

The Murfreesboro Diamond

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

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



Delight VFD dinner set for Saturday

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.

Applications for Century Farms program now being accepted

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Arkansas Century Farm Program. This program honors Arkansas families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years, recognizing their contributions to the state's agricultural heritage.

Completed applications must be submitted online no later than July 31, 2026, to be considered for the 2026 induction cycle. The program is voluntary, and there is no cost to apply. To qualify, Arkansas farms must meet the following criteria:

- The same family must have owned the farm for at least 100 years by December 31, 2026. Ownership may pass through generations, including children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces – by birth, marriage, or adoption.
- The farm must include at least 10 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.
- Qualifying farms will receive a personalized Arkansas Century Farm certificate and metal sign listing the farm name and year established.

Established in 2012, the Arkansas Century Farm Program highlights the historical significance of Arkansas farm families and their lasting impact on the state's agriculture industry. Since its inception, 687 farms have been inducted. More information and the application for the Arkansas Century Farm Program are available on the Department's website at <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/resources/programs/arkansas-century-farm-program/>.



Staff photos

EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR ... The South Pike County School District named its educators of the year for the 2025-2026 school year at last week's Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce banquet. Presenting the awards to the teachers was Murfreesboro Elementary School Principal James Riley, who is pictured with (left) Murfreesboro High School educator of the year Brittany Harris and (right) Murfreesboro Elementary School teacher of the year Carle Gatliff. For complete coverage of the event, please see next week's Murfreesboro Diamond.

Chamber discusses Juneteenth plans

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discussed the upcoming Juneteenth celebration at the April 14 meeting.

This year the entire celebration will be contained to the city park on Saturday, June 13, the Saturday before the official Juneteenth holiday on Friday, June 19.

The event will kick off with the annual parade, starting at 9 a.m., which will go from the Chimney Rock grocery store parking lot to the city park.

Other planned events will include a domino

tournament, a bounce house, bingo with prizes and a spades tournament. Hot dogs, watermelon, chips and drinks will be served for lunch.

Event organizers said a baseball tournament proposal received no response, so was not in the works.

A live disc jockey will be present with room for a dance, which Mayor Jim O'Neal said was a good idea.

Last year Mauney Street was blocked in the evening hours off for a dance/block party, but the mayor felt that was "dangerous, even with the street blocked off."

"By having it all at the park, there will be restrooms available and no need for a time schedule," O'Neal said.

On Sunday, June 14, an interdenominational sunrise service will be held at the park, which will be set to conclude before other church services begin.

Event organizers plan to sell sponsorships on a t-shirt to help fund the activities. All proceeds from the sponsorships and t-shirt sales will go to the event.

More inmates sentenced for jailhouse drugs

MURFREESBORO -- Four defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court, including two more county inmates charged with bringing marijuana in to the jail.

Montanna Curry, 24, of Mount Ida, and Glen McCurdy, 45, of Caddo Gap, both pleaded guilty to the charge of furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles-delivering a prohibited article involving an incident where nine inmates were charged.

Curry and McCurdy were each sentenced to 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Correc-

tions (ADC) with five years suspended.

Also Monday, Jesse Jackson, 27, of Murfreesboro, pleaded guilty to the charge of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to six years in the ADC with three years suspended. He was also credited for time served.

Nicolas Payte, 43, of Glenwood, pleaded "true" to violating the terms of his probation. Payte was sentenced to one year in the county jail and had his probation extended for one year.

CHARGE FILED

A Glenwood man was charged in Pike County April 17 with felony fleeing and a misdemeanor traffic charge.

Shawn Williams, 21, made his first court appearance on the charge Monday when his bond was set at \$7,500 and a June 22 pretrial date was set.

Williams is accused of leading a Glenwood officer on a high-speed chase on March 16 before wrecking out and fleeing into a residential area.

Westerman to hold local office hours

HOT SPRINGS -- Today, the office of Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) announced mobile office hours for April 28-30.

Staff will be available to assist constituents with casework matters related to passports, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service, and other federal agency related issues.

More mobile office hours for 2026 will be announced at a later date. For questions, please call 501-609-9796 or visit Westerman.house.gov/contact.

