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WARD DIAMOND

Submitted photos/CODSP

Texas man discovers 2.09-carat diamond after asking Siri for mining tips

MURFREESBORO -- A casual question to a virtual assistant led to an exciting discovery for a Texas family at Crater of Diamonds State Park. James Ward, a 41-year-old high school teacher from Cypress, found a 2.09-carat brown diamond on Tuesday, December 30, while visiting the park with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two sons, Adrian (9) and Austin (7). Their journey began in mid-December at the family's home. "One day we were watching TV, and Austin came and said, 'Mommy, Mommy, is there any place in Texas or nearby that we can mine for crystals?'" Elizabeth Ward recounted. After asking Siri for nearby mining locations, the family was directed to Arkansas' diamond site. "I sent the link to James, and he's like, 'Oh wait, that's only like six hours away. We can go!'"

With no set plans for the holidays, the family quickly organized their trip and arrived at the Crater of Diamonds State Park on Monday, December 29. Though they spent four hours searching the first day, the winter weather nearly cut their trip short. Elizabeth Ward noted that they originally considered heading home early. "We were so cold! We were here for, like, four hours. It was freezing, but Adrian was the one who wanted to come back," she said.

The family's decision to return for a second day proved fruitful. After just two more hours of searching, James Ward was raking through dirt with his fingers near the West Drain section of the park's 37.5-acre diamond search area when he spotted a metallic-looking crystal in the soil. "I didn't know what it was, but I knew it was different than everything else I had found," said Ward.

James Ward picked up the shiny stone and put it in a paper sack with the rest of the family's finds. Before leaving, they stopped by the park's Diamond Discovery Center, where staff confirmed that Ward had found a 2.09-carat diamond.

According to Assistant Park Superintendent Waymon Cox, "Mr. Ward's diamond is about the size of a corn kernel, with a dark yellowish-brown hue and a beautiful, metallic luster characteristic of all Crater diamonds."

Cox also notes that the shield-shaped gem is a broken crystal. "Crater diamonds formed in the upper mantle and were carried to the surface by an ancient volcanic pipe," Cox explains. "Most are chipped, broken, or include flaws from the immense geological forces they endured. Given its current size, you can imagine how much bigger Mr. Ward's diamond might have been as a complete crystal!"

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. James Ward called his gem the Ward Diamond to commemorate the special experience with his family.

As for the future of the diamond, James Ward is keeping his options open. "No idea," he said when asked if he plans to sell or keep it. "I'll have to see how much it's worth first."

The Wards left the park with more than just a gemstone; they left with a story of persistence. "You can stumble upon a diamond in any place or time," Ward noted. "Don't give up on the first day!"

Elizabeth Ward added, "Listen to your kids about their dreams and what they want to do!"

The Ward Diamond was one of five diamonds found on the surface of the search area in December. At the close of the year, park staff had registered 540 diamonds.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK
Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow. The three most common colors found at Crater of Diamonds State Park are white, brown and yellow, in that order.

In total, over 75,000 diamonds have been unearthed at the Crater of Diamonds State Park since the first diamonds were discovered in 1906 by John Huddleston, a farmer who owned the land long before it became an Arkansas State Park in 1972.

DIAMOND

Continued on Page 4

Grocery store nears opening

Opens to public on Wednesday, Jan. 14

MURFREESBORO – The wait is almost over. As the clock counts down the time to Chimney Rock Grocery's opening on January 14, workers are busy putting the final touches in places in preparation.

"This is exciting because it's all new, and something special for Murfreesboro," said owner Jack Bonds. "It's an absolutely great project, new from the roof all the way down to the floor. It's been a complete remodel utilizing a historic building [the former Piggly Wiggly grocery store]. We've been able to make something old as fresh as frost on a pumpkin."

Bonds said the project was a labor of love that solves a great need for the community.

"It's really special and will be like no other – we have gone out of our way to make it special. It's not just four walls."

While some work still had to be accomplished – such as installation of the new automatic sliding doors – Bonds definitively states that the store will be open on the fourteenth of this month.

He also states definitively the contents of the store will be worth the trip.

"Produce will be fresh, we will have a good variety, and if there is something we don't have, all you have to do is ask. We will try to get it."

Meat will also be a big selling focus for the store. Meat will be cut fresh daily, and specialty cuts will be done to specification.

"If someone calls and wants a two-inch thick t-bone steak, or fourty one-inch pork chops, we will get it done, even while you wait if you wish" said meat butcher Nathaneal Allen. "Much of the meat we will carry will be choice. Just getting meat cut these days is special, as everyone has gone to prepackaged meats."

