

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Issue 5 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

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County EQ board open for meetings

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Equalization Board will began meeting in session at the Pike County Courthouse on Friday, Aug. 1. Anyone wishing to meet with the Equalization Board should contact the Pike County Clerk’s office before the deadline of August 18. You may schedule an appointment by calling (870) 285-2743 and a date will be provided at that time.

UAEX estate planning session set for Aug. 19

GLENWOOD -- An afternoon estate planning session will be held at the Glenwood Baim Library from 1-4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Speakers will include Laura Hendrix, Professor Personal Finance & Consumer Economics, University of Arkansas Extension, and John K Ross IV, Attorney & Senior Partner Ross & Shoalmire, Elder Law Attorneys, P.L.L.C. This meeting is being offered by Pike and Montgomery Counties Family Consumer Science agents. Cost is \$10 per person and can be paid at the door. Please call the Pike County Extension Office to register (870) 285-2161.



Submitted photos

READY TO PACK THE PIT ... Last week 56 kindergartners through sixth grade girls attended the Murfreesboro High School cheer camp. “We look forward to cheering on our Rattlers this fall!” said MHS cheer sponsor Melissa Jones. For more pictures of the attendees, please see page 4.

SPC schools offer headphones as needed

MURFREESBORO -- As part of new state regulations taking effect this school year, the use of cell phones and Bluetooth headphones will be restricted on the South Pike County Schools campus. To support students who need headphones for testing or prefer to use them during the school day, the school will provide wired headphones upon request.

- Availability: Headphones can be checked out when students pick up their school-issued iPads or from the technology room during the school year.
- Returns: Headphones must be returned with the iPads at the end of the year.
- Fees: A \$5 replacement fee will apply for any headphones that are lost or damaged.
- Optional: These school-provided headphones are not mandatory. Students may choose to bring their own.
- Requirements for Personal Headphones: Any personal headphones must be USB-C wired to ensure compatibility with district-issued iPads.

By checking out school-provided headphones, students agree to return them in good condition or pay the replacement fee.

“Thank you for your support as we work to maintain a focused and productive learning environment. If you have any questions, please contact your school’s front office or the technology department,” said the school’s release.

Amity resident charged with assault of child

MURFREESBORO -- An Amity man has been charged in Pike County with second-degree sexual assault.

Cody Lynn Smith, 31, was charged July 28. He pleaded innocent to the charge Monday, Aug. 4 and a public defender was appointed with a Nov. 3 pretrial date set. Smith remains in the county jail this week on \$15,000 bond.

According to case information, a woman reported in June to the Pike County Sheriff’s Department that her juvenile daughter had disclosed that she had allegedly been sexually assaulted by Smith. The proper steps were followed to report the incident to the child abuse hotline and an investigation led to the charge against Smith.

Smith allegedly told investigators that the child “always had a crush on him” and he admitted to inappropriately touching her on one occasion, according to case information. He is also accused of sending the child a Snapchat message the following Monday while she was at school to question if she enjoyed the encounter.

FIVE SENTENCED

Five defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court after entering guilty or “no contest” pleas. They included:

- Megan Davidson, 39, of Amity, guilty of two counts of first-degree endangering the welfare of a minor; sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$2,500;
- Nathan Hoover, 24, of Glenwood, guilty of

possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia; sentenced to 12 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction with six years suspended;

- Kevin Taylor, 39, of Glenwood, guilty of second-degree battery; sentenced to five years of probation;
- Zachary Wammach, 39, of Antlers, Okla., guilty of possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia; sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$2,000; and
- Brandon Parks, 31, of Mineral Springs, “no contest” to residential burglary and possession of drug paraphernalia; sentenced to five years of probation and fined \$2,000.

Manufacturer to take residence in Nashville

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

NASHVILLE -- Nashville Mayor Larry Dunaway was quick to give credit where credit is due last Thursday morning, July 31, when announcing a major manufacturer had acquired the warehouse portion of the now-vacant Husqvarna plant with plans to invest \$120 million and bring more than 100 jobs to Nashville.

Cantex Inc., a Fort Worth, Texas-based manufacturer of American-made electrical conduit, fittings and boxes, has acquired the warehouse and plans to invest millions in new equipment and make “significant upgrades to the facility in order to support the production of electrical products,” according to a news release Dun-

away read from during the impromptu meeting inside the Nashville City Hall.

The big announcement was made at 10:01 a.m., just moments after the Arkansas Economic Development Commission issued the press release to make the \$120 million investment news official.

“I am so proud of this opportunity that has come out of the situation that none of us saw coming with Husqvarna making that announcement they were leaving,” Dunaway said. “The situation has led to a lot of good things over the last two years. Our Developing Howard County [DHC] group was put together as a result of that announcement, and bringing Cantex into Nashville was very much a joint effort. Everyone came together and we

were able to work towards this goal.”

Husqvarna announced in 2023 it was closing its Nashville facility at the end of 2024. The closure resulted in the loss of an estimated 700-plus jobs, including several associated industries and workers from surrounding areas.

The Developing Howard County economic panel was “literally born out of this bad situation” and its members immediately went to work on reviving the local economy, Dunaway said.

“I think we have definitely hit a home run but we are still early in the game,” Dunaway added.

