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An account has been established at First State Bank of Pike County if anyone would like to contribute.

Tourism Commission hears of Campbell updates

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission met Tuesday, Nov. 4 to discuss their business for the month.

A representative of DNT Media of Benton was on hand to discuss their plan going forward with digmurfreesboro.com and the attached social media presence to help direct tourism to Murfreesboro.

He said the group had experienced some changeover in employees, and that the group was looking to shift focus to storytelling, which was -- in their opinion -- the biggest driver of attention.

The group was assured more attention and website updates with video shootings at the middle of November and beginning of December.

It was noted by members of the board that for \$4,775 a month they felt that DNT was not holding up their end of the bargain, and without new videos, commercials on digital viewings such as YouTubeTV and social media postings it was simply a website that was being paid for.

“We’re not getting what we paid for,” said boardmember Robin Dildy.

It was asked that DNT submit a new plan that better represented how they would market and service Murfreesboro in the future.

“We’ve got to get stuff out on social media ... we need more bang for our buck, and that means getting people to town,” said board chairman Jamie Terrell. “We don’t care if that means updating the website with less new videos – we need to continue growing and not become stagnant. It’s our responsibility to do the due diligence to get the money’s worth for the community. We’ve had a great relationship previous to the changes [in DNT] – we just want to know what the future looks like.”

DNT states that growth is evident, with traffic up 60% to the website and four to six thousand new site users in recent months.

Terrell said he was looking for improved communication with the media group.

“If foot traffic [in town] isn’t matching website traffic, then we need to make some changes and tweaks” that could include more targeted advertising toward “people more likely to come as opposed to just a shot in the dark.”

“We just need to get way more than we have gotten in the last eight months,” Dildy added.

Boardmember Caleb Terrell asked for a more simple translation of Google Analytics data, and challenged the group to come up with a way to provide a “cleaner correlation” or “physical proof of success” to show successful attraction of tourists, per-

haps in a manner like digital coupons that can be used locally after booking a stay via the website.

The group will review DNT Media’s plan for going forward before determining to hear the spiels of other media providers in the near future.

The group then discussed two intersecting issues featuring Glen Campbell.

The planned ATG Music Pavilion in North Little Rock will feature busts of famous Arkansans in the music business, including Campbell. The busts there will cost \$100,000 each and sponsors are being sought.

However, more locally, the effort will also offer mini busts similar to those in North Little Rock to the hometown communities, priced at \$50,000.

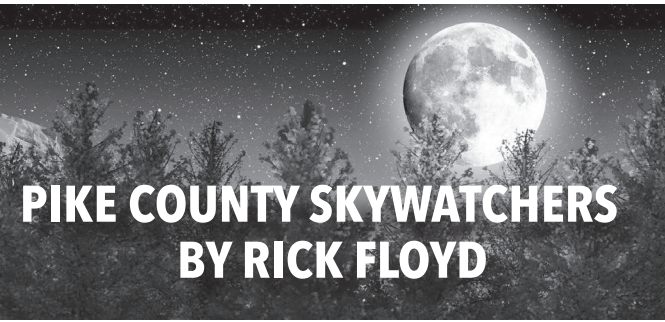
Terrell said the bust would of course reside in Delight, and he could envision the tourism group helping the effort, but that other contributions would have to be sought. Ultimately the purchase could be paid out over five years, and Terrell would offer the Tourism Commission to be the main entity to pay if all else fails. The group approved the measure.

Legislation was recently passed at the state level, originally started by former Commission employee Jonathan Lance, to establish a “Glen Campbell Memorial Highway” from Murfreesboro to Delight.

Resolutions would have to be passed by the Pike County Quorum Court, The City of Murfreesboro and the City of Delight to give permission for signage. After the signs were established, the State Department of Transportation would approve them and send decals to be placed on the signs signifying approval before installation.

The commission approved the future purchase of the signs.

