

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Shooting of teenager being investigated by Arkansas State Police

GLENWOOD -- The investigation into a shooting at Glenwood that injured a 17-year-old girl has been turned over to the Arkansas State Police.

The shooting happened around 5 a.m. Thursday morning, Dec. 26.

An ASP spokesperson confirmed Friday morning that the Glenwood Police Department requested the state police takeover the case soon after the shooting was reported but said no details will be released at this time.

The shooting reportedly involved a camper trailer, with a mother and her daughter inside, being shot multiple times. The child was allegedly injured in the shoulder and that her injuries were considered non-life threatening. There were no other injuries reported.

County man likely to be charged with internet stalking

MURFREESBORO -- A 54-year old Murfreesboro man is expected to be charged in Pike County with internet stalking of a child soon after the new year, according to Investigator Jason McDonald.

Bobby Wilkerson is currently in the Pike County Jail after being arrested on Monday, Dec. 23 after allegedly arriving to meet with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl he had been communicating with online. The girl was actually Investigator McDonald working an undercover account he uses to catch adults preying on underage children.

According to McDonald, Wilkerson reportedly contacted the undercover account on Dec. 3 using the screen name "Bobby Wilkerson" and was passing himself off as being 45 years old. Wilkerson was informed on at least two occasions by the person he was communicating with that they were in ninth grade and was 14 years old.

The communication eventually became sexual in nature and Wilkerson also admitted to the investigator that he drank alcohol and did drugs with plans to bring "ice" (street term for methamphetamine) when they met.

Wilkerson reportedly set up at least two meetings with the subject that never materialized before following through on Dec. 23 when he arrived at a predetermined meeting place and was arrested by officers from county sheriff's department, the Murfreesboro Police Department and Arkansas State Police.

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.

MJHS Lady Rattlers show promise now for big future

MURFREESBORO -- Coach Nicole Martin said the future bodes well for the program with her current crop of junior high Lady Rattlers.

The team is comprised of 18 student athletes, with one out after a preseason practice liganment tear ended her campaign before it started.

"We definitely have a big gap missing with Kinley Fisher out -- she was in the starting lineup, so right off the bat ... 10 days before the season started ... we had to resolve who would take those minutes. Players like Kyndall Henderson and Shaylia Morris, both ninth graders can play guard minutes and post minutes, so the first couple of non-conference games we were trying to figure out if they were helping us more as forwards or guards. They are our athletic backbones."

Martin said the puzzle was still being assembled into the first semester of the season as far as playing time.

"We have a mix of everything -- four seventh graders, four ninth graders, and 10 eighth graders. That's a big mix of personnel and ages. We've had a seventh grader through a ninth grader play in all of our games. It's been good to see them step up no matter what the age is, and they love playing defense. They are

MJHS LADIES Continued on Page 3

School board hires 'new' football coach Turley returns as football coach for Rattlers in 2025

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader Staff

MURFREESBORO -- After more than six years away from the game, Jay Turley will make his return to coaching football in 2025 after being picked -- again -- as the new Rattler head coach.

Turley replaces Brad Chesshir, who left the head coach position open after three seasons to accept the head coaching job at Nashville. Turley has previously coached the Rattlers, leading them from 2006 to 2009 with a record of 30-15. He will also serve as the district's athletic director.

Turley was only 34 when he took the Rattler reins from longtime coach Roger Featherston. He is now 53 and has spent the last six years in administration as junior high principal with the Prescott School District. His last coaching job was with the Hope Bobcats where he coached future University of Arkansas Razorback and NFL player, McTelvin "Sosa" Akim.

Turley said his time in administration has given him a different outlook on student-athletes and he plans to bring that positive logic to the football field.

"Being a principal has given me a whole different perspective on the student-athlete where academics are even more important than athletics," Turley told the *Nashville News-Leader* last week.

"I want to mentor young men and women to be the very best they can be -- both on the playing field and in the classroom."

Turley credits Prescott Superintendent Robert Poole for teaching him about the "overall picture" of the educational process and "for molding me into a better version of myself."

The former Nashville High School Scrapper football standout (class of 1990) was chosen from a field of 16 applicants which included: Todd Scott, Jonathan Bennett, Trenton Coffman, Dalton Pearson, Dylan Teague, Ashdone Bailey, Paydon Harlow, Tyler Clift, Chad Arnold, Mark King, David Jordan, Caleb Loe, Richard Strickland, Jayden Southard and Jason Hathcock.



Staff photo/John Balch

TURLEY RETURNS ... Coach Jay Turley (pictured above left with South Pike County Schools superintendent Tanya Wilcher) was hired last week by the SPC school board as the Rattler head football coach. The hire marks Turley's return as his second stint on the Murfreesboro sidelines.

