

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Farmers market opens 2026 campaign Saturday

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce has announced their season opening date of the Murfreesboro Farmers Market.

The first day of the 2026 season will be held on Saturday, May 30 from 7 a.m. to noon at the old city park. The pavilion site is located behind the tennis courts adjacent to the former Pike County Hospital building.

All food vendors and crafters with home-made crafts are invited to attend and sell their wares.

Any interested vendor is asked to call (870) 285-3131 to register.

Door prizes will be given to attendees.

FUMC to offer meals for local children starting Thursday

TEXARKANA -- This summer, children can enjoy FREE lunches through the Summer Feeding Program, sponsored by Harvest Regional Food Bank and open to all kids ages 1-18 years. No applications are necessary to drop in and all children and teens are welcome.

The Summer Feeding Program makes sure all children can eat healthy food during the summer months when they cannot eat at school. Approximately one in five children in Arkansas are food insecure, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to safe and nutritious food. Children who are hungry or food insecure are more likely to be in poor health and less likely to develop physically, mentally and emotionally.

Locally, meals in Pike County will be available at Blessed Beginnings (Murfreesboro First United Methodist Church), 403 2nd. Avenue in Murfreesboro.

The meals will be offered "Grab-N-Go," where parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children without children present. Three days of meals can be picked up on Monday and four days of meals on Thursday per child. The meals may be collected on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. from May 28- August 13.

For more information call Blessed Beginnings at (870) 285-2579 or Harvest Regional Food Bank at (870) 774-1398.

About Harvest Regional Food Bank, Inc.
Harvest Regional Food Bank serves Bowie County in Texas, and Miller, Columbia, Little River, Lafayette, Hempstead, Howard, Nevada, Pike, and Sevier counties in Arkansas. As a Feeding America and Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance partner, our mission is to eliminate hunger in this region through food distribution and education. More information can be found at www.harvestregionalfoodbank.org or by following facebook.com/harvesttkk.

Antoine VFD to host benefit dinner/auction

ANTOINE -- Area residents are asked to support one of their local volunteer fire departments on Saturday, June 6.

The Antoine Volunteer Fire Department will host a benefit dinner and live auction at the Antoine Community Center.

The center is located at 8 Depot Street in Antoine.

The meal will start at 4 p.m. with the auction set to follow, with the event will also feature a blood drive from 2-8 p.m.

A meal will consist of pulled pork, a side and a drink for \$10 a plate, with proceeds from the event going toward equipment for the fire department.

Anyone who would like to donate an item for the auction can contact Fire Chief John Kelley at (918)721-6961 or Krystal Kelley at (870) 796-2038.

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WORTH TELLING?

Submit Your Local
News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information

STATE CLOSES LOCAL NURSING HOME, RESIDENTS MOVED TO OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES



Staff photo

MOVING DAY ... One of several transport vehicles is seen leaving the Murfreesboro Nursing and Rehab facility last Wednesday after the state stripped the facility of its license to operate. Residents were largely taken to other regional nursing homes. (Below) Employees of the facility aided in the logistics of the move.

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- Findings of alleged facility mismanagement and cases of misappropriation of funds, ranging from a resident's Social Security check to residents' bingo winnings, resulted in the state abruptly shutting down Murfreesboro Rehab & Nursing Home last week and relocating its residents to area facilities.

The Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Provider Services & Quality Assurance (DPSQA) and the Office of Long Term Care (OTLC) notified the facility staff and residents the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20, that the facility's operating license was being revoked, as was the administrator license of Sandra Barnett, owner and administrator.

The revocations come on the heels of a nursing home survey conducted by the OTLC on May 4 in which the facility was cited for an "immediate jeopardy citation that is ongoing,"

according to the notification letters that were hand-delivered to the facility on May 20 and provided to the newspaper.

"Due to the amount and severity of violations, Murfreesboro Rehab's continued non-compliance with the Rules for Nursing Homes, and the insolvency of the facility" the DPSQA decided to revoke the facility's nursing home license on May 31 "or immediately upon transfer of all residents," according to the documents. A DHS employee, David Parker, was also appointed on May 20 as the facility's temporary manager, who began to coordinate the prearranged transfers to area nursing homes.

That afternoon, transport vehicles and personnel began to arrive on the scene and joined throngs of family members, friends, concerned citizens and community leaders, who all said they were caught off guard by the sudden announcement.

The nursing home has officially been cited with failing to keep residents free from misappropriation/exploitation; lacking proper

administration and a governing body; failing to protect the residents' rights to manage their financial affairs; failing to maintain a proper accounting system for residents' funds; failure to investigate/prevent/correct alleged violations; violating a resident's rights; and failure to report alleged violations.

The results of the 36-page survey showed that the "immediate jeopardy" issue began on July 30, 2025, when a staff member opened mail belonging to a resident without their permission. The check was a Social Security disability settlement for \$56,481 and was addressed to the resident. The resident was not notified that the check they had been waiting for, and had consistently asked staff and Barnett about, had arrived. The employee said she contacted Barnett, who was on vacation, and was instructed

NURSING HOME Continued on Page 2



Staff photo

IN MEMORIAM ... Gary Graves and Stevie Stevens placed the Memorial Day wreath on the monument for Pike County's fallen soldiers at the Courthouse in Murfreesboro. Stevens is the nephew of honored veteran SSGT Luther B. Stevens, who died in World War II. See page 6 of this issue of the paper for more coverage of the event.

NURSING HOME Continued from Page 1

to deposit the check into the facility's account.

The report noted the facility's account balance prior to the deposit was \$16,83.

In an interview by the OLTC, Barnett stated that she thought the check in question was a back payment from the resident, who she claimed owed \$39,000. The survey found no evidence that the resident owed any back pay from a review of their "ledger account cash journal."

When asked about the ledger showing no debt for the resident, Barnett said the electronic system used for accounting was "never correct" for the facility, so accounting was done on paper.

