

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

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## Public invited to attend 'Storm Spotter' class

KIRBY -- The Pike County Ham Radio Club will host a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Class on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kirby School Cafeteria.

Attendance is open to the public, regardless of club affiliation or license status. Attendees will need an Internet capable device.

The club will hold a short meeting afterward. Anyone with questions is more than welcome to contact Mark Reed at (903) 701-5954 or mark.reed.ii@gmail.com.

## 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.

## WMA deer permits to be accepted through July 1

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has opened the application period to hunt deer on some of the more popular wildlife management areas it manages through 11:59 p.m., July 1. Hunters interested in pursuing white-tailed deer during this fall's permit-only hunts may apply online at www.agfc.com.

AGFC wildlife management areas are excellent opportunities to bag your deer during hunting season, but popular hunting areas can become crowded or overhunted without special restrictions. The AGFC conducts special draw hunts on many popular areas to maintain healthy deer herds and high-quality hunting experiences.

Applicants for WMA deer hunt permits must provide a \$5 nonrefundable processing fee at the time of application for each hunt for which they apply. If successful, they will receive their permit without any additional fees.

Each hunter may submit one application for each type of permit hunt: youth hunt, archery, alternative firearms (muzzleloader and straight-walled centerfire rifles) and modern gun. Hunters must be at least 6 years old to apply for any WMA permit hunt.

Hunters applying for youth hunts must be at least 6, but no older than 15, the day the hunt begins. They or their legal guardian must create a new profile with their correct age and they must be logged into that account before the system will allow them to apply for a youth permit hunt.

Applicants may apply as individuals or as a group of up to four. To apply as a group, the party hunt leader applies as an individual. Once the permit application is completed and paid for, he or she will receive a party hunt code listed underneath the application line on his or her updated hunting license via email. They may then share that code with up to three other individuals. The rest of the party will then apply, and respond "yes" when asked if they are members of a party hunt. They may then enter the code and continue with their application and payment. Applying as a party does not increase the chances of each individual being drawn.

Visit [www.agfc.com/education/wma-deer-hunt-permits/](http://www.agfc.com/education/wma-deer-hunt-permits/) to learn more about WMA deer permit hunts and see a list of available permits as well as drawing odds based on last year's application totals.

Apply for a WMA deer permit under the "Special Hunt Permits" section of the AGFC's licensing site ([www.agfc.com/licenses](http://www.agfc.com/licenses)).

**Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!**  
[mdiamond@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Staff photo/John Balch

**AWARD WINNING BURGER ...** (Above) Brookelyen Cox, Laura Mae and Danny Eoff (at left) accept the Arkansas Beef Council's Best Burger honors during a ceremony held May 28 at Eoff's Market & Deli in Delight. (below left) Cox created The Wombat burger (below right with award), which is made and served from the Eoff's food trailer parked outside the store.

## Local eatery wins burger award for 2026

BY JOHN BALCH  
Nashville News-Leader staff

DELIGHT -- The Wombat, a burger created by a Nashville High School graduate and served out of a food trailer in Delight, beat out more than 3,200 entries from across the state to be selected as the Arkansas Beef Council's 2026 Best Burger.

The honor was bestowed upon the Wombat during a ceremony last Thursday and was attended by ABC officers including Chairman Caleb Plyler, and Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward - and about half the town of Delight.

The Wombat was created by Brookelyen Cox, a 2018 graduate of NHS, and is cooked

up at Eoff's Food Trailer, parked outside Eoff's Market & Deli in downtown Delight.

Cox is the "bonus daughter" of Danny and Laura Mae Eoff, who's kids, Drake and Avery, as well as nephew, Liam, all help man the market and food truck operations.

Brookelyen and Danny were busy sweating it out and slinging burgers for a heavy lunch rush just prior to the 12:00 presentation, which included 15 Wombat orders for the arriving ABC and state dignitaries

This is the third year for the ABC's Best Burger Contest and this year received 3,249 nominations, the highest participation in the contest's history.

The Wombat received the most nominations statewide and, appropriately enough, the burg-

er was honored on National Hamburger Day.

### WHY THE WOMBAT?

Danny explained that the moniker was given to him by a friend as a CB handle when he was around 16 years old. The name just stuck, he said.

"He named it and I created it," Brookelyen proudly said with a huge smile on a her sweaty face.

"Not only were you the prestigious winners, but we also set some records in the number of votes," ABC Chairman Plyler told the Eoffs and the crowd gathered inside the market. "So, make sure you tell the people of this community, and everyone that drives through that voted for you, that this small-town made a big impression with your burger."

The Eoffs opened their market and deli in March 2024, reviving the former McKnight's Grocery, which operated in Delight for close to 38 years. The food trailer only opened last year.

### THE WOMBAT

- Double 100% Beef Patties
- White & Yellow American Cheese
- Crispy Bacon
- Sautéed Onions
- Banana Peppers
- Special Wombat Sauce (Mayo-Based)



## School to sell used iPads to public, board approves end-of-year bonuses

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School board approved a year end bonus for employees at the May 19 school board meeting.

School superintendent Tanya Wilcher said after the state took over teacher insurance, they were able to give \$70,000 back to the employees in the form of \$300 bonuses to employees in the June checks.

The school will also be selling used iPads prior to trading them in on new ones for next school year. The public may purchase one for \$220, and it comes with a keyboard case and a charger.

"SPCSD purchases new iPads for the students every 2 years so the iPads were purchased in the summer of 2024 and will be 10.9

inch Gen 10 silver colored models. They will come with a charging cable, charging block, and a protective blue keyboard case. Note: As the iPads were actively used by students and staff the conditions of the cases and chargers may not be pristine and will be sold as is. However we will make all efforts to get you the cleanliest and well working cases we can as they are sold," said Adam Coleman on the school's website after the meeting.

