

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

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National Weather Service holds severe weather awareness

LITTLE ROCK -- The National Weather Service is pleased to announce that the week of March 1st - March 7th has been designated as Arkansas' Severe Weather Awareness Week. This annual event is aimed at increasing public awareness about the dangers of severe weather and encouraging people to take steps to protect themselves and their property.

During the week-long event, the National Weather Service Offices covering the state of Arkansas will be covering various aspects of thunderstorm hazards that can cause property damage or place people in danger. Each day will focus on a different topic, including:

- Sunday, March 1, 2026: Introduction to Severe Weather Awareness Week
- Monday, March 2, 2026: Flooding
- Tuesday, March 3, 2026: Storm Prediction Center Outlook Changes for 2026
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026: Tornadoes
- Thursday, March 5, 2026: Severe Thunderstorms
- Friday, March 6, 2026: Watches and Warnings
- Saturday, March 7, 2026: Storm Reports

"We are excited to bring back Arkansas' Severe Weather Awareness Week for the 2026 season," said Dennis Cavanaugh, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service Office in Little Rock. "Our goal is to educate and inform the public about the dangers of severe weather and to encourage them to take the necessary steps to prepare and protect themselves and their property before the upcoming peak severe weather season."

The National Weather Service will be providing daily updates and tips on their websites and social media channels throughout the week.

For more information on Arkansas' Severe Weather Awareness Week and how to prepare for severe weather, please visit the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Little Rock website at www.weather.gov/LZK or follow National Weather Service Offices that serve Arkansas on Facebook and X on the following accounts: @NWS Tulsa, @NWS Little Rock, @NWS Memphis, @NWS Shreveport, and @NWS Jackson MS.

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.

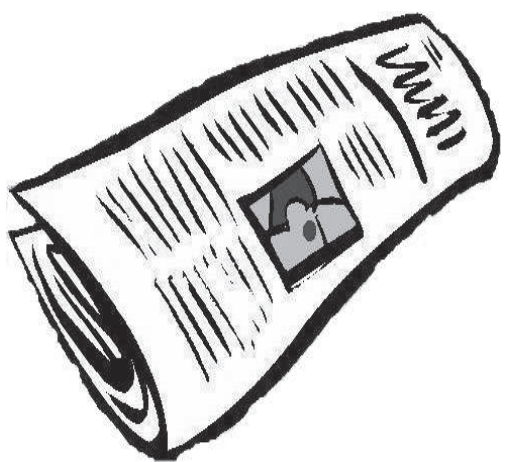
Registration for the tournament can be conducted at <https://forms.gle/tacREmt8eFbm-vjGn6>. The link can also be accessed via the Pike County Fair and Rodeo page on Facebook.

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-county-fair-and-rodeo@gmail.com.



DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WORTH TELLING?

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



PIKE COUNTY ELECTIONS

Staff photos

PRIMARILY ELECTIONS ... Early voting continued through Monday in Pike County for the Preferential Primary elections. Pictured last Saturday is local resident Martha Graves (above right) preparing to vote and poll worker Lacey Harris. Also pictured is poll workers Jimi Scarlett and Aspen Harris (above left) helping with a voter at the Pike County Clerk's office in Murfreesboro. See next week's paper for full election results from Tuesday's election day.

Man sentenced for credit card shenanigans

Charges included 515 transactions totaling approximately \$65,000

MURFREESBORO -- A Kirby man was sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to charges of fraudulent use of a credit card and identity fraud.

Andrew Pipkins, 36, entered the plea before Judge Bryan Chesshir and was sentenced to a total of 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with five years suspended. He was also ordered to pay \$64,000 restitution to Chambers Bank along with Shana Nicole Pickrell, 31, of Murfreesboro, who is charged with fraudulent use of a credit card in a companion case.

The case against Pickrell is set for a jury trial

on April 8.

The charges are the result of a Pike County investigation that began on May 8, 2025 when a Pipkin's family member reported that a large amount of money had been fraudulently withdrawn from his personal bank account and that he suspected Pickrell and Pipkins, as both were living at his residence at the time.

The family member had discovered unauthorized transactions, including several connected to Pickrell's PayPal account. When confronted by the family member, Pickrell admitted to the theft and requested two days to return \$25,000.

Overall, there were 515 disputed transactions, totaling approximately \$65,000.

During the investigation, three audio recordings of calls made to the bank by a person fraudulently identifying himself as the family member were reviewed. The family member later identified the voice as belonging to Pipkins.

Pipkins was under active supervision with the Arkansas Probation and Parole Division at the time of his arrest, according to case information.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

WINNING ATHLETES ... Last week Murfreesboro High School students participated in the Area 11 Special Olympics competition at Foreman High School. All three MHS student athletes placed in their age division for basketball skills, amongst approximately 120 total athletes. Kohen B. finished second in the 17 year-old division, Chase S. won the 16 year-old division and Landon W. placed first in the 15 year-old division. "Please help us congratulate these outstanding young men on their accomplishments! We are so proud of you!" said the post on the rattlers.org website.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

February 7, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Roberts, Kirsty H., 36, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340
Suarez, Gaudencio Romano, 41, De Queen, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Collins, Dennis A., 37, Murfreesboro, guilty

of failure to pay, \$2,275 balance
English, Hailey Elizabeth, 20, Mineral Springs, guilty of speeding, fined \$16; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$240