Barnett also stated that the resident had agreed to be repaid for the \$56,481 check with \$1,000 per week because she "could not just come up with \$56,000." The survey found no evidence of that agreement and that the facility continued to use the misappropriated funds for operations. Barnett did later provide confirmation of at least four \$1,000 checks that had been issued to the resident for payback.

Barnett also acknowledged there had been no investigation into the matter and that she and other certain employees are "mandated reporters," resulting in the OLTC citing the facility with failure to report.

The survey further stated that the health of the resident involved suffered from the incident.

The facility was further cited in this matter with violating the

resident's rights by failing to ensure they were not subjected to "abuse or misappropriation of their property and failed to ensure the right to privacy."

The survey also determined that the facility failed to protect "four of five residents" reviewed for misappropriation of Medicaid funds and that residents' personal funds, including bingo winnings, were missing.

The missing funds were discovered after a resident had passed away and their family was directed to collect their belongings and "residential envelopes," which were held in a lockbox in the facility's medication room and included the \$40 residents receive monthly plus money given by families and bingo winnings. The family returned two months later to collect and found the envelope that was said to contain \$54 in cash only had \$14.

Two employees checked the contents of the lockbox and found "money missing from about half of the envelopes." Barnett responded in an interview that several employees could have accessed the lockbox and that she had returned the money to the family.

The facility's financial records also revealed instances when facility funds were allegedly deposited into Barnett's personal bank account and that there were instances of Medicaid funds commingling with business funds. Barnett is described as the "sole governing body" of the facility who handles all the banking and finances.

APPEAL RIGHTS

In the letters delivered on May 20, Barnett was advised of her right to a hearing when an "administrative remedy is imposed" on the facility, as well as the right to a hearing to appeal the revocation of her administration license. Requests for hearings must be received by the state within 60 days, as of May 20.



Staff photo

DEPARTING ... One of the residents of the nursing home facility is loaded into a van for departure to another facility.

Effort seeks petition signers

MURFREESBORO -- The quest to get alcohol sales on the ballot for the second time is well underway.

According to the numbers provided by Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards, the group has to obtain a minimum of 2,387 valid petitions from registered Pike County Voters to place the referendum on the November ballot for voter consideration.

The referendum failed by six votes at the polls in 2022.

Anyone that is willing to help with petition efforts — regardless of amount — is asked to call (870) 557-1860.

For those that would like to sign a petition, can visit Harvill Insurance, Chimney Rock Grocery Store or the Gypsy Underground Flea Market, all located in Murfreesboro, where petitions are available.

Senior Center to hold benefit meal on June 7

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Center will be having a fundrasing meal on Sunday, June 7, starting at 11:30. The meal will consist of chicken and dressing, candied yams, English peas, cranberry sauce, roll and peach cobbler. Donations for meals will be appreciated.

Fishing event for special needs children set for Glenwood

GLENWOOD -- A free fishing event for children with special needs is set for Friday, June 12 in Glenwood.

C.A.S.T. for Kids is sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

The event will be held at John Benjamin Public Fishing Lake, 25-53 Industrial Park Land in Glenwood from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Participating children will receive:

- Peer interaction
- Fishing guidance and basic techniques
- Fishing Fun Pack -- rod, reel and tackle followed by lunch and a special box with a t-shirt, hat and photo plaque

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Visit <https://castforkids.jotform.com/form/child2026-johnbenjaminreg> to register.

Participants must be at least six years old and be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

For more information, contact event coordinator Tilly Davis at (870) 867-7901 or e-mail johnbenjamin@castforkids.org.



Submitted photos/Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce

AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS ... The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce proudly presents scholarship certificates to two outstanding 2026 Murfreesboro High School graduates. The scholarship awards of \$500 each will help pay for their respective tuitions. Kale Burns (above left) and Sydney Jade Braden (above right) were chosen by the group because of their "outstanding applications reflecting their commitment to work in our community and their volunteer efforts for our community." The pair also received many recommendations from various teachers and community leaders. "We are proud to be able to help further their education and develop our future community leaders," said Chamber President Ricky Branch (pictured with students above).

Man charged with meth possession after tossing bottle from window

MURFREESBORO -- A Howard County man has been charged in Pike County with felony possession of methamphetamine and tampering with evidence following a May traffic stop by the state police.

Gregory Cort Pierce, 30, of Mineral Springs, was charged May 22. He is currently being held in the county jail on \$15,000 bond and is awaiting his first court date.

According to case information, Pierce was stopped on May 5 by an Arkansas state trooper for an improper lane change. Prior to stop, the trooper reportedly observed a white object being thrown out of the passenger's side and into the ditch. The object was an Advil bottle that contained approximately 3.2 grams of meth and was claimed by Pierce.

A passenger in Pierce's vehicle, Ashley Pate, was not charged in the incident.

Also on May 22, James Loyd Cogburn, 61, of Glenwood, was charged in Pike County with possession of methamphetamine. He has been released on \$5,000 bond and is awaiting his first court appearance.

Cogburn was arrested on May 12 by a Pike County deputy who had observed Cogburn walking along the roadway and stopped to check on the subject's welfare. Cogburn was offered a ride and the deputy first conducted a pat-down for weapons before allowing him in the patrol unit. Cogburn was found to be in possession of less than two grams of meth.

As Memorial Day weekend kicks off summer, remember water safety

LITTLE ROCK -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reminding everyone to practice good water safety habits this summer season.

Memorial Day provided one of the busiest weekends on the water across the region. USACE is asking visitors to be patient and courteous at boat launch ramps and to slow down and watch out for other boaters on the water.

Please remember to wear your life jacket, don't drink alcoholic beverages and operate a boat, never swim alone, stick to designated swim areas and check river and lake levels before

heading out.

Visitors should also monitor weather conditions, as spring storms can develop quickly and create dangerous conditions on the water.

