Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Issue 19 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

The Murfreesboro Diamond

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USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975
Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park

Final week for Angel Tree entries

MURFREESBORO -- Program director Angie Strawn reminds residents that 2026 angel tree forms have been released.

They may be collected at the Murfreesboro Library, Murfreesboro City Hall or the Pike County Sheriff's Office Lobby. The deadline to return the forms for participation in the program is Thursday, Nov. 17.

For questions on the Angel Tree program, please call Strawn at (870) 285-5269.

Veterans Day bash to be held Nov. 11

MURFREESBORO -- A Veterans Day celebration will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Murfreesboro Senior Citizens Building.

The Senior Center is located at 120 East Court Street in Murfresboro.

All Pike County and area military veterans are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the event.

Holiday craft fair set for Saturday

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Holiday Craft Fair will is set for this Saturday, Nov. 14.

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 occur between the two locations.

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

"It's our biggest year yet," said organizer event Robin Cox, noting there would be about 40 vendors. "It's looking really good."

She said food vendors will prospectively be Smokin' Rick's BBQ with barbecue sandwiches, Malibu Sno-Glo with shaved ice and Aunt Bea's Coffee.

Additionally, Pike County 4-H will be on hand selling hot dogs and breakfast items.

A photo booth will also be available from Jaxon Visuals.

Cox said that those that couldn't come until later had no worries about not getting the experience -- that she had incentives to keep the vendors there until 3 p.m. that including a drawing for the return of the booth fee.

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

River to get improvements as part of settlement

LITTLE ROCK -- Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing $8.4 million in funding for 21 waterway improvement and restoration projects across Arkansas using funds from the state's settlement with Monsanto Company:

"Arkansas is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the country, and protecting these natural resources is important to our state's future. These funds will help improve water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, restore aquatic habitats, and preserve waterways for future generations.

"When I announced our settlement with Monsanto last month, I made clear that these funds would be used to further water quality in Arkansas. Today, we are putting those dollars to work by investing in projects that will make a meaningful difference in waterways across our state."

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued the following statement:

"Water grows the crops in our fields, supports jobs in our communities, and brings people from across the world to experience the Natural State. Protecting it is an investment in everything that makes Arkansas a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I'm grateful to Attorney General Griffin for putting these dollars to work restoring our waterways and helping ensure the water that has shaped Arkansas' success will sustain it for generations to come."

WATERWAYS
Continued on Page 2



Staff photos

CULMINATING THE SEASON ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers concluded their 2026 season with a 52-8 loss to Mineral Springs at home, finishing with a 2-8 season. Pictured above is (left) Cale Humphry absorbing a facemasking penalty from a Hornet defender, while (right) Jarrin Burgess looks for running room downfield between a pair of Hornet defenders.

Rattler conclude season with loss

Team will look to get 'bigger, stronger and faster' this offeseason for 2027



The Murfreesboro Rattlers (2-8, 1-5) concluded their 2026 campaign with a 52-8 loss to the Mineral Springs Hornets (5-5, 4-2) last Friday night at Rattler Stadium.

Head coach Jay Turley admitted it wasn't the best way to conclude the season, but said Mineral Springs was simply "too good."

He said the Rattler's lack of experience, including two ninth graders and two sophomores at outside linebacker simply couldn't match up with the speed of the Hornets.

"The speed got to us ... we didn't tackle well and with a team like that you have to wrap them up and get them to the ground. We lost containment on the edge too many times."

When trying to get back into the game after the Hornets raced ahead, Turley admits he went away from the game plan to shorten the game with the running game.

"We probably should have stuck with the running game, but I was trying to do what we could to get back into the game. We knew going in that we couldn't get a scoring contest with them. Jonathan Bennett had a good defensive plan in place, but not tackling just put us in bad situations."

He said that the Hornets were a lot like Junction City, in that they could be out of position and yet still make a play due to their athleticism.

"We had problem prepping because you just can't emulate their speed in practice. They are faster than Junction City."

"They could go a long way in the playoffs," Turley said of the Hornets, noting that only the squad's health could hold them back.

"I'm proud of our effort in the game -- we hadn't faced much better teams, but didn't quit. We didn't play our best game, and it would have taken that to be competitive with [Mineral Springs]. We had our chances -- we were in the red zone on our first three possessions -- but we just came away with zero points. Momentum is a big part of a football game, and while we did some things well, we couldn't outscore them."

While Murfreesboro concludes their season with the loss, the Hornets finished second in conference play and will face the third seeded Hector Wildcats (7-3, 4-1) in the first round of the Class 2A playoffs.

OFFEASON

With the season now concluded, the Rattlers will head to either basketball or offseason training.

"We have to hit the weight room hard -- I felt like we were not as strong as we needed to be this season. We aren't especially big, so we have to be stronger," said Turley.

He said there would be strong expectations of the football players hitting the weight room, regardless of participation in other sports.

"It just has to be a priority year round -- for those in basketball and baseball, they will just have to find time on their own. If I have to be here until 5:30 p.m. or here at 6:30 a.m., so be it."

He said he laid out the expectations to the returning members of the team this week.

"I told the kids that this is a football town, and the fans expect a good team. Winning games next year starts now. We are going to be young next year, and will take some lumps. We have some young talent coming up, the junior squad was good this year."

Turley said that Cooper Lowery, who missed much of this year with heart issues, was possible to return next season.

"We saw in the fall camp and the first game that he was one of our hardest hitters."

Turley added that there was a chance at expanding the roster with some student athletes that had started to attend MHS or didn't play this year.

"We will be recruiting the halls," he said.

As for the team's injury bug this season, that cost them 11 starters at some point during the season, Turley said the strengthening effort sort out some of those issues.

"We never had our complete starting lineup in the season -- and while we did experience a couple freak injuries, many of our issues can be avoided with better conditioning. We just have to get bigger, faster and stronger -- the stronger you get, the more confident you will be on the field."

Turley again complimented the team's fans, noting that they supported the team all year long despite the losing record.

"This is a football town and there are very high expectations -- I share those expectations and there is nowhere else I'd rather be, but I really appreciate the town showing the kids they are there for them even when they are losing."

He said that he was extremely proud of the team on the season, regardless of the record.

"I appreciate them -- we had a hard time and had a lot of adversity, but they never quit, worked every day, trying to get better. We started three quarterbacks -- two of which weren't quarterbacks -- and just had too many injuries, too many mental mistakes. However, I truly believe you learn more about a kid when they lose than you do when they win. This isn't just about winning football games, it's also about building men."

Pike County holds election, Bonds wins mayoral race

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County held their 2026 share of the statewide elections on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Amongst the results, Murfreesboro elected a new mayor, with Jack Bonds collecting 246 (63.9%) votes to Mary Jean Barbre's 139 (36.1%). Current mayor Jim O'Neal declined to run again for the position.

