

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Issue 18 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

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Angel Tree applications now available locally

MURFREESBORO -- Angel Tree applications are now available for families that need some extra help this holiday season. The applications are available at Murfreesboro City Hall, Murfreesboro Library and Murfreesboro Elementary School. Applications must be returned by Monday, November 10. Please call Kelsi at (870) 582-3882 or Angie at (870) 285-5269 for further information. Dates for angel placements and gift drop off times will be announced soon.

Senior center taking holiday orders

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center will be offering their annual fall fundraiser of homemade dressing and fresh rolls. The fundraiser will run from November 3 to December 19. "This is the perfect way to add something special to your holiday table while supporting your local senior activity center," said center director Vickie Hutson. The dressing will be offered in 5 pound pan for \$15 and 10 pounds for \$30, while rolls will be by the dozen for \$6.

Veteran Day program set for Tuesday

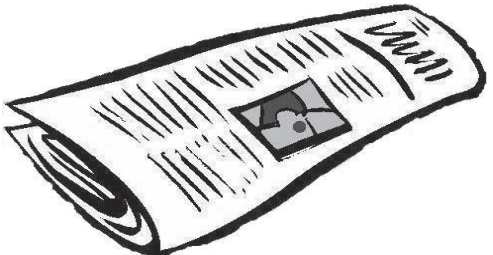
MURFREESBORO -- A Veterans Day program will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center (SAC) Building. The SAC is located at 120 E. Court Street in Murfreesboro. All veterans, families and the public are invited to attend and honor all who served in all branches of the United States Armed Forces.

4-H seeks warm items throughout November

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H will be conducting a "Hats, Hands and Heart" drive. The effort will seeks to collect warm items such as coats, gloves, hats, blankets and socks throughout the month of November. The items collected will be disbursed to county schools and blessing boxes. Drop off locations include: • Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro • Murfreesboro Elementary and High School • Centerpoint Schools • Kirby Schools

Ham Radio club to meet Saturday in Murfreesboro

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Ham Radio Club will hold its November meeting at Terri's Place in Murfreesboro. The meeting will start at 9 am on Saturday, Nov. 8. Any resident interested in attending the meeting and learn more about ham radios is invited to attend.



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Submitted photo/Pike County Clerk

I VOTED STICKER DESIGN WINNERS ... The first Pike County "I Voted Sticker" contest winners were announced by the Pike Couty Clerk's Office recently. Winners included (L to R): Luke Littles, South Pike County School District (home-schooled), 5th grade; Holland Hill, South Pike County School District, 5th grade; Graham Dixon, South Pike County School District, 5th grade and Lily McRae, South Pike County School District, 6th grade. The winners were selected on social media from a pool of 20 finalists. "There were many great designs turned in from Centerpoint, South Pike County, and home-schooled students! We would like to thank the students, their parents, the teachers, and the people who voted for making this contest a success. Thank you all from the Pike County Clerk's office and election staff," said Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards. All four stickers will be available to participating voters at any of the four Pike County polling sites in March – Glenwood, Kirby, Delight and Murfreesboro. Registered voters in Pike County may vote at any of the four locations.

Filing period open for county, school board positions

MURFREESBORO -- Filings for the preferential party election in March 3, 2026 opened at noon on Monday and will close at closes noon on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The Pike County Clerk's office will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. Candidates running with a party must have paid their filing fees with their parties before filling out paperwork at the Clerk's office. The Clerk's office does not accept filing fees at their office. According to Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards, the party will give you a receipt of payment that you are required to bring to us at the time of filing. For more information from the parties, contact Republican Party Chairman Randy Bradford at (870) 356-8967 or Democrat Party chairman Michael Myers at (318) 470-7731. Candidates seeking to run under an independent status must

file for their position during the filing period, but have until May 1, 2026 to turn in their petitions to the office. A list of county positions that will be up for election in 2026 are as follows (incumbent): Circuit Court Judge District 1: (Tom Cooper)* Circuit Court Judge District 2: (Bryan Chesshir)* Prosecuting Attorney 9West: (Jana Bradford)* County Judge: (Eddie Howard) County Sheriff: (Travis Hill) County Clerk: (Randee Edwards) Circuit Clerk: (Sabrina Williams) Treasurer: (Loletia Rather) Assessor: (Staci Stewart) Coroner: (Jason McDonald) Missouri Constable: (Ricky Branch) Mountain Constable: (Chris Thompson) JP District 1: (Randy Lamb) JP District 2: (Robbie Crocker)

JP District 3: (Seth Henry Kirkham) JP District 4: (Leotis Snowden) JP District 5: (Jerry Fendley) JP District 6: (Kip Holbrook) JP District 7: (Richard Mohlenhoff) JP District 8: (John Plyler Jr) JP District 9: (Paul Baker) * -- Candidates file for position through the State of Arkansas School Board Positions that will be on the 2026 Primary Ballots in March include (incumbent): Centerpoint Zone 3: (Dale Sutton) Centerpoint Zone 4: (Larry Harvey) Centerpoint Zone 5: (Blake Forga) Centerpoint At Large: (Kerry Horn) Kirby Zone 1: (Brad Baxter) Kirby At Large: (Blake Harmon) South Pike County Zone 5: (Robert Silva) South Pike County Zone 7:

(Alyssa Duggan) If you are interested in running for school board you may pick up blank petitions at the Pike County Clerk's office. For any further election questions, please contact the Pike County Clerk's office at (870) 285-2743. One the first day of filings Monday, 15 county positions were filed for, along with two school board positions. A voter registration form can be obtained at https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/Voter_Reg_App_8-2023_.pdf. Voters may use it to update any information, including your party preference, or to register to vote in Pike County for the first time. You must print and mail to the Clerk or hand deliver to the office. The Clerk's mailing address is P.O. Box 218, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Rattlers set for win-or-go-home game Friday

