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Teen sentenced after shooting event

MURFREESBORO -- A Glenwood teen was sentenced on Aug. 25 in Pike County Circuit Court on an amended charge of making felony threats and possessing of a defaced firearm.

Kaiden Evans, 18, was original charged in February with intimidating a witness but plead guilty to an amended charge of terroristic threatening and the firearm charge. He was sentenced by Judge Bryan Chesshir to a total of six years in the Arkansas Department with two years suspended.

The charges stem from an Arkansas State Police investigation in December 2024 involving a home at 625 South Second Street in Glenwood that had been shot at least 15 times while occupied by Kierra Stenstrom, who was hit in the upper torso. The victim's injuries were described as non-life threatening, according to case information.

On Jan. 31, Evans was arrested in relation to the shooting case after state police found a Taurus Millennium G2 handgun that had its serial numbers scrapped off.

The charge of terroristic threatening was filed after Evans admitted to texting a potential witness in the case, Lindsey Brooks.

Also on Aug. 25 in Pike County court, Brianna Vanauken, 43, of Glenwood, plead guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

Walking program now open to register

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK -- What starts with your feet can do a world of good for your brain, said Bryce Daniels, assistant professor and state extension health specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

It's something Daniels knows firsthand. "Walking has mental, physical and social benefits that can improve brain clarity and body functioning to handle the challenges of life," he said. "I relied on walking outside to complete my doctoral dissertation.

"I wrote in my acknowledgement that 'this dissertation does not get completed without all the workouts and leisure time physical activity I performed,'" he said. "May this document demonstrate that a 30-minute brisk walk can take you a far ways."

Arkansans will have a chance to commit to similar power-ups through the fall edition of Walk Across Arkansas. This year, the fall edition runs Sept. 8 to Nov. 2, with online registration at walk.uada.edu opening on Aug. 25.

"We want to increase the number of participants this year in hopes that more people are tracking their physical activity minutes and enjoying the benefits of being physically active," Daniels said. "Walk Across Arkansas is a long-standing program that uniquely brings together people and have Arkansans tracking their physical activity to bring awareness to living an active lifestyle."

SPRING 2025 STATS

The event isn't just limited to walking. Participants can record biking, running, aerobics or any other exercise.

When it comes to the amount of participant physical activity in the spring 2025 edition of Walk Across Arkansas, those 18 years and younger averaged the most hours per week at 14.6. However, the next older age group — 19 to 29 — averaged the fewest hours of physical activity per week at 2.5.

The event attracted 376 participants across 42 counties.

For more information on the program, please visit www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/health/health-programs/walk-across-arkansas.aspx

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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Submitted photos/Dewayne Holloway, Glenwood Herald

DEFEATING THE KNIGHTS ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers won their opening game of the season last Friday night by a 50-22 score at Centerpoint. The Rattlers will host Fouke this week at home.

Rattlers slay Knights to open season with win

ROSBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers opened their 2025 season with a 50-22 victory over the Centerpoint Knights last Friday night.

"It was a convincing win," said Rattler head coach Jay Turley. "We feel good about it."

However, of course the head Rattler feels there is still room for improvement.

"We still have some things to clean up ... we had some penalties stall some drives. Also, we need to clean up our screen game blocks -- we should have broken two to three more big plays. If you're not improving, you're getting worse."

After the Rattler shot out to a 22-0 lead after the first quarter, Centerpoint would score a touchdown before half to make the score 30-6.

"We allowed their only real drive in the third quarter," Turley said after the Knights cut the lead to 30-14 in the third quarter. "We have to have more of a killer mentality with the lead," he said of not letting teams gain any momentum.

However, Turley was complimentary of the team's overall defensive effort.

"We played extremely hard -- we often had 10 hats around the ball on almost every play -- if we continue to play like that we can be successful."

Turley said the team may have the two best defensive ends in conference -- Logan Burris and Garrett Lamb. He said that fellow defensive linemen Corbin Hoover and Cameron Braden were getting confidence after a good game.

"We did a great job of controlling the line of scrimmage and tackled well. What we have to work on more is getting off blocks -- we will start on that [Monday]."

In the game, the Rattlers held the Knights to 246 total yards on 60 plays (59 passing on 5/11 attempts and 187 rushing). The Knights were able to total 17 first downs, going 4/11 on third

down efficiency and 2/4 on fourth down plays. Murfreesboro did force two Centerpoint turnovers, a fumble and an interception.

Centerpoint also returned a kickoff 60 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

He said that the passing game was improving but still needed some work.

"Kooper [Caldwell] had a big game, but would have had an even bigger game after some missing some open receivers and opting to try to fit a ball into a tight window. Otherwise, he played great on both sides of the ball. He avoids pressure well by sliding his feet and then setting to throw. Our receivers need to execute their routes better -- they are improving -- but we need to sit down in holes of the zone better."

He said that Centerpoint was a blitzing team -- and his team did well with most of them, but twice missed leading to sacks.

"Our running backs ran hard," he said of Aiden Stinson, Alex Parker and Cale Humphry.

