

The

Murfreesboro Diamond

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MHS elects student council, to sell ‘Pink Out’ Shirts

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro High School has announced the election of student council officers for the 2026-2027 school year. Students elected to positions include: President -- Ross Spradlin Vice-President -- Carter Gilmer Treasurer -- Ramsey Terrell Secretary -- Bella Frazier Reporter -- Charleigh Wheeler Graphic Designer -- Josey Jones Additionally, the MHS Student Council has announced that they are selling “Pink Out” t-shirts. Anyone looking to order a shirt is asked to have their order and money in to Danielle Bobo at Murfreesboro High School by Thursday, September 23. Shirts will be light pink Gildan tees and will cost \$15 each. Available sizes will be Youth XL-Adult 3XL.

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 Wednesday 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 Thursday, 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).

Youth basketball signups continue through Oct. 2

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro Youth Sports will be conducting their basketball signups through Friday, Oct. 2. The leagues are for students in third through sixth grades. Parents/guardians will be asked to sign permission, waiver and release documents for the students to be eligible for participation. The cost of entry into the league is \$50 by cash or check, or \$30 if you do not need a uniform. For more details, contact coach Chuck Lowery by email at chuck.lowery@rattlers.org. All forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 339, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

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

Local youths awarded for summer volunteerism

MURFREESBORO -- Blessed Beginnings Mission House, sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, recently completed its second annual Summer Food Program, which ran from May 28 through August 13, 2026. Missions Director Carey Beth Cole says this program is made possible through the incredible support of our church family, our amazing volunteers, and our partnership with Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank who provided the meals at no cost to us nor the children that received them. During our first year, Blessed Beginnings was honored to receive the 2025 Childhood Hunger Award from Harvest Texarkana after distributing 10,000 meals to children throughout the summer. This summer, we expanded our efforts even further with the help of Harvest Texarkana. Each child participating in the program received both breakfast and lunch for every weekday throughout the summer. “Our volunteers are truly the heart of this program. We simply could not provide this service to our community without their time, dedication, and willingness to serve,” said Cole. “This year, we were especially blessed to have three of our youth recognized at the Harvest Texarkana yearly banquet with the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. Each of these remarkable students dedicated more than 75 hours each to the program this summer. Their commitment is an incredible example of what it means to serve others and give back to our community. The three youths -- Richard Agudio, Keith Wilkinson and Jaicee Wilkinson -- that received this award are students at South Pike County School District. This award is an exceptional accomplishment and well deserved. We are also very proud of our other youth volunteers that provided support to our program and our families. They included Luke, Taylor and Hunter Agudio; Zach Brown; Grant Hoover; Kinzlee Wilkinson; Hunter, Emily and Kipp Dean, along with many adult members of our church daily and community volunteers, including Summit Utilities and the Pike County Jail on food truck delivery days. Trust me, the delivery days of so many meals was an incredible feat that you would have to see to believe.” The results of this year’s program are truly



Submitted photo/MFUMC
RECOGNIZED FOR SUMMER EFFORTS ... (L to R) Keith Wilkinson, Jaicee Wilkinson and Richard Agudio were awarded the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award by Harvest Food Bank for their efforts in aiding the local food drive effort that provided breakfast and lunches to children over the summer break from school. All three of the students donated more than 75 hours of their time over the summer in aid in the project.

remarkable. Blessed Beginnings surpassed our goal by distributing 26,262 meals to children in our county and surrounding counties. That number represents more than just meals. It represents children who were fed, families who received support, volunteers who gave their time, and a community coming together to serve one another.

“We are incredibly grateful for everyone who made this program possible this has been an incredible accomplishment, an opportunity to serve, and a tremendous blessing to our church and our community. We look forward to continuing this ministry and, God willing, providing this program for many more years to come,” said Cole.

Investigation ongoing in Kirby shooting

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Sheriff’s Department made a press release available for Monday’s shooting altercation in Kirby. The release states that on Monday, Sept. 21, deputies with the Pike County Sheriff’s Office were dispatched to a residence in Kirby following a reported shooting. Upon arrival, deputies located a victim suf-

fering from two apparent gunshot wounds. Pafford EMS responded to the scene and provided medical treatment. The victim was transported to a designated landing zone to be airlifted for further medical treatment. The individual believed to be the shooter was detained at the scene. The Arkansas State Police Criminal Investi-

gation Division was contacted and will be handling the investigation. The PCSO stated that the investigation was “active and ongoing” and that at this time, this is all of the information being released. Additional information may be released as it becomes available and investigators determine it can be made public.

MHS Rattlers recoup health in off week, set to face Go-Devils

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers (0-3) got a jump on preparing for their first conference game this week at Gurdon following a bye. Gurdon now sits at 2-2 on the season following a last second 37-30 loss to Mount Ida last Friday night. Coach Jay Turley said that the his team had a “great off week” saying his team responded to less contact in practices, but went “hard and fast.” He said the week of recuperation was good on the team -- injuries to Cayden Ballard, Cale Humphry, Jarrin Burgess and Alex Parker should be healed enough for the quartet to play against the Go-Devils. Turley said the additions would be helpful for the team, both in the talent level, but also the defensive rotation that would require other key players to go less on both sides of the ball. While Turley said it was “a new season” following the conclusion of non-conference play, he also admits his squad has an uphill battle in their first conference matchup. “Gurdon is really good ... Arkansas Sports Network has them ranked number two in AA last week [Hooten’s had them tenth]. It took a late fourth quarter drive for Mount Ida to beat them.” Turley said that Mount Ida’s starting quarterback was injured and didn’t play in the game last week, but that didn’t diminish from Gurdon’s efforts. “Their offense is really good – perhaps the best we’ve seen this season, on par with Danville. They are scary, physical, fast and coached really well.” He said Kyle Jackson was doing a great job with a team featuring a young and smaller roster of 19 players. Offensively, Turley feels his team can attack some things that Gurdon may be weaker at on defense.