Superintendent Tanya Wilcher said that, along with Turley, interviews were conducted with Harlow, Arnold and Hathcock. Wilcher added that interviews were set up for King and Strickland but they pulled their names from consideration before interviews could be con-

ducted.

Turley and wife, Monica, recently relocated from Hope to Murfreesboro, which he has always called home.

"Murfreesboro is home to me and has been my most memorable coaching stop," he said. "Both of my kids and my brother and sister graduated from here. It is a football town and the expectations are high, and I want to be somewhere expectations are high."

Turley has already set a high bar for the next Rattler season.

"I think we can get over the hump and win a state championship. That's the goal."

During his time as a student-athlete at Nashville, Turley was a standout on the football and baseball fields and earned All-State and All-District status in both sports. He was a four-year letterman and co-captain of the Scrapper football team.

He attended Ouachita Baptist University where he started as tailback on the Tiger football team, and received a degree in secondary education with a minor in physical and health education. At OBU, he earned All-AIC status and was named to the first team in 1992 and 1993.

After college, Turley went into the insurance business and owned and operated his own agency in Pine Bluff.

It was a call from a local coaching legend that got Turley into coaching. Gary Segrest was heading up the athletic program at the Hot Springs Lakeside School District at the time and needed a coach. Turley was hired there as junior high teacher and coach in 1996.

In 2001, Turley moved on to the Denison Independent School District in Texas, where he was a secondary coach and co-defensive coordinator for the junior varsity team.

His last coaching stop before his first job with the Rattlers was as head coach of the Fouke Panthers.

Turley's hiring was approved by unanimous vote during a short special meeting of the South Pike County School District held on Monday, Dec. 23.



Submitted/Staff photos

NO BURN BANS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE ... (Above) The Little Missouri River was swollen from recent rains last week, including temporarily half submerging a tourist's vehicle at Diamond Glamping (formerly Diamond John's), which is located next to the river.

Pair of local public officials announce retirement at year's end

MURFREESBORO -- Two local officials will begin their retirement as the year comes to a close.

SUSAN O'NEAL

Susan O'Neal, wife of Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal will soon officially retire from her position in the Pike County Circuit Clerk's office after 10 years of service.

"It was a privilege to serve the people of Pike County ... working with Sabrina [Williams], they don't realize all she does for this county and how beneficial she is. I want to thank her for the opportunity to work, she was a Godsend when I needed a job ... and it was a wonderful opportunity for me."

She said co-worker Priscilla McDaniel was also excellent.

"You couldn't ask for a better co-worker and boss than I've had -- it was wonderful."

O'Neal said she planned to "spend

time with my grandbabies and stay in my pajamas all day long if I want to."

She felt now was the right time to retire because she was still in a position to make the best of it.

"You just see too many people nowadays that don't get to enjoy their retirement and I want to enjoy mine. I want to get to do things with my family, go places I haven't been and just enjoy."

She added with a laugh that "it will probably be good that I'm home for a couple of years before [Jim] is."

"When he gets there, we can go whenever we want -- go pick up the grandkids and just go."

RANDY MILLER

City of Murfreesboro Water Superintendent Randy Miller was honored at a

RETIREMENTS
Continued on Page 2



Staff Photo/John Balch

NOW ON THE POLICE FORCE ... Todd Lauterbach, 41, is the recent hire by the Murfreesboro Police Department. He has 19 years of experience, all with Hope Police Department, including 14 years as an investigator. He is the nephew of the late Billy Lauterbach and Shirley Lauterbach of Murfreesboro.

RETIREMENTS Continued from Page 2

reception this past Friday at Murfreesboro City Hall. Miller is retiring from his post after 46 years – all of which have been with the city water department.

“I’ve enjoyed it – it’s just gone fast ... faster than what it sounds,” he said. “When I started I didn’t know it would end here, I was just getting a job and going to work. Time flies.”

As for now, his only plan for the extra time is “to follow the grandkids playing ball, that’s the biggest plans.”

Miller will continue to work for the city under a contractor-as-needed basis, while his replacement earns the necessary credentials with the state.

“I’d just like to thank everybody for allowing me serve them,” Miller stated.

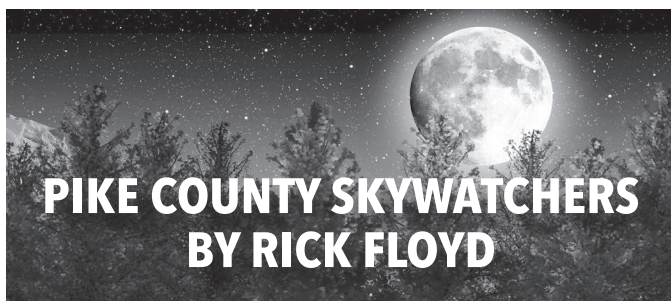


Delight VFD set to help ring in new year with fireworks display Tuesday

DELIGHT -- The Delight Volunteer Fire Department, in conjunction with its local sponsors, will host a fireworks display on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 6 p.m.

