

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Issue 28 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

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USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
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Fly fishing festival set for M'boro Jan. 31-Feb. 2

MURFREESBORO – The annual Little Missouri River Fly Fishing Festival has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31-Sunday, Feb. 2.

The event will be conducted at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building's community room, located at 204 East Main Street in Murfreesboro.

The ArkLaTexOma (ALTO) Fly Tyers will be hosting the festival that will include a "week-end of tying, fishing, fellowship and fun ... with expert tyers, casting instructors, vendors, and seminars."

Raffles and door prizes will also be a part of the festivities – interested participants are asked to follow the ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers Facebook page for more information on the raffles and event proceedings.

Information for the event says the group will accept interest from all levels of expertise, and wants to make beginners feel welcome.

There is no fee to attend the event, but attendees are asked to bring new/slightly used gear to augment the raffle table. As with all ALTO events, there are no membership dues and events are supported by member donations. All of the donations go toward future events throughout the year or charitable organizations.

On Friday, Jan. 31 the group will open the event at noon, and that evening at 6 p.m. a presentation will be held on the state of the Little Missouri River. Pizza will be available – sold by the slice – as well as drinks.

The morning of Saturday, Feb. 1, fly tying will start at 9 a.m., followed by an update on Patriot Angler news and projects by Johnny Walker.

Saturday's lunch will be chicken/sausage gumbo with sides, with cost being a donation to the group.

Following lunch at 1:30 p.m., Gordon Shaw will present the joys of fishing with fiberglass. One of the raffle items will be a hand-built fiberglass fly rod by Randy Hanien. At 3 p.m. the group will present a program on raft fishing in Arkansas.

Sunday morning, Feb. 2, a short devotional will be held at the Riverside pavilion, weather permitting, before the event commences.

For further information, contact Mike Hawkins at (903) 353-3357.



Submitted photos

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SNOW, MAKE SNOWMEN ... With the local area seeing several inches of snow last week, many families were able to have some fun outdoors, including (above) the Hodge and Phillips families who created snowmen.

Winter storm hits area, closes schools

Next polar vortex predicted to chill area again starting Sunday

DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Glenwood Herald Editor

PIKE COUNTY – A winter storm plowed its way across Arkansas Jan. 9 and 10 dropping nearly a foot of snow on parts of Pike County according to the National Weather Service.

Weather prognosticators were all in agreement leading up to Jan. 9 that the storm would produce a lot of snow across the state and it did not disappoint. There were five reported measurements reported to the National Weather Service in Pike County with New Hope reporting 11 inches of snow. Murfreesboro reported nine inches while Langley reported 8.5 inches. Glenwood reported seven inches, but reports

from other parts of the city located in Montgomery County reported 12 inches. Delight reported 5.5 inches.

The National Weather Service (NWS) explained that the region had cold air in place due to an earlier storm that just missed the bulk of the state. The only question regarding the January 9 storm was how much moisture would be available. If you figure one to one and a half inches of liquid and figuring on an approximate 10 – 1 snow to liquid ratio, estimates for much of the state were near a foot of snow.

Snow entered the western counties including Pike County during the morning hours last Thursday before making its way into the central sections of the state by mid-afternoon.

City, County, and State road crews worked diligently to clear the main roads but many side roads were still icy Tuesday morning.

Schools were closed Thursday, Friday, and Monday with Caddo Hills closed Tuesday as well. Centerpoint and Kirby returned to school Tuesday with a two hour start delay, while South Pike County had a one hour delay.

Weather models are predicting another polar vortex to sweep through Arkansas Sunday, January 19. While there are currently no predictions of significant snow amounts, temperatures are expected to plummet January 19-21. Highs are expected to remain around freezing for the three day span with lows dipping into the mid to low teens.

Local ham radio group to offer licensing class

KIRBY -- The Pike County Ham Radio Club will be conducting a free General licensing class that is open to residents of Pike, Howard, Montgomery and Clark counties, as well as the surrounding areas.

The informational meeting will be conducted on Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. at the Kirby School cafeteria.

Topics of discussion will include: dates of future classes, test date and fees, test prep material and FCC license requirements.

For more information, contact one of the following:

Mark Reed, (903) 701-5954, mark.reed.ii@gmail.com

Will Henderson, (870) 925-0168, redhender-son@hotmail.com

Pat Chaloner, (870) 285-5023, n5wcl1991@gmail.com

Basketball teams play CMS before weather shutdown

MURFREESBORO – After most of the schedule was canceled or postponed last week due to winter precipitation, the Murfreesboro basketball teams were able to get in a set of games against Magnet Cove prior to the weather's icy clutches.

