

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

\$1.00  
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

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



## 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.

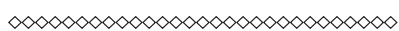
Completed applications must be submitted online no later than July 31, 2026, to be considered for the 2026 induction cycle. The program is voluntary, and there is no cost to apply. To qualify, Arkansas farms must meet the following criteria:

- 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/>.



## Rabies clinic set for this weekend

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 RCPC/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.

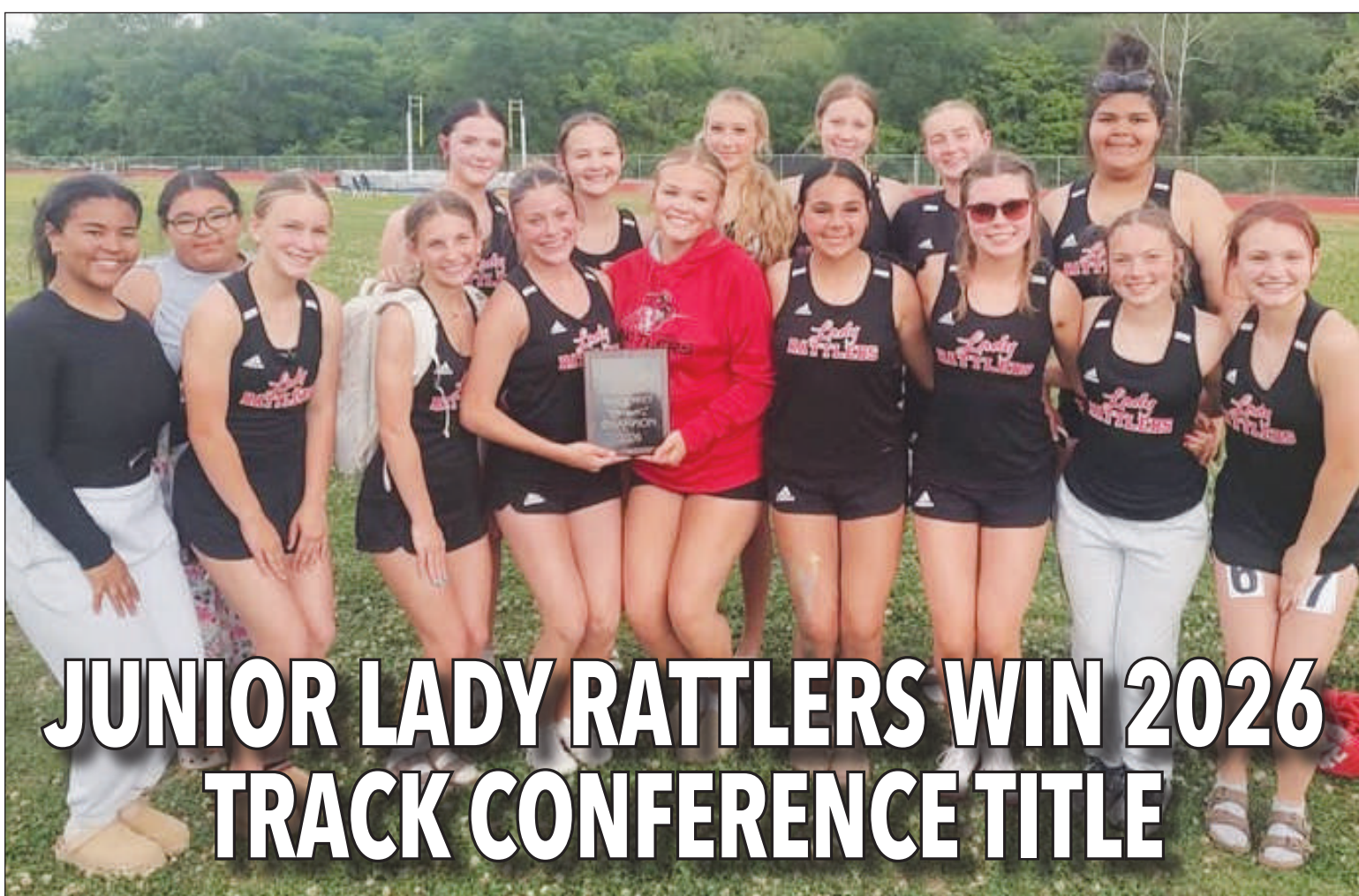


## 4-H announces summer programs

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County 4-H program has announced its slate of summer workshops to be held at the Pike County Extension office in Murfreesboro.

- The office is located at 100 Court Street.
- May 21 -- AGFC -- Wildlife & Archery -- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- May 26-27 -- Sewing Feed bags -- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 11-12 -- Bobble Heads -- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- June 29 -- Terrarium Workshop -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- July 6 -- Cake Decorating -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- July 14 -- STEM Workshop -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- August 6 -- T.O.T.E. Day -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- August 10 -- Craft Day -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the programming or joining 4-H, call (870) 285-2161.



## JUNIOR LADY RATTLERS WIN 2026 TRACK CONFERENCE TITLE

### Junior Lady Rattlers claim conference title

*Junior boys take third at season ending conference meet*

CADDO HILLS -- The Murfreesboro Junior High Lady Rattlers won the 2026 conference track meet last week at Caddo Hills.

MJHS would accrue 234 points, easily outpointing second place Spring Hill with 104 points and Dierks with 96 points.

