

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Town hall meetings
to be held in four
Pike County locations

MURFREESBORO – Pike County Judge Eddie Howard has announced a series of meeting across the county to better help inform the public about the role that local government plays.

Howard said he has invited the county's elected officials to attend each town hall meeting. The agenda for each meeting will consist of a rundown of each county office, budgets, and an organized question and answer period for county residents in attendance. Topics can include any facet of county government, including – but not limited to – taxes, trash collection and road maintenance.

Each of the four meetings will begin at 7 p.m., and will be held on the following dates/locations:

- Monday, Feb. 3, Murfreesboro Municipal Building
- Tuesday, Feb. 4, Kirby School Cafeteria
- Thursday, Feb. 6, Centerpoint School Cafeteria
- Monday, Feb. 10, former Delight School Cafeteria



Submitted photos/Pike County

WRECKED ... A Pike County trash truck was involved in an accident last week that left one county employee injured and the truck likely totaled, while (below right) a tire was ripped off the tractor the other involved truck was hauling. For more details of the wreck, see the quorum court story below.

Extension to hold beef
and forage production
meeting in Glenwood

GLENWOOD -- The Pike and Montgomery County U-A Cooperative Extension Service branches will soon collaborate to host a beef and forage production meeting.

The event will be held on Feb. 11 starting at 6 p.m., with registration starting at 5:30 p.m. The location will be at McGrew Livestock Auction at 56 Highway 70 East in Glenwood.

Meals will be provided to attendees. To RSVP or for more information, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161 or the Montgomery County Extension Office at (870) 867-2311.

Topics to be covered at the event include employees of the U-A Division of Agriculture Research and Extension:

- The impact of nutrition on cattle production by Dr. Maggie Justice, assistant animal science professor and beef cattle specialist CES
- Cool-season next steps in your forage production by Dr. Jonathan Kubesch, animal science assistant professor and forages CES
- Importance of weighing cattle by Codie McAlister, Pike County CES agent, agriculture
- Vaccination protocol by Gerald Hewitt, Montgomery County CES agent, agriculture

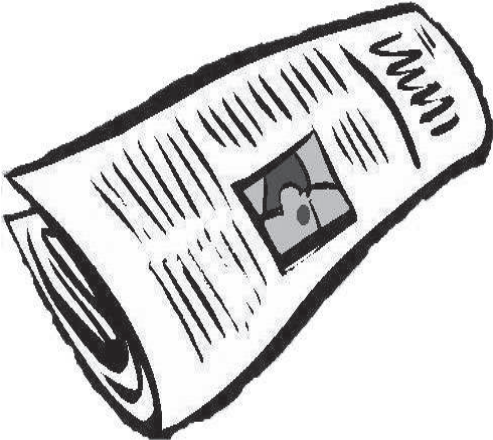
The event is being sponsored by McGrew Livestock Auction and Farm Bureau of Pike and Montgomery Counties.



Park announces sign-up
times for youth baseball,
softball, tee-ball

MURFREESBORO -- Sign up for youth baseball, softball and tee-ball will be held Thursday, Jan. 30 from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Both dates will be conducted at the Murfreesboro City Park office. Fees of \$60 for baseball and softball and \$30 for tee ball will be due at the time of sign up.



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SOMETHING
WORTH TELLING?
Submit Your Local
News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information

Quorum Court discusses wreck

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court was told of a mailout that will be going to all rural residents in the county outlining the 2025 trash collection schedule.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said it was in response to being “bombarded by calls” in 2024 during any change due to holiday scheduling.

“There is so much confusion it’s crazy ... we’ve tried everything else including Facebook,” said Howard in telling the quorum court of the importance of the mailout.

The mailout was produced by Alexander Printing, with printing costs and postage coming to just over \$1,000.

The court was also apprised of the trash truck wreck that occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Howard said the trash truck, which was at fault in the accident, was probably totaled after pulling out in front of a large truck hauling a large piece of equipment.

“It busted the engine block and bent the frame ... I’m hoping we can salvage the back end and put in on a new can and chassis,” said Howard, noting that the truck was purchased several years ago during the Dewight Mack administration.

One county employee was injured when he was thrown out of the truck after having just

climbed into the vehicle when the accident happened. The driver, who was seatbelted, was not injured.

“He landed on his tailbone and bit through his upper lip,” said Howard, adding that the employee was transported by ambulance to be checked out as a precaution. “The trash truck driver was cited by the state police for failure to yield, and it was an act of God that all was as good as it ended. I’m just glad nobody was seriously hurt.”

He assured the quorum court members that they had a spare truck to keep collections going moving forward.