Husqvarna first came to Nashville in 1977,

CANTEX Continued on Page 2



Staff photo/John Balch

FORMER HUSQVARNA PLANT IN NASHVILLE

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mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information

CANTEX Continued on Page 2

moving from Shreveport, La., to the local facility for manufacturing lightweight gasoline-powered chainsaws and weed trimmers.

The former Husqvarna 300,000 square-foot manufacturing plant remains vacant, and Mayor Dunaway is hopeful Cantex will “grow in to” the other facility or some other business will come along and make an offer.

“I want to say, this is just the beginning of economic development in Nashville and Howard County,” the mayor said. “We are going to continue to work to get the rest of the facility filled up with business and others, as well.”

Dr. Steve Cole, Developing Howard County ex officio board member, agreed with Dunaway about the group effort involved in bringing the new industry to town and reminded those in attendance that Nashville was likely not the only place Cantex considered before making its decision.

“I’d be willing to bet that Cantex would not be coming if they didn’t see us working together so closely and having our act

together - locally, that really resonates with corporations like that,” Cole said.

The 350,000 square-foot warehouse, built in 2017, and plant are both owned by Wisconsin-based Phoenix Investors, which purchased the property the summer of 2024. The investor group also owns Husqvarna’s properties at 139 Old Airport Road north of Nashville, which were constructed in 1998-2000.

DHC Director Vanessa Weeks was unable to attend Thursday’s announcement but was quoted in the AEDC release as saying, “The arrival of Cantex in Nashville is a strong step forward for Howard County. It reflects our mission to grow opportunity and improve quality of life, and it highlights the value of our skilled workforce and business-ready community. We look forward to supporting their success here.”

Dave Meker, president of Cantex Inc., said in the company is ready to get to work in The Natural State.

“We are excited to expand our footprint in Nashville, Ark. This property will enable us to better serve our customers and support our long-term growth strategy. We look forward to integrating this new manufacturing facility into our operations and leveraging its potential to drive innovation and excellence.

We’re also thrilled to work alongside the State of Arkansas and the City of Nashville as we invest in the region’s future and create new opportunities together.”

Clint O’Neal, executive director of the AEDC, also weighed in on the big announcement via press release: “Nashville had everything that Cantex needed: available real estate, a supportive business environment, and a strong workforce. This is a big win for the City of Nashville and the State of Arkansas.”

Cantex has been in business for more than 70 years, and Nashville’s facility will be the company’s first in Arkansas.

No exact start date has been determined, but AEDC said the company plans to start its Nashville operation in the fourth fiscal quarter of 2025.

APPLY FOR POSITIONS

According to AEDC, the company will be hiring for a range of positions, including manufacturing and distribution operators. To learn more and to apply for positions, visit: cantexinc.com/careers.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

July 22, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Bankston, Trent Gage, 18, Murfreesboro, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$550

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION
Coulter, Anthony L., 66, Mineral Springs, \$220 BF, insufficient PFD

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Faas, Tony A., 56, Arkadelphia, guilty of expired vehicle license-tags, fined \$145; guilty of driving with suspended license,

fined \$345; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$250

Huddle, Marvin E., 43, Glenwood, guilty of Clean Air Act violation - smoking in vehicle with children under 14, fined \$65

**BENCH TRIALS
PIKE COUNTY**
Roberts, Danielle Faye, 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to maintain control with accident, fined \$225

Steele, Derrick Preston, 49, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

City of Murfreesboro
Dean, James Charles, 50, Murfreesboro, guilty of neglect of minor resulting in delinquency, fined \$390

Johnson, Judd Eugene, 37, Texarkana, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$540; guilty of first-degree criminal mischief, fined \$375

Pantoja, Alejandra, 48, Murfreesboro, guilty of harassment, fined \$230; guilty of public intoxication, fined \$240

Charges still pending in shooting death of local resident

MURFREESBORO -- As of Tuesday morning, there has been no charges filed, no pleas and two court appearances for the Pike County man accused in the shooting death of another man in June, according to Pike County Circuit Clerk Sabrina Williams.

Gage King, 23, is expected to be charged with manslaughter in the shooting death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight, according to an affidavit of probable cause completed June 19 by a special agent with Arkansas State Police Criminal Division.

Williams said King has basically made “two first appearances” but since no charges had been filed at either he has now been given an Aug. 11 court date.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

JOB OPENING TAKING APPLICATIONS

The Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department will be accepting applications for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator.

Interested persons may obtain an application at the water office, located at 204 East Main, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

Applications will be accepted until Thursday, August 14 with interviews being held on Friday, August 15.

Candidates desiring to be considered for the above position should apply in person, no phone calls please. The Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department reserves the right to reject any and all applications. The Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department is an equal opportunity employer.

This publication was paid for by the Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 54.00

(m.w.s.d. 120w., 5,6)

Murfreesboro Diamond

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• **P.J. Tracy IV, Editor**
• **Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer**

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

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The *Murfreesboro Diamond* (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.

Subscription Rates: \$40 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$55 per year elsewhere.

\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.

