Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Issue 20 • 1 Section • 6 Pages

The Murfreesboro Diamond

$1.00
USPC 103-230

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Pike County Sheriff warns about e-bike dangers in town

MURFREESBORO -- A public safety notice on electric bikes has been issued by the Pike County Sheriff's Office (PCSO).

"We have received several complaints regarding juveniles operating electric bikes (e-bikes) in an unsafe manner and failing to obey traffic laws," said the release.

"Parents, we ask that you please take the time to talk with your children about the importance of bicycle and traffic safety."

The PCSO reminds residents that electric bikes are becoming increasingly popular, but they are not toys. When operated improperly, they can pose a serious danger to the rider, motorists, and pedestrians.



Staff photo

SCARY GOOD RESULTS ... The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce's "Haunted Hospital" effort again set a new record in it's fourth year of existence, drawing over 2,000 attendees in October, many of which from locales across the state. Volunteers that worked the event on Halloween night are pictured above.

City announces trash schedule for Thanksgiving week

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro has released the sanitation schedule for the week of Thanksgiving.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the regular route will be collected.

However, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, Tuesday and Wednesday trash collection will occur, while on Wednesday, Nov. 25, Thursday and Friday trash will be collected.

There will be no trash collection on Thursday or Friday, Nov. 26-27.

Chamber announces Santa, parade events

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce is quickly moving into Christmas mode now that the haunted house effort has been completed.

During their November meeting, the chamber noted that over 2,000 people attended the haunted hospital in 2026, bringing in over $22,000 before expenses, setting the effort's record attendance in its fourth year.

Over 500 people attended the event on Halloween night.

Chamber president Ricky Branch said attendees came from all over the state, noting their was some residual income garnered by other businesses in town that wouldn't have otherwise been obtained.

After weather forced the closure of most of the Diamonds in the Fall Festival on the square on Halloween, some 300 children did attend the trunk or treat event held at the municipal building community room.

Next on the docket is the Hometown Christmas on the Square event to be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. when Santa will arrive to the Pike County Courthouse Square by a fire truck.

At the event six bicycles will be given away -- a boy's and a girl's in three age division -- that attendees to the event can register for.

On Thursday, December 10 the Christmas parade will be held. Lineup for participation in the parade will be at 5 p.m. in the former Pike County Hospital parking lot with the parade beginning at 5:30.

The theme for this year's parade will be "Christmas in the Diamond Capitol."

The chamber will hold their annual drawing for chamber bucks that will begin on Friday, Nov. 27 in a drawing that will be conducted following the parade. The drawing will consist of three prizes -- $500, $250 and $100. Participants may gain entry to the drawing by making purchases at participating businesses between Nov. 27 and the afternoon of Dec. 10.

Mayor Jim O'Neal suggested at the meeting that the chamber consider a scavenger hunt for UTV owning tourists and locals sometime next year. Since the city passed the ruling that city street could be used and no real outlet for the UTVs to travel to Lake Greeson as of yet, he said getting an event started that could grow annually would be a nice plan.

Stolen phone leads to saga and charges

MURFREESBORO -- A Murfreesboro man has been charged in Pike County Circuit Court with possession of a firearm by certain persons.

James Goodwin, 61, was charged Nov. 9. He made his first court appearance Monday when he entered a not guilty plea and he was appointed a public defender.

According to case information, Goodwin was arrested Nov. 3 following a theft complaint involving a cell phone on Old Factory Site Road outside of Murfreesboro.

A complaint was made by Jonathan Rather that a female subject, Raven Bell, had stolen a phone that had arrived in the mail and allegedly texted him demanding money in exchange for the return of the phone.

A Pike County deputy was informed that Bell was at Goodwin's residence and when he arrived Goodwin met him in the driveway and confirmed Bell was inside the home. When Bell exited the home, the deputy detected the smell of marijuana and Bell was detained for the phone theft and an outstanding Montgomery County warrant.

Goodwin then gave consent to search the home for the phone after being reminded about the smell of marijuana and the fact he was on probation and had a search waiver on file.

The search found a .22 rifle and Goodwin was transported to the Pike County Detention Center and charged with felony possession of a firearm by certain persons.

Council approves budget, discusses animal control

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Council worked through a short agenda last week for its November meeting, including approving the city's annual proposed budget.

The proposed 2027 budget was approved as the same as the 2026's budget and will include 3.6 percent raises for city employees. The budget will be amended and finalized in January.

Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb told the council the city's expected revenue for the new year includes $100,000 more than anticipated.

Mayor Jim O'Neal also gave the council "head's up" about a possible increase in the contract for animal control services. He said Nashville Animal Control, which serves Murfreesboro along with Nashville and Delight, has lost the city of Prescott as a customer. The mayor said the loss could increase the city's contract portion from $20,000 annually to $27,000.

O'Neal also noted there has been "decreased activity" in the city's animal control service and that a decision will be have be made about the possible price increase after he has left office.

Another issue that will be addressed in the new year will be the resignation of Water Commissioner Jack Bennett. The resignation will be effective Dec. 21. Mayor O'Neal offered to look for recommendations to fill the position but said the it will ultimately be up to new Mayor Jack Bonds and the council to fill the spot.

Mayor O'Neal also reported to the council that the city's new street department street-legal UTV has been purchased and is in use "staying off Main Street as much as we can."

The council was also informed the city's garbage truck is in need of $10,000 in repairs. The truck was paid off recently and Mayor O'Neal requested that the city borrow the repair cost amount from a local bank and pay it off at $2,300 per month. The city will seek bids from the local banks to determine the best interest rate. The request was approved by the council.