In the game the Rattlers ran 59 plays for 446 total yards (289 passing/157 rushing) with 18 total first downs. MHS was 4/8 on third down plays and 0/2 on their two fourth down gambles. The Rattlers did not commit a turnover in the game.

Centerpoint committed five penalties for 37 yards, while the Rattlers were flagged four times for 28 yards.

Caldwell was 21/32 on the night for 289 yards and three touchdowns passing and he would rush for another.

Stinson had 69 yards rushing on nine attempts with a touchdown and would add 45 yards and a touchdown on five receptions.

Humphry rushed for 56 yards on five rushes with a touchdown on the ground and added a two-point conversion reception.

Parker gained 23 yards on two rushes and a two-point conversion.

Kale Burns led the receiving corps with 142 yards on six receptions with a TD and a two-point conversion.

Isaac Kuykendall (five receptions for 58 yards) and Cayden Ballard (four receptions for 41 yards, TD) also made their mark on the game.

VERSUS FOUKE

This week the Rattlers will host Fouke on Friday night at home. Fouke defeated Dierks 41-14 last Friday night.

Turley said Fouke was a "good team, very physical" stating that the Rattlers would have to have a good week of preparation.

"They put 41 on Dierks -- they have some explosive players and rely on the big play. They like to attack the defense and run the ball well."

He said coach Buddy Ray would have the Rattler defense ready come Friday night.

"They run a spread offense -- a lot like us, and look somewhat like us on defense with the same four front," Turley said of Fouke.

Turley said Fouke coach Jerry Littleton was doing a good job of coaching the team.

"They are not going to beat themselves ... they don't turn the ball over. Much like last week against Centerpoint, we are going to have to win the game. We have to be able to control the line of scrimmage like we did last Friday night."

He said the Rattlers should be "pumped" about playing in the first official home game of the season, he would caution his team against feeling too good about themselves after a blow-out victory.

"We can't get the big head -- it's one week at a time. We have to get better every week. We played well last week, and I am proud of them ... but now it's on to the next one."

2025 MHS HOMECOMING COURT



Submitted photo/SPCS

2025-2026 RATTLER HOMECOMING ROYALTY ... Back row (L to R) sophomore maid Kyndall Henderson, sophomore maid Macy Gills, junior maid Ramsey Terrel, senior maid Mabree Sweat, 2025 MHS Queen Sydney Braden, senior maid Kinleigh Mounts, junior maid Charleigh Wheeler, sophomore maid McKinlee White and sophomore maid Kinley Fisher; front row queen's attendants -- Clyde Henderson, Sutton Womack and Reese Bromley. The 2025 homecoming game is set for Friday, September 19 against Genoa Central.



PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

August 5, 2025

BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Akard, James Ryan, 37, Nashville, \$185 BF, speeding
Alonso, Marco, 39, no address listed, \$125 BF, no driver's license
Ashy, Whitney Andrus, 39, Lafayette, La., \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Barbre, Steven A., 43, Dierks, guilty of failure to pay, \$400 owed
Blount, William D. Jr., 52, Hope, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,175 owed
Christopher, Kiana Ann, 29, Nashville, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Couch, Belinda Joy, 49, Sarepta, La., \$125 BF, speeding
Davis, Samantha Suzanne, 36, Glenwood, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Dominguez, Miriam J., 33, De Queen, \$125 BF, speeding
Frank, Jeffrey E., 35, Texarkana, Texas, \$125 BF, speeding
Fultz, Ann Louise, 36, Murfreesboro, \$135 BF, speeding
Funderburk, Stan, 64, Antoine, guilty of harassment, fined \$210
Gonzalez, Senobio Ramos, 57, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$70
Hampton, Brittany Lynn, 28, Kirby, \$135 BF, speeding
Herrero, David Alberto, 42, Garland, Texas, \$125 BF, speeding
Hill, Dennis W., 66, Delight, guilty of failure to pay, \$650 owed
Hobson, Charles L., 67, McCaskill, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Hoover, Nathen Lee, 24, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of speeding, fined \$185
Hughes, Jimmy, 37, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Johns, Jayden Lane, 18, Saucier, Miss., \$125 BF, failure to present license
Knighten, William Joseph, 47, Murfreesboro, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Ledford, Tanya, 47, Stamps, guilty of failure to notify of address or name change; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245
Mathis, Katherine Imogene, 44, Pleasanton, Texas, \$125 BF, speeding
McCann, Tiffany Lynn, 31, Glenwood, \$125 BF, no driver's license; \$225 BF, failure to maintain control with accident; \$270 BF, removal of vehicle after accident
McClelland, Sommer Daniele, 25, Hot Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$135
Murray, Leah Marie, 21, Queen City, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding
Norwood, Norman D., 70, Rogers, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss
Reilly, Ashley Marie, 37, Fouke, \$135 BF, speeding
Robinson, Freddie Lee, 35, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,120 owed
Sanni, Saheed Olaitan, 33, London, Ontario, \$125 BF, driving left of center
Santiago, Emeraldalda, 21, Nashville, \$135 BF, speeding
Seaton, Matthew James, 33, Hot Springs Village, guilty of failure to pay, \$645 owed
Taylor, Hal Michael, 59, Glenwood, \$220 BF, open container in motor vehicle
Vic, Tyler L., 28, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Wakefield, Susan Diann, 50, Nashville, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125
Westfall, Timothy R., 30, Nashville, \$135 BF, speeding
Young, Sidney Christian, 27, Livingston, Texas, \$185 BF, speeding