College Subscriptions- \$25 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Telephone: 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please Send Change of Address Information to:
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P.O. Box 550
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Donna Louise Spears, deceased, of Pike County, AR., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 10, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make payment immediately. This 30th day of July, 2025

Ilah Rita Risner, Administrator
P.O. Box 204
Glenwood, AR. 71943

(I,R,R 70w., 5,6)


PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against Walton Howard Partee Sr., deceased, of Pike County, AR., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 10, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make payment immediately. This 30th day of July, 2025

Ilah Rita Risner, Administrator
P.O. Box 204
Glenwood, AR. 71943

(I,R,R 71w., 5,6)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
NO. 55PR-25-38
SARAH LOUELLA TERRELL, DECEASED**

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AS EXECUTOR

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:
2199 Highway 19 N, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958

DATE OF DEATH: April 28, 2025

An instrument dated September 15, 2015, was admitted to probate on July 29, 2025, as the Last Will and Testament of Sarah Louella Terrell, as amended by a First Codicil thereto dated February 20, 2019, and the undersigned has been appointed Executor thereunder. Contest of the probate of the will can be affected only by filing a petition within the time provided by law.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This Notice first published on August 6, 2025.

PHIL A. TERRELL, Executor

By: CALEB D. HOLLINGER, #2020191
FRIDAY, ELDRIDGE & CLARK, LLP
400 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 2000
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3522
Direct Phone: (501) 370-1421
e-mail: chollinger@fridayfirm.com
Attorneys for the Estate

(e,c, 196w., 5,6)



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Additional charges added to animal case for area resident

DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY
Editor, Glenwood Herald

MOUNT IDA – One of the five persons charged in a recent animal cruelty case has been arraigned on two felony counts of Aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, equine. She also faces six misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals.

Janice Darlene Veorster, age 53, was formally arraigned on two counts of Aggravated cruelty to a dog, cat, equine, a class D felony, during a circuit court appearance Friday, August 1, 2025. She has also been charged with six counts of Cruelty to animals, an Unclassified Misdemeanor.

She indicated that she was in the process of hiring an attorney to represent her. A not guilty plea was entered on her behalf. An attorney status hearing was scheduled for August 15, 2025.

Voester was arrested following an investigation by the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office led to the rescue of over 100 animals from two residences located on Liberty Road near Norman. A search warrant was served Thursday, May 29, 2025 on a 40 acre tract of land in relation to allegations of animal cruelty.

During a probable cause hearing, Montgomery County Sheriff Neal Thomas testified that over 100 dogs were located on the two properties with some roaming loose while others were caged, chained or housed in one of the structures. He described the conditions as uninhabitable with several animals visibly malnourished, covered in mud and feces, ticks and fleas.

He described one group of dogs located in a small kennel so small the dogs were unable to stand up in the kennel. The water bowl was filled with a dirty liquid that he state he couldn’t identify as water.

Thomas testified that the floors and furnishings in the living structures were covered in several inches of feces with excessive trash in the residences. He also stated that the remnants of deceased animals were also located in some of the residences.

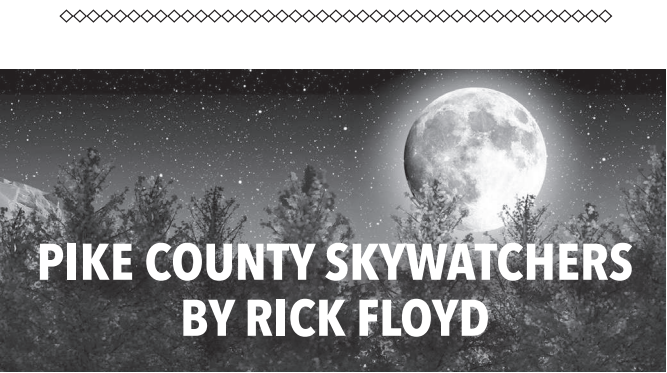
Several volunteers gathered at the location to help in the rescue of animals. The MCSO statement reported that authorities seized over 100 dogs, along with numerous pigs, chickens, ducks, sugar gliders, guinea pigs, and cats. All animals were removed and taken into evidence.

Nova Star Rescue of Dover, Arkansas spearheaded the extensive animal rescue effort. PAWS of Glenwood was among several other animal rescue organizations to assist in the rescue. Other organizations include: Cuddle Babies, Artemis Project, Jak’s Second Chance Rescue, and Hank’s Rescue.

According to Prosecuting Attorney Debra Buschman, the decision to charge Voester with only six counts of Cruelty to animals was made due to the limitations of sentence for the case.

She explained that the maximum sentence for the misdemeanor if Voester is found guilty would be one year in the county jail regardless of the number of charges. In an effort to avoid bogging down the case they chose to charge her with six counts which will allow them to charge her with a felony charge if there are any future violations against animals.

In a separate case, Voester was arraigned on one count of Theft of property, a class A misdemeanor. The charge is the result of allegations she took a Yorkie dog from someone on or about February 20, 2025. She was arraigned on this charge as well.



Interstellar traveller to pass by Earth later this year

The Moon will reach its crest, its fullest, at 2:55 CDT the morning of August 9. However, it will appear full the day before and the day after the crest of its full phase. So there will be an almost full moon on August 7, then look for it rising in the east near sunset on August 8, and hanging in the west just before sunrise on August 9.

This month the full moon is called the Sturgeon Moon (for the tribes of the Great Lakes area, August is the peak season for catching sturgeon). It is also called the Corn Moon.

