

Sample was arrested on June 12 following a domestic disturbance on Old Highway 70 Loop in Glenwood. Sample was allegedly intoxicated and was threatening self-harm and violence toward family members while armed. Sample reported fired a shotgun in the home and was in possession of an AR-15 style rifle, which returned stolen out of Nevada County.

SCHOOL BOARD Continued from Page 1

ing up for sale, perhaps for \$75,000-\$85,000.

"These properties are worth more to us [the school district] because they are right here," Wilcher said. She reiterated she was asking for the board's permission, and assured them that they had the money.

"This is why we keep money in the building fund, for cases just like this." Wilcher told the board that one possibility of the purchase of the brick home would be to move administration to that location, allowing them to be separate yet still on campus.

She said that Shea Caldwell was often interrupted in her bookkeeping duties with visitors to the school.

By moving the administration offices, it would provide more security by allowing the high school administration to be right inside the door, allowing Danny Eckert to play gatekeeper before allowing people into the school.

Wilcher added that space for more mental health facilities and pre-k room would also be options on the table for the location.

The current ABC Pre-K is being held in the old kindergarten classes at MES.

"It would allow us to own most of the block, now that two options have opened up in the last two weeks," Wilcher told the board. "These options won't be available forever."

The board unanimously approved a \$110,000 figure for Wilcher to negotiate with in the possible purchase of the properties.

In personnel matters, the board approved putting Christy Terrell on a bus driver's contract. Terrell will handle the afternoon duties of delivering kids home on the Antoine route, while Chuck Lowery handles the morning shift.

The next school board meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m., which will allow the meeting to close before the home junior high football game that night.

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All letters to the editor must be signed, along with a phone number (that will not be published) provided for confirmation purposes.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 email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net**

U-A Cossatot announces shooting sports, soccer schedules

DE QUEEN - UA Cossatot Shooting Sports have unveiled their fall 2026 slate, with five trips on the schedule before the end of the new year.

Cossatot will look to have another successful season and build off a 2025-26 season that included two top-three finishes at the Tri-States Championships.

The Colts begin Aug. 20-23, with a return to a familiar location, competing at the Bair Hatcher Memorial Shoot at the Fort Worth Trap & Skeet Club in Fort Worth, Texas. That is followed up by an appearance in the Magnolia Collegiate Classic in Sedalia, Mo. on Sept. 26-27.

October begins with another appearance at the Central Midwest Conference Champ in Sparta, Ill on Oct. 9-11. The Colts came in 15th in last year's event. UAC finishes up October at their home range, with the Remington Gun Club in Lonoke, Ark. playing host to the Magnolia Clay Classic on Oct. 24-25.

The fall season concludes on Nov. 7-8, with the Colts traveling to Ellsworth, Kan. to take part in the Red Devil Classic.

LADY COLTS SOCCER

The Colts are seeking to defend a pair of trophies in 2026, having won the Region 2 and Central District titles for the first time in UAC athletics history en route to a historic appearance at the NJCAA National Championships in Wichita, Kansas.

The 2026 regular season begins with an out-of-state trip, as the Colts, who received votes in the preseason national rankings, start things off with a 2 p.m. match against preseason No. 1 Northwest Mississippi. The home opener takes place 48 hours later, as Cossatot will play host to in-state rivals UA Rich Mountain at the Colts Soccer Complex in De Queen. Another pair of Friday and Sunday matches cap off August, as a trip to Dallas College Cedar Valley on Aug. 28 at 1 p.m. will be followed by a home match against No. 20 Hinds at 11 a.m. Sunday.

A few more exhibitions will be squeezed into the regular season slate, as a Sept. 2 matchup at 5:45 p.m. against De Queen

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FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.**

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-26-43 -- Joe Stewart, vs. Joyce Wise, divorce, July 23
DR-26-44 -- Mark Reed II, vs. Leah Reed, divorce, Aug. 5
DR-26-45 -- Ryan Mathis, vs. Tiffany Mathis, divorce, Aug. 5
DR-26-46 -- OCSE, vs. Devin Walter, support/OCSE, Aug. 13
DR-26-47 -- Brent Teel, vs. Shannah Byrd, order of protection, Aug. 14
DR-26-48 -- Daniel Eoff, vs. Ashley Rutherford, order of protection, Aug. 17
DR-26-49 -- Melanie Jackson, vs. Shannah Bryd-Teel, order of protection, Aug. 17
DR-26-50 -- Daniel Eoff, vs. Ashley Rutherford, custody, Aug. 19
DR-26-51 -- Maria Jesus Hernandez, vs. Faustino Mezquite, divorce, Aug. 19
DR-26-52 -- David Walker, vs. Candace Walker, divorce, Aug. 20

CIVIL

CV-26-74 -- Cindy Geaneen Gilleylen, name change, June 4
CV-26-75 -- Capital One, vs. Robert Cochran, debt collection, June 5
CV-26-76 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Paula Lowery, debt collection, June 8
CV-26-77 --DF&A, vs. Jacob Love, Reister Arkansas Judgment-CV, June 9
CV-26-78 -- Kimberly Ellis, vs. Glenwood Commerce Plaza LLC ET AL, premises liability, June 12
CV-26-98 -- KC Elite Properties, vs. Trace and Kelli Cox, contract/other, July

