

The Murfreesboro Diamond

\$1 00

USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆



January	February	March
PIKE COUNTY SANITATION DEPARTMENT		
January 1, _____ to January 1, _____		
I, _____	April	May
affirm that I am a resident of Pike County		
and I am not a pay-for-hire contractor.	June	
(signature)		
Submitted photos/PCJ	July	September
LANDFILL PERMIT NOW OFFERED	August	

Following local landfill prohibition, County Judge offers alternative solution

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Judge Eddie Howard has announced a new plan for county citizens to dispose of their trash following the announcement that the Pike County Landfill will no longer accept Class 1 household trash.

Residents may now have a permit that may be picked up at the County Judge's office at the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro. The permit will allow Pike County citizens to take two free trips each month to the Upper Southwest Regional Landfill in Howard County.

When a resident goes to get their permit, they will need to bring at least one of the following -- proof of residency, driver's license or utility bill.

"This is to help someone who has class 1 trash but can't take it to the Pike County landfill, due to us not being able to take class 1 garbage anymore," Howard said on social media.

Residents will be required to have the actual permit with them to be able to utilize the dump for free by showing it at the landfill office. They will punch out a spot for each time you utilize the service.

Howard reiterated that the permit is only good for those taking refuse to the Upper Southwest Regional Landfill.

~~~~~

## Food bank to distribute boxes locally on Jan. 28

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.

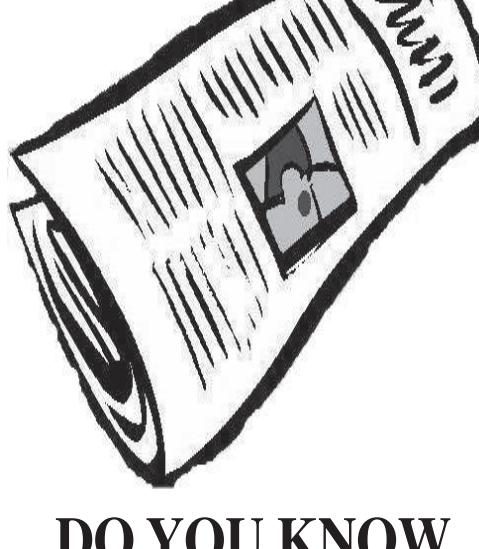
Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-in starts at 7 a.m.

Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Ave and Owens St. towards First United Methodist Church.

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.



DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WORTH TELLING?  
Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information

## Development Commission seeks community partners

To host luncheon in Murfreesboro next Monday to present cause

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Economic Development Commission (PCEDC) Board of Directors will host a membership drive luncheon and meet and greet on Monday, Jan. 19.

The event will start at noon in Connections Coffee on the Square, located at 19 Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.

Amanda Chandler, volunteer acting director for the group will be the speaker at the event. Free sandwiches will be provided for those in attendance.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, please contact Chandler at (870) 356-9646 or e-mail her at amanda@pikecoaredc.com.

Attendees to the event will be provided with a community interest form for feedback on comments/questions/suggestions and how they feel the PCEDC can best serve Pike County.

The PCEDC was established in August of 2024, in an effort to develop strategic economic growth and community development for Pike County. Since its inception, the group "has accomplished remarkable milestones that position it as a catalyst for positive change in the region," according to a press release.

Focusing on building a solid organizational foundation from the outset, a board of community leaders with diverse experience from throughout the county began by developing comprehensive bylaws to guide their operations and decision making processes. They also secured 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in order to serve the community while maintaining fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability.

The group also created a comprehensive economic development strategy along with the University of Little Rock's Institute for Economic Advancement. The strategic partnership brought professional expertise and economic analysis to complete a roadmap that identified opportunities, addresses challenges and establishes clear priorities for Pike County's economic future that align with the county's unique strengths and needs.

The PCEDC is developing a website to serve as a platform for economic growth. The plan is for it to support job creation, retention and expansion efforts throughout the county by providing businesses the information and resources needed to thrive. The website will also showcase the county's advantages and connect

employers with workforce opportunities.

The group recognizes that Pike County is in transition, like much of rural America, facing the challenge of demographic change while trying to maintain a diverse economic foundation. According to numbers provided by the group, the county had a population of 10,066 in 2021, a 10.8% decline from the 2010 census. Furthermore, the decline is suggested to continue, with projections of 9,661 population by 2027.

The group states that the county's population is aging, with a median age of 43.6 years. Working-age population (18-64 years) is 57.4% of the residents, but that youth (21.9% under 18 years) and seniors (20.7% over 65 years) represent significant segments. Males (50.1%) and females (49.9%) are split evenly in the county, with minorities comprising 13.8% of the population.

According to the PCEDC, the county economy centers on manufacturing, employing 448 workers at the median wage of \$45,832 yearly. Manufacturing has shown modest growth of 5.5% over the past five years, but the group said slight contraction may be coming. The group states that economic diversity exists with manufacturing, retail, education, healthcare and agriculture.

The groups of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting employ 251 with a median annual income at \$51,680. Finance and insurance features 155 workers at a \$53,640 median annual income.

Stating that there are economic challenges, the group points to a median household income of \$46,672 falls below many state and national averages and that 13.8% of families in Pike County live below the poverty level. While the unemployment rate stands at 2.6%, still 14.3% of households rely on SNAP benefits, that indicates "significant economic distress among residents."

Educationally, 87.9% of residents have completed high school, while only 19.5% hold bachelor's degrees or higher. The group says that "suggests potential workforce development challenges as industries evolve and require higher skill levels."