The iPads will be sold until June 11 on Mondays-Thursdays (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) at the school's tech building.

For any question or further information please contact Coleman at [adam.coleman@ratlers.org](mailto:adam.coleman@ratlers.org) or by calling (870) 285-2189, ext. 415.

The school will lease 12th generation iPads for the students with a \$385,000 lease for next school year.

In her superintendent's report, Wilcher said spring sports ended well, adding that the regional tournaments at Murfreesboro for both baseball and softball were well received.

"All enjoyed the facilities -- some even saying it was the best complex they have attended. It was great fun and thank you to all who volunteered," she said.

**SCHOOL BOARD**  
Continued on Page 2

# SCHOOL BOARD

## Continued from Page 1

The school will week bids for drainage on the football field prior to next school year, with the probable collapse of some of the existing drainage system.

The district will also be replacing the carpeted areas of the offices and libraries for the first time in at least 20 years after the bid was won by Glenwood Flooring for \$42,219. The carpeting will be done in tiles, so it can be replaced should it become stained.

The MHS gymnasium, which has developed as many as 20 "dead spots" will be fixed by Gym Masters, who told the district they could fill with foam that would solve the issues for 5-7 years, as well as adding new designs to the court for \$30,799. That is significantly cheaper than the \$148,630 quote for a new floor. Wilcher said the project should be completed before the new school year. The board approved the measure.

Wilcher said all state testing was completed and that results would come in later this sum-

mer.

In his principal's report, James Riley of Murfreesboro Elementary School said that the school would participate in the Arkansas Game and Fish (AGFC) K-6 Conservation Leadership Program.

"It will bring in things that go along with our existing curriculum, and also discuss things like AGFC careers and mentor speakers."

The program will be headed up by instructor Melissa Cornish, who is moving to elementary science in the 2026-2027 school year.

Riley said the school had also garnered an educational bicycle grant that will help teach kids to ride bikes safely.

He said trips to Funtrackers (grades 5-6) and G-Jump (grades 3-4) were well received, with the manager of the latter telling Riley that we had "the most respectful kids."

Riley thanked the teachers for their efforts through the state testing and said there was growth amongst all the students.

Following an executive session, the board accepted the resignations of instructor Jane Caldwell, para-pro Candice Hughes.

The board then voted to hire Hughes and Christy Terrell as instructors for the 2026-2027

school year.

The board also hired Abigail McMillian as the elementary counselor, Regina Walker as the elementary art teacher and Drake Staggs as the assistant football and assistant baseball coach. Staggs, a Mineral Springs alum, has recently been employed by the Hughes Springs, Texas school district.

Whitney Lingo and Dana Jones were hired to work in the cafeteria.

The next school board meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, June 16, with Wilcher noting that was possibly at the time her daughter will be due with twins.

The school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year includes:

August 11-13 -- District Professional Development  
 August 13 -- Open House  
 August 19 -- First Day of School  
 September 7 -- Labor Day - No School  
 October 12 -- Columbus Day - No School  
 October 15 -- End of 1st Quarter (40 days)  
 October 20 -- Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30-7:30 p.m.)  
 October 21 -- Professional Development Day - No Students

November 23-27 -- Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 16-17 -- Semester Test Days  
 December 18 -- Make-up Semester Test Day End of 2nd Quarter (40 days)

Dec 21-Jan 4 -- Christmas Break - No School  
 January 5 -- Professional Development Day-No Students

January 6 -- Students Resume School  
 January 18 -- Martin Luther King, Jr Day - No School

February 15 -- President's Day - No School  
 March 12 -- End of 3rd Quarter (46 days)

March 16 -- Parent/Teacher Conferences (3:30-7:30 p.m.)

March 17 -- Professional Development Day - No Students

March 22-26 -- Spring Break - No School  
 May 7 -- No School  
 May 14 -- No School

May 21 -- No School  
 May 24-25 -- Semester Test Days  
 May 26 -- Make-up Semester Test Day End of 4th Quarter (45)

May 31 -- Memorial Day  
 Five weather days are built into the calendar. School days will run from 7:55 a.m. to 3:23 p.m.

# Extension offers tips to practice food safety when grilling this summer

BY REBEKAH HALL  
 University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — As pools open and family and friends gather to light up the grill after Memorial Day, it's important to keep food safety top of mind to ensure a delicious and healthy holiday for all.

"When planning a cook-out, think beyond the menu and make a food safety game plan," said Quad Whitson, extension culinary nutrition and food safety program associate for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

"A little preparation up front can prevent a lot of problems later," he said, noting that outdoor settings often require additional supplies.

If there is no running water nearby, for example, Whitson recommended bringing bottled water for drinking, food preparation and cleaning, along with hand sanitizer or disposable, alcohol-based wipes containing at least 60 percent alcohol as a substitute for washing hands.

"Pack enough clean utensils, cutting boards, serving platters, and bowls so that raw meat never comes into contact with ready-to-eat foods," Whitson said. "It also helps to plan for temperature control from the start: keep cold foods in a well-insulated cooler at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below, keep hot foods at 140 degrees F or above, and avoid letting perishables sit out for more than two hours, or one hour if the temperature is above 90 degrees F, which is common in Arkansas this time of year."

**PACK COOLERS WISELY**  
 "If there's no fridge, a well-

packed cooler becomes your best tool," Whitson said. "Use plenty of ice, frozen gel packs or frozen water bottles and pack the cooler as full as possible, because a full cooler stays cold longer than a half-empty one."

