

The Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Issue 22 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
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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.

Changes made to materials taken at landfill

PIKE COUNTY -- Per The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, The Pike County Landfill will no longer be able to take Class 1 Garbage, Class 1 materials include household trash, cardboard, paper, plastic, hazardous waste (no non-putrescible waste), etc.

Upon entering the landfill, residents will need to stop at the gate and speak to the operator before dumping from this point on.

"We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause, but ADEQ requires that we follow state law to provide this service to our community," said Pike County Judge Eddie Howard.

'Grinchtastic' breakfast set for Saturday in Murfreesboro

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

MURFREESBORO -- For more than 10 years the Murfreesboro High School Band Boosters has been hosting Breakfast with Santa to help raise funds for the Band.

The funds raised are used to support the band program, any instrument needs, or meals on Band trips. Several years ago, the Rattler Band Boosters, saw a need and made the choice to not only help raise funds for the band but provide a fun and family-oriented event.

Last year the Boosters changed things up a little by inviting the Grinch to Breakfast, and with the enthusiastic response, He will be back again this year.

As Kira Staten, the Murfreesboro High School Band director states, "The kids always love helping with it, and the community looks forward to it every year."

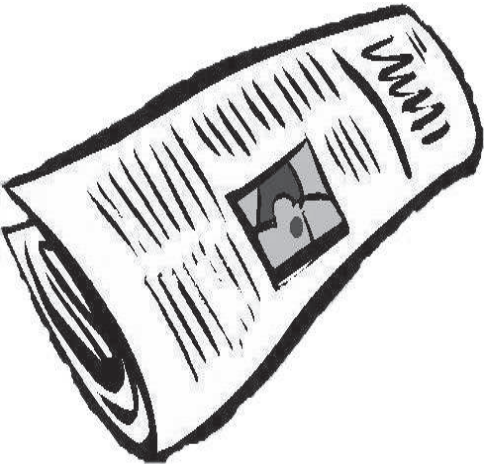
Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 9 a.m., at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall at 716 N Washington in Murfreesboro. Cost of the attendance will be \$5, and this includes breakfast, crafts, a treat, and a digital photo.

Pecan orders have arrived locally

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Conservation Pecan orders have arrived.

Participants can pick orders up Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

For more information Monday thru Wednesday at (870) 285-2424 or drop by the office at 131 N. Kelly St. Suite C.



DO YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
WORTH TELLING?

Submit Your Local
News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 for More Information



Submitted photos

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON ... The Murfreesboro Angel Tree project is in full swing, with angels available at a number of locations including (L to R) the Murfreesboro Library, Branch Oil, Terri's Place and First State Bank. This year there are over 100 children needing some help from Santa Claus and friends.

Angel Tree effort ongoing for over 100 children

MURFREESBORO -- Having collected forms from families, it has been announced that the Murfreesboro Angel Tree program will serve approximately 40 families and over 100 children this holiday season.

The effort has provided presents for almost 800 underprivileged Murfreesboro area children in the past ten years.

Angels are now available for collection by participating individuals at Branch Oil, Terri's Place, Pike County Sheriff's Office, First State Bank, KMB Nanny's Kitchen, C-Stop, Diamond Bank and the



Pike County Courthouse.

Any gifts purchased for the program must be turned in by Dec. 16, in a non-wrapped state, to the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

Pickup of the gifts by families will be held on Dec. 20 at Murfreesboro Municipal Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Angie Strawn, who has over-

seen the program for the past four years along with daughter Kelsi Frachiseur, said individual donations of money would be accepted as an option for those who didn't wish or have the means to fulfill a complete list.

Strawn also asks that anyone who picks up an angel, please contact her with the angel's number and their name so she can determine toward the end of the program which gifts the program will have to purchase directly.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Strawn at (870) 285-5269 via phone or text.

Quorum Court approves Campbell memorial measure

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court approved a resolution for the Glen Campbell Memorial Highway.

Jane Fugitt, secretary/treasurer for the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission, said the original idea for the honor was rejected by ARDOT and the state legislature for a scenic highway designation after every highway around Murfreesboro had designations.

She said local state senator Steve Crowell worked to get the effort through, and that the Murfreesboro Tourism Commission would pay for signage.

Signage will be on State Highways 19, 26 and 301 from Murfreesboro to Billstown, Pig-sah and Delight. A sign will give direction to Campbell's gravesite, which is on Billstown Road, a Pike County road.

The Quorum Court's approval was necessary for the measure, along with the cities of Delight and Murfreesboro.

Johnny Plyler asked Fugitt if it was possible to get directional signage on the interstate, to which she replied was possible.

Plyler remarked the Campbell Memorial Highway was "one of the best ideas I've seen."

Steve Campbell, representing the family at the meeting, said that they were "excited it was finally done."

A resolution to change how district court monies are distributed was tabled until December, as was passage of the 2026 budget and changes to the 2026 Pike County employee's handbook.

Holiday season kicks off Saturday with Santa on Square

MURFREESBORO -- Santa Claus is coming to town Saturday.