Recreation information can be found on the Internet at www.swl.usace.army.mil, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/littlerockusace and on the USACE Little Rock water level mobile app at www.swl.usace.army.mil/Home/water-control-app/.

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
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- Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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Telephone: 870-285-2723

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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.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Delight
Invitation for Sealed Bids

The Town of Delight is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the following vehicles:

1980 Ford F-700 Dump Truck
2014 GMC Sierra

Vehicles should be bid on separately and not as a combined lot. All sealed bids must be received by the City of Delight no later than June 5, 2026. No bids will be accepted after this deadline.

Bids should be mailed to:
Town of Delight
P.O. Box 29
Delight, AR 71940

Bids will be opened at the regular city council meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026.

Both vehicles are being sold as is and may be inspected upon request. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or implied. The Town of Delight shall not be responsible for any repairs or mechanical issues after purchase.

Successful bidder(s) shall pay in full within five (5) business days of bid acceptance. Vehicles must be picked up within seven (7) days after payment is received.

For questions or to arrange an inspection, please contact the Town of Delight at 870-379-2020.

The Town of Delight reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

(This publication was paid for by the City of Delight. The amount paid for this publication is \$86.40) (c.o.d. 192w., 47,48)

OBU announces honor rolls

ARKADELPHIA -- Ouachita Baptist University has named 399 students to its Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must compile a 3.5-3.9 grade point average and be classified as a full-time undergraduate student, with a minimum of 12 academic hours and no incomplete or failing grades for the semester.

Ouachita Baptist University, a Christian liberal arts university, is in its 140th year. This year, Ouachita has celebrated being named Niche's Best Small College in Arkansas AY Magazine's Best Private College. Learn more about the university's highly personal approach, reflected in a student-to-faculty ratio of 14:1, at www.obu.edu.

The following local students were included in the Dean's List:

- Glenwood — Gracie Wright
- Murfreesboro — Alyssa Jones
- Nashville — Natalie Perrin, Addison Tate and Cassie Corres

Ouachita Baptist University has also named 474 students to its President's List for the Spring 2026 semester.

To qualify for the President's List, a student must compile a 4.0 grade point average and be classified as a full-time undergraduate student, with a minimum of 12 academic hours and no incomplete or failing grades for the semester.

The following local students were included in the President's List:

- Delight -- Jenna May
- Glenwood — Andrea Allen and Taylor Doty
- Langley — Anna White
- Mount Ida — Drayton Standridge and Jacob Woodfield
- Murfreesboro — Ella Claire Brinkley
- Nashville — Anna-Kate Sartin

The full lists may be viewed at <https://obu.edu/stories/news/2026/05/spring-deans-list.php> and <https://obu.edu/stories/news/2026/05/spring-presidents-list.php>.

Obituaries

Theresa Pearl Ross Parrish, 79, Glenwood



Theresa Pearl Ross Parrish, beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, May 17, 2026, age 79, at her home in Glenwood, Arkansas, with her family by her side.

Born on July 28, 1946, in Bisbee, Arizona, Theresa was the second of five children born to Raymond Jefferson Ross Sr. and Marilynn Brooks Ross. She spent her childhood between her grandparents' home in Bisbee, Arizona, and her parents' home in Bellflower, California.

In 1964, she graduated from La Mirada High School, California, where she met her future husband, Johnce Lyle Parrish. The two acted in plays together, and through the years would occasionally put on impromptu theatrical performances, singing and dancing and getting many laughs at family gatherings. Theresa won a scholarship to the prestigious Pasadena Playhouse, but unable to meet all costs, attended Cerritos College instead. With their flair for the dramatic, Theresa and Johnce married on Halloween, 1965, a date that was thereafter commemorated by face-painting, dressing up, and general family fun.

While living first in California, Theresa had 5 daughters. Although a full-time mother, she attended Rio Hondo Com-

munity College and honed her ceramic skills. In 1979, the family moved to Murfreesboro, Arkansas, to be near her father, Ray Ross and beloved stepmother, Lola Ross. While living in Murfreesboro, Theresa and Johnce had 2 more children, this time sons, while transforming the property with beds of terraced flowers. In 1986, Theresa continued the family tradition of working at newspapers, and began building ads for The Glenwood Herald, where her father had been owner and editor. Theresa eventually became the Advertising Editor who broke the Herald record for the most ads sold and earned the highest salary through her commissions.

In the early 2000s, Theresa and Johnce purchased and moved into the house previously owned by her father and stepmother in Glenwood. Later, a life-long learner, Theresa continued her education at National Park Community College, in Hot Springs, unsurprisingly earning 'A's. In her retirement, she dedicated herself to gardening the large property, and caring for family and friends. She was famous for bouquets created with flowers from her own garden, and delivered by Johnce to friends all over.

While it was well-known that Theresa's husband, Johnce, was a talented and prolific artist, most people did not realize that Theresa was also an artist, who could not only produce life-like sketches, but who could also make pottery, landscape gardens, arrange flowers, and decorate interiors with an aptitude to challenge any expert in design. Beauty was evident in everything she did, from her careful cursive writing to her gift wrapping to her table decor and terrariums. Any visitor to her home could not fail to notice that

artists lived there, as fascinating objects adorned every surface. This artisty also shone through her storytelling, both verbal and written: she held audiences rapt at family gatherings, regaling them with vignettes of spider encounters; her letters to friends and family were beloved; and she spoke of plans to one day submit stories to Reader's Digest.

