

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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## Local radio club announces meeting

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Ham Radio Club will hold their regular meeting at Terri's Place in Murfreesboro at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13. The public is invited to attend.

## Pair of youth hunts announced locally

DIERKS -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dierks Lake Project Office is accepting applications for a special youth deer hunt at Dierks Lake Nov. 1-2, 2025.

Six permits will be issued to hunters ages 6-15. Applicants must submit a completed form by Oct. 10. Applications are available at the Dierks Lake Project Office located at 246 Jefferson Ridge Road, Dierks, AR or by calling 870-286-2346. A random drawing and hunter notification will occur on Oct. 13.

Participants must have guardian consent and be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 21 years old the day of the hunt. Youth hunters are limited to modern guns, must provide their own firearms and be skilled in their use. Access and hunting blinds will be provided.

This event promotes conservation, outdoor interest and ethical hunting while improving the local deer herd.

Recreation information can be found on the Internet at [www.swl.usace.army.mil](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/littlerockusace](http://www.facebook.com/littlerockusace) and on the USACE Little Rock water level mobile app at [www.swl.usace.army.mil/Home/water-control-app/](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Home/water-control-app/).

### MILLWOOD LAKE

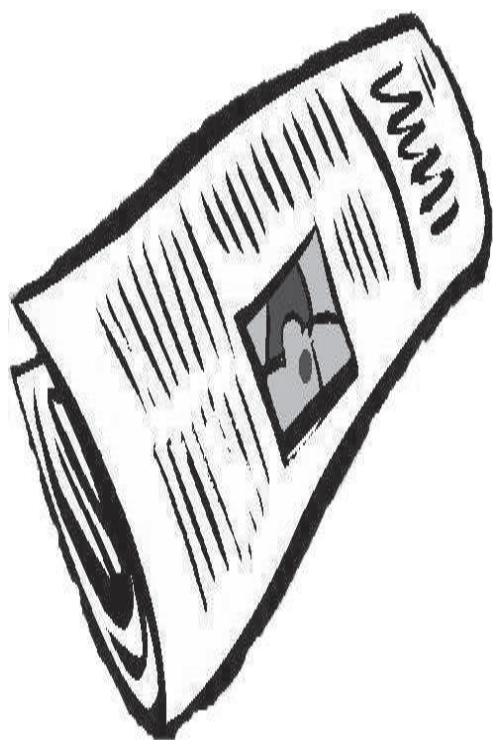
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office is accepting applications for a special youth deer hunt at Millwood Lake Nov. 1-2, 2025.

Eight permits will be issued to hunters ages 6-15. Applicants must submit a completed form by Oct. 10. Forms are available at the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office located at 1528 Highway 32 E, Ashdown, AR or by calling 870-898-3343. A random drawing and hunter notification will occur on Oct. 13.

Participants must have guardian consent and be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 21 years old the day of the hunt. Youth hunters are limited to modern guns, must provide their own firearms and be skilled in their use. Access and hunting blinds will be provided.

This event promotes conservation, outdoor interest and ethical hunting while improving the local deer herd.

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Staff photos

**BATTLING THE PANTHERS ...** The Murfreesboro Rattlers lost their first game of the season in a 44-38 contest against Fouke last Friday night at home. Pictured (above left) is Rattler quarterback Koooper Caldwell looking for room to rush upfield, while (above right) Isaac Kuykendall runs through an attempted tackle by a Fouke defender.

## Rattlers fall to 1-1 on season after loss

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers dropped to 1-1 after a 44-38 loss to Fouke last Friday night.

The Rattlers trailed at halftime by a 28-20 score.

In the game Rattler QB Kade Caldwell was 17/30 for 184 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. The long pass of the night was a 55 yard completion to Kale Burns. Caldwell would also rush for 52 yards on nine attempts

and a touchdown.

Aiden Stinson would lead the rushing attack for MHS with 57 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries.

Cale Humphry had 49 yards on nine carries, while Alex Parker had a five yard TD on his only rush of the game.

Burns led the receivers with 80 yards and a touchdown on five catches. Isaac Kuykendall had 51 yards and a touchdown on four recep-

tions, while Humphry added 36 yards and a touchdown on five receptions.

The Rattlers will be off this week before facing Genoa Central at home on September 19 for homecoming.

Interestingly enough, the same Genoa Central will face off against Fouke this week. The Dragons are currently 1-0 after defeating Spring Hill 16-8 to open their season.



Staff photo

**NATIONAL ANTHEM ...** Team captains for the Fouke game (L to R) Liam Eoff, Caleb Terrell and Kale Burns look at the flag during the playing of the national anthem prior to the coin toss Friday night.

## Business to stop operations in October

MURFREESBORO -- After posting on his Pike County Judge social media page last Wednesday that the Domtar sawmill in Glenwood was closing effective October 10, Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said it was a blow to Pike County's economy.

The company contacted his office to inform of the phased shutdown, and that they would reevaluate in December about reopening.