Incumbents Lee Gatliff (Delight), Lisa Cogburn (Daisy) and William "Billy" Pyler (Glenwood) will reprise their roles of mayor after each ran unopposed for the positions.

Murfreesboro also elected a new city council member for West Ward Position One by selecting Angie Strawn with 229 votes (59.95%) over Doris Scoggins 95 votes (24.87%) and Patrick May 58 votes (15.18%). The position was vacated by Kirk Stone not running for reelection.

Billy Hill collected 212 votes (55.94%) to take the Justice of the Peace District Four seat on the Pike County Quorum Court over incumbent Leotis Snowden 167 (44.06%).

The county largely voted Republican for the contested state races that included:

(R -- Republican, D -- Democrat, L -- Libertarian)

U.S. Senate -- Tom Cotton (R) 2,214; Hallie Shoffner (D) 570; Jeff Wadlin (L) 118

U.S. Congress District 04 -- Bruce Westerman (R) 2,378; James "Rus" Russell 502

Governor -- Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) 2,073; Fred Love (D) 493; Colt Shelby (L) 330

Lieutenant Governor -- Leslie Rutledge (R) 2,380; Michael Kalagias (L) 466

Secretary of State -- Kim Hammer (R) 2,275; Kelly Grappe (D) 517; Michael Pakko (L) 100

Commissioner of State Lands -- Cole Jester (R) 2,351; Christopher Olson (L) 471

For the statewide initiatives, the majority of Pike County voted for Issue One (85.87%), Issue Two (86.99%) and Issue Four (51.37%) while voting against Issue Three (51.13%).

In total, 2,927 voters of the 6,252 total register voters participated in the election from Pike County (46.79%).

Some 64% of the voters voted early (1,885) versus waiting for election day (1,015).

STATEWIDE RESULTS

For complete statewide results of the elections, please visit www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/research/election-results.

WATERWAYS Continued from Page 1

First Gentleman Bryan Sanders issued the following statement:

"Arkansas' outdoor recreation economy depends on what happens upstream. The quality of our water shapes the quality of our fishing, our floating, and the experience people have when they visit the Natural State. These projects put conservation into practice, restoring riverbanks and habitats that make our waterways worth visiting. I appreciate Attorney General Griffin's investment in the places that support our outdoor businesses and give Arkansans so many reasons to get outside."

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Chairman Rob Finley issued the following statement:

"We are profoundly grateful to the Attorney General's office for this critical settlement funding opportunity. Sediment from eroding streambanks is the number one pollutant threatening our state's 137,200 miles of streams. This investment empowers the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to address severe sediment-producing projects around the state, stabilizing banks and removing instream barriers to restore vital fish habitats and preserve the clean waterways essential to Arkansas's outdoor economy and heritage."

The $8.4 million will support 21 projects and initiatives, including $6.7 million for projects through the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and $1.7 million for additional waterway improvement and conservation efforts.

Included in the $6.7 million dollars of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Projects is $250,000 for the Little Missouri River of Pike County.

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Holiday food sales set

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center has announced their annual holiday dressing and roll fundraiser.

Orders will be taken starting Thursday, Nov. 19, through Monday, Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving and and again starting on Tuesday, Dec. 1 through Monday, Dec. 21 for Christmas.

Dressing sizes available will be 5 lbs. for $15 and 10 lbs. for $30. Rolls will be $6 per dozen.

Contact Vickie Hutson at (870) 285-2312 for pick up dates and times.

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Teen charged in gun altercation

MURFREESBORO -- A Hot Springs teen has been charged in Pike County with assault after he allegedly fired a gun during an altercation in Glenwood.

Matthew Ryan Oliver, 19, was charged Nov. 5 with aggravated assault.

According to an affidavit of arrest by the Glenwood Police Department, the Pike County dispatch received a 911 call about an altercation and that a gun had been fired at 404 South 4th Street.

When an officer arrived and began questioning witnesses, "all the parties corroborated the same set of occurrences" which stated Oliver walked toward the residence and a physical altercation ensued before Oliver reportedly pulled out a firearm and fired in the vicinity of the parties. Oliver then fled the scene.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Also on Nov. 5, drug charges were filed against Christine C. Weller, 60, of Glenwood.

She is charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia and misdemeanor public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Case information by the Glenwood PD stated that on Oct. 29 Weller was beating on the door of local business and telling the employee to call for help. The employee refused to open the door. When an officer arrived on the scene, Weller informed she had also been to a Pike County deputy's home and banged on his door but he didn't come to the door, and then to another business before going to a local bank and throwing rocks at the window.

Weller admitted to being under the influence of meth during the ordeal.

On Nov. 9, felony drug charges were filed against Kevin Andrew Cogburn, 37, of Glenwood.

Cogburn was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant on Oct. 27 in Glenwood. En route to the county jail, Cogburn informed the arresting officer he had a "meth pipe" in his backpack and began "squirming around" in the back of the patrol car. A review of video footage from inside the car determined Cogburn ate something that he retrieved from his pocket. The officer later found suspected meth in the back seat and floorboard.

Murfreesboro Diamond

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.



SMART FARMING IN PIKE COUNTY

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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

Foraging for holiday cheer to spring flowers

Seasonal tips and agriculture news

Can you believe we are already in the second week of November? I surely can't. I know most producers around the area have been trying to prepare for the winter months and ensure that they have enough forage to get them through the winter.

We are about to see the first frost of the year, so this is the time to be watching for Prussic Acid and continue to watch for Nitrate poisoning symptoms. I have sent off several hay samples to our lab and have had a handful come back with high nitrates. Nitrates do not go away in cut hay like Prussic acid. If you are concerned about your hay, we can have it tested for you. Samples are $28 each plus shipping, $12.00. Costs would resemble the following if you had more than one sample. 2 hay samples (2x28=56) + Shipping ($12.00)= $68.00.

This investment is great as not only does the lab test for the nitrates, but you can also see your TDN too and make decisions about any supplemental feed you may need.

This is also the perfect time of year to plant those flowering bulbs. Before planting ensure the soil temperature is between 40 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Bulbs also need to planted where there is good soil drainage and also great access to sunlight, preferably full sunlight. This greatly improves their vigor and tends to increase their longevity in the garden.

Roots grow from the bottom of the bulb. If the entire planting bed is tilled, work the soil deeper than the bulbs will be planted. For plants such as tulips and daffodils, that means the bed must be worked at least 10 to 12 inches deep. To accomplish this, double digging is required. A layer of soil is removed from the planting bed. The bottom of the bed is then worked 6 inches deeper. Fertilizer and lime, if required, should be added to the bottom of the planting hole.

