

The Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
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Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
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See Pages 4-7 for the 2024 Letters to Santa from area children

M'boro Church to host Christmas Eve services

MURFREESBORO -- The First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro will host a Christmas Eve "Carols & Candlelight" service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, starting at 9 p.m. The public is invited to come and take part in this special fellowship.

Begin new year with a First Day Hike at Crater

Participants can earn sticker

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas State Parks provide an opportunity to commemorate the new year outdoors with First Day Hikes on Jan. 1, 2025.

"Visiting a state park and participating in First Day Hikes is a special way to start off a new year in a healthy direction," said Shea Lewis, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and director of Arkansas State Parks. "Our state parks offer year-round recreation and are an avenue for people to experience the outdoors and foster respect and stewardship for nature."

First Day Hikes have been a statewide event for Arkansas State Parks since 2014 and have become an annual tradition for many. Some return to the same park each year while others seek out a new park experience to try out for it. The project is part of a nationwide event for all of America's State Parks and is coordinated by the National Association of State Park Directors.

"State parks offer an incredible variety of outdoor experiences, showcasing the unique natural and cultural features of each region," said Lewis Ledford, President and CEO of the National Association of State Park Directors. "Whether you're trekking through snowy trails in the Rockies or enjoying mild southern breezes, First Day Hikes are the perfect way to start the New Year outdoors and connect with the beauty of our public lands."

This year there are more than 1,000 hikes available in state parks around the country.

As part of First Day Hikes in Arkansas, 46 ranger-led, guided hikes take place in 36 Arkansas State Park locations on Jan. 1. The hike start times, terrain difficulty and distances vary, but the aim is the same: to enjoy time outside with family and friends.

"We are thrilled that the First Day Hikes event has grown into such a special tradition for so many people," said Kelly Farrell, chief of interpretation and program services for the Division of Arkansas State Parks. "This year, we are excited to continue with this national event taking place in 50 state park systems. We hope you enjoy starting 2025 outdoors, kicking off the new year with a healthy, invigorating activity and fun memories. Whether you go a quarter mile or a dozen, you are part of the First Day Hikes movement and part of something huge and exciting."

A rundown of guided First Day Hikes at Arkansas State Parks can be found at www.arkansasstateparks.com/events. Self-guided hikes are also being encouraged as part of the event during "New Year Week," Dec. 28-Jan. 5. Participants in First Day Hikes can also mark the occasion with a free "Hike Arkansas State Parks" sticker. You can receive one at the guided hike program you attend or, if going the self-guided route, by logging your hike into an

FIRST HIKE Continued on Page 2

Library to hold new hours in 2025

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro branch of the Pike County Library system has announced new working hours that will start beginning in January 2025.

The library will then open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. The new lunch hour will be from 12-1 p.m.



Staff photo

NOW THEY ARE OFFICIAL IN 2025 ... Members of the Pike County Court, outside the recently elected Randy Lamb, were sworn into office for the newest term beginning in 2025 by Pike County Judge Eddie Howard at the Pike County Quorum Court meeting last week.

Quorum Court passes budget, discusses future of former hospital

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court was told that they needed their future plans for the former Pike County Hospital on record for future grant possibilities.

As such, it is now on record that if they can acquire the funds to tear it down, they will.

Justice of the Peace Paul Baker inquired if any grants were available for demolition. Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said there was, but it was highly competitive and comes with up to a \$500,000 award.

He also noted that the grant to remove the asbestos from the building that was previously awarded the county was in action and that tests had been sent off for lab results prior to the actual work of removing the carcinogenic substance from the structure.

While the court ultimately agreed that removal of the building was the best option, Baker voiced the regret that it ultimately had to come to that.

"It's a shame that it can't be turned into something," Howard agreed, but noted the age of the building was an issue in his professional opinion.

"You can spend a lot of money on a 60-year-old building and still have a 60-year-old building," He added that the removal of the building would open up a piece of real estate in Murfreesboro.



Submitted photo/Codie McAlister

LEADING THE PLEDGE ... Brothers and 4-H members Sebastian, Phineas, Tobias, and Lyzander Doyle led the Pledge of Alliegeance at the Pike County Quorum Court last week.

The ordinance also allows for the collection of .0005 mills on real and personal property on a voluntary basis for the Pike County Conservation District.

Ordinance number 2024-12 allows the county to purchase items or services in calendar year 2025 from people with direct ties to the government of Pike County, including:

- Howard Building and Supply (owned by Pike County Judge Howard), up to \$10,000.
- John Plyler's Home Center (owned by Justice of the Peace John Plyler), up to \$10,000.
- Farm and Ranch Feed (owned by Dana Cowart, sister of Clerk Randee Edwards), up to \$10,000
- Doyle Howard Construction (owned by Scott Howard, brother of Judge Howard), may bid on Pike County Construction Projects without bias
- Epperly Graphics (owned by Kelly Epperly, a PCSO dispatcher), the only county business that offers embroidery services

Plyler and Robbie Crocker abstained from the vote that approved the measure.

The court also passed a measure that will establish a mandatory direct deposit system for all county employees. It will mandate that all employees have a checking account at a bank or credit union.

Pike County Treasurer Loletia Rather said that payments would have to be at financial institutions by 2 p.m. on Wednesday for a Thursday payment and that it was planned that the January 2, 2025 be the first exercise of the new procedure.

She added that besides saving the county money, it was also a security measure to not have paper checks floating about.

Plyler, denoting he was for the measure (and indeed voted for it), sardonically noted that it was yet another step toward a cashless society.

The court also approved the 2025 budget that totals just shy of \$10 million dollars.

Highlights included 27 payrolls in 2025 instead of 26 (happens every seven years), a five-percent raise for elected officials and full-time employees (matches 2024), part-time and certified employees receive a 50-cent per hour raise, the worker's comp modifier raises from 1.02 to 1.40 due to the number of claims in 2024, two new patrol cars for the Pike County Sheriff's Office, new server costs to be split between the Pike County Collector's and Assessor's offices, and the Assessor office's travel budget has been aligned with the other county offices.

Additionally, Pike County will take over all Glenwood District Court and Glenwood will reimburse Pike County 25% of the operational costs (approximately \$20,000/year). The District Judge's salary will be split between Pike and Howard Counties (\$29,325 each), the City of Glenwood (\$4,398.75) and the City of Murfreesboro (\$4,985.25).

Changes were also added to the Pike County Personnel Handbook which included a mandate that time off – outside sick leave – first utilize accrued comp time before vacation time, defining sick leave and its allowance more directly, and a mandate that same sex (but not opposing sexes) department members traveling for training stay in a shared room (up to \$150/night).

Copies of both the budget and personnel handbooks are available to the public for copying and inspection at the Pike County Clerk's office in Murfreesboro during regular business hours Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Meeting dates for the Quorum Court in 2025 are:

- Tuesday, Jan 21, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m.
- Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.
- Monday, April 21, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.
- Monday, June 16, 7 p.m.
- Monday, July 21, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

Through the close of November, Rather reported the following opening/closings for county accounts:

County General	-- \$1,389,728.57 / \$1,415,447.45
County Road	-- \$1,009,352.95 / \$699,847.43
County Landfill	-- \$879,770.40 / \$900,695.38
All County Accounts	-- \$7,525,963.14 / \$7,333,385.85

RETIREMENT RECEPTION
DECEMBER 27

THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO WILL HOST AN EVENT TO HONOR WATER SUPERINTENDENT RANDY MILLER FROM 11 A.M.-1 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MILLER IS A 46-YEAR EMPLOYEE WITH THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE EVENT.

FIRST HIKE Continued from Page 1

entry form link at www.arkansasstateparks.com/first-day-hikes. More information, such as tips for planning your hike and details on how to share your First Day Hike photos, can be found via the First Day Hike link as well.

FIRST DAY HIKE AT CRATER STATE PARK

The Little Missouri River Trail First Day Hike will be held at the Crater of Diamonds State Park on Jan. 1, 2025, from 10 to 11 a.m. starting at the Little Missouri River Trailhead.

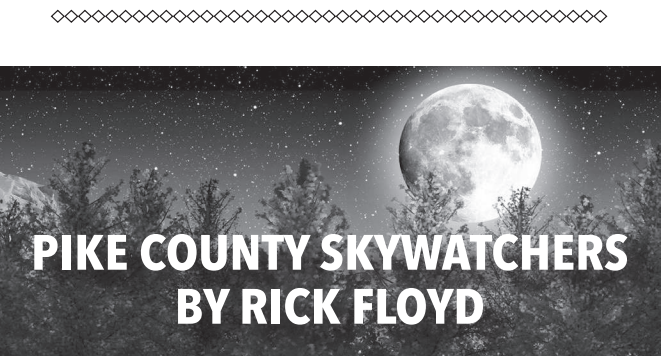
The hike is free for all ages, so anyone can start 2025 on the right foot and join a park interpreter at the trailhead for the Little Missouri Trail located in the campground.

First day hikes are a time-honored tradition to get out and enjoy nature on the first day of the year. This guided hike will take you down a paved path to the Little Missouri River.

Attendees are recommended to dress for the outdoors, wear sturdy shoes, and be prepared to walk about 1.5 miles over a paved trail.

Please note -- this hike will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

Also, all park facilities will be closed on January 1 for New Year’s Day, and diamond searching will not be allowed during the hike. The park will reopen at 8 a.m. on January 2.



And back around again

December brings up the end of the year. There were a couple of things that I did not mention as they happened this month. One was the Geminid meteor shower that peaked on the 13th, but the almost full moon obscured much of what could be seen. The Geminid meteors are noted for streaks with a hint of yellows or ambers, so when conditions are good, they are worth a watch. Maybe next year.