The City of Murfreesboro and the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce will present Christmas on the Square with Santa this Saturday, Dec. 6.

Santa will be there from 2-4 p.m. to hear Christmas wishes, take pictures and hand out bags of fruit and candy to all attendees.

Santa will arrive at the Pike County Courthouse Square on a fire truck from the Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire Department.

All children in attendance can register for a bicycle that will be given away at the end of the event.

A pair of bicycles -- one boy's, one girl's -- will be given away in three age groups. The age groups are 0-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

Winning participants in the drawing must be present at the end of the event at 4 p.m. to claim their prize.

be it cars, floats, walkers, horseriders or ATVs -- can call (870) 285-3131 or email lisa@harvillandassociates.com to get qualified.

The Murfreesboro High School marching band is scheduled to be a part of the parade.

CHAMBER BUCKS

The Murfreesboro Chamber is conducting a Chamber Bucks Giveaway campaign in the weeks leading up to the Christmas parade on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The event is ongoing and the Chamber reminds all residents to support Murfreesboro businesses by shopping locally.

All purchases at a participating chamber member business, starting on Friday, Nov. 28 through the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 11, will allow for an entry in the drawing the night of the parade for three prizes -- \$500, \$250 and \$100 in Chamber Bucks that can be spent with any Chamber of Commerce member.

The drawing will be conducted after the parade. Participants must not be present at the drawing to win.

Businesses that will be participating in the entry process with a purchase include:

- Foshee Equipment
- J&S Auto
- CEBA Gas
- Harvill Insurance
- Chicken N More
- Ace of Diamonds
- Town Square Gallery

- The Old Store
- Murfreesboro Hardware
- Caddo Antiques
- Hawkins Variety
- Diamond State Insurance
- Telinga's Restaurant
- Pawn Kings
- Branch Oil
- C-Stop
- People's Pharmacy
- Gypsy Underground

Following the drawing, winning participants can spend their Chamber Bucks at any of the

above businesses, as well as the following other Chamber business members including:

- Swaha Lodge and Marina
- The Feed Bin Cafe
- Doz Bros Arcade
- Ceramics by Telinga's
- Sonic
- Tannergy
- Dino Dig
- Murfreesboro Mini Mall
- Flowers Done Wright
- Kadoha Indian Village
- Diamond City Fitness
- Lovejoy's Diamond Screens



Submitted photo

TIS THE SEASON ... Volunteers Sarah Gwynne, Kailee Parker and Jenny the dog sit at one of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's photo opportunity locations in front of the former Pike County Hospital.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

November 18, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Byrne, Kevin P., 59, Mena, \$215 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Davis, James M., 52, Amity, \$125 BF, defective tires; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Johnson, Isaac Keshawn, 23, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$765 balance
Little, Angelina Cyan, 20, Hazelwood, Mo., guilty of failure to pay, \$535 balance
Mayes, JonathanB., 43, Newhope, guilty of failure to pay, \$385 balance
Odell, Lacey Xan, 40, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$545 balance, committed to jail; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Ransom, Lead Ann, 24, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,650 balance, committed to jail

Williamson, Centarius A., 37, Murfreesboro, Tenn., \$210 BF, use of phone while driving

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Nelson, Scott, 48, Arkadelphia, \$170 BF, speeding

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Barbre, Anthony Ray, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,085, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Felts, Larry D., 61, Glenwood, \$385 BF, tagging requirements; \$235 BF, hunting without license; \$235 BF, hunting/fishing/trapping on property without permission
Johnston, Zachary Earl, 29, Delight, guilty of modern firearm prohibited during muzzle loading season, fined \$235; guilty of hunting/

fishing/trapping on property without permission, fined \$385

Steuart, Lance A., 44, White Hall, \$385 BF, tagging requirements
Thompson, David Carl, 68, Texarkana, \$385 BF, tagging requirements

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Cogburn, Mary B., 30, Amity, guilty of speeding, fined \$160
Odell, Lacey, 40, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,465 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Porter, Kinsey Leigh, 30, Glenwood, \$360 BF, driving with suspended license; \$170 BF, speeding

BENCH TRIALS
PIKE COUNTY

Allen, Ricky Andrew, 71, Glenwood, speed-

ing, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss
Kelser, Richard D., 40, Hot Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$180

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Andrews, Teagan Mae, 21, Nashville, \$255 BF, public intoxication
Bailey, Stanley, 57, Newhope, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$160

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Ransom, Lead, 24, Glenwood, guilty of filing false report to police, fined \$850
Swiger, Sheri Kay, 40, Norman, \$145 BF, careless prohibited driving
Wisdom, Billy Jr., 41, Glenwood, guilty of harassing communications, fined \$470; terroristic threatening, under advisement for one year to dismiss

Simple, everyday ways to build a stronger family connection

As families grow and schedules become more demanding, finding small pockets of meaningful time together often becomes harder than expected. Even couples at the start of their marriage can suddenly realize how easily work, routines, and responsibilities push connection to the sidelines. But relationships don’t deepen by accident - when we value something, we intentionally carve out space for it. Making room for family time is one of the most meaningful investments you can make.