Hunt, Joseph Isaiah, 24, Prescott, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$145 BF, no driver's license; \$145 BF, running stop sign; \$225 BF, failure to appear

BENCH TRIALS PIKE COUNTY

Ramirez, Sergio Santiago, 25, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$150

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Powell, Richard Chad, 54, Allen, Texas driving left of center, deferred adjudication for six months to dismiss, fined \$160

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Horn, James P. Jr., 45, Texarkana, \$750 BF, li-

cense suspended, must complete DWI educational course, DWI

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Hermann, Brian Robert, 56, Caddo Gap, guilty of passing stopped school bus, fined \$450
Ratliff, Khristian Leeroy, 26, Newhope, failure to report accident, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss

Extension offers training for pesticide licenses

BY SARAH CATO

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Farmers, ranchers and other agricultural professionals are working to get their private pesticide applicator training completed before planting season kicks off — and extension offices across the state are making sure there are ample opportunities.

In Arkansas, private applicators using restricted-use pesticides must undergo specific training and certification. The Cooperative Extension Service provides the training, and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is responsible for testing and licensing.

The Cooperative Extension Service, the outreach arm of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, provides an online training option at uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/pest-management/pesticide-licensing/private-applicator-training.aspx, and in-person training sessions are offered at county offices.

Ples Spradley, extension pesticide safety education specialist for the Division of Agriculture, said that while the online train-

**PIKE COUNTY PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING
MARCH 11 • 10:00 A.M. • BAINUM LIBRARY IN GLENWOOD
CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE AT (870) 285-2161 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

ing option is popular, "many farmers still prefer the in-person training with their county agent."

"In our in-person training, county agents cover everything an applicator would need to know to safely and legally apply restricted-use pesticides," Spradley said. "This includes state and federal regulations, environmental concerns, pesticide drift, equipment calibration, Worker Protection Standards and more."

WHO IS THIS TRAINING FOR?

"We have three groups of applicators that we train," said Courtney Spinks, pesticide safety education program associate for the Division of Agriculture. "The private applicator training is specifically for individuals who use restricted-use pesticides to produce agricultural commodities on property owned or rented by them or their employer."

"We also provide separate, online-only training for commercial applicators who apply pesticides for hire, and for non-commercial applicators who use restricted-use pesticides like researchers and county agents," she said.

Additionally, a pesticide license is neither required nor available for home gardeners, as restricted-use pesticides are not labeled for home gardens.

WHERE IS MY LICENSE?

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture has recently stopped mailing out physical licenses. For those who have completed training through the Division of Agriculture and testing and licensing through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture will email a digital copy.

Those who have recently acquired licenses can also find them in the online search tool at <https://search.statesolutions.us/?A=ASBPPEST&AID=RS&GUID=1456D52B804648C3B2E8B657E A59106D>.

Farmers and ranchers interested in attending nearby, in-person private pesticide applicator training can find upcoming training sessions on the Division of Agriculture event calendar at <https://calendar.uada.edu/?trumbaEmbed=filterview%3DPEsticideApplicatorTraining>.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit uaex.uada.edu. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. To learn more about the Division of Agriculture, visit uada.edu. To learn more about ag and food research in Arkansas, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station at aaes.uada.edu.

Ham radio club classes start this week in M'boro

PIKE COUNTY -- The Pike County Ham Radio Club will hold training classes at the Murfreesboro Community Room at 210 2nd Avenue in Murfreesboro on March 6-7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., on March 13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and March 14 from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For those seeking an evening option, they will also hold classes in Murfreesboro on March 6, 7, 13 and 14 from 6-9 p.m.

All license level tests will be available on March 21 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Kirby School Cafeteria. Anyone interested in classes or testing should contact one of the following:

- Mark Reed, (903) 701-5954, mark.reed.ii@gmail.com
- Will Henderson, (870) 925-0168, redhenderson@hotmail.com
- Pat Chaloner, (870) 285-5023, n5wcl1991@gmail.com

Final chance to win pork

Winner to get complete butchered hog

MURFREESBORO -- Your final chance to win a processed hog will conclude this Saturday.

Murfreesboro 4-H student Carsyn Ballard is utilizing a unique idea to help fund her 2026 show animals.

Ballard is selling chances on her hog, which will be processed on March 9 at Centerpoint School in the manner desired by the winner.

Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each.

To purchase tickets, contact either Cory Ballard at (870) 285-5618 or Shannon Ballard at (870) 200-2419.

Murfreesboro Diamond

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Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
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Little Missouri River • Lake Greason

- John Robert Schirmer, Publisher
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- Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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\$35 for 6-months in area; \$45 for 6-months elsewhere.

College Subscriptions- \$30 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Telephone: 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please Send Change of Address Information to:
Murfreesboro Diamond
P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
DAVID WAYNE TURNER, deceased No. 55PR-26-13

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 1130 Hwy. 84 E, Amity, Pike County, AR 71921

Date of Death: February 6, 2026

An instrument dated February 27, 2026, lawfully appointed STEPHEN TURNER as Administrator 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 4th day of March, 2026.

