

Chamber to host benefit lunch this Thursday

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's barbecue fundraiser meal will be held this Thursday, July 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building.

The cost of the barbecue sandwich meals is \$10 or by larger donations.

Proceeds will go toward the group's Home-town Christmas efforts in December.

Cheer camp announced

Attendees to be instructed by MHS cheerleaders

MURFREESBORO -- The "Pack the Pit" cheer camp will be held Friday, August 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Murfreesboro High School.

The camp is open to female students in grades kindergarten-sixth grades and will cost \$25 per camper to attend.

The students will learn the MHS cheerleaders' pep rally cheers and the basics of cheerleading in a session instructed by the MHS cheerleaders.

Students may be registered at osp.osmsinc.com/p/yr015-6.

For more information about the camp, please e-mail melissa.jones@rattlers.org or melissa.cornish@rattlers.org.

OCC seeks donations for garage sale

NASHVILLE -- Operation Christmas Child's (OCC) semi-annual garage sale will be held on Friday, August 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, August 2, 8 a.m.-12 a.m. in the Family Activity Building (FAB) of the First Baptist Church in Nashville (College & 2nd Streets).

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

OCC volunteers will accept donations at the FAB on Monday-Thursday, July 28-31.

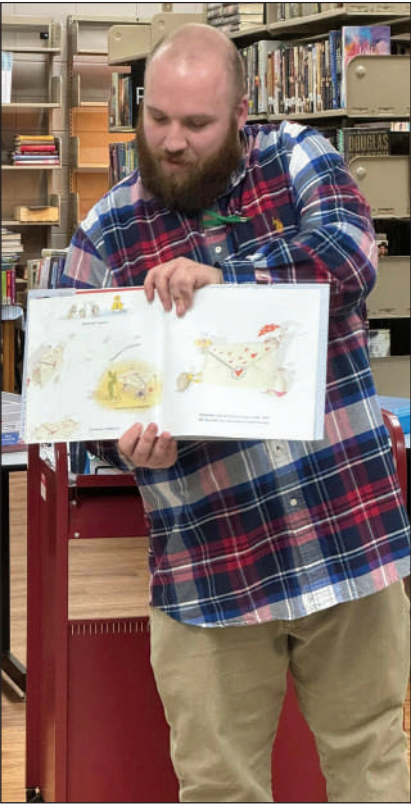
"Please mark your calendar with the donation times and especially the garage sale times. Thanks for your generous donations which will go toward helping children in need around the world," said the release.

FBC to host benefit bunco fundraiser

MURFREESBORO -- The First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, located at 500 S. Washington, will be hosting a Bunco fundraiser on Monday, July 28 starting at 6 p.m. The fundraiser is for missions to help children.

Participants are asked to bring a small stuffed animal for a free bunco. The cost is \$30 if pre-registered or \$35 at the door.

For more information or to pre-register call (903) 244-1635.



Staff/Submitted photos

SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES ... Children participated in several events last week at the Murfreesboro Library's summer reading program, including (above) a trip to the post office and (below) making sand art.



Council adds teeth to dumpster use ordinance

By John Balch
News-Leader staff

The Murfreesboro City Council got an update on the status of the city's waterworks department during its July meeting, and also dealt with "adding some teeth" to an old ordinance concerning the use the community trash dumpster.

Murfreesboro Waterworks Commissioner Jack Bennett started the update by thanking former water superintendent Randy Miller and his wife, Lisa, who worked in the water office, for their many years of employment and service.

Bennett said there have been several changes in the water office and in the field. He said new water superintendent, Jason Lowe, along with Jacob Thompson, who was trained by Miller, are currently working towards becoming fully licensed in wastewater and distribution and that a third field employee will be hired for the distribution side in the future.

Bennett said it is the commission's goal to eventually have all three field workers fully licensed and capable of running the city's waterworks system.

At the office, Kelly Cox is now the senior

clerk and Pam Bennett is working in a temporary capacity that will be reassessed next month as a full-time position.

Commissioner Curtis Turner, Jr., who also thank Randy and Lisa Miller, added that the department "has a game plan in place now to move forward" and he feels confident with that plan.

In related business, the council accepted the resignation of waterworks commissioner Jim Cannon, who had served for six years. Mayor Jim O'Neal recommended Caleb Howell for the remainder of Cannon's term, which ends February 2027, and the council approved the appointment by 6-0 vote.

Also Monday, the council approved an amendment to a 2013 ordinance concerning the city's use of a community dumpster. The amendment describes the only items strictly allowed in the city dumpster.

"The dumpster provided by the city for its citizens is to be used for bagged household garbage only. There shall be no dumping of construction materials, dead animals, tires, furniture, vegetation or any other item not considered 'household' garbage."