Mayor O'Neal also reminded council members that Santa Claus is coming to town Dec. 5 and the council and city employees will gather Dec. 3 to fill goody bags at 6 p.m.

The council also approved the city's financial report, which included the following beginning and ending balances:

General Combined -- $257,733/$298,686
Street Combined -- $399,452/$392,838
Park -- $51,539/$45,218
All Special Funds -- $329,653/$350,454
Advertising & Promotion -- $49,166/$42,529
Waterworks Combined -- $745,747/$756,612

Holiday food sales set at Senior Center

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.

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





Staff Photos

BASKETBALL BEGINS ... The Murfreesboro Rattlers and Lady Rattlers tipped-off their 2026-2027 basketball campaigns last week with games against Blevins on the road and Spring Hill at home. Pictured (left) is Keith Wilkinson getting a shot off over a Spring Hill defender, while (above) Carsyn Ballard vies with a pair of Lady Bear defenders on the offensive end of the court.

Upcoming events announced by Extension

MURFREESBORO -- Looking for a fun holiday workshop? Join us for Foraging for Holiday Cheer and learn to create your own fresh greenery swag.

Cost is $10 with all supplies provided and light refreshments. Participants are encouraged to wear their favorite and fun holiday attire!

There are two opportunities to join.

• Murfreesboro: December 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Pike County Extension Office

• Glenwood: December 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Bainum Library Community Room

To register for this class you can call the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161 or use this link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/rchnHayCVr. .

Participants can pay at the door or drop by the office at 100 Court St. Suite A, Murfreesboro, AR to pay ahead of time.

PESTICIDE PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING:

The first set of Pesticide Trainings will be taking place December 8th and 9th of 2026.Cost of the class is $20 per participant.

• Murfreesboro: December 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Pike County Extension Office.

• Glenwood: December 8, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the Bainum Library Community Room.

Always check your license to know when it expires. If you are unsure of when your Private Applicator License expires, you can call the office and we can check it for you. If you'd like to register for the class, you can call the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

If you have any questions regarding the events above you can call the Pike County Extension Office at 870-285-2161. You can also find the agriculture page on Facebook by searching for UAEX Pike County Agriculture.



MJHS Lady Rattlers hit ground running on season

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Junior High Lady Rattlers are off to a strong start, winning the Horatio Junior High basketball Tournament last Saturday and bolting to a 4-1 record to start the season.

Head coach Chuck Lowery said the team has six returning members and would look to be highly competitive in a conference that was probably not dominated by a single team.

"We'll be in the mix," he said of his team that is comprised of six ninth graders and four eighth graders.

The loss came to Spring Hill last Friday night at home, in which Lowery said the team has some "dead legs."

"We competed in the Horatio championship game and got our legs back due to adrenaline. We were probably too nice to Spring Hill -- many of them have competed with those girls over the summer and are good friends. We didn't have the killer instinct."

Despite the blemish, Lowery said the team should be highly competitive and "has a chance to make some noise."

This week the team goes to play in the Nashville junior high tournament, and hosted the Ashdown team on Tuesday night.

At Nashville the team is scheduled to face Nashville and Lake Hamilton.

They will also compete against larger schools Ashdown and at Arkansas High (Dec. 4) before moving into conference play against Caddo Hills on December 8.

This year conference foes will consist of Acorn, Caddo Hills, Dierks, Hackett, Horatio and Mansfield.

MURFREESBORO SENIOR LADY RATTLERS

Lowery said the senior high team was "building" and would be "very athletic ... but they just haven't gelled yet" in their 1-1 start.

"We had a great effort against Spring Hill in our home opener -- Spring Hill is just more seasoned."

He said the girls have improved since last season, but now needed to work on being controlled in their speed.

"We know what to do, we are making progress -- we've had some mishaps but we are playing well."

He added the team was still rusty in the early season and needed a better shooting percentage going forward.

"The season is not built on one game, so we can't get too down -- we want to have a good season ... but having a good season requires more than want. They are doing a great job in practice and we are a work in progress."

Lowery said the addition of two tenth graders -- Addie Silva and Carsyn Ballard -- have allowed the team some ball handling capability that was not there last season.

"It lets the other players be more in their preferred natural positions, which they do better with. We are just working on our starting five roles and fit early in the season before conference play."

He said the team "wants to win" the early non-conference games, but the idea was to get ready for conference regardless of the outcomes.

"We are trying for both," he said with a laugh.

"We have to find the right rhythm -- we don't have a lack of hustle, we just need to build chemistry and get our shooters the ball."

Results from last week's and this week's games will appear in next week's Murfreesboro Diamond.



Submitted photo/SPCSD

TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP ... The Murfreesboro Junior High Lady won the Horatio Junior High Tournament Championship in Horatio last Saturday.



Murfreesboro Diamond

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Published by Nashville Leader Inc.,
418 North Main Street
Nashville, AR 71852

Periodical Class postage paid at Murfreesboro, AR

The *Murfreesboro Diamond* (USPC 103-230) is published every Wednesday.

***Subscription Rates*: $45 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; $57 per year elsewhere.**
$35 for 6-months in area; $45 for 6-months elsewhere.
College Subscriptions- $30 for 9-months.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Telephone: 870-285-2723

Business Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Please Send Change of Address Information to:
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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.

Corps announces invasive species at Millwood

ASHDOWN -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is alerting Millwood Lake visitors that giant salvinia, an invasive aquatic plant, was discovered in the lake in late October 2026.

Giant salvinia is a threat to our nation's natural resources capable of disrupting ecosystem quality and functions. Gone unchecked, it could impact Millwood's environmental stewardship, flood risk management, water supply and recreation missions.