The junior high boys lost to Cutter Morning

Star (CMS) by a 49-36 score.

James Burgess had 20 points to lead MJHS, while Cale Humphry added 10.

The senior high Lady Rattlers would also fall to Cutter by a 50-29 score.

Natalie Perrin had nine points for the Lady Rattlers, while Sydney Braden had 10.

"[Cutter] is undefeated on the season and number one in conference at 16-0," said coach Nicole Martin. "I saw some things that we can probably adjust on, but they are just a really good team."

RATTLERS Continued on Page 2

Commodities to be distributed on Jan. 22

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in.

Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue and Owens Street towards First United Methodist Church.

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building.

The next mobile pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

Participants are reminded that vehicles start lining up early, so it is recommend to get there early.

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net



Staff photos

BASKETBALL ACTION VERSUS CUTTER MORNING STAR ... In their respective games against Cutter Morning Star last week, Lady Rattler Jenna May reacts to a questionable offensive foul levied against her, while Kooper Caldwell gives a commendable effort to save a ball from going out of bounds while on the offensive end of the court.

RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

Martin said the team was still trying to regain its health at the time of the Cutter contest.

“We [also] still had some out sick, Jamie [Howell] wasn’t available, and she make a big difference for us ... Giana [Draper] was only in her third game back from an ankle injury. We had some with the stomach bug coming off the flu.”

Martin was happy with the limited number of turnovers, but said her team got into foul trouble it couldn’t afford.

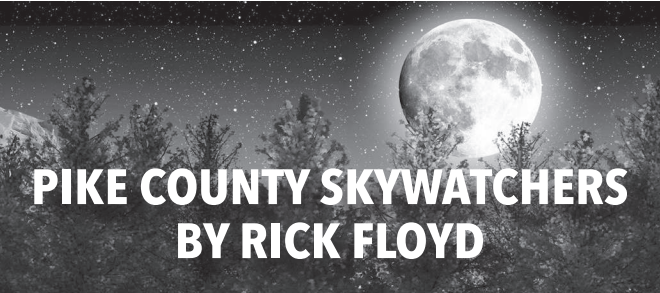
“When Jenna May went out [for fouls] it put a lot of pressure on us getting the ball down the floor – we kinda fumbled it around a but and had six turnovers in the second half. We couldn’t sit her very long in the third quarter. But, hats off to them – they are good for a reason, their first five is very solid.”

Martin was happy with the defense applied to CMS’s Natalie Babb, a college prospect, who had four points in the contest.

“Jocce [Holt] did a great job of containing her the majority of the game. We did a good job of keeping her in check.”

She also credited Braden at the rest of the Lady Rattler defense with their defense against Lady Eagle center Libby Hood.

“Yes, she had 13 points, but the spin and-one layup she had just shows she’s a bucket and to keep her to 13 was really good.”



New year parade of planets

The new year has opened with a celestial parade of planets, one of which will be at its brightest by mid-month.

Looking eastward in the evening Jupiter is very bright near overhead. Mars has a discernable redness as it rises, and it is the planet mentioned above to reach its brightest in the coming days. Also in this neighborhood, above Jupiter, is the giant Uranus. Despite being huge, it is so far away that binoculars or a telescope are needed to see it.

After sunset, the southwestern sky is illuminated by the glowing Venus as it slowly follows the sun. Following it is ringed Saturn with, if you look closely, a faint yellowish tint. Behind Saturn is the blue gas giant Neptune. Again, optical assistance is needed to see it. When you are searching for planets and wonder if a particular shining object is a star or a planet you can often tell by noting whether or not it is twinkling. Planets don’t twinkle.

Our planet is on the move around the Sun at a speed of 67,000 miles per hour, and it will make the round trip in 365 days, 6 hours, and 9 minutes (our year). The 6 hours and 9 minutes add up to about an extra day to the calendar every four years which is designated a leap year, so the extra day is added as 29 February.

The other planets each have their own orbital durations. Measured in Earth time Mercury takes 88 days to make a “year”. A year on Venus is 225 days. Planets farther out than the Earth have the longest orbits. A Martian year is 687 days long, 12 years for Jupiter, and 30 years for Saturn. The hard to see ones, Uranus and Neptune, have orbits that take 84 and 165 years respectively. The dwarf planet, Pluto, should not be left out with its year that is 248 years long.

The search is on for another planet in our Solar System, so it should also be mentioned. There is increasing evidence that Planet 9 (or Planet X) may exist, and if so, it will be at such a distance from the sun that its year would be between 10,000 and 20,000 years long.

