

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, May 28, 2025
Issue 47 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

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4-H looks to help eliminate summer hunger for local kids

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is conducting a summer cereal drive to help fight summer hunger.

"The drive provides non-perishable breakfast items that are kid-friendly for children and families in Pike County who would otherwise go without the most important meal of the day -- breakfast," said Pike County 4-H assistant Shannon Ballard.

The items being requested are:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Toaster Pastries
- Granola Bars

Drop off sites for the items are at the Bainum Library and Learning Center in Glenwood and the Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro.

The program will run from June 1 to July 31.



Staff photo

HONORING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED ALL ... Bob Williams, Pike County Veterans Service Officer, headlined the Memorial Day ceremony in Murfreesboro on Monday. Unlike normal circumstances, the event was held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building instead of the Veterans Memorial at the Pike County Courthouse due to the inclement weather.

Nursing home building, property to be sold at auction

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Nursing Center building and the real state it sits on will be sold to the highest bidder next month on the steps of the Pike County Courthouse, according to a public notice of a commissioner's sale that appears in this issue of the *Diamond* on page 6.

The commissioner's sale is scheduled for June 24 at 10 a.m.

The sale stems from a mortgage foreclosure complaint filed Nov. 25, 2024 by Chambers Bank against the nursing center, described as

a "limited liability company," Reliant Management Group, LLC, State of Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and Internal Revenue Service.

The lawsuit states that Murfreesboro Nursing Center executed and delivered to Chambers Bank its promissory note in the principal sum of \$1,384,048.65, payable in semi-monthly payments beginning, Feb. 5, 2009. The terms of the note were adjusted 12 times with the last change being July 2019.

"The defendant, Murfreesboro Nursing Cen-

ter has failed to make the payments as provided by the terms" set forth in the agreement with Chambers Bank. As of October 2024, there was a balance due of \$575,548 in principal, \$16,307 in accrued interest and late charges and fees of \$59,140 and daily accrual of \$135.

A foreclosure was granted to Chambers Bank on April 21.

The public notice was filed by Pike County Circuit Clerk Sabrina Williams, commissioner of sale.

Local athletes compete at state Meet of Champions

SEARCY -- At the season ending Meet of Champions in Searcy on May 14, Murfreesboro was represented by several athletes. The Meet of Champions is collected group of athletes that finished at the top of their individual class track meets.

- Ma'Shaylia Morris finished eighth in in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.26.
- Macy Gills was eighth in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:05.51.
- The 4x200 meter relay team was twelfth in their race with a time of 1:50.96.

Other local schools were represented at the meet, including:

MINERAL SPRINGS
Jakayla Walker, eighth place 100 meter hurdles, 15.72
4x100 girl's relay team, ninth place, 51.54
Jericho Gamble, tenth place discus, 149'0"; ninth place shot put 50'2.5"

DIERKS
Milee Harrison, tenth place 300 meter hurdles, 49.76

NASHVILLE
Roochie Wiley, third place 200 meter dash, 22.16; third place 400 meter dash, 50.22

CENTERPOINT
Alyssa Spurlin, twelfth place discus, 90'11"

CADDO HILLS
Cameron Sliger, ninth place 300 meter hurdles, 43.82; tenth place pole vault, 13'6"

Pike County Archives and History Society makes donation to aid in preservation of Historic Rosenwald School

PIKE COUNTY -- The historic Rosenwald School in Antoine, Arkansas, a cherished landmark of the National Register of Historic Places, received a significant boost in its restoration efforts today as the Pike County Archives and History Society donated a \$500 check to aid in its preservation.

The donation was presented during a fund-raising event dedicated to saving the 1938-built school, which was originally constructed with funds from the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service. The Rosenwald Preservation Committee, composed of Fadie Gentry, James Aaron Meeks, and Sally Williams, has tirelessly worked to secure resources for much-needed repairs. Monies are urgently needed to replace the roof, remove hazardous lead paint, repaint, and update the bathrooms.

To further raise funds and awareness, the Pleasant Hill Quilters from Texas delivered an inspiring presentation on the Underground Railroad Quilt Code, captivating attendees with historical insights and the artistry of quilting. Their participation added a meaningful connection to the event, highlighting the role of quilting in African American history and resilience.

The Rosenwald School continues to serve the local community, hosting family reunions, weddings, and gatherings that bring people together in celebration of history and heritage. Despite three years of unsuccessful attempts to secure grants, the committee remains steadfast in its mission. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all donations to the restoration efforts are tax-deductible, and supports are encouraged to contribute to preserving this vital piece of history.

With the backing of generous donors and the dedication of local advocates, the Rosenwald School stands as a testament to the importance of protecting cultural and historical landmarks for future generations.

For more information on how to support the restoration efforts, interested donors can contact the Rosenwald Preservation Committee or the Pike County Archives & History Society at 870-285-9157.



Submitted photo/PCAHS

DONATION TO HISTORIC EFFORT ... Darlene Watson, Fadie Gentry, Charlotte McCauley, and Sally Williams are pictured above following the Pike County Archives and History Society's \$500 donation to the Rosenwald School in Antoine for further renovation.