RATTLERS Continued on Page 5

★= MEET THE CANDIDATES =★

October 6 • 7:00 PM

Murfreesboro City Hall
805 N. Washington Avenue

MAYOR CANDIDATES

Jack BondsMary Jean Barbre

CITY COUNCIL

West Ward • Position 1

Doris ScogginsAngie StrawnPatrick May

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Snacks will be provided!

Come meet the candidates and hear from those seeking to serve our community.

September 1, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Acosta, James, 18, Nashville, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Allen, Marlin, 62, Ashdown, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined \$70
Barrett, Alexis Nicole, 26, Kirby, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Brewer, Chandler Steven, 27, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Buck, John Michael, 39, Delight, \$185 BF, speeding
Cates, Alicia Lynne, 31, Umpire, guilty of failure to pay; \$610 balance
Christopher, Kiana Ann, 30, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay; \$765 balance
Colins, Zachary R., 40, Murfreesboro, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Cox, Austin A., 35, Amity, \$125 BF, speeding
Cox, Dustin Lee, 18, Amity, \$125 BF, speeding
Dominguez, Yatzari, 25, De Queen, \$135 BF, allowing unauthorized person to drive
Drury, Meghan Christie, 27, Prescott, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty of no vehicle license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Fatherree, Dylan Leon, 30, Amity, \$315 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Flores, Jent Josue, 47, Houston, Texas, \$125 BF, speeding
Floyd, Timothy S., 36, Nashville, no child restraint device, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss
Fultz, Timothy Brian, 40, Fouke, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$125
Garcia, Heladio Vasquez, 29, Wickes, \$125 BF, no drvier’s license
Gardner, William Gavin, 27, Blevins, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Gonzalez, Angel Yair, 20, De Queen, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; \$135 BF, speeding
Hadley, Macen Lee, 22, Hope, \$135 BF, speeding
Hancock, Gavin, 18, Amity, \$185 BF, speeding
Hathcock, Hanna Grace, 28, Prescott, guilty of failure to pay; \$780 balance
Hawkins, Arrian Shawn, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325 and sentenced to two days in jail-suspended conditions
Henderson, Mike, 71, Delight, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Henson, Antonio Charles, 21, Kirby, \$280 BF, cruelty to animals
Hernandez, Miguel, 17, Russellville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of speeding, fined \$135
Holmes, Brandon M., 44, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$340
Hurtado, Juan G., 31, Little Rock, guilty of failure to pay; \$2,200 balance
Jackson, Sara M., 40, Nashville, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of open container in motor vehicle, fined \$220
Jenkins, Madison, 19, Moultrie, Ga., \$280 BF, cruelty to animals
Jester, Myllyssa Dee, 30, Prescott, \$125 BF, speeding
Jones, Felecia V., 38, Nashville, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$220
Jordan, Tiffinany, 41, Texarkana, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Kilfether, Lydia Miriam, 42, Caddo Gap, g\$45 BF, no seat belt
Lambert, Drake Wayne, 22, Amity, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license; \$125 BF, defective lights
Luis, Miguel, 23, Nashville, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$125 BF, special restrictions on lamps
Martin, Kolton Lee, 19, Kirby, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Martin, Matthew William, 35, Iowa, La., \$125 BF, speeding
McGuire, Trent Alexander, 20, Hope, \$125 BF, improper passing
Melero, Marco M., 42, Dallas, Texas, \$135 BF, speeding
Meurer, Ashley N., 40, Cookeville, Tenn., guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Miller, Miranda Nichole, 30, Mount Ida, \$125 BF, speeding
Moore, Gregory O’Neal, 53, Maumelle, \$140 BF, defective equipment; \$140 BF, over height-overwide
Moses, Madison Lee, 32, Mansfield, \$125 BF, speeding
Neal, Jarrod Tyler, 26, Hot Springs, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,050 and license suspended for six months; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$245

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

Neighbors, RaymonD C., 50, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325 and sentenced to two days in jail-suspended conditions
Newton, Christopher R., 48, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$2,259 balance; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Overton, Elizabeth W., 63, Nashville, \$185 BF, speeding
Paul, Brandon, 47, Oakdale, La., \$135 BF, speeding
Perez, Berenise, 19, De Queen, \$125 BF, speeding
Pickett, Ethan Kole, 25, Murfreesboro, \$220 BF, disorderly conduct; \$220 BF, public intoxication
Pickle, Billy S., 62, Amity, driving with suspended license, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss, fined \$325
Robbins, Mariah Dawn, 37, Russellville, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Rosales, Jose Rigoberto, 24, Memphis, Tenn., \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Salmon, Hector Manuel, 19, Hot Springs, \$125 BF, speeding
Sanchez, Analy Eliseth, 18, Little Rock, \$125 BF, speeding
Tankersley, Bradley C., 38, Amity, guilty of failure to pay; \$1,590 balance
Turner, Matthew Edward, 23, Kirby, \$135 BF, speeding
Turner, Montgomery, 19, Nashville, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Ward, Jace Keaton, 20, Amity, \$135 BF, speeding
Weller, William G., 74, Glenwood, no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Donaldson, Memory Diane, 43, Hot Springs, guilty of defective lights, fined \$75
Eisenberger, Sara, 39, Lawrence, N.Y., \$145 BF, speeding
Gastelum, Rogelio, 29, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, committed to jail-suspended conditions; \$790 balance
Hawkins, Arrian Shawn, 21, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335
Holmes, Brandon M., 44, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345, sentenced to two days in jail-suspended conditions; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$325
Jackson, Gary C., 62, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345
Maxey, Roy E., 56, Umpire, \$145 Bf, expired vehicle license/tags
Newton, Christopher R., 48, Nashville, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$345; guilty of no seat belt, fined \$45; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225
Perez, Nestor Josue, 16, Fayetteville, \$160 BF, no driver’s license
Pickett, Ethan Kole, 25, Murfreesboro, guilty of expired vehicle license/tags, fined \$145; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$335
Stanley, Marty, 71, Ozan, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Stinson, Juanita, 67, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$75
Terrell, John A., 58, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Walter, Belinda J., 58, Nashville, guilty of no seat belt, find \$45;