The meat and deli department will also feature rotisserie chicken and ribs, along with deli sliced meat and cheeses. There will also be ground turkey and turkey bacon/sausage for those who can't eat beef or pork.

"We expect people to travel to come to our full-bore butcher shop," said Bonds. "I expect people to drive from up to 50 miles away to buy their meat here."

Allen said it's not just quality, but also pricing that will bring the customers back for more.

"We will have the most competitive meat and produce prices around."

The store is in the process of completing the process of being able to accept Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funds as well as insurance cards. SNAP and EBT cards will also be accepted after the paperwork filing is completed.

Perhaps the most unique piece of the store is the rock chimney fireplace in honor of the store's name.

"It's a warm and fuzzy spot, and it's just something different. People will come in and see that it's not just a generic store. If men want to come in and sit down by the fire while their

wives shop, there will be a rocking chair available. There's no pressure ... you can just sit there and relax. It makes it feel very hometown. The whole point of this venture is to be a hometown grocery store with big city prices."

Store manager and co-owner Tim Allen – former manager of Cash Saver – said it more simply.

"This is Murfreesboro's grocery store."

Bonds said the inclusion of Tim Allen, along with son Nathaneal, was crucial for the store's future by bringing Allen's 30 years of experience in the grocery store business. "Anybody can buy a bus, but if you don't have a driver,

GROCERY STORE Continued on Page 2



Staff photo

PREPPING FOR OPEN ... (above, L to R) Jack Bonds, Nathaneal Allen and Tim Allen stand in front of the rock fireplace at Chimney Rock Grocery. The business is set to open next week on Wednesday, Jan. 14. (below) Grocery carts are waiting to be filled and stand at the ready.



Couple arrested following recent missing child search

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Allegations of child abuse and neglect has led to the arrest of a Murfreesboro couple.

Timothy Mason Phillips, 54, and Mary Louise Phillips, 49, were arrested December 31 on suspicion of felony first-degree endangering the welfare of a minor. The couple made a court appearance Monday, Jan. 5 in Pike County and were ordered by Judge Tom Cooper to return to court Jan. 26 with an attorney.

As of Tuesday morning, the couple had not been charged in the case.

According to affidavits of arrest obtained from the Murfreesboro Police Department, an investigation into the couple started after an 8-year-old female child under their care was reported missing from their Third Avenue home. The incident touched off a massive search that concluded with the child being found just steps from her home.

On Dec. 4 around 8:11 a.m., local law enforcement was made aware of the missing child by the mother at the Pike County Sheriff's Department. The child was described as being 3'2" and weighing 38 pounds and reportedly wearing no clothes. A search got underway soon after and concluded at approximately 12 noon when the child's father located her, covered in a blanket hidden behind a pool pump in a shed in the backyard.

The child was immediately placed in an ambulance to be evaluated and her body temperature registered at 98 degrees when "the outside ambient temperatures was between 37-39 degrees during the course of the search," according to the affidavits.

The child and her biological siblings were re-

moved from the home that day by the Arkansas Department of Human Services until an investigation into allegations of abuse and neglect could be completed.

The siblings were interviewed Dec. 5 regarding events related to the child's disappearance the day before and allegations of neglect and abuse at home.

A summary from the statements by the child in question stated she had gotten in trouble with the mother that morning for having an accident in the bed. She said the mother made her go outside, take off her clothing and was twice told to get in the swimming pool to clean up. The child followed the instructions and when the mother went back inside the home she said she grabbed a small blanket and hid behind the pool pump until she was located by her father around 12 p.m., according to the files.

The child reportedly said she was not allowed to use the bathtub inside to clean up when she had accidents and that she would not be allowed to eat breakfast and sometimes lunch. The child also claimed she had been locked inside a closet by her parents for days and weeks at a time and only allowed out to eat, according to the affidavits.

The child also claimed the father had built a small room inside the home that was used to lock her up when she was being punished. She further alleged that she had been required to stand outside in one spot from the time she woke until dark for multiple days at a time, as a form of punishment. The child's claims were corroborated by the siblings.

As part of the investigation, ADHS reviewed medical records with results that indicated the child is below a one percentile relating to child growth data.



Submitted photos/PCSO

TIMOTHY AND MARY PHILLIPS



GROCERY STORE Continued from Page 2

what good was it? That’s the reality of it all. I’m most excited about Allen and the crew he has assembled – he knows the market business and that’s the key to making this whole thing work.”

Allen said the whole process was exciting to him on a personal level.

