

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
Issue 33 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

\$1.00  
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975  
◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆



## Potential school to hold meeting in Delight

DELIGHT -- Roots Academy will hold a parent meeting in Delight on Thursday, Feb. 19. The organization, that has started schools in Blevins and Glenwood, is seeking interest in a school in Delight for the 2026-2027 school year. The school would prospectively operate in the former Delight High School building. The meeting will focus on the steps for parents to enroll students starting at 6 p.m. in the Delight School Cafeteria. Parents are encouraged to be the prospective students with them. For more information, contact (870) 490-0592 or email rootsacademyhs@yahoo.com.

## Mobile health unit to make stop in M'boro

LITTLE ROCK -- The Baptist Health Mobile Unit will be in Murfreesboro on Tuesday, Feb. 26 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The vehicle will be parked at the Gypsy Underground Flea Market, located at 111 West 13th Street. Among the services offered will be free blood pressure checks, diabetic risk assessments, body mass index readings and health education. For more information about the mobile health unit and community outreach, please visit baptist-health.com.

## Fair announces dates for benefit bass tourney

PIKE COUNTY -- The 22nd annual Pike County Fair bass tournament has announced the details for the 2026 installment. Set for Saturday, April 11 at SWAHA Lodge on Lake Greason the tournament will begin at "safe light" and will continue until the weigh-in at 3 p.m. Registration for the tournament can be conducted at <https://forms.gle/tacREmt8eFbm-vJGn6>. The link can also be accessed via the Pike County Fair and Rodeo page on Facebook. Takeoff numbers will be based on paid registration order. Registrants must register by April 1 to receive a tournament hat, but registrations will still be taken up to the start of the tournament. A five bass limit will be held for the tournament, with a \$100 entry fee per boat. Guaranteed prize money has been set for places 1-5 (\$1,000 to \$100) and a prize will be handed out for the big bass (\$500) of the tournament. For questions regarding the tournament or a link to the registration page, please email [pike-countyfairandrodeo@gmail.com](mailto:pike-countyfairandrodeo@gmail.com).

## Girl scout cookies available starting Friday

LITTLE ROCK -- Girl Scout Cookies are here, and Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas girls are gearing up for in-person booth sales beginning Friday, February 20. With the much-anticipated cookie season back in full swing, cookie lovers can rejoice as they indulge in the classic cookie line-up. Cookie connoisseurs can expect to see the classic cookie lineup, including favorites like Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties and more. Joining the 2026 cookie team is the new Exploremores, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. Customers can get all these sweet treats by visiting a cookie booth or ordering from a local Girl Scout or troop. Visit [GirlScoutsDiamonds.org/FindCookies](https://GirlScoutsDiamonds.org/FindCookies) and enter your zip code in the Cookie Finder to find a cookie booth near you. Can't get out to a cookie booth? Order using a Girl Scout's or troop's online cookie store link for in-person delivery, or you can choose direct shipping to have cookies shipped directly to your home.

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!  
[mdiamond@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)  
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photos/CODSP

**A LIVE FIND ...** Jack Pearadin (left) and Michael Schumacher (right) discovered the 6.03 carat yellow American Dream Diamond recently at the Crater of Diamonds State Park while the pair was livestreaming a dig.

## Livestreamed search yields historic gem

BY WAYMON COX  
*Crater of Diamonds State Park*

MURFREESBORO, Ark. – Jack Pearadin, 35, of Nashville, Ark., and Michael Schumacher, 43, of Soldiers Grove, Wis., have visited Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park countless times over the years and have found many diamonds. However, a routine livestreamed gem search on Sunday, January 25 resulted in an historic find that shocked the two friends. The discovery occurred while Pearadin was streaming on TikTok Live, processing a bucket of gravel concentrated from dirt that he and Schumacher had dug on the south end of the park's search area in late December. "I was flipping gravel centers and showing people how we do it," he said. Sifting was particularly challenging that day, because a winter storm had dumped more than an inch of ice on the park and surrounding area just two days prior. Pearadin said, "Everything was frozen! I was trying to bring out stuff to wash when I could." After flipping four piles of gravel from his screen, Pearadin was walking away when a golden glint caught his eye. "I was about eight

feet away, and for some reason I turned back and saw it glowing from the center of the pile," Pearadin said. Pearadin immediately recognized the familiar luster of a diamond but initially underestimated its size. "I went to get it out with my spoon, and the spoon wouldn't go underneath it," he explained. "I had to go almost to the bottom of the pile to pull it out, it was so big." Schumacher, who had left for Wisconsin before the storm, witnessed the discovery on livestream and recalled an earlier comment that now seemed prophetic. "Jack was like, 'Sorry, Mike, I haven't gone through our concentrate yet,' and I told him, 'Don't worry about it, dude. That big, flawless canary that's in there is just growing!' I literally said that to him, and it was in there!" Schumacher returned to Arkansas as soon as he could, and the friends brought the gem back to the park on Friday, February 6, where staff confirmed it as a 6.03-carat yellow diamond. According to Assistant Superintendent Waymon Cox, "This diamond is absolutely stunning to see! It has a very symmetrical, rounded surface and appears to be a hexoctahedron, a 48-sided crystal. The shape is fairly rare, as

most Crater diamonds tend to have 12 or 24 faces." The diamond is about the size of a gumdrop and has a glowing canary yellow hue. It ranks as the fourth-largest yellow diamond and 22nd-largest diamond of any color registered since the Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas State Park in 1972. It is the 27th diamond registered in 2026. Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. Pearadin and Schumacher chose to name their gem the Pearadin Schumacher American Dream Diamond, inspired by the song "Sh-Boom (Life Could Be a Dream)" and the fact that they found it during America's 250th anniversary year. For Pearadin, the discovery is about the journey rather than the profit. "I personally was never looking for this -- I just enjoy the experience," he said. "I was never expecting this diamond; it's amazing to find it!" Schumacher echoed the sentiment, noting the allure of the search. "The thought of being able to find something special like this is always a great dream to chase. It's something I'll do until I absolutely can't do it anymore."

## Senior Center holds appreciation night, thanks community

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Center held an appreciation night for those that have helped them make it through 2025. "This is to ask the people that have worked with us over the years helping us. We've had a rough round and one of the first people I'm going to thank is the Area Agency on Aging. They stepped in and got us in line -- and because of them, and all the help I get from this wonderful town -- we are blessed to say that we are better," said senior center Director Vickie Hutson. Hutson also directed thanks to Pike County Judge Eddie Howard and the Pike County Quorum Court. "I can tell you in the last year I spent a lot of time with these guys ... and you talk about accommodating, well they were. They care about our community and they care about our town."

She also thanked the local church volunteers, as well as Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal and the Murfreesboro City Council. "The City of Murfreesboro has always been with us, like the Quorum Court." Hutson also acknowledged Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill, his staff and trustees that help keep the lawn mowed at the center. "They also come in and help us repair things in the building. If I have an issue, I can call Eddie [Howard] and Travis [Hill] or anyone willing to help us and we don't have to worry about a whole lot because we all work together as a team." She said the local elderly community also helps itself. "I want you to see that our elderly community takes care of each other."