The county's workforce is care-dependent, traveling an average commute time of 28.1 minutes with 80.3% of workers having to drive to work. Those numbers underscore the rural nature of the county and the limited public

transit infrastructure.

While housing remains relatively affordable with median home values of \$86,900, which are significantly lower than state and national averages, housing cost burden is high in the county. Some 23.8% of homeowners have a mortgage of more than 30% of their income while 50.6% of renters fall into the same cost-burdened category, despite a median rent value of \$633.

Of the county's 4,042 housing units only 0.9% of homeowner properties and 6.9% of rental properties remain unoccupied, leading the group to feel stable housing demand despite the population decline.

The group feels that Pike County stands at a crossroads -- the 4% predicted population decline through 2027 will start to affect services, infrastructure and economic vitality. Meanwhile, the aging population will likely increase demands for healthcare services while potentially reducing the available workforce.

The group says that the manufacturing sector's historical strength provides a foundation for economic stability, however diversification and workforce development will be critical for long term prosperity.

As such, the group feels that the community's challenges -- population decline, modest incomes, housing cost burdens for renters, and limited higher education attainment -- are balanced against assets including low employment, diverse industries, affordable housing and strong agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Therefore, strategic economic development efforts will need to address workforce skills development, support for existing industries, attraction of higher wage employment opportunities and enhanced quality of life amenities to retain and attract residents in an increasingly competitive regional landscape.

The PCEDC board of directors include:

- Johnny Plyler, President, Glenwood
- Dr. Clayton Sorrells, Vice-President, Glenwood
- Phil Terrell, Recorder/Treasurer, Murfreesboro
- Amanda Chandler, Acting Director, Unincorporated Pike County
- Scott Howard, Member at Large, Delight
- Darwin Hendrix, Member at Large, Antoine
- Karen Barlow, Member at Large, Unincorporated Pike County

## Local court sentences five defendants in proceedings this week

MURFREESBORO -- Five defendants were sentenced during the Jan. 12 session of Pike County Circuit Court.

Rex Ann Charles, 61, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of delivery of methamphetamine. She was sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with 10 years suspended.

Bobby Wilkerson, 55, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of internet stalk-

ing of a child. He was sentenced to 20 years in the ADC with eight years suspended and will be required to register as a sex offender upon release.

Cody Smith, 31, of Amity, pleaded guilty to second-degree sexual assault and was sentenced to 10 years probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs. A no-contact order was also issued for his victim.

Leah Ann Ransom, 25, of Glenwood, plead-

ed guilty to charges of theft of property and forgery. She was sentenced to 10 years probation, fined \$2,500 and ordered to pay \$1,100 restitution on the forgery charge, and six years probation and fined \$1,000 on the theft charge.

Marion Scott, 42, of Nashville, pleaded guilty to failure to comply with registration reporting requirements of being a sex offender. He was sentenced to eight years probation and fined \$1,500 plus court costs.



BATTING THE LADY KNIGHTS ... (above, left) Kyndahl Posey (3) advances the ball against the Lady Knights while (above right) Caysen Ballard provides defense coverage in the junior high girls' matchup. The junior Lady Rattlers won their game by a 49-14 score last week at home. Other scores saw the teams split the contests including the seventh grade girls team falling to the Knights 30-14, the seventh grade boys team won 43-20, and the junior boys dropped their contest by a 39-21 score.

Submitted photos

## New dietary guidelines for Americans issued in face of national health emergency

The New Dietary Guidelines rolled out last week encourage the consumption of real, unprocessed foods. Recommendations, resources and implementation guidance can be found at [realfood.gov](http://realfood.gov) where the plan is laid out. One of the most significant changes of the plan is the emphasis on prioritizing protein at every meal. Unlike previous guidelines that favored carbohydrates, these recommendations highlight the importance of high-quality, nutrient-dense protein sources, including eggs, poultry, seafood, and red meat, as well as plant-based options such as beans, peas, lentils, legumes, nuts, seeds, and soy.

Healthy fats from whole foods such as meats, seafood, eggs, nuts, seeds, olives, and avocados are recommended, along with fiber-rich whole grains, while sharply reducing refined carbohydrates. The guidance also calls for limiting highly processed foods, added sugars, and artificial additives. Individuals are advised to eat the right amount for their age, sex, size, and activity level, stay hydrated with water and unsweetened beverages, and limit alcohol consumption for better overall health.

The Guidelines also provide tailored recommendations for infants and children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, older adults, individuals with chronic disease, and vegetarians and vegans, ensuring nutritional adequacy across every stage of life.

The plan is presented as a whole food framework intended to be customized to individuals and families, and their needs, preferences, and financial status. The guidance provides possibilities across all recommendations. For example, in proteins, options such as chicken, pork, beans, and legumes; a larger variety of dairy products, at all price points, including whole milk and



## PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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

full-fat dairy products; fresh, frozen, dried, and canned fruits and vegetables, from beets to strawberries, carrots to apples; and whole grains.

The new Dietary Guidelines provide clear, science-based recommendations to help Americans make healthier choices. According to the CDC, The U.S. faces a national health emergency. Nearly 90% of health care spending goes toward treating chronic disease, much of it linked to diet and lifestyle. More than 70% of American adults are overweight or obese, and nearly 1 in 3 adolescents has prediabetes. Diet-driven chronic disease now disqualifies many young Americans from military service.

