

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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## Food bank reschedules dropoff date from this week

TEXARKANA -- Harvest Regional Food Bank was set to distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes in Murfreesboro on Wednesday, Jan. 28, but that date has been postponed due to the weather.

The food bank has set the rescheduled distribution for Wednesday, Feb. 4.

## Extension programming to be rescheduled

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County Extension will be announcing rescheduled dates for two programs that were set for this week, including the Special Needs Trusts, that was set for Greenwood on Monday, Jan. 26 and the Cooking for a Change class that was set for Jan. 28-29.

Please call the Extension office at (870) 285-2161 for more information.

## 'Not So Newlywed' game set for February 6

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H will present their popular "Not So Newlywed Game" fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 6.

The event will be held at the Murfreesboro Senior Center beginning at 6 p.m.

The meal will consist of a taco bar and dessert.

Tickets to the event are \$10 individually or a table of six for \$60. They may be purchased at the door the night of the event or in advance at the Pike County Extension Service office at 100 Court Street in Murfreesboro.

The event will also feature a silent auction and door prizes.

The four couples participating in the event will be Marty and Mistie Arivett, Matthew and Toni Humphry, Bubba and Jenny James and Blake and Ashly Simmons.

Entertainment for the event will feature Ethan Pickett, Jaycee Heaston, Hadee Wilson and Keeli Partee.

For more information, please contact the Extension office at (870) 285-2161.

## Register for Feb. 21 homesteading conference

NASHVILLE -- Howard and Pike County Extension will present the 2026 Southwest Arkansas Homesteading Conference on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The event will be held at the University of Arkansas Cossatot campus, located at 1558 US Hwy. 371 in Nashville.

Registration for the event will start at 8:30 a.m., with the program running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There is a \$30 registration fee to attend the conference. A meal will be included for those that register by Feb. 15.

Participants may register for the event via the QR code (pictured below) or by visiting [https://uada.formstack.com/forms/southwest\\_homesteading](https://uada.formstack.com/forms/southwest_homesteading).

Topics at the event will include: composting, high tunnel/greenhouse management, dutch oven cooking, pie crusts, foraging for edible food, water bath canning, pressure canning and sourdough. More topics will be added before the event.

Additionally, this year's event will include a kid's camp for ages 5 years old and up. Cost for each child will be \$25 and is the perfect addition to parents/guardians attending the conference.

Kid's camp activities will include freezer jam, candles and mini barn quilts. They will be served pizza for lunch and snacks.



Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

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

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photos

**WINTER WRATH ...** The area experienced some major damage from this weekend's major winter storm, including (above) damage at Swaha Lodge and Marina on Lake Greeson and (far below) the pool building at the Little Shamrock Motel and Waterpark in Murfreesboro.

## Winter rears its ugly head, unloads on Pike County

MURFREESBORO -- As the icy grip of the weekend's winter storm has largely left the area still in a standstill early this week, progress is slowly being made toward getting back to normal.

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal said the plan in the city was to grade some of the ice off the roads starting Tuesday with the Stanford Edition, but noted that the process was difficult at the moment and may not start until Wednesday.

Following that, the plan was to move to the city's "long streets" -- Maple, Kelly, Second and Third.

O'Neal said that driveways would not be part of the process.

"I had to hire a contractor, so we are looking for volume," he said, noting that the process of cleaning driveways would slow the process down considerably. "We'll go from there and see how quick the process goes in addition to melting. Bear with us until we can get through the situation."

He said the plan would be to reevaluate the situation later this week and see how far the melting had gone. The forecast has daytime temperatures inching upwards slowly and above freezing during the day with a high of over 50 degrees on Thursday.

Another cold front this weekend is expected to again plummet temperatures to well below freezing at night.

O'Neal said that he knew of three places in town with major damage -- the pool roof at the Little Shamrock Motel collapsed and while two individuals had their free-standing carports

caved in on their vehicles due to the weight of the precipitation.

City trash collection is scheduled to resume perhaps as soon as Wednesday, but was simply a question of road conditions and would be accomplished as soon as possible.

"We are watching everything and will get to it all as soon as possible. Right now the side roads [in town] are very slick and non-navigable by the trash truck," O'Neal said.

The only saving grace, according to O'Neal, was that the storm did not knock out electrical service in the town.

"That would have made the situation really ugly," O'Neal concluded.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said the county is working overtime combatting the road issues, but notes at the moment it is simply overwhelming.

"Normally, we work four ten hour days a week, but we have been at it since [last] Friday. We currently have five road graders going continuously and we have not stopped working."

Howard said it was important to note that the county was not equipped with the same tools as the state.

"We don't have snowplows, salt and sand spreaders, like the state Department of Transportation. We are doing all we can with our graders, and will keep going until we clear it all off."

Howard asks for patience from the county's residents at this time, noting he is frustrated as well.

"We simply don't have the equipment to deal with this in a quick way, and can't really

justify getting it for a situation that may not occur for another 40 years. We are chipping away [at it] but it's overwhelming. We will do all we can to catch up."

He added that the county was working in a logical and efficient manner as opposed to being inefficient with time by skipping around to locations.