Lady Rattlers finishing in the top eight positions included:

Kaydee Kuykendall -- second place 100 meter dash, 14.49; second place (tie) high jump, 4'8"; fifth place pole vault, 5'6"

Maci Price -- fourth place 100 meter dash, 14.73; second place 200 meter dash, 30.31; second place long jump, 13'11"

Carsyn Ballard -- eighth place 100 meter dash, 14.99; second place pole vault, 7'0"

Lainey Beene -- first place 200 meter dash, 20.25; sixth place triple jump, 26'2.5"

Ava Harr -- seventh place 200 meter dash, 30.85; first place 300 meter hurdles, 57.64; third place long jump, 13'5"; fourth place triple jump, 25'11.5"

Leah Eoff -- second place 400 meter dash, 1:10.53; second place (tie) high jump, 4'8"; seventh place triple jump, 26'1.5"

Kyndahl Posey -- third place 400 meter dash, 1:11.14; second place 100 meter hurdles, 19.28; third place pole vault, 6'6"

Marly Lowery -- fifth place 400 meter dash, 1:11.51; sixth place pole vault, 5'6"

Jacee Chaney -- second place 800 meter run, 2:51.78; fifth place 1600 meter run, 6:35.41

Adalyn Silva -- fifth place 800 meter run, 2:57.68; second place 1600 meter run, 6:21.20; fourth place long jump, 12'11"; fifth place triple

jump, 26'8"

Emma Cox -- fourth place 100 meter hurdles, 19.92

Paisley Caldwell -- fourth place 300 meter hurdles, 1:01.17

4x100 meter relay team (Maci Price, Carsyn Ballard, Leah Eoff, Kaydee Kuykendall) -- first place, 57.91

4x200 meter relay team (Maci Price, Leah Eoff, Ava Harr, Kaydee Kuykendall) -- first place, 2:02.53

4x400 meter relay team (Carsyn Ballard, Marly Lowery, Kyndahl Posey, Adalyn Silva) -- first place, 4:55.08

4x800 meter relay team (Carsyn Ballard, Jacee Chaney, Kyndahl Posey, Adalyn Siva) -- first place, 11:43.06

Olivia Trimble -- third place discus, 65'6"

Blakelee Dixon -- first place shot put, 31'4"

Larsyn Tidwell -- seventh place shot put, 26'10"

### MJHS BOYS FINISH THIRD

The junior high Rattler boys finished in third place at the end of season conference track meet with 114.50 points, placing them behind Spring Hill (212.50) and Dierks (158).

Athletes earning points at the event included:

4x100 Meter Relay Team (Mason Bruce, Dontae Shaw, Keith Wilkinson, Caanan Parker) -- fourth place, 51.27

4x200 Meter Relay Team (Braden Deal, Mason Bruce, Tyler Brewer, Jacob Shaw) -- fifth place, 1:48.48

4x400 Meter Relay Team (Braden Deal, Dontae Shaw, Jack Lamb, Keith Wilkinson) -- third place, 4:21.50

4x800 Meter Relay Team (Tyler Brewer, Dontae Shaw, Gunner Cooley, Jack Lamb) -- fourth place, 10:35.90

Mason Bruce -- eighth place 100 meter dash, 13.00; sixth place pole vault, 7'6"

Kage Burns -- eighth place 400 meter dash, 1:03.45

Gunner Cooley -- eighth place 1600 meter run, 6:00.61

Braden Deal -- eighth place 400 meter dash, 1:05.90

Micheal Fox -- eighth place 200 meter dash, 27.00; seventh place 100 meter dash, 12.83

Slade Horn -- eighth place discus, 92'5"

Jack Lamb -- eighth place high jump, 5'0"; fifth place 1600 meter run, 5:38.40; fourth place 800 meter run, 2:29.29

Jayden Luster -- fourth place pole vault, 8'0"

Charles Morrow -- first place discus, 129'0"; third place shot put, 38'10"

Dontae Shaw -- sixth place high jump, 5'0"

Jacob Shaw -- fourth place discus, 103'10"; first place 300 meter hurdles, 46.01; second place 110 meter hurdles, 18.36; seventh place 200 meter dash, 26.66; third place pole vault, 8'6"

Blayze Stone -- fourth place high jump, 5'2"; seventh place 300 meter hurdles, 51.37

Keith Wilkinson -- sixth place 400 meter dash, 1:01.74; first place pole vault, 11'0"

## Chamber holds banquet, Bonds named 'Citizen of the Year'

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce held its annual banquet on Thursday, April 16.

Awards handed out at the event included:

- Jack Bonds -- Citizen of the Year
- Carle Gatliff -- Murfreesboro Elementary Teacher of the Year
- Brittany Harris -- High School Teacher of the Year
- Terry Cox -- Special Volunteer of the Year

The keynote speaker at the event was Becky Flynn, the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation Deputy Director.

Flynn said she grew up in the state and was "passionate about the outdoor industry."

"We are fortunate to have the outdoor opportunities that exist in the state," Flynn said.

She said her office works closely with state parks -- like Murfreesboro's Crater of Diamonds -- and works to leverage access to outdoor activities. She said the outdoor tourism industry affected all regions of the state and created more than 70,000 jobs.

She said her office worked with businesses and communities by aiding startup enterprises with innovative ideas, especially those in rural communities that provided a greater benefit of return on local economies.

"We do all we can to bring in extra tourism -- camping and fishing, it's not just diamonds. Tourists are leaving their dollars here, which is exciting for Murfreesboro."

Flynn said studies estimated the tourism impact at seven billion dollars a year for Arkansas.

She also said that increased business opportunities help retain top local talent, as do recreational opportunities in an area in which people can work from wherever they want to live.

"It's the future of communities ... people can live anywhere, so we have to examine why they live where they do. Outdoor recreational access is a very important factor, as people are choosing to retire or raise



Staff photo

**NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR ...** Jack Bonds (left) was named citizen of the year for 2026 at the recent Chamber of Commerce banquet. Bonds is pictured with chamber president Ricky Branch, who presented Bonds with the award.

# MHS track squads head into the final turn with conference meet this week

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro High School track teams have prepped themselves for the conference track meet this week by having participated in meets at Gurdon and Nashville the past two weeks.