Couple accused of stealing \$65K from family member

MURFREESBORO -- A Pike County couple has been charged with fraudulent use of a credit or debit card and are accused of stealing approximately \$65,000 from one's family member.

Shana Nicole Pickrell, 31, of Murfreesboro, and Andrew Pipkins, 36, of Kirby, were both charged May 23 with one count of fraudulent use of a credit or debit card with Pipkins also

being charged with financial identity fraud.

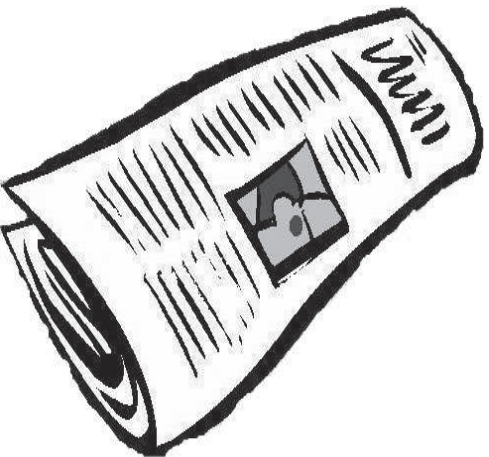
The charges are the result of a Pike County investigation that began on May 8 when a Pipkin's family member reported that a large amount of money had been fraudulently withdrawn from his personal bank account and that he suspected Pickrell and Pipkins, as both were living at his residence at the time.

The family member had discovered unau-

thorized transactions, including several connected to Pickrell's PayPal account. When confronted by the family member, Pickrell admitted to the theft and requested two days to return \$25,000.

Overall, there were 515 disputed transactions, totaling approximately \$65,000.

CRIME Continued on Page 2



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

CRIME Continued from Page 1

During the investigation, three audio recordings of calls made to the bank by a person fraudulently identifying himself as the family member were reviewed. The family member later identified the voice as belonging to Pipkins.

Pipkins is currently under active supervision with the Arkan-

sas Probation and Parole Division, according to case information.

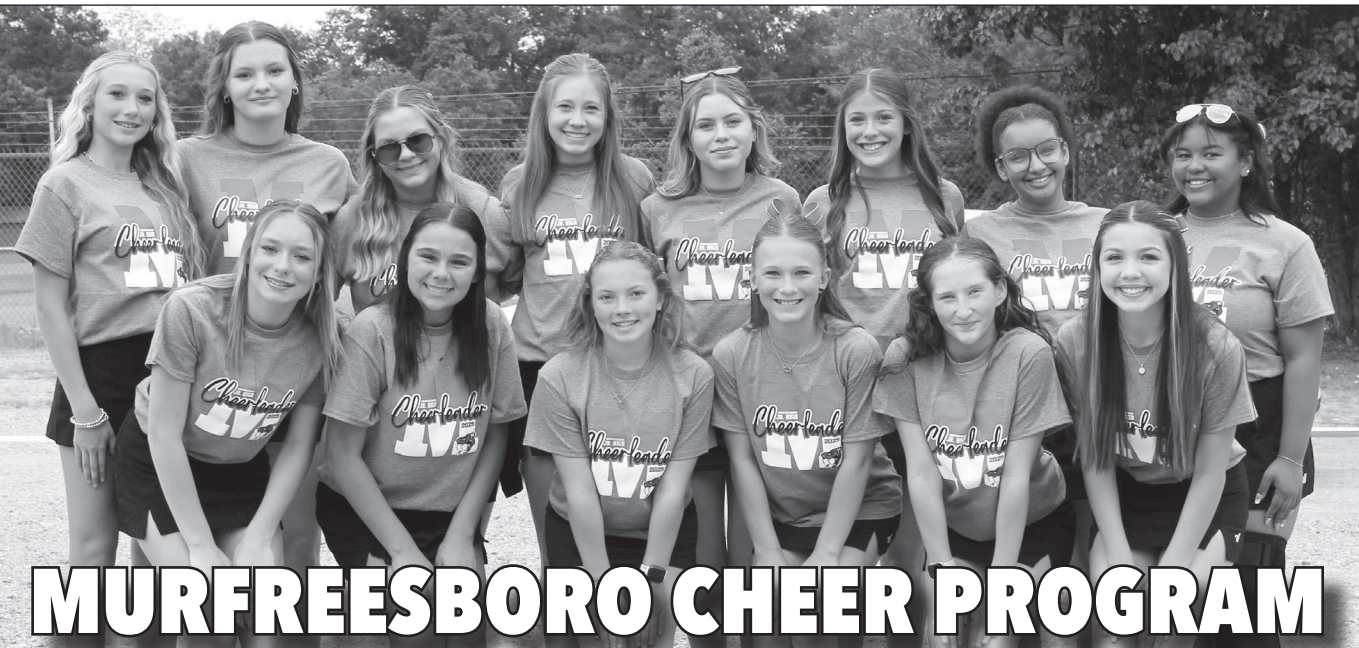
On May 21, drug charges were filed against Brianna Vanauken, 42, of Glenwood. She is charged with possession of methamphetamine with purpose to deliver.