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers lost to Spring Hill on the road 20-14 last Friday night, setting up a crucial game this week at Mineral Springs. The Rattlers now sit at 5-4 overall and 3-3 in conference play. Head coach Jay Turley has said for the past few weeks he preferred the Rattlers remain in control of their own destiny. That fact remains

for the Rattlers – with a win Friday, they would earn a playoff berth as the 3-2A conference's fourth seed. Should the Hornets prevail, the Rattlers will conclude the 2025 season and watch the playoffs from afar. The game, previously scheduled for Thursday, will now be played on Friday, Nov. 7. Mineral Springs holds a 3-6 record overall and a 3-3 mark in conference. The Hornets have

improved greatly as the season has gone along after an 0-5 start. They defeated Dierks 46-22 on the road last week. The winner of Fridays game would travel to either Hampton or Carlisle, depending on this week's results, with Hampton holding the tie-breaker over Carlisle in a head-to-head victory earlier this season.

Food distribution set for November 19 Final Harvest Food Bank until 2026

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed. Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-In starts at 7 a.m. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue and Owens St. towards First United

Methodist Church. Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building. The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

'Shop with a cop' donations

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H "Shop with a Cop" program is still seeking funds for the holiday season. The purpose of the event is to foster positive relationships between youth and officers. K-6th

grade students are selected each year during the holiday season to shop at local area stores with a Pike County officer. An account has been established at First State Bank of Pike County if anyone would like to contribute.



Submitted photo/Pike County Circuit Clerk

HAPPY HALLOWEEN ... Pike County Circuit Clerk Sabrina Williams and staff Kayla Martin and Priscilla McDaniel dressed for Halloween.



Staff photos

HEALTH FAIR AND CHAIR VOLLEYBALL ... As part of the 32nd National Health and Fitness Day, the Murfreesboro Senior Activity Center hosted their Senior Health Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 29. The event was free and will featured activities and screenings for attendees.



Man charged for illicitly being at playground

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro man has been charged in Pike County with being a sex offender at a playground. Timothy Allen Tigue, 52, was charged Oct. 31 with being a registered offender prohibited from entering a water park, swimming area or children's playground contained within a public park. Tigue made his first court appearance Monday and

pleaded innocent to the charge. A Jan. 12 pretrial date was set. According to case information, a Glenwood city officer was patrolling at the Caddo River public access in Glenwood when the officer saw Tigue's vehicle parked at the access. The officer knew Tigue to be a Level 3 sex offender and had encountered him at the John Benjamin park where Tigue was informed of a change in the law that prohibits him from being present in a public parks that are maintained by the city. Tigue was parked by another vehicle and was in the passenger seat of that vehicle when approached by the officer and arrested. Also on Oct. 31, felony charges of residential burglary, theft of property and criminal mischief were filed against William Young, 53, of Glenwood. According to case information, Young was arrested in connection to a break-in on Coker Street in Glenwood in March during

which items were stolen that included gold plated dinnerware, jewelry and internal parts from an antique grandfather clock.

Pike County Landfill Closed in Observance of Veterans Day

The Pike County landfill will be closed in observance of Veterans Day. The landfill, located at 242 Landfill Road, will be closed Saturday, Nov. 8 and will reopen for regular hours of operation on Tuesday, Nov. 11. For any further questions, contact the Pike County Judge's office at (870) 285-2414.

Murfreesboro Diamond

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• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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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

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Todd Morris Auction Co. will have an Winter Equipment Auction Saturday, December 6th at 9:00 a.m.!

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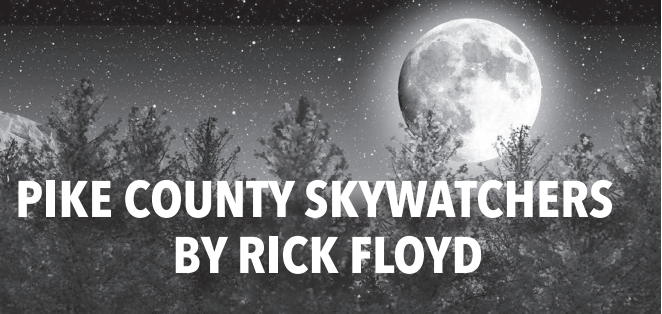
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PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Hunter’s Super Moon

The major skywatching event this month, it seems, is the full moon. By now you may have seen an almost full moon making the night bright. The actual full moon will rise on Wednesday Nov. 5. As mentioned before, it appears full a day or so before and after full moon.

There is a twist to the full moon story this month. Given the full moon of October was the Harvest Moon this year (most Harvest Moons are in September), it is customary to give its usual name, the Hunter’s Moon, to the full moon of November. So, for all of the hunters in deer camps this year you are honored with a special moon.

Another aspect to the full moon this month is the fact that its orbital position puts it at its closest point to Earth, or in perigee scientifically speaking.

The Moon on average is about 232,000 miles from Earth, but this month it is 221,816 miles away (special reflection devices left on the Moon’s surface by astronauts allow laser beams to be used to get very precise measurements). Because the Moon is so near this month we will have the last so-called Super Moon of the year. It will be 30% brighter than average and of course look bigger than usual.