Howard told the paper that he asked if there was anything the county could do to keep this from happening and was told no.

"They said it was simply bigger than all of us ... it's simply a question of supply and demand, and right now there's way too much supply - interest rates and the economy have just led to less people building."

The sawmill, which employs approximately 150 people, could look to reopen after December 1, but Howard said that could be tough assuming that their workers find other employment in the meantime.

Howard said in his discussion with Domtar that the company felt that "it certainly would help if the Caddo River railroad was open and running to help them to economically ship

products out."

"That is something that the Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority (SWAR-IA) has been working on since I came into office," Howard said of the railroad.

"There's just a lot of things that have to be sorted out - including ownership of the right of way. Every since it went into bankruptcy courts with the Bean family, its been in question. If we can get it straightened out, there are state and federal grants we can apply for to repair the rail system. Then we can get contracts for shipping and service with companies, but there is just a lot that goes into it and it's not a quick process."

Howard added that the railroad system in discussion has been tagged as "abandoned" and would have to be reestablished as a new railroad.

He said it was important for the rail system to be reestablished, as companies who might look to Pike County, seek one of the four modes of transportation - water, air, rail or road. He noted that Pike County was not going to get a navigable waterway, an airport or an interstate anytime soon, so rail was the only viable option to add.

"First and foremost, we have to be able to retain the businesses we have before we worry about attracting other businesses," said Howard.

He added that the loss of jobs would affect the economy in a trickle down effect - not just the workers, but also businesses such as Pylers Home Center, Wright's Grocery and gas stations feeling the pinch.

He also worries that Pike County, which came in with a population of 10,100 in the 2020 census, could fall below the 10,000 mark for population in 2030, which would have negative financial repercussions for the county.

"Much of our funding could be affected, so we have to keep that population above 10,000." He said it was critically important for all residents of the county to make sure to participate in the next census.

"Any business looking to locate here will look at workforce numbers, so we have to keep our numbers by retaining the businesses we have, building new ones and getting more jobs organically. I'm fighting with everything I can to protect these jobs with all the weight that my office holds, just so everyone knows that."

# M'boro Police Chief announces run for Pike County Sheriff

BY JOHN BALCH

Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Quorum Court Justice of the Peace and Murfreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb announced this week he will seek the office of Pike County Sheriff and Tax Collector.

Lamb, 56, will seek the Republican nomination in the primary election on March 3, 2026.

This will be the second time Lamb has sought the sheriff's seat with his first being on a crowded 2008 ballot where he and current Sheriff Travis Hill faced off as Democrats. Hill won the election.

Lamb said he has switched from a "D" for Democrat to a "R" for Republican by his name because "the parties have switched. Their values have switched."

Lamb started his law enforcement career with the Murfreesboro Police Department in January 2003 as a patrolman and later as interim chief. He has also worked for the county force as a K9 officer, under former Sheriff Jerry Jones. Lamb returned to the

Murfreesboro department and was appointed police chief in 2011.

Lamb also has a long history of service to the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department, serving as an assistant chief and fire chief over the last 10 years with more than 35 years total.

Lamb, who is serving this first term as a District 1 Justice of the Peace, is a 2003 graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy now with 23 years of law enforcement experience. According to his announcement, he is "committed to making our county a better and safer place to live" and is concerned about the number of shooting deaths and other criminal activity over the past few years.

"Now is the time for a change in the Pike County Sheriff's Office," Lamb announced.

If elected, Lamb said he plans to work alongside his deputies and bring "leadership to a competent and professional department" and work with state and local agencies "while focusing patrol efforts to the towns and more rural areas of the county."

Lamb added that the plan is to be

"proactive" in deterring criminal activity and hopes to save taxpayers money by pursuing state and federal grants, with some specifically aimed at helping fund School Resource Officer positions. School officer salaries for the county's three school districts are currently paid by the schools, Lamb said.

Lamb also said he plans to work within the department's budget set by the Quorum Court and use the county jail to house Pike County prisoners "first and foremost" with pay-to-stay prisoners from other counties being housed on a secondary basis.

Lamb is a lifelong resident of Pike County and concluded his announcement by stating, "I will bring to the office a strong work ethic, experience, leadership and create a department that Pike County citizens will be proud of."

Lamb is married to Murfreesboro Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb and they have two grandsons by daughter, Erin, who is a full-time radio dispatcher at the Pike County Sheriff's Department.



RANDY LAMB

Submitted photo

## The happiness in serving -- letting inspiration lead to action

True joy is found when you lift others up. In a world often driven by personal gain and productivity metrics, it's easy to overlook one of the most powerful pathways to happiness: service. According to the fifth and final principle in the ongoing "Happiness Principles" series, "Choose to Serve," the crowning achievement of a joyful life is not found in wealth, status, or self-satisfaction but in using your strengths to uplift and support others. Whether it's family, friends, or neighbors, dedicating ourselves to improving the lives of those around us leads to a life that is not only rich and meaningful—but also deeply fulfilling.

