The Murfreesboro Diamond No. 1075 Issue 36 · 1 Section · 6 Pages

\$100 USPC 103-230

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Chamber to host 'Gig Ready' event

MURFREESBORO -- Kinetic, formerly known as Windstream, will hold a ribbon cutting event in conjunction with the chamber to celebrate Murfreesboro becoming a "Gig Ready Community."

The even is set for March 13 at 11 a.m. in Murfreesboro City Hall. City Hall is located at 805 North Washington Avenue.

Light refreshments will be served.

Group seeks donations for garage sale benefit

NASHVILLE -- Operation Christmas Child's (OCC) semi-annual garage sale will be held Friday, March 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 22, 8 a.m.-Noon in the Family Activity Building (FAB) of the First Baptist Church in Nashville, located at College and 2nd Streets.

.In order for this garage sale to be successful, the effort is seeking donations of no longer wanted but still usable furniture, tools, dishes, lamps, decorations, art, collectables, electronics, toys, jewelry, books, clothing, etc.

OCC volunteers will accept your donations at the FAB, Monday-Thursday, March 16-20.

"Please mark your calendar with the donation times and especially the garage sale times. Thanks for your generous donations which will go toward helping children in need around the world," said the press release.

Harvest Food Bank to distribute next Wednesday

TEXARKANA -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA food boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, March 19, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

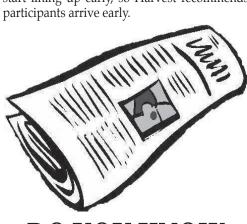
Recipients must come inside the municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in.

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, May 14, 2025.

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. Vehicles start lining up early, so Harvest recommends



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Chamber holds annual banquet, presents awards

MURFREESBORO - The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce held their annual banquet last Thursday at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center.

Under their "Mardi Gras" theme, the chamber handed out three awards -- Person of the Year Ricky Branch, Murfreesboro Elementary School Teacher of the Year Jane Caldwell and Murfreesboro High School Teacher of the Year Blake Simmons (Agriculture).

Several local restaurants participated in the event's "Taste of Murfreesboro" meal, including Feed Bin Café, Terri's Place, Telinga's Mexican Restaurant and Branch Oil.

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal gave an address on the state of the city.

Now three-quarters of the way through his elected term, O'Neal stated that the city's current council was "a good group" that "has the best interest of Murfreesboro and we are fortunate to have these individuals serving our town."

O'Neal said the city was working on an addendum of the 2020 census, which occurred in the middle of the covid pandemic. The city has since learned that they no longer qualify for many grants due to the census finding the city's low to moderate income too high.

"According to the census data, over 51% of our citizens live above the poverty level, which disqualifies us for major grants until the next census is completed."

Short of gathering additional resident information that the census did not gather, that is.

"We are hoping that was not an accurate number ... we are in the process of doing our own count and will challenge the findings. It is important that we do a fair count."

He said that the city will soon start a mail out form to city residents.

"I am asking that everyone to fill out the one page form and return it as soon as possible in the self-addressed envelope that we furnish you."

O'Neal then addressed what he called one of the biggest questions.

"When are we going to get a grocery store? The answer is that I really don't know."

He added that he has contacted a number of grocery chains and that "there is very little interest in coming to small town."

"I have reminded them that we have a huge influx of tourists for eight months during the year, but I have been told there is a low-profit margin in groceries. That doesn't seem possible from the prices they charge."

O'Neal said he still in contact with a group that could provide some resolution, and vis- got a grant for prior to the census reclassifica-



MAN OF THE YEAR ... The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce named Ricky Branch as their 2025 person of the year after public nominations led them to that conclusion. Pictured (above) with Branch is Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce secretary and treasurer Jane Fugitt, who presented him the award.

ited one of their stores in Gurdon that "it was nice, carries produce and fresh meat."

"I will continue working for our own store," O'Neal stated, and invited anyone who wished to know more about the census figures or grocery store issue to visit City Hall and discuss with him.

He said the sidewalk project, which the city

tion, will look to complete the path on the west side of North Washington Street as well as adding light along the pathway. The existing lights around the Pike County Courthouse will also be altered to match the other new lighting that will be installed.

O'Neal said that the project will go through

CHAMBER Continued on Page 2





BANQUET SPEAKERS ... Crater of Diamonds State Park Superintendent Caleb Howell and Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal are pictured during their respective presentations at the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce last Thursday night.

Bonnerdale resident charged with theft after Delight incident

MURFREESBORO -- Felony charges of residential burglary and theft of property have been filed in Pike County against a Bonnerdale

Raymond Harr, 35, was charged March 7 as a result of a February investigation into a breakin at Delight, according to case information.

Deputies were called to a home on Westbrook Street in Delight in reference to a subject enter-

ing a home. The deputies made contact with Harr's estranged wife, who said she was home alone on Feb. 24 when she heard someone reportedly come in the back door and found Harr inside. After being asked to leave, the wife attempted to call 911 and Harr allegedly threw her on the bed and took her phone.

The wife told deputies she was able to grab a flashlight and hit Harr on the head and then

run outside. She then flagged down a passing vehicle and called the police.

Harr left with the phone and the wife said a similar incident had happened where Harr stole her phone and fled before police arrived.

