

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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Diamond newspaper relocates to new office

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Diamond has relocated to the Harvill Insurance Building at 325 West Main from their former office behind Caddo Antiques on Court Street. The phone number will remain the same at (870) 285-2723, though the process is still in flux. To contact the Diamond by phone in the immediate future, please call (870) 681-0222. The Diamond's email addresses will also change -- they will now be mdiamond@swarkansasnews.com and mdiamond.editor@swarkansasnews.com.



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.

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 a.m. 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



Staff photos

HOMECOMING VICTORY ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers defeated Mountain Pine at their 2026 homecoming last week by a 22-8 score. Pictured above is (left) Keith Wilkinson (2) securing an interception in the first half and (right) Mason Wilkins (55) lifts Aden "Bubba" Stinson in celebration after the Rattlers first score of the game.

MHS scores first win of season

Homecoming backdrop helps provide motivation in effort

The Murfreesboro Rattlers (1-6) got off the schneid in the 2026 season with a 22-8 non-conference homecoming victory over Mountain Pine (0-7). Rattler head coach Jay Turley agreed the game was not the prettiest, but said under the circumstances it was still beautiful. He said the loss of six starters since the start of the season had hampered the Rattlers -- including playing time for underclassmen and a student athlete pressed into defensive back-field duty that had not played a lot of safety in his career. "We played our linemen both ways for most of the game -- we haven't been doing that. The team as a whole really played their [backsides] off." With a quarterback situation in flux following injured starter Kooper Caldwell's exit against Dierks, Turley said the offensive inconsistency was to be expected, noting the limited number of repetitions in practice he had received. However, after the long stretch of losing to start the season, Turley is proud of his team for not quitting. "They haven't let go of the rope -- I'm proud of them -- there is no quit in this team. Defensively, we were gang tackling with nine helmets around the ball often. The defensive lineman did a great job -- often sprinting twenty yards to help with a tackle. We made Mountain Pine earn every yard they got."

Turley said a team still competing as hard as the Rattlers in week seven after an 0-6 start was a credit to the student athletes, as well as his coaching staff who have kept the atmosphere positive. "Most of our problems this year we have caused ourselves -- but I'm super proud they are still fighting their butts off and found a way to fight even harder." He admits that when the Rattlers went down 8-6 in the third quarter he has some trepidation of the game slipping away. However, a kickoff return and a later drive to score and largely killing the fourth quarter clock sealed the deal for the Rattlers.



Staff photo

QUEEN JOSEY ... 2026 MHS Homecoming Queen Josey Jones presided over the game last Friday night. For pictures of the complete court, please see page 6.

"It was a much needed win," Turley said of the victory. This week the Rattlers will travel to play the traditional powerhouse Junction City Dragons who have stumbled to a 2-5 record (1-3 conference) in the 2026 season. "They remind me of us in a lot of ways," Turley said. "The have found ways to lose games in the fourth quarter. They played a very tough non-conference schedule, including Smackover, Rison and Haynesville, Louisiana." He said he expects the Dragons to come out swinging.

"They are playing for a spot just like we are -- if either of us win out, we make the playoffs." He said regardless of the situation, the team has plenty to play for. "They are playing for pride in the community and the name across their chest." Turley admits that Junction City's roster is stuffed with talent, despite their record, including two D-1 recruits Delonte Duff (Arkansas Razorbacks) and Nehemiah Caldwell (undeclared, being pursued by several schools). He said that Dragon QB Jermaine Kennedy was dangerous both running and had a cannon arm. "Junction City is scary because even when they are out of position or are beat on a play, they can still make the play because of their athleticism. They are just so fast. That is frustrating to admit by teams that aren't as athletic and can only win by technique." He said the Dragons are well coached. Junction City has lost three conference games in a row -- 30-22 at Mineral Springs, 32-28 versus Gurdon and 32-28 at Dierks last week. Turley said Junction just couldn't stop Dierks on the game's final drive. "If we go do our job, fight our butts off, be physical and give them hell, we have a chance -- especially if we can start out well." He said his team could not get in a scoring contest with the Dragons, and that whoever played quarterback for the Rattlers can't be put into a position to pass often. "We will try to shorten the game -- a game we can win is something like 21-14." He concurred that there was no ways his Rattlers were likely to win a first to 50 battle. "Our defense has largely played well this season and is playing hard and physical. We have to take it to them to have a chance. If we can get on them early we do have a legitimate chance." Turley said that despite the lengthy trip to Junction City -- the longest road trip of the season -- he hoped a good contingent of fans follows the team to the Louisiana border.



NANCE WINS CLASS 2A 2026 STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP



Submitted photo/SPCSD

STATE CHAMPION ... Jordyn Nance won the Class 2A girls tennis state championship over fellow all-state member Meagan Richardson of Tuckerman. After losing the first set 6-4, Nance would rally for the final two sets 6-4 and 6-2 to claim the 2026 championship. The Lady Rattlers comprised of Nance and doubles team Emma White and Natalie Bush finished second to Tuckerman in the team title race.

PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

October 6, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY
Adzokpa, Kofi G., 51, Maumelle, \$140 BF, speeding
Ashburn, Jerry Michael, 54, Palestine, \$315 BF, overweight
Baker, Coleen Joy, 38, Mineral Springs, \$125 BF, speeding
Baker, Kristi D., 33, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Barba, Luz Marie, 37, Dierks, \$125 bF, no driver’s license
Bateman, Thomas Stokes, 42, Delight, guilty of DWI#2, fined 1,620, sentenced to seven days in jail, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of refusing to submit to chemical test, fined \$125
Bickerstaff, Robert Paul, 52, Flippin, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325 and sentenced to two days in jail-suspended; guilty of failure to appear, fined \$205
Bolanos, Jennifer, 27, Hot Springs, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license
Bolland, Benjamin H., 27, speeding, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss
Brooks, Lindsay A., 43, Kirby, \$155 BF, speeding
Coffman, Cutter Waylon, 22, Glenwood, \$220 BF, disorderly conduct; \$220 BF, public intoxication
Cooper, Raven Terrell, 34, Shreveport, La., \$205 BF, failure to pay; \$1,870 balance
Crider, Christopher Boyd, 19, Kirby, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Crowell, Colby Aidan, 22, Carrollton, Texas, speeding, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss
Culpepper, Kason Paul, 20, Kirby, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$225 BF, failure to yield
Davis, Aimee Kathleen, 34, Pencil Bluff, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,075 and license suspended for six months; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined \$600
Funderburk, Stan, 66, Antoine, guilty of failure to pay; \$350 balance
Grissom, April Lynn, 46, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Groomer, Baylea Jenae, 31, Newhope, \$125 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$230 BF, obstructing government operations
Guthikonda, Sai Preetham, 28, Dallas, Texas, \$125 BF, speeding

Hackney, John B., 50, Pearcy, \$125 BF, violation of permit
Hutcheson, Rodger Larry, 51, Fouke, guilty of failure to pay; \$265 balance; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$325 and sentenced to two days in jail-suspended
Jackson, Memphis Lyn, 22, Dierks, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125
Jacoby, Andrew Jacob, 25, Newhope, \$125 BF, careless prohibited driving
Jones, Jeffrey Charles, 39, Murfreesboro, \$125 BF, overheight-overwide
Kaisha, Carlton, 57, Gentry, \$125 BF, speeding
Lane, John M., 62, Delight, \$125 BF, speeding
Lininger, Jessica R., 35, De Queen, \$205 BF, failure to pay; \$1,650 balance
Lizardo, Concepcion, 67, Nashville, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Maldonado, Juan, 21, De Queen, \$135 BF, speeding
Marrufo, Diego Jesus, 23, De Queen, \$125 BF, speeding
Martin, Fredy Alexander, 28, Hot Springs, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$135 BF, speeding
Medrano, Cesar Alexander, 35, Mesquite, Texas, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Miller, Michael G., 57, Glenwood, \$170 BF, unlawful burning
Moore, Jessica Shelby, 34, Bonnerdale, \$155 BF, speeding
Morgan, Conner Douglas, 26, Texarkana, Texas, \$155 BF, speeding
Morrison, Kristi Kaye, 47, Delight, guilty of speeding, fined \$125
Murray, Jillian Alexandria, 26, Glenwood, \$330 BF, no proof of liability insurance; \$205 BF, failure to appear
Neal, William S., 49, Kirby, \$395 BF, overweight
Porter, Nathaniel L., 35, Glenwood, \$125 BF, speeding
Quinn, Kaci Nicole, 43, Dierks, \$125 BF, speeding
Reyes, Angel Alfredo, 25, Glenwood, \$125 BF, no driver’s license; \$165 BF, speeding
Salmeron, David, 17, Hot Springs, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Seymore, Larry D., 79, Arkadelphia, \$165 BF, speeding
Smillie, David T., 62, Prescott, guilty of no driver’s license, fined \$125; guilty violation of ignition interlock device, fined \$170
Smith, Cody Allen, 32, Langley, \$135 BF, speeding

Smith, Michael Wayne, 51, Prescott, \$339 BF, overweight
Snowden, Alec T., 26, Delight, \$325 BF, driving with suspended license
Tiburcio, Goretti, 33, Hot Springs, \$125 BF, no driver’s license
Wallace, Chasity Leigh, 34, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$330; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315
Webb, Logan S., 25, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$315; guilty of failure to register, fined \$125

CITY OF MURFREESBORO
Bostic, Sheldon R., 49, Murfreesboro, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Collier, Madison P., 30, Nashville, \$145 BF, no child restraint device
Dickerson, Erica Priscilla, 23, Lockesburg, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Farmer, Christian Faith, 29, Newhope, \$335 BF, no proof of liability insurance
Fisher, Kinley Lynn, 16, Delight, \$155 BF, speeding
Giddens, Steven Ray, 48, Nashville, \$155 BF, speeding
Glass, Rivers David, 17, Texarkana, Texas, speeding, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss
Hawkins, Arrian Shawn, 22, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined \$125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$125
Horton, Brittany N., 34, Amity, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Hudgins, Wesley Keith, 45, Poway, Calif., \$205 BF, speeding
Hughes, Eddie Lee, 33, Murfreesboro, \$145 BF, failure to register
Lewis, Hal Chasen, 38, Ashdown, guilty of failure to appear, fined \$225
Miller, Wesley P., 42, Nashville, \$45 BF, no seat belt; \$225 BF, failure to appear
Myrkle, Joshua Edward, 16, Murfreesboro, guilty of speeding, fined \$155
Oge, Kellyjo Baltrusch, 47, Nashville, \$155 BF, speeding
Parson, Courtney Elaine, 29, Dierks, \$145 BF, speeding
Peters, Brenden Michael, 31, Prescott, \$485 BF, harassing communications; \$265 BF, failure to appear
Pinkerton, Alisha D., 33, Murfreesboro, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$1,095 and license suspended for six months; guilty of speeding, fined \$155
Sanchez, Heriberto, 48, Hot Springs, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Springfield, Corey Dane, 55, Texarkana, \$145 BF, failure to register tags/expired
Terwilliger, Lacey Renay, 37, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay; \$340 balance
Ward, Ashley Danielle, 30, Nashville, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
Cordova, Juan, 41, Hot Springs, \$220 BF, spearfishing; \$220 BF, fishing without license
Corrillo, Fernando A., 30, Nashville, \$220 BF, fishing without license
Lopez, Jase L., 48, Nashville, \$220 BF, fishing without license

