

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
Issue 12 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00  
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975  
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4-H to hold hay bale decorating contest

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H has announced the inaugural hay bale decorating contest.

The hay bales will be placed at the former Pike County Hospital in Murfreesboro.

Interested participants are asked to contact (870) 285-2161 to enter. There is a \$25 entry fee for each bale.

The deadline to enter is Monday, Sept. 30, with the contest starting on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Participants must have their hay bale decorated by Thursday, Oct. 3. The bales will be judged on Friday, Oct. 4.

Prizes will be awarded to winning bales -- individuals, businesses, and/or clubs can enter.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Pike County 4-H program.

Local health units host flu clinics

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Health Unit will hold a community flu clinic on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The drive-through clinic will be held at the health unit located at 15 Caddo Drive in Murfreesboro.

For more information contact the health unit at (870) 285-3154.

The Howard County Health Unit will hold their community flu clinic on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Howard County Health Unit is located at 201 E. Hempstead in Nashville.

For more information contact the health unit at (870) 845-2208.

CHI offers free internet to patients

MURFREESBORO -- A grant is providing all rural CHI Health community members with free internet through June of next year

Last Mile Connect Care is providing high speed internet at no cost to any person who has even been a client with CHI St. Vincent or any of the other CHI properties. The in-home 5G or 4G broadband connectivity is provided at no cost.

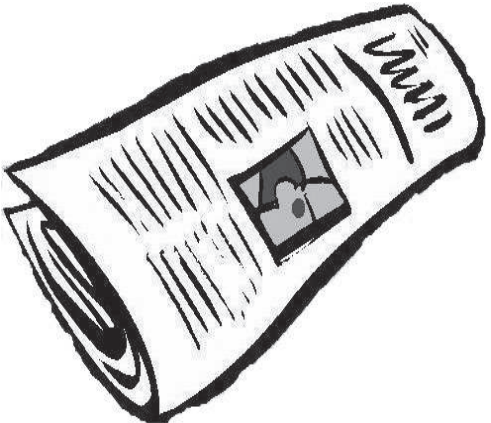
The program is funded with support from the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide broadband connectivity and equipment to rural, Tribal and underserved areas nationwide via the T-Mobile network.

The Last Mile Connect Care pilot program is a partnership between CommonSpirit/CHI Health, First Choice Integrations, All Ways Wireless and T-Mobile aiming to deliver essential healthcare to individuals at home.

Participants will have the option to discontinue service at the end of June 2026 (or later if the grant is extended) or can subscribe to a monthly plan with T-Mobile to continue service. The provided router is free of charge and will not need to be returned.

Following a completed application process, a router will be shipped directly to the applicant's home address.

For more information, visit [www.lastmile-connect.care](http://www.lastmile-connect.care).



DO YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING  
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[mdiamond@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)  
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



2025 RATTLER HOMECOMING COURT ... Murfreesboro High School conducted Homecoming ceremonies last Friday at the school. Included in the court were front row (L to R): Queen's attendants Clyde Henderson, Reece Bromley and Suttan Womack; second row: Sophomore Maid Kinley Fisher, Sophomore Maid Kyndall Henderson, Junior Maid Charleigh Wheeler, Senior Maid Mabree Sweat, Queen Sydney Braden, Senior Maid Kinleigh Mounts, Junior Maid Ramsey Terrell, Sophomore Maid Macy Gills and Sophomore Maid McKinlee White; third row: senior football members Lucas Carey, Garrett Downs, Kale Burns, John Parker Jackson, Hawkins Jackson, Caleb Terrell, Liam Eoff, Reid Jackson, D'Jay Leeper, Logan Burris and JaMauri Jones. See page six of today's paper for more photos.

Rattlers slay Dragons for homecoming victory

MURFREESBORO – The Murfreesboro Rattlers (2-1) struck for a homecoming victory at home last Friday night, defeating the Genoa Central Dragons (1-2) by a 40-12 score.

Head coach Jay Turley said Bubba Stinson was the player of the game, with two rushing touchdowns along with a reception for a score.

He said the team came out a little sluggish, perhaps due to the homecoming festivities, and didn't capitalize on some first half opportunities that saw the team 24-12 at the halftime mark.

"We forced some passes and played sloppy, leading to their two touchdowns in the first half," said Turley.

While admitting the defense played well, Turley said the team would have to play more physical in the future.

"I was proud in the second half that we could run successfully and control the clock. I feel good about that. We have to have the big picture in mind and get better [going into conference play]. Friday night we were just able to out-athlete them, and we took advantage of that. That won't be the case every Friday night though."

He credited the offensive line with quality blocking, including Mason Wilkins who was often able to seal the edge and allow the team to break runs.

"Our screen game is also improving," he said, noting that as opposing teams blitz more in the future to try and diffuse the Rattler passing attack it would be incumbent for screens and draws to work efficiently.

His biggest takeaway from the game for improvement was the team developing a "killer mentality" and putting teams away earlier when given the opportunity. "We didn't do that in the first half when we could have."

