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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



Rattlers lose duel to Outlaws, now 0-6 *Homecoming game this week versus Mountain Pine*

DIERKS -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers lost 42-6 to the Dierks Outlaws last Friday night. The loss moves Murfreesboro to 0-6 on the season (0-3 conference) while Dierks now stands at 5-1 (2-0 conference). "Things just did not go our way," said Rattler head coach Jay Turley. "Dierks is a very good football team with not many weaknesses ... maybe the best we will play this season. Their quarterback, backs and receivers are all excellent. They are well coached, so give them credit for a fantastic job. They do things right and play hard." Turley said he was proud of his team stopping the Outlaw running attack early. "We wanted to make them throw more than they have this season -- we did that and then just didn't do a good job in covering," He said the team's attempt to stop the run forced them to play man-to-man coverage. "We're just not great at that ... we are a zone team. We don't practice man-to-man much." Turley said the momentum swing early in the game was huge -- trailing 8-0, MHS traveled the to Outlaw 3-yard-line before a fumble ended the drive. Monday after practice on the Columbus Day holiday, Turley told the team he was proud of them. "I told them I was proud because they never quit and never gave up. Full credit to the kids, they show their true character. We teach football, but also life lessons, and life will knock everybody on their butts at some point. The question is do you get back up?" Now, the Rattlers must regroup against an 0-6 Mountain Pine squad that will travel to Murfreesboro for the 2026 homecoming. The team will do it will several key injuries, including Kooper Caldwell, who is out indefinitely -- if not for the rest of the season -- with a rib issue that took him out of the game Friday night. Turley said the team still hadn't committed to a quarterback solution he was willing to comment on. Friday we had to play a kid at quarterback that had never taken a snap. He completed two passes and we came close to scoring. "We have a plan [at QB] and it's a great plan. It has the chance to be successful, but will look a little different -- we'll take snaps under center a lot more [as opposed to the shotgun]. It's how it is as a 2A team, many teams don't have a definitive backup at quarterback. Above all, Turley said Caldwell's health was the most important -- as would be any injured player -- and he won't allow him to come back injured. "He's our toughest kid and I will protect him. I told him to think about his future." Cale Humphry suffered an elbow injury, along with maladies to the team's outside linebackers. Turley said he would be the first to admit the Rattlers performance was not ideal this season. "I hate to lose and I hate our record ... I told the kids that if they take any flack about it in the community to just blame it on bad coaching. I can handle it." He did say that the team would have to start looking toward the future, and that might impact some playing time. "We have to get tougher and take coaching better -- I told them Monday, if you aren't doing what we ask, you'll be pulled out of the game."



Submitted photo/Kimberly Fields
TAKING ON ON THE CHIN ... (above) Dierks defensive lineman Asa Hopper helps Aden Stinson keep his helmet on following a play. Stinson was forced into emergency quarterback duty after Rattler stater Kooper Caldwell left the game due to injury. (far above) Outlaw receiver Elighah Hawthorne makes a catch amongst the Rattler defense.

As for the Rattlers hanging their head at this point in the season, Turley said he didn't view that as a huge concern, even with the shot at the playoffs all but mathematically eliminated. "They want to win -- we are playing for pride and the community at this point, that should be enough, that's plenty of reason. To make the playoffs we would have to win out and get a lot of help. But this team won't quit, I'll say that about them." Mountain Pine is a "struggling" unit according to Turley. "While we have had some hope this season in most games, it doesn't feel that way for them. Now, I don't know their situation, but I know we still believe -- with them I'm not sure." He said the kids didn't practice with the same lethargy he had seen from winless teams in his past. "It would be easy at this point for them to hang their heads -- but this doesn't have the

feel of a winless team. I really thought we had a chance to win at Dierks, but we aren't just feeling sorry for ourselves ... they played tough and will continue to. I'm not down on any of them, I love them and I will always have their back." He said homecoming week had its "natural distractions" that coaches would prefer to forego, but he didn't think it would impair the team come Friday night. "They will be hungry for this win -- homecoming isn't that big of a distraction." Turley also applauded the team's fanbase for traveling well to Dierks. "They've been behind the kids all year, and it's really impressive. It's obvious that this community really cares about the student athletes, and both the kids and I appreciate it. It really makes them feel backed when the stands are full.

