Murfreesboro Diamond

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Decoy account nets another offender locally

MURFREESBORO -- Another suspected online predator looking to meet up with 14-yearold girls has been arrested after falling for the Pike County Sheriff's Department's decoy social media account.

Ronnie Rusher, 62, of Hope, was immediately arrested Sunday in Pike County after arriving at an undisclosed location to have sexual intercourse with someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl. The "someone" in question was actually Investigator Jason McDonald working a decoy account.

Rusher is being held on \$50,000 bond and made his first court appearance Monday where he was ordered to return on Sept. 5 for formal

Rusher is expected to be charged with internet stalking of a child and possession or use of child sexual child abuse material.

McDonald reported that Rusher first contacted the decoy account on May 31 with a message, "Damn I wish u was in Hope, Arkansas." Rusher, who was informed the decoy was only 14, eventually messaged in June that he would be willing to pay \$200 for sex with the child and later sent descriptive texts, requested explicit pictures and sent the decoy an explicit picture.

Communications allegedly continued on Aug. 22 with Rusher asking if the decoy "does meet ups" and offering to pick her up. He cancelled that meeting but agreed to meet on Sunday, Aug. 24. He reportedly sent a message confirming he would travel to pick up the decoy, transport her to his home in Hope and engage in sexual intercourse.



Submitted photo/PCSO

RONNIE RUSHER

Delight man pleads 'no contest' to murder charge

MURFREESBORO -- A Delight man has pleaded "no contest" to an amended charge of second-degree murder for a 2024 shooting death and was sentenced to 25 years in the state

Christian Marc Buster, 31, entered the plea on Thursday in Pike County Circuit Court after being held in the Pike County jail since April 27, 2024 on \$500,000 bond. He was initially charged in May 2024 with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Oscar Alba, 34, of Delight and a no-contact order was issued for Alba's fiancee, Lacey Hampton, who reportedly witnessed the shooting.

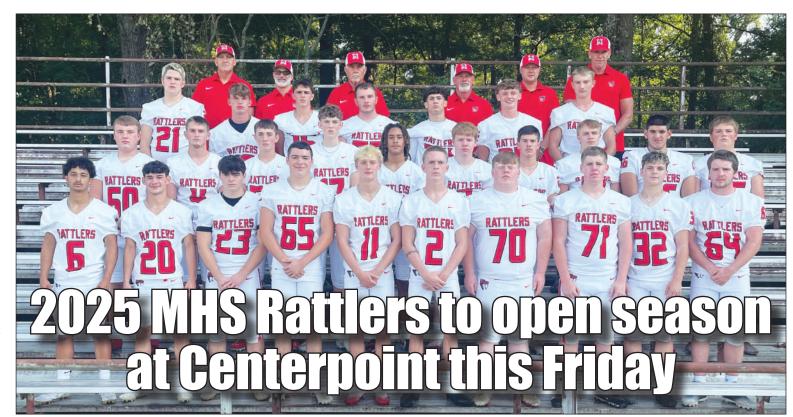
Buster was officially sentenced to the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a total of 35 years with 10 years suspended and credited for

The Arkansas State Police investigated the shooting, which took place at Buster's home at 1152 Highway 26 East the morning of April 27, 2024. Hampton told investigators that she, Alba and Buster had been drinking the night before and the couple had given Buster a ride home in Buster's vehicle when the shooting happened. Hampton said Buster retrieved a pistol from the vehicle's center console, exited and then began firing at Alba.

Once Alba fell to the ground, court records state Buster immediately began administering CPR life-saving efforts and told his mother to call 911. The weapon, a 9mm, was fired at least three times and two bullets struck Alba in the chest.

Buster said in a later interview that he fired the weapon in self defense because he felt threatened by Alba and Hampton and claimed the couple had abused him and were holding him against his will. Investigators noted Buster exhibited no signs of physical injuries on his face or body.

At the time of his arrest last year, Buster was an employee of the Howard County Sheriff's Department where he worked as a jailer for approximately seven moths. He was terminated from that job the Monday following his arrest.



MURFREESBORO - The Murfreesboro Rattlers acquitted themselves well in a 13-6 loss to the Ashdown Panthers in a scrimmage last Friday night at home.

"I thought the effort was great,' said head coach Jay Turley. "We played more physical than we have in practice, and to play close to a 4-A school is a moral victory – if there is such a thing."

He said his team's execution has to improve, and that Ashdown's press coverage forced them to struggle a bit on offense.

"The score was irrelevant to me – I wanted to see the effort and execution," said Turley. "Overall, I was pleased – our physicality was good, which was one of my concerns coming into the game."

He said there were a lot of "little fixes" from the line's blocking assignments to the pass game needing to "throw people open" as opposed to "throwing it when they are open."

"I thought Kooper [Caldwell] threw the ball well, we just have to improve the timing," Turley said, especially noting the execution of the team's screen plays.

The team will officially open the season on the road this Friday versus in-county foe Cen-

Centerpoint is Centerpoint," Turley said of the Knights. "They are going to ground and pound you and use the run to set up the passing game - we will have to play disciplined football."

He said that Murfreesboro would have to bring a good game to come out with a victory.

"Centerpoint won't beat themselves - they are well coached and have been in the same system since junior high," he said. "Coach [Cary] Rodgers really does a great job."

He said the Knights' use of sweep/counter/

power running game will force the Rattlers to "stay in the gaps" to give themselves a chance at victory.

He added the offense would have to complete passes and throw the ball on time this week if they expect to challenge the Knights' defense.

"It's always a challenge to go up against a 3A school, we just want to use it to get better for that first conference game."

Turley added that it was not a regular game playing against their in-county rivals.

"It would be nice to bring home the trophy it's been a while since we have beat them," he said noting the hiatus the teams took from playing each other recently. "It's nice to get back to the rivalry and should be a good attendance from both team's fans. The weather is supposed to be great," he said outside the chance of rain.

Quorum court told bridge replacement to begin soon

MURFREESBORO - The Pike County Ouorum Court was told work on the new Wolf Creek bridge on Strawberry Road in Delight would start this week.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said the county would only be required to do the approaches to the bridge, with contractor Randy Allen of Dierks handling the rest. Allen gave the only bid after it was posted statewide.

Howard said it would take approximately an estimated four months to complete the project, hopefully being completed before the majority of the fall rains.

In other reports regarding the spring flooding, Howard said the repair totals from FEMA for four roads would be approximately \$200,000 and should "come in pretty quickly." He added the county would absorb 25% of the repair costs.

He told the court that regular road maintenance was progressing, but slowed by the flooding repair events.

"It's tough right now," he admitted with one of the county's two bushhogs under repair in a saga that should be completed this week. The process to get the machine repaired has been

ongoing since April.

He said that he would look to purchase another bushhog for next year's mowing season to reduce any possible downtimes.

Quorum court member Robbie Crocker said he would like to see that happen, noting concerns by county residents that some roads were being overgrown.

Spraying instead of mowing was discussed, with Howard saying it was a viable option to "keep up" with overgrown vegetation on roadsides, but noted that some landowners has raised concerns of worries due to the potentially carcinogenic nature of the spray materials.

He added that because of the recent California wildfires, the State of Arkansas would be implementing a 80/20 grant on brush control machines that he would like to participate in.

Crocker said he understood the difficulties especially with 800 miles of roadways to keep clean, but citizens were still concerned with the overgrowth. Howard estimated that approximately half that distance had been cleared on the roadsides. Crocker added that spraying would be able to cover a lot more miles a day if that could be a viable option.

Howard said the county was also employing two boomhogs, but that was a slower process than a bushhog.

I also added a person [to that duty]," he reminded the court of his previous action, "and we are getting a lot more done. The privet hedge is a lot more prevalent that it was even twenty years ago, and that's one of the biggest problems.'

"We will work up until November ... I plan on getting it all cleared," he said.

It was told to the court that the recent auction of surplus materials by the Sheriff's Office netted \$33,698.50 and \$13,448.50 for the Judge's

County Treasurer Loletia Rather reported the following opening and closing values for county accounts in July:

- County General \$1,589,817.66; \$1,738,393.32
- County Road -- \$559,161.80; \$485,867.71
- County Landfill -- \$413,582.15; \$417,409.83 All County Accounts -- \$7,193,411.59;

\$7,217,824.34





Submitted photoPCUAEX

THANK YOU ... Pike County 4-Hers would to issue a special thank you to everyone who contributed to their annual summer cereal drive on 2025. "These kids have worked hard this summer keeping the blessing boxes full in Pike County," said Pike County 4-H program assistant Shannon Ballard. The program looked to distribute breakfast food items to local youth in need during the summer when they had no school to provide a meal.

South Pike County school board hears of progress on baseball/softball complex

MURFREESBORO – The South Pike County School Board was told about upcoming elections, and that Zone 5 and 7 would be up for election next, now for six-year terms (as opposed to four)

According to Superintendent Tanya Wilcher, petitions can be circulated now, with filings to be accomplished from Nov. 3-12 for ballot placements. The next election will be conducted on March 3, 2026. She also credited Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards with keeping them informed of dates and changes.

Wilcher also told the board that according to new law now in effect, 15 minutes prior to meetings is an "open mic" period open to the public, with the only things off limits was personnel matters and students directly named.

She added that the state school board association had certified the board in good standing and that all training hours for last school year had been completed.

Wilcher told the board that the road from the school to the baseball/softball complex had roughly been completed with just some "smoothing out" to be completed. She also stated that fencing had been going up and security cameras had been in-

She told the board that radios had been installed on all busses and that after an antenna is installed at Delight all dead areas should be eliminated. She also said that the first day of school recently was "hectic" with the number of routes being reduced from nine to seven, but after some practice the time to load busses after the end of school was down to six minutes.

She said the early returns on enrollment was 673, which is right at last year's number of 676.

In his report to the board, Elementary School Principal James Riley provided board members with a tentative school calendar, and told them that classes had been grouped by ability allowing for the "best chance groups" to get more extra help in needed areas. He said that students were able to change groups throughout the year as they progressed or needed more help.

He said the new goals for this year were to change the way the staff thought, that the "old ways were out the window" and that students learned differently today than they formerly did. By getting all the educators on the "same page" and assessing standards "more medically than educationally" they could all look toward the same goal which was helping kids grow. "We have to shift the way we think in order to move forward.'

He added that in addition to educational response to intervention (RTI) there would also be behavioral RTI this year because "behavior effects education."

In the high school report, several things were noted: Two robotics tournaments this year in November and Febru-

Eleventh graders recreated historic paintings as part of their

historic studies from the medieval to renaissance periods and how the art was influenced by society of the times Four students will enter artwork into the Pike County Fair as well as the Congressional Competition in the spring – last year two South Pike County students were named in the top five en-

tries in Bruce Westerman's district. The second period of the day will be utilized as the RTI or study hall period along with the "grab and go breakfast." The breakfast is free for all students and the period allows for math, science and ELA tutoring, and gives incentive for students to do well in order to avoid mandatory tutoring. The period also allows for students to complete homework when remediation

Pep Rally Fridays were discussed and will feature themed days such as USA, neon and retro

The number of cheer fundraisers was also discussed after a question from a board member. MHS Cheer sponsor Melissa Jones said that the cost of the extracurricular was roughly \$1,000 per year for each student and that the fundraiser helped completely pay for those costs (for some students) or at least lessen the burden. Jones added that the only way to lessen fundraising burdens was to scale back the activity.

In new business, the board approved the direct deposit of Square and Stripe payments from sporting events gate and concession stand sale as well as online season pass sales.

They also approved direct payments for the APSRC Pu

ing Card via Arvest Bank and property insurance.
After three bids, the 2025-2026 the low fuel bid was from

Blackmon Oil for the school year. The school's \$1,575,000 certificate of deposit (CD) bid went to

First State Bank at a 4.26% interest for the next year, with interest rates dropping from last year's 5.15% last year.

The next school board meeting was set for Tuesday Sept. 23 at

6 p.m. due to the window for budget approval.

After an executive session, the board accepted the resignations of Brianna Stevens as custodian and Linda Anderson as

a bus driver, as well as C.J. White, a paraprofessional aide as of Sept. 5. Ann Hughes was hired as a custodian.



ROAD COMPLETED ... The road linking the baseball/softball campus to the high school parking lot has been completed.

Harvest food box distribution set for Sept. 3

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-In starts at 7 a.m. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Ave & Owens St. towards First United Methodist Church.

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building. The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Act 626 of 1983, as amended, the Commissioner of State Lands will hold a public auction to dispose of the tax delinquent parcels which are listed below, all located in PIKE County, Arkansas. The auction will be held at the Avalon Keep Botanical Gardens -Event Center located at 4671 AR-8 in Mena, Arkansas, at 10:00 a.m. on October 1, 2025. Bidder registration will commence at 9:00 a.m

The parcels will be sold to the highest bidder, provided that such bid is equal to at least the total amount of taxes, penalty, interest, and costs due as certified to the Commissioner of State Lands. The full purchase price must be paid immediately following the sale. Payment can be made with a personal or business check, cashier's check, money order, or credit/debit card. No cash payments will be accepted. The owner of record has until 4:00 p.m. CT on the last business day prior to the auction to redeem the property. All sales are final. The purchaser will receive a Limited Warranty Deed for the property from the Commissioner of State Lands. The title conveyed by the Commissioner of State Lands is not clear title nor a fully warranted title. The Commissioner of State Lands does not guarantee or warrant clear

or merchantable title to the property sold. The original owner, assigns, or heirs have a ninety (90) day period during which the validity of the sale may be contested in court.

The Commissioner of State Lands strongly suggests that potential bidders perform their own research on the property listed below to determine its suitability for their uses, the status of the title, the existence of liens, and other tax assessments that may be due, but not collected by the Commissioner of State Lands. The sale of the parcel does not extinguish any lien for delinquent improvement district assess ments or relieve the purchaser of liability for delinquent improvement district assessments

Copies of the complete rules and regulations for the sale of tax delinquent parcels are available from the Commissioner of State Lands Office, 500 Woodlane Street, Suite 109, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 or www.cosl.org. TOMMY LAND

COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS

Pike County October 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

10499. CAMPBELL, BRENDA K. (HEIRS) % ROBIN PEYTON LOT 19 BLOCK 9 HIGHLAND ADDITION GLENWOOD 11 5S 24W 0.16 ACRES PARCEL #85000297001 CODE: 37 2020 TAX

\$974.54 10500. ENTRY CANCELLED 10501. GONZALES, JULIE LEANN SUBJECT TO A 14 FOOT ROAD EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF GRANTORS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE PROPERTY RUNNING FROM THE SOUTHEAST END TO THE SOUTHWEST END OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOT 12 BLOCK 9 HIGHLAND ADDITION GLENWOOD 11 5S 24W PARCEL #85000294001 CODE: 36 2020 TAX DUE \$285.28 10502. GONZALEZ, ABIGAIL LOT 8 (EXCEPT FOR THAT PART OF SHORT STREET) BLOCK B

10503. HANKINS, PEGGY %STEVE HANKINS N1/2 NW1/4 NE1/4 PLATTED ON RAILROAD ANTOINE 23 8S 23W 20.00 ACRES PARCEL #00100780000 CODE: 22 2020 TAX DUE \$1,963.98 10504. ENTRY CANCELLED

CRAWFORD'S ADDITION GLENWOOD 3 5S 24W PARCEL #85000359000 CODE: 38 2020 TAX DUE

Murfreesboro Diamond

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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. <u>Subscription Rates</u>: \$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.

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Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 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.

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Riverwalk Nights and Texas Christmas Lights: San Antonio and Texas Christmas Capital-Grapevine December 1-5, 2025 • 5 days/4 nights • \$985

New York City Christmas Spectacular featuring: The Radio City Rockettes December 5-12, 2025 • 8 days/7 nights • \$1995

Cruising thru The Change: Menopause The Musical in Branson January 17-18, 2026 • 2 days /1 night • \$299

VIP Mardi Gras Lafayette February 16-18, 2026 • 3 days/2 nights • \$535

Yosemite, Sequoia, Las Vegas, and Route 66 Anniversary Tour June 6-17, 2026 • 12 days/11 nights • \$2895

Washington DC: America's 250th Birthday Bash Exclusive Event June 29-July 7, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$3695



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in pursuance of the authority and directions contained in the decretal Order of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, made and entered on the 16th day of July, 2025, in a certain cause No. 55CV-25-9, then pending between First State Bank of DeQueen, Complainant, and Jose Zacarias, Brittany Zacarias and Kevin Greene, Defendants; the undersigned, as Commissioner of said Court, will offer for sale at public venue to the highest bidder, at the front door or entrance of the County Courthouse in which said Court is held, in the County of Pike, at 1:00 p.m., on the 23rd day of September, 2025, the following described real property situated in the County of Pike,

State of Arkansas, to-wit: Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE1/4 SW1/4) of Section Eight (8), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-five (25) West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner thereof and running thence North 582 ½ feet to the Point of Beginning; thence North 75 feet; thence West 149 feet; thence South 91 feet; thence East 54 feet; thence North 16 feet; thence East 95 feet to the Point of Beginning, same being part of and located in Kelley's Addition to the Town of Murfreesboro, per plat thereof as recorded in Deed Record Book "P" at page"410", records of Pike County, Arkansas.

LESŠ AND EXCEPT:

Part of the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 8, Township 8 South, Range 25 West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner thereof and run North 582.5 feet; thence West 95 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence South16 feet; thence West 54 feet; thence North 16 feet; thence East 54 feet back to the Point of Beginning, same being a part of and located in Kelley's Addition to the Town of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, per plat thereof recorded in Deed Record Book "P" at page 410, records of Pike County, Arkansas.

TERMS OF SALE: The real property shall be sold on a credit of three (3) months, the purchaser(s) being required to execute a bond as required by law and the order and decree of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the rate of Ten Percent (10%) per annum from date of sale until paid and a lien being retained on the property sold to secure the payment of the purchase money. Purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the deed transfer stamps.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND this the 19th day of August, 2025.

> SABRINA WILLIAMS, Commissioner In Circuit Court

> > e.t.b.,441W, 8

The science of happiness: focus on the positives in your past

In a recent article, we introduced the first of five key principles for building a better life: noticing and appreciating the good in the present moment. Today, we shift our focus to Happiness Principle #2 - focusing on the positives in your past.

It's often said that we are the stories we tell ourselves and that's especially true when it comes to our personal memories. Every person curates and constructs a unique life story, shaped by the memories they choose to emphasize. This story can be one of joy or one of sorrow, largely depending on how we interpret

Each of us carries a collection of defining memories, moments that have shaped who we are and what matters to us. These memories generally fall into two categories: painful and positive. Positive memories often come easily. They're the joyful moments that bring a smile to your face - a proud accomplishment, a moment of connection, a celebration, or a meaningful conversation. These experiences build our identity and can be powerful sources of emotional strength. But painful memories, the ones that hurt, disappoint, or bring shame, can also play an important role in shaping who we are. They are, admittedly, harder to face. You may have been deeply hurt by others, or you may have hurt someone yourself. Yet these memories can be rehabilitated and transformed into powerful foundations for growth and healing.

One of the most powerful ways to work with painful memories is to find meaning and growth within them. By reflecting on these difficult moments, we often uncover valuable lessons or recognize ways we've become stronger and more resilient. Painful experiences can lead to insight, compassion, and a clearer understanding of ourselves and the world.

Another way to heal from painful memories is through the act of forgiveness. This doesn't mean you excuse the behavior of those who hurt you, but rather that you choose to free yourself from carrying the weight of resentment. Understanding the struggles or limitations of others can help shift your perspective and allow for emotional release. Forgiveness, both for others and for yourself, creates room for peace.

In those cases where you've caused pain to others, seeking forgiveness can also be deeply healing. Reaching out with genuine remorse and a willingness to take responsibility allows you to let go of guilt and move forward with greater clarity and selfrespect. Whether or not the person is able to forgive you, the act of expressing regret and making amends can be a step toward

By applying these strategies - finding meaning, offering forgiveness, and seeking reconciliation - you can begin to shift the role painful memories play in your life. Rather than allowing them to take up unproductive space in your thoughts, you can transform them into sources of strength and growth. What we remember becomes part of who we are, but how we remember it shapes how we live. If you find it difficult to work through painful memories on your own, consider reaching out to a licensed mental health professional for support. You don't have to go through it alone.

While it's important to heal from pain, it's just as essential to celebrate the positive moments that have shaped you. Take time to reflect on memories that make you feel proud, loved, or joyful. When you mentally relive these experiences, they can trigger the same positive emotions you felt in the moment, creating an emotional boost that supports your well-being.

Once you've identified these uplifting memories, consider how you can give them greater visibility in your everyday life. You might choose to write about them in a journal or share the stories with close friends or family. You could also display photographs or keepsakes that remind you of those experiences in your home, office, or wallet. Some people even create scrapbooks or digital albums that celebrate the best parts of their lives.

However you choose to do it, the goal is to make your positive SUDOKU Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF 1-855-576-5653 ot applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 5 4 1 8 2 3 7 5 6 4 4 9 5 8 3 6 7 4 3

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



Q: What is squamous cell carcinoma?

A: Squamous cell carcinoma is a form of skin cancer caused by an overgrowth of squamous cells in the epidermis, the top layer of the skin. Overexposure to ultraviolet rays is the main cause of the condition. The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 1 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma each year.

Squamous cell carcinoma is a slowgrowing cancer that is easily treated if detected in its early stages. While ultraviolet rays are the main cause of squamous cell carcinoma, it can also be caused by conditions that affect the immune system such undergoing chemotherapy, having an organ transplant, psoriasis, or rheumatoid arthritis. Risk factors include being over the age of 50, exposure to radiation, having fair

skin, and using tobacco. Squamous

cell carcinoma affects men more

Symptoms include a sore or rough patch on the inside of the mouth. a shrinking fingernail or toenail, a dry or scaly bump or lump, open sores, and skin discoloration. Squamous cell carcinoma can spread to the lymph nodes and other organs.

Prevention includes limiting exposure to sunlight and avoiding tanning beds. Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms of squamous cell



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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memories more prominent and accessible, especially during times when you need encouragement or perspective.

Looking across the full arc of your life, reflect on the key themes that have defined your personal story. Have you sur-



Singing about the stars

There are predictions that the night sky will one day be so washed over by excess light, and so filled with satellites and space junk that stars will no longer be visible from Earth. The implication is that we humans can adapt to it as the new normal because we are already generally not interested in what the starry night has to offer.

One way to test whether or not interest in the night sky has waned to a significant degree is to look at how much attention it gets these days from artists and writers. Just focusing on the music of western culture, it is astounding to find so many songs about things astronomical.

Songs about the heavenly sphere of course go back many centuries, but more recently, to mention a few, there is "Moonlight Sonata" by Beethoven, and Gustav Holst's symphony about each of the planets titled, not surprisingly, "The Planets" in 1914-1918. Also, Claude Debussy composed "Claire de lune" (French for moonlight) in 1905. The Big Band generation danced to "Moonlight in Vermont" and "Stardust" (1927). Frank Sinatra sang "Fly Me Too the Moon". A list of songs written about the stars, and the Moon would probably reach the Moon, and the songs continue coming. I will mention Pink Floyd's "Time" from the album Dark Side of the Moon, and Don Mclean's "Vincent" about Vincent Van Gogh and his iconic painting Starry Night. Okay, just to mention a few more: Coldplay, "A Sky Full of Stars"; "Blue Ridge Mountain Sky" by Marshall Tucker Band; Midnight Sky" by Miley Cyrus; and "Look At the Stars" by Shawn Mendes.

There is no doubt that musicians are drawn to write about the beauty, mystery, and romance of the night sky. There is no doubt there is a huge audience wanting those songs. Taking a further reach into the importance of the night sky to our civilization think about how many romantic movie scenes have been filmed with the stars or the Moon in the backdrop. Also, more than a few commercials present a scene where the happy customer, because of an improved quality of life (thanks to the advertised product) is stargazing. The celestial sphere continues to inspire.

You're invited....



To a wedding shower honoring Valorie Lott & Žach Clark on Sunday, Sept. 7 from 2-4 at the First Christian Church in Mufreesboro.

Valorie is the daughter of David & Amy Lott, the granddaughter of Bill & Dian Henderson and Luther & Donnis Lott and the great-graddaughter of Freeman & Helen Henderson.

The couple is registered at Caddo Antique& & Wal -Mart and Amazon

Ace of Diamonds

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vived great hardship? Built lasting friendships? Grown through struggle? Lived with joy, creativity, or purpose? Is your story one of exploration, perseverance, or quiet steadiness? Choose the themes that feel most true to who you are and let them become the cornerstones of your personal narrative.

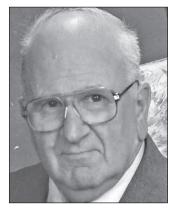
Your life is more than just a series of events, it's the meaning you assign to those events. By choosing to emphasize themes of strength, love, and growth, you create a life story that affirms your identity and supports your happiness.

You can also change your perspective on your past by reconnecting with the people who share it. One powerful way to do

HAPPINESS Continued on Page 7

Obituaries

Jesse Clovis Bagwell, Aug. 21



Jesse Clovis Bagwell, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, was born July 16, 1933, and passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 21, 2025.

Jesse proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War, where he worked as a cook and provided meals and comfort to his fellow servicemen.

After returning home, he began a long and dedicated career with GM Motors. He retired after 32 years of service, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and commitment.

In retirement, Jesse devoted himself to the things he loved most — his family, his Arkansas Razorbacks, and his gardens. He became well known in the community for the huge gardens he grew each year, and especially for his tomatoes,

which earned him a reputation as a master gardener and a generous neighbor. He also played a mean game of dominoes, and many family and friends will fondly remember the fun and laughter gathered around the table with him.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 30 years, Mary "Bobbie" Bagwell, who passed away in 2004, as well as his sons Doug, Luther, and

Jesse is survived by his children Terri, Randy (Angie), Mary, Judy, and Johnetta; and by his grandchildren Zach, Frankie (Quincy), Jarred (Peyton), Allison, and Paige. Jesse will be remembered

for his kindness, his dedication, and the simple but meaningful ways he enriched the lives of those around him. The family received friends

on Monday, August 25, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 in Murfreesboro Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

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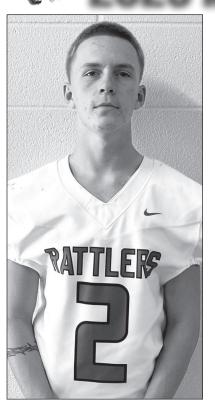
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2025 MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL RATTLERS





#2 • LIAM EOFF



#3 • GARRETT LAMB



#4 • ISAAC KUYKENDALL



#6 • D.J. LEEPER



#7 • DRAKE EOFF



#10 • KOOPER CALDWELL



#11 • KALE BURNS



#15 • PRICE CHEEK



#17 • ROSS SPRADLIN



#20 • CALEB TERRELL



#21 • CAYDEN BALLARD



#23 • LUCAS CAREY



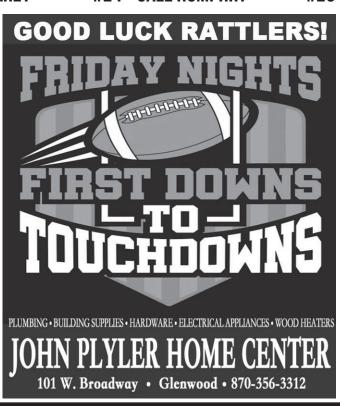


#25 • ADEN STINSON



#32 • GARRETT DOWNS











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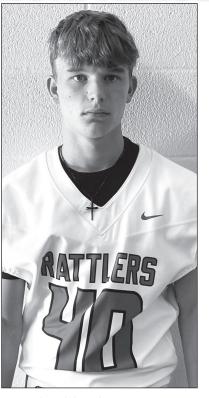


2025 MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL RATTLERS





#34 • ALEX PARKER



#40 • COLTON TIDWELL



#50 • KADEN EPPERLY



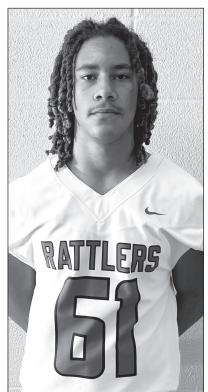
#55 • MASON WILKINS



#56 • CAMERON BRADEN



#60 • COLE MCKNIGHT



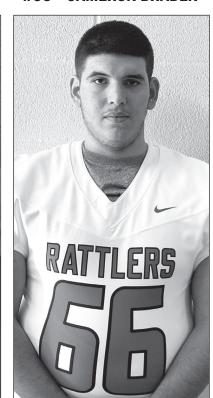
#5 • JAMAURI JONES



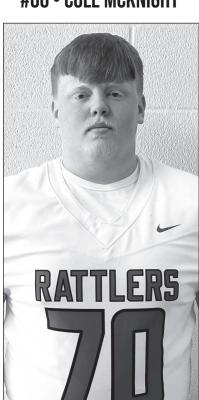
#64 • REID JACKSON



#65 • LOGAN BURRIS



#66 • CORBIN HOOVER



#70 • HAWKINS JACKSON



NOT PICTURED 13 • BRANSON MCMILLIAN 52 • ISAAC SMITH 71 • JOHN PARKER JACKSON

RATTLERS SEE CHANGE AT TOP, LOOK TO PROGRESS IN 2025

MURFREESBORO - After an off-season of change at the top, the Murfreesboro Rattler football team will look to maintain their winning ways of the past few seasons.

Former head coach Brad Chesshir left after last season to take the head coaching position at his alma mater,

Hired to replace Chesshir is a familiar face, former Rattler head coach Jay Turley, who will again prowl the sidelines at Rattler Stadium.

"It's great to be back," said Turley. "I love it."

He admits to a "little learning curve" in his return "getting back into the swing of things ... and getting used to being outside every day [in the heat] has been in the big-

gest issue," he said with a laugh.

However, some things never change for a coach. "This offense is my offense, I designed it when I became a head coach, it's some things I have stolen from others and I know it like the back of my hand - I feel comfortable doing it. So, white it took me a while to remember the verbiage to call a play, it's all coming back now in the swing of things."

Turley said his squad has a chance to be "pretty good"

Of course, in the change of regimes, the Rattlers will look a bit different this season.

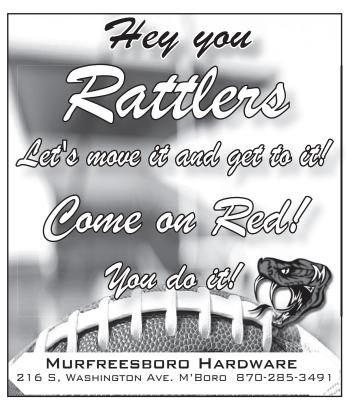
"Obviously we will have different schemes both offensively and defensively. It's been a learning curve this past summer [for the team]. We are starting to pick it up ... and if we do, we can be dangerous offensively."

Defensively, we will be different with a new coordinator [Buddy Ray] as far as scheme. They've picked it up well ... I think right now our defense is a little ahead of our offense. Coach Ray is doing an awesome job teaching technique. We will attack a little more this season [defensively].

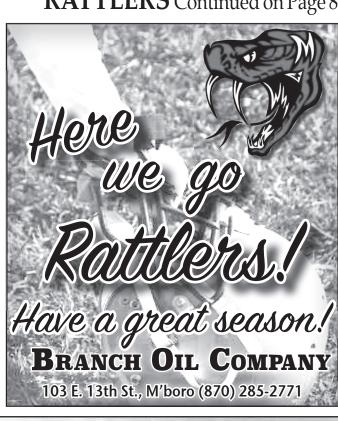
Unlike the past few seasons under Chesshir with a primarily running attack, the Rattlers will go back to a

spread offense, looking to spread the ball over the field. "We will try to get our playmakers in space, where they can make plays," Turley explained.

RATTLERS Continued on Page 8











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Fair entries – stitched in the traditions of farms, family and fun

BY EVA LANGLEY Pike County Extension Agent

PIKE COUNTY -- The 2025 Pike County Fair is just around the corner, and this year's theme -- "Stitched in Tradition: A Patchwork of Farms, Family and Fun" -- invites the community to celebrate the timeless skills and heartfelt traditions that make rural life so rich. From canning garden-fresh vegetables to quilting heirloom blankets, from baking blue-ribbon pies to proudly displaying homegrown produce, the fair is a tribute to the creativity, hard work, and family customs that have been passed down through generations. Whether you've crocheted a cozy throw, harvested honey from your backyard hive, or grown the perfect pumpkin, the Martin Exhibit Building is the perfect place to share your handiwork — and maybe even earn a ribbon.

More Information can be found at www. pikecountyfairandrodeo.com/exhibits Be sure to go online to check on the specific details as they include important information that you will need to know before bringing you entries to the fair. Also, please take the time to read the rules and regulations at www.pikecountyfairandrodeo.com/rules-regulations

Check in times for the Martin Building are as follows: Monday - 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Baked goods and cut flowers should be entered on Tuesday before 9 a.m. and are the only items that can be entered on Tuesday. The building will close at 9 a.m. on Tuesday for judging and reopen after the fair parade. Everything exhibited in the Martin Building will be judged on its own merit and receive either 1st Place, 2nd Place, or 3rd Place. Please bring a self-addressed stamped envelope with all entries in the Martin Build-

Here is a quick overview of the various Departments. Each Department is divided into Sections and then each Section is broken down into Classes. In most cases, but not all, there will be a Class called "Other" for items that do not fit into a particular Class. Only one item per Class for each exhibitor.

DIVISIONS INCLUDE: Junior Exhibitors -5 to 19 years, Senior Exhibitors - 20 and up, Special Needs Exhibitors, Elder Care Exhibitors. Items must be completed in the last year and must not have been previously entered into another county fair.

COMPETITIVE DEPARTMENTS

- ART: The board reserves the right to reject any work it considers unsuitable for exhibition. Items must be completed in the last year and must not have been previously entered into another county fair. Only one item per class for
- BAKING: Exhibits must be in place by 9 a.m. Tuesday. To prevent waste, the food item may be carried home after 5 p.m. Tuesday, leaving a sample for display. Displayed exhibits must be picked up on Sunday between 12-4 p.m. only. Exhibits must be made by exhibitor only. All exhibits must be on disposable plate and covered with plastic wrap or zip lock bag. Only dummies may be used for decorated cakes. Only one entry per exhibitor per class.
- CLOTHING: Garments must be clean, finished, and in good repair. Garments must be made by the exhibitor. Garments must be made within the past year. Exhibitors must furnish appropriate hangers.
- CRAFTS: Entries must be made by person entering the exhibit and must have been completed within the past year. Kits may be used or copied. Patterns may be used. Originals may be so labeled. No Legos. The decision of the judges is final.
- EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS: Educational booth space must be requested before September 3 by contacting the Pike County Extension office at (870) 285-2161. Booth must be set up

FOR FULL FAIR SCHEDULE visit www.pikecountyfairandrodeo.com

by 6 p.m. Tuesday. Exhibits must be picked up on Sunday between 12-4 p.m. All materials including staples must be removed. Guidelines can be found online.

 FLOWER/PLANT SHOW: Flower containers - must be furnished by exhibitor, must be marked underneath for identification, the containers in which plant is grown will not be considered by judges, and the fair committees will not be responsible for personal property. Flowers - All specimens must be grown by exhibitor only and be in exhibitor's possession at least 3 months. Only one exhibit per person may be entered in any one class. Exhibitors must furnish name of plant when making entry. Remove the leaves that will be below the waterline. Foliage should be groomed of all dust. Do not spray with a leaf shine.

• FOOD PRESERVATION: All containers must be labeled with the following informa-

Product Name, Canning Method: 1. Pressure # lbs., number of minutes; 2. Water Bath, number of minutes or 3. Other, Explain.

(We will have blank labels at the fair for you to use or you can pick up labels at the Pike County Extension Office at 100 Court Street, Murfreesboro

All entries must be canned by exhibitor only. Dehydrated foods should be displayed in quart jar. All canned foods must be in standard clear glass canning jars with self-sealing, two-piece lids. No tattler lids on jars. Jars must have a vacuum seal (except jars containing dried products). Appropriate head space requirements must be followed. No artificial coloring added to canned goods.

• HOUSEHOLD ARTS: Needlework includes linens, crochet, embroidery, quilting, etc. - Entries must be made by person entering the exhibit and must have been completed within the past year. Kits may be used or copied. Patterns may be used. Originals may be so labeled. The decision of the judges is final.

• PHOTOGRAPHY: Please enter only one per class. Exhibit open to amateur photographers only and must be the original work of the exhibitor and not previously shown in the Southwest Arkansas District Show. All photographs must be 5"x7" or larger and mounted on 11"x14" mats. Photographs eligible for state exhibit must be 8"x10". No framed pictures allowed. Best of Show, cash awards, and ribbons will be given in both divisions (black and white/color). Photo entries must have the exhibitor's tag securely fastened to the exhibit so that it hangs on the upper left hand corner of the mat. Tags should be attached with string and taped to the back of the mount. No lettering is permitted on the front of the mount or on the photo. Junior Division will follow the same guidelines. Youth in grades 1 through 12. Place a "J" before ALL Junior entries.

• FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS: Includes arrangements, wreaths, wall hangings, etc. in which flowers and greenery (fresh or artificial) are used as a major part of the item. Entries must be made by person entering the exhibit and must have been completed within the past year. The decision of the judge is final.

• HOME FURNISHINGS: This department includes basketry and beading

HOBBIES: This department includes insect

• APIARY: This department includes honey This article does not include information on other areas of the fair such pageants, pet shows, fish pageant, farm animals, rodeo, etc. However, all that information is available on the Pike County Fair and Rodeo Facebook page and at https://www.pikecountyfairandrodeo.com/

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Breakfast: Pancake on stic or cereal, fruit,

Lunch: BBQ rib sandwich cole slaw, basked beans, applesauce, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Spicy chicken sandwich, lettuce & tomato

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Breakfast: Sausage crossiant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheese pizza, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, seasoned carrots, mixed fruit, milk 7-12 line 2 option- Deep dish pepperoni piz-

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

No School

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, green beans, California blend vegetables, garlic bread, peaches,

7-12 line 2 option- Chicken tenders WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Breakfast: Mini powered donuts or cereal,

Lunch: Frito pie w/cheese, pinto beans, baby carrots w/ranch, 7-12 whole grain cookie, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 line 2 option - Cheeseburger, fries, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles

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

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 email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

Edward Jones

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'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

As a child of God, I view Bible class as an essential element in my spiritual service and my growth as a Christian. Bible class allows me to openly study God's word and to share with others as we learn together. We have classes for all ages and teachers who study and prepare to deliver their lessons. All who attend these classes grow in grace and knowledge and are blessed by looking deeply into

If you are not currently attending Bible classes, I would encourage you to begin doing that. It is essential that each one of you help not only yourself grow, but to edify and encourage others and to help us all become more spiritual. As we study together, we will become closer to each other, as well as closer to our God.



THREE **EXCELLENT** REASONS TO ATTEND BI-BLE CLASSES:

1. I Like to be With My Brothers and Sisters.

Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.

1 John 3:14 – We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

2. I Love the Truth.

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

John 8:32 – You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

3. I Want to be a Good Example.

Hebrews 10:24 – And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

man despise thy youth, but be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. These are just 3 of many

1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no

good reasons to attend Bible class. Can you think of one good reason one should not attend?

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Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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Bro. Buddy Ray

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TAVE AN ITEM YOURD LIKE TO STE INCLUDED?

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MEET ME IN ...

* -- Theme Related Clue

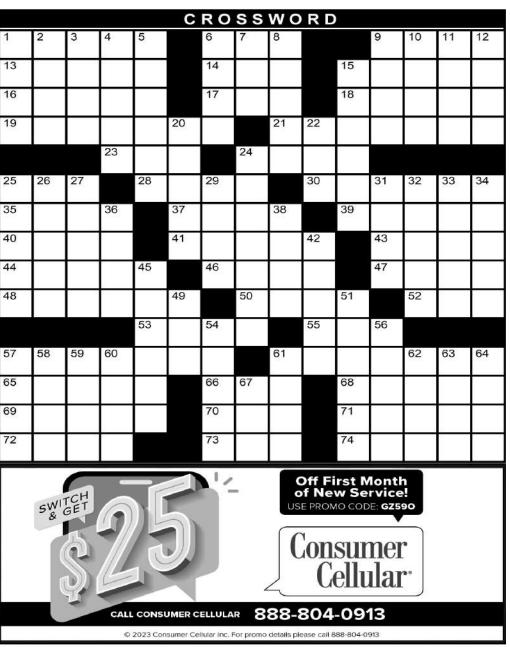
ACROSS

- 1. Manual calculator, pl. 6. Beach Boys: "____ Only Knows"
- 9. Army beds
- 13. Pressed ham and cheese sandwich
- 14. Part of spch
- 15. Popular Latin dance
- 16. Influencer's creation 17. Hula dancer's flowers
- 18. Birdlike
- 19. *Meet me here, under the arch
- 21. *Meet me at the Top of the Rock 23. Comic book expression for alarm
- 24. Press backward arrow key
- 25. "Hand" with claws
- 28. Spreadsheet software command
- 30. Day off, backwards
- 35. Bug-eyed 37. "Cheers" regular
- 39. Coupe alternative
- 40. Be dependent
- 41. Damage one's reputation
- 43. Slightly (2 words)
- 44. Prefix for below 46. Shade of beige
- 47. Java neighbor
- 48. War mounts 50. Rope fiber
- 52. "____ Now or Never"
- 53. Leave at the altar 55. Flapper's feathers
- 57. *Meet me at the London Bridge 61. *The Black Eyed Peas: "Meet Me
- 65. *Meet me in ____ Mara, Kenya
- 66. Undergarment
- 68. *Meet me in Australia to see this bear
- 69. Done to printer cartridge 70. Corn unit
- 71. Poet W. H. of "Funeral Blues" fame 72. Infamous Nazi villain
- 73. Strong solution of sodium
- 74. Like gelled hair

DOWN

- 1. Parts of a play
- 2. Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"
- 3. Cain's victim
- 4. Paddler's vessel
- 5. Endows or empowers 6. "Buffalo _____, won't you come out tonight..."
 - 7. Keats' poem
 - 8. Jinn or genie
 - 9. Guinea pig or capybara
 - 10. Mixture
 - 11. Russian monarch
 - 12. What Titanic did 15. Went to bid farewell (2 words)
 - 20. *Meet me in Orthodox church to see these
 - 22. *Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968
 - 24. *Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands
 - 25. *Meet me under the Eiffel Tower

 - 26. Real estate broker, e.g.27. "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom
 - 29. *Meet me by the Trevi Fountain
 - 31. Adipose tissue
 - 32. *Meet me at the Burj Khalifa
 - 33. Like the Tower of Pisa
 - 34. Bigfoot's cousins 36. Swirling vortex
 - 38. Filly's mother
 - 42. Popular Cuban dance
 - 45. Be next to, as in rooms
 - 49. Fall from grace 51. The Kenosha Kickers' songs
 - 54. Sticker on a jar 56. Run ____ of the law
 - 57. Same as ayah
- 58. Respiratory rattling 59. Osiris' sister and wife
- 60. Opposite of zigs 61. Tortoise's opponent
- 62. Do like fly fishermen
- 63. Sheltered, nautically 64. Pull
- 67. Everybody loved him on TV



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HAPPINESS Continued from Page 3

this is by writing letters of gratitude to individuals who have had a positive impact on your life. These notes don't have to be sent - you can write to people who are no longer living or who are no longer in your life. The act of expressing thanks, even privately, can deepen your appreciation and reinforce the value of those relationships.

Another meaningful approach is to interview family members you admire. Ask them what experiences helped shape their character and what values or strengths they developed over time. Listening to their stories may give you insight into your own path and reveal shared values or traits that connect you more deeply to your family history.

Finally, consider exploring your ancestry through old photographs, letters, or documents. Talk to elder members of your family and learn about the lives of those who came before you. Understanding your roots can foster a strong sense of belonging and cultivate gratitude for the resilience, creativity, and love that may run through generations.

Happiness Principle #2 reminds us that we are not bound by our past, but we are shaped by how we choose to remember it.

By reframing painful memories, celebrating positive ones, and choosing empowering themes, we can write a life story that supports our well-being and reflects our deepest truths.

Next week, we'll explore Happiness Principle #3: "Looking Forward to Tomorrow". Until then, take time to revisit your past with kindness, curiosity, and courage - and shape a story worth living and sharing.

This series on the five principles for building a better life is from University of Arkansas Extension's "Blueprint for Happiness" curriculum. If you would like information on having this presented to a group, contact your county FCS agent. In Pike County, call 870-285-2161.

This week's recipe is one that was often served by my mom. I know now that it was a frequent meal in our house because it fed a lot people without costing a lot of money, but back then I just knew it was delicious and when paired with cast iron skillet cornbread, we were happy and well fed. Bonus for me was sitting at the table with mom and together we sorted the bag of beans looking for and removing any tiny rocks we found. What a rich memory! Here is her basic recipe, but don't be afraid to add spices, chopped onion, minced garlic, cooked ground beef or sliced smoked sausage. Great served with cornbread or

served over rice. Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: PINTO BEANS **DIRECTIONS:**

All you need to do to make this pinto bean recipe is combine sorted, well-rinsed beans, salt, and water to cover. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a strong simmer, and simmer with the lid off for 40-60 minutes. Check occasional to make sure they don't cook dry and scorch. If we had it, mom would add bacon for flavor. Typically, dried pinto beans will triple in volume once cooked, so 1 cup of dried beans will yield 3 cups of cooked pinto

If you want to cook in a slow cooker, all you need to do is add the water, sorted and washed beans, and salt - then set it and forget it for 4-6 hours.

Some soak their beans overnight or several hours and discard the soaking water before cooking to shorten cooking time or to make them more digestible, so if you're got a sensitive stomach, you may have fewer issues using this method. For those of you who have an instant pot pressure cooker, you can have beans in less than an hour following your manufacturers' instructions.

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-25-38 -- M'Charla Barrett, vs Russell Barrett, order of pro-

tection, July 28 DR-25-39 -- Justin Ingolia, vs. Emily Scoles, paternity, July 29 DR-25-40 -- Laura Ketchum, vs. Chester Ketchum, order of protection, Aug. 1

DR-25-41 -- Pamela Edmondson, vs. Dorsey Edmondson, divorce, Aug. 1 DR-25-42 -- M'Charla Barrett, vs. Russell Barrett, divorce,

Aug. 1 DR-25-43 -- Myranda Thompson, vs. William Thompson, di-

vorce, Aug. 7 DR-25-44 -- Timothy Stone, vs. Tamantha Stone, divorce, Aug. DR-25-45 -- Courtney Smith, vs. Crystel Hegyi, order of pro-

DR-25-46 -- Courtney Smith, vs. Melanie Faulkner, order of July 30

protection, Aug. 13

DR-25-47 -- Courtney Smith, vs. Larry Faulkner, order of protection, Aug. 13

DR-25-48 -- Krystal Cox, vs. Jesse Cox, divorce, Aug. 15 CIVIL

CV-25-61 -- Capital One, vs. Tom Wofford, debt collection, July CV-24-62 -- Arvest Bank, vs. Caryol Jones, contract/other, July

30 CV-25-63 -- Capital One, vs. Luis Garcia, debt collection, July 30 CV-25-64 -- Capital One NA., vs. Vernon Caughron, debt col-

lection, July 30 CV-25-65 -- Capital One NA., vs. Stephen Forrest, debt collec-

tion, July 30

CV-25-66 -- Capital One NA., vs. Anthony Fox, debt collection,

CV-25-67 -- Citibank, vs. Amanda Higgs, debt collection, Aug. CV-25-68 -- Velocity Investments LLC., vs. Jody Allmon, debt

collection, Aug. 8 CV-25-69 -- Jay Spoo, vs. Robert Flowers, automobile tort,

Aug. 14 CV-25-70 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. A. McCool and T. Welch, contract/other, Aug. 21

MARRIAGE LICENSE Logan Scott Webb, 24, Delight; Nikki Lyn Hutcherson, 23, Delight, Aug. 4

Jonatan Bolanos, 19, Glenwood; Emily Nicole Scoles, 21, Glenwood, Aug. 5 Cristian Alexander Serrano, 20, Delight; Isabel Grace Mauld-

in, 20, Delight, Aug. 11 Jadynn Wes Vic, 20, Glenwood; Natalee Nicole Turjillo, 20, Glenwood, Aug. 14

Justin Chad Yarbrough, 43, DeQueen; Summer Danyel Markham, 40, DeQueen, Aug. 15

Sawyer Shane Markham, 20, Amity; Kristen Rochelle Phillips, 22, Amity, Aug. 18 Jordan Taylor Lacefield, 23, Delight; Jasmine Skye Moncus, 20, Delight, Aug. 22

Damon & Michelle Peebles Personal Property Auction 167 Ramage Road • Nashville, Arkansas Saturday, August 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Damon & Michelle Peebles have sold their home of many years and are moving into a smaller home and not able to take everything. There are a lot of nice items in this auction.

Directions: From Nashville take Mt. Pleasant Dr. approx. 4 miles, turn right on Ramage Road.

Auction is 0.3 miles on the left. Watch for signs.

Loveseat & Couch, Pair of Wingback Chairs, 6 Dining Chairs & Table, Bench, Kitchen Items, Antique Wine Cabinet, Ottoman, Lamps, Puzzles/Games, Decor Pillows, Character TV Trays, Books, Movies/DVD's, Canning Items, Small Appliances, Set of Dishes, Craft Items, Night Stand/End Tables/Side Table, (3) Recliners, Queen Bed Mattress & Frame, Nice King Bedroom Suite - 2 Night Stands, High Boy Dresser, Jewelry Armoire, Large Mirror, Several Deer Mounts, Antlers, Squirrel Mount, Fox Mount, Wooden Cradle, TV, Wooden High Chair, Stain Glass Lambs, Crossbow, (2) Antique Wooden Telephones, Air Rifle, Bedding, Dining Chairs, Furniture, Chirstmas & Seasonal Decor, 9 Ft. & 7Ft. Christmas Trees, Corner Entertainment Center, 2 Chests, Queen Bed Frame w/Mattress, Chandelier, Exercise Bike, Warn Winch - Not Working, Bunk Beds, Glider Rocker, Misc. Chairs, Antique Table, End Tables, Club Chair, Winch, Bar Stools/Counter Stools, Rolling Clothes Rack, Honda 4-Wheeler Not Running, Craftsman Belt Sander, '84 Layton Funtime Camper-18 Ft. Bumper Pull-w/Title, Slot Machine, Upright Freezer, Golf Clubs For Tall/Long - 2 Inches Longer, Desk, Office Chair, Black Settee Couch, Vintage Suitcases, Baskets, Clock, Vac & Carpet Cleaner.

Gun Lot and Description: #3737 - Browning 22 Buckmark 22L Semi-Auto, #3738 - Marlin 17 HMR Bolt Action w/Sightron 3x9x40 Scope, #3739 - Marlin 22 Magnum w/Simmon Scope 3x9-Bolt Action, #3740 - Remington 270-Synthetic Stock- Model 710 Bolt Action w/Busnell 3x9 Scope, #3741 - Marlin 30/30 Model 336 Lever Action w/Nicon 3x9 Scope & Sling, #3742 - Browning 22 Semi-Auto, #3743 - Browning 12g Pump Field Model 26 - 2 3/4 & 3 Inc, **#3744** - Remington 12g Mohawk48 - 2 3/4 Auto, **#374**5 -Mossberg 12g Model CC660 Pump 2 3/4 & 3 Inch, #3746 - 410 Remington R310 410g - Western Auto Pump, #3747 - Herrington & Richardcon 20g Single Shot, #3748 - Knight 50 Cal Inline MK 85 Muzzleloader Lupeol 4 Fire. #3749 - 50 Cal Thompson Center Muzzleloader - Missing Ram Rod. #3750 - Tradition 5o Cal Muzzleloader, **#3751** - Synthetic Stock for Browning A Bolt 270 Cal, **#3752** - Air Rifle, #3753 - Crossbow. Must Be 21 Years of Age And Resident of Arkansas To Purchase Firearms. 5% Buyer's Premium. Complete payment the day of sale, cash or approved check with proper I.D. or

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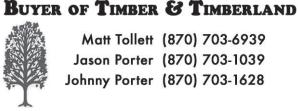
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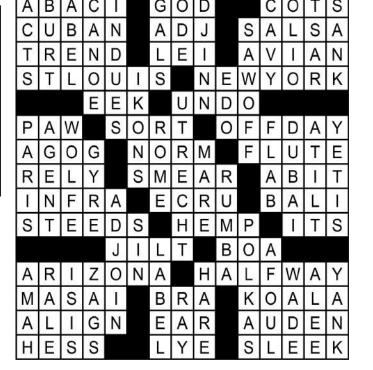
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RATTLERS Continued from Page 5

Turley said the strength of the offense will start up front with three returning starters and a frequent player returning.

"That will help us," he said, listing Hawkins Jackson as the starting center, Logan Burris and Mason Wilkins as a guards and Cole McKnight and John Parker Jackson as tackles. "Most of out staring offensive line is back, which helps us tremendously.

Garrett Lamb will line up as a tight end to start the season, a departure from his left guard position last season.

Adien "Bubba" Stinson will start at running back with "good speed and quickness – great vision and hard to tackle."

Alex Parker will also see time in the offensive backfield. "He has the same dynamic. Small, quick speedy kid that is hard to tackle - he's a track star obviously."

At wide receiver the team will have returning starter Kale Burns, who Turley labels as "a real smart kid picking up the offense well. He's a big play threat with his speed."

Also at WR will be Isaac Kuykendall, Caleb Terrell and Cale Humphry, the latter of which will also serve as the team's backup quarterback.

Kooper Caldwell will start as the team's quarterback.

"He has a strong arm with good touch on the ball. He's still learning the offense and what I want him to see. But I've seen improvements [in the learning curve] every day."

Defensively, the team will see some new faces on the line, including Corbin Hoover and Cameron Braden at tackles, Burris and Lamb at defensive ends. Stinson will serve as middle linebacker, with Garret Downs as inside linebacker.

Drake Eoff will play at outside linebacker. "He's done a really good job, and he didn't play last year." Burns and Kuykendall will roam the team's defensive second-

ary along with newcomer Liam Eoff.

Turley said Caldwell, Parker, Lucas Carey and Cayden Ballard will also serve as linebackers for the team. He feels good about the team's depth, noting he expected

around 29 kids to participate in the team's opening game. "We feel good about our numbers, and we are getting good

quality practices, because a lot of the guys on defense don't play on offense ... so a lot of quality one-on-one practice.

Another reason Turley is excited to be back is because of the support of the community.

This is a football town, and that's what I love about Murfreesboro. That's why I came back, because I know how much it means to the people here and the community. I got to witness on livestream the game with Mineral Springs two years ago, and that got the itch back in me. I knew I needed to get back into this and back to Murfreesboro. This is the best place I've ever been and this is where I will retire."

Turley said his predecessor did a great job in making his even

"[Chesshir] did a great job of building culture, so I've walked into a really great situation. I have nothing bad to say about Brad. The culture change he brought was needed. Most of the schools I've been to have been a rebuilding type situation. So it's great to come in with kids that are already bought into what you are trying to do. You may do some things a little differently, but they are still bought in, hardworking great kids.

With making the playoffs an obviously goal for the squad, Turley hopes that the team will be able to shake the second round exits of the past two seasons.

"We want to get past that second round. That's kinda been the thorn in our side, it was when I was here last time and has been the last couple years. We need to get past the second round and make a run at this ... football is about staying healthy and getting lucky, and if those things can happen, I think we can do that."

He believes the team can potentially compete for a state title. "We have a chance ... we have the kids that can, if we stay healthy. They are working their butts off, and we are beating them down every day. They are bought in, there's no other way to say it – as much as they hate it [summer practices] they still do it, working their tails off. That's refreshing as a coach – I'm not going to talk bad about some places I've been, but getting kids to buy in sometimes is hard. Getting them to understand the importance of conditioning and doing the little things right are the keys to winning. How you do anything is how you do everything. Getting kids to understand that we have to practice and practice well if you are going to play well isn't common everywhere."

He said the offseason 7-on-7 games didn't "go well" but chalked that up to the new offense.

"Learning a new offense and throwing a bunch were new to

us. We competed hard, but we just had a lot of misreads and dropped balls. Kids just not used to getting the ball thrown to them and learning the routes - how the route works and finding the soft spot in the zone, how to beat man coverage. It was a learning curve this summer."

However, he said participation in the summer workouts was excellent, with no one having to do the extra work for missing more than the allotted number of excused absences.

"That's incredible – probably the first time I've ever had that ... the participation was just phenomenal. It speaks to the quality of our kids – they are just fantastic. I'll put our kids up against anyone in the state."

Turley is also excited about his coaching staff, which also saw Your hometown pizza place is cheering on our home team! **Go Rattlers!**

a fairly heavy turnover this last offseason.

"Not to pat myself on the back, but I think I've done a great job of hiring a great mix of coaches."

They include Chuck Lowery, who also makes his return to Murfreesboro, and well as Jonathan Bennett, who is a holdover from last year's squad.

"Thank God he stayed with us, because he is irreplaceable," Turley said of Bennett. Also on staff is Kevin Bright, who will also serve as the boy's

basketball coach. Ray, last year's offensive coordinator, will head the defense

this year.

"When you have Buddy Ray doing anything, you are winning," Turley said with a laugh. "He's old school, as am I, so it's just a bunch of old school coaches coaching with old school ways. It's rare these days you can do that - many kids wouldn't



both on and off the field. That's the standard and that's what we

expect of them.

2025 MHS FOOTBALL COACHES ... (L to R) Mark Turley, Chuck Lowery, Kevin Bright, Buddy Ray, head coach Jay Turley and Jonathan Bennett.



2025 MHS RATTLER CHEER ... (L to R) Back row sophmores Mashaylia Morris, Kyndall Henderson, Macy Gills, Kinley Fisher and Chloe Cross; middle row juniors Ava Cox, Laini Liggin, Ramsey Terrell, Gianna Draper, Josey Jones, Charleigh Wheeler and Bella Frazier; front row seniors Teegan Barnett and Kinleigh Mounts.