“We get to bring a great grocery store to Murfreesboro. I live here and saw the dire need. So, Jack and I got together and made it happen. This wasn’t just an overnight deal – this was a year and a half long process. There were stumbling blocks along the way ... but it finally came together. Sometimes the stars just have to align.”

Bonds agreed about the arduous journey. “It has been a long term process.”

“Anyone who hasn’t been through this sort of process -- starting a business from scratch – might not understand how much has to be put together to get it done. We wish it could have been quicker for the community, but we are finally here,” said Allen.

“It’s taken this long to put together all these quality people [employees],” said Bonds, proudly noting about the creation of approximately 15 new jobs in Murfreesboro. “That’s also a very important thing.”

Allen reiterated Bond’s point about keeping good and wanted content in the store.

“Let us know what we don’t have and we will do our very best to get it.”

One of the other big questions, according to Allen, is if the store will offer a delivery feature. The answer is yes, eventually.

“The warehouse is working on a program right now for delivery – it is in the early stages – as soon as it is developed, we will give it a shot and try it.”

Allen also said the other big question is the cost-plus addition at the counter upon checkout.

“We are not cost-plus – what you see on the tag is what you get, we will not add another fee on products at the register.”

The store will of course feature national brands, but their private label items – Best Choice and Always Save -- will provide the greatest values in the store.

“We are also working on getting crazy good specials,” Bonds said. “The goal is to have them every week.”

The store will also offer special meat sales on the weekend – along with the weekly advertised specials. “Not everyone can get here on Tuesdays,” said Allen. “So, it’s an effort to benefit everyone.”

The trio also thanked everyone that has helped them along the way to getting the store open – acts for which they will always be thankful.

Bonds, however, for his part, wants no credit for the opening – opting simply with a joke.

“I’m just one guy in town – and I wanted a store open because I’m hungry.”

He does feel the store opening is a feather in the cap for the community in more ways than one.

“Outside of the convenience of having a grocery store locally, I truly believe that a quality grocery store can help extend the lives of the local residents by offering healthier options outside preprocessed fare that you can get everywhere else.”

Allen added that a few residents have stated they were well on their way out their way to greener pastures – or at least a town with a grocery store.

Down the road, perhaps a full grocery store will – at least in part -- help attract another business in Murfreesboro. For now, however, local residents can at least take solace in the fact they can get the vast majority of the shopping done at home at their full-service market.

“There’s no self-checkout ... most people don’t want that anyway,” Bonds said, with Allen stating that “we’ll take your bags to your car if you want.”

“We are committed to being Murfreesboro’s grocery store, and are service oriented people. The customer is everything to us,” Bonds said. “Tim has done a great job in making this something that the community can really be proud of.”



LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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



Murfreesboro Diamond

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

RICKY MCCAULEY PLAINTIFF

vs. Case No. 55CV-25-120

ANY UNKNOWN PERSON

CLAIMING AN INTEREST DEFENDANT
IN THE PROPERTY AT ISSUE

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-of-way, 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, Plaintiff herein.

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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS CIVIL DIVISION

JAMES FOLTZ and
RUTH FOLTZ PETITIONERS

CASE NO. 55CV-25-122

IN REGARD TO: PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS,
TO WIT:

That part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW/4 NE/4), Section Eleven (11), Township Eight (8) South, Range Twenty-six (26) West, lying North of a County Road, described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast (NE) Corner thereof (a rock painted red) and run thence South 16 minutes West 368 feet along the East Boundary line thereof to a point in the Center of said County Road; thence along said Road as follows: South 82 degrees 3 minutes West 558 feet, South 82 degrees 20 minutes West 200 feet and South 80 degrees 40 minutes West 770 feet to a point on West Boundary line thereof; thence North 16 minutes East 618 feet along the West Boundary line to the Northwest (NW) Corner thereof; thence South 87 degrees 44 minutes East 1313.7 feet along the North Boundary line thereof to the Point of Beginning, containing 14.3 acres, more or less.

NOTICE OF QUIET TITLE ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been filed in the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, a Petition to Quiet Title to lands in Pike County, Arkansas, as described above.

The Defendants, and any and all person claiming said lands or any interest thereon are hereby warned to appear in this Court within thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and answer said Petition and show cause why the title to said lands should not be quieted and confirmed in said Plaintiff or be forever barred from answering or asserting his interest.

WITNESS my hand and seal as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, this 26th day of December, 2025.

SABRINA WILLIAMS
PIKE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK (v.m.317w., 26,27,28,29)

Event set to celebrate Parton and former librarian

GLENWOOD -- A Dolly Parton birthday bash and former librarian Mona Swihart remembrance will be held at the Glenwood Community Room on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 2-4 p.m.