CITY OF GLENWOOD
Arivett, Scott Gregory, 62, Kirby, \$160 BF, failure to register tags/expired; \$225 BF, failure to appear
Blair, Bruce, 45, Mount Ida, guilty of theft of property, fined \$405 plus \$29.98 restitution
Burke, Ruby Ann, 74, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Burnett, Monica Dian, 38, Glenwood, \$145 BF, speeding
Byrd, Kathy Janice, 71, speeding, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss, fined \$155
Castillo, Efrain Mar, 35, Amity, \$145 BF, no driver’s license
Cruz, Daniel, 20, Glenwood, guilty of second-degree criminal mischief, fined \$335
Cruz, Zeferina, 60, Murfreesboro, \$145 BF, no driver’s license; \$145 BF, speeding
Davidson, Kacey Lynn, 32, Pearcy, guilty of speeding, fined \$145
Hardin, Joshua C., 37, Glenwood, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Lee, Dennis Steven, 69, Kirby, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Nash, Carson Drew, 25, Hatfield, \$145 BF, failure to stop or yield
Newsom, Michael, A., 49, Bonnerdale, \$145 BF, speeding
Palmer, Sherry Malinda, 64, Glenwood, \$155 BF, speeding
Perry, Michael S., 58, Glenwood, \$145 BF, speeding
Pinkerton, Justin D., 43, Glenwood, \$145 BF, speeding
Plunkett, Walter Delane, 21, Amity, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Saldivar, Oziel, 47, De Queen, \$145 BF, speeding
Saleh, Asem Hashem, 49, North Little Rock, \$155 BF, speeding
Sipe, Kenneth L., 49, Mena, \$45 BF, no seat belt
Spears, Katherine L., 53, Amity, \$145 BF, speeding
Suarez, Siberia Noe, 24, Russellville, \$145 BF, no driver’s license; \$145 BF, following too close
Thompson, Matthew Allen, 24, Glenwood, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined \$160; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined \$350
Vaught, Jacob Taft, 45, Amity, \$145 BF, speeding
Walden, Marsha Lynn, 60, Glenwood, \$155 BF, speeding
Wiggins, Joni Jean, 66, Hot Springs, speeding, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss
Wilder, Matthew Dale, 23, Amity, guilty of defective equipment, fined \$145

Cemetery announces recent donations

MURFREESBORO -- The following donations have been given to the Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund from July 1, 2026 to September 2026

\$240.00 -- Winston Hile
\$100.00 -- Nancy Floyd
Gina Laxton in memory of Tipton family

The upkeep is made possible by your donations. Donations may be given to Marc Jackson, Margaret Byrd, Kayla Kuykendall, Mary Jean Barbre, Joyce Woodruff or mailed to Murfreesboro Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 185, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958

Haunted hospital a success in first two weeks

MURFREESBORO -- After more than 700 very terrified customers went through the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce haunted hospital in the effort’s first two weeks.

The event is now in full swing for the final two Fridays and Saturdays of October, 23-24 and 30-31.
The effort is held at the former Pike County Hospital in

Murfreesboro, which is located at 315 East 13th Street.
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.

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What to do with your pumpkin guts

BY MARY HIGHTOWER
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK — Saved pumpkin seeds from a jack-o’-lantern can turn into a snack, a sauce or a second generation of pumpkins, but is there an easy way to separate the seeds from the pulp?

Quadarius Whitson, extension instructor for culinary nutrition, hospitality and tourism for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, said that for jack-o’-lanterns or any winter squash, start by using a sturdy spoon to scrape out the mass of seed and pulp.

“One easy trick is to put the seeds and pulp in a bowl of water and work the mixture gently with your hands,” he said. “What makes this work is that the seeds float while the pulp sinks, making separation easier. A colander can then be used to strain and rinse the seeds.”

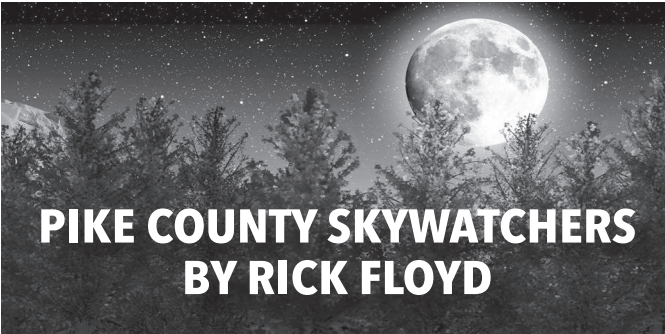
USING THE SEEDS
Whitson said that after rinsing, pat or spread the seeds out to dry before roasting.

