

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Local holiday craft fair now accepting applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Submitted photos/Jillian Caldwell

RATTLERS RETURN HOME FRIDAY ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers fell to 0-4 on the season with last week's 48-22 loss at Gurdon. The Rattlers will return home this Friday, facing off against a 1-3 Foreman Gators squad that lost last week to Junction City 32-14. Foreman's lone win on the season came two weeks ago in a 58-14 shellacking of Horatio.

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.

Murfreesboro nears selection of next mayor

MURFREESBORO -- This November, Murfreesboro residents will face the future by electing their next mayor to a four-year term.

Current mayor Jim O'Neal will not be seeking reelection, leaving the door open for two candidates: Mary Jean Barbre and Jack Bonds.

Both candidates believe they have definitive characteristics that they believe will allow them to serve the city well, as well as a drive to serve the public in a positive fashion.

Bonds unsuccessfully campaigned for mayor in 2022 against O'Neal, while Barbre is making her first foray into elected office. Bonds was previously a city councilman and held a position on the Murfreesboro Advertising and Tourism Commission. Both candidates currently serve on the city's zoning commission.



Staff photos

MAYORAL CANDIDATES ... Murfreesboro will choose its next mayor in November between candidates Mary Jean Barbre (left) and Jack Bonds (right).

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.

MARY JEAN BARBRE

"I have been here all my life," she said, when asked why she wanted to run for mayor. "It's my town and I wanted to do my part to make it better. It's more of a question of why would I not? I've lived here, gone to school here, gone to church here. Every friend I have I've met here and has been here as long as I have. "I'm just me, and I still just be me, even if elected."

One of the biggest concerns Barbre has been asked about is the ditches and improving water drainage from around town.

"My neighborhood is one of the worst [to flood] too. So, yes, that is very high on my list. If we have to, we will find new shovels and wear them out ... the city crew may not like it, but they will be digging."

She said another large topic of discussion amongst constituents was the recent effort to allow alcohol sales in Pike County.

"I have told them that I am thrilled it has not gone any further than it has -- I feel like the lives of our citizens means a lot more to me than the tax money off of liquor. Several residents have expressed they did not want the county to be wet."

When asked what the plan to grow Murfreesboro was and reverse the trend of population loss, Barbre said that she had a plan in

mind.

"The [Arkansas] Municipal League helps cities find an industry or some sort of business that fits their needs, so I figure I would be bothering them a whole lot."

She said being elected as to the position of mayor would be amongst the highest honors of her life.

"Other than being a mother and a nana, it would be the biggest honor I've ever had."

Barbre said it was pretty simple what people needed to know about her when headed into the election booths.

"I'm honest, even if you don't agree with what I have to say, and I want every citizen to get the same attention. One person's street is

no better than another person's street. I will be willing to listen to whoever has a concern, and I truly do care."

She adds that she finds the idea of co-opting a Glenwood idea intriguing.

"They have a third Thursday, where all the shops stay open late -- I think that would be something neat for us to do. Not on the same night, of course, but many people work during the day, and don't have time to go to the local businesses [before they close]."

ELECTION Continued on Page 2

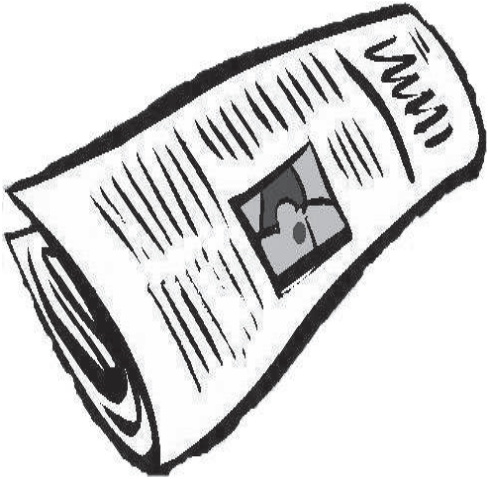
Narrows Dam enters last phase of repairs

VICKSBURG -- The Vicksburg District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has announced that the last phase of the trash rack repairs to Narrows Dam has begun.

