

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.

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.

CADC to offer commodities in Murfreesboro on Oct. 21-22

MURFREESBORO -- Central Arkansas Development Council will distribute USDA Commodities in Pike County, Wednesday, Oct. 21, and Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, in Murfreesboro. Distribution will begin at 8:30 am. Commodities will be distributed at the Murfreesboro Senior Activity Center, 120 East Court, Suite A, in Murfreesboro. Food items may include: UHT milk, pears, raisins, pumpkin, vegetarian beans, peanut butter, mac & cheese, farina wheat, corn grits, canned chicken and frozen fish nuggets. All customers receiving commodities must present identification, with a photo ID preferred and must meet income guidelines.

Nathan Volunteer Fire Department announces benefit meal on Oct. 24

NATHAN -- The Nathan Volunteer Fire Department Annual barbecue and Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Nathan Firehouse. The menu will include chicken, ribs, beans, potatoes, rolls, homemade desserts and a drink. The cost will be \$15 per plate -- donations are welcomed. Dine or carryout will be available. Serving will start at 5 p.m. VFD members will be selling tickets for a chance to win a Mossberg 400 Legend or a Glock G43 9-mm. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Contact any NVFD member or call (870) 557-2440 for more information.

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

King to not face charges in murder case

MURFREESBORO -- The murder case against a Pike County man will not go to trial and was effectively dismissed Monday, as an order of “nolo prosequi” was issued by the prosecution. “Nolo prosequi” is a Latin phrase, more commonly known as “nolle prosequi,” means the prosecution no longer wants to pursue the charges against the defendant but does leave the door open to refile the charge if other evidence comes to light. As of Tuesday morning, the order had not been issued to the Pike County Circuit Clerk’s office. Gage King, 24, of Murfreesboro, was charged with the second-degree murder of Daniel Cain Lamb, 44, on June 18, 2025. He was scheduled for pretrial Monday, Oct. 5 with an Oct. 22 jury trial date. King had pleaded not guilty to the charge last year. According to case information, a special agent with the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigation Division was notified of a shooting on June 18, 2025 that occurred at 220 Pike City Road. The agent first arrived at approximately 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Pike City Road and Highway 26 where he observed

paramedics and officers with the Pike County Sheriff’s Department also at the intersection. He was informed that Lamb had allegedly been shot in the chest by King at 220 Pike City Road. Lamb was ultimately pronounced dead at the scene. Lamb had apparently gotten to the intersection in a vehicle driven by Melissa Campbell, 53, of Delight, who reported she had driven to the intersection to meet first responders following the shooting. Officers then went to the Pike City home and took King into custody. Campbell told investigators that she and Lamb went to the home to confront King regarding a prior incident. She said King came out holding a gun and Lamb got out and started to approach King when he fired a round from a .22 caliber rifle. Lamb was able to get back into the vehicle. Campbell said King pointed the gun at her vehicle so she drove forward and struck King with the vehicle before fleeing the residence. King later told the ASP agent that Campbell and Lamb had come to the home and made threats towards him. He said he went inside and retrieved the rifle and that when Lamb began approaching he told him multiple times to

stop before he fired the shot. **FIVE SENTENCED MONDAY** Allen Lingley, 53, of Newport News, V.A., pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance (prescription pills), and was sentenced to three years of probation and fined \$1,500 plus court costs. Tristan Hampton, 30, of Kirby, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced to three years of probation and fined \$2,500 plus court costs. Daniel Cruz, 20, of Glenwood, pleaded guilty to residential burglary and two counts of theft of property, and was sentenced to 10 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) with five years suspended. Andrew Blake Howell, 31, of Delight, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his probation and guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, and was sentenced to six years in the ADC with two years suspended. Shane Alan Brown, 46, of Texarkana, pleaded “true” to violating the terms of his probation, and was sentenced to five years in the ADC.

Loss to Gators leaves MHS 0-5 on season Team to travel to Dierks Friday to face rival Outlaws

The Murfreesboro Rattlers moved to 0-5 (0-2 conference) on the season following a 44-36 loss to Foreman at home last Friday night. Murfreesboro jumped out to a 16-0 lead on a pair of touchdown passes from Kooper Caldwell -- 19 yards to Cale Humphry and 30 yards to Keith Wilkinson. Foreman would close the gap to 16-8 with a 10 yard pass before the first quarter ended. In the second quarter, MHS scored on a two-yard Caldwell rush to push the score to 24-8. Before halftime Foreman scored on a 31-yard pass to close the gap to 24-16 at the break. Foreman would come out from halftime with a pair of scores to move the game in their favor 30-24. Cayden Ballard hauled in a 12-yard pass from Caldwell to tie the score at 30 before the end of the third quarter. Foreman would put two scores together in the fourth quarter to take a 44-30 lead. Humphry would close the gap for MHS with a 4-yard run, but time ran out of the Rattlers’ comeback attempt. Caldwell was 21/26 in the game for 230 yards, three touchdowns and an interception, along with 11 yards rushing on 16 attempts. Aiden “Bubba” Stinson led the team on the ground with 29 yards on eight attempts. Wilkinson caught six passes for 88 yards and a touchdown, while Jarrin Burgess had 77 yards on five receptions. Ballard added 25 yards on five catches with a TD. Murfreesboro lost the possession battle (79-63 plays) and lagged behind in total yards 391-277.

Both teams gained 17 first downs, and the Rattlers were more efficient than the Gators on late downs -- 7-14 on third down and 2-3 on fourth down versus FHS’ 4-12 on third down and 2-4 on fourth down. Each team turned the ball over four times.