USACE personnel are working closely with local and federal partners to contain and control the invasive plant and to limit its spread into Millwood Lake and nearby waterways. Giant salvinia can reproduce rapidly from small plant fragments, potentially restricting water access, displacing native vegetation and affecting aquatic habitat.

Visitors should not disturb any floating containment booms or other equipment in the area. Boaters, anglers and waterfowl hunters are encouraged to help prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species by cleaning, draining and drying boats, trailers and equipment before traveling to another body of water.

To help prevent the spread of giant salvinia and other aquatic nuisance species:

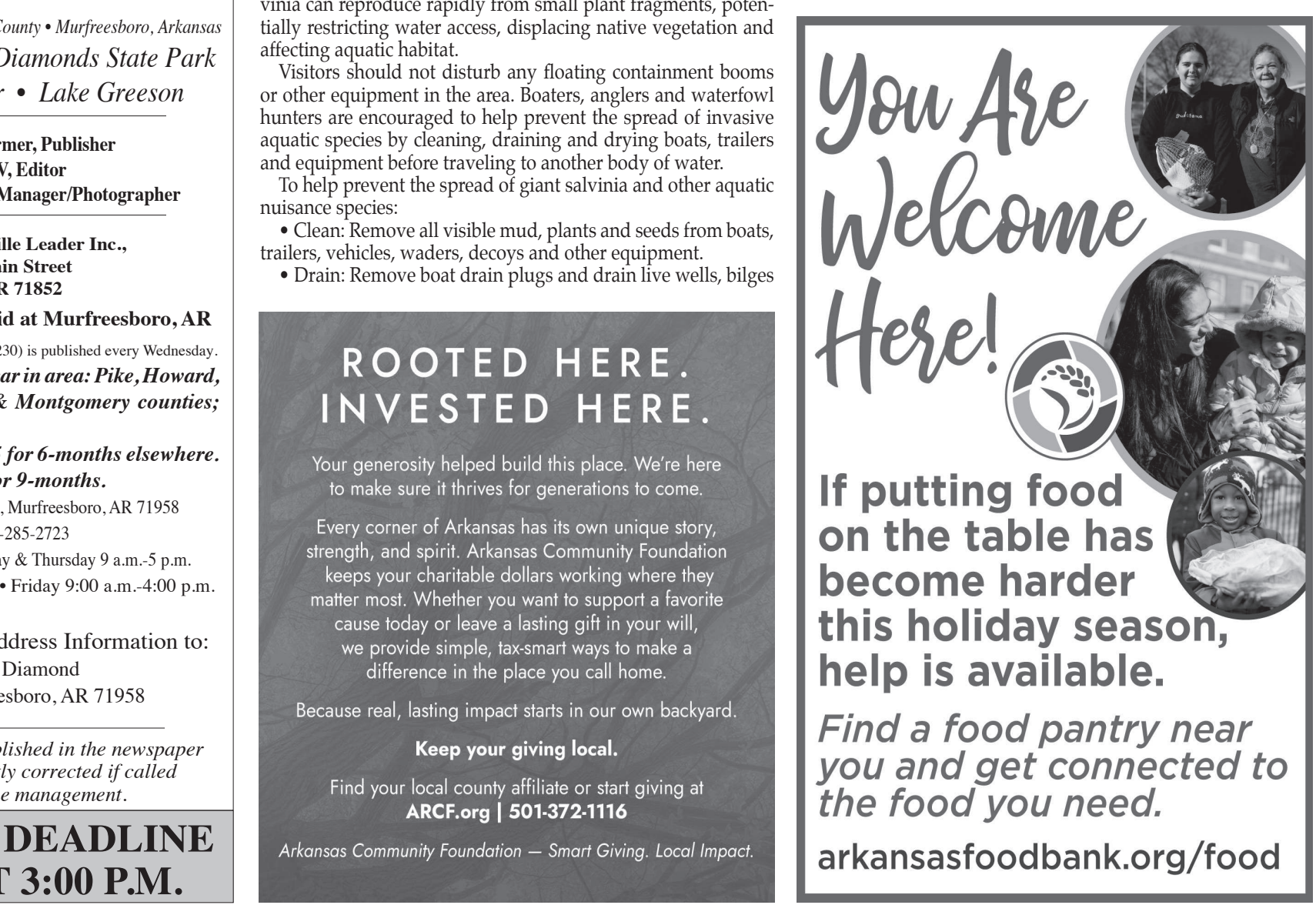
• Clean: Remove all visible mud, plants and seeds from boats, trailers, vehicles, waders, decoys and other equipment.

• Drain: Remove boat drain plugs and drain live wells, bilges and other areas that may hold water before leaving the launch area.

• Dry: Allow equipment to dry completely before using it in another water body.

For more information about giant salvinia on Millwood Lake call 501-747-9012 or 870-898-3343. Updates will be provided as conditions change.

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



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

18 USC 707

Purple Circle: A prestigious honor at the Arkansas State Fair

For young livestock exhibitors, earning a spot in the Arkansas Purple Circle Club is one of the highest honors they can achieve at the Arkansas State Fair.

Established in 1953, the Purple Circle Club recognizes outstanding youth exhibitors who earn championship honors in livestock competitions. Sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau, this prestigious program celebrates the hard work, dedication, and commitment these young individuals put into raising, caring for, and showing their animals.

Earning a Purple Circle award represents much more than winning a ribbon. It reflects countless hours spent in the barn, early mornings, late nights, responsibility, perseverance, and a passion for agriculture.

Through programs like 4-H and FFA, these young exhibitors develop valuable life skills that extend far beyond the show ring, including leadership, responsibility, sportsmanship, and determination.

