

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Man cleared in recent local shooting death

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO - Ninth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford has cleared Justin Agudio in the January shooting death of Mark Corson, according to case information released by the Arkansas State Police (ASP), last week.

The shooting occurred the afternoon of Jan. 31 in the yard between the two men's properties on Highway 27 North. Corson, 64, died on the scene after being shot two times by Agudio, 40.

Bradford said in an email dated April 2 it was her finding that Agudio's use of "deadly physical force" was justified and informed the ASP the "case should be considered closed by your agency."

The incident on Jan. 31 began with a 911 call from Agudio's wife concerning her husband arguing with a neighbor. According to a summary prepared by ASP Agent Dalton Myers, the two men were outside arguing about their property lines when Corson threatened Agudio and his family while wearing a holstered Taurus 9mm pistol on his right hip. Agudio was also armed with a Taurus 40 caliber pistol that was strapped to his chest and concealed under his jacket.

Surveillance video showed that Corson dropped a splitting maul he was holding and retrieved his gun and then put it up by his own head. When he began lowering the gun, Agudio pulled his gun and shot three times, hitting Corson in the shoulder and in the head, according to the ASP.

The incident was witnessed by members of the Agudio family.

Agudio later told investigators that when he saw Corson's finger on the trigger and he began lowering the gun "that is when I knew it was a fight-or-flight situation. I had nowhere to go. I had a fence behind me and nowhere to hide. I knew I couldn't wait for the cops to get there."

According to an interview with a Corson family member on the day of the shooting, Mark Corson was convinced Agudio had shot their dog and that he was "not acting normal today, and was very upset about the dog," according to the ASP summary. The family member also said that the two men never had any problems or arguments before and that day was the first time Corson mentioned Agudio because he thought he had killed their dog.



Submitted photoSPCSD

CLASS OF 2025 ... Murfreesboro High School held commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2025 on Tuesday, May 13 at Rattler Stadium. Pictured above (not in picture order) is David James Barnes, Chloe Beck, Isaac Richard Bush, Cameron Cooper Campbell, James Tallant Chaney, Ethan Dean Coleman, Lathan Blaine Compton, Layne Dallas Cox, Cesar Antonio Cruz Reyes, Kaleb Julio Delarosa, Caden Jamarion Dixon, William Tyler Ellis, Taiden Chantz Fannin, Anyah Alese Harris, Janiyah Jalese Harris, Samuel Daelyn Henderson, Nathan Fisher Hill, Jocce Andon Hill, Jamie Caitlyn Howell, James Edward Kelley Williams Jr., Weston Ray Lamb, Nicolas Cash Lowery, Brody Anderson Maroon, Jada Marie Matthews, Jenna Hadley May, Santana River McMillian, Natalie Faith Perrin, Albert Anthony Quiroz, Kylie Cheneace Ray, Brianna Clarissa Rosilier, Alyssa Lee-Kapin Ruiz, Mason Riley Sanders, Chloe Elizabeth Scoggin, James Campbell Silva, Brody Alan Smith, Emerson Reid Spradlin, Cameron Andrew Stevens, Layken Breann Stone, Elijah Thomas Strawn, Kinleigh Nicole Sullivan, Allison Lee Synco, Makenna Nykole Taylor, Anna Michelle Terrell, Allie Jean Wicker, Laytan Walter Wilcher and Braden Alan Wright.

MHS hold graduation ceremonies for Class of 2025

MURFREESBORO - Murfreesboro High School held commencement exercises for the class of 2025 on Tuesday, May 13 at Rattler Stadium.

The graduating class had 46 members, with Jenna May as the valedictorian and Jocce Holt as the salutatorian.

Reid Spradlin gave the open invocation, followed by Jamie Howell with the welcome and Brent Alexander providing the baccalaureate address.

Weston Lamb concluded the event with the benediction.

Grand marshals for the event were Colton Robbins and Mabree Sweat, while Kale Burns, Faith Teel, John Parker Jackson and Sydney Braden served as ushers.

Murfreesboro High School Principal Davey Jones presented the class and diplomas were handed out by school Superintendent Tanya

Wilcher and members of the school board.

Counselor Courtney Stone presented the announcement of scholarships and CTE completers.

James Chaney and Jada Matthews were presented the Freeman Henderson Voice of the Rattlers Award for overall student qualities.

Howell was also recognized as having completed her two-year associate's degree from U-A Cosstatot in concurrent education.

The class flower was a white lily, which were handed out to graduates as they filed out.

Class colors were red and white and the class song was named "Life is a Highway."

The class motto was ironically "If I've learned one thing in school, it's that quotes don't matter."

Students named honor graduates included May, Holt, Howell, Lamb, Spradlin, Natalie Perrin, James Silva, Brody Smith, Layken

Stone, Kinleigh Sullivan, Allison Synco, Anna Terrell and Laytan Wilcher.

Activity cords worn by the graduates included:

- Future Farmers of America - royal blue
- Art, Spanish, Drama - light blue
- Future Business Leaders of America - blue and gold
- Student Council - white
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America - red and white
- Yearbook - green
- Band - silver
- All Sports and Cheerleader - red
- Education Accelerated by Service and Technology - pink
- Honor Graduate - gold
- Quiz Bowl - brown
- E-Sports - red and blue
- Office Assistant - purple

Juneteenth shirt sales, sponsorships enter final week

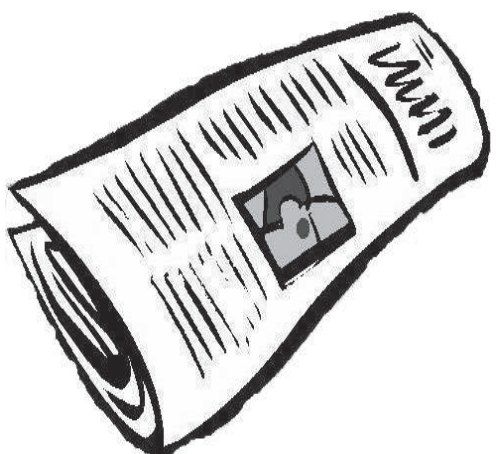
MURFREESBORO -- Anyone who would like to order a Juneteenth t-shirt or be a sponsor on the back of the shirt is asked to contact Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Harvill this week by calling (870) 285-3131.