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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.

Martin said the Lady Eagle long range shooting was the ultimate difference.

“They just hit the threes really well, especially in the first half [with six], and that’s just something we can’t really recover from. We were holding them well – 50 points is really low for them. We just have to score more ... that’s kinda been the song and dance of our losses when we are below 30 points. We have got to be able to put the ball in the basket.

The team was 11/35 on two-point shots and 2/10 from the free throw line.

“We just killed ourselves on chip shots – we have to be better than that.”

Martin was looking forward to the rematch in Cutter on January 31.

“It’s a really good environment – and I heard a rumor they might be hosting regionals. We’ll have to get there [at that point] because our conference is proving to be very athletic at the top.”

This week the Lady Rattlers will travel to Dierks on Tuesday.

“They were in a race with Cutter in their game [which Dierks lost 65-63], so same thing on the agenda – hold the sub kids under what they normally do, and don’t let them, like Cutter did, get their shooters out of hand.”

After still battling a bit of rust and lack of conditioning coming off the holiday break, the team would not see action again last week.

“You come off two to three practices a week to a long layoff – and now the same thing before you go to Dierks. We were gassed [against Cutter]. It is what it is.”

The Murfreesboro Rattlers gained a bit of retribution in the finale against Cutter, defeating the Eagles by a 51-47 score.

Caden Dixon had 19 for the Rattlers, while James Silva added 15.

Head coach Buster Bonner said it was a good win coming off the team’s lone loss this season against Nashville in the Mineral Springs holiday tournament.

“We played a hard game against Nashville, so I was a little concerned that it would carry over into the [Cutter] game, but it didn’t.”

Bonner said CMS is one of the better teams in conference, so it was a big game for the Rattlers.

“I know it’s a bit early [in the season] for a showdown, but it was a showdown. They were undefeated in conference as we were going into the game. So, it was really a big game in that respect. They are a really good ball team, and they are the ones that knocked us out in the state tournament last year. They lost several [to graduation] but they are a good ball club. They are a good bunch that hustles and gets after it – there’s not quit in them. It was a fun game to be a part of.”

The Rattlers got out to a ten point lead early, and held that lead for most of the game.

“Until the very end, and they got hot then,” said Bonner. “We kept our composure – it’s easy to get rattled and fall apart in those situations. We were able to hit some clutch free throws down the stretch.”

Bonner said the loss to Nashville was good for his club.

“That’s one of the better teams Nashville has had in a while. They are super quick, and it’s good for us to play someone like that. While, in the long run, no one likes to lose, we have to hustle.”

Bonner said he jokingly told the team they were now perfect.

“If you are 30-0, it’s not a perfect season, because you never had to overcome a defeat.”

However, he laughingly admits he didn’t think the team agreed with that assessment following the loss.

The team is roughly where Bonner thought they would be at this point in the season, but he said stamina was something they still needed to improve on. Also, like any other coach across America, he said he would like better shooting from the field.

“We’re not in great physical condition yet, and the time off [last week] isn’t going to help. We just got rolling back, and while we practiced over break, it’s not the same as going every day. We still haven’t gotten to the point of conditioning that we need to be, in my opinion, when we get to the fourth quarter, but that’s the coach’s fault. However, it does feel like we’ve had more games that practice days.”

Bonner said otherwise the team was largely coming together – a few players struggling, and a few too many missed free throws were his only complaint.

“When you shoot better from the field and three pointers than you do free throws [6/16, 38% against CMS] something is wrong with that. We shot 41% from the three-point line. Normally we shoot better than that – I don’t know what it was, but it could be because of the layoff from action, but we did hit three out of four [free throws] at the end.”

He said the team needed to work on it’s interior defense as a whole, but overall was doing what they needed to be doing.

“Keep on keeping on,” Bonner said to conclude.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

Michael McCratic
Vickie Owens

vs.

