The Murfreesboro Diamond 1075

USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

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LETTERS TO SANTA

SEE PAGES 4-7

Holiday hours, trash collection announced

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Courthouse and associated offices will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 23 and will return to work on Friday, December 26.

Rural rash collection for the county this week will see no pickup on Wednesday or Thursday. On Friday, Dec. 26, Thursday's normal collection will occur for the north end, while Wednesday and Thursday collection will occur for the south part of Pike County.

The City of Murfreesboro offices will hold the same schedule as the county -- closed Wednesday and Thursday and reopening on the morning of Friday, Dec. 26.

The sanitation schedule this week for Murfreesboro will see no collection on Wednesday or Thursday, with Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collection to occur on Friday, Dec. 26.

Christmas eve services announced

MURFREESBORO -- The First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro will be hosting a night of candlelight, carols, and the good news of Christ's birth, on December 24, Christmas Eve at 9 p.m.

The public is invited to come worship the King and welcome the light.

First UMC is located at 403 Second Ave in Murfreesboro.

Local family named farm family of year

LITTLE ROCK -- Jared and Cathren Smith of Dierks were named as the 2025 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. The Arkansas Farm Family of the Year program has helped to recognize outstanding farm families throughout the state since 1947. The Smiths have been farming in Howard County for 17 years.

The Smith's farm spans 250 acres, with eight poultry houses and a cow-calf operation. They have two children, Cooper and Clara, who are active in the daily farm operations. Both children are active in FFA.

"Farming is at the heart of who we are, and we're proud of the role our work plays in sustaining our community and feeding families far beyond Arkansas," said Jared Smith. "Being named Farm Family of the Year is an honor we don't take lightly. We're thankful for this recognition and honored to showcase the strength of agriculture in our state."

Selection criteria for the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year includes efficiency of production, conservation of energy and resources, leadership in agricultural and community affairs, home and farm improvement and home and farm management. The Farm Family of the Year program's objective is to recognize farmers excelling at production, education and giving back to their communities.

As Arkansas Farm Family of the Year, the Smiths will compete with nine other state winners in the Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year program in Moultrie, Ga.

Now in its 78th year, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year is one of the longest-running farm family recognition programs in the United States. It begins with selection of the top farm family in each county. Then, eight district Farm Families of the Year are selected.

The Smiths were the West Central District Farm Family of the Year.

Chamber establishes scholarship MURFREESBORO – At their December

meeting, the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discussed the Haunted House effort in October, calling the event another success after it raised nearly \$10,000.

It was noted that this past year, the house was only open at the former Pike County Hospital for three weekends.

"Getting live people can be a challenge for a large number of dates," said chamber president Lisa Harvill. "But overall it was a great experience again."

Despite this, it was noted that there were a handful of new participants in 2025 for the third installment of the effort.

Next year, the group will consider being open four of five of the weekends in October, with perhaps just Saturday nights for some of the earlier dates of the month. Halloween, Oct. 31, will be on a Saturday next year.

It was noted that staying open to 11 paid small dividends, such that the group will likely close down at 10 p.m or so in 2026.

The group was also pleased with the "Santa on the Šquare" turnout earlier this month, noting that some 80 children were in attendance. This was a significant upturn from the past

"It was attended really well ... the drawing for bikes to be given away went great," said chamber secretary Jane Fugitt.

The new Christmas décor around town was discussed, and it was stated that the group spend approximately \$15,000 on the effort in

This year's Christmas parade was also discussed, with the group releasing the winning entries following the parade on Thursday, Dec. 11. The winning floats included in the commercial division Jones Construction, Clayton Tinkes in the political candidates division and the "Jingle Bell Favorite" being Elite Home Health.

The night of the parade, the chamber in conjunction with Santa Claus, held the Chamber Bucks drawing that was composed of entries from purchases made around town over the previous two weeks. Winners were Becky Foster of Nashville (\$100), Dawanda Schwope of Nashville (\$250) and Tina Richard of Kirby

The group announced it would work with the Pike County Republican Committee on a "meet the candidates" night with dates to be announced. The Republicans had previously stated that they plan to hold an event in both Murfreesboro and Glenwood ahead of the March 2026 preferential primary elections.

Kailee Parker proposed to the Chamber that they start an annual scholarship for a graduating senior in 2026. The measure was approved by the group.

The scholarship will be \$500 in 2026, with possible expansion should the effort prove

Applications will be provided to Murfreesboro High School, and after return by students a committee of three people will be formed to choose the winner.

The winner will not be decided solely by grade point average, but also by the amount of volunteerism by the students. The scholarship will also ideally go toward a student planning to major in marketing, business or related field.

The scholarship form states that it would recognize students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to community service and volunteerism. The application also requires a short essay of no more than two pages on the importance of volunteerism and how it has impacted their goals/character.

Parker said the scholarship will "allow for networking opportunities [with the students]" as well as the ability to "educating students on what the chamber does - how we support local businesses, and why they should as well."

"Imagine if our next Economic Development employee through our county was a previous chamber appointed scholarship winner ...

imagine how deep their roots will be and their motivation to better our organization and community," Parker said during her pitch.

She said a better relationship with the school and community would be beneficial and that should the effort provide more volunteers for fundraising efforts, the scholarship could be increased or expanded to help more students.

"This can change a student's life," Parker said, noting how much \$500 means to a freshman. "There is no bad side to this, simply a \$500 cost. Since the chamber is a volunteer organization, we should reward someone who has freely given their time to the community."

The scholarship can be used on books, tuition or educational expenses at an accredited college, university or technical school. The chosen student would be awarded the scholarship after providing proof of registration at a school.

The group discussed the "Jingle Bell Run" that was not held this year that was used to help fund Angel Tree efforts locally. Despite this, the Chamber did provide \$1,500 to the effort this season that saw over 100 applicants to the angel tree program.

"Lots of volunteers were from Husqvarna, and many of those have gone in a different direction since they closed," Harvill explained. "The effort is great for the angel tree program and participation will hopefully continue in the future when the race resumes.'

It was noted that the race may be moved from December to earlier in the year (perhaps the spring) to find a time less hectic than the

The group also began discussion of the annual banquet set for March, with a location still yet to be set.



FLOAT WINNERS ANNOUNCED ... The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce has announced the winning entries from the Christmas parade on Thursday, Dec. 11. The winning floats included in the commercial division Jones Construction (above), Clayton Tinkes (below left) in the political candidates division and the "Jingle Bell Favorite" being Elite Home Health (below right).







4-H BANQUET RECOGNITION ... The Pike County 4-H program held its annual banquet on Thursday, Dec. 11. Pictured above is the group of senior members, while (left) Betty Woodley is pictured with Extension Chair Eva Langley after being named "Friend of 4-H" for 2025.

Giving the gift of health to yourself

Pike County Extension offers affordable fitness programs beginning in January

If you're aiming to be more active in the new year, Pike County Extension has some great opportunities for you. Beginning in January, Pike County Extension will offer affordable, researchbased exercise programs designed to help residents improve strength, balance, flexibility, and overall well-being.