Harr plead innocent to the charges Monday in Pike County Circuit Court and an April 28 pretrial date was set. He bond was set at

CHAMBER Continued from Page 1

"administration chores and survey" before actual construction will begin in 2026.

To conclude his address, O'Neal said that he and the council "try to keep Murfreesboro clean and a good place to raise a fam-

He said winter weather potholes are being repaired and that large item/limbs pickup was available by putting it by the road and calling city hall to schedule a pickup.

"Our town is financially sound and we have a good group of employees," O'Neal concluded thanking the attendance for letting him serve as mayor and wishing God bless the nation as well as Murfreesboro.

Caleb Howell, Crater of Diamonds State Park Superintendent, was the event's keynote speaker.

Howell said that he was a "Christian and servant of the community," and was "blessed with the love and support of my wonderful wife of 20 years," Shana, and his two "beautiful daughters" Jamie and Kinslee.

"Most of you probably know me as the Park Superintendent of Crater of Diamonds State Park, but while my occupation has garnered most of you attention concerning me, I desire that my service, character and integrity be in the forefront and are unquestioned by you and our community. I want to be remembered as a contributing member to our community."

Howell said he never set out to be superintendent at the Crater, that marriage brought him here, however since his arrival in 2013, he has "loved every minute it of ... almost" and that he is fortunate to "being a part of this wonderful community who has made him feel at home."

Having been almost a decade since he last spoke at a chamber banquet, Howell joked that it could be looked at different ways.

"I'm trying to decide if that is because as time passes, fonder grow our memories ... has it been long enough that you don't remember how bad I was ... or have [the chamber] run out of all other options?"

Howell said in the last decade the Crater has set six new annual visitation record, with a high of 198,588 people in fiscal year 2021.

Also, in the last decade, the Crater has seen four years with a net profit of more than one million dollars, topped last year with a total of \$1,424,206.

The Crater is also growing their relationship with the Gemological Institute of America while scientifically investigating for more pure type-IIa diamonds, which do exist at the Crater.

Also, the park has improved facilities, such as campground wifi, new bathhouses and a faster point of sales system. "Before you start thinking I'm conceited, arrogant and tooting

my own horn, then let me bring it to an abrupt stop!" Howell said, noting that he's privileged to stand on the shoulders of gi-

He lists former Park Superintendents Jim Cannon and Tom Stolarz, as well as Joan Ellison with the state's Tourism Department as each contributing greatly toward today's successes.

According to Howell, Cannon was integral in a focus on accessibility at the park, including a new visitor information center, implementation of dozer plowing of the search area, availability of rental tools and the addition of the Diamond Springs Water Park.

Stolarz was notable for his focus on the science and education of the public. During his time as superintendent, the park added a new diamond discovery center, improved diamond registration methods via microscopes and digital scales, "tons" of research and exploration of the park, as well as better sharing the story of the Crater.

Howell said perhaps no one had walked every inch of the parks hundreds of acres as much as Solarz.

Ellison was integral in her focus on the stories surrounding the finds at the Crater, and getting them out to the media over the years

"All of them set the stage, and the dynamite was packed ... we just needed someone to strike the fuse," said Howell.

That fuse was struck on March 12, 2006 when retired Oklahoma State Trooper Marvin Culver found a 4.21 carat yellow diamond, which led to a Good Morning America and a segment on the Travel Channel.

"Then boom, the visitation went through the roof" said Howell, adding that the annual visitation to the crater doubled after the Culver find, from an average of 55,000 or so to 162,000 two

As for his legacy, Howell said ultimately he will focus on the remnants of the Crater's newest successes, especially that of higher visitation, and find ways to sustain and improve those

Murfreesboro Diamond

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• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor

• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The Murfreesboro Diamond (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday. Subscription Rates: \$40 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$55 per year elsewhere.

\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere. College Subscriptions- \$25 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 **Telephone:** 870-285-2723

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Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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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.

"I want to maintain or build for future visitation," Howell said, adding there were no shortcuts toward that goal.

First was to avoid negative attitudes such as greed of chasing the "almighty dollar" and the trap that greedy businesses can fall into, hoarding and thinking of yourself only, and stealing the business from the rest of the community.

"If we do not invest in the future together as a community, then there will be no future ... when there is a positive change or advancement in a larger system, everyone within the system will benefit and experience improvement. Economic growth helps everyone's fortunes."

Howell said Murfreesboro was integral to helping give Crater attendees "the total package."

"If we make wise sacrifices now, then there will be greater potential for a wonderful harvest in the future – there are some harvests that we may get to see in our lifetime, but some harvests are seen many generations later. I'm faced with the stark reality and grave responsibility that it is my turn to till the soil and plant the seeds of a legacy into many future generations."

Howell credited such recent improvements as the chamber's haunted house, the Keith Stone Memorial Car Show, and the

creation of the Murfreesboro Advertising Commission amongst other improvements that will pace Murfreesboro into the future.

"I do ask if there are more seeds that can be planted ... remember, one seed does not produce just one product – it is multiplied."

Diamond editor P.J. Tracy also gave an update on the no-kill animal shelter project, which has raised over \$6,000 since it started taking donations in January 2024 at the Gypsy Underground Flea Market in Murfreesboro.