The original ordinance, No. 283, already out-

lines violators face a fine of \$100 up to \$500 and a misdemeanor charge.

Mayor O'Neal said that the dumpster issues have improved greatly with only one violator ticketed for dumping on the ground. He suggested the dumpster remain available to citizens and the council agreed. It was noted during discussion that a surveillance camera is in place at the dumpster site.

In other business, the council also gave the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department permission to pursue an Arkansas Community Assistance Grant for a remodeling project on the fire station. The department already has \$8,069 through "community cash and/or in-kind donations" to match with the \$32,275 grant.

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

General Fund --	\$85,547 / \$84,560
General Operating --	\$252,293 / \$248,029
Street Fund --	\$32,189 / \$40,269
Street Operating --	\$279,195 / \$280,678
Advertising & Tourism --	\$77,806 / \$63,930
Waterworks Dept. --	\$510,975 / \$498,329



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Freezing food the right way: a timeless method for freshness and nutrition

Preserving your fresh vegetables is not only convenient and time-saving, but it also locks in the flavor, texture, color, and nutritional value of your favorite produce, meats, and dairy products. But while it may seem as simple as sealing food in a container and tossing it in the freezer, there’s real science behind doing it right.

Contrary to popular belief, freezing does not sterilize food. Microorganisms such as bacteria and molds are not killed at freezing temperatures; instead, their growth is slowed down significantly. At temperatures at or below 0°F, the water inside the food solidifies into ice, making the environment inhospitable to microbial activity and delaying spoilage.

Equally important is the role freezing plays in slowing chemical changes in food. These changes—such as enzymatic reactions—can degrade taste, texture, and nutritional content if not controlled. This is why freezing at the right time and under proper conditions can preserve food in near-perfect form for months.

However, the key to successful freezing lies in how fast and uniformly the food freezes. The quicker the freezing process, the smaller the ice crystals that form inside the food. Smaller crystals are gentler on the cell structure of fruits and vegetables, which helps maintain texture and quality. Slow freezing results in

Vegetables are among the easiest and most beneficial foods to freeze at home. With the right technique, you can capture peak-season freshness and enjoy garden flavors long after the growing season ends. But freezing vegetables isn’t as simple as washing and packing. It involves several critical steps that affect final quality—from the moment vegetables are picked to the second they hit subzero temperatures.

STEP 1: Start with fresh, high-quality vegetables—ideally harvested early in the morning when flavor and texture are at their peak. Don’t wait to freeze. The sooner vegetables are processed after picking, the better the final result.

Wash vegetables thoroughly in cold water, preferably in a deep container where grit can settle to the bottom. Lift vegetables out of the water, don’t pour them through a strainer, to avoid resoiling. Sort them by size for even blanching and packing.

STEP 2: Blanching, or briefly boiling or steaming vegetables, is an essential step for nearly every type of vegetable. It stops enzymatic activity that continues even at freezing temperatures and can cause discoloration, off-flavors, and loss of nutrients over time. Blanching also cleans the surface of microbes and dirt, brightens color, softens vegetables for easier packing, and helps preserve texture after freezing.

Blanching times vary by vegetable and size. Underblanching is worse than skipping blanching altogether because it activates enzymes instead of deactivating them. Overblanching



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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

can lead to nutrient and flavor loss. Always consult a vegetable-specific blanching guide for blanching time for each type of vegetable.

Water blanching is the most common home method. Use one gallon of boiling water per pound of vegetables. Place the vegetables in a wire basket, lower them into boiling water, cover, and start timing once the water returns to a boil.

Steam blanching is recommended for vegetables like broccoli, pumpkin, winter squash, and sweet potatoes. It takes longer—about 1.5 times the time of water blanching—but retains more water-soluble vitamins. Use a large pot with a tight-fitting lid and a rack or basket that suspends vegetables above an inch or two of boiling water. Steam in small batches for even exposure.

Microwave blanching is not recommended. Studies have shown it does not reliably deactivate enzymes and can result in poor texture and flavor.

STEP 3: Immediately after blanching, plunge vegetables into ice water (60°F or lower) to stop the cooking process. The cooling time should match the blanching time. Use about one pound of ice for every pound of vegetables and stir gently to cool evenly. Drain vegetables thoroughly to prevent ice formation during freezing. Excess moisture leads to freezer burn and compromised texture.

STEP 4: The container you choose makes a big difference in protecting against freezer burn and preserving flavor. Ideal containers are plastic freezer containers with tight-fitting lids, flexible freezer bags with air squeezed out, and wide-mouth glass canning jars. These materials are moisture- and vapor-resistant, won’t become brittle in the cold, and are easy to seal. Avoid ice cream or milk cartons (too porous), regular glass jars (can break), and thin plastic storage bags not rated for freezing.