Vanauken was the passenger in a vehicle involved in a traffic stop by the Glenwood Police Department on April 19. Pike County Deputy Brett Reid and K9 officer Omar conducted an

open-air check around the vehicle and alerted at the passenger door.

Officers located a small amount of marijuana and approximately .45 grams of suspected methamphetamine, along with distal scales and syringes.

Vanauken admitted to officers that the drugs and paraphernalia belonged to her.



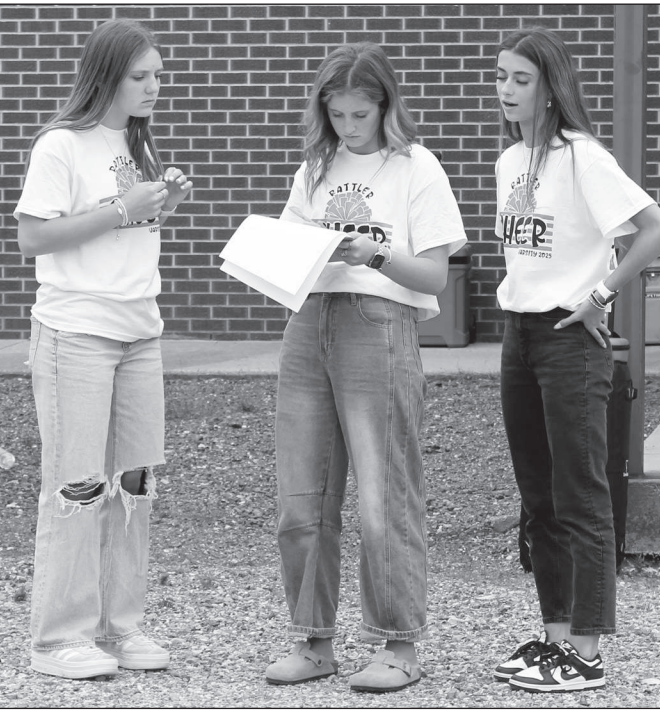
THE MURFREESBORO CHEER PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR AID WITH THE RECENT FUNDRASING DINNER AND AUCTION

DONATED TO CHEER CHICKEN DINNER

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PART- TIME JOB OPENING

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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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)



Staff photos

HELPING OUT WITH EARTH DAY ... The Pike County Extension Office recently presented an “all hands on deck” approach to the Pike County Conservation District’s Earth Day educational program for county fifth graders. Pictured (above left) is UAEX employees Codie McAlister, Eva Langley and Shannon Ballard. Also pictured was one of the event’s sponsors, Pike County Farm Bureau, along with other sponsors First State Bank of Pike County, Bank of Delight and Diamond Bank of Murfreesboro.

Jury finds man guilty of lesser charge

MURFREESBORO -- A Pike County jury found a Delight man guilty of a lesser charge on Thursday, May 22.

Robert Derrick Hudson, 53, was originally charged with felony first-degree criminal mischief in July 2024 after he shot up a truck that did not belong to him. He had plead innocent to that

charge.

During his brief trial, jurors instead found Hudson guilty of misdemeanor criminal mischief, sentenced him to seven days in the county jail and fined him \$1,250.

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.

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

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: How are staph infections treated?

A: Staph infections are caused by Staphylococcus, a group of more than 30 types of bacteria. The bacteria are normally present on the skin or in the nose with no signs of infection, unless a cut or wound allows the bacteria to enter the body. Staph infections can become dangerous if they affect the brain, heart or lungs.

Skin infections are the most common type of staph infection. Risk factors include those with chronic conditions such as cancer, eczema, diabetes or vascular disease. Those who are hospitalized, have recently had surgery, or have inserted devices such as catheters are more at risk, as well as those who participate in contact sports.

Symptoms of a staph infection include fever, blisters, cellulitis (red, painful, swollen skin), food

poisoning or pneumonia. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that can occur if a staph infection enters the bloodstream.

Keeping wounds clean and covered, frequent hand washing, and avoiding sharing personal items such as needles, razors, and towels are ways to prevent staph infections. Antibiotics are the most common treatment, as well as draining an infected wound. Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms, especially if you have been in contact with other infected persons.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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Obituaries

Lynda Joyce McGuire Stone, 85



bounds. But Lynda’s main passion was spending time in her greenhouse working with her plants. She was a free spirit who will forever be missed.

Lynda was preceded in death by her parents and her daughter, Rhonda Elaine Stone.

Those left to mourn her loss yet cherish her memory include her daughter, Dana Stone; special son-in-law, Jack Bonds; her brother, Don (Janie) McGuire; her grandkittens, Tinky, Merlin, Elton, Grayson and Sissy; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends

Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, May 30, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, May 31, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with burial to follow at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Prescott, Arkansas, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

Lynda Joyce McGuire Stone, age 85, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2025 in Nashville, Arkansas. She was born on February 11, 1940 in Prescott, Arkansas to the late Clifton Alexander McGuire and Wilma Grimes McGuire.

