

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

\$1.00  
USPC 103-230

Serving South Pike County, Arkansas Since 1975

◆◆◆ Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park ◆◆◆



Submitted photos/Pike County Archives

**GEORGE WILTON BALLARD**

## Footprints of a Pike County hero

BY BOB WILLIAMS  
Pike County Veterans Service Officer

PIKE COUNTY -- As Memorial Day approaches on May 26, many Americans are making plans as to where they will spend the weekend and what they will be cooking on the grill, but let us not forget the true meaning of this day.

We are to remember this day for those of our great nation who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms! Many who were to never return home to their families and enjoy the blessings of liberty that we far too often take for granted.

We want to honor one of our own, whose name is forever engraved into the memorial marker that stands on the corner of our County Courthouse Square. He not only bears remembrance for his ultimate sacrifice, he also bears remembrance as a Prisoner of War, and a survivor of the Bataan Death March, who never experienced freedom from his Japanese captors, thus to never return home to his family after the war:

Technician Fourth Grade George Wilton Ballard was born October 30, 1916. He was the grandson of George Washington Ballard, Sr. and son of George Washington Ballard, Jr. and Jane Alvin Cocke, of Murfreesboro.

In order to prevent some unforeseen confusion within the family between grandfather "G.W. Ballard", father "G.W. Ballard" and now son "G.W. Ballard"; the younger "G.W." was lovingly referred to as "Bill". No one among the family recalls who within the family or friends "Bill" may have been, but the name stuck, thus eliminating a potential family crisis.

To honor his memory, I will refer to G.W. as "Bill" in telling his story.

"Bill" had actually served two enlistments in the Army. The first was from February 10, 1936 as a machine gunner with the 2nd Cavalry, at Fort Riley, Kansas. His enlistment was cut short on May 15, 1937 due to the necessity to come home and assist with his ailing father.

By the time his father's health had improved, the war in Europe with Germany was escalating and America's indirect involvement was growing. "Bill", like most young men of this time, felt the need to re-enlist in the Army to defend our country in case things became worse. "Bill" re-enlisted at the age of 22 years old in the United States Army in November of 1938,

**HERO** Continued on Page 2

## Harvest Food Bank to distribute locally

NASHVILLE -- Harvest Regional Food Bank will distribute TEFAP USDA Food Boxes directly from their truck on Wednesday, May 14, from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. or until all boxes have been distributed.

Recipients must come inside the Municipal building located at 204 E. Main St. to check in. Once checked in, recipients will go back to their vehicle and proceed to line up along 2nd Avenue and Owens Street towards First United Methodist Church.

Food boxes will be loaded directly into vehicles from the back of the Municipal building. Next Mobile Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3.

Recipients must bring photo identification or proof of address to verify they are residents of Pike County. Distribution is limited to one box per household and two households per vehicle.

Vehicles start lining up early, so it is recommend participants get there early.

# A Murfreesboro miracle

### Local businessman announces plans to build grocery store

MURFREESBORO -- After approximately a year and half without a grocery store, residents of Murfreesboro will no longer live in a food desert and will soon be able to bring home the bacon without having to travel outside of town.

Local businessman Jack Bonds has announced that a grocery store will likely be constructed across South Washington Avenue from Pawn Kings in Murfreesboro.

Bonds said the plan is to have a full-fledged grocery store featuring a fresh meat market and fully stocked produce section.

"It will be incumbent on the residents of the town to shop there as much as they can -- in order for this to be a success, we can't have everyone still going out of town to purchase their groceries. As with all of our town's businesses, local trade is essential for both the business owners and the residents of our great small town.

He added that a grocery store is important for the long term success of Murfreesboro.

"It is also an important segment in the goal of retaining population and keeping the town alive, ultimately. The population is declining, and we need to draw a line in the sand in order to reverse the trend of downward growth. The addition of a grocery store to Murfreesboro is one of the vital steps toward making that goal a success."

In another point toward that line of thinking, Bonds said that he deliberated using an old building or building a new edifice, and opted

for the latter to better help with the overall look of the town. Along with the new building, the area will be nicely landscaped and attractive for the residents of the area.

Bonds thanked First State Bank for being "exceedingly helpful" in financing the project, a fact the truly appreciates.

He also was complementary of Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal for not only his long-standing effort to get a new grocer in town, but also for his full support of this project going forward.

Construction on the store, which will be named Chimney Rock Grocery, will begin as soon as bids are gathered from general contractors. The name is derived from the local landmark on Lake Greeson.

"We wanted to name it after something important to the community, and everyone who grew up here knows Chimney Rock."

Bonds said ultimately he is looking to help the community thrive with the effort.

"We are excited about serving the solid, hard-working people of our community with a home-grown and home-owned business. Those are favorable aspects for the local area -- supporting each other, the local schools, and chamber. We will be a real asset to everyone involved. It's not about making money as much as it is being a steward for the community. As my grandmother always said, if you want a good neighbor, you have to be a good neighbor."

Mayor O'Neal beamed when asked about his take on the addition to the town.

"I don't know what's the right word ... excited?" he said with a laugh.

He said it had been a long 17 months since the fire gutted the former Cash Savers grocery store, and after many visits and calls to attract a store to Murfreesboro it was beyond refreshing that it looked like it was finally going to happen.

"I've met with people and groups since the fire -- of all topics I have dealt with as mayor, this is by far the number one discussed issue ... more than all the rest put together."

He echoed Bond's statement that the city needed to take advantage of the store when it arrives.

"I'd like to encourage all the town's residents to use the store as much as possible," he said, acknowledging that many people had become accustomed to shopping in other area towns and that Wal-Mart now delivers to Murfreesboro. "Please use the [local] grocery store -- be kind enough to take advantage of this opportunity."

He agreed that should the venture fail because of lack of local patronage, it would be unlikely that another grocer would invest in the town.

"We need to utilize it as best we can and shop at home," O'Neal concluded.

## Property dispute leads to charges against local couple

MURFREESBORO -- A local couple is facing felony theft and criminal mischief charges following an alleged property dispute last month.

Charged are James David Humphry, 49, who has a Delight address in court records, and Jennifer D. Smith, 47, of Murfreesboro. Both are charged in Pike County Circuit Court with theft of property and first-degree criminal mischief. Smith is also facing a misdemeanor charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution that stem from a jailhouse call she reportedly made to Humphry on the day of her arrest.

Smith plead innocent to the charges Monday, May 5 and was ordered to return to court on May 19 with an attorney.

The Pike County Sheriff's Department is currently seeking Humphry's whereabouts. Humphry is currently a fugitive on parole and is also facing an absconding warrant, which will be separate from his existing felony charges.

According to case information, Pike Investigator Jason McDonald was called on April 22

to Highway 19 North outside of Murfreesboro concerning a possible theft. McDonald met property owner Aspen Harris and her mother, Kristie Harris. The younger Harris stated she had recently purchased the property from Smith, closing the deal on April 9.

Ms. Harris reported that after the deal closed, she had observed Smith and Humphry on the property, removing items from a shop building. Among the items were a hot water heater, a wall-mounted HVAC unit, electrical wiring and circuit breakers, all of which the new owner said were not subject to removal under any agreement.

Ms. Harris also alleged she has had "ongoing issues" with Smith after the property deal and claimed Smith had unauthorized individuals cut down trees and dismantle a wooden privacy fence and a chainlink fence. The estimated cost of the damage was \$3,000.

Furthermore, Ms. Harris stated she had once discovered her shop had been locked without her consent and that her security cameras had

been moved. She said Humphry's motorcycle was reportedly parked in the shop at the time.