In Glenwood, an Extension Get Fit class will meet at the Bainum Library Community Room every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Extension Get Fit is a research-based, safe, structured, and affordable community strength training program. While it is especially targeted to midlife and older Arkansans, it is appropriate for adults of all ages and fitness levels, with modifications available to meet individual needs.

Each session includes a warm-up, eight to ten strengthening exercises, and a cool-down. Participants benefit from a supportive group environment that encourages consistency, confidence,

Based on the latest research, Extension Get Fit is designed to improve strength, balance, and flexibility while helping participants reduce their risk of falls and maintain independence as they age. Regular participation can increase energy levels, support healthy weight management, and help decrease joint and muscle pain. Most importantly, the program helps participants feel better overall both physically and mentally, making everyday activities easier and more enjoyable.

Following the Tuesday and Thursday EGF strength training classes, a Chair Yoga class will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Chair yoga is ideal for those looking to improve posture, increase flexibility, and enhance balance while avoiding injury. Because a well-rounded fitness routine includes both flexibility and balance exercises, chair yoga is a gentle and effective complement to strength training.

Informational meetings will be held on January 6 and January 8 from 9:00-12:00 at the Bainum Library Community Room. Interested participants are encouraged to attend either day to learn more about the program, ask questions, and get signed up. The cost for either class is \$20 for the entire year, making these programs accessible and affordable for the community. Proceeds from these funds go towards supporting local classes



PUBLIC NOTION

TOWN OF DELIGHT

The Town of Delight, AR is soliciting competitive bids for Commercial Food. Interested suppliers must submit a proposal in accordance to solicitation documents posted www. bidnetdirect.com//townofdelight or http://www.coretrustpg.com/public-sector/solicitations. Responses must be received by 3:00 pm CT on 02/05/2025. An online pre-solicitation meeting will be held on 1/8/2025.

(k.a.k. 57w, 25)

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

 John Robert Schirmer, Publisher • P.J. Tracy IV, Editor

• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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\$35 for 6-months in area; \$37 for 6-months elsewhere. College Subscriptions-\$30 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 **Telephone:** 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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.



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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

and training volunteer leaders. Scholarships are available.

An evening Extension Get Fit strength training class will be offered in Murfreesboro with times and dates to be announced in January.

Whether you're new to exercise or looking to stay active and independent as you age, Pike County Extension's fitness programs offer a welcoming and supportive way to invest in your health. Start the year moving in the right direction and join your neighbors in building a healthier Pike County. Check with your local extension office to learn about classes in your county. In Pike County call if you have any questions or need more information. (870) 285-2161.

This week's recipe is in anticipation of New Year's Day. Enjoy! **RECIPE OF THE WEEK:**

BLACK-EYED PEAS (FOR GOOD LUCK)

Ingredients

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- ½ pound smoked meat hog jowl meaty ham hocks, smocked neckbones or smoked ham
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - ½ teaspoon pepper
- 4 tablespoons butter
- Pepper sauce, for seasoning at the table

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, cover the peas with water and soak for 1 hour. Drain the peas and discard the soaking water.

2. Place the meat in a 2-quart saucepan and add 2 ½ cups water. Bring the water to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low. Cover the pot and cook the meat for 30 minutes. Add the salt and pepper and the peas to the meat and cook until the peas are soft and the liquid has thickened, about 45 minutes. When done, add the butter and serve.



LOCALS TAKE PART IN PLAY ... (above) Bekah Wilson, Eva Langley and Henry Wilson were all involved in the recent Hot Spring's Pocket Theater play The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Bekah directed the play, Henry was one of the disreputable Herds-

man kids. Langley was the out of commission bossy church lady, Mrs. Armstrong. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is a story about the Herdman children — widely considered the "worst kids in the world" who unexpectedly take over the church's annual Christmas pageant and surprise everyone by making it better than ever. This was the first play directed by Bekah although she has been an assistant director for other plays and acted in several as well. She has a role in the upcoming You Can't Take it With You play in February. Henry has participated in two of the Pocket Theater's summer acting camps for kids and before this role, he was Thomas O'Mally in the Summer'25 production of The Aristocats. This was Langley's first play at the Pocket and it was really special to be in the theater with my daughter and grandson. Bekah is an Art and Music Teacher at the Cossatott River School District Umpire Campus where Henry (pictured left) is also a student.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, **ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION**

RICKY MCCAULEY

PLAINTIFF

Case No. 55CV-25-120

ANY UNKNOWN PERSON

CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY AT ISSUE

DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Pike County, Arkansas to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described property in Pike County, Arkansas:

Pike County Parcel 640-00054-000

Lots one (1) and Two (2) in Block Twenty-two (22) in O.M. LeFevers Development, according to plat thereof recorded in Deed Record Book 82 at page 642 of the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas, same being part of and located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW1/4 NE1/4) of Section Thirteen (13), in Township Six (6) South, in Range Twenty-seven (27) West.

This conveyance is made and accepted subject to all restrictions, reservations, covenants, conditions, rights-ofway, and easements now of record, if any, in Pike County, Arkansas, affecting the above-described property.

Any person claiming any title or interest of any kind to such property is hereby notified to appear herein on or before January 15, 2026, to assert his title or interest in such property and to demonstrate why title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in RICKY MCCAULEY,

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 15 day of December 2025.

Sabrina Williams,

Pike County Circuit Clerk (d.b. 252w., 25,26,27,28)

Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville

is offering personalized ornaments to families who have lost loved ones during this past year.

Stop by this Christmas season, and take an ornament from our Remembrance Tree, which is located in our foyer.

Each ornament was hand made by our staff and has been personalized with your loved one's name, date of birth and date of death.

Latimer Funeral Home

115 E. Hempstead • Nashville • 870-845-2233 1211 Anthony Ave • Nashville • 870-285-2194

PUBLIC NOTIC

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 re-

sults, were received during July 2025. The United Sates 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

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)





PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS

BY RICK FLOYD

The search for the Christmas star

scope spent ten days focused on a tiny patch of "empty" space

taking the now iconic Hubble Deep Field image. The image re-

vealed 3,000 galaxies brought to light by the long telescopic ex-

posure in a section of sky only the size of the nail of your pinkie

finger held at arms length. That image and others that followed

changed astronomy and what we know about the universe.

written, and in it was the description of the nativity of Jesus. Part

of the narrative is about the star that appeared, and of the three

wise men who came to Bethlehem to investigate, and to bring

astronomers to discover, in the history of star and planet move-

ments, what the star was, but the other interesting star watching

aspect to the story does have some facts. That is of the men who

traveled from the east following the star. The King James ver-

sion of the Bible translated the Greek word Magoi from a Greek

language version of Matthew to wise men. The word Magi that

we see often is Latin borrowed from the Greek word. The Greek

where the three Magi probably came from. In Persia at that time

there was in Zoroastrianism, an ancient Persian monotheistic re-

ligion, a priestly caste. These priests paid particular attention to

the movements of stars and planets in a way that we now call astrology. Astrology and astronomy even today are often confused. Astrology two thousand years ago was considered the science of

things celestial, but from it evolved an interest in the actual science of the things out there. Astrology, still practiced today, is a

non-scientific practice that uses the positions of stars and planets as the basis of its belief that those celestial positions can influence

people's daily lives. Astronomy, on the other hand, is the scien-

tific study of celestial objects and the universe. Astronomy owes a lot to the astrologers of old, as we have gone from horoscopes to telescopes. The word Magi, by the way, is the root of the English

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

That early root takes us to Persia (present day Iran) and to

word actually has its roots in the Old Persian word Magus.

