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Petty retirement reception set

Public invited to attend event for storied 4-H leader

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Cooperative Extension Service will be hosting a retirement reception for long time 4-H Program Assistant Avonne Petty on December 1 at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building from 4-6 p.m.

The public is invited to come congratulate Petty on her retirement and share memories from past 4-H events.

Holiday closings impact trash schedule

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23-24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The sanitation route for the City of Murfreesboro during the week of November 20 is as follows:

pickup will be picked up on Monday, November 20 • Wednesday's and Thursday's normal

• Monday's and Tuesday's normal

- pickup will be picked up on Tuesday, November 21
- Friday's normal pickup will be picked up on Wednesday, November 22

The Pike County Courthouse will also be closed on November 23-24, and the sanitation schedule will be adjusted as

- Monday-Wednesday will remain the
- Thursday's normal pickup will occur on Monday, November 27
- November 27-December 1 will all be one day behind the normal pickup schedule



Local students give thanks in honor of the season

already too late."

of ongoing training at \$1,750.

School to receive emergency training

BY JOHN BALCH News-Leader staff

MURFREESBORO -- The South Pike County School Board voted last week to enter into a contract with a company that specializes in school security and trains employees to deal with emergency situations such as an active shooter on campus.

The board voted 6-0 to enter a contract with ALICE Training Institute. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate and is described as instructor led classes that provide preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to "more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event."

Superintendent Roger Featherston said the training has been endorsed by law enforcement agencies and is inline with recommendations of

the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigations and the U.S. Department of Education. He said the goal would be for the district to become ALICE certified with some employees becoming possibly armed commissioned school officers and instructors who can conduct drills.

He added that the recent incident involving someone near the campus with a B.B. gun reminded him that "as smooth as things went (concerning response), it showed me that we need to be more prepared."

"It's for our school but it's also going to help people have better skills and better odds of surviving something at the mall, church or wherever," Featherston noted. Board member Scott Maroon agreed with

the assessment. "That's one thing we need to

be proactive about instead of reactive," he said.

last week's meeting. In other business last week, the board voted 6-0 to give all full-time school employees a \$500 Christmas bonus.

Featherston replied, "If you're reactive, then it's

The contract will initially cost \$2,650 with cost

The vote to enter the contract was 6-0 with

Maroon, Joe House, Steve Conly, Jeramy Humphry,

Angie Fabian and Sarnia Minton present for the

voting. Board member Trent Cox did not attend

The board also voted 6-0 to keep the district's Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$1.367 million at the Bank of Delight at a 12-month interest rate of 1.53 percent.

In a related vote, the board approved Conly's motion to pull \$50,000 from the district's building fund and added to the CD. The building fund currently has a balance of approximately \$568,000.

Cable leftovers? Call M'boro City Hall

MURFREESBORO — At the request of Mayor Rodney Fagan, any Murfreesboro residents who have wires and poles on their property belonging to Vyve cable company are advised to contact Murfreesboro City Hall at 285-3732.

Public can help 55 angels have merry and bright season

MURFREESBORO -- The annual Angel Tree program has moved on to the gift buying phase.

To date, 24 families have registered 55 angels for the local public to help bring a merrier Christmas this season.

Local residents who wish to participate in the gift giving process may collect angels beginning November 21 at several locations -- the Pike County Courthouse, Cash Saver or Diamond Bank.

All presents for the program are to be submitted by Thursday, December 14 to either the Mayor's Office or the Collector's

The program has been a successful one for local residents, serving 46 children in 2016 and 173 children in 2015.

Those interested may adopt a family as opposed to random angels by contacting Candi Allmon in the Pike County Collector's Office. She explained that some people like to help multiple angels, and by serving a family it was easier to make sure that the gifts were

given on a more even cost and quantity basis. Additionally, it is possible to simply donate money to the program, or individual gifts to partially serve an angel's requests.

"There are multiple ways people can help," said Allmon, who is again directing the program.

The presents may be picked up by families on either Wednesday, December 20 or Thursday, December 21 from 3-6 p.m. at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building.

Deliveries of the presents will be made on a by-need basis only, and previous arrangements must be made.









DECORATING TREES AT PIKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ... Fifty-one trees have been placed on the Pike County Courthouse lawn and are available for decoration by groups and individuals that have sponsored them. According to Jane Fugitt of the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, there are still a few trees available for those that wish to sponsor or decorate them. The cost is \$25 per tree and can be reserved at Murfreesboro City Hall.

MURFREESBORO -- Local holiday festivities for south Pike County have been set, with some last minute details still to be

Fifty-one trees have been placed on the Pike County Courthouse lawn and are available for decoration by groups and individuals that have sponsored them. According to Jane Fugitt of the Murfreesboro Chamber of

Commerce, there are still a few trees available for those that wish to sponsor or decorate them. The cost is \$25 per tree and can be reserved at Murfreesboro City Hall.

Fugitt asked that ornaments be secured properly to withstand fall storms, and that the trees be decorated for both day and night settings. Those who decorate trees are asked to simply leave the plug readily accessible, as the chamber would provide cords for electrical access from the courthouse to the trees.

The 21st annual Rosenwald Christmas parade in Antoine will be held on Sunday, November 26 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to participate, with the line-up starting at the Antoine Post office at 1:15 p.m. For more information, contact Sadie Gentry at (870) 379-2948.

On December 2, Murfreesboro will hold their annual Hometown Christmas on the Square featuring the annual Christmas

The morning will open with Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Murfreesboro Rattler Band Boosters. The event will take place from 9-11 a.m. at the Murfreesboro Senior Adult Center. The cost of the event is \$5 and will feature an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. Pictures and visits with Santa will be available, as well as treats for the kids.

For the pancake breakfast, children that attend First Christian Church Preschool, Dawson ABC Pre-K in Murfreesboro, Delight Head Start or Kindergarten in the South Pike County School District are invited to come and find the special ornament they created.

The parade will begin at 1 p.m., starting at the old Sun Printing building and will traverse North Washington Street back to the Pike County Courthouse, where Santa will then be available for the children to visit. Carriage rides will be available for adults, while hayrides for children will be available by the Murfreesboro Park Commission. Routes and fees for the rides will be determined by the Chamber this week. Local talent will also perform on the stage during the festivities.

The public is invited and encouraged to participate in the parade, such as with floats, and there is no cost to do so. Lineup for the even will commence at 12:30 at Sun Printing. The Murfreesboro High School Marching Band and a Color Guard will also be included in the procession.

The annual Taste of Christmas, a Chamber fundraiser to benefit the Christmas on the Square and seasonal decorations, is set to take place at 11 a.m., December 7 at the Murfreesboro Municipal Building's community room. The cost of the event is \$5.00 or by donation for the meal featuring ham, chicken and dressing as well as all the traditional holiday trimmings.

The Delight Christmas parade is set for Saturday, December 9 at 2 p.m., and Santa will be available for the children immediately

The parade will begin at the Assembly of God Church and end at McKnight's Grocery.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the parade is invited to do so -- floats, pets, horses, four-wheelers and antique cars and tractors -- and can contact Valerie Wingfield at (501) 766-5509.

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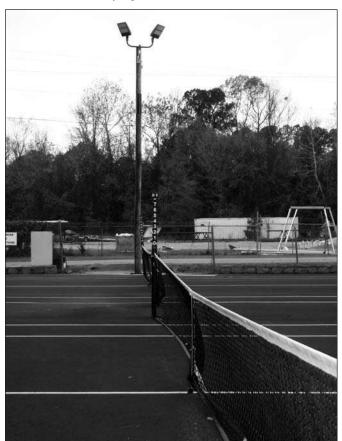
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TENNIS COURT UPGRADES ... The tennis complex at Murfreesboro grew a bit last week with the addition of a third court that was recently asphalted. The court will be ready for use later next year after it has had time to cure as well as receive the striping and nets. Additionally, lights have been added to the two existing courts to allow for use after sundown.





Charges brought against man for stealing hydrocodone pills, lottery tickets and pajama pants from father's residence

MURFREESBORO -- Felony charges of residential burglary and possession of a controlled substance were filed Nov 17 against an Umpire man accused of breaking into his father's home.

Kristopher Garrett Stephens, 24, was arrested for allegedly breaking into the home of Kenneth Epperly, Jr., and stealing prescription medication and scratch-off lottery tickets.

Stephens, who had not lived with Epperly since Oct. 14, still had personal belongings in the home and that offered clues to the father who found some of the items missing. The son also allegedly sent his father a message on Facebook apologizing for what he had done.

Stephens, who is also charged with misdemeanor theft of property, confessed that he entered the home by removing an air-conditioning unit. Once inside he took some Batman p pants and 16 Hydrocodone pills. Stephens said he took eight of the pills while inside the residence and later cashed in the lottery tickets at a Murfreesboro convenience store. Later that evening, Stephens said he took the remaining eight pills.

Stephens' bond has been set at \$25,000. He made a first appearance on the charges Nov. 13 and he was ordered to return to court Nov. 27 for formal arraignment.

WEST VIRGINIA MAN ARRESTED

Felony and misdemeanor drug charges are expected to the filed this week against a 39-year-old West Virginia man arrested by the Murfreesboro Police Department.

Jody Ray Johnson was arrested Nov. 16 at the Terrell Access of the Little Missouri River by city officer David Shelby.

Officer Shelby observed that Johnson and another person not identified in court records were preparing to camp at the access. When informed they could not camp there, Shelby noticed an odor of marijuana coming from Johnson, who said he had smoked

The officer was given consent to search Johnson's vehicle and along with three smoking devices.

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Former jailer sentenced to probation for hindering apprehension of a fugitive

MURFREESBORO -- The former Pike County jailer charged with felony hindering apprehension or prosecution involving a fugitive wanted out of Hempstead County has been fined and sentenced to probation.

