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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.

What ARE You Thankful for?

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Local students give thanks in honor of the season

SEE PAGE 6 & 7

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:

- Monday's and Tuesday's normal pickup will be picked up on Monday, November 20
 - Wednesday's and Thursday'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 follows:
- Monday-Wednesday will remain the same
 - Thursday's normal pickup will occur on Monday, November 27
 - November 27-December 1 will all be one day behind the normal pickup schedule

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.

Featherston replied, "If you're reactive, then it's already too late."

The contract will initially cost \$2,650 with cost of ongoing training at \$1,750.

The vote to enter the contract was 6-0 with Maroon, Joe House, Steve Conly, Jeremy Humphry, Angie Fabian and Sarnia Minton present for the voting. Board member Trent Cox did not attend 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.

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.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



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 Office.

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

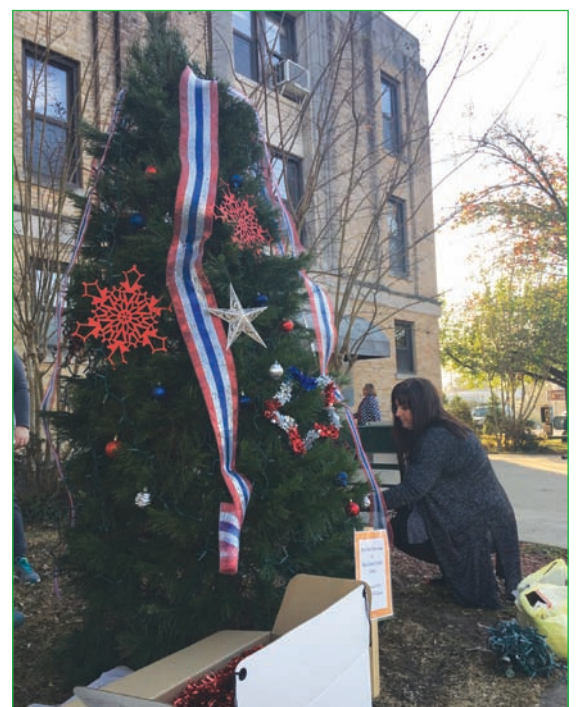
Those interested may adopt a family as opposed to random angels by contacting Candi Allmon in the Pike County Collector's Office. She explained that some people like to help multiple angels, and by serving a family it was easier to make sure that the gifts were given on a more even cost and quantity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



Local holiday celebrations set for upcoming weeks

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

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 parade.

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 following.

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.



Staff photos

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 pajama 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.

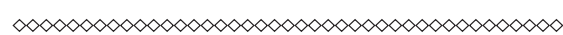
WEST VIRGINIA MAN ARRESTED

Felony and misdemeanor drug charges are expected to be 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 earlier.

The officer was given consent to search Johnson's vehicle and more than four ounces of suspected marijuana was recovered along with three smoking devices.



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 entering.

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.

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

MURFREESBORO -- The Murfreesboro 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 tournament time."

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

"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 quarterfinals.

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."

Spradlin 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 Nolen.

"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 seniors:

- 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."

In 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

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 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 we 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, 5'8"
- 11 Payten Diffe, junior forward, 6'2"
- 12 Justin Jarrell, sophomore guard, 5'6"
- 15 Cody Nolen, senior forward, 5'10"
- 20 Blaine Humphry, sophomore forward, 6'0"
- 21 Justin Faulkner, sophomore forward, 6'4"
- 23 Michael Hughes, senior guard, 5'9"
- 24 Lashad Jones, sophomore forward, 5'10"
- 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 parents.

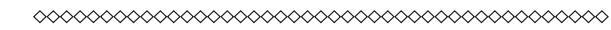
He was a United States Army veteran.

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 Glenwood.