### SERVICE BEGINS AT HOME

It's easy to miss the service we already offer in the everyday moments—helping children with homework, cooking dinner for a sick partner, checking in on aging parents. These seemingly small acts are the foundation of a happier life. Families may not always feel like the easiest places to serve, especially when stress is high, but they are often where our efforts have the greatest impact. Ask yourself: How am I already serving in my family? And just as importantly: Are there new or more intentional ways I can support those I love?

### SERVE WITH INTENTION

Not all service is created equal. Sometimes, we say "yes" to opportunities that leave us feeling drained, overwhelmed, or disconnected from our true purpose. Maybe you are part of a group that doesn't align with your values, or you've been asked to take on tasks that highlight your weaknesses rather than your strengths. It's okay, healthy even, to say no to those things. Instead, focus your service on what gives you meaning. Where do your personal values and natural talents intersect? Whether you're good with your hands, great with words, or have a knack for organization, there's a place for you to serve meaningfully and joyfully.

### LOOK AROUND YOU

Sometimes, opportunities to serve are right outside your door. You just need to notice. Is there litter piling up in your neighborhood park? An elderly neighbor who hasn't had a visitor in weeks? A friend who could use a kind note or a thoughtful phone call? When we pay attention to the needs around us, we find that even small actions, done with intention, can have a big impact.

### SERVICE IS BETTER TOGETHER

One of the most powerful parts of service is its ability to bring



## PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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people together. Consider gathering a group of friends, family, or co-workers to work on a shared cause. Not only does group service multiply the impact, it can also strengthen relationships and deepen your sense of belonging. Who do you know that might be willing to join you in a project? Who could benefit from being included in something bigger than themselves?

### LET INSPIRATION LEAD TO ACTION

As you reflect on these ideas, take note of what speaks to you. Often, inspiration is a signal worth listening to. Write it down. Make a plan. Share your goals with someone who can encourage you. When you take even one step toward meaningful service, you'll begin to experience a happiness that is both lasting and life-giving. This week, ask yourself: Where can I serve with purpose, with strength, and with heart? Then, take the leap.

In the end, living a better life doesn't require dramatic changes or perfect circumstances. It begins with a shift in perspective. When you choose to notice and appreciate the good in each day, focus on the positives in your past, look forward to what tomorrow may bring, know and use your personal strengths, and

reach out in service to others, you begin to build a life rooted in meaning, joy, and connection. These simple yet powerful choices form the foundation of lasting happiness. One day, one moment, and one act of kindness at a time.

### RECIPE OF THE WEEK: CLASSIC BEEF STEW

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound beef stew meat, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups assorted cut-up fresh vegetables (potatoes, carrots, celery, and onions)
- 1 can (14 oz each) lower sodium beef broth
- 1 can (8 oz each) Tomato Sauce with Basil, Garlic and Oregano

#### DIRECTIONS:

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in large skillet or saucepan over medium-high heat. Add meat and salt; cook 5 minutes, stirring until brown.

Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil and vegetables to skillet. Cook 5 minutes or until crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Return meat to skillet; stir in broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Stir in tomato sauce; simmer 15 minutes more or until meat and vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE

The Pike County Election Commission will be meeting Monday, September 15th at 1pm at the Clerk's Office to approve the plan to alter voter precinct boundaries to coincide with JP district boundaries, school zone boundaries, and/or municipal boundaries. This will not change any voter's current JP, school zone, or municipal assignment. The commission will also approve the plan to rename the precincts with a numerical system recommended by the SOS and GIS offices. All are invited to attend.

*This publication was paid for by Pike County Clerk. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 36.54. (p.c.c., 81w., 10,11)*

## JOB OPENING

The Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department will be accepting applications for the position of Water Office Clerk.

Interested persons may obtain an application at the water office, located at 204 East Main, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958. Applications will be accepted until Friday, September 19, 2025.

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

*(m.w.d., 10,11)*

## TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

**OCTOBER 15, 2025**

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**WILL BE CLOSED MON. OCT. 13**  
**FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY**

**OFFICE HOURS - MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.**

*This publication was paid for by Pike County, office of the Tax Collector. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 54.00.*

## Murfreesboro Diamond

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# PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

August 19, 2025  
BF=Bond Forfeited

## PIKE COUNTY

Anderson, Xzavier Timothy, 28, Hot Springs, \$135 BF, speeding  
Cogburn, Kevin Andrew, 36, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,240 owed

Davis, Larry M., 66, Amity, \$255 BF, overweight  
Kelley, Trent Dawson, 20, Maumelle, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125; guilty of careless prohibited driving, fined \$125; guilty of speeding, fined \$135; guilty of improper passing, fined \$125

Parker, Larry W., 48, Lockesburg, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,230 owed