As a rule, bulbs are planted three times deeper than their diameter. This means that species with small bulbs, such as crocus and grape hyacinths, are planted 3 to 4 inches deep, while species with larger bulbs are planted 6 to 8 inches deep. Plant small bulbs, such as crocus and grape hyacinths, 3 to 4 inches apart. Plant tulips and hyacinths 6 inches apart. Because they will always naturalize in the planting, plant daffodils 8 to 12 inches apart. When naturalizing daffodil or crocus bulbs in a lawn, use irregular bed layout and space a little wider than indicated above.

Fore more information about planting flowering bulbs or nitrate testing, call the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The first set of Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings will be held December 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Pike County Extension Office in Murfreesboro and then December 9 at 10:00 AM at the Bainum Library Community Room. The cost is $20 per person for the class. Please bring cash or check made out to Pike County CES. To register for either of these classes, please call the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161.

FORAGING FOR HOLIDAY CHEER EVENT

Coming up in December, I will be hosting a fun hands-on workshop that will be held twice!

Foraging for Holiday Cheer will consist of learning to create your own décor swag made of greenery found in nature around us. Cost for the event is $10 per person, and you will take home your own swag. All materials will be provided but if you have a specific ribbon or décor item you want to add to your swag, you can bring those as well.

There will be light refreshments provided. I will be wearing a fun holiday shirt or sweater so feel free to dress fun!

There are two opportunities to attend this event, one in Murfreesboro on December 1, and again on December 15 in Glenwood. You can register for either one of the workshops by calling the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161 or by visiting this link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/rchnHay-CVr .

SCREWWORM UPDATE

As of November 9, 2026, there are still no cases of New World Screwworm in Arkansas. There has been a jump in number of cases, however, those detections are located in southern New Mexico, southeastern Arizonia, and west/southwest Texas.



There are currently 59 active cases, and 60 inactive in domestic animals. There have been 2 inactive cases of wildlife. There have also been 6 detections of New World Screwworm found in traps in the wild.

DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

Despite a much needed rain last week, over half of Pike County is still considered a D4 on the Drought Monitor. A D4 classification is also known as an exceptional drought and is the highest intensity on the Drought Monitor. The data from the map is valid as of November 3, 2026. The northern part of Pike County is considered a D3 or classified as an Extreme Drought.

For more information regarding Agriculture or Natural Resources, please contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.











PIKE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOCKET

Nov. 3, 2026
BF=Bond Forfeited

PIKE COUNTY

Aguilar, Roberto Carlos, 29, Glenwood, $125 BF, failure to display registration; $125 BF, speeding

Alden, Ashley Christina, 42, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay, sentenced to jail-suspended conditions; $10,140 balance

Ballentine, Bryan D. Jr., 34, Murfreesboro, defective/improper head lamps, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss

Bates, Steven Earl, 23, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, finds $125

Beaty, Connie K., 43, Murfreesboro, $230 BF, obstruction government operations

Carter, Ashley Elizabeth, 32, Prescott, guilty of failure to present insurance, fined $70

Carter, Dustin Clay, 51, Magnolia, $125 BF, speeding

Chandler, Amanda L., 52, Newhope, $125 BF, speeding

Cogburn, Nathaniel Ray, 47, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay; $1,540 balance

Crocker, Alexander Chase, 25, Delight, $325 BF, driving with suspended license; $125 BF, failure to stop or yield

Day, Andrea Sherlena, 44, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; $1,925 balance

Dillard, James Inez, 19, Leila, $125 BF, speeding

Dodson, Marsha Renae, 58, Hot Springs, guilty of communicating a false alarm, fined $675

Dooley, Alexia Nicole, 23, Texarkana, Texas, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined $1,075 and license suspended for six months

Eoff, Holly A., 46, Delight, guilty of failure to register tags/expired, fined $125; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined $70

Fannin, Charles Nathan, 44, Delight, $125 BF, no driver's license; $220 BF, disorderly conduct; $620 BF, violation of protection order

Fant, Jerry Wayne, 40, Kirby, guilty of failure to pay, committed to jail; $3,325 balance; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $325

French, David Wayne, 48, Amity, guilty of DWI, fined $1,070, credited for time served, license suspended and must complete DWI educational course; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $325

Golden, Andy Dalton, 21, Amity, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $325

Grider, Louis, 39, Poplar Bluff, Mo., guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $125; guilty of speeding, fined $125

Gullett, Wesley, 51, Amity, possession of controlled substance, under advisement for one year to dismiss; guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $125

Hayburn, Kevin Ray, 63, Glenwood, $125 BF, speeding

Henthorn, Cathy, 60, Glenwood, $220 BF, failure to pay; $1,105 balance

Hernandez, Francisco, 35, Murfreesboro, $125 BF, no driver's license; $70 BF, failure to present insurance

Howard, Aiden Wayne, 19, Amity, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $330; $205 BF, failure to appear; $165 BF, speeding

Johns, Isaac Keshawn, 24, Nashville, $205 BF, failure to pay

Knighten, Caroll Lea, 41, Cove, $145 BF, use of handheld phone while driving

Kundalia, Khanjan Y., 28, Richardson, Texas, $135 BF, speeding

Manus, Ricky N., 56, Rockhold, Ky., $135 BF, speeding

Marcelino, Cabriales, 62, Hope, $125 BF, no driver's license; $125 BF, speeding

Marks, Berry Adam, 23, Prescott, $185 BF, speeding; $205 BF, failure to appear; $205 BF, failure to appear; $205 BF, failure to appear; $220 BF, failure to appear

Marsh, Kordell Anthony, 16, Kirby, speeding, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss

Martinez, Cesar A., 22, Hot Springs, $125 BF, no driver's license

McJunkins, Lucas Jordan, 20, Leola, guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined $600; guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia, fined $600

Miranda, Rosa, 63, Hope, $220 BF, violation of state park rules-quiet hours

Morse, Johnny Lee, 56, Glenwood, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $125; guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $125

Nash, Billy D., 31, Delight, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $125; guilty of no motorcycle endorsement on license, fined $50

Parker, David Calen, 17, North Little Rock, $125 BF, violation of restricted license; $185 BF, speeding

Poage, Richard George, 49, Hot Springs, guilty of no driver's license, fined $125

Sounds, David C., 56, Kirby, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $125

Pumphrey, Andrew Everette, 32, Glenwood, $135 BF, speeding

Sang, Peng Lin, 60, Murfreesboro, $170 BF, unlawful burning

Shanwalls, Adam M., 22, Broken Bow, Okla., $125 BF, speeding

Smith, Johnna Lyn, 42, Amity, $135 BF, speeding

Thornhill, Robert Max, 58, Murfreesboro, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $125

Vargas, Brandon, 20, Nashville, $125 BF, no driver's license; $155 BF, speeding

Vega, Kelsi Nikole, 19, Siloam Springs, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $125

Walker, Jaylee Nicole, 23, Nashville, $45 BF, no seat belt; $185 BF, speeding

Walston, Steven, 50, Nashville, guilty of failure to pay; $1,155 balance

Wastian, Karlie L., 50, Delight, disorderly conduct, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss

Watts, Brandon L., 46, Delight, guilty of failure to appear, fined $205; guilty of failure to appear, fined $220

Williams, Esturado, 36, Glenwood, $125 BF, no driver's license

Zhang, Weixin, 52, Plano, Texas, passing stopped school bus, under advisement for 90 days to dismiss, fined $635

Zomario, Dario, 43, Kirby, $125 Bf, no driver's license

CITY OF MURFREESBORO

Cheek, Roger, 65, Murfreesboro, guilty of second-degree criminal mischief, fined $335

Davis, William H., 42, Murfreesboro, $190 BF, unlawful burning; $200 BF, disorderly conduct

Hudson, Ryan James, 26, Murfreesboro, guilty of failure to pay; $690 balance

Hunter, Wyatt L., 26, Murfreesboro, $225 BF, failure to pay; $1300 balance

Maroon, Brody Anderson, 20, Delight, speeding, under advisement for six months to dismiss

Meadows, Joseph S., 56, Gretna, La., $345 BF, driving with suspended license

Pounds, Kayla Marie, 33, Delight, guilty of driving with suspended license, fined $345

Ryan, Kathryn Marie, 72, Linden, Texas, $155 BF, speeding

Torres, Victoria Rose, 29, Gilbert, La., $250 BF, obstructing government operations; $520 BF, resisting arrest; $620 BF, possession of drug paraphernalia; $240 BF, public intoxication

Walters, Timothy R., 64, Murfreesboro, guilty of harassment, fined $230

Wooten, John Warren, 19, Amity, $45 BF, no seat belt

CITY OF GLENWOOD

Barkman, Jerry W., 53, Glenwood, guilty of fictitious tags, fined $150; guilty of expired vehicle tags-license, fined $150; guilty of failure to present insurance, fined $340; guilty of failure to appear, fined $205; guilty of failure to appear, fined $205; guilty of failure to appear, fined $205

Bradberry, Audrianna Lynn, 21, Marble City, Okla., $155 BF, speeding

Cogburn, Rebecca Ann, 23, Glenwood, guilty of no proof of liability insurance, fined $350

Garcia, Kelly, 39, Hot Springs, $155 BF, speeding

Glaeser, Debra Ann, 67, Glenwood, $45 BF, no seat belt

Hamilton, Larry Wayne, 71, Glenwood, $145 BF, speeding

Heinemann, Fredrick M., 76, Hot Springs, $205 BF, speeding

Kerbersky, Gunner L., 17, Glenwood, guilty of speeding, fined $145

McGee, Troy O., 81, Glenwood, $45 BF, no seat belt

Murphy, Hayden Dean, 18, Bismarck, $145 BF, failure to stop or yield

Null, Brashten Lee, 16, Amity, $155 BF, speeding

Pate, George Eugene, 45, Amity, careless prohibited driving, under advisement for 30 days to dismiss

Pate, William Glenn Jr., 60, Glenwood, guilty of failure to pay; $1,605 balance

Reed, Mckenzie Leanna, 28, Newhope, $160 BF, speeding; $225 BF, failure to appear

Rucker, Irma Lee, 67, Glenwood, speeding, under advisement for 60 days to dismiss

Stuckey, Denise Renae, 52, Glenwood, speeding under advisement for 60 days to dismiss

Vazquez, Fabian, 28, Waxahachie, Texas, $260 BF, failure to maintain control with accident

Obituaries

Jerry Reece Johnson, 86, Nashville



Jerry Reece Johnson, 86, of Nashville, Ar., passed away on

Nov. 5, 2026. He was born on Sept. 23, 1940, in Hermitage, Ark., to the late Hagard and Ethel Johnson.

Jerry graduated from Hermitage High School in 1958, and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. In 1963 he began a 38-year career at what was originally named Dierks Forests, Inc., then Weyerhaeuser, but changed ownership several times. He worked his way up from Quality Control

Manager to Plant Manager, and under his management "The Briar Plant," as it is commonly referred to by the locals, became the world'slargest gypsum producer.

Jerry will be remembered for his quiet demeanor, straightforward approach to life, and the ability, at 5'9" and 165 pounds, to scare even the largest football player away from his daughters. His passions were golf and running, but Jerry also enjoyed gardening, boating, and was a lover of all things nature.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 37 years, Linda B. Tallant Jo; his best friend, Ann Bragg; and his four children, Christy (Jason), Cindy (Rick), Warren (Kim), and Cynthia (Fred). He was called "Papaw" by 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He has a brother, James (Barbara), and a sister, Joyce (John), along with many nieces,nephews, aunts, uncles, and dear friends.

Funeral service were held on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, at Frazer's Funeral Home in Warren, Ark. Burial in Pattsville Cemetery.

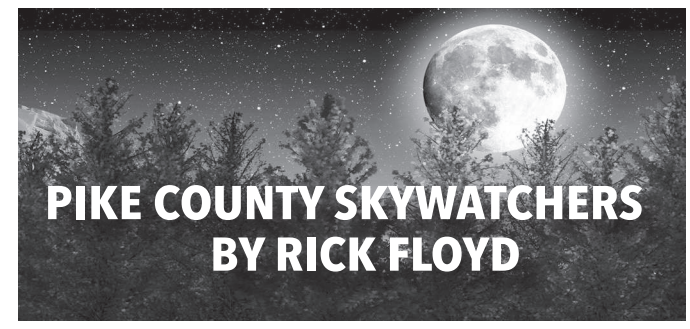
There will be a celebration of life memorial service at First Baptist Church in Nashville in early Spring 2027 to be followed by an ice cream social. In lieu of flowers please make memorials to Arkansas Children's Hospital.



Thank you!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted for me and showed support during my campaign.

Angie Stawn
City Council West Ward Pos. 1 elect



Become an astronaut

NASA is taking applications for its next class of astronauts. This would be the group going to the Moon, building a moon base, and setting the groundwork for humans going to Mars. You have until December 3 to apply. Go to NASA.gov for application materials.

A NASA orbiting telescope re-entered Earth's atmosphere on November 5. The reason the 3,200 pound observatory failed was mostly due to damage caused by strong geomagnetic solar storms. Most of it burned up during re-entry, but some debris crashed to Earth near Sumatra with no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The Earth casts a shadow, a fact that is generally well known, and it is actually easy to see from here on the ground twice a day. Just look east as the Sun sets or west as dawn unfolds. The bluish band at the horizon is Earth's shadow rising about 870,000 miles into space. Above the shadow is very often a band of pink color. This is called the Belt of Venus which has nothing to do with the planet. It is named for the "girdle" worn by the mythical goddess Venus.

The Taurid Meteor Shower peaks on November 12. The Taurids are known for slow moving and often fireball streaks, and this year the Moon is not present during optimum viewing time, after mid-night. Astronomers are not, however, predicting a meteor storm as have occurred with Taurids in previous years.

