

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Local holiday craft fair now accepting applications

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Holiday Craft Fair is now accepting vendor applications for the Saturday, Nov. 14 event.

The event, now in its fourth year, will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at both the Murfreesboro Municipal Building and the Murfreesboro Senior Center across the street. Some outside spaces will also be available between the two locations.

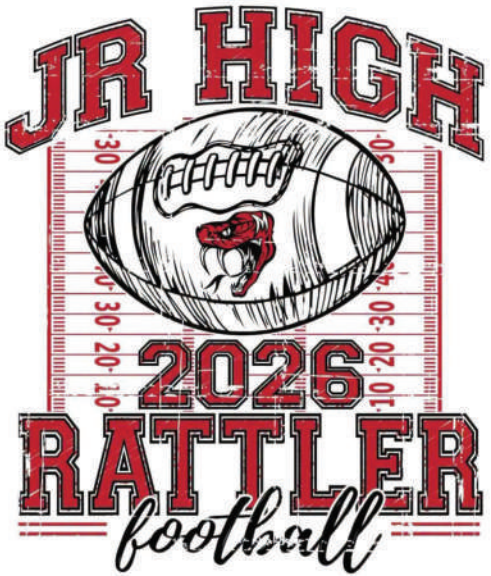
All items for sale at the event must be made by the vendor -- no retail, pre-made or multi-level marketing (MLM) items.

A 10'x10' booth will cost \$40, while a 5'x10' space is set at \$25.

The effort is also accepting applications for food trucks at \$60 per space.

For more information, contact event organizer Robin Cox by calling or texting (501) 912-0803.

Applications may be obtained at the Gypsy Underground Flea Market in Murfreesboro or by e-mailing darrenandrobin3@gmail.com.



Football roster, pep rally shirts available for order

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro High School is selling shirts in advance of the 2026 football season.

Both MJHS and MHS football roster shirts will be available for \$15 each.

The MJHS shirts will be white with seventh grade and MJHS rosters along with cheerleaders on the back.

MHS shirts will be red and feature the MHS roster, cheerleaders and band members on the back.

Orders with money are due by Thursday, August 27 and can be turned in to Melissa Jones.

Shirt sizes include youth sizes from extra small to large, and adult sizes from small to five extra large.

In each adult extra large size, please add a dollar amount equivalent to the size -- such as \$2 for 2XL, \$3 for 3XL, \$4 for 4XL and \$5 for 5XL.

Also, the cheerleaders are selling "Pack the Pit" shirts in grey color for \$10 each.

The sizes and additional pricing are the same as above for the roster shirts.

"Pack the Pit" shirt orders must be turned in by Friday, August 21.

Order forms for all shirts may be found on the school's website, rattlers.org.

For more information, e-mail melissa.jones@rattlers.org.



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Submitted photo/SPCSD

READY FOR THE BELL ... New South Pike County School instructors for the 2026-2027 school year attended inservice meetings last week, while students will have reported back to campus on Wednesday of this week. Pictured is (back row, L to R) Candice Hughes, Jenny Watson, David McKinnon and Griffin Grayson; (front row) Gracie McMillian, Ashly Simmons, South Pike County Schools Superintendent Tanya Wilcher, Christy Terrell, Regina Walker and Aaron Carter.

County agrees for new website in 2027

'It must be two clicks or less to find what you are looking for ...'

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court approved a plan to upgrade their web presence in 2027.

David May with Civic Plus made a presentation to the group via livestream.

Civic Plus is the largest provider of websites and software to government entities in the country and is headquartered in Manhattan, Kansas.

He said 394,000 public servants utilized their product daily, with 340 million residents in their jurisdictions.

"We only service governments, and most people use smartphones now -- not desktop computers -- and want a personalized experience," said May.

He said a better website would save staff time, allowing customers to self-serve themselves for information.

"Website used to be just for phone numbers and office hours -- now it is where business is done."

The website would be fully American Disability Act (ADA) complaint, reducing the threat of future lawsuits, and would fully integrate all the services of the county in one loca-

tion.

"It must be two clicks or less to find what you are looking for ... three clicks or scrolling and you might as well not even have the site," said May.

The website will also include the possibility for text and email lists for any topic the county wants, say for example, emergency declarations. A user can sign up for the service and receive them on their cellular device as soon as they go live on the website. Each elected office would be able to handle their own informational uploads.

May said the website was also an integral tool for tourists and businesses with interest in moving to the area, as well as a "one-stop shop for Pike County residents."

At the moment, regionally Arkadelphia, Malvern, Hot Springs and Garland County are utilizing the Civic Plus service.

"Not so many of the smaller counties and cities yet," said Pike County Assessor Staci Stewart. "Many of them don't have anything."

She said the county could split the first year costs of \$21,000 between the five elected offices (assessor, sheriff/collector, county judge, coun-

ty clerk, circuit clerk). The cost would then go down to \$9,516 in year two, without developing costs.

"We greatly need a website that doesn't require residents to travel all over the web to find information. We have to grow the county -- which is now estimated to be less than ten thousand residents [in Pike County]," said Stewart.

It was stated that the county's municipalities and schools could share in the website experience if they so desire with either a link or a physical page on the site.

A gov address will likely be sought, as the state is mandating such for all governmental institutions in the future, according to chatter at the meeting.

The court voted 7-1 yes for the measure, with justice Randy Lamb casting the lone "no." Jus-

QUORUM

Continued on Page 2

Chamber announces dates for upcoming events

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce said at their August 2026 meeting that they had secured a temporary storage building to house their Christmas decorations until more permanent accommodations could be determined.

The items will be stored at Narrows Boar and RV Storage at a cost of \$65 a month.

The annual trunk or treat will be held in conjunction with the Diamonds in the Fall festival on the Pike County Courthouse square this Saturday, October 31.

The event will begin at approximately 3 p.m., and will feature the usual fare of costume contests for both kids and animals as well as the weenie dog race.

The Chamber's Haunted House at the former Pike County Hospital building will be held on Friday and Saturday nights on October 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31. Kid's hour without actors will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m., while the

full show will run from 8-11 p.m.

A chili cookoff is being planned in conjunction with the Santa on the Square event on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The Christmas parade in Murfreesboro will be held on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 10, under the theme of "Christmas in the Diamond Capital." Awards will be given in division to float participants.

An ornament scavenger hunt is being planned that will incorporate member businesses.

Anna Howard was on hand at the meeting, stating she would like to see the return of the Diamond Pageant. The date and location is still unknown, but perhaps to be held in the spring of 2027 with the queens to reign through the Fall Festival and Christmas events later that year.

During their free media event in the summer, the Diamond Lake Tourism Association stated

that Murfreesboro's Juneteenth event has received the second highest response. Participating counties and municipalities were offered free co-op ads on ark.gov.

The fifth annual Keith Stone Memorial Car Show is set for Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Pike County Courthouse Square from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will offer 31 trophies in divisions, including the prestigious Participant's Choice award.

A drawing for \$500 in chamber bucks will be held following the awards presentation, along with door prizes and a 50/50 pot.

Other attractions will include DJ Matt Guntter, Hotwheels races for kids, a coloring contest and a bounce house.

Registration for the event will close at 11 a.m.

For more information on the event, contact Kirk Stone at (870) 703-7365.

QUORUM Continued from Page 1

tice Richard Mohlenhoff was not in attendance to cast a vote.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard told the court of necessary repairs needed for the county’s Cat D-6 dozer, a 2012 model with 3,000 hours.

He said the undercarriage needed replacement, while the motor would need to be rebuilt after a busted piston issue.