The community room is located at Bainum Library and Learning Center.

Refreshments will be available for attendees. The public is invited to attend.

The event is being held by the Imagination Library of the Ouachitas and the Pike County Library system, which includes branches in Glenwood, Delight and Murfreesboro.

Parks and Rec sets signup times for spring ball

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation will have softball, baseball and tee ball sign up on Saturday, Jan. 17th from 1:30-4 p.m. and on Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 4-6 p.m.

Both times will be held at the Murfreesboro park office.

Fees are \$70 for softball and baseball and \$30 for tee ball. Fees and form due at signup.

You may also sign up at the park during business hours (8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. on Mondays-Fridays from Jan. 18-30. No

Activities will include a book reading, coloring and a cake walk.

Imagination Library features free books to registered youth 5 years and younger, paid for by the Dolly Parton Foundation. Youth not registered for the Imagination Library service may be signed up during the event.

Parton will turn 80 on January 19.

Swihart was a librarian in the Pike County system for many years, most recently at Glenwood until her death last year.

Cameras now able to detect handheld device usage

The Arkansas Highway Police (AHP), a division of the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), is utilizing new work zone camera technology that can detect handheld device usage while driving.

Currently, AHP uses cameras in interstate work zones to detect speeding violations. By mid-January, these work zone cameras will detect when drivers are using a handheld device in a work zone, such as a cell phone.

“It is against Arkansas law to use a handheld device in a work zone,” said AHP Chief Jeff Holmes. “Until now, the hands-free law in work zones has been relatively difficult to enforce. This new technology will help us keep road workers and the traveling public safer.”

The cameras used for speed enforcement and detection of the use of a handheld device are solely used to assist officers in enforcing laws in work zones. An officer must be present for a warning or ticket to be issued. This is not a ticket-by-mail system.

The camera detects when a driver is holding a cell phone or handheld device, sends an alert to an officer downstream, and the officer can safely pull over the driver when they exit the work zone.

Signs will alert drivers when they are entering a work zone with camera enforcement. Arkansas law stipulates that data captured from these cameras shall not be retained except when

it is used to issue a warning or citation.

“Safety is our top priority at ARDOT. This includes the safety of workers within work zones, travelers passing through work zones, and officers stationed in or near work zones. Everyone deserves to make it home safely,” said ARDOT Director Jared Wiley. “This technology is yet another tool officers can use to enforce the laws that were enacted with safety in mind.”

Dry conditions lead to request for care with fire in New Year across Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK -- Parts of Arkansas are experiencing dry conditions, increasing the risk of wildfires. Sparks from activities such as fireworks, outdoor equipment, or open flames can ignite dry vegetation and cause fires to spread quickly.

To help Arkansans understand wildfire risk, the Department maintains a county-by-county wildfire danger map with four risk levels: extreme, high, moderate, and low. Risk levels are based on fuel conditions, drought status, and long-term weather forecasts. Currently, many counties across the state are at moderate risk, with burn bans in effect for Benton, Carroll, Crawford, Madison, and Washington counties.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Avoid outdoor burning and any activity involving open flames, including fireworks, campfires, trash burning, grilling with open flames, and prescribed or controlled burns.
- Use caution when driving or operating machinery in dry areas. Avoid driving over dry grass, ensure trailer chains are off the ground, and do not drive on flat tires.
- Be aware of dry conditions when outdoors. If using fireworks, keep water nearby to quickly extinguish any sparks.
- If you see a fire, call 1-800-468-8834. Avoid flying drones near fires, as they can interfere with firefighting efforts.
- Keep up to date on conditions across the state by viewing the county-by-county wildfire map and following the Department on social media.

View the current wildfire risk map at mip.agri.arkansas.gov/agtools/Forestry/Fire_Info.

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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 is Dupuytren’s disease?

A: Dupuytren’s disease is a condition where the tissue under the skin of the fingers and palms thickens, tightens and contracts (Dupuytren’s contracture). This causes one or more fingers to curl inward, and those affected have difficulty straightening their fingers and performing everyday activities.


It is unknown what causes Dupuytren’s disease, and there is no cure. Men are more affected by the disease than women, and it also tends to run in families. The chances of developing Dupuytren’s disease increases with age. Those with health conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy or vascular disease may also be more at risk.

Symptoms of Dupuytren’s disease include small bumps or nodules under the skin of the palm, the bumps extending to

form a hard cord under the skin, inflammation or swelling, and itching or tenderness. The condition normally affects the two fingers farthest from the thumb (ring finger and pinky). Dupuytren’s disease slowly gets worse over time.