STEP 5: Two proven packing styles work best for vegetables are dry pack and tray pack. In dry pack, blanched, cooled vegetables are packed tightly into freezer-safe bags or containers. Leave ½ inch of headspace for expansion. Great for meal-size portions. For tray pack, spread vegetables in a single layer on a shallow tray and freeze. Once solid, transfer them into containers. This method keeps vegetables loose, allowing you to use just the amount you need.

STEP 6: Always label containers with the vegetable name

FREEZING Continued on Page 5

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET: STREET FUND CITY OF DAISY

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$3,793.72

REVENUE:	
Municipal Aid (Hwy Severance)	\$80.00
Municipal Aid (Fuel Tax)	\$600.00
Municipal Aid (Highway Construction)	\$100.00
Municipal Aid (Department Finance)	\$6,500.00
Chambers Interest	\$10.00
Pike County Road Tax	\$2,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$9,290.00

EXPENSES:	
South Central Electric	\$2,000.00
Advertisement	\$100.00
Road Maintenance Eugene W.	\$7,000.00
Harland Checks	\$30.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$9,130.00

This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$40.50.
(c.o.d., 90w., 2,3)

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET: GENERAL FUND CITY OF DAISY

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$23,218.91

REVENUE:	
Daisy Fire Department (p/r transfer)	\$1,200.00
Chambers Interest	\$30.00
State of Arkansas Act (municipal aid)	\$1,300.00
State of Arkansas Property (municipal aid)	\$100.00
State of Arkansas (sales tax)	\$18,000.00
Pike County Road Tax	\$11,000.00
State of Arkansas (Great American Fund)	\$0.00
State of Arkansas-Budget Stanlization	\$200.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$31,830.00


EXPENSES:	
Salaries	\$7,200.00
Payroll Tax Withheld	\$0.00
Boyd Contracting	\$8,100.00
Upper South West Landfill	\$3,000.00
US Treasurer 944 P/R Tax	\$ 1,000.00
Municipal Property	\$1,700.00
Municipal Membership	\$250.00
Municipal Workers Comp	\$250.00
League of City Membership	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$200.00
Advertisement	\$300.00
Hartland Checks	\$130.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
USPS	\$200.00
Fema Grant	\$4,000.00
Daisy Fireworks	\$2,000.00
South Central Internet	\$1,600.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$31,130.00

This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$76.05.
(c.o.d., 169w., 2,3)

AUCTION PIKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT

Auction Location: 305 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR.~ MURFREESBORO AR. 71958

SATURDAY JULY 26~10 AM

PIKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT will be selling the following items in conjunction with the PC Sheriff's Department Auction consisting of;		PIKE COUNTY
(1) Skid Steer Attachment, PALIDIN #105068, 415710 Sheepsfoot Roller Vibrator Packer 8' Wide "Like New"		
(2) Etnyre K-5179 Chipspreader for Chipping and Sealing Roads, 12'± wide, Pre-Def Cummins Diesel runs good 1387± Hours		
(3) SW100 SAKIA Double Drum Roller / Packer 1437± Hours		
(4) 2006 Chevrolet 2500 4X4 Pickup with 6.0 Gas, Automatic Transmission, miles will be on our website.		
(5) Welding and Cutting torch Trailer with a Clean Miller Bobcat 225G 867± Hours (no bottles)These items can be seen now at the Road Department during business hours"		
LIVE TERMS: Cash or Good Check day of auction 10% Buyer Premium. Auction day announcements take precedence over all.		
Can't make the Live Auction? Go to FowlerAuctioneers.com for additional information and to register to Start Bidding your price.		



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PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-3

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 283 (ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DUMPING OF TRASH OR REFUSE WITHIN THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS; PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR TRASH COLLECTION, PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.)

WHEREAS, Murfreesboro City Ordinance No. 283 was passed on June 10, 2013, for the purpose of providing regulations for trash collection; and

WHEREAS the Murfreesboro City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the city that Ordinance No. 283, Section 2, be amended to include regulations for the use of the trash dumpster provided by the city for its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MURFREESBORO, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

SECTION 1. Section 2 is hereby amended to add: The dumpster provided by the city for its citizens is to be used for bagged household garbage only. There shall be no dumping of construction materials, dead animals, tires, furniture, vegetation or any other item not considered "household garbage".

SECTION 2. Upon passage of this amendment the Recorder/Treasurer shall publish only this Ordinance amending City Ordinance No. 283.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining sections, phrases, and provisions of this Ordinance which remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 4. The City of Murfreesboro finds that the immediate implementation of this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public's peace, health, safety, welfare, and property, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and that this Ordinance is to be in effect immediately after its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF JULY 2025.