21
CV-26-99 --Arkansas Federal Credit
Union, vs. Joceline Oliva, contract/other,
July 22
CV-26-100 -- Jefferson Capital Systems
LLC., vs. Dalton Jay Smith, debt collection,
July 23
CV-26-101 -- LVNV Funding LLC., vs.
Joyce Fugitt, debt collection, July 23
CV-26-102 --LVNV Funding LLC., vs.
Dee Hudson, contract/other, July 27
CV-26-103 -- Jefferson Capital Systems,
vs. Maranda Wilt, debt collection, July 27
CV-26-104 -- First United Methodist
Church, vs. Heath and Shanna Buck, real
property/other, July 29
CV-26-105 --LVNV Funding, vs. Jerry
Pate, contract/other, July 29
CV-26-106 -- Merrick Bank, vs. Stephanie
Marsh, debt collection, July 29
CV-26-107 -- PCA Acquisitions, vs.
Robert Cogburn, debt collection, July 30
CV-26-108 -- State of Arkansas DFA, vs.
Kizzie Harris, Register Arkansas judgment/
CV, July 30
CV-26-109 -- Midland Credit Management,
vs. Judy Williamson, debt collection,
July 30
CV-26-110 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Eric
Fillmer, debt collection, Aug. 3
CV-26-111 -- Cavalry SPV I LLC., vs.
Katlyne Smith, contract/other, Aug. 6
CV-26-112 -- Capital One, vs. James C.
Motley, debt collection, Aug. 10
CV-26-113 -- Cavalry SPV I LLC, vs.
April Lowery, contract/other, Aug. 11
CV-26-114 -- CKS Prime Investments,

vs. Timothy Stubbs, debt collection, Aug. 12
 CV-26-115 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Amanda Marie Anderson, debt collection, Aug. 13
 CV-26-116 -- Arkansas Federal Credit Union, vs. Christopher Cook, contract/other, Aug. 13
 CV-26-117 -- NCB Management Services, vs. Malachi and Kayla Hilton, contract/other, Aug. 14
 CV-26-118 -- Promise Davis, vs. Jerry Deal, Jr., landlord/tenant/unlawful detain, Aug. 17
 CV-26-119 -- LVNV Funding LLC., vs. Belinda Peterson, debt collection, Aug. 17
 CV-26-120 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Treyce Fugitt, debt collection, Aug. 17
 CV-26-121 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Heather Bailey, contract/other, Aug. 18
 CV-26- 122 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Jacob Shirley, debt collection, Aug. 18
 CV-26-123 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Richard Jones, debt collection, Aug. 20
 CV-26-124 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Eric Fillmer, debt collection, Aug. 20
 CV-26-125 -- State of Arkansas, vs. Danny Bishop, property forfeiture, Aug. 21

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Cody Lawrence Nolen, 26, Delight; Natalie Nicole Adcock, 23, Nashville, July 29
Clint Conrad Cox, 59, Nashville; Ruby Regina Wooten, 50, Nashville, Aug. 21

High School and a Sept. 7 11:30 a.m. match against Little Rock Rangers Girls '09 sandwich a regular season home match against Coffeyville at 2 p.m. on Sept. 5.

The Colts will have their first overnight road trip of 2026, playing at Meridian at 3 p.m. on Sept. 11 before playing at Southwest Mississippi at 11 a.m. the following day. The Colts will be off for a week following this until a 7:30 p.m. match away to Dallas College Eastfield on Sept. 19.

Another break precedes a premier matchup of the 2026 season. On Sept. 26 Cossatot and National Park will face off at the Colts Soccer Complex, with one foot in the door for the Central District Final and a National Championships berth up for grabs. As the Colts and Nighthawks are the only two Division II teams in Region 2, the conference title is decided by an aggregate score of the two times the pair of teams face off. UAC put a huge leg up last year on Oct. 1 in Hot Springs, as a 4-1 victory over NPC set up the conference clincher when the Colts won 7-1 Oct. 25.

October begins with a home match against Ranger at 2 p.m. on Oct. 4, before a trip back to Southwestern Adventist four days later. The non-conference slate ends on Oct. 11, as Cossatot hosts a new program Northwest Arkansas in the first-ever matchup between the two programs at 1 p.m.

The away leg against NPC comes on Oct. 21, with the Colts playing to defend their conference crown at 4 p.m.

The Central District Final takes place in early November, with the NJCAA National Championships beginning on Nov. 15 at Spencer Sports Complex located within John Hunt Park in Huntsville, Alabama.

COLTS SOCCER

UA Cossatot men's soccer head coach Justin Hinman announced the 2026 Colts schedule on Thursday, with UAC playing 18 matches this fall.

The Colts are seeking their first conference title in their fourth season, having fallen one goal short in 2025 to rivals National Park College. The NPC matchups will be crucial, as the winner of the two-legged season series captures the Region 2 Division II conference crown and advances to the Central District Final, where they will play for a berth in the NJCAA Division II National Championships.

The 2026 regular season begins with an out-of-state trip, as the Colts play a 4 p.m. match against Northwest Mississippi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on November 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. the contents of the following storage units may be auctioned off to satisfy the operator's lien. The sale will take place at the location of the storage unit on Highway 19 in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. All sales will be for cash and the buyer will be responsible to remove all contents from the storage unit and sweep it clean.

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Don't keep great farms a secret ... join the farm trail

In a previous article, I wrote about the 250th program Old Washington did with their park passport, and I absolutely loved it! There is just something fun about having a little passport in

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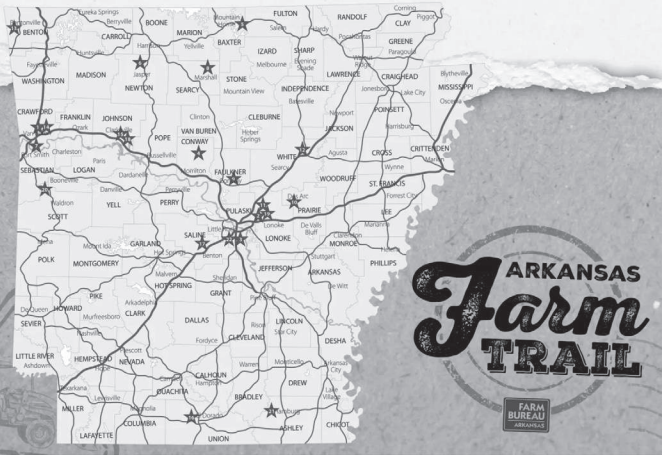
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your hand and getting to check places off as you visit them. It gives you an excuse to get out, explore somewhere new, and maybe learn a thing or two while you're at it. Well, come to find out, Farm Bureau has something similar and, of course, this one is right up my alley.