The guidelines strongly warn against highly processed foods, calling on consumers to avoid packaged, ready-to-eat items that are salty or sweet, along with sugar-sweetened beverages like soda, fruit drinks, and energy drinks.

Whole grains are another priority, with guidance to choose fiber-rich varieties and significantly reduce refined carbohydrates such as white bread, packaged breakfast foods, flour tortillas,

and crackers. Additionally, the guidelines recognize that lower-carbohydrate diets may help individuals with certain chronic diseases achieve better health outcomes.

This week's recipe is a delicious chicken salad with a little bit of crunch and a whole lot of flavor. Enjoy!

#### RECIPE OF THE WEEK: LOADED CHICKEN SALAD

##### Ingredients

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 ½ cups cooked, chopped chicken breast
- 5 slices bacon, cooked and coarsely crumbled
- 3 celery stalks, chopped
- ½ medium red onion, diced
- 1 ½ cup s cubed cheddar cheese
- 1 cup diced avocado

##### Instructions

1. In a large bowl, mix mayonnaise, salt and pepper.
2. Fold in the remaining ingredients until everything is well mixed.
3. Refrigerate for 1 hour before serving. Serves 6

## ARDOT recognizes human trafficking prevention month

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is observing January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month with a comprehensive campaign designed to raise awareness about this serious crime.

Human trafficking occurs in every state, including Arkansas. It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit individuals for labor or commercial sex. Victims can be found in plain sight, in workplaces, rest stops, and other public places across the state.

"At ARDOT, we think of ourselves as everyone's neighbor. We have offices in every county of the state, and we patrol every highway and interstate. We want to make sure our crews are educated on the issue and know how to spot human trafficking," ARDOT Director Jared Wiley said.

"Our goal at ARDOT is to raise awareness and be vigilant in identifying and reporting potential trafficking situations," Director Wiley continued. "We are taking a strong stand against this issue in 2026 through education, outreach, and action. Our team has developed an extensive training curriculum for all employees and has created informational posters and resource materials for display in public spaces."

Human trafficking happens in Arkansas, and it often goes unnoticed. Recognizing the signs and knowing how to report suspicious behavior can save lives.

Warning signs of human trafficking may include:

Someone who isn't allowed to speak for themselves  
Someone who appears fearful, controlled, or watched  
Someone without access to their ID, money, or phone

If you suspect human trafficking, report it:

Arkansas Human Trafficking Hotline: (501) 618-8001; ReportHT@arkansas.gov

National Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888; Text: BE-FREE (233733)

"While January is designated as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, our commitment to fighting human trafficking is year-round," Wiley said. "We want our employees and the public to understand that they can make a difference by staying informed and alert."

#### HISTORIC BRIDGES

The Arkansas Department of Transportation through the Federal Highway Administration, has initiated consultation regarding a draft Historic Bridges Programmatic Agreement.

ARDOT has invited federal agencies, Federally-recognized Indian tribes, state agencies and organizations, and city and county organizations to participate in the consultation process and to provide comments on the draft agreement.

ARDOT would like to invite additional consulting parties

and the public to review and comment on the draft Agreement and notify us of any concerns that you may have regarding this Agreement within 30 days.

The draft agreement may be viewed at <https://public-notice-sec106-draft-historic-bridges-pa-202512-ardot.hub.arcgis.com/>

The draft is proposed to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties. It will also describe ARDOT's historic bridge procedures.

Comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Submit online comment forms to ARDOT or print the form and mail it to: Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261.

If you do not have internet access, please contact Jason Eads at (501) 569-2079 or [historicbridges@ardot.gov](mailto:historicbridges@ardot.gov) to ask questions about the draft Agreement.



**Estate of Dr Jack & Betty Sue  
Dillard Online Auction**

**904 Third Ave. Murfreesboro, AR 71958**  
**\*\*HOUSEHOLD AND FURNITURE - HOME DECOR - KITCHEN/DISHES -  
PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT - BOOKS - MUCH MORE!\*\***  
**ONLINE AT TODDMORRISAUCTION.COM - CLOSING JAN 22 AT 6 PM**

Estate Sale Sisters in conjunction with Todd Morris Auction Company is holding an online estate auction now until the closing on Thursday, January 22 at 6 p.m. Beloved lifelong residents of Murfreesboro, Dr. Jack and Betty Dillard - with a special estate auction featuring their personal collections and household treasures. Dr. Jack Dillard, a respected dentist who served the Murfreesboro community from 1955 to 1991, Dr. Dillard devoted more than three decades to caring for generations of families. Outside of his practice, he enjoyed photography. This online auction will include a variety of vintage photography equipment, cameras, and accessories. Betty Sue, known for her warmth, hospitality, and creativity..she loved sewing, entertaining, and reading. Her estate includes many sets of dishes, beautiful home decor, a variety of kitchen and entertaining pieces, and books.

**10% BUYERS PREMIUM - PAY ONLINE OR CASH/CARD AT PICKUP - VIEWING IS JANUARY 18 FROM 2 UNTIL 4 OR BY APPOINTMENT 870-845-9495  
PICKUP IS AVAILABLE JANUARY 23 AND 24 FROM 10 UNTIL 3:00  
904 Third Ave, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958**

Partial listing: 2 sleeper sofas, recliners, chairs & ottomans, lamps, Full size beds and bedroom furniture, Americana & Rooster decor, household items, bedding and curtains for all rooms, blue & white dinnerware set, Pioneer Woman dishes and many other sets of dishes, lots of religious, dentistry books and other books, vintage photography equipment, nice women's clothing, small appliances, glassware, Noah's Ark figurine collection, book shelves, side tables and end tables, entertainment center, roll-top desk, brass décor, washer, electric dryer, lawn chairs, swing, lots of Christmas decorations for indoors and outdoors including a vintage Holt Howard Santa pitcher & mugs set, refrigerator, storage shelves and cabinets, some shop items, concrete planters, cast iron pot, Peanuts cartoon posters, Several Vintage Murfreesboro Rattler items including sweaters, uniforms, and t-shirts. Plus many more items.

