

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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City, County offices to be closed this Friday

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro will be closed this Friday, April 3 in observance of Good Friday.

Trash collection change will see Friday's normal route being conducted on Thursday, April 2.

The Pike County Courthouse and associated offices will also be closed this Friday, but will not impact sanitation.

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 Greeson 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.

HCCC to hold bass tourney April 4

SWAHA LANDING -- The Howard County Children's Center will host their benefit bass tournament at SWAHA Landing on Saturday, April 4.

The event will begin at safe light, with the weigh-in being held at 3 p.m.

The cost of entry is \$100 per boat -- team or individual.

First place at the tournament is worth \$2,000, with \$1,000 for second place, \$750 for third place and \$500 for fourth place.

Cash and prizes will be given out through tenth place.

The big bass of the tournament is worth \$350, while the second biggest bass will be worth a \$150 prize.

To enter for the tournament, contact the Howard County Children's Center for an entry form at (870) 845-1211.

Liberty Tree to be planted at Courthouse

Event set for Wednesday, April 8

MURFREESBORO -- As part of the America 250 celebration, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution will jointly hold a "Liberty Tree" event on Wednesday, April 8.

The Desoto Trace Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will plant a tree at the Pike County Courthouse at 10 p.m.

More information on the groups can be found at www.arssar.org and arkansas-dar.org.

The groups thank the Arkansas Forestry Commission for donating the elm tree that will be planted.

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Submitted photo/SPCSD

A NATIONAL SENSATION ... The Murfreesboro Rattler Winterguard competed at the national tournament last week during spring break, entering five soloists and two team routines, receiving a trophy for all entries. Entries included Solo Junior (13/14 years old) Chloe Cornwell, national champion; Solo Senior (15/16 years old) Peyton Keys, second place; Chloe Cross fourth place and Addison Countryman fifth place; Solo Senior (17/18 year old) Faith Henderson, fourth place; Junior Varsity Flag Team, national champions and Varsity Flag/Rifle, second place. The squad also received a Grand National Championship Banner for their efforts.

Burn ban enacted for Pike County

PIKE COUNTY -- Pike County Judge Eddie Howard issued a countywide burn ban last Friday, March 27.

The ban will be effective until further notice, and will likely not be rescinded until a significant rainfall event.

Howard said that residents can obtain a special permit from his office at the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro should they have a viable reason for burning.

The process to issue a burn ban, according to Howard, is that he must call the Arkansas Forestry Commission, and then submit a court order that is filed at the County Clerk's office. To rescind the ban takes the same process.

Howard said the state Forestry Commission can blanket issue a burn ban for the whole state, not on a county by county basis, so they prefer county judges to issue the bans.

Howard said one of the metrics he used to

determine if a ban was needed is the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), which is a measure of fuel moisture, plus other factors like relative humidity and wind. He said it was often based on last rain, but other factors could weigh in as well.

This weekend featured low relative humidity and winds pushed the issue and the ban was instituted. Arkansas is in a drought state across much of the counties after spring rains have largely fallen flat in 2026.

Howard said he personally preferred not to issue burn bans for the simple reason that he preferred not to tell land owners what they can do on their own land.

He said as a prescribed burner on his own properties, he knows how difficult wildfire is to get going -- and it's not like in the western United States.

"Out there if may be 25 miles before a fire

runs into a creek or river, and whereas here it's hard to go more than a mile without running across water. It's just different circumstances in that area of the country."

Ultimately, Howard asks the residents not to panic and simply refrain from burning for the moment.

He laughs, saying people call mad if I put on a burn ban, people call mad if they think I should put on a burn ban and I haven't ... please understand this is not just a by the seat of my pants decision. I'm usually the last County Judge in southwest Arkansas to issue one. I will do in only times of need."

He did note that he held off last week as long as possible to disrupt spring break campers.

"I was looking out for tourism, as well."

He said it was a fine line to issue the decree, balancing property safety and trying not to intrude on private rights.

Rattlers still undefeated on diamond

The Murfreesboro Rattlers (12-0, 4-0 in conference) have continued their winning ways in 2026, collecting three wins at last week's Rattler Classic held here over the spring break holiday.

The Rattlers defeated the Junction City Dragons by a score of 5-1 after taking a 5-0 lead into the seventh inning.

C.D. Morrow drove in a pair of runs for the Rattlers with two hits, along with an RBI for teammates Isaac Kuykendall (home run), Hunter Cox and Kale Burns (run scored). Kooper Caldwell scored twice and had a pair of stolen bases.

Cox would pitch most of the game for MHS, going 5.33 innings and giving up five hits and three walks with one strikeout.

Asher Howard could go .67 of an inning for MHS with an earned run and a walk.

Caldwell would finish out the seventh, allowing one hit and collecting a pair of strikeouts.

The next day the Rattlers hosted Taylor High School, winning 6-5 after overcoming a 2-0 deficit in the bottom of the fourth inning by scoring four runs.

MHS would go up 6-2 after five innings, when Taylor would score twice in the sixth inning and once again in the seventh to make things interesting.

Morrow again led the team with three RBIs, while Cox added two. Both had a double to their credit at the plate.

Carter Gilmer would score a run and steal three bases for the Rattlers.

Kuykendall would start the game on the mound for the Rattlers, going four innings allowing two unearned runs with a walk and a strikeout.

RATTLERS
Continued on Page 2



Submitted photo/Jillian Caldwell

STRIKE! ... Murfreesboro Rattler pitcher Colton Tidwell delivers a pitch in last week's contest against Ouachita High School during the Rattler Classic.

RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

Caldwell would pitch the fifth inning allowing two runs (one earned) with a walk and a strikeout.

Gilmer finished the game over the last two innings by allowing an earned run and a walk to go along with four strikeouts.

On Saturday, the Rattlers hosted conference foe Ouachita, defeating them 16-6 over five innings.

Ouachita would jump out to a 3-0 lead after the first inning and would hold that lead until the bottom of the third when the Rattlers exploded for eight runs.

The Warriors would cut the lead to 8-6 in the top of the fourth, but the offensive onslaught for MHS continued with seven runs in the bottom of the same inning.

Alex Bonner (double) and Kuykendall (two doubles) would both drive in three for the Rattlers, while Morrow and Gilmer (double) each had two RBIs.

Howard would collect three hits, one RBI and score twice for MHS. Kale Burns stole a base and had a pair of hits while scoring twice and driving in a run.

Howard also started the game for the Rattlers, giving up three runs on three walks and a pair of hits before the Rattlers recorded an out.