Kersten Lyon, 22, of Murfreesboro, was arrested Sept. 9 at her Murfreesboro home on Dixon Circle along with Shelby McKenzie, 21, who was wanted out of Hempstead County as a suspect for

vehicle and firearm thefts. Lyon pleaded "no contest" to the charge Nov. 13 in Pike County Circuit Court and was sentenced to five years of probation and

fined \$1,500 plus court costs. Lyon had been employed at the Pike County Jail since Aug. 24 and was a "jailer in training" up until her arrest. She is no longer

employed by the county. According to case information, Lyon was working at the jail in the early morning hours of Sept. 6 when McKenzie, who has an

anarchy tattoo under his right eye, came to the jail in one of the vehicles he is accused of stealing. Lyon went to the parking lot and talked to McKenzie for approximately 35 minutes and reportedly gave him a key to her home. It was later that day that Lyon learned McKenzie was a wanted man, according to case records. On Sept. 9, authorities tracked McKenzie to the Murfreesboro

home. Since Lyon "made no effort to contact law enforcement" she was arrested along with McKenzie without incident. McKenzie was wanted out of Hempstead County for the theft

of a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado from one residence and an AK-47 during a burglary of another home.

According to Hempstead County Sheriff James Singleton, McKenzie was a suspected methamphetamine users and was described as "armed and dangerous" in notices issued in August.

GLENWOOD MAN SENTENCED

A 20-year-old Glenwood man was sentenced Nov. 13 in Pike County Circuit Court on an amended charge of breaking or en-

Tyler L. Travis, who was originally charged with residential burglary and theft of property pleaded guilty to the amended charge and was sentenced to three years of probation, 90 days in the Community Correction Center and fined \$1,500 plus court costs.

Travis was charged in December of 2016 after he was caught in a home belonging to Sara Acevedo. He reportedly stole prescription drugs from the home.

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.

MHS basketball prepares to tip off on '17-'18 season

Rattlers have much larger goals in mind for the senior high basketball team following a winless 2016-2017 season.

"When we get to the district tournament, we hope to find ourselves in the semi-final as one of the top four teams, which will get us to regionals," said head coach Caleb Spradlin. "I don't think that is unrealistic and we can do that."

Spradlin added that there isn't a lack of athletic talent on the roster, it is simply a matter of the team "learning how to win."

"It's all about the little things, and we

preach that every day. That's what will help us get over the top in some of these games, from a discipline and effort perspective ... the little things that we can control. If we work and pride ourselves in the little things, I think we'll realistically be a top four team in our district by district tourna-

According to Spradlin, the Rattlers haven't made a regional tournament in

"It hasn't happened often," he added, noting he was the assistant coach on a Warren squad that completed a similar goal last season and finished in the state

He said the lofty expectation are important for the team to strive for, more than to simply win a game. "We need to get something we can reach for."

And, should the Rattlers make extended post-season play, he said that things could get interesting.

"You get into regional play, anything can happen, so if you find yourself there, who knows what can happen? One night is all it takes, it's not a seven game series like the [major league] baseball."

Spadlin said the group of four seniors that would lead the Rattler this season were solid, including captain J.C. Motley, Michael Hughes, Jamonte Green and Cody

"But, at the same time, we will play a lot of sophomores," said Spradlin of the youth that will infuse the team.

He said that making a regional tournament would be an invaluable experience for the Rattlers moving forward.

"It will pay off dividends for us the next few years, because that will be our goal from here on out, we're not going to settle for mediocre -- I came here to win, so that will be our mentality and we will expect to be in it. Some years we may not, that's just the way it works, but year in and year out, I feel like Murfreesboro is the kind of school that we can be in the mix, especially

from a district perspective." Spradlin commented on his four se-

- J.C. Motley -- "A three year starter, he's a natural leader, and an intense competitor. His will to win is off the charts, and it is certainly what we need, and I am hoping that with him as captain, that will just spread throughout the team. I hope he leads both by example and vocally, because I think he is a guy [the team] looks up to. He has great
- basketball build and high basketball IQ."
 Michael Hughes -- "He has played a lot over the last three years, especially as a sixth man as a sophomore and junior, so he has a lot of game experience. He plays with a great motor and extremely hard, is a good kid and wants to have a good year, and that mentality will be something that is good for the team.
- Jamonte Green -- "A very talented young man, he can do about anything you want him to do on the floor as far as shooting, handle the basketball, drive and attack the rim. He broke his leg in August, and hasn't been [medically] cleared yet, so we are hoping for good news, and won't have him until early December, probably, and he will be one of the main guys in helping us have a positive year.
- Cody Nolen -- "A good shooter with range, a three-point shooter, has a good feeling for the game, and, like all of our seniors, there is a hunger to win.

"Overall, the senior group has the right mind set for a successful year, and that's what you need, because it starts with those four seniors," Spradlin said.

Spradlin also noted sophomore PG Jakob Allmon is going to "run the show" and had a good year as a 9th grader last year as the team's leading scorer.

"Obviously there will be a transition to the senior high game for him, but he's a talented young man and has good instincts, and will make an impact on the team."

For the rest of the squad, Spradlin said it was a "wide-open competition" for playing time, but that his group of seven sophomores was a good group that would feature key playing time for several of them. "There's a learning curve, but I'm excited, and when they get there, they will help us a lot, for sure.

În district this season, Spradlin said the top two teams would likely be Mountain Pine and Blevins, with Foreman trailing close behind, despite a coaching change.

"Those are the top three teams, no doubt about it. Cutter Morning Star made the

RATTLER BASKETBALL

semifinals last year, but they graduated everyone, but they will be a solid team because of the experience. Poyen returns everybody from last year, Caddo Hills lost their best player to an unfortunate injury, and he was an all-state player. So, I think it will be really balanced outside those top three teams, an open competition, and we hope to be in the mix.

Spradlin said installing his new philosophies has been an intentionally slow

process.

"We taking it very slow, putting in the trying are trying to do ofthe base of what we are trying to do offensively and defensively -- it's more half court oriented for now, to be sure. They're picking it up well, and we're taking our time expanding on it, but to this point, I am happy with where are at. We'll improve as the season moves along, but we are in a position where we can expect to compete now. How we jell early is the biggest question -- you just don't know until you play that first game, but I think we can for sure. We'll compete, yes, certainly, and get better. We have a lot to learn."

Later in the season, Spradlin hopes to do far more than that.

"If we lose the first one or two, that means nothing when January gets here -- we hope to get out and run with an aggressive offensive philosophy, get defensive rebounds and push. That will come with time, but the goal is get after people, defensively, using some full court presses. We are an athletic team, and we can do it, and that's where I want to get to. Once we get to that point, that's when we will be at our peak, but it is a process and take time to get there.

Members of the 2017-2018 Rattler squad include:

- 1 J.C. Motley, senior forward, 6'2"
- 2 Dawson Watts, junior guard, 5'10" 3 Jamonte Green, senior guard, 6'1"
- 4 Jakob Allmon, sophomore guard, 5'8"
- 5 Caleb Spencer, sophomore guard, 5'8" 10 Austin Baker, sophomore forward,
- 11 Payten Diffee, junior forward, 6'2" 12 Justin Jarrell, sophomore guard, 5'6"
- 15 Cody Nolen, senior forward, 5'10"
- 20 Blaine Humphry, sophomore for-21 Justin Faulkner, sophomore forward,
- 23 Michael Hughes, senior guard, 5'9" 24 Lashad Jones, sophomore forward,

35 Ethan Pickett, junior center, 6'4"

Obituaries

Bennie D. Anderson

Bennie D. Anderson, age 77, of Murfreesboro, passed away on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

He was born on August 12, 1940, in Murfreesboro, the son of Herman Anderson and May Musgrove Anderson. He was preceded in death by his par-

He was a United States Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Sonia Anderson of Murfreesboro; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Everett and Marie Whisenhunt of Colt and John Whisenhunt of Glenwood; one daughter and son-in-law, Lee-Anna and Ed O'Malley of Hot Springs Village; one granddaughter, Amanda Whisenhunt; his cousins, L. Thomas and Wanda Anderson of Murfreesboro; and a host of wonderful friends.

A private service will be held with burial to be in the Woodall Valley Cemetery under the direction of Davis-Smith Funeral Home in Glen-

Guest registry is at www. davis-smith.com.

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from the Murfreesboro Diamond by visiting www.swarkansasnews.com

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Lady Rattlers strike for state this basketball season

MURFREESBORO -- Coming into the 2017-2018 basketball season, the Murfreesboro Lady Rattler will find their top priority to replace four starters from last year's squad.

Graduation removed Hannah Cox, Anna Corbitt and all-state performer Arianna Leeper, the latter of which led the team in scoring and rebounding and was a three year team captain.

"She'll be tough to replace," said head coach Nicole Martin. As a team captain, senior Loran Wilcher said she looked forward to this season's prospects.

"I'm very excited to play with this group of girls, because I think our intensity is on a different level than last year. We all want to get better, and we are close [friends] so that helps. We all know what we lost from last year's squad, but we also all know, even myself a two year starter, that we'll all have to bring it to another level to make up for points we lost [to graduation]."

Martin feels this year's squad could be even more talented, especially after the squad finds their identity in the first few games.

"We need to figure out of we will be a run and gun team or if we'll be a get the ball inside team. I'm really excited, we have a

However, Martin admits that potential can be good or bad, depending if the team lives up to it.

"We could have a really good team, coming off of a district runner-up last year, I feel like we could put it together, as far as the district title."

Martin said the team made the regional tournament for the first time in 12 years, but that fact just leads to increased expectations for the current squad from itself.

"We didn't make state, and the returning athletes, as well as the kids moving up, are not satisfied and that's great. We can build upon that, and the goal for this year is to make the state tournament, which for us, here, that hasn't happened since 2000, and we're really wanting to get to that dance and make some noise. I think we have the group that can do it."

Martin said the team has the necessary size with sophomore Madison Humphry and juniors Erin Davis and Jacey Saldana to dominate the paint when necessary.

"They're tall girls that can get down the floor and post up well, but we just have to start finishing better under the goal. That's something as the season goes on we'll get better at, but right now, we're kind of youthful in that sense. We can get it inside, but we can't finish right now."

Martin also said the team has plenty of speed, including freshman Lainie Baxter, and seniors Lainy Alexander and Wilcher, as well as team depth with the guards.

"We just have to gain that experience and trust in our system. I feel like if we had to go fast we could, or if we have to slow it down we could, so it's good to have options."