Haunted Hospital now ongoing through October

MURFREESBORO -- After more than 400 very terrified customers went through the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce haunted hospital this past week, the event is now in full swing for the rest of October. The 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 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.

Early voting in election begins on October 19

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County voters will soon be able to participate in the 2026 general election.

Election day will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, with early voting being held starting on Monday, Oct. 19.

Early voting will be held at the Pike County Clerk’s Office, 112 N Washington, Suite A in Murfreesboro and at the Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway in Glenwood.

Early voting dates and time include:

- 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.

On election day, Nov.3, voting will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the four Pike County Voting Centers, which include:

- Bainum Learning Center, 128 E Broadway, Glenwood
 - Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2589 Hwy 27 N, Kirby
 - Delight Cafeteria, 623 Webb St, Delight
- Murfreesboro Municipal Building, 204 E Main, Murfreesboro
- Any registered voter in Pike County may vote at any one of the four voting center locations.
- To request an absentee ballot, or to see if you are qualified to vote absentee, contact the County Clerk’s office from Monday through Friday at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (870) 285-2743 for more information.
- Contested races will include:
- 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
- Lieutenant Governor:
Lieutenant Governor Leslie Rutledge- Republican
Michael Kalagias – Libertarian
- 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
- Justice of the Peace District 4:
Leotis Snowden – Democratic
Billy Hill - Republican
- Mayor of Murfreesboro:
Jack Bonds
Mary Jean Barbre
- Murfreesboro City Council Member
West Ward Position 1:
Patrick May
Angie Strawn
Doris Scoggins

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS 1-4

Any voter may view their sample ballot on the Secretary of State’s website at www.voter-view.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.

Election guides available at Extension office in Murfreesboro

BY KRISTIN NETTERSTROM HIGGINS
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

“The voter guide and other resources on our website are a great place start.”

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas voters can read up on the statewide ballot issues they will decide Nov. 3 by downloading the 2026 Arkansas Ballot Issues Voter Guide or picking up a printed copy at the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service office in Murfreesboro.

Guides are also available at the Bainum Library in Glenwood, the Murfreesboro Library, the Murfreesboro Post Office and the Library and Post Office in Delight.

The guide may be downloaded and viewed online at www.uaex.uada.edu/business-communities/voter-education/docs/2026-Arkansas-Ballot-Issues-Voter-Guide.pdf.

The neutral voter guide, produced by the Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, allows voters to learn about the proposed constitutional amendments before casting their votes.

Inside the 2026 Arkansas Ballot Issues Voter Guide, users will find:

- How the proposals will appear on the ballot
- What a “FOR” or “AGAINST” vote means
- Questions and answers about what proposals would do
- Supporter and opponent viewpoints

WHAT ARE THE 2026 ARKANSAS BALLOT ISSUES?

Early voting starts Oct. 19 in Arkansas for the 2026 November General Election.

At the end of the ballot, voters will see three proposed constitutional amendments that seek to alter the state’s 1874 Constitution in one way or another, followed by a bond issue question. All four proposals came from the legislature.

- Issue 1 - Defining who is eligible to vote in Arkansas
- Issue 2 - The Right to Keep and Bear Amendment
- Issue 3 - Allowing the Legislature to Create Programs, Loans and Grants Using Public Money and to Create Economic Development Districts
- Issue 4 - Issuing up to \$500 Million in Water, Waste Disposal and Pollution Abatement Bonds