Colton Tidwell would come in to stem the tide, going five innings while allowing five hits and three earned runs with three strikeouts.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

March 17, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Burks, Jerry Ray, 51, Norman, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205

Easter, Jayden Tremain, 21, Shreveport, La., \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Freeman, Olivia Claire, 30, Amity, \$140 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$140 BF, no driver's license; \$220 BF, failure to appear

Magdaleno, Maria D., 50, Amity, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss

Marschall, Nicholas Andrew, 33, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$220 BF, failure to appear

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Hignight, Terri M., 49, Murfreesboro, guilty of unlawful dog attack, fined \$655

Hupp, Brandon C., 39, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$1,890 balance; committed to jail

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Wilder, Benda N., 40, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125

BENCH TRIALS

PIKE COUNTY
Dismuke, Michelle Renee, 49, Conway, \$140 BF, speeding

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Allen, Brandon E., 32, Murfreesboro, guilty of DWI, fined \$1,085, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of no driver's license, fined \$145

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Matsuyama, Hiromi, 88, Glenwood, \$670 BF, passing stopped school bus
Walker, John Spencer, 27, Benton, \$170 BF, speeding

Delight Fire Department to hold fundraiser

DELIGHT -- The Delight Fire Department will hold a fundraising dinner and auction on April 25 at 6 p.m. in the Delight school cafeteria. Smoked chicken dinners will be \$10 a plate. An auction will follow the meal.

Inmates sentenced for smuggled drugs

MURFREESBORO -- Two of the nine Pike County inmates charged in 2025 after marijuana was allegedly smuggled into and smoked in the jail following a day of trash detail have been sentenced.

Kevin Mitchell, 37, of Arkadelphia, and Austin Swanger, 38, of Norman, both pleaded guilty Monday to furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article.

Both men were sentenced to 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Correction with five years suspended. Mitchell's sentence will run concurrently with a previous jail sentence.

The other inmates charged include: Jakob Reppo, 38, of Glenwood; Brandon Davis, 30, of Little Rock; Dutch Forga, 41, of Glenwood; Glen McCurdy, 45, of Caddo Gap; Michael Griffith, 38, of Caddo Gap; Montana Curry, 23, of Mount Ida; and Nathan Peek, 46, of Kirby.

According to affidavits filed on the cases, the Pike County jail inmate trash crew was on detail on Nov. 22, 2025 when a girlfriend of one of the inmates approached the crew and was "hugged up" to the boyfriend with some of the other inmates around her vehicle. The inmates were dispersed from the vehicle and later transported back to the detention center and their assigned pods.

The following day, the inmates were monitored in their pods and appeared to be in possession of marijuana, which was being separated and passed around. Some of the inmates were observed smoking the weed inside the jail.

A review of surveillance video "clearly shows Reppo" in possession of the substance, dividing it, rolling multiple joints, distributing portions to the other inmates and passing contraband under pod doors to inmates.

Inmate Swanger admitted that he brought the substance into the jail after finding it on the ground during work detail and concealing it in his mouth upon re-entry to the jail.

MURFREESBORO – Baseball head coach Marc McRae said that it was a while in the making, the new baseball and softball complexes for Murfreesboro High School teams is a feather in the school's cap.

"For a few years we have been in the planning process, and those conversations went on for several years. They really worked hard on trying to get the field done for last (2025) baseball season – we had a ton of people that were putting in effort and work to get us on it last year. We finally did get on it during spring break of the 2025 season, but at that point they were not what you would call completed, in the sense of the full project, but they were playable. That was the key to last year."

Since opening for the Rattler Classic over the spring break week of 2025, the softball team was also able to utilize their new home after spring break last year.

"It made for some weird schedules, last year – we were very much on the road early – with no home games until spring break."

Because of that, the team is still seeing a strange schedule this season.

"It made for a funky schedule in 2025, which in turn made this year a little weird as well, because of how the two year cycle works, where now we will be on the road a lot in the second half of this season."

He said the team has been happy with their new digs.

"We were – and are – excited to get out there and play on it. Overall, we built a great [class] 2A field from a baseball perspective."

McRae explains that softball fields tend to be more standardized, with not grand differences in things like fence length compared to baseball fields. "It's a lot more structured when it comes to softball for the most part ... a 200 foot outfield fence, which is pretty standard."

He said what separates the MHS softball facility from many is the decision to allow for more foul territory versus "most high school softball fields out size – which means not much, it's pretty tight. It not only gives the field better playability, but also in my opinion, a better appearance to the whole facility."

In designing, the plans also declined to put in an "apron grass" around the base of the wall, leaving a dirt structure all around, which is "kinda unique."

McRae said that both fields also featured large open style dugouts that hold "a full team and equipment," which is not common at every ballpark. "It's a struggle at some places – it was a priority to make the dugouts big enough that we are not cramped, but that the opposing team isn't cramped either."

For the baseball field, the decisions were a little more complex in pre-implementation discussion.

"Different things like backstop length and fence distance, which from a baseball standpoint is a lot more variable, depending on where you go. If you go to a college field, you will see a 400-foot centerfield fence. But the reality of it is that we don't play college baseball – we are 2A baseball, so we wanted to build a great 2A baseball field. So, what we landed on is 310 feet down the foul lines, the gaps are 330 feet and in center field it's 350

feet."

McRae said those distances are a crucial factor to the field's playability.

"It still gives a chance for balls to be hit over the fence [for home runs] ... if you hit it well. Every ball hit in the air is not an automatic out, nor is it an automatic home run. Being at the city park, for as long as we were, a lot of balls on that shorter fence just found their way out of the park. However, it was the same for both teams, so it was fair. We wanted to make sure we set something up that was going to be appropriate for hosting tournaments. A lot of the design was built around that concept – hosting end of year tournaments. So, building these out from scratch with that in mind, you do some things to make sure it gives you the best opportunity to get to host."

As such, unlike some places with 60-foot backstops, just felt "too big for our level."

"So, we cut it down – the thing about it is that if the ball gets past the catcher, you'll move up one base, but you're never going to move up two. It was all about how can we make the most appropriate field for the kids that will be playing on it every day."

McRae feels that goal was met, both structurally speaking and building for tournaments.

"We were able to get bullpens on each side, on both fields – that's more rare than you would think. When we play in the state tournament, for example, at Palestine-Wheatley, like we have for the past several years, they have just incredible facilities, but no bullpens. It's just not a priority to some when they are building, but it was to us. Having the space available for your pitchers to go get loose – and not have to throw on the flat ground field – matters. We made that an absolute priority, so we didn't send just have to send pitchers over there – wherever there is."

He said playability was the number one priority of building the fields, stressing that issue from the beginning that functionality trumped form.