Theresa's life was defined by her devotion to family and community. Theresa's more reserved and quiet-spirited personality balanced out her husband's more flamboyant nature, and she was committed to always seeing the best in people and giving them the benefit of the doubt. Her Catholic school upbringing and previous employment as a telephone customer service representative contributed to her meticulous good manners and unflinching politeness in every social situation. She was a nurturing and forgiving person who delighted in small children and who made life-long friends. She was a calm and helpful presence wherever she was, and a talented and devoted mother admired by everyone who knew her. Theresa's legacy of love, compassion, and resilience through hard times will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Theresa was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Johnce Lyle Parrish, and by 3 brothers: Jeff Ross, Greg Ross, and Ronald Ross. Theresa is survived by her sister, Diane Ross (Randy Parsley) of Winter Park, Florida, and seven children: Cindy Tinsey of St. Clair, Michigan; Elisabeth Parrish Eaton (Carl) of Dod-

dridge, Arkansas; Maria Parrish-Eichman (Gregg) of Burleson, Texas; Catherine Parrish (Chris Fitter) of Merchantville, New Jersey; Rachel Parrish (Phil McKenna) of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Ian Parrish (Larissa) of Benton, Arkansas; and Justin Dru Parrish of Hot Springs, Arkansas. Theresa holds closely in her heart her daughter in spirit, Sarah Kesterson, and Sarah's children Bell and Wilson. Theresa also leaves behind 17 grandchildren: Isaac Doggett (Jessica), Johnce Tyler Doggett (Ainslee), Julian Doggett, Jeffrey Parrish, Seth Batts (Samantha), Matthew Parrish-Eichman, John Parrish-Eichman, Sarah Parrish-Eichman, Christian Parrish-Eichman, Sophia Fitter, Michael Fitter, Julian Fitter, Finnegan McKenna, Talia McKenna, Emerson Parrish, Duncan Parrish, and Roman Parrish; five great-grandchildren; 11 nieces and nephews; numerous extended family; and many friends who became like family.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service on Saturday, May 30th, 2026, 2-4 pm, at the Smith Family Funeral Home, 209 N 3rd St., Glenwood, AR 71943, and to share stories of the love and the fun that characterized Theresa. An open reception for all friends and family will follow immediately at the Glenwood Senior Center. While the memorial service is at 2 pm, it will not start until 3 pm, because Theresa will be late!

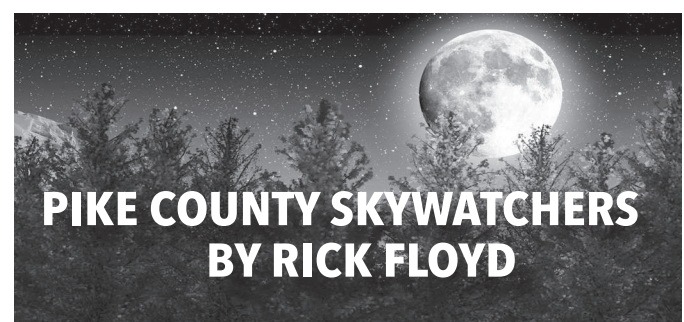
In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made towards funeral expenses:

Venmo: @Catherine-Parrish-24 CashApp: \$ElisabethEaton OR Ian Parrish - 8171 Zuber Rd Benton, AR 72019

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.

JUNE 16 -- The Murfreesboro Class of 1972 will hold their annual lunch on Saturday, June 6 at 12 noon at Telinga's.



Sun actively strong, moon blue in May

The Sun, as mentioned last week, is still active in its solar maximum period. There is a reminder of how far-reaching NASA's study of the Sun and its planetary system is in an announcement that its Perseverance Rover on the surface of Mars had made images of several fiery active regions on the Sun's surface. The interesting thing is that the rover is seeing the side of the Sun opposite Earth, and that we get a heads up to the possibility, as the Sun rotates, that these solar storms will still be active when they come around to face Earth.

Also mentioned in an earlier article is the second full moon of May 2026, rising as the Sun sets on May 31. A second full moon in a given calendar month is called a Blue Moon. This will be the only one of 2026, and the next time it happens will be on December 31, 2028. The Blue Moon is famously referred to in a few songs. "Blue Moon" attributed to Rogers and Hart in 1934 had controversy in 1937 when Edward Roman of New York sued and won claiming to have written it in 1931 after skating by moonlight on the Hudson when he was 17 years old. Then for a more country leaning there is "Blue Moon of Kentucky" by Bill Monroe released in 1945.

The end of May marks the high point in the western sky of the planet Venus. It will linger there for a few weeks, and then it will gradually sink a bit lower each night until, in October, it is no longer the Evening Star.

Georgia Ballard, 92, Murfreesboro



Georgia Ballard, 92, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2026, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. She was born August 14, 1933, in Mt. Moriah, Arkansas the daughter of the late George Skinner and Jessie Price Skinner.

Mrs. Ballard was a member of First Christian Church in Murfreesboro and served as the Sunday school teacher for the nursery for over thirty years.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband John Carlos "JC" Ballard, a sister Ruth Skinner and one brother Carl Skinner. Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Nicky and Linda Ballard and Lonnie and Patricia Ballard, all of Murfreesboro.

Five granddaughters, Kelly and Jerry Hile of Texar-

kana, Lori and Chad Doolin of Arkadelphia, Jessi and William Meakin of Arkadelphia, Toni and Matthew Humphry of Delight, and Sara and Justin Mitchell of Mena; one grandson, Cory and Shannon Ballard of Murfreesboro; great grandsons Caleb Humphry, Cale Humphry, Cayden Ballard, Bryce Meakin, Turner Ross, Garrett Ross, Maddox Mitchell, Nicholas Mitchell, Brennan and Sarah Hile, Hampton Hile and Zach Jackson; great granddaughters Carsyn Ballard, Jessa Cait Humphry and Amy Jackson. One great-great granddaughter Everleigh Hilliard. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends.

Visitation was held on Monday, May 25, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services were at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 26, at First Christian Church in Murfreesboro, with Brian Doyle and Randy Posey officiating, burial followed in the Murfreesboro Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

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

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

UAMS HOUSE CALL

Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: What is the role of an advanced practice nurse?

A: An advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) is a nurse with postgraduate education and training. APRNs can practice at higher level than licensed practical nurses or registered nurses, and in many instances may provide primary or specialty medical and nursing care.