“Rebuilding is cheaper -- we are not going to find a used one with that small a number of used hours,” Howard said, stating that the repair will cost \$112,000 and a brand new dozer would cost \$555,000.

The timeline is yet to be determined on repair, but he said Caterpillar would be doing the repairs so they would be under warranty.

The funds to fix the dozer will come from machinery and equipment and will cost the county no new money from county general.

Howard also told the court that costs to repair the Pike County Fairgrounds has increased after allotted insurance totals weren’t quite covering the costs.

That will include repairs to the cattle barn with broken trusses and rafters and the chicken barn, along with planned repairs to the show barn and pavilion.

All told, there will \$21,000 in additional costs.

“That is over and above what we expected,” said Howard.

“There just wasn’t enough insurance to cover it. The fair is coming up quickly.”

The Pike County Fair is set to start on Sept. 6.

Howard said local banks in the county had collectively pledged to pay the final costs.

The court also approved a new roof for the senior citizen center, which will cost the county \$53,000 up front, but ultimately

\$10,516.71 after insurance reimbursement.

The Court approved ordinance 2026-9, which updates the county employee personnel handbook to state that “an employee who requests time off for any reason, excluding sick leave, shall be required to exhaust their accrued comp time before they are permitted to use other forms of leave.”

The new rule does not apply to scheduled holidays.

A copy of the Pike County Personnel Handbook is on file for inspection at the Pike County Clerk’s office during regular business hours Monday-Friday.

The court also approved the passage of resolution 2026-4, stating they were in support of Issue 4 that will be up for election statewide on ballots this November.

Issue 4 will authorize the State of Arkansas to issue general obligation bonds to finance water, wastewater, drainage, irrigation, flood control, wetland and aquatic resource projects.

“If it doesn’t pass, it could really affect cities -- the state is about to run out of money for those projects,” Howard said.

In the vote, justices Seth Henry Kirkham and Leotis Snowden abstained, with Kirkham stating he felt it should be left solely in the hands of the voters.

Pike County resident Donny McGuire was on hand to state that the county shouldn’t be operating against private businesses.

He referenced Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Code.

McGuire said he operates a rolloff dumpster business, stating that it was unfair to expect him to compete against a service provided by the county that is funded by taxpayer dollars.

Howard said the county started the service in 2023 when Boyd Construction stopped their service, and to his knowledge there were no other private operators in the county at that time.

“Our employee does it only as necessary, and it’s not an every-day activity,” Howard said. “It’s not a profitable business, it never was intended to be. We only charge costs -- rental, deliv-

ery and tipping fees. It’s not for profit, but we are also not running a deficit. The service was never meant to compete against private business.”

McGuire said that the county not providing the service might free up equipment and manpower, while allowing the private businesses to thrive and not compete against an “unfair” county advantage.

Howard said Delight resident Randy Cross told him the service was not impacting his business in the least. He then speculated that by McGuire’s argument, road department and sanitation department across the state are also in violation of debatably competing against private businesses.

“The Arkansas Association of Counties has never brought up the issue,” said Howard.

Justice Robbie Crocker asked that the county get a legal opinion on the position, and asked for all the financials related to the dumpster service by the county.

“I’d be frustrated too,” Crocker said of McGuire’s position.

The county charges \$200 for delivery and five day rental plus fees for dumping and the Upper Southwest Regional Solid Waste Management District landfill. Should the resident need another dumpster the charge is \$100 plus dumping fees.

To conclude the meeting, Howard announced that the county was approved for an Arkansas Department of Emergency Management grant for a generator to be located at the Pike County Courthouse. While bids had not yet been secured, the grant will pay up to \$71,316 for a \$95,168 generator, leaving the county with a share of 23,792.

“That’s the max[imum] price, it could be cheaper,” said Howard.

He said the county had also qualified for a COPS microgrant of \$200,000 for drones for the Pike County Sheriff’s Department. That grant is 100%, requiring no cost sharing from the county.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

August 4, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Agudio, Ernest Joseph Jr., 43, Meriden, Kan., guilty of speeding, fined \$200

Archer, Justin J., 46, Dierks, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Barrett, Andrew C., 36, Amity, \$140 BF, no child restraint device

Bounds, Devin, 32, Gonzales, La., \$150 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Bryant, Jack William, 20, New Edinburg, guilty of minor in possession of alcohol, fined \$260 and license suspended for 60 days; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$220

Bumgarner, Ronna Ione, 25, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Cates, Michael T., 38, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325

Chambers, Mariah, 39, Norman, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,250 balance

Coleman, Erik Vonhunter, 20, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Cox, Jacob Hunter, 32, Murfreesboro, guilty of speeding, fined \$135; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course

Cummings, Courtney Lynn, 27, Texarkana, Texas, \$140 BF, speeding; \$220 BF, failure to appear

Davidson, Derek Paul, 40, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Dean, Teri G., 54, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340

Demoss, Sean Adam, 40, Taylor, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Dowdle, Monica E., 55, Murfreesboro, \$235 BF, open container in motor vehicle

Duggan, Christopher S., 53, Glenwood, guilty of driving left of center, fined \$125; guilty of improper passing, fined \$125; guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of failure to maintain control, fined \$125; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of failure to pay; \$3,960 balance

Eoff, Liam Henry, 18, Delight, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Erke, Anthony Cato, 31, Waldron, \$600 BF, possession of drug paraphernalia

Garcia, Miranda Michelle, 29, Mineral Springs, \$140 BF, no driver’s license; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Garsia, Jose Alberto, 28, De Queen, \$140 BF, speeding

Gray, Dustin Lukestone, 19, Texarkana, \$135 BF, speeding

Hembey, Thomas Dillin, 28, Delight, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months; guilty of littering highway or road, fined \$245

Hernandez, Maria, 38, De Queen, \$140 Bf, no driver’s license

Johnson, Chance T., 42, Amity, guilty of violation of Arkansas Hot Check Law, fined \$406; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of violation of ignition interlock device act, fined \$185; guilty of drinking in public or on highway, fined \$235

McAda, William Grady, 29, Lockesburg, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Melton, Michael Neal, 55, Dallas, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Michael, Keaton Luke, 20, El Dorado, minor in possession of alcohol, under advisement, fined \$260

Montgomery, Patricia Ann, 76, Texarkana, Texas, \$150 BF, speeding

Morphew, Jeffery N., 52, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Oliver, Kristopher Chase, 30, Arkadelphia, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340

Orantes Walter, 46, Little Rock, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$125 BF, speeding

Schoolfield, Bradley John, 42, Hot Springs, \$135 BF, speeding; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Simpson, Derrick, 39, Nashville, \$135 BF, speeding

Smillie, David T. III, 38, Prescott, guilty of failure to pay; \$6,366 balance

Smith, Sherri L., 46, Amity, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330

Sosa, Carlos J., 24, Dardanelle, reckless driving, under advisement for one year to dismiss

Trauger, John L., 46, Fulton, \$125 BF, speed too fast for conditions

Turner, Kenyon Hayes, 23, Amity, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Upton, Kennth Thomas, 29, Nashville, \$325 BF, driving with suspended. License; \$205 BF, failure to appear; \$205 BF, failure to appear

Wallace, Chasity Leigh, 34, Delight, no proof of liability insurance, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss; guilty of no child restraint device, fined \$140

Wilson, Katherine Louise, 68, Odessa, Texas, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Benight, Riley Coleman, 16, Okolona, careless prohibited driving, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss

Cornish, Kaitlyn Jade, 20, Murfreesboro, \$160 BF, no vehicle license

Gray, Jaydan D., 23, Knoxville, \$170 BF, speeding

Hunter, Lee Michael, 43, Percy, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired

Jackson, Sara M., 40, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350

Roberts, Michael Colten, 22, Nashville, \$350 BF, no proof of liability insurance

Ruiz, Brenda Lee, 50, Murfreesboro, guilty of fictitious tags

Stinson, Aspen B., 29, Amity, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION

Gay, Amber Lacey, 46, Doddridge, \$220 BF, no running lights

Matney, Samuel W., 32, Blevins, \$220 BF, no observer

Nicholas, Brian M., 53, Sherwood, \$235 BF, no observer

Reyes, Osmar H., 52, Nashville, \$235 BF, no safety lanyard cut-off switch; \$235 BF, insufficient PFDs; \$220 BF, failure to appear

Walker, Christian B., 33, Benton, La., \$235 BF, no ski area

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Camarillo, Jessica, 31, Gurdon, \$160 BF, stopping, standing or parking prohibited

Chambers, Billy Charles, 42, Glenwood, \$390 BF, first-degree criminal mischief; guilty of cruelty to animals, fined \$315; guilty of unlawful dog attack, fined \$655

Cabbage, Joshua S., 51, Caddo Gap, \$45 BF, no seat belt

Gujja, Muralider Rao, 50, McKinney, Texas, \$160 BF, speeding

Huddle, Marvin E., 44, Glenwood, guilty of DWI#3, fined \$2,655, sentenced to 90 days in jail, license suspended and just complete DWI educational course; guilty of improper passing, fined \$160; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45; guilty of careless prohibited driving, fined \$160; guilty of passing emergency or law enforcement vehicle stopped on highway, fined \$330; guilty of violation of ignition interlock device act, fined \$205; guilty of public intoxication, fined \$240; guilty of public intoxication, fined \$240

Keirsey, Jan Louise, 80, Kansas City, Mo., \$245 BF, careless prohibited driving with accident

Lowery, Ethan Quinn, 28, Texarkana, Texas, \$160 BF, stopping, standing or parking prohibited

Martinez, Alexander, 18, Glenwood, guilty of stopping, standing or parking prohibited, fined \$160

Perry, Michael W., 33, Glenwood, \$160 BF, careless prohibited driving

Salter, Christian Grant, 22, Murfreesboro, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350

Sharp, James M., 26, Nashville, \$160 BF, expired vehicle license / tags

Stone, Mark Anthony, 48, Sulphur Springs, Texas, guilty of failure to register within 30 days, fined \$160; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$160; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350

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People’s Pharmacy • Gypsy Underground
C-Stop • Tobacco & More • EZ Mart
Murfreesboro Diamond Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
GORDON EUDEAN HINES, deceased No. 55PR-25-40

PUBLIC NOTICE

Last known address of the decedent: 919 North Washington Ave., Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Date of Death: June 23, 2025

An instrument dated August 03, 2026, lawfully appointed DHOREA KENCAYD as Administrator of the above estate.
That all persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.
This notice first published on this day of August, 2026.

DHOREA KENCAYD
Petitioner

BY: /s/ Dustin Bissell
DUSTIN BISSELL
Attorney for Petitioner
306 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-2589
Arkansas Bar #2022047

(d.b. 137w., 6,7,)

Murfreesboro Diamond

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to the attention of the management.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Performing arts an option for local youth through 4-H

PART 2 OF A CONTINUING SERIES

When many people think about 4-H, they picture cattle, pigs, goats, or other livestock projects. While animal projects are an important part of 4-H, they are only one piece of what 4-H has to offer. In fact, 4-H provides opportunities for young people to explore hundreds of project areas that help them discover new interests, develop life skills, and build confidence.

This article is the second in our “4-H Is More Than Livestock” series highlighting the many project areas available through Pike County 4-H. Edition 2 focuses on one of the most exciting and creative project areas, Performing Arts. The Arkansas 4-H Performing Arts program allows members to develop confidence, communication, creativity, and stage presence while sharing their talents with others. Participants can compete in three categories: Dance, Instrumental, and Vocal. While Pike County has not yet had a competitor in the dance division, we are excited to continue growing our program and hope to have dancers representing our county in the future.

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

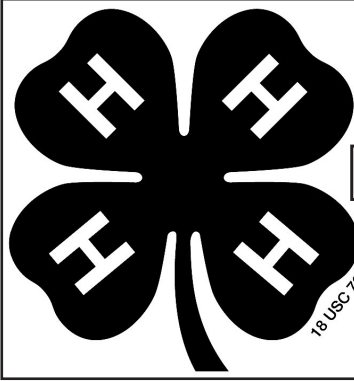
Pike County’s senior instrumental competitor is Lyzander Doyle, who performs on the alto saxophone. This year, Lyzander earned 4th place at the Ouachita District O’Rama, showcasing both his dedication and musical talent. Although he competes on the alto saxophone, it isn’t the only instrument he plays. Lyzander began taking piano lessons a little over six years ago. Just a few months later, he learned to play the recorder, and about a year after that, he added the alto saxophone to his growing list of musical talents. “One of my favorite parts of performing is playing in front of an audience because it allows me to see how much I have improved through years of practice and hard work,” stated Lyzander. Looking toward the future, he hopes to pursue a career as some type of entertainer, sharing his love of music with others. His commitment to learning multiple instruments demonstrates how 4-H encourages members to develop new skills while challenging themselves to grow through practice, perseverance, and confidence.

Mazie Neal also represented Pike County in the junior division as an instrumental performer this year, earning 4th place at the Ouachita District O’Rama with her piano performance. Mazie plays the piano and has also been learning to play the recorder, proudly sharing that she has already mastered “Hot Cross Buns.” Mazie’s interest in piano began after seeing a friend take lessons and thinking it looked like fun! She also had a little encouragement from her mom as well. She now takes piano lessons from Mrs. Diane Kelley every Friday and continues working to improve her musical skills. “My favorite part of performing is learning fun songs that are fast and peppy; songs that will make you tap your toes,” Mazie shared. Like many young performers, Mazie admits that performing in front of others can sometimes make her nervous. She has had opportunities to play at church and says she is thankful for each chance she gets to perform and gain experience. Mazie already has big goals for her musical future. She hopes to eventually be able to play the piano by ear and confidently read sheet music. Her love for music extends beyond the piano, and she especially enjoys listening to The Beatles and Fleetwood Mac. Through practice, lessons, competition, and performing for others, Mazie is building not only her musical abilities but also the confidence and perseverance that are at the heart of the 4-H experience.

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Pike County is also proud to have two talented vocal performers representing the county. Jacey Heaston competes in the Junior Vocal Division. Jacey says she loves performing because she enjoys meeting new people, learning more about singing, and simply doing something she loves. One of her favorite parts of competition is choosing her performance costumes. Music has been part of Jacey’s life since she was a baby. She began singing with her Aunt Alley Heaston at a very young age, and her first competition song was “Dance Monkey.” This summer marked Jacey’s second year attending Arkansas 4-H Performing Arts Camp, where participants spent several days improving their performance skills while building friendships with other 4-H members from across the state. “The camp has really helped me become a better singer,” Jacey shared. “They’ve taught me how to breathe correctly, use my diaphragm, and improve my competition songs.” At the end of camp, participants work together to present a finale performance. This year, Jacey performed in two group numbers, a trio, and a solo, giving her valuable stage experience and increasing her confidence as a performer.