The display will be conducted at the softball fields adjacent to the Delight School campus.

Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to the event.



Why we begin with January

One of the most basic astronomical observations is that the sun rises in a different place each morning, moving back and forth along the eastern horizon between summer and winter.

Humans have noticed this for a very long time, and what we now call a year has been a standard block of time since those early times. An early observer would know that a “year” had passed when sunrise had gone from one side to the other and back again.

To the question why does our new year start on 1 January, sources say it was because the early Romans wanted to honor Janus, the god of change, and from Janus we get January. Pope Gregory XIII decreed it official in 1582.

Interestingly, our calendar is based on the movement of the sun, and the new year happens when the sun is at winter solstice. However, there are other new year dates. Maybe the most well-known is the Chinese celebration that, this year, is on 29 January (the year of the snake). Like the Chinese, other cultures and religions use the Moon’s cycle to measure time. Different ways mean different new year dates. Some begin in spring or summer (at summer solstice), and also autumn.

Our new year, 2025, will have some interesting astronomical events. One is a total eclipse of the Moon, visible over our area on March 13-14. There will be hype about this one being a “blood moon”. Also, our sun will reach solar maximum activity in July, which means solar storms, and for us the potential for more auras, and disruptions of satellite communications. Mars will be at its brightest in January. There will likely be the usual social media stuff about Mars being the size of the Moon. Not true. Venus will be at its brightest in February.

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

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
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Little Missouri River • Lake Greason

- John Robert Schirmer, Publisher
- P.J. Tracy IV, Editor
- Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.



Staff photos

MILLER SALUTED AT RETIREMENT PARTY ... Murfreesboro’s longtime water superintendent Randy Miller was the honored guest at Murfreesboro City Hall last Friday, where he was given a plaque from the city recognizing his 46 years of service to the water department. Pictured above with Miller is water commission board members Jack Bennett, Jim Cannon, Miller and Stevie Turner. Pictured below is water department employees Jacob Thompson, Lindsey Smith, Miller, Kelli Cox and new water superintendent Jeff Parker. Miller is pictured (far below) with his wife, Lisa.



Legislative accomplishments recapped for the year of 2024

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The legislature’s list of accomplishments in 2024 was highlighted by a \$438 reduction in income taxes for Arkansas families and businesses.

Individual income taxes for about 1.1 million Arkansas taxpayers will go down because the legislature lowered the top rate from 4.4 percent to 3.9 percent.

The legislature also lowered corporate income taxes by changing the top rate from 4.8 percent to 4.3 percent, saving about \$66.2 million every fiscal year. An estimated 7,800 corporations will benefit from the tax reduction.

The tax cuts were passed in a June special session.

In addition to lowering income taxes, the legislature also lowered property taxes. For assessment years beginning January 1, 2024, the homestead property tax credit will go up from \$425 to \$500, saving homeowners \$46 million a year. The second full year it is in effect it will save homeowners about \$47 million.

The legislature also met in fiscal session in 2024, approving a budget for the current fiscal year of \$6.31 billion. That is an increase of only 1.76 percent over the previous year. Arkansas legislators have always been fiscally conservative, and the 2025 budget is one of the most conservative in the state’s history.

During the fiscal session lawmakers passed laws to tighten regulations of data centers and the newly emerging crypto mining industry. The laws protect homeowners from excessive noise near the data centers. Another goal is to ensure that their energy consumption doesn’t cause power failures.

In August more than 3,000 additional families applied for Education Freedom Accounts, bringing the total number of families in the program to about 15,000 this school year. The accounts were created in 2023 to promote greater school choice for families who choose to send their children to private or parochial schools.

In its first year the program funded 5,548 accounts, each providing \$6,672 for help with tuition.

The same legislation that created Education Freedom Accounts also raised teacher salaries. Arkansas teacher salaries went up 3.2 percent last year, to an average of \$54,309. The LEARNS Act set a minimum salary of \$50,000. It will dramatically affect teacher salary figures in coming years.

The Legislature approved rules to implement a provision in the LEARNS Act that helps families pay for literacy tutors for children who have difficulties learning to read. The families of about 20,000 elementary students are eligible for a \$500 grant to pay tutors to help their children move up to grade level. The students are in kindergarten through the third grade.

During the current school year the state Education Department began making grants available to Arkansas school districts to help implement cell phone restrictions in the classroom.

The grants can be used to pay for mental health services, via telehealth technology. It also is being used for secure pouches in which students lock away their cell phones during the day. Each pouch costs about \$30. Teachers and other school personnel will have special magnets that unlock them.

When the legislature convenes in regular session in January, they likely will consider further restrictions on students’ cell phone use.