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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.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

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



Thank You!

Thank you for electing me as Mayor.

To everyone who put a sign, made a call, or shared an idea, I'm grateful.

I'm here to serve you and I pledge to work hard for the town we all call home.

Thank you,
Jack Bonds
Mayor-Elect of Murfreesboro

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The skills you don't see -- how 4-H prepares youth for real life

When most people think of 4-H, they picture livestock shows, county fairs, cooking competitions, and green clovers.

While these are important parts of the 4-H experience, some of the most valuable lessons learned through 4-H never come with a ribbon, trophy, or certificate. They are the life skills that young people carry with them long after their 4-H years are over. In Pike County 4-H, youth are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, explore new interests, take on responsibilities, and discover abilities they may not have known they possessed.

Whether they are preparing for a competition, organizing a community service project, speaking in front of a group, or working alongside fellow members, they are developing skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



LEARNING TO LEAD

Leadership does not always mean standing in front of a crowd or holding an officer position. Sometimes it means taking initiative, helping a younger member, making a difficult decision, or stepping up when something needs to be done. Through club meetings, youth-led activities, and community service projects, 4-H members learn that leadership is about responsibility, teamwork, and setting a positive example for others.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH EXPERIENCE

One of the greatest benefits of 4-H is watching young people grow in confidence. A child who is hesitant to speak in front of others may eventually find the courage to deliver a presentation. A member who has never participated in a competition may discover a talent or interest they never expected. These experiences teach youth that success is not always measured by winning. Sometimes the greatest accomplishment is simply having the courage to try something new.

LEARNING SKILLS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

From managing money and communicating effectively to solving problems and working with others, 4-H provides opportunities for youth to practice skills they will use in school, future careers, and everyday life. Even activities that appear simple can teach valuable lessons. Planning an event develops organization and time management. Preparing for a competition encourages perseverance and critical thinking. Participating in community service builds compassion, citizenship, and an understanding of the needs of others. Perhaps most importantly, 4-H teaches youth that mistakes are part of learning and that personal growth often comes from challenges.

PREPARING FOR A FUTURE BEYOND 4-H

The goal of 4-H is not simply to develop successful competitors or outstanding club members. It is to help young people become confident, capable, and responsible individuals who are prepared for whatever opportunities lie ahead. Every meeting attended, project completed, challenge overcome, and act of service contributes to that development. The next time you see a 4-H member proudly displaying a ribbon, remember that the greatest accomplishments may be the ones you cannot see: the confidence they have gained, the friendships they have built, the responsibilities they have accepted, and the skills they will carry into adulthood. Because in 4-H, we are not just preparing youth for their next competition. We are preparing them for life.

To learn more about Pike County 4-H and the opportunities available for local youth, contact the Pike County Extension Office or visit 4h.zsuite.org to enroll.

Pike County salutes those residents who served on Veterans Day

FROM THE ARCHIVES
Pike County Archives and Historical Society

World War I officially ended in 1919, but fighting had for the most part ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Armistice Day, approved by act of Congress on May 13, 1938, made November 11 each year a legal holiday. It was then a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954 the 83rd Congress amended the act by striking the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." November 11 became the day to honor all veterans.

The Pike County Archives and History Society (PCAHS) honors the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. PCAHS has a wide range of military history research material which includes its publication "A Salute to Pike County Military Men and Women." PCAHS member Gary Graves (U.S. Navy, Vietnam 1968) has compiled biographical information on all of the men listed on the memorial located on the courthouse lawn in Murfreesboro, and he now functions as the military historian at the archives.

Hundreds of women and men from Pike County have served the nation, and the following biographic sketches are of three who served during World War II.

From the book "Fighting Men of Arkansas" prepared by The Arkansas History Institute in 1946:

Sgt. Robert Harold Cummings (1923-2001) and his twin brother S/Sgt James Herbert Cummings (1923-1959), both graduates of Murfreesboro High School, entered the Army in 1943. They were assigned to the infantry, and after basic training were sent to Europe as part of the 101st Infantry Regiment (not to be confused with the 101st Airborne Division). Both saw combat in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns, and were awarded the Bronze Star Medal, American Theater Ribbon with three battle stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

In 2024, the children of Granville O. Couch investigated a unit patch on their father's World War II era Army jacket. That led to the discovery that their father had been in one of the elite special forces units of the war, the 5307th Composite Unit (provisional), nicknamed Merrill's Marauders after their commander, General Frank Merrill. Granville O. Couch (1919-1885) was living in Nathan, Arkansas when he entered the Army in 1941. According to his discharge records he was engaged in campaigns on Guadalcanal in the Pacific and later spent months behind Japanese lines in Burma with the "Marauders". He was wounded during the battle to take the Japanese airfield at Myitkyina. The "Marauders" fought a total of 32 engagements with the Japanese Army during the campaign. Tech 5 light machine gunner Couch received the AP Service Ribbon, Purple Heart, three Bronze Stars, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and a Presidential Unit Citation. A movie about Merrill's Marauders, starring Jeff Chandler, was made in 1962.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, roll, apricots

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Beef cube steak w/gravym baked potatoes, lima beans, roll, pumpkin pie

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

'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ



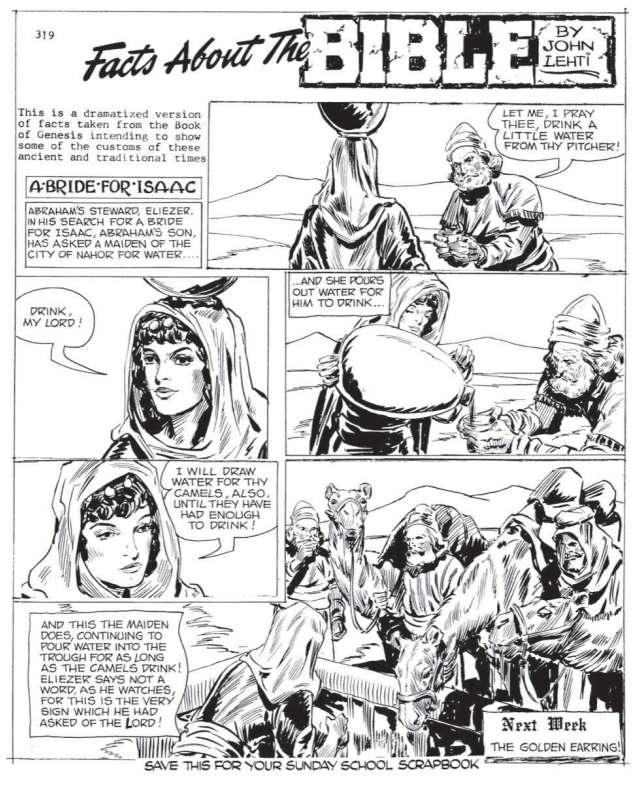
Are We Stronger Than He?