An APRN must hold at least a master's degree in nursing, and some APRNs earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in addition to completing extensive additional training in their specialty field. Board certification and licensure requirements depends upon the state in which the APRN is practicing. APRNs specialties include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse midwives.

APRNs perform duties such as assisting with surgeries, delivering anesthesia, educating patients and their families on medical conditions, making specialty referrals, or providing acute care. APRNs can be found in hospitals, nursing care facilities, outpatient clinics, physicians' offices, or schools. APRNs may prescribe medication or work independent of a supervising physician in accordance with state regulations.

APRNs may also be referred to advanced practice nurses, advance registered nurse practitioners, or nurse practitioners. APRNs are a vital part of the health care process and may provide an important link between the patient and the physician.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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5	4	2	8	7	9	6	1	3
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Honoring the fallen

BY JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. Senator, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Memorial Day is a special time to honor and reflect on the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform who gave their lives in service to our nation. Throughout our history, over one million American servicemembers have perished fighting for our freedoms and values. Their immense selflessness and bravery represent a debt that can never be fully repaid.

Thousands of Arkansans have rendered noble service in conflicts ranging from peacekeeping missions to World Wars — many paying the ultimate price alongside their fellow countrymen.

These acts of valor have protected generations of Americans' God-given rights and liberties and defined our country as the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Commemorating the legacies of the fallen and the immense impact they have had on preserving our way of life is part of our duty to them and their loved ones.

Fortunately, as home to over 200,000 veterans, Arkansas communities uphold a strong admiration for our servicemembers and military families. Our state has a proud tradition of supporting national defense as well as our family, friends and neighbors who assure it.

One of these Arkansans is former United States Air Force Captain Floyd Brantley, who recently traveled from Conway to visit the nation's capital with his family and made time to visit my office. As part of the Greatest Generation, Captain Brantley is planning a Memorial Day trip to Normandy to pay his respects to fellow veterans at their final resting place.

We met over 10 years ago when he joined me to discuss his service in World War II and the Korean War during an interview for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. This important initiative documents and preserves the personal accounts of American veterans.

Since its founding by Congress over two decades ago, over 100,000 veterans have participated in the VHP with submissions of service spanning from World War I to Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. My office has been proud to organize interviews and events throughout Arkansas in partnership with the Library of Congress to successfully train 1,200 Arkansans and submit the oral histories of over 100 Natural State veterans.

I was inspired to become involved with the program after realizing that my father, who served in WWII and Korea, did not often share details about his service in the military. Many veterans relate to this private humility, and I am pleased that each year, more and more of them are interested in recounting their experiences so future generations can learn, appreciate and understand the meaning of their service. I am confident that interest in this unique and worthy project will only deepen across our state and the nation.

As we mark Memorial Day, may we pause to honor the courageous men and women who have demonstrated freedom is not free, and recommit ourselves to preserving their legacies and cherishing the freedoms they fought and died to protect. May we never take those who have given the last full measure of devotion for granted.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

RETIRING EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION ... The South Pike County School District held a retirement party for employees last Tuesday at the Murfreesboro School cafeteria. Featured employees included (L to R) Lois Hunter-Wesson, Linda Anderson, Sandra Elliott, Caroline Wise and Terrie Slatton.

Nashville educator participates in education meeting

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK -- The Joint Education Committee met this week for a presentation about the Arkansas Excellence in Teaching Fellowship Program, delivered by Jacob Oliva, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Education, Lyndsey Laster, a 3rd-grade teacher from Poyen Elementary, Melanie Brotherton, who teaches 3rd grade at Drew Central Elementary in Monticello, and Lissa Monroe, a 3rd-grade teacher at Ward Central Elementary in Cabot.

The Arkansas Excellence in Teaching Fellowship program celebrates some of our state's greatest educators. The program is intended to uplift ed-

ucators who receive merit pay and make clearer to the public what great teaching looks like and how it is celebrated.

Selected teachers participate in a series of virtual sessions to improve their practice, increase understanding of the state's Merit Teacher Incentive Fund, and raise public awareness of the teaching profession. Participants benefit from professional learning, networking, and collaboration and receive a \$1,500 stipend.

Lawmakers spent over two hours on questions and answers with Secretary Oliva and the teachers, discussing the program, the new literacy standards for third graders, and other developments related to LEARNS Act standards.

For the first cohort in 2025, the Arkansas Department of Education selected 23 high-performing educators from across the state to participate in the inaugural fellowship program:

Jessica Adair, a math teacher in the Vilonia School District in Vilonia.

Cheron Atkins-Butcher, a 5th-grade teacher at Sherwood Elementary in Sherwood.

Mark Bauer, a geometry teacher at Rogers High School in Rogers.

Jamie Bond, a 3rd-grade teacher at Genoa Central Elementary in Genoa.

Monica Brewington, a 5th-grade math teacher at M.D. Williams Int. School in Pocatontas.

Melanie Brotherton, a 3rd-grade teacher at Drew Central Elementary in Monticello.

Hayleigh Harris, a 5th-grade English language arts teacher at Valley View Middle School in Jonesboro.

Kim Herdes, a 4th-grade teacher at Willowbrook Elementary School in Bentonville.

Amber Hern, an English language arts teacher at Danville High School in Danville.

Chelsea Jones, a 4th-grade teacher at Parkview Elementary School in Van Buren.

Lee Ketchum, a 5th-grade teacher at Central Elementary in Magnolia.

Lyndsey Laster, a 3rd-grade teacher at Poyen Elementary School in Poyen.

Heather McGhee, a mentor teacher at Fairview Elementary School in Fort Smith.

Lissa Monroe, a 3rd-grade teacher at Ward Central Elementary in Cabot.

Tiffany Moore, a math teacher at Spring Hill High School in Hope.

Carlie Qualls, a 5th-grade English language arts teacher at Cave City Elementary in Cave City.

Araya Ossius, a 4th-grade science teacher at Eastside Elementary School in Greenbrier.

