

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Issue 26 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

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Crater to host First Day Hike

MURFREESBORO -- The Crater of Diamonds State Park will present a “First Day Hike” on the park’s Prospector Trail this Thursday, Jan. 1.

Participants will meet in the parking lot in front of the visitor center prior to 10 a.m. The admission for the event is free. Guests are asked to gather in the parking lot outside the visitor center to be led to the trailhead by a park interpreter.

“What better way to start the new year than with a hike at Crater of Diamonds State Park! This year’s guided First Day Hike will take place on the Prospector Trail located in the southwest corner of the diamond search area,” said the Crater’s website. “Start this year off on the right foot and join us for a #FirstDayHike!”

The guided hike will take participants around the 1.2 mile gravel path, where they will discover history and geology like diamond miners of the past.

Although the trail is located adjacent to the search area, there will be no diamond searching allowed on January 1 and participants are asked to stay with the group during the hike.

Restrooms will be available before and after the hike, all other park facilities will be closed on January 1 and reopen at 8 a.m. on January 2.

For more information, call the park at (870) 285-3113.

The program is statewide and Arkansas State Parks encourages Arkansans to start the new year on the right foot with First Day Hikes on Thursday, Jan. 1, welcoming the year outdoors on trails across the state.

First Day Hikes is a nationwide initiative led by America’s State Parks that invites visitors to celebrate the new year with time spent outside, focusing on healthy habits, lifelong memories and year-round recreation. The annual event coincides with the start of America’s semiquincentennial celebration, marking 250 years of shared history, landscapes and public lands.

“Visiting an Arkansas state park is a great way to get outside, enjoy nature and welcome the new year with family and friends,” said Shea Lewis, secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. “With America 250 beginning in 2026, First Day Hikes are a fitting way to start the year by celebrating our shared history and the public lands that connect us, while exploring the beautiful trails that show why Arkansas is called The Natural State.”

Visitors to Arkansas State Parks can participate by joining a ranger-led hike on Jan. 1 or by completing a self-guided hike during “First Weekend,” which runs from Dec. 27 through Jan. 4. Arkansas State Parks offers hikes of varying lengths, difficulty levels and settings, making it easy for visitors to take part.

Participants can receive a free Arkansas State Parks First Day Hikes sticker in one of two ways, by attending a guided hike on Jan. 1 and receiving the sticker at the park, or by completing a self-guided hike and logging miles at [ArkansasStateParks.com/FirstDayHikes](https://arkansasstateparks.com/FirstDayHikes). If weather conditions make hiking on Jan. 1 difficult, participants will still have the opportunity to log miles throughout the weekend.

“First Day Hikes are a simple but powerful way to connect people to Arkansas’ state parks,” said Kelly Farrell, chief of interpretation and program services for the Division of Arkansas State Parks. “Whether it’s a short walk or a longer hike, every participant can find a personally meaningful way to celebrate healthy living, outdoor recreation and the special places our parks protect.”

Arkansas State Parks is proud to continue participating in this event and inviting visitors to experience the natural, cultural and recreational value of Arkansas’ public lands.

A list of guided First Day Hikes at Arkansas State Parks, along with tips on planning your hike, accessibility information and details on how to share photos and videos, can be found at [ArkansasStateParks.com/FirstDayHikes](https://arkansasstateparks.com/FirstDayHikes).

Participants are encouraged to share their experiences on social media using #ARStateParks and #FirstDayHikes.

Quorum Court passes 2026 budget

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court passed the 2026 budget in their December meeting.

The measure, which was discussed heavily in November, includes a raise in part-time employees to \$18 an hour to allow the county to compete with other employers for needed workforce.

Regular employees will see their “raise” go toward their healthcare premium increases that will jump from \$550 to \$750 per month.

For the five county employees that currently do not take the insurance option, they will receive a monthly stipend of \$400.

“It’s a reward ... and those employees [that

don’t take the insurance] deserve some benefit. We also need to have it in the [employee] handbook,” said Justice of the Peace Paul Baker.

The court thanked County Clerk Randee Edwards for her efforts in securing new insurance, noting that it was “a lot of work.”