If possible, use a thermometer inside the cooler to ensure the temperature remains at 40 degrees F or below to keep perishable foods safe.

"It's smart to keep drinks in a separate cooler so the food cooler isn't opened constantly," Whitson said. "Keep the cooler in the shade, only open it when necessary, and don't use loose ice from the cooler in drinks if it has come into contact with food packaging."

**AVOID CROSS-CONTAMINATION**

"The biggest rule with raw meat is simple: keep it separate," Whitson said. "Use separate plates, cutting boards, and utensils for raw and cooked foods, as one of the easiest ways cross-contamination happens is when the same platter or utensil is used for both raw and cooked food."

Be sure to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling raw meat or packaging, Whitson added. If handwashing is not available, Whitson said the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends using hand sanitizer or disposable wipes.

However, if you're able to use gloves while handling raw meat, first dispose of the gloves — without touching any other food items or contact surfaces — then "go about the process of using your sanitizer or alcohol-based wipes,"

Whitson said.

"One mistake people still make is rinsing raw poultry, which can actually spread bacteria around the sink and nearby surfaces," Whitson said.

Pack raw meat — including poultry and seafood — in sealed containers or bags at the bottom of a cooler so juices don't drip onto other foods.

**COOK FOOD TO SAFE TEMPERATURES**

Whitson said another common food safety mistake people make while grilling is guessing meat's doneness by color instead of checking with a food thermometer.

"Meat can look done on the outside and still be undercooked in the center," Whitson said.

Safe minimum temperatures include:

- 145 degrees F for steaks, chops, and roasts of beef, pork, veal, and lamb
- 160 degrees F for ground meats
- 165 degrees F for all poultry, including ground poultry

Grill cleanliness is another overlooked issue, according to Whitson, as grease and fat buildup can create both food safety and fire risks. According to the National Fire Protection Association, grill fires are more common during the warmer months, with the highest percentages occurring in June and July, both at 15 percent, followed by May at 13 percent and August at 11 percent.

"Be sure to thoroughly clean your grill grates and remove any buildup of fat or debris in all other areas before lighting," Whitson said. "Keep pets and children at least three feet away from the grilling area at all times and never leave your grill unattended when in use."

**HANDLE LEFTOVERS WITH CARE**

Whitson suggested bringing shallow containers, resealable bags, or foil so food can be packed up quickly, rather

than sitting uncovered at an outdoor table.

"If food has been sitting out too long and you're not sure whether it has stayed cold enough, the best advice is 'When in doubt, throw it out,'" Whitson said. "And when leftovers are reheated later, they should reach 165 degrees F."

**AVOID INSECTS AND WILDLIFE**

Whitson said the best way to avoid the food safety risks posed by insects and animals is to keep food covered as

much as possible with lids, foil, or food tents, and to set out only small portions at a time while the rest stays chilled or heated.

"Avoid leaving cut fruit, desserts, or meat trays uncovered for long stretches, especially in warm weather," Whitson said. "Keep trash sealed and away from the serving area to avoid attracting flies and ants, and wipe spills quickly."

"For bigger concerns like pets or wildlife, keep food off the ground, never leave

it unattended, and create a clear buffer between the grill, prep space, and anything that might wander in," he said.

For more information, visit the Food Safety page on the Cooperative Extension Service website or check out the extension FCS Matters Podcast episode about safe grilling.

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact The Pike County Cooperative Extension Service agent at (870) 285-2161 or visit [uaex.uada.edu](http://uaex.uada.edu).

## Farmers market open Saturday throughout summer

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce will present the Murfreesboro Farmers Market on Saturdays throughout the summer.

The market is open 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.

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

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The 95th General Assembly refers the following question to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 4. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this question. This question is Act 578 of the Regular 2025 Session by Senator Hester.

**ISSUE NO. 4**

**Ballot Title**  
 Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025.

**Ballot Question**

Shall the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission be authorized to issue general obligation bonds under the

authority of the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2025, for the financing and refinancing of the development of water, waste disposal, water pollution control, abatement and prevention, drainage, irrigation, flood control, and wetlands and aquatic resources projects to serve the citizens of the State of Arkansas, in total principal amount not to exceed five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000), with no more than one hundred sixty-five million dollars (\$165,000,000) in total principal amount of such bonds to be issued to finance and refinance the development of irrigation facilities, in series from time to time in principal amounts not to exceed, without prior approval of the General Assembly, sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in any two-year period beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year, which

bonds shall be secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State of Arkansas?

**FOR** Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.

**AGAINST** Issuance of State of Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities general obligation bonds.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
 SECRETARY OF STATE  
 STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas  
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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.**

## Alfred-Dawn Estate Sales

136 Fowler Rd. • Nashville, AR  
 Fri., June 5 ~ 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Sat., June 6 ~ 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Sun., June 7 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 Pictures on [estatesales.net](http://estatesales.net)  
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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)



Submitted photo/City of Murfreesboro

**MAYORAL DISCUSSIONS ...** City of Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal (right) recently met with Diamondhead Mayor Ralph Caruth to conclude the sale of a former City of Murfreesboro police cruiser. The 2020 Ford Explorer hybrid will serve as the recently incorporated city's (less than two years old) police vehicle. O'Neal said the city originally planned to sell the vehicle to a private individual, but the plans changed when the car received no bids during the legal process. The city included all of the car's police outfitings in the sale to Diamondhead.

## FUMC to offer meals for local children this summer

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.