Representing Pike County in the Senior Vocal Division is Hadlee Wilson, who has been singing since she was about six or seven years old. “I started singing because it felt like something different that not a lot of people can do,” Hadlee said. “It really felt like a calling for me and a way to express myself through music.” For Hadlee, performing is about much more than singing. “My favorite part of performing is that I can be myself, live my dream, and meet so many amazing people,” she explained. Through her participation in 4-H Performing Arts, Hadlee has developed confidence, strengthened her communication skills, learned how to overcome stage nerves, and accepted leadership roles within her 4-H club. Her dedication has opened even more exciting opportunities. This summer, Hadlee was unable to perform at District and State O’Ramas because she was pursuing other performance opportunities. After auditioning for the Jettway 2026 Summer Tour, she was selected to join the tour and



4-H Pike County

HEAD, HEART, HANDS & HEALTH

SHANNON BALLARD • 4-H PROGRAM ASSISTANT
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE PIKE COUNTY
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had the opportunity to perform at the Red Carpet Reception. Throughout the summer, Hadlee has taken the stage in several locations, including Denver, Colorado; Branson, Missouri; Gulf Shores, Alabama; and Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. “My dream is to keep working hard, write songs that people can relate to, and one day perform for large audiences,” Hadlee said. “I want people to know that if you work hard, you can achieve anything.”

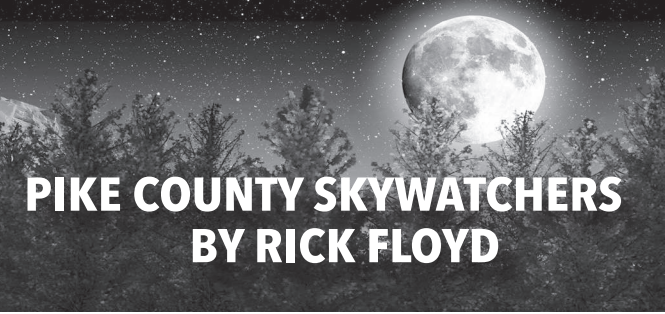
MORE THAN A COMPETITION

While performing arts competitions recognize talent, the greatest reward is the personal growth participants experience along the way. Young people learn communication, discipline, self-confidence, perseverance, creativity, and leadership skills that can benefit them for years to come, regardless of the career they choose. Pike County 4-H is proud of Lyzander, Mazie, Jacey, and Hadlee for representing our county with dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm. Each has a different talent, story, and dream, but together they demonstrate just how many opportunities young people can discover through 4-H. Their accomplishments are also a reminder that 4-H is about so much more than livestock. Whether a young person enjoys music, dance, science, photography, cooking, leadership, robotics, community service, or countless other interests, there is a place for



Submitted photo/PC4-H

HADLEE WILSON



Nature’s performance

It was a clear and moonless night. Sitting under the stars during the wee hours on August 13, I was hoping to see a meteor shower. The Perseids did not disappoint between hours of 2 and 4 that night, although there was not a shower as hoped.

It is understandable why we have fears of the dark of night, but lying back and watching the celestial dome slowly move over is actually one of the most recommended (by experts on human psychology, of course) activities we can do to enhance mental health.

My simple observatory that night consisted of a reclining camp chair and two cat companions. No optical devices were required, in fact binoculars, telescopes and such inhibit meteor shower viewing. All you need are your eyes and a bit of patience. The Perseid radiant, or point from which meteors seem to come, is located near the constellation Perseus which was, at 2 a.m. about 20 or so degrees up from the eastern horizon. Facing east I could see numerous stellar “old friends” such as two asterisms in Taurus, the Pleiades and the big V with its bright red alpha star Aldebaran to the right of Perseus. Overhead the constellation Andromeda had me looking for the small smudge of light within it. The Andromeda Galaxy is the only object in our night sky outside our galaxy that is observable with the naked eye. It is 2.5 million light years from Earth and actually traveling on a collision course at a speed of 250,000 m.p.h. toward the Milky Way. The two galaxies are predicted to merge in about 4.5 billion years.

The big W of the constellation Cassiopeia was to my left just above Perseus. A very bright meteor crossed it leaving a slowly vanishing trail only five minutes after I sat down. It was a portent, I hoped, of what was to come. During the next two hours two other fiery streaks lit the night up, and there were numerous very small flashes as if small quickly dissolving chalk lines were being randomly swiped across the sky. A darker sky, away from town, would have revealed even more smaller meteors maybe adding up to what could have been called a shower.

It was a grounding experience watching the constellations mentioned above plus Pegasus, Triangulum, Aries, and the late risers Auriga and Orion move up from the east as others like Aquila and Cygnus set in the west. Although the stars appeared to move, the awareness of being on a spinning planet was also grounding. Add the blinking fireflies still out looking for mates, two nearby owls that had a lot to talk about, a dog in the distance barking what sounded like a complaint, the drones and raspy chirps of countless insects, and it was easy to get immersed in the night world that most of us experience too rarely. Even the highway noises of one truck after another, and the whine and hiss from the shavings mill became part of the whole fabric of what deep night is in our town.

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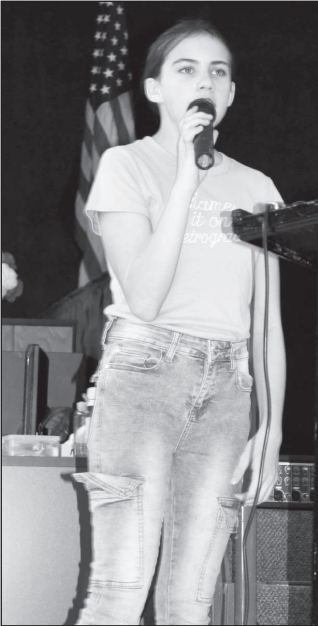
them in 4-H.

Stay tuned for Edition 3 of our “4-H Is More Than Livestock” series as we continue highlighting the exciting project areas available through Pike County 4-H.



Submitted photo/PC4-H

(ABOVE) LYZANDER DOYLE
AND JACEY HEASTON
(RIGHT) MAZIE NEAL





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Keep growing through the summer heat

August 2026 has shown up and showed out when it comes to summer weather. My outdoor plants are struggling, and I have to remember to water them thoroughly early in the morning or late in the evening. One thing I thoroughly enjoy though is all my houseplants during the summer since they are located indoors and I do not get hot when I am working with them.

If you have been interested in getting a houseplant, it is a good idea to do some research before getting one. Do you have a place for plants? How much lighting is in the area you are thinking about putting a plant? What about the temperature or humidity in your home? How good are you with a watering schedule? Do you have pets that tend to chew on plants?

Once you have researched some information about houseplants, you can start to pick out your plant (or multiple if you're a plant collector like me.)

- Check foliage of plants for insects and plant disease, especially the underside of foliage and the axils.
- Select plants that look sturdy, clean, well-potted, shapely, and well-covered with leaves.
- Choose plants with healthy foliage. Avoid plants that have yellow or chlorotic (pale green or yellow) leaves, brown leaf margins, wilted or water-soaked foliage, spots or blotches, and spindly growth.
- Avoid leaves with mechanical damage, and those which have been treated with "leaf shines" which add an unnatural polish to the leaves.
- Choose plants which have new flowers and leaf buds along with young growth since they are usually healthier.

Once you have chosen a plant, don't leave it in a hot car. Avoid burning your plant's foliage by shading it while in the car. Once your plant is safely home, you will want to make sure you acclimate it to your home's living conditions. Place your plant in an area with lots of light and gradually move it to its permanent, darker location over 4 to 8 weeks.

Every plant needs different care but most of them are similar. Overwatering plants is a more common mistake than underwatering plants. It is best to read about the needs of the plant when creating a watering schedule. It is also a good idea to let the soil dry out a little before the next watering, but do not let it dry out completely and cause stress to the plant.

Do not fertilize houseplants during the winter. If you do fertilize, make sure to follow the directions on the label. Over time, fertilizers can cause a build up of soluble salts in the soil of your



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houseplant. As the salts in the soil becomes more and more concentrated, plants find it harder to take up water. This can make your plant grow less and become more susceptible to infection and disease, root damage, and wilting.