And while roasting may be the most common way to enjoy the pumpkin’s buried treasure, “pumpkin seeds are pretty versatile beyond roasting,” Whitson said, adding that they can also be eaten raw after rinsing and drying. “Roasting simply adds more flavor and crunch,” he said.

“They can be added to salads, soups, oatmeal, yogurt, smoothies, granola, and trail mix, or incorporated into breads, muffins, energy bites, pesto, or seed butter,” he said. “Using the seeds is a nice way to reduce food waste while adding texture and nutrition,” he said.

THE SCOOP ON PULP
So, what is that stuff inside the pumpkin?
Amanda McWhirt, associate professor and extension fruit and vegetable specialist, said the different layers that make up the fruit have different functions that help develop and disperse the seeds to become the next generation of the plant.
The rind is the “exocarp,” the flesh or meat of the pumpkin is the “mesocarp,” and the pulp is the “endocarp” which surrounds the seeds.
“The pulp generally acts as a protectant around the seeds,” she said.
“If you think about tomatoes, there is a very similar setup — with the skin, the tomato flesh/meat and then generally some pulp around the seeds,” McWhirt said. “In other fruits like citrus, the pulp is the interior juicy segments we eat and the meso-

carp is the white fleshy part we don’t eat.”
The Cooperative Extension Service in Arkansas has many resources about pumpkins and other squashes online:
• Home Gardening Series: Pumpkins
• Pumpkin: More than Jack-o’-lanterns or Pie
• Pumpkin Breakfast Bread
• Plant of the Week: Pumpkin
• How to Roast Pumpkin Seeds
• Pumpkin Seed Cluster Snack
To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service at (870) 285-2161 or visit uaex.uada.edu.



Twinkle little star

The October full moon this year will peak officially on October 26, but the best time to watch it rise will be just after sunset on the 25th. The full moon of October is called the Hunter’s Moon (now and then it is the closest full moon to autumnal equinox, and it is therefore the Harvest Moon). Hunter’s Moon refers to the time of year when, in the old days, farmers had their crops harvested and shifted their efforts to bringing meat to the table.
One of the best twinkling stars in our night sky, especially this time of year, is Capella the alpha star of the constellation Auriga. You can find it low in the sky after nightfall as you look in a northeasterly direction. Auriga follows Perseus and is a recognizable pentagon shaped formation. Capella is by far the brightest star of the constellation group, the 6th brightest star in our sky, and what appears to be one star is actually six stars bound together by gravity. Its twinkle is caused by the fact that it is low in the early evening sky and shining through a denser part of our atmosphere. The turbulence caused by the atmosphere on the extra brightness of this star breaks up its light, and it flashes in reds, greens and blues. It is a nice sight on a cool autumn evening.
The well-known nursery rhyme song, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, was not composed by Mozart as is often cited. It was a poem “The Star” written by English poet Jane Taylor and included in a poetry collection titled “Rhymes for Nursery” in 1806. The first stanza of the five-stanza poem was set to the tune of a 1761 French melody to become the little well-known tune. Mozart later composed a score of twelve variations of that same French melody in 1885 (which did not include the star poem).
When you are looking at a night sky full of twinkling stars, you might also notice that some of them do not twinkle and flash colors. Because their light is reflected rather than emitted, planets do not twinkle, and this is a good way to distinguish them from the stars

Obituaries

Harley Dell Keys, 62, Murfreesboro



Harley Dell Keys, age 62 of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on October 18, 2026 in Nashville. He was born on September 7, 1964 in Murfreesboro to the late Clyde Keys and Peggy Dean.
Dell attended Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro. He worked in maintenance for Tyson Foods, Inc. for forty-two years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding side by sides in the woods. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.
In addition to his parents,

he was preceded in death by his first wife, Caprice Keys, and a brother, Brian Taylor.
Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Jayne Keys; his two children, Harley Wayne (Ashlyn) Keys and Fancy Leann Keys; his step-mother, Diane Keys; two siblings Detra (Eric) Westfall and Buck (Layla) Keys; an aunt, Argie Morris; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until the service begins on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.
A funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21 in the Latimer Funeral Chapel in Murfreesboro. Interment will follow in Saline Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.
You may send an online sympathy message at www.latimerfuneralhome.com

Greg ‘Pooh’ Ruchalski, 71, Delight



Gregory “Pooh” Ruchalski, age 71, of Delight passed away Saturday, October 17, 2026 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was born December 12, 1954 in Nashville, Arkansas to the late Chester Lewis and Dennis (Marshall) Ruchalski. Pooh loved hunting, fishing, camping on the river, gardening, singing and playing music. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester Ruchalski

and Dennis Ruchalski; daughter, Tara Ruchalski; and sisters, Linda McDonald and Shirley Forbes.
Pooh is survived by brother, Mike Ruchalski; sister, Debbie Hill, both of Delight; and several nephews, nieces, cousins, and many friends.
Visitation will be 6:00-8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 2026 at Ruggles-Wilcox Chapel. Graveside services with Military Honors are 2:00 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2026 at Antoine Cemetery with Zane Woodall officiating. Pallbearers are Marshall Bain, Jimmy Henderson, Randy Buck, Robert Starling, Ronald “Putt” Russell, and Paul “Tubby” Sturman.
Arrangements are by Smith Family Funeral Home/Ruggles-Wilcox Chapel, www.smithfamilycares.com.

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You're invited.....

To come and celebrate with us as we honor Tommye Hinds on her 90th birthday! Join us for a specail afternoon of fellowship and celebration.