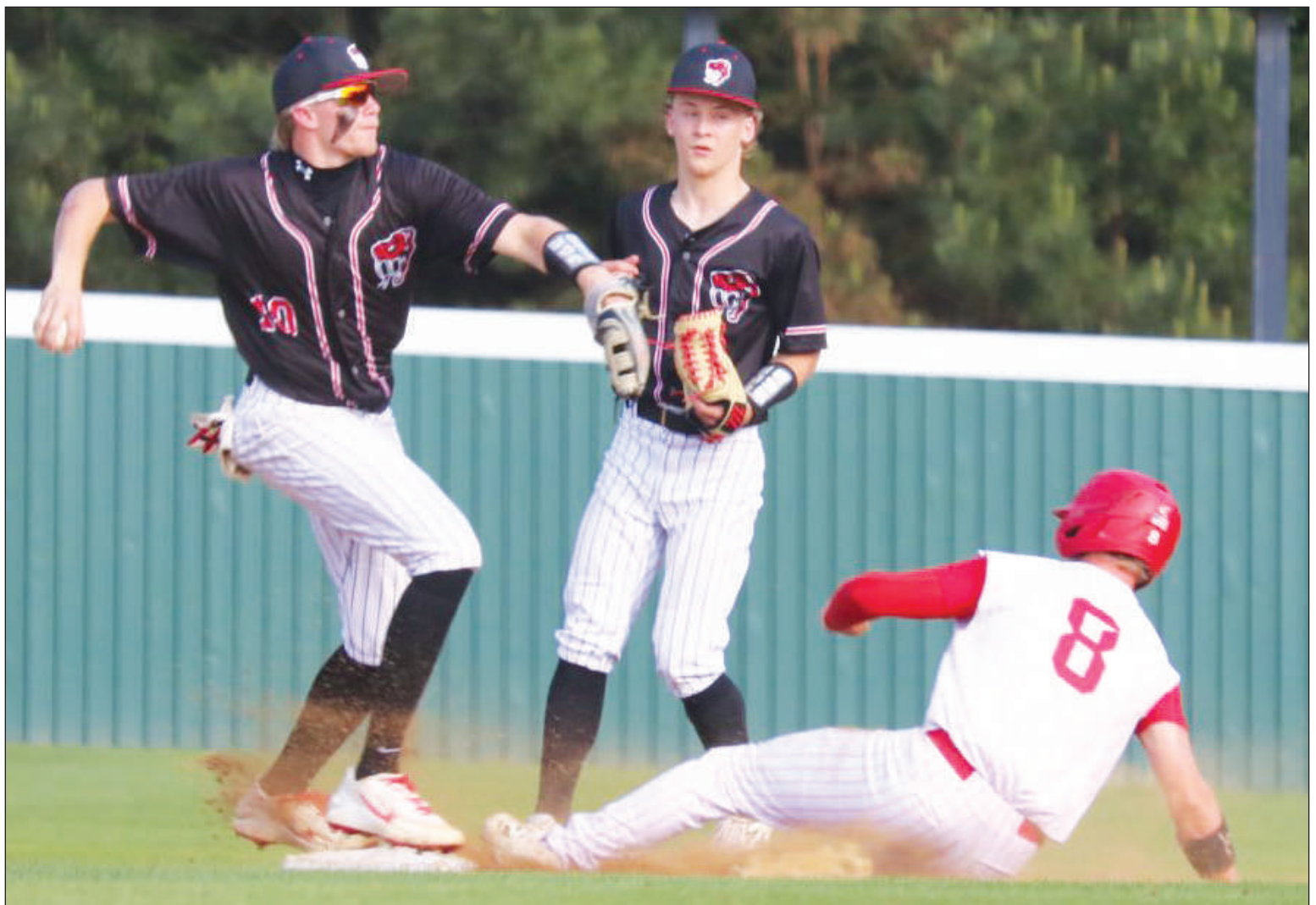
Local stops include:

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
Howard County Courthouse
Noon-2 p.m.
421 N. Main Street, Nashville

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
Pike County Courthouse
9-11 a.m.
1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photo/Jillian Caldwell

TURNING TWO ... Rattler shortstop Kooper Caldwell looks to turn a double play after stepping on second for the first out against Magnolia High School. The Murfreesboro Rattlers baseball team took one on the chin last week, losing to Magnolia High School 11-0, before rebounding the next day to defeat Dierks on the road 9-3.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

April 7, 2026

BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Armstrong, Sylvester Jr., 35, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$540 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220

Avilez, Nathen Bradley, 23, Newhope, guilty of no driver's license, fined \$140

Bailey, Robert Lee, 44, De Queen, \$150 BF, speeding

Clower, Joseph Allen, 48, Kirby, guilty of expired vehicle license-tags, fined \$125; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340

Cogburn, Jonathan, 37, Norman, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140

Culpepper, Kason Paul, 20, Kirby, guilty of DWI-drugs, fined \$1,235, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Diallo, Thierno Mamadou, 39, Alpharette, Ga., \$185 BF, fails report of log duty statuses

Fletcher Bryson Drake, 20, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Flores, Israel C., 32, Wickes, \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Goanna, Maria Julia, 48, Batesville, \$140 BF,

no driver's license

Golden, Danny R., 60, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$520 balance

Gonzalez, Viviana Lopez, 31, De Queen, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; \$205 BF, failure to appear; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Green, Thomas Alandillon, 24, Amity, \$180 BF, speeding

Hamilton, Faith Marie, 27, Amity, \$140 BF, no vehicle license

Hamilton, William A., 54, Malvern, guilty of speeding, fined \$140

Holmes, Sara Sunshine, 28, Mena, \$235 BF, public intoxication

Kizer, Michael Andrew, 21, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125

Kuykendall, Linda Nacole, 40, De Queen, \$140 BF, speeding

Martins, Felipe, 42, Orlando, Fla., \$140 BF, operating on learner's permit without CDL holder; \$210 BF, brakes general

Miller, Kevin R., 34, Murfreesboro, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$1,000

Pierce, Gregory Cort, 30, McCaskill, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325

Roberts, Danielle Faye, 21, Mineral Springs, guilty of failure to pay, \$315 balance

Spears, Chloe Lynn, 22, Murfreesboro, \$140 BF, speeding

Starr, Samuel, 54, De Queen, \$220 BF, overweight

Stephens, Danielle R., 42, Kirby, \$140 Bf, fictitious tags

Thomas, Aimee Leann, 36, Amity, \$205 BF, failure to pay

Weeks, Jeremy, 46, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,365 balance

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Lorey, Gerald, 54, Shreveport, La., \$275 BF, dumping trash or refuse in city

McDonald, Heather, 38, Livingston, La., possession of controlled substance, under advisement for three months to dismiss, fined \$525