Lynda enjoyed living her life to the fullest. She loved to go on road trips and see places she’s never seen. She enjoyed meeting new people and learning something new from each person she interacted with. She enjoyed going antiquing and marveling at the beauty of old handmade primitive furniture and the designs and colors of carnival glass. She loved her family dearly and with a devotion and loyalty that knows no

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

To phone home galactically, you must know what it’s called

Don’t cry over spilled stars

E.T. obviously knew where he was from and the number to dial when, in the movie E.T., he famously said “E.T. phone home.”

Many Earthlings, if stranded on another world, would not be quite as certain about where they came from. There is lingering confusion among us as to what to call our home planet, its moon and the other aspects of our cosmic neighborhood.

People wonder why so many stars have Greek, Latin or Arabic names but our sun does not. Part of the confusion stems from the fact that our sun does not have an official name.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU), founded in 1919, and the group responsible now for naming objects in our universe, has never officially given the sun a name. The reason seems to be because the word sun goes way back to root words from Old English, Germanic and Indo-European languages. Sunne was the word in Old English, from which sun evolved.

Today, most astronomers call our star the Sun and it is pretty much the standard. However, we still see a Greek influence in the word Helios when referencing certain of the Sun’s influences on the Earth like heliotropism (plants turning toward the sun) and heliocentric meaning a star in the center of a planetary system. The word derived from Latin, Sol, is also still evident in the word Solar; solar flare, Solar System, solar panel.

Our moon, on the other hand, was officially named the Moon (in 1922) by the IAU. We have to realize that for much of human history what was seen in the heavens was the one sun and the one moon. Stars were something other than suns, and it was not until Galileo saw moons around Jupiter in the 1600’s that we realized that there is more to the cosmos than meets the eye.

Earth, the names of other planets in the Solar System, and many of their moons were officially accepted by the IAU in 1976. Earth is another word that has roots in Old English (various spellings Eor(the) and Ertha).

Our home galaxy also does not have an official name mainly due to the fact that what we call it, the Milky Way, has been in use for centuries. The Greeks called it Galaxia (Gala is the word for milk), and the Romans called it Via Lactea. Of course, they were not aware that it was a galaxy that they were describing. They were simply looking at the broad band of stars and seeing spilt milk.

SMALL ADS DO WORK

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



Submitted photos/DAR

SYMBOLIC STATEMENT FOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL ... In advance of Memorial Day, the Mine Creek – Paraclifta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) offered businesses throughout Southwest Arkansas a meaningful way to honor Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Through the sponsorship of a “Missing Man Table,” businesses can visibly demonstrate their respect and remembrance of our fallen heroes during the week leading up to Memorial Day. Two local Murfreesboro businesses, Coffee Connections and Ace of Diamonds took advantage of the offer last Thursday, May 22, when the tables were delivered. Each Missing Man Table will feature symbolic elements representing service members who are missing in action or never returned home. A small sign explains the significance of each item on the place setting. “The Missing Man Table is a powerful tribute that brings the meaning of Memorial Day to the forefront in our community,” said a DAR representative. Pictured (above right) is Zach Eckart of Coffee Connections with Tracy Hile, local DAR representative, and (above right) Jane Terrell, Karen Terrell and Hile with Ace of Diamonds

Church to provide meals for children during 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. Meals may be picked up at the Methodist Church’s Blessed Beginnings build-

ing, 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.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

- MONDAY, JUNE 2**
Spaghetti & meat sauce, green beans, mixed green salad, garlic bread, chocolate mousse

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
Grilled chicken w/mushroom sauce, brussel sprouts, peas & carrots, dinner roll, peach cobbler
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4**
Meatloaf, potatoes & onion, lima beans, cornbread, fruit

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

WHEN LOVE IS BAD
Even though Jesus taught that love is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40), we are also warned that there are certain types of love that are unprofitable and evil. The following are examples of love that we should not have:
Love of money – “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:10)
Love of the world – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15)
Love of prestige – “It is not good to eat much honey: Therefore, for men to search their own glory, is not glory” (Proverbs 25:27); “For who-soever exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted”



(Luke 14:11)
Love of idols – “Thou shalt fear the Lord your God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, or the gods of the people which are round about you” (Deuteronomy 6:13, 14)
Excessive love of self – “For men shall be lovers of their own selves...” (2 Timothy 3:2); “And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15); “...In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:3,4)
Love of strife – “As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is as contentious man to kindle strife” (Proverbs 26:21); “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, and devilish. For where envying and strife are, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:14-16)
Love of sin – “That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:12); “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Romans 1:32)

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Due to the rising cost of newsprint, ink and printing supplies, *The Murfreesboro Diamond* in trade area subscriptions beginning June 1 will be **\$45 a year.**
(trade area includes Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties)

2025 MAY						
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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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- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRIDE FOR ISAAC
REBEKAH'S BROTHER, LABAN, HAS INVITED ELIEZER TO LODGE AT THEIR HOUSE, HOPING FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE COSTLY GIFTS HE GAVE REBEKAH....

ENTER AND EAT!

I WILL NOT EAT UNTIL I HAVE TOLD MINE ERRAND!

NOW ELIEZER TELLS HOW HE SEARCHES FOR A BRIDE FOR ISAAC AND HOW REBEKAH DID ALL THOSE THINGS THAT SHOW SHE IS THE INTENDED....