The additional charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution against Smith were filed in Pike County District Court on April 30.

According to case information, Investigator McDonald, along with the Murfreesboro Police Department had went to Smith's home on Main Street to execute outstanding felony warrants for her and Humphry. Smith was immediately taken into custody but she said Humphry was at work and did not provide any more information.

While in custody at the county jail, Smith allegedly made a phone call to Humphry, informing him of his warrant and telling him to "get out of Dodge and hide." She also reportedly instructed Humphry on disabling tracking service on their electronic devices and stated that once she bonded out that she would find him and they would both "get the \*&%\$ out of here."



Submitted photos/USACE

**LAKE SIDE VIEW OF NARROWS DAM WORK ...** After halting hydropower production in December 2023, work on Narrows Dam's trash rack system is now underway and will take approximately seven months to complete, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. The Narrows Dam Day Use Area pavilion and swim beaches at Lake Greeson are now closed to the public and with access to the area to be restricted until work is complete on the dam's trash racks. The "No Boats" area in front of the dam has also been extended to include the entire work area. Also, a "No Ski" area will be established to help reduce wave action within the work area.

## Senior Lady Rattlers take track district title, Rattlers fifth

CADDO HILLS -- The Murfreesboro track squads participated in the 7-2A district meet on April 29 at Caddo Hills High School.

The Murfreesboro Lady Rattlers won the meet with 246.50 points, with the Dierks Lady Outlaws in second place with 163 points. The teams that followed were Caddo Hills 129 points, Mountain Pine 38, Spring Hill 31, Fore-

man 30, Cutter Morning Star 2.5 and Horatio 2.

The Murfreesboro Rattlers finished in fifth place with 71 points. Caddo Hills won the event with 202 points.

Other team scores on the boys' side included Spring Hill 153, Dierks 121, Foreman 81, Horatio 24, Mountain Pine 18 and Cutter Morning Star 16.

Athletes finishing in points position (top 8 places per event) included

**MHS LADY RATTLEERS**  
4x100 Meter Relay Team -- first place, 53.08  
4x200 Meter Relay Team -- fourth place, 2:04.96

**TRACK** Continued on Page 2

## HERO Continued from Page 1

and was soon assigned to the Service Company, 31st Infantry as a truck driver. He was quickly stationed in the Philippines under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, in America's efforts to help train the Philippine armed forces under their new government.

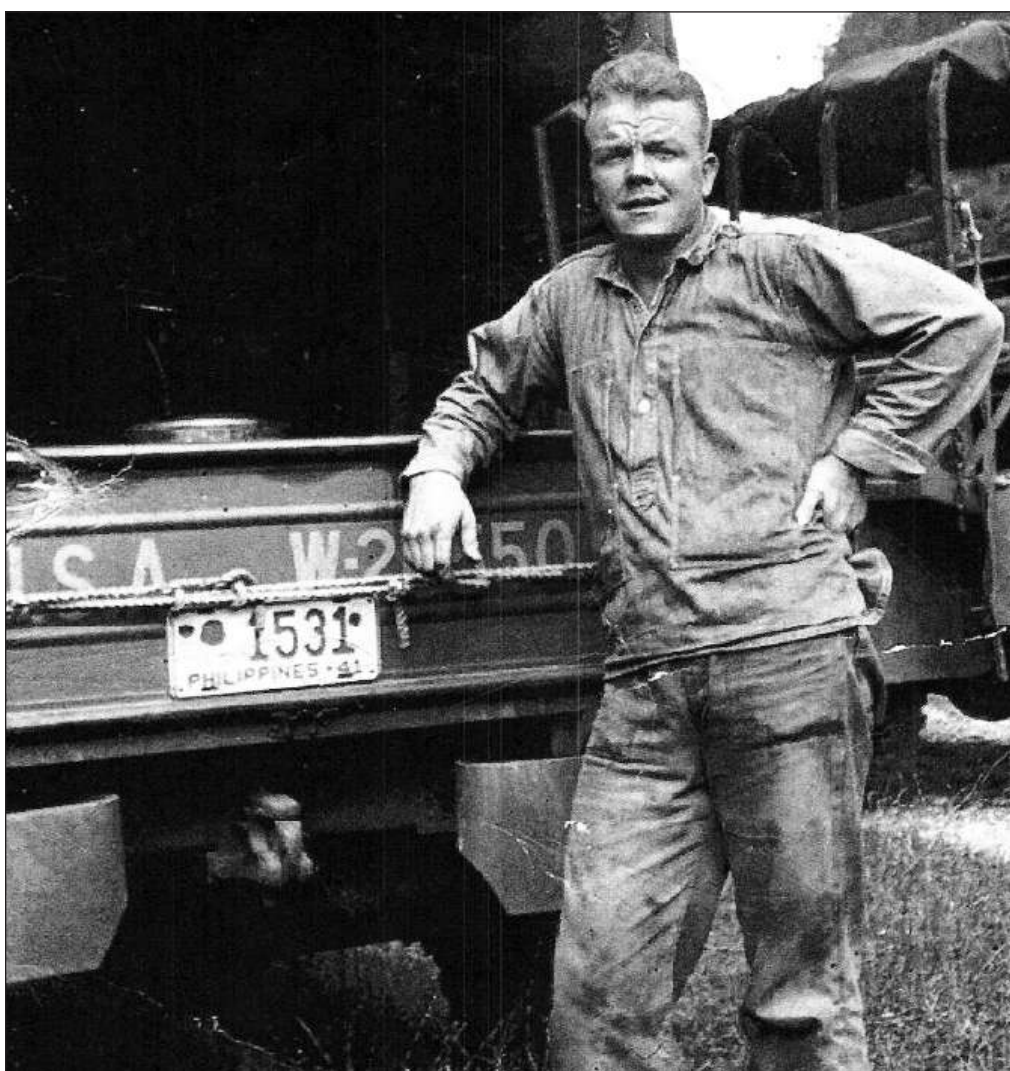
Soon, following the unexpected Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941 and America declaring war against Japan on December 8, the Philippines too came under attack. The Japanese saw the Philippines as a crucial, strategic naval and air location that would bring them one step closer to their future war effort in control of the South Pacific.

The United States too understood the importance of this strategic position, and by having approximately 20,000 American and 100,000 Filipino troops positioned in that location it was an absolute necessity to protect it. American troops, alongside of Filipino troops, defended the islands of Luzon, Corregidor, and numerous harbor-defense fortifications. Nevertheless, the Japanese swiftly and decisively attacked the Philippines.

"Bill" and his fellow soldiers were in the fight of their lives and discovering that they were not equipped and prepared as was thought. Thousands of them were being killed in the conflict and they were losing ground and being forced into parts of the jungle that were mosquito and malaria infested, along with other jungle related diseases and hazards. After what the Japanese thought would only take 4 weeks, actually turned into almost four months of intense fighting.

The Americans were now out of ammunition, food, and fresh water to sustain their fight. The months of continuous battle under these conditions, and the overwhelmingly well supplied superior forces of Japan, George Wilton Ballard, "Bill", along with the surviving U.S. and Filipino soldiers were forced to surrender on April 1, 1942, becoming prisoners of war to the Japanese.

"Bill" and his fellow soldiers faced horrifying conditions and treatment as POWs at the hand of the Japanese. They were severely beaten, deprived of food, water, and medical attention along with constant exposure to the extreme environment. Those who did not die from their injuries or illness were typically killed because



Submitted photos/Pike County Archives

### GEORGE WILTON BALLARD

they were considered useless burdens to the Japanese.