“I want to help – it’s not a lot of expense, and it is another tourist attraction. [Murfreesboro is] in that loop,” Terrell stated. “It 100% fits in [with our mission] ... we can promote it on our site. Why back away from it after getting it this far?”



The life-sky connection

Last week it was mentioned that because the Hunter’s Moon this year is in November deer hunters are being honored by it as they prepare deer camps for the opening of rifle season. Experienced and seasoned hunters acknowledge a moon effect on the way deer move about.

Taking a look at the science behind this reveals that there is very little science behind it. What there is pretty much concludes that there is negligible influence of phases of the Moon on doe and buck movements.

A little controversy is brewing because those “old” hunters say there are clear differences in deer behavior depending which phase the Moon is in. They say that during the brightest phases deer tend to move around and graze during the night and are not as active during the day. When the Moon is in its dark phase or as it was when this season opened, in the waning gibbous phase, hunting is better.

This controversial and mostly unstudied (it seems) topic is at least another example of how life on our planet is connected to what goes on in the sky.

Historically, before regulations were imposed, hunters had extra time to stalk game when the moon was brightest. Hunting season, for them was a priority when harvest season was over. That is why there is a moon for hunters this time of year.

The Leonid meteor shower peaks around November 17th . As with other showers, the best time to view is after midnight. Meteors will seem to radiate from the constellation Leo the lion. It rises in the east at about midnight and is almost overhead in the pre- dawn hours.

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Obituaries

Joan Rea Kepple, 89



Jerry Guinn, a sister Barbara Prather and great grandson Shepp Akers.

Joan is survived by her three children Chris Sharp (Terri), Monte Sharp (Connie), and Missy Cox (Tony), her grandchildren Kara (Jonathan), Chloe (Dylan), Hunter (Kristen), Paige (Will), Trent (Lacey), Nathan (Maddison), Justin, and twelve great-grandchildren. Joan has many bonus grandchildren and great grandchildren that she also loved very much. She is also survived by sister Gloria Alewine, brother-in-law Will Prather and sister-in-law Paula Guinn.

Visitation was held on Thursday, November 6, at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were on Friday, November 7, at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, with Alan McRae, Darwin Turner, and Brian Doyle officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A special thank you to Murfreesboro Nursing Home Staff for the great care and love shown to our mom. And also to Elite Hospice for all you did to help us through.

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

Mona Ann Swihart, 60, Kirby

Mona Ann Swihart, age 60, of Kirby, passed away on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

She was born on July 12, 1965 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was the daughter of Larry Alan Swihart and Ova Jean Fant. She was preceded in death by her parents; her grandparents, Bill and Cora Fant; and her uncle, William “Bill” Fant.

Mona was Christian in her faith. For many years she worked for the Pike County Library and Banium Library where she loved serving her community. She loved giving to children, working for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and would host crafting and painting classes.

She is survived by her siblings, Dawn Friedman, Richard Swihart, Debbie Cole, Melody Swihart, Sara Swihart, and Debbie Goodyear; and her many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members, and a host of wonderful friends.

A Celebration of Mona’s Life was held on Monday, November 10, 2025 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Smith Family Funeral Home- Glenwood.

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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 causes lactose intolerance?

A: Lactose intolerance is a condition where an affected person has symptoms after consuming lactose, a sugar found in milk or milk products. Lactose malabsorption is the reduced ability of the body to break down and absorb lactose. Lactose intolerance and malabsorption are common disorders experienced by approximately 68% of adults worldwide, according to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

The small intestine, where most of the nutrients from food are absorbed, produces an enzyme called lactase. Without enough lactase, lactose moves into the large intestine and interacts with bacteria. The types of lactose intolerance are primary (diminishing lactase production), secondary (disease or injury that affects the small intestine), and

congenital or developmental (lactase deficiency at birth).

Symptoms of lactose intolerance include bloating, diarrhea, gas, nausea, and stomach cramping and pain. The severity of symptoms depends upon how much lactose has been consumed and how much lactase the body produces.