LABAN AND ALL THE FAMILY LISTEN WITH GREAT INTEREST!

NOW ELIEZER ASKS THE IMPORTANT QUESTION: "WILL YE DEAL KINDLY WITH ME, AND LET ME TAKE THE MARRIAGE TO MY MASTER AS A BRIDE FOR HIS BELOVED SON?"

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* -- *Theme Telated Clue*
- ACROSS**
- 1. Heidi’s footwear, pl.
 - 6. * ____ Hamm
 - 9. Humorous anecdote
 - 13. It doesn’t take away tomorrow’s troubles
 - 14. Like Mother Hubbard
 - 15. Popular pie nut
 - 16. Hiker’s path
 - 17. Court
 - 18. Makes better
 - 19. *Number of soccer players on field for each team
 - 21. *Winningest FIFA World Cup country
 - 23. Common inquiries, acr.
 - 24. Carmy Berzatto’s restaurant, with The
 - 25. Cul-de- ____
 - 28. In the buff
 - 30. Preacher’s platform
 - 35. Poking instrument
 - 37. Smidge
 - 39. Sashay
 - 40. Bald eagle’s nest
 - 41. *a.k.a. soccer field
 - 43. Lice eggs
 - 44. Located within
 - 46. 3 squared
 - 47. High rocky hills
 - 48. Post-roller coaster ride state
 - 50. Captain of Nautilus
 - 52. ____ chi
 - 53. Unforeseen obstacle
 - 55. Acronym, abbr.
 - 57. *FIFA headquarters location
 - 60. *Soccer footwear
 - 63. Uninterested
 - 64. Hundred Acre Wood’s wise resident
 - 66. Parkinson’s drug
 - 68. Pool problem, pl.
 - 69. Romanian money
 - 70. Wooden ship caulking
 - 71. Celt
 - 72. Cotillion ball’s main attraction
 - 73. * ____ Alexander-Arnold

- DOWN**
- 1. 100 lbs.
 - 2. Elders’ teachings
 - 3. Kind of history
 - 4. Widower’s feelings
 - 5. Forest spirit
 - 6. Worked over with scythe
 - 7. UN labor org.
 - 8. Sun-dried brick
 - 9. Exclamation, with Louise
 - 10. Palm tree berry
 - 11. ____ Mall, London
 - 12. Ensign, for short
 - 15. a.k.a. Lighthouse of Alexandria
 - 20. *Provide with shin guards, socks and uni-form, e.g.
 - 22. Drake’s genre
 - 24. Playing roulette
 - 25. *FIFA Women’s World Cup current champion
 - 26. Rome’s Colosseum, e.g.
 - 27. Singular of cornua
 - 29. Kill (2 words)
 - 31. “By ____ of” or “by means of”
 - 32. “The ____,” Dostoyevsky’s novel
 - 33. U in UV
 - 34. *Lionel ____
 - 36. Coloring substances
 - 38. Teenager’s breakout
 - 42. Relating to blood
 - 45. Dwell
 - 49. African National Congress
 - 51. Central American wildcat
 - 54. Get ____ of someone
 - 56. Highway patrolman’s gun
 - 57. “Germinal” author mile ____
 - 58. Desire
 - 59. * ____ Madrid
 - 60. *C in AFC Richmond
 - 61. Puff of marijuana
 - 62. Spin, past tense
 - 63. The Herm s Kelly, e.g.
 - 65. Itty-bitty
 - 67. Invoice qty.

CROSSWORD

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Arkansas expands raw milk sales with passage of Act 698

PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

Arkansas residents now have expanded access to raw milk and raw milk products following the enactment of Act 698, a new law that broadens the legal avenues for selling unpasteurized dairy products in the state.

Previously, raw milk sales were limited to direct transactions at the farm where the milk was produced. Under Act 698, raw milk and products made from it can now be sold at farmers’ markets, natural food stores, and through farm-to-consumer delivery services.

The law defines raw milk as unpasteurized goat, sheep, or whole cow milk. It also outlines raw milk products to include items such as butter, buttermilk, cheese, cottage cheese, kefir, yogurt, and colostrum, provided they are made using raw milk. Whole milk, under the law, must contain at least 3.25% butterfat and 8.25% solids.

To ensure transparency and consumer awareness, Act 698 includes several labeling and signage requirements. Sellers must post a sign at least 18 inches by 24 inches at the point of sale, clearly displaying the name and address of the farm, contact information, and a statement that the milk is unpasteurized and not inspected by the state. The sign must also inform consumers that they assume all liability for any health risks associated with consuming raw milk.

Each bottle or package must carry a label with the same information. Additionally, when selling at locations other than the farm, sellers must display an extra warning about the potential presence of harmful bacteria in unpasteurized milk.

The law also mandates that raw milk products be kept refrigerated or on ice at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below. Consumers are required to sign an acknowledgment of risk before purchasing raw milk products.

Farmers who sell raw milk must allow consumers to inspect

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

their cows and barns upon request. However, the Arkansas Department of Health does not test raw milk for diseases, and the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission does not inspect the animals producing the milk.