"We wanted much of the money and effort to go into the playing surface, because without that – without good quality dirt and grass, it doesn't matter how good it looks. It has to be able to play well, the number one priority from the beginning, and we definitely accomplished that. It looks beautiful, cosmetically,

COMPLEX Continued on Page 5

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.

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

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

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

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Please Send Change of Address Information to:
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Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

BID NOTICE

Daisy Fire Department is accepting bids for Mowing at the Daisy Fire Department. Sealed bids need to be received by April 13, 2026. Daisy Fire Department, PO Box 39, Kirby AR, 71950.

(This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$22.50.)

(d.f.d. 38,39)

BID NOTICE

Daisy Council is accepting bids for Mowing and Park Clean up at the City Park in Daisy, Sealed bids need to be received by April 13, 2026. City of Daisy, PO Box 39, Kirby AR, 71950.

(This publication was paid for by the City of Daisy. The amount paid for this publication is \$24.30.)

(d.c.c. 38,39)



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Contact Susan Brown at 800.561.4686, ext. 108 or email at sbrown@dpcipublishing.com for booth space reservations or questions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL. YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD, YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY AND AN ACTION FOR COLLECTION MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 20, 2026, at or about 01:45 PM, the following real property will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Pike County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958, to the highest bidder for cash: Lots Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Four (4), Parker and Johnson Addition to the City of Murfreesboro, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book 62, Page 400A, same being a part of and located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW -4 SE -4) of Section 17, Township 8 South, Range 25 West.

More commonly known as: 315 JOHNSON ST, MURFREESBORO, AR 71958

On January 25, 2006, THE ESTSATE OF KELLY BLAIR JR and MARGARET BLAIR executed a Mortgage in favor of First National Bank, as Beneficiary, which was recorded January 30, 2006, in Book M266, at Page 446 as Instrument No. in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and is now wholly due. The loan is now in default. Tenants of the property may claim an interest in the real property herein. The terms of the call are certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale or wiring of funds within twenty-four hours of the sale. All transfer taxes will be the responsibility of the purchaser. The party initiating this action is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 800-258-8602. Date: February 10, 2026. Chase Taskerud Managing Attorney, Arkansas Marinosci Law Group, P.C. as Attorney in Fact for Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2019-4, U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture Trustee. LEGAL PRECEDENT IS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE SENDING OF THIS LETTER MAKES US A DEBT COLLECTOR. TO THE EXTENT IT DOES, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE IN BANKRUPTCY OR HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY, THIS LETTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS AN ACT TO COLLECT, ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OR HAVE BEEN IN THE MILITARY SERVICE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, AND YOU ENTERED THE SERVICE AFTER SIGNING THE PROMISSORY NOTE AND DEED OF TRUST, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS FIRM IMMEDIATELY AS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT. WHEN CONTACTING THIS FIRM ABOUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICE, YOU MUST PROVIDE THIS FIRM WITH EVIDENCE OF YOUR MILITARY STATUS. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE SUCH EVIDENCE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PROTECTION UNDER THIS ACT. **24-01864**

(p.n.a., 516w., 38,39,40,41)



Staff photo

CHICKEN JUDGING ... This past Monday at the Pike County Extension Office, Murfreesboro High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) teamed up with Pike County 4-H members to learn about all the aspects of poultry judging.

Pike County finishes sixth across state for 4-H donations

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
University of Arkansas
Division of Agriculture

FERNDALE, Ark. — The Arkansas 4-H Foundation has \$45,000 more to fund scholarships and supply the needs of the Arkansas 4-H youth development program, thanks to donations during the sixth annual March 17 Giving Day.

According to Pike County 4-H Program Assistant Shannon Ballard, Pike County finished sixth in the state for total donations.

"We have the best community!!! Thank you to those who donated to support our local kids! Arkansas as a whole collected over \$40,000 for kids! Pike County placed 6th! This

is an annual event so look for details next year! If you still want to donate to our kids, we will gladly still accept it! We have lots of educational activities planned for the rest of the year!! Again, thank you for making this the best county to live in," Ballard said on social media.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the more than 300 donors and matching partners who invested about \$45,000 for Arkansas youth in just a single day," said John Thomas, managing director of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation. "That's not just a number. That's opportunity. That's confidence. That's leadership in the making."

Donors from 25 of Arkansas' 75 counties took part in Giving Day. Thomas said that Calhoun County led the state in participation, with a rate of 4.85 donors per 1,000 residents. Clark County was sec-

ond at 2.94 donors per 1,000 residents. Lafayette County was third at 2.54 donors per 1,000 residents.

Arkansas 4-H is the largest youth organization in the state, with over 131,000 youth members and a reach of over 250,000 Arkansas youth. It offers a variety of hands-on learning opportunities and allows youth to explore different topics such as art, agriculture, civic engagement, health, outdoor skills, science and more. 4-H programs are free and available in all 75 Arkansas counties.

Through the Arkansas 4-H Foundation, donors invest \$150,000 annually in students through college scholarships, event sponsorships and program hosting.

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

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO CITY HALL

City to conduct fire hydrant testing

The Murfreesboro Fire Department and Murfreesboro Water Department will be working together to improve city services by testing and repairing fire hydrants.

Tests will be conducted on Mondays after 7:00 p.m. until completed in an attempt to minimize the impact on residents. Resi-

dents can expect lower water pressure and some discoloration of the water as a result.

Thank you for your patience as we work to improve our great city.

Mayor Jim O'Neal

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT

MVFD hopes to alleviate confusion on dues

The Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department has recently sent out the billing for fire dues on properties located outside the Murfreesboro City limits. There have been a lot of questions concerning how many statements that some landowners have received. Each statement is for a different parcel of land owned by the same person. If your parcels are connecting, one dues payment of \$35 will cover all connecting parcels. If they are not, then dues may be paid for each non-connecting parcel.

All dues are voluntary, however, if dues are not paid for a parcel of land, the owner is subject to billing in an amount up to \$1,000.00 per Act 1345 of 2013. The amount of billing is based on

the FEMA Fire Department Insurance Reimbursement Guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding membership dues, please contact Murfreesboro City Hall at 870-285-3732 or Ricky Branch at 870-2851488.

Ricky Branch
Murfreesboro Fire Chief

Regional state park to hold festival

SW ARKANSAS -- Historic Washington State Park will host the 5th Annual James Black's Bowie Heritage Festival on April 24-25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The festival honors legendary bladesmith James Black, who forged the first Bowie Knife for Jim Bowie in Washington.

Festival highlights include live forging challenges, a knife show, demonstrations, exhibits, and the James Black Arkansas State Cutting Competition Championship.