Note that the Moon rises about 50 minutes to an hour later each passing day because it moves eastward in its orbit. This month the Moon is only slightly closer than average to Earth, so its size and brightness are more than usual, but not a super or micromoon.

Early risers may have noticed that Jupiter is getting higher in the east each morning seeming to be in a race to catch up with bright Venus above. Venus is actually headed down a bit each day, so the two are coming very close to each other, about 1 degree apart, on 12 August. They will look like a double star and be a beautiful sight.

The latest news about the monster comet, possible alien spacecraft object from interstellar space nearing the Solar System, is that it will not swing around the Sun, but will dash along at about 15,000 miles per hour through the galaxy. Called Atlas/31 and first discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Alert System (ATLAS), it will never be less than a few million miles from Earth. Its estimated size has been reduced from about 12 miles wide to about 6 miles, but it will be big, bright and close enough later this year to become a long exposure photographic object for backyard astronomers. Talk of it being an alien spacecraft has subsided significantly.

Obituaries

Clifton Thomas ‘Nim’ Harris, 79



Clifton Thomas “Nim” Harris, age 79 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Thursday, July 31, 2025 in Nashville. He was born on March 18, 1946 in the Mt. Moriah Community to the late Watson Harris and Dora Marie Ponder Harris.

Mr. Harris was a member of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and taking care of his doll, Larrie. He loved spending time with his family and especially riding his grandchildren around on his Kubota and enjoying watermelon with them.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandson: Mitchell Thomas

Collins, and three siblings: Billy Wayne Harris, Freddy Alan Harris and Eva Jane Vaught.

Survivors include his loving wife of sixty-one years, Larrie Bell Lingo Harris; his son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Watson Harris and Kristie; his daughter and son-in-law, Kim Collins and Dennis; grandchildren, Zachary Collins, Laramie (Austin) Littles, Laci Harris (Parker Little), Aspen Harris (Dylan Turner), Blake Mitchell and Alex Harris; great-grandchildren, Avery Willis, Ares Collins, Luke Littles, Alena Collins, Layne Little, Watson Little, Walker Turner, and Tillie Little; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Friday, August 1, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services for were held on Saturday, August 2, 2025 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro. Interment followed in College Hill Cemetery.

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

Patsty Ann Lites, 77, DeQueen



Patsy Ann Lites, age 77, a resident of De Queen, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, August 1, 2025, at her home.

Mrs. Lites was born on July 5, 1948, in Pike City, Arkansas. She was a member of the Church of Christ. She enjoyed vacationing, traveling, shopping, and loved spending time with her family, especially her great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Lites was preceded in death by her parents, Doyle Fox and Vera Gardner Forbes;

her husband, Stephen Lites; one sister, Linda Mounts; and stepfather, Robert Forbes.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Chad and Tammy Lites of De Queen; grandchildren, Caitlin and her husband, Michael Collins of De Queen, and Cody and his wife, Ashton Lites of Center-ton, Arkansas; and three great-grandchildren, Paisley Grace Collins, Sofia Kate Collins, and Stevie Eric Lites.

Graveside funeral service for Mrs. Lites were held on Sunday, August 3, 2025, at Dierks Cemetery with Michael Collins, minister, officiating, under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home in Dierks.

The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel in Dierks.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Amber Norris is an assistant professor in the UAMS Department of Family and Preventive Medicine who treats patients at UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena.

Q: What is atherosclerosis?

A: Atherosclerosis is the buildup of plaque or other fatty deposits in the arteries. Plaque is a sticky substance made of calcium, cholesterol, fat and other substances. Although most commonly associated with the heart, atherosclerosis can occur in arteries throughout the body. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about half of the people in the U.S. between the ages of 45 and 84 have the condition.

Plaque buildup thickens the wall in the blood vessels, narrowing the space in the arteries and reducing blood flow to blood to organs and tissues. It is unclear exactly how atherosclerosis begins, but buildup damages the thin layer of cells that line the arteries. Risk factors for atherosclerosis include high alcohol intake, high cholesterol,

a family history of heart disease, obesity, or smoking or tobacco use.

Symptoms of atherosclerosis include abdominal cramps, shortness of breath, dizziness, fatigue, headaches, or pain in the feet and toes while resting.

Treatment of atherosclerosis includes lifestyle changes such as exercise and eating a healthier diet, medicines to lower blood pressure or to thin the blood, or procedures to resolve arterial blockages. Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms.

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Ella Patricia ‘Pat’ Graves, 84

Ella Patricia “Pat” Graves, age 84 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Sunday, August 3, 2025 at her home. She was born on May 2, 1941 in Memphis, Tennessee to the late William Henry Buck and Lena Bell Hill Adams.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her God given mother, Evelyn “Snooks” Reece, as well as two sisters and four brothers.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband of sixty-five years, Larry Graves; her three children and their spouses, Pam Pipkins and John of Mayflower, Gary Graves and Patti of Murfreesboro and Penny Lamb and Randy of Murfreesboro; two siblings, Andy Buck

and Karen of Pea Ridge and Margie Spence; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A funeral service will be held to honor Mrs. Graves’ life beginning at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 6, 2025 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro. Interment will follow at Shockey Chapel Cemetery near Norman, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

Jimmy Clyde Baggs, 82

Jimmy Clyde Baggs, age 82 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2025. He was born on August 20, 1942 in Bismark to the late JR Baggs and Irene Finney Baggs.