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)

Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond:
 People’s Pharmacy • Gypsy Underground
 C-Stop • Tobacco & More • EZ Mart

MJHS LADIES Continued from Page 1
scoring a little bit better than what we were the last two years, but that does depend on who we are playing – but they always play super hard on the defensive end.”

Martin said one key improvement she would like to see from the group was rebounding. “I think they will be a fun group to coach just because they are really competitive and athletic – you have kids who will be multi-sport athletes and help the softball, track and cheer programs. There’s a lot of athleticism in that group.”

She is also excited about the youth on the team.

“I’ve never been afraid of suiting in seventh graders, nor moving up ninth graders several years ago ... I don’t care what age they are of they can bring something to the table and are coachable. As long as they work hard, I don’t really care about their age – obviously the older ones have a better chance of shining just because I’ve been around them for a couple of years and know what they are about. Sometimes coming out of sixth grade you don’t have a lot of time to evaluate them, but the last two springs without me doing softball we’ve had a good program where I bring in fifth and sixth graders after school. It’s about 10 times before school ends, so I was able to evaluate a lot of the current seventh graders for two years – it was like I had them for two years – in some cases more practice time than eighth graders. That’s been a good program to have, to figure the kids out. They’ve played a lot of pee-wee ball, and put in some of our formations, so they were really aware of our defensive needs immediately. Kyndahl Posey is getting a lot of heavy min-

utes, then you have Paisley Caldwell, Ashly McRae and Lainey Beene getting playing time as seventh graders.

Eighth graders impressing Martin include Addie Silva, Blakelee Dixon and Maci Price getting good playing time, as well as Madilynn Draper and Carsyn Ballard also battling for time on the court. Price and Silva both had playing time as seventh graders last year, so “have their jitter year out of the way, starting now and doing really good things.”

“I’m naming a lot of names, but that’s the thing – I’m comfortable with stretching [game action] up and double-digit kids going in depending on what we need ... height, ball handling or speed. That’s good especially since we are intense defensively and might get into a little bit of foul trouble, it’s nice to be able to turn around and put in a kid and be confident that they will be confident. I can’t just get stuck in using one rotation ... go to the next one but don’t give up on that kid when it just isn’t her night.”

The team lost two games before the Christmas break, a 53-12 blowout by Nashville in their junior high tournament and a one-point loss to Magnet Cove in overtime.

“The Nashville game was rough, and they have a really solid program over there, with lots of talent in the eighth and ninth grade group. They just kinda did whatever they wanted to do against us. Hats off to them, they are a great team who has won tournaments. If they stay healthy, they should have some really good success in their conference. It was a good experience playing in their big arena against the hosting school, and we did get a second game in the tournament against Mineral Springs – a team our size – and pick up a win in the solid

tournament.”

Martin thought the loss to Magnet Cove was good for her team, however.

“If we played again, it would probably be a close ballgame, but I would like our chances a little more. We’ve polished some stuff up since the second game of the year. It was a good experience to get an overtime game super early, and while you’d hope you’d come away with a win, it was good for them.”

Coming up in the second semester of the season will feature some tough games, especially Dierks.

“They’ve moved up two freshmen [to the senior high level] but they’ve got a group that has played behind a lot of talent last year, so they are just reloaded and the team that won conference last year after battles with Horatio. They will be a tough matchup, but hopefully by the time we play them, we will be more prepared for it, than we were against a Nashville team.”

Martin said Cutter Morning Star was also receiving positive reports this season.

“Their coach is excited about that group – I think Dierks ‘only’ beat them by 12 [points earlier this year], but that shows just how potent Dierks is, but they have a really good group.”

As for Horatio, Martin said they made the finals of their junior high tournament and have “really improved from the summer.”

“We’ll see what they have in a couple of weeks when we get the matchup with them here.”

Although not having seen them, Martin said Caddo Hills was on the younger side, but expects to get their best.

“Coach Owens always does a really good job of coaching his girls up and helping them reach their potential. They are going to play hard and

the right way, so if you don’t show up for that game it will be a long night. We have them on Friday [Jan. 10] after we come back from break.”

Her team will also face off against Prescott in a seventh grade and junior high night on Thursday, Jan. 9.

“I’ll be interested to see how they come off break in that non-conference game. I’ve been really pleased with what they’ve been doing thus far, I just don’t want them to be satisfied. The second semester is always the hardest. We have the Umpire tournament coming up and some heavy hitters in conference play. The semester will fly by really quick for junior high. We just have to keep them level headed and confident so they will compete. We’ll keep working them hard, they are all getting fundamental work, same shooting drills and reps, and when we compete live they are really getting after it.”

She said the junior high kids have a bright future.