"We are concerting efforts to clear routes efficiently. We are working in all parts of the county, not just one area. Most of the time people only see their areas and not other parts of the county. I know the county roads have been impacted the same everywhere, because I have been in all parts of the county nearly everyday. We will be working tirelessly everyday until this is melted away."

As far as damage across the county, Howard said that he knows of several buildings, including chicken houses and shops that had collapsed.

Howard added that the county largely avoided electrical outages.

As far as trash collection for the rural county, he said the effort would resume as soon as possible.

"That's a good question," Howard said. "The secondary roads are all iced ... please check with the Pike County Judge Facebook page where I will be posting continuous updates."

Howard said that he has preemptively de-

## WEATHER

Continued on Page 4



# Extension to offer a 'Grow Your Own Groceries' seminar

Learn how to grow healthy, nutritious food in your own backyard and get some tips for new ways to cook and prepare your harvest in Extension's virtual Grow Your Own Groceries live Zoom presentations. Agriculture agents will discuss how to grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs with information on variety selection, growing methods, soil health, and dealing with common pests or problems. Family and Consumer Science agents will discuss how to store and prepare your homegrown produce and demonstrate healthy, delicious recipes.

This virtual Grow Your Own series started in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic as a way for extension experts to share research-based information with home gardeners on how to grow and prepare fresh produce. Five years later, it's more popular than ever.

Here are topics coming up in 2026:

- February 19 - Grow Your Own Onions
- March 12 - Grow Your Own Green Beans
- April 28 - Grow Your Own Edamame
- May 7 - Grow Your Own Strawberries

Each of these programs is scheduled for the noon hour. You can register for each free session at <https://uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/vegetables/grow-groceries-presentations.aspx>.

Extension is taking the virtual Grow Your Own Groceries series to the next level in 2026 with our first in-person conference. Attendees will have access to presentations from some of Arkansas' most knowledgeable experts on a variety of gardening and food preparation topics that have been suggested by our virtual viewers. Date Feb. 10, 2026 Time 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Place Conway Expo and Events Center, 2505 E. Oak St, Conway, AR Cost \$75 per person, includes lunch. You can find the registration link at <https://uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/vegetables/grow-groceries-presentations.aspx>. Take a look at what they have planned:

## GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES CONFERENCE

February 10 Conway Expo & Events Center  
8-9 a.m. Registration & Visit Educational Tables  
9-9:50 a.m.

• Growing in High Tunnels — Taunya Ernst, High Tunnel and Urban Agriculture Educator

• Planning for an Abundant Harvest — Krista Quinn, Faulkner County Extension Agent

• Nurturing Your Soil — Sherri Sanders, White County Extension Agent

10-10:50 a.m.

• Hydroponic Vegetable Production — Derek Reed, Pulaski County Extension Agent

• Food Preservation Methods — Extension Food Preservation Team

• Getting Started with Beekeeping — Dr. Jon Zawislak, Assistant Professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology

11-11:50 a.m.

• Using Cover Crops in the Garden — Dr. Trenton Roberts, Professor of Soil Fertility and Soil Testing

• Composting — Colin Massey, Washington County Extension Agent

• Setting Up a Drip Irrigation System — Ryan Neal, Benton County Extension Agent

12-1:20 p.m.

Lunch & Keynote Presentation — Pick and Plant: Plant Talk with Janet Carson and Randy Forst

1:30-2:20 p.m.

• Using Cover Crops in the Garden — Dr. Trenton Roberts, Professor of Soil Fertility and Soil Testing

• Composting — Colin Massey, Washington County Extension Agent

• Setting Up a Drip Irrigation System — Ryan Neal, Benton County Extension Agent

2:30-3:20 p.m.

• Hydroponic Vegetable Production — Derek Reed, Pulaski County Extension Agent

• Food Preservation Methods — Extension Food Preservation Team

• Getting Started with Beekeeping — Dr. Jon Zawislak, Assistant Professor of Apiculture and Urban Entomology

3:30-4:20 p.m.

• Growing in High Tunnels — Taunya Ernst, High Tunnel and Urban Agriculture Educator

• Planning for an Abundant Harvest — Krista Quinn, Faulkner County Extension Agent

• Nurturing Your Soil — Sherri Sanders, White County Extension Agent

This week's recipe features a timeless favorite—Quiche Lorraine. It may sound and look elegant, with flavors to match, but this classic dish is surprisingly easy to make. Changing up the



## PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

**EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT**  
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quiche filling allows you to make it as often as you like without ever getting bored, since the flavors can change each time. A variety of proteins can be added, such as ham, chopped sausage, shredded chicken, or pork or beef. You can also include vegetables like fresh baby tomatoes, wilted and drained spinach, arugula, sautéed zucchini, or diced fresh or roasted peppers. For cheese, Swissmade Gruyere and sharp cheddar are the most popular options, adding rich, classic flavor to the dish. Enjoy!

### RECIPE OF THE WEEK

#### CLASSIC QUICHE LORRIANE

##### Ingredients

- 4 ounces bacon, cooked, diced (4-6 strips)
- 2 ounces Swiss or Gruyere cheese, shredded
- 1 pie shell, 10 in. pre-baked
- 4 eggs

- 2 cups milk
- ½ cup heavy cream
- salt and pepper, to taste
- nutmeg, to taste

##### Instructions

• Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees  
• Place bacon in a large skillet, and fry over medium-high heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels, then chop coarsely. Sprinkle bacon and cheese into baked pastry shell.