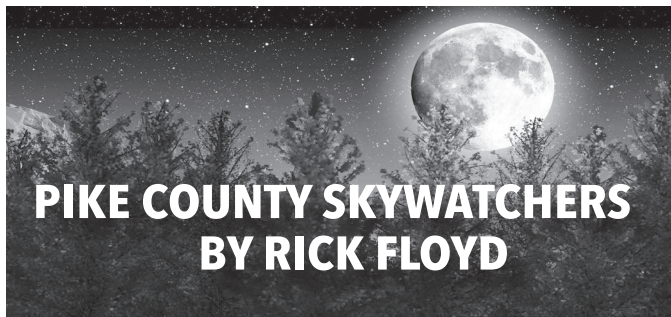
The meals will be offered "Grab-N-Go," where parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children without children present. Three days of meals can be picked up on Monday and four days of meals on Thursday per child. The meals may be

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](http://www.harvestregionalfoodbank.org) or by following [facebook.com/harvestttxk](https://facebook.com/harvestttxk).



## Going supernova before our eyes

The professional and amateur astronomy "world" is awaiting an interesting celestial event. Skywatchers are keeping an eye on a dark area in the constellation Corona Borealis where a rather obscure star called T Coronae Borealis (TCrB) is due to go nova at any time. It is currently in a dimming phase which is a pre-nova stage. This star, not visible to the naked eye, will brighten to about the same brightness as the North Star when the outburst occurs, so it will briefly be a "new star" before quickly fading to a binocular sight for about a week.

TCrB is actually two stars about 3,000 light years (17.6 quadrillion miles) from Earth. One is a white dwarf which is orbiting a red giant. Over a period of about 80 years material from the red star is accumulated by the white star until the point is reached when the white star can take no more and it explodes the excess away. The last time this happened was in 1946. A nova is not the more well-known supernova when a star is completely obliterated in a massive explosion. The white dwarf will survive to do it all again in about 80 years.

It will be a good idea, if you are interested, to go out on a clear night as soon as possible and find Corona Borealis, a semi-circle of seven stars that is almost overhead now by 9 p.m. Look north and find the very recognizable Big Dipper then use the handle to point to a very bright star called Arcturus (the brightest star in the area). Look east a short distance from Arcturus for the semi-circle of stars. The brightest star of the seven in Corona Borealis is Alphecca, and TCrB is to its right in a relatively dark area. This way you will be ready to dash out to see this deep space event unfold.

Corona Borealis is Latin for northern crown (there is, by the way, a Corona Australis or southern crown in the southern hemisphere's sky) and it is, from mythology, the floral crown worn by Ariadne the daughter of the king of Crete, Minos. She is noted for helping Theseus escape the Minotaur.

Venus and Jupiter continue to get visually close to each other and at dusk on June 9 they are about 1 1/2 degrees apart in the western sky.

## LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550 • Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to [mdiamond.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

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# Obituaries

## Betty Jean Alexander, 91, Prescott

Betty Jean Alexander, age 91 of Prescott, Arkansas, formerly of Athens, passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2026 in Prescott. She was born on December 24, 1934 to the late Cornelius Ralls and Lelia McConnell Ralls.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Dewey David Ralls and Alta Ralls Flemens Dowdle; a grandson, Glen David Crawford; and a daughter-in-law, Mary Jo Deer Alexander.

Those left to cherish her memory include her five children, Sherry Acre, Terry Turner, Judy Young (Don), Janet Nichols (Charles Wilder) and Marty Alexander; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one great-grandchild; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at Athens Cemetery in Athens, with Donny Reid officiating.

## 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.

## 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.

## Couple pleads 'no contest' to charges of endangering minor

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro couple originally facing felony allegations of child abuse and neglect entered a plea deal on May 29 and plead "no contest" to misdemeanor charges of endangering the welfare of a minor.

Mary Louise Phillips, 50, and Timothy Mason Phillips, 55, went before Judge Tom Cooper on Friday and were both fined \$500 to be paid within 30 days and received a suspended sentence of one year. The couple were represented by attorney James Lucas Graham of Malvern with the case being prosecuted by Dustin Bissell and Jana Bradford.

The Phillips were arrested on Jan. 1 and were later each charged with felony endangering the welfare of a minor involving an incident on Dec. 4, 2025 when an 8-year-old female under their care was reported missing from their Third Avenue home in Murfreesboro. The child was described as being 3'2" and weighing 38 pounds and reportedly wearing no clothes.

The incident touched off a massive search that concluded with the child being found just steps from her home by Mr. Phillips.

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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 are the dangers of extended sunlight exposure?**

**A:** Sunlight provides many health benefits, and summer in Arkansas offers abundant opportunities to enjoy being outdoors. The main benefit of sunlight is as a natural source of Vitamin D, which is essential for bone and cardiovascular health, immune system support, and muscle strength. However, care must be taken to avoid overexposure.

Skin cancer is a significant danger from extended sunlight exposure. Basal cell carcinoma, melanoma, and squamous cell carcinoma are the main types of skin cancer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S.

Symptoms of extended sunlight exposure include hives, heat exhaustion and dehydration, and sunburn. Blisters, confusion, and fainting are indications of severe exposure. Symptoms of skin cancer include sores that heal and return, a dome-shaped bump that grows and bleeds, or moles that change in color, shape, or size. Extended sunlight exposure can also accelerate the aging process where fine lines or wrinkles may appear prematurely.

Using sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 30 or more and wearing lightweight, long-sleeved shirts, pants, and wide-brimmed hats are ways to reduce risk of overexposure to the sun. See your healthcare provider if you have questions.

# Extension agents show how to grow, prepare summer produce

BY TRACY COURAGE  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — The Cooperative Extension Service's Grow Your Own Groceries Series has three new online sessions for summer — each focused on how to grow and prepare a healthy, nutritious food.