All property is sold in as is condition.  
Estate Sale Sisters - AR License #3079  
Eva Linville 870-845-9495  
Todd Morris Auction Co. - AR License #1096  
870-845-9200

**Consumer Cellular®**

**BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE,  
WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today. **844-868-3831**

©2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.



**LITTLE ROCK TOURS  
AND TRAVEL**

[www.LittleRockTours.com](http://www.LittleRockTours.com) | 501-868-7287

**Great Gatsby Tour: Mobsters, Mansions and Murder**  
April 13-16, 2026 • 4 days/ 3 nights • \$995

**Enchanting Islands and Shorelines:  
Mackinac Island, Like Michigan and Lake Geneva**  
June 8-16, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$2295

**Washington DC: America's 250th Birthday Bash Exclusive Event**  
July 29-July 7, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$3695

**Dramatic Dakota Landscapes: Theodore Roosevelt Library & National Park**  
August 18-27, 2026 • 10 days/9 nights • \$1995

**Captivating Canyonlands of Utah:  
Canyonlands, Arches, Canyon De Chelly and Monument Valley**  
September 10-19, 2026 • 10 days/ 9 nights • \$2695

**American Trains and Treasures:  
Gettysburg, Valley Forge and the Pocono Mountains**  
September 16-24, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$2195

**Rails and Sails of New England: Acadia, Vermont and Lake George**  
September 29- October 12, 2026 • 14 days/13 nights • \$3495

**Southwest Adventure: Ghosts, Gunslingers and Glowing Balloons**  
October 3-11, 2026 • 9 days/8 nights • \$2295

Price based on double occupancy per person & includes all transportation, hotels/cruises, many meals, all admissions & all taxes. In-route pick-ups available.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

RICKY MCCUALEY

PLAINTIFF

vs. 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 640-00054-00

Lots one (1) and Two (2) in Block Twenty-two (22) in O.M. LeFevres 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 MCCUALEY, 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 (NW1/4 NE1/4), 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)

## 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

Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,  
418 North Main Street  
Nashville, AR 71852

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The Murfreesboro Diamond (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.

**Subscription Rates: \$45 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$57 per year elsewhere.**

**\$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.



## 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.

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.

## Signup times for spring ball announced

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 forms will be accepted after 4 p.m. Jan. 30.

Age groups are as follows:

- T-ball boys and girls (ages 4-6) must be 4 years old by April 1
- 6U (ages 5-6) coach pitch
- 8U (ages 7-8) coach pitch
- 10U (ages 9-10)
- 12U (ages 11-12)
- 16U (ages 13-16)

## Cemetery denotes donations for final quarter of 2025

The following donations have been given to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, from October 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

- Jane Kennedy Memorial Fund
- Paul & Delores Crowsen in memory of Dorothy Dillard
- \$500.00 -- Kathy Stafford
- \$200.00 -- Zetta Crocker

• \$100.00 -- Haroldeen 'Dee' Branch

The upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by your donations. Donations may be given to Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbre or Joyce Woodruff. Donations may also be mailed to: Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.

## Attorney General praises ending of racial quotas

LITTLE ROCK -- Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement after a federal district judge issued a declaratory judgment and permanent injunction in *Greene v. Griffin*:

"The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas today has righted a wrong that for too long allowed discrimination to be enshrined in state statute. The court has issued a permanent injunction, declaring that the requirement that the Arkansas Ethics Commission must include at least one member of a minority race is an unconstitutional racial quota that violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The court's ruling follows a joint motion that I filed yesterday with the plaintiff in this case asking for the in-

junction.

"I first noted my objection to this blatantly unconstitutional requirement enshrined in state law last summer when I refused to make an appointment to the Arkansas Ethics Commission based on the color of an appointee's skin. Appointments to government boards and commissions should be based on one's qualifications, not meeting racial quotas. With this injunction now in place, Arkansans of all races will be given fair and equal consideration for appointment."

To read the court's order, visit [media.ark.org/ag/ECF-No.-13-Final-Judgment-and-Permanent-Injunction.pdf](http://media.ark.org/ag/ECF-No.-13-Final-Judgment-and-Permanent-Injunction.pdf).

## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

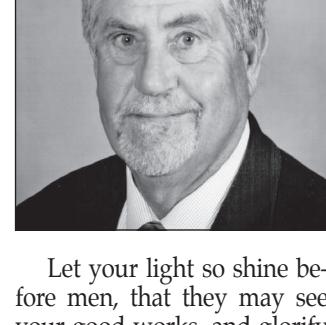
### THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF MY LIFE

Today is the most important day of my life. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come. Matthew 6:34 tells me not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own troubles. According to James 4:14, I do not know what will happen tomorrow. My life is simply a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Because of the brevity of life and the uncertainty of tomorrow, I should live each day as if it were my last day on earth.