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Adcock, Christopher A., 45, Glenwood, \$340 BF, failure to show proof of insurance; \$150 BF, careless or prohibited driving; \$205 BF, failure to appear; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Baker, Kristen A., 26, Murfreesboro, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210
Castillo, Gilberto Orona, 47, Nashville, \$145 BF, no driver's license
Chism, Tanner L., 24, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, \$770 owed
Dinger, Larry, 30, Nashville, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$145; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225
Garner, Rebecca L., 49, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined

\$125
Grable, Ronald Gene, 61, Perryville, \$155 BF, speeding
Holder, Brady J., 27, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Martinez, Kevin Medina, 25, Glenwood, \$150 BF, expired vehicle tags/license; \$150 BF, no driver's license; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Merchant, Selina Rena, 49, Lockesburg, guilty of failure to pay, \$710 owed
Montalban, Victor Manuel, 56, Hope, \$155 BF, speeding
Newton, Richard Dwayne, 68, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Robinson, Freddie Lee, 35, Murfreesboro, guilty of littering, fined \$165; guilty of violation of cat/dog ordinance, fined \$65
Smith, Kaleb Bryan, 26, Maud, Texas, guilty of failure to pay, \$790 owed
Spray, Timothy Dwayne, 49, Dierks, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,885 owed; guilty of violation of Arkansas Hot Check Law, fined \$309.91; guilty of violation of AHCL, fined \$290.20; guilty of violation of AHCL, fined \$206.51
Teague, Joey Dalton, 19, Murfreesboro, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210
Utzler, Shanna M., 53, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$350; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Walker, Ashli Brooke, 44, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,155 owed; guilty of violation of cat/dog ordinance, fined \$165; guilty of violation of cat/dog ordinance, fined \$165

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Dollar, Mark F., 57, West Monroe, La., \$220 BF, insufficient PFD
Garcia, April Lauren, 22, Hot Springs Village, \$220 BF, insufficient PFD

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Bailey, Stanley B., 57, Newhope, guilty of failure to register within 30 days, fined \$145; guilty of defective lights, fined \$145; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$240
Cameron, Milton Perry, 21, Benton, La., \$45 BF, no seat belt
Carr, James Allen Jr., 41, Glenwood, guilty of fleeing, fined \$585; guilty of defective/improper tail lamps/reflectors, fined \$150
Cavender, Stuart William, 59, Beebe, \$155 BF,

speeding
Clay, Jakota Rustin, 37, Arkadelphia, \$335 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Collie, Jaden Christopher, 20, Amity, \$145 BF, failure to stop or yield
Crumpton, Michael Ryan, 37, Hot Springs, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$145; guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335
Emmett, Eric Lynn, 35, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Emmett, Vicki Lynn, 60, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Estes, James Xavier, 23, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Hamner, Laurynn R., 19, Amity, guilty of speeding, fined \$145; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225
Hoover, Nathen Lee, 24, Glenwood, guilty of fictitious tags, fined \$145; guilty of special restriction on lamps. Famed \$145
Kinsey, Justin Wyatt, 30, Mena, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Lite, Earl Jr., 57, Glenwood, \$345 BF, driving with suspended license
Neighbors, Sonya L., 47, Amity, \$345 BF, driving with suspended license; \$145 BF, no child restraint device; \$45 BF, no seat belt
Ness, Jerry Dale, 56, Little Rock, guilty of failure to maintain control with accident, fined \$245; guilty of driving on suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of violation of Ignition Interlock Device Act, fined \$190
Pannell, Jackson Grant, 19, Glenwood, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125
Raines, Katlyn Faith, 24, Norman, guilty of speeding, fined \$145
Rigney, Madison Sterling, 27, Ward, \$155 BF, speeding
Shears, Christopher Lee, 50, Cove, \$155 BF, speeding
Vazquez, Alberto, 51, Glenwood, \$145 BF, no driver's license
Williams, Shane Calvin, 20, Boles, \$145 BF, careless prohibited driving
Young, William Allen, 53, Glenwood, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$210

Pike County Circuit Clerk's office recognized by state

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) recognized the Circuit Court of Pike County with a Data Quality Award for reporting of Juvenile cases at the an-

nual Arkansas Court Automation Programs (ACAP) Conference on July 25th, 2025. High quality court data results from the collective efforts of the clerk's office, judges, trial court administrators, attorneys, and other staff who manage cases and provide information that is entered into the record. The award, announced during the closing session of the ACAP Conference, documents the exceptional results in Juvenile case reporting during the previous year.

ACAP provides technical support to the state's courts, makes court information available to the public, and develops online court-related services.

Sabrina Williams, the Circuit Clerk of Pike County and her staff, as well as the judges, attorneys, and others working on Juvenile cases in Pike County realized high success in accurate reporting of open case information and pending caseload reduction during the past year. The AOC is proud of and grateful for their efforts.

