

The Murfreesboro Diamond

\$1.00
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆



Wet effort declares no ballot measure in 2026

MURFREESBORO -- The Vote Pike County Wet effort officially declared this week that the effort to place county alcohol sales on the November 2026 has not found fruition. The group said that ultimately they had more supporters than signed petitions, including some from outside the county. Throughout the process of gathering petitions, the group said it was very obvious that many people who were here four years ago [and signed a petition] are no longer here -- they have either moved away or passed on. By press deadline, the group said they ultimately acquired almost 1,400 signed petitions of the 2,291 required petitions, but that fact showed substantial support toward the issue. "Time ran out -- we had less volunteers than four years ago, but volunteers we had tried hard and worked diligently. We will not be making the deadline for ballot access," said group spokeswoman Lisa Harvill. "We genuinely appreciate all the support from our supporters."

Cheer to host Pack the Pit cheer camp Aug. 10

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro cheerleaders will host a "Pack The Pit" mini cheer camp on Monday, Aug 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held in the Murfreesboro High School Activity Room and is open to students in K-6 grade. The cost is \$25 per student to attend and will include a camp t-shirt. Attendees will learn the cheer squads' pep rally cheers and the basics of cheerleading in a "fun and interactive session" with the Murfreesboro cheerleaders. Students may be registered online at forms.gle/79gxx5WQAxLFvpSy7. For more information, e-mail melissajones@rattlers.org or melissacornish@rattlers.org.

MHS football program to be digital in 2026

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro cheer program has announced that the school will go digital with the 2026 Football Programs. The program will feature the MJHS and MHS football teams, cheerleaders, and band. "This is a great way to show your support for a specific Rattler or your business/organization," said cheer coach Melissa Jones. This year's program will feature:

- Full-color digital format
- Easy access with a QR code and shareable link
- Free for all fans, families, alumni, and community supporters to view and share

For businesses or families that would like to purchase an ad, fill out the Google form at <https://forms.gle/JrCsRMnBGDpnahQy5> or contact Jones, Melissa Cornish or Hannah Taylor. "We appreciate your support of our student-athletes and can't wait for another exciting football season! Go Rattlers!" said Jones.

Food bank to deliver boxes on August 19

TEXARKANA -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck in Murfreesboro on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 8:30-10:30am or until all boxes have been distributed. Recipients must come inside the municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue & Owens Street towards First United Methodist Church. Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the municipal building. The next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!
mdiamond@windstream.net
Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photos/Jim O'Neal
COMMUNITY FISH FRY ... A community-wide fish fry and barbecue was held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Mauney Street church of Christ. The event, intended to promote community unity, was free to the public. Kelly Grappe (left), a candidate for Arkansas Secretary of State, attended the event. Pictured above is Chance Bradford and Anthony May (L to R) with Grappe.

Quorum Court hears of pickleball plans

Race is on to complete repairs at fairgrounds prior to annual event

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court, due to an accounting error, is taking the funds to repair the Pike County Fairgrounds in Glenwood from another county account. The fairgrounds received damage in the ice storm in early 2026. In June the quorum court voted to use \$62,232.75 from the Tribal Consistency fund, but it was discovered in the ongoing audit that those fund were not available after they were used in 2025 to purchase patrol car cameras for the Pike County Sheriff's Office. Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards told the court that it was her fault, as she had not given Pike County Treasurer Loletia Rather the necessary paperwork. Therefore, the court approved the transfer of the funds in the amount of \$62,232.75 from the Pike County Building account. The court stated that the goal should be for the fairgrounds to be ready for the annual fair that runs Sept. 8-12 in 2026. Full repairs are planned for the poultry barn and front building, while the time remaining before the fair may only allot the shoring up of the rodeo arena for use before full repairs can be made following the fair's close. "We need to fix it and fix it right since it is county owned," said Justice of the Peace (J.P.) Paul Baker, stating the importance of the event for local youth in the community. Pike County Judge Eddie Howard agreed, saying they should be further along, but that insurance delays forced the county's delay. The court also approved the increase of Sheriff Travis Hill's Visa credit card from \$3,000 to \$10,000. It was stated that purchases within billing cycles were sometimes forcing Hill to use his private card due to maxed balances for booking of rooms for employees at meetings, purchase of meals and the buying of goods. Hill told the court he was also now purchasing a number of the jail supplies from Amazon due to the lesser price on the website versus regional providers. Pike County Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford sent a memo outlining the opening and closing of the Hot Check Fee Account for 2025. The account opened at \$20,329.40 and closed at \$15,422.32. When the court asked why the number decreased, it was explained that the prosecutor's office used over \$7,000 to fund such things as employment, equipment and office supplies. The court heard plans of the installation of two pickleball courts next to the tennis courts at the old city park lot next to the former Pike County Hospital building. J.P. Robbie Crocker explained that grants were pursued but simply unfruitful due to the land being owned by the county. He added that the remaining building at the site would need to be demolished. A log cabin type structure was removed from the premises earlier in 2026. Crocker said the building was dilapidated



Staff photo
LEADING THE PLEDGE ... Pike County 4-H member Lyzander Doyle leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the July Pike County Quorum Court meeting. Pictured along with Doyle is Pike County Judge Eddie Howard.