Do men think that they are stronger and wiser than God? Yes! The proof of this is the fact that we do not listen to His will for us. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes! We think we know what is best for us in all the areas of our existence. We are not able to avoid the pitfalls of sin no matter how hard we try. The weakness of our carnal selves keeps dragging us down into our own failures. We find ourselves again and again getting up and wondering how we could have been so wrong. Paul reminds us that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Why should we believe that as foolish as we are we could hope to be successful without the help of the Lord who made all things. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9. Learning what we do not know is the first step in our quest to live fruitfully and successfully. James 1:5 says, If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and unbraideth not; and it shall be given him. The good news is that God will supply heavenly wisdom liberally to all men if they will but ask. He is able with His infinite knowledge to supply us with the wisdom we need. We must humble ourselves and ask in faith nothing doubting. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning. James 1:17 The success of our lives depends on our willingness to hear and heed the perfect will of God. The work of the doer of God's will is blessed. We must continue in the paths of righteousness because faithfulness is the way of approval in the sight of our loving and holy God.

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• Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.
•Facebook services on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Bro. Curtis Abernathy



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Sun. eve. 6 p.m. • Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
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Bro. Buddy Ray

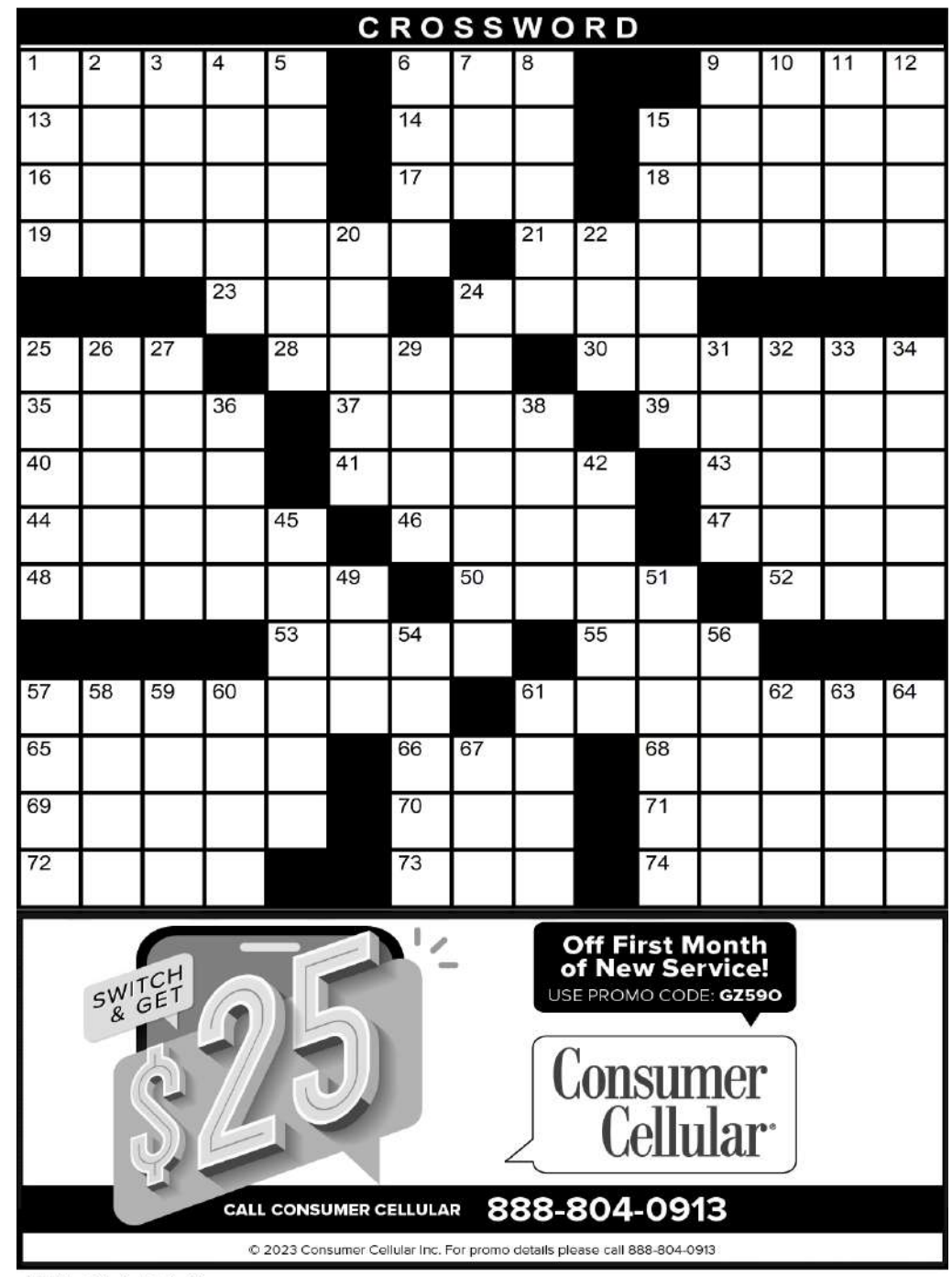
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Attend Church This Sunday!

THANKSGIVING
** -- Theme Related Clue*

ACROSS
1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. *The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. *First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. *Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. *Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. *Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. *Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

DOWN
1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. *"The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. *National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. *Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. *____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper



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PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORD

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DR-26-62 -- Karlie Wastian, vs. Charles Nathan Fannin, order of protection, Sept. 29

DR-26-63 -- Charles Fannin, vs. Karlie Wastian Buckley, order of protection, Sept. 30

DR-26-64 -- Hayden Allan Rambo, paternity Oct. 2

DR-26-65 -- Jonathan Rather, vs. Raven Bell, order of protection, Oct. 26

DR-26-66 -- Amy Shock, vs. Joe Her, order of protection, Nov. 2

Dr-26-67 -- Jeremy Hughes, vs. Jennifer Hughes, divorce, Nov. 6

CIVIL

CV-26-147 -- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC., vs. Trevor Humphry, debt collection, Sept. 28

CV-26-148 -- Justin Babbit, vs. Dennis Flemins Trucking ETAL, automobile tort, Sept. 29

CV-26-149 -- John Bivens, vs. Certain Lands in Pike County, real property/other, Sept. 29

CV-26-150 -- LVNV Funding LLC., vs. Emily Webb, debt collection, Sept. 30

CV-26-151 -- LVNV Funding LLC., vs. Candace Allmon, debt collection, Oct. 1

CV-26-152 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Christopher Pate, debt collection, Oct. 1

CV-26-153 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Brandon Gonzales, debt collection, Oct. 2

CV-26-154 -- Gamaliel Velazquez, name change, Oct. 2

CV-26-155 -- LVNV Funding LLC., vs. Richard Jones, debt collection, Oct. 6

CV-26-156 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Rocha Wyatt, contract/other, Oct. 9