Parris, Kelly, 52, Arkadelphia, \$345 BF, driving with suspended license; \$90 BF, no seat belt; \$145 BF, failure to pay registration; \$225 BF, failure to appear; \$225 BF, failure to appear

Pierce, Gregory Cort, 30, McCaskill, guilty of obstructing government operations, fined \$250; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265

Sorrells, Jacob Matthew, 27, Nashville, \$160 BF, speeding

Walters, Misty Flora, 39, Okolona, guilty of DWI #3, fined \$2,655, sentenced to 90 days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Whichard, Christopher Allen, 35, Hot

Springs, guilty of terroristic threatening, fined \$520; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$280

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Clower, Joseph Allen, 48, Amity, guilty of failure to pay, \$2,240 balance; committed to jail-suspended conditions; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205

Driggers, Braxton James, 18, Glenwood, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Fogle, Johnell Capri, 23, Glenwood, \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Martin, Elizabeth Erin, 45, San Bernardino, Cali., \$160 BF, speeding; \$240 BF, failure to appear

Mayberry, Bobbie Jo., 39, Bismarck, guilty of violation of city canine/feline ordinance, fined \$190

Quintana, Isaias Belmontes, 59, Little Rock, \$170 BF, speeding

Taylor, Presley Gavin, 20, Glenwood, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Wilson, Chase Allan, 26, Glenwood, guilty of careless prohibited driving, fined \$160

Visitors to tourist website increase heavily in March

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission was given a sparkling report by DNT Media on their online presence in March.

DNT spokesperson Steve Dannaway said via a call that the plan to double the traffic was well surpassed as the numbers were quintupled.

The 1,200 sessions on digmurfreesboro.com were increased to 6,800 in March, while page views went from 2,300 to 9,800 in the same timeframe.

For a month to month comparison, March 2025 saw 830 sessions and 1,700 views.

Commission chairman Jamie Terrell said that was "great news."

Dannaway also said the social media numbers were up ap-

preciably, and expected even more growth in April with "really decent numbers ... it's doing extremely well and all trending upward."

According to analytics, the top cities visiting the site were (in order) Little Rock, New York City, Philadelphia, Cheyenne, Los Angeles, Sky Lake (Florida), Fayetteville and Chicago.

After shooting video locally at the end of March, DNT Media will produce commercials that will be shown on digital streaming platforms through mid-May.

"That's the best bang for your buck offered," Dannaway said.

The signs marking the Glen Campbell Highway have arrived, but after being delivered, it was discovered the county had no way to install the 14 foot posts. Pike County Judge Eddie Howard reportedly told the group that the county didn't have

a bucket truck tall enough to drive the posts into the ground.

So, after discussion, more information will be gotten from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) to see if holes can be created by auger and cemented in place fits within their installation parameters.

An ARDOT representative must also be on site when the installation occurs.

The copier purchased by the group will soon go out of service, so the group voted to lease a new Toshiba machine from Vanco at the rate of \$134 a month for 39 months. A service package and toner cartridges will be included in the lease price.

With the city owning land on Highway 27 coming into town from Nashville, it was noted that without some use the city would begin to accrue property taxes on the parcel. As the Commission had previously approved a "Welcome to Murfreesboro" sign, a billboard style structure will be placed on the property.

ARDOT approval will be required, and the sign will direct tourists to the digmurfreesboro.com website to see all options available in town.

Cheer program to hold dinner and auction

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro High School and Junior High School cheerleaders have begun their fundraising efforts for the upcoming school year in order to raise money for cheerleader uniforms and camp.

"The expenses for these girls are enormous and these girls have planned a cheerleader dinner fundraiser to assist with these expenses," said junior high cheer sponsor Melissa Cornish.

The cheerleader loaded baked potato dinner fundraiser will be held Monday, May 4 at the Murfreesboro High School activity center from 5-6:30 p.m.

Cheer members are selling drive-thru dinner tickets for \$10 each. A smoked loaded potato (with optional butter, sour cream, cheese and bacon bits included), salad, cookies and drink will be the meal offering.

The group is also asking businesses/individuals to donate items for a silent auction to be held online the week of Saturday, April 25-Saturday, May 2 prior drive thru fundraiser.

The auction will be held on Facebook at www.facebook.com/

groups/1616182166266674.

All proceeds from the auction and ticket sales will go toward cheerleaders' expenses.

For more information, please contact Cornish at melissa.cornish@rattlers.org or (870) 681-2243.

"These girls represent our community and the goal is to help with the expenses in being a cheerleader," Cornish said.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes. The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

Send letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP Saturday, April 25

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE
Cities of Antoine / Delight / Daisy
Residential Area Only

Everything must be at regular pickup spot.

STRICTLY NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

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

AMENDED LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

BE IT KNOWN:

THAT MIKE DAVIS, whose address is PO Box 105, Newhope, AR 71959, and AURENA DAVIS, whose address is 108 Central Av, Joliet, IL 60436 having been duly appointed Co-Administrators of the estate of NANCY KAY NELSON, deceased, who died on November 16, 2025, and having qualified as such Co-Administrators, are hereby authorized to act as such Co-Administrators for and on behalf of the estate and to take possession of the property thereof as authorized by law.

So ordered

PIKE COUNTY CLERK
/s/ Kristie K. Harris
Pike County Deputy County Clerk

(d.b., 124w., 42,43)

NOW HIRING

City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas Police Department Patrol Officer

The City of Murfreesboro Police Department is seeking a dedicated, community minded individual to join our team. As a municipal police officer, you will play a vital role in protecting public safety, building community trust, and upholding the laws of our city.

