

Last chance to order from senior center fundraiser

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center will be offering their annual fall fundraiser of homemade dressing and fresh rolls.

The fundraiser will conclude taking orders this Friday, 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.

Local man dies in workplace accident

DELIGHT -- A Delight man was killed in an industrial accident on Friday, Dec. 12, according to the Pike County Sheriff's Department.

An incident report filed by Deputy Bret Reid stated Randy Doy Woodall, 68, died in the accident, which happened at Diamond City Trailer's facility in Delight after business hours around 4:30 p.m.

A 911 call was placed by Jerry Johnson, who reported that a male subject had fallen from an elevated basket while being raised by a forklift.

Johnson told deputies that Woodall had contacted him requesting assistance in lifting him in a basket in order to obtain measurements for piping in the facility. Johnson stated that while in the air Woodall walked to the side of the basket, causing it to tip and Woodall to fall to the ground with the basket landing on top of him.

Diamond City Trailer owner Christopher Gilmer arrived on the scene and told deputies he was unaware that Woodall was at his shop working that day.

Area law enforcement officers honored

LITTLE ROCK -- Attorney General Tim Griffin today honored law enforcement officers from across Arkansas at the 2025 Officer of the Year Awards luncheon. At the conclusion of the event, Griffin issued the following statement:

"The men and women we honored today are true heroes, and it is my distinct honor to recognize them for their outstanding service to their communities. These officers have distinguished themselves in the past year for their excellence and dedication. But this event isn't just a celebration of their accomplishments, it's also a celebration of all law enforcement officers and a way for us to say thank you to those who keep us safe each and every day.

"The 2025 state Officer of the Year is Arkansas State Police Trooper Hunter Grubbs. Trooper Grubbs has distinguished himself in the past year, securing 67 felony arrests, 94 misdemeanor arrests, 115 warrants served, nine DWI arrests, six vehicle pursuits, assistance to 211 stalled motorists, 60 vehicle accident investigations, recovery of two stolen vehicles, and 111 hours assisting other agencies. Trooper Grubbs was described by his superiors as exemplifying 'the highest ideals of the Arkansas State Police—courage, professionalism, and service.'

"I congratulate all those honored today and the countless others who put their lives on the line so that Arkansans can live in peace and safety."

Officer of the Year awards were given to officers from each of the state's counties, five regional winners, one recipient of the Dwayne Yarbrough Distinguished Service Award, one valor tribute (for an officer who died in the line of duty), and one statewide Officer of the Year. This year's local honorees are:

Clark County: Trooper Sean Weston, Arkansas State Police

Hempstead County: Corporal Charlie Featherston, Hope Police Department

Howard County: Trooper Micah Brown, Arkansas State Police

Montgomery County: Deputy Michael Wojcilewicz, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Nevada County: Corporal Christina Bussey, Arkansas State Police

Pike County: Special Agent Christopher Harper, Arkansas State Police

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net



Submitted photos/CRG

COMING TOGETHER ... Chimney Rock Grocery in Murfreesboro has rounded the corner and is headed to the finish line with their opening scheduled for January 14. In addition to the installation of coolers and shelving units (above), food has begun to arrive at the facility (below).



Inmates allegedly secure marijuana, smoke in cells

MURFREESBORO -- A group of nine Pike County inmates is facing felony charges after marijuana was alleged smuggled into and smoked in the jail following a day of trash detail.

The inmates charged include: Jakob Reppo, 38, of Glenwood; Brandon Davis, 30, of Little Rock; Austin Swanger, 28, of Glenwood; Dutch Forga, 41, of Glenwood; Glen McCurdy, 45, of Caddo Gap; Kevin Mitchell, 37, of Arkadelphia; Michael Griffith, 38, of Caddo Gap; Montana Curry, 23, of Mount Ida; and Nathan Peek, 46, of Kirby.

All nine are charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering

a prohibited article. All of the inmates made court appearances Monday where they each pleaded innocent and April court dates were set.

According to affidavits filed on the cases, the Pike County jail inmate trash crew was on detail on Nov. 22 when a girlfriend of one of the inmates approached the crew and was "hugged up" to the boyfriend with some of the other inmates around her vehicle. The inmates were dispersed from the vehicle and later transported back to the detention center and their assigned pods.

The following day, the inmates were monitored in their pods and appeared to be in pos-

session of marijuana, which was being separated and passed around. Some of the inmates were observed smoking the weed inside the jail.