At the senior Georgia Pacific Relays on April 16, the Lady Rattlers finished in second place with 145 points, just behind Gurdon's meet winning 163 points. The Rattlers finished in fifteenth place with 6 points.

Lady Rattlers earning points included:

4x100 Meter Relay Team – fifth place, 55.90

4x200 Meter Relay Team – third place, 1:58.76

4x400 Meter Relay Team – first place, 4:49.62

4x800 Meter Relay Team – second place, 12:52.51

Macy Gills – first place 400 meter dash, 1:04.25; second place 100 meter dash, 13.62

Arianna Jones – third place triple jump, 31'8"; first place long jump, 16'9"

Josey Jones – second place pole vault, 6'6"; sixth place 800 meter run, 3:02.58

Ma'Shaylia Morris – third place 100 meter dash, 13.65; second place high jump, 4'10"; first place 200 meter dash, 27.85; seventh place 400 meter dash, 1:10.25; fourth place long jump, 15'3"

Kinleigh Mounts – third place 800 meter run, 2:43.27

Payton Niles – seventh place triple jump, 27'6.5"

Mason Phillips – fifth place 100 meter hurdles, 19.28; first place pole vault, 8'6"; fourth place high jump, 4'8"; fifth place 300 meter hurdles, 1:00.17

Aurora Stone – eighth place 1600 meter run, 8:17.61; eighth place discus, 67'6"

Kamiah Thomas – sixth place shot put, 26'2"; fourth place dis-

cus, 80'7"

Rattlers earning points included:

4x100 Meter Relay Team – eighth place, 51.02

4x200 Meter Relay Team – eighth place, 1:48.65

Jarrin Burgess – eighth place triple jump, 37'6"

Timothy Thornton – sixth place discus, 97'3"

On April 21, the teams traveled to Nashville for the Coca-Cola Relays.

The Lady Rattlers finished in seventh place at the event with several larger schools competing. They accrued 51.5 points, while Broken Bow High School from Oklahoma won the event with 94 points.

Lady Rattlers earning points included:

4x100 Meter Relay Team – eighth place, 56.10

4x200 Meter Relay Team – fourth place, 1:52.12

4x800 Meter Relay Team – fifth place, 12:01.84

Macy Gills – third place 400 meter dash, 1:03.47; seventh place 200 meter dash, 27.79; eighth place 100 meter dash, 1:03.47

Arianna Jones – fourth place triple jump, 33'5"; fourth place long jump, 15'5.5"

Ma'Shaylia Morris – second place high jump, 4'10"

Kinleigh Mounts – sixth place 800 meter run, 2:37.69

Mason Phillips – fifth place high jump, 4'8"; third place pole vault, 8'6"

The senior rattlers track team did not earn any points at the meet.

The teams will participate in the district meet in Caddo Hills this Thursday, April 30.



Submitted photo

**THIRD AT DISTRICT ...** The Murfreesboro Junior High Track team finished third at their season ending conference meet in Caddo Hills last week.

## Cheer auction ongoing, dinners set for May 4

MURFREESBORO -- Local residents can still participate in an online auction through Saturday, May 2 to benefit South Pike County School District cheerleaders.

The auction is being held on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/1616182166266674](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1616182166266674).

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

Murfreesboro High School and Junior High School cheerleaders conduct 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 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.

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

## Local man sentenced to ADC after guilty plea

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro sex offender was sentenced to time in the state prison system Monday in Pike County Circuit Court.

Timothy Allen Tigue, 53, pleaded guilty to charges of being a sex offender at a playground and failing to comply with registration and reporting requirements (refusal to cooperate with assessment process).

Tigue was sentenced to a total of 12 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with four years suspended. He was credited with time served and ordered to pay related court costs and a sex offender fee.

Tigue, who is a Level 3 offender, was arrested Oct. 22, 2025 at the Caddo River public park in Glenwood. The officer that arrested him had previously encountered him at another Glenwood public park and advised him of a law that prohibits Level 3-4 offenders from being present in the public parks maintained by the city of Glenwood.

In January, Tigue was charged with failure to comply and actively maintaining a Snapchat account that he had not reported. Tigue, who is described as a high risk to reoffend, lists an address on John Ansley Road in Murfreesboro.

Also Monday, Brandon Davis, 30, of Caddo Gap, pleaded guilty to the charge of furnishing, possessing or using articles-delivery of prohibited article.

Davis was sentenced to 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

Davis was among the nine Pike County inmates charged late last year with smuggling and smoking marijuana inside the county jail.

Michael Shane Cox, 49, of Hensley, also pleaded guilty Monday to violating the terms of his probation from a previous drug conviction. Hensley's probation was extended for one year.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS  
PROBATE DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF THE PRESUMED DEATH OF:  
J.B. SMITH, CASE NO. 55PR-26-28  
WARNING ORDER

TO: J.B. Smith, Margaret Watts, Brent Watts, Markie Watts,

Robert Dildy, Frances Dawson, Tony Smith, and all other interested parties.

Shall take notice that on March 31, 2026 a Petition for Declaration of Death of Missing Person was filed on behalf of Jeremy Smith in the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas to seek an order from the Court declaring J.B. Smith, whose date of birth was December 3, 1946, legally dead.

J.B. Smith, Margaret Watts, Brent Watts, Markie Watts, Robert Dildy, Frances Dawson, Tony Smith, and all other interested parties shall take notice that unless you appear and defend or otherwise respond within thirty (30) days from the first date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered and granted, or you will be otherwise barred from asserting your interest in this matter.

A hearing on this matter is currently scheduled for August 24, 2026 at 9 a.m. at the Pike County Detention and Judicial Center, 305 Industrial Park Drive, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Randee Edwards  
COUNTY CLERK  
DATE 4-24-2026

(s.t. 198w., 43,44)

## 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)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS  
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANCILLARY ESTATE OF  
DANE WRAY WRIGHT, DECEASED CASE NO: 55PR-26-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 425 Johnson St., Nash, Bowie County, TX 75569

Date of Death: February 10, 2022

An instrument dated April 23, 2026, lawfully appointed Christina Sue Wright as the 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 29th day of April 2026.