The team's length will allow the squad to utilize the full court press, especially Jordae Hunter, who Martin says has "an amazing wingspan."

"I feel like we can get in people's face and press them, and hopefully have some success with that."

Martin think the team's chemistry of senior leadership and a group of athletic sophomores could make for a powerful combination, but that many of the current squad will face new roles this season, including some being asked to score points more than ever.

She said the 41-37 loss to Genoa Central in the season opener "answered a lot of questions" about who her starting five would be, but that many questions still remained open.

Martin referenced the 7/22 shooting the team had inside the block against Magnet Cove, stating "that's not going to cut it."

"If we're going to be competitive, and slow the ball down when we need to, and get it inside, we are currently doing it and not finishing. That's something we have to get better at during the season."

To the team's credit, they did shoot 13/16 from the free throw

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line and 2/5 from three-point range to keep the game close.

"We just have to get better at utilizing our size and getting those easy points, and I am asking kids that didn't have to score last year to do so ... so there are new roles," said Martin, including the following:

- Erin Davis and Jacey Saldana -- "I need them to step up. Saldana was all-district honorable mention last year, but she only played half the season because of a knee injury, so she's now back full speed, but we really need her to step up along with Davis inside."
- Lainie Baxter -- "Moved her up, and she has the potential to take over one of the starting spots if she really works her butt off, and I think she will. It's a compliment to her, because she could have stayed down [at junior high] and made some noise, but we needed her at the senior high level."
- Lainy Alexander -- "Čoming off two years having tore an ACL [both knees], but she was my leading scorer her ninth grade year when we won district. She has the potential to be a serious threat for us outside. She has a great shot."
- Avi Leeper and Madison May -- "Kinda transitioning from forward to guard, so that's a big transition for them. I think May's minutes will go up as the year goes on and her confidence grows. Avi is a better shooter than her sister, and while Arianna was bigger and stronger, which allowed her to dominate, she was quick off the dribble and knew her strengths and played to them, and that's why she averaged over 20 points per game. Avi is still finding her identity, but she is realizing she could be a huge shooting threat for us, and is really embracing it. I think she'll have a really good year and she has her own strengths compared to her sister."
- Madison Humphry -- "She's one of our bigs, she has been playing for me since she got minutes off the bench her seventh grade year -- she's been a big force inside for me for years. She will get a lot of really good minutes. She has been just a really good rebounder and defender in the past, but I'll need for her to turn on the scoring, so hopefully as the year goes on she will grow into a bigger offensive threat ... she has it down for defense and rebounding."
- Jordae Hunter -- "She might lead the team in steals, she has done it for me the past two years in junior high, and she'll run the top of our press defense, she just has that long lankiness, sense about the ball, and just knows when people are going to pass it."
 Hannah Kuykendall -- "A really good role players for us,
- Hannah Kuykendall -- "A really good role players for us she's one of the better passers on the team."
- Jarah Cox -- "Had a really good freshman year, I'm hoping she can contribute well and find her little niche for the team."

Martin said she chose the three team captains -- Leeper, Alexander and Wilcher -- because of reliability, effort and coachability.

"There are born leaders and kids you try to make leaders. All three of them are good leaders, Leeper and Alexander are good to lead by example, the put their head down and they work. Leeper being Arianna's sister she has those qualities and traits, and she busted her butt really hard as a sophomore last year and earned that title. Wilcher, she's the vocal one, the communicator, the one that keeps us together and calm. She has the green light in huddles to talk and communicate to her teammates if she sees something, she's like a little assistant coach. Going into your third year starting at point guard makes you a leader, you're kinda like the quarterback of basketball. She just has those qualities, and she leads us in the values that we need -- she cares about defense, limiting turnovers and proper floor spacing, she care about the little things that make us better, and the things that people don't see."

Wilcher said he had no problem saying what needed to be said. "I voice my opinion, and the captain role helps [with authority], and I know that a bunch of my teammates look up to me, so it forces me to be better on many levels."

Martin said that while Wilcher had the ability to talk to teammates in the huddle, she said that Wilcher often got it much worse from her

"If I was ever to rip into one of them like I do her, they would probably cry, she knows that if she's not bringing it, it will be ten times worse on her, because she is supposed to be that example. With Alexander's injuries, she has been the only one in her class, that has been playing non-stop for three years, so the team looks up to that, and I've been training her to be this kind of leader, and when she's not stepping up, I yell at her more than everyone else." said Martin.

Martin said she is especially happy the season has begun in earnest.

"It's really hard to ask kids for three months to play each other (summer camps, offseason practice) -- the more live we go, the better we will get."

Martin said she views Blevins as the lead team in conference this season, after they won the district in 2017 and made a regional and state tournament run, and lost only one graduating senior.

"They're doing really good things right now and off to a 8-1 start, they are obviously putting it together, and will be tough just because they are a non-football school, and get more games than us."

However, she think the Lady Rattlers and Poyen will also battle for that top spot, with Poyen getting key members back from injury and a good sophomore class coming up.

"We're probably the best team that can match up with Poyen as far as skill level to skill level and position to position. Poyen will be a matchup nightmare for everybody. Caddo Hills will also be in the mix, but we can be right there with all of them, if we want to be."

"We were really close last year, and feel a little short, so all of

us would love to get to the state tournament," said Wilcher, noting she has worked on her outside shooting in the offseason to fill a need for the team.

"The first couple of games people might think this team won't be all that good," said Martin. "When we get going, we're going to be good," she said, remaking this could be her best team in seven years. "This is the nucleus of the team that won district when these seniors were freshmen ... they have great potential to do great things this year. It's there if we want it, and hopefully we will live up to it."

Playing down her coaching abilities, Martin calls herself blessed to be where she is today.

"I have talent, I received talent, and it is a testament to the girls that we have the recent uptick in success. They have responded well to the changes, and upping the intensity with more practices, changing their mentalities from losers to winners, and have had a great last three years. I think we can continue to do that, and go from losing at district to making the state tournament if we put our heads down and work."

The 2017-2018 Lady Rattler team consists of the following players:

- 3 Amy Williams, sophomore guard
- 5 Kayli Oxner, sophomore post
- 10 Madison Humphry, sophomore post
- 11 Lainie Baxter, freshman guard 12 Jarah Cox, sophomore guard
- 15 Hannah Kuykendall, junior guard
- 20 Madison May, junior guard 21 Avi Leeper, junior guard
- 22 Loran Wilcher, senior guard 23 Lainy Alexander, senior guard
- 32 Erin Davis, junior post
- 34 Jordae Hunter, sophomore guard
- 42 Jacey Saldana, junior post



Staff photo

GETTING THE BALL INSIDE ... Murfreesboro Lady Rattler Jacey Saldana looks for the ball inside against Centerpoint's Kason Wolf during the Lady Rattlers' 43-25 victory against the Lady Knights JV team.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

CIVIL DIVISION

FIRST STATE BANK OF DIERKS

A DIVISION OF FIRST STATE BANK OF DE QUEEN PLAINTIFF

VS. NO. 55CV-16-53.2

ANTHONY D. EUDY a/k/a TONY EUDY and WIFE, TRACI L. EUDY

DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to the authority and directions contained in the Order of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas, entered on November 13, 2017, in Cause No. 55CV-16-53.2 between FIRST STATE BANK OF DIERKS, A DIVISION OF FIRST STATE BANK OF DE QUEEN, Plaintiff, and the above stated Defendants, the undersigned, as Commissioner of such Court, will offer for public sale to the highest bidder at the entrance to the Pike County Courthouse, in which said Court is held, in Pike County within the hours prescribed by law for judicial sales on the 19th day of December, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pike County Courthouse on the following described real estate, located in Pike County, Arkansas to-wit:

PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (PT. N ½ NE ¼, PT. NE ¼ NW ¼) IN SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 27 WEST, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF SAID N ½ NE ¼; THENCE SOUTH 1320 FEET TO THE SW CORNER THEREOF; THENCE EAST 840 FEET; THENCE NORTH 19 DEGREES 26' 59" E 884.13 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 85 DEGREES 03'51" EAST 717.39 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02 DEGREES 10' 14" EAST 516 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER; THENCE WEST 1890 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 39.31 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. ALSO, ALL THAT PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (E ½ NE ¼ NW ¼) LYING EAST OF BLOCKER CREEK IN SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 27 WEST, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, CONTAINING 15 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, CONTAINING IN THE AGGREGATE 54.31 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

TERMS OF SALE: On a credit of three months, the purchaser being required to execute a bond as required by law and the order and decree of said Court in said cause, with approved security, bearing interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum from date of sale until paid, and a lien being retained on the premises sold to secure the payment of the purchaser money.

Given under my hand this 22 day of November, 2017.

SABRINA WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Mobilitie proposes the construction of a utility style telecommunications pole within existing road right-of-way at AR-27/Main St & Court St, Murfreesboro, AR. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed projects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999. (a.s. 88w. 19)



Historic homes, buildings and churches in the town of Washington will be decorated in holiday style. Thousands of luminaries will line the town's sidewalks and streets. Experience the magic of Christmas past.

Take a surrey ride, tour the buildings, listen to carolers and dine in the 1832 Williams' Tavern Restaurant.

Daylight Tours, 1-5 p.m. Candlelight tours, 5-8 p.m. Christmas buffet at Williams' Tavern, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Tickets: \$10/adults, \$6/children • Children under 6 are free.

870-983-2684 · Historic Washington State Park.com



(m.k.w. 431w.,19)



ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE .. The Pike County Archives and History Society held an open house last week in Murfreesboro at their office located at 112 South Washington Street. Pictured above are PCAHS members (L to R) Charles Kennedy, Marlene Steen, Charlotte McCauley, Retha Adams, Darlene Watson, Jane Womack, Junior Epperson, John Gould, Rick Floyd and Peggy Thom-

Town Square Gallery

21 Courthouse Square • 870-285-2029

Will host their Christmas Open Flouse on Saturday, December 2

There will be several arcist on hand to display their work

Russell Fleharty

Specializes in Lapidary and jewelry wrapping. The will raffle a Montana Mass Agate Pendant, in sterling silver. Gickets will be \$3 each or 6 for \$15.