Oklahoma resident faces drug charges following Glenwood traffic stop

MURFREESBORO -- An Oklahoma man has been charged in Pike County for drug offenses after a traffic stop in Glenwood.

Zachary Wammack, 39, of Antlers, Okla., was charged May 16 with possession of 12.3 grams of illicit mushrooms and four misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Glenwood Police Officer Brent Staggs stopped Wammack on May 1 and the smell of marijuana led to a search of his vehicle. Three pipes and a marijuana grinder were recovered.



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Lady Rattler track team finishes second at Class 2-A state meet



QUITMAN - The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers finished second at the state Class 2A track meet, just 11 points behind winner Quitman.

The girls earned 92 points at the meet, behind Quitman's 103.

Other local schools included the Dierks Lady Outlaws in sixth place with 39 points.

Athletes finishing in points earning positions (top eight in each event) included:

- MURFREESBORO LADY RATTLETS**
 4x100 meter relay - second place, 52.20
 4x200 meter relay - first place, 1:51.50
 4x400 meter relay - sixth place, 4:45.10
 4x800 meter relay - eighth place, 12:07.48
 Macy Smith - sixth place 100 meter dash, 13.24; fifth place 200 meter dash, 27.85; first place 400 meter dash, 1:00.76
 Arianna Jones - fourth place triple jump, 32'3.5"
 Josey Jones - sixth place 800 meter run,

- 2:40.80; sixth place pole vault, 6'6"
 Ma'Shaylia Morris - first place 200 meter dash, 26.82; second place long jump, 15'9"
 Mason Phillips - third place high jump, 4'10"; second place pole vault, 8'0"
 Charleigh Wheeler - fifth place 100 meter hurdles, 18.69; third place 300 meter hurdles, 51.97

- DIERKS LADY OUTLAWS**
 4x100 meter relay - fourth place, 54.00
 4x400 meter relay - eighth place, 4:58.17
 4x800 meter relay - fourth place, 11:40.43
 Milee Harrison - fifth place 100 meter dash, 13.21; first place 300 meter hurdles, 48.85
 Addison Hill - second place 100 meter hurdles, 18.23; fifth place high jump, 4'8"
 Carlee Mounts - seventh place 3200 meter run, 14:11.49

CLASS 1A STATE MEET
The Mineral Springs Hornets track team

finished in fourth place at the Class A state track meet. The Hornets earned 53 points, with Founders Classical High School winning the event with 114 points.

Other local school at the event included Kirby High School in fifteenth place with 14 points and Blevins in a three-way tie for twenty-fourth place with four points.

Local athletes finishing in points earning positions (top eight in each event) included:

- KIRBY TROJANS**
 Alec O'Neal - third place 1600 meter run, 4:55.21; second place 3200 meter run, 11:00.76

- BLEVINS HORNETS**
 4x100 meter relay - eighth place, 47.83
 Javier Gomez - seventh place 1600 meter run, 5:06.46
 Charles Hatchett - eighth place triple jump, 38'0.5"



Staff photo/John Balch

TROPHY TURKEY ... Doug Steed, 87, of Blevins bagged this bird opening day April 21. Steed killed his first turkey in the spring season of 1973 and he has since killed 177 gobblers over a 47-year period in multiple states.

Delight Cemetery Association to host meeting June 2

DELIGHT -- The annual membership meeting of the Delight Cemetery Association will be held on Monday June 2, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Delight school cafeteria.

Event organizers state that community support, attendance, donations and suggestions are what decisions are based on for the future needs and perpetual care of the Delight Cemetery, where many of our local loved ones are buried.

Please mark your calendar for this meeting and try 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
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Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.**

Rattler baseball reaches state semi-finals

Excellent season ends one run short of championship game appearance

PALESTINE-WHEATLEY -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers made a run in last week's Class 2A state baseball tournament into the semifinal round before losing in an extra inning game to end their season at Palestine-Wheatley High School.

VERSUS CONWAY CHRISTIAN

The Rattlers, the number four seed from the south region, matched up against the number one seeded team from region 3-2A Conway Christian in the first round last Thursday.

After Conway Christian jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the bottom half of the first inning, MHS would hold them scoreless the rest of the way to secure a 4-3 victory.

Kooper Caldwell would drive in one and score twice for the Rattlers, while Laytan Wilcher would score once, steal a base and drive in a run.

Alex Bonner added an RBI for Murfreesboro, while Kale Burns scored once.

Starting pitcher Brody Maroon drove in one on the offensive side of the ball, while pitching a complete seven innings for the Rattlers. He allowed three hits, three earned runs and four walks while striking out five batters.

Ace Koehler would also throw a complete game for Conway Christian, allowing four hits, an earned run and two walks while striking out seven batters.

Isaiah Brister tripled for the Eagles and scored a run, while teammate Preston Elliott doubled and drove in a pair.

VERSUS IZARD COUNTY

In the second round on Friday, the Rattlers faced off against IZARD County, who won the day previous by a 10-0 score over Westside-Johnson County.

Izard County was the second seed from region 2-2A.

The Rattlers would jump out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning and not look back, racking up a 10-0 win over the Cougars.

Carter Gilmer would drive in three runs and score twice for MHS on his 3/4 day at the plate. Cameron Stevens added a pair of RBIs on two hits.

Both Caldwell (run scored) and Maroon (RBI, two runs scored) would have a double in the game.

The Rattlers were a terror on the basepaths with seven stolen bases as a team, with Gilmer leading the way with two.

Isaac Kuykendall went the complete seven innings for the Rattlers from the mound, allowing only two hits and a walk to go along with his eight strikeouts.

Neither Izard County pitcher was particularly effective against the Rattlers, with Cash Arnhart (5.33 innings, eight hits, six earned runs, three walks and two strikeouts) and

Xander McCandlis (1.67 innings, five hits, four earned runs and one walk) taking the mound for the Cougars.

VERSUS RIVERSIDE

In the semifinal game on Saturday, it appeared that the Rattlers had gotten a break, drawing the third seed from region 2-A Riverside Rebels. The Colts had upset

the region 4 2-A number one seed Woodlawn by a 5-0 score the day previous.

Murfreesboro would jump out to a 2-0 lead with a run in each of the first two innings, while Riverside would tie up the game with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third.

The game would remain scoreless through the bottom of the eighth inning when Riverside added a run to conclude game action and end the Rattlers' season.