In addition to the bladesmithing focus, guests can enjoy historic building tours, surrey rides, food vendors, and activities for all ages.

Admission is free, parking is \$5. For more information, visit bowieknifest.com, @VisitWashingtonAR on Facebook, or call (870) 648-5084.

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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. Amber Norris is an assistant professor in the UAMS Department of Family and Preventive Medicine who treats patients at UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena.

Q: What are signs of testicular cancer?

A: Testicular cancer is when malignant cells develop in the tissues of one or both testicles, although occurrences of cancer simultaneously in both testicles are uncommon. It is a serious but rare condition. The National Cancer Institute estimated that testicular cancer accounted for only 0.5% of all new cancer cases in 2025.

It is unknown why testicular cancer occurs. Cancerous cells can multiply quickly and spread outside of the testicle to other parts of the body. The National Cancer Institute notes that 51% percent of cases occur in men between the ages of 20 and 34. Other risk factors for the condition include family history or having an undescended testicle (cryptorchidism).

Symptoms of testicular cancer include a dull ache in the lower belly or groin, a painless lump in a testicle, abnormally early signs of puberty in young boys, a shrinking testicle (known as testicle atrophy), or swelling or sudden buildup of fluid in the scrotum.

Testicular cancer is frequently detected in its early stages, is very treatable, and has a high five-year survival rate (95% per the National Cancer Institute). Contact your health care provider if you have symptoms. You may be referred to a specialist for further examination.

STEPHANIE LOCKHART

Certified Public Accountant
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Audién Hearing

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

NASA launch apologizes to aliens for humanity being litterbugs

March 2026 had numerous meteor fireballs that lit up the day and night skies across the U.S. Add the media hype and it became quite alarming to many.

Houses in Ohio were shaken by a sonic boom as a fireball streaked across the sky on March 17, and on March 21 another broke up over Texas, and a piece of it went through the roof of a house in Houston. There was another on the 23rd that was seen over Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota. In all, about 10 significant fireball events occurred in the latter days of March.

Whenever a meteor burns with that intensity in Earth's atmosphere it certainly indicates that it was a large one. The Texas one is estimated to have been 3 feet in diameter weighing about a ton. The events have kept meteorite hunters busy looking for fragments that made it to the ground. Despite the concerns of many people, Earth is not in peril. In fact, scientists realized 30 years ago that there is a 30% increase in fireball events across the globe around the time of the Vernal Equinox, and the reason for it is still unknown. I hope you are outside and happen to see the one Arkansas might have before the "season" is over this year.

The first fireflies of the year blinked on a few weeks ago. These are the fast moving, high flying "Spring fireflies" (genus *Pyraoctomena*). They are mainly seen at the edge of woods and near wet areas. Their more relaxed cousins emerge toward summer and generally stay closer to the ground.

NASA has announced the launch date of Artemis II, the rocket that will send four astronauts in their Orion space vehicle on a mission to orbit the Moon. It is scheduled to happen at around 5:24 p.m. CDT on April 1st. They have given themselves a launch window of April 1-6 just in case.

The April full moon will officially happen at 9:12 p.m. CDT on April 1st, but the Moon will be almost full when it rises that night and the next night as well. The April Moon is called the Pink Moon in honor of the blooming flowers.

There will be another NASA launch from The Cape on April Fool's Day. This one will take a satellite into orbit whose sole mission will be to broadcast an apology to all of the extra-terrestrial travelers in and around Earth's atmosphere for all of our space junk that now pollutes orbital space. NASA decided to pay homage to the great era of American space exploration, the Apollo Moon missions, by naming this one the Apollo-G.

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PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

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

Safely preserving food keeps away harmful bacteria like botulism

As gardens are being plowed and plants are going into the ground, now is also a good time for home gardeners to start thinking ahead to canning season. Canning is a great way to enjoy garden produce year-round, but it must be done correctly to keep food safe. Many foods naturally carry microorganisms that can cause spoilage or serious foodborne illness if proper steps are not followed. Using safe, reliable methods from the start can help prevent problems later.

When canning foods such as vegetables, salsa, soups, meats, or fruits, it is important to use only up-to-date, scientifically tested recipes published in or after 1990. Old family recipes or changes to tested recipes can make food unsafe. Trusted sources include the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning and the National Center for Home Food Preservation. High-acid foods such as fruits, pickles, jams, and jellies can be safely processed in a boiling water bath canner, while low-acid foods like vegetables, meats, fish, and poultry must be pressure canned. Using the wrong method can allow harmful bacteria, including the bacterium that causes botulism, to grow.

Safe canning also depends on using the right equipment. Only standard Mason-type home-canning jars with two-piece lids should be used, and jars with cracks or chips should be discarded. Jars that are processed properly do not need to be sterilized ahead of time, and lids should never be reused. After processing, jars should be cooled and checked to be sure they sealed correctly. Any food showing signs of spoilage, including mold, should be thrown

away. Starting with high-quality food, following tested recipes closely, and keeping equipment in good working order can help ensure a safe and successful canning season.

Finally, test your pressure canner gauge each year before canning season. County Extension agents can test gasket-style canners with a dial gauge for free! For more information on safe food preservation, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

Strawberry season will be here before you know it and here is a recipe for uncooked strawberry jam from that fresh fruit you'll be picking. Enjoy!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK:

Uncooked Strawberry Jam from Fresh Fruit
Makes about 4 half-pint jars

INGREDIENTS

1 ¾ cups crushed strawberries (about 1 quart)
4 cups sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 pouch liquid pectin

DIRECTIONS

1. Measure 1 3/4 cups crushed strawberries
2. Place in an extra-large bowl, add sugar, mix well and let it stand for 10 minutes
3. Measure lemon juice into a small bowl add liquid pectin and stir well then stir into fruit and continue stirring for about 3 minutes
4. Pour jam into freezer containers or canning jars leaving 1/2 inch headspace
5. Cover container and let stand at room temperature until set up to 24 hours
6. Freeze or refrigerate

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

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

Lunch: BBQ Pork sandwich, coleslaw, pinto beans, 7-12 baked chips, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Meatball sub w/cheese

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, mixed vegetables, steamed broccoli, garlic breadstick, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Spicy popcorn chicken

MONDAY, APRIL 6

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

Lunch: Fish sticks, seasoned carrots, black eyed peas mac & cheese, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Ham & cheese flatbread w/chips

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Breakfast: Honey bun or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Frito chili pie w/cheese, chili beans, steamed broccoli, cinnamon roll, peaches, milk

7-12 line 2 option-Hot dog w/chili & cheese

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Breakfast: Mini pancakes or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheeseburger, sidewinder fries, lettuce & tomato, 7-12 sliced onion & pickles, pears, milk

7-12 line 2 option- 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*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tests set for hydrant testing in collaborative effort

April tests will also include flushing of lines for improved water quality

Starting in April, the Murfreesboro Water Department and Volunteer Fire Department will be working together to improve city services by testing and repairing as necessary any fire hydrants that are not working properly.