COACH’S COMMENTS Rattlers head coach Jay Turley admitted with a laugh that he “really didn’t know” as to when his team would finally catch a break this season. Turley said the first half was in the Rattlers’ favor, but said a couple of bad calls by the referees really cost his team a chance at taking a bigger lead by half. “But, you have to overcome those, and that’s what I told the kids. What I am most upset about is that our heads went down when we fumbled the second time in the fourth quarter, and for the first time this year we kinda gave up. That’s the first time I’ve seen it -- we’ve been behind and we had to fight to get back into games, and this time we jump out to a lead and we just can’t lay down. We started so fast -- the complete opposite of what we have done the rest of the year, of starting slow and ending fast. We still haven’t played a complete game. Offensively we weren’t great, but we were good enough, scoring 36 points. The defense just kinda layed an egg -- whereas most of the season they have been keeping us in games, last Friday they just didn’t. There were times we just refused to tackle, or just got beat in the secondary. I didn’t think we tackled well.” Turley said he told the kids following the game he was upset and frustrated. “We found a way to lose ... we had a pretty good night throwing and catching the ball, but we had a horrible night running the ball. That’s got to get better -- we have to be able to run the ball.”

He said teams are dropping into coverage against the Rattlers, closing the passing windows and not respecting the run. “We just can get holes open for Bubba [Stinson], and that has to start with the offensive line. We are just not moving people off the line of scrimmage and opening holes -- we will struggle if we can’t do that. We had a good game plan offensively, I thought, to attack what they were doing. Minus three to four dropped passes ... we got better in that regard, but often Kooper [Caldwell] is running for his life. We told the line that if they can just give him some time, he’s the best quarterback in 2A football -- I [personally] think.” Turley said this point the rest of the season was up to the athletes. “We [the coaches] worked our butts off this weekend putting a game plan together for a pretty good ballclub in Dierks. They are a good team, but I’m going to tell the kids [Monday] that we are pretty good team too. We’ve been in every game this year -- we are just finding ways not to win. Until we find a way to do that, it will be a long season.” He said the season wasn’t over and the Rattlers could still make a run at the playoffs. “We will probably have to win three conference games, and hope that Foreman loses four. Which is possible -- they’ve lost to Junction City and still have Gurdon, Mineral Springs and Dierks. They could very well do that. Foreman is a good football team, they’ve played some very tough teams [including highly ranked Baptist Prep and Mount Ida].”

This week, Turley said the plan is to work on tackling after Friday night’s performance. “That’s frustrating because we work on that every day -- we are to the point in the season you can’t beat your kids up every day, but we work tackling drills all the time. It’s just frustrating. The team has to make the decision that this year is not over yet ... hanging their heads is up to them. We will keep coaching them hard, like we are 5-0 instead of 0-5. We have to build them up, let them know they still can do it, and give them hope. But the bottom line is they are the ones that have to believe that.” Turley said his team had to start winning the turnover battle and eliminate unforced errors. “We’ve had turnovers every game and they seem to come back and bite us in the butt. We’ll work a lot of ball security drills this week, because we just aren’t getting two hands on the ball when we get in traffic. We talk and talk about it all the time, but we’ve got to do it. Nobody means to fumble, but do the right things to avoid that.” The game against the Gators was chippy, with both sides going against each other. Turley said that can be a good thing, if controlled. “Playing on the edge is good, but there is a fine line between physical and dirty. I don’t

RATTLERS Continued on Page 4



WRANGLING A GATOR ... Murfreesboro’s Garrett Lamb (54) puts the clamps on a Foreman running back in the first half of their game last Friday night.

Staff photo

Stressed grass can be toxic to livestock via prussic acid

Voter guides available at extension office for upcoming election

With the ongoing drought, any current growing forages are seeing some major stress. Johnsongrass is very common out in the county. Most producers try to get rid of it, but others use it to their benefit. Currently, producers are seeing stressed johnsongrass across Pike County. This stressed johnsongrass could cause potential harm or even death to cattle.

Producers should also be aware of prussic acid in their grazing fields. Prussic acid is also known as Hydrocyanic acid (HCN). It is generally found in stressed plants and is formed by enzymatic action on compounds called cyanogenetic glucosides when growth is adversely affected.

In healthy plants, the cells containing the glucosides and enzymes (emulsin) apparently keep these constituents separated. When growth is depressed by adverse environmental conditions, such as moisture stress or frost, the enzymatic action may take place producing prussic acid.

The breakdown of plant cells by crushing or bacterial action in the rumen may also result in prussic acid formation. When dhurrin is broken down in the rumen by enzymatic action, the cyanide is absorbed and combines with hemoglobin in the bloodstream. This affects the electron transport system at the cellular level and prevents the cells from receiving oxygen from the blood. The blood is able to transport oxygen from the lungs, but the body tissue can't take it up. Suffocation results.

One symptom of prussic acid poisoning is bright red blood, since it is saturated with trapped oxygen.

The amount of HCN varies in plant tissues among different species. The plants most likely to contain potentially toxic levels of HCN belong to the sorghum family. Grain sorghums contain the most, followed by johnsongrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids, and then pure sudangrass.

The plant that is the most concern is Johnsongrass since it grows wild throughout the county and the state and infests many areas used for grazing.

The amount of HCN is higher in young plants than in older ones, and the HCN content of leaves is higher than that of stems. Upper leaves contain more than the lower ones. Prussic acid concentration decreases as the plants become taller and more mature. Usually, sorghum-type plants 18 to 24 inches tall are less likely to contain high concentrations of the toxin.

Immature plants and regrowth following haying or grazing contain the highest levels. Drought and frost are closely associated with high levels of HCN. Plants growing under stressful conditions and those that have received more than 75 pounds of nitrogen per acre in one application may contain more toxins.

Plants have more potential for producing HCN if the soil is high in nitrogen and deficient in phosphate and potassium. An increase in HCN may result in fields treated with 2,4-D.

Symptoms of poisoning include anxiety, progressive weakness and labored breathing, and death may follow when lethal amounts of HCN are consumed.

However, the dead animals may be found without visible symptoms of poisoning.

Animals may also show increased rate of respiration, increased pulse rate, gasping, muscular twitching and convulsions.

Death often occurs rapidly in affected animals.

HOW TO PREVENT PRUSSIC ACID POISONING

- Do not allow animals to graze fields with succulent, young, short growth. Graze only after plants reach a height of 18 to 24 inches.



SMART FARMING IN PIKE COUNTY

CODIE MCALISTER

PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

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



U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

- Do not graze drought damaged plants in any form, regardless of height, within four days following a good rain. It is during this period of rapid growth that accumulation of prussic acid in the young tissue and of nitrates in the stems is most likely to occur.