Hutson said she was proud of what the local senior center has accomplished. "Last year was a nightmare -- CADC leaving was devastating. I tried to make so hard to make sure everybody knew that we needed our billing increased and a raise in how much we could charge for our units, and while that hasn't quite happened yet, we've had a lot of help in other places." Hutson added that the Murfreesboro and Glenwood Senior Centers have been working in the past few months to ensure financial solvency.

SENIOR CENTER  
Continued on Page 2



Submitted photo

**SENIOR CENTER APPRECIATION ...** At a reception last week at the Murfreesboro Senior Center where local elected officials and volunteers were publicly acknowledged for their efforts in helping keep the center afloat in its tumultuous 2025.



## Chamber elects new officers after president resigns post

MURFREESBORO – At the recent Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce meeting on Feb. 10, the group conducted officer elections following Lisa Harvill’s desire to relinquish the role of president, citing personal reasons.

Harvill said she would still be willing to help, but needed to stake a step back from being the face of the organization. “I just don’t have the time,” she admitted to the group.

She said she would still be willing to work with the Haunted House effort at the former Pike County Hospital building after the group asked her to remain in that role.

The October based fundraiser has easily become the biggest revenue generator for the Chamber.

Harvill agreed she would, citing the number of volunteers involved, noting that it would not be prohibitive to her schedule.

“We have to keep doing [the haunted house] – that’s our mon-eymaker and ultimately where most of our funds come from,” Harvill said, noting the desire to continue generating funds to purchase Christmas décor for the town.

Murfreesboro Jim O’Neal also cited his desire to keep Harvill on board, stating that he felt the current composition of the board was “run as a good team.”

Ricky Branch will again reprise his role as president of the organization, while Jimi Scarlett will hold the role of vice president. Jane Fugitt will remain in her role as secretary/treasurer for the group.

The group then discussed the issue of storing the Christmas décor, especially in light of the fact that their previous location at Branch Oil was going away once owner Travis Branch sold the facility.

It was said the new ownership wanted to expand into the

## CHAMBER Continued on Page 5

### BID NOTICE

#### TOWN OF DELIGHT

REQUEST FOR BIDS –  
MOWING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (2026 SEASON)

The Town of Delight is accepting bids for the upkeep and maintenance of the following properties for the 2026 mowing season:

City Park (including ball fields)  
Delight School Campus • Campus Ball Fields

Bids must include pricing for all maintenance services, including mowing, weed eating, and spraying of all the aforementioned properties.

All bids must be mailed to:  
Delight City Council, P.O. Box 29, Delight, AR 71940

Bids must be postmarked no later than March 2, 2026, in order to be considered.

The Town of Delight reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive any formalities in the bidding process.

(c.o.d. 116w., 33, 34)

*This publication was paid for by the City of Delight, the amount for this publication is \$52.20.*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas • Probate Division

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: Jacqueline Dawn Norton, DECEASED

CASE NO. 55PR-26-10

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT CLAIMS AGAINST A SMALL ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that Jacqueline Dawn Norton, aged sixty two (62) years, who resided at 89 Bardwell Rd. Glenwood, AR 71943, died on February 15, 2025. On February 13, 2026, Joseph Tyler Norton, a surviving heir of the decedent, filed an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee in this Court. The affidavit lists as an asset of the decedent, real property located in Glenwood, Pike County, Arkansas, and described as follows:

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION PARCEL 1:**  
PT S1/2 NW SE, PT SW SE

A part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S1/2, NW1/4 SE1/4) and a Part of SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section Eight (8), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-Three (23) West more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the SE Corner of the SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section Eight (8), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-Three (23) West, said corner being marked by a 3/8” rebar, thence North along the centerline of Bardwell Road to a point in the Centerline of Weyerhaeuser Road #33640 (also known as Norton Road); thence West along the centerline of said road 350 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence North 190 feet; thence West 450 feet; thence South 100 feet; thence East 450 feet to the point of beginning. Per D247/156

**AND ALSO**  
Township 5 South, Range 23 West, Section 8: A tract of land in the SW1/4 SE1/4 more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said SW1/4 SE1/4, said corner being marked by a pine knot, run South 00°32’31” East along the West line of said SW1/4 SE1/4 101.85 feet to a 1” rebar set in the centerline of Grantor’s Road No. 33640; Thence along the centerline of Grantor’s said road the following courses and distances: (1) South 89°04’00” East 94.86 feet; (2) North 84°59’54” East 50.61 feet; (3) North 82°25’25” East 270.92 feet; (4) North 89°42’00” East 151.23 feet; (5) South 87°02’39” East 112.70 feet; (6) South 76°44’48” East 83.32 feet; (7) South 65°44’42” East 154.35 feet; (8) South 76°38’32” East 102.97 feet; (9) South 87°57’54” East 85.50 feet; and (10) North 86°52’20” East 155.40 feet to the East line of said SW1/4 SE1/4; Thence North 00°07’25” East along the East line of said SW1/4 SE1/4 147.61 feet to the Northeast corner of said SW1/4 SE1/4; Thence North 89°27’11” West along the North line of said SW1/4 SE1/4 1341.19 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.90 acres more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT: THAT PORTION PREVIOUSLY DEED TO DOUGLAS NORTON and wife, JACQUELINE BARDWELL NORTON, In Deed Book D247 Page 156 in the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas per D262/739

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION PARCEL 2:**  
PT S1/2 NW SE & PT SW SE

The South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4) of Section Eight (8), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West, Less and Except 2 acres previously deeded to William L. Bardwell and wife Frances Bardwell, to hold as tenants by entirety, and recorded in Book 89 at Page 370. AND ALSO: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said 40 acre tract, thence run North 350 feet along the right of way of the Bethel Road; thence run West 250 feet; thence South 350 feet; thence East 250 feet to point of beginning, all being a part of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Eight (8) Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West, Containing Two (2) acres more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A part of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4) and a Part of the SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section Eight (8), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the SE Corner of the SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section Eight (8), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-three (23) West, said corner being marked by a 3/8” rebar, thence North along the centerline of Bardwell Road to a point in the Centerline of Weyerhaeuser Road #33640 (also known as Norton Road); thence West along the centerline of said road 350 feet for the Point of Beginning; thence North 190 feet; thence West 450 feet; thence South 100 feet; thence East 450 feet to the point of beginning, per D259/100

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: Beginning at the Northeast Corner of the said South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4); thence South 300 feet along Bardwell Road; Thence West 300 feet; thence North 300 feet; thence East 300 feet to the Point of Beginning, per D265/711

Subject to easements, restrictions and reservations of record.

Legal description provided by Grantors.

All persons having claims against the estate must present them, duly verified, to the undersigned within three (3) months from the first publication of this notice. A failure to do so will forever bar and preclude the claim from receiving any benefit from the estate.