But, the next test of "Bill's" grit and determination came shortly after their capture, when he and his fellow soldiers were forced to march over five days under arduous conditions, in an already weakened and sickly state, 65 miles through the scorching Philippine jungle, torrential rain and humidity, with little to no food or fresh water, only to be imprisoned in horrific POW camps throughout the island to be used as slave laborers for the duration of their captivity.

Around ten thousand men died during the march; one thousand American soldiers and nine thousand who were Filipino. Those who stumbled or fell were either severely beaten, shot, or beheaded by their Japanese captors. "Bill" and 2,160 other American POWs were held in PW Camp #4, (AKA: Camp O'Donnell). This camp was recorded as being notorious for its harsh conditions and brutal treatment by their Japanese captors.

"Bill's" capture was first reported to the Red Cross on May 7, 1942. He was held prisoner by the Japanese for a total of two years and seven

months; which was one of the longest durations of captivity recorded in the history of the war.

During General MacArthur's return to the Philippines on October 20, 1944, the Japanese realized that the Americans were returning with an overwhelming force, so they began taking all the surviving POWs and loading them onto unmarked transport ships with the intentions of taking them to a Japanese camp on an island located up North named Formosa; what we know today as Taiwan.

These ships were called "Hell Ships" by the POWs who had lived through their experience onboard as they were transported to Japanese controlled POW camps off of the Philippine Islands. A total of 1,775 POWs, including "Bill" Ballard, were loaded onto the unmarked Japanese transport ship named the Arisan Maru. The ship sat in port with the prisoners packed like sardines deep within the ship's cargo hold for 2 weeks before leaving the bay late at night to evade being spotted by American forces. However, it was spotted 200 miles off the western coast of the Philippines in the South China Sea by an American submarine patrol.

Unaware the ship contained over 1,700 American POWs onboard, the submarine torpedoed the Arisan Maru five times, sending it to a dark, watery grave. Six of the Americans were able to escape in a life boat but were soon captured again by a Japanese patrol boat. Three others were eventually rescued by an American Naval vessel, therefore only nine of the 1,775 prisoners survived.

The body of "Bill" Ballard was never recovered, and he is counted as not only among the WW-II War Dead, but also among the POW's that have never returned home. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action under intense enemy fire on January 24, 1942 during the siege by Japanese forces of Abucay Hacienda, Bataan, Philippine Islands, as he and one other soldier risked their lives to make repairs to damaged vehicles amidst intense enemy fire and mortar attacks in order to evacuate troops and supplies from being captured by advancing Japanese forces. He was also awarded the Purple Heart.

Contributing researcher for the article was Gary Graves of the Pike County Archives.

## TRACK Continued from Page 1

4x400 Meter Relay Team – first place, 4:38.00  
 4x800 Meter Relay Team – second place, 11:21.50  
 Ava Cox – second place 1600 meter run, 6:37.25; fifth place 3200 meter run, 16:02.75  
 Isabella Frazier – fifth place 100 meter dash, 13.86; third place 400 meter dash, 1:09.05  
 Macy Gills – first place 100 meter dash, 13.19; first place 200 meter dash, 27.12; fourth place long jump, 14'6"; second place triple jump, 29'8"  
 Kinslee Howell – third place shot put, 26'7"  
 Arianna Jones – fourth place 100 meter dash, 13.83; third place 200 meter dash, 29.47; sixth place high jump, 4'4"; second place long jump 14'10.5"; first place triple jump, 30'8.5"  
 Josey Jones – second place 800 meter run, 2:43.51; second place pole vault, 7'6"; fifth place triple jump, 27'11.5"  
 Gracie McMillian – fifth place discus, 70'6.5"  
 Ma'Shaylia Morris – third place 100 meter dash, 13.43; second place 200 meter dash, 27.22; third place high jump, 4'8"; first place long jump, 16'2"  
 Kinleigh Mounts – third place 800 meter run, 2:48.31; third place 3200 meter run, 15:52.86  
 Jordyn Nance – sixth place 400 meter dash, 1:12.12  
 Payton Niles – fifth place high jump, 4'6"  
 Mason Phillips – fourth place 100 meter hurdles, 18.99; fourth place 300 meter hurdles, 57.53; second place high jump, 4'10"; first place pole vault, 7'6"

Charleigh Wheeler – first place 100 meter hurdles, 18.09; second place 300 meter hurdles, 52.52; sixth place long jump, 13'7"  
 McKinlee White – fourth place pole vault, 6'6"

### MHS RATTLERS

4x100 meter relay team – sixth place, 53.00  
 4x200 meter relay team – sixth place, 1:45.32  
 4x400 meter relay team – third place, 4:02.46  
 4x800 meter relay team – second place, 9:31.76  
 Lucas Carey – first place 800 meter run, 2:15.33  
 Corbin Hoover – fifth place shot put, 35'1"  
 Ethan Jones – fourth place 1600 meter run, 5:36.74; fourth place 3200 meter run, 13:23.76  
 Landen Jones – seventh place 3200 meter run, 15:37.74  
 Cooper Lowery – fifth place pole vault, 9'0"  
 Albert Quiroz – sixth place shot put, 34'9"  
 Cesar Reyes – fourth place 400 meter dash, 56.29  
 Caleb Terrell – third place 110 meter hurdles, 18.82; second place 300 meter hurdles, 46.89

## Attendees to Crater can 'Gemboree' on June 21

MURFREESBORO – The Crater of Diamonds State Park has announced the date for their twelfth annual Prospectors' Gemboree. The event was created to celebrate diamond miners in Arkansas.

On Saturday, June 21, the festivities will include the Miners' Treasure Hunt where attendees can search the field for prizes.

Additionally, a Famous Crater Diamonds Exhibition will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be games for all ages.

All activities that day will be free with the purchase of normal mine admission of \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6-12. Children under the age of six are admitted for free.

To pick up a full schedule of activities on the day of the event, visit the Crater of Diamonds, call (870) 285-3113 or email craterofdiamonds@arkansas.com for more information.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARA JEANETTE HARVEY, Deceased Case No.: 55PR-23-38

To: ASHLEY EASTERLY, aka ASHLEY HEDGES 127 Resource Drive, Sheridan, Arkansas, 72150

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF CLARA JEANETTE HARVEY, Deceased: Please take notice, that on May 30, 2025, at 9:00 am, Petitioners, Mike and Mary Dycus, by and through counsel, Tisha L. Martin, Attorney at Law, Nashville, Arkansas, will bring on to be heard the attached Petition for Probate of Will, Clara Jeanette Harvey, deceased. The hearing will be held in the Pike County Circuit Court, located at 305 Industrial Park Dr., Murfreesboro, Arkansas, 71958, with the Honorable Bryan L. Chesshir presiding. Failure to appear in court on the above matter may affect any rights you may have in this cause.

Prepared by:  
 Tisha L. Martin  
 PO Box 1066, Nashville, Arkansas, 71852 Ph: (870) 686-0074;  
 Fax: (870) 455-0045 [tmartin@martinlawark.com](mailto:tmartin@martinlawark.com)  
 (t.m. 166w. 44,45)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARA JEANETTE HARVEY, Deceased Case No.: 55PR-23-38

To: Damon Vaught & Cameron Vaught C/O Dora Whitaker 329 Grant 561 Sheridan, AR. 72150

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF CLARA JEANETTE HARVEY, Deceased: Please take notice, that on May 30, 2025, at 9:00 am, Petitioners, Mike and Mary Dycus, by and through counsel, Tisha L. Martin, Attorney at Law, Nashville, Arkansas, will bring on to be heard the attached Petition for Probate of Will, Clara Jeanette Harvey, deceased. The hearing will be held in the Pike County Circuit Court, located at 305 Industrial Park Dr., Murfreesboro, Arkansas, 71958, with the Honorable Bryan L. Chesshir presiding. Failure to appear in court on the above matter may affect any rights you may have in this cause.