The best way to prevent soluble salt damage is to stop the salts from building up. Make sure you water your plants correctly by allowing some water to drain through your plant's pot entirely. Do not allow the pot to sit in water. The salts you washed out can be reabsorbed into the soil through the drainage hole, or directly through the clay pot.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM UPDATE:

As of August 18, 2026, there have not been any reports of New World Screwworm in the state of Arkansas. There have been 46 total cases of New World Screwworm reported with 4 active cases and 42 inactive. These cases are still located in southwest Texas and southeast New Mexico.

DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE:

The Drought Monitor is still showing that half the county is abnormally dry while the other half of the county is not under any drought. This data information is valid on August 11, 2026. However as of August 18, 2026, Pike County is under a burn ban and is at moderate risk for wildfires.

If you would like more information about houseplants or choosing the right one for you, or any other questions regarding agriculture and natural resources contact the Pike County Extension office at (870) 285-2161. You can also visit the website at www.uaex.uada.edu or visit the office located in Murfreesboro.



State urges public to stay alert as wildfire risk increases

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is urging Arkansans to stay alert as wildfire risk increases across the state. The Department has designated all 75 counties at moderate wildfire risk, and 30 counties are under burn bans issued by county judges.

The National Interagency Fire Center's Predictive Services forecasts above normal significant fire potential developing across southern and eastern Arkansas during August. Abnormally dry conditions covered 92 percent of Arkansas on August 4, up from 82 percent one week earlier. As fuels dry out, the risk that a small fire escapes containment rises sharply. Fires that would have been routine a month ago can ignite easily, spread faster, and demand more resources to control.

RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

The Department urges residents, landowners, and local fire agencies to take the following steps as conditions worsen:

- Report wildfires immediately to the Department's Forestry Dispatch at 1-800-468-8834.
- Check for a burn ban in your county before conducting any outdoor burning.
- Use caution with all outdoor burning. The risk that a small fire escapes will continue to increase.
- Report prescribed fires prior to ignition through the Department's website or by calling 1-800-830-8015.
- Volunteer fire departments should prepare for increased call volume in the coming weeks.
- Forest landowners should plan for a brief prescribed burn season this fall.
- Homeowners and communities should

become familiar with Firewise USA, a wildfire preparedness program administered by the Department.

The Department is planning its August response around in-state capacity, preparing crews, bulldozers, and single-engine air tanker coverage. It currently has 175 wildland firefighters, 110 bulldozers, and an aviation detec-

tion and response fleet available to respond to wildfire incidents anywhere in the state.

Arkansans can monitor current conditions on the Department's county-by-county wildfire map at https://mip.agri.arkansas.gov/ag-tools/Forestry/Fire_Info and follow updates on the Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ARDeptAg>.

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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

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By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

PRACTICAL BIBLE STUDY

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17



The Bible is the most practical book ever written. It is designed to meet man where he is. The characters in the Bible are men and women just like those of today. It is a mistake to think the Bible characters were unusual people. They had the same weaknesses and frailties which characterize

people today. The paths leading to the ruin of the wicked recorded in the Bible are the same paths leading to ruin today. The principles that made other Bible men and women strong will produce strength of character today. The problems Bible charac-

ters faced are the problems faced by men and women in the twenty-first century, and the solutions Bible characters found are also the solutions to today's problems. Let the critics say what they will, the Bible is a practical book for today. It is as up-to-date as this morning's headlines, because it anticipates what one will read in tomorrow's news. Human nature has not changed. Man's needs are the same today as always. Sin brings the same consequences today as in the past. Righteousness is despised by the devil and the world, but it still has rewards for those who practice it.

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Facts About The **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

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THIS IS A DRAMATIZED VERSION OF FACTS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS, CHRONOLOGICALLY AND AUTHENTICALLY CONSOLIDATED!

AMOS "THE SHEPHERD-TURNED PROPHET"

IN THE DAYS OF KING UZZIAH OF JUDAH, AND KING JEROBOAM OF ISRAEL, THE ENEMIES OF BOTH THESE KINGDOMS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED AND SCATTERED....

...FOR KING UZZIAH, IN THE SOUTH, HAS WAGED VICTORIOUS WARS AGAINST THE EDOMITES, AND THE PHILISTINES, LEVELING THEIR CITIES AND BUILDING HIS OWN FORTIFICATIONS IN THEIR LANDS....

...AND JEROBOAM HAS BROUGHT THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL TO ITS MOST POWERFUL POSITION BY DEFEATING THE SYRIANS, CAPTURING THE CAPITAL, DAMASCUS....

...SO THAT HE SITS SAFE AND SERENE ON HIS THRONE....

...AND THE PEOPLE, WITH ALL THIS AFFLUENCE, HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD'S WAYS AND SPEND THEIR DAYS IN FEASTING AND FLOTIOUS LIVING....

...BUT, FAR TO THE SOUTH, IN THE RUGGED HILLS OF TEKOA, A HERDSMAN NAMED AMOS, WILL SOON BE SENT FROM HIS ROUGH AND HUMBLE DOMAIN BY GOD, HIMSELF, TO INFORM THE ISRAELITES THAT THEIR SINFUL WAYS MUST CEASE!

JOHN LEHTI

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11. Affirmative response
12. Type of lure, pl.
13. Small silvery fish
15. Seed covering
16. Gumbo vegetable
17. Like Siberian winters
18. ***Murder, She Wrote** amateur sleuth
20. Descartes’s “therefore”
21. *Apparition investigated in a Scooby-Doo cartoon
22. _____ Air in L.A.
23. *Arthur Conan Doyle’s detective
26. Deposit, in Paris
30. “Wheel of Fortune” purchase (2 words)
31. Always, in Rome
34. “She _____ blue velvet...”
35. From then on
37. Am is to I as _____ is to we
38. Prison-related
39. International Civil Aviation Organization
40. Window-shop
42. “He _____ and drank the precious words...”
43. Announce
45. *Agatha Christie’s Hercule
47. Ryder Cup participant
48. Fern leaf
50. Charitable contribution
52. ***The Pink Panther** Inspector
55. Diver’s breathing device
56. Vietnam neighbor
57. Bald eagle’s home
59. Bother
60. Highland tongue
61. Get checkmated
62. Cribbage piece
63. Like certain nurse

64. Ginger cookie
- DOWN
1. Shag rug
2. Lord’s worker
3. Colorado skiing destination
4. Mucus in lungs
5. Adherents of Sikhism
6. Wading bird
7. Russia’s 1917 abdicator
8. Titanic’s inanimate foe
9. “The Sun is _____ a Star”
10. Unknown power
12. Humorous
13. Blind followers
14. *Raymond Chandler’s hardboiled detective
19. Not those
22. Quilting gathering
23. Orthodox Judaism adherent
24. Chilled (2 words)
25. Cancer-treating machine, acr.
26. *Carolyn Keene’s amateur sleuth
27. Navigational aid
28. Inspiration for poets and musicians
29. Get a new tenant
32. Stud’s companion
33. Trained instructor at a country club
36. *Peter Falk’s Lieutenant
38. Lowly workers
40. Lingerie item
41. *Nick to Nora in The Thin Man series
44. Analyze
46. Paragons
48. Bell-bottoms bottom
49. Fowl perch
50. Skin problem
51. Miner’s black one
52. Ball of yarn
53. Same as eon
54. Major one in the sky
55. Tree juice
58. Casual affirmative

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Charges filed in pair of cases for in-county thievery

MURFREESBORO -- Criminal charges were filed last week in connection with two separate Pike County theft cases.