A review of surveillance video "clearly shows Reppo" in possession of the substance, dividing it, rolling multiple joints, distributing portions to the other inmates and passing contraband under pod doors to inmates.

Inmate Swanger admitted that he brought the substance into the jail after finding it on the ground during work detail and concealing it in his mouth upon re-entry to the jail.



Staff photos

SANTA CAME TO TOWN ... Following the parade last Thursday night, Santa stopped at the square to draw winners (along with Jane Fugitt) in the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's drawing for Chamber Bucks. The winners were Becky Foster of Nashville (\$100), Dawanda Schwope of Nashville (\$250) and Tina Richard of Kirby (\$500). After the drawing Santa posed for a picture with chamber volunteers Sarah Gwynne and Kailee Parker.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET



December 9, 2025
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Bailey, Adam L., 27, Midway, \$85 BF, failure to present insurance
Balderas, Orlando Jr., 22, Conway, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Bell, Zanneckia S., 47, Maumelle, \$140 BF, speeding
Binder, Breann Jacqueline, 20, Glenwood, \$17 BF, speeding
Burkhart, Benjamin S., 37, Glenwood, \$150 BF, speeding
Campbell, Derek Tyrell, 39, Arkadelphia, \$230 BF, speeding
Cogburn, James H., 68, Norman, \$180 BF, speeding
Cogburn, Nathaniel Ray, 46, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340
Cruz, Anaia Rivera, 44, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$140 BF, no driver’s license
Davis, Samantha Suzanne, 36, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Doering, Marlyn, 50, Caddo Gap, \$230 BF, speeding
Emberson, Amanda J., 43, Judsonia, \$200 BF, speeding
Faulkner, Rayleigh Marie, 26, Prescott, \$140, BF, speeding
Gangadi, Sandeep Reddy, 33, Irving, Texas, \$150 BF, speeding
Garrison, Delania Kaye, 47, Amity, speeding, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss
Gosnell, Kevin D., 57, Dierks, no contest, speeding, fined \$180
Gray, Robert Don, 53, Dierks, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,590 balance

Harding, Robert David, 60, Nashville, \$140 BF, speeding
Hembey, Thomas Dillin, 27, Delight, guilty of failure to pay, \$520 balance
Henderson, Mike, 71, Delight, \$140 BF, no vehicle license
Jacoby, Andrew Jacob, 24, Newhope, \$140 BF, speeding
Juarez, Celia Ann, 23, Nashville, \$150 BF, speeding
Leblanc, Bryson J., 26, Nashville, guilty of passing on double yellow line, fined \$125
Leboeuf, Chera Ann, 17, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Lloyd, Bobby J., 45, Glenwood, guilty of speeding, fined \$140
Lopez, Veronica Del Carmen, 57, Aubry, Texas, \$150 BF, speeding
Markle, Christopher Zyul, 22, Ashdown, \$340 BF, driving with suspended license
McElroy, Shane M., 34, Okolona, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Myrkle, Austin E., 19, Murfreesboro, improper display of vehicle tags, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss
Patrick, Hailey Isabelle, 23, Prescott, guilty of speeding, fined \$230
Ramirez, Susan Diane, 47, Glenwood, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Ramirez, Marie Salazar, 43, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$140 BF, no driver’s license
Rather, Jonathan G., 41, Murfreesboro, \$140 BF, no medical card; \$140 BF, failure to inspect, repair and maintain; \$256 BF, overweight
Resendiz, Gustavo, 39, Glenwood, \$180 BF,

speeding
Rojo, Isai, 34, Glenwood, \$140 BF, no driver’s license; \$170 BF, speeding
Romero, Juan Yerena, 24, Okanogan, Wash., \$150 BF, speeding
Sample, James M., 40, Glenwood, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Shaw, Brian Lee, 61, Hot Springs, \$200 BF, speeding
Sheets, Roy Nelson, 47, Nashville, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Sutton, Dakota Lane, 390, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,770 balance
Turner, Dylan A., 28, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125
Villalobos, Karla D., 41, Hot Springs, \$140 BF, no driver’s license
Watson, Aradellia D., 45, Glenwood, guilty of fictitious license sticker, fined \$140; guilty of no proof of liability insurance
Webb, Gage Russell, 26, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340
Wells, Brody Madison, 19, Arkadelphia, \$180 BF, speeding
Wright, Joshua S., 46, Royal, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Clark, Rebecca Joe, 62, Nashville, guilty of selling tobacco to minor, fined \$255
Faulkner, Robert E., 59, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Hembey, Thomas Dillin, 27, Delight, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$635
Maxey, Samuel A., 25, Umpire, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360