The second event not mentioned was the December full moon. It peaked on the 15th, and is called the Cold Moon. That is a name that probably did not need to be mentioned, given the chilly air of this season.

The late December sky has beautiful constellations, and this year, an impressive array of planets are mingling with the stars. Mentioned in a previous article, the constellation Orion is huge in the east as it rises after sunset. To me it is the unofficial Christmas constellation. Orion is followed by the dog constellation, Canis Major. Its main star is Sirius the second brightest star over our hemisphere (the Sun is number one).

Planets abound. Venus is in the southwest at sunset presenting itself for a few hours before setting. Jupiter rises in the east in the early evening, and is still visible low in the west before sunrise. Mars also rises in the evening, and is also visible pre-sunrise heading west just beyond overhead. Saturn is in the southern sky, and sets about 10 p.m.

So now it is time to prepare to ride our planet for another journey around the sun.

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

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas

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

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

Please Send Change of Address Information to:
Murfreesboro Diamond
P.O. Box 550
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Rattlers head to break still undefeated

MURFREESBORO – The Murfreesboro Rattlers basketball team (9-0, 4-0) officially made it to the Christmas break with a still unblemished record.

Last week the team took on Gurdon and Mountain Pine to close out their schedule prior to the year end holiday break.

VERSUS GURDON

The Rattlers easily dispatched the Go-Devils by a score of 45-16. They held a lead of 19-5 after the first quarter and 33-10 at halftime.

James Silva led the team in scoring with 14 points, followed by Caden Dixon with 11 and Kooper Caldwell with eight points. Silva and Dixon had eight rebounds apiece.

Laythan Wilcher had three assists, while Dixon, Cash Lowery and Weston Lamb each had two steals.

Jonah Jester had nine points to lead Gurdon in the non-conference affair.

VERSUS MOUNTAIN PINE

The next night the team faced off in a conference game against Mountain Pine Devils, winning by a 69-37 margin.

While the Devils held moderately close in the first quarter 23-15, the Rattlers had opened up to 46-21 lead by halftime.

Dixon would lead the team in scoring with 26 points. Silva had 16, Caldwell 14 and Wilcher 9.

Silva would nab eight rebounds, followed by Dixon’s seven (five offensive).

Wilcher had three assists and seven steal. Dixon would add four steals.

Malachi Camden played his part in trying to keep the Devils in the game with 17 points and five three-pointers.



UPCOMING

The Rattlers will next see action in the Mineral Springs Holiday Tournament, where they will meet the winner of the Mineral Springs-Foreman game on Monday, Dec. 30 at 5:15 p.m.

Should they prevail in that game, they would then take on one of three teams – Nashville, Kirby or Horatio -- in the tournament championship game Saturday, Jan. 4 at 6:30 p.m.

COACH’S COMMENTS

Rattler had coach Buster Bonner said Gurdon was “struggling a bit” noting that the football team was also a bit down this year and that the school may just be in one of the down cycles that afflicts almost every public school in the state from time to time.

“Everybody got to see some playing time,” he said of the second half action. “A game like that every now and then is good for the others guys [non starters], but as far as our best players getting sharper, probably not so much. He said it does affect the starter’s rhythm, which he

saw most recently in the Horatio contest the week previous where the team “came out kinda flat.”

The team was not expecting to dominate Mountain Pine, according to Bonner.

“We were expecting Mountain Pine to play a lot better – they had a key guard that was out. We were expecting a much tougher game, but the boys came out hot and took care of business – they kinda make fun of me to using that phrase – but they did take care of business.”

He said that the Gurdon and Mountain Pine game were “very similar in a lot of way – we got to play a lot of people in both of those games. Ideally, we probably would have like a little tighter game.”

He said the team’s prefect record was nothing to get too excited over as of yet.

“They’re coming for us, I know that ... the schedule will tough after we come back from break.”

“We are in the Mineral Springs tournament, and I’d rather play Mineral in the second round, just because Foreman in a conference team – I like to stay away from them [extra] as best we can.

The team will face practices over the break prior to the tournament, but the Arkansas Activities Association mandates that teams give off at least three consecutive days in a row during the week of Christmas.

“I agree with the rule,” said Bonner. “I really like it – and of course we will, if not more – these guys have been in football since August, and they need a little bit of a break ... but, we do have to practice to keep our stamina up. The first round has been great ... how can you argue with undefeated?”



PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF PIKE COUNTY STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

“AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES ON ASSESSED VALUATION OF ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2025.”

SECTION 1. THERE IS HEREBY LEVIED ON ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, ADVALOREM TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2025 AS FOLLOWS:

TAXING UNIT	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL
COUNTY GENERAL	.0015	.0015
COUNTY ROAD	.0015	.0015
COUNTY LIBRARY	.0003	.0003

SECTION 2. THAT THE MILLAGE VOTED APPROVED BY THE VARIOUS SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO BE COLLECTED IN THE YEAR 2025 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL
#1 NASHVILLE	.0305	.0305
#2 DIERKS	.043	.043
#16 SPC	.041	.041
#32 KIRBY	.041	.041
#43 CENTER POINT	.0409	.0409

SECTION 3. THAT THE MILLAGE LEVIED BY THE VARIOUS CITY COUNCILS OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO BE COLLECTED IN 2025 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CITY	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL
#16M MURFREESBORO	.003	.003
#32D DAISY	.0049	.0049
#32G GLENWOOD	.005	.005
#43G GLENWOOD	.005	.005
#16A ANTOINE	.005	.005
#16D DELIGHT	.005	.005

SECTION 4. THAT THE COLLECTION OF THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTARY TAXES IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PIKE COUNTY QUORUM COURT.

ENTITY	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL
PIKE CO. CONSERVATION	.0005	.0005

SECTION 5. THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE PIKE COUNTY CLERK AND THERE KEPT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE, EXAMINATION, AND INSPECTION.

SECTION 6. THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECTIVE FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE.

EDDIE HOWARD - COUNTY JUDGE

DATE : 12-16-2024

ATTEST:

RANDEE EDWARDS - COUNTY CLERK

This publication was paid for by Pike County Clerk . The amount paid for this publication is \$ 120.40.

(p.c.c. 304w. 25)



Submitted photo/Jim O'Neal

COATS FOR KIDS ... Carl Hall with Glenwood Masonic Lodge #662, along with wife Lisa Hall, are pictured delivering donated coats for kids at the Murfreesboro ABC last Thursday afternoon.



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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: Does stress really cause physical problems?

A: Stress is how your body reacts to challenges, changes or tension. The body is designed to respond to stress, and stress is something that everyone has or will experience. Stress can have a short-term positive effect on the body such as keeping you more alert and motivated; however, being under stress for extended periods of time can have negative impacts on health. The body's autonomic nervous systems controls processes such as breathing, heart rate and vision — things that occur without you thinking about them. These processes are activated when under stress, such as more rapid breathing, faster heart rate and changes in vision. This can be harmful to the

body if they occur over an extended period. Physical signs of stress are often mistaken for other illnesses, so the actual cause can be difficult to diagnose. Symptoms of stress include chest pains, fatigue, headaches, high blood pressure and muscle tension. There are various methods of dealing with stress. While stress cannot be avoided in many instances, how it is managed can help you work through it. Talk to your health care provider if you are experiencing physical symptoms and your efforts to relieve them are not effective.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Honoring our heroes at Christmas

By U.S. Senator John Boozman, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The holidays provide many opportunities to enjoy the company of loved ones and celebrate special relationships and memories. In so many respects, it truly is the most wonderful time of the year. One reason we are able to enjoy this season so much is because we live in a great and free country. But that freedom has never been guaranteed, not at our nation's founding or even today. It comes at an incredibly high price that none of us can take for granted.

For over two centuries, Americans have fought and died to protect our nation and interests. Their service and sacrifice have allowed us to build an open society with ample opportunity and personal liberty. We can never fully repay the debt we owe these courageous men and women, but that does not mean we should stop trying.

At this time of the year, it is especially important we remember them and reflect on everything they represent.

For active duty servicemembers deployed far from home, we send a particular thank you for answering the call of duty even though it means being separated from family and friends. We are eternally grateful for their dedication and willingness to forfeit that privilege on our behalf.

Another act Americans use to show appreciation for our military community at Christmas is by visiting the cemeteries and burial grounds where fallen warriors now rest. These events take on many different names, but they all serve the same purpose – to demonstrate to their loved ones and ourselves that they are not forgotten.

Since 1992, a national organization dedicated to executing this same tribute continues to grow in awareness and participation. Wreaths Across America exemplifies its motto to “remember, honor and teach,” as more and more people across generations engage with its effort to memorialize our veterans at Christmas. The group is hosting over 40 events in Arkansas this holiday season to mobilize community members to help lay these emblems down among the sacred, final resting place of Natural State heroes who served our country in uniform.

The holidays can bring out the best in us, and one unmistakable sign of that is our commitment to honor our military and veteran communities who make it possible for us to spend time gathering and enjoying special traditions in peace and prosperity. I, along with all Arkansans, am grateful for that precious gift.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF MARLEE MAE GRAVES

A MINOR CHILD **NO. 55PR-24-45**

WARNING ORDER

Respondent, DODGE ARCHER, is hereby warned to appear in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this Order and answer the Petition for Adoption of Child and Termination of Parental Rights filed against him by the Petitioners.

Failure to file a written answer within 30 days may result in an entry of judgement by default against you or otherwise bar you from answering or asserting any defense you have.

WITNESS my hand and seal as the County Clerk of Pike County, Arkansas.