Each day I have an opportunity to enjoy life and to show everyone around me what Jesus Christ has done and is doing for me.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ told me just how to do this. Matthew 5:16 --



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in Heaven.

The world today needs some good news. That news is the Gospel and what God can do for your life and how he can change everything for you. I need to uncover my light and let it fully shine for Jesus so that the world may see Christ living in me.

The more a light shines, the warmer it becomes. The more I do for the cause of Christ, the more I want to do! Christ tells

us in Revelation 3 not to be lukewarm, but to become hot in my work for the Lord.

Scripture gives us good advice for daily living in the following verses:

PHILLIPPIANS 3:13-14 - Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

JAMES 4:15 - Instead we ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that.

As we begin a new week, let us live for today, pray for the Lord's will to be done, and let our light shine before men.

Enjoy this week serving our Lord!

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



## Regional Fly Tyers announce 2026 conference

Above photo submitted by the ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers and Fly Fishers

MURFREESBORO -- The ArkLaTexOma Fly Tyers & Fly Fishers (ALTO) will present their "Home Waters 2026 -- A Celebration of the Little Missouri River" conference Feb. 6-8, in Murfreesboro

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E. Main Street. Admission is free to all who wish to attend.

Anyone interested in attending is invited to join ALTO members for a weekend of tying, fishing, fellowship and fun. The event will feature expert tyers, vendors, seminars, and raffles.

The groups welcomes all tyers to demonstrate their skills and also to help with instruction at a "beginners' table".

"We want this to be an all-inclusive event open to the most advanced tyers as well as beginning tyers that want to tie their first fly," said the event's press release.

In addition to some exceptional tyers, the event will see several FFI Certified Casting Instructors available for some beginner instruction, or if your cast just needs a little tune up.

Tyers and presenters are asked to bring a new (or slightly used) item to contribute to the raffle.

The group has made arrangements with the Queen of Diamonds Motel for an ALTO Special. You must call (877) 336-3105 to access the special rates of \$84.00/night with no breakfast (Code FF84) or \$94.00/night with breakfast (Code FF94).

### 2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday Feb 6th

- 12 p.m. -- Doors Open
- 12-5 p.m. -- Tyers set-up and event begins

- 5 p.m. -- Dinner Pizza (\$2/slice)
- 5:30 p.m. -- State of the River Report- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

- 6:30 p.m.-until -- Gather around the campfire (weather permitting), or inside cabin, at Swaha Lodge and Marina, 205 Dynamite Hill Rd., Murfreesboro (Cabin location given at event Friday)

Saturday Feb 7th

- 8 a.m. -- Door Open/Coffee Started
- 9:30 a.m. -- Spoon Fly Demonstration- Don Lawler

- 11 a.m. -- Everything you ever needed to know about Rod Caddies- Randy Hainen
- 12-2 p.m. Lunch -- on your own and/or food truck on-site

- 11 a.m.-4 p.m. -- Sweet and Salty Food Truck On-Site

- 2 p.m. -- Trout Fishing in Missouri- Jon Tupper & Greg Ester

- 3:30 p.m. -- Raffle begins

- 4:30 p.m. -- \* Deer Hair Techniques Demo- Kenneth Bohanan

- 5:00 p.m. -- Dinner on your own

\* Special addition to our schedule. We are fortunate to add a special tying demonstration by Kenneth Bohanan. Kenneth is a pro tyer for diaachi hooks, dr. slick, Canadian tube fly co and Whiting. Kenneth will demo some deer hair techniques. You will not want to miss this opportunity to have a front row seat to watch this master of deer hair bugs.