The Arkansas Farm Bureau has a Farm Trail passport that highlights farms right here in our state. The whole idea is to encourage people to get out and visit Arkansas farms while giving farmers an opportunity to showcase what they grow, raise, make, teach, or offer right there on their own property.

Earlier this year, through Women's Leadership, I had the opportunity to visit one of the farms featured on the trail: Urbana Farmstead. They focus on teaching people how to homestead in urban areas, which immediately caught my attention. You don't necessarily have to own hundreds of acres or even live way out in the country to learn how to grow food, become a little more self-sufficient, and incorporate pieces of farm life into your everyday routine. I really enjoyed seeing everything they had to offer and, naturally, came home with even more ideas floating

around in my head. Now, have I successfully grown my own produce yet? Absolutely not. But I am still trying, and I have not given up on my little homesteading dreams just yet! If anything, visiting places like Urbana Farmstead gives me a little more inspiration to keep trying even if my garden hasn't quite gotten the memo yet.

That visit also got me thinking about what we have right here at home.

Wouldn't you want your farm to be on that passport?

We are looking for local farms in Pike County to participate in the Farm Trail! Think about all the things our farmers and producers have to offer. Maybe you grow produce, raise livestock, sell something made or grown on your farm, offer educational opportunities, or have an experience that would give visitors a glimpse into agriculture. Whatever makes your operation special, this is a chance to share it.

So, seriously, if you have a farm that could be part of the trail or know somebody who does call Pike County Farm Bureau and find out how to get your farm on that list.

ARDOT releases phase two of road safety program

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) has launched Phase Two of its award-winning children's road safety education program known as Street Smart -- developed in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE).

Street Smart Phase One launched ahead of the 2025-26 school year with classroom materials and lesson plans for grades 6 through 8. Street Smart Phase Two expands the program for the 2026-27 school year with a brand new slate of materials for grades 9 through 12.

The high school materials come as one package that educators can use at any point during a student's high school career. They include 12 lessons, one interactive trivia game, and nine videos featuring real Arkansas teens.

While the middle school curriculum focuses on pedestrian, bicycle, and passenger safety, the high school curriculum shifts the focus to the driver's seat -- covering situations new drivers may not have learned about on their driver's test. Topics include work zone safety, the dangers of speeding and impaired driving, what to do when pulled over, sharing the road with other vehicles, interacting with commercial motor vehicles, navigating roundabouts, and more.

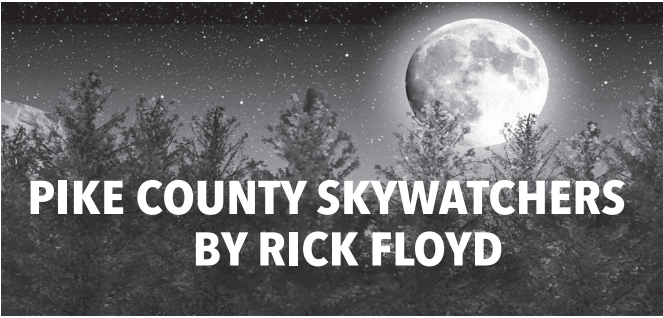
"Education is an important pillar of roadway safety. The Street

Smart program was created for new drivers and the drivers of tomorrow. The program brings active and engaging lessons to young people and meets them where they are," ARDOT Director Jared Wiley said. "My desire is that educators in Arkansas continue to learn about and incorporate these ready-built lessons into their curriculum. Together we can improve roadway safety in Arkansas for generations to come."

Street Smart was nationally recognized with two awards -- an Hermes and a Telly -- for the quality of its video content. All Street Smart materials were created alongside ADE and a panel of real Arkansas educators. The materials meet state education standards and have received an ADE stamp of approval.

The classroom materials are free upon request to any educator in Arkansas by visiting the program's website: StreetSmartAR.org.





PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Moon to feature eclipse, Earth still likely not flat

August presents its full moon this year with just a few days to spare. Most often referred to as the Sturgeon Moon, this one brings a bit extra to its appearance on Thursday August 27.

It will rise shortly after sunset and soon after it will start to enter Earth's shadow which will be barely discernible at first. But the shadow will deepen until the Moon is in partial eclipse at about 11:13 p.m. CDT. It is predicted that Earth's umbra, the deepest part of its shadow, will cover from 92 to 96 % of the Moon, and we might see a "blood moon" glowing in copper, orange or red. The Moon will gradually move out of the shadow, and return to full natural glow at about 3 a.m.

Sturgeons, by the way, were a source of food for native peoples and early pioneer settlers. There are actually three species of sturgeons in Arkansas, the most common being the shovelnose which is found in fast flowing rivers including the Mississippi and Arkansas. The other two are rarer, the pallid and the lake sturgeons. Interestingly, sturgeons are considered to be a fossil fish, given their long history recorded in stone going back 200 million years or so. They can grow to a large seven to twelve feet in length and have a lifespan of more than 100 years. So, take that into consideration if you are thinking sturgeon moon does not have a "ring" to it like other moons of the year, such as Wolf or Buck.

Recent science news referred to new studies possibly confirming that the universe is flat. Euclidean flat, it was said, not flat like a sheet of paper. It will take a bit of mental gymnastics to wrap your head around that. Scientists still insist, however, that the Earth is not flat.