Yarbrough, Johnny Leon, 31, Amity, \$249 BF, overweight

## ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION

Brown, Zachary, 30, Plain Dealing, La., \$220 BF, insufficient PFD

Cook, Garrett Michael, 25, Texarkana, \$220 BF, over capacity on boat

Lane, Benjamin B., 49, McCaskill, \$220 BF, fishing without license

Lane, Cameron Bradley, 24, Delight, \$220 BF, insufficient PFD

## CITY OF GLENWOOD

Barron, Jason M., 42, Glenwood, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$225

## BENCH TRIALS

### CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Johnson, Stephanie K., 39, Delight, guilty of third-degree battery, fined \$500, sentenced to 30 days in jail-suspended; guilty of second-degree criminal mischief, fined \$335; guilty of public intoxication, fined \$240

Stafford, Mitchell Allen, 58, Somerville, Tennesse., guilty of DWI, fined \$1,090, credited with time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of failure to stop or yield, fined \$145; guilty of leaving scene of accident-property damage

### CITY OF GLENWOOD

Goodwin, Lonny M., 64, Saratoga, guilty of speeding, fined \$155

Parker, Larry Wayne Jr., 48, domestic battery, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$535; guilty of failure to pay, \$1,140 owed

# Obituaries

## James Tommy Howard, 76, Murfreesboro



James Tommy "Rootbeer" Howard, 76, of Murfreesboro, passed away September 2, 2025, at a Hot Springs Hospital. He was born on February 14, 1949, in Roy, Arkansas. He was the youngest child of the late Robert Emmitt and Ellen (Cogdell) Howard. Tommy was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Laverne Faulkner, and brother, Billy Wayne Howard, as well as his precious granddaughter, Taylor Scott Brannin, and great-granddaughter, Olivia.

Tommy attended school in Murfreesboro. He loved football and never hesitated to share that his football team was two years undefeated and were champs in 1964 and 1965. After high school in 1966, Tommy joined the U.S. Navy, where he spent most of his time on an aircraft carrier, the USS Coral Sea, and fought in Vietnam. After serving his country, Tommy returned to his hometown and met the love of his life, Debbie. When they met, Debbie was still in high school. It was love at first sight for both. They were married just a few months later. Tommy was employed by Murfreesboro

Lumber Company which later became Weyerhaeuser, where he was a planer supervisor. When the mill closed, he then transferred to Briar Gypsum, where he worked in various roles, concluding his career as a security guard. While those were his primary jobs, he also had a heart for public service. He served as a councilman for many years and as the Mayor of Murfreesboro.

Tommy is survived by his wife of 54 years, Debbie; his daughters, Monica (Keith) Scott, and Melissa Molnaird; his grandchildren, Tanner (Morgan) Scott, Garrett Molnaird, and Grace Molnaird; and one great-grandson, Lane Brannin. He is also survived by his sister Ruth Blount of Delight, as well as many nieces and nephews, and a host of wonderful family and friends.

Visitation was held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 6, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services began at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, September 6, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with Buddy Ray and Jim O'Neal officiating, with burial following in the Murfreesboro Cemetery.

Pallbearers: Chase Bennett, Tanner Scott, Garrett Molnaird, Heath Molnaird, Nathan Molnaird, J. Bo Jones, Jeff Jones, and Travis Hill.

Honorary Pallbearers: Jack Bennett, Keith Scott, Gary Don Turner, and The Murfreesboro Class of 1966.

Memorials may be made in Tommy's memory to Murfreesboro Cemetery for perpetual care.

# State promoting acceleration in public schools

## STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas education officials are promoting more "acceleration" in schools because they believe students can handle more rigorous content, the Secretary of Education told legislators.

Acceleration means teaching middle schoolers more subjects that used to be strictly limited to high schools. It means encouraging high school students to take concurrent college courses, so they already have college credits under their belt

when they do enroll in a college or university.

The Secretary also spoke about the scores that Arkansas students achieved on recent standardized tests, in light of higher literacy standards embodied in the LEARNS Act of 2023. That act made sweeping reforms throughout all aspects of public education in Arkansas. The secretary particularly addressed questions about the effect those standards would have on this year's third graders.

The LEARNS Act says that students who cannot read at third grade reading levels will not be promoted to the fourth grade. However, it allows exemptions, and the Secretary explained how those exemptions would likely affect students.

The question caused concern for some legislators, who noted that based on the scores of recent standardized tests, as many as 10,000 third graders might be held back from entering the fourth grade next year. The Secretary addressed those concerns, saying that students can get special help as early as in kindergarten if they have trouble reading.

Help might be an individual tutor, or summer classes focused entirely on literacy. The student may only need extra work in a small group. It's important to monitor student progress so that teachers learn which methods are most effective.

The Secretary said that a lot of factors would be considered before a student is held back from fourth grade. For example, they may not be native English speakers or they may have a learning disability that exempts them from the standards in the LEARNS Act.

Over the long term, legislators and educators will watch what happens with this year's third graders because about a third are not reading at proficient levels. It's important to correct that trend so that they can thrive in later grades. Research indicates that academic problems usually get worse in middle school and high school for students who struggle with reading in elementary school.