Congratulations to the following 2026 Pike County 4-H Purple Circle recipients...Luke Baker, Dally Minton, and Trace Minton! Your accomplishments are a testament to your dedication and hard work. You are helping shape the future of Arkansas agriculture, one show at a time!





Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond:
People's Pharmacy • C-Stop • EZ Mart
Tobacco & More • Gypsy Underground
OR VISIT THE MURFREESBORO DIAMOND OFFICE

Card of Thanks

Thank you to our wonderful community for supporting my benefit. Thank you to the ones who donated items, cooked and bought items and decorated for me. May God Bless each of you.

Thank you,
The Wastian Family
Darrell & Kristi

SUDOKU



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UAMS HOUSE CALL



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

Q: What are options to treat pneumonia?

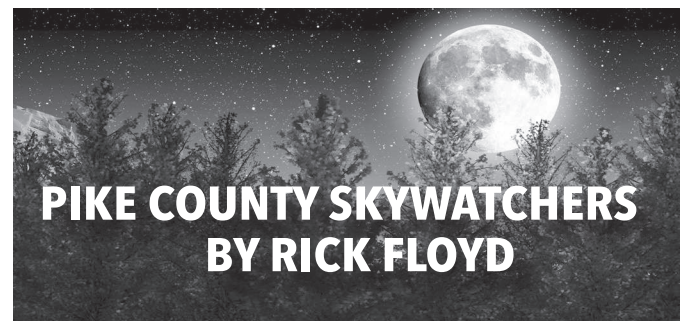
A: Pneumonia is an infection in which air sacs in one or both lungs fill with fluid or pus. Pneumonia cases can range from mild to life-threatening, depending on the cause of the infection and the health of the person infected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 1.2 million emergency room visits per year are attributed to pneumonia-related issues.

Bacteria, fungi, and viruses can cause pneumonia. People older than age 65 and children younger than age 5 are at greater risk of pneumonia. Those with conditions such as diabetes and chronic heart, liver, or lung diseases are also more at risk. Pneumonia is more prevalent in the fall and winter when germs that cause respiratory illness spread more easily.

Symptoms of pneumonia include loss of appetite, shortness of breath, chest pain, chills, and nausea. Untreated pneumonia can lead to organ failure and sepsis due to bacteria in the bloodstream, fluid around the lungs, or respiratory failure.

Pneumonia treatment depends upon the cause. Antibiotics are used for bacterial pneumonia, while antifungal medications treat pneumonia from a fungal infection. Viral pneumonia often gets better on its own. See your healthcare provider if symptoms persist, especially if accompanied by a fever.

Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



Voyage continues

The U.S made spacecraft, Voyager 1, is now the most distant human-made object from Earth. It was launched into space way back on September 9, 1977, and after a long journey it fulfilled its main mission which was to visit and film Jupiter, one of its moons, and Saturn.

It then moved on and eventually crossed the heliosphere, the edge of the Sun's realm, in 2012. It is, as of November 18, 1 light day from Earth. That equals about 16.1 billion miles, the distance light travels in 24 hours.

Voyager 1 is still going deeper now into interstellar space, and with its 1970's technology it still "calls home," which takes 24 hours for us to receive.

Voyager 2 is following about 2 billion miles behind its companion. Voyager 1 took the iconic picture of Earth as it traveled beyond the outer planets. This image inspired Carl Sagan's essay about life on Earth, the "Pale Blue Dot." Sagan also helped design the content of the gold plated record that both Voyagers have on board.

The records are there in case the spacecrafts are intercepted and examined by beings from another world. They contain images, recordings and a coded map of where Earth is. At its current rate of speed Voyager 1 will reach another milestone, being a light year from Earth, in just over 17,000 years from now.

There are many interesting Sun facts. The number one item being that without it we would not exist. If the Sun were to suddenly switch off it would take 8 minutes and 20 seconds for its last rays to reach us. In fact, when the sun sets and we watch it at the horizon it has actually already dropped below the horizon 8 minutes 20 seconds ago. Those sun rays, the photons coming from the Sun, begin their journey at the Sun's core and it takes them 100,000 years to reach the Sun's surface and fly into space.

The Moon will be full on November 24 rising at about 5:00 p.m. This month the Moon is called the Beaver Moon.

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Obituaries

Rosalie King, 90



Rosalie King, age 90, lived a life filled with love, adventure, hard work, and devotion to family. Known for her spirited and feisty personality, engaging smile, and generous, friendly heart, she left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Born in the small ranching community of Roy, New Mexico, Rosalie was the daughter of Edith Cunico and Emilio Rigoni, both descendants of Italian immigrant farming and ranching families who settled land under the Homestead Act. Growing up in the rugged plains of northeastern New Mexico, she experienced firsthand the perseverance and determination required for life. As a young girl, she helped shear sheep, churn butter, and make cheese, learning the value of hard work and self-reliance from an early age. Later the Rigoni brothers opened the state's largest dance hall, ….the work continued.

Rosalie experienced the heartbreaking loss of her mother at age twelve, yet she flourished under the guidance and support of her father, grandfather, and devoted aunts. She excelled in school and embraced opportunities for leadership, participating in cheerleading, basketball, and numerous activities while attending Roy throughout and Raton High School her senior year.

Following graduation, she married William "Billie" Ferranti and began her career in banking in the Raton area. Together they raised three children, Thomas Michael Ferranti, Emil Patrick Ferranti, and Mary Lynn Ferranti, while building a life centered on family fun, board games, recreation boating and fishing and sports. The family moved to Texas in the 60's and North Houston, where they later successfully acquired and ran a family operated Chevron service station which Rosalie was instrumental in managing along with a loving home.