guilty of speeding, fined \$145

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION
Brown, Brody Wayne, 20, Bloomberg, Texas, \$220 B F, over capacity in boat
Callahan, Paul L., 47, Eustis, Fla., \$320 BF, fishing without license
Canals, Cory Jonathan, 37, Glenwood, \$220 BF, fishing without license
Clement, Gaige Andrew, 16, Fouke, \$220 BF, littering public waters-banks
Cruz, Jesus Morales, 33, Hot Springs, \$220 BF, spearfishing; \$22) BF, fishing without license
Dodson, Haynes Thomas, 35, Taylor, \$220 BF, over capacity in boat
Garrett, Timothy Scott, 54, Deer Lodge, Mont., \$220 BF, insufficient PFD
Guardiola, Elizar, 27, Fort Worth, Texas, \$220 BF, insufficient PFD
Oakley, Brayden Austen, 22, Murfreesboro, \$220 BF, no wake zone
Ramirez, Sergio, 34, Hot Springs, \$220 BF, aiding or abetting violation
Rossum, Channying M., 17, Texarkana, Texas, \$370 BF, hazardous operation of vessel
Rowton, John M., 23, Calhoun, La., \$320 BF, fishing without license
Vanderwatt, Shane L., 54, Greenwood, \$220 BF, over capacity in boat
Vines, Alexander O., 34, Jonesboro, La., \$220 BF, glass container on river
Westfall, Chad A., 51, Nashville, \$220 BF, insufficient PDF

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Aguilar, Lillaunna Rose, 20, Norman, \$145 BF, speeding
Bates, Steven Earl, 23, Glenwood, guilty of speeding, fined \$160; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225
Bennett, Jeffery Paul, 70, Little Rock, \$145 BF, speeding
Brennan, Steven J., 27, Hot Springs,, \$155 BF, speeding
Cox, McKenzie Shanne, 29, Caddo Gap, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Griffin, Kayla Brooke, 35, Monticello, \$155 BF, speeding
Gutierrez, Jose Manuel, 25, Tyler, Texas, \$145 BF, speeding
Hathcock, Hanna Grace, 28, Prescott, guilty of failure to pay; \$455 balance
Lloyd, Bobby J., 46, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Mata, Juan R., 70, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
McBryde, Halei Ashton, 25, Glenwood, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$28; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$265
Ness, Jerry Dale, 57, Little Rock, guilty of failure to pay; \$460 balance
Perez, Fredy, 25, Glenwood, \$150 BF, failure to pay
Richardson, Brian Dale, 43, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Salinas, Alberta Solano, 39, Glenwood, \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Smith, Brian K., 34, Murfreesboro, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$140; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350
Spears, Krystin, 30, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Veazey, Lauren Ashton, 29, Glenwood, \$155 BF, speeding
Warren, Hunter Ray, 22, Norman, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Weinstein, Timothy G., 37, Glenwood, \$170 BF, speeding; \$240 BF, failure to appear

SMALL ADS DO WORK!
YOU JUST READ ONE!
CONTACT THE DIAMOND • (870) 285-2723
Email mdiamond@windstream.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FROM THE PIKE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

PUBLIC VOTE MACHINE TESTING

Pike County Clerk Randee Edwards has announced that logic and accuracy testing of all media to be used in the voting equipment for the 2026 General Election will take place in the Clerk’s office at 112 N. Washington, Suite A, Murfreesboro, on Friday, October 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

This publication was paid for by Pike County Clerk office. The amount paid for this publication is \$29.70.

(p.c.c. 66w., 12)

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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BID NOTICE

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT DELIGHT, ARKANSAS PUBLIC CEMETERY

Notice is hereby given that Pike C ounty will be accepting sealed public bids for a streambank stabiliziation project located at the Delight public cemetery in Delight, Arkansas. The project will include streambank stabilization and related site improvements intended to address erodin, protect cemetery property, and help preserve the surrounding araeas.

Qualified contractors are invited to submit bids for the work in accordance with the project plans, specifications, and bid documents.

Bid Documents:
Plans, Specifications, instructions to bidders, and other applicable bid documents may be obtained from the Pike County Judge’s office.

Bid Opening:
All bids must be received by 9:00 a.m. on October 7, 2026, at the Pike County Judge’s office, located at 1 Courthouse Sq., Murfreesboro, AR. 71958. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on October 7, 2026.

Pike County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive information, and award the contract in the best interest of the Delight, Arkansas Public Cemetery and its constituents.

Interested contractors are encouraged to review all project requirements carefully before submitting a bid.