“We have one [spare] for the north end and the south end, and use them more often than you’d expect.”

The court nominated member Johnny Plyler to the state quorum court executive board, where Plyler holds the office of vice president.

It was asked before the vote if Plyler, who was not at the meeting, would be able to assume the duty after recent heart surgery featuring three bypasses.

Howard said it would likely take him around six months to full recovery, but that he would be able to fulfill the commitments of the task.

“He didn’t have a heart attack, but was on the verge of one due to the blockages.”

The court also approved Ordinance No. 2025-1, which set the date, time and place of the monthly Pike County Quorum Court Meetings in 2025 and 2026.

The court meets at the Pike County Courthouse on the third Monday of each month, with the time starting at 6 p.m. during winter months and at 7 p.m. during daylight savings time months. The only deviation of the schedule after January will be in February, when President’s Day will move the meeting to Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

In the ordinance it also states that the court will operate by Robert’s Rules of Order the Procedural Guide for Arkansas Quorum Court meetings. Additionally, it gives the court the ability – with a majority vote --to change a meeting date or location “at its pleasure” during the course of the biennium.

The final account balances for 2024 (opening/closing in December) were announced by County Treasurer Loletia Rather:

County General--	\$1,415,447.45	/\$2,013,802.75
County Road --	\$699,847.43	/\$753,692.44
County Landfill --	\$900,965.38	/928,771.12
All County Accounts --		
	\$7,333,385.85	/\$7,963,809.73

Eight sentenced in local court recently

MURFREESBORO -- Two defendants were sentenced during the Jan. 24 session of Pike County Circuit Court, including one from Howard County.

Joseph Viola, 41, who has addresses in Delight and Murfreesboro listed in court information, plead “true” to the charge of probation revocation and plead guilty to possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. He was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) on the revocation charge and 10 years with five years suspended on the drug charges. The sentences will run concurrently and he was credited for his time served.

Judge Tom Cooper also took a plea from Alisha M. Kersey, 44, of Glenwood, in a Howard County criminal case. Kersey was arrested in September 2021 at the Walmart in Nashville in an incident involving a shoplifting and was found to be in possession of meth with pur-

pose to deliver and drug paraphernalia. She was sentenced to three years in the ADC and ordered to pay related court costs.

JANUARY 27 COURT

Six defendants were sentenced Friday, Jan. 27 in Pike County after entering pleas.

Pamela McKinnon, 61, of Delight, plead guilty to possession of meth and was sentenced to four years in the ADC with two years suspended. As part of her plea deal, the state will not pursue a charge of delivery of hydrocodone filed in February 2021.

William Killip, Jr., 41, of Lavaca, plead guilty to an amended felony charge of possession of meth and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with two years suspended. Killip was also ordered to pay related court costs and was credited for his time served.

Pantera French, 18, who is listed as both homeless and with a Glenwood address, plead guilty to charges of possession of a controlled

substance, theft of property and breaking or entering. She was sentenced to a total of five years probation and fined a total of \$1,500 plus court costs. French was also ordered to complete a drug rehabilitation program.

Paula Marie Hill, 70, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to the charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was sentenced to five years in the ADC with three years suspended. As part of her plea deal, the state will not pursue a drug paraphernalia charge. Hill is expected to return to court on Feb. 10 for formal sentencing.

Christopher Wright, 39, of Murfreesboro, plead guilty to the charges of theft by receiving and firearm possession. He was sentenced to seven years in the ADC with three years suspended and ordered to pay related court costs.

Jennifer Taylor, 41, of Story, plead “no contest” to a theft of property charge. She was sentenced to four years of probation and fined \$1,500 plus related court costs.

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers are continuing to rock along this season, still holding an undefeated conference record heading into this week.

On January 14, MHS traveled to Dierks to collect a 55-44 win over the Outlaws.

MHS would only lead by one after the first quarter 11-10, but expanded the lead to 25-15 by halftime.

Caden Dixon would lead the Rattlers with 23 points (three three-pointers) and added seven rebounds and four steals.

Laytan Wilcher had 13 points for MHS, Kooper Caldwell had 10 and James Silva added nine.

Jordan Hill scored 14 points to lead Dierks, while teammates Dylan Moore and Colton Gadbury each had 12.

The Rattlers would travel to Spring Hill on January 17 and won the game 48-30.

Murfreesboro would jump out to a 10-2 lead at the end of the first and 28-15 by halftime.

Dixon would again lead the team with 20

points and 13 rebounds, followed by Silva with 16. Wilcher and Caldwell added five points each.

On January 21, the Rattlers claimed a 50-34 win over Horatio.

MHS would jump out to a 16-6 lead after the first quarter and 31-10 by halftime to cruise to the victory.