Anyone that would like to review the 2026 budget in its entirety is invited to do so at the Pike County Clerk’s office in Murfreesboro.

Sheriff Travis Hill questioned the passed handbook for 2026 that mandates tighter controls on clocking-in procedures. He said simply that his force was “on call all the time” and time clock rules won’t work for his department.

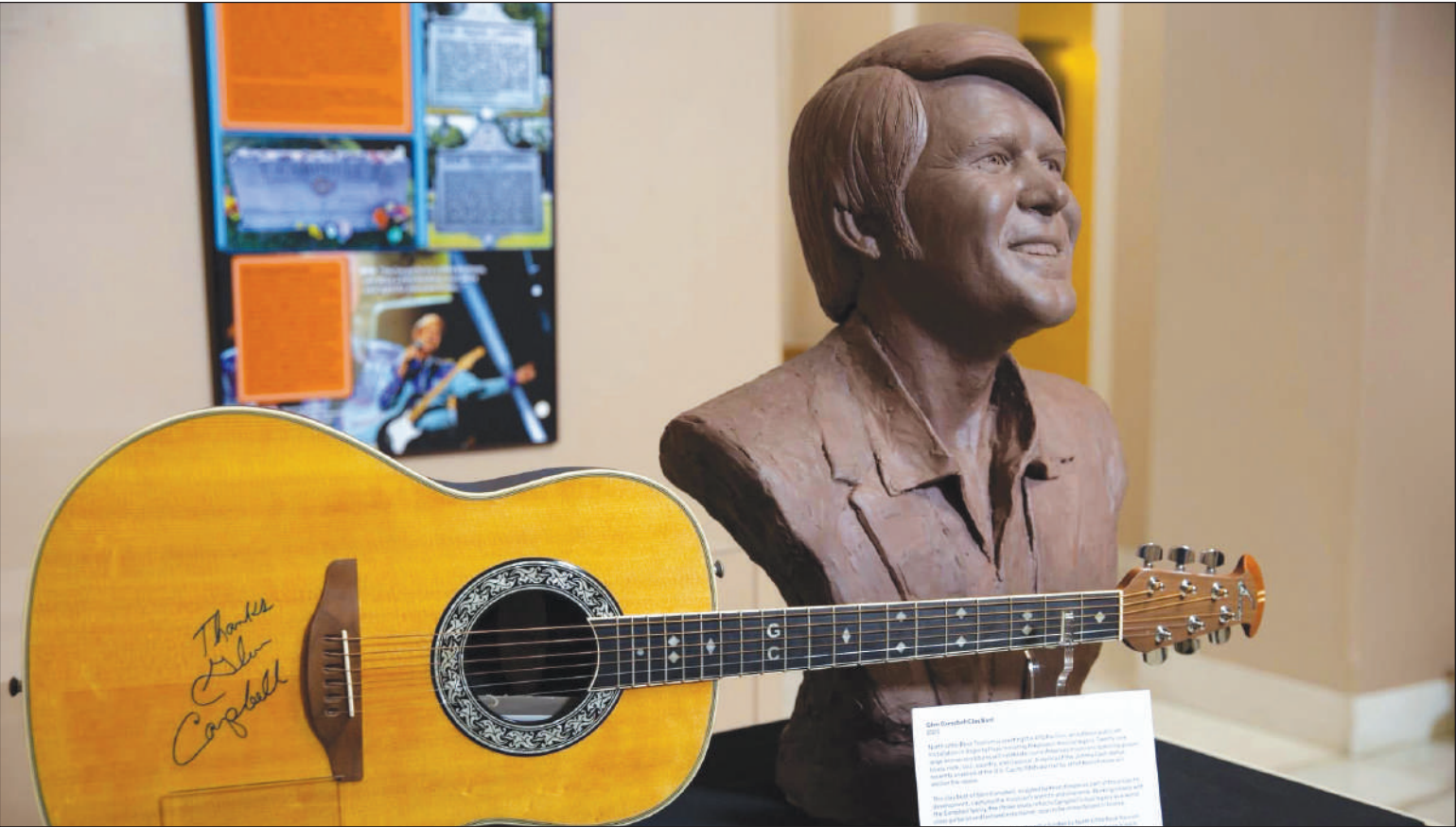
The court assured him that concessions

would be made for his office.