The repairs are essential to prevent heavy debris from entering the intake tunnel, ensuring safe, long-term hydropower operations, according to a social media post.

There is no scheduled drawdown of the lake's water levels is expected to perform the repairs.

Lake levels are currently lower than normal due to persistent drought conditions, low rainfall throughout the basin and the normally scheduled hydropower generation.



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



Submitted photo/SPCSD

2026 MURFREESBORO HOMECOMING COURT ... Murfreesboro High School has announced the homecoming court for the 2026 season. Pictured is (front row, left to right) queen's attendants Hayes Allgood, Blake Bromley and Lennon Motley; (back row) sophomore Carsyn Ballard, junior Macy Gills, senior Charleigh Wheeler, senior Bella Frazier, Queen Josey Jones, senior Laini Liggins, junior Kinley Fisher and sophomore Madi Draper. The homecoming game and festivities is set for October 16 versus Mountain Pine.

Haunted Hospital announces dates for this October

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the new and updated “Haunted Hospital” in October.

The fan-favorite effort is held at the former Pike County Hospital in Murfreesboro, which is located at 315 East 13th Street.

Dates for the event will be on Fridays and Saturdays throughout October, including Oct. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31.

Admission to the event will be \$10 for those ages 10 and older, or \$5 for those younger than 10.

The haunted house will open at 6:30 p.m. nightly and through 7:30 p.m. will operate as a “kid friendly hour” in which animatronics and decorations will be set up, but no live actors.

From 8-11 p.m. each night the house will be “fully open” to provide attendees a frightfully good time.

Proceeds from the event will go toward improving next year’s event as well as new decorations for the chamber’s Hometown Christmas events in December.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

GOLF AT DISTRICT ... The Murfreesboro High School Rattler golf teams competed in the District Tournament last Tuesday at Degray Lake State Park in Bismarck. The girls team came in third place, while Ashly McRae finished in eighth place and individually qualified for the 2A Girls State Tournament that was held Tuesday at Diamond Head Golf Club in Hot Springs.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

Barbre said she looks forward to working with the council, complete with all the future additions come the beginning of 2027.

She also looks forward to collaborating with fellow mayoral candidate Bonds, win or lose, and expects a clean campaign to the end between the two.

“I have nothing against my opponent ... nothing at all. I’m not out to get him in any way.”

JACK BONDS

“I’ve been in Murfreesboro now for several years, and I’ve really invested a lot in this town, and I like to see the town grow ... to do better than we are doing [now]. I’d like to be a positive influence on my fellow citizens and the town itself.”

While on the campaign trail, Bonds said there was some issues that have come up with many residents he has spoken to.

“People want their neighborhoods cleaned up – they really don’t like the trash and these abandoned houses. Another issue is drainage – drainage is a big issue in this town. Additionally, we are looking for jobs and how to create new jobs, to try and regain the essence of Murfreesboro back.”

Asked what Murfreesboro can do in order to reverse the lack of growth, Bonds said he has considered some “simple steps to start with.”

“I’ve been to several meetings, both in Little Rock and Hope, and one thing that has stuck in my mind is that you can’t grow your town if the infrastructure is running down the street. So, I think, we have to start with the basics, starting with infrastructure, the essence of the town. One we get that put back together, I think cleaning up yards and areas – not to be redundant – will make Murfreesboro more appealing for people to come here. The more people we can get here – I don’t want Murfreesboro to grow to 5,000 people – but 1,750 to 2,000 people would be nice to get it back to where we had it. To me that would be a real positive, but in order to do that we have to make it more appealing for people to come here. Just back to status quo – we are just one of many towns struggling across America, but we don’t have to be like everyone else. We can be the exception to the rule, we can pull out of this, and be a success. We just have to give reasons why people want to be here – there are already several reasons – the great community, Lake Greeson and the outdoor possibilities, we can provide a healthier lifestyle than many places can offer. Also, Murfreesboro has more to do than it did ten years ago – we just need to augment that.”

Bonds said the recent addition of a grocery store eliminated one of the reasons people were less likely to reside in Murfreesboro. “It’s one of the best stores in southwest Arkansas, and

[manager] Tim Allen works very hard every day to make it a huge asset for the community.”