Family was Rosalie's greatest joy and the extended family and ranch in New Mexico was a favored destination every summer. Through the years, the Texas Ferranti family grew to include ten grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She delighted in gathering loved ones together for good food, camping trips, fishing, lake boating adventures, and countless celebrations that became cherished family traditions.

Later in life, Rosalie married Elmo Watson "Chuck" King. Together they enjoyed wonderful years at Lake Greeson, Arkansas, surrounded by dear friends and the beauty of nature. They hosted the "grands" many summers and even ventured to other states with them in their beloved RV. Their shared love of travel led them across the United States for months at a time and around the world via air travel on unforgettable adventures. Destinations included visits to Fiji, Australia, Oman, India, and numerous European countries explored by rail with backpacks that reflected Rosalie's curiosity, enthusiasm, sense of adventure and love of people, places and dancing. Their late years were in the Texas Hill Country nearer to children who cared for them in the Canyon Lake area where Rosalie continued to give to others in various ministries of their home church.

Rosalie had survived husband, William "Bill" Ferranti 1996; husband, Elmo Watson "Chuck" King 2021; and her brother, Elmer Barney Rigoni 2022 and many other loved ones.

Our loss is not easy, but her reward is great. And she IS dancing!

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold your reward is great in heaven…. Luke 6:23

Funeral Services for Mrs. King will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 28, 2026, at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel, 403 Stillwell Ave., De Queen, Arkansas 71832, with Pastor Trevor Cooper officiating. Burial will follow at Oddfellows Cemetery in Lockesburg, Arkansas.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkersonfuneralhomes.com

Fred Allen Harris II, 53

Fred Allen Harris II, age 53, of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026 in Nashville.

He was born on June 2, 1973 in Murfreesboro, the son of the late Fred Allen Harris and Sue Ann Hughes Harris.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Those left to cherish his memory include his two brothers, George Harris and Clifton Harris, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home, Murfreesboro.



*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. DC 420223000087, AZ ROC 344027, AR 0366920926, CA 1035795, CT HIC.0671520, FL CBC056678, ID RCE-51604, IA C127230, LA 559544, MD MHIC164488, MA 213292, MI 262300331, MI 262300330, MI 262300329, MI 262300328, MI 262300318, MI 262300173, MN IR2025-810524, MT 266192, NE 50145-24, NV 0086990, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, ND 47304, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VT 174.0000871, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFLH763PG, WV WV056912, WI 537-DCFRR

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Pisgah EHC members sew Tooth Fairy pillows

BY AVONNE PETTY
Pisgah EHC reporter

Members of the Pisgah Extension Homemakers club recently made Tooth Fairy pillows for students in the first grade at Murfreesboro Elementary School before Christmas. Each "pillow" is shaped like a big tooth with a pocket on the front.

The pockets hold a "My Tooth Fairy Pillow" poem.

"Dear Tooth Fairy: In this little pocket you will find a teeny, tiny tooth of mine. I placed it here for you to keep. Please leave your gift while I'm asleep!"

Members made the pillows from a gently used quilt for the back and a M&M print for the pocket. This project enforces the AEHC state theme of Repairing, Repurposing, and Recycling fabric instead of filling our landfills with clothing. This is also Pisgah club's project for the year.

The club meets the first Thursday of each month in the computer room of the Picket building of Delight School.

Everyone is welcome to join us for learning, fun, and help with our many community service projects.

For further information about EHC, please contact the new Extension Family and Consumer Science agent, Sheila Ballard, by calling 870-285-2161.

Submitted photo/Pisgah EHC



PISGAH EHC CREATES PILLOWS ... Pictured right (L to R) is Connie Dorathy, Kathy McKinnon, Dorathy Ingram, Beth Steuart, Susie O'Neal, Vickie Tuerk, Rhetha McKnight, and Jeanette Deaton. Committee Chairman, Avonne Petty, is seated.

Pike County 4-H offering Christmas gift options

MURFREESBORO -- Pike County 4-H would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who came out and supported our 4-H youth during the Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Whether you stopped by for a bite to eat, made a purchase, or simply showed your support, we truly appreciate you!

Still searching for that perfect Christmas gift? Let Pike County 4-H help you check a few names off your shopping list!

The group still has beautiful lap quilts, pillows, and tote bags available for purchase. These items make wonderful gifts for family, friends, teachers, or anyone who deserves a little something special this holiday season.

For more information or to make a purchase, contact the Pike County Extension Office at (870) 285-2161.

"Thank you again for supporting Pike County 4-H and helping us continue to make the best better!" said Shannon Ballard.



'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

TAKE HEED

Jesus uses the words "Take Heed" often as He warns against sin and especially bad attitudes. Our hearts are to be on guard every moment lest we fall prey to the devil's efforts to seduce us. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks Matthew 12:34. Most of our temptations will come upon us unexpectedly. We will not be prepared for the suddenness of the appearance of evil. Part of the success of Satan with his times of tempting is that sin will appear harmless. Even if we are aware of the harm it can cause, we tend to think we are stronger than we really are. Take Heed! Most people would be very cautious if they thought



a very venomous snake had gotten into their house or car. I was surprised that commercial airlines regularly transport dangerous reptiles with hundreds of passengers on board. I would not be very comfortable with dangerous animals on a plane with me. We need to be more concerned than we usually are with the wicked plans that our adversary, the devil, has for us personally. It is safe to say that at this very moment Satan is laying the groundwork for our downfall. The Lord knew by experience that Satan could and would tempt us because he tempted the Lord. We are not exempt! Take Heed! If you believe this is not true, you are a prime candidate for a serious and painful experience. The devil will come to you very soon – he never rests! Peter says he prowls the world continually, looking for unwary victims. He will pounce on and destroy every soul he can like a hungry lion. Watch out! Take Heed! Be on guard. Stay close to your Savior!