For additional information and to obtain bid documents please contact Pike County Judge’s office at 870-285-2414 or 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958

This publication was paid for by Pike County Judge’s office. The amount paid for this publication is \$104.80

(p.c.j. 233 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
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• 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.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

PIKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

OCTOBER 15, 2026

YOU CAN MAKE PAYMENT ONLINE AT WWW.COUNTYSERVICE.NET

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.

Harvest announces commodity distribution

MURFREESBORO -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in.

Check-In starts at 7a.m. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue and Owens Street towards First United Methodist Church.

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building.

The next mobile pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4. Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle

Thank You

The family of Robert O’Neal wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who reached out during the loss of our loved one.

The outpouring of love and support we received meant more than words can fully capture. To those who brought meals, sent cards, made donations toward the cemetery, or even lent an ear during this sad time, thank you. These gestures, large and small, carried us through some of the hardest days our family has faced.

We were reminded again and again how much our community matters, and how much Robert meant to the community. We are especially grateful for those who took time out of their busy lives to attend the service in his honor.

To everyone that contributed in ways big or small we are eternally grateful for your generosity and compassion. Please know that your kindness did not go unnoticed and will be remembered by our family for years to come.

With the deepest gratitude,
The family of Robert O’Neal

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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With purchase of new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSL# 1082165 NSCB 0662999 0083445

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

UAMS

HOUSE CALL

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

Q: Is there a cure for psoriasis?

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

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

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

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

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.

Obituaries

Janice Ann ‘Jan’ (Jackson) McGalliard, 80



Janice Ann “Jan” (Jackson) McGalliard, 80, of Delight, Arkansas, passed away Sunday, September 20, 2026, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She was born July 15, 1946, in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, the daughter of the late Coy Ely “Tootsie” and Evelyn Dickerson Jackson.

Jan was a member of Bowen Community Church and a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She was also passionate about preserving the history of the community she called home.

A founding member of the Pike County Archives and Historical Society, Jan served as an officer, secretary, and co-editor of The Gems. She spent decades researching and preserving Pike County history and genealogy. When her children were young, family outings often included trips to cemeteries, where they helped chalk old headstones so names and dates could be read and recorded. Jan was always happy to help others trace their family history.

Jan was wonderfully creative. She could draw, crochet, cross-stitch, embroider, sew, and write a short story at a moment’s notice. Her children grew up wearing clothes she made, and they especially remember her homemade cinnamon rolls. As she grew old-

er and her hands became less steady, she found another quiet pastime in watching birds.

In addition to her parents, Jan was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Samuel McGalliard; one brother, James “Jimmy” Jackson; one sister, Susan Brock; and one brother-in-law, Woody Woodruff.

She is survived by three sons, David Rider of Arkadelphia, Billy Rider and wife Lisa of Gurdon, and Robby McGalliard and wife Jennifer of Delight; three daughters, Donna Morgan and husband Jerry of Fort Smith, Darla Nettles and husband Todd of Kilgore, Texas, and Debbie Wofford and husband Kenny of Murfreesboro; two sisters, Bettye Woodruff of Hermitage, Tennessee, and Carole Bratcher of Sulphur Springs, Texas; a very special sister-in-law, Pamie Sue Bevill of Nashville; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, September 24, at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 25, at Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Pallbearers will be Brett Ward, James Parks, Brandon Wofford, Cody Rider, and Josh Morgan. Honorary pallbearers will be John Parks, Noah McGalliard, Zach Morgan, Devin Garner, Tanner Garner, and Steve Humphry.

Online condolences may be sent through Latimer Funeral Home at www.latimerfuneralhome.com.

Reginald Frank ‘Reggie’ Eaton, 83



Reginald Frank “Reggie” Eaton, age 83 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, September 18, 2026 in Hot Springs. He was born on February 6, 1943 in Texarkana, Arkansas, the son of the late Gordon Byron Eaton and Ova Eola Thomas Eaton.

Mr. Eaton was of the Baptist faith. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He worked in the hospitals in Murfreesboro and Hope as a lab technician for over 43 years. He is remembered as one of a kind and somebody that those he worked with could confide in and trust.

He enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing and running dogs. He enjoyed gardening and watching hummingbirds. He was also a wood craftsman. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. He was also a Mason.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Betha Ruth Eaton; his first wife, Peggy Joyce Spenser Eaton and his second wife, Phyllus Ann Eaton.

Those left to cherish his memory include his three children, Carl Wayne (Elisabeth) Eaton, Carroll Gene Eaton and Reginald Anthony Eaton; his sister, Anita Gayle Swanson; Two grandchildren, Brady Adam (Lindsey) Eaton and Bailey Savannah (Kalob) Eaton-Goldman; five great-grandchildren, Faithlyn, Madison, Landon, Lawson and Koty; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends for visitation from 9:00 a.m. until the service begins on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services will follow at 10:00 a.m. with Bro. Brian Adair officiating in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro.

Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026 in the Rocky Mound Cemetery in Fouke, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Vicki Jo Byers, 76, Murfreesboro



Vicki Jo Byers, age 76 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Thursday, September 17, 2026. She was born on January 3, 1950 in Prescott to the late George Lamb and Elizabeth McCullough Lamb.

Mrs. Byers was a member of the First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. She loved to listen to music, cooking and traveling. She especially enjoyed going to car shows with her husband, Wallace. She loved to spend time with her children and grandchildren and looked forward to Sunday dinners with them. She was a happy person and enjoyed being with others.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Lamb and a sister, Judy Lamb.

Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband of almost fifty years, Wallace Byers; three children, Chad Gordon, Monica Dowdle and Jeremy Byers; a sister, Patsy Harris; seven grandchildren, Erica, Mandy, Dustyn, Devin, Canyon, Kaygan and Kohen; seven great-grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family will received friends on Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

A funeral service were held on Monday, September 21, 2026 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel with Danny Eckert officiating. Interment followed at the Ozan Cemetery in Bingen, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

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for Mayor

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Why we still need hands on learning -- 4-H allows ‘dirty’ hands

Young people today have more information at their fingertips than ever before. With a few taps on a screen, they can watch a demonstration, find an answer, or learn about almost any subject. But there are some lessons that simply cannot be learned by watching someone else do them. Sometimes, you have to get your hands dirty. You have to measure the ingredients, plant the seed, give the presentation, care for the animal, make the mistake, try again, work with the team, and finish the project. That idea—learning by doing—has been at the heart of 4-H for generations. While the projects and opportunities have changed over the years, the value of giving young people real experiences has not.

Here in Pike County, we see those lessons taking place throughout the year. At the Arkansas 4-H Food Challenge, our members may have walked into the competition thinking

about recipes and cooking, but they were learning much more than how to prepare a dish. They had a limited amount of time to work together, make decisions, solve problems, and complete their challenge. They had to communicate and trust one another. Those are skills that will serve them long after the competition is over.

We see the same thing through our Teen Leaders and their work with the Blessing Box project. Pike County 4-H members have collected, sorted, and delivered hundreds of food items to Blessing Boxes throughout the county. Our community garden adds another piece to that effort by allowing youth to see how something they help grow can eventually be used to help someone else. Those young people aren’t simply being told that community service is important. They are doing it. They are seeing a need in their own community and learning that



they are capable of being part of the solution.

Sometimes hands-on learning even means putting the young person in the role of teacher. Through 4-H Tech Changemakers, youth learn digital skills and then share that knowledge with others. Pike County members have had opportunities to teach youth & adults. Asking a young person to stand in front of an adult and teach something they know builds more than technology skills. It develops patience, communication, confidence, and leadership.

Other members may discover their interests through performing arts, cooking, photography, crafts, gardening, public speaking, livestock, or one of the many other opportunities available through 4-H. Not every child finds their spark in the same place, and they shouldn’t have to. Fair season is one of the most visible examples of this kind of learning. Visitors see the finished craft, photograph, baked item, educational display, or animal in the show ring. What they may not see are the hours that came before it...every practice, mistake, early morning, late night, unfinished project, changed plan, or moment when a young person wanted to give up but decided to keep going. And, of course, not everyone goes home with the ribbon they hoped to receive. That is part of learning, too. Knowing how to accept disappointment, congratulate someone else, learn from the experience, and come back willing to try again is a lesson that reaches far beyond the fairgrounds.

As members get older, 4-H gives them opportunities to move from being participants to becoming leaders. Teen Leaders help younger members, lead service projects, teach others, give presentations, and take on greater responsibilities. Leadership doesn’t suddenly appear when someone turns 18 or receives a job title. It develops when young people are trusted with opportunities to practice it. That is one reason this year’s National 4-H Week theme, Beyond Ready, is so fitting. National 4-H Week will be celebrated October 5-11, and it provides an opportunity to recognize what 4-H is doing to prepare young people for whatever comes next. Being ready for the future is about more than knowing the right answer on a test. Young people need to know how to communicate, work with others, solve problems, take respon-

sibility, recover from mistakes, serve others, and have enough confidence to try something they have never done before.

A cooking competition may begin with a recipe. A garden may begin with a seed. A livestock project may begin with an animal. A service project may begin with a box of donated food. But the learning doesn’t end there. Behind each project is a young person discovering what they can do, what they care about, and how they can contribute to the world around them. That’s why we still need hands-on learning. And that’s why Pike County 4-H continues to give young people opportunities to learn by doing—helping them become not just ready for what’s next, but Beyond Ready.

PIKE COUNTY 4-H SAYS THANK YOU

Pike County 4-H would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent BBQ fundraiser. Whether you purchased a meal, helped prepare or serve food, made a donation, or simply helped spread the word, your support helped make the fundraiser a success.

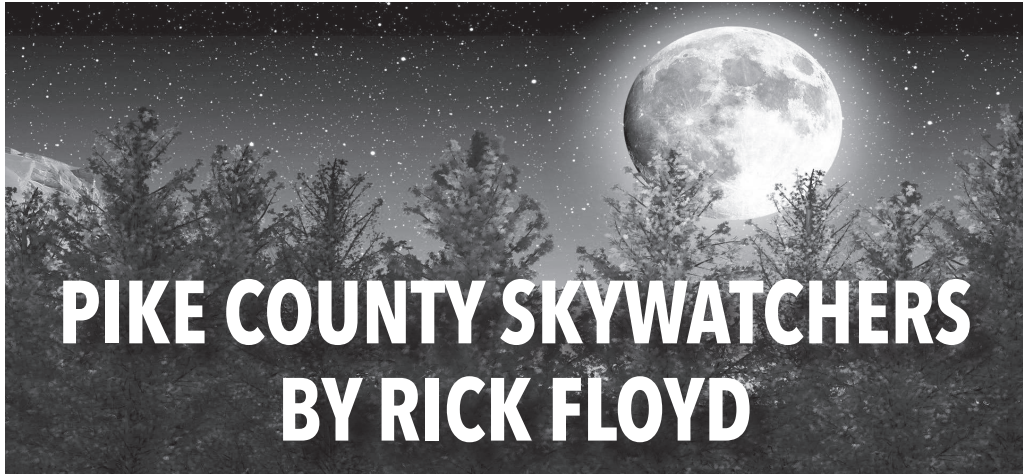
Fundraisers like this are about much more than raising money. The funds raised help provide opportunities for Pike County 4-H members to participate in programs, competitions, camps, workshops, leadership activities, community service projects, and other educational experiences throughout the year.