Treatment of Dupuytren’s disease depends upon its severity. Stretching exercises, braces or splints, or sound waves or heat treatments may increase flexibility. Corticosteroid injections may shrink the cords or nodules. Surgery to remove the cords or nodules may be required in extreme instances. Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



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We partner with attorneys, CPAs and other financial advisors to help their clients achieve philanthropic goals. The Foundation provides expertise and tools to maximize tax benefits while achieving the greatest impact for local programs. The process is easy, flexible and efficient. Arkansas Community Foundation: engaging people, connecting resources and inspiring solutions to build Arkansas communities.



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Obituaries

Eunice Irvin Jackson, January 3



Oct. 12, 1938 – Jan. 3, 2026

Eunice Irvin Jackson was born on October 12, 1938, to Robert and Nan Andrews Irvin.

Family remained at the center of her life, grounding her through both joy and hardship.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Hadge Jackson; her sons, Rick Morris, Dave Christansen,

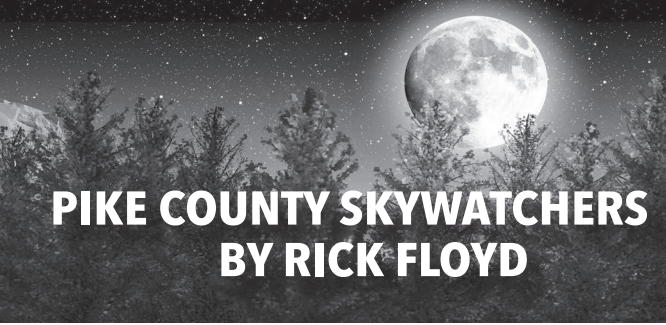
and Eric Christansen; and her brothers, Earl and Desmon Irvin.

She is survived by her step-daughter, Brandi Sharp; her stepson, Mike Jackson, three step-grandsons, Marc and Kyle Jackson and Eli Sharp; two nephews, Tracy and Allen Irvin; three nieces, Glenda Irvin, Brenda Young, and her special niece, devoted caretaker, and friend, Debra Tedder, along with Debra’s husband Keith Tedder.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, January 6, at Liberty Cemetery in New Hope, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Nashville.

Pallbearers were Tracy Irvin, Mac Irvin, Jacob Irvin, John Young, William Wolfe, and Keith Tedder.

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



Jupiter shines bright in night sky

Last week Jupiter was mentioned as it “looked great” in the evening sky. It is still a bright spot in both the east after sunset and in the west before sunrise, and it will get brighter. Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System, and it really is a giant. At over 10,000 miles wide (if the Earth was the size of a grape Jupiter would be size of a basketball), it is big enough to attract 95 or more moons, and still shine brightly even though it is reflecting sunlight from an average of 425 million miles away from Earth.

It will be as bright as it gets as it moves into opposition and perigee to Earth on January 10th. When an outer planet is in opposition it is in alignment with the Earth and the Sun with Earth in the middle, so we are looking at Jupiter in full glow of the sun plus, as mentioned, its orbit comes the closest to Earth (perigee) at only 365 million miles away.

Jupiter is always a good target for telescope viewing. Four of its biggest moons are in a swirl around it changing positions each night and easily visible with a scope or even with binoculars held steady. Bigger telescopes reveal the dark bands and the big red spot (which is a raging storm that has been going on for over a century). The red spot is noticeably shrinking by the way.

Recently astrophysicist Brian Cox illustrated, via U-Tube, a bit of the strangeness of space and time with a what if. What if inhabitants of a planet 65 million light years away could zoom in on the Earth. If so they would not see us. They would see light that left the planet 65 million years ago which would reveal dinosaurs roaming the forests. What if there was a planet 4,500 light years away and they recorded the building of the Pyramids of Giza, or one 165 light years away where they recorded events of the War Between the States, the battle of Shiloh or Lincoln addressing the crowd at Gettysburg for instance. Those “film” libraries would allow a fascinating bit of time travel. Astronomers have been called the archaeologists of the sky because what they observe is already in the past. A star exploding in a galaxy 12 billion light years away seen from Earth would have actually met its demise 12 billion years ago. Even when observing the Sun (safely) you are seeing it as it was 8 minutes ago.

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DIAMOND

Continued from Page 1

The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed in 1924 during an early mining operation on land that later became part of Crater of Diamonds State Park. Named the Uncle Sam, this white diamond with a pink cast weighed 40.23 carats. It was later cut into a 12.42-carat emerald shape. The Uncle Sam is now part of the Smithsonian’s mineral and gem collection and can be seen at the National Museum of Natural History.