The effort accepts monetary donations as well as donated items that they sell at the Gypsy, with all proceeds going toward

The group plans to open a bank account soon to also accept donations and will look to obtain non-profit status later this The groups thanks all who have donated thus far and looks

forward to the effort growing to the point the can start to shelter For further questions, go to the Gypsy Underground or con-

tact Tracy at (870) 925-1824.



EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR ... Murfreesboro Elementary School instructor Jane Caldwell (above left) and Murfreesboro High School agri teacher Blake Simmons (above right) were named the educators of the year by the South Pike County School District at the recent Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce banquet. Caldwell is pictured with elementary school Principal James Riley, while Simmons was presented his award by school Superintendent Tanya Wilcher.

Foreman resident charged after soliciting 'child'

MURFREESBORO -- A Little River County man who allegedly took the bait on an undercover social media account is expected to be charged with internet stalking of a child and possession of CSAM (child sexual abuse material), according to Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald.

Lonn McClinton, 40, of Foreman is accused of knowingly communicating on social media with someone he thought was a 14-year-old female, but was actually Investigator McDonald working in an undercover account to investigate adults engaging in appropriate contact with minors.

According to case information, McClinton initially was reluctant to continue communicating that started in February because of the decoy's age and "potential legal ramifications but he resumed contact and maintained "casual dialogue while seeking reassurance that the decoy would not report him."

The communication eventually turned inappropriate and Mc-Clinton reportedly sent an explicit photograph of himself and detailed sexually-related memes. He also offered to bring alcohol and condoms to a proposed meeting.

McClinton set up multiple meetings with the decoy but cancelled them due to a lack of transportation. However, on March 10, he confirmed he had a vehicle and was headed to the meeting place. When he announced "I'm here," Pike County and Murfreesboro officers converged on him and took him into custody without incident.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, **ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION**

DEBRA COX and TOMMY TILLEY **PETITIONERS**

CASE NO. 55CV-25-10

IN REGARD TO: PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS,

Beginning at a point 762 links North of the Southwest Corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, in Township 8 South, Range 24 West, thence North 1738 links; thence East 2000 links; thence South 1738 links; thence West 2000 links to the Point of Beginning, containing 34.75 acres, more or

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been filed in the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, a Petition to Quiet Title to lands in Pike County, Arkansas, described as follows,

Beginning at a point 762 links North of the Southwest Corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, in Township 8 South, Range 24 West, thence North 1738 links; thence East 2000 links; thence South 1738 links; thence West 2000 links to the Point of Beginning, containing 34.75 acres, more or

Any and all person/s claiming said lands or any interest thereon are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and answer said Petition and show cause why the title to said lands should not be quieted and confirmed in said Plaintiff

or be forever barred from answering or asserting his interest. WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, this 12th day of February, 2025.

Sabrina Williams Pike County Circuit Clerk

(v.m. 269w., 33,34,35,36)

McClinton was booked into the county jail Monday night and is currently awaiting his first court appearance.

BID NOTICE

The Delight Cemetery Association is accepting bids on the mowing of roughly 24 acres of cemetery within Delight. Bids for this must be postmarked NLT 15 March 2025. A General Certificate of Liability will be required and Certificate of Insurance will need to be provided to the Association, upon award of contract.

Bids are also being accepted for an experienced zero turn mower operator for the mowing roughly 24 acres of cemetery within Delight. Bids for this must be postmarked NLT 15 March 2025. A General Certificate of Liability will be required and Certificate of Insurance will need to be provided to the Association, upon award of contract.

Hand carried bids will be accepted until 15 March 2025, by first contacting Jimmy Williams, phone 870-681-0781 to arrange for submission of bids. Bids can also be mailed to Delight Cemetery Association at P.O. Box 191, Delight, AR. 71940.

(d.c.a., 35,36 pd.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, **ARKANSAS** PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANCILLARY ESTATE OF CASE NO: 55PR-25-8 DAVID JAMES PRESS, DECEASED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 202 Farr Hill Ln., Farmersville, Collin County, Texas 75442

Date of Death: October 13, 2024

An instrument dated February 20, 2025, lawfully appointed David Jay Press as the Administrator of the above estate.

That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate. This notice first published on the 12th day of March, 2025.

David Jay Press, Petitioner BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell

DUSTIN BISSELL Attorney for Petitioner P.O. Box 810

De Queen, AR 7132 (870) 642-4957

Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b. 141w., 36,37)



VALENTINE ROYALTY ... Murfreesboro Nursing and Rehab named Marion Riley and Mary Turner as their 2025 Valentines Day king and queen during a party recently at the facility.

Local man to face drug charges in Howard County

NASHVILLE -- A Murfreesboro man has been charged in Howard County with multiple drug charges.

Stanley W. Gosnell, 52, was charged in Howard County Circuit Court March 10 with felony possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia and tampering with physical evidence. Gosnell is also facing a misdemeanor charge of possession of

Gosnell was stopped by the Nashville Police Department on March 4 for disobeying a stop sign. Gosnell did not initially stop and was allegedly swerving on the roadway before stopping near the overpass in Nashville.

Nashville Police Department K-9 Officer Greg Parker noted in his report that he smelled marijuana as he approached the vehicle and that Gosnell told the officer the smell was from a partially smoked marijuana cigarette in the vehicle.