The good news is that genuine connection doesn’t require dramatic gestures or complicated plans. Small, consistent habits can make a remarkable difference. Insights from The Gottman Institute, a leading authority on relationship research, show that everyday moments play a key role in building trust, stability, and emotional closeness.

One of the simplest habits is creating shared evening routines. Bedtime is often hectic, but beginning the nightly wind-down together - even if everyone doesn’t fall asleep at the same moment - can become a powerful ritual. Whether it’s a shared story, brushing teeth at the same time, or relaxing in the same room, these predictable cues create comfort and closeness. Research published in the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy shows that couples who go to bed around the same time experience less conflict and enjoy deeper, more natural conversations. The Gottman Institute describes these predictable interactions as “rituals of connection” - small, repeated moments that strengthen emotional bonds.

Reading together is another simple habit that deepens family relationships. Turning a bedtime story or afternoon reading break into a shared discussion not only supports children’s cognitive development but also opens the door for curiosity and connection. Asking what a child noticed, how a story made them feel, or what they think might happen next reinforces that their thoughts matter. The Gottman Institute’s research high-



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

lights the power of open-ended questions in nurturing emotional intimacy - a principle that applies just as much to families as it does to couples.

Family rituals can also become anchors in an otherwise busy life. These don’t need to be elaborate or tied to special occasions. A weekly movie night, a monthly themed dinner, or even a simple daily check-in where everyone shares a highlight from their day can strengthen family identity. According to the Gottman Institute’s “shared meaning” framework, these recurring traditions help families develop a sense of unity and belonging. What matters most is their consistency, not their complexity.

Another powerful way to bond is by serving the community together. Volunteering as a family not only nurtures empathy and compassion but also creates a shared sense of purpose. Whether participating in a local clean-up, supporting a charity, or donating time to a cause you all care about, giving back helps shape values and reinforces that your family is part of something larger than itself. These shared experiences also deepen your family’s collective identity and remind everyone that meaningful action is a team effort.

Family closeness doesn’t appear overnight, it grows through intentional choices and small, steady investments of time and attention. Life will always bring chaos and busy moments, but deliberate connection helps families stay grounded and emotional-

ly attuned. Use these ideas as a starting point, then explore new traditions and habits that fit your family’s rhythm. The Gottman Institute’s research consistently shows that relationships thrive when we regularly turn toward each other in meaningful ways. By prioritizing connection, you are creating a family environment rich in warmth, trust, and lasting memories.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:
SAUSAGE SKILLET MIX-UP

INGREDIENTS:
1 pound bulk Pork sausage hot or mild
one small onion, chopped
two ribs celery, chopped
one green pepper, chopped
2 teaspoons chicken bouillon powder
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon pepper 3 cups cauliflower rice

INSTRUCTIONS:
Brown and crumble the sausage in a heavy skillet over medium high heat. When the sausage is no longer pink, pour off the grease, add the remaining ingredients, and give the mixture a stir.
Turn the burner to low, cover the steel, and let it simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the cauliflower is tender.

JOB OPENING

DELIGHT LIBRARY

Librarian position open
Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Must have computer experience in Resource Mate, a high school diploma, willing to work with children.
Send Resume to:
Pike County Library Board
1220 Muddy Fork RD.
Murfreesboro, AR. 71958
Job open till December 31

(p.c.l.b., 46w. 22;24, pd)

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park
Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson

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Please Send Change of Address Information to:
Murfreesboro Diamond
P.O. Box 550, 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.

Ace of Diamonds

Murfreesboro * (870) 285-3133
Mon. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKNASAS DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

MARIA G. ZAMORANO PLAINTIFF
VS. NO. 55 DR-25-57
JOHNNY ZAMORANO DEFENDANT

WARNING ORDER

TO: ALL CONCERNED
You are hereby notified that MARIA ZAMORANO, Plaintiff, whose Attorney is DUSTIN BISSELL, whose address is 306 E Broadway Glenwood, AR 71943, has filed a COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE against you, a copy of which Petition and Summons shall be delivered to you, or to your attorney upon request. You are also notified that you must appear and defend by filing your answer or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Warning Order; in the event of your failure to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition as circumscribed by the laws of this State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal as Clerk of the Court on this 1st. day of December, 2025.

Sabrina Williams
CIRCUIT CLERK Pike County

(d.b., 173w., 22,23)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE ESTATE OF JOAN G. REA, DECEASED
No. 55PR-25-55

NOTICE

Last known address: 213 Bascom Avenue, Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas 71958
Date of Death: November 2, 2025
Notice is hereby given that Melissa Cox was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Joan G. Rea, Deceased, on November 21, 2025.

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, duly verified, addressed to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate.

This notice is first published this 26th day of November 2025.