He said the community still faced several other factors, which may or may not be within the mayor’s – or anyone else’s for that matter – ability to change.

The first was with an aging community, those who passed away were lost. He added that graduates leaving town never to return for beneficial employment and the simple lack of jobs in town made it difficult to attract new residents.

“Those four things combined, I feel, is what created the hole in the population. Now, I can’t really do anything about death, but, we can do things to make Murfreesboro more appealing. We can make it easier to come back if you graduated from here – people have to go where they can get work, so we have to create jobs. It all starts with infrastructure, jobs, and making the town better.”

Bonds acknowledges change is hard.

“Change always creates controversy, and that’s okay. To be apprehensive about change doesn’t make you a bad person. It just makes you leery of change, and that’s okay. That’s why we have a city council. I intend to use strong parliamentary procedure at meetings, and I plan to have excellent public discussion. Those are two things I really think we can do with the council and the residents. We can work out these problems, even if we don’t agree.”

Bonds said what a person should know about him is that he is a person that “always tries to make the world better around me.”

“I try to take care of all the people around me. I was named citizen of the year [by the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce earlier this year] and I find it interesting that I was also citizen of the year in the previous place I lived [Leonard, Texas], where I was a pillar of that community. So, I have this pattern of leaving everything better than I found it. That’s what I try to do. That’s the one thing about me you should know. Look, I have chosen to live here and will live here for the rest of my life. I’ve made huge investments here, but from a business standpoint I don’t consider it a liquid investment. I wouldn’t buy property with the idea of selling it next year. This is a long-term business venture for me, and I love it here. I live on Main Street [just past Diamond Bank], and every day, I thank God for my house and my neighborhood – literally every day. I love my community and I want to make it the best community I can make it. I could be anywhere else, if I wanted, but I want to be here.”

Much like Barbre, Bonds said win or lose, he wants to help make Murfreesboro better, win or lose.

“There are questions of the longevity of my citizenship [in Murfreesboro] – yes, I am not from here. However, that’s not the question that should be asked. The question should be what have I done with the time I have been here? I bring a lot of experience – relevant experience – to the office of mayor. But, mayor or not, I will continue to work and fight for Murfreesboro, as I have in my time here and always will. Nothing will stop that.”

MEET THE CANDIDATES

For more information on either candidate, the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce will hold a “Meet the Candidates” on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

Attendees will be allowed to ask the candidates questions at the event, which will be held at Murfreesboro City Hall -- located at 805 North Washington Avenue in Murfreesboro -- next to EZ Mart convenience store.

Also scheduled to be at the meeting is the three candidates for West Ward Position One on the Murfreesboro City Council – Doris Scoggins, Angie Strawn and Patrick May.

The chamber invites the community to “come meet the candidates and hear from those seeking to serve our community.”

Snacks and refreshments will be provided to attendees at the event.

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 Block 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)

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP
Saturday, October 3
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Days Inn & Suites: (254) 729-3335, In Mexia: Comfort Inn: (254) 562-0005

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PIKE COUNTY TAX
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(870) 285-3121
FOR INFORMATION

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

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.

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• John Robert Schirmer, Publisher
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Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,
418 North Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852
Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR
The Murfreesboro Diamond (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.
Subscription Rates: \$45 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$57 per year elsewhere.
\$35 for 6-months in area; \$45 for 6-months elsewhere.
College Subscriptions- \$30 for 9-months.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
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.

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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.

Pike County Quorum Court passes ordinance requiring permit for work near county roads

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Quorum Court approved Ordinance 2026-12 at their September meeting that will require a permit for construction or utility work along county roads.

The passage of the ordinance was suggested by the Association of Arkansas Counties.

Pike County Judge Eddie Howard said some of the utility work had gotten out of hand, with maintenance issues and road damage occurring.

“It’s getting worse and worse,” said Howard, noting that fiber-optic line had been left uncovered in the ditch and had been cut on several instances.

Interested readers can see the full text of the resolution on page six of this issue of the *Murfreesboro Diamond*.