STEPHEN TURNER,
Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell
DUSTIN BISSELL

Attorney for Petitioner
306 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-2589 • Arkansas Bar #2022047 (d.b. 138w, 35,36)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas
Probate Division

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
GARY DEAN COFFMAN, DECEASED

Case No. 55PR-26-11

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT CLAIMS AGAINST A SMALL ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that GARY DEAN COFFMAN, aged seventy-eight (78) years, who resided at 35 Coffman Rd., Amity, AR 71921, died on or about December 31, 2025. On February 18, 2026, Tonja Whisenhunt, 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 along with a mobile home located in Amity, Pike County, Arkansas, and described as follows:

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE1/4 SW1/4) of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 25 West, described as follows: For Point of Beginning, commence at the NW corner of said 40-acre tract and run thence East 192 feet; thence South 227 to a Point on the North line of the Loy Turner property; thence West 192 feet to a point on the West line of said 40-acre tract; thence North 227 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1 acre, more or less.

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 4th day of March, 2026.

DUSTIN BISSELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
306 E BROADWAY
GLENWOOD, AR 71943
(870)-356-2589

(d.b. 281w, 35,36)



lockhartcpa.com

STEPHANIE LOCKHART

Certified Public Accountant

410 N. Main St., Suite 1

Nashville

870-455-8093

stephanie@lockhartcpa.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
NANCY KAY DAVIS, deceased No. 55PR-26-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 75 Bennet Cove Rd, Kirby, Pike County, AR 71950

Date of Death: November 16, 2025

An instrument dated February 19, 2026, lawfully appointed MIKE DAVIS and AURENA DAVIS as Co-Administrators 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 25 day of February, 2026.

MIKE DAVIS and AURENA DAVIS
Petitioners

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell
DUSTIN BISSELL
Attorney for Petitioner
306 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-2589
Arkansas Bar #2022047 (d.b. 143w, 34,35)

Real Estate Auction Murfreesboro, AR

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 20
at 11 AM
406 Dickson St.**

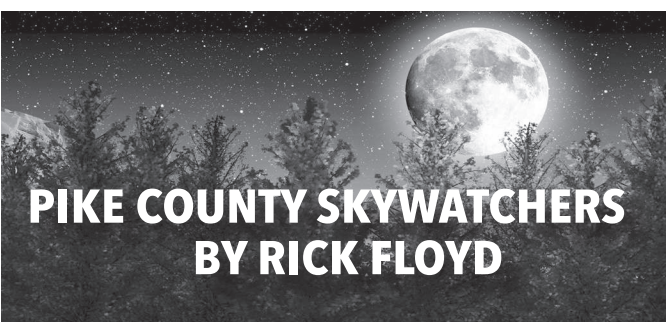


This clean and modest Home has been Remodeled and Updated, it is just shy of 1,200+/- SF and offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath with brick exterior, huge fenced back yard with 2 storage buildings and an extra carport. The home has a new pitched rafters, decking, metal roof, new heat, HVAC is approx. one year old. New wiring, new custom tile shower, new lighting, carpet in the bedrooms, new weather proof wood plank style flooring, new paint inside and out. The home will need kitchen cabinets, sink, appliances and bathroom vanity. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase this nice home at auction. See FowlerAuctioneers.com For More Information, Terms, Photos or to Bid Online if you can not make it to the Live Auction. Contact our office for special showing, 10% Buyer Premium. **OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, MARCH 15 ~ 1 - 3 PM** Nick D. Fowler AAL #162 - Ty D. Fowler AAL #3105 **LIVE ON SITE W/ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE**

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**PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD**

Planting by the moon

Meteorological spring has arrived (on March 1st), and astronomical spring (the Vernal Equinox) is later this month. Those who are gardeners are preparing to start planting, and some will plant by the Moon. It is not sorcery, but a practice that was done by our ancestors for centuries.

The idea is basically very simple and stems from the knowledge old timers had of the Moon's influences on the Earth. They knew that the ocean tides were influenced by different phases of the Moon, and surmised that water in the soil was as well. During the waxing moon (new to full) moisture is believed to rise and to be a strong factor in plant growth. This is thought to be a good time to sow crops such as tomatoes, basil, lettuce and other leafy or fruit crops.

During the waning moon (full to new) it is believed that the moisture energy goes downward and that the roots follow. Planting potatoes, carrots, garlic and seedlings is done at this time.

Farmer's Almanac still has a planting by the moon section. It advises, for example, that March 5-7 are "barren days" so avoid planting (the full moon is starting to wane), and that March 8-10 is a good time to plant carrots, beets, radishes and the like.

Speaking of Farmer's Almanac, they have announced that 2026 is its last year. Both online and print editions will be no more, ending a run since 1818. However, the Old Farmer's Almanac, North America's oldest continuously published periodical (since 1792) is still in business.

NASA has again scrubbed its latest launch date (March 6) for the Artemis II moon mission. There are many new and innovative aspects to the machinery involved, so it is not surprising that it is taking extra time to work out the problems. We will now wait until April for another chance.

Daylight-Saving Time starts at 2 a.m. on March 8th for most of the U.S. and Canada.

Obituaries

Michelle Delaney, 65, Deight



Michelle Delaney, 65 of Deight, Arkansas passed away Monday, February 23, 2026, in Texarkana, Texas. She was born July 29, 1960, in Eugene, Oregon the daughter of the late William and Carrietta Harpole Delaney.