- Do not graze wilted plants or plants with young regrowth.
- Do not rely on drought damaged material as the only source of feed. Keep either dry forage or green chop from other crops available at all times. Uneven growth as a result of drought can best be utilized as silage or hay.
- Do not use frost damaged sorghum as pasture or green chop during the first seven days after the first killing frost.
- Delay pasturing for a least seven days or until the frosted material is completely dried out and brown colored. Do not rely on frosted material as the only source of feed. Do not graze at night when frost is likely.
- Do not turn hungry cattle onto a pasture of sorghum, sorghum sudan hybrid, or johnsongrass. Fill them up on hay or other forage first, and begin grazing in the late afternoon.

An option for using potentially toxic forage is to harvest it as hay or silage. Prussic acid levels decline in stored forages. Well cured hay is safe to feed.

ANIMAL TREATMENT

Get the animals off the pasture that they are grazing. Contact your veterinarian to correctly diagnose prussic acid poisoning and to determine the proper treatment plan.

Ruminant animals appear to be the most susceptible to prussic acid poisoning. These ruminants include cattle, sheep, and goats.

Prussic Acid is not something you can visually see with your eyes in the fields, so it is something to be very cautious with. If you have questions about Prussic acid, please contact the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM UPDATE

As of October 5, 2026, there still has not been a report of New World Screwworm in the state of Arkansas. The identified cases are still found in southwest/ west Texas and southern New Mexico. This consists of 52 cases with 49 of the cases being inactive and 3 currently active.

DROUGHT MONITOR

The Drought Monitor currently shows data as of September 29, 2026 that the entire Pike County is now classified as being in a Severe Drought. If you would like to submit a report about how the drought is affecting you, you can visit this website: droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx

tions.aspx

VOTER GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE IN OFFICE

We now have voter guides in the Extension Office. The information contained in this publication goes through a vetting process to ensure its accuracy and neutrality, which includes reviews by: Legal and subject matter experts, Issue supporters, and Issue opponents. These Voter Guides are published by the Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Guides can be picked up at the Pike County Extension Office at 100 Court Street Suite A, Murfreesboro, AR.

If you have any questions concerning agriculture or natural resources, you can contact the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161. To find your local county extension office you can visit uaex.uada.edu.

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING -- TEMPORARY POSITION PART-TIME BUSH HOGGING

We are looking for someone dependable and hardworking to assist with bush hogging.

Monday-Thursday
8 hours per day
\$13.00 per hour

Temporary position -- maximum of 90 days

REQUIREMENTS:
Reliable and dependable, Able to operate bush hogging equipment safely, Willing to work outdoors, Must be able to work the scheduled hours, Must pass a drug screening

TO APPLY:
Stop by 1 Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro to complete an application or call (870) 285-2414 for more information.

(p.c.j. 14,15)

JOB OPENING

The Murfreesboro Waterworks will be accepting applications for the position on Field Technician.

Interested persons may obtain an application at the water office, Located at 204 East Main Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

Application will be accepted through October 16.

Please apply in person or no phone call please. Murfreesboro Waterworks reserves the right to reject any and all applications

The Murfreesboro Waterworks is an equal opportunity employer.

(m.w.d. 13,14)

Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas
*Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park
Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson*

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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.

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Ace of Diamonds

Murfreesboro * (870) 285-3133
Mon. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ace of Diamonds **@aceofdiamonds_3133**
aceofdiamondsllc.com

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OUTSIDE - ON THE SIDEWALK

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at Low, Low Prices

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Fresh Fall Fashions Await You

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Each Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

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TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

OCTOBER 15, 2026

YOU CAN MAKE PAYMENT ONLINE AT WWW.COUNTYSERVICE.NET

PIKE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

(870) 285-3121
FOR INFORMATION

WILL BE CLOSED MON. OCT. 12 FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

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

**GLENWOOD OFFICE
MONDAY & FRIDAY - 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.**

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

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

September 15, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Brewer, Barbara Ann, 56, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Hanks, Jason Lee, 34, Amity, \$140 BF, no driver’s license

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Esparza, Robert o Jr., 33, Caldwell, Idaho, \$155 BF, speeding; \$225 BF, failure to appear

CITY OF GLENWOOD
McCoy, Betsy, 77, Eagletown, Okla., \$160 BF, speeding
Meurer, Ashley N., 40, Cookeville, Tenn., guilty of failure to register within 30 days, fined \$165

BENCH TRIALS
PIKE COUNTY
Brewer, Chandler Steven, 27, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$95
Green, Kristi Renee, 44, Queen City, Texas, guilty of DWI,

fined \$1,085, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course
Kosters, Will N., 30, Murfreesboro, guilty of third-degree domestic battery, fined \$530 and sentenced to six days in jail; guilty of violation of order of protection, fined \$705
Rogers, Linsey, 46, Goose Creek, S.C., guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$110

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Minutaa, Tarekegn Berkit, 36, Richardson, Texas, careless prohibited driving, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss, fined \$160

ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION
Elmore, James R., 37, Cocoa, Fla., guilty of hunting from roads prohibited in WMAs, fined \$385

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Cogburn, Shawn A., 37, Norman, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$360 and sentenced to 10 days in jail-suspended conditions

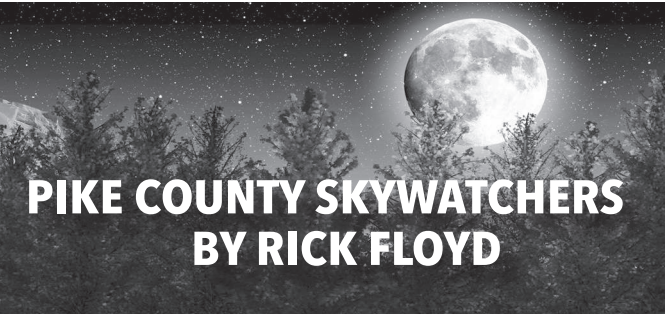
PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS
DR-26-53 -- Christine Weller, vs. William Weller, order of protection, Aug. 28
DR-26-54 -- OCSE, vs. Will Kosters, support/OCSE, Sept. 1
DR-26-55 -- Christine Weller, vs. William Weller, divorce, Sept. 3
DR-26-56 -- OCSE, vs. Ruby Ollinger, support/OCSE, Sept. 9
DR-26-57 -- Deborah Jackson, vs. Gary Dejean, order of protection, Sept. 10
DR-26-58 -- Jarrod Reid, vs. Autumn Reid, divorce, Sept. 14
DR-26-59 -- Candy Lamb, vs. Taylor Lamb, order of protection, Sept. 22
DR-26-60 -- Rebecca Freeman, vs. Crystal Cluff, divorce, Sept. 23
DR-26-61 -- Amanda Johnson, vs. Anthony Chambers, order of protection, Sept. 28