VERSUS GURDON

RATTLERS Continued on Page 2



HOMECOMING WIN ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers scored a convincing 40-12 Homecoming victory over Genoa Central last Friday night at home. Pictured (above left) is Aiden "Bubba" Stinson (25) points to the crowd after a first quarter touchdown reception while teammate Cayden Ballard (21) looks on; (above right) Isaac Kuykendall attempts to go through a Dragon defender following at catch. (Far above) DB Drake Eoff jumps to deflect a pass intended for a Dragon receiver.



RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

The Rattlers will host the Gurdon Go-Devils (1-2) this Friday night at Rattler Stadium.

Gurdon sandwiched a 31-6 win over Parkers Chapel between a pair of losses on the season – 39-0 versus Magnet Cove and 22-0 at Marked Tree last Friday night.

Turley said “Gurdon is Gurdon ... they are going to run the ball and control the clock, trying to limit our opportunities.”

He said they have largely two offensive sets – the wishbone and a gun-t look – that features different quarterbacks based on the look.

“Their best player is Uriah Gatlin (#3, RB) who has the potential to go 80 yards if you let him get going.”

While admitting that it did make game planning easier for a one-dimensional team – “they don’t throw the ball real well” – he said it was incumbent for the defensive backs to be disciplined in the game to ensure no Gurdon surprises end up costing the Rattlers.

“The cornerbacks have to be prepared for the pass, while the rest of the defense can play for the run.”

Local man now to be charged with second degree murder

MURFREESBORO -- A Pike County man expected to be charged with manslaughter for a shooting death earlier this year has now been charged with second-degree murder.

Gage Allan King, 23, of Murfreesboro, was officially charged Sept. 18 in Pike County Circuit Court for the death of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, of Delight on June 18.

King is scheduled for arraignment on Sept. 29 where he is expected to enter a plea.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed in the case, the Arkansas State Police was called in concerning a shooting that had occurred at 220 Pike City Road. An investigator arrived at approximately 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Pike City Road and Highway 26 and observed paramedics and Pike County deputies were already on the scene.

The investigator was informed that Lamb had been shot in the chest by a suspect identified as King, who was later taken into custody by county deputies. Lamb had left the scene of the shooting in a vehicle driven by Melissa Campbell, 52, who had driven to the intersection and was met by first responders. Lamb was pronounced deceased at the intersection.

ASP Special Agent James Avant interviewed Campbell in his patrol unit at the intersection. The agent reported that Campbell said she and Lamb went to 220 Pike City Road to “confront King regarding a prior incident” and that King had came outside holding a gun. She said Lamb exited the vehicle and had begun to approach King when King fired the gun, which was reportedly a .22 caliber rifle. Lamb was able to get back into the vehicle with Campbell.

Campbell further stated that King had pointed the gun at her vehicle and that she drove forward and struck King with the front of her vehicle before fleeing the residence.

While King was in county custody, he told an ASP investigator that Campbell and Lamb had come to the residence and made threats towards him. He said he went inside to get the rifle and that when Lamb exited the vehicle and began to approach he warned him multiple times to stop before firing the one fatal shot.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Student to face consequences after internet post

MURFREESBORO -- A 12-year-old Murfreesboro student is facing serious consequences after his social media post caused “significant disruptions” for the school district, according to an incident report filed by Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald.

McDonald reported that on Sept. 15 around 10 p.m., he received a call from South Pike County School District Superintendent Tanya Wilcher regarding a TikTok video recently posted. The video had since been taken down and Wilcher reported she had received several phone calls from concerned individuals in the community who had seen the video.

According to McDonald, the video featured a photo from the television show Dexter, “a fictional series centered around a serial killer.” The image depicted Dexter in front of a wall filled with pictures of people he had killed. The onscreen text read, “This is how I will be tomorrow” and “MHS is gonna be alive” and included the district’s Rattler mascot logo.

“This connection strongly suggested that the video was posted by someone associated” with the school district, either directly or indirectly, McDonald reported.

The following morning, members of the Pike County Sheriff’s Department and Murfreesboro Police Department were present at the school to ensure campus safety and secured the school grounds before normal activities resumed.

That same morning, the juvenile seventh-grader reportedly admitted to a school official that he was responsible for the account and video that was posted.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Borrower: Karen DeAnn White and Cecil Roy White, Jr., wife and husband

Lender: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL.

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THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION GIVEN MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 21, 2025, at or about 10:00 a.m., the following real property will be sold at the main/ front door of the Pike County Courthouse, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958, to the highest bidder for cash:

PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER SECTION TWO (2), TOWNSHIP NINE (9) SOUTH, RANGE TWENTY-SIX (26) WEST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID FORTY-ACRE TRACT; THENCE SOUTH 49 YARDS; THENCE WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE NORTH 49 YARDS; THENCE EAST 35 YARDS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 35/100THS OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS; AND BEING THE SAME LAND AS THAT CONVEYED AND DESCRIBED IN BOOK D238 AT PAGE 375, LAND RECORDS OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS. ALSO DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, T. 9 S., R. 26 W., PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NE1/4 OF THE NE1/4 SECTION 2, T. 9 S., R. 26 W., PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE – SOUTH 49 YARDS; THENCE – WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE – NORTH 49 YARDS THENCE - EAST 35 YARDS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; BASIS OF BEARINGS IS DEED CALL BEARING SOUTH ALONG WEST BOUNDARY LINE. THE ABOVE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED PROPERTY BEING SURVEYED BY RICHARD V. HALL, JR. CONTAINS 0.354 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS: AND SUBJECT TO SUCH RIGHTS AS MAY BE VESTED IN PUBLIC FOR SWEET HOME ROAD AND ROY ROAD ALONG THE WEST AND SOUTH BOUNDARY LINES OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED 0.354 ACRE TRACT, AS DEPICTED IN A

SURVEY BY RICHARD V. HALL, AR RPLS #820, OF HALL SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC., DATED 11/22/10.

Along with a 2006 CMHM Manufactured Home with Serial No.: CLS104802TN, attached thereto, with the address of 552 Sweet Home Road, Nashville, Arkansas 71852.

On , October 1, 2018 a Mortgage was executed by Karen DeAnn White and Cecil Roy White, Jr., wife and husband, to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., which was recorded on October 15, 2018 (Document #: 20184812), in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. The party initiating foreclosure can be contacted at: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., 500 Alcoa Trail, Maryville, Tennessee 37804, Phone (800) 970-7250.

Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness by the current owner(s) of the property, and the same is now therefore wholly due and owing. Lender intends to sell the above property to satisfy the obligation; and,

Tenants of the property may exist that claim an interest in the real property herein.

The undersigned is the attorney for the Lender and is acting on and with the consent of the Lender who is exercising its power of sale under Ark. Code Ann. § 18-50-115, which implies a power of sale in every mortgage of real property situated in this State that is duly acknowledged and recorded.

The sale is subject to any requirements and conditions set forth in the applicable recorded or unrecorded plat or bill(s) of assurance affecting the above real property; any restrictive covenants, easements, set back lines or encroachments; any unpaid taxes or special assessments; any statutory redemption rights of any governmental entity; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a UCC or fixture filing; and, to any matter that an accurate survey of the property might disclose. This property is being sold “as-is” with no representation as to the condition of any structure(s) thereon.

This foreclosure proceeding includes a manufactured home that is titled as personal property. Ark. Code Ann § 4-9-604 allows the foreclosing party to proceed against both the personal property and the real property in this manner.

The legal description contained herein controls and takes priority over any address used to the extent the legal description and address conflict.

Dated: July 11, 2025

Biles Wilson, PLLC, 457 Laurence Drive, Suite 195, Heath, Texas 75032

(214) 662-8456.

By: Jeremy R. Wilson, ABN 2000108

(p.n.a., 781w, 12,13,14,15)



# Quorum Court hears of satellite office plans

MURFREESBORO – The Pike County Quorum Court heard of an effort to open a satellite office for the county assessor’s and collector’s offices in Glenwood.

Pike County Assessor Staci Stewart told the court that the plan was to have the office open two days a week initially and then “see how it goes.”

She added that she felt it would be beneficial to the county and that the plan could be accomplished within the current budget.

The office would be located in the new city hall on Fagan Street, for which the offices would pay \$100 per month rent to the City of Glenwood, with a one year lease to assess the situation after that time frame.

Stewart said Glenwood Mayor Billy Plyler and the Glenwood City Council was on board with the decision.

The office would only accept personal property fees for collection.

Stewart, who hopes to have the full plan outline in time for budgetary consideration later this year, hopes the office “ideally” can be up and running by January 2 of 2026.

Both offices can train the new employee, and Stewart said ideally it could be a local retiree that can operate computers. The employee would be paid \$16.50/hour.

It was stated that an assessor’s satellite office was open in Glenwood in the early 1980’s, and Justice Johnny Plyler stating that he hoped it worked out, for it would make it easier for north Pike County residents, especially when assessing and licensing vehicles.

Stewart said all first-time assessments would still have to be handled in Murfreesboro at the Pike County Courthouse.

Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford discussed with the court the need for additional revenue to finish out the year. The four-county district (Pike, Howard, Clark and Little River) was losing FOCA funding on Sept. 30, and was asking each of the four counties to kick in an additional \$6,871 share. Howard County approved their share prior to the meeting in Murfreesboro.

Bradford said the funds were “vital to running the prosecutor’s office.”

She also noted that she would seek grants in the future and that in the past when funding fell short the Arkansas Governor has helped alleviate shortfalls.

She was asked about a prorated portion due to greater populations in the other counties, and it was noted that it would be dealt with in the 2026 budget. The court approved the addition for the remainder of the year.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard told the court that a 2014 model tractor that was used in bushhogging was in need of replacing due to age and condition. He presented three bids from in-county tractor distributors, with the low bid being a 2024 tractor from Glenwood Equipment for \$50,267.40. The 92 horsepower, four-wheel drive tractor was in stock and available immediately and comes with a 24 month/2,000 hour warrantee. The money will be paid out of the county’s landfill department account.