Prepared by:  
 Tisha L. Martin  
 PO Box 1066, Nashville, Arkansas, 71852  
 Ph: (870) 686-0074; Fax: (870) 455-0045  
[tmartin@martinlawark.com](mailto:tmartin@martinlawark.com)  
 (t.m., 168w. 44,45)

## LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

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

Send Letters to P.O. Box 550, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or e-mail to [mdiamond.editor@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond.editor@windstream.net)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SHELBY JEAN NEAL 55 PR-25-21  
**NOTICE**

Last known address of decedent: 411 Webb St Delight, Arkansas 71940

On April 22, 2025, an Affidavit for Collection of Small Estate by Distributee was filed with respect to the Estate of Shelby Jean Neal, deceased, with the Clerk of the Probate Division of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. §28-41-101. The legal description of the real property listed in the Affidavit is as follows:

Lot "A" in Block 15 of the C.R. Burnham Subdivision of Baird's Addition to the Town of Delight, Arkansas per plats thereof recorded in Book 42 page 244 and Book "0" page 528 of the Deed Records of Pike County, Arkansas.

All persons having claims against the Estate must exhibit them, properly verified, to the Distributee or her attorney within three months from the date of first publication of this Notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the Estate. Provided, claims for injury or death caused by negligence of the decedent shall be filed within six months from the date of the first publication of the notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in such estate.

This notice first published on April 30, 2025

The name and address of the Distributee or attorney is:

Peggy Stone, by  
 Brasel Law Firm, PLLC  
 Aaron R Brasel  
 Post Office Box 813  
 Nashville, AR 71852

(a.b. 259w., 43,44)

## Murfreesboro Diamond

Your Hometown Newspaper since 1975

Located in the County Seat of Pike County • Murfreesboro, Arkansas

Home of the Crater of Diamonds State Park  
 Little Missouri River • Lake Greason

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

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: \$40 per year in area: Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Clark, Nevada & Montgomery counties; \$55 per year elsewhere.**

**\$30 for 6-months in area; \$35 for 6-months elsewhere.**  
**College Subscriptions- \$25 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:  
 Murfreesboro Diamond  
 P.O. Box 550  
 Murfreesboro, AR 71958

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

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
 FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.**

# What is 4-H and how can your child benefit

Submitted Article

MURFREESBORO -- 4-H is a youth development organization conducted by the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service that focuses on empowering young people to reach their full potential through hands-on, experiential learning.

It's the largest youth development program in the US, with over six million participants. The 4-H name refers to the organization's focus on "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health," which are

the cornerstones of the program.

4-H is designed to prepare young people to step up to the challenges in their communities and provide youth with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

The core elements of 4-H include youth leadership, youth-adult partnerships, life skills learning, and community service. 4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. 4-H members complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and citizenship in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

# Roy cemetery seeks donations for upkeep

ROY -- For those with friends and loved ones buried at the Roy Cemetery, caretakers are reminding people that the mowing season is again upon us and donations are critically needed.

Upkeep of the cemetery is made possible and wholly funded by local donations.

Roy Cemetery fund donations can be made at Murfreesboro's Diamond State Bank or can be mailed to Joan Hoover, 2306 Highway 301 South, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958.

**Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond:**  
 People's Pharmacy • C-Stop • EZ Mart  
 Tobacco & More • Gypsy Underground

*Happy Mother's Day*  
 A MOTHER IS LIKE A FLOWER, EACH ONE BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE  
 STOP BY AND SEE OUR SELECTION OF MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS  
*Flowers Done Wright*  
 201 S. Washington • Murfreesboro

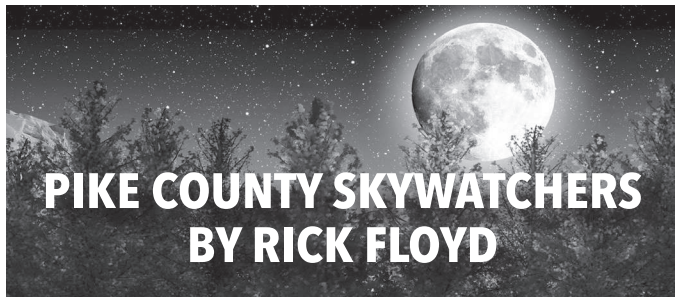
**SUDOKU**  
 Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**  
**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** 1-855-576-5653  
 With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCS 0002099 0983446

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

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

**UAMS HOUSE CALL**  
 Dr. 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: Why is it important to control blood pressure?**  
**A:** Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the walls of the arteries. The blood carries oxygen and nutrients throughout the body and assists in removing waste products. Consistently high blood pressure can damage blood vessels as well as the brain, heart and kidneys. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 48.1% of adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure.  
 Blood pressure is measured in two numbers — systolic (upper number), which is the pressure when the heart beats, and diastolic (lower number) which is the pressure when the heart rests. Normal blood pressure is considered to be less than 120/80. A reading of 130/80 or higher is considered high blood pressure.  
 High blood pressure often does not present symptoms. Risk factors for high blood pressure include age, family history, consuming foods high in sodium, being overweight or obese and tobacco use. Complications from high blood pressure include heart attacks, heart failure, kidney disease and strokes.  
 Keeping active, reducing sodium intake, not using tobacco and maintaining a healthy weight are ways to manage blood pressure. Medications such as calcium channel blockers or diuretics also may be prescribed. See your health care provider if you have questions and to develop a treatment plan.  
 Email your health questions to housecall@uams.edu.



# Mining diamonds in the heavens above

The spring night sky brings a very large diamond to view over Pike County.

This asterism (a recognizable pattern of stars in the sky that is not an official constellation) is formed by four stars and spans five constellations. It was purportedly named the Great Diamond by Robert H. Baker in 1954.

The shape is traced by the star Spica, the bottom of the diamond and Arcturus (follow the arc of the Big Dipper's handle to this very bright star). From Arcturus find the fainter star Cor Caroli in the constellation Canes Venatici (Latin meaning hunting dogs), then finally find Denebola the bright star in the tail of Leo the lion.

Diamonds are usually not easily found, and this one may require some digging to find. Review the constellations in question then look to the southeast and south after dark to find it. Once found those living near the Crater of Diamonds State Park will most likely see the precious gem, but others might see this asterism as a herald of spring training and the coming of baseball season. Whatever.

The three brightest stars of the diamond, Spica, Arcturus and Denebola form a near perfect equilateral triangle known unofficially as the Spring Triangle.

There are real diamonds in space. Discovered in meteorites, thin, very hard diamonds called lonsdaleite are theorized to be formed by the heat and pressures generated by the collisions of asteroids and planets. Also, NASA discovered a carbon planet 40 light-years from Earth that has been compressed by heat and pressure into one big diamond, five times the size of Earth.

A Soviet spacecraft, launched in 1972, was a probe to explore Venus which failed to get beyond low Earth orbit and is now about to come down. It is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere around May 9 or 10. At this writing there is no precise data on where it will land, so keep an eye out for it. Much of it is expected to survive re-entry providing some collectible Soviet space junk to a lucky few.