Howard said that the county did not have a right away easement on county roads after the Quorum Court refused to pass an ordinance last year, but with the passage of this ordinance they would be able to regulate the work.

“The law is on the books, and it gives us the right to oversee things if the ordinance is passed,” said Howard.

The Court also passed Ordinance 2026-13, which allows the county sanitation department to provide dumpster rental and collection of the dumpsters after filled.

The service came into question at a recent quorum court meeting in which resident Donnie McGuire complained that the

county’s “service” competed with his private business, citing Arkansas law that Howard said was inaccurate.

Howard said that it was not in competition with businesses, and that they would have to investigate rates in the upcoming budget talks so as to not undercharge going forward.

“Yes, provide a service to the county, but don’t go in the hole [lose money] doing it,” said Justice of the Peace Jerry Fendley.

The budget and handbook committees were set for the upcoming revisions prior to 2027.

Budget committee members will be Johnny Plyler, Richard Mohlenhoff, Robbie Crocker and Fendley,

Handbook committee members will be Plyler, Mohlenhoff, Crocker and Seth Henry Kirkham.

Money was approved for the new generator to be located at the courthouse in the amount of \$71,376.14. The purchase will be part of a matching grant with some of the money to be returned to the county.

Pike County Treasurer Loletia Rather reported the following opening/closing balances for Pike County accounts through August.

County General -- \$1,576,023.52/\$1,611,315.63
County Road -- \$79,044.81/\$101,318.46
County Landfill -- \$296,897.97/\$333,941.14
All County Accounts -- \$6,643,853.60/\$6,617,166.54



Staff photo

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE ... Pike County 4-H member Abigail Henderson (pictured with Pike County Judge Eddie Howard) leads the Pike County Quorum Court in the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the court’s September meeting in Murfreesboro.

School District again named Apple Distinguished Schools

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board was told the district was again approved as a Apple Distinguished School for the 2026-2029 cycle.

The district has held the distinction since 2017, when the high school was so honored. The elementary school was included in the 2019 designation.

In 2017 the school was the first public school in Arkansas to receive the designation, and was in a club of only 300 members worldwide.

Chad Brinkley said the application process was formerly pages long in a “e-book pdf” but a three minute video was required for both schools in this term.

He explained the videos were to show Apple how the school used the technology as a tool that didn’t replace traditional learning, but augmented it. Additionally, it was to show that screen time was used in the right way, and not just allowing the students to surf the web.

“Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership and educational excellence,” said Brinkley. “They use Apple technology in innovative ways to inspire, imagine and impact teaching and learning.”

Brinkley asked MHS student River Riley for his help getting footage, but Riley went the extra mile and created the videos.

“River was one reason we are recognized again,” said Riley. “It’s a big deal and big things are coming for him in life.”

The videos can be viewed on the district’s website at www.rattlers.org, under the “menu” tab and a clicking on Apple Distinguished School for MHS or MES.

In her superintendent’s report, Tanya Wilcher recognized the MHS golf team on their success in the season, highlighting the Lady Rattler’s third place finish at the district tournament and

ninth grader Ashley McRae placement in the state tournament on Tuesday.

The tennis team completed its regular season last week and played in the conference tournament in Arkadelphia on Monday. Jordyn Nance, who went perfect in regular season play, won the 2A-8 conference championship, and will progress to the state tournament.

Wilcher also announced the school was able to come to terms on the purchase of two properties abutting the school grounds, with paperwork for selling the land and purchasing the properties is currently being worked up by Jackson Title Company.

Ideal Impact will visit the schools on Oct. 1 to investigate energy savings possibilities for the school.

James Riley, Elementary School Principal, acknowledged fourth grade mathematics instructor Amanda Buck as the Outstanding Educator. Riley said that Buck, in her second year at the school, was data driven and she wanted all students, including those underperforming, for growth purposes. Riley said her students’ standardized test scores outperformed both the state and the regional co-op of schools, calling Buck a “blessing.”

A pair student quotes were provided as part of the selection of Buck, which was student driven. “She is the best teacher in the world, I love her,” and “She teaches us math and she teaches us good.”