ANY UNKNOWN PERSON
CLAIMING AN INTEREST
IN THE PROPERTY AT ISSUE

PLAINTIFF

55CV-24-104

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Pike County, Arkansas to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described property in Pike County, Arkansas:
A tract of land being situated in the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 25 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, being located in Pike County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows:
Commencing at a Rebar w/Cap (PS 902) for the NE Corner of Said SE1/4 SW1/4, Thence S 03°22’38” W, 309.94 Feet to a Rebar w/Cap (PS 902) on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4; Thence S 03°22’38” W, 242.06 Feet to a Point on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4 and the Point of Beginning; Thence S 03°22’38” W, 146.04 Feet to a Rebar w/Cap (PS 1491) on the East Line of Said SE1/4 SW1/4; Thence N 87°34’37” W, 550.25 Feet to the Centerline of a Road; Thence N 02°51’11” E, 155.21 Feet along Said Road Centerline; Thence S 86°37’22” E, 551.59 Feet to the Point of Beginning, Containing ±1.91 Acres more or less and being subject to any and all covenants, easements, and restrictions of record.
Any person claiming any title or interest of any kind to such property is hereby notified to appear herein on or before February 10, 2025 to assert his title or interest in such property and to demonstrate why title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in Michael McCratic and Vickie Owens, Plaintiff herein.
WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 6th day of January, 2025.
SABRINA WILLIAMS,
Pike County Circuit Clerk

(d.b. 337w, 28,29,30,31)

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The junior high and seventh grade games set for January 9 has been canceled.

The January 10 game against Caddo Hills will be now be held on January 27 in Murfreesboro. The chili supper benefit for the track team that was scheduled to be held on January 10 will be moved to January 21 when the team will host Horatio.

The junior high teams will not be participating this week in the scheduled Umpire tournament.

THIS WEEK

The senior teams will compete at Dierks, along with the MJHS Lady Rattlers on Tuesday and at Spring Hill on Friday along with the MJHS Rattlers.



Staff photos

CLIPPING THE EAGLES ... In the Murfreesboro Rattlers’ win over Cutter Morning Star last week, Caden Dixon (above) looks to get a shot off in the paint against an Eagle defender, while (below) James Silva pokes the ball away from the Eagles’ possession while on defense.



PUBLIC NOTICE

BID NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting sealed bids on the following equipment.
3-20- yard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters.
3-30- yard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters.
2-40- yard Heavy Duty Rectangle Roll Off Dumpsters.
Please call the Pike County Judge for details and specifications.
Bids may be mailed to P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958 or delivered to the Pike County Judge, at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro.
Bids will be opened January 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pike County Judge’s office, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro.
Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any an all bids.
Eddie Howard
Pike County Judge
This publication was paid for by Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$54.00

(p.c.j. 132w. 28,29)

PUBLIC NOTICE

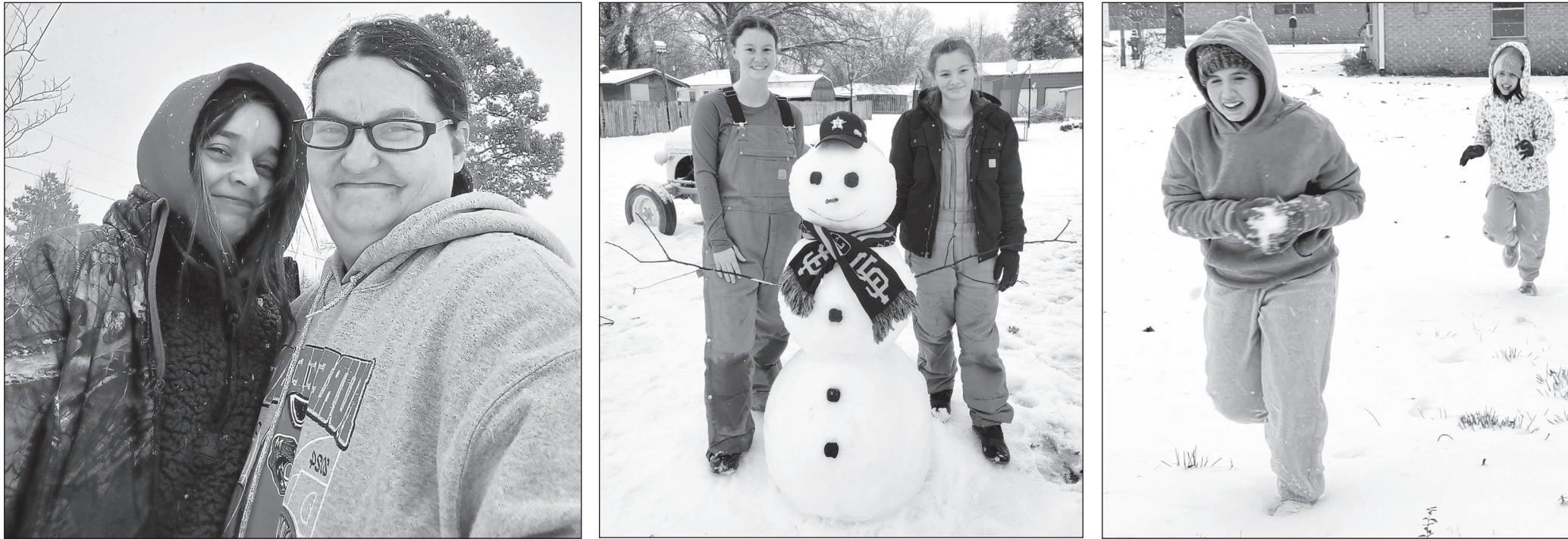
BID NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids on culvert pipe for the 2025 calendar year. Bids are requested on galvanized, bituminous coated, concrete, corrugated polyethylene (smooth interior) and aluminum coated culvert pipe.
Prices will be F.O.B. County Yard, Murfreesboro, Arkansas.
Bids will be opened January 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Judge’s Office located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro.
Bids may be mailed to the Pike County Judge, P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958 or delivered to 1 Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.
Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids
Eddie Howard
Pike County Judge
This publication was paid for by Pike County Judge. The amount paid for this publication is \$48.80