Date: October 24, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Fellowship Hall.



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

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

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1211 Anthony Ave., Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958
www.latimerfuneralhome.com

JACK

★★★★ **BONDS** ★★★★★

FOR MAYOR OF MURFREESBORO

- **ECONOMIC GROWTH**
- **BEAUTIFY OUR CITY**
- **JOB DEVELOPMENT**

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT BY THE ELECT JACK BONDS CAMPAIGN



What’s growing in Pike County? A new gardening club!

MURFREESBORO -- Dry conditions continue to impact Pike County as much of the area remains in drought. While the cooler weather arriving has provided some relief from the heat, much rainfall is still needed. Producers should continue monitoring conditions as we move further into fall.

Farmers should be aware of the potential of Prussic Acid or Nitrate poisoning in their forages. If you’d like more information, please contact the Pike County Extension Office, and I can get you more information.

I have had several people ask about starting Master Gardeners here in Pike County. While that’s a future goal, and with a busy schedule, I decided to move that direction by creating a gardening club, Pike County Gardeners.





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

This will coincide with an educational gardening series, and it will be free to join. The only cost will be sessions that need to cover materials during a lesson for something you get to take home. This will also put you on a mailing list to receive an educational newsletter about garden updates.

There will also be some gardening community service projects. This part is not required, unlike Master Gardeners, where participants must keep up with training and service hours. It will be a fun time to gather and spend time with others who enjoy gardening. Youth are welcome to join.

The inaugural event will be a Holiday Greenery workshop in December. The cost will be \$10 per person to cover supplies, and participants will take home their very own holiday swag. Registration for this event will open soon.

In January, the monthly event will be about seed starting, and you will get to make your own seed snail to take home. This will be free.

If you are interested in becoming part of this gardening series and club, please call the Pike County Extension Office at 870-

285-2161, and we will add you to the mailing list. More information will be available soon.

SCREWWORM UPDATE:
As of October 19, 2026, there are still no reports of New World Screwworm in Arkansas. There have been 55 cases to date and those have been localized to southern and west Texas and southern New Mexico. 51 cases are currently inactive and 4 are currently active.

DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE:
As of October 13, 2026, the Drought Monitor currently reports that most of the county is now at a D3 or Extreme Drought. The monitor is also showing that an area of the county near Newhope, along the Howard County Line, is now classified as D4, or exceptional drought.

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

Beyond the show ring -- lessons that last a lifetime

What do a livestock show and a job interview have in common? More than you might think!

The confidence to shake someone’s hand, look them in the eye, answer questions, and carry on a conversation doesn’t happen overnight.

For many young people, those skills are developed while holding a show stick, leading an animal, or standing in front of a judge. Behind every ribbon, buckle, and championship banner are countless hours of hard work, early mornings, late nights, and lessons that go far beyond the barn.

While winning is exciting, some of the greatest rewards of showing livestock have nothing to do with where an exhibitor places in the ring.

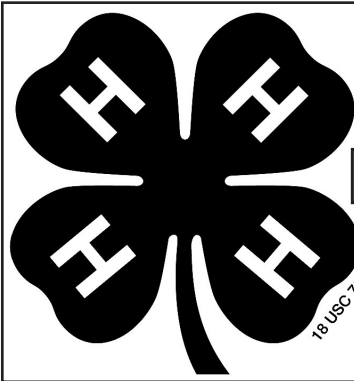
One of the most valuable skills livestock exhibitors develop is communication. Whether answering questions

from judges, visiting with potential buyers, thanking sponsors, or explaining their projects to others, these young people are gaining experience that can prepare them for future job interviews, scholarship opportunities, and professional interactions.

Livestock projects also teach responsibility, time management, and dedication. Animals require daily care, regardless of the weather, school activities, or personal plans.

Feeding, watering, grooming, and preparing for competition teach youth the importance of commitment, consistency, and hard work. Perhaps one of the greatest lessons learned in the show ring is how to handle both success and disappointment.

Not every exhibitor will leave with a ribbon, and sometimes months of preparation do not produce the



4-H Pike County

HEAD, HEART, HANDS & HEALTH

SHANNON BALLARD • 4-H PROGRAM ASSISTANT
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE PIKE COUNTY
PHONE (870) 285-2161 • E-MAIL SBALLARD@UADA.EDU



results they hoped for. These experiences teach sportsmanship, patience, resilience, and the importance of congratulating others while continuing to work toward personal goals.

Along the way, exhibitors also develop problem-solving skills, independence, and lasting relationships. They learn to make decisions, adapt to unexpected challenges, and build friendships with fellow exhibitors, mentors, and community supporters.

We are incredibly proud of our Pike County youth who have chosen to take on the responsibility of raising and showing livestock. Many of these young people are involved in both 4-H & FFA organizations, and each provides valuable opportunities for hands-on learning, personal growth, and leadership development.

Their dedication, determination, and willingness to put in the work, even when no one is watching, deserve recognition.

We see their growth not only in the show ring but also in the way they carry themselves, support one another, and represent their families, organizations, and communities.

Whether they bring home a championship banner or simply gain the courage to step into the ring, each of these young people has something to be proud of.

The true value of showing livestock cannot be measured by the number of ribbons, trophies, buckles, or banners collected. It is measured by the growth of young people who become more responsible, respectful, hardworking, and prepared for whatever their future holds.