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Obituaries

Hershel Thomas Simmons, 85, Kirby

Hershel Thomas Simmons of Kirby, Arkansas, passed away on August 20, 2026 at his home at the age of 85. He was born to Tom and Elsie Golden Simmons on September 10, 1940 in Kirby, Arkansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Billy Simmons, as well as three brothers, Jack Simmons, R.T. Simmons and Boyce Simmons.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife, Mary "Patsy" Simmons

of Kirby; two sons, Johnny Simmons and wife, Shelia, of Nashville and Danny Simmons of Kirby; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at the Mt. Joy Freewill Baptist Church near Daisy. Interment followed in the Mt. Joy Cemetery.

Martha Dean Gentry, 82, Antoine

Martha Dean Gentry, age 82 of Antoine, Arkansas passed away Friday, August 21, 2026 at a Little Rock hospital unexpectedly. She was born July 7, 1944 to the late Lemmer M. and Lucille Whisenant Lockeby.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Carlos Lockeby; three sisters, Marie McBryde, Fannie Stone, and Frances Lewallen.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband

of 62 years (63 years in October), Gary Gentry of Antoine; three children, Terri (Robby) Chafin, Ashdown, Regenia Foreman, Antoine, and Brandon Gentry of Antoine; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the Antoine Cemetery, with Bro. Brent Alexander officiating. Visitation immediately followed at the Antoine Community Building.



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UAMS

HOUSE CALL



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

Q: What are the risks of rapid weight loss?

A: The desire lose weight is a common one. Whether it is a personal goal to get in better shape or a medical condition exists that can improve with weight loss, losing weight too quickly can be detrimental to overall health.

Rapid weight loss can cause physical issues such as electrolyte imbalances, dehydration, gallstones, and malnutrition. Cutting out entire food groups when trying to lose weight quickly can result in constipation, fatigue, hair loss, irritability, and an increased chance of acquiring illnesses due to a less effective immune system.

While fat can be lost while losing weight, a reduction in muscle mass can also occur if

undertaking aggressive methods during the process. Losing muscle can result in poor balance, a loss of bone density, difficulty performing daily activities, a slower metabolism, and less stamina.

Losing weight can improve your overall health, but it is important to do so in a safe and effective manner. A frequent result of rapid weight loss is regaining the weight due to being unable to stay with the methods that caused the weight loss. An effective weight loss plan may include medications, exercise, and healthy foods. Contact your health care provider if you have questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



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4-H Tech Changemakers create positive differences

When people hear “4-H,” livestock projects may be one of the first things that come to mind. However, 4-H offers young people opportunities in many different areas, from performing arts and cooking to leadership, science, technology, and community service. As we continue our “4-H Is More Than Livestock” series, Edition 3 highlights 4-H Tech Changemakers, a program that gives youth ages 9–19 an opportunity to build digital skills while using what they learn to make a difference in their communities.

YOUTH LEADING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY
4-H Tech Changemakers is a community-centered program that prepares young people to become digital leaders. Participants receive training and hands-on experience with technology and then use that knowledge to help others develop important digital skills. The program also brings awareness to the digital divide, which can affect individuals who have limited access to reliable internet or who may not have the skills or confidence needed to use technology effectively. This can be especially important in rural communities, where digital skills are increasingly needed for education, employment, communication, health-care, and many everyday tasks. By combining technology with service, Tech Changemakers allows 4-H members to put their knowledge to work in meaningful ways while gaining valuable real-world experience.

PIKE COUNTY TECH CHANGEMAKERS IN ACTION
Pike County 4-H members have embraced the Tech Changemakers program by participating in trainings designed to give them new ideas and activities to bring back to their county. During a recent training in Little Rock, Pike County participants



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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learned programs and activities including Focus Friend; Pitch It, Teach It, Change It; Strong Passwords; and Ozobots Advanced Color-Coding. Each activity offers a different way for youth to explore technology while practicing communication, creativity, and problem-solving. The experience doesn’t end when the training is over. Pike County 4-H members have opportunities to put their new skills into action through events such as T.O.T.E. Day—Teaching Others Through Experience. T.O.T.E. Day gives 4-H members the chance to share their knowledge through hands-on activities. Rather than simply participating in a lesson, youth take responsibility for demonstrating activities, explaining concepts, answering questions, and helping others succeed. It is a great example of the 4-H philosophy of “learning by doing.” Youth first experience something themselves and then gain an even deeper understanding by sharing it with someone else.

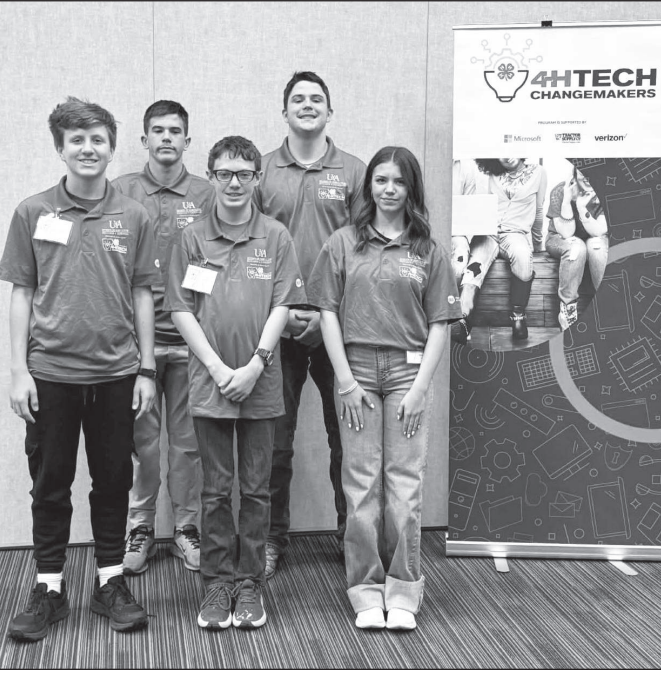
BUILDING SKILLS BEYOND TECHNOLOGY
Although digital education is at the heart of Tech Changemakers, the benefits reach far beyond technology. Standing in front of a group, explaining an activity, working through challenges, and helping someone understand a new concept builds skills that youth can use throughout their lives. Through these experiences, 4-H members strengthen communication, public speaking, teamwork, patience, responsibility, problem-solving,



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and leadership. These skills can benefit them in school today and later as they enter college, the workforce, and their communities. Programs such as Tech Changemakers also show young people that they don’t have to wait until they are adults to be leaders. Their knowledge and abilities have value right now, and even something they recently learned can become an opportunity to help someone else.