"Receiving the Data Quality Award from the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts is an incredible honor that reflects the dedication and hard work of our team. I want to especially recognize my deputies Priscilla McDaniel and Kayla Martin for their unwavering commitment to accuracy, integrity, and excellence in our data management practices. Attention to detail ensures we provide the highest standard of service, and this award is a direct result of their outstanding contributions," said Williams.

Scott Graves, Director of the Office of Research and Justice Statistics (ORJS), commended Sabrina Williams, the Circuit

Clerk of Pike County. "Accurate and timely information is key to serving the public, and we appreciate the dedication of the Circuit Clerk of Pike County and all of our justice system partners who contribute to improving the quality of our court data."

The mission of the Arkansas AOC is to support the Arkansas Judiciary and employees of the judicial branch and to assist attorneys and members of the public who rely upon an independent state court system that is efficient, accessible, and fair to all.

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.

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Murfreesboro Diamond

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Local resident survives helicopter accident

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader Staff

MURFREESBORO -- A local helicopter pilot was miraculously unhurt but his aircraft was completely destroyed Saturday evening while attempting a landing in the Highland area of Pike County, according to Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill.

Hill reported the pilot to be Anthony White, who operates A&E Aerial LLC, along with wife, Emily. The crash happened Aug. 30 on the White's land off Fowler Road and involved White's helicopter reportedly striking a power line and then a guide wire during a night landing.

"I don't know how, but he walked away," said Sheriff Hill,

adding that part of the guide wire was inside the helicopter's cockpit. Monday, the damaged helicopter remained at the crash site at the base of a utility pole.

The Arkansas State Police and Pike County Sheriff's Department responded to the crash scene and the accident was reported to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Hill said that possibly due to the Labor Day holiday, when county and state officials attempted to contact the FFA Saturday evening the phones were answered by an automated system. He noted that the only damage involved was to the aircraft and utility lines.

As of Tuesday morning at 10:00, the FAA had not listed any preliminary information about the crash on its website.

According to the aircraft's identification number, the helicopter is a 2006 model built by the Robinson Helicopter Company and is registered with the FAA to A&E Aerial LLC with a Texarkana, Texas address.

A&E Aerial offers helicopter tours over Murfreesboro and Lake Greeson, as well as agricultural spraying and fertilizing and aerial hog hunts. The company has been in business since July 2023.

Monday morning, Emily White told the newspaper her husband was indeed uninjured and, at that time, FAA had yet to arrive on the scene. No other details were offered by the White family.

Council passes resolution to apply for trails grant

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council approved the application of a resolution at a special meeting last Thursday in order to officially apply for a grant to help fund the local efforts of establishing ATV/recreational trails from the city to Lake Greeson.

The matter has been discussed repeatedly at the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission meetings lately.

The grant, an Outdoor Recreation Matching Grant, is a program through the Arkansas Departments of Parks, Heritage and Tourism and is designed for "develop and/or improve the site for such recreation area."

The resolution states that the recreation areas have been identified and a price has been established.

It also states that if awarded, the grant would become a "binding agreement" between the state and the city, on several factors, including the fact that the project will remain in "outdoor recreation use in perpetuity" and that "the project area must remain open and available for use by the public at all reasonable times of the day and year."

Additionally, the city must make sure that the project area is "kept clean, maintained and operated in a safe and healthful manner."

Obituaries

Johnny Lee Neese, 78, Murfreesboro

Johnny Lee Neese, age 78, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 27, 2025. Funeral services will be held at the Smith Family Funeral Home Chapel in Glenwood, Arkansas on Saturday, September 6, 2025. Visitation will begin at 10:00am with the service to follow at 11:00am. Interment will be held at the Ebenezer Cemetery in Kirby, Arkansas.

Energy assistance program open through September

LITTLE ROCK -- The 2025 Summer Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) regular assistance program ends August 29, 2025. If needing regular assistance, applications must be submitted by this date.

The 2025 Summer Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis assistance program is currently open and ends on September 30, 2025.

LIHEAP applications are available in all 19 CADC counties. To find out where to apply or to check local intake schedules, visit www.cadc.com/utility-assistance.

If you have any questions, or want to know more about the program, please call 501-326-6229 or visit our website at www.cadc.com/utility-assistance.

Former Dierks educator charged with sex crimes

BY JOHN BALCH
NASHVILLE NEWS-LEADER STAFF

NASHVILLE -- A former special education elementary teacher with the Dierks School District was arrested Aug. 13 and now has been charged with sexual assault and exchanging nude pictures with a 16-year-old high school student.

Kathryn Elizabeth Winer, 35, of Umpire, was arrested following an investigation by Howard County investigators Casey Parker and Jake Eudy, who interviewed Winer about allegations between her and the juvenile. Winer reportedly disclosed during the interview that she and the juvenile had had sexual intercourse in the past and they had exchanged nudes with each other via Snapchat.

Winer was officially been charged in Howard County Circuit Court last week with first-degree sexual assault and engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media. She remains in county custody on \$50,000 bond.