Lou Petrone, an 8th-grade math and Algebra 1 teacher at Woodland Junior High in Fayetteville.

Melissa Rogalla, a Biology and Environmental Science teacher at eStem High School in Little Rock.

Beverly Rogers, a 3rd-grade teacher at Cherokee Elementary School in Highland.

Sonya Taylor, a 5th-grade teacher at Thomas C. Brunson Elementary in Warren School District.

Ginny Schwope, a 3rd-grade math and science teacher at Nashville Primary School in Nashville.

Lance Walters, a 5th-grade teacher at Lakewood Elementary School in North Little Rock.

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'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

What a Christian Was Intended to Be

Scripture describes a Christian as one who has been baptized for the remission of sins and is now walking in newness of life (Romans 6:1-4)... Are you?

The Bible describes a Christian as a saint, separated from and living differently than the world (1 Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 12:14)...Are you?

Scripture describes a Christian as a priest, one who is able to approach God freely, on behalf of oneself or someone else (1 Peter 2:9)...Are you?

The Bible describes a Christian as a sheep which follows the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20)...Are you?

Scripture describes a Christian as a light in the midst of darkness (Philippians 2:15, 16)...Are you? The Bible de-



scribes a Christian as a functioning, useful member, (part) of a body, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)...Are you?

Scripture describes a Christian as a block in the greater edifice, or spiritual building (1 Peter 2:5)...Are you?

The Bible describes a Christian as a child within the family of God (Romans 8:14, 16; Ephesians 5:8)...Are you?

Scripture describes a Chris-

tian as a servant who works and labors on behalf of our Master (Ephesians 6:6)...Are you?

The Bible describes a Christian as a citizen of heaven — one who may have temporary residence here on earth, but who is acting in accordance with the privileges and responsibilities of the spiritual country (Philippians 3:20)... Are you?

Scripture describes a Christian as a sojourner — one not really at home on earth, but one on a journey toward a better place (1 Peter 2:11)...Are you?

Lance Cordle The Encourager — Calvert City Church of Christ Volume 22, Number 33 — August 15, 2010

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

A KING'S JEALOUSY

WHEN KING SAUL, BESSET BY MELANCHOLY AND INSANITY FIRST LAID EYES ON DAVID, THE BIBLE REPORTS THAT SAUL "LOVED HIM GREATLY" (1 SAM. 16:21). SO MUCH SO, THAT SAUL MADE DAVID HIS ARMOUR-BEARER AND CALLED UPON HIM TO REFRESH HIS SPIRITS WHENEVER HE SAUL, "WAS SO DISTURBED! HOWEVER, DAVID WAS SO VALIANT AGAINST THE PHILISTINES AND SO SUCCESSFUL WHENEVER THEY MET IN BATTLE THAT WOMEN IN ALL THE ISRAELITE CITIES USED TO SING PRAISES TO DAVID ABOUT THAT TO KING SAUL! (1 SAM. 18:6-9) THE JEALOUSY THAT WAS INSTIGATED IN SAUL'S MIND ERASED ANY FEELINGS OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR DAVID TO BE REPLACED WITH THE DESIRE TO KILL DAVID AT ALL COSTS! (1 SAM. 19:1).

AH, NOW! LET THIS LAD CONTINUE TO STAND BEFORE ME - FOR HE HAS FOUND GREAT FAVOR IN MY SIGHT!

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Bro. Buddy Ray

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MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

1. Throat-clearing sound
5. Like a fiddle?
8. Chicago baseballer
11. Cyberattack target
12. Opposite of pizzicato, in music
13. Bullying, e.g.
15. Pharmacy ware
16. Wedding cake layer
17. *Mythological part woman, part bird
18. *Part man, part bull
20. Means justifiers
21. Seize the throne
22. Found at the pump
23. *Part man, part fish
26. Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
30. Schiller's address to joy
31. Popular pet rodent
34. Bono's bandmate, with The
35. Chunk of iceberg
37. *Pointy-eared humanoid
38. Knight's breastplate
39. Independent chieftan
40. Pay, in casino (2 words)
42. Bugling ungulate
43. Like sun
45. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
47. Public health org.
48. Manila hemp
50. Vegan's protein choice
52. *Three-headed dog
55. African antelope, pl.
56. Not written
57. Arch above eye
59. Actor's rep
60. Sommelier's domain
61. *Large and hideous humanoid
62. *Giant bird of prey
63. Bulb type
64. *Abominable humanoid

DOWN

1. Tally
2. Stay out of its way!
3. Small ladies' handbag
4. Extra large wine bottle
5. Robin Hood's companion Tuck
6. Frost over (2 words)
7. Millimeter of mercury
8. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
9. Mail carrier, acr.
10. Beyonc , a.k.a. Queen ____
12. Adjust
13. Beforehand
14. *Wailing spirit
19. "Killers of the Flower Moon" Oklahoma location
22. Hair-raising product
23. Lawn trimmer
24. Organ swelling
25. Made over
26. Abundant
27. Landscaper's tool
28. Like an athlete
29. Office stations
32. Landlord's due
33. Acronym-named sandwich
36. *Part lion, part eagle
38. Lickety-split
40. Nurses' org.
41. Incapable
44. Sunbaked, archaically speaking
46. Demijohn
48. Eagle's home
49. Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop
50. Not for here (2 words)
51. Barrel-counting org.
52. Type of hood
53. Restless desire
54. Database command
55. Roofing sealant
58. Yellow river tributary

CROSSWORD												
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A resting place for an American hero, care for all veterans

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. Representative, Arkansas

Freedom comes at a cost. Memorial Day serves as a weighty reminder of just how high a price many of our service men and women have paid. Most of us will spend our weekend enjoying the company of friends and family, hopefully some warm weather and sunshine, and maybe even a cookout or two. But my hope is that we can still remember that our ability to enjoy this weekend and the many blessings we have been given as Americans is all because of the sacrifice of our military heroes.