He is survived by his wife,

Gwen Wooley Baggs.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

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PACK THE PIT CHEER CAMP ATTENDEES



Howard County pair win Farm Bureau contests

LITTLE ROCK — Ember Boyce, 11, of Nashville and Everett Hutton, 13, of Jonesboro were the winners of the 2025 Arkansas Farm Bureau Dairy Foods Contest hosted at the state fairgrounds on July 24.

Boyce’s Million Dollar Ravioli Casserole won the “Main Dish” category while Hutton’s Strawberry Shortcake Pudding won the “Party Idea” category.

“This would be a great family meal or pot-luck dish,” said Boyce. “It is easy to make and would be a quick meal for a working family to prepare.”

Boyce is a member of Howard County 4-H and the daughter of Dexter and Niki Boyce.

At the statewide contest the contestants pre-

pared their dish and served a panel of three judges who tasted the dish and reviewed each submission.

Brody Cupples, 18, of Nashville and Nate Bucci, 16, of London (Pope County) were the winners of the 2025 Arkansas Farm Bureau Rice is Nice Cooking Contest hosted at the state fairgrounds on July 24.

Cupples’ Mexican Beef and Rice Skillet won the “Main Dish” category while Bucci’s Cheesy Sicilian Arancini won the “Party Idea” category.

“The Mexican Beef and Rice Skillet is great, fast and easy for a family meal,” said Cupples.

Cupples is a member of Howard County 4-H and the son of Amy Reed.

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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

RABSHAKEH, A TITLE –NOT A NAME

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392 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
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Understanding the basic steps of estate planning

Estate planning is a crucial yet often neglected task that ensures a family’s assets are managed and distributed according to one’s wishes after death. While the topic can be uncomfortable, taking proactive steps today can protect loved ones tomorrow. The estate planning process involves six essential steps that guide individuals in making sound decisions regarding their property and dependents.

The first step is to initiate the discussion. Many families shy away from talking about what happens after a loved one passes, but open communication is the foundation of a successful estate plan. Family members, especially adult children, should be encouraged to engage in the conversation when they are mature enough to understand the implications.

Next, it’s important to identify current assets and debts. This includes creating a comprehensive inventory of all real and personal property, determining the type of ownership, estimating market values, and listing outstanding debts. Calculating net worth provides a clear picture of the estate and helps shape future decisions.

The third step is to identify estate plan objectives. Everyone’s goals are different, and it’s necessary to outline what should happen to the property, who will benefit, and how to address potential conflicts. Common objectives include providing financial security for a surviving spouse or children, reducing estate taxes, minimizing settlement costs, and ensuring a comfortable retirement.

Once objectives are defined, individuals should choose professional advisors. Attorneys, financial planners, and tax experts can offer guidance and ensure all legal requirements are met. Their expertise is invaluable when designing a tailored estate plan.

The fifth step is to design the estate plan itself. This involves naming beneficiaries, selecting appropriate planning tools, and deciding how each asset will be owned—whether through sole ownership, co-ownership (including joint tenancy or tenancy-in-common), or life estates. Proper arrangements must also be made for the most effective use of assets and the smooth transfer of property. Transfers can occur through wills, joint ownership with rights of survivorship, trusts, life insurance contracts, or by default under state law if no will exists.

Finally, the estate plan must be implemented and reviewed periodically. Life changes such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, or a significant change in assets may require updates to the plan to ensure it continues to meet its intended goals.

Estate planning is not one-size-fits-all. A young family just starting out may focus on building and protecting assets, while an older couple might prioritize retirement income and the distribution of accumulated property. Regardless of age or financial status, a well-thought-out estate plan provides peace of mind and lasting security for loved ones.

An afternoon estate planning session will be held at the Glenwood Bainum Library from 1-4:00 on Tuesday, August 19. Speakers will include Laura Hendrix, Professor Personal Finance & Consumer Economics, University of Arkansas Extension, and John K Ross IV, Attorney & Senior Partner Ross & Shoalmire, Elder Law Attorneys, P.L.L.C. This meeting is being

ESTATE PLANNING Continued on Page 5

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

IF YOU LOVE ME
John 14:15

God’s people spend great time and effort verifying the fact that they really love their Savior. We sing about it and we pray about it. How can we know for sure we love the Lord the way He wants us to love Him? We follow Him day by day and try our best to show that “Keep my commandments.” Simply, He says, “Do what I have asked you to do.” Talents and abilities vary but the command does not. The parable of the talents gives us a decisive look at how it works. We, individually, can only do what our ability permits. We must not try to judge our devotion by another child of God. The Lord knows what we are able to accom-

plish with the capacity He has given to us. The definition of a faithful servant is shown by our doing what we can in His service. We must do our best to step forward and accept any challenge or opportunity when it comes our way. Some of the open doors are always there and demand faithful devotion. The Lord knows each day will bring new challenges and our mind set must propel

us forward to do what we can every time we can. Accepting these challenges becomes a labor of love. We must do as Jesus did, work the works He has set before us each day we are blessed to obey. Do you and I love the Lord? The heartfelt answer is found in the joy we find in obeying our Lord. Do we look forward in great anticipation to honor Him every time we can? Is there a soul satisfying sense of bringing glory to Him each day we live? Jesus said, “If you love me...” Our response, obeying His commandments, will be done with zeal and love for Him. We are His servants and are honored that He has allowed us to serve Him and His father.