There have been numerous dead-end attempts by modern

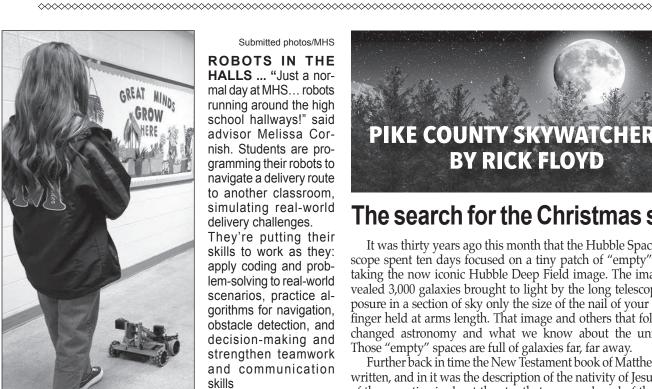
Further back in time the New Testament book of Matthew was

Those "empty" spaces are full of galaxies far, far away.

gifts, being certain of the portent of the celestial event.

It was thirty years ago this month that the Hubble Space Tele-

AN EAST CHRISTMAS ... Murfreesboro high school's EAST Rattlers finished their project Christmas tree, where students were asked to make a logo that represents their current project or skill.



Submitted photos/MHS

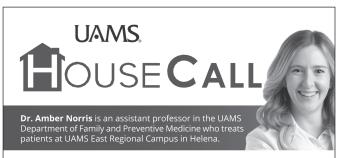
ROBOTS IN THE HALLS ... "Just a normal day at MHS... robots running around the high school hallways!" said advisor Melissa Cornish. Students are programming their robots to navigate a delivery route to another classroom, simulating real-world delivery challenges.

They're putting their skills to work as they: apply coding and problem-solving to real-world scenarios, practice algorithms for navigation, obstacle detection, and decision-making and strengthen teamwork and communication skills



C StatePoint Media

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.



Q: How serious is meningitis?

A: Meningitis is a swelling of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The condition differs from encephalitis, which is the inflammation of the brain tissue. Meningitis can be a lifethreatening illness and requires immediate treatment. Bacteria and viruses are common

causes of meningitis. Autoimmune disorders such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis, a side effect of certain medications, a head injury, fungi or parasites can also cause meningitis. Those at risk for meningitis include people under the age of five or older than 65, those with weakened immune systems, or people who live in groups where germs spread quickly.

Symptoms include fever,

light and vomiting. Infants affected by meningitis may have a low appetite, be irritable, have low energy, or sleepiness or trouble waking from sleep Hearing or vision loss, kidney failure, seizures and sepsis are possible complications of meningitis.

Bacterial meningitis requires treatment with antibiotics. Viral meningitis will generally resolve itself with rest, fluids and medications to relieve body aches and fever. Corticosteroids are an option if the condition is caused by an autoimmune disease. Visit a health care provider if symptoms do not subside, particularly in the case of bacterial meningitis.

Lisa Chandler Insurance 705 S. Main • Nashville 870-845-5930

Soliciting agent for Arkansas Blue Cross.

Obituaries

Randy Doy "Woody" Woodall, 68, Delight



Doy "Woody' Randy Woodall age 68, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Friday, December 12, 2025, in Delight, Arkansas. He was born on October 16, 1957, in Eugene, Oregon, the son of the late Doy Woodall and Lorene Marshall

Woody was a member of the First Baptist Church in Delight. He believed in hard work and was a Master electrician by trade and enjoyed working on his land. During his free time, he enjoyed riding Harleys and spending time with dogs Buddy and Junior.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of thirty-nine years Nona Woodall.

Survivors include two sons Grant Woodall and wife Becca, Zane Woodall and wife Whitney all of Delight, AR; grand-children Ella Gatliff, Brooks Woodall of Delight, AR, Ariel McGahey of Murfreesboro, AR, Isis Woodall and Eden Woodall of Delight, AR. as well as many friends.

Visitation was held on Thursday, December 18, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Graveside services were held on Friday, December 19, at Delight Cemetery, with Bro. Bryan Sellers officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Pallbearers were Mike Ruchalski, Tommy Woodall, Waylon Melson, Josh Ratcliff, Rob Starling, and Jimmie Hen-

Honorary pallbearers were Gill Johnson, Pooh Ruchalski, Eddie Woodall and William "Red" Henderson

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

Dorothy Brock Miller, 74, Murfreesboro



Dorothy Brock Miller, age 74, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas passed away on Friday, December 19, 2025, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She was born August 19, 1951, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas the daughter of the late CE Brock Jr. and Ruby Jean Duncan Brock.

Dorothy loved her God; she would begin her day at 5:00 a.m. every morning with her Bible and cup of coffee. She was a very active member of Trinity Baptist Church where she served in many parts of the church including assistant song leader. Mrs. Miller also enjoyed being a part of the

Lady Auxiliary.

Survivors include her husband Darrell Miller of Murfreesboro; two sons Matthew Miller of Murfreesboro, and James Cameron Brock of Nashville; two brothers James Edward Brock, John Mark Brock and wife Tammy, one niece Amanda Brock all of Murfreesboro; as well as a number of cousins and friends.

Visitation was held on Monday, December 22, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services began at 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 22, 2025, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with Bro. Curtis Abernathy and Jeff Hale officiating, burial followed in the Pleasant Home Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Pallbearers were Mark Brock, Jeff Hale, James West, Justice West, Eric Campbell, and Steven Turner.

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

SMALL ADS DO WORK ... YOU JUST READ ONE! **CALL TO PLACE YOURS • 870-285-2723**



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Murfreesboro (870) 285-2194

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH **PRESCHOOL** MRS. ASHLEY'S PRE-K CLASS LETTERS

Dear Santa, I want a t-rex. Love, Briar Runyon

Dear Santa, I want a bunny ring. Love, Emberlyn Harris

Dear Santa, I want a dinosaur. Love, Anna Grace Furr

I want a real gun. Love, Kellar Öliveira

Dear Santa, I want a baby, a baby bottle and a baby crib. Love, Saige Morris

Dear Santa, I want a baby and a baby bottle. Love, Vera Smith

Dear Santa, I want a dinosaur. Love, Crue Cox

Dear Santa, I want a Maxx stuffy. That is what my mom

said I should ask for. Love, Hallie Hoover

Dear Santa, I want candy. Love, Jim Slatton

Dear Santa,

I want a nut cracker for Christmas. Callen is my brother he is so sweet and sometimes he bites me, but I love him.