Jamie Keystone Jackson, 25, of Murfreesboro, was charged Aug. 14 with felony breaking or entering and possession of a controlled substance along with misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and theft by receiving.

Jackson pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Sept. 28 pretrial date was set.

According to case information, the police were called to Castle Repair on Muddy Fork Road outside of Murfreesboro about a theft. Two individuals reported that a camper on the property had been broken into and numerous items had been stolen, including multiple firearms, a gun safe, several ham radios, tools and a MacBook Air laptop computer.

Access had been gained by removing the air conditioning unit mounted on the side wall of the camper. One of the complainants said Jackson resided in a camper located behind the repair shop and when he arrived on the property he was questioned about the thefts. He denied possessing any of the stolen property. Jackson is a convicted felony and has a search waiver on file and his camper was searched.

Several items identified as being stolen from the camper were allegedly in Jackson’s possession, as well as .13 grams of methamphetamine and .95 ounces of marijuana.

Jackson admitted to getting tools from inside the camper but denied stealing any firearms. When asked about the items found inside his camper, Jackson reportedly responded that he was not sure how they got there.

Also on Aug. 14, Daniel Cruz, 20, of Glenwood, was charged with residential burglary and two counts of theft of property.

Cruz pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and an Oct. 5 pretrial date was set.

Cruz is accused of a break-in and theft at a resident on Gilmer Street in Glenwood that included two firearms.

Cruz’ mother contacted the police after finding a firearm in her home in Montgomery County. The weapon was one of the two that were reported stolen from Gilmer Street.

Cruz allegedly confessed to the crime and informed law officials where the other firearm could be found hidden in the home.

Felon convicted of possessing stolen firearm

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro convicted felon who was found to be in possession of a stolen firearm was sentenced on Aug. 12.

Christopher L. Wright, 41, pleaded guilty to the charges of possession of firearms by certain persons and theft by receiving. He was sentenced to two years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Wright was arrested on Aug. 5, 2024 at a home in Antoine by officers trying to serve misdemeanor Clark County warrants. Wright initially lied to the officers about his identity and when threatened with more charges he admitted his real name.

Wright was found to be in possession of a handgun that had

been reported stolen out of Hot Springs in 2017.

On Aug. 17, Michael T. Cates, 38, of Kirby, had his probation

extended by one year after he pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his probation.

Tourism Commission approves AC purchase

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission voted to replace the air conditioning unit at their rental property.

Board chairman Jamie Terrell said that there was “not much reason to repair” the unit that was approximately 30 years old.

He said they had one quote at around \$9,000, but the commission would seek another couple quotes from in-county businesses.

A small group of stakeholders attended a meeting on Monday

with state officials and elected representatives to discuss the Crater of Diamonds State Park and its importance to the community and county.

The commission voted to allow a \$3,000 budget for the Keith Stone Memorial Car Show on Saturday, Sept. 19 for expenses such as trophies and door prizes.

The commission also voted to help the Chamber’s haunted house effort to update animatronics and decor. The commission will purchase up to \$1,500 worth of equipment to be used by the chamber for the popular event.

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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: Is there a cure for psoriasis?

A: Psoriasis is an autoimmune skin disorder in which skin cells multiply faster than normal. It can take up to 30 days to replace new skin cells, but in those affected by psoriasis the process occurs every three to four days. A study in the National Library of Medicine estimates that more than 7.5 million adults in the U.S. have psoriasis.

The exact cause of psoriasis is unknown. The condition tends to run in families, which indicates a genetic tendency to develop psoriasis. Smoking can increase the risk of developing psoriasis and exacerbate the symptoms. It can affect people of any age or sex and is not contagious. Cold and dry conditions, hormonal changes, infections, medications such as beta blockers and lithium, and stress can trigger a psoriasis outbreak.

While psoriasis can appear anywhere on the skin, it is most common on the face, elbows and knees, palms and feet, and the scalp. Symptoms include cracked, dry, or itchy skin, joint pain, and small scaly spots. Symptoms can flare for a few weeks before subsiding.

The condition cannot be cured. Treatment includes moisturizers for dry skin, medicated lotions or shampoos, or steroid creams. Visit your health care provider if you have questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

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Resident offers further background into Campbell Memorial

Dear Editor,

I am writing to correct some errors in the story “Pike County’s favorite son honored with memorial highway designation,” published in the August 12, 2026 edition of the Nashville News-Leader.

The story states, “The legislative effort was started in 2023 in Arkansas Senate Bill 535...following the groundwork done by the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission.”

This statement omits that the effort to honor Glen Campbell in this way actually began with a proposal I wrote and submitted to the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission in July 2021. This was prior to any work I did on behalf of the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission. While the proposal was different in some important aspects from the final product (notably, traveling down Billstown Road instead of along SH 26 between Delight and Murfreesboro), this 2021 proposal was the earliest stage of Murfreesboro’s documented effort to create a route in tribute to Campbell.

Source: *Ouachita Lineman Trail proposal would honor Glen Campbell* | *Southwest Arkansas News*

At the time I began working for the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission in February 2022, no progress had been made regarding the original proposal. By the summer of 2022, I was drafting the bill that would be sent to the legislature based on my original proposal. The route described in the pro-

posal and the route contained in SB535 match one another. The bill was completed by the time the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission eliminated my position in December 2022. Legislative staff made minor edits prior to the bill’s presentation in the legislature in March 2023 to use standard language and formatting for Arkansas bills, such as altering how the routes were written out, but not altering material aspects (such as the actual route under consideration).

Text of Bill: <https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2023R%2FPublic%2FSB535.pdf>

The bill failed because it was tabled in committee and was never brought back up for a vote. It ultimately died upon sine die at the adjournment of the session. However, the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission believed that the bill had been passed. At the March 2024 meeting of the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission, the Commission erroneously believed that the bill had passed and that the Campbell family was holding up progress on the signage (neither of which was correct).

Source: *M’boro hears report from state tourism conference* | *Southwest Arkansas News*

Shortly afterward, in late March or early April 2024, Jane Fugitt contacted me to ask how the commission could have signs posted for the Campbell route along the road. I explained that SB535 had not become law. At her request, I subsequently sent

her my earlier work on the Glen Campbell Memorial Highway legislation. I no longer retain records of that telephone conversation or email exchange, so I offer this portion of the chronology from my recollection.

I do not offer this correction to diminish the work of those who revived the effort and ultimately brought the Glen Campbell Memorial Highway designation to a successful conclusion. They deserve credit for accomplishing something that the earlier effort did not. I am glad to see the signs standing today.

I simply hope that the historical record will also reflect that the effort did not begin in 2023. A Glen Campbell route was proposed to the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission in 2021, and I drafted the legislation that became SB535 in 2022.

I congratulate the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission, the Campbell family, and other parties involved in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. I hope that the Glen Campbell Memorial Highway can have a positive impact on South Pike County for as long as music has the power to touch the chords of the heart.

Sincerely,
Jonathon Lance
Nashville, AR

Area families can access food assistance and apply for energy bill help at one event

MURFREESBORO -- As families continue to navigate rising household costs, a unique community partnership is bringing two essential forms of assistance directly to residents in south Arkansas.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, at 204 E. Main Street (the old Municipal Building) in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, Harvest Texarkana, community action agency Central Arkansas Development Council and SWEPCO will host a mobile food pantry event that goes beyond food distribution by connecting families with resources to help reduce energy burdens.

Earlier this year, the SWEPCO Foundation awarded a grant to Harvest Regional Food Bank to help bring food and energy assistance directly to families across southwest Arkansas. Following a successful kickoff event in Nashville, the partnership’s second community stop will be August 19 in Murfreesboro, where residents can receive fresh food and meet with a Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) representative to apply for federal LI-HEAP energy assistance.