The Outstanding Student award for September went to sixth grader Jaili Lamb. Riley said that Lamb was “a busy girl who puts in the work” and participates in pee-wee cheer and showed animals at the Pike County Fair. He added they couldn’t hardly run her away from the school over the summer while she was earning her volunteer hours.

Riley said the elementary school was finished with standardized test screeners, save for some 3-6 makeups. He added that first grade was a little ahead of state and co-op levels, while the rest of early elementary was right in line with cumulative state levels.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

Send letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or email to mdiamond.editor@windstream.net

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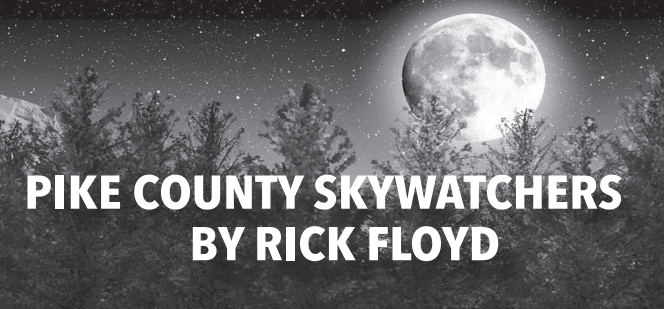
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SCHOOL Continued on Page 5



PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD

Say hello to Earth’s neighbors

This is a good time to review what is going on with Earth’s planetary neighbors. Venus gave up its place as the evening “star” after September 4, and as of September 29, it has become the morning “star.” In fact, pre-dawn is prime time for three naked eye visible planets. Venus is still low by the time the sky brightens, but Jupiter rises high prior to sunrise, and above and in line with Jupiter is Mars. Mars is near the two brightest stars of the constellation Gemini, Pollux and Castor, making a nice little triangle. Castor, though it looks like a single bright star is actually six stars all part of a complex gravitational system.

Saturn is visible almost all night in the southern sky. It is in opposition which means that it is on full view from Earth with the Sun at our back. It is also as close to Earth as it will get this year. Saturn is best viewed with a telescope, but it does not require fancy equipment to see the rings.

There is a chance that we will get to watch an eclipse during the early morning hours of October 6. This one is not the Sun and the Moon crossing paths, but rather interaction between the Moon and distant Jupiter. The rare (the next time it happens will be in 2034) event will happen at about 3:30 a.m. when the bright edge of the waning crescent moon starts to cover Jupiter and hides it for about an hour before it emerges on the other, in shadow, side. This occurrence is called an occultation, when one celestial body from our perspective on Earth eclipses another. Viewing this with binoculars will enhance the experience, but watching with eyes only is just fine. At this writing I do not have precise occultation timing, so get out early enough to assess for yourself when it will happen.

Uranus is another planet visible in October and like Saturn it is in opposition, but a telescope is required to see it.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the U.S Senate will not act this year on the bill to make daylight saving time our one and only time. We will be “falling back” an hour in November most likely.

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL



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

Q: What is spinal stenosis?

A: Spinal stenosis is the narrowing of the spaces around the spinal column. This puts pressure on the vertebrae and spinal cord, which affects the nerves that run from the spine to the arms and legs. Spinal stenosis most often occurs in the lower back (lumbar) and the neck (cervical).

Spinal stenosis may develop at any age, but most commonly occurs in people over the age of 50. Individuals with a congenital condition may develop spinal stenosis, and it may also occur due to injury.

Spinal stenosis symptoms in the lower back may include a burning pain that radiates through the buttocks into the legs, numbness or tingling in the legs and feet, or a loss of bowel control in severe cases.

Symptoms from cervical spinal stenosis may include numbness or tingling in the arms or hands, problems with balance, or loss of hand function.

At-home management includes applying heat to increase blood flow or cold to reduce swelling and inflammation. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy and steroid injections are nonsurgical remedies for spinal stenosis. Your health care provider may recommend surgery if all other treatments do not resolve the issue.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



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Pike County 4-H to celebrate national 4-H week

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H is excited to join 4-H members, families, volunteers, and supporters across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week, October 4-10, 2026. National 4-H Week is an opportunity to recognize the impact 4-H has on young people and communities while encouraging others to discover all that 4-H has to offer.

