 - 42. Honey maker
 - 43. Like Old Glory
 - 45. Time for an egg hunt
 - 47. "As if"
 - 48. Battle of the ____, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive
 - 50. Moldy appetizer
 - 52. *Green bean ____
 - 56. *Thanksgiving football regulars
 - 57. Cream-filled cookie
 - 58. Chieftain in Arabia
 - 59. Poem at a funeral
 - 60. Of two minds
 - 61. Not ever, poetically
 - 62. Oui in French
 - 63. Ensign, for short

- 64. Make them meet
- DOWN
- 1. Coalition
 - 2. Emmet Brickowski's brick
 - 3. Zig or zag
 - 4. Make wet
 - 5. Safari hat
 - 6. Mountain nymph
 - 7. "Cobbler, cobbler, ____ my shoe"
 - 8. Repair a sock
 - 9. Cutlass or Delta 88, for short
 - 10. "Now we're cooking with ____"
 - 12. "La cerveza m s fina"
 - 13. Bunch of #42 Across
 - 14. *Football regulars on Thanksgiving
 - 19. They're made for walking
 - 22. Tin Man's remedy
 - 23. "The Forsyte ____, " pl.
 - 24. Not suitable in certain circumstances
 - 25. Fruit-cutting device
 - 26. 2nd letter of Greek alphabet
 - 27. Skeptic's MO
 - 28. Come to terms
 - 29. Extra sweatshirt, e.g.
 - 32. Hightailed it
 - 33. Cul de ____
 - 36. *Prepping a turkey
 - 38. Cell phone bill item
 - 40. Teacher's favorite student
 - 41. Infamous Baby Face
 - 44. Verse
 - 46. Tranquil
 - 48. Noble one
 - 49. Internet patrons
 - 50. Digestive aid
 - 51. Fish eggs, pl.
 - 52. ____ d'Ivoire
 - 53. Bad luck predictor
 - 54. What Pinocchio did
 - 55. Makes mistakes
 - 56. Bovine hangout

CROSSWORD

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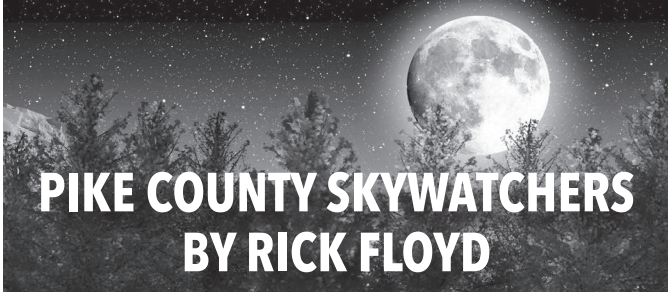
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Staff Photo

MEETING OF THE MINDS ... (Pictured L to R) Rodney Fagan, former Murfreesboro Mayor; Larry Dunaway, Nashville Mayor; Jim O'Neal, Murfreesboro Mayor; John Boozman, Arkansas U.S. Senator; Eddie Howard, Pike County Judge; Brent Pinkerton, Howard County Judge. Local elected representatives recently met with Boozman at Telinga's Mexican Restaurant in Murfreesboro to discuss local issues. O'Neal said he discussed the state of the local senior citizens' centers in Pike County and the need to guarantee the continuance of the meals on wheel program. "In some cases, not only is it the only meal a homebound senior may get, it could be the only person they see that day," said O'Neal. Other topics discussed included the resurrection of the railroad line in northern Pike County, the loss of Husqvarna in Nashville and the survival of rural volunteer fire departments. "It's an issue, because recent possible legislation could have severely affected them. Many of them are isolated away from a medical care center, so the need for them to act as first responders and have good equipment is really important." O'Neal said the group also discussed the state of the federal government and the then upcoming federal election for President, as well as Arkansas football program, of which Boozman was a former player.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Beaver Moon this week

The full Moon in November will occur on Friday the 15th, and is called the Beaver Moon. It is named after beavers because at this time of year, they become active building their winter dams. Beavers are mainly nocturnal, so the moonlight helps illuminate their work. Smart.

Native Americans have various names for this month's full Moon including Frost Moon, Freezing Moon, and Trading Moon.

Again, for the fourth consecutive time this year November presents a moon in perigee, a supermoon. The elliptical orbit of the Moon means that it is at different distances from Earth each month, so it is a bit rare to have four perigee full moons in a row. On average, the moon is about 238,000 miles away.

The Moon at perigee is about 14 % brighter and 30% larger than when it is farthest from Earth, at apogee.

One way to remember which is which is to, first, remember the words, then use the "a" of apogee to help you remember that this is the "away" Moon.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the date!!
47th ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT AND GIFT SALE!
Nov. 22nd, 11am-6 pm, and Nov 23rd, 9am to 4 pm. Jacksonville Community Center. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 children age 12-18, OR bring an unopened toy. Over 80 vendors with unique crafts and gift items! Concessions available, handicapped accessible.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 17 -- First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro will host Chuck Crain in concert this Sunday, Nov. 17 at 10:45 a.m. Admission to the event is free of charge, with love offerings collected.

EMAIL YOUR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO
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Open Enrollment Period
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REPRESENTING PIKE COUNTY ... Arkansas Farm Bureau delegates, including Murfreesboro's David Terrell, participated Nov. 6-7 in the Arkansas Farm Bureau resolutions committee meeting held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The committee spent two days reviewing, deliberating and consolidating policy topics ranging from broadband access and agricultural tax exemptions to H-2A labor and animal health. Those recommendations will now be considered by voting delegates at the 90th annual Arkansas Farm Bureau Convention, which will be Dec. 4-6.



FIRST DEER ... Murfreesboro student Graisyn Roberts, age 12, shot her first deer -- a nine point -- last Sunday evening.



CELEBRATED 100TH BIRTHDAY ... Zenobia Craig of Delight celebrated her century of birthdays with friends and family on November 3 at the Delight Church of Christ Fellowship Building.

Delight residents named to Century Farm program

LITTLE ROCK -- Last week Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders was joined by Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward to induct 41 farms into the Arkansas Century Farm Program, including the Kirkham Farm of Delight in Pike County.

The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farms of 10 acres or more owned by the same family for at least 100 years. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture established the program in 2012 to highlight these families' contributions to the agriculture industry and our state. The program is voluntary, and there is no cost for participating families.

Agriculture is the largest industry in Arkansas and contributes more than \$24.3 billion to the state's economy annually. Arkansas has 38,000 farms, and 95 percent are family-owned.

"Our family farmers are the backbone of our state and that's especially true for our Century Farm families," said Governor Sanders. "We often talk about farming in terms of economics, which is absolutely critical and very important considering it's one of Arkansas' largest industries. But the importance of farming goes much deeper than that. It's part of our heritage. It's part of our history and it's part of our basic survival. Thank you for keeping our country fed, our state growing and our communities strong."

"The Arkansas Century Farm Program exists to recognize and honor the Arkansas farm families that, for generations, have dedicated their lives to serving others and providing the food, fiber, fuel, and shelter that we all depend on every single day of our lives," said Secretary Ward.

With the addition of today's inductees, there are 645 Arkansas Century Farms throughout the state. The 41 newly inducted farms are located in the following counties: Arkansas, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Clay, Columbia, Conway, Craighead, Cross, Desha, Franklin, Howard, Independence, Izard, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Logan, Madison, Marion, Mississippi, Ouachita, Pike, Poinsett, Polk, Prairie, Pulaski, Searcy, Union, Van Buren, and White.

Applications for the 2025 class of inductees will open in February 2025 and close in May 2025. More information on the program and previous inductees can be found on the Department's website at <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-services/arkansas-century-farm-program/>.



CENTURY FARM ... The Kirkham family farm of Delight, established in 1898, was recently honored at an event in Little Rock that saw qualifying farms inducted into the program for 2024. Pictured (L to R) is State Representative Justin Gonzalez, Seth Kirkham, Curtis Kirkham Jr, Cameron Lane, Camri Kirkham Lane, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Zane Kirkham, Jim Kirkham, Estrella Kirkham, Judah Kirkham, Chandra Kirkham, Donovan Kirkham, River Kirkham, Katelyn Kirkham and Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward.

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



A POSITIVE FLAG IN FOOTBALL ... Addison Countryman showed off her skills during a recent game as part of the Murfreesboro Marching Band's Color Guard. Local residents have the opportunity to attend the playoff game against Marked Tree at Rattler Stadium this Friday night at 7 p.m. to see Countryman and the band perform their halftime routine.



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