with a hole in the roof. "It probably can't be repaired ... we need to tear it down to move forward. And now is the time, because hot, dry weather is best for construction." Crocker said the county would only need to help with the demolition and dirtwork [8-10 loads estimated] prior to the construction. Murfreesboro High School tennis coach Mark Wiley said he would privately fund much of the project himself, along with a gofundme.com campaign to allow the public to be involved in the project. "We'll get it done," Wiley told the court, stating that he expected the project to cost \$33,000, including \$15,000 for the concrete pad along with court padding, fencing and lighting. "People will contribute significantly to the project -- this isn't like the [MHS] baseball/softball complex -- we can do this privately." Wiley said there was 11 students participating in high school tennis this year, after the program was started 12 years ago by Jeff Guerin. "Pickleball has gotten huge," Wiley said, that in the last couple of years students have been playing on the tennis courts in the evening hours. "About ten percent of the American population across the country is playing now." He explained that a pickleball court was about a third the size of a tennis court at 30x60, versus 60x120 for a tennis court. "The balls don't fly as far," he explained, noting jokingly that it could be a "gateway drug to the tennis program." The courts will be located back to back.

The court inquired if the concrete slab under the current building would suffice, and Wiley said they would investigate it after the demolition to see. Howard said he would hate to not use the existing slab if it was possible, and noted the county was more than happy to do their part -- with the understanding that three box culverts were being placed in the county and any help would have to be between those times. Wiley thanked the sheriff's office for maintaining the grounds at the old city park. "There's only one of me," he explained in his appreciation. Pike County Assessor Staci Stewart tasked the J.P.'s with looking at some websites before the August meeting, at which time she will make a presentation on a new county website from provider Civic Plus. "While it is out of state, it is the largest provider of municipal websites," she said of her research over over the past couple years. "The current website [pikecountyar.org] is old and horrible," she explained, noting that the site still had covid-19 information on it, despite several requests by her to have it removed. Edward said that the website was "nothing more than a landing page."

"This would allow for more information

QUORUM COURT

Continued on Page 2

4-H Teen Leaders showcase Blessing Box project

Pike County 4-H Teen Leaders, Carsyn Ballard. Cayden Ballard, & Cale Humphry, recently had the opportunity to showcase one of their most meaningful service projects when they presented the “Blessing Box Project” to the Arkansas 4-H Alumni Association on Saturday, August 1.

For the past several years, the Blessing Box Project has been a cornerstone of the Pike County 4-H Teen Leaders’ commitment to serving others. Through the project, members work year-round to collect, sort, and distribute food to Blessing Boxes located throughout Pike County, helping ensure that families facing food insecurity have access to basic necessities.

During their presentation, the Teen Leaders shared how the project has grown over the years and the difference it continues to make in the community. They explained that while the project is sustained by the dedication of local volunteers and generous community donations, it received an important boost through an Arkansas 4-H Foundation Innovative Program Grant, which helped expand their efforts and strengthen the program’s impact.

Over the course of the summer, this project allowed Teen Leaders to stock Blessing Boxes with 118 boxes of cereal, 10 packets of oatmeal, 32 Nutri-Grain bars, 90 granola bars, 16 Rice Krispies Treats, and more than 700 additional food items. This was possible with combined efforts of the cereal drive and the innovation grant. Every donation has helped provide food for individuals and families across Pike County while giving young people the opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork, and a heart for service.



Carsyn Ballard, Pike County 4-H Teen Leader President, summed up the purpose of the project by saying, “Small acts of kindness can make a big difference.” Her words reflect the mission that has guided the Teen Leaders since the project began, showing that even the simplest act of generosity can have a lasting impact on someone’s life.

Teen Leaders expressed their sincere appreciation to the Arkansas 4-H Alumni Association for allowing them to share their story and highlight the importance of youth-led service projects. They also offered a heartfelt thank you to the Arkansas 4-H Foundation for supporting the project through the Innovative Program Grant, which helped the Teen Leaders continue expanding their outreach efforts.

Most importantly, the Teen Leaders want to thank the people

of Pike County. This project would not be possible without the incredible generosity of community members, businesses, churches, civic organizations, and volunteers who continue to donate food, encourage the youth, and believe in the mission of serving others. Every can of food, every box of cereal, every granola bar, and every monetary donation represents hope for a neighbor in need.

The success of the Blessing Box Project is a reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose. As the project continues to grow, Pike County 4-H Teen Leaders remain committed to serving others, inspiring future leaders, and proving that kindness truly has the power to change lives, one Blessing Box at a time.



Submitted photos/Shannon Ballard

BLESSING PROJECT ... Pike County 4-H Teen Leaders (pictured left, L to R) Cale Humphry, Carsyn Ballard and Cayden Ballard presented their Blessing Box project results to the Arkansas 4-H Alumni Association recently. This summer the group dispersed donated food items -- 118 boxes of cereal, 10 packets of oatmeal, 32 Nutri-Grain bars, 90 granola bars, 16 Rice Krispies Treats, and more than 700 additional food items -- into blessing boxes around the county to help feed underprivileged youth breakfast while school was not in session.

As municipal filing period nears closing, M’boro to feature mayoral race

MURFREESBORO – As the filing period for municipal elections in Pike County wanes, a handful of people have registered for election.

The process will close on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at noon.

Positions up for election during the November General Election on November 3 are listed below with the current office holder:

In the Towns of Antoine and Daisy, there have been no filings as of the writing of this story.

Delight has seen filings of Lee Gatliff for mayor, Dana Hightower for recorder/treasurer, Rhonda Abbott for alderman position one, Ty Sherrod for alderman position two, Ronnie Cox for alderman position 4 and Chris Goodson for alderman position 5.

Incumbent Glenwood Mayor Billy Plyler has registered for election along with Johnny Cox for alderman of North Ward position two.

With Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O’Neal having declared he will not seek reelection, Jack Bonds and Mary Jean Barbre has filed for the position. In addition, Mark Barnes has filed for North Ward position one, Joan Hooper for North Ward position two, Lewis Gills for South Ward position one, Jane Fugitt for South Ward position two and two candidates -- Patrick May and Doris Scoggins -- for West Ward position one.

Current Incumbents in positions currently up for election in November 2026 include:

TOWN OF ANTOINE
Mayor - David B Hendrix
Recorder/Treasurer - Christi Ewart
Alderman Position 1 - Carrie Tidwell
Alderman Position 2 - Lonny VanCamp
Alderman Position 3 - Heath VanCamp
Alderman Position 4 - Vance Teel
Alderman Position 5 - Theresa House
TOWN OF DAISY
Mayor - Lisa Cogburn
Recorder/Treasurer - Melissa Jones
Alderman Position 1 - Linda Hughes
Alderman Position 2 - Rebecca Frazier
Alderman Position 3 - Scotty Frazier
Alderman Position 4 - Nicholas Stant
Alderman Position 5 - Helen Frazier
TOWN OF DELIGHT
Mayor - Lee Gatliff

Recorder/Treasurer - Dana Hightower
Alderman Position 1 - Rhonda Abbott
Alderman Position 2 - Ty Sherrod
Alderman Position 3 - Brandi “Rowton” Martin
Alderman Position 4 - Ronnie Cox
Alderman Position 5 - Keith Woods
CITY OF GLENWOOD
Mayor - Billy Plyler
Alderman North Ward Position 2 - Johnny Cox
Alderman South Ward Position 2 - Chase Pope
CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Mayor - Jim O’Neal
Alderman North Ward Position 1 - Mark Barnes
Alderman North Ward Position 2 - Kirk J Stone
Alderman South Ward Position 1 - Lewis Gills
Alderman South Ward Position 2 - Jane Fugitt
Alderman West Ward Position 1 - Betty J O’neal
Alderman West Ward Position 2 - Cody Bachman
For questions or more information, please call the Pike County Clerk’s office at (870) 285-2743.

QUORUM COURT Continued from Page 2

from the offices and all the information that is supposed to be available to the public,” said Stewart.

She said that each elected office in Pike County was currently utilizing Facebook pages for the release of information, but that was of limited use at best due to algorithms determining who actually sees the post versus who doesn’t.

“Through Facebook and the current site, there is no one page

that offers all the information needed for the public,” Stewart added.

The site would cost \$21,000 as a setup and first year of hosting and \$10,000 a year thereafter.

Stewart said the six county elected offices could share in the costs, but that her office -- who is currently funding the \$3,000 a year page -- would not be doing so in the future.

“It’s just crappy,” she said succinctly. “The new site would be more responsive to changes ... I can’t stand the current one. If you want to keep it, another office can pay for it.”

The court asked if she had researched any other more cost efficient options, to which she replied that she would only do so if the court was interested in the move in the first place.

She gave a list of website for the court to look at, including Garland County, before next month’s meeting and her presentation.

Rather reported the following openings/closing of county accounts for the month of June:

County General -- \$1,477,477.49/\$1,559,163.78
County Road -- \$195,781.42/\$169,100.12
County Landfill -- \$290,522.40/\$316,761.75
All County Accounts -- \$6,643,492.46/\$6,786,616.52

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park
Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson

• John Robert Schirmer, Publisher
• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor
• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,
418 North Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The *Murfreesboro Diamond* (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.
Subscription Rates: *\$45 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$57 per year elsewhere.*
\$35 for 6-months in area; \$45 for 6-months elsewhere.
College Subscriptions- *\$30 for 9-months.*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
Telephone: 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please Send Change of Address Information to:
Murfreesboro Diamond
P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

HELLO SUNSHINE

Goodbye Clogged Gutters

Upgrade your gutters this summer!
LeafFilter blocks out common debris.

Save up to*

35% Off

*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. AR 3860509629, AZ R00 344627, CA 1035795, CT H0C087620, DC 420223E-H1, FL G0C06667R, IA C027250, ID R0E 88034, LA 565644, MA 292562, MI M0M01225, MO B049480, NH 95554020, NJ 202203135, NM 202203028, NV 202203028, NY 202203028, PA 202203028, RI 202203028, SC 202203028, TN 202203028, TX 202203028, VA 202203028, VT 1740000871, WA L0A0147H, WI 6330, Wyo 537-DCFR1R WV 050802. Promotion exp. 8/31/2026.

+ Free gutter inspection, quote good for 1 year

Promo code: 285

Call 1-855-977-9614

The World’s First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call **855-429-8720** to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.

Atom X

Audien Hearing

It's Our 60-60-60 SALE!

Take Advantage of These Special Savings Today!

60% OFF INSTALLATION of a NEW BATH or SHOWER!

60 Month Financing Options!

Receive a **\$60 Visa Gift Card** with bath or shower purchase!

Call Today & receive a **FREE \$50 Walmart Gift Card** with estimate!

Ask about **Senior & Military Discounts!**

Bath Makeover of Arkansas

1-800-560-1782
bathmakeoverar.com

Adopted cow has three proposed names

One of my favorite movies growing up was Disney’s Home on the Range. I still watch it to this day whenever I’m feeling down and need a little pick me up.

As a kid, I always wanted to be like Pearl, who owned the “Little Patch of Heaven” farm. Just like her, I know I would get way too attached to my animals and never want to sell them.