Michelle was past president of Delight Chamber of Commerce and the Delight Lions Club. She was involved in many groups and activities

for the community, including park day, music fest and the Christmas parade. Michelle loved her community and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister Linda Hecke, and two brothers Michael Delaney and David Delaney.

Survivors include her two nephews, Bo Marlow and William Kemnow, five great nieces and one great nephew.

Graveside services were on Friday, February 27, 2026, in Delight Cemetery, with Brent Alexander and Adam Hill officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

Brenda Cheryl 'Cox' Roberts, 81



Brenda Cheryl (Cox) Roberts, age 81, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. She was born November 9, 1944, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas the daughter of the late James Oliver Cox and Doshia Lucille Musgrove Cox.

Mrs. Roberts was a lifelong member of the Pleasant Home Church of Christ. During her career she was employed at Pike County Bank now Diamond Bank in Murfreesboro retiring after forty years of service.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers Jack Maurice Cox, Jimmy Winston Cox and

one sister Sonya LaQuita Nutt.

Survivors include one son Rory Roberts (Traci), one daughter Jeanie Stone (Rodney), four grandchildren who were blessed to call her Nan-nie, Amy McKinnon (David), Jake Stone (Samantha), James Stone (Morgan), Josh Roberts (Grace); five great grandchildren Dawson, Weston, Jaxx, Salem, and Gemma; one brother Douglas Dearl Cox; as well as a number of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, February 25, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 26, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, with John Hall officiating, burial followed in thw Hicks Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Memorials may be made in her honor to the Hicks Cemetery Fund at First State Bank in Murfreesboro.

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

Darren Lane, 58, Jacksonville



A funeral service for Darren Lane, age 58, was scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Autry Funeral Home in Jacksonville with Bro. Paul Smith officiating. He will be laid to rest at Resthaven Cemetery.

Visitation began Saturday, February 28, 2026, and the family receive friends at Autry Funeral Home, Jacksonville.

Darren was born on August 3, 1967, to parents James Loyd Lane and Katherine Kaye (Woodall) Lane and went to be with the Lord on February 24, 2026.

Darren was a true believer in his Lord and Savior and dedicated his life to following in His footsteps. He embodied the ideas of compassion and selflessness. He was an avid hard-worker and the fruits of his labor, secular and religious, showed through in

everything he did. Darren was a family man at heart and enjoyed spending as much time with his family as possible. From showing his children and grandchildren how to live and make good lives for themselves, to traveling abroad and always comparing things to his hometown of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, he always turned a new experience into a life lesson. Especially after the birth of his grandsons, he embraced his new role as Papa, and they quickly became his pride in life.

Darren loved the outdoors and would find any excuse to be outside, even if it was only to piddle on the property and start a small fire. He always had to be doing something productive.

Darren was preceded in death by his parents James and Katherine Lane.

Left to cherish Darren's memory are his wife of 34 years, Audra Lane, daughters, Sara Villalobos and husband Nico, and Emily Baker, and husband Coleman. He is also survived by beloved grandsons, James, Harrison, Julian, and Reed.

Pallbearers will be Nico Villalobos, Coleman Baker, Jamie McNabb, Dustin Tucker, Craig Bryant, and Anthony Frost.

Myrna Ann Turner, 85, Stamps



Myrna Ann Turner, age 85, of Stamps, Arkansas, entered the gates of Heaven on Saturday, February 28, 2026. She was born in the little town of Princeton, Arkansas on October 27, 1940, to James and Myrna Lawrence.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Stamps, was a great cook and a deacon's wife of the church. Keeping her grandchildren was a highlight that brought joy to her heart.

She found happiness in her dog, Ginger's companionship. Myrna's greatest joy was when she found the Lord during her teen years. She continued loving Him by telling others about her salvation and sharing His

Word with her community.

Preceded in death by her parents, James Robert and Myrna Lawrence; brothers, James Robert Lawrence, Jr. and Donald Lawrence; and sister, Francis Hern.

Survived by her spouse, T.G. "Glen" Turner; son, Bro. Mike Turner (Alicia) of Stamps, AR; daughter, Shelia Renee Turner of New York, NY; sister Margaret Parham-Watson of Hope, AR; and grandchildren, Patrick, Matthew, Eric, Adam (Abigail), Joseph Turner.

Honoring Mrs. Turner as pallbearers will be her grandsons.

Visitation was held on Monday March 2, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at A O Smith Funeral Chapel, Stamps, Arkansas.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in the AO Smith Funeral Chapel, Stamps, Arkansas with Bro. Kenneth Bobo officiating, followed by interment at 2:00 pm at the Murfreesboro Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

Services are provided by A. O. Smith Funeral Home, Stamps, Arkansas.

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

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: How common is colorectal cancer?

A: Colorectal cancer develops from cancerous polyps on the inner lining of the colon or the rectum. Cancer from a polyp can spread into the walls of the colon or rectum. The National Cancer Institute estimated that more than 154,000 new colorectal cancer cases were diagnosed in the U.S. in 2025 — 8% of all new cancer cases. It is the fourth most diagnosed cancer behind breast, prostate, and lung cancers.