Love, Cannon Campbell

I want a Grave Digger with a remote control. Love, Miles Wofford

MRS. PAIGE'S PRE-K CLASS LETTERS

Me and Pipey want roller skates cause I wanna roll. I want a pretend doggy. I want Christmas Cookies for my birthday. My baby Beckett is a baby and he wants a tractor. Santa I have been so good, I only got a few spankins.

Love, Parker Williamson

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is a blue yo-yo. I have been 2 thumbs up good and I am going to be good next time too.

Love, Cameron McRae

Dear Santa,

I want a big doll house and little dolls and makeup. I saw you the nother day. My doll is broken she has no legs so I need a new pink doll. I love you so much and you are so cute.

Love, Ruby Dixon

I want a yellow tractor and a yellow bailer. I also want a dump truck. Do your reindeer like carrots? I really like Mater and Lightning Mc-Queen, they are my 2 favorite guys. I was really good this year.

Love, Tripp Terrell

Dear Santa,

I want a train for animals with gocarts for them to ride in. A real tree with a switch for the lights to turn on. I have 2 Christmas Trees at my house. I will leave you some cookies and a drink out and some carrots for your reindeer.

Love, Fisher Hinds

I want a toy car, and a unicorn and a train, and a lion, elephant, and a cheetah and a octopus. I have been so so good. I am 3 years old. My mom wants a jet and my dad would like a race car too.

Love, Hattie Posey

Dear Santa,

I am Grant I am 4. For Christmas I want a dump truck. I think I have been good.

Love, Grant Hoover

Dear Santa,

I want a blue tractor with a cab and a hay bailer. Also I want a tractor that has a bucket and forks to scoop up dirt on my big road at home. I want to help my dad and mom and Granny be a farmer. I am going to work on being more good next year.

Love, Thomas Morris

Dear Santa,

I want a choo choo train that you have to put batteries in that goes fast fast fast. I want you to bring me some candy to eat. I like dinosaurs too but only big ones.

Love, Rowlan Stone

Dear Santa,

I want some bicycles and a bus. I want a new pretty dress thats a mermaid. Kasey wants a big dress. I want a makeup too. CC wants a BIG BIG BIG makeup.

Love, Blakleigh Harris

Dear Santa,

Santa Clause you love me. Will you bring me a toy broom so I can help my mama and daddy? I want it to be red please. I want the Dragon that is in the book store in the box. I will leave you some sugar cookies and chocolate milk. Yum Yum Yum!

Love, Roman Goolsby

Dear Santa,

I have been good at my house. You are my very best friend. For Christmas I want a toy rifle and a phone. When I get bigger I will use my phone, I will keep it at Beautys til i get older. My baby sister Ellie wants a baby doll and a toy car with a remote control. I will leave you some cookies and some carrots for your reindeer. And i am going to leave you a present and its going to be a little baby Christmas tree, one for you and one for your Reindeer.

Love, Rylan Holder

Hi! I want a game pad. Hayes wants a David costume. I made you a present, its up on my refrigerator. You get it when you come to my house.

Love, Silas Burke

MURFREESBORO ELEMENTARY MRS. HOLDER'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Laycen Watts and I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a drone, cat clothes, and an angel fish. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Piper Williamson and I am 6 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me roller skates, a boy Barbie, and a dirt bike. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Wyatt Smith and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a shark nerf gun, a robot with a remote, and a dino mask that roars. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Rowan Gillard and I am 6 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really sweet. I would really like it if you could bring me a Lalabubu doll, a light beige Stanley cup, and a princess snow globe. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Josie Ren Kersey and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me K-Pop Demon Hunter dolls, make-up, and a phone. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Willa Dawn Kidd and I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a new scooter for my sister, four toy dino eggs, and a My Life Doll that is a teacher. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Raylee Mitchell and I am 6 years old. Í live in Delight, Arkansas. This year Í have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Barbie van, Cooper the dog, and Legos. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Starlett' Joy Walker and I am 6years old. I live with Daddy and NayNay. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me new mermaid shoes, a pencil, and a toy pool. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Rynlee Rae Sullivan and I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good and sweet. I would really like it if you could bring me a hatching turtle egg

toy with a momma, a Wednesday Barbie, and a bunch of slime with lots of colors. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Evelyn Bates and I am 5 years old. I live in Daddy's house. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an Elsa toy, a Barbie house, and a horse. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Brooklynn Young and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Bratz doll, a tiny umbrella for myself, and a Barbie doll. Thank you and Merry Čhristmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Hazel Markcum and I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Barbie camper, a toy dog and a toy cat.. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Brooks Woodall and I am 5 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me dinosaurs, a Pokemon, and Wild Kratts toys. Thank you and Merry Christ-

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Clyde Henfeson and I am 6 years old. I live in Billstown, Arkansas. This year I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me a dirtbike, Minecraft legos, and a toy elf. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

MRS. KIDD'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Ace Cox. I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro . This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a dog robot that shoots pellets, a Lamborghini drift car, and a light up yoyo. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus, My name is Atheina Kistler. I am 5 years old.

I live in Delight, AR. This year I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me a gold riding remote car, Heelies shoes, and walkie talkies. Thank you and Merry Christ-Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Bailey Shock. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Rumi plushie, a Barbie dream house, and Huntrix stickers. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

My name is Blakleigh French. I am 5 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me roller skates, a bicycle, and KPop dolls. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

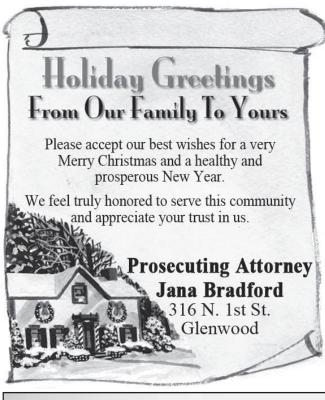
My name is Briar Jackson. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a four wheeler, a dirt bike, and a remote car. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Canton Breshears. I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a real Lambo, a Dodge truck, and a motorcycle or dirt bike. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Carolina Scott. I am 5 years old. I live in Nashville. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a doll house and dolls, doctor toys, and a pink ball. Thank you and Merry Christmas.