• To make the custard, combine the eggs, milk and cream, and season with salt, pepper and nutmeg.

• Pour the custard over the bacon and cheese and bake at 350°F (180°C) until the custard is cooked, approximately 1 hour. Test for doneness by inserting a knife 1 inch from edge of quiche. If knife comes out clean, the quiche is done.

# Educational freedom accounts funded

## STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

From Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Legislative Council voted to fund the Educational Freedom Accounts (EFA) through the rest of the 2025-2026 school year. The accounts can be used to offset the expenses of home school materials or go toward tuition at an accredited private or parochial school in Arkansas. Currently, over 44,000 Arkansas students are participating in the program this school year.

Educational Freedom Accounts are part of the LEARNS Act that was passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. Unlike other states, the program was implemented in stages. In 2023, the first year of the EFA program, about 1.5 percent of Arkansas students were allowed to participate. During the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students increased to 3 percent.

This school year is the first time that all Arkansas children in grades K-12 have been allowed to participate in the EFA program. Each account is funded up to \$6,864 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Many more students applied for the EFA program this school year, but their parents either did not complete all the paperwork, or they made other choices for their child(ren) such as attending their local public school.

### ONLINE SERVICES

With the tax deadline only a few months away, Arkansas residents can check for their state refund by accessing the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) website at: <https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov>. You will need your Social Security Number and expected refund amount to access your tax refund information.

Also, on the DFA website, there is a section of online services that the department offers. For example, you can order a replacement driver's license or change your address on your license online. DFA also offers the opportunity to book an appointment at your local DMV online. The department states booking an appointment online reduces wait time at the DMV.

### BIRTH THROUGH FIVE

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) announced a new \$14.7 million federal grant aimed at strengthening early childhood education and expanding access to high-quality learning programs across the state.

The federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is for the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five. The grant is intended to advance the state's early childhood education system over the next year through several key initiatives.

The first initiative is strengthening statewide coordination

among families, educators, Head Start programs, and school districts to build a unified system.

The second is to support the LEARNS Act implementation through the ongoing transition to a single early childhood system, which includes improving data systems and supporting the early childhood workforce.

The third initiative is expanded access, increasing the availability of high-quality early learning opportunities for children from birth to age five, regardless of their location.

Creating local partnerships for collaborating with local lead organizations to ensure educational plans reflect community-specific needs is the fourth initiative.

The final initiative is Higher Education involvement. The program is collaborating with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock which recently received \$4.2 million of the funding to help expand these early childhood initiatives across the state.

This most recent award brings Arkansas' total federal Preschool Development Grant funding to approximately \$54.25 million since 2019. The Secretary of Education, Jacob Oliva said, "the grant will help strengthen coordination and ensure children across the state have access to strong early learning opportunities, regardless of where they live."

ADE has also been awarded two competitive Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grants from the U.S. Department of Education, totaling nearly \$25 million over five years, to study and strengthen literacy instruction and improve outcomes for all students, especially those in rural communities.

Arkansas is the only state to receive more than one award, affirming the state's investments in strong literacy foundations through the LEARNS Act. One of the EIR federal grants awarded to Arkansas, worth nearly \$15 million, will be used to evaluate high-impact tutoring initiatives at rural schools. The project will be used in partnership with a virtual tutoring program, Air Reading. Stanford University will independently evaluate the program to determine its impact.

A separate grant totaling nearly \$10 million will be used to study a program that teaches early literacy skills in partnership with the University of Florida Literacy Institute. Together these grants build on Arkansas' recent investments to strengthen literacy statewide through the LEARNS Act.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MURFREESBORO WATER COMMISSION CHANGE OF REGULAR MONTHLY COMMISSIONERS MEETING DATE

Please be advised that the regular monthly meeting of the Commissioners has been rescheduled from the First Monday of each month to the Second Monday of each month.

The meeting will continued to be held at 1:00 p.m. in the back room of the Municipal Building. This change will take effect February 9, 2026 and remain in place until further notice.

For additional information, please contact the Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department at 870-285-2655.

*This publication was paid for by the Murfreesboro Water Commission, the amount for this publication is \$39.15*

(m.w.c. 87w. 29,30)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JESSIE MARIE FATHERREE, deceased Case No. 55PR-26-3

### PUBLIC NOTICE-ESTATE

Last known address of the decedent: 405 Rock Creek Rd.,  
Glenwood, AR 71943

Date of Death: April 21, 2025.

An instrument, dated November 05, 2018, was on January 01, 2026 admitted to probate as the Last Will of the above decedent and an Order dated January 13, 2026, lawfully appointing GENAE W. LEWIS and DAWN L. REYNA, as the CO-Executrix of the above estate.

That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published on this day of January 21, 2026.