Salter, Christian Grant, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$160; guilty of no motorcycle endorsement on license, fined \$160
Welch, Nathan, 32, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Young, Dylan Latrent, 19, Marion, \$220 BF, speeding

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Cogburn, Brad M., 28, Glenwood, guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$225; guilty of operating ATV on public roads, fined \$160; guilty of criminal trespass, fined \$225; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240
Cogburn, Nathaniel Ray, 46, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360
Fahrney, Mariah Lyn, 27, Glenwood, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240
Gammon, Jennifer Gayle, 52, Amity, \$170 BF, speeding
Lewis, Jamal Kaynan, 21, Fort Smith, \$240 BF, open container in vehicle; \$225 BF, failure to appear
Mock, Beverly Brummett, 69, Katy, Texas, \$145 BF, speeding
Ramirez, Fernando, 48, Arlington, Texas, \$160 BF, failure to stop or yield
Richter, Graicyn E., 20, Glenwood, \$140 BF, speeding
Valenzuela, Vicky Marie, 45, Glenwood, no driver’s license, under advisement for three months to dismiss; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240
Vazquez, Greislyn M., 37, Hot Springs, \$170 BF, speeding

School board hears city’s concerns over ballpark road

At the recent South Pike County School Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11, Superinertndent Tanya Wilcher told board members that Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O’Neal and the city council voiced concerns about the unplatted road running next to the new fields and it’s current condition.

“Once all construction is completed [at the ballfields] we will make sure the damage caused by our construction is fixed and taken care of. The construction of the batting cages have started,” Wilcher said.

In her report to the board Wilcher noted that the Delight City Council had approved the resolution for the extender antenna project for radio service to Delight.

She also stated that the school staff wished to thank the board for the bonuses approved by the board last month.

January’s board meeting will be set on January 19 at 6 p.m.

The Murfreesboro High School (MHS) Academic Report was presented to the board, with teacher growth scores.

Davey Jones, MHS Pincipal, said that composite and subject

specific growth scores for MHS current teachers, with the data to be used to better understand a teacher’s impact on student learning as well as to identify teachers with three-year growth scores in the top quartile for ELA and Math, which is helpful when meeting student assignment requirements.

All mathematic teachers teachers’ growth scores from last year and their 3 year weighted averages are above 80 -- meaning our students are growing more than expected.

English and Language Arts (ELA) is at approximately 80 overall.

The school is employing five high-impact tutors in high school on campus during second period and working with lower performing students. ELA tutors include Debbie Holley, Beckal Hawkins and Arlene Fugitt. Math tutors are Buddy Ray and Charlotte Binkley.

Semester test will begin on Wednesday this week with Friday set as a make-up test day.

The Murfreesboro Elementary School (MES) Academic Report showed teacher growth scores, with Principal James Riley recognizing instructor Markie Dixon with the highest ELA growth scores and the highest three-year average scores. Carle Gatliff had the highest three-year average scores in math.

He also highlighted first year MES instructor Amanda Buck, who had terrific growth scores of over 90% the past two years in her previous district.

Kindergarten took their interim ATLAS test this week, and it was discovered that the students are going to have to talk louder during testing as they are scored on how they pronounce let-

ters and sounds. Also, students will have to type words, so key-boarding will have to start sooner in school.

After school tutoring for MES will start after Christmas. There is a link on MES’ Facebook page for parents to fill out to get their child signed up for tutoring.

MES students were busy in the final two weeks of school before the holiday break, including the Jingle Bell Ball, caroling Murfreesboro Rehab and Nursing Home, classroom parties, and Christmas play rehearsals all taking place.

The Christmas play will be set for Thursday, Dec 18 at 6 p.m. in the high school activity room.

MES students and teachers are holding a door decorating contest and the pictures have been posted to Facebook for the public to vote online to pick the winner..

SMALL ADS DO WORK YOU JUST READ ONE!

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

Murfreesboro Diamond

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• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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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.

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)

BID NOTICE

Pike County will be accepting bids on culvert pipe for the 2026 calendar year. Bids are requested on galvanized, bituminous coated, concrete, corrugated polyethylene (smooth interior) and aluminum coated culvert pipe.