Dear Santa Claus, My name is Kenlee Cross. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an iPad, Barbie color reveal, and more babydolls. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Maverick Cox. I am 6 years old. I live in Pike City. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a cyber truck, big trucks, and a green SXS. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Rosemae Boham. I am 5 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have been really cute. I would really like it if you could bring me Hello Kitty toys, Bluey toys, and a toy gingerbread house. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Turner Shanks. I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me a turf pad to golf on and a square trampoline. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Vontez Franklin. I am 6 years old. I live in Prescott, AR. This year I have been really not in control of how good I've been. I would really like it if you could bring me legos, Zelda toys, and Sonic the Hedgehog toys. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Wrath Quiroz. I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me two Hulk punching hands, a superman costume with a cape, and a spiderman costume with gloves. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Yaritza Hernandez. I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good with everyone. I would really like it if you could bring me toys, shoes, a new backpack, and something for my teacher too, and barbies. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

MRS. MAAG'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Remington Mills, and I am 5 years old. I live in Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me baby dolls, Barbie house and an IPad. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Ember Gatliff, and I am 5 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have tried to be good. I would really like it if you could bring me a toy T-Rex dinosaur, please, a scooter, please and a bicycle, please. My other bike is too small. Thank you and Merry Christ-

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Conner Buck, and I am 5 years old. I live in Blevins and Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an ATV, "a real one", a toy feed truck, with a feed trailer, and a rifle to go hunting. Thank you and Merry

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Sutten Womack, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a baby stroller, 3 Chelsea dolls with clothes and skates-not rollerblades. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Edith Thomas, and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me some dolls, a carseat for my babies and a cotton candy machine. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Max Williams, and I am 6 years old. I live in Delight, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a gumball machine, Robux (Roblox gift card) and a mini fridge with Dr. Pepper inside. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Allie Kay Brown, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me some make-up, a TV in my room, and pink pajamas. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Nora Kosters, and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a doll, some heels and Ballerina slippers. Thank you and Merry Christ-

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Nayte Bates, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a train set with a controller, the Sonic Dr. Eggman and Black and white Robot Crab. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Reece Bromley, and I am 6 years old. I live in Kirby, Arkansas. This year I have been really good! I would really like it if you could bring me Spider-Man legos, a BB gun and action figures. Thank you and Merry

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Ainsley Campbell, and I am 6 years old. I live in Billstown, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me some K-pop Demon Hunter stuff, a watch and video games. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Kopelynn Cox, and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a puppy, a Lububu, and a make-up vanity. Thank you and Merry Christ-

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Eva Vaught, and I am 6 years old. I live in Nathan, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a hulahoop, a Stitch pen, skin care and perfume. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

My name is Farrah Wilson, and I am 5 years old. I live in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a fake turtle, a toy deer and a Jinu t-shirt. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

MRS. KUYKENDALL'S FIRST GRADE CLASS

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Charli, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me new earrings, a Nintendo Switch, and a puppy. How

is Mrs. Clause doing? Love, Charli

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Blakeleigh, and I am 7 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a silicone baby doll, Christmas sheets for your bed, and stuffed bunny. Have a great Christmas! Love, Blakeleigh

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Beau, and I am 6 years old. I live in Delight. This year I guess I've been good this year! I would like it if you could bring me a compound bow and a 4-wheeler with big mud tires. Thank you and Merry Christmas! I love

Love, Beau

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Sage, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a rifle, a new lunchbox, and a new bow. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Sage

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Zayla, and I am 6 years old. I live in Billstown. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me a hoverboard, Barbies, and a Barbie Dream House. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Zayla

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Asher, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me a Nintendo Switch, a motorbike, and PS5. How many people are on the naughty list?

Love, Asher

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Nathaniel, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me a BB gun pistol, V-Bucks, and an iPad. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Love, Nathaniel

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Callie, and I am 6 years old. I live in between Delight and Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a toy baby reindeer, a mama reindeer, and a daddy reindeer. You are the best! I love you!

Love, Callie

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Hazel, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a My Mini Baby, clothes for my Roblox player, and a LOL doll. Tell Rudolph I said "hi!"

Love, Hazel

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Rowdy, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been both good and bad. ! I would like it if you could bring me Hot Wheels, a RC car, and a rug. Merry Christmas!

Love, Rowdy

Dear Santa Claus, My name is Rosalene, and I am 7 years old. I live in Antoine. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a baby puppy, cat clothes, and an iPad. Merry

Christmas, Santa! Love, Rosalene

Dear Santa Claus

My name is Wyndell, and I am 7 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really nice! I would like it if you could bring me a stuffed bunny, Christmas sheets, and a silicone baby doll. Have a great Christmas!

Love, Wyndell

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Penny, and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been both good and bad! I would like it if you could bring me a Labubu, a globe, and a diary. Tell the elves I said hi! Merry Christmas!

Love, Penny

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Cooper, and I am 6 years old. I live in Pike City. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me a Lego set and an electric bike. How old are you, Santa?

Love, Cooper

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Lux, and I am 6 years old. I live in Delight. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a Nintendo, a new iPad, and an American Girl doll that looks just like me. I love you, Santa!

Love, Lux

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Jones, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me my own Nintendo Switch, a hoverboard, and a new scooter. Merry Christmas, Santa

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Roman, and I am 6 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been good! I would like it if you could bring me a dirt bike, a 4-wheeler, and a bike. Merry Christ-

Love, Roman

Dear Santa Claus, My name is McKynzie and I am 7 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could bring me a 4-wheeler, gas to go in the 4-wheeler, and a LaBubu. Please tell Rudolph hi!

Love, McKynzie

Dear Santa Clause,

My name is Violet, and I am 8 years old. I live in Murfreesboro. This year I have been really good! I would like it if you could let me go to a gymnastics class. I really like gymnastics.

Thank you and Merry Christmas! Love, Violet

MRS. MCDONALD'S CLASS

Dear Santa,

My name is Grayson. I would like a Sonic costume and a Sonic remote control car and a robot Sonic costume also. I deserve these because I have been good all year and I am nice to my brother. I will give your reindeer some food and I will leave you milk and cookies and

1 piece of candy. Love, Grayson Coleman

My name is Layken and I am 6 years old. I want a Barbie car, a Barbie house, and I want a Barbie doll. I deserve these because I help my classmates in the library. I am going to leave Santa some milk, hot chocolate, and mints. Love, Layken Ables

My name is Taylor and I would like a toy remote control side-by-side and a PS5. I deserve these because I play with my brothers. I will leave you some milk and cookies. Love, Taylor Agudio

Dear Santa,

My name is Yajayra and I am 7 years old. I want a Barbie house, a Barbie car, and a Barbie doll. I deserve these because I help my friends. I am going to leave you cookies and milk and some candy.

Love, Yajayra Reyes







My name is Hunter and I am 6 years old. I would like a phone, a monster truck with a remote, and a robot, and a Bluey Hide and Seek game. I would also like some flash cards. I deserve these things because I helped my mom wash the dishes and I help her cook. My mom and I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Your elves make the coolest toys! Love, Hunter Crocker

Dear Santa,

My name is Mason and I am 6 years old. I would like a PS5 and a gold chain. I deserve these things because I have been good. I am going to leave you cookies and milk.

Love, Mason Cheek

Dear Santa,

My name is Pyasleigh and I am 6 years old. I would like a Barbie car, an iPad, and a Barbie doll. I deserve these because I help my mom with my sisters. How do your elves make all those toys so fast?

Love, Pyasleigh Copeland

Dear Santa,

My name is Skylar and I am 7 years old. I would like a pink hoverboard and a pink skateboard. I deserve these because I help Nana get things out of the car. I am going to leave you a big, giant cookie and a big glass of milk! I love you, Santa!

Love, Skylar Jackson

Dear Santa,

My name is Jaxson and I am 7 years old. I would like a monster truck and a toy side by side. I deserve these because I have been good and I help out at home. I am going to leave you some milk and cookies.