Christina Sue Wright, Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell

DUSTIN BISSELL

Attorney for Petitioner

P.O. Box 810, De Queen, AR 7132

(870) 642-4957

Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b., 143w., 43,44)

## 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 willing-ness 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

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas  
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• John Robert Schirmer, Publisher  
• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor  
• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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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.

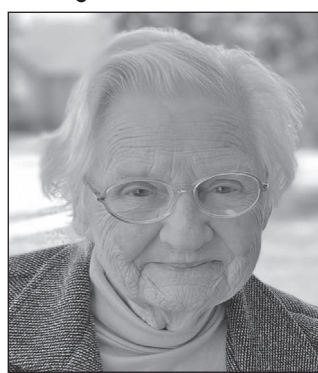
**SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.**



Staff/submitted photo

# Obituaries

## Faydean Gatliff, 93, Delight



Avant and Judy Jackson.  
Survivors include her children Mona Edwards (Ron), Jim Gatliff (Lisa), Becky Kay (Andy), John Gatliff, Lee Gatliff (Colleen); daughter-in-law Carlee Gatliff, one sister Earline Tipton; twenty-six grandchildren and forty-one great grandchildren.  
Visitation will be 10:30 a.m., until service time Wednesday, April 29, at the Delight Church of Christ.

Faydean Gatliff, 93, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was born May 8, 1932, on Mother's Day during the Great Depression, the oldest of five sisters.

Mrs. Gatliff was a member of the Delight Church of Christ and taught Bible class for more than forty years; she enjoyed gardening as well as being a seamstress which included making her daughters' and granddaughters' wedding dresses.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of fifty-three years Donald Gatliff and three sisters: Helen Hicks, Clyda

Funeral services will begin at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 29, at the Delight Church of Christ, with Brent Alexander and Joshua Edwards officiating, burial will follow in Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

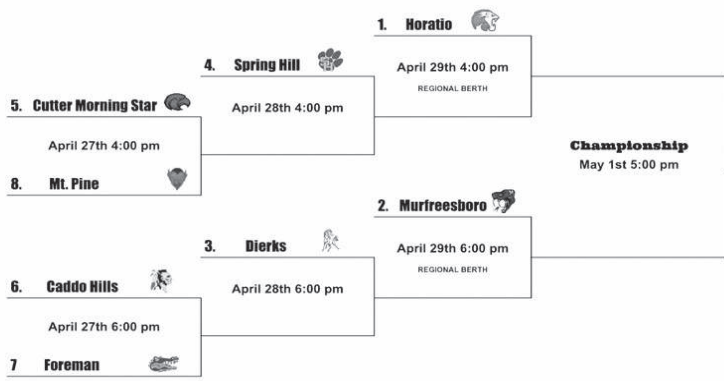
Pallbearers will be Scott Howard, Rob Lee, Andy Kay, Ron Edwards, Daniel Edwards and Chuck Holcomb.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in her honor to the Southern Christian Home at schome.org

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

## SOFTBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY: MURFREESBORO



### SOFTBALL TOURNEY ...

The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers softball team (pictured above), now 7-9-1 overall (5-1 league) finished their regular season last week with a 22-3 win over Foreman and a 25-0 loss to Horatio. The Lady Rattlers finish as the conference's number two seed, earned an automatic regional berth and will play their semi-final game at home in Murfreesboro on April 29 at 6 p.m. (or following the previous game). Murfreesboro high school invites the public to "come out and support all of the teams this week in the tournament."

## Sweat named recipient of DAR scholarship

SW ARKANSAS -- The DAR Good Citizen Award and Scholarship Contest, established in 1934 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, encourages and rewards the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism among high school seniors. Students are selected by their teachers and peers for demonstrating these traits to an exceptional degree in their homes, schools, and communities.

Members of the Mine Creek-Paraclifta DAR Chapter invited this year's honorees from six area schools to participate in the scholarship portion of the chapter's April meeting. Students recognized included Bailey Kessler of Nashville, Kaedon Davis of Horatio, Lillian Hogg of Dierks, Mabree Sweat of Murfreesboro, Maddelyn Harris of Mineral Springs, and Lizeth Baltazar-Bahena of De Queen.

In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, students were also encouraged to enter the Patriots of the American Revolution High School Essay Contest, which highlights the men and women who played significant roles in the American Revolution. Mabree Sweat of Murfreesboro was named the essay contest winner.

Students, their families, and chapter members enjoyed a taco

salad meal together prior to the meeting, making the event both a celebration of achievement and a time of fellowship.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit our Facebook page, Mine Creek-Paraclifta Chapter, NSDAR; dar.org; or contact Fran Strawn, Chapter Registrar at gfstrawn@gmail.com.

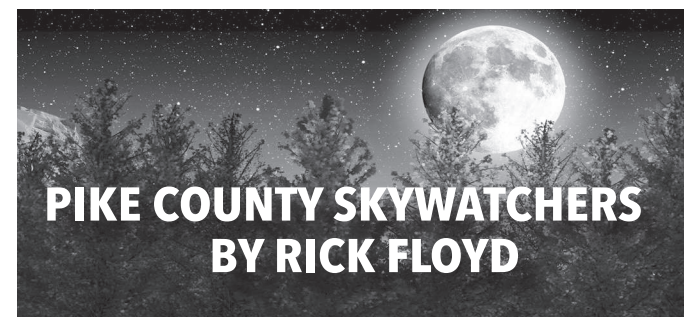


MABREE SWEAT

Submitted photo

## Pisgah to hold cemetery dinner

PISGAH -- The Pisgah Cemetery Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 11:30 a.m. at the Pisgah Community Center. The meal will be potluck. Everyone is invited to attend.