Honoring our Veterans

By John Boozman
U.S. Senator, Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Veterans Day is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform and the families who stood beside them.

As the son of a veteran, it holds special meaning to me. My father served in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Master Sergeant. Growing up in a military family gave me an appreciation for the commitment, discipline and sacrifices that come with serving our country. Those lessons have stayed with me throughout my life and continue to shape my perspective on how we honor those who have served.

Today, I have the privilege of serving Arkansas in the U.S. Senate on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I take that responsibility seriously. We have made meaningful progress on strengthening care, benefits and resources for veterans, but there is always more work to do in order to ensure they receive the support and recognition they have earned.

Last week, as we marked Veterans Day, I helped introduced the Women Veterans Recognition Resolution with Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Cory Booker (D-NJ), which reaffirms our commitment to honoring women veterans and supporting them and their families. Women have served our nation with distinction throughout its history, and their contributions deserve acknowledgement.

Arkansas has a long and proud tradition of military service. More than 200,000 veterans call The Natural State home, and their stories reflect the courage, sacrifice and commitment that have helped shape our nation. It is important that we recognize these men and women not only for their service, but also for the experiences and memories they carry with them.

One way we can honor their service and sacrifice is through the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP). Established by Congress in 2000, the project works to collect and preserve the firsthand accounts of American veterans so future generations can learn from their experiences. To date, more than 100,000 veterans have shared their stories through audio and video interviews, creating a collection of oral histories spanning from World War I through Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

These recordings offer a valuable firsthand perspective on some of the most pivotal moments in our nation's history. They ensure the experiences of those who wore our nation's uniform are not lost with time.

My office has participated in the VHP for many years, interviewing veterans across the state and providing training to organizations that want to collect stories from veterans in their communities. We've been honored to submit more than 100 video interviews featuring veterans from every branch of service and every era of service since WWII. Every veteran has a story worth preserving, whether they served in combat, supported operations overseas or contributed to our nation's defense here at home.

Many of us have family members, friends and neighbors who have worn the uniform. Taking the time to record their reflections and memories is a meaningful way to show our thanks and ensure their stories are passed down to future generations. I encourage anyone interested in this program to reach out to my office or visit the Library of Congress website for more information.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have answered our nation's call to serve. Preserving their stories is one way we can make sure their courage, sacrifice and patriotism are remembered long after they hang up their uniform for the last time.

Honoring our veterans must extend beyond one day each November. It means keeping our promises to them, addressing the challenges they face and ensuring every American understands the sacrifices made to protect our freedoms. That is why I am also proud to lead the Senate subcommittee that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs, investing in the infrastructure, personnel and resources to provide healthcare and other earned benefits.

I am grateful to all those who have worn our nation's uniform, and I will continue working to ensure America honors its commitment to them. To our veterans and their families across Arkansas and the country, thank you for your service and sacrifice.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Chicken pot pie, salad, taters, roll, fruit cocktail

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
Opened face roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, brownie

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Tuna noodle casserole, steamed vegetables, roll, pineapple tidbits

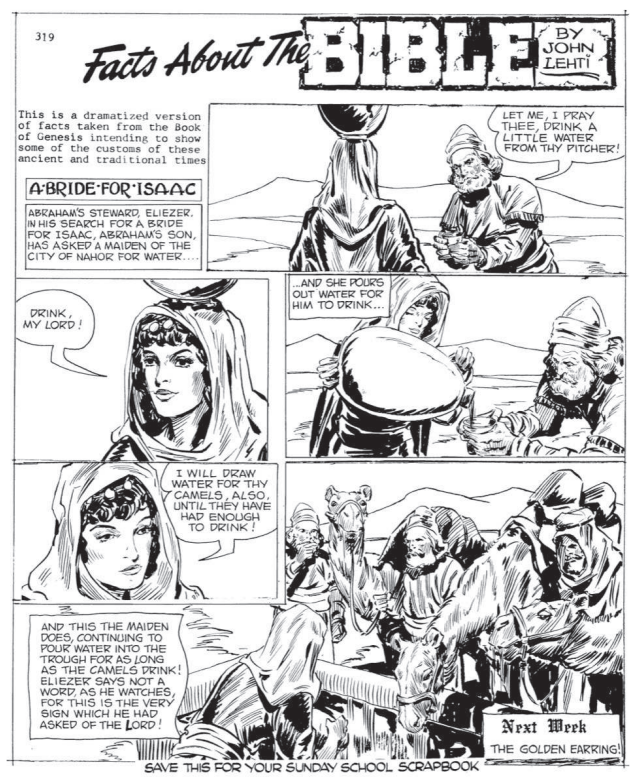
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ACROSS
1. Had, with thou
6. Not NFC
9. Sinbad's seven
13. Intense
14. George Gershwin's brother
15. Exclamation of regret, arch.
16. *Speed ____ in the 1960s cartoon
17. Neither's partner
18. Aggressive
19. *Electric-type Pokemon
21. *The Sailor Man
23. Grazing field
24. *Marge to Homer
25. Amazon's entertainment acquisition, acr.
28. Ocean motion
30. Remote
35. Miscellany
37. Narc's unit
39. Russian money
40. "Atlas Shrugged" author
41. Adam Sandler's "____ Gems"
43. One of three square ones
44. More true
46. Do like goo
47. Hindu dress
48. Approvals
50. Express complaint
52. Witch's work
53. Location
55. Cow chew
57. *Road Runner's nemesis
60. *"Peanuts" protagonist
64. Young eel
65. "He ____ and drank the precious Words..."
67. African antelope
68. Tarnish
69. Message in a bottle, acr.
70. Plasters, as on a ship
71. Puts two and two together
72. Emergency responder, acr.
73. Hollywood director Lubitsch