“There is so much effort going into keeping the old tractor running that it’s no longer cost or time effective,” Howard told the court before approval to purchase the new tractor. “It’s just one thing after another,” he said, noting that parts – like the hydraulic pump – have to be purchased in individual pieces due to the age of the machine. The old tractor will likely be sold at auction down the road.

He also alerted the justices of the peace that the county road department would be laying down chip and seal on a two mile stretch of road near Nathan.

“We have a lot going on at one time,” Howard said, noting he planned to finishing all bushhogging across the county roads by the end of the growing season.

“It’s been a rough spring with equipment [after the bushhog also needed repair] but the roads a very visible and are a big

subject,” said J.P. Robbie Crocker.

After it was noted that in times with other projects going on that there was only two employees to either bushhog or boom-hog, it was asked if a part-time worker – perhaps a student – could be hired to work in the mowing season.

Howard replied that it was almost impossible to hire an adult worker part-time at \$13 an hour and that students were simply too busy these days, especially if they played football, which has workouts all summer long.

Justice Kip Holbrook joked that with no cabin air on the tractor and a pay rate of \$13 an hour, it was no wonder that no one could be hired, and that they should investigate the issue at budget planning meetings.

Howard said the old Wolf Creek Bridge had been removed in Delight and the new pilings had been installed and were read for crossbeams. The project was now waiting for further Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality permits.

He said that the first payment of \$54,163 of federal payments had come in for road repairs following spring flooding, with more than \$300,000 still hung up in committee awaiting approval.

The court also approved new WalMart business cards for the Pike County Sheriff’s Department after the current Capital One cards will be terminating services on November 1. There will be five cards issued in the department with a cumulative limit of \$5,000.

Howard announced the members of the budget and handbook committees for upcoming meetings. The budget committee will be comprised of Plyler, Jerry Fendley, Richard Mohlenhoff and Crocker. The handbook committee will consist of Plyler, Fendley, Mohlenhoff, Crocker and Seth Henry Kirkham.

Pike County Treasurer Loletita Rather reported the following opening and closing figures for the county through August:

County General: \$1,738,393.32/\$1,720,630.09

County Road: \$485,867.71/\$499,795.86

County Landfill: \$417,409.83/\$457,725.06

All County Accounts: \$7,217,824.34/\$7,205,560.72



Submitted photo

CONNIE DORATHY

## Dorathy awarded national grant

BY AVONNE PETTY  
County EHC reporter

MURFREESBORO: The “We Make for Good” organization recently recognized Connie Dorathy, of Murfreesboro, as a product grant recipient of fiberfill. The certificate she received states, “The recipient is being recognized by Fairfield Processing Inc, as a crafter whose creations benefit a good cause.” The grant is “to support your charitable efforts for all the good you are doing for others.”

Dorathy enjoys crocheting and sharing her talents with others. Recently she delivered at least 500 toys to Arkansas Children’s Hospital. She says her hobby gives her something to do with her time, and she enjoys knowing others will enjoy her efforts.

Earlier she donated 250 toys to the Jones Center and an orphanage in Springdale, 100 to the First Christian Church preschool. Children of Tourist have also enjoyed her gifts from the Diamond City Rock Shop. Now she is working on toys to be distributed by DHS.

Her dedication to her craft has touched countless individuals in the community. The grant of fiberfill will allow her to further her mission to bring comfort and kindness through creative giving. Friends and neighbors describe Connie as a quiet force for good, whose generosity has inspired others to find their own ways to give back.

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6347-0125

# Obituaries

## Wanda Jean Bateman Jackson, 88, Texas

Wanda Jean Bateman Jackson, age 88 of Garland, Texas passed away September 13, 2025. She was born in Murfreesboro, Arkansas to Johnnie and Willie Mae Bateman.

She was the beloved mother to her daughters, Donnie Neal and Susan Anderton (husband Chuck), Granny to her three grandchildren. And she was Big Granny to her three great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Jackson, both parents and siblings, Johnnie Mae Smedley and Rick Bateman.

No services are planned at this time. Her wishes were that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Garland Animal Shelter or your favorite pet rescue organization.

## Stories in the stars

One of the smallest of the official 88 constellations is now high in the night sky. Delphinus (del FINE us), a Latinized Greek word for dolphin, is only moderately bright, but it has been a named star grouping for many centuries. In addition to the Greeks and Romans other cultures worldwide have recognized it as a feature of one sort or another. The Greeks had the dolphin included in two myth stories, one in which a dolphin helps Poseidon win the love of a woman, and another when a dolphin saves the life a drowning poet.

It is human nature to let the imagination make images and stories from the world around us. My grandmother liked to sit outside after supper, and as darkness came the conversation often turned to the stars. One of her favorite constellations was the dolphin, but to her it was a celestial coffin. She said that her father, a sawmill owner and farmer, built coffins as a side business for the community, and it was he that noted the familiar shape.