At each event, families will receive fresh food boxes while SWEPCO team members provide information about bill assistance pro-

grams, flexible payment options such as Pay As You Go, and practical energy-saving tips that can help lower monthly expenses.

Check-in begins at 7 a.m. in Murfreesboro. Food assistance is available to Pike County residents. Individuals seeking a food box must present a valid photo ID and proof of address.

Residents interested in applying for federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) summer cooling assistance should bring proof of identity, a Social Security card or other approved documentation, proof of household income, copies of their most recent cooling-related utility bills, and a copy of their lease agreement if they live in subsidized housing or have utilities included in their rent.

Representatives from the Central Arkansas Development Council (CADC) will be on-site to help eligible residents begin the LIHEAP application process and answer questions about available assistance. For more information about LIHEAP or to apply online, visit www.cadc.com.

LIHEAP PROGRAM

The 2026 Summer Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) regular assistance program will be ending August 31, 2026.

If needing regular assistance, applications must be submitted by this date.

The 2026 Summer Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) crisis assistance program is currently open and will remain open until September 30, 2026.

LIHEAP applications are available in all 19

Hot weather tips for enjoying the outdoors

LITTLE ROCK -- The temperatures across Arkansas are heating up and Arkansas State Parks is encouraging all visitors to recreate responsibly and stay safe while enjoying outdoor adventures. Park staff remain prepared to welcome guests with hospitality and guidance, and remind everyone that memorable moments can still be made safely, even in hot conditions with the right preparation.

Hot Weather Hiking Tips Arkansas State Parks recommends the following precautions for anyone planning to hike during extreme heat:

- Make sure you choose the right trail: Review maps and select routes that match your ability. Consider exploring a shaded, shorter trail if your original plan is better suited for cooler weather.
- Check the weather: Stay aware of heat advisories and thunderstorms. Whenever possible, plan athletic activities for early morning or evening hours.
- Carry plenty of water: Bring at least one

liter (32 ounces) of water per person, and water for pets. Begin hydrating early, before you feel thirsty.

- Stay together: Let the slowest hiker set the pace and keep your group close.
- Watch for heat illness: If you feel dizzy, weak or overheated, it’s okay to turn back. Our parks will be here to welcome you on a cooler day.
- Take breaks often: Make sure to enjoy the journey. Rest in shade whenever possible.

Arkansas State Parks invites guests to enjoy the outdoors safely and responsibly. With planning and proper hydration, you can still experience the spirit of adventure that makes our parks special. We look forward to welcoming you, no matter what adventure you choose in our parks.

Established in 1923, Arkansas State Parks preserve special places for future generations, provide quality recreation and education opportunities and enhance the state's economy through tourism.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS PLAINTIFF

vs. Docket No. 55CV-26-104

ALL PARTIES KNOWN AND UNKNOWN,
INCLUDING HEATH BUCK and SHANNA BUCK,
HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE HEREIN DESCRIBED
REAL PROPERTY DEFENDANTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Petition has been filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk

of Pike County, Arkansas, to quiet and confirm title in and to the following described property situated in Pike County, Arkansas, to wit:

First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, Arkansas per D273 at Page 565:

A part of the NE-4 NE-4 and part of the NW-4 NE-4 of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 26 West, Pike County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the NE Corner of Section 2 (where once was a 1” pipe) and run thence N87°56’19W, 129.97 feet along the Northerly Boundary of said Section 2, to a RR Spike found for the SE Corner of Section 35, Township 8 South, Range 26 West, and run thence N88°07’30”W, 738.21 feet still along the Northerly Boundary of Section 2 to a point, leaving the Section Line, run thence S00°08’31”W, 480.00 feet to a ½” rod found for the Point of Beginning; continue thence S00°08’31”W, 197.86 feet to a ½” rod found; run thence S89°26’52”W, 738.00 feet to a ½ rod found; run thence N05°00’00”W, 300.00 feet to a ½” rod found; run thence S83°00’00”E, 770.35 feet back to the Point of Beginning, containing 4.271 acres, more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT, per D275 at Page 414:

A part of the Fractional NE-4 NE-4 of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 26 West, Pike County, Arkansas, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a 1” pipe found for the NE Corner of the NE-4 NE-4 of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 26 West, and run thence N87°56’19”W, 129.97 feet along the Northerly Boundary of Section 2, to a RR Spike found, run thence N88°07’30”W, 738.21 feet also along the Northerly Boundary of Section 2 to a ½” rod found, leaving the Section Line, run thence S00°08’31”W, 480.00 feet to a ½” rod found, run thence N83°00’00”W, 230.88 feet to a ½” rod set at a point that is 10.0 feet distant from and perpendicular to the East wall of an existing building, this point being the Point of Beginning, run thence S10°34’58”W, 36.45 feet parallel to the said building to a ½” rod set, run thence N79°25’02”W, 56.08 feet parallel with the South wall of the said building to a ½” rod set, run thence N10°34’58”E, 32.94 feet parallel with the West wall of the building to a ½” rod set, run thence S83°00’00”E, 56.19 feet back to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.045 acres, more or less.

Any person claiming title or interest of any kind to said property is hereby notified to appear herein on or before thirty (30) days from the last date of publication of this Notice, to assert his or her title or interest in said property and to demonstrate why title to this property should not be quieted and confirmed in First United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, Arkansas, Plaintiff herein.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court this 29th day of July, 2026.

Sabrina Williams,
Pike County Circuit Clerk

(e.t.b., 608w, 6,7,8,9)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Act 626 of 1983, as amended, the Commissioner of State Lands will hold a public auction to dispose of the tax delinquent parcels which are listed below, all located in **PIKE** County, Arkansas. The auction will be held at the Avalon Keep Botanical Gardens - Event Center located at 4671 AR-8 in Mena, Arkansas, at 10:00 a.m. on September 23, 2026. Bidder registration will commence at 9:00 a.m.

The parcels will be sold to the highest bidder, provided that such bid is equal to at least the total amount of taxes, penalty, interest, and costs due as certified to the Commissioner of State Lands. The full purchase price must be paid immediately following the sale. Payment can be made with a personal or business check, cashier's check, money order, or credit/debit card. No cash payments will be accepted. The owner of record has until 4:00 p.m. CT on the last business day prior to the auction to redeem the property. All sales are final. The purchaser will receive a Limited Warranty Deed for the property from the Commissioner of State Lands. The title conveyed by the Commissioner of State Lands is not clear title nor a fully warranted title. The Commissioner of State Lands does not guarantee or warrant clear or merchantable title to the property sold. The original owner, assigns, or heirs have a ninety (90) day period during which the validity of the sale may be contested in court.

The Commissioner of State Lands strongly suggests that potential bidders perform their own research on the property listed below to determine its suitability for their uses, the status of the title, the existence of liens, and other tax assessments that may be due, but not collected by the Commissioner of State Lands. The sale of the parcel does not extinguish any lien for delinquent improvement district assessments or relieve the purchaser of liability for delinquent improvement district assessments.

Copies of the complete rules and regulations for the sale of tax delinquent parcels are available from the Commissioner of State Lands Office, 500 Woodlane Street, Suite 109, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 or www.cosl.org.