DOWN
1. "Jack and the Beanstalk" strings
2. Popular smoothie berry
3. *Donald or Baby Huey
4. *What Gru does to the moon
5. Three-line poem
6. Japan's indigenous people
7. To's follower
8. Carpus, pl.
9. Uncontrolled swerve
10. "Piece of cake!"
11. Advil target
12. Limit, to some
15. Come into view
20. Kind of #5 Down
22. Mosquito enemy!
24. Wilkommen, in U.S.
25. *Grandson of Rick Sanchez
26. Sunlight interference
27. Subtraction sign
29. *Pet of Bedrock City
31. Eggnog spiker, pl.
32. West African spiritual practice
33. Bell-bottoms bottom
34. *Cat of silent animation era
36. Lyric poems
38. Anis-flavored aperitif
42. Mold a mind
45. Vacation location
49. Use a chair
51. Subtlety
54. Bug
56. Laundromat device
57. Clothed
58. "Metamorphoses" poet
59. Strong desires
60. What access and recess have in common
61. Been in bed
62. Bodily disorders
63. NYC coast
64. 7th letter of Greek alphabet
66. *Jerry's scheming pursuer



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Legislature convenes for 96th time

Membership elects leadership positions for terms

STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW

LITTLE ROCK -- As Arkansas prepares for the 96th General Assembly, state senators gathered November 5 and 6 for orientation and organizational meetings that laid the groundwork for the legislative session beginning January 11, 2027.

Organizational meetings serve as the official kickoff for a new legislative term. Although largely administrative, they help determine how the chamber will function in the months ahead. Lawmakers elect chamber leaders, establish procedural rules, assign committee memberships, and complete logistical preparations before formal lawmaking begins.

The Arkansas Senate worked late into the evening to complete its organizational agenda, including one of its most important tasks: selecting a President Pro Tempore.

After three rounds of voting, senators elected Joshua Bryant. The position carries significant authority within the chamber. The President Pro Tempore presides over Senate proceedings when the Lieutenant Governor is absent, maintains order during debate, determines voice votes, and announces final vote results on legislation.

The office also places Bryant second in Arkansas' gubernatorial line of succession, behind the Lieutenant Governor. In addition, the President Pro Tempore may convene the Senate between sessions, serve as a key representative in negotiations with the House and executive branch, and appoint members to legislative task forces and commissions.

Senators also selected the chamber's leadership team for the upcoming General Assembly.

Tyler Dees was chosen as Majority Leader, while Clint Penzo was selected as Majority Whip. On the Democratic side, Stephanie Flowers was named Minority Leader and Clarke Tucker was selected as Minority Whip.

As Majority Leader, Dees will serve as the chief advocate for the majority party's agenda on the Senate floor. The position includes helping develop policy strategy, coordinating debate, and working with Senate leadership and committee chairs to schedule legislation and manage the chamber's calendar. Like all senators, he will continue representing and voting on behalf of his district.

Flowers, as Minority Leader, will perform similar duties for the minority party, serving as its principal spokesperson while helping shape legislative strategy and coordinate debate.

The Senate's whips also play critical roles in day-to-day legislative operations. Penzo and Tucker will be responsible for gauging support for legislation within their respective caucuses, a practice commonly known as "whipping votes." They survey members before significant votes to determine support levels and communicate leadership priorities.

Whips also work to ensure party members are present during important floor proceedings and quorum calls. In addition, they serve as a bridge between leadership and rank-and-file lawmakers by relaying concerns, gathering feedback, and helping maintain communication within the caucus. They may also assist or stand in for party leaders when necessary.

Beyond leadership elections, organizational meetings allow lawmakers to finalize committee assignments and complete orientation activities that help prepare both new and returning senators for the session ahead.

With leadership positions filled and preliminary business completed, the Senate has taken the first formal steps toward the 2027 legislative session, setting the stage for the policy debates and legislative priorities that will shape Arkansas in the years ahead.



Staff Photos

NOW ON DISPLAY AT CITY HALL ... A unique quilt was recently donated to the City of Murfreesboro by the Sweeden family in memory of Jerry Sweeden, a Murfreesboro native and "forever Rattler." The quilt depicts the history of the town and also commemorates the 2003 unveiling of the Arkansas State Quarter, which features a diamond, and the ceremony that took place at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. The Sweeden family includes wife, Barbara, and daughter, Brandy.

Obituaries

Shawn Paul DeLeon, 49, Delight

Shawn Paul DeLeon, age 49, of Delight, Arkansas passed away on Saturday, November 9, 2026, in Delight, Arkansas. He was born December 30, 1976, in Houston, Texas the son of the late David DeLeon and Vicki Wilson.

Shawn was a man of great faith who loved the Lord and attended the Delight Church of Christ. He was a proud United States Marine and was one of the nicest and kindest guys that you could ever meet with a great heart.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandparents Beryl and John Wilson.

Survivors include his son Jacob DeLeon; his uncle Mark Wilson; as well as many other family and friends.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

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As we salute all veterans, remembering the first American Veterans

BY BRUCE WESTERMAN
U.S. Representative (AR-04)

Long before the structured regimen of our national military, the successful birth of our nation depended on ordinary citizens who left behind their jobs as farmers and tradesmen to take up arms and fight for liberty. As we honor Veterans Day recent;y, we remember not only the cost of freedom, but also our nation's first veterans, who gave us the opportunity to celebrate 250 proud years of America.

Camped in the Hudson Valley, the troops began to lose morale as they endured illness, freezing temperatures, a shortage of food supply, and a lack of winter clothing. On top of that, the Confederation Congress had failed to fund the military, leaving them without pay.