Each hour-long presentation begins at noon. Upcoming sessions include the following:

- June 16 — Sweet corn
  - July 16 — Brussels sprouts
  - Aug. 4 — Peaches, plums and nectarines
- Registration for the free sessions is available online at <https://uaex.uada.edu/grow-groceries>.

In each session, experts with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture will discuss variety selection, growing methods, soil health and how to deal with common pests

or problems. Extension family and consumer sciences agents will also share information on how to store and prepare homegrown produce and demonstrate healthy recipes.

"Attendance was good for the spring programs," said Faulkner County extension horticulture agent Krista Quinn, who hosts the series. "We tend to have 400-500 people register, and a little over 100 attend the live programs. A lot of people watch the recorded programs."

On June 16, Johnson County extension agent Jesse Taylor will share information on growing sweet corn, and Faulkner County family and consumer sciences agent Mary Beth Groce will show attendees how to prepare several recipes using this summer staple.

In July, Hempstead County extension agents Kim Rowe and Terrie James will teach growing and cooking methods for Brussels sprouts.

In August, White County extension agent Sherri Sanders will share her expertise about growing peaches, plums, and nectarines, while Pulaski County family and consumer sciences agent Alicia Boatwright shares recipes featuring stone fruits.

To learn about future presentations, visit the Grow Your Own Groceries webpage on the extension website.

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

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

- MONDAY, JUNE 8**  
Sloppy joe on bun, potato salad, baked beans, sherbet
- TUESDAY, JUNE 9**  
Chicken enchilada, Spanish rice, pinto beans, salsa, blushing pears

- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**  
Baked chicken, Au Gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, frosted cake
- Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is available for \$6.00

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 2. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Senator J. Payton and filed as SJR 11.

#### ISSUE NO. 2

##### Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to Amend Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 5, to Protect the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

##### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS FOR THEIR COMMON DEFENSE, FOR LAWFUL HUNTING AND RECREATIONAL USE, AND FOR ANY OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSE; PRO-

VIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS INCLUDES WITHOUT LIMITATION THE POSSESSION AND USE OF AMMUNITION, FIREARM ACCESSORIES, AND FIREARM COMPONENTS; AND PROVIDING THAT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IS A NATURAL, FUNDAMENTAL, AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHT THAT SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. INTENT OF AMENDMENT. It is the intent of this amendment to the Arkansas Constitution to protect the right to keep and bear arms guaranteed under the Arkansas Constitution.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Right to keep and bear arms.

(a) The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms; for:

- (1) their Their common defense;
- (2) Lawful hunting and recreational use; and
- (3) Any other lawful purpose.

(b) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation the possession and use of:

- (1) Ammunition;
- (2) Firearm accessories; and
- (3) Firearm components.

(c) The right to keep and bear arms under subsection (a) of this section is a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Pike County 4-H holds summer cereal drive

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is seeking to provide children out of school with the most important meal of the day.

As such, the effort is seeking non-perishable and kid-friendly breakfast items such as cereal, oatmeal, toaster pastries and granola bars from June 1-July 31.

"This is for children and families in the county who might otherwise go without," said Pike County 4-H assistant Shannon Ballard.

Items may be dropped off at either the Pike County Extension offices in Murfreesboro or at the Bainum Library in Glenwood.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Representative Ray and filed as HJR 1018.

#### ISSUE NO. 1

##### Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to be Known as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment" and Providing That Only a Citizen of the United States Meeting the Qualifications of an Elector Under the Arkansas Constitution May Vote in an Election in this State.

##### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE "THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT"; TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION MAY VOTE IN AN ELECTION IN THIS STATE; AND PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE IN ANY STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION HELD IN THIS STATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,

AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Short title. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be known and may be cited as "The Citizens Only Voting Amendment."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Constitution, Article 3, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under this section may vote in an election in this state.

(2) A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state.

(a)(b) Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any person may vote in an election in this state who to vote in an election in this state a person shall be:

- (1) A citizen of the United States;
- (2) A resident of the State of Arkansas;
- (3) At least eighteen (18) years of age; and
- (4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election.

(b)(c)(1) In addition to the qualifications under subsection (a)(b) of this section, the General Assembly shall provide by law that a voter shall:

- (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and
  - (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.
- (2) The General Assembly shall establish by law the types of photographic

identification that a person may present to comply with subdivision (b)(c)(1) of this section.

(c)(d) The State of Arkansas shall issue photographic identification at no charge to an eligible voter who does not have a form of photographic identification meeting the requirements of the law enacted by the General Assembly under this section.

(d)(+)(A)(c)(1)(A) A voter unable to present valid photographic identification when voting in person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot.

(B) An absentee ballot that is not accompanied by a copy of valid photographic identification shall be considered a provisional ballot.

(2) A provisional ballot under subdivision (d)(+)(c)(1) of this section shall be counted only if the voter subsequently certifies the provisional ballot in a manner provided by law.

(e)(+)(D)(1) The General Assembly shall implement the provisions of this amendment by law.

- (2) The General Assembly may provide by law for exceptions to the requirement that a voter:
    - (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and
    - (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot.
- (f)(g) A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

#### BIBLE CLASS

As a child of God, I view Bible class as an essential element in my spiritual service and my growth as a Christian. Bible class allows me to openly study God's word and to share with others as we learn together. We have classes for all ages and teachers who study and prepare to deliver their lessons. All who attend these classes grow in grace and knowledge and are blessed by looking deeply into the word.

If you are not currently attending Bible classes, I would encourage you to begin doing that. It is essential that each one of you help not only yourself grow, but to edify and encourage others and to help us all become more spiritual. As we study together, we will become closer to each other, as



well as closer to our God.