Wilcher would drive in one with a home run and score twice for the Rattlers, while Lathan Compton drove in a run and Gilmer stole a base and scored once.

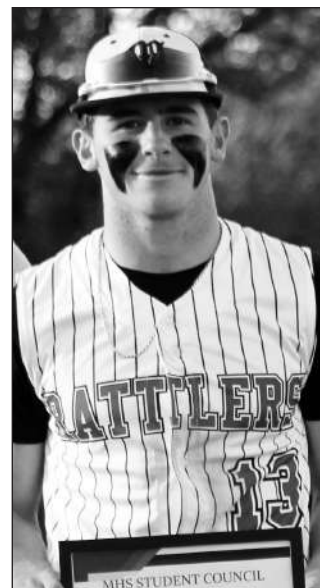
Murfreesboro would strand ten baserunners in the game, while Riverside left eight on base in the game.

Gilmer would pitch the complete game for the Rattlers, compiling seven innings in allowing five hits, one earned run and four walks with one strikeout.

Brayson Timms would double for the Rebels and score a run, while Bryce Smith had an RBI, a stolen base and two runs scored.

After Maddox Stone exited the game in the second inning (two innings, six hits, two earned runs, two walks, four strikeouts), Cayden Richardson would control the game the rest of the way for the Rebels while allowing only a pair of hits and walks while striking out three batters.

The Rattlers complete their season with a final record of 23-10, along with a 13-1 record in the conference that deliver them a regular season 7-2A title.



Submitted photos MHS Yearbook Staff

SENIORS ... At an earlier game this season, Rattler Baseball acknowledged their seniors on the squad including Lathan Compton, Cash Lowery, Brody Maroon, Laytan Wilcher, and Cameron Stevens, along with managers Layne Cox and James Silva.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Daisy Fire Department is accepting bids for Mowing at the Daisy Fire Department. Sealed bids need to be received by June 09, 2025. Daisy Fire Department PO Box 39 Kirby AR, 71950.

Daisy Council is accepting bids for Mowing and Park Clean up at the City Park in Daisy. Sealed bids need to be received by June 09, 2025. City of Daisy PO Box 39 Kirby AR, 71950.

This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$61.20. (c.o.d. 68w., 45,46)

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET: FIRE DEPARTMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$3,711.09

REVENUE:

FIRE DUES:	\$8,000.00
CHAMBERS INTEREST	\$10.00
ACT 833	\$2,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$10,010.00

EXPENSES:

WATER	\$500.00
SOUTH CENTRAL ELECTRIC	\$1,800.00
DAISY GENERAL FUND (p/r)	\$1,200.00
PLYLERS HOME CENTER	\$100.00
FUEL	\$300.00
ADVERTISEMENT	\$100.00
MOWING	\$500.00
MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT	\$--
TRUCK REPAIRS	\$1,000.00
POSTAGE	\$50.00
MOWING/EUGENE W.	\$500.00
REYNOLDS RADIO	\$300.00
FIREMAN CALLS	\$500.00
PIKE COUNTY FIRE CHIEF	\$362.00
AWI	\$200.00
WORKERS COMP	\$340.00
LIFE INSURANCE	\$25.00
LARRY PUMP SERVICE	\$200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,977.00

This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$96.30. (c.o.d. 107w., 45,46)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

RYAN MCCLOSKY, JAMES MCCLOSKY,
JORDAN MCCLOSKY, Petitioners,

Vs. 55 CV-25-24

JONATHAN RANDALL WATSON, ALL OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES Defendants,

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

All that part of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 SW1/4) of Section Five (5), in Township Eight (8) South, in Range Twenty-Four (24) West, lying Northeast of Saline Creek, and containing 40 acres, more or less

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, to wit:

All that part of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 SW1/4) of Section Five (5), in Township Eight (8) South, in Range Twenty-Four (24) West, lying Northeast of Saline Creek, and containing 40 acres, more or less

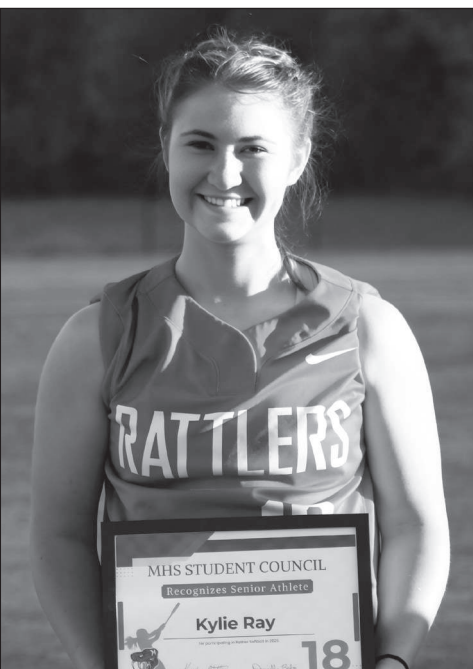
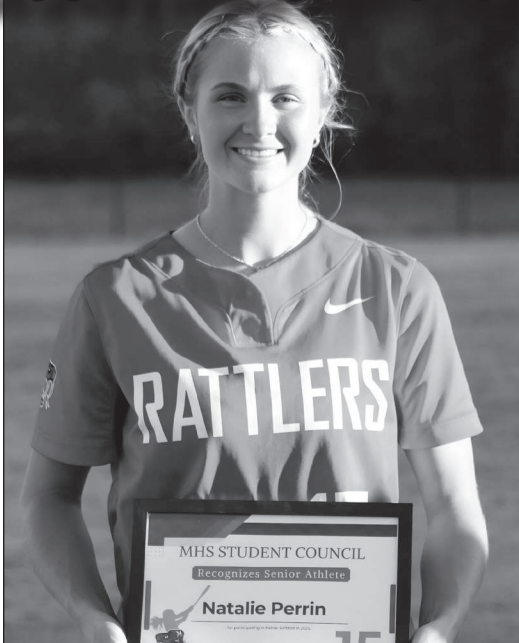
The Defendant, and/or any and all other persons claiming said lands or interest thereon are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and answer said Petition and show cause why the title to said lands should not be quieted and confirmed as set forth by the Petitioner or be forever barred from asserting his or her interest.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, this 15th day of May, 2025.