Estate of Joan G. Rea, Deceased c/o Robert B. “Brad” Crayne ROSS & SHOALMIRE, PLLC 1820 Galleria Oaks Drive Texarkana, Texas 75503. Tel. (903) 223-5653
Email: brad@rossandshoalmire.com

(r.s, 147w. 21-22)

A nation built on thankfulness

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. House of Representatives, AR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As we recently celebrated a holiday centered on our gratitude and thankfulness for all the blessings we have been given, we must also reflect on our nation’s history and the significance behind Thanksgiving Day.

Most often associated with the feast depicted in our history books from colonial days, we recall the first harvest shared by the pilgrims to thank God for their blessings and the abundant harvest they received during a time marked by great uncertainty. While this feast was celebrated at Plymouth colony in 1621, and loosely maintained by the generations to follow, it wouldn’t be for almost two more centuries that our nation would properly observe this day.

During the Revolutionary War, our Founding Fathers observed a day of thanksgiving that took on a whole new meaning. After the British army surrendered to the Americans at the

Millions returned to residents

LITTLE ROCK -- Auditor of State Dennis Milligan marked a milestone in his administration this week, hitting \$100 million returned to current and former Arkansans through his office’s Unclaimed Property division. As of today, Milligan has returned \$100.2 million since being in office.

Unclaimed property is most often cash left behind from unreturned utility deposits, unused checking accounts or overpayments, and can also include life insurance proceeds, stocks, bonds or inheritances. When companies cannot locate the owner of these financial assets, they remit them to the state auditor’s office whose job it is to return them to their rightful owners.

Active outreach is just one of the many ways Milligan credits his team for reaching this milestone. His team has attended countless festivals and conferences, held mobile offices and run an extensive letter campaign to notify people of their unclaimed property. Milligan has even driven to homes of people unable to file their claims online.

Milligan credits his team for helping Arkansans become more aware of the program, commonly called the Great Arkansas Treasure Hunt, and helping to dispel any rumors that it is a scam. “People are understandably skeptical when they hear that someone is trying to give them money, but I try to reassure them two things: one, the program is legitimate; and two, the money we’re returning is their money,” Milligan said.

In addition to active outreach throughout Arkansas, Milligan credits his new Data Match program for helping him reach \$100 million returned.

Act 114 of 2025 authorized the auditor’s office to send automatic checks to people owed between \$50 and \$5,000 without them having to file a claim – as long as the office can verify their identity. Milligan’s office has mailed more than 41,000 checks and returned \$8.1 million since September through this program alone.

The auditor’s office has more than \$400 million in unclaimed property owed to current and former Arkansans. It is not limited to individuals; businesses and nonprofits can also have unclaimed property. To check the state’s database and file a claim, people may visit www.claimitar.gov.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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: What is RSV?

A: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a respiratory illness that affects people in a similar manner to the common cold. RSV is contagious and spreads easily, and people may be infected multiple times throughout their life.

RSV can be acquired through close contact with an infected person, droplets from coughing and sneezing, or from touching contaminated objects. The virus is more common in the fall and winter and normally peaks in December and January. People of all ages can be affected by RSV, and most children have been infected by the age of 2. Infants, older adults and those with compromised immune systems are those most likely to be severely affected by the virus.

Symptoms of RSV include cough, fever, headache, runny nose and

shortness of breath. RSV symptoms normally present themselves between four to six days after infection. Bronchitis, dehydration, ear infections, pneumonia, or exacerbation of existing conditions such as asthma or congestive heart failure are complications of RSV.

In healthy adults, RSV normally resolves itself and can be managed at home with over-the-counter medications. An RSV vaccine is available for adults over the age of 60 and for pregnant women. Contact your health care provider if you have questions.

Battle of Saratoga, General George Washington agreed to the Continental Congress’ suggestion of observing a national day of thanksgiving to commemorate this victory. The proclamation was signed, designating December 18, 1777, as our nation’s first Thanksgiving Day.

It wasn’t until the Civil War era, however, that Thanksgiving Day was regularly observed, when President Abraham Lincoln established the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day in 1863. For 162 years, our nation has set aside this day as a day of thankfulness.

May we continue to be thankful for the blessings we have been given: our nation’s farmers who are responsible for providing food for our tables, our teachers who pour into and shape the minds of future leaders, and our troops who defend the freedoms we are so blessed to have.

When we take a moment to reflect on all that we have been given, my hope is that we will be reminded of how blessed our nation truly is. And that we will never forget the generations who have come before us to secure these gifts, urging us to press forward and do the same for future generations. I am certainly thankful for the opportunity to serve the Fourth District of Arkansas, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season and upcoming holidays.

Supermoon makes final show on 2025 tour

Behold the last supermoon of 2025! The Moon will be full and rise at sunset on December 4. It will appear full the day before and the day after the fourth.

The Moon is a monthly topic, and certain things are repeated each time. One repeat is the name of each month’s moon. The Iroquois and other native tribes called it the Cold Moon which is the name frequently used today. The Cold Moon is the herald of the coming winter. Related to the season is the name the Mohicans had for it, Long Night Moon. Across the Atlantic Old English references to it were derived from the Anglo-Saxon Yule Festival by calling it the Moon Before Yule.