It was one of those hand-made coffins that rode by wagon from Delight to DeGray with the body of my grandmother’s Civil War veteran grandfather. It was a two day journey for my grandmother and her father. They stayed the night at the Bozeman House near Arkadelphia, the wagon secured in the barn. One of my grandmother’s strongest memories was of the first night after returning home from the funeral, a cold and clear December night in 1919, and of her father pointing to Delphinus and saying it was grandpa’s coffin lowering in the west. A family story was written in the stars that night.

To find Delphinus look to the southeast then up. The brightest star in the area is the point star of the summer triangle, Altair. Delphinus is about 10 degrees north-east of it. It is an elongated diamond shape of four stars with a fifth as the tail. Murfreesboro could maybe adopt the diamond part as its “official” constellation.

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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 are NSAIDs used for?

**A:** Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are medications that are used to relieve pain and reduce fever and inflammation by stopping the body from producing chemicals that cause inflammation. NSAIDs are commonly purchased over the counter, but health care providers may prescribe them in stronger doses. Common over-the-counter NSAIDs include aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen sodium.

NSAIDs are used to treat conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, headaches, muscle aches or tendonitis. They come in several forms including caplets or tablets, creams or gels, liquids, or suppositories. A health care provider may administer an NSAID through an injection to aid with short-term moderate or severe pain.

Common side effects of NSAIDs include bloating, headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness, kidney or liver problems, or nausea and vomiting. Taking NSAIDs with antacids, food or milk may reduce gastrointestinal side effects.

Contact your health care provider immediately if you experience side effects such as black stools, blood in urine or blurred vision while using NSAIDs. People with conditions such as bleeding disorders, high blood pressure, Crohn’s disease, kidney or liver disease, or stomach ulcers should consult with a health care provider before using NSAIDs.

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





Submitted photos/DAR

**LET FREEDOM RING ...** Locals participated in a special event last Wednesday in honor of Constitution week. In collaborating the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution the town to joined together in a special community tribute by ringing a bell for one minute to celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution. "This simple but meaningful gesture united our community in remembrance of the freedoms and principles our Constitution guarantees," said Mine Creek Paraclifta DAR representative and National Defense Chair Judy Hile."Together the sound of Freedom will echo through our town. Thank you for helping keep our history alive and showing your patriotic spirit." Hile would issue a "heartfelt thank you to our community -- I'd like to offer extra appreciation to Janie Wright of Flowers Done Wright, Jane Fugitt, South Pike County Schools Superintendent Tanya Wilcher, Murfreesboro Mayor O'Neal and Pike County Judge Eddie Howard for their participation and support."

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Chicken nachos w/cheese, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, pineapple, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- Burrito  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
Breakfast: Mini powdered donuts or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Corndog, potato smiles, fresh broccoli w/ ranch, sidekick fruit slush, milk  
7-12 line 2 option- All American sub, lettuce, tomato, pickle, onion  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

**MONDAY, SEPT. 29**  
Chicken spaghetti, salad, broccoli, chocolate cake  
**TUESDAY, SEPT. 30**  
Salisbury steak w/peppers, onion & gravy, cauliflower & carrots, dinner roll, cookie

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1**  
Chicken soft taco, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips & salsa, pear crisp  
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

# 2.79 carat diamond unearthed by Oklahoma resident at Crater

Submitted Article

MURFREESBORO -- On Saturday, September 13, a family from Cookson, Okla. visited Crater of Diamonds State Park and unearthed a gorgeous brown diamond weighing nearly three carats.

Raynae Madison and her family came to Arkansas for the weekend to celebrate her nephew's birthday when they decided to stop by world-famous Crater of Diamonds State Park. To prepare for their visit, they purchased a beach digging kit and sand sifting tools from a dollar store. The family picked a spot to dig on the north side of the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area, near Prospector Trailhead. After digging a few buckets, they were sifting dirt through their purchased screens when Madison noticed an unusual oblong, shiny stone. "At first I thought it looked really neat, but I wasn't sure what it was," she said. "I honestly thought it was too big to be a diamond!"

After showing her family, they took the stone to the park's Diamond Discovery Center,

where staff identified it as a diamond weighing 2.79 carats. The diamond is described as chocolate brown, with unique inclusions. "Brown diamonds from the Crater occur due to a process called plastic deformation, which creates structural defects during a diamond's formation or movement in magma," said Emma O'Neal, Park Interpreter at Crater of Diamonds State Park. "These defects reflect red and green light, combining to make the diamond appear brown."

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Madison chose to name her gem the William Diamond, in honor of her nephew.

The William Diamond is the third-largest diamond registered at the park this year, surpassing a 2.30-carat diamond found at the end of July. "2025 has been a great year for large diamond finds!" said O'Neal. "So far, we have registered four diamonds weighing over two-carats." As of this publication, 403 diamonds have been registered at Crater of Diamonds State Park this year.



Submitted photos/State of Arkansas

**DIAMOND FIND ...** Raynae Madison of Cookson, Okla. is pictured with her 2.79 carat diamond she found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park recently.

## Holiday nut orders now being accepted

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Conservation District is now taking orders for Fresh Mammoth Pecans, assorted flavors of Fudge and Raw Peanuts.