Approved: Jim O'Neal, Mayor
Attest: Penny Lamb, Recorder / Treasurer

This publication was paid for by the City of Murfreesboro, office of the Recorder/Treasurer. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 142.20.
(c.o.m. 316w. 2)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pike County Sheriff's Department is updating the current Avalon camera system in jail. We are taking bids for 16 new cameras, 1 work station with 64 TB server. Deadline is July 29, 2025. Contact Sheriff Travis Hill at 870-285-3301 or email pike.secretary@yahoo.com, for bid or more information. Pike County Sheriff's Department, 305 Industrial Park Drive, Murfreesboro, Ar 71958.

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Sheriff's Office. The amount paid for this publication is \$36.45.
(p.c.s.o. 81w. 2,3)

AUCTION PIKE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

305 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR.~ MURFREESBORO AR. 71958

SATURDAY JULY 26~10 AM

PIKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT will be selling at public auction the following vehicles consisting of;	
(1) 2008 Chevrolet 1500 EX Cab, 4X4, 5.3L V8 Engine	
(2) 2011 Ford F150, 4x4, Big 6.2L Engine	
(3) 2014 Dodge Charger, 5.7L HEMI Engine	
(4) 2015 Dodge Charger, 5.7L HEMI Engine	
(5) 2016 Dodge Charger, 5.7L HEMI Engine	
(6) 2016 Dodge Charger, 5.7L HEMI Engine	
(7) 2019 Dodge Durango, V6FI Engine	
(8) 2019 Dodge Durango, V6FI Engine	
These vehicles all run good, miles on our website and in next news paper weeks ad.	
TERMS: Cash or Good Check day of auction 10% Buyer Premium. Auction day announcements take precedence over all.	
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 14-17 -- The Antoine Baptist Church will be hosting their "Magnificent" VBS starting July 14- 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This summer's theme is Discovering the Bigness of God in the smallest of things. Family night will be held on July 18 at 6 p.m.

JULY 29 -- The Call in Pike and Montgomery counties will be holding a prayer meeting on Tuesday, July 29 at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church (MAC building) in Glenwood. Join our team, and help us pray for foster and adoptive families in our communities.

morial Car Show has changed their dates to Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20 in Murfreesboro. On Friday night, a "show and shine," cruise and poker run is planned starting at 6 p.m. on the Pike County Courthouse square. Then, on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the show will be held around the square. There is a \$20 entry for the vehicles with a participant's choice award. After the awards, a \$500 drawing will be held along with door prizes and a 50/50 pot. Contact Kirk Stone at (870) 703-7365 for more information.

SEND YOUR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO
mdiamond@windstream.net

SEPTEMBER 19-20 -- The fourth annual Keith Stone Me-

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\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.
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Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Arkansas 4-H hosting gift card donation drive for Texas 4-H flood relief

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

Note: The Pike County 4-H program will be participating in the following gift card drive -- donations must be dropped off at the Pike County Extension office by this Friday, July 18. Call (870) 285-2161 for more information.

LITTLE ROCK — After the devastating flash floods that swept Texas Hill Country over the Fourth of July weekend, Arkansas 4-H is stepping up to help their fellow Texas 4-H members and affected communities by hosting a gift card donation drive.

“Texas has suffered immensely in the last two weeks after the flash flooding in and around Kerrville,” said Breanna Wade, extension 4-H program associate for the University

of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “Arkansas 4-H wants to support our friends in Texas through this difficult time.”

Wade said the biggest need is for gift cards because they are easy to collect and distribute. Helpful options include Visa gift cards and those to Walmart, HEB Grocery, hardware stores such as ACE, Lowe’s or Home Depot, as well as gift cards to gas stations and chain restaurants.

“As cleanup efforts continue, organizations can be overwhelmed with folks who are trying to help by bringing physical items,” Wade said. “But often, this can create more work and stress for the community, rather than being beneficial.”

Those who wish to contribute should mail gift cards to the Cooperative Extension Service State Office at 2301 S. University Avenue, Little

Rock, 72204, care of Breanna Wade.

“These donations will be sent directly to Texas 4-H, which will deliver them to the county extension offices affected by the floods so that they can be dispersed to those in need,” Wade said.

Debbie Nistler, 4-H and youth development assistant vice president for the Division of Agriculture, said giving back is integral to the 4-H program.

“Service is an essential part of our 4-H experience,” Nistler said. “4-H’ers genuinely care about their communities and are quick to respond when others are in need. I love watching our young people step up to help each other.”

“Not only is this a bordering state of ours, but also we have a lot of folks in Texas 4-H that we want to extend our support for,” Wade said. “4-H’ers are impacted by disasters like this.