According to an affidavit for warrant of arrest, Winer is under investigation for first-degree sexual assault, a Class A felony, and engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print medium, a Class Y felony.

The affidavit noted that Winer is a teacher at JoAnn Walters

EDUCATOR Continued on Page 4

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UAMS HOUSE CALL

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

Q: How common is bladder cancer?

A: The bladder is a hollow balloon-shaped muscular organ in the lower abdomen near the pelvis that stores urine before it passes from the body. The National Cancer Institute estimates that bladder cancer will represent 4.2% of new cancer cases in 2025. Bladder cancer is often diagnosed in its early stages and is highly treatable.

Transitional cell carcinoma, in which the cancer forms in the cells that line the bladder, is the most common form of the condition. Bladder cancer risk factors include exposure to radiation, family history, having frequent urinary tract infections, smoking and working around harmful chemicals. Men are four times more likely to have bladder cancer than women. The condition normally affects those ages 55 or older.

The specific cause of bladder cancer is unknown. Symptoms include back or pelvic pain, blood in urine, frequent or painful urination, or urination that starts and stops or has a weak urine stream.

A cystoscopy, in which a tube is used to view inside the bladder, is the primary method of diagnosing the condition. Treatment options include surgery to remove the cancer in the bladder or the bladder itself. Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

The celestial vision test

The full moon of September will be on Sunday, Sept. 7. This not the Harvest Moon which will happen in early October, but is most commonly known as the Corn Moon.

There is a lot of hype in the news about the lunar eclipse on the Sept. 7 and of it being a blood moon. Too bad, but it will not occur over our area (over Asia and Australia).

Speaking of the Moon, if you want a quick test of your eyesight there is one devised by a professor of astronomy at Harvard named William Pickering who came up with one that is based on how well certain features can be seen on the Moon with the naked eye.

His list, the "lunar eye chart", consists of 12 features getting more difficult as you move up the list. It is recommended to do the test when the Moon is at its half phases, before and after full moon. You will also need to have a map of the lunar surface to know where to look. The first feature is the crater Copernicus and the bright rays around it.

Mare (from Latin for sea) Nectaris, one of the dark patches that are actually quite visible, is second. The man on the Moon is well known, but many people see a rabbit. Mare Nectaris is the rabbit's left ear. Number 6 is an area of brightness north of Mare Tranquillitatis not far from where Apollo 11 landed. Google to find the entire list and give it a try.

Another eye test is one mentioned before, and that is to find the middle star of the Big Dipper's handle. If you can see the slightly smaller star next to the brighter one then feel good about your eyesight. This particular challenge has been mentioned in some ancient texts so before Optometry, this was a "go to" way to get a check up.

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



Submitted photos

RATTLER ACTION ... (above) WR Isaac Kuykendall makes a fantastic one-handed catch against Centerpoint last Friday night in the Rattler's victory, while (below) Garrett Lamb secures a Knight ballcarrier to the ground.



EDUCATOR

Continued from Page 3

Elementary School and the victim is a student at the high school.

Winer was still listed as a special education teacher on the school district's website the morning of Thursday, Aug. 14. On Aug. 18, the Dierks School Board voted to terminate her employment.

Following Winer's arrest, the Dierks School District posted the following statement on

Facebook after Winer's arrest: "The safety and well-being of our students is the district's top priority. We are aware that a teacher in our district has been arrested. This matter is currently under investigation by law enforcement, and we are fully cooperating with their process."

"While we are unable to share additional details at this time, please know that appropriate measure have been taken to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We understand that this news may be concerning, and we remain committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment to all."

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, steamed broccoli, seasoned corn, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Pizza stick w/ marinara sauce

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Breakfast: Mini pancakes or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Hot dog, 7-12 hot dog w/ chili, side-winder fries, baked beans, sidekick fruit slush, milk

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken & waffles w/ syrup, potato smiles, carrot & celery sticks, sliced apples, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Hot ham & cheese crois-

sant

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Breakfast: Honey bun w/ cheese sticks or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Taco salad w/ cheese, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 whole grain cookie, salsa, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Chicken sandwich, potato smiles boat, lettuce, tomato

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, whole grain roll, peaches, milk

7-12 line 2 option - Chicken fried steak w/ white gravy

*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

WE GET LETTERS

Invitation to celebrate Constitution Week

Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear local merchants,
In honor of Constitution week, Sep. 17-23, we invite you to join together in a special community tribute.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 3:00 p.m., please step outside in front of your business and ring a bell for one minute to celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution.

This simple but meaningful gesture unites our community in remembrance of the freedoms and principles our Constitution guarantees.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

LOCATION: IN FRONT OF YOUR STORE

We encourage you to invite customers and passerbys to join you in ringing bells as well. Together, the sound of freedom will echo through our town.

Thank you for helping keep our history alive and showing your patriotic spirit.

With appreciation,
Judy Hile,
Daughters of the American Revolution
Murfreeseboro, Arkansas

State implements new property insurance system

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, superintendents and school boards will learn to adjust to a new system of property and casualty insurance.