The last day to order is Friday, Oct. 24. Payment required when order is placed.

For more information or to place an order call Monday thru Wednesday at (870) 285-2424 or drop by the office at 131 N. Kelly St. Suite C. Orders should arrived the second week in November.

**SMALL ADS DO WORK ... YOU JUST READ ONE!**  
**CALL (870) 285-2723 FOR PRICING**

## ‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

Two of my favorite old gospel songs are "Walking Alone at Eve" and "Paradise Valley". I love these songs because they draw our thoughts away from earthly troubles to visions of Heaven, and I fondly remember my dad leading these in Murfreesboro.

As I close my eyes and think of the words to these songs about Heaven, a peace and calm comes over me and it makes everything else unimportant when compared to Heaven. As we press toward Heaven, let us meditate on other great songs such as "Heaven Holds All to Me", "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be", and "When We All Get to Heaven". These words encourage us on the day to day

journey of this life and its struggles.

The Bible gives descriptions of how great our Heavenly home will be: John 14:2 – In My Father's House are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

II Corinthians 5:1 – For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed,

we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Revelation 21:4 – And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Scripture assures us that God shall dwell with us, that we shall be His people and He shall be our God.

Let us encourage and uplift one another through scripture and song as we continue our journey to Heaven.

I pray that each of you may have a blessed week and strive daily to be Heaven bound.

*Paid Advertisement*

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

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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## Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**ABRAM-IN-EGYPT**

HAVING VIEWED SARAH'S BEAUTY, THE EGYPTIAN PRINCES ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEIR PHAROAH WILL REWARD THEM HANDSOMELY FOR SUCH GOOD NEWS--ALL OF WHICH ABRAM HAS FEARED....

AS THE PRINCES HURRY OFF, ABRAM HAS DISQUIETING THOUGHTS OVER THEIR FATE!

...AND INDEED, THE PRINCES CAN HARDLY WAIT TO TELL THEIR PHAROAH THIS NEWS!

O, MIGHTY PHAROAH, LIVE-FOR-EVER HEAR US!

...AND YOU SAY SHE IS THE SISTER OF THIS STRANGER IN MY LAND--HAMMM! WE SHALL HAVE TO SEND HIM MANY FINE GIFTS!

...AND PHAROAH IS VERY PLEASED! A GREAT BEAUTY HERE, IN HIS LAND! SOME ONE, NO DOUBT, WHO CAN GIVE GRACE AND STYLE TO HIS ESTABLISHMENT--A WORTHY ORNAMENT FIT TO REFLECT HIS OWN ROYAL SPLENDOR, HANDSOMELY!

JOHN LEHTI

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Next Week A PROCESSION!

## Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20  
Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.  
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

## Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at  
mdiamond@windstream.net



- PERIODIC TABLE ELEMENTS**  
\*-- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS**
- 1. “\_\_\_ of New York,” 2002 movie
  - 6. That guy
  - 9. Extinguish birthday candles
  - 13. Impolite dinner sound
  - 14. Division of time
  - 15. Forgo
  - 16. On the move
  - 17. Lake, in France
  - 18. Alaska native
  - 19. \*The heaviest metal
  - 21. \*Inert gas of balloon fame
  - 23. “Jersey Shore” network, acr.
  - 24. Move like parasailor
  - 25. Pick up, as in a criminal
  - 28. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
  - 30. “A ship without \_\_\_,” or one without purpose
  - 35. Paella pot
  - 37. Nessie’s turf
  - 39. Sweating room
  - 40. Cyberspace soliloquy
  - 41. \*Gold
  - 43. Foul substance
  - 44. Ruled
  - 46. Dish out
  - 47. Belgium’s currency
  - 48. Lands (2 words)
  - 50. Indira Gandhi’s dress
  - 52. \_\_\_ Without Hats, band
  - 53. Sheltered nook
  - 55. Gross National Product
  - 57. \*Majority of elements on periodic table
  - 60. \*Iron
  - 63. Fortune teller’s card
  - 64. Anger
  - 66. Saharan rest stop, e.g.
  - 68. Venerated paintings
  - 69. Acquired
  - 70. Beside, archaic
  - 71. Curious
  - 72. Professional basketball league, acr.

- 73. Paterfamilias, tenderly
- DOWN**
- 1. General Services Administration
  - 2. Additionally
  - 3. Common allergens
  - 4. Tale-spinning brother
  - 5. Prosecco cocktail
  - 6. Position of leadership
  - 7. George Gershwin’s brother
  - 8. Village People’s “\_\_\_ Man”
  - 9. Island near Java
  - 10. Stead
  - 11. Reproductive cell
  - 12. Kind of nurse
  - 15. The Beatles’ “I Am the \_\_\_”
  - 20. Throat lobe
  - 22. “Lend me your \_\_\_”
  - 24. Glucose+fructose
  - 25. \*Like Ar, Xe and Ne
  - 26. Completely dedicated (2 words)
  - 27. Hair color
  - 29. High in decibels
  - 31. Small European freshwater fish
  - 32. Pasta wheat
  - 33. Accustom
  - 34. \*Rn, known for seeping into homes
  - 36. Forever and a day
  - 38. Dance with leis
  - 42. Join companies
  - 45. Old European coins
  - 49. D.C. mover and shaker, for short
  - 51. Encroachment
  - 54. Victory hand gesture
  - 56. Life force, in Sanskrit
  - 57. Type of shark
  - 58. Aphrodite’s son
  - 59. Broadway recognition
  - 60. Greek salad ingredient
  - 61. Not mint
  - 62. This over matter?
  - 63. \*Sn, element in bronze
  - 65. “To \_\_\_ Peter to pay Paul”
  - 67. Pig pen