Tests will be conducted on Mondays after 7:00 p.m. until completed in an attempt to minimize impact on residents, such as lower water pressure.

In the future, these tests will be conducted

annually. As an added benefit, flushing of the lines will also improve the quality of water for our valued customers.

Thank you in advance for your patience and grace as we work to improve your city services.

On behalf of the Murfreesboro Volunteer Fire Department, Murfreesboro Water Department and Commission.

Sincerely,
James "Caleb" Howell

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, APRIL 6

Chili, baked potato, salad, crackers, fruit cup

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Chicken soft taco, lettuce, tomato, pinto beans, corn salad, cake

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Chef's salad, garlic bread, fruit, cookie

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 available for \$6.00

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
EMOGENE COTHREN, DECEASED

NO. 55PR-26-24

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 2038 Nathan Road, Nashville, AR 71852

Date of death: January 14, 2016

On March 19, 2026, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by a distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Emogene Cothren, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real properties listed in the Affidavit are as follows:

Tract 1:

A part of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 and part of the SE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10, Township 07 South, Range 26 West, Pike County, Arkansas and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a 1/2" rod found for the NW corner of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10, Township 07 South, Range 26 West and run thence S 2 degrees 39' 34" W 980.19 feet along the Westerly boundary of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 to a RR spike found in the centerline of County Road No. 241, this point being the POINT OF BEGINNING, leaving the forty line run along the County Road centerline the following courses; run thence N 89 degrees 47' 50" E 167.31 feet to a point, run thence S 85 degrees 47' 31" E 230.63 feet to a point, run thence N 88 degrees 4' 53" E 90.74 feet to a point, run thence N 79 degrees 21' 58" E 181.69 feet to a RR spike found, leaving the County Road run thence S 2 degrees 36' 29" W 1450.34 feet to a RR spike found in the centerline of County Road No. 630, thence along the said centerline of County Road No. 630 the following courses; run thence S 67 degrees 36' 43" W 207.36 feet to a point, run thence S 75 degrees 51' 03" W 115.35 feet to a point, run thence S 87 degrees 17' 56" W 122.01 feet to a point, run thence N 85 degrees 02' 06" W 246.74 feet to a RR spike set, this point also being located on the Westerly boundary of the SE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10, leaving the County Road run thence N 2 degrees 39' 45" E 1521.82 feet along the Westerly boundary of the E-1/2 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10 back to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 23.089 acres, more or less.

SUBJECT: to any valid right of ways and/or easements. Subject to all oil, gas and other minerals of every kind and character, particularly, any and all reservations and/or conveyances.

Tract 2:

A part of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 and part of the SE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10, Township 07 South, Range 26 West, Pike County, Arkansas and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a brass disk with rock collar found for the NE corner of the NE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Section 10, Township 07 South, Range 26 West and run thence S 2 degrees 33' 28" W 742.78 feet along the Easterly boundary of Section 10 to a RR spike found in the centerline of County Road #241, this point being the POINT OF BEGINNING, continue thence S 2 degrees 33' 29" W 823.85 feet also along the said Section line to a 1/2" rod set; run thence N 87 degrees 40' 48" W 665.49 feet to a 1/2" rod set; run thence N 2 degrees 36' 29" E 629.21 feet to a RR spike found in the centerline of County Road #241; run thence N 79 degrees 21' 58" E 61.68 feet along the above said County Road centerline to a point; run thence N 74 degrees 56' 00" E 367.94 feet along the centerline of County Road #241 to a point; run thence N 76 degrees 45' 33" E 264.19 feet also along the said County Road centerline back to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 11.101 acres, more or less.

SUBJECT: to any valid right of ways and/or easements. Subject to all oil, gas and other minerals of every kind and character, particularly, any and all reservations and/or conveyances.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the distributee or his attorney within three (3) 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. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published this 25 day of March, 2026.

Emogene Cothren, Distributee
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One -P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852 -(870) 845-5256 phone

(v.m., 876w. 38,39)

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

GOD'S GOODNESS

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" A Christian who does not appreciate the great patience of Jehovah is in dire danger. The problem with human nature is that we tend to think we are not as weak as those around us. If we are not careful, we attribute sinful things to others. The difficulty with this is that we cannot know why people act and talk as they do. Only God can judge the motivation of the individuals of our acquaintance. On occasion, we will think a family member is angry because of an expression



on the face or in the tone of voice. The truth many times is a result of a family emergency or an upsetting situation. It is evident that we cannot know what is going on in the lives of our peers. God wants us to understand that He has a perfect grasp of what is happening in our heart. God blesses us every day to show how

much He loves us. Satan will tempt us, and we will sin. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8. He goes further to tell us. "If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and the truth is not in us." I John 1:10. Paul says God's goodness is the motivation for us to repent and turn away from sin. God is always ready to forgive us if we will repent with all our heart. The inspired writer tells us, "Glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. For there is no partiality with God." Romans 2:10,11.

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367 **Facts About The BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

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The Shunammite's Son

HAVING HEARD FROM GEHAZI THAT THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S DEAD SON HAS NOT BEEN REVIVED, ELISHA HASTENS ON TO THE WOMAN'S HOUSE, NOW...

...WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE HOUSE...

...ELISHA LETS NO ONE FOLLOW HIM...

...IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CHILD STILL LIES DEAD.

...AND THE PROPHET MOUNTS THE STEPS TO THE ROOM ON THE GREEN WALL.

...NOW HE ENTERS THE DARKENED ROOM BY HIMSELF TO FACE THIS GRIM SPECTRE OF DEATH!