(p.c.j. 122w., 28,29)

SNOW DAY!

Local residents show off what they did outside in the winter wonderland last week



The Murfreesboro Diamond appreciates everyone that submitted pictures of their adventures in the snow!

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

Council approves second stage of sidewalk plan

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council voted Monday night to wrap up the west side of the sidewalk project through the center of downtown before looking at getting started on the east side of North Washington.

The project will be funded by an Arkansas Department of Transportation 80/20 matching grant for the entire sidewalk project - east and west sides - that maxes out at \$500,000 with the city's contribution to max out at \$210,000, according to Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb.

The west side wrap would include continuing the new sidewalk towards the courthouse square and adding lights along the entire length of that side.

The council is expected to meet with an engineer next month to get the details and start the paperwork involved. The mayor noted that this is a 2026 project.

In other council business Monday night, Mayor O'Neal announced that longtime Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department chief Randy Lamb has stepped down and the council approved Ricky Branch as his replacement. Lamb, who is also the city's police chief, served for more than 10 years as fire chief and will continue to serve the department as a captain. Branch has also served the department for many years and was Lamb's assistant chief.

Mayor O'Neal also updated the council on

the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) survey the city is planning to conduct in an effort to appeal the 2020 census figure that shows the city has a 51% designation. The increase is due to the increase in vacation rental homes in the area that were once used to house low to moderate income residents and families, according to the mayor.

The percentage makes Murfreesboro too wealthy to qualify for many grant programs until the next census in 2030. O'Neal noted that the city's water department was recently turned down for a grant to buy a generator for the water treatment plant because of the LMI percentage.

The plan is to contact every resident with a Murfreesboro water meter either by mail, phone or in person. The mayor said he plans to get more information when he attends an upcoming Arkansas Municipal League meeting and will report the findings to the council.

The council also approved Recorder/Treasurer Lamb's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances for December 2023:

- General Fund -- \$30,927/\$21,778
- General Operating -- \$385,887/\$409,004
- Street Fund -- \$16,505/\$13,956
- Street Operating -- \$357,130/\$368,648
- Park Fund -- \$17,673/\$12,482
- Water & Sewer Dept. -- \$488,820/\$522,659
- Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission -- \$100,794/\$94,962



Staff photos

PRETTY AND DESTRUCTIVE ... The recent winter weather event did cause some problems to infrastructure around the area, including downing awnings, garages and reportedly chicken houses while also disconnecting some from electrical service for a time.



Miller's retirement on hold after successor resigns

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Longtime Murfreesboro Water Superintendent Randy Miller's retirement plans have been put on hold after his replacement decided to quit after just seven days on the job.

Miller was set to be replaced by Jeff Parker and then stay on as need-be contract labor until Parker had secured all the required licenses for running a city water system. Parker, a former employee of the Arkansas Department of Health and the City of Nashville's water department, had been in training with Miller at

the water treatment plant for approximately six weeks before assuming his superintendent role on Jan. 1.

Parker submitted his resignation to Miller on Jan. 8 following a Jan. 7 meeting with water department commissioners.

As a result, Miller, who was treated to a retirement reception on Dec. 27, is now back as full-time superintendent. The year 2025 will be his 47th year with the water and sewer department.

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal announced in Monday's council meeting that the city is "back to ground zero" in the search for a new water superintendent.

Roundtable discussion planned for March 10

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike Health County Coalition invites county residents to an upcoming community roundtable discussion and asks interested participants to save the date.

The event will be held on March 10 at a yet to be determined location.

Topics of conversation will be improving healthcare access, addressing community con-

cerns and fostering collaboration across local organizations.