Another well-known diamond from the park is the Strawn-Wagner. Found in 1990 by Murfreesboro resident Shirley Strawn, this 3.03-carat white gem was cut into a round brilliant shape weighing 1.09 carats. It graded as ideal cut, D-colorless and flawless and was set in a platinum and 24-carat gold ring. In 1998, the state of Arkansas purchased this diamond for \$34,700 in donations and placed it on permanent display at the park visitor center.

Crater of Diamonds State Park is located on Arkansas Highway 301 in Murfreesboro. It is one of 52 state parks administered by Arkansas State Parks, a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK
Crater of Diamonds State Park is one of the only places in the world where the public can search for real diamonds in their original volcanic source. The park is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve afternoon and Christmas Day).

ARKANSAS STATE PARKS
Arkansas State Parks is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. Arkansas state parks and museums cover 55,006 acres of forest, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation facilities, and unique historic and cultural resources. Established in 1923, Arkansas State Parks preserve special places for future generations, provide quality recreation and education opportunities, enhance the state’s economy through tourism and provide leadership in resource conservation. Connect with ASP on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and visit ArkansasStateParks.com and ArkansasStateParks.com/media to learn more.



Submitted photos/CODSP

ADRIAN, ELIZABETH, JAMES AND AUSTIN WARD

CITIZENS OF PIKE COUNTY ARE INVITED TO MEET
PIKE COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATE RANDY LAMB
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 • 11:30-1:00



The public is invited to come to the Murfreesboro Municipal Building Community Room to discuss with Lamb all your questions, comments and concerns ahead of the election

Pulled Pork Sandwiches will be served for the cost of donation

Purchase your tickets for a pair of gun drawings to be held at the at conclusion of the event Call Ricky Branch at (870) 285-1488 to get chances ahead of the event
*(Proceeds raised will benefit the Lamb for Sheriff campaign)
Political advertisement paid for by Ricky Branch*

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 Breakfast: Chocolate donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: BBQ pork sandwich, coleslaw, pinto beans, 7-12 baked chips, strawberries, milk Line 2- 7-12 Chicken sandwich, lettuce, tomato THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 Breakfast: Sausage croissant, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Taco soup, w/ shredded cheese, frito chips, seasoned carrots, salad, 7-12 whole grain cookie, pineapple, milk Line 2- 7-12 Chicken & cheese quesadilla FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 Breakfast: Mini blueberry loaf, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk	Lunch: Chicken sandwich, fries, baked beans, lettuce, tomato, peaches, milk Line 2- 7-12 Cheeseburger MONDAY, JANUARY 19 NO SCHOOL TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Ham & cheese flatbread, sidewinder fries, baked beans, mixed fruit, milk Line 2- 7-12 Spicy chicken sandwich w/ lettuce, tomato <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>
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MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, JANUARY 12 Pork chops, sweet potato hash, green beans, snickerdoodle cookie TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 Chicken rice casserole, peas & carrots, cauliflower, roll, banana pudding w/ wafers	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 Roasted turkey w/ gravy, mashed potatoes, greens, cornbread, apples <i>Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is now available for \$6.00</i>
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YOUR ADVERTISING SOLUTION
The Nashville News-Leader and the Murfreesboro Diamond
Call (870) 845-0600 To Place Your Ad Today!

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

WHERE ARE YOUR TREASURES
As we go through this life here on God’s earth, we are making a daily choice to serve God or something other than the true and living God. There are only two choices when it comes to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are either for Him or against Him. There is no middle ground or fence straddling when it comes to our commitment to Christ.

Matthew 6:24 tells me that no one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Because we are either serving God faithfully or mammon. I encourage you to closely examine the following passage of scripture.

Matthew 6:19-21 – 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth



and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN!
- LET THE WORD OF GOD ACT IN YOU
- 2 TIM. 3:14-17; HEB.4:12
- PREACH THE WORD
- MARK 16:15; 2 TIM.4:2
- LET YOUR LIGHT

SHINE
MATTHEW 5:16
•OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN
ACTS 5:29
•LIVE FAITHFULLY UNTIL DEATH
REVELATION 2:10
1 Timothy 6:7 says that we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Since we know this, it is very wise and prudent that we daily serve our God and lay up treasures in Heaven!

Consider the following two passages of Holy Scripture as you search your heart.

Proverbs 27:19 As in water face reflects face, so a man’s heart reveals the man.