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Bro. Buddy Ray

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FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS**
- Double's trick
 - Pick
 - Marching band member
 - North one or South one, in Asia
 - Morse Code dash
 - Root of iris
 - Indian black tea
 - Mother lode stuff
 - Disinclined
 - *Mad as a ____
 - *Fit as a ____
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - * ____ A Sketch
 - R&R destination
 - Table, in Mexico
 - Aerie baby
 - Otter's den
 - * ____ as a button
 - Type of union
 - Axillary, in biology
 - *Bored to ____
 - Fit of shivering
 - Treated with calcium hydroxide
 - Recipe amt.
 - Not fiction
 - *Lawrence and DiCaprio movie "Don't ____"
 - Like some hard times
 - *To the ____ degree
 - Not less
 - *Hi-____ graphics
 - *Fly off the ____
 - *Storm in a ____
 - Louisiana swamp
 - *" ____ whiz!"
 - Did like a lunatic
 - Mr. T and friends
 - *Am is to I a ____ is to we
 - Certain pudding ingredient
 - Mosquito net, e.g.
 - Local area network

73. Leavening agent
- DOWN**
- Reggae's cousin
 - Silly talk
 - Minor one in the sky
 - Not o'er
 - Type of gong instrument
 - * ____-Eaters
 - * ____ for the course
 - *"Grand ____ Auto"
 - Walked on
 - Caspian Sea feeder
 - *"Take a ____ Out of Crime"
 - Type of tree
 - Idiom for outdated or trite (2 words)
 - Tape deck button
 - *Break the ____
 - Palatable
 - * ____ we dance?
 - President Franklin Roosevelt's diagnosis
 - *"Remember the ____!"
 - Cooking grease
 - Tennis' Steffi
 - Flotsam and jetsam alternative
 - Something educed
 - *By the skin of your ____
 - Hiker's journey
 - Gaelic language
 - * ____ tire
 - Lollipop brand
 - D.C. mover and shaker
 - Not very far
 - Fit for a king
 - Go "Boo!"
 - *A ____-hate relationship
 - Pirates' affirmatives
 - Famous flood survivor
 - *Nirvana's "Smells Like ____ Spirit"
 - Iris holder
 - *Three ____ in a pod
 - *"Kapow!"
 - Pitcher's stat
 - Banned insecticide, acr.

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StatePoint Media

COMPLEX Continued from Page 2

but it plays even better, on both fields."

He said the fields drained perfectly during rain events. "It does all the things a quality facility should do – and ours does that. That's as important as anything."

Now into the 2026 season, the project was officially finished before the season kicked off.

Finishing details included several truckloads of sand for both fields to help level the outfields.

"Where you laid down the sod, it created ridges, so it was very hilly in some spots. So top dressing and leveling off was very important to address over the summer, and it will happen again this summer to help finish off the leveling portion."

Also added was the "hitter's eye" background for the baseball field.

"We've had more questions about that – and what that is. It is literally what it looks like ... a giant wall. A lot of places have them built into their fence, but that means the fence is variable heights, and that wasn't the plan. We wanted the structured fence we got, and then put the hitter's eye behind it. The point of it is to help the hitter pick up the baseball out of the pitcher's hand ... when you have the open space, that runs into nothingness, it's a lot harder to pick up the ball. With that back there, no matter what arm slot the pitch is coming from, you can pick up the baseball right out of the pitcher's hand [by sight]. It's kind of standard at real-life ballparks you find, but not as much at a 2A high school ballpark."

McRae said the batting cages are nearing completion – sometime this season he expects. "It's a massive area, and we will be able to put multiple nets to space up however we need to for hitting. It's covered, has electricity and lights. It has all the things you need to have a high quality batting cage area."

He is just as proud of the storage area attached to the batting cages, which will host the complexes' material and maintenance supplies.

"It's plenty of storage out-of-season, but also plenty of space

in-season, being able to get to the chalker and the sprayer but still access the baseballs and helmets. Storage can become a very tight space and having to shuffle for access isn't needed to try and fit all of those things. From quick-dry to mowers and rakes – all the stuff you need to have space for we will just be able to grab, get on the field and then put it back. This allows the dugout storage to be more sports centric. Adding that storage area was just what we needed, it really just completes the project."

The concession stand area was also built in line with the idea of hosting tournaments. The stand itself is out front and "up to code", with room in the back for climate-controlled office spaces for umpires. The batting cage area can also double as a hospital-ity space. "A lot of facilities don't have that."

Having said all that, McRae said that it all goes into tournaments.

"We were trying to build these [fields] to bring people here. Yes, we are very proud for our people to be able to experience it and to play on these facilities. But there is a bigger picture in mind. Every year you have to bid to the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) on regional or state tournaments to host them. Everyone who bids is then considered at a meeting of the AAA board, who selects who gets to host those events that year. There seems to be no true reason as to why people are selected or not selected – there is no true pattern. Sometimes they try to alternate conference hostings from one year to the next if it works out that way ... so that did work in our favor this year we could get that bounce back (at Woodlawn in 2025)."

McRae said that Superintendent Tanya Wilcher made the presentation to the AAA board, which led to the AAA selecting Murfreesboro High School as host of the the Class 2A Region 4 2026 tournament for both baseball and softball after hosting the 7-2A district softball tournament the week prior.

Asked directly if that had been possible [hosting postseason tournaments] at their former home at Murfreesboro City Park, McRae confesses it would have been "much tougher" because of the fence length, which would have been a much harder selling point in his opinion.

"Playing a regional tournament on a field with a fence that is not truly regulation for high school baseball would have been a tough ask, even with the higher fence. The softball field at the park is very nice and could very easily play a quality tournament on that – but in baseball, it would be a very hard sell in that context."

McRae said that hosting the regional tournament will be a test case for possibly trying to host state tournaments in the future. "This will be a good jump-in first test to let us learn what we need to know and do differently next time."

One feature of hosting a state tournament is that the host school has to provide a second site for first day tournament games – thus necessitating potential partners with a nearby school like Nashville or Centerpoint.

"We have everything we need to host state one day," he said, noting it was a bonus feature of Murfreesboro to have more local hotel rooms and restaurant selection than many Class 2A teams. "And were Nashville partnered with us, more hotel rooms and Wal-Mart is just 15 minutes away. We have the setup to be as good as most – perhaps not the best, but across the board, looking at who has hosted tournaments, out set up is right there on par with the majority, across the board – not just facilities."

After the postseason tournaments this season, McRae said the school would evaluate the results and see when they would want to make another bid to the AAA.

McRae said that in 2027, following redistricting, the conference could have nine teams, reestablishing the need for a baseball district tournament, as opposed to the round robin regular season (home / away for every team) that is currently employed.

"That is unless something changes between now and that decision," he added with a laugh.

"When you have a new conference with teams that have not been there before, so there is a scenario in which we host softball conference tournament this year and both next year," he said, noting that the rotational scheduling would be reset for whatever it was previously.

"It's brand new and has to start over," he explained, "and I'll be the first to say, everybody just come here [to Murfreesboro]. We built these [fields] for ya'll to come here."

He said it was exciting to bring people here that haven't been here before.