“That group can be something really special when they get to the senior high level. I’m glad they are getting some confidence and some wins, which will naturally give them confidence on the next level. There is a lot of hard work behind the scenes in practice. They’ve been scrimmaging high school kids after practice, so when you turn around and play a freshman, it’s like ‘I’ve already played 18-year-old Jenna May, Joice Holt and Natalie Perrin – all of [the senior high team] – so they’re not as nervous because they’ve already gotten spanked after school earlier that week in scrimmages. It doesn’t seem to affect them, outside of Nashville, but that is what it is. Unless they are at the Umpire tournament – I haven’t seen a bracket – we won’t be playing them again.”

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

December 3, 2024
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

- Aldaca, Jose Juan, 31, Fairview, Ore., \$125 BF, commercial driver’s license required
- Alexander, Sheryl Lynn, 53, Pearcy, \$125 BF, speeding
- Arnold, Jessica Marie, 48, Arkadelphia, \$215 BF, speeding
- Baker, Marilyn, 62, Arkadelphia, \$125 BF, no child restraint device
- Barbara, Luz Maria, 35, Dierks, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$70
- Blankenship, Michael Daniel, 31, Arkadelphia, guilty of speeding, fined \$215
- Buck, Jeremy B., 36, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
- Campbell, Trenton Duane, 41, Stonewall, Okla., \$135 BF, speeding
- Chambers, Cory G., 30, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
- Clover, Thomas Scott, 45, Kirby, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,170 owed, committed to jail

- Cogburn, Derrick C., 35, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325
- Cogburn, Mary B., 29, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
- Cook, Timothy Joe, 56, Newhope, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$205 BF, failure to appear
- Cox, Jeffrey Brian, 22, Murfreesboro, guilty of DWI#2, fined \$1,620, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of fleeing, fined \$580; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325 and sentenced to two days in jail
- Davis, Shannon Renee, 45, Newhope, \$135 BF, allowing unauthorized person to drive; \$205 BF, failure to appear
- Dodd, Joseph M., 38, Fouke, \$125 BF, fictitious tags
- Dunn, Kristen Lee, 50, Wynne, \$135 BF, speeding
- Fogle, John Cory, 47, Caddo Gap, guilty of failure to pay, fined \$205
- French, Christopher J., 26, Nashville, \$135 BF, speeding
- Furr, David N., 53, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
- Garza, Aaron D., 41, Lockesburg, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,705 owed; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$70
- Gembey, Pedro Rosas, 47, Amity, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$125 BF, speeding
- Hallbauer, Andrew Scott, 34, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
- Hipolito, Guadalupe, 28, Hope, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$125 BF, careless prohibited driving; \$145 BF, uses of handheld wireless phone when driving
- Hoopar, Glenn Eugene, 24, Higden, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$125 BF, no motorcycle endorsement on license; \$205 BF, failure to appear
- Howard, Andrew Weston, 18, Delight, \$125 BF, speeding
- Kim, Young Chul, 61, Houston, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding
- Laird, Drake Mikol, 26, Harrison, guilty of no proof of liability insurance
- Lewis, Christopher A., 31, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
- Murphree, Matthew Blake, 25, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$205 BF, failure to appear
- Norwood, Christina M., 33, Murfreesboro, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined

- \$325
- Ortiz, Reynaldo R., 52, Pearcy, \$135 BF, speeding; \$125 BF, no driver’s license
- Purcell, Michael L., 78, Glenwood, \$125 BF, speeding
- Ross, James F., 26, Mineral Springs, \$125 BF, careless prohibited driving
- Swankers, Lily Elizabeth, 19, Vian, Okla., \$135 BF, speeding
- Tankersly, Bradley C., 37, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,440 owed
- Thomas, Anna Ruth, 25, Warren, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$70; guilty of allowing unauthorized person to drive, fined \$135; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
- Vanderziel, Justin L., 34, Hot Springs, guilty of failure to pay, \$745 owed
- Watts, Brandon L., 44, Delight, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of obstructed windshield view, fined \$220
- Wooten, Bridget M., 31, Foreman, \$155 BF, speeding

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

- Carpenter, Jordan C., 35, Houston, \$345 BF, driving on suspended license; \$250 BF, obstructing government operations; \$265 BF, failure to appear
- Cox, Jeffrey Brian, 22, Murfreesboro, guilty of endangering welfare of minor, fined \$800; guilty of endangering welfare of minor, fined \$800
- Hignight, Brady Layne, 23, Nashville, \$165 BF, use of handheld wireless phone when driving
- Miller, Dallas Dane, 17, Nashville, \$245 BF, following too close-accident
- Rutherford, Corey, 25, Foreman, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; \$225 BF, failure to appear
- Scott, Heidi Lovato, 41, Delight, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,090, credited with time served, license suspended and must complete DWI education course; guilty of careless prohibited driving with accident, fined \$245
- White, Brittany Rennae, 31, Oklahoma City, Okla., guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125
- Young, Corta Lynn, 23, McCaskill, \$90 BF, failure to present insurance; \$145 BF, speeding

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

- Franklin, Boyd D., 59, Amity, guilty of littering public waters-banks, fined \$220
- Marsh, Ethan Daniel, 24, Little Rock, \$620 BF, hunting from road
- Robison, Seth Jordan, 23, Casa, Ariz., \$620 BF, aiding or abetting violation
- Watts, Brandon L., 44, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325
- Woodall, Andrew J., 24, Lawton, Okla., \$370 BF, non resident possessing resident license

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

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

Q: What is coagulopathy?