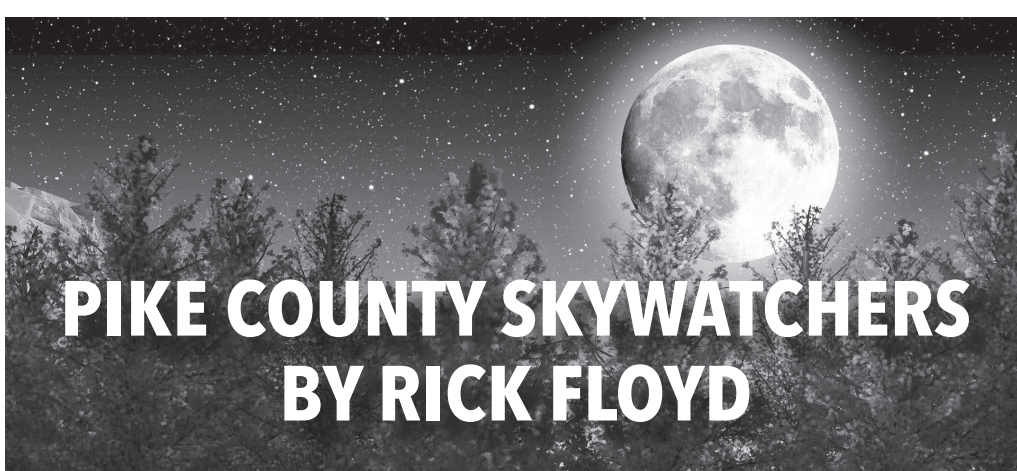
SABRINA WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT CLERK
OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

(a.b., 266w., 46,47,48,49)

2025 LADY RATTLER SOFTBALL SENIORS



Submitted photos/MHS YEARBOOK
2025 SOFTBALL SENIORS ... The Murfreesboro High School softball team recognized its senior participants earlier this season, including Alyssa Ruiz, Natalie Perrin, Kylie Ray, Jenna May and Reid Spradlin.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

One man's space trash is another's treasure

However, latest Russian addition lands in Indian Ocean

The failed Soviet spacecraft, Kosmos 482, crashed to Earth as predicted at 1:24 a.m. our time on May 10 into the Indian Ocean. Those hoping to collect valuable souvenirs will have to wait until the next event.

Given the number of satellites already in low Earth orbit (LEO), and the additional ones Starlink and Amazon are sending up, there will be inevitable fiery reentries and falling debris over the coming years.

These satellites are short-lived and replaced as they fall. There is concern that particles of toxic materials will survive the burn of reentry and land on Earth. Time will tell as this will be monitored closely.

The Earth has actually been rained upon from space for eons. Comets and asteroids in our vicinity have left trails of cosmic dust and debris that the Earth constantly travels through. The particles are so small that they do not create enough friction to burn up in our atmosphere,

and it is estimated that 5,200 tons of these particles fall to Earth every year.

The surviving bits of cosmic debris lying around are called micrometeorites, and there are good youtube videos on how to collect them from places around your house. You will need a magnet and a microscope, but it would be a good school project.

There are very good images of these tiny meteorites on the internet as well, and also a good book by the pioneer micrometeorite hunter, Jon Larsen, titled On the Trail of Stardust. The rain gutter around your house likely has thousands of miniature meteorites in it.

Early risers can see the waning crescent moon near Venus in the east about an hour before sunrise on May 23. Saturn is nearby.

The International Space Station (ISS) will traverse our sky on May 27 starting at 9:31 p.m. moving from N.W to E.S.E. with a peak height of 61 degrees.

Local school loses pair of coaches to Mineral Springs

Chuck Lowery returns as coach

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Former Murfreesboro High School Rattler athlete and coach Chuck Lowery will return to his old campus after being hired Monday night as an assistant football coach, head track coach and youth sports coordinator.

Lowery will replace Darren Horn, who's resignation was accepted Monday by the South Pike County School Board during its May meeting. Horn has

taken a job with the Mineral Springs School District.

Lowery is currently head girls' basketball coach and assistant track coach at Prescott High School. His coaching experience includes work at Delight High School (1997-2002), Sparkman (2002-2005), Harmony Grove (2005-2010 & 2015-2021) and Murfreesboro (2010-2015), when he was head baseball and boys' basketball coach and assistant football coach.

The board also accepted the resignation of Nicole Martin, who has also taken a job at Mineral Springs.

The retirement of Sarita McRae was also accepted by the board with elementary hirings approved for Monica Riley, Candy Hood and Krista Milner. Also, Kaleb Delarosa was approved as a summer student worker on campus and a revised stipend schedule was accepted.

All votes on personnel were unanimous and were made following a closed executive session that lasted approximately one hour.

Also Monday, board officers were elected and new member Brian Caldwell was welcomed.

The new officers include Robert Silva, president; Barbie Baxter, vice president; and Alyssa Duggan, secretary.

The board also approved Steve Martin's game officials' assigner fee and extra pay up to \$5,000 for securing and paying game officials and conducting basketball camps.

The board also accepted the purchase service contract from Chad Brinkley for school technology support. Brinkley was approved for 210 days of work at \$230 per day.

The board also heard an update from math teacher and curriculum coordinator Melissa Jones about the district's successful High-Impact Tutoring program held from November through April. The program was funded by a \$79,914 grant and utilized what Jones described as "experienced teachers" as paid tutors.

Jones said the tutors worked a total of 638 hours with students at both elementary and high school.

For more information about the High-Impact Tutoring program, contact Jones through the high school.

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3	4	2	7	8	5	1	6	9
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UAMS HOUSE CALL

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

Q: What is deep vein thrombosis?

A: Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the development of a blood clot in one of the deep veins in the body. The condition normally occurs in the lower legs, pelvis or thighs, but can also appear in the arm, brain, intestines, kidneys or liver.

A pulmonary embolism, which occurs when blood clots resulting from DVT break free and travel to the lungs, is the main concern with DVT. Damage to a vein due to infection or injury or as a result of surgery are common causes of DVT. The condition also frequently occurs following extended periods of inactivity, such as being on bed rest or after a long flight.