The Secretary also briefed legislators about CTE, which stands for Career and Technical Education. It is a path towards a high school diploma for students who don't go to a college or university. Legislation enacted in 2023 and 2025 creates more opportunities for those students to prepare for a productive career, working at a well-paid job that's in demand.

In a nutshell, the goal is to prepare every high school graduate for enlistment in the military, enrollment in higher education or employment in a productive job.

It's important that high schools prepare for in-demand careers, rather than menial jobs. The state Education Department's initial list had 18 career pathways, including banking, accounting, business finance, several categories in computer science, welding, construction, automotive service, criminal justice and agriculture.

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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: What is Lyme disease?**

**A:** Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that results from a bite from an infected tick. Lyme disease is the most common disease transmitted through bites in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 476,000 people are diagnosed and treated for the condition each year.

The *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria is the most common cause of Lyme disease. Black-legged ticks (or deer ticks) are the most frequent carriers of the bacteria. Spending time in brushy, grassy or wooded areas where ticks live increases the risk of acquiring Lyme disease. Spring, summer and fall are riskier times as ticks are more active. The condition is not contagious.

Body aches, fever, headache, a reddish rash or swollen lymph nodes are early-stage symptoms of Lyme disease. Bell's palsy (facial paralysis), difficulty concentrating, irregular heartbeat, numbness, and a rash over multiple areas of the body can occur if the disease progresses.

Avoiding tick bites by using tick repellents and minimizing skin exposure are the best methods of preventing Lyme disease. Antibiotics are used to treat the condition, and it is normally resolved especially when diagnosed early. See your health care provider if you feel you have been bitten by a tick and you have symptoms.

Email your health questions to [housecall@uams.edu](mailto:housecall@uams.edu).

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**PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS**

**BY RICK FLOYD**

## Lunar phases, foreign comets

The Moon will be in "last quarter" on Sunday, Sept. 14, meaning it will be half lit and waning.

This is a good time to review the lunar phases and how they are described. A new moon is the dark phase when it has its far side fully turned toward the Sun putting the side we see in total shadow. A waxing crescent follows from the barest sliver appearing in the west after sunset to near half moon. This particular half moon is called first quarter, then as the light continues to expand across the surface each night the Moon is in the waxing gibbous phase. Gibbous is from the Latin noun gibbus meaning "hump". After the full moon the shadow begins to cover the right side, and this is the waning gibbous phase. The Moon reaches last or third quarter when its right half is in shadow. Last is the waning crescent phase that moves lower and lower toward the eastern horizon each morning, the crescent becoming thinner and thinner, until vanishing again into complete shadow for a few days. This cycle repeats itself every 29 1/2 days.

The waning crescent moon will lie between Jupiter and the two brightest stars of the constellation Gemini, Castor and Pollux, in the predawn of Tuesday, Sept. 16.

New images of the mystery interstellar comet 31/ATLAS have revealed that it now has a familiar comet tail, and recent analysis of its dust and ice suggest that its composition is broadly similar to that of comets formed in our solar system.

However, it is a rare opportunity for scientists to study a comet formed by a distant star before it speeds off again to interstellar space. 31/ATLAS is only the third known interstellar comet to have crossed into our solar system.

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

# Air fryers ... not just good for chicken nuggets

BY MARY HIGHTOWER

U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

SEARCY -- A common kitchen appliance has a novel application that can help ranchers ensure the quality of their forage.

Checking the moisture content of forage is key. Too much moisture in hay bales not only leads to mold, but it also encourages fermentation, which leads to hay bales heating and eventually catching fire.

For silage, which is stored at higher moisture levels than dried hay, chopping or baling outside a recommended moisture range can reduce fermentation, which is necessary to make silage more usable by livestock.

There is more than one way to measure moisture in forage. There are commercial probes that can be used but can be cantankerous to calibrate.

There are several methods that involve other household appliances. The University of Kentucky suggests several methods, including wringing a handful like a dishrag and seeing what moisture seeps out, or microwaving a forage sample and comparing its weight before and after. Another, developed by Penn State Extension, involves PVC pipe and a hairdryer.

Brian Haller, White County extension staff chair for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, used another kitchen appliance, an air fryer, as part of a corn silage demonstration in Rose Bud, held in August.

"We even have a fact sheet for it," Haller said. The 2020 extension fact sheet, FSA3155, "Measuring Forage Moisture Content Using an Air Fryer," explains the process.

The principle is simple: the air fryer is used as a drier. Users take a core sample from a test bale, chop it into small pieces and weigh out 100 grams. The measured sample is placed in the air fryer and allowed to dry out for about 30 minutes. Users can then weigh the dried sample and subtract the dried weight from the original 100 grams to determine the moisture level.

"I started using the air fryer this year," Haller said. "For many years we used microwave ovens and would teach producers how to do that. Microwave ovens work, but you have to make sure there is a small cup of water in the microwave oven, or it could dry the forage out too fast and cause a fire."