CIVIL
CV-26-126 -- Credit ACC Corp., vs. Sherrie Burr and Mikel Parish, contract/other, Aug. 25
CV-26-127 -- LNVN Funding, vs. Bonnie Dematto, debt collection, Aug. 27
CV-26-128 -- LNVN Funding, vs. Amy Brymer, debt collection, Sept. 1
CV-26-129 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Jack Manlove, debt collection, Sept. 2
CV-26-130 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Alan Kennedy, debt collection, Sept. 2
CV-26-131 -- TD Bank, vs Christopher Thompson, debt collection, Sept. 2
CV-26-132 -- Portfolio Recovery, vs. Christine Banks, debt collection, Sept. 2
CV-26-133 -- NCB Management Services, vs. Johnathan Boyd, debt collection, Sept. 3
CV-26-134 -- LNVN Funding LLC., vs. Marcia Gentry, debt collection, Sept. 4
CV-26-135 -- Portfolio Recovery Association LLC., vs. Michael Lamb, debt collection, Sept 4
CV-26-136 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Ted M. Pate, debt collection, Sept. 8
CV-26-137 -- Melissa Bliss, vs. Whit Dennis, real property, Sept. 9
CV-26-138 -- Midland Credit Management, vs. Sofia Cordova, debt collection, Sept. 10
CV-26-139 -- Austin Lee Tigue, name change, Sept. 11
CV-26-140 -- TD Bank NA., vs. Tina Richards, debt collection, Sept. 11

CV-26-141 -- Arkansas Federal Credit, vs. Sueanne and Warren Jones, contract/other, Sept. 15
CV-26-142 -- LNVN Funding LLC., vs. Eric Fillmer, debt collection, Sept. 16
CV-26-143 -- Midland Credit Management, vs. Keenan Fultcher, debt collection, Sept. 17
CV-26-144 -- Captial One NA., vs. Melanie L. Gadbury, contract/other, Sept. 23
Cv-26- 145 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Natosha Homan, contract/other, Sept. 23
CV-26-146 -- Kayla Ann Gail Moore, name change, Sept. 25

MARRIAGE LICENSE
Trevor Dean Morrison, 33, Amity; Chassidy Nannette Reaves, 42, Amity, Aug. 31
Mark Deven Cupstid, 29, Maumelle; Kristen Nicole Busby 31, Maumelle, Sept. 4
Dayton Thomas McWilliams, 20, Taylor; Milissa Grace Ann White, 20, Kirby, Sept. 14
Charles Franklin Tyler Gibson, 32, Murfreesboro; Ruth Ruby Oaxaca, 32, Murfreesboro, Sept. 17
Landon James Whisenhunt, 20, Glenwood; Mia Ying Morse, 20, Glenwood, Sept. 23
Chance Allen King, 36, Dierks; Sarah Elizabeth Fulgium, 33, Dierks, Sept. 24
Brandon Lee Copeland, 28, Delight; Rachelle Monique Oliver, 21, Delight, Sept. 25
Harmon Lane Daniel Icenhower, 24, Murfreesboro; Landen Wray Hill, 24, Murfreesboro, Sept. 28



**PIKE COUNTY SKYWATCHERS
BY RICK FLOYD**

Monarchs on the march south

Monarch butterflies are on the wing, migrating from North America to overwinter at a particular place (the Oyamel fir forests) in Mexico. Arkansas is annually on the flight path as they come down from locations up north.
Thousands of Monarchs migrate each year, and over Arkansas, sightings of small and large groups are now possible as the usual peak period, mid-October, nears. Sightings can occur for a month or so after this peak time. It is possible to be lucky enough to see a column of hundreds of them going over, and it is not uncommon to see just a few moving from flower to flower if you have a garden.

There are three main Monarch populations in the U.S. The one that we observe in Arkansas is considered part of the eastern migratory population (Danaeus plexippus) which is found east of the Rockies. There are very good sites on the web that will help you identify the Monarch. It is large and orange with distinct black lines. It is most often confused with the Viceroy butterfly which, unlike the Monarch, has a wide black stripe on each of its orange hind wings. The Monarch can be distinguished in flight from the Viceroy by its flap and glide style, whereas the Viceroy is a vigorous flapper.

The last time I observed a large flight of Monarchs was in the 1960’s. At Rattler football practice hundreds of them came flying over the field, and I became transfixed by the spectacle to the point of becoming completely unaware, for a brief time, of the scrimmage action until I was bumped by a downfield blocker. It would be good to see such a spectacle again.

There are reports of a decline in Monarch numbers over the years, but I hope ongoing conservation efforts will help maintain and increase the population. One such conservation group in Arkansas is the Arkansas Monarch Partnership. It is a good source of information, including how citizens can help with the conservation efforts, and of links to other Monarch sites. Planting native Milkweeds in your garden is one suggestion, a favorite of Monarchs (see plantsformonarchs.org). Seeing Monarchs going over on their journey to beat winter is largely a matter of being there at the right time, so keep looking up.

The Draconid meteor shower peaks the nights of October 8 and 9. The nice thing about this one is that best times for observing it are as soon as darkness falls, rather than having to wait until after midnight. Look north toward the North Star then find the bright star Vega. There is a lopsided square of four stars between the two, the dragon’s head, and that is where the meteor radiant is located.