GENAE W. LEWIS, Petitioner  
DAWN L. REYNA, Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell  
DUSTIN BISSELL  
Attorney for Petitioners  
306 E Broadway  
Glenwood, AR 71943  
(870)-356-2589  
Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b. 173w., 29,30)

## Murfreesboro Diamond

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Submitted photo/SPCSD

**FIRST PLACE ...** The Murfreesboro Elementary third and fourth grade quiz bowl team competed in the Murfreesboro Quiz Bowl tournament last week where they took first place.

## PC Judge Howard new intermodal chairman

BY DALE GATHRIGHT, JR.

HOPE -- Pike County Judge Eddie Howard assumed the role of chairman of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority (SWARIA) at their quarterly meeting Jan. 22 in Hope.

Howard succeeds longtime chairman and charter member Lewis Diggs of Bonnerdale, who represents Montgomery County in the group.

Diggs has served a total of 14 years as chairman. Discussion on forming the Authority began in 2007 with Diggs and others and SWARIA formally began in 2009. Diggs agreed to serve as vice-chairman.

Other officers re-elected were Jane Fugitt of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce as secretary, and Clark County Judge Troy Tucker as treasurer.

The contract of Executive Director Leah Hasley of Arkadelphia was renewed for the year.

The meeting was hosted by the Hempstead County Eco-



Submitted photo/Dale Gathright, Jr.

**HOWARD HONORED ...** New Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority Chairman Judge Eddie Howard (left) is pictured with outgoing Chairman Lewis Diggs.

nomie Development Corporation and President Anna Lee Powell. Board member and Hempstead County Judge Jerry Crane welcomed the meet-

ing to Hope.

SWARIA is currently composed of Clark, Dallas, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Nevada, Pike, and Hempstead Counties, and the cities of Arkadelphia, Amity, Caddo Valley, Delight, Glenwood, Gurdon, Malvern and Murfreesboro.

# Local couple officially charged in abuse case involving minor

BY JOHN BALCH  
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro couple arrested on suspicion of child abuse and neglect have officially been charged in Pike County with felony first-degree endangering the welfare of a minor.

Timothy Mason Phillips, 54, and Mary Louise Phillips, 49, were arrested Dec. 31 and released from county custody Jan. 2 on \$25,000 bond each.

The charges were filed Jan. 23. The husband and wife made their first court appearance Jan. 5 and were ordered by Judge Tom Cooper to return to court Jan. 26 with an attorney, but that date was postponed after weather forced the cancellation of court on that day.

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 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 and 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 were between 37-39 degrees during the course of the search," according to the affidavits.

The child and her biological siblings were removed from the home that day by the Ar-

kansas 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 of the statements by the child in question stated she had got in trouble with the mother that morning for having had an accident in the bed. She said the mother made her go outside, take off her clothing and was twice told to get into 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.



## Snow moon rises Feb. 1 in aftermath of winter's wrath

Winter has presented itself to us in a potent way this week. The full moon of February, this year on the first, is appropriately called the Snow Moon. Peoples of yore, who did not have a grocery store nearby for milk, bread and other staples, did not mince words when they called the moon of February the Hunger Moon.

Voyager I, the space probe launched from Cape Canaveral in 1977 was on a mission to make picture taking visits to the outer planets, Jupiter and Saturn in particular. It is still going after completing its tasks traveling at a speed of about 38,000 miles per hour. It is now in interstellar space having broken through the boundary of the Sun's realm (the Heliosphere) in 2012. It is now over 15 billion miles from Earth, and its 1970's technology is still sending signals back to Earth. Those signals take a little over 23 hours to reach Earth (interestingly, 16 billion miles is the distance light travels in a 24 hour period which is called a light day). Voyager I is the probe that has the golden disk with images that describe where it came from and who made it just in case another civilization finds it. It also took an iconic photograph of Earth as it headed away from the Solar System. Earth was just a speck by then, and it inspired the well-known "Pale Blue Dot" book by Carl Sagan where he reflects on the cosmos and humankind's place in it.

Voyager II, also launched in 1977, reached interstellar space in 2018 having visited Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. It is also still in contact with NASA as it speeds away.

Venus makes its appearance as the Evening Star on February 2nd after leaving its Morning Star gig in mid-December. Look for it low in the west-southwest shortly after sunset. It has not been the Evening Star since last March.

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**UAMS HOUSE CALL**

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

**Q: What are the benefits of probiotics?**

**A:** Probiotics are living microorganisms that contribute live, beneficial microbes to various systems throughout the body. The microbiome is a distinct community of microorganisms within the body that support daily functions and overall health. Probiotics are mostly commonly associated with digestion but can also aid in the body's immune response to illnesses.

Probiotics prevent and treat dysbiosis, which is a deficit or imbalance of beneficial microbes within the microbiome. A balanced microbiome consists of a healthy variety of microorganisms, where no single bacteria, fungus or virus dominates. Bacteria and yeast infections, diarrhea, and vaginal and urinary tract infections are common conditions resulting from an imbalance in the microbiome.

Fermented foods and drinks such as cheddar, cottage or Gouda cheeses, kefir, kombucha, sauerkraut and yogurt contain probiotics. Dietary supplements in capsule, liquid and powder form, as well as topical creams or lotions also contain probiotics. Probiotics consumed from food sources may assist with a broader range of issues, while supplements typically contain a higher dose of probiotics.