There is no treatment to increase the amount of lactase in the body. Management of lactose intolerance includes determining each individual’s specific threshold of lactose consumption. Combining foods that contain lactose with other foods may reduce symptoms, along with taking lactase supplements. See your health care provider if you have questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Grazing Johnsongrass after a frost

BY CODIE MCALISTER
Pike County Extension Agent, Agriculture

It’s finally the time of year when the weather starts cooling down and frost starts blanketing the fields across the county on cold mornings. Frost can be beautiful, but it can cause some havoc for cattle farmers and ranchers if johnsongrass is growing in their fields.

With frost, there is a risk for Hydrocyanic acid (HCN), more commonly known as Prussic Acid. This acid is generally found in stressed plants when growth is depressed by adverse environmental conditions, such as moisture stress or frost, the enzymatic action may take place producing prussic acid.

There are several forages that are susceptible to Prussic Acid belong to the sorghum category. This includes Johnsongrass, Sorghum/Sudan hybrids, grain sorghum, and forage sorghum.

The toxicity from Prussic Acid can kill cattle quickly, often before symptoms are noticed.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Do not allow animals to graze on young, short growth. Let cattle or animals graze after the plants have reached a height of 18-24 inches. Also keep animals off drought damaged plants in any form within four days after a good rain.
- Do not graze cattle immediately on these forages after a hard frost. It is recommended to wait at least seven days after the first killing frost before allowing cattle to graze. Wait until the plants are completely dried out before turning cattle on johnsongrass and avoid grazing the cattle at night when frost is likely.
- Another important thing to remember is to not turn hungry cattle onto johnsongrass pastures as they will devour a large quantity and it raises the risk of prussic acid toxicity. Make sure they have grazed other forages first or fill them up on hay before allowing them to graze.

Prussic Acid dissipates as the plants dry out. Properly dried Johnsongrass hay does not contain prussic acid and is safe to

feed.

SYMPTOMS OF PRUSSIC ACID POISONING:

- Anxiety, Progressive Weakness, Labored Breathing, and Death
- Dead animals may be found without visible symptoms of poisoning.
- Animals may also show increased rate of respiration, increased pulse rate, gasping, muscular twitching, and convulsions.
- Death often occurs rapidly in affected animals.

Consult with your veterinarian to correctly diagnose prussic acid poisoning and to determine the proper treatment.

You can read more in our publication Prussic Acid FSA3069 on our website at www.uaex.uada.edu. For more information about Prussic Acid contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.



Man charged with failure to comply with offender regulations

A Howard County man has been charged in Pike County with failure to comply with registration and reporting requirements of being a sex offender.

Marion Scott Jr., 42, was charged Nov. 7 with failure to cooperate with the assessment process involved in being a sex offender.

According to case information, Pike County Investigator Jason McDonald was conducting a compliance check earlier this year on sex offenders residing within Pike County. During this check, Scott was identified as being delinquent

in meeting the requirements.

Scott had alleged failed to appear for his scheduled registration by Oct. 3.

“Scott has been a registered sex offender for a sufficient period of time to understand his reporting requirements, including his biannual registration months are April 3, 2025 and Oct. 3, 2025, and these dates do not change regardless of address updates or other modifications,” Investigator McDonald reported.

Scott made his first court appearance on the charge Monday when he pleaded innocent and Jan. 12 pretrial

date was set.

Also on Nov. 7, Curtis Jay O’Neal, 25, of Kirby, was charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

O’Neal was arrested on Nov. 2 by Pike County Deputy Brandon Copeland during a traffic stop for a defective brake light. O’Neal has prior drug charges and granted the deputy permission to search his vehicle. The deputy allegedly found a small amount of marijuana, a glass smoking pipe commonly used to ingest meth and a small amount of meth.

O’Neal made his first court appearance Monday when he pleaded innocent to the charges and a Feb. 9 pretrial date was set.