John Jennings, former extension forage specialist for the Division of Agriculture and author of the fact sheet, said he first heard about the forage application for air fryers in an article by from Dan Severson, New Castle County extension agent for the University of Delaware.

"We tried it and tweaked the technique a bit for our conditions," Jennings said. That eventually led to his fact sheet.

Using the air fryers "is a little less dangerous than in a microwave, and you can get an air fryer fairly inexpensively," Jennings said. "Just don't use the microwave in the home kitchen because it can produce an odor that's very hard to get rid of."

Jonathan Kubesch, the current extension forage specialist echoed Jennings' advice: "I think it's a great way to keep farmers from ruining the home microwave or stinking up a kitchen!" Kubesch said.

Kubesch also noted that air fryers offer more accurate results

when compared to balers' moisture meters.

Jennings said the plus side to the air fryer is "you could cook up some French fries and have them to snack on while you're waiting on your core sample."

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit [www.uaex.uada.edu](http://www.uaex.uada.edu). Follow us on X and Instagram at @AR\_Extension. To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aaes.uada.edu/>. Follow us on X at @ArkAgResearch. To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit <https://uada.edu/>. Follow us on X at @AgInArk.

## Milligan announces more than \$700k in refunds

LITTLE ROCK -- Auditor of State Dennis Milligan pushed 'Start' on his office's new Data Match initiative today, generating more than \$700,000 worth of checks that will be mailed to Arkansans this week. The new initiative will send checks to eligible individuals who have unclaimed property without them having to file a claim.

"We are so excited to get this program up and running," Milligan said. "Thanks to the Arkansas Legislature, we're able to begin mailing checks to people each week so long as we can prove they are owed this money."

Act 114 of 2025 authorized the Auditor's office to mail checks to people owed between \$50 and \$5,000 if their identity can be proven through multiple data verification sources. Milligan has identified more than 360,000 properties to be verified for the Data Match program, though not all of those properties will be eligible. The Auditor's office began mailing letters to eligible Arkansans

July 2 notifying them they will soon be receiving a check in the mail.

Unclaimed property can be any number of financial items, such as uncashed checks, unreimbursed utility deposits, insurance proceeds, and more.

"We are working as hard as we can to get this money back into the hands of its rightful owners," he said. "This effort will help my office get Arkansans their unclaimed cash more efficiently by cutting through the red tape."

The Data Match program is a best practice currently adopted by 24 other states' unclaimed property programs. Currently, only individuals are eligible for the Data Match program. Businesses, nonprofits, and people owed less than \$50 or more than \$5,000 will still be required to file a claim online at [www.claimitar.gov](http://www.claimitar.gov).

## Composting and garden prep workshop set for September 23

MURFREESBORO -- A "composting and fall garden prep" workshop will be held by the Pike County UA Extension Service on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.

The workshop will be held at the Pike County Extension Office is located at 100 Court Street in Murfreesboro. Call (870) 285-2161 to sign up or for more information.

Participants will learn about composting, seed saving and prepping their garden for the fall and winter months. There will be hands on activities and prizes -- take home seeds and door prizes.

The cost of attendance is \$10 per person, and can be signed up for online at [forms.office.com/r/7BUuHm5LMp](http://forms.office.com/r/7BUuHm5LMp).

## Card of Thanks

On behalf of our entire family, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming love, support, and kindness you have shown us following the passing of our loved one, James Tommy "Rootbeer" Howard.

In such a difficult time, your words of comfort, heartfelt condolences, thoughtful cards, meals, visits, and prayers have meant more than we can express. Each gesture reminded us that we are not alone, and that Tommy's life touched so many in this community.

Losing someone we love is never easy, but your support has brought us strength and comfort in the midst of our sorrow. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such a compassionate and caring community.

Thank you again for standing with us and for honoring Tommy's memory in such meaningful ways.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*The Family of Tommy Howard*

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken sandwich, french fries, baked beans, lettuce, tomato, applesauce, milk

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Breakfast: Sausage, egg, cheese muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Pizza sticks, fresh broccoli w/ranch, cucumber slices, mixed fruit, milk

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Breakfast: Sausage croissant on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole grain roll, pears, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Salisbury steak

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

Lunch: Beef-A-Roni, Italian vegetable blend, seasoned corn, garlic breadsticks, peaches, milk

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

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Breakfast: Donut dunkin sticks w/cheese sticks or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheese pizza, steamed broccoli, baby carrots w/ranch, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option - Big Daddy pepperoni pizza

\*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](http://www.rattlers.org)

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

### MONDAY, SEPT. 15

Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, green peas & carrots, cookie

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Lemon herb chicken, corn brussels sprouts, dinner roll, gelatin

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

Roast turkey, cornbread dressing, baked sweet potatoes, pineapple upside down cake, cranberry sauce

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

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- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