Sunday Feb 8th

- Early Morning Fishing or sleep in
- 10:30 a.m. -- Send off Devotion- Brady Gage

- 12:00 p.m. -- Event Ends

For more information on the event call Mike Hawkins at (903) 353-3357.

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Vegetable beef soup, grilled cheese sandwich, celery sticks w/ranch, pears, milk

Line 2-7-12 Turkey & cheese sub sandwich, lettuce, tomato, chips

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Breakfast: Mini blueberry waffles, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, seasoned carrots, steamed broccoli, garlic breadsticks, pineapple, milk

Line 2-7-12 Salisbury steak w/ mashed potatoes

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Breakfast: Breakfast scrambler, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes,

green beans, whole grain roll, peaches, milk

Line 2-7-12 Spicy popcorn chicken

### MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Breakfast: Mini chocolate chip French toast or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken tenders & waffles, fries, carrots & celery sticks, sliced apples, milk

Line 2-7-12 Hot ham & cheese croissant

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Taco salad w/cheese, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, 7-12 Rice Krispie treat, pineapple, milk

Line 2-7-12 Burrito w/cheese sauce

\*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](http://www.rattlers.org)

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Beef lasagna, broccoli & cauliflower, cheese bread sticks, ambrosia

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Pork loin, buttered new potatoes, brussel sprouts, roll, cinnamon pear

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Chicken & dumplings, salad, roll, salted caramel apple crisp

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

## 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](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)

## WINTER OLYMPICS

\* -- Theme Related Clue

## ACROSS

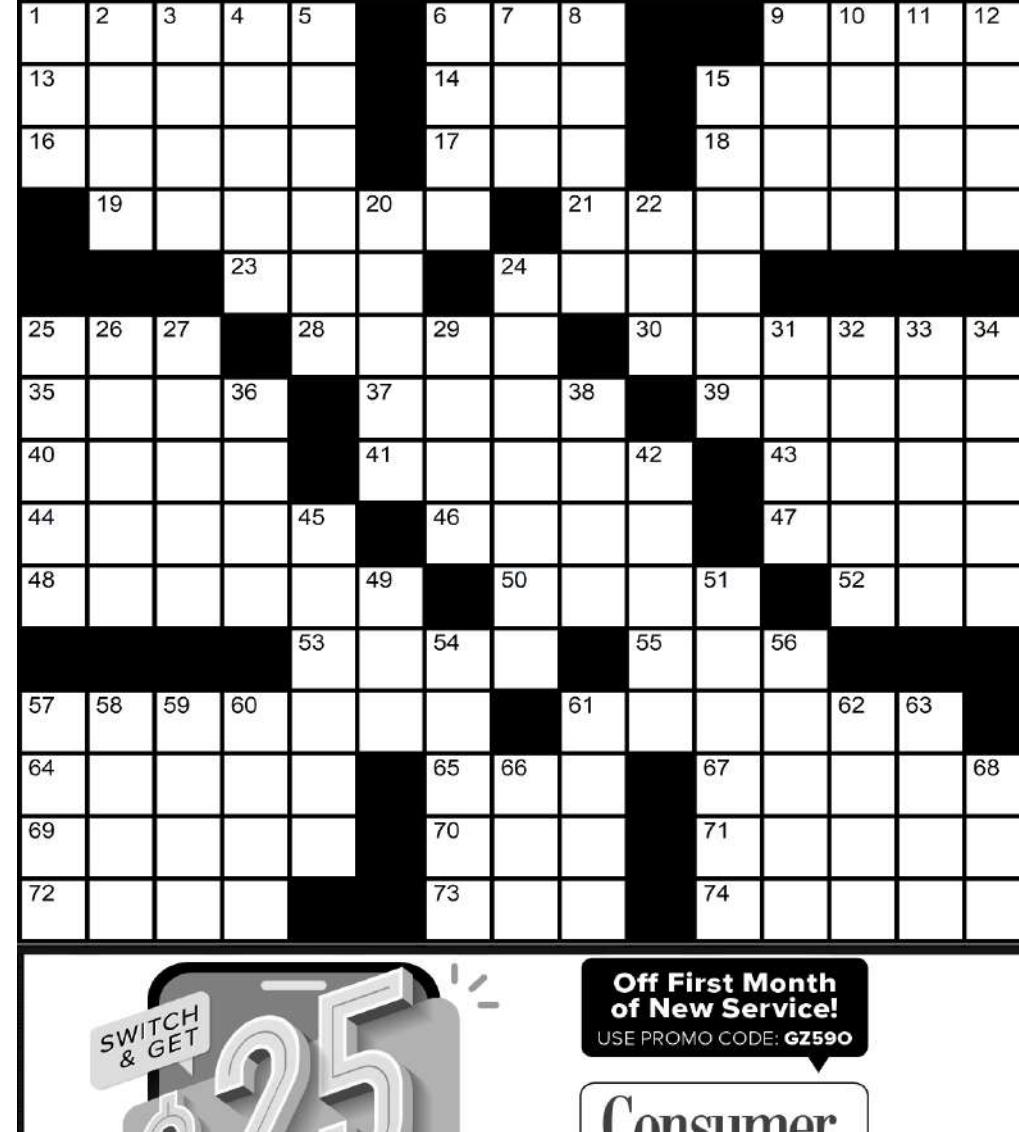
1. Pinch to save
6. Brownie
9. Lady, in Madrid
13. Proprietor
14. Romanian money
15. Iraqi money
16. Coffee shop order
17. \*Before 1998 only they played Olympic hockey
18. Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
19. \*Most decorated country in Winter Olympics
21. \* \_\_\_\_ of Hamill Camel fame
23. \*How Olympic Athletes from Russia were designated in 2018, acr.
24. Assistant
25. \_\_\_\_ of war
28. Sushi wrapped in nori
30. Oblong cream puff
35. Singles
37. Manure, e.g.
39. Soil for cultivation
40. Bon Jovi hit "Have a \_\_\_\_ day"
41. "Encore!"
43. Don't go
44. Bumpkin
46. Poet Pound's first name
47. Rodeo Drive tree
48. Sense of alienation and isolation
50. Similar
52. Toast option
53. \*Misha, 1980 Russian Olympics Mascot was one
55. Samuel Butler: "Spare the \_\_\_\_ and spoil the child"
57. \* \_\_\_\_ Shiffrin, most decorated U.S. alpine skier
61. \*Overall Olympic curling medal leader
64. Bikini \_\_\_\_ in the Marshall Islands
65. Zodiac sign
67. Pasture
69. Boundary lines
70. Government Printing Office
71. Rocky ridge

72. Singer Tori
73. Farm layer
74. \*1964 and 1976 mountainous Olympic location

## DOWN

1. Honda CR-X del \_\_\_\_
2. \*Michelle \_\_\_, most decorated U.S. figure skater
3. Enthusiastic about
4. Part of MGM
5. From the 1930s, e.g.
6. Abounding with certain trees
7. Bruce \_\_\_\_ of karate fame
8. Fundus, pl.
9. Aeneas' lover
10. "Don't bet \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_!"
11. Lye formula
12. A in "M\*A\*S\*H"
15. Do like Tarantino
20. Pleasant smell
22. Schiller's "\_\_\_\_ to Joy"
24. Real \_\_\_\_ of Seville
25. \*Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)
26. "For better or worse"?