This notice first published the 18 day of February, 2026.

DUSTIN BISSELL  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
306 E BROADWAY  
GLENWOOD, AR 71943  
(870)-356-2589  
(d.b., 963w., 33,34)

# NOTICE OF ELECTION

This notice is prepared by the County Election Commission to inform the public that the **2026 PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY** will be held on **MARCH 3, 2026**. The notice also provides the public information regarding this election as required by law:

**EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES:**

- M-F, Feb. 17–Feb. 20, 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Sat., Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- M-F, Feb. 23–Feb. 27, 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Sat., Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Mon., March 2, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

*Location of Poll, Address, Ballots Assigned to Poll:*

- Pike County Clerk’s Office, 112 N Washington, Suite A Murfreesboro, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots
- Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots

**ELECTION DAY VOTING:**  
**ELECTION DATE:** March 3, 2026  
**HOURS:** 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

*Location of Poll, Address, Ballots Assigned to Poll:*

- Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots
- Bethlehem Baptist Center, 2589 Hwy 27 N, Kirby, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots
- Delight Cafeteria, 623 Webb St, Delight, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots
- Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E Main, Murfreesboro, AR, Vote Center / All Ballots

**IN THE EVENT OF A RUNOFF THEN RUNOFF**  
**EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES:**

- T-F, March 24–March 27, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Mon, March 30, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**RUNOFF ELECTION DATE:** Tuesday, March 31, Hours: 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.  
*(Runoff early voting and election day are the same locations as the primary election)*

**ABSENTEE VOTING:**  
To request an absentee ballot, or to see if you are qualified to vote absentee, contact the County Clerk’s office using the information below:  
**112 N WASHINGTON, SUITE A, MURFREESBORO, AR (870) 285-2743**  
**OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**

**BALLOT CANVASSING AND COUNTING:**  
All processes listed below will be conducted at the **PIKE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE** located at **112 N WASHINGTON, SUITE A, MURFREESBORO, AR**. The dates and times are provided below:  
*Activity, Date, Time:*

- Canvassing and Counting of Absentee Ballots, March 3, 1:00 p.m. to Completion
- Compiling & Publishing Unofficial Election Results, March 3, 7:30 p.m. to Completion
- Counting of Election Day Ballots, March 3, 8:00 p.m. to Completion
- Initial Duplication of Ballots, March 4, 9:00 a.m. to Completion
- Initial Review of Provisional Ballots, March 4, 11 a.m. to Completion
- Provisional Ballot Hearings, March 9, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Final Review and Counting of Provisional Ballots, March 9, 1:00 p.m. to Completion

- Recount (IF NEEDED), March 11, 10:00 a.m. to Completion
- Post Election Audit, March 12, 9:00 a.m. to Completion
- Canvassing and Counting of UOCAVA Absentee Ballots (IF NEEDED), March 13, 1:00 p.m. to Completion
- Certification of the Election, March 13, 1:00 p.m. to Completion

**ELECTION OFFICIALS:**  
Election Officials appointed to conduct early voting, election day voting, and all other required duties will be posted for public viewing in the Pike County Clerk’s Office, on February 9, 2026 and remain posted for not less than 10 days. An objection must be filed with the County Clerk in writing prior to the following deadlines. An objection that an official is a spouse of a county election commissioner, a county party chair, or a spouse of a county party chair must be filed within 7 days of February 9. An objection that an official is married to a candidate or related to a candidate within two degrees of blood relations must be filed within 10 days of February 9.

**PRIMARY BALLOT CHOICES:**

- Registered Republican voter: will have the option of choosing a Republican ballot, a Democratic ballot, or a Non-Partisan ballot
- Registered Democratic Voter: will have the option of choosing either a Democratic ballot, or a Non-Partisan ballot.
- Registered Optional Voter: will have the option of choosing a Republican ballot, a Democratic ballot, or a Non-Partisan ballot.

**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CANDIDATES:**

**U.S. Senate**  
Micah Ashby  
Senator Tom Cotton  
Jeb Little

**U.S. Congress District 04**  
Congressman Bruce Westerman

**Governor**  
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

**Lieutenant Governor**  
Lieutenant Governor Leslie Rutledge

**Attorney General**  
Attorney General Tim Griffin

**Secretary of State**  
Judge Cathy Hardin Harrison  
Bryan Norris  
Senator Kim Hammar

**State Treasurer**  
State Treasurer John Thurston

**Auditor of State**  
Auditor of State Dennis Milligan

**Commissioner of State Lands**  
Secretary of State Cole Jester  
Christian Olson

**State Representative District 89**  
State Representative Justin Gonzales

**Pike County Judge**  
Eddie Howard-Pike County Judge

Wade Stewart  
Keith Couch  
Robert Shelby

**Pike County Sheriff & Collector**  
Sheriff Travis Hill  
Randy H. Lamb

**Pike County Clerk**  
Randee Edwards

**Pike County Circuit Clerk**  
Sabrina Williams

**Pike County Treasurer**  
Loletia Rather

**Pike County Assessor**  
Staci Stewart

**Mountain Township Constable**  
Chance Reid

**Justice of the Peace District 1**  
Roger D. Floyd  
Payton Eckert

**Justice of the Peace District 2**  
Robbie Crocker

**Justice of the Peace District 3**  
Seth Henry Kirkham

**Justice of the Peace District 4**  
Billy Hill

**Justice of the Peace District 6**  
Ron Parker  
Kip Holbrook

**Justice of the Peace District 7**  
Robert Mac Irvin  
Richard Mohlenhoff

**Justice of the Peace District 8**  
John J. Plyler Jr.

*\*\*Unopposed Republican Candidates will not be listed separately on the ballot\*\**

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES:**

**U.S. Senate**  
Mayor Ethan N. Dunbar  
Hallie Shoffner

**U.S. Congress District 04**  
James “Rus” Russell, III  
Steven Layne O’Donnell

**Governor**  
State Senator Fred Love  
Supha Xayprasith-Mays

**Secretary of State**  
Kelly Grappe

**Missouri Township Constable**  
Ricky Branch

**Justice of the Peace District 4**  
Leotis Snowden

**Justice of the Peace District 5**  
Jerry Fendley

**Justice of the Peace District 9**  
Paul S. Baker

*\*\*Unopposed Democratic Candidates will not be listed separately on the ballot\*\**

**NONPARTISAN / JUDICIAL CANDIDATES:**  
These races will appear on the Republican primary ballots, the Democrat primary ballots, and a separate nonpartisan general election ballot.