A search of Gosnell's vehicle found a crystal-like substance that was on the passenger side door and armrest and a small amount of the substance in a plastic bag. Two small bags of marijuana were also recovered, as well as a syringe.

A warrant for Gosnell's arrest was issued in Howard County on March 10.

Attorney General warns of home solicitation scams

LITTLE ROCK -- Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement warning Arkansans about scams related to door-to-door sales:

"With the arrival of warmer weather, Arkansans can expect to see more door-to-door sellers visiting their homes. Home solicitations include a wide range of products and services, including home improvement projects, home security systems, and solar panels. While some of these sellers are legitimate, others employ high-pressure sales tactics and may misrepresent what they are selling, including the benefits, costs, and terms of the products and services they offer."

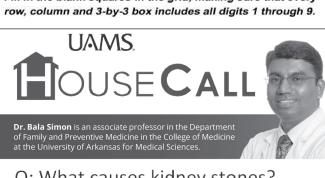
Arkansans can keep themselves safe from door-to-door scams following these tips:

- Always require proper identification from a salesperson before allowing him or her into your home, and ensure you understand the exact purpose of the visit and what company the salesperson represents.
- Some cities require that door-to-door salespersons obtain

a permit before engaging in sales. Know your local ordinances. • Take the time you need to fully evaluate any sales offer.



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.



Q: What causes kidney stones?

A: Kidney stones are hard masses of crystals. Kidney stones can be as small as a grain of sand or as large as a golf ball. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases estimates that about 11% of men and 6% of women in the U.S. will experience kidney stones in their

Kidney stones are made of acids. minerals, salts or other substances in the urinary tract. When urine contains too much of these types of substances, they can stick together and form stones. Medical conditions such as diabetes or gout can contribute to kidney stones. Medications and supplements such as calcium-based antacids and diuretics for high blood

pressure can also be a factor in

their creation

In many instances, kidney stones pass without symptoms. However, if the stones become lodged in the ureter, the tubes that connect the bladder and kidneys, the flow of urine can be blocked and cause sharp pain in the side and back. Brown, pink or red urine are also symptoms. Treatments include increasing

water intake to help the stones pass, medications to reduce inflammation and pain, medications to relax the ureter, or a procedure called lithotripsy or surgery to remove the stone. Contact your health care provider if you experience symptoms.

Shopping around and conducting research is essential to ensure that the deal is legitimate. Be cautious if a salesperson pressures you to sign a contract immediately without taking time to think about the offer.

- Read the contract carefully and make sure it matches what the salesperson is telling you. Furthermore, make sure you get a copy of the contract.
- Do not allow a salesperson to install any product on the same day as the sale.
- Consumers in Arkansas have the right to cancel any home solicitation sale within three days of making a purchase. You have the right to cancel within that three-day window even if equipment is installed in your home.
- Be skeptical of "free" installation or equipment deals. Even if something is initially presented as free to entice you, you may end up paying for the product through expensive, long-term

Even diligent people can be scammed; however, knowing the warning signs and carefully evaluating the sales offer can help keep you safe from deceptive sales practices.

If you wish to file a complaint against with the Attorney General's office, you can do so by contacting the Arkansas Attorney General's office at (800) 482-8982, emailing consumer@arkansasag.gov, or visiting ArkansasAG.gov.

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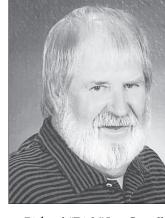
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Obituaries

Richard 'Dick' Lee Carroll, 82, Murfreesboro



Richard "Dick" Lee Carroll, age 82, passed away March 7, 2025. He was born August 15, 1942 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, to the late Bobby and Sue Anthony Carroll. His family heritage was very special to him.

Dick was an entrepreneur from early on. He purchased his first cow at 8 years old and sold the last of the herd at age 80. His driving career began at age 12 when he drove across state lines to purchase feed for the family cattle business, Carroll Farms. His love for being behind the wheel led him to stock car racing, off the road trucking, driving log trucks, propane trucks, and Peterbilts, where he was known by his CB handle "Cowman." However, working on his John Deere tractors was his favorite place to be.

Dick served his country in the National Guard, and his community by serving on the boards of Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association, and the Murfreesboro Water Commission. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. As an avid hunter, he took many hunting trips to Colorado with friends, but he reserved his best spot, the honey hole, for his girls and grandchildren. In his later years, he and Diane enjoyed camping with family and friends. One of his all-time favorite hobbies was making deals and trading.

Dick is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Diane Richardson Carroll; his daughters Dana Couch, Anna Howard and husband Eddie, Gina Golden and husband Grant; grandchildren Amanda, Sara and husband Corey, Kane and fiancé' Emma, Addison, and Ansley; a sister, Margaret Byrd and husband Tom; his greatgrandchildren, many nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family and friends, and his 'Chief", LaDonna.

The family will received friends on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. Interment followed in Murfreesboro Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfrees-

Memorials may be made to the Murfreesboro Cemetery at P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro,

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



Pot hole Worm Moon to go through eclipse on Pi day

The March full moon is called the Worm Moon. The Moon will be full on March 14, but it will actually appear full from Wednesday to Saturday morning.