27. GEICO's mascot
29. \*Olympic toboggan
31. Speech defect
32. Place for worship
33. \*2026 Winter Olympics location
34. Mother Goose creation
36. Give an impression
38. Michael Douglas' dad
42. Nigerian money
45. Slanderous statements
49. Snake-like fish
51. Dairy choice
54. Frustration, in a comic book
56. Grocery store section
57. Cass Elliot, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ Cass
58. Big-ticket \_\_\_\_
59. Japanese zither
60. Saloon selections
61. Colloquial "Follow me!"
62. Widely hunted ruminant
63. Kind of sax
66. King Kong or Donkey Kong, e.g.
68. Penn's neighbor

## CROSSWORD



Off First Month  
of New Service!  
USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer  
Cellular®

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

## Extension offers tips to combat seasonal affective disorder

BY REBEKAH HALL

U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, is a common effect of winter's cold temperatures and short daylight hours. While sunlight, exercise and healthy eating can help, more serious cases may warrant a trip to the doctor.

SAD is a common type of depression that is linked to a particular season, indicated by long-lasting feelings of fatigue and moodiness.

Brittney Schrick, extension associate professor and family life specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said studies about the causes of SAD "primarily point to a disruption in circadian rhythm caused by decreased sunlight."

"People who live at more northern latitudes are more likely to experience seasonal depression," Schrick said. "Serotonin levels, which affect mood, sleep and digestion, tend to be lower during the winter, so people who are sensitive to those hormonal shifts are likely at higher risk of experiencing seasonal depression."

"There also appears to be a slightly higher risk for people who have experienced depression before, or who have other psychiatric or physical health conditions related to serotonin levels or mood," she said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, SAD symptoms include the following:

- Sad, anxious or "empty" feelings
- Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness or helplessness
- Irritability or restlessness

- Loss of interest or pleasure in enjoyable activities
- Fatigue and decreased energy
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details and making decisions
- oversleeping
- Changes in weight
- Social withdrawal, or feeling like "hibernating"

Schrick said that if you think you may be experiencing SAD and it is "interfering with your ability to cope with daily interaction, work, or family responsibilities," then you should visit your doctor.

"They may refer you to a counselor, psychologist or psychiatrist, or they may suggest using an antidepressant medication, light therapy, or a combination," Schrick said.

## BENEFITS OF LIGHT THERAPY

Schrick said light therapy has the most research support for alleviating symptoms of SAD.

"The light could be natural sunlight from spending time outdoors, or you could use a light therapy box," Schrick said. "Especially during periods of cloudy weather, a light box that radiates at least 10,000 lux is the consistent recommendation."

If you do get outside for natural sunlight, it's still critical to wear sunscreen, Schrick said.

"Even if it is cold or cloudy, sun protection is always needed, so don't be fooled into not putting on sunscreen," Schrick said.

When shopping for a light therapy box, Schrick said it's important to pay attention to "how far away you need to be from

the box to get the benefits."

"Some benefit can be experienced from just having brighter light in your space, but to receive the full benefit, you may need to sit very close to the light or sit with it for a longer period of time," she said. "This is not the same as a tanning bed. Light boxes are UV-free, so they do not have the same risks as tanning beds or sunbathing."

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Schrick said it is always important to check in with your mental health and to pay attention to any changes in mood or reactions that don't seem to have an obvious cause.

"If you know you are under short-term stress and you're feeling snippy, that's fairly common, and it will likely pass when your stress level is reduced," Schrick said. "But if you seem to be down or moody or want to sleep more than usual, and there is no other cause besides the fact that it is dark at 5 p.m., that is worth keeping an eye on."

"Even though we don't always remember this, humans are animals, and the desire to slow down and conserve energy is hard-wired," she said. "However, going beyond a cozy need for soup and a blanket into feeling sad, anxious or worthless is not something to take lightly. Reach out to a medical professional if you are feeling hopeless."

Schrick said that for less severe experiences of seasonal depression, in addition to light therapy, exercise also boosts endorphins. Eating healthy foods can also enhance your mood, especially those that boost serotonin production, including salmon, turkey, cheese, tofu, eggs, pineapple, nuts, oats and seeds.

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

## STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Call Neil McConnell at (501) 374-1500 to place your ad here!

## SERVICES

## ATTORNEY

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## DISABILITY BENEFITS.

## Unable to work?

## Denied benefits?

We Can Help!

## WIN or Pay Nothing!

Randolph Baltz

Former SSA Attorney

Office: (501) 374-6800

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call for your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-613-1845

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed LeafFilter is backed by a no-dog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today: 1-855-977-9614 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military &amp; Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-833-879-1438. Plus... Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-0049. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability benefits if you have a disability that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-833-641-6953

CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES.

Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster.

These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-361-7044

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call for your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-613-1845

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-868-3831

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-422-2471. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians' Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a dental plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-210-6510 [www.dental50plus.com/arpress/#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/arpress/#6258)

Prepare for power outages today with a General Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-year warranty with your purchase. Call 1-877-319-0598 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator; it's a power move.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind today at 1-866-587-0119 today!

Olshan Foundation Solutions. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair, waterproofing, water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-833-436-1947

Prepare for power outages with Briggs &amp; Stratton® PowerProtect™ standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years (\$849 value). Proudly made in the USA. Call Briggs &amp; Stratton 1-855-554-0140.