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- 6. Beast of burden
- 9. Slat
- 13. Chocolate substitute
- 14. _____ carte
- 15. San Diego baseballer
- 16. Actress Linda of “Dynasty” fame
- 17. Grave acronym
- 18. Dartmouth and such
- 19. *Largest shoulder muscle
- 21. *Mind-body exercise with “apparatus”
- 23. To do this is human
- 24. Hold back or restrain
- 25. *Biathlon gear, sing.
- 28. Rum follower
- 30. Illuminated by a certain star
- 35. Windshield option
- 37. Gang’s domain
- 39. Symbolized by white dove
- 40. Wander
- 41. “Sesame Street” regular
- 43. a.k.a. amir
- 44. Nobel Prize, e.g.
- 46. Most luminous star
- 47. 0.001 inches, pl.
- 48. *Workout prep
- 50. Used to be
- 52. Sailor’s assent
- 53. Agitate
- 55. Carry a load
- 57. *Series of exercises with little or no rest
- 61. *Peloton sport
- 65. “Bite the bullet,” e.g.
- 66. E in BCE
- 68. Term of endearment
- 69. “He _____ it like it is”
- 70. Actress Ryan
- 71. “M*A*S*H” character
- 72. One of #18 Across
- 73. 007

74. What actors do

DOWN

- 1. Passed with flying colors
- 2. Five-star review
- 3. Not written
- 4. _____ Carlo
- 5. Soak up
- 6. 36 inches
- 7. Boxer Clay
- 8. Fraternity K
- 9. Surface magma
- 10. Passage into a mine
- 11. ***Arboreal” yoga pose
- 12. Hitler’s sidekick Rudolf _____
- 15. Highway accident
- 20. Extremely angry
- 22. “_____ show time!”
- 24. Nocturnal bird of prey (2 words)
- 25. It broke the camel’s back
- 26. Plains tribe
- 27. Iron + nickel
- 29. *Use calories
- 31. a.k.a. Indian Lilac
- 32. Vampire of Greek mythology
- 33. In a cold manner
- 34. To the point
- 36. Four years for a President
- 38. V
- 42. Premature
- 45. _____ semolina, pl.
- 49. Hawaiian dish
- 51. Trick-taking card game
- 54. List components
- 56. Twilight
- 57. C in NYC
- 58. Brain wave
- 59. Small brook
- 60. Nat of Jazz
- 61. Same as cagey
- 62. _____-European language
- 63. Like a drink in a snifter
- 64. Swirling vortex
- 67. *One in a set

CROSSWORD

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ESTATE PLANNING Continued from Page 4

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK

This week’s recipe is Fresh Peach Salsa. It’s great served with tortilla chips or as a side. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 1 pound tomatoes, diced
- 1 bell pepper (4 oz), seeded and finely diced
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and finely diced
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 1 1/2 pounds peaches, diced
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 2 Tbsp lime juice
- 1/2 tsp salt, or to taste
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper or to taste

Directions:

Chop tomatoes and transfer them to a large bowl
Finely chop seeded bell pepper and jalapeños. Finely chop onion and transfer all veggies to the bowl.

Dice the peaches slightly larger to give them more of the center stage. Peeling is optional. Add peaches to bowl.

Add 1/2 bunch Chopped cilantro, 2 Tbsp lime juice, 1 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Add salt and pepper to taste if desired. Fold everything together until well mixed.

New laws now in effect for Arkansas drivers

LITTLE ROCK -- During the 2025 Arkansas Legislative Session, several laws passed that Arkansas travelers should know. These laws go into effect Tuesday, August 5.

FINES DOUBLE IN MOBILE WORK ZONES

House Bill (HB) 1596, now Act 327 of 2025, doubles fines for moving traffic violations in mobile work zones. Previously, traffic fines were only doubled in static (or stationary) work zones.

This new law applies to all “construction personnel,” which includes ARDOT and its contractors as well as city and county road departments and their contractors.

A static “highway work zone” is defined as any area upon a highway or road in Arkansas where construction, maintenance, or any other type of work is begin performed or is in progress by employees of ARDOT, cities, counties, or contractors.

A “mobile work zone” is defined as any area upon a highway or road in Arkansas where construction, maintenance, or any other type of work is being performed for a limited period of time by employees of ARDOT, cities, counties, or contractors. Mobile work zones can include debris removal, road striping, pothole patching, etc. Mobile work zones must be marked by a sign, channelizing device, barrier, or work vehicle with lights.

To help drivers know when they are entering a mobile work zone, “mobile work zone/fines double” signs will be displayed on the back of ARDOT work trucks with lights. Both mobile and static work zones are required to notify drivers that they are in a work zone and that fines are doubled.

GREEN LIGHTS ON ARDOT VEHICLES

HB1475, now Act 209 of 2025, authorizes the use of green lights on official roadway construction and maintenance vehicles used by ARDOT, cities, counties, or contractors. This came after a successful pilot program.

Flashing green lights improve visibility on bright, sunny days, in fog, and during inclement weather, making road workers safer.

Arkansas law specifies which types of vehicles may have flashing lights or rotating beacons and what colors are permissible. This new law permits roadway construction and maintenance vehicles to use amber, white, or green (or any combination of the three) oscillating, flashing, or rotating emergency or warning lights.