Worm Moon is a name given by southern Native American tribes. Recently it was suggested that the name be changed to Pot Hole Moon to reflect a more modern phenomenon.

As this full moon passes around Earth, opposite the Sun, it will move through Earth's shadow creating a total Lunar eclipse. People of Pike County will be able to view the eclipse in the following time-line:

• Thursday, March 13, 10:57 p.m. -- penumbral eclipse begins as the Moon enters Earth's outer shadow and begins to dim.

• Friday, March 14, 12:09 a.m. -- the Moon goes into partial eclipse and looks like a bite has been taken out of it.

• 1:26 a.m. – totality begins. The entire Moon is in Earth's shadow, and is tinted a coppery red. • 2:31 a.m. – totality ends, and slowly the bite is taken from

the opposite side. • 3:47 a.m. – partial eclipse ends, and the moon is again

dimmed by Earth's outer shadow.

• 5:00 a.m. – eclipse is over. Friday, March 14 is Pi Day, a humorous holiday created in 1988, but in 2009 the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing the date as National Pi Day.

Pi is the Greek letter symbol used in mathematics to indicate the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Pi is a mathematical constant that stretches on forever. Its first three numbers are 3.14 (hence March 14).

One way to celebrate Pi Day is to begin at 1:59 and party for 26.5 minutes. This is one way to remember the first 9 numbers, 3.14159265. Also, many people have a pie of their choosing, even a pizza pie. I always have a chocolate pie with the symbol for Pi drawn in the meringue.

March 14 (1879) is also Albert Einstein's birthday. So, it can be a double celebration, of the number and of Einstein's achievements. Pi was used in many of his cosmic theories.

SMALLADS DO WORK ... YOU JUST READ ONE! Call (870) 285-2723 to reserve yours in the next edition

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Pike County 4-Hers see government in action at 4-H Day at the Capitol

LITTLE ROCK -- Pike County 4-H members, Prestan M., Joshua M., Ora K., Sophia C., Hadley C., and Cayden B. participated in 4-H Day at the Capitol. Where they met legislators, learned about the legislative process, and shared how they are making a difference in their communities through 4-H.

They were among the 500 4-H members from 54 of Arkansas' 75 counties who participated in the event held every other year when the Arkansas Legislature is in session. The statewide gathering is also a chance for 4-H to showcase its impact on a large scale.

The Pike County delegation, which included Prestan M., Joshua M., Ora K., Sophia C., Hadley C., and Cayden B. were joined by Staff Chair and FCS Agent Eva Langley, Ag Agent Codie McCalister, and 4-H Program Assistant Christina Myrkle.

"Despite the rain that day, our members really enjoyed the one-on-one talks with Senator Steve Crowell, and Representative Justin Gonzalez. You could watch their interest in the process come alive as they listened to these gentlemen explain the Legislative process. Yet, they really couldn't stop sharing about being able to hold the \$200,000 dollars cash while visiting the treasury!"

The Pike County 4-H member group attended a Tribute to Arkansas in the Capitol Rotunda where several of the state's elected officials spoke to them, including Lt. Gov. Leslie Rutledge, State Treasurer John Thurston, Secretary of State Cole Jester, and Attorney General Tim Griffin, who called the 4-H gathering "the single largest group ever assembled in the Arkansas Capitol" that he could recall.

Later in the day, members of the House and

Senate read resolutions proclaiming March 4 as

A highlight of the members day was visiting Senator Crowell, and Representative Gonzalez. The members enjoyed the unique and inviting office set up in Senator Steve Crowell's office and the 4-H members thanked Senator Crowell, and later Representative Gonzalez for supporting 4-H and shared information about their service projects. Cayden B. highlighted starting Shop with a Cop, Prestan M. shared about his experience with the Cooking Challenge, Hadley C. and Joshua M. shared about competing at the 4-H State Shooting Sports Champion-

Civic engagement and leadership are part of Arkansas 4-H's mission mandates; the others are Healthy Living and Science. Pike County 4-H members were able to experience the connection between those mandate area's and why they are important as they listened to Senator Steve Cromwell share about a bill he was introducing that day.

4-H Day at the Capitol is just one event that helps 4-H members understand how they can lead and make a difference. Whether serving as a local 4-H club president, conducting a community service project, or running for a state office, 4-H civic engagement programs empower young people to become well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their com-

For more information about Pike County 4-H, contact Pike County Extension at (870) 285-2161 or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

The Cooperative Extension Service is the outreach arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.





MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, MARCH 17

BBQ pulled pork sandwich, baked sweet potato, coleslaw, pickle & onion, fruit **TUESDAY, MÂRCH 18**

Chicken tenders w/gravy, potatoes, green beans, herb corn, dinner roll, pineapple upside down cake

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Salisbury steak w/ peppers, onion & gravy, cauliflower & carrots, dinner roll, cookie

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available for \$6.00

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

PRAYER

Jesus gives us personal, productive insight on effective prayer in Matthew 6:1-15. He says not to be hypocritical when we pray or to pray to be seen of men. Proper prayer and proper meditation go together. God will reward prayer openly. Prayer should not be repetitious. In Matthew 6:9 we are told to begin prayer in this way, "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name." God deserves our praise and devotion. We should always give God honor and glory for He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Heartfelt prayer will be a time of praise for all He has done and is doing for us. "Thy Kingdom come, they



will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." The church-kingdom was a reality on the first Pentecost following Jesus' resurrection. The kingdom has not come for the whole world because all people have not heard the gospel of salvation. We must continue to work and pray that each and every

soul may have the opportunity to hear and obey the Word. Daily bread (word of God) is a necessity. We should pray for physical blessings and be thankful for them. We are debtors to Jehovah for grace, mercy and all other spiritual blessings – a debt that can never be paid. Only God's divine instructions can keep us from temptations and help us to overcome Satan. The power, glory and kingdom forever will be the final victory. Jesus prayed He and prayed often, long and fervently. He knew the most potent weapon in our spiritual arsenal would be a well-used prayer life with the Father. Amen.

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SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole grain roll, peaches, milk

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

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

Lunch: Pk-6 cheese pizza, 7-12 deep dish pepperoni pizza, fresh broccoli & cauliflower,

seasoned corn, pears, milk MONDAY, MARCH 17

Breakfast: Blueberry muffin or cereal, juice,

fruit, milk

Lunch: Cheeseburger, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 pickle & onion slices, pineapple,

milk

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, juice,

Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, fire roasted corn, refried beans, 7-12 salsa, 7-12 whole grain cook-

ie, pears, milk **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

Breakfast: Apple frudel, w/cheese stick or

cereal, juice, fruit, milk Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, California blend vegetables, seasoned corn, garlic breadstick, mixed fruit, milk

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

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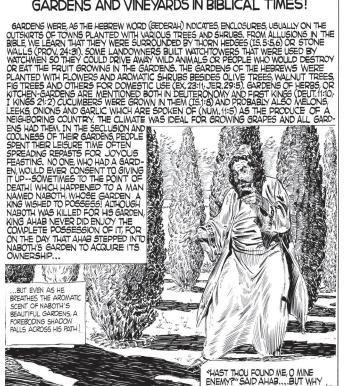
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Bro. Buddy Ray

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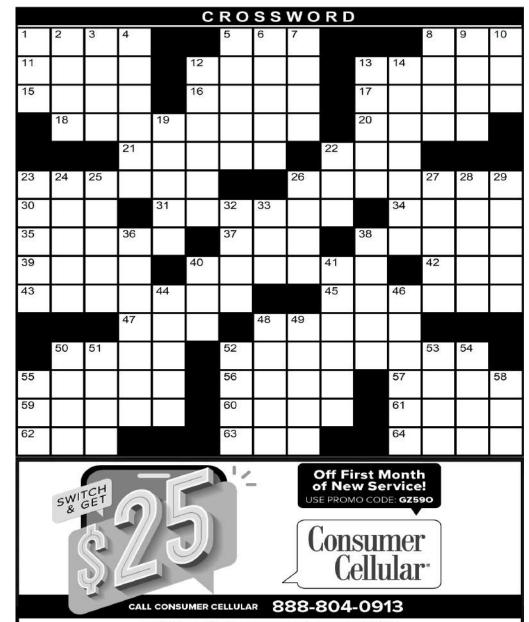
* -- Theme Related Clue

- 1. *"Sunday Bloody Sunday" author, with
- 5. *Saget of "Full House" fame
- 8. Last month
- 11. "Howdy, _
- 12. Hurtful remark
- 13. *Actor Hudson of Winston Zeddemore
- 15. Give the cold shoulder
- 16. *Musical based on 1980s rock "Rock of
- 17. *Comedy horror "____ Hell"
- 18. *Transparency, to Gorbachev
- 20. Slangy "Follow me!"
- 21. Coffee shop order 22. Pro vote
- 23. Heart abnormality
- 26. Act out Civil War battle, e.g.
- 30. Eisenhower, familiarly
- 31. Mediterranean island
- 34. Small island
- 35. *Oscar-winning "Tootsie" actress Jessica
- 37. Not hers
- 38. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
- 39. Not on land
- 40. Water pipe
- 42. Dog tags, e.g. 43. First lunar phase (2 words)
- 45. Higher education reward
- 47. Biblical mother 48. *What "I love Lucy" did in the '80s
- 50. Name of the Blue Ox
- 52. *Gull-winged sports car
- 55. Party handout 56. Smoothie berry
- 57. Clickable image
- 59. Follows orders
- 60. Mixed breed canine
- 61. *Air Jordan, e.g.
- 62. *"Cheers" setting

63. Byron: "Maid of Athens, ___ we part" 64. Dispatched

DOWN

- 1. Ambulance squad, acr.
- 2. "Shoot!"
- 3. Person of French descent
- 4. Preserve, as in body 5. Prejudiced one 6. Falstaffian in body
- 7. Cr me de la cr me 8. "Do ____ others as..."
- 9. Property right
- __ Aviv
- 12. Bridge-like structure 13. Wedding singer, e.g.
- 14. *Ceausescu's country
- 19. Pasta accompaniment
- 22. *"Owner of a Lonely Heart" band 23. *Arrigo Sacchi's Associazione Calcio
- 24. Tsar's edict
- 25. Re-establish 26. Zwieback
- 27. Up and about
- 28. *Blinky, Pinky, Inky and ____
- 29. To the point
- 32. Sound unit
- 33. *Duran Duran's hit
- 36. *Hand-held "Tetris" device (2 words) 38. Give sheep a haircut
- 40. Gardening tool
- 41. Quick and skillful 44. Sets, in cricket
- 46. Metamorphic rock 48. Happen again 49. Fill with spirits
- 50. Rum cake
- 51. Affirm 52. ____ Maggie Smith
- 53. Pain
- 54. "High" time
- 55. Watch chain
- 58. Nothing but this in basketball?