Leah Schulz

Photography, custom 5-shirts & hand crafts. She will raffle a hand crafted lighted Christmas decoration along with a framed print. Gickets will be \$1 each. 6 for \$5

Patti Quinn

Gourd art, painting, pencil, and jewelry. She will raf-fle a Leaf Gourd, tickets will be \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Matt Blaisedell

Photography. (Datt will raffle a 16x20 canvas print-Arkansas Bull Elk. Gickets will be \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Miriam Shively

Custom made Gemstone Grees.

Raffle tickets for a one of a kind gemstone tree are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Lee Guenther

Stone cutter specializing in faceting Arkansas Quartz Crystals. The will raffle a 18.2 ct., 18 mm round Ark. Quartz Crystal Pendant, tickets will be \$3 each or 6 for \$15.

Chuck Smith

Oil Painting- he will be raffling a oil painting of the Caddo River at Amity. Gickets will be \$5 each or 6 for

Aaron Gschwandegger

Photography-specializing in birds and nature. The will be raffling a custom made Cardinal pillow. Gickets will be \$ 2 each or 6 for \$10.

Come by and get a headstart on your Christmas Shopping and check out our Arkansas Gurquoise jewelry & loose

20% all pendant & earring sets!

The Gallery will also have a drawing for a piece of Diamond jewelry. You do not have to be present to win!

Raffle tickets are on sale now until December 2.

Date set for WWI Memorial Tree planting

MURFREESBORO -- The City of Murfreesboro will plant a tree in remembrance of World War I veterans, and invites the public to attend

The ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on December 7 at 204 East Main Street next to the Murfreesboro Municipal Building.

The WWI memorial tree has been made available through a partnership of the Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee (ARWWICCC) and the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Communities in Arkansas have been urged to plant trees in 2017 and 2018 to remember the 71,862 Arkansans who served during the Great War, including the 2,183 who died while in service. The ARWWICCC's goal is to have a memorial tree in each of Arkansas's 75 counties by the time the commemoration concludes at

To complete the effort, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is providing 75 two-year-old willow oak trees for the project.

The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee has additionally provided a small batch of soil from the Meuse-Argonne National Cemetery in France to be added when the tree is planted in Murfreesboro. The cemetery contains the largest number of American military who perished in Europe as a part of the war effort, some 14,000 individuals.

All trees planted as part of the program will be included as an official WWI Site at http:// www.wwiarkansas.com/sites-memorials.html.

Immediately following the event, at 11 a.m., the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce will host the annual "Taste of Christmas" lunch in the community room of the Municipal Building.

State creates gift cards for college savings

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas 529 College Investing Plan administered by the Treasurer of State's office has partnered with GiftofCollege. com to offer gift card registries for all Arkansas 529 college savings accounts. The gift registry allows parents to easily deposit into any new or existing college savings plan, in addition to paying toward a student loan balance. Arkansas is the fourth state in the nation to launch the Gift of College program.

"The Arkansas 529 Board that I chair decided to partner with GiftOfCollege.com so that we can help ease the stress of saving for college by providing Arkansas families with a simple way to save for higher education," said Treasurer Dennis Milligan.

With the new gift cards being offered, parents will have the opportunity to encourage financial gifting by linking Gift of College invitations to birthdays, special occasions, graduations and holidays.

The gift cards are currently available for purchase online at www.arkansas529.org.

Arkansas 529 College Investing plans help parents and grandparents save money that can be used at colleges, universities, technical or vocational institutions across the country and abroad. Account holders are able to take a state tax deduction on amounts contributed to an Arkansas 529 plan, up to \$10,000 per married couple.

An account can be opened up on the Arkansas 529 website for as little as \$25.

AUCTION

LARGE PUBLIC

ESTATE AUCTION

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Sunday, November 26th

Special 9 A.M. START TIME

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truly have something for everyone. If you are in the market for fine antiques or just

good quality modern home furnishings, we

Check our website for over 500 photos & terms of sale. Make plans now to attend this outstanding event! TERMS: Cash & checks with a 10% buyer's premium. All major credit cards accepted with additional 5% transaction fee. All sales

are final, & sold as-is. Call J.E. Ponder for more info or reserved seating at 870-673-6551 or 870-672-1731 (cell). AALB #787.

Preview: Sat., Nov. 25th10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 26th 8 a.m. until sale

Auctioneer's Note: December sale date will be changed to December 17th due to holidays.

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OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-866-587-0119.

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Local students list the things they are thankful for this holiday season

hom (my home).

Abby Howard: I am thankful for mi mom (my

Asher Cox-Campbell: I am thankful for mi babe sistr (my baby sister), mi toes (my toys), and mi

Tristen Martinez: I am thankful for bacn (bacon),

I am thankful for my school because it helps me

learn. I really like math. I am also thankful for my friends because they play with me. I am thankful

for my favorite books because they have funny

parts. I am really thankful for my family because

I am thankful for my family because I love them.

I am thankful for Natalie because she is my best

friend. I am also thankful for reading because it

helps me learn, and it helps me get a lot of AR points.

giving, my family, teachers, and my Mom and Dad.

I am thankful for Jerrah, God, friends, Thanks-

I am thankful for my family because they love

me and they take me camping. I am also thankful

for school because I have fun at school. I like going

to P.E. when I am at school. I am also thankful for

I am thankful for my Mom and Dad because they

love me. I am thankful for my whole family because

they make me happy and they are really cool. I am

thankful for my cousins because they play with me

and we have so much fun. I am also thankful for my

triends, Maci and Addy, because they play with me.

I am thankful for reading because I like to read

stories. I am also thankful for my Mom and Dad

because they feed me and they let me go outside

I am thankful for school because it helps me

learn. I am also thankful for church because it helps

me learn about God. I am thankful for my friends

because they play with me. I am thankful for my

I am thankful for math because it helps me learn.

my cousins. I am thankful for everyone.

Miguel Ayala

Jerrah Buck

Natalie Bush

Alak Campbell

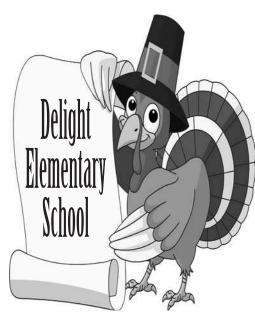
Drake Howard

Maci Price

met (meat), and mi bene (my bunny).

Mrs. Eden's First Grade

mom), mi dog (my dog), and mi fon (my phone).



Editor's note: In some cases there was an attempt to preserve the child's original thoughts including misspellings.

Mrs. Kidd's & Mrs. Palmer's Kindergarten

Mark Warnack-Huffman: I am thankful for fod (food), mi sistr (my sister), and mi dad (my dad). Kam Dixon: I am thankful for mi mim (my mom), me (me), and mi brr (my brother).

Jackson Williams: I am thankful for fod (food),

myself (myself), and mi frnds (my friends). Brooklyn Henderson: I am thankful for mi hom (my home), Momma (Momma), and brothr

Storrie Marsh: I am thankful for Mis Palmr (Mrs. Palmer), Mis Kid (Mrs. Kidd), and Mom (Mom). Abbi Whitten: I am thankful for me (me), ma kat

(brother).

(my cat), and ma Else rt (my Elsa shirt). Kaylee Gentry: I am thankful for Mome

(Mommy), Mis Kid (Mrs. Kidd), and Mis Palmr (Mrs. Palmer). Livy Jackson: I am thankful for me (me), Meme

(Mommy), and mi ds (my dogs).

Zander Rowe: I am thankful for toes (toys), me mome (my mommy), and ma sistrs (my sisters).

Lexie Craig: I am thankful for mi hrs (my horse), mi shiren (my chicken), and mi nitlit (my nightlight). Jack Lamb: I am thankful for God (God), wotr (water), and mi dog (my dog).

Olivia McDaniel: I am thankful for Mam (Mom), mi da (my dog), and mi tejrs (my teachers).

Aiden Baker: I am thankful for Ms Pamir (Mrs. Palmer), Ms Kid (Mrs. Kidd), and frins (friends). Bella Jackson: I am thankful for Mam (Mom), hrsas (horses), and banes (bunnies).

Jacob Shaw: I am thankful for ma sistr (my sister), fnd (food), and toes (toys).

Hunter Whittle: I am thankful for Momo

(Mama), fod (food), and Dade (Daddy).

Korbin McLelland: I am thankful for Dad (Dad), me sistr (my sister), and me bruthrs (my brothers).

family because they love me.

and play.

Adalyn Silva

I am thankful for my family because they help me. They also protect me. I am thankful for my skateboard because I love to ride it. I am also thankful for my bike because I get to ride it on the road. **Jackson Teel**

I am thankful for my Mom because I love her. I am thankful for my brother because I love him. I am also thankful for Mawmaw and Pappy because they love me.

Natalie Jackson -- I'm thankful for my toys and

Allyson Cross -- I'm thankful for given every-

Emily Cornish -- I'm thankful for when mama

Alivia Williams -- I'm thankful for Mac -- n --

Amari Sanders -- I'm thankful for my momma and getting to come to school and playing with

Graham Dixon -- I'm thankful for trucks and

Noah Woodberry -- I'm thankful for playing at

Travis Westerman -- I'm thankful for the cars at

Damion Watson -- I'm thankful for to be at my

Jacey Heaston -- I'm thankful for my toys, Isa-

Isabella Dowdy -- I'm thankful for my boots

Hope Jarman -- My momma and my brother.

Judas Jarman -- My friends at school and Ava.

momma's work and fishing. Hunter Schalatter -- I'm thankful for my

body hugs and playing with all my friends.

Cheese and getting to eat with my Nanny.

Clayden Webb



my friends.

cars and big trucks.

bella and Hunter.

and my new glasses.

school with my friends.

school on the playground.

my mom and my baby brother.

cleans, my paints and school.



Dees -- I'm thankful for my painted rocks, they are very cool.

Ryan Humphry -- I'm thanful for getting to go to Erin's basketball game and sleep.

Ava Henderson -- I'm thankful for getting to

play outside.

I am thankful for my Mama, my Daddy, Mini, Jake Lockwood.

Papa, Annabelle, and God and Jesus. I love them.