CROSSWORD

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EVENTS

NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Arkansas - End The  
Stigma 5K Run/Walk

NORTHWEST LOCATION:  
Saturday, September 27, 2025  
Fayetteville

Veterans Memorial Park  
Lake Fayetteville  
8:30 am

4451 N Vantage Dr  
Fayetteville, AR 72703

The NAMI Arkansas 5K Run/Walk  
to End the Stigma raises funds  
for NAMI Arkansas programs that  
support, educate, and advocate for  
those affected by mental illness. It  
also provides a place to celebrate  
and honor those living with mental  
health issues and remember those  
with a mental health condition who  
have passed on.

This event is the single fundraising  
event hosted by NAMI Arkansas each  
year - consider adding a donation to  
your race registration.

NAMI Arkansas is a private, non-  
profit organization whose mission  
is to help people living with  
mental illness, families, and the  
community. NAMI Arkansas operates  
a statewide organization providing  
and coordinating a network of local  
support groups providing support,  
education, and advocacy throughout  
the state.

To learn more about NAMI Arkansas,  
visit NAMIArkansas.org.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Mayor shares ham radio memory

Dear Editor,

Having read your recent articles written about the Pike County Ham Radio Club, it reminded me of a time in 1972 when I was home based at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

I wanted to let my family know I had arrived safely. We were allowed to use the telephone connecting us with a Ham Radio operator. A gentleman in Oregon picked up my call and relayed it to Murfreesboro. We couldn’t speak to each other directly so one would finish and say “over” and the other party would speak.

This was a wonderful service, helping a number of service people and calming many families back home. I will always be thankful for their kindness and I appreciate out Ham Radio operators and the necessary services they still provide our communities.

Sincerely,  
Jim O’Neal  
Mayor, City of Murfreesboro

## USACE waives day use fees at recreation areas for Lands Day

LITTLE ROCK -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District is waiving day use fees Saturday, Sept. 27, at recreation areas in observance of National Public Lands Day.

The waiver covers fees for boat launch ramps and swim beaches only. The waiver does not apply to camping and camping-related services or fees for specialized facilities and events.

The Little Rock District has led cleanup efforts at the lakes and rivers it manages across the region for nearly five decades. In 1994, those efforts became part of National Public Lands Day.

USACE invites the public to help continue this tradition of service by taking part in upcoming shoreline cleanup events.

To learn more about National Public Lands Day or to find events near you, visit [www.publiclandsday.org/](http://www.publiclandsday.org/) or contact your local USACE lake or river project office.

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/).

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The 2025 Homecoming parade has been rescheduled for Friday, Sept. 26, starting at approximately 3:30 p.m.  
If you would like to participate in the parade, you can register at <https://forms.gle/59J8EUbQoJ3EFZS96>

# 2025 MHS Rattler Homecoming



**Sophomore Maid Macy Gills**  
Attendant Logan Burris



**Sophomore Maid McKinlee White**  
Attendant Ja Mauri Jones



**Sophomore Maid Kyndall Henderson**  
Attendant Garrett Downs



**Sophomore Maid Kinley Fisher**  
Attendant Lucas Carey



**Junior Maid Ramsey Terrell**  
Attendant Reid Jackson



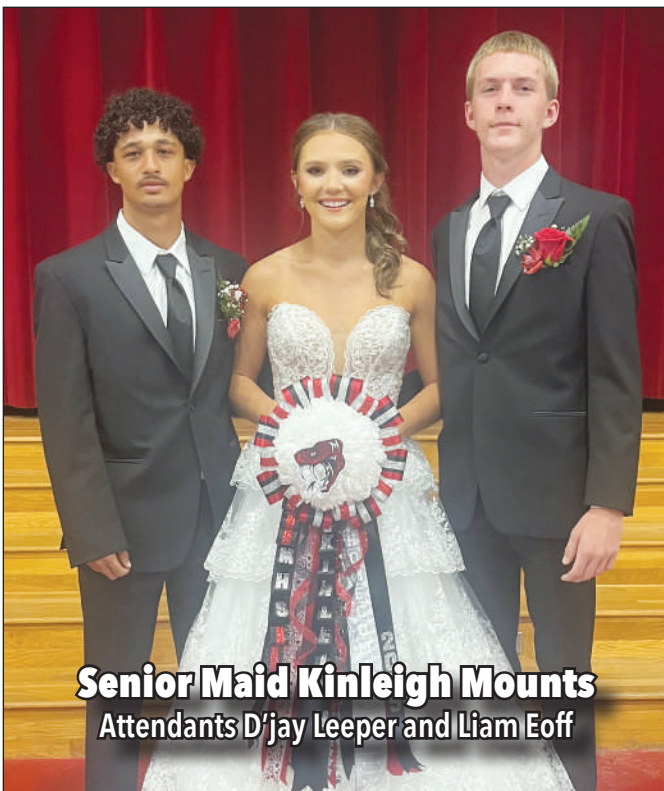
**Junior Maid Charleigh Wheeler**  
Attendants Kale Burns