The Moon has long been an inspiration for a wide range of thoughts and emotions. No doubt many romantic settings have been highlighted by its glow as the song “Moonlight in Vermont” brings to mind. The other realm where we have placed the influences of the Moon is that of its being a cold and lifeless orb whose light makes all colors black or white and offers no warmth. The Moody Blues song of 1967 from “Days of Futures Past” poetically presents the Moon as a “cold hearted orb that rules the night.”

All of that is the very human attempt to bring the Moon into our minds and hearts. Of course, the Moon is just the Moon, Earth’s satellite, that we now know a lot about, and have actually walked upon.

Sure, its light is cold because it is reflected sunlight, and not radiated energy like we get directly from the Sun, but it is not always cold up there. On its surface, in fact, temperatures swing from one extreme to the other. The sunlit lunar surface has a temperature of more than 250 degrees (F), and in shadow the temperature plummets to minus 208 degrees (F). Orbiting probes have found evidence of very ancient ice in craters that have areas always in shadow. There, temperatures are about minus 410 degrees (F).

Caddo Antiques
Gifts and More
Open House

Saturday Dec. 6
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Come by Caddo Antiques and check out our 25% off sale (excluding diamonds) and 75% off back room.

With purchase you can register for a door prize!

Refreshments will be served.

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Obituaries

Dorothy June Young, 78, Bismarck

Dorothy June Young, age 78, of Bismarck, died Monday, November 24, 2025, at Baptist Health and Medical Center in North Little Rock. She was born June 21, 1947, in Compton to Russell and Ora Ethel Petree Adams.

She was a member of the Bismarck Church of Christ, Arkansas Trail Riders Association and a member of the Arkansas retired Teachers Association and Glenwood Retired Teachers Association.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, James R. “Jim” Young; and a brother, Kenneth Adams.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Clayton and Sarah-Sage Young of Bismarck and Adam and Elizabeth Young of Sherwood;

a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Wanda Adams of Dover; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Pat and Russell Mills of Conway and Kathy Koone of Cabot; five grandchildren, Henry Young of Bismarck, Simon Oglesby of Benton and Carter, Hunter, and Adelyn-Kate Young of Sherwood; and many other relatives and countless friends.

The funeral service were held on Friday, November 28, 2025, at the Shinn Chapel with Mr. Charles Smith officiating.

Private burial will be in Nimrod Cemetery at Nimrod under the direction of Shinn Funeral Service of Russellville.

Honorary pallbearers are Ryan Adams, Jeff Mills, Kevin Koone, Paul Rickett, Todd Aitken, Dave Tallent, and Chad Turner.

The family will receive friends immediately following the service at the chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Arkansas Special Olympics, 2115 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114 or the American Cancer Society, 2222 Cottondale Lane, # 310, Little Rock, AR 722202.

Online guestbook and condolences available at www.shinnfuneral.com.

Mary Lou Bell Roberts, 70, Billstown

Mary Lou Bell Roberts, age 70 of Billstown, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025 in Glenwood. She was born on April 27, 1955 in Corvallis, Oregon to the late Jack and Otha Stone Bell.

Mrs. Roberts was a member of the Delight Church of Christ. She was a homemaker and enjoyed crafting, mowing her lawn and especially shopping. She loved taking photographs and going through old pictures, as well as researching family history. She especially enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of fifty-two years, Larry Wayne

Roberts and a brother-in-law, Tommy Morris.

Those left to cherish her memory include her two daughters, Cindy (Joe) Vansickle and Terrie (Kevin) Williams; six grandchildren, Eden (Andrew) Henderson, Alahna (Trent) O’Connell, Dylan (Addison) Hill, Taylor Vansickle, Shane (Presley) Vansickle and Atty Vansickle; four great-grandchildren, Rylee O’Connell, Clyde Henderson, Bowen Hill and Maggie Grace Henderson; five siblings, Diania Wilson, Ronnie (Debbie) Bell, Cheryl (Thomas) Buck, Deb Morris, and T.J. (Luke) Cross; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at the Delight Church of Christ. Funeral services followed at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at the Delight Church of Christ. Interment was held at the Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