WORK ZONE SAFETY IN THE DRIVER'S MANUAL

Senate Bill (SB) 78, now Act 117 of 2025, amends the Arkansas driver’s manual and test to include information about driving safely through work zones.

The safe operation of a motor vehicle in a highway work zone is now required to be included in the written driver’s license test.

Additionally, the driver’s instruction manual will be amended to include information about highway work zone safety. This information will include:

- The effects and hazards of unsafe driving through a highway work zone.
- The penalties for violations for unsafe driving through a highway work zone.
- Statistics concerning the dangers of committing a moving violation in a highway work zone.
- Testimonials from highway construction workers and their families.
- Information on the importance of awareness and slowing down in a highway work zone.
- A question-and-answer section concerning the safe operation of a motor vehicle in a highway work zone.

To learn more about these new laws and others, visit arkleg.state.ar.us.

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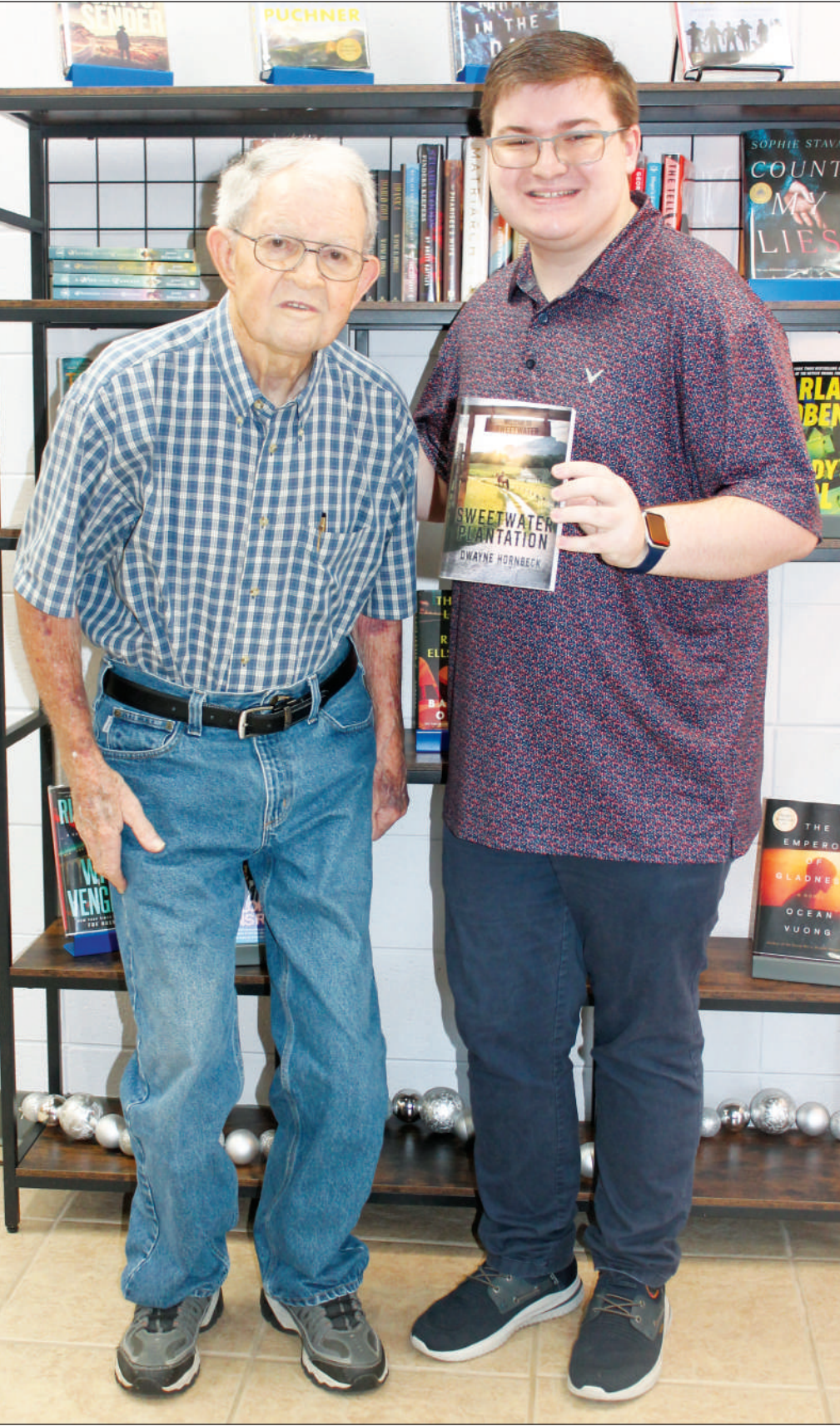
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Submitted photos