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Delight Cemetery to hold meeting March 18

DELIGHT -- The Delight Cemetery Association has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday night, March 18, at 6:30 p,m. at the Pickett Building in Delight.

The purpose of this meeting is to review bids and make a decision about mowing of the Delight Cemetery. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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



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Week of March 10, 2025



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Eating Gluten-Free: What You Need to Know

In recent years, the trend of eating gluten-free has grown significantly, but for most people, it remains a choice rather than a necessity. Let's look at gluten to better understand why people

Gluten is a group of proteins found in certain grains, including wheat, barley, rye, and triticale (a wheat-rye hybrid). When mixed with liquid and manipulated, gluten forms an elastic substance that gives dough its structure, allowing baked goods like bread to rise and maintain their shape. For individuals with celiac disease, eating gluten triggers an immune system response that damages the lining of the small

intestine. This damage affects fingerlike projections called villi, which are responsible for nutrient absorption. As a result, individuals with celiac disease may develop deficiencies in important nutrients, leading to conditions like bone disease and Approximately 1 percent of the U.S. population has celiac disease, with an additional 5 to 10 percent potentially suffer-

can cause symptoms similar to those of celiac disease, including stomach pain, diarrhea, and fatigue. Although celiac disease may appear to be similar to a wheat allergy because of the need to avoid certain foods, these two conditions are entirely different, with different health effects and treatments. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease that damages the small intestine, while a wheat allergy is an allergic reac-

ing from some form of gluten intolerance or sensitivity. Non-

celiac gluten sensitivity doesn't damage the digestive tract but

tion to wheat proteins. Celiac disease manifests in various symptoms that can range from mild to severe. These include stomach pain and bloating, gas and diarrhea, extreme fatigue, unexplained weight loss, skin rashes, growth problems in children, and changes in mood and

behavior. The only way to manage celiac disease is through a strict gluten-free diet. Consuming gluten-containing foods will continue to damage the small intestine, so avoiding these foods is

STEPHANIE LOCKHART

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essential for healing and maintaining health. Gluten-containing foods include all types of wheat, barley, rye, and triticale, as well as products derived from these grains (e.g., wheat bran, wheat starch, and hydrolyzed wheat protein).

The marketplace has expanded to include a variety of gluten-

free products. It's important to read labels and make informed

choices, as not all gluten-free products are equally healthy, often having higher calories, carbohydrates and fat content compared to their gluten-containing counterparts. If you're looking to avoid gluten, there are many naturally gluten-free foods that can be enjoyed without concern. These include fresh meats, poultry, fish, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy (plain varieties), fats and herbs, legumes (beans, peas, len-

almond flour, coconut floor and rice flour. Here is a simple, delicious gluten-free shortbread cookie made

tils), nuts and seeds, quinoa, sorghum, and buckwheat as well as

with almond flour. Enjoy! **GLUTEN-FREE SHORTBREAD COOKIES**

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 cup unsalted butter

2 teaspoons real vanilla extract

6 tablespoons powdered sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt

2 cups almond flour

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Beat together the butter, sugar, salt, and vanilla for 2-3 minutes or until soft and combined.

Slowly add almond flour and mix until combined. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

Take a small spoon and scoop the batter (about ½ Tablespoon) and roll into a ball (makes about 32 cookies, depending on how large you make them)

Place on parchment paper and press with a fork. Bake for 10 minutes and let cool.

Calories: 72, Carbohydrates: 3g, Protein: 2g, Fat: 6g

NUTRITION: Serving: 1 cookie

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Wednesday, March 12, 2025 Murfreesboro Diamond



LEARNING ABOUT DR. SUESS ... The Diamond City 4-H chapter learned a little about Dr Seuss at their recent meeting. They made "Cat in the Hat" skewers for a nutritious snack and also made insects using their artistic expression inspired by Dr Seuss. If you're looking for a program your kids will love, sign them up for 4H Diamond City Club that meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Pike County Extension Office "Fore more information, call (870) 285-2161. Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one Youer than You," ~ Dr Seuss