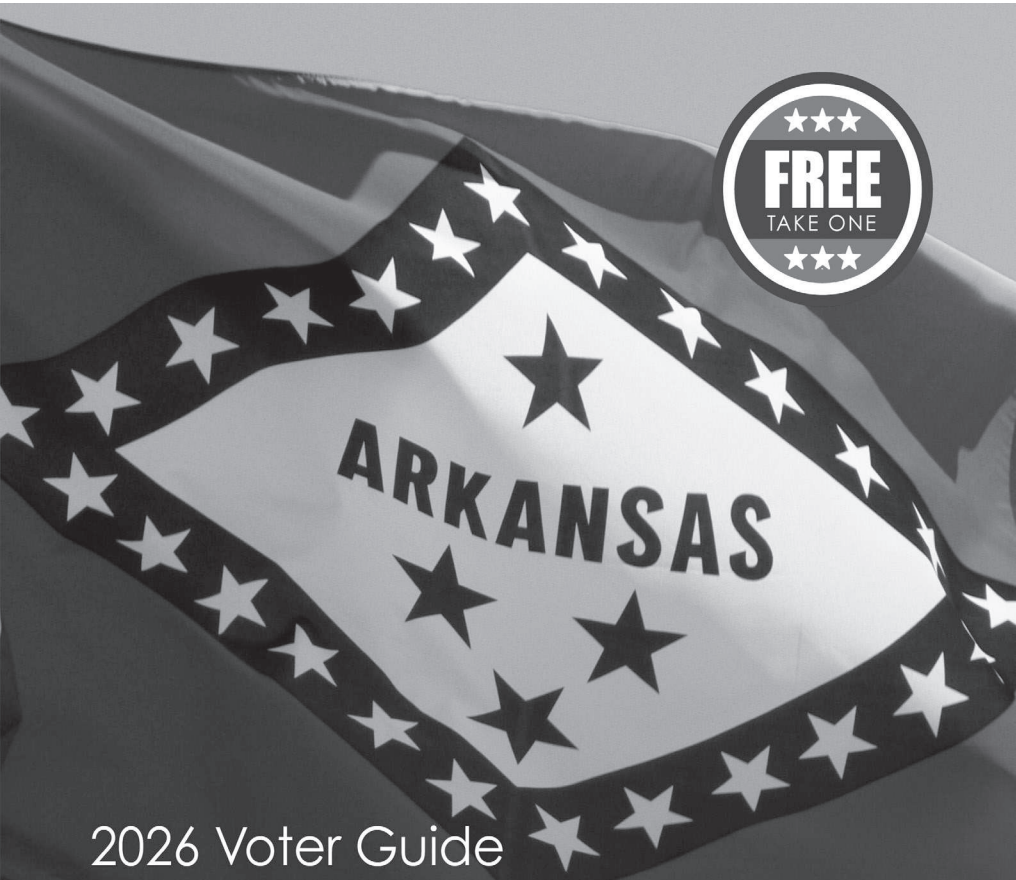
ABOUT THE MATERIALS

The Public Policy Center has published fact sheets on all statewide ballot measures since 2004 so voters have a better understanding of what is being asked of them on Election Day. The fact sheets go through a vetting process that includes reviews by issue supporters and opponents.

In 2024, the Public Policy Center distributed more than 48,000 voter guides across Arkansas’ 75 counties. Its ballot issue education web pages attracted 371,867 views between Sept. 1-Nov. 11, 2024. Find past voter guides ca be found in the Public Policy Center’s archive.

For more information about the Arkansas Ballot Issues Guide, contact Kristin Netterstrom Higgins at (501) 671-2160 or khiggins@uada.edu.

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



2026 Voter Guide

Arkansas Ballot Issues

General Election | Nov. 3, 2026



This neutral, research-based guide to the 2026 Arkansas Ballot Issues was produced by the Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

For the latest ballot information visit www.uaex.uada.edu/ballot

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Little Missouri River • Lake Greeson

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

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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.

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SHARON ANNETTE CRAIG, DECEASED
CASE NO. 55PR-26-39

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Last Known Address of Decedent: Murfreesboro, Arkansas
Date of Death: January 30, 2026

On August 17, 2026, Ar’Jillian Gilmer was appointed Administrator of the Estate of Sharon Annette Craig, deceased, by the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas.

All persons having claims against the estate of Sharon Annette Craig, deceased, are hereby notified and required to exhibit their claims, duly verified, to the undersigned Administrator at the address stated below within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

Claims for injury or death caused by the negligence of the decedent must also be filed within six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.

This notice is published pursuant to Arkansas Code § 28-40-111.

This notice first published: 14th day of October, 2026.