Love, Jaxson Schoenberger

My name is Julia and I am 6 years old. I would like a tablet. I deserve this because I help my mama and daddy clean the house and make the beds. I will leave you milk and cookies. I love you dear Santa.

Love, Julia Smillie

Dear Santa,

My name is Carlos and I am 7 years old. I would like an iPad and a dinosaur. I deserve these because I help my mom clean the house and clean the table and wash the dishes.

Love, Carlos Ibanez

Dear Santa,

My name is Payton and I am 6 years old. I would like fake nails, Cowboy boots, and a Cowboy hat. I deserve these gifts because I love my mom. Thank you Santa for being so kind.

Love, Payten Argo

Dear Santa,

My name is Emma and I am 6 years old. I want an iPad and that's all. I deserve this because I have been good. I love you, Santa! I will leave you cookies and milk.

Love, Emmaline Walker

Dear Santa,

My name is Bentley and I am 6 years old. I would like a real side-by-side, an electric bike,

and a robot. I deserve these because I help vacuum the floors. I will leave you some milk and cookies. I love you, Santa!

Love, Bentley Wastian

Dear Santa,

My name is Rhett. I would like a robot, dinosaur, and a remote control snake. I deserve these things because I have been helping my classmates draw a book. Where do the reindeer come from? I will bring cookies and milk for you on a Christmas plate with Santa on it.

Love, Rhett Kosters

MRS. HOOD'S 2ND GRADE CLASS

Dear Santa.

Here is a list of items my kids would like this year. They've been super good!!

Love, Mrs. Hood

Avary Dinger- art supply kit, mini travel white board, Expo markers

Carson Gwynne - gas powered bike with all of the gear, Nike tennis shoes

Rhett Haney - Labubu, Fortnite for Nintendo, and for Rip to come back to life

Bryson Holder - playhouse, pet fish, ramps and helmet for motorcycle

Leighton Hoover - skin care products, box of Fidgets, and makeup

Marilyn Lowry - little home, some markers and cling pages, unicorn stuffed animal

Sawyer Posey - PS5, dirt bike, and Hover-

Addison Pruitt - Squishmallow, Fidgets, cotton candy machine

Titus Rodgers -toy robot, a new lunchbox, a

Jax Summers - go cart, puppy, Hunting Call of the Wild game Dawson Vancamp - princess coloring book,

diamond ring, Squishmallow

Otto Vitzthum - PS5, mini tv, PS5 controller Jace Watson - go cart, a BB gun with a scope,

baseball bag Darlin White - Gir plush from Invader, DS,

hare animal mask Jason Whitten - iPhone 16 Pro, XBox, small

dirt bike Dylan Wilson - Huntrix dolls, bike, Taylor Swift shirt

MS. SYNCO'S 2ND GRADE CLASS

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. You are good. How are you doing? I can' t wait to see Rudolph. Please bring me Legos, a nerf gun, and a target.

Love, Garrett Melson

You have been so kind. I can't wait to give you carrots for your reindeer. I want an iPhone,

a pet cat, and a ducky plushie. Love, Van Paruk

Dear Santa,

I think I have been a good boy this year. I think that Dasher is the best reindeer. Please bring me an MVP necklace, an iPad and a gas

Love, Gatlin Scott Frachiseur

Dear Santa,

Hello, how have you been? I will have milk and cookies waiting. Can I please have blue air pods, a light blue gaming chair, and a computer please.

Love, Grayson Buss

Dear Santa,

I love you, Santa. How are you doing? I hope you have a great Christmas. I hope you have a Christmas Spirit. Please bring me shoes, trampoline and a dirt bike. Have a good Christmas. Love, Dlaney Rymer

Dear Santa,

I love you Santa and I love your kindness. You are very cool. Please give me an iPad, pc and an elf. I hope you have a good Christmas Eve Santa. I love you, Santa. Goodbye.

Love, Kolton Jackson

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good Christmas. I'll leave treats for you and the reindeer. Please bring me

Love, Geordyn Nicole Hutcherson

Dear Santa,

I can't wait to give you cookies and milk on Christmas. I can't wait to open my presents on Christmas. Please bring me a VR, a dirt bike, an iPhone, a dog, and a go-cart.

Love, Aiden Lee Markham

Dear Santa,

I have been so nice. I will bring you cookies. I want 10 Labubus, 3 Roblox cards and a ginormous duck stuffie.

Love, Alana Nuttall

Dear Santa,

I am happy to see you. How are you doing? Please, I want a gold necklace, a labubu, and a dirt bike.

Love, Leo Hernandez

Dear Santa,

Thank you for giving everyone presents. You are so kind. I hope you have a great Christmas! Santa, please can I have a gun target, a dirt bike, and an iPhone 17 pro.

Love, Connor Wayne Deal

Dear Santa, I can't wait to give you cookies and milk. How are your reindeer? Santa, I really want a VR. I also want a switch case and makeup. I hope you can make them.

Love, Renee' Mirabelle Floyd

I can't wait to give you milk and cookies on Christmas Eve. I can't wait for you to come. I really want art supplies, 10 Labubus, and the mini brands.

Love, Kenzie Boyd

Dear Santa,

How have you been this year? I can't wait for when you get here. Please bring me a go-cart, a Lego set, and a Labubu. Thank you, Santa.

Love, Bradley Young

Dear Santa,

I love you, Santa. I can't wait for you to come. Please bring me a Nintendo switch. Also, please bring me an iPhone and a cat.

Love, Tristan Boham

Dear Santa,

How have you been this year? I can't wait for you to come! Comet is the best reindeer. This Christmas, can you please give me a cow print saddle for my horse. Also, I want skincare and a jewelry kit.

Love, Lyndee Francis

MRS. SMITH'S 2ND GRADE CLASS

Fake nails, Christmas Pj's, Shoes

Bryson Ballentine:

Dragon Truck with wings, Monsters trucks, Hot wheels track

Aleah Bobo:

Baby doll, Barbies, Huntrix girl toys

Browdy Copeland:

Kynleigh Hughes:

Would be Grateful for anything -- game controller, soccer ball, new backpack

Autumn Craven:

Tablet, airpods, new blanket

Teller Hill:

WWE set up, Army set up, Ronaldo soccer

New doll house, Huntrix Girls, \$100 to pay

Uncle Justin

Elijah Kuykendall: Nintendo Switch, Oculus, New Xbox

Rebeca Lewis:

Leighton Matthews:

Toy Car you can sit in and drive around, Heelys shoes, baby dolls

something to remind me of my cat, Zera, Ipad, Malachi Barton barbie dall

Toy Dino, Toy truck, New bicycle

Isaac Thomas:

GTA 6, Nintindo Switch 2, Call of Duty

John Vaught:

Robucks card, Xbox, Coal

Rylan Zelonis:

Pokemon cards, New Bicycle, VR Headset Aubery Mills:

Ipad, Barbie House, Barbies

charger, Nintendo 3DS

John Robert McMillian: New Xbox Blue Wireless Controller, Xbox

Happy Holidays from the Lamb Family Randy, Penny, Erin, Noah & Liam **Elect Randy Lamb** Pike County Sheriff (political ad paid for my Randy Lamb)

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Church in 1897 that appeared in the New York Sun.

truth, is there a Santa Claus?