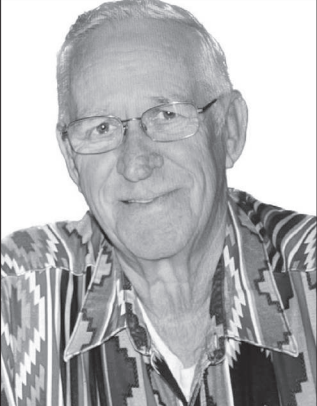
Electronic Signature to Follow
Pike County Clerk

Randee Edwards

(f.l.f. 126w. 25,26)

Obituaries

Clyde Keys, 81, Murfreesboro



Clyde Keys was born on December 10, 1943 and passed from this life peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on December 14, 2024.

Clyde was born to the late Delton Keys and Zera Mae Kelley Keys.

Clyde was a 1963 Graduate of Murfreesboro where he was known as Cefus. He was also known in school as the friend that if anyone needed anything all they had to do is whistle and he'd come running.

In 1970, he married the love of his life, Diane. The two would have been married fifty-five years this coming March. Clyde and Diane had a marriage and love for each other like no other. There was never a question of how they felt for each other. Their unwavering love is what got them through it all until the end. Their unconditional love for one another is a true testament.

In 1975, Clyde moved his family to Florida with his job where he spent the next ten years as an asphalt plant superintendent.

Clyde moved back to Murfreesboro in 1985 to be closer to his mom to help take care of her.

He spent thirty years with the Pike County Road Department before retiring in 2017 where he filled various positions. He took great pride in his job and looked forward in going to work with his work buddies. I'm sure they all were up to all kinds of shenanigans

over the years. He worked under many county judges and created life lasting relationships with all he worked with. It's been said that he was one of the best drivers the county has seen. To know Clyde was to love him.

Clyde's hobbies included hunting, trot-lining, and (back in the day) loved talking on the CB where he was known as "Pineneedle." He loved riding around in the hills looking for deer. Clyde enjoyed telling stories about the log woods and the time he spent working there.

Clyde loved any time he got to spend with family. He was such a jokester and loved making people laugh. He loved to dance any opportunity he had and making Tik Toks with the grandkids.

Clyde is preceeded in death by his parents Delton and Zera Keys; his grandparents, Eual and Eula Kelley and John and Ivie Mae Keys; one grandson from Florida, John Rivers Underwood; and a daughter-in-law Caprice Keys.

Clyde is survived by his loving wife, Diane of almost fifty-five years; son Dell Keys of Pike City; daughter, Trish Underwood and husband Kelly of Hernando Beach, Florida; daughter Detra Westfall and husband Eric of Murfreesboro; son Buck Keys and wife Layla of Murfreesboro; a sister, Argie Morris and husband, Jim of Flower Mound, Texas; eleven grandchildren, Jordan Westfall and Max, Morgan and Tyler Hanson, Brooke Westfall, Alyssa Keys, Chloe Keys, Peyton Keys, Harley and Ashlyn Keys and Fancy Keys; four great-grandchildren, River and Olive Underwood and Parker and Jenna Hanson.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

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5	3	6	9	8	4	7	1	2
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Merry Christmas

Featuring Students From:
South Pike County ABC, Murfreesboro Elementary
& First Christian Church Daycare

Letters to Santa

FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH DAYCARE

MS. TAMMY’S
4&5-YEAR-OLD PRE-K CLASS

Dear Santa,
I want Barbie dolls and Barbie clothes. I do have a few but I want some more.
Love, Laycen Watts

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie Dream House. I love to sit on your lap.
Love, Selah Wall

Dear Santa,
I don’t know what I want. How is Rudolph doing? I will leave you some milk and cookies.
Love, Piper Williamson

Dear Santa,
I want a Big Wheel toy tractor and Big Wheel trailer too. And also a bulldozer.
Love, Conner Buck

Dear Santa,
I want a motorcycle, Spider-Man bike, and a sonic jeep.
Love, Parker Chesshir

Dear Santa,
I want a kitchen, food, forks, spoons, pots and pans, and a game that is called Pie Face.
Love, Rowan Gillard

Dear Santa,
I want a a ninja ball because I like Ninja Kidz. Also a ninja book and roller skates. Thanks.
Love, Ainsley Campbell

Dear Santa,
I want a pink go kart, a unicorn toy, a tea party set and a ninja outfit.
Love, Allie Brown

Dear Santa,
I want a 4-wheeler. That is all.
Love, Clyde Henderson

Dear Santa,
I want a robot that transforms into a can, and a dinosaur that can fly. I love you Santa.
Love, Turner Shanks

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie house. I will get Rudolph some carrots.
Love, Caroline Scott

Dear Santa,
I want to go to your house and feed your reindeer. I want a doll house.
Love, Edith Thomas

Dear Santa,
I want lights on my bed, a trophy, a notebook and crayons because I don’t have any.
Love, Kopelynn Cox

Dear Santa,
I want Ballerina slippers because mine are too small. Also I want cowboy boots.
Love, Nora Kosters

Dear Santa,
I want a robot, a cow that blows bubbles, and a stuffed mama tiger.
Love, Wyatt Smith

Dear Santa,
I want a farmer Smurf, Lego Spider-Man and a toy sonic.
Love, Reece Bromley

MRS. PAIGE’S
3&4-YEAR-OLD CLASS

Dear Santa,
I have been really good. I want 2 Barbies and a Barbie swimming pool with 2 slides. My Bubba said we will leave you some milk and your reindeer some carrots.
Love, Emma Holder

Dear Santa,
I have been really good. I like cookies, do you? I want a brown monster trucks.
Love, Grant Hoover

Dear Santa,
I have been so good. I want a Barbie Dream House. Ora wants Legos and a Stitch pillow. I will leave a cookie for you to eat.
Love, Willa Kidd

Dear Santa,
I liked seeing you on the helicopter. I want a toy with the tools to build a dinosaur that says roar and stomps the ground. He can walk up to somebody and scare them. I know I have been good.
Love, Laiken Francis

Dear Santa,
I have been good, but Ollie has been biting his friends. I would like a Barbie and a Barbie slide. Please bring Oliver paint and paint brushes. Do you like chocolate cookies?
Love, Lydia Collins

Dear Santa,
You are the goodest Santa in the whole wide world. For Christmas I would like a real reindeer, that I can really ride on. I am going to leave you some cookies with some cinnamon and sprinkles on them.
Love, Brittan Venable

Dear Santa,
Is it cold in the North Pole? I want a motorcycle for Christmas. Cashy wants a

horse and my new tiny baby brother Cooper doesn’t play but you could bring him some diapers. I also want a skateboard too.
Love, Case Ridling

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie. I have been a good girl. I love you.
Love, Blake Bromley

Dear Santa,
I was good this year. I want Else make-up so I can get pretty and cheetah shoes so I can run fast and get those bad guys. I think you are nice.
Love, Paisley Hughes

Dear Santa,
I did get into a little bit of trouble, but I’m going to be more good. I want a blue tractor, a blue hay bailer, and a blue fork on the blue loader. I love you Santa.
Love, Thomas Morris

Dear Santa,
Hey Santa, I want a Paw Patrol computer and walkie talkies. I will leave you cookies and milk.
Love, Riggs Snowden

Dear Santa,
I was really good so I want a unicorn squishy. Miley was good to and he wants a monster truck track that sprinkles water out. I also want a scooter. I love you.
Love, Lainey Wofford

Dear Santa,
My name is Tripp. I want a trampoline and a swing set for me and my sister. I just talked to you the other day. I like your reindeer.
Love, Tripp Terrell

MS. ASHLEY’S
3-YEAR-OLD CLASS

Dear Santa,
Do the elves make the presents? I have been good this year. My sister wants a picture for Christmas. Can you bring me a toy baby and high chair?
Love, Reese Stewart

Dear Santa,
I am 3 and my name is Rylan. I have been nice this year. I want a robot and a nerf gun for Christmas.
Love, Rylan Holder

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a blood knife and a Spider-Man walking stick. I tried hard to be really good.
Love, Knox Alexander

Dear Santa,
I am 4 now. I just had a birthday. I have been really good and so has Dax. For Christmas i want another baby with clothes on it.
Love, Peyton Green

Dear Santa,
I am on the nice list this year. I was a good girl. I want you to bring me a baby doll and clothes for it. I love you.
Love, Presley Hickey

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a snowman, and a new car for my nanny.
I have been bad and nice.
Love, Blakleigh Harris

Dear Santa,
I have been good and I will have you some cookies. I want a Robot for Christmas.
Love, Adlee Wilson

Dear Santa,
My name is Hayes and I am 3. I was good. I want a nerf gun.
Love, Hayes Allgood

Dear Santa,
I like your Reindeer. I have been good. I want a Robot for Christmas.
Love, Fisher Hinds

Dear Santa
My brother baby Jim and I have been really good. I want a squishy for Christmas. I will leave you some cookies.
Love, Luna Slatton

Dear Santa,
I am a good girl. I want a playhouse and toys.
Love, Evie Brown

Dear Santa,
I only got in a little trouble. I am good too. I want a motorcycle.
Love, Roman Goolsby

Dear Santa,
Me, Charli, and Barrett have all been good. I will leave you a cookie and milk at my house.
Love, Sadie Buck

MRS. HEATHER’S
2-YEAR-OLD CLASS

Dear Santa,
I want a book, a puzzle, a baby and a bike. I have been a good girl. Bubba needs toys too.
Love, Emberyln Harris

Dear Santa
I want some toys, cars and trucks. I have been good.
Love, Crue Cox

Dear Santa,
I want a Big guitar and a big bike like

sisters. I have been a good boy.
Love, Jim Slatton

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want a bike, cars and trucks.
Love, Cameron McRae