LOCAL AUTHOR ... Dwayne Hornbeck of Murfreesboro donated his second fiction novel to the Murfreesboro Public Library. The book is entitled “Sweetwater Plantation.” His first publication was a devotional entitled “Sweeter Than Honey.” His first fiction novel was “Hoss Fly, That’s Me.” Both of Hornbeck’s fiction novels are available at the library, or can be purchased on Amazon. Hornbeck and his wife moved to Murfreesboro from DeWitt in 2020, and is the parents of Terri Sharp of Murfreesboro. Pictured with Hornbeck (above right) is Murfreesboro librarian Dawson Sellers. The online synopsis of the book is as follows:“Somebody ought to tell the world what happened at Sweetwater Plantation. There was no mistaking Grandpa’s handwriting. In life or in death, Grandpa was going to get me to read some of this material. Cold chills flooded me as I read the opening lines. it was as though fate had preserved this document long enough for me to read it--and to share it with the world. I read silently for the first few lines, then, inexplicably, I began to read aloud, as though I was the author. Looking over the pages gave me a strange sense that John Hauser was right there beside me, nodding in approval, prodding me along, elated that someone would finally tell his story to the world. From the grave, location unknown to me, he could finally speak. I read through the night, finishing the last page as the sun’s rays began to break the darkness of night. Silently, I made a promise to John Hauser and Grandpa that I would be the voice of the past. I vowed not to rest until this promise was kept. As a journalist, I try to stay focused on facts and not be swayed by what-ifs or maybe. Was this document fact or fiction? Many of the events, people, and periods have been investigated thoroughly. They all seem to confirm that this document was indeed true. After weeks of travel, investigation, and interviews with dozens of people, I have decided to lay all the evidence of my investigation aside. I will simply leave you with the words and descriptions given by Mr. John Hauser. This is his story. Welcome to Sweetwater Plantation.”

State colleges to spend \$279 million on athletics

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas colleges and universities will spend about \$279 million on athletics during the upcoming school year. State law requires all state-supported institutions of higher education to certify their budgeted revenues and expenditures for athletics. The results are submitted every summer to the state Higher Education Coordinating Board. State law also requires that institutions must clearly define all student fees used to pay for athletic programs. On statements to students, institutions must list athletic fees separate and distinct from tuition and other student fees. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is one of 11 institutions that do not charge athletic fees. According to their submissions to the Board of Higher Education, they expect to meet the costs of their athletic programs without assessing fees. The Razorback athletic program is by far the largest in Arkansas, with budgeted expenditures for next year of about \$181 million. The smallest athletic program is at Arkansas State University in Newport, which will spend about \$195,000 on athletics next school year. The second smallest is at Phillips community College of the University of Arkansas, which has budgeted about \$215,000 for athletics. The second largest athletic program is at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, which has a budget of \$24 million for next year. The third largest is at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, with a budget of \$17 million. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock

will have an athletic budget of almost \$13 million. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff budgeted \$7 million for athletics. South Arkansas University at Magnolia budgeted \$6.8 million for athletics and Henderson State University in Arkadelphia budgeted \$6.7 million. The athletic budget at Arkansas Tech in Russellville is \$6.2 million. The Razorback program generates revenue from ticket sales, licensing fees, concessions and contributions that no other campus in Arkansas can match. Besides not assessing student athletic fees, the campus does not transfer into its athletic program any money from its state educational and general funds. If the University at Fayetteville is excluded from the calculation, student fees generate 29.4 percent of the athletic program budgets for 22 two-year colleges and nine four-year universities. **WORKFORCE/CAREER EDUCATION** At a recent meeting the Higher Education Board heard a presentation on the status of workforce education in Arkansas at colleges and universities. Students do not get credit for taking the courses, but they learn skills in demand at the top companies in Arkansas. The most popular course is in business, management and marketing. The second most popular is in engineering and related technologies. The third most popular is in health professions. In the 22 two-year colleges in Arkansas, only half the courses are open enrollment for any student registered at the college. The other half are limited to employees of specific industry partners.

County 4-H holds summer cooking camp

BY EVA LANGLEY
Pike County Extension Agent

MURFREESBORO – 4-H members met at the Extension Office last week for a two-day program focused on practical kitchen skills, recipe preparation, and food safety. Throughout the camp, participants received hands-on instruction as they worked through a series of recipes, building confidence in the kitchen while learning essential cooking techniques. Day one focused on breakfast. Campers prepared fresh blueberry and apple muffins from scratch, learning how to measure ingredients, mix batter, and bake. To complete the meal, they helped cook a breakfast casserole made with eggs, bacon, onions, potatoes, and cheese. Before cooking began, participants reviewed food safety basics, including proper hand washing, avoiding cross-contamination, and safely handling raw ingredients like eggs and meat. As part of their training, they also practiced safe knife handling and learned the importance of kitchen cleanliness throughout meal prep. On the second day, the focus shifted to Italian-inspired dishes. Campers made their own pizza dough from scratch, using it to create in-

dividual pepperoni and mozzarella calzones. They also made ham and cheddar calzones using pie crust dough for a different texture and taste. For dessert, participants layered their favorite ice cream flavors and chocolate wafer crumbs, then finished with a smooth dark chocolate glaze. **AMISH BREAKFAST CASSEROLE**
INGREDIENTS:
1 pound sliced bacon, diced
1 medium sweet onion, chopped
6 large eggs, lightly beaten
4 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1-1/2 cups 4% cottage cheese
1-1/4 cups shredded Swiss cheese
DIRECTIONS:
Preheat oven to 350°. In a large skillet, cook bacon and onion over medium heat until bacon is crisp; drain. In a large bowl, combine remaining ingredients; stir in bacon mixture. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 35-40 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting. Enjoy!



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