2026 QUORUM COURT MEETING DATES
Tuesday, January 20 • 6 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17 • 6 p.m.
Monday, March 16 • 7 p.m.
Monday, April 20 • 7 p.m.
Monday, May 18 • 7 p.m.
Monday, June 15 • 7 p.m.
Monday, July 20 • 7 p.m.
Monday, August 17 • 7 p.m.
Monday, September 21 • 7 p.m.
Monday, October 19 • 7 p.m.
Monday, November 16 • 6 p.m.
Monday, December 21 • 6 p.m.



4-H LEADING THE PLEDGE ... At the Pike County Quorum Court in November (above right) Pike County 4-H member Abigail Henderson leads the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting with Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill and Pike County Judge Eddie Howard. In December (above right) Adeline Haney volunteered for a turn.



Submitted photos/
Arkansas State
Capitol

CAMPBELL HONORED
... The Delight family of country music legend Glen Campbell (right) recently visited the Glen Campbell exhibit now on display in the Arkansas State Capitol. Pictured is (from left) Campbell's nephew, Steve Campbell with wife LaDonna, sisters Sandy and Barbara, and niece Angie. The special exhibit runs through January 2026.



Submitted photos/MHS

CHEERS FOR COMPETITION ... (Far above) Earlier in December, the Murfreesboro High School varsity cheerleaders finished in second place in the 2A Senior Game Day division at Lake Hamilton. (near above) The varsity cheerleaders then competed at the December 20 Arkansas Activities Association State Cheer Championship at Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs, finishing eighth in the state. "We are so proud of these hardworking girls who balance cheer with involvement in so many activities at Murfreesboro High," said cheer coach Melissa Jones. "Thank you to all our amazing Rattlers fans for the love and support -- we're proud to represent you on game days this season!"

City, County announce New Year’s closings

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Courthouse and associated offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and will return to work on Friday, Jan. 2.

Rural trash collection for the county this week will see no pickup on Thursday. On Friday, Jan. 2, Thursday’s normal collection will occur.

The City of Murfreesboro offices will hold the same schedule as the county -- closed Wednesday at noon and reopening on the

morning of Friday, Jan. 2.

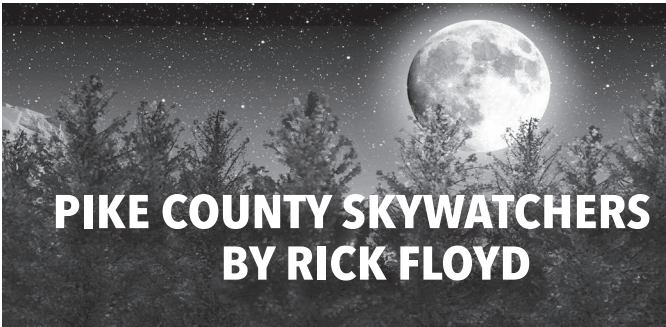
The sanitation schedule this week for Murfreesboro will see no collection on Thursday, with Thursday and Friday collection to occur on Friday, Jan 2.

City of Murfreesboro announces sanitation schedules changes for 2026

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro has announced its sanitation schedule for the year of 2026.

Changes in normal collection are as follows:

- Week of December 28th – Monday – Wednesday, regular pickup, Thursday and Friday, pickup on Friday (2026 New Years Day)
- Week of January 19th – Monday, pick-up on Tuesday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pick-up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, regular pick-up (MLK Day)
- Week of February 16th – Monday, pick-up on Tuesday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pick-up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, regular pick-up (President’s Day)
- Week of March 30th – Monday - Thursday, regular pick-up, Friday, pickup on Thursday (Good Friday)
- Week of May 25th – Monday, pick-up on Tuesday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pick-up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, regular pick-up (Memorial Day)
- Week of June 15th – Monday – Thursday, regular pickup, Friday, pickup on Thursday (Juneteenth)
- Week of June 29th – Monday – Thursday, regular pickup, Friday, pickup on Thursday (Independence Day)
- Week of September 7th – Monday, pick-up on Tuesday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pick-up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, regular pick-up (Labor Day)
- Week of October 12th – Monday, pick-up on Tuesday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pick-up on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, regular pick-up (Columbus Day)
- Week of November 9th – Monday and Tuesday, regular pick-up, Wednesday and Thursday, pickup on Thursday, Friday, regular pickup (Veteran’s Day)
- Week of November 23rd – Monday, regular pickup, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Wednesday (Thanksgiving)
- Week of December 21st – Monday, regular pickup, Tuesday and Wednesday pickup on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday pickup on Wednesday (Christmas)
- Week of December 28th – Monday – Thursday, regular pick-up, Friday, pickup on Thursday (2027 New Years Day)



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

Wolf moon and runaway black holes

The Moon starts 2026 off in a big way. January’s full moon, rising just after sunset on Saturday the 3rd will be the first of three super moons this year. The other two are in November and December. Some therapeutic howling might be in order as this Wolf Moon rises. The Moon will be almost full on the 2nd and full again on the 4th (and rising a little later).

The universe always has fascinating things going on. The Hubble Space Telescope discovered in 2023 what appeared to be a super-massive black hole breaking away from its home galaxy (M87). Recently the James Webb Telescope confirmed the finding. The runaway black hole is 10 million times more massive than the Sun and moving at an astonishing 2.2 million miles per hour. It is firing up the gases in front of it into a massive fireball and leaving a trail of hot gases 200,000 light years long. Stars are already beginning to form as those gases cool. There is no danger to Earth.

Speaking of escaping, the Moon is very quietly moving away from Earth, and it has been doing so for millions of years. It has only been since astronauts left laser reflection devices on the Moon that scientists can accurately measure the distance between Earth and Moon. The Moon is in no hurry to leave however, pulling away at 1.5 inches per year.

Jupiter looks great above the eastern horizon each evening near the two brightest stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux.

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

Card of Thanks

The family of Dick Fain would like to
thank everyone for the kindness and sympathy,
flowers and food.

Your support was greatly appreciated by our
family

Eva, Paula, Dorothy & Family

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: What are some issues that affect the gallbladder?

A: The gallbladder is a small, pear-shaped organ just below the liver. Its purpose is to store and release bile produced by the liver. The gallbladder contracts and forces bile through bile ducts into the small intestine to aid in digesting fats.

Gallstones are the most common gallbladder condition. Gallstones are hard pieces of excess material in the gallbladder, and they can vary in size from small specks to as large as a golf ball. If they are large enough, they can block the flow of bile. Gallbladder inflammation (cholecystitis) and gangrene are other issues that can affect the gallbladder.

Risk factors for gallbladder problems include people over

the age of 60, those who consume a diet high in cholesterol, those who are overweight, and those with a family history of gallbladder disease. Symptoms of gallbladder problems include bloating, changes in the color of bowel movements or urine, fever, nausea, and pain in the back and chest.

Treatment for gallbladder issues depend upon the cause. Your health care provider may perform an endoscopy to examine the gallbladder for gallstones or other blockages. Removal of the gallbladder is a common treatment option and normally does not have a detrimental effect on lifestyle.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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GENERAC

Plans to improve Huddleston grave site at Japany ongoing

MURFREESBORO -- In their December meeting, the Pike County Advertising and Tourism Commission discussed plans for an upgraded monument for John Huddleston, the man who found the first diamonds on his farm -- at what is now the Crater of Diamonds State Park -- in 1906.

Board chairman Jamie Terrell said he had spoken with Rick Floyd from the Pike County Archives and noted that Huddleston’s rock monument at Japany cemetery was deteriorating and featured the wrong dates of his lifespan.

Terrell said Floyd would seek a grant through the Arkansas Preservation Society to aid in the efforts, but was also interested in a state histori-

cal marker.

It was generally agreed -- though not yet put to a vote -- that the commission would aid the Archives in their endeavor when the time came.