We Buy Vintage Guitars! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Rickenbacker, Prairie, State, D'Angelico, Stromberg, And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6613

DIRECTV - All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for DIRECTV and get the first three months of Max, Paramount, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package: \$64.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-855-400-3297

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-833-879-1438. Plus... Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-0049. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability benefits if you have a disability that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-833-641-6953

## MILLWOOD CORPORATION

## BUYER OF TIMBER &amp; TIMBERLAND



Matt Tollett (870) 703-6939

Jason Porter (870) 703-1039

Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628

P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

## We Buy Houses For Cash!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!

## No Repairs. No Fuss.

Liz Buys Houses  • Fair Cash Offer • No House Repairs  
• Quick Closing • Simple Home Sale  
• No Realtor Fees • Convenient Closing Date

Call (866) 613-1845

BUNDLE UP! WITH A

5 BUCK BUNDLE

Get a \$3 Powerball® ticket with the Power Play®, a \$2 LOTTO ticket and a FREE Natural State Jackpot ticket!



## Classifieds

MINI STORAGE in Murfreesboro. 870-845-6304. (gs-4th)

## 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](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

FAGAN ROOFING

ALL TYPES OF ROOFING

We are insured!

Quality work,

Free Estimates

In Business Since 1992!

Greg (870) 356-8934



Week of January 12, 2026



Submitted photo/PCUAEX

**ON SALE ...** The Pike County Extension Service has announced a discounted half-price sale on their remaining 4-H brittle fundraiser stock. Flavor varieties remaining include peanut, cashew, pecan and cinnamon brittle. Buckets (1.5 lb.) are priced at \$10 and bags (8 oz.) are \$5 each. The group also has Texas Roadhouse rolls available at \$5 per dozen and 4 oz. honey butter for \$2 each. Call the Extension office at (870) 285-2161 or visit them at 100 Court Street Suite A in Murfreesboro during office hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Guide now available for volunteers collecting voter signatures

BY KRISTIN NETTERSTROM HIGGINS  
U of A System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas volunteers who gather the tens of thousands of voter signatures needed to qualify a constitutional amendment or state law for the statewide ballot now have access to a guide written especially for their civic role.

The Arkansas Volunteer Canvasser Guide includes helpful tips and information about new state laws so volunteers can better navigate the signature collection process. Arkansas Civic Action Network and the Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture partnered on producing the guide.

"Our number one goal is for canvassers to feel confident in their role of volunteer," said Gail Choate, executive director of Arkansas Civic Action Network, a Little Rock-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that engages Arkansans in civic life through education, workshops and community projects.

Choate and Kristin Netterstrom Higgins from the Public Policy Center wrote the guide after legislators passed several new canvassing laws establishing misdemeanor and felony crimes.

"Our shared goal is to give volunteers clear, consistent, and legally accurate information so Arkansans can volunteer confidently and safely," Choate said.

The guide is available on both organizations' websites: uaex.uada.edu/ballot and www.arkaction.net. The guide discusses what a petition is and what the canvasser is responsible for during the signature collection process. The guide also notifies volunteers that recent laws requiring canvassers to check a voter's

photo ID and to witness voters read the ballot title are on hold as part of a federal lawsuit.

The signature collection process is where most ballot issue groups see their campaign efforts fail, said Netterstrom Higgins, who publishes a neutral statewide ballot issue voter guide each election cycle.

"The petitions are just one step of an intense process, but they're often challenged in lawsuits seeking to stop a constitutional amendment from being put on the ballot for voters to decide," Netterstrom Higgins said. "Either a canvasser didn't sign a petition correctly or a campaign may have overlooked one of the many affidavits they have to submit about paid and volunteer canvassers."

To qualify a constitutional amendment for the 2026 statewide ballot, a ballot question committee must collect at least 90,704 voter signatures from at least 50 counties. The number of signatures required represents 10 percent of the number of people who voted in the last governor's election. For a state law, it's 72,563 voter signatures, or 8 percent, of the number of people who cast a ballot in the last governor's election.

"Volunteers have been the heart of many grassroots ballot issue campaigns for the past 100 years Arkansas has had the direct democracy process. This guide is a tool to keep that momentum going," Netterstrom Higgins said.

The Public Policy Center, located at the Cooperative Extension Service state office in Little Rock, has provided Arkansans with research-based information and education about public issues since 2004. To learn more, visit uaex.uada.edu/ppc or follow on Facebook at @uappc.



**SMALL ADS DO WORK ...**  
CALL TO PLACE YOURS - 870-285-2723

2025  
**RIDGE® CREW**  
PEAK PREMIUM PERFORMANCE

Let the Good Times Roll®

UP TO 116-HP<sup>®</sup>

RIDGE® XR CREW LIMITED HVAC

**4-CYLINDER POWER FOR THE WHOLE CREW**

- ROOMY CAB WITH UP TO 6-PASSENGER SEATING
- FACTORY STANDARD FULL CAB WITH HVAC
- 7-IN FULL-COLOR TFT INSTRUMENTATION
- 1,000-LB CAPACITY TILTING CARGO BED, DETACHABLE TAILGATE
- KAWASAKI STRONG 3-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

**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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side x side is not a 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® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

\*\*RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 116 horsepower. RIDGE® CREW HVAC models feature 97 horsepower. The vehicle's HP was measured according to ISO standard 4206. This ISO standard measures HP differently than the SAE standard 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.

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, proper protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speeds and start or stop the vehicle carelessly on different surfaces. Protect the environment. The Kawasaki RIDGE side