Act 698 represents a significant shift in Arkansas’s approach to raw milk regulation, aiming to balance consumer choice with informed decision-making. If you decide to purchase raw milk you should be aware of possible health risks especially for certain people such as young children, older adults, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems.

Ensure the farm or producer follows strict safety protocols, including clean milking practices and proper refrigeration. This requires you to visit the farm regularly to verify that they are using the best practices. Additionally, if you choose to purchase raw milk, consider pasteurizing it at home using your microwave or stove top, however, be aware that home pasteurization techniques are not as efficient or as effective as commercial methods which may result in quality degradation.

When purchasing raw milk, always buy from a trusted reputable source that provides clear information about the milk’s handling and storage. It’s also important to keep the milk refrigerated at all times to reduce the risk of bacterial growth. If you decide to consume raw dairy, consider talking to your health care provider, especially if you or anyone in your household is part of a vulnerable group. Your health care provider can help you weigh the potential benefits and risks to make an informed decision based on your specific health needs.

Consuming raw dairy products, including raw milk, can pose significant health risks. Unlike pasteurized milk, raw milk hasn’t been heated to kill harmful bacteria. These bacteria such as pathogenic E coli, salmonella enterica, Listeria, monocytogenes, and Campylobater ssp., cause severe illness in humans. Symptoms can include stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. Secondary6 complication, such as kidney failure, spontaneous miscarriage, meningitis, Gullain-Barre syndrome and other chronic diseases, can also occur

Ultimately, the decision to consume raw milk should be made carefully, weighing the potentially serious risks and making informed decisions that are right for you and your family.

Please take time to get to know your local dairy farmer and discuss ways to support them. Agriculture is Arkansas’s number one industry. Farming is vitally essential to the state’s economy. Our farmers are our friends and neighbors. Building a personal relationship with your local dairy farmer is a great way to learn about their work, challenges, and how we as consumers can support and partner with them.

If you would like more information on what you need to know before consuming raw milk, contact the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-216. We have a publication that covers the history of laws requiring milk to be pasteurized, more details on Act 689, reasons some choose one process over the other and why many safety researchers recommend pasteurized milk.

Here are two recipes for delicious homemade ice cream. Remember to keep the vulnerable in mind when deciding to use pasteurized or unpasteurized dairy products for either of the two recipes. The vanilla ice cream has a cooked egg custard base while the fresh peach ice cream contains no eggs and does not require cooking. Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK #1: Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream

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INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 2 ½ cups sugar
- 7 cups whole milk
- 3 cups whipping cream
- 2 1/2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS:

Beat eggs until light. Add sugar gradually, beating until thick. Add 3 cups of the milk. Heat till thickened. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour into 5-quart freezer can. (If using electric freezer, follow manufacturer’s directions.) Adjust dasher and cover. Pack 6 parts crushed ice and 1 part rock salt around can. Continue to add more ice and salt to maintain level. Freeze according to directions for your freezer. Yields: 5 quarts.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK #2 : No Egg Peach Ice Cream

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2and one-half pounds fresh peaches - peeled, pitted and chopped
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 pint half-and-half cream
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups milk, or as needed

DIRECTIONS:

Puree peaches with the sugar and half-and-half in batches in a blender or food processor. In a gallon ice cream freezer container, mix together the peach mixture, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, and vanilla. Pour in enough milk to fill the container to the fill line, about 2 cups. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to freeze the ice cream.

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Week of May 26, 2025

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Pike County VSO asks that the public not take meaning of Memorial Day for granted

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS
Pike County Veterans Service Officer

Memorial Day has become the day that official-ly kicks off summer, and not long after we have July the 4th which signifies our National Birthday. July 4th is used for baseball games, picnics, camping, fireworks, parties, and a lot of alcohol consumption ... and let us not forget the nationwide plagiarism of these sacred days for the benefit of commercialism and good old-fashion capitalism.

But, both of these days are rooted in so much more historical significance than what they have been transformed into. These days have become so routine that they have essentially been watered-down by what I'd coin as "systemic ignorance"! Allow me to shed some light on some events that we, as Americans, have slept right through but need to be awakened and excited about this and next year which will be of a significant importance in the history of our nation.

Much like today, Memorial Day for example; my fear is that most of America doesn't even realize this and naturally, our media isn't doing much to help emphasize these important landmarks in our history, not to mention the dereliction of our public school's system failure to bring the awareness of it to our children.

Did you realize this year marks the 250th Anniversary of important events that took place in our Revolutionary War? April 18th 2025 marked the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's "Midnight Ride", and the very next day was the historical battle that took place at the North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts. All of this took place leading up to the literal birth of our nation on July 4th, 1776 and next year we will be celebrating of our nation's 250th birthday! This year is the eve and kick-off of some really big celebrations being planned across our nation for next year.

In just a few weeks, on June 14th, President Trump is beginning that process in a huge way by our nation celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army. He wants to use these events to turn our country's attention back to having a more patriotic passion for our country. On June 14th of this year, there will be a huge military parade in Washington D.C., the largest since 1991. There will be 6,600 soldiers involved in this parade that will take place on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. There will be over 150 military vehicles, including tanks, and aircraft, paratroopers landing on the National Mall, and seven different military bands playing and troops representing each branch of the military will be present to display and talk to tourist and others who have questions about what they do in their service to our country. This is basically a dress rehearsal of what will be coming in the celebration of our Nation's 250th Birthday on July 4th 2026.