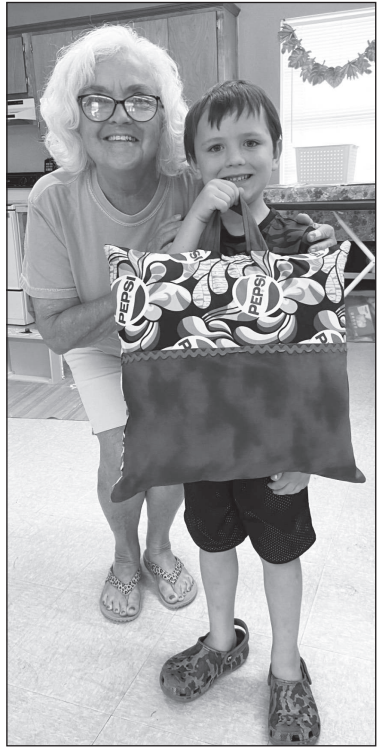
Risk factors for DVT include being over the age of 60 (although it can occur at any age), having a family history of DVT, being overweight or using tobacco products. It is more common in men than in women, although women's risks increase while pregnant and during the first six weeks after giving birth.

Symptoms include leg swelling or a change in skin color on the leg, but DVT can be present without indications. Treatments include blood thinners and wearing compression stockings. See your health care provider to determine the appropriate course of action.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



*May Is Arkansas
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Council Month!!!
Clubs of Pike County Arkansas*

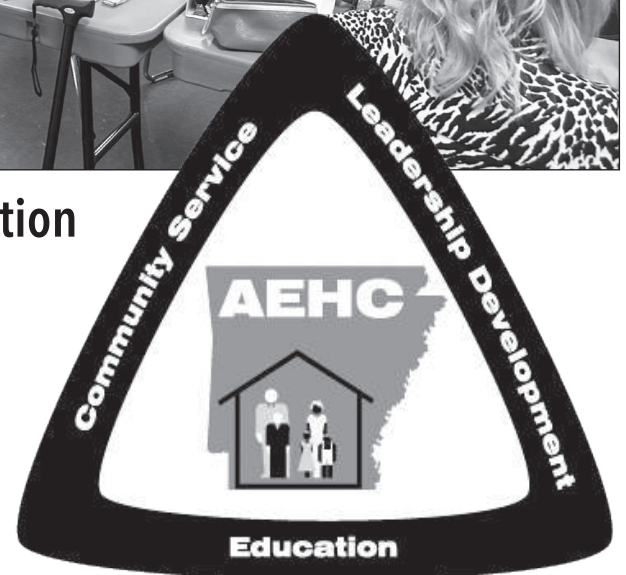


EHC members help with a Pike County 4-H sewing workshop (above right and left) and EHC volunteers judge the Pike County 4-H Farm Bureau Dairy Foods Contest (above middle)



Pike County EHC members keep the Arts & Crafts Education Building tradition going by decorating the building, entering items, checking in items and attending fair judging schools (food preservation, quilt and photography judging) in order to help with county fairs across the region.

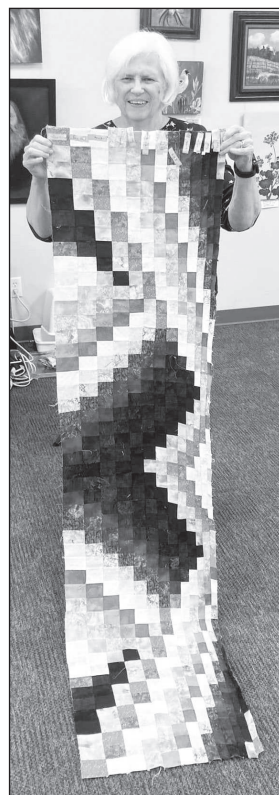
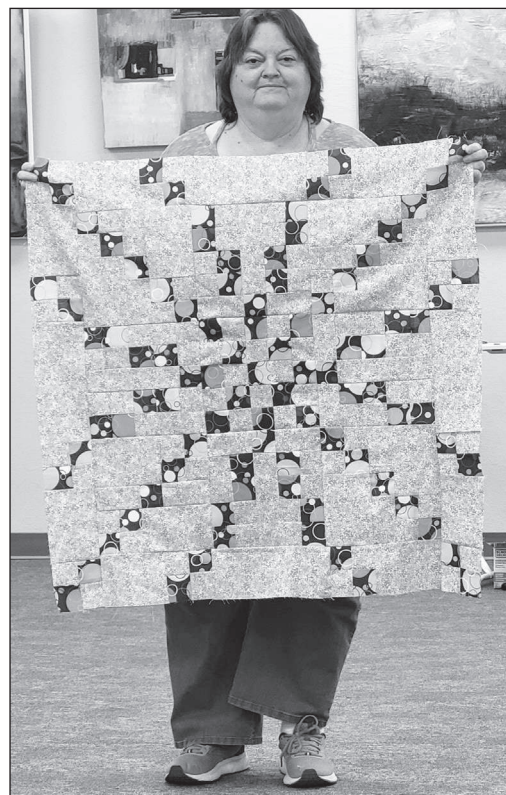
Pictured (far above right) is the Pike County EHC members on the Grand Marshal float in the 2024 Pike County Fair parade.



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Glenwood EHC member's host "Sew It's Monday" every Monday from 9:00 a.m.--4:00 p.m. at the Glenwood Bainum Library for anyone in their community who would like to spend some time with friends and a sewing machine. Members saw a need for a place for people to be creative and socialize and instead of just dreaming about doing something "someday" they made it happen!



(above left) Pisgah Club members enjoy visiting as they tie a quilt that will be donated to someone in need; while (above middle and right) Arkansas Children's Hospital had a need for neonatal intensive care unit covers and the Pisgah Club answered the call.



East Deight EHC Club always has a new learning experience on the calendar! Sometimes it's learning to bind and applique quilts, other times it's learning to mix up a batch of homemade laundry detergent or decorate a batch of cookies. Always fun, with never a dull moment! (above left) Ginny Evans and Catherine Reed make homemade laundry detergent. (above right) Terrie Spurlin and Ginny Evans learn how to decorate cookies by professional cookie designer Cheri Stainbrook demonstrating the art of cookie decoration. (below left) Pisgah EHC member and invited guests learn how to machine applique curved edges from guest quilter from Hot Springs Crazy Quilters EHC club.



JOIN EHC TODAY!

- Looking to join an existing club or start a new one?
- Learn new things, keep active, be inspired!
- Be a part of a thriving local community!