THREE EXCELLENT REASONS TO ATTEND BIBLE CLASSES:

1. I Like to be With My Brothers and Sisters.

Romans 12:10 – Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.

1 John 3:14 – We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not

his brother abideth in death.

2. I Love the Truth.

Matthew 5:6 – Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

John 8:32 – You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

3. I Want to be a Good Example. Hebrews 10:24 – And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

1 Timothy 4:12 – Let no man despise thy youth, but be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

These are just 3 of many good reasons to attend Bible class. Can you think of one good reason one should not attend?

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## Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

### THE FATHER OF KING DAVID

JESSE, THE SON OF OBEID, WAS THE FATHER OF DAVID. JESSE'S GRANDMOTHER WAS RUTH, THE MOABITESS, NOR WAS THIS THE ONLY "FOREIGN BLOOD" RUNNING IN HIS VEINS — HIS GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WAS NO LESS A PERSON THAN RAHAB, THE CANAANITE OF JERICO WHO HID JOSHUA'S SPIES FROM HER OWN COUNTRYMEN (JOSH. 2:1-4) (MATT. 1:5). JESSE WAS COMMONLY CALLED "JESSE, THE BETHLEHEMITE" (1 SAM. 16:1-6) AND WAS LOOKED UPON AS AN "OLD MAN" WITH "EIGHT GROWN SONS WHEN HISTORY FIRST NOTED HIM" (1 SAM. 17:12). JESSE'S ONLY WEALTH CONSISTED OF A FLOCK OF SHEEP AND GOATS. HE WAS AN ABLE MAN, YET HIS STATION IN LIFE WAS ACCOUNTED AS LOWLY BY ALL HIS PEERS. THIS HUMBLE POSITION OF THE FAMILY IS ALLUDED TO BY THE PROPHETS (ISA. 11:1; JO. 6:41; MICAH 5:2; ROM. 15:12). EVEN KING SAUL, AFTER HE BECAME JEALOUS OF DAVID, CONTINUALLY REFUSED TO CALL DAVID BY NAME, REFERRING TO HIM BY THE DESIGNATION OF "SON OF JESSE" IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE DAVID'S HUMBLE ORIGIN, AS IF THAT MADE HIM UNSUITABLE FOR KINGSHIP! SAUL CERTAINLY IGNORED THE FACT THAT HIS OWN FATHER WAS NO MORE A KING THAN DAVID'S FATHER!



IT IS UNCERTAIN WHEN JESSE DIED, NO MORE IS HEARD OF HIM, AFTER DAVID PLACED BOTH PARENTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE KING OF MOAB (1 SAM. 22:1-4) TILL HE KNEW WHAT GOD HAD IN STORE FOR HIM IN THE FUTURE!

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- Bro. Buddy Ray

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\* -- Theme Related Clue

**ACROSS**

1. Shapeless masses
6. RFK's brother
9. German card game
13. "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" author
14. Ancient Chinese dynasty
15. Top of a steeple
16. Ice house
17. Not outs
18. Gustatory sensation
19. \*What's cooking, good \_\_\_\_?"
21. \*Greeting aimed at a king
23. Like a fox
24. Easy run
25. "Harper Valley \_\_\_\_"
28. Off-limits
30. Daryl Hannah/Tom Hanks movie
35. Snaky swimmers
37. Coal unit
39. Vigorous fight
40. Done before dealing
41. Walk leisurely
43. Like certain food trend
44. Raccoon's South American cousin
46. Dano or Rudd, e.g.
47. Deep-red variety of chalcodony
48. Straying, as in baseball
50. FBI agent, slangily
52. It's the limit?
53. Alex Honnold's "Free \_\_\_\_"
55. Long Island iced \_\_\_\_
57. \*Military greeting
60. \* \_\_\_\_ greetings, in December
64. Last test
65. Had a meal
67. Ilya Rozanov to Shane Hollander, e.g.
68. Take puppy from a pound
69. Hemingway's " \_\_\_\_ Whom the Bell Tolls"
70. Bodily swelling
71. Hibernation stations
72. Pampering spot

**DOWN**

73. Extend subscription
1. Leave without farewell, slangily
2. Kids' construction set
3. Capital of Norway
4. Amazon offerings, originally
5. Spoiled, in U.K.
6. Nest material
7. Even, poetically
8. 70s dance joint
9. Capone's shoe cover
10. \*Twice-done greeting move, in Italy
11. Creative
12. PGA peg
15. Bacterial throat infections
20. Spiral-horned antelope
22. FedEx competitor
24. Lower back pain, in the olden days
25. \*Salaam, in English
26. Operatic voice
27. Hitching post?
29. \*Bro fist motion
31. Smaller in amount
32. Road-tripping guide
33. Baby carrier?
34. \*Cowboy's greeting
36. Bristle
38. Little Jack Horner's treat
42. Fill with happy spirit
45. Injury's painful partner
49. Toddler
51. Closer
54. Toronto Maple \_\_\_\_
56. Comment to the audience
57. Fries, e.g.
58. At another time, to Romeo or Juliet
59. Swimming lengths
60. Doris Day's "Que \_\_\_\_"
61. Kitchen appliance
62. Given at birth
63. Cabbage dish
64. Temporary craze
66. \* \_\_ of the morning!?"

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# Garden fails and tub tales -- don't drown the plants

**LITTLE HOMESTEAD IN THE CITY**

By Hallie Caldwell

I think at some point in everyone's life they want to have a garden. I know I have tried so many times to start one. More than I can count if we're being honest. It seems every time I start to think I've got that Mary Mitchell green thumb gene, I am completely wrong.