Bids will be opened on December 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Judge’s office located at 1 Courthouse Sq., Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Bids may be mailed to the Pike County Judge, P.O. Box 239, Murfreesboro, AR or delivered to 1 Courthouse Sq., Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Pike County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Eddie Howard
Pike County Judge

This publication was paid for by the Pike County Judge Office.
The amount paid for this publication is \$53.10.

(PCJ: 23-24, 115W)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Murfreesboro Waterworks is a public water system subject to regulations under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Those regulations require the notification of customers whenever a violation occurs, and is the basis for this notice.

Only 2 of the required 3 valid bacteriological sample results, were received during July 2025.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of total coliform is a possible health concern.

The water system did not conduct the required monitoring or obtain valid results for total coliform bacteria during this time period and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of the drinking water at that time.

Failure to meet this requirement does not necessarily mean that the water is unsafe or that alternate sources of water should be used.

The water system has submitted all of the required bacteriological samples prior to and after July 2025. All samples taken were found in compliance with the drinking water standards set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Should you have ant questions concerning this notice, contact the Water System at (870) 285-2655 or the Engineering Section of the Department of Health at (501) 661-2623.

Copies of the bacteriological notice may be obtained at the office during regular business hours or by visiting the link <http://murfreesboro.municipalimpact.com/public-notices>.

This publication was paid for by the Murfreesboro Water Department.
The amount paid is \$101.70

(m.w., 226w. 24,25)

Hay program seeks 2026 participants

SUBMITTED ARTICLE
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas ranchers, pasture managers and other producers responsible for growing the hay that fuels livestock are invited to participate in the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s Hay Verification Program in 2026.

Kacie Gibbins, hay verification coordinator for the Division of Agriculture, said the program is designed to demonstrate the benefits of extension recommendations for economically producing high-yielding, high-quality hay under real field-scale production conditions.

“Producers maintain full control of all management decisions, while receiving guidance from county extension agents and specialists,” Gibbins said. “This collaborative approach ensures that management practices, including soil fertility, pest control and harvest management are grounded in current research, while remaining practical for everyday farm operations.”

Throughout the growing season, county agents collect data including forage stand composition, soil analysis results, input costs, hay yield and forage quality. This data allows for detailed economic analysis based on input costs, yield performance and a standard market price.

The economic analysis helps producers understand the profitability of their management strategies and evaluate the return on recommended practices.

James Mitchell, extension cattle economist for the Division of Agriculture, said extension’s Hay Verification Program has to be nimble in order to serve the producers of a dynamic crop.

“Developing a hay verification program is challenging because hay isn’t one thing,” Mitchell said. “There are different forage species, bale types, etc., that define it, and those characteristics are not uniform across the state or even a county.”

“The recommendations provided through the program aim to help Arkansas producers make informed decisions that maximize forage quality and yield, reduce input costs and support long-term productivity,” Gibbins said. “All guidance is research-based, developed from studies conducted by Division of Agriculture researchers.”

Major recommendations promoted through the Hay Verification Program include split-applying fertilizers over the season based on harvest plans, emphasizing potassium replacement to supplement crop removal, maintaining a three-to four-inch cutting height and harvesting on a 28–35 day interval to optimize forage quality and regrowth.

Mitchell said that in the two years the

verification program has been active, participants have already reaped benefits.

“The Arkansas Hay Verification requires participants to adopt best management practices as recommended by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service,” Mitchell said. “Since the program’s first year in 2022, we have seen fields in the program achieve higher hay yields and lower breakeven hay prices than state averages.

“This program is important because harvested forage production is the biggest cost for cow-calf operations,” he said. “So, understanding what goes into producing that hay bale is important for appreciating its cost and perhaps motivates improved hay storage and feeding. Of course, the best way to lower hay costs is by feeding less of it.”

Participation in the program is free. The deadline to apply to join the 2026 program is Jan. 15.

Producers interested in participating should visit 2026-2028 AHVP Producer Submission and fill out the form to apply. Applicants will then be contacted by their local Cooperative Extension Service agent.

To learn about this and other extension programs in Arkansas, contact Codie McAlister at the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service, (870) 285-2161.

Obituaries

Richard Marvin Fain, Billstown



Richard Marvin Fain, known as Dick to family and friends, died December 12, 2025 at his home in Billstown, AR. He was born March 31, 1949 in Nashville, AR to John Paul Fain and Clio Stone Fain.

He was a 1967 honor graduate of Delight High School and a 1971 graduate of Southern State College in Magnolia, AR. He was a veteran of the Army, serving his time as a courier at the Pentagon in Alexandria, Virginia. He loved sports and keeping up with his nieces and

nephews athletic accomplishments.

He is survived by three sisters, Dorothy Jean and John Nivens of Billstown, Paula Kennedy of Nashville and Eva and Larry Watson of Murfreesboro. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, John Nivens, Candita Meek, Mandy Stone, Jason Kennedy, Justin Watson, Matthew Kennedy and several great nieces and nephews.

The family received friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A funeral service followed at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro. Interment followed in the Billstown Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

Cheese products recall upgraded to higher risk classification by FDA

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has a list and is advising consumers to check it twice before whipping up any cheesy dishes this holiday season. Several shredded cheese products from Great Lakes Cheese Co. were recently recalled for potentially containing metal fragments.

Great Lakes Cheese Co. initiated a recall of seven shredded cheese products packaged under dozens of different names in early October. On Dec. 1, the FDA upgraded the recall’s risk classification to Class II, the second-highest designation.

Quad Whitson, extension program associate for culinary nutrition and food safety for the Division of Agriculture, said the cheeses were distributed under various store brands at major retailers, including Walmart, Target and Aldi.

“While this recall is precautionary, it’s important to stay informed and take appropriate steps to ensure safety,” Whitson said. “Consumers should check the batch number and sell-by date printed on their cheese packaging. Recalled items include sell-by dates ranging from January through March 2026, depending on the brand and product.”

For a full list of affected batch numbers and dates, visit the

FDA’s recall page.

The recalled products include Always Save low-moisture part-skim mozzarella shredded cheese, Happy Farms by Aldi Italian style shredded cheese blend, Great Value Italian style shredded cheese blend, Good & Gather Mozzarella & Provolone Classic and several more.

Whitson said the metal contamination could have occurred during the processing of the cheese products.

“Food processing involves a lot of moving parts, and sometimes things can go wrong,” Whitson said. “Contamination like metal fragments often comes from equipment — think a worn-down blade, a loose bolt or a broken piece of machinery. Any food that runs through mechanical equipment, whether it’s cereal, frozen veggies, ground meat or ready-to-eat meals, has some risk of exposure.

“To prevent this, plants use tools like metal detectors, X-ray machines and magnets to catch stray fragments,” Whitson said. “These systems are highly effective, but no process is perfect.”

If a consumer finds any affected products, do not eat them. Dispose of the cheese or return it to the store for a refund.

“Share this information with your community members, friends and family to help spread awareness,” Whitson said.

“It’s important that consumers stay alert for product recalls because they often involve some serious safety risks, such as contamination, undeclared allergens or defects. Ignoring recalls can lead to illness, injury or even worse.”

Whitson recommends checking trusted sites, including recalls.gov, the FDA’s website, or the Consumer Product Safety Commission and signing up for email alerts.

“Registering your products and sharing recall news with friends and family are simple steps that help keep everyone safe,” Whitson said.

Learn more about food safety resources at the Food Safety page on the Cooperative Extension Service website or contact Whitson at qwhitson@uada.edu.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit www.uaex.uada.edu.

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Card of Thanks

The family of Dave Holloway thanks everyone for prayers, comforting words, food, and support during our time of loss. Your shared memories of Dave continue to remind us of the special person he was and the many lives he touched. We appreciate the beautiful flowers, donations made in his memory, and your continued support.

The family of Dave Holloway

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 do you treat lymphedema?

A: Lymphedema is swelling resulting from excess lymph fluid. The lymphatic system is one way the body fights disease and infection by collecting such things as bacteria, fluid, proteins and waste and filtering impurities through the lymph nodes. Lymphedema is a common condition — the National Library of Medicine reports that as many as 250 million people worldwide are affected by lymphedema.

Lack of activity, heart conditions, infections, obesity and trauma to an area of the body are some causes of lymphedema. Removal of the lymph nodes may also contribute to lymphedema. The condition can occur anywhere in the body but is most often seen in the arms or legs.

Swelling is the most common symptom of lymphedema. Other

symptoms include abnormally stiff joints, burning or itching, being unable to see tendons or veins in the hands and feet, heaviness in the arms and legs, and leathery or thick skin.

Lymphedema treatment depends upon the cause. Antibiotics may be prescribed if the condition is due to an infection. Compression sleeves or stockings as well as massage therapy can help improve the flow of lymph fluid from the affected part of the body. Contact your health care provider to develop a treatment plan.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS

BY RICK FLOYD

Visitor from the cosmos, M’boro’s own Stonehenge

The mystery comet from another solar system, somewhere in our galaxy, is still in the news. The fact that it is about to reach its closest approach to our planet before moving away has increased the chatter.

This flyby will bring it about 170 million miles from us. Scientists are taking every opportunity to study it while they can, and one of the big questions is where did it come from. It is like a message in a bottle that has drifted our way. Formed billions of years ago in another star system, it may contain clues about the universe at a time before our Solar System existed. It is being watched closely through spectral analysis for evidence of phosphorus which would indicate the possibility that remnants of some form of life is on it.

Winter Solstice is on December 21. This significant event marks the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere which occurs when the north pole is at its maximum tilt away from the Sun. This year it officially happens at 9:03 a.m. our time. From ancient times to now the place and time on the horizon where the Sun rises is what is celebrated. The sun rises about 7:15 on the 21st. The large temple mound at Ka-Do-Ha near Murfreesboro is a good place to explore the relationship the Caddo had with the cosmos. Signage on the mound explains how Caddo leaders might have stood on the mound to ceremoniously greet the rising of the solstice sun. The Ka-do-Ha mound complex is thought to have been the spiritual hub of the local tribal group, surrounded by villages it was the place where certain elites resided, including those who watched the sky. Those Caddo astronomers oversaw the various festivals and ceremonies that corresponded with celestial events each year. Murfreesboro has a “Stonehenge” in its backyard.

Those who are outside in the pre-dawn hours can get a good view of bright Jupiter flanked by the two brightest stars of the constellation Gemini, Castor and Pollux. Just look up facing west, you can’t miss it. Also, to get a focused view of the “summer triangle” go outside in the evening at dusky dark and look west. At that time the three triangle stars; Vega, Deneb, and Altair are about the only stars shining through the twilight, so the triangle is very distinct.

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

Clutter-free cheer: gifts that bring joy without the stuff

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are searching for the perfect gift. But what do you give someone who values simplicity and is committed to a minimalist lifestyle? The answer lies in thoughtful, practical, and experience-based gifts that align with their philosophy of “less is more.”

Minimalists often prefer memories to material possessions, so experiences make excellent gifts. How about a membership to Garvin Gardens (garvingardens.org) or Mid America Science Museum (midamericamuseum.org), or the gift of an Arkansas State Park Passport with some park visits already scheduled and written in for the upcoming months (arkansasstateparks.com). Arkansas State Parks gift certificates make presents for family and friends and can be enjoyed any time of the year. Some of the most popular uses for Arkansas State Parks gift certificates are camping, lodging, golfing, boating, and shopping in the state parks. Here in Pike County we have two. Crater of Diamonds State Park located at Murfreesboro, is the world’s only public diamond-bearing site where visitors can search for (and keep) real diamonds. Daisy State Park, situated on Lake Greeson, offers hiking, boating, fishing, and camping and a wide variety of scheduled events throughout the year including nature hikes, kayaking on the lake, and sunset tours. DeGray Lake Resort State Park is another treasure not far away and has a vast array of activities to offer. When you give someone an Arkansas State Parks gift certificate, tell them that ArkansasStateParks.com is a great information resource. click on “Events” to keep up with events across our county and state. You don’t have to look – or drive- far to find a great state park!

Community theaters are well within driving distance of our county. The Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts (MCCPA) is a local non-profit performing arts group based in Mount Ida, Arkansas. They offer 2-3 stage performances each year, including plays, musicals, as well as an occasional murder mystery, dinner theater, or variety show. In Hot Springs, the Pocket Theater provides a variety of shows throughout the year with their next show in February “You Can’t Take It With You” and a summer theater camp for kids. At either of these venues, don’t be surprised to see local names on the programs as actors, directors, backstage workers, etc.

Consumable gifts are another ideal choice. Gourmet food baskets featuring local honey, artisan coffee, or specialty teas are always appreciated. Natural self-care products like handmade soaps or essential oils offer a touch of luxury without permanence. Gift cards for a favorite restaurant or coffee shop are simple yet thoughtful. Invite your family and friends to a holiday baking party to make an array of family favorites. The party itself is a gift of memories for all involved in the cooking and tasting and packaging of the final product.

Flowers, anyone? Fresh flowers from our local florists can be a gift year-round. One bouquet would be really nice. A fresh bouquet every month? Well, that would be really, really, nice. Every so often, throw in an original bouquet of your own made from fresh flowers from your own yard or from whatever greenery/branches/seed pods are available those cold bloomless months.

Digital and practical solutions also fit the minimalist mindset. E-books or audiobooks eliminate the need for physical storage, while subscriptions to streaming services or educational platforms provide ongoing value. There may be someone in your life who loves the night sky and has a smart phone but has no idea how to use it to enjoy the stars. In that case, your gift could simply be helping them download an app for viewing the night sky to find and identify all the constellations. If you prefer tangible gifts, choose quality essentials such as a durable water bottle, reusable shopping bags, or a cozy throw made from sus-



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tainable materials.

Finally, consider donating to a cause they care about. It is a meaningful gesture that reflects their values and makes a positive impact. The bottom line: A minimalist gift does not have to be boring. It just needs to be intentional. Focus on experiences, consumables, and items that add value without adding clutter. This holiday season, give the gift of simplicity.

This week’s recipe is a very simple Christmas cookie, and my personal favorite. I think you will like them. Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: CHRISTMAS LACE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter, softened (no substitutes)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar plus enough white sugar to make 1 cup

Mental health in the holiday season

The gift to yourself that keeps on giving all year long

BY REBEKAH HALL
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — As temperatures drop and social calendars fill up during the holiday season, it’s important to protect your physical and mental health. To stay safe and healthy during the holidays, extension experts share tips for preventing illness and managing stress.

“In order to fully enjoy this festive season, it’s important for us to avoid getting ourselves and others sick,” said Bryce Daniels, extension assistant professor of health for the University of

Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. “Preventing illness starts with washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating and after being in public spaces.”

At home and at work, disinfect high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches and countertops regularly, Daniels said.

“Practice good respiratory etiquette,” Daniels said. “Cover coughs and sneezes and stay home if feeling unwell.”

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

Wearing appropriate clothing to stay warm can also help prevent illness, Daniels said.

“Layer clothing to trap heat and allow flexibility for changing temperatures,” he said. “Wear moisture-wicking base layers to keep skin dry, followed by insulating layers and a windproof outer layer.”

Body heat can escape through exposed extremi-

ties, so protect yourself with gloves, hats and scarves to prevent heat loss.

“Note that fingers and toes are getting too cold when they feel numb, tingly or painful, or when they turn white, blue or red,” Daniels said. “Be sure to choose insulated, waterproof footwear for outdoor activities.”

PRIORITIZE BALANCE WHILE ENJOYING FOODS

As holiday gatherings often involve rich food and treats, it can be easy to get off track from healthy eating habits during this time of year. Daniels shares the following tips for eating mindfully during

the holidays:

- Stay hydrated. “Sometimes thirst is mistaken for hunger,” Daniels said. “Even in cold weather, we still need plenty of fluids because our bodies lose water through breathing, sweating and urination, even if we feel less thirsty.”
- Prioritize balance. “Fill half your plate with vegetables and lean proteins before indulging in treats,” Daniels said.
- Practice portion control by sampling favorite dishes without overloading your plate.
- “Avoid skipping meals to ‘save up’ for a big feast, as this

HEALTH Continued on Page 5

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 Chicken pot pie, garden salad, dressing of choice, roll, brownie	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 Center closed...Happy Holidays
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23 Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, roll, peach cobbler	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

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

CHILDREN

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:3. It is hard to imagine a world without children. They are a source of constant joy. Their youthful anticipation of the world around them gives us a fresh vision of life itself. They love to play and experience the moment without holding back. They dare to rush out and live each moment to the fullest. They are not afraid of the future. They have not been conditioned as adults have by pain, failure and disappointment. What they do not know doesn’t scare them at all. We often warn them about what we know by experience. They smile and go on in their youthful trusting way. We



envy their innocence and try to remember when we were like them. When was it that we did not have a care in the world? It would be a great blessing to experience that world of pure joy again. Surely this is the reason the Lord put children at the top of His gracious gifts to man. We may in our lifetime possess great wealth but nothing we own will surpass the heritage of

children. They lift us up and give us joy and hope. They remind us of God’s generosity and love. Someone has said that children are God’s way of showing that He has not given up on the human race. Loving and caring for children brings out the best in those who are the care givers. Parents stand amazed at the trust God has in us to give us such treasures. We know that we are imperfect and will pass on our imperfections to our children. However, it appears that the Lord sees the love we have for our children and knows that to the best of our limited ability we will try to say thank you to Him by striving to raise decent, God fearing children.

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• Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.

• Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of 11 Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

BEHOLD, IS THIS NOT ELISHA GOING INTO SHUNEM?

YES, HE PASSES THIS WAY OFTEN!

THE SHUNAMMITE'S SON

DURING THE DAYS WHILE ELISHA IS THE LORD'S PROPHET IN ISRAEL, THERE LIVES A WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH IN THE CITY OF SHUNEM-A CITY THROUGH WHICH ELISHA OFTEN TRAVELS.

AND THE WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH LOOKS UPON ELISHA WITH KINDNESS IN HER HEART...

THIS MAN TRAVELS FAR-AND HE MUST BE HUNGRY!

SID THE OLD MAN COME IN, AND EAT, AND REFRESH HIMSELF!

LITTLE DOES THIS WOMAN REALIZE THAT GREAT THINGS SHALL BE DONE FOR HER BECAUSE OF HER KINDNESS TO ELISHA!

JOHN LEHTI

Next Week

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

FURTHER KINDNESS!

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20

Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

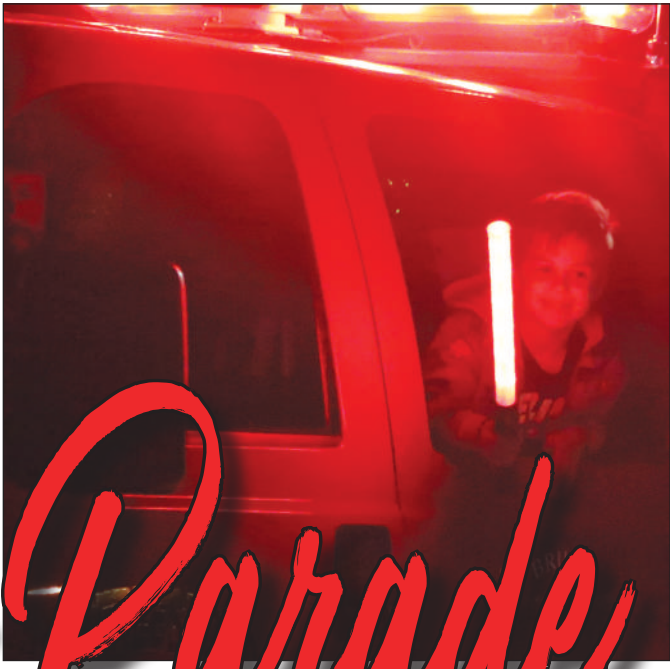
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at mdiamond@windstream.net



2025 Christmas Parade

Thursday, December 11 • Murfreesboro • North Washington Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

This instrument prepared by and to be returned to: Biles Wilson, PLLC, 457 Laurence Drive, Suite 195, Heath, Texas 75032, (214) 662-8456

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

Lender: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY AND AN ACTION FOR COLLECTION MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION GIVEN MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 13, 2026, at or about 10:00 a.m., the following real property will be sold at the main/ front door of the Pike County Courthouse, located at 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958, to the highest bidder for cash:

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

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

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NE1/4 OF THE NE1/4 SECTION 2, T. 9 S., R. 26 W., PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE - SOUTH 49 YARDS; THENCE - WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE - NORTH 49 YARDS THENCE - EAST 35 YARDS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; BASIS OF BEARINGS IS DEED CALL BEARING SOUTH ALONG WEST BOUNDARY LINE. THE ABOVE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED PROPERTY BEING SURVEYED BY RICHARD V. HALL, JR. CONTAINS 0.354 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS; AND SUBJECT TO SUCH RIGHTS AS MAY BE VESTED IN PUBLIC FOR SWEET HOME ROAD AND ROY ROAD ALONG THE WEST AND SOUTH BOUNDARY LINES OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED 0.354 ACRE TRACT, AS DEPICTED IN A SURVEY BY RICHARD V. HALL, AR RPLS #820, OF HALL SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC., DATED 11/22/10.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: November 5, 2025 Biles Wilson, PLLC, 457 Laurence Drive, Suite 195, Heath, Texas 75032, (214) 662-8456. By: Jeremy R. Wilson, ABN 2000108

(p.n.a., 781w., 24,25,26,27)