A little over a month ago, Hot Springs was privileged to welcome home the remains of World War II veteran, U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Russell O. Chitwood. While serving in France, his aircraft was struck down by German fire over enemy territory. Chitwood was among ten men, some of whom were captured as prisoners of war. However, Chitwood was never accounted for.

After new technology allowed his remains to be identified, Staff Sgt. Chitwood finally made his way home, eighty years later. It's stories like these that remind us of the cost of freedom. And they remind us of how truly blessed we are to hold on to that freedom.

There's a quote by Ronald Reagan that perfectly captures the spirit of this upcoming holiday. In his own Memorial Day speech at the Arlington National Cemetery in 1982, he said, "The willingness of some to give their lives so that others might live never fails to evoke in us a sense of wonder and mystery. One gets that feeling here on this hallowed ground. And I have known that same poignant feeling as I looked out across the rows of white crosses and stars of David in Europe, in the Philippines and the military cemeteries here in our own land. Each one marks the resting place of an American hero."

I'm grateful to Staff Sgt. Chitwood and all of our American heroes who have served or lost their life for our country. As a Member of Congress, it's a privilege to use my vote to honor

their service and sacrifice. This week, the House voted to pass the Veterans 2nd Amendment Act.

Our veterans fought to defend our Constitution. And they shouldn't lose their own constitutional rights simply because a box was checked on their benefits form. For too long, veterans with fiduciaries have been placed into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) – taking away their ability to legally own a firearm or ammunition.

This strips them of the due process civilians are guaranteed before being added to NICS. So instead of a judge making the decision of whether a veteran is a threat to their community, a VA bureaucrat makes that decision with the flick of a pen or click

of a button.

House Republicans passed the Protecting Veterans 2nd Amendment Act to prevent the VA from giving the NICS sensitive information without due process to protect our veterans' constitutional rights – the ones they fought to defend.

I'm always proud to work alongside my colleagues in Congress to cast a vote that ensures our veterans receive the care, respect, and rights they have earned.

I hope you had a blessed Memorial Day weekend and may God continue to bless our troops and the United States of America.

The science behind successful grilling

BY RYAN MCGEENEY
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — "Barbecue," as anyone in the South can tell you, is a loaded word.

"It means different things to different people," said Janeal Yancey, extension animal science instructor for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. But, she said, one thing ought to be clear: "Barbecuing" is not for hamburgers.

"I grew up in Texas, and in my mind, 'barbecuing' is a low and slow smoking process," Yancey said. "I would never say I'm 'barbecuing' a hamburger. If I was going to cook a hamburger on a grill for Memorial Day, I'd say I'm grilling it. But I might say in the same sentence that I'm having a 'backyard barbecue.'"

Semantics aside, grilling and smoking offer two different flavor profiles based on two different chemical reactions, Yancey said.

"When we grill things, such as hamburgers, you're using a really high heat, usually using some kind of wood fire or charcoal, that creates a char on the surface of that meat," Yancey said. "It makes a really nice brown or blackening color, and it creates a delicious flavor.

This is known as the Maillard reaction, in which sugar and protein under heat create the color and flavor grilling enthusiasts love.

You probably have to go back to cavemen cooking meat over a fire to understand why our brains like that," Yancey said.

THE LOW AND SLOW OF IT ALL

"With barbecue — that would be more of the low and slow smoking — there's some different chemistry happening there," Yancey said.

During the smoking process, the smoke generated from burning wood interacts with proteins in meat and poultry. The fats and proteins in the meat absorb the chemical smoke, creating a new, smoky flavor. The process also denatures the meat, causing it to lose structure, which is how it becomes fall-off-the-bone tender.

"You can use the combination of smoking and grilling techniques to get a nice char on the outside of a brisket, along with the pretty pink and nice smoky flavor on the inside," Yancey said.

"The pink color comes from the nitric oxide interacting with the proteins in the meat. You'll see that in hams, hot dogs — any of our cured meats," she said.

SAFETY FIRST

Yancey said that whether you're grilling or smoking, heat is the key ingredient to killing off bacteria and making the meat safe to eat.

"When it comes to cooking things quickly, especially with ground meat such as hamburgers, make sure to get the whole patty to 160 degrees Fahrenheit," she said. "With a steak, the internal temperature can be cooler, because the inside of the steak won't have the bacterial load that you can have on the inside of a hamburger.

"When you're smoking meats, you're just cooking it for so long

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The Murfreesboro Diamond reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters must not be libelous or contain any profanities.

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Memorial Day celebrated on courthouse square, Luther Stevens recognized

BOB WILLIAMS

Pike County Veterans Service Officer

Memorial Day is about much more than "service", its sole purpose is to quicken our hearts over the "sacrifices" that have been made for us to live in a country where people risk their lives to come here just to taste the opportunities, we far too often take for granted.

Memorial Day is about honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice through their duty, honor, courage, and commitment in the defense of our Nation. But should their legacy be remembered merely by a sales ad or TV commercial designed to monopolize on a holiday which was established to honor our War Dead?

Our first President of the United States, George Washington, said, "Nothing is a greater stranger to my breast, or a sin that my soul more abhors, than that black and detestable one, ingratitude."

Every year on the last Monday of May, across our Nation and in hallowed locations on foreign soil, where American blood has been shed for the cause of freedom; we are given the opportunity to pause and express our gratitude in remembrance of those who have "Given Their All" to win our liberty and to preserve our freedoms as Americans. The ceremonies conducted today are such a small acknowledgement to render an appreciation for such a great price which has been paid over the 250-year history of our Nation. American lives have been offered upon the altar of freedom over the course of our history. Men and women have answered the call to duty, honor, and country, around the world, and at one point in our history, spanning three Continents involving thirty-three different countries!