	OUNTY, ARKANSAS			
	L FINANCIAL REPORT			
FOR YEAR EN	IDED DECEMBER 31, 20			
	General Funds	Road Funds	Other Funds	
REVENUES				
State aid	\$412,711.54	\$ 1,452,213.17	\$ 342,970.60	
Federal aid	\$117,053.95	111,373.30		
Property taxes	\$287,621.31	186,226.41	1,198,942.0	
Sales taxes	\$1,898,922.08			
Fines, forfeitures, and costs	\$191,523.09		88,707.6	
Interest	\$2,099.26			
Officers' fees	\$15,774.00		71,205.7	
911 fees	\$0.00		197,919.0	
Jail fees	\$288,439.00			
Insurance premiums collected	\$2,810.09	6,919.89		
Other	\$291,288.09	\$103,128.17	\$651,324.4	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,508,242.41	\$1,859,860.94	\$2,551,069.4	
Less: Treasurer's commission	\$79,492.08	\$36,129.60	34,194.0	
NET REVENUES	\$3,428,750.33	\$1,823,731.34	\$2,516,875.3	
EXPENDITURES	, .20,, 50,55	,,	,520,0,515	
Current.				
General government	\$1,369,555.45		530,223.1	
Highways and streets	\$0.00	2,133,736.60		
Health	\$38,600.68			
Law enforcement	\$2,505,142.07		144,960.0	
Public safety	\$57,711.55		217,289.3	
Recreation and culture(Libraires)	, ,		66,117.7	
Sanitation			1,427,634.1	
Social services	\$99,643.24		2, 121, 100 112	
Transfer Out	· ·		20,000,0	
	\$631,279.96	¢2 122 726 60	20,000.0	
TOTAL CURRENT	- \$4,701,932.95	\$2,133,736.60	\$2,406,224.4	
Debt Service:	\$0.00	102 507 64	\$0.0	
Note principal Note interest	\$0.00	103,587.64 16.478.40	\$0.0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,701,932.95	\$2,253,802.64	\$2,406,224.4	
TOTAL EXILENDITORES	\$4,701,552.55	\$2,233,002.04	\$2,400,224.4	
EXPENDITURES	\$ (1,273,182.62)	\$ (430,071.30)	\$ 110,650.9	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	\$ (1,273,102.02)	\$ (430,071.30)	3 110,030.9	
Transfers in	924,685.75	11,063.55	95,030.8	
Transfers out		11,003.55		
	(151,959.14)	215 025 14	(97,691.25	
Interest	124,588.37	315,825.14	235,431.0	
Voided Checks	20,418.99	(3,491.70)	12,270.6	
Voided Receipts	(6,183.35)	(0.262.07)	(411.97	
Other Checks	(20,043.13)	(8,362.97)	(5,292.68	
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	\$ 891,507.49	\$ 315,034.02	\$ 239,336.6	
EVENDITURES AND OTHER HEES	¢ (201.67F.12)	¢ (115.027.20)	£ 240.007.5	
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	\$ (381.675.13)	\$ (115,037.28)	\$ 349,987.5	
Beginning cash balance - January 1, 2024	\$2,559,033.81	\$876,780.46	\$3,073,058.77	
Ending cash balance – December 31, 2024	\$2,177,358.68	\$761,743.18	\$3,423,046.35	
Ending cash salance - December 51, 2024	72,177,330.00	\$7.01,7.13.10	\$3,123,010.33	
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State senate approves bill to cut property taxes

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Senate has approved a property tax cut that will save Arkansas home-

owners \$56 million every year.

The tax reduction is in Senate Bill 263, which will take effect in 2026. It raises the homestead property tax credit by \$100 to \$600 a year. The credit is currently \$500. About 708,000 homeowners will benefit from the lower real property taxes.

The governor and legislative leaders announced that they will push for another tax reduction, House Bill 1685 to exempt food and groceries from the one-eighth cent state sales tax approved by voters in 1996 to benefit conservation efforts.

HB 1685 will lower taxes by about \$10.9 million a year. The bill does not repeal any local option city and county sales taxes on groceries.

In a statewide election in 1996 Arkansas voters approved an eighth-cent sales tax, with 45 percent of the revenue dedicated to the Game and Fish Commission and 45 percent to the what was then known as the Parks and Tourism Department. The Heritage Department receives nine percent and Keep Arkansas Beautiful receives one percent.

At a press conference announcing the proposal to repeal the grocery tax, the governor said she was confident the affected agencies

would still have healthy budgets in spite of the loss of revenue. Department of Finance and Administration

indicated that the Arkansas economy remains healthy. Revenue came in at five percent above

The House of Representatives approved HB 1489 to authorize the use of nitrogen gas for ex-

The February revenue report from the state

ecuting inmates sentenced to the death penalty. After its passage by the House it was sent to the Senate, where it will be heard next by the Judiciary Committee.

Arkansas is holding 25 men on death row.

Supporters of HB 1489 say it is humane, and the ingredients are more readily available than the chemicals currently used when executions are carried out by lethal injection. Opponents dispute the claim that nitrogen gas is humane.

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Okla-

homa allow nitrogen gas for executions. Both chambers have approved legislation to criminalize unlawful squatting. It is Act 238. Squatting is defined as taking up residence on property that one does not own. The act makes it a Class B misdemeanor.

It will be simpler for law enforcement to evict squatters because it is now a crime and doesn't require a civil lawsuit that can be cumbersome.

The Senate approved a lengthy bill to change the way juvenile justice statutes are found in law books. The juvenile code has long been difficult to navigate because of overlap in jurisdictions among various courts. That makes it difficult for a juvenile's family to know their rights, and for social services workers to keep track of their duties when protecting vulnerable children.

People within the juvenile justice system have spent hundreds of hours dividing juvenile laws into separate "sensible" sections. According to section one of the bill, SB 320, it only makes technical corrections, not substance changes to the juvenile code.

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