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS BY RICK FLOYD

## Once in a blue moon

The Moon hosted 4 Earthlings in early April as they (and we) looped around it, greeting old Luna again after many years absence. We can fantasize that the Moon is always happy to see us, and we will be happy to see it, in fullness, on May 1 as the Flower Moon. The Moon has more for us in May as it will rise full again on May 31. A second full moon in a month is rare and is called a Blue Moon (it is not actually blue), and this one is the only one of 2026. Once in a Blue Moon.

The Flower Moon is also called the Corn Planting Moon, the Milk Moon, and the Hare's Moon. The latter is likely from Celtic and Anglo-Saxon lore associated with fertility and rebirth (Spring). The Flower Moon of early May will also be in a far point from Earth in its elliptical orbit (farthest away on the 4th) and therefore a "micro-moon."

Venus, mentioned last week, is the "evening star" in the west now and through the summer. Its orbit puts it east of the Sun from Earth's perspective, and when it is west of the Sun it is the "morning star." Later this year, from mid-August to mid-September it will be possible to see Venus during the day as it nears a point in its orbit, from Earth's point of view, near the Sun named (thanks to an amateur astronomer) the greatest illuminated extent (GIE). There will be more on all of this later.

A daytime Venus has a bit of history. Celebrants in France were distracted by a bright "star" during a late afternoon in 1797 as Napoleon and his entourage paraded, having returned victoriously from campaigns in Italy. Henry David Thoreau sighted a white dot in the sky as he walked near Walden Pond in 1854, and the U.S. Navy battleship New York fired upon a mysterious bright object in the air above them as it patrolled the Pacific theater during WW II. It was Venus in all cases.

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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 is an aortic dissection?**

**A:** An aortic dissection is a tear in the inner layer of the aorta, the main artery that delivers blood throughout the body. Blood can cause the inner and middle layers of the aorta to separate, and blood can burst through the aorta's outer walls. It is a rare but life-threatening condition that requires immediate treatment.

Weakness of the aortic walls can lead to an aortic dissection. A Type A aortic dissection occurs in the upper aorta closest to the heart and is the most dangerous type. A Type B aortic dissection begins in the lower aorta and can reach into the abdomen. Men between the ages of 60 and 80 are most at risk. Those with high blood pressure and those who use tobacco products are also at risk.

Symptoms of an aortic dissection include severe pain in the chest or upper back, shortness of breath, fainting or dizziness, heavy sweating and weakness or paralysis on one side of the body.

Type A aortic dissections often require immediate surgery. Type B aortic dissections may require surgery if blood flow to vital organs is interrupted. Contact your health care provider or seek treatment at an emergency room if you have symptoms.

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Denim Lee  
Sunday, May 3 from 2-4 p.m  
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The couple is registered at Wal-Mart and Amazon

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Submitted photo

**BAND WINS AWARDS ...** Murfreeboro High School band members recently participated in the Solo and Ensemble contest at Mountain Pine High School, bringing home medals for 34 solos and seven duets, along with 20 division one and 28 division two ratings. Aurora Stone qualified for state with her clarinet solo. The following students who participated in Solo and Ensemble and received a (1) Superior Medal or (2) Excellent Medal for their performances included: Superior Rating -- Elena Campbell, Aurora Stone, Lucas Cox, Chloe Gold, Lyzander Doyle, Avery Baker, Natalie Bush, Asher Campbell, Sophia Cox, Bella Cornelius, Braden Deal/Amy Cornelius, Kaydence McAnelly/Wesley Zellers, Colton Plyer/Wesley Zellers, Sophia Cox/Ora Kidd; Excellent Rating -- Peyton Keys, Abby McGalliard, Sydney Cornish, Jessica Williams, Morgan Bierden, Matt Lewis, Braden Deal, Brisa Trejo, Lane Bierden, Jacob Chaney, Natalie Jackson, Ora Kidd, Josie Collins, Joli Henderson, Amy Jones, Phinehas Doyle, Emma Cox/Natalie Bush, Avery Baker/Natalie Bush, Dixie Hollingsger/Jazz Ericksen.

## Board names former instructor Sharon Kennedy for vacant Zone 3 position

MURFREESBORO -- At the April 16 South Pike County School Board meeting, Superintendent Tanya Wilcher told board members that High School graduation exercises will be held on May 12 at 6:30. The seniors final day at school is May 5.

Wilcher said other upcoming events included:

- Softball district tournament will be held in Murfreeboro on April 27-29, and May 1
- District track meets for high school will be Thursday, April 30 at Caddo Hills
- The state track meet will be in Quitman on May 6
- Regional softball and baseball tournaments will be held in Murfreeboro on May 7-9

Wilcher thanked local churches and Mrs. Wesson's class for catering the hospitality room for ball tournaments.

In May, school will be on a four day schedule -- being off on Fridays.

The next school board meeting is set for May 19 at 6 p.m.

Murfreeboro Elementary School Principal James Riley started the school's academic report with a joke.

"The week before testing is always such a great time. It's like Christmas Eve except the presents aren't wrapped yet, and you're having to control a house full of feral cats. All that aside, we are ready and have been prepping."

Riley said he was proud of our teachers and "I hope our students know how proud we are of them, regardless of the results."

He said as incentive for our 3-6 grades students to try their best on the standardized tests, the school plans a "Big Money Testing Bingo" event to reward students for their hard work.

Riley said last week was the final week of after-school tutoring for our teachers, ending with 25 students K-6 receiving after-school tutoring.

"It has been a huge help with their academics," he said.

Last week was also the final week for the high impact tutoring program.

"I pray that we are able to do this again next year because it has helped with keeping our groups small, and our students have thrived, which is such great help," Riley said.

The board unanimously approved a motion to approve the appointment of Sharon Kennedy for the Zone 3 board membership.