MORE THAN TECHNOLOGY
Tech Changemakers is another example of the variety of experiences available through Pike County 4-H. Technology may be the tool, but the bigger goal is helping young people become confident, capable individuals who are prepared to use their skills in the real world. From raising livestock and performing on stage to exploring technology and serving their communities, 4-H gives young people many different paths to discover what interests them and where their talents can take them. Stay tuned for Edition 4 of our “4-H Is More Than Livestock” series as we continue highlighting the many projects, programs, and opportunities available through Pike County 4-H. 4-H is more than what young people do—it’s about who they become along the way. Through experiences like Tech Changemakers, Pike County 4-H is helping youth learn, lead, serve, and become Beyond Ready for the future.



‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

GROWING IN THE LORD
Hebrews 5:12-14

This requires loving diligence from God’s family. The overseers of the church are expected to lead in this very important endeavor. There is no shame in not being skilled in the word if sufficient time has not passed for growth. However, when the maturity rate does not keep pace with the passage of time; we need to be taught to help us get back to the level of service God expects. The real possibility of falling away is present with all of us. This is especially true for those who are only superficially involved in the work of the church. Daily service to the Lord is largely a matter of personal dedication on our part. No one is able to keep tabs on the fervor of our faith; therefore, we must take heed

progress our soul is making. We need to make sure we are trying each moment to make our calling and election sure. The inward man must grow until we die.

It takes time for babes in Christ to come to maturity. They just do not have the knowledge they need to live the Christian life. They need the milk of the word until they are able to digest the meat or solid spiritual food of the Gospel. It takes years of study, direction and service. They need more mature disciples to provide example and encouragement. Support is needed when the winds of trial and discouragement blow. Many times the immature Christian does not know how badly they need that support.

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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

THE MOTHER MARY.

AS THE MOTHER OF THE MAN DESTINED TO BECOME THE MESSIAH, MARY COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THE FULL FATE THAT AWAITED HER SON, BUT WHENEVER SHE IS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IT IS EVIDENT THAT SHE WAS A PATIENT AND TRUSTING WOMAN. ONLY ONCE DID SHE CHIDE HER SON--THE INSTANCE BEING THAT OF THEIR TRIP TO JERUSALEM WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE YEARS OF AGE (LUKE 2:42) WHEN THEY HAD TO GO BACK A FULL DAY'S JOURNEY BECAUSE THE YOUNG JESUS HAD STAYED BEHIND IN THE CITY TO CONVERSE WITH THE DOCTORS AND RABBIS IN THE TEMPLE. ONLY A VERY PATIENT AND SPIRITUALLY MINDED MOTHER WOULD HAVE PUT UP WITH THE ANSWER THAT HER SON GAVE HER-- AFTER HAVING TO GO THREE MORE WORRI/SOME DAYS BEFORE FINDING HIM! (LUKE 2:49)

ONE OF THE LAST PICTURES THAT WE HAVE OF HER IS, STILL PATIENT AND SUFFERING, WAITING BESIDE THE CROSS FOR HER SON TO DIE IN AGONY--AND NEVER COMPLAINING OF HER ROLE IN LIFE OR THE SORROWS SHE HAD TO CONTEND WITH-- A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF A DEVOTED AND PIOUS MOTHER!

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- EMMYS
* -- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS
- 1. Cut off
 - 6. “Be quiet!”
 - 9. Yellowjacket
 - 13. Brunch offering
 - 14. Lawyers’ org.
 - 15. Capital of Vietnam
 - 16. Without illumination
 - 17. Harland David Sanders’ title, abbr.
 - 18. Abhorrence
 - 19. * ____ Theater, Emmys venue
 - 21. *2026 Emmy Awards host
 - 23. Fah follower
 - 24. Like a certain eagle
 - 25. Grill master’s acronym
 - 28. Aussie’s neighbor
 - 30. Kick the bucket
 - 35. Look angry
 - 37. Opposite of riches
 - 39. Holiday spirit spreader
 - 40. Soprano’s song
 - 41. Introduction
 - 43. Flocculant, for short
 - 44. Queen Elizabeth’s favorite dog breed
 - 46. Dog command
 - 47. * ____ show, like nominated “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”
 - 48. Works dough
 - 50. Highest volcano in Europe
 - 52. “I agree”
 - 53. Winter woe
 - 55. Publisher’s revenue source, pl.
 - 57. * “Euphoria” Lead Actress nominee
 - 61. *Most nominated series for 2026 Emmys (2 words)
 - 65. Love, in Paris
 - 66. Don’t waste
 - 68. Ottoman Empire VIP
 - 69. Carried a torch
 - 70. Biochemistry acr.
 - 71. Scrabble pieces
 - 72. Editor’s “let it stand”
 - 73. “ ____ or nothing”