"Help us make a difference," said the flyer for the event. Lunch will be provided for attendees.

For more information contact Shannon Ballard at (870) 285-2161 or Chantell Jones at (870) 703-1158.

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Each one of us, as a faithful Christian, is commanded to grow each and every day of our life.

II Peter 3:18 tells me to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each day that we live we must become better and stronger in our faith and Christian living. Spiritual growth and maturity are important because we never stay the same as this world rushes on. We either move forward in Christ or we drift backward. We must press forward continually in the quest of Heaven.

WE GROW IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1) WORKING AS A CHRISTIAN – I CORINTHIANS 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immov-



able, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2) SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES – ACTS 17:11 Now these were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, searching the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

3) FERVENT, REGULAR

PRAYER – JAMES 5:16

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

4) WORSHIPPING ACCEPTABLY – HEBREWS 10:25 Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit as some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Let us continue to study, work, pray, and worship as we grow and mature daily as a child of God, looking forward to our home in Heaven.

II PETER 3:12 – Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.

I pray that each of you has a great week and that you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

-Jason Hart, Via Bulletin Gold *Paid Advertisement*

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Breakfast: Cinnamon bun or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Beef fingers, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, cornbread muffin, applesauce, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Popcorn chicken

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, carrot sticks w/ ranch, steamed broccoli, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Cheese pizza

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Cheeseburger, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, pickle & onion slices, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Spicy chicken sandwich

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Breakfast: Super donut or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Beef tacos w/cheese, lettuce, tomato, refried beans, salsa, pineapple, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Burrito

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Breakfast: Sausage egg croissant or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Vegetable soup, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, grilled cheese sandwich, peaches, milk

7-12 Line 2 option- Hot ham & cheese sandwich, 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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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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GUARDING THE KING!

IN BIBLICAL TIMES, WHEN ALL KINGS, AS A GENERAL RULE, WERE TYRANTS AND DESPOTIC, TO SAY THE LEAST, IT WAS FOUND NECESSARY TO CONTINUALLY GUARD THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES! THE SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL BODYGUARD HAD TO BE COMPLETELY DEPENDABLE IN THEIR FIDELITY TO THE KING THEY WERE PROTECTING! AND THE CAPTAIN OF THIS ROYAL GUARD, GENERALLY WAS THE MOST LOYAL FRIEND THE KING HAD! SUCH A MAN WAS BENJAH, DAVID'S CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (II SAM. 22:22,23) AND THE BIBLE MENTIONS MORE HIGHLY PLACED CAPTAINS--POTIPHAR FOR PHARAOH (GEN. 37:36; 41:12) NEBUZAR-ADAN CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD FOR KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR (II KINGS 25:8) AND OTHERS--BUT ORIENTAL PALACES WERE HOTBEDS OF INTRIGUE AND THE KINGS COULDN'T TRUST THEIR CAPTAINS THAT MUCH--SO IT BECAME A CUSTOM TO SET SPIES THROUGHOUT THE PALACE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ROYAL GUARD WAS REALLY LOYAL--ESPECIALLY AFTER ZIMRI, A TRUSTED CAPTAIN, SLEW HIS KING AND REIGNED IN HIS STEAD FOR ONE WEEK, BEFORE BEING DEFEATED (I KINGS 16:8-20) AFTER THAT, THE PALACE SPIES ABOUNDED, AND NO ONE WHO ENTERED THE PALACE WAS EVER TREATED WITH ANYTHING BUT COMPLETE SUSPICION AS LONG AS HE WAS THERE--"UNEASY LIES THE HEAD THAT WEARS A CROWN!"



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1. 43,560 square feet
5. Undergarment
8. “She ____ a Yellow Ribbon”
12. Ocean Spray ____-Apple juice
13. #5 Across, pl.
14. Concentration of solution, in chemistry
15. CISC alternative
16. Swearing-in words
17. Goodwill branch
18. *Artist with most Grammy nominations
20. ALCS counterpart
21. Winter Olympics participant
22. IX minus II
23. Drum roll sound
26. Front of building, pl.
30. Get it wrong
31. Upholstery choice
34. Reflect deeply
35. Raccoon’s cousin
37. “ ____ the fields we go”
38. Binary digits code
39. Capital on a fjord
40. Isaac of science fiction fame
42. Consumed
43. Within shortest distance
45. *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
47. Beer faucet
48. Corpulent
50. Self-satisfied
52. *2025 Grammy nominated former band, with The
55. Twist and distort
56. Bank’s provision
57. Flock’s response
59. Ranee’s wrap
60. Elvers
61. *2003 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient ____ Puente
62. Like some wines
63. ____ it or lose it
64. Formerly, formerly