By March 1783, our chance for victory was threatened not only by British troops, but also by a mutiny led by our own officers due to widespread unrest among the soldiers.

Stepping in at just the right moment, General George Washington met with the concerned officers to address their grievances and encourage them to continue leading the fight for freedom. He reminded them that he understood their hardships firsthand and promised to do all he could to persuade the Confederation Congress to fund the military in a timely manner.

In this moment, Washington's character was on full display. Instead of pushing back completely against these officers, he admitted that some of their concerns were understandable, but he also urged them to give the elected officials their confidence and time to solve the financial problem instead of opening the "floodgates of civil discontent."

In a sobering and candid moment that perfectly captured just how much General Washington had given himself to the war, he apologized to the officers after pausing to put on his new pair of spectacles. He said, "Gentlemen, you must pardon me. I have grown gray in your service and now find myself growing blind." This moment caused many of the officers to weep as they were reminded so vividly how much the General had endured alongside them.

Washington was ultimately successful in bringing an end to what is now called the Newburgh Conspiracy and moved onward to lead the army to victory. This moment in history reminds us just how much our nation's first veterans endured to ensure we could be a free nation. Their service defined American grit, fierce resolve, and the unwavering belief that liberty is worth fighting for.

Ronald Reagan famously reminded us that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. He said, "We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

In light of last week's Veterans Day, I invite you to join me in thanking the servicemen and women who continue to protect that freedom today. May we remember to always do our part to pass it on.

If you or someone you know is having trouble with the VA, the Social Security Administration or any other federal agency, please visit my website at Westerman.house.gov or contact my Hot Springs office at (501) 609-9796. My office is here to help, and we stand ready to be of service to you.

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VETERANS DAY PROGRAM • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11















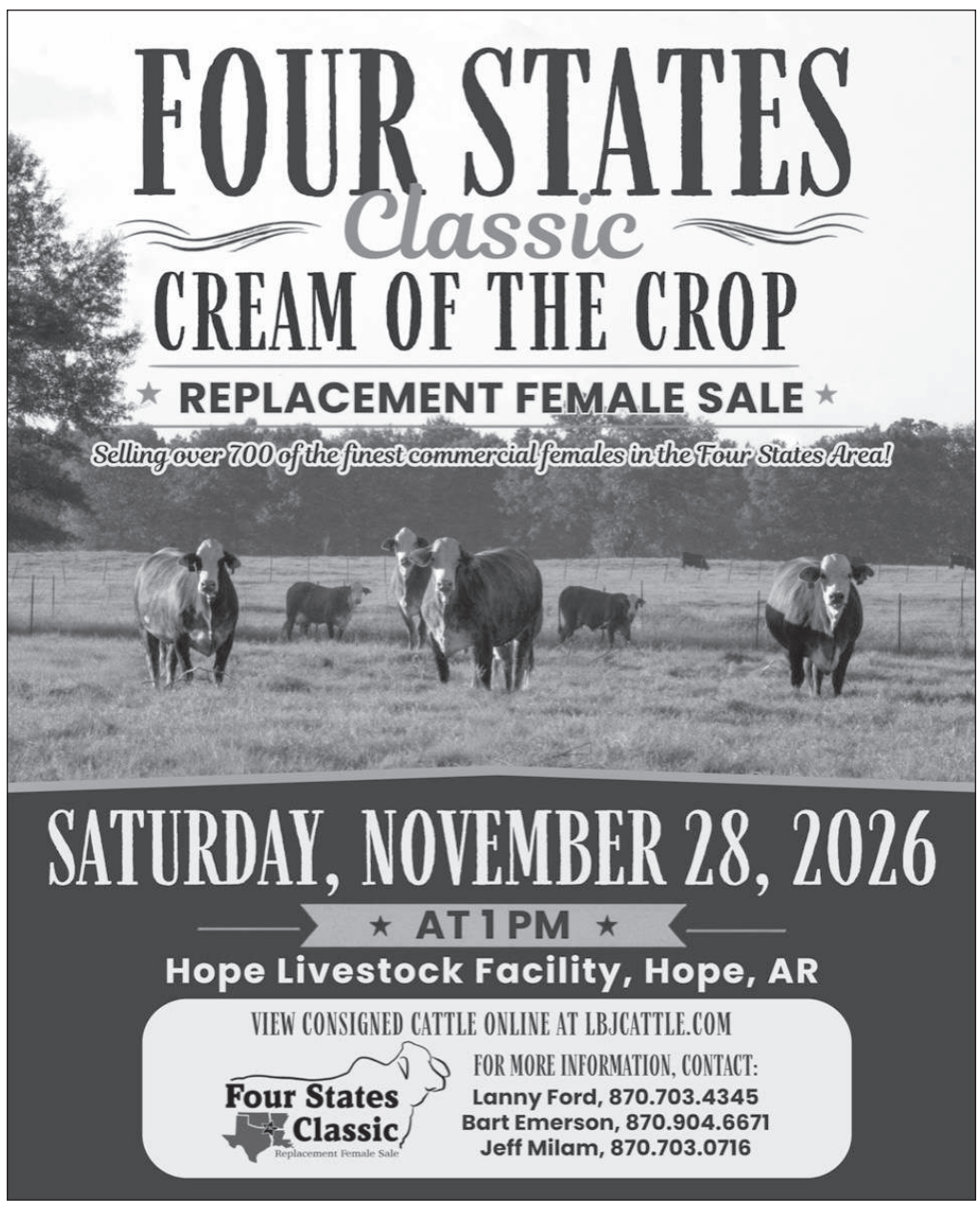
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