A: Coagulopathy is a bleeding disorder in which the body’s ability to form clots (coagulate) is compromised. The blood of an affected person may not clot quickly enough or clot too frequently. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 3 million people in the United States have some type of bleeding disorder.

The body stops bleeding by forming a blood clot, which occur when proteins stick to blood platelets. Blood clotting is a normal part of the healing process. However, blood needs to remain liquid enough to flow properly, so excessive clotting is also a problem. Bleeding disorders can affect anyone at any age but are more common in women.

Coagulopathy can be a dangerous condition. Blood clots may increase the risk of heart attack, stroke or difficulty walking, while a lack of clotting can result in excessive bleeding and swelling from minor injuries. The most commonly known bleeding disorder is hemophilia, in which the blood lacks sufficient proteins to form clots.

While coagulopathy cannot be cured, medications have proven successful in treatment. Blood thinner medications (anticoagulants) reduce the blood’s ability to clot, while some treatments involve adding proteins to the blood to make clotting more effective. Contact your health care provider if you experience symptoms.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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Submitted photos/Pike County 4-H

4-H BANQUET 2024 ... On Dec. 9 the Pike County Extension Agency recognized area youth (pictured below) for their work during the year 2024 ranging from projects in robotics to healthy living to livestock, community service, and much more. Attendees of the banquet were graced with a performance by Pike County 4-Her Jaycee Heaston and her rendition of Delta Dawn, with which she won with the Junior Vocal Talent competition at the Ouachita District 4-H O' Rama. Sophia Cox spoke about the 2024 Star Camp. Cayden Ballard spoke about his community service work with the Cross Point Cowboy Church in Nashville and Alex Bonner spoke about the Pike County Rabies Clinic hosted by the Nashville Animal Hospital. Gracie Goodwin presided over the evening with Carsyn Ballard introducing the special guests. Ady James also told the crowd about the Pike County 4-H Teen Leaders club. 4-H Leaders were recognized for their service as well (above L to R) Shannon Ballard, Amanda Goodwin, Megan Bonner, Launa Simmons, Teresea Boutwell -- not pictured is Dr. Robert Bonner, Amanda Minton, Jeana Mack, Mark Reed and Renita Jackson. Vickie Hutson, director of the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center (pictured right) was awarded the "Friend of 4-H" award for 2024. In their social media post, the 4-H program said simply "she is always so willing to help us out without with anything we need."



Staff photos



MEET GUS THE PONY ... Murfreesboro Elementary School was treated to Gus, the 14-year-old miniature mushroom horse, who was purchased by first grade instructor Jane Caldwell (pictured with students to left) as an instructional tool. The horse was formerly a birthday party act, whose owner sold it when he realized that kids didn't want ponies at their birthday any longer. The first and second grade classes went outside to see Gus, before the party was brought inside the school for all of the elementary students to take part in the learning opportunity.

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH
Romans 5:1

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, made it possible for all who are children of God to be righteous in our Father's sight. The absence of conflict between us and God, conflict caused by our sins, is peace of mind and soul. We can know and be obedient to the will of God because Jesus came to earth and lived, died and rose again. This good news was preached in His Holy Name. Submission to God's will is not enough to justify us from our sins in God's sight. Paul says in Romans 5:6 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. This is an insight into the actions of God on our part for forgiveness.



The sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary brought that peace that passes understanding. We are cleansed through the blood of Jesus from our sins and we are saved from the wrath of God. We are therefore reconciled to God because He has set us free from the guilt of our sins. How profound and comforting it is to know that through the Lord Jesus we are in har-

mony with the desires of our God. We are daily traveling in the direction that leads to favor with God and an eternal home in Heaven.

Philippians 4:7-8 - Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me do, and the God of peace will be with you. God approves us and His peace is ours when we submit ourselves to Him in thought and in deed.