**State Supreme Court Associate Justice Position 3**  
John Adams  
Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Nick Bronni

**State Supreme Court Associate Justice Position 6**  
Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Cody Hiland

**Circuit Judge District 09-West Division 01**  
Circuit Judge Tom Cooper

**Circuit Judge District 09-West Division 02**  
Circuit Judge Bryan L. Chesshir

**Prosecuting Attorney, District 09-West**  
Clayton Tinkes  
Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford  
City Attorney Erin Hunter

*\*\*Unopposed Judicial Candidates will not be listed separately on the ballot\*\**

**ISSUES ON ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION BALLOT:**  
(These issues will appear on all 3 ballots when applicable.) Unopposed School Board Candidates will not appear on a ballot per A.C.A. §7-7-304

**Centerpoint School Board of Directors Zone 3**  
LeeAllen Sutton

**Centerpoint School Board of Directors At Large Position**  
Kerry Horn

**Centerpoint School Board of Directors Zone 4**  
Pake Sutton  
Larry A. Harvey

**South Pike County School Board of Directors Zone 5**  
Robert Silva

**South Pike County School Board of Directors Zone 7**  
Alyssa Duggan  
Carrie Tidwell

**Kirby School Board of Directors Zone 1**  
Blake Harmon

**Kirby School Board of Directors At Large Position**  
Trent Ott

**Dierks School District:** 43.0 Mills School Tax  
**Nashville School District:** 31.70 Mills School Tax  
**Centerpoint School District:** 40.9 Mills School Tax  
**South Pike County School District:** 41.0 Mills School Tax  
**Kirby School District:** 41.0 Mills School Tax

**VIEWING YOUR BALLOT PRIOR TO VOTING:**  
Any voter may look up his or her sample ballot on the Secretary of State’s website at: <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview>. Ballots will be available no later than 20 days prior to the election. Sample ballots will also be available at the polling site.

*This publication was paid for by the Pike County Clerk’s Office, the amount for this publication is \$550.80.*

(PCC: 31 & 33, 1224w)



# Tourism Commission to again seek trails grant

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission held their February meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at Murfreesboro City Hall.

The board passed the January financials, with chairman Jamie Terrell noting that it was “not bad for January.”

The group spent about \$3,000 more than it took in for the month, leaving \$74,122.60 in their account.

It was noted that the Governor’s Tourism Conference was to be held on Feb. 22-24 in Little Rock, but none of the members of the commission present indicated they would be able to attend.

The group’s ongoing issues with DNT Media from Benton continue, with a updated report of services still pending. No new video has been shot in Murfreesboro since fall.

Terrell was on the phone with the company after the meeting had concluded, so further updates will be given at next month’s meeting.

The commission has voted during the meeting to hold payment of \$4,775 for February until the situation was rectified and the “contract was being fulfilled” to their satisfaction.

“The website is going, it’s our advertising – if we aren’t going to film, which was the major part of the costs monthly, then we need to renegotiate or possibly find someone else,” said Terrell.

He also indicated that at this point the filming of content for the website was secondary to the direct advertising of likely visitors via commercials on streaming channels.

The group then discussed the Arkansas Department of Transportation’s recreational trails grant, which have a deadline of April 30.

Commission secretary / treasurer Jane Fugitt said that she has been in touch with Becky Flynn, the Deputy Director for the state Office of Outdoor Recreation.

After the group failed to garner any traction with a different grant last year for the ATV /bike trail program utilizing county roads, Fugitt called and was put in contact with Flynn, who she said was excited about helping Murfreesboro with this proposal.

“This is the grant for rural trails – whereas the one last year was more designed for city property – for both motorized and non-motorized vehicles. We will get the help we need this time to make our case for the grant,” Fugitt said to the commission.

She said Katherine Andrews, Director of Trails for the state outdoor program, would also help be part of the committee to help the commission.

“As we build this and eventually network with the Mena trails system, this is one of the bigger grants available and it would be great for our area tourism wise,” Fugitt stated.

Down the road the commission will form a committee to work on the moving parts of the local trails initiative, which will involve coordinating with the City of Murfreesboro, Pike County, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and U.S. Corps of Engineers.

“There is lots of moving parts to this issue, requiring fine tuning before the grant proposal is submitted in April,” Fugitt said.

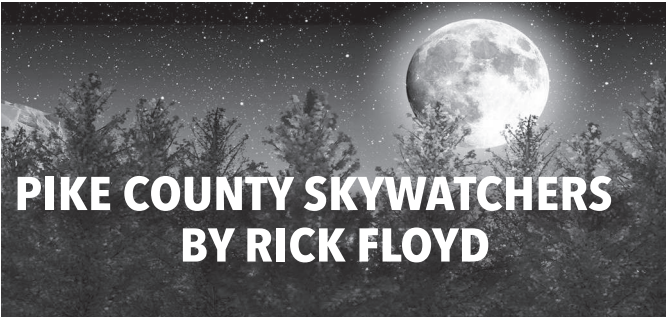
It was also noted there would be some expense to maintaining the trails around the lake once the tourists were off already maintained county roads. Additionally, the group also proposed the idea of trail maps being created and placed in local businesses and motels.

“We need all this on paper and organized before applying ... there will also be county-level grants we can apply for,” Fugitt stated.

“It has to be done right with safety in mind, and get them off the roads as quickly as possible,” Terrell noted.

The group said the notion of thousands of ATVs in Murfreesboro at one time was unrealistic, but more like 20-30 a week, along with a number of all-terrain bikers.

“There’s not going to be beer cans strown everywhere, and we need to change the mentality of people who are envisioning a crazy scenario – this is not going to be the Wolf Pen Gap trail system,” said Terrell.



## Moonbows and the accelerated passing of winter

Spring is in the air it seems, at least for a while. Those who are fired of winter will be happy to know that we passed the half-way mark of the season on February 3rd. The day marked the precise middle between winter solstice and spring equinox as calculated by astronomers. Their observations are of where the Earth is in relation to its orbit around the Sun. Meteorologists have a different system that puts the middle of winter around January 15-16.

Interestingly, Earth’s elliptical orbit brings it closest to the Sun during winter, but the fact that Earth is tilted away from the Sun at this time, means we do not get extra warming. Those who begrudgingly endure winter take heart, it is actually the shortest of the four seasons. Because the Earth is closest to the Sun it gets a boost in its orbital speed, and we zip through winter in a cosmic flash.

Nature can at times be a master illusionist. One of nature’s tricks is the rainbow which it likes to perform especially during spring and summer. Rainbows are not shining apparitions from pots of gold, nor are they portals to a magical place but simply a beautiful illusion.

A rainbow is a phenomenon that results from the interaction of sunlight and a lot of water droplets, plus the physics of optics. Luckily the human brain can perceive the separation of white light into colors of the spectrum, which is a very necessary ingredient to rainbow viewing. There are a few more necessary parts to the process as well. The Sun has to be low in the sky, no more than about 42 degrees above the horizon (morning or late day), and of course the clouds have to part so sunlight can shine through. The viewer always has to be facing in the opposite direction of the Sun.

The physics involved have to do with the sunlight penetrating individual raindrops and bouncing off their inside surfaces, refracting into colors downward to the eyes of the beholder.