Terrell noted that it was a spot that tourists visit and was proper to make it as presentable as possible. “it’s a tourism thing,” he said.

The discussion was tabled until further information is presented.

The group also approved a 4.5% raise for secretary/treasurer Jane Fugitt, which matches the raises being given by the City of Murfreesboro to its employees in 2026. The motion was a approved unanimously without going into executive session.



Submitted photo/PCUAX

BRITTLE STILL AVAILABLE ... Porky the Elf would like to remind residents that the 4-H fundraiser brittle is yummy and still available. Varieties include peanut, pecan, cinnamon pecan, and cashew in both bags and buckets. The treats will again be available when the extension office in Murfreesboro reopens on Monday, Jan. 5. The office still also has Texas Roadhouse rolls and honey butter still available for purchase as well. Call (870) 285-2161 for more information.



Submitted photos

KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ALIVE ... Angel Tree director Angie Strawn (pictured above left with daughter Kelsi Frachiseur and grandchildren Mabrie and Henley) said the Murfreesboro Angel Tree program serviced 44 families and 111 kids in 2025, making Christmas morning better for area children. Pictured (above right) is South Pike County’s School Resource Officer Justin Hughes, shopping with students as part of the Pike County Shop With A Cop program.



Submitted photo

SECOND AT COMPETITION ... The Murfreesboro Junior High cheer squad competed at the Southern Spirit Cheer Competition at Lake Hamilton earlier in December, finishing in second place.



‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

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The New Testament shares with us the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the entire world this gospel is the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In I Timothy 1:11 the apostle Paul refers to this gospel in this way: according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

In order that we may inherit our heavenly home for all of eternity we must obey this glorious gospel of Christ Paul explained this gospel to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 15:1-4. Paul delivered to them that Christ died for our sins according to the scrip-



tures and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. He assures them it is the gospel by which they are saved by holding fast to the Word that was preached.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is the glorious gospel. We must hear it,

believe it, obey it, stand for it, and SPREAD it in order for us to be pleasing to God.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

We know from II Thessalonians 1:8 that God will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel.

It is our responsibility to preach the gospel to all creation to help save their souls.

Have a blessed week and spread the gospel through a daily life devoted to Jesus Christ!

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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

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, 7-12 cornbread muffin, peaches, milk Line 2- 7-12 Chicken fried steak	Lunch: Crunchy beef tacos, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, pineapple, milk Line 2- 7-12 Crispito
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 Breakfast: French toast sticks or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Frito chili pie w/ cheese, pinto beans, seasoned corn, 7-12 rice krispie treat, pears, milk Line 2- 7-12 Hot dog w/ chili, cheese	MONDAY, JANUARY 12 Breakfast: Chicken biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, seasoned corn, seasoned broccoli, pears, milk Line 2-7-12 Big daddy pepperoni pizza or pizza sticks
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 Breakfast: Powered donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Cheeseburger, potato smiles, lettuce, tomato, onion & pickle slices, mixed fruit, milk Line 2- 7-12 Spicy chicken sandwich	TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 Breakfast: Mini pancakes or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Beef fingers, mashed potatoes, 7-12 white gravy, sweet peas, whole grain roll, mixed fruit, milk Line 2- 7-12 Chicken tenders
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk	<i>*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at www.rattlers.org</i>

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, JANUARY 5 Salisbury steak w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, Tuscan vegetables, roll, chunky fruit	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 Catfish fillet, pinto beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, brownie
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 Vegetable soup, mixed green salad, cornbread, cake	<i>Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available for \$6.00</i>

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353 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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

The Shunammite's Son

...SHE ASKS HER ELDERLY HUSBAND TO BUILD A ROOM FOR THE PROPHET IN A LITTLE ALCOVE ON THE GARDEN WALL SO HE CAN REST PROPERLY ON HIS TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND.

WE SHALL PUT A BED IN IT, AND A STOOL, AND A CANDLE-STICK, AND TABLE!

...UNDER HER DIRECTIONS, A SMALL ROOM IS SOON CONSTRUCTED BY THE SERVANTS OF HER WEALTHY HUSBAND.