"I'm excited to get people here to see what we've been able to build. I'm not going to list anyone who has helped with this project – I'd forget as many as I would remember. Inevitably, I would leave someone out. The administration and school board were obviously integral to the process, without their direction, leadership and approval none of this would have been possible. I'm just the baseball coach, I can say it would be nice to have this all day long, but I can't just make it happen. It was something they wanted to do for our kids, our community and have something worth adding to our already very nice facilities and school. This just adds an additional level to that, to add value and continue to have a place your kids are proud to show up to. It's a great feeling when others teams show up and say how nice the facilities are – as well as seeing how this all played out from the beginning. I'm looking very forward to continuing to keep it very high quality and standard down there [at the complex] – we are putting a lot of time and effort into maintaining and doing the things that it takes to keep it nice."

McRae said he was very respectful and thankful for the complex.

"There have been a number of people publicly helping out with the project – seen and unseen – that have stepped up in a multitude of ways to help make this project come to life. I'm very thankful to them all who have helped get there to where it is today."

And finally, McRae invites one and all to come out and see the facilities.

"We would love for people to come out and catch a game – we have a good product on the field, and we want people to come see all the hard work that went into it to make it what is now."

MHS will host the regional baseball tournaments on May 7-9, while the softball district tournament will be held the week previous on April 27-May 1.

The dates of softball district will be set closer to the time of the event to avoid potential conflicts with track squads around the conference.

"I think people will be very impressed for those that haven't seen the complex – come check it out. See the facilities and a game – it's a great setup. No corners were cut, and it took a lot of time, money and commitment. We could have cut corners and made it easier, but we didn't. I tip my hat to the administration ... we weren't going to settle and we got exactly what we wanted. We got it right and that's what matters."

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

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. **Guaranteed to last a lifetime!** Limited Time Offer + up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-861-2447

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

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

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

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-833-837-1280. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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

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BUYER OF TIMBER & TIMBERLAND

Matt Tollett (870) 703-6939
Jason Porter (870) 703-1039
Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628

P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

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Chamber to host banquet on April 16

MURFREESBORO -- The 2026 Chamber Banquet entitled "All Trails Lead to Diamonds" will be held on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Senior Citizens' Center.

Tickets to the event will be \$25 each. Becky Flynn, the Deputy Director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation for the State of Arkansas, will be the speaker.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Chamber will hand out the Person of the

Year Award at the banquet, and they need your nominations.

The award is given annually to an individual or organization who has "given selflessly and worked tirelessly to better the lives of others and the community at large."

To submit a nomination, simply write a small narrative in support of the nomination and mail it to the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 166, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or drop it off at Murfreesboro City Hall, located at 805 North Washington Street.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONGOING -- The public is invited to drop by the Pike County Extension Office and get some Texas Roadhouse Rolls. The rolls have been cut in price to \$4 a dozen and \$2 for container of cinnamon butter. Call the office at (870) 285-2161 for more information.

Please send your community announcements at least two weeks in advance to mdiamond@windstream.net

Four States Classic

SPRING TURNOUT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

Replacement Female Sale

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CALL (870) 285-2723 TO PLACE YOURS IN NEXT WEEK'S EDITION OF THE DIAMOND

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Murfreesboro Annual Financial Statement 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025		
General Operating Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$365,119.27
Revenue		
Fees & Permits	\$58,140.54	
Fines and Forfeitures	\$30,368.00	
Other Revenue	\$12,393.40	
Tax Receipts	\$61,668.49	
Investment Income	\$12,208.39	
Transfers In	\$979,635.38	
Other Financing Sources	\$25,000.00	
Revenue		\$1,179,414.20
Gross Revenue		\$1,544,533.47
Expenses		
Transportation Expense	\$2,176.62	
Repair and Maintenance Expense	\$8,745.08	
Communications Expense	\$737.20	
Advertising and Publications	\$2,645.30	
Personal Services Expense	\$714,112.39	
Capital Purchase Expense	\$54,613.51	
Fuel Expense	\$43.49	
Insurance Expense	\$25,778.96	
Debt Service Expense	\$40,953.80	
Supplies Expense	\$17,054.66	
Utilities Expense	\$12,357.84	
Professional Services Expense	\$759.00	
Other Expense	\$144,296.99	
Transfers Out	\$284,856.90	
Expenses		\$1,309,131.74
Balance December 31, 2025		\$236,401.73
General Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$59,380.26
Revenue		
Fees & Permits	\$79,615.27	
Government Receipts	\$22,212.82	
Tax Receipts	\$769,941.95	
Investment Income	\$1,850.19	
Transfers In	\$832.25	
Revenue		\$874,452.48
Gross Revenue		\$933,832.74
Expenses		
Utilities Expense	\$19,743.66	
Other Expense	\$5,987.96	
Transfers Out	\$795,424.35	
Expenses		\$821,156.97
Balance December 31, 2025		\$112,676.77
Street Operating Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$368,647.59
Revenue		
Other Revenue	\$4,928.71	
Tax Receipts	\$13,070.43	
Investment Income	\$12,490.09	
Transfers In	\$151,725.70	
Revenue		\$182,214.93
Gross Revenue		\$550,862.52
Expenses		
Repair and Maintenance Expense	\$1,428.09	
Advertising and Publications	\$94.50	
Personal Services Expense	\$131,772.21	
Fuel Expense	\$30,782.20	
Insurance Expense	\$2,531.42	
Debt Service Expense	\$7,299.96	
Materials Expense	\$197.29	
Supplies Expense	\$8,052.68	
Utilities Expense	\$2,606.49	
Professional Services Expense	\$13,660.00	
Other Expense	\$9,074.85	
Transfers Out	\$64,168.00	
Expenses		\$271,667.69
Balance December 31, 2025		\$279,194.83
Street Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$13,956.10
Revenue		
Government Receipts	\$126,327.58	
Investment Income	\$1,172.40	
Revenue		\$127,499.98
Gross Revenue		\$141,456.08
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$750.00	
Fuel Expense	\$2,505.20	
Utilities Expense	\$30,611.78	
Other Expense	\$368.00	
Transfers Out	\$19,931.78	
Expenses		\$54,166.76
Balance December 31, 2025		\$87,289.32
ACEDP Grant		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$0.00
Revenue		
Government Receipts	\$1,950.00	
Transfers In	\$64,168.00	
Revenue		\$66,118.00
Gross Revenue		\$66,118.00
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$64,168.00	
Professional Services Expense	\$1,950.00	
Expenses		\$66,118.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$0.00
ACT 833		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$38,250.97
Revenue		
Government Receipts	\$33,883.76	
Investment Income	\$1,665.45	
Revenue		\$35,549.21
Gross Revenue		\$73,800.18
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$900.08	
Supplies Expense	\$6,701.47	
Other Expense	\$30,653.34	
Expenses		\$38,254.89
Balance December 31, 2025		\$35,545.29
Administration of Justice		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$0.00