One of my earliest memories of trying to start a garden was when I was in the second or third grade. We were growing a plant for a grade. I

picked a banana pepper plant.

Now, mind you, up until this point I have never grown a plant or now the first thing to do about taking care of said plant. We got to leave them at the school, and we would check them every day. I was so excited to see my plants progress. However, there was no progress had.

Everyone else's plant was blooming so well, and my poor little banana pepper plant was wilting. I had no idea what the problem was until I looked at the bottom of the pot, and I had gotten one with no drainage hole. I was drown-

ing the poor guy.

Since then, I have tried and tried to plant produce. Recently I started a tub garden in my backyard with tomatoes, jalapenos, and some herbs. I have had one singular bloom on my tomato plant. I have never been happier.

If you're looking for a fun activity for you and your kiddos this summer, Farm Bureau has an amazing tub garden activity! I have included that below.

First, you'll need an 18-gallon tub. Make sure it's got a couple of drainage holes (you don't want to pull a me). Then you're going to want to get a felt grow bag and put that in your tub. Then fill the tub with soil. Now you're ready for planting! Plant your tomato and pepper plant. Put a cage around the tomato and a little stake by your pepper tie them to the cage and stake if needed. Lastly, plant chives and cilantro. Make sure you water as needed and keep the soil moist! [https://www.arfb.com/uploads/pages/salsa\\_garden\\_in\\_a\\_tote.pdf](https://www.arfb.com/uploads/pages/salsa_garden_in_a_tote.pdf)

If you guys do this activity, post it on Facebook and tag Pike County Farm Bureau! Make sure you're grabbing a paper to catch these ar-

ticles and read about the fun activities planned for this summer!



## Finding students summer employment

**BY REBEKAH HALL**

University of Arkansas  
Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — For parents looking to help their teenager secure a summer job, an extension financial expert has tips for choosing the right kind of job, smart ways to search and tips for saving money wisely.

Laura Hendrix, extension professor of personal finance

and consumer economics for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said parents should start by considering their child's age, interests and the hours they would be available to work.

"Does your child like to be outdoors and need a flexible work schedule? Mowing lawns for the neighbors might be a perfect fit," Hendrix said. "Is she a pizza fanatic? Maybe a local pizza place is hiring. If

your child is an animal lover, perhaps he could pet sit for families on vacation. If they're a musician, they could give lessons. Food service, retail

### EMPLOYMENT Continued on Page 6

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Submitted photo/Nikki Jones

**DELIGHT CLASS OF 1976 ...** On May 16 the Delight High School Class of 1976 held it's 50 year reunion. The reunion was held at The Feed Bin Cafe in Murfreesboro. Pictured (L to R, front row) Brenda Hill Garrard, Eva Gamble Henderson, Cathie Gardner Sigman, Becky Kight, Floyd "Doc" Ward, Trish May Lamb, Perry Watts, Keith Craig, Lyn Pilot and Randy McKinnon; (back row) Dr. Brian Alexander, Jay Henderson, Rev. Richard Dixon, Herbert Jones Jr. and Robert Starling.

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## EMPLOYMENT Continued from Page 5

businesses, summer camps and parks hire young people for a variety of tasks."

It's important for parents to keep in mind the laws regarding child labor in Arkansas. According to the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, as of Aug. 1, 2023, child work permits — other than entertainment work permits — are no longer required in the state. But in most cases, a child must be at least 14 years old to be employed.

For more information about limitations on hours and types of work for youth, visit the Child Labor page on the Department of Labor and Licensing website.

### JOB SEARCH SKILLS

Hendrix said it's important for young people to be neat with their appearance when job hunting, even if just stopping in to an establishment to pick up a job application.

"Use clear, legible handwriting when completing job applications, and be sure to check your spelling and use accurate information," Hendrix said. "Ask people before listing them as references."

It can be helpful to tell family friends and other acquaintances that you are looking for a job or post it on your social media pages, Hendrix said.

"Organizations in some towns have youth employment programs, so check with local nonprofits and other programs," Hendrix said.

### MAKE A SPENDING PLAN

"This is the perfect opportunity to discuss money management," Hendrix said. "Guide your child in setting financial goals for the income they will earn."

Hendrix said the basic guideline is spend, save, share: Spend no more than 80 percent of your income, set aside 10 percent for charitable giving or gifts, and save at least 10 percent.

"Always remember that it's okay to save more," Hendrix said. "In fact, saving may be the biggest budget category. Often, teens are saving for a big-ticket item like college or a car. Help them think about and prioritize the things they want to spend money on this summer."

### CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

"If your child doesn't need the income or if she can't find the job she wants, volunteering is another option," Hendrix said. "It can be a great way to learn about a career field."

Similar to deciding what job to apply for, Hendrix recommended brainstorming with your child to determine what field of volunteering would be most interesting to them.

"If she's interested in the medical field, there are often opportunities to volunteer at a hospital," Hendrix said. "Interested in working with animals? Volunteer at a zoo or local animal shelter."

For more help with money management, including talking to kids about money, visit the extension Personal Finance page on the Cooperative Extension Service website.

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

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## Pike County 4-H set to host 'Back to School Fair' July 26

GLENWOOD -- The Pike County 4-H program will host a Back to School Fair on Sunday, July 26 at the Pike County Fairgrounds in Glenwood from 2-4 p.m.

Activities will include bouncy houses, free clothes, a petting zoo and free groceries (while supplies last). Also included will

be arts and crafts, face painting, hair stylists, school supplies, books, snacks, music, health checks, sports and community resources.

The free event invites all school aged children and parents to attend to get a "great start to the school year."