74. Kind of peak
- DOWN
- 1. Fish a.k.a. porgy
 - 2. European sea eagle
 - 3. Velum, pl.
 - 4. “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey,” e.g.
 - 5. Did the test again
 - 6. Quarterback’s downfall
 - 7. *Network/streamer with most nominations for 2026 Emmys
 - 8. Chinese Checkers predecessor
 - 9. Dry riverbed
 - 10. Type of cuckoos
 - 11. Middle Eastern market
 - 12. Type of cotton fiber
 - 15. Vast multitudes
 - 20. Bird sound
 - 22. Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 24. Biased
 - 25. *Nominee Jason Bateman’s “ ____ Rabbit”
 - 26. B on Mendeleev’s table
 - 27. One-twentieth of a ream
 - 29. W in VFW.
 - 31. Huck Finn’s escape
 - 32. Embedded design
 - 33. Fur shawl
 - 34. *Jean Smart’s nominated comedy
 - 36. Sitar music
 - 38. *Assigned spot in #19 Across
 - 42. Myna, alt. sp.
 - 45. Driver’s license alternative (2 words)
 - 49. Sushi sauce
 - 51. Experts
 - 54. “Little House on the Prairie” protagonist
 - 56. “The rain in ____ falls mainly on the plain”
 - 57. Nukes
 - 58. What exhaust pipes do
 - 59. Opposite of all
 - 60. Simon and Gurfunkel, e.g.
 - 61. Bluish green
 - 62. Robinson Crusoe’s turf
 - 63. Short for Theodora
 - 64. *Nominated Mark Ruffalo’s drama series
 - 67. *Connor Storrie’s nominated show, acr.

CROSSWORD

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Schedule announced for upcoming Pike County Fair

The Pike County Fair is almost here!! Take a look at the schedule below!! Will we see you there?

- MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7**
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Educational booths, commercial booths, and exhibits may be set up.
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Enter Floral Arrangements, Baked/Food Preparation, Food Preservation, Clothing, Home Furnishings, Crafts, Art, Flowers/Plants, Household Arts, Photography, Photogenic
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Rabbits Tattooed
- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8**
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Enter Baked Goods and Cut Flowers Only.
9:00 a.m. Judging of all entries in Martin and Crawford buildings. These exhibit buildings will be closed during judging. Bring a self-addressed stamped envelope for entries in the Martin building. Buildings will remain closed until after the parade.
9:00 a.m. Poultry and Rabbit judging
12:00 p.m. All livestock must be on premises by noon on Tuesday.
5:00 Parade entries in place
5:30 Parade begins
After Parade concession opens
After Parade Weigh-in (market goat, sheep, market swine, heifer, steer, feeder steer)
Midway open from conclusion of parade - 10:00 p.m.
All barns and exhibit buildings open after parade until 8:00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9**
2:00 p.m. Goat and Lamb Show



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U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

- 7:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Night on the Stage!!
Midway open from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
All barns and exhibit buildings open from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10**
8:00 a.m. 4-H Poultry Chain Released
9:00 a.m. Hog and Cattle Show
7:00 p.m. Pet Pageant (stage)
- FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11**
10:00 a.m. Junior Livestock Premium Sale
6:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin’ Sign Ups
7:00 p.m. Mutton Bustin’
8:00 p.m. Rodeo
Midway open from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

- All barns and exhibit buildings open from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12**
6:30 Mutton Bustin’ Sign Ups
7:00 Mutton Bustin’
8:00 Rodeo
Midway open from 1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
All barns and exhibit buildings open from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13**
12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Exhibits are released. Premium money will be forfeited on any exhibit or ribbons removed before midnight on Saturday. No exceptions! Livestock must be removed on Sunday, September 13. No exceptions! All checks not picked up by December 31, 2026 will forfeit monies.

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As wildfire risk covers Arkansas, extension experts urge vigilance

BY RYAN MCGEENEY
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — With all but six Arkansas counties under a burn ban as of Thursday and elevated risk of wildfires across the state, experts with the Cooperative Extension Service are urging residents to take precautions to protect their land, property and lives.

Jaret Rushing, extension forestry instructor for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said even residents living in one of the few counties not currently under a burn ban should take wildfire risk seriously.

“The weather pattern we’re in — a high-pressure system with swirling winds — is a boiling pot for wildfires,” Rushing said. “The stress that the trees have been under for the past 12 months with the drought has really started to show. There’s been a lot of early leaf-fall this year as well, so there’s a lot of litter on the ground that could act as a fire fuel.”

County judges are responsible for issuing burn bans for their respective counties. According to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, 50 of the state’s 75 counties were in moderate wildfire danger as of Wednesday. The remaining 25, clustered in cen-

tral and south Arkansas, were in high wildfire danger, defined by the department as a situation in which fires “ignite easily and spread quickly.”

“Unattended brush fires and campfires are likely to escape. Fires may become serious if not attacked early,” according to the department’s website.

“From a homeowner perspective, one thing I would recommend is to get rid of all leaf litter in your gutters, on your roof, beside your house and around your yard, because that is going to add fuel to any potential fire,” Rushing said. “Avoid any outside burning, even if you’re not in a county that’s under a burn ban right now, because all it takes is one ember. With as dry as the forests are right now, one ember, with the winds we’re having, could start a very bad forest fire.”

Although weekend rainfall has eased the severity of drought conditions in some areas of Arkansas, most of the state is still abnormally dry. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, portions of some counties, including Chicot, Desha and Drew counties, are in extreme or even exceptional drought, the most intense category.

On Aug. 18, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture announced a new online dashboard dedicated to tracking wildfires in the state. According to the website, there have been more than

WILDFIRE RISK Continued on Page 6

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WILDFIRE RISK

Continued from Page 5

1,000 wildfires in Arkansas in 2026, affecting more than 27,000 acres.