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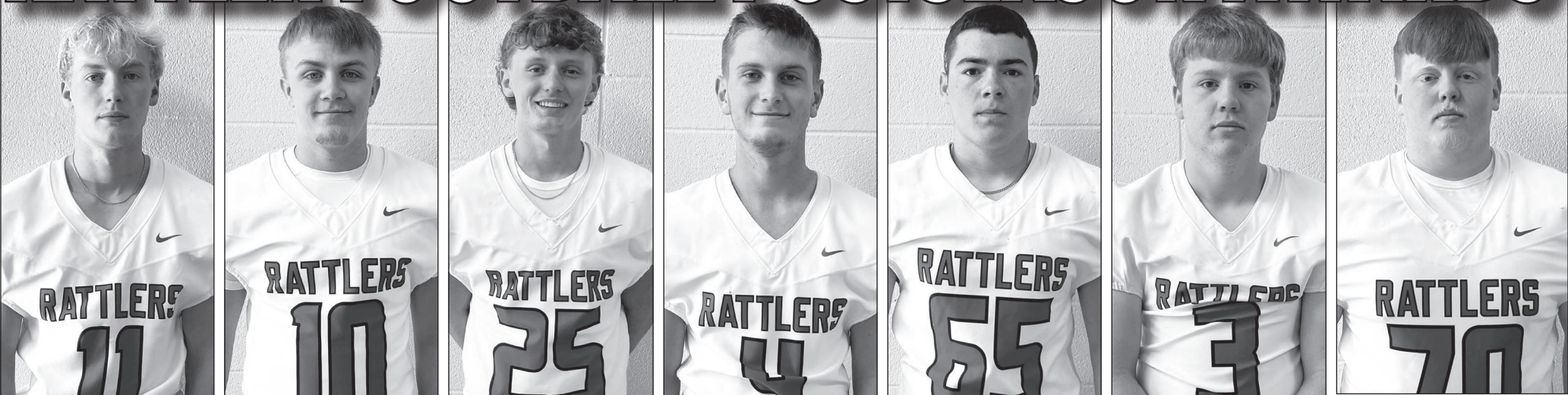
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RATTLER FOOTBALL POSTSEASON AWARDS



Submitted photos

FOOTBALL AWARDS ANNOUNCED ... Murfreesboro Rattler football head coach Jay Turley has announced the 2025 postseason awards, which include first team All 3-2A Conference players (L to R) Kale Burns, Kooper Caldwell, Aiden “Bubba” Stinson, Isaac Kukendall, Logan Burrus, Garrett Lamb and Hawkins Jackson. Players named Second Team All Conference included Drake Eoff, Liam Eoff, Corbin Hoover and Garrett Downs, while Cale Humphry, Cameron Braden, Isaac Smith and Alex Parker were All Conference honorable mentions. Players named to the 3=2A “Super Team” included WR Kale Burns, DL Logan Burrus, OL Hawkins Jackson, QB Kooper Caldwell and special teams kick returner Alex Parker. Kooper Caldwell was named All State as a quarterback while Kale Burns and Logan Burrus were nominated to the AAA ALL-Star Team.

Extreme financial pressures on farmers bring fears of losing legacy

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
U of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Farmers “are not just worried about losing the farm; they are afraid of losing an identity, a legacy, and a sense of purpose,” said Erica Fields, associate director of the Southern Risk Management Education Center.

As a licensed social worker, Fields has a unique skill set for an unprecedented time in the agriculture industry. With rising input costs, low commodity prices, tariffs, shrinking margins complicated by limited access to loans and severe weather “across the South, producers are under tremendous financial pressure.”

In her work with the Southern Risk Management Education Center, she sees the crisis firsthand.

“Many describe feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, out of control, or guilty for not being able to ‘push through’ like they used to,” she said.

“The red flags often appear quietly in unreturned calls, skipped meetings, or delayed harvesting,” she said. “These small details tell a deeper story of fatigue and discouragement that often goes unnoticed until it becomes a crisis.”

“In the field, I hear stories of families under intense pressure, with relationship strain, exhaustion, and signs of depression that all trace back to financial stress,” Fields said.

When financial stress runs this deep, it shows up in words, actions, and farm operations, she said.

“Farmers rarely say, ‘I’m depressed.’ Instead,

they ask questions that reveal the emotional weight behind financial stress:

“How do I hold onto the land my grandparents built their lives on?”

“Should I sell part of the farm or the cows?”

“How do I tell my family we can’t afford another year like this?”

“Should I refinance again?”

“What happens to my credit if I walk away?”

“What happens to our family name if I can’t keep it going?”

“Is it selfish to want to stop?”

“For me, this work is a demanding calling that bridges the head and the heart,” Fields said. “It requires honoring the data while never losing sight of the people behind it. As a licensed financial social worker, I live where finance and emotion meet, helping farmers connect to resources that support both their books and their burdens.”

“Every fact sheet, podcast, and conversation can plant a seed of hope,” she said. “When someone says, ‘I didn’t realize those were warning signs,’ or when a family finds support before it is too late, I am reminded that this work is more than a job; it is a calling to serve.”

LOSING LESS

Grant Beckwith, Arkansas County extension staff chair for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said he’s heard of farmers whose goal is just to lose less money and try to repay loans.

“I was told of one guy last year that stepped into his retirement to pay out. He’s got to pay out of his retirement again this year,” Beckwith said. “For two years you dip into your life sav-

ings just to get back to zero. He said, ‘I don’t have enough time to come back from this,’ so he’s done.”

HOW CAN SRMEC HELP?

The Southern Risk Management Education Center can connect farmers and farm families with tools to better understand and manage risk.

AgFTAP.org, supported by the USDA Farm Service Agency, offers free educational courses on recordkeeping, farm finance, tax management, and asset protection, along with access to a national network of technical assistance service providers.

FSA96, a recent University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture publication, Identifying Financial Stress in Farmers and Ranchers: A Guide for Families, Friends, and Agricultural Community Stakeholders, highlights practical ways communities can recognize red flags of distress before a crisis unfolds.