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



View local obituaries from the Murfreesboro Diamond by visiting www.swarkansasnews.com

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RATTLER BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2017-2018

DATE	VERSUS	TIME	LOCATION	TEAMS
Nov 27-Dec 2	Blevins Jr Tourney	TBA	There	JG, JB
Nov 28	Foreman	5:30	Here	JG, SG, SB
Dec 1	Mineral Springs	5:00	There	JB, SG, SB
Dec 4	Spring Hill	4:00	Here	JV JRS, JV SRS
Dec 5	Trinity Christian	5:30	Here	JG, JB, SB
Dec 7	Nashville	5:00	Here	7thG, JG
Dec 8	Spring Hill	5:00	There	JB, SG, SB
Dec 9-16	Umpire Jr Tourney	TBA	There	JG, JB
Dec 11	Dierks	5:30	There	JB, SG, SB
Dec 12	Mount Ida	5:30	Here	JG, SG, SB
Dec 18	Blevins	5:30	There	JG, SG, SB
Dec 19	Mineral Springs	5:00	Here	JG, SG, SB
Dec 28-29	Caddo Hills Classic	TBA	There	SG, SB
Jan 5	Foreman*	5:30	There	JB, SG, SB
Jan 6-13	Cossatot River Tourney	TBA	There	SG, SB
Jan 11	Dierks	5:30	Here	JG, SG, SB
Jan 12	Trinity Christian	5:30	There	JG, JB, SB
Jan 13-20	Nashville Tourney	TBA	There	SG, SB
Jan 16	Spring Hill	5:00	Here	JG, SG, SB
Jan 23	Mountain Pine*	5:00	There	JG, SG, SB
Jan 25	Magnet Cove*	5:30	Here	SG, SB
Jan 26	Blevins*	5:30	Here	JB, SG, SB
Jan 30	Caddo Hills*	4:30	There	JG&B, SG&B
Feb 2	Cutter Morning Star*	5:30	Here	SG, SB
Feb 6	Poyen*+	5:30	Here	SG, SB
Feb 9	Mount Ida	5:30	There	SG, SB

* -- Conference Seeding Game + -- Senior Night

MURFREESBORO RATTLEERS BASKETBALL



Staff photo
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 Thomasson.

Town Square Gallery

21 Courthouse Square • 870-285-2029

Will host their Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 2

There will be several artist on hand to display their work

Russell Fleharty

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

Leah Schulz

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

Patti Quinn

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

Matt Blaisedell

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

Miriam Shively

Custom made Gemstone Trees.

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. He 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. Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

Aaron Gschwandegger

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

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

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 event.

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

the end of 2018.

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.

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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.

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 libertarian.

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

would get in office.

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.

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, December 12.

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 parking spaces.

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

errals, 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 read-justment counseling technician Thomas Norman, Jr.

For more information, contact the Pike County Veteran's Service Office at (870) 285-2249.

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 Campbell.

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 Quorum 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 office.

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 general election.

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 cookie.
Crock Pot: Sauerkraut & weiners.

Friday, December 1

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

As we contemplate 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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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: "I hear 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 one-on-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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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

362

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...THE PROPHET SEES THEM FROM AFAR OFF...

...RECOGNIZING THE WOMAN, EVEN AT THIS GREAT DISTANCE, ELISHA DIRECTS HIS SERVANTS, GEHAZI, TO RUN AND FIND OUT IF ALL GOES WELL WITH THE WOMAN AND WITH HER HUSBAND AND WITH THE CHILD...

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COLLECTING FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED ... Local Lion Scout Pack #60 collected non-perishable 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.



SCOUTS DOING GOOD WORKS ... Local Lion Scout Pack #60 collected non-perishable food and donations at Cash Saver in Murfreesboro last Saturday morning during their "Scouting for 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.

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

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

his program five veterans from 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 program 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.



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, Anthony Quinney, Leon Clay, Hal Easley, and Kenneth Teeter.

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2. Delight - 4BR, 3BA Brick, fireplace, sunroom, double garage, 22x41 storage building, 20x30 shop, beautiful pond, creek, & Hwy 70 frontage. Gravel road frontage on back, utilities available, great home site..... \$249,000	4. Daisy - 3 acres with big timber road frontage on back, utilities available, great home site..... \$18,000

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Staff photo

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

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 pre-K-teen. 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
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Submitted photos

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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