Shane Gadberry, assistant vice president for agriculture and natural resources for the Division of Agriculture, said that while wildfires may primarily be thought of as a rural problem, all residents, regardless of where they live, should be prepared to evacuate in case of a fire emergency.

“Have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and workshop to prevent an isolated fire that could be contained from becoming a much larger challenge to control,” Gadberry said. “Avoid outdoor grilling, especially with charcoal.”

Gadberry said families should agree on a

meeting place and safe routes to get there, ensuring that everyone knows how to get there on their own if they’re separated from the rest of the family. He also advised families to assemble a “go bag,” especially in areas where evacuation is likely.

“The ‘go bag’ should include medications, assistive devices, identification, some form of money, cell phone chargers, changes of clothes if there is potential for extended time from home, water, snacks and pet care items,” he said.

“Keep cell phones charged and handy for emergency calls and keep plenty of fuel in the vehicle if relocation is required,” Gadberry said. “Keep important documents in the home in a fireproof safe.”

Gadberry said that around farms, it’s especially important to inspect equipment for any buildup of thatch that can catch fire.

“I’ve seen fires develop from hidden bird nests on tractor engines, side-by-side engines and trucks idling in tall dead grass,” Gadberry said. “Mounting fire extinguishers in motorized equipment creates easy access for quick response.”

“Be weather-wise,” he said. “If it’s extremely hot and dry, lightning from a thunderstorm can force an evacuation.”

Gadberry said that while many farmers keep ATV or tractor sprayers flushed and full of water during dry conditions, it’s best to avoid activities such as brush hogging since “either hitting debris or equipment failure could start a fire.”

He also advised that farmers “avoid storing large lots of hay in a single location, if possible, to minimize losses in the event of a fire near a hay lot.

“If relocating livestock is an option, have a

plan in place on how soon that needs to take place based on gathering, loading and hauling distance,” he said.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture organizes the Arkansas Firewise USA Program, which provides information and resources to help assess and mitigate wildfire risk. For landowners faced with salvaging damaged timber stands after a wildfire or other natural disaster, Rushing co-authored “Steps for Assessing Storm-Damaged Timber for Salvage Operations” through the University of Arkansas at Monticello’s Arkansas Center for Forest Business.

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

Rattler football now spans a century after team organized in 1926

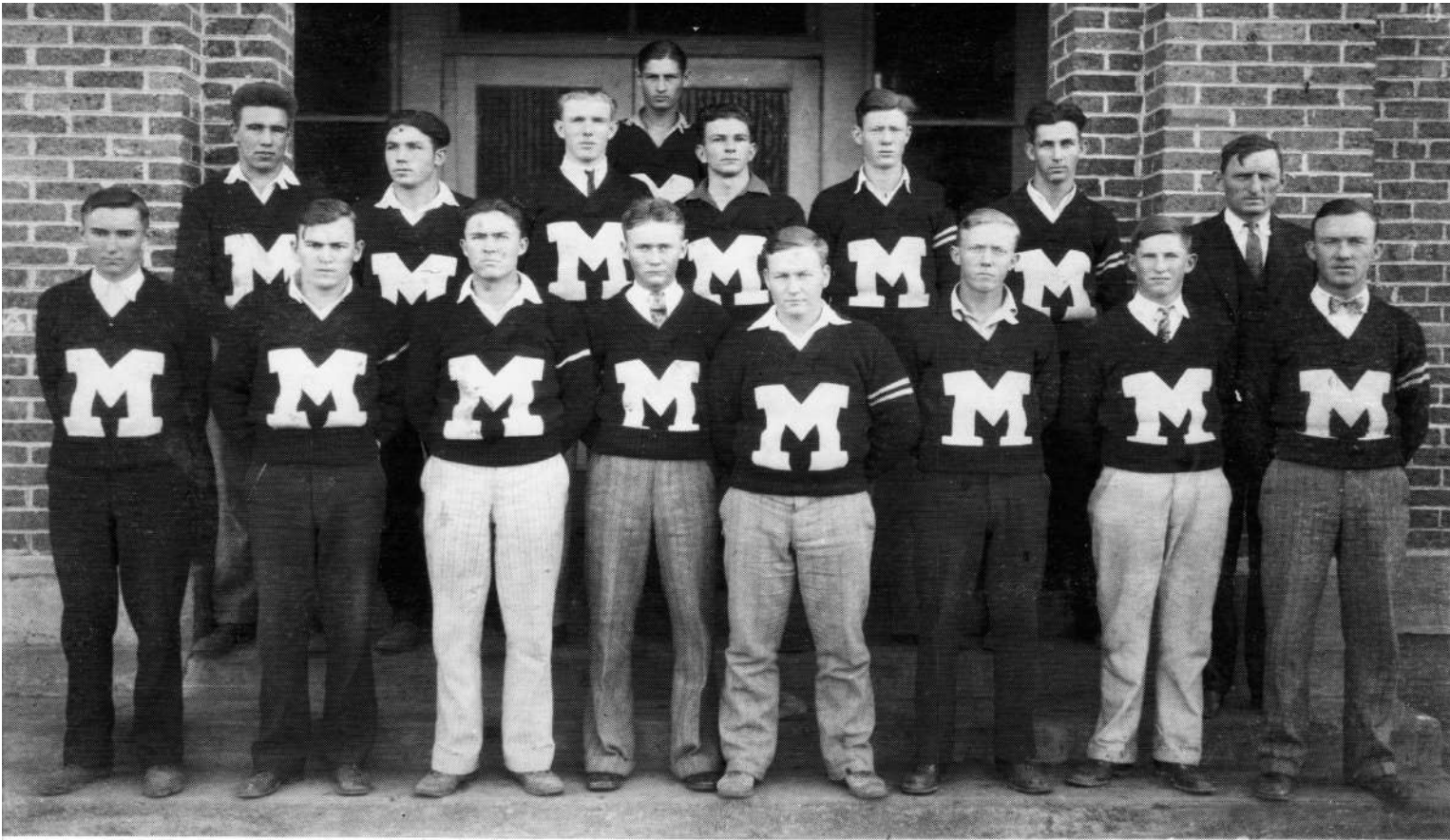
FROM THE ARCHIVES
Pike County Archives And History Society