Helplines such as the National AgriStress Helpline (1-833-897-AGRI) and AR Connect-Now (501-526-3563) offer 24-hour crisis and mental health support tailored for farm families.

“Every farmer faces difficult choices, but nobody should shoulder these burdens alone,”

Fields said. Support can start close to home with a trusted pastor, church member, Extension agent, or counselor/therapist. Peer support, connection, and resources can save lives.”

About the Southern Risk Management Education Center

The Southern Risk Management Education Center, housed within the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, is one of four centers nationwide whose mission is to educate farmers and ranchers to manage the unique risks of producing food. The center is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The center has served nearly 1 million individual farmers and ranchers in the southern region, empowering them with the skills and tools to effectively manage risks. The southern region encompasses Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: BBQ rib sandwich, cole slaw, baked beans, pears, milk No line 2	No line 2
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken fried steak, 7-12 white gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole grain roll, peaches, milk No line 2	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pizza sticks, steamed broccoli, steamed carrots, mixed fruit, milk No line 2
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 Breakfast: Honey bun or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken nachos w/cheese sauce, pinto beans, seasoned corn, 7-12 salsa, strawberry cup, milk	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 Breakfast: Chocolate donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Turkey & cheese on bun, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, onion & pickle slices, apricot, milk 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 Grilled chicken sandwich, sweet potato fries, lettuce, tomato, pickle, onion, brownie	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 Shepherd’s pie, salad, dinner roll, frosted cake
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 Beef enchilada bake, pinto beans, squash, chilled apricots	<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>

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ



PRAYER

Jesus gives us personal, productive insight on effective prayer in Matthew 6:1-15. He says not to be hypocritical when we pray or to pray to be seen of men. Proper prayer and proper meditation go together. God will reward prayer openly. Prayer should not be repetitious. In Matthew 6:9 we are told to begin prayer in this way, “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.” God deserves our praise and devotion. We should always give God honor and glory for He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Heartfelt prayer will be a time of praise for all He has done and is doing for us. “Thy Kingdom come, they

will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” The church-kingdom was a reality on the first Pentecost following Jesus’ resurrection. The kingdom has not come for the whole world because all people have not heard the gospel of salvation. We must continue to work and pray that each and every

soul may have the opportunity to hear and obey the Word. Daily bread (word of God) is a necessity. We should pray for physical blessings and be thankful for them. We are debtors to Jehovah for grace, mercy and all other spiritual blessings – a debt that can never be paid. Only God’s divine instructions can keep us from temptations and help us to overcome Satan. The power, glory and kingdom forever will be the final victory. Jesus prayed He and prayed often, long and fervently. He knew the most potent weapon in our spiritual arsenal would be a well-used prayer life with the Father. Amen.

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A KING'S JEALOUSY

WHEN KING SAUL, BESET BY MELANCHOLY AND INSANITY, FIRST LAID EYES ON DAVID, THE BIBLE REPORTS THAT SAUL "LOVED HIM GREATLY" (1 SAM.16:21). SO MUCH SO THAT SAUL MADE DAVID HIS ARMOUR-BEARER, AND CALLED UPON HIM TO REFRESH HIS SPIRITS WHENEVER HE, SAUL, WAS SO DISTURBED! HOWEVER, DAVID WAS SO VALIANT AGAINST THE PHILISTINES AND SO SUCCESSFUL WHENEVER THEY MET IN BATTLE THAT WOMEN IN ALL THE ISRAELITE CITIES USED TO SING PRAISES TO DAVID ABOVE THAT TO KING SAUL! (1 SAM.18:6-9) THE JEALOUSY THAT WAS INSTIGATED IN SAUL'S MIND ERASED ANY FEELINGS OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR DAVID TO BE REPLACED WITH THE DESIRE TO KILL DAVID AT ALL COSTS! (1 SAM.19:1).



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* -- *Theme Related Clue*
- ACROSS**
- 1. Imperfections
 - 6. Part of T.G.I.F.
 - 9. Stark daughter on “Game of Thrones”
 - 13. Kind of print, for short
 - 14. Hula dancer’s flowers
 - 15. Kitchen tear-jerker
 - 16. Viva voce
 - 17. Draft beer container
 - 18. Confused
 - 19. *Irreverent Disney nanny
 - 21. *Scar’s older brother
 - 23. Famous T-Rex
 - 24. Gardening tool
 - 25. Louisville Slugger
 - 28. Stallion’s mate
 - 30. Famous ciphering machine
 - 35. D’Artagnan’s weapon of choice
 - 37. Essence
 - 39. Gloomy and drab
 - 40. Containing limestone
 - 41. Scrawny one
 - 43. Purse to match a gown
 - 44. Spot for boutonniÈre
 - 46. John Oates’ partner Daryl
 - 47. Prepare for a rainy day
 - 48. Catch in a snare
 - 50. Rapper LL ____ J
 - 52. ____ Aviv
 - 53. Wholly engrossed
 - 55. Call to Bo Peep
 - 57. *Shere Khan’s sworn enemy
 - 60. *Marie’s and Toulouse’s younger brother
 - 64. Beneficiary
 - 65. Opposite of nothing
 - 67. Pancho’s last name
 - 68. Weasel’s aquatic cousin
 - 69. “New” prefix
 - 70. *Like Iago in “Alladin” or Laddy Kluck in “Robin Hood”
 - 71. Karate blow
 - 72. Not safe in baseball

- 73. Like salad greens
- DOWN**
- 1. Part of an envelope
 - 2. *Nani Pelekai’s little sister and new pet owner
 - 3. At the summit of
 - 4. Beats, slangily
 - 5. Hypertension sufferer’s dietary concern
 - 6. Sorts
 - 7. Driver’s aid
 - 8. Fraternity letter
 - 9. Dwarf buffalo
 - 10. Oil field structures
 - 11. Moving meditation practice
 - 12. “ ____ day now”
 - 15. Hurt or upset
 - 20. Some tides
 - 22. Israel Kamakawiwo’ole’s strings
 - 24. Take back
 - 25. *Beast’s love interest
 - 26. Bee-related
 - 27. Act like a siren
 - 29. Macaulay Culkin’s “Richie ____”
 - 31. Wraths
 - 32. Gain access to (2 words)
 - 33. Shade of violet
 - 34. *a.k.a Little Mermaid
 - 36. Ogler
 - 38. Angel’s headgear
 - 42. Geography class prop
 - 45. “ ____ than life”
 - 49. Chum
 - 51. Immature, as an undeveloped insect
 - 54. Baby grand
 - 56. Full of pep
 - 57. It’s drawn to light
 - 58. “I’m ____ you!”
 - 59. Shed tears
 - 60. Soak some ink
 - 61. Hipbones
 - 62. *I am ____, and I like warm hugs”
 - 63. Goofy or silly
 - 64. *Leader of the seven dwarfs
 - 66. Romanian money

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Arkansas forests at crossroads

BY MATTHEW PELKKI
University of Arkansas at Monticello, Center for Forest Business
The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not represent any official position of the University of Arkansas at Monticello

MONTICELLO -- Arkansas’ forests are overweight and becoming more obese every year.

According to the U.S. Forest Service census of our forests, our forests had 630 million tons standing timber in 1970. Today, according to that same census, Arkansas forests boast a hefty 1.1 billion tons of standing timber. We have added about 10 percent to our forest land, but that still represents a whopping weight gain.

The growth of our forests isn’t slowing down ... yet. According to the Arkansas Division of Forestry, each year our forests grow by more than 50 million tons, while all harvests and removals are 27 million tons. That means every year our forests are increasing their stocking by about 23 million tons. Our forests are becoming unhealthy.

My cardiologist tells me that I cannot keep gaining weight every year or I’ll have some real health problems. Forests don’t have heart attacks, but they are subject to insects, diseases and fires that can ravage the landscape and peoples’ lives. Check the forests out west — pine beetles and wildfires are on the upswing.

Enter Arkansas’ forest industry. It supports more than 50,000 jobs in the state and represents nearly 4.1 percent of our state’s economy — all on a renewable resource that supports wildlife, clean water and some of the best recreation in the nation. You can think of the forest industry as a way of “exercising” our forest and managing its health. Yes, we obtain products and jobs from our forests, but forest managers are most concerned with promoting the sustainability and health of our forests. The money and jobs are really a side benefit of good forest management. The voluntary adoption of sustainability standards is just one

demonstration of forest industry’s commitment to the long-term health of our forests.

But our forests are outgrowing our industry. There is more forestland than we can effectively manage. If this continues, Mother Nature — in the form of insects, diseases, fires and climate events — will rebalance the scale. It is inevitable. And while some might think that Mother Nature knows best, the side effects of insects, disease, fires and storm-damaged forests is incredibly detrimental to Arkansans. Ask the good folks of Paradise, California, where the 2018 Camp Fire killed more than 85 people and displaced about 50,000, how they feel about un-controlled wildfire.

A TALE OF TWO FUTURES

One future has us staying the course towards forest catastrophe. In this future, Arkansas’ rural towns lose their paper mills and sawmills, leaving forest landowners without affordable ways to manage the health of their forests. Dense forests are feeding grounds for bark beetles and diseases. Dying and dead forests are vulnerable for wildfires. Homes, property, whole towns and lives are lost.

Another future supports our forest industry with innovative and forward-thinking policy. The most critical need is a market for small-diameter trees that landowners typically send to paper mills or use for products such as wood pellets for energy. Potential markets for this small-diameter wood include emerging technologies, such as sustainable aviation fuel and existing technologies, such as combined heat and power or combined natural gas and wood pellets.

The advantage of using renewable wood for energy production is clear. It provides rural jobs in communities already dependent on our forest. At the same time, it gives landowners tools to improve the health of their forest, produces more wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water. The landowners and communities also get the side benefit of jobs and income.

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EVENTS

68th Annual Jacksonville Christmas Parade

December 6, 2025

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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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