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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.

Band boosters to sell chances for hunting pack

MURFREESBORO -- The Rattler band boosters are hosting a fundraiser featuring drawings for three outdoor products.

The drawing will be held during the Friday, Oct. 30 Spring Hill home game.

The winner ticket holder will win a 30-gallon American Hunter gravity feeder, an 18-foot Muddy Legend XLT archery stand and a bolt action Glenfield 350 Legend rifle with a 3-12x44 Sig scope.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets.

To purchase tickets, use the QR Code below or pay via Cash App to \$rattlerbandbooster1. All participants must be at least 18 years of age, and should keep receipt as proof of entry. When purchasing tickets, please add your full name and phone number in the payment note.

All proceeds from the sales will support the Rattler Band.



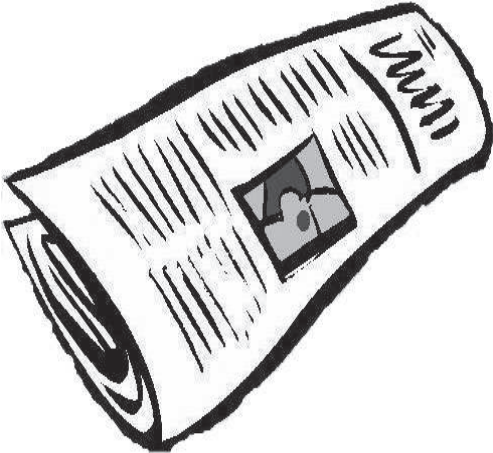
Pecan orders now being taken for holidays

The Pike County Conservation District is now taking orders for Fresh Mammoth Pecans, assorted flavors of Fudge and Raw Peanuts.

The last day to order is October 21. Payment is required when order is placed.

For more information or to place an order call during business hours on Monday through Wednesday (870) 285-2424 or email Pikecountyconservation@gmail.com. The office address is 131 N. Kelley St. Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.

Orders should arrive the second week in November.



DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WORTH TELLING?

Submit Your Local News to the Diamond!

mdiamond@windstream.net

Call (870) 285-2723 For More Information



Submitted photos/PC4-H

THE KNIGHT’S NIGHT ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers opened the 2026 season with a 24-16 loss to Centerpoint at home. Pictured above (left) is Cale Humphry making a jumping catch in the second quarter, while (right) Jarrin Burgess looks to get around a Centerpoint defender.

Rattlers drop opener, travel to Danville this Friday

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers opened the 2026 season with a 24-16 loss to the in-county foe Centerpoint Knights.

Centerpoint opened the scoring in the second quarter with a touchdown and two point conversion to take an 8-0 lead into the halftime break.

Centerpoint would extend the lead to 16-0 early in the third quarter.

Murfreesboro would fight back to even the score in the remainder of the third quarter on a pair of Aiden “Bubba” Stinson scores.

Keith Wilkinson and Cale Humphry would catch 2 point conversion passes after the air of score by Stinson to tie the game at 16.

Centerpoint completed a 14-yard pass in the fourth quarter to take the final lead of 24-16.

Stinson would lead the Rattlers with 44 yards receiving and 19 yards rushing.

Quarterback Kade Caldwell was 8/20 for 130 yards, with a long completion of 34 yards.

Caldwell also added 36 yards rushing on eight carries.

Cale Humphry would gain 17 yards of rushing on four carries and catch 2 passes for nine yards.

Keith Wilkinson had 40 yards on three receptions, while Jarrin Burgess added 37 yards on two receptions.

Centerpoint would control the ballgame with 65 plays to Murfreesboro’s 48, and accrued 285 offensive yards to the Rattlers’ 204. Centerpoint tallied 16 first downs to MHS’ 10.

Centerpoint was 9-15 of third down conversions (60%) and 2-4 (50%) on fourth down attempts. The Rattlers were 5-10 (50%) and 1-2 (50%) on third and fourth down conversions.

Murfreesboro would turn the ball over multiple times, with two fumbles and an interception. The Knights would lose a fumble.

Rattler head coach Jay Turley said that the team executed well on defense, but “didn’t execute well at all offensively ... just the fact that we dropped balls, holding calls and other penalties.”

“I’d like to play them again, Turley said sardonically. “That’s not a knock on them, they did a great job. Coach Carey Rodgers does a great job and those kids played hard. But, we can’t play them again, so hats off to them.”

Turley said the plan was to be more fundamental and disciplined in practice ... we can’t make stupid mistakes. Effort mistakes are fine -- it’s the stupid stuff, the unsportsmanlike stuff, keeping drives alive, stuff like that.”

He said penalties and dropped balls cost the team two chances to score in the red zone to open the game with the score still 0-0.

“We dropped five balls that hit us in the hands. We can’t have that.”

For as much as he disliked the offensive performance, he was equally as pleased with the effort on the defensive side of the ball.

“We came out early and took it to them -- they only scored eight in the first half. If we didn’t keep their drives alive with unsportsmanlike penalties.”

Turley felt both teams were tiring heavily by the end of the game, but that benefitted Centerpoint’s favor in this particular game.

“We only had 48 offensive plays, and we averaged about 70 per game last year. When a team can do that to you, you have to be efficient offensively, you can’t drop balls and make mistakes. You have to score when you get your opportunities. It reminded me a lot of the Spring

Hill game last year, they just kept the ball away from us late in the game. It’s frustrating, but I think we’ll learn from it.”

Turley said there was intent evident in Monday’s practice on behalf of the players.

He added that the injury bug was rearing it’s ugly head after both the scrimmage and first game.

“We just have to get some kids well, some got some sprained ankles and pulled hamstrings.

This Friday the Rattlers will travel to Danville to face the Little Johns. Danville defeated Cossatot River 56-6 to open the season last week.

“They are a much better team [than last year],” Turley said of Danville. They were 3-7 last year, and the quarterback is the coach’s son. He’s a junior this year, and is probably a better runner than a passer, but he does throw it efficiently. He wants to run.”

Turley said it was a doubled edged sword of the two teams (Danville and Murfreesboro) running a very similar styles that will allow for defensive familiarity on both sides.

“They runs some of the same schemes. They look to be a gap scheme team, powers, isos, counters, quick screens and a lot of jet sweeps. They have two or three kids that can run pretty good. Good size -- we are going to have our hands full.”

While Turley admits that Danville looked good against Cossatot River, the latter’s first competitive game in years, he admits they dominated the game as they should have.

“They also played Dardinelle, Class 4-A state runner up last year, to a pretty good scrimmage to open this season,” he said.

Tennessee man unearths Sage Juniper diamond

MURFREESBORO -- Barry G. Smith, of Germantown, Tennessee, recently visited Arkansas’ Crater of Diamonds State Park, where he discovered a stunning canary yellow diamond in the park’s ancient volcanic soil.