May's full moon is known as the Flower Moon (as in the movie title), and will occur on May 12-13.

*In Loving Memory*  
 There was once a man with great talent that God gave him, everyone loved this man! Oh, he had treasures that no one knew about ... he was a simple man with so much love to give. What people didn't know he was indeed a song writer as well. God knew this very well but he chose the other ... he was a carver of wood and a painter of beautiful things for people to enjoy. When he did he put a smile on their faces that made his day. Yes, he was a carver of wood -- but he loved his family the most. He had his disappointments in life, but good times too, till one night Jesus came to him, "would you like to come with me and work in my Kingdom?" but this man loved his family so much that Jesus smiled at him and these are the very words he told him "don't worry they will be taken care of." So, this man turned to Jesus and said, "I'm ready to go and work for you in your Kingdom." Now his life on earth is finished, but he will never be forgotten for so many of the works he did and when they think of him a smile comes to their faces and not tears.  
 So, this Johnce Parrish is working for Jesus in his Kingdom forever -- we may think he is gone, but his spirit lives on in Jesus Kingdom now.  
 In loving memory of Johnce Parrish  
 Now he puts a smile in Jesus' Kingdom  
 Psalms 23: 1-6 • Sissy Cummings

**Affordable health insurance for Arkansans.**  
 individual • family • health • dental  
**Lisa Chandler, agent**  
**Lisa Chandler Insurance**  
 Nashville  
 office: 870-845-5930  
 cell: 870-845-7728  
 Insurance # 38194  
 Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield  
 An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.  
 Soliciting agent only. Not authorized to issue policies. Available only to residents in Arkansas.

**LATIMER FUNERAL HOME**  
*Helping Families Connect, Honor & Remember*  
 BURIAL INSURANCE • MONUMENTS • PRE-NEED FUNERAL PLANS  
 NASHVILLE (870) 845-2233  
 MURFREESBORO (870) 285-2194  
 P.O. Box 298 Nashville, Arkansas 71852  
 1211 Anthony Ave., Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958  
 www.latimerfuneralhome.com

# Obituaries

## Sarah Louella Brock Terrell, 101



Sarah Louella Brock Terrell, age 101, passed away at her home in Murfreesboro, Arkansas on April 28, 2025. She was born on Sept 3, 1923 in Murfreesboro to parents Lula Mae Henderson Brock and William Grover Brock.

She was the proud owner of Murfreesboro Hardware which was established in 1917 by the Terrell family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Fielding Terrell, three brothers, Leon, Grover and James Brock and one sister, Ruth Brock Tabor.

She is survived by five children: Ray Terrell and wife, Ouida of Pascagoula, Mississippi, Jean Terrell Shahan and husband, Howard, Plano, Texas, Sarita Terrell Floyd and

husband, Mike, Murfreesboro, Arkansas and Phil and Lance Terrell, Murfreesboro, Arkansas. She has 14 grandchildren: Renee Terrell Threlfall, Becca Terrell Barber, Michael Terrell, Matthew Terrell, Robert Shahan, Brian Shahan, Gina Shahan Killion, Sara Terrell Branch, Ande Terrell Eckert, Lea Terrell, Anna Terrell, Ashtin Hamilton, Randy Floyd, Crystal Floyd White. She has 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025 at Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Funeral services for Mrs. Terrell began at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro. Interment followed in the Brocktown Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

In Lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Brocktown Cemetery, P.O. Box 516, Murfreesboro, Ark 71958. You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

## Winston Glen Humphry, 84



Winston Glen Humphry was born on November 26, 1940, in Stelltown, AR to Ertice Cecil and Bertha Marie Bell Humphry. He left this life and entered into the presence of the Lord on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the age of 84 years, 5 months, and 7 days.

His cherished family includes his wife of 56 years, Kattie Ellen Stark Humphry; his children

Dawn Humphry (Thom Copeland) of Nashville; Chandra Kirkham (Jim) of Delight; Henry Humphry (deceased); Heather Cox (Jay) of Hot Springs; and Silas Humphry, of Delight; 14 grandchildren, Alexa and Edie Copeland, Katelyn Kirkham Gentry (Marquis), River, Seth Henry, Zane, and Judah Humphry Kirkham, and Camri Lane (Cameron); Laila, Zayde, and Colt Winston Cox; Ava and Adley Humphry and Gabriel Humphry (deceased); three great-grandchildren, Donovan and Estrella Kirkham and baby Cullen Lane (in utero); seven siblings, Sarah Barrett (Dale), both deceased; Wayne Humphry (Joann), both deceased; Jimmy Humphry (Dale); Mike Humphry (Becky); Steve Humphry; Emma Lee (J.J., deceased), and Ricky Humphry (Theresa, deceased); and 25 nieces and nephews. His Great Dane, Bogart Humphry, and Kattie's cat, Cattie (whom he petted secretly but pretended to hate), will also miss him greatly.

He was known as "Red" by many community members and was affectionately called "Cullen," a childhood nickname, by his beloved wife.

He was a retired poultry and cattle farmer. Prior to beginning his farming venture in 1972, he worked as a pulpwood logger and worked intermittently as an electrician for Brown & Root over the years. He was a hard worker and good provider for his family.

He attended high school in Corvallis, Oregon and entered the U.S. Navy in 1958 at the age of 17 as a Kiddie Cruiser and served until 1961. He enjoyed his experiences and travels in the Navy and made many friends there. He served on board the USS Staten Island, an icebreaker, and the USS Hector, a repair ship, where he worked as a mechanic. This experience proved valuable in his daily life, as he could fix almost anything.

He was a witty man, making jokes and laughing with friends and new acquaintances alike. He loved to read Louis L'Amour books and watch old Western movies. He started every morning with a cup of coffee and refilled his cup throughout the day. He adapted quickly to new technology and enjoyed playing games and watching funny videos on his phone. His wife wonders what he'll do in heaven without it. One of his greatest joys in life were his grandchildren. He enjoyed attending their ballgames and special events and was faithful to do so.

A service will be held to honor his life on Wednesday, May 7 at 2:00 at the Latimer Chapel at 1211 Anthony Street in Murfreesboro. The family received friends on Tuesday evening at the same location.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

## SMALL ADS DO WORK ... YOU JUST READ ONE!

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



Submitted photos/Jillian Caldwell

**CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS ...** The Murfreesboro Rattler baseball team poses for a picture after last week's 4-2 win over Spring Hill that secured the team a 7-2A regular season conference title.

# Rattlers win pair of games, claim conference title

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers baseball team secured the conference regular season title last week with a pair of conference wins.

They opened the week last Monday with a 5-1 win at home over Mountain Pine.

Brody Maroon would lead the Rattlers with a 3/3 day that included a double and three RBIs.

Kale Burns would score once, steal a base and drive in a run for MHS. Carter Gilmer would have two hits, a steal and score twice. Lathan Compton had a hit, a steal and scored a run.

Isaac Kuykendall would pitch a complete game for the Rattlers, allowing nine hits over the seven innings and one earned run. He would walk none and strike out three.

Christopher Morgan would drive in the lone Mountain Pine

run in the first inning.

Then, on Thursday, the Rattlers would travel to Spring Hill to match up with the Bears in a defacto championship game that pitted the two top 7-2A squads with one conference loss each.

Murfreesboro would jump out to a 4-0 lead in the top half of the first inning, and Spring Hill plated a pair in the home half of the first. The game would see no runs scored for the rest of the seven inning game, allowing the Rattlers a 4-2 win.