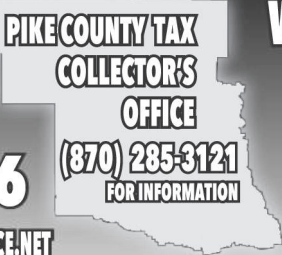
Ar’Jillian Gilmer
Administrator of the Estate of
Sharon Annette Craig, Deceased
Mailing Address:
27 Shadell Ln.
Mayflower, AR 72106

(a.g., 214w., 15, 16)

TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

OCTOBER 15, 2026

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**PIKE COUNTY TAX
COLLECTOR'S
OFFICE**
(870) 285-3121
FOR INFORMATION

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

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

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

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



Submitted photo/Aaron Teel
TAKING ON ON THE CHIN ... Jacob Shaw and Jackson Nance are pictured during the junior high game last week versus the Dierks Junior High Outlaws. The Junior Rattlers won the game at home 30-22.

Man charged with stealing car

MURFREESBORO -- An Ashdown man has been charged in Pike County after he allegedly stole and scrapped a car in Glenwood.

Hal Chasen Lewis, 38, was charged Oct. 9 with theft of property.

According to case information, Lewis reportedly picked up a vehicle from a Glenwood convenience store that had been left there because it had broken down. The owner was given permission to leave the vehicle at the store and when they returned the car had been removed.

The car owner went to the local scrap yard and was able to locate her 2007 Hyundai Tiburon. Law officials were able to identify Lewis as the person who scrapped the vehicle for approximately \$3,000.

Also on Oct. 9, drug charges were filed against Jordan Cody Cowart, 45, of Langley.

Cowart was arrested on Sept. 30 following a traffic stop. Cowart is a probationer with a search waiver on file and he was reportedly found to be in possession of paraphernalia and methamphetamine weighing 5.5 grams.

Allen Jay Qualls, 30, of Mount Ida was charged Oct. 9 in Pike County with drug offenses.

Qualls was arrested on July 14 following a multiple-vehicle

accident outside of Glenwood where one vehicle involved reportedly fled the scene. The vehicle was driven by Qualls with a passenger Dennis Collins, who has a search waiver on file. No contraband was found on Collins but the smell of marijuana led to a search of the vehicle where marijuana and .3 grams of meth were found. Collins was not charged in the case.

Kathy Bollen, 58, of Murfreesboro, is facing two counts of delivery of a Schedule II controlled substance (hydrocodone). She was charged Oct. 9.

According to case information, Bollen was charged after the 9th West Drug Task Force conducted two controlled buys for hydrocodone pills at Bollen's residence at 200 Billy Winn Street in Murfreesboro.

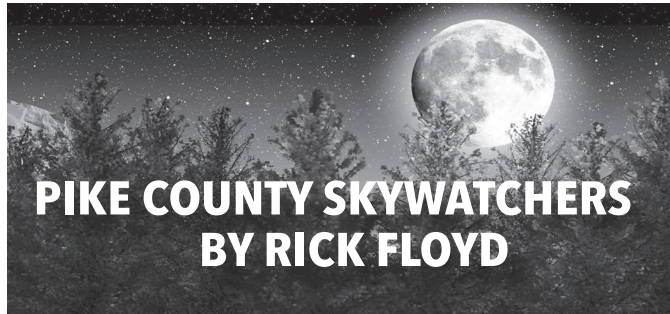


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Tobacco & More
EZ Mart



Measuring time

Senator Tom Cotton was in the news recently as a result of a post from President Trump. The President, as one news source put it, “blasted” Cotton for his opposition to the bill currently in the Senate for consideration that would eliminate Standard Time, and make Daylight Saving Time (DST) the only time in the U.S. Polls show a majority of Americans are in favor of not having the twice a year time changes, but many, like Cotton, are concerned that DST will mean that millions of school kids go to school during winter months in darkness.

It is interesting that one of the great mysteries of the world, Time, which has been subject to philosophical speculation for millennia, and more recently to rigorous scientific study down to the quantum level, can also be a thing the U.S. Congress can manipulate.

Early in human history a need to know, in one form or another, what time it is became important to the function of all aspects of life. We can thank stargazers, both the “amateurs” fascinated and curious about the events in the dome above, and to those “professionals” tasked with detailed study of the movements of celestial bodies, for our measures of time today. They gave us the measure of the Sun’s return each day to the same place in the sky as the day before, what we know as 24 hours, and to their realization that the Sun moves from one point to another over a predictable span and then starts over again taking what we now call a year or 365 days. Scientists and philosophers could be content to say time is simply what the clock and the calendar say, but inquiring minds want more.