In the movie, Pearl’s farm is on the verge of being lost, and it’s ultimately her three cows that save it. Funny enough, though, I’ve realized I’m probably less like Pearl and more like one of her cows, Maggie. She’s stubborn, sarcastic, and always has something to say, which sounds a little too familiar.

Speaking of cows, a week or two ago I mentioned that I had adopted a dairy calf for the Pike County kiddos. A few of those kids came to the cow workshop hosted by Agriculture Agent Codie McAlister, and I had the privilege of helping with the event.

One of the activities was asking the kids to imagine they had a cow of their own and decide what they would name her. They



Little Homestead In The City

HALLIE CALDWELL • PIKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

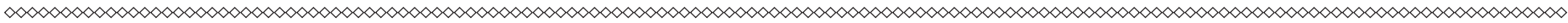
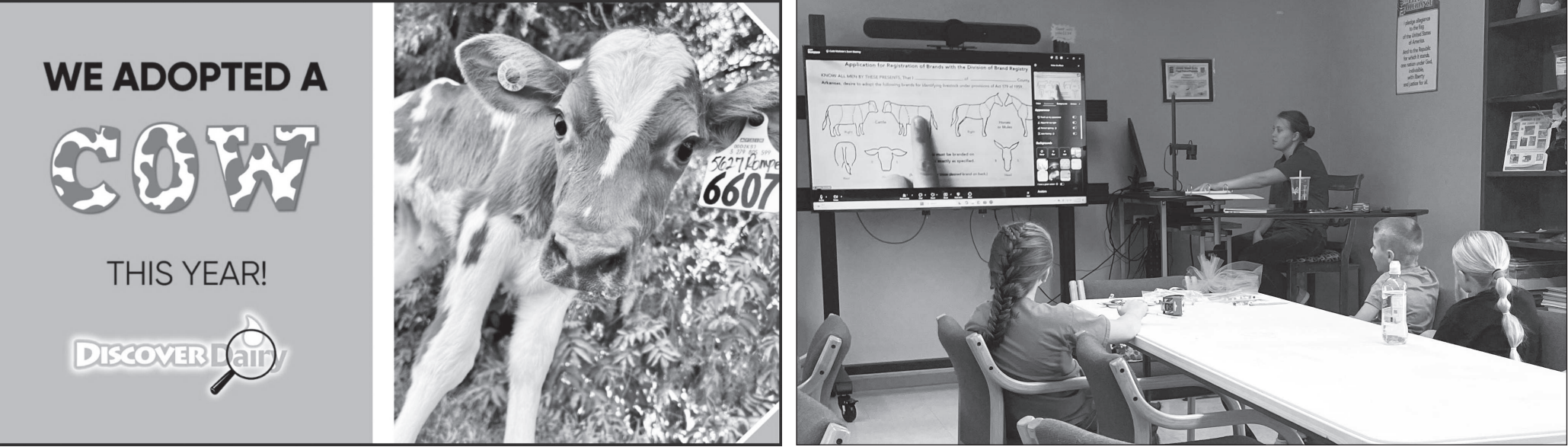
Chairman for the Women’s Leadership • Ag In the Classroom

Phone (870) 285-3194 • E-Mail hcaldwell@uada.edu

came up with three great names, Cinnamon Roll, Miley, and Ruthie.

We won’t find out what kind of calf we adopted until Septem-

ber 22. Until then, I’m letting all the kids vote on which name they think fits her best. I’ll be sharing updates on Facebook and, of course, keeping everyone updated here in the paper.



PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET



July 21, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Abernathy, Richard D., 58, Story, \$382 BF, overweight
Baucom, Sean, 31, Manteca, Calif., possession of a controlled substance, under advisement for one year to dismiss, fined \$1,090
Couch, Christopher Ryan, 37, Amity, guilty of DWI #2, fined \$2,620, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and. Must complete DWI educational course; guilty of reckless driving, fined \$445 and sentenced to five days in jail; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months

Howell, Andrew B., 31, Hot Spring, \$235 BF, public intoxication
BENCH TRIALS
PIKE COUNTY
Howell, Andrew B., 31, Hot Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125
Reid, William D., 40, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; \$710 balance
Summitt, Nicholas E., 41, Alexander, guilty of failure to pay; 44,420 balance; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Wilkerson, Teresa K., 54, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$125
CITY OF GLENWOOD
Summitt, Nicholas E., 41, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,685 balance



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

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a
**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF**

1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

5	1			3	4	
			4		5	2
	4	2			7	
	6			7	3	
9						1
	1	3			5	
	9			6	3	
2	4			8		
	6		5		2	7

© StatePoint Media

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.

**PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD**

Moon impact incoming!

In January of 2025 a Space X (Musk) Falcon 9 rocket was on a mission to boost two probes toward the Moon. After the job was done, its massive upper stage was just a piece of drifting space junk. Now however, that drifter is on a collision course with the Moon, and latest data has it hitting the Moon on August 5 at 1:35 a.m. at a speed of 5,400 m.p.h.

The impact will be near the crater Einstein and right at the Moon’s edge. To locate the site, think of the Moon as a clock and look at the upper left side at about 10:30. When the mostly hollow booster hits it is expected to raise a plume of dust high enough to be seen by good telescopes from Earth, and leave a crater 60 to 100 feet across. Scientists are excited about getting to study the impact dynamics and the plume.

The rogue rocket left-over never presented any danger to Earth, but some have highlighted what they consider carelessness about what happens to space machinery after it becomes junk.