Position: FullTime Police Officer

Salary: Competitive, based on experience

Benefits: Health insurance, retirement plan, paid leave, training opportunities

Responsibilities:

- Patrol assigned areas to maintain public safety
- Respond to emergency and nonemergency calls
- Conduct investigations and prepare reports
- Enforce local, state, and federal laws
- Engage positively with community members

Minimum Requirements

- 21 years of age or older
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to pass background check, physical fitness test, and drug screening
- Completion of state approved police academy (or willingness to attend)

Applications are available at Murfreesboro City Hall, 805 N Washington Ave, Murfreesboro, AR

Deadline to apply: May 8, 2026.

For more information, call (870) 285-3732

(c.o.m. 163w., 42,43)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,
ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
DOUGLAS COCHRAN, deceased No. 55PR-26-14

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 17 West Park, Kirby, Pike County, Arkansas 71950

Date of Death: December 6, 2025

An instrument dated April 14, 2026, lawfully appointed Beverly June Hager Executrix of the above estate.

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

This notice first published on the 22nd day of April, 2026.

Petitioner,

Beverly June Hager

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell

DUSTIN BISSELL

Attorney for Petitioner

306 E. Broadway, Glenwood, AR 71943

(870) 356-2589 Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b., 137w., 42,43)

Murfreesboro Diamond

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

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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.**



Submitted photo/PCF&R

BASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS ... Cory Ballard (left) and Leon Stone were the winners of the 2026 Pike County Fair and Rodeo Bass Tournament held recently at Swaha Landing on Lake Greeson. The pair, with 14.38 pounds total, also won the big bass prize with a 6.56 pound fish. Other finishers included second place James Billingsly and Peyton Cox with 13.80 pounds, third place Randy Tidwell and Jason Lenderman with 13.51 pounds, fourth place Chuck Hamby and Brian Reed with 13.17 pounds and fifth place Larry O'Neal and Curtis O'Neal with 12.91 pounds.

Local cemeteries make announcements

SW ARKANSAS -- The Delight Cemetery Association will be hosting a Decoration and Clean-Up day on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m.

The group encourages those who have a loved one at rest in the cemetery to come and decorate the grave with flowers, etc. Also, supplies will be available to help clean the cemetery and grave stones.

Participating attendees will be offered hot dogs, chips, dessert and drinks.

The plan is to make the effort an annual event, coordinating

the date to line up with the former cemetery dinner.

For more information, please contact Celeste May at (501) 941-9196.

ACADEMY CEMETERY

Mowing season is here and the upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by donations. Donations may be given to Basel Cox, Gary L. Cox, or Jimmy Goodwin.

Donations may be mailed to:

Gary L. Cox 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd. Nashville AR. 71852

Basel Cox 11 Bacon Creek Farm Rd. Nashville AR 71852

Jimmy Goodwin 122 Britt Road Nashville AR 71852

The groups asks that flowers on the ground be removed before mowing season to make mowing of the cemetery easier and they appreciate the cooperation.

Obituaries

Barbara Jean Sturman, 69, Billstown



Barbara Jean Sturman, age 69 of Billstown, Arkansas, passed away on April 17, 2026 at her home. She was born on July 28, 1956, the daughter of the late Dick Edwin McDowell and Lois Parker Vaughn.

Mrs. Sturman was a member of the Smyrna Methodist Church. She loved gardening and housework. She enjoyed hunting and the outdoors. She worked as a beautician and a postal worker, as well as being an administrator for her family's logging business. Most of all, she loved spending time

with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband of 50 years, Paul Sturman; her son, James Struman; her sister, Becky Sturtevant; three grandchildren Eden (Andrew) Henderson, Dillon (Paige) Sturman and Waylon Sturman; six great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A graveside service for Mrs. Sturman was held on Monday, April 20, 2026 in the Smyrna Cemetery with Rev. Jim Henderson officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

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

Stephen Gosnell, 80, Texarkana

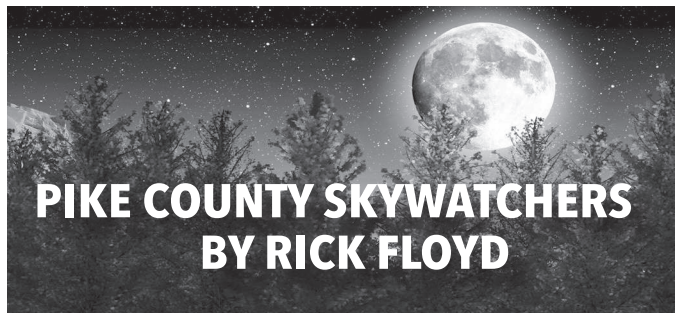
Stephen Gosnell, 80, died March 31, 2026, at Texarkana.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dana Gosnell, and son, Troy Gosnell.

Survivors include: his wife of 50 years, Margie Ann Gosnell; his children Kevin Gosnell, Kendall Gosnell, Keith

Gosnell, Stanley Gosnell, and daughter, Stephenie Combs; also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, Saturday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m.



Artemis returns from moon

Now that Artemis II has successfully completed its mission to orbit the Moon, NASA is preparing for the launch of Artemis III a year or so from now. It will not be a lunar landing mission, but another lunar orbit and rehearsal of docking and undocking routines. Artemis IV is slated to be the landing mission. Take a look on-line, if you haven't already, at the images and videos that were taken by the Artemis crew.