Smith arrived at the park on Sunday, August 16, with his wife and two granddaughters, Sage and Juniper. Planning a fun week of exploring Arkansas and Missouri, the Smiths chose Crater of Diamonds State Park as one of the exciting destinations to take the girls.

Not expecting anything more than a fun time, the family rented a wagon and basic kit from the park and began their diamond search. About 30 minutes later, Smith spotted something glimmering in the East Drain of the park’s 37.5-acre diamond search area. At first, he thought it was mica, a small, glittery mineral common in the search area. However, a closer look revealed something much larger.

Smith placed the find in his shirt pocket, thinking it might be quartz or maybe even a diamond, and continued digging with his grandkids until around noon. “It started to get so hot we couldn’t stand it, so we decided to head in around lunchtime,” he said.

Before going to lunch, Smith took his find to the Diamond Discovery Center to have it inspected. Park staff immediately oohed and aahed when Smith placed the shiny gem on the counter. After further inspection, staff confirmed that Smith had found a gorgeous 2.29-carat yellow diamond!

“I was dumbfounded when I first saw the diamond,” said Facility Supervisor Ralph Hall. “Its overall shape and color immediately reminded me of the Pearadin Schumacher American Dream Diamond found earlier this year.”

Diamonds from the Crater are white, brown, or yellow, with yellow being the least common. Yellow diamonds are created when nitrogen is absorbed into the crystal structure during formation. Nitrogen impurities absorb blue light and reflect yellow wavelengths, giving the diamond its yellow hue.

When asked if he was excited about his find, Smith replied with an enthusiastic, “Oh, absolutely!” He later added, “I never expected to find a diamond here. The potential was there, but you never come here expecting to find one.”

Park staff recommends closely watching

temperatures before visiting, dressing in UV-protective layers, bringing plenty of drinking water, and taking regular breaks in the shade.

Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park.

DIAMOND Continued on Page 2



Submitted photo/ASP

SAGE JUNIPER DIAMOND

DIAMOND

Continued on Page 2

Smith has chosen to name his gem the Sage Juniper Diamond, after his granddaughters.

About the size of a black-eyed pea, the Sage Juniper Diamond is the third-largest Crater diamond found this year. As of this publication, 351 diamonds have been registered by park guests in 2026. An average of one to two diamonds is found at the park each day.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow. The three most common colors found at Crater of Diamonds State Park are white, brown, and yellow, in that order.

Over 75,000 diamonds have been unearthed at the Crater of Diamonds since the first diamonds were discovered in 1906 by John Huddleston, a farmer who owned the land long before it became an Arkansas State Park in 1972.

The largest diamond ever discovered in the United States was unearthed in 1924 during an

early mining operation on the land that later became Crater of Diamonds State Park. Named the Uncle Sam, this white diamond with a pink cast weighed 40.23 carats. It was later cut into a 12.42-carat emerald shape. The Uncle Sam is now part of the Smithsonian’s mineral and gem collection and can be seen at the National Museum of Natural History.

Another well-known diamond from the park is the Strawn-Wagner. Found in 1990 by Murfreesboro resident Shirley Strawn, this 3.03-carat white gem was cut into a round brilliant shape weighing 1.09 carats. It graded as ideal cut, D-colorless and flawless and was set in a platinum and 24-carat gold ring. In 1998, the state of Arkansas purchased this diamond for \$34,700 in donations and placed it on permanent display at the park visitor center.

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Located on Arkansas Highway 301 in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, Crater of Diamonds State Park is one of the only places in the world where the public can search for real diamonds in their original volcanic source. The park is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve afternoon and Christmas Day).



Submitted photo/ASP

THE LATEST BIG FIND ... Tennessee resident Barry Smith recently found a 2.29 carat diamond at the Crater State Park, naming it after his two granddaughters, Sage and Juniper.



Staff Photos

KICKING OFF THE 2026 SEASON ... (clockwise from left) Keith Wilkinson (2) collects a punt against the Centerpoint Knights, while quarterback Kooper Caldwell directs traffic on a passing attempt. Cameron Braden (56) puts the wraps on a Knight ballcarrier and Aiden “Bubba” Stinson (25) looks to move upfield after getting around a Centerpoint defender.

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CONTACT THE DIAMOND • (870) 285-2723

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARGARET ANN GLOVER, DECEASED NO. 55PR-26-47

NOTICE

Last known address of decedent: 31 Claussen Road, Langley, AR 71952
Date of death: October 14, 2025
On August 28, 2026, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by an distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Margaret Ann Glover, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real property listed in the Affidavit is as follows:
The N-1/2 W-1/2 E-1/2 SW-1/4 SW-1/4 of Section 32, Township 5 South, Range 26 West. LESS AND ACCEPT the South 261.74 feet of the West ½ of the NE-1/4 SW-1/4 SW-1/4 of Section 32, Township 5 South, Range 26 West, Pike County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said NE-1/4 SW-1/4 SW-1/4 as shown on this Survey Plat; thence North 01 degrees 30 minutes 34 seconds East 261.74 feet; thence South 88 degrees 32 minutes 47 seconds East 332.64 feet; thence South 01 degrees 24 minutes 49 seconds West 261.74 feet to the South line thereof; thence North 88 degrees 32 minutes 47 seconds West 333.08 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.00 acres, more or less in this exception.
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the distributee or her attorney within three (3) 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. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of the Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Norma Barron, Affiant/Distributee
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One
P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-5256 phone

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- Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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Telephone: 870-285-2723

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

Starting August 31, 2026, the Pike County Road Department will be replacing culverts off the highway on John Ashley Road. This process could take up to 2 weeks. All traffic will need to be redirected to Deer Run Lane.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions, please contact the Pike County Judge’s Office at 870-285-2414.

Eddie Howard
Pike County Judge

(p.c.j., 67w., 9,10)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE MURFREESBORO BOARD OF ZONING ON REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM TWO ACRE MINIMUM AND INTERNAL ROAD SURFACE REQUIREMENT

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the THE MURFREESBORO BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT in Murfreesboro City Hall on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., regarding a request filed by Landowners, JOEL AND MISTY WILSON, to be granted a variance of the use of land located in Commercial District of the Zoning Regulation of the City of Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

The property in question is located at 715-721 North Washington Street in Murfreesboro.

All parties in interest may appear and be heard at such time and place or may notify the THE MURFREESBORO BOARD OF ZONING of their views on this matter by letter.

APPLICANT (Owner or Authorized Agent): Misty Wilson

DATE: 9/2/2026 (CM:141W)

TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

OCTOBER 15, 2026

YOU CAN MAKE PAYMENT ONLINE AT WWW.COUNTYSERVICE.NET

PIKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

(870) 285-3121

FOR INFORMATION

WILL BE CLOSED MON. OCT. 12

FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

OFFICE HOURS - MONDAY-FRIDAY
8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

GLENWOOD OFFICE
MONDAY & FRIDAY - 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.
ALSO - WEDNESDAY (7TH & 14TH) OF OCT: 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

This publication was paid for by Pike County, office of the Tax Collector. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 54.00.

Reap the rewards -- showcase your garden’s best

Can you believe next week is the Pike County Fair? Where did the time go? County fair weeks are always so special to me since I grew up in 4-H showing livestock and making things to enter in the fair. I always looked forward to that week because I got to reconnect with friends I didn’t see often and see everyone else’s exhibits that they entered in the fair.

We’ve had a couple of questions over the last couple weeks about entering things in the fair. There are so many opportunities to enter different exhibits into the fair. To see a whole list of what you can enter, visit the Pike County Fair website at pikecountyfairandrodeo.com/exhibits and take a gander at all the categories. This is also where you can find rules as well.

The date to enter your exhibits will be Labor Day, Monday September 7, from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The only things that can be entered on

judging day, Tuesday September 8, are baked goods and cut flowers from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, nothing else may be entered at this time.

There are sheets for entering your items at the fair, but you can find this form on the website as well to print off and bring pre-filled. The fair also asks that you bring a self-addressed stamped envelope to entry day as well. This is for the points checks if you do not pick it up.

The Martin building will be closed for judging and will reopen after the fair parade on Tuesday September 8. The parade begins at 5:30 PM.

Since I am Ag, I thought I would give a few pointers for entering horticultural exhibits.

Some horticultural things you can enter are vegetables, cut flowers, and plants. You can also enter floral arrangements whether they are fresh or artificial. For a detailed list, visit the website previously mentioned above to view the



SMART FARMING IN PIKE COUNTY

CODIE MCALISTER

PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

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UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

- categories.
- Cut Flowers: Remove the leaves that will be below the waterline. Flowers need to be free of insect, disease, or mechanical damage. They should also be free of spray or dust residue as well as artificial coloring, leaf shine, spray or oiling or waxing. The specimen should be healthy and in prime condition and should be the color and size of that typical variety. The flower should also be uniform and not have any blemishes.
 - Rules: Flower containers

- must be furnished by exhibitor and must be marked underneath for identification.
- Plants: The plants should be well groomed (leaves free of dust and dead leaves removed.) Plants should be healthy and vigorous, with no evidence of nutritional deficiencies. Dead, wilted or faded blooms should be removed. Pruning and grooming cuts should be made at the node. Plants should be symmetrical in appearance, compact and bushy. They should be mature enough to be a good representative of the species and variety.
 - Rules: All specimens must be grown by exhibitors only and be in their possession for at least 3 months. Only one exhibit per person may be entered in any one class. Exhibitors must furnish the name of plant when making the entry.
 - Vegetables: If there are multiple items, they should be uniform, free of blemish and color should all be about the same. Vegetables should be free from dirt or stains, should

- be at their peak of perfection for eating or harvesting, and should be properly trimmed and cleaned. The vegetables should properly represent the variety as well. Check the rulebook to see how many of each vegetable that you plan to bring to the fair. We can also look up that information for you at the Extension Office as well.
- Rules: Vegetables must be entered in the grower’s name. Horticulture includes fresh items. Dried items such as dry beans or dehydrated fruits and vegetables will be entered into Food Preservation.
- While you’re at the fair, come support our 4-H and FFA youth in the county and watch a livestock show or walk through the barns and view the livestock projects.
- TUESDAY, SEPT. 8:**
9:00 AM Poultry and Rabbit Judging
After Parade: Livestock Barns Open
- WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9:**
2:00 PM Goat and Lamb Show

- 8:00 AM-8:00 PM Livestock Barns Open
- THURSDAY, SEPT. 10:**
9:00 AM Hog and Cattle Show
8:00 AM-8:00 PM Livestock Barns Open
- FRIDAY, SEPT. 11:**
10:00 AM Junior Livestock Premium Sale
8:00 AM-8:00 PM Livestock Barns Open
- SATURDAY, SEPT. 12:**
8:00 AM-8:00 PM Livestock Barns Open
- For the full list of rules for the exhibits visit the Pike County Fair website at pikecountyfairandrodeo.com/exhibits.
- We hope to see you at the fair next week! Stop by the Agriculture educational booth and check out some information on native grasses!
- Information about the Pike County Fair can be found on the website at pikecountyfairandrodeo.com. If you have any other questions, please contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

State highlights ‘move over’ law

LITTLE ROCK -- Dignitaries attended Arkansas State Capitol on Tuesday for joint event announcing “Just Move Over” – a safety initiative promoting Arkansas’ Move Over Law and the critical role the traveling public plays in protecting those working on and alongside the roadway.

“In my district, we’ve had a tremendous amount of road construction in recent years, so I see firsthand just how many men and women spend their days working only a few feet away from moving traffic. I’ve also heard far too many stories of accidents and close calls involving law enforcement, highway crews, first responders, and tow truck operators,” Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives Brian Evans said. “For me, that makes this campaign personal. These are our neighbors, our friends, and

members of our communities. They’re simply doing their jobs, and they deserve to be able to go home safely at the end of the day.”

Arkansas Code § 27-51-310, also known as Arkansas’ Move Over Law, outlines the rules for passing authorized vehicles stopped on or alongside a roadway – with the goal of creating a safety buffer around those vehicles. The law currently applies to emergency response vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, ARDOT vehicles, ARDOT contractor vehicles, utility company vehicles, and vehicles used in a towing operation.

“The law requires us to move over, or slow down when we cannot move over, for emergency vehicles and roadway workers,” said ARDOT Director Jared Wiley. “We should also move over for someone who is not

equipped with flashing lights while tending to vehicle issues on the side of the road. These individuals are someone’s husband, cousin, or mother and are likely not fully aware of the real danger they are in when parked on the roadside.”

The goal of the “Just Move Over” campaign is to change behaviors, prevent injuries, and save lives.

“Every traffic stop, crash investigation, roadside assist, and emergency response places our Troopers and partner agencies just feet from passing vehicles,” said Colonel Mike Hagar, Director of the Arkansas State Police. “Moving over when you see flashing lights is a simple action that can prevent a tragedy. We ask every driver to stay alert, slow down, and give those working along Arkansas roadways the space they need to do their jobs safely.”

The “Just Move Over” campaign will include public service announcement videos, graphics, and educational materials featuring law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, road workers, and tow truck operators.

JACK

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

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

Q: What happens when someone sustains a concussion?

A: A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury. A bump or blow to the head or a hit to the body can cause the brain to move back and forth inside the skull. One concussion does not normally result in brain damage, but chances increase with multiple occurrences. The World Health Organization estimates that about 56 million concussions occur each year.

Contact sports such as boxing, football, hockey, rugby, and soccer are most commonly associated with concussions. Falls, as well as automobile, bicycle, or motorcycle accidents may also cause concussions. Anyone can be at risk for a concussion, particularly those who have previous instances of the injury. Older adults and

young children may be more at risk due to the increased chances of experiencing falls.

Symptoms of a concussion include blurred or double vision, problems with concentration or memory, dizziness, headache, or sensitivity to light or noise. Complications from concussions include changes in personality, insomnia, or mood swings.

Recovery time from a concussion can be as short as a few days or as long as several weeks. Contact your healthcare provider for assistance if you experience an injury and have symptoms, particularly if you’ve been previously diagnosed with a concussion. Always wear recommended protective gear when playing contact sports.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS

BY RICK FLOYD

Clouds part just in time to view eclipse

Last week’s (August 27) partial lunar eclipse, for those who missed seeing it, was worth the expectant vigil. There were some thunderstorms in the northeastern part of the county, and a bank of clouds moved down and covered the eastern sky. At 10 p.m. in Murfreesboro it looked like viewing the eclipse would be a bust because the thick clouds allowed only a hint of moonlight through. However, as the time of maximum coverage approached, the clouds began to recede and break up. This trend continued, allowing except for some haze and occasional clouds, a good view of the event.

Binoculars helped isolate and enlarge the view, emphasizing the orb’s roundness floating in space. It did actually appear perfectly round with only its top area out of the shadow and shining bright like a “diamond ring.” Below, covering most of the Moon’s surface, the shadow had a reddish glow like an over-heated pot-bellied stove. The Moon’s dark areas (mares or seas) were still visible even in the deepest part of the shadow.

If the clouds had not parted just in time, all hopes of seeing the eclipse would have been lost. However, there were no clouds overhead nor in the western sky so, reclined in a camp chair looking straight up, the Summer Triangle was visible offering consolation observations. Cygnus, the swan constellation, at this time is directly overhead. The swan (I personally see a long-necked goose) is headed south. The head is formed by the double star Albireo. I was curious if the two stars, one is blue that is in orbit around a larger orange one, could be “split” by my 10 x 50 binoculars. That attempt failed, but a small telescope for sure can reveal two distinct stars and their respective colors. Some people refer to Cygnus as the Northern Cross, and Alberio is the base of it. The bright star Deneb is the top of the cross. The Summer Triangle, mentioned in earlier articles, is formed by three bright stars; Deneb, Vega and Altair.

There are a couple of penumbral lunar eclipses next year (meaning the Moon is barely in shadow), and the next partial (but almost full) lunar eclipse over Arkansas is in January 2028. The next total Solar eclipse over our area, by the way, is in August of 2045.

We currently have an “evening star”, and a “morning star” occupying our sky. Venus, the brighter of the two, is covering the evening for now, and Jupiter is the early riser.

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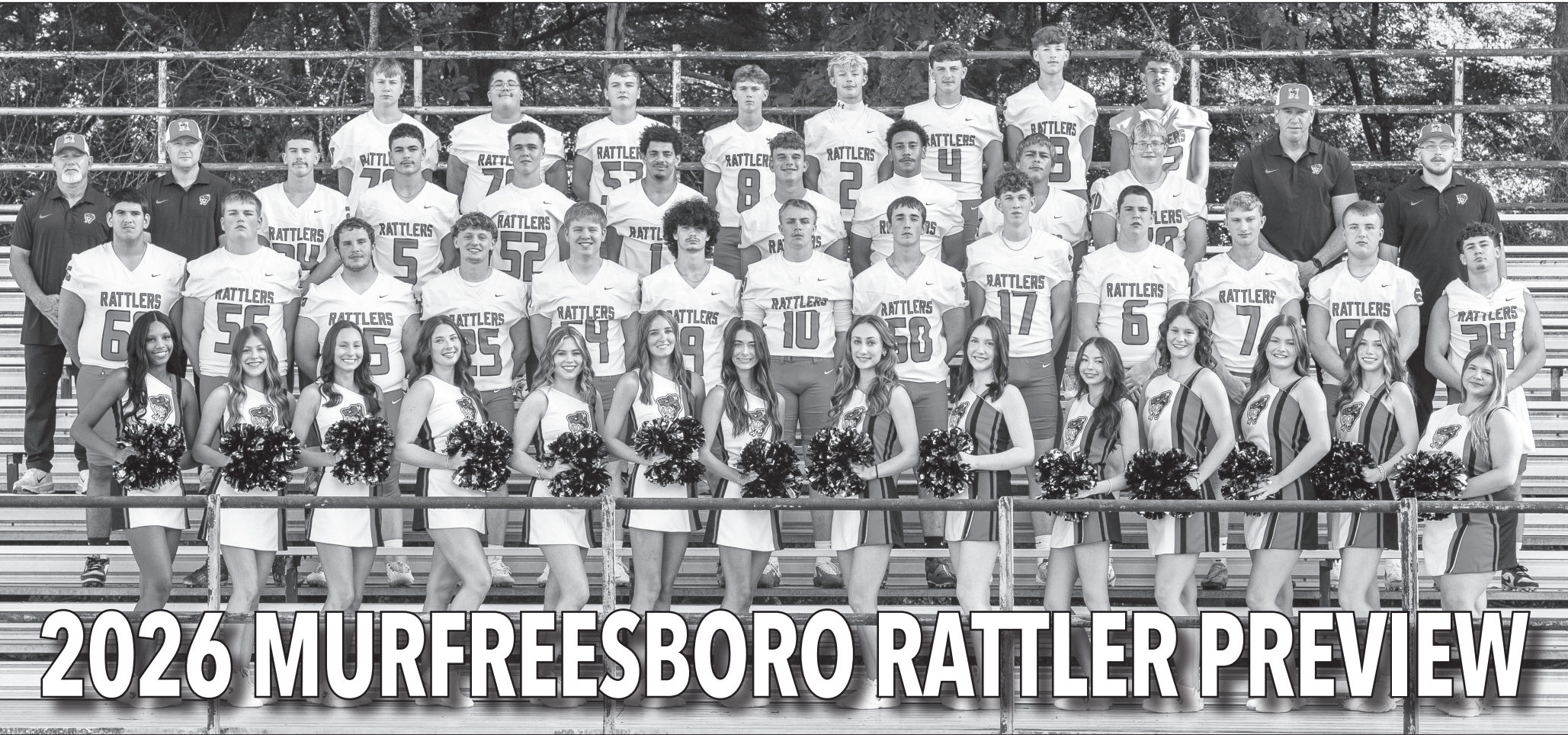
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MURFREESBORO -- According to Murfreesboro Rattlers head coach Jay Turley, the 2026 football version of the Rattlers has a “chance to have a really good team.”

Last year the Rattlers finished 5-5 overall and 3-4 in conference play, as injuries saw them fade down the stretch and miss the playoffs.

“I’m looking forward to this year ... I think we could be really good -- a lot of that depends on them and how hard they want to work at it. We won’t be the most athletic team every week, so we have to compete by doing things right, playing smart, physical and disciplined football. I thought we had way too many penalties last year, so we are trying to clean that up too.”

Turley said there were areas of improvement following the scrimmage against Prescott on Aug. 18, but that it was nothing that couldn’t be accomplished.

“Prescott is a traditional 3-A powerhouse, and is going to make a run at a state championship every year ... I knew what we’d be getting into with that. I told our kids that I just wanted to face some speed and physicality. That’s what we are going to see when we face Gurdon, Junction City and Mineral Springs.”

Turley said the heat indexes in pre-season camp kept a lid on what they could do, and going into the scrimmage they were simply out of shape.

“We’re not in game shape yet -- I’ve been trying to go by the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) standards and protocols on the wet bulb. The scrimmage was the first time they had really experienced the heat for an extended period of time. I think it got to them -- and they realize that.”

He said the team didn’t give their best effort in the scrimmage games versus the Curley Wolves.

“I don’t think we competed really well -- we just got tired. My college coach said ‘fatigue will make a coward out of anyone.’ He’s right -- you get tired it’s hard to compete and you kinda want to lay down a little bit.”

Turley said the student athletes understood the issue of being out of shape, with one admitting “it was just easier to stay blocked.”

“Now that we know that, we can fix it. Be honest with yourself and trust your coaches -- we’ll take you there if you let us.”

Turley said the practices ahead of the Centerpoint game were “really good -- maybe some of the best practice since I’ve been back. Really good effort, intensity -- it was hot and they fought

through. We gave them a lot of breaks, but when they were on the field they were going hard. We have some guys stepping up and taking leadership roles.”

“They are really stepping up -- it is good for them to see that they were hurting in the game because of their conditioning. So, they can now take ownership of it and ramp up the intensity in practice. You can run and run and run them, but if there’s no intensity in it, you are not really getting a whole lot out of it, in my opinion.”

Turley said the team will have to replace some talent in outgoing seniors from 2026, including Kale Burns, Logan Burrus and Jackson Hawkins.

“Our kids have stepped up -- the addition of Jarrin Burgess has really helped, sophomore Keith Wilkinson has really stepped up, had a good scrimmage. Having Cale Humphry back from injury [last year] has made a tremendous difference in our practices for sure. He’s a guy we can go to.”

Turley said Aiden “Bubba” Stinson seemed to also be much healthier this year, “knock on wood”.

Alex Parker dislocated his elbow in the scrimmage game, and will be out “a few weeks.”

“He still has some season left in him.”

Turley said Drake Eoff was also injured in the scrimmage game, with a sprained ankle.

“I told him he won’t play until he’s completely healthy -- we need him back by the Gurdon game (September 25 to open conference play). We don’t need his ankle to be bothered all year.”

Turley feels the defensive line will be amongst the team’s strong points, with only Burrus not returning from the 2025 squad.

“We can fit in Isaac Smith and Jaxson Crabtree where he was -- two really good athletes that play a lot like Logan did, fast and with a big motor.”

The return of senior Kooper Caldwell at quarterback will help buoy the team after having 33 touchdowns last year.

“Teams will be prepared for that, I think, so our run game has to be better, to set up Kooper throwing the ball. We can’t be pass happy every down, and of course a lot of that last year was predicated on our injuries. In the Mineral Springs game, a game we had to win, after an injury in the first quarter we became a one hundred percent pass team. And Mineral pinned their ears back and came after us.”

This year the 3-2A conference could see a lot of parity.

“I think it is -- everyone is closer together than they were last year. Any given week, anybody can beat anybody. Junction City is still the head of the class, no doubt, because of the athletes they have. However, they did lose a lot of kids, but have a bunch coming back. It will all depend how much their senior class steps up and leads this year. You just have to expect they will be physical and athletic, and we have to match their physicality by being disciplined and counteracting their overaggressiveness.”

Turley said the game against Junction City would also depend on his coaching better.

“I’ll do a better job in that game this year -- shortening the game down, we don’t want them to have a whole lot of possessions. We have to figure out how to get first downs and move the chains and keep the ball out of their hands.”

Turley expects the pre-conference matchups to be meaningful, with all three -- Centerpoint, Danville and Genoa Central -- being larger schools than MHS.

“That’s done by design, I don’t want a pansy opponent at the first of the year. I want to see us strain a little, get us in shape both physically and mentally, and ready for our touch conference. It will be tougher top to bottom this year.”

After watching the Outlaws in their scrimmage, Turley said that Dierks “looked good ... a more physical bunch, looks like a run heavy bunch.”

RATTLERS Continued on Page 5

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2026 MHS RATTLER SCHEDULE

(All games start at 7 p.m.)

* -- Conference Game

** -- Homecoming

9/4 at Danville

9/18 at Genoa Central

9/25 at Gurdon*

10/2 Foreman*

10/9 at Dierks*

10/16 Mountain Pine**

10/23 at Junction City*

10/30 Spring Hill*

11/6 Mineral Springs*

2026 MJHS SCHEDULE

(All games start at 7 p.m.)

9/3 Fouke*

9/17 at Mineral Springs*

9/24 Gurdon*

10/1 at Foreman*

10/8 Dierks*

10/15 at Mountain Pine*

10/22 Junction City*

10/29 at Spring Hill*

2026 MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL ROSTER

- 1 Jarrin Burgess, WR/S, 11th grade
- 2 Keith Wilkinson, WR/DB, 10th grade
- 3 Isaac Smith, DE, 11th Grade
- 4 CD Morrow, RB/LB, 10th Grade

- 5 Cooper Lowery, WR/OLB, 11th Grade
- 6 Cayden Ballard, WR/OLB, 12th Grade
- 7 Drake Eoff, WR/OLB, 12th Grade
- 8 Mason Bruce, OLB, 10th Grade
- 9 Curtis Marcum, WR/DB, 12th Grade
- 10 Koooper Caldwell, QB/OLB, 12th Grade
- 11 Tyler Brewer, WR/DB, 10th Grade
- 13 Gage Harper, WR/LB, 10th Grade
- 17 Ross Spradlin, WR/DB, 12th Grade
- 20 Colton Tidwell, WR/DB, 12th Grade
- 24 Cale Humphry, WR/LB, 11th Grade
- 25 Aden Stinson, RB/LB, 12th Grade
- 32 Caanan Parker, RB/LB, 10th Grade
- 34 Alex Parker, RB/OLB, 12th Grade
- 50 Kaden Epperly, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 51 Jaxson Crabtree, OL/DL, 10th Grade
- 52 Hayden Gibson, LB, 11th Grade
- 54 Garrett Lamb, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 55 Mason Wilkins, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 56 Cameron Braden, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 60 Cole McKnight, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 64 Jonathan Martinez, OL/LB, 11th Grade
- 65 Colt Plyler, OL/DL, 10th Grade
- 66 Corbin Hoover, OL/DL, 12th Grade
- 70 Hadley Cox, OL/DL, 11th Grade
- 79 Benjamin Brewer, OL/DL, 10th Grade

RATTLERS Continued from Page 4

Turley also suggested that Mineral Springs will be good, and Foreman is “really gelling with their new coach -- they’ll be more of spread team this year, and that’s dangerous with kids who can get into space and can go.”

The summer was good for the Rattlers, according to Turley. “I’m proud of them -- they competed hard. Now, I’m not a big 7-on-7 guy -- I love that you can get repetitions and teach kids the offense, but I’m not changing the offense for 7-on-7. We’re not going to have a 7-on-7 offense or defense. We are going to run our stuff, and try to get better with what we do, and that’s the stuff we are going to do on Friday nights. If that’s effective in 7-on-7, so be it, and if not ...”

Turley said the team won a few games in the 7-on-7 competitions, which was better than last summer’s performances.

“We competed in every game, which we did not last year. So, I was very pleased. We had kids out -- for various reasons -- so I don’t know that we ever took the same bunch. I was pleased with the effort and competitive spirit.”

Coming up this week will be a game at Danville.

“I don’t know a whole lot about them, other than that their junior high team allowed six points all year long. Many of those guys are in tenth grade now -- they will be young, but they will be talented. Coach [D.J.] Crane admitted that much to me -- we have known each other a while and have always talked about playing each other. I wanted to get away from Fouke on the

schedule, and it just worked out for everybody.”

The next week will see the Rattlers travel to Genoa Central.

“They are a 4-A school, and I think they are a little bit better than they’ve been. They’ve actually had some stability in their coaching staff, and that’s going to help them. Against them it’s a numbers game ... they have a lot more kids than we do, and it’s at their place. So two road games to get us ready right off the bat.”

The team will then open conference play at Gurdon.

“So, it’s away, away, away after Centerpoint.”

However, Turley doesn’t not feel like road games are a big impediment for his squad.

“I find it indifferent. I think our kids played well on the road last year, and will this year. We do a good job of taking care of them -- now that Danville trip is early and will still be hot, so I do worry a bit there, a two hour trip. That’s a concern, obviously, but it’s non-conference. I think we’ll play well and be okay.”

Ultimately, success this season could depend on availability.

“Probably just keeping kids healthy,” said Turley. “Last year we lost a starter the quality of Cale Humphry, our best tackler and one of our best receivers, and then you go into Junction City and lose two starters in that game that you don’t have the next week against Spring Hill. Now you have three starters out, all three of them two-way players, so then we are playing with backups. They did a great job [in replacement] but we couldn’t get Spring Hill off the field. Without Logan Burrus, that hurt us. He was our best defensive player. So we have to stay healthy.”

Turley also said that better leadership would go a long way to helping the Rattlers improve in 2026.

“I think the tools are there -- we have 13 seniors, that’s helps.

They know this is their last hurrah, and we’ve had guys step up. We formed a leadership council, to where if they have an issue going on, they handle it. If they can’t handle it, they bring it to me, and we work on it. If they have concerns about what we are doing, or would like to try something different, I’ll consider it. At least they have a voice then. We are trying to make leaders out of these young men, and get them ready for life, really. That’s what it’s about. I tell the kids, you can win sometimes when you lose, cause winning is about getting up and doing it again. You are going to fail in life, and it’s going to kick you in the butt sometimes, but you have to keep going. You will be responsible as a man to keep going. You might have a family to take care of, perhaps some kind of hardship, you’ve got to figure it out. That’s facing adversity and overcoming. That’s what it meant to me when I played, though I didn’t know it at the time. I didn’t have a clue then, but I do now. Looking back, if I can get through what I went through, I can get through anything. When I was going to college, coach was trying to kill me,” Turley said with a laugh. “I want the kids to know the same thing -- they can get through anything. Life is tough, life is hard, and it’s not fair. It’s never going to be fair, and bad things happen to good people. It’s life.”

Turley is also looking forward to the community support that the area brings to the team.

“I’m looking forward to the season and the fans in the stands. It’s always a big high for me, I still get the goosebumps, when I walk out just before the game. I think the kids do too -- this bunch isn’t the most excitable group in the world, but I still think [raucous Rattler fans] means something to them.”

“I do think we have more enthusiasm than we had last year -- and you can play the game hard without outward enthusiasm. I told the kids early I’d like to see them celebrate each other, if something good happens on the football field, booty bump or high five or something ... get excited about when somebody else does something good. It’s a team sport -- if somebody else is doing something good, then we are succeeding.”

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IT TAKES TO
CONQUER YOUR GOALS.



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Beefing up dinner without the big price tag

If sticker shock has you reconsidering whether that T-bone belongs in your shopping cart, an extension meat specialist and a culinary expert have a few ideas to help keep beef on the table

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

FAYETTEVILLE -- Understanding the cuts in the meat counter case can help you make less expensive choices, said Janeal Yancey, extension instructor in animal science for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

“One cut I’ve seen in the grocery store lately is sirloin cap steak,” she said. It’s basically a top sirloin steak that has a little ‘eyebrow’ on top that we would call a ‘mare’s tail’ in judging.

“That wedge of meat — some processors call it a ‘culotte’ or ‘picanha,’” Yancey said. “It’s a little smaller than a strip steak and it eats like a strip. Just don’t overcook it. If you like steaks well done, this isn’t for you.”

Picanha is widely used in Brazilian cuisine and is often seen in Brazilian restaurants served from a skewer.

“The thing about sirloin, whether petite or cap, they take marinade really well. They’re really lean, they’re quick to fix, and if you make it with a baked potato and green beans, you have a good family dinner pretty quickly,” Yancey said. “They’re a weeknight steak.”

“If we are going to celebrate something, it’s the ribeye for us,” she said.

THE \$6 DIFFERENCE

When it comes to cuts from a cow, the division between the fifth and sixth rib can make a significant difference.

“In front of the fifth rib are chuck eye steaks,” Yancey said. “Behind the sixth rib are the rib-eye steaks.”

That small difference in anatomy could mean a significant savings.

“Chuck eye steaks are about \$14 a pound, while the ribeye costs \$20 a pound,” she said.

“That 1-inch difference between the fifth and sixth rib is a \$6 difference.”

Another tactic to save is to buy in quantity.

“You can buy beef in bigger packages,” she said. “You may have to buy 19 pounds, but you can throw the additional cuts in the freezer.”

Yancey also said “I wouldn’t be afraid to go look in the discount bin” for bargains.

BUYING LOCAL

Yancey said purchasing locally grown and processed beef is another way to save, provided you have freezer space.

“The thing that people need to be ready for is you buy the beef by the whole, half or quarter carcass,” she said. “You’re going to have a big sticker price, but depending on how big your family is you might not have to buy beef again for six months or a year.”

“You might go in with another family and split it, or divide it four ways or eight ways,” Yancey said. “It’s better than buying by the piece in the grocery store. You’re keeping it local and supporting your neighbors.”

Depending on how the cow is processed, once the ground beef, steaks and roasts are gone, “you might have cuts you don’t know what to do with,” she said. “The Beef Council has a lot of great recipes and videos to show you how to cook all those cuts.”

MAKING THE CUT

With ground beef — typically a fairly cheap ingredient for burgers and meatloaf — scanning at up to \$9 a pound, consumers are looking to make the most of their purchase.

“Something else that folks do to stretch their meat is you can add some kind of fiber, crackers or breadcrumbs to meatloaf,” she said. “Or you can add berries. I’ve used blueberries in beef. You can taste it a little bit and it still cooks

like beef and it keeps the moisture in.”

“Some stores will offer a beef pork blend to help with the price point,” Yancey said. It’s a versatile mix that “you can use that for a lot of different things.”

COOKING METHODS

For shoppers who choose less costly cuts, there are some considerations, said Quadarius Whitson, extension program associate for culinary nutrition and food safety.

“Budget-friendly beef cuts commonly come from the chuck, flank, sirloin, and round areas of the cow,” he said. “Because these muscles are used more frequently for movement, they tend to be leaner and less tender than premium cuts, making them a more economical option for consumers.”

Whitson said, “The best cooking methods for many economical cuts of beef are slow, moist-heat techniques, such as braising and stewing.

“These cuts contain more connective tissue and collagen because they come from harder-working muscles,” he said. “During long, slow cooking, collagen gradually breaks down into gelatin, creating a rich texture and the tender,

melt-in-your-mouth sensation many people enjoy.”

Whitson said that tools such as a slow cooker, Dutch oven or electric pressure cooker “can help achieve excellent results while maximizing both flavor and tenderness.”

“Some of my favorite recipes to make with these cuts of beef include pot roast, shredded beef tacos and barbecue sandwiches,” he said.

Whitson said beef can provide important nutrients such as protein, iron, zinc and vitamin B12.

“When enjoyed as part of a balanced eating pattern, beef can be a nutritious and satisfying addition to meals,” he said. “A serving size is about 3 to 4 ounces cooked, roughly the size of a deck of cards.”

“Current recommendations suggest enjoying red meat in moderation, aiming for no more than 12 to 18 ounces cooked per week, or about three servings. As with most foods, balance and moderation are key,” he said.

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

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 PROPERT 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)

SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, 7-12 Big Daddy pepperoni pizza, seasoned corn, steamed broccoli, pears, milk. 7-12 line 2 option- ham and cheese sub w.chips	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk Lunch: Corndog, baked beans, potato smiles, mixed fruit, milk 7-12 line 2 option- deep dish pepperoni pizza MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 NO SCHOOL- LABOR DAY
---	--

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

PRAYER

Jesus gives us personal, productive insight on effective prayer in Matthew 6:1-15. He says not to be hypocritical when we pray or to pray to be seen of men. Proper prayer and proper meditation go together. God will reward prayer openly. Prayer should not be repetitious. In Matthew 6:9 we are told to begin prayer in this way, “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.” God deserves our praise and devotion. We should always give God honor and glory for He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Heartfelt prayer will be a time of praise for all He has done and is doing for us. “Thy Kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is



in Heaven.” The church-kingdom was a reality on the first Pentecost following Jesus’ resurrection. The kingdom has not come for the whole world because all people have not heard the gospel of salvation. We must continue to work and pray that each and every soul may have the opportunity to hear and obey the Word.

Daily bread (word of God) is a necessity. We should pray for physical blessings and be thankful for them. We are debtors to Jehovah for grace, mercy and all other spiritual blessings – a debt that can never be paid. Only God’s divine instructions can keep us from temptations and help us to overcome Satan. The power, glory and kingdom forever will be the final victory. Jesus prayed He and prayed often, long and fervently. He knew the most potent weapon in our spiritual arsenal would be a well-used prayer life with the Father. Amen.

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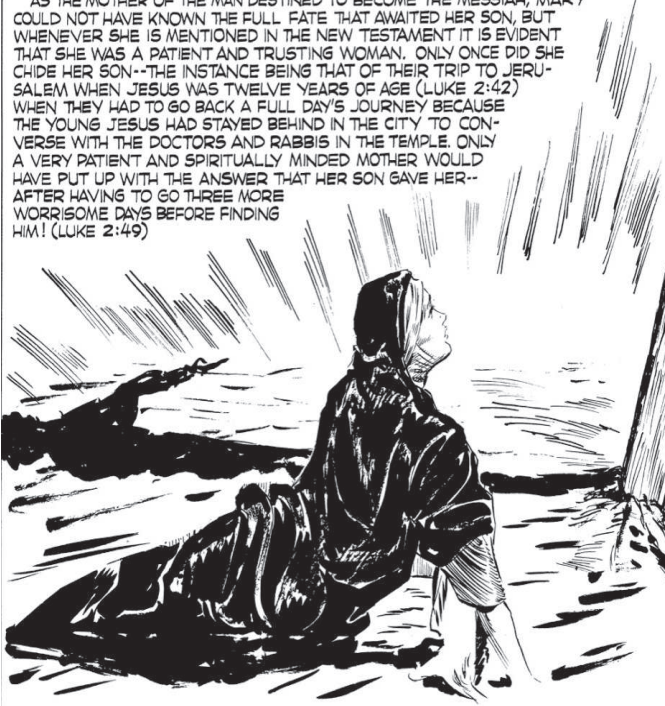
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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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 WORRISOME 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!

228 ...SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK...

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HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

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SOLAR SYSTEM
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. Ancient Peruvian
 - 5. Hit the slopes
 - 8. Bro or sis
 - 11. Thomas the Engine’s warning
 - 12. *Sun, e.g.
 - 13. Twist and distort
 - 15. Carpenter’s groove
 - 16. *Jupiter’s inner “ring”
 - 17. MC Hammer’s “2 ____ 2 Quit”
 - 18. *It makes up the majority of Jupiter’s mass
 - 20. Narrative poem
 - 21. “When ____ Cry” by Prince
 - 22. Louisville Slugger
 - 23. Chase
 - 26. Puffy cloud
 - 30. Nurses’ org.
 - 31. Frozen drink
 - 34. Ricci of fashion
 - 35. Same as climate
 - 37. Buddy Holly’s “Peggy ____”
 - 38. Knight’s breastplate
 - 39. Flying toy
 - 40. a.k.a. pennant
 - 42. Possesses
 - 43. Appetizer
 - 45. Like certain pine
 - 47. Large edible mushroom
 - 48. ____-Arts, or fine arts
 - 50. Disparaging remark
 - 52. *The largest moon in the Solar System
 - 55. *Jupiter’s Great Red Spot
 - 56. Up it in poker
 - 57. Exclamation of disgust
 - 59. Famous diarist Samuel ____
 - 60. Like decorated cake
 - 61. Reply from a tunnel
 - 62. Tarzan’s adoptive dad
 - 63. Neither here ____ there
 - 64. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence,