The animals may be sold, the ribbons may fade, and the show seasons will eventually

end, but the lessons learned and friendships made will last a lifetime. Because through 4-H and FFA, we aren’t just raising livestock. We’re raising future leaders.

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)

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

- Worship 11 a.m. • Sun. Eve. 5 p.m.
- Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
- Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

To reserve this space for your church services or business...

Call Christy at
870-285-2723

Bank of Delight

503 E. Antioch St. Delight

(870) 379-2293

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN ZEHTI

THE ISRAELITES AND THE RED SEA

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

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

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

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

232 SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

Sun. Bible Study 9:30 • Worship 10:20
Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Radio Broadcast B99.5 @ 8:30 a.m.

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at
mdiamond@windstream.net

2026 MURFREESBORO HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE



**SMALL ADS
DO WORK!**
CONTACT THE DIAMOND
TO PLACE YOURS!
(870) 285-2723

MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

MONDAY, OCT. 26-
Pulled pork on bun, baked
beans, potato salad, peaches
TUESDAY, OCT. 27-
Chicken tenders, salad,
cauliflower, roll, cooki-
WEDNESDAY, OCT 28-
Beef lasagna, zucchini,
garlic breadsticks, cinnamon
apples

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.
For more information (870) 285-
2312. Open Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday at 8 a.m. Carry out is
available for \$6.00

TOM

COTTON



FIGHTING FOR ARKANSAS'S
CONSERVATIVE VALUES

✓

VOTE

TODAY

THE LAST DAY TO
VOTE IS NOV. 3

Find Your Polling Location
at TomCotton.com

Delivering a More Prosperous Arkansas

Senator Cotton cut taxes for every Arkansan and eliminated
taxes on Social Security, tips and overtime.

Protecting Arkansas Families

Senator Cotton helped secure the border, deport criminal illegal
aliens and has a 100% record of supporting police.

Supporting Our Military

Senator Cotton fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. He delivered
billions in defense investments and thousands of
good-paying jobs across Arkansas.