Laytan Wilcher (stolen base) would drive in two runs with a double, scoring Gilmer and Maroon who had safely reached base prior.

Kooper Caldwell would drive in Wilcher a batter later, and Alex Bonner would complete the scoring binge with an RBI in scoring Caldwell (stolen base) before the first inning completed.

Andrew Carrilo would drive in a run, score one and hit a double to lead the Bears.

Maroon started the game for the Rattlers on the mound, going four innings in allowing two earned runs and five walks. He would strike out three batters.

Gilmer would come in to relieve Maroon, going the final three innings while allowing no hits with one walk.

Spring Hill started the game with Karson Hamilton on the mound, who went six innings while allowing five hits, four earned runs and three walks. He struck out nine Rattlers batters.

Mason Moore pitched the final inning for the Bears, walking two before striking out three batters.

The Rattlers end the regular season with a 20-7 record with a 13-1 mark in conference play.

# Minnesota resident find 3.81 carat diamond at Crater

MURFREESBORO -- David DeCook, a regular visitor to Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park from Stewartville, MN, recently spotted a glimmering 3.81-carat brown diamond while visiting the park with his family. It is the largest diamond registered so far this year.

DeCook and his brother Derek have been regular visitors to Crater of Diamonds State Park for years and have registered numerous diamonds, but this is the largest diamond either has found, so far.

About an hour after entering the park's 37.5-acre plowed diamond search area on Monday, April 21, DeCook made his way down a hill south of the park's south wash pavilion, where he spotted the diamond almost immediately.

He described seeing what he at first thought was a candy wrapper. Once he saw a metallic, tinfoil-like shine, he knew what he had found.

DeCook calmly walked over to where he had seen the diamond, picked it up, and inspected it before calling to his brother. Stirring up some natural sibling rivalry, David told Derek, "Oh, you're going to be mad once you see what I found!"

DeCook put the diamond in his pocket and returned to the park a few days later for park staff to identify and register the diamond.

The 3.81-carat diamond has a metallic, copper luster and a blocky, triangular shape. Many visitors choose to name the diamonds they find at Crater of Diamonds State Park. DeCook decided to name his gem The Duke Diamond, af-

ter his dog. DeCook states that at this time, he is not sure what he will do with his diamond.

The Duke Diamond is the largest found at the park since the 7.46-carat Carine Diamond, found in January 2024 by French visitor Julien Navas. It is the 217th diamond registered at the park in 2025.

The day before DeCook's visit, the park received nearly an inch of rain. According to Assistant Park Superintendent Waymon Cox, "April has been a very wet month at the park, with more than 12 inches of rain." Rainfall causes erosion in the search area, which often leads to an increase in surface finds. Cox states, "Many of the park's largest diamonds are found on top of the ground. As rain falls in the search area, it washes away the dirt and uncovers heavy rocks, minerals, and diamonds

near the surface."

As of this publication, park staff have registered 220 diamonds in 2025, weighing more than 32 carats total. Five registered diamonds have weighed more than one carat each.

### QUICK INFO ABOUT CRATER

Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow. The three most common colors found at Crater of Diamonds State Park are white, brown and yellow, in that order.

In total, over 75,000 diamonds have been unearthed at the Crater of Diamonds since the first diamonds were discovered in 1906 by John Huddleston, a farmer who owned the land long before it became an Arkansas State Park in 1972.

## 'Dear Preacher'

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL. The New Testament shares with us the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the entire world this gospel is the good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In I Timothy 1:11 the apostle Paul refers to this gospel in this way: according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

In order that we may inherit our heavenly home for all of eternity we must obey this glorious gospel of Christ Paul explained this gospel to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 15:1-4. Paul delivered to them that Christ died for our sins according to the scrip-



tures and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. He assures them it is the gospel by which they are saved by holding fast to the Word that was preached.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is the glorious gospel. We must hear it,

believe it, obey it, stand for it, and SPREAD it in order for us to be pleasing to God.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

We know from II Thessalonians 1:8 that God will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel.

It is our responsibility to preach the gospel to all creation to help save their souls.

Have a blessed week and spread the gospel through a daily life devoted to Jesus Christ!

*Paid Advertisement*

## MURFREESBORO SENIOR ADULT CENTER LUNCH MENU

### MONDAY, MAY 12

Salisbury steak, gravy w/peppers and onion, cauliflower & carrots, cabbage, roll, cookie

### TUESDAY, MAY 13

Chicken soft taco, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips w/salsa, apple crisp

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Chicken spaghetti, roasted broccoli, salad, fruit, chocolate cake

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 now available for \$6.00

## SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

### THURSDAY, MAY 8

Breakfast: Pancake on stick or cereal, fruit, juice, milk  
Lunch: Cheese pizza, seasoned broccoli, seasoned corn, mixed fruit, milk

### FRIDAY, MAY 9

### NO SCHOOL

### MONDAY, MAY 12

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit pkg or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Hot ham & cheese croissant, french fries, savory carrots, fruit, milk.

### TUESDAY, MAY 13

Breakfast: Chocolate muffin or cereal, juice, fruit, milk  
Lunch: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, green beans, 7-12 whole grain roll, fruit, milk.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

### COOK'S CHOICE

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

\*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org)

## Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Hwy 27 N. Murfreesboro

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

Bro. Curtis Abernathy

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

Call Christy at 870-285-2723

Bank of Delight  
503 E. Antioch St. Delight  
(870) 379-2293

319 **Facts About The BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**A BRIDE FOR ISAAC**  
ABRAHAM'S STEWARD ELIEZER, IN HIS SEARCH FOR A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON, HAS ASKED A MAIDEN OF THE CITY OF NAHOR FOR WATER...

LET ME, I PRAY THEE, DRINK A LITTLE WATER FROM THY PITCHER!

...AND SHE POURS OUT WATER FOR HIM TO DRINK...

DRINK, MY LORD!

I WILL DRAW WATER FOR THY CAMELS ALSO, UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TO DRINK!

AND THIS THE MAIDEN DOES, CONTINUING TO POUR WATER INTO THE TROUGH FOR AS LONG AS THE CAMELS DRINK! ELIEZER SAYS NOT A WORD, AS HE WATCHES, FOR THIS IS THE VERY SIGN WHICH HE HAD ASKED OF THE LORD!

Next Week THE GOLDEN ENKING!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

## Murfreesboro church of Christ

305 S. Second Ave.

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

Bro. Buddy Ray

Attend Church This Sunday!