I am thakful for my Mama. I am thankful for plaing with Cade. Braylin Cox

I am thankful for my Mama, Daddy, my brothers and my kitties. I am thankful I get to go to Mimi's

and Papa's house. Annabelle Lockwood I am thankful for my Mama, my Daddy, my

friends Gage and Braylin. I am thankful I can play

Nykkan Staten

I am thankful for Mama and Daddy, playing outside and playing with Beezer.

outside at Cake's house.

Mollie Rowe

I am thankful for Mom, Dad, Mimi, Pappy, Nanny, and Rustyn. Oh yeah and Storm. I am thankful for playing outside. Rylan Oliver

I am thankful for thankful for Mama, Cakes, Brooklyn and Racheal and just my whole family. I am thankful for getting to stay with you everyday (his teacher, Mrs. Dana) and playing outside.

Nathan Sweeden

I am thankful for Mama and for God and for my teachers and my cats. I am thankful I can jump on the trampoline.

Abby Fenton

I am thankful for my Mama, my Daddy, my brothers, my sisters, my Mamaw, and my Aunt Tina. I am thankful I can go swimming and going outside with my brothers, and just going somewhere.

J Cheek

I am thankful for Papaw, my Daddy, Mama. I am thankful I get to play.

Malaysia McKnight

I am thankful for my Daddy, Mama, and Bray. I am thankful I get to play with Bray.

Cade Couch

I am thankful for God, my Momma and Daddy. I am thankful for my camper, big trucks and a gator! Gage Gibbons

I am thankful for God, my Daddy, Momma, Poppa, Mimi and Poppa, and Dede. I am thankful can stand, I am thankful I can walk, I am even thankful I can run.

Joli Henderson

I am thankful for my Momma. I am thankful that I can play basketball

Kamar Dennis

I am thankful for Momma and Tyler, Nikkon and Papaw, and Brooklyn, and Aunt Julie. I am thankful that I get to eat stuff and play in the water and getting to love on the dogs.

Bransyn Staten

I am thankful for Becca, Poppa, Nonna, and Thea McKinnon





Ms. Kim's Class

I have baby dolls.

Ares Collins -- I am thankful for my dinosaurs, and Nana and Pawpaw.

Gracie Collins -- I am thankful for my Papaw, Mama, my brothers and Justin, and to be a Princess. Jaxon Hoover -- I am thankful for my Mommy,

Daddy and my bubba Corbin and also Ninja Turtles Bentley Fowler -- I am thankful for my Mommy and Daddy and to play outside.

Cassidy Beene -- I am thankful for my doggies, Rosie, Gibbs, Dixie and also I love my kittens. I like my Mommy, Daddy oh and my sister.

Stella Jones -- I am thankful for my Mommy and Granny and my brothers and God.

Adley Humphrey -- I am thankful for my Nanny

and Papa, my sister and my baby dolls. Parker Horn -- I am thankful for my Mimi, Papa, my brothers, and my sisters. I am also happy that

Cayden Staten -- I am thankful for my mommy and daddy.

Lily McRae -- I am thankful for my toys, airplanes, my mommy and daddy, and for my sister named Ashly and my other sister named Kinly

Jett Jackson -- I am thankful for my mom and daddy.

Kora Stone -- I am thankful for my teddy, my daddy, and my Mandy.

Eli Cox -- I am thankful for my cars and trains. I am also thankful for my Papa, mommy and daddy. Ashton Dinger -- I am thankful for mama and

daddy, my sissys and puppies, and my Church. Ellie Woods -- I am thankful for my mommy,

daddy and my baby, my sissy, my Marly girl and Missy and Papa.

Tilden Turner -- I am thankful for my mommy and daddy, my G and my dinosaurs.

Ms. Tammy's Class

Ora Kidd -- I am thankful for my mama and daddy, and my nana. I am also glad that I have my dolls named, Sasha, Stormy, and stinky. I am thankful that I have my Papaw but he is in Heaven.

Eden Woodall -- I am thankful for my big race car and I am also thankful for my parents and all my other family. Grayson Wilcher -- I am thankful for my Dirt

Amy Jones -- I am thankful for my mama, daddy, Sissy, Uncle Cameron, Aunt Casey, Mawmaw, Papa,

Nicholas, Rowen and Ben, and also my toys. Braylee Ward -- I am thankful for Jesus, my friends and my family.

Caine High -- I am thankful for Santa's toy, my best friends Mason and Hayden and also my mommy, buckey and Mimse.

Wyatt Sweat -- I am thankful for toys. Sebastian Brewer -- I am thankful I am thankful

for my bike, my scooter and my family. Hayden Tidwell -- I am thankful for my truck

and my farm. Lillian Wright -- I am thankful for my dogs Mila and Jake; also my mom and dad.

Kaydee Kuykendall -- I am thankful for my mom and dada

Amaya Zacarias -- I am thankful for Ms. Stacey, Ms. Tammy, Ms. Paige my mom and dad and Frankie my dog

Kage Burns -- I am thankful for my Granny and Papaw. Mason Stone -- I am thankful for my toys and

Brennen Horn -- I am thankful for mom, dad,

puppies and kitty. I am also thankful for my brother and sisters. Hudson Wood -- I am thankful for my toys, my

mom, Josh, my dad, my cats, Lulu, Allie, my poppy, Karla, Carley, Nanny and Colby.

Ms. Montre's Class

Jaili Lamb -- I am thankful for my mama and daddy and my Lainey.

Natalie Arnold -- I am thankful for my mama and daddy, for my Aunt Allison and my Norah. I am thankful for my paci too.

Harrison Coleman -- I am thankful for my mama

and daddy. Easton Fant -- I am thankful for Ninny, Mama

Peyton Wright -- I am thankful for my mama and daddy. Ricardo Cheatham Jr. -- I am thankful for my

mama, daddy, Laylay, my race car game and my Bassettball (basketball) Grayson Stone -- I am thankful for my daddy,

Mandy, my mommy and my Sissy. Urijah Thomas -- I am thankful for my boots,

and my Paw Patrol and my mommy. Ella Gatliff -- I am thankful for my mama and

lala. Samuel Hoover -- I am thankful for my Mama

and daddy and Rainbows. Henley Frachiseur -- I am thankful for my

Mama, Honey and pretty shoes and my babies. Knysler Spradlin -- I am thankful for Snake

(rattler), my mom and Blakley. Madden Tuberville -- I am thankful for my

trucks, Gage and Mommy and Daddy.



Travelers invited to 'know before they go' this holiday

LITTLE ROCK -- The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) reminds drivers to "know before you go" and visit IDriveArkansas.com before traveling this Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Extensive highway improvements continue in

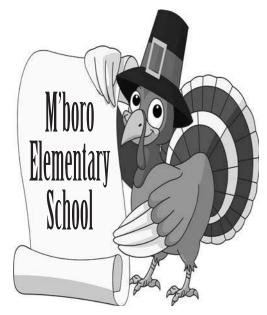
the state. With those improvements come work zones. To aid in your holiday travel, ARDOT has been working hard to open as many lanes as possible. Still, travelers will likely face work zones and possible delays due to increased traffic volume. The American Automobile Association (AAA)

predicts that more than 50.9 million Americans will

lion more travelers than last year and 45.5 million are likely to make a road trip of it. The Thanksgiving holiday travel period is defined as Wednesday, November 22 through Sunday, November 26. To help motorists find ways around accidents

travel more than 50 miles from home. That is 1.6 mil-

and work zone backups on Interstates, ARDOT has an Alternate Routes feature on IDriveArkansas.com. It displays linkages between the Interstate corridors and secondary routes that motorists may consider when travel is delayed. You can also follow us @ myARDOT.



Mrs. Synco's First Grade

Carsyn Ballard: My name is Carsyn. I am thankful for my family because if I didn't have my family, I wouldn't be here. I am also thankful for trees because if we didn't have trees non of us would be alive because trees help you breath.

Benjamin Brewer: My name is Benji. I am thankful for my family and ice cream. I am also thankful for stuff animals because they are my friends.

Chloe Cornwell: My name is Chloe. I am thankful for kittens. Kittens are so cute and fuzzy. I am also thankful for my family they keep me company and cheer me up when I am sad.

Addison Cox: My name is Addison. I am thankful my clothes and my food. I am thankful for my brothers, my mom and dad because I love them.

Jaxson Crabtree: My name is Jaxson. I am thankful for my dad because got me a new bike. I am thankful for my mom because she buys me cupcakes.

Blakelee Dixon: My name is Blakelee. I am thankful for my family because they buy me food and snacks. I love my family. I love going to the river with my family to swim and play.

Leo Hale: My name is Leo. I am thankful for when I get my work finished every day. It makes me happy. I am thankful that school is real. I like school. Matthew Lewis: My name is Matthew. I am

thankful for my grandpa. I love him. He lets us have ice cream when ever we want. He takes good care of me. Megan Markcum: My name is Megan. I am

thankful for my family because they are really nice to me. They take good care of me. Raegan Mayo: My name is Raegan. I am thank-

ful for having a house and food and my family. My family gives me love and stuff.

Karson Pack: My name is Karson. I am thankful for my dad because he is nice. He lets me play games. My am thankful for my mom because she is pretty and she is proud of me.

Colton Plyler: My name is Colton. I am thankful for ice cream and toys. I am thankful for coloring and Christmas too.

Austin Wright: My name is Austin. I am thankful for my family. They buy me toys and games. My mom and dad take good care of me.

Brian Stephens: My name is Brian. I am thankful for my mom. I want to give her all my money so we can get a house so we can be together and I won't be lonely without her.

Kordell Marsh: My name is Kordell. I am thankful for food and for my house. I am thankful for my family. They help me get food and take care of me.

Mrs. Kennedy's First Grade

for food, my life, and parents.

My name is Zechariah Applegate, I am thankful for Jesus and my church.

My name is Tyler Brewer and I am thankful for mom, dad and Caleb, food and when I get new toys. My name is Abigail Campbell and I am thankful

My name is Kailoni Cox and I am thankful for my mom and my sister, my daddy, my cousin

My name is Madilynn Draper and I am thankful for my family especially my sister, my friends, and my life.