Here in Pike County, 4-H provides youth with opportunities to learn new skills, develop leadership abilities, build friendships, serve their communities, and discover interests that may influence their futures. While many people recognize 4-H for livestock and agriculture, the program reaches far beyond the show ring. Pike County youth have opportunities to participate in cooking, gardening, STEM, technology, performing arts, public speaking, community service, leadership, career readiness, consumer education, and much more. There truly is a place for everyone in 4-H.

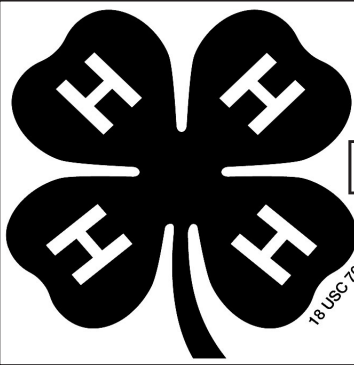
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION

To help kick off the celebration, everyone is invited to join us Monday, October 5, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pike County Courthouse as Pike County Judge Eddie Howard signs an official proclamation recognizing National 4-H Week in Pike County. We invite 4-H members, families, volunteers, community partners, and supporters to attend and help us celebrate the positive impact 4-H continues to have on the youth of Pike County.

CELEBRATE WITH US ALL WEEK!

Pike County 4-H is also encouraging the entire community to participate in National 4-H Week. Each day offers a different way to celebrate:

- Sunday, October 4 – Paint the Town Green: Decorate your home, business, or vehicle with green and 4-H clovers.
- Monday, October 5 – Share Your 4-H Story: Post a favorite 4-H memory, picture, or short video on social media and tell why 4-H matters to you. Then join us at 3:30 p.m. for the National 4-H Week proclamation signing with Pike County Judge



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



- Eddie Howard.
- Tuesday, October 6 – Wear Your 4-H Gear: Wear a 4-H shirt, hat, or green and show your 4-H pride at school, work, and around town.
 - Wednesday, October 7 – Be a Helping Hand: Complete a small act of kindness or community service. One of the most important parts of the 4-H pledge is committing our hands to larger service.
 - Thursday, October 8 – Invite a Friend: Encourage someone new to learn about 4-H or bring a friend to an upcoming meeting or activity.
 - Friday, October 9 – Show Your 4-H Pride: Display a 4-H sign, wear green, or add a clover to your social media profile picture.
 - Saturday, October 10 – Celebrate 4-H: Take time to thank the volunteers, leaders, parents, community partners, and supporters who help make 4-H opportunities possible for local youth.
- National 4-H Week is also a time to recognize the young people who put the four H's—Head, Heart, Hands, and Health—into action throughout the year.
- Pike County 4-H members volunteer in their communities, participate in competitions and educational programs, develop

new skills, and discover that even small acts of service can make a big difference. None of these opportunities would be possible without the parents, volunteers, schools, businesses, organizations, donors, and community members who continually support Pike County 4-H. Their investment in our young people helps create opportunities today while building a brighter tomorrow. As we celebrate National 4-H Week, we invite everyone in Pike County to help us paint the county green, share your 4-H pride, attend the proclamation signing, and discover what today's 4-H is all about. Whether your spark is animals, cooking, technology, art, music, science, leadership, or serving others, there is a place for you in 4-H.

Happy National 4-H Week from Pike County 4-H! Same Roots, Brighter Tomorrows.

BRITTLE HOLIDAY ORDERS

Pike County 4-H will be taking pre-orders for brittle this upcoming holiday season. Payment for the brittle must be collected before the order is placed.

To place your order or for more information, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

Senior Center to host benefit lunch Oct. 11

MURFREESBORO == The Murfreesboro Senior Activity Center will host a Sunday lunch fundraiser on Oct. 11.

On the menu for the lunch is chicken and dressing, giblet gravy, green beans, candied yams, cranberry sauce, rolls and peach cobbler.

Service will start at 11:30 a.m. and the cost of the meal is by donation.

The center is located at 120 East Court Street in Murfreesboro.