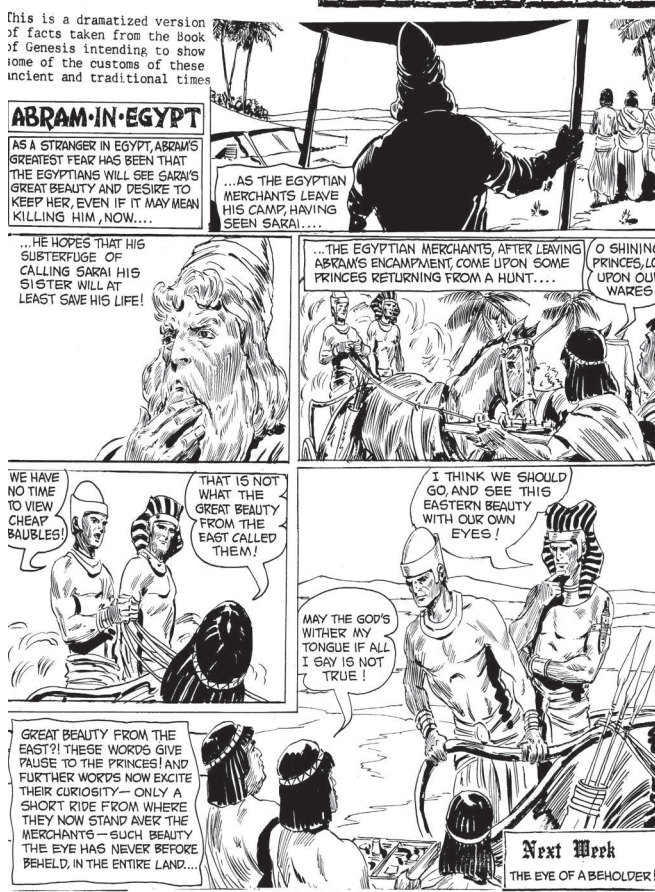


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## Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI



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**COMBO WORDS**  
\* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS**  
1. Wood file  
5. Pick up a perpetrator  
8. This and that  
12. Title for Turkish leader  
13. Tarantino's "\_\_\_ Bill: Vol.1"  
14. Ten million, in India  
15. Type of word  
16. Kent State state  
17. Oohed partner  
18. \*Sleeping in a very fancy tent  
20. Board game of diplomacy  
21. Canada's favorite tree?  
22. Long time  
23. Asian wild sheep  
26. Galilei's first name  
30. Ever, to a poet  
31. Lease giver  
34. Hokkaido native  
35. Sends unwanted emails  
37. Charlotte's creation  
38. "Bravo! Bravo!"  
39. Roughly (2 words)  
40. Common spa treatment  
42. Gobbled up  
43. \*Movie theater snack  
45. Infer using data  
47. Entrepreneur Mary Ash's middle name  
48. Wiser  
50. Decomposes  
52. \*Communication device  
55. Veranda, in Honolulu  
56. Rum-soaked cake  
57. Shades of color  
59. Those against  
60. Tehran location  
61. Small island  
62. Violin's Renaissance predecessor  
63. Cloud's domain  
64. Left after deductions, in U.K.

**DOWN**

1. Escaped  
2. Bug-eyed  
3. Synagogue  
4. Wide-brimmed straw hat  
5. Nothing, in Latin  
6. Skirt shape  
7. \*Online journal  
8. \*Exceptionally intelligent one  
9. Aahs' partners  
10. Hiker's journey  
11. He had  
13. Small hill rising up from veld  
14. Classic TV's "lovely lady"  
19. Pall \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ of America  
22. ENT's first concern?  
23. "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller  
24. Copy, slangily  
25. Get the picture  
26. Desert in China and Mongolia  
27. Jasmine's kin  
28. Related on mother's side  
29. Revealed  
32. Zeus in disguise  
33. Not min or hr  
36. \*Nonalcoholic drink  
38. LDS missionary  
40. Cook in a skillet  
41. Sea in the Mediterranean  
44. Desert mirage  
46. Prickly marine invertebrate  
48. \*Scornful remark  
49. Keep someone \_\_\_ or away from causing harm  
50. Indian princess  
51. On top of  
52. Wading bird  
53. Yorkshire river  
54. Patty follower  
55. Abbreviation on a bathroom door  
58. Part of tennis match

**CROSSWORD**

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# September is suicide prevention month, help save a life

BY FRED KNOX  
CEO, Rivendell Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

BENTON -- Are you worried about a friend? Be the one to help save a life.

September marks Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Unfortunately, our region continues to experience an increase in the number of individuals who need support and care. Social isolation, mental illness and difficult life transitions can play a role in the increased risk for suicide, but we also know that connectedness and a sense of belonging can protect against suicide.

There are many ways you can help yourself or someone else

who might be struggling. In addition to seeking help from crisis services and mental health professionals, there are concrete actions the general public can take to keep our family members, friends, colleagues and neighbors safe. As a community provider, closing the gap for those who are in suicidal crisis is critical to ensure that anyone at risk has a safe place to go, someone to talk to and someone to care.