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MHS concludes 2025 season

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers concluded their 2025 campaign with a 30-6 loss at Mineral Springs last Friday night.

MHS ends the season with a 5-5 record and a 3-4 mark in conference play. The team ended the season with three consecutive losses to find themselves outside of the 16-team playoff picture in 2025. Injuries to key personnel exacerbated the offensive woes to end the season.

Mineral Springs (4-6, 4-3) is the fourth seed in the conference and will travel to Hampton to face off against the Bulldogs this Friday night. Hampton is the number of seed from 4-2A.

Junction City, the 3-2A conference champions, will host Bearden this week. Gurdon (7-3, 5-2), the conference’s number two seed, will host Poyen this week, while number three seed Spring Hill (5-5, 4-3) will travel to Carlisle.

Foreman (4-6, 2-5), Dierks (4-6, 2-5,) and Lafayette County (2-8, 1-6) join the Rattlers as the conference teams to not make the playoffs.

Right outside the regular season, Scorebook Live (sblive.com) ranks the Rattlers as the 16th-best Class AA team, while Max-preps (maxpreps.com) has them as the 13th best.

Masons begin fundraising effort for coat drive

PIKE COUNTY – The Glenwood Masonic Lodge 662 is fundraising for their annual Coats for Kids drive.

The group says that all donations are greatly appreciated, with monetary donations accepted 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.

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

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

Whatever is in a bucket is what spills out when the



bucket is jolted. What spills out of us when life jolts us is that with which our minds and hearts are filled. Jesus said, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander”

(Matthew 15:19).

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

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

Paid Advertisement

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken fajitas w/ cheese, lettuce, tomato, pinto beans, salsa, mixed fruit, milk 7-12 line 2 option- No line 2	7-12 line 2 option- No line 2
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Breakfast: Super donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, whole grain roll, applesauce, milk 7-12 line 2 option-No line 2	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Burrito, refried beans, fire roasted corn, 7-12 salsa and cheese sauce, pears, milk 7-12 line 2 option - No line 2
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 Breakfast: Honey bun or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, seasoned carrots, green beans, garlic breadstick, pineapple, milk	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 Breakfast: Poptart & yogurt or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken on bun, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, 7-12 pickle and onion slices, mixed fruit, milk 7-12 line 2 option- No line 2

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

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Catfish, pinto beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, chunky fruit THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 BBQ chicken, corn, baked beans, texas toast, apple spice cake MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 Pork chops, sweet potato hash, green beans, roll, snickerdoodle cookie	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 Chicken rice casserole, peas & carrots, cauliflower, roll, banana pudding w/ wafers WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 Roast turkey w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, greens, cornbread, escalloped apples <i>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</i>
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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

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

ABRAM-IN-EGYPT

WITH PHARAOH TERRIFIED BY A PLAGUE, WHICH HIS PRIEST TELLS HIM IS DUE TO ANGERING ABRAM'S GOD BY TAKING SARA AWAY FROM HIM, PHARAOH NOW SENDS IN HASTE FOR ABRAM....

...WHO IS HUSTLED, IN THE EARLY DAWN, TO THE PALACE BY PHARAOH'S GUARDS....

...HERE AT THE PALACE, ABRAM IS BROUGHT INTO PHARAOH'S WORFUL PRESENCE, QUITE BEWILDERED....

WHAT IS WRONG? - WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

...HIS BEWILDERMENT INCREASES AS THE PHARAOH LAUNCHES INTO A TIRADE....

...AFTER ALL, ABRAM HAD NO DESIRE TO LOSE HIS WIFE - IT WAS PHARAOH WHO TOOK HER INTO HIS PALACE, BUT NOW....