Science predicts that the limit to our (current) capacity to measure time would be a clock that ticks at one trillion-trillionth of a second, or about the time it takes light to cross the nucleus of an atom. That is way beyond the human scale of heart rate, breathing, life-span and other down to earth measures that influence our daily lives. It is, however, seemingly true that we do move quickly in time. Now is “instantly” in the past, and what we call future becomes now for another instant and so on. The topic of time is in fact much too big for one newspaper article.

There are 86,400 seconds in a day. To the atomic clocks spread and interacting with each other around the world, one second is equal to 9,192,631,770 beats of a cesium atom, and those clocks are periodically adjusted by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures to match the Earth’s rotational speed which changes from time to time.

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

UAMS

HOUSE CALL

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



Q: How often should I get a mammogram?

A: The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening mammograms every other year for women between the ages of 40 and 74. The American College of Radiology, The Society of Breast Imaging, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network advise yearly screenings for women at average risk beginning at age 40.

The National Cancer Institute estimates 322,000 new breast cancer cases in 2026 — 15.2% of all cancer cases. Breast cancer ranks second to prostate cancer as the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in the United States, and there are approximately 4.2 million women living with breast cancer in the country.

The risk of developing breast cancer increases with age, as nearly 52% of cases are diagnosed in those between the ages of 55 and 74. Those with a family history of breast cancer (particularly a parent or sibling) may also be more at risk. However, the disease can occur in those who have no family history.

Visit your healthcare provider if you notice breast cancer symptoms such as a lump or pain in the breast, crusting, flaking, peeling of the skin on the breast, or changes in breast skin color. Early diagnosis greatly increases the chances of effective, successful treatment.

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3	2	8	7	5	1	9	6	4
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5	4	1	8	7	6	2	3	9
2	8	3	5	4	9	7	1	6

BASEBALL
* -- Theme Related Clue

- ACROSS
- 1. Diver’s acronym
 - 6. *Bat wood
 - 9. 1970s “pet”
 - 13. *High-flying fly ball
 - 14. *Tampa Bay player
 - 15. Round loaf, in Paris
 - 16. Oak fruit
 - 17. Golf peg
 - 18. Investigative report
 - 19. *Winningest World Series team
 - 21. *How many feet between bases?
 - 23. Help
 - 24. Queen of Hearts’ pastry
 - 25. *80-game restriction, e.g.
 - 28. Cecum, pl.
 - 30. Mr. Miyagi’s forte
 - 35. Some soaps have none
 - 37. Mobile phone in Britain, slangily
 - 39. Heat-conducting solid
 - 40. Australian palm
 - 41. Borders on
 - 43. Large African antelope
 - 44. Campus VIPs
 - 46. *Umpires: Men in ____
 - 47. Wednesday Addams’ roommate
 - 48. *Babe Ruth, a.k.a. the ____ of Swat
 - 50. Campaign worker
 - 52. Before, old-fashioned
 - 53. Buck or doe
 - 55. GDP predecessor
 - 57. *Grand slam:home run with bases ____
 - 60. * ____-inning stretch
 - 64. Courteous and respectful
 - 65. Large coffee pot
 - 67. Habituate
 - 68. Administer ceremonial oil
 - 69. Bird word
 - 70. Come in
 - 71. Magnifying glass
 - 72. Flow’s partner

73. Classroom furniture pieces
- DOWN
- 1. Fix a cat
 - 2. Kind of cola
 - 3. “Once ____ a time...”
 - 4. Muslim woman’s cover
 - 5. Relating to apnea
 - 6. Crafts’ partner
 - 7. Ed.’s request
 - 8. Laughing predator
 - 9. *Record holder for most career hits
 - 10. Give a boot
 - 11. Modeling material
 - 12. Piano’s E or G, e.g.
 - 15. Small chicken variety
 - 20. Organ swelling
 - 22. Rub the wrong way
 - 24. Arranged in rows and columns
 - 25. *Record holder for most career home runs
 - 26. Farewell, in France
 - 27. Edible cactus
 - 29. *One of five first Hall of Fame inductees
 - 31. Blood vessel network
 - 32. Repent
 - 33. Short-trunked ungulate
 - 34. Exclude or omit
 - 36. Rave’s partner
 - 38. Purse on red carpet
 - 42. Swamp plant
 - 45. Equestrian’s seat
 - 49. Born, in bio
 - 51. Begrudged
 - 54. Derive
 - 56. Tubular pasta
 - 57. *Third base ____
 - 58. Kitchen appliance
 - 59. Pains
 - 60. Nose-in-the-air type
 - 61. Bonkers
 - 62. Hiker’s journey
 - 63. Not his
 - 64. * ____ Ripken Jr.
 - 66. *Umpire’s blown call