Comet 3IAtlas, the interstellar mystery object, that has entered the Solar System is still in the news. There are a number of fake AI generated social media posts lately that use the faces and voices of prominent scientists to make extravagant claims about what it is. It has actually started moving away from the Sun, and will come nearest Earth in December, at about 168,000 miles from us. More on this later.

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

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

Q: How is sleep apnea diagnosed?

A: Sleep apnea is when breathing starts and stops during sleep, either from blockage of the airway or the brain improperly controlling breathing muscles. The breathing interruptions affect the quality of sleep. The American Medical Association estimates that 30 million Americans are affected by the condition.

The main types of sleep apnea are central sleep apnea and obstructive sleep apnea. With central sleep apnea, the brain doesn't send signals to breathing-related muscles during sleep. Obstructive sleep apnea is when throat muscles relax during sleep, causing surrounding tissue to press on the windpipe and block air movement.

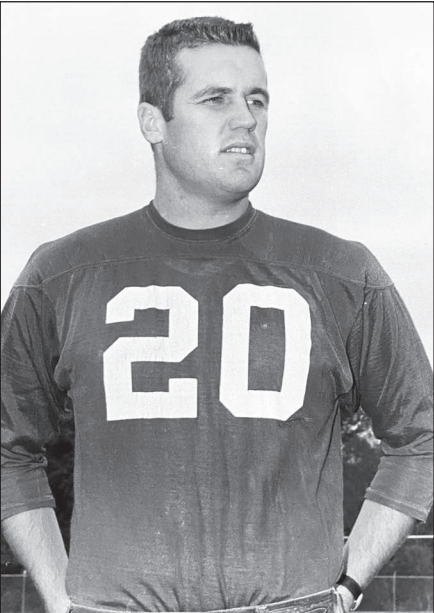
Symptoms of sleep apnea include gasping for air during sleep, fatigue, headache, snoring and waking repeatedly during sleep.

Sleep apnea risk factors include high blood pressure, family history, obesity or having large tonsils. The condition affects men more than women.

A health care provider may perform an initial evaluation based on symptoms and sleep history. A sleep study during which air flow and breathing patterns, arm and leg movements, blood oxygen level, and heart rate are monitored overnight typically is used to determine the extent of the condition. The most common treatment recommendation for sleep apnea is the use of a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Obituaries



David Elmer Holloway

“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” - Isaiah 40:31

David Elmer Holloway, 88, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, known to generations simply as “Coach,” went to be with his Lord on November 2, 2025. When called Mr. Holloway, he would gently correct with a smile: “Mr. Holloway was my dad. I’m just Coach.” A man of quiet strength and unwavering faith, Dave’s life was a testament to the power of humble service, dedicated love, and the profound impact one person can have on a community.

Born to Leonard Ezekiel and Helen Bell Holloway on June 13, 1937, in Wagoner, Oklahoma, Dave’s journey took him from the oil fields and sawmills of his youth to become one of Arkansas’s most respected educators and coaches. Yet those who knew him best understood that his greatest achievements weren’t measured in championships or accolades, but in the countless lives he touched through his gentle wisdom and steadfast example.

Dave graduated from Wagoner High School in 1955, where he excelled in football, basketball, and track, finishing second in the state shot put championship his senior year. He continued his athletic career at Connors State College, earning All-American recognition and eventually being inducted into the Connors State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023. He attended that ceremony with his family by his side, characteristically humble about the honor. He completed his education at the College of the Ozarks in 1960, where he played football and basketball, and later earned his Master’s Degree from Henderson State University with a dissertation titled “The Biochemical Analysis of the Pole Vault.” It was a perfect reflection of his ability to blend scientific precision with athletic passion.

In 1960, fresh from college with an All-American certificate in his suitcase, Dave arrived in Murfreesboro to teach math. The principal drove him around town, introduced him to every school board member, and offered him a coaching position. From that moment forward, Dave Holloway was a Rattler. For the next 45 years, he poured his heart into Murfreesboro’s students, serving as athletic director, football and track coach, math and physics teacher, principal, and ultimately superintendent before retiring in 2005.

His teams achieved remarkable success. Three high school track and field state championships. One junior high state championship. An undefeated 1962 football team named Arkansas 2A state champions by the media. His pole vaulter in 1961 cleared 11’11” on an aluminum pole and won state. Another athlete became the

first Arkansas collegian to throw over 60 feet in the shot put. Yet Dave measured success differently. He believed track and field made better football players, and more importantly, that athletics built character. “I told them if you’re going to play football you’re going to run track,” he once said. “I worked the dog out of them and they bought into it.”

Beyond team victories, Dave took profound pride in helping individual athletes discover their potential. In one of Arkansas’s smallest school classifications, his athletes competed with the very best in the state. Five of his shot putters threw over 50 feet, still a coveted distance among Arkansas athletes. His mathematical mind and innovative spirit were evident in everything he did, from his slow-motion biomechanical analysis of the pole vault to the five years he spent with his assistant coach and track team members building the Rattlers’ track by hand, hauling burned cinders from the local railroad company’s coal-fired steam engine. That track became one of the most popular meets in Southwest Arkansas, annually drawing about 30 teams. In 2005, the Murfreesboro Rattler football stadium was named “Holloway Field” in his honor.

Dave’s influence extended far beyond Murfreesboro. In the 1970s, he served as president of the Arkansas Activities Association and proposed changing the track scoring system from 5-3-2-1 to the current 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 system, a change that was later adopted statewide. He held every office that governs the Arkansas Activities Association, from the presidency of the executive committee on down, always working to improve opportunities for young athletes across the state.