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- TUESDAY, JANUARY 7**
Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Chicken crispito, refried beans, seasoned corn, salsa mixed fruit, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Burrito
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**
Breakfast: Blueberry muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, salad, garlic breadsticks, peaches, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Hot ham & cheese croissant, baked chips
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**
Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, whole grain roll, pears, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Beef fingers
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 10**
Breakfast: Powered donut or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Cheese pizza, steamed broccoli, savory carrots, applesauce, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Pepperoni pizza
- MONDAY, JANUARY 13**
Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: BBQ sandwich, french fries, pinto beans, pears, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Steak sandwich, lettuce, tomato
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**
Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Taco soup, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, corn chips, pineapple, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Chicken crispito
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**
Breakfast: Sausage egg biscuit or cereal, juice, fruit, milk
Lunch: Mini corn dogs, baked beans, seasoned corn, peaches, milk
7-12 Line 2 option- Turkey & cheese hoagie, lettuce, tomato, baked chips

* Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at www.rattlers.org

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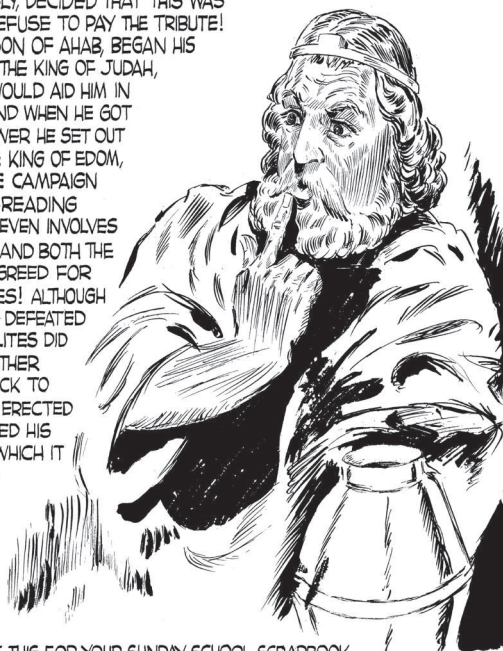
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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

MESHA AND THE MOABITE STONE

MESHA WAS THE MOABITE KING WHO ERRECTED 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 AHAH 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 AHAH WAS KILLED AND ISRAEL DEFEATED IN BATTLE KING MESHA, OBVIOUSLY, DECIDED THAT THIS WAS THE BEST TIME TO REFUSE TO PAY THE TRIBUTE! WHEN JEHOAM, THE SON OF AHAH, 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 INVADDE 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 ERRECTED THE STONE AND CALLED HIS REVOLT A SUCCESS—WHICH IT WAS FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES!!



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SYNONYMS

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Half of half-and-half
6. *Gratuity
9. Remain unsettled
13. Pita, alt. sp.
14. Uncle Sam wants whom?
15. Played violin, e.g.
16. "Encore!"
17. Young canine
18. Amber warning
19. *Entice
21. *Agreement
23. "___ Te Ching"
24. Goose egg
25. Antonym of keep
28. *Affection
30. Open wine, e.g.
35. Frosts a cake
37. Leave in a bucket
39. *Parlor
40. Coating of aurum
41. Like many bathroom floors?
43. Border pass
44. Full of emotion (2 words)
46. Opposite of talker?
47. Tel ____, Israel
48. Auto ___ website
50. *Module
52. Compass point between NE and E
53. *Insane
55. Old-fashioned before
57. *Prevent
60. *Ditch
63. Peninsula of 38th parallel fame
64. Single-___ plastics
66. Donkey + horse, pl.
68. All told (2 words)
69. '80s band "___ At Work"
70. Bay window
71. Chapter 11 issue
72. Mouse turf

73. Email option

DOWN

1. Tax pro, acr.
2. Capital of Latvia
3. Bibliographical abbr.
4. Not upright
5. Instructions handbook
6. Use an Underwood
7. Promissory note letters
8. Cocoon dwellers
9. Horse and mallet sport
10. *Pitcher
11. One ridiculed for studiousness
12. Banned insecticide, acr.
15. Kevin ___ and Sir Francis ___
20. Resting spot for a chicken
22. French vineyard
24. *Avid
25. *Correct
26. *Slipperier
27. 4th letter of Greek alphabet
29. *Nothingness
31. Spanish sparkling wine
32. Martini garnish
33. Violinist's pine resin
34. *Rogue
36. Wall support
38. It often precedes "eye"
42. Laundry room appliance
45. Correspondence friend
49. Feel remorse
51. Seismic shake
54. Card game move
56. Accustom
57. *Sharpen
58. A in UAE
59. Cheesy patty
60. Be inclined
61. Paper holder
62. Dog command
63. Baby goat
65. Pirate's turf
67. "Rocky" creator

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How did diamonds end up in a Murfreesboro cow pasture?

For more than 50 years employees at the Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro, Arkansas, have been plowing the 35-acre patch of ground, ostensibly to expose more gems on the surface. I have been there a couple of times, but so far, I haven't found any diamonds. But thousands of sharp-eyed individuals have walked and turned the ground before I got there. Maybe all the big ones have been found.

How did diamonds end up in a cow pasture in southwestern Arkansas?

There are two sides to the answer. First the geological answer and then the historical side.