The board also approved bus leases from Midwest Buses for four buses at a rate of \$22,250 for the next five years.

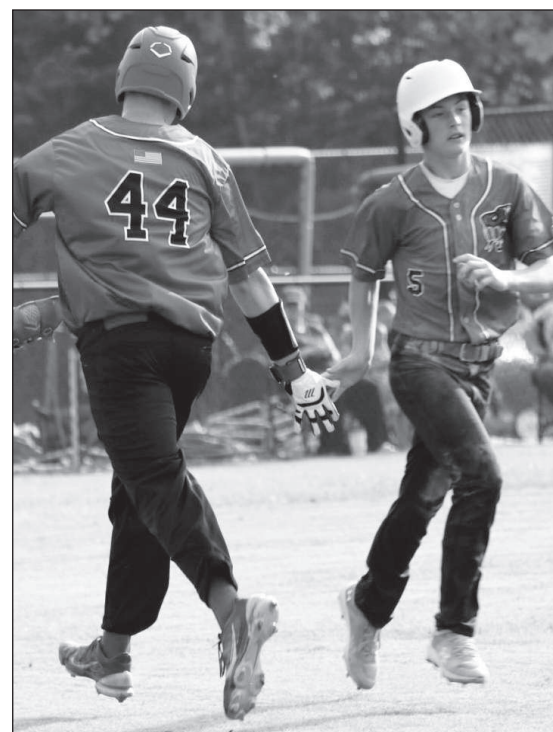
The board also approved salary schedule changes and to accept a resolution to utilize federal-aid recreational trails program funds if awarded the grant.

The board also approved 26-27 school year ESSA & IDEA assurances.

After an executive session for a hiring of personnel, the board accept the retirement of Linda Anderson, resignation of Dana Taylor effective May 5, 2026 and the resignations of Buddy Ray, Blevin Boyd and Ladonna Ashbrooks effective at the end of the school year.

The board also accepted a motion to hire Hadley Cox, Reese Kizzia, and Isaac Kuykendall as student workers for the summer.

To conclude the evening's business, the board voted to hire the certified and classified staff as presented to them.



Submitted photos/Jillian Caldwell

**RATTLERS COME TO END OF REGULAR SEASON ...** The Murfreeboro High School Rattlers are now 21-3 (10-1 conference) on the season after recently defeating Foreman 10-4, Horatio 8-3, Mountain Pine 16-1 and losing to Mount Ida 7-6. The team will conclude the regular season with a contest at home against Spring Hill this Thursday, April 30. The team dropped the previous match on the road to the Bears 1-0 on April 6. The team will then participate in the regional baseball tournament held in Murfreeboro on May 7-9. Pictured (above left) is Kooper Caldwell delivering a pitch in recent action, while (right) Hunter Cox and Keith Wilkinson give each other a low five as they pass on the field.

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

Lunch: Taco soup w/ cheese, corn chips, lettuce, tomato, salsa, refried beans, mixed fruit, milk

7-12 line 2 option- Chicken quesadilla, pinto beans

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

NO SCHOOL

### MONDAY, MAY 4

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

Lunch: Pizza sticks w/ sauce, savory carrots, steamed broccoli, apricot cup, milk

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

Breakfast: Chocolate muffin w/cheese stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, whole grain roll, mixed fruit, milk

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

Lunch: BBQ rib sandwich, pinto beans, seasoned corn, cookie, pineapple, milk

\*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org)

## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreeboro 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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*Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

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**NOT ALL THE HERODS WERE VILLAINS!**

PHILIP THE TETRARCH, ONE OF THE TWO SONS OF HEROD THE GREAT AND CLEOPATRA OF JERUSALEM WAS BROUGHT UP AND EDUCATED AT ROME WITH HIS HALF BROTHERS ARCHELAUS AND ANTIPTAS. (JOS. ANTIQ. XVII.13) IN A.D.4 HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE EMPEROR AUGUSTUS TETRARCH OF LANDS EAST OF GALILEE, KNOWN THEN AS BATANAEA, TRACHONITIS AND AURANITIS. HIS MENTION IN THE BIBLE OCCURS IN THE BOOK OF LUKE CHAP. 3:1. HE MARRIED SALOME, THE DAUGHTER OF HEROD (MARIAMNE'S SON) AND HERODIAS. HIS CHARACTER WAS EXCELLENT AND HIS RULE WAS MILD AND JUST. HE ENLARGED THE TOWN PANEAS, AT THE SOURCE OF THE JORDAN, AND NAMED IT CAESAREA--IT WAS AFTERWARD OFTEN SPOKEN OF AS CAESAREA PHILIPPI (MAT. 16:13) TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM CAESAREA ON THE SEA. HE RULED FROM A.D.4 TO A.D.34, DYING IN THE 20TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF TIBERIUS CAESAR!

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\* -- Theme Related Clue

**ACROSS**

1. Ionic and Corinthian predecessor
6. Good times
9. AI fodder
13. Offer two cents
14. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
15. Interior designer's concern
16. Not fiction, pl.
17. Big head
18. Fear-inspiring
19. "Good Times" mom
21. "The Sopranos" mom
23. Possessive pronoun
24. Gumbo pod
25. Protrude
28. Catcher's catcher
30. "Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name
35. "Metamorphoses" poet
37. Chow down
39. Millionaire maker
40. Time for eggnog
41. Sure sign of fire
43. "Frasier" actress Gilpin
44. TSA PreCheck alternative
46. Mosque V.I.P.
47. Arabian bigwig
48. Received salary
50. At the apex
52. Masseuse's office
53. "Where the Red \_\_\_ Grows"
55. Likewise
57. "Arrested Development" mom
61. "Fresh off the Boat" mom
65. Circumvent
66. French vineyard
68. Open disrespect
69. Dewey Decimal System, e.g.
70. 252-gallon cask
71. Cause anxiety (2 words)
72. Back talk
73. Extra point