Revenue		
Fines and Forfeitures	\$106,748.77	
Revenue		\$106,748.77
Gross Revenue		\$106,748.77
Expenses		
Other Expense	\$96,987.61	
Transfers Out	\$6,970.88	
Expenses		\$103,958.49
Balance December 31, 2025		\$2,790.28
ARPA		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$6,520.54
Revenue		
Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gross Revenue		\$6,520.54
Expenses		
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$6,520.54
City Service Building		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$14,151.18
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$305.63	
Revenue		\$305.63
Gross Revenue		\$14,456.81
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$2,890.80	
Insurance Expense	\$90.18	
Supplies Expense	\$242.59	
Utilities Expense	\$2,994.55	
Other Expense	\$138.23	
Expenses		\$6,356.35
Balance December 31, 2025		\$8,100.46
Court Automation		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$46,406.30
Revenue		
Fines and Forfeitures	\$11,177.50	
Investment Income	\$1,086.55	
Revenue		\$12,264.05
Gross Revenue		\$58,670.35
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$2,330.00	
Utilities Expense	\$1,050.95	
Other Expense	\$19,801.46	
Expenses		\$23,182.41
Balance December 31, 2025		\$35,487.94
Criminal Justice		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$9,839.88
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$177.20	
Transfers In	\$1,569.76	
Revenue		\$1,746.96
Gross Revenue		\$11,586.84
Expenses		
Transfers Out	\$10,000.00	
Expenses		\$10,000.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$1,586.84
Economic Development		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$17,932.95
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$469.97	
Transfers In	\$3,294.86	
Revenue		\$3,764.83
Gross Revenue		\$21,697.78
Expenses		
Other Expense	\$1,671.42	
Expenses		\$1,672.42
Balance December 31, 2025		\$20,025.36
Fire Boat		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$136.57
Revenue		
Government Receipts	\$770.99	
Investment Income	\$35.38	
Revenue		\$806.37
Gross Revenue		\$942.94
Expenses		
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$806.37
Fireman's Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$32,286.67
Revenue		
Fees & Permits	\$20.00	
Other Revenue	\$29,950.00	
Investment Income	\$1,386.45	
Revenue		\$31,356.45
Gross Revenue		\$63,643.12
Expenses		
Repair and Maintenance Expense	\$12,736.49	
Personal Services Expense	\$7,505.29	
Supplies Expense	\$4,418.87	
Other Expense	\$15,589.91	
Expenses		\$40,241.56
Balance December 31, 2025		\$23,401.56
Lake Greason Substation		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$14,055.23
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$520.92	
Revenue		\$520.92
Gross Revenue		\$14,576.15
Expenses		
Insurance Expense	\$1,946.62	
Supplies Expense	\$172.84	
Utilities Expense	\$1,460.20	
Other Expense	\$1,611.91	
Expenses		\$5,191.57
Balance December 31, 2025		\$9,384.58
Municipal Court Costs		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$3,440.22
Revenue		

Investment Income		
Transfers In	\$264.16	
Revenue		\$358.49
Gross Revenue		\$3,798.71
Expenses		
Communications Expense	\$156.00	
Expenses		\$156.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$3,642.71
Municipal Judge & Clerk Retirement		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$329.15
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$17.99	
Transfers In	\$2,806.24	
Revenue		\$2,824.23
Gross Revenue		\$3,153.38
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$3,005.78	
Expenses		\$3,005.78
Balance December 31, 2025		\$147.60
New Fire Truck		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$116,944.05
Revenue		
Other Revenue	\$6,895.72	
Investment Income	\$5,793.17	
Transfers In	\$41,185.58	
Revenue		\$53,874.47
Gross Revenue		\$170,818.52
Expenses		
Other Expense	\$6,895.72	
Expenses		\$6,895.72
Balance December 31, 2025		\$163,922.80
New Police Car		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$39.91
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$0.02	
Revenue		\$0.02
Gross Revenue		\$39.93
Expenses		
Transfers Out	\$39.93	
Expenses		\$39.93
Balance December 31, 2025		\$0.00
Park Fund		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$12,482.08
Revenue		
Investment Income	\$361.05	
Transfers In	\$107,083.54	
Revenue		\$107,444.59
Gross Revenue		\$119,926.67
Expenses		
Repair and Maintenance Expense	\$1,517.71	
Personal Services Expense	\$57,780.04	
Insurance Expense	\$4,024.68	
Debt Service Expense	\$4,793.45	
Supplies Expense	\$8,121.44	
Utilities Expense	\$20,447.11	
Other Expense	\$645.41	
Expenses		\$97,329.84
Balance December 31, 2025		\$22,596.83
Park Activity		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$5,714.75
Revenue		
Other Revenue	\$1.00	
Revenue		\$1.00
Gross Revenue		\$5,715.75
Expenses		
Transfers Out	\$1.00	
Expenses		\$1.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$5,714.75
Park Sports		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$9,503.99
Revenue		
Other Revenue	\$6,450.00	
Investment Income	\$278.42	
Revenue		\$6,728.42
Gross Revenue		\$16,231.51
Expenses		
Personal Services Expense	\$2,440.00	
Insurance Expense	\$1,003.10	
Supplies Expense	\$1,276.57	
Other Expense	\$1,844.76	
Expenses		\$6,564.43
Balance December 31, 2025		\$9,667.08
Police Special		
Balance January 1, 2025		\$2,811.57
Revenue		
Fees & Permits	\$140.00	
Investment Income	\$76.14	
Revenue		\$216.14
Gross Revenue		\$3,027.71
Expenses		
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance December 31, 2025		\$3,027.71
INDEBTEDNESS		
Type of Debt		
	Amount	Last Payment Due
Short term financing obligations	\$16,164.28	7/7/26
Short term financing obligations	\$7,195.68	12/16/26
Short term financing obligations	\$38,208.59	6/16/27
Short term financing obligations	\$10,189.25	7/19/28
Short term financing obligations	\$7,027.15	4/24/29
Short term financing obligations	\$17,174.26	4/16/27
All financial records for the City of Murfreesboro are public records and are open for public inspection during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at City Hall, 805 N Washington Ave, Murfreesboro, Arkansas.		
If the record is in active use or in storage and, therefore, not available at the time a citizen asks to examine it, the custodian shall certify this fact in writing to the applicant and set a date and hour within three (3) days at which time the record will be available for inspection and copying.		