If you are considering taking probiotic supplements or making a drastic change to your diet, contact your health care provider for guidance, particularly if you are taking regular medication or have a weakened immune system.

Email your health questions to [housecall@uams.edu](mailto:housecall@uams.edu).

**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 email to [mdiamond.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

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4	8	2	5	6	9	7	3	1

## WEATHER Continued from Page 1

clared a state of emergency for Pike County, in the event of resource requests or damages that have occurred.

"This does not guarantee state or federal funding, it rather opens the door to assistance if we need it from the state, should we hit the threshold county wide. If it turns out we don't need any assistance, I can always withdraw the declaration," he said.

Howard noted that any damage due to the storm would be reported through the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Lee Vincent, Pike County OEM coordinator for the county, gave two ways residents could report damage.

"If you have any damage from this ice storm, please report them to me so I can add you to the list. You can report through the Pike County AR Sheriff's app, under the OEM/911 section, or email all information (name, contact info, type of structure, residential/commercial, whether or not the structure is insured and pictures if possible) to pikeoem.911@gmail.com. It's important we document all damage."

Vincent said that he hoped to get enough damage assessments together to qualify for federal aid, but it would simply depend on the threshold number that has not yet been set.

"I've been logging damage for the past three days," Vincent said on Tuesday, in an effort to get the complete dollar number to be submitted for consideration.

He said that he had reports of damage to chicken houses, out-buildings, barns, all three marinas in the county and the roof at Diamond City Trailer in Delight.

Vincent said that there was only one electrical outage event he was aware of -- a minor loss in Murfreesboro affecting around 70 people that spanned a total of two to four hours of outage time.

"The infrastructure largely held up, thankfully," Vincent stated.

On roadways, major accidents have been few in the county according to Vincent, mostly just "cars sliding off the roadway into a ditch." He said there was a single incident involving a large truck on Highway 26 that featured injuries.

He also warns motorists to be mindful for patches of black ice in the roadways that will move around as daytime melting occurs before refreezing at night.

"Prayers to the other counties that were hit harder than us," Vincent said. "All in all, we came out on top of this one compared to what it could have been."

Swaha Lodge and Marina near Murfreesboro reported major damage at their facility on Lake Greeson via facebook.

"We have major damage and collapse on several docks at Swaha. We are still out assessing damages ... do not attempt to come to the marina to check on your boat at this time as it is all too dangerous and power is still on the many docks. This is by far the worst we have ever witnessed in the 58 years here

as a family," the Fant Family posted on social media Sunday. "We would like to stop long enough thank everyone for their love and support shown during our devastation from the winter weather at Swaha Lodge N Marina. So many have reached out to lend a hand, equipment and machinery and we appreciate you all so very much. However, at this time we can only wait and take one step forward as things progress. Thank you to all the boat owners who have been so kind and understanding all while having to wait patiently to know the true devastation of so much damage or potential loss. We are so sorry but we hope you continue to understand so much that is out of our control. Our neighboring marinas on most every surrounding lake is suffering the same type of devastation so not only pray for us, but I beg you to pray for those as well. A special thanks to county officials, Judge Eddie Howard and Sheriff Travis Hill, for putting boots on the ground with us to help assess for our forthcoming. That did not go unnoticed."

They added a warning as of Tuesday that the marina was still dangerous and off limits.

"Keep in mind the roads to the marina and docks are off limits to the public! Do not attempt to go to the marina or any of the docks. We know curiosity is getting high, but this is for the safety of not only you and i, but our structures as well. We are still not in the clear of it and the slightest movement or weight anywhere could be detrimental."

## Quorum Court told of new training program for road department employees

MURFREESBORO -- Former Pike County road department employee Jack Herring told the Pike County Quorum Court about the newly established University of Arkansas-Cossatot program he is heading up to improve county roads.

Herring is working with local road employees to better grade roads in a program he distinctly feels is "worth the time."

In on-on-one sessions with employees he is teaching how to better pull ditches, crowing the road and cleaning out the culverts.

He said the skills were even more important in this era of lesser budgets for road crews and doing it right the first time was incumbent.

"Ultimately this will save time and manpower, and that's why I am trying to help," Herring said during his presentation. "The goal is to get gravel on the road -- and out of the ditch -- and make it stay there."

While the program is not free, Pike County Judge Eddie Howard agreed that the program was worth the expense. He said the hands-on and classroom experience would provide better experience to the road crew and will save time and effort down the road.

Leotis Snowden, also a longtime Pike County road crew employee and now Quorum Court member, stated that training someone to specific things would be difficult in his opinion, as what works on one road may not be the best approach on another.

He added that road crew employees needed to be better cross-trained to be able to handle multiple tasks and not just a specific one.

Herring agreed to a point, but again noted the restrictive nature of the budget and manpower versus a generation ago when the road crews were staffed with more people.

In the end they both agreed that "the job never ends and there is always more to do."

"All of the students learned something new," he said of the first rounds of training. "Some learn quicker than others, and some will never get it," he said, noting that there was an almost artful component to the work.

Herring said it was all about service for him to the area, despite being retired.