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Obituaries

Linda Kay Cox, 72, Murfreesboro



Linda Kay Cox, age 72 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at her home. She was born on October 1, 1954 in Nashville, the daughter of the late L.C. Lingo and Wanza Lou Bumgarner Lingo.
Mrs. Cox was a devoted homemaker and took great pride in caring for her family. She was married to the love of her life, Larry Joe Cox, for 53 wonderful years. Larry was not only her husband, but her best friend and lifelong companion. Kay’s family was her greatest joy, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved son, Michael Joe, whose memory she carried in her heart everyday and his wife, Bridgette. Additionally, she was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Lingo, a brother-in-law, Johnny Ray Cox and her mother-in-law and father-in-law, O.C. and Wanda Cox.
Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband, Larry Joe Cox; her brother and sister-in-law, Scotty Lingo and Melissa; her sister-in-law, Carol Lingo; a brother-in-law, Garry Cox and wife, Bonnie; two grandsons, Dylan Cox and his wife, Brooke, and Nathan Cox; her granddaughter, Kaylynn Cox and family; two great-grandsons, Ace and Axel (Turbo) Cox; a special friend, Teresa Schooley; Two pets, Peanut and Lil Bit; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
Following visitation at 2:30 p.m. a graveside service for Mrs. Cox began at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Murfreesboro Cemetery with Rev. Jim Henderson officiating, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.
You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Max Lee O’Bryant, 73, Hope

Max Lee O’Bryant, age 73 of Hope, Arkansas, passed away on Friday, October 2, 2026 in Little Rock, surrounded by his family. He was born on March 20, 1953 in Nashville, Arkansas, the son of the late Mack Herbert O’Bryant and Pauline O’Bryant Garney.
In addition to his parents, Max was preceded in death by his stepfather, Bill Garney, and his brother, Pat O’Bryant.
Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 55 years, Susan O’Bryant; his daughter and son-in-law, Jessica Naramore and Jamie; his son, Bradley O’Bryant; his brother, Billy Bob Garney; his sister and brother-in-law, Kim Raulerson

and Danny; his sister-in-law, Sue O’Bryant; five grandchildren; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the service begins on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at First Baptist Church in Hope.
A funeral service for Mr. O’Bryant will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7 at First Baptist Church in Hope. Interment will follow at Antioch Cemetery near Nashville, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Nashville.
You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

IT’S A GIRL

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RATTLERS

Continued from Page 1

think any of our kids play dirty -- not at all. That's not what we do. It was just a wild night. I'm just frustrated that we are finding ways to lose and we gotta find ways to win. We have to quit making mistakes at critical times in the game."

Turley said to best delete the game from memory and just move on, he didn't expect to do much -- if any -- film study.

"We are just going to move on."

He also said the team dealt with a lot of cramping issues last Friday night, leading him to believe many of the athletes were not preparing properly during the week.

"We are not taking care of our bodies, we are not doing the right things during the week. We talk about it all the time -- drink lots of water, eat good meals, get plenty of sleep. Take care of your body, otherwise your body is not going to take care of you when you need it to."

VERSUS DIERKS

The Rattlers will travel to Dierks this week to compete against the Outlaws in their newly improved "million dollar Holler" stadium.

The Outlaws are 4-1 on the season and 1-0 in conference play with a 46-20 win over Spring Hill last week.

"So, we move on to Dierks, our rivals -- if you can't get up for this game, you just don't have any character or pride. If we are 0-5 or 5-0, this is

a meaningful game."

He said that would be the focus headed into the game.

"If we can beat a good Dierks team, maybe we get some confidence and start playing like it. We are not playing with confidence right now -- it's like we are playing not to lose instead of playing to win. That's not confidence."

He said it was all about what the kids wanted to do.

"There are some things the kids are going to have to buy in to if we want to turn this around. I won't get on them, because that does us no good. As coaches we are going to be positive. We have to stay positive -- you don't beat down a team that is down. We have to start picking them up, give them some hope that there is still a chance here. And we do have a chance -- but it will be a hard road, don't get me wrong. Our backs are to the wall and what are we going to do about it? Are we going to come out and fight or are we just going to lay down? We have to show them that we [coaches] haven't given up and continue to work our butts off for those kids. But they have to understand that ultimately it's their decision."

Turley said the Outlaws were playing "really, really hard" and have a "very good" quarterback that often runs, a "very good" running back and an offensive line that blocks.

"They play pretty good defense -- I think we can throw the ball a little on them, but they play hard and I've been impressed with how they play."

Turley downplayed any excitement about going to the Outlaws' new stadium.

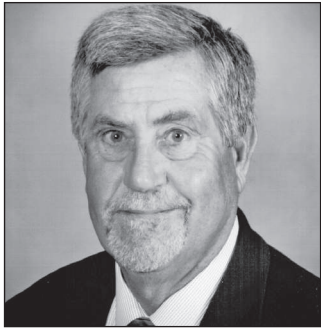
"Not for us -- sorry, but it's their stadium. I'm

not trying to be ugly, but I don't care anything about their stadium," he said with a laugh. "If it was our stadium it would be great."

‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

IF YOU LOVE ME
John 14:15



God's people spend great time and effort verifying the fact that they really love their Savior. We sing about it and we pray about it. How can we know for sure we love the Lord the way He wants us to love Him? We follow Him day by day and try our best to show that "Keep my commandments." Simply, He says, "Do what I have asked you to do." Talents and abilities vary but the command does not. The parable of the talents gives us a decisive look at how it works. We, individually, can only do what our ability permits. We must not try to judge our devotion by another child of God. The Lord knows what we are

able to accomplish with the capacity He has given to us. The definition of a faithful servant is shown by our doing what we can in His service. We must do our best to step forward and accept any challenge or opportunity when it comes our way. Some of the open doors are always there and demand faithful devotion. The Lord knows each day will bring new chal-

lenges and our mind set must propel us forward to do what we can every time we can. Accepting these challenges becomes a labor of love. We must do as Jesus did, work the works He has set before us each day we are blessed to obey. Do you and I love the Lord? The heartfelt answer is found in the joy we find in obeying our Lord. Do we look forward in great anticipation to honor Him every time we can? Is there a soul satisfying sense of bringing glory to Him each day we live? Jesus said, "If you love me..." Our response, obeying His commandments, will be done with zeal and love for Him. We are His servants and are honored that He has allowed us to serve Him and His father.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 3. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Senator J. Dismang and filed as SJR 15.