My name is Tristen Hendrix-Nash and I am thankful for money, trucks and jobs.

My name is Jaycee Keys and I am thankful for my mom and dad, my brother and sister, and

My name is Kaydence McAnally I am thankful for my daddys job, Kandaces job, and my pappys

My name is Hannah McMillian and I am thankful for my sisters, my brothers and my mom and

My name is River Riley and I am thankful for

my family, my world and my life. My name is Kristen Rogers and I am thankful

for food and water, mom, dad and my brother, and

My name is Gunner Taylor, I am thankful for my dad, my puppies and my sister.

My name is Joelee Wilson and I am thankful for all of my family, having friends, and I'm just glad that I'm me!!

My name is Caanan Parker and I am thankful for food, church, God and my parents.

My name is Blaze Stone and I am thankful for my mom, my grandparents, and my friends.

My name is Zamaria Hughes and I am thankful for my teacher because I love her so, so much, my mom and dad, my two sissy's, and I am thankful for my brother.

Mrs. McDonald's and Terrell's Second Grade

Cooper Lowery - I am thankful for my body, my family, the things that I have, my brothers, my friends, and everything in this world.

Chase Jackson – I am thankful for my pet fish Hunter Cooley- I am thankful for God.

Kyndall Henderson - I am thankful for my friends, Mckinlle, Macy, Emma and my family, all the animals, and for sure my mom and dad and all my teachers and best of all God.

Hagan VanPelt-I am thankful for my life, friends and family, and subscribers of my Youtube videos. Jonathan Martinez – I am thankful for Mr. James,

food, my mom and Cooper.

Chloe Cross-I am thankful for everybody I know like Mrs. Terrell, Mr. James, Macy, Emma, Passion, and everybody.

Aiden Lewis-I am thankful for God making my Mamaw live on this planet for a long time.

Passion Whisenhunt – I am thankful for my friends, family, and my boyfriend.

Hunter Sweat-I am thankful for my mom, dad, and Mabree and Wyatt. Isaac Smith- I am thankful for family and food

and shelter. Xaveir Teague-I am thankful for my family, Mr.

James, food, and shelter. McKinlee White- I am thankful for my Aunt who passed away. It made me cry but I still love her.

Macy Gills-I am thankful for my family and my dogs and cats. Emma White- I am thankful for my sheep, my

Payten Teel- I am thankful for my family, my horse, and my puppies. Hunter Childers- I am most thankful for my mom, my sister, my school, my teacher, and I am

dogs, and my friends Kyndall, Macy and Mckinlee.

thankful for the world and everything in it. Cale Humphry – I am thankful for my friends

and family, my house, my teachers, my cousins and Jesus and God. Tucker Martin – I am thankful for my family, my friends, food, my teacher, my school, sports and I'm

most thankful for my life. Morgan Bierden – I am thankful for my mom and dad because they are the best, my sister and brother because they are cool, my nana and papaw because

they are amazing, and my Uncle Cody. Jeremiah Orr- I am thankful for my dad and mom, my dogs, my friends, my cousins, Colton, Hunter, Tucker, Joel, Alexa, Tristen, Cooper, Brooklyn, and God, Jesus and Mrs. Wendy.

Joel Wise – I am thankful for my mom and dad, my brothers, my sisters, Mrs. Wendi, my dogs, God and Jesus, my uncles, my aunts, and my cousins.

Hadlee Wilson – I am thankful for my friends and family because they are sweet and nice. I love them so much and they are the nicest friends and family I know.

Tristen Huie – I am most thankful for my school, my teacher, my principal, my mom and dad, my brother, my sister, my home, my dog, my cat, my friends, and my classroom.

Jayla Draper - I am thankful for my mom, my dad, my bro, my sis, and my friends.

Jaycee Gonzalez- I am most thankful for Mrs. Wendi, she teaches us good things, you are a wonderful teacher! I love you so much! You best teacher in the whole wide world.

Shayla Morris- I am thankful for my teacher

and my friends. Lillian Cross – I am thankful for Chloe, Cooper, Macy, Jaycee, Isaac, my mom and dad, Ellie, Charleigh, Haddie, Joley, Colton, Mrs. Wendi, Kinleigh,

Morgan, Layne, and my brother Layne. Hayden Gibson – I am thankful for my mom and my dad, my Papa Le, and I am thankful for my grandmother that is old.

Colton Tidwell – I am thankful for God and Jesus and for Mrs. Wendi.

Jarrin Burgess – I am thankful for my mom and dad, my friends, my cousin, my brothers, my sister, my grandmaw, and my grandpa.

Brooklyn Cox – I am most thankful for my school, my mom and dad, and my sister and brother.

Mrs. Briley's, Gatliff's and Lee's Third Grade Isabella Frazier -- I'm thankful for my family

Brandon Cotton -- I am thankful for my mom and dad, my dog, horses, my toys, my bed, my room, my friends and my family.



Diana Hernandez -- I Am THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY

Garrett Lamb -- My family

Daniel Martinez -- My mom

Kason Stone -- I am thankful for my mama and Dad.

Ansley Branch -- I'm thankful for everyone in my family. They are good James Burgess -- I'm thankful for everything

that I have. Price Cheek -- I am thankful for my mom and

Logan Christie -- I thankful for being alive if the army and everything didn't protect us we wouldn't

be alive they made the right decision to do that and when I grow up I am going to do the same. Blaine Clark -- I am thankful for mom and dad and friends and all the things I got and my tablet.

Lucas Cox -- I'm thankful for my family, my life, my friends, my God, my Jesus, the world, and my love ones.

Nathan Cox -- I am thankful for America Gianna Draper -- I am thankful for my family, my friends, my dog rocky, Katy my cousin, and my live and God!

Logyn Holder -- Freedom Friday America games books.

Kinslee Howell -- I am thankful for my friends and family and home. Ethan Jones -- I'm thankful for my family and

friends Connor McBay -- I am thankful for the time of

our life and our children and our family. Abigail McGalliard -- I am very thankful For

us. Happy Holidays Cole McKnight - For thanksgiving to eat turkey and hot dogs and chicken tenders

and chicken nuggets from McDonald's And KFC and Carl'S jr and jack -- in -- the -- Box.

Alex Parker – I'm thankful for everything that God gave us. Aaron Rauch -- I am thankful for The army.

Aurora Stone -- I am thankful for The army. Ramsey Terrell -- I am thankful for my family. they are kind in so many ways I would do anything for them..

Autumn Whitten -- I am thankful for my friends and family. Mason Wilkins -- I'm thankful for money.

Trent Coleman – I am thankful for my tablet, my

family and friends, my two brothers, my 3DS, my toy guns, my toy binoculars. Haylee Sluder -- I am thankful for the Earth, the

people, the land, the sky, kittens, puppies, and my friends and family.

Isaac Kuykendall – I am thankful for my friends, family, and myself.

Mrs. Stone's and Mrs. Perrins's Fourth Grade

Dallas Miller -- For my family and friends Dalleigh Fant -- I am thankful for my family and friends, and horses

Dalton Manlove -- I am thankful for the army that fought for our country!

Garrett Molnaird -- I am thankful for my family

and friends and Eli Justen Carey -- I am thankful for my family,

friends, God and Jesus.

Landen Jones -- I am thankful for family, friends, Youtube, cats, brothers and sisters, Mother Nature, tv, home, and a bed, and last but not least food.

Mabree Sweat -- I am thankful for my family and friends and also America's Freedom.

Makaylyn Cheek -- I am thankful for my family and Franks and Tuckers

Miguel Mendez -- I am thankful for my family and my friends my voice and food especially Dear meat.

Nadya Randolph -- I'm thankful for my family and friends and my life and my teachers.

Teegan Barnett -- I am thankful for my family, home, and pets. I am thankful for my family because they take care of me and love me so much. We do stuff like hunting, fishing, playing, and gathering together to eat as a family. I am also thankful for my home because it makes me feel safe and secure. I am also thankful for my pets because they play with me and they are so sweet and funny. Truly, that is what I'm tȟankful for

Sydney Braden -- For every one

Samantha Hernandez -- I am thankful for talking and i am thankful for my mom and dad and sisters. Bailey Jackson -- My family

Jason Jordan -- I am thankful for the food Djay Leeper -- I am thankful for my family Hailey Sweney -- I'm nice and respectful Gracie Terry -- I am thankful for my family

Madeliene Wicker -- My family. Dennis Leeper Jr. - I am thankful for my dad and mom.

Brenlie VanPelt -- Mommy, Daddy, Brenlie, Hagan, J.J, Granny, Caleb, Papa and Kadence. Justine Cummings -- Mom, Daddy, Sissy, Gracie

and Ms. Paula.

brother and me.

Sadie Cummings -- Friends, Momma, Dad, Mamma Sue, Justine, Caterpillars, butterflies and

Gabby Green -- Granny, Mimi, Papaw, Mommy, Daddy and my Candice.

Charlotte Cox -- Mommy, Daddy, Sar Sar, Papa, Nana, Dee Dee and Haley.

Abby Hutchinson -- Moma, Ms. Paul and Ms. Amanda. Gracie Pipkins -- Momma, brother, Daddy and

Sadie Varner -- Santa Claus, Mom and Daddy.

Brooklynn Pierce -- Mommy, Daddy, Papaw. Easton Hagan -- Loving my red bear, Matt for getting guns and my Momma for buying me toys. Lizbeth Rodriguez -- Mommy, Daddy, sister,

Ms. Paula -- I am thankful for so much but, especially having my "brudha" back home in Arkansas.

Ms. Amanada -- I am thankful for my kids (all of them), and I'm thankful for every single day God blesses me with.