**Senior Maid Mabree Sweat**  
Attendants John Parker Jackson and Reid Jackson



**Homecoming Queen Sydney Braden**  
Attendants Hawkins Jackson and Caleb Terrell



**Senior Maid Kinleigh Mounts**  
Attendants D'jay Leeper and Liam Eoff

## MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING QUEENS 1939-2025

- |                                      |                                    |                                  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1939 -- Juanita Lockey Blanchard     | 1964 -- Marty Jackson Walls        | 1985 -- Julie Jackson Young      | 2006 -- Katelin Hinds White     |
| 1940-1944 -- No Record               | 1965 -- Sandy Johnson Stewart      | 1986 -- Shannon Campbell Watts   | 2007 -- Allison Copeland McBay  |
| 1945 -- Glenna Jean Cooley           | 1966 -- Becky Bayless              | 1987 -- Sara Marshall Ford       | 2008 -- Rebecca Gatliff Woodall |
| 1946 -- Ina Jo Stewart Willet        | 1967 -- Sandy Oakley Roberts       | 1988 -- Sunny Sigman Myers       | 2009 -- Haley Graves            |
| 1947 -- Evelyn Babbitt Chaney        | 1968 -- Shirley Sweeden Lauderbach | 1989 -- Bridgette Humphry Perrin | 2010 -- Rylee Burk Wofford      |
| 1948 -- Betty Jo Owens Walls         | 1969 -- Rosemary O'Neal Fritts     | 1990 -- Wendy York Walker        | 2011 -- Autumn Littles Sullivan |
| 1949 -- Mary Garison Smith           | 1970 -- Debby Walls Scoggin        | 1991 -- Tina Bufkin Gardner      | 2012 -- Anna Gatliff Campbell   |
| 1950 -- Sue Etchinson                | 1971 -- Carolyn Sweeden Craven     | 1992 -- Denise Mounts Stuard     | 2013 -- Autumn Cox Bromley      |
| 1951 -- Sunshine Dillard Smedley     | 1972 -- Janet Wright Hughes        | 1993 -- Heather Davis Bennett    | 2014 -- Kristyn Self            |
| 1952 -- Helen Cornish Cox            | 1973 -- Laura Folsom Orr           | 1994 -- Kayla Smittle Martin     | 2015 -- Tara Humphry Ridling    |
| 1953 -- Sonya Cox Nutt               | 1974 -- Robin Robertson Saunders   | 1995 -- Ashley Cannon Mounts     | 2016 -- Hannah Cox Harris       |
| 1954 -- Sandra Walker Hodges         | 1975 -- Patti Watson Graves        | 1996 -- Lori Ballard Ross        | 2017 -- Lainy Alexander Bailey  |
| 1955 -- Betty Joyce Smith Blackwood  | 1976 -- Cindy Sweeden Davis        | 1997 -- Mandy Watson Stone       | 2018 -- Lindsey Cullen Hanney   |
| 1956 -- Jane Evans Yeargan           | 1977 -- Carol Henderson Lingo      | 1998 -- Krys Davis Capitain      | 2019 -- Madison Humphry         |
| 1957 -- Carol Hignight Steuart James | 1978 -- Genesis Sweeden Sarasin    | 1999 -- Kitty Teeter Reeves      | 2020 -- Malaya Graham           |
| 1958 -- Martha Rankin Floyd          | 1979 -- Kim Harris Epperson        | 2000 -- Sara Ballard Mitchell    | 2021 -- Denim Lee               |
| 1959 -- Martha Mansfield Reese       | 1980 -- Carle Nutt Gatliff         | 2001 -- Heather Walls Hainen     | 2022 -- Dani Synco              |
| 1960 -- Emily Frances Darnell Vonk   | 1981 -- Alisa Cooley Moore         | 2002 -- Kayla Miller Kuykendall  | 2023 -- Sydney Lamb             |
| 1961 -- Anita Anthony Davis          | 1982 -- Sarita Corbitt McRae       | 2003 -- Allison Tidwell McCauley | 2024 -- Jocce Holt              |
| 1962 -- Donna Kay Hutson Glenn       | 1983 -- Ladonna Buck Ashbrooks     | 2004 -- Deidre Stivers Wilson    | 2025 -- Sydney Braden           |
| 1963 -- Olivia Featherston Bisso     | 1984 -- Shree Shackelford Teague   | 2005 -- Nicole Martin            |                                 |

*Congratulations to the 2025 Rattler Homecoming Court*



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