ISSUE NO. 3 Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment Concerning Economic Development in the State of Arkansas; and Authorizing the General Assembly to Provide for the Creation of Economic Development Districts Within Cities, Counties, or Cooperative Areas to Promote Economic Development Within the Economic Development District.

Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS WITHIN CITIES, COUNTIES, OR COOPERATIVE AREAS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING

THERE TO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Loans and grants of public money. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Arkansas Constitution, the General Assembly may provide for the creation of programs and the making of loans and grants of public money for the public purposes of: (1) Development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas; (2) The elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the State of Arkansas; (3) The development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the State of Arkansas; or (4) The development or improvement of real estate in the State of Arkansas that contributes to economic development within the State of Arkansas. (b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.

SECTION 2. Economic development district projects. (a) An economic development district may issue bonds for the purpose of financing projects within the economic development district. (b) The bonds under subsection (a) of this section: (1) May be secured by and be payable from all or a portion of any funds received by or allocated to the economic development district; (2) Shall not be considered in calculating debt limits for bonds issued under Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 4; and (3) Shall not be subject to the provisions of: (A) Arkansas Constitution,

Article 16, § 1; (B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62; or (C) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 65.

SECTION 3. Implementation. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation of this amendment.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Constitution, Article 12, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Political subdivisions not to become stockholders in or lend credit to private corporations — Exceptions. (a) No county, city, town or other municipal corporation, shall become a stockholder in any company, association, or corporation; or obtain or appropriate money for, or loan its credit to, any corporation, association, institution, or individual. (b) However, a county, city, town, or other municipal corporation may obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution, or individual to: (1) Finance economic development projects; or (2) Provide economic development services; or (3) Provide funding or lend credit to an economic development district. (c) As used in this section: (1) "Economic development district" means a designated area within a city, county, or cooperative area established under authority granted by the General Assembly to promote economic development within the designated area; (2) "Economic development projects" means the land, buildings, furnishings, equipment, facilities, infrastructure, and improvements that are required or suitable for the development, retention, or expansion of: (A) Manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities; (B) Research, technology, and development facilities; (C) Recycling facilities; (D) Distribution centers; (E) Call centers; (F) Warehouse facilities; (G) Job training facilities; (H) Regional or national corporate headquarters facilities; and (I) Sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation

baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments; and (J) An economic development district as authorized by the General Assembly and designated as part of an economic development plan; (2)(3) "Economic development services" means: (A) Planning, marketing, and strategic advice and counsel regarding job recruitment, job development, job retention, and job expansion; (B) Supervision and operation of industrial parks or other such properties; and (C) Negotiation of contracts for the sale or lease of industrial parks or other such properties; and (3)(4) "Infrastructure" means: (A) Land acquisition; (B) Site preparation; (C) Road and highway improvements; (D) Rail spur, railroad, and railport construction; (E) Water service; (F) Wastewater treatment; (G) Employee training which may include equipment for such purpose; and (H) Environmental mitigation or reclamation. (d) The General Assembly, by a three-fourths vote of each house, may amend the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section so long as the amendments are germane to this section and consistent with its policy and purposes.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Constitution, Article 16, § 5, is amended to read as follows: § 5. Property taxed according to value — Procedures for valuation — Tax exemptions. (a) All real and tangible personal property subject to taxation shall be taxed according to its value, that value to be ascertained in such manner as the General Assembly shall direct, making the same equal and uniform throughout the State. No one species of property for which a tax may be collected shall be taxed higher than another species of property of equal value, except as provided and authorized in Section 15 of this Article, and except as authorized in Section 14 of this Article. The General Assembly, upon the approval thereof by a vote of not less than three-fourths (¾ths) of the members elected to each house, may establish the methods and procedures for valuation of property for

taxation purposes, but may not alter the method of valuation set forth in Section 15 of this Article. (b)(1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: public property used exclusively for public purposes; churches used as such; cemeteries used exclusively as such; school buildings and apparatus; libraries and grounds used exclusively for school purposes; and buildings and grounds and materials used exclusively for public charity. (2) If property exempt from taxation under subdivision (b) (1) of this section is included in an economic development district, the tax status of the property shall not change. (c) Property located within an economic development district created by the General Assembly shall be exempt from taxation except for taxes, assessments, or other charges levied by the economic development district of which the property is a part. (d) Nothing in this Section shall affect or repeal the provision of Amendment 57 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas pertaining to intangible personal property.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 62, § 6, is amended to read as follows: § 6. Conduct of elections. (a) The General Assembly may enact laws governing the conduct of elections authorized by this Amendment. Absent the enactment of such laws, such elections shall be held, called and conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections generally. The results of such election shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipality (as the case may be) and any contest of such election or the tabulation of the votes therein shall be brought within thirty (30) days after such publication or shall be forever barred. (b)(1) Any bonds or other obligations of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision facilitating the development and diversification of the economy of the state that are issued for the purpose of making loans or grants in connection with a program authorized by the General Assembly under this amendment and that are payable from

ad valorem taxes shall be approved by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors of the county, municipality, or political subdivision voting on the issue. (2) A program created or a loan or grant made by an economic development district that is secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes of the economic development district does not constitute or create a debt for the purpose of any provision of this Constitution.

SECTION 7. Repealer — Construction. (a) Any provision of this Constitution, including without limitation amendments to this Constitution, that conflicts with or is in any way inconsistent with this amendment is repealed or deemed modified to give precedence to this amendment. (b) This amendment supersedes all previous constitutional provisions, amendments, laws, or judicial interpretations that conflict with this amendment's terms. (c) If this amendment conflicts with any existing constitutional provision, amendment, law, or judicial interpretation, this amendment shall prevail and be given full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Severability. The provisions of this amendment are severable, and if any provision of this amendment should be held invalid, the remainder shall stand.