Annual survey of **Thanksgiving** meal expense finds costs roughly level

LITTLE ROCK -- The average cost of the traditional Thanksgiving meal this year is pennies less than in 2016 according to Arkansas Farm Bureau's 32nd annual survey of food items typically included in the holiday feast. It will cost \$44.58 for a family of 10, or \$4.58 per person, to enjoy the dinner. That's just 26-cents lower than last year's average of \$44.84 and 67-cents lower than 2015. The statewide average is based on responses from

members of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee and other volunteers who surveyed food prices at 11 grocery stores and supermarkets across the state. They were asked to report the "best in- store price" of 12 items included in the meal and are allowed to take advantage of advertised specials, excluding discount coupons and purchase requirements. Arkansas food prices continue to remain more afford-

able than elsewhere. American Farm Bureau's national survey of price trends for the holiday feast revealed an average of \$49.12. Arkansas Farm Bureau President Randy Veach said the

fact consumers continue to enjoy the holiday meal for less than \$5 a person, on average, is a result of the efficiency of the nation's food production system. Though unscientific, the survey is intended to be a snapshot of actual prices across Arkansas and the nation.

The survey period was Oct.27 - Nov. 7. The shopping list has remained unchanged since 1986 to allow consistent price comparisons. Travis Justice, chief economist for Arkansas Farm Bureau, attributes the slight drop in price to further reductions in the cost of the key items in the menu. "Overall food-price inflation has remained below

1 percent annually for the past two years, Justice said. "Stable financial markets, below average returns on most farm commodities -- especially on several of the items captured in the survey -- and record level meat production for the past three years have contributed to the slightly lower survey results. "Nationally turkey prices are well below recent year

levels. The higher price for the turkey in our in-state survey is likely a reflection on retailer margin differences and capturing the prices ahead of traditional pre-Thanksgiving discounting," Justice explained. "Favorable growing conditions throughout most of the

country have allowed supplies of most fruit and vegetable crops to remain plentiful. That, combined with the fact food-price inflation has remained at modest levels has provided relative stability in energy prices and certainly played a role in keeping retail food costs low." The average cost of a gallon of whole milk dropped 21 cents to \$3.01, while one-half pint of whipping cream

was down 50 cents to \$1.84. At the same time, the average price of a 16-pound young tom turkey increased slightly to \$17.29 (\$1.08 per pound), compared to \$16.12 last year. American Farm Bureau's national survey reported an average of \$22.38 or \$1.40 per pound. Also contributing to the lower price for the meal were

drops in price for 3-pounds of sweet potatoes, brown-and-

serve rolls, and 12-oz package of cranberries. Items that saw modest price increases include a

30-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix, a 16-ounce package of frozen green peas, fresh carrots and celery. 2017 Thanksgiving Dinner Survey Items and Avg. Prices

2017 2016

16 lb. Young Tom Turkey	\$17.29 (1.08/lb)	\$16.12 (1.01/lb)
Cubed Stuffing (Herb Seasoning)	2.65	2.68
Libby's Pumpkin Pie Mix (30 oz)	3.25	2.99
9" Frozen Pie Shells (2)	2.11	2.14
Sweet Potatoes (3 lbs)	3.05(1.02/lb)	3.47(1.16/lb)
Brown & Serve Rolls (12 count)	2.01	2.35
Frozen Green Peas (16 oz pkg)	1.55	1.50
Fresh Carrots (lb)	.99	.96
Fresh Celery (bunch)	1.56	1.54
Whole Milk (gal)	3.01	3.22
Fresh Cranberries (12 oz pkg)	2.55	2.72
Whipping Cream (1/2 pint carton)	1.84	2.34
**Miscellaneous	2.72	2.81
**Miscellaneous category includes coffee a the meal such as sugar, eggs, butter and f by American Farm Bureau and is a consi	lour. This average price is	determined

Statewide Average	2017 \$ 44.58	2016 \$44.84	2015 \$45.25
ndividual Surveys (11)		
Paragould	,	\$ 35.53	
Monticello		\$ 38.69	
Hot Springs (Kroger)		\$ 39.59	
Harrison		\$ 41.54	
Jonesboro		\$ 43.03	
North Little Rock		\$ 45.49	
Clinton	on \$45.67		
Hot Springs (Wal Mart)		\$ 47.98	
Lake Village		\$ 49.01	
Arkadelphia		\$ 51.78	
Little Rock		\$ 52.18	

IOTE: The survey is conducted by members of the Arkansas Farm Bureau state Women's Committee. The women are urged to report *the best in-stor price*, noting advertised specials, but disregarding promotional coupons and urchase requirements. *The results are unscientific*, but are intended to re actual price trends across the state. The survey period was Oct. 27 - Nov. 7



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Thanksgiving

It's Thanksgiving here in the U.S.A. Canada had theirs in October. Good neighbors, we are. It is something both countries can be thankful for. Either one of us could have moved in, only to find North Korea or Syria lived next door.

8

Our countries are blessed. North America's a pretty good neighborhood. We have big backyards full of timber, pasture, minerals and oil. We have flowerbeds with fertile soil growing corn and rice and peaches.

We're good mechanics, electricians, cowboys, baseball players, teachers and students. Naysayers deride our education system, but look around. Who graduated all those dunces that are winning the Nobel prizes, leading the free world and feeding the starving from Somalia to Cuba?

Need something more to be thankful for? How 'bout the Bill of Rights. It and subsequent amendments guarantee our rights to speak, preach, own guns, vote, have our privacy and be treated equally regardless if we're rich or poor, immigrant or Indian, socialist or libertar-

We have a Constitution that protects us from our government. A pretty profound concept. It's as if the writers could predict the Stalins, Hitlers, Kim Jong Un's and penny ante politicians

Closer to home, those of us who belong to the land can count our blessings daily. We turn the earth and raise our livestock knowing in the recesses of our brain that we are an essential cog in the wheel of life. Our daily battles often obscure the contribution we make to mankind.

When we have to replant our wheat or treat a sick calf we give no thought that what we produce might wind up in a refugee camp in Ethiopia or a lunchbox in the oilfields of the North Sea. We're thankful we can pay the interest on the note, but somewhere, someone is thankful that their children got to eat

And if we're lucky we can sit down to this Thanksgiving meal surrounded by family and friends. We can look across the table brimming with turkey, dressing, ham, prime rib, gravy, sweet potatoes, creamed onions, punkin pie and cranberries. Bounty of our own making.

It is a quirk of fate that we live where we live and do what we do. It is true we can always find something to complain about that detracts from our blessings. But sometimes it is wise to look at our lives in the context of the whole world. That's what Thanksgiving day is for. It comes once a year just to remind us how fortunate we really are.

Murfreesboro CADC Lunch Menu

Monday, November 27

Soft beef taco, refried beans, chuck wagon corn, bread pudding w/lemon sauce.

Crock Pot: Rotel cheese dip.

Tuesday, November 28

Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, wheat roll, fresh orange slice

Crock Pot: Sauerkraut & weiners.

Friday, December 1

Scrambled eggs, sausage, hash brown potatoes, biscuit, country gravy, bananas in orange

Crock Pot: Chocolate gravy.

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. with skim milk, coffee, tea or water. Transportation available. Call for more information 870-285-2312.



Theological Reflection What/Who Are You Thankful For?

contemplate we Thanksgiving Day, when we munch on turkey, pumpkin pie, and chicken dressing (cornbread of course), may we be reminded to give thanks to God for His overwhelming mercy toward us. The psalmist declared: "O, give thanks to the Lord for He is good. For His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Ps. 106:1). We are admonished to give thanks to God for He is good . . . all the time! Yes, even when we doubt His goodness . . . He is good. Even when we cannot trace His hand . . . He is good. Even when we are hurting and cannot understand the reason behind it . . . He is good. His love is everlasting. He does not change and He loves us more than we can ever imagine.

I am mindful of His mercy toward me. Mercy implies that God does not give me the punishment for sin, which I deserve. Rather, Christ has



Johnny Baker, D.Min., Ph.D. Pastor, First Baptist

Church, Murfreesboro

paid the sin debt for me. I am free from the penalty of sin because of Christ. If I received what I really deserve, I would be dead and in hell! His mercy is wonderful!

I encourage you to begin with God, as you build your thankfulness list. You can thank Him for possessions, promotions, money, position, etc. All these things come from a benevolent God. But, thankfulness, which begins with praise for who God is,

always stems out of a focus on His character. He is good.

Contemplate how you can talk to someone at that family get together this Thursday and bend the conversation around to the mercy and goodness of God. Honor Him on Thanksgiving Day. He is the one to be praised. Oh I know . . . the one who cooked the turkey is to be praised also. But, what a small contribution the great meal is in the overall scheme of things. What God has done for us outweighs all other blessings. Be sure to thank Him by giving yourself to His Kingdom in faithful participation in church and loving devotion through Christian witness.

Have a great Thanksgiving. To God be the glory!

You are loved, Bro. Johnny

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Veterans Outreach to bring MVC to M'boro

MURFREESBORO -- The Little Rock Veterans Center Outreach will have their Mobile Vet Center (MVC) in Pike County on Tuesday, De-

The MVC will be stationed at the open parking area off 13th Street next to Peoples Pharmacy from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The super-sized recreational vehicle will be on hand to provide outreach for local veterans. It is 38 feet long and 13'6" tall, taking up five

The outreach service provides counseling services and other information to rural areas including the following areas: individual readjustment, group counseling, military sexual trauma, bereavement, martial and family, re-

ferrals, substance abuse, community education and community service liaisons.

Veterans can also be provided with materials such as brochures, informational booklets, benefit books, essential phone numbers to Veteran's agencies including their county's Veteran Service Officer.

"The main goal is to let the Veterans know we are here for them and to get the Veterans of Pike County connected to the right agencies to get the benefits they have earned," said readjustment counseling technician Thomas Nor-

For more information, contact the Pike County Veteran's Service Office at (870) 285-

Dates and fees announced for Pike County office candidates

MURFREESBORO -- The filing fees and dates for the 2018 Pike County office holder elections has been announced by County Clerk Sandy

The filing period for offices including the County Judge, Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Coroner and Justices of the Peace (J.P.) will be from February 22 at 12 noon to March 1 at 12 noon at the Pike County Clerk's office in Murfreesboro.

For this election cycle, a new law will have all the above offices except the J.P.s on the Pike County Quorum Court elected for a four-year term. The Ouorum Court members will remain at a two-year term and are considered a "district" officer as opposed to a "county" officer.