There is another more rare rainbow event that those wanting a quest can seek out. This rainbow is one that appears under certain circumstances at night. It requires some of the same ingredients as the daytime rainbow, but instead of the Sun, the Moon is the provider of the light. That is why it is often called the moonbow. Because moonlight is fainter than sunlight, a dark area is best to be able to see it, and the Moon has to be full, either rising or setting at a low angle above the horizon, with parted clouds. Raindrops are of course required as well. Our eyes will not see bright colors (if any) because of the faintness of moonlight, so the moonbow will appear pale white.

Last note: the reason a rainbow is a bow is because the cone of light refracting from the droplets, instead of being a full circle to the viewer, has its lower section cut off by the horizon and our eyes see only the top section of the cone.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pike County U-A Extension Service will hold their final Pesticide Private Applicator Training (PAT) session of the year in Murfreesboro for local farmers that need to renew their license.

The session will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the Pike County Extension Service office in Murfreesboro.

Another session will be held on March 11 at 10 a.m. in the Bainum Library at Glenwood.

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

Choose a health plan that's good for you with a company you can trust.

individual • family • health • dental

**Lisa Chandler, agent**

**Lisa Chandler Insurance**

**Nashville**  
office: 870-845-5930  
cell: 870-845-7728  
Insurance # 1264226



Arkansas  
BlueCross BlueShield

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Soliciting agent only. Not authorized to issue policies. Available only to residents in Arkansas.



**LATIMER**  
FUNERAL HOME

**Helping Families Connect, Honor & Remember**

BURIAL INSURANCE • MONUMENTS • PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANS

**NASHVILLE**  
(870) 845-2233



**MURFREESBORO**  
(870) 285-2194

**P.O. Box 298 Nashville, Arkansas 71852**  
**1211 Anthony Ave., Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958**  
**www.latimerfuneralhome.com**

# Obituaries

## Stevie Lowery, 69, Murfreesboro



Stevie Lowery, age 69, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, in Little Rock, Arkansas, surrounded by his wife, his two sons and their wives, and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Charles Lowery & Norma Jean Miller Lowery, he was preceded in death by brother Jerry Lowery and sister Donna Reeves.

Left to cherish is memory are his wife, Susan Lowery; two sons, Jarrod Lowery and wife Jamie, Ben Lowery and wife April; grandchildren Cash, Cooper, Kenzy Lou, Macy Ann, Marly Sue, and Clyne Dash; two brothers Chuck Lowery and wife Debbie, Ricky Don Lowery and wife Paula; brothers in law Fred Steuart and wife Beth,

Terry Steuart and wife Carol; sister in law Kathy Turner and husband Mark; several nieces and nephews, and a host friends that loved him dearly.

Stevie was born on November 23, 1956 to Charles and Norma Jean. He was the middle child of five. He married Susan Steuart on June 1, 1979 at her parents’ home just south of Murfreesboro. He worked the Pipeline, and drove a truck for over 40 years, hauling logs and sheet rock, among other things. You could always find him down at The River with his two boys or spending time with his grandkids.

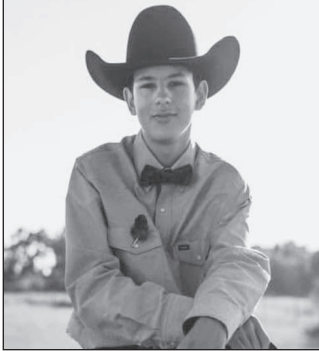
Stevie’s family received visitors on Thursday February 12, 2026, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

To celebrate his memory, Family and Friends gathered precisely at 2:14 PM Friday February 13, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, with Buddy Ray and Bob Hunter officiating.

Burial followed in the Hickory Grove Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send online sympathy messages at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

## Colton Teddy Bailey, 20, Prescott



Colton Teddy Bailey, age 20, of Prescott, Arkansas passed away on Wednesday February 11, 2026 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born February 25, 2005 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Colton was a 2023 graduate of Murfreesboro High School and a member of many Rattler athletic teams where he excelled in baseball. As a pitcher for the Rattlers, he struck out many opposing batters with his fabulous “side-arm” pitch. Several colleges pursued Colton with scholarship offers to play on their baseball team, but he chose to join the workforce instead.

Colton was employed as a welder at New Millennium Building Systems in Hope, Arkansas. Colton was an avid outdoorsman spending his free time riding four-wheelers, duck hunting, and never missed a good bonfire. Colton also spent many childhood moments riding horses and “slinging that rope” with his PawPaw J.R. and other family members.

On June 25, 2021, Colton was baptized along with his PawPaw J.R. in the Little Missouri River at the Bowen Access with Leon McKinnon officiating; a memory Colton always held dear. Friends

were always a top priority in Colton’s life including Landry Cathcart, his special friend. He was always ready to hang out or lend a helping hand to a friend in need. But, Colton’s favorite person in the world was his precious nephew and sidekick, Quigley. You can bet Colton would always have a story about Quigley to tell at any given time. Colton will be remembered for always lighting up a room when he walked in with his beautiful smile and outgoing personality. Though the light here has dimmed in all of our lives, Colten’s memory will always brighten our hearts.

The final act of kindness that Colton was able to provide was the gift of life through organ donation. What an honor he is leaving behind so that others may have more time with their loved ones.

Colton was preceded in death by his brother Kirkline Nolen, his dad Billy Bailey, grandfather Junior Nolen, Meme Virginia Bailey and step brother Curtis Boone.

Survivors include his mother LaDonna Boone and husband James; father Ruben Garza; his sister Ashline Harr; nephew Quigley Harr; step sister Haley Boone, and special friend Landry Cathcart.

Visitation was held on, February 17, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, at Delight Gymnasium, burial will follow in Bowen Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)



**Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond:**  
People’s Pharmacy • C-Stop • EZ Mart  
Tobacco & More • Gypsy Underground

6	5	2	7	8	4	1	9	3
9	7	4	2	1	3	6	5	8
3	8	1	6	9	5	2	4	7
4	9	7	8	5	1	3	2	6
5	1	6	3	7	2	4	8	9
8	2	3	9	4	6	5	7	1
2	4	9	1	3	7	8	6	5
7	3	5	4	6	8	9	1	2
1	6	8	5	2	9	7	3	4

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.**



# SENIOR CENTER

## Continued from Page 1

“We are one family and we raise money together -- we improve each other on a daily basis. I want everyone to know that if I’m doing a fundraiser here, they are raising money at their center too. That way whatever center is doing the fundraising, both centers are making money.

Barbara Flowers, the Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of West Cen-

tral Arkansas in Arkansas, started by admitting she had pestered Howard to the point “he doesn’t even like to see me coming anymore.”

“I have to say -- this center and the Glenwood Center are knocking it out of the park. These centers are awesome, and Vickie runs a tight ship. She’s been here a long time and knows what it takes. She has lots of support. Our church volunteers here -- thank you so much -- I wish we had that kind of participation in all of our [senior] centers. And we do have some, but not to the extent that you all help this center and you are very much appreciated.”

Flowers said all donators and volunteers

were “very important” and said the goal was for the center to be the “community hub.”

“We want to get everyone involved and I have to brag on Pike County because you are involved to the degree it makes a huge difference and is always appreciated.”

From July 2025 through January 2026, Flowers said that Murfreesboro served 3,599 congregate (in-person) meals and delivered 5,293 meals to homes. Glenwood served 3,543 congregate meals and delivered 2,301 meals to homes.

“This is not a huge county -- as you know -- but they served a combined 7,142 congregate meals and 7,594 meals delivered to the home-bound. They need a hand for doing all that.”

Flowers said the decision by the CADC to stop being the provider for the senior centers was “the surprise of our lives back in November of 2024 when we found out they would no longer operate the centers.”

She said the AAA then had to “get busy in a hurry,” noting that while the centers have al-

ways “fallen under the AAA’s umbrella” that there was a big difference between that and “actually operating the centers.”

“This was a new experience for us -- it took months of planning and we still learn something every day. But people like Vickie that has the knowledge have helped out tremendously with operations.”

The event featured a light meal, door prizes, a silent auction and a drawing for a trailer that was custom made for the event by Diamond City Trailers and owner Chris Gilmer.

Local businessman Jack Bonds won the trailer, but graciously gave it back to the center to raffle again at a future date.

“I was just trying to help the seniors, I wasn’t trying to win the trailer,” Bonds said with a laugh.

Other winners included:

- Door Prizes -- Sharon Rodgers, Linda Ballard and Forrest Adams
- Silent Auction -- Keith Couch, Mike Prince, Stacy Henderson and Eddie Howard



Staff photos

**SENIOR CENTER EVENT ...** At last week’s Murfreesboro Senior Center’s community appreciation event, Jack Bonds (above) is pictured with center Director Vickie Hutson. Bonds was the winner of a drawing for a trailer, which he generously donated back to the center to raffle off again. (Above right) Barbara Flowers of the Arkansas Agency on Aging is pictured during her talk on the activity of the center.

## County Judge holds town hall meeting

MURFREESBORO – Pike County Judge Ed-die Howard held a town hall meeting at the Pike County Courthouse last Thursday night to discuss the 2026 county budget.

In an interview with the paper held after the meeting, Howard said the road department was budgeted roughly 2.2 million dollars this year.

He said there were plans to do a minimum of two “chip and seal” road projects this year – a 1.25 mile stretch in Delight and 3.25 miles in Kirby on Palestine Road.

Howard said the projects would require chewing off the material to the base, resetting the base and then laying on the new material.

He said the county was also soon – this week -- taking bids for box culverts in three locations in the county as well as bids for window and plumbing work on the Pike County Court-house, which will be funded by the Historic Courthouse grant funded by the State of Ar-

kansas’ Natural and Cultural Resources Coun-cil using Real Estate Transfer Tax funds.

The ongoing FEMA disaster project from the April 5, 2025 flooding event was expected to gain \$483,000 in deposits in the next week to two, and will total \$1,172,571 after gaining the outstanding payments, which include the replacement of the Strawberry Road bridge in Delight.

In the ongoing FEMA project for last month’s ice event, Howard said he planned to also include [in addition to private property damage] numbers for county property damage, namely the Pike County Fairgrounds, which Howard felt would be repaired by the Pike County Fair later this fall.

“We are continuing to search and apply for applicable and beneficial grants – just as we always have,” Howard said, noting that Pike County has “good momentum going at this point and we hope to keep it continuing.”

## ‘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:

PHILIPPIANS 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*

## Elect Randy Lamb Pike County Sheriff & Collector

As a lifelong resident of Pike County, I am committed to making our county a better and safer place to live.

I am a 2003 graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy. I have 23 years of experience as a law enforcement officer with the past 15 years serving as the Chief of the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Within the past few years, the number of shootings in Pike County has increased along with other criminal activity. NOW is the time for a change in the Pike County Sheriff’s Office.

As Pike County Sheriff, I will work alongside my Deputies and bring leadership to a competent and professional department. I will work with both state and local agencies while also focusing patrol efforts to the towns and more rural areas of the county. I will maintain a proactive department in order to deter criminal activity.

As Sheriff, I will seek to save tax payers dollars by applying for State and Federal grants. I will operate with the set budget and work to cut unnecessary spending.

I will utilize the Pike County Jail (first and foremost) to house Pike County Prisoners, instead of releasing them back onto the streets, with prisoners from other counties being housed on a secondary basis.

I am not seeking the position of Pike County Sheriff just to sit around and reap the rewards, I will bring to the office a strong work ethic, experience, leadership, and create a department that Pike County citizens will be proud of.



**Thank  
You  
for  
Your  
Continued  
Support!**

**I respectfully  
ask for your  
vote in the  
Republican  
Primary  
March 3,  
2026**

*[Political Ad Paid  
for By Randy Lamb]*

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Breakfast: Cini mini, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Mesquite chicken drumstick, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, cornbread muffin, pears, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Dill chicken bites

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Breakfast: Maple butter snack waffles, cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Mini corndogs, fries, baked beans, applesauce, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Chicken nuggets, roll

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Breakfast: Honey bun w/ cheese stick, cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Sausage pizza, Romaine salad, seasoned carrots, pears, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Cheese french bread pizza or Big

Daddy pepperoni pizza

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Breakfast: French toast sticks, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken fajitas w/cheese, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, pineapple, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Chicken quesadilla

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Breakfast: Morning sausage roll, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheeseburger, potato smiles, lettuce tomato, 7-12 onion & pickle slices, mixed fruit, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Spicy chicken sandwich

*\*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, FEBRUARY 23

Chili, baked potato, salad, cornbread, peaches

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Sliced turkey, corn, mashed potatoes, roll, fruit cobbler

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Cheeseburger on bun, potato wedges, lettuce, tomato, onion, strawberries & banana

*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*

## 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



## 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)



- WORLD EXPLORERS**  
\* -- *Theme Related Clue*
- ACROSS**
- UPS competitor
  - "The One I Love" band
  - Prior to, pref.
  - Gin flavor
  - \_\_\_ wig or \_\_\_winkle
  - Command to Fido
  - \_\_\_ Grey of tea fame
  - Policemen's surprise
  - Brunch offering
  - \*Explorer Amerigo's last name
  - Rock opera version of "La Boheme"
  - Gossipmonger, in Yiddish
  - Ballet step
  - \*Henry the Navigator's title
  - Chicken pox pimples
  - Poetic "even"
  - Demosthenes or Cicero
  - "The \_\_\_ on the Floss"
  - Stories "from the Crypt"
  - Rank above maj.
  - Sore spot
  - "Happily \_\_\_ after"
  - Familiar routine
  - "Wow!"
  - Retina, pl.
  - \*Explorer Shackleton's first name
  - New on the block?
  - Barbara Eden's TV character
  - Rumple
  - \*First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
  - \*Lewis' or Clark's vessel
  - Fictional giant
  - Plaintiff
  - Shrovetide dish
  - Zig or zag
  - Dunking cookie
  - "\_\_\_ and the City"
  - "C' \_\_\_ la vie!"

- Backgammon predecessor
- DOWN**
- Take drugs
  - Bohemian, e.g.
  - Skin opening
  - Short for self-synchronous
  - Don't just stand there!
  - "Fear of Flying" author Jong
  - Skirt length
  - Part of a hammer
  - Wholly engrossed
  - Obtain, but just barely
  - Gardening tool
  - Junk yard stuff
  - \*"Dr. Livingstone, I \_\_\_?"
  - Fictional cowboy Bill
  - One better than bogey
  - J.M. Barrie's Pan
  - Plunder
  - \*Geographical feature named for Ponce de Leon
  - \*Inspiration for hide-and-seek game
  - City in Belgium
  - North Pole workers
  - Winter driving hazard
  - Homesteader's purchase, sing.
  - Likewise
  - \*Possibly America's first European Leif \_\_\_
  - Jeopardy
  - Horse poker
  - Tooth cover
  - One born to Japanese immigrants
  - Willie of country music fame
  - Dashboard windows
  - Type of heron
  - Gender checkbox
  - Windows alternative
  - Change address
  - Mystique
  - Not ever, poetically
  - TV network
  - "Maggie May" singer

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7				8	9	10
11					12						13	14		
15					16						17			
	18				19						20			
				21						22				
23	24	25					26					27	28	29
30				31		32	33				34			
35			36			37				38				
39					40					41			42	
43				44						45		46		
				47			48	49						
	50	51				52						53	54	
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

SWITCH & GET

\$25

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

# CHAMBER

Continued from Page 2

warehouse bay area on the location. The group mulled the decision to perhaps get rid of the ferris wheel and two helicopter decorations they own, noting they were by far the biggest pieces they owned and the most labor intensive getting ready for Christmas each year. It was noted they would like a location in which they can place a new storage building to store the current and future decorations, and asked Mayor O'Neal if a spot could be utilized at the city's property behind the former chicken plant and near the new high school ballfields. The Chamber owns a storage building near

the fire station, but it has surpassed the room available at the location. "We've gotten a great response from the Christmas décor around town, if we can sell some of it thus recouping funds – the pieces that need constant maintenance – and can then buy better maintenance-free decorations in the future, we will be better off for it," said Harvill. O'Neal conceded that the city could "look around and figure something out" for the Chamber. Ricky Branch noted he'd like something in the range of a 16'x30' or 16'x40' building. The group also discussed the annual chamber banquet, noting that it was now too late to do the event prior to the primary elections, thus losing the appeal for a large amount of candidates to attend the event. As such, they currently have a list of speakers

they would like to attend, and will seek their availability before setting a date and location in the near future. The group also noted the hopeful expansion of an ATV/bike trail system in the county, which would "be good for us and help provide more year-round tourism." It was also announced that the Diamond Lakes Tourism Association would be holding their next quarterly meeting at the Crater of Diamonds State Park on March 10. After the meeting, a group of invited stakeholders would be invited to attend lunch, which will be catered by the Feed Bin Café. Mayor O'Neal began the discussion for planning of the 2026 Juneteenth celebration in Murfreesboro. He said the idea was to hold the event on Saturday, June 13 ahead of the Friday, June 19 official holiday.

This year the event will be set up to be all-inclusive at the city park, kicking off with the parade to the park. Lunch, a domino tournament and a live DJ are proposed events, but will be further set in the coming months. The event will conclude with a sunrise service at the park on Sunday morning. It was said that the park was the perfect place to hold the entire event, without the need to close streets. It was also stated that bathroom facilities and a playground for children was also positives. It is probable that sponsorships on t-shirts will again be utilized to help derive funds for the event, but that the matter will be further discussed at the chamber's meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at City Hall at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

# Reduce your risk of falls and fractures by improving your balance

Good balance is something most people rarely think about—until it becomes a problem. Balance is a complex skill that depends on multiple body systems working together, and it can be affected by injury, illness, medications, neurological conditions, and the natural aging process. As individuals become less active, their balance often declines even further. When any part of the balance system is weakened, everyday tasks—such as walking, getting up from a chair, or stepping over a curb—can become difficult. Fortunately, experts emphasize that balance is highly trainable, and it's never too late to improve. Good posture is the foundation of strong balance. Standing or sitting upright, lifting the head, and avoiding a forward lean can make a noticeable difference. These habits can be practiced throughout the day—even during simple activities like brushing your teeth. Strong muscles, particularly in the hips, knees, and ankles, are also essential. Balance exercises support independence, reduce fall risk (especially for older adults), and enhance performance in daily activities and recreational hobbies like dancing or gardening. Experts recommend performing strength based balance exercises two or more days per week, with rest days in between, and stability focused balance activities daily when possible. Adults may also count balance practice toward the recommended 150 minutes of weekly physical activity when each session lasts at least 10 minutes. The following at home exercises require minimal equipment, with a sturdy chair or wall available for support if needed.

- BALANCE EXERCISES**
- Toe Stand**
- Stand with feet shoulderwidth apart behind a sturdy chair; hold on if needed.
  - Rise slowly onto tiptoes and hold for 1–5 seconds.
  - Lower heels to the floor.
  - Repeat 10 times.
  - Rest 30–60 seconds and complete 2–3 sets.
- Forward Leg Lift**
- Stand with feet shoulderwidth apart, toes forward, knees slightly bent.
  - Hold a wall or chair for balance if needed.
  - Lift one leg 6–8 inches off the floor; hold for 1–5 seconds.
  - Lower slowly and with control.
  - Do 10 repetitions, then switch legs.
  - Repeat 2–3 times per leg.
- Side Leg Lift**
- Stand with feet shoulderwidth apart, knees slightly bent; use a chair for support.
  - Lift one leg out to the side, keeping the back straight and toes pointed forward.
  - Hold 1–5 seconds.
  - Lower slowly.
  - Perform 10 repetitions on each leg, repeating 2–3 times.
- Forward Toe Touch / Arm Reach**
- Stand with feet shoulderwidth apart, hands raised to shoulder



- height, palms forward.
- Extend the right arm and touch the floor ahead with the left toes.
  - Return to the starting position.
  - Extend the left arm and reach forward with the right toes.
  - Return to starting position.
  - Complete 2–3 sets of 10 repetitions.

Improving balance doesn't require special equipment or a gym membership—just consistency and awareness. Practicing good posture, strengthening key muscles, and incorporating simple exercises into daily routines can help maintain mobility and prevent falls. With regular effort, the body's balance systems stay sharp, supporting safety, confidence, and independence. For more information on balance, contact your local Extension office and ask for the Fit in 10 Balance fact sheet. The Pike County Extension Office can be reached at (870) 285-2161.

This week's recipe is a perfect balance of sweet and sour and easy and delicious – Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

Ingredients

- 1 can (8 oz.) unsweetened pineapple chunks
- 1 lb. skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 1inch pieces
- 1 cup chicken broth
- ¼ cup rice wine vinegar
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic, minced, or ¼ tsp. garlic powder
- 1 cup sliced celery

LOCKHART

TAX & CONSULTING SERVICES

STEPHANIE LOCKHART

Certified Public Accountant

410 N. Main St., Suite 1

Nashville

870-455-8093

stephanie@lockhartcpa.com

lockhartcpa.com

MILLWOOD CORPORATION

BUYER OF TIMBER & TIMBERLAND

Matt Tolleit (870) 703-6939

Jason Porter (870) 703-1039

Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628

P.O. Box 1316

Hope, AR 71802

- 1 medium onion, cut in eighths
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced into strips
- 1 large carrot, sliced diagonally ¼" thick
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ¼ cup cold water

- Instructions*
1. Drain pineapple, reserving the juice.
  2. Place chicken in a large skillet over low heat.
  3. Add pineapple juice, chicken broth, vinegar, brown sugar, soy sauce, and garlic.
  4. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink.
  5. Add vegetables and pineapple. Cook about 5 minutes, until vegetables are crisptender.
  6. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and water; stir until smooth.
  7. Slowly pour into the hot mixture, stirring constantly until thickened, about 1 minute.

FAGAN ROOFING

ALL TYPES OF ROOFING

We are insured!

Quality work,

Free Estimates

In Business Since 1992!

Greg (870) 356-8934

Small Ad Do Work!  
(870) 235-2723

Classifieds

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

SMALL ADS WORK  
CALL 870-235-2723

U	S	P	S			R	E	M					P	R	E	
S	L	O	E			P	E	R	I			S	P	E	A	K
E	A	R	L			R	A	I	D			C	R	E	P	E
	V	E	S	P	U	C	C	I				R	E	N	T	
				Y	E	N	T	A			P	A	S			
P	R	I	N	C	E					P	A	P	U	L	E	S
E	E	N		O	R	A	T	O	R			M	I	L	L	
T	A	L	E	S		C	O	L			P	E	E	V	E	
E	V	E	R		G	R	O	O	V	E		G	E	E		
R	E	T	I	N	A	E				E	R	N	E	S	T	
				K	I	D			G	E	N	I	E			
	M	U	S	S				M	A	G	E	L	L	A	N	
C	A	N	O	E				O	G	R	E		S	U	E	R
B	L	I	N	I				V	E	E	R		O	R	E	O
S	E	X						E	S	T			N	A	R	D

Your One-Stop For Advertising

The Nashville News-Leader

and the Murfreesboro Diamond

Call (870) 845-0600 To Place Your Ad Today!



# Public invited to revival at M’boro First Baptist Church

BY DAMIAN RODGERS  
*Pastor, Murfreesboro First Baptist Church*

Coram Deo.  
Sounds smart in Latin but simply means ... God’s Presence.  
You will die. This will be the end of your life and all that you have physically accumulated will be gone. For what good is anything if it does not last past death? Everything you have, everyone you know, it all means nothing apart from God’s existence. Therefore everything that exists only finds its meaning in relation to God. It is appointed for men once to die, and then the judgment.  
Lord, I will die for you is an easy prayer, living for Jesus is what He requires. You say you will die for Christ but will you live for Him and in living for Him are you not then dying to self in pursuit of another.

What is the point of God’s presence? Everything! It is God’s presence that man lost through the fall and so getting back to God’s presence is the ultimate goal of the creation and it is a hopeless goal so long as it is based on works because God does not judge on a curve. He judges righteously and one sin makes you under the judgement of God so you could do a million good things but one sin would make you as guilty as the thief who only stole one t.v. For all have lived for the creation instead of the creator and all have sinned.  
So, the forgiveness of sin and the return to His presence is all of life’s meaning and purpose. To have that is to have eternal life and eternal love and eternal mercy and so on. It is the sins of man that Christ dealt with but Christ does not save men to leave men as they were. No ... Christ came to give a new birth to the broken and repentant so that men and women are changed on the inside to hate their sin and love Him. So, the presence of the Father through the wealth of Jesus becomes life itself. So that Christ Jesus becomes all in all. So that His presence surpasses all else as the consuming pursuit of life.

So ... we invite you to come and pour your heart out in praise as you seek renewal and refreshment. We invite you to come and rejoice in the preaching of the Word. We invite you to come broken for healing, desperate for love, in need for more. We invite you to come and seek HIS PRESENCE at First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, February the 22-25 from 6 p.m. until somewhere between 7 or 7:30 or until the repenting and prayers stop.  
The evangelists will be Daniel Bramlett and Jerry Evans from Hope. The worship will be led by Jimmy Daniels of Bodcaw.

## 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)

# HIS PRESENCE

## A 4 night church revival

THE TIMES ARE BELOW:

**FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 24<sup>TH</sup>, AND 25<sup>TH</sup> 6 TO 7 P.M.**

**IN THE SACTUARY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MURFREESBORO**  
**500 S WASHINGTON MURFREESBORO, AR 71958**

EVANGELISTS & PRAISE LEADERS

JIMMY DANIELS  
PRAISE LEADER

DANIEL BRAMLET  
EVANGELIST

JERRY EVANS  
EVANGELIST

THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES: FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT.

# RE-ELECT EDDIE HOWARD

## Pike County Judge



- Conservative Christian
- Man of Integrity
- Honest
- Transparent
- Strong Work Ethic
- Resourceful
- Leads By Example
- Holds A Class-A CDL

- Experienced
- Currently Serving First Term As Pike County Judge
- 35 Years Construction Experience
- Small Business Owner
- Owner And Operator Of Family Farm

VOTE EDDIE HOWARD IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY  
Early Voting period February 17–March 2 • Election Day March 3

Paid for by the Re-Elect Eddie Howard for Pike County Judge Campaign



# TOM COTTON



## The Conservative Record Arkansas Can Count On.

Proudly Endorsed by

President Donald J. Trump & Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

### 100% Conservative Voting Record.

Always voted against Biden’s radical agenda with a 100% voting record.

### 100% Pro-Life.

Always votes to protect life and families because every life is a gift from God. Endorsed by leading pro-life groups.

### 100% Pro-Gun.

Consistent record backing Second Amendment rights and standing up to the radical Left.

### Helped President Trump Secure the Border.

Backed tough enforcement, expanded border resources, and helped ICE deport criminal illegal aliens.

### Delivered Billions for Arkansas Defense Projects.

Strengthened national security while creating and protecting good-paying jobs for Arkansans.

### Let’s Keep Arkansas Red and Reelect a Strong, Conservative Leader

Early Voting Begins February 17 • Election Day is March 3



Scan the QR Code to Find Your Nearest Polling Location

PAID FOR BY COTTON FOR SENATE, INC.