But Dave never lost sight of what truly mattered. An anonymous friend once wrote of him: “His game wasn’t athletics, it was hearts, and that’s the way he played it, ‘All the Way.’ He never played for himself, it was always for his team, his kids, his country, school or God.” That same friend observed what everyone who knew Dave understood: he was “the biggest man in town who became the biggest man in town. Yet he never rose so high he couldn’t kneel to council the needs of his students.”

Dave’s teaching extended far beyond the classroom and playing field. He taught through stories, tales from his childhood and lessons from sports that carried quiet observations and profound wisdom. He taught his family that it was appropriate to stand up for what you believe in and to work hard to achieve your goals, even if you fail. He taught them to leave a place better than they found it, that hard work and perseverance will result in successes even if they’re not the ones you expected, and that love is worth pursuing and honoring. His faith and relationship with God were paramount, woven into everything he did and every lesson he taught.

In 1961, Dave married Jo Barnes, beginning a partnership that would span more than six decades. Together they built a life filled with adventure, learning, and growth. They learned to snow ski and made it a yearly tradition, later sharing that joy with their daughter Shannon. Dave held Jo on a pedestal, treasuring their longtime marriage with quiet respect and devotion.

In 1979, Dave and Jo adopted their daughter Shannon, and Dave transitioned from coaching to school administration.

It was a deliberate choice to spend more time with his family, a decision that perfectly reflected his understanding that his most important team would always be the one at home.

After retirement, Dave and Jo traveled with friends old and new, enjoying bus tours around the country. But their greatest joy came from simple days filled with games (313, dominoes, ladder golf, ping pong) and time spent with family. Dave’s competitive spirit never waned; he did not accept defeat well, no matter the game. Most of all, he cherished watching his granddaughter Anna play volleyball and actively participating in her interests, finding his deepest happiness in moments with his family and friends.

Dave was a man of smart humor, never sarcastic or crude, but quick to laugh and make a joke. He exhibited a quiet strength that permeated everything he did. He worried about “his girls” (Jo, Shannon, and Anna) and extended that protective love to his sisters and their families. He was a faithful member of First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, where his life of service reflected the verse that guided him: those who hope in the Lord will soar on wings like eagles.

“I just happened to be in the right place at the right time,” Dave once said with characteristic humility. “Great athletes make the coach.” But those who knew him understood the truth: great coaches make great people, and Dave Holloway was the greatest kind of coach. One who never stopped teaching, never stopped caring, and never stopped showing others how to live a life of purpose, faith, and love.

Dave is preceded in death by his parents.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Jo Barnes Holloway; his daughter, Shannon Halijan (Darin); his granddaughter, Anna Underwood; his sisters, Marilyn Norman (Sonny) and Marian Dale (Johnnie); his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bill and Brenda Barnes; and numerous cherished nieces and nephews.

Portions of this obituary include remembrances from a 1979 article in the Murfreesboro Diamond written by a longtime friend of Dave’s who wished to remain anonymous.

Visitation was held Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 716 North Washington Street, Murfreesboro, Arkansas. A memorial service celebrating Dave’s life will be held Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at First Christian Church. A private graveside service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Coach Dave Holloway Scholarship Fund at First State Bank, ensuring that Dave’s legacy of investing in young people continues for generations to come.

Dave Holloway’s life was not measured in the championships he won or the offices he held, but in the hearts he touched, the character he built, and the quiet example he set. He leaves behind a community forever changed by his presence, students whose lives were shaped by his wisdom, and a family who knew the deep blessing of his faithful love. Well done, good and faithful servant. May you soar on wings like eagles.

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Holiday craft sale set for November 15 at two sites

MURFREESBORO -- The third annual Murfreesboro Holiday Craft Sale is set for November 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building and Murfreesboro Senior Center.

In addition to all the great gift purchase possibilities, attendees will also be able to satisfy their hunger with Kirk Stone's Flying S Barbeque onsite as well as Pike County 4-H serving up biscuits and gravy for the early shoppers and snacks plus hot dogs in the municipal building kitchen.

A few spaces are still left for vendors, event director Robin Cox said, noting an effort to make things exciting for both vendors and attendees.

"We try to keep a good variety of crafters with not many vendors with repeat items. Some vendors may have items in the same category but also have other items as well. Multi-level marketing companies or retail sells are not allowed."

If you are interested in being a vendor, email Darrenandrob3@gmail.com you will be sent an application.

"Please help support these local crafters by coming to shop on November 15," Cox said, noting that vendors would be from mostly southwest Arkansas - Nashville, Glenwood, Percy, Hope, Arkadelphia and Ashdown. "We try to keep it local handmade."

Cox said there would be a good mix of returning vendors and new vendors from last year.

Items that can be purchased will include quilts, woodworking, paintings, sublimation items such as tumblers, t-shirts, goat milk soaps, jewelry, toys, ceramics, tallow balms, essential oils, crocheted plushies and Christmas ornaments/décor. Homemade goodies such as macaroons, sourdough bread, freeze-dried candy, jams/jellies and cookies and candies will also be available for purchase.

The event will also draw for door prizes - a pair of \$25 Texas Roadhouse gift cards will be given away. Registration will be accepted at both venues, so attendees are encouraged to enter once at both locations. You need not be present to win.

Pike County 4-H will also be on hand selling various brittles, Texas Roadhouse rolls and honey butter as part of their ongoing fundraising campaigns.