And when things happen, we want to pull together as an organization and show our love and show that we’re there to support them no matter what.

“It’s important for us to be able to supply them with the things they need to recover, succeed and later thrive throughout this difficult situation,” Wade said. “It’s up to us to show up for our fellow 4-H programs and the communities that have been impacted.”

For more information about the donation drive contact Breanna Wade at bwade@uada.edu.

To learn more about the Cooperative Extension Service’s youth development program, visit 4h.uada.edu or contact your the Pike County Extension office.

Hunter announces candidacy for Ninth West prosecuting attorney

Submitted article

DE QUEEN -- Longtime prosecutor and City Attorney Erin Hunter announced her candidacy for Prosecuting Attorney in the 9th West Judicial District recently, pledging to bring trust and integrity back to the office. A career prosecutor with deep roots in the community, Hunter emphasized her commitment to keeping families safe and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system.

“Our communities deserve a prosecutor who is tough on crime and guided by a strong sense of justice,” said Hunter. “The current lack of trust in the Prosecuting Attorney’s office is not only unacceptable, it puts public safety at risk. Law enforcement must be able to rely on prosecutors to move cases forward and hold violent offenders accountable. It’s time to restore trust and integrity to the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.”

“There can be no favoritism and no conflicts of interest in a prosecutor’s office,” Hunter said. “Victims deserve to be heard. Law enforcement deserves strong, consistent legal support. And our families deserve to know that justice is being pursued for the right reasons, not for political gain.”

Hunter brings nearly fifteen years of prosecutorial experience. She currently serves as the elected City Attorney for De Queen and prosecutes felony cases as a deputy prosecuting attorney in the 18th Judicial District.

She began her career in 2011 handling sexual assault crimes across a four-county district and later served as Deputy Prosecu-

tor for Sevier County. In 2021, then-Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed her as Prosecuting Attorney for the 9th West District to fill out two years of an unexpired term. She later served as Chief Deputy Prosecutor for the district before accepting her current role.

She is widely respected for her work prosecuting sexual assault, child abuse, and violent crime cases, and has earned multiple honors, including being named by Arkansas Money & Politics as a 2024 Power Woman as well as being voted Best Attorney in Sevier County by its citizens in 2021 and 2024.

Hunter grew up in Newhope, Arkansas and graduated from Dierks High School. Her father, Ronald “Red” Hunter is a retired chicken and hog farmer and her mother, Rhonda Hunter, is retired from a distinguished career at Weyerhaeuser. Growing up, her parents taught her the value of hard work, grit, and determination.

Hunter earned her undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and later her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

She and her husband Stephen, a high school baseball coach and athletic director, are raising their two children in De Queen. The family is active in local school and sports communities and attends the Newhope Church of Christ.

The 9th West Judicial District covers all of Howard, Little River, Pike, and Sevier Counties. The non-partisan election for Prosecuting Attorney is scheduled for March 3, 2026.



ERIN HUNTER
Submitted photo

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pike County 4-H’er asks for help with “Shop With A Cop” project

My name is Cayden Ballard and I restarted the “Shop With A Cop” program in our county three years ago as my 4-H proj-

ect. For those who aren’t familiar with this program, “Shop with a Cop” is a community

policing initiative where law enforcement officers take local children shopping, usually during the holiday season.

The program aims to build relationships between law enforcement and the community; provide a positive experience for children; foster trust and understanding.

During this event, officers accompany children to a store, help them select gifts, and provide a fun experience. This initiative promotes community engagement, mentorship, and goodwill.

This event is not possible without the help of our community. I’m asking you, the citizens of Pike County, to help make this event successful this year and in the years to come!

Donations are accepted at First State Bank or Pike County Extension Office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Cayden Ballard



FSB’S GRACE ROBERTS AND CAYDEN BALLARD
Submitted photo

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

TO THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART...

“Dear God... Next to You He’s My Best Friend”

Cats and dogs are great friends and companions. They make you laugh and keep you entertained. You take good care of your pets because you love them. Just as you are the master of your pets, God is the master of all of us. Your pet trusts you to feed and shelter it. You can put your trust in God. He will always take care of you.

Isaiah 40:11 – He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young.

“Dear God...Am I Listening?”

Can you hear God’s voice?



Sometimes it seems mighty quiet when we need Him the most. But God talks to us in many different ways. He speaks through His written Word, but also in the wonders of our amazing planet and the sound of a baby’s laugh. God is always speaking to us. We only have to be still and listen, not only with our ears, but with our hearts, too!

Psalm 107:43 – Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.

“Dear God... Give Me a Hint – Where Are You?”