AND WHEN NEXT ELISHA STOPS BY FOR FOOD, HE IS SHOWN THE ROOM THAT IS HIS WHENEVER HE COMES TO SHUNEM...

THE PROPHET IS IMMENSELY PLEASED WITH THE WOMAN'S KINDNESS AND, AS HIS FOLLOWER AND ATTENDANT, GEHAZI, PREPARES A MEAL, ELISHA PONDS ON HOW HE MIGHT REPLY THIS THOUGHTFUL LADY FOR HER GOOD DEEDS...

Next Week

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- ON THE FARM
- * -- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS
1. Laura Ingalls’ notebook
6. Boozer
9. Biblical pronoun
13. Sacred text, to some
14. “Fat chance!”
15. Afrikaners’ ancestors
16. Cake spread
17. Chowded down
18. Clear the blackboard
19. *Barn chore
21. *John Deere, e.g.
23. Nirvana’s “Come as You ____”
24. Spasm of pain
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Mark for omission
30. Recessed space
35. “____ and the Real Girl,” movie
37. “Shoot!”
39. E in baseball box score
40. Oil org.
41. Intelligent
43. A mixture or medley
44. Children’s respiratory disease
46. Foggy view?
47. Politicians, for short
48. In a sympathetic manner
50. Ski hill ride
52. Maiden name indicator
53. Bald eagle’s nest
55. Repeated Latin dance step
57. *a.k.a. harvester
61. *Opposite of pasture
65. *Common varieties are yellow, red and white
66. Tall tale
68. Smooth, in manner
69. Audience’s approval
70. “____ at ease”
71. Stomach sore
72. Caribou or moose
73. Soldier’s bed

74. Harsh
- DOWN
1. *Separate cream from milk
2. Locus, pl.
3. Seed coat
4. Form of Japanese poetry
5. Encircle
6. Deep pile carpet
7. *Cereal grass
8. Sorority letter
9. Cleopatra’s necklace
10. Thermostat option
11. *Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
12. Olympic cast-out, e.g.
15. Charles Darwin’s vessel
20. Must-haves
22. Ribonucleic acid, acr.
24. Fine
25. *Group of chickens
26. Birthplace of Caprese
27. Oedipus’ successor
29. *Baby sheep
31. * ____ rotation
32. Acrylic fiber
33. Bridal veil fabric
34. With a jagged margin
36. Gulf War missile
38. *Pasture-raised chicken’s morsel
42. Vanish without this?
45. Lamentation
49. Japanese capital
51. Rh in Rh disease
54. Indiana Jones’ find, e.g.
56. Not a minor
57. For boys and girls
58. Popular fairy-tale beginning
59. Stephen King’s “The Green ____”
60. *Male pig
61. Abe Lincoln’s hat material
62. Tatted cloth
63. Done
64. Seaside bird
67. UN labor grp.

CROSSWORD

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Reflecting on major education legislation in 2025

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – With the year nearing its end, it’s worth reflecting on the major pieces of education legislation that were passed this year.

The 95th General Assembly Regular Session kicked off in January and ended the first week of May. The legislature completed the 2025 regular session after approving a balanced budget, increasing public school funding and making higher education more accessible.

The Public School Fund is the largest single expenditure made by the state every year. State aid to public schools did increase by \$161.5 million starting in the new fiscal year that started in July. It is about \$2.5 billion and will be distributed according to a formula that takes into account student enrollment. The foundation funding increased from \$7,771 to \$8,162 per pupil for the 2025-2026 school year. School districts get additional funding for every student from low-income families and students with special needs.

Act 122, that went into effect at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, requires all public school districts to enact policies that restrict cell phone usage by students. It’s called the “Bell to Bell, No Cell Act.” Its purpose is twofold. First, it removes distractions from the classroom that are hindering students academically. Secondly, the governor and legislators hope it will improve the mental and emotional health of young people who spend too much time on social media.

Sixty-four percent of Arkansas public school students are eligible for free or reduced school meals. ACT 123 provides each student with a breakfast at no cost whether or not they are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. State budget officials estimate that it will cost the state \$14.7 million for the program.