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‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

GOD’S GOODNESS

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” A Christian who does not appreciate the great patience of Jehovah is in dire danger. The problem with human nature is that we tend to think we are not as weak as those around us. If we are not careful, we attribute sinful things to others. The difficulty with this is that we cannot know why people act and talk as they do. Only God can judge the motivation of the individuals of our acquaintance. On occasion, we will think a family member is angry because of an expression



on the face or in the tone of voice. The truth many times is a result of a family emergency or an upsetting situation. It is evident that we cannot know what is going on in the lives of our peers. God wants us to understand that He has a perfect grasp of what is happening in our heart. God blesses us every day to show how

much He loves us. Satan will tempt us, and we will sin. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8. He goes further to tell us. “If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:10. Paul says God’s goodness is the motivation for us to repent and turn away from sin. God is always ready to forgive us if we will repent with all our heart. The inspired writer tells us, “Glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:10,11.

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Finding joy and balance during the holiday season

MURFREESBORO -- The holiday season is often celebrated as a time of joy, family, and togetherness, but it can also be one of the most stressful times of the year. Disrupted routines, financial strain, packed schedules, and the pressure to make everything picture-perfect can leave many feeling anxious or exhausted. Social media adds another layer, filling our feeds with flawless decorations, gourmet meals, and smiling families, which can make our own celebrations seem inadequate. Yet with a bit of planning, self-compassion, and perspective, it’s possible to shift from holiday chaos to a calmer, more meaningful season.

One of the biggest sources of holiday stress comes from money. Between gifts, food, and travel, costs can add up quickly. Setting a realistic budget before the season begins can help prevent financial strain and guilt later on. Try to focus on what fits your means rather than what meets others’ expectations. Simple, heartfelt gestures like homemade gifts, exchanging acts of service, or organizing a potluck dinner can create just as much joy as expensive presents. Including all family members in budgeting discussions can also build teamwork and understanding, helping everyone stay on the same page.

Time and energy are just as valuable as money during this season. Holiday calendars can fill up fast, leaving little room to breathe. Be intentional about where you invest your time. It’s okay to say no to certain invitations or traditions that feel more draining than uplifting. Choose events and people that truly nurture your spirit. Make time for rest, even if that means a quiet night at home with a cup of tea and a favorite movie. When you take care of your own well-being, you’re better able to show up with genuine warmth and presence for others.

It’s also important to let go of the idea that everything must be perfect. The holidays rarely go exactly as planned - cookies burn, gifts arrive late, and children melt down at the worst possible times. Instead of focusing on what goes wrong, try to laugh at the little mishaps and embrace the moments as they come. Often, those imperfect experiences turn into the stories and memories that families cherish most. What matters far more than perfection is connection, kindness, and a sense of joy in being together.

Serving others can also be a powerful antidote to stress. Volunteering at a food bank, helping a neighbor, or supporting a local charity not only benefits your community but also renews your own sense of purpose. Involving children or teens in acts of kindness can turn giving into a meaningful family tradition. On the flip side, if you find yourself needing help this year—financially, emotionally, or otherwise—allow yourself to accept it. Accepting support is not weakness; it’s part of being human and part of what strengthens communities.

Finally, take time to pause and relax. A few deep breaths, a short walk outside, or simply sitting quietly with a warm drink

Court sentences seven on Monday in Murfreesboro

MURFREESBORO -- Seven defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court.

Austin Swanger, 28, no address available, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his probation and was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with three years suspended.

Natosha Homan, 39, of Glenwood, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of probation and guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with three years suspended.

Richard Lemons, 37, of

Bonnerdale, pleaded guilty to fleeing and possession of a firearm by a certain person and was sentenced to 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Britney Haney, 28, of Hot Springs, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine with purpose to deliver and was sentenced to 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Kevin Stockton, 37, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and drug parapher-

nalía and was sentenced to six years in the AD with two years suspended.

Ryan McKamie, 31, of Kirby, pleaded guilty to failure to register as a sex offender and was sentenced to 120 days in the Pike County jail and fined \$2,000 plus a sex offender fee.

Matthew Montgomery, 46, of Hope Springs, pleaded guilty to felony terroristic threatening and was sentenced to five years of probation, fined \$1,500 and ordered to complete two years of mental health services.

Masons begin fundraising effort for coat drive

PIKE COUNTY – The Glenwood Masonic Lodge 662 will start fundraising this week for their annual Coats for Kids drive.

The group says that all donations are greatly appreciated, with monetary donations accept-

ed at Southern Bancorp in Glenwood for placement into the account.

The drive will benefit Centerpoint and Mount Ida schools as well as First Step pre-K of Glenwood and Murfreesboro.

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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

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

ABRAM-IN-EGYPT

PHARAOH HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE HIGH PRIEST THAT THE PLAGUE, WHICH THREATENS TO TAKE OUT HIS LIFE, HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE HE ANGERED ABRAM'S GOD BY TAKING HIS WIFE FROM HIM, NOW.

QUICKLY! SEND THE GUARDS AND BRING THIS MAN WHO HAS BETRAYED ME, IMMEDIATELY!

...HE IS AROUSED BY ROUGH HANDS OUT OF HIS LONELY, RESTLESS SLEEP...

...AND NOW WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION, IS FORCED, ROUGHLY, AND RUDELY, BY PHARAOH'S GUARDS TO GO WITH THEM—WHERE HE DOES NOT EVEN KNOW...