The private sector of the spaceflight industry has boomed of late with businesses in the U.S. like Space X, Blue Origin, Starfighter, plus others on the international scene. They are providing such capabilities as launch facilities, cargo delivery, science and even space tourism. There are so many devices in orbit now that a tipping point has been reached where space industry products are an important and extensive part of our infrastructure. Their satellites are vital for communications, imaging, weather forecasting, espionage and military operations. They have hit a bit of a bottleneck however, in that there are not enough launch facilities to accommodate the volume of launches scheduled and the usually tight launch windows. There will likely be lag times in getting certain parts of infrastructure into operational orbit.

The meteor shower that many people consider the best of the year has started. The Perseid shower will peak around August 12 and 13, and this year the Moon will be in hiding, so if clear skies prevail, some good meteor watching is in the offing. The best time to sit back and wait for the streaks is after midnight. The meteors can come from all around, but the radiant area near the constellation Perseus and the asterism Pleiades (the small dipper shape), from where many of the meteors will appear to come from, will rise in the east and be high enough by 1:00 a.m. making it a good general area to watch.

Affordable health insurance for Arkansans.

individual • family • health • dental

Lisa Chandler, agent
Lisa Chandler Insurance

Nashville

office: 870-845-5930
cell: 870-845-7728
Insurance # 1264226

Arkansas
BlueCross BlueShield

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Soliciting agent only. Not authorized to issue policies. Available only to residents in Arkansas.

UAMS

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

Q: What is diabetic retinopathy?

A: Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes where the blood vessels in the retina weaken due to too much sugar in the blood. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 9.6 million people in the U.S. are affected by diabetic retinopathy.

Those with Type 1, Type 2, or gestational diabetes are at risk for diabetic retinopathy. Other risk factors for the condition include having high cholesterol, being obese, those with high blood pressure, being pregnant, and using tobacco. The chances of developing diabetic retinopathy increase the longer a form of diabetes exists.

Symptoms of diabetic retinopathy include blurred vision, being unable to see colors, dark spots or holes in vision, seeing flashing lights, or

trouble seeing things at a distance. People in the early stages of the condition may not experience any symptoms. Blindness, glaucoma, or a detached retina are possible complications of diabetic retinopathy.

Diabetic retinopathy cannot be cured, but it can be managed. Specific treatment may not be required if the condition is mild. Yearly eye exams are important, particularly for those at risk. Eye injections or laser therapy are options for more advanced cases. Contact your health care provider to develop a treatment plan.

Helping Families Connect, Honor & Remember

BURIAL INSURANCE • MONUMENTS • PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANS

NASHVILLE
(870) 845-2233

MURFREESBORO
(870) 285-2194

P.O. Box 298 Nashville, Arkansas 71852
1211 Anthony Ave., Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958
www.latimerfuneralhome.com

5	2	1	9	7	3	8	4	6
7	3	9	6	4	8	1	5	2
6	8	4	2	5	1	9	7	3
4	5	6	1	9	2	7	3	8
9	7	2	8	3	5	4	6	1
8	1	3	4	6	7	5	2	9
1	9	5	7	2	6	3	8	4
2	4	7	3	8	9	6	1	5
3	6	8	5	1	4	2	9	7

Pike County pair charged with drug offenses following traffic stop

MURFREESBORO -- Two Pike County women have been charged with felony drug offenses following a July traffic stop in Glenwood.

They include Tonya D. Hamilton, 46, of Murfreesboro, charged with furnishing, possessing or using prohibited articles (delivering a prohibited article), possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia; and Teri G. Dean, 54, who has a Murfreesboro address but resides in Glenwood, charged with possession of methamphetamine with the purpose to deliver, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both ladies made court appearances Monday where they entered pleas of not guilty and an Oct. 5 pretrial date was set for both cases.

Hamilton and Dean were arrested on July 22 after being pulled over by an Arkansas State trooper for possible fictitious tags. Hamilton was behind the wheel and advised the trooper she had a search waiver on file. A check of passenger Dean also

determined she had a search waiver on file and the vehicle was searched.

A glass smoking device was found and the two were taken into custody with neither claiming ownership of the pipe. At the Pike County jail for booking, Hamilton was found to be in possession of suspected meth and another smoking pipe that she reportedly had hidden inside her body right before the traffic stop.

The two bags of suspected meth had a weight of 5.4 grams.

Dean was then transported to her residence in Glenwood and a search was conducted. Four bags of suspected meth were located along with seven smoking pipes and one psilocybin mushrooms.

The four bags of meth found had a weight of 17 grams.

On July 31, Neftali Lugo, Jr., 34, of Murfreesboro, was charged with aggravated assault on a family or household member, terroristic threatening, false imprisonment, interference with emergency communications and third-degree domestic battery.

Lugo failed to show up for his court date Monday and a warrant has been issued for this arrest.

According to case information, Lugo was arrested the night of July 1 at a home on Evans Street in Murfreesboro. Lugo's alleged victim told law officials that she had bonded Lugo out of the Pike County jail on June 26 and on June 28 she said Lugo strangled her. From that date until July 1, Lugo has reportedly restrained his victim inside the house by threat and took her phone. Lugo then barricaded the doors and allegedly abused his victim at one point brandishing a machete, a hammer and kitchen knife.

The victim said she escaped when Lugo was taking a shower. Forced entry was made into he house and Lugo was taken into custody without incident.

A query of Lugo's criminal history showed on April 16, 2024 Lugo was convicted in Harris County, Texas of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

MES announces school supply list, most covered by donation/fundraisers

MURFREESBORO -- With the countdown to a brand new school year, South Pike County Schools has announced announce that, thanks to our fundraisers and generous donors, Murfreesboro Elementary School will be covering most of the supplies needed by students in the 2026-2027 school year.