Dixon scored 15 points for the Rattlers, followed by Caldwell and Silva with 14 each.

Silva led the team with 12 rebounds, while Caldwell collected five steals.

The team continued their winning ways against Foreman on January 24 with a 60-32 victory.

MHS would lead 20-12 after one and 31-20 at halftime, but blew the game open by holding the Gators to a single point in the third quarter to lead 51-21.

Dixon had 24 points for the Rattlers, while Silva and Wilcher each scored 12 points.

Caldwell would add ten to place four scorers in double figures for the team.

Silva pulled down 14 rebounds in the contest and had four assists to lead the team in both categories. Dixon, Wilcher and Cash Lowery each had three steals apiece.

Rattler head coach Buster Bonner said he was pleased with the team's progression thus far through the season.

"I believe we are [coming along as we should] ... the shooting is getting better and the defense is consistent. We are sitting in pretty good shape right now as the only team in conference without a loss [in conference play]. The question is can we keep it going?"

He said it wouldn't get any easier down the line for the Rattlers.

"On any given night there are several teams that could beat someone, but we are really pleased with where we are at right now. We just don't need to have a mental lapse of some kind. Physically, we can play with any team in the conference."

He said that if the Rattlers play at their best, it really doesn't matter what the other team

does.

"But sometimes it doesn't always work out that way -- we may not play at our very best." He said the key to the upcoming games were to keep playing "good team ball."

"They really play well together and pass the ball -- last week center James [Silva] led in assists. That doesn't always happen, but he does a good job when the defense collapses on him. That's they key to this bunch, they just play well together and compliment each other. They look for each other and it's not a one-man show out there."

Bonner joked that instability may have provided this group their best ability.

"One disadvantage to this group is that they have had a different head coach every year. But it's not hindering them, so I think they learned a little from each one along the way and combined it all. I don't know, but they sure do play well together," he concluded with a laugh.



A black and white photograph of a young man with dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking slightly to his left. He is wearing a white basketball jersey with dark trim around the V-neck and armholes. The word "RATTLERS" is printed in bold, dark capital letters across the chest. A small Nike swoosh logo is visible on the upper left side of the jersey. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of spectators in bleachers.



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will be gladly and promptly corrected if called
to the attention of the management.*

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

Michael McCratic **PLAINTIFF**
Vickie Owens
vs. **55CV-24-104**

**ANY UNKNOWN PERSON
CLAIMING AN INTEREST
IN THE PROPERTY AT ISSUE 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 to the 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)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA)

**USDA – Farm Service Agency
Notice of Availability
Construction of a Large CAFO, Arkansas
Draft Environmental Assessment**

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the construction of a large CAFO located in Section 27, Township 8 south, Range 26 west in Pike County in Arkansas. The primary objective of the activity is to construct (2) broiler houses.

FSA is accepting written comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through 03/03/2025. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at the following USDA Service Center: FSA, 101 South Washington Street Nashville, Arkansas 71852. Comments should be submitted in writing to Adam Kaufman at FSA, 419 West Gaines Street, Monticello, AR 71655.

All written comments will be carefully considered, and no action concerning the project shall be taken until the agency has completed an environmental review and issued a final decision. The Final Environmental Assessment will be made available and underlying documentation may be examined upon request.

(f.s.b., 180w., 30,31)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PATRICIA OLDHAM DICKEY, DECEASED NO. 55PR-25-3

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Last known address of decedent: 7920 Skylake Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76179

Date of death: 01/04/2024

The undersigned, Reade Clayton Dickey, was appointed Executor of the ancillary estate of the above-named decedent on the 8th day of January, 2025.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the ancillary estate.

This notice first published this 22nd day of January, 2025.

Reade Clayton Dickey, Executor
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One
P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-5256 phone
(870) 845-5899 fax

(v.m., 16lw., 29, 30)

Fly fishing festival set for M’boro this week

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 “weekend 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 ArkLa-TexOma 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.

MHS announces honor roll for second nine weeks

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro High School has released the honor roll for the second nine weeks.