Call Eva Langley, University of Arkansas Family and Consumer Science Extension Agent, at (870) 285-2161 for more information about EHC

Ceremony set for Monday

Memorial Day event to honor veterans at County Courthouse

MURFREESBORO – Pike County Veterans Service Officer, Bob Williams, reports that a Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the War Memorial located on the Pike County Courthouse square Monday, May 26, 2025 starting at 10 a.m.

The event will last approximately an hour. Williams encourages all veterans, residents, and visitors of Pike County to take this opportunity by gathering as Americans to honor and remember the men and women throughout the history of this great Nation who "Gave Their All" to purchase and preserve our Nation's freedoms.

The event will honor the 78 Pike County residents who lost their lives in combat from WW-I, WW-II, Korea, and Vietnam. We will unite in spirit on this day with others not only across our Nation, but on battlefields and cemeteries in other countries where American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines lost their lives and their remains were never returned home.

The vent will highlight one of our WW-II veterans who became a POW and never returned home to Pike County. The Honorary Wreath will be placed by his relative.

Local church to help provide meals for children during summer vacation

MURFREESBORO -- In partnership with Harvest Food Bank of Texarkana, Murfreesboro's First United Methodist Church (FUMC) will be offering summer meals for children 18 years and younger during the summer while school is out of session.

The program is free and will provide meals for every day of the week to participants.

The meals will be distributed on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. from May 19-August 3.

Parents and guardians may pick up the meals for their children without the children present.

Monday distributions will include three meals, while Thursday pickups will have four meals.

The press release said the USDA Summer Feeding Program provides "nutritious meals."

Meals may be picked up at the Methodist Church's Blessed Beginnings building, located at 403 Second Avenue in Murfreesboro. Participants are asked to enter from the FUMC Family Life Center on Third Street.

For more information on the program, call the church at (870) 285-2579.

RATTLERS WIN LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP



Submitted photo

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS ... The 12 and under Murfreesboro Rattler baseball team recently defeated the Dierks Outlaws 12-1 in the championship game last Thursday night, making them the league champions for 2025.

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May 27
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19 great-grandchildren
Blessed

Mary & the late Curtis Turner, Sr.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, MAY 26 CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	salsa, banana pudding, fruit
TUESDAY, MAY 27 Loaded baked potato, broccoli, salad, chocolate brownie	THURSDAY, MAY 29 Sloppy joe on bun, potato wedges, baked beans, broccoli slaw, apple crisp
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 Chicken taco salad, pinto beans, chips &	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

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



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

WE GROW IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

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

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

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

3) **FERVENT, REGULAR**

PRAYER - JAMES 5:16
The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

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

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

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

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

-Jason Hart, Via Bulletin Gold

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2025 MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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321 *Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

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A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

ABRAHAM'S STEWARD ELIEZER, HAS GIVEN COSTLY GIFTS TO REBEKAH FOR GIVING HIM AND HIS CARAVAN WATER BECAUSE HE HAD RECEIVED THE SIGN THAT SHE IS TO BECOME ISAAC'S BRIDE....

NOW REBEKAH HURRIES TO HER HOME, FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT....

I MUST TELL MY FAMILY ALL ABOUT THIS!

THERE IS A FAMILY COUNCIL, AS SHE SHOWS THEM THE GOLDEN EAR-RING AND THE BRACELETS....

NOW REBEKAH'S BROTHER, LABAN, DASHES TO MEET THE STRANGER.

...HE SENSES GREAT IMPORTANCE IN WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND SPEAKS THIS TO ELIEZER: "COME IN TO MY HOUSE! WHEREFORE STANDEST THOU OUTSIDE? SEE, I HAVE PREPARED FOR THEE AND THY CAMELS!"

Next Week
IMPORTANT QUESTION!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
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ON BROADWAY
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS**
1. Benatar and Morita
 5. Certain tray contents
 8. In custody
 12. *Main character in "Shrek the Musical," based on 2001 flick
 13. Soreness
 14. Wore (2 words)
 15. Street in Anytown, USA
 16. Burn to a crisp
 17. Opposite of alpha
 18. *Musical with most Tony Awards, with The
 20. Grape holder
 21. Entertain
 22. ___ Aviv
 23. Unrhymed Japanese poem, pl.
 26. Snakebirds
 30. Opposite of hence
 31. Shooting star
 34. Milk's favorite cookie
 35. Zoroaster follower
 37. A Beattle bride
 38. Mix-up
 39. Type of cotton
 40. * ___ Lloyd Webber
 42. Dog command
 43. Inference of similarity
 45. 4th letter of Hebrew alphabet
 47. "But I heard him exclaim, ___ he drove out of sight..."
 48. Pool table fabric
 50. Altar location
 52. *Last year's Tony Award winner for Best Musical, with The
 56. Santa Anna's target
 57. To, archaic
 58. Small cave
 59. Cocaine-producing plant, pl.
 60. Diagnostic test
 61. Biblical Isaac's firstborn
 62. Not quite an adult

63. Craggy peak
64. Tear

- DOWN**
1. Circumstance's partner
 2. Lab gel
 3. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.
 4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author
 5. Plural of #13 Across
 6. Social media button
 7. Not his
 8. *Musical with most Tony nominations
 9. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
 10. *Private box
 11. Double helix-shaped structure
 13. Emile Zola's "J" ___!"
 14. What helicopter parents do
 19. Savory taste sensation
 22. Black gunk
 23. Tapa, alt. sp.
 24. "Encore!"
 25. ___ Jean, a.k.a. Marilyn Monroe
 26. Don't let this hit you on the way out
 27. Use the other end of a pencil
 28. Re-equip
 29. *Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "___ Pacific"
 32. *Award nickname, short for Antoinette
 33. Finish line
 36. *Arthur Miller's "Death of a ___"
 38. Swaziland native
 40. * ___ of Aquarius," song from "Hair"
 41. a.k.a. the Wizard of Menlo Park
 44. Plural of #34 Across
 46. Late actor Heath
 48. Social dice game
 49. Rose oil
 50. Medicinal house plant
 51. Tempo
 52. Give a boot
 53. Gaelic
 54. Multicolored horse
 55. Wall support
 56. *Part of a play

CROSSWORD

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Ten Commandments return to Arkansas classrooms next school year

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The legislature officially adjourned the 2025 regular session on May 5, and is not scheduled to convene again until the 2026 fiscal session.