We are especially thankful for the volunteers, 4-H members, parents, families, and community supporters who gave their time to help prepare and distribute the meals. Events like this take many helping hands, and we appreciate each person who played a part.

Pike County is fortunate to have a community that continues to show up for its young people. Every meal served represents an investment in helping our 4-H members learn new skills, develop confidence, become leaders, and give back to their communities.

On behalf of Pike County 4-H and our members, thank you for supporting our program and believing in our youth. Your generosity allows us to continue providing experiences that help our members grow and become Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

We couldn’t do what we do without you!



Weapons amongst the stars

Space news has taken some of the media stage this month, however nothing near what AI news has done. The U.S Space Force announced a week or so ago that it has deployed weapons into orbit around Earth that are now armed and ready to defend our country from attack. They did not specify what kind of weaponry it is, but it is likely not a big surprise that space is now militarized, given that China was in the news some years back putting anti-satellite weapons into orbit.

Also, last week it was announced that a U.S. Spy satellite (US 32) had malfunctioned and broken up as it patrolled low Earth orbit, an already very congested place. The satellite had been in orbit since 1988 and reportedly no fowl play was involved with its coming apart. Its aging batteries and or other internal parts are suspected to be the cause of an explosion. There are now numerous out of control bits of debris from this event that pose collision hazards for other satellites. Add that to the break-up this month of a Chinese reconnaissance satellite (Yaogan

50-02) that has left a cluster of about 43 various sized pieces to that orbital area.

Earlier this month two European Space Agency satellites were decommissioned and brought back to Earth in a controlled re-entry. It was a show for some in parts of the U.S. when pieces of the satellites lit up during the “wee” hours as they streaked across our atmosphere. Space scientists were in a jet observing the re-entry and learning what they could about the dynamics of the fall from orbit of satellites.

The Moon will rise full at a low angle in the southeast on September 26 as the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is always the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox (which was on September 22). It will be near full the next night as well. Plan to stay out late under the bright Moon harvesting your crops.

One other September item that needs a belated mention for all of the Trekkies in our area, is that of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Star Trek television series which first aired on September 8, 1966.

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

Two of my favorite old gospel songs are “Walking Alone at Eve” and “Paradise Valley”. I love these songs because they draw our thoughts away from earthly troubles to visions of Heaven, and I fondly remember my dad leading these in Murfreesboro.

As I close my eyes and think of the words to these songs about Heaven, a peace and calm comes over me and it makes everything else unimportant when compared to Heaven. As we press toward Heaven, let us meditate on other great songs such as “Heaven Holds All to Me”, “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be”, and “When We All Get to Heaven”. These words encourage us on the day to day



journey of this life and its struggles.

The Bible gives descriptions of how great our Heavenly home will be: John 14:2 – In My Father’s House are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

II Corinthians 5:1 – For we know that if our earthly

house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Revelation 21:4 – And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

Scripture assures us that God shall dwell with us, that we shall be His people and He shall be our God.

Let us encourage and uplift one another through scripture and song as we continue our journey to Heaven.

I pray that each of you may have a blessed week and strive daily to be Heaven bound.

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Submitted photos/PC4-H

PREPARING FUNDRAISER ... Pike County 4-H members ready for their barbecue sandwich fundraiser last Sunday in Murfreesboro. “Pike County is fortunate to have a community that continues to show up for its young people,” said program assistant Shannon Ballard.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 Goulash, mixed green salad, seasoned cabbage, cornbread, bread pudding	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 Sliced ham, pinto beans, turnip greens, cornbread, hummingbird cake
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 Bacon & eggs, biscuit & gravy, hashbrowns, fruit	<i>Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is available for \$6.00</i>

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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

THE ISRAELITES AND THE RED SEA

MOSES RAISED HIS ROD IN HIS HAND AND THE ISRAELITES CROSSED OVER THE SEA ON DRY LAND WITH PHARAOH AND HIS ARMY IN PURSUIT....

IN FULL BATTLE ARRAY, THE EGYPTIANS IN THEIR CHARIOTS THUNDERED OUT AFTER THE FOOT-WEARY ISRAELITES!

AND NOW THE LORD COMMANDS MOSES TO STRETCH OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA...

...AND THE EGYPTIANS ARE DESTROYED, CHARIOTS AND HORSES TO THE LAST MAN, ALL OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN EXODUS CHAPTER 14.

232

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- THE 2010S
* -- Theme Related Clue
- ACROSS
- 1. Convention freebie
 - 5. *Tucker of TV's "Modern Family"
 - 8. To the ____ degree
 - 11. *Space Shuttle Program org.
 - 12. Deal with it
 - 13. Extra tire
 - 15. Stead
 - 16. Real estate land unit
 - 17. Enter user name and password (2 words)
 - 18. *Instagram's parent company
 - 20. "Fine by me"
 - 21. Strong virile man
 - 22. Caviar alternative
 - 23. *Bruno Mars' hat
 - 26. Highest-reaching
 - 30. Before of yore
 - 31. Quill-dipping vessel
 - 34. Popular aquarium show star
 - 35. Schoolmarm's whip
 - 37. Neither here ____ there
 - 38. Opposite of cation
 - 39. Hurry up, acr.
 - 40. Blood infection
 - 42. Not com or edu
 - 43. Arranged in order
 - 45. Inside info
 - 47. Aye's opposite
 - 48. B2C business
 - 50. Hyperbolic tangent
 - 52. *Katy Perry's 2010 hit
 - 55. Battle royal
 - 56. One R in R&R
 - 57. Nightcrawler
 - 59. *Hipsters' facial trend
 - 60. Prima donnas' problems
 - 61. Not in favor
 - 62. Public promotions
 - 63. Even, to a poet