Students, listed by grade, include:

SEVENTH GRADE:
All A -- Lainey Beene, Paisley Caldwell, Jacob Chaney, June Goodin, Dawson McKinnon, Ashly McRae, Jackson Nance

A&B -- Asher Campbell, Calvert Campbell, Bejamin Cox, Ava Harr, Braxton Horn, Ava Humphry

EIGHTH GRADE:
All A -- Bejamin Brewer, Abigail Campbell, Madilynn Draper, Adalyn Silva

A&B -- Avery Baker, Carsyn Ballard, Hope Colman, Gage Harper, Kason Watson, Austin Wright

NINTH GRADE:
All A -- None listed

A&B -- Kinley Fisher, Alexander Gill, Kyndall Henderson, Elizabeth Mata, Joshua Myrkle, Isaac Smith, Kennedy Tidwell, McKinlee White, Adrian Zacarias

TENTH GRADE:
All A -- Alex Bonner, Gianna Draper, Carter Gilmer, Curtis Markcum, Conner McBay, Jordyn Nance, Mason Phillips, Aurora Stone, Ramsey Terrell, Charleigh Wheeler

A&B -- Cameron Braden, Monica Dominguez, Isabell Frazier, Kinslee Howell, Gavin Jones, Josie Jones, Garrett Lamb, Cole McKnight, Carson Oakley, Jefferson Spradlin, Mason Wilkins

ELEVENTH GRADE:
All A -- Kale Burns, Lucas Carey, John Parker Jackson, Colton Robbins, Mabree

Sweat, Faith Teel

A&B -- Teegan Barnett, Sydney Braden, Faith Henderson, Hawkins Jackson, Miguel Mendez, Kinleigh Mounts, Hailey Sweney

TWELFTH GRADE:
All A -- Chloe Beck, Isaac Bush, Ethan Coleman, Aniyah Harris, Janiyah Harris, Jocce Holt, Jamie Howell, Weston Lamb, Jenna May, Natalie Perrin, Albert Quiroz, James Silva, Brody Smith, Reid Spradlin, Layken Stone, Kinleigh Sullivan, Anna Terrell, Allie Wicker, Laytan Wilcher

A&B -- David James Barnes, James Chaney, Dallas Cox, Cruz Reyes, Caden Dixon, Daelyn Henderson, Brody Ma-roon, Jade Matthews, Mason Sanders, Chloe Scoggin, Allison Synco, Braden Wright

New legislation approved by state legislature

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Senate quickly approved legislation to protect the rights of more than 500 victims of child sex abuse who have already won civil cases and are waiting for their settlements to become official.

Senators unanimously approved Senate Bill 13 on the same day that attorneys for a former pediatrician, and convicted child sex offender, argued before the state Court of Appeals that existing Arkansas law was unconstitutional.

The sex offender’s lawsuit challenges a law enacted in 2021 known as the Justice for Vulnerable Victims of Sexual Abuse Act. It greatly extended the statute of limitations for child abuse victims, and also extended the time period in which they can file lawsuits against the offenders who abused them.

Legislators became aware that the 2021 act was being challenged in court, so the same Senate and House sponsors of the 2021 act joined forces again to file SB 13.

Passage of SB 13 by the legislature will protect monetary awards that victims in Arkansas have already won, no matter the outcome of the case currently at the Court of Appeals. If the convicted sex offender wins, and SB 13 is not passed, money that already has been allocated to victims in Arkansas would instead be distributed to victims from other states.

Two other Senate bills that were approved early in the legislative session are meant to make veterinary services more available in parts of Arkansas that are under-served.

Senate Bill 68 passed by a vote of 34-to-1. It would allow veterinary technicians, technologists and technician specialists to help animals during an emergency when the supervising veterinarian is not present.

By a vote of 33-to-2 the Senate passed SB 61, which would allow a veterinarian licensed in Arkansas to provide telemedicine services, using audio-visual technology or the telephone.

The bill would also allow a veterinarian to provide emergency services via telemedicine for someone even though they have not yet established a relationship. In those instances, the veterinarian must establish a relationship with the client within seven

LEGISLATION Continued on Page 5

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Obituaries

Larry Wayne Roberts, 70, Billstown

Larry Wayne Roberts, age 70 of Billstown, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, January 24, 2025 at his home.

He was born in Redwing, Minnesota on August 25, 1954 to the late Ernest Wayne Roberts and Peggy Jean Johnson Roberts.

Mr. Roberts was a member of the Delight Church of Christ. He was also a member of Operating Engineers Local 624.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing basketball. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his

sister, Vickey Roberts.

Survivors include his loving wife of fifty-two years, Mary Lou Bell Roberts; two daughters, Cindy (Joe) Vansickle and Terrie Stone; six grandchildren, Eden (Andrew) Henderson, Alahna (Trent) O’Connell, Dylan (Addison) Hill, Taylor Vansickle, Shane Vansickle and Atty Vansickle; four great-grandchildren, Rylee O’Connell, Clyde Henderson, Bowen Hill and pending Maggie Grace Henderson; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the Delight Church of Christ.