"Three generations of my family before me fought in a war to defend Pike County, and this is my way of giving back and

making things a little better."

The Quorum Court also passed an ordinance officially establishing flex credits for employees that are not on the county's health insurance rolls.

The measure is a way of compensating county employees who were not part of the "raise" given to most county employees by picking up increases in the health insurance.

To receive the benefits -- up to \$400 a month -- the employee must be enrolled in another major medical health plan and is only eligible for the credit as long as the remain an employee of the county.

The benefit will be broken up over the course of the payroll periods and the benefit does not extend to quorum court members.



Submitted photo/MES

**BETA CONVENTION ...** Last week, Murfreesboro Elementary School Elementary and Junior BETA (grades 5-6) attended and competed in their first State BETA Convention in Hot Springs. Students participated in numerous events. The students had a chance to socialize and make new friends with other BETA members from across the state and to develop more ideas for future BETA endeavors. They also took time to explore Hot Springs and have a little fun as well.

## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

### THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

As a faithful Christian, it is my duty and responsibility to live the best life that I can possibly live. We should give our very best each day to the Lord and accept the challenge given to us by the apostle Paul. He tells us in Romans 12:1-2: 1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



We are encouraged and implored by Paul to be transformed from the world and live in such a way that we become holy and acceptable to our God. Scripture tells us how to accomplish this.

Look into Scripture to learn how to become a living sacrifice and give our reasonable

service to God:  
BECOME FULLY SPIRITUAL  
Galatians 6:1; Matthew 7:3-5

USE THE WORD  
Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15  
CHECK YOURSELF  
2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Corinthians 9:27

SPREAD THE WORD  
Matthew 28:19-20

Please look to these passages this week to strengthen us in our service and may we take the challenge to give God our very best of everything we have!

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**The Shunammite's Son**

HAVING FAINTED FROM BEING OUT IN THE HOT SUN WITHOUT A HEAD COVERING, THE SHUNAMMITE'S YOUNG SON IS CARRIED HOME BY A WORRIED FATHER, NOW...

...AS THEY NEAR THE HOUSE, A SERVANT HURRIES ON AHEAD...

YOUR SON HAS FALLEN ILL!

...THE FATHER GIVES THE LAP INTO HIS MOTHER'S CARE...

AND THERE, ON HIS MOTHER'S LAP, HE DIES...

HEARTBROKEN, THE WOMAN NOW PLACES HIM ON THE BED OF ELISHA IN THE ROOM THAT WAS BUILT FOR THE PROPHET.

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\* -- Theme Related Clue

**ACROSS**

1. Biology lab supply
5. Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
8. \*Certain Courtney
12. Tear violently
13. Color of a bruise
14. Al Roker's show
15. Pupil control
16. Any minute, to Shakespeare
17. Sheep-like
18. \*H. P. of science fiction fame
20. Hibernation stations
21. Boat station
22. Tennis shot
23. Packed in container
26. User-friendly interface, acr.
30. Genetic info carrier, acr.
31. \*Love unquestioningly
34. Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
35. Not a minor
37. Poem addressed to certain subject
38. Hundred, in Italian
39. Nothing
40. Relating to clone
42. Division, abbr.
43. Sloughed off skin
45. Fluffy dessert
47. All good things come to this?
48. Between Octs and Novs
50. \_\_\_ Verde National Park
52. \*B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
56. Singing femme fatale
57. Deed hearing
58. Reverberated sound
59. Blue-Green scum, pl.
60. Misery cause
61. Actress Perlman
62. Scheme
63. Right coast time
64. Made by tailor

**DOWN**

1. Seed cover
2. Biking helmet manufacturer
3. Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
4. #64 Across, redone
5. Like 1969 landing
6. Laugh with contempt
7. Fender-bender damage
8. \*a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
9. Norse deity
10. "Off The Wall" shoe
11. Needle hole
13. Macy's Thanksgiving offering
14. Commotions
19. Silica variety
22. NaOH
23. Solder together
24. Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative \_\_\_
25. Pleasant Island
26. Small songbird
27. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
28. Bigfoot's cousins
29. \*Hand cover, with love
32. \*Lemming relative, or anagram of love
33. Tokyo, formerly
36. \*Couch for two
38. Lumps in liquid
40. Knave
41. Unit of electric current flow
44. Absurd
46. Theater guides
48. Nutritious beans
49. Black tie one
50. Grain grinder
51. "Cogito, \_\_\_ sum"
52. Stud site
53. Occasional heart condition
54. Prepare to swallow
55. Riddle without solution
56. Tree juice

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**Food Bank announces new date**

*Mobile Pantry in Murfreesboro rescheduled*

TEXARKANA -- After winter weather forced Harvest Regional Food Bank to cancel its Pike County Mobile Distribution scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28th, the program has announced the new date.