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not compre-

hensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and

knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no

The following is an editorial written by Francis P. sign that there is no Santa Claus The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

> Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in

> the world. You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture

the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world

there is nothing else as real and abiding. No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will

continue to make glad the hearts of children. Morry
Christmas

lerry Christmas & See you soon! pening January 14, 2026 • 301 West Main Street • Murfreesboro

Submitted photos/MHS BAND

MERRY GRINCHMAS ... The Murfreesboro Rattler Band Boosters held a "Breakfast with the Grinch" fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 6 at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro. The menu included pancakes with sausage for the kids or a breakfast burrito options for the adults. Along with breakfast, there was also crafts/games set up for the attendees as well as pictures with the Grinch.













WARMTH AND CHEER ... The Murfreesboro High School social media team spent a recent morning making the rounds with the "Christmas Cart," delivering homemade cookies and hot chocolate to the school's teachers, administration, and cafeteria staff. "It's our small way of saying thank you for everything you do for us Rattlers all year long," said a team representative.

WINTER AID

WARM FOR THE HOLIDAYS ... After collection throughout November, Pike County 4Hers have recently been busy putting out blankets, gloves, hats, jackets and food in blessing boxes across the county to help those in need stay a bit more comfortable as the temperatures drop.









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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local residents asks when is off actually off?

Letter to Editor:

Our water is not safe

(... and not for the reason you think)

When I asked the Water Department to turn off my water back in August 2024, I assumed that "off" meant, well... off. Locked. Secured. Untouchable. The kind of off you don't have to think about again.

Fast-forward to October 20, 2025, when I had it turned back on. Seven days later, I opened my first bill — almost six hundred dollars. For one week. In a building that wasn't even open.

I sat there staring at the bill, wondering if maybe my pipes had started bottling luxury water on the side.

Eventually I learned something surprising: when the Water Department "turns off" your water, they apparently mean it in the loose, casual sense. As in, no lock. No seal. Just a friendly suggestion that the water please stay off.

So ... it didn't.

Someone used water from my property for over a year? Not me. Not my business. Not anyone I know. Just ... mystery water usage.

The Water Department told me I was responsible and suggested a police report. The police told me the opposite -- that if the system wasn't locked by the department, then the water wasn't technically "mine" to be stolen.

At this point, I'm just the person holding the bill, blinking.

I've since had the water shut off again, and this time I personally watched the lock go on. I might even go visit it occasionally. We've bonded.

Is this a case of water theft? A system glitch? A pipe with a secret nightlife? No idea. But apparently, whoever is responsible ... isn't.

Dhorea Kencayd Murfreesboro



Submitted photos/AGFC

TAGGED ... Alligator gar being tagged before release to help with conservation efforts of this prehistoric species in Arkansas.

AGFC taking applications for gar licenses

LITTLE ROCK — Anglers interested in hooking into an epic-sized trophy fish can apply for a 2026 Alligator Gar Trophy Tag from now until the end of 2025.

Many Arkansas anglers travel all the way to the Gulf of Mexico each year in search of trophy fish like tarpon and sailfish. Most don't know they are passing up a similar opportunity right here in The Natural State.

While not truly a dinosaur, the alligator gar was alive during the Cretaceous Period (145 million to 66 million years ago), and can take decades to reach 6 feet long. They are the second-largest species of freshwater fish in North America, topped only by the white sturgeon. They frequently grow longer than 7 feet and weigh more than 200 pounds. The current alligator gar sportfishing record is 215 pounds caught from the Arkansas River in 1964, nearly 90 pounds heavier than the state's next largest Arkansas catch, a 128-pound paddlefish from Beaver Lake in 2024.

Alligator gar can take years to reach the 36-inch mark, and females aren't able to reproduce until they are 14 years old. Their slow maturity rate, habitat loss due to dams and channeling

of large rivers, and an ill-fitting moniker as a trash fish or predator of other game species have hindered populations to the point where extra caution is required for harvest.

Anyone may fish for alligator gar on a catchand-release basis, but an Alligator Gar Trophy Tag (AGT) is required to keep an alligator gar longer than 36 inches. Interested anglers can submit an Alligator Gar Trophy Tag Application (AGTA) for \$5 by visiting the AGFC Licensing Catalog under "Fishing Stamps/Permits" to be entered for one of 200 Alligator Gar Trophy Tags available for the 2026 season. The application period is open Dec. 1-31, and the drawing will occur Jan. 2, 2026. Recipients will be notified of their selection by email with instructions on how to claim their tag.

Alligator gar may not be taken from noon, May 1-noon, July 1. All harvested alligator gar must be temporarily tagged using a provided Alligator Gar Possession Tag placed on the dorsal fin before leaving the waterbody. All harvested alligator gar must be reported within 12 hours of harvest via the internet through the AGFC mobile app, similar to the game check system used for deer.

Extension suggests higher beef prices coming

BY RYAN MCGEENEY

U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — American beef cow slaughter fell during the fall quarter by 19 percent from the same period in 2024, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data released in the wake of the recent federal shutdown.

James Mitchell, agricultural economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said that while that may seem like a significant drop-off, context is important.

"In 2023, we had a situation where producers were actively culling deep into their herds," Mitchell said. "In 2025, there are simply fewer cows to slaughter."

The January 2025 U.S. beef cow and heifer inventories were lower than they had been since 1961, with approximately 27.9 million head. The Mitchell forecasts a slaughter rate of about 42 percent for the year.

Record-low national beef herd sizes in the United States have been a large part of the record-high market prices producers have enjoyed in 2025. Cattle feeders saw fed cattle prices as high as \$242 per cwt over the summer in the Southern Plains, according to USDA.

Culling is a normal part of the beef production business, Mitchell said, with producers typically removing 10-20 percent of their herds every year, in part because the cattle in question are aging and less productive.

Between Aug. 30 and Nov. 15, U.S. producers slaughtered 543,586 head of cattle, Mitchell

ooid

"We had strong profitability the last couple of years," he said. "Acknowledging that input costs are still high, we've had a couple of years of really good production and good pastures."

More than any other segment of agriculture, cattle production is cyclical. However, Mitchell said, consumers shouldn't look forward to beef herd expansion in the near term.

"We might see some inventory changes in January when the USDA inventory report comes out," he said. "But market prices are so high, I think a lot of producers are happy with selling cattle."

None of this spells lower prices for consumers in the near future, Mitchell said, even if options from South American producers have an increased presence in U.S. grocery stores.

"With slaughter down, you have less lean trimmings that you would use to make ground beef," he said. "And so what we've seen this year is higher ground beef prices — and ground has typically been a competitive product."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, ground chuck cost an average of \$6.33 a pound in September 2025, up from \$5.19 in September 2023.

"The fact is that consumer prices are high, and they're probably going to get higher," Mitchell said.