Funeral services followed on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the Delight Church of Christ. Interment was held in the Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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



**PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD**

Constellation your way around the night sky

Long before the ancient Greeks and other cultures of the time defined and catalogued the night sky, skywatchers of antiquity divided the stars into groups that depicted animals and mythological figures. Many of those groupings are part of our modern constellation system.

Most of the 88 constellations have Latin names, and go back to the mythology of Classical Greece. The International Astronomical Union made the list of 88 official in 1930. About a quarter of these are only visible in the southern hemisphere. Becoming familiar with, say, 15 of the brightest constellations visible to us during the year is a good start to knowing your way around the night sky.

Currently, at 8 or 9 p.m. there is a good mix of planets and constellations. Overhead is the constellation Perseus (PURR-see-us) who was the heroic rescuer of Andromeda in Greek myth, and Auriga (oh-RYE-gah) the charioteer where you can find the bright star Capella. South of them is the well-known Orion(oh-RYE-un) followed by his faithful dog Canis Major (KAY-niss May-er) with its bright star Sirius (SEAR-ee-us). To the north of overhead is the big W of Cassiopeia (kass-io-PEE-ah).

Rising in early evening are Leo the lion and the great bear Ursa Major. Ursa Major contains the famous star group we know as the big dipper. The dipper is an example of what is called an asterism, which is a recognizable shape, but not a constellation. Follow the visual line of the big dipper’s handle to a bright star, Arcturus (ark-Tour-us), the alpha star in Bootes (bo-OH-teez) the herdsman. Those who are out before dawn will see Leo going head first toward the west, and rising in the east is a trio of constellations, Lyra (LYE-rah) the lyre, Cygnus (SIG-nus) the swan, and Aquila (a-Quill-a) the eagle. The brightest star in each of these forms the often-mentioned summer triangle.

Mars is near two bright stars, Pollux (PAW-lux) and Castor (KAS-ter) that are in the constellation Gemini (GEM-in-eye) the twins. Castor is actually not just one star, but three double stars in a complicated gravitational dance. Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn are still in view along with Mars.

Valentine’s Day
is fast approaching ...

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help you find the perfect
gift for that special
someone!!!



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870-285-2130

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 involved in allergy testing?

A: An allergy is overreaction of the immune system to a foreign substance referred to as an allergen. The allergen could be something eaten, inhaled, injected or touched. Allergies are incredibly common, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that nearly 40% of adults in America have eczema, a food allergy or a seasonal allergy.

A health care provider may perform one of several allergy tests to determine the cause of allergy symptoms. A skin prick or scratch test involves pricking the skin with a potential allergy to observe the reaction. A blood test is when an allergen is added to a blood sample to measure the amount of antibodies produced. Someone with a suspected drug or food allergy may be asked to eat or swallow a small amount of a suspected

allergen under medical supervision in order to monitor symptoms.

Allergy symptoms are specific to each individual. Reactions to allergens in the air may include headaches or watery eyes. Food allergies could result in swelling of the face, lips or tongue.

Contact your health care provider if you experience allergic symptoms, particularly if they are persistent, for a diagnosis and development of a treatment plan.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

5	6	3	4	1	7	2	8	9
7	9	4	6	2	8	5	3	1
2	1	8	9	3	5	6	4	7
1	4	9	3	6	2	7	5	8
3	5	2	8	7	4	1	9	6
6	8	7	5	9	1	4	2	3
9	7	5	2	8	6	3	1	4
8	2	6	1	4	3	9	7	5
4	3	1	7	5	9	8	6	2

Lady Rattlers end recent slide with definitive win

MURFREESBORO -- In the last two weeks, the Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers basketball team has gone 1-3, and is currently holding fifth place in the conference standings prior to this week's action.

On January 14, the Lady Rattlers dropped a game at Dierks 32-61.

The Lady Rattlers would hold tough against the Lady Outlaws for one quarter at 10-8, however, by halftime, Dierks would hold a 26-14 lead. The Lady Outlaws would put up 14 points in the third and 21 points in the fourth to blow the game wide open.

Jenna May led MHS with 10 points, followed by Natalie Perrin with eight, Jocee Holt with seven and Sydney Braden with six.

The Lady Rattlers would commit 26 turnovers, versus only six steals.

Braden led the Lady Rattlers with nine rebounds in the contest.

A. Hill led Dierks in scoring with 17 points, while H. Kirby added 11 and A. Pugh had eight points.

On January 17, the Lady Rattlers would see a similar result at Spring Hill in a 35-56 loss.

Spring Hill would jump out to leads of 16-9 after one quarter and 25-17 at halftime.

Braden would lead the team with eight points and seven rebounds, while Faith Teel, May and Holt each had seven points.

Murfreesboro would turn the ball over 22 times in the contest.