All nine of the J.P. positions will be up for reelection in the election. Two of the Quorum Court representatives, Donnie Davis and Gary Wofford, will be ineligible for reelection as they were fill-ins for resignations. Filing fees for those seeking office as either

a Democrat or Republican will be 1% of the of the annual salary, down from 1.5% in the 2016 election. Those totals include:

- Pike County Judge and Sheriff -- \$468.35
- Pike County Assessor, Clerk, Circuit Clerk and Treasurer -- \$419.74
 - Pike County Coroner -- \$69.37
- Justice of the Peace, Pike County Quorum Court -- \$34.27

Candidates also have the ability to run as an independent, which eliminates the filing fee, but in its place they must collect 94 signatures on a petition to qualify for the ballot. The petitions may be circulated beginning December 1, 2017, and can be collected at the Pike County Clerk's

Those who qualify for the ballot as an independent will forgo the May 22 preferential primary, which is a political party function, and will appear on the ballot in the November 6, 2018

South Pike County School Menu

Monday, November 27

Breakfast: Super donut or cereal, pop tart, juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch: Chicken & noodles, steamed carrots, steamed broccoli, 7-12 crackers, pears, milk.

Line #2 Pepperoni pizza. Tuesday, November 28

Breakfast: Chicken & biscuit w/jelly or cereal, pop tart, juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas, cornbread, mixed fruit, milk. Line #2 Chicken strips.

Wednesday, November 29

Breakfast: K-6th Breakfast pizza, 7-12 breakfast burrito or cereal, pop tart, juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch: Beef taco w/cheese, refried beans, lettuce & tomato, salsa, peaches, milk.

Line #2 Chicken fajita. Thursday, November 30

Breakfast: Powered donuts or cereal, pop tart, juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, potato wedges. baked beans, peaches, milk.

Line #2 Sloppy Joe. Friday, December 1

Breakfast: Mini waffles w/syrup or cereal, pop tart, juice, fruit, milk.

Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, seasoned corn, salad, peaches, milk.

Line #2 Meatball sub.

'Dear Preacher'

By Tommy Mounts, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

Dear Preacher: some say that we should not confess private sins in public assemblies. What is wrong with it? Doesn't James 5:16 teach that?"

What is wrong with requiring a public confession of private sins is that there is no Bible authority for it! Jesus said, "If therefore thou art offering thy gift at the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way, first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matt. 5: 23-24). Jesus also addressed the reverse situation, when you have something against another, "Go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Matt. 18:15). The Lord shows



that private matters should be made right between the parties involved.

In the case of Simon, the sorcerer who had become a Christian (Acts 8:13), another course of action is followed. Read Acts 8: 20-24. Simon was not told to confess publicly, but he did. This surely indicates that public confession is appropriate for public sins.

James 5:16, usually taken

out of context, is not a public congregational situation, but is a daily matter of oneon-one relationship. Some people try to bypass the concept of getting right with those we have wronged (Lk.. 17:3) by "coming forward" and checking a certain box on a pre-printed card, as if that remedied the situation. Husbands and wives who have had a "spat" on the way to Bible class need not bring such things before the church. They should humbly and honestly work out the rough spots without "answering the invitation song."

Christianity is practical and not cathedral-oriented.

Direct all questions to: church of Christ, P.O. Box 256, Murfreesboro, AR. 71958.

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Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.

• Sun. Eve. 5 p.m. • Wed. Bible study & Prayer Meeting 6 p.m. Bro. Curtis Abernathy

Murfreesboro Diamond

mdiamond@windstream.net mdiamond.editor@windstream.net (870) 285-2723

> Attend Church This Sunday!



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. Tommy Mounts

Bank of Delight 503 E. Antioch St. Delight

(870) 379-2293

To reserve this space for your church services or business... Call Christy at 870-285-2723



COLLECTING FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED ... Local Lion Scout Pack #60 collected nonperishable food and donations at Cash Saver in Murfreesboro last Saturday morning during their "Scouting for Food" event. All the donations will benefit the local community. Pictured is (above) Scouts Hunter Cooley, Austin Wright, Benjamin Brewer and Corbin Hoover, while (below) Amos McDaniel, Gunner Cooley, Benjamin Cox and Hunter Markham. Not pictured is Mason Davis.



Veterans quilt presented at Delight

BY AVONNE PETTY 4-H Program Assistant Pike County

DELIGHT -- Students in the Delight 3-6th grades 4-H clubs took part in Veterans programs last week. On Friday, November 10th, the sixth grade students put up American flags in the Delight Cemetery. On

With the name trusted for more than 65 years,

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supervisor

the following Monday, the fifth grade students removed the flags. There are over 200 Veterans graves in this cemetery.

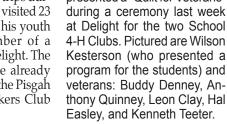
Wilson Kesterson, a 4-H member from Glenwood, presented a program for the clubs on Tuesday describing his work with homeless veterans and gave information about the graves of veterans. Following

various eras and branches of the military told about their time of service. Between them, they had over 60 years of service to our country. The highlight of this pro-

gram was the presentation of a quilt to Hal Easley which was made by 4-H'ers from across the county. Mr. Easley served 13 years in the Army. His military career took him all over the world. During this time he was stationed in Fort Hood Texas, Germany, Korea, Thailand, and ended his career in America at the Pentagon. Taking trips during his leave time, he visited 23 foreign countries. In his youth Easley was a member of a school 4-H club in Delight. The other four men have already received quilts from the Pisgah Extension Homemakers Club members.

his program five veterans from

QUILT PRESENTATION FOR VETERAN ... Hal Easley is presented a "Quilt for Veterans" during a ceremony last week at Delight for the two School 4-H Clubs. Pictured are Wilson Kesterson (who presented a program for the students) and veterans: Buddy Denney, An-



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Food" event. Pictured above is Issac Smith, Chase Dunlap, Elijah Fugitt, Corbin Hoover, Hunter Cooley, Gunner Cooley, and Austin Wright Benjamin. The group collected 1,030 lbs. of foodstuffs, all of which will be donated to the First Christian Church of Murfreesboro.



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with the proceeds of the event going toward Jan Moore's (third from left, back row) medical bills related to breast cancer treatment. The rest of the group, who wanted to remain identified only as "friends of Matt and Jan," wish her the very best.

DELIGHTFUL FUNDRAISER ... A chili and soup meal benefit was held last Saturday at Delight in honor of Matt and Jan Moore,

Delight Library holds Thanksgiving related after school programs

DELIGHT -- Over the course of three days, the Delight Library held November's after school program for children preKteen. The event consisted of after school snacks, stories, Thanksgiving favorites and memories and ended with a craft project for each child to make and take home for decoration for the upcoming Thanksgiv-

ing holiday.

Several local children were served and a wonderful time was had by all who attended. The children were read Turkey Trouble, a story of a farm turkey who had no desire to be Thanksgiving's main course. Children enjoyed the humorous story and disguised their own hand crafted turkeys

for protection from the meal.

For more information on after school programs, check out the Library's Facebook page or call 870-379-2456. Whether it be a book, a movie, a game, computer or internet needs or simply a listening ear, the Delight library has it all!











Seeing the good in others

BY EVA LANGLEY

Pike County Extension Agent Family & Consumer Sciences

Sometimes we don't recognize that our hearts are hard towards some people while being soft and kind towards others. It has been observed that if you don't like someone, the way he holds his spoon will make you furious; if you do like him, he can turn his plate over into your lap and you won't mind.

In every relationship there are times of irritation, frustration and disappointment. Positivity is deciding not to dwell on those moments or allow them to define the relationship. It is the choice to notice and dwell on what is good about the other person and the relationship and choosing to see all the ways a person enriches our life. Positivity is the practice of seeing the good in people. It is the basis of kindness and it is this kindness that makes lasting relationships. This is true for marriages, friendships, and parent/ child relationships.

We can decide to focus on what is irritating and disappointing in others or we can choose to appreciate and focus upon the good, even during times of conflict. In studies of marriage, it was found that in healthy relationships, each partner emphasized the good in each other and downplayed each other's faults. People in strong relationships were shown to have about five positive interactions for each negative interaction. That means for each time we complain about a spouse being late, there should be five times when we thank him or her for helping us in the yard, for offering supportive words, for rubbing our sore shoulders, or some other positive expression of love and care. People in ordinary relationships have about two positive interactions for each negative.

Sometimes we tend to believe that our life circumstances determine our thoughts and feelings. It is important to know that we can choose how we process our thoughts and feelings about our circumstances. It doesn't mean that we must always give in to others during times of conflict or that our needs will never be met. It does mean that we can decide to focus on what is irritating and disappointing or we can choose to appreciate and think on the good things, even during those times of conflict. Things won't be different all at once and mistakes will be made along the way. Don't become discouraged or give up. You will enjoy your change of heart. And so will the people in your life. This week's recipe is from one of those people who saw the good in everyone and always left you with a smile, Epp Risner of Glenwood. May we all be that person. Happy Thanksgiving!

Recipe of the Week: Aunt Epp's Cornbread Dressing Ingredients:

1 whole cut up chicken, boiled in one gallon of water with two teaspoons salt and two chicken bullion cubes added to water.

- 3 large biscuits
- 2 packages corn kit cornbread mix
- 2 packages Mexican cornbread mix
- 8 eggs, beaten 3 teaspoons sage
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 small regular onion, chopped

Boil chicken until falling off bone. Debone chicken and save the broth. Prepare cornbread as directed on package. Crumble cooled cornbread and biscuits in a large mixing bowl. Add the onions, sage, chicken and eggs to the breadcrumbs. Stir together then begin adding the chicken broth until you get a thick mixture. You may need to have an extra can of chicken broth if you like your dressing moist. NOTE: If you like to taste for seasonings, add the raw egg AFTER you taste, then add eggs and any extra broth you might need.

Cook at 326 degrees for around an hour. Cover with foil the first 45 minutes then uncover it to let it dry out a bit.

Good luck and remember dressing is a work of art that takes a few times to reach perfection but your family will love eating the first attempt as well as the next.

HAVE A NEWS ITEM? email us a photo and a quick description to mdiamond@windstream.net







NO TURKEYS HERE ... The students in Mrs. Kidd's kindergarten class conducted a class project to find disguises for turkeys to save them in the holiday season.



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