However, in the American culture of today; time, ignorance, and ingratitude appear to be a greater threat to our freedoms than do any elusive enemy. We assemble here today because we love our country, we love our freedoms, and we desire to pay our respect and appreciation broadly to the men and women who "Gave All"; but to also draw our focus more narrowly to those among them from our own back yard, the communities which we grew up in.

Most of whose names immortalized on that stone monument we know nothing about; however, we desire by our assembly to express our love in the form of gratitude and remembrance for their sacrifice. This memorial, dedicated to the testimony of those 78 lives, was first revealed on a hot and humid afternoon, August 8th, 1948.

There were 3,500 grateful and patriotic Americans present that day; Can you imagine that? Twice the number of folks on the Courthouse Square than the population of Murfreesboro, and one-third the population of Pike County! Our small sacrifice of time today is primarily focused on the 78 of our own residents, but what about the other 1.2 million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen from every hill and hollow, farm and community, city and township across our nation that also "Gave Their All" over the course of our history?

President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." So, from those who have paved our way to

liberty as a nation, and to those who died on foreign soil to win the freedom of others, thousands of whose bodies never returned home to American soil; we must commit to "Never Forget". The Word of God reminds us that Nations will continue to rise against nations in war, when and where only the LORD knows; but as we lay our head down in peace and freedom tonight, may we continue to pray for our troops serving around the globe and their families who patiently await their safe return ... always keeping in the forefront of our minds and upon our heart, that: "Freedom Isn't Free". We collectively gather in body, mind, and spirit with Americans across our nation, and at Veteran Cemeteries on foreign soil today, to reverently say, "Thank You to those who paid the price for our freedom and We Commit this Memorial Day to Remember Their Sacrifice."

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT:

The team of our Pike County Archives Center has done such a great job in gathering information concerning the 78 servicemen on our memorial.

Last year's veteran, George W. Ballard, was submitted to the Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, by Archives member Gary Graves, and he became the first of Pike County to be immortalized among other military heroes across our state.

Thanks, Gary, for all your hard work in getting the very first veteran from Pike County inducted.

We want to recognize another veteran from the 78 listed on our Memorial.

If you will look inside your program, you will see his photograph, and the insert tells his story.

His name is Luther Stevens, and we are honored to have his nephew, Stevie Stevens, here today who will be placing the Memorial Wreath in honor of his Uncle Luther later in the ceremony.

I'd like to ask Gary Graves, from the Pike County Archives, to come up and share this veteran's story.

LUTHER BURBANK STEVENS

SSGT, U.S. ARMY • 08/25/1914 to 06/15/1944

Staff Sergeant Luther Burbank Stevens was born on August 25, 1914. He was the son of the late Mr. Willie T. Stevens, who once served as the Pike County Treasurer, and Mrs. Lou Anna Huddleston who resided in what was known as the "Thompson Township" of Pike County.

He graduated from Murfreesboro High School and was very popular among his peers. He worked on a farm from his late teens to early 20's, and at the age of 26 years old, Luther enlisted in the U.S. Army sometime in 1941 and rapidly rose through the ranks to Staff Sergeant.

While stationed in, what was known as "Camp Polk" Louisiana, Luther was presented with yet another promotion but he humbly refused to accept it because his unit was being prepared to deploy overseas and he wanted to remain in his position of leadership among the men he had trained for such a time as this.

He had served with these men in Africa and Sicily and the strong bonds of brotherhood was not something he took lightly. In mid-April of 1944, all leaves and passes were cancelled and the final preparation for combat began. Luther was assigned to



Submitted photo/Pike County Archives

SSGT LUTHER BURBANK STEVENS

the 41st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Armored Division; he and his men had trained hard in preparation for the largest amphibious assault in history on June 6, 1944, known as the "D-Day Invasion" of Omaha Beach in Normandy, code name: "Operation Overlord".

He deployed out of Camp Polk into World War – II, positioned aboard ship off the coast of Normandy, awaiting the

successful invasion and securing of the beach head so his light armored division could be offloaded. His division hit the beach on June 9, 1944 and began their advancement inland to open a pathway from the beach head in order to engage the Germans, who were already dug-in amongst the thick, seemingly impenetrable "hedgerows" of the French countryside.

Six days later, on June 15th, SSGT Stevens was leading a reconnaissance group through the hedgerows when they began to draw heavy enemy fire from their front and left flank. He was able to recall his scouts, but the Germans had them pinned-down where even the slightest movement instantly drew enemy fire on their position.

As the leader of his unit, responsible for his men, and going against their advice ... At the risk of his own life, Luther prepared himself to engage an enemy machine-gun position approximately 30 yards in front of him. He managed to throw a grenade into the German position, but in doing so he was fatally wounded. He ordered his men to withdraw to safety while he remained behind providing them cover fire until he was overcome by his wounds.

SSGT Luther Stevens' selfless actions saved the lives of his men that day, and his sacrifice is one of many throughout the entirety of WW-II. His mother, Lou Anna Stevens, reported that she had later received a letter from him dated June 13, 1944; written only two days before his death. His mother was officially notified by telegram from the War Department of his death on July 26, 1944, and he was the first of Murfreesboro to be reported as "Killed In Action" during WW-II.

His remains were never returned home to Arkansas, but were interred in the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France, side by side the other 9,400 war dead who are buried there along with the memorialized names of 1,600 other servicemen who are Missing In Action.

SSGT Luther Stevens was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medals.



Staff photos

IN MEMORY OF THOSE THAT GAVE ALL ... A Memorial Day event was held on the Pike County courthouse square on Monday in remembrance of those that traded their lives for American freedoms. Pictured above (L to R) is Pike County Veterans Service Officer Bob Williams, First Baptist Church pastor Damian Rogers and Randy and Marla Stewart. Immediately below is law enforcement officers from Murfreesboro and Pike County, while (far below) Pike County 4-H students aided in the ceremony including passing out commemorative pins and ringing the bell as each of Pike County's fallen soldiers were named by Roger Floyd.



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