It is unclear why certain polyps become cancerous. Colorectal cancer is most frequently diagnosed in those between the ages of 65 and 74 (26% percent of cases). Family history increases one's overall risk of colorectal cancer. The condition affects men more than women. Those who are overweight, consume a diet high in red meat and processed meats, and those

who smoke cigarettes are also more at risk.

Colorectal cancer symptoms may not present themselves until the condition is advanced. Symptoms include blood in the stools, constipation or diarrhea, fatigue, a lump in the abdomen or rectum, or unexplained weight loss.

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommends screenings for colorectal cancer beginning at age 45, or earlier you have a family history of the condition. Colorectal cancer is very treatable when diagnosed early. See your health care provider if you have questions.

AG announces upgrades to opinions search feature on web

'The upgrades include thousands of previously unsearchable opinions from decades ago'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement outlining recent upgrades to the Opinions Search feature on his office's website, www.ArkansasAG.gov:

"I am excited to announce upgrades to the Opinions Search feature of our website. These upgrades have made the process of accessing official AG opinions much easier and have expanded the feature's capabilities.

"After receiving feedback from constituents about ways we could improve the search feature, I directed my IT team to work with my Opinions & FOIA Division to identify and execute ways we could enhance the system. The upgrades include adding thousands of previously unsearchable opinions from decades ago and greatly enhancing the text-search function.

"Improving the entire process surrounding official AG opinions was a priority of mine when I took office in 2023, and I am extremely proud of the progress we've made in reducing the turnaround time of opinion requests and increasing the number of opinions issued. It is important to lawmakers, the legal community, and the general public that we maintain a streamlined, professional, and consistent system of issuing AG opinions, and I remain committed to that goal. These upgrades to our website reflect that commitment.

"I am grateful to my Chief Information Officer, Paul Davis, for his phenomenal work on this project, and to my Opinions & FOIA Division, which is led by Deputy Attorney General Kelly Summerside."

To access the Opinions Search feature, go to arkansasag.gov/divisions/opinions-foia/attorney-general-opinions-search/.

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Lisa Chandler, agent

Lisa Chandler Insurance

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Private Pesticide Applicator Training: March 11, 2026 10:00 AM Bainum Library in Glenwood
 - Flowers Night Out (a workshop about growing Flowers & Houseplants) Cost \$25 per person March 17th, 2026 at Bainum Library in Glenwood, AR 6:00 PM
 - Flowers Night Out (a workshop about growing Flowers & Houseplants) Cost \$25 per person April 3th, 2026 at Murfreesboro Municipal Building 6:00 PM
 - Beef and Forage Meeting April 14th 6:00 PM McGrew Livestock Auction in Glenwood
 - Gardening 101 workshop April 9, 2026 Pike County Extension Office Murfreesboro, AR 6:30 PM (seed starting, soil prep, planting)
 - Gardening 101 workshop April 21, 2026 Bainum Library Glenwood, AR 6:00 PM (seed starting, soil prep, planting)
- For more information on these events, check out Pike County Extension Ag page on Facebook at UAEX Pike County Agriculture or call the Pike County UA Extension Service at (870) 285-2161.

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8	1	2	4	5	9	6	7	3
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Rattler archers qualify for state tournament

HOT SPRINGS — Well over 1,900 students from fourth grade to high school seniors will take aim at the Hot Springs Convention Center and Bank OZK Arena March 6-7 in the 18th annual Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Archery in the Schools State Championship.

Student archers have competed in state qualifying events since November with one goal on their minds: post one of the top 30 team scores in their division and make it to the state championship.

"We had 29 qualifying events," Aimee Swaim, AIS program coordinator for the AGFC, said. "We only took the highest single score for each team, but teams could participate in as many events as they wished. Some teams qualified in a single outing, but others shot in multiple events to improve their scores and earn a berth."

Don't let the number of qualifiers a team participated in be an indicator of their skill, however.

"Some of our top-performing teams shoot at multiple state qualifiers to build more practice time, while others practice just as much at their school but only make it to one qualifier," Swaim said. "There are always a few teams to watch, but it's really anyone's meet and we've had some teams come out of nowhere and perform really well in the past."

In addition to the top 30 teams in each of three age-based categories (Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12), any students shooting an individual score above a 280 out of 300 possible points are guaranteed a spot in the state championship.

"We do that for those archers who may not have enough teammates to post competitive scores or those who are on teams that fall just short of the cutoff," Swaim said. We had two students in the middle school division and five in the high school division qualify using that route this year."

The top three teams in each age group will receive medals and team trophies, and the fourth- and fifth-place teams will receive medals. The top individual boy and girl in each age group will receive a Mathews Genesis bow. Individuals, both boys and girls, placing in the top five positions of the senior division also will receive college scholarship money provided by the AGFC, starting with \$2,500 for the top boys and girls finishers and incrementally decreasing \$500 for each placing.

All participating schools are encouraged to gather nonperishable foods in a side event to fight food insecurity in Arkansas. The Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry truck will be at the event both days, and the school that brings the most donated canned goods each day will receive \$1,000 to help build their program.

"Last year, the schools really stepped up their game and donated a record 7,500 pounds of food," Ronnie Ritter, AHFH president, said.

"I'm hoping to challenge the schools this year with a new goal of 10,000 pounds of donated food. With the number of archers participating in the event, that really only boils down to bringing a couple of cans each. Or you can do like Salem Elementary last year and hold a food drive before the event. Salem gathered so much food for the needy last year that we had to go back to them with the truck and pick it all up! I'd love to see more schools get involved at that level to help fight a very real problem in Arkansas."