On January 21, MHS would drop their third contest this season to Horatio, this time by a 27-37 score at home.

Horatio jumped out to a 15-4 lead after the first quarter, but the Lady Rattlers came storm-

ing back to cut the deficit to 19-18 at half. The third quarter played roughly even, ending at 28-25 in favor of Horatio.

Chloe Scoggin led MHS with eight points, while May had six.

Perrin had five points and a team leading six rebounds.

MHS committed 19 turnovers in the loss.

On January 24, the Lady Rattlers ended the losing streak with a commanding 57-13 win over Foreman at home.

MHS jumped out to a 19-3 lead after one quarter and held the Lady Gators scoreless in the second quarter while augmenting their lead to 34-3 at half.

Scoggin scored 16 points, while May added 14 and Braden had eight.

The Lady Rattlers lived at the free throw line going 23/35, and limited the turnovers to nine.

Lady Rattler coach Nicole Martin said she hoped the big win over Foreman would help propel the team forward, and noted that this week would be important for the squad.

"We hopefully can come off that win and have some confidence with a little spark on the offensive end, and not turn the ball over as much as we have in our losses."

Martin said the team was still alive for the fourth-sixth slots heading into the conference tournament.

"The one and two [seeds] are definitely out of reach (Dierks and Cutter Morning Star), but if some crazy stuff happens we might could land in the three-slot. We will have to put our heads down, work and pull off some upsets."



LADY RATTLEERS DOMINATE FOREMAN JANUARY 24 @ MHS GYMNASIUM



‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ


HELP OTHERS

As we think about serving our God and helping others in this life, join with me in examining two passages of scripture:

Philippians 2:3-4 3. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Galatians 6:2 – Bear one another’s burdens; and so fulfill the law of Christ.

These passages clearly tell



me that I am to think of and help others in order to be well pleasing to God. One of the greatest things I can do for you and others is to PRAY! James 5:16 tells us to pray for one another and that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

WHO CAN I PRAY FOR? OUR BRETHREN: 1 Thessalonians 1:2

OUR COUNTRY: 2 Chronicles 7:14

ALL MEN: 1 Timothy 2:1

KINGS & THOSE IN AUTHORITY: 1 Timothy 2:2

OUR ENEMIES: Matthew 5:44

OURSELVES: Matthew 26:41

As we continue daily in service to the Lord and to others, follow 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and pray without ceasing.

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- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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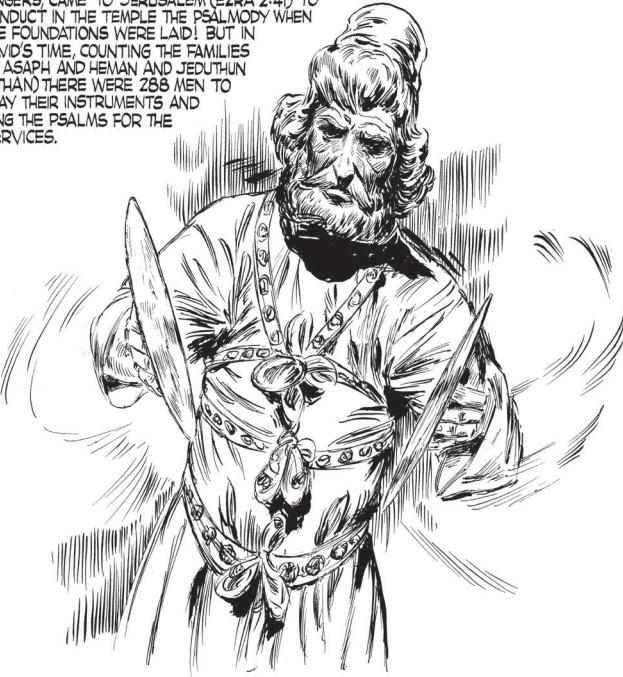
(870) 379-2293

Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

SOUNDER OF CYMBALS!