JOHN LEHTI

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1. Impromptu (2 words)
 6. Chop
 9. Little bit, in Cancun
 13. Luffa, alt. sp.
 14. The day before
 15. Rn, a health hazard
 16. Surveyor’s maps
 17. Black gunk
 18. Run off, as in couple
 19. *Mount ____, Earth’s southernmost active volcano
 21. *Antarctica - world’s largest ____
 23. A Bobbsey twin
 24. Not to be broken?
 25. Eyeball shape
 28. Minimal distortion
 30. *Polar bear, a ____ mammal
 35. Goldfish or koi
 37. Memorial Day solo
 39. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
 40. Purse to match a gown
 41. *Amundsen-____ South Pole Station
 43. Hipbones
 44. Letter H, phonetically speaking
 46. Biblical twin
 47. Frog delicacy
 48. Intellectual
 50. Novice or beginner
 52. Café alternative
 53. You, in bygone era
 55. Ciao, in the U.S.
 57. * ____ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
 60. *The largest lake near South Pole
 63. Hotel room option
 64. *Barents or Laptev
 66. Blackfin and bluefin
 68. Remove location from digital map
 69. Paul Simon’s former partner
 70. Swelling
 71. Monster’s loch
 72. An affirmative

73. Button on electrical outlet
- DOWN**
1. Mountain peak
 2. Pineapple producer
 3. Gray-haired
 4. As a rule
 5. The Clash: “Rock the ____”
 6. Answer to “Shall we?”
 7. Female gametes
 8. Lost, in Marseille
 9. Opposite of sun-kissed
 10. Deodorant’s target
 11. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
 12. *How many sunsets in a year on either pole?
 15. Close again, as in envelope
 20. Yards and miles, e.g.
 22. “Slippery” tree
 24. Quick and clever reply
 25. *North Pole “base”
 26. Fraction, e.g.
 27. Beastly person
 29. Front of the head
 31. Not top-shelf
 32. Part of archipelago
 33. Sound like Secretariat
 34. Clear the whiteboard
 36. Ancient Briton
 38. Dog command
 42. Supercharger
 45. Glen Powell’s 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
 49. Cuban dance step
 51. Half-shell delicacy
 54. English homework
 56. Chopin’s composition
 57. Ad jingle, e.g.
 58. Shakira’s don’t lie
 59. Milo’s adventurous canine friend
 60. Giant kettles
 61. Change for a five
 62. Glacier’s deposit
 63. *Midnight ____, opposite of polar night
 65. Old-fashioned “before”
 67. Aptitude test, acr.

CROSSWORD

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DIAMOND CORRECTION

In last week’s Pike County Quorum Court story it was incorrectly reported that road projects including the Delight Cemetery access and Rocky Hollow Road project featuring installation of 10x5 box culverts were completed. The projects have yet to be started. The Diamond regrets the error and apologizes for any confusion.

MHS junior class offering Rattler merchandise as prom fundraiser

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro junior class is looking to raise money for prom later this school year. “Don’t miss your chance to snag the official Rattler Merch before it’s gone for the year!” said a class advisor. “Show your Rattler pride and support the MHS Junior Class with awesome deals on exclusive Murfreesboro Rattlers gear.” The merchandise will be available through Nov. 14 and once it’s gone, it’s gone. “So grab yours today and rep the Rattlers in style!” by visiting stores.inksoft.com/murfreesboro/shop/home.

Christmas Child collection week is fast approaching

NASHVILLE -- The Operation Christmas Child 2025 Shoebox Collection Week is November 17-24. Volunteers have been transforming empty shoeboxes into gifts of hope filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and articles of clothing for children in need worldwide. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way so that missionaries and volunteers can share the Good News of Jesus Christ. And, it all starts with the help of a shoebox filled with gifts.

Since 1993, more than 232 million children in over 170 countries and territories have received a shoebox gift. These children as well as those who hear the Gospel at shoebox outreach events share their faith with friends and family who, in turn, disciple others. Collection Week – November 17–24 Local Drop-off Site: First Baptist Church, 415 N. Main Street, Nashville • Mon, Nov. 17: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Tue, Nov. 18: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Wed, Nov. 19: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

• Thu, Nov. 20: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Fri, Nov. 21: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Sat, Nov. 22: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Sun, Nov. 23: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Mon, Nov. 24: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM For additional drop-off sites, collection dates and hours, and directions to the drop-off sites, go to samaritanspurse.org/occ and select Drop-off Locations. For area questions, contact Jim Herman at ccjim.herman@yahoo.com. Please deliver your shoebox gifts to a drop-off site as soon as possible during collection week.

Flooding impacts AGFC trout supply until April 2026

LITTLE ROCK – On October 16, 2025, The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) temporarily cut back the daily trout possession limit in the state’s four most significant cold-water fisheries. Production losses were caused by poor water quality, due to low oxygen levels and higher water temperatures at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Norfolk Hatchery. Loss of trout was in the millions. In early April, the AGFC’s Jim Hinkle State Fish Hatchery also suffered extensive damage from flooding on the Spring River, multiplying the trout farming losses. The Jim Hinkle State Fish Hatchery is recovering but only working at 50 percent capacity probably until April of 2026. With the significant losses at two hatcheries, the AGFC Commission was presented with several options to relieve the problem. The Commission decided that the best approach was the most restrictive, a 120-day emergency order that was made effective immediately. The loss raised a red flag about whether there would be enough stocked trout available for the four cold-water fisheries in the coming months. At the next Commission meeting in January 2026, they will determine if trout production is adequate or they may issue a second 120-day emergency order. The emergency proclamation calls for catch-and-release of all trout, 45 miles of tailwater below Bull Shoals Dam to the White River’s confluence with the North Fork River, as well as catch-and-release only on the entirety of the Norfolk Dam tailwater. The trout waters below the White River-North Fork River confluence, from the Norfolk Access boat ramp to the Highway 58 bridge at Guion, will have a two-trout-only limit with normal length and daily limits, only one trout over 14 inches. The Norfolk Hatchery trout stock enhances a portion of the total rainbow trout in Greers Ferry Dam’s tailwater, known as the Little Red River. It also provides stock for the Beaver Lake Dam tailwater, known as the Upper White River. Under the order, anglers in those two tailwaters may keep two trout up to 14