DOWN

1. Acronym, abbr.
2. Discarded cards in cribbage
3. Tear down
4. Enclose in a cyst
5. Orthodontic appliance
6. Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
7. Certain tray content
8. *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy ____
9. Related to ear
10. RPMs
11. Before, in verse
13. Predatory fish
14. Gin’s partner
19. Giraffe’s striped-leg cousin
22. *1995 “Have I Told You Lately That I Love You” winner ____ Morrison
23. Scout’s mission
24. What phoenix did
25. ____-____-la
26. Non-negotiable
27. Old European coin
28. Last 8 in college basketball
29. More than sly
32. *Nominated artist Post Malone’s actual last name
33. Hula dancer’s necklace
36. *Taylor Swift’s “The ____ Poets Department”
38. Nautical “Stop!”
40. Nile viper
41. *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
44. Top scout
46. Make a connection
48. Double-reed instruments
49. Famous Memphis street
50. Unforeseen obstacle
51. Foal’s mother
53. Chieftain in Arabia
54. Tennis amount
55. General Services Administration
56. Romanian money
58. *Kendrick Lamar’s “ ____ Like Us”

CROSSWORD

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Tips to prepare home and garden in winter conditions

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — With the winter storm that impacted Arkansas last Thursday and Friday, it’s important to know how to prepare homes and gardens for snow and ice.

Sherri Sanders, White County extension agent for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said it is critical to protect one’s home from the elements.

“Our home is our largest investment,” Sanders said. “We need to be proactive: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Sanders suggested starting by unhooking garden hoses from outdoor faucets. “Drain them, roll them up, and store them indoors,” she said.

“Install faucet covers on all exterior water faucets,” Sanders said. “You can also use items like old shirts or socks to cover the faucet. If you don’t have insulated pipes, consider investing in insulation. Whether you take it on as a do-it-yourself project, or hire a professional, it’s always better to think ahead.”

Sanders said people should also be aware of any water line leaks or sags that could potentially lead to problems when temperatures are below freezing for several days.

Protection indoors from outside elements

To help prevent pipes from freezing, Sanders said to “allow your hot and cold faucets to drip anytime temperatures reach freezing.”

“Remember to drip both hot and cold water,” she said. “I’ve been known to set my washer and dishwasher on delayed timers to let them run through the nighttime hours, just to keep water moving in the pipes of the house.”

Though it may be tempting to turn one’s heat down significantly — or even shut it off entirely — to save on expenses, Sanders said even this “small act” can contribute to pipes freezing.

In addition to protecting pipes, Sanders suggested the following preventative measures:

- Use weather strips as an inexpensive way to seal doors and windows in the home.
- Install a door sweep — a type of weatherstripping mounted to the bottom of a door — on exterior doors to block out cold air.
- Hang insulated curtains. “Thermal curtains are another way to insulate windows,” Sanders said. “If you keep them closed,

they help your home retain heat in the colder months.”

- Re-caulk windows and doors.
- Use a door snake. “These weighted fabric tubes are placed at the bottom of your door and prevent cold air from coming through,” Sanders said. “If you don’t want to buy a door snake, a rolled-up towel will also do the trick.”

GUARDING THE GARDEN

Sanders said any outdoor houseplants should already be inside. For plants in containers and in the ground, “watering them before a deep freeze event is crucial,” Sanders said.

“The water will act as a protective blanket around the root system,” Sanders said. “Adding mulch and wrapping your vulnerable shrubs for the winter may help them to survive.”

Sanders said fabric coverings will prevent the freezing air from coming into direct contact with the moisture on the plant, while also capturing the heat that is radiating from the ground.

“Bed sheets or comforters work best for covering large plants and shrubs,” she said. “Water is pulled from the cells when it freezes, and your plants need water to help recover. Frozen plants will be brittle, so exercise caution.”

Sanders also suggested waiting a bit before fertilizing plants after a freeze.

“What you don’t want is to stimulate new growth when your plant is trying to cover from the damage incurred by the freeze,” Sanders said. “Have patience, and do not remove any leaves or prune branches during this time.”

For more resources on winter preparedness in Arkansas, visit the Winter in Arkansas page on the Cooperative Extension Service website.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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MS coach resigns position after three seasons

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MINERAL SPRINGS -- Mineral Springs Head Coach Jason Hathcock has resigned after three seasons on the sidelines with the football Hornets.