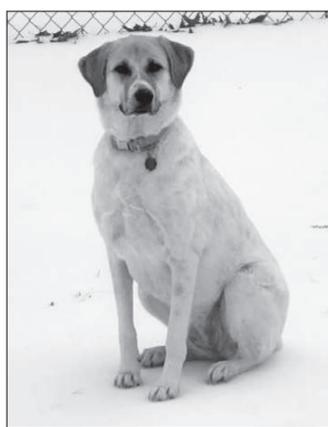
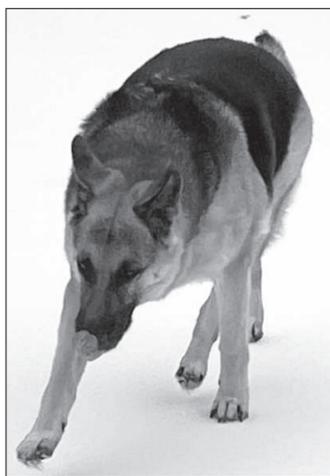
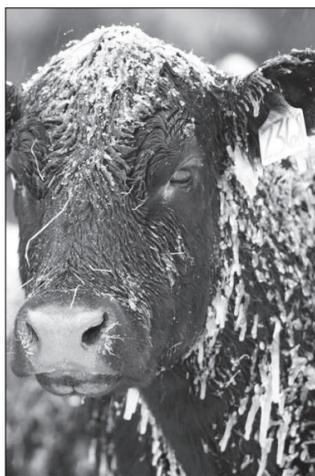
Harvest Regional Food Bank will reschedule the mobile pantry in Murfreesboro for Wednesday, Feb. 4.

The mobile distribution of shelf-stable food boxes, as well as fresh produce, to address the hunger relief needs of Pike County will be held at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E. Main St., Murfreesboro.

Distributions will be drive-through. Recipients are limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

To volunteer, contact Harvest Reg. Food Bank at (870) 774-1398.

"Hunger doesn't have a zip code — it affects families throughout northeast Texas and southwest Arkansas, including Pike County," said Camille Wrinkle, CEO of Harvest Regional Food Bank. "These multi-site distributions allow us to reach more families where they are and provide immediate relief during a critical time."



Submitted photos  
**PETS AND SNOW ...**  
Local residents shared photos of their animals in the winter wonderland following last weekend's winter storm.



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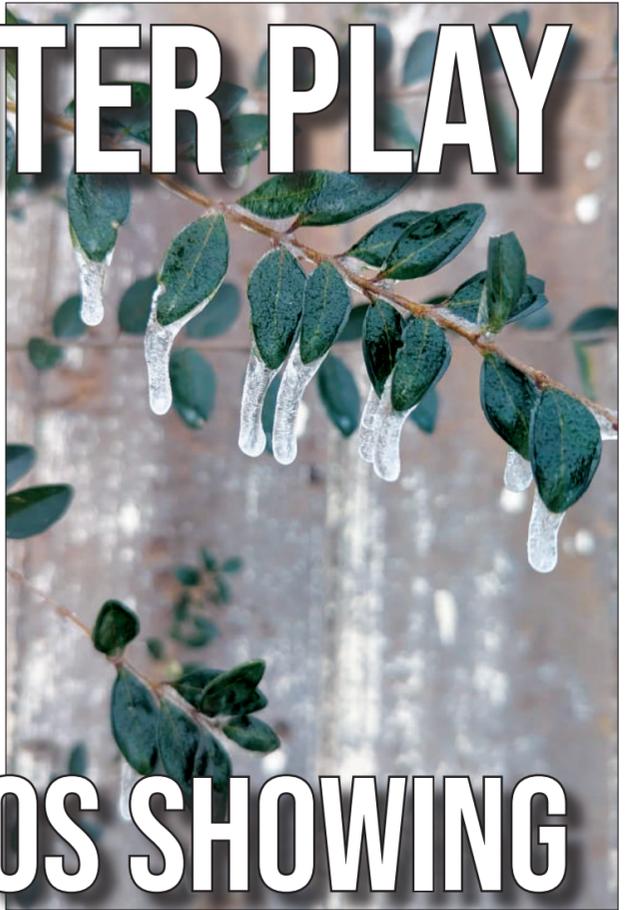
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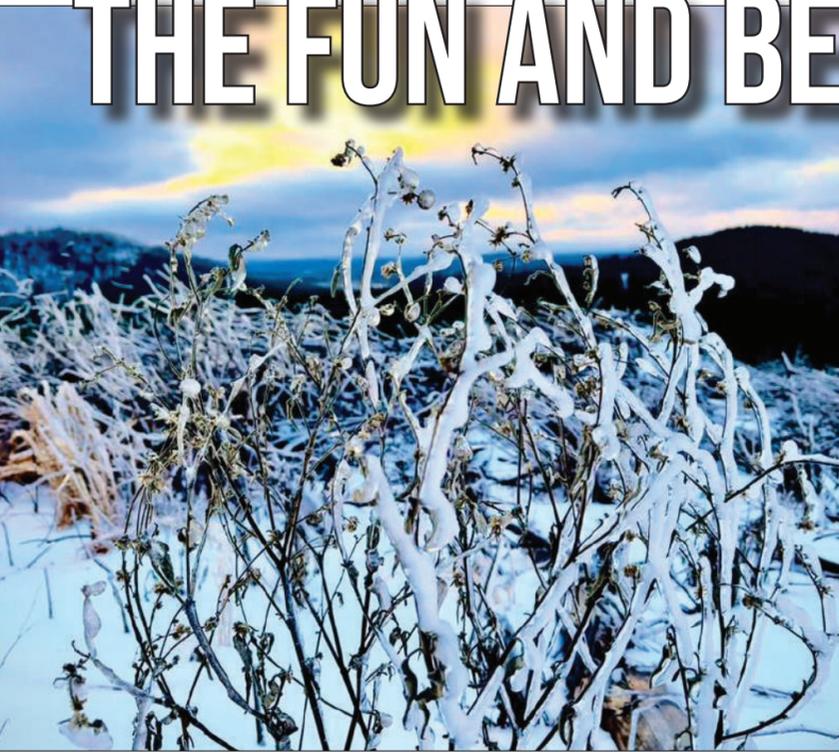
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**DeVile Estate Auction**  
**\*\*Online Only Auction at toddmorrisauktion.com\*\***  
**Bidding Ends: Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.**  
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 The DeVille's lived in the area for over 20 years, after the passing of Greg DeVille, Mrs. DeVille is relocating to Texas.  
**In-Person Preview Dates: Saturday, Jan. 31 - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Feb. 8 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