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

IS THY HEART RIGHT WITH GOD? Have a great week

Paid Advertisement

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

- Worship 11 a.m. • Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

To reserve this space for your church services or business...
Call Christy at
870-285-2723

Bank of Delight
503 E. Antioch St. Delight
(870) 379-2293

356

Facts About The

BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

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

The Shunammite's Son

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN HAS BEEN TOLD THAT AS A REWARD FOR HER KINDNESS TO ELISHA, SHE WILL AT LONG LAST GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, NOW...

THOU WILT EMBRACE A SON WITHIN THE GIVEN TIME!

AND ELISHA CONTINUES TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE LAND DOING THE LORD'S WORK...

...IN THE PROPER TIME, AS ELISHA HAS SAID THE WOMAN GIVES BIRTH TO A SON AND GREAT JOY ENTERS THE HOUSEHOLD OF HER HUSBAND...

Next Week

THE YOUNG BOY!

DO NOT DECEIVE ME, I PRAY THEE, THOU MAN OF GOD!

...AS ELISHA AND GEHAZI PERMIT FROM SHUNEM THEY LEAVE BEHIND THEM A COMPLETELY HAPPY WOMAN!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ
305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20
Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.
Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church
This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

Food bank announces local distribution

TEXARKANA -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck in Murfreesboro on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed. Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building. The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-25-63-- Emily Basiliere, vs. Robert Flow-
ers, order of protection, Dec. 3

DR-25-64 --Denise Love, vs. Cody Love, di-
vorce, Dec. 5

DR-25-65 -- Brandon Copeland, vs. Jerri Ann
Copeland, divorce, Dec. 5

DR-25-66 -- Desmond Pinson, vs. Yaremi Gis-
sel Gomez Fonseca, divorce, Dec. 5

DR-25-67-- Matthew Heaston, vs. Katherine
Heaston, Divorce, Dec. 10

DR-25-68-- Velvet Pilot,vs. Lyndell Pilot, di-
vorce, Dec. 17

DR-25-69-- Kayla Katzer, vs. Austin Katzer,
divorce, Dec. 29

DR-25-70 -- OCSE, vs. James Carr, support/
OCSE, Dec. 29

DR-25-71 -- Tiffany McCann, vs. Aaron Mc-
Cann, divorce, Dec. 30

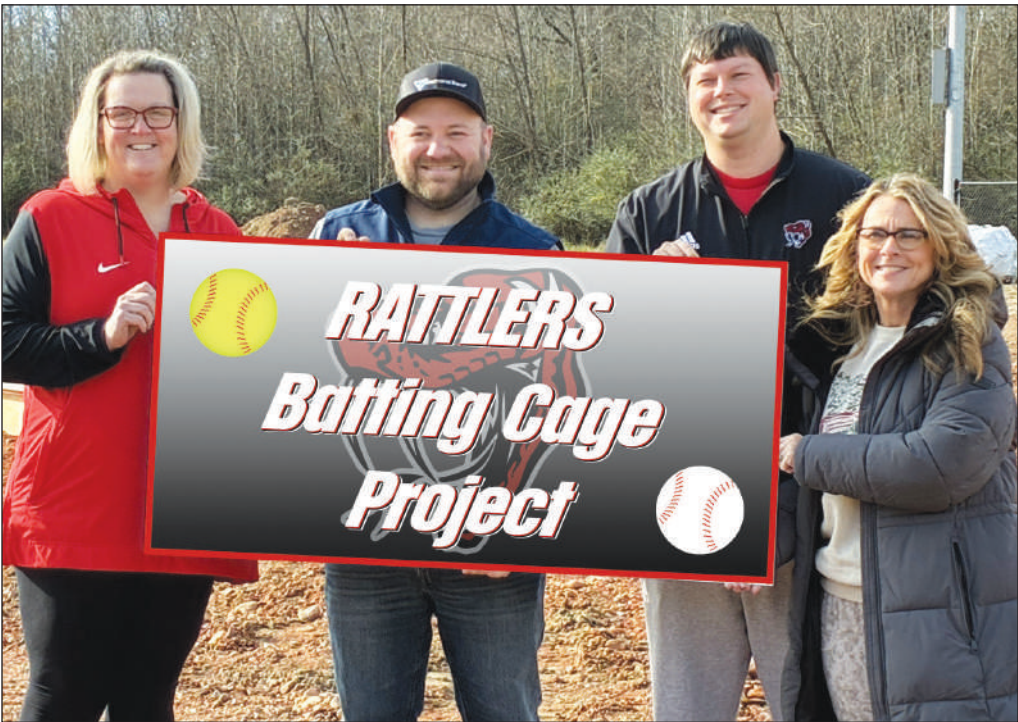
CIVII

CV-25- 109 -- First National Bank, vs. Stephen Markham, debt collection, Dec. 1
CV-25-110 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Sarah Whitley, contract/other, Dec. 2
CV-25-111 - Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Kimberly Lomax, contract/other, Dec. 2
CV-25-112 -- Capital One, vs. Janie Hoover, debt collection, Dec. 2
CV-25-113 -- Diamond Bank,vs. Sean, Patricia, and Aiden Carey, mortgage/foreclosure, Dec. 4
CV-25-114 --Antonios Oikonomou, vs. James