I cannot see you. I cannot hear your voice. I am having a rough time following ... please help me find you! When I have difficulty hearing God’s voice, I ask God to open my ears. I learn to stay silent. As I quietly listen the Lord speaks to my heart. I must obey His instructions. If I have a rough time obeying His instructions, I ask God to help me. The Lord quickly answers my call.

James 1:5 – If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally ... and it shall be given him.

Paid Advertisement

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, JULY 21
Sloppy joe on bun, potato wedges, baked beans, broccoli slaw, apple crisp

TUESDAY, JULY 22
Loaded baked potatoes, salad w/ crackers, chocolate brownie

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
Chicken taco salad, chips & salsa, pinto beans, banana pudding

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

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

- Worship 11 a.m. • Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES...

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL PARTIES IN ANCIENT JERUSALEM, THEY WERE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO ONE ANOTHER IN MATTERS OF SPIRITUAL FAITH--THE PHARISEES BELIEVED IN THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL AND IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY--IN OPPOSITION, THE SADDUCEES DENIED ANY LIFE AFTER DEATH OR RESURRECTION, ASSERTING THAT THE SOUL DIED WITH THE BODY--ALTHOUGH OPPOSING EACH OTHER IN MOST MATTERS, THE PHARISEES AND THE SADDUCEES CAME TOGETHER ON THE MATTER OF JESUS OF NAZARETH AND PLOTTED TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL!

AS JOHN THE BAPTIST CALLED THEM, "A GENERATION OF VIPERS" (MATT. 3:7) SO JESUS CALLED THEM AS HE WARNED THE DISCIPLES AGAINST THEM. AND AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION, THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES JOINED WITH THE PRIESTS AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE TEMPLE IN THE ACT OF PERSECUTING PETER AND JOHN (ACTS 4:1-22). ALSO BOTH PHARISEES AND THE SADDUCEES WERE IN THE SAN-EDRIN WHICH TRIED PAUL, BUT THIS APOSTLE, TAKING NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE OF TWO OPINIONS, CLEVERLY SET THEM AT ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER, SO VIOLENTLY, THAT THE CHIEF CAPTAIN OF THE ROMANS HAD PAUL REMOVED BEFORE ANY HARM SHOULD COME TO HIM BEFORE HE ARRIVED AT HIS TRIAL IN ROME.(ACTS 23:6-10)

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

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AT THE CIRCUS
* -- *Theme Related Clue*

ACROSS

1. *Jumbo The Elephant or Sirius in space
5. "But I heard him exclaim ' ____ he drove out of sight"
8. Young salmon
12. Blood component
13. What Lizzie Borden did
14. Leather razor sharpener
15. "The Famous Five" author ____ Blyton
16. Back of the neck
17. Letter-shaped girder
18. *Feats-of-strength circus performer
20. Indian restaurant bread
21. In need of a muffler
22. Away's partner
23. Backward
26. Same as ruin
30. Greek R
31. Net sales minus cost of goods sold
34. Europe/ Asia mountain divide
35. Approximately, as in date
37. Overnight lodging
38. Inflicted a blow
39. Celestial bear
40. Goose egg
42. ____-AFTRA
43. Frying pan
45. Eating establishment
47. Type of English crs.
48. Traffic accident
50. Wading bird
52. *Sara Gruen's novel "Water for ____"
56. *Lion tamer's tool or counter seat
57. Justice's garb
58. Hit it on the head
59. Run off, as in couple
60. Was in the hole
61. Japanese zither
62. Something ____
63. Movie "Saturday Night" subject matter,

acr.64. FedEx, verb

DOWN

1. Tom Jones' " ____ a Lady"
2. *Big Top
3. Gulf V.I.P.
4. Remodeled
5. Tests
6. Settle a debt
7. Biblical place of bliss
8. *"The Greatest Showman" protagonist
9. Equals length times width
10. Multicolored horse
11. Dashboard acronym
13. Type of heart pain
14. Moses' mountain
19. Hollywood legend ____ Shearer
22. *Like circus audience's experience, hope-fully
23. Bow-like structure
24. Dodge
25. Trunks
26. *Three-____ circus
27. What phoenix did
28. Batu Khan's people
29. JD Vance's "Hillbilly ____"
32. Civil disorder
33. African grazer
36. *Sound of circus
38. Money under mattress, e.g.
40. *Aerialist's bouncy safety device
41. Piled
44. Twisted cotton thread
46. Give it generously
48. *Funny one
49. James Dean's famous role
50. It will
51. *Unwelcome reception, pl.
52. Cupid, to the Greeks
53. Sodium hydroxide
54. ____caca, South American lake
55. Trough stuff
56. Witness

CROSSWORD

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FREEZING Continued on Page 5

and the date it was frozen. Freezing should be done as quickly as possible—ideally within 24 hours. Don't overload your freezer. As a rule, freeze no more than 2 to 3 pounds of vegetables per cubic foot of freezer space in a 24-hour period. Arrange packages so cold air circulates around them. After freezing, group items together to conserve energy.