Humanity gets a reminder from time to time of what a small world we live on. Pictures from the Moon have done that recently, but there was another event in April long ago that tragically brought people around the globe together in shared experience. On April 10, 1815 Mt Tambora, a volcano in Indonesia, erupted. It was the most violent eruption in recorded history, and the explosion was heard a 1000 miles away sounding like a cannon blast.

Smoke, ash, and sulphur rose and quickly blanketed the upper atmosphere and began to move around the globe. The sky became darkened blocking much of the Sun's light, and the Earth's surface began to cool. Globally, people began to suffer as crops failed and temperatures dropped as much as 5 degrees below normal. Diseases like cholera spread adding to the misery. By the summer of 1816 it was still more like winter in Europe and the 18 states of the United States. It was called the Year Without a Summer. Snow fell in the upper states in June and July, and it frosted in Virginia during the month of August.

Lately we have been under the influence of what is called a solar maximum, when the Sun cycles into a period of increased activity. The opposite of that had the Earth in a chill starting in 1790 and lasting until 1830. This was called the Little Ice Age (or astronomically, the Dalton Minimum). This slow down of the Sun's energy output unfortunately added to the effects of the volcanic shroud over the planet.

A side note about that wintry summer is about how writers Mary Shelley, Percy Shelley, and Lord Byron spent many of those bleak days at a chateau in Switzerland. While huddled against the cold Mary wrote the dark horror classic "Frankenstein" (or "The Modern Prometheus"), and Byron penned the poem "Darkness" in which he wrote of the Sun "extinguished", the "icy earth", of stars "darkling in eternal space" and of morn that "brought no day."

Our western sky lately has been warmed by bright Venus, the evening "star." It will continue to rise a bit higher each evening before heading back down to be out of sight until later rising as the morning "star."

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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: How is rosacea treated?

A: Rosacea is a chronic skin condition that causes redness in the face. It most frequently presents itself on the cheeks, forehead, and nose. Rosacea is very common — the National Rosacea Society estimates that between 14 and 16 million Americans are affected by the condition.

It is unknown why rosacea occurs. Rosacea is not contagious, and it does not result from poor hygiene. Hot or cold temperatures, consuming spicy foods, exposure to the sun or wind, stress, and some cosmetic, hair, and skin products can exacerbate the condition. Anyone can develop rosacea, but those who have fair skin and those over the age of 30 are at higher risk. Rosacea affects women more than men.

Symptoms of rosacea include visible blood vessels, bumps and pimples, facial redness and flushing, patches of rough and dry skin, and problems with vision. The condition can also thicken the skin on the nose over time, causing it to look bigger.

Rosacea treatment varies depending upon the severity. Oral and topical medicines to treat bumps, pimples, and redness are an option, as well as laser treatment to remove visible blood vessels. Contact your health care provider if you have questions and to develop a treatment plan.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, KS, NY, OR - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6370

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Submitted photo/PCSO

GRADUATES ACADEMY ... Pike County Sheriff's Deputy Brent Staggs (center) recently completed training at the Arkansas Police Academy. The Pike County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) said "this is a significant achievement that reflects dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to serving the community. We are proud to have Deputy Staggs as part of our team and look forward to the positive impact he will make." Pictured with Staggs is Pike County Sheriff Travis Hill (left) and PCSO chief deputy Shawn Furr (right).



Submitted photo/Jim O'Neal

CHECKING OUT THE GOOD ... Clint O'Neal (right), Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, visited recently with Phil Terrell, local business owner and treasurer of the Pike County Economic Development Commission. Terrell took O'Neal on a tour of his new planned venture at the former theater on the Pike County Courthouse Square as well as the Chimney Rock grocery store after O'Neal completed a meeting in nearby Nashville.

Rabies clinic announces times for 2026

PIKE COUNTY -- Pike County 4-H has announced the times for their annual rabies clinic for 2026.

The drive-through clinic, held in conjunction with Nashville Animal Hospital, will be held on Saturday, May 2, at the following locations:

- Kirby -- Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church parking lot, 10-11 a.m.
- Delight -- Bank of Delight parking lot, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,
- Murfreesboro -- Farmer's Market Pavilion

parking lot, 1-2 p.m.

Please note that no walkups will be accepted at the drive through format only program.

Prices will be \$10 for a rabies shot, DA2PLP shots for dogs will be \$20 and cat shots for RCP/LK will be \$35.

Payment will be in cash or check only.

Questions can be directed to the Nashville Animal Hospital at (870) 845-1122.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will go towards Pike County 4-H programming.

Planning for special needs workshop

GLENWOOD -- The Pike County and Montgomery County Extension Services will present a "Special Needs Trusts" program on Monday, April 27 in Glenwood.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene, located at 776 U.S. Highway 70 East in Glenwood.

Speaker Lisa Shoalmire of the Ross and Shoalmire Law Firm will walk attendees through estate planning for protection of family members with special needs.

The public is invited to attend the free event. For more information, call the Pike County Extension Service at (870) 285-2161.

Delight man charged in Nevada County

PRESCOTT -- A Delight man has been charged in Nevada County Circuit Court for possession of methamphetamine.

Colby Dean Gustafson, 41, was charged April 20.

According to case information, Gustafson was arrested by the Prescott Police Department on Aug. 14 after he allegedly dropped drugs

on the floor at a convenience store where he works.

A store employee reported finding suspected meth on the floor at New Loves in Prescott. A review of surveillance footage allegedly showed Gustafson in the area where the drugs were found that appeared to drop from his person.