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First State Bank of De Queen recognizes Chief Lending Officer White

DE QUEEN -- Ethan White, a native of Nashville, and resident of Glenwood since 2019, was raised on a family farm in a working-class home, where he learned early what it meant to earn everything through hard work. His father, Bob White, was especially influential in shaping his character. Bob and Winona White, together, instilled in him a lasting commitment to integrity and a strong work ethic that has carried through his career. White and his wife, Tiffany, a counselor in Glenwood who is just as devoted to the community as he is, spend most of their time raising three children, Emmett, Ty, and Eleanor, and serving others. The family is deeply involved in Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where Ethan recently was ordained as a deacon.

White graduated from Nashville High School, and he earned his Associate of Arts from Cossatot Community College. He went on to get a Bachelor’s degree in business from Henderson State University and then to complete his Master of Business Administration at Southern Arkansas University. He joined First State Bank in 2014 as a junior loan officer and has steadily built his career from the teller line on up, earning a reputation for meticulous attention to detail and deep expertise across all facets of lending. He most recently served as Senior Vice President and Branch Manager of the Glenwood location before stepping into the Chief Lending Officer role in 2025.

Upon asking about his experiences at First State Bank, Ethan said that building the Glenwood location from ground up was one of his most difficult tasks, but also one of his most treasured achievements.

Throughout his career with First State Bank, Ethan has had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from many accomplished banking professionals, including current Chief Executive Officer Jay O’Neal and Chief Financial Officer Jamie Terrell. Those experiences, combined with more than a decade of hands-on lending and leadership, have helped shape a management style that balances genuine care for employees with a strong

commitment to excellence. Colleagues describe White as sincere, encouraging, and driven, possessing a unique ability to bring out the best in those around him. His commitment to customers extends well beyond the closing table. White views lending as a long-term relationship and remains dedicated to helping customers achieve lasting financial success, whether they are

purchasing a home, expanding a business, or growing a farming operation.

As Chief Lending Officer, Ethan provides leadership and oversight for lending operations bank-wide, working closely with loan officers to ensure sound, consistent lending practices while continuing to support the families, farmers, and business owners who depend on First State Bank for financial guidance.

First State Bank congratulates Ethan for his dedication and hard work and looks forward to his continued leadership across the organization.

Use life jacket in fall recreation

LITTLE ROCK -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District is asking everyone who boats, fishes, paddles or hunts on the region’s lakes and rivers this fall to make one decision before leaving the shore: put on a life jacket and keep it on.

The reminder comes ahead of the Columbus Day holiday weekend, Oct. 10-12, as water use shifts from summer recreation to fall fishing and hunting seasons. Since Labor Day, there have been a series of serious boating incidents, including four deaths on waterways managed by the Little Rock District.

“Sometimes, not wearing a life jacket feels like a small decision, maybe because it’s uncomfortable, inconvenient, or we don’t like how it looks,” said Brooke Thomason, Little Rock District recreation planner. “But when something goes wrong, that small decision can have consequences you can’t take back. Wear your life jacket. The people who love you are counting on you to come home.”

National data shows how much that decision matters. In 2024, three out of four people killed in recreational boating accidents drowned, and 87% of those drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Fall brings its own risks. As air and water temperatures drop, a sudden fall into the water can trigger cold water shock, an involuntary gasp that can pull water into the lungs within seconds, even for strong swimmers.

Waterfowl hunters and anglers often head out in small boats loaded with gear, decoys and dogs, sometimes before sunrise and with few other people on the lake to help. If an accident were to happen a life jacket may be the only difference between life and death. Today’s life jackets are lighter and more comfortable than ever, belt-packs and inflatable styles designed for hunters and anglers may even come in camouflage.

Before heading out this fall, the Little Rock District recommends boaters and hunters:

- Wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times when on or near the water.
- Check the forecast before heading out, monitor weather apps while on the water and identify shelter options in advance in case of lightning, strong winds or severe weather.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Avoid alcohol while operating or riding in a boat.
- Distribute weight evenly and don’t overload the boat.
- Complete a boating education course. Information is available from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at agfc.com.

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

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Legislative council discusses points that affect residents statewide

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC), one of the most influential bodies in state government, has quietly shaped Arkansas policy for more than 75 years. Established in 1949, the council serves as the General Assembly’s powerful interim committee, coordinating legislative work, overseeing executive branch operations, and supervising the Bureau of Legislative Research whenever the full legislature is out of session.

Created under Act 264 of 1949, the council was designed to gather information for future laws and to keep the machinery of state government running between legislative sessions. Today, it functions as the legislature’s organizing and oversight hub. It manages studies, monitors executive actions, and guides the work of dozens of interim committees.

The council is composed of 36 regular mem-

bers, 20 from the House and 16 from the Senate, along with 24 ex-officio voting members and five non-voting ex-officio members. These ex-officio positions include some of the Legislature’s top leaders, such as the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as well as past Committee co-chairmen and leaders of the Legislative Council. Their involvement helps the broader legislative body stay connected to the committee’s work and allows the committee to utilize the ex-officio members’ particular areas of expertise. Experienced leaders can be a part of critical debates.

In recent meetings, the ALC considered the following items, among others:

- Reviewed a report that called for the state to consolidate its workforce and welfare programs into the oversight of one state agency.
- Approved a request to bolster the state’s Medicaid by \$200 million in one-time state funds. This patched a deficit in Medicaid fol-

lowing a sudden \$400 million spike in insurance claims. The legislature is coordinating with Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders’ administration to secure a two-year extension for alternative healthcare structuring under what is now the ARHOME Medicaid program. The state recently received information from the federal government that the program will be rejected under new stricter budget neutrality rules under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

- Released \$70 million in reserve funds for Educational Freedom Accounts. Lawmakers had set aside the one-time funds in this year’s fiscal session.
- Advanced a nearly \$150 million, year-long extension to the Department of Correction’s contract with Wellpath LLC for inmate medical services
- Discussed surveillance procedures on private property with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

- Gave final approval to Medicaid reimbursements for doulas and lactation consultants
- Discussed data centers with representatives from Google and Entergy. Google is currently building a large data center in West Memphis and has purchased 384 acres for a potential second site at the Port of Little Rock. AVAIO, Serverfarm, and others have also announced data center projects in the state.

You can get more details of the above and watch the archived meetings at <https://arkleg.state.ar.us>.

The ALC will continue to meet this fall. The ALC Joint Budget Committee meets this month to review state agency budget requests ahead of the next legislative session, which begins January 11, 2027.

Bringing civics to life for Arkansas students

BY JOHN BOOZMAN,
U.S. SENATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- One of the greatest privileges of serving Arkansas in the United States Senate is welcoming Arkansans to the Capitol.

I especially enjoy giving tours to Natural State families and school groups who travel to Washington to see where the heart of federal legislative activity takes place. There is something special about watching a young Arkansan walk through the corridors of Congress for the first time and seeing their curiosity grow as they learn about our history and government.

For many of these students, a trip to Washington, D.C. is more than a field trip. It is an opportunity to bring civics lessons to life.

There is no substitute for seeing the public policy process in action. When students walk through the halls of Capitol, meet with their elected representatives or participate in programs that enrich their civics knowledge, they begin to understand that our government belongs to them and that they have an important role to play in shaping the future of our state and nation.

That is why I am always encouraged to see so many Arkansas students making the trip to the nation’s capital. Whether they are visiting with their classmates, participating in the Senate Page or internship programs, or touring the Capitol with their families, these experiences usually leave a lasting impression.

But you don’t have to leave Arkansas to experience civics in action. My Congressional Youth Cabinet and state office internships give Arkansas students opportunities to learn about the

responsibilities of citizenship and the issues facing their communities. These experiences also show students that public service isn’t something that happens far away. It starts in their own communities and can take many different forms.

Civic education is especially important in a time when we all have access to more information in the palm of our hands through digital media. Understanding how our government works, how our Founding Fathers established our system of government and how citizens can make their voices heard gives young Arkansans and Americans the tools they need to be engaged citizens.

One of my favorite things to show Arkansans when they visit the Capitol is the important role our state has played in American history. Each state has two statues representing its contributions to our nation, and The Natural State is now represented by civil rights icon Daisy Bates and music legend Johnny Cash. They both stand in Statuary Hall, where thousands of visitors pass by every day.

Seeing the Capitol, walking the same halls as their federal legislators and learning about the people and events that shaped our nation can make history feel more real and accessible. It is a reminder that Arkansas has always had a place in the story of America, and our state continues to make its mark in profound and interesting ways.

I hope every Arkansas student who visits Washington, D.C. leaves with a greater appreciation for our country and a better understanding of their role in our democracy. They are not simply visitors to the Capitol. The Capitol is for the people and is theirs too.

It is always an honor to welcome Arkansans to Capitol Hill and share a place that belongs to us all. I look forward to continuing to open these doors to families, students and communities from across our great state and helping the next generation understand that they have an important role in carrying Arkansas and our nation forward.

Antoine plans to light up the holiday season with purpose

ANTOINE -- Antoine is planning a “Light Up Antoine: Christmas Display & Renal Failure Awareness” event this holiday season.

The event will happen along Highway 26 down Meeks Road. Organizers are holding the event in loving memory of Bro. Marcus Gentry (11/4/1978 - 8/8/2018), who tragically lost his life to renal failure just hours before a transplant match became available. Christmas was Gentry’s favorite time of the year, and organizers state that they are dedicated to honoring his legacy

while raising critical awareness about the seriousness of kidney disease.

Currently ongoing is the collection of Christmas lights and outdoor holiday decor, and volunteers are being sought to put up the display and bring fresh ideas to life.

To donate or volunteer, contact Shirley Gentry at (870) 403-4984, Sherri Gentry Meeks at (870) 379-2905, Katelyn Gentry at (870) 602-0877 or Caithy Lasker at (870) 353-8643.

ASMSA opens application process for 2029-2030

HOT SPRINGS -- The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts has opened the application process for the 2027-2028 academic year for current freshmen and sophomores in the Classes of 2029 and 2030.

ASMSA is a public high school serving academically and artistically motivated students from all backgrounds down throughout the state of Arkansas. About 250 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades attend classes and live on the Hot Springs campus in a residential community of learning unlike any other in the state.

“From college-level coursework and research to the arts as well as leadership opportunities and the experience of living and learning alongside other highly motivated students, ASMSA allows students to challenge themselves in ways that can truly shape their future,” said Jason Hudnell, director of external affairs at ASMSA. “We are excited to open another application cycle and encourage students and families to take a closer look at what ASMSA has to offer and see if it might be the right fit for them.”

The school was recently named the top public high school in Arkansas for the fifth straight year and No. 58 in the nation by Niche.com, a website that provides in-depth profiles on thousands of colleges, school districts and individual K-12 schools across the nation. ASMSA was also named the best public high school for college prep in the state.

ASMSA offers a broad range of courses that are all taught at the college level, including about 70 courses for college credit. Most students earn an average of 50 hours of college credit by the time they graduate with all students earning at least 30 hours — or a full year of credit.

Enrollment is tuition-free, and housing, meals and books are provided to all students at no cost by the state of Arkansas.

Students apply to ASMSA through a competitive admissions process that evaluates high school coursework, ACT/SAT/CLT scores, responses to essay questions, recommendation forms and other accomplishments. Finalist candidates are invited to attend Interview Weekends in April. The process is similar to application to selective colleges and universities.

ASMSA received a large number of applicants during the 2026-2027 academic year application process. More than 367 students completed the application process for the 111 open slots. The number of available spots vary from year to year based on the number of graduates and other factors.

To learn more about ASMSA’s application process and the requirements for admission, visit asmsa.org/thrive, email admissions@asmsa.org or call/text 501.622.5235.

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