The legislature will consider spending bills during next year's fiscal session, which begins at noon on the second Wednesday in April. The legislature changed the starting date of fiscal sessions in Act 405 of 2025, which also changed the date of the primary elections to the first Tuesday in March.

Arkansas has been alternating the dates of primary elections, depending on whether or not it is a presidential election year. Primaries have been held in May, except when there is an election for president, when Arkansas primaries have been held in March.

Holding primaries in March gives Arkansas voters more influence in determining who will be the presidential nominee of the major political parties. If Arkansans voted in May the results would rarely matter because usually by May each party's candidate has sewn up the nomination.

Act 405 standardizes election dates as well as the dates for candidates to file for office. The filing period will be for a week beginning in early November.

Also this year the legislature enacted laws on social and cultural issues. Act 573 of 2025 requires all public schools to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms. The poster must be at least 16 by 20 inches so that it is visible for everyone in the room.

The intent of Act 955 of 2025 is to preserve order and dignity in women's restrooms and facilities where women have traditionally enjoyed privacy and safety. If a person encounters someone of the opposite sex in a public bathroom, for example in a school, college or courthouse, that person can file a lawsuit

seeking damages from the governmental entity.

Act 116 prohibits preferential treatment by state agencies, local governments, higher education and public schools districts, except if the policies benefit veterans.

Act 938 repeals racial and gender quotas from laws that create boards and commissions. For example, previous law required a member of the Financial Education Commission to be someone who is in a racial minority. That requirement has been repealed. The membership of the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap no longer will no longer have to represent the racial and ethnic diversity of Arkansas.

Act 747 prohibits cities and counties from having policies that promote diversity, inclusion or equity. Local governments cannot have a policy that promotes hiring and promotion based on ethnic or racial background, sex or national origin.

Act 979 of 2025 expands the ability of people to sue a physician for medical malpractice after procedures that changed their gender when they were minors. Act 274 of 2023 allows medical malpractice lawsuits for injuries received during gender transition procedures. It defines surgical practices that would make a physician liable.


Act 979 of 2025 adds gender affirming intervention



Staff photo

MOTORCYCLE CLUB VISITS MURFREESBORO ... The Motor Maids, a national motorcycling club for women, made a trip this past weekend to Murfreesboro. After arrival at the Queen of Diamonds Inn, the group was presented with goodie bags from the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce. The group, approximately 60 attendees strong, was smaller than planned after forecasted inclement weather according to Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Harvill. For more information on the group, please visit www.motormaidinc.org.

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The Town of Delight is now taking applications for a part-time city worker. Duties will vary daily/weekly. Pay will be \$15/Hour

The successful applicant will be able to work independently on various duties and must possess a valid driver's license. Phone calls from applicants will not be accepted. Interested applicants are asked to bring a resume to the Delight Water office on School Street and fill out an application in person.

This publication was paid for by the City of Delight, the amount for this publication is \$33.75 (c.o.d. ..75w., 47,48)

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T E E N T O R R E N D



Brent Alexander BACCALAUREATE

First, I'd like to thank you, seniors, for asking me to be a part of the ceremony this evening. It is indeed, an honor to be here with you tonight. Also, thank you families and friends, for coming out to support these young men and women.

I hope you had a good Mother's Day this past weekend. My family did. My mother, 89, still wants to do all the things she's always done as far as preparing meals and cleaning up after holidays. After dinner I watched her shuffle over to the sink full of dishes and prepare to wash all the dishes. I immediately took the towel from her and told her she's not washing dishes today! It's Mother's Day and she should not have to wash all those dishes on this special day. They can wait 'til tomorrow!

I've realized over the years all the things my folks did for me when I was younger and that leads me to the first of only two points I want to make tonight.

Show your appreciation to those who've helped you get to this point.

We live in a country where many people really don't sacrifice much. It's rare that we have to give up something in order to get something else. We give, but much of it is out of our wealth. This is not always the case. Your family members have sacrificed for you over the years. Some sacrifices have been financial, some involved time, and often your folks or family have done without things that they'd like, in order for you to be where you are today. Many of you know this and could make a list of the things they have done, but that would be only the things you know about. I'm sure there are other times they waited up for you to come in late at night, only to go to bed when they saw you pull in the driveway. They love you. People have done a lot for you because they love you.

In 2011 I took off my blue and gold t-shirt with a dog on it and put on a red t-shirt with a snake on it and started cheering for the Rattler tennis team. I did this not because red was my new favorite color or that it complemented my complexion, but it was because I love my daughter (who was now a Murfreesboro Rattler) more than I loved any man-made institution. Three years later I put on a red and black sweatshirt and cheered at the Rattler basketball games because I loved my son, Mason, more than any set of buildings or long standing tradition. I don't say this as a great sacrifice, but it was an abrupt change in my way of thinking. This can be an emotional time for many people, but if our greatest emotion is our love for our children and one another, other emotions should pale in comparison.

What specifically do I want you to do, seniors? I want you to talk to those people who supported you in your journey to be here tonight. And I don't mean text them from your seat right now—"TY, mom"—or give them a little shoulder hug after the ceremony. I want you to look them in the eyes, in close proximity, in a private place, face to face. Use real words like "thank you" and more importantly, "I love you." Don't do this just to make your folks feel good but do it because it will help you become the kind of person you need to be from here on. This leads me to my second point:

Give people a little more than they expect.

I'm proud of all of you but can't help but have special pride for those of you who have done the little extra. Those of you who've stayed after school to get that website just right even though you didn't have to. You who excelled at your science assignment that reflected work beyond what was actually necessary. You who got up early to run or lift weights ... or ... do whatever you do with a football ... to get the edge on an opponent when it was not required. Some of you have studied diligently for that last final test even though it would not affect your grade significantly. You are the ones who will be successful.

I don't know what your definition of success is, seniors, but I hope it involves more than money, power, and material possessions. Give people more than they expect. And don't do it for the awards or glory. Do it because it's just the kind of person you need to be.

Our society says, "Just get by." "Save as much time as you can by taking as many shortcuts as you can." "Just make the lowest grade possible to get the diploma; that's all that matters." Unfortunately, sometimes we as believers appear to have the attitude with our Christianity (although we'd never say it this way), "God, what's the least I can do and still get to heaven?"