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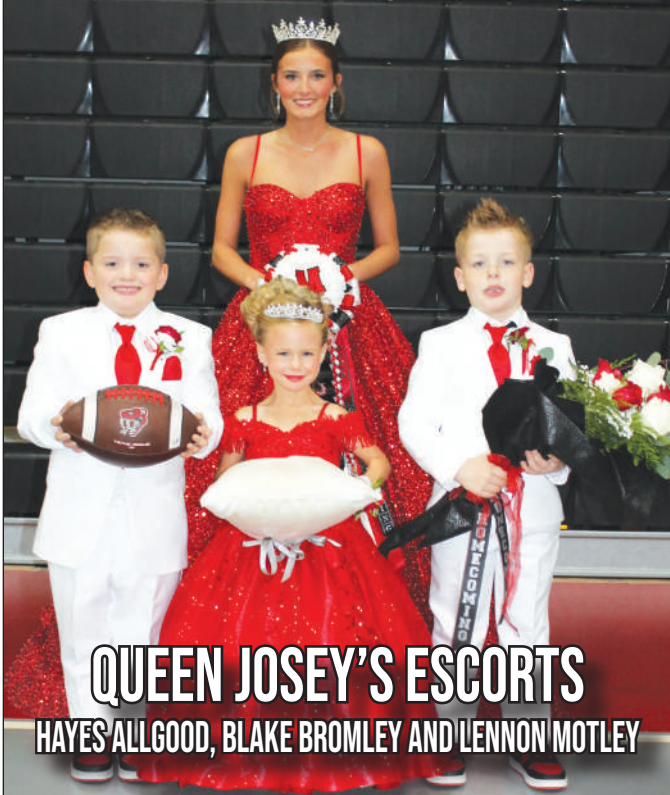
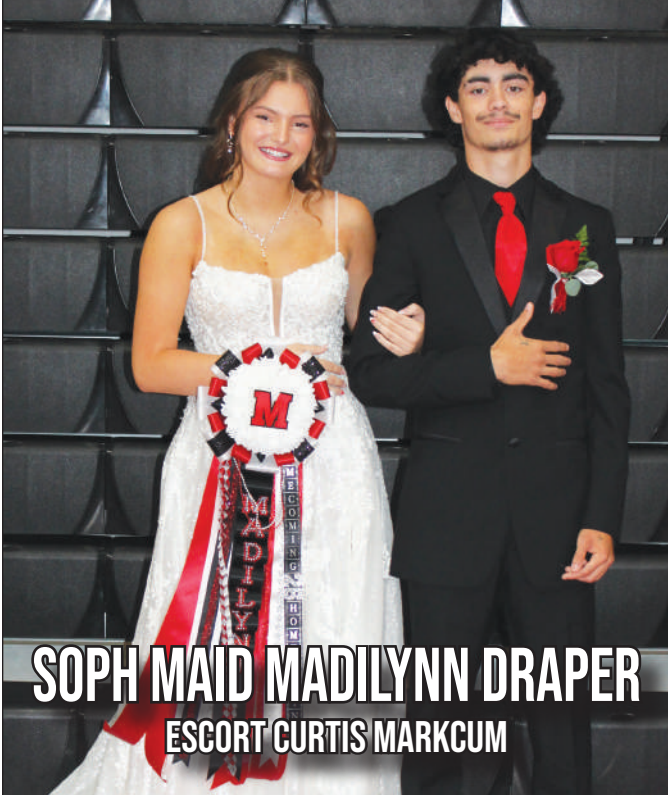
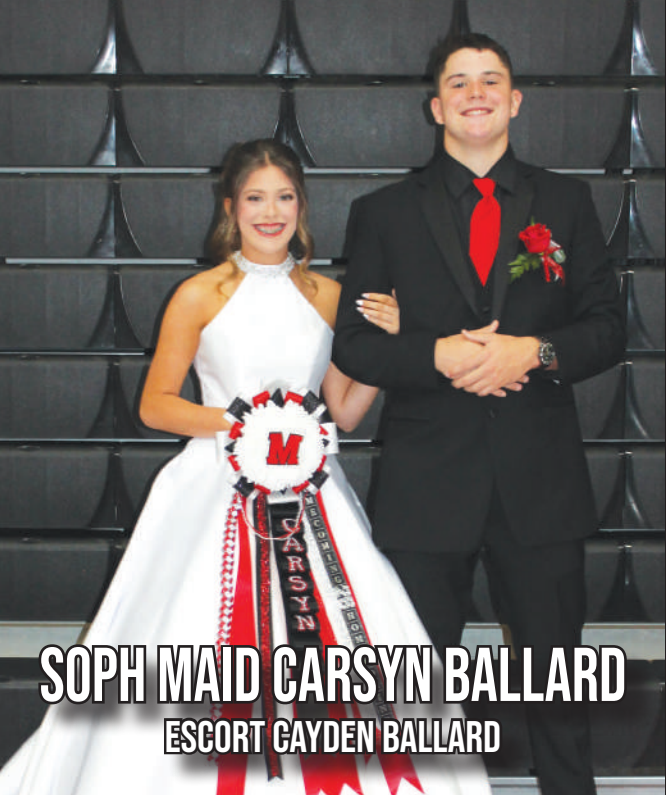
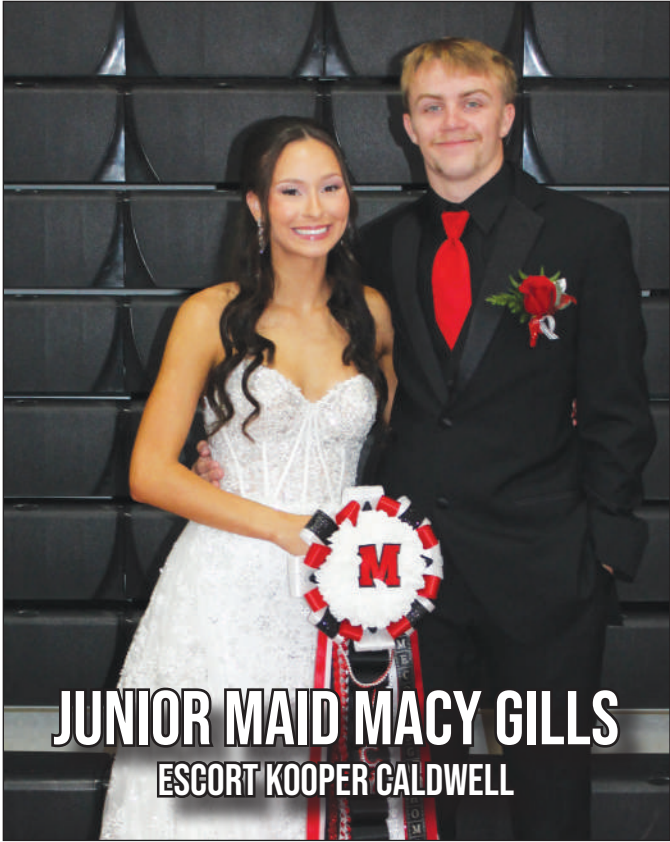
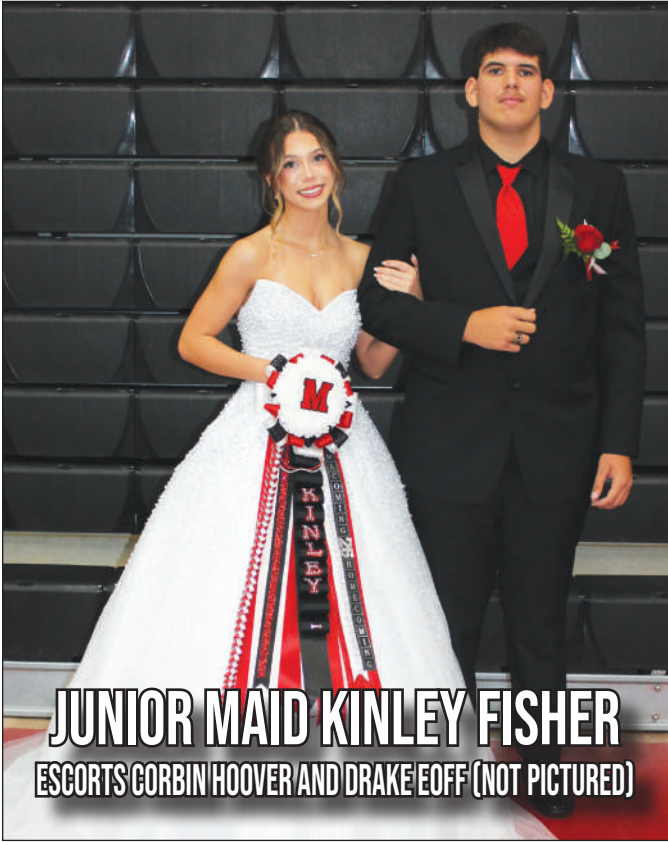
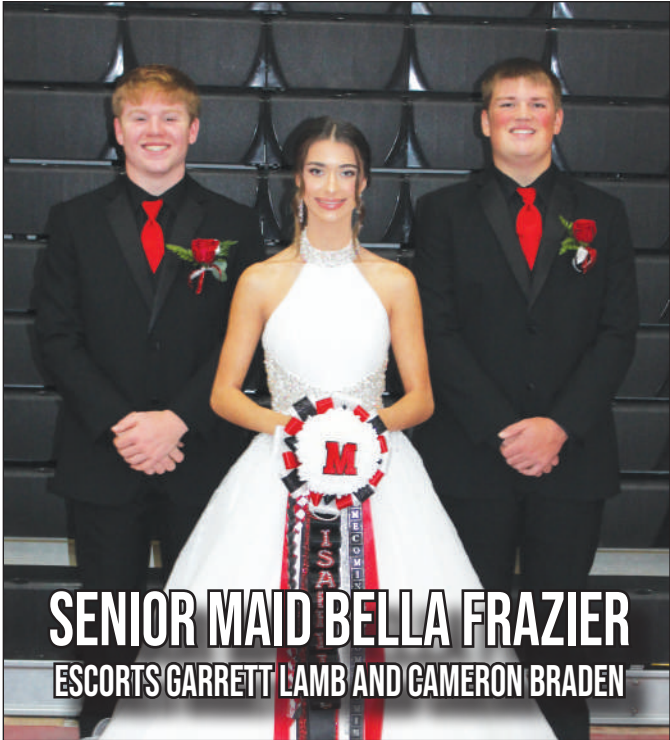
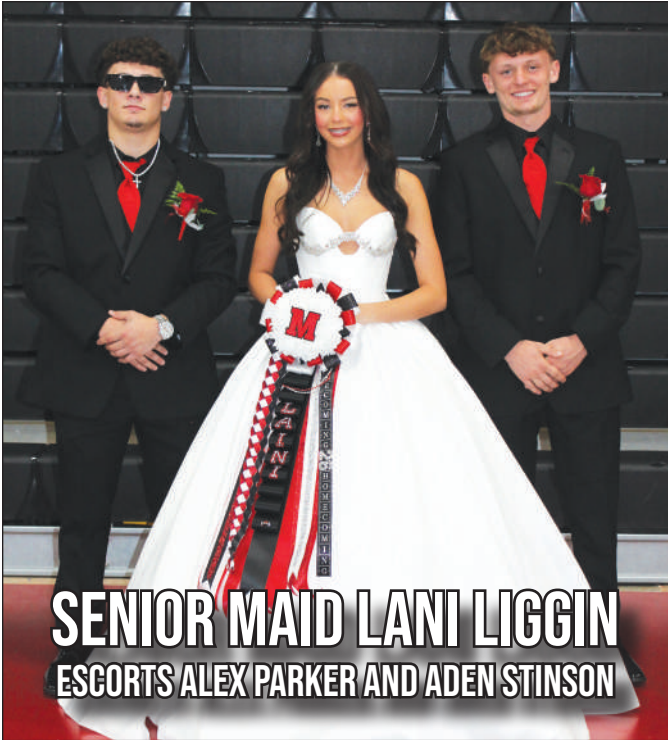
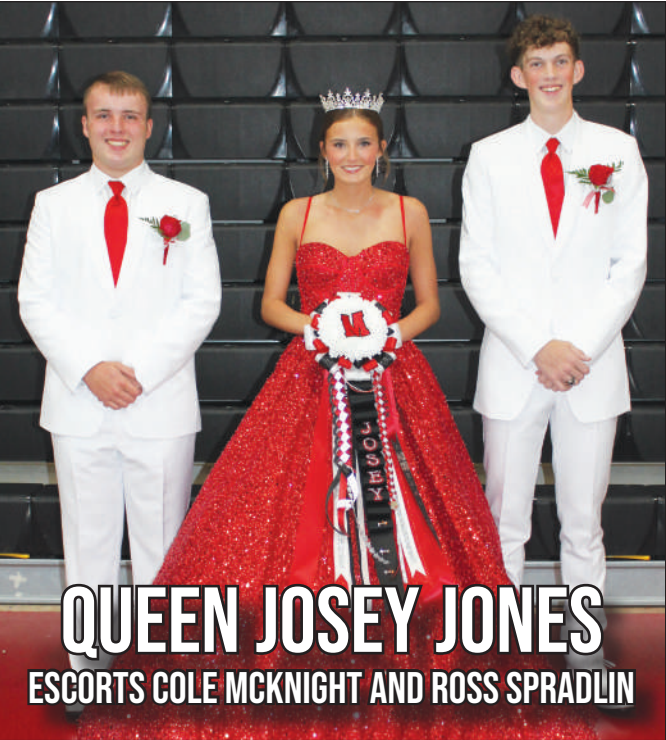
GOVERNOR
SARAH
HUCKABEE
SANDERS





I love Queen Josie
I love the Rattlers
And I'd love to be your Mayor!
Vote Mary Jean Barbre
Mayor of Murfreesboro
Early vote now or on November 3rd
Go Rattlers Go!

paid poltticial ad



Congratulations to the 2026 Rattler Homecoming Court

First State Bank of Pike County

322 E. 13th St. • Murfreesboro • 870-285-2228

Proud Supporters of the Murfreesboro Rattlers

Member FDIC