The elementary and middle school divisions compete on Friday, beginning at 9 a.m., with trophy presentations expected at 4 p.m. The seniors (ninth through 12th grades) begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday and should be wrapped up about 2 p.m.

The Archery in the Schools program began as a pilot project with 10 schools in 2005. Based on the National Archery in the Schools program, AIS brings competitive archery into elementary, middle and high schools throughout Arkansas, and a state championship event was added in 2009 to complete the year's activities.

Visit www.agfc.com/ais for a link to state tournament scores and more information on Archery in the Schools.

2026 ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS BULLS-EYE STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS

Elementary Division (Grades 4-5)
Taylor Elementary
Charleston Elementary
Washington Middle School (El Dorado)
Valley View Elementary
Hill Farm Elementary (Bryant)
Magnet Cove Elementary
Valley Springs Schools
Columbia Christian (Magnolia)
Bergman Schools
Hackler Intermediate School (Mountain Home)
Lead Hill
Salem Elementary (Bryant)
Glen Rose Elementary
South Pike County (Murfreesboro)
Eagle Mountain Magnet (Batesville)
Greene County Tech Elementary
Hurricane Creek Elementary (Bryant)
Bryant Elementary
Perryville Elementary
Waldron Elementary
Lamar Elementary
Southside Elementary (Batesville)
Cave City Schools
Homeschoolers On Target Elementary (Sherwood)
Pottsville Upper Elementary
Jasper School District
Collegeville Elementary (Bryant)
Robert L Davis Elementary (Bryant)
Parkway Elementary (Bryant)
Crystal Hill Elementary (North Little Rock)

Middle School Division (Grades 6-8)
Barton Junior High (El Dorado)
Valley Springs
Charleston Middle School
Washington Middle School (El Dorado)
Bryant Middle School
Lead Hill
Taylor Middle School
Alpena
Des Arc Elementary
Bethel Middle School (Bryant)
Columbia Christian School (El Dorado)
Pinkston Middle School (Mountain Home)
Valley View Junior High
South Pike County (Murfreesboro)
Magnet Cove Middle School
Pangburn High School
Maynard Middle School
Bergman School
DQ Cubs (De Queen)
Greene County Tech Middle School
Homeschoolers On Target Middle School (Sherwood)
Southside Middle School (Batesville)
Glen Rose High School
Lamar Middle School
Jasper Schools
Cabot Junior High North
Piggott Elementary
Waldron Middle School
Perryville Middle School
Cave City

High School Division (Grades 9-12)
Magnet Cove High School
Lead Hill
Cabot High School
Bryant High School
Charleston High School
Taylor High School
Arkansas Arts Academy (Rogers)
De Queen High School
Ozark High School
Bergman School
Valley Springs High School
Alpena High School
Pangburn High School
Greene County Tech High School
South Pike County (Murfreesboro)
Glen Rose High School
Stuttgart High School
Southside High School (Batesville)
Valley View High School
Sylvan Hills High School (Sherwood)
Vilonia High School
Jasper Schools
Prairie Grove High School
Lincoln High School
Deer/Mt. Judea School
Little Rock Christian Academy
Brookland High School
Spa City Archery (Hot Springs)
Waldron High School
Piggott High School



Staff photo

VISITING WRITERS ... On Monday, March 2, The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission hosted the "Traveler Broads" two ladies -- Jessica Fender and coworker Elise, that write for a large magazine out of New Orleans that covers Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and travel in the south. They made a stop at the Crater of Diamonds State Park while on a gem tour with plans to write a story about Murfreesboro and the Crater. The Tourism Commission treated the pair to lunch at Connections Coffee on the Pike County Courthouse Square.

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

The God of Peace Will Be With You

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

What a blessing it would be if all of us could recommend our way of life to those around us as did Paul. He first appealed to the Philippians through the fact that he taught them. He knew they had learned from his inspired teaching all that pertained to life and godliness. He was confident that they had and would continue to have the knowledge they would need to grow and remain faithful as they walked in newness of life. God's word is that full, well rounded, complete spiritual diet needed for Christian men and women to grow and mature. Paul had not filled



their heads with his personal opinions or interesting stories. They had been taught and had learned and accepted the pure gospel of Christ. Paul knew because he was inspired to know that they had received the truth. Communication is an art. We hearers do not understand and apply the word the message they received from Paul. Some hearers of Paul's day were hearing impaired. They heard the words but did not make an applica-

tion of what they heard to themselves. Many hearers are thinking of those who should have been here to hear the message on Sunday and fail to realize the message applied to them. The Philippians were astute hearers of God's word because they became doers of His word. Paul also appealed to them with his personal example. It is true most of us would rather see a sermon every day than hear one. If the messenger and his message do not match, we lose confidence and interest in the speaker and the word. One cannot teach about the Son of God without trying to walk in His footsteps. It may be tried but is doomed to fail. Our message must be demonstrated by our way of life. Day by day we are preparing for the day we meet our Lord. Let us be ready for that day.