Largely, Americans forget that today -- Memorial Day -- includes those who sacrificed their lives in giving birth to our Nation, and without their willingness to answer a desperate call to arms we would most likely be eating beans for breakfast, drinking hot tea, and speaking with a

much different accent.

It's amazing how time escapes us! This is our fifth year to assemble as residents of Pike County to take a moment in time to clear our minds of the things of this world, and to remember those fellow citizens who too once called Pike County home and answered our Nation's call of duty to serve, and ultimately to lay their lives down for those of us whom they would never have the opportunity to meet. We share in the loss of seventy-eight Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who are among the 1.2 million across our nation that have given their lives so we may live in freedom!

Thousands, upon thousands will gather today across our nation, in cemeteries and on battlefields near and abroad to show respect for these brave men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. This day will also rekindle memories for family members who suffered the loss of a son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, and friend; and I'm sure there are some present here today that fit into one of those categories.

Memorial Day wasn't meant to be a holiday about vacations, picnics, and sales, and was intended to be a "Day of Remembrance". It started out as "Decoration Day", the first of which took place on May 30th, 1868 on the orders of a guy named General John Logan. He was the Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. Flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Think about that for a moment ... the Civil War was literally an existential moment in our history, and America could have totally ended with that one war! That was a brutal war; if you've never read descriptions of Civil War battlefields and what took place there, I urge you to do so. I've heard the phrase used, "there's nothing like a fight between brothers, they love each other but when they get in a fight you'd best get out of the way!" Well, our Civil War was fought between brothers, and it was over a fundamental issue and it's hard to believe now what that issue was about, but the issue was simply this, "can one man own another man"!

Thank God that the conclusion of that war was, "NO... one man CANNOT own another man based on the principals that the United States of America was built on!" That war alone cost the lives of almost 700,000 Americans on battlefields right here in the United States, and in just a few years later we were placing flowers on graves in Arlington, not just of Northern soldiers, but of Southern soldiers as well. In other words, our ancestors were able to forgive, forget, and come together within just a few years of the Civil War.

We now struggle 200 plus years later in coming together as one people, and yet ironically, we consider ourselves to be a Christian Nation! So, chew on that thought for a moment.

As time passed, Decoration Day was no longer just about those who died in the Civil War. Following WW-I, the attention had grown to now honoring the dead of our nation from a major World War. It wasn't until 51 years later that Con-

gress would pass the "National Holiday Act of 1971" making Memorial Day an official National Holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. In fact, 21 years earlier, Congress, by a joint resolution, requested that each year the President of the United States issue a proclamation calling the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace. So, government sanctioned faith in God and prayer once had a prominent place in the fabric of our Nation.

Every year since 1948, on Memorial Day in Arlington National Cemetery, soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment have placed flags on the graves of over 400,000 of our military service men and women covering over 639 acres of hallowed ground. What an act of love, and I believe that will continue as long as there is a United States of America, and to give recognition to our county 4H Group, they have displayed that same act of love by picking up that torch in our communities, and placing flags on the graves of our military servicemen and women in some of our cemeteries. I think these young patriotic Americans deserve our applause for their acts of service. If we will consciously strive to institute such acts of service as this, we can begin to restore what the locusts have eaten from the fabric of our Nation!

I fear the greatest danger our country faces today is the danger of what I'd refer to as "National Amnesia" by forgetting who we are and what had to be sacrificed in order for there to exist this great country and the unlimited freedoms we enjoy today. One of the first efforts in promoting such a "national forgetfulness" was the sanitizing of our school textbooks to be politically correct, and by doing that our children have been deprived of the sense of just how great a Nation that America truly is, and the history, whether good, bad, or ugly, that has shaped our Nation into who we have become! Unfortunately, it is actually worse ... our young people are increasingly taught exactly the opposite of American greatness! They are taught that America was never great and it was founded on evil, slavery, and genocide. Our Founding Fathers, in many textbooks, are seldom mentioned unless it's part of a controversy about racism, slavery, or some other scandal that is associated surrounding their lives. I think we've all been heartbroken over the years when we've seen American young people often having nothing good to say about their own country! But in reality, they're actually not to blame! Many young Americans for some time now haven't been taught about the sacrifices that were made to produce a country that has the liberty we enjoy. I'd like to believe there is some glimmer of hope and shreds of evidence that the tides may be turning, but as always, only time will tell.

Allow me to share a portion of a Memorial Day speech delivered by our 40th president, President Ronald Reagan, who was known as "The Great Communicator"; he said: "In American cities and

towns today, flags will be placed on graves in cemeteries, public officials will speak of the sacrifice and valor of those whose memory we honor.