HAVE AN ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED?

email us at [mdiamond@windstream.net](mailto:mdiamond@windstream.net)

SOUNDTRACK SONGS

\* - Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

- 1. Potato chip, in U.K.
6. \_\_\_ capita
9. "\_\_\_ the night before Christmas..."
13. Popular garden perennial
14. George Gershwin's brother
15. "Follow the Yellow \_\_\_ Road"
16. Brickowski of "The LEGO Movie"
17. Pick up a perpetrator
18. Hindu sage
19. "Flashdance... What a \_\_\_"
21. "Stayin' Alive" band
23. Actress Gasteyer
24. Windshield option
25. Undergarment
28. Teenager's woe
30. "Solfege"-themed "The Sound of Music" song
35. Capital of Latvia
37. Pilgrimage to Mecca
39. India bigwig
40. Fusses or stirs
41. Belted starman
43. Charged particles
44. Binturong's cousin
46. Type of salmon
47. Sol, or la, or ti
48. "Eponymous 1978 Franki Valli song
50. To, archaic
52. "Ryan Gosling's 2023 "I'm Just \_\_\_"
53. Part of a jousting outfit
55. Tax pro, acr.
57. "I Will Always Love You" of "The Bodyguard" singer
61. "(I've Had) \_\_\_ of My Life" of "Dirty Dancing"
65. Desert wanderer's hope
66. Morning condensation
68. Waterwheel
69. Rosetta Stone, e.g.
70. U.N. working-conditions agcy.
71. Perform in a play
72. Through, to a poet
73. First responders's acronym

74. Force units

DOWN

- 1. Army in "The Bear"
2. "Emily in Paris" new location
3. "This \_\_\_" of "The Greatest Showman"
4. #69 Across, alt. sp.
5. Green layer on copper
6. Contact on social media
7. E in B.C.E.
8. Torah teacher
9. H.S. math class
10. Solomon-like
11. Advil target
12. Sleigh runners
15. Poet and "Surrealist Manifesto" author
André \_\_\_
20. Jack Black's Libre
22. Tight one, in football
24. Tiresome
25. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
26. Peter Fonda in 1969 role
27. In the past
29. DEA agent
31. "Prince's "Purple \_\_\_"
32. Digital tome
33. \_\_\_ Carlo
34. "A Doll's House" playwright
36. Away from port
38. "The Lion King" composer
42. Ax mark
45. Sleeping sickness vector
49. Kind of trip
51. Not closed
54. Not mainstream
56. Lack of muscle tension
57. Terry Crews on "America's Got Talent"
58. The Hippocratic one
59. \_\_\_-friendly
60. Farmer's storage
61. Scarce bills
62. Formerly Persia
63. Three blind ones
64. Chows down
67. Freddy Krueger street

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-74 indicating starting positions for clues.

Consumer Cellular advertisement: Switch & Get \$25 Off First Month of New Service! Use promo code: GZ590. Call 888-804-0913.

Vendor to offer alcohol sales at Crater State Park in 2025

MURFREESBORO -- The Crater of Diamonds State Park will see an addition to their outside food offerings this year with beer now being available.

Jarrad Shelton, who owns Kickin Wingz Thingz in Nashville and operates the food stand at the Crater State Park, announced via social media that he had selected the types of beers that would be available after asking for preference suggestions.

"Good morning friends! I have the food truck out at the Diamond Mine. Just wanted to let all of you know that beginning next weekend 4-26, we will begin selling beer at the food truck ... I know after a hot day in the sun a few icy cold beers will help refresh you," Shelton wrote.

After deliberation, Shelton announced he would carry four Arkansas craft beers -- Camp Hard Cider, Nebo Haze IPA, Petit Jean Pilsner and Black Jack Pirate Ale -- along with four national brands including Miller Lite, Coors Light, Bud Light and Michelob Ultra.

At the recent community appreciation day at the Crater, Park Superintendent Caleb Howell said that in 2024 a law was passed after a push to get alcohol sold at state parks -- including those located in dry counties.

He noted that a roped off area will be designated for partaking of the beverages and that they would not be allowed out on the digging area.

According to Howell said the rules for alcohol in the campground has not changed -- tourists can only consume alcohol they bring with them at their rented campsite. They will not be allowed to have it in public spaces in the campground.

When asked by the paper about additional staff to help supervise the new addition, he indicated that the current climate at the state level was calling for all reductions of staff possible



Submitted photo

CHOICES AT CRATER ... The above pictured beers will be available at the food truck located at Crater of Diamonds State Park this tourist season.

and not additions.

The law, Arkansas Code Annotated 3-9-103, passed during the 2024 fiscal session and second extraordinary session, allows for the sale of the alcoholic beverages at state parks only during normal operating hours (or outdoor events) to individuals 21 years and older without permitting by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. The law also allows for the park to subcontract that ability to a third-party vendor -- in this case, Shelton, who holds the contract to operate a food establishment at the state park.

The law also states that all beverages must be purchased from a wholesaler and that the individual parks must renew approval to do so on a yearly basis after state oversight.

By subcontracting the sales, the park has placed liability on Shelton as the third party vendor.

The law also states specifically that "any city, county or political subdivision thereof" has the ability to prohibit alcoholic beverage sales, but stated that the state General Assembly -- in

their infinite wisdom -- had determined that the states' tourism economy "contributes substantially" and that "extreme competition" for tourism dollars makes it essential to "be provided accommodations, services and facilities ... they are accustomed to and competitive with those offered in other states and areas -- especially states adjacent to Arkansas."

Murfreesboro Mayor Jim O'Neal admitted that the city was "caught by surprise" by the decision -- specifically by the fact they were not notified or consulted.

He added that he was concerned that the law provided the state park with some "unfair advantages" over the two local businesses -- Feed Bin Cafe and Telinga's Mexican Restaurant -- by allowing a vendor to sell alcohol without the \$1,900/year private club licensing fee or that there will be no collection of the same special taxes of 27% for beer and 29% for mixed drinks that are applicable to the city's businesses. The city will only be able to enforce an annual vendor's fee and normal tax collection as with any business conducting sales inside the city limits.

O'Neal also worries that the park -- which is a "family friendly" endeavor including a water park for children -- will be forced to be in close quarters with those publicly imbibing adult beverages.

"Now they get to walk right by an open saloon," he reasoned. He also worries about the ramifications of having intoxicated people at the park.

"Our concerns were not addressed -- time will tell how much involvement the city's police force will have to have in the event of issues."

Biggs Chapel Methodist Church announces decoration day

NATHAN -- The annual Decoration and Homecoming at Biggs Chapel Methodist Church and Academy Cemetery will be held on Sunday May 18th, 2025. Church at 11:00 followed by a potluck meal.

Mowing season is here and the upkeep of the cemetery is made possible by your donations. Donations may be given to Basel Cox, Gary L. Cox, or Jimmy Goodwin.

Donations may be mailed to: Gary L. Cox, 27 Bacon Creek Farm Rd., Nashville AR. 71852

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Call Neil McConnell at (501) 374-1500 to place your ad here!

ATTORNEY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Randolph Baltz Former SSA Attorney Office: (501)374-6800

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal, 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsp Telecom today! 1-888-860-0146

LOW COST HEALTH INSURANCE. Government subsidies available for families earning \$111,000 or less a year. See if you qualify. Call for your free quote! 1-866-766-6047

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-977-9614

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-866-587-0119 today!

PAYING TOP CASH FOR MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 888-690-2346

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material -- steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer + up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs. 1-866-861-2447

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance -- NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-210-6510 www.dental50plus.com/arpress #258

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold in your home. If you have water damage to your home, call for a free estimate for complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-593-7772

Consumer Cellular -- the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-868-3831

DIRECTV -- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-855-400-3297

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 877-631-0120

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 866-461-0925

MEDICARE PLANS HAVE CHANGED!!! Make sure your plan will meet your needs in 2024. Our licensed agents can review the changes, address your needs and make sure you aren't overpaying! For a free quote, Call now! 1-888-927-7955

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-866-766-6046

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-319-0598 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-855-436-4676

HELP WANTED Weekly Pay! Company Drivers NW AR AREA!! CLASS A/B DUMP TRUCK DRIVERS

NEW Equipment, local routes, home every night. Life and Health Insurance, pay percentage of truck gross. 3 yrs driving exp., 1 violation, no accidents. Call us at: 479-233-3907

QUALITY TRUCKING Family Owned & Local We Pay On Time!