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

Are We Stronger Than He? Do men think that they are stronger and wiser than God? Yes! The proof of this is the fact that we do not listen to His will for us. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes! We think we know what is best for us in all the areas of our existence. We are not able to avoid the pitfalls of sin no matter how hard we try. The weakness of our carnal selves keeps dragging us down into our own failures. We find ourselves again and again getting up and wondering how we could have been so wrong. Paul reminds us that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Why should we believe that as foolish as we are we could hope to be successful without the help of the Lord who made all things. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are



your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9. Learning what we do not know is the first step in our quest to live fruitfully and successfully. James 1:5 says, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and unbraideth not; and it shall be

given him. The good news is that God will supply heavenly wisdom liberally to all men if they will but ask. He is able with His infinite knowledge to supply us with the wisdom we need. We must humble ourselves and ask in faith nothing doubting. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning. James 1:17 The success of our lives depends on our willingness to hear and heed the perfect will of God. The work of the doer of God's will is blessed. We must continue in the paths of righteousness because faithfulness is the way of approval in the sight of our loving and holy God.

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Paid Advertisement

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Beef taco salad, beans, tortilla chips, side-kick ice fruit cup

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Pulled pork sandwich, chips, baked beans, pudding

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Chicken tenders, turnip greens, baby bakers, cornbread, Emerald pears

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

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

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

7-12 line 2 option- Crispito w/cheese sauce

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

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

Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, applesauce, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Chicken nuggets

MONDAY, APRIL 27

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

Lunch: Cheese pizza, savory carrots, steamed broccoli, pineapple, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Big Daddy pepperoni pizza or cheese french bread pizza w/sauce

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

Lunch: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, salad, garlic breadsticks, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Spicy chicken sandwich w/waffles fries, lettuce, tomato

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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

Lunch: Mesquite bbq drumsticks, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, cornbread muffin, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Chicken fried steak w/gravy

*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

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

- Worship 11 a.m. • Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

To reserve this space for your church services or business...

Call Christy at 870-285-2723

Bank of Delight
503 E. Antioch St. Delight
(870) 379-2293

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

HOW JESUS' FEET WERE REALLY WASHED!

YEARS AGO A YOUNG BIBLE STUDENT FOUND WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE AN ERROR IN ONE OF THE STORIES TOLD IN LUKE! HOW COULD IT BE, HE ASKED HIS INSTRUCTOR, FOR THE WOMAN TO WASH JESUS' FEET WHEN JESUS WAS ALREADY SITTING DOWN TO EAT AND THE WOMAN STANDING UP BEHIND HIM? (LUKE 7:38) WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT IN THOSE DAYS PEOPLE DID NOT SIT AT THE TABLE AS WE DO TODAY, BUT INSTEAD LAY DOWN IN COUCHES WITH THE HEAD TO THE TABLE AND THE FEET STRETCHED OUT BEHIND THEM, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS NO ERROR IN THE STORY BUT JUST IN THE YOUNG STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING THE WAYS OF THESE ANCIENT PEOPLE! LOTS OF THINGS TOLD ABOUT IN THE BIBLE SEEM ODD OR UNTRUE TO US...

...TODAY, BUT WHEN WE STUDY ABOUT THEM WITH QUALIFIED TEACHERS WHO KNOW THEIR SUBJECTS THEN WHAT SEEMED SO CONFUSING AND SO CONTRARY, SUDDENLY BECOMES VERY UNDERSTANDABLE AND COMPREHENSIBLE!

371 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

- Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20
- Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
- Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at

mdiamond@windstream.net

THE 1970'S

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Verbal abuse
5. *Failed constitutional amendment, acr.
8. Google ____, navigation aid
12. Strip of roadway
13. Dripping faucet sound
14. Chef's headgear
15. Tel ____, Israel
16. Prima donnas' problems
17. Occupied (2 words)
18. *1974 scandal
20. Flight-related announcements, acr.
21. Attempt again
22. Male aristocrat's honorific
23. Town, in Spanish
26. Recitation of wedding vows, again
30. Santa ____ winds
31. Apnea, in U.K.
34. Operatic solo
35. ____ or do nothing
37. Finish line
38. *1976 Woody Guthrie biopic: "Bound for "

DOWN

- 1. Deli side
2. * ____ lamp, 1960s invention popular in 1970s
3. Newton, e.g.
4. Echo
5. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
6. ____ Tooty Fresh 'n Fruity
7. Cathedral part
8. *1976 Summer Olympics location
9. Caribbean color
10. Boot-wearing cat
11. *Johnny Nash's "I Can ____ Clearly Now"
13. Spinning toy (2 words)
14. Make a logical connection (2 words)
19. 4 x 4 race
22. Dead one or Black one, e.g.
23. Ottoman Empire bigwig
24. Teamsters, e.g.
25. Consumed
26. *"Sanford and Son" star
27. "That's all she ____"
28. Buenos follower
29. *Eric Clapton's 1970 hit
32. Not ever, contraction
33. *1975 movie " ____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
36. *Kung Fu movie star (2 words)
38. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El

- 40. Away's partner
41. Old master print maker
44. Scrawny
46. Feel sympathy
48. Common hops
49. Eight performers
50. No problem
51. Cheap reads
52. Back of neck
53. a.k.a. horse mackerel
54. *Jacqueline Susann's best-seller " ____ Is Not Enough"
55. Noble gas
56. "Zip it!"

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-64 and black squares.