I have no illusions of what I can add now to the silent testimony of those who gave their lives willingly for their country. Words are even more feeble on this Memorial Day, for the sight before us is that of a strong and good nation that stands in silence and remembers those who were loved, and in return loved their country enough to die for them. Yet, we must try to honor them; not for their sakes alone, but for our own. And if words cannot repay the debt, we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and their final sacrifice. Our first obligation to them and ourselves is plain enough; the United States and the freedom for which it stands, the freedom for which they died, must endure and prosper. Their lives remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply, it has a cost, it imposes a burden.

And just as they whom we commemorate were willing to sacrifice, so too must we; in a less final, less heroic way, be willing to give of ourselves. Each died for a cause they considered more important than his own life. They didn't volunteer to die; they volunteered to defend values for which men were always willing to die if need be. The values which make up what we call civilization, and how they must have wished, in all the ugliness that war brings, that no other generation of young men to follow would have to undergo that same experience. As we honor their memory today, let us pledge that their lives, their sacrifices, their valor, shall be justified and remembered for as long as God gives life to this Nation. And let us also pledge to do our utmost to carry-out what must have been their wish... that no other generation of young men will ever have to share their experiences and repeat their sacrifice."

Some 25 years ago, in an effort to restore national patriotism by reminding and re-educating Americans as to the true meaning of Memorial Day; In December of 2000, President Bill Clinton signed the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution. This resolution asks all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for one minute, and to "voluntarily and informally observe, in your own way, a moment of remembrance and respect for all American war dead".

So, I ask you to take this opportunity today at 3 p.m., wherever you are, to pause for one minute in honor of our nation's war dead. Many Veterans Memorial locations across our Nation will have someone designated to play Taps on a bugle at the designated local time ... we plan to honor that as a new tradition here today at 3 p.m. on the courthouse square at the monument bearing the names of our fellow Americans, residents, neighbors, and family members, as we offer a final rendering of honors for the day in recognition of their sacrifice in a "National Moment of Remembrance".

SEE NEXT WEEK'S EDITION OF THE DIAMOND FOR PICTURES FROM THE EVENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

CHAMBERS BANK	PLAINTIFF
v.	Case No. 55CV-24-95
MURFREESBORO NURSING CENTER, a limited liability company and RELIANT MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC and STATE OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES and INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in pursuance of the authority and directions contained in the Decretal Order of Circuit Court of Pike County, made and entered on the 24th day of April, 2025, in case number 55V-24-95 then pending therein the case of Chambers Bank v. Murfreesboro Nursing Center, a limited liability company, et al, the undersigned, as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public venue to the highest bidder, on the 1st Floor Lobby of the Pike County Courthouse located at #1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, in which said Court is held, at 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 2025, the following described real estate in Pike County, Arkansas, to wit:

A part of Lots 1201 and 1203 Washington Street, all of Lots 1205 and fractional Lot 1301 Washington Street, all of Fractional Lots 1301 and 1302 School Street, all of Lots 1203, 1205 and 1206 School Street, a part of Lots 1202 and 1204 School Street and a portion of adjoining and abutting street described as follows: Beginning 52.0 feet North of the Southeast corner of Lot 1201 Washington Street; thence West 82.0 feet to a point in abandoned M.D. & G Railroad right - of- way; thence with said Railroad right -of- way South 24 degrees 00 minutes West 50.5 feet; thence South 15 degrees 00 minutes West 17.5 feet to a point in the center of 12th street; thence West 152.0 feet; thence North 94.2 feet; thence West 100.0 feet; thence North 223.0 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 1301 School Street being a point in Highway No. 19; thence East along Highway No. 19 366.0 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot 1301 Washington Street; thence South 148.5 feet to the Northeast corner of Physician's Building Site; thence West 159.8 feet; thence South 85.1 feet to the Southwest corner of Pharmacy Building Site; thence East 159.8 feet; thence South 15.0 feet to the POINT OF BEGGING. All within the town of Murfreesboro and conforming as near as possible to Plat of E 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 8 South, Range 25 West recorded in Deed Book "P," Page 410 of Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas, LESS AND EXCEPT the following described tract; Part of Lot 1201 Washington Street and a part of Lot 1202 School Street described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 1201 Washington Street; thence North 67 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of Pharma-Cald Pharmacy, Inc. Property for the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence West 159.8 feet; thence South 15 feet; thence East 159.8 feet; thence North 15 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; being a part of Kelly's Addition to the town of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, as per plat recorded in Book "P" at page 410 of the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas.

Subject to covenants, easements and right of way, if any (hereinafter referred to as "Property").

TERMS OF SALE: On a credit of thirty (30) days, the purchaser being required to execute a bond as required by law and the Order and Decree of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from date of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the premises sold to secure the payment of the purchase money. Should any successful bidder fail to perform under the instructions of the Commissioner at time of sale, then that bid shall be void and set aside. The Commissioner thereafter shall find that the subject property be awarded to the next successive highest bidder, until performance rendered. Purchaser shall be responsible for any taxes or assessments due on the Property.

The sale is made subject to any and all stipulations made in the Decretal Order filed of record on the 24th day of April, 2025. The Commissioner does not warrant title, boundary lines, taxes and or improvements, if any, on this property or properties in Pike County, Arkansas.

Given under my hand this 12th day of May 2025.

SABRINA WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER
(j.c.r. 728w., 47,48)

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