TOMMY LAND
COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS

Pike County
September 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

11067. ENTRY CANCELLED

11068. CLARK, LOWIE, HEIRS %CAROLYN CROSS S1/2 LOTS 5 & 6 BLOCK 1 S OF WATER STREET DELIGHT 19 8S 23W 0.18 ACRE PARCEL #8000065000 CODE: 61 2021 **TAX DUE \$2,233.07**

11069. FANT, WAYNE, HEIRS PT SE1/4 SW1/4 9 5S 24W 2.17 ACRES INTERESTED PARTIES: WENDY FANT PARCEL #00101565001 CODE: 23 2021 **TAX DUE \$675.15**

11070. FANT, WAYNE PT SW1/4 SE1/4 SW1/4 9 5S 24W 1.00 ACRE INTERESTED PARTIES: WENDY FANT PARCEL #00101564000 CODE: 22 2021 **TAX DUE \$403.91**

11071. GENTRY, COY, HEIRS %COZETTA LEEPER LOT 9 NORTH OF HIGHWAY MCELHANNON ADDITION RURAL 22 8S 23W 0.20 ACRE PARCEL #22000009000 CODE: 53 2021 **TAX DUE \$191.79**

11072. GILLEYLEN, KAREN KAY FOSHEE %WILLIAM SCOTT & KAREN GILLEYLEN E HWY NW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 9 8S 25W 0.26 ACRE PARCEL #00104611000 CODE: 42 2021 **TAX DUE \$224.69**

11073. GILLEYLEN, KAREN KAY FOSHEE % WILLIAM SCOTT & KAREN GILLEYLEN PT NW1/4 NW1/4 E HWY UNLOTTED MURFREESBORO 9 8S 25W 0.56 ACRE PARCEL #9000995000 CODE: 64 2021 **TAX DUE \$681.48**

11074. KERSEY, RAYMOND KEITH, HEIRS PT SW1/4 SE1/4 FRL COMMENCING 1060.00 FT WEST OF THE NE CORNER OF THE SE1/4 SE1/4 FRL, SECTION 4, SAID POINT OF COMMENCEMENT BEING THE NE CORNER OF A CERTAIN 11.82 ACRE TRACT OWNED BY ALEX O'NEAL THENCE WEST (S 88 1/2 DEGS WEST) 630.0 FT TO THE POB, THENCE SOUTH 500 FT; THENCE WEST 307 FT TO EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF PALESTINE ROAD; THENCE WITH SAID RIGHTOFWAY NORTH 15 DEGS 00 MINS EAST 267.6 FT, THENCE NORTH 05 DEGS 00 MINS WEST 108 FT THENCE NORTH 23 DEGS 00 MINS WEST 100 FT; THENCE NORTH 37 DEGS 30 MINS WEST 43 FT TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SW1/4 SE1/4 FRL SECTION 4; THENCE WITH NORTH LINE OF SAID FORTY, EAST (N 88 1/2 DEGS EAST) 312 FT TO THE POB 4 6S 25W 3.20 ACRES INTERESTED PARTIES: RAYMOND K KERSEY JR. CHAMBERS BANK PARCEL #00103747000 CODE: 35 2021 **TAX DUE \$3,120.71**

11075. LEEPER, CONWAY, HEIRS & JOHN WALLACE LEEPER %COZETTA LEEPER E 26 2/3 AC EVEN WIDTH SW1/4 SW1/4 16 8S 23W 26.67 ACRES INTERESTED PARTIES: JOHN WALLACE LEEPER, MARY CATHERINE LEEPER PARCEL #00100597000 CODE: 13 2021 **TAX DUE \$415.22**

11076. LEEPER, CONWAY, HEIRS & JOHN WALLACE LEEPER %COZETTA LEEPER LOTS 7 & 8, N HWY 26 MCELHANNON ADDITION RURAL 22 8S 23W 0.38 ACRE PARCEL #22000008003 CODE: 52 2021 **TAX DUE \$1,424.91**

11077. LEEPER, HOLMAN, ESTATE %COZETTA LEEPER PT E1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4 BEGIN AT A POINT AT THE SW CORNER OF THE E1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4 WHERE SAID SW CORNER JOINS HWY 26; THENCE EAST 70 YARDS TO THE POB; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID HIGHWAY 35 YARDS; THENCE NORTH 70 YARDS; THENCE WEST 35 YARDS; THENCE SOUTH 70 YARDS TO THE POB 22 8S 23W 0.50 ACRE PARCEL #00100754000 CODE: 14 2021 **TAX DUE \$232.51**

1078. NAIL, TERESA PT LOT 37 (APPROX 4' X 150') BLOCK 4 O M LEEFERS DEV ADDITION RURAL 12 6S 27W INTERESTED PARTIES: LYNN NAIL PARCEL #64000011000 CODE: 57 2021 **TAX DUE \$170.89**

11079. NELSEN, FRED M. PT SE1/4 NE1/4 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF SAID 40 ACRE TRACT; THENCE EAST 915.25 FT; THENCE SOUTH 210 FT; THENCE EAST 209 FT TO THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF U.S. HWY 70; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG THE SAID HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY 82 FT TO THE POB; THENCE NORTH 77 DEGS WEST 100 FT; THENCE SOUTH 18 DEGS WEST 142 FT; THENCE SOUTH 77 DEGS EAST 100 FT TO THE WEST BOUNDARY OF RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID HWY; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG AND WITH SAID WEST BOUNDARY OF RIGHT OF WAY 142 FT TO THE POB 35 5S 25W 0.33 ACRE PARCEL #00103618000 CODE: 33 2021 **TAX DUE \$570.67**

11080. REYNOLDS, GARRY LEMLEY & MELISSA KATHRYN PT NE1/4 SW1/4 & NW1/4 SW1/4 SHAWMUT HEIGHTS PT W1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4 & PT E1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4 LAND TRACT NUMBER 20 CONTAINING 6.60 ACRES MORE OR LESS AND LAND TRACT NUMBER 21 CONTAINING 6.25 MORE OR LESS, AND BEGINNING AT THE NE CORNER OF THE W1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4 IN THE TOWN OF SHAWMUT, AND RUN THENCE WEST 210 FT; THENCE SOUTH TO THE MURFREESBORO PUBLIC ROAD; THENCE EAST 210 FT; THENCE NORTH TO THE POB CONTAINING THREE (3) ACRES MORE OR LESS. SHAWMUT HEIGHTS ADDITION RURAL 9 7S 23W 1.56 ACRES PARCEL #1600006000 CODE: 45 2021 **TAX DUE \$596.581**

1081. REYNOLDS, GARRY LEMLEY & MELISSA KATHRYN PT NW1/4 SE1/4 & PT E KELLEY ADDITION, SHAWMUT PT NW1/4 SE1/4 & PT E1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4 (W PT BLOCK 19 & LOT 5 BLOCK 2) W1/2 OF BLOCK 19 OF THE TOWN OF SHAWMUT, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN DEED RECORD BOOK 31 AT PAGE 636, AND ALSO LOT 5 BLOCK 2 KELLEY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF SHAWMUT. (THIS PARCEL HAS TWO DESCRIPTIONS WHICH ARE NOT CONTIGUOUS AND WILL NEED TO BE SPLIT WHEN WORKING ON THE SHAWMUT AREA MAPPING.) KELLEY ADDITION, SHAWMUT ADDITION RURAL 9 7S 23W 1.56 ACRES PARCEL #18000009000 CODE: 51 2021 **TAX DUE \$304.23**

11082. ROUTON, JOHN G. LOT 12 STONERIDGE POINTE ADDITION RURAL SUBJECT TO 40 FOOT ACCESS ROAD R/W AND ADDITIONAL 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG THE NORTHWEST-ERLY LINE OF ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT (SAME AS LINE WITH ACCESS ROAD). 7 7S 25W 3.17 ACRES INTERESTED PARTIES: DIAMOND BANK PARCEL #34500012000 CODE: 56 2021 **TAX DUE \$1,123.22**