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I want a baby doll, a Barbie and candy. Piper also wants candy but she throws it all over the place.
Love, Parker Williamson

Dear Santa,
I want a big 4-wheeler, a bike and monster trucks. I have been really good.
Love, Keller Oliveira

Dear Santa,
I want cars and trucks. Baby brother is fine he has toys at home. I do too, but I want more.
Love, Cannon Campbell

Dear Santa,
I am a big girl now so I want a Barbie and a baby doll. I have been good sometimes.
Love, Vera Smith

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want monster trucks and a monster truck race track.
Love, Miles Wofford

Dear Santa,
I want a mommy , daddy, and baby puppy dog. Mommy and Daddy want some toys too. We have all been good.
Love, Hallie Hoover

Dear Santa,
I want ice cream, a baby and some candy too. Mommy wants candy too.
Love, Ruby Dixon

Dear Santa,
I want some farm toys, a tractor, cars, and trucks. I have been Good.
Love, Briar Runyon

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY ABC

Dear Santa,
My name is Rebecca Gatliff and I am 3 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a mini kitchen, a car and a octopus.
Love, Rebecca

Dear Santa,
My name is Analeigh LeBlanc and I am 5 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a Barbie dreamhouse, a fake Jeep car and a teddy bear.
Love, Analeigh

Dear Santa,
My name is Eva Vaught and I am 5



To All Our
Good Neighbors
At Christmas

Best wishes for a great holiday season!
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from

Murfreesboro Dental Care
Murfreesboro * 870-285-2551
Audra Rhodes, D.D.S. * Darwin A. Turner, D.D.S



Merry
Christmas

Come see us
for all your
tire & oil
change
needs!

Branch Oil Company
103 E. 1th St. M'boro ~ 870-285-3269



MERRY
Christmas

Murfreesboro Hardware
216 S. Washington Ave. • M'boro
870-285-3491



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

**FIRST STATE BANK
OF PIKE COUNTY**

322 E. 13th Street • Murfreesboro (870) 285-2228

Hours:
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday;
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Friday



years old. I have been both nice and naughty this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a bike, a scooter and a doll house.

Love, Eva

Dear Santa,
My name is Ember Gatliff and I am 4 years old. I have been naughty and nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a toy car, a dino and a brown baby.

Love, Ember

Dear Santa,
My name is Ella Cox and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a glowing sparkly purple dog, a purple glowing teddy and a Princess Diaries toy.

Love, Ella

Dear Santa,
My name is Atheina Kistler and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a scooter for my sister, some playdough and a Christmas light (bat one)

Love, Atheina

Dear Santa,
My name is Rowlan Stone and I am 3 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a fish, a car and a track for car.

Love, Rowlan

Dear Santa,
My name is Charlie Lowry and I am 4 years old. I have been both nice and naughty this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a dinosaur, a fish and a starfish.

Love, Charlie

Dear Santa,
My name is Esther Lowry and I am 4 years old. I have been naughty and nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a big house, a TV and a fish.

Love, Esther

Dear Santa,
My name is Emerson Wilkerson and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me some airplanes, pretend pillows, and some toys (red and blue)

Love, Emerson

Dear Santa,
My name is Josie Kersey and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a motorcycle, a bear toy and some pink sand.

Love, Josie

Dear Santa,
My name is Bailey Shock and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a pink motorcycle, a toy pink penguin and a monkey baby.

Love, Bailey

Dear Santa,
My name is Bo Jackson and I am 4 years old. I have been both naughty and nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a dirt bike, a toy shotgun and a robot.

Love, Bo

Dear Santa,
My name is Ace Cox and I am 5 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me some toy cars, monster trucks and a lava lamp.

Love, Ace

Dear Santa,
My name is Briar Jackson and I am 4 years old. I have been naughty and nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me some monster trucks, cars and a remote control dino.

Love, Briar

Dear Santa,
My name is Remington Walker and I am 5 years old. I have been both nice and naughty this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a BB gun, some monster trucks and a dirt bike.

Love, Remington

Dear Santa,
My name is Starlett Walker and I am 5 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me some mermaids, some princess clothes and some baby dolls.

Love, Starlett

Dear Santa,
My name is Brooks Woodall and I am 4 years old. I have nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a monster truck, some dinos and some cookies.

Love, Brooks

Dear Santa,
My name is Brooklyn Young and I am 4 years old. I have been both nice and naughty this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a new princess tent, some play doh and a Barbie house (little)

Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa,
My name is Maxwell Williams and I am 5 years old. I have been naughty and nice this year. For Christmas could you please bring me a new toy kitchen, new 4-wheeler and a fox lego set.

Love, Maxwell

**MURFREESBORO
ELEMENTRY SCHOOL**

MRS. HOLDER’S CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Taylor Agudio. I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a PS5, a toy monster truck and a phone so I can call my parents.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Scarlett Katzer. I am 5 years old. I live in my parent’s house. This year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me a pink camera, a Barbie Dreamhouse, and a baby that talks.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Callie Lingo. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Fur Real Friend duck, a unicorn, and a Fur Real Friend goat.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Jaxson Schoenberger. I am 6 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a bicycle, toy cars and trucks, and clothes.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Joseph Varner. I am 5 years old. I live in Pike City. This year I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me toy cars and trucks, a new game for my Nintendo, and a Bigfoot remote control monster truck.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Wyndell Rowton. I am 6 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a hoverboard, a new slime ball, and slime.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Jones Watson. I am 5 years old. I live in Pisgah, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a bike, Mario Party Jamboree, and a puppy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Pyasleigh Copeland. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an iPad, baby dolls, and playdough.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Zayla Jackson. I am 5 years

old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a dirt bike, Bratz Dolls, and a Barbie Dreamhouse.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Spencer Stone. I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a LOL Surprise, bath bombs, and a mineral dig.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Beau Harris. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have been really good at school. I would really like it if you could bring me a dirt bike, (a little one), and a monkey.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Hazel Milner. I am 5 years old. I live in Nashville, Arkansas. This year I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me a LOL Doll, a baby toy crib, and a puppy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Sage Howard. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Lab Puppy, clothes, and a Nerf gun.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Rhett Kusters. I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a dinosaur toy, a toy tractor, and a Go-Cart.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Cooper Wayne Stokes. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a transformer and a red power ranger.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Moxon Turbeville. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a gaming chair, a dirt bike, and a scooter.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Emmaline Walker. I am 5 years old. I live at Gigi’s home. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Barbie doll house, a Barbie doll and a Ken doll.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is John Luke Mabery. I am 7 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me video games, Pokemon cards, and a T-rex robot.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

MRS. KIDD’S CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Alaina Kerner. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a talking piggy bank, a new bike, and a doll that talks.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Alena Collins. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a tory unicorn, barbie dolls, and a small Santa toy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Carlos. I am 6 years old. I live in Delight. This year, I have been really good this year. I would really like it if you could bring me a motorcycle toy, a tablet, and a new bed.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Daniel Hall. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year, I have been really okay, kinda good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Fortnite backpack, Nerf gun, and red Nike shoes.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Hunter Crocker. I am 5 years old. I live in my house in Murfreesboro. This year, I have been really nice and good, I think, but sometimes I get into trouble. I would really like it if you could bring me a baseball bat and ball and glove, a rock ‘n’ roll guitar, and a toy villain.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Jade. I am 5 years old. I live in Nashville. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a unicorn, doll, and puppy.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Layken. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a baby puppy, a barbie doll, and and a hat.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Lux Stone. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year, I have been really nice. I would really like it if you could bring me real earrings, a name necklace, and a snowglobe.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Mason Cheek. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me cowboy boots, a laser light, and a remote catfish.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Morgan. I am 6 years old. I live in Delight. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an Ironman helmet, Beyblade battle set, and Lego Pikachu.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Nathaniel Lamphier. I am 5 years old. I live in my new home. This year, I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me dinosmashers, a toy cat, and a gun.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Payten Argo. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year, I have been really just a little naughty. I would really like it if you could bring me an eclectic scooter, hoverboard charger, and a big blue ball.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Rosalene Ann. I am 6 years old. I live in Antoine. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me toys, barbies, and a barbie camper.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Yajayra Reyes. I am 6 years old. I live in Nashville, Arkansas. This year I have been really obedient and behaved. I would really like it if you could bring me a doll, books, and sweets.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Yaritza. I am 6 years old. I live at my home. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could

bring me a puppy, a bike, and a cat.
Thank you and Merry Christmas!

MRS. KARA

Mason Smith: Dear Santa, I want Roblox for my tablet and 3 Mr. Beast chocolate bars.

Nayte Bates: Dear Santa, I want a remote control car and I want it.

Eli John Robert: Dear Santa, I want a VR headset, dirt bike, and an AR-15 and that’s all.

Bryson Ballentine: Dear Santa, I want a remote control monster truck (the big one)!
Kaden Jones: Dear Santa, I want 2 different kinds of Mr. Beast’s Beast lab and a lava lamp.

Lucas Durham: Dear Santa, I want a truck.

Jimma Curry: Dear Santa, I want a sensory fish light and a pair of uggs.
Samuel Lowry: Dear Santa, I want DVD’s, books, cars, trucks, and board games.

Craig Bromley: Dear Santa, I want an Oculus VR headset.

MRS. KUYDENDALL’S CLASS

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Mia Quiroz, and I am 8 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me some fingernails, a mermaid tail, and an iPhone 6. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Mia

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Bryson Holder, and I am 6 years old. I live in Nathan, Arkansas. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me games for my Nintendo Switch, Lego Minecraft sets, and new roller skates. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Bryson

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Rebeca, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a laptop, a baby doll, and a make-up box. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Rebeca

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Everleigh, and I am 6 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me some earrings, a Barbie, and a new jacket. Thank you and Merry Christmas! Santa, you are the BEST!