The back-to-school essentials required for each grade are as follows:

- Kindergarten -- Back pack, clear water bottle, Germ X, Kleenex, coloring book, 1 big roll

- First Grade -- Back pack, clear water bottle, 2 boxes of crayons, 2 glue sticks. Boys -- 1 box of kleenex, 1 bottle of Germ X, 1 box of quart size Ziplock bags. Girls -- 1 box of kleenex, 1 container of Clorox wipes, 1 box of gallon size Ziplock bags
- Second Grade -- Back pack, clear water bottle, 2 boxes of crayons, 1 box of kleenex, 4 glue sticks, 1 package of baby wipes
- Third Grade -- Back pack, clear water bot-

- tle, 1 2-inch 3-ring binder
- Fourth Grade -- Back pack, clear water bottle, Clorox wipes, Ziplock bags
- Fifth Grade -- Back pack, clear water bottle, 1 bottle of hand sanitizer, 2 rolls of paper towel, disinfectant wipes, 1 2-inch 3-ring binder (optional)
- Sixth Grade -- Back pack, clear water bottle,

- Clorox wipes, 1 roll of paper towel, 1 bottle of Germ X, 1 box of Ziplock bags, 1 2-inch 3-ring binder (optional)

"We can't wait to welcome back our incredible students, both new and returning," said Murfreesboro Elementary School Principal James Riley.

Delight Music Fest announces lineup

Nine acts to be featured September 26

DELIGHT -- The Delight Music Fest has released their schedule for the 2026 event that will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Delight City Park.

Gates open at 10 a.m. with festivities to run through 10 p.m.

Admission will be \$7 for ages 13 and up, while ages 6-12 will be \$5. There is no admittance fee for those five years old and younger.

The musical lineup will be:

- 10 a.m. -- Marlin Taylor
- 11 a.m. -- Third Channel
- 12:30 p.m. -- Diamond Blues Band
- 2 p.m. -- David Garcia
- 3:15 p.m. -- Ethan Pickett

- 4:15 p.m. -- Clark Campbell
- 5 p.m. -- Makina Hudgins
- 6:15 p.m. -- Road Dawg Revival
- 8:15 p.m. -- Billstown

The event will also feature "fun for all ages" including vendor booths, concessions and food trucks, raffle drawings and giveaways and bounce houses.

Those seeking vendor information for booths, concessions and food trucks can contact Harley Rowton at (870) 828-0399.

Updates heading up to the event will be posted on Facebook under "Southeast Pike County Alliance Music Fest."

Court sentences four defendants

MURFREESBORO -- Four defendants were sentenced during the Monday session of Pike County Circuit Court.

They included:

- Ronnie Rusher, 63, of Hope, pleaded guilty to internet stalking and electronic facilitation of child sexual abuse; sentenced to 20 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with high years suspended.
- Gregory Pierce, 30, of Mineral Springs, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled

substance and tampering with evidence; sentenced to a total of 10 years in the ADC with five years suspended.

- Kyraim Hodges, 36, of Milwaukee, Wis., pleaded guilty to theft by receiving; sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.
- John McMurry, 44, of Conway, pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance; sentenced to six years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU	
MONDAY, AUGUST 10 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, English peas, garlic toast, peach cobbler	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 Fried fish & potatoes, pinto beans, hush-puppies, pineapple upside down cake
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 Chicken tenders, gravy, carrots, roll, ice cream	<i>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</i>

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ



A “CAN-DO” ATTITUDE
“I” – Because of the first-person pronoun “I”, the reader automatically becomes a part of the verse.
“I Can” – Saying “I can” leaves out any “I think”, “I might”, “I could”, or “I should.”
“I Can Do” – When we say, “I can do”, what we mean to suggest is that we can put our lives into action with confidence. It is not just a passing thought.
“I Can Do All Things” – Everything within righteous reason is possible with the right attitude.
“I Can Do All Things

Through” – There is a powerful source through which we can accomplish much. It is not beside of, over, or under – it is THROUGH.
“I Can Do All Things Through Christ” – Christ is the central force through whom all righteous things can

be accomplished.
“I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me” – Last, but not least, the reader is not only encouraged by the strength that Christ provides, but by the strength He provides on an individual basis.
-Jason Hart, Via Bulletin Gold

Paid Advertisement

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

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

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

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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

Call Christy at
870-285-2723

Bank of Delight

503 E. Antioch St. Delight

(870) 379-2293

Facts About The **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

THE SPITEFUL KING!