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SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
Breakfast: Cini mini, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Burrito, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, salsa, pineapple, milk
Line 2- 7-12 Chicken chili crispitos
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
Breakfast: Pancake on stick, cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, seasoned carrots, seasoned corn, peaches, milk
Line 2- 7-12 Big Daddy pepperoni pizza or cheese french bread pizza w/sauce
MONDAY, MARCH 9
Breakfast: Sausage croissant, cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Fish sticks, cole slaw, pinto beans, 7-12 corn muffin, pears, milk

Line 2- 7-12 Beef fingers
TUESDAY, MARCH 10
Breakfast: Powered donuts, or cereal, fruit, juice, milk
Lunch: Beefy nacho grande, fiesta corn, lettuce, tomato, salsa, peach cup, milk
Line 2- 7-12 Mexican fiesta pizza
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, 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*

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Fried fish, pinto beans, coleslaw, hushpuppies, brownie
MONDAY, MARCH 9
Roast turkey, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, cornbread, apples
TUESDAY, MARCH 10
Pork chops, sweet potato hash, greens, roll,

snickerdoodle cookie
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
Chicken rice casserole, peas & carrots, cauliflower, roll, banana pudding w/waffles
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

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The Shunammite's Son
THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN, AFTER AN ARDUOUS TRIP, NOW APPROACHES ELISHA'S ABODE IN THE FERVENT HOPE THAT SOMETHING STILL CAN BE DONE FOR HER DEAD SON....

EVEN AT A GREAT DISTANCE, ELISHA HAS RECOGNIZED HER AND SENDS GEHAZI TO FIND OUT IF ALL IS WELL WITH THE WOMAN'S FAMILY.

NOW ELISHA'S SERVANT, ON HEARING THE WOMAN, ASKS THOSE THINGS WHICH ELISHA WISHES TO KNOW...

LET HER ALONE! FOR HER SOUL IS VEDED AND THE LORD HATH NOT TOLD ME WHAT IS WRONGS—LET HER SPEAK!

...AND ON REACHING THE PROPHET, THE DISTRAUGHT WOMAN CLUTCHES AT ELISHA IN GREAT TORNOW! AT THIS UNCLE ACTION, GEHAZI ATTEMPTS TO THRUST HER AWAY BUT ELISHA INTERRUPTS.

Next Week
ELISHA'S STAFF!

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This Sunday!

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* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Comprehend
6. It has no staying power?
9. Auditor's hope
13. Prevention measure?
14. Ill temper
15. Poetic although
16. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
17. Downhill equipment
18. Beau
19. "What Was I Made For?" singer
21. "Fast Car" singer
23. Part of URL
24. Peephole glance
25. Morning drops
28. 1920s art style
30. Reduce, as in standing
35. Big Bang's original matter
37. Lad's counterpart
39. Connection
40. Milton Bradley's game
41. Tea from certain region of India
43. Some bent pipes
44. Rose oil
46. Zeus' wife
47. Remove from a manuscript
48. What bird did, homewise
50. Hyperbolic sine
52. "___ and the City"
53. Prejudice
55. "Wow!"
57. "Song Sung Blue" singer
61. "I Just Called to Say I Love You" singer
64. Barrel racing meet
65. ___ Maria
67. Shockingly graphic
69. Not upright
70. Bathtub libation
71. Food contaminant
72. W on a light bulb
73. Consume

74. Ayes

DOWN

1. Former Portuguese colony in India
2. Deceptive maneuver
3. Naysayer's favorite prefix
4. Upbraid
5. 1/3rd of a hockey game
6. Phish homophone
7. One of Indiana's quests
8. Prepare for winter takeoff
9. Alka-Seltzer sound
10. Nucleus plus electrons
11. Actress Perlman
12. Tattered's partner
15. Rouse
20. Inscribed pillar
22. He had
24. Own
25. "Hurricane" singer
26. Like March Madness' eight
27. Hair extensions
29. "Folsom Prison Blues" singer
31. "Walk on the Wild Side" singer
32. Wheel shafts
33. Tutu fabric
34. English county
36. Source of protein
38. Delhi wrap
42. Popular lassi fruit
45. Restart computer
49. Clamor
51. "The Boys of Summer" singer
54. "Bad news travels fast", e.g.
56. Draw a conclusion
57. Pull out a pistol
58. Letter before kappa
59. Type of mine passage
60. Cheesy sandwich
61. Hit the road
62. Cupid's counterpart
63. Rub the wrong way
66. Road, in Rome
68. Bad-mouth, slangily

CROSSWORD														
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Walk Across Arkansas kicks off spring registration

As the weather begins to warm, Arkansans have a great reason to head outdoors and get moving. Registration for the spring session of Walk Across Arkansas opened Feb. 23, giving residents across the state a chance to join a fun, encouraging program that promotes physical activity and healthy habits.

Walk Across Arkansas is organized twice a year -- each spring and fall -- by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The program is simple: participants log their minutes of physical activity each day for eight weeks. People can take part on their own or form teams of three to eight members. Registration runs Feb. 23-March 8, and the spring program will take place March 9-May 3. Anyone interested can sign up at walk.uada.edu.

The spring session offers a chance to shake off winter sluggishness and start fresh. Program organizers note that even small, consistent amounts of physical activity can help boost energy levels, reduce stress and strengthen connections with friends, coworkers, or community groups. Team participation keeps people motivated and adds a layer of fun and accountability.