You may not be recognized for your extra effort. People may misunderstand you. You may be ridiculed and criticized by some. On the way over here I noticed an elderly woman in the bank parking lot near the ATM. She looked confused so I thought I'd stop to see if there was anything I could do. She asked me if I would help her check her balance. I said I would. So I gave her a pretty good shove. I don't think it was as good as she thought it was. I tried to help her up (she was played out on the asphalt), but she didn't seem to want any more help.

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:40, "If anyone steals your shirt, let him have your coat, too, if he needs it" (paraphrased). If a Roman soldier says, "Carry my pack for a mile," Say, "Yes sir; I'll carry it where ever you need me to." That's easy to talk about but very hard to do.

I will leave you with this story: A man coaching his grandson's baseball team was trying to prepare a pep talk before the first practice when he remembered his coach's pep talk when he was a boy. His coach asked, "How many of you boys want to play ball in the big leagues?" All hand shot up. They went out and practiced hard. So he delivered that same pep talk to his grandson's team. No hands went up. Somebody or some thing is stealing the dreams of our young people. Don't let anyone or anything steal your dreams.

Thank you.



Jenna May VALEDICTORIAN

Good evening family members, friends, teachers, administrators, and fellow classmates.

I could thank an innumerable amount of people for making my high school experience one to remember forever. However, I'd like to bring special attention to just a few. Thank you to my classmates for providing each other with support, love, and friendships that will last a lifetime. The memories made within us will forever be cherished. To all of my teachers and coaches, thank you for pushing me to be my best. Whether it be in the classroom, on the sidelines of a football game, on the court, or on the field, all of you have played a specific role in my life.

In particular, Mrs. Barnes, she may seem scary at first, but she fills her classroom with inspiration, joy, and excitement. Mrs. Maroon, thank you for being someone I look up to as a leader through FBLA. Officer Hughes, thank you for making office aide duties more enjoyable. We were the life of the party and Reid and Mrs. Stone's daily entertainment. I would also like to thank Mrs. Stone. Without her, I most likely would not have survived senior year. She was my motivation through senioritis and my comfort when I needed someone to listen. Mrs. Stone has used her situation to represent a true example of perseverance to all of us students here at MHS. Thank you.

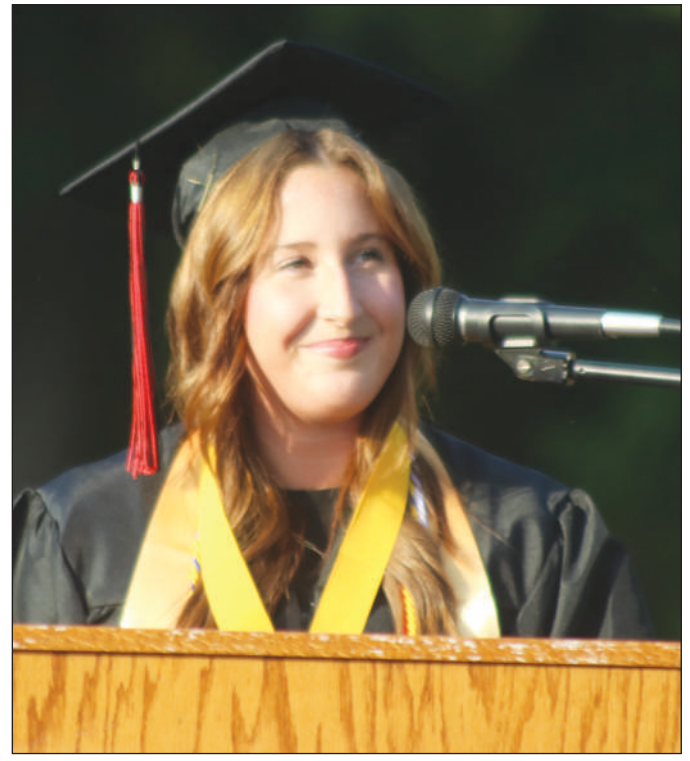
Next, I would like to thank my parents. They have been my number one fans through every victory and defeat. Your love and support has never gone unnoticed and it will always be appreciated. Without your guidance, I would not be the person I am today.

Lastly, but most importantly, I give all my thanks to God. To the one who provides us with wisdom, strength, and knowledge to make all of this possible. It is true, for if we put all of our trust in Him, nothing is impossible.

It feels like just yesterday, I was a frightened seventh grader in the brand new halls of Murphy High. Reminiscing on the past five years, it has all gone by in the blink of an eye. We have all been through our fair share of ups and downs. Most importantly, we have gone through them together. Going to a small school has provided us with the opportunity to support and encourage one another.

As we move forward, let us carry the lessons we have learned, the friendships we have forged, and the determination to make a difference. May we approach the future with open minds and hearts, ready to embrace every opportunity that comes our way. As I close, I want to leave my fellow graduates with this verse: Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."

Congratulations class of 2025, I wish you all the very best. Thank you!



Jocee Holt SALUTATORIAN

Good evening, as salutatorian, it is my job to welcome everyone, keep it a little casual, and leave the hard stuff to our Valedictorian.

I was quite shocked when told I was in the top two of our graduating class. I've always known I was a little bit of a hard worker. Frankly, my mother never gave me any other choice. However, I have always strived for the best, to hold my own, and succeed in life.

Despite all of those achievements gained in high school, does that define us as people? Are we defined by our achievements rather than by who we are? Are we defined as our parents' mistakes and successes, or are we defined as Laytan Walter Wilcher, Anna Michelle Terrell, James Kelley Williams Jr., or Jocee Andon Holt?

Life is not defined by successes but rather by our acts of kindness, our love for others, and our purpose for life. Therefore, focus on the now, fixing that broken relationship you have with your father, that one friendship that fizzled out, and the envy you have to fit into a size two jeans.

After all, we are only given one life, so live, love, and grow from your mistakes, actions, and choices. Be bold, take chances, work hard, and keep God first.

Although it is great to be successful in life, look in the mirror and ask yourself: Am I proud of who I am? When I look in that mirror, I am very thankful that I am only 18 rather than 50 years down the road, questioning why I didn't live life to the fullest.

So, I leave you with this -- stop taking life so seriously, make progress in silence, and be proud of the person you see when you look in the mirror.

Congratulations, we did it!



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