KING NAHASH OF THE AMMONITES SHORTLY AFTER SAUL HAD BEEN MADE KING OVER ISRAEL, CAME UP AND BESIEGED THE TOWN OF JABESH-GILEAD. THE MEN OF JABESH, WANTING NO WAR, OFFERED TO SURRENDER THE TOWN TO NAHASH AND SERVE THIS AMMONITE KING! (1 SAM.11:1) OBVIOUSLY, NAHASH WAS A SPITEFUL MAN, FOR HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL UNLESS EVERY MAN IN TOWN CONSENTED TO LOSE HIS RIGHT EYE! PROBABLY KING NAHASH WANTED TO INSULT THE ISRAELITES, IN THIS MANNER BECAUSE IN THE DAYS OF MOSES THE AMMONITES WERE FORBIDDEN BY LAW TO EVER ENTER INTO THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD! THE ELDER'S OF JABESH RECEIVED A WEEK'S RESPITE IN WHICH TO SEEK HELP WHEN THE MESSENGERS OF THE TOWN REACHED GIBEATH, WHERE KING SAUL LIVED, THE PEOPLE WERE HORRIFIED AT THE NEWS! KING SAUL WAS SO ANGERED THAT HE KILLED A YOKE OF OXEN AND SENT PIECES OF THE SLAIN ANIMALS THROUGHOUT ISRAEL WITH THE MESSAGE THAT ANY MAN WHO DID NOT JOIN HIM TO FIGHT KING NAHASH WOULD LOSE HIS OWN OXEN IN THE SAME WAY! (1 SAM.11:7) NATURALLY THE RESPONSE WAS TREMENDOUS -- THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN ANSWERED THE CALL! SO SPITEFUL KING NAHASH DIDN'T HAVE HIS WAY WITH THE MEN OF JABESH-GILEAD, FOR KING SAUL AND THE ARMY OF ISRAELITES ROUNDLY DEFEATED THE AMMONITES!



225

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

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

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
* -- *Theme Related Clue*

ACROSS

1. Thanksgiving tubers
5. ____ Patrol
8. Boofoos
12. Burn soothing plant
13. “Frat Pack” member Wilson
14. ____ ligation
15. Sound an alarm
16. Marvin, Majors and Greenwood
17. O. Henry’s specialty
18. *Marilyn Monroe: “Happy Birthday, Mr. ____”
20. Sporting sword
21. Blue pencil marks
22. Knight’s title
23. *One for every year
26. Custodian
30. Be in debt
31. Stay clear of
34. Accompanies relief
35. #1 Down, pl.
37. Owned
38. Subway in Paris
39. Shore extension
40. Per ____
42. Even, poetic
43. City in Netherlands
45. Like voice during laryngitis
47. Barents or Laptev, e.g.
48. Noah’s passengers
50. Type of code
52. *Astrological sign for those born on New Year’s Eve
56. Black one and white one, for Tchaikovsky
57. Crematorium jars
58. “The Odyssey,” e.g.
59. Make this, not waste
60. Let it stand, to proofreader
61. Governmental space agency, acr.
62. The windows to the soul
63. Money in Myanmar

64. Theodora or Dorothea

DOWN

1. Bark or yelp
2. Relating to armpit
3. *”...and many ____”
4. Detected
5. *Like 16
6. Hiking sandals of a certain brand
7. Of the present month
8. *Greeting to the birthday honoree, some-
times
9. Bassoon cousin
10. Misery cause
11. Canny
13. Dated tunes
14. Make a logical connection (2 words)
19. Runs without moving
22. Lumberjack’s tool
23. Another word for nutria
24. Look forward to
25. Not as old
26. George Lucas’ warrior-monk
27. Concentration of a solution lab test
28. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
29. Cotes du ____, wine region
32. Online room
33. As opposed to mishap
36. *”We want your presence, not your ____”
38. New Zealandian minority
40. Cuban dance syllable
41. *Quench it with punch
44. Precedes desist
46. Antonym of descent
48. *Traditional birthday celebration
49. Sleeper’s woe
50. Up, up and there
51. Level a building
52. Crescent point
53. Colorful fish
54. Greet the judge, e.g.
55. March Madness org.
56. Pronoun

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11
12						13					14			
15						16					17			
18				19							20			
			21						22					
23	24	25						26				27	28	29
30				31		32	33				34			
35			36			37					38			
39						40				41			42	
43				44					45		46			
			47					48	49					
	50	51						52				53	54	55
56								57				58		
59								60				61		
62								63				64		

SWITCH & GET

\$25

Off First Month of New Service!

USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

Fall single parent scholarships available to Pike County residents

LITTLE ROCK -- Single parents have until Sept. 1 to apply for Fall 2026 scholarships from the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF). Awards range from \$400 to \$1,600 and are available to eligible students pursuing an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, professional certificate, or skilled-trade program. Applications opened Aug. 1 at aspsf.org/scholarships. So far in 2026, ASPSF has awarded:

- 2 scholarships totaling \$3,200 in Howard County to Amber Burchette and Miracle Haislip, both of Nashville
- 2 scholarships totaling \$3,200 in Pike County to Allysa Pendergast and Alexis Thompson, both of Murfreesboro.

Burchette is an education major at Arkansas State University, while Haislip is studying nursing at Cossatot Community College.

“I would want the ASPSF donor to know that without the help of this scholarship I would not be able to continue my education and live life happily in my career or provide for my family,” Burchette said. “Thank you so much for considering a single mother like me and my children to help!”

Pendergast is a nursing major at Henderson State University, while Thompson is a psychology major at Cassatot Community College.

“I have daily commutes from Murfreesboro to Arkadelphia, as well as commutes twice a week from Murfreesboro to Hot Springs or Little Rock for clinical hours within the nursing program I am in,” Pendergast said. “This scholarship has helped tremendously with keeping my vehicle serviced and safe and giving me the ability to keep my gas tank replenished to make it to all of these locations”

For many single parents, earning a degree means balancing classes with full-time work, raising children, arranging transportation, and finding reliable child care. ASPSF pairs flexible scholarship funding with mentorship, career guidance, workshops, and connections to local resources so parents have support throughout their educational journey.

Every parent who earns a degree or workforce credential helps strengthen the future of local communities by building the local workforce and creating opportunities for families to thrive close to home.

“All parents deserves the opportunity to build a better future through education,” ASPSF CEO Jenn Morehead said. “When we remove barriers to earning a degree or workforce credential, families, employers, and communities all benefit.”