Love, Everleigh

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Autumn, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a birthday cake, a baby sister, and a tablet. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Autumn

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Rylan, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me an electric scooter, a computer, and Pokemon. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I like Christmas!

Love, Rylan

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Aubrey, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really nice! I would like it if you could bring me a Barbie doll, a toy car, and a Barbie doll house. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Aubrey

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Grayson, and I am 7 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a PS5, Minecraft Lego set, and a laptop. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you, Santa!

Love, Grayson

May the peace and joy of
Christmas live in your heart all year long.

Gypsy Underground
111 W. 13th St. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-5600

Pawn Kings
1202 N. Washington Ave. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-3239

Dino Dig
1124 N. Washington Ave. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-3466

Merry Christmas

Joy and blessings, from our family to yours,
this Christmas and everyday!

Merry Christmas

Caddo Antiques Gifts & More
27 Courthouse Sq. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-2780

The Old Store
27 Courthouse Sq. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-2780

Kadoha Indian Villiage Museum
281 Kadoha Rd. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-3736

Town Square Gallery
21 Courthouse Sq. - Murfreesboro • 870-285-2020

Murfreesboro Mini Mall
204 S. Washington Ave - Murfreesboro • 870-285-2130



Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Teller, and I am 7 years old. I live in Billstown. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a dirt bike, a family vacation, and a go-cart. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you! You rock!

Love, Teller

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Otto, and I am 7 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me an electric scooter, an AirUp water bottle, and go on a family trip. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Otto

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Lyndee, and I am 7 years old. I live in Nathan. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me an iPhone-15, 3 Stanleys, and some skin care. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Lyndee

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Harper, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really nice! I would like it if you could bring me a Barbie Dream House, a phone, and some slippers. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Harper

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Camille, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really nice! I would like it if you could bring me some slime, earrings, and some Barbies. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you!

Love, Camille

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Garrett, and I am 7 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me the Ultimate Fart Blaster! Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Garrett

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Lukas, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a whistle, a robot, and a toy car. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Lukas

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Leighton, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a Barbie Wednesday, a PS5, and a water bottle. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you, Santa

Love, Leighton

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is MaKenna, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me an iPhone 14, some makeup, and a camera. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you, Santa

Love, MaKenna

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Violet, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me 2 mugs, Barbie stuff, and an iPad. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Violet

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is MaKenna, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me an iPhone 14, some makeup, and a camera. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love you, Santa

Love, MaKenna

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Kolton, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a remote control snake, a bicycle with no training wheels, and a magic set. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Kolton

MRS. CALDWELL'S CLASS
Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year! I really want an Xbox, RC race Car, a go cart, and a picture frame for my deer picture. I live in a gray and white trailer by a cemetery. I have mud puddles in my yard and a sand-box in the backyard. A green 4-wheeler is by the back building. I know that you know where I live. I am so excited.

Bentley Cox

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year! I would like a doll house, a pet bunny, paper notebook, whiteboard, and an Ipad. I live in Delight in a tan trailer house. There is a gray jeep in my yard. Please eat the cookies and rink the milk I leave for you. I love you!

Avary Dinger

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year! I would like anything that has to do with American Girl. I also want a mermaid egg, a golden egg and I especially want something for Rattler, my horse. I live in a two-story brick house by four chicken houses. There is a shop, an old playhouse, a trampoline, a rock wall, and a slide in my backyard. In my front yard, there is a hot fence! Please be careful and do not let the reindeer get by the hot wire. Watch out for the bulls, horses, and calves! I am so excited for you to come! I will leave cookies, milk and reindeer food. Oh, and please bring something for Frenchie, my big poodle.

Lydia Ervin

Dear Santa,
I have been so good this year! I want a Barbie doll, basketball, a pretty dress, RC Car, and arts and crafts supplies. I live in a white trailer house with a big black and white car parked in the yard. In the backyard, there is a big fence for dogs. I can't wait for you to come! I am so excited! I love you.

Mirabelle Floyd

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I am wanting Nerf Guns, gray and white Nike shoes, an Ipad, and winter clothes. I live on the Nathan Road in the country. There is a toy tractor, a go-cart, and two big trees in front of my tan brick house. I have a long driveway. I am going to leave cookies and milk for you by the Christmas tree.

Gatlin Frachiseur

Dear, Santa
I have been very good this year. I want a PS5, a real phone, PS5 controller, PS5 games, and a battery for my motorcycle. I live in Murfreesboro in a red brick house

by the school. There is a trampoline in my backyard. I am so excited for you to come!

Jax Summers

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I want a LOL doll, kinetic sand, and a toy car. My house is orange brick. I am excited for you to come!

Kinleigh Hughes

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I want a Barbie Doll, a fuzzy notebook, glitter pen, an a pet book. I live in Delight. My house is reddish orange brick. There is a slide and playhouse in my backyard and a camper in the front yard. I am leaving cookies and milk by the Christmas tree.

Geordyn Hutcherson

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a PC gaming set, PC mouse, a laptop, a PS5, and clothes. I live on the other side of Murfreesboro and there is a trampoline and a pool in my back yard. I am so excited about Christmas!

Eli Kuykendall

Dear Santa,
I have been so good this year! I am wanting a go-kart, RC car, a trampoline, and some Hot Wheels. I live in the country on the Nathan Road. My house is in a curve of the road and it is wood with a red tin roof. There is a camper under a shed in the backyard. I will leave cookies and milk on the kitchen bar. I am excited for you to come!

Sawyer Posey

Dear Santa,
I have been a really good boy this year. I want a video headset, an Iphone, a Playstation, a gold necklace, and a ginger bread house. I live in Murfreesboro in a blue trailer house right by the road. There is a blue swing set and some dogs and puppies in my yard. I cant wait for you to come!

Gage Knighten

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year! I wanted a stuffed dog, toy bears, an iPad, squish mel-lows, and squooshies. I live in Murfrees-boro in a white wood house by a power line. I will leave cookies for you and carrots for your reindeer. I cant wait for you to come!

Evelyn Richter

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! I would like a go-cart, trampoline, four wheeler, and a deer poster. I live in the country at Mount Moriah. My house has grey siding with a dark roof and ther is a trampoline in the front yard. You might see my two dogs, Dash and Duke outside, but they stay in the living room at night. They will not hurt you. I will leave cookies and milk for you and reindeer food in the front yard for Rudolph! I am excited for you to come!

Jace Watson

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! I am wanting a Rainbow High Doll, a bedset, a real baby hedgehog, computer, and a stuffed animal just like my mom's. I live in Murfreesboro on north Maple Street. I have a rose garden in my front yard. I am excited for you to come.

Darlin White

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year! I am wanting an electric scooter, skateboard, electric bicycle, and a toy motorcycle. I live in Delight in a gray metal house. There is a garden in my backyard and a trampoline in the front yard. I am excited for you to come! I will leave cookies and milk for you by the tree and carrots for your reindeer. I cant wait until you come!

Jason Whitten

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year! I am wanting a Barbie Dream House, plastic toy pig, pink dress, an iPad, and a real cat, dog, and horse. I live in the country on Ranch Road at Sweet Home. My house is gray metal. There is a trampoline and a black lab in the back yard. I am so excited for you to come! I cant wait! There will be cookies and milk by the Christmas tree and carrots and reindeer food int he front yard for your reindeer.

Dylan Wilson

MRS. HORN'S CLASS
Dear Santa,
My name is Jeremiah and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to pick up a pencil for somebody. For Christmas I would really like some Prime and a Roblox. Santa, how many cookies do you eat on Christmas?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Jeremiah Austin

Dear Santa,
My name is Barrett and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to hang a few ornaments on the Christmas tree. For Christmas I would really like a yellow fidget-spinner. Santa, how old are you?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Barrett Buck

Dear Santa,
My name is Brielan and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to help a classmate learn to ride a bike. For Christmas I would really like an elf that would stay at my house every day. Santa, how old are you?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Brielan Caldwell

Dear Santa,
My name is Destiny and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to help my mom decorate the front porch. For Christmas I would really like for my family to be happy because I love them so much! I don't really want a present. Santa, why are your elves so small?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Destiny Combs

Dear Santa,
My name is Chaston and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to clean up a mess at school. For Christmas I would really like a Nintendo Switch and a Rock Crawler RC car. Santa, how old are you?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Chaston Craig

Dear Santa,
My name is Steven and I am 7 years old. This year has been a colorful year. Something nice I did was clean the office. For Christmas I would really like a remote control jeep. Santa, how do your reindeer fly?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Steven

Dear Santa,
My name is Scarlett and I am 8 years old. This year I have been mostly nice. Something nice I did was to give my friend a hug. For Christmas I would really like a cookbook so I can cook with my Grannie. Santa, what is your favorite movie?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Scarlette Hoover

Dear Santa,
My name is Elizabeth and I am 9 years old. This year I have been mostly nice. Something nice I did was to use my manners. I would really like a doll and doll clothes for Christmas. Santa, how old are you?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Elizabeth Leitzman

Dear Santa,
My name is Kinly and I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to help others. For Christmas I would really like roller blades and a scooter. Santa, will the baby elves that we are taking care of be ours or will they be someone else's?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Kinly McRae

Dear Santa,
My name is Payton and I am 7 years old and this year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to use my manners. For Christmas I would really like a Nintendo and a phone. Santa, how big are your elves' cars?

Thank You Santa!
Love, Payton Lamb

Dear Santa,
My name is Landon and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to decorate the Christmas tree. For Christmas I would really like a phone. Santa, how do your reindeer fly?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Landon Watts

Dear Santa,
My name is Cole and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to say Thank You. For Christmas I would really like a jeep from Atwoods. Santa, how do you fit all the big stuff into your sleigh?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Cole Morris

Dear Santa,
My name is Triston and I am 8 years old. This year I have been mostly nice. Something nice I did was to help somebody by holding the door open for them. For Christmas I would really like a scooter. Santa, how old are you?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Triston

Dear Santa,
My name is Rylee and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to put the milk away for Mrs. Horn. For Christmas I would really like 4 real life ducks. Santa, what is it like at the North Pole?

Thank you Santa!
Love, Rylee James

Dear Santa,
My name is Holdon and I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. Something nice I did was to hold the door open for the teachers. For Christmas I would really like

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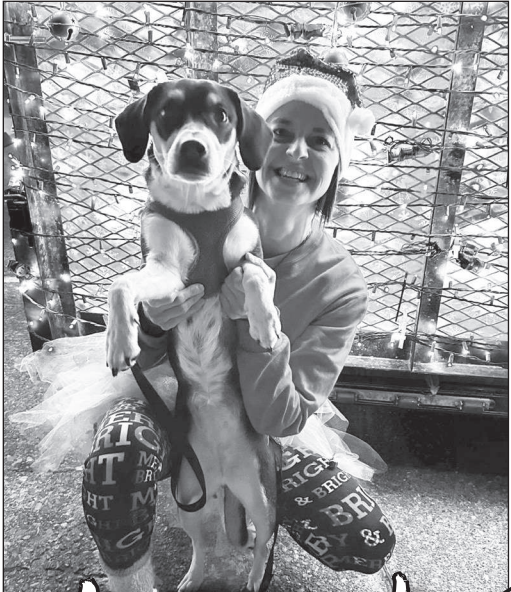
Murfreesboro Christmas Activities



Santa on the Courthouse Square




Band Boosters Breakfast With The Grinch



Light-Up Murfreesboro Christmas Parade



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Pike County, City of Murfreesboro announce holiday sanitation schedule

MURFEESBORO -- The Pike County Courthouse has announced the Christmas and New Years week sanitation collection schedule for rural residents across the county.

Monday, Dec. 23 will see regular collection in the county.

Residents of the northern end of the county will see trash collection on Thursday, Dec. 26 after no collection on the previous two days. The normal collection for Thursday will occur on Friday, Dec. 27.

On the south end of the county, trash normally scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 24 will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 26. Residents with Wednesday and Thursday collection will get service on Friday, Dec. 27.

The following week, collection will be normal on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 30-31. There will be no collection on Wednesday, Jan. 1, and residents can expect collection one day later than normal for the remainder of the week.

The Pike County Courthouse and associated

offices will be closed starting at noon on Monday, Dec. 23 and will reopen on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 26.

For the City of Murfreesboro, Monday, Dec. 23 will see regular collection.

Tuesday and Wednesday normal collection will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 26. Thursday and Friday normal collection will take place on Friday, Dec. 27.

The week of New Years Day, the same pattern will take place, with normal collection on

Monday, Dec. 30. No sanitation will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 31-Wednesday, Jan. 1. Tuesday and Wednesday normal collection will be picked up on Thursday, Jan. 2. Thursday and Friday normal collection will take place on Friday, Jan. 3.

For city residents, two dumpsters located at the former chicken plant will be available for use until full during both holiday weeks, at which time the gates will be locked.

Shop With A Cop Program 2024



In 2024 six children -- two from each school in Pike County (South Pike County, Kirby, and Center Point) -- had the opportunity to shop with six officers: School Resource Officers Adrianna Laurent (Centerpoint), Brady Whisenhunt (Kirby) and Justin Hughes (South Pike County) along with Arkansas Games and Fish Commission's Ethan Angel, Glenwood Police Chief Greg Harmon and Pike County Sheriff's Office Investigator Jason McDonald. In 2025, "Shop With A Cop" Coordinators, Cayden Ballard (4-H Teen Leader) and Shannon Ballard (4-H Leader), will be teaming up with the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, Pike County Sheriff's Department and Pike County 4-H to raise money for next year's program. There is an account set up at First State Bank of Pike County in Murfreesboro that accepts donations throughout the year, or interested members of the public can also contribute to the cause by sending donations to \$sballard22 on Cashapp, shannonballard00@yahoo.com on Paypal or drop by the Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro.



State to investigate the prohibition of 'junk food' purchases with food stamps

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK -- The financial health of the state Teacher Retirement System has been steadily improving over the past decade.

For example, using very conservative criteria, retirement systems are generally considered healthy if their "funded ratio" is above 80 percent. Ten years ago it was below 80 percent but at the end of last fiscal year it was 84.6 percent. This measure the system's capacity to pay for all future benefits of both retired and active members.

Improvement is also indicated if you measure the system's financial health by its amortization period. Actuaries estimate that within 20 years the system will be 100 percent funded. That compares favorably to the amortization period of ten years ago, when it was an esti-

mated 33 years. It is a marked improvement over last year's estimated 26 year estimate.

The ratio is 100 percent when taking into account only retired members. The system has enough funds to fully pay for all future benefits of every retired beneficiary, for the rest of their lives.

According to the system's director, who sends regular updates to members, the retirement system hire consultants to recommend how to best make investments. The investments are diversified, to protect from excessive loss in a particular category and withstand market volatility.

About 56 percent of the system's investments are in publicly-traded stocks, while 13.4 percent are in bonds and other fixed income categories. Alternative investments, such as hedge funds, make up 5.1 percent of total investments. Real estate accounts for 6.7 percent, private equity

13.4 percent and agriculture, timber and infrastructure 4.9 percent.

Assets are evaluated after adjusting for losses and gains over a four-year period, and at the end of last fiscal year the system's investments earned 9.75 percent.

A snapshot of the system's finances demonstrates how its financial health has improved over the past few years. At the end of Fiscal Year 2024 its assets were \$22.4 billion. A decade ago its assets were \$15 billion.

The system has 142,000 members. About 68,000 are active and 56,000 are retired. Almost 3,000 are in the T-DROP program and almost 15,000 are inactive.

The Teacher Retirement System is the largest public retirement fund in Arkansas. Its Board of Trustees makes decisions after considering their long-term effect. To quote from the system's web page: "The ATRS Board makes deci-

sions in terms of decades, not days, weeks, or months."

JUNK FOOD RESTRICTIONS

The governor announced that Arkansas would seek permission from federal agencies to prohibit the use of food stamps for sugary soft drinks and junk food snacks. The food stamp program is now called SNAP, for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

In a letter to federal officials, the governor said that SNAP "is undermining the health of millions of Americans, on the taxpayer's dime, by encouraging families to eat highly processed, unhealthy junk food ... our federal food assistance policies are fueling obesity, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and a wide range of chronic health conditions across America."

Lady Rattlers stymie Gurdon, get throttled by Mt. Pine

MURFREESBORO – It was the best of times and worst of times in their pair of games last week for the Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers basketball team.

In their non-conference clash versus Gurdon, the Lady Rattlers would jump out to a 17-9 lead after one quarter and nearly double up the Lady Go-Devils 32-17 by halftime en route to ultimately prevailing 57-38.

Jenna May was the leading scorer for MHS with 13 points, with Natalie Perrin adding 12 and Sydney Braden with eight.

Braden would lead the team in rebounds with seven, Chloe Scoggin guided six assists in the game. Jamie Howell had four steals to lead the team.

Brea Biley led the Lady Go-Devils with 16 points.

VERSUS MOUNTAIN PINE

One night later, the Lady Rattlers were bedeviled in a conference game by Mountain Pine 64-32.

Mountain Pine jumped out to a 21-10 lead and would expand that to 39-15 by halftime in a big second quarter.

MHS would outscore the Lady Devils 13-11 in the third quarter, but were unable to make a meaningful comeback as the were flustered by the Mountain Pine defense, who forced 25 Lady Rattlers turnovers in the game.

May, Scoggin and Jocce Holt each had six points for MHS. Braden would secure 11 rebounds for the Lady Rattlers.

May would also pilfer five steals in the game, but the rest of the squad would only collectively get three more in the game.

The team shot well from three – 4/8 (50%) – but was 8/41 (20%) from 2-point land and 4/10 (40%) from the free throw line.

MaKayla Smith would score 26 points for Mountain Pine.

After the games this the week Lady Rattlers sit at a record of (10-2, 2-2).

LOOKING HEAD

The Lady Rattlers will next see action on Saturday, Dec. 28 against Horatio at 4 p.m. in the Southwest Arkansas Invitational tournament in Mineral Springs.

Horatio defeated MHS 37-39 on December 10, and coach Nicole Martin is happy to get a rematch “without the pressure of it being a conference game, and we can see if we can improve over the 25 turnovers we had against them, score more than 29 points and actually get a rebound. It

will show if we can take film, adjust and improve. That’s the first test ... the second is if we win.”

Should the girls win that game, they would meet the Kirby Lady Trojans on Monday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. Mineral Springs and Foreman are on the opposite side of the bracket.

The girls will face Kirby in February, but any game against them is good because “their fans are so supportive and coach Tucker does an awesome job with them – they are systematic. Those games are always good for us to get to play, but you have to get there first. Mineral made the tournament a two-game guarantee, so it’s nice to be able to for sure get two games no matter what ... that’s nice because we don’t have any other games over the break. The girls will be off through Christmas, so they will get nine days off – now, that’s the longest we’ve ever gone without practice. We’ll lose some wind, but that’s why you pick up a Christmas tournament. The girls just really need a break – they’ve been practicing hard with many splitting time between basketball and cheer. They definitely need a break and I think it will reset our batteries, and then get us back with confidence. Yes, the coming back practices will be intense, and we’ll be able to get our legs back.

When asked if there was anything else, Martin replied simply – “Merry Christmas.”

COACH’S COMMENTS

Lady Rattler head coach Martin said it was good for the team got to see an previous all-state player in Gurdon’s Biley.

“She’s extremely athletic, but it was good to see a player that challenged us, like the Hampton center last week. That will help pay off when we see some bigger kids with Dierks and Cutter Morning Star ... it can only help us. It was a good win, putting wins together after the loss to Horatio.”

Martin said she felt really good going into the Mountain Pine game, I thought we would handle their half-court man [defense] pretty well, and while I don’t think we handled it badly, I thought we were more looking to pass than in attacking mode. We have to do a better job of finishing in the paint and on the block, whether it’s post players or guards.”

She said when Mountain Pine went to their “man-jump” defense, her team was “a little lost on what it was.”

“When the girls see the film, I



think they will see it kinda one to two steps to be fixed, so hopefully they know next time what to expect on it. We weren’t prepared for that defense to cause that much mayhem. We hadn’t seen it, and it’s hard to replicate in practice with the scout group because there so many rules and philosophies to it, plus personnel that can pull it off. They kinda caught us off guard, and they do have some really good players. They defended us really well and saw through our defense and got some easy stuff. We’ll have to make and adjustment and go with something more packed in zone or man next time we see them. We will have to play better than [we just did], but I don’t think they are 30 points better than us, but, we have to finish better – when we only make four free throws, we’re not going to win many ballgames. We also can’t let teams get 50+ points, cause we are just going to struggle with that. They played great and showed their experience together.”

Martin said her team needed two things – “to bounce back and a break.”

“Christmas break is coming at a great time and we can reset with our holiday practices and work through things in the Mineral Springs Tournament. Coming out of break we have another tough conference game

with Cutter Morning Star. We’ll see if we can learn from some of our mistakes, some of our weaknesses that got exposed at Horatio and against Mountain Pine, and see how we can bounce back. We need to be more successful in conference play with a 2-2 record.”

JUNIOR LADY RATTLEERS

The junior Lady Rattlers left no doubt in their game against Mountain Pine, winning 45-6.

Maci Price would score 10 points (all in the first half) to lead the team. Kyndall Henderson had all of her seven points in the second quarter. Macy Gills scored six points.

MJHS is now 3-0 in conference play (5-2 overall) with wins over Mountain Pine, Foreman and Spring Hill.

“Mountain Pine is very youthful, and we were able to turn it on,” said Martin. “Foreman is also young, but the Spring Hill win was really good for us and really set the tone. 5-2 going into the break is awesome for them.”

She said the team was made up of a coach’s dream – young, coachable athletes that listen, work hard and love defense.

“That’s why they are having a lot more success than people thought they would, because for four quar-

ters they will just get in your face.”

Martin also said the lineup was unusually deep.

“We can flare out the rotation – I can play ten kids comfortably, and that’s awesome to see. There’s some nights where we have two seventh graders and three eighth graders on the floor, and there are nights where we utilize four ninth graders. We can mix it up and figure out what we’ve gotta do – full court or half – they’ve just been doing a really good job and I’m really proud of them in the first semester. I’m really pleased how they have put it all together.”

Martin said important games were looming.

“They’ll have to tune in, with big conference games next semester, including Dierks.”



‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ


ARE YOU STRIVING DAILY

In order to be pleasing to God on a daily basis we must sacrifice, and we must closely follow Him. Daily service requires us to have a healthy prayer life and to bring praises to our God.

In Luke 9:23 we read these words: If anyone desires to come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow ME.

Following Christ requires action on our part. We must faithfully serve in order to grow and to have a hope of heaven after this life.

Many times, we look to Bible characters for inspiration to help us day to day in our earthly lives. A great example for us to look at in this case



is David. He was described in scripture as a man after God’s own heart. He teaches us about praying and praising through his writings. We should study and adhere to David’s love for praying and praising.

Psalm 116:1-2 – I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplica-

tions. Because he has inclined His ear to me, therefore, I will call upon Him as long as I live. David loved to praise God.

Psalm 119:164 – Seven times a day I praise You, because of your righteous judgments.

Each and every day we should follow and live these two scriptures. I Thessalonians 5:17 – Pray without ceasing.

Psalm 147:1 – Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

May God continue to richly bless each for us, and may our days be happy ones.

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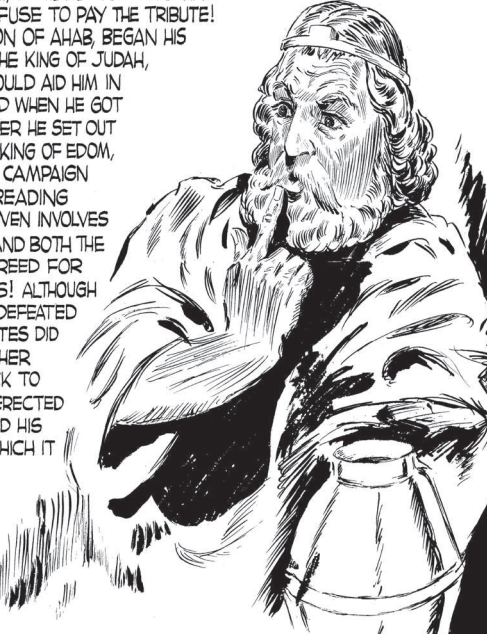
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Facts About The Bible

BY JOHN LEHTI

MESHA AND THE MOABITE STONE

MESHA WAS THE MOABITE KING WHO ERECTED WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS “THE MOABITE STONE.” THIS STONE WAS RAISED TO COMMEMORATE THE SUCCESSFUL REVOLT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOAB, LED BY ITS KING MESHA, AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL AFTER THE DEATH OF KING AHAB IN BATTLE. (II KINGS 3:5) EVER SINCE THE DAYS OF OMRI, KING OF ISRAEL, MOAB HAD BEEN PAYING TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL. THE BIBLE TELLS US THIS TRIBUTE AMOUNTED TO 100,000 LAMBS AND 100,000 RAMS WITH ALL THEIR WOOL! (II KINGS 3:4) THIS WAS A COSTLY PAYMENT YEAR AFTER YEAR, AND WHEN KING AHAB WAS KILLED AND ISRAEL DEFEATED IN BATTLE KING MESHA, OBVIOUSLY, DECIDED THAT THIS WAS THE BEST TIME TO REFUSE TO PAY THE TRIBUTE! WHEN JEHOASH, THE SON OF AHAB, BEGAN HIS REIGN, HE INQUIRED OF THE KING OF JUDAH, JEHOASHAPHAT, IF HE WOULD AID HIM IN CONQUERING MOAB, AND WHEN HE GOT AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER HE SET OUT WITH A THIRD KING, THE KING OF EDOM, TO INVADE MOAB! THE CAMPAIGN MAKES INTERESTING READING (II KINGS 3:5-27) AND EVEN INVOLVES THE PROPHET ELISHA AND BOTH THE GULLIBILITY AND THE GREED FOR LOOT OF THE MOABITES! ALTHOUGH MOAB WAS DECISIVELY DEFEATED IN BATTLE, THE ISRAELITES DID NOT DEMAND ANY FURTHER TRIBUTE BUT WENT BACK TO ISRAEL—KING MESHA ERECTED THE STONE AND CALLED HIS REVOLT A SUCCESS—WHICH IT WAS FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES!!



Murfreesboro church of Christ

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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Bro. Buddy Ray

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SCIENCE FICTION
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. Le Corbusier’s art
 - 5. *”The Matrix” protagonist
 - 8. Captures
 - 12. Funkiness in the air
 - 13. Vegetative state
 - 14. Capital of Vietnam
 - 15. Fairy tale villain
 - 16. Beware of these in March
 - 17. Spiker and Sponge of “James and the Giant Peach”
 - 18. *Bioengineered humanoid in “Blade Runner”
 - 20. The Beehive State
 - 21. Burn with coffee, e.g.
 - 22. Tire meas.
 - 23. Sea nymph
 - 26. Salad dressing option
 - 30. *Pierre Boullé’s Cornelius
 - 31. Hoity-toity
 - 34. Back arrow key
 - 35. Covered with sphagnum
 - 37. Tiny Tim’s guitar
 - 38. Allegro ____, in music
 - 39. Sign of escape
 - 40. Apprehension
 - 42. Emergency responder, acr.
 - 43. Neuron junction
 - 45. Sleeping sickness vector
 - 47. *Katniss Everdeen’s sister
 - 48. Hammerin’ Hank
 - 50. Tennis “innings”
 - 52. *2010 film starring DiCaprio
 - 56. Meat of coconut
 - 57. Desperate
 - 58. Karl of politics
 - 59. *1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
 - 60. Fail to mention
 - 61. Bo Peep’s females
 - 62. *”Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep” author
 - 63. Was ahead

- 64. *Spock’s are pointy
- DOWN
- 1. Point of entry
 - 2. Side of a ruler, e.g.
 - 3. S or C follower, in business
 - 4. Two-word threat
 - 5. Relating to node
 - 6. Make corrections
 - 7. Kiln for hops
 - 8. *Captain Nemo’s submarine
 - 9. Tolstoy’s Karenina
 - 10. This and that
 - 11. Bro’s sibling
 - 13. Droning insect
 - 14. Niger and Nigeria language
 - 19. In an unfriendly manner
 - 22. Parent org.
 - 23. “He named ____”
 - 24. Strong adhesive
 - 25. Pine juice
 - 26. Original thought
 - 27. Garment enlarger
 - 28. *”The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” author
 - 29. Neil Diamond’s “Beautiful ____”
 - 32. *Frank Herbert’s famous novel
 - 33. “I Like ____” 1950s campaign slogan
 - 36. *”Where no man has gone before” TV series
 - 38. “The Tortoise and the Hare” author
 - 40. “It’s no ____!”
 - 41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.
 - 44. South Korean port
 - 46. Main dish
 - 48. Japanese cartoon art
 - 49. Like thick smoke
 - 50. Solo, pl.
 - 51. Long narrative poem
 - 52. Worshiped one
 - 53. Minnesota’s southern neighbor
 - 54. Last word on radio
 - 55. Famed loch
 - 56. Rogue or rascal

CROSSWORD

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PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-24-99 -- OCSE, vs. William West, support/OCSE, Dec. 2

DR-24-100 -- Christopher Jones, vs. Memory Jones, divorce, Dec. 2

DR-24-101 --Kara Oliverira, vs. Nickolas Oliveria, divorce, Dec. 10

DR-24-102 -- Jeralyn Mitchell, vs. Jeremy Mitchell, order of protection, Dec. 11

DR-24-103 --Ashline Harr, vs. Raymond Harr, divorce, Dec. 17

CIVIL

CV-24-97 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Michael Jester, debt collection, Dec. 4

CV-24-98 -- Velocity Investments LLC., vs. Steve Hill, debt collection, Dec. 5

CV-24-99 -- Credit Acceptance Corp. LLC., vs. Joe Godwin, contract/other, Dec. 10

CV-24-100 -- Credit Acceptance Corp. LLC., vs. Stephanie and Aaron Teel, contract/other, Dec. 10

CV-24-101 -- Ford Motor Credit Co.. vs. Latonya Gentry, debt collection, Dec. 11

CV-24-102 -- Vanderbilt Mortgage, vs. Chad and Amy Montgomery, contract/other, Dec. 12

CV-24-103 -- James Kirkham, vs. Curtis Kirkham, slander/libel/defamation, Dec. 18

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Jacob Wayne Sims, 19, Newhope; Jecylin Adaline Harmon, 22, Kirby, Dec. 2

Ryan Drake Hellums, 24, Glenwood; Gracen Audrey Smith, 25, Glenwood, Dec. 5

Matthew C. Legate, 33, Glenwood; Whitney R. Bulfone, 35, Dec. 10

Christmas came early for Arkansas’ Fourth District

By U.S. Representative Bruce Westerman (AR-04)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Throughout the 118th Congress, it was a privilege to introduce legislation with direct impacts to Arkansas and the Fourth District. This week, it was exciting to see many of those bills pass the Senate – an early Christmas gift to AR-04!

The Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 – a major win for America and the Fourth District. It was exciting to see a modified version of my bill, the Lake Access Keeping Economies Strong (LAKES) Act, included in WRDA. The LAKES Act expands opportunities to improve and develop outdoor recreation facilities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) managed areas and will address everyday concerns regularly heard from constituents. Language was also secured for directing USACE to reopen recreation areas at the Dardanelle Lock and Dam for fishing, which had been closed for several years following major flooding. Lastly, a fix in this bill was included to ensure Arkansas has dredge access in the event of a major emergency. Our waterways are critical to so many aspects of life in Arkansas and this will safeguard them for years to come.

Arkansans and Americans alike will benefit from the Senate passage of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. A comprehensive, bipartisan bill, EXPLORE will improve access and opportunity for outdoor recreation across our public lands and waters.

A win directly for the Fourth District is the provision to reopen overnight camping at Albert Pike Recreation Area. Numerous constituents have expressed their disappointment with the initial decision by the Forest Service to suspend overnight camping, and this bill will reinstate that access in addition to better management of the Albert Pike Recreation Area.

The reopening of Albert Pike is greatly needed. I look forward to working with the U.S. Forest Service to allow for safe and responsible usage for years to come.

ALBERT PIKE BACKGROUND:

One of the most popular sites within the Ouachita National Forest is the Albert Pike Recreation Area (APRA), a unique area that has long attracted outdoorsmen and women from across the country. The U.S. Forest Service suspended overnight camping at APRA following a major flash flood that tragically killed 20 people on June 11, 2010. Since then, APRA has been to limited day use. Congressman Westerman’s EXPLORE Act will:

- Safely re-open any existing overnight campsites outside of the 100-year flood plain within 30 days of the bill’s enactment.
- Identify 54 areas that may be suitable for overnight camping in the recreation area within 6 months of the bill’s enactment.
- Establish at least 27 new overnight camping sites outside of the 100-year flood plain, including at least 8 with electric and water hookups, for public use within 2 years of the bill’s enactment.
- Require the rehabilitation necessary to make publicly accessible areas in APRA suitable for year-round day use.

Overall, the EXPLORE ACT will modernize the visitor experience, reduce overcrowding, improve access for those with disabilities, address infrastructure issues, and reduce a burdensome permitting process experienced by small businesses who greatly

depend on public land access for their livelihood.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025 passed the Senate as well. From funneling critical investments to the state of Arkansas to expanding programs which help Arkansas’ 1,800 military spouses attain and retain employment, the positive impacts of the FY25 NDAA will be felt for years to come. An especially commendable provision benefitting the Fourth District, in particular, removes the reversionary interest on the Army Navy Hospital to allow the state to develop or sell the property and requires the development to complement Hot Springs National Park. It also provides a path for the property to revert back to the Department of the Interior, and be administered as part of the Park, if the state does not want the property.

And finally, my bill to designate the post office in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the “Kingsland ‘Johnny Cash’ Post Office” will now head to the President’s desk after its passage in the Senate. This bill is a well-deserved testament to the legacy Johnny Cash left behind through service to his country, his iconic music, and the deep influence he and his family have had on the Natural State. I’m proud of the impact the legacy of Johnny Cash has on the state of Arkansas and the Fourth District.

As we were only a few days away from Christmas when it passed, it was certainly a gift to the Fourth District by the Senate to send legislation to the president’s desk. As your Congressman, it remains a primary goal in the 119th Congress to continue crafting policy that benefits Arkansas’ Fourth Congressional District, Arkansas as a whole, and America for years to come.

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Week of December 23, 2024

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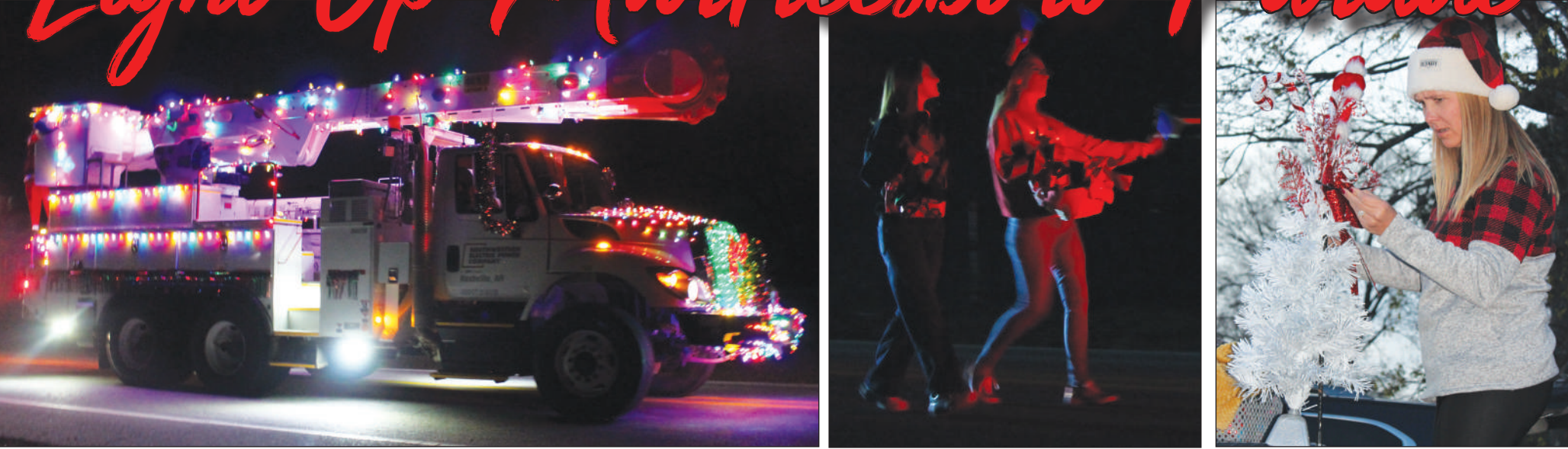
Chamber Bucks Drawing Winners



Submitted photos/Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce

A LITTLE EXTRA MERRY CASH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ... As part of the 2024 holiday promotions, the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce placed out boxes earlier this month at participating businesses that allowed purchasers to be entered into a drawing for Chamber Bucks, which may be spent at any business chamber member. The drawing was held following the Dec. 10 parade and the winners were (L to R, with Chamber secretary/treasurer Jane Fugitt) first place (\$250) Alivia Williams, second place (\$150) Mary Lou Smith and third place (\$50) Lisa Gatliff.

Light Up Murfreesboro Parade



Staff photos

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ABOUNDS ... The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's "Light Up Murfreesboro" 2024 Christmas Parade was held on Thursday, Dec. 10 and including many festive floats, vehicles, side by sides, horses and the Murfreesboro High School Marching Band. Following the parade, the Chamber announced participating winners, which included in the "Most Lit" category first place Branch Oil, second place SWEPCO and third place Jones Construction. In the "Most Creative" category was Amber's Racecar (second #14), Racecar #93 and the Jeep with the Grinch dragging the Christmas tree. While prizes were not awarded this year, parade organizers said next year they would along with a preregistration system for participants.



We Wish you a
Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year!
Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce and its member businesses