inches in length and must release all other caught trout. The AGFC Trout Management Coordinator explained, “I just stress to the public that this is a temporary thing. We do not have any intention for this to be a long-term change to the regulations and the fishery. But it would be the protective thing to do right now.” The economic impact is also an important factor. Typically, the winter months are slower for resorts in the area. Hopefully, the trout populations will have some time to recover, but it may be longer than anticipated. In southeast Arkansas, AGFC has a new lease agreement on a wildlife management area on a 730-acre island for hunting and fishing. The lease includes the whole island and 10 acres around Wargo Landing, known as a popular boat launch to access the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers. The lease is for one year until next June, however, the Commission is pursuing grant funding to acquire the property and plans to make further improvements.

CCCUA opens basketball season

DE QUEEN -- UA Cossatot men’s basketball opened up their season with a win at home, defeating NJCAA Division I’s Southern University-Shreveport 76-72 in a thrilling battle. The contest remained close throughout, but come crunch time the Colts buckled down and held off the Jaguars behind freshman point guard Amory Arie’s 19 points. The first half was a hard-fought battle, with Cossatot coming from behind to take a 40-39 lead into halftime courtesy of 15 points from Arie, as well as seven from Ephraim Udanyi, a sophomore guard transfer from New Mexico Military Institute. In addition to Arie, Calmez had 14 points, while freshman guard /forward Bryce Goodwin had nine. UA Cossatot women’s basketball began their season with a loss against Eastern Oklahoma State College, falling 102-68 at the Lockesburg Bank Gymnasium as the Mountaineers thoroughly outplayed Cossatot. The first quarter did not go the Colts way, as they trailed 28-11 after the first 10 minutes, with sophomore forward Alexandria Bunch leading the way for Cossatot with nine points. The Colts will be back in action at home on Wednesday, November 5 against Southern University-Shreveport at 5:30 p.m. UA Cossatot men’s basketball suffered their first lost of the season, losing 86-57 to Eastern Oklahoma State College at the Lockesburg Bank Gymnasium. The Colts (1-1) fell behind early and could not get in front, as the Mountaineers (1-0) won their season opener despite 15 points from star freshman point guard Arie. The Colts will be back in action at home on Wednesday, November 5 against East Texas Baptist University JV at 7:30 p.m.

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Dierks wins national competition, to receive one million dollars for field upgrade

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader Staff

DIERKS -- The votes are in and after an electrifying run that included more than 8 million votes cast nationwide for the Top 25 finalists, T-Mobile named Dierks High School the Friday Night 5G Lights champion — a title that comes with a \$1 million field upgrade.

In a microcosm of what makes small-town America special, the community of 900 rallied together to scrap, hustle and inspire people across the world to join its cause. After securing nearly 2 million votes, Dierks joins 2024 winner Inola, Okla., as proof that determination and hard work can catapult the biggest underdog to victory.

Now in its second year, Friday Night 5G Lights continues to celebrate community, connection and the unstoppable energy of small-town pride that high school football inspires. From kickoff to the final vote, this year’s competition went bigger, better and bolder, with more than 2,100 schools stepping up for their shot at the grand prize.

“This year took everything up a notch, with more schools, more votes and more heart,” said Jon Freier, president, T-Mobile Consumer Group.

THE SPIRIT THAT WON IT ALL

In Dierks — population just under 900 — football is a way of life. This tight-knit community has always packed the stands on Friday nights to cheer on the Outlaws. And this season, that hometown pride caught national attention thanks to students’ incredible push on social media, beginning with why they deserved the win along with highlighting their school spirit during pep rallies and home celebrations

They also brought some serious energy for Friday Night 5G Lights social challenges, like “Magenta Week” where DHS students danced in the “Mannequin Challenge,” where even elementary students joined the action.

The support poured in from every direction — the stands, the sidelines and across the state — turning this campaign into a true community movement that soon stretched well beyond Arkansas.

That wave of small-town spirit kept building as students used their growing online momentum to rally support from across the country, and it worked. Encouragement poured in from big names like Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee, former NFL running back Darren McFadden, comedians Larry The Cable Guy and Jeff Foxworthy, NASCAR racer Austin Dillon, former NFL player and University of Arkansas quarterback Matt Jones and Miss Arkansas Kennedy Holland.

“Dierks High School showed up in a big way for this year’s Friday Night 5G Lights contest,” said Patrick Mahomes, three-time Super Bowl MVP and Friday Night 5G Lights ambassador. “The energy, the community, the spirit, that’s what Friday Night Lights is all about. I can’t wait to see their well-earned field upgrade!”

On average, supporters cast their votes for Dierks an average of five times each, a testament to the dedication and heart this small town poured into every click, share and challenge.

A WIN WORTH A MILLION

For more than 20 years, the Outlaws’ stadium has gone without any upgrades, but that’s all about to change.

As this year’s grand prize winner, Dierks will receive a major stadium transformation valued at \$1 million along with a Gronk Fitness weight room renovation, consultation with sta-

dium experience experts, an all-expenses-paid trip to the SEC Championship Game on Dec. 6 for 16 school representatives and a tailgate party revealing the finalized upgrades in 2026 — all designed to give the Outlaws’ home field a high-tech glow to match their grit.