JOHN LEHTI

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY FUNNI! 4548ABANK

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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
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Bro. Buddy Ray

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THANKSGIVING

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Fresh Prince: “ ____ ya later!”
- 6. Say “no”
- 9. “Nana” author ...mile ____
- 13. Capital of Vietnam
- 14. The home of the brave, acr.
- 15. Increase rpms (2 words)
- 16. Like yesteryear
- 17. Rejuvenating spot
- 18. Like a solder at attention
- 19. *Pumpkin pie or pecan pie, e.g.
- 21. *Plymouth ____
- 23. Seek damages
- 24. Light on one’s feet
- 25. Like The Beatles
- 28. Certain blast’s origins
- 30. *What tom said
- 35. Iranian money
- 37. Precedes GPT
- 39. Water nymph
- 40. Wisconsin’s western neighbor
- 41. One tenth
- 43. Mountain, in Germany
- 44. The Statue of Liberty island
- 46. Cat sound
- 47. Instinctive motive
- 48. 1970s dance clubs
- 50. Do like buffaloes
- 52. Distress acronym
- 53. Opposite of genuine
- 55. Bow or bolo
- 57. *Moisturizing kitchen tool
- 60. *Turkey prepared certain way
- 64. Bottom line
- 65. Pub offering
- 67. Alley cat, e.g.
- 68. Extreme suffering
- 69. International help, e.g.
- 70. Bullwinkle J. ____
- 71. Fitness facilities
- 72. July-August sign of Zodiac

73. More so than #12 Down

DOWN

- 1. Not barefoot
- 2. Gender checkbox
- 3. Peters out
- 4. Loamy deposit
- 5. Form a queue (2 words)
- 6. Head and shoulders sculpture
- 7. Venomous snake
- 8. Civil rights organization, acr.
- 9. Whole number between -1 and 1
- 10. *Biscuit baker
- 11. *She took away the football from Charlie Brown
- 12. Mentally quick, e.g.
- 15. Put trust in (2 words)
- 20. Respond
- 22. Website address ending
- 24. Eminence
- 25. *Deep-____, turkey prepared certain way
- 26. White condiment
- 27. Sheds tears
- 29. *Mayflower
- 31. Hindi courtesy title
- 32. Coffin holders
- 33. One of Florida Keys
- 34. Ruler sides, e.g.
- 36. Not of the cloth
- 38. Through, to a poet
- 42. Muse of love poetry
- 45. “Killing Me ____ with His Song”
- 49. Fraternity letters
- 51. Unwholesome atmosphere
- 54. Cattle enclosure in African village
- 56. Bar, legally
- 57. Unidentified aircraft
- 58. Niels Bohr’s study object
- 59. Without, ≠ Paris
- 60. Overhaul
- 61. *Turkey ____ 5K run
- 62. “At ____” military command
- 63. Indigo user
- 64. “You’re it” game
- 66. Rest in state

CROSSWORD

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A grateful nation proudly thanks America’s Veterans

BY JOHN BOOZMAN

U.S. Senator, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Answering the call to serve our country in uniform is becoming less common, but no less courageous.

We will always be proud that Arkansans from all walks of life continue choosing this path and make sacrifices to protect our freedoms and way of life.

Veterans Day is a time for all Americans to honor and remember this truth. While we can never fully repay our former servicemembers, we can keep our promises to them. That is a solemn responsibility to the more than 200,000 proud veterans who call The Natural State home.

Fortunately, we have made significant progress to strengthen the benefits and services veterans and their families depend on. I am proud to work alongside my colleagues on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee to champion bipartisan initiatives that move the needle to better support this unique community.

And as chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), our panel works hard to deliver key investments that enhance overall care and increase resources for our veterans. We’ve made great progress on my efforts in telehealth, women’s health initiatives, medical innovation and modernizing VA electronic health and IT systems.

Ensuring veterans have access to preventative and life-saving mental health support has been one of my ongoing top priorities. They are at a much higher risk of suicide than the general civilian population, which is why we have pushed several measures aimed at fighting this epidemic. The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Grant Program I authored alongside Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) doubles down on mental health outreach in veteran communities. We are now working diligently to extend it and continue reaching those in crisis.