ASAPH, WITH HEMAN AND ETHAN, WERE LEVITES APPOINTED TO SOUND THE CYMBALS, MARCHING BEFORE THE ARK DURING ITS REMOVAL FROM THE HOUSE OF OREDE-EDOM TO THE CITY OF DAVID (1 CHRON. 15:16-19). AFTER THAT, ASAPH WAS ASSIGNED THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF SOUNDING CYMBALS AT ALL SERVICES (1 CHRON. 16:4,5,7) AND WHEN THE SERVICE WAS FINALLY AND FULLY ARRANGED, ASAPH'S FAMILY, WITH HIM AT ITS HEAD, WAS ONE OF THE THREE FAMILIES PERMANENTLY GIVEN CHARGE OF THE MUSIC AND SONG AND TO BE INSTRUCTORS OF THIS ART (1 CHRON. 25:1-9). THIS IMPORTANT POST WAS SERVED BY THE FAMILY FOR GENERATION AFTER GENERATION EVEN AFTER THE CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON. A HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHT, ALL OF THEM SINGERS, CAME TO JERUSALEM (EZRA 2:4). TO CONDUCT IN THE TEMPLE THE PSALMODY WHEN THE FOUNDATIONS WERE LAID! BUT IN DAVID'S TIME, COUNTING THE FAMILIES OF ASAPH AND HEMAN AND JEDUTHUN (ETHAN) THERE WERE 288 MEN TO PLAY THEIR INSTRUMENTS AND SING THE PSALMS FOR THE SERVICES.



301

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20

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

Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net



Submitted photo/Murfreesboro VFD

BURNED ... The Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department was joined by the Bingen Volunteer Fire Department in fighting a house fire Tuesday, Jan. 21 on Ranch Road. The fire was reported around 11:55 a.m. and by the time firefighters arrived the structure was fully engulfed and was a complete loss.



Submitted photo/Murfreesboro High School

ALL-REGION BAND ... Murfreesboro High School band students Allie Wicker (left) and Aurora Stone (right) were recently named to the senior high all-region band following their tryouts. Wicker is the first alternate on clarinet, while Stone is the third chair clarinet on the second band. The pair are pictured above while participating in a halftime performance of the Murfreeboro Hogh School Marching Band last year.

State auditor reminds residents of the value of returning unclaimed property

BY DENNIS MILLIGAN
Arkansas Auditor of State

LITTLE ROCK -- Feb. 1 is National Unclaimed Property Day, and as your state auditor and Arkansas’ unclaimed property administrator, my job is to return people their missing money as it is reported to my office.

Unclaimed property is financial in nature, usually forgotten bank accounts, unpaid life insurance benefits, stock or mutual fund shares, or some other account that holds monetary or

tangible items for which the owner has not initiated any activity for several years. When that happens and the bank or business entity cannot locate the owner of such accounts, the money or properties are submitted to my office. Nearly 33 million people in the United States – 1 in 7 – have unclaimed property.

In Arkansas, the odds are even better. With \$400 million in unclaimed property, 1 in 4 Arkansans likely has unclaimed money with my office.

Let’s take it back a few years. Prior to be-

ing elected as your Auditor of State, I served for 8 years as your Treasurer of State where I secured more than \$600 million in investment returns for Arkansas. When campaigning for state auditor, I made Arkansans two promises: I would convert the Auditor of State’s outdated payroll system to the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System, or AASIS, which most state agencies use. Second, I would be the Auditor of State who returned the most unclaimed property in history back to citizens.

In my first year as Auditor of State, I began the transition from an old, out-of-date accounting system to the AASIS system, and on July 1, 2024, that process was completed successfully. Making good on my second promise, I returned more than \$36 million in unclaimed property back to citizens during my first full fiscal year in office – more money than any other fiscal year in at least the last decade.

Most people don’t know this about me, but I was a small businessman for 35 years, starting my own company from scratch and, with God’s blessing, expanding it into 17 states before selling it in 2020. That small business mentality still sticks with me today: I have never been one to sit around; I am constantly looking for ways to use my time in leadership to make state government more efficient and effective for the people I serve – Arkansans.

In my small business, improving efficiency and cutting red tape meant more success for my company. One of the ways I hope to do this at the State Capitol is by implementing a program we’re calling “Data Match.” I wish I could tell you the Data Match Initiative is my brainchild, but like all successful leaders, I spoke with my counterparts around the country and learned

this is a best practice currently used by 24 other states, many of whom neighbor Arkansas.

This program would allow me to automatically send citizens a check for their unclaimed property, so long as the owners’ information is validated through several identity verification processes. If the legislature gives me the authority this session through Senate Bill 14, we would be able to put millions of dollars back into the hands of Arkansans – removing the burden from citizens to get back what is rightfully owed to them in the first place.

There are nearly 360,000 eligible properties valued at more than \$83 million that the Data Match Initiative would help us potentially remove from our rolls. That is a substantial amount of money that could be put back into our state’s economy at a time when so many Arkansans are struggling from persistent inflation brought on by the Biden administration.

The reasons for my seeking out this legislation are simple: One, it’s the right thing to do. This isn’t the state’s money; it belongs to the citizens. Two, this bill will cut red tape and government bureaucracy by helping get citizens their unclaimed money more effectively.

Simply put, this is just good government – something Arkansans need and deserve.