CV-26-157 -- Commerce Bank, vs. Ocean Carey, debt collection, Oct. 14

CV-26-158 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Dorothy Washington, contract/other, Oct. 19

CV-26-159 -- JG Wentworth Originations LLC., vs. Exparte, civil/other, Oct. 21

CV-26-160 -- Patrick Fenton, vs. Jason Dove, civil/other, Oct. 26

CV-26-161 -- Jefferson Capital Systems, vs. Karen Chambers, debt collection, Oct. 28

CV-26-162 -- William Couch and Tabitha Tarpley, vs. State Farm, civil/other, Oct. 30

CV-26-163 --LVNV Funding, vs. Israel DeLaToba, deb collection, Nov. 2

CV-26-164 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Michael A. Canada, contract/other, Nov. 2

CV-26-165 -- Credit Acceptance Corp., vs. Larry Gilbert, contract/other, Nov. 2

CV-26-166 -- LVNV Funding, vs. Dyllan Taylor, debt collection, Nov. 4

CV-25-167 -- Velocity Investments, vs. Thomas Gibson, debt collection, Nov. 4

CV-26-168 -- Capital One, vs. Megan Davidson, debt collection, Nov. 4

CV-26-169 -- Capital One, vs. Stephanie Forrest, debt collection, Nov. 4

CV-26-170 -- J and R Raffaelli, vs. S and S and L Raffaelli, civil/other, Nov. 6

CV-26-171 -- EBF Holdings, vs. Murfreesboro Rehab & Nursing, contract/other, Nov. 6

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Richard Leroy O'Neal, 53, Glenwood; Natosha Lynn Homan, 40, Glenwood, Oct. 2

William Jesse David Chacon, 25, Murfreesboro; Sydalee Michelle Jacoby, 23, Murfreesboro. Oct 13

William James Coffman, 29, Newhope, Candice R. Cox, 43, Murfreesboro, Oct. 15

Rayce Lane Bailey, 29, Glenwood; Tiffany Nicole Pounds, 33, Glenwood, Oct. 19

Scotty Ray Freeman, 53, Glenwood; Jennifer Lea Freeman, 49, Glenwood, Oct. 20

Ryan Christopher Mathis, 47, Glenwood; Jana Louise Stephens, 41, Glenwood, Oct. 26

Christopher Floyd French, 28, Nashville; Nicole Marie Horton, 28, Nashville, Nov. 3

David Shelby, 51, Kirby; Jennifer Angel, 52, Kirby, Nov. 6

UAMS HOUSECALL



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

Q: What is Meniere's disease?

A: Meniere's disease is an inner ear disorder that can cause recurring episodes of hearing loss, tinnitus, and vertigo. The condition may result in persistent issues with balance and permanent hearing loss. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders estimates that 615,000 people in the United States are affected by the condition.

Allergies, autoimmune diseases, constricted blood vessels, a buildup of inner ear fluid, and viral infections are some suspected causes of Meniere's disease, although the specifics of how the condition develops remain unclear. Meniere's disease is more common in adults between the ages of 40 and 60 but can occur at any age.

Symptoms resulting from Meniere's disease can last a few minutes or as long as 24 hours. The condition normally affects one ear. Dizziness, a feeling of congestion or fullness in the ear, hearing loss, and ringing in the ear are some symptoms of Meniere's disease.

Meniere's disease cannot be cured. The severity and type of symptoms vary from person to person. Balance and hearing tests may be administered to diagnose the illness. Limiting alcohol, caffeine and salt consumption, anti-nausea medications, and steroid injections are some treatment options. Consult your healthcare provider if you have questions.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



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Friday, November 13 at 10 AM
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Steve and Judy Pittman have retired and their **600' Laying Houses** are cleaned out and ready to liquidate the Buildings in 40'x60' Sections with Reinforce 2x6 C-Chanel Metal Legs, plus (4) 12 Ton Feed Bins, Weigh Bin, Scales, Drinkers, Feed Lines, Male Feeds, 12 Hole Nest, Wiring, treated Lumber and 4x4s, a couple more older bins, Egg Washers, Gather Stations, Gather Conveyors, 240 Wooden Slats and more. These Trusses and Metal will make some nice shed and barns, don't miss this opportunity to get supplies.
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Pike County student named as finalist in art contest

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas Peace Week Youth Art Contest Award winners will be announced at an event at the Arkansas State Capitol Rotunda at 1 p.m. on Nov. 14.

Artwork will be displayed at the Arkansas State Capitol November 8 -14, 2026. These events are free and open to the public.

Amongst the finalists includes eleventh grade Pike County student Lizzi Sorrells from Amity who attends Centerpoint High School for her submission "Pros and Cons."

The Arkansas Peace Week Art Contest, for 1st -12th Grade Students, features art pieces addressing the 2026 theme "Depict Peacemakers, Peacemaking in Action, or the Results of Peacemaking."

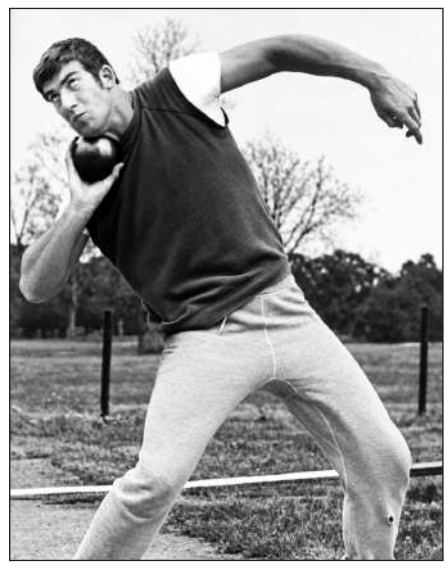
For more information, visit the group's website www.arkansaspeaceweek.com or see their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arkansaspeaceweek.

Jones inducted as part of Ouachita athletics 2026 Hall Of Fame Class

ARKADELPHIA -- Ouachita Baptist University inducted nine new members into its athletics hall of fame on Friday, November 6.

The 2026 induction class represents eight different sports and six decades of Tiger athletics. The induction ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. on November 6 at the Walker Conference Center on the Ouachita campus. The event is open to the public. Tickets are $30 each. Tables of six are available for $160. Tickets can be purchased upon arrival or online at www.OBUtigers.com/HOFtickets.

The list includes Murfreesboro native Tom Jones, the only posthumous inductee in the 2026 class, was a multi-sport athlete for the Tigers from 1968-1971. He exceled most in track & field, where he won a



combined six AIC individual titles, three each in shot put and discus. He earned NAIA All-America honors in indoor track in 1970 and 1971. He was an outdoor All-American in 1970. His shot put throw of 60'2" during the 1970 season remains the school record. Jones also played basketball for the Tigers, a tenure highlighted by one shot, a 38-foot buzzer-beater in the 1970 AIC championship game to beat Henderson State 71-69.