“The Outlaws brought their A-game and hustled their way to the top with their unbelievable determination and passion these past few weeks,” said Rob Gronkowski, four-time Super Bowl Champion and Friday Night 5G Lights ambassador. “They showed up big time and now they’ll have the stadium they deserve.”

“I think what makes this win so special is how seen our community feels,” said Paul Ernest, Outlaw head football coach. “In a small town, kids sometimes hear it’s time to give up those big dreams. But this win from T-Mobile tells them the opposite — it says it’s okay to keep dreaming, to keep fighting for those astronaut and rock star moments. And that’s a beautiful thing.”

Small Towns, Big Spirit Across the Nation

While Dierks took home the grand prize, the race came down to the wire — with Lebanon High School in Oregon neck and neck with Dierks until the very end, rallying its community with nearly 1.5 million votes.

Both communities turned out in full force, generating 3.4 million votes just between Dierks and Lebanon alone. It became a true horse race to the finish, showcasing the incredible spirit, determination and support that define small-town America. For their effort, Lebanon High School will receive \$100,000 as the runner-up, while Dexter Regional High School in Maine will take home \$50,000 for its third-place finish.

In all, the Top 25 schools received over \$1 million, helping fund upgrades, celebrations and future projects that will help empower their communities.

Estate planning class offered by Montgomery and Pike County Extension

Learn how to get peace of mind via legal forms in an act essential for everyone

BY KARALEE BLACK
Montgomery County Extension staff chair

MOUNT IDA -- Have you ever thought about what would happen to your family, your home, or your assets if something unexpected occurred? Most people put off estate planning because it seems complex, distant, or only for the wealthy. But the truth is, estate planning is essential for everyone — no matter your age or income level. What better time to start planning than during the holidays? As you gather with loved ones, it’s the perfect opportunity to begin important conversations about the future — from healthcare wishes to financial decisions and family responsibilities. Estate planning helps you protect your legacy, ease the burden on your family, and make sure your wishes are honored.

That’s why Montgomery and Pike County Extension is offering an Estate Planning Class in Montgomery County to help you take control of your future, protect your loved ones, and make informed decisions — with confidence. Estate planning is the process of organizing your affairs to ensure your wishes are respected and your loved ones are protected if you become incapacitated or pass away. It’s not just about creating a will —

it’s about:

- Ensuring your children or dependents are cared for
- Avoiding lengthy and expensive court proceedings (like probate)
- Reducing or eliminating estate taxes
- Appointing someone to make financial or medical decisions on your behalf
- Leaving behind a clear plan to reduce stress and confusion for your family

Whether you’re just getting started or looking to update your existing plan, this class will cover everything you need to know, including:

The difference between a will and a trust (and which is right for you)

- How to designate power of attorney and healthcare proxies
- Strategies to protect your assets and reduce taxes
- Planning for minor children or dependents
- How to avoid common mistakes that lead to legal complications

This class is perfect for parents with minor children, Homeowners, Business owners, Adults caring for aging parents, or Anyone who wants to make smart, compassionate decisions

for their future. Estate planning isn’t something to leave for “someday.” Life is unpredictable — but with the right plan in place, you can be ready. This class is your opportunity to get informed, get prepared, and take control. An afternoon estate planning session will be held at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Mt. Ida, from 1:00-4:00 on December 9, 2025. Speakers will include Dr. Laura Hendrix, Professor Personal Finance & Consumer Economics, University of Arkansas Extension, and John K Ross IV, Attorney & Senior Partner Ross & Shoalmire, Elder Law Attorneys, P.L.L.C. This meeting is being offered by Pike and Montgomery Counties Family & Consumer Sciences.

CLASS DETAILS:

- Topic: Estate Planning: Protecting What Matters Most
- Date & Time: December 9, 2025
- Location: Montgomery County Courthouse, Mt. Ida, AR
- Instructor: Dr. Laura, John Ross IV, Montgomery and Pike County Extension Agents
- Cost: \$10.00 per participant
- How to Register: Call the Montgomery County Extension office 870-867-2311

Ross’s legacy of writing continues with third published book

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Diane L. Ross, former Associate Editor of the Murfreesboro Diamond and daughter of Ray and Lola Ross, former owners of the Glenwood Herald, has just published her third book, *My Life with Spiders and Other Divine Creatures*.

Author of the highly acclaimed *Meditations for Miracles* and *Five Steps to Freedom*, this is Diane’s first book of poetry. Her

passion for writing began with her first published poem, “Houses of Shoeboxes,” which appeared in a national magazine for librarians when Diane was just 15 years old.

Diane was Associate Editor for the Diamond from 1979 to 1981, which was her first venture into journalism. She then became a desk editor and reporter for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record before moving to Florida in 1983, where she currently

resides with her husband and kitty, BB, about whom she wrote a poem in *Spiders*.

“I began noticing spider webs during Covid, when I spent more than the usual time outside in my backyard. I became fascinated with these amazing creatures, the way they would spin something out of nothing and never give up,” she explains. “I’ve always loved nature, and these critters seemed to exhibit so many wonderful qualities that I just naturally began seeing them in a different way.”

Her hope is that we can all learn to look at ordinary creatures through the eyes of wonder and excitement.

The cover art (pictured below) has been beautifully designed by Dr. Elisabeth Parrish Eaton, Diane’s niece and a graduate of Murfreesboro High School, who now teaches art to elementary students in Texarkana, Arkansas. She is the daughter of Theresa Ross Parrish and the late Johnce Parrish of Glenwood.

Please read more about Diane at <https://www.dianeross.com>. All of her books are available on Amazon.

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My Life with Spiders and Other Divine Creatures

Diane L. Ross

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