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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'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

ARE YOU STRIVING DAILY

In order to be pleasing to God on a daily basis we must sacrifice, and we must closely follow Him. Daily service requires us to have a healthy prayer life and to bring praises to our God.

In Luke 9:23 we read these words: If anyone desires to come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow ME.

Following Christ requires action on our part. We must faithfully serve in order to grow and to have a hope of heaven after this life.

Many times, we look to Bible characters for inspiration to help us day to day in our earthly lives. A great example



for us to look at in this case is David. He was described in scripture as a man after God's own heart. He teaches us about praying and praising through his writings. We should study and adhere to David's love for praying and praising.

Psalm 116:1-2 – I love the Lord, because He has heard

my voice and my supplications. Because he has inclined His ear to me, therefore, I will call upon Him as long as I live. David loved to praise God.

Psalm 119:164 – Seven times a day I praise You, because of your righteous judgments.

Each and every day we should follow and live these two scriptures. I Thessalonians 5:17 – Pray without ceasing.

Psalm 147:1 – Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beauti-

May God continue to richly bless each for us, and may our days be happy ones.

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APPRECIATION FOR THE SENIOR CENTER ... East Delight EHC Club (standing) members brought gifts to the Murfreesboro Senior Center employees (seated) recently.

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Bro. Buddy Ray

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BODY LANGUAGE

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Hot Springs and such
- Bell and Barker
- 8. Wharton degree, acr.
- 11. Artist's inspiration
- 12. *Move head to show attention
- 13. Angry growl
- 15. Shamu, e.g.
- 16. Diva's number
- 17. Put on fancy dress (2 words)
- 18. *Making facial expression showing pain 20. Mine passage
- 21. Single-handedly
- 22. Assistance
- 23. Made according to specifications 26. Economizes
- 30. Biochemistry acr.

- 31. Aerie baby
- 34. Genesis skipper 35. Leaves out
- ing one

37. *Some look up and to the right when tell-

- 38. Watcher
 - 39. "The Forsyte ____" by John Galsworthy
- 40. Forty winks
- 42. Fraternity letter T
- 43. *Said "easy peasy" with fingers
- 45. Like a weight lifter, usually 47. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
- 48. Undo laces
- 50. Helicopter sound
- 52. *Showing low self-esteem or boredom
- 56. 100 centimes 57. Purl partner
- 58. From square one
- 59. Frustration, in a comic book 60. "At ____, soldier!"
- 61. Don't go
- 62. Dashboard acr.
- 63. Like Willie Winkie

64. Frustrated driver's recourse

- 1. Urban haze
- 2. Make like a cat
- 3. Ascus, pl.
- 4. Same as sea moss (2 words)
- 5. Rice wine 6. Dress with a flare
- 7. Rudolph, when older
- 8. Famous Christmas guests 9. Like some champagnes
- 10. High mountain
- 12. Toyota truck model 13. Part of flight
- 14. *Showing agreement
- 19. Healing plants
- 22. Be in a cast
- 23. *Show anger with arms
- 24. Unnerve
- 25. Eurasian antelope
- 26. "____ but not heard"
- 27. Much, in Italy
- 28. Song of praise
- 29. *"I don't know" move 32. *One's smiling because one's ____
- 33. Intoxicated
- 36. *Showing impatience with fingers 38. Like retina and brain connecting nerve

46. Reuse ideas

- 40. Large edible mushroom 41. Keen
- 44. Nice place for a rocking chair
- 48. Forearm bones 49. Hustle and bustle sound
- 50. Sandwich alternative 51. Stay out of its way!
- 52. Place at angle
- 53. Gung-ho about something
- 54. Close by
- 55. Gwyneth, for short 56. Opposite of #54 Down
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Couch announces candidacy for county judge

PIKE COUNTY -- Nathan resident Keith Couch has announced his plans to seek the office of Pike County judge in March 2026.

The following is his announcement:

"I am proud to officially announce my candidacy for Pike County Judge. My name is Keith Couch, I am 55 years old and a fifth-generation Pike County resident. I live in Nathan with my wife, Noelle, and our daughters, Karly and Kaylie, and I am the son of Jerry and Johnnie Couch, also of Nathan.

"For nearly 20 years, I have served our region through my work with the Upper Southwest Regional Solid Waste Management District, where I currently serve as Waste Tire Program Manager. In this role, I oversee the collection, transportation, reporting and recycling of waste tires across 14 counties in south and southwest Arkansas. This experience has given me hands-on knowledge of county operations, regulatory compliance, budgeting and working collaboratively with local governments.

"I was a small business owner, operating Keith's Floor Covering Services, and I have also worked as an Area Manager for Arkansas Utility Protection Services (ARKUPS) during its startup phase. That position required close coordination with city and county officials, utility providers, and contractors - an experience that translates directly to the responsibilities of County Judge.

"I hold three state-issued licenses: Master Solid Waste License, Environmental Officer Li-

cense and Class A CDL. "On March 3, I am asking for your support and opportunity to serve Pike County as

your next County Judge. If elected, I promise to bring honestly, integrity, transparency and 100 percent dedication to this office. My goal is simple: to work every day for growth, stability and longterm success of Pike County and its people. Thank you for your consideration, your support and your trust."





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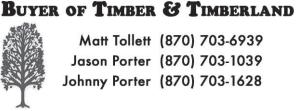
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is pictured with fire chief Ricky Branch. Vincent said that he appreciates the honor and simply enjoys serving his community. MILLWOOD CORPORATION





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MINI STORAGE in Murfrees-

boro. 870-845-6304.

FIREMAN OF THE YEAR 2025 ... At their end of the year meeting earlier this month, the Mur-

freesboro Volunteer Fire Department named Lee Vincent (left) their fireman of the year. Vincent

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W

Week of December 22, 2025

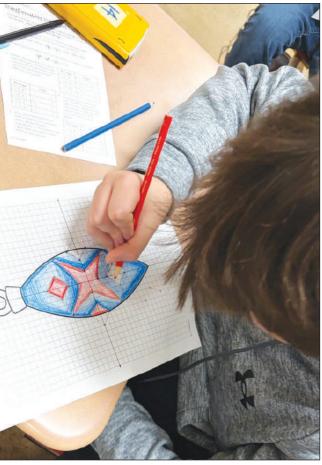
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DIRECTING SANTA AROUND THE WORLD ... Murfreesboro High School geography students recently put their skills to use by helping Santa navigate the world. They solved puzzles that included grid references, direction, contour lines, distance, scale, longitude, latitude, and more! First place price went to students Jack, Amos, and Jacob.







Submitted photos/MHS

GEOMETRY TREE ... Danielle Bobo's geometry classes at Murfreesboro High School made ornaments using reflections, rotations, translations, and dilations.



Submitted photos/MHS

ORNAMENTS OF THE WORLD ... Murfreesboro High School world history students researched countries around the world and designed ornaments for their class tree.









1430 Leslie St. • Nashville • 870-845-3122

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

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 CONTAIN-ING 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 WAST BOUNDARY LINE. THE ABOVE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED PROPERTY BEING SUR-VEYED 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 Âlcoa 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)