WHO CAN APPLY
Applicants must:

- Be a single parent.
- Live in an eligible Arkansas county or Bowie County, Texas.
- Hold a high school diploma or GED.
- Be pursuing an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, professional certificate, or skilled-trade program.
- Be enrolled in at least one three-credit-hour course.
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Meet income eligibility guidelines and other program requirements.

Both new and returning applicants are encouraged to apply before the Sept. 1 deadline. Complete eligibility requirements and the online application are available at aspsf.org/scholarships. About Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund: Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund (ASPSF) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to ending single-parent poverty through higher education. Since 1990, ASPSF has awarded more than \$50 million in scholarships and provided the mentorship and support single parents need to complete their education and pursue higher-paying careers. With the help of volunteers and community partners, ASPSF creates multigenerational change, transforming lives for both single parents and their children. Learn more at aspsf.org.

FBC to host ‘Back to School Splash’ event August 12

MURFREESBORO -- First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro will host a “Back to School Splash” event on Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The event is designed for students in K-6th grades (ages 4-12) and families.

Younger kids may attend if accompanied by a parent. All parents are invited to stay and enjoy the fun.

The event will feature music, food, games, a bouncy house and a dunking booth, and is free for all “for the glory of Jesus Christ.”

Attending students are asked to have a one piece bathing suit/shorts and a non-white t-shirt. Adults in attendance are asked to not wear bathing suits and dress modestly.

All attendees can expect “to have a great time together as a community in an environment that is morally all right,” including water balloons and wading for smaller children. “Let us remember the Lord has given is richly good things to be enjoyed in thanksgiving together!”

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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

SERVICES

ATTORNEY

SOCIAL SECURITY

DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Unable to work?

Denied benefits?

We Can Help!

WIN or Pay Nothing!

Randolph Baltz

Former SSA Attorney

Office: (501)374-6800

End your tax worries today.

Let us make your tax problem our priority. Scared, stuck with high tax amounts? Our Ar tax professionals can help. Call for a FREE consultation. Call Priority Tax now 1- 877-961-6859

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do NOT wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-210-6510 www.dental50plus.com/arpsr #6258

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-877-865-0019. Plus, income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-877-860-0034. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability benefits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-877-885-0051

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

TWO SUITES AVAILABLE

1000 sq. ft. and 316 sq. ft.

Near State Capitol

Parking, Use of Conference Room & Kitchen included.

EMAIL: ASHLEY@ARKANSASPRESS.ORG

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT?

Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now. 1-877-392-0158. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider.

Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-429-8720

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

Olshan Foundation Solutions. Your trusted foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-833-436-1947

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7. 1-877-318-6630. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! now! 1-877-885-0051

Two walkboards for sale, both in great condition.

One metal, one wood.

\$95 for both.

501-590-1716

CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek, Philippe, Heuer, Dayton, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-741-6437

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in a little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-916-0109

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-313-1596 today!

We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process! Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-877-224-1648.

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-888-497-7510

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carrier. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-868-3831

We Buy Vintage Guitars! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-521-1029.

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-855-400-3297

FAGAN ROOFING

ALL TYPES OF ROOFING

We are insured!

Quality work,

Free Estimates

In Business Since 1992!

Greg (870) 356-8934

Classifieds

MINI STORAGE in Murfreesboro. 870-845-6304. (gs:4-ft)

SMALL ADS DO WORK ... YOU!

(870) 285-2723

ALYSSA PENDERGAST Staff photo

MILLWOOD CORPORATION

BUYER OF TIMBER & TIMBERLAND

Matt Tollett (870) 703-6939

Jason Porter (870) 703-1039

Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628

P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

Y	A	M	S		S	K	I		S	O	B	S		
A	L	O	E		O	W	E	N		T	U	B	A	L
W	A	R	N		L	E	E	S		I	R	O	N	Y
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		E	P	E	E	
		E	D	I	T	S		S	I	R				
C	A	N	D	L	E			J	A	N	I	T	O	R
O	W	E		E	S	C	H	E	W		S	I	G	H
Y	A	W	P	S		H	A	D		M	E	T	R	O
P	I	E	R		C	A	P	I	T	A		E	E	N
U	T	R	E	C	H	T				H	O	A	R	S
		S	E	A			P	A	I	R	S			
	A	R	E	A		C	A	P	R	I	C	O	R	N
S	W	A	N	S		U	R	N	S		E	P	I	C
H	A	S	T	E		S	T	E	T		N	A	S	A
E	Y	E	S			P	Y	A		T	H	E	A	

50th Annual Hope Watermelon Festival

AUGUST 6-8

HOPE FAIR PARK

Vendors - Food Trucks

Music - Kidz Zone

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS AND FESTIVAL INFORMATION

GRETCHEN WILSON

SATURDAY AUG 8TH

ARKANSAS'S GREAT SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL PARTNER OF ARKANSAS TOURISM

Farm School was created to help strengthen local food systems, said Heather Friedrich, director of the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the average age of Arkansas farmers is 57.



Biggs Chapel Church in Nathan has announced their services may be viewed on YouTube by searching Biggs Chapel Church. Also, directions to the church may be located on Google Maps by typing in Biggs Chapel Church. Biggs Chapel is located at 46 Academy Road in Nathan. "We look forward to welcoming you!" said pastor Larry McKinnon.

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

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

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

(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,

(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

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

(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

(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.

COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

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

(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,

(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

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — 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 (¾ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for

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

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