It's called SCIP for short. That stands for the State Captive Insurance Program that was created by legislation enacted earlier this year in Act 779 to create a new Office of Property Risk, managing insurance for schools, institutions of higher education and state-owned property.

Legislative sponsors, school administrators and officials at the state Insurance Department spent a long time writing the bill, and since its passage they have worked long days transitioning to the new system.

Severe weather events and damage they cause were the driving force behind Act 779, and its companion measure, Act 560. Dramatic increases in the cost of insurance was the reason that in 2023 the state distributed almost \$11 million to help school districts pay premiums. Many schools did not have viable options in the private insurance marketplace.

A consultant for the legislature reported that insurance programs for Arkansas school districts had seen their premiums triple in cost between 2021 and 2024.

In short, the property insurance programs for public schools, state-supported institutions of higher education, and state-owned properties "are in a state of crisis."

The legislature approved Act 779 to provide a long-term solution to ensure the stability of property insurance programs. The effect of natural disasters on the insurance marketplace resulted in the need for legislators to restructure and unify the insurance programs that previously covered schools, colleges, universities and state agencies.

For the school year the deductible will be \$25,000 per occurrence, except if the school district has a total insured value of more than \$100 million. In that case the deductible is \$50,000.

Many properties owned by institutions of higher education have traditionally been undervalued and need to be reappraised by independent adjusters. From last year to this year the deductible for athletic facilities at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is increasing from \$250,000 to \$1 million per occurrence. If a single natural disaster damages the football, basketball and baseball stadiums, the university would have to pay only one deductible.

Earlier in August the Legislative Council approved the addition of seven new positions for the new Office of Property Risk. The new office is within the larger Department of Shared Services. The new employees will have salaries ranging from \$58,000 to \$87,000 a year.

The new SCIP insurance program concluded that the replacement value for Razorback Stadium Bud Walton Arena, Baum Stadium and a long list of other athletic facilities on campus would be \$1.37 billion.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

THURSDAY, SEPT. 4

Baked ham, black eyed peas, turnip greens, cornbread, peach cake

MONDAY, SEPT. 8

Chili w/beans and cheese, salad, cornbread, apple crisp

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

Baked chicken, buttered potatoes, broccoli,

dinner roll, chocolate brownie

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10

Fried fillet of fish, pinto beans, coleslaw, hush puppies, fruit

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available for \$6.00

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreeseboro Church of Christ

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

It is a popular saying, "We are what we eat." It is more certainly true, however, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." There is disagreement among translators as to whether Proverbs 23:7 says that, but in any case, it is true. Jesus says, "For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil." (Matthew 12:34-35).

Whatever is in a bucket



is what spills out when the bucket is jolted. What spills out of us when life jolts us is that with which our minds and hearts are filled. Jesus said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder,

adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matthew 15:19).

Want to fill your or your children's hearts with violence, lying, killing and approval of all kinds of sexual sins? Then watch television and set your children watching it for hours on end. What goes in affects both what comes out and what one is.

May each of us fill our hearts and minds with those things we learn from God's word. God be with you as we begin another week in service to Him!

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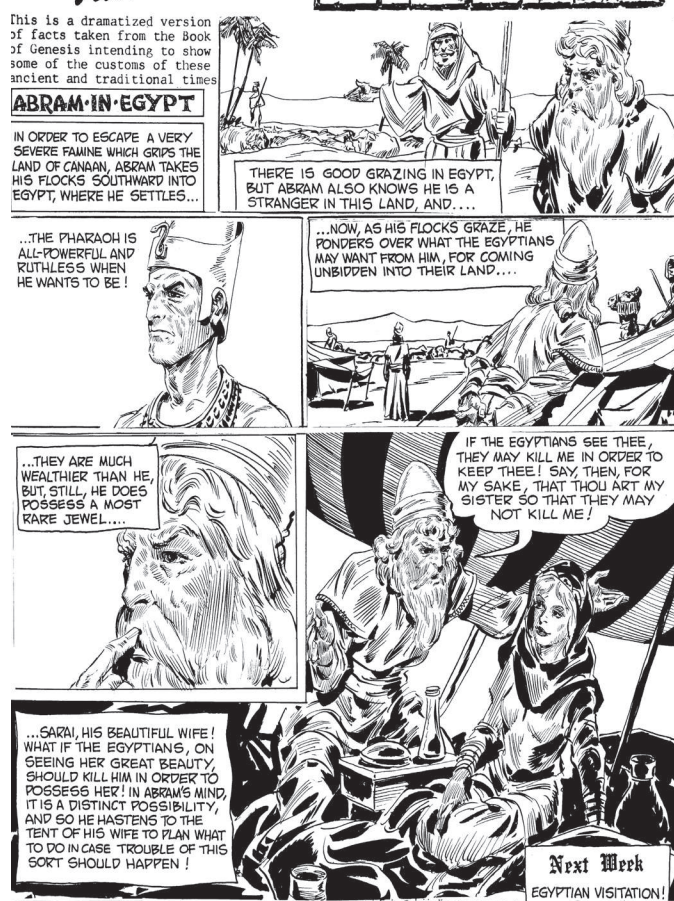
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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