Consumer Cellular advertisement featuring a \$25 offer, phone icon, and contact information: 888-804-0913.

Council amends ordinance for fire department billing

BY JOHN BALCH

Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council amended an ordinance during its quick April meeting that will change the schedule of billing for the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department.

Fire Chief Ricky Branch said the change affects pay for fire calls outside the city limits for non-members, which he said have been billed incorrectly in the past. The change will involve the billing for emergency services to be in accordance with the Arkansas Uniform Fire Department Insurance Billing Reimbursement Form.

Branch said a lot of insurance companies will not pay for the emergency services rendered for non-members if the report does not adhere to uniform rates, which are established by the Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The amount also must not exceed \$1,000.

The amendment to Ordinance No. 277 with Ordinance No. 2026-1 was approved by unanimous vote.

In related business, the council unanimously voted to give Chief Branch permission to seek bids for a new brush truck after being unable to secure a state bid. The spending limit was set at \$75,000. The new truck will be paid for out of the city's fire truck fund which currently has a balance of approximately \$175,000.

Branch reminded the council the fire department will be audited for ISO ratings this year and that the department is currently testing and flushing fire hydrants. "The water may be muddy at times, but it will clear-up," Branch said.

The council also voted Monday to give Murfreesboro Police Chief Randy Lamb permission to pursue a matching grant to participate in the Arkansas Highway Safety Office's Selective

Traffic Enforcement Program, which includes such programs such as "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket."

The council allotted \$5,000 for the program which will help pay time and a-half overtime for the city's officers that participate.

The council also approved Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances for March:

- General/Operating -- \$312,025/\$297,376
Street/Operating -- \$381,275/\$398,633
Park Funds -- \$47,490/\$51,885
Special Funds -- \$311,781/\$316,783
Advertising & Promotion -- \$74,680/\$65,278
Waterworks Combined -- \$901,068/Not Available

CADC announces commodities distribution in Pike County

PIKE COUNTY -- Central Arkansas Development Council will distribute USDA Commodities in Pike County on Wednesday, April 22, and Thursday, April 23, 2025, in Murfreesboro. Distribution will begin at 8:30 am.

In Pike County, commodities will be distributed at the following locations:

- Murfreesboro Senior Activity Center, 120 East Court, Suite A, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
• Glenwood Senior Activity Center, 229 Betty St., Glenwood,

AR 71943

FOOD ITEMS MAY INCLUDE:

Apricot Halves, Tomato Sauce, Potato Flakes, Collard Greens, Cream of Chicken Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Great Northern Beans, Black Eyed Peas, Peanut Butter, Mac & Cheese,

Egg Noodles, Sliced White Potatoes, Rolled Oats

All customers receiving commodities must present identification. Photo ID Preferred.

All customers must also meet income guidelines.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Call Rebecca McGraw at (501) 374-1500 to place your ad here!

Get ready for a weekend where history, craftsmanship and live demonstrations collide! APRIL 24-25, 2025 in Washington, Arkansas. The James Black Bowie Heritage Festival returns for its 5th year, celebrating the legendary creator of the first Bowie knife forged in Washington. A star-studded lineup of guests will be in attendance, including world renowned master bladesmiths Jerry Fisk, Lin Rhea, JR Cook, and Forged in Fire celebrity Ricardo Vilar. The festival will also feature knife and axe demonstrator and actor JW Wiseman. Join us on April 24 and 25 from 9:00am - 5:00pm. www.bowieknifeifest.com

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Harvest Food Bank to distribute May 6

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute food boxes on Wednesday, May 6, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

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

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

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building.

The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

Cambodian national to share OCC experience

GLENWOOD -- The public is invited to attend an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Workshop on Saturday, May 2 from 1-6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 904 Highway 70 West, Glenwood, T

he guest speaker, Lyda Giedd, received a shoebox as a child in Cambodia. From 5-6 p.m., she will share her story of how she was blessed by a shoebox and what it meant to her.

The workshop will be a fun time learning more about Operation Christmas Child and meeting new people. There will be light refreshments served.