THE GEOLOGICAL STORY: VOLCANIC ORIGINS

Last week, I discussed the continental collision that uplifted the Ouachita Mountains at the end of the Pennsylvanian Period more than 250 million years ago. At the time the east-west trending range was coastal with a shallow sea off to the south. The mountains began eroding, resulting in what we now call the Gulf Coastal Plain.

About 105 million years ago and perhaps 30 miles south of the southern part of the Ouachita range, a volcanic tube laden with molten rock forced its way up from a depth of 93 miles to within about 850 feet of the surface. The upper portion of the earth's crust exploded, forming a cocktail-glass-shaped cavity beneath the shallow sea. Debris from the explosion mostly fell back into the hole and what is called a diatreme (a funnel-shaped volcano that doesn't produce the classic cinder cone or shield-shaped volcano) formed. This was a one-and-done event in a geological sense, and over the next 100 million years the erosion of the Ouachitas continued, burying the 1,000-acre caldera of the diatreme under hundreds of feet of sediment. Eventually, the sea receded, and about 165 feet of covering sediment eroded, exposing the surface of the old volcano.



HOW DIAMONDS FORM DEEP BENEATH THE EARTH

The crystal growth of carbon only occurs in the presence of tremendous heat and pressure, so diamonds are formed deep in the earth's mantle. Based on the presence of impurities found in Arkansas diamonds, they are estimated to have been formed about three billion years ago. The carbon sources for crystal growth are various carbonates, which are believed to be rare so deep in the earth. Because of this rarity, the diamonds tend to be relatively small.

When the molten rock is ejected from the depths, it sweeps everything away that is in its path. Most rocks melt, but others partially tolerate the assault. The magma plume is moving fast — some estimate as fast as 150 miles per hour — carrying along a load of mineral debris with it. Arkansas diamonds tend to be rounded in form when found, because this hours-long journey begins to wear on the crystalline structure of the diamond. Estimates are that Arkansas diamonds lose 60 to 80 percent of their mass on the journey to the surface.

DISCOVERY AND EARLY MINING ATTEMPTS

The modern-day discovery of the field of diamonds began in 1906 when a farmer named John Huddleston found two unusual crystals in a field on his 243-acre farm. Before long, we were off to the races, trying to develop the first commercial diamond mine in North America. In those first years, they found that from subsurface deposits it was possible to recover about two carats of diamonds from 100 "standard" ore crats. This same sampling was done in both the 1940s and in 1990 with essentially the same results. You have to move a lot of soil to recover a few diamonds.

THE CHALLENGE OF COMMERCIAL MINING

Initial recovery was pretty good by screening surface soil, but after a few years they switched to hydronic mining — blasting the sticky clay soil with high pressure water. Mining limped along until it ceased in the 1930s. Apparently their screening techniques were not too good because many of the best finds made in the past few decades have been from the out-wash area of the hydronic mining.

FROM INDUSTRIAL TO TOURIST ATTRACTION

In the 1940s, the U.S. government investigated opening the mine for harvesting industrial diamonds for the war effort, but again found the recovery rate too low to commercialize. After that, several tourist mines were operated until 1972, when the State of Arkansas bought the property. The diamond symbol on our car tags was added in 2012.

FAMOUS FINDS AND MODERN DISCOVERIES

Some impressive stones have been recovered from the old caldera. The 40-carat Uncle Sam diamond that is held in the Smithsonian collection was found in 1924 and is the largest ever found in North America. In 2015, the near-flawless white Esperanza diamond (8.5 carats) made the news. Last summer, a 7.5-carat chocolate diamond was discovered.

KEEP WHAT YOU FIND

Every year, hundreds of smaller stones make their way from the park. You don't even have to sneak them out. You find them, you keep them.

Gerald Klingaman is a retired Arkansas Extension Horticulturist and retired Operations Director for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. After more than two decades of penning the popular Plant of the Week column, he's taking a new direction, offering views on nature as he pokes about the state and nation. Views and opinions reflect those of the author and are not those of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

If you have questions or comments for Dr. Klingaman about these articles contact him at musingsonnature@gmail.com.

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Holiday Entertainment In Murfreesboro



Staff photos

LIVE IN CONCERT ...
Florida resident Cherokee Lee held a free concert under the pavilion of the former City Service Station adjacent to the Pike County Courthouse Square on Monday, Dec. 23. Lee (pictured above), who has purchased land on Lake Greeson near Kirby, plans to move to the area permanently in the near future -- perhaps by summer 2025. Also pictured is Lee's wife, Madison (right in pink sweater) and friend/neighbor Jules Cariglia along with a number of local residents who bundled up to brave the cool evening temperatures to attend the concert. Lee played a selection of some of his favorite songs including country, southern rock, and blues.



O'NEAL RETIREMENT PARTY AT COURTHOUSE