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FICTIONAL CANINES

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. "Call of the Wild" dog
5. Lightning McQueen, e.g.
8. Island near Java
12. Popular hairdo in the 1960s and '70s
13. Governmental space agency, acr.
14. Meat in a casing
15. Larry Bird's target
16. Narrative poem
17. Richard Bachman to Stephen King
18. *Sherman's Mr. ____
20. Fence plank
21. Small jar
22. FedEx competitor
23. *Tabaqui of "The Jungle Book"
26. Most vital part
30. a.k.a. Home of the Brave
31. Bewilder
34. Y'all
35. Phonograph media
37. Williams sister's return
38. "Two mints in one" classic mints
39. Celt
40. Red carpet suit
42. Pirate's turf
43. Flag on a ship, pl.
45. Solar system model
47. Like a fiddle
48. Sweating room
50. Chesterfield, e.g.
52. *National Crime Prevention Council's mascot
54. "The Martian" (2015) actor Matt ____
55. Verbal exam
56. Half-man, half-goat
59. Deflect
60. Charge a tax
61. Division word
62. Darn a sock, e.g.
63. Bo Peep follower
64. Long, long time

DOWN

1. Scrooge's exclamation
2. E.T. transporter, e.g.
3. Photo editing option
4. 1/100th of a ruble
5. Mafia's top dogs
6. "All joking ____"
7. Risqu
8. *Target's mascot
9. "Si, mi chiamo Mimi" in La Boheme, e.g.
10. Law school test acronym
11. "____ a Wonderful Life"
13. Interstellar cloud
14. Flying stingers
19. Omani and Yemeni
22. Consume
23. TV Judy's title
24. Of the Orient
25. Lawyers' loads
26. Major European river
27. Relating to Scandinavia
28. Like a button, but more so
29. English homework
32. Swine and avian diseases
33. *Maid Marian of Disney's "Robin Hood" movie (1973)
36. *The Big Red Dog
38. ____copia
40. Blast maker, acr.
41. Sullenly
44. James Dean's last movie (1956)
46. Basket-making fiber
48. Nut holder
49. Tequila source
50. "____ me a seat"
51. Damien's prediction
52. Lawn pest
53. *Rubeus Hagrid's faithful boarhound
54. Beaver's edifice
57. Beehive State native
58. Us, in Mexico

CROSSWORD													
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Pike County clerk announces positions open for upcoming elections

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Clerk, Randee Edwards, has announced the list of county positions that will be part of the 2026 election cycle (incumbent):

- Circuit Court Judge District 1: (Tom Cooper)
- Circuit Court Judge District 2: (Bryan Chesshir)
- Prosecuting Attorney 9West: (Jana Bradford)
- (The above candidates file with the State)
- County Judge: (Eddie Howard)
- County Sheriff: (Travis Hill)
- County Clerk: (Randee Edwards)
- Circuit Clerk: (Sabrina Williams)
- Treasurer: (Loletia Rather)
- Assessor: (Staci Stewart)
- Coroner: (Jason McDonald)
- Missouri Constable: (Ricky Branch)
- Mountain Constable: (Chris Thompson)
- JP District 1: (Randy Lamb)
- JP District 2: (Robbie Crocker)
- JP District 3: (Seth Henry Kirkham)
- JP District 4: (Leotis Snowden)
- JP District 5: (Jerry Fendley)
- JP District 6: (Kip Holbrook)
- JP District 7: (Richard Mohlenhoff)
- JP District 8: (John Plyler Jr)
- JP District 9: (Paul Baker)

Filing for county office opens at noon on Nov. 3 and closes at noon on Nov. 12. Party filers must have paid their filing fees to their respective parties and must bring a paid receipt with them at filing time.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

School board positions will be decided during the 2026 Primary Ballots in March: (incumbent):

CENTERPOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Centerpoint Zone 3 - (Dale Sutton)
- Centerpoint Zone 4 - (Larry Harvey)
- Centerpoint Zone 5 - (Blake Forga)
- Centerpoint At Large - (Kerry Horn)

KIRBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Kirby Zone 1 - (Brad Baxter)
- Kirby At Large - (Blake Harmon)

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- South Pike County Zone 5 - (Robert Silva)
- South Pike County Zone 7 - (Alyssa Duggan)

If you are interested in running for school board you may pick up blank petitions at the Clerks' office in Murfreesboro

Filing for school board positions opens at noon on Nov. 3 and closes at noon Nov. 12.

More information about rules and regulations of the elections can be obtained by contacting the Pike County Clerk's Office at (870) 285-2743.

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Submitted photo

ALL-STARS ... Murfreesboro fourth graders, Jameson Motley and Kayden Morton, were nominated to represent their baseball teams in the Arkansas All-State Tournament in Conway on July 26.

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Submitted photo

RARE HUMMINGBIRD ... Local resident Avonne Petty submitted a picture of a leucistic hummingbird. The bird's genetic traits are 1 in 1,000 and look much lighter than the rest of its brethren, appearing nearly white.