Hathcock, who played high school football for Glen Rose and coached at Barton, Bismarck and Lafayette County before coming to Mineral Springs, leaves the Hornets with a 22-11 record.

"I know I have left the program better than when I took it over," Hathcock told the newspaper last week. "In three seasons, the Hornets finished in the top 10 and made playoff appearances every season."

He noted that the Hornets were 6-21 in the three seasons prior to his arrival including a winless 2021.

"The Hornets have had seven athletes and counting that have been offered athletic scholarship and the team GPA increased from 2.4 to 3.2," Hathcock said.

During his short time with the school district, Hathcock said that he was also able to fundraise and make

approximately \$750,000 in business contracts used to improve the district's sports facilities.

Hathcock said the main reason he resigned was that he felt that the district's vision and his vision "no longer aligned."

"When I accepted this positions, I was inspired by the vision for the district portrayed by the current administration. I feel the vision of the district has shifted, and our visions no longer align," he said.

"There are no hard feelings, these things tend to happen in coaching. It is part of the business."

Hathcock added, "I will cherish the memories made and will continue to support the young men that played for me at Mineral Springs. The relationships you build in this profession are what counts. I pray that the lessons that this football program has taught these young men enables them to have bright and successful futures in their careers, marriages and parenthood."

Hathcock said he is unsure of his next step, but "Im trusting God to lead me to where He wants me to be."



Staff photos

PRISTINE BEAUTY ... Local resident Brandi Rowton captured the scenic beauty of Wolf Creek during the recent snowy environment.

Area schools amongst appliers for postseason

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Glenwood Herald Editor

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Activities Association will select 2025 postseason host sites Thursday, January 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn in North Little Rock. Tournaments include regional and state tournaments for basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and track.

In basketball, Centerpoint and Kirby have both submitted bids to host their respective regional tournaments.

Centerpoint submitted a bid to host the 4-3A Regional Tournament. Other teams to submit bids include Dumas and Drew Central.

Kirby submitted a bid to host the 4-1A Regional Tournament. Lafayette County also submitted a bid to host the tournament.

The 4-2A Regional Tournament has five teams vying for the host site. Neighboring Dierks is joined by Hampton, Cutter Morning Star, Junction City, and Poyen as possible host sites.

Three schools submitted bids for the 1A State Tournament. They include Columbia Christian, Marked Tree (Trumann), and West Side – GF.

Five schools submitted bids for the 2A State Tournament. They include Quitman, Izard County, Junction City, Cedar Ridge, and Cutter Morning Star.

Three schools submitted bids for the 3A State Tournament. They include Valley Springs, Lincoln, and Lamar.

In baseball, Taylor submitted the lone bid for the 4-1A Regional Tournament.

Horatio and Woodlawn are vying for the 4-2A Regional Tournament, and Genoa Central and Ashdown have bid on the 4-3A Regional Tournament. De Queen and Monticello bid on the 4-4A Regional Tournament.

Columbia Christian and Jasper have submitted bids for the 1A State Tournament.

Marshall and Palestine-Wheatley have submitted bids for the 2A State Tournament.

In softball, Taylor submitted the lone bid for the 4-1A Regional Tournament.

Junction City, Horatio and Woodlawn are vying for the 4-2A Regional Tournament, and Genoa Central and Ashdown have bid on the 4-3A Regional Tournament. De Queen and Monticello bid on the 4-4A Regional Tournament.

Columbia Christian and Jasper have submitted bids for the 1A State Tournament.

Marshall and Palestine-Wheatley have submitted bids for the 2A State Tournament.

No bids were submitted to host the 1A or 2A State Track Meets.

Prescott, Harding Academy, and Jessierville have submitted bids to host the 3A State Track Meet.

Harding Academy has submitted the lone bid to host the Meet of Champions.

All bids listed are as of January 9, 2025. For the complete list of bids, please visit www.ahsaa.org.



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In addition to her technical expertise, Stephanie excels in establishing and managing client relationships, providing tailored financial and tax advice. She is committed to supporting individuals and small businesses in achieving their financial goals.

Stephanie holds an MBA from Texas A & M University – Commerce and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting Control Systems from the University of North Texas.

Stephanie grew up in Murfreesboro, AR, and is the daughter of Steve and Cindy Turner and Richard and the late Vicki Cook of Murfreesboro. In addition to her parents, she has a host of family and friends in the Murfreesboro and Nashville area. She and her spouse William have been married for 16 years and recently moved to Nashville to raise their three boys: Austin (12), Parker (11), and Cason (6).

Stephanie Lockhart, CPA

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