It might be a little old-fashioned for a politician to keep his word, but if I learned anything in my small business it’s that your word is all you have and people expect results. That small business mindset is how I have conducted my entire time in political office.

If we are successful with this program, I will keep my second promise to you and be the state auditor who returns the most unclaimed money in history back to citizens. Let’s get to work!

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1

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

AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE PIKE COUNTY QUORUM COURT FOR THE YEARS OF 2025 AND 2026 AND TO ADOPT ROBERTS RULES AND THE PROCEDURAL GUIDE FOR THE ARKANSAS COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETINGS.

WHEREAS, as provided in §14-14-904 of the State of Arkansas, the Pike County Quorum Court “shall assemble and organize as a county quorum court body on the first regular meeting date after the beginning of the justices’ term in office, or the county judge may schedule the biennial meeting date of the quorum court on a date in January other than the first regular meeting date.”

WHEREAS, the Pike County Quorum Court is meeting at a regular meeting date for this purpose and;

WHEREAS, The Pike County Quorum Court desires to adopt the Procedural Guide for Arkansas County Quorum Court meetings and Robert’s Rules of Order.

NOW THEREFORE, Be it enacted by the Quorum Court of Pike County, State of Arkansas:

Section 1. The Pike County Quorum Court shall meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM during the winter months and 7:00 PM during daylight savings time in the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, to transact any and all business that would come before the Court. If the scheduled date falls on an observed holiday, the meeting shall be moved to the following Tuesday.

Section 2. The Pike County Quorum Court hereby adopts the Procedural Guide for Arkansas Quorum Court meetings and Robert’s Rules of Order to the extent that Robert’s Rules of Order is not inconsistent with State law.

Section 3. Upon concurrence of the majority of the members of this Court, the stipulations of this Ordinance may be waived, and the Court may reschedule a meeting or move its location to another appropriate facility in the event of a County or State emergency at its pleasure during the course of the biennium.

APPROVED: Eddie Howard, Pike County Judge
ATTEST: Randee Edwards, Pike County Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January, 22, 2025

This publication is paid for by the Clerks Office of Pike County, Arkansas. \$151.60 (p.c.c., 379w., 30)

Extension provides tips for dealing with unwanted gifts

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Even this far into the new year, it’s not too late to return, exchange or make plans to re-gift unwanted holiday presents, said Laura Hendrix, extension professor of personal finance and consumer economics for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

“Wrong size, wrong color, or just not your style — it’s common during the holidays to receive gifts that you just don’t want,” Hendrix said.

The National Retail Federation projected that returned gifts would total \$890 billion for all of 2024, though returns are most prevalent during the holidays. For the 2024 holiday season, the NRF found that retailers expected their return rate to be 17 percent higher than their annual return rate.

Hendrix said there are several options when deciding what to do with an unwanted gift. First, check to see if it can be returned or exchanged.

“You may be able to return or exchange a gift if you know where the item was purchased,” Hendrix said. “Items are easier to return if they are still in original packaging or have the tags. Check the vendor’s return or exchange policy. A receipt or gift receipt may be required.

“Some companies have time limits for returns,” she said. “Some companies don’t cover shipping for returned items, so you either must take it to a physical store or pay for the return shipping.”

RE-GIFTING

If the return window has closed or the gift isn’t accepted by the retailer, consider re-gifting the item.

“Do you know someone else who would enjoy the gift?” Hendrix said. “Wait and give the item to a friend or family member for their birthday or donate it to a charity that accepts the item.”

Keep in mind that the most important part of the original gift is the intention behind it.

“It truly is the thought that counts,” Hendrix said. “Always express your gratitude when you receive a gift. You don’t need to tell the person that you are returning or giving away their gift, unless the gift has special significance.

“If the gift is an heirloom, family photos or has significant meaning, you should talk to the person who gave the gift,” she said. “Offer to return it to them or ask their permission to give the item to someone else, maybe another family member. There is a way to do this without sounding ungrateful, while acknowledging that the gift would be a better fit for someone else.”

GIFTING DIFFERENTLY

Hendrix said this may be a good time to reconsider how gifts are exchanged and make new plans for the 2025 holiday season.

“Now may be a helpful time to have conversations about future holidays,” Hendrix said. “Start new traditions. Celebrate by spending time together, going out to eat or attending a special event. Limit gifts by drawing names. Keep gifts small by limiting the types of items, such as a recipe or book exchange. Get creative: ultimately, a gift should say to the recipient that you know, understand and care about them and their interests.”

For more information about personal finance, visit the Co-operative Extension Service’s Personal Finance page or contact Hendrix at lhendrix@uada.edu.


To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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