Following the induction ceremony on November 6, the 2026 class was recognized during halftime of Ouachita's football game against Southwestern Oklahoma State on November 7.

More information about the Ouachita Athletics Hall of Fame can be found at www.OBUtigers.com/HallofFame.

Deer harvested in 1958 'probably' from deer refuge

BY TODD FUGITT
(Submitted story by Avonne Petty)

DELIGHT— In 1958, Bob Fugitt of the Bowen community south of Delight harvested an 8-point buck with a distinctive notched right ear and a tag. This buck may have been an ancestor of the deer harvested this season.

A half-century ago there was not the deer population we have now in Arkansas. Deer hunting was with dogs and there were not many harvested. Back in the deer restoration days, Arkansas Game and Commission operated 44 deer farms or refuges. Most were on leased or rented land or sometimes just land worked through a handshake. The AGFC owned little land during the late 1920s to the late 1950s. This was the era of the deer turnaround – from a low of an estimated 500 deer in the entire state to today's abundance. It took time and habitat – the same essentials cited today by wildlife biologists.



1958 was before the onset of fancy stands and tree stand deer hunting. You were on the ground hunting deer. This buck was a big one, Fugitt recalled. "We had a time getting it out and back to the farm." Fugitt's buck had an 18-inch spread and later scored a Boone & Crockett 147.

Some research turned up facts. Deer stocked on AGFC refuges in the restoration era were notched and tagged for identification. Four does and two bucks were stocked on the Clark County Deer Refuge, so the buck Fugitt harvested in the Little Missouri River bottoms was "probably" one of those two bucks put on the refuge just after World War II. Another possibility is the buck could have come downstream from Howard County Deer Refuge 30 or so miles away.

The Fugitt farm has an old house festooned with antlers – memories of past hunting successes, but none of the other racks came from deer with notched ears and wearing tags. Perhaps this was the deer you see, beside the roads, grandsire.

Governor tells state to 'do more with less' during budget creation

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas lawmakers have just completed a month-long series of budget pre-hearings, marking the first step in developing the state's budget for 2027.

The hearings, conducted by the Arkansas Joint Budget Committee, allowed state agencies to present their funding requests and operational needs before the General Assembly convenes for its regular session in January. Committee members reviewed agency budget proposals, appropriation requests, and other financial matters that will shape the state's spending plan for the coming year.

Over four weeks, lawmakers examined hundreds of pages of budget documents as agency leaders outlined priorities, staffing needs, and anticipated expenses.

The budget review process came as Arkansas entered a new fiscal cycle following a $655 million general revenue surplus at the close of Fiscal Year 2026. While the state's financial position remains strong, lawmakers weighed a variety of spending pressures, including rising costs associated with education programs, healthcare services, and other state operations.

The hearings began October 6 and continued through November 6, when Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders presented her balanced budget. Lawmakers will then begin pre-filing legislation on November 16 ahead of the regular legislative session, which starts January 11, 2027.

In preparation for the budget process, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders directed cabinet secretaries in June to identify savings and improve efficiency within their agencies. In a letter to department leaders, Sanders reiterated her administration's goal of limiting government growth while maintaining services and investing in priority areas.

"We must do more with less," Sanders wrote. "We must all work together to identify new savings and efficiencies, while ensuring the people of Arkansas are being served well."

Discussions during the Joint Budget Committee's presession hearings focused on staffing shortages, energy infrastructure demands, and the state's overall fiscal outlook.

The committee's hearing schedule included budget reviews for dozens of state agencies and departments, including the Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Licensing, Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, and the Arkansas National Guard.

One of the more detailed discussions centered on the Arkansas Public Service Commission, where lawmakers examined the agency's proposed FY 2027 budget, which authorizes approximately $15.8 million in expenditures.

Legislators questioned whether the commission has enough personnel to manage an increasing workload tied to utility projects and economic development initiatives. The discussion included the implementation of the Generating Arkansas Jobs Act of 2025 and the growing number of large-scale energy proposals, including projects designed to support major data center operations. The negative impact of the act on ratepayers was also discussed.

Budget officials reported that Arkansas' fiscal position remains stable early in the new fiscal year. Gross general revenue collections are running approximately 1.2 percent, or $49.5 million, ahead of the same period last year.

Arkansans can watch the budget hearings and review agency budget materials through the Arkansas General Assembly's website at https://arkleg.state.ar.us.







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PUBLIC NOTICE

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND INTENTION TO SELL

YOU MAY LOSE YOUR PROPERTY IF YOU DO NOT TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD, YOU WILL REMAIN LIABLE FOR ANY DEFICIENCY AND AN ACTION FOR COLLECTION MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST YOU.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 8, 2026, at or about 11:00 AM, the following real property will be sold at the Main Entrance of the Pike County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 , to the highest bidder for cash:

Lots Eight (8), Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Four (4), Parker and Johnson Addition to the City of Murfreesboro, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book 62, Page 400A, same being a part of and located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW-4 SE-4) of Section 17, Township 8 South, Range 25 West.

More commonly known as: 315 JOHNSON ST, MURFREESBORO, AR 71958

On January 25, 2006, KELLY BLAIR JR and MARGARET BLAIR executed a Mortgage in favor of First National Bank, as Beneficiary, which was recorded January 30, 2006, in Book M266 , at Page 446 in the real estate records of Pike County, Arkansas. Default has occurred in the payment of said indebtedness, and is now wholly due. The loan is now in default.

Tenants of the property may claim an interest in the real property herein.

The terms of the call are certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale or wiring of funds within twenty-four hours of the sale. All transfer taxes will be the responsibility of the purchaser. The party initiating this action is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 800-258-8602.

September 29,2026 Date
Chase Taskerud
Managing Attorney, Arkansas
Marinosci Law Group, P.C. as Attorney in Fact for Towd Point
Mortgage Trust 2019-4, U.S. Bank National Association, as indenture Trustee

LEGAL PRECEDENT IS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THE SENDING OF THIS LETTER MAKES US A DEBT COLLECTOR. TO THE EXTENT IT DOES, PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE IN BANKRUPTCY OR HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY, THIS LETTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT OR AS AN ACT TO COLLECT, ASSESS, OR RECOVER ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MILITARY SERVICE OR HAVE BEEN IN THE MILITARY SERVICE WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, AND YOU ENTERED THE SERVICE AFTER SIGNING THE PROMISSORY NOTE AND DEED OF TRUST, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS FIRM IMMEDIATELY AS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RELIEF UNDER THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT. WHEN CONTACTING THIS FIRM ABOUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICE, YOU MUST PROVIDE THIS FIRM WITH EVIDENCE OF YOUR MILITARY STATUS. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE SUCH EVIDENCE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PROTECTION UNDER THIS ACT.

(p.n.a. 508w., 18,19,20,21)