For optimal quality, use frozen vegetables within 8 to 12 months. They'll still be safe after that, but taste and texture may decline.

A FEW FINAL TIPS: Post a list of frozen foods near your freezer and check items off as you use them. Keep your freezer at 0°F or lower. Don't thaw vegetables before cooking, add them directly to boiling water or hot dishes to maintain texture and flavor.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:
BLACK BEAN AND CORN SALSA

This recipe for Black Bean and Corn Salsa has both taste and eye appeal and can be served with chips or as a side dish. It is especially delicious when frozen corn is used, but canned is still good. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

1(16-ounce) jar salsa
1 (15.5-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 (15.5-ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained or 1 ½ cups frozen whole kernel corn
1 (14.4-ounce) can chopped tomatoes, drained
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ teaspoon garlic powder
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro or 1 teaspoon dried (parsley may be substituted)
½ teaspoon ground cumin

Directions:

Combine all ingredien4ts in a medium-size bowl.
Cover and chill for 30 minutes before serving.
Makes 24 servings • Serving Size: ¼ cup

Ads in 2025 programs to benefit cheer program

MURFREESBORO -- For local businesses and individuals who wish to purchase advertisements in 2025 Rattler football programs, the deadline will be Friday, August 1 for all artwork, information and payment.

Money may be given to a junior or senior high cheerleader, Melissa Jones or Melissa Cornish at MHS. Please submit ad information to melissa.cornish@rattlers.org

In 2025 programs will be for sale at all home MJHS and MHS games.

The program is set to feature the junior and senior high football teams, as well as the cheerleaders and MHS Band.

"This is a great way to show your support for a specific Rattler or your business or organization. All profits will go to the cheer squads to help with cost for com-

petition. We would appreciate your support!" said a press release for the effort.

Advertisements in the programs will be sold in three choices -- a full page for \$120, a half page for \$65 and a quarter page for \$40.

A digital form for submitting information may be viewed at https://forms.gle/MJ3xDpec7vCWdhVg9

Defendants sentenced in circuit court this week

MURFREESBORO -- In the July 7 session of Pike County Circuit Court, five defendants were sentenced after entering guilty pleas.

They included:

Bobby Applegate, 33, of Bonnerdale, who pleaded guilty to an amended charge of possession of a controlled substance with purpose to deliver and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was sentenced to a total of eight years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections;

Anna Louis Davis, 41, of Glenwood, who pleaded guilty to failure to register as a sex offender and was sentenced to 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended;

Nathan Bankhead, 19, of Glenwood, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor obstructing government operations and was sentenced to one year in the ADC with one year suspended. Bankhead's original charge was felony hindering apprehension;

Corey McHenry, 33, of Hot Springs, who pleaded guilty to furnishing, possessing, delivering prohibited article and possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. He was sentenced to a total of 12 years in the ADC; and

David Edwards, 19, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty to the criminal trespass and was placed on four years probation and fined \$1,500.

Meeting for football parents set for July 21

MURFREESBORO -- A mandatory parent meeting for those with children participating in football will be held on July 21 at 6 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

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Week of July 14, 2025

5



Submitted photos/SPCSD

FLAG LINE RECOGNIZED AT CAMP ... Several members of the Murfreesboro High School marching band flaggists recently attended the MA Camp in Fort Worth, Texas. Over the span of three days, the students six routines and all earned numerous ribbons. Two of the group also received All Star Performer/Honor Roll Medals only awarded to the top percentage of campers.

Over 300k students qualify for summer food funds

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – About 325,000 Arkansas children have qualified for Summer EBT, which provides them with \$120 for food purchases during the months when they do not receive free or reduced priced meals at school.

Last summer 293,000 children qualified. The program was new and didn’t start until the middle of the summer. This year announcements were made before school let out for the summer, so more families were aware of the program.

The state Department of Human Services administers Summer EBT, which is one of three summer food programs funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The state Education Department helps by providing lists of eligible children. Also, non-profits like the

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance are helping families enroll their children.

Children are eligible if their family’s household income meets the criteria for school lunch and breakfast programs, or if the household qualifies for food stamps or welfare benefits. Officials are encouraging people to apply, even if they have questions about whether or not they qualify.

Children qualify if at any time during the past school year they attended a Head Start or Early Head Start school.

An EBT card will be sent to every child in the family who qualifies. If you have three children, you’ll receive three separate cards in three separate envelopes. There is a telephone number to call to activate the card. You’ll need to enter your child’s birthday and Social Security number and you’ll be asked to set a four-digit PIN number.