Past participation shows just how impactful the program can be. In fall 2025, more than 700 Arkansans from 50 counties logged over 1.6 million minutes of activity. In a followup survey, nearly all respondents said they were more physically active during the program. Many shared that the group support helped them stay committed and reminded them how good daily movement can feel.

Walk Across Arkansas is open to people of all ages and fitness levels. Whether someone enjoys walking, biking, gardening, dancing, or anything else that gets the body moving, it all counts. The program encourages participants to choose activities they enjoy, making it more likely they'll stick with them long after the eight weeks wrap up.

For Pike County residents, the Pike County Extension Office is available to help with registration or questions. Community



PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
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members can call (870) 285-2161 for assistance. Local residents are also invited to join the team "Take a Hike in Pike," where new members are always welcome and enthusiasm is high.

This spring, Walk Across Arkansas offers a simple and supportive way to enjoy better health and connect with others. A little movement each day can go a long way, and the program is a great opportunity to take that first step, so lace up those shoes and get moving with us. We have many parks and walking paths in our county, and I look forward to seeing you on one of them - be sure to say hello!

This week's recipe reminds me of one mentioned in the Little House on the Prairie books. It was a mix of onions and apples and one of Lorenzo's favorites. It has been a minute since I read the series, but I remember thinking that apples and onions were a strange combination. At that time, I had only eaten sweet, juicy, crisp apples or sweet, warm, melt-in-your-mouth apple cobbler my mom would make from packages of dried apples. This recipe is a bit different from the one Almonzo's mom fixed, but as I often see pork tenderloins on sale, this is my pick for the week. Also, the side of spicy brown mustard just sounds good. Enjoy!

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK:
ROASTED PORK TENDERLOIN
WITH APPLES AND ONIONS**

- Ingredients:
 2 Pork tenderloins (1 pound each), patted dry
 5 teaspoons olive oil
 1 teaspoon salt
 Black pepper to taste
 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced Vidalia or other sweet onions
 3 cups cored and thinly sliced Granny Smith apples
 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh sage (1 tablespoon fresh =

- 1 teaspoon dried)
 3 tablespoons apple juice
 Spicy brown mustard, for serving

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 475 degrees
2. Heat a large skillet Over high heat. Coat the pork with two teaspoons of the olive oil and season it with salt and pepper. Add the pork to the skillet and brown on all sides. Place the pork on an ungreased rimmed baking sheet and roast until the meat is 155°F on an instant read thermometer, about 15 minutes. Let the meat rest for 5 minutes before serving.
3. Meanwhile, return the skillet to medium heat and add the remaining 3 teaspoons oil. Stir in the onions and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the apples and a pinch of salt. Cook until soft and tender, 5 to 8 minutes. Stir in the sage, then pour in the apple juice and cook it until it evaporates. Spoon the apple-onion mixture over the sliced pork and serve with spicy brown mustard.

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City honors longtime employee with memorial tree planting

MURFREESBORO -- A memorial service was held on Saturday, Feb. 28 to honor Eric Rowe, a longtime city worker who died suddenly last year.

Approximately 30 people attended the event at the Murfreesboro City Park, where a chinquapin oak was planted in memory of Eric.

According to the University of Arkansas extension website, the oak will grow 60 to 80 feet tall, and if grown in open places, seen with a broad spreading crown that is almost reminiscent of an American elm. Trees have a moderate growth rate and, though offered in the nursery trade, are not especially common. The trunk is gray-white and similar to white oak or sometimes yellow-tinged.

Leaves of the chinquapin oak are 5 to 6 inches long and one third as wide with 8 to 13 pairs of shallow lobes. Fall color is yellow to orange brown. Its sweet tasting acorns mature in one season and are to an inch long with half of the nut enclosed in the cup.

"The Chinquapin oak is a stately tree ... once established, it has good drought tolerance," stated the extension website at uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/resource-library/plant-week/oak-chinquapin-02-8-13.aspx.

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal wishes to thank the Arkansas Department of Forestry and their employee Brian Mitchell for "all their hard work" in obtaining the tree.

"From my understanding it is a bit more rare variety of oak and has beautiful flowers in the spring," said O'Neal. "We planted a tree -- a special tree -- so that his memory will live on forever."

Speakers at the event also included Sheila Wesson, Rowe's longtime girlfriend, as well as his aunt and son Quincy.

In his speech, O'Neal called Rowe a "friend of the city of Murfreesboro ... he had a quick smile and a great personality."

"He was known as a man that would come to the aid of anyone who needed help. If you called him, he was there. He rarely asked for a day off, in fact the only time I can remember was when he wanted to take his mother somewhere," said O'Neal.

"As we approach spring, I think of storm that we would have. If it looked like a storm, Eric would have his poncho, boots and light set out -- so that of he got a call he was ready."

O'Neal said that despite Rowe's passing, he would live on in memory.

"It is hard to believe he is gone -- gone but not forgotten. He is a pleasant memory ... not just to me, but to the others that knew him. I know he was like a brother to Jeremy [Hughes, fellow city worker]."

In relation to the tree, O'Neal quoted Psalm 1 of the Bible about Rowe, in part:

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither -- whatever they do prospers."



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3. Documentation due back to the Superintendent's office by April 3, 2026.

For questions or more information email: tanya.wilcher@rattlers.org

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