For more information, contact center manager Vickie Hutson at (870) 285-2312.

Pair sentenced in local court this week

MURFREESBORO -- Two defendants were sentenced Monday in Pike County Circuit Court.

Jamie K. Jackson, 26, of Murfreesboro, was sentenced to six years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with three years suspended after he pleaded guilty to the charges of breaking or entering and possession of a controlled substance.

Melody E. Bailey, 22, of Murfreesboro, had her probation extended for three years after she pleaded "true" to violating the terms of probation stemming from a theft of property conviction.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

RATTLER TENNIS PERFORMS WELL AT DISTRICT ... Rattler tennis competed in the 2A-8 Conference Tournament on Monday in Arkadelphia. Lady Rattler Jordyn Nance was the number one seed and won the 2A-8 conference championship in the singles division. She had previously defeated the #2 seed from Hampton 6-0 in the regular season, over the course of which Nance was undefeated. The girls team, comprised of Nance, Natalie Bush, Emma White, Ava Harr and Addie Cox was the 2A-8 Conference runner-up. In girls' doubles, Bush and White won third place as the number two seeded squad. In boys' doubles, senior Lucas Cox and freshman Jackson Nance also won third place. Jordyn Nance, White, Bush, Cox and Jackson Nance all qualified for the state tournament, where they will complete their seasons. Team coach Mark Wiley said the team was successfully picking up and converting pickleball players from the summer. "I look for big things from the team next year and in the future," he said. Wiley also noted that there was a spot for two to three girls on next year's squad in any local students were interested in starting tennis work in the near future.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 Beef tips in gravy, lima beans, carrots, roll, blushing pears	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 Pork lion, red potatoes, spinach, roll, cinnamon peaches
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 Cheesey beef & macroni casserole, salad, Italian style vegetables, roll, ice cream	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

‘Dear Preacher’

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 HUMILITY 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! Ephesians 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.

PREFERE 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

BIBLICAL SUBTERFUGE!

WHEN ABRAHAM WENT TO EGYPT TO ESCAPE THE FAMINE IN CANAAN, UNDOUBTEDLY, HE WAS IMPRESSED BY MANY THINGS THAT HE SAW IN THE LAND. THE EGYPTIAN CITIES WERE OF STUPENDOUS ARCHITECTURE AND, WHEREVER THE EYE FELL, ONE COULD SEE THAT EGYPT LACKED FOR NOTHING---YES....

...THEY ARE MUCH WEALTHIER THAN HE, BUT STILL, HE DOES POSSESS A MOST RARE JEWEL....

IF THE EGYPTIANS SEE THEE, THEY MAY KILL ME IN ORDER TO KEEP THEE! SAY, THEN, FOR MY SAKE, THAT THOU ART MY SISTER SO THAT THEY MAY NOT KILL ME!

...SARAI, HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE! WHAT IF THE EGYPTIANS, ON SEEING HER GREAT BEAUTY, SHOULD KILL HER IN ORDER TO POSSESS HER! IN ABRAHAM'S MIND, IT IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, AND SO HE HASTENS TO THE TENT OF HIS WIFE TO PLAN WHAT TO DO IN CASE TROUBLE OF THIS SORT SHOULD HAPPEN!

JOHN LEHTI

OF COURSE THE WHOLE PLAN REALLY BACKFIRED RIGHT IN ABRAHAM'S FACE WHEN THE PHARAOH FOUND OUT THAT SARAI WAS ABRAHAM'S WIFE (GEN. 12:19-20) AND ABRAHAM FOUND OUT THAT HE HAD WORRIED NEEDLESSLY--FOR PHARAOH COMMANDED HIS MEN TO PROTECT ABRAHAM, AND HIS WIFE, AND ALL THAT HE HAD!