**PROMOTING HELP AND INSPIRING HOPE**

As a behavioral healthcare provider here in Central Arkansas, our team at Rivendell Behavioral Health Services is dedicated to #BeThe1To in a manner that promotes connectedness. Evidence-

based treatments and support are available. It is imperative that we equip our community with hope, resilience and the tools to feel empowered. People needing help can contact:

- 988, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, that provides 24/7 confidential support. Text, chat or call today. Trained crisis counselors are ready to serve.
- The Veterans Crisis Line for Military Veterans, call 988, press 1.
- Trevor Lifeline, the only national 24/7 lifeline for LGBTQ youth, at 1-866-488-7386.

# State announces FCC plan to combat illicit phone use in prisons

*'Thousands of contraband cellphones have poured into prisons across the country, and inmates have been using them to plan further criminal activity' -- Tim Griffin*

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement after meeting with U.S. Senator Tom Cotton, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr, announcing that the FCC will vote this month on a proposal that, for the first time, would allow prisons to combat the use of contraband cellphones by implementing jamming solutions:

"Earlier today, Senator Tom Cotton, Chairman Brendan Carr, and I toured the Varner Unit of the Arkansas Department of Corrections to see firsthand how cellphone jamming in prisons

would benefit Arkansas, and what we saw was alarming. Varner staff showed us the collection of contraband cellphones that have been confiscated.

"After our visit to Varner, I joined Senator Cotton, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Chairman Carr, Lindsay Wallace, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Corrections, and other public safety leaders for a roundtable meeting at my office to discuss the threat that contraband cellphones pose to correctional officers and the general public. Thousands of contraband cellphones have poured into prisons across the country, and inmates have been using them to plan further criminal activity, including assault, murder, and aiding criminal enterprises.

"I applaud Chairman Carr and the FCC for moving forward with a rule that would allow correctional facilities to use jamming solutions to combat contraband cellphones, and I appreciate the leadership of Senator Cotton and Congressman David Kustoff (R-Tennessee) on this issue. This is an obvious problem with an obvious solution, and it's time to get this done."

Chairman Carr added the following statement:

"President Trump is restoring law and order. He is putting the safety of law-abiding Americans first. That is why I am pleased to announce that the FCC will vote, for the first time ever, on allowing prisons to jam contraband cellphones. For years, thousands upon thousands of contraband cellphones have been pouring into prisons, and some of the worst possible offenders have been using them to order hits, coordinate violent gang activity, and aid criminal enterprises. While the FCC has authorized a range of solutions in the past, it has stopped short of allowing jamming. It is time to empower law enforcement to put additional solutions in place—including jamming. I would like to thank the leadership of the great state of Arkansas for hosting us today and for the leadership you have shown in working to eliminate this pressing threat to public safety."

Senator Cotton added the following statement:

"Today's tour of Varner Prison in Arkansas reaffirmed what

we've long known—contraband cellphones are a real and ongoing problem in our correctional system. These phones are a security risk that allow criminals to coordinate crimes while sitting behind bars. Congress should follow the lead and codify this proposal by immediately passing the Cellphone Jamming Reform Act of 2025."

Governor Sanders added the following statement:

"Public safety is government's first priority, and the evidence clearly shows that contraband cell phones pose a direct threat to Arkansas' security. President Trump is restoring order and delivering on his promises to the American people by empowering the men and women of law enforcement to do what they selflessly signed up to do—protect and serve. Together, we will hold criminals accountable and protect Arkansans."

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Week of September 8, 2025

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**MHS RATTTLERS  
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FOUKE  
SEPT. 5, 2020  
RATTLER  
STADIUM  
STAFF PHOTOS**



**ELECT  
RANDY LAMB  
FOR  
PIKE COUNTY  
SHERIFF &  
COLLECTOR**



As a lifelong resident of Pike County, I am committed to making our county a better and safer place to live.

I am a 2003 graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy. I have 23 years of experience as a law enforcement officer with the past 15 years serving as the Chief of the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Within the past few years, the number of shootings in Pike County has increased along with other criminal activity. NOW is the time for a change in the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

As Pike County Sheriff, I will work alongside my Deputies and bring leadership to a competent and professional department. I will work with both state and local agencies while also focusing patrol efforts to the towns and more rural areas of the county. I will maintain a proactive department in order to deter criminal activity.

As Sheriff, I will seek to save tax payers dollars by applying for State and Federal grants. I will operate with the set budget and work to cut unnecessary spending.

I will utilize the Pike County Jail (first and foremost) to house Pike County Prisoners, instead of releasing them back onto the streets, with prisoners from other counties being housed on a secondary basis.

I am not seeking the position of Pike County Sheriff just to sit around and reap the rewards, I will bring to the office a strong work ethic, experience, leadership, and create a department that Pike County citizens will be proud of.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
AND I RESPECTFULLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE  
IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ON  
MARCH 3 2026**

*(pd. pol. ad by Randy Lamb)*