Cannon & MPD Equip., contract/other, Dec. 5
 CV-25-115 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Brian Deming, Jr., contract/other, Dec. 8
 CV-25-116 -- Merrick Bank,,vs. Angela Wallace, contract/other, Dec. 8
 CV-25-117 -- Velocity Investments, vs. Stephanie Forrest, debt collection, Dec. 10
 CV-25-118 -- Vanderbilt Mortgage, vs. Chad and Amy Montgomery, civil/other, Dec. 10
 CV-25-119 --21st. Mortgage Corp., vs. Jeremy & Samantha White, ET AL., contract/other, Dec. 12
 CV-25-120 --Ricky McCauley, vs. Any Unknown Person, real property, Dec. 12
 CV-25-121 -- Progressive Direct, vs. Amanda Brewer, foreign judgment/civil, Dec. 15
 CV-25-122 -- James and Ruth Foltz, vs. Any Interested Party, real property, Dec. 16
 CV-25-123 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Aaron Reed, contract/other, Dec. 17
 CV-25-124 --Megan Rodgers. vs. Arkansas DHS, administrative appeal, Dec. 17
 CV-25-125 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Sherman McGough, debt collection, Dec. 30

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Jarrod Clifton Reid, 46, Amity; Autumn
Leann Morgan, 43, Amity, Dec.3
Adrain Ause Jordan, Jr., 38, Delight; Stephe-
nie Katrena Johnson, 39, Delight, Dec.5
Samuel Carl Pettigrew, 19, Nashville; Kyla
Faith Tolbert, 22, Nashville, Dec. 11



Submitted photo/Diamond Bank

SUPPORT OF LOCAL STUDENT ATHLETES ... Diamond Bank is supporting the South Pike County School District with a donation toward the construction of a new batting cage facility at the Rattler baseball & softball complex. Murfreesboro Market President, Will Martin, recently presented the donation as the project gets underway, with completion planned just in time for the upcoming baseball and softball season. “We’re thankful to have the opportunity to invest in our schools, our students, and the future of our community,” said Martin. Pictured above (L to R) is Traci Jones, softball head coach; Will Martin; Marc McRae, baseball head coach and Tanya Wilcher, South Pike County School District Superintendent.



WOODY FUTRELL MARINE

SAVE UP TO \$4,500* ON SELECT RIDGE CREW/RIDGE XR CREW MODELS
1430 Leslie St. • Nashville • 870-845-3122

KAWASAKI CARES: 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 avoid street 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 intended for use designed, equipped or manufactured for use on public streets, roads or highways. © 2025 Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

RIDGE® XR CREW HAWK models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HAWK models feature 92 horsepower. This vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4065. The 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 measurements may be higher than if they were measured by an SAE standard. 6-passenger seating is available on RIDGE® XR models only. Seating capacity varies by load. RIDGE® XR VPM/Trm.



Pair sentenced for probation violations

MURFREESBORO -- Two defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court for violating the terms of their probation.

Reid S. Jordan, 31, of Soper, Okla., pleaded "true" to the charge of probation revocation, originally stemming from charges of breaking or entering and theft of property. His probation

Cameron Stevens, 21, of Amity, also pleaded guilty to the charge of probation, stemming from charges of fleeing and possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with four years suspended.

Attention Landowners In Arkansas:



Quail Forever, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the USDA-NRCS and other partners are offering a program for forestland for wildlife.

The AR-LA Open Pine Landscape Restoration RCPP will provide support for south Arkansas and north Louisiana during the next 4 years for enhancing your upland forest for a variety of wildlife, including turkey and quail. If you are interested in signing up or want to know more, follow the link or QR code to openpine.org where you can enter your contact information. You may also contact one of the biologists listed below directly via phone.

The application deadline is January 30
so don't delay, go to **openpine.org** today!



Photo credit: Morgan Meador

Biologists:
Therese Hastain (870)331-1297
Katie Swanson (501) 353-3591
Lacey White (501) 548-4703



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., 78lw., 24,25,26,27)