Independent Owner/Operators NW AR AREA!! DUMP TRUCK/END DUMP

Local Routes Steady Work Pay Every Week Call us at: 479-233-3907

QUALITY TRUCKING Family Owned & Local

MILLWOOD CORPORATION BUYER OF TIMBER & TIMBERLAND Matt Tollett (870) 703-6939 Jason Porter (870) 703-1039 Johnny Porter (870) 703-1628 P.O. Box 1316 Hope, AR 71802

RELATIONSHIPS ARE OUR FOUNDATION We partner with attorneys, CPAs and other financial advisors to help their clients achieve philanthropic goals. The Foundation provides expertise and tools to maximize tax benefits while achieving the greatest impact for local programs. The process is easy, flexible and efficient. Arkansas Community Foundation: engaging people, connecting resources and inspiring solutions to build Arkansas communities.

FAGAN ROOFING ALL TYPES OF ROOFING We are insured! Quality work, Free Estimates In Business Since 1992! Greg (870) 356-8934

Classifieds MINI STORAGE in Murfreesboro. 870-845-6304. (gs:4-f) 870-285-2723

CRISP PER TWAS HOSTA IRA BRICK EMMET NAB RISHI FEELING BEEGEES ANA TINT BRA ACNE DOREMI RIGA HADJ NABOB ADOS ORION IONS GENET COHO NOTE GREASE UNTO KEN EGIS CPA HOUSTON THETIME OASIS DEW NORIA STELE ILO ENACT THRO EMS DYNES

# PIKE COUNTY 4-H BREAD AND DAIRY COOKING CONTEST WINNERS



Submitted photos/PC 4-H

**FOOD CONTEST WINNERS ...** In the Pike County 4-H bread and dairy cooking contest held recently, above (L to R) Carsyn Ballard placed first in senior yeast breads, first in senior dairy main dish and second in senior quick breads; Cayden Ballard placed first in senior quick bread and first in senior appetizer; Steven Finch placed first in cloverbud appetizer. Pictured left (L to R) is Trace Minton, who placed first in junior main dish and Dally Minton, who placed first in junior quick breads.



## Local award winning 4-H recipes announced

MURFREESBORO -- First place recipes from the recent 2025 Pike County Dairy Foods contest categories Main Dish and Party Idea were a big hit with our judges Betty Woodly, Murfreesboro, Marcell Knighten, and Sarah Chambers.

The recipes will be sent to the Arkansas Dairy Foods Contest sponsored by the Arkansas Farm Bureau. If a recipe is selected for the semi-final, contestants will compete in the state cook-off competition on July 24 in Little Rock.

Thanks to all who entered, the judges, and to Farm Bureau.

### 1ST PLACE MAIN DISH

Crunchy Fiesta Corn Salad  
submitted by Carsyn Ballard, Diamond City 4-H

### INGREDIENTS:

2 (15 ounce) cans whole kernel corn, drained  
1 red bell pepper, finely diced  
1 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese  
1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
½ cup mayonnaise  
½ cup sour cream  
¼ teaspoon black pepper  
1 (9.25 ounce ) bag Chili Cheese Fritos, lightly crushed  
Fresh cilantro, for garnish



## PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION

**EVA LANGLEY, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT**  
FAMILY • NUTRITION • FOOD SAFETY • FINANCE • FITNESS & HEALTH

### INSTRUCTIONS:

In a large mixing bowl, stir together mayonnaise and sour cream. Add corn, diced bell pepper, shredded cheese, and black pepper.

Just before serving, stir in crushed Chili Cheese Fritos. Garnish with fresh cilantro and a dollop of sour cream, if desired.

### 1ST PLACE PARTY IDEA DISH

Southwest Heat Veggie Dip  
submitted by Cayden Ballard, Diamond City 4-H

### INGREDIENTS:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
4 ounces sour cream  
8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese  
4 ounces salsa (hot or mild – your preference)  
1 small package of taco seasoning

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix everything together except the shredded cheddar cheese. Once everything is mixed together well, add cheese and stir. Serve with vegetables or pretzels.

## Arkansas crystals -- beauty across the state

### MUSINGS ON NATURE

By Gerald Klingman  
Retired Arkansas Extension Horticulturist

Well, I found more crystals at the crystal mine than I did diamonds at the diamond mine, but I may not have the right stuff to be a good prospector. I wanted the really big ones, but only came away with a small bag of little ones. Such is the nature of those seeking fortune by grubbing in the dirt.

I spent some time exploring Arkansas last week and felt no trip into the Ouachita Mountains would be complete without a bit of digging in the iron-rich soil around Mount Ida. This time the soil was dry and recently bulldozed into terraces. This was ideal for staying relatively clean, but a pounding rain a few days earlier would have made the prospecting easier because the rain would have exposed some crystals. But all that sticky red sandy clay would have presented a different challenge.

The quartz belt in Arkansas consists of a 30-mile-wide, 170-mile-long band centered around Mount Ida and heading east-northeast towards Hot Springs. Most of the mines seem to be located on ridge tops and other high ground. A couple dozen pay-to-dig mines are in the Hot Springs area or, if you are up for a mile-long hike, you can dig for free at the Crystal Vista mine on Ouachita National Forest land on Owley road, six or so miles southeast of Mount Ida.

The crystals formed at the time of the Ouachita Mountain uplift some 280 million years ago. Hydrothermal vents opened up deep in the earth that contained saturated solutions of dissolved silica. These hydrothermal solutions were under tremendous pressure and squeezed into cracks opened in the parent rock. As the solutions cooled, sometimes they left behind inch-wide dikes of white silica bands in the rocks. Sometimes crystals formed. The crystals may form associated with a rock or in the ancient soil matrix.

The crystalline nature of one silica atom and four oxygen atoms creates a six-sided crystal architecture with a pointed end. Usually, the crystals form in clusters, sometimes with new crystal growths occurring at odd angles from each other. These clusters can grow to a considerable size. The "Holy Grail" crystal displayed at Crystal Bridges in Bentonville is five feet tall with individual crystals the size of a strong man's upper arm.

Crystals have been mined in the state since the 1890s but indigenous people crafted items from them for thousands of years, including an arrow point that has been dated at being 11,000 years old. Modern-day commercial mining of quartz began in the 1930s, when applications in the electronics industries used it to regulate the flow of electrons. It has been used in time keeping, radio, TV, radar and computer applications.

The popularity of Arkansas crystals first grew with the growth of Hot Springs and its baths. The best Arkansas crystals are clear

quartz, believed to be the "master crystal" for those who believe in the metaphysical properties of crystals. The believers suppose that the crystalline lattice, with its inherent oscillation, stores and somehow focuses energy, creating benefits for those who are in its sphere of influence.

The crystals come out of the ground encrusted in red clay, which is easy to wash off with water. But, to achieve the best sparkle, they need an oxalic acid bath for a few days to remove the surface dullness.

These crystals are a product of their surroundings. If they were formed in a pure state, the crystal will be clear. If impurities are present, they will take on shades of cloudiness. If these crystals are irradiated (think high power x-ray), the atoms in the crystal can rearrange. For quartz crystals, they turn a wispy gray-black. This color is not found in nature but shops dealing in quartz crystals offer these striking stones.

My handful of crystals took a couple of hours of digging in loose soil with my small shovel. One, a thumb sized piece, will find a home amongst my indoor rocks. A garden trowel and small hand rake will work in loose soil, but if the pile has solidified after a rain a shovel or flat pry bar might be helpful. Crystal digging was a fun way to spend a beautiful spring afternoon playing in the dirt.