MURFREESBORO -- One hundred years ago Murfreesboro High School had its first football season. An article in the Pike County Courier newspaper dated September 10, 1926 stated the following: FOOTBALL TEAM HAS BEEN ORGANIZED. School Superintendent Roy Wilson discussed the plans at a meeting at the Court House. He was accompanied by the fifteen or so boys who would be the team that year. Wilson said that he was pleased “for the prospect of a good team, which will be light but with the proper amount of training and natural ‘Grit’there is no reason why we should not be represented in this line of sport.”

Roy Wilson had previously coached sports at another school which is why he was willing to take on the extra responsibility of putting a team together and coaching them through the season. He mentioned that plans were in place to order “suits” and that practice would begin within the week.

He acknowledged that moral and “probably” financial support for the boys from the patrons would be a big help to them.

Later in the season the team decided to call themselves The Rattlers and selected red and white as the team colors. Early reporting in the paper of games often referred to the team as the “Diamond Rattlers.”



Murfreesboro High School Football Team, 1926
Top row (l. to r): Victor "Vic" Holt, Barto Hill, Cletious Strong, Howard Terrell, Henry (Red) O'Brien, Jack Kizzia, & Coach Ray Wilson.
Bottom row: Buddy Branch, Van Reese, Finis Young, Carlos Jones, Howard Lewis, Wilborn Steen, Russell Jones, & Tokio Huddleston.
Captain Whitehad in rear.
(Courtesy of Mae Dean Terrell Holt McCafferty)

State voters to decide on economic districts change in November elections

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW
Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLE ROCK -- The Joint City, County, & Local Affairs Committee met in Hot Springs recently to review and discuss Senate Joint Resolution SJR15, known as Issue 3 on the November ballot.

The proposal would amend the Arkansas Constitution to give the General Assembly broad new authority to support economic development across the state. It would allow lawmakers to create “economic development districts” within cities, counties, or multi-county regions, and permit those districts to issue bonds, levy certain charges, and receive public funds for development projects.

The amendment would allow public money, including loans and grants, to be used for a wide range of economic purposes such as reducing unemployment, expanding transportation and commerce, and improving or developing real estate tied to economic growth. Economic development districts created under this authority could finance projects and issue bonds without being subject to the state’s existing constitutional debt limits.

Local governments would also be allowed to provide funding or lend credit to these districts, an exception to current prohibitions on aiding private entities. The amendment revises definitions of “economic development projects,” “services,” and “infrastructure,” expanding eligible uses to include manufacturing facilities, corporate headquarters, sports complexes, industrial parks, and more.

Property located within an economic development district would be exempt from most taxes, except those levied by the district itself. The amendment also clarifies that bonds backed by property taxes for economic development must still be approved by local voters.

Finally, the measure gives the amendment priority over any conflicting constitutional provisions and includes a severability clause.

Bill sponsor Senator Jonathan Dismang presented to the committee along with Justin Allen, partner at Wright, Lindsey, and Jennings LLP.

There was further discussion on local impact of potential Economic Development Districts from Pope County Judge Ben Cross, Clark County Judge Troy Tucker, and Hillrey Adams, the Mayor of Mountain Home.

Arkansas offers a range of incentives for major industrial projects through the Economic Development Commission, many of them tied directly to job creation. The state also boasts one of the nation’s strongest tax credits for rehabilitating historic buildings. Local officials, however, say a key piece is missing. Arkansas lacks the tools used in most other states to spur investment in retail development, office space, housing, and recreational projects. Forty-eight states provide local sales tax rebates or tax abatements that encourage private investment and help fund the infrastructure needed to support it. Arkansas and Arizona are the only states without such incentives. As a result, local leaders, especially in border communities, say they routinely watch potential projects slip away, either to neighboring states or not at all, because Arkansas cannot offer comparable incentives.

The officials said that Issue 3 gives local control to communities to make their own decisions about incentivizing development they may need.

Senator Dismang emphasized that the development tools are not one-size-fits-all by design. Different tools may be leveraged in different areas to help a community’s specific goals.

If approved by voters, Issue 3 will take effect January 1, 2027.

Stone skipping championships to be held

LITTLE ROCK -- For the first time, the beautiful banks of the Arkansas River will host the annual Great Southern Stone Skipping Championships. It will take place on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at the Murray Park boat launch in Little Rock beginning at 9:00 a.m. Proceeds go to area hunger relief non-profits.

The Great Southern Stone Skipping Championships is free to spectators and they are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers (no glass). Event t-shirts and Loblolly ice cream will be available for purchase. Those wishing to compete pay a \$10 entry fee on the morning of the event. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three finishers in the men’s and women’s flights (13 and older) and the youth flight (12 and younger). Judging will be performed by volunteer military veterans with

keen eyesight from VFW Post 9095.

Since its founding in 2016, the Great Southern Stone Skipping Championships have raised and donated more than \$23,000.00 for hunger relief in Arkansas. More information about the event, including a donation button, can be accessed through the website, www.StoneSkipping.org, or the public group page on Facebook named “Great Southern Stone Skipping Championships.” The event is hosted by Tomfoolery Foundation, Inc., an Arkansas-based nonprofit corporation.

“We encourage families to bring out their lawn chairs and blankets and coolers to enjoy this hilarious and family-friendly event, as we draw closer to the end of summertime on the water,” said Gregg Petersen, event co-founder.

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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

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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)