The program is funded by a special privilege tax on medical marijuana. The bill was co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of twenty-five senators.

When children go hungry their long-term health is negatively affected, and their grades suffer. Hunger affects a child’s academic performance and increases their chances of being punished for behavioral problems and missing classes, according to testimony before the Senate Education Committee.

National studies indicate that students who have eaten breakfast perform better on standardized tests. Students improve academically in general, and some studies show that they specifically do better in mathematics.

The governor proposed and the legislature approved significant changes in higher education. The law is called ACCESS, an acronym for acceleration, common sense, cost, eligibility, scholarships and standardization.

ACCESS provides students more opportunities to earn college credits while still in high school. It provides incentives for colleges to teach skills in demand by industry.

The legislature raised the Academic Challenge Scholarships to \$2,000, up from \$1,000 for freshman students. The scholarships are funded with revenue from the state lottery. Since Arkansas voters approved the lottery in 2008 in a statewide election, it has paid for more than 770,000 scholarships. Their value is about \$1.4 billion.

Delight Cemetery Association to meet next Monday

DELIGHT -- The Delight Cemetery Association will have a meeting on January 5 at 6 p.m. at the Delight school cafeteria. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Congressman wishes peace to all

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN

U.S. Representative (AR-04)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The holiday season is a special time of year – not only to reflect on the greatest gift we have received through the birth of our Savior, but also the time to reflect on the past year and all we have to be grateful for.

With this year’s temperatures, we certainly have no trouble making this Christmas season warm and inviting. Through holiday festivities and time spent with friends and family, this really is the most wonderful time of the year.

My hope is that, as we celebrate Christmas, we will also remember the brave men and women who aren’t able to be with their own loved ones this year. Whether they are overseas or stationed in a different part of the country, our gratitude will certainly be with them as they serve our nation and protect our freedom.

Merry Christmas to you all – it is the greatest gift to serve the Fourth District of Arkansas in Congress, and it is most certainly not an honor I take lightly. May you all have a very blessed holiday season filled with peace and joy.

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Pike County 4-H thanks the community for a year of support

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community for the continued support shown throughout the year. Our program thrives because of the generosity, encouragement, and involvement of local families, businesses, volunteers, and organizations.

Thanks to this support, Pike County 4-H members have been able to participate in hands-on learning experiences, develop leadership and life skills, give back through community service, and grow in confidence and responsibility. From project work and events to fairs and service activities, each opportunity was made possible by a community that believes in its youth.

We are especially grateful to our volunteers and leaders who dedicate countless hours, as well as to sponsors and supporters who provide resources and encouragement. Every contribution, big or small, helps shape positive experiences for our 4-H members. As we look ahead to the upcoming year, donations are always welcome and help ensure we can continue offering meaningful programs and opportunities for our youth. If you are interested in donating, contact the extension office at (870) 285-2161.

Pike County 4-H is proud to be part of such a caring and supportive community. We look forward to continuing to work together to help young people learn, lead, and serve in the year ahead.

"Thank you for investing in Pike County 4-H and the future of our youth," said Shannon Ballard, Pike County 4-H program assistant.



WHAT PIKE COUNTY 4-HERS HAVE BEEN UP TO LATELY

Filling blessing boxes in Pike County • Working on quilts for donation • Courthouse tour after they decorating Christmas Tree • Tech Changemakers attended the Ouachita District Training and made electrical circuit cards which they will teach to their 4-H group



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EXPLORE RIDGE® CREW

Read Owner's Manual and all on-product warnings. Warning: The RIDGE® side x side can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and stunt driving. Be extra careful on difficult terrain. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE® side x side is an off-highway vehicle only, and is not designed, equipped or manufactured for use on public streets, roads or highways. © 2025 Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

*RIDGE® XR CREW HVAC models feature 116-horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 92-horsepower. This vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 406. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standards by which the horsepower of many cars is measured, and as a result the referenced HP measurement may be higher than if it were measured by an SAE standard. 6-passenger seating is available on RIDGE® CREW models only. Seating capacity varies by each RIDGE® XR CREW trim.

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 duly 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)