Veterans’ overall health is just as vital. Empowering them

to efficiently coordinate and navigate appointments is key to achieving better outcomes. In light of that, I am championing policies to simplify the VA health care scheduling process and expedite access to community providers so getting timely, quality care will be easier than ever.

Another area my office has focused on to recognize former servicemembers has grown exponentially.

The Veterans History Project, a Library of Congress initiative to record and catalog the oral histories of veterans, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. My team has been proud to interview and submit the stories of around 100 Natural State veterans while training over 1,200 Arkansans to engage with it, including conducting interviews themselves. Earlier this year, we hosted VHP

representatives in Arkansas to collect more local veterans’ stories and share best practices with eager prospective participants.

Growing up, I remember interacting with so many adults in our community who spent at least some part of their lives serving our nation in uniform. Those experiences impressed upon me a deep sense of gratitude and respect that I still carry today. This perspective has also helped shape my priorities in Congress.

On November 11, as our nation celebrated Veterans Day, as well as every other day, I encourage every Arkansan to demonstrate our sincere appreciation for their service and sacrifice year-round.



Staff photo

LET FREEDOM RING ... Third and fourth grade students from Murfreesboro Elementary School, under the direction of Susan Hicks, sang patriotic selections at the Veterans Day program on Tuesday morning at the Senior Adult Center in Murfreesboro.

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Submitted photos/Jack Bonds

SURPRISE!!! ... Local resident Bill Flaherty (above left) was given a surprise birthday party for his 72nd birthday on Sunday, Nov. 2 at the Murfreesboro Community Center. The party was attended by his family and friends, including his mother, Bruenel, and many of the people that had worked with him over the years. Party organizers said that “a good time was had by all in attendance” and that Flaherty was very happy with the recognition. Flaherty is pictured with his family (above right, L to R) Wilma Flaherty, Bill Flaherty, Bruenel Flaherty, Janie Wright, William Flaherty, Betty Cawthon, Daron Rogers, Nathan Rogers and Kristen Rogers.

College enrollment show growth as a whole across state

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK -- Student enrollment continues to grow at most colleges and universities throughout the state. Retention and graduation rates are also continuing to rise. The University of Arkansas Systems total Fall 2025 headcount was 71,705 students, an increase of 2,000 students from last fall.

Key figures include record enrollments at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with over 34,000 students and Arkansas State Uni-

versity with almost 18,000 students enrolled. Arkansas Community Colleges also saw overall increases in enrollment, with the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton showing a 23 percent jump.

This is the fifth consecutive year, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has set an overall enrollment record with 34,175 students for the Fall 2025 semester. The highest enrollment in the university’s history.

Arkansas State University is celebrating a record-breaking student body this fall with 11th-day enrollment count surging to 17,926.

Fueled by the largest freshman class ever with 2,222 first-year students, a 12 percent increase compared to last year.

Arkansas Tech University recorded an 8 percent increase in total enrollment this fall with a 13 percent increase in transfer students and 6 percent increase in graduate students.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences had a 6.4 percent increase in enrollment for Fall 2025.

This fall, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock had a minor increase in overall enrollment with approximately 7,011 students, after achieving their largest increase in enrollment in 20 years in Fall 2024. Freshman enrollment saw a sizable gain with a 33.3 percent increase from Fall 2024.

Henderson State University’s Fall 2025 enrollment was 2,258 students, a 9 percent increase from the previous year. This includes 572 first-time freshmen, a 46 percent increase, plus 196 transfer students, a 32 percent increase.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, the system’s only historically black college, had a slight decline from Fall 2024 enrollment, although graduate student enrollment increased by 4 percent over last year. Furthermore, the

university was recently awarded a \$2 million grant from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to launch PRIDE RISES — Prioritizing Recruitment to Innovate and Drive Enrollment for improvements.