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### SUMMER 2026 FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

LIVE WITH ONLINE BIDDING  
SATURDAY JUNE 13 AT 9AM

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Boats
- Commercial Shelving
- Vehicles
- Semi-Truck






**Taking  
Consignments  
Until June 10  
at Dark**

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### FACTORY DIRECT NEW EQUIPMENT AUCTION

HIGHLIGHTS ONLINE ONLY BIDDING STARTS TO END  
MONDAY JUNE 15 AT 7PM

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- New Equipment
- Equipment Attachments
- Shipping Container
- Metal Garage Shed Doors






**LOCATION:**  
**7679 US HIGHWAY 278 W, NASHVILLE ARKANSAS, 71852**

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 3. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Senator J. Dismang and filed as SJR 15.

#### ISSUE NO. 3 Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment Concerning Economic Development in the State of Arkansas; and Authorizing the General Assembly to Provide for the Creation of Economic Development Districts Within Cities, Counties, or Cooperative Areas to Promote Economic Development Within the Economic Development District.

#### Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS WITHIN CITIES, COUNTIES, OR COOPERATIVE AREAS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING

#### THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Loans and grants of public money. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Arkansas Constitution, the General Assembly may provide for the creation of programs and the making of loans and grants of public money for the public purposes of:

(1) Development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas;

(2) The elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the State of Arkansas;

(3) The development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the State of Arkansas; or

(4) The development or improvement of real estate in the State of Arkansas that contributes to economic development within the State of Arkansas.

(b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.

#### SECTION 2. Economic development district projects.

(a) An economic development district may issue bonds for the purpose of financing projects within the economic development district.

(b) The bonds under subsection (a) of this section:

(1) May be secured by and be payable from all or a portion of any funds received by or allocated to the economic development district;

(2) Shall not be considered in calculating debt limits for bonds issued under Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 4; and

(3) Shall not be subject to the provisions of:

(A) Arkansas Constitution,

#### Article 16, § 1;

(B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62; or

(C) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 65.

SECTION 3. Implementation. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation of this amendment.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Political subdivisions not to become stockholders in or lend credit to private corporations — Exceptions.

(a) No county, city, town or other municipal corporation, shall become a stockholder in any company, association, or corporation; or obtain or appropriate money for, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or individual.

(b) However, a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution, or individual to:

(1) Finance economic development projects; or

(2) Provide economic development services; or

(3) Provide funding or lend credit to an economic development district.

(c) As used in this section: (1) "Economic development district" means a designated area within a city, county, or cooperative area established under authority granted by the General Assembly to promote economic development within the designated area;

(2) "Economic development projects" means the land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of:

(A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities;

(B) Research, technology, and development facilities;

(C) Recycling facilities;

(D) Distribution centers;

(E) Call centers;

(F) Warehouse facilities;

(G) Job training facilities;

(H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; and

(I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation

baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and

(J) An economic development district as authorized by the General Assembly and designated as part of an economic development plan;

(2)(3) "Economic development services" means:

(A) Planning, marketing, and strategic advice and counsel regarding job recruitment, job development, job retention, and job expansion;

(B) Supervision and operation of industrial parks or other such properties; and

(C) Negotiation of contracts for the sale or lease of industrial parks or other such properties; and

(3)(4) "Infrastructure" means:

(A) Land acquisition;

(B) Site preparation;

(C) Road and highway improvements;

(D) Rail spur, railroad, and airport construction;

(E) Water service;

(F) Wastewater treatment;

(G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and

(H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation.

(d) The General Assembly, by a three-fourths vote of each house, may amend the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section so long as the amendments are germane to this section and consistent with its policy and purposes.

#### SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Tax exemptions.

(a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (3/4ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for

taxation purposes, but may not alter the method of valuation set forth in Section 15 of this Article.

(b)(1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: public property used exclusively for public purposes; churches used exclusively as such; cemeteries used exclusively for school purposes; and buildings and grounds used exclusively for public charity.

(2) If property exempt from taxation under subdivision (b) (1) of this section is included in an economic development district, the tax status of the property shall not change.

(c) Property located within an economic development district created by the General Assembly shall be exempt from taxation except for taxes, assessments, or other charges levied by the economic development district of which the property is a part.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall affect or repeal the provision of Amendment 57 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas pertaining to intangible personal property.

#### SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62, § 6, is amended to read as follows: § 6. Conduct of elections.

(a) The General Assembly may enact laws governing the conduct of elections authorized by this Amendment.

Absent the enactment of such laws, such elections shall be held, called and conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections generally.

The results of such election shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality (as the case may be) and any contest of such election or the tabulation of the votes therein shall be brought within thirty (30) days after such publication or shall be forever barred.

(b)(1) Any bonds or other obligations of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision facilitating the development and diversification of the economy of the state that are issued for the purpose of making loans or grants in connection with a program authorized by the General Assembly under this amendment and that are payable from

ad valorem taxes shall be approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the county, municipality, or political subdivision voting on the issue.

(2) A program created or a loan or grant made by an economic development district that is secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes of the economic development district does not constitute or create a debt for the purpose of any provision of this Constitution.

#### SECTION 7. Repealer — Construction.

(a) Any provision of this Constitution, including without limitation amendments to this Constitution, that conflicts with or is in any way inconsistent with this amendment is repealed or deemed modified to give precedence to this amendment.

(b) This amendment supersedes all previous constitutional provisions, amendments, laws, or judicial interpretations that conflict with this amendment's terms.

(c) If this amendment conflicts with any existing constitutional provision, amendment, law, or judicial interpretation, this amendment shall prevail and be given full force and effect.

#### SECTION 8. Severability.

The provisions of this amendment are severable, and if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.

#### SECTION 9. Effective date.

This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS