

The Murfreesboro Diamond

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆

\$1.00

USPC 103-230

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Bells to ring locally in honor of Constitution Week

MURFREESBORO -- In honor of Constitution week, this September 17-23, the Mine Creek ParaClifta chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a bell ringing ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 17.

The event will be held at the Pike County Courthouse and local businesses and local resident are invited to participate at 2:40 p.m. Bells will be provided to attendees in order to celebrate the United States Constitution at 3 p.m.

If workers around town cannot leave work to attend the ceremony, they are asked to ring the bell in front of their business.

Bells can be delivered by calling Judy Hile at (870) 925-0528.

Pecan orders now being taken for holidays

MURFREESBORO -- 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.

Flu shot clinics announced for Pike, Howard Counties

MURFREESBORO -- A pair of drive-through flu shot clinics will be held locally.

On Monday, Sept. 23, the Pike County Health Unit will hold their clinic from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 15 Caddo Drive in Murfreesboro.

Then, on Tuesday, Sept. 24, the Howard County Health Unit will conduct their clinic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 201 East Hempstead Street in Nashville.

For more information on the vaccination events, call the health units at (870) 285-3154 (Pike) or (870) 845-2208 (Howard).

Car Show to be held Saturday in Murfreesboro

The Keith Stone Memorial Car Show is set for Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Pike County Courthouse Square in Murfreesboro.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. and is open until 11 a.m.

Awards that will be handed out in divisions including participant's choice, pre-1949, 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 90's to Present, Corvette, Trucks, Racecars, Best of Show, Mayor's Choice, Police Chief's Choice and the Keith Stone "Amodel" Award.

Also on display will be tractors, semis, motorcycles, hit and miss engines -- all are welcome to attend the exhibition for free.

Entry fee for the car owners is \$20.

Other incentives include door prizes, a 50/50 pot, and 20 \$25 dollar chamber bucks tickets, which are useable at any chamber of commerce member business.

Event t-shirts will be available for \$20.

At the end of the awards presentation the event will draw for two \$500 dollar prizes for those who entered vehicles in the event.

Music will be provided by DJ Matt Gunter, a pushrod drop contest and other games will be held, including Hot Wheels races and a coloring contest.

A bounce house will be available for kids, and there is no admission for locals to come view the proceedings.

Additionally, local vendors are welcome for free, contact Kirk Stone at at (870) 703-7365 for more information.



Submitted photos/Jillian Caldwell

TILTING WITH DRAGONS ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers battled hard against the Genoa Central Dragons last Friday night in the team's 16-14 loss that sets their record to 0-3 on the season. The team will have an off-week before returning to action at Gurdon on Sept. 25. Pictured above (left) is Keith Wilkinson attempting to haul in a pass, while (right) the Rattler defense attempts to contain a Dragon ballcarrier.

Now 0-3, Rattlers to use off week to prepare, heal

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers moved to 0-3 on the season after last week's 16-14 loss at Genoa Central.

The Rattlers will focus on their off week to recoup and prepare for the first conference contest at Gurdon on Friday, Sept. 25, according to head coach Jay Turley.

"The kids played really hard, we're just not in peak shape yet, which caused some fourth quarter issues," Turley said of his squad.

He also noted that Genoa Central, a 4-A school, had a much larger roster that allowed for much more substitution and less two way plays.

"We just found a way to lose a game again -- when you lead at halftime you can't just continuously get beat in the second half. We had way too many missed opportunities, lots of dropped passes and fumbles. We have to clean all that up ... we are too good of a team to be doing that. Our problems are in our control to solve."

While Turley admits Genoa Central is better than they have been in the recent past, and that the Rattlers may have had their worst offensive performance in the last two years.

"We had more yards and led in most statistical categories, and our defense was good minus two plays when we lost eye level in the backfield and missed assignments. We ran 70 plays to their 40. We had 190 total yards."

Now, the question is, how does that get fixed?

"It's my job to fix it and we will figure it out," Turley said. "This week [a bye week] we will work on fundamentals."

He said his team needed the off week to help medically.

"We are banged up -- a lot of nagging type injuries. This week off will really help. This week we will focus on conditioning, not so much banging on each other. We'll do a lot of film work, fundamentals, and probably lift weights a little more than in a normal week."

He said the off week will also give his team a change to prepare extensively for the Gurdon clash. The Go-Devils are 2-1 on the season with wins over Magnet Cove (32-6) and Hampton (42-8) before a loss last week to Fountain Lake (48-12) last week. This week Gurdon will host Mount Ida (3-0).

"We don't know a lot about Gurdon yet, but Gurdon's Gurdon ... I do know they are better than last year. They are young, so we have to go hit them in the mouth. We've been much more physical this year versus last overall."

One issue the team will work on this week is the offensive line, backs and wide receivers staying on their blocks longer, an issue that may have cost his team a couple of touchdowns this past week against Genoa.

"We have to stay engaged ... the offensive line has to finish blocks, but they are smart kids. We'll get there."

He said there was still plenty of season to play for despite the 0-3 record.

"We have a lot to build on -- we have to keep our heads up. We have lost three games by a total of nine points. We are getting better, just not where we need to be yet. We have a good defense, it's really sound. We just have to be disciplined. Offensively, we can't drop balls -- we dropped six-seven catchable passes Friday night. Kooper [Caldwell] has thrown the ball well -- it can be very frustrating."

Turley said that they kids haven't checked

out mentally on the season.

"When you are 0-3 psychology does play a role, but the kids understand where we are. Gurdon started 0-3 last season, and ended up second in the conference. It's not a problem -- here's the deal. Everybody in the state wants to be good, but are you willing to do what it takes? Are you willing to pay the price to get there?"

He said that he did want to see his team have more intensity at practice, making it closer to a game type atmosphere,

"Michael Jordan would make practices so uncomfortable for himself that the games were not as big of a deal. We need to do the same to make the intensity of Friday nights less of an issue."

So, ultimately what is the message to his team this week?

"We have to play hard every week and stay mentally engaged. We have a good team, but can we put it together? Can we find a way to put a good game together both offensively and defensively? We are getting to the point in the season where there will be less breaks -- often the best 11 players will have to be on the field. So, we have to be in top-notch condition. We had three to four players with cramping issues Friday night. Yes, it was very hot and humid ... but are you preparing all week with the proper rest and hydration to be ready for Friday nights? That's where they have to take accountability of themselves."

Turley admits that the upcoming Gurdon contest is an important game.

"It's not a must-win, so we can't put too much pressure on ourselves. But, yes, we need to win the game."

City council votes to allow UTV use in town

BY JOHN BALCH
Nashville News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council voted 4-1 Monday night to allow UTVs to operate on certain public streets and highways within the city limits.

Ordinance No. 2026-3 also establishes reasonable rules for UTV operation, as well as regulations and restrictions. The new law will go into effect 30 days after the ordinance is published in the Murfreesboro Diamond newspaper this week.

All city streets are open to UTV traffic except parts of Owens, East Brewer, East Dickson, Reese, East Hailsip, Second Avenue and Fourth Avenue. These streets shall be closed to UTVs during school hours and all school functions.

UTVs may not be operated on streets or state highways within the city limits between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

According to the ordinance, any person found operating a UTV in violation of any provisions shall but cited and upon conviction be fined not less than \$100 plus court costs for the first offense and up to \$250 for each subsequent offense, in addition to any penalties under state law.

The ordinance was approved by a 4-1 vote with council member Mark Barnes casting the dissenting vote. Council members voting for the ordinance included Cody Bachmann, Jane Fugitt, Lewis Gills and Betty O'Neal.

Mayor Jim O'Neal, who will leave office this year, requested the council review the ordinance in 12 months and assess whether "it has accomplished what you meant for it to accomplish."

Mayor O'Neal informed council members Monday night that the City of Murfreesboro has been subpoenaed in the civil case against the estate of Barry Walker, the Pike County se-

rial child rapists who is now serving multiple life sentences and is being sued by his victims in the ongoing case.

The mayor said he was served the subpoena on Sept. 9 and the city has 14 days after that date to respond and the matter has been referred to city attorney, Aaron Brazel, for formal legal guidance on the city's response.

Walker is the uncle of former 9th West Prosecuting Attorney Jana Bradford, who is also a defendant in the civil case against Walker.

In other council business, the mayor was given authorization to enter an easement agreement with SWEPCO to route electricity across a city alleyway for a new RV park just south of City Hall. The business is being opened by Joel and Misty Wilson.

Council and Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce member Fugitt reported that the chamber will host a "meet the candidates" event for Murfreesboro council and mayoral candidates. The event will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6 at City Hall at 7 p.m.

The council also approved Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances for August:

General/General	Operating	--
\$296,300/\$289,407		
Street/Street Operating	--	\$379,487/\$397,670
City Park	--	\$33,400/\$48,352
Special Funds	--	\$328,421/\$330,778
Advertising/Promotion	--	\$64,685/\$64,668
Waterworks Combined	--	\$738,579/\$733,459

Chamber announces upcoming events 'Meet the Candidates' set for October 6, 6-8 p.m., at Murfreesboro City Hall

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce discussed some of their upcoming events at the September meeting held on Sept. 8.

The 4-H program will host the chili cookoff that will be held in conjunction with Santa on the Square on Saturday, Dec. 5. Participants will be asked to make a gallon of chili, which will then be sold to the public after the judging.

A Christmas ornament scavenger hunt is being planned that would take place a couple weeks before Christmas. Clues would be available at participating stores.

A "Meet the Candidates" event will pro-

spectively be held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, pending candidate interest in attending. The event would be held from 6-8 p.m. at Murfreesboro City Hall, with three to five questions for each candidate and a three minute window for their own speech. The event would focus on the contested races of mayor, with Mary Jean Barbre and Jack Bonds, and the three candidates for West Ward One in Murfreesboro -- Patrick May, Doris Scoggins and Angie Strawn.

The annual Veterans Day celebration will be held on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the senior adult center in Murfreesboro.

Tourism Commission advocates for Crater State Park in Little Rock

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission met on Sept. 8 to conduct their monthly business.

The group accepted the bid for a new HVAC system installed by Hometown Heating and Air’s Micah Harper at their rental building located just off the square.

It was noted that at some point in the future the building would need to have new roofing installed -- perhaps next summer -- but that the building would be paid off in June of 2027.

A group of three representatives -- banker Jamie Terrell, Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O’Neal and local business owner Jack Bonds -- traveled to Little Rock on August 17 to discuss details of the Crater of Diamonds State Park with state management and local elected state officials Steve Crowell and Justin Gonzales.

Part of the discussion was the reduction of 5,000 hours of employee work being reduced, which is the equivalent of 2.5 employees.

“They are already understaffed,” said Terrell at the meeting. He also noted that Bonds was asked to attend the meeting before qualifications for the local mayoral race, so it was not to be construed as an endorsement in any way.

Following the meeting the Crater will only be reduced 2,000 of employee hours for fiscal year 2027.

After previously being denied, the talks also led to the development of the tourism commission to place a billboard type advertisement just outside the entrance to the state park (on the other side of the road that would be seen when exiting the park) as well as a planned enhanced brochure rack to hold local businesses’ information for visitors to peruse as they frequent the Crater.

Other discussions included the state of mining equipment available for rent at the state park, the state of the water park facilities (with repairs to be fully completed prior to spring 2027), the lack of “Crater of Diamonds” emblazoned merchandise at the park’s gift shop, as well as the potential for ATV parking at the park, pending a decision by the Murfreesboro City Council to allow their use inside city limits.

The commission had previously voted to allow up to \$15,000 for signage.

It was also noted that three of the top ten best

selling gift shop items from state parks across Arkansas were from the Crater of Diamonds.

Also, the commission asked that information about diamond finds be shared with them for use on the digmurfreesboro.com website.

Magnets with a place to feature the addresses of vacation rentals have been produced by the Tourism Commission and will be provided to owners of the rental establishments.

“Many of the vacationers don’t know the real addresses of the places they are staying at -- they just used GPS to get them there. By posting the addresses for 9-1-1 calls, it will help cut out some of the wild goose chases we have been on,” said Murfreesboro Fire Chief and first responder Ricky Branch.

The Keith Stone Memorial Car Show is set for Saturday, Sept. 19. Event organizer Kirk Stone said the plans were coming together ahead of the event, and that a number of vendors were planned.

“Hopefully it’s just not as hot as it has been or raining,” Stone said with a laugh.

Terrell said the commission appreciated Stone’s efforts and that it was “a good event for Murfreesboro.”

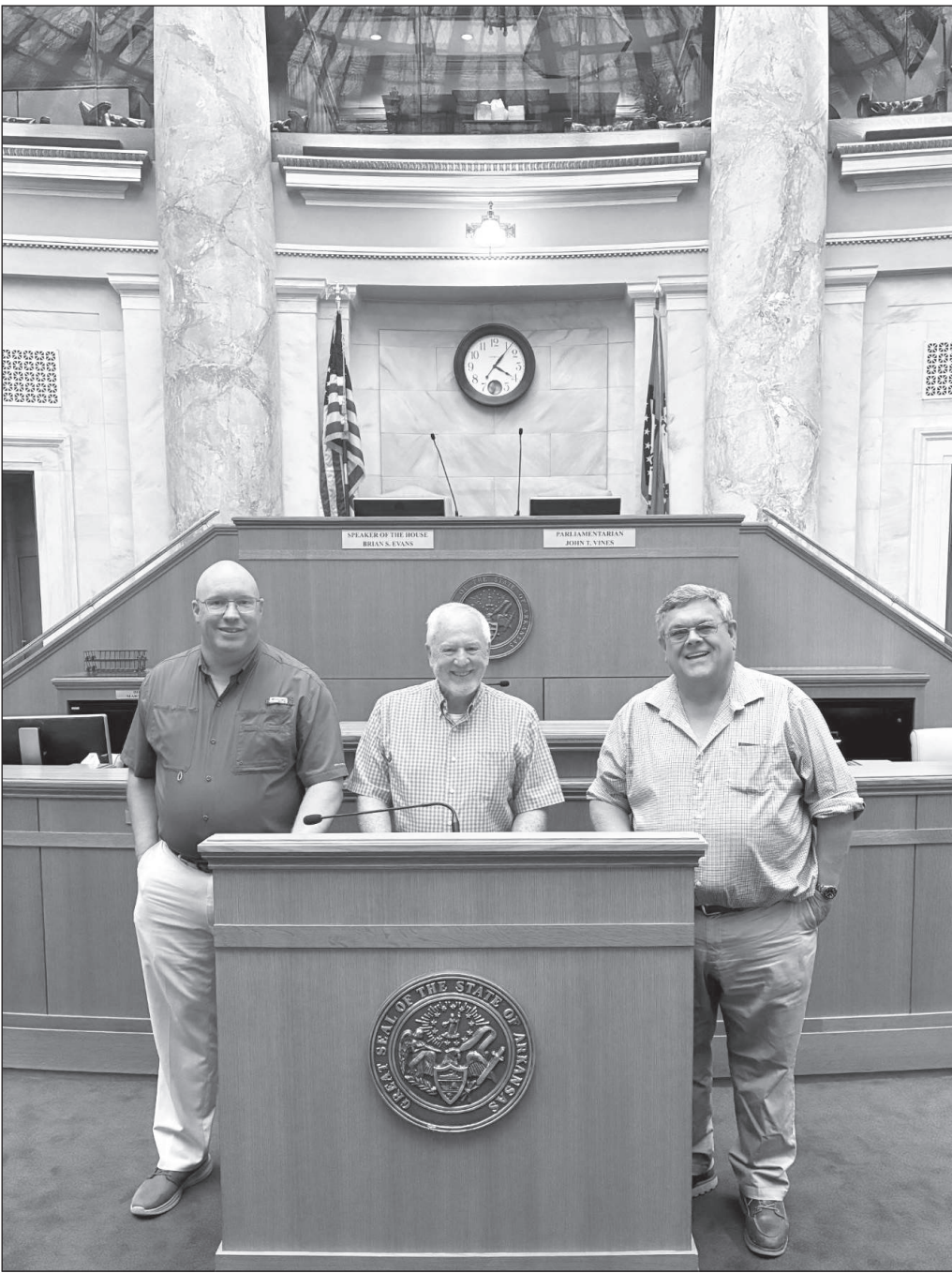
After a freedom of information act (FOIA) request to the commission -- their first -- the board was asked if they wanted to implement a policy on charging a nominal fee for documents requested.

Terrell said that an entity had 72 hours to respond to an FOIA request, and that the board probably “shouldn’t expect a lot of them” but that there was some cost in “time and supplies” to fulfill a request.

After discussion the board will investigate what charges are allowed/recommend by the Arkansas Municipal League before making a decision on setting a policy.

Terrell said the board had no choice but to comply with the FOIA request after it came to his personal e-mail. The request was made by a Nashville mayoral candidate, Larry Dunaway, in regards to one of his competitors -- Denise Woodruff -- and the tax payment history for her vacation rental establishment in Murfreesboro.

Vacation rental establishment inside the city limits of Murfreesboro collect a special tax that funds the Advertising and Tourism Commission.



Submitted photos/MA&TCI

ADVOCATING FOR THE CRATER ... Recently a group of three individuals -- (L to R) Jamie Terrell, Jim O’Neal and Jack Bonds -- traveled to Little Rock to discuss the Crater of Diamonds State Park with state officials. The group is pictured while at the State Capitol.

AGFC announces local youth hunt opportunities

LITTLE ROCK -- A pair of youth hunting opportunities have been announced by the AGFC

ASHDOWN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office is accepting applications for a special youth deer hunt at Millwood Lake Nov. 7-8, 2026.

Eight permits will be issued to hunters ages 6-15. Applicants must submit a completed form by Oct. 8. Forms are available at the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office located at 1528 Highway 32 E, Ashdown, AR or by calling 870-898-3343. A random drawing and hunter notification will occur on Oct. 9.

Participants must have guardian consent and be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 21 years old the day of the hunt who has completed hunter’s education and has a valid Arkansas hunting license.

Youth hunters are limited to modern guns, must provide their own firearms and be proficient in their use. Access and hunting blinds will be provided.

Recreation information can be found on the Internet at www.swl.usace.army.mil, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/littlerockusace and on the USACE Little Rock water level mobile app at www.swl.usace.army.mil/Home/water-control-app/.

is accepting applications for a special youth deer hunt at Dierks Lake Oct. 24-25, 2026.

Six permits will be issued to hunters ages 6-15. Applicants must submit a completed form by Oct. 2. Applications are available at the Dierks Lake Project Office located at 246 Jefferson Ridge Road, Dierks, AR or by calling 870-286-2346. A random drawing and hunter notification will occur on Oct. 7.

Participants must have guardian consent and be accompanied by an unarmed adult over 21 years old the day of the hunt who has completed hunter’s education and has a valid Arkansas

hunting license.

Youth hunters are limited to alternative firearms, must provide their own firearm and be proficient in its use. For a list of firearms approved for use during the alternative firearms season, visit www.agfc.com/hunting/deer/deer-specific-hunting-regulations/.

Access and hunting blinds will be provided. This event promotes conservation, outdoor interest and ethical hunting while improving the local deer herd.

Recreation information can be found on the Internet at www.swl.usace.army.mil, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/littlerockusace and on the USACE Little Rock water level mobile app at www.swl.usace.army.mil/Home/water-control-app/.

4-H to host fundraiser

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County 4-H will be having a BBQ fundraiser on Sunday, September 20, starting at 12 p.m. in the old hospital parking lot.

The cost will be \$10 per plate, which includes BBQ sandwich, chips, dessert and a drink.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
GERALD ALEN NOLEN, DECEASED NO. 55PR-26-49

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR
AND FILING OF CLAIMS

Last known address of decedent: 784 Navy Street, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
Date of death: 10/06/2025

The undersigned, Michael John Malone, was appointed administrator of the ancillary estate of the above-named decedent on the 10th day of September, 2026.

All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice first published this 16th day of September, 2026.

Michael John Malone, Administrator
BY: Victor Martin, ABN 2018116
Attorney at Law
420 N. Main, Suite One
P. O. Box 922
Nashville, AR 71852
(870) 845-5256 phone
(v.m. 156w., 11,12)

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

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

Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park

Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson

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

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Telephone: 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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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.**

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.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT



August 18, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Bunnell, Josua Michael, 38, Beirne, guilty of no motorcycle endorsement one license, fined \$140
Fant, William Michael, 38, Kirby, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325
Hughes, Alisha Dawn, 40, Mena, \$321 BF, overweight
Johnson, Jerry David, 37, Prescott, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$70; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty of no vehicle license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Lindsey, Ashley Depre, 37, Arkadelphia, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125
Morris, Lacresia Marie, 45, Clarksville, \$135 BF, speeding
Tidwell, Ryan J., 45, Glenwood, \$125 BF, careless prohibited driving
Wilson, Patricia Lorene, 44, Arkadel-

phia, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$615; guilty of DWI, fined \$1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of refusal to submit to chemical test, fined \$125; guilty of disorderly conduct, fined \$220; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$220
CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Jackson, Jamie Keystone, 25, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, committed to jail; \$6,101 balance
CITY OF GLENWOOD
Fant, William Michael, 38, Kirby, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$280
Parker, Larry Wayne Jr., 49, Lockesburg, \$245 BF, public intoxication
Tobin, Kyle Edmond, 35, De Queen, guilty no vehicle license, fined \$145; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335; guilty of speeding, fined \$145

BENCH TRIALS PIKE COUNTY
Dean, Teri G., 54, Glenwood, guilty of no child restraint device, fined \$140
Otts, Emily Lauren, 34, Kirby, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$595
Roberts, Paula Rae, 58, Delight, third-degree domestic battery, under advisement for one year to dismiss
Shepard, Latasha A., 48, Nashville, guilty of speeding, fined \$140
Wiggins, Floyd, 69, Glenwood, first-degree criminal mischief, under advisement for six months to dismiss; terroristic threatening, under advisement for six months to dismiss
Wise, Matthew Ray, 37, Colbert, Okla., guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,090 and license suspended for six months
CITY OF GLENWOOD
Cogburn, Jacob Dempsey, 21, Glenwood, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,100 and license suspended for six months

Obituaries

Jerry Lott, 62, Dallas, Texas



Jerry Lott, 62, passed away peacefully in his sleep due to complications of Alzheimer on Thursday, September 10, in Dallas. He was born on December 14, 1963 in Little Rock to Luther and Donis Lott. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his brother, David and (Amy) Lott of Murfreesboro; two nephews, Brian and (Anita) Lott of Florida and Adam and (Lindsay) Lott of Benton; two nieces, Erica and (Chad) Staggs of Texarkana, and Valerie and (Zach) Clark of Arkadelphia; two great nieces, Hadley Staggs of Texarkana and Realynn Lott of Benton, and numerous cousins and many special friends to cherish his memory.

Janelle ‘Jan’ Laurent, 81, Goshen



Janelle “Jan” Laurent, 81, of Goshen, Arkansas, passed away on September 12th, 2026. She was born on November 29th, 1944, in Benton, Arkansas, to Paul and Fannabel Luttrell. Jan was united in marriage to the love of her life, Glen Dale Laurent, on July 18th, 1965. They shared 61 years of marriage filled with love, devotion, and cherished memories. Jan was a graduate of Murfreesboro High School, where she played basketball and was a cheerleader. Following high school, she earned an Associates Degree in Business Education through Southern State College in Magnolia, Arkansas. Jan was a Christian and deeply rooted in her family. She was passionate about the people she loved. Her greatest joy was watching her children and grandchildren follow their dreams. She was always their biggest supporter, cheering them on through every accomplishment and every new adventure. Jan was also a creative and talented artist who loved crafts and creating beautiful scrapbooks for her family to enjoy. Jan’s love, encouragement, and unwavering belief in her family will forever be remembered. She leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love, creativity, and devotion to those who meant the most to her. She is survived by her beloved husband, Glen Dale Laurent; her two daughters, Bethany Frisco of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Amy Underdown, and husband Chad, of Elkins, Arkansas; her grandsons, Corbin Frisco & Aiden Underdown; her granddaughter, Whitley Underdown; her sister, Marilyn Wingrove; her brother, and sister-in-law, Adrian and Becky Luttrell; and their children, Paige Kilpatrick and Mike Luttrell and his wife, Debbie and multitude of wonderful cousins, spouses and family. Jan was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Fannabel Luttrell. Jan will be deeply missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her. Her memory will live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind, and her love will continue to guide her family for generations to come. A visitation for Jan will be held at 9:00AM on Thursday, September 17th, 2026, at Moore’s Chapel Funeral Home, 206 W. Center St., Fayetteville, Arkansas. The funeral service will follow directly after at 10:00AM. A graveside service will be at 2:00 p.m. at Maplewood Cemetery in Harrison, Arkansas. Family and friends are invited to attend and celebrate Jan’s life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the “Circle of Life” in Springdale, AR. Pall Bearers are Corbin Frisco, Aiden Underdown, Chad Underdown, Dawson Mallis, Mike Luttrell, & Jordan Sutherland. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 To leave an online tribute, please visit www.bernafuneralhomes.com

Pair charged following undercover operation

MURFREESBORO -- Undercover operations conducted by the 9th West Drug Task Force in 2025 have resulted in charges for two Murfreesboro men. On Sept. 9, charges were filed in Pike County Circuit Court against Wesley Cummings, 49, and Richard Newton, 69. Cummings is charged with delivery of methamphetamine and marijuana and an additional charge of close proximity to certain facilities after selling \$40 worth of meth in an undercover buy at his home at 2175 Highway 19 North, which is within 1,000 feet of the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Cummings pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Nov. 30 pretrial date and a \$7,500 bond were set. Newton is charged with delivery of hydrocodone pills and close proximity to certain facilities after selling 10 pills in an undercover buy at his home at 919 North Kelly Avenue, which is less than 1,000 feet from the First Christian Church and daycare. Newton pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and an Oct. 5 pretrial date and a \$15,000 bond were set. Also on Sept. 9, Sharleen M. Villalobos, 62, of Murfreesboro was charged with second-degree forgery and theft of property. She was arrested on July 24 after an investigation into forged checks in the amount of \$10,000. Villalobos is accused of cashing two checks on a Texas bank account in her name and in the amount of \$5,000 each at First State Bank in Murfreesboro. After depositing the checks, Villalobos allegedly used her debit card to purchase gift cards and withdraw the funds. The Texas bank informed the local bank the account did not exist and the checks were fake. Villalobos reportedly told Murfreesboro

Police Chief Randy Lamb that she had been made beneficiary of an account belong to the famous actor, Jason Momoa. She pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Nov. 30 pretrial date was set. Other criminal charges filed in Pike County include: Alisha Deshae Pinkerton, 33, of Delight, charged with possession of a controlled substance (meth) and drug paraphernalia. She pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Nov. 30 pretrial date and a \$5,000 bond were set. Antonio C. Henson, 21, of Kirby, charged with 21 counts of theft of property (firearms). He has yet to make a court appearance on the charges. Andrew Howell, 31, of Delight, charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor harassing communications. He pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and an Oct. 5 pretrial date and a \$10,000 bond were set. Russell Barrett, 53, of Kirby, charged with possession of a controlled substance (meth) and misdemeanor obstructing governmental operations. He pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Nov. 30 pretrial date and a \$7,500 bond were set. Heather F. Rather, 43, of Delight, charged with possession of a controlled substance (meth) and drug paraphernalia and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. She pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Nov. 30 pretrial date was set.

SUDOKU

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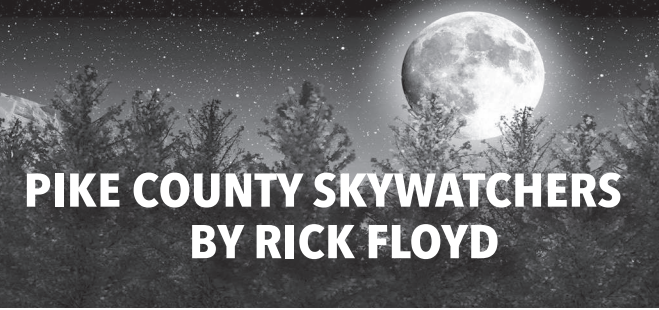
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PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Fall into the sounds

Sitting outside looking at the night sky can be an immersive experience. Whether you are simply star gazing, waiting for meteors to streak across, or observing specific astronomical features a heightened awareness of your surroundings also often come into focus. It is interesting that enjoying the beauty and silence of the night sky can turn attention to the sounds that are all around. Nature provides plenty of noises. Cicadas, crickets and other insects create a complicated web of sounds, and owls, distant coyotes and cows add another layer to the concert. People also have noises. Cars, trucks, and motorcycles rev and roar, and now and then honk. Curiosity arises about the way sound travels through the air, and questions about why sounds are seemingly more intense at times and almost mute at others. There are times, for example, the roar of race cars can be heard on Saturday night from miles away, but not on other weekends, and cars approaching town on the other side of the Little Missouri sound if they are just a few blocks away. Sound travels through the air at about 767 miles per hour, but it can also travel through liquids and solids at even faster speeds. Sound travels much slower than light, which moves along at 186,000 miles per second (about 671 million m.p.h.) which is why when you see the light of an approaching passenger jet as you star-gaze the sound of the engines do not reach your ears until the jet has passed. Getting back to the why sound carries differently from time to time, the physics is fairly simple. Sound travels through warm air faster than in cool air, so sound emitted at a warm ground level slows when it reaches cooler upper air which bends the sound waves upward (and thus away from a listener at a distance). If the opposite condition exists, sound waves are deflected downward when they encounter warm air aloft and speed up slightly amplifying the sound to a listener on the ground. Wind also influences the movement of sound waves. It is somewhat intuitive that if you are downwind of something emitting sounds, they will be more intense because wind tends to push sound waves downward. Autumnal equinox, the first day of fall, happens on Tuesday September 22. The exact astronomical position happens at 7:05 p.m. CDT. Look for the Sun to rise due east and set due west, and for daytime and nighttime to be almost equal.

UAMS





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 is sepsis?

A: Sepsis is a life-threatening condition in which the body reacts abnormally to an infection. During sepsis, the immune system attacks healthy organs and tissues while fighting an illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 1.7 million people in the United States are diagnosed with sepsis each year.

Infections that begin in the brain or spinal cord, gastrointestinal tract, lungs, skin, or urinary tract are the common causes of sepsis. Risk factors include people who are older than 65, those who use breathing tubes or catheters, people with chronic conditions such as diabetes or kidney disease, those who have had extended hospital stays, or people with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms include low blood pressure, extreme discomfort or pain, rapid heartbeat, low body temperature, or slurred speech. People experiencing septic shock may have extreme confusion, find it difficult to stand, or have problems staying awake.

Early diagnosis and treatment are important in treating sepsis, as the illness can progress rapidly. Antibiotics, a breathing machine, intravenous fluids, insulin to control blood sugar, or surgery to clean or drain an infection are some methods to treat the condition. Seek emergency care at a healthcare facility if you experience symptoms.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



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There’s a 4-H project for that? Diversity offered for local youth

When most people hear the words “4-H project,” they may immediately picture an animal at the county fair. While livestock projects are an important part of 4-H, they are only one small piece of everything the program has to offer.

One of the best things about 4-H is that there really is something for almost everyone. A young person who loves taking pictures can explore photography. Someone who enjoys being in the kitchen can learn cooking, baking, nutrition, and food preservation.

Creative members can try sewing, crafts, woodworking, art, or home furnishings. Those interested in technology can explore STEM, robotics, computers, and digital skills. And the list doesn’t stop there. 4-H members can participate in gardening, agriculture, wildlife, outdoor skills, health and fitness, performing arts, public speaking, leadership, citizenship, community service, and many other project areas.

Sometimes a young person discovers an interest through 4-H that they never even knew they had.

MORE THAN A PROJECT

The real value of a 4-H project isn’t simply the finished product. When a 4-H’er learns to sew, they are also learning patience and problem-solving. When they prepare a recipe, they practice measuring, following directions, food safety, and time management. Photography teaches members to slow down and look at the world differently. Gardening requires responsibility and patience. Public speaking builds confidence. Community service teaches compassion and shows young people that they have the ability to make a difference.

Even when a project doesn’t turn out per-

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

fectly, there is something to learn. That is what makes 4-H different. Members “learn by doing.”

FINDING THEIR PLACE

Not every child is interested in the same things, and they shouldn’t have to be. Some kids want to compete. Others would rather create. Some enjoy standing in front of a crowd, while others would rather work behind the scenes. One member may love spending an afternoon in the kitchen while another would rather be outside planting a garden or taking photographs. There is room for all in 4-H.

Sometimes all it takes is giving a young person the opportunity to try something new. That first craft workshop might uncover an artistic talent. A photography project could turn into a lifelong hobby. Giving a demonstration might help a quiet member discover that they actually enjoy public speaking. A community service project may inspire someone to become a leader.

So, the next time you hear about a 4-H proj-

ect and find yourself saying, “Wait—you can do THAT in 4-H?” The answer just might be yes! Pike County 4-H is about helping young people discover what interests them, develop new skills, serve their community, and grow into confident leaders.

Still have questions about what 4-H really is or wondering where your child might fit in? Contact me at (870) 285-2161. Let’s get your child involved and help them find THEIR place in Pike County 4-H!

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 profanities.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION

FIRST STATE BANK OF DE QUEEN/PIKE
COUNTY,
Plaintiff

vs.

NO. 55CV-26-42

JENNIFER D. SMITH and STATE OF
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION,
Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned commissioner, pursuant to the Foreclosure Decree of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, which was rendered on August 25, 2026, in which First State Bank of De Queen/Pike County is the Plaintiff and Jennifer D. Smith and State of Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration are the Defendants, will on October 28, 2026, offer for sale at public auction in the lobby, 1st Floor, of the County Courthouse in Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas, to the highest and best bidder the following property situated in Pike County, Arkansas:

Tract No 1:

Part of the S 1/2 NE 1/4 of Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 25 West, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, described as follows: From the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, run North 1200 feet to the South Right of Way line of State Highway No. 27; thence run South 52 degrees 30’ West 1667 feet along said Right of Way to the Point of Beginning; thence continue the same angle along said Highway 250 feet to the South boundary of the S1/2 NE 1/4 ; thence East along the South boundary of the S 1/2 NE 1/4 225 feet; thence Northerly 168 feet to the Point of Beginning, being a triangle, containing 0.47 acres, more or less.

Tract No. 2:

The West 45 feet of even width of the following described lands: A tract of land located in the S1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 25 West, Murfreesboro, Pike County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast Corner of said SE 1/4 NE 1/4, run North 1200 feet to the South Right of Way line of State Highway No. 27, thence run South 52 degrees 30’ West 1550 feet along said Right of Way for the Point of Beginning, thence run South 37 degrees 30’ East 284 feet to the South line of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, thence West 463 feet to the South Right of Way line of Highway #27, thence North 52 degrees 30’ East 367 feet along said Right of Way line to the Point of Beginning. LESS AND EXCEPT Part of the S1/2 NE 1/4 of Section 18, Township 8 South, Range 25 West, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, described as follows: From the Southeast corner of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, run North 1200 feet to the South Right of Way line of State Highway No. 27; thence run South 52 degrees 30’ West 1667 feet along said Right of Way to the Point of Beginning; thence continue the same angle along said Highway 250 feet to the South boundary of the S 1/2 NE 1/4; thence East along the South boundary of the S 1/2 NE 1/4 225 feet; thence Northerly 168 feet to the Point of Beginning, being a triangle, containing 0.47 acres, more or less. (collective known as “Property”).

The sale will be held at 10:00 o’clock a.m., on the date stated at public auction to the highest bidder on the following terms: at the time of sale the purchaser shall be required to pay to the Commissioner ten percent (10%) of the purchase price (which shall be forfeited to the Plaintiff if the balance of the purchase price is not paid within the time stated herein), with the balance of the purchase price paid to the Commissioner within ninety (90) days of the sale date; provided that if Plaintiff is the purchaser, in lieu of payment, it may credit the amount of its bid against the judgment awarded in the Foreclosure Decree.

WITNESS MY HAND September 3, 2026.

Sabrina Williams
Circuit Clerk - Commissioner
(r.s.m.j. 678w., 10,11)

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By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

HUMILITY

James 4:6 – God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 18:4 that we must humble ourselves as a

little child in order to become the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

We are to have the mind in us that was also in Christ. He made Himself of no reputation, took on the form of a bondservant, and came in the likeness of men. He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

In order to become fully pleasing to God, we must humble ourselves, become a servant, and daily take up our cross and follow Him. We must live a humble life in front of Christ and others and draw near to God so that He might draw near to us.

HOW WE SHOW HUM-



ILITY IN OUR DAILY LIVES
HUMBLE OURSELVES TO THE LORD! James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up.

DO NOT THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF! Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

LOVE ALL PEOPLE! Ephe-

sians 5:2 And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

PREFER ONE ANOTHER! Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER! Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister.

DOING THE WORD! James 1:22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

May God richly bless each of us, as we humble ourselves and daily strive to walk in the light as He is in the light. HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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THE ISRAELITES AND THE RED SEA

WHEN PHARAOH AND HIS ARMY TRAPPED THE ISRAELITES BY THE SEA, THE FRIGHTENED PEOPLE CRIED OUT TO MOSES THAT HE HAD LED THEM INTO THE WILDERNESS TO DIE! BUT MOSES TOLD THE PEOPLE NOT TO FEAR AND BEFORE THE EGYPTIANS COULD DO ANYTHING, THE LORD IN A PILLAR OF CLOUD MOVED BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELITES AND THEN PHARAOH AND HIS ARMY COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING AT ALL! (EX. 14:19-20)

I CAN NOT SEE!
WHERE ARE THE ISRAELITES?
FEAR NOT! FOR THE LORD GUIDETH US!

...MOSES STRETCHES FORTH HIS HAND AND A STRONG EAST WIND BLOWS ALL THE NIGHT LONG DRIVING BACK THE WATERS OF THE SEA AS THE ISRAELITES GO FORWARD!

AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CROSS THROUGH THE MIDST OF THE SEA ON DRY LAND!

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!

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 - Bottle top
 - Be of use
 - Wilt “The _____” Chamberlain
 - Sailor’s assent
 - Nincompoop
 - *Electric current path
 - *Like magnifying glass lens
 - Unhappy
 - Southern stew staple
 - ____ Beta Kappa
 - Harper and Bruce, e.g.
 - Type of jacket
 - Nevada city
 - “The Road Runner” corporation
 - Solemnly promised
 - One twelfth of a foot
 - What blacksmith did to a horse
 - Ice dancer’s jump
 - Phishing and such
 - Nobel Peace Prize home
 - Either right or left
 - Good guy
 - Same as island
 - Tierra _____ Fuego
 - Third-person possessive pronoun
 - Yoko’s last name
 - *Electric current unit
 - *It pulls things down
 - Doom’s companion
 - Thomas Paine’s “The _____ of Reason”
 - 10 percent to charity, e.g.
 - Prevention measure
 - Sir George Ivan Morrison’s stage name
 - Wife’s dad, e.g.
 - In a frenzy
 - Three ahead of PST

- Picts and Gauls
- DOWN**
- Catchall abbr.
 - ____ spumante
 - Bear’s den, e.g.
 - Same as talcums
 - Opposite of potential
 - Med. sch. requirement
 - *Path of light
 - Heard by Horton
 - Tel _____, city
 - Bowling ball path
 - Seductive one
 - Like a fox
 - Historical records
 - Some are bright
 - Ball-shaped object
 - *Reverse one, in the kitchen
 - *Rainbow-producing device
 - From this time on
 - Relating to Quechuan people
 - *Sound reverberation
 - Hole-punching tools
 - Coral polyp, e.g.
 - Eat away
 - *What similar magnetic poles do
 - *Electrical resistance units
 - Mature elvers
 - Sorrow
 - “In the grand _____ of things”
 - Having Everything Revealed singer-songwriter
 - Related on mother’s side
 - Plunder
 - Sheep-like
 - Grad
 - a.k.a. kissing disease
 - Pox mark
 - Gentleman, informally
 - It will
 - Not this
 - Certain coniferous trees
 - India’s smallest state
 - *Not liquid or solid

CROSSWORD

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Arkansas approaches elections, an important gift as America celebrates 250 years

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

State Senator Steve Crowell

LITTLR ROCK -- As the United States continues to celebrate its 250th year, Arkansans are preparing for another important election season. The nation’s founders set in motion a system based on the idea that government draws its power from the people. That idea continues today through every ballot cast. With Arkansas’s voter-registration deadline for the November election approaching on October 5, 2026, residents have a timely opportunity to take part in that process and make their voices count.

Voting remains one of the most effective ways to shape everyday life. Local, state, and federal officials make decisions about school funding, road repairs, public transportation, healthcare access, economic development, public safety, and how tax dollars are used. By voting, Arkansans help choose the people who will represent them and decide how community resources are spent. Each ballot directly influences the quality of life for families across the state.

Even small numbers of votes can shape the outcome of an election. Local races are often decided by very tight margins, and growing participation from various communities has influenced the results of statewide contests in recent years. When more people vote, issues that matter most to them are more likely to be noticed and addressed. Every ballot adds to a collective voice that leaders can’t ignore.

Being well-informed strengthens the impact of each vote. Election seasons can be overwhelming, with constant ads and political messaging. Reliable, nonpartisan information helps voters sort facts from persuasion. Resources such as vote411.org and ballotpedia.org provide clear details about candidates and ballot measures. Reviewing all races, including local contests and proposed amendments, helps voters match their choices

with their values. Voters can be more confident and stress-free on Election Day by preparing a plan which includes researching candidates, noting preferred choices, and bringing those notes to the polls.

Registering to vote in Arkansas is simple. Residents must complete a paper voter-registration form, which is available from county clerks, public libraries, DMV and revenue offices, disability agencies, and military recruitment centers. Forms can also be printed online or requested by mail from the Arkansas Secretary of State. Once the county clerk processes the application, the voter receives a registration card, which may take a few weeks. Voters can confirm their registration status at any time by visiting voterview.ar-nova.org or by contacting their county

clerk.

To register to vote in Arkansas, you must meet several requirements: you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Arkansas, and at least 18 years old on or before Election Day. You cannot be currently serving a felony sentence that has not been discharged or pardoned, and you must not be legally declared mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

With the October 5 deadline approaching, Arkansans have a chance to shape their communities and take part in a democratic tradition that has lasted for two and a half centuries. Every ballot is a reminder that the strength of American self-government depends on citizens who stay informed, participate, and make their voices heard.

American workforce provides backbone of the country

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN

State Representative, AR-04

The American worker represents the grit, strength, and resilience that has defined our great nation for 250 years. We’ve watched our labor force lead the economy through the Industrial Revolution, the Digital Revolution, and every notable chapter in between, proving time and time again that our nation’s workers are the lifeblood of our economic success.

The recent Labor Day gave us the chance to reflect on the importance of our labor force. The innovation and ingenuity that set us apart from the rest of the world are largely due to the success of the generations of workers who came before us. Making up roughly 61% of the population, American workers continue to set the standard for excellence.

While some states rely on digital commerce for their GDP, Arkansas and the Fourth District rely heavily on tangible industries like manufacturing, farming, and even distribution – shipping our goods to every corner of the country.

From manufacturers in the River Valley region to our farmers in the south, over half of our state’s population relies on these sectors to support their families.

This is why working in Congress to support our labor force

remains a high priority.

House Republicans have made it our mission this Congress to put America first. That means putting our workforce first. Among several other wins in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, the included provisions for no tax on tips and no tax on overtime mean our hourly workers can put more of their hard-earned dollars back into their pockets.

But delivering results for our labor force doesn’t end there. We must continue fighting for lower costs of groceries, electricity bills, and health care. And making the dream of homeownership a reality would also be a tangible way of showing our support for these Americans who we have to thank for our nation’s success.

Labor Day is an annual reminder of just how vital our workforce is to our country. But my hope is that we continue to recognize their efforts not only in September, but throughout the year. I’m grateful to every worker, from grocery store clerks to our local barbers and the truck drivers who keep our economy moving. May we always remember that when our workforce thrives, our nation thrives.

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Classifieds

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

OFFICE FURNITURE -- Two metal four drawer filing cabinets \$20 each. One metal five drawer office desk \$25. For more information call 870-285-2723 or 870-681-0222.

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Week of September 14, 2026

RATTLERS IN ACTION

VERSUS GENOA CENTRAL

Westerman office to hold service academy session

HOT SPRINGS - The office of Congressman Bruce Westerman will host a Service Academy information session and application workshop for West Point and other military service opportunities on Thursday, September 24, in Hot Springs. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. This event is open to school counselors,

JROTC staff, students with an open admissions file, and students interested in applying to Military Service Academies and the ROTC in the future. No RSVP or registration is required. All interested attendees are kindly asked to call the Congressman’s Hot Springs office for the exact location at (501) 609-9796.

SNAP benefit limitation set for appeal process

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
University of Arkansas Divi of Agriculture

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture filed a notice of appeal after a federal judge struck down waivers in five states that excluded purchases of candy, soda and other items from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP. USDA filed the notice of appeal on Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In June’s ruling, U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia cited concerns over the definition of “food” and whether administrative procedures were followed. Her ruling came in a suit filed by five SNAP recipients that targeted waivers in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee and West Virginia. USDA announced its intent to appeal a decision about SNAP waivers. The ruling did not affect Arkansas, which has a waiver prohibiting SNAP recipients from using their electronic benefits cards to purchase candy, soda and certain other items. The Arkansas waiver does not prevent recipients from buying those items with their own money, however.

Emily Stone, staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center said further legal action shouldn’t be ruled out. “The success of this challenge might provide a roadmap for other state waivers to be challenged,” she said. While SNAP is administered by both USDA and states, in this joint-administration, USDA has the authority to determine what foods are eligible under SNAP, which provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget. States are authorized to determine who is eligible. The Food and Nutrition Act is the law that authorizes USDA to regulate SNAP. Thus, USDA determined that food products that meet FNA’s definition of food is what is eligible for SNAP benefits. The waivers, which have been granted to 23 states by USDA since 2025, give states the authority to change the SNAP eligibility of certain foods. Proponents say the waivers will support healthy food choices by SNAP recipients. “The secretary purports to waive not just a mere administrative or technical obstacle, but the very definition of ‘food’ as it was laid down by Congress,” the judge wrote in her ruling. For more information on state SNAP waivers, see nationalaglawcenter.org/court-rules-snap-waivers-violate-apa.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-3

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING CERTAIN PUBLIC STREETS AND HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS, AS OPEN TO THE OPERATION OF UTILITY TASK VEHICLES (UTVs); ESTABLISHING RULES FOR OPERATION; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; AND FOR OTHER EMERGENCY PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Act 922 of 2025 of the Arkansas General Assembly allows local governments to authorize the operation of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) on designated public streets or highways within the local government’s jurisdiction subject to certain requirements;

WHEREAS, the City of Murfreesboro, through its council has determined that allowing the operation of UTVs on designated city streets will benefit residents while maintaining public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS, OF THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1: The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize the operation of utility task vehicles on designated city streets in accordance with Arkansas law and to establish reasonable regulations for their operation.

SECTION 2: The City of Murfreesboro adopts all regulations and restrictions as listed in Act 922 of 2025. Any future amendments to state law governing UTV operation shall automatically be adopted by the city.

SECTION 3: The City of Murfreesboro adopts the following additional regulations and restrictions by and through this ordinance:

(A) All city streets are open to UTV traffic except: parts of Owens St, E Brewer St, E Dickson St, Reese St, E Haislip St, 2nd Ave, 3rd Ave, and 4th Ave. as specifically shown on the map marked as Exhibit “A” and attached hereto. These streets shall be closed to UTVs during school hours and all school functions.

(B) UTVs are not allowed in any areas not designated for motor vehicle traffic.

(C) UTVs may not be operated on streets or state highways within the city limits between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

(D) Operation of lights attached to and contained in the UTV shall comply with ACA § 27-36-208.

SECTION 4: Any person found operating a UTV in violation of any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than \$100.00 plus court costs for a first offense nor more than \$250.00 plus court costs for each subsequent offense, in addition to any penalties under state law.

SECTION 5: The declaration of any part of this ordinance to be invalid shall not serve to void any other part of the ordinance.

SECTION 6: All ordinance and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 14th day of September, 2026.

Attest: PENNY LAMB, Recorder/Treasure
JIM O’NEAL, Mayor
DATE: September 14, 2026

This publication was paid for by the City of Murfreesboro, office of the Treasurer. The amount paid for this publication is \$ 204.30.
(c.o.m., 454w., 11)