64. CISC alternative
- DOWN
- 1. *Pete Davidson's TV show
 - 2. Ragamuffin
 - 3. On a deck, perhaps
 - 4. Cowboy, in South America
 - 5. Popular warming drink
 - 6. Chef's garb
 - 7. Opposite of domineering and bold
 - 8. Hindu serpent deity
 - 9. Legendary King Priam's city
 - 10. Chicken coop dweller
 - 12. Taxi driver
 - 13. Ship with a single mast
 - 14. * ____ GO game
 - 19. Spooky
 - 22. Decay
 - 23. Greek cheese, pl.
 - 24. Remove from existence
 - 25. ____'s, blended Scotch whisky
 - 26. High rocky hills
 - 27. Celestial hunter
 - 28. Open disrespect
 - 29. Sour-tasting
 - 32. Capped joint
 - 33. *Funko ____!
 - 36. *Toy for the fidgety
 - 38. Off kilter
 - 40. Dirty dwelling
 - 41. Specks in the sea
 - 44. Oohed and ____
 - 46. Atmospheric pressure line, on weather map
 - 48. Military blockade
 - 49. Fire-raising
 - 50. ____ off on a golf course. past tense
 - 51. Exclamation of sorrow
 - 52. * ____ solo, Alex Honnold's feat
 - 53. Raja's daughter
 - 54. Baby fox and baby beaver
 - 55. Business school degree, acr.
 - 58. Habitual twitching

CROSSWORD

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RATTLERS Continued from Page 1

He said that Gurdon's youth was a potential plus for MHS. "They are young, with lots of tenth graders. We have to take advantage of that."

Turley said that Gurdon's #25 RB Demonta Smallwood was a primary key for the Rattler defense because "he can go for a touchdown any time he touches the ball."

While second year starting QB Jamauriae Moss (9) was better with his legs than his arm, between the two of them the play action pass was a viable alternative.

"Moss is able to make the right plays at the right time with his arm ... it's very impressive."

Defensively, he said the Rattlers had a solid game plan to combat Gurdon, especially based on their success this year.

"We held Genoa to eight first downs – now, we will be challenged [by Gurdon] as they are the best offense we've seen, if we play physically, they are the type of offense we can compete very well against."

Turley said the team would also need to watch out for FB (5) Hayden Smith when in the backfield.

"He's a bigger back (185 lbs) and is dangerous because he runs hard."

A starting defensive end for Gurdon was ejected in last week's game, which now carries a penalty of eight quarters, meaning the Rattlers won't have him to worry about this week.

Turley said the biggest key to success for him team was simple. "We have to execute offensively and not drop the ball. We've worked on our concentration levels last week in practice for the passing game. We have to quit dropping the ball, and not shooting ourselves in the foot with untimely penalties."

Overall, Turley said the matchup was a "great conference opener," and he expected a big crowd to Travel to Gurdon – as they have over the past two weeks to Danville and Genoa Central. "That really helps us."

"It's a new season, and we have to pick up our intensity," he said of the Rattlers. "They are calling for cooler temperatures later this week, and that can only help as well."

Rattler

HOME COMING PARADE 2026

SCAN TO ENTER

Homecoming parade effort asks for pre-registration by Oct. 11

MURFREESBORO -- Murfreesboro High School has announced it's almost that homecoming time of year again.

If you or your business wishes to be a part of the 2026 Homecoming Parade, please respond to the following form (via QR Code above) by Sunday, Oct. 11.

It is asked that all participants fill out the form entirely so that event organizers can relay important information via email or text.

The homecoming game is set for Friday, Oct. 16 versus Mountain Pine.

For more information, contact coach Jordan Shanks at jordan.shanks@rattlers.org.

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Submitted photo/SPCSD

RIBBON WINNING ARTISTS ... Murfreesboro Elementary School has announced that a number of K-6 students entered their artwork into the Pike County Fair, held Sept. 9-12, 2026, in Glenwood. Art instructor Regina Walker congratulations all the Murfreesboro Elementary art students who earned a first-place, second-place, or third-place ribbon for their artwork. Special recognition went out to first grader Ainsley Campbell, who received a Grand Champion ribbon, and third grader Aubrey Mills, who received a Reserve Grand Champion ribbon. "Everyone did a great job on the artwork. I am very proud of the effort all the students put into creating outstanding works of art," said Walker.

Delight set for Music Fest Saturday

DELIGHT -- The Delight Music Fest has released their schedule for the 2026 event that will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Delight City Park. Gates open at 10 a.m. with festivities to run through 10 p.m. Admission will be \$7 for ages 13 and up, while ages 6-12 will be \$5. There is no admittance fee for those five years old and younger. The musical lineup will be:

10 a.m. – Marlin Taylor
11 a.m. – Third Channel
12:30 p.m. – Diamond Blues Band
2 p.m. – David Garcia
3:15 p.m. – Ethan Pickett
4:15 p.m. – Clark Campbell
5 p.m. – Makina Hudgins
6:15 p.m. – Road Dawg Revival
8:15 p.m. – Billstown

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

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

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



Submitted photo/SPCSD

BETA CLUB OFFICERS ... Murfreesboro High School's Beta Club elected officers for the 2026-2027 school year recently. The officers include (L to R) secretary Kyndall Henderson, vice-president Bella Frazier, president Charleigh Wheeler and treasurer River Riley.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

RATTLER TENNIS ... The Murfreesboro High School Rattler tennis team achieved a clean sweep at Fordyce last Thursday, Sept. 17, with ten wins in ten matches played. The team will hold its final home contests this week on Thursday against Emerson/ Nevada at 4 p.m. at the old city park tennis complex in Murfreesboro. On Tuesday, Sept. 29 the team will travel to Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia to hold the end of season conference tournament.