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2025 Rural Profile shows aging population and shifts in education

LITTLE ROCK -- The 2025 Rural Profile of Arkansas is now available online. The biennial report from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture lays out data that illuminate trends in the Natural State's rural population.

Frank Seo, assistant professor of rural development for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, co-authored the report with Mark Goodman, president of Regional Development Partners, LLC.

Seo said the 2025 profile introduces several notable updates and expanded areas of focus, presenting updated trends and new analyses reflecting shifts in the state's post-COVID-19 landscape.

"This year's report highlights emerging issues such as home values, homeschooling and private schooling, with particular attention to the implications of the LEARNS Act," Seo said. "It also offers a deeper examination of infant mortality and maternal vulnerability."

THE NATURAL STATE A DESTINATION

The report divides Arkansas into four main population components, including the Coastal Plains, comprised of most of the state's southernmost tier of counties; the Delta, representing most of the state's eastern counties; the Highlands, which represent the largest swath of Arkansas counties throughout the state; and urban counties, representing the state's metropolitan concentrations such as Northwest Arkansas, Pulaski County and surrounding central Arkansas counties, as well as Craighead, Crittenden and Miller counties. Those metropolitan areas, Seo said, saw population growth after the COVID-19 pandemic, both from migrating rural Arkansans as well as out-of-staters looking to call Arkansas home.

"One notable trend is that Arkansas has emerged as a key destination in the continued migration to Southern states following the COVID-19 pandemic," Seo said. "According to the U.S. Census, Fayetteville recently surpassed a population of 100,000. In Benton County, Centerton ranked as the sixth fastest-growing city in the United States between July 1, 2022, and July 1, 2023. This rapid growth has heightened housing demand and led to sharp increases in home prices in high-migration areas."

AN AGING RURAL POPULATION

The Rural Profile has long noted trends and changes in the demographic makeup of Arkansans, as well as their economic behaviors and geographic movement. Seo said a persistent trend in the state is the widening age gap between rural and urban populations.

"The average age in rural Arkansas is 42.7, compared to 37.8 in urban areas," he said. "This demographic shift reflects deeper economic disparities. For instance, county median ages range from 32.1 in Clark County to 51.7 in Marion County, with many mid-northern rural counties aging more rapidly. This trend

strains the rural labor force and poses long-term challenges to economic sustainability."

Seo said, however, that there is also evidence that Arkansans are breaking long-standing patterns, including those related to unemployment.

"Historically, rural counties have faced higher unemployment due to limited job access, slower business growth, and fewer workforce resources," Seo said. "However, the 2025 edition shows the unemployment gap between rural and urban counties has narrowed to a historic low. This is an encouraging sign that rural communities are beginning to share in the state's broader economic gains."

That progress aligns with Arkansas' strong recent economic performance, he said.

"In the third quarter of 2024, the state led the nation with a 6.9 percent increase in real GDP," Seo said. "Much of this growth was driven by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, which are sectors with deep rural roots. Consequently, this economic momentum is beginning to benefit regions that have historically faced slower growth."

Seo cautioned that challenges still remain, however.

"The state's labor force participation rate continues to trail the national average and has not kept pace with job creation," he said. "Sustaining recent gains will require strong community development efforts. Data-informed planning, combined with local partnerships and workforce training, is essential to meet diverse community needs and support inclusive, long-term growth."

SHIFTS IN EDUCATION

The report notes that the COVID-19 pandemic drove significant increases in homeschooling in the state. During the 2019-2020 school year, about 22,000 Arkansas students were homeschooled. The following year, that number increased to 30,000, including about 12,000 rural students and 18,000 metropolitan students. Those numbers remained steady for the following two years, then jumped again during the 2023-2024 school year to a total of 32,500 homeschooled students in the state.

Likewise, overall public school enrollment peaked for the state during the 2019-2020 school year at 479,000 students. It declined during the following year and was most recently reported at 475,000 during the 2023-2024 school year.

The percentage of Arkansas students enrolled in private schools has also risen steadily over the past decade, from 7.4 percent in 2014 to 11 percent in 2024. In recent years, this has in part been accelerated by the Arkansas LEARNS Act, passed into law in 2023.

The law was designed to overhaul the state's education system by expanding school choice through vouchers and raising teacher pay, Seo said. LEARNS stands for "literacy, empowerment, accountability, readiness, networking and school safety."

Seo said the act, now in its third year, shows both promise and challenges.

"On one hand, it provides parents with more options and has boosted teacher pay in rural districts that often struggle to compete," Seo said. "On the other hand, tuition at many private schools has risen sharply, with some doubling or increasing by thousands of dollars. The voucher amounts for the 2025-2026 school year are \$6,994 for most students and \$7,771 for students with disabilities, which often fall short of covering full costs."

The Cooperative Extension Service, the outreach and education arm of the Division of Agriculture, has published the Rural Profile for more than three decades. Seo said that he and his colleagues are now working to incorporate the Rural Profile data into an interactive, web-based dashboard developed by the EDA University Center. Seo said the new version will make it easier for users to explore rural trends across Arkansas in a more accessible, dynamic format.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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CORRECTION ... In last week's football preview, Isaac Smith (above) was misidentified.

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