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**TAXIDERMY:** Deer Mounts & Euro Mounts, Black Bear Cub Mount, Duck Mounts, Pheasant Mount, Tom Turkey Full Mount

**GUNS, AMMO & FISHING:** #1) Ruger Super Black Hawk 44 Mag Revolver in Leather Holster, Hunting Knives, #2) Remington #30 Pump, #3) Stevens Single Shot Shotgun, #4) Baretta Nano Pistol 9 mm, #5) Hipoint #JCP40 S&W Pistol, #6) Ruger .30 car, New Model Black Hawk Revolver, #7) Smith & Wesson 44 mag, #8) Glock 1710 Australian 9x19 Pistol & Case - Extra Clips, #10) Ultra R92 22 Long Rifle - 9 Shot Revolver in Case, #11) Encore 209X50 Magnum w/Nikon Scope, #12) Remington 22g Barrel 3 in. shells, #13) Encore 25 Auto, (goes w/#11), #14) Fiocchi 9mm Long Shot, #15) Savage #340 30/30 Bolt Action w/Loop Hole, #16) K98 44 Cal Bolt Action - Standard Service Rifle - Army Type - 6847 Model German WW11 Rifle Kar98K, #17) SKS 7.62x39 w/2-5x18 Scope, #18) Remington #550-1 22 Automatic Long Rifle, #19) Savage 17 Mag Bolt Action w/Vortex - Synthetic Scope - 2-8 x 32 Scope, #20) Knight 50 Cal Black Powder Stainless Steel w/Scope w/Black Powder Supplies, #21) Mossberg 20g Pump, #22) Mossberg 20g Single Shot, #23) Knight MK 85 54 Cal Inline Muzzle Loader, #24) Russian 7.62, #25) Antonio Zoli 58 Cal Black Powder Muzzle Loader, #26) Winchester #12 12g Pump Shot Gun, #27) Winchester #12 12g Pump Shot Gun, Misc. Clips, Several boxes of Misc. Ammo, Gun Cleaning Kit, Tackle Boxes, Gun Safe, Guns, Gun Reloading - Lots of Misc., Fishing Poles - Nice Open Face Abu Garcia, Several Crawfish Pots, Game Decoys, Gas Cans, 30 HP Marinare Killer, Climbing Deer Stand, Tool Boxes, Duck Blind, Welding Helmets, Misc.

**FURNITURE:** Barrel Chairs - Hi-Fashion Home, Navy Velvet Couch, Gold Bunching Table - Pair, End Table Pair, Pair of Lamps, Smart TV, (2) Electric Recliners, Bird Feeder w/Camera, Air Purifier, (2) Side Chairs and Table, (2) Leather Side Chairs - \$500 pair, (4) Matching Bar Stools, Black Side Board, 6 Chairs & Table - \$600 Set, Flower Pots, Books, Navy Ottoman, (2) Patio Chairs & Table, Pit Boss KC Combo - Pellet Grill or Propane, Rockers, Gas Fire Pit, Wood Fire Pit, Fan, Plastic Chairs, Decor, Sleep Number Bed - Queen Size and King Size, King Size Headboard, Bench, (2) Night Stands, (2) Lamps, White Velvet Chair and Ottoman, TV, Full Size Bed and Bedding, TV, Rugs, (2) End Tables & White Matching Dresser, White Large Reading Chair & Ottoman, Round Ottoman, 4 Drawer Stand, Large Canisters, Heater, Garbage Disposal, Some Kitchen Items, Roaster, Christmas Lights, 9 Ft. Christmas Tree, Matching Dresser & Chest, Gas Log Insert, Refrigerator, Electric Push Mower, Several Yeti Ice Chests, Bird Feeder, Swing Bed, Razorback Bend Picnic Table, Corn Hole Boards, Razorback Bar & Stool Set, Pool Table, Turkey Blanket, Love Seat, End Table, Queen Size Bed Headboard, (2) Side Tables & Lamp, Storage Bench, Washer/Dryer, Ladder, (6) Plastic Tables w/Benches, Cast Iron Pots, Electric Cat Bed

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