Benefits expire 122 days after they become available. If your child still has a card from last summer, it will be reloaded. The deadline for applications is August 25.

To access the DHS web site, go to ar.gov/SummerEBT. If you received benefits last year but lost your children’s cards you can call (800) 997-9999 to request a replacement. To ask general questions about Summer EBT, call 1-833-316-2421.

About 64 percent of Arkansas children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school. The Summer EBT program is part of a broader effort to eliminate hunger in Arkansas. Earlier this year the governor made it a priority and the legislature approved Act 123 to provide a free breakfast to every student, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

The state will pay \$14.7 million to reimburse the cost of an estimated 7.7 million free break-

fasts.

Both the Summer EBT and the free breakfast programs are being paid for with revenue from a tax on medical marijuana.

The state also provides free lunches and breakfasts to students who qualify for reduced-price meals, making them totally free of charge. Under Act 656 of 2023, families no longer have to make copayments for reduced-price meals, which averaged 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast. Eliminating the copay cost the state about \$6 million.

The governor, legislators and state education officials emphasize the importance of breakfast and lunch not only for their nutritional benefits, but also for academic benefits. Students do better in the classroom when they are not hungry.

Smokin’ summer: celebrate grilling month with food safety in mind

BY TERESA HENSON
U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — July is National Grilling Month — a perfect time to enjoy the great food and the outdoors and invite friends and family, but not foodborne illness.

Whether you’re grilling at home or transporting food to a cookout, practicing safe food handling is essential from the refrigerator or freezer all the way to the table.

Here are safe grilling tips from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help keep your meals both tasty and safe:

Marinate safely. Always marinate foods in the refrigerator, not on the counter or outdoors. If you plan to use some of the marinade as a sauce, set it aside before adding raw meat,

poultry, or seafood. Never reuse marinade that has touched raw food.

Partial cooking? Be cautious. Partial cooking is only safe if the food goes directly onto a hot grill immediately afterward ideal for times when you’re grilling on your patio.

Cook to the right temperature. Use a kitchen meat thermometer to ensure that food reaches a safe internal temperature:

Poultry and ground poultry: 165 degrees Fahrenheit

Ground meats and hamburgers: 160 degrees Fahrenheit

Beef, pork, lamb, veal (steaks, chops, roasts): 145 degrees Fahrenheit, with a rest time of at least three minutes.

Fish: 145 degrees Fahrenheit or until the flesh is opaque and flakes easily with a fork.

Shrimp, lobster, crab: Cook until flesh is pearly and opaque.

Keep grilled food hot. Move cooked food to the edge or back of the grill, away from direct heat, to keep it warm without overcooking.

Clean utensils and surfaces. After food prep, wash all cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and countertops with hot, soapy water to prevent cross-contamination.

Inspect for bristles. If you use a wire bristle brush to clean the grill, carefully check the grill grates and food to ensure no bristles are left behind.

Avoid cross-contamination. Wrap raw meat, poultry, and seafood tightly to prevent juices from contaminating other foods, especially ready-to-eat items like fruits and vegetables.

Stay out of the danger zone. Never leave

food sitting in the temperature danger zone — between 40 degrees Fahrenheit and 140 degrees Fahrenheit — for more than two hours, or one hour if the temperature outside is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Bacteria multiply quickly in this range, increasing the risk of foodborne illness

Check out these helpful links for more information:

- www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/handling-food-safely-while-eating-outdoors
- www.fightbac.org/food-safety-on-the-move-3/

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

Legislation passed to help try and cut down on property fraud

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

MURFREESBORO -- Due to the passage of Act 752 of 2025 by the Arkansas General Assembly, effective August 5th, 2025 a deed recorded with the county recorder in person or by mail must be presented for recording by a grantor named in the deed or an individual who signed the deed on behalf of a grantor. The grantor or individual who signed on behalf of the grantor must prove their identity by presenting with the deed a valid government-issued photo identification card or driver’s license if recording in person, or enclose a photocopy of a valid identification card or driver’s

license if recording by mail. Deeds recorded in person or by mail that are not accompanied by an identification card or driver’s license proving the identity of the grantor or person who signed the deed on behalf of the grantor will be rejected. This requirement does NOT apply to:

Deeds that are electronically recorded through the county’s e-recording system

Deeds recorded by:

- An attorney
- Real estate broker or agent
- Representative of a bank, mortgage company or lending institution
- Title insurance agent, agency or person affiliated with a title insurance agency

• The Commissioner of State Lands

• A person representing the state or a political subdivision of the state

• The state, an Arkansas municipality or political subdivision of the state.

For questions about Act 752 of 2025, please contact Williams office at (870) 285-2231

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