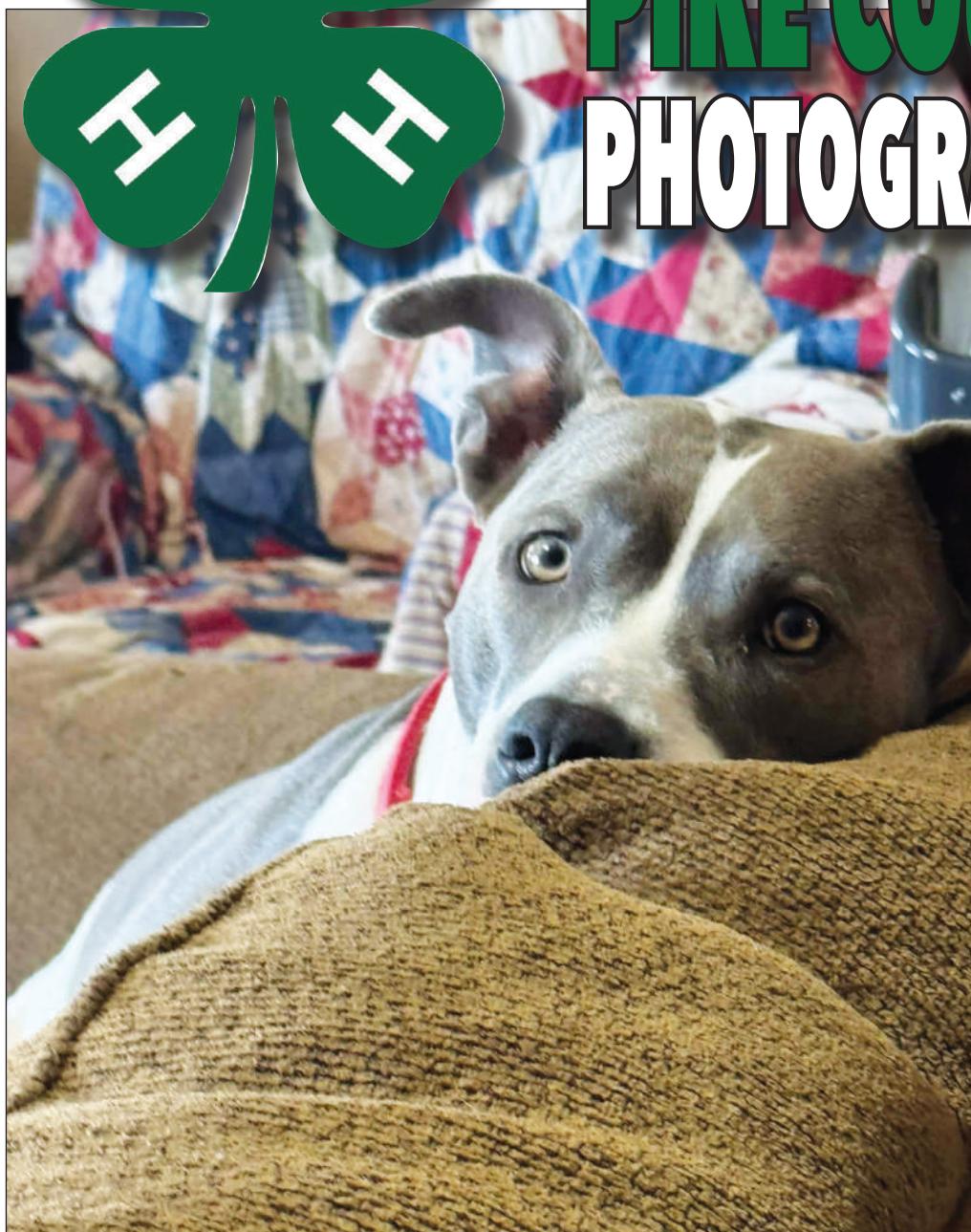
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Crossword puzzle grid with words like SLUR, ERA, MAPS, LANE, PLOP, TOQUE, AVIV, EGOS, INUSE, WATERGATE, ETAS, RETRY, SIR, PUEBLO, RENEWAL, ANA, APNOEA, ARIA, SITBY, END, GLORY, HOER, FEEDER, TEL, ANNULAR, TERESA, CAR, BOCCCE, OPEN, NICHOLSON, SKULK, ANTE, ACNE, HALEY, PEER, TACO, HYPE, EST, EDEN



PIKE COUNTY 4-H 2026 ROSS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS



OVERALL WINNERS • CLOVERBUD DIVISION

(FAR ABOVE LEFT) ABIGAIL HENDERSON, BLACK AND WHITE NON-LIVING DIVISION

(FAR ABOVE MIDDLE) ABIGAIL HENDERSON, COLOR NON-LIVING DIVISION

(FAR ABOVE RIGHT) DELYLAH LEPPERT, BLACK AND WHITE LIVING DIVISION

(ABOVE) DELYLAH LEPPERT, COLOR LIVING DIVISION

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.

APRIL 24 -- The Saline Church of Christ will be hosting their annual singing on Friday, April 24, starting at 7 p.m. until midnight. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to come and enjoy a night of singing and fellowship. The Saline Church of Christ is located at 1248 26E., between Murfreesboro and De-light.

APRIL 26 -- The Murfreesboro High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chapter will be hosting an event with representation from each of our local churches. The Chapter hopes the Court of Champions will be a huge success and bring hope and a renewed sense of faith to our community. The event is set to take place on Saturday, April 26, starting at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., at the Murfreesboro High School Activity Room. The first 50 people will receive free food. There will also be live music, fellowship and a sharing of the gospel. Admission is free and open to all. Come and join our FCA Chapter for a "shot at salvation" at our first annual Court of Champions. For more information call (870) 285-2189, extension 130.

JULY 24-26 -- The itinerary for the 2026 Bullock Family Re-union Weekend has been set with the event scheduled for July 24-26 and to include a full day in Howard and Pike counties. After events on Thursday and Friday in Little Rock, the family will caravan to Muddy Fork, home of the Bullock Historic Memorial Garden located within the Polk Cemetery, Saturday for a headstone unveiling ceremony at 9 a.m. There will be six headstones unveiled and another one honoring a WWI veteran who's stone is already in place. The headstones to be unveiled will include: Alice Bullock Benson (1904), Doc Amos Bullock (1924), William Bullock (1923), John Henry Bullock (1930), Viney Bullock (1944) and Alice Jackson-Bullock (1946). WWI veteran John Wesley Bullock's headstone will be included in the ceremony. The Saturday event will include remarks by Pastor Kenneth McCollough, Machella Jackson, Howard County Judge Brent Pinkerton and State Rep. Jimmy Hickey, Jr., and a special Butterfly release by Charlotte Carr and singing by Denisha' Coulter. At 11:00, the group will travel to the former Bullock plantation house in Pike County before heading to the Crater of Diamonds State Park for a family picnic. Family members from all over the country are expected to attend.

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