Tip leads to arrest, charges of Glenwood man

MURFREESBORO -- A tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has led to 20 felony counts for a Glenwood man.

Jay Dee Bishop, 65, was charged Sept. 18 in Pike County Circuit Court with 20 counts of distributing, possessing, viewing matter depicting child sex. He pleaded not guilty to the charges Monday and a Jan. 11 pretrial date was set. Bishop remains in county custody this week.

According to case information, an investigation by the Arkansas State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force began in July after a cyber tip from the NCMEC. On Aug. 20, officers executed a warrant at Bishop's home at 511 Rock Creek Road and three mobile devices were seized.

Also on Sept. 18 in Pike County, Wesley E. Gullett, 51, of Amity, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and simultaneous possession of drugs and firearms.

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

He will be assessed for inclusion in drug court.

Gullett was arrested on Sept. 13 following a traffic stop when a county deputy smelled the odor of suspected marijuana in his vehicle that resulted in a search. The search found marijuana, suspected methamphetamine (less than two grams) and a loaded .22 caliber firearm.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMIT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with provisions of Arkansas Statue 8-4-203, public notice is hereby given that an administratively complete application seeking a new of Open-Cut Mining located at 1526 HWY 27 N, near the city of Murfreesboro in Pike County, Arkansas was submitted on August 25, 2026 to the Mining Program of the Division of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment by the following named applicant: Justin Jacques DBA Double J Excavation, 1506 AR 27 N, Nashville, AR 71852

Any interested person may request the Department to hold a public meeting on the permit application. The request must be in writing, stating the reason for the necessity of a public hearing, and must be submitted within 10 days of the publication date of this notice. The decision on whether to schedule a public hearing is at the Department discretion. If a hearing is scheduled, first class mail notice will be provided to the permit applicant and to all persons who submitted individual written request for a hearing within the 10-day period as provided by law.

Requests for a hearing or additional information should be sent to: Mrs. Ashlon Wasko, Mining Program Manager, Division of Energy and Mineral Resources, Arkansas Department of Enegry and Environment, 3309 Phoenix Avenue, Fort Smith, AR. 72903 or email to ashlon.wasko@arkansas.gov

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2026
By authority of the Director
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

(d.j.e.225w. 12)

Rattler cross-country starts 2026 campaign this week

First meet at Caddo Hills

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro High School has announced the 2026 Rattler Cross-Country schedule for 2026.

The first meet, the Indian Trail Run at Caddo Hills, was held on Tuesday.

The rest of the schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 29 -- Leopard Run, De Queen High School, De Queen
- Oct. 20 -- Buck Fever Showcase, Lion's Club Disc Golf Course, Mena
- Oct. 28 -- Tom Stuthard Top 25 7AA Confrence Meet, Acorn High School, Mena
- Nov. 5 -- 2A State Cross Country Meet, Oaklawn Race Track, Hot Springs

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CONRAD J. COX, DECEASED 55PR-26-51

NOTICE OF AFFIDAVIT FOR COLLECTION OF SMALL ESTATE BY DISTRIBUTEES

Name of Decedent: Conrad J. Cox, deceased

Last known address of Decedent: 341 Academy Rd
Nashville, Arkansas,
71852

Date of Death: October 17, 2025

An Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate for Distributees was filed by the hereinafter named Affiants/Distributees under the above-styled Estate with the Pike County Circuit Court – Probate Division on the 15th, day of September 2026, and the Decedent, Conrad J. Cox, deceased, died intestate on October 17, 2025, and he was the owner at the time of his demise of the following described real estate, lying and being situated in the County of Pike, to wit:

TRACT NO. 1: Block One (1) in the City of Pike City, Pike County, Arkansas, according to the Plat thereof recorded in the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas, shown on the Assessment as Parcel No. 280-00001-000; and

TRACT NO. 2: Lots 22, 23, 24 in Blaoock 13, all in the town of Pike City, Arkansas, per Plat thereof recorded in Book “A” at Page 408 of the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas, shown on the Assessment as Parcel No. 280-00022-000

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the hereinafter named distributees or to their 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 of the estate. The name and address of the Distributees are as follows: Eva Jones Cox, whose address is 341 Academy Rd. Nashville, AR 71852; Trent Cox, 16 Lake Greason Estate Murfreesboro, AR 71958; and Clint Cox, at PO 915 Murfreesboro, AR 71958, and the name, address and telephone number for the attorney of this Small Estate, is A. Glenn Vasser, McKenzie, Vasser & Barber, Attorneys at Law, at P.O. Box 599, Prescott, AR 71857 .

This Notice was first published on this 23rd, day of September 2026.

A. GLENN VASSER
McKENZIE, VASSER & BARBER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. BOX 599
PRESCOTT, ARKANSAS 71857-0599
TELEPHONE NO. 870-887-2601
vasserbarber@outlook.com
ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE OF
THE ESTATE OF CONRAD J. COX, DECEASED

(g.v.,338w., 12,13)