**DOWN**

1. Take of a hat, e.g.
2. Traditional October birthstone
3. Puerto follower
4. Opening, colloquially
5. #55 on periodic table
6. Part of an eye
7. "Married with Children" mom
8. Investor's asset
9. Hold as a conviction
10. Unit of land often featuring a home
11. Load sixteen tons, e.g.
12. Geometry calculation
15. Divert from course
20. Between washes and styles
22. Casino's pull
24. Foot rest
25. "Stranger Things" mom
26. Throat dangler
27. Mosaic artist
29. "Friday Night Lights" mom
31. Tug-of-War gear
32. List entries
33. Like anchor aweigh
34. "Schitt's Creek" mom
36. Martin of Rat Pack
38. 3-handed card game
42. Bring character to life
45. Response to stimulus
49. Ctrl+Alt+\_\_\_
51. Lemony cream dessert
54. Right-hand page
56. Academy Award
57. Orchid garlands
58. Forearm bone
59. Cow chow, pl.
60. "Beware the \_\_\_ of March"
61. "The Handmaid's Tale" mom
62. Letter before kappa
63. Nile dweller, for short
64. Writer Rice
67. \_\_\_-D.M.C.

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**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.

**MAY 16** -- The Class of 1976 will be having their fiftieth De-light High School reunion on May 16 at 7 p.m., at The Feed Bin Cafe in Murfreesboro. All graduates, their spouses and former classmates are invited to attend. Attending parties are requested to contact The Feed Bin Cafe (870) 285-3122 by May 11th to pre-order from their online dinner menu. Event host contact is Lyn Pilot, text only, (870) 681-2050 for more information.

**JULY 24-26** -- The itinerary for the 2026 Bullock Family Reunion 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.

Send announcements to [mdiamond@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)

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Staff photos  
**SENIORS RECOGNIZED ...** Murfreesboro High School spring sports senior athletes were recognized last week at the school's baseball/softball complex. Included are (above, L to R) Garrett Molnaird and Landen Jones for track, Caleb Terrell and Kale Burns for baseball, and (left) Faith Teel for softball.

**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.

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.

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## CHAMBER Continued from Page 1

families where they can have a larger quality of life."

Flynn said the tourism industry would only continue to grow, and that top activities included hiking, camping, fishing, cycling and trail running, and that communities should take full advantage of their opportunities to build on those recreational opportunities.

### STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Jim O'Neal gave the "State of the City of Murfreesboro" address, thanking the chamber for all their "fantastic hard work."

O'Neal also thanked all of the businesses that provided the meal for the event, including Tellinga's Mexican Restaurant, Feed Bin Cafe, Terri's Place, Connections Coffee and Nanny's Kitchen.

The mayor said that the city was "financially stable" and was hoping for an excellent tourism season in 2026. He said he would be watching gas prices in the near future, as they could be a benefit or hindrance to travel to Murfreesboro.

O'Neal said the city was expanding infrastructure, with plans to add lighting to the sidewalk project along North Washington hopefully before the end of the year.

He credited the Murfreesboro and Advertising Commission with their work on attempting to get bike trails around Lake Greeson, as well as the newly christened Glen Campbell Memorial Highway.

O'Neal also credited with local businessman Phil Terrell with his work on restoring the old movie theater for an entertainment spot on the Pike County Courthouse Square.

He said it could all culminate in a theory of "one more night" as a way of providing enough entertainment to keep more tourists in town for another twenty-four hours, increasing the local economy via meals, lodging, gas purchases as well as entertainment spending.

O'Neal also credited the January 15 opening of Chimney Rock Grocery as a boon for the city, along with owners Tim Allen and Jack Bonds.

"The store is beautiful, and I would like to remind all residents to shop at home."

O'Neal also pointed out a quilt made for festivities surrounding the state quarter induction in 2002. The quilt was raffled off and won by Barbara Sweeden, who then gave it to her daughter Brandi. The pair has donated the quilt to the City of Murfreesboro for permanent display at city hall, that will feature a plaque that states "in memory of Jerry Sweeden."

"It is an honor to serve as your mayor ... God bless America and Murfreesboro," O'Neal concluded.

### STATE OF THE COUNTY

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard gave his "State of Pike County" address, discussing recent work done with federal money following the flooding event in spring of 2025.

"We are applying for all the grants we can -- they just allow so much more to be done than the regular budget does."

He stated he hoped to place generators at the county buildings -- including the Pike County Courthouse to replace their dated equipment, in the hopes of having a disaster relief center.

Howard called hazard mitigation funding important because "good roads have good drainage ... and that bad drainage will wash a road out every time."

In that vein, box culverts will be installed in New Hope and in Delight at the cemetery.

"We don't ever want a disaster, but if we must have one, we need to take advantage."

Two roads -- Strawberry Road in Delight and Palestine Road in Kirby will see a combined five and a half miles of resurfacing this year by the county.

Howard said that road grader training via Cossatot Community College was showing results and that improved security at the Pike County Courthouse was to be implemented after a consultant gave some tips.

Howard discussed the Pike County Economic Development Commission and their efforts to garner dues and donations from local businesses in effort to hire a director.

"It will make a big difference," Howard said definitively.

Howard also noted ongoing growth in a trail system that will eventually span from northwest to southwest Arkansas ... "I want part of that trail to come through here."

### EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Murfreesboro Elementary Principal James Riley then introduced the pair of teachers that were named educators of the year.

"I'm biased, but we have the best school in the state -- our educators meet the needs of all students and go above and beyond every day."

In introducing Gatliff, Riley said "she is one of my favorite teachers, because she puts up with me."

He added she had the best test scores -- not just locally -- but in the local schools educational co-op.