224 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Trampled
- 5. Dashboard unit, acr.
- 8. “Be quiet,” onomatopoeically speaking
- 11. Clean the whiteboard, e.g.
- 12. Morally wicked
- 13. Former anesthetic
- 15. Bad luck precursor
- 16. Banned apple spray
- 17. *Ringo Starr’s instrument, pl.
- 18. *Home of the bagpipes
- 20. Big one, at 7-Eleven
- 21. Contemplate
- 22. Jewelry stone
- 23. Hindu queens
- 26. Something earned
- 30. Tokyo, formerly
- 31. *Riddim pair music genre
- 34. Spock’s famous body parts
- 35. *Animal, source of violin bow strings
- 37. Scott Joplin’s “Maple Leaf ____”
- 38. Away from port (2 words)
- 39. Not much (2 words)
- 40. Post-graduate journey?
- 42. Always, to a poet
- 43. Baby bear (2 words)
- 45. Beach-comber’s collection
- 47. Cholera
- 48. Popular pie nut
- 50. Glazier’s unit
- 52. *Flute player
- 55. Pointy teeth
- 56. 36 inches
- 57. Sticky stuff
- 59. Hot ____ buns
- 60. Code word for K
- 61. Mauritania’s Eastern neighbor
- 62. Soda pop container
- 63. Ems follower

64. Highest point

DOWN

- 1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals
- 2. Part of a glass, pl.
- 3. Leading oil-producers’ grp.
- 4. Indicate
- 5. Home to Teatro alla Scala
- 6. Popular core exercise
- 7. Deer social group
- 8. Synagogue
- 9. Cannabis plant
- 10. Store posting, abbr.
- 12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag
- 13. Straight ones in drafter’s toolbox
- 14. *Louis Armstrong’s instrument
- 19. “And Then ____ Were None”
- 22. “Wow!”
- 23. User’s “getaway”
- 24. Sun-dried brick
- 25. Water wheel
- 26. Intense anger
- 27. Painter’s prop
- 28. Angler’s basket
- 29. Former Russian leaders
- 32. Snatch
- 33. Toothy fish
- 36. *Lute family instruments
- 38. “Perfect” Buddhist
- 40. Theatrical prompt
- 41. Former Portuguese money
- 44. Edible herb
- 46. Brain teaser
- 48. Like average Jane
- 49. British peers
- 50. Prefix for “beyond”
- 51. Any minute, arch.
- 52. Type of fish net
- 53. Daytime TV program
- 54. Enameled metalware
- 55. Federal Communications Commission
- 58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

CROSSWORD

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SCHOOL Continued from Page 3

The fourth annual “Fun Run” fundraiser has begun and will be held on Oct. 26 at the MHS track training surface.

Riley said it was the school’s only fundraiser and was used to fund field trips, incentive and class extras. He also stressed that all students will be allowed to run in the race, regardless of how much they raised. Each grade will run, with the fastest acknowledged, followed by a boy /girl group race for K-2 and 3-6.

Though the acknowledges he has nightmares since the announcement, if the school cumulatively raises over \$10,000 the student with the largest amount of donations will earn the right to give Riley a “buzz-cut.”

Due to time concerns, a salary amendment was approved for three cafeteria employees to go from 7.5 to 8 hour days.

The board also approved a motion to approve the exterior upgrades -- including painting and gutters -- to the cafeteria using JD Watson Construction workers on an hourly rate.

The purchase of the Chevy Silverado 1500 work truck with 15,000 miles from York Gary for \$33,929 was approved.

It was announced that board member trainings were available on Oct. 1 in Malvern, as well as Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 by zoom from the Arkansas Public School Resource Center. All school board members must have six hours of training each year, while new board members must have nine hours.

The board approved a motion to allow business with JBH & Company for their floral needs throughout the year, especially homecoming. Brittany Harris, a South Pike County Schools instructor is part of the business’ ownership, but there are no other florists in the district. The resolution allows the District to spend less than \$10,000 with JBH this school year.

The board approved the 2026-2027 proposed budget. The budget is available for viewing at the school’s website.



Staff Photo

OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE MONTH ... Sixth Grade Murfreesboro Elementary School student Jaiili Lamb is pictured at the recent South Pike County School board meeting after being named to the Outstanding Student Performance Award by the school for September. Pictured is (L to R) school board members Sharon Kennedy, SPCS Superintendent Tanya Wilcher Cory Ballard, Lamb, Carrie Tidwell, Robert Silva and Wes Campbell.

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