Notable increases at public two-year colleges grew from Fall 2024 with UA-East Arkansas Community College, Forest City saw a record-breaking enrollment of 1,566 students for Fall 2025, a 11.2 percent increase over the previous year. This is a new high for the college, which had 1,399 students in Fall 2024.

North Arkansas College in Harrison saw a 4.9 percent increase in its student headcount to 2,190 for the fall 2025 semester, up from 2,087 the previous year. For the third consecutive year, UA Hope-Texarkana had a fall-to-fall enrollment increase which climbed by 7.7 percent. Black River Technical College, Pocahontas saw a 1 percent drop in Fall 2025 enrollment, although they welcomed 253 first-time freshmen and had a 12.6 percent increase in Career and Technical Center enrollment. Southeast Arkansas College in Pine Bluff had a decrease by 1 student and ASU Three Rivers in Malvern saw a slight decrease of 1.6 percent from the previous year.

Lady Colts soccer advances to nationals

DE QUEEN -- UA Cossatot women’s soccer made history Saturday afternoon, clinching Cossatot Athletic’s first ever berth in a national championship tournament after freshman midfielder Angie Gustave’s 106th minute golden goal free kick took down No. 9 St. Charles Community College.

The Colts (4-6) went up early, and were undeterred to fall behind to the Cougars, (17-2-2) or to receive a red card 35 minute in coming back to win in double overtime and clinch a spot in the NJCAA National Championships at the SCHEELS Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita, Kan. from November 16-22.

Cossatot battled tough challenges all season, being down to 11 players after the second match, and playing with 10 men after the 35th minute.

The win also avenges a 4-3 loss earlier in the season, when the Cougars defeated the Colts in St. Charles, Mo.

Dahana Deis gave the Colts an early lead, running the left wing and slotting a shot into back of the net in the 9th minute.

A stunning top-right corner strike from STCC equalized things in the 32nd minute, before the Cougars took the lead just before halftime with a 44th minute goal after a Colts red card.

For the second time this season, Colts goalkeeper Nahomie Ambroise scored from a free kick in UAC’s half, as the 2023 Haiti World Cup squad member booted a kick over the head of the St. Charles keeper in the 58th minute to get things equal again. This was her second goal of the season, as Ambroise also accomplished the same feat away from Hinds C.C. On Aug. 27.

Both sides were tied after 90 minutes and headed to overtime. Overtime rules called for two 10 minute overtimes with a two minute halftime in-between, with the golden goal rule

(first goal instantly wins) in effect.

Despite a few chances for both sides and especially the Colts, things remained knotted up after the first overtime period.

Just under four minutes into the second overtime period, Gustave stepped up to take a free kick. Gustave booted it up the field... and into the back of the net! In just their third year of existence, UA Cossatot soccer has clinched a spot in the National Championships!

UA Cossatot Head Coach Justin Hinman remarked on the win, saying: “I’m beyond proud of how the girls played today. We came out playing confident out of the back and we were able to create some good chances early on, with Cesca putting us up early.” Hinman said “Our half time talk was about nothing but staying locked in and trusting your teammates ability. We weren’t aiming for 2 goals, we knew we just needed one to flip the script on the game, despite only playing with 10. After we scored the 2nd, we hunkered down and defended very well and when we did possess the ball, we made St Charles work a lot defensively. In OT, we knew it was golden goal and our game plan was to do everything we could to not concede. We wanted to worry about nothing but defending and if we get an opportunity to score, we knew we had to make the chance count and we did that midway through the second OT with Angie putting a screamer of a goal on frame to get us the win.”

Shots were 15-9 STCC, with Ambroise making seven saves in goal to keep the Colts in it.

Being down to 10 players versus 11 with no subs versus many subs didn’t stop the Colts, who dug deep to score a win over a top 10 team. The Colts are set to play again in the NJCAA National Championships in Wichita, with the date of their first match in group play TBA.

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