"For two years she continues to have the highest math scores around. She never complains and just does what she needs to do to help kids. She has had a difficult year this year with her health. At one point, we were unsure if she was going to even be able to make it back. She fought hard and was determined to come back to do what she loves to do. I couldn't be happier to have her at MES."

For Harris, Riley admitted a personal connection in a family sense, but admitted she was "one of the most creative people I know."

He said the EAST Lab under her direction was working well for community outreach, working on the sports livestream program.

"She gives all of the students a helping hand up -- one a personal note, she has helped my son figure out some direction in his life and that makes him happy -- he feels appreciated and loved because of her and has something to look forward to."

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Chamber of Commerce Secretary/Treasurer Jane Fugitt read some of the nomination points for Bonds before presenting him with the award for 2026.

"For a number of years Jack Bonds has been involved in the community, serving as a city council member, chairman of the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission, running for mayor, and operating a number of businesses in Murfreesboro that provide both tax revenue for the community as well as employment opportunities for residents.

Behind the scenes, he gives selflessly to any organization that asks for donations or aid, regardless of the cause. He believes it is just being a good partner of the community. Simply look no further than the recent senior center fundraiser -- he won the trailer from Diamond City Trailers, and what does he do? Gave it right back to the senior center to use it as another fundraiser. Said he was trying to help the seniors, not win a prize.

More recently he saw a need for the town to have a grocery store. Keep in mind, no one was coming to put one in Murfreesboro. And yet, Jack decided one was needed, and made it happen. Chimney Rock Grocery is a boon to this community and would not have happened without Jack Bonds. What did he say in the Murfreesboro Diamond after putting it in -- that he deserved no personal credit, he was hungry and just needed a place to shop like the rest of Murfreesboro.

Jack is the sort of fellow that is always running, always something to do, some fire that needs putting out somewhere across



**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SERVICE ...** Outgoing chamber president Lisa Harvill (left, with Ricky Branch) was recognized and presented a bouquet of flowers at the recent Chamber banquet, while (right) Terry Cox was give the Special Volunteer of the Year award by Dee Branch.

his business empire that spans from Murfreesboro to Nashville to several locations in Texas. And yet, magically, he finds the time to help those in need -- regardless of the personal cost to himself in terms of money or time. He will literally give someone the shirt off his back if he though the person genuinely needed it more than himself.

Also, he is a genuinely decent person, able to have a conversation with anyone over a number of topics in a knowledgeable fashion. While he very well could take the opinion he is someone important, he refuses that notion altogether, and fits seamlessly into any room he is in. He could choose to live in any number of places, but had decided to make Murfreesboro his home, because he genuinely cares for the community and hopes to help make it better, grow and thrive.

As stated, he never seeks credit for anything he does, but for one night he should be commended for everything he has accomplished in Murfreesboro."

Bonds, for his part, was thankful for the honor and tried to share credit in his few word, stating that the grocery store was a culmination of the growth he had seen at Pawn Kings and all the workers there that made it happen for the years leading up to the Grocery Store's opening.

After the event, Bonds admits that he was remised in not thanking co-owner Tim Allen, who Bonds -- in his classical deflection style -- said has more skin in the game than himself.

"He quit a career to do this -- so if it all goes south, he's lost that. I'd just have to repay a loan."

### SPECIAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Former Murfreesboro High School band director Dee Branch introduced Cox for his special volunteer award.

Terry Cox's life has been defined by quiet, steadfast service. To his family and friends, Terry is known simply as an "unconditional giver" -- someone who offers his time and effort with no expectation of anything in return.

A 1973 graduate of Murfreesboro High School Terry has spent the majority of his life in southwest Arkansas. After attending Henderson State University and working for AP&L in Benton for several years, he returned home in 1984 to help his family at Bacon Creek Farm in Nathan.

Since his return, Terry has been a dedicated member of the Nathan Volunteer Fire Department, serving many years as its treasurer. He is also deacon at First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro, where he has likewise served as treasurer for many years.

"Terry's selflessness is perhaps most evident in his commitment to saving lives; since 1976, he has donated blood, plasma, and platelets 307 times. His lifetime contribution of 181,000 milliliters -- including 218 units of whole blood, 107 units of platelets, two units of red blood cells, and 53 units of plasma -- is nearly enough to fill a 55-gallon drum. This incredible feat has required countless hours of travel and has inspired many others to give, including his grandson, Lucas.

In addition to his civic and religious service, Terry has dedicated more than 25 years to the Murfreesboro High School Rattler Band. Beginning around 1997, his involvement often meant removing seats from the family minivan just to transport a xylophone to Friday night football games. He volunteered through-



Staff photos

out the years his sons were in high school and continues to serve today while his grandsons are in school.

For over two decades, he has been the "Voice of the Rattler Band," calling out from the press box: "Drum major, is your band ready for performance?" However, his most vital role has been behind the wheel. Terry has safely transported hundreds of students to games and contests across the state, often returning in the early morning hours to ensure every student arrives home safely.

Whether he is raising a drum major onto a platform, working the concession stand, or answering a fire call in the middle of the night, Terry Cox does so with a steady hand and a willing heart."

Cox said he "thanks God every day" and all he "has ever wanted to do was help people."

He said it began with blood donation, and he "has just been giving every since ... I believe God puts people in life to do things."

Cox also jokingly promised to "find out who nominated him for the award."

### DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

To conclude the evening door prizes were drawn for the following winners from all that purchased a ticket:

- Riley Bonds -- \$100 gift certificate to Ace of Diamonds
- James Riley -- \$100 gift certificate to Chimney Rock Grocery
- Diane Cox -- \$100 gift certificate to Feed Bin Cafe



Staff photo

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER ...** The keynote speaker at the 2026 Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce banquet was Becky Flynn, the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation Deputy Director. Flynn said the future of Arkansas communities was tied to recreational opportunities for its residents. "It's the future of communities ... people can live anywhere, so we have to examine why they live where they do."

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