- acr.
- DOWN
- 1. It would
 - 2. Master of ark
 - 3. Buffalo Bill’s last name
 - 4. In conflict (2 words)
 - 5. Coach-and-four
 - 6. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.
 - 7. *Reason for Mars’ redness
 - 8. Kind of palm
 - 9. Author Murdoch
 - 10. Sandwich with acronym name
 - 12. Snow mover
 - 13. Flash of light
 - 14. *Farthest planet from sun in our Solar System
 - 19. Make awake
 - 22. Opposite of vend
 - 23. Gets ready for a trip
 - 24. Dark
 - 25. Indian restaurant yogurt staple
 - 26. ____ Zhen in “Fist of Fury”
 - 27. *The Solar System spans roughly 1.6 ____-years
 - 28. Uniate church member
 - 29. Impudent
 - 32. ____-friendly
 - 33. *Center of the Solar System
 - 36. *The smallest planet
 - 38. Per ____, or yearly
 - 40. Vigor
 - 41. Approved
 - 44. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.
 - 46. Daisies
 - 48. Bench in Mexico
 - 49. Larger key on the right
 - 50. Pas in ballet
 - 51. Between trot and gallop
 - 52. Effect of pain?
 - 53. Mussolini, with II
 - 54. Not counterfeit
 - 55. Relaxation location
 - 58. Ornamental pond dweller

CROSSWORD

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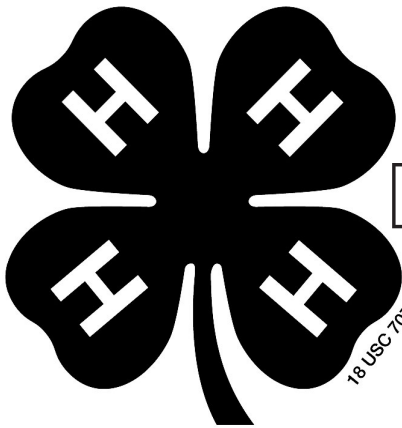
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Pike County 4-H is looking for YOU!

A new 4-H year is here, and it is the perfect time for young people across Pike County to discover everything 4-H has to offer. September 1 marks the beginning of a new 4-H enrollment year, which means now is a great time for new and returning members to get signed up! When many people hear “4-H,” they immediately think of livestock and the county fair. While those are important parts of the program, 4-H is so much more than livestock! Pike County 4-H offers opportunities for youth with all kinds of interests. Members can explore cooking, crafts, photography, performing arts, technology, gardening, community service, leadership, public speaking, agriculture, livestock, and much more. With so many project areas available, there truly is something for everyone. One of the greatest benefits of 4-H is that youth learn by doing. Members aren’t simply told how to be leaders ... they are given opportunities to lead. They don’t just learn about serving others ... they participate in projects that make a difference right here in Pike County. Throughout the year, Pike County 4-H members participate in club meetings, workshops, competitions, camps, community service projects, county and district events, and statewide



4-H Pike County

HEAD, HEART, HANDS & HEALTH

SHANNON BALLARD • 4-H PROGRAM ASSISTANT

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE PIKE COUNTY

PHONE (870) 285-2161 • E-MAIL SBALLARD@UADA.EDU



activities. Older members also have opportunities to take on leadership roles, mentor younger members, travel, and represent our county at events across Arkansas. 4-H is also a place to make new friends, build confidence, and discover new interests. You do not have to own an animal or live on a farm to be part of 4-H. All you need is a willingness to



learn, get involved, and try something new. The four H’s -- Head, Heart, Hands, and Health -- represent the skills and values members develop along the way. Through hands-on experiences, youth learn responsibility, teamwork, communication, leadership, confidence, and the importance of giving back to their community.

Ready to join? Enrollment for the new 4-H year begins September 1. Parents can enroll their child online at 4h.zsuite.org. If you have questions about joining, finding a club, or getting involved with Pike County 4-H, feel free to contact Shannon Ballard at (870) 285-2161. Whether your interest is cooking or computers, livestock or leadership, photography or performing arts, gardening or giving back, there is a place for YOU in Pike County 4-H!

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Week of August 31, 2026

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

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550 • Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

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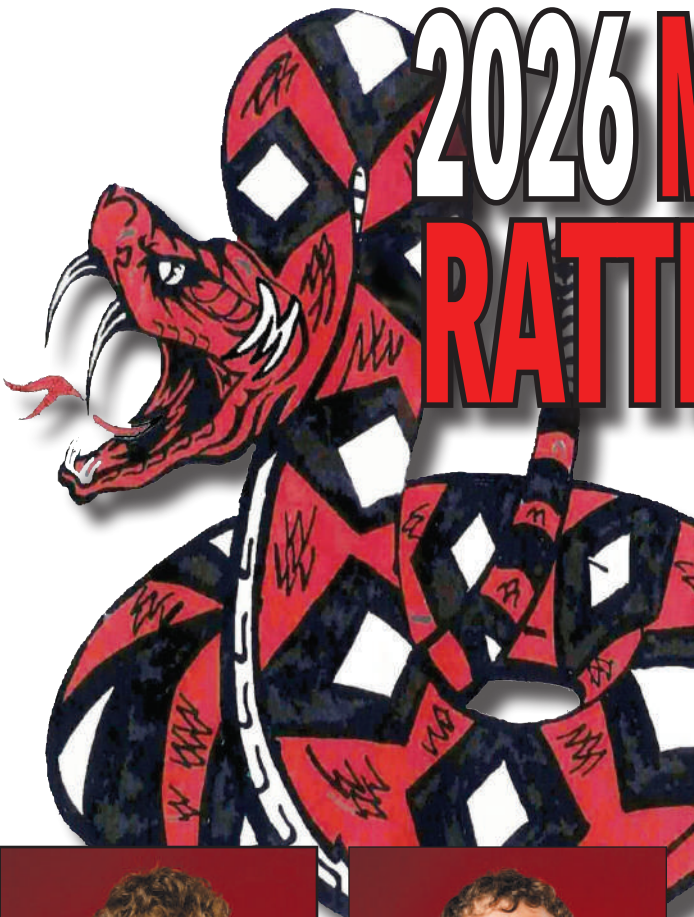
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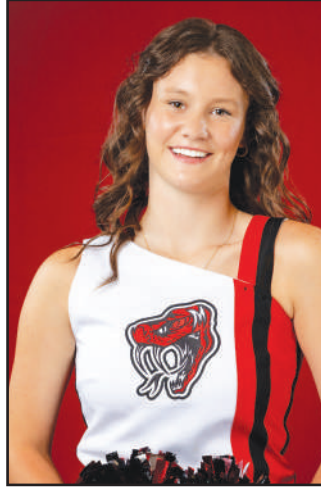
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