SECTION 9. Effective date. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



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Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN ZEHTI

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 THAT, 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 HIM 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 ZEHTI

OF COURSE THE WHOLE PLAN REALLY BACKFIRED RIGHT IN ABRAHAM'S FACE WHEN THE PHARAOH FOUND OUT THAT SARAI WAS ABRAHAM'S WIFE (GEN. 12:9-20) 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

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First State Bank announces promotion of Cowart to vice president and branch manager

GLENWOOD -- First State Bank of De Queen is pleased to announce the promotion of Easton Cowart to Vice President and Branch Manager of the First State Bank of Glenwood location, recognizing his outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the customers and communities he serves.

A native of Pike County, Easton grew up on a diversified family farm where his family raised hogs, poultry, and cattle. Those agricultural roots helped shape his strong work ethic and provide him with firsthand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing local farmers and businesses.

Cowart and his Wife, Megan, are graduates of Kirby High School. Easton earned his bachelor’s degree from Henderson State University before beginning his bank-

ing career. He joined First State Bank of De Queen in 2020 and has steadily built a reputation for providing exceptional service and sound financial guidance to customers throughout the region. As a loan officer, he has worked closely with families, farmers, business owners, and community members to help them achieve their financial goals. In his new role as Vice President and Branch Manager, Cowart will continue serving customers while providing leadership for the branch’s daily operations, business development efforts, and community involvement initiatives.

“Easton has demonstrated a strong commitment to our customers, employees, and communities since joining our bank,” said President/CEO Jay O’Neal. “His agri-

cultural background, management style, and his personality will serve him well



Submitted photo/FSBDQ
EASTON COWART

in this new role. We are excited to see him continue growing with our organization.”

Cowart resides in Pike County, where he and his wife are actively involved in the community. The couple is also celebrating an exciting personal milestone with

the birth of their son, Bodie.

Join us in congratulating Easton on this well-earned promotion as we look forward to his continued leadership and service throughout the community.

First State Bank of De Queen/First State Bank of

Glenwood is a community-focused financial institution dedicated to providing exceptional banking services, personalized financial solutions, and support for the communities it serves throughout Southwest Arkansas.



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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (OR OTHER MEASURE) REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 22, of the Arkansas Constitution, the 95th General Assembly refers the following constitutional amendment to a vote of the people on November 3, 2026, and will appear on the ballot as Issue No. 1. Each elector upon voting his/her ballot shall vote for or against this amendment. Underlined language would be added to the present Constitution. Stricken language would be deleted from the present Constitution. This amendment was proposed in the Regular 2025 Session by Representative Ray and filed as HJR 1018.

ISSUE NO. 1 Popular Name

A Constitutional Amendment to be Known as “The Citizens Only Voting Amendment” and Providing That Only a Citizen of the United States Meeting the Qualifications of an Elector Under the Arkansas Constitution May Vote in an Election in this State.

Ballot Title

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CREATE “THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT”; TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION MAY VOTE IN THIS STATE; AND PROVIDING THAT A PERSON WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE IN ANY STATE OR LOCAL ELECTION HELD IN THIS STATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,

AND BY THE SENATE, A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE AGREEING THERETO:

THAT the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and upon being submitted to the electors of the state for approval or rejection at the next general election for Representatives and Senators, if a majority of the electors voting thereon at the election adopt the amendment, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, to wit:

SECTION 1. Short title. This amendment to the Arkansas Constitution shall be known and may be cited as “The Citizens Only Voting Amendment.”

SECTION 2.

Arkansas Constitution, Article 3, § 1, is amended to read as follows: § 1. Qualifications of electors. (a)(1) Only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector under this section may vote in an election in this state. (2) A person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector under this section shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in this state. ~~(a)(b)~~ Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, any person may vote in an election in this state who to vote in an election in this state a person shall be: (1) A citizen of the United States; (2) A resident of the State of Arkansas; (3) At least eighteen (18) years of age; and (4) Lawfully registered to vote in the election. ~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ In addition to the qualifications under subsection ~~(a)(b)~~ of this section, the General Assembly shall provide by law that a voter shall: (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot. (2) The General Assembly shall establish by law the types of photographic

identification that a person may present to comply with subdivision ~~(b)(1)(c)(1)~~ of this section. ~~(c)(d)~~ The State of Arkansas shall issue photographic identification at no charge to an eligible voter who does not have a form of photographic identification meeting the requirements of the law enacted by the General Assembly under this section. ~~(d)(1)(A)~~ A voter unable to present valid photographic identification when voting in person shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot. (B) An absentee ballot that is not accompanied by a copy of valid photographic identification shall be considered a provisional ballot. (2) A provisional ballot under subdivision ~~(d)(1)(c)(1)~~ of this section shall be counted only if the voter subsequently certifies the provisional ballot in a manner provided by law. ~~(e)(1)(f)(1)~~ The General Assembly shall implement the provisions of this amendment by law. (2) The General Assembly may provide by law for exceptions to the requirement that a voter: (A) Present valid photographic identification before receiving a ballot to vote in person; and (B) Enclose a copy of valid photographic identification with his or her ballot when voting by absentee ballot. ~~(f)(g)~~ A voter meeting the requirements of this section also shall comply with all additional laws regulating elections necessary for his or her vote to be counted.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND FIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS 3RD DAY OF MAY 2026.



COLE JESTER
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

NOTICE OF ELECTION

This notice is prepared by the Pike County Election Commission to inform the public that the **2026 General Election** will be held on **November 3, 2026**. The notice also provides the public information regarding this election as required by law:

EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES:

- Monday-Friday, October 19-23, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday-Friday, October 26-30, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, November 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location of Poll, Address, Ballots Assigned to Poll:

- Pike County Clerk’s Office, 112 N Washington, Suite A Murfreesboro, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots
- Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots

ELECTION DAY VOTING:

ELECTION DATE: November 3, 2026
HOURS: 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Location of Poll, Address, Ballots Assigned to Poll:

- Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway, Glenwood, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots
- Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2589 Hwy 27 N, Kirby, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots
- Delight Cafeteria, 623 Webb St, Delight, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots
- Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E Main, Murfreesboro, AR, Vote Center/ All Ballots

IN THE EVENT OF A RUNOFF -- VOTING DATES AND TIMES:

Runoff Early Dates

- Tuesday-Friday, November 24-27, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 30, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pike County Clerk’s Office Location Only

Runoff Election Date: Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Murfreesboro Municipal Building Location Only

ABSENTEE VOTING:

To request an absentee ballot, or to see if you are qualified to vote absentee, contact the County Clerk’s office using the information below:

112 N WASHINGTON, SUITE A, MURFREESBORO, AR

(870) 285-2743
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

BALLOT CANVASSING AND COUNTING:

All processes listed below will be conducted at the **PIKE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE** located at **112 N WASHINGTON, SUITE A, MURFREESBORO, AR**. The dates and times are provided below:

Activity, Date, Time:

- Canvassing and Counting of Absentee Ballots, November 3, 1:00 p.m. to Completion
- Compiling & Publishing Unofficial Election Results, November 3, 7:30 p.m. to Completion
- Counting of Election Day Ballots, November 3, 7:30 p.m. to Completion
- Initial Duplication of Ballots, November 4, 9:00 a.m. to Completion
- Initial Review of Provisional Ballots, November 4, 11 a.m. to Completion
- Provisional Ballot Hearings, November 9, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Final Review and Counting of Provisional Ballots, November 9, 1:00 p.m. to Completion
- Recount (IF NEEDED), November 10, 10:00 a.m. to Completion
- Post Election Audit, November 12, 9:00 a.m. to Completion
- Canvassing and Counting of UOCAVA Absentee Ballots (IF NEEDED), November 13, 1:00 p.m. to Completion
- Certification of the Election, November 13, 1:00 p.m. to Completion

ELECTION OFFICIALS:

Election Officials appointed to conduct early voting, election day voting, and all other required duties will be posted for public viewing in the Pike County Clerk’s Office, on October 12th and remain posted for not less than 10 days. An objection must be filed with the County Clerk in writing prior to the following deadlines. An objection that an official is a spouse of a county election commissioner, a county party chair, or a spouse of a county party chair must be filed within 7 days of October 12th. An objection that an official is married to a candidate or related to a candidate within two degrees of blood relations must be filed within 10 days of October 12th.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE (BALLOT DRAW ORDER)

U.S. Senate:
Hallie Shoffner – Democratic
Senator Tom Cotton – Republican
Jeff Wadlin – Libertarian

U.S. Congress District 04:
James “Rus” Russell, III - Democratic
Congressman Bruce Westerman

Governor:
Colt Shelby – Libertarian
State Senator Fred Love – Democratic
Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders – Republican

Attorney General:
Attorney General Tim Griffin -Republican

State Treasurer:

State Treasurer John Thurston – Republican

Lieutenant Governor:
Lieutenant Governor Leslie Rutledge- Republican
Michael Kalagias – Libertarian

Auditor of State:
Auditor of State Dennis Milligan - Republican

Secretary of State:
Michael Pakko – Libertarian
Kelly Grappe – Democratic
Senator Kim Hammer – Republican

Commissioner of State Lands:
Secretary of State Cole Jester – Republican
Christopher Olson - Libertarian

State Representative District 89:
State Representative Justin Gonzales – Republican

Pike County Circuit Clerk:
Sabrina Williams – Republican

Justice of the Peace District 4:
Leotis Snowden – Democratic
Billy Hill - Republican

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES:

Mayor of Murfreesboro:
Jack Bonds
Mary Jean Barbre

Mayor of Delight:
Lee Gatliff

Mayor of Daisy:
Lisa Cogburn

Mayor of Glenwood:
William C. Plyler

Murfreesboro City Council Member West Ward Position 1:
Patrick May
Angie Strawn
Doris Scoggins

UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES: (not listed on ballot)
Pike County Judge: Eddie Howard – Republican
Pike County Clerk: Randee Edwards – Republican
Pike County Treasurer: Loletia Rather – Republican
Pike County Assessor: Staci Stewart – Republican
Pike County Sheriff & Collector – Travis Hill - Republican

Justice of the Peace Dist. 1: Roger D. Floyd – Republican
Justice of the Peace Dist. 2: Robbie Crocker – Republican
Justice of the Peace Dist. 3: Seth Henry Kirkham – Republican
Justice of the Peace Dist. 5: Jerry Fendley - Democratic

Justice of the Peace Dist. 6: Ron Parker – Republican
Justice of the Peace Dist. 7: Robert Mac Irvin – Republican

Justice of the Peace Dist. 8: John J. Plyler Jr. – Republican
Justice of the Peace Dist. 9: Paul Baker - Democratic
Missouri Township Constable: Ricky Branch – Democratic
Mountain Township Constable: Chance Reid – Republican

Daisy Recorder/Treasurer: Rebecca A. Frazier
Daisy Council Member Position 2: Amanda Huggins
Daisy Council Member Position 3: Scotty W. Frazier
Daisy Council Member Position 4: Nicholas Stant
Delight Recorder/ Treasurer: Dana Hightower
Delight Council Member Position 1: Rhonda Abbott
Delight Council Member Position 2: Ty Sherrod
Delight Council Member Position 3: Brandi Rowton
Delight Council Member Position 4: Ronnie Cox
Delight Council Member Position 5: Chris Goodson
Glenwood Council Member North Ward Position 2: Johnny Cox
Murfreesboro Council Member North Ward Position 1: Mark Barnes
Murfreesboro Council Member North Ward Position 2: Joan Davis Hooper
Murfreesboro Council Member South Ward Position 1: Lewis Gills
Murfreesboro Council Member South Ward Position 2: Jane B. Fugitt
Murfreesboro Council Member West Ward Position 2: James “Cody” Bachmann

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REFERRED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Issue No. 1
(Popular Name)

Issue No. 2
(Popular Name)

Issue No. 3
(Popular Name)

Issue No. 4
(Popular Name)

VIEWING YOUR BALLOT PRIOR TO VOTING:

Any voter may look up his or her sample ballot on the Secretary of State’s website at: <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/voterview>. Ballots will be available no later than 20 days prior to